

Feb. 4, 1991

Don C. Thomson

Mr. Tom Thalmann

Dear Tom,

I've got some good news to report! Mr. Peter Mersky has officially signed on to write a book on the Seawolves. He is a very highly respected Author on Naval Aviation Subjects. He comes highly recommended by the Naval Historical Center and The Naval Aviation History office. He is currently the acting editor of the Navy's "Approach" magazine. I have been talking with Pete about this since October 1989. I know that he will do a very professional and thorough job.

The deal I offered him is as follows: He will write the book, we will offer him all the support we can in terms of providing him with any and all information that we possess or can acquire from our members or other sources, he is to choose and make his own deal with the publisher and, in effect, the book and its royalties belong to him. He gets out of it the same thing he gets when he writes any other book and what we get out of it is a really professional book about the Wolves. That is, as I understand it, what our objective has always been. If you have a problem with any of this or you think I have been too generous be sure to let me know. I figured that authors would have much less interest in spending the immense time and effort to do the job right if they knew they were going to have to split the book's royalties with the Seawolf Association. I really think that we will get a better book out of it by letting the author reap the full financial rewards of his effort.

Pete is going to send me a simple letter of agreement that he will draw up. It will outline the terms described above. I will sign it and send to you to sign and forward back to Pete. This is not a legal or binding contract but rather just something to outline his and our responsibilities, the basic terms and to eliminate any doubt about where we all stand.

I have told Pete that we want him to come to The reunion in San Diego in June and stand up in front of the Wolves and tell them that he is at work on a professionally done book on the Wolves and that it will be completed in time for sale at our 1993 Seawolf reunion. He agreed, that barring

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some unforeseen circumstance, that he will do that.

I was sure that this would be good news to you as you have had a real priority on getting the Seawolf story told. I'm sorry this thing has taken so long, but, like getting the help for the last reunion, these things are always a little harder to do than we figure when we so enthusiastically volunteer for such missions. It was further complicated this time by the fact that I have been doing over six months active duty away from home for each of the two years since the last reunion. Anyway all the tools are in place and work on the book is already in motion. I spent all day yesterday cataloging every scrap of information we have in our files as requested by Pete. I hope to get that work completed before dark today so that I can get it in the mail to him. I spent, fortunately, several days last week getting our records and files completely up to snuff.

I wanted to get your opinion on sending out our questionnaires again to our members. I only got back about 35 questionnaires and a number of these did not have their name on them. That was because I forgot to include a place for them to fill in their name. I think that it would help Pete some in doing the book. Also I want to make an appeal to our members, in the next Wolfgram, not only for old original Wolfgrams, but for maps, photographs, articles and anything else that relates to their tour in HA(L)-3. Please emphasize that this is very important as we are starting on our book and need these materials for possible including in the book and as reference materials to support research for the book. Emphasize that they put their name in pencil on the back of everything they send so that it can be returned to them. Tell them to burn copies and send to me if they are reluctant to send originals and to state if they want them returned or not. We need to do this as soon as possible. When does the next Wolfgram come out?

Please put Pete on our Muster list as follows:

Mr. Peter Mersky

I think it is best for our members to send these historical items to me and I will forward, en masse, to Pete, those that he requires. That way there won't be any question that these things belong to the Assn. and the members.

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Well I will colose this by again taking the opportunity to thank you for your literally endless efforts and concern on behalf of the Association. It takes more than good intentions to make our organization survive. It takes someone who cares enough to WORK! and you certainly have done that plenty of that since our first Wolfgram in January, 1986. Can you believe we're beginning our sixth year! Anyway thanks again Tom.

One last item. The Super Seawolf Plaque has the date of the 1987 reunion under our names. Should I put the date of the second reunion, in Pensacola, under Con Jayburg's name? I will do that unless I hear otherwise from you.

Best Regards,

Don Thomson  
Historian/Curator