

*Remain
In
Touch*



***FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE
ASSOCIATION***

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Wayne Amann.....AFISR Agency/PA

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Memorial Day 2013



The President's Corner



Dear Members,

The FTVA extends its condolences to the family of SSgt Richard Dickson of the 306th Intelligence Squadron, Beale AFB, CA. SSgt Dickson and three USAF airmen perished during the April 27, 2013 crash of an MC-12 Liberty aircraft in Afghanistan. Please take time to remember their service and sacrifice, and the many deployed AF ISR Agency members serving in harm's way.

We were privileged to personally recognize several returning "deployers" during our recent Spring Social on April 6, 2013! Command Chief Arleen Heath gave a great glimpse into the activities of our Agency's active duty enlisted personnel, and Maj Gen Bob Otto provided insight into the status of the Agency and its ongoing activities. Over 80 members attended this annual social. Thanks again to Ken Williams for coordinating the event (at a new location) and to Ron Haygood, who once again did a great job as emcee.

We hope you took time to nominate those who made a large impact on the AF ISR Agency for the Hall of Honor using the new charter and forms located on the web site. AJ Harrison and his selection committee work diligently to ensure the "Best of the Best" are recognized, but can't do it without your assistance.

On June 20, 2013, we'll commemorate the crew of Ratchett 33 with a plaque on the USAF Academy grounds in Colorado Springs, CO. Barnie Gavin, Greg Roman, and the Rocky Mountain Chapter have worked hard to bring this to fruition. Secondly, on October 3, 2013, thanks to the efforts of Larry Tart, Jimmy Mayer, and the entire PWG along with the University and local ROTC, a long-overdue plaque will memorialize the USAFSS airmen lost in a 1958 barracks fire on Syracuse University. I continue to be amazed at your commitment to the FTVA, and again urge you to make plans to attend our annual reunion in San Antonio, September 26 – 28, 2013. Until next quarter...

Remain In Touch,

Lee



Hi folks,
Over the past two years, we've highlighted the FTVA Member Support initiative by Bob Baert which offers the **RIT** in softcopy format via e-mail. As a result, we now have over 150 members who have signed up for this service. Also, on the outside back cover of this

issue, you will find a listing of individual and corporate sponsoring partners compiled by our Official Activities Chair, Jim McLendon. Highlights from our annual *Spring Social* found their way into this issue of RIT along with our quarterly Chapter activity reports, reunion summaries, History & Memories and tributes to our Fallen Eagles. Thanks for all of your inputs and best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer. I call your attention to the article by A. J. Harrison detailing the current status of our Hall of Honor nomination process. It's time for Memorial Day and wishing y'all a Happy 4th of July!!

Sincerely,



Editor's Disclaimer

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



FTVA Newsletter in Soft Copy

Wouldn't you rather receive future issues of **Remain In Touch** in softcopy format? It's in Color when viewed on-line!! If so, simply go to the FTVA website and e-mail your request to: **Bob Baert** membersupport@ftva.org.

PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

To: FTVA BOD March 3, 2013

FYI, our newsletter crew had six people e-mail today asking for the electronic copy of the RIT. That brings our total electronic subscription to 150 even.

Bob Baert

To: FTVA Membership Chairman

Subject: Re: Change to soft copy format

I like the e-version much better, easier to enlarge and read and the color photos are great. Keep up the great work on the newsletter. It is much appreciated by us old far..., excuse me, Senior Citizen retired Vets.

Thanks, Chuck

From: Robert Quinn

Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2013 3:57 PM

To: FTVA Membership and Web Activities

Subject: Re: Electronic Newsletter - 02 Mar

Thanks Bob. Softcopy works fine. Don't know why it took me so long. Really like the color photos.

Keep up the great work
Thanks Again, Bob Quinn

The Membership Corner

Freedom Through Vigilance Association

P.O. Box 691616

San Antonio, TX 78269-1616

Annual Member Directory: I'm putting together the Annual Directory beginning in June. Please make sure you have any updates to me as soon as possible. Like last year, FTVA Reunion packets will be included with the Directory mail out.

Bob Baert, Membership Support
(webadmn@ftva.org)

Annual FTVA Officer Elections

This year, the nominating committee accepted submissions for the offices of President and Vice President. Any member in good standing may be submitted to the nominating committee; however, for obvious reasons, only those who can attend the monthly BOD meetings in San Antonio were seriously considered. With the unanimous concurrence of the FTVA BOD, Messrs.' Ron Haygood and Andy Smith have accepted nomination to serve as your President and Vice President respectively for the upcoming term.



For President: **Col (Ret) Ronald Haygood** retired from the USAF in 2006 as AIA Director of Operations. He has served as FTVA Vice President for the past four years. He is currently the Director of Plans, Programs and Resources for the AFISR Agency.



For Vice President: **CMSgt (Ret) Andy Smith** retired from the USAF in 2012 as Operations Superintendent for NSA West. He has been a member of FTVA for over ten years and is currently employed at Coldwell Banker D'Ann Harper Realtors.

Dennis Rasmussen, Committee Chair

FTVA Hall of Honor Nominations



The Hall of Honor Selection Committee is currently reviewing the write-ups of nominees (Decade of the 90's) for induction into the FTVA's Hall of Honor. As detailed in our last issue of RIT (March 2013), HOH nominations must be received not later than 3 June 2013. Selections will be announced in the September issue of RIT. The induction ceremony is a major element of the association's reunion activities to be held just prior to our FTVA annual meeting at AFISR Agency HQ on Saturday morning, Sep 28, 2013. Once again, thank you for your participation.

Thank you and Remain In Touch.
A.J. Harrison, Hall of Honor Program Chair



The annual FTVA Spring Social for 2013 was held in San Antonio at the Courtyard by Marriott Sea World on Saturday, April 13st this year. Over 80 members and their guests enjoyed our annual get-together. CMSgt Arleen Heath, AFISR Command Chief, was our guest speaker for the evening. She presented a very interesting and informative overview of current Command activities highlighting the AFISR's enlisted standouts.

CMSgt Arleen Heath and her husband Mark were kept busy all evening long visiting with attendees. Chief Heath took the podium later as our guest speaker for the evening.



(Left) We found a smiling Skeeter Dickerson, one of our more popular and loyal members, relaxing by the welcome table. He regularly attends all of our FTVA events in San Antonio over the years.

(Right) Former Command CMSgt Okey Warden and Afghanistan returnee Eric Hernandez (far right) met as they signed in at the welcome table with our friendly greeting duo of Shiela Williams and Lemoika Stringer (Above).



(Annual Spring Social ~ cont'd)



We discovered the evening's "Happy Table": L – R Gabe Marshall, Okey Warden, Segundo 'Espy' Espinoza, Jr, Bob 'PF' Pfister and Eric Hernandez.

(Right) Leroy and Hilda Rogers haven't missed many Socials over the years. Here they visited with Wayne Tallant about his Fallen Eagles section of the Newsletter.



(Left L-R) Former E&I expert, Carlos Massiatte, joined Debe and Phred Sevening and Mike Dollar for the 'meet and greet' time afforded attendees.



Jeanne and Andy Smith (L) along with Ron and Kay Weaver (R) were all smiles as they made the rounds during this year's Spring Social.

(Annual Spring Social ~ cont'd)



'Espy' Espinoza, Jr., Chris & Kathy Cook Gabby Harrison (left). Bob Crabtree with A.J. Harrison (right)



Greg Mahoney, Cinda Tapia, Jim McLendon Sue Douglas and Aleta Allen



FTVA Fallen Eagles Chairman Ted Colquhoun introduced several AFISR Agency silent warriors.

We recognized each returnee following their recent deployment to Afghanistan, Iraq and the AOR

Odette Youkham Esho, Paul Turner, Kalin and Shaun Lee, Maryl and Todd Johnson, Eric Hernandez, Karen Blair, Frank Von Heiland, Travis Winstead, and Arleen Heath



Change of Command

The President has nominated, and the Senate has approved the following general officer for appointment to the grade of Lieutenant General with assignment as indicated:



Maj Gen Robert P. Otto

From Commander, Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, TX

To: Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, Headquarters United States Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, DC. Change of Command is scheduled for June 7, 2013.

Major General Larson Award Medalists



It is with great pleasure that Command Chief Heath and I announce the Maj Gen Larson (Sensor Olympic) Award Medalists. The Maj Gen Larson Awards Program began in 1979 to identify, recognize, and reward the best technicians in AF ISR Agency through an annual competition. The Awards competition encourages technical excellence, increases individual initiative, and fosters unit morale. The best-qualified individuals in key Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance and mission-enabling Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSCs) or Reporting Identifiers (RIs) are selected by their Parent Unit to compete in the AF ISR Agency-level Maj Gen Larson Awards competition. AF ISR Agency-level testing is comprised of a comprehensive test containing 75-100 knowledge-based and experience-based questions worth 200 points. This program recognizes our best-of the best!

It's an Honor to Serve!

Bob

Air Force ISR Agency Swindell Award Winner

On behalf of the Commander, please join me in congratulating the 485th Intelligence Squadron as the winner of the 2012 CMSgt James C. Swindell Award. This award recognizes an AF ISR Agency unit with the best communications and information operations.

Again, congratulations to the men and women of the 485th Intelligence Squadron. Well done!

Sincerely,
Kenneth A. Williams, Jr.
Director of Staff, HQs AFISR Agency

DoD, AF, and AF ISR Agency Language Professional and Command Language Program of the Year Winners

On behalf of the Commander, it is an honor for me to announce the DoD, AF, and AF ISR Agency level winners of the Language Professional of the Year and Command Language Program of the Year.

The Air Force Language Professional of the Year winner was SSgt David B. Jang of the 390th IS at Kadena AB, Japan

The AF ISR Agency Language Professional of the Year is SSgt Jennifer Negley from the 22nd IS, 707 ISRG, 70 ISRW.

And finally, the AF ISR Agency, Air Force and DoD Command Language Program of the Year is the 3rd IS, 480th ISRG, 480 ISRW, Fort Gordon, GA!

Please join me in congratulating the efforts and determination of the individuals involved!

Sincerely,
Kenneth A. Williams, Jr
Director of Staff, HQs AFISR Agency



(Left) Maj Gen Bob Otto addressed FTVA members and their guests at the organization’s annual Spring Social held at the Courtyard by Marriott near SeaWorld. Gen Otto was recently selected for promotion to Lt General and reassignment to the Pentagon in June of this year

BEDSIDE MATTERS



From Bill Parker
March 6, 2013
Re: George "Granny" Welch

I just got off the phone with Granny and Vila. You will be (sorta) pleased that, although he has been in the hospital for the last 8 days, he will be coming home today!! Vila says that they were at the grocery last week when he passed out. They rushed him to the hospital and found that he was 2 pints low on blood. After a transfusion, they started running tests on him, took only 1 polyp during the colonoscopy, did a biopsy on the prostate, and think he may have a bleeding ulcer. I told him that although it was nice to be chauffeured, it wurn't good to have an EMS bus do it.

Drop a line (e-mail) with any good wishes. Vila says she will keep me updated regularly, and as I get any new stuff, I'll pass it along. Prayers are always welcome!!! //Bill P. //

George Welch –March 7, 2013

Believe me, I wish I had fewer "medical emergencies" to report. Just a year ago, I was one of many aging beach boys here on the Texas coast. Now I find myself supporting about a dozen doctors, several clinics and a hospital. <gg> Good news is that during the first two days of this week-long stay, they did determine that I had not suffered another stroke or heart attack. "Heart's doing fine," my cardio Doc said. "Not sure about the rest of you." (just kidding). I am determined not only to get past all this stuff but to get my aging body back on the beach again. SURF'S UP!!!//Granny//



Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says, "In an emergency, notify:"

I put, "A Doctor".

FTVA CHAPTER NEWS

As stated on the inside front page of our RIT newsletter, the Freedom Though Vigilance Association currently has six chapters. Each Chapter president has membership on our Board of Directors. For information on each chapter, a link is available on our FTVA website. Go to <http://www.ftva.org> under paragraph two "What is the FTVA?"



Sunshine Chapter

Please check out our website at <http://www.sunshineftva.org>



by Jim Kaus, President

FTVA Sunshine Chapter Meeting

On April 6th, at the Ocala Elks Club, Ocala, FL., at 4:00 PM. eleven members were present:



(L-R) Mike Fraga, Jim Kaus, Bob Willis, Barrie Sobczak, Dick Baxter, Al Krombach, Ric Smith, P.W. Elliott, Dave Highland, Tom McCullough and Col. Mike Stevenson, Cmdr of the 361st ISR Group, Hurlburt Field, Florida.



I am pleased to tell you about a coin Sunshine Chapter FTVA is providing to the 361st ISRA for presentation to their men and women who have been deployed to the combat zone. We want to make sure these people know

that America appreciates their service. We had talked about this topic for a long time now, and finally brought it to fruition. The Sunshine Chapter acquired 300 of the specially designed coin (see above), and named it after the young Senior Airman that lost his life in Djibouti Africa last year. Colonel Stevenson agreed with us calling the coin the Julian S. Scholten Memorial coin. When Col. Stevenson attended our meeting in Ocala, he gave a presentation about his group. We then gave him (Right) the very first coin followed by giving him the other 299 for distribution to his troops. He will begin with the permanent party stationed there at Hurlburt who have served a deployment to the combat zone. Then, he can give a coin to every Airman/NCO/Officer upon returning from their first deployment. He will let us know when he is running low on coins



In addition, Jim Kaus finished a plaque in honor of Amn Scholten to be sent to Julian’s parents. He brought this plaque to Ocala. (Left) Jim presented Col. Stevenson one of the 361st Julian Scholten memorial coins and the plaque for the Colonel to present to SrA Scholten parents with two of the coins under Julian’s picture. Ten personnel are scheduled to arrive from deployment this coming Friday, April 12th. The Sunshine Chapter will be represented at the presentations.

Ric Smith reported Chapter funds were on hand for transfer to the Hurlburt area by the new treasurer. Ric Smith also reported the chapter membership for 2013 was 33 paid annually, 72 Lifetime members for a statewide total of 105 members. Contact will be made by phone, letter or e-mail along with periodic notes placed on sunshineftva.org regarding updates to our membership. The monthly international FTVA e-mail listing will be available thru my e-mail at ocalaric3753@cfl.rr.com . (Information is available for personal use only and not for advertising or business mailings. Discussion was held regarding the 2013 Linguist awards to be issued in October 2013 to the top Airman, Sr. Airman and NCO. The Sunshine Chapter will participate with a suitable award.

Colonel Michael Stevenson (far right) is shown with 361st Group members at Hurlburt Field after presenting the very first Julian Scholten Memorial Coins to returnees from deployment to the combat zone. These coins were provided by the Sunshine Chapter of FTVA.//April 25, 2013//



The election of the new slate of Chapter officers for the years 2013 to 2015 was completed by unanimous vote as follows: President- Jim Kaus, Vice President- Barrie Sobczak, Secretary/Treasurer-Bob Willis, Membership- Ric Smith, Special Activities- Dick Baxter. Details for next meeting this fall in Hurlburt area, to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,
Ric Smith Sr., Membership Director

Rocky Mountain Chapter, Colo Springs, CO
<http://ftva-rockymountainchapter.com/>



RMC Chapter Meeting 14 March 2013

Members Present:

Sharon Frizzell, Bernie Gavin, Diane and George Honsaker, Greg Kalua (new member), Tom Nurre, Greg Roman, Steve Sperry, Jeff Tschida, Yiming

Tung, George & Mary Williams

Minutes of 10 January meeting were posted on the Chapter’s Facebook page and were approved by acclamation.

The treasurer (Sharon Frizzell) reported on the Chapter accounts

Membership: We had a new member at the meeting: Greg Kalua. Additionally, Col Scott Scheppers of the 544th joined as a life member.

Projects: Nothing new to report on sponsorship of AF Academy cadets going into intell career fields. We expect this activity will pick up steam

after the Big Safari reunion and Ratchett 33 commemoration at the AFA.

Discussion followed on the Big Safari reunion scheduled for June 20, 2013 in Colorado Springs, CO. Greg Roman provided an update. He has taken over fund raising responsibilities for the Ratchett 33 commemoration. Greg will need FTVA hosts for the ceremony and the dinner. Bernie asked Greg to provide us with a list of the volunteers and their assignments.

As part of the ceremony, the Chapter will be placing a plaque in a facility on the AF Academy Cemetery to honor the crew of Ratchett 33 that went down in Feb of 2012. Discussed funding and donations for the Big Safari event: Bernie stated that FTVA San Antonio will help in sponsoring the plaque. If Lee Anthony can make the ceremony, we would like him to make some remarks, as FTVA President.

Old Business:

Banners and posters: Posters were displayed temporarily (90 days) at the SSFCU branches in the Springs. George suggested that where there were vets organizations with standing clubhouses, we should try to get some posters up. Greg has promised to ensure the banner prepared for Rhinos is up for the next meeting.

*The chapter ball caps were delivered by Tom Nurre in December and are available for a donation.

*There has been no chapter decision on shirts; however, Tom Nurre has all the information on procuring the silk screening or iron on logo.

*Nothing new on placing a paver at Wings Over the Rockies at Lowry. The group will revisit this after the Big Safari reunion.

New Business:

*Meeting Place and Time: The group voted to move the meeting time to 6 PM for all meetings henceforth

*The next five meetings will be in Colorado Springs. While we would normally hold the June meeting in Castle Rock, there was consensus that because of the Big Safari event it made more sense to meet in the Springs

////Signed////
Sharon G. Frizzell
Secretary-Treasurer

////Approved////
Bernie Gavin
President.



Aloha Chapter, Honolulu, HI

by John Toillion, President

Rass, Attached is a photo from Wed Apr 17, 2013 Chapter lunch with Dickie and Jackie Hites. A very somber gathering, but gave us an opportunity to express our "aloha" to Dickie and Jackie. Dickie said he called and talked to you concerning an article about Angel. (Ed Note: Please see postscript to this article.)

A difficult time today but rewarding in that it affirms what FTVA is all about - Remaining in Touch and especially in times like these.



(Above) L-R: Ken Een, Dave Jones, Ken Hopkins, John Toillion, Dickie Hites, Al Teel. (Seated: Jackie Hites).

HONOLULU, HI: Helen Marie Hites, 32, of Honolulu died here on March 3, 2013. She was born in San Antonio, Texas. She is survived by a son Phoenix L. Belen. and by her father CMSgt (Ret) Richard W. and mother Jacqueline S. Private services planned. //Obit//

(Dickie's daughter 'Angel' was killed yesterday in a motorcycle accident in Honolulu. It was one of those freaky accidents. She was coming around a blind curve and hit an off-duty taxicab that was making a turn. No indication that speed, drugs or alcohol were factors. She was taken to the hospital following the 1 p.m. collision in "extremely critical condition" where she died. Police believe she was heading east with a group of at least three other motorcyclists. She leaves one young son. //Input from Tilly March 4, 2013//)

We've had a small amount of money sitting around since Ken Een left for Okinawa a few years back and we've not spent a dime of it. Today, on behalf of our FTVA Aloha Chapter, we sent off a contribution in the amount of \$100 for Helen Hites' son and Dickie's grandson, Phoenix, to his SMART529 fund.

Aloha Always,
Tilly

Heritage Chapter

Submitted by Larry Ross, Secretary



On March 7, 2013 twenty-one members and guests enjoyed good food and fun at the Heritage Chapter quarterly social at a local Chinese restaurant.



Left side: Larry Miller, (Larry Ross empty chair), Diane Ross, Steve Goff, George & Alice Ballinger
Right side: Mary O'Brien, Pat Miller, Don & Mary Goff (hidden), Ed &, Kathie Bendinelli.

Right side: Al Wankowski, Celeste Allen, Ron Graham, Bill Allen, Buck & Jan Vogt. Left side: Marilyn Wankowski, Wayne Bascom, Chae Bascom (hidden).
Ed Note: The Wankowski's recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary (see page 63)





(Left) On March 11, 2013 Chapter President Graham, on behalf of the Heritage Chapter, presented the final two volumes of a five-volume set “History of the U. S. Air Force Security Service (USAFSS)” to the Goodfellow AFB library.

(L-R:) Cindy Tews of the Goodfellow AFB Library; Ron Graham, Heritage Chapter President; and Larry Ross, Heritage Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Proposal for EC-47 ARDF Memorial at Goodfellow

Danny Russell (FTVA Life Member) came to San Angelo to make a proposal to the Goodfellow Wing Staff for an EC-47 ARDF memorial display to be located in the Wing Headquarters building. On March 26, the Heritage Chapter hosted a dinner for Danny during which he reviewed the shutdown and crash of CAP-53, an EC-47 operating over South Vietnam.

Two crewmembers, the pilot and one radio operator, died in the crash. The remaining crewmembers, although wounded, survived the crash and were rescued by helicopter. Danny brought with him interesting artifacts recovered by Paul Clever at the crash site of EC-47 aircraft CAP-72 in Laos (Photo Right)



(Tom Nurre gave us a preview of the proposed design.)



A group met the next day with the Goodfellow Training Wing staff to discuss details of the display (Left).

(L-R) Tommy Smart, Tom Nurre, Ed Bendinelli, Danny Russell, and Ron Graham

2013 REUNION ANNOUNCEMENTS



Notifications of Upcoming Reunions for 2013-14

NOTE: Any Reunion plans for 2013-14? Let us help. The form found on the FTVA web site will ensure widest dissemination of your upcoming reunion contact details. Please go to <http://www.ftva.org/>

June 21, 2013 - June 22, 2013

Annual USAFSS YALE IFEL Reunion

Location: Chungking Restaurant in Laurel, MD.

POC: Luther Deese e-mail: DILUDE@aol.com

Sep 25 – 28, 2013

AMTA (Airborne Maintenance Technicians Association)

Location: San Antonio, Tx

POC: Mike McLaughlin ph 830-995-4109

Comment: More info at Web Site: <http://amtassociation.org>

Sep 26 – 30, 2013

6918th RSM/Scty Sq Hakata AB, Japan

Location: Holiday Inn Riverwalk, San Antonio, Tx

Reservations: Hotel ph 1-888-615-0726 'Ident as 6918th

POC: Bill Mink 10 Cross Trees Rd, Brick NJ 08723 Ph 732-477-3761

(e-mail: willmink@gmail.com) (<http://www.6918thhakata.com>)

Sep 26 – 29, 2013

ANNUAL FTVA REUNION in San Antonio, Tx

POC: Lee Anthony, president@ftva.org

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

Comment: Reunion packets included in the *Member Directory* in June.

Sep 26 – 28,, 2013

6994th Scty Sq at Radisson Hotel Branson, Mo

Location: (120 South Wildwood Drive - Branson Missouri 65616
ph 1-800-967-9033 and ask for 6994th reunion rates.)

POC Rick Yeh at blk67cougar@gmail.com for those playing golf.

More Information on <http://www.6994th.com/reunion2013.html>

October 2-4 2013

Prop Wash Gang Reunion

Location: Syracuse, NY (Best Western Plus)

POC: Larry Tart (larrytart@aol.com) ph 814-238-7067

Comments : From 1951-1971, Syracuse University hosted a US Air Force foreign language training program at “Skytop,” on the university’s south campus. A memorial is planned to commemorate an early morning fire that swept through barracks M-7 on 6 January 1959. The fire killed seven and seriously injured 19 other occupants. (See Sep 2012 issue of RIT pp 38-40) <http://www.6913th.org/Bhaven/Syracuse1.htm#53rd>

6913th RSM (Reactivated) Bremerhaven, Germany 1951 – 1968)

Note: We’re planning our next Reunion for September or October, 2014. To chair this Reunion, we are sharing responsibilities among our 'Unofficial Reunion Committee': Previous Reunion Chairpersons: Zane Maddox, Arnie Olson, Huk Tracy; Webmaster, Ron Fandrick; Squadron Coordinator, Arlen Trapp; and.. anyone else interested in helping out. <http://www.6913th.org/2014REUNION/2014-01.htm#top>

Alumni of 6918TH SS Hakata AB, Japan

We’re about 4 months away now from our 2013 reunion in San Antonio. Overall, we expect a higher turnout (200) than we had 2 years ago (160). Many things can change between now and then, but our higher alumni count, as well as the high number of Texas residents who are alumni (higher than any other state), should contribute to our turnout.

Experiences at reunions have taught us some interesting things—we all knew people at Hakata that were ‘magnets’ and had friends around them much of the time, and perhaps they continue to draw interest today. Think about this—over the years, we’ve heard people say, ‘if my friend doesn’t come, then I won’t—because there wouldn’t be anyone there that I know’. Or, they’ll say, ‘what convinced them to send in their registration was seeing that their friend(s) sent theirs in’. The people we knew and ‘hung around’ with, then, might still be paying attention to the things we choose to do today—even if we haven’t seen them for years! If you arrive at one of these 6918th Reunions with an open mind and heart, we’re convinced that you’ll go back home having enjoyed a memorable, perhaps even a life altering experience. We’re so sure, that we organizers guarantee it!! What is the downside if you attend??

In closing, please carefully consider attending this reunion—E-mail or speak with your friends—contact one of us to talk about the experience--we'll be happy to put you in touch with your friends, if necessary. We encourage you to attend the 6918th RSM/SS Reunion this September. The web site has the details and dates at www.6918thhakata.com If you need help, want to chat, or just want to let us know you'll be attending—we look forward to hearing from you soon. Thanks!

Dave Bethard, Reunion Organizer



REUNION REPORTS



6913th Mini Land-O-Lakes FL March 2013



Doug and Pat Ball, John & Wanda Milazzo and Bill & Lois Colella



"Why does USAF need new bombers?"

"Have the people we've been bombing over the years been complaining?"

29th Radio Squadron Mobile
2012 Annual Reunion, Biloxi, MS

Here's a copy of the photo taken at our most recent reunion in Biloxi, MS. I'll attach the pic and list the ID's in this text. Maybe you can find space in an upcoming newsletter to publish this.



Seated, L-R --- Bob Lee, Don Newburn, Terry McKissick, Jim Coston, Del Marker, Mike Breslan, Joe Kaple, Fred Newton; Standing, L-R --- Shirley Moeckel, Gerald Nicholson, Roy Locke, Bob Rennick, William "Tiger" Lyons, Earle Anderson, Don Finkley, Rex Sorby.

Thanks, Bob Rennick, chief cook and bottle washer, 29th RSM

The Misawa Project 2013 National Reunion, Virginia Beach



(Ed Note) The Misawa Family 2013 National Reunion is underway in Virginia Beach (May 30 – June 2) as you receive this issue of RIT. Look for photo report in the September issue.

15th RSM reunion at Branson Mo

From: Ike Borland

To: Newsletter

I hope it is not too late to put in the next Remain In Touch. The one picture is of the group from the 15th RSM at a reunion at Branson Mo Oct 7 to Oct 10, 2012. The one picture is our group that is getting smaller every year.



The second (Left): Three of us that have been to every reunion since 1996. (L-R) Ben Asdell, Ike Borland, Billy Davis.

Note: Ben Asdell along with Raul Sandovle started the reunion 17 years ago.

Vietnamese Linguists Invade Ft. Walton Beach, FL

The Doggers' 2013 Fall Of Saigon Party (FOSP) is now history.

Submitted by Larry Miller

From April 26th to 28th, the group held its annual bash along with the MiMis and assorted MBs at Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Many kudos to Chief Ozzie McMahan, our host, for all his hard work in arranging hotel reservations and the final evening's banquet at Poppi's Crazy Lobster Restaurant. Besides social mixers and oft repeated war stories, the festivities included a fishing trip, golf for the few who didn't mind fighting seasonal high winds, and, of course, the traditional banquet and

presentation of several of the prestigious Hanoi Hilton bricks honoring the best of our band of brothers

(Right)
 Gary Beadle,
 "RT" Wood,
 and Gary
 Humphrey just
 chillin' out at
 the hotel.



On arrival at the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort on Thursday, attendees renewed old acquaintances while enjoying copious amounts of liquid refreshments at the Oasis Room at the hotel. Larry Knipshield and his wife, Marcie, came the farthest traveling all the way from the Seattle, WA area. David “Rocky” Lecorn, Tom Penn, and Bob Finch were in from the DC area. “Chief” Lonnie Henderson came in from his Oklahoma stomping grounds. Gary Humphrey, his wife Joyce, and Al Binch represented the San Antonio bunch, and Tom Riggins and his wife, Maggie, arrived from Las Vegas, the site of next year’s celebrations. Never one to miss FOSP, Gary Beadle and his wife Susan traveled down from Iowa. Despite many years of promising to ride his motorcycle down from Wisconsin, Eugene “Ick” Mattke once again showed up “sans” road bike.



Among other notables in attendance were Col. John Lewis (Ret), commander of the 6990th ESG from 1982 to 1984, and Col. Bob Cope (Ret), former 90th Operations Staff Officer and current FTVA Treasurer with his wife Debbie (Left).

The Friday activities started way too early (0600 hrs) with a stalwart group of five fisherman braving choppy seas onboard the charter boat Relentless. Big catch of the day was Joe Turney’s landing a 125 pound bull shark after a half-hour fight. The other fish story of the day was the

beautiful red snapper that Chris Hoak hooked. It looked like it would have weighed as much as 25 lbs if another shark hadn't chowed down on it as it was being reeled in. All that was left was a very large fish head. Back at the hotel Gary Beadle, Gary Humphrey, Tom, Randy Seitter, Bob Finch, Larry Knipshield, RT Woods, Richard Bini, Ick, Denny Gurtner, Bud "Rosie" Rosenstrom were at the Oasis reflecting on their memories of operations during the Vietnam War ... or at least what they could still remember of them. The air was thick with stories of old friendships, and the deeds of our younger days. Nearly forgotten names and tales of days long ago at Kadena, Da Nang, Cam Ranh Bay, and Nakhon Phanom helped to peel back the years to when we were all young airmen flying combat missions in Southeast Asia and typhoon evac-ing to the Philippines.



(From L – R) Bud "Rosie" Rosenstrom, his wife Micki, Michelle Turney, Joe Turney and Col. John Lewis.

The formal FOSP celebrations were capped off on Saturday with a fantastic buffet dinner at Poppi's. Following the reading of all the names of those departed Doggers, the presentation of this year's Hanoi Hilton bricks was made to three of our most distinguished attendees. The story of the bricks and Tom Penn's original poem are also attached for those Remain In Touch readers who are un-familiar with this tradition. As the attached pictures clearly show, Bob "RT" Wood, Denny Gurtner, and Joe Turney, this year's honorees, were all taken by surprise and overwhelmed with emotion at being honored by their fellow Doggers.



The bricks that are presented are common construction bricks that were recovered from the Hoa Lo Prison in North Vietnam in 1993. The "Hanoi Hilton", as it was referred to by U.S. prisoners-of-war, was partially demolished by the communist Vietnamese government with the remainder of the site converted into a war museum

(Above) Joe Turney receiving his Hanoi Hilton brick.

The last chapter in the evening's activities was the selection of next year's venue. Since the group hadn't convened for FOSP out West in over four years, the overall decision was to meet in 2014 in Las Vegas. Tom Riggins volunteered to act as our host in Sin City with promises of assistance from those who have hosted previous FOSPs. Viva Las Vegas!

JUST A BRICK?

by Thomas Penn

I was honored by my fellows at a reunion recently
 Presented with a brick, a simple piece of masonry
 A unit so very simple, formed by heated, hardened clay
 But its meaning is much more complex, a symbol of a bygone stay

At the moment it was presented, I stood awestruck, totally bemused
 No speech would come to surface at the words I then perused
 A brick from the Hỏa Lò prison, the "Hanoi Hilton", that Hell on Earth
 That labyrinth of evil so filled with agony, distress, and death

Through misty eyes I stared, humbled by this piece of history
 For a brief instant old memories emerged as I imagined their misery
 How they could withstand such conditions for years away from home
 Beaten, starved and proselytized, many thought it might just be their
 final tomb

A parade of names came forth, images of Peterson, McCain and Day
Of the horrors they all suffered and endured in that Hell so far away
Duty, Honor, Country held their days through endless torture
I pictured the indignities inflicted behind those walls of brick and mortar

Words did fail me at the time as I was humbled by their faith and mettle
Those men stayed true to the tenfold beacon that nurtures liberty's fettle
Their sacrifice & courage, lesson & legacy for our younger generation
Heroic patriotism now recognized by a proud and grateful nation

I thought about my fellow DOGGERS, undaunted warriors one and all
Who with steadfast determination stood to answer our nation's call
Their skilled and diligent vigilance on the ground and in the air
Unrelenting in pursuit of excellence tho conditions were oft austere

They plied the airwaves daily for data, seeking precious nuggets of pure
gold
They searched for the keys to freedom from that evil prison so dank and
cold
The years grew long, national melancholy refused our wounded and the
dead
Yet, soaring earnestly, DOGGERS persevered; who knew what might lie
ahead?

The 'BUFFs' and Phantoms fueled a final surge, they rained destruction
across that land
Then came the thunderous clamor, 'PEACE WITH HONOR' was at hand
The death knell toll resounded, but our men would soon come home
As throngs led by hypocrisy rejoiced before our capitol dome

Delegations had met in Paris to decide the fate of others, one could not
elude
The ink yet wet on the peace accords, violations, bold and brazen, quite
quickly they accrued
But this was not the denouement that the demagogues had hoped would
be
"Điện Biên Phủ Trên Không" was only the portent of a more profound
and utter tragedy

Our valiant men returned to pointed fingers, called 'baby killer' and
falsely accused

In judgment these heroes were spat upon and otherwise abused
Some watched, some listened, some shed tears, as those prisoners were
finally released
POWs strode on proudly, saluted with honor, mourned those absent now
deceased

Promises made in writing by the despicable and uncaring, worthless
words, merely paper and ink
A means to an end, an expedient, "We will give you aid and back you..."
uttered without a blink
And then came the final onslaught, tanks and armies rumbled through
Saigon, the proof just who had won
Giáp's battlefield commander Dũng so eloquently penned it "Đại Thắng
Mùa Xuân"

Who won? Who lost? What matter? Polarizing topics now and for future
debate
The world has changed, war no different now, evil's pressure will never
abate
The brave still wave freedom's banner as they strive for hearts and minds
in far off foreign lands
Young American blood still is sacrificed for democratic ideals in Iraq
and Afghanistan

For those few moments I stood transfixed by the spirits of brother
warriors who had sacrificed so much
Chaotic memories and thoughts swirled around me; just how many souls
did this one brick touch?
I was chilled by a past whose specter may be an omen of things to come
Yet was comforted in the presence of my fellows who exude such great
aplomb

I later bade farewell to men I've known forty years or more gone by
Men of honor and integrity, of ethical standards held quite high
To them I owe more than words can say, life and liberty of which I'm
proud
So I offer these words about a simple brick in tribute to the DOGGER
crowd
Upon return from that reunion, this honor to my wife I very humbly
showed

“It's just a brick” she said and, at once, again the tears welled and
voluminously flowed
It isn't “just a brick” I softly cried, it's solid history, a reminder, a
symbol, sorrow and severe pain
And if you don't believe my words, just ask a Vietnamese “boat person”,
Bud Day or John McCain
--**Thomas L. Penn**
June 14, 2011

THEN AND NOW

CMSgt (Ret) Chuck MacFarlane



Early 1960's



2010

CMSgt(Ret)Chuck MacFarlane entered the USAF 8/27/58 & retired 1/31/91; serving 32-1/2 years in USAFSS/ESC. Basic Training was at Lackland & Radio Op school at Keesler. USAFSS/ESC assignments were: 59 - 60 Peshawar,Pakistan. 60 - 63 RAF Kirknewton, Scotland. 63 - 64 Peshawar, Pakistan. 64 - 65 Kelly AFB (RIRAK) San Antonio, TX. 65 - 68 Karamursel CDI, Turkey 68 - 69 Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN (ARDF) 69 - 70 Goodfellow AFB, (ARDF Instructor) 70 - 71 Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN (ARDF) 71 - 72 Darmstadt, Germany. 72 - 74 Augsburg, Germany. 74 - 80 San Vito AS, Italy. 80 - 85 RAF Chicksands, England. 85 - 91 NSA (ESC Liaison Office). Worked for State of Maryland (1 yr) & Texas (10 yrs) before retiring for good in 2002.

2013

FLAG REUNION

LEESBURG, FLORIDA

Posted by Ron Buteau

“Another year, another”
outstanding reunion”.



Members of the **Florida Group (FLAG)** met again this year with a little cooler weather than we’ve experienced in some time. It wasn’t cold – just cool, so we had to get under cover to stay out of the wind. You know how it is when you get old 😊



FRONT ROW: Ron Buteau, Billy Griffin, Jon Gwinn, Jim Van Over, Fred Grasso, Bob Byrne and Larry Tart
MIDDLE ROW: Jim Bucchoffer, Morgan “Eddy” Smith, Ed Collier, Owen Lock, Bill Miner, Jack Riedel and John Parman
BACK ROW: Dave Carr, Dave Bristol, Art Barfield (hiding), Jerry Ellis, Ed Luna, Jeff Wilcher and Ron Agle

(Right) As expected, we had the standard “sit down” with everyone before heading out to Ruby Tuesday for a Friday feeding. (See names provided with the group pictures)



2013 FLAG REUNION (Cont'd)



FRONT ROW: Diane Tart, Bettye Wilcher, Cathy Buteau, Carolyn Riedel and Gigi Barfield

BACK ROW: Judy Smith, Debby Collier, Shirley Bristol, Shelia Gwinn, Marie Gimma, Betty Van Over, Jennifer Carr, Eileen Byrne, Nancy Griffin and Mary Tahtinen



(See names provided with the group pictures)



2013 FLAG REUNION (Cont'd)

This reunion was a little different than all of the others. This one had several members from the 6985th Security Squadron in Eielson AFB Alaska who were all assigned at Eielson at one time or another.



However, of significant distinction from other reunions, this reunion had several members that were on the same Aeronautical Orders. (see inset

FROM: (Place flight unit originator)		TO: (Variation in itinerary authorized)			
EIELSON AFB, ALASKA		AS DIRECTED			
7. MISSION					
OPERATIONAL					
8. CREW NR.	9. TAKE-OFF TIME	10. DURATION OF FLIGHT	11. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS		
BAKER	AS DIRECTED	AS DIRECTED	ALL T/S CLEARED		
II. CREW MEMBERS <i>(Personnel listed below are subject to penalties of the Uniform Code of Military Justice while performing this duty. Indicate Commander of aircraft by placing asterisk next to his name.)</i>					
12. CREW NO. POSITION	13. LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE INITIAL <i>(Include grade, service no., country clearance for period of flight duty)</i>	14. ORGANIZATION AND <i>(If non-military agency)</i>	15. TYPE	16. AIRCRAFT <i>SERIAL NO. OR TACTICAL CALL SIGN</i>	17. FUEL LOAD <i>(Tons/Gals.)</i>
02	Z BACIEWICZ, ANTHONY J.	TSGT 13441604		RC135D	
05	Z GEORGE, BILL W.	TSGT 14439819			
06	Z BARNEYCASTLE, ANDREW G.	SSGT 14399997			
07	→ BRISTOL, DAVID R. II	SSGT 13701174			
08	→ VAN OVER, JAMES H.	SSGT 15482912			
09	→ GWINN, JON L.	A1C 12688268			
09	Z PILLARD, ROBDEY R.	A1C 11413212			
10	Z PODLAS, GERALD A.	A1C 13645384			
11	Z SELLMAYER, EDWARD R.	A1C 19765994			
12	→ TAHTINEN, JAMES E.	A1C 16818949			
15	Z WORKS, JOHN D.	A1C 16808888			
14	Z CLARK, EDMUND B.	A2C 12688226			
15	Z FAILLACE, EUGENE R.	A2C 12693021			
16	Z FINNEGAN, PAUL W.	A2C 13775587			
17	Z KENTFIELD, MARTIN J.	A2C 12659564			
18	★ MILLER, GARY L.	A2C 17654587			
19	Z PATTERSON, WILLIAM A.	A2C 15685756			
20	Z ROSE, THOMAS A.	A2C 14815683			
01	Z EIELSON, KENNETH	1 LT 79260A			

left) while assigned at the 6985th. It's one thing to have several members from the same squadron or group but unusual to have four members on the same AO orders at the same reunion.

For those of you who are having trouble seeing... They are: Dave Bristol, Jim Van Over, Jon Gwinn and Jim

Tahtinen.

2013 FLAG REUNION (Cont'd)



(See names provided with the group pictures)



HISTORY & MEMORIES



Keesler Morse Intercept Class 15111
(May 16, 1962 – submitted by Arthur Parenti)

This photo was found on the 6918th Site by "Red" Barthel (Darmstadt)



This was a C shift class and shows 5 instructors (can't remember names).
Listed grads are: M.C. Branner, Rober Dvorak, Mickey Teel, Donald E. Blythe, Ron Helmecci, Tony Antonelli, Jimmy Konellos, Duane Werner, Larry Mikesell, Paul N. Sponseller, Dennis F. Grejozyk, Bruce B. Bailey, Joe Olexovitch, Jim Jorge, Dean Haley, John F. Reiter, Thoedore J. Ashe and William Wojtkowski.

RAF Chicksands (Fake Rocket Incident – 1958)

Posted on Roll Call by Larry Tart

In 1958 a Russian rocket ‘supposedly’ impacted on a sports field in front of the Priory at Chicksands. The “Rocket” was built by Lts. O’Neal and Gessert with Cyrillic writing provided by the late Roger Sprague



Roger Sprague, a Russian linguist, was in on the prank. 1st Lts O’Neal and Gessert were mal-assigned fighter pilots who were assigned to the 6950th as flight commanders due to an over-abundance of pilots in the Air Force -- Gessert was our flight commander on Dog Trick, circa '58-'59. They were always in trouble with our unit commander because of pranks that they pulled, including checking out a fighter (F-86, F-100 or whatever) at RAF Weathersfield to get the flying time to maintain their flying proficiency while assigned at Chicksands. On one of their training flights, they tried to break the sound barrier at tree-top level over Chicksands. Then, they conceived the idea (after the Russians had put their first Sputnik satellite in orbit) to pull a joke on our commander by building a fake rocket and burying it in the sports field in front of the Priory. Working at night in an area of the motor pool, they built the rocket complete with the tail fins you see in the photo on the back end of the rocket, which was made from



a section of metal pipe they had scavenged from base facilities. O’Neal had Sprague, who was on O’Neal’s flight (Baker, I think), put the finishing touches on the rocket after they had painted it. Roger inscribed in Cyrillic letters on the rocket that it belonged to the some fictitious Soviet Rocket Institute in Leningrad, along with address, phone number, etc. Finally, the big event arrived. During the wee hours on a Sunday night/Monday morning, with a couple of shovels (and probably a couple of accomplices), they dug a hole and implanted the rocket as the photo

shows on the sports field, where the Air Police patrol finally spotted it about dusk on Monday morning. About the same time, our colonel (group commander) arrived for work, took a look at the rocket after being tipped off by the AP's and someone pointed out that it must be a Russian rocket because it had Cyrillic writing on it. The commander had the rocket put under armed guard and notified the 3rd Air Force commander at Ruislip, who in turn, notified the American Embassy. The OSI was also called in, and the U.S. Ambassador informed the colonel that he would be arriving soon to take a look at this enemy rocket. By this time, O'Neal and Gessert realized that the ruse had gone too far, so they rushed into the colonel's office and attempted to inform him that the rocket was all a joke. Not believing them, and being busy preparing to welcome the US Ambassador to the base, the colonel threw the lieutenants out of his office, telling them that he had seen the rocket and that it was for real -- he had more important things to do. The Ambassador arrived and was escorted by the colonel to the site of the crashed rocket, where the lieutenants appeared and finally convinced the colonel that it was a fake rocket. The colonel was not amused, but the Ambassador laughed and commented that it appeared that some people on base could not take a joke. Needless to say, the lieutenants were in deep trouble with their commander again.

Memories of Establishing the 6985th Scty Sq in Alaska

Submitted by Gary Belcher Apr 10 2013

A strange thing happened on November 1st 2007. As I was sorting, reviewing and filing old military records in my new office setup, I came across an AF Form 1098 establishing my DEROS from the 6985th Scty. Sq. at Eielson AFB Alaska. Two lines on the record read:

“Crossed Canadian border on Oct. 27, 1962.”
“Arrived Eielson AFB on November 1, 1962.”

I found this document on the 45th anniversary date of my arrival at Eielson AFB to join then Captain Doyle Larson in establishing and operating Security Service’s newest unit and its first airborne unit operating the new RC135 reconnaissance aircraft. The big jet would later become the backbone of the USAFSS/SAC reconnaissance program.

Capt. Larson had arrived earlier in the summer and most of the setup work was finished by the time I made my way through 1500 miles of snow on the Alaskan Highway. He was short on senior staff and officer

strength and was very happy to see me and unload a ton and a half of “extra duties” onto my desk.

We were all excited about this new mission and particularly the new RC135 aircraft. USAFSS was operating two RC130 squadrons, one at Rhein Main in Germany and the other at Yokota Air Base in Japan. The RC 135, with its in-flight refueling capability would extend our range immensely and our Alaska basing allowed polar routing bringing into range coverage of European, Arctic, and Pacific routes as far south as Japan from the Eielson home base. The operation from Alaska was known as project “Office Boy” and would be comprised of two major commands, Strategic Air Command (SAC) to maintain and fly the aircraft and Security Service to operate the special mission package which occupied most of the space in the aircraft. The mission package was new technology designed built and installed by Temco Electronics and Missile Systems of Greenville, TX. The old company (Temco) still exists but has undergone several changes and ownership groups, including LTV Corp. and E Systems, among others. Two Temco Tech Reps were assigned to us at Eielson to assist in the initial operation of the system.

With “Office Boy”, Security Service planned to break an old operating practice by using commissioned officers to serve as the Airborne Mission Supervisors in charge of airborne operations and manning the controller position on the aircraft. Prior and existing programs, including the RC130 operations relied on enlisted personnel to fill this important role. These personnel performed admirably and had established a solid record of success in ACRP operations but it was felt the level of responsibility associated with the role was more appropriate to officer manning. The problem was the lack of commissioned personnel with the requisite language training. There simply were not enough Russian Language trained officers to fill the slots.

Captain Larson had been a Russian linguist earlier in his career and, as the chief of the language school at Goodfellow was a logical choice to command the new unit and fill one of the AMS positions on a rotational basis. I was assigned as an instructor at the Goodfellow School and one of the first volunteers to help establish the new airborne branch under the direction of Wally Kline. This simulator, also built by Temco, served as a simulator specifically for the training of airborne personnel. At this time, I had also been accepted for OCS and would qualify for one of the Eielson slots. I volunteered early and had early approval for acceptance

provided I made it through OCS successfully. Two other officers would be selected to fill out the initial cadre. Capt. Ford Anderson had no Security Service experience but had studied Russian in college and was selected. 2nd Lt. Robert Moran, the final selectee, had been assigned to Rhein Main before commissioning. Capt. Anderson was the first Operations Officer assigned and Moran and I were Flight Commanders with buckets full of additional duties. I also pulled a stint as maintenance officer after the originally assigned Warrant Officer abruptly resigned because he refused to comply with SAC maintenance directives. This proved to be a mini vacation as we had two of the finest NCOs in the maintenance world, Pat Williams and Joe Knox on the job. We never had a major problem with the new technology.

The initial staffing boasted some of the best enlisted personnel available, many with airborne experience and many young airmen on their first assignments but full of potential. Thus, the 6985th was born and thus it began operations that would become more successful than anticipated and would lead to more and bigger jet operations that today are the backbone of worldwide intelligence operations and battlefield support functions. Our aircraft did not arrive at Eielson until early 1963 so we had a brief period in which to conduct additional training and shuttle all aircrew members through the Arctic Aircrew Survival Training course, a requirement for all fliers. To acclimate to jet operations and become familiar with the areas of operation we also flew aboard tankers supporting RB47 SAC ELINT collectors which staged from Eielson and were supported from the Eielson based tanker fleet. These tankers were flown by our front end crews who were also waiting for our own fleet to arrive. These missions flew under the "Bonus Baby" designator since small, portable mission packages were put aboard for our use.

For the first year, operations were pretty well standard as originally planned. There have been several references to Gen. Larson having been the "first AMS" without further elaboration. This is not exactly accurate. He was the first selectee for the commissioned AMS effort; he was also and more prominently the squadron commander. There were three other officer AMS personnel in the first wave, Anderson, Moran and myself. Capt. Anderson actually flew the first operational mission, I took the second, and I think Moran flew the third (as Capt. Larson accommodated his subordinates with initial honors. I do remember he was a "proud papa". I still remember the message he dispatched to command headquarters and all who counted for anything as the first mission went into its assigned operating area, per flight following through the attached

Eielson AFSSO's offices. His message read "Today the mission of the USAFSS went truly global when aircraft number 00357 poked its long black nose into the Bering Sea, headed for XXXXXXXX." It was clear we had a good PR Commander on our side.

Within a year of operation it became clear the availability of officers would not sustain the requirement and the reversion to enlisted AMS was begun. Moran and Anderson were reassigned to the 6981st Scty. Gp. at Elmendorf AFB. Key NCOs, Wally Kline, Francis Mazikowski, Gene Weitz and others were manning the AMS position; so basically, the officer AMS experiment was stalled. I remained as combination AMS, Stand/Evaluation, Assistant DO and grand champion of additional duties. (Low man on totem pole was not an easy role for too long). Capt. Charles Van Pelt came in from Elmendorf to serve as Operations Officer.

The gradual breakup of the original cadre marked the end of the beginning and several milestones had been reached in those three years. We became involved in the SEA conflict with support missions to Japan to fill a gap left by the 6988th who were deployed to the war zone, and the viability of the RC135 platform had been established. Now Major Larson was reassigned to Offutt to begin another new flying unit, the 6949th. He was on his way to the top and would soon follow that with his third "airborne child", the 6990th at Kadena AFB Okinawa (now Japan). In the meantime, he had been promoted to Lt. Colonel with the two last promotions coming "below the zone". And as a famous newsman would say: "And now you know the rest of the story."

It had been a fun and challenging period and one still valued today. I was the only other of the original officer cadre to continue in airborne operations, serving as the Operations Officer at Yokota from 1967 to 1970 and with the 6994th At Tan Son Nhut in 1970-1971.

There are other stories to be told at other times but this was the foundation and the catapult for a "home grown" general's climb to the top of his ladder.//**Submitted by Maj. Gary D. Belcher (Ret), back where it started in San Angelo, TX.**//



IF YOU TRY TO FAIL, AND SUCCEED...

WHICH HAVE YOU DONE?

Keesler Morse Intercept Class 23099

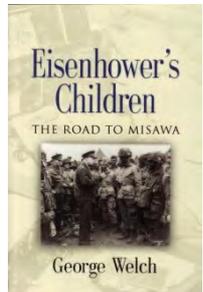
(March 23, 1960 - submitted through Bob Askew)

Received this thru Bob Askew from Ron Pizarie. Here are Ron's comments: After years of searching, I finally found my graduation picture from Keesler (3/23/60). As a bonus, most of the guys signed the back but my memory totally fails me regarding who was who in the picture (I'm middle row 2nd from left) (my best buddy in Germany was Gary Schneider (Woodward Oklahoma) (front row 2nd from left). I'll list them as best I can:



Gary Schneider – Germany; ; George Hickes – Crete; Jerry Bussure – Crete; Bob Harris – England; Carl P. Penaranda (Brooklyn New York) – Germany; Robert Corey – Germany; Drint(?) Moss – Crete; Walter S. Kliny (Kling?) – England; Carl Whilaby – Scotland; Jack Lee – Crete; Joseph C. Green – Scotland; Bertram Freeman Jr. – Germany; Eddie Smith – Germany; Stewart Bruin(?) – England; Larry Buerger(?) – Germany; Al Manges – Crete; Phil Stesch – Scotland; John B. Susterman(?); - Scotland; Ronald Sie(p)? - Crete

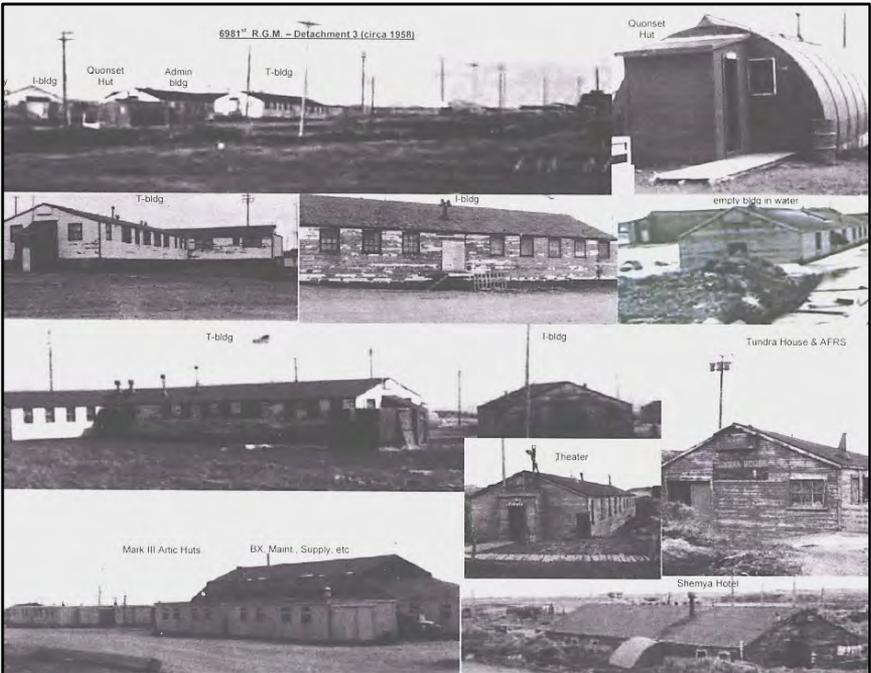
George “Granny” Welch has published the third of his "Misawa Series" of books which may interest you. Told through the eyes of over 450 historical and fictional characters, the book covers the bombings of Tokyo, Misawa and other cities at the end of WWII through the arrival of the first American troops at Misawa and the establishment of our USAFSS operations on "The Hill". You can view it at the website below & read a sample chapter. <http://booklocker.com/books/5617.html>



Shemya, Aleutian Islands
Our 6981st RGM Quarters, etc., in 1958

Posted by Al Lorentzen

Desolate. But the concept of being "AWOL" from Shemya makes that a definite one of a kind! We used to joke about putting canvas on those three giant antennas and sailing the whole island to Hawaii.



I could never convince my family about the winds there, until one night not long ago, the Weatherman in a local TV station said, "Boy, talk about winds - there is this little island in the Western Aleutians called Shemya, and the weather station there reports steady winds of 120 miles an hour all day, with gusts over 140!" My family turned to me and said "Gosh, dad, we thought you were just making that up!"



Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up something in our life we could simply press 'Ctrl Alt Delete' and start all over?

Memories of Chitose Air Base, Japan

Posted by Steve Quinn, Feb 27th 2013

For anyone who ever went to or was stationed at Chitose, (near Sapporo) Japan. It played a support role for quite a while.

I took an Air America flight from Wakkanai to Chitose and return in 1968. We were sent there for a three-day Signals Analyst Conference. While the actual flight was memorable, one of the things I remember is an evening meal we had at a local restaurant. Being a Tri-service meeting, we had a Navy Chief there from Adak Alaska. After the meal, we noticed him tossing 100Y notes out the second floor window. When we asked him "what are you doing?" He replied: "Just trolling." Cracked us all up!



Several days after our return to Wakkanai, we got a message in asking if we knew the whereabouts of that Navy Chief - it seems as if he got "lost" in Tokyo and was reluctant to return to Adak. They finally found him - not sure what happened to him after that. // **Waco Wetterman//**

We opened Chitose back up in 1970 to support the Olympics. I went from Itazuke (as it was closing in Fukuoka) to Chitose to run the Communications Center. We lived in the Army Field Grade Officers housing (very nice). The Base Commander was a Lt Col and the Civil Engineer was a Captain. They were the only two officers assigned at that time. The new base housing was later dismantled (1970-71) and moved to Misawa. I was only there for a year but it was a very decent assignment. There was a Contractor operation called JOSI located on or near the airport. I provided classified message support from the communications center to them. As I recall, they had something to do with classified Satellite business. Some may refer to the base as KUMA Station which it was known as by the ASA community.//**Ron Fitzke//**

Air America in Japan

Posted by Ron Marcoullier Feb 28, 2013

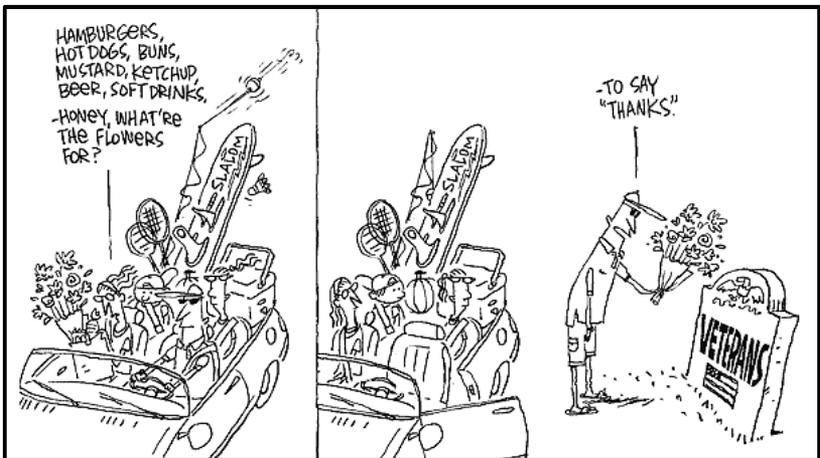
(Per the FAA, here is C-54G s/n 36028. Registered in 1965 to a company called Air America – known to many as “Scare America”.)



(Left) Photo of C-54 (A civilian DC-4), on tarmac at Misawa in 1972. The Air Force C-54 had round windows; the C-118 (DC-6) had square windows.)

I took many flights to and from Tachikawa or Yokota on this plane. Once, on a cold, early

Sunday morning, on departure from Yokota, we took off using 3 1/4 engines. I say 3 1/4 because after making several attempts to start the outboard starboard engine we just began our take-off roll with three engines. Just before wheels up, the fourth engine finally cranked over. Our pilot that day was a young blond-haired fellow in jeans and a T-shirt. There were only two passengers and two other crew members (a Japanese steward and one stewardess) on board. I guess the pilot figured with virtually nobody on board, the weight factor made it do-able.





FALLEN EAGLES



We learned of the following losses from caring relatives, friends or obituaries, and 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

Bahr Jr., Arthur “Art” L., USAFSS-Vet.

Bainbridge, William “Bill” James, USAFSS-Vet. **Life Mbr.**

Bridgford, Charles Robert, A1C-USAFSS-Vet.

Cummiskey, Charles “Charlie” P., USAFSS-Vet.

D’Apolito, Kathleen M., “Jean” Spouse of Daniel L. D’Apolito, CMSgt-USAF-Ret. **Former FTVA BOD, RIT Editor and HOH 2000**

Faris, “Rex” Geat, TSgt-USAF-Ret. **Life Mbr.**

Feldblum, Betty Ann, Spouse of Mike Feldblum, **Former FTVA President, Life Mbr.**

Fielding, Dennis E. USAFSS-Vet.

Floyd, Charles O., USAFSS-Vet.

Fry, Daryl R., USAFSS-Vet.

Goins, Bruce C., USAFSS-Vet.

Gotner, Marvin E., Sgt-USAFSS-Vet.

Gross, William J., USAF-Ret. **Mbr.**

Hall Jr., John A., USAFSS-Vet.

Holub, Vojt “VJ” J., Spouse of Mary V. Holub (USAFSS Civ-Ret. and Former FTVA BOD **Mbr.**)

Huff, Francis “Frank” William, USAFSS-Vet.

Johnson, Daniel R., USAFSS-Vet.

Jonas, Leonard K., AFISR-Civ-Ret.

Kentfield, Martin “Marty” Joseph, MSgt-USAF-Ret.

Kimbrough, Jack E., Col-USAF-Ret.

Kingery, Randal “Randy” William, USAFSS-Vet.

Lake Jr., Clement Wallace, SMSgt-USAF-Ret.

Laster, Irma Marie, Spouse of GS-14 Clarence “Clay” Laster Jr., USAFSS-Civ-Ret. **Mbr.**

Neuhaus, Richard Wayne, MSgt-USAF-Ret.

Oliver, Robert “Bob” E., MSgt-USAF-Ret.

Overman, James “Jim” E., USAFSS-Vet.

Pyle, Melvin “Ernie” D., MSgt-USAF-Ret. **Mbr.**

- Readnour, James "Jim" L., Lt Col-USAF-Ret.
- Rolfes, James "Jim" O., MSgt-USAF-Ret.
- Sapp, Robert Fred, USAFSS-Vet.
- Sattelmaier, Freemon Alton, USAAF, MSgt-USAF-Ret. **Life Mbr.**
- Shaffer, Annena J., Spouse of Roy E. Shaffer-CMSgt-USAF-Ret. **Mbr.**
- Smith, Gary H., A1C-USAFSS-Vet.
- Stark, Sara Jordan, Spouse Col Robert F. Stark-USAF-Ret. **HOH 1989**
- Steinfeld, James Henry, Lt Col-USAF-Ret. **Life Mbr.**
- Stelter, Gayle Albert, A1C-USAFSS-Vet.
- Stiles, Charles "Charlie" Sidney, USAFSS-Vet.
- Sullivan, David M., CMSgt-USAF-Ret.
- Thompson, Barbara Ann, Spouse of Richard Thompson-USAFSS-Vet.
- Troeger, William "Bill" F., USAFSS-Vet.
- Trovato, Anthony "Tony" Joseph, USAFSS-Vet.
- Voss, Dale Harris, USAFSS-Vet.
- Waltner, Walt, CMSgt-USAF-Ret. **Life Mbr.**
- Windsor, Hugh "Duke" M., A1C-USAFSS-Vet. **Life Mbr.**
- Wortman, Joseph Bernard, Col-USAF-Ret. **Life Mbr.**
- Zoebel, Ellen Pratt, Spouse of "Rudy" D. Zoebel Jr.



Arthur L. "Art" Bahr Jr., 80, passed away Feb. 18, 2013. Art was born in Milwaukee, Wis.; he attended the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee before enlisting in the US Air Force, where he spent two years in the Territory of Alaska. He was honorably discharged March 1, 1956. He served with the ComSec Scty Unit. CSS was the old 136th RSS. Have no other particulars on his assignments. Art is survived by his wife Jeannie. **//Notified by BJ Cook//**



William James "Bill" Bainbridge, 80, passed away on Saturday, February 23, 2013, after an extended illness. Mr. Bainbridge was born in Silverton, Pennsylvania. He proudly served our country in the U. S. Air Force, entering at age 17. He retired from the U.S.A.F. as an Electronic Technician after 23 years of service. Mr.

Bainbridge continued working for the United States government in Civil Service at Robins Air Force Base, also as an Electronic Technician, retiring after 18 years. Bill is survived by his loving, devoted wife of 61 years, Sara Farrow Bainbridge. **//Complete obituary in The Telegraph on February 25, 2013//** **//Notified by his wife, Sara//**



A1C Charles Robert Bridgford, 71, died Feb 10, 2013. Charles was a member of the 6918th RSM and served a tour of duty in Vietnam. He is buried in the Bakersfield National cemetery. //No obituary located// //Notified by Dave Bethard//



April 9, 2013. Received this e-mail just now. One of our old 2nd RSM "Charlie Trick" buddies. **Charlie Cummiskey** has just passed on. We will miss you **Charlie** and hope you are now resting in peace. //Paul

My name is Cat O'Sullivan, nee, Cummiskey. My sister Linda forwarded me an email that you had recently sent to her regarding our Dad, **Charles P. Cummiskey**. The family wanted you to know that sadly but peacefully, Dad passed away yesterday - April 8th, 2013. He was 81 years old. There will be no services per Dad's request. We would be most appreciative if you could notify 'the gang' of Dad's passing. Our Dad was most proud of the time he served in the AF, after his five children of course. I personally know that he valued "all of you" and the maintained friendships after all these years. Thank you for being one of Dad's treasured buddies. P.S. We will be publishing an obituary soon in the Anchorage newspaper and I can send you the link to that if you wish. One can leave comments for Dad and our family would love any and all sentiments. Kind Regards, // Cat//

I met Charlie while station in the 6981st, at Elmendorf. He retired shortly after I arrived in 67, but we kept in contact as he lived in the same area I did in Anchorage. He was well liked and will surely be missed. //Dick Kale//

I met Charlie in 1959 at the 81st. We stayed good friends until I left Alaska in 2002. Still spoke on the telephone couple times a year. Great friend and wonderful man. We were both from new England where they "pahhk the Cahh". I will sure miss him. Rest in peace Charlie. God Bless. //Steve Transue//

Charles served 2nd RSM 292X1 – Morse Operator 1950-1952, 6981st RGM from 1957 - 1969. A true Pioneer. Rest in peace, Charlie Cummiskey! **//Roll Call Web Site – Jim Kaus//**



Kathleen M. “Jean” D’Apolito, 80, passed away March 2, 2013, at the age of 80. She was born in Bedford, England. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, CMSgt Ret. Daniel N. “Dap” D’Apolito. They married while ‘Dap” was stationed at Chicksands, England. Jean accompanied and supported Dap throughout his AF career. Dap was a former FTVA BOD, RIT Editor and HOH inductee (2000). She is survived by daughters, Theresa, Barbara, Susan, and Daniella. **//Complete obituary in Express-News - March 5, 2013//**

*//Please include her being English & that Dap met her when he was stationed at Chicksands. Also that he was a CMS. These Obits in the paper are terrible--I guess they save money by being brief. I hope you'll try to give more info on our Fallen Eagles.//**Jim Youngsan -6 Mar 13//***



TSgt Geat Rex Faris, 72, passed away Mar 4, 2013 at his home in Meadows of Dan, Virginia. He finally lost his long battle with prostate cancer. Rex was born in Oklahoma City, OK. He served his country in the Air Force for more than 20 years and continued serving until the time of his death working with the VFW rising to the level of State Commander of the Virginia VFW. Rex was also Commander of VFW Post #8467. He served in Viet Nam and was stationed with the 6924th SS at Da Nang when Paul Wayne Anthony was killed in 1970. I first met Rex when we were stationed together at Chicksands 1960-1963. We have remained friends over the years and were stationed together several more times over the years, and got together many times after retirement. Also, it wasn't unusual for the phone to ring and to hear his familiar voice on the other end. He was a true friend and will be sorely missed. Rest In Peace my Brother. **//Alan Forbes// //Complete obituary at Moody Funeral Service//**



Betty Ann Feldblum, 70, died suddenly from cardiac arrest on January 30, 2013. Betty had just celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary. She is survived by her husband and former President of the FTVA, **Mike Feldblum**. Betty was the loving mother of four – Alan, Bryan, Trish, and Lyn; grandmother of ten; and great grandmother of one. Betty lived in San Antonio after retiring from NSA in 1995 and in 2004 moved to Dover, PA to be closer to her grandchildren. **//Notified by Husband//**



Dennis Edward Fielding, 71, of Millersville, MD died April 10, 2013. Mr. Fielding was a retired veteran with 23 years of active service. He served at the 6921st ESG, working as a 292X1 on Trick 4 from 1966-1969 and again as a 202X0 on Trick 3 from 1973-1975. He is survived by his wife Marilyn. **//Complete obit published in The Capital on April 16, 2013// //Notified by Helen Henderson//**



Charles O. Floyd, 81, of Jefferson City Missouri died October 23, 2012. He graduated Lancaster High School; afterwards enlisting in the United states Air Force. He served as a radio/telegraph operator monitoring the Russians by Morse code both in Germany and Austria. I have no dates of service other that the facts indicated by year of high school graduation and year of enlistment in the Air Force. That would make him a 292 in late 1949 or in 1950. Charles is survived by wife, Nancy. **//Notified by Stanley Strope//**



Daryl R. Fry, 70, of Ephrata, PA, passed away at home, Mar 16, 2013. During Daryl's USAF career he served at Misawa AB, Japan 1962-1964. He was a life member of the Cloister Post 429, American Legion in Ephrata. He is survived by wife Bonnie. **//Notified by Helen Henderson via E-Mail from wife//**



Bruce C. Goins, 72, died Jan 2, 2013 in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Bruce was very proud to be a member of the state baseball championship team the year he graduated Elder high School in 1958. He served as a Russian Linguist interpreter in the United States Air Force between 1959 to 1963 in the 6910th RGM at Sembach and Darmstadt, Germany when the 6910th moved to Darmstadt. During that time, he continued playing for the Air Force traveling throughout Europe. He was our shortstop on the 1961 and 1962 Comets baseball team. He is survived by wife, Judy. He will be missed by all and especially the Comets baseball team. **//Submitted by Charlie Church//**



Sgt Marvin E. Gotner, 65, died Mar 21, 2013. Marvin was stationed at the 6921st Scty Gp in 1967-1968. No obituary or other information available. **//E-mail from son James, to Helen Henderson//**



A great man, **William J. Gross**, 80, passed away February 14, 2013. My brother, Russ, and I were both with him at his passing. I am sorry to inform many of you of the passing of my father in this manner, but I wanted to let you know. I was able to find your e-mail address through past e-mails I had been copied on from him. He will be buried next to our mother at Heritage Hills Memory Gardens, 7370 St. Rt. 48, Springboro, Ohio 45066. **//Shawn Ryan//**

I served with Bill when he was a 1st Lt. in the 6987th at Lin Kou, he was a great friend and a great officer, he was the one who convinced me I should apply for OCS; we spent many a night drinking in Sin Alley. **//George Montague//**

I never flew with Bill or knew him before we got together in Dayton when we met at a coffee shop at Cross Point shopping center, very close to where he lived. We had some enjoyable conversations about Blue Sky, Rose Bowl and Drill Press. RIP, Bill. **//Bruce Darwin//**

I just received the sad news below -- we lost Bill Gross on 14 February. I had last heard from Bill earlier this year when he ordered Volumes IV and V. Bill, who was 80 years old, enlisted in the AF in 1950 and was commissioned through OCS in 1956. Among other assignments, he

served as the first Ops Officer for 6990th SS. He retired from the AF in Dec 1976. RIP Bill Gross. //Larry Tart//



John A. Hall Jr. born in San Angelo on May 8, 1931 died February 19, 2013. Survived by his wife, Sandra Ball Hall, 5 daughters: Cindi, Brandi, Kathie, Debbie, Beverly and son John, 20 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, siblings: Joe, Betty, Julia. He served as an Air Force cryptographer in Korea and Vietnam, completed his 26 years of service in San Antonio as a recruiter. Burial at Ft. Sam Houston. //Published in Express-News on February 24, 2013//



Vojt J. "VJ" Holub, age 88, passed away on Saturday, March 23, 2013. "VJ" proudly served his country in the US Army during WWII and the Korean Conflict. In Austria, between May 7th and 8th of 1945, his division was instrumental in the apprehension of Hermann Goering, Hitler's number one Nazi. VJ was a member of the Tank Destroyer Force Company "A", 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, when he was discharged in May 1946. Subsequently returning to San Antonio and he later joined the San Antonio Police Department, where he retired after 31 years of loyal and dedicated service. VJ is survived by wife **Mary**, who was a long time civilian employee of USAFSS and the FTVA Board of Directors. //Complete obituary in Express-News on March 26, 2013//



Francis William "Frank" Huff, 75, was born in Clarksburg, West Virginia and died April 23, 2013 in Mesquite, TX. He is survived by two children; Robert W. Huff, Sr. and Sharon L. Huff. During his USAFSS career, Frank served as an AMT at Det 1, Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam 1969-1970 and the 6949th SS, Offutt AFB, NE. //Notified by Bill Wilson//



Daniel R. Johnson, 75, passed away peacefully on March 1, 2013, at his home in San Antonio, TX. Daniel was born in Falls City, Nebraska. He enlisted in the Nebraska National Guard in December 1951 and served 3 years as a member of that unit. He left the Guard to enlist in the USAF in October 1954. After Basic Training, he was stationed at Chanute AFB IL., where he attended Air Weather School. In July 1959, he was transferred to the United States Air Force Security Service to receive training in Traffic Analysis. He was stationed in North Africa, Pakistan, The United Kingdom, Viet Nam and Japan. After serving 23 years, he retired at Kelly AFB, in San Antonio, TX. He received the Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Air Force Commendation Medal; RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm; Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. After his retirement from USAF, he enrolled at Southwest Texas University, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Business.. He worked for the Air Intelligence Agency where he retired in 1997. He is survived by his loving wife Gloria. **//Complete obit in Express-News March 3, 2013//**



Leonard K. Jonas, 81, went to be with the Lord on March 29, 2013. Born on June 10, 1931, he was a beloved husband, father and grandfather. Mr. Jonas was proud to serve his country as a civilian for 52 years as an Electronics Engineer working for the U.S. Air Force Intelligence Command (AFISR). He is survived by his wife, Bobby Jo Jonas, and former wife Charlotte Kurtz

//Complete obituary in Express-News on March 31, 2013//

Mr. Jonas will be sorely missed – he was always quick with a smile, pleasant to work with and extremely smart. He made a very big mark on this Agency and in support of defense of this great nation. Shiela and I send our condolences and sympathy to the Jonas Family. **//Ken Williams – HQs AF ISR Agency, Director of Staff//**

Ken, thanks for letting me know. Leo was a great person and really worked hard in bldg 2000. V/R **//Ed Jolly//**

Leo was an extremely inspirational gentleman. He had a true passion for supporting and defending our country through his management of the logistics of many complex technical systems. Leo’s service and loyalty to our nation, along with his great stories about his experience will never be forgotten. Carol and I send out condolences to Bobby Jo and the Jonas family. Leo will be greatly missed, as he touched the hearts and lives of so many. **//Jack Warner – Oklahoma City, OK//**

I had the pleasure and honor of working with and for Leo for over 20 years. He was one of the greatest and most respected members I encountered in my Air Force Career. He always had the time and patience to answer and explain any question. I will always remember his sense of humor, interesting stories, and warm smile. I had the privilege of visiting with Leo a little over two years ago during a visit to San Antonio and will always remember that visit. My deepest condolences to Bobby Jo and the Jonas family. You are in my thoughts in this time of sorrow. **//Steve Jones – Cedar Rapids, Iowa//**



MSgt Martin “Marty” Joseph Kentfield, 68, of Hanover died March 29, 2013. He is survived by his wife Lynne Kentfield of Hanover, whom he married Dec. 19, 1966. As a USAFSS Russian Linguist, Marty had tours at Misawa, Berlin, and Goodfellow AFB, TX as well as language training at Syracuse University. //Complete obituary in Baltimore Sun - April 2, 2013// // Bruce Shaw//



Colonel Jack E. Kimbrough, 84, was called to heaven on March 26, 2013. Jack led a life full of love, hard work and great integrity. He grew up in Chumuckla, Florida. In 1953, Jack began his service in the US Air Force as a commissioned officer. He served in numerous places including Japan, Hawaii, as an exchange officer with the Royal Air Force in England, and three assignments to San Antonio. While at HQ USAFSS, Jack, then a Lt Col, is thought to have worked in Personnel. He is survived by his wife Betty. //Obit in the Express-News March 31, 2013// //Input – Jim Youngson//



Randal William “Randy” Kingery, 66 passed away 11 April 2013 at age 66. Seems he was shoveling snow and had a heart attack. He passed away in Avera St Luke’s Hospital, Aberdeen. Randy worked on Trick 2 at the 6921st Scty. Wing, Misawa AB, Japan 1967-1970.

//Notified by Tim Dech//

I just read about my buddy “Bullwinkle”. I was at Keesler with Randy and we were roomies for a few weeks. We went to Goodfellow before being assigned to Misawa. Bullwinkle came to So Cal a few days before we had to leave from Travis and we had a good time at the beach and hanging with a couple other classmates. Randy was an X2 and extended his Misawa tour until separation in 1970. When I came to this site, Randy was the first to welcome me, I will miss him. **//Steve Rogitz – Misawa Web Site//**



SMSgt Clement Wallace Lake Jr., 82, of San Antonio, died Aug. 23, 2012. Clement was born in Falls River, Mass. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1948 and proudly served for 25-1/2 years. Part of his time with USAFSS was spent at the 6918RSM, Hakata, Japan. He enjoyed all sports, but he had a love for golf. Clement was a jokester and a great man that will be missed by many, especially his wife of 42 years, Reba. **//Obit in GoSanAngelo from Aug 25-26, 2012// //Input - Dave Bethard//**



Irma Marie Laster was born October 9, 1924 in New Orleans, LA and went to be with her Lord on January 4, 2013 in San Antonio, TX. She grew up in New Orleans and graduated from Sophie Wright High School there in 1943. Irma met Clayton Laster at the USO in New Orleans and they were married October 23, 1944. She is survived by her husband of 68 years. Irma supported Clayton through his career in Systems Engineering at HQ USAFSS including TDY’s to Europe and Vietnam. **//Submitted by husband//**



MSgt Richard Wayne “Rich” Neuhaus, 71, passed away on February 12, 2013 at his home in Manassas, VA., after a long battle with cancer. He was born Oakland, CA and raised in Loleta, CA. Immediately after high school graduation in 1959 he joined the US Air Force. After leaving Goodfellow AFB as a 202X0, Rich served at the 6922nd RGM Kadena, Okinawa in 1960. He then went to SPECCOM at Security Hill; then Karamursel, Turkey, back to Okinawa (JSPC), and Boerfink, Germany before retiring in 1983. Rich is survived by June, his wife of 52 years. **//Complete obituary in the Eureka Times-Standard on February 17, 2013// //Input – George Hollis//**

Rass, I was last stationed with Rich, an old 202, in the late 1960's, early 70's at JSPC on Okinawa. He was a great guy, terrible golfer, and is survived by his wife of fifty plus years, June and children. **//John Frock//**



MSgt Robert E. “Bob” Oliver, 84, passed away March 23, 2013, after a lengthy battle with Parkinson disease. Bob was a comm. center type who served with Security Service in Hawaii, on Okinawa, and in the headquarters in San Antonio. In addition to his outstanding service as a senior NCO, he was well known in golfing circles, and represented the command in Air Force tournaments on several occasions. He also served with the Embassy in London prior to his retirement. He is survived by his wife Maxine, daughter Jennifer, and 4 grandchildren who reside in San Antonio. **//Notified by Whitey Carstensen//**



I received an email from Milt Jendry today advising me of the death of **Jim Overman** who was a 292XX on Trick 1 from 1959 to 1961. Jim passed away April 22 in St. Louis, Missouri. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Jim's home town of Malden, Missouri. Jim attended the reunion in St. Louis last year. In fact, that is the only reunion he had ever attended. Jim was very happy that his close friend, Trick 1 vet Herb Sousa, was able to attend the St. Louis reunion. A photo of Jim taken at the reunion is included in this posting. R.I.P. my friend. **//Bob Wynn – Misawa Web Site//**



MSgt Melvin D. "Ernie" Pyle, 77, passed from this life on April 8, 2013 after a long journey with dementia. He was born in Joplin, Missouri. Mel traveled the world serving in Japan, the Philippines, Alaska, Crete and retiring in San Antonio in 1973. He served with the 1st RSM in 1954. He is preceded in death by his first wife Mary Jane. He is survived by his wife Pauline (Polly) Pyle. His remains will be interred with his beloved Mary Jane. He will be greatly missed. //Obit in San Antonio Express News April 14, 2013//



Lt Col James Leroy Readnour, 78, passed away on 22 February after a battle with Stage IV lung cancer. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Barbara. Jim was born in Danville, Ill. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1953, had basic training at Samson AFB, NY and then assigned as a Training Instructor (TI) to Parks AFB, CA. Jim and Barbara moved a total of 16 times, spanning the globe from Maryland to the Philippines, including two remote tours to Pakistan (after Russian Language School) and Thailand (Intel Vietnam missions). Jim graduated from Officer Candidate School in Dec 1961. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Maryland and a Master's Degree at the University of Alaska, one of only two graduates, in 1967. Jim retired from the AF in 1980 after 27 years; his final assignment was Cheyenne Mountain (NORAD) in Colorado Springs. During his career, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with 1 oak leaf cluster, Air Medal w 1 OLC, Joint Service Commendation Medal w 1 OLC, Air Force Commendation Medal w 2 OLC, National Defense Service Medal w battle service star, Vietnam Service Medal w battle service star, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross w palm device, & the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. //Notified by Bob Cope via Tonia Ballard//



MSgt James "Jim" O. Rolfes Jr, 53, born May 21, 1959 peacefully passed away at home in the presence of his family on February 5, 2013. Jim served his country for 21 glorious years as a Spanish Linguist. Jim was also a Brother Mason and Past Master of Commerce Lodge #439. He was an extremely brilliant man who was a music enthusiast (loved playing the piano and guitar), a cook

extraordinaire and enjoyed riding motorcycles. He is

survived by his daughter Kelly and best friend Cindy. **//Complete obituary in the Express-News on February 10, 2013//**

I have some very sad news to pass along tonight. Jim Rolfes is in a coma and is not expected to live more than a day or two. He fell the day before yesterday and is bleeding in his brain. There's nothing they can do for him...his blood will not clot. He's resting peacefully at his sister's house in GA and his daughter Kelly is with him. Kelly asks that his friends pray that he has a peaceful journey. **//Juan Flores//**



Robert Fred Sapp, 73, died Feb 24, 2013 in Jacksonville, FL after a brief illness. He was born in Waycross, GA. He is survived by wife, Martha. During Robert's time in the USAF, he was stationed at Misawa AB, Japan in 1960 as a 292XX. **//Misawa Web Site//**



MSgt Freemon Alton Sattelmaier passed away April 21, 2013. Freemon served in Crete, England, France, Germany, Hawaii, Libya and United States. Only one DD214 can be found. Last Date of Rank was April 10, 1951. Started as a tail gunner in the B-26 Marauder, finished as Sgt Major, First Sgt, Administrative Assistant to General Klocko with over 30 years' service. Place of entry into active service on last DD214 was Iraklion AS, Crete. Freemon retired in San Antonio, Texas. He enjoyed attending the annual functions at Lackland AFB. **//Information submitted by Doris Schneider//**

The Sunday Morning Express News here in San Antonio contained an obit for Freemon A. Sattelmaier (MSgt USAFSS, ret). He would have been 90 on May 1. As I remember, Freemon was NCOIC of housing on Crete while I was there the first time (70-72). He loved to play Boo Rey at the NCO Club. I last saw him at the annual FTVA alumni picnic about 8 years ago and he looked much the same as he did on Crete 30 years earlier. May he rest in peace. **//Dave Naab, Apr 29, 2013//**



Annena J. Shaffer, 75, passed away at home on January 20, 2013 from complications of metastatic breast cancer. She was surrounded and is survived by her husband of 53 years, CMSgt Roy E. Shaffer (Ret), her five children and other members of her family. She will be lovingly remembered as a person of strong faith who adored her family. She was a long time member of the Military Council for Catholic Women and was a strong and dedicated in support of the military community. **//Notified by husband – Roy Shaffer//**



A1C Gary H. Smith, 74, of Myerstown, PA, formerly of New York State and Jersey Shore, PA, died Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at the VA Medical Center, Lebanon, PA. He was born in Sistersville, WV. A graduate of Sistersville High School, he earned a bachelor's degree at Marietta College in Ohio, a master's degree at Syracuse University, all in German and Russian languages, and he later earned his teaching degree and principal certification at Oswego University. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a linguist and code breaker from 1956 to 1963. He is survived by a son and daughter, Gregg and Sara. **//Complete obituary in Syracuse Post Standard from March 19 to March 21, 2013//**



Sara Jordan Stark, 95, died April 1, 2013. She met and married Lieutenant Robert F. Stark of Augusta, Georgia in 1942. After WWII Sara and her daughters sailed on a troop ship to join her husband in Japan. She volunteered in the Army Hospital in Nagoya helping incoming wounded from Korea. After several assignments in the States, she joined her husband in Taiwan where she was very active in Red Cross. While in Germany, she served as President of the Berlin American Wives Club. After Bob returned to Kelly AFB in 1970, Sara served as President of the Kelly Wives Club. Bob and Sara then spent two years in Crete, Greece. In 1973 they once again returned to Kelly AFB where Bob retired. Bob preceded her in death in 2009. **//Complete obit in Express-News on April 7, 2013//**



Lt. Col. James Henry Steinfeld, 73, passed away March 27, 2013. He was born in Buffalo, NY. He held a B.A. Degree from San Francisco State College and a M.A. Degree from Ball State University. He was an intelligence officer in the USAF and was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1OLC), Air Medal (6OLC), AF Commendation Medal (2OLC), AF Outstanding Unit Award w/ V-Device and 4OLCs, Vietnam Service Medal (8 Service Stars), and many others. He was stationed at the 6931st Scty Sqdn, Iraklion AS, Crete early 1976. He was a member of the Military Officers' Assn, A.F. Intelligence Org., and AF Assn. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Barbara. **//Obit in Florida Today – March 31, 2013// //Notified by Darrell “Nick” Nichols//**



A1C Gayle Albert Stelter, 78, of Mankato, MN died April 20, 2013 at Laurel's Edge in Mankato, after a three-plus year battle with pancreatic cancer. Gayle enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1951 and spent 3 years from Jan. 1954 to Nov. 1956 in Landsberg, Germany as a 292X1 Intercept Radio Operator. He returned home and attended Mankato State College to get a teaching degree in Business Education. Gayle organized several Squadron Reunions of his Air Force unit from 1999-2010 and produced a Profile Book of 300 men of the 6912th Radio Squadron Mobile. Gayle is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Lois and two children. **//Obit in the Free Press, Mankato, MN// //Notified by Charles Miller//**

I am sad that I must inform you that my father, Gayle, passed away after a nearly 4 year battle against pancreatic cancer. Yet I am joyful that he is now resting at peace with his savior Christ Jesus. While the end came quickly these past two weeks, he lived quite a while longer than the optimistic edge of the prognosis they gave him once the cancer was determined inoperable and terminal. He left me with instructions to notify his various email lists after his passing which was most simply done by sending them from his computer, so my apologies for this email appearing to be from him. **//Sincerely, Craig Stelter – 21 April 2013//**



Lt. Col. Charles Sidney Stiles, 83, died peacefully in his sleep February 18, 2013. Born in Pueblo, CO. on Feb. 9, 1930 he graduated from Colorado A&M University. He did graduate work in Russian Studies at Syracuse University and Economics at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, paving the way to a distinguished career in the Air Force. In 1957, between serving in the Korean and

Vietnam wars, Charlie met his wife, Jane Whitlock. Charlie served in Europe, as an intelligence officer and Russian linguist. He also served at USAFSS HQ, Karamursel, Turkey, 6902nd RSM Shiroy AB, Japan and the 6922nd Scy Gp Philippines. Charlie and others are described as "unsung heroes" of the Cold War in the 2010 book, *Secrets of the Cold War*, by Leland C. Moccasin. Charlie's last overseas assignment was as deputy commander of the United States Military Liaison Mission in Potsdam, East Germany, where he served as liaison to the Soviet commander of the Russian East German forces. His numerous military medals include the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service and the Air Force Commendation award. After 25 years of serving his country, Lieutenant Colonel Stiles retired in May 1977. During his early years after retirement, local organizations often asked him to speak about his Cold War experiences, including the day his Russian intelligence counterpart took him to the Buchenwald German Nazi concentration camp, at the time behind the Berlin Wall in East Germany. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Jane. **//Obit in Express-News Feb 28, 2013//Input by Bill Burhans and Bill Martin//**

Remember Stiles well!! Thought he was one of the really good guys. RIP. Never forget the meetings with him and the Marine, regarding our vehicles. **//Sam Clark//**



Our good friend and Berlin Island Hall of Fame recipient, **CMSgt (Ret) David M. Sullivan**, passed away last night (12 Feb) at 11:07pm (CST). Dave had been fighting pancreatic cancer for the past 28 months. Hannelore, his wife of 48 years, and I were at his side when he passed away at the Santa Rosa Hospice facility

in San Antonio. Dave served 30 years in the Air Force -- 14 of these years were in the 6912th as a Russian Linguist, Flight Chief at T-Berg, Operations Superintendent at Marienfeld, and Senior Enlisted Advisor. Dave wanted a very simple funeral service with a closed casket. **//Sent from Gene Sloat to Dave Shepard//**

Great man and friend to us all... He will be missed... (Relayed by Sam Houston) I remember him from the 6912th in Berlin. **//Ted Colquhoun//**



Barbara Ann "Ladybug" Thompson, 64, of rural Altamont, KS died March 4, 2013, at her home. She had been in failing health. She was born on Sept. 6, 1948, in Parsons, KS. On July 5, 1969, she married Robert Lee Thompson in Altamont. After marriage, the couple lived in Biloxi, Miss., Misawa, Japan, and Latiano, Italy. She is survived by her loving husband of 43 years, Bob Thompson. **//Obituary in the Parsons Sun// //Notified by Terry Cullivan//**



A1C William "Bill" F. Troeger, 71, passed unexpectedly November 17, 2012. Bill is survived by his wife of almost 50 years, Patricia (Cavanaugh) Troeger. He was an amazing, loving family man and will be dearly missed by many. Bill was proud of his 4 years military career in the US Air Force and his time at the 6921st RGM, Misawa AB, Japan in the early 1960's. He supported many veterans groups. **//Obit in Grand Rapids Press Nov 18, 2012// //Notified by Lawrence Twardzak//**



Anthony Joseph "Tony" Trovato, 84, of Clarksville, TN, died on January 26, 2013 at Signature Healthcare of Clarksville. He was born on November 29, 1928 in Winding Gulf, West Virginia. Tony was a retired U.S. Air Force Security Service Veteran. He was retired from civil service at Ft. Campbell, KY. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl of Clarksville, TN. The military will serve as pallbearers. **//Obit at ClarksvilleNOW.com//**

I received a letter from Tony's wife this week informing he passed on Jan 26th. I had talked to him from his hospital bed around the New Year. He was 83 years old, very alert and recalling those great times we had during our tour at Chicksands in the early 60's. Tony was a devoted USAFSS vet and superb baseball & basketball coach. Many from his tours in Crete, Chicksands, and HQ USAFSS will remember him. **//Bill Ricks//**



Dale Harris Voss, 84, of Aplington, Iowa, died Oct 6, 2012 in Waterloo, Iowa from natural causes. He was born in Austinville, Iowa. Dale joined the USAF on February 1, 1951, primarily stationed at Cambria-Fritsch Kaserne in Germany with the 2nd Radio Squadron Mobile. He was honorably discharged Jan 11, 1955. While overseas he met the love of his life. Dale is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Rosi Voss of Aplington. **//Notified by Steve Voss//**



CMSgt Walt Waltner aka Mavis Leslie Waltner, 83, died on Ash Wed. Feb 13, 2013. Walt grew up speaking German and English in a Mennonite farming community in Marion, South Dakota. We will all miss him, but we rejoice that his long courageous battle with Parkinson's disease and Dementia is finally over. At 19, he joined the US Air Force and was known by his birth-name, Mavis Leslie Waltner. In 1986 he legally changed his name to Walt Waltner. During 26 years in the USAF, he served for 12 years in Germany (where he worked in Intelligence in East and West Berlin, crossing many times through Checkpoint Charlie), 4 years in Japan, and a short time in Korea, a year in Vietnam, and various US bases. During his service in Vietnam (May 1966-April 1967) he was awarded the Bronze Star. Walt retired from the Air Force in 1975. Survived by his wife, Lesley. **//Obit submitted by wife//**



A1C Hugh M. "Duke" Windsor, 83, of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, died, February 8, 2013 at Metro Health Medical Center in Cleveland. He was born October 19, 1929 in Malden, MA. Hugh served with the United States Air Force from 1950-1954. The Air Force sent him to IBM Customer Engineering School at Endicott, NY and he then was deployed to Germany as part of the 6910th Security Squadron. Unknown exactly where in Germany but at or near Stuttgart, and unknown what his duties were. He met the love of his life, Elly and they were married 57 years on January 26, 2013. He is also survived be a sister, Nancy E. (C.W.) Waterman. **//Input from Nancy Waterman//**



Colonel Joseph Bernard Wortman, 84, died peacefully on January 29, 2013 after complications from a fall. Joe was born in Crookston, NE. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the USAF. Joe was surprised to receive his commission letter and a 4F draft notice in the same mail. He was stationed in Ft Meade, Maryland, Germany, Turkey, and San Antonio, TX, serving his country for 30 years. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mary Ann. Interment Arlington National Cemetery.
//Complete obit in Omaha World-Herald on January 31, 2013//

To Bob Baert: Bob, don't know if anyone else has reported this. Mary Wortman called us early this week to tell us that Joe Wortman had died after suffering complications from a freak fall taking off his T-shirt. He had been active up until that time. We have staying in touch with the Wortmans for years ever since we me when we were stationed at European Security Region 1968-71 and then again at HQ USAFSS. Have attached the obit we received in the mail today from Mary. Can you take care of getting this in the next FTVA Remain in Touch and if deemed appropriate in an email to members. If not, can you tell me who to send this to? **//Denny Alvey//**



Ellen Pratt Zobel passed away peacefully at home on March 13, 2013. She was born in Orangeburg, South Carolina. She is survived by her husband, Rudolph D. Zobel, Jr., USAF Retired, of fifty nine years. After retirement, they settled in Winter Park, Florida. Rudy Zobel is a long time FTVA member and whenever he showed up at the reunion always helped me. I had not received his dues for this year and was a little concerned so I searched the obituaries. He appears to be alive and well, but unfortunately his wife passed mid-month. **//Bob Baert//**

//A Soldierly Thought//

“Tears on the cheeks of any soldier, regardless of gender, are acceptable on the death of a child, relative or comrade and when ‘Old Glory’ passes by.”

A Tribute to Col John Morrison

Submitted by Craig Johnson

Rass,

I noticed with sadness the article on the passing of John Morrison. He was one of several heroes I encountered in almost 40 years of working with USAFSS and ESC. A part of his career not mentioned in the Obit was his relatively short time as Commander of the AFSCC. During that time I had the privilege of working in the Center and he was a real inspiration to many of us. He came to the Center from a job in USAFSS HQ and already had ideas about what he would like to do if he became Commander. I give you this little bit of background because when I read the Obit I remembered a poem that Hop Harriger had written in the summer of 1958 when then Col. Morrison was leaving the Center to go to Command and Staff College. Hop titled the poem:

"Chining Din".

By Hop Harriger

It seems like only yesterday
 He joined us all in song...
 With jolly friends to share the way,
 The journeys never long.

He didn't sneak up quietly
 And blend in with the pace,
 Before his office sign appeared.
 He re-arranged the place.

Directives flew from morn to night
 Hand written in his scrawl,
 This cipher problem, in itself,
 Made analysts of all.

On, on he pressed with greater vim
 All deadlines were a must,
 As years fell off his smiling face,
 They found a home on us

And so it went for many months...
 Until a higher power,
 Selected him for greater things,
 Than this, "his shining hour".

A full-duplex to "everywhere"
Can be removed from lease,
And toll calls to the Pentagon
Should certainly decrease.

No mid-night "watch committee" meets
To study things with candor,
No more responsive flaps to quell,
No billet-doux to answer.

A hush has settled on the shops
And analysts are weeping...
The duplex-lines are quiet now,
To honor his de-briefing.

The troops should gain back all the weight
They lost imparting knowledge,
No need to think while standing now,
Our John has gone to college.

As pointed out in the obit, John eventually became a Major General and spent much of his time at NSA. He came back to San Antonio for a visit in 1970 at a reunion and I gave him a few additional verses to Hop's poem:

We now look back these last 12 years,
Our hopes were all in vain.
The pace we keep is still too fast,
Requirements fall like rain.

The Billet-doux still come each day,
And deadlines must be met.
We wonder when our time will come,
But we just hear, not yet.

Although the mission now has changed,
We keep on making hay.
We wonder if we'll ever rest,
And work like NSA

I'm not sure how many of the old guys remember the late 50's but I thought I would share this with you. Thanks for all your good work. I always enjoy "Remain in Touch".

Craig Johnson

Tribute to Willie Peer

Submitted by Darr King - Mar 1, 2013,:

Rass,

One of the Fallen Eagles in the March issue...CMSgt William R. Peer: I served with "Willie" Peer at the 6912th RSM...circa '63 - '64. If memory serves...he was both Sr Voice Controller, Interaction NCO...or maybe overall Baker-Trick Chief. Don't quote me on connecting him with those duty titles...but think I'm reasonably close. Mostly remember him as being one of the few senior noncom linguist who would visit us ELINTers back in the "blue room." He'd come into our eerie den...cup a coffee in one hand, wad of six-ply/tractor fed/multi-color "fan fold" in the other. He'd sit and chat with our trick-chiefs for a few minutes...SSgt Hank Miller and A1C Walt Mercer...about mission stuff. Then he'd scoot-roll his chair over to each of us rookie operators as we sat rack. He'd say..."Tell me what'cha doin'!" Course, we're thinkin'..WOW! Here's an ol' guy with 6 stripes on each sleeve and he's askin' us rookies about our position and what we're doin'. MAN! We had no idea then, that he knew exactly and definitively what each of our positions were designed to do, as well as each of their assigned taskings. It was years later...when we were no longer called "jeeps"...that it occurred to us (me), what the wizened leader was doing -- "Training!" And in a manner at the time...we could hardly grasp. He wasn't asking to educate himself...but to provide a brief opportune moment of training for us. What a guy! When I finally progressed to that coveted "NCO" status...I found myself using that very same tactic. Used it with junior ranking airmen...in every assignment and at every opportunity. And I've never forgotten "Sergeant Willie Peer"...for that. The Berlin Island Association held a reunion here in SA several years ago...had a grand time visiting with Willie...and thanked him. Guys like that pass through our careers and we sometimes hardly notice...at the time...what they do for us. Until one day...YOU ARE that guy! And you realize just how blessed you are for having those guys pass your way.

Is this a great Air Force...or what? Darr



**If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge,
would they call it Fed UP? ?**



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

From: Kathy Snapka [mailto:ksnapka@snapkalaw.com]
To: president@ftva.org
Subject: My Uncle, George Snapka

Dear Mr. Anthony,

Please let me introduce myself. I am an attorney living in Corpus Christi. My Father, Method Snapka was the fifth of 6 brothers. His next older brother, George Snapka, was a favorite uncle of all of the cousins. He never married and he told us that he was in Civil Service and worked in “supply”. He traveled extensively but never said what he did. When we would ask him, he would brush off the questions with a joke, like “I’m the janitor”. It was not until many years after his death that the cousins were sitting at a family reunion and one told of a strange incident in the late 1950s where a uniformed officer dropped a package at the oldest brother’s house. The instructions were not to open the package unless instructed. A few weeks later the officer retrieved the package. This led to our speculation that Uncle George was a “spy”, but we really treated it lightly. Then, while I was surfing the internet, on a lark I typed into Google George Snapka CIA, and the Fallen Eagles page came up listing him as an “old timer USAFSS CMD” I looked up USAFSS and was shocked to learn that this was a branch of NSA!..We are very proud of our Uncle and would like to know more about his service. I understand that these files are now declassified. How can I go about obtaining my Uncle’s personnel file or any other information that I can get describing his activities for the organization, or anyone who served with him who might remember him?

Thanks very much for your help.

Kathy

The Snapka Law Firm

606 N. Carancahua, Suite 1511

P.O. Drawer 23017, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

361-888-7676

Kathy,

Thanks for your e-mail requesting information on your uncle George Snapka who passed away in 1985. This is one of the reasons the FTVA exists! We may be able to provide some assistance through our membership. By the way, your uncle’s response to your question about

his job is very much like many from that era, when the United States Air Force Security Service (USAFSS) was far less open about its activities.

I looked up your uncle on our Fallen Eagles database, which is maintained by CMSgt (Ret) Ted Colquhoun. It indicates that he was a Government Service (civilian) employee at the old USAFSS Command Headquarters on Kelly AFB (now Lackland AFB), TX. With your permission, I'd like to include your e-mail in the next issue of our "Remain In Touch" quarterly newsletter, in hopes that one of our members may have known Mr. Snapka and can provide some personal insight into his service at USAFSS. I've also included the FTVA Board of Directors on this e-mail; one board member (Mr Doug Holden) actively worked in USAFSS headquarters in 1948. Maybe we can make a connection from among our membership.

In regard to his military records and specific activities, that's a more formal process through USAF channels or the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). We're unable to provide assistance in those arenas. I can't explain the "package" incident, but perhaps one of our more experienced members is familiar with such procedures from that era. I do hope one of our members can provide additional insight into your uncle's career within USAFSS.

For Rass/Wayne: With Ms Snapka's permission, will you please include her e-mail and contact details in the next edition of the newsletter?

Sincerely,
Lee Anthony, FTVA President

USS Pueblo Moving To North Korean War Museum

Article taken from AP Publication

The USS Pueblo will be moved to North Korea's huge museum in Pyongyang that is dedicated to the Korean War, that country's news service said this week.

The famous spy ship, which was seized by the North Koreans in January 1968, had been tied to a dock on the Taedong River in Pyongyang until recently. There were questions about its future location until the North Korean announcement this week.



Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, front left, skipper of the USS Pueblo, says goodbye to Gen. Charles H. Bonesteel III, commander in chief of the United Nations Command in Korea, as Pueblo crew member's wave victory signs at Kimpo Air Base, South Korea, in December, 1968. The newly-freed sailors were about to leave for the U.S., having spent the past 11 months in captivity after the intelligence ship's capture by

the North Koreans in January of that year.

According to the Business insider website, North Korea will put the small ship in its cavernous Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, which has been described by U.S. visitors as a massive building dedicated to the Korean War. The Navy ship, which was named for Pueblo in 1967, will underline the museum's role as a "base for anti-U.S. education," according to the North Korean news service.

Among the artifacts in the museum are stacks of captured U.S. weapons and military gear. Congress and the Colorado General Assembly have repeatedly passed resolutions over the years demanding the return of the ship. The surviving crew members of "the Pueblo incident" were very popular with the American public because of the defiance they showed in captivity, but Navy officials reprimanded the ship's skipper, Cmdr. Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, for allowing the largely unarmed ship to be captured. The surviving crew members have held several reunions in Pueblo, CO and plan to return there in 2014

Name Donald Stone E-Mail donstone@realtracs.com

Unit 6925th SW, Clark AFB, PI (Able Flight)

Comment - I went by the handle of "Stoney" and am looking for old buddies during 1964-66 in the PI, Viet Nam at Thon Son Nhut or earlier at Kadena AFB, Okinawa.// 10 Apr 2013//

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Wankowski's Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary

Al Wankowski wrote, "I was born on 7 October 1930 in a four-room house with no running water on a farm seven miles from Crivitz, Wisconsin. Our normal sleeping accommodations consisted of us boys in 1/2 of the attic and our sisters in the other half. We could see the stars through holes in our roof. We had a potbelly stove in the living room to heat the house in the winter. We changed the mattresses in the fall with new straw or cornhusks. One job I had growing up was cultivating corn with a cultivator pulled by two horses. The last year that I spent on the farm (1947) we still used the horse drawn cultivator. In January of 1948, I cleaned up and hitched a ride to Crivitz and then to Green Bay. The next day I went to the recruiter and tried to enlist but was told to get parent's permission first since I was only 17 years old. The following week I got permission and left Crivitz again – enlisted in the "new" Air Force at Camp McCoy (Milwaukee) and finally got to San Antonio by troop train via Chicago, St Louis, Tulsa, Dallas and Ft Worth almost two weeks later. After Basic I went to San Francisco, CA again via troop train. While waiting for orders, I learned how to play Blackjack, lost all of my money, and haven't gambled since. For my first assignment, I spent 17 months on Guam, then back to the States by Liberty ship. I completed radio maintenance school in June 1950 then went to Mitchell AFB, NY."



Al met his future wife Marilyn at a roller skating rink on Long Island in 1952. They were married March 1953 at Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church in Washington DC and then at Mitchell AFB Catholic Chapel on Long Island. Al and Marilyn moved to San Angelo in 1964 and made it their home when Al retired from the Air Force in 1972.

Al and Marilyn both graduated from Angelo State University in 1980, are active in Holy Angels Catholic Church, Boy Scouts, and support the community. Marilyn and Al have two surviving sons Eugene (Janet) and Douglas K. (Tammy) and are blessed with eight grandchildren.

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