

Remain In Touch



**FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE
ASSOCIATION**

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Executive Board

Lee AnthonyPresident
Ron Haygood.....Vice President
Bob Cope.....Treasurer
Loran (Phred) Sevening.....Secretary
Chris Cook.....Immediate Past President

Directors

Barnie Gavin.....History
Bob Baert.....Membership Chairman/Web Support
Dennis "Rass" Rassmussen.....Newsletter Editor
Wayne Tallant.....Associate Newsletter Editor
Ted Colquhoun.....Fallen Eagles Chairman
Jim McLendon.....Official Activities
Ken WilliamsSocial Chairman
Joseph Hurst.....Sports
AJ Harrison.....Picnic Chairman
(Election Pending).....National Capital Chapter
J.J. Graham.....President, Heritage Chapter
John Toillion.....President, Aloha Chapter
Richard Sacchetti.....President, Gold Country Chapter
Jim KausPresident, Sunshine FL Chapter
Barnie Gavin.....President, Rocky Mountain Chapter
A. J. Harrison (Chairman).....Hall of Honor
Douglas Holden.....Special Activities

Directors Emeriti

Bill BallardHall of Honor
Bob Sherwood.....Hall of Honor

AF ISR Agency Advisory Members

Col Michael Shields.....Senior Liaison Officer
Maj Erik Russell.....Reunion Coordinator
Wayne Amann.....AFISR Agency/PA

Newsletter Editor

Dennis "Rass" Rassmussen
9511 Aqua Verde
Helotes, TX 78023
Ph (210) 695-1334
newsletter@ftva.org

Associate Editor

Wayne Tallant
9223 Tree Village
San Antonio, TX 78250
Ph (210) 522-0357
falleneagles@ftva.org



The President's Corner



Dear Members,

Now is the time to plan for our upcoming reunion, to be held 27 – 29 September 2012 at Security Hill on Lackland AFB! All information is contained in this edition of the newsletter, and further details are on the web page. I urge all of you to make your reservations now and don't miss these annual FTVA events! Most importantly, don't miss

the opportunity to renew friendships and relationships with those who have played significant roles in so many lives.

There have been several key events over the past three months. The FTVA was honored to support and attend the Air Force ISR Agency Annual Awards Banquet. It's always a privilege to see this generation of intelligence professionals be recognized for their contributions to our national security. Maj General Otto and the entire AFISRA staff graciously thanked the FTVA for its continued support of this program.

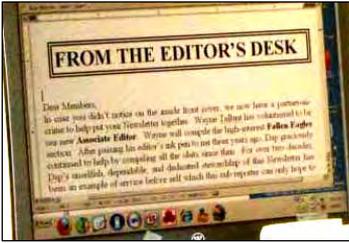
Our 2012 Spring Social was an overwhelming success! Vice President Ron Haygood presided over our largest crowd ever – approximately 130 attendees. We recognized our “Deployed Warriors”, and presented each with a cap and coin. Brigadier General-Ret (and former FTVA President) Grover Jackson gave an outstanding presentation that captured the history of the United States Air Force Security Service, and appropriately culminated in the recognition of Lt Gen Craig Koziol's upcoming retirement. The FTVA formally recognized General Koziol as the “Last Active Duty Member of USAFSS”, and we were privileged to hear his moving synopsis of a career that will culminate this month with over 36 years of service to our nation and intelligence community. As I've stated before, the Spring Social is my favorite annual event (particularly since I don't have to speak). Our crowds have grown every year, and we look forward to your continued participation and attendance.

This past three months hasn't always been centered on celebration. We've experienced several losses during this period, and that will be very evident to those who attend our Remembrance Ceremony in September. Please continue to support and remember the families of our warfighters, both past and present, who have been our leaders and mentors throughout the years.

We remain a healthy organization. Our chapters are invigorated with new members, and I again want to thank all of those who represent the Association throughout the world. I challenge all of you to maintain this momentum and

Remain In Touch,

Lee



Over the past year, we've highlighted the FTVA Member Support initiative which offers the **RIT** in softcopy format via e-mail. As a result, we now have over 107 members who have signed up for this service. Also, on the inside back cover of this issue, you will find a new membership form designed by our membership Chairman, Bob Baert, for your

use. Highlights from our annual *Spring Social* along with a lot of *History and Memories* found their way into this issue of RIT along with our quarterly Chapter activity reports, reunion summaries and tributes to our Fallen Eagles. Thanks for all of your inputs and best wishes for a safe and enjoyable Summer!

Sincerely,



Editor's Disclaimer

Information in the form of letters, notes, fax, e-mail, or by phone is accepted as true and factual. In order to include as much information as possible, some of it may be edited for brevity or may be delayed for later publication. Publishing of any article or notice in this Newsletter does not assure accuracy or endorsement by the Association or Agency.

FTVA Newsletter



Would you rather receive future issues of **Remain In Touch** in softcopy format? If interested, simply go to the FTVA website and e-mail your request to: **Bob Baert membersupport@ftva.org**.

PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU!



Hall of Honor Nominations



As detailed in our last issue of RIT (March 2012), HOH nominations must be received not later than 4 June 2012. Selections will be announced in the September issue of RIT. The induction ceremony will be held just prior to our FTVA annual meeting at AFISR Agency HQ on Saturday morning, Sep 29, 2012. Once again, thank you for your participation.

Annual FTVA Officer Election

In accordance with Article VII of the FTVA By-Laws, the BOD appointed the nominating committee for the annual officer elections to be held in September 2012. This year, the nominating committee accepted submissions for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. Any member in good standing may be submitted to the nominating committee; however, for obvious reasons, only those who can attend the monthly BOD meetings in San Antonio can be seriously considered. With the unanimous concurrence of the FTVA BOD, Loran "Phred" Sevening and Bob Cope have accepted re-nomination to serve as your Secretary and Treasurer respectively for the upcoming 2012-2014 term.

Dennis Rasmussen, Chairman
FTVA BOD Nominating Committee

FTVA Vigilant Partner Program

We would like to convey our sincerest appreciation for the continuing support of companies and individuals who participate in the Vigilant Partner Program. As I'm sure all of you are aware, these monies go entirely to causes that support the men and women of AFISRA who have more than picked up the slack for those of us are now in the retired ranks. Those of you, who have had the opportunity to attend our recent "Spring Socials" and had a chance to hear them speak, and talk with them personally, know what I'm talking about. We can be very proud of the work they carry on, and it is an honor to be able to assist in their recognition.

There may be some of you who have thought about, but not yet decided on, becoming a Vigilant Partner. Send me an email (BOD@FTVA.org) and I will be happy to talk with you about it and help you through the process. If you are employed by a company that might like to become a partner, let me know. Again, I will help you through the process.

Respectfully,
Jim McLendon
Official Activities Chairman



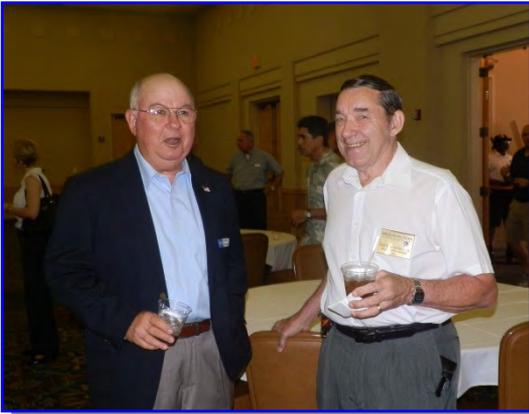
My neighbor knocked on my door at 2:30 a.m. this morning, can you believe that..... 2:30 A.M.?!

Luckily for him... I was still up playing my bagpipe!!



ANNUAL SPRING SOCIAL

The annual FTVA Spring Social was held in San Antonio at the Lackland Gateway Club on Saturday, March 31st this year. Over 130 members and their guests enjoyed our annual get-together. Brig General (Ret) Grover Jackson, former ESC Vice Commander, was our guest speaker for the evening. He presented a very interesting and informative overview highlighting USAFSS' historical legacy from its beginning in 1948 to its re-designation as ESC in 1979.



(Left) Our guest speaker, Brig Gen (Ret) Grover Jackson enjoyed visiting with Okey Warden, former Command Chief Master Sgt.

FTVA Secretary, Phred Sevening introduced several AFISR Agency silent warriors as we recognized the Agency's recent returnees from Afghanistan, Iraq and the AOR. Each were presented with an FTVA coin and cap. Everyone seemed to really enjoy this year's very well attended get-together.

(Right) Phred Sevening presents an FTVA cap to SMSgt (Sel) Rodolfo Gamez, AFISR Agency A6





Left SMSgt (Sel) Dale Yates, AFISR Agency PA, briefly summarized his experiences while deployed to Afghanistan.

(Right) Maj Karla Taff, AFISR Agency A1, explained her recent deployment in support of the current intelligence requirements for transition force operations.



FTVA Vice President Ron Haygood (Right) assisted by FTVA President Lee Anthony (left) recognized Lieutenant Gen Craig Koziol (Center) with the “Last Man Standing” award as the only remaining airman in uniform to have previously served in USAFSS.

(Right) At the conclusion to our festivities, Ron Haygood presented a complimentary FTVA cap to Lt Gen Koziol as a memento of the occasion.



Spring Social Out-Takes



Lt Gen Koziol & Lee Anthony discuss the framed plaque and cross stitch of the USAFSS shield.



Debbie Cope & Ginny Koziol admiring Lt Gen Koziol's award.



Sheila Williams & Tisha Gilmore greet the former Cmdr CMSgt and Mrs Paul Weslow



J.J. Graham traveled from San Angelo with Tom Rinderle and found buddy Bill Francis



Wayne Amann (right) chats with Theresa (seated) and Dale Yates from AFISR/PA



Jim McLendon & Ed Warfield were caught standing in the line ordering soft drinks



(L – R)
Anita Jackson
Earla Bishop
Ann Sherwood
Kathy Cook

(L – R)
Bob Crabtree
Lou Rocha
Darr & Leslie King
Ken & Judy Maynard



The line-up for “heavy puu – puu’s” stretched across the ball room at the Gateway Club. There was more than enough finger food for everyone to go back for “seconds”... and many did! .Some said this was the best Social they’d been to in recent memory.



AFISR AGENCY HONORS “BEST OF THE BEST”

by Wayne Amann - Air Force ISR Agency Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- The Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency honored the top 15 of its most outstanding performers March 29 during its 2011 annual awards ceremony in the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in San Antonio.

The annual banquet and associated activities spanned five days, during which 54 nominees, most assigned outside of the Alamo City, received special treatment from the event organizers.

After an initial welcoming March 26 from Maj. Gen. Bob Otto, AFISRA commander, and AFISRA command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Frederick Ricker, the nominees received an unclassified agency mission briefing delivered by Staff Sgt. Marc Westbrooks of the commander's action group.

Gabe Marshall and Senior Master Sgt. Benjamin Jones of the AFISRA History Office then teamed to give guided tours of the agency's Casey Heritage Center.

The scene shifted to downtown that evening when the nominees were treated to a photo session at the Alamo and then a social hosted by the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce staff.

Master Sgt. Christopher and Atsuko Burch receive a salute March 29 from the Air Force



(U.S. Air Force photo)

Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency Honor Guard during nominee introductions at the agency's annual awards banquet in the Courtyard Marriott Hotel here. Burch won the volunteer of the year award in part for his humanitarian efforts following a 9.0 earth quake and tsunami in Japan and for helping locate a group of missing kayakers, ultimately saving four lives.

March 27 the group took the San Antonio Rio River Tour followed by the Tower of Americas 4D Tour over Texas. The next day they visited the San Antonio Medical Center, formerly Brooke Army Medical Center, to take the Warrior and Family Support Center Tour. March 29 began here with a tour of the 149th Fighter Wing of the Texas Air National Guard. The group then witnessed a Basic Military Training coining ceremony and retreat. Following a meet and greet with the AFISRA headquarters leadership, the recognition banquet topped the day's activities, with guest speaker Lt. Gen. Craig Koziol, deputy undersecretary of defense (intelligence) for joint and coalition warfighter support, and director of the Department of Defense Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Task Force

Maj Gen "Bob" Otto, Agency Commander. is shown presenting the Gordon Sommers Award to Pamela Piazza as the Agency's top civilian for 2011 with Cmdr CMSgt Rick Ricker at far right.



(U.S. Air Force photo by William

"This is the most capable ISR organization in the history of our nation," said Koziol, a former AFISRA commander. "When it comes to meeting our national security objectives, there are places only the Air Force ISR Agency can go and things only the Air Force ISR Agency can do. Our senior most leaders know this to be true.

613th AOC honors 1st Lt Roslyn Schulte

Airmen from the 613th Air and Space Operation Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, dedicated a unit conference room honoring 1st Lt. Roslyn Schulte, who died in combat. Lieutenant Schulte was an intelligence officer assigned to the 613th AOC.



(Left) The construction sites at Patrick AFB, FL as construction crews prepare building materials in early April, 2012. This site will be the new home for the AF Technical Application Center, whose mission is to monitor nuclear treaties across the globe.

(USAF PHOTO BY Susan Romano)

BEDSIDE MATTERS



From: Daniel Warniment, Mar 10, 2012
To: Remain In Touch Bedside Matters

I was saddened to read the March 2012 Remain in Touch and to find that three close friends have died - Fred Garcia, Phyllis Cooper, and Archie Temple. I enjoyed working with them; Archie was one of the interviewers who had hired me into civil service. May they and all the departed RIP

Kudos to you and your staff for an outstanding Remain in Touch. I especially liked your section announcing the different scheduled reunions with contacts. I would also like to add to your "Bedside Matters" which can affect all of us. I am using a set of optometrist-recommended vitamins which offsets and delays macular degeneration of the eyes, which is a natural decay of eye tissue due to aging. Anybody interested should look for eye vitamins which include both lutein **and zeaxanthin** available from ICAPS and other brands in local stores. My understanding is that the NIH has approved these ingredients for delaying/stopping natural macular degeneration in the eyes.

And again, keep up your wonderful work keeping us abreast of happenings in FTVA. I hope to return to San Antonio for a couple of days during Fiesta week and 27-29 September. Regards, **Dan Warniment**

In early April, a cry for help was sent out from (boomsupe@yahoo.com) about a Reservist, **CMSgt (ret) Jim Steed**, who had a stroke while working for a foreign company contractor in Abu Dhabi. Jim's wife, Cindy wrote: "Med evac out on Thurs early morning. We are in Germany now....stuck. Tricare not in place and case worker said it will not help now as this is a pre-existing condition. They might can get med evac to San Antonio but only long enough to discharge out. Jim needs long term nursing home care and since we don't have insurance and he qualifies for maybe SS or Medicare but it will not be enough to cover 24/7 care which is what he needs am totally exhausted and beat down...Jim's job today was to try and remember his name which he is working on ..."

Of special note, **Bob Cotti**, one of our most remarkable and involved Life Members, sprang into action to assist the Steeds in their relocation. From the time they first arrived at DFW, Bob met them at the airport and did whatever it took to help them re-settle. As a result of Bob's superhuman efforts: not only was Chief Steed's Social Security disability processing accelerated, but he was enrolled, admitted and under full VA health care in absolute record time.

Bob Askew – Apr 14, 2012

//The following is what a former boss of mine sent in this regard when I forwarded this “shout out” to him. **Jim Donahoe** is a retired Colonel (0-6) USAF Navigator who later became Commander of AAFES activities in PACAF and after retirement from USAF became Director of the Veterans Canteen Service, the "BX" of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am confident this will assist the Steed's and others who may need such assistance.//

The VA uses priority groups to determine eligibility for medical care. Most times this is based on a "means test" which is a function of income. However, there is a special priority #4 which is for Veterans: "receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits and/or determined by the VA to be catastrophically disabled."

This is a simple explanation for a complex formula. I suggest that you visit one of the Veteran Service Officers at a VA Medical Center. These are individuals that are paid members of the VFW, American Legion, DAV, PVA, etc. You do not have to be a member of the organization to seek their advice. They are not paid or responsible to the VA. They strictly there to help the Veterans. They deal with such issues each day and can not only tell you the rules but will assist with the paperwork to submit claims.

If you are in San Antonio, the VA Medical Center will have offices in the hospital and they are usually manned during duty hours. If you call the medical center, they can connect you and you can make an appointment. They will tell you what paper work is needed. For sure, they will need the DD-214 discharge paper for proof of service. FYI, the VA has recently added services to help the Veterans in their homes. This includes frequent visits by nurses and social workers to assist the families. In addition, we also have volunteers that will come to provide relief for the family members.

Many states like Missouri where I live have a State Veterans Home. These provide long term care for disabled Veterans. The service Officer can also tell you what is available in your state. The way these normally work is that the VA pays 1/3rd of the cost, the State pays 1/3rd and the remaining 1/3rd comes from other sources. The latter may be from the Veterans pension, social security or funds donated by third parties. Normally the VA nursing homes are geared for rehabilitation to return the Veterans to a near normal life and more self-sufficiency. And, about 85% of them do leave after rehabilitation. The State Veterans homes are more geared to long term care and attendance.

Hope this helps.

Jim Donahoe

Remain In Touch

June 2012

From: Dave Highlands

March 21, 2012

Subject: Bedside Matters

Joe Charette has been tentatively diagnosed with ALS.

Judy and I visited Joe and JoAnn at their home. He was in good spirits and enjoyed playing host. However, the disease has left him practically speechless. He also suffers from ALS-induced dementia and has good and bad days. Joe and I were lunch buddies at Shu Lin Kou, where we both worked in Mission Management and kept each other in good humor. Later, we were both at Keesler, where I was a MIC instructor and he a TI. JoAnn is coping pretty well, but it's hard. She could use some support. Her e-mail is :

yavo0904@tampabay.rr.com

P.S. I'm sure both she and Joe would appreciate hearing from old friends.

From: Ron Moyer

To: Newsletter

Got an e-mail from Charlotte Elzner. She said **Ty Cobb** won't be back to work on the Hill. He's been diagnosed with lung cancer

From: "**Tom Baker**" <tgretired@aol.com> May 5, 2012

Hi everyone,

My colon cancer follow-exam went well on Thursday. I go back in July for a scan and then see the doctor in early August. If all goes well, will have a colonoscopy in November. If that is okay, then I should be able to get the port out of my chest.

Take care, Tom

P.S. It has been very warm here in Pennsylvania.

FTVA CHAPTER NEWS

Heritage Chapter, San Angelo, TX
by Ronald "J J" Graham, Chapter President



On March 8 the Heritage Chapter held its quarterly social at a local Chinese restaurant. Eleven members and six guests attended. After our normal business meeting, we were joined by the staff and students of the International Officers Course instructors of the foreign officer's course at Goodfellow AFB. Members of this class represented Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Indonesia, Poland, and Japan. It's always

fun to meet with the international students, and this class was no different. All of them were very outgoing and welcomed the “war stories” told by our veteran warriors. We would normally have pictures, but we experienced a serious “camera malfunction” and, sadly, have no pictorial proof of this social gathering...you’ll just have to take my word for it!

We continued to work plans for rededicated Leftwich Hall, a dormitory on Goodfellow named in honor of TSgt Ray Leftwich. TSgt Leftwich, who was assigned to Goodfellow in 1965, killed when the EC-47 he was aboard was shot down over Vietnam in March 1967. The dormitory was originally dedicated in his honor in July 1985. With the full support of the good folks at FTVA in San Antonio, our chapter is going to place a shadow box in the main hallway that explains who TSgt Leftwich was and how he died for his country. It will contain his picture, his military awards and decorations, and a short biography. We are working out the details with base leadership and hope to have the dedication ceremony in early June. Members of TSgt Leftwich’s family will be in attendance. This display is similar to what we did in Sebers Hall in August 2009, to honor the memory of TSgt Fred Sebers, an analyst killed in Vietnam in September 1967. There are three additional buildings on Goodfellow dedicated to fallen intelligence professionals with ties to Goodfellow: Cressman Dining Facility, in honor of Sgt Peter Cressman; Melton Hall, in honor of SSgt Todd Melton; and Ryon Hall, in honor of MSgt John Ryon. Each of these servicemen was killed in action during the Vietnam conflict.

The Heritage Chapter’s ultimate goal is to enhance each building’s memorial by placing a shadow box inside each of these facilities. We feel it is important for the students at Goodfellow to know who these heroes were, what they did, and how they died for their country. We feel it will give them a much better understanding of what our jobs as intelligence professionals is all about. Our history is important, and the training starts here...what better place to introduce them to our history?

Our chapter would also like to thank the good folks at the HQ AF ISR Agency History Office for providing us posters, pictures, and artifacts that we will use in our chapter and in the intelligence training facilities here on Goodfellow. Phil Myers, Gabe Marshall, and SMSgt BJ Jones are always kind enough to invite us down to “take a look and see what you can use” and we really appreciate that!

If any of you ever find your way to our little West Texas oasis, please give us a call and we’ll be happy to give you the grand tour! Until next time, taker EZ and stay in touch!

“J. J.” Graham



Rocky Mountain Chapter, Colorado Springs, CO

<http://ftva-rockymountainchapter.com/>

February RMC Meeting Highlights

By Sharon Frizzell, Chapter Secretary

Old Business

Report on Project to sponsor Cadets going into the Intelligence Field: Bernie Gavin is still working his contacts at AFA for this and having difficulty catching up with Capt Brown who is the primary contact.

Reserved FTVA Caps. FTVA Caps previously reserved for members have been distributed and the chapter is requesting anyone going to San Antonio to bring back more.

Banner or Sign for Rhinos. Bernie has been looking at vendors and developing ideas for what will go on the banner besides the FTVA seal and our name. Please give him your ideas. Once we agree on what will go on the banner, Bernie will get it made.

Chapter Historian/Photographer. Jeff Waldeck has accepted this position and has been busy taking photos at every meeting.

New Business:

Status of Relationship with 544 ISRG and Liaison Person. Bernie is still working this. He has not received return calls, but a new commander is being installed and Bernie recommended a fresh start with the new commander.

Promoting the chapter. One idea floated was to dedicate a bench in the student quad near Harmon Hall at the Air Force Academy.

March RMC Meeting Highlights

The **March** meeting was held at the Rockyard in Castle Rock, on March 8, 2012. Members present included President Bernie Gavin, Secretary-Treasurer Sharon Frizzell, Historian-Photographer Jeff Waldeck, George Williams and his guest (whom he claims is his wife, Mary), and a new member: Yiming Tung.

Old Business

Since the discussion regarding the *Banner/Sign for Rhinos* (our headquarters) has to include the logo design, Bernie has been working on a possible logo design and came up with a prototype business card which he presented at the meeting. There was general agreement on the concept. Bernie is next going to create a banner/sign design and email it out for feedback.

Outreach Efforts: Bernie has contacted Capt Joe Brown at AFA regarding our mentoring cadets going into the intelligence career field. As of this meeting, there has been no response from Capt Brown on this subject. Bernie will continue to pursue this endeavor. There was discussion on some type of plaque in the student residence area at the Academy; however there was no one in

attendance at the meeting who could address this subject; therefore it was tabled for a later meeting.

New Business

Spring Social and Summer Picnic turned to a sort of hybrid weekend in Colorado Springs, at the AF Academy if possible, with more than one activity and folks could choose to do all or only one or two activities: an evening social, golf, and a picnic/BBQ at the family camp. Bernie is doing some preliminary checking, but ***we would really like to see someone or more than one someone step forward to take part of this on.*** Some members will haul their lodging into the family camp with them, and some of them could have an extra bed, but it may be possible for lodging for eligible members (retirees) at the Academy. Bernie will check with the Academy Lodging to get more information on this and we'll continue discussion at the April meeting.

April RMC Meeting Highlights

Old Business/Updates:

We are still attempting to work with the *544ISRG at Peterson AFB, CO*. The incoming commander (Col Scott Sheppard) will have either a change-of-command or assumption-of-command ceremony on/or about 8 June 2012.

Another ongoing project for our Chapter is sponsoring Air Force Academy cadets who are initially starting out in the intelligence career field after graduation. Greg Roman mentioned possibly taking the junior/senior cadets to the 544ISRG for an unclassified briefing on what is involved working in the intelligence career field.

Stu Skeen updated the group concerning an ongoing project of placing a bronze *plaque with the FTVA logo in the cadet area (Harmon Hall) at the Air Force Academy* commemorating USAFSS/ESC/AFIC/AIA/USAFISRA members killed in action, and how the intelligence career field has ties to the Academy. The recent crash of a U-28A aircraft in Djibouti resulted in the loss of an Academy graduate and an Airman from the 25IS along with two others. Greg Roman suggested the Sierra Nevada Corporation might be able to pick up some – if not all – costs for this plaque. New group member Dick Peterson has a contact at the Academy who may be able to assist with this project. Dick will work with Stu and Greg on moving forward with this project.

After the March meeting, George Williams was appointed as *Membership Chairman* for our Chapter. This is the only chairmanship position known to exist in an FTVA chapter. Greg Roman suggested as a goal for our group that each member recruit one new qualified member to join. Tom Nurre, a member of the FTVA Heritage Chapter, was accepted into the FTVA Rocky Mountain Chapter with dual membership with the Heritage Chapter, since he spends a large part of his life in Colorado.

New Business:

Rhino's Bar, which is co-owned by Greg Roman, is holding its third annual golf fundraiser on July 16th near Colorado Springs, CO, starting at 7:30AM. This is a charity event in support of the Wounded Warrior Project. As co-owner of *Rhino's*, Greg suggested that along with the Wounded Warrior Projects, some of the proceeds could be donated to Pets For Vets (a charity supported by Generals Clapper and O'Shaunessy), and FTVA. Greg will e-mail a copy of the fundraiser brochure to *Barnie*, who will post it out to the group.

Barnie Gavin, RMC President



Sunshine Chapter

((Please check out our website on-line at <http://www.sunshineftva.org>



by Jim Kaus, President

April 23, 2012

I know it has been a long time since we've communicated with each other. Our problem has been trying to find a date where the military members can join us for a meeting. Let's remember, their first obligation is to fight this war we're involved in, and then try to schedule a meeting of the Sunshine Chapter of FTVA.. Since we last talked, I had the opportunity to participate in the Memorial Service for Julian Scholten, a member of the 361st ISR Group, killed while serving all of us in Djibouti, Africa.

I was told there that the engineers and scientists supporting AFISRA located at Patrick AFB, FL want to join our Sunshine Chapter of FTVA. Since the ISR people at Patrick AFB, want to be affiliated with us, we set out to find a meeting date that both Hurlburt and Patrick people could attend. So, our next meeting will be May 19th, at 12:00 noon at Beef O'Brady's, 724 South Patrick Drive, Satellite Beach, Florida.

If you plan to attend, it is essential that you RSVP to me, at jim@floridajim.com, so I can compile a list of names so the gate guards will let you on base that day. You will need two forms of identification.

Jim



If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

Gold Country Chapter, Yuba City, CA

by Richard J. Sacchetti, President



Rass,

Just had a great meeting, with all members in attendance. The main topic of discussion, besides Intel stories - of course - regarded helping BAFB build a Heritage Hall/Museum - of sorts - inside

and outside the new 548th ISR HQ's Bldg at Beale AFB. The GCC/FTVA has offered to help in any way we can, so I need any advice you can give on how to go about getting assistance from the FTVA, or any of its affiliates/donors, so the 548th ISR at Beale AFB can get Historical items/memorabilia for their "brand new" Group HQ's Bldg.

The 548th ISR Group and Deputy Group Cmdr's, Col's. Patrick Flood and Suzanne Streeter are in hopes of getting an approval for a Heritage Hall in the lobby of their new Group HQ's building and a memorial for outside the building to honor those that came before them; beginning with USAFSS. I am looking for information from FTVA HQ's to assist Col Flood in obtaining grants/donations and/or memorabilia to exhibit inside and outside the new ISR HQ's building.

Has anyone there in San Antone gone through this type of process before? Can they tell me how to begin? Any and all suggestions are welcome.

As you know, Beale AFB is the home of the U-2 and the MC-12 Liberty aircraft squadrons; and the past home of the SR-71 and Global Hawks. Col Flood would also like some historical background on the "original" 548th Rikky-Tikky squadron during WWII. He is in the planning stages right now and hopes to have something completed w/in two years (if possible); because he will probably be reassigned after 2 yrs. Col Flood is a new member to FTVA, as is Col Streeter. I am in hopes FTVA can come up with some ideas to help them in their endeavor to perpetuate the history of USAFSS and its successor agencies.

Advise at your earliest. Thank you.

God Bless America and God Bless our Troops!!!!!! Remain in Touch,

SAC !

April 18, 2012

Sac - Okay amigo. I brought up the subject of a Heritage museum there at Beale at our BOD meeting last Friday. The general consensus is that we appreciate all you are doing and totally support the initiative.

Bob Cope indicated that FTVA has helped other units with similar initiatives (Goodfellow, Misawa) with some financial support (depends on level of need) and certainly can do the same for you. He remembered doing An IG team visit

with them back in late 70s at Shaw AFB IIRC and thinks they'll have to look to TAC for the original 548th history.

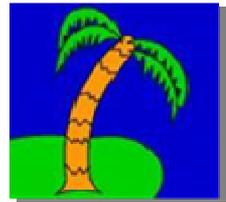
Ron Haygood recommends the unit go thru the AFISRA History Office to see if Beale/9 Wing would have U-2 memorabilia possible/available. Ron works in the AFISR HQ front office.

POCs may be reached at the AFISRA history office: [210-977-2303](tel:210-977-2303).

Hope this will be helpful in your effort to get things started there. v/r Rass

Aloha Chapter, Honolulu, HI

by John Toillion, President



Sure wish more folks could have been at our latest social. The group included Dave Domyancic and his wife Shirley, Ken and Hiroko Een, Al Teel, Ken “Hopi” Hopkins, and myself. As we chomped down yet another tasty Mongolian BBQ meal, we exchanged several old war stories of places like Kadena, Osan, Thailand, Viet Nam, Philippines, and places far and in between. Lots of laughter as well - when talking about some experiences that, while not classified, were held in strictest confidence to protect the guilty!! (Note: And in case anyone may be wondering if they might be one of those “guilty” we talked about – no – you escaped...this time anyway.)

Aloha, Tilly



Front (L-R): Hiroko Een & Shirley Domyancic
Back (L-R): Ken Een, Al Teel, Ken “Hopi” Hopkins, Dave “Dom” Domyancic, and John “Tilly” Toillion



2012 REUNION INFORMATION

Upcoming Reunions for 2012

NOTE: Let us help you get the word out. Using the form found on the FTVA web site will ensure widest dissemination of your reunion contact details.

Go to **http://www.ftva.org/FORMS/sub_reunion.php**

June 8 – 12, 2012

6985th ESS

Location: Ft. Walton Beach, FL

POC: Tim Morton Phone 321-276-1679

Web Site: <https://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/groups/62833663775/>

Jun 21 – 23, 2012

Yale Int'l Far East Language (IFEL) 15th Annual Reunion

Location: Laurel, MD

POC: Luther Deese Phone: 354-680-0317

E-mail: <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/ldeese/>

Misawa Security Hill Family Day. "To Security Hill Alumni: Security Hill welcomes you back for a Family Day on 29 Jun 12. Your immediate family members are invited to accompany you. Please provide the following information for all attendees so security checks can be performed: Name, SSN, DOB, POB, Citizenship. Info must be received by 1 May 12." For anyone who may be in the Misawa area on 29 Jun 12. Submit the info to me and I will make sure the 373 ISRG/SSO gets it. //Cecil Hahn//

Jul 19 – 22, 2012

Misawa Project 10th National Reunion*



Location: Millennium Hotel St Louis, MO (866-866-8086 for reservations)

POC: Joe Emmer E-mail: jemmer44@yahoo.com
ph 314-821-2946

or Terry Cullivan E-mail: TLCP@aol.com ph
217-364-9112

(*Note: Danny Russell will award \$100 to the first fifteen attendees who are at a Misawa Project National Reunion for the 1st time*.)

Aug 1 – 6, 2012

Metro-Tango Hahn, Germany

Location: Alf a.d. Mosel, Germany (Boemer's Moselland Hotel)

<http://www.boemershotel.de>

POC: D. Allem Shinnars E-mail: ashinners@columbus.rr.com ph 740-681-1990

Comments: See Metro-Tango alumni web page for further updates and info on special rates and rental cars etc.

Sep 13-15, 2012

6994th Security Squadron & Detachments

Location: Myrtle Beach, SC

POC: Bob Hull E-mail: shibob27@columbus.rr.com ph. 740-924-5261

Comments: See 94th website: www.6994th.com

Sep 13 – 18, 2012

6911th RGM Darmstadt, Germany

Location: Holiday inn Center, Allentown PA

POC: Pat Merritt - Email - Rich1Pat2@aol.com ph 303-985-3575

Comments - Tours: NYC, GROUND ZERO, Ellis Island Ferry/Statue of Liberty, Phili Tour, Delaware River Lunch Cruise, Bethlehem, Sands

Sep 16 – 22, 2012

6915th Hof, Germany Reunion

Location; Quality Hotel Hof, Bavaria in Germany

POC: Don Riverkamp E-mail: don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net (512-258-4894)

Website: <http://hofreunion.com/reunion.html>

Comment: This may be our last reunion in Germany, so register now.

Sep 27 – 29, 2012

ANNUAL FTVA Reunion in San Antonio, TX

POC: president@ftva.org

Information available on FTVA website: <http://www.ftva.org>

Comments: Reunion packets are mailed to the membership along with the annual Member Directory in June.

NOTE: FTVA ANNUAL REUNION PACKAGE DETAILS WILL BE SENT OUT SEPARATELY FROM THIS NEWSLETTER AND SHOULD ARRIVE IN EARLY JULY.

Sep 27 – 29, 2012

USAFSS Roll Call

Location: San Antonio, TX

POC: Jim Kaus ph 850-265-4243 E-mail: jim@floridajim.com

Comments: All USAFSS veterans welcome to join us for this event every other year in conjunction with FTVA reunion weekend. For information and registration form see <http://www.usafssrollcall.org/sanantonio2012.html>



REUNION REPORTS

Prop Wash Gang - Florida Group (FLAG) Reunion

by Ron Buteau



As expected, the Florida Group (FLAG), members of the Prop Wash Gang

(PWG) once again gathered for their annual FLAG reunion in Leesburg, Florida the first weekend in March. Hosts for this annual epic gathering were once again Dave and Shirley Bristol along with Co-Hosts Jon and Shelia Gwinn.

We had our regular attendees (right) Dave Bristol, Chuck Wilcox, Jon Gwinn, and Dave Heberling



(Left) A few of the other regulars – Morgan Eddie Smith, Ed Luna, Jon Gwinn, Bill Minor, Pat O’Neal and Dave Heberling..

The unexpected highlight of this reunion was Ron Brooks, son of Huey Brooks, who was able to join us and listen to a series of stories from people who knew his Dad. A number of the PWG's "Ditty Bops" who flew Combat and Combat Support missions with Huey were also known to be performing ground duties as "clerk typists" when not flying missions some 50-60 years ago.

Jeff Wilcher (right with Ron Brooks) was one of the oldest and key members of the PWG to have known and flown with Huey and who was more than willing to provide interesting information about Ron's Dad.



Of Special Interest: Over the past several years, FLAG has paid tribute to other family members of the PWG by honoring another Fallen Eagle, Lisa Gorby Reid, daughter of Bob "the Gorb" Gorby. Lisa showed up at a FLAG reunion with notebook and tape recorder in hand and inhaled all the information passed on to her from guys who knew her Dad. She was overwhelmed and thrilled with the event and has attended several reunions as a result. These same guys, who knew "The Gorb", provided Ron Brooks the details of what a hero his father was, which they also did with Lisa's father. Both Lisa Reid and Ron Brooks came away from these events more knowledgeable of their Dads and their heroic history. It is very rewarding when the Silent Warriors can help the children of Fallen Eagles realize how important their fathers were to the safety and freedom of our great country.



Lisa Reid, Larry Tart, Ron Witter (RIP), Eileen & Bob Byrne.



(Left) FLAG began with a few drinks in the hotel "hospitality suite" followed by dinner at the El Ranchito.

(Right) Ron Brooks, Lonnie Henderson, and Butch Moore in the Hospitality Suite



Our second day was greeted with outstanding weather as usual. We did have one bad year (2010 – cool and windy) but all the others have been great. Dave and Shirley Bristol have outstanding timing.

(Below) Dave Bristol (right) showing Ron Brooks (left) a model of the type airplane (RC-130) which his Dad flew while in Europe and the Far East. Jerry Ring is in the center. A replica of this same airplane (60528) is memorialized at the National Vigilance Park at Fort George Meade, Maryland as a tribute to the loss of 17 airmen who never returned from a mission in 1958.



(Right) A little wine tasting sponsored by Jon Gwinn which Jack Riedel quickly accepts.





We closed our reunion as usual after a very successful event with dinner at our regular Crazy Gator. The Food was great as usual as were the COMPLIMENTARY drinks provided for by an “anonymous donor” (aka Col Bob) who has done this a number of years at the FLAG events. A very grateful “thank you” to Col Bob from all of us who attended.

The FLAG Men



Back Row: Owen Lock, Chuck Wilcox, Ron Brooks, Jerry Ring, Morgan Eddy Smith, Roger Whidden, Ed Luna, Lonnie Henderson, Jack Riedel, Jack Tahtinen, Bill Miner, Jeff Buschoffer
 Middle Row: Larry Tart, Jon Gwinn, Jeff Wilcher, Jim Luther, Butch Moore, Dave Heberling
 Front Row: Ron Bateau and Dave Bristol
 Not pictured: Pat O'Neal

The FLAG Ladies



Front Row: Gaylyn Luther, Cathy Bateau, Mary Tahtinen, Sandra Gray, Betsy Wilcher, Carolyn Riedel
 Back Row: Diane Tart, Mary Ring, Mary Mopre, Phillis Ondek, Shirley Bristol, Marie Gimma, Shelia Gwinn

2nd RSM Darmstadt Reunion

Posted by: Isaac Borland

A preliminary out-take photo from the 2nd RSM Darmstadt Reunion at the Hotel Lumire, St Louis, MO Apr 23 -26, 2012. Full report will appear in September RIT.



A little grayer than last we saw these two old 2nd RSM originals who reminisced about their time together in Herzogenaurach, GE in the 50's. That's Virgil on the left and Ike Borland on the right.

(Note: Reunion reports on the Fall of Saigon Party (FOSP) 'Doggers' and PWG reunions in Bellevue, NE Apr 26 – 29, 2012 should become available for your upcoming September issue of RIT.)

Final USAF Berlin Island Assn-BIA Reunion

24-27 Sep. 2011

by Ronald R. Rader (ronaldr99@charter.net)

Berlin AF veterans of the security intercept unit stationed there, 1950-1994, attended a final reunion in "Big B" late last September. Present were those from the initial, start-up decade in the 50's as a detachment at Tempelhof and those based at the Marienfelde site dating from the early 60's. Another site at Teufelsberg followed later on. This unit, due to its location, was, of course, vital in monitoring Soviet/Russian and other East European air operations in the forward area, receiving several AF recognitions for outstanding service. It grew to number in the 100's by 1960 and continued to expand until the last few years before deactivation in 1994.



This farewell get-together was sponsored by Berlin Island Assn-BIA (reactivated for this occasion only) and led by Tom Emdy (Photo left), veteran Russian language operator who volunteered for the undertaking. Tom also was at the helm for the 2006 Berlin reunion.



Front: Carol Emdy, Sue Benjamin, Ron and Ellen Hodgen, Ronald Rader.
Sitting at the back table are: Al Smith, Berry Benjamin, Al Aldrich and Tom Emdy

(Right)
Tom Emdy and Al Smith



Meanwhile, not far from the Brandenburg Gate, the ongoing preps for German National Day under a unified, free Germany spoke clearly, loudly, and undeniably for the value of our previous work in Berlin.
(Left: Ron & Zhanna Rader with Al Smith)

A parting toast - requesting another Berlin meeting two years hence, again with Tom in charge, represented the group's full appreciation of this final event and all of the efforts involved.

It was a fitting finale - the stuff of "dreams" - past, present, and future.



HISTORY & MEMORIES



La Pagoda, Specchiolla



(Left) Posted on San Vito Site

If you were stationed in San Vito, Italy, you probably remember the La Pagoda, in Specchiolla.

(Right) Posted by Lenny Mingroni taken 1975



Chuck McFarlane: Ev & I have a lot of fond memories of the La Pagoda. Like a lot of other GIs (Moyer, Bristol, Ratliff, Adams, & others) in the 74 - 80 time frame, we camped out at Specchiolla most of the summer and commuted back and forth to work. The La Pagoda was conveniently close and, although it wasn't fancy, it was a place where you could get a decent meal and cheap wine. If memory serves me right they had a fairly large sign "Dancing 74" on the roof. Don't know why that sticks out in my memory but it does. We had our Able flight Christmas party there in '74 if I'm not mistaken.

Ken Gendolfe: If you've ever attended a going away party at La Pagoda and a Carabienieri raid broke out, raise your hand!!!! ((Soggy cigarettes are hard to light!!!)) //kg//

**TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN,
YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE,
SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.**

Last Keesler Morse Ops Class Feb 1987
(Lenny Mingroni posted this picture on the San Vito site).



Michael Bridge (Facebook)

Lenny Mingroni (74-75/C) - Apr 15, 2012 The current Air Force AFSC for those that are Morse trained is 1N2X1 - their title is Communication Signals Intelligence and according to the job description Morse training still happens. I heard the standard is 20 groups per minute, but no longer are operators required to "format" their transcript. (Remember 5 letters/numbers = 1 group?)

//Following taken from the Air Force careers website//

1N2X1 Career Tasks:

- Proficient in international Morse Code and use receiving and recording equipment.
- Find and receive signals from specific stations by selecting the proper antenna for specific frequency ranges or type of signal
- Use both manual and special electronic typewriters
- Use various types of classified reference materials to develop your ability to interpret and analyze communications so you can isolate certain information for detailed analysis and reporting
- Perform maintenance repair on expensive electronic equipment so it operates efficiently

Note: Training is currently conducted at Corry Station, Florida

Punography



**I did a theatrical performance about puns.
It was a play on words.**

My Memories of the Pueblo Incident

(Posted on Skivvy Nine Yahoo website by Steve Mobry)



Recently, I saw some references to the capture of the USS Pueblo by North Korea over 40 years ago and thought I might be able to add some more perspective to the event. Joe Betty asked me to post these recollections of the incident which occurred in January, 1968. Let me preface by stating that these memories are more than 44 years old, so some things might not be 100 percent accurate, and there are

some things, like individual Airman/NCO ranks that simply can't be recalled. I can't remember how many stripes Joe had then. I know he had plenty when he retired. Same with Bill Strickland. Their rank, and mine, was unimportant. We were USAFSS troops doing what we did. Here goes...

Several months before, in 1967, I arrived at my first flying assignment, the 6988 SS, Yokota AB, Japan. NCOIC of our Korean linguist group was TSgt Jim Hebert. He showed me a folder describing the upcoming Pueblo expedition. In it they were asking for Korean linguists from AF to volunteer for the mission. SSgt Bob Alcorn actually did volunteer. But our unit was short-handed at the time, and the Ops officer shot that down. Hebert labeled the folder "Project Suicide" and put it in his desk drawer. I left for a two-month deployment to S. Vietnam. Came back to Yokota on Jan 2, 1968. My spouse arrived from Stateside on Jan 14th. We settled into our base hootch and I was anticipating a nice peaceful 3-year tour at Yokota. "Hebe's" put me on swing shift and I was to fly 6-7 times a month as the lead TAC Korean Op. Well, as you all know, that was rudely interrupted a few days later by the KorCom's. I arrived at work the afternoon of Jan 23rd to a flurry of activity. I asked what was going on and was handed a folder. Hebert was airborne at the time of the capture.

"Hebs" was listening to much of the activity on the surface, but had no way to communicate with the ship. Or even a reasonable way to relay info to them. There were a couple of NK gunships reported by the mainstream media. The facts: there were those, plus a couple of full-blown destroyers and a submarine from the NK Navy. Plus four NKAF Mig-17's flying cover for the Navy troops. One of the gunships fired on the Pueblo with a 3" gun and killed Seaman/Fireman Duane Hodges on the Pueblo. The Pueblo was armed with only small arms and one five inch deck gun. Cmdr Bucher elected not to return fire against such overwhelming odds and initiated destruction of as much of the classified material as was humanly possible in the time they had. Nobody on the US side is totally knowledgeable on the amount that was ultimately compromised.

The Pueblo was ultimately boarded and towed into Wonsan Harbor in North Korea. The crew was imprisoned for most of 1968. But all who entered captivity were alive and in reasonably good physical condition at their release the following year.

That afternoon at Yokota I was told to go home, pack for a long TDY, and be back at Ops by 1900 hours. We departed Yokota on our way to Osan as soon as the entire crew was put together and briefed by the Ops officer. Our Airborne Mission Supervisor was SSgt Ken Hopkins. We arrived at Osan well after midnight and were met at the flight line by Ken McAlexander, Skivvy Nine First Sgt, Bill Strickland (202), and Joe Betty (Korean linguist). They found us bunks. Next morning the 6988th SS began a long ordeal of 24 hour coverage of NK with our C-130's. Each mission had four Korean linguists on board. Mission Supe's were always Chinese Linguists, ranging from E-4's to E-6's. Some of the younger guys were first termers. But IMHO they performed their duties like seasoned veterans. We received tons of transcription and reporting help from Skivvy Nine. And a handful of Korean linguists who volunteered were allowed to fly missions with us on their days off from Skivvy Nine.

Everybody at Skivvy Nine, no matter which unit they were assigned to, worked for months with minimal time off. It was a hectic time - working in huts out in the yard transcribing until exhaustion or hunger made us quit for a few hours. I look back on it with pride. We had a total of 14 Korean linguists assigned to the 6988th SS. One was grounded most of 1968 for some mysterious illness, but he pulled his weight on the ground. The remaining few, augmented by Skivvy Niner's, managed to have four guys in the air 24-7 through early April, 1969 - when we cut back to about 16 hours coverage. Then a week or so later, the NKAf shot down the Navy C-121 off the east coast and we went right back to the 24/7 coverage for a good while longer.

During that tour, and a subsequent PCS tour to Skivvy Nine, I was privileged to kill a few brain cells with Bill Strickland, Joe Betty, Dave Masson, Ron "Roundman" Myott (RIP), and literally hundreds of others at Skivvy Nine. Dave and I played more than a few dart games (he won 90 percent) in the Skivvy Nine lounge. I'm in touch with dozens of these stalwart individuals on this site, the USAFSS Roll Call site, and by my membership in the Freedom Thru Vigilance Association. My favorite activity at this stage in my life, is swapping a few "embellishments" at reunions. I usually attend two or three a year. I'm continually amazed at the numerous ways the same incident can be remembered by different participants. For instance, Dave Masson might recall having won 99 percent of our dart matches in the lounge.

Long after retiring, Hebert found me on the Internet and we re-established our good friendship. He told me he wanted to contact Lloyd "Pete" Bucher (Pueblo

Skipper, photo right) and go have a meeting with him, if Pete was willing. In early 1999, that meeting came to pass. We were invited down to Poway, CA (near San Diego) where Pete lived with his charming wife Rose. I drove from Seattle to Sacramento to meet Jim. We took his truck to San Diego and checked into a Navy BOQ at Miramar Naval Air Station, of Top Gun movie fame. We went out to Pete's place, knocked on the door, and saluted proudly when he answered the door. We were welcomed in and instantly became friends.



Jim and I had already agreed to not pull any punches. Everything and anything we could remember about that day, we told to Pete. Naturally, Jim knew much more than me. Rose discreetly left it to us three for many hours, both that day and the next. Pete regaled us with tales of their treatment. Interestingly, he said he bore no ill will to any of the NK captors, who, in his words, were "just doing their duty." He did say however, that if he ever ran into a certain KorCom Colonel, "One of us is gonna get his butt kicked." He related how this KorCom SOB used to totally enjoy torturing him and the troops.

Some of you may remember the issue of Time Magazine with the cover picture of the USS Pueblo crew taken in POW camp. Each of the Pueblo crewmembers discreetly displayed "the finger" when their group photo was taken. When confronted by the NK Army brass, Commander Bucher stated that the gesture was "the Hawaiian Good Luck Sign." Pete thought for a day or so that they had gotten away with it. But somebody finally figured it out - and the entire crew was beaten for hours over the gesture. What they were trying to signal to the world was - all was not well in the NK prison. Even tho' the NK Army brass lied to the Red Cross that the entire crew was healthy and being well cared for, and all were eating plenty of good food.

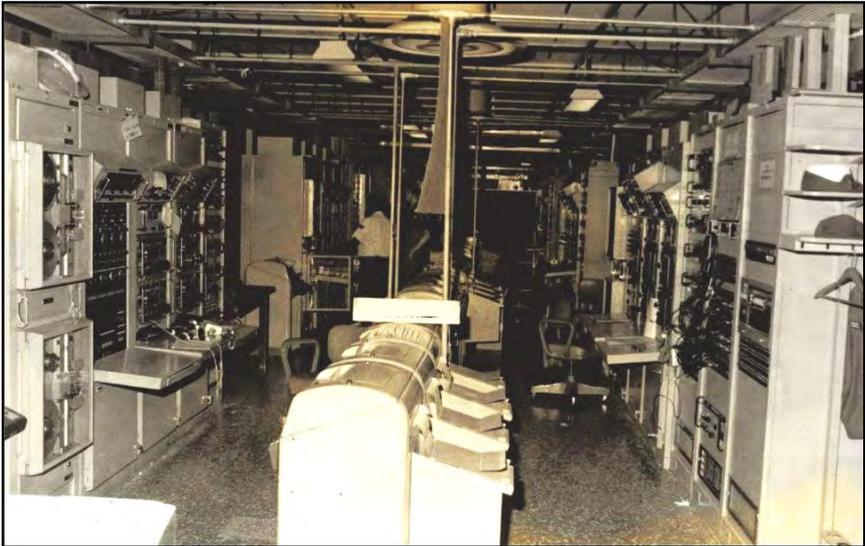
Jim and I spent two full days sitting on Pete's couches spilling our guts to him. He later told us that our visit gave him more closure than anything that had happened to him since the capture. Pete was promoted to Captain upon release (because of POW regulations). He was threatened with court martial for not firing a shot during the capture. Ultimately, the Navy assigned him some little project concerning mining of Haiphong harbor in N Vietnam while they were trying to decide what to do with him. In the end, he was allowed to retire quietly.

A side note: I think, since he held the rank of Captain less than two years, he was retired in the rank of Commander. But I'm not sure about that. In my not-so-humble opinion, Pete Bucher should have been awarded the Navy Cross for not losing a good many of his crew by resisting the overwhelming superiority of

the enemy on that January afternoon. And for bringing that entire crew home safely from captivity 11 months later. He didn't even receive the customary medal most receive at the end of military careers. He was just allowed to retire...

Jim and I admired him and Rose a great deal. He called us "Shipmates" and that's quite an honor to be bestowed on non-Navy troops. He thanked us profusely for our visit and our candor. And he invited us to an upcoming USS Pueblo reunion. Nobody other than the crewmembers had ever been invited to their reunions except for Hal Holbrook, who played Pete in the made-for-TV movie about the Pueblo. Hal did attend. Jim and I talked it over for hours, and ultimately decided to graciously decline, feeling that what bonded that crew together was an immensely personal and private thing. We would have felt like total intruders on their time together. Sadly, as of the dates of our conversations, there had been five suicides among the crew, and a total of 14 dead. Pete died a few years later, never having received his just due from the Navy. In those two days, a couple of old retired AF MSGt's gave him all we could in support of his job well done. Pete wrote a book: Pete Bucher - My Story. Excellent reading. I have an autographed copy. It's one of my most treasured possessions.

1970 San Vito TBO Positions



Kim Hagen //6917th San Vito Website// I lifted this photo from Facebook. It is reputed to be the San Vito Printer Shop c 1970. . They all look alike to me

Jim Klima: Feb 23, 2012 These are AN/GSQ-76 (TEBO) positions, folks. I can clearly see four positions, but there are probably another two in the shadows at the rear of the aisle. We did not have TEBO during my tour a San Vito (62-

64). All we had were two very simple single channel racks, an NMSDA position, and the QRC-151 behind the green curtain. I believe we had 6 ops and 1 controller in the aisle and probably another 2 or 3 behind the curtain.

The Lackland I Remember

Posted on Roll Call Site April 2012 by Jim Kaus



Patric Pucillo: Looks like the barracks I was in, circa Feb. 1961 - except we didn't have the outside stairs, to the best of my 70 year old memory....Pat

Bob Askew: Those barracks bring back many memories....those big exhaust fans at the ends took our smoke out when we got up in the middle of the night to sneak a puff or two and the smoke would get taken out the 2nd floor fans.....polished the tile floors by waxing with shoe polish and getting 2 guys to sit on a foot locker on a blanket



and several of us dragging them on the floor to buff it.....butt cans on the posts, TI's room on the end, what a trip. Lackland basic training July-Sep '57

Sorry, I don't have any memories from 1948 (born in 1949), but those barracks bring memories of what I went through in 63 and my stories are about the same as everyone else's. No outside stairs in the front, no rails on the front steps, etc. Same routine for polishing the floors, except we used Simonize for the shine. As I remember, we weren't allowed to use the butt cans either. Everyone remember the pith (watch the pronunciation) helmets?

John Bonds: Brings back memories from 1967/68. Like some others said the steps were on the inside. I was in the 3701st and we had dust an inch deep from the constructions of the new barracks on stilts right behind us. I heard that now those are coming down for even newer ones. I lived right near Donaldson AFB

in Greenville SC. The old two story barracks like that were sold. They removed the bottom story and moved the buildings to many locations. Some are even being used as homes.



Bob Askew: John, check this out. (Photo Left) On display at the Airman's Museum at Lackland, just a block or two from the Green Monster. Interestingly enough (to me only), when I returned to Lackland/Kelly as General Manager of AAFES operations in 1986, my office was in one of these old barracks, just one block over from my old basic training squadron 3704th from 1957. The only modifications done to the building was air conditioning, office partitions, carpeting, and a few OSHA or other safety items (lighted exit signs, e.g.).....It was kind of spooky going to my new office the first day. At first I thought it was the same building I did boot camp in almost 30 years earlier,

but further research revealed it was a block over but same position in the row. The old skating rink was now one of our major "Troop" store "mini-malls" across from the Green Monster.....Creepy.



Ralph McDonald: Near the end of BMT, I returned to the Green Monster to meet with a Master Sergeant named Ben Candelaria, identified by his nametag, who was a career guidance Sergeant. He explained that I had placed in the top two percent in each of the seven test categories. I was what he called a "flat liner." There were no highs or lows in my test scores; they were all in a high, narrow range. I could go to any tech school that I wanted to attend, according to the Sergeant. My immediate question was, "I'm ready. When does the next school start and when does the bus leave?" M/Sgt Candelaria looked through a binder that contained a long list of technical schools and then said to me, "You

know that the needs of the Air Force always come first. There is a high priority right now for people with language skills and I think you fit that description. How would you like to go to Monterey Bay in sunny California and learn a foreign language?" "Yes sir," I quickly replied, never thinking to ask anything about the school, especially which language and somehow assuming in the recesses of my mind that it was German. And to make it even better, the M/Sgt added, "You can go home for two weeks while the Air Force begins a Top Secret security clearance on you. That usually takes about three months. You ain't now, or ever been a communist, have you? Good!" The only part I heard was, "...go home for two weeks!"

John "Mike" Miller: At the end of the first five weeks of Basic, many from our flight departed to finish Basic at Chanute, Shepard and a couple other bases where they combined basic with the Tech School you were going too. The remainders were combined with two or three other flights to make up one flight. A short time later, we marched down to the Green Monster. I sat down and said I wanted to go the Aircraft Crash and Rescue course and become a firefighter. The SSgt looked at me, looked at my scores, opened his big binder and said you are going to RIA. What is RIA I asked. He said Radio Intercept Analysis, and that is all I know about it As we left the Green Monster and formed up out back, everyone asked each other, what did you get?? I got RIA I said, so did I, so did I, so did I, almost every said. A few got language school, but easily half our flight was going to RIA. And most of us stuck together through the first nine weeks of 202 school at Kelly, and then up to Goodfellow to finish off the other 16 or 17 weeks of school. Ten of us from our flight in basic ended up going to Misawa. Looking back, it's strange how they cut us out of the herd in Basic and put us altogether. Out of our second phase Basic flight, all but four or five went to 202 school or to language school.....

San Miguel

Posted by Win Taylor

Don't think I ever had one of these in a place that looked this clean. Don't think I ever had one of these anywhere -- it was always many more than one. Nothing better than a cold "San Magoo" during Roll Call in Angeles City after the last Mid.



Keesler class 13121A

Posted by Red" Barthel (Darmstadt)



I am posting this for James Olson. Jim served in the 6910th RGM Darmstadt Germany--Aug 62 to Jun 64 Then 6937th Peshawar Pakistan Jul 64 to Oct 65

Jay Johnson: Red, it always amazes me that I never recognize anyone from these classes, and they were only two months behind my class. You would think you would have crossed paths with some of them somewhere. Randy Kuny went to the 6910th from our class, I wonder if he knows James Olson ?

Vanished forever: Ernst Ludwig Kaserne Darmstadt Germany

Posted by Carroll Sickles on Roll Call



1950 photo of the original home of the 2nd Radio Squadron Mobile in Darmstadt Germany. Picture taken from the upper floor of the 2RSM Bldg. None of these buildings are standing today. Nothing of the Ernst Ludwig Kaserne is left but the memories.



“Here Lies A Silent Warrior”

Posted & Viewed by Many



A moving tribute to our “Silent Warriors” is available in a video presentation of this poem written by Bob Armistead which helps put the USAFSS Silent Warriors in perspective.

If you haven't seen Bob's presentation before, please go to:

<http://youtu.be/Mtk4tLX6Ygk>

or

<https://mail.google.com/mail/?shva=1#inbox/136f9340c055e607>

HERE LIES A SILENT WARRIOR

by Bob Armistead (2009)

We served in silence, never breathing a word
Of the things we'd seen, or that which we'd heard.
We worked by a code that few have ever known,
And we served in countries that were far from home.

We left all our friends and families behind
To perform the work to which we were assigned
We manned our positions – every hour of every day.
Our work never stopped, and we never did sway.

We did all that was asked and we did it with pride;
We stood shoulder to shoulder and worked side by side.
If I'm ever asked, “Would you do it again?”
I'd just smile and say, “How soon can I begin?”

The time which I've served, I'll never regret,
And the men whom I've known, I'll never forget.
Now time has passed and our hair has turned gray,
and our ranks are thinning with each passing day.

So when my bell tolls for the final time,
And the echoes fade from the very last chime,
And my eyes are closed and I've been laid to rest,
Just be assured that I've served with the best.

Please drape my coffin with the American Flag
And on top of my casket lay out my dog tag.
With my dog tag as my I.D. and the Flag as my shroud,
I'll go to my grave...an American...and still proud!

I'll trek to that place to join all the others,
My comrades in arms: My sisters, my brothers.
I'll be with my friends who have gone on before
And are waiting for me beyond Death's door

So, when I'm gone, shed no tears for me,
For I've died as I've lived – an American and Free
And once I've traveled to my eternal home,
Just carve the following on my gravestone:

“HERE LIES A SILENT WARRIOR”

Attention: Vietnam Veterans

On Memorial Day, May 28, 2012, the Department of Defense hosted the National Announcement and Proclamation Ceremony for the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The event was held at the Vietnam War Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. (The Wall) to thank and honor those who served in the Vietnam War. This is the first of many celebrations over the next few years to be held to honor Vietnam Veterans.



U-28A Crash in Djibuouti on 17 Feb 2012

SrA Julian Scholten (25th Intel Squadron) perished during a U-28 accident in Africa Feb 28th. This is the third Airman from 25th Intel Squadron to perish in the line of duty.

Figueroa, Joseph A CMSgt USAF ACC/AFISRA



SrA Julian Seiji Scholten, 26, of Navarre, Fla., passed away Feb. 18, 2012, while serving his country near Djibouti, Africa. Julian was born at Misawa Air Base in northern Japan to Gaylon Scholten and Yumiko Southard on Oct. 17, 1985. He grew up in Japan, California, Germany, Colorado and Maryland. Julian attended Frederick Douglass High School in Upper Marlboro, Md., where he enjoyed playing football and met his wife,

Diamond. Julian entered the U.S. Air Force in 2007. After basic military training, Julian was assigned to various training assignments, including the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., and Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, Texas. Julian was assigned to the 25th Intelligence Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla. Julian had completed three combat deployments and accumulated more than 900 combat flight hours as an Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Operator. Survivors include his beloved wife, Diamond; his loving mother, Miko; his stepfather, Leon Southard; his father, Gaylon.//**Obit**//



Four memorials with large portraits of the men were displayed. Commanders of each of the airmen's squadrons shared their stories. Also in attendance was AFISR Agency Commander Maj Gen Bob Otto. The FTVA Sunshine Chapter president Jim

Kaus led a contingent representing FTVA at the ceremony.



.(Left) Julian's helmet, vest, boots
gun, gloves and dog tags



(L-R). Howard Bunton, Jim Kaus, Bobby J.
Cook and Mike Miller among the FTVA
members attending the Memorial service.

Attending The Hurlburt Memorial Service

By Larry Tart

Diane and I attended the memorial service at Hurlburt Field yesterday for our four Silent Warrior brothers who perished in the crash of the U-28A ISR aircraft in Djibouti on 17 February. The services were well attended (reportedly 2,000 plus attendees), and there were quite a few tears shed. The 25th Intel Squadron CEM (Chief Enlisted Manager--used to be Ops Supe or Sr Enlisted Advisor) CMsgt. Ed Golombeski told me that the squadrons young troops were taking the situation exceedingly hard--more so that the seasoned NCO's. Everyone was looking sharp (Class A Blues vs. normal BDU dress or flight suits) and the mood was solemn and sad, but IMO, the leadership is doing a great job in keeping the morale in good standing. The squadron held an open house for family members after the services.

Adding to the local downbeat mood, two of the four Americans killed in the riots in Afghanistan during the past week had local ties--a Special Ops Lt Col from Hurlburt and an Army MP, whose hometown is Niceville (just across the bay from Destin/Ft Walton Beach.

Ending with a more upbeat tone, our PWG Comanche brave (Lonnie Henderson) stayed overnight with Diane and I in Destin last night and hit the road this morning about daybreak--heading East. After some more visiting en route, he will be joining us at the PWG FLAG in Leesburg on Friday.

In the wind-down weeks of our snow-birding stay on the Emerald Coast.

Larry Tart



FALLEN EAGLES



Having learned of the following losses from caring relatives, friends or obituaries, we offer prayers and sympathy to their loved ones. *“It is the soldier above all others who prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.” ~ Douglas MacArthur.*
Compiled by: Wayne Tallant, Associate Editor

- Abbey, Dennis L., USAFSS-Vet.
- Acklin, Darlene Marolyn, Spouse of Forest E. Acklin-USAF-Ret. (Deceased)
- Adams, Butch, USAFSS-Vet. (Correction from March issue entry)
- Barrus, (nee Hoffman) Belva, USAFSS-Vet.
- Bennett, Gerard “Gerry” Joseph, USAFSS-Vet.
- Brown, Margaret Sorola, USAFSS-Civ-Ret.
- Cornman, James David, USAFSS-Vet.
- Crowley, James, A1C-USAF-Vet.
- Dambach Jr., Lester, USAFSS-Vet.
- Daniel, Samuel Edward, SSgt-USAFSS-Vet.
- Decker, George Harry, USAFSS-Vet.
- Denton, Frederick Garland, A2C-USAFSS-Vet.
- Dufour, Jean, Spouse of SMSgt James E. Dufour-USAF-Ret. (Deceased)
- Egger, Roger D., Maj-USAF-Ret.
- Engler, Gary, Maj-USAF-Ret.
- Firmin, Wade, E., Lt Col-USAF-Ret.
- Fisher, Titus Dewitt, USAFSS-Vet.
- Ginty, Francis “Frank” T., USAFSS-Vet.
- Grant, John Fishback, Col-USAF-Ret.
- Hake, Perry G., SSgt-USAFSS-Vet.
- Harold, Heath G. TSgt-AIA-Vet.
- Hester, Bill G., SMSgt-USAF-Ret.
- Hill, Philip D., TSgt-USAF-Ret.
- Kelly, Michael, USAFSS-Vet.
- McCarthy, Daniel P., CMSgt-USAF-Ret.
- McCoy, Timothy Alfred, USAFSS-Civ-Ret.
- McNeal, Henry E., A2C-USAF-Vet.
- Moellendick, John Emerson, USAFSS-Vet.
- Moore, Evelyn, Spouse of TSgt Nathaniel “Nate” Moore-USAF-Ret. (Deceased)
- Moralez, Carmillo “Mo”, USAFSS-Vet.
- Morss, Marvin “Bud” Neil, Col-USAF-Ret.

- Murnin, John Joseph, Lt Col-USAF-Ret. **Mbr.**
- Nagle Jr., Michael John, CMSgt-USAF-Ret.
- Purdum, Robert William, USAFSS-Vet.
- Saunders, Janice R., Spouse of John G. Saunders, CMSgt-USAF-Ret. (RIP)
- Scholten, Julian Seiji, SrA-AFISRA (See Special Editorial)
- Sedam, James "Jim" Harry, TSgt-USAF-Ret.
- Smith, Roger L., SMSgt-USAF-Ret.
- Steele, Neil, CMSgt-USAF-Ret.
- Trojan, Paul, MSgt-USAF-Ret.
- Turinsky, George, Maj-USAF-Vet. **Life Mbr.**
- Washington, Ed., USAFSS-Vet.
- Welty, Ray J., Maj-USAF-Ret.
- Worthey, Donald Joseph, USAFSS-Vet.



Dennis L. Abbey, 71, died February 24, 2012. He was born on January 18, 1941. Mr. Abbey served his country in the United States Air Force, where he did a tour in Japan, Vietnam, Turkey, and again in Japan. He retired after 20 years of service. Dennis had a passion and love for sports, especially football on both the college and especially high school level. He is survived by his wife, Susie. **//Complete Obit in San Antonio Express News 02-26-12//** **//Submitted by Dave Shepard//**



Darlene Marolyn (Laible) Acklin, 74, was born on August 13, 1937 in Zap, North Dakota. She passed away March 25, 2012 at home surrounded by her family. She is preceded by her husband SMSgt Forest Eugene "Gene" Acklin. Gene who was the Personnel NCO on Crete, at Yokota, Goodfellow, Offutt, and Berlin. He retired in the early 70's. **//Complete Obituary at www.eternal-memories.com//** **//Input and Notification – Jack V. Brewer//**



Belva Hoffman Barrus, 62, of Clear Spring, Md., passed away Thursday, July 7, 2011, at her home. She was born Sept. 25, 1949, in Ft. Pierce, Fla. She served in the USAF for 4 years and worked in the Comm. Center while at Misawa AB, Japan in the mid 70's. She married Grant W. Barrus who passed away in 1993. **//Complete Obituary at Florida.newszap.com//** **//Input and Notification – Helen Henderson, Misawa Web Site//**



Gerard "Gerry" Joseph Bennett, 81, died 2012. He was born in Corona, New York on May 27, 1930. Gerry served in the US Navy reserves at Floyd Bennett Naval Air Station (1950-1951), and upon separation from the USNR, enlisted in the USAF where he served in USAFSS 1951-1955. He is survived by his wife, Mary Alice. He is also survived by his former wife and mother of his children, Barbara Peters.

//Complete obit in San Antonio Express News 01-30-2012//



Margarett Sorola Brown, age 70, of Boerne, Texas passed away March 19 in San Antonio, TX, after courageously fighting a 4-year battle with ovarian cancer. She was born January 29, 1942 in San Antonio, Texas. She graduated from Burbank High in 1959 and from Our Lady of the Lake University in 1963. **//Complete Obituary in the San Antonio Express News 03-25-12// //Input and Notification from Jim**

Youngson//

I worked with Margarett at HQ USAFSS/ESC in the 60s. We believe that she worked there from 1964 until 1984. She was a computer programmer/analyst in Data Automation. She met & married her husband, Loren Brown, while working there. He was an enlisted man in our office. Unfortunately, like so many others, they didn't say ANYTHING about her 20 years of Federal service. This is another example of why you can't count on obits to tell you about a person.

//Jim Youngson//



James David Cornman, 74, passed away February 3, 2012 due to heart failure. James was born November 18, 1937 in Adrian, Pennsylvania. He worked as an Avionics Technician and was retired from the US Air Force. Mr. Cornman was a member of Southland Masonic Lodge #256, life member of American Legion Post #4, life member of [VFW](#) Post #8002,

past Commander of VFW Post #2297, past VFW District Commander, life member of Military Order of Cooties, life member Am Vets, member of the Moose, and member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles. James is preceded in death by his wife, Judy. A. Cornman. Internment is in Florida National Cemetery. **//Complete obituary at [TheLedger.com](#)// //Input and notification by Delano Jolly//**

Hi you guys - It is with great sorrow that I send this email. I received this email from Johnnie today and wanted to make sure that all who knew **Jim Cornman** were aware of his passing, a dear friend and life member of the Airborne Maintenance Technicians Association (AMTA). **//Delano Jolly//**



AIC James C. Crowley, age 67, died July 19, 2011 in Paradise, CA following a courageous battle with brain cancer. He was born December 16, 1943, in Oakland, CA. Jim served 3 years in the USAF and was stationed at Misawa AB, Japan in 1964. Jim is survived by his devoted wife Gail. **//Published in Paradise Post 07-27-2011. Input by Helen Henderson –**

Misawa Web Site//



Lester Dambach Jr., 79, died 2 Feb. 2012 at Lancaster General Hospital in Columbia, Pa. after a month-long illness. Les was born in Columbia on August 14, 1932. His first wife, Ilse Ebenrecht Dambach, died in 1978, and his second wife, Shirley Groom Dambach, died in 2005. Les was on "dog trick" at the 6911th. He served for 22 years in the military, the first 4 in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and the remaining 18 in the U.S. Air Force as a radio operator & communications specialist during the Vietnam War. Les will be missed by many! Our 6911th Reunion is being held in Pennsylvania in Sept. 2012 at Les' request. We will celebrate Les at our Sept. reunion. **//Complete obituary at lancasteronline.com/obituaries// //Input and notification by Pat Merrill//**



SSgt Samuel Edward Daniel, 79, died in Tulsa Oklahoma on April 20, 2012. Sam was a Morse Intercept Operator with me in 1952-1953 in Naknek, Alaska stationed with the 3rd RSM. He is survived by wife Betty and three sons. Sam has kept our small group in contact with each other over the years and published a newsletter to each one of us every Christmas and planned all our reunions for the Naknek group. He certainly is due much praise for what he has done for our little group over the years. He is the third member of our group to pass away since our last reunion in August of 2011. He served in the Air Force from 1952-1956. Sam was our barber and learned to cut hair on us at Naknek. He died from complications of Parkinson disease. **//No obituary available// //Input and notification by Chuck Etheridge//**



George Harry Decker, 73, died Feb. 3, 2012, at home. He was born in Shenandoah, Pa., and moved to Port St. Lucie in 1999, coming from Langhorne, Pa. He served in the Air Force at Misawa, Japan, from 1956 to 1960. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Angela. **//Complete obit published in Philadelphia**

Inquirer and Daily News// //Input from Bob Wynn and Helen Henderson of the Misawa Web Site//



A2C Frederick Garland Denton, 77, died May 4, 2011 in Sterling, VA. He was born 9 Mar 1934 in San Jose CA and was raised in the small town of Niles He joined the Air Force after high school and graduated from the Defense Language School at Monterrey, majoring in Russian. He served for several years as a

translator of Russian air communications at a base in Hokkaido, Japan (Misawa AB - 1956). He joined the CIA in 1961 as an economist, mainly working Soviet defense and economic issues. He is survived by his two daughters.**//Complete obit in The Washington Post 05-07-2011 – Input by Helen Henderson, Misawa Web Site//**



Jean Defour, 73, passed away April 9, 2012. She was born in Shefford, Bedfordshire, England on February 1, 1939. She met and married James E. Dufour in 1959 who was stationed with USAF at Chicksands, England. In 1961 they moved to Texas and had two daughters. After several overseas tours to include Germany, Taiwan, and Greece they retired to San Antonio, Texas after 25 years of military life. Jean was

preceded in death by her beloved husband of 43 years, Jim. Jim was an S&W Supervisor on Dawg Flight in Crete. **//Complete obit in San Antonio Express News 04-11-2012// //Input and notification by Dave Naab//**



Major Roger D. Egger, 89, died September 28, 2011 in San Antonio, TX.. He was born on October 21, 1921 in Cleveland, Ohio. He also was a life member of Post 2, American Legion 8541, VFW, TROA, ROA, DAV, and a member of NARFE and 461st Bomb Group. He served his country for more than 43 years as a military and civilian member of the USAF. He flew 50 combat missions in WWII, three of which were over

the Polesti Oil Fields. Roger started his USAFSS career at Brooks AFB,

followed by assignments at Kirknewton, Scotland, Goodfellow, HQ USAFSS, ESR, Ramstein Germany, HQ USAFSS again, Misawa Japan, Ramstein again (this was HQ USAFE), then back to HQ USAFSS, where he retired as Director of Accounting & Finance. Mr. Egger is survived by his wife Elanor Bell of Edinburgh, Scotland. Another member of the greatest generation has now joined his fellow comrades. **//Complete obituary in San Antonio Express News, 30 Sept 2011// //Input from Jim Youngson//**



I have just been informed by Dusty Mosier that **Gary Engler**, our commander while we were at Ramasun Station, Udorn Thailand, passed away on June 2, 2011. Gary was a Captain at the time and was the best commander I had while I was in the Air Force. Dusty told me that Gary had worked his way up the ranks and always took care of his troops. With Vince Wuwert passing away a few months ago and now Gary, the Ramasun people have lost two of their finest. RIP Gary and Vinny **//Dave Minnery – Roll Call//**

Wayne, Dave Criss (who we discussed earlier) was good friends with Captain Engler (believe he was a Major when Discharged). He was my CO in 1968 while assigned to 6922nd, Det 4 Ramasun Station, Thailand. Anyone you speak to that knew him spoke highly of him. He was a "troops" commander. He did all he could to boost morale and make sure his troops were treated as men. I know he lived in Hawaii for many years after retiring from the AF. In the past few years of his life he moved to San Antonio and that is where he passed. We were surprised there were not more entries in the Roll Call concerning his passing. He was a top drawer commander for the "Troops". He was a special guy **//Jim Scogins, USAFSS 1966-1969 (6981st and 6922nd, Det 4)//**

Dave, thanks for posting this. 2nd Lt Gary Engler was the CO at Danang most of the time that I was stationed there from July 1963 to July 1964. By chance, Gary was the first person at Danang that I met when I arrived on a Saturday afternoon. When I told him who I was, he put a cold San Miguel in one hand, shook my other hand and said welcome to Danang. I learned later that he was our CO. Gary was promoted to 1st Lt during this year at Danang. He tried to make our year at Danang a good one and I have absolutely no complaints about working for him. I ran into Gary at Goodfellow AFB the day he was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery he displayed at Bien Hoa AB. Captain Gary Engler was our CO while we were in the Philippines on deployment from the 6948 SSM at Bagio during the summer of 1967. Major Gary Engler made a final appearance in my life in May 1970 as I was leaving the JSPC in Okinawa and the Air Force. Gary was a graduate of Stanford University and liked playing a honky-tonk piano while he worked on a martini. He played a large role in my Air Force career and I do appreciate his efforts. **//Calvin Skidmore//**

Calvin, I believe he was OPS OIC when we were assigned to 6948th. SMSgt Mundell was OPS NCOIC at the same time. Capt. Hank Stringer was 6948th CO. As I recall, Capt. Engler was an excellent officer. RIP **//Bob Willis//**

Bob, I think you are correct about this. Gary Engler was assigned to the 6948th when he left Danang in 1964. While he was in the 48th he was sent to Bien Hoa AB on TDY and was CO of that unit for several months. During this time the VC attacked with mortars and whatever they could get their hands on and Gary put himself at risk to get to a telephone and called in air strikes to end it. He was awarded the bronze star several months later at Goodfellow AB. I asked him about it later and he told me he was the only one with enough martinis in him to make the run. He was always downplaying the many good things he did. **//Calvin Skidmore//**

For Bob & Calvin...same as I remember Capt Engler in the 48th. That was my only assignment/contact with him. RIP Gary. **//Tom Nurre//**
//Note: No obituary was located//



Lt Col Wade E. Firmin, 77, passed away on Saturday, April 14, 2012 in San Antonio. He was born in Plaquemine, LA on August 10, 1934. Wade was a member of the Association of Old Crows and was a Viet Nam Veteran, having flown over a hundred missions as an Electronic Warfare Officer and was Deputy Commander of the Air Force Electronic Warfare Center (AFEWC). He was preceded in death by, his wife of 52 years, Nellie M. Firmin. Wade is survived by his three children and their families. **//Complete obituary in San Antonio Express News April 17, 2012. //Notified by Dave Naab with input from Doug Holden and Craig Johnson //**



Titus Dewitt Fisher, 78, died 24 Jan 2011 in Spring Valley, San Diego CO. CA. He was born 22 Nov 1932 in Ohio. Titus was a 293X0, Ground Radio Operator, stationed at Misawa AB, Japan in the mid 50's **//No obit available – Input by Helen Henderson – Misawa Web Site//**



Francis T. "Frank" Ginty, 68, of Riverview, died at Health Alliance Kingston Hospital campus, March 28, 2012. He was born in Bronx, New York August 19 1943. A veteran of The United States Air Force, Mr. Ginty proudly served his country during the Viet Nam War. Expressions of sympathy may be made in the form of contributions to the Wounded Warriors Project. Surviving are two sons, John D. Ginty of Hurley, New York, and Brian C. Ginty, of Highland, New York. **//Complete obituary in the Daily Freeman, 29 Mar 2012. // //Input – Don Ingle//**



Col John Fishback Grant, 84, died April 14, 2012 in Austin, Texas. He was born in Gonzales, Texas on January 31, 1927. He attended public schools on Gonzales; Wentworth Military Academy; and was graduated from the University of Texas. He entered military service, and was retired from the USAF in 1979. Among many decorations, he received the Legion of Merit in 1973. He spent his entire career in the field of Electronic Warfare and Reconnaissance. He served from many bases in the United States, Europe and the Far East. Col Grant spent many years as a EWO and in USAFSS in the Air Force Electronic Warfare Center and at Misawa. His final assignment was at NSA working on the staff of Admiral Inman in the late 70's. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Betty. **//Complete obituary at coxnewsweb.com/ //Input and notification by Bruce Holliman//**



SSgt Perry G. Hake, 78, of Lancaster, NY, died of mesothelioma after about a six month battle March 14, 2012. He is survived by his wife Rita and eight children. Perry served in the USAFSS at Naknek, Alaska (3rd RSM) in 1953 and 1954. He was in Radio Maintenance. His years of service were 1952-1956. I was stationed with him in Alaska. **//Complete obituary in the Buffalo News, 16 Mar 2012. //Input and notification by Chuck Etheridge. //**



TSgt Heath G. Harrold, 41, passed away 1 March 2012. He was born 4 Sept 1970. He is survived by wife Patricia; and children, Gerrit and Corinne. Memorials suggested to the Heath Harrold Memorial Fund c/o 1st National Bank: for the Harrold children's future educational needs. **//Complete obituary in Omaha World-Herald March 5-7, 2012. //**

Lee, this is an unforeseen tragedy. I cannot express what I am feeling right now. As you say, Heath was a great Linguist, an excellent Beaner, and no doubt a great man overall. Please pass on to his wife Patricia through Mike and Carlton that we, Heath's familia, stand ready to provide any support and assistance necessary. **//Espy//**

Received this information from Mike Pickette, who's very close to the Harrold family and is currently assisting Trish. Mike asked that I post it to the Opscomm. I also spoke with Carlton Knight, who's with Trish and the kids. Heath had several health issues during the past few months, compounded by severe migraines. As Carlton said, Trish wants him remembered as a "great guy"

- which he definitely was. I remember him as a damn good Beaner (recipient of "Young Gun" award), a friend, and a real overachiever evidenced by his accomplishments at Bellevue University and the Language Learning Center. He was the Chief of the Language Learning Lab at Offutt. I've had many calls and e-mails, all of which express shock and extreme sadness. Heath had a far-reaching effect throughout our community, and the "familia" suffered a real loss today. I hope all of us pitch in to assist his family in whatever capacity possible over the next few weeks. I'm very thankful for what Mike and Carlton are already doing on their behalf. //Lee Anthony//



SMSgt. Bill G. Hester, 82, was born September 22, 1929 in Bloomfield, Missouri and entered eternal rest January 28, 2012. He served in the USAF for 22 years, during which time he saw duty in the Middle East and the Far East. He is survived by his wife, Carol. //Complete obit in San Antonio Express News 01-30-2012//



TSgt. Philip D. Hill, 70, passed away April 16, 2012. He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Nancy; and nine children. Retired after 20 years of service to his country, he is best remembered as a loveable "grumpy old man", for his "tall tales", his unique sense of humor and being an avid Browns and Indians fan. His favorite saying was "Don't sweat the small stuff." A military service was held with the USAF Honor Guard and Firestone [VFW](#) Post 3383. //Complete obituary in Akron Beacon Journal - April 18, 2012.// //Notification by John Grant//



Michael Kelly died January 24, 2012. Luther, I wanted to let you know that Michael passed away. He had suffered from Parkinson's for some time and unfortunately developed an inability to swallow and dementia which eventually led to a week in the hospital and a week in hospice. The main consolation is that he is no longer suffering. It was difficult for someone of his capabilities to deal with such an illness. We were not really in touch with persons he worked with in the past. Please feel free to let others know of his death if you are in touch with any that knew him. Michael did enjoy the communications from you and especially enjoyed the Taiwan video. //Barbara Kelly to Luther Deese// //Notification - Bob Cope//

I am deeply saddened to have to pass along the information below I just received from Mike's wife, Barbara. Mike was possessed of one of the keenest minds I've ever had the pleasure of encountering. He gained Mensa Association status very early and is the only fellow I ever knew who could read and memorize entire books in his 2nd language. I first met Mike in late 1962 when he transferred to Shu Linkou Air Station, Taiwan from Brady Air Force Base, Japan. Mike had been through the 12 month elongated Basic Chinese course at Yale University's Institute of Far Eastern Languages under the auspices of US Air Force Security Service Command. And, if memory serves, Mike finished his tour of duty in the Air Force and afterwards completed his degree in Chinese (I think it was at the University of Ohio). He entered on duty with the National Security Agency in the mid-1960s and continued to serve his country through a long and most outstanding career there, retiring as one of the very first to be promoted to Technical Track Super Grade as a Senior Level Expert in his career specialty. Mike's contributions to the security of the USA will most likely never be known to the public at large but those of us who knew him and had the privilege of working with him will long remember and I firmly believe that it would be altogether fitting and proper for his name to be added to the distinguished list in the National Cryptologic Museum's 'Hall of Honor'.//**Luther Deese//**



CMSgt Daniel P. McCarthy born in Elmira, New York passed away on March 21, 2012. Dan was a devoted husband to his wife Sandy of 54 years. He proudly retired after serving 26 and one half years in the United States Air Force. While serving he earned numerous medals including Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters. Joint Service Commendation medal; AF Good Conduct medal with one silver oak leaf and Army Good Conduct medal with two bronze loops. Dan was also a dedicated and beloved member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles #70. //Complete obituary in the San Antonio Express News March 25, 2012//

Timothy Alfred McCoy, 72, passed away on November 2, 2011. He was born on September 29, 1939 in Hazelton, PA. He graduated from Central Dauphin High School in 1957. He enlisted in the Air Force and served from 1958 - 1994. He worked for USAF Intelligence as a computer analyst. He was preceded in death by wife, Nona McCoy. Porch swing wisdoms, crisp five dollar bills placed under grandchildren's pillows, his distinctive "Hey Der!" greeting, and his wonderful personality are just some of



the fond memories shared by family and friends. I believe that Tim's service was solely with the Comm-Computer directorate. //Complete obituary published in San Antonio Express News Nov 6, 2011. //Input and notification by James Gonzales and Jim Youngson.//



A2C Henry E. McNeal, 71, died 16 Jan 2011 in Henderson, Clark Co., Nevada. He was born 4 June 1939 in Missouri. Henry was stationed at Misawa in the early 60's. // **No obit available – Input by Helen Henderson, Misawa Web Site//**



John Emerson Moellendick, 78, of New Martinsville, WV, died Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at OVMC, Wheeling, WV. He was born May 20, 1933 in Sistersville, WV. John was a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Iris Kay Schied Moellendick; and three children. The Sistersville VFW combined Honor Guard conducted military graveside services. John was a CW Intercept Operator stationed at Chicksands, England in the early 50's. He was a member of the FTVA at one time. // **Complete obituary in Intelligencer Wheeling News Register – March 30, 2012// //Input and notification by Bill Witschey//**



Evelyn Moore, 77, of Bellevue, NE. retired teacher: Bryan Jr. High School died Mar 1 2012. She was born Feb 7, 1935. She was the widow of TSgt Nathaniel (Nate) Moore retired USAFSS/ESC. Evelyn was active in various religious education programs at Offutt AFB. She is survived by her daughter, Evelyn Mosley. // **Complete obituary in Omaha World-Herald March 3-5 2012.// //Input and notification by Pete Ogaard//**



For those of you not on Facebook, I apologize for not getting the word out on the group's page. Thanks for the heads-up, Tom. Our friend, fellow air crewmember and Dogger **SSgt Camillo "Mo" Moralez**, 64, passed away March 19th in Salt Lake City, Utah. For those of you who never had the pleasure to meet Mo, he was without a doubt the most happy-go-lucky person I ever met. The war stories are endless and legend about his exploits as a member of Charlie flight at the 6990th under the tutelage of CMSgt "Kaiser Bill" Wetterer and at the Det. at Cam Ranh. Last year's FOSP in San Angelo was the first for Mo, where he was able to get together for the first time in forty years with some on his dearest friends like Steve Wempe and John Nicolai. As I understand it, Mo was in Salt Lake City being evaluated for a heart condition when he suffered a fatal heart attack. Mo's daughter Suzy sent out the following note on Facebook: "Hello all of Mo's friends. We need monetary help. We are taking donations for

Dad's funeral period. We need \$2000 to get him buried. Please if you can help, contact Mom at 806-441-8848. Thank you." If you would like to send a note of condolence or a donation to Mo's wife Marti, her address is Mrs. Martina Moralez, 4921 10th Street, Lubbock, TX 79416. //Input from Larry Miller//



Col Marvin "Bud" Neil Morss, 88, of Tidewater, Ore., and Imperial Beach, Calif., died April 16, 2012 in Imperial Beach. He was born Jan. 6, 1924. Originally from Corvallis, he graduated from Corvallis High School. He and his family traveled the world from Europe to the Far East, with the U.S. Air Force. He earned a B.A. degree at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a master's of education at the University of San Francisco. Bud and his beloved Rose

continued the tradition of travel in a motor coach going from Alaska to Florida renewing friendships and making new ones. It was said that he never met a stranger. A true American hero, he stood freedom's wall for 33 years, through World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Bud was the first Commander of SAC's 82 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, the front-enders for COMBAT APPLE and the 6990th at Kadena AB, Okinawa. He was also the SAC Task Force Commander for several SAC/USAFSS/AFTAC operations flown out of Hickam AFB, HI, in the late 1960s and early 1970s. RIP, old friend! //Complete obituary at newportnewstimes.com/ //Notification and Input by Bob Cope//

It is with great sadness that we write today to tell you of the passing of a great man, our father, Bud Morss. He died quietly on Monday, April 16th 2012, after 88 healthy and happy years. We apologize for sending this notice via email, but we felt it was the fastest way for us to inform the most people. We may not know many of you, but we know you share in our profound sadness, but also the great fortune to say that we knew one of the 'Greatest Generation's, greatest men. Though he will be sorely missed by all of us, we are comforted to know that he has now flown home to be with his one true love, our mother, Rose Marie who passed away 24 March. Respectfully, Katey, Zanna, Mary Jane, and Robin.//

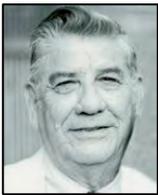


Lt Col John Joseph Murnin, 82, died of pancreatic cancer 16 Dec 2011. He was born in Moberly, Missouri in 1929 and raised in Mexico, Missouri. A military scholarship to St. Louis University started an Air Force career that took him and his family on assignments in Germany, Korea, England, Ohio, Maryland, Washington D.C., Illinois and Texas. John was reassigned from Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, to Bremerhaven in December 1955. He held the position of COMINT Officer in the T/E Section,

beginning on 19 Jan 56. On 2 July 56 he was assigned as Asst Flight Commander on Dog Flight. Probably in early January 1957 he replaced Capt Kent Robbins as Flight Commander, "D" Flight. He and Winnifred rotated in September/October 1958. John and Winnifred were divorced in 1975. He and Darlene Clements were married in 1980. In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to a charity of your choice. **//Complete obit published in San Antonio Express News 24 Dec 2011. Input from his wife Darlene and friend Arlen Trapp.//**



CMSgt Michael John Nagle, Jr., 80, died March 9th 2012. "John", as he was known to his family and friends was born March 31st 1931 in Long Island City, Queens New York. He entered the USAF at age 18 and enjoyed a distinguished 25 year career. He earned four medals of commendation and a Meritorious Service Medal for superior analytical and leadership abilities. His job as an intelligence analyst required extensive travel, some of his posts included: Germany, Italy, England, Turkey, Newfoundland, Guam, Thailand, Okinawa and Pakistan. After retiring from the Air Force in 1974, He was contracted by Bendix Field Engineering and worked and lived on the Island of Shemya as a Technical Operations Manager. In 1982 John was employed by NASA as a Supervisory Inventory Management Specialist with the Directorate of Energy Management Materials Division. He was able to take part in the Space Shuttle Program from its infancy and had the honor of attending numerous launches and landings of the shuttle vehicles during his career. He is survived by his wife of 22 years Peggy Jeanne Nagle. **//Complete obituary in San Antonio Express News – March 15th 2012.//**



Robert William Purdom, Jr., 95, of San Antonio, died March 23, 2012 at Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital. Mr. Purdom was born in San Antonio, Texas on September 7, 1916. He graduated from Brackenridge High School and St. Mary's University with a degree in business. Mr. Purdom served his country honorably beginning with the New Mexico National Guard Cavalry as a teenager, followed by service during WWII as a navigator / bombardier with the Army Air Corps 326 Bomb Squad in England. His B17 plane was shot down over Germany and he was a German prisoner of war for 22 months. He later served in the Philippines during the Korean Conflict, and then returned to San Antonio to begin his civilian career. Mr. Purdom met and married Miss Olga Margaret Garza (Tudy) on May 25, 1946 at the Basilica of the Little Flower. They made their home in San Antonio, where Mr. Purdom was employed in accounting and procurement positions with several firms over the years, the latest of which was with Security Service at Kelly Air Force Base. **//Complete obituary in San Antonio Express News – 03-25-2012.//**



Janice R. Saunders, 80, a resident of Greenville for 33 years, died Jan. 29, 2012. Janice will be interred with her husband, John Gregory Saunders Sr., at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Janice traveled the world in support of her husband's career. She is survived by nine children. **//Complete obit in the Herald Banner, Greenville, TX 01-02-2012 – Input from Bob Cope//**

It was my good fortune to serve with John...and through him, I knew Jan. Two incredible people who embraced everyone with whom they came in contact. They were quick to share their most treasured values...love of family, country, service. Prayers and blessings to the family. **//Anonymous//**

TSgt James “Jim” Harry Sedam, 69, died Friday of ALS at his home in Winter Haven Resort where he resided for seven years. He was born January 3, 1942 in Tacoma, Washington. He and Mary Ann Shively were married on May 11, 1963 in Walnut, Kansas. Jim was a 363XX TTY Maintenance Technician stationed at Misawa AB, 1970-1972. He retired from the Air Force in January 1977. He lived in San Antonio, TX until 2002 where he purchased and rented homes as an occupation. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, of Brownsville, TX. **//Complete obituary published in Brownsville Herald on December 4, 2011.// //Input from Helen Henderson – Misawa Web Site//**



MSgt Neil Steele died this morning, Oct 26 2011 at Hudson Manor in Tampa, Florida. Neil succumbed after a long fight with metastasized prostate cancer. I visited Neil last Sunday. He recognized me but was not able to communicate very well. Neil courageously fought his cancer for many years. We were friends for more than 50 years. Neil was a respected analyst and leader. His family was with him in the hours leading up to his death. May God bless his soul. **//Jack Riedel//**



Neil befriended me, a raw rookie, at language school at the Presidio of Monterey in 1974. We were in the same section of Arabic class. As the ranking NCO, Neil was in charge of our group, but he treated us all as equals, and was more of a father figure to us than a boss. We became good friends, and served together at the 6916th SS at Hellenikon AFB, Athens, Greece. I believe the only reason I was chosen to fly was on the recommendation of Neil Steele, and I am forever grateful for everything he did for me. Whether it was an encouraging word, or inviting me over for burgers at his house, he was a true friend. **//Dan McLaughlin//**

Neil as a Russian/Vietnamese/Arabic linguist was the consummate professional. Volunteering for the Vietnam War from the Russian world, at a time when that meant a lot to those of us already there, he helped lead the way. That's what Neil was: a leader. He served at the 6990th as a trick NCOIC and an AMS. Neil was always a gentleman, a superb NCO, a leader who had the respect of his superiors, peers, and subordinates alike. He mentored me both as a young NCO and when I became an older officer. RIP, my old friend. //Walter C. "Bud or Rosie" Rosenstrom//

Comment - Neil was the consummate professional. He set high standards and lived them. He was a great mentor for me and a good friend. //John Nolander//

Neil, Greg Mahoney, and I shared an apartment at Syracuse U. in 1965. We all ended up in the 6916th at Rhein-Main AB. I worked with Neil for a period of time in the sham shop. Neil passed along to me a lot of knowledge and experience. I last saw Neil when he came to Athens in 1981 as part of the Command Stan/Eval team. We had dinner and talked of the old days and he spoke of retiring. Neil is one of the good ones and I will hold him in my heart. //Dick Gantzer//



MSgt Paul Trojan, died January 27, 2012. There was a private family burial at Houston National Cemetery with Honor Guard present. He is survived by his wife Maria and son Tony. Paul, a Vietnam Veteran, was a Photo Interpreter. He was later hired into the Civil Service as a GS-9 while in Colorado to teach in the

Photo Interpreter School there. He came to Goodfellow when the Photo Interpreter School in Colorado closed and they transferred the school down to Goodfellow. He taught in that course for several years, was promoted to GS-11, Course Supervisor for a couple of years, was promoted to GS-12, Training Evaluation Manager in the Standardization/Evaluation Office. He worked there for many years. He retired from Civil Service in about 2007 or 2008. //Houston Chronical Feb 2 2012. //Input and notification by John House//



Major George Turinsky, 85, died February 19, 2010 in Auburn Calif. George was born March 15, 1924 in Edwardsville, PA. George graduated from Luzerne High School in 1942, and with his brother John enlisted in the USAAC. George graduated from pilot training and was assigned to the 303rd Bomb Group 8th AF. As a B-17 pilot he

flew thirty five missions against Nazi Germany. After the war he served in Alaska with the 72nd Recon Squadron. He married his first wife, Ann Kobelka of Canada for thirty six years until her death in 1991. George's military career

took them to Texas, Germany, Italy and finally to McClellan AFB, where he retired after 21 years of service. In 1993 he met his second wife, Anne. They were married May 15, 1993. He is survived by his wife Anne. **//Complete obituary in Auburn Journal, Auburn California from Feb 23rd to Mar 1st 2010.//**



Edward Washington Jr., 77, of Vacaville, died April 11, 2012. He was born May 20, 1934. Services were held at the First Street Chapel on Travis Air Force Base, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Patty. //Obituary published in The Reporter on April 17, 2012.// //Input and notification by Roger Oleson.//

I received the following from Roger Oleson yesterday and felt a need to share it with everyone. Ed Washington is just a beautiful human being and he is now in need of all our prayers. If you were stationed at Kirknewton during the early to mid 50's, you may know him. Or if you were stationed at Chicks during that time, you may have played baseball against him. Anyway, a silent warrior and a really nice guy needs your prayers. Thanks. **//E-mail from Patty//**

Hi All,

The following email is being sent to you for your information. You may remember Ed Washington from our Kirknewton Days, mid 1950's, Ed was member of Kirknewton's first baseball team in 1954. I reconnected with Ed several years ago and got to know Patty his wife, at the yearly Military Bowling Tournament in Las Vegas. Besides the bowling tournament, we have stayed in touch by way of e-mails. **//Roger Oleson//**

It is with a sad heart & tears in my eyes that I have to update you on Mr. Ed's health crisis. Most of you know that Mr. Ed has had heart problems for a very long time, starting in 1981 with a heart attack at age 46. He, I, & medical community have kept him going for 31 years. However, it appears that time may have run out for him & me soon. There is no more we can do for him with the exception of a heart transport. We were offered that option 18 months ago & decided not to do it. I hope to bring him home soon with hospice. Mr. Ed had to stop bowling in January 2012 & it has heart & breathing problems have just gotten worse over the days & weeks. Thanks so much. Love to all. **//Patty//**

I received the very sad news today that Ed Washington passed away yesterday, April 11, 2012 at 8:22 PM Pacific Standard Time. Our thoughts and prayers for Patty at this time. Please pass the word to others that would be interested. I will put a note on Clan Kirknewton with the information that Ed passed away. Our thoughts and prayers for Patty. **//Roger "Bobo" from our Kirknewton days//**



Major Ray J. Welty, 91, died peacefully on March 22, 2012 after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's disease. Ray loved his family and his country. He devoted his career to protecting our national security. He was born on October 17, 1920, in Brownwood, Texas and moved to Roswell, New Mexico at age 15. He joined the Army in 1941 and later entered the Army Air Corps. He received his glider pilot wings in Lubbock, Texas, in February 1944. He flew a glider into Holland during Operation Market Garden and considered that mission his most outstanding wartime achievement. The Dutch government awarded Ray and his fellow glider pilots the Orange Lanyard of Valor, its highest honor. He also was awarded the Air Medal for service during Market Garden. After the war, Ray became a career Air Force officer. As an Electronics Warfare Officer, he flew combat reconnaissance missions for SAC throughout the world. He retired in 1961 and obtained his BS degree in physics and math from Southwest Texas State University. He then joined the CIA as an electronics engineer. In 1966, he transferred to the Electronic Security Command in San Antonio and while there, earned his MS degree in engineering administration from St. Mary's University. For outstanding achievements at ESC, he was awarded the prestigious Meritorious Civilian Service medal. He retired in 1990 as the senior engineer at ESC. He is survived by his wife Patty. **//Complete obituary in the San Antonio Express News Mar 25 2012//**



Donald Joseph Worthey, 76, departed this world on April 1, 2012. He was born in St. Louis, MO on March 30, 1936. Don had a great love for knowledge both for current and historical events and especially enjoyed his retirement and thankful he had enough years to do so. Don is survived by his loving wife of 25 years Claire. Don was an old USAFSS'er stationed at Grunstadt in the 50s. May he Rest in Peace. **//Complete obituary in San Antonio Express News – 5 April 2012.// //Input and notification by Lynn Hebler – Misawa Web Site//**

Erratum: Received the following correction to Fallen Eagles reported in our March issue. There were two “Butch” Adams: Carmen and Al, who were at Vito about the same time. Ed Benningfield’s post on Al “Butch” Adams should read **Carmen “Butch” Adams**. Al is still alive and kicking in Chicopee, Mass. It’s just that Al is the one that Ed remembered. **//Thanks – Ron Moyer//**



Addendum: SMSgt Roger L. Smith. Born 1941 - died March 8, 2012, Las Vegas, Nevada and buried March 27, 2012, Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, Boulder, Nevada. I first met Roger in Syracuse New York in 1966; he was a SSgt at the time and I know nothing of his prior service until 1970 when we were both in the same Vietnamese class at DLISW, El Paso, Texas. After Goodfellow (again) his next assignment was to 6990th Security Group, Kadena, Okinawa. He flew as 14 Op on Combat Apple. From there (I believe the sequence goes) he went to 6908th Security Squadron, NKP, Thailand (1974) where he was chief S&W supervisor. 1979-198? He was stationed at 6913th Security Squadron, Augsburg, Germany serving as a Flight Commander. I lost track of him after that until sometime in the 90's he was living in Tucson, Arizona and working at Lockheed. He subsequently moved to Las Vegas, Nevada. **//Photo with input from Larry Ross//**

I spent some time with Roger Smith, this afternoon, and will post some pix on the Dogger Facebook page for all to see. Roger was cremated and rests in dignified peace, surrounded by other warriors from many wars He faces the setting sun, in what promises to be a beautiful Veterans Cemetery, now under construction and expanding. He joins Combat Ron Davey in this spot, both of them finally at peace, hearing only the wind coming off the desert and the sighs of those who knew both of them. It's hard not to feel emotional....these were and always will remain, our brothers. **//John "Jake" Simmons//**

Amen to that. RIP, my old friend. Thanks, Jake. A beautiful and befitting sentiment. They left us far too early. **//Bud 'Rosie' Rosenstrom//**

Lift a glass in tribute to an old friend. Please say hello to the rest of the gang. **//Skip DeRousse//**

Roger was a classmate of mine at the Vietnamese Language School at Ft. Bliss, Texas around 1970. I believe he came there from Europe, as several of the other students did as well. I and two others came from Wakkanai, Japan. Roger was quietly involved with his studies, which were difficult to most of the class, and did not socialize much We were never very close, but I do know that he was devoted to his wife Beth. His untimely death came as a distinct shock. **//Input from John Simmons & Larry Miller//**

-“TRIBUTES”-

"I Know Nothing"

Posted by Dave Naab



In this You Tube presentation, KH2HB-TV pays tribute to the USAF Security Service, Air Intelligence Agency, Air Force, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency. The Agency provides human, electronic, air/space intelligence to numerous consumers throughout the U.S. Government – both civilian and military. The video starts with the old R-390 and ends with the more recent U-2 and drone platforms. Some of the sites shown include San Vito dei Normanni Air Station, Bad Aibling Station (NSA), Howard AFB (6933 ESS - Just Cause), a few AN/FLR-9's, as well as support aircraft/reconnaissance platforms. The NSA photo includes the names of numerous military members who lost their lives in service to our country while attached to the NSA.

Go to:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMfDf_hjPA

In Memory Of Richard J. Hentz

Posted by Tom Penn on Prop Wash Gang Website

In the early morning hours of 4 March 1971 a U.S. Army JU-21A, a twin engine turbo prop, call sign VANGUARD 216, was performing a "secret" mission out of Phu Bai. In the vicinity of the DMZ it was shot down by a surface-to-air missile launched by a North Vietnamese SA-2 unit. Vietnamese Air Defense unit histories credit Battalion 83 of The 237th Missile Regiment with this shoot down. Although the aircraft was destroyed, initial reports listed the crew as missing in action. After several months the entire crew was listed as KIA/BNR. As many of you know, on board that ill-fated mission aircraft was Richard J. Hentz, the brother of our own Ron Hentz. Although we did not know Richard, we feel Ron's loss even after all these years. Later I will make a short trip to National Vigilance Park to say a few words in prayer at the memorial there. May the Lord continue to embrace the crew of VANGUARD 216. May their souls rest in peace:

- Captain Michael W. Marker
- SP6 John T. Strawn
- SP5 Richard J. Hentz
- SP5 Rodney D. Osborne

To the PWG,

Thank you to all who responded with their thoughts and prayers. The memory lingers on, and still hurts. Rick was more than a brother. He was also my best friend. I'm sure the other families' members feel much the same about their loss. BTW, I've attended two of the sessions that the DOD holds around the country for families of the missing. During one of those events I learned that one family does not want the name of their lost one mentioned in any of the events or associated publicity. - Ron Hentz



.....;BITS::AND::BYTES:.....

Tue, Feb 28, 2012

USAFSS 6910th 50s LANDSBERG Website Updated!

I wasn't sure I would EVER get around to doing this, but I've FINALLY updated my website for those of us who served in the 6910th at Landsberg AB, Germany during the 1950's. I registered this domain a long time ago, and our original webmaster, the esteemed Marvin Mobley, had the website working at one time, but I decided I wanted to re-do it myself—and totally screwed it up! :(Anyway, I finally got around to building a decent looking site and I'm anxious for you to see it and to send me comments about it. I've started with the same material I've had on my Homepage, but I want to add more stories and pictures from all who served at LAB in the 1950's. There are several dozen individual websites which celebrate the USAFSS 6910th and its subunits, but please note that this site is devoted to the time period that the 6910th was located at Landsberg AB. Hope to hear from you!

Please visit: <http://www.usafss6910th.org>

Thanks, Ray M. Thompson

Dallas-Fort Worth Area Tornado Damage Update

It is now confirmed that there were 16 tornadoes that touched down in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and suburbia on Tuesday, April 3rd. One of the last cells that touched down took place about 5 miles south of where we live in Royse City. It was rated as an EF2 with winds around 125 mph. Royse City is located on Interstate 30, approx. 33 miles northeast of downtown Dallas, 10 miles east of Rockwall, and just 19 miles west of the major L3 complex in Greenville where the RC-135 Rivet Joint (and other type aircraft) undergoes mission equipment modifications.

Tom Crowley
Royse City, Texas

From: JJ Pitzeruse Posted: Mar 4, 2012

“Boys and their toys”.



(Above) Walt Ritter and JJ Pitzeruse getting ready to kill some paper along with Al Buddington (right) during a friendly ‘shoot out’ in Hondo, TX.

TALL TALES ~ THE “PHANTOM AIRMEN”

*From Bill Mahan: Greg Mahoney and Tony Liotta used to talk about an imaginary airman - **George Lavender** - whose name popped up on all sorts of official documentation (sign in/out forms, attendance lists, etc.). Don't know what ever happened with that prank, but it sure sounded like a lot of fun. I think I identified with that because so many of my supervisors thought I was an imaginary airman . . . and if they didn't think that, they wished I was just imaginary.

.What others have said:

*Reminds me of a - **Amn Harvey Spivens** - who served in the Far East on an extended, long tour assignment. He had his own personnel file during the 1965 - 74 time frame. Wonder how many of these phantom airmen there have been??

*And it was - **Leugler, Hans V., A/2C, USAF** - who also flew at the 6988th for a while.

*There was a young troop who was ghosted in Athens named - **Jimenez** - too. (Soppy probably remembers him better than others.)

***Otis R. Needleman** - became a permanent fixture at Osan for several years and was on duty rosters, OJT and even migrated with the 6988th into Yokota where the MiMi's (Korean Linguists) got - **A/B Needleman** - on flight orders and probably earned him an Air Medal or two.

*There was **Amn Ned Hakkus** - on Okie for a couple years. Hopi Hopkins always ordered him a few extra box lunches for the longer missions. Great guy – **Ol' Ned** - ...always shared his extra box lunches with the rest of us.

THEN

&

NOW

Robert “Bob” Atherton

Posted from 698th Website



Bob at Shu Lin Kou, Taiwan 1962



Bob and Lucy Atherton 2010

Old & New Misawa Ops Buildings with FLR-9

Posted by Larry Mendonca



(Left) Photo of the “New” (left) and “Old” (right) Ops buildings with the FLR-9 in back ground taken in 1965 when we moved from the old into the new.

(Right):
“Golf Balls” on left housing satellite antennae taken in 2010 by Cecil Hahn: Furthest bldg. is Ops (1965) Closest bldg houses (Ladylove) and office space add-on (mid 80’s).



. posted by Jim Kaus

The Demise of Old Misawa Ops Bldg 1555

Posted by Bill Doolittle

Bob Johnson: Thank goodness for the photos and memories of what took place in this fine old building. It will be missed by this "Silent Warrior". Many great friendships were formed in this place, friendships that have endured for the past 50 plus years.



(Left) Bldg 1555 - Old Ops Bldg in Final Demolition Stages

Posted by Cecil Hahn April 14, 2012

Tom Ryan: When I see this and other current pix of the Hill I am so glad I had the opportunity to bring my family there on vacation in 2004. At that time, the old gig was the Joseph Matejev Community Center. That was relevant to me because he went to the same church and school that I attended. Thanks for the post.





**I've been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots.
Apparently you don't go there alone.
You have to be in Cahoots with someone.**

FTVA CAPS

We have two styles of caps available. One has the stiff front, while the other has the soft front. Both hats are khaki color and have all five of the shields used by the commands/services/agencies which were first known as USAFSS. In addition, the American Flag is traced along the front edge of the bill and appears as a tag on the adjustment tab.



A donation of \$20 is requested for each (includes S & H). Send requests for caps to:

Douglas Holden
9227 Fallworth St.
San Antonio TX 78254

(Donation may be made by check or Money Order/Cashier's Check made out to Freedom Through Vigilance Association.)

Doug Holden



CONGRATULATIONS

FTVA Life Member
Luther and Joni Deese.

March 31, 2012, was our
50th Anniversary.

(Left) family photo: Joni and me, our 2 sons, Luke and Rob, and our grandkids, Nico and Deanna. — at Ocala Elks Club.

Membership Application

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	M.I.
HOME PHONE	E-Mail Address (optional)	
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

Inclusive Years of Service: / to / (MM/YYYY) (MM/YYYY)	Make your check or money order to: FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION Mail to: P.O. Box 891616, San Antonio, TX 78288-1616.
--	--

Yearly Memberships are \$20.00 Please check one: <input type="checkbox"/> NEW REGULAR MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER (*see below for description) <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/> ADDRESS CHANGE

Age Range for Life Membership Rates	
<input type="checkbox"/> 76 and over	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> 71-75	\$95
<input type="checkbox"/> 66-70	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> 61-65	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> 56-60	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> 51-55	\$185
<input type="checkbox"/> 46-50	\$200
<input type="checkbox"/> 41-45	\$220
<input type="checkbox"/> 36-40	\$235
<input type="checkbox"/> 31-35	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> 30 and under	\$265

Optional information we publish in yearly directory: Rank/Grade: _____ Retired? Y / N HAM Call Sign _____ CELL Phone: _____

Last Organization (USAFSS/ ESC / AFIC / AIA / AF ISR Agency)
--

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT: The authority to request this information is contained in Public Law 88-38 and Executive Order 12058. The principle purpose of the information is to establish a mailing list for membership rosters containing the name, address and telephone number of all members of the association periodically. Furnishing the information is voluntary; failure to provide the requested information will result in your not being listed. Your signature below* indicates that you have read and understand the above.

SIGNATURE _____

Regular Membership: Former military and civilian personnel of USAFSS, ESC, AFIC, AIA, and past or present military and civilian personnel of the AF ISR Agency.

****Associate Membership applies to the following categories:**

- (1) Surviving spouse of deceased individual who would qualify as a regular member.
- (2) Vigilant Partner organizations that actively support AF ISR Agency recognition programs.
- (3) DOD personnel (as individually approved by the Board of Directors) who, because of their close association to USAFSS, ESC, AFIC, AIA, or AF ISR Agency, perpetuate the objectives of the Association.

(4) Air Force personnel, assigned to intelligence organizations which are not assigned or attached to the Air Force ISR Agency, who support and perpetuate the objectives of the Association. The Board of Directors may designate persons eligible for membership in this category as individuals, by Air Force specialty, or may designate organizations whose members are eligible as a group.

FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 691616 San Antonio, TX 78269

PLATINUM PARTNERS*

Sierra Nevada Corporation (In Memory Of Maj Gen Paul Martin)
SAIC (IMO Maj Gen Doyle E. Larson)
Computer Sciences Corporation
Trofholtz Technologies, Inc
MultiLingual Solutions, Inc
Booz Allen Hamilton

GOLD PARTNERS*

Security Service Federal Credit Union
Air Force Federal Credit Union
Mrs. Doyle Larson
(IMO M/Gen Doyle E. Larson)
“Picnic Partners”
USAFSS Roll Call
Prop Wash Gang

SILVER PARTNERS*

Lee and Jen Anthony
Grover Jackson
Bob Cope
Howard Bunton
Arrowhead Electric Service
Regis F. A. Urschler
Barnie and Judy Gavin
To The Penny Tax Services
William F. (Bill) Sheck
Anthony F. Jensen

BRONZE PARTNERS*

Chestnut Hill VFW Post 5205 Philadelphia, PA
Jeff McRaney
Donald Bundy
Jerry McKenna, Sculptor
6924th Heritage Association
Stanfield Systems, Inc.
Gregory C. Radabaugh
Berlin Island Association
Tom Holden

PATRON PARTNERS*

Dennis Thomson
Bob Smith
John H. (Jack) Riedel
Thomas H. Tennant
James Mayer
Joe Hurst.
Francis R. (Frank) Sabourin
E. E. Shackelford (IMO Dan D’Apollito)
Ron Hentz (IMO Grover McMakin)
Richard P. Cheney (IMO Fred Sebers)
Bin Ng (IMO Maj Ronald C. Bell)

*Platinum Partner \$2,500 +/- Gold Partner \$ 1,000.00 - \$2,499.99// Silver Partner \$500.00 - \$999.99// Bronze Partner \$ 250.00 - \$499.99/ Patron Partner \$ 100.00 - \$249.00