

COMBATANT CRAFT CREWMAN ASSOCIATION



PRESERVING THE HISTORY AND HONORING THE BROTHERHOOD

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 • DECEMBER 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JOSEPH ZEMLIN

Dear Combatant Craft Crewman Association Members, Donors, and Collaborators,

As we gather in the warmth of the holiday season, I am honored to extend my heartfelt wishes to every one of you. The unwavering support and dedication of our incredible Combatant Craft Crewman community amplifies the spirit of joy and camaraderie that defines this time of year. Your commitment to our mission and the values we hold dear are sources of inspiration, and it is with deep gratitude that I share this holiday message with you.

This year has been nothing short of extraordinary as we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of our Special Community and the 10th Anniversary of the CCCA. Looking back, we can take pride in the many significant accomplishments that marked these historic milestones. The success of our anniversary celebration was a testament to the strength of our community and the lasting impact of our shared experiences.

Our 60th Anniversary Celebration was meaningful, bringing together members, donors, and collaborators nationwide. It was a time to reflect on the rich history of our association and honor the contributions of each generation of SWCC, who have served and supported it with distinction. Thanks to our hosts, Sean, and Lennie Kientz, for planning such a fantastic event and our guest honored speakers, Dr. Gregory Stewart and CAPT William R. Irwin, SEAL, USN (Ret.), for their heartfelt and informative and candid discussions with our attendees.

The festivities allowed us to reconnect with old friends, forge new connections, and strengthen the bonds that make our community so resilient.

Throughout the celebration, we highlighted the accomplishments and contributions of our members over the past six decades. From daring missions to selfless acts of service, the stories shared during this commemorative event showcased the unwavering commitment of Combatant Craft Crewmen to excellence, bravery, and camaraderie.

As we enter the holiday season, let us carry the spirit of unity and gratitude forward. May the warmth of shared memories and the promise of a bright future sustain us through the challenges we may face. Whether celebrating with loved ones, reflecting in solitude, or standing duty far from home, know that your sacrifices and dedication do not go unnoticed.

To our loyal members, donors, and collaborators, thank you for your continued support. Your generosity and commitment are the cornerstones of our success, and it is with great anticipation that we look ahead to the opportunities the coming year holds for our association.

I wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season filled with love, laughter, and moments of reflection. May the new year bring prosperity, good health, and continued success to every Combatant Craft Crewman Association member.

Warmest regards,

Joseph Zemlin,
CCCA President



CCCA SUPPORTS SANTA MONICA PIER 360 BEACH FESTIVAL

BY PHIL GARN

Santa Monica Pier 360 Beach Festival is a two-day annual all-age event that celebrates the best of beach life, including ocean sports competitions, live music, and interactive games and offers a peek into iconic Southern California beach history and culture. This year, CCCA had an opportunity to support and participate in the festival that draws thousands of people from California and worldwide to share some of our Naval Special Warfare histories.

Before COVID, Office of Strategic Service (O.S.S.) historian Erick Simmel would set up a pop-up museum at the Pier 360 event. This would be the first time since COVID that the O.S.S. museum would return to the festival, and Erick invited CCCA and me to participate. Of course, preparations began months ago.

We started updating exhibits based on new information uncovered by the two of us and Jim Gray as well as our colleagues around the world with the help of CCCA and our colleague, Tai Eubank, the grandson of legendary O.S.S. operative swimmer and Santa Monica lifeguard James Eubank. President Joe Zemlin, Treasurer Mike Sigsworth, and Secretary Warren Johnson gave the ok. Mike recommended Minuteman Press produce some display placards we did at my expense, not using CCCA funds. Mike also donated a stack of CCCA stickers, which would be a huge hit.



Naval Special Warfare Command Historian Dr. Pedro Loureiro and CCCA Historian Phil Garn at the OSS Pop-up Museum on the Santa Monica Pier



Kathy "Gidget" Kohner Zuckerman, Pedro, Phil and Erick next to an original Pete Peterson lifeguard dory. Santa Monica is where NSW started.

You may recall that before the Second World War, silent film star Marion Davies and Publisher William Randolph Hearst introduced then Colonel William "Wild Bill" Donovan to Naval reservists, yachtsmen, adventurers, and part-time spies, Hollywood film director John Ford and Dr. Jack Taylor, in Santa Monica. Jack Taylor became Donovan's daughter's orthodontist and would conduct a demonstration with area watermen of locally produced Churchill Swim Fins, Sea-Net dive masks, and paddle boards. Donovan believed these watermen and their equipment might play a role in the coming war.

Ford and Taylor also introduced Donovan to their British screenwriter friend and First World War naval raider, Herbert G. A. Woolley. Woolley would be recalled into Royal Navy service in 1939 and later help his mentor, Admiral Roger Keyes, form British Combined Operations, better known as the Commandos. Woolley then returned to the U.S. and helped General Donovan found the O.S.S. Maritime Unit (M.U.) with Taylor and a young civilian medical student, Christian Lambertsen, inventor of the revolutionary Lambertsen Amphibious Respiratory Unit scuba re-breather.

The M.U. would go on to conduct clandestine ferry operations in the Aegean, Adriatic, Ligurian Coast, English Channel (with then Lieutenant Commander John D. Bulkeley's OSS PT Squadron 2), North Sea and coast of Burma as well as operational swimmers (the first frogmen) who would operate in the European Theater of Operations, Burma Coast and put the "Frog" in the Underwater Demolition Teams with their masks, fins and superior watermanship taking back the Pacific from the Japanese.

Here are a few of the new historical highlights Erick, Jim, and I have uncovered since COVID:

- Woolley not only helped found the OSS MU but briefed President Roosevelt and his cabinet, including Harry Hopkins, Secretary of the Navy William Franklin Knox, and Secretary of War Henry Stimson, on British amphibious and combined operations. He assisted the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps with landing operations. Before the Pearl Harbor attack, he was the only foreigner to attend the last joint Fleet Exercises as an observer and advisor.
- Woolley would help found the O.S.S. Operational Groups (today's Green Berets). So today's Navy SWCCs/SEALs and Army Special Forces share some common early heritage.
- In 1944, Woolley wrote to the British that he was concerned that his O.S.S. swimmers going to Hawaii (to form the nucleus of UDT-10) needed more swimming and demolition training. [They were, in fact, just fine and trained thousands of UDT men over the next couple of months, transforming them from amphibious combat engineers working in three feet of water or less to true Under Water Demolition men conducting their hydrographic reconnaissance as well as underwater obstacle demolition.
- LCDR Bruce Wright, RNVR head of the Sea British Reconnaissance Unit (a parallel British swimming commando operation), wrote in his reports that the Americans were the best watermen even after months of joint training. The Americans had not only gotten the best watermen (from California) but screened over 250 top U.S. swimmers to get the best 40 for their (O.S.S.) program.
- M.U. Operatives received parachute training from the Smoke Jumpers in Montana, the U.S. Army at Fort Bragg, and the British and pioneered parachuting from flying boats in the Southeast Asia Command, conducting the Sea Air Land operations. Jack Taylor was the first Navy officer to qualify on the LARU scuba, conduct clandestine SWCC-type maritime operations, and parachuted into enemy territory – the Promethean prototype for the later SWCCs and SEALs.

- Derek Lee was an American who volunteered for Royal Navy service before the U.S. entry into WW2 and served aboard destroyers in the North Atlantic. In 1944, he was seconded to the OSS MU. He led the O.S.S. Maritime Unit in Arakan (Burma) from the front, including a crash boat flotilla, two groups of operative swimmers, and an Operational Group supporting the 14th Army's advance down the coast. After securing Rangoon, Lee and other O.S.S. operatives would parachute into Japanese-occupied Malaya in August 1945 just as the atom bombs were dropping.
- In 1940, Austrian adventurer Hans Hass, on his way back to Germany from the Caribbean, would observe James Lockwood's pioneering rebreather in Florida, obtain samples of the Churchill swim fins and Sea-Net dive masks at Santa Monica after getting skin diving lessons from some of the same watermen who performed the demonstration for Donovan in 1939. In 1941, Hass and Drager AG engineer Herman Stelzner designed a scuba rebreather around the American fins and dive mask using elements of Lockwood's design to create the Drager 138 scuba rebreather. In April 1942, Hass demonstrated these devices for the Italians, who copied the fins and masks for their combat swimmers but used their inferior Pirelli A.R.O. scuba rebreathers, changing them from marching divers to combat swimmers [Check out "The Mounier Breuillac Network, a Cautionary Tale" in previous issues of On Target.] Ironically, the Germans adopted the inferior Italian rebreathers as well as the American fins and Italian training for their Kampfschwimmer program. In an even more curious twist of fate, the Americans and British would not only conduct extensive tests of the Italian equipment during the war but fight alongside them as Co-belligerents, with the O.S.S. producing extensive reports documenting the adoption of American equipment by the Italian Gamma Group. Additionally, there was very little the Allies wanted from the Italians because our underwater programs were superior.

The prep for the setup began weeks before, with Executive Director Jim Harris blocking out space for the OSS portion of the museum with Erick and me. Tai would help with the graphic design of some of our displays and edit a short documentary we showed during the festival. Erick, Tai, Kyle Holloway, retired EOD diver Will Kilmer, and I worked late into Friday night and early Saturday morning to set up the museum, erect a grid wall, hang placards, and mount the television monitor for the launch at 0900!



Left: Working late into the night to get the museum set up.

We shared a 20-foot x 20-foot tent with the Los Angeles Lifeguards. To our left was beach volleyball, and to our right was a surfing exhibit.

We had lots of visitors as the pier was packed on both days. We also had some special guests, including Kathy “Gidget” Kohner Zukerman, who was the real-life inspiration for the screen character of the surfer “Gidget;” Lisa Peterson daughter of legendary waterman Preston “Pete” Peterson, who tested top secret rebreathers with Jack Taylor in the Santa Monica Bay in chilly December 1942 and Turner Burton, grandnephew of Pete Peterson’s partner and a first-rate waterman in his own right Wally Burton.



Some of the crowds at the Pier 360 event on the Santa Monica Pier.

And, of course, some old comrades, Dr. Pedro Loureiro NSW Command Historian both days and teammate Chief Harold Dunnigan Frogman from Korea to Desert Storm and the only living SEAL to have known Jack Taylor, Bob Butt, Jim Eubank, Fred Wadley, and several of the other Santa Monica Bay watermen who served in the OSS Maritime Unit.

The CCCA stickers were a big hit, even with the adults, and several folks picked up CCCA brochures. Quite a few people learned more about the OSS and its links with Santa Monica Bay and SWCCs, who continue to protect our country. 🇺🇸



Top: Erick is giving a tour to one of the early birds. Note the mannequin dressed as Jack Taylor with the photo of Taylor above.

Taylor helped start the OSS MU, was the first Navy Officer to qualify as a scuba diver, conducted SWCC missions in occupied Greece and Yugoslavia, parachuted into Austria, and, after release from the Mauthausen Concentration Camp testified against the Nazis at Nuremberg.



Back row (Left-to-Right): Erick Simmel, Dr. Pedro Loureiro, Kyle Holloway, Tai Eubank, Phil Garn, Turner Burton

Seated: Harold Dunnigan and Lisa Peterson

CIA MYSTERY BOAT IDENTIFIED:

JUDGE NYE IDENTIFIES CIA MYSTERY BOAT

BY PHIL GARN

Over the last few decades, a craft identified as a “CIA Gunboat from Vietnam” has been advertised for sale occasionally in several publications, see photo above. These were usually vintage military vehicle magazines that advertised everything from WWII jeep windshield gaskets to full-size operational tanks, though very few boats. The CIA boat came complete with a deactivated .30 cal/7.62mm Browning on the bow and a .50 cal HMG on the stern.

Many of us were curious about its provenance and what it did during the Vietnam War, if it was even there. You would be surprised to see how many more modern NSW boats, from DEVGRU High-Speed Boats (HSBs) to Special Operations Craft-Riverine (SOCRs), come up for sale on the civilian market.



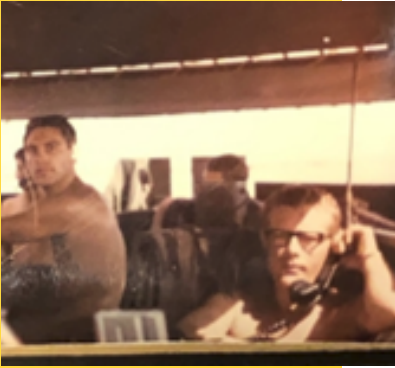
CIA Gunboat from Vietnam

During the summer of 2022, I was interviewing CCCA member Judge Jim Nye about his service in Vietnam; Jim was talking about his third tour in Vietnam from September 1969 to February 1970 when he was the AOIC of Mobile Support Team Two (MST-2) Foxtrot Detachment. Jim recalled the CIA had a base on the river just before Vung Tao. He explained that this base was very sophisticated and relatively large, with many modern conveniences compared to the other bases where he had served in Vietnam. Jim had multiple deployments with Boat Support Unit One in Vietnam at MST-1 and MST-2 and a TDY with UDT-12 to help them pass their Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI).

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CIA MYSTERY BOAT IDENTIFIED:

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Jim Nye on the radio in a Medium SEAL Support Craft, Mobile Support Team Two (MST-2)

He loaned one of his coxswains, an MST-2 Boatswains Mate Second Class Petty Officer (BM2), to drive a boat and do recons for the CIA. Jim said his boat was hidden in a canal at the back of the CIA base. He recalled they (MST/MRT men) lifted the boat out of the water at Binh Thuy on several occasions for repairs. Jim explained that the foam insulation would get wet and must be removed periodically, which was a very messy job. Additionally, Jim made a point to explain that supplies were tough to come by in Vietnam; however, the CIA was very generous. He recalled that they wanted ponchos, and the CIA got these for them. He remembered coming out with armloads of stuff several times from the CIA base.

I asked him to describe the boat; Jim recalled the boat looked like an MK 11 LCPL without a top and was heavily armed. "Would you recognize the boat if I sent a picture?" He said he might.

I thought I'd be able to find a picture on the internet, as the boat had been for sale so many times. Murphy's Law struck and I had no luck, so I contacted Jim Gray and asked him if he had a photo. I told Jim Gray how Jim Nye had described it and said, "I think it's the one that comes up for sale periodically that looks like an LCPL with a .30 air-cooled Browning on the bow and a .50 cal on the stern." He knew exactly what I was talking about and sent me a photo by email the next day, which you see above. I forwarded it to Jim Nye, who easily identified the boat.

Not only was the mystery solved, it was indeed a CIA boat, but we knew a little more about where she operated, and she was manned at least some time by MST-2 crew members and maintained by MRT. If anyone knows more about her, please get in touch with me or Jim Gray. 



LCPL MK 11

NAVSCIATTS:

A BRIEF HISTORY

BY PHIL GARN

I recently received declassified documents from Naval Special Warfare Command Historian Dr. Pedro Loureiro, including a 1983 Command History for the Naval Small Craft Instructional and Technical Training Center (NAVSCIATTS), then at Fort Rodman in Panama. What was fascinating was that NAVSCIATTS started as a Coast Guard command before transferring to Fort Rodman in Panama.

Here is a little more of the story:

As the result of the 1961 Alliance for Progress Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica, the U.S. Coast Guard founded the Small Craft Instruction and Technical Team (SCIATT), whose mission was to provide training and technical assistance to Central America, South America, and Caribbean Nations maritime forces.

Due to budget constraints in 1969, SCIATT was transferred to the U.S. Navy 1969 and placed under the Commanding officer, US Naval Station Panama Canal/Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command. SCIATTS trained about 150 students a year until 1976 when attendance declined to lows of 49 students in 1979 and 65 in 1980. Consequently, SCIATTS staffing was reduced to seven instructors and an officer in charge. However, by Fiscal Year 1981, enrollment increased to 158 students, though the instructor manning level remained the same.

When enrolment increased to 199 students in F.Y. 1982, the Chief of Naval Operations recognized the issue identified at the Southern Area Logistics Conference in January 1982. The CNO responded by requesting that the Chief of Naval Education (CNET) and Training head of a study group define the future of NAVSCIATTS and provide adequate support. The CNET study group recommended increased staffing, facilities, and logistic support to accommodate the burgeoning student load. The group also recommended the establishment of a separate shore activity to fall directly under Commander Training Command, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

The Secretary approved the establishment of NAVSCIATTS as a fourth echelon command under COMTRALANT and CNET. CWO4 Kenneth J. Lowen, USN, was designated as the interim Officer in Charge.

On July 21, 1983, NAVSCIATTS was formally commissioned by CNET Vice Admiral James A. Sagerholm and COMTRALNT Rear Admiral John H. Fetterman. Acting OIC CWO4 Lowen was relieved by Commander Richard J. Flanagan. NAVSCIATTS would have the training and administrative departments working under the Commanding Officer.

NAVSCIATTS:

A BRIEF HISTORY CONT.

Upon commissioning, NAVSCIATTS had two officers, thirteen enlisted and three civilian employees. More staff would be added as would more buildings. NAVSCIATTS also started with two training craft, a 31-foot fiberglass twin-engine and a fifty-eight-foot twin-engine patrol craft. Craft from the US Naval Station Panama Canal and crews would supplement operations.

The Spanish language was essential, also, Panamanian guest instructors were added to new training craft, expanding curriculum and new facilities improvement program expecting a further increase in 1985 manpower. The new craft included the 36-foot MK IV LCPL 40-foot water taxi obtaining craft via Defense Property Disposal System, which saved command \$120,000 in 1984 alone.

- **1983, NAVSCIATTS had a budget of \$355,000 and additional IMET funding of \$331,000. It was also one of three Panama Canal Area military schools.**
- **1984, four officers and twenty-one enlisted personnel were conducting five eight-week classes.**

Problems with students needing to meet enrolment criteria improved, but there was room for improvement. The budget went up to \$387,000. There was also an increased public affairs profile for increased awareness. The program got coverage in the base paper "Anchorline." However, Southern Command's best publicity was the image of graduates and their effectiveness in return to their home countries.

In 1985, CDR Walker relieved CDR Flanigan, taking over a staff of three officers, twenty-one enlisted, one Panamanian guest instructor, and four civilians. Seeking additional manning there were other improvements: an expanded welding shop, new engineering classrooms, and an injector shop. Adding 36-foot LCPLs and 33-foot utility boats, they had 4 LCPLs and were expecting two more LCPLS for a total of 6 steel-hulled boats with reinforced keels, ideal for operating in rivers or areas fouled with debris. Again, using the Defense Property Reutilization and Marketing System (DMRO) and Panama Canal Excess Property system scrounging, the command obtained no-cost 4-wheel drive vehicles. The budget was now \$447,00, a 15 % increase over 1984, and currently conducting eleven courses, including Coastal and Riverine Operations, which was the most requested course.

NAVSCIATTS offered essential patrol craft engine maintenance, patrol craft hull maintenance, patrol craft operation, electricity, air-conditioning/refrigeration, and logistics. Advanced courses included patrol craft engine overhaul, welding, and patrol craft commander courses. NAVSCIATTS offered both in-house and mobile training team (MTT) training. Classes were taught in Spanish or English as required, and all instructors were bilingual.

NAVSCIATTS:

A BRIEF HISTORY CONT.

There were now 28 courses, including high-profile graduation ceremonies with military and diplomatic speakers. There was increasing coverage in local papers, but again, the best public affairs boost was from the reputation of graduates throughout Latin America and the Caribbean basin.

The subsequent decision by the Chief of Naval Operations in response to Fiscal Year 1999 Program Budget Decision (PBD) 715R signed December 22, 1998, placed NAVSCIATTS under Naval Special Warfare (NSW) via OPNAV Notice 5450, March 7, 2001, with direction to relocate, establish and operate NAVSCIATTS at NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. PBD 715R provided the Navy with the resources to reconstitute the riverine training capability.

An October 1, 1999, ceremony at Stennis Space Center shifted C2 from under CNET, re-established and commissioned NAVSCIATTS an echelon IV shore command OPCON and ADCON through Commander, Naval Special Warfare Center, and Naval Special Warfare Command under USSOCOM.



In 2006, the Commander of USSOCOM assigned NAVSCIATTS the mission: "NAVSCIATTS conducts Foreign Internal Defense (FID) in support of Combatant Commanders per Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, priorities using Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) and in-residence training to prepare partner nation forces to conduct small craft operations in riverine or littoral environments.

Co-located with Special Boat Team: Twenty-Two on the Stennis Space Center, NAVSCIATTS is situated on the NSW Western Maneuver Area (WMA) training range, which is composed of some of the finest riverine and littoral training areas in the world. NAVSCIATTS' first day of classes were held January 10, 2000.



NAVSCIATTS:

A BRIEF HISTORY CONT.

Following the Secretary of Defense's designation of USSOCOM as Joint Proponent for Security Force Assistance (SFA) on September 19, 2008, Naval Special Warfare Command decided on December 17, 2008, to shift NAVSCIATTS immediate supervisor in the chain (ISIC) from NAVSPECWARCEN to NSWG-4 effective April 1, 2009. This decision improved maritime SFA training integration with Special Boat Team operational support to Naval Special Warfare Units, Theater Special Operations Commands, Combatant Commanders, and Partner Nation marine units worldwide.

The 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, titled after Sen. John S. McCain, officially authorized NAVSCIATTS to provide to the military and other security forces of one or more friendly foreign countries education and training under any other provision of law related to naval small craft instruction and training and to increase: professionalism, readiness, and respect for human rights through formal courses of instruction or mobile training teams for the operation, employment, maintenance and logistics of specialized equipment; participation in joint exercises; or coalition of international military operations; and improved interoperability between the armed forces; and the military and other security forces of the one or more friendly foreign countries.

NAVSCIATTS' course catalog currently includes 20 formal courses of instruction (not including the formal Partner Nation Instructor program) in English and Spanish and other languages using translators during five in-resident semesters graduating Partner Nation military and civilian Security Force Professionals from across the globe.

NAVSCIATTS can deploy Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) globally to support follow-on training for strategic Allies and Partners.

DECLASSIFIED

U.S. NAVAL SMALL CRAFT INSTRUCTION AND
TECHNICAL TRAINING SCHOOL (UIC 42316)

Command History, 21 July - 31 December 1983

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) NAVSCIATTS Rodman PH 232110Z Sep 83
(2) NAVSCIATTS Rodman PH 232111Z Sep 83
(3) NAVSCIATTS Rodman PH 232112Z Sep 83
(4) NAVSCIATTS Rodman PH 232113Z Sep 83
(5) NAVSCIATTS Rodman PH 232114Z Sep 83
(6) NAVSCIATTS Rodman PH 231210Z Nov 83
(7) NAVSCIATTS Rodman PH 281350Z Nov 83
(8) NAVSCIATTS Rodman PH 281400Z Nov 83
(9) NAVSCIATTS Rodman PH 281500Z Nov 83
(10) NAVSCIATTS Rodman PH 281615Z Nov 83

BACKGROUND

The Small Craft Instruction and Technical Team (SCIATT) was founded in 1961 by the U.S. Coast Guard as a result of the Alliance for Progress Conference held in San Jose, Costa Rica. Its purpose was to provide needed training and technical assistance to maritime forces of Central America, South America and the Caribbean Nations.

Budget constraints forced the U.S. Coast Guard to transfer operation of SCIATT to the U.S. Navy in 1969. SCIATT was placed under Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Station Panama Canal/Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command. Annual enrollment remained steady at about 150 students per year until 1976 when it began to decline toward a low of 49 students in 1979 and 65 in 1980. Staffing also was reduced to low of seven instructors and an officer in charge. However, in FY 1981 enrollment increased dramatically to 158 while manning level remained the same. When FY 1982 student enrollment increased to 199, low instructor manning level posed a serious threat to SCIATT training commitments.

The issue of SCIATT manning levels surfaced at the January 1982 Southern Area Logistics Conference. Chief of Naval Operations (OP-6) requested that Chief of Naval Education and Training head a study group to clearly define future role of SCIATT and provide for adequate support. The CNET sponsored study group in turn recommended increased staffing, facilities, and logistic support to accommodate the burgeoning student load. The study group also recommended establishment of a separate shore activity to fall directly under Commander Training Command, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

In October 1982, the Secretary of the Navy approved establishment of the U.S. Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School (NAVSCIATTS) as a fourth echelon command under COMTRALANT and CNET. CMO4 Kenneth J. LOWEN, USN, was designated interim Officer-in-Charge.

DECLASSIFIED

Narrative History, 21 July - 31 December 1983

21 Jul 83 - U.S. Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School (NAVSCIATTS) formally commissioned in ceremony presided over by CNET Vice Admiral James A. SAGERHOLM and COMTRALANT Rear Admiral John H. PETERMAN. Acting Officer-in-Charge CMO4 Kenneth J. LOWEN, USN, relieved by CDR Richard J. FLANAGAN, USN, who assumes title of Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School.

SPECIAL BOAT TEAM 12 FAMILY DAY 2023

BY PHIL GARN



Thanks to Ryan and Jeanene; Ruben Hinojosa and I were invited to attend SBT-12's Family Day this year at NAB, Coronado.

It's an honor and a privilege to meet new folks in the community and their families, check out the new weapons, and ride the boats.

Note: We are not divulging operators and their families' identities or showing their faces for operational and personal security.

We got a lot of swag at SBT-12s MWR concession, some of which you will see us sporting at the 60th. We're including some photos of the contemporary SWCC small arms. The current SWCCs are still fascinated by the M-60, a little like us older guys with Thompsons and M-3 grease guns. As cool and light as the SAW (squad automatic weapon) is, the old Stoners still in the inventory until the later 1980s were a bit more.... The little 40mm grenade launcher is nicknamed the "Thumper," it is just smaller than our old M-79 and M-203 combos. I may have mentioned this before, but with the new .50 cal's, you do not have to adjust for timing and headspace.



Left: Ruben Hinojosa with the suppressed M-4.

Center: The new 40mm "Thumper" that breaks to the side.

Right: Phil Garn with the shortened SAW

SPECIAL BOAT TEAM 12 FAMILY DAY 2023 CONT.

Of course, the highlight was the boat ride. You could sign up for a CCA or CCM ride this year. While waiting our turn, Ruben and I noticed one of the SWCCs had a det patch on his rig. We thought it might be a white owl, an omen of death in some Native American cultures. I asked the fellow, "Is that your det patch?" He replied, "Yes, it's yours."

He took it off his gear and gave it to me. He explained the character is Cthulhu from the H.P. Lovecraft mythos, and the first letter of "Cthulhu" is also the letter of their det. This is one of the coolest det patches I'd ever seen, and to get that was a thrill. I fished out a CCCA challenge coin from my pocket and gave it to him. We waited for the last group to debark, and the operator returned and said, "Since you gave me one of your challenge coins, here's one of mine." The operator then gave Ruben a Det patch on top of everything. Ruben said, "Man, you scored." I sure did, plus it was off his rig.

The rides never disappoint and must be experienced to be appreciated. The whistle of the turbocharges and the smell of diesel brings you right back. For the HSB generation, you would not believe how smooth the ride is going over XX knots and jumping wakes even in the Frog...I mean SEAL seats. The guys assured me the boats could go much faster and ride well even in heavy seas. Though the CCA is a little harder and faster, we opted for the CCM as there is no more room for pins in Ruben's neck. It was an absolute blast!



Det Charlie challenge coin and the appropriate obverse.



SWCC CLASS 123

BY PHIL GARN

On March 15, Chuck and I went to the School House to give short presentations on the CCCA Boat Unit history courtesy of Jim Gray and me and the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument at NAB Coronado. Chuck and I encountered a little car trouble in the rain, but Vietnam PBR Veteran Steve Watson from VUMMF (Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument Fund) covered until we could make our nearly drowned river rat entrance.



Chuck Chaldekas, Phil Garn, and Vietnam PBR sailor Steve Watson give presentations on the CCCA, NSW Boat Unit History, and the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument to Class 123 at the School House the day before the graduation.

Steve gave the Class 123 students a great overview of the three Vietnam Conflict Task Forces: 115 Market Time, 116 Game Wardens and 117 Mobile Riverine Force. We all noticed that Class 123 only had seven men and only one was a Third-Class Petty Officer. During my history presentation, I asked if there were only seven and who the class leader was.

There were only seven, and the Third Class was the class leader. We learned from CWO4 Taylor that Class 123 started with 56 men and graduated seven. That's a 12.5% graduation rate or an 87.5% attrition rate. These tough young men stood the test and led under demanding conditions, even in training.

Chuck commented that the School House has some excellent weather guessers, as the last few graduations have been in the School House' Boat Bay, and the weather has been inclement, especially for the families.

The next day at the graduation, we encountered several old friends and comrades and a number of SWCC Class 23 men who came for their centennial. The SEALs have been doing this for a number of years, and it is becoming more popular at SWCC graduations. Class 124, yours is next in May! It is an excellent opportunity to reunite with your brothers and connect with the next generations. The new SWCCs see the bonds of camaraderie not only last but grow stronger over the years.

SWCC CLASS 123 CONT.

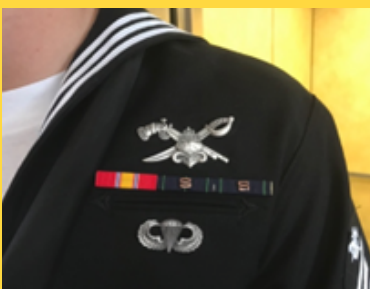
The colors were paraded after the official party arrived, always a stirring sight. Chaplain LCDR Baron Miller gave the invocation, and Captain Timothy Sulick (SEAL), Commanding Officer of Naval Special Warfare Basic Training Command, gave the introductory remarks. Captain Sulick has continued the traditions of welcoming the new SBs' families into the Naval Special Warfare family and relating personal stories about each man and the arduous training they completed between August 15, 2022, and March 16, 2023. Captain Sulick said, "No one takes care of each other like Naval Special Warfare."



Veterans of Class 23 came from all over the country to honor Class 123 at their graduation.

A couple of stories that stood out were as follows. During the "Tour," there were four men of very short stature, so for them to support the weight of their boats on their heads, they had to put three helmets together. These men became known as the "Tripple Lids." Only one of the Triple Lids would graduate with Class 123. Another man began sleep talking during the end of the Tour and would not stop. His classmates and instructors never understood what he was saying, and when the man woke up, he did not remember himself.

The Principal Speaker was CWO5 Gary Luna (SWCC), presently serving as the Naval Special Warfare Center Command Warrant and was an operator at SBT 12 and SBT 22, among many other assignments. CWO5 Luna spoke about developing the SWCC Code and Creed at Stennis, Mississippi, when he was a young Chief and the passion those men had for the project. He also talked about the importance of your reputation within the SWCC community and NSW because it gives you credibility and freedom of action and movement in the NSW community. CWO5 Luna also encouraged them to latch on to leaders to improve themselves and constantly be good teammates.



Class 123 were the first class to complete NSW static line parachute training in the curriculum.

SWCC CLASS 123 CONT.

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Several new SBs received promotions, and the two remaining seamen would get theirs soon with a little more time in rate. The Seaman David Ouellet Award and a Navy Achievement Medal were presented to the honor man. Another surprise was they were all sporting jump wings. Class 1-2-3 was the first class to incorporate parachuting into the curriculum. One new SB said it was "only static line," they were looking forward to free fall training soon; after ten jumps, they could wear the gold wings.

After the ceremony, the weather cleared a little, so many students, family members, and friends came to the Vietnam Unit Memorial for tours. There were so many that Steve, Chuck, and I each gave tours. As with the new SBs, there is a genuine hunger for boat unit history among the family and friends who now have a deeper connection to the Combatant-Craft Community and the Warboat!

"Hooyah, Class 123!"



Captain Sulick pins the Warboat on a new SB from Class 23.



Class 23 and Class 123 together in front of the new CCCA.

THE WARBOAT INSIGNIA

BY PHIL GARN

On the Wednesday before the graduation of SWCC Class 123 (pronounced “1-2-3,” not one twenty-three), Chuck Chaldekas and I were talking with CWO4 Dan Taylor and CMC Tony Palmer after a SWCC history presentation for Class 123 at the School House. Dan and Tony said the new name for the SWCC insignia was the “Warboat.” They told the SWCC community that the term “Warboat” represents who we are and has always been, and they formally adopted it. The same way the Sea Air Land insignia is called the “Trident.” They told us the class would be getting their Warboats tomorrow.

The next day, the CO of Naval Special Warfare Center Basic Training Command, Captain Timothy Sulick (SEAL), told the audience at the graduation ceremony that the students “would have to earn their ‘Warboat’ every day.” CWO4 Taylor then told the audience that the students of Class 1-2-3 would be having their Warboats pinned on by Captain Sulack. If that isn’t official, I don’t know what is.

Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewman (SWCC)



SWCC is the modern term for Naval Special Warfare boat enlisted personnel and officers. Also known as “Boat Guys” or “DBGs”

SWCC CLASS 125:

"OPERATION BOTTOM SAMPLE" AND OTHER TALES FROM SWCC CLASS 125

BY PHIL GARN & JIM GRAY



After SWCC Class 125's successful final battle problem, one of the students accidentally dropped a body armor plate into the bay. For the fourteen classmates of Class 125, the debate was on whether to tell the instructors about the loss of the \$2,000 piece of equipment or initiate a clandestine recovery operation themselves. Taping chem-lights together as a dive light, they started a bottom search using their dive masks and fins. They located the plate, but it was a true task to recover without its buoyant carrier, as it was on the bottom and deep. One of the students used every ounce of strength to get it to the surface for his teammate.

Unlike real-world clandestine SWCC operations, the instructors found out. Executive Officer Lieutenant Commander Curtis "Lee" Shelton told the entire audience at Class 125's Graduation Ceremony, blowing the cover of this Top-Secret operation.

LCDR Shelton continued the tradition of relating often humorous (now) stories of the graduating Classes trials and tribulations to the graduates' friends and families as well as attending NSW Chiefs and Officers, which included CWO 5 Gary Luna SWCC and Command Master Chief Joaquin Martinez SWCC of NSW Basic Training Command.

CWO 5 Luna and Master Chief Martinez are the first SWCCs to be the senior CWO 5 and Command Master Chief for NSW Basic Training Command, which oversees the SWCC "School House" and Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Training (BUD/S). Lcdr Shelton also spoke of how Class 125 went from 80 prospects to 14 graduates at the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument.



Chuck Chaldekas, Jim Gray, Master Chief Dan Boyles, and Phil Garn right before the graduation at the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument, NAB, Coronado.

SWCC CLASS 125:

"OPERATION BOTTOM SAMPLE" AND OTHER TALES FROM SWCC CLASS 125 CONT.

Master Chief Dan Boyles SWCC, Command Master Chief of NSW Group 4, was the featured speaker. CMC Boyles was not only a graduate of Class 25 but the recipient of the Seaman David Ouellet Award (MOH) award for Class 25 and was joined by several Class 25 men, some still on active duty, as well as the legendary and recently retired Rob "Wick" Wickelhaus.

After recognizing the men's families and instructor cadre led by CWO4 Dan Taylor and CMC Tony Palmer, CMC Boyles spoke about the involvement of sailors in unconventional maritime actions since the birth of our nation. He talked about today's challenges on the world's waterways, especially with evolving technologies like artificial intelligence, and this would likely be "the Maritime Century" with an unprecedented amount of commerce on the high seas to inland waterways.

These new SWCCs would have to outthink, outwork, and outperform our adversaries. They would not only be the participants but authors in this new age of technology, AI, and machine learning, as well as dig back into the past of the World War Two PT Boat men fighting across the atolls of the Pacific. CMC Boyles underscored what the new SWCCs had learned at the School House:

1. Proving they were good enough for themselves.
2. The strength of the Team.
3. Continually honing the razors' edge to keep themselves and teammates as sharp as possible.

CMC Boyles recognized the Combat Craft Crewman Association for supporting the community and the men of the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument Foundation (VUMMF) and Navy SEAL Family Foundation. He said that you are now bonded to NSW as you wear your new Warboat insignia. CMC Boyles urged the men to look back at their heritage to deal with the future to adjust their course to be on time, on target, and never quit. With that, the men of Class 25 shouted heartily: *"Hooyah Class 125."*

Chuck Chaldekas, Jim Gray, Master Chief Dan Boyles, and Phil Garn right before the graduation at the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument, NAB, Coronado.

Class 25 graduates include CMC Boyles and retired CMC Rob Wickelhaus among others.



SWCC CLASS 125:

"OPERATION BOTTOM SAMPLE" AND OTHER TALES FROM SWCC CLASS 125 CONT.

As the classmates received their Warboat insignia and diplomas in front the center stage with their 125 Class "surfboard," all friends and families eyes were focused on the ceremony ahead in front of the stand. What they did not see, was the receiving line of SWCC instructors in the rear welcoming their new teammates into the community with hearty hugs and handshakes.

Two days before, we had a good history lesson with the men of Class 125 at the Memorial in the CCB and on the back deck of the PCF. Swift Boat Captain Bob Bolger spoke about Task Forces 115, 116 and 117 and I spoke about the CCCA and small combatant history from Colonial times to today with Chuck Chaldekas. I think both we and the students prefer the boats to the classroom and it gives them a deck plate connection with their heritage. Sadly, the students had to dash for gear turn in, so we forgot to take pictures with them at the monument in their cammies. We did get some good pictures of Class 125 with the Class 25 men. Class 126 is next on deck in September!



With all eyes front, this is what most people do not see the receiving line of instructors welcoming their former students into the SWCC community. You can see the joy and pride.

"Hoo-yah Class 125!"

SWCC CLASS 126:

"THE NEW VIKINGS"

BY PHIL GARN

SEAL Rear Admiral Keith Davids has said that this is the Maritime Century. Featured speaker for SWCC Class 126's graduation, Group Four Command Master Chief Ryan Gray, not only repeated this statement but added these eighteen new SWCCs are joining our "Modern Day Vikings" protecting our country in distant oceans.

To accomplish this, they will continue to train, train, train, and train some more to become the most demanding working units in USSOCOM and repeat the missions of their forefathers of PT-109 in the Pacific in WWII, again working across the broad expanse of that ocean and its many islands.

With the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument's PBR, Swift Boat, and CCB in the background of the graduation ceremony, Master Chief Gray also spoke about one of the original Dirty Boat Guys (DGB), Chief Willie Williams, the highest decorated enlisted man in our Navy's history. Master Chief Gray had met Williams, Chief of PBR 105, many years ago.



CCCA Historian Phil Garn and SWCC Class 126 at the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument between PCF 104 and the CCB (C-18).

A photo taken by PCF skipper Bob Bolger of the VUMMF.



Honor Guard preparing for Class 126's graduation. Families are seated and Navy photographers are at the ready.

SWCC CLASS 126:

"THE NEW VIKINGS"

Chief Williams told him about his crew's meticulous planning and preparation, leaving the base in Condition 1 with weapons ready to fight as danger could be around any bend in the river. When they returned, they cleaned their guns, refueled, and replenished their supplies, and if they were lucky, they got a hot meal and a shower before they headed into harm's way again. They were DGBs because they were a sound family surviving on their 31-foot craft covered in guns, engines, and sweat, never compromising their operational readiness. Master Chief Gray directly recognized the original DGBs of the Combatant Craft Crewman Association, who made so much happen with so little over the generations.



Honor Guard preparing for Class 126's graduation. Families are seated and Navy photographers are at the ready.

The men have completed jump school and SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape) training and are ready to join Special Boat Teams 12, 20, and 22.

The XO said they started Class 126 with 54 students and are graduating 18, including a student who had broken his back in Class 124 and another who had broken his foot in Class 123.

That's an attrition rate of over two-thirds!

In his introductory remarks, Lieutenant Commander Lee Shelton, Executive Officer of Naval Special Warfare Command, recognized the SWCCs families, particularly the mothers, and welcomed them into our Naval Special Warfare Family, reiterating our personnel are the most precious resource in NSW, not craft or gear. LCDR Shelton pointed out this was one of the most elite training pathways our Nation offers. He also recognized Chief Warrant 4 Officer Dan Taylor, Command Master Chief Tony Palmer, and the SWCC Instructor cadre for their dedication and tireless commitment to ensuring each class meets the highest standards.

LCDR Shelton continued the tradition of sharing some anecdotes from the class's training. One student had told the XO about the ability to make others smile when that was the hardest thing to do at the time. Another said he wanted to become part of an elite team with no recognition and live a selfless life.

SWCC CLASS 126:

"THE NEW VIKINGS" CONT.

In addition to Master Chief Gray, two other men from SWCC Class 26 attended this centenary graduation. This is becoming a tradition. Later, retired Warrant Officer Tony Howdeshell related this story: He was in Afghanistan serving with a Special Activities element. SEAL Admiral Sean Pybus came to the theater and wanted to meet the NSW men. Mr. Howdeshell and his Special Activities comrades were in civilian clothes at the meeting.

After the meeting, Admiral Pybus said he didn't recognize Mr. Howdeshell and asked him what class he was in. Mr. Howdeshell said Class 26. Admiral Pybus asked, "You mean Class 226?" (As in BUD/S Class 226) Mr. Howdeshell replied, "No, Class 26, I'm a SWCC," Admiral Pybus, former CO of Special Boat Unit 26, just laughed.

Speaking with SWCC leadership on graduation day and the day before, they affirmed that it is a great time in our nation's history to be a boat guy.

The day before, Swift boat skipper Bob Bolger from the VUMMF and I gave a history lesson to Class 126 men in the CCB on the deck of Swift Boat 104 and by the VUMMF. We are finding the Classes like the tradition of being on and in the boats getting a brief just like generations past more than the Classroom at the School House. What's more, they have a closer connection to past generations and are more knowledgeable, passing this on to their families the next day at graduation. It is not just the little boys crawling all over the boats but the entire families.

"Hooyah, Class 126!"



New SWCCs from Class 126 are welcomed into the community as full-fledged members by their instructors. This is part of the ceremony that most people never see.

SWCC CLASS 127:

GRADUATES NINE NEW MEN FOR THE SPECIAL BOAT TEAMS

BY PHIL GARN



SWCC Class 127 at the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument, NAB, Coronado, after the history lessons with Vietnam PBR sailor Steve Watson (left) and Phil Garn from CCCA at the right.

On November 9, 2023, nine new SWCCs joined the ranks of Special Boat Operators at their graduation next to the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument, NAB Coronado. The ceremony culminates months of training and hard work by the new SWCCs and the instructor cadre, and it offers an opportunity to meet and interact with Naval Special Warfare leadership and several old comrades. Additionally, the Combatant Craft Crewman Association (CCCA), Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument Foundation (VUMMF), and Navy SEAL Family Foundation played parts in educating the graduates and welcoming their families.

Over time, CCCA historians and VUMMF volunteers have worked with the NSW instructor cadre to develop a history lesson giving the new graduates a better understanding of their heritage.

"His boat was on patrol conducting board and search operations when they came upon a sampan towing open-topped barges of fermented Nuoc Mam fish sauce. Steve's Officer in Charge ordered Steve to strip down his skivvies and boots to check out the barges. Steve waded through the fermenting sauce in the hot sun using a boat hook to probe the bottoms of the barges."

Sure enough, he came across an anomaly, and they used a P-250 de-watering pump to pump out the Nuoc Mam, and they found a Viet Cong ammunition cache. He said the Nuoc Mam burned his skin, which wasn't suitable for weeks, never mind the smell-it tasted great but smelled foul."

Steve Watson

SWCC CLASS 127: GRADUATES NINE NEW MEN FOR THE SPECIAL BOAT TEAMS CONT.

Steve and I got to spend some time with CMC Tony Palmer and some of the new instructors, one who had come from DEVGRU (Naval Special Warfare Development Group) and another from a Sea Lion (Combatant Craft Heavy) crew who brought up-to-date experience into the training cadre.

At the graduation, Captain Timothy Sulick (SEAL), Commanding Officer of Naval Special Warfare Basic Training Command, continued the tradition of relating stories from 127's training to the families and friends of the graduates.

One particular individual stood out:

CWO4 Greenleaf, featured speaker and a class "27" graduate in 1999.

CWO4 Greenleaf has had a great variety of assignments, including Non-Standard Maritime Program Manager at SBT-22 as well as standing up NSW Group One in Guam, Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School as the Operations LPO and deployments to SOUTHCOM, AFRICOM, and CENTCOM. He gave a powerful motivational speech about what a seductive, demanding, and unforgiving mistress Special Operations can be.



Class 127 with one of their training craft.



Captain Sulick pins a Warboat on a class 127 Graduate.

CMC Palmer was the master of ceremonies filling in for CWO4 Dan Taylor.

The graduation was capped by the new SWCCs receiving their "Warboat" pins and graduation certificates up front and in the back being welcomed by their former instructors.



New Class 127 graduate welcomed into the community by NSW instructors

SWCC CLASS 127:

GRADUATES NINE NEW MEN FOR THE SPECIAL BOAT TEAMS CONT.

The Navy SEAL Family Foundation provided generous lunches and soft drinks for the graduates, their families, and friends.

It was also a time to interact with SWCC leadership, including CWO5 Gary Luna, CMC Joaquin Martinez, and Rear Admiral Davids, who dropped in for part of the ceremony.



Hooyah! Class 127, On Time, On Target, Never Quit!

Pictured to the left is CCCA plank owner and VUMMF President Chuck Chaldekas (Retired Navy SEAL CDR) giving a Class 127 graduate and family member a tour.

At this point, several recent changes have been formally adopted by the NSW community:

- The term Combatant Craft Crewman has been shortened to "Combat Crewman."
- The three training phases have been renamed:
 - Phase A = Selection
 - Phase B = Training
 - Phase C = Qualification
- As part of their qualification, the class attends jump and SERE school to be more fully prepared to turn to when they get to their commands.
- The combat crewman warfare device is known as "The Warboat," the same way the SEAL warfare device is called "The Trident."

There are other changes in the pipeline, but SWCC leadership reiterated that SWCCs support the Fleet and are in great demand worldwide.

RAY HINTON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



Sunday January 28, 2024

4 Person Scramble

12:00 p.m. Shotgun

\$89 Per Player Includes:

Green Fee, Cart Fee, Range Balls,

Drink Ticket, Lunch Ticket

Banquet Dinner & Raffle Following Golf

Long Drive, CTP

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Prizes -

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RETIRED SWCC ARTISTS MAKE WAVES OF IMPACT WITH CHARITABLE ART AUCTION

BY JOSEPH ZEMLIN

In a remarkable convergence of artistic talent and unwavering commitment to a noble cause, three retired Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC) artists—Sean Cordes of 40 Degrees Apparel, Branding, and Design, Jim Gray, and Rueben "Chato" Hinojosa Jr.—recently orchestrated a philanthropic masterpiece by organizing an art auction.

The proceeds from this event have been generously donated to the Combatant Craft Crewman Association, Inc. (CCCA), a 501(c)(3) organization devoted to preserving the history and honoring the brotherhood of those who served in Naval Special Warfare while supporting their families and missions.

A Fusion of Artistry and Philanthropy

Sean Cordes, renowned for his creative prowess at 40 Degrees Apparel, Branding, and Design, spearheaded this initiative alongside fellow artists Jim Gray and Rueben "Chato" Hinojosa Jr. Drawing from their unique experiences as former SWCC members, the trio seamlessly combined their artistic talents to create a collection of works that not only captured the essence of naval life but also served a higher purpose.

Preserving History, Honoring Brotherhood

The Combatant Craft Crewman Association, Inc. stands as a beacon of support for the Naval Special Warfare community, committed to preserving the rich history of these elite forces and honoring the unbreakable brotherhood forged in the line of duty. The organization plays a vital role in supporting the families and missions of those who have dedicated their lives to serving in the Naval Special Warfare community.

The Art Auction Unveiling

The night of the art auction was a testament to the artist's dedication and the community's collective generosity. The coastal town, steeped in naval history, served as the backdrop for this momentous occasion. The carefully curated artworks by Cordes, Gray, and Hinojosa Jr. showcased their artistic brilliance and communicated the courage, sacrifice, and resilience inherent in the Naval Special Warfare community.

RETIRED SWCC ARTISTS MAKE WAVES OF IMPACT WITH CHARITABLE ART AUCTION CONT.

Generosity Beyond Expectations

As the auction unfolded, the generosity of attendees surpassed all expectations. Bidders were not merely acquiring stunning artworks but investing in a cause that resonated with honor, service, and sacrifice. The triumphant conclusion of the auction saw the three retired SWCC artists presenting a substantial donation to the Combatant Craft Crewman Association, Inc.

Crafting a Legacy of Support

The funds raised through this charitable endeavor will play a pivotal role in supporting the CCCA's initiatives, including educational programs, memorial efforts, and assistance for the families of those who have served. By combining their artistic talents with a shared commitment to giving back, Cordes, Gray, and Hinojosa Jr. have preserved history through their creations and crafted a legacy of support for the Naval Special Warfare community.

**IN THE WAKE OF THIS SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION, THE IMPACT OF THESE RETIRED SWCC ARTISTS
EXTENDS FAR BEYOND THE CANVASES THEY CREATED.**

**THEIR EFFORTS ARE A TESTAMENT TO THE ENDURING SPIRIT OF SERVICE AND CAMARADERIE THAT
DEFINES THE NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE COMMUNITY.**

**AS THE ECHOES OF THEIR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS REVERBERATE, THE ART AUCTION WAS NOT
MERELY AN EVENT BUT A POWERFUL EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE AND SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE
DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO PROTECTING OUR FREEDOMS.**



CCCA-Artwork-Print-24"

This piece was created jointly by three retired Special Boat Operators in order to showcase the talents within the boat community. Artists Jim Gray, Ruben Chato, and Sean Cordes worke...

40 40 Degrees Apparel / \$250

CCCA ELECTION RESULTS

BY JOSEPH ZEMLIN

Dear CCCA Members,

It is with great pleasure that we announce the successful re-election of **EW Johnson** to serve another three-term on the board of the CCCA. EW's dedication, leadership, and commitment to the goals of our organization have been evident throughout their tenure, and we are confident that their continued service will contribute to the continued success and growth of the CCCA.

We also want to thank Joshua Hummel for running and making it a record-breaking election turnout! Our charitable organization is blessed to have such talent and leadership who wish to contribute to serving this special community.

We look forward to the positive impact EW will undoubtedly continue to make during the upcoming term. Thank you to all CCCA members for participating in the election process and for your ongoing support as we work together to achieve our shared objectives.

Best regards,

Joseph Zemlin
CCCA President

