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USS Intrepid Comes Home

By JoAnne Castagna, Ed.D.



The Intrepid guided home by Army Corps vessels. Photo: Dan Desmet, Public Affairs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

It was World War II and Felix Novelli, a 19 year old plane captain at the time was serving aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Intrepid. One day while out at sea, Novelli was walking on the fantail of the carrier when he saw a fellow shipmate sobbing and asked him, "What's wrong Mack?" He responded, "I'm going home." Novelli replied, "You should be happy." "What about the guys we're leaving behind," responded the fellow shipmate.

Novelli thought he had a point, but responded, "You know there's phosphorous in the ocean that glows when light shines through it at night. When you see this think of it as their way of lighting up the way home for us."

Since that time the USS Intrepid was decommissioned and converted into a museum and docked in New York City. The aircraft carrier museum recently completed a two year bow-to-stern renovations in New Jersey and Staten Island, including its pier in Manhattan.

On October 2nd, Novelli and other Intrepid crew Veterans kept their lost "brothers" in their hearts as they stood on Intrepid's flight deck while she was towed bow first back to its home at Pier 86 on the Hudson River on Manhattan's west side.

The aircraft carrier was berthed at Pier 86 since 1982 after it was decommissioned and since then has served as the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. The museum receives over 750,000 visitors each year and is managed by the Intrepid Foundation, a charitable organization started by the New York City based Fisher construction and real estate family.

Clerk's Note: Dr. Castagna, is the Technical Writer/Editor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

For the rest of the story and more photos; www.VeteransPostNews.com/Intrepid.htm

The Mother Of All Re-Enlistments

By Jack Waldron



This was the largest re-enlistment ceremony ever held in military history. The ceremony was held on the 4th of July, 2008 at Al Faw Palace, Baghdad, Iraq, General David Petraeus officiated. This amazing story was ignored by the 'mainstream' media.

For those who have been in the Al Faw Palace, you'll have a better appreciation of the number of people crammed around the rotunda supporting the re-enlisting soldiers.

American men and women

volunteering to stay longer in Iraq, so that when we leave, the new democracy will have a chance of surviving, is the exact opposite of what the media wants you to think about Iraq. If only a bomb had killed 5 civilians in a marketplace - now that's the kind of news the media is eager to tell you about.

A pizzeria in Chicago donated 2000 pizzas that were made and shipped to Baghdad, and were delivered on the 4th. The media did report that 2000 pizzas were sent to Iraq on July 4th... The only part they left out of the report was the event for which the pizzas were sent.

DoD Launches Web Site On Chemical-Biological Warfare Exposures

The Defense Department has launched a new Web site to educate the public about chemical and biological testing conducted from the early 1940s through the mid-1970s.

"This is a new Web site that we have created to put together for all those who may have interest in everything that we have been able to uncover and understand about the chemical and biological testing of warfare agents done from the early 1940s up through 1975," said Dr. Michael Kilpatrick, strategic communications director for the Military Health System.

"The CB exposures Web site explains why the testing was done, where it was done, what was used in the testing, and really what DoD learned from the testing," he said.

Kilpatrick added that the Web site presents sections on chemical and biological testing that was conducted during World War II, during Project 112/SHAD - shipboard hazard and defense - and the Cold War. He explained why some of the testing, in particular during World War II, was conducted. "Chemical agents were used against our troops in World War I," Kilpatrick said. "As we went into World War II, we didn't know how to best protect our people, and during the Cold War we continued testing to understand how chemical and biological warfare agents behaved in different climates and terrains."

"As we got information, we passed names of individuals and medically related information to the Department of Veterans Affairs."

Project 112/SHAD was a series of tests conducted from 1962 to 1973 on Navy ships at sea in various climates and in land-based tests in various terrains using chemical and biological agents, as well as simulated agents.

"The Project 112/SHAD records were more difficult, because these were, essentially, classified tests looking at the behavior of chemical-biological-warfare agents," Kilpatrick said. "Since the sailors on the ships were not human volunteers, it was more difficult to find out who they were. That process involved going through the ships' logs to determine who was on those ships."

Officials relied on Veterans who were involved in the testing to provide additional information, Kilpatrick said. "As we are trying to recreate what happened 30 to 60 years ago, it is often times very difficult. They may have papers, which would not have been archived, that may help fill in blanks."

DoD and VA officials are working together to identify and notify service members who were exposed in chemical-biological testing from the 1940s through the mid-1970s.

Kilpatrick added that any Veterans who think that they could have been exposed or who have any information on the tests can submit an e-mail to CBWebmaster@tma.osd.mil, or call DoD's contact managers toll-free at 1-800-497-6261.



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