



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

TO ALL EXERCISE TIGER PARTICIPANTS AND ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

On behalf of the Department of the Navy, I am pleased to send greetings to all those gathered for the 10th annual commemoration of Exercise Tiger.

Fifty-five years ago, seven hundred forty-nine Americans lost their lives in an exercise that laid the groundwork for the Normandy invasions in June of 1944. Thanks to your efforts their sacrifice will not be forgotten. Their loss was one of the greatest military tragedies to ever afflict our Country. Today, as you pay tribute to these Americans, solace can be taken in the lessons that were learned from Exercise Tiger.

While the loss of life was tragic, the lessons garnered from Exercise Tiger had invaluable impact on both the success of the D-Day Invasion and the development of modern naval warfare. Accordingly, Exercise Tiger participants have the thanks and admiration of the Armed Forces and the Nation.

I commend each one of you gathered here today in the cause of keeping this important event fresh in the minds of our countrymen. Your tenacious efforts have guaranteed a place of honor in the annals of American history for the gallant Soldiers and Sailors whom you memorialize.

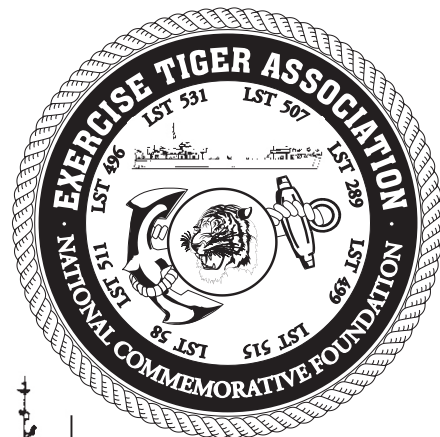
As you remember and honor the men of Exercise Tiger, you should take pride in the successes of the past, which in large measure, gave us the world that we enjoy today.

Sincerely,

Richard Danzig
Richard Danzig



LST 515 • LST 507 • LST 496 • LST 499 • LST 499 • LST 289 • LST 511 • LST 511 • LST 58 • LST 531



Exercise Tiger Foundation

AWARDS CEREMONY HELD ON THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

*Honoring New Jersey's
Veterans and Commemorating
"10 years of Tiger"
1989 ~ 1999*

June 6th, 1999
Manahawkin, NJ

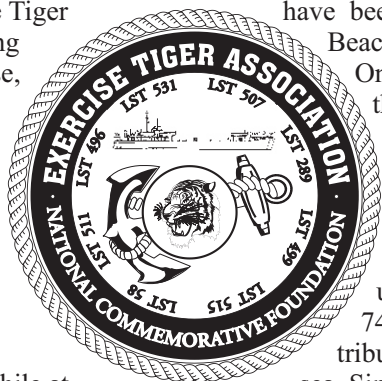
COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

The Exercise Tiger Association National Commemorative Foundation

The New Jersey Exercise Tiger Association began in 1989 with two veterans of the battle Bud Carey, LST 507 and Tom Glynn, LST 289. It's Executive Director, Walter Domanski Jr. is the son of the late "Tiger" vet Walter "Guns" Domanski Sr. of LST 496. Walter Jr. is also a former U.S. Navy Midshipman from the Missouri University's NROTC unit. He was nicknamed "Guns" in 1993 by Lt. Commander Rob Raine Chief PAO at Philadelphia Naval Base out of respect for his father and because of his efforts on behalf of all Tiger vets. In 1996 the New Jersey Exercise Tiger Association was renamed as The Exercise Tiger Association with the creation of the Missouri Chapter. Since 1995 the association has grown to include over 300 members on the national level as well as select honorary members. Ten annual ceremonies to commemorate Exercise Tiger have been conducted. Five at VFW Post 3729 on Long Philadelphia Naval Base, Naval Air Station, and ceremony at VFW Post Missouri. Additionally, submarine USS part of Sub Group 10 Georgia, held the first States sub while The USS Maine SSBN Group 10 held the first veterans of the battle while at sea. Since 1990, the United States Coast Guard has used one of its cutters to annually drop a wreath into the Atlantic Ocean. In 1997 The Commandant of the Coast Guard, Rear Admiral Kramek did the first ever remarks by a Coast Guard Admiral.

The Exercise Tiger Association is recognized by the Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of the Navy, Office of the Under Secretary of the Army for International Affairs, US Coast Guard, the Governors of Missouri and New Jersey and by members of Congress. In 1998 The Office of The Joint Chiefs of Staff recognized the association. The Association is also a National Non Profit Commemorative Foundation. It continues to promote and educate communities, students and citizens on the historic battle of Exercise Tiger. The Association advocates and conducts annual ceremonies in honor of "Tiger" and furthers the cause for both awards by the military branches and by state and local governments to honor the men and memory of Exercise Tiger. The Foundation also serves to advocate and lobby for all veterans of the United States. The Exercise Tiger Association, National Commemorative Foundation is a non-profit organization, its Federal ID Number is 22-3573160.

To join the National Exercise Tiger Foundation or to make a financial contribution write c/o The National Exercise Tiger Foundation, P.O. Box 1050 Beach Haven NJ 08008, or through your local chapter.



LST's: Their Finest Hour...

THE BATTLE OF EXERCISE TIGER

What began as a top secret naval operation would soon end in a horrible moment frozen in time. Taking place during the last week of April 1944, Exercise Tiger was the code name for one of several military exercises aimed at preparing the U.S. and British forces for the D-Day invasion.

At 0140 on the morning of April 28th, 1944, eight Tank Landing Ships (LST's) and their lone escort, the British corvette HMS AZALEA, were en route to the landing area. The town on the Devon coast selected for the naval exercise was called Slapton Sands and looked every bit like the beaches at Normandy that would be code named Utah and Omaha by the allies.

The eight LST's of LST Group 32, formed convoy T-4. they were the support group for elements of the 4th & 29th Infantry, 82nd Airborne and 188th Field Artillery Group already ashore at Slapton Sands.

The LST's were carrying the 1st Engineer Special Brigade, the 3206th Quartermaster Company from Missouri, the 3207th Company and 462nd and 478th combat truck support companies as well as other elements of the US Army's engineer and

chemical corps.

Miles south in the mouth of Lyme bay, lay the bulk of the Tiger naval force. Protected by the cruiser USS AGUSTA and the new British "O" class destroyers HMS ONSLOW and HMS OBEDIENT as well as the Tribal Class destroyer HMS ASHANTI and a covering force of motor torpedo boats. Anchored along with LST's 55 and 382 they would be of no help to the ambushed LST force of T-4.

Attacking in the pitch black night, 9 German Navy "E" boats (torpedo) struck quickly and decisively. Without warning LST 507 was torpedoed first. Explosions and flame lit the night. At 0217 LST 531 is torpedoed. It sinks in six minutes. Of the 496 soldiers and sailors on her 424 of them died. It would be on this ship that the state of Missouri would lose some 200 of its boys of the 3206th.

LST 289 tried to evade the fast German "E" boats but was hit in the stern. LST's 496, 515, and 511 all began firing at their attackers, LST 289 joined in returning fire while lowering landing craft to pull it out of harms way.

At 0225 the LST 499 radioed for help. Minutes later the lead ship, LST 515 sent out an urgent and chilling message. " 'E' boat attack". Radio stations along the coast pick up the dramatic calls for help. unaware of the

top secret operation underway, the calls go unanswered. Only after an alert radio operator heard the words "T-4", did the Naval Command realize the calls were from "Tiger" and send help.

By 0240 the horror was slowly realized. Two LST's sunk, a third lay crippled. Of the 4000 man force nearly a fourth were missing or killed. Official Dept. of Defense records confirm 749 dead, 551 US Army and 198 US Navy. The death toll makes "Tiger" the costliest battle to U.S. forces at that point in the war after Pearl Harbor.

On April 28th, 1944, the LST's darkest yet finest hour occurred. When, for one hour, the men and ships of Convoy T-4 fought the greatest naval battle ever faced by an LST force in history. Against superior enemy warships, the Tiger amphibious force held its own.

The German attack did not stop Exercise Tiger. Landing operations resumed later on the 28th. It is a credit to the tenacity and determination of the soldiers and sailors involved in Exercise Tiger, that the D-Day invasion at Normandy occurred as planned.

The events surrounding Exercise Tiger were officially declassified in early August 1944, two months after the Normandy Invasion.

This history was assembled by the NJ/MO Tiger Assoc. and based on Navy reports, DOD reports, and eye witness accounts.

OTHER IMPORTANT EXERCISE TIGER FOUNDATION EVENTS

~ 1994 ~

Phila. Naval Base Pearl Harbor ceremony, Dec. 7th

US Congressman Rob Andrews reads statement by Tiger Executive Director Walt Domanski linking the two costliest 1 hour battles in WW II

~ 1995 ~

WW II Display

A special WWII tribute at the Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City features a separate display on Exercise Tiger provided by the foundation and its veterans in New Jersey.

~ 1995 ~

Washington DC, Exercise Tiger tribute by Dept. of Defense WW II Commemorations Committee

The Exercise Tiger Foundation works with Col. James Fisher and Lt. Col. Roger King US Army on ceremonies at Arlington cemetery and at Fort Myers. Missouri Exercise Tiger Chapter Assoc. Director Sara Haines is a guest speaker as is Executive Director Walter Domanski. Other speakers include Lt. Bud Carey of the NJ chapter and Ken Small and "Doc" Eckstam. Over 400 veterans and families attend the ceremony and dinner including Clarence Gonnerman US Navy ret. and others from Missouri.

~ 1998 ~

Exercise Tiger Memorial site selected in New Jersey

The US Postal Service approved the first ever memorial of its kind at a US Post Office. The new main Post Office to be built on Long Beach Island New Jersey will have the New Jersey Exercise Tiger Army & Navy Memorial at its entrance. This was requested by Postmaster Marc Reed and approved by the Postmaster General in Washington DC.

~ 1998 ~

The Naval Historical Center, Washington DC Navy Yard

The Exercise Tiger Association National Foundation is placed on the official list of recognized associations and is the only one that is listed on the Naval Centers computer web page.

TONIGHT'S EVENT

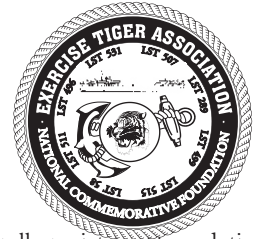
Carrolls Restaurant Banquet Room

Tonights awards dinner and veterans tribute marks a return to New Jersey after a one year absence. Since 1989 the Exercise Tiger Assn. National Commemorative Foundation has conducted ceremonies and awards dinners to honor veterans. 1999 marks the Tiger Foundations 10th anniversary and was the foundations most ambitious year with 6 tributes being held. Ceremonies to mark the historic battle of Exercise Tiger took place in Indianapolis, St. Louis, Jefferson City Mo. (Missouri National Guard HQ) Mexico Mo. (unveiling of the Missouri Exercise Tiger Memorial Anchor) Barnegat Light (USCG wreath laying) and tonight's dinner and tribute.

Tonight we honor those who died in combat 55 years ago and those who are with us today. It is fitting that on the 55th anniversary of D-Day we honor those who fought in the battle before D-Day, "Tiger" the practice mission for the greatest naval amphibious operation in history. We also honor today all veterans who have served and those who currently serve. In keeping with Department of Defense and the move to salute the Korean War, we honor tonight Marines who have served during that conflict and in WW II. Please note the remarks by USMC General Krulak in the program.

Special Thanks To these Area Sponsors and Donors

~ Randy Thumhart, 7-11 of Ship Bottom
~ Carol Scholey, Fleet Bank
~ Shell Liquors, Ship Bottom
~ Beach Haven Auto, Mark Vigdor
~ James Murphy



The Exercise Tiger Association National Foundation is a federally registered foundation its federal ID number is 22- 3573160. The Exercise Tiger Logo is a registered trademark. Only those persons or organizations that have written permission may use it.

Orange

For the color of the Tiger and of the setting sun

An LST

To honor all LST's

The workhorse of the navy and the heart
and soul of Naval Amphibious Forces

An Anchor

To forever anchor in our memories
those brave soldiers and sailors of Convoy T-4

A Tiger's Head

For the code name of the Top Secret exercise, and for
the courage and tenacity displayed by
U.S. Army and Navy forces on 28th April, 1944

55th Anniversary Awards Dinner & Ceremony

~1989~ "TEN YEARS OF TIGER" ~1999~

SEQUENCE

- ~ Pre-Dinner Registration
- ~ Introduction Of Head Table
Steven Baryla, Cadet Major AFJROTC
- ~ POW/MIA Memorial Table
(Air Force Junior ROTC Honor Guard)
- ~ Naval Hymn
- ~ Invocation-Reverend James Occhipinti
- ~ Pre-Awards Dinner

RECOGNITION AND REMARKS

- ~ Master of Ceremonies
Bill Hobbs, Major USAF ret.
- ~ Council President, Stafford Township
John Spodofora

- ~ United States Coast Guard Station
Barnegat Light
Richard Ritz, Chief Petty Officer
- ~ Air Force JROTC 931st
Greg Faugher, Captain USAF, Director of
Military Science
- ~ Statement By Brigadier General Robert Paschon,
USAF ret.
- ~ Missouri Chapter of The National Exercise
Tiger Foundation
Susan Haines, Midwest Regional Director
- ~ Recognition by Ocean County
James Mancini
Deputy Freeholder Director and
Mayor of Long Beach Twp.
- ~ Resolution by State Senator Len Connors and
Assemblyman Jeff Moran

Special Note of Thanks to:

NJ 931st Air Force JROTC Honor Guard
Steven Baryla, Dir. Of Drill and Ceremonies
Tim Horn, Cadet Col, Angela Casertano
c/Chief Msgt., Marjorie Arnaudin c/Msgt
and to Leon Messina, MSgt. USAF

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

- ~ National Exercise Tiger Foundation
Walter Domanski, Executive Director
(Assisted by cadet Col. Tim Horn, Air
Force JROTC)
 - Community Service Award
 - Journalism Awards
 - Distinguished Unit Award
 - Education Award
 - Veterans Awards
- ~ Statement by US Congressman
James Saxton
- ~ 177th Fighter Wing USAF, ANG
Scott Barbaredies, Major USAF
Weapons and Tactics Officer
- ~ Recognition by US Navy
Readiness Command Region 4
HQ Fort Dix
Harry Mayer, Lt. Comdr. USN
Special Assistant To Chief of Staff

Benidiction, Reverend James Occhipinti

CONCLUSION OF AWARDS DINNER

