



Liberty News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LIBERTY

Volume 70 | April, 2020

Board of Directors

Ernie Gallo

President
ernie7900@aol.com
386-446-6855

Larry Bowen

Vice President
larryb1946@verizon.net
410-551-3647

Ron Kukal

Secretary and Chaplin
lvasec39@gmail.com
307-752-6693

Bob Scarborough

Treasurer
bobascarborough@gmail.com
706-593-1898

Gene Six

Member at Large
sixeugene@yahoo.com
951-663-0810



Letter from the Editor

William Graves, Editor
editor@lvnews.org

Dear Veterans and LVA Members,

One thing this publication does for me is serve as a staunch reminder of just how much can change in a few short months. In December I wrote a holiday message, and today I'm challenged with what to write in a period of time where virtually everyone is impacted in some way by Covid-19. I've gone from working in a highrise in downtown Atlanta, surrounded by peers, to working at my kitchen table, surrounded by barbie dolls and other toys. (I have kids. I'm not an avid barbie fan.)

But despite these unusual circumstances, some things *don't* change - such as what truly matters - the lives of friends and family, this great nation, and the story of what happened to the crew of the *Liberty* more than fifty years ago. So as we all adapt and live in ways that may seem a bit unusual, let's remind each other to stay focused, strong, and committed. And as always, never stop telling the story of the *USS Liberty*.

Sincerely,
William Graves
Editor

SUBMIT INFORMATION TO:

William Graves, Editor
editor@lvnews.org

Letter from the President

If you don't already know, the USS Liberty Pensacola reunion has been canceled because of the COVID-19 virus. The LVA's tentative plan is to schedule our next reunion at the same hotel around the same dates next year. If you made reservations, you do not have to call to cancel them as it has already been done for you. This cancellation was very hard to accept but your board of directors did not want to take any chances with this virus. With the current state of affairs in Florida in mind, we probably would have to cancel anyway. Granted, it is hoped that conditions in our country will return to almost normal by June 8th, but for everyone's sake to make plans to travel to Pensacola, it would be tedious at best. Sorry folks – we had to do it after taking all of this into consideration. Personally, I was really looking forward to seeing everyone. Fate has thrown us another curve ball. We hope and pray none of you contract this terrible disease.

This situation has also caused us to cancel our yearly memorial service in Washington, DC.

With our bylaws in mind, the current board of directors' tenure ends on June 8, 2020 as it has been three years and the new board takes over. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate your new board of directors: President, Larry Bowen; Vice President and Treasurer, Bob Scarborough; Chaplin, Ron Kukal; Secretary, Frank O'Classen; and, Member-at-Large, Terry McFarland. I am sure they will do a great job for you.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Ron Kukal for his tenacity to raise donations for our treasury. Ron, you have done a fantastic job and the LVA deeply appreciates your relentless determination. Thank you mate.

In addition, I want to thank the rest of our board of directors and others who support the LVA such as Donna and Moe Shafer, Joe Meadors, and Phil Tourney – and also our editor, William Graves. Without their help and dedication, the LVA could not function as well as it does. I am deeply appreciative. You are the best!!!

During the interim from the last newsletter, your board of directors has voted to create a position of Executive Director for Moe Shafer and Director of Plans for Phil Tourney.

This is my last time to write this portion of the newsletter since my tenure is over on June 8th and the next newsletter will be composed for September. I have enjoyed sharing my thoughts and ideas with you and I hope you have enjoyed them in return. Stay safe shipmates and friends and God willing, we will see you in June 2021, May God bless you and look after you,

-Ernie Gallo

Statement of Purpose

IN JUNE 1967 jet aircraft and motor torpedo boats of the Defense Forces of the State of Israel brutally assaulted the American naval intelligence-gathering ship, *USS Liberty*, while in international waters off the coast of the Sinai Peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea. The attack was preceded by more than six hours of intense low-level surveillance by Israeli photo reconnaissance aircraft, which buzzed the ship as low as 200 feet directly overhead. The carefully orchestrated assault that followed was initiated by high performance jet aircraft. This was followed by slower and more maneuverable jets carrying napalm, and was finally turned over to lethal torpedo boats, which blasted a forty-foot hole in the ship's side. The attack lasted more than two hours, deliberately killing 34 Americans and wounding at least 171 others. Over 821 rocket, cannon and machine gun holes were inflicted. When the *Liberty* stubbornly remained afloat despite her damage, Israeli forces machine-gunned her life rafts, firefighters, stretcher bearers, and sent helicopters carrying troops to finish the job, no survivors were to be taken.



At this point, with Sixth Fleet rescue aircraft supposedly en route, the government of Israel apologized and the identity of the assailants became known.

Details of the attack were hushed up in both countries. Israel claimed that her forces mistook the *Liberty* for an Egyptian ship, and our government quietly accepted that excuse despite evidence to the contrary. No ship in our history has ever received such damage and casualties by accident. Then our government downplayed the intensity of the surveillance and the severity of the attack, and imposed a news blackout on the crew to keep the story under control. The official version is that the *Liberty* was reconnoitered only three times and only from a great distance. The American people were told that the air attack lasted only five minutes and that it was followed by a single torpedo and an immediate apology and offer of assistance. Nothing could be further from the truth. In June 1982, fifteen years after the assault, crewmembers reunited for the first time in Washington, D.C. It was a tearful, joyful reunion in which the men not only released their pent up emotions and decided that the **USS Liberty Veterans Association** would be formed with the firm goals of finding all crew members, holding reunions, proper recognition of Captain and crew (in particular those who lost their lives), obtaining a Congressional investigation into the attack, and...

TO BRING THE TRUE STORY OF THE ATTACK ON THE U.S.S. LIBERTY AND HER HEROIC CREW TO THE AWARENESS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

Board Announcement from Moe Shafer

As Nominating Chairman for our BOD I am pleased to announce our new slate of officers for the Liberty Veterans Association!

As our By-Laws state, since we did not have more than 5 crew members running, we did not have to send out ballots. Also since we only had one member interested in being President, this made this process very simple. I am very proud to present your new BOD effective June 8, 2020 who will proudly serve for a 3 year term.

Larry Bowen	<i>President</i>
Bob Scarborough	<i>VP & Treasurer</i>
Ron Kukal	<i>Chaplin</i>
Frank O'Classen	<i>Secretary</i>
Terry McFarland	<i>Member at Large</i>

I will continue as Director of Finance and Executive Director, with the roll of coordinating many of our activities. I must also say that Donna Shafer plays a major roll in our leadership, keeping the books, and running the Ships Store

Please join me in welcoming your new Board of Directors!

Congratulations, Shipmates!

Moe Shafer
Nominating Chairman



2020 Conference on the Hill - From Larry Bowen

This March 14th through the 18th I had the opportunity to visit Washington, DC again to voice our concerns about the lack of recognition for our fallen shipmates. The American Legion National Commander was briefing Congress on the 18th, but I had Monday and Tuesday to go directly to various congressmen and women's offices and Senator's offices to speak to representative or their staff about the same issues we have been complaining about for the past 53 years. During my two days of direct talks, I was able to get into 4 congressional staff offices and 4 senators staff offices. In two cases with the Senators, I was actually able to talk to the Senators themselves. Senator Tom Reed from New York was very respectful and accepted a copy of the Remember the LIBERTY book by Phillip Nelson and one of our Liberty Challenge Coins. I gave him a copy of both resolutions that I have moving through the state of New York and asked for his support for a similar one in the Senate. The one I presented him for the Senate is asking that they declare June 8th as USS LIBERTY REMEMBRANCE DAY. I will attach a copy of that resolution to this article and if there is room maybe it will get included. The other Senator I was able to talk with was Senator Anne Gobi of Massachusetts. She too was very interested in what I had to say, and I suspect will be supportive when I follow-up with her next week.

As you can see, we are not giving up the fight to have our voices heard even though it seems like a losing battle at times. I have plenty of support within the American Legion although not yet enough to get us a booth at the convention. I'm working it and believe it will happen in the very near future. In the meantime, we will attend the VFW convention where we are always welcome and gain support there plus attend the American Veterans convention where just last year, they approve a resolution asking Congress to investigate the attack on our ship. We are making progress

- - -

Conference on the Hill Day
Washington, DC
March 8-11, 2020
The USS Liberty Veterans Association

Hereby submit a resolution to petition Congress to recognize the crew of the USS Liberty and the thirty-four servicemen killed by establishing June 8th as USS Liberty Remembrance Day throughout the United States of America;

Whereas, on June 8, 1967 the USS Liberty and her crew of 294 (including 3 civilians) was operating in international waters; and,

Whereas, in an unprovoked attack by Israeli war planes and torpedo boats resulted in the death of 34 Americans including one civilian and the wounding of 174 others: and,

Whereas, after sending out distress calls stating the ship was under attack and required immediate assistance the attack continued for approximately 22 minutes involving 30 to 35 sorties and following the air attack three Israeli motor torpedo boats fire five torpedoes one of which strikes Liberty on the starboard side resulting in the deaths of twenty-five (25) of the thirty-four (34) men killed; and,

Whereas, the crew of the USS Liberty fought valiantly to overcome the battle damage that included severe structural damage and save their ship often placing themselves in extremely hazardous situations in total disregard for their personal safety finally succeeding to reach port; and,

2020 Conference on the Hill - From Larry Bowen (contd.)

Whereas, the crew of the USS Liberty fought valiantly to overcome the battle damage that included severe structural damage and save their ship often placing themselves in extremely hazardous situations in total disregard for their personal safety finally succeeding to reach port; and,

Whereas, due to the sensitive nature of the USS Liberty's equipment and documents crew members still reeling from the attack with some having suffered wounds during the attack were tasked with entering the severely damaged area and recovering the bodies and body parts of their fellow shipmates; and,

Whereas, having suffered through the attack and subsequent recovery the crew was informed that under penalty of arrest, fines, and imprisonment they were forbidden to speak about the incident which further compounded the effects of Posttraumatic Stress; and,

Whereas, because of unsupported statements by some U.S. Government officials that the attack was accidental, the Liberty survivors have been vilified in some quarters for over 50 years because they refuse to be part of the government's cover-up; and,

Whereas, the USS Liberty is the most decorated Navy ship for a single engagement. To wit, Captain William McGonagle received the Medal of Honor, and the crew received 2 Navy Crosses (posthumously); 12 Silver Stars (3 posthumously); 26 Bronze Stars; 9 Navy Commendations; 208 Purple Hearts (34 killed in action); the Combat Action Ribbon; the Presidential Unit citation; and,

Whereas, no memorial befitting the heroic actions of the crew of the USS Liberty has been established due in part to the incident being shrouded in controversy; now be it

Resolved, that the members of the USS Liberty Veterans Association assembled during their 50th anniversary reunion urged its membership to contact their Legislators to formally recognize the date June 8th as USS Liberty Remembrance Day now and forever more: and be it further,

Resolved that the United States Congress be hereby respectfully memorialized to pass legislation recognizing the date June 8th now and forever as USS Liberty Remembrance Day ; and

Resolved that upon passage that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America for Signature.

New York State Resolutions - From Larry Bowen

Last year I presented a resolution to New York state Senator Pamela Helming with the Department of New York's American Legion support behind me. Even though the resolution didn't get passed in the New York State Legislature, it didn't die with the American Legion either. This year the Department of New York American Legion made our USS Liberty resolution their number fourth Agenda item of the eight they submitted to their state Legislature. Each year they get to talk specifically to their state leaders about issues that concern them and again this year we were right up there near the top. I am still working with the senator on smoothing a couple words in the language area plus working on the additional resolution for naming June 8th a USS Liberty REMEMBRANCE DAY. I will keep you all informed as things progress, but this COVID-19 virus certainly isn't helping with legislative sessions. Stay safe and be strong. We too will get through this.

Obituary, Joseph Wayne Ashworth



ASHWORTH, Joseph Wayne, 74, of Chester departed this life on Thursday, February 6, 2020.

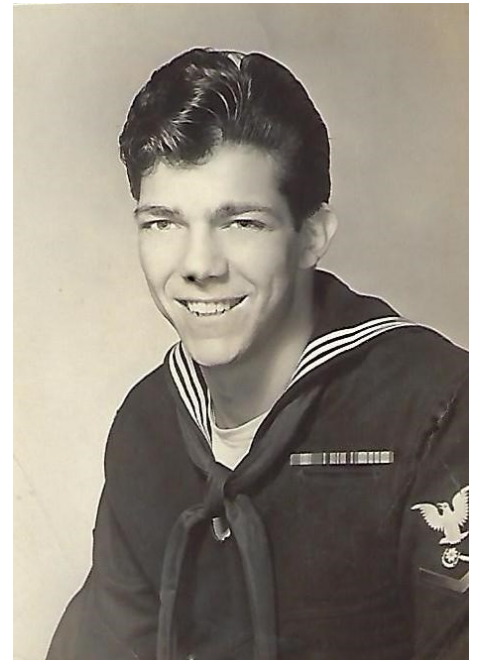
He was born on January 5, 1946 to Joseph J. Ashworth and Katherine Dagenhart. Mr. Ashworth was an EMFN in 1967 aboard the USS Liberty where he received the purple heart for being wounded. He then went on to retire from the Union, IBEW Local 666, as an electrician.

Survivors include his brother, Michael Ashworth; son Justin Ashworth; daughter Heather Ashworth; grandson Jaden Cundiff; and two nieces, Christi Douglas and Monica Nickolaou. He was preceded in death by his twin sister, Judith A. Geiger.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 22 at Affinity Funeral Service Richmond Chapel, 2720 Enterprise Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294. The family will receive friends following the service until 4 p.m.

In Remembrance - From Larry Broyles

Russell Joseph Cataldo, Sr., age 73, of Knox, passed away Sunday afternoon March 8, 2020, at his home, from the effects of Agent Orange. Born April 29, 1946 in Brooklyn, New York, he was the son of the late Joseph Cataldo and Carmella Dolce Panttaleo. He married the former Carol Fye on August 4, 1968 and she survives. Russ served in the U.S. Navy from 1964 to 1968, earning two bronze stars. He served aboard the USS Davis DD937. His service included the Dominican Republic Conflict, Vietnam, and was the first ship to pull alongside the USS Liberty. He worked at Joy Manufacturing; Kerr Skill Center in Titusville as an instructor, and retired from Penelec with 20 years of service. With the help of many others, Russ founded the Knox Volunteer Ambulance Company and was an EMT instructor for many years. He was a member of the St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Knox. Survivors include his wife, Carol; two children, Russell J. Cataldo II and his wife, Chris, of Knox and Christina L. Cataldo and her husband, Danny Russell, of San Diego, California; two grandsons, Blake Cataldo and his wife, Olivia, of Baltimore, Maryland and Seth Cataldo of Knox. Russ is also survived by four great grandchildren, Eisley, Rosie and Laken Cataldo of Baltimore, Maryland and Kaleb Cataldo of Knox, and one brother, Pat Gino of Reading. Family and friends will be received from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 12, 2020 at the William N. Rupert Mortuary, Inc., 430 Mendenhall Avenue, Knox. Funeral services will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday, in the funeral home with Reverend Ken Tack officiating. Military honors will be accorded at 10 a.m. Friday, March 13, 2020 in the St. Paul's Union Cemetery by the Berlin-Bowser American Legion Post #720 of Knox. Memorial contributions may be made in the name of Russell J. Cataldo, Sr. to Aseracare, 12664 Route 19 S, Waterford, PA 16441 or to the charity of choice. Online condolences may be sent to Russ's family at www.rupertfuneralhomes.com.



Liberty Fan Mail - Email to Ernie Gallo

Hi Ernie,

Received the Newsletter. Hope you are doing well in your recovery from the operation.

Mine was eight years ago.

I hope as you do that the Liberty crew will finally receive the justice and dignity they deserve.

You will never give up, nor will I. It may be several years away, so the LVA and its successors will have to carry on the fight.

Just so you know, congressman Biggs totally ignored my letter. Not a word. Not even a thank you for nominating a recipient. Typical congressman. I don't even like to capitalize their titles.

God Bless you, and keep pressing forward.

Bob
Robert Michael

In Remembrance - From Larry Broyles

From our Honorary Shipmate, Larry Broyles – Let us not forget the help we received from the USS Davis as we appreciate their arrival and assistance which we direly needed.

Ron (Ron Kukal),. I read the News letter and could not see the Davis mentioned for their duties performed making repairs for boiler, propulsion, Electric, Navigation, emergency power, and shoring a cracked bulkhead, assisting wounded and etc.

Our duties were to assist the wounded provide services to restore all systems needed to save the ship from sinking and get the liberty out of the war zone. We were first on scene before day light and got a motor whale boat over to the Liberty with a radio and medics. Just wandering if the Davis is still remembered as a part of the rescue team .

Respectfully,
Shipmate
Larry Broyles

Article Submission by Dick Carlson

Ernie. Attached is the article for the next LVA newsletter regarding the donation by LVA to the Maine Troop Greeters Association at the Bangor International Airport, Bangor, Maine. More about the organization can be found here: <https://www.mainetroopgreeters.com/>

I've mailed to you a hard-copy of the NCVA CRYPTOLOG which has a double page spread of the day we were there to donate the coins.

Regards
Dick Carlson

To Wit: The Bangor Maine Troop Greeters are a non-profit group of veterans and men and women supporting our armed forces serving overseas by greeting troops who arrive at Bangor International Airport. Day or night, rain or shine, it is their commitment to welcome each troop home from war and give a proper send off to each of the young men and women heading overseas. They accomplish this by being there to offer free cell phones to call a loved one, a snack to keep them going, and handshakes to let them know we care. Since they began greeting flights in May of 2003, the Maine Troop Greeters & Museum have greeted more than 7,767 flights with more than 1,564,572 service members and 409 military dogs. And it is their pledge that as long as there are U.S. Armed Forces serving overseas they will be there to greet them.



The mission of the Maine Troop Greeters & Museum is to express the nation's gratitude and

appreciation to the troops, for those going overseas for a safe return and for those returning for a joyful homecoming and to make their (hopefully brief) stay in Bangor as comfortable and pleasant as possible. Additionally we will honor the trust placed in us by these troops by preserving and perpetuating the donations entrusted to our care, through display, education and sharing of these collections.

NCVA National, NCVA New England and the USS LIBERTY Veterans Association donated a number of challenge coins to the Maine Troop Greeters & Museum collection. NCVA member and USS Liberty survivor CTR1 Dick Carlson, his wife Merlene and their daughter Kathy were there to donate those coins which included the 50th USS Liberty Anniversary challenge coin. Museum Research Director Ken Vaillancourt There are over 6000 challenge coins in the glass wall display units with thousands more waiting to be added. The collection will be placed on their web site available to the public to view at <https://coins.themainetroopgreeters.com/>



Ken Vaillancourt & Dick Carlson



Ken Vaillancourt & Dick Carlson

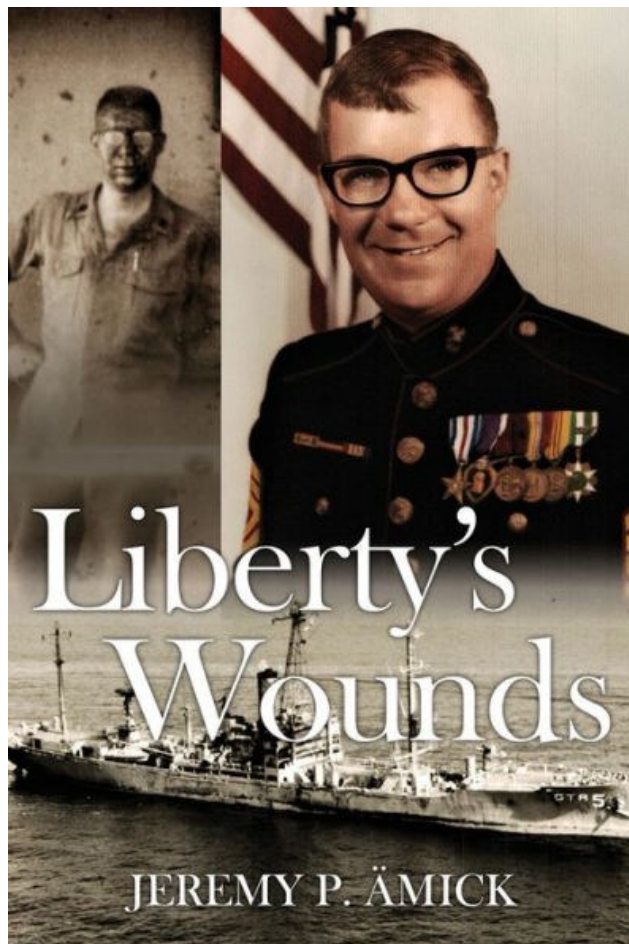
Coming Soon - "Liberty Wounds" - Biography of Crew Member Bryce Lockwood

In the newest book by Jeremy Amick, "Liberty's Wounds," the Russellville author and military historian pens the biography of former U.S. Marine Bryce Lockwood, a survivor of the attack on the USS Liberty. Israel attacked an American spy ship in the Mediterranean on June 8, 1967, killing 34 and wounding 171 others during the Six-Day War. Lockwood is among the survivors who want the details of the attack to be more widely known, but his life's story is more than the events of that day. "I didn't approach it from the perspective, 'It's just about the Liberty,' because that's only a moment in time," Amick said. "It's actually his full biography — because he has such a fascinating history. "Obviously the USS Liberty is the crux of the book, the highlight, but his story, leading up to and after, is just as fascinating, in my eyes," he added.

"Liberty's Wounds" was released in March by Yorkshire Publishing. The 240-page paperback can be purchased through Amick's website, missouriatwar.com, as well as other online retailers. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic postponed plans for local book-signing events and affected the stock of "Liberty's Wounds" at Mid-Missouri bookstores, Amick said.

Lockwood, a native of New York, was the only Marine of three on board the technical research ship to survive the attack by Israeli fighter jets and torpedo boats during the war, which damaged the Liberty beyond repair. He served in Vietnam thereafter, and following 13 years of service, he received a medical discharge for post-traumatic stress in 1972. He left the Marines as a gunnery sergeant and earned a Purple Heart and Silver Star for his actions in saving the lives of fellow crewmen in the aftermath of the attack on the Liberty. After serving, Lockwood moved to Springfield, Missouri, to attend Baptist Bible College and became an ordained minister. He is now retired on his farm in Strafford and has been outspoken about the need for a congressional investigation into the attack. Lockwood said he does not consider himself an activist, and "Liberty's Wounds" recounts the events from his perspective. "He avoided politics," Lockwood said of Amick's writing. "He just told it like it was and laid it out there."

Amick's books usually develop from the weekly Silver Star Families of America stories he writes, he said, recognizing a person or place featured in those stories is worthy of more depth and breadth. Two of his biographies on local military veterans — U.S. Air Force Major Gen. Don D. Pittman, of Jefferson City, and Tuskegee Airman crew chief James Shipley, of Tipton — were derived from previous stories featured in the News Tribune. That was not the case for Amick's fourth biography, which came about thanks in part to a chance meeting. Amick and Shipley appeared at an event in 2017 at the Saline County Veterans Memory Walk of Honor in Marshall. The Tuskegee Airmen were honored, as were the survivors of the USS Liberty. Lockwood, who attended on behalf of the Liberty survivors, met Amick for the first time that day and enjoyed Amick's writing of Shipley's biography "Together As One" so much he asked Amick if he would be interested in his biography, and the two began meeting regularly for interviews once Amick had finished other projects. "I'm always looking for that next book project, and I'm always looking for a project that's interesting and something that hasn't been just beaten to death," Amick said. Lockwood is one of a number of survivors still seeking closure in the form of an investigation. The United States accepted Israel's explanation for the attack, which happened in international waters in the Mediterranean, as an accident because the ship was presumed to be Egyptian. Israel paid nearly \$70 million in damages, compensation and settlements in today's dollars in the years after the attack.



Did Anyone Tell the President? Establishing the CRITCOMM System

On October 4, 1957, Russia launched Sputnik, the first man-made satellite the earth. This launch was a complete surprise to NSA and the rest of the intelligence community. President Eisenhower learned of the launch 24 hours after it occurred, and it was one of several events that convinced him to push the intelligence community to develop a warning system.

In 1956, two crises erupted within six days that served as harsh learning experiences for NSA. On October 29 Israel attacked Egypt in the Sinai in response to Egypt's nationalizing of the Suez Canal. On November 4 Russia violently seized control of Budapest to crush the Hungarian revolution. NSA was in chaos. The Director NSA (DIRNSA) issued an alert on October 30 that did not leave the building for seven hours.

Lebanon was the last straw for Eisenhower. In July 1958, Lebanon turned to the U. S. for protection from threats by the United Arab Republic to take over its government. One day after Eisenhower received this request, U.S. Marines were landing on the beaches of Lebanon. NSA, however, lacked the flexibility for a quick response to this crisis. The [redacted] to merely clean up rather than provide crisis support. Eisenhower responded to these four failures by establishing several committees to reform the intelligence community. The president's primary concern was to make sure that he had warning of impending crises.

Timely warning could be achieved only through timely communication. Therefore, one of the reform committees that Eisenhower established was the Critical Communications Committee. First, this committee defined critical information as that information "indicating a situation or pertaining to a situation which affects the security or interests of the United States to such an extent that it may require the immediate attention of the president and other members of the National Security Council." Next, the committee recommended that critical information should get to the president within ten minutes of recognition that it meets Critic criteria as defined above. In August 1958, President Eisenhower accepted this recommendation, and National Security Council Intelligence Directive (NSCID) 7 was promulgated.

This committee recommendation was bold because no communication system existed that could meet the ten-minute deadline. According to information furnished to the Robertson committee, which was charged with studying NSA performance, in 1953 the fastest possible handling time on the most critical information was not less than five or six hours from time of intercept. Further, this new system was supposed to be operational by 1961. NSA was in charge of creating this new system because the new deputy director of NSA, Louis Tordella, told the president that 90 percent of the expected warnings would come from Communication Intelligence (COMINT). NSA also had a plan, the COMINT COMNET proposal, which was the closest model for such a system.

Lieutenant General Ralph Canine began to improve communications when he directed Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA), the predecessor to NSA. AFSA, when created, had no indigenous communications at all. The organization depended entirely on communication paths and facilities provided by the services. By July 1952, Canine had succeeded in establishing a separate communications center for processing traffic that was destined for AFSA organizations. As the first director of NSA, Canine continued to push for more timely communications; he stated that his ultimate objective was to be able to return priority traffic through the communications system within five to ten minutes, while routine traffic would flow through in no more than an hour. Through Canine's impetus, NSA developed the COMINT COMNET proposal.

(continued on following page)

Did Anyone Tell the President? Establishing the CRITICOMM System

The COMINT COMNET proposal, devised in 1952, called for the establishment of a separate worldwide communications system consisting of dedicated circuits that would be networked into a series of relay stations. Intercept sites would feed into these relay centers, which would bulk-forward the traffic back to NSA. One immediate benefit of this system would be that it would improve delivery time because the centers were to be manned by people cleared for SIGINT. Thus, once a message entered the system, it would never have to be re-encrypted. The relay centers would operate initially using torn-tape relays, but would eventually transition to automated relay systems. Automated relay switches would dramatically reduce handling time. The major flaw in this plan was that each military service was required to fund relay centers near its intercept sites. The services had other funding priorities, and money never seemed to be available for the COMNET.

In 1958, when NSA was charged with putting a CRITICOMM system in place by 1961, they had not found an automated relay switch that would satisfy all parties, and the relay centers did not exist. NSA had to find solutions quickly.

Two technical achievements enabled NSA to meet its goal. The first technical achievement was the introduction of the KW-26 in 1957. The KW-26 was an online encryption device which speeded up transmissions because it could encrypt 100 words per minute. The second achievement concerned relay switches. NSA's communicators, headed by Arthur Enderlin, Max Davidson, and [redacted] began tinkering with off-the-shelf commercial hardware that would permit a Critic to steam through the system untouched by human hands. A key element in their search was the shunt box, a device developed by Teletype Corporation that could recognize a unique combination of letters and open up the circuitry all the way to Washington. Nothing else would flow in that path until the Critic had passed through.

CRITICOMM needed relay centers, and in 1959 NSA directed that the Army operate centers in Europe. [redacted]. The Navy would do the job in Hawaii, while the Air Force would take on the same responsibilities in [redacted] and Alaska. NSA would operate the central hub at Fort Meade. This time the services cooperated because of the presidential mandate. NSA was able to meet the 1961 deadline.

Thanks to the leadership of President Eisenhower, the vision of General Canine, and the technical expertise of NSA communicators, the Critic system used today was placed on a firm foundation. Critics are sent not only to the president, but also to military commands, other elements of the intelligence community, and others in the executive branch with security responsibilities. Thanks to the CRITICOMM system, every president since Eisenhower has been warned of impending crises or dangerous situations in a timely fashion.

The above report has been declassified.

Source: https://www.nsa.gov/public_info/_files/cryptologic_histories/cold_war_i.pdf

For Your Information

Dear Sirs.

This report is a poor copy of the results of an investigation into three events, one of which was the USS Liberty and the five messages that were sent but not received by her to relocate further away from hostilities. It states “ The circumstances surrounding the misrouting, loss and delays of those messages constitute one of the most incredible failures of communications in the history to the Department of Defense. “

Unfortunately I have become of the opinion that the attack upon our ship was intended to happen for casus belli. This message supports that theory with the most incredible communication failure and the information that Liberty was under the operational control of Commander-in-Chief Europe until June 7th, at which time she was transferred to the 6th Fleet.

Army General Lyman Lemnitzer served as Supreme Allied Commander of Europe from 1963 to 1969. Prior to that posting he was the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under President Kennedy who rejected their Operation Northwoods proposal for false flag assassinations, bombings and terrorism to give us casus belli against Cuba.

Culpability would explain the coverup and why there will never be an investigation into the slaughter of the Liberty.

The U.S.S. Liberty ships bell is at Liberty High School in Renton Washington under the protection of their NJROTC class.

Sincerely,
Brian Wixson

2020 Dues Reminder!

Dear LVA Members & Supporters,

It is that time of year again that we have to ask you to pay your annual membership dues of \$20.00. This is very much needed and critical to the continued success of our organization. The dues are used for all operational cost, newsletters, trade shows, memorials for our fallen shipmates, etc. etc.

Also we ask that you consider, throughout the year, digging in and sending us Tax Deductible donations to help us continue our objectives for the truth. The Survivors of the USS Liberty truly appreciate your support.

Please send dues and donations to:

Liberty Veterans Association
PO Box 680275
Marietta, GA 30068
Moe Shafer, Director of Finance
LVA Board of Directors

American Educational Trust Letter



AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL TRUST

WASHINGTON REPORT ON MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS

January 15, 2020

Ernie Gallo
6 Clearview Ct S
Palm Coast, FL 32137-8344

Dear Ernie Gallo,

Thank you for your recent generous donation to the American Educational Trust (AET), which publishes the *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* and runs our popular online and bricks and mortar bookstore, Middle East Books & More. Your 2019 donations now total **\$500**.

Your donation helped us pay authors, interns, photographers and cartoonists for their work, and deal with rising printing and mailing costs for the *Washington Report*. You also assisted us in improving our outreach to new readers through social media. Contributions from our readers are protecting our website from hackers and improving our digital issue for people who prefer to read their news online. You're also helping introduce shoppers to the latest books, Palestinian crafts (including shipments of pottery this year totaling, \$20, 000), embroidery, olive oil and spices.

The *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* periodically publishes the names of donors who contribute **\$100.00 or more** in our "Choir of Angels." That list will be published in our **March/April 2020** issue. **We will list your name** unless you'd prefer to be anonymous and call or e-mail me by **Jan. 24**.

From all of us at the American Educational Trust, thank you for your contributions. We count on our readers to help us provide accurate and objective information about the Middle East to people across the United States and beyond. In this election year, you're also helping us inform voters about candidates' votes, positions, as well as campaign contributions they've accepted from pro-Israel PACs.

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Executive Director (202) 939-6050 ext 1105 ghanley@wrmea.org
www.wrmea.org • www.middleeastbooks.com
Editorial Office and Bookstore • 1902 18th St, NW • Washington, DC 20009

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LIBERTY NEWS
PO BOX 680275
Marietta, GA 30068

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Moe Shafer
Executive Director & Director of Finance
moe.shafer@harbingernational.com

Phil Tourney
Director of Plans
phil@erasingtheliberty.com

Joe Meadors
Director of Operations
joe@ussliberty.com

William Graves
Editor
editor@lvaneews.org

Terry McFarland
Member at Large
tjmjumbo92@yahoo.com

Donna Shafer
Ship's Store Manager
donnashafer@bellsouth.net