

USNA CLASS OF 1953  
6708 Pageland Lane  
Gainesville, Virginia 20155  
September 24, 2009

Admiral Gary Roughead, U. S. Navy  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
2000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Admiral Roughead:

Our last letter to you was ten years ago (archive attached), when you were the Commandant of Midshipmen, and the subject was a book written by the Superintendent of Virginia Military Institute, "An Education For Our Time" which we thought you would find interesting and relevant in regard to the Academy. Recently our class has been discussing James Scott's book published this past June by Simon and Schuster, "The Attack on the Liberty" subtitle, "The Untold Story of Israel's Deadly 1967 Assault on a U.S. Spy Ship."

We believe this well written, meticulously researched and fully documented account of the attack and the shameful political aftermath which both Admirals McDonald and Moorer confronted as this remarkable and brave crew were shunned because it was more important to the White House to protect relations with an ally than to support and defend American service members, will be on the reading list of a wide American audience.

Scott has a strong personal attachment to the Liberty story as his father, John Scott, was a 24-year-old Ensign in Liberty and the damage control officer who led the heroic efforts by the crew which saved the ship from sinking. The book is dedicated as follows: "For my father, John Scott, who lived to tell about it. And in memory of the thirty-four, who didn't." The page then lists in a single column the thirty-four names of those killed, one of whom, the Executive Officer, Philip Armstrong, Jr., who was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously, was our USNA classmate.

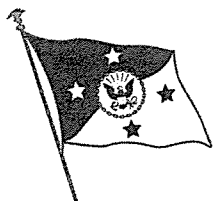
The author is an accomplished journalist and was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University 2006 to 2007 when he started work on this book. Drawing on new interviews and recently declassified documents, Scott demonstrates that Israel's mistaken identification claim is implausible. Notably, the Epilogue (page 288) describes a personal apology to his father during a 2007 meeting in Israel with one of the Israeli pilots who had attacked the Liberty.

We trust that you and Admiral Mullen and General Jones, to whom we are also sending copies of "The Attack on the Liberty" will read it, and following in the direction of the late Admiral Thomas Moorer, will earnestly try to find a way to finally honor in truth and justice these men, "who did not give up the ship".

Very Respectfully,



David B. Jones, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
President



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

October 30, 2009

Dear Colonel Jones:

Thank you for your kind letter and copy of *The Attack on the Liberty*. Mr. Scott's dedication to the history of the United States Navy is made obvious by his talented writing and is greatly appreciated.

This untold story will shed light on an issue largely unknown among Americans. Mr. Scott's homage to his father and the 34 brave Sailors lost in this incident serves to remind us of a sacrifice that should never be forgotten.

Again, thank you for your kind letter, thoughtful gift, and continued support of our Navy and Nation.

Sincerely,

G. ROUGHEAD  
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Lt Col David B. Jones, USAF(Ret)  
President  
United States Naval Academy  
Class of 1953  
6708 Pageland Lane  
Gainesville, VA 20155

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Gainesville, Virginia 20155  
September 24, 2009

General James L. Jones, Jr., USMC  
The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear General Jones:

This past June Simon and Schuster published James Scott's definitive account "The Attack on the Liberty" subtitle, "The Untold Story of Israel's Deadly 1967 Assault on a U.S. Spy Ship." It was reviewed in the Outlook Section of The Washington Post, Sunday, July 12, by John Lancaster who called the book a "...comprehensive and compelling account...."

We believe this well written, meticulously researched and fully documented account of the attack and the shameful political aftermath which both Admirals McDonald and Moorer confronted as this remarkable and brave crew were shunned because it was more important to the White House to protect relations with an ally than to support and defend American service members, will be on the reading list of a wide American audience.

My Academy classmates and I have a personal interest in the attack since the Executive Officer of Liberty, Philip Armstrong, Jr., who was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously, was our classmate. Moreover, at our monthly luncheons at Fort McNair, we have had a range of speakers on the Liberty attack, including Dr. Anthony Wells who described the highly important intercept role of Liberty in 1967, indicating that the JCS and NSA were concerned about Soviet intentions, as is further indicated by the fact that during preparation for the mission in Rota, Marine Staff Sergeant Bryce Lockwood, a Russian linguist, came aboard for temporary duty along with five Arabic linguists, but no Hebrew linguist. Six days later Lockwood was trapped in the flooding NSA compartment resulting from an Israeli torpedo blast which left a hole 39 feet wide and 24 feet high and threatened to sink the ship. Lockwood received a Silver Star Medal for his heroic action that day.

James Scott is an accomplished journalist whose father, John Scott, was a 24-year-old Ensign in Liberty and the damage control officer who led the heroic efforts by the crew which saved the ship from sinking. Drawing on new interviews and recently declassified documents, Scott demonstrates that Israel's mistaken identification claim is implausible. Notably, the Epilogue (pg 288) describes a personal apology to his father during a 2007 meeting in Israel with one of the Israeli pilots who had attacked the Liberty.

We trust that you and Admirals Mullen and Roughead, to whom we are also sending copies of "The Attack on the Liberty" will read it, and following in the direction of the late Admiral Thomas Moorer, will earnestly try to find a way to finally honor in truth and justice these men, "who did not give up the ship."

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David B. Jones".

David B. Jones, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
President

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6708 Pageland Lane  
Gainesville, Virginia 20155  
September 24, 2009

Admiral Michael Mullen, U. S. Navy  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
9999 Joint Staff, Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20318-9999

Dear Admiral Mullen,

**This** past July you may have seen in the Washington Post a prominent review of James Scott's book, "The Attack on the Liberty" subtitle, "The Untold Story of Israel's Deadly 1967 Assault on a U.S. Spy Ship" featuring a large photo of the memorial service on the flight deck of America for the 34 killed.

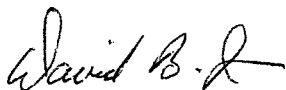
Our Academy class, over the last several years, has had a number of speakers at our monthly luncheons who have been involved in the Liberty saga including Rear Admiral Merlin Staring who was Admiral McCain's legal officer at the time of the attack, and later the Navy JAG. We also have a personal interest as one of our classmates, Philip Armstrong, Jr., who was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously, was the Executive Officer of Liberty.

We believe this well written, meticulously researched and fully documented account of the attack and the shameful political aftermath which both Admirals McDonald and Moorer confronted as this remarkable and brave crew were shunned because it was more important to the White House to protect relations with an ally than to support and defend American service members, will be on the reading list of a wide American audience.

The author is an accomplished journalist. Drawing on new interviews and recently declassified documents, Scott demonstrates that Israel's mistaken identification claim is implausible. Notably, the Epilogue (page 288) describes a personal apology to his father, John Scott, who was the damage control officer aboard Liberty, during a 2007 meeting in Israel with one of the Israeli pilots who had attacked the Liberty.

It is our hope that you and Admiral Roughead and General Jones, to whom we are also sending copies of "The Attack on the Liberty" will read it, and following in the direction of the late Admiral Moorer, will earnestly try to find a way to finally honor in truth and justice these men, "who did not give up the ship."

Very respectfully,



David B. Jones, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
President