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ANN'S CHOICE RESIDENTS AND GUESTS ARE INVITED TO THIS FREE PROGRAM - (Club membership is not required)

NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017
 at 7:30 pm, Ann's Choice PAC**

The program is Operation Tiger Cruise 2010. It will be a video presentation of life on board the Navy's USS Nimitz, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. Our presenter is Charlie Reckner, an Air Force veteran and an Ann's Choice resident. Charlie had this unique experience as a guest of the Command Chaplain, Father Francis P. Foley, Capt, CHC, USN, a Philadelphia Archdiocesan priest.



OPERATION TIGER CRUISE 2010
 USS NIMITZ - A Crowded Deck

The 4 day cruise commenced in Bremerton, WA on March 22, 2010 and concluded in San Diego, CA the home port of the USS Nimitz. A Tiger Cruise is the Navy's name for a very special guest cruise program. The ship returning from a deployment is permitted to embark relatives and friends of crewmembers. Tigers, as they are called, included both men and woman, eight years of age and older. A total of 1300 Tigers were selected to participate from over 2000 applicants. The cruise provides an opportunity for family and friends to see and participate in the daily shipboard routine. A highlight was an Air Power Demonstration featuring the aircraft and aircrew of Carrier Air Wing Eleven. Also featured were daily guided tours throughout the ship, aircraft static displays and a variety of fun activities. A personal favorite of Charlie's was when he had the opportunity to take the

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October 2017 Meeting

The October meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 17 at 7:30 pm in the Ann's Choice PAC. More information will be in the October newsletter.

New Members

A big welcome to Herbert Siegel and Frank DiMarco who have recently joined the Ann's Choice Veterans Group.

Bucks County Tours of Honor

On Monday, October 2nd, there will be a Tour of Honor to Washington, DC, for World War II era and Korean War era Veterans. Bob Swan has applications for this Tour. More information can be found at www.BucksCountyTourofHonor.org.

Operation Crossroads

This article is based on papers the editor acquired from his late, former father-in-law who was assigned to the USS Shangri-La after World War II. The Shangri-La participated in Operation Crossroads during the summer of 1946 in the Bikini Atoll – atmospheric testing of atomic bombs. In his welcome message task group commander, Admiral Sprague, described the operation as a scientific experiment to gather information with full access given to the press to witness the tests. This welcome message and the other documents do not fully (continued on page 2)

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ship's wheel for 5 minutes while underway, 200 miles off the California coast. Don't miss this chance to share a voyage that few non-military personnel has ever experienced.

Operations Crossroads, continued

address the environmental issues as we now know them. Nor in its look to the future does it anticipate the geopolitical aspects of nuclear weapons held by opposing countries, the subsequent efforts to limit proliferation of weapons and the potential for terror if such weapons are in the wrong hands. And it does not anticipate missile delivery of these weapons in minutes instead of hours.

Nevertheless, this provides an interesting look at modern issues through the lens of history.

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Joint Task Force One

Public Information

Rear Admiral Sprague, US Navy

Commander - Task Group 1.6

I should like to welcome you to the Naval Air Group, Joint Army-Navy Task Force One. We hope this visit will further your understanding of "Crossroads".

The atomic theory is not new. In 400 B.C. an Ionic philosopher named Democritus propounded the theory of the atom and gave it its name. However, it was not until 1945 that atomic energy became an actual force. At this time Oak Ridge scientists said, "The explosion at Hiroshima on August 6th shut the door on the past."

Now the new horizon of atomic energy is opening before us and is even more amazing in scope. The war, as wars will do, speeded and advanced nuclear research by many long, peace-time years. We stand at the threshold of an unknown. To accomplish something worthwhile for the whole world, we must first push forward and explore all fields. Operation "Crossroads" is the first step in that direction.

Operation "Crossroads" has been organized purely as an outdoor laboratory experiment for the purpose of collecting, in cold, scientific facts and figures, certain data about the explosion of a Nagasaki-type nuclear fission bomb on an array of selected targets, principally ships, there will be no similarity in this operation to an attack with such a bomb - rather, quite the opposite.

So far, as you know, only three atomic bombs have been exploded. None has been in a position to give indication of its effect on a ship target. We wish to determine scientifically, such effects in order to more intelligently adapt our Navy, its weapons, its personnel and the weapons of ground and air units to any future emergencies the nation might be forced to meet. There have been cries in the press of "rigging of the tests". This, of course is nonsense - what we seek to learn would automatically prevent such a thing. The test ships are carefully arranged relative to the nuclear explosion to experience typical damage on

all types of craft, from maximum to minimum. Speculation as to results is quite out of order here. However, it is well known that any bomb produces on ships:

- (1) Blast and shock damage - Tending to crush superstructure and personnel.
- (2) Flash heat damage - Tending to ignite and burn ships, cargo, fuel, and ammunition.
- (3) Submarine shock and pressure waves - Tending to rupture a ship's hull and damage her framework.

Note that here I use the word "tending". One of the things we seek to know in this experiment is "how much".

In addition it is expected that the atomic fission bomb will manifest:

- (4) Radioactivity on targets and surroundings including contaminated volumes of ocean water.
- (5) Ocean disturbances, exact degree unknown, to possibly affect ships in the immediate area only.

Instruments are available to carefully measure and record each of these five effects. Supplementary information - as to effects on equipment will be drawn from direct observation, of course, and as to effects on personnel by substitution of animals.

Simultaneously, by the use of both Air Forces and Navy Drones, or radio-controlled aircraft, the services will seek related information as to the effect of an atomic bomb blast on aircraft. Also, the Army Air Forces will study the problems and tactics inherent in the delivery of an atomic bomb by air.

In addition to gathering data of military interest, we will work with government and civilian scientists on matters of radioactivity, personnel protection, oceanography and geology. The physical and chemical changes in matter caused by the release of atomic energy and numerous other problems not considered of immediate importance before last August will be carefully studied.

On the scene will be well over 200 newsmen to act as the eyes and ears of the public. They will be allowed to see, record, and relay every aspect of the test consistent with security and national safety. It is to these men that the American public must turn for information and explanations of atomic energy. The press coverage at Bikini should amply cover a statement in the Smyth report which I quote:- "The development of the atomic bomb raises many questions that must be answered in the near future. These questions are not technical questions; they are political and social questions, and the answers given to them may affect all mankind for generations. Our orders are to lay the cards on the table. We hope that "headline" results will not create a sensational press and startle the public into bringing a vigorous but misguided pressure upon the government, during the critical evaluation period after the experiment. This period is critical and months will pass before all material is assembled and studies completed.