

# Sirago Family Gram

Volume 6, Issue 1 – Insert By Mike Bickel (RMBICKEL@STUPP.COM)

February 2005

We have arrived safely at OPAREA 6 and are officially on our way home. While it will take us a while to get there, this has been an extremely successful deployment. Our search and rescue team, headed up by Rich McCamant has once again made stellar progress in finding more crew members although it seems clear that progress is slowing down as we hunt for crew members that seem so hidden, that even the experts can't seem to raise them. Here is an update of the progress we have made on our latest transit.

The following **crewmembers have been located** during our most recent transit:

**Morton Appelbaum (SN, 52–54)**  
**Ray Hartenstein (IC1, 53–55)**  
**Burton Lewis (CS3, 52–54)**  
**Lani Buccelli (GSSN, 61–62)**

**“Vinnie” Dunn (SN, 53–54)**  
**Wally Eslick (FN, 70–71)**  
**“Josh” Randall (STS2, 64–67)**

As is usual in our searching activities, many crewmembers are found deceased. Listed below (by duty section) are those found on **ETERNAL Patrol** (also included are those who were found alive but have recently died):

**Duty Section 4548:** Robert Banter (EM3c), William Brandt (CSC), Richard Bransom (LTJG), Bill Crader (SM1c), Robert Lane (F1c), Robert Mahoney (S1c), Robert Servoss (RMC)

**Duty Section 4952:** Morton Conyers (TMC), Robert Shutt (CSC)

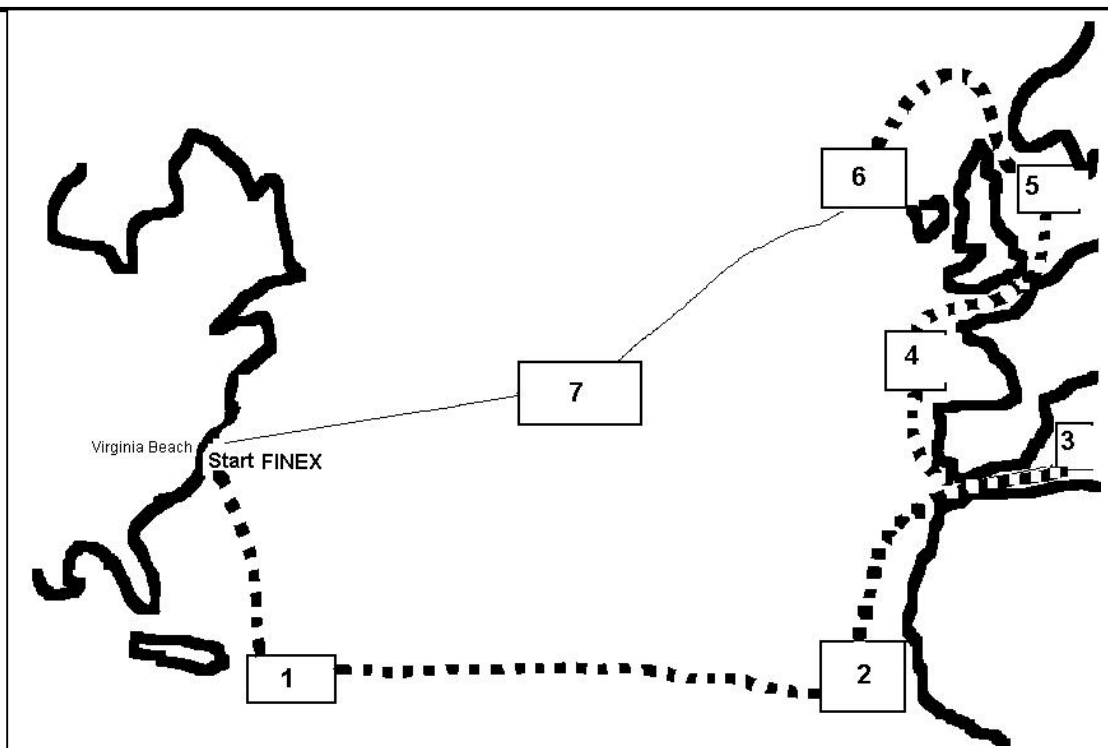
**Duty Section 5356:** William Kone (SA)

**Duty Section 5760:** Don Bewley (EN1)

**Duty Section 6164:** David Reid (RM2)

**Duty Section 6568:** “Becky” Bachmann (SN), “Gus” Haris (TM2), Richard Thornburg (MM2), Franklin Tucker (ENC)

**Duty Section 6972:** Mike Reynolds (EN2)



Of the seven crew members found alive, four of them are from the 5356 Duty Section. To my knowledge, we are reporting only one RECENTLY deceased crew member (one which was on our roles rather than one being discovered already deceased). This means that Rich McCamant is continuing to ADD net count to our crew by continuing to find more NEW folks to add, than what we lose through current crew members dying. This trend at some point will be over and our crew “alive” will eventually start to decrease overall... but that hasn’t happened yet since Rich has been in charge of “search and rescue”.

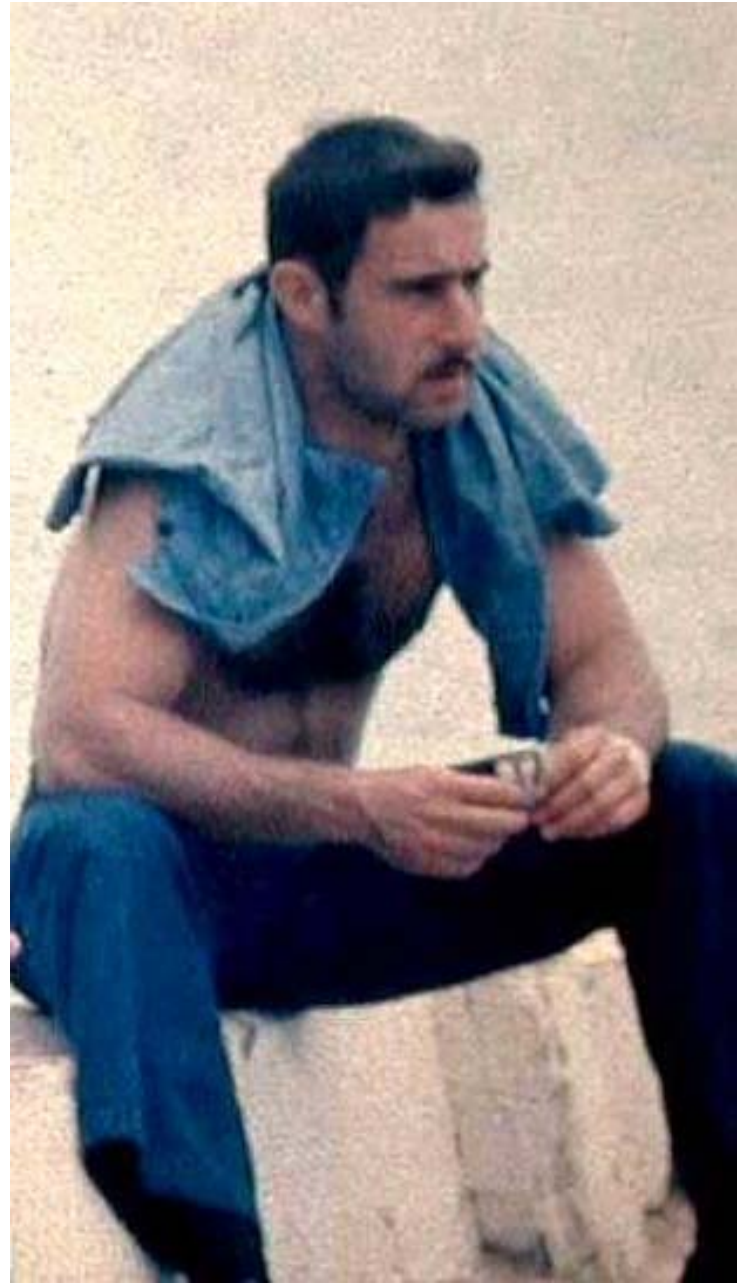
The one crew member who was part of our crew who died recently was **Costas (Gus) Haris (TM2)** who served aboard Sirago in 1967-1968. He was actually found within the last year by Rich McCamant and was anxious to come to our next reunion. Unfortunately, he didn’t make it and succumbed to cancer on December 6, 2004. He is pictured below as he looked aboard the Sirago. I needed to tell a couple of stories about “Gus” as they have been

related to me. First... when Rich McCamant found him, they discovered that they both had attended the same high school at the same time but didn’t know each other. At the time, there was no known photos of “Gus” on our website. A few months ago I received an email from one of Gus’ Karate students asking how to get hold of him and that’s the first time I knew he taught such a class. She also told me that she found his photo on our website and that’s how we are able to identify him – by a student who recognized him from a photo from 40 years ago... not that we didn’t know who he was, but probably because her brain is way younger than ours so she has helped us out immensely. She was also the one who told us that he died and has been in contact with his fiancée and some family members.

I normally do not give any information about folks we discover deceased, but I DO want to mention two of them just this time.

**Robert “Becky” Bachmann (SN 66-68)** died in 1974 of a drug overdose. Clearly this was a tragedy. Unfortunately, at this time in the service, there were all too many dabbling in such substances and but for the grace of God, many of us may have met the same end. He was a beloved crewmember, a hard worker, and a great guy to be around. We pray that his family has found healing in knowing how much we wanted to find him, and the fact that we share their distress in this matter.

**Richard Thornburg (MM2 64-66)** was murdered by a robber in 1997. This is another tragedy. Dick was another one we wanted so much to find.



Costas “Gus” Haris (TM2, 67-68)