

*Remain
In
Touch*



***FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE
ASSOCIATION***

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Wayne Amann..... AFISR Agency/PA

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The President's Corner



Dear Members,

There's still time for you to participate in this year's reunion! The FTVA Board of Directors, Maj Gen Otto, Major James Wright, and the entire AFISRA staff are preparing to celebrate the 64th anniversary of the United States Air Force Security Service and look forward to seeing you and your family in attendance. As usual, we'll hold the golf tournament on Thursday, September 27th, the Remembrance Ceremony and picnic on Friday, September 28th, and close with the Hall of Honor, FTVA annual membership meeting, and banquet on Saturday, September 29th. Brig Gen (ret) Scott Bethel will be our guest speaker, and I guarantee an entertaining evening for all.

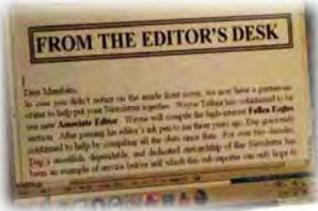
As with any volunteer organization, there are numerous people working behind the scenes to make the FTVA successful. One is Vice President Ron Haygood, who attends to numerous FTVA-related issues while serving within the AF ISR Agency. Ron is invaluable to the entire Board of Directors. He is always available to represent, discuss, and brief FTVA activities anytime with virtually no prior notice, and I particularly appreciate his FTVA presentation to members of the 93rd IS during this past quarter.

Another great volunteer is Debbie Cope, who annually performs the most distasteful task within the FTVA – federal income taxes! Debbie commits so much time to our Association, and there's no way we can repay her efforts in this arena. I am sincerely grateful for her years of service to the FTVA in this and many other capacities.

Our chapters continue to flourish. The leaders and memberships are energized, and they are establishing great support relationships with local AF ISR Agency organizations. CMSgt Al Dowling, HOH 2011, is now working with the 70th ISR Wing and revitalizing efforts within the National Capital Chapter. I look forward to hearing all chapter updates at this year's annual meeting, and thank each of you for assisting in our efforts to

Remain In Touch.

Lee



Another of our always fun annual FTVA reunions is upon us the end of September! Since our previous picnic honcho, A.J. Harrison, is now seated at the helm of our FTVA Hall of Honor selection process, it's time to welcome Jacque Lerma on the BOD as Chair of our annual FTVA Picnic. Jacque has

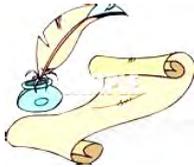
assisted A.J. as his steady and reliable picnic guide for over ten years. This issue of RIT should give you some interesting and enjoyable reading whether it's from our history and memories section or our coverage of reunions and Fallen Eagles. There are several FTVA articles, including our annual HOH inductees. I should bring your attention to Bob Baert's reminder about this year's Directory and membership dues. We look forward to seeing you at the golf tournament, picnic and/or the annual meeting this month.

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.



Letter to the Editor

Friday, July 06, 2012 12:21 PM

To: wtallant@satx.rr.com

Subject: Great Job Wayne!!

Hi Wayne,

I meant to send this long ago, but, again, am here in Murrieta CA at son's house for what I thought was hip-related pain but was actually the spine. So, waiting for some x-rays then an operation on L-3 disc or around that area. Dr. is Mark Spicer and known around Ca. So he figured about 4 week's recovery time. So? feeling better knowing it will be done.

Yea, I was going to write you to say it's nice to know you guys are making the FTVA Remain In Touch book grow and become more informative. Makes it better for keeping up with who, what, when, where, & why - not Hi. Nice work for all of you that know how to keep others informed.

Thanks, Ben Pennell Sr.

P.S. No MRI, as there are left over clamps in heart area after open heart in '86 and the right hip in 2005. Remember Crete.

Soft Copy 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!

Errata

Whoops!! Our FTVA Newsletter for June 2012 contained the following errors in captions to the two photo ID's as indicated.

1. Bottom of page 25: Photo #1 is not Tom Emdy. Photo is of Ron Rader, who wrote the report.
2. Top of page 26: Photo #2 is not Tom Emdy and Al Smith. It should read Ron Hodgen and Al Aldrich.

My apologies to Tom Emdy and Ron Rader as well as any others affected by these errors.

v/r *D. Rasmussen*, Newsletter Editor

FTVA DIRECTORY & ANNUAL DUES

FTVA Reunion packets (ballots, banquet info etc.) were mailed to the membership in mid-July along with the annual 2012 Member Directory.

FTVA annual memberships run from January to December. So, if the label on the envelope this newsletter came in has the year "2012" after your name it is time to send in your 2013 dues. As a reminder, dues are now \$20.00 per year, or \$40.00 for two years. Please mail it to:

FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 691616
San Antonio, Texas 78269-1616

If you would like to make sure that your membership never lapses, consider a life membership. Dues are listed on the Membership Application in the back of this newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Directory Omissions

When I was reformatting the geographic portion of this year's *Directory*, I somehow deleted the West Virginia section. Here it is:

West Virginia

*Grafton

Twardzak, Lawrence S.

*Martinsburg

Secrist, Linn F.

* New Martinsville

Witschey, William (Bill) E.

* Scott Depot

Bush, David L.

* Stonewood

McGee, Terrence T.

We Need Member Addresses

When we sent out the June newsletter, three of them were returned to us as “Undeliverable, unable to forward.” If you know the addresses for any of the following people, please let us know. The addresses shown are the last known addresses we were given:

Consuelo Almeida

PO Box 173

Carlton, OR 97111-0173

Donna Hatcher

505 County Road 16X

Cotopaxi, CO 81223

Bruce Wright

COMUSJAPAN/J00

UNIT 5087

APO AP 96328-5087

Bob Baert

Web & Membership Chairman

FTVA Hall of Honor Nominations

The HOH selection committee chair, A.J. Harrison, has announced this year’s selections for induction into the Hall of Honor at the 29 Sep 2012 induction ceremony. Participants in this year’s selection committee: Brig Gen Grover Jackson –USAF Ret; Col Bob Cope – USAF Ret; Cmd CMSgt Okey Warden – USAF Ret; CMSgt /GS15 Bob Egger – USAF Ret; CMSgt Bob Crabtree – USAF Ret; CMSgt Ed Jolly – USAF Ret; and CMSgt Marco Aldez - USAF Ret. On behalf of the FTVA, I am pleased to announce the following individuals have been selected for induction into the FTVA Hall of Honor for 2012. Historically, the names of the inductees are announced in the September issue of RIT and the individual write ups that appear in the Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony program are published in the subsequent December issue. This year's four inductees are:

- CMSgt Richard J. Burda, USAF Ret
- CMSgt David F. Doiron, USAF Ret
- CMSgt Perry J. Eisenhower, USAF Ret
- CMSgt William R. Rogers, USAF Ret

A.J. Harrison, Chairman
Hall of Honor Program

FTVA Vigilant Partner Program

The Vigilant Partner program continues to be a vital part of FTVA activities. and is essential to our success in meeting the objectives of the FTVA. Please take a moment to review the list of partners on the back page of RIT. We try to give them a word of thanks at every opportunity and we try to manage these monies wisely to fulfill legitimate requests that we receive from AFISRA. Industry, corporations, businesses and individuals interested in the Agency’s mission are invited to join us in helping fund much needed programs. Anyone interested in becoming a Vigilant Partner can contact me or any member of the FTVA board. I can be reached at jmclendon@sbcglobal.net or at 210-493-9898. We will be very pleased to bring you on as a “partner.”

Jim McLendon
Official Activities Chair



FTVA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Ed Jolly Caps Stellar Career, Again!

By Wayne Amann

Air Force ISR Agency Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- For 30 years Ed Jolly, Jr., made a name for himself as a military cryptologist, retiring as a chief master sergeant in 1984. For the next 27 years he forged a civilian career before retiring here April 30 as a communications management specialist with the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency. That's 57 years of continuous federal service to the intelligence community, a longevity achievement Jolly attributed, in part, to his passion for the job and an unusual, but effective, sleeping regimen. "I believe in getting four hours sleep each night," he said. "I also took care of my people and they took care of me." Jolly spoke highly of the mentorship he received as a young Airman. He appreciated those who trained him and provided guidance along the way. "One of my fondest memories is having worked for every commanding general this organization (in all its iterations) has ever had," Jolly said. "They were all people focused and really took care of their personnel."



(Left) Edward Jolly, Jr., delivers remarks during his civilian retirement ceremony March 30 here as Lt. Gen. John C. Koziol, who officiated the event, applauds. Jolly's 27-year federal civilian career followed a 30-year active duty career, all in the intelligence community. (USAF photo by Wm Belcher)

One of Jolly's former commanders, Lt. Gen. John C. Koziol, officiated his civilian retirement ceremony. "The chief dedicated himself to the communication architecture," Koziol said at the ceremony. "In a word, he was wonderful."

Jolly's experience as a cryptographic specialist was featured in the Air Force Public Affairs Agency biographical series *Pioneers in Blue* which showcases famous heroes and everyday Airmen who helped build today's Air Force. That series recounted how Jolly encoded messages during the Vietnam War using the encryption and decryption machine, SIGABA (Air Force designation was GORGON), the vintage cryptographic workhorse of the time. He received his cryptologic training at Scott AFB, Ill. "It was there I realized how much I

enjoyed working in the communications career field and wanted to do the best I could," Jolly said.

(Right) Edward Jolly Jr., poses with a SIGABA encryption and decryption machine in the Air Force ISR Agency Heritage Center here. The device is similar to what he used as a cryptographic specialist during his 30 years on active duty.

The retired CMSgt-turned-federal civilian employee was a member of the Air Force intelligence community for 57 years before retiring as a federal civilian employee.



(USAF photo by Wm Belcher)

Ed's military experience enabled the New Orleans native to make a seamless transition into the federal civilian workforce. "My first civil service job, at Kelly AFB, Texas, was doing the exact same work I did my entire active-duty career," Jolly said. "I worked in the communications center processing messages in both plain and encrypted text, using the skills I learned during cryptologic training."



(Left) Edward Jolly Jr., holds his basic military training photo near the static display of an EC-47 aircraft at the Air Force ISR Agency headquarters here. The retired chief-turned-federal civilian employee served the USAF intelligence community for 57 years.

(USAF photo by William Belcher)

Although Jolly no longer walks the halls of the Air Force ISR Agency headquarters, his unmatched legacy of service is still found there. As a member of the agency's Hall of Honor induction class of 1994, his photo is displayed in the agency auditorium. Jolly's inscription reads "...If you need comms quickly, call Ed at 911...master technician, leader and role model, blessed with infectious enthusiasm, unflinching motivation and uncanny success." And in July 2007 the agency's communication directorate conference room was dedicated as the Edward Jolly, Jr., Conference Room, with an enlarged copy of his Pioneers in Blue biography hanging outside its door.

Jolly's second retirement ended his federal service time but not his desire to serve. "I plan to keep busy by volunteering at the Wounded Warrior Center in San Antonio," he said. In his farewell message at his civilian retirement he added, "See you at the bowling alley."

FTVA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Lonnie 'Esa Toya' Henderson*

(*Note: That's "Esa Toyah" in Comanche or "Grey Mountain" in English)

Recently, the Comanche Nation honored Lonnie Torralba Henderson, MSgt, USAF (Ret) for being the most decorated Comanche warrior in Comanche tribal history with 58 decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons.

In an e-mail , Lonnie wrote:

In a few hours, I will be leaving for the short drive from my home to the Comanche Nation Tribal complex to join three other combat veterans who will be honored by my tribe. I will be joined by my wife and other members of my family. Also there, perhaps not in body, but definitely in spirit, will be hundreds of my fellow airborne Silent Warrior friends, 214 of whom paid the ultimate price in 25 separate peacetime incidents. In some cases, the aircraft was shot down; in others, we still don't know really what happened.



I share this honor with them and with all of you who put on a uniform and swore to protect and defend our country. Whether you served for thirty days or thirty years makes no difference. I will at some point during this special honoring ceremony render a hand salute. Many will not realize that my salute is to all of you.



"All gave some; some gave all."



(Left): 2011 – 12 Comanche Nation Tribal Princess, Chelsea Lynn Sapcut is shown with military honoree Lonnie Henderson

MRSEA Search for CAP 72
Maximum Recovery in SouthEast Asia
Submitted by Paul Clever

During the morning of Feb. 5, 1969 an EC-47Q (call sign CAP 72) lumbered into the skies over Pleiku Air Force Base, Republic of Vietnam with ten American Servicemen onboard. Their mission was an Airborne Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) flight in Southern Laos. Eight-months later seven of those servicemen returned to the United States for interment at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in Saint Louis, MO. Documents indicate the other three Servicemen remained in Sothern Laos at the crash site; probably encased in their cockpit which had been driven underground during the crash.

In October 1969 the status of the entire crew of this aircraft was changed from MIA (Missing in Action) to KIA (Killed in Action). The fate of the three Servicemen left behind was then forgotten for forty-years; Major Homer Lynn (pilot), Captain Walter Burke (co-pilot), and MSgt Wilton Hatton (Flight Engineer).

Today a privately-funded mission has been organized by MRSEA (Maximum Recovery in Southeast Asia) to return to Southern Laos, recover these American Heroes, and bring them Home. This mission is currently being made possible by the generous support of persons associated with the USAFSS/ AF ISR Agency. A planning mission to Saravane, Laos (21 miles NW of the site) was completed in August 2011 to vet the viability of taking on this effort. When it was determined a successful search mission was achievable, planning continued.

During November 2012 MRSEA will advance to the crash site area and begin the physical search for CAP 72. If successful, then the site will be documented and artifacts returned. During a subsequent visit to the site human remains will be collected, returned to the United States for identification, and proper internment.

(For more information regarding MRSEA, CAP 72, or to offer your personal support; please email Paul Clever at paul4MRSEA@yahoo.com.)



Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do, write to them?

Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen can look for them while they deliver the mail?



AFISR History Office Repeats As Dual-Award Winner

by Wayne Amann, Air Force ISR Agency Public Affairs

6/27/2012 - **LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** -- Setting a standard of excellence separates the best from the rest. Maintaining or surpassing that level of performance builds tradition. The Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency History Office recently won back-to-back 2012 Air Force History and Museums Program awards.



The history office staff has captured its second straight Brig. Gen. Brian S. Gunderson Excellence in History Programs Award (in the Forward Operating Agency/Direct Reporting Unit category) and its second consecutive Air Force Heritage Award

(left to right), Senior Master Sgt. Benjamin Jones, John Williamson, Chief Historian Phil Myers and Gabe Marshall, pose in the agency's Dr. Dennis F. Casey Heritage Center. All four are repeat winners of the Brig. Gen. Brian S. Gunderson Excellence in History Programs Award and the Air Force Heritage Award. (USAF photo/William Belcher)

First AFISR Agency Commander Retires

Lt. Gen. John C. Koziol addresses attendees March 29 at the AFISR Agency Annual Awards Banquet here. Koziol retired June 1 as the last uniformed member of the United States Air Force Security Service, the original iteration of the agency. (USAF photo by William Belcher)





BEDSIDE MATTERS

Update on CMSgt (Ret) Jim Steed. Thanks to Bob Cotti who has done so much for someone he never knew until a few weeks ago. Here's the latest from Cindy Steed:

May 16, 2012: Jim is out of the VA hospital. Under TriCare, he's in HealthSouth hospital for rehab at least until the end of May. Jim is doing a little better and is trying hard to relearn all he can. It's just going to take

time. They'd still love any visitors who have time. Please continue to pray that Jim will get the help he needs. For information contactt Ray Farrell at boomsupe@yahoo.com.

Ed Note: FTVA member George Williams was released on 14 June from the hospital after a 4-day stay for gall bladder surgery. George is progressing well and he recuperated at home in Pueblo, CO.

From: richardsacchetti (President, FTVA Gold Country Chapter)
To: Dennis "rass" rassmussen
Sent: Fri, 15 Jun 2012
Subject: Update

Well Amigo, I'm down for the count again - medically. Had an attack of "Bells Palsey" a week ago, which has left the left side of my face paralyzed; and then I threw my back out two days ago. What a week! Anyway, life goes on at 69. I can hardly wait until my next B-Day gets here. (<:). SAC

Terry Carr (carr.54@att.net)// Sat, Aug 11, 2012//TSgt Ret. 20 years U
To: Newsletter
Has anyone heard from Fred Teschner (SMSgt) ? Last I heard he moved from San Antonio to Glendale AZ. Also heard he was having a lot of health problems. One of the best guys you'll ever meet. Hope he is well.

Terry

To Terry,
I got in touch with Fred on his cell phone. He's been undergoing treatment for Diabetes the last few years resulting in limited mobility due to the loss of most of his toes. He's staying with family in Glendale, AZ and welcomes calls and e-mails. Fred changed his e-mail address to:

fteschner1@hotmail.com

Remain In Touch, Rass



FTVA CHAPTER NEWS

Vietnam Military Merit Medal

by Ed Bendindelli, Heritage Chapter Vice-President

An ongoing initiative of the Heritage Chapter is the placement of shadow-boxes inside Goodfellow buildings which bear the names of USAFSS members killed in action while assigned to the 6994th SS during the Vietnam war. Each shadow-box contains the member’s photo, an engraved bio and a set of his medals. While putting together medals earned by TSgt Ray Leftwich, killed when his EC-47 was shot down on March 9, 1967, Ray’s son sent us photos of his dad’s medals. Among the photos was a medal that none of us had ever seen before.



With the help of Goodfellow AFB’s Wing Historian “Doc” Garrett, the medal was identified as the Vietnamese Military Merit Medal. Established in 1950, the medal was the highest military decoration bestowed to NCO’s (including aspirants) and enlisted personnel by the Vietnamese government during the Vietnam War who performed extreme acts of bravery or who had given their lives in armed combat with “enemy forces of Vietnam.” A large number of the medals were issued posthumously, as the medal was most often awarded to U.S. servicemen of all services who were killed in action during the war. While we found references to US Army and Marine Corps personnel being awarded the medal, we now believe that TSgt Leftwich was the only one of the 16 USAFSS members lost during the 8-year EC-47 mission, to have been awarded the Vietnamese Military Merit Medal. Today, the medal is available only through collectors; however, thanks to the efforts of chapter member Larry Miller and E-Bay, we were able to obtain a well-preserved Vietnamese Military Merit Medal, and will include it in TSgt Leftwich’s shadow-box along with all of his other decorations.

Memorial Day 2012

by Larry Ross, Chapter Secretary



On May 26 several members of the Heritage Chapter joined in the Memorial Day ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, near the San Angelo airport.

(Right) "Mrs. Colleen Heath, widow of USAFSS/ESC PME legend CMSgt Jim Heath, meets Heritage Chapter members at San Angelo Memorial Day celebration. Pictured are Kathie Bendinelli, Mrs. Heath, Ed Bendinelli, and JJ Graham."



(Left) "Heritage Chapter member Don Goff studies a memorial paver he donated to honor his friend PFC Richard Lapalm, USMC, who served in Vietnam in 1969 and now suffers from effects of exposure to Agent Orange. The paver was among those dedicated at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day."

(Right) On May 18th, 21 Heritage Chapter members and guests hosted FTVA Newsletter Editor Dennis "Rass" Rassmussen and his lovely wife Tatsuko to an ad-hoc dinner at Twin Mountain Steak House.



Above: Jane & Russ Thoma, The Wm Ballards, Pat Miller



After speaking at a CCAF/Park U. graduation ceremony on Goodfellow that afternoon, Rass spent our evening out getting reacquainted and sharing "war" stories with old friends. //Larry Ross//

(L-R) Tommy Smart, Rass, Ed Bendinelli, Tatsuko Rassmussen, Kathie Bendinelli

Heritage Chapter June Social

The June 7 Heritage Chapter meeting & social was great. The excellent turnout of 21 members and guests filled our dining area. All that attended had a good time. Students and instructors from the international officers' course at Goodfellow usually join us for a meet and greet. Unfortunately due to a schedule conflict they were unable to join us. For those members who were unable to attend we hope to see you at the next social.

Oh, what a happy group!



Front row from left - Kathie & Ed Bendinelli; Corky & Karen Bingham; Mary Bryant//Second row from left - Tommy & Kay Smart; Bill Allen; Buck Vogt; Wayne Bascom//Third row from left - Al & Marylyn Wankowski; Celeste Allen; Janet Vogt; Chae Bascom//Standing from left - Larry & Pat Miller; Diane Ross; Tom Nurre//Missing in action - JJ Graham (arrived after photo taken) Photographer – Larry Ross



During the June 7 business meeting the general membership elected (From L-R) Larry Ross – Secretary; Ronald "JJ" Graham - President, and Ed Bendinelli, Vice President. to lead the chapter for the next two years.



Rocky Mountain Chapter, Colorado Springs, CO

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

by Jeff Waldeck

RMC monthly meeting on 10 May 2012.

The meeting was called to order by the Chapter president Barnie Gavin. The meeting started with new Chapter members Tom Nurre and Steve Sperry introducing themselves to the group, followed by a review and approval of the April 2012 meeting minutes.

Old Business/Updates May 2012:

We are still attempting to work with the 544 ISRG at Peterson AFB, CO. The Group will have a change of command on 5 June 2012. Once the incoming commander (Col Scott Sheppard) has settled in, Barnie and Mr. Vern Humbert (pending FTVA member and senior civilian in the 544th and who has volunteered to act as liaison between the 544th and the Rocky Mountain Chapter) will brief the new commander on the chapter and what it can do for the Group and its subordinate squadrons.

Another ongoing project for our Chapter is sponsoring Air Force Academy cadets who are interested in the intelligence career field after graduation. Because of the AFA graduation coming up on 23 May (President Obama being the guest speaker), we decided to put this project on hold until the next class session. Please see last month's remarks on this subject.

Barnie Gavin and Jeff Waldeck presented two versions for the Chapter banner to display at Rhino's (and other locations). A vote was taken 6-2 in favor of Barnie's design. Research will continue for the best price.

New Business:

There was a short discussion about linking our Chapter website to the main FTVA website. There have been discussions between Barnie Gavin and Bob Baert to make this happen.

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'Shaughnessy), and to our area FTVA Chapter. Meeting adjourned.

RMC monthly meeting on 14 June 2012

The meeting was called to order by the Chapter president Bernie Gavin. Guest Daniel Tesch introduced himself and his wife Divina to our group. Dan was an Army 98G (AF 203/208/1N3 equivalent) Russian, Arabic, and Serbo-Croatian linguist. Dan got out of the Army and is pursuing a new career in the nursing field.

FTVA member George Williams was just released today from the hospital after a 4-day stay for gall bladder surgery and was unable to attend this meeting. He is recuperating at home.

Old Business/Updates June 2012:

We are still attempting to work with the 544 ISRG at Peterson AFB, CO. The Group had a change of command on 5 June 2012; Bernie Gavin, Ike Eichelberger and Greg Roman attended the ceremony. Once the incoming commander (Col Scott Sheppers) has settled in, Bernie, Greg, Ike and Mr. Vern Humbert (pending FTVA member and senior civilian in the 544th and who has volunteered to act as liaison between the 544th and the Rocky Mountain Chapter) will brief the new commander on the chapter and what it can do for the Group and its subordinate squadrons.

Another ongoing project for our Chapter is sponsoring Air Force Academy cadets who are interested in the intelligence career field after graduation. A recently-graduated cadet was invited to this meeting but was unable to attend. Please see last month's remarks on this subject.

Stu Skeen provided an update concerning an ongoing project of placing a memorial in the Air Force Academy cadet area (Harmon Hall). Apparently there are benches in that area that can be inscribed with the USAFSS/ESC/AFIC/AIA/USAFISRA logos, and how the intelligence career field has ties to the Academy. Estimated cost for this project is \$1500-\$3000. Stu mentioned that he might be relocating soon and is working with Dick Peterson and Greg Roman to hand off this project. Greg will check with AFA heraldry officials on what can be inscribed on the benches

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 from 8AM to 12PM, followed by refreshments at Rhinos shortly afterwards. This is a charity event in support of the Wounded Warrior Project. See last month minutes.

Chapter member Tom Nurre presented via e-mail to Bernie Gavin a poster for our Chapter for our meetings at the Rockyard brewery. It features the FTVA logo in addition to a patriotic picture of the Rockyard brew master's relative who was killed in Afghanistan.

Rockyard brew master Jim Stinson was given a copy of the FTVA Remain In Touch newsletter. Bernie explained to Jim our Vigilant Partners program. Jim seemed very interested in supporting our programs, including Vigilant Partners. Jim also briefed our group about one of his specialty brews .

Bernie proposed an idea to order polo shirts with our Rocky Mountain Chapter logo silk-printed on the shirt. Tom Nurre is working this project and pursuing the cost of the shirts. Greg Roman said he might be able to get a better price for the shirts. This will be an open item for our next meeting. Meeting adjourned.

RMC monthly meeting on 14 June 2012

The meeting was called to order by the Chapter president Bernie Gavin. Chapter membership chairman George Williams reported and accepted the FTVA membership form for Dennis Daniels.

We are still working with the 544 ISRG at Peterson AFB, CO. The Group had a change of command on 5 June 2012; Bernie Gavin, Ike Eichelberger and Greg Roman attended the ceremony. Once the incoming commander (Col Scott Sheppers) has settled in, Bernie, Greg, Ike and Mr. Vern Humbert (FTVA member and senior civilian in the 544th and who has volunteered to act as liaison between the 544th and the Rocky Mountain Chapter) will brief the new commander on the chapter and what it can do for the Group and its subordinate squadrons

Tom Nurre modeled a possible shirt with an iron on decal. Other possibilities include silk screen or embroidery. The potential design was passed around for comment.

Stu Skeen provided an update concerning an ongoing project of placing a memorial in the Air Force Academy cadet area (Harmon Hall). Apparently there are benches in that area that can be inscribed with the USAFSS/ESC/AFIC/AIA/USAFISRA logos, and how the intelligence career field has ties to the Academy. Estimated cost for this project is \$1500-\$3000. Stu will be relocating soon so Greg Roman has picked up this project. The AFA Memorial board only meets quarterly, so this will be an extended project. We can't do individual names on any AFA project, but possibilities exist for a bronze plaque in the AFA Cadet area or AFA cemetery

Bernie Gavin presented printed pictures from Tom Nurre for suggested banners for our Chapter meeting at Rhino's, the Rockyard and SSFCU. It features the FTVA logo in addition to a patriotic picture of the Rockyard brew master's relative who was killed in Afghanistan. Meeting adjourned.



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



by Jim Kaus, President

Sunshine Chapter Meets in Satellite Beach

The 2nd quarter meeting of the Sunshine Chapter was held at Beef O'Bradys, 726 South Patrick Drive, Satellite Beach, FL. Thirteen members were present, one member was stranded on I-95 with a vehicle breakdown. The vehicle was repaired and returned to Jacksonville safely. The members enjoyed conversation and luncheon from the menu, the meeting began at 1:05PM. The secretary/treasurer reports from the November 19, 2011 were read and approved.



Back row l-r - Dick O'Donnell, Howard Bunton, PW Elliott, Tom McCollough, Jim Klima, Tom Hunter, John Gluschick, Bob Quinn and All Kombach.
 Seated l-r - Ric Smith, Jim Kaus, Jay Johnson, Dick Baxter

The Julian Scholten Memorial on Feb 2012, was acknowledged and reviewed. Five members were present for that program.

Discussion was held regarding the Hurlburt situation and 4 points submitted by CMS Dailey. Chief Dailey suggested we might participate in the January 2013 annual rewards (AF Scholarship/gift card), the 361st/25AS June, 2012 summer picnic (beverages/bouncy ball house), fall 2012 Group annual golf tournament (greens fee



sponsor/golf divot fixer) or the 2012 annual Christmas party (door prizes). With the change of command coming up mid-June for both Col Kruse and Chief Dailey, P.W. Elliot suggested we consider the Christmas party first. Howard Bunton agreed to be the liaison with Hurlburt, pending new assignments for contact.

Patrick AFB CMS Nederhoed was out on I-95 helping our member with his vehicle. The Patrick issue of participation is still unknown until details are available. Jay Johnson and Dick O'Donnell agreed to be our liaison with Patrick AFB.

We currently have 63 paid FTVA members for 2012. Our next meeting is will be in the August, September or October time frame, location to be announced. Meeting adjourned at 1:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Ric C. Smith Sr., Sec/Treas

Out Takes from May 19th Sunshine Chapter Meeting

(Right) L-R Caryl Hunter, Kathy Bunton, Maryann Smith, Alice Kaus, and Myrna Guschick.



Dick O'Donnell and Dick Baxter



MaryAnn and Ric Smith

Gold Country Chapter, Yuba City, CA

by Richard J. Sacchetti, President



On 6/13/12 three members of the GCC/FTVA (Myself/Pres, Russ Clark (Treasurer) and John Aurelius (new member) attended the annual 548th ISR Intel Family Picnic, which had over 700 Officers, Airmen and their families there. Russ (owner of a few Carl's Jr's fast foods in the area) donated over 700 hamburger patties and condiments for same and John Aurelius donated his time (6 hours) assisting me at the table set-up that Beale AFB supplied us to show our wares (FTVA logos, USAF Intel History booklets, applications, a Patriotic Teddy-Bear (PTB) and Intel T-shirts).... The "total net proceeds, after cost for the T-shirts, will go to Operation Warm Heart (OWH) for Airmen and families of Airmen at Beale AFB needing assistance in any way. This year's Intel picnic was held off of BAFB (1st time ever) with quite the logistical feat accomplished by the 548th ISR Commanders (Col's Flood and Streeter), their FTVA liaison and many other Officers, NCO's and Airmen.

The picnic was held at Camp Far West - a very large campground area south of BAFB, with swimming, boating and camping sites. To help the men and women of BAFB, the GCC/FTVA donated \$200.00 - with all donations applied to assist and pay for the parking for fifty- (50) lower grade Airmen and families to park free. Except for parking, everything (food, etc.) at this picnic was free to all, as a means of thanking the BAFB Intel Airmen for the dedication and unwavering service to this great country of ours. From what I could see, the picnic was a great success; good eats, good camaraderie, good boating, swimming, music, etc.

NOTE: 548th ISR Group Cmdr, Col Flood and Deputy Group Cmdr, Col Streeter - gave notice over the PA system, thanking the GCC/FTVA and its members personally for all we have done in an assist to the men and women of their Command. It should be duly noted; Col's Flood and Streeter are both new members to the GCC/FTVA and the support they are giving the GCC/FTVA is absolutely vital to perpetuate the memory and history of USAF Intelligence.

Col Streeter has been recently elected to attend the "War College" and Col Flood indicated he still has every intention to complete a Historical/Memorabilia site outside the lobby area and adjacent hallways leading off the main hallway to the new 548th ISR Building on "C" St, BAFB. Col Streeter has selected 1st Lt O.L. Lannigan as the new 548th ISR liaison for dealings with the GCC/FTVA, who will take over that position upon Col Streeter's departure.

Thanking you the FTVA/BOD's for all the help.

Richard "SAC" Sacchetti, President (GCC)

-----BOD Response -----

From: Bob Cope , FTVA Treasurer//Jul 27, 2012//
To richardsacchetti, GCC President

SAC,

We discussed your comments on 548th ISR HQ building enhancement at last Friday’s FTVA Board meeting. We believe the Gold Country Chapter should be in a strictly supportive role. In past efforts similar to this, FTVA has provided a relatively small contribution to overall unit efforts; that were primarily funded through appropriated funds, with some help from area Vigilant Partners. Obviously, FTVA has focused on Security Hill, although we have made exceptions for National Vigilance Park at Ft. Meade, and a small contribution in support of displays at Misawa and Goodfellow. These funds have traditionally come from the “USAFSS/ESC Memorial Fund.”

We would encourage the 548th Commander and staff to work with the AF ISR Agency for direct support in the funding and historical items areas. The AF ISR Agency History Office has won AF-wide recognition and awards for the last two years. In view of the 548th “Recce Tech” history, ACC may also be able to help in the heritage items area.

Jim McLendon can work with you on the role of FTVA Vigilant Partners in supporting your local initiatives, like this one. Jim is your Vigilant Partner POC and I will be glad to act as your overall project POC for those items that need the Board’s attention and/or approval. Please continue to keep us informed as you learn of 548th progress.

Remain In Touch!



2012 REUNION INFORMATION

Upcoming Reunions for 2013

NOTE: Any Reunion plans for 2013? Let us help. 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

Thank you, Rass

Misawa Alumni Ice Breaker Sep 26th

Submitted by Walt Ritter

USAFSS Misawa Alumni Social: Make plans to attend the 15th annual alumni gathering to be held on Wednesday, September 26, 2012 at 6 PM. Social will be at Maya's Kings Lounge, 111 Whitewood, San Antonio, Texas. Group pictures taken at 8 PM. Reservations not required. Everyone invited. All USAFSS veterans are encouraged to stop by Kings during the reunion week to meet up some of your old friends. For info call Walt Ritter, 210-260-3062.

Sep 13-16, 2012

6994th Security Squadron & Detachments

Location: Landmark Resort - Myrtle Beach, SC

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

Comments: See 94th website: www.6994th.com or contact rkrejsa@bellsouth.net

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 were mailed to the membership along with the annual Member Directory 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

USAFSS Yale IFEL 2012 Reunion – Laurel, MD

Provided by Luther Deese

This year's USAF Security Service, Yale Institute of Far Eastern Languages Alumni, friends and family, 2012 15th Annual Reunion may have been the best ever. It began with a grand luncheon at the Laurel, MD Chungking Restaurant on June 21st -- a wide variety of Chinese delicacies plus Mongolian Barbeque made up the menu. There was plenty of Chinese beer to complement the comestibles as well. On June 22, again at the Chungking, a sumptuous banquet was prepared for the reunion celebrants -- indeed, a meal fit for the 'Sons of Heaven' and their court and courtesans as they ruled the 'Celestial Kingdom' from the Dragon Throne in Beijing. Finally, those remaining after the great banquet, and there were but a few, met for dinner at Blob's Park on the evening of June 23. German food for a change with German beer and a German sounding OomPah band made for an Occidental setting designed to bring reunion celebrants back to the Western Hemisphere and, damn it!, reality.

We had a great turn out -- wonderful food, good cold brew -- great camaraderie, remembering many adventures and events of the past (in slightly to greatly enhanced versions) -- I hope we can keep this up for many years to come -- even if I have to be the last man standing.

(Rt) Chuck Sjolie, Carl Pristavec and Luther Deese enjoying a light libation between feasts.



(Left) USAF Colonel (Ret.) Wally Astor with Luther Deese at the Chungking dinner banquet. Wally is retired from AF Intelligence and Luther is retired from the NSA.



PWG
and
DOGGER
Co-Host Reunions
in
Omaha, NE



Submitted by Ron Buteau (with input from Larry Tart)

This year's reunion in Omaha was kind of unique as it hosted a combined group of flyers from the Prop Wash Gang and Doggers. Rocky LeCorn and Joe Turney, who honchoed the Dogger reunion in Bellevue, joined with the PWG in a co-located reunion, 26-29 April. PWG members set up their hospitality suite in the Holiday Inn Express in Bellevue, while the Doggers celebrated their Fall Of Saigon Party (FOSP) in the Candlewood Suites next door, making it convenient for many attendees who are both PWGers and Doggers.



On Friday, 27 April, the 97th Intel Squadron and 55th Wing at Offutt welcomed both groups with open arms, treated us all to an in-house lunch, brought us up to date on current 97th IS Air Force ISR airborne recon operations, provided us with a walk-through of a modern-day Rivet Joint RC-135W platform, and hosted us to a gab-fest with today's active duty flyers in the 97th squadron's bar/lounge. Another memorable day for all of us old-timers — (A note of thanks to John "Bubba" Armintrout for keeping our Gang on track since he assumed the helm in November 2004).

Prior to Friday’s excitement, the PWG started its reunion on Thursday in their normal style with a pre-mission briefing in Mission Control (Right) with members of its distinguished PWG staff attending.



(Left) One new arrival to this year’s reunion was Fred Collins (Bat 4) who came in all the way from Hawaii. Obviously, with the Bat 4 signature, you can surmise that he was part of the 6988th SS in Yokota, Japan along with Elmendorf, Shemya, and Fuchu.

Dinner was held at the Bellevue Berry Farm, a very “homey” location (Right) where several of the attendees were honored:



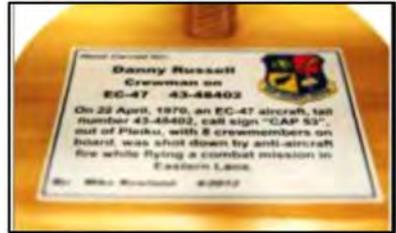
Rosie Rosenstrom (Left) was presented the treasured “Hanoi Brick” by the Doggers for his contributions as a Vietnamese Linguist.

(Left: Mike Cole, Larry Tart and Danny Russell compare war stories.)



Our special guest and dinner speaker was Danny Russell who related his experience on an EC-47 ARDF (callsign CAP 53) aircraft during his tour in Vietnam to several PWG members.

Danny’s unique story (Right) is that his aircraft was shot down, then he was rescued by a helicopter, and then his helicopter was shot down minutes later. He did manage to survive his 3rd flight. Probably wishes he had stayed home that day. (See Then & Now Section this issue on p26)

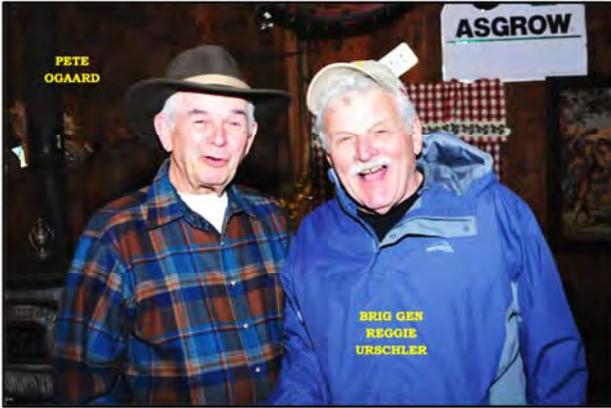


(Left) Randy Seiter of the Doggers was presented the Blazer Stein (toasted by Lonnie Henderson and Debbie Cope) for being the youngest attendee at this year’s reunion.



(Right) Not to be out-done, our oldest attendee was none other than Tom Tennant (far right) who was presented a special plaque with a tribute “Another Time, Another Place, Another War”, (right) with reflections to old men, graying grandparents, and those of us who are still alive.





(Left) Another special guest who attended our reunion again this year was Brig Gen Reggie Urschler, who is always welcome to join us anytime, is seen partying with Pete Ogaard at the dinner.

Another highlight was a trip to the Strategic Air Command Museum for a special look at the restoration of a B-29 (below & right) along with a multitude of other airplanes.



An interesting moment was when the briefers from the 97th IS indicated that they were desperately short of man-power. At that moment, all the members of the Old Guard immediately volunteered to help with the problem. It's probably safe to say that the Old Timers were relieved that their offer wasn't accepted. The wives in the audience, on the other hand, were obviously cringing and saying to themselves – “*Oh No, Here we go again!*”



A special thanks goes out to the 97th IS and the 55th ISS, especially CMSgt Jeff Johnson, for their outstanding contribution towards the success and enjoyment of our reunion this year. Meeting and talking to the current flyers and exchanging views from the past and present typically makes these reunions more enjoyable. The new flyers are still puzzled how the Old Guys did their job with “grease” pencils and “water soluble” paper when all the New Guys have are hi-tech pieces of push button equipment.

Special Gift from the 97th IS-- The 97th Intelligence Squadron provided a very special gift to the Prop Wash Gang--a US flag that had been flown on a Special Ops Command AC-130 mission over Iraq, along with an accompanying certificate of authenticity and a couple of Thank You cards signed by crew members who flew the mission on 13 January 2010. The flag gift is a token of appreciation for donations made by Prop Wash Gang members to provide a little cheer to AF ISR Agency aircrews that were deployed in the combat zone during the Christmas holidays

(Right) After several fun-filled days, in Omaha, it was again time for the Old Guard to return home and leave “The Eagle’s Nest” behind once again. See you in Syracuse next year – maybe!//**Ron Buteau**//



Mini Missy in Lakewood, CO

Posted by Gayle Laraway



May 6, 2012
 We had a great time & some fabulous food! Not as many showed up as I had reservations for but we still enjoyed ourselves.

In attendance L-R: Cindy & Elton Baggett, Dana, our wonderful server; Haruko & Ron Fitzke, Lee & Linda Carpenter, Gary & Gayle Laraway.

Wrightsville Beach Mini



(Left) Janet and Dale Nelson (FTVA Life Member) on July 7, 2012 with Gary and Alice Knighton (Roll Call Site).

Dale and Janet make an extraordinary couple. At the 6987th, I didn't socialize with Dale except at some Trick parties. He was a lofty SSgt and I was an A2C. He arrived at the 6987th ahead of me by a month so by the time I got my 3rd stripe he had moved on. I learned a good bit about

Dale just in this short visit. He enlisted in 1951 and spent 28 years in the AF. Initially he was an Aircraft Mechanic and by 1960, the AF decided that they had too many SSgts in his AFSC, so he cross-trained as a 292X1 (Ditty Bop) and graduated from Keesler a month before I did. When he left Taiwan, he was cross-trained again as a 702, and subsequently served at San Vito, Goodfellow, and Vietnam as (as he puts it) an "Admin Type". Along the way, he drew an assignment to Brazil and attended language school at DLI in Monterey to learn Portuguese. After reporting to DLI, the NCO in Brazil he was to replace died suddenly, so Dale was jerked out of language school and sent immediately to Brazil. Once in Brazil, he learned Portuguese "on the fly" with the help of his civilian secretary and the benefit of "front line" immersion. Good people, both.

//G. Knighton//



10th Misawa Project Reunion 26-29 July

Location: Millennium Hotel St Louis, MO
Hosted by Joe Emmer and Terry Cullivan .



10th National Misawa Project Reunion, St. Louis, Mo, July 19 - 21 2012

Reunion Recap

(Posted by Syd Scales on My Misawa Web site)

Dad and I just got home. He is busy eating cake, so I snuck onto his computer. I had a blast in St. Louis ... I think Dad did also. I have never met so many beautiful women in one place. Still don't know what they see in the ugly old dudes that brought them. I met General Otto in the Hospitality room; he is a real cool dude. He was guest speaker at our banquet Saturday evening.



(Above: Steamboat Mickey)



Above: Syd Scales with "son" Mickey

Thank you all for making me a member of your family. I guess it's because you are Dad's Brothers and Sisters, so that makes y'all my Aunts, and Uncles. Before I forget, Dad wanted me to tell Mr. 'Wacko' Wetterman that he gave Harold Hollingshead a kiss on the top of his head. Seems kind of weird to me, but Dad said it would mean something to mister Waco. I hope to see you all again, in a couple of years, I love you all!!

Steamboat Mickey





(Above) Some of the attendees held candles to honor the 51 personnel we lost during the war. There were 51 members holding candles as the names were read followed by taps playing which brought a few tears.//George Binkley//

(Right)
Ann & Dave "The Mule" Mueller with "J.J." & Eileen Johnson at the dinner Saturday evening. It was a first reunion for "The Mule."//Jay Johnson//



(Below) ‘The Rowdy Patio Group’



(Left)
Susan and Roberta, Danny Russell, (on his “Chickmobile”) Jane Doolittle, Helen Henderson, and BJ Cook.
//Posted by Syd Scales//

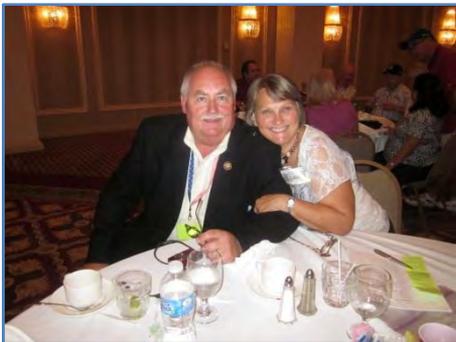


Left)
 Winner of the Ugly Shirt Contest was Bill Ratliff (middle) //Syd Scales//

(Right)
 "Well, y'all just get on dat there elevator in the Lower Lobby, push L for Lobby, then LL, then your floor number!"//Syd Scales//



(Left)
 Leading the entertainment- Lee Carpenter (L) picking and grinning with Woody Wilson (R). Woody's wife Kimi is background to his right.



Terry and Celeste Cullivan (co-hosts)



Sue and Jay Emmer (co-hosts)

At the National Cemetery

A Few of us went over to the National Cemetery to pay our tributes to the crew of CAP 72. The name of TSgt Hugh Sherburn appears on the bottom right of the marker. The family shown is the family of Paul Clever who was also aboard CAP 72. // **Mike Porta**// see MRSEA article p.9//



Paul provided information about every crew member on CAP72. Paul shared memories of his father with us and they were emotional and heart rending. Paul is a U.S. Navy veteran who served on a Nuclear Attack Submarine - another dangerous job like that of his dad. A bagpiper played Amazing Grace and as you can see the wreath was very beautiful. There were no dry eyes here but a lot of emotion and pride that we were able to honor these heroes.//**Terry Cullivan (Co-Host)**//

At Cardinal vs. Cubs



Although it was very very hot, we had shaded seats and some breeze to get us by. Of course a little cold beer went a long way to help also. We had a great time at the ballgame and the outcome of a 7 to 0 win for the Cards was nice. We had our group name posted on the scoreboard during the game.//**Terry Cullivan**//

Budweiser Brewery



(Left) I'll give you 3 guesses as to what flows through these pipes ... So clean you can drink off the floor here.



(Right) Leaving the Bud building.

(Right) We had been told that Joyce Godfrey wouldn't let anything get in the way of her being at this year's reunion. True to her word, she showed up despite the cast on her right leg and the wheelchair. Way to go, girl!



I told Helen Henderson (Left and Below) we could never thank her enough for what she has done for us Old Misawans **BEST REUNION YET!//JN Young//**



Overheard on the patio, "We waited until Syd Scales had been elected to the office of treasurer before we gave him the good news: You can't leave the post until you have found your own replacement.//**Helen Henderson//**

(Above: Helen and JN)

P.S. No, Syd, Steamboat Mickey doesn't have the proper qualifications.//**Jay Emmer//**

6918th Mini in Missouri

Posted by Bob Farr

Memorial Day 2012 with (From back forward) Stan Freymuth, Bob Farr, Rich Caraway, Linda Freymuth, Sharon Partain, Tammy Vaughn and fellow Fish Hole buddy Kevin. Boy did he hear a lot of stories. Loved every one of them. Not pictured-Carol Farr up and coming photographer



Cocoa Beach 6918th Mini Reunion

Posted by Dave Bethard

Another Florida 6918th SG Mini Reunion was held on July 9, 2012 - this one was at Coconuts On The Beach in Cocoa Beach. Shown right to left are Les



Snyder ('70-'72), Nancy and Roger Miller ('70-'71), and Takeko and Dave Bethard ('67-'71). Roger and Nancy were visiting Florida that week, and we were happy we were able to gather these old Dawgs back together. Over a nice open air lunch, we shared a number of Hakata stories kept secret for

many years. It was the first time since 1977 that we had seen one another. Roger and Les both attended the '77 Dawg Flight Reunion in St. Louis, and Roger also attended our 2009 6918th reunion in St. Louis. All are planning to attend our 6918th reunion in September of next year in San Antonio. Ed Stallings wasn't able to attend today, but sends his best to all, and said he'll see you all next year.

What The FTVA Reunion Means To Me

Submitted by Walt Ritter

I consider myself truly blessed under the topic of reunions. In 1997 I was fortunate enough to have the pleasure of having some of my old Misawa friends join me in San Antonio during the annual FTVA reunion week. I owned the Windjammer Lounge at the time and we had our first USAFSS Misawa Alumni Social gathering in 1997 at the Windjammer. We got hold of our mutual friends from the Misawa era and had then join us at the lounge. It had been many years since some of us had seen each other and let me tell you we started laughing when I picked them up at the airport and didn't stop laughing until they got back on the plane a number of days later. I have a four-bedroom home and a travel trailer that we have put to use in my back yard. One year I had six visitors sleeping over. It became an annual affair and this year will be the 15th reunion for us. If you spent any time in Misawa during the sixties or seventies you would know most of the guys that stay at my house if not only by their reputation. JJ Pitzeruse from Texas has made every year. Ray B Ivey comes in from South Carolina. Dick Debosh from New Jersey. Ron Marcoullier from Maryland. BJ Witt from Thailand. They will all be attending this year. Trust me when I say that when you get these kinds of guys together you will hear some real war stories about Misawa and "The Alley".



6985th ESS at Ft Walton Beach,

FL

June 8 – 12, 2012

(Taken from Ted Holena Facebook postings)



Next time we will take this picture at the beginning of the event because half the people left by the time we got around to it – //no names.// **Ted Holena**//.



The ladies three---they actually do sing on weekends---Alice Boyce, Renee Stubbs, and Linda Giroir.



Tom Giroir came all the way down from Severn, Maryland---he was so prepared for this open microphone moment---why he had a page of notes---you go Tom.

You'd think we planned to have locals on the left side of the table---but we didn't. Left side locals---Judy-Ann, Ted, Larry, & Alice. I'm still amazed Judy-Ann and Alice weren't sitting next to each other---I guess they decided to give us some guy time....LOL. On the right side of the table we have Steve, Renee, Gladys, & Brad---better known as the out-of-towners.



Out of Town:
Renee &
Steve, Alice &
Larry, Gladys
and Brad,
Judy-Ann &
Ted.



HISTORY & MEMORIES



'59 Syracuse University Fire

"It was so close. A minute more, and we would be dead."

By Dick Case / Syracuse Post-Standard columnist The Post-Standard



Ted Lemery (left) and Ron Kyrirtz pose for a photo in 1959. The two U.S. Air Force servicemen narrowly escaped a fire in 1959 at Syracuse University that killed seven other men

"It will never leave my mind," Ted Lemery is saying. "When I think about what we went through; it was so close. A minute more, and we would be dead." Ted's reaching back 53 years at my request. We spent close to an hour on the phone last week – Ted in

Warrensburg, a little more than an hour north of Albany, me in Syracuse – talking about the early morning of Jan. 6, 1959, when a barracks building at Skytop, on Syracuse University's South Campus, caught fire. It was reduced to an eerie mass of twisted steel

Seven U.S. Air Force men died in that fire. Sixteen were injured. Ted was asleep in Building M7 that day. He and his roommate, Ron Kyrirtz, escaped from the barracks by pulling out a window in their room and jumping about 10 feet to the icy ground. Ron broke his heel. Ted was mostly Okay. All of the airmen were students in a Slavic language program run for the Air Force by SU. Most had just returned to classes after a Christmas leave of several days. Eventually, they were moved into a new brick barracks at Skytop.

Ted Lemery and Ron Kyrirtz went on to four-year Air Force careers in radio intercept operations. Both now are retired; Ted from the New York State police and as director of security at Sagamore Resort at Lake George. The tragic fire is on our minds again because three local men, former airmen all, wrote letters to the Post-Standard a week ago. I wrote about the tragedy last Sunday. The letters reminded us of the Skytop fire and asked that Syracuse University "do something positive" in remembrance, perhaps create a scholarship or a monument on the campus. The fire has never left his thoughts, Ted Lemery

said. He remembered he'd been assigned to the language program right after basic training. He got to Syracuse in October and was fresh from a leave home to Glens Falls. He was 18.

Ted lived in the World War II barracks with 42 other Air Force volunteers. He said he'd spent the evening before the fire playing chess with another airman, whose name he can't recall. They "hit the sack" about 9 p.m. It was a cold, wintry night. "In the early hours of the next day, I woke up," Ted said. "Something woke me up but I guess I fell back to sleep, but only for a few minutes. I knew something was wrong. Gray smoke came in under the door. I pulled on the light hanging from the ceiling and woke up Ron. "We opened the door to the hallway and were blasted in the face with flames. We slammed the door." Ted said both men had been told, in basic training, to put on their boots (called brogans) and grab a blanket if there was a fire. This they did. Then they got on either side of the window "and yanked it off the wall." They jumped nine or ten feet to the ground and ran to the next barracks. "We could hear the crackling of the fire" but otherwise there was silence. Ted believed there was a fire alarm in the barracks but it wasn't ringing.

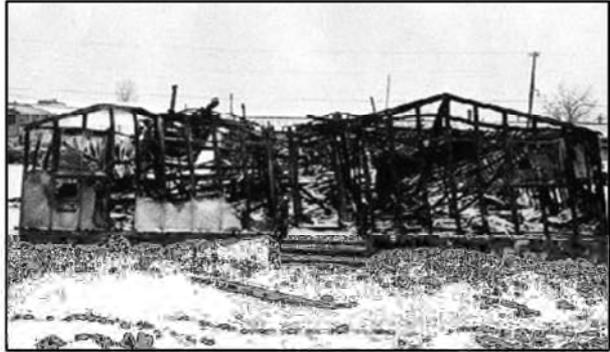
The stunned airmen gathered in the barracks day room. "I was in my shorts and tee shirt and a blanket and boots," Ted said. "Someone gave me some khaki pants and later some kind of jacket. One fellow in there looked like he'd been charred. We heard that his roommate pushed him out a window but died getting himself out. Another man was found dead on a porch, with a fire extinguisher still in his hands." Ted said he lost all of his belongings. On his way out the window, he grabbed a soap dish filled with loose change, "for some reason. It disappeared."

Later, the airmen who got out safely stood in a line near their ravaged barracks, watching firefighters do their work. They saw the firemen pull a body out of the ruin. "It was horrible," Ted explained



The front page of The Post-Standard on Jan. 7, 1959 told the tragedy that struck at Syracuse University. A fire in a barracks killed seven U.S. Air Force service members. Ted Lemery says he's the tall guy, second from the left.

(Right)//Syracuse University Archives
This was all that was left of barracks destroyed in a fire in Jan. 6



Having learned of the following losses from caring relatives, friends or obituaries, we offer prayers and sympathy to their loved ones.

6937th Communications Group, Peshawar Air Station, Pakistan

<http://6937th.50megs.com/> -

Milton Fulghum President, PAS Alumni Assoc

//Effective July 2, 2012, the 6937th.org Website was taken off-line due to hacking. I hope to have it restored sometime in August.//

This website is dedicated to those resilient young troops that endured beautiful Peshawar and ended up somewhat warped but ready to party hardy, especially those who joined us in the PI paradise known as Balibago. This site is dedicated to the memory of the 6937th Communications Group and to all those stationed at Peshawar Air Station. PAS was established in 1958 as an isolated detachment of the United States Air Force Security Service located in a remote area south of the city of Peshawar, Pakistan.

Unit History - //02-10-2003// Usman S//

Posted by Billsaadi@aol.com//July 17 2012

Introduction

In July of 1955 the Commander of the 6900th Security Wing of the US Air Force Security Service (USAFSS) in Germany issued temporary duty (TDY) orders for a team of intercept operators to survey various locations in West Pakistan for their suitability as radio signals intercept sites. It is not known if any particular world event triggered the need for a listening post in West Pakistan. What is known is that in 1955 the US and the Soviet Union were in the midst of the Cold War. The US wanted to know everything that could be learned about the strategic military capabilities of the Soviet Union. West Pakistan had consented to assist the US in obtaining information by hosting various US sensor activities.

It was determined that the survey orders could best be implemented by assigning operators from an existing site in Libya to the survey team to be led by officers and senior NCOs from other locations. Several plane loads of men and equipment were flown to West Pakistan to conduct the survey. After evaluating a number of other sites, the survey team strongly recommended that the new site be located near Peshawar in the Northwest Frontier of West Pakistan.

In 1958 the USAFSS began marshaling equipment for a site at Peshawar as Project SAND BAG. Then Capt. Luther A. Tarbox was placed in charge of the effort to collect men and materiel and get them all to Peshawar. The tasks included finding equipment, getting the equipment refurbished to "like new" conditioning, getting visas and health processing for the men, making transportation arrangements, and getting everyone and everything to Peshawar. The personnel were assigned both on TDY from Europe and PCS from the US. The movement to Peshawar took place in the summer of 1958. Roughly twenty plane loads of men and equipment were flown to Peshawar. A temporary operating location was setup at the Peshawar airport. Several vans contained the equipment.

While permanent facilities were under construction, the personnel were housed in local hotels. By the end of 1958, enough of the new facility was completed to provide partial support to the temporary site. Most important was a quiet place to sleep and uncontaminated food. Many men of the initial cadre had suffered severe bouts of dysentery.

Construction of Peshawar Air Station included administration buildings, H-type barracks, dining hall, movie theater and a gym. Of course, an operations compound was included to house the specialized equipment used for collection of a variety of data types. Additional construction projects added a bowling alley, a nine-hole golf course, dependent housing, dependent school for grades K through 7, and expansion of the operations compound. By 1968 the operations staff at Peshawar had grown to 800. Another 500 support personnel provided essential services ranging from mail handling and cooks to recreation and chaplains. The dependent population is uncertain.

Also, in 1968 the Government of Pakistan advised the US Government that, when the ten-year lease expired in July of 1969, the lease would not be renewed. After considerable negotiations, the US vacated the station in July of 1970 bringing an end to an era of US operations in Pakistan.

The above is but a thumbnail sketch of the history of Peshawar Air Station. The following chapters will provide additional detail about the installation, the people, and the mission of PAS. <http://6937th.50megs.com/>

“Red Tail” Vet Visits the Pentagon

by Tech. Sgt. Richard A. Williams Jr. Air Force Public Affairs Agency

Posted by Al Dowling,

WASHINGTON (AFNS) - The Air Force hosted one of the original Tuskegee Airmen and his family March 16 during a tour of the Pentagon. Retired Lt. Col. Walter McCreary, his daughter Stephanie Lynch and grandson Nicholas Lynch were given a tour of the Air Force Art Gallery, the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial and the Tuskegee Airmen exhibit in the Pentagon.



(Left) McCreary, who is 94, also met with Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, who presented him with a flag that was flown over the Pentagon to commemorate his visit. A World War II aerial combat veteran with 89 missions in the European theater, he spent time as a prisoner of war in Germany after his P-51 Mustang was hit by anti-aircraft fire that destroyed its radiator over the skies of Bucharest, Romania.

McCreary recalled coming to the Pentagon while on active duty in the 1950s when he flew courier missions to deliver classified messages for the then Air Force Security Services from Kelly Air Force Base, Texas. "I would land at Bolling Air Force Base, take a water taxi to the Pentagon, deliver information, take a water taxi back to Bolling and fly back to San Antonio," he said. "It wasn't as busy back then and it seems there is a lot more hustle and bustle going on today."

The historical displays in the building were impressive, McCreary said. He said he wished more young people could see them because he doesn't believe they understand military history.



(Will Rogers on growing older~)

Some people try to turn back their " odometers ". Not me; I want people to know why I look this way. I've traveled a long way, and some of the roads weren't paved.



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

- Ballentine, Bob O’Dell, MSgt-USAF-Ret.
 - Bigelow Jr., Amerson “Rich” R., Sgt-USAF
 - Biggar, Kaye, Lt Col-USAF-Ret.
 - Brewer, Robert, MSgt-USAF-Ret.
 - Brown, Irvin Lee, USAFSS-Vet.
 - Burke, William “Bill” R., USAFSS-Civ-Ret.
 - Burns, Kenneth “Skip” D., MGen-USAF-Ret. **Life Mbr. USAFSS Cmdr.**
- 1975-1979**

- Cardonita, Dominick, A. CMSgt, USAF-Ret.
- Cobble, James Harold, MSgt-USAF-Ret.
- Cook, Robert “Butch” B., USAFSS-Vet. **Mbr.**
- Cuozzo, Alfonse “Al” J., USAFSS-Vet.
- Eller Sr., Donald Richard, USAFSS-Vet.
- Feinman, Joel, USAFSS-Vet.
- Gibney, Joseph, USAFSS-Vet.
- Godsey, Jimmie “Jim” Lee, USAFSS-Vet.
- Harris, David “Dave” L., USAFSS-Vet.
- Kelly Jr., Thomas “Tom” E., SMSgt-USAF-Ret.
- Kelly, Gerald “Jerry” J., USAFSS-Vet.
- Lachat, Jerry Douglas, Lt Col-USAF-Ret.
- Leeper, Paul Raymond, MSgt-USAF-Ret.
- Myers, Dennis L., A1C-USAF, **Mbr.**
- Norcom Jr., Robert H., USAFSS-Vet.
- Prater, Roy William, Maj-USAF-Ret.
- Rosales, Robert E., USAFSS-Civ-Ret.
- Sommers, Vicki, Spouse of USAFSS/ESC-Civ-Ret. Gordon “Gordy” W. Sommers, **Life Mbr.**
- Trout, Gerald “Jerry” Dwight, CMSgt-USAF-Ret. **Life Mbr.**
- Urban, Victoria “Vicki” Louise, USAFSS-Vet/AFISR-Civ-Ret.
- Wallace, Donald John., USAFSS-Vet.
- Wheeler-Smith, Linda Neal, TSgt-USAF-Ret.
- Winter III, Charles “Chuck” R., USAFSS-Vet.
- Younts, Gordon Lee, Sgt-USAF (ASA-USAFSS Vet.)



MSgt Bob O'Dell Ballentine, 81, of San Angelo, Texas died May 17, 2012. Bob was born July 26, 1930, in St. Joseph, Mo. He received his diploma from Clarinda High School, Clarinda, Iowa. He graduated from Lincoln Aviation Institute, Lincoln, Neb. and worked as a flight engineer for TWA. Bob enlisted in the USAF in 1951. During his military career he served as Crew Chief on various aircraft and worked on Atlas missiles. Bob served in the Vietnam War and landed two days prior to the Tet Offensive. Later in his career, he worked in communications in conjunction with Security Service and remained in this field until his retirement. His favorite overseas assignment was in Edinburgh, Scotland. Upon his military retirement, Bob and his family relocated to San Angelo, Texas, where he enrolled at Angelo State University. He earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration and graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors. His wife, Ruth, preceded him in death on Jan. 30, 2004. Survivors include his daughter, Lori Rambo of Menard, Texas; two sons, Jon Ballentine of Pleasanton, Texas, and Jeffrey Ballentine of San Angelo. **//Complete obituary in GoSanAngelo from May 20 to May 22, 2012.//**
//Notified by EJ Ledet – Roll Call Web Site//



Sgt Amerson R. "Rich" Bigelow, Jr., 65, of Toms River, NJ, passed away May 30, 2012. He was born Sept 19 1946 and raised in Jersey City. He moved to Brick where he and Ginny lived for 22 years, and raised their three children Roni, Ricke, and Todd. They moved to North Carolina for some time, before moving back to Toms River last year. Rich was an Air Force Veteran (Sgt) who was a member of the 6921st Security Wing in Misawa, Japan, he was a lifetime member of the VFW, and a member of the AMVets Ocean County Post 2, Jackson, NJ. Rich is survived by his wife of 44 1/2 years, Ginny. **//Complete obituary by Anderson and Campbell Funeral Home//** **//Notified by Helen Henderson – Misawa Web Site//**

I just heard from Ginny Bigelow that Rich passed away last night. Rich had been ill for a while but did attend the Philly reunion. Rich and I and Spanky and Granny shared 2 great years on trick 4 in Misawa from 65 to 67. He was a great friend and brother and will be missed a lot. May he rest in peace **//Bill Summers//**

Amen, Billy. I had heard that Rich was probably not going to make it. There is a great picture here on site that made the front page of the Wingspread (or the Stars & Stripes - I forget) showing me & Rich holding a fire hose during the Misawa fire of January 1966. I will try to find it and bring it forward. What a great guy Rich was. What a great time we shared on the Hill and in the Machi. Rest in Peace, Brother Dawg. **//George "Granny" Welch//**



Lt Col Kaye Biggar passed away peacefully after a long battle with cancer, August 7, 2011. He is survived by his daughter; Laura Biggar, and son; Ron Berlint. Dr. Biggar was a Vietnam and Cold War Veteran, and a retired Senior Air Force Officer with Mission Support Command and Executive experience in a wide variety of positions in almost every major command including; Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command, Military Airlift Command, United States Air Forces in Europe, NATO and HQ Military Assistance Command in Vietnam. He retired from active duty in the Intelligence Community in San Antonio in 1981. Lt Col Biggar was a 26 year veteran with about 10 of those years in USAFSS. **//Complete obituary in San Antonio Express News Aug 19, 2011. //Notified by Dude Downs//**



MSgt Robert Brewer passed away March 22, 2012. Bob served with 6921st SW from 1964-1967. He had been in a nursing home near Goodyear, AZ for several years due to effects of Alzheimer's. He was buried with Military Honors on Apr 9th at Cane Creek National Memorial Cemetery in AZ...RIP Bob... **//Input and notification by Gene Frasur who received word of Robert's passing from his wife, Akemio//**



Irvin Lee Brown [1939 - 2012] Our loving Angel, Irvin Lee Brown was called home by our Lord and Savior on June 11, 2012, at the blessed age of 72. He was a fun, kind and giving person who will always be remembered for his love and dedication to his family and friends. His funeral service was held Tuesday, June 19, 2012, at Castle Ridge Mortuary followed with the Interment at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. **//Complete obit in San Antonio Express News June 14, 2012.// Bob Cope//**



William R. "Bill" Burke, born 28 March 1921 entered into rest 22 May 2012. Bill was born in San Antonio. He entered the Navy 14 January 1942 and became a Boatswain's mate on the USS Idaho (BB-42). Mr. Burke He retired from civil service at what was then USAF Security Services, Kelly AFB. Mr. Burke is survived by many wonderful relatives, friends and fabulous neighbors. **//Complete obit in San Antonio Express News May 27, 2012.//**



Major General Kenneth (Skip) Dean Burns (1930-2012). A long-time resident of Hollywood Park in San Antonio, TX passed away peacefully following a long battle with COPD and leukemia. Ken was raised in Chula Vista and a graduate of Sweetwater High near San Diego, CA. Upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 1954, he took a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Ken subsequently served 31 years in the Air Force as Commanders of: the largest fighter wing in Europe at RAF Upper Heyford, England; USAFSS in San Antonio; the US Logistics Group in Turkey; 13th Air Force at Clark AB in the Philippines; and retired in August 1985 as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Near East and South Asia, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Washington DC. He served two combat tours in Vietnam, first flying MiG patrols over Hanoi in F-104 Starfighters (1965) and later as Commander of the 480th Tactical Fighter Squadron (F-4E Phantoms), accumulating a total of 225 combat missions. In all, Ken flew more than 24 different kinds of aircraft. Decorations include 2 Distinguished Service Medals, 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 11 Air Medals, the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, and Airman’s Medal for Heroism, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal. In October 1977, General Burns was inducted into the Order of the Sword; the highest tribute non-commissioned officers may confer upon a commissioned officer. Skip was preceded in death by his wife, Dottie, in 2006. He is survived by his daughters, Pamela Axell and Alison Heft. **//Complete obituary in San Antonio in Express-News on June 14, 2012.//**



CMSgt Dominick A. Cardonita, USAF Retired, died Saturday, July 28, 2012 in San Antonio. Funeral Mass was on Thursday, August 2 at St Vincent Pallotti Catholic Church, in Abilene, TX. Interment with full military honors followed. Dominick was born on May 27, 1941 in New Haven, CT He married Belen Lerma on February 15, 1972. and is survived by his son, Edward and wife Diana of San Antonio; daughter, Susan Cardonita of Abilene. Dominick served for almost 25 years in the United States Air Force as a public affairs specialist, NCO and Supervisor, with assignments to Texas; Republic of Vietnam, Thailand, and Germany among his many duty stations. Upon retirement from the Air Force in 1985, he served in Air Force Security Service Headquarters, Security Hill, Kelly AFB, TX for over ten years in the Public Affairs office as a civilian supervisor. Dom was active in American Legion Audie L. Murphy Post 336, San Antonio, TX, where he served as First Vice Commander, Membership Chairman, Public Relations Chairman and member of the Color Guard.**//Complete obit in San Antonio Express-News Aug 2012.//**



MSgt James Harold Cobble, 71, died Thursday, September 16, 2010 at home in Millington, TN. James was a USAF Veteran who retired after 30 years of service to our country. James was with the 6952nd Scty Sqdn, Kirknewton, Scotland 1959-1962. He is survived by his wife: Vergie Elaine Cobble.

//Complete obituary in The Commercial Appeal - September 17, 2010. //Notified and Input – Harry Hathhorn//



Robert B. "Butch" Cook, 71, of Goodyear, AZ died May 13, 2012, from cancer at Hospice of the Valley. Mr. Cook was born May 16, 1940, in Mansfield, Ohio. He was an Air Force veteran. He moved to Arizona in 2002. He worked as a Department of Defense contractor, most recently at Lockheed Martin in Goodyear. He was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Litchfield Park and the American Legion in Avondale. He is survived by one stepdaughter, Sarah Bracy and one stepson, Mark Bryan.

//Complete obituary in West Valley View Newspaper May 15 2012.// //Notified by e-mail from Judy Bryan/Mrs. Robert Cook.//



Alfonse J. "Al" Cuozzo, 75, of Northford, CT died July 5th 2012. He was born in New Haven on March 21, 1937. He graduated from Wilber Cross High School and attended the University of New Haven. From 1955 to 1959, he proudly served in the USAF as a radio intercept operator for the USAF Security Service, spending time in Misawa, Japan for the Misawa Project/1st Radio Squadron Mobile. Mr. Cuozzo was the first to identify the radio frequency of Sputnik in 1957. His service accolades included a Letter of Commendation and a Medal of Good Conduct. He remained enlisted in the Air Force Reserve until 1961. He is survived by his wife Loretta.

//Complete obituary at The North Haven Funeral Home//

I am sad to report that our old friend, **Al Cuozzo** lost his battle with cancer on July 5 at 1:19PM. Many of you had an opportunity to meet Al and his wife Loretta at the Philadelphia reunion in 2010 and the Atlanta reunion last year. The wake will be on Monday, July 9 from 5:00 to 8:00pm at North Haven Funeral home, 36 Washington Ave, North Haven, CT. The funeral Mass will be on Tuesday, July 10, at St. Therese Church, 555 Middletown Ave, North Haven, followed by interment at All Saints Cemetery, Middletown Ave, North Haven. Please keep Loretta and all the Cuozzo family in your prayers. **//Bob Wynn - Misawa Web Site//**



Donald Richard Eller, Sr., 78, born Sep 17, 1933 died May 7, 2012.

Don was a former 202; his USAFSS assignments included Zweibrucken, 6921st RGM, Misawa (59-63), Ft Meade, Vietnam, and Shemya. After retirement from the Air Force, he was employed as a programmer at the Austin, TX VA facility. He is survived by wife, Imogene, sons Donald Jr., Duane, and David and daughter Deborah, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Don succumbed to complications of diabetes; he was a good friend and will be missed by many. //Notified by **Homer Waring – Roll call Web Site//**



Joel Fineman. It is with great sadness that I am passing along the announcement from **Joel Feinman's** daughters that he passed away on 20 May. As an MB flying out of Yokota in the early 1960's, Joel was one of our pioneers who commenced flying GOT missions from Bangkok and Da Nang in the 1963-1965

period. His daughters email addresses are included below, should you desire to pass condolences to them. RIP Joel Feinman. //Larry Tart//

Larry, It is with heavy heart that I bring you the following sad news of the passing of Joel S Feinman. The first comments are from Ron Gosewich; the others are from Joel's sisters. //Don Shoop//

I called before checking email and learned on Joel's passing from his daughter, Robin. He had fallen in December, broke his hip and was hospitalized. There he was diagnosed with prostate cancer to which he succumbed last night at 73. PS – Robin said she and her sister will probably answer Joel's email for a time yet. //Ron Gosewich//

I am Joel's daughter, Robin, and am going through his emails on his computer this morning... he passed away last night very peacefully. I am not sure how long my sister & I will be checking his emails but probably for a few days, however feel free to contact either one of us at the following as well:

robiso@aol.com (Robin) or sherylmari5@aol.com (Sheryl)



Joseph Gibney went to be with his Lord, June 1, 2012. He was born January 23, 1932 in Tonawanda, New York and made San Antonio his home for 52 years. He was committed to serving his country for 45 years with active duty in the United States Air Force and following with service as a civil servant. He is survived by his loving wife, Margaret, and his four children:

Jerry, Melinda, Brian, and Ginger. He was a loving and devoted husband and father and we will miss him dearly. //Published in **San Antonio Express News, June 17th 1012.//**

"It is with enormous sadness that I tell you all that Joe Gibney has passed, last Friday night. I have no details to give you other than his passing. Joe and I were very close, and I have visited with him each time I've come to San Antonio. May Our Lord give you rest my brother. If I get further details, I will post them.
//Jim Kaus – Misawa Web Site//



Jimmie "Jim" Lee Godsey, 61, of Salina KS, passed away April 6, 2010, at Salina Regional Medical Center. He was born July 17, 1948, in Salina. Jimmie was a 1966 graduate of Salina High School and served in the USAF from 1967 to 1974 and stationed at the 6918th Scty Sqdn on "A Flight from 1967-1969. He worked as a benefits coordinator with the U.S. Treasury in Austin, Texas, until his retirement in 2007, at which time he returned to Salina to reside. He had a band named the Hometowners, which performed in the local area. He is survived by his wife Barbara. **//Complete obituary at Ryan Mortuary// //Input by Bill Spencer – 6918th Scty Sqdn//**



Harris, David "Dave" L, 72, died June 28 2012 in Gretna, Nebraska. He was born Mar 16, 1940. Dave was married to the love of his life, Irene, for nearly 50 years. Dave's accomplishments include 22 years of service in the U.S. Air Force, where he received several commendations, including a Bronze Star. He was stationed at the 6952nd Scty. Sqdn, Kirknewton, Scotland from 1962-1965. He was also an active member of the American Legion, SAL, and VFW. **//Complete obituary in Omaha World-Herald from July 1 to July 2, 2012.// //Notified and input by Harry Hathhorn//**



SMSgt Thomas E. Kelley Jr., who served his country for 28 years, passed away June 17, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Jeannine and daughters Kelley, Katherine, Christine and Melissa. **//Complete obituary in San Antonio Express News 19 June 2012.//**

Just wanted to pass on that **SMSgt (R) Tom Kelley** passed away. We were together in Vito and he may have been in the Hqs. Tom was an X1 with 28 yrs service. Good friend. **//Ron Moyer//**

Ron, sorry to hear of Tom's passing. Wasn't he one of the Mission Supes when we were in DOO? I remember him as a hard worker with a good sense of humor. RIP Tom. **//Chuck McFarlane//**



Gerald "Jerry" J. Kelly, 69, a resident of Millersville, died May 2 at Tate Chesapeake Hospice House in Linthicum. He was born September 30, 1942 in Nicholson, PA and has lived the past 45 years in Millersville. Gerald served in the USAF from 1962 to 1966. He retired after 41 years at the National Security Agency and had worked at PTFS in Fort Meade. He is

survived by his wife of 45 years, Kathryn Kelly of Millersville. Interment will be in Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Crownsville. **//Complete obituary in The Capitol Gazette 05 may 2012// //Input and notification by JP Hill and Juan Flores//**

Juan;

You don't know Jerry, but he was a long time Dogger whom I think was an 11-op on the M-models but I am not sure. **//John//**

Subject: Re: [USAFDoggers] Re: Colonel, info from JP Hill. Bob, I'm moving a bit slower these last couple of months, so I apologize if this note is somewhat tardy. I wanted to offer some clarification about Jerry (Gerald J. Kelly). I believe Jerry served in USAFSS during the early '60s ('62-'66) as a Vietnamese linguist. I don't think he ever flew but I think he was assigned to the 6924th at Danang/Monkey Mountain. I worked with Jerry as a civilian in the early '90s for a couple of years between tours overseas. After I retired he continued to work in the archives section and then in the FOIA section. Jerry was a good man with a wonderful sense of humor. He and Fred Frevert (another former Dogger) used to keep us chuckling throughout the day with their jokes. **//Tom Penn//**



Lt Col Jerry Douglas Lachat, of Tampa, passed away suddenly on June 1, 2012. He was born in Buffalo NY and grew up in Dayton, Ohio. He earned his DDS degree at The Ohio State Dental School in 1974 and attained his post Doctorate Degree at Indiana University Dental School in 1980. Jerry proudly served his country in the United States Air Force for 24 years, from which he retired as Lt. Colonel. He is survived by

his loving wife of 34 years, Paula. **//Complete obituary in the Indianapolis Star 3 June, 2012//** (See tribute on p58)



MSgt Paul Raymond Leeper, 74, of White Haven tragically passed away 29 May at his residence, due to traumatic injuries sustained in an unfortunate accident. He was born Jan 28 1938 in Toledo, Ohio. Raised mostly in Chicago he joined the USAF at 17. He had many duties in the military but was most proud to be a recruiter. While stationed in Japan, he met his wife Fumiko (Kathy). He also spent overseas tours in Greenland and Newfoundland. San Antonio became home when he was stationed at RAFB as a recruiter. He was awarded the AF Commendation Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal twice. He is survived by his wife Joan. He will be buried in San Antonio, Texas. **//Complete obituary at StandardSpeaker.com//**

Paul Leeper's son called me to say that his father had died yesterday 29 May 2012 in Pennsylvania. He was working under his pickup and the truck slipped off the jack and crushed him. He died instantly. Paul retired from recruiting at Randolph AFB as a MSgt in 1977. He served at the 6922nd RGM at Ashiya AB, Japan and at the 6918th SS at Brady AB, Japan in the late 1950's and early 1960's as an operations clerk. He subsequently served in recruiting in Chicago and as protocol NCOIC at Yakota AB, Japan. His wife, Fumiko (Kathy) preceded him in death in 2008. **//David Naab//**



Dennis L. Myers, 67, of Laurelville OH went to his heavenly home on March 12, 2012. He was born on October 22, 1944. He is survived by his beloved wife of almost 32 years, Janet. He served his country in the special forces of the US Air Force. Dennis was the pastor of the Laurelville Tabernacle, where he attended 33 years. Burial with the Ross Co. Honor Guard will follow in the Mt. Pleasant cemetery. **//Complete obituary in the**

Chillicothe Gazette Mar 13 2012.//



Robert H. Norcom Jr., 73, died March 8, 2012. Bob served his country in the Air Force during the Vietnam War and retired from the military in 1977. Bob was stationed at Misawa AB, Japan. A true patriot, in lieu of flowers the family asks donations are sent to the Wounded Warrior Project: Bob is survived by his wife, Elizabeth "Betty" Norcom. He also will be remembered by his daughter Donna Lang. **//Complete obituary at azcentral.com// //Input by**

Helen Henderson – Misawa Web Site//



Major Roy William Prater, 65, passed away May 4, 2012 from a massive heart attack at his Boerne, Texas residence. Roy was born February 23, 1947, in Ft. Worth, Texas. Roy is a 1973 graduate of the University of Texas. He completed USAF flight training graduating with the rating of "pilot." His military career combined USMC and USAF service for a total of 21 years. During his military service, he had duty as an air traffic controller, KC-135 pilot/aircraft commander, intelligence officer, and Squadron Commander. His tours of duty included Vietnam; Webb AFB, TX; Rickenbacker AFB, OH; Dyess AFB, Texas; San Antonio, Texas; Sembach, Germany; and Ft. Meade, Maryland. His many awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, AF Outstanding Unit Award, Combat Readiness Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal. Roy is survived by his devoted wife Marilyn. Interment with Full Military Honors is in Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675 or got@woundedwarriorsproject.org. **//Complete obituary in San Antonio Express News 06 May 2012//**

Roy had several assignments with ESC, including, I believe, as DO of the 6918th at Sembach (then a COMSEC unit). **//Joe Hurst//**



Robert E. "Rosie" Rosales, 91, died April 30, 2012. He was born in San Antonio, Texas on December 18, 1920. Preceding him in death by six weeks was his wife, Delfina. Robert graduated from Lanier High School in 1938. He joined the Texas Army National Guard, 36th Infantry



Division. The 36th Division landed in North Africa in 1943 and saw its first combat September 9th, landing at Salerno, Sicily. They fought their way throughout Italy, including Anzio, and eventually captured Rome. Attacking the Germans in Austria, they captured Field Marshall von Rundstedt as WWII Europe ended in May of 1945. After 400 days of combat and five campaigns (Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe), the 36th Infantry Division returned to the United States in December 1945. Robert earned the American Defense Service Medal, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with five Bronze Stars, and one Bronze Arrowhead. He also was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge and Good Conduct Medal. After the war, Robert, "Rosie" returned home and worked at Kelly Air Force Base working as a communications specialist and cryptologist retiring after 31 years. **//Complete obituary in San Antonio Express News 4 May 2012. Additional information published on 6 May 2012.//**



Vicki Sommers passed on May 13, 2012. Vicki was born on a farm in rural South Carolina on July 11, 1926. From an early age, Vicki developed the love of plants, especially flowers, and began a lifelong passion for gardening. She was also an avid golfer and a certified professional with the L.P.G.A. Vicki served as a golf pro at numerous locations and became the head professional at Lackland AFB where she enjoyed teaching and giving lessons and was the clothing manager at the pro shop for twenty years. Vicki was awarded the Certificate of Merit Plaque by the L.P.G.A. citing her merits as a golf instructor. In fact, she met her husband, Gordon Sommers, when he came in for golf lessons. They were married in 1984 and resided in Windcrest for twenty-seven years. Vicki is survived by her devoted husband Gordon Sommers (FTVA HOH) and other loving family. **//Complete obituary in San Antonio Express-News on July 15, 2012.//**



CMSgt Gerald “Jerry” Dwight Trout, 72, of San Antonio, Texas and the Arminda Community in Knoxville, TN, was called home to glory on July 23, 2012. He is survived by mother, Mildred and children Tracy (Steve) Mays of Cambridge, England and Darren (Sherry) Trout of Dallas TX as well as five grandchildren and six brothers and sisters. He was a proud veteran of 30 years with the USAF serving around the world. His assignments include: Trabzon, Turkey, 1964, 6950th Scty. Wing, RAF Chicksands, England 1966-1969, 6993 Scty Sqdn Kelly AFB (Medina), San Antonio, TX 1969-1970, Pleiku and Da Nang, Vietnam 1970-1971, RAF Chicksands, England 1971-1975, Myrtle Beach SC, 1975-1976, 6931st Scty Gp, Crete, Greece 1983-1985, RAF Chicksands 1978-1982, Crete, Greece 1983-1985, HQS Electronic Security Command 1986 until retirement. He received numerous air medals during his long career. **//Complete obituary in San Antonio Express News 30 July 2012.//**
//Notification and input by Jim White//

Jerry spent close to 30 years in USAFSS, AFIC, and ESC. I have indeed lost a longtime friend **//Jim White//**

So sorry to hear about Jerry. He worked for me for a while at Chix then transferred to JOCC. We used to meet frequently at the Chix R&G - he always had a great sense of humor. Jim, remember the time we rented a van and went to London for supper (can't remember the name of the place). You & Bernice, Jerry & Shirley, Ev & me and a couple of other couples -great evening, lots of laughs. Jerry will be missed. R.I.P **// Chuck MacFarlane//**

I remember an incident at "The Carvery" and was in the Cumberland Hotel right at Marble Arch. Two amusing tidbits I remember. Ed James' wife, while we were waiting for our reservation, said: "how does this work; do they have a list?" And I think it was you or Jerry that said: "No you just wait here until that guy guesses your name!" Then afterwards I was sitting on the bus and you got on and said: "Hey, the cook wants your autograph!" Yep was a great time, and I always ate a ton when I went there. Jerry was a friend since I first met him in 1967. Good Lord, but that was over 40 years ago. RIP Jerry!! **//Jim White//**

I remember Jerry Trout from my 2nd Chix tour. I remember that I was leaving PCS and dug up all the dahlia bulbs in my garden. You told me to give them to Jerry because he was into that stuff. Which I did. Sorry to see him pass. **//Jim Klima//**

This is indeed sad news. I've known Jerry since 1964 at Trabzon! Our paths crisscrossed through the years but each time we saw each other was a good time. Last saw him a few years ago at one of our reunion picnics – I chastised him for never socializing. Always enjoyed his company – he always called me Kenneth!!! I am truly saddened by his passing and more so that I can't be at his services. RIP Jerry Trout **//Ken Gendolfe – kg//**

I'm sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. I served with Jerry in the EC-47 Program at Pleiku and Da Nang in 1970. We flew a number of missions together. Jerry was a good guy and hard dedicated worker. I also knew Jerry when he was a CMSgt and assigned to the Training Directorate at HQ ESC, ca. 1985-87. May Jerry rest in peace **//Ed Benningfield//**

Jerry was a great guy. Saw him about three months ago in the Commissary at Lackland. He knew he only had a limited time but was making it the best he could. Rest in Peace my friend. **//Ron Moyer//**

Really sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. I first met him in the late 70s shortly after his arrival at Chix for what must have been his third tour there. He had an expression that struck me as being real funny. I guess to make a point to some of the younger NCOs, he would say "I've got more time on station, than you've got in the Air Force." Jim, I know you and Jerry were great friends. Condolences to the family and close friends. **//Bobby Cooper//**



Victoria "Vicki" Louise Urban, 61, passed away May 7, 2012, after a valiant battle with cancer. She was born July 12, 1950, in Bangor, ME. Vicki attended St. Mary's Grammar School, John Baptist High School and Beal Business College. She worked at the University of Maine, Orono, before entering the USAF. She served proudly in the women's Air Force from 1973 to 1976 as a Russian linguist and administrative assistant. Her assignments included Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio; Presidio of Monterey, Monterey, Calif.; Sembach and Augsburg, Germany. After she separated from the Air Force, she joined the civil service as an executive assistant working for both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force until she retired from Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency, Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, in 2010. Vicki was predeceased by her husband, William J. Urban. She is survived by her son, William J. Urban II. **//Complete obituary in BDN Maine on May 15, 2012.//**

Vicki was in the "IN" directorate with me many years ago (1980's)...had a lot of great conversations with this wonderful lady when she was there and then as she moved around headquarters. She was the Executive Administrative Professional (last assignment in the Command Section). She was always a very classy individual that had nothing but good things to say about everyone. **//Ted Colquhoun//**

It is with great sadness I inform you that Vicki passed away on Monday, 7 May. I received a call from her sister, Lizzie, last evening. Her family was with her when she passed. Vicki had been very uncomfortable and in a lot of pain the last couple weeks and was not aware of her surroundings at the time of her passing. It was such a blessing she was able to spend her last few years with her family. She always looked forward to hearing from everyone. Vicki decided she wanted to be buried with her mother in Bangor ME. **//Dottie France//**



Donald John Wallace, 68, beloved husband of Susan, nee Thayer, for 27 years and loving father of Whitney and Keaton Wallace died 14 June 2012. He was born 29 August 1943 in Faribault, MN. He was an Independent Business owner, former Councilman of Shavano Park, Texas and former Russian linguist in the United States Air Force. Private Interment, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Memorials in his memory may be made to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund. **//Complete obituary in San Antonio Express-News on June 16, 2012.//**



TSgt Linda N. Wheeler-Smith died, May 03, 2012 after a short illness. TSgt Wheeler-Smith served her country honorably and proudly for 20 years as a Morse Systems Supervisor and Information Management Specialist. She was stationed at Keesler AFB, Mississippi; Clark AB, Philippines; Iraklion AS, Crete; San Antonio, Texas, Shu Lin Kou AS, Taiwan, Misawa AB, Japan; Kunia, Hawaii; Kelly AFB, San Antonio, TX; Kadena AB, Okinawa; and Ft. George G Meade, MD. She was awarded five Air Force Commendation Medals, an Air Force Achievement Medal, five Air Force Outstanding Unit awards, six Air Force Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. She is survived by her son Aaron Wheeler. **//Complete obituary at shelbyinfo.com// //Input and notification by Wayne Wheeler and Tim Smith//**

I will miss my old buddy. Linda and I followed each other around the world starting in Crete in 72. What a great lady and a great Dfer ... My condolences to Wayne, Tim and the entire family. God Bless. **//Danny Hartnett – Misawa Web Site//**



Charles R. "Chuck" Winter III, 65, of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, died of pancreatic cancer, May 9, 2011. He was born April 18, 1946. Charles was an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam Era serving in the Middle East. He retired from the National Security Agency in 2005 after 30 years of service as a Linguist Specialist. Charles was also assigned to A-Flight at the 6937th Comm. Group, Peshawar, Pakistan from Sept 1967-Dec 1968. He attended USAF Language School at Syracuse University, spoke seven languages and was a member of the Air Force Alumni Group and Phoenix Society. As a double decker tour bus driver for George Washington University, at one time he conducted a tour of Washington D.C for Medal of Honor winners. Surviving are daughters, Kirsten, and Kendra. **//Complete obituary in The Washington Post on May 15, 2011. //Notified and input by David Mitchell//**



Sgt Gordon Lee Younts, 83, died May 28, 2012, while at home with loved ones. Gordon was born January 27, 1929 in Greensboro, NC. He served his country in the Air Force from 1947 to 1950 stationed in Germany as a Personnel Clerk.. While in Germany he was with the 2nd RSM Herzo Base for 1 year (ASA) and Darmstadt for 14 months (USAFSS). He enjoyed a long career in sales where he touched many lives with his strong faith and compassion for others. He leaves behind his wife, Jean and many loving family members and friends. **//Complete obituary in the Winston-Salem Journal – May 29, 2012. //Input – Aubrey "Duke" Keeter//**

-“SILENT WARRIOR TRIBUTES”-

Three years ago, **John Edwin Neeley**, 83, of Orange Park, FL, passed away (on Wednesday, May 27, 2009). I used to see John at gatherings in St Augustine, and once in Chattanooga, when Misawan's would gather (see photo left). He lived over in Orange Park, and I went to



see him there once. A warm and gentle man, he never took credit for any of the legendary stories that

are told of him, only telling me not to believe most of what I've heard.

He is one that for sure can be called

a Legend, when talking about former USAFSS pioneers. He is greatly missed by many. **//Jim Kaus//**



Jim, it was good to see the picture of you and John Neeley. John and I were at Ashiya, Misawa, and Brady together back in the late 50's and early 60's. Later, we served at NKP when he was with Task Force Alpha and I was in the 6994th. Of note, he was my best man when I got married in 1963. Lost touch with him in the early 1980's. **//Dave Naab//**

CMSgt Bob Cline used to love to tell the old stories about John Neeley from when they were at Ashiya in the 15RSM. On my 2nd tour to Brady, one morning at breakfast in the NCO Club, John introduced me to a young waitress by the name to Tachiyo - about a year and a half later, we were married in Fukuoka. **//Jim Clark//**

In the late sixties John, along with John Heffernan, Denny Rassmussen & myself were in Misawa together – John was on leave from Vietnam at the time. He opened up a bit, but mostly just smiled when questioned about the stories you mention. Definitely one of the very best analysts to ever wear the USAFSS patch – he married a Taiwanese in '71 then retired in the early seventies. **//Marv Borgman//**

Dr. Jerry D. Lachat, Lt Col USAF (Ret)

The bare facts newspaper obit would probably read thus: Yesterday, Riverview, Fl. dentist, Dr. Jerry D. Lachat, died at his home in Tampa. He was a retired USAF Colonel who, with his wife had lived in Tampa for a number of years. He was a fisherman, having recently returned from a trip to the Dry Tortugas, and an adventure traveler. During the past year he and his wife had been to Macchu Picchu and Easter Island/Galapagos. What that couldn't convey is that he was my friend. I remember him not as Col. Dr. Lachat, but as an A1C/A2C 202 on Trick Two in Misawa, Japan. Jerry, Jan Updegraff and I didn't seem to have a lot in common other than being 202's on the same Flight. However, we became really good friends. A bit of beer drinking (well, OK, QUITE a bit), Machi carousing and LOTS of barracks conversations in which the problems of the world were so easily solved by such naïve young men as we. Eventually Jan went off TDY to Da Nang and Jerry and I went FIGMO and returned to HQ USAFSS in April/May 1966. During that last year Jerry actually saved my life--he somehow convinced me that 1-2 packs a day of Pall Mall cigarettes were not a good idea, and because of him, I quit for good at the ripe old age of 21. The last time I saw Jerry was in 1971 in Columbus, OH. when I was on my way to post college job interviews in Washington, DC. Jerry was in pre-med at Ohio State and was excited about his anatomy course. He wanted to show me what he was doing and I have to admit I remain grateful to this day that the building that housed his (and other student's) cadavers, was locked that evening. After completing his dental training the Air Force made him an offer he couldn't refuse, and he returned to Service with bars, instead of stripes. Every time he began to think about separation, the AF made him another offer--so he remained to retirement. We each went on to experience "life". Marriage(s), career(s), raising families--and all the ups and downs those things entail. The process through which Jerry, Jan and I reconnected isn't as relevant as the fact that we DID manage it. Over the past several years we have carried on email conversations much like we did in the barracks at Misawa. Oh, our politics and life perspective have undergone some pretty dramatic changes but the main thing was the enjoyment and satisfaction of the friendship. It had been important to us and, after a gap of over 40 years, was so again. We never did meet in person again. Jerry and Jan did a couple years ago but for some reason I had a reluctance. We shared pictures, so we knew the changes we each had undergone, but without that face to face reality check I guess I was able to read their emails and SEE them as they had been in Misawa. Strange logic, huh? So, Jerry is gone. The dentist, the fisherman, the traveler, the avid amateur photographer (thousands of pictures per trip), the Colonel, the lover of a three wheel trike he rode often to his favorite spot on the edge of Tampa Bay. In spite of all that, I'll opt to remember him as a husband to Paula, a friend (especially to Jan and I), and a young Airman 202 doing a job he thought important. R.I.P, my friend, R.I.P. //Submitted by Dan Tholen//

Two Recent Philadelphia Reunion Attendees Remembered



2010 Reunion - Philadelphia - Trick 1

Phil Relnick, Bob Haley, Carson Schnell, Dan McMasters, Al Menezes, Frank Weiss, Joe Dowd, Bill Ratliff, John LaMonica, Lee Carpenter, Bob Dellapi, Ron Swindle, Bob Wynn, BJ Cook, Al Cuzzo, Bob Wiltuck, Marvin Schroeder, George Decker, Dick MacWilliams, and Denny Arnold

Mike Porta: This was the only picture that I could find with Fallen Eagle **Al Cuzzo**, who attended the Misawa Project Philly Reunion in 2010. RIP Al, I am glad that I got to meet you.

Denny Arnold: Add Fallen Eagle **George Decker**. May they both R.I.P.



Memorial Day Weekend Sunday, 29 May 2011.
A misty morning at Vigilance Park, Fort Meade Memorial

From: Cynthia (Schrecengost) and Ed Miller - Monday, May 28, 2012
To: webadm@ftva.org



Sir,
Attached are photos of our now annual remembrance visit to add flags and flowers in honor of those lost. Researching the late Colonel Schrecengost's archives, we have discovered that the then Captain Schrecengost (Cynthia's father) also flew a Reconnaissance mission from Incirlik AB on that same day as the C-130A shoot-down. Captain Schrecengost had been forward deployed to Adana on 15 July 1958 as the 18th TRS flight detachment lead on the CASF Bravo Ops. For us, this discovery has made the C-

130 memorial a now very, personal, family marker.



We had our own private moment there at your memorial on Sunday. Indeed, other than the ritual security challenge when we were observed taking pictures, we were the only ones there for at least that hallowed hour. From the memorial, we then went to Arlington to visit our own sites there and honor our family and friends lost along the way, but remembered always. Roses and flags left in remembrance.

remembered always.



The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why.

"Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon."

"How come He doesn't answer you?" she asked.



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

Making A Difference

Posted by Carroll Sickles



Since 1991 I have been part of a tutoring program set up between my church (Community United Methodist, of Fruitland Park), and the Fruitland Park Grade School which is next door to the church. Each year we have a group of volunteers who take one child and work with that one child every Wed. afternoon from 2 to 3 PM through the whole school year. At the end of the school

year we each get a picture taken with our student.

With the new methods they have of teaching now days, neither my student or myself know what we are doing, we simply teach each other. One thing he did learn this year was how to beat me about as many times as I beat him at tic-tac-toe. If you finish all the work that the teacher has assigned and have a few minutes left before the bell we can do other things. A lot of these kids come from broken homes or one parent homes and they get no help at all at home. Most kids know their letters and numbers when they start first grade because they have been to preschool or kindergarten. Some of these kids have had neither and start out at day one of first grade at a disadvantage. //May 15, 2012//

Rass,

Since ya got the big project(June's RIT Newsletter) done, guess ya be relaxing big time?? 'nuther excellent job. By the way, do ya recollect the article I sent to U early last year concerning John Sinnard(specifically Operation Eyesight)and ya said U'd do an article on it - ya suppose ya can do it on the next issue... sho wud be most appreciative
B J Cook

The Birth of Operation Eyesight

By John Sinnard (Misawa 60-63)-Redacted

Our tour to Misawa was one tour that will remain with me forever. Many of us came to Misawa with different lengths of service and assignments. There were other AFSCs other than the 292x1 and 202x0. We had many people with many years of diversified service (Army, Navy and Air Force) and were only new to the Command but not new to the AF. Ergo, opinions are based on one's personal experience and work experience, and are not based solely on this one

assignment. , I was assigned to the 6921st Operations Group and then transferred to the 6989th RSM. Cross trainees were required to complete upgrade training in our new AFSC and progress through successful testing. The 89th offered a realistic and complete program in my opinion.

I spent a great deal of my off duty time searching for a home to house my family. My other off duty time was used to do the one thing I did get to do while assigned the Group, and that was to be a volunteer on the committee that developed and planned for the Deaf and Blind School Christmas Party in December. The party was replete with ice cream, candy, cake and toys and nice presents.

It was after that party (a huge success) that I got to thinking - if I were one of those children, what would I have wanted for a Christmas present? That embryonic idea remained active in the back of my mind. While walking up the long corridor from Group Ops to the 89th Squadron Ops office, I stopped to adjust my load and accidentally covered my right eye. In so doing, it came to me in a flash - with no left eyesight, I was now blind. That is when I reasoned that most of the children at our Christmas party had operable and remedial problems with their eyes and ears, i.e. cornea transplants, hearing aids, Braille typewriters et. al. They also had limited funds and strict laws regarding transplants that were different than that of the United States. It was then that I decided the best gift that we as members of the 89th could offer in helping these children was to all work together and find a methodology to grant these children help in correcting their eyesight ... ergo, their plight. That was the very moment that the idea of Operation Eyesight was conceived. The question now was, "But, how?"

It was at this point in the tour that I met and worked with some of the most wonderful, warm, compassionate men and women, enlisted, officer, civilian that I have ever met in my 30 year tenure in the Army and Air Force. I can honestly and truthfully state unequivocally that the Sinnard family made some of our strongest friendships and bonds in Misawa. These were friendships with people we met and served with at Misawa that time and again as we transferred around the world (Zwiebrucken, Hof, NSA, Okinawa, Berlin. plus numerous TDY trips throughout the Far East, Middle East and Europe), we renewed our friendships. There is no doubt in my mind that there is no base or unit that had a more complete population of outstanding and exemplary humans. It was an honor to serve with each and every person that my family interacted with on Misawa.

The question of the day - "How will we pay for the needed supplies and other expenses [to fund Operation Eyesight]?" The 89th Ops office offered the services and assistance of TSgt. Chamblee to assist our neophyte group to get rolling. In the meantime, as we were getting to our feet, we had a lot of help from the base chaplain's office. There were numerous forays into the civilian community and meetings with the city's shakers and movers, and the media exposure from the Japanese radio, FEN, Misawa, the Japanese local newspaper, the base newspaper and Security Service's worldwide news book. Plus, word of mouth advertising and searching in all corners of the prefecture.

We finally uncovered and met with Dr. Imaizumi who agreed to perform the transplants pro bono if we could help him find suitable cornea donors through a public relations campaign. Plus, if we would pay for our patients' hospitalization and medications, that would help greatly as that was the bulk of the cost. Some of our best public relations efforts were put forward by the personnel assigned to our unit. After we got rolling, members of the Wing/Group joined with us. The local Misawa Base FEN Radio Outlet for Northern Japan jumped in with both feet. Equally strong in the support of our effort was the Japanese News Media with photo spreads and well written articles. Our first donor was found by Dr. Imaizumi. The donor was dying of an incurable disease (I believe it was cancer, although it was not verbalized). His only wish was that he would live long enough to be useful to our effort and that he would meet the two recipients of both of his corneas. One of his corneas was to be transplanted while he was still living, as soon as possible so he could enjoy the fruits of his and our efforts. The other was to be harvested at the time of his passing. Unbeknown to our Committee, he made one other request of Dr. Imaizumi that we would learn about after his death. It was his wish that the Americans responsible for Operation Eyesight would be seated at his funeral in the place normally reserved for his family. As all of the members of the 6989th and 6921st were the ones prayerfully and monetarily responsible for these successful transplants, we had a bit of a dilemma. The governing board and anyone who wanted to go and could cover their own train fare and who were off duty were asked to join our representative assembly. About 25 of our group traveled to Sendai and honored our first indigenous donor. It was a very memorable occasion.

Someone in the group had told the chaplain of the services at the funeral. When the chaplain asked about it, one participant told him, "Naturally, I said Mary's prayer - the Hail Mary. I was sure she, as a Mother, would pass it along." To this day, we don't know if our actions were right or wrong. But no more was said by anyone. Each recipient was very vocal in their praise of our Operation Eyesight generosity and charitableness. Their praise of Dr. Imaizumi as a skilled ophthalmologist and surgeon won him numerous awards and paeanes from the medical community and the cured patients.

Leaving Misawa in 1963, I found myself in Zwiebrucken, Germany (6901st), caught up once again in Operation Eyesight. After returning home from Misawa, we crisscrossed America (Land of the Big PX) and reintroduced the children to their cousins and our siblings. Then we were off to a new adventure and Zwiebrucken Germany. On arriving there we met many former friends from Misawa. To coin a phrase, it was almost "like old home week in the rice paddies" (except no paddies). Who do I meet there but Major Brumfield. If I am not mistaken, he too had just recently come from Misawa. I also believe he spoke of Sandy Sanderson and other people of Misawa.

After being there but a short time Region Headquarters wanted me to be sent TDY there to be the escort of Dr. Imaizumi of Operation Eyesight fame. My commander had my orders cut, a region staff car picked me up and took me to

Region Headquarters for further instructions. . There I became re-acquainted with one of the warmest and most compassionate man I will ever meet - Dr. Imaizumi. They had scheduled us to visit 3 military hospitals in the American Zone and three or four West German hospitals in the larger cities around Frankfurt. At each hospital, Dr. Imaizumi would explain to the assembled ophthalmologists how he and the Operation Eyesight team worked together. Then, Dr. Imaizumi would demonstrate his newest and simplest cornea sutures that he had developed during the care and transplant operation on our Operation Eyesight patients. After the Q & A session with Dr. Imaizumi, the local spokesman would offer high praises to the efforts of all. They all stood and applauded the combined efforts of Dr. Imaizumi and Operation Eyesight Members.

The visits to the German hospitals were just as warm and receptive. by assigning fluent English/German or, if available, Japanese/German interpreters. We had a very productive TDY. All parties got a great deal from the tour. I for one was very proud to state unequivocally that it was not just one doctor, NCO or several in tandem that made this giant step for humanity - it was the fact that each and every airman, NCO, officer, DOD civilian, all the residents of the area surrounding Misawa city and some out in Aomori Prefecture working together that made the difference.

You will have to excuse my lack of ability to recall names and events as quickly as I would like to do it. The more I reminisce - the more comes back to me. It is very frustrating to see faces of former acquaintances and not be able to introduce them to your family. Surely it has happened to most of you. When you work with great people and enjoy the interaction, you just want them to know that you enjoy their friendship and help. I do not believe we consciously set out to lose track of our former friends and helpers as we struggled through life around the world. As long as we all subscribe to the earlier quote, "Do Unto Others as You Would Have Others Do Unto You", we will live long and fruitful lives. End of thoughts for now.

P.S. In one of the my recalling sessions, Operation Eyesight's "Slave for a Day" was envisioned. As quick as a flash, names came before me. One was (?MSgt.?) Billy Kinter, (?Communications Guru?). The other, Bobby J Cook and, working nearby, LtCol. (?Hedricks?). Bobby J was swinging a mean weed whacker in all the difficult to reach areas. LtCol. Hedricks was pushing a large power mower and he was sweating up a storm.

Billy's task as a slave was to clean and have the common latrine area ready for the Group/Wing Commander's inspection. Well, he cleaned the latrine until it shone. He also did one other thing - he taught the commode lids how to salute in unison. The salute was to be rendered as the inspecting officer entered the room. As the inspectors escort NCO entered, he called the room to attention.

Earlier, Billy had rigged each toilet seat in the down position with a fine piece of rope connected to each commode on its right and left (like in the old Andy Griffith movie "No Time For Sergeants"), with all the seat connected to the trigger rope held in Billy's left hand. At the first sight of the inspecting officer, the call to attention was bellowed. Billy pulled the trigger rope and all the seats rose in "salute" to the inspector. It was a riot as all the assembled PR and news people with cameras clicked and flashed. It was at that moment in time that the infamous, but scrupulously clean latrine of our Ops Building, with seats saluting, was sent around the world to all their waiting newsrooms.

Follow Up to Pueblo Article in June Issue

andrew balik andy5775@hotmail.com //June 7//
to FTVA Newsletter

About ten years ago, I spoke with a Russian émigré, that was part of a team of civilian engineers from the Soviet Union that visited the Pueblo. They spent days photographing documents and equipment and making schematics for those pieces that did not have them. They packed it all up and went home. They shared nothing with the North Koreans. According to this man, this trip brought his government 20 years into the future of communications equipment.

From: Jeff McRaney jmcraNEY@verizon.net//May 22, 2012//
to FTVA Newsletter

Dennis,

One of my contacts directed me to some newly declassified NSA publications articles titled "Maybe You Had to Be There: The SIGINT on Thirteen Soviet Shootdowns of U.S. Reconnaissance Aircraft" and "The Cuban Missile Crisis: A SIGINT Perspective". I found these articles very interesting and I am sure that they would be interesting to many of the FTVA members. Perhaps some of the members have already seen these. But, I am not sure how you would present this. I will leave that to the wisdom of you and your advisors.

The Cuban Missile Crisis article makes reference to the "Strawbridge" aircraft that we recently in the Remain In Touch about regarding Marvin Fletcher. Marv was a part of the operation cited in the article and that is where our paths first crossed. There are imbedded hyperlinks in the titles above. Let me know if they don't make it through the email process.

Personal regards, Jeff

THEN

&
Ray B. Ivey
CMSgt (Ret)

NOW



1945 (3 yrs)

USAF 1963-93

2012 Gaffney SC

Misawa 63-65,67-68.70-72 St Lawrence 66 Nha Trang, NKP, Phu Cat 69-70
Plattsburgh 72-74 Offutt 74-78 Shaw 78-82 Ramstein 82-87 Davis Monthan 87-
90 Myrtle Beach 90-93 and Desert Storm at King Faud.

Danny Russell (1966 – 1970)



Basic Training 1966

Speaking 2006

Visiting Friends 2012

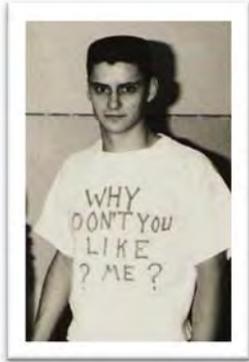
On 22 April, 1970, Danny was a backender aboard CAP-53 that was shot down, resulting in several casualties. Although seriously wounded, Danny was picked up by a rescue helicopter, then just as the chopper was lifting off, ground fire shot off its rotor, and Danny crashed a second time within the same hour. Danny's assessment: "It wasn't a good day."

THEN

&

NOW

Jay “J.J.” Johnson



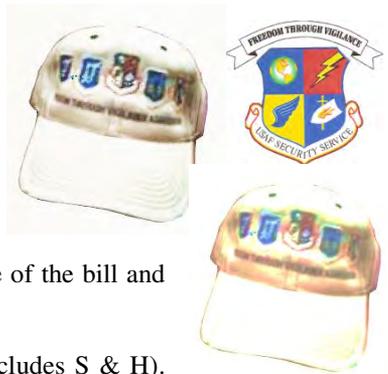
Bremerhaven, GER 1963 USAF 1962 – 1981 Jay with niece Ava 2012

62-64 Bremerhaven, Germany; 64-65 Trabzon, Turkey; 65-67 Kelly AFB, Texas; 67-70 Misawa: DF Operator/Controller T4; 70-73 Medina(Kelly), Texas; 73-75 San Vito, Italy; 76-79 Clark AB, PI; 79-81 Scott AFB, IL (AFSCC); Retired 1981 - Master-Instructor (Scuba) @ Melbourne,Florida.

(Ed Note: Shrimp Jay is holding in center photo may appear larger than normal.)

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 / Money Order / Cashier’s Check made out to Freedom Through Vigilance Association.)

Doug Holden

Anniversary Announcements



Col (Ret) and Mrs J D Joyce – “This is from last year: It seems that there are a lot of 50 year plus marriages in this group of old timers. There are not many in my local circle of friends; the USAFSS vets must be a special group. Sylvia and I celebrated our 50th on 8/31/11 in Hawaii on yet another of our many honeymoons.”

Bill and Trudy Wood celebrated their 54th Wedding Anniversary on July 19th.

Bill said, “I was 19 and had just returned from my tour at Linkou....Trudy graduated from HS in June, turned 18 on 18 July and we were married the next day. Best thing that ever happened to me....Four kids, ten grands and ten great grands...She is the glue that holds this clan together”.





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.
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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)
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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

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