



# DIAA Log

May 2015

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER:**

I was honored to be selected as President of DIAA by the Board of Directors (BOD) on 30 March. The election of association officers traditionally occurs either during our annual business luncheon or shortly thereafter at a monthly BOD meeting. This year the election of officers was conducted on-line by Board members using a password protected network to cast votes. This method allowed all board members to participate in the process ... a real win-win situation.

During the past four years we have enjoyed the leadership of Judi Demulling as our President and her passion for all things DIAA. She is leaving the position of President to be in compliance with time-limits established in the by-laws. Stepping down from the Vice President position is Michele Platt. The great news is that both of them will continue to serve on the Board ... Judi as the association's Secretary and Michele contributing her significant experience in other areas. Current board member Barbara Duckworth was elected to be the new Vice President and Lance Burton was reelected as Treasurer. At the Spring Luncheon Sharon Houy was elected by the general membership to become the newest member of the Board. The complete list of Board Members and Officers is located at <http://diaalumni.org/aboutdiaa/membersoftheboard.html>.

Thus far, 2015 has been bitter sweet for the association. On the bright side, and for the first time in recent memory, we've added non-board members to some of our working committees. Dennis Dalpino has volunteered to work on our History Committee and provide his professional production skills and equipment in support of our audio-visual history project. And new member Bob Stacy will be participating as one of the DIAA representatives on the Torch Bearers selection board.

On a sad note, on 6 March we lost Bill Wetzell, Board Member and a founding member of DIAA, after a long and courageous battle with heart disease. His wife Judy, a constant presence by his side throughout his illness, was an inspiration to us all. Bill is sorely missed. His burial will be at Arlington Cemetery on 29 July.

We can always use your time and talents in working on various tasks. Presently the Board is looking for volunteers to help with our monthly DIAA LOG, the Webpage, the Facebook

pages managed by Jim Beirne and our membership outreach led by Jim Riggins. There are also several mentoring opportunities to support DIA's workforce, and the DIA Historian's Office continues to ask for alumni to provide information on legacy events.

Concerning our education efforts, as you'll read later in this edition, the Defense Intelligence Forum (DIForum) speaker program, managed by Fred King, is off to a great start. If you have ideas for speakers, Fred would love to hear them. Later this summer we will resume our popular Joint Forum project with DACOR, an Organization of Foreign Affairs Professionals, after a hiatus of several years.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events and if you can help in any of our activities, please contact me at [president@diaalumni.org](mailto:president@diaalumni.org).

Sincerely,  
Don Mathis

## **MEMBERSHIP**

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**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!**

Alexandre Jevgrafovs  
Dennis Lane  
Michael Seidi  
Janice Trausch

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**SAVE THE DATE**

19 May DIF - Mr. Greg H. Bristol  
"Human Trafficking."

23 June DIF - Mr. Ralph E. Winnie, Jr  
"Visiting Cuba."

21 July DIF - LTG (USA, Ret) Harry E. Soyster  
"Issues and Problems Confronting  
DIA Directors."

12 Aug Joint DIAA-DACOR Forum

The 2015 Membership Directory is completed and should be on its way to members next week. The Directory updates information on the Board of Directors and also provides each member's e-mail address, home address and phone number. At the back of the directory, members are listed by state of residency. Please review your information and if anything needs correcting, send an update to [admin@diaalumni.org](mailto:admin@diaalumni.org).

### ***SOCIAL MEDIA***

Earlier this year a significant number of DIAA members joined our member-only group in Facebook. It's a great way to re-connect with former colleagues and friends.

#### ***Around Facebook...***

- Congratulations to Martha Duncan on her recent move to Florida.
- Mickie Sampson took a break from riding her Harley and checked in from Tennessee.
- Peter Park Jr. sent his status report from down under. He is now living in Australia.
- **Your name** could be here next month!

**Enjoying DIAA's Facebook sites?** Want to see more robust activity on the open page or private group? DIAA wants to put together a team of volunteers to take turns helping to manage the Facebook Page and members-only group. This will not involve a lot of time nor does it require any technical skills. Anyone interested in learning more, please let us know by emailing us at [socialmedia@diaalumni.org](mailto:socialmedia@diaalumni.org) or, even better, send Jim Beirne a Facebook message!

### ***TORCH BEARERS AWARD - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS***

DIA is seeking Alumni Association nominations for candidates for the prestigious Torch Bearers Awards selection panel. This is the fifth year that DIA will honor a select group of former Agency employees who distinguished themselves during their careers with extraordinary achievements. DIAA provides three representatives to the Torch Bearers selection board. This year they are Pete Klein, Jim Riggins and Bob Stacy.

Individual DIAA members can nominate candidates for consideration. Completed nomination packages can be submitted at any time but not later than COB 3 June 2015. A nomination package is available for download [here](#). Questions may be sent to the Program Manager, Victoria Vidos, [victoria.vidos@dodiis.mil](mailto:victoria.vidos@dodiis.mil).

### ***MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES***

The Alumni Association continues to be active in mentoring current DIA employees in a variety of formal as well as informal settings. For example, earlier this year DIAA participated in a "Coffee and Conversations" program that focused on honing job interview skills. "Coffee and Conversations" is a monthly series sponsored by the Directorate for Mission Services dealing with topics of interest to the DIA workforce and is managed by Ms. Mary Quinn. This session was designed to assist hiring officials in developing better questions and to help interview candidates anticipate, prepare for, and provide effective answers to questions they are likely to be asked during a job interview. It played to a packed house and resulted in a lot of questions and interaction between the presenters, including DIAA volunteers, and the audience. Ms. Quinn is planning several future events and welcomes DIAA participation.

The DIA Council of Employees (COE) continues to champion the mentoring program for employees. They gave a lot of thought to how the program would be most effective and could draw upon the experiences of DIA alumni. The program has been approved by all the COE reps as well as several DIA seniors. This week the program providing individual mentoring opportunities was announced to all DIA personnel. Mentors will have a commitment of three-hours per person. The first mentoring matches will start this month.

If you're interested in knowing more about any of these opportunities or want to add your name to the list of volunteers, send your info or questions to [mentoring@diaalumni.org](mailto:mentoring@diaalumni.org).

### ***21 APRIL DIFORUM***

In the social time before the April DIForum lunch, DIAA members networked with friends and colleagues, to include former Director LTG (ret) Ed Soyster, and several members from DACOR. The guest speaker, Mr. Ralph E. Winnie, spoke on "Doing Business with China." As the Director of the Eurasian Business Coalition's China program, and the North American Business Development Representative for Gungxi Province Eurasian Business Coalition, he is responsible for advising domestic and foreign clients regarding international tax minimization strategies and joint ventures in China. He stressed that many U.S. business consultants have failed in China because they do not understand the value of networking, speak the language, or develop personal trust when conducting business.

To address these issues from the Chinese government's perspective President Xi Jinping has focused on strengthening the rule of law with a heavy emphasis on anti-corruption legislation and expounding the concept of "private property." The Chinese are also concerned about their image of exploiting third-world countries by obtaining needed natural resources without providing adequate compensation. Interestingly a Chinese affinity for minorities in the U.S. is demonstrated by their shipping unfinished products to Native American tribes for completion and then forwarding to distributors in the U.S. such as Wal-Mart and Target.

Concerned about the stability of the dollar has led the Chinese to consider alternative currencies as their reserve currency; the possibility of a real estate bubble burst is another major concern. Finally, Mr. Winnie made it clear the Chinese are expanding other business partner relationships world-wide to reduce the impact of any down turn in the U.S. economy. China's robust trade with Brazil and South Korea demonstrates this strategy.

After answering questions on Beijing's long-term economic objectives Ralph conducted sidebars with some of the attendees who have contacts working in China. Some sought Mr. Winnie's advice on how to exploit business opportunities in China.

#### ***DIAA SUPPORTS JOINT MILITARY ATTACHÉ SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY***

On 10 April, the Joint Military Attaché School (JMAS) graduated its largest class ever. JMAS class 1501 included 68 graduates of the Attache Training Program (ATP) and 34 graduates of the Administrative Support Training Program (ASTP). Keynote speaker for this event was DIAA Board member Bill Huntington. In attendance for the graduation was Mrs. Stewart, the Director's wife, and DIA seniors from across the Agency.

In his address to the graduates, Bill stressed the importance of attaché reporting in keeping Defense policymakers and military commanders informed about important events unfolding around the world and their responsibility to represent the highest ideals of the American military in the foreign capitals where they were going to serve. He emphasized that attaches and their spouses must work together as a team in order to be successful in their mission. Mr. Huntington also noted the crucial role that Operations Support Coordinators (OPSCOs) and Operations Non-Commissioned Officers (OPSNCOs) play in the Defense Attache System

Bill presented the graduation certificates and represented DIAA in recognizing the Silver Pen Award recipient for the best country study paper and the distinguished graduates of the ASTP class. Winner of the Silver Pen Award was Navy LT Brown. The distinguished graduates for this class were CMSgt Karen Grider, USAF and SSG Christian Papp, USA. CMSgt Grider has been assigned as the OPSCO for Abuja, Nigeria, and SSG Papp has been assigned as the OPSNCO for Pretoria, South Africa. Papp and Grider will have their names added to the DIAA sponsored DG Plaque in the JMAS spaces. All of the awardees received the DIAA challenge coin. JMAS is highly appreciative of DIAA's continuing support of its training programs and DIAA is especially proud to be a part of this important enterprise.

#### ***PATRIOTS' CORNER***

**ROBERT C. JENNINGS:** DIA announced the 11 April death of Mr. Robert C. Jennings. Mr. Jennings joined DIA in October 2001. Prior to his employment with DIA, Mr. Jennings served in the United States Air Force, retiring as a Captain after 20 years of exceptional service. Following his military career and before joining DIA, Mr. Jennings worked in private industry. Mr. Jennings is survived by his wife, Lana and son-Michael. Letters of condolence may be sent to his wife, Lana Jennings, 6778 Surrey Road, Fayetteville, NC, 28306. Memorials can be made in his name to Wounded Warriors, Fisher House or a charity of your choice. The Obituary which ran in the Fayetteville Observer can be found on our [WebPage](#).

**WILLIAM M. CROSS, JR.:** On 1 May, funeral services with Full Military Honors were held for Bill Cross at the Fort Myer Old Post Chapel with interment immediately following in Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in his name to the Army Emergency Relief Fund, 200 Stovall St., Alexandria, VA 22332-0600. See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=william-m-cross&pid=174720412#sthash.Io5RZ5KF.dpuf>

