



# N-TARGET

A CCCA INC PUBLICATION

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## Quarterly Newsletter January/February/March 2019 Volume IV No. 1

**55 YEARS**

**CCCA HISTORICAL BOOK RELEASE**

PRESERVING THE HISTORY AND HONORING THE BROTHERHOOD

**WARBOATS**

**55 Years of Naval Special Warfare  
Combatant Craft**

**HEROES HONOR ROLL**

**CCCA 55th ANNIVERSARY AND  
FUNDRAISING EVENT:**

Join the celebration and help us raise funds to continue our charitable Casualty Assistance Programs and historical endeavors. See new before historical facts about the rich heritage of our community. Learn about the historical history and evolution of the Naval Special Warfare Combatant Craft Crewman into the modern SWCC/SEAL Teams.

Your generous **Silver Star** gift will help us take care of Naval Special Warfare families past and present! Show your support by donating and be recognized on our Hero's Honor Roll within the Book!

Choose the **Silver Star** Level that best suits you by 30 June 2019, and you will receive a copy of this amazing First Edition printing as a token of our appreciation.

**WHERE:**  
Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside  
4875  
North Harbor Drive, San Diego CA

**WHEN:**  
November 6 - 10, 2019

**SPECIAL WARFARE COMBATANT CREWMAN**

## "WAR BOATS"

Join us for our Historical Book Release! Learn the truth and first-hand accounts of the brave operators and boats that made them legends! See the evolution of our exclusive community and the contributions each generation made! Celebrate these marvelous achievements and help us continue to Preserve our History and Honor the Brotherhood of all those who served as part of the Naval Special Warfare Family!



Hello everyone! I hope that you and your families are doing well. I am trying out a new Presidents Message format that will allow me to address relevant topics and messages to you from your fellow Board Members and me.

Please let me know what you think by dropping me a line at [pres@combatantcraftcrewman.org](mailto:pres@combatantcraftcrewman.org)

SAVE  
the  
DATE!

Hosted by Ronny  
Webster Aboard Reception  
Auction  
Dinner/Program  
and more to come!

For more information visit:  
[www.combatantcraftcrewman.org](http://www.combatantcraftcrewman.org)

You are invited to celebrate the  
55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Combatant Craft Crewman**  
**Wednesday, November 6 - 10, 2019**  
**San Diego, California**

Holladay Inn San Diego Riverside  
4875 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA  
Registration information and website coming soon!

*This is going to be amazing! See you there!*



You just never know what is around the corner. Life is messy and even the best of us can find our families in need. The CCCA's **Casualty Assistance Program** is there to help. This program is designed to provide you and your family confidential and personal help finding solutions for your specific needs. We are networked with amazing professional resources to provide relief and to restore hope!

This program is run by our Casualty Assistance Director and Organizational Chaplain Bill Redmond. Bill is a selfless and compassionate advocate with a track record of victories.

Bill Redmond, Casualty Assistance Director  
[Caco@combatantcraftcrewman.org](mailto:Caco@combatantcraftcrewman.org)



*Compassionate Care helping to find solutions to your problems by connecting resources to restore hope!*

The Casualty Assistance Badge is a symbol of our commitment to Honor you and your family.

We chose the symbol of the dove for its grace, serenity, and faithfulness to all.

Our Colors were chosen to emulate the meaning of the "OSCAR" International Flag and its meaning in the Navy of "Man Overboard." It holds honored tradition to all that served aboard ship for a crew to render aid. The Shield is in honor of our BSU Heritage. The Ribbons clearly state our purpose!

Join us in helping others in our community in need. Help us continue to provide our services by staying a member in good standing giving your gracious financial support.

You can make a real difference:

<https://shipstore.combatantcraftcrewman.org/t/donations>

### Life Time Memberships Now Available!

<65 only \$1200

65> only \$800

See "Two Star" Lifetime Membership Silver Star Donor Package for specifics for of all the goodies included in the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising and Historical Book Release Event. Join the Honor Roll and be included in the Book "WAR BOATS."

<https://shipstore.combatantcraftcrewman.org/t/donations>



*Silver Star Donor Levels Flyer*



*The CCCA Jolly Roger... Represents our Never Quit Spirit!*



*CCCA Board Members at 211 San Diego Facilities*

### Taking care of business!

These are the local folks in and near San Diego that commit to serve you! Thank you to each of them for giving their time and talents to our noble mission.



## "WAR BOATS"

Join us for our Historical Book Release! Learn the truth and first-hand accounts of the brave operators and boats that made them legends! See the evolution of our exclusive community and the contributions each generation made! Celebrate these marvelous achievements and help us continue to Preserve our History and Honor the Brotherhood of all those who served as part of the Naval Special Warfare Family!

## Building a Community of Cooperation

The CCCA Casualty Assistance Program is leading the charge with a collaborative partner's, San Diego Blood Bank, San Diego Jeep Club, and Youth Inspired, and San Diego Veterans Museum! BZ to all the participants and beloved supporting sponsors!



*A collaborative cadre of volunteers (CCCA, San Diego Blood Bank, Youth Inspired, and San Diego Veterans Museum)*



## Sharing our Naval Heritage

Guiding the outstanding "Youth Inspired" onboard the USS Midway Museum! What a fun way to share some Navy Heritage!

Thank you, USS Midway Museum!



### 2019 CCCA Election Results:

The position went uncontested, and Scot Whaley graciously agreed to stay on as your CCCA Secretary with a few minor conditions that some of the tasks required be taken up by other Board Members. Those small conditions were agreed upon by Board Members. Thank you, Scot, for your dedication to this charitable organization and your continued support to serve. We are fortunate to have your insight, wisdom, and compassion.

There was a slight modification by the Board of Directors to address the concern of keeping our organization administratively on track and viable. One of these changes was instituting a staggered election process with a longer-term limit to avoid losing valuable experience and mitigating transition lags. The full content will be available in the 2019 Update Bylaws presented at our 55th Anniversary Fundraiser Scheduled in November 2019.

1. Elections will only be for the Top Three Positions: President, Treasurer, and Secretary. These three positions are considered the Executive Board and have binding legal responsibilities that must be adhered to maintain our 501(c)(3) Non-profit Charitable status.
2. Each position will be for terms of three years or until:
  - a. Elected Official is unable to carry out their assigned duties because of
    - i. Death or Incapacitation
    - ii. Moral Turpitude
    - iii. Conflict of Interest
  - b. Either remaining Executive Board Members may receive the letter of resignation. In the case that no Executive Board member is available, the Letter of Resignation may be obtained by any other designated officer listed on the current Board of Directors and must be addressed by an established quorum of remaining Board Members to resolve position being filled. An interim officer may be assigned and authorized temporary authority of the vacant seat or until a special election is held to fill that position.
3. The election of each position will occur in a cyclical rotation. i.e. 2019 Secretary, 2020 President, 2021 Treasurer, 2022 Secretary, 2023 etc.  
This action is to ensure that our organization has seasoned elected officials to maintain consistency and positive relationships with our collaborative partners, sponsors, and membership.
4. All other Board Members will serve in their assigned roles until we can adequately define Programs, positions roles, and responsibilities, in written guidance or until they are either no longer willing to serve, become incapacitated or have been found to have lost the trust of the Executive Board.

The Board of Directors will continue to execute our administrative responsibilities to the best of our abilities and be good stewards of the trust you have bestowed upon us.



*CCCA Casualty Assistance Director (Bill Redmond), Public Relations (Ruben Chato Hinajosa Jr.) and President (Joseph Zemlin)*



## Joining the Coalition

We are harnessing the power of different veterans' organizations to share valuable resources.

## Addressing the San Diego Veterans Coalition

It was an honor and privilege to represent the diverse members of the San Diego Veterans Coalition. Thank you to the Braille Institute for hosting today's events.



*CCCA President Joseph Zemlin Addressing the San Diego Veterans Coalition*



*The CCCA coming together to help a family in need!*

## Helping a Gold Star Family

Help comes in many shapes and sizes. Here CCCA Volunteers join together to help a family process large storage unit as they transition into new living accommodations.

### Celebrating our bonds of Brotherhood

The part that never changes for me is the people that I served with, the challenges we faced together and most importantly the bonds of Brotherhood.



*"My Brothers All"*

I want to thank you all for your continued support. I hope you enjoyed my message of "Good Works" with you.

Please consider becoming more involved with the organization. I am working diligently to make this organization something great!

I am asking you're your support to renew your commitment to our mission of Preserving our History and Honoring the Brotherhood.

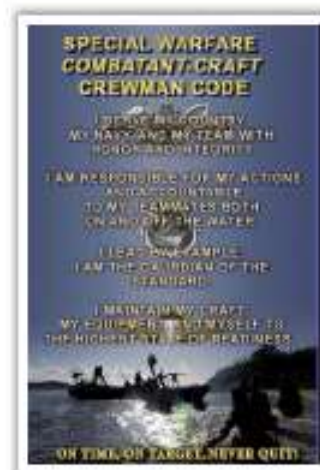
Please join me and our cadre of volunteers as we take our charitable organization to the next level.

Become a real Hero by choosing to become a Silver Star Donor. You did the work! Now join us as we celebrate our History!

**55 Years Anniversary  
Fundraising Event**



**Stay tuned for upcoming announcements and event details...**



*Words to live by...*





## A Message from the Treasurer:



CCCA Treasurer  
Mike Signwarth

In accordance with our existing Bylaws the End of Year Fiscal Report will be issued to the Board of Directors no later than the 120 days after the CCCA Fiscal Calendar, which ends December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Non-Profit Organization End of Year Taxes are due May 15<sup>th</sup>

We are on track with our required documents and Accountant.  
If you have any questions in regards to CCCA Financials please contact me directly at [Treasurer@combatantcraftcrewman.org](mailto:Treasurer@combatantcraftcrewman.org)

Thank you and I hope to see you all at the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser in November 2019 in San Diego!

Sincerely,

*Joseph Zemlin*

Joseph Zemlin  
CCCA President

[Pres@combatantcraftcrewman.org](mailto:Pres@combatantcraftcrewman.org)



# **SPECIAL BOAT SQUADRON TWO**



## **TRAINING MANUAL**

Published by Direction of Commander, SPECIAL BOAT SQUADRON TWO  
October, 1980

## Ambush/Counter Ambush

An ambush is a trap in which personnel/boats lie in wait to attack by surprise. Both sides employ ambushes in a riverine environment. Waterways are lines of communication which make many ambush sites available to both friendly and enemy forces. Ruthlessness, violence, and surprise are characteristics of successful ambushes. Surprise is the key to success as it allows the ambushing force to seize and retain control of the situation and inflict destructive damage before an effective reaction can be initiated. A successful ambush destroys the enemy at the ambush site.

The ambush site is selected on a known line of enemy communication at a point which provides concealment and cover for the ambush force, preferably having primary and alternate withdrawal routes. Availability of supporting artillery fire and air support at the ambush site is a definite asset. The ambushing force will be tailored in size and weaponry to assure fire superiority over anticipated enemy forces. Additional boats or ground forces may be used to cover expected enemy withdrawal routes or to divert enemy forces into the ambush.

Movement to the ambush site and occupying of positions must be accomplished with as close to total secrecy as can be attained. If your location is known or even suspected, you will accomplish nothing, and will probably open yourself to ambush. If possible, the site should be occupied by a route other than the one the enemy is expected to use. Avoid marking your entry up the waterway, particularly by oil slicks from bilge pumping or trash thrown over the side.

Communication and control procedures are necessary during movement to, occupation of, and withdrawal from an ambush site. Strict control and discipline are necessary to keep the ambush unit alert and silent. Communications security procedures are strictly enforced to prevent the compromise of the ambush operation. Movement and communications are kept to a minimum once the ambush unit is in position.

Rehearsals for the ambush force should be conducted on terrain similar to that for the actual mission. All personnel are briefed on the exact sequence of events until they thoroughly understand their duties. They also are briefed on the location of rally points, assembly areas, and land withdrawal routes. All personnel considered secure, and counterambush measures are planned in conjunction with all operations and movements.

Routes of movement should be reconnoitered in detail from the air, and by map. Air observation is valuable but is not a substitute for alert boat crews. An ambush force, once in place and camouflaged, is not likely to be detected from the air. Boats must take account of tides and currents to ensure a secure position and not to settle aground or become stuck in the shallows.

Local activities along roads or waterways must be carefully observed to detect unusual patterns of behavior. No children in the area or no vehicular or boat traffic may indicate the presence of an enemy ambush force. If the mission permits, frequent questioning of local civilians about recent enemy activities in the vicinity may be advantageous.

Security is maintained from the beginning to the end of any movement; dispersion, combat formations, and observation are emphasized. Boat crews have a tendency to relax and become careless when returning to a base area from an operation. This tendency increases as the boats get near the base.

When a boat is caught in an ambush, all crewmen return fire in their assigned sectors while the coxswain clears the kill zone as quickly as possible. Boats not in the kill zone should deliver a large volume of fire into the ambush site. Any available support such as air or artillery should be called in. Suppressive fire and forward movement are the standard response to ambush. Avoidance is far better, but preparedness can help



you survive an ambush. Preparedness means drilling all crewmen on their responsibility if ambushed and being observant enough to expect an ambush at likely sites. Appropriate response is difficult in an ambush with a trained and ready crew. It is impossible without one.

## S.T.A.B.'s, L.S.S.C.'s and St.A.B.'s

By  
Phil G. Garn

Three of the most commonly confused combatant craft in books and articles on the Vietnam War are the SEAL (Sea Air Land) Team Attack Boat (STAB), Light SEAL Support Craft (LSSC) and the Strike Assault Boat (StAB). While all three inserted and extracted SEAL operators in Southeast Asia and had a progressive influence on each other, they were in fact three quite different boats.

The SEAL Team Attack Boat (STAB) was a modified Power Cat Model 23t commercial design first used militarily by the Central Intelligence Agency and Cuban Freedom Fighters of Brigade 2506 in the ill-fated *Operation Zapata* also known as the Bay of Pigs in 1961 and later by SEAL Team 2 in Viet Nam. This boat was a 20 foot fiberglass twin hulled design manufactured and sold by the Power Cat Boat Corporation of



**Power Cat Civilian Model  
(photo from Power Cat site)**

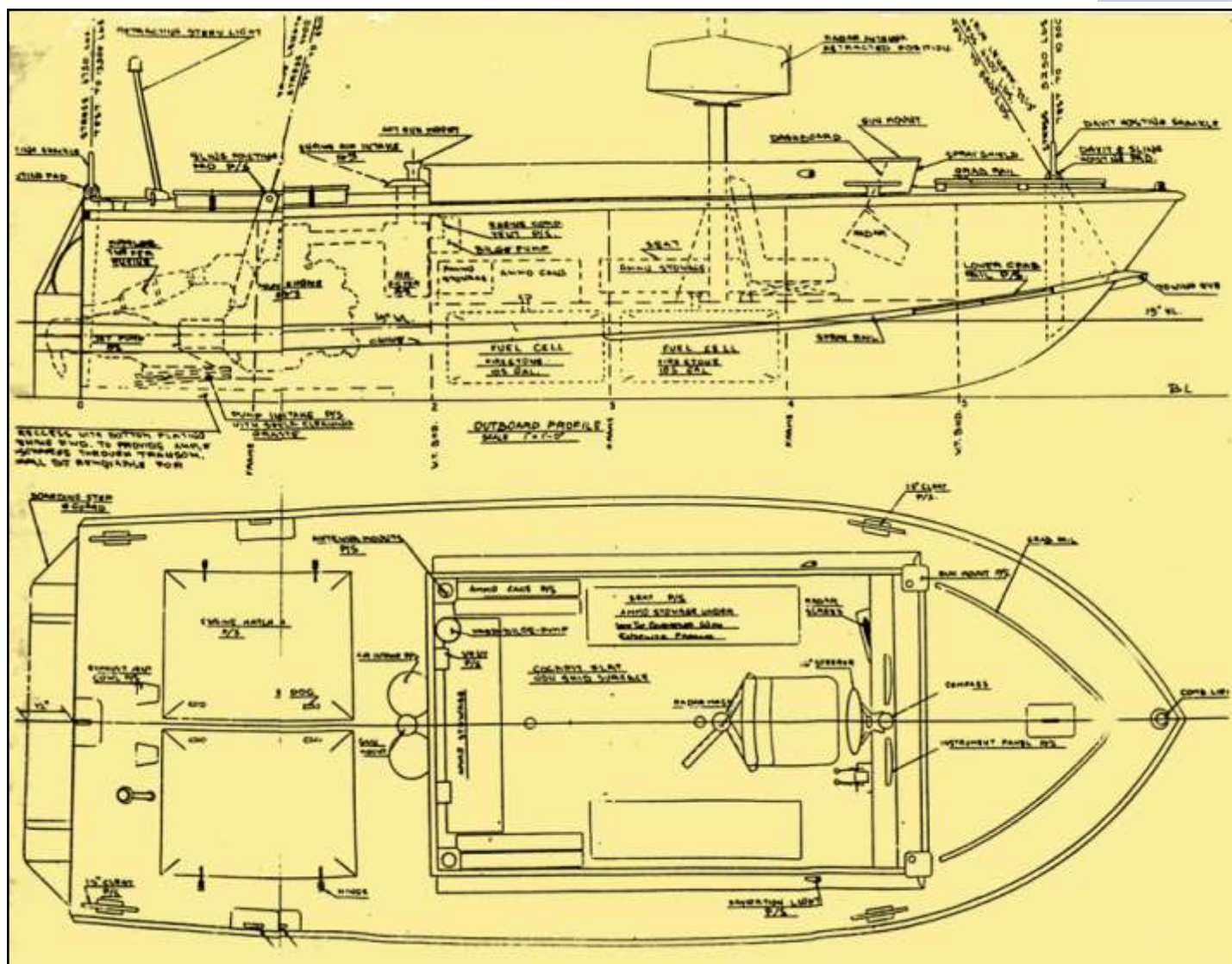
Bellflower, California, powered by two Mercury outboard engines with modifications for M-60 7.62 mm machine guns and MK-18 40mm grenade launchers. The .50 cal HMG pedestal mount was not practical so not used in combat. Crews used man packed radios including PRC-77 sets for communication. These craft were introduced by SEAL Team 2 detachments in January 1967. However, Mobile Support Team-2 men drove and crewed these craft until they were replaced by the LSSC.

With the deficiencies of the early Boston Whaler-type outboard motor powered boats, the LCPL's modified by BSU-1 men and the STAB, a new craft was commissioned for Naval Special Warfare

called the Light SEAL Support Craft (LSSC), which was built by the Grafton Boatworks of Grafton, Illinois. This was a 24 foot shallow draft aluminum hulled boat powered by two Ford 427 gasoline engines of 350 hp. driving Jacuzzi water jet pumps. The LSSC only drew 1.5 feet of water and was faster than the STAB with more weapons stations and space. Sixteen of these boats were built and used exclusively by Mobile Support Team (MST) men from Boat Support Team -1 (BSU-1) beginning in 1968 in support of operations by SEAL Teams 1 and 2 in Southeast Asia. As the conflict progressed, armament was increased from two M-60 machine guns, to three M-60 machine guns, a 40 mm grenade launcher and a .50 cal heavy machinegun (HMG) in the stern. Some crews augmented these crew served weapons with a stern mounted 7.62mm mini gun salvaged from a downed helicopter or comshawed from the US Air Force. Crews would also be armed with M-16 rifles, 12 gauge shotguns, .45 and .38 pistols as well as grenades and LAAW rockets. The LSSC typically had a two man crew, while the attached SEAL squad would man the weapons stations adding their 5.56mm Stoner 63's and cut down M-60's to the boat's weapons for added firepower in case of a hot extraction or ambush. Only one LSSC would be lost in Vietnam, the remainder would return to the U.S. (One was lost in an air op when it was dropped in bad guy territory and had to be destroyed.



**LSSC in Vietnam. CCA member Jeff Reed on the radio. She also has a single radio mast and a .50 cal HMG as well as three M-60D LMGs with spade grips. A much heavier armament suite than the two M-60s as designed. (Photo courtesy of Denny Brown)**



LSSC Drawing and layout. Note Jacuzzi jet drives.



Left: CH-47 lift of an LSSC.

Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Commander Naval Forces Vietnam, was so impressed by the LSSC that he commissioned a follow on gunboat based on the LSSC called the Strike Assault Boat (StAB) for Operation Game Warden in Vietnam. The StAB was envisioned as an airmobile, gunboat able to be inserted into any waterway to achieve local superiority in Southeast Asia. The StAB was also built by the Grafton Boatworks. While resembling the LSSC, this boat was 26 feet long powered by two Chevro-

let 427 gasoline engines of 325 hp driving MercCruiser III stern-drives (inboard/outboard units) it also had ceramic armor as well as flack blankets and self sealing fuel tanks. The STAB boat was the fastest boat on the river and would sometimes "drag race" other military boats. An average boat could exceed 40 knots and souped up boats over 45 knots. The boat was armed like the LSSC, but had a crew of four versus two of the LSSC. The additional men manned the weapons stations. Some crews found that twinned M-60's were more





**LSSC in the sand. Note Jacuzzi jet drives.**

were returned to the US.

StAB information sheet from documents provided by Don Mirkovich. Note similarity to LSSC but the outdrives increased the draft and the length. The LN-66 radar has been removed on drawing and in photo. Note STABRON personnel list and missions as well.

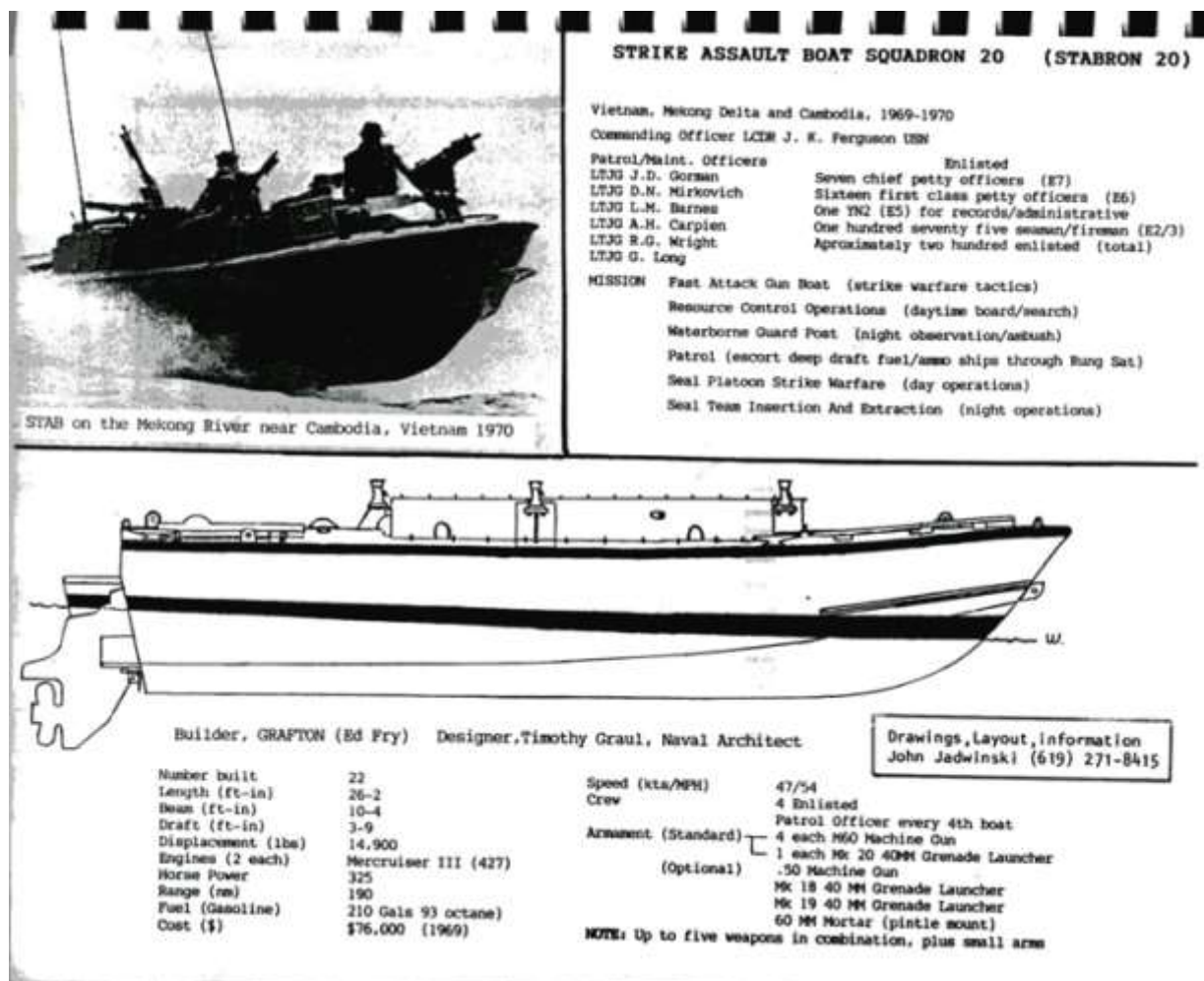
Overhead view of the StAB. Compare with LSSC above. Note outdrives versus Jacuzzi jets. (Document courtesy of Don Mirkovich)

Note additional armor added to the STAB as well as the extended stern and rails above the outdrive.

Special Thanks to Don Mirkovich, Jim Pitts, Denny Brown, Bill Moreo, Bill Mount, Kirk Ferguson, the late Robert "Bob" Stoner and of course Jim Gray and WARBOATS preparing this piece.



**The group of five LSSCs tested as the SEAL TEAM ATTACK BOAT GROUP or STAB Group in 1969. The sixth boat was lost during an airlift trial. Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Commander Naval Forces Vietnam, was so impressed by the LSSC and the STAB Group that he commissioned a follow on gunboat based on the LSSC called the Strike Assault Boat (StAB) for Operation Game Warden in Vietnam.**



StAB information sheet from documents provided by Don Mirkovich. Note similarity to LSSC but the outriggers increased the draft and the length. The LN-66 radar has been removed on drawing and in photo. Note STABRON personnel list and types of missions as well.

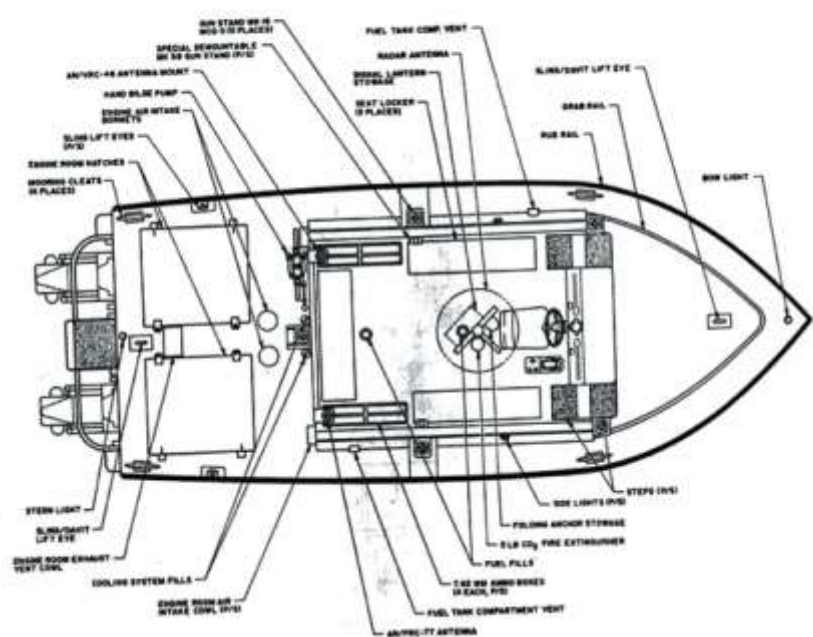
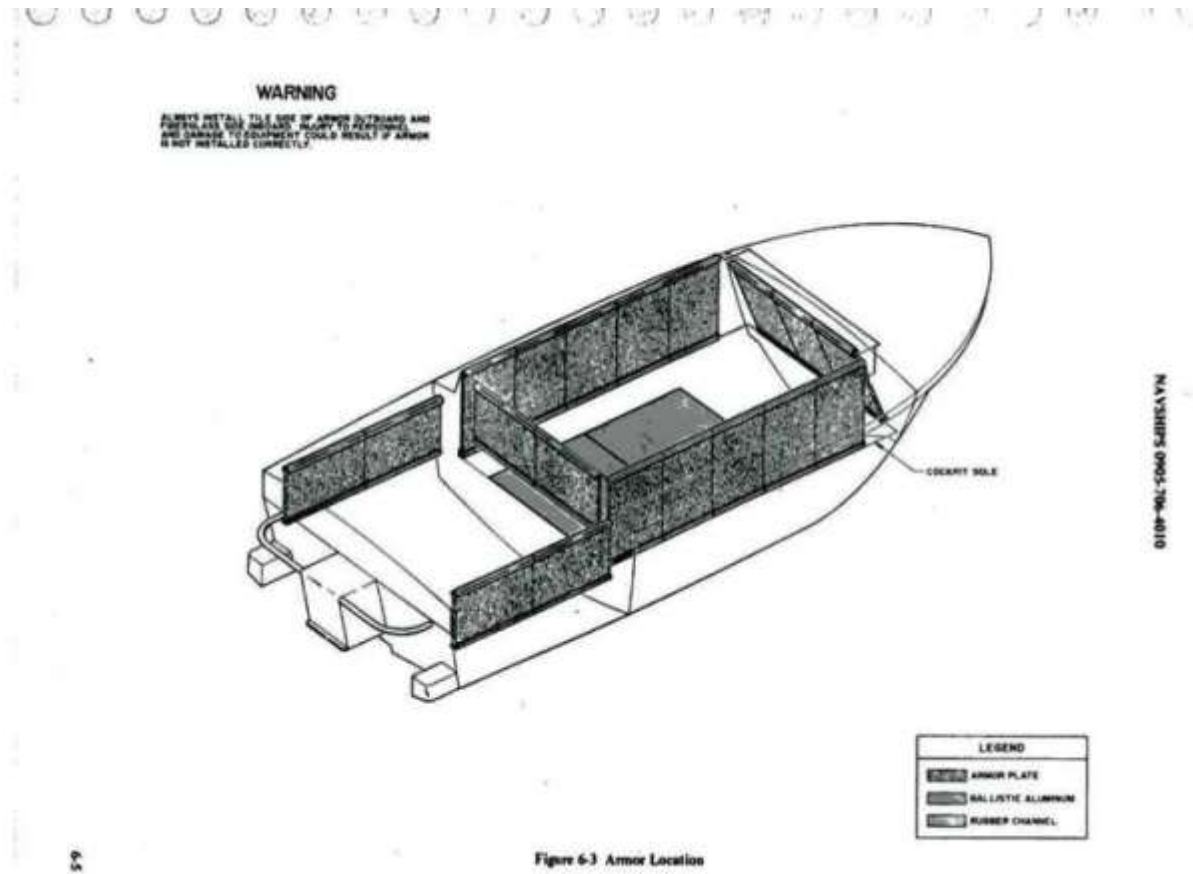


Figure 2-1 Exterior and Cockpit Arrangement (Sheet 1 of 2)

Overhead view of the StAB. Compare with LSSC above. Note outriggers versus Jacuzzi jets. (Document courtesy of Don Mirkovich)



Note additional armor added to the STAB as well as the extended stern and rails above the outdrive.  
(Courtesy of Don Mirkovich)

In our next issue read about Stabron-20





# Good Works in Action

Vested in our Veterans and the communities they live in...



## We do so much to support our veterans...

One of the oldest services we provide is Honoring our Fallen and their Families. We do this by coordinating Final Honors and helping families through their grieving process. It is one of the most solemn and cherished services we provide for our veterans and each case offers its unique challenges to overcome.

Recognizing our supporters and fellow veterans for their amazing achievements is just one more way in which we can give back and recognize excellence.

Bringing our volunteers together to provide housing modifications for our disabled.

Donating our time and talents to numerous civic and charities and causes in hopes of building a stronger collaborative network of good will and participation.

## Your CCCA Board Members hard at work at the San Diego Veterans Museum!

We couldn't do what we do without the cherished support of our collaborative partners. Thank you, San Diego Veterans Museum, for the use of your facilities!



*Alzheimer's fundraising event in Mira Mesa*



*CCCA Board Members hard at work planning future activities but taking time to capture the moment!*



## Honoring the spirit of Brotherhood...

We have over five generations of Naval Special Warfare Warriors who cherish our Community and power our 100% volunteer force.

## Hosting Community Blood Drives...giving the gift of Life

Providing the Blood is just one more way we impact our community and save lives.



## Supporting our Active Duty and Reserves...

Each of our journeys started out after completing our special training. It was the forge that established a common bond and inspires us to keep our mission and values alive for generations to come.

## Collaborative Partners

Each one of us expand our circles of influence by working together. Here We are joining forces with the California Veterans Legal Task Force, San Diego County Superior Veterans Diversion Court, AmeriCorps /SD211 to help veterans facing legal challenges with viable options to incarceration.





# **Last of the First, WWII OSS Maritime Unit Operative Swimmer Hank Weldon Memorials**

By  
Phil G. Garn and Erick Simmel



**Henry Thomas “Hank” Weldon  
OSS SMG-A/UDT-10  
May 29, 1923-October 5, 2018**  
(Photo Courtesy of Erick Simmel Archives)

Doing research for the CCCA History Book project this past summer, I was coming across more and more links between the World War II Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and today's Naval Special Warfare. To help me with my inquiries, I contacted Hollywood Filmmaker Erick Simmel who has spent many decades as a published authority and subject matter expert on the OSS Maritime Unit (MU), specifically its “Operative Swimmers” (what we would now call operators) and how they truly were the United State's First Frogmen and among the first special boat operators, fore-runners' to every elite US maritime commando unit including today's SEAL and SWWC operators within Naval Special Warfare. Since that time Erick and his colleagues have been generously assisting us with our project. Sadly, Erick called me on October 6, 2018; to let me know that Henry Thomas “Hank” Weldon, a former World War II era U.S. Navy Specialist- X\* Petty Officer First Class & OSS MU Operative-Swimmer and UDT-10 Frogman, last of the OSS MU operators “to have put the Frog in “Frogman,” had passed away the day before at age 93; and Erick was in the process of coordinating the military honors for the Weldon family. Erick needed to contact our mutual friend and fellow CCCA board member, Chuck Chaldekas, who he was hoping might be able to assist with honors from Naval Special Warfare Command (WARCOM), I provided Erick with Chuck's contact info and volunteered CCCA to assist with what ever needed to be done.

*\*Footnote: The USN petty officer rating “Specialist (X)” was a World War II rating designation that ended in 1946, assigned to an individual conducting various non-traditional duties that had the sailor either aligned directly or indirectly with US Navy special operations; including but not limited to “Strategic-Services” or in a shorter phrase the “O-S-S”(OSS). Weldon and several others of his Maritime Unit shipmates were unique in that they served both in the OSS and the USN as OSS MU SMG-A as Operative-Swimmers and UDT-10 as Frogmen.*

Here is a little background on the OSS, the Maritime Unit and how Hank fit into the picture as part of our mission, which is taking combat swimmers to war. With the fascist powers of Germany, Italy and Imperial Japan rising to threaten world stability in the late 1930s compounded by America's isolationist stance and inter-service rivalries among Army Intelligence, the Office of Naval Intelligence, State Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) realized he required international intelligence in regions where US interests could be at stake. He quietly called upon, William Joseph “Wild Bill” Donovan, perhaps the only American uniquely situated at that time to act without government knowledge or oversight moving amidst political and business leaders around the world as he had been doing for the past two decades. Donovan was a unique American patriot, a highly decorated World War I hero (the only American to hold our Nations' four highest awards for bravery), international attorney, Columbia law school classmate of FDR's and staunch Republican. FDR, a socialist Democrat, respected and trusted Donovan's patriotism and was well aware of the international success of Donovan's law firm,



Donovan and Leisure, had navigating and working with the monarchs, dictators and fledgling democracies around the world on behalf of US business interests.

**Admiral of the Fleet (First Sea Lord)**  
**Louis Francis Albert Victor Nicholas Mountbatten,**  
**1st Earl (Viscount) Mountbatten of Burma,**

**(Awards)**  
 KG, GCB, OM, GCSI, GCIE, GCVO, DSO, PC, FRS  
 (Knight of the Garter  
 Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath  
 Member of the Order of Merit  
 Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India  
 Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire  
 Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order  
 Distinguished Service Order  
 Mentioned in Despatches)  
 (born Prince Louis of Battenberg; 25 June 1900 – 27 August 1979)  
 was a British Royal Navy officer and statesman, an uncle of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and second cousin once removed of Queen Elizabeth II.

During World War II, in October 1941 Mountbatten became Chief of British 'Combined Operations Headquarters' (COHQ) a department of the British War Office set up to originate-coordinate special units to conduct raids carried out by use of combined UK and UK empire and commonwealth of nations naval (and marines, army and army air- forces) against the axis enemy.

COHQ was the British behind the lines direct action unit which married its resources toward unconventional mission authority with the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) a UK parallel organisation to conduct espionage; irregular warfare (especially sabotage and raiding operations); special reconnaissance and to aid local resistance movements. COHQ and SOE were equivalent to OSS operational authority. Under COHQ Mountbatten commanded and authorized the Sea-Reconnaissance Unit (SRU) which was the UK equivalent to the OSS MU Operational Swimmer Groups such as OSS MU SMG-A which Hank Weldon was a member of.

From 1943-46 Mountbatten was promoted from COHQ to Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia Command (SEAC) including the US China-Burma-India (CBI) theater). There, both SRU and MU operative swimmer colleagues to Weldon, operated directly under a joint Donovan-Mountbatten COHQ-SOE/OSS led command structure on several US and UK Maritime (surface and underwater) operative swimmer operations which were launched from various specialized small boat and other vessel platforms.



Mountbatten and Donovan at SEAC HQ in Burma (Ceylon- Sri Lanka) Planning operations COHQ/SOE SRU and OSS MU operations.



Mountbatten in 1943 as Commander, Combined Operations



Combined Operations Headquarters' (COHQ)



Mountbatten Coat of Arms



Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander, seen during his tour of the Arakan Front in February 1944

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Photos courtesy of Erick Simmel Archive/ossmaritime.org

With FDR's private approval and deniability should it all unravel, Donovan set to work engaging a group of twenty-five patriots, as private citizens technically working for Donovan's law firm. The group of twenty-five were mostly young, very bright, fit, educated, patriots many who were from "good families." These men were rare members of their generation—having the unusual luxury of that time to be well travelled and/or having lived abroad—and all, well versed in languages. Some had military or law enforcement backgrounds; in essence, "PhD's who could win in a bar fight," as would many more men and women later serving with Donovan. They were put through a crash course by U.S. Customs, Treasury, and Secret Service agents and cleared by FBI background checks. Some even received low-level parachute training from a balloon in a blimp hangar. They were now ready to travel anywhere on earth at Donovan's behest. Commencing their actual duty in WW II as civilians in the 1936-37 time frame, they infiltrated behind the lines world-wide, conducting harrowing missions on behalf of the President, with no government support just as the world began going to war for a second time in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This was the first of the modern era larger scale private international intelligence gathering efforts, using modern communications to report directly back to Donovan, who in turn reported privately to FDR four years before December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor!

In 1940, FDR officially made Donovan his Coordinator of Information (COI), a more politically correct term for foreign intelligence chief, due to Donovan's and the group of twenty-five's successes bolstered by assistance from the British intelligence community. The British also recognized Donovan as the one man in the U.S. who could positively influence the delicate workings of joint U.S./British efforts whenever the U.S. would enter into the World War II, which for the British was a dire concern. Because of the group's success and rapid expansion by mid 1941, FDR formally chartered a new civilian agency also known as the "COI" as a civilian agency.

During this pre Pearl Harbor era before COI became the OSS (later jokingly referred to as "Oh So Social"), Donovan made the social acquaintance of eight key individuals with a connection to a unique "fellowship of pioneering watermen" who are why the Donovan – COI - OSS MU connection is so vital to the lineage to all in the NSW and all US Special Operations maritime forces today. Here are the key players: Walter Mess, the first man in the group of twenty-five who also possessed a pre-war ships Masters License. Academy Award winning Hollywood director John Ford, whose Naval heritage as a pre-war Naval Reserve Officer is often forgotten and private yacht Araner, later (USS Araner-IX 57), was used for clandestine intelligence gathering. Dr. Jack H. Taylor, D.D.S., a fellow West Coast Navy reserve officer and friend of Ford, Christian Lambertsen a young medical student and genius inventor, H.G.A. Woolley, a former World War I Royal Navy Commander then living in Hollywood writing screenplays and a friend of Ford, British Lord Louis Mountbatten, who would command Combined Operations, Sir William "Little Bill" Stephenson, a Canadian businessmen, British spymaster and Donovan's key ally in the pre-Pearl Harbor intelligence enterprise, and Bruce S. Wright, a Canadian zoologist, world class competitive swimmer and Lieutenant Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve Officer (RCNVR). Finally, the "fellowship of watermen" who were wild, adventurous and athletically gifted men, who were pioneer skin divers, surfers, canoeists, sailors and paddle borders in the Santa Monica and Los Angeles areas, most of whom were lifeguards. In the 1930's and 1940's, they were the only men to develop, manufacture and use on a regular basis the only commercially produced rubber skin-diving gear that was

**Photos Courtesy of Erick Simmel Archive/ossmaritime.org**

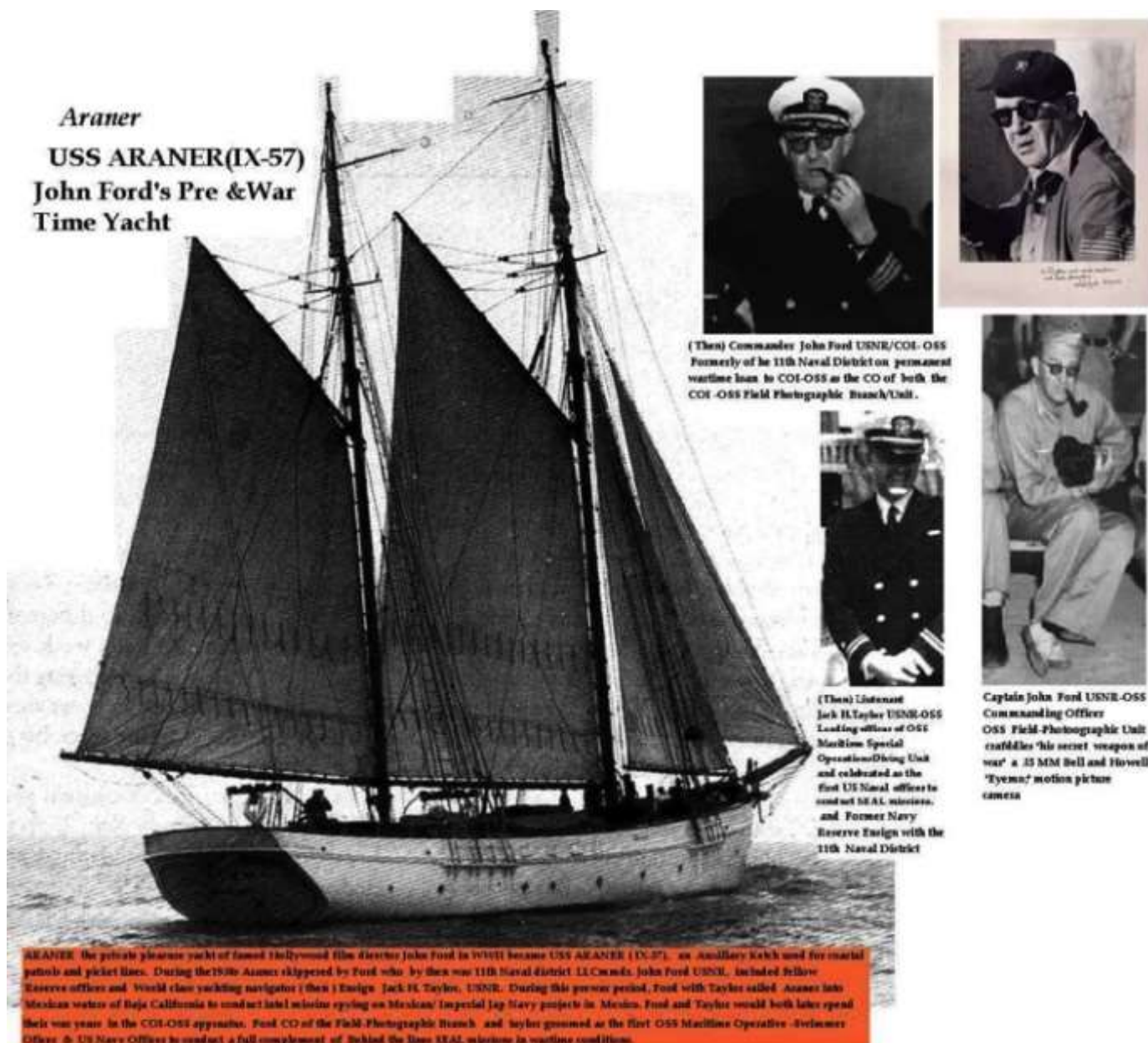


**Churchill fins/ Sea Net mask.  
Used and perfected by LA & SM  
skindivers in USA before WW II**



**The 'Fellowship' of Watermen  
Santa Monica Lifeguard SKIN DIVERS  
several who would later be OSS  
instructors & operatives. Fanned  
up On Santa Monica Pier, 1938**





### Photos Courtesy of Erick Simmel Archive

being made anywhere on the planet: face plates (what we now call dive masks) produced by Sea-Net and swim fins (Produced by Taylor's friend and fellow yachtsman, Owen Churchill). Together, these individuals and that "fellowship of watermen," would also put small boats into MU operations and "the frog" in frogman. Unbeknownst to the Axis powers, American ingenuity and enterprise were getting into gear. To paraphrase Japanese Admiral Yamamoto, "the sleeping giant had been awakened."

What happened went like this: as the result of a family dental matter for Donovan then in Los Angeles, his friend, director John Ford suggested Dr. Jack Taylor, a USC trained orthodontist. Taylor, a Santa Monica dentist, was the orthodontist for many of the Hollywood stars of that era who reportedly fixed Humphrey Bogart's overbite. But to those who knew Taylor well, dentistry was a means for the money to live the adventurous life he craved. He was an accomplished adventurer; world class racing yachtsman, co-founder of the Santa Monica Yacht Club, big game hunter, pilot, gold prospector and fellow Naval Reserve officer of John Ford. The two made trips on Ford's yacht, Araner, reporting on pre war Japanese naval activities in México. Oh and for recreation, he was a skin-diving waterman and friend to "the watermen fellowship."





**Marion Davies 'Ocean House' Beach front Estate  
Santa Monica California**



**Dr. Jack H. Taylor**

TAYLOR, JACK H.  
Hollywood, Calif. B.S. University of  
Southern California, 1932, and D.D.S.,  
1932.

**Col. DONOVAN first meets the 'skin-diver, waterman lifeguards of Santa Monica Bay fellowship' one early morning on the beach in front of this then sprawling ocean front estate, long before Pearl Harbor was attacked in December 1941. This was through the impetus of Santa Monica orthodontist Dr. Jack H. Taylor DDS a prewar acquaintance to Donovan and friend/fellow to these unique watermen, sharing pre war skin-diving adventures with them through out. Those men would later become the nucleus of the OSS Maritime Unit Operative Swimmer cadre; Taylor their first.**

Socially Ford introduced Donovan and Taylor. They were two like-minded men and shared several informal discussions about world affairs at the private Apartment Hotel in Santa Monica or at Marion Davies' massive beachfront "Ocean House" where Donovan stayed when conducting business for Davies' long time boyfriend, newspaper magnate, William Randolph Hearst. As Taylor and his wife were on the Davies/Hearst social list, he and Donovan easily mixed in the same circles when Donovan was in the Los Angeles area. Upon discussions of the world's turmoil at the time, Donovan allegedly mentioned how innovation and ingenuity would be key in fighting the next war. One morning, Taylor took Donovan out to the water's edge where Taylor introduced Donovan to several men of "the fellowship." Before his eyes, these watermen demonstrated paddleboards, surfed, speared fish and went after lobsters and abalone with their bare hands brought up from the Santa Monica Breakwater, rocks and small reefs. This introduced Donovan to new capabilities and potentialities. Taylor also introduced H.G.A. Woolley to Donovan, which is how Donovan would later recruit Taylor, Woolley and the "fellowship of watermen" to be the key players in forming the Maritime Section of the COI later to become the Maritime Unit (MU) of the OSS.

Frustrated by the staunchly isolationist US Congress and the Armed Forces War Powers Act that called for Congressional approval for the Army and Navy to wage war, FDR established a controversial policy to help Donovan and the COI. FDR activated the legendary American Volunteer Group (AVG or 'Flying Tigers' led by US flying tactical expert Claire Lee Chennault). This was the first US armed covert force to use military fighter planes (the export versions of the P-40 Tomahawk fighter) flown by U.S. military pilots under the guise of the civilian China National Air Corporation (CNAC) to fight for Chinese leader Generalissimo Chiang-Kai-Shek's Nationalist forces against Imperial Japanese forces who had invaded China, though the USA was not then at war with Japan.

That presidential initiative of covert military action, gave FDR precedent to use his Presidential authority without Congressional/Senate approval to help Donovan and COI. Further, the Coast Guard and Marine Corps were under the executive branch in this time of "peace," and FDR instructed these services by an Executive Memorandum to assist Donovan and the COI in most any way Donovan would require of them. With very few long-range aircraft and water covering over 70% of the Earth's surface, COI quickly recognized the value of covert waterborne infiltration and exfiltration for agents, re-supply, and sabotage missions the COI was beginning to field. These two services' Commandants were more than delighted to get into the fight side by side with Donovan and COI. Donovan envisioned the template for the first American commando unit: a joint Marine and Coast Guard fielded, spearheaded under the COI banner at the President's approval for direct action and or unconventional warfare operations, with both services going full-throttle in developing small boat and commando tactics for the Donovan- COI strategy ( Note: This plan would be the genesis for World War II Marine Raider units Coast Guard Special operations activities following through to their present day era counterparts USMC Raider Regiment and USCG "Deployable Forces," long before the Army's wartime "Alamo Scouts" would morph into today's US Army's Special Forces.)

There was talk of promoting Donovan to a Marine general to oversee COI, however there was a great deal of political pressure and inter-service rivalry roiling against this especially from the Army leadership, particularly General Douglas MacArthur. FDR interceded and directly promoted Donovan from a Reserve Army Colonel to a Brigadier General to command COI, while also elevating Donovan to a Presidential Cabinet level position.

Immediately following the Pearl Harbor attack, men like Dr. Jack Taylor, Woolley and Walter Mess and most of the fellowship of the "Skin-Diving watermen" and Christian Lambertsen, who had been identified by Donovan, were directly sequestered into the COI ranks from whatever other wartime armed service they were first associated with. Thus during those last days of 1941 and into the first months of early 1942, these men all received immersion into COI tradecraft at various COI Schools in the US, and at the British spy school in Ottawa Canada "Camp X," before moving onto the rapidly evolving maritime section of COI.

Photos courtesy of Erick Simmel Archive/ossmaritime unit.org



At the same time, William "Little Bill" Stephenson (codenamed "Intrepid") coordinated meetings between Donovan and the Earl Louis Mountbatten who was Chief of all British Combined Operations (COHQ – the umbrella for SOE, MI-6, the commandos and other British covert operations) where the two leaders exchanged information regarding inelegance and unconventional direct action missions including Donovan's COI/OSS plans for an operative -swimmer cadre. Ironically about this time of late 1941, Mountbatten received a memo from the then unknown RCNVR Lieutenant Bruce Wright arguing the need for underwater swimming commandos to form a "natatorial swimmer" unit which was what Donovan's MU was doing. Mountbatten had Wright flown to London COHQ by flying boat. He listened then authorized Wright the men and assets needed to form the Sea Reconnaissance Unit (SRU). Mountbatten asked where Wright would train the men. Wright replied he had read in the National Geographic magazine about a group of Los Angeles area skin-divers with the necessary skills and equipment they would need to fight under water. Mountbatten smiled knowingly how this all might fair due to his discussions with Stephenson and Donovan. He authorized Wright orders to travel undercover as a civilian to Los Angeles to see what he could learn. Upon Wright's arrival in Los Angeles, he was received by none other than Olympic champion swimmer and Hollywood "Tarzan" star Johnny Weissmuller who just happened to be an occasional skin-diving enthusiast and now a de-facto recruiter for OSS MU. Weissmuller directed Wright to two of the fellowships' master watermen (LA lifeguards, Frank Rodecker and Hal Messinger) owners of the world's first commercially produced rubber diving face-plate (dive mask) manufacturing company, Sea Net of Terminal Island California. Enthused and encouraged by these two men and with approval from Mountbatten as authorized by Donovan, Wright recruited Rodecker and Messinger into the SRU as Royal Navy Sub-Lieutenant instructors under cover of volunteers to the Royal Canadian Naval Reserves. They in turn gave the British the badly needed watermanship skills to make the SRU trainees into the waterman-operatives on level to what the fellowship intended them to be.





The Sea Reconnaissance Unit  
Officers at Camp Pendleton, Calif.  
from left to right:  
Mid. Bruce Kinnison, R.N.F.R.,  
Mid. "Boss" South, R.N.F.R.,  
3 - Lt. Hal Messinger, R.C.N.V.R.,  
Lt. Braxton Savage, R.C.N.V.R.,  
4 - Capt. "Duke" South, U.S.M.C. (R),  
Fl. Lt. Harry Avery, R.C.A.F.,  
Capt. "Mick" Muldown,  
(\* = U.S. Marine Raider Instructor) (2 & 3 = Former noted LA City County Ocean Lifeguards & Master Skindiver  
Watermen and Skin diving equipment innovators)  
Capt. Jack Elder, The Black Watch,  
Lt. Condo Bruce S. Wright, R.C.N.V.R.,  
Mid. "Randy" Duckworth, R.N.F.R.,  
Lt. John Tappan, R.N.F.R.,  
Sub Lt. Frank B. Bullock, R.C.N.V.R.,  
Lt. Dick Turpin, Royal West Kent Re-  
giment, Lt. "Doc" Robertson, R.N.F.R.  
shown here in the corner inset,  
joined the Sea Reconnaissance Unit  
late.

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The  
British  
Combined Operations  
Sea Reconnaissance Unit  
(SRU)  
Officer Cadre  
at  
'Rancho Margerita'  
Ranch House  
located at  
OSS  
Maritime Unit (MU)  
'Area W.P.'  
(Surf, Watermanship,  
Skin-diving instruction &  
U.S. Marine 'Raider' Course)  
at  
Camp Pendleton USMC  
December, 1943

In turn for Rodecker and Messenger on loan to the British throughout the war to SRU and Wright getting to train with Marine Raiders, OSS Maritime got Mountbatten to approve John Ford's and Jack Taylor's friend and social acquaintance, H.G.A. Woolley, a decorated Royal Navy Commander for his small craft genius utilizing small boats at Gallipoli (Dardanelles) in WWI to save thousands of lives, as the head of OSS Maritime training.

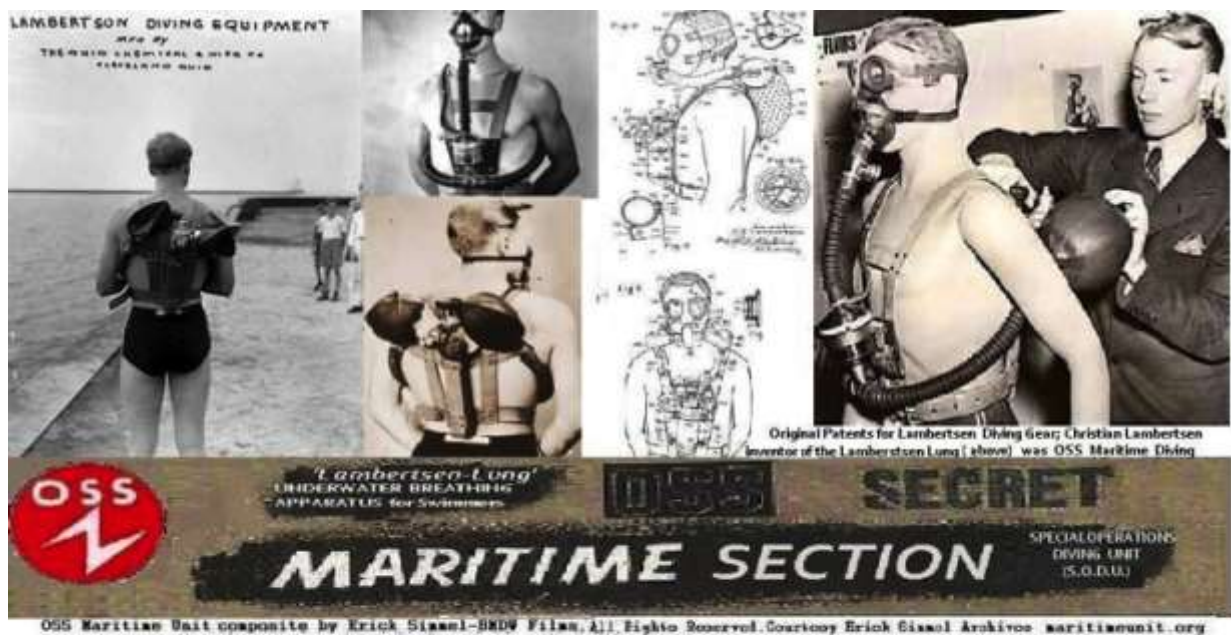
COI became the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in June 1942. OSS immediately held a seat on of the Joint Chiefs of Staff through the end of the war chartered to collect and analyze intelligence required for military operations and conduct physical sabotage operations.

With Donovan's assistance, Taylor and Woolley began identifying and pre-positioning Coast Guard, Army and Marine Corps capabilities and personnel for the COI. So within days of the Pearl Harbor attack, COI had men on the ground and elements like the MU were able to expand almost supernaturally

The Maritime Section of COI was now an OSS entity, whereby part of its exchange was providing quid pro quo personnel to the training of the Mountbatten/Wright SRU. For that first year and a half after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Maritime Section schools at COI/OSS were based at Area D on the Potomac River in Maryland at an isolated farm and former Works Project Administration (WPA) area camp on the shores across from the Marines at Quantico VA. Area D fielded the first modern U.S. wartime small boat special operations for training operations during the war including the Coast Guard Auxiliary diesel motor Yacht Maribel. The Maribel stood in as a submarine platform, partisan covert craft, PT style raiding support craft and mother ship for smaller rubber raft operations and diving for variety of training evolutions to train COI/OSS operative trainees for infiltration and exfiltration missions. The MU's later inventory would include fishing boats and schooners for clandestine insertion/extraction and re-supply as well as combat swimmers, miniature submarines, Air Sea Rescue Crash Boat Flotillas (Walter Mess would command one in the CBI and insert swimmer operatives on successful limpet attacks) and a PT Boat Squadron as well as the men to carry out these missions. The MU consisted of volunteers from the Navy, Army, Marines and Coast Guard mixing freely within units.

Meanwhile, Dr. Lambertsen trained John Spence, a Navy hard-hat diver/Gunners mate from Tennessee and Dr. Taylor on his revolutionary LARU re-breather SCUBA at the Shoreham Hotel's pool in Washington D.C. between October-November of 1942. (Spence is recognized as Americas First Frogman, Taylor the first Naval officer trained on re-breather-SCUBA for Special Operations, underwater diving/underwater swimming. Spence and Taylor together are the first Navy frogmen and swim-buddy team in US history.) With Lambertson, they trained two other Navy and two Marine officers before including the fellowship of watermen in what was called the Special Operations Diving Unit (SODU and later the L- UNIT for the Lambertsen Lung - LARU rebreather SCUBA). They would form the basis for sabotage operations and be the recruiters and instructors for what would become OSS Special Maritime Group- A (SMG-A).





Dr. Lambertson is in the suit in the photo on the upper right corner. Photos courtesy of Erick Simmel Archive/ ossmaritime.org



Photos courtesy of Erick Simmel Archive/ossmaritime.org

Special Maritime Group A (SMG-A) was just one element of OSS MU, a unit composed of many of the previously mentioned Santa Monica Bay skin-diving—waterman and lifeguards who trained at the then highly classified OSS training schools. One was OSS “Area W.P.” (The Marine Raider School at Camp Pendleton – and OSS Maritime Surf training area at San Onofre Beach Creek Outlet [called “Old Man’s” and “Trestles” surfing beach today]) on Camp Pendleton and along the beach at San Clemente and Laguna Beach, California. Another OSS MU training base was “Area W.A.” at Toyon Cove Catalina Island, which conducted training in amphibious tradecraft in the many coves and rugged backcountry of the wartime off limits, lee side of Catalina Island. (Note: The very first use of SCUBA equipment in the ocean, by civilian or military personnel in the USA occurred at Areas W.P. and W.A. in California by the SMG-A). SMG-A continued training at a secret OSS Maritime swimmer British Combined Operations/SOE school on Salt Cay off Nassau in the Bahamas Islands. SMG-A became the joint OSS/Navy UDT 10 at the Navy Combat Demolition Training and Experimental school at Khei, next to Amphibious Base Kamaole on Maui in Hawaii. There SMG-A operatives gave US Navy Underwater Demolition Teams modern combat swimming skills sets and gear that originated within the secret civilian OSS MU Operative swimmer cadres that SMG-A pioneered creating the frogman legacy we

know today.



**OSS MARITIME UNIT OPERATIONAL SWIMMER TRAINING  
AREA WA  
TOYON COVE CATALINA ISLAND DECEMBER, 1943**

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Warren Christensen  | 7 - William C. Wright  |
| 2 - Robert A. Black     | 8 - Gerald L. Bennetts |
| 3 - Gordon Softau       | 9 - Leslie L. Bodine   |
| *4 - Henry T. Weldon    | 10 - Wright S. Travis  |
| 5 - William E. Moore    |                        |
| 6 - Leonard L. Barnhill |                        |

(Travis was flown with Hank Weldon, technically being the first and original "Naked Warrior" to all U.S. Forces while training on Catalina Island by several months several months of ANY U.S. Forces.)

**Naked Warrior Hank Weldon catching dinner at Area W.A., Toyon Bay, Catalina circa 1943. Note paddleboards and Sea Net Face Plates (Photos courtesy of Erick Simmel Archive)**



**Navy First-Class Petty Officer Specialist X Henry Thomas 'Hank' Weldon was the last of those original OS MU SMG-A/**

UDT 10 pioneers. He established two milestones in special operations history; one of which is his alone. Hank Weldon was the first "Naked Warrior." The Weldon "Naked Warrior" legend stems from an OSS MU/ SMG-A Swimmer evolution on Catalina Island, several months before UDT began swimming. Second, with that evolution behind him, Weldon carried that legacy with him and the other SMG-A men to Maui passing it to all UDT Teams in the Pacific providing them with ocean swimming with swim fins, face masks, commando daggers, limpet mines, suppressed small arms; combat swimmer recons launched from submarines and of course the Lambertsen -Lung ( LARU) re-breather, America's first SCUBA, not to be confused with submarine escape apparatus which were not designed for diving or swimming.

Hank Weldon was part of this first group of American combat swimmers who introduced all that training and equipment to the UDT Teams in the Pacific, essentially putting the "frog" in frogmen. Hank served from 1942-1945, receiving the Bronze Star, then had a quarter century career with the Los Angeles Police Department where he was involved with the Watts Riots and the Charles Manson investigation. Hank Weldon was the last of that legacy of OSS MU Operatives Swimmer to UDT and the last of all the originally trained OSS MU Operative Swimmers known to be living in the Autumn of 2018.

As Chuck began coordinating with WARCOM, I reached out to CCCA President Joe Zemlin and CACO Bill Redmond to help coordinate from our end for the three elements of the Weldon Memorial Services: Funeral in Valley Center, California (Oct 26), Swim Out at Camp Pendleton (Oct 26) and Reception in Valley Center (Oct 27). Joe and especially Bill were instrumental in obtaining the Patriot Riders, which were an honor and thrill for the family and attendees, as well as bugler and rifle salute. I made arrangements with MWR at Camp Pendleton and helped set up for the swim out as well as made many calls on Erick's behalf to historians on both coasts and military personnel. CCCA Treasurer, Mike Sigsworth, worked on getting a wreath from CCCA for the Weldon family, which featured, prominently at the funeral, private family wake and reception. These were very complex events to coordinate in particular the funeral, as it was held at a private cemetery in Valley Center as opposed to a military cemetery such as Point Loma or Miramar and with many commands at very short notice (especially in these days with far more legal involvement in military affairs



than in many of our days).



**Marine Color Guard proceeds ahead to the gravesite piped with Navy and LAPD color guards with Veteran Re-enactors. USMC Major Brian Kerrebrock in the foreground. (Photo courtesy of BMDW/ossmaritime.org)**

Marine Raider Major Brian Kerrebrock secured a razor sharp Marine color guard in the final days before the funeral. There were flag presentations from the Navy and LAPD as well as two buglers, a rifle salute team, veteran period re-enactors were brought to the service at Erick's request through the re-enactors coordinator, Anthony Ardisone, a Naval Special Warfare reservist and historical re-enactor as well as the Patriot Riders. Jeff Hunter and Mike Sigsworth worked hard to notify brothers in the CCCA and Naval Special Warfare communities.



**Patriot Riders have just arrived with the Weldon Family at the Cemetery in Valley Center.**

**Erick and Mike from the Patriot Riders**

The family was escorted from the Weldon home in San Marcos by the Patriot Riders to the Valley Center cemetery. There the present day USMC 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Raider Support Battalion Color Guard led by Marine Raider Major Brian Kerrebrock followed the family to the entombment site. Flag presentations from the Navy and LAPD were made to the Weldon family. Led in by an LAPD bagpiper, the color guard and family marched to the entombment site as Chaplain Kirschenbaum commenced the services.







**Some of the Weldon family and friends proceed to gravesite passing the Marine Color Guard, Navy and LAPD Honor Guards. Chaplain is in the foreground.**

**The Chaplain speaking with the Navy and LAPD Honor Guards in front of Weldon family area. Sailor nearest the camera in dress blues is “Abel” Holman.**



**Navy flag presentation to the Weldon Family**

Along with the Weldon Family and friends, a host of OSS MU family members, OSS MU historians, NSW boat guys and frogmen (including Chuck and I), Marine Raiders, a Navy Master Diver, former British Royal Army SAS Captain Stuart Bird Wilson (President of the British United Services Club of Los Angeles, colleague of the [maritimeunit.org](http://maritimeunit.org) and a representative to the US of the OSS- British COHQ and SRU legacy), and modern operatives from the current “three letter agency,” which recognizes the OSS as its predecessor came to the send off for Hank Weldon, the man, and memorialize the sacrifices and innovations of America’s Greatest Generation.

**Major Brian Kerrebrock USMC, Erick Simmel, Chuck Chaldekis, Retired SAS Captain Sturat Bird-Wilson, Navy Diver Will Kilmer, Phil Garn, Navy SEAL Randy Kelly, Dr. Robert "Bob" Ianello USMC and Tai Eubank Grandson of Jim Eubank, OSS Operative Swimmer and Weldon comrade.**



As during Hank Weldon's WWII Service when the was OSS was comprised of Army, Army Air Corps (now Air Force), Coast Guard, Navy, Marine Corps and civilian personnel, the re-enactors came in a variety of period uniforms to honor that diversity. The re-enactors were all active duty military or veterans attached to the Fort MacArthur Military museum at San Pedro in Los Angeles and included WWII Navy Sailors, WWII Navy WAVES (women), WW II Coast Guard SPARS (women), Army 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne and one Marines Corps "Gy-rene" Sergeant. The professional civilian bugler played 'Eternal Father Strong to Save' (the Navy Hymn), before the final salutes. A rifle salute team led by Joe Vain Harrison of the Joint Honor Guard in Poway California included three Marines and one Air Force veteran (Joe Vain Harrison, Jessie Garcia, Bob Crosby & Sam La Manna). After the seven volleys of rounds were fired honoring Hank, a veteran in full 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne regalia with period jump wings on his chest, played "Taps," as the final tribute to Hank Weldon and the spirit of the founder of the OSS Maritime Unit's Dr. Jack Taylor, who lead from the front by example, qualifying on the LARU, conducted reconnaissance and intelligence operations using small craft in Nazi occupied Greek and Turkish isles, was involved in extensive small unit intelligence and rescue operations into Greece Yugoslavia and Albania, was the first U.S. Naval officer in U.S. History who was airborne (parachute ) trained then jumped from an OSS B-24 into Nazi occupied Austria for the OSS DuPont Mission (Sea Air Land nearly two decades before the modern SEAL Teams were established) contributing to the Nation's ultimate victory in that war and proud traditions carried on by operators in all branches of service to this day.

Ironically during TAPS and the rifle volley, a medical emergency in the audience did not disrupt the honors. Quiet professionals assisted the patient, while the other uniformed and veterans maintained the salute until the bugler ceased, and more hands rushed to assist.



## Rifle Volley

Both Chuck and I attended the funeral at the Valley Center Cemetery and family wake on October 26-27. The funeral was a grand and fitting tribute for a WWII patriot and hero.

Throughout the service and during the remaining two events, Erick had the Brave Men Dark Waters (BMDW) film crew, including Tai Eubanks, grandson of Navy Chief James Eubanks, another OSS Operative Swimmer pioneer who conducted the first successful American limpeter attack in the CBI from Mess's highly modified Crash Boat; Patricia "Patty" Matus, a producer with BMDW Films and active duty Navy Corpsman Mark O. "Able" Holmen who as part of the BMDW Film team who spends a great deal of whatever liberty he gets documenting history with BMDW, assisted recording the three memorials. Tai and Patricia recorded the ceremonies where the CCCA wreath was a centerpiece along with original WWII swim fins and two masks for the Lambertson Amphibious Respiratory Unit (LARU) the first American SCUBA unit used by any American combat swimmers in action. At the reception, family and friends were very appreciative of all the efforts made by the CCCA and other veterans on the Weldon family's behalf.





(Left) CCCA Wreath at the Hank Weldon Memorial

(Right) Original LARU facemask and black Churchill swim fins at the Hank Weldon Memorial. During World War II, black rubber Churchill swim fins were only issued to OSS Maritime Unit Swimmers.



It was a great honor to participate in the Swim Out on the same beach where Hank and his comrades trained at Camp Pendleton, Area 51 (no joke) near San Onofre. MWR and lifeguards set aside an entire parking lot for us. Jane Schmauss of the California Surf Museum in Oceanside CA who had so wonderfully assisted Erick and BMDW Film, maritimeunit.org in past honors to OSS MU's surf and watermanship traditions, graciously provided a vintage longboard with the Museum's logo for the paddle out and memorial dive in honor of the OSS MU's surf traditions. I helped Able and Tai with the paddle boards, there was pretty decent surf on a very rocky shore, then wrangled the two boards as Tai and Able filmed Erick and retired Marine Major Dr. Robert "Bob" Iannello diving homemade LARU type oxygen closed circuit SCUBA re-breathers with Major Kerrebrock on conventional SCUBA lay the wreath beneath the surface as family and friends watched and Patty filmed from shore.



Dr. Bob Iannello, Major Brian Kerrebrock, Erick Simmel, Tai Eubank with wreath, Mark "Abel" Holmen and Phil Garn on the beach before hitting the surf at San Onofre. Dr. Bob built both of the Lambertson LARU type re-breathers he and Erick are using. (Photo Courtesy of BMDW/ossmaritime.org)

At the memorial about ready to take Hank's wreath underwater. Visibility was only about three feet. (Photo Courtesy of BMDW/ossmaritime.org)



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OSS Maritime Unit composite by Erick Sinsel-BNDV Films. All Rights Reserved. Courtesy Erick Sinsel Archives maritimeunit.org

U.S. Coastguardsmen - OSS Maritime Unit Operative-Swimmers of OSS Maritime Unit Operational-Swimmer Group II, LT.(jg) John P. Booth and CBM James R. Eubank were the first OSS personnel conducting reconnaissance onto Foul Island, along the Arakan Coast of Burma in 1945. Here they are on-board OSS Maritime Unit(MU)P-564 (under cover of U.S Army markings), skippered by U.S. Army 1st LT. Walter O. Mess, Senior OSS-MU Flotilla-Commander, Afloat. Booth and Eubank have donned the 'tools of their trade-craft': OSS Black colored Churchill Swim-Fins and Sea-Net Manufacturing skin-diving Face-Plates. They stand upon a cargo net, gunwale-lashed and rigged to P-564 starboard side to deploy OSS-MU operative-swimmers. Behind them is Lt. Jon Babb, USNR-OSS-MU wearing sun-glasses. Babb would later become the last acting Maritime Unit Chief CBI theater of operations during WW II.

(MU composite by Erick Sinsel BNDV Films, 2010)

Back on the beach, we all had a brandy toast to Hank, just the way the Hank and his first OSS swimmers did back in WWII at that same location of his first training evolution into the Ocean, before loading the gear and policing up the area.

The following afternoon, both Chuck and I attended the reception at the Skyline Ranch Country Club in Valley Center. Erick and Chuck spoke eloquently about Hank's contributions and continuing legacy to Naval Special Warfare and all US and British Maritime Special Operations combat personnel. Both Chuck and I were recognized and honored for our and CCCA's support.

Attending along with the immediate Weldon family and friends were Hank Weldon's extended OSS MU Swimmer family that included the families of Robert Scoles, Jim Eubank and James Long. Scoles and Eubank were both legendary prewar waterman and lifeguards from Hermosa Beach, part of the fellowship of watermen and Jack Taylor's regular skin diving companions. Further, Jim Eubank was Owen Churchill's swim fin test pilot and was responsible helping Churchill evolve the swimming fin into the product it became to be used and widely replicated by all US frogmen, allied frogmen and enemy frogmen, not to mention just about every body who was body surfing and skin-diving the world over since the late 1930's. Scoles and Eubank were both recruited into the Coast Guard and fast tracked to the MU after extensive training at OSS schools and became two of the first Operative Swimmer instructors. Scoles would be the man who first showed Hank how to function in the ocean off San Onofre then cold and shivering share a first brandy with him and tell him "you're now part of something called OSS." Jim Long was on that beach with Hank all through the Raider training. Eubank would go on to teach Hank underwater hunting, breath hold diving and the use of the LARU scuba. Weldon, Scoles, Long and Eubank were all part of the first mock attack on Avalon Harbor to show port security that the OSS operative swimmer frogmen could penetrate harbor defenses, the first of its type ever conducted by US armed forces personnel. Weldon, Long and Scoles were all OSS MU SMG-A / Swimmer UDT 10 Frogman together. Eubank went from OSS MU SMG-A instructor to a MU Operational Swimmer Group Two (OSG-II) where he was an operative-swimmer behind the lines in Burma as one the first Americans to take part in combat swimming recon and limpet mining of Japanese shipping with the LARU SCUBA re-breathers. Bob Scoles only son, Don Scoles, Jim Longs daughters, Christine and Mary; the late Jim Eubank's wife Vera, his son and daughter-in-law Bob and Weihong Eubank, and Jim's grandson Tai Eubank were present. Weldon, Scoles, Long and Eubank (their families included) remained life long friends. Weldon, Long and Eubank attended Robert Scoles' memorial and underwater re-breather wreath laying ceremony that Erick and Major Iannello and the maratime.org cadre conducted, as an honor to the service of these pioneering patriots.

Both Chuck and I were recognized and honored for our and CCCA's support. We also helped with the clean up and teardown of the significant display, which included many unique OSS WWII artifacts (provided by the Erick Simmel Archives and the Jocko Robinson collection), a special OSS MU video presentation by Erick and his film crew as well as moving footage of the funeral and swim out from the day before. This video was much better than what you would see on television news.

#### **Tribute Table at the Hank Weldon Memorial. Note CCCA Wreath in Background.**

Hopefully, you will have a better understanding of why Hank Weldon and the OSS MU are so significant to our heritage. Erick has got to tell this fascinating story on film that includes wartime OSS film footage as well as period photos and documents and re-enactors.



CCCA's role and existing relationships with other organizations and the Marine Raiders as well as Erick and the Brave Men Dark Waters crew were critical to properly honoring Hank Weldon's service and most greatly appreciated by the Weldon family and friends.

(Check out [www.maritimeunit.org](http://www.maritimeunit.org) for updates)



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The CCCA is a 501c3 Tax Exempt Charitable Organization

EIN # 46-3934554

Combatant Craft Crewman Association (CCCCA)

P.O. Box 6912, San Diego, CA 92168

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For name inclusion onto Honor Roll and Historical Book Project, all donations must be received and processed by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.



# From The Ship's Store

## CCCA Mug Machine

By Phil G. Garn

And

Mike Sigsworth

Over the years many members have wanted coffee mugs with their unit logo; however for the prices to be reasonable we would have had to do a minimum run of 50 to 100, which was not that reasonable or realistic. Joe Zemlin and Mike Sigsworth also have had some experience with other beverage containers from shot glasses to beer mugs to water bottles and even wine glasses for the 50<sup>th</sup>; the issue was always volume and cost. Then Mike came across the Sublimation Heat Press, which can print on cylindrical objects from a 1.5 ounce shot glass to a water bottle not to mention mugs. Additionally, he believed he would be able to do very small orders economically. After doing some research, Mike presented several options to the CCCA board and we voted unanimously to purchase the machine. Mike was able to make some custom (individual designs) as test samples, which he displayed at the September meeting. These looked very professional, not like a messy decal. We are confident that he will be able to do individual mugs. However, we need good electronic pictures for the artwork. If you want the 1968 MST from Danang versus the 1969 one on the barge, you have to specify what you want. Additionally, if you provide us a logo we want to keep this on file for future projects. Below you will see some of Mike's handiwork. Once he has the process down we may rent the machine out to other organizations for limited runs.



**Custom CCCA \ Unit ceramic Mug 11oz**

**Personalization 20 characters maximum**

**\$15.00 ea.  
Plus \$6.00 S&H**



**Mesh Hats are \$5.00**



**CCCA Jolly Roger  
Antenna Flag 10" x 6"  
Double Sided  
With Antenna Mounting  
Kit**

**Made in the U.S.A.**

**\$25.00 each**

**CCCA Jolly Roger  
Bandana 21"X 21"  
100% Cotton  
Black , Navy, Olive,  
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**CCCA Veterans  
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**Cards are 11.99 each or  
2 for 19.64  
(The year it all began)**







## Your Sponsorship Matters

**The Combatant Craft Crewman Association**  
is a 501(C)(3) **Tax Exempt** Charitable Organization.

- ★ The Mission of the CCCA is to Preserve the History and Honor the spirit of "Brotherhood" for all those who have supported the Naval Special Warfare Combatant Craft Crewman, SEALs, and their missions.
- ★ Our Vision is to be a world-class charitable organization dedicated to preserving the Naval Special Warfare Combatant Craft Crewman History by Honoring each generation's contributions with integrity and compassion through our charitable services and educational awareness endeavors.
- ★ We are an Association of volunteer's and veteran advocates who give their time and talents freely to enrich lives, restore hope, and ensure our legacy continues.
  - Our elected leadership takes "No Salary" and administrative costs are kept to a minimum.
  - Recipient of the GuideStar 2018, "Silver" Seal of Transparency Award.
  - Our membership is currently represented in over 35 States and Territories.
  - Through our Casualty Assistance Program, we provide "Direct" charitable services and "Referral" Services through our network of collaborative charitable partners.
  - We help develop and track "Wellness Plans" to address life's challenges.
  - We honor and support those who have passed, and those who are ill.
  - We provide medical equipment to enhance mobility and sense of independence.
  - We provide critical emergency housing and living assistance.
  - We conduct an annual "Holiday Cheer" Campaign to assist Active Duty leadership with additional resources to provide immediate short-term relief.
  - We provide educational awareness services to keep our history alive for the generations to come.
- ★ Your financial support is critical to our noble mission of "Preserving the History and Honoring the Brotherhood." Please consider giving at the level that best aligns with your abilities.

**On Time • On Target • Never Quit**

**Mailing Address:** Combatant Craft Crewman Association (CCCA) P.O. Box 6942, San Diego, CA 92166

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Our address is: CCCA P.O. Box 6912, San Diego, CA 92166.

[www.combatantcraftcrewman.org](http://www.combatantcraftcrewman.org)

[Shipstore@combatantcraftcrewman.org](mailto:Shipstore@combatantcraftcrewman.org)

The Combatant Craft Crewman Association (CCCA) is a nationally recognized 501C3 charitable organization. **Our Vision** is to support and tend to the well-being of our unique community while preserving our rich heritage. We uphold the highest naval traditions and live by our motto **"On Time, On Target, Never Quit"**.

Founded by U.S Navy Honorably Discharged Veterans of the Naval Special Warfare Special Boat Unit and Teams as well as Navy SEALs, we freely volunteer in our following missions:

- ✦ Emergency assistance response to any medical, housing, transportation, or natural disasters.
- ✦ Providing direct charitable services, peer-support, and referrals.
- ✦ Ensuring a positive difference, quality of life, and peace of mind.
- ✦ Our personal services extend to our fallen and their families.
- ✦ Educational Awareness

The Commands consists of **the Elite Navy SEALs** and **SWCC**, forming Special Boat Teams (SBT). Much of the public is unaware of our specialized operations; however, these harsh and hazardous environments place severe strains on the operator's bodies, resulting in numerous debilitating injuries. Only recently have medical studies begun to acknowledge the long-term effects of adverse operating conditions. The CCCA is making a difference by assisting our veterans when current resources fall short.

The Navy's Boat Support Unit One, the first special boat unit, was officially established in October of 1964 to support the Navy Special Warfare (NSW) missions, a.k.a "Boat Guys". Coined **"The Quiet Warriors"** The **Naval Special Warfare Combatant Craft Crewmen** (SWCC) protect the global waterways and provide critical mission support to Navy SEALs by operating state-of-the-art, high-performance boats regardless of the weather conditions.

**Our Mission:** *"Preserve the History and Honor the Brotherhood."*

The CCCA is preserving its unique NSW history by honoring over five generations of Special Boat Operators and highly skilled support personnel. Although, the titles of the commands and their missions have transitioned over the years, the fighting-spirit and uncanny resourcefulness of this elite community continue to be their legacy by pushing their craft and tactics beyond conventional limitations to achieve victory!

The CCCA meets the needs of this exclusive community and their families, no matter what generation of NSW they served or supported. **We bridge the gap between existing services and provide "compassionate-care" and support to those in need.** Help us continue our noble mission as we continue serving those who made the ultimate sacrifice at our U.S Navy.



## **CCCA Mission Statement:**

The Mission of the Combatant Craft Crewman Association (CCCA) is to “Preserve the History and Honor the spirit of “Brotherhood” for all those who have supported the Naval Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewman, SEALs, and their missions.

## **CCCA Vision:**

The Vision of the CCCA is to be a world-class charitable organization dedicated to preserving the Naval Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewman history by honoring each generation's contributions with integrity and compassion through our charitable and educational awareness endeavors.

## **CCCA Brief Description:**

The Combatant Craft Crewman Association is an award-winning non-profit. Established in 2013 by our Founders to bring over five-generations of Naval Special Warfare Warriors and their families together since 1964. We provide Direct and Referral services through our Casualty Assistance Program and its many volunteers. Providing Wellness Planning, Educational Assistance, Counseling, Living Assistance, Funerals & Honors, Hospital Visitations, Holiday Cheer Campaign, Community Blood Drives, and Care Packages). Our Casualty Assistance Program connects our collaborative partners and our Community via San Diego 211, Courage-to-Call, Veterans Community Connections, San Diego Veterans Coalition, and the Unite Us platform. We are an educational and historical resource for the Community to ensure accuracy and continuity for generations to come. Our leadership takes no salary and our organization is the proud recipient of the Guide Star 2018 "Silver", Seal of Transparency Award.



For Membership Info Visit: [www.combatantcraftcrewman.org](http://www.combatantcraftcrewman.org)



**We welcome your comments, please send them to [reg5@combatantcraftcrewman.org](mailto:reg5@combatantcraftcrewman.org)**