

IUSS/SOSUS DINNER SPEECH, 50TH ANNIVERSARY
18 SEPTEMBER 2004
By LT Randy Scott

Good evening everybody.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell all of you that I am honored to be able to speak to you for a few minutes, honored to be in your presence and honored to have served with many of you over the years. I have known some of you here tonight since I was 19 years old and I am now 53. I find that amazing and quite special!

Captain Donovan asked me to briefly address some special moments or duty stations I had and that's really difficult. I left for the Navy 28 days out of high school and by the time I retired in 1991 I had essentially spent every minute of my adult life in SOSUS. Summarizing highlights is therefore formidable - the very nature of what we did and the wonderful professionals who did it made most of my career a highlight for me!

That said, just let me tell you this. It's hard to go wrong when at my first NAVFAC (Argentina) I learned from people like Otto, Pfeifer, Vanalstine, VG Smith, Van Herpen, Masciongioli, Holdskom, Harwood, Matthews and others. I learned so much from that tour and it really did set the tone for the rest of my career.

I was fortunate to be at Keflavik for my first tour in the 75-78 time-frame. All of you know that that was always a busy place but I recall Springex of 77 as being special. In a target rich environment, I worked 80 hour weeks alongside people who were weary but all had huge grins on their faces...they loved what they were doing. I treasure my days there with Widenor, Williams, Peterson, Donovan, McConnel, Wisdom, Hood, Millard, Piwko, Rentner, Sanborn, Curtis. We were like a family during that time frame, bonded by the inspiration we each drew from one another. Shortly after that event I remember being totally awed one Saturday morning when we were all mustered in the Display Room in dress blues, where we were given a wonderful and heartfelt thanks by the CINC, Admiral Isaac Kidd. He had all of us in tears with his spirited speech!

I went back to Kef from 81-83 as a newly commissioned LDO and it was different faces but the same dedication. (one exception to the different faces...Barry Millard was still there. He spent so much time in Kef that he

was the only person in the Navy with dress blues made of Ice wool) We made a number of firsts that tour and once again I was blessed to serve with the best. Giants like Mustian, Brady, Otto, Custer, Wright, Gyure, Devers, Azznara, Kriebel and so many others. 2 memories that stand out... One morning after the brief, during which time I assured Commander Mustian that we were on top of everything, we walked the beams and as always he paused at 11's 07. He pointed out a signal and asked what it was and...well...it was an Alfa we hadn't seen yet. Embarrassing for the CO to do that but in recognition of it we mounted that gram on a plaque and gave it to him before his change of command. The second occurrence was with Commander Brady. I called him at 1 in the morning one night to let him know of a really nifty thing that was going on and that I was on the way to the upper base to go out on a P3. He made me detour on the way to the hanger to his BOQ room, with about 10 LOFARGRAMS....we spent an hour with them spread out on the floor, on our hands and knees. He may have been the CO but was just as excited as any of us about what we were looking at. Those grams were unclassified by the way...well, they had some red marks on them, and maybe some target numbers...can't recall if any Lima numbers were involved!

I was once again blessed to be at the right place at the right time at COSL in the 83-86 timeframe. Unparalleled Soviet activity in the Atlantic kept us extremely busy but, as always, we responded. In fact the entire ASW community came together in a way I had never seen. Naturally, we still can't go into details of what occurred but for those of us that were there never forget the number 13, the pop-ups, the Caribbean, or the one we snagged. Catalano, Porter, Maultsby, Conn, Olkowski, Shanley, King, Castello and others stood tall during that time frame and I will always be grateful I was there with them.

I want to tell all of you that I had a wonderful life in the Navy and it was simply because I had a job I loved and was surrounded by the very best of people. When Jim first asked me to speak tonight I was grateful for the chance but as I started thinking about all the talented people who served the system, I started feeling a bit self-conscious about it; it is certainly a humbling experience to stand in front of such accomplished people. Thank you all for creating a glorious 22 year span of my life and for your noble service to our great nation. Few knew what we accomplished or could appreciate it, but by God we sure know, don't we?