

marking the 34th anniversary of our graduation the weekend of June 10th-12th in Annapolis. The main event will be a Saturday evening dinner, with wives, children and significant others welcome. Other events, including golf and sailing are in the pipeline, and Ken Shearer (**34th Co.**) ([ken\\_shearer@gallup.com](mailto:ken_shearer@gallup.com)) has reserved a block of rooms at the Marriott Waterfront. If you are in the Club and didn't get an invite, it's because Ken couldn't find you.

Harry added special *mystery* guests may also attend....given the recent repeal of Don't Ask/Don't Tell, we can only hope this doesn't mean Bill Hartman and George Thompson will be arriving in drag! ;-)

Until next time, remember to mark your calendars for our 35th Reunion, 27 September – 30 September 2012. The updated gouge will be available on the Class website ([www.usna1977.org/reunion.php](http://www.usna1977.org/reunion.php)), but you can always feel free to contact yours truly with any questions.

— Magoo

**78** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 77%

PRES: Glen Woods

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Is it spring yet? Well by the time this get into your mail boxes it should [better] be. Thank goodness. Even though I no longer live in Sibera—cuse NY I still have had my fill of cold days. Well, on to the mail bag.

Got some feedback from **Dave "Duncan" Heinz**. Dave is now an executive with iRobot running a company that they purchased that builds underwater robots in Durham, NC. It's a small group (35) but doing some really "cool stuff". Kathy and he have relocated to the area and love it. It's a refreshing change pace and especially the lack of "politics" of the area. Their son, Derek is a 1stLt. Derek was winged in February. He's headed to Beaufort to fly F-18s via training in Oceana. Their other son, Ben finished Clemson and will marry in April. He'll stay in Greenville, SC, so both sons will be close enough to makes mama even happier. Which also keeps dad happy too, eh, Duncan? Well, best of luck in the new endeavor and enjoy living life "down east".

**Jim Degreee** said he'd been taking hits for not forwarding a photo of a group of some of our great '78 family who

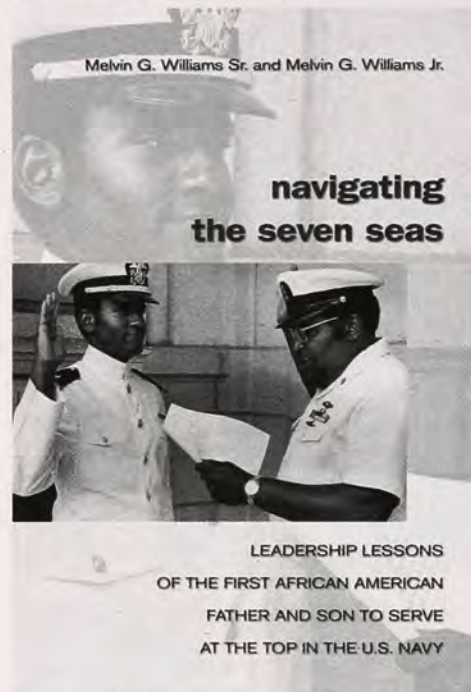


'78 at Navy- Air Force 2010

joined him in Colorado Springs for the Navy-Air Force football game. He reported they had a great weekend, a very full house and some incredible food cooked up by his better half - his wife, Tracy. Quite a few were out all weekend and they were able to take advantage of the weather for some hiking, BBQ'ing. Of course they set the standard in tailgating! **Bob Schmermund's** son, **Richie** ('11) joined them with some of "crew" for some chow. It was a good looking group of '78 as you can see by the pic Jim sent. You'll note (pictured left to right): Donna and **Dave Buss**, Meegan and **Pat McCormick**, Cathy and **Otto Bulich**, Tracy and **Jim DeGree**, Kevin Ryan, Jean and **John Sturges**, Carmen and **Rich "Itchie" Cellon**, Shari and **Drew Mulhare**, and Nancy and **John Hueseman**. Jim added that his son-in-law **Kelsey** ('04) "is kicking ass in Afghanistan" and his son, **Matt** ('05) is deployed and flying his Hornet off USS ENTERPRISE. We wish them safekeeping. Hope this stops the needling, Jim.

**James Bland's** photography business has been doing well. He produced and shot the cover for the February Issue of Robb Report Collections. It was a last minute save for another photographer. The submission was so last minute that the photo credit couldn't be changed before going to press. There'll be a correction to follow that gives the credit to James. It's a cool cover too. The photo is of a Vincent Rapide motorcycle which vied for the land speed record with Harley in the 1950's. Good job, James—great looking cover! Now, any chance you might get a certain Sports Illustrated cover as a next assignment? Speaking of published work, Mel **Williams** and his father Mel Williams Sr. have completed their book and are on their "promotional tour". Entitled, "Navigating the Seven Seas: Leadership Lessons of the First African-American Father and Son to Serve at the Top in the U.S. Navy" the book chronicles the careers of the Mel Sr.'s rise to Command Master Chief and

Mel Jr.'s rise to Vice Admiral. In it they discuss their leadership experiences over nearly sixty consecutive years of service. They describe how they climbed the ranks by employing what they call the "Seven C's" of leadership: Character, Competence, Courage, Commitment, Caring, Communicating, and Community. The book is published by Naval Institute Press but I think you can also check it out at Borders.



Cover of Mel Williams's book

**Charlie Pangburn** dropped me a line to say that **Tom Algeo** is now in Afghanistan! Yes, you heard correctly. Tom arrived at Kandahar Air Field during the third week in February. He is flying for DynCorp and transports civilians and State Department personnel throughout the country. He could be deployed for up to a year but gets a break every three months. Louise is staying with their daughter in Florida during Tom's adventure. Who says old guys can't get it done?! We are proud of Tom and wish him the best and safekeeping. (Umm...how can we get that gig, Tom?) As for Charlie, he is

currently the Associate General Counselor for the University of Cincinnati. He and Connie live in commuting distance in Fort Wright, KY



Tom Algeo in Afghanistan

In stray rounds, I attended the IDEX Trade Show in Abu Dhabi in February. Manning our Lockheed Martin booth with me and a cast of tens was **Marty Thamm** (when he was on long and very late telecons with his office in Sunnyvale, CA). Up the next aisle in the L3 Booth was **Joe Alvite**. Talk about a small world. I had hoped to get a chance to see **Mark Fox** but that was preempted. Mark was scheduled to visit the show but as 5th Fleet he was a little busy at the time with some unrest around his headquarters in Bahrain—not to mention the rest of the region. We're just glad he, Priscilla, and the men and women under his command remain safe. We're certain our interests and citizens in the region are also in safekeeping under his direction.

Well I better wrap this up more to follow- I know it's short but I have had a ton of work going on lately and not ventured out much. Guess the same goes with you as not much has come in to the mailbag or e-mail. With the warm weather coming, we are out of the Dark Ages and doldrums so let's get those cards, letters, electrons and ones and zeroes flowing and send me some news! Until then- Launchin' Spot Four.

## MERCHANDISE

To order your Class, Chapter, or Parent Club specific merchandise, visit our web site at [usna.com/shop](http://usna.com/shop) or call: 410-295-4024.

**79** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

Ahoy, Classmates! There's a distinct nautical theme this month. It wasn't planned: it just happened that most of the classmate news I received this month was about our active duty officers.

First up is an email that Sean Cate forwarded from **VADM Scott Van Buskirk**. They spent a lot of time talking about India Company shenanigans, and then Scott got down to business:

■ **RDML Dan "Traps" Cloyd** is out here (in the western Pacific) with me at CTF-70 and will soon take over as Commander, Naval Forces Japan so we see each other nearly every day. Traps and I have shared many a beverage together at each other's homes and at the many receptions that we attend. Mindy and I will meet up with him and Susan in Singapore in two weeks at our Commanders Conference. They will become our next door neighbors sometime this spring.

**Roger Rose** is in Delhi working for Lockheed, I think he is going on his third year there. We will be seeing him and his wife Joni during a "Big Top" reception in Singapore on the SEVENTH Fleet Command Ship BLUE RIDGE in mid-March. Ran into **Ted Algire** and his wife Shirlee in Hong Kong last week – they have settled in there. Unfortunately I didn't get much of a chance to talk to him during our reception on BLUE RIDGE, but I believe he is Executive Director of the Servicemen's Guide Association.

I'm in steady contact with **RADM Tim Giardina**. He took over for me as the Deputy at PACFLT, so he and I regularly commiserate together and occasionally participate in a SFR (sequential flag review) at Navy Marine Golf Course when business brings me to "Aloha-land." I saw **RADM Joe Mulloy** in January during a short visit to DC during the January snow storm. Joe's son **Tyler Mulloy '14** is a plebe at USNA. ■

And then right on the heels of that email, I received a note from the opposite side of the globe. **RADM John Messerschmidt** checked in from the Mediterranean with the following update:



In the Med (l-r): John Messerschmidt, Kate Cerezo (Gary's daughter)

■ I've been the J7 Director of Analysis and Assessments at EUCOM since Labor Day 2010. I'm also currently a geo-bachelor until my 18 year old son graduates from high school in June; then Lizann and Colin (15) will move over here to Germany shortly thereafter. Our oldest son Cory will graduate from Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA in May and hopes to land an Orthopedic Surgery residency somewhere.

Thought I would also pass on a photo of me and LT Kate Cerezo on the hangar deck of HARRY S TRUMAN in December. I had the privilege of hosting a group of European VIPs aboard as the ship and its strike group departed the Med heading back home to Norfolk. During my conversation with Kate, the Public Affairs Officer for the event, I learned that she was the daughter of our classmate **Gary Cerezo**. Small world indeed, but boy, did I feel suddenly old! ■

Your humble scribe says Thanks, guys, for the sitrep!

In other news, several classmates were featured in the message traffic. **RADM Don Quinn** has decided to give himself a new job. He will be leaving Millington, TN, where he has been serving as commander, Navy Personnel Command. His next destination is Pensacola, FL, where he'll take over as commander, Naval Education and Training Command. Also moving is **RADM Rob Wray**, and this move is a big one. Rob will be coming home from the Med, where he currently is serving as vice commander, Navy Forces Europe/Africa, U.S. Sixth Fleet, Naples, Italy. He will soon step into the shoes of president, Board of Inspection and Survey, in Norfolk, VA.

The Navy leadership has also seen fit to nominate **RDML Russ Penniman** for his second star. Russ is currently serving as deputy reserve commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, at Pearl Harbor, HI. So congrats, guys – and good luck in your new positions!