



# Atkron 12 Newsletter



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June 2004

## Ubangi

## Ubetcha

### Reunion Report

The **Flying Ubangis** were flying high when a group representing the nineteen fifties era to the nineteen seventies joined in camaraderie at the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. The resort's inviting beach might have enticed some of them a few years ago, but the sea stories seemed to be this reunion's main attraction.

Early Friday evening the Ubangis got together in the squadron's Hospitality Room. Joe Kyle, the organizer had folders of information for each of the attendees. As they passed through the room to the seafront patio, they picked up their folders, settled their accounts and could purchase displayed Ubangi tee shirts, ball caps, decals, and pins. The patio filled, with the different year groups, enjoying a cool breeze off the ocean and the reminiscences of past gatherings.

The main attraction the next day was the gambling cruise out of the tiny town of Mayport near the mouth of the St. Johns River. Heading to

*continued on page 2*



### Reunion Shirts

Here is the front a back of the tee shirts that we had made up. I know that some of you asked about ordering more, if you are still interested, call, email or write me to place an order. After I have a reasonable quantity of requests, I will reorder. Also, I still have window decals, and squadron pins. Decals are \$4.00, Pins are \$3.00



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 New Members , Reunion Attendees List
- 3 Reunion Comments, Word From The West
- 4 Treasury Report, Memorial
- 5 Sea Story, Contact Info, VA-12 History
- 8 Photos

sea the vessel passed the Naval Station Mayport, home of the aging but active aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy. Although relatively small in real estate Mayport is the third busiest naval station in the country. Some Ubangis will recall loading Air Group Ten aboard the Forrestal, in the summer of 1958 or Air Group One aboard the FDR, the Shangri-la and the Independence in later years.

The Holiday Inn's top (seventh) floor room with picture windows viewing the ocean was the scene of the Ubangi's Banquet. Everyone enjoyed a convivial social hour and satisfying buffet style dinner. Joe Kyle manned the podium with a large Ubangi banner displayed behind him and made some administrative remarks.

Appreciative squadron members presented him with a beautifully engraved plaque and a new golf putter. It was the third reunion that Joe had organized, as well a preparing squadron newsletters and web site. The awards were richly deserved and Joe received an enthusiastic ovation from the attendees. Nearly every Ubangi and guest had a camera and year groups were assembled for pictures. Before long the room was filled with flashed and picture-taking mania took hold. So ended a highly successful and happy third Ubangi Reunion

Capt Chuck Pendleton 57-58

## VA12 Association Members

Here are names of those that have joined our ranks since the last newsletter.

<b>Billy Manly</b>	<b>62, 64</b>
<b>Joe Colvin</b>	<b>65, 68</b>
<b>Chuck Pendleton</b>	<b>58, 59</b>
<b>J.D. Rogers</b>	<b>66, 68</b>
<b>Larry Davis</b>	<b>65, 68</b>
<b>Dennis Farmer</b>	<b>69, 71</b>
<b>Charles Dickey</b>	<b>70, 73</b>
<b>Rich Kickline</b>	<b>67, 71</b>
<b>John McLane</b>	<b>69, 70</b>
<b>Joe McFadden</b>	<b>55, 58</b>
<b>Bob Fortin</b>	<b>68, 71</b>
<b>Al Scott</b>	<b>66, 68</b>
<b>Paul Kennedy</b>	<b>66, 69</b>

## Reunion Attendees

Here is the list of those that attended the 2004 Reunion .

Eddie Annibale	Massapequa Park, NY
Stewart Baker	Middleburg, FL
Walter Byers	Jacksonville, FL
Norm Cooper	Fort Myers, FL
George Davis	Manassas , VA
Larry Davis	Dyersburg, TN
Charles Dickey	Joanna, SC
Chuck Drescher	Gatesville, TX
Rod Dunlap	Alto, GA
Gerald East	Alexander, AR
Bob Fossum	Stamford, CT
Frank Giaccone	Ft. Pierce, FL
Chuck Graham	Parma, OH
Jackie Grant	Stockbridge, GA
Steve Griffin	Clearwater, FL
Gary Hall	Jacksonville, FL
Eric Harvie	Monroe Township, NJ
Bill Heck	Signal Mountain, TN
Gerald Hoover	Jacksonville, FL
George Hinds	Dunedin, FL
Donn Inmon	Jacksonville, FL
Robert Kaplan	Hixson, TN
Paul Kennedy	West Islip, NY
Bill Klipp	Middleburg FL
Joe Kyle	Pinckney MI
Mike Landers	Davie, FL
John Larch	Salem, OR
John MacBain	Wayne, PA
Joe McFadden	West Grove, PA
John McLane	Watsonville, CA
Frank Osborne	Butler, TN
Bob Parker	Sharpsburg, GA
Joel Parrish	Kaysville, UT
Chuck Pendleton	Atlantic Beach, FL
Jim Renfroe	Atlanta, GA
Vernon Rising	Cantonment, FL
Randy Fleming	Adger, AL
J.D. Rogers	Hooks, TX
Adrian Roop	New Orleans, LA
Neal Russo Jr.	Harpers Ferry, WV
Wayne Scarborough	Byron, GA
Jerry Schwartz	Philadelphia , PA
Al Scott	Vero Beach, FL
Dave Smith	Waterford, NY
Wiley Sorrells	Pensacola ,FL
Jon Sutherland	Lombard, IL
Roy Sutton	Middleburg, FL
Joe Taylor	Middleburg, FL
Ed Thomas	King of Prussia, PA
Jerry Thomas	Lake Wales, FL
Jim Towe	Cocoa, FL
Cecil Williams	Jacksonville, FL
Russ Wise	Orange Park, FL

## Reunion Comments

I want to thank all of those that attended the 2004 VA12 Reunion in Jacksonville Beach, FL. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I did. I know a lot of you told me how much you appreciated my efforts and I thank you for those remarks. I'm sure you all understand that there would be no reunion without you guys showing up. My effort was nothing compared to the desire that you all have to reconnect. I am merely your willing assistant, so you can stop thanking me for doing something that I love doing.

I hope that we will be able to do this again in 2006. You never know what fate has in store for us, but God willing we will have another get-together and next time maybe we will have found more lost sheep.

I have spent a lot of time thinking about where and when to have the 2006 Reunion. It is still very early to be making a decision, but a fair number of you have written or called me with your opinions. I have been weighing a couple of different priorities, and will continue to seek your input in the decision.

It seems to me that two important features need to go into the decision. 1. We should try to make it feasible for all who want to attend to be able to attend. Things like distance, cost, and time of year probably are the most common prohibiting factors to attendance. I've done a little calculating in reference to the attendees of this last reunion.

The average distance traveled, was 423 miles. But when you take out the guys that live in FL the average goes up to 929 miles. Florida is a great location, which is obvious by the number of you that live there. I for one think it has a lot to offer for us snowbirds and we envy your weather (at least in the winter). The other item that I think is worth consideration is going somewhere that has some type of event or activity for us to enjoy.

That is the reason that my survey suggestions included Chicago (Great Lakes Training site) Philadelphia (Navy Ship Yard) and D.C. with all of the things available there. A couple of other ideas came up during my discussions with some of you. Memphis, TN because of it's central location and Air base. Pensacola, FL because of it's Air Museum, and an Ocean Liner Cruise out of Charleston SC. All of these are good ideas and I want to make sure that we do not exclude anyone

that could reasonably attend. Another idea is to hold the Reunion in Florida every other time. Like I said, we do not have to make a decision soon, but I would appreciate constructive advice. As we grow in numbers it will be harder to make everyone happy, hopefully I can just avoid making anyone mad.

Joe Kyle 66-68

## The Word From The West

(continued from the last issue)

### Month 1:

**Saturday, 19:00:** Arrived at EM club and ate a slider and fries. Great, topped-off, plastic squeeze bottles of mustard and ketchup allow me to hide some of the things I don't want to notice on a burger patty. I began to wonder if they were frying fish in the same oil as the french fries, maybe this would explain the occasional lingering odd whiff.

**Saturday, 20:00:** I am not a drinker and so had left the EM club and ended up back at the barracks watching some idiotic TV show that a few guys thought was funny. It occurs to me that I probably should have stayed at the EM club and had a few drinks after all.

**Saturday, 21:45:** Hit the sack as the first rumblings begin. I begin to wonder if I had actually drank enough water, Pepsi, and other beverages since eating what was being referred to, as a "CHEESE" "BURGER".

**Sunday, 06:00:** Made it through the night with only minor stomach grumblings and heart-burn. But the noises and vague discomfort I hear as I wake up and take a morning dump make me realize: Today is a blocking day, there is no easy, nice, let-'er-rip fart to be had. There is only... "danger".

**Sunday, 06:50:** I found CPO "C" before 07:00 muster and told him that I had not actually gotten any opportunity to eat food the day before, except something similar to it after-hours at the EM Club. My stomach decided at just that moment to make a few noises, whereupon the Chief rolled his eyes and backed away from me slightly towards an open door. He thankfully found and wrote up a temporary chow hall chit for me for breakfast and lunch, and then told me to first attend muster and secondly secure to the chow hall for breakfast. Thirdly, return to the Check-In Sheet processing duties.

**Sunday, 07:00:** We are mustered up, and this time I heard my name called! We are told to turn in the mattress-pillow-linen issue at some point during the day before 16:00.

**Sunday, 07:30:** I visit the chow hall and get a view of the inside of the building. Still a bit... nervous about the state of my digestive tract, I decide to eat potatoes, eggs, and toast. Good, wholesome, absorbing, gentle soft foods. No greasy meats like sausage or bacon. Juice sounds like too much acid, boy I have enough of that already. More potatoes. More toast.

**Sunday, 08:00 to 15:30:** Repeat the you-just - missed-him drill from Saturday, with almost carbon-copy precision. And, the Gendarmes at the chow hall door actually accepted the lunch chit that Chief "C" had filled out so I got in the door.

#### **Month 2:**

You can re-read the entire account of Month 1 and place it right here under Month 2.

There are several actual highlights to add it, though.

**Saturday morning muster:** We were told that the date of a uniform distribution and regulation applying to the Navy Reserves had been set: The distribution of a single set of Cracker-Jack dress uniforms would be conducted in 3 months. At the time this was not enough to lift my sinking spirits. After muster, CPO "C" issued me a Reserve Unit Chow Hall Pass. I wanted to kiss the man but thought better of the idea.

**Sunday PM:** At one point I actually **MADE A SCORE!** I visited and got the official sign-off from... Career Counseling.

#### **Month 3:**

Repeat Month 2. Once again, a short list of highlights and lowlights:

**Friday evening sea-stories:** No one knew if the uniform issue would be complete. Additionally, I found out that my personnel records had probably not been completed 100% correctly at the time of my discharge from Active Duty in 1979.

**Saturday AM, PM, and Sunday AM:** More Check-In Sheet Blues. Go to one office and wait in line to be served, only to be told the person I am supposed to see is not there. Return later, or tomorrow. Next, Please!

**Sunday PM:** Another Check-In Sheet **SCORE!** Reserve Billet Assignments Office got me an AIMD billet in the A-6 RAG outfit working on some black boxes similar to what I had worked on

from the A-7. Report to CPO "J" Sunday 13:30, Month 4. Hey, maybe this is something to look forward to.

So at this point, I am in the 3<sup>rd</sup> month at NAS Whidbey Island and I have got 2 of 7 offices checked off.

#### **Month 4:**

Repeat Months 1, 2 and 3. Lowlights:

**Saturday AM:** another Check-In Sheet **SCORE!** at Medical.

**Sunday:** No further luck. Got to visit each of the 4 remaining offices, oddly enough I never had to wait very long at any one office but did not end up with any check-offs on my sheet (which was really tattered and worn by this time).

**Sunday PM:** Found AIMD and after wandering around I found CPO "J". He spent some time looking over some of my records that had not been misplaced yet, and put me into a billet on a specific piece of gear I had never heard of. I was to report for duty next month, Saturday at 07:30 AM. I told CPO "J" that I still had only 3 of 7 sign-offs after 4 months and that unless he directed otherwise, I guessed that I was required to spend some kind of time chasing down those other 4 locations.

**Sunday, 18:00:** On the C-9 flight back to Portland, I made a half-hearted attempt to justify my presence in the Reserves. But a nasty scheme was born in my mind and I developed various plots and maneuvers

John Larch 76-79

## **Treasury Report**

Our current balance is **\$625.80**

Total funds collected to date \$5283.20

Expenses

Stamps	\$436.06	Cartridges	\$ 252.29
Paper	\$ 47.93	Decal Paper	\$ 21.18
Folders/cards	\$ 43.20	Envelopes	\$ 21.32
Seals	\$ 8.23	Postcards	\$ 11.25
Decals	\$190.80	Printing	\$ 378.44
Hats/Shirts	\$962.62	Banquet	\$2282.19

**Total \$4655.51**

## **In Memorial**

I received news from Nancy Zambie, that her husband CDR Hank Zambie, a VA12 Pilot (73-74) passed away in March of this year. He had been fighting colon cancer for 3 years. We send our sympathy to Hank's family.

## Sea Story

After reading about John Sutherland's story I can relate to it. I joined the Navy after being drafted in 65. Had 1 year of reserves and a whole 2 weeks of boot camp at Willow Grove NAS. Finally I was told to report to the Navy Yard in Philadelphia for orders. Thinking this was it, I stayed there for 10 weeks. This was like a job, 8-4 every day and home at nite. Finally I got my orders and having never been on a plane before I flew from Phila to Chicago to LA to Alaska to Japan & then to the Subic Bay. Where we were put up in, what seemed to be an old POW camp with no air condition either. After a few days we were put on a tanker and went to sea where we were to meet the FDR. Little did I know that I was to be HiLowed across in the middle of rough seas. This is not how I planned to go aboard. All that marching at boot camp never prepared me for working on the flight deck. All I was told was to be careful and good luck. Welcome to the FDR and VA-12

Jerry - Super Jew- Schwartz 66-68

## Thank You's

I wanted to thank some of you again for helping to make the Reunion possible. Eddie Annible was generous enough to provide the squadron ballpoint pens for everyone that attended. Also John Larch and Ed Thomas had the two different lapel pins made and have donated the proceeds of those sales to the Treasury. Lt "Fat Tom" Lannom (69-70) was responsible for having our reunion hats made, and I received a lot of positive feed back on those. I mentioned the assistance that Ed Thomas, Eric Harvie, and Gary Hall provided in several different ways and their continued support is appreciated. Chuck Dickey has purchased space for a new website and has given me control of it, I hope to have that up and running soon. It will have the unique identifier of [VA12.com](http://VA12.com) so that anyone searching for us online should be able to find us with less trouble. Again many thanks to JD Rogers for having the special plaque made for me, and to all for the presentation of the new putter. I wish I could say that it is helping.

## Future Newsletters

I still would appreciate your help in submitting items for the Newsletter. If you have a story to

tell, or a biography, or almost anything it would be great if you could send it to me for the next or subsequent issues. Also if you have not yet completed your Association Membership form, which should be included with this issue, please do that and mail it back to me.

## Scuttlebutt

The origin of the word "scuttlebutt," which is nautical parlance for a rumor, comes from a combination of "scuttle" — to make a hole in the ship's hull and thereby causing her to sink — and "butt" — a cask or hogshead used in the days of wooden ships to hold drinking water. The cask from which the ship's crew took their drinking water — like a water fountain — was the "scuttlebutt". Even in today's Navy a drinking fountain is referred to as such. But, since the crew used to congregate around the "scuttlebutt", that is where the rumors about the ship or voyage would begin. Thus, then and now, rumors are talk from the "scuttlebutt" or just "scuttlebutt".

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## VA12 History (continued from Vol. III No.1)

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F6F	23 May 1945
F4U-1/1D and FG-1/1D	23 May 1945
F4U-4 30	Sep 1945
F8F-1/1B	May 1947
F6F-5P	May 1947
F2H-1	01 Sep 1950
F2H-2	Dec 1950
F7U-3	Dec 1955
A4D-1	Apr 1957
A4D-2	Jan 1958
A4D-2N(A-4C)	08 Jan 1962
A-4E	08 Mar 1965
A-4C	09 Mar 1967
A-7E	01 Apr 1971

## Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
28 Jun 1946	15 Jul 1946	CVG-4	CV 40	F4U-4	Transit to West Coast via Panama Canal
01 Aug 1946	29 Apr 1947	CVG-4/CVAG-1	CV 40	F4U-4	WestPac
01 Oct 1948	21 Feb 1949	CVG-1	CV 40	F8F-1	World Cruise
20 Mar 1951	06 Oct 1951	CVG-1	CVB 43	F2H-2	Med
24 May 1952	11 Oct 1952	CVG-1	CV 18	F2H-2	Med/NorLant
11 Jun 1953	03 Dec 1953	CVG-1	CVA 42	F2H-2	Med
27 Dec 1954	14 Jul 1955	CVG-1	CVA 41	F2H-2	World Cruise
02 Sep 1958	12 Mar 1959	CVG-10	CVA 59	A4D-2	Med
06 Sep 1960	20 Oct 1960	CVG-10	CVA 38	A4D-2	NorLant
14 Nov 1960	27 Nov 1960	CVG-10	CVA 38	A4D-2	Carib
15 Feb 1961	28 Aug 1961	CVG-1	CVA 42	A4D-2	Med



*The squadron's F2H Banshee, second from left, in formation with other aircraft from Air Group 1.*

## Major Overseas Deployments—Continued

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
19 Nov 1961	30 Nov 1961	CVG-1	CVA 42	A4D-2	Carib
14 Sep 1962	22 Apr 1963	CVG-1	CVA 42	A4D-2N	Med
28 Apr 1964	22 Dec 1964	CVW-1	CVA 42	A-4C	Med
28 Jun 1965	17 Dec 1965	CVW-1	CVA 42	A-4E	Med
21 Jun 1966	21 Feb 1967	CVW-1	CVA 42	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
24 Aug 1967	19 May 1968	CVW-1	CVA 42	A-4C	Med
07 Jan 1969	29 Jul 1969	CVW-8	CVA 38	A-4C	Med
05 Mar 1970	17 Dec 1970	CVW-8	CVS 38	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
16 Sep 1971	16 Mar 1972	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-7E	NorLant/Med
21 Jun 1973	19 Jan 1974	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-7E	Med
19 Jul 1974	21 Jan 1975	CVW-7	CV 62	A-7E	Med
15 Oct 1975	05 May 1976	CVW-7	CV 62	A-7E	NorLant/Med
31 Mar 1977	21 Oct 1977	CVW-7	CV 62	A-7E	Med
16 Jan 1979	13 Jul 1979	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	Med
15 Apr 1980	22 Dec 1980	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	IO
20 Aug 1981	07 Oct 1981	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	NorLant
05 Jan 1982	13 Jul 1982	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	Med
27 Apr 1983	02 Dec 1983	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	Med
08 May 1984	20 Jun 1984	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	NorLant
10 Oct 1984	08 May 1985	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	Med

### Air Wing Assignments

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
CVG-4/CVAG-1/CVG-1*	T†	12 May 1945
CVG-10	AK	20 Jan 1958
CVG-1/CVW-1‡	AB	05 Dec 1960
CVW-8	AJ	25 Aug 1968
CVW-7	AG	1971

\* CVG-4 was redesignated CVAG-1 on 15 November 1946 and CVG-1 on 1 September 1948.

† CVG-4 assigned the tail code T when it was assigned to the carrier *Tarawa* (CV 40) in January 1946.

‡ Carrier Air Groups were redesignated Carrier Air Wings on 20 December 1963, hence, CVG-1 became CVW-1.



A couple of squadron A-4Cs with markings from their deployment aboard *Sbangri-La* with Air Group 8.



A squadron F7U-3 Cutlass, circa 1956 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

### Unit Awards Received

Unit Award	Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award	
NAVE	01 Jul 1964	30 Jun 1965
AFEM	06 Jun 1983	14 Jun 1983
	27 Jul 1983	30 Aug 1983
	01 Sep 1983	19 Oct 1983
	27 Oct 1983	20 Nov 1983
MUC	11 Apr 1970	06 Nov 1970
NEM	29 Apr 1980	16 Jul 1980
	22 Jul 1980	08 Dec 1980
	25 May 1983	27 May 1983

### Unit Awards Received—Continued

Unit Award	Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award	
NUC	29 Apr 1980	10 Dec 1980
	21 Jul 1983	20 Nov 1983
VNSM	30 Jul 1966	
	09 Aug 1966	12 Sep 1966
	01 Oct 1966	03 Oct 1966
	19 Oct 1966	14 Nov 1966
	24 Nov 1966	28 Dec 1966
	20 Jan 1967	21 Jan 1967

### Unit Awards Received—Continued

Unit Award	Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award	
RVNGC	10 Apr 1970	02 May 1970
	12 May 1970	29 May 1970
	13 Jun 1970	04 Jul 1970
	28 Jul 1970	19 Aug 1970
	30 Aug 1970	30 Sep 1970
	20 Oct 1970	07 Nov 1970
	21 Oct 1966	



## Photos

The old-timers from the late 50's



Standing above Left to right, Chuck Wise, Capt. Chuck Pendelton, Jim Towe, Gerald East, Joel Parrish, George Hinds. Kneeling Bob Parker, Joe McFadden, Jim Renfroe, and Jackie Grant.

The youngsters from the 70's



Standing above: Rod Dunlap, John Mclane, Bill Klipp, Chuck Dickey, UNKNOWN, Norm Cooper, Bob Fossum, George Davis, Steward Baker, Joe Taylor, Wiley Sorrells. Kneeling

Frank Giaccone, John Larch, Chuck Drescher, and Eddie Annibale.

Also in attendance were. Chuck Graham, Jerry Thomas, Paul Kennedy, Donn Inmon, Walter Byers, and Vernon Rising all of the 60's. We were unable to capture their image on film due to their dealings with the devil. In addition, it was reported that Gerald Hoover attended from the 70's

The middle lifers from 1960's



Standing above from left to right: Joe Kyle, Frank Giaccone, Frank Osborne, Jerry Schwartz, Bob Kaplan, Erick Harvie, Mike Landers, Al Scott, George Davis, John Sutherland, John McBain, Bob Fossum, Joe Taylor, Steward Baker, John Mclane. Kneeling Larry Davis, Ed Thomas, Neal Russo Jr., Cecil Williams, Eddie Annibale, Randy Fleming, Bill Heck, Gary Hall, Wayne Scarborough, and Adrian Roop.