

Bonjour! Sixth fleet Shipmates, Relatives and Friends.

Since our last NewLetter in November, we have been working hard on fine tuning the events for next year. This Newsletter serves as a reminder and update for those of you new to the list. Presently we have 50 or more from the USA that have committed to attend. To date we are in contact with 79 shipmates and friends from USS Albany, Columbus, Salem, Des Moines, Newport News, Little Rock and Springfield. Springfield being the last Flagship to depart from VsM has 41 shipmates interested in attending so far. Also see provisional Program on Page 3 We look forward to hearing from more Sailors and Marines from the other Flagships.



VADM James G. Foggo
ComSixthFleet, Deputy
Commander Nato Forces Europe
and Africa,

Adm. Foggo has been a steadfast supporter of our Navy League Council in Cannes and has given his full support with our partnership with "Les Américains de 6^{ème} Flotte à Villefranche sur Mer." and our 2017 commemoration event. He has agreed to send a DDG to be in Villefranche for the occasion next January as well as the 6th fleet band and ColorGuards. We have already blocked rooms for him and his staff at the Welcome Hotel.

Note: in due time you will receive from us a Form asking for your details, a photo of you Then (in the Navy) and NOW. as well as writing a short memoir about your time in Villefranche We would like to receive this information A.S.A.P. even if you can not attend, so we may start a commemoration booklet which will be available after the Reunion event. A nice souvenir to show your family.

Educational Program. Not all of you may know that our Association aspires to heighten awareness of the American presence in Villefranche-sur-mer with the public at large and our younger generations in particular.

To that end, the Association is collecting all data of the Sixth Fleet's presence in Villefranche-sur-mer (written, spoken, photos, films, etc) so that this history can be recorded then shared in various ways (books, brochures, websites, social networks, films, exhibitions, cultural events, educational projects, etc) to pass on this inheritance to our children.

The 2017 Sixth Fleet reunion will give you a fantastic occasion to share your memories with the young generations. We are working with local schools to organize a meeting between young and elders. In the auditorium of the Citadel, we'll project movies and slideshows, then you will have time to tell them stories and anecdotes, Q & A session, and a visit of the exhibition together.

This is really the heart of our project! Live experiences are the most significant. I hope you will be interested to participate to pass on your memories for our education project.

Valérie Blouin, Pres. "Les Américains de 6th Flotte à Villefranche s Mer"



Villefranche, 1 Nov 1951—The Chief of Naval Operations, Adm Wm. M. Fechteler, USN, on his way to pay an official call on VADM M. B. Gardner, USN, Commander Sixth Fleet, aboard the DES MOINES poses for a photo with several children from Villefranche prior to boarding the flagship.

On 20 Jan. 2017 We will also un-veil a new Sixth Fleet Flagship Bronze Plaque dedicated to the U.S Sixth Fleet Sailors and the City of Villefranche sur Mer.

Back in 1966, The CO of Springfield asked LtJG Henry Batchelder the Navigator of CLG-7 to commission a Plaque as a departing gift to the Citizens of VsM. Today this plaque is still mounted on the side wall of the Welcome Hotel.



It is a long story, but Henry Batchelder is back in town, actually in Monaco and this time **he volunteered** to commission this new plaque, which will be un-veiled at the 20 Jan. 2017

ceremony. "Batch" is pictures above with Sextant aboard Springfield in VsM.(1966) Also pictured in the above photo (compliments of Barry Linquist)

From left, bottom row: Paul Lehner (sunglasses), Tom Moore, George Parent, Jim Haugen, Dan Durkin. Top row: Dick Miles, Henry Batchelder, Don Nelson, Barry Lindquist, Monte Ball. At very top: Mike Morrell.



Phot credit C Van Vliet

Meet Captain Edwin Grohe
6th fleet Liaison Officer.
in Toulon

Captain Grohe will be joining us for the 2017 activities and he has been tremendous help and supporting us with whatever is needed to make this reunion event the "Talk of the Town. Ed is a Naval aviator with countless carrier landings and a great guy to know.

Guests and speakers to be invited.

Mrs. Jane Hartley, U.S
Ambassador to France
Ms. Monique Quesada U.S
Consul General in Marseille
HSH Prince Albert II de
Monaco
Prefecture Alpes Maritime
Prefet Maritime (French
Admiral)

Commander NATO Forces
Europe and Africa *
Commander U.S Sixth Fleet *
Captain Louis (Skip Army Naval
Attaché in Paris
Captain Edwin Grohe U.S
Navy Liaison in Toulon

Mayors of: Nice, Cannes,
Grasse, St Jean Cap Ferrat,
Beaullieu

* Presently Adm. Mark Ferguson and
VADM James Foggo

Hotel and accommodations Information.

Presently there are two hotels that will be open for our event in Jan. 2017.

Welcome hotel

www.welcomehotel.com

La Flore

www.hotel-la-flore.com

Hotel Provencal

A very nice Hotel normally closed in Jan, but they will consider opening if min. 20 rooms can be guaranteed.

<http://hotelleprovencal.fr/home/>

The above hotels will offer special discounts to US Sixth Fleet participants.

Villefranche-sur-mer also has 500 Holiday rentals. Tourism office has a list on its website :

<http://www.villefranche-sur-mer.org/>

Committee

Christophe TROJANI, Mayor Villefranche s Mer
Valérie BLOUIN, Pres. Américains 6th flt VsM
Cornelis VAN VLIET, Pres. U.S. Navy League
Henry BATCHELDER, Advisor Research
Jim BEGG, Advisor Communications
Marty Alford; US Navy Advisor USA
Plus 21 Sub committee's



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The below Link has some great photos from last year's inauguration event

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a>

Go to page 3 for the Provisional Program. We are still working on many other options and need to find the best solution for the time that is available. In any event you will not be bored



Les Américains et la VI^{ème} flotte à Villefranche sur Mer **Provisional Program**

Thursday 19 Jan. 2017

17:00h Registration Gare Maritime.

18:00h Welcome Cocktail reception in the Gare Maritime
and a historic exhibition.

Hosted by the City of Villefranche

(All Sixth Fleet ship mates are invited free of charge)

Friday 20 Jan.

09:30 DDG ships company arrival for protocol visit with the Mayor.

11:00 Unveiling of the Sixth Fleet Plaque , with singing of National anthem
by the local school children. VIP speeches.

12:30 VIP luncheon at “La Mere Germaine”

Banquet lunch at Restaurant “Mayssa” for Sixth Fleet shipmates.

Other Friday afternoon event:

Ship (DDG) visits

Visiting Villefranche with guides

Meeting the school children by Shipmates in the Citadel

Showing of films in auditorium of Citadel.

Video interviews with veteran shipmates (need volunteers)

Sixth Fleet memorabilia exhibition

Free to have dinner of your choice.

Sat. 21 Jan.

0900-10:30 Get together for coffee and croissants (Gare Maritime)

Compliments of WELCOME Hotel

Morning and afternoon events

Another ship visit possible

Tours of Villefranche

More interviews with Shipmates (for a video which will be available to all at a later date)

Conferences and video showings in Citadel auditorium

Barbecue Party organized by the Festivity committee with the ships company of visiting DDG.

and the U.S. Sixth Fleet Band

Other excursions also available.

19:30 Gala Dinner with Sixth fleet band and other entertainment.

10:30 - Fireworks, (weather permitting)

Sunday 22 Jan.

09:00 -10:30 Farewell meeting at le Gare Maritime with Coffee & Croissants

11:30 of the “heart of the Riviera, plus other excursions for those staying for another day.