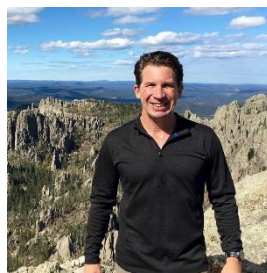


Bent Prop Project

Presented by Derek Abbey

The Silver Strand Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and Coronado Council of the Navy League (CCNL) will hold their fourth dinner meeting of 2017 on Monday, 21 August, at 6:00 PM, at the Coronado Yacht Club. The featured speaker for this event will be Major Derek Abbey, USMC (Ret), who oversees the Military and Veterans Program at the University of San Diego, and is a volunteer with, and will be speaking about “The Bent Prop Project.” The Bent Prop Project is a non-profit organization of volunteers that has been searching for American MIAs for over two decades. Their mission is to locate and assist identifying the remains of American prisoners of war (POW) and missing in action (MIA) from World War II. Currently, the Project's activities have been searching the waters of present-day Papua New Guinea, which was the site of military action in the Pacific from January of 1942 to the end of the war in August 1945. In March 2014, the Project discovered and documented the underwater wreck of an F6F Hellcat and the remains of the pilot. The Project shares their findings with the U.S. Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), and on June 30, 2017, DPAA announced that the pilot of the found F6F, “Navy Reserve LT William Q. Punnell, had been identified.” This action resulted in the notification of the family of LT Punnell finally being identified as KIA some 73 years after being declared MIA.

Please visit the Bent Prop Project website for more information: www.bentprop.org



Derek Abbey

Derek spent 23 years in the U.S. Marine Corps filling a variety of roles. Today, Derek is a higher education specialist with a focus on military-connected students and those seeking college degrees. He oversees the Military and Veterans Program at the University of San Diego. He owns his own business that provides coaching and consulting services, from the individual to the executive level. He is an avid outdoorsman and distance runner. Derek resides in San Diego with his wife, Michelle.