

I'm sure your prayers, in particular, brought him back to the states safe and sound. ■

Kudos to the following Classmates:

Jim Stavridis for his appointment to the grade of admiral (our first 4-star!), and assignment as Commander, U.S. Southern Command, Miami, FL (Bravo Zulu, Jim!!!)

Mike Lefever for his being assigned to the Office of the CNO as director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy Division, N13

William "Bagger" Loeffler for his being assigned as deputy Director, US Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (SCC-WMD), Fort Belvoir, VA

Gary Greenfield sent me a last minute email regarding **Dave Winters**, who recently injured his back while exercising. Dave's injury was serious enough that it required surgery, which was performed 10 May, and as a result he is paralyzed from the knee down in both legs. This is expected to be a temporary condition. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Dave!

Kevin Stone will have the last word:

■ 30th Reunion Update: The on-line registration is (hopefully) going gangbusters as you read this ... you should have received both snail mail and email about the reunion. If you haven't registered yet go to <http://www.usna76.com> and follow the link to register online. To recap the schedule for 1-3 September: Friday – Golf tournament in the morning and dinner dance at Loews Hotel in the evening. Saturday: Class meeting in the morning with the Supe and class officer elections followed by a great tailgate & game that afternoon/evening. On Sunday there will be brunch at the O-Club and chapel services. If you're not a life member check out the great discounted rate – sign up while you register! ■

77 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 5%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 67%

PRES: **CAPT Richard "Rick" White, USN**
11 Porter Road, Annapolis, MD 21402
H: 410-295-0089; HE: rick.white@1977.usna.com

SECY: **Thom McKee**
1202 Shady Creek Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104
H: 410-489-5080; F: 410-489-5071
C: 202-438-1541; E: magoo1310@comcast.net

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 75%

PRES: **Glen Woods**
SECY: **Vince Balderrama**
3402 Van Wie Dr. East, Baldwinsville, NY 13027
E: vince.balderrama@lmco.com
WEB SITE: usna1978.org

I attended this year's Navy League Sea Air Space Expo show in DC this spring. It



Class of '78 at Sea Air Space Expo 2006

might as well have been referred to as '78 Sea Air Space Expo for all the classmates that were present as either exhibitors, Navy active duty, or "trade show tourists." Thanks to **Wil Kramer** (BAE Systems) and **Shawn Tallant** (Raytheon) we have documentation of at least some of those attending. In the large group picture you'll spy from left to right: 1st first row– **Mike Gurny** (Goodrich), me, **Joe Alvite**, **Steve Petri**, **Stephen Bradley** (Draper Labs); 2nd Row: **Chris Hassler** and **Don Gold** (both with Syntetics), **Wil, Sean, Andy Mohler** (Northrop), **Phil Brennan** and **Bruce Carter** (BAE) and **Alex Dimitrew** (fellow Lockheed Martin). Also passing through were **Tim McGee**, **Hank Kuzma**, **Charlie Martoglio**, **Mark Ferguson**, **Larry Semanyk** (CSC) and **Brett Ayotte** (Northrop Grumman).



Sea Air Space 2006

I am green with envy of **Tom Algeo** (Thomas.Algeo.ctr@autec.navy.mil). Tom retired from the practice of law last year to get back to flying. In February 2006, he was hired by CSC to fly their helos, in support of their contract to manage the U.S. Navy Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEK) on Andros Island, Bahamas. Tom now has his second in command type rating in the S-61 and is fully qualified as a first officer. After he completed his check ride with the company he flew as copilot on a flight passenger to two of their outlying sites with his wife, Louise on the manifest. The second leg of the flight found him at the controls, with just the crew and Louise aboard. So technically, his first takeoff as a paid commercial pilot in the S-61 was

with Louise aboard. Tom reported that one of the pilots there was a USMA '72 firstie when his brother, Jim (USMA '75), was a plebe! Their aviation department manager, Jim Peterson, was a navigation instructor at the Academy when we were youngsters. Tom and Louise love the island and their new lifestyle. Tom particularly enjoys the fact that after all the years of making meals for everyone; Louise doesn't have to do a thing. At mealtime they can just go over to the company mess hall and enjoy! He says the toughest thing is going back to the mainland. For a while, it's unavoidable as they have two properties in Pensacola under renovation, with a third that they still live in. So they'll either have to get those two finished and/or put on the market. They may even buy a place here on the island, or in Nassau. It's a ten minute trip on the company plane to Nassau, so that might end up being their "city" home. He thanked **Ron Brownley**, **Bill Burke**, and **Charlie Pangburn**, as well as **Steve Chadwick** ('62) for their support and instrumentality in my getting him the job. The invitation is out for anyone who finds themselves at AUTEK, to stop by Air Ops to say hi to Tom!



Tom Algeo with S-61

As always, I rely on Marilyn to keep me apprised of what's going on with hubby **Scott Langdon**. The Langdons can now be found in the Pacific Northwest! They call Mukilteo, WA home. Scott officially retired from the Navy last October 1st with a deal in-hand to work for Boeing in Everett, WA. He finished at NATO in Brussels in mid-July. In early August he started at Boeing as an Engineering and

Operations Manager. He works on the Interior of the new 787 "Dreamliner". A few academy folks were present for Scott's retirement ceremony. Among them were classmate, **Rob Blandford**, Col Phil Exner, USMC ('76) and the VCNO, Admiral Ed Giambastiani ('70), who also officiated the ceremony. Joanne and Rob are now in the Norfolk area and Phil will retire out of Brussels this summer. They all enjoy Mukilteo and it is quite convenient with schools one mile away from home and work just four miles away. Thanks for keeping us up to speed, Marilyn! Enjoy CIVPAC.



Scott Langdon and Rob Blandford

On the flag side: **Harry Harris** assumed command of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Yes, that's the force responsible for detainee operations and intelligence gathering. But I also like to think of it as home to "Col Nathan 'you want answers?!' Jessup". I'm sure Binkley could've handled him if he really existed. After all, Harry knows how to handle a sword—um, saber? Before this assignment, Harry was director of the information, plans and security division at OPNAV in the Pentagon. Congrats go to our newest flag selectees- **Alan "Blues" Baker, Kurt Tidd and Dave Buss.**

In April, **Mike Kalnoske** and **Mark Fox** shared in their sons' winging ceremony in Pensacola. I wondered if Mike's son, Justin ('04), and Mark's son, Collin ('04) received "bloodwings" like us old salts did. Kal reported that Mark did an outstanding job as the distinguished guest speaker for the winging. Mark reported that a side bennie of the trip was the TH-57 hop he snagged. (Collin observed from the rear of the helo). As a CAG Mark got about 30 or 40 hours in the H-60 so he said he can fake flying a helicopter better than most fixed wing guys – but is still dangerous enough to *think* he can *actually* fly it. Collin went HS out of Jacksonville, FL but first reports to the RAG (HS-10) at NAS North Island. Mark got to spend some time with **Rich Holznecht**. Rich was on terminal leave, assessing what's next for him. Keep him in your prayers

and if you have a good job in P'cola give him a buzz.



Proud Dads and New Naval Aviator Sons

35th Company's **Bob Vogt** (35th Co.) married June Batcheller on January 7, 2006. Between them they have a near "Brady Bunch-like" five children, Lindsey (21), Paul (17) who will be attending James Madison in the fall, Ashley and Brittney (15), identical twin girls, and Audrey (10). June's a Compliance Director with E*TRADE FINANCIAL. Bob retired from the Navy as a Commander after 21 years of service. He flew a while for US Airways in Washington, DC but was furloughed after 9-11. He's now with the Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration as an Aviation Security Inspector. Tailgate regulars during football season they can be seen at the "78" Tailgate Corner, mixing drinks, enjoying great eats, and sharing sea stories. To catch up with Bob, June and Audrey at their home in Arlington, VA, just give them a ring at 703-469-1996 or jot an email to p3bpilot@aol.com. Belated best-wishes!



Wedding Day, Vogt-Batcheller Family

Pressing my word limit and the editor's good graces...so I'm outta here, Launchin' Spot Four.

Sec'y Column Deadlines

(send columns to classes@usna.com)

ISSUE	DATE DUE:
September 2006	13 July 2006
October 2006	16 August 2006
November 2006	14 September 2006
December 2006	16 October 2006

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

PRES: LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)

E: Sean.Cate@1979.usna.com

SEC'Y: LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)

22445 Bluebird Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650

H: 301-997-1980; W: 240-556-0637

E: JDWithers@1979.usna.com

WEB SITE: www.usna79.com

■ *Classmates, there are some, shall I say, important family matters that I'm involved in right now. Karen and I are fine, and fortunately there's nothing life-threatening, but it means I won't be able to complete this month's column in time for publishing. So I'm printing what I've written so far, as incomplete as it is. My sincere apologies to all of you – especially those of you who expected to see your inputs this month. I beg your indulgence, and will make up for it in the next issue. Thanks for your patience and understanding! Wiz...* ■

Greetings, 79!

It's been a, well, rather "interesting" time since I last wrote to you. In the last several weeks I received several letters and emails from classmates, which is usually a good thing. But each of these letters, in very different ways, was asking the same question: "Wiz, what's going on with the column?" The general consensus seemed to be that my last several issues have been, well, below par. Where I used to have themes, humor (or attempts at it), and other things to make each column unique, lately it appeared as though I was throwing together a bunch of emails, writing a couple of sentences between them, and sending it out. One guy said it looked like one of his daughter's homework papers after conducting research on the web. Well, I was kind of surprised, but when I looked back at what I've done so far in 2006, I hate to admit it, but there's something to what they're saying.

Looking back, I can see that I really have shown signs of just going through the motions. More and more I've found myself putting this column off until the last minute. Sure, I'm busy, but so what? We all are. Yeah, I just went through a major employment change, but we all have things we must adjust to. So I really have no excuses.

When I took over for **Ken Russell** back in 2000, my number one goal for this column was that you all would have something to read in every issue. So far I've kept that string intact. However, I realize now that I have been so focused on meeting MY goal that I forgot what my job really was – to bring news of the class to YOU! In short, I started to lose touch with my audience. I'd forgotten just how important