

Shipmate December 2008
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Duke Longworth

GO NAVY! By the time you receive this Shipmate we will know the winner of the Army-Navy game. Navy has a tough schedule and is playing well with four wins. Navy has the first win in the Commander in Chief's trophy and is on track to retain the trophy for another year! I remember our football seasons with some mixed emotions – our plebe year we had a good team with a win over Army. Youngster year and second class year were tough. Not until our first class year did our team beat Army again. That game was a real thrill as we were 0-9 entering Soldier Field. Then for the excitement: "There were no more apologies and no more downcast faces before Army; just the knowledge that there was a job to be done, and a grim determination to somehow do it." The game was scoreless in the first half. Army scored first with a long pass, and then Navy took over. "It looked as though that would be good enough (for Army to cinch the game), but ten minutes later, behind a big block by **Andy Pease '73, Bob Elflein '73** found himself past the line and free in the secondary. It took him no time at all to set sail on a 49 year run which brought the tally to 7-6. Then, **Mike McNallen** threw, in a play that few will soon forget, for two points to **Karl Schwelm** and the Big Blue had gone ahead of Army 8-7!" We won that day 11-7. That was our last game as mids and it was a huge win thanks to Mike and Karl! I'm glad the middies today can revel in consecutive winning seasons. And I surely hope our team always has a winning season. GO NAVY!

Those were halcyon days for sure – time for reality. My first note is from **Mike Marks**: "Duke, thanks for getting the Poinsettia Bowl article into Shipmate. A few of us got together for the Air Force game in Colorado Springs this past weekend. Wendy and **Mike O'Rourke** hosted a great weekend of old goats feeling their oats with their nannies keeping them on the straight and narrow. Attached is a picture of the classmates who attended our sixth victory in a row over Air Force. Back row from the left: **George Skirm, Brad Clossen, Dave Whitman, Jim Parks, Mike Marks, Mike O'rourke**. Front row from left: **Larry Johnson, Bob Walters, Fred Meyers, Jack Williams, Carl Josefson**. Duces Virum, Mike. mikedmarks@aol.com" Great photo, Mike! Really appreciate the quick turn on photos and articles for the Shipmate – keep 'em coming this way! You do good work!

Here's another great note from Bob Anderson: "Duke, greetings from Mesopotamia, again. The temperatures have dropped from the 128 degree high that we had for a month or so down to a balmy 108. Makes my work outside a bit more bearable! We still appear to be winning the battle against the RCIEDs, but any death is one too many, so the work continues. The Iraqis seem to be on our side and we are all hoping that the situation stays that way. I have seen a substantial change in them since my last tour, but the culture will undoubtedly

stay both Arab and Muslim, so the gains may require a different scale of measurement than that with which we are familiar. Small, but forward steps.

"I have attached a couple of pictures of myself with some young'uns that I happened to see. ADM **Gary Roughead '73** stopped by the squadron to convey what a great job the 'sand sailors' here are doing (with some help from some grounded flyboys from the USAF) and it was quite an impressive tribute. He told us that he is often approached by Army types in the halls of the Pentagon who relate that their sons or daughters are in Iraq and 'don't go outside the wire until the Navy guys say it is okay'. Can't get higher praise than that in my book. The tall guy behind us in the picture is the outgoing CAG, CAPT **Dave Woods '81**, who made quite a mark on the squadron.

"And although **GEN Petraeus USMA '74** went to the wrong school, it was nice of him to take time for a photo op. I worked for him on my last tour when he was 'only' a three-star and he will still be the big boss as he goes to take the reins at CENTCOM.

Looks like I will finally return to my home in December and find out what new challenge awaits me there. It will be nice to be home, but I will miss the work here. Other than the separation, it has been the best job I have had since getting off active duty. It is always nice to know you are a part of something bigger than yourself. I guess that is the sense of service that was instilled in us all back on the Severn. I won't waste any more of your bandwidth. I hope to be able to see the Army game on my way out of here...and maybe sometime in the future from a stadium seat. Take care and BEAT ARMY! Bob.
robert.anderson1@iraq.centcom.mil." Great job, Bob! You've covered the waterfront over there! I hope to see you at next year's game! Be safe and send me a note when you return. Duces Virum, Duke.

Anyone know the location of **Al Wall**? Here's someone trying to find him: "My name is John Dunne and I would like to locate a Allen Wall who I think was in the class of 1971. I served with him on the USS La Salle LPD-3 in Norfolk Va and then in Bahrain. I am not sure if you can help but I thought I give it a try. If you do know him please give him my e-mail address jd92589@verison.net Thank you for your time and service to our country." Over to you, Al! By the way, Dick Enderly provided this input in my search to find you: "Duke - I'm afraid I can be of no help finding Al. The last time I saw him was 2-3 years ago in a now defunct Mexican Restaurant off Laskin Road called Pancho Villa's of New York." So, please contact one of us, Al, so we know where you are!

Many of you may have wondered about classmates affected by the "big one" that hit the Houston area earlier this fall. Here's a note from **John Sauls**: "Duke, **Lou Vest** and his wife evacuated to the San Antonio area during Hurricane Ike; they are now in a Houston apartment. Lou is a long time Ship's Pilot for the Port of Houston. One of his hobbies has been taking outstanding maritime and

outdoor photos. Many of these photos are published on Flickr.com. I recently got the below note from Lou.”

Here’s Lou’s note: “That’s OK, John. I wouldn’t want people to think I was suffering. It’s more like we had a big garage sale and USAA is going to buy all our stuff. The important personal things we were able to come away with. That and a lot of paperwork. We had flood insurance. I’m hearing that over 80% of the people in Galveston did not have flood coverage. Some of our pilot association employees lost houses that were not insured. Stay in touch. Lou.” Wow, I’m not surprised that Lou was prepared and is okay as he’s a squared away kind of guy. Lou, we hope all is working out to your favor. Please let me know if we can do anything for you. Duke.

I received the following note from our prolific writer, **Dave Poyer**: “Hi Duke, this is a heads up for my newest book, out this Nov/Dec. Here’s a copy of the Publisher’s Weekly review: ‘*The Weapon*. David Poyer. Poyer’s fine military thriller, the 11th in his Dan Lenson series (after Korea Strait), provides what his fans have come to expect - tight structure, plenty of authentic technological detail and a hero who acts like a man rather than a cartoon superhero. When the Russians offer a powerful new rocket torpedo they’ve developed for sale to the world, the U.S. government sends CDR Dan Lenson, USN, to purchase one. After the deal falls apart, Dan attempts to “liberate” one of the new weapons from a container ship headed for China. When that mission goes to south, he and his team steal an Iranian submarine carrying one of the super torpedoes. From then on, we’re submerged deep into Das Boot territory with Dan and his small crew playing cat and mouse with a deadly Iranian frigate. Those who relish naval action won’t be able to come up for air until they turn the last page of this nail-biter.” Thanks for the heads up, Dave. The book should be in stores now. I look forward to reading this one.

Seems our astronaut classmates are in the news a lot this year. Our own **Bob Cabana** is the new Kennedy Space Center Director. The news release had this info: “Bob is currently director of NASA’s Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. After his selection as an astronaut candidate in June 1985, Cabana completed his training in 1986, NASA said. He has flown four space shuttle missions, and served as commander of space shuttle Endeavour on STS-88 -- the first International Space Station assembly mission -- in December 1998. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, logging more than 7,000 hours in 36 different aircraft.” Congratulations, Bob! I know you’ll do good things for the USA as Director. Perhaps you can arrange for me to take a ride into orbit! Man, I’d love to do that!

You’ll recall that last month **Tom Bowman** had several photos in the column. He managed to dig out another photo from the 1976 collection. Here’s a photo of Tom with **Jan Janiec** and **Greg Engel**. Pictured with them is “Killer” Ross, an Airwing 17 and fellow A-7 instructor of mine. Greg and I were in sister squadrons

twice! This photo has me wondering where are Greg and Jan? Send me an email with an update, please.



Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man. The silly season in politics over! I'm hopeful that regardless who is elected our nation will remain a republic and not a social democracy. We may need to be very active politically to retain our constitutional republic. I will do that. I hope, too, that I've seen a few of you at the tailgates this season! Please pray for wisdom for our nation's leaders, especially for our classmates in national military, civilian and commercial leadership billets. Pray, too, for the success of our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. **BEAT ARMY!**

Duces Virum, Duke