

*Remain  
In  
Touch*



***FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE  
ASSOCIATION***

***NEWSLETTER***

# ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Howdy FTVA Members,

Spring is here, summer is around the corner and winter is behind us...thank goodness. Basketball and hockey are coming to an end (Go Spurs Go) and baseball is off and running. The transition to 25th AF, under ACC, is still going through the multitudes of growing pains...but getting better day by day. Speaking of spring, Ken Williams did another super job organizing our annual Spring Social. Our largest crowd ever, 97 people, had a great time honoring and listening to the exploits of some of 25th AF's deployers, enjoying the comments by our Command Chief, CMSgt "Toby" Towberman, and honoring Joe Hurst and Jim McClendon's time on the Board. In conclusion we said goodbye to Maj Gen Shanahan at his last FTVA activity as the Commander. The Sea World Marriot did a great job with food, drink and the nice setting.

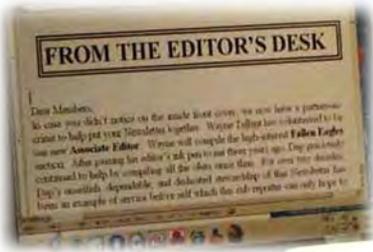
Plans are also getting started for our upcoming annual anniversary activities in Sept (24-26). POCs have been selected, checklists are being reviewed and we are scheduling our banquet guest speaker, Maj Gen Shwedo, the new commander of 25th AF. It will be another great event, so we hope to see many of you to join in the festivities.

Recently, I was given the opportunity to address 500+ members of the 543 ISRG (most of them serving at NSA-Texas) here in San Antonio. Col "Chicago" Krause gave us a rousing intro and I proceeded to give a 15-20 minute pitch about the FTVA and left pamphlets & membership forms with the Group CMSgt. I encourage everyone to look for any and all opportunities to talk about the FTVA with our active duty unit personnel. They are our future.

Finally, recent Board actions include providing funds for the Larson Awards (previously called Sensor Olympics) and 25th AF Deployer Picnic (unfortunately rained out), designing and selling our new FTVA nametags initially to our members in the San Antonio area (they will be available in batches through our Chapters), supporting the reinvigoration of the National Capital Region Chapter, and working with Bernie Gavin starting up a new Chapter here in San Antonio. Please stay in contact and let us know how we can do better as the FTVA. Hope to see you at the September activities...and remember to

'Remain in Touch,'

*Ron*



Hi Everyone,  
A full 25<sup>th</sup> AF highlights section, pix from our annual *Spring Social* along with some interesting *History and Memories* items found their way into this issue of RIT. Hope you find the summary of quarterly *FTVA Chapter* activity reports, *Reunion* summaries and tributes to our *Fallen Eagles*

worth your time. As usual, I thank those who submitted inputs to this issue and best wishes to all of you for a safe and enjoyable summer!



*Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July,* Sincerely,



**Editor's Disclaimer**

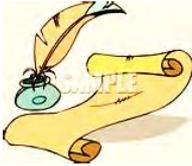
*Information in the form of letters, notes, fax, e-mail, or by phone is accepted as true and factual. In order to include as much information as possible, some of it may be edited for brevity or may be delayed for later publication. Publishing any article or notice in this Newsletter does not assure accuracy or endorsement by FTVA or the 25<sup>th</sup> AF..*

**Membership Corner**

I am between permanent homes so please mail all correspondence to the association's mailing address: FTVA  
PO Box 691616  
San Antonio, TX 78269-1616

**Bill Payer Services** - A growing number of members are using bill payer services through their banks. This has turned out to be a very reliable option for paying your annual dues. Most banks let you schedule a payment for the same date every year. Using their services you can skip worrying about if/when you sent in your dues and also save the postage.

*Bob*  
Bob Baert, Membership Chair



*Letters To The Editor*



March 10, 2015

Colonel Ron Haygood  
23864 Up Mountain Road  
San Antonio, TX 78255

DAVID A. WINTERS  
PRESIDENT

Dear Colonel Haygood,

I am pleased to inform you that Freedom Through Vigilance Association made a donation to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund in honor of Col. Jim McLendon (Ret.).

The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, a national leader in supporting the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and their families, has provided over \$150 million in support for the families of military personnel lost in service to our nation, and for severely wounded military personnel and veterans. The Fund most recently opened the National Intrepid Center of Excellence to support the research, diagnosis, and treatment of military personnel and veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury (TBI). In 2013 the Fund launched a new \$100 million campaign to build nine NiCoE satellite centers at major military bases around the country. These satellite centers will extend the care provided at NiCoE to more service members and veterans suffering TBI, PTS and related afflictions.

We thank Freedom Through Vigilance Association for their generous support of The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.

Sincerely,



**As income tax time has come and gone, did you ever notice:**

**When you put the two words 'The ' and 'IRS' together, it spells 'THEIRS'?**



March 31, 2015

Hi Rass –

Hope all is well with you - keep up the good work.

Reference: The IG Farben Building - RIT Page 44 FTVA Vol.XXXIV No.1, March 2015. It was built from 1928 to 1930 as the corporate headquarters of the IG Farben conglomerate in Frankfurt a.m. Main, Germany. On its completion, the complex was the largest office building in Europe and remained so until the 1950's.

I worked in the IG Farben Building from 1967 - 1971 at NSA Office Germany on the 4th floor. In America, it would be the 5th floor as the ground floor, or the 1st floor, was called Erdeschoss. On the east end of the building, on the 4th floor, was European Security Service HQ. In the Center section of the 4th floor was NSA Office Germany and on the west end of the same floor was European Army Security Service HQ. The IG Farben Building was notable for its paternoster elevators.

Fred Barnes

Mar 27, 2015

To: Mr. Dennis Rassmussen, FTVA Remain In Touch Editor

Greetings,

I am the editor of the Naval Cryptologic Veteran's Association publication called the CRYPTOLOG. I receive each issue of your newsletter, read and enjoy them, and then forward to our assistant editor, Jay Browne, in Pensacola, Florida. We are interested in possibly using the photo of the Misawa FLR-9 array in an upcoming issue of the CRYPTOLOG and are asking permission to use it. Jay and I might also want to use one or more stories from the issue or possibly in the future and being a "new editor" I am not sure about how to ask for permission for each and every article.

I visited your website and saw another photo of the FLR-9. It was embedded in a "slide show" on the front webpage. Very interesting website. Thanks and looking forward to hearing from you,

Keith Barton, CTO1 US Navy (Ret), 1971 to 81

**FTVA Vigilant Partner Program**

The FTVA achieves its objectives, in part, by providing funds for programs that reward the hardworking, dedicated 25<sup>th</sup> AF people who go “above and beyond” to accomplish the Numbered Air Force mission. Mark Hess has volunteered to serve as POC for our Vigilant Partners.

**Annual 2015 FTVA Officer Elections**

In accordance with Article VII of the FTVA By-Laws, the BOD appointed the nominating committee for the annual officer elections to be held in September 2015. This year, the nominating committee accepted submissions for the offices of President and Vice President. 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, Ron Haygood and Andy Smith have accepted re-nomination to serve as your President and Vice President respectively for the upcoming 2016-2018 term.



Ron



Andy



**FTVA Hall of Honor Nominations**



The Hall of Honor Selection Committee is currently reviewing the write-ups of nominees for induction into the FTVA’s Hall of Honor. As detailed in our last issue of RIT (March 2015), HOH nominations must be received not later than 3 June 2015, and selections will be announced in the September RIT issue. The induction ceremony is a major element of the association’s reunion activities to be held just prior to our FTVA annual meeting at 25<sup>th</sup> AF HQ on Saturday morning, Sep 26, 2015. Once again, thank you for your participation.

Thank you and Remain In Touch.

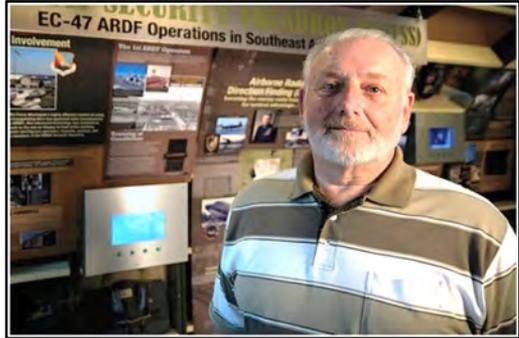
*A.J. Harrison*, Hall of Honor Program Chair



## FTVA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### *CMSgt (Ret) Tom Nurre*

<http://static.dma.mil/usaf/veterans/veterans.html>



CMSgt (Ret) Tom Nurre began his Air Force career May 22, 1961, enlisting as a Morse Code Intercept Operator. Immediately after, two of his brothers were drafted into the Army. To keep his brothers out of the war zone, Nurre volunteered to go to Thailand during the Vietnam War at an air base near Nakhon Phanom. This was possible due to a regulation that stated only one son from a family could serve in a war zone at a time. During his time in Thailand, Nurre gathered intelligence while airborne and created reports sent to commanders in Southeast Asia. “The war I saw was from 8,000 feet,” he said. Later he served as a commandant for the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Academy at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, and as the Chief of Air Force Enlisted Professional Military Education at the Pentagon. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters. After 33 years of service, Nurre retired from the Air Force on June 1, 1994. He lives with his wife Carletta in San Angelo, Texas, and has three children; Betsy, Tom and Ginny. He is a lifetime member of FTVA, was inducted into the FTVA Hall of Honor in 2000, and has been active in both the Heritage and Rocky Mountain Chapters. The Chief was recently involved in funding and collecting memorabilia for his “brain child” ~ an Airborne Radio Direction Finding History Exhibit at Goodfellow Air Force Base, commemorating the 6994th Security Squadron and its mission during the Vietnam War. This display was selected as the **Air Force Heritage Award** winner for 2015.



## SHWEDO NAMED TO COMMAND 25TH AIR FORCE



Maj Gen Bradford J. "B.J." Shwedo will assume command of 25th Air Force this summer replacing Maj Gen John Shanahan who has been selected for promotion to Lieutenant General and is moving to Director, Defense Intelligence (Warfighter Support), Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (OUSDI). The date for the Change of Command has not yet been determined. General Shwedo graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1987,

earning a Bachelor of Science in military history. Prior to his assignment to 25 AF, General Shwedo was Director, Capability and Resource Integration (J8), U.S. Cyber Command. General Shwedo's other staff assignments include the Air Combat Command, Director of Intelligence, A2; Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Special Programs Division; Joint Chiefs of Staff, J-3, Special Activities Division; intelligence support to SAF/AQ; Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Director for Cyber Planning and Operations within the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy. General Shwedo's commands include Detachment 2, 18th Intelligence Squadron, Osan Air Base, South Korea, and during the initiation of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he commanded the 566th Information Operations Squadron, which provided direct combat support through the National-Tactical Integration Program. General Shwedo's group and wing commands were within the 67th Network Warfare Wing. Throughout his tenure, this unit was in direct support of operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and the greater war on terror. General Shwedo also led an intelligence team to Al Kharj, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

## **AFTAC TO ESCORT WWII VETS TO WASHINGTON, D.C.**

*Adapted from an article by Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs*

4/2/2015 - PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- Through an essay contest conducted at the Air Force Technical Applications Center here, two members of the center will escort a pair of World War II veterans on an upcoming Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. Recently, Dr. Dan DeForest, FTAC's Director of Materials Technology, placed a bid at a Space Coast Honor Flight (SCHF) charity silent auction and won a trip to Washington, D.C., to escort a World War II veteran to the memorials. Since he had already participated in an honor flight, he decided it would be rewarding to have an essay contest entitled, "Why I Want to Escort a Veteran on an Honor Flight," for members of the treaty monitoring center. "My goal was to generate interest throughout AFTAC so others could reap the benefits of this very worthwhile program," said DeForest.

DeForest enlisted the help of retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Bill Welser, currently an AFTAC contractor and president of the local Honor Flight hub, to assist him as an essay judge. The two reviewed every submission and narrowed it down to two finalists. "We had two essays that really impacted both of us," said DeForest, "and making a final decision was going to be extremely hard. That's when Gen. Welser said to me, 'How about we send both of them?'" And so they did.



*Above: SrA Marc Andrews (left)  
Along with Dr. Teresa Hofstetter*

Dr. Theresa Hofstetter, an AFTAC chemist, and Senior Airman Marc Andrews, AFTAC's radiation protection technician, were the two winners. Each had his/her own reason for wanting to participate in the contest.

"It seemed like an opportunity for a unique and incredibly moving experience to be able to spend the day with a veteran on a hugely emotional day," said Hofstetter. "I knew it would be a chance of a lifetime to share in their memories from such an intense time of their lives."

"For me, I'm a third generation military member, and I thought this would be a perfect way to give back to an establishment that had given so much to my family," said Andrews. "I hope to have an unforgettable experience and greater appreciation for those who sacrificed so much to keep America safe." Hofstetter and Andrews will serve as escorts, or 'guardians' as they are called by the Honor Flight Network, and will remain with the same veteran for the duration of the whirlwind trip. "The process begins at 'oh-dark-thirty' on a Saturday morning and returns late Saturday evening," said Welser. "About a month after the flight, there is a reunion for all those who traveled on that respective trip." DeForest added, "The reunion is a big part of the program - it gives the veterans and their escorts the opportunity to share their photos, their stories and their reflections about the journey."

Hofstetter's essay talked about her two grandmothers, both having served during World War II - one an Army nurse; the other, an Army dietitian. "My Grandma Barbara on my father's side spent time in the Pacific and was famous for her war stories," said Hofstetter. "She assisted in the opening of a temporary hospital that served soldiers with physical injuries and mental stresses of war. She had an incredible sense of humor! My Grandma Jeanne, my mother's mother, had a patch on her uniform that read 'HD' for hospital dietitian, but she always said it stood for 'hot dish,' and she used that line on the man that would ultimately become my grandfather!" Andrews' essay focused on his desire to learn more about our nation's veterans who he called, "the backbone of America." "The United States is still the land of prosperity because of the brave men and women from World War II who held nothing back and gave their all to defend our country. They embody the creed and essence of our modern day Air Force Core Values. This will be much more than a learning opportunity for me - it will be a chance to give back to the people who sacrificed so much and asked for so little in return. In my opinion, there is no better way to thank them for the freedoms and luxuries we enjoy today."

The 2015 SCHF calendar has seven flights planned (one already completed). Hofstetter and Andrews plan to make the trip together. Neither has ever visited the World War II Memorial in the nation's capital. To date, the Honor Flight Network has safely transported more than 82,000 veterans across the country. For more information on how to become involved in the Honor Flight Network, visit their website at [www.spacecoasthonorflight.org](http://www.spacecoasthonorflight.org) or call (888) 750-2522.

## “Following Compass Call”

Posted on PWG2 website



*(Above)* EC-130H Compass Call Training Flight @ Lake Mead, Ariz. AF photo.

The Air Force is considering transplanting some of the EC-130H Compass Call's electronic attack suite to its JSTARS' replacement aircraft to offset fleet cuts, Air Staff plans and programs chief Lt. Gen. James Holmes told lawmakers Thursday. Depending on how JSTARS replacement unfolds "we think it might offer some options for re-hosting of the EC-130 electronics," Holmes said in testimony before the House Armed Services Committee's tactical air and land forces panel. Even though Compass Calls are combat-deployed in both Afghanistan and the Middle East, budget pressure is forcing the service to divest half of its 14-strong fleet in Fiscal Year 2016. "The divestiture incurs and accepts" that Compass Call will not be able to support future contingency operations beyond "the currently tasked operations," Holmes admitted. To mitigate this, the service "will continue to investigate alternatives" to supplement and rebuild the EC-130s electronic attack capability, he said. All EC-130Hs are currently assigned to the 55th Electronic Combat Group at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. //Arie Church//

## **480 ISRW EARNS AF OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD**

*Adapted from an article by Marge McGlinn, 480th ISRW Public Affairs*

4/2/2015 - JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. — The 480th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing is the recipient of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its service from Jan. 1, 2013 through June 1, 2014, Twenty-Fifth Air Force announced Mar 31.



The AFOUA is awarded by the Secretary of the Air Force to numbered units that have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement that clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units. "I am honored that the 480th ISR Wing won the Outstanding Unit Award," said Col. Tim Haugh, 480th ISR Wing commander. "It is a testament to the hard work and dedication to the mission by all Wing personnel." Some of the Wing's accomplishments during that period include supporting more than 55,000 airborne ISR missions, delivering more than 2.5 million imagery and multi-spectral products and partnering with the national intelligence community to produce signals intelligence products for combatant commanders and coalition partners. The wing analyzed more than 800,000 targets, including identifying more than 550 improvised explosive devices and real-time, direct support to more than 750 troops in contact operations resulting in countless lives saved. "Once again this illustrates how important/innovative our ISR Airmen are in the daily fight and tomorrow's pursuits," said Maj. Gen. Veralinn Jamieson, Director of Intelligence at Headquarters Air Combat Command.

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## **Farewell to Morse Code Training at Huachuca**

*Adapted from an article by Tanja Linton as posted on US Army Website*

HUACHUCA Ariz. (April 27, 2015) -- It is the end of an era on Fort Huachuca. The last manual Morse code class began here, April 24. **In the future, the course will be taught by the Air Force on Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas.**

National Morse Code Day is celebrated on what would have been its founder's 224th birthday. Samuel F. B. Morse dispatched the first telegraph message in Morse code, May 24, 1844. The message, "What Hath God Wrought?" was dispatched from the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., to Alfred Vail at a railroad station in Baltimore. The military first used Morse code during the Crimean War. Both the Union and Confederate armies heavily relied on Morse code during the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln utilized it to receive military intelligence, as well as command



*(Left) David Germain, chief of Morse code training on Fort Huachuca, Ariz., explains the history of the course and the transfer of the training to Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas.*

"We train [for] Morse code because the adversary still uses Morse code," said Germain, who, along with another course instructor, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Joshua Henrichs, are training two airmen to serve as Morse code instructors in Texas. Air Force Tech Sgt. Ryan Kilcrease agrees there is a continued need for Morse code training. "It remains the cheapest and most reliable means of communication." Senior Airman James Gosnell, also training to become a new instructor, learned Morse code on Fort Huachuca and upon completion of his training was assigned to Osan Air Force Base, South Korea, for two years. He said the assignment was challenging. "It took me nearly two months to get up to speed learning to keep up with some of the fastest transmitters in the world," he said.

In a memo signed April 5, 1985, the Army became the executive agency for conducting the Morse code course on Fort Devens, Massachusetts. A few years later, Fort Devens consolidated Morse code training into a joint learning environment by providing training to Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. In 1993, the Morse code course moved to Fort Huachuca, where it continued to be trained in a joint environment. The Army celebrated 30 years of being the executive agency to conduct Morse code training, April 5. Throughout the years, the Navy and Marines reversed the training pipeline and started to send their students to Pensacola, Florida, and then to Fort Huachuca to attend Morse code training. In 2006, the Air Force followed suit.

In late 2004, early 2005, the Department of Defense sent out a message stating there was no longer a need or requirement for operators trained in only Morse code. Based on that message, the Navy no longer sent their students to Fort Huachuca to be trained - deciding instead to conduct its training in Pensacola. By 2007, the Marines also stopped attending Morse code training on Fort Huachuca. That same year, the training consolidated two separate courses - the basic Morse code training course and the advanced Morse code training course from 22 weeks to 16 weeks. The cut in training time for the Army was due to the course not being considered as a primary military occupation specialty, but as a secondary training for three Army specialties. In 1991, the course trained an average 1,600 students annually for all the military services.

The current Morse code course is self-paced and requires 81 days for completion. However, one student successfully completed it in a record 27 days. Master Sgt. Adella Creque, superintendent, 316th Training Squadron, said a student has to master one segment before moving on to the next and may fail several times before advancing. In 2012, the Army stopped enrolling students in the Morse code course since it no longer has a requirement to train Soldiers. A cooperative agreement between the Air Force and Army allowed the training to continue on Fort Huachuca until now. "I think [Morse code] will always be out there," Germain said. "It's cheap, easy, effective and reliable to use. There will always be a need for it."

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### **ISR CAREER FIELD NAMED 2015 AF TEAM OF THE YEAR**

*Adapted from an article by Janis El Shabazz, Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs / Published February 27, 2015*



**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) --** The Air Force named the 1A8X2 Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Operators career field as the 2015 Air Force Association Team of the Year.

Each year, one enlisted career field is selected for recognition for exemplifying professionalism, technical expertise and leadership. This year's selected career field was established in 2010 to meet the ever-increasing demand for airborne ISR professionals. "From the first day the 1A8X2 Airmen were tasked with a diverse mission set, requiring intense technical training in the performance of geolocation, ISR threat warning and reporting, electronic attack and airborne ground surveillance," said Senior Master Sgt. Justin Needle, the 1A8 career field specialty manager.

ISR operators were recognized for such accomplishments as the following:

They flew 27,000 sorties totaling 135,000 tactical systems operator (TSO) hours; supported 850 operations by identifying 46,000 high-value targets, which made a difference on the battlefield.

The career field streamlined the \$7 million TSO training program, trained and deployed 400 Department of Defense/coalition forces members, reducing certification times by 27 percent and saving the joint task force \$400,000.

They also successfully completed 138 EC-130H combat missions; supported 680 joint tactical airstrike requests, generated 152 insurgent tipoffs and seized 64 high value individuals while shielding 4,800 special operations forces.

They deployed 19 airborne intelligence technicians to four combatant commands for a total of 8,600 combat hours; 1,100 E-8C missions resulted in 3,700 intelligence reports, ensuring combatant commanders had global command and control ISR.

"The career field, which was established in 2010, is young and so are the Airmen in its ranks," Needle said. "In fact, 47 percent of the force is in the E-1 to E-4 range but despite the high expectations and critical nature of their work, 1A8X2 Airmen always strive for excellence and they deliver results worthy of this honor every day."

The team will be honored during a May ceremony in Washington D.C.

<b>BEDSIDE MATTERS</b>
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**Danny Prichard**//April 17//

Martinez, GA// Friends, I just received the results from my most recent CT-Scan from Doctor DeAngelo at Eisenhower Army Medical Center and I have more "spots" on my lungs. They could be scars, but they could be more cancer. I have an appointment for 30 April to discuss options. 30 April? You'd think I'd



be used to the doc's seeming lack of urgency when it comes to cancer and the possibility of cancer but I guess less than two weeks isn't too bad. I'll let you all know when I hear anything definitive. //Danny//

**Tom Penn**//May 5 - Just received a call from Tom Penn. He's in ICU in Daytona Beach, FL. He was driving with Rocky back home from FOSP. //Larry Miller// May 6 -**Tom's** being moved out of ICU today to a regular ward.//Joe Turney//May9 - They're in South Carolina, headed north...Tom's not out of the woods yet as Rocky is still the driver....Tom is on O2.//May 10 - Tom arrived home in Odenton,MD, safe and sound. So far so good! //Bob Cope//

**Dickie Hites**//April 1//Honolulu, HI// Talked on the phone with Dickie and found out he has had cancer surgery recently where he had one kidney removed. He is progressing as expected and continues on chemotherapy with positive results.//Editor//

**Lee Timbrook**//May 1/San Angelo, TX//Lee's been in and out of treatment over the past few years and continues his struggles against cancer. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.//Bob Crabtree//

**Ned Gates**//May 1//San Antonio, TX//The advance of modern medicine has provided a magic pill that Ned takes four time a day. His recent blood tests have shown there is no longer any indication of lymphoma in his system. Prayers are being answered.//Bob Cope//

**Wayne Tallant**//May 15//Pulmonary Fibrosis taking its toll on Wayne's energy level, but his spirits were lifted today when he was able to 'tack-on' the stripes at his son's promotion to CMSgt in the Air Guard.//ED.//



**ANNUAL SPRING SOCIAL**

FTVA’s annual Spring Social for 2015 was held at the SeaWorld Courtyard by Marriott on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio. Over 95 members and guests enjoyed the annual get-together.



(Left) For Lo, these many years, Ken and Sheila Williams have hosted the Spring Social Welcome table. Here, Ken shakes hands with Don Haygood while Sheila makes him a complimentary name tag.

(Left) Smiles on Ken Maynard, Ken Gendolfe and Okey Warden had some of us wondering what kind of mischief these three retired Chiefs could be planning.



(Left) Two more well-known “regulars” at the annual Social, Greg Mahoney and Segundo ‘Espy’ Espinoza, Jr shared a table near the action.

**(Annual Spring Social ~ cont'd)**



(Left) Plenty of smiles to go around (L-R) Karen McLendon, Chris & Kathie Cook, and Kathy & Ron Haygood.

(Right) Bill Sheck joined Lee and Jen Anthony as they made the rounds during the 'meet and greet' time afforded attendees.



(Left) Kay and Ron Weaver were all smiles after they finished up their share of finger food at this year's Spring Social.



(Right) Tom Nurre, who came down from San Angelo for the get together, shared some war stories with his ol' buddy Bob Agnew.



**(Annual Spring Social ~ cont'd)**

(Right) Nancy Larson, Jeannie Smith and Brenda Abney enjoyed “catching up” on some newsy bits before the evening’s formal program of events.



(Left) Ronald Graham, president of FTVA’s Heritage Chapter, found his annual trip to this year’s Social included this informal visit with Maj Gen Jack Shanahan, the 25<sup>th</sup> AF Commander.

(Right) Bernie Gavin (L) set up the Vigilant Partner Poster with an assist from outgoing Chair Jim McLendon (R).



(Left) Andy Smith, FTVA Vice President, was his proverbial articulate and entertaining self as our Emcee for the evening.

**(Annual Spring Social ~ cont'd)**

(Right) CMSgt Roger “Toby” Towberman, as the newly appointed 25<sup>th</sup> AF Command CMSgt, was our guest speaker for the evening. The Chief was kept busy all evening getting to know the attendees.



(Left) FTVA Fallen Eagles Chairman Ted Colquhoun introduced four 25<sup>th</sup> AF active duty silent warriors who returned from recent deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and the AOR.



(Right) Lt Col Jay Jones, Jr (A2X) addressed his experiences in Iraq in the office of Security Operations. His wife and three sons accompanied him to the Social.



(Left L-R) Recent returnees:  
Lt Col Jay Jones, Jr. (A2X)  
TSgt Christopher Strunk (625 Ops)  
Capt. Sidney Harris (CCA)  
MSgt Vince Jerkier (NICC)

## FTVA CHAPTER NEWS



The various chapters of the FTVA are growing in numbers and enthusiasm. In the past few months, the NCR Chapter has re-launched and has laid a firm foundation on which to grow. Many thanks to Al Dowling who has spearheaded the effort. The newest launch came in the form of the new Alamo chapter in San Antonio, which will focus on monthly/quarterly social engagements. Bernie Gavin, who is no stranger to launching FTVA chapters, has played the key role in starting this chapter. In March the chapter met for a dinner and over 60 attended this event. Great job Bernie! Our other chapters, (Sunshine, Rocky Mountain, Gold Country, Aloha and Heritage) continue to thrive and enhance the objectives of the FTVA. Great work to all of our Chapter presidents! Keep up the great work!

*Andy*

Andy Smith, FTVA Vice President

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### **New San Antonio Chapter is Up and Running**

By Bernie Gavin, Chapter President

The inaugural meeting of the San Antonio Chapter was held on February 19, 2015 at VFW Post 7108 near Helotes. It was a good meeting. We had 16 people attend and we discussed among the war stories, name for the chapter; possible support to the 543 ISRG in San Antonio; chapter officials; location of meetings; and time of meetings. We also agreed to have the March meeting at a local restaurant and have all the spouses join us. The FTVA April Spring Social will serve as our April meeting. Looks like we are going to have a very active chapter.

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Over 60 people gathered on March 19, 2015 at Umberto's Restaurant as the newly formed San Antonio Chapter hosted an introductory dinner. Bernie Gavin, the chapter organizer, addressed the gathering and reviewed a few items for consideration by the membership (i.e. meeting schedule, location and a name for the new Chapter).

(San Antonio Chapter Introductory Dinner cont'd)



Barnie and Judy Gavin



L to R, Jesse Coultrap next to  
Emi & 'Bob' Blackmon



Mr. & Mrs. Milton Driggers



L to R, Sachi & Mike Prosser next  
to Joel Siskovic.



Ken Abney and Andy Smith



Bob Cope with Lee & Jen Anthony

## Alamo Chapter Elects Officers

On May 14, 2015 the recently established San Antonio Alamo Chapter held a meeting at Conroy’s Pub in the Fair Oaks Center. Twenty-three enthusiastic members gathered at 6:30 pm to help establish the organization’s structure and leadership roles. A formal Chapter election

of officers was held resulting in landslide winners for each position.



L-R  
Secretary – Mike Nielsen  
V. President – Ken Gendolfe  
President – Bernie Gavin

In addition to the traditional election of officers, two volunteers were

appointed to perform crucial additional duties: Mike Shields (L) was appointed as the Chapter “Ambassador-at-Large” and Ted Colquhoun (R) as the Chapter’s Social Chairman.



First agenda item to be addressed was selection of the new Chapter’s name. After several options were discussed, “ALAMO CHAPTER” was chosen by acclamation. President Gavin then led a discussion on when and where the chapter should conduct future meetings. He asked members to e-mail him any suggestions on how often the chapter should meet and what should be considered for future meeting location(s). Also a Chapter Logo is needed.

The assembled throng spent the rest of the evening in the usual meet, greet and eat sessions associated with such gatherings.

Alamo Chapter Out-takes



Dave Shepard, B. Gavin, Mike Nielsen



Carol and Joel Siskovic



Jesse Greene, Patty and Danny Hartnett



John Lopes



John Guntharp and Dan Martin



Shields, Gavin, Colquhoun, Hess



Okey Warden, Ron and Kathy Haygood



Alamo Chapter Members

## Gold Country Chapter Yuba City, CA

By John Aurelius, Chapter President



Our focus remains on recruiting new younger members from the base at Beale. Col Tim Sipowicz, Commander of the 548th ISRG has been very active with us at our meetings. He has brought up the idea of recruiting from the Reserve and Guard units. While we have had some luck getting active officers and enlisted to attend some meetings, we get struck by PCS. I believe that Col Sipowicz has provided a brilliant idea and I am going forward with the Deputy Commander Matt Fisher to get introductions to the Reserve and Guard Commanders. Unfortunately for us, Col Sipowicz has left for San Antonio to take up the A3 position. You should reach out to Tim since he is such a strong supporter of the FTVA. At the dinner, we presented him a plaque thanking him and commemorating his first flight in a U2 where he got to see the world from 85,000 feet. We will miss him. I wrote this when Tim arrived and it is worth saying again. Early on, I discovered he and I have one thing in common: we both flew Rivet Joint (never at the same time and separated by a couple of decades).



## Rocky Mountain Chapter, Colo Springs, CO

[Ftva-rockymountainchapter.com/](http://Ftva-rockymountainchapter.com/)

Submitted by Greg Roman, President

In April, FTVA RM Chapter was impacted by the loss of one of our plank-holders, George



Williams. We reached out to the family and were well represented at the funeral with full military honors. FTVA provided a memorial wreath and we will be remembering George at our next Thursday meeting.



The sun came out briefly during the funeral mass for George Williams, held in Pueblo, CO on 8 May 2015, followed by a full military send-off and a get-together at the church. George Ike Eichelberger, Rich Harrold, Jeff Waldeck and Jeff Tschida attended. We met with George's wife Mary and his daughter Barbara; George Jr said his only regrets was not having pictures of George during his time in Greece in the late

'70s! Burial at Fort Logan National Cemetery, near Denver, to be determined.



## Sunshine Chapter

Jim Kaus, President

<http://www.sunshineftva.org>



### **361 ISRG EARNS COMBAT OPS HONOR**

*Adapted from an article by Wayne Amann, 25th Air Force Public Affairs*

**4/6/2015** - JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - LACKLAND, Texas -- 2013 was a stellar year for the 361st Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group and the Air Force agreed.

On 1 April 2015, the Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council approved the selection of the Hurlburt Field, Fla., based organization as recipient of the Meritorious Unit Award for the period Jan. 1, 2013 to Dec. 31, 2013.



The MUA recognizes organizations for outstanding achievement or service in direct support of combat operations. The criteria include sustaining the achievement or service for at least 90 days during the period of military operations against an armed enemy of the United States on or after Sept. 11, 2001. The men and women of the 361st ISRG Group fly combat sorties daily in hazardous environments to protect friendly forces and to find and fix the enemy.

"The unit has been close to a one-to-one dwell ratio for most of its existence," said Col. Michael Stevenson, 363 ISR Wing commander who was the 361 ISRG Group commander in 2013. "It has helped remove literally thousands of enemy combatants from the battlefield and has safeguarded thousands of friendly ground forces through their missions on light ISR aircraft such as the MC-12 Liberty and AF Special Operations Command platforms." The group lost tactical systems operator, SSgt. Richard Dickson in 2013 when the MC-12 aircraft he was aboard crashed near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. Dickson and three other crew members died while in combat mission supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. "It's very important the Air Force recognize the extreme sacrifices these Airmen make and the huge payoff they provide to both special operations and conventional forces," Stevenson said. "The award is a high honor, but it comes at a very high price."

### National Chapter Holds Organizational Meeting

Submitted by Alan Dowling, Chapter Organizer

The National Capital Region (NCR) Chapter met Saturday, 28 Feb. Bob Bastian welcomed everyone to the meeting. Since only one individual was also at the January meeting, Bob discussed the background for moving the Chapter meetings to the Fort Meade area from the D.C. area (but with the intent to ensure NCR Chapter members in Northern Virginia, Washington DC and Maryland are welcome and involved). The first order of business was to get to know each other. We spent the first 30-45 minutes introducing ourselves to each other with a short (mostly) description of our careers...it warmed Bob's heart to hear several were ditty boppers!

Planning over the past several months culminated in March with elections for the Executive Committee. The ballots went out on Friday, 6 March with the suspense for voting on 20 March. Results are as follows:

- President: CMSgt (Ret) Jerry Gething
- Vice President: MSgt Danielle Harmon, USAF
- Secretary: MSgt Erreka Coleman, USAF
- Treasurer: CMSgt (Ret) Bob Bastian

While we are based primarily in the Ft George G. Meade, MD area, we plan to meet on a recurring basis in the Northern VA/D.C. area as well. As a first step in support to the Airmen serving in this area, the executive committee approved a disbursement of \$350 to help defray costs of attendance and participation by 10 members of the US Cyber Command and the Joint Service Color Guard during the Armed Forces Week Gala on 15 May.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Vocabulary Word of the Day



**“SENECTITUDE” - The latter period of one’s life (*in which one comes to appreciate friends all the more*)!**

## Heritage Chapter

Ronald 'JJ' Graham, President

### **Chapter Adds to ARDF History Exhibit**

Larry Ross, Heritage Chapter Secretary



On February 19, 2015, members of the Heritage Chapter placed a tail flash representing EC-47Q aircraft 43-48636 in the chapter's display case in recently dedicated Brandenburg Hall. Sgt Brandenburg was killed in action with the shoot down of Baron-52 in Laos. The flash was donated by the Nurre family in appreciation of the Heritage Chapter's support at the opening of the EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit in the Norma Brown Headquarters Building. (Left) Ed Bendinelli places tail flash in the ARDF History Exhibit display case.



(see: [ec47.com](http://ec47.com))



L-R Larry Miller, Corky Bingham, Ed Bendinelli, JJ Graham, Larry Ross, John "Doc" Garrett (17th Training Wing Historian)

## EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit at Goodfellow Wins AF Award

Submitted by Tom Nurre

Our EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit at Goodfellow AFB has been selected as **THE Air Force Heritage Award** winner for 2015. This award recognizes outstanding accomplishments by AF History and Museums personnel that foster a better understanding and appreciation for USAF, its history and accomplishments. Nominated by the Historian at Goodfellow AFB, it won the Air Education & Training Command (AETC) competition last month. The AETC folks sent it forward to the Pentagon for the AF-wide consideration. We received the announcement this morning. The Nurre family, along with FTVA and all those who supported this endeavor are standing in mighty tall company. Thank you.

---

### Pair Receive Goodfellow Award

Adapted from San Angelo Standard Times article by Michelle Galtan



(Left) Col Kimberly Joos, 17<sup>th</sup> Training Wing commander, awarded the Commander's Public Service Award to Paul and Nita Clever on April 30, 2015 at Goodfellow AFB. The Clevers did what seemed impossible in returning the remains of Vietnam War veterans missing for 46 years. The two discovered seven

of the 10 crew members who were aboard CAP-72, an EC-47 ARDF aircraft shot down by enemy fire in southern Laos on Feb 5, 1969. Bone fragments they discovered were identified as Paul's father, TSgt Louise J. Clever, the senior radio operator aboard the aircraft. The operators were members of the 6994<sup>th</sup> Scty Sqdn based at PleiKu AB and were officially declared KIA on Oct 10, 1969. "In 1995 the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) actually stumbled across the crash site. At that time, the JPAC team found the dog tag of Capt. Walter F. Burke, the co-pilot. The crash site was removed from the JPAC list for excavation in 2006. The best thing to do was to take ownership of it and do it ourselves," Paul said. Together, the two recovered more than 40 bone fragments and an estimated 50 items including bullets and fuselage and equipment debris from the crash site. Joe Martin, ARDF operator and graphics coordinator at GAFB, said "many of the back-end Intel crews from EC-47 missions trained here in specialized linguist, analyst or ARDF operations and maintenance courses".

## Heritage Chapter March Social

By Larry Ross, Heritage Chapter Secretary

The FTVA Heritage Chapter met for an evening social on March 5. As is evident from the photos, everyone had a good time dining and chatting.



(Left) Larry Miller, along with daughter Paige and granddaughters Emma and Reagan, surprised his wife Pat with a birthday party and cake. The assembled group gave well wishes to Pat by singing Happy Birthday.



(Above) Diane Ross, Jim Cox, Jan Vogt, Buck Vogt, Corky Bingham, Mary O'Rrien, Larry Miller (at end) (Right) Kathy Bendinelli, Ed Bendinelli, Chae Bascom, Wayne Bascom (hidden), Mark Kirner\_\_\_\_\_



Originated in 1997

### Announcing the NEW EC-47 Website!

[ec47.com/index.php](http://ec47.com/index.php)

**Our Mission:** To compile, preserve, and disseminate a complete and accurate history of the EC-47 aircraft and its role in the Vietnam War, based on contemporary squadron histories and other official documents and enhanced by contributions from the veterans who flew and maintained the aircraft.

**FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. BOX 691616**  
**San Antonio, TX 78269**  
**15 May 2015**



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**William F. (Bill) Sheck**  
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Ron Hentz (IMO Robert Pfister & Col Grover McMakin)  
Richard Sacchetti  
Charles Bishop  
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//Patron Partner \$ 100 - \$249



**2015 REUNION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Note:** If you have not received your **6911th RGM Sep 10-14** Reunion announcement, please send me an e-mail or call POC: Pat/Rich Merrill / [rich1pat2@aol.com](mailto:rich1pat2@aol.com) /303-985-3575  
11021 W. Oregon Place - Lakewood, Co. 80232

**June 19 – 20, 2015**

***The 19th Annual Chilings & Friends reunion***

Location: The Hunan Manor in Columbia, MD

POC: Luther Deese Ph 352-680-0317

Comment: June 20 17:30 at the Timbuktu Restaurant in Hanover, MD. (<http://www.timbukturestaurant.com/>) -- again hoping for upwards of 30, asking fellow lingie and native speaker, Ray Shen, to reserve for 25, which we can adjust upwards as required. This will be a separate checks affair – Price is \$18.00 each which includes gratuity. Drinks will be pay as you go. RSVP -ASAP to facilitate our head count and reservations.

***Welcome to Ohio – The Buckeye State***



**June 24 - 26, 2015**

***Misawa Project: 6921st, 6989th, 6920<sup>th</sup>***

13<sup>th</sup> National Reunion

Location: Columbus OH

POC: Helen J. Henderson - Ph: 904-829-9235 - E-Mail: [etaya49@hotmail.com](mailto:etaya49@hotmail.com)

Comment: Hospitality room will open June 23 for friends old and new to start the party. Raffle, organized tours, group photo and a banquet that has been known to bring tears to the eyes of the attendees.

Web Site: <http://www.usafssmisawa.com>

**August 13- 16, 2015**

***6994th Security Squadron***

Location: Gettysburg, PA

POC: Bob and Shirley Hull - Phone: N/A - E-Mail:

Web Site: <http://www.6994th.com>



**August 19 - 23, 2015**

***Roll Call Annual Reunion***

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

POC: Jim Kaus

Comment: We will be staying at the Hyatt Place Hotel, 881 Convention Center Blvd. Hospitality suite open 10:00 AM - closing. Make reservations directly with hotel on an individual basis, Ph 888-233-1234 identifying yourself as a member of Roll Call USAFSS.

Web Site: <http://www.usafssrollcall.com>

**September 07 – 14, 2015**

***6931<sup>st</sup> Scty Gp Iraklion Air Station, Crete***

Location: Island of Crete, Greece

POC: Jocelyne Kerrigan

E-Mail: [JOCELYNE@CRETEFAMILYVILLAS.CO.UK](mailto:JOCELYNE@CRETEFAMILYVILLAS.CO.UK)

Comments: 5 tours on the Island via bus and shopping and walking tours. Dinners and a tour of the closed Air Station.

**September 21 – 25 2015**

***37<sup>th</sup> RSM/6952<sup>nd</sup> RSM/6952<sup>nd</sup> Scty Gp***

Location: Dayton, OH

POC: George Cunningham – Ph 937-438-2065

E:Mail: [gcunningham1@woh.rr.cm](mailto:gcunningham1@woh.rr.cm)

**September 24 - 26, 2015**

***ANNUAL FTVA REUNION***

Location: Security Hill, San Antonio, TX

POC: Ron Haygood, [president@ftva.org](mailto:president@ftva.org) **website:** <http://www.ftva.org>

Comment: Reunion packets are mailed to the membership along with the annual Member Directory in June. The Prop Wash Gang and Airborne Maintenance Technicians' Association reunions will be held in conjunction with the FTVA reunion.

**September 24 - 27, 2015**

***6918th SG Hakata, Japan***

Location: Bloomington, MN

POC: Dave Bethard – Phone: 321-267-4844

E-Mail: [the6918thcorp@yahoo.com](mailto:the6918thcorp@yahoo.com)

Comments: For reunion information visit website on line or call POC. Make reservations at Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites at ph 952-854-9000.

Web Site: <http://www.6918thhakata.com>



## REUNION REPORTS



### Mini-Hakata "Long Time, No See!"



It took between 46 and 47 years for this photo to happen, but it never felt like it was that long ago! The last time Johnny Veatch and I were together was at Hakata, Japan! During the last 10 of those years, we spoke by phone and e-mail numerous times, but weren't actually able to get together in person. Today, Takeko and I welcomed Johnny and wife Elayne, their son John, and his children (Johnny and Elayne's grandchildren) Maddie and Jack to the Dixie Crossroads restaurant and were treated to a wonderful lunch, plus even more wonderful conversation, story-telling, laughter, good food and memory sharing. John and Elayne have committed to attend the Hakata Reunion in Minneapolis now that they're retired, and are looking forward to seeing ALL of their old 6918th friends again this September. It has been a great day. //Dave Bethard, April 2, 2015//



**ONE NICE THING ABOUT EGOTISTS:  
THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.**



### Prop Wash Gang FLAG (Florida Group) Mar 3 – 5, 2015

(Compiled by RIT from postings by Ron Buteau & Larry Tart)



For those of you not familiar with FLAG, it is an informal gathering of former USAFSS/ESC flyers that has been held the past two years in Leesburg, Florida. This year we met on March 3, 4 and 5. //Ron Buteau// [http://www.propwashgang.org/FLAG\\_2015](http://www.propwashgang.org/FLAG_2015)

Well, Gang, just returned from our weekend FLAG gathering in Leesburg, and I'm sure some photos will be forthcoming from the reunion host (Dave Bristol), Jon Gwinn and/or Ron Buteau, who volunteered his professional level photography services to take both group and individual photos of the 30 or so attendees and mates. This 18th FLAG reunion ranked up there with the best PWG gatherings we have had. Thanks again, Dave & Shirley Bristol, for another outstanding event -- y'all are host and hostess extraordinaire! //Larry Tart//



Larry and Diane Tart

Mike Ferguson and Ed Luna  
(FLAG Cont'd)



Jim Buchhofer, Jerry Ellis and Jeff Wilcher



Dave Bristol



Jim Vanover with Jon Gwinn



Carolyn Reidel



Front Row: Betty Van Over, Cathy Buteau, Betty Wilcher, Mary Tahtinen, Ellen Eshelman  
Back Row: Mary Lou Winder, Shelia Gwinn, Shirley Bristol, Terry Ellis, Katalin Van Over,  
Diane Tart, Marie Gimma

### Doggers Annual Fall of Saigon Party (FOSP) April 27 – May 3

Posted by Randy Seitter (Photos by Lowell Cook & R. Seitter)

Well, FOSP 2015 is complete. Very enjoyable, great location, great bunch of guys and gals. Thanks to all those who helped put it all together and especially to Joe Turney (and Michele!) for all the work they did.



(Above) FOSP Gathered at Bayview Park for Dogger Memorial Service

**//Following is Rany Seitter’s PMFR//**

**Monday** - Very Hot! Heading for Key West and FOSP 2015. Arrived around noon and couldn't check in. Checked with JET (Joe Turney) if he needed any help with setting up Hospitality Suite and got a "not yet." So, headed downtown for Duval Street. Pretty warm, had lunch at Sloppy Joes. Back to the Fly Navy hotel and room was ready. Helped Joe set up the Hospitality Suite as others arriving. Others coming in and the stories started. Later, Yvette helped schedule our extracurricular activities for the week. Very nice lady, great help and wonderful prices. More stories, adult beverages and finally clean up around midnight.



Fly Navy Hotel

**Tuesday** - Still Hot and Steamy! Conch Train Tour picked us all up at



Linda & Randy Seitter

the Fly Navy hotel and full train. Nice tour, great guide and saw much of the Duval Street area and sites. Walking tour after that, seeing Hemmingway House and the Truman Little White House. Interesting places and didn't know much about them. Especially the cats with six toes! Later that evening, we had dinner at the Southern Most Restaurant (think everything in Key West is "Southern-most"!)

Nice meal. Back to the Hospitality Suite and more stories and adult beverages.

**Wednesday** - Storm moving in. RECORD rainfall, or so they said.

Michelle mentioned we got about 7.5 inches during just the day. Didn't deter us. Headed for Duval Street and spent time in the Hog's Breath, Sloppy Joes and Capt. Tony's (the original Sloppy Joes.) Could retire with the dollar bills stapled to the walls and ceilings (left one and my card myself.) But, the wives didn't add to the bra collection! Again, back to the Hospitality Suite, more stories and booze.



FOSP Immortalized at Capt. Tony's Saloon



**Thursday** - Beautiful Weather! Sunny, mid 80's and low humidity. Glass Bottom Boat tour of the reef (second largest in the world? IIRC.) Pretty shallow water that far out.

(Left) Then our memorial service to our fallen Brothers at the Vietnam Memorial in Bayview Park. Too many names getting on that list.

Please try to make as many reunions as you can. We are NOT getting any younger guys! Banquet that night back at the Navy hotel. Really nice set up and food! Hanoi Hilton bricks given out to Joel, Bill and Gary. And one emotionally returned to Dom after traveling halfway around the US. Discussed some things about our admittance to and memorial readings of the Dogger list. Looks like we will have a Dogger list and Friends of Doggers list for future FOSP's. Again, back to the Hospitality Suite for more stories.



FOSP Ladies at Vietnam Memorial in Bayview Park

**Friday** - Another beautiful day. Spent a day at the beach with our Air Force classmates. Was supposed to have a BBQ at Joe and Michelle's. However, was able to get us the DINNER Sunset Cruise at no additional charge. Stopped first at Schooner's Wharf on Joe's recommendation, next to cruise dock and some nice music (along with more adult beverages.) Then the cruise. Not bad, catered food, usual overall, nice, with DJ entertainment and a BEAUTIFUL sunset!



(Left) Do you believe this is what was protecting you from the communist hoard 40 years ago this week? Randy Seitter, Bill Healy and Mike Freeman at Capt Tony's Saloon.



Annual FOSP Banquet



Breakfast at Goldman's Bagel Deli in Key West on 05/01/2015

**Saturday** - Not sure of the weather! Don't remember much. SICK AS A DOG! Bill and I had the same desert (bread pudding) and spent the whole day either on the porcelain throne or thinking about throwing up! Our wives were able to do some shopping and downtown to a nice Italian restaurant. KNOW it was the desert! I know the difference between food poisoning and hangovers and this was DEFINITELY not a hangover. Needless to say, didn't get to the Hospitality Suite that night.

**Sunday** - time to head out. Nice day, again. Saw a few in the lobby and left around 8:00 A.M. back to Fort Lauderdale. Felt fine, had breakfast on the road and very little delay traveling through the Keys. Made the FLL airport about noon, dropped off the rental car and waited for our flight home to Philly. So, that is what I have PMFR FOSP 2015. I'm sure many can add to the report and post some more pics. Oh, and by the way, I'm hosting next year's FOSP. East Coast, either DC or maybe Philly, were I live. Open to suggestions for trips, etc. SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



**HISTORY & MEMORIES**



**1ST RADIO SQUADRON, MOBILE (USAFSS)**

[25af.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120215-032.pdf](https://25af.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120215-032.pdf)

The 138th Signal Radio Intelligence Company was constituted on 7 February 1942 and activated on 14 February 1942, at Fort George Wright, Spokane, WA, assigned to 2nd Air Force

4 May 1943 - moved to Ft Dix, New Jersey prior to departure for wartime assignment.

13 Nov 1943 - Re-designated the 138th Signal Radio Intelligence Company, Aviation. Port Moresby, New Guinea; arrived 4 Aug 1943.



24 Apr 1944 - Re-designated 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile.

2 Sep 1945 - Re-located to Johnson Air Base, Iruagawa, Japan.

1 Feb 1949 - Transferred from Dept of the Army to the AF and HQ USAFSS

28 Jan 1953 - Re-located from Johnson AB to Misawa AB, Japan.

8 May 1955 - Re-designated 6921st RSM

11 May 1956 - Re-designated 6921st Radio Group.

1 Sep 1962 - Re-designated 6921st Security Wing.

1 Apr 1970 - Re-designated 6921st Security Group.

1 Sep 1972 - Re-designated 6921st Security Wing

1 Feb 1976 - Re-designated HQ 6920th Security Wing

1 Oct 1978 - Designated and activated 6920th Security Squadron.

1 Aug 1979 - Re-designated 6920th Electronic Security Group.

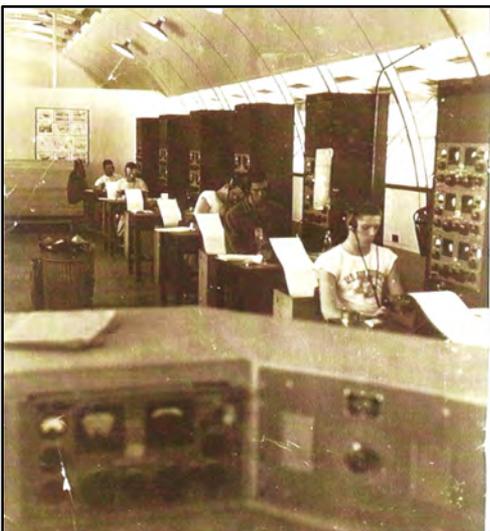
1 Oct 1993 - Re-designated 301st Intelligence Squadron

Among other honors, the unit was awarded 6 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

Charles Henshaw and three others reported in to the 1st RSM, Johnson AB, Iruagawa, Japan in the middle of September 1951 and stayed until the end of July 1953. By that time, all radio intercept operators had departed for Misawa AB. Henshaw noted that the 1st RSM was considered the “flagship of the Far East” (handling more traffic than any other RSM).

When Henshaw left the 1st RSM, it was still located at Johnson AB. When their tour was complete, Henshaw and the three others were reassigned to Security Hill, Kelly (now Lackland) AFB. Henshaw recalls sending college football scores to the 1st RSM when he was on duty Saturday night or Sunday. He says he was lucky he never got caught—“no brass around on the weekend”.

\*\*\*\*\*



**29<sup>th</sup> RSM Ops 1952**  
Posted by Bob Rennick

Started with six fully operational positions. Later, six more were added on the opposite side of the room

## What Did You Like Most About Germany Back “in the Day”

Adapted from posts on the 2<sup>nd</sup> RSM site



//**Paul Lafitte**// Back in those early days I was on orders 18 March 49 for sailing on the USAT COMFORT, leaving on or about 25 March for 2<sup>nd</sup> RSM at Bremerhaven. Most of the other 35 guys in our group left on or about 29 March for Germany on the MAURICE ROSE. We were on a slow boat and those other guys got to Marburg ahead of us. We were all at Marburg together and then on 12 April, 3 of us Radio Ops were sent to the British Zone for the Airlift and the 30 of the others left for Darmstadt. I returned again via Rhine Main 15 July 49 when I was picked up and dropped off at Ernst Ludwig, where I signed in and then went on to the 2nd's picnic up at Frankensteins Castle. A great start for a great tour.

---

// **Bob Rudolph**// I enjoyed the work, most of the time. The bier, the fests, the Wirtschaften - it was all good. Also enjoyed unlimited speeds on the Autobahn, the fact that drivers in Germany paid attention to motorcycles instead of trying to run them over. Enjoyed learning the language - I still use it to this day, belonging to a German conversation group here in Baltimore. Public transportation that actually worked was another good thing, and trains to anywhere I wanted to go. Service in saloons and restaurants was superb. I learned something about history, too - seeing things that had been around for almost 100 years more than our nation's founding was humbling.

I could write a book.... But I have no regrets either for my tour of duty in Germany. I do regret some of the excesses, but I was still young, and have been told many times that before the age of 30 “youngandstupid” is all one word.

---



//**Tom Germany-Germy Smart**//I really enjoyed the work, but, being a motorcycle rider, I mostly enjoyed the four day breaks when I could ride all over Germany. I had a road map which I marked the roads I had traveled and covered a lot of the country.

### Four Dedicated Flight Workers in 1965

Posted by Dave Bethard



L - R: Ernie Woods, Bob Bashaw, Arthur "Butch" Joseph and Ray Allen at the 6918<sup>th</sup> SG (Hakata Admin Annex, Japan) back in 1965.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Memories of 6917<sup>th</sup> SG at San Vito, Italy

Posted by Chet Gulczynski (60-64)



I remember... in the early 60's San Vito Ops wore dark blue baseball caps with the 6917th patch on the front and a small, duty section patch on each side. Mine was "OPC" for Operations, Charlie Flight.

As I recall, unit baseball caps were worn by all duty sections on the base, including non-ops support people. The cap pretty much disintegrated over the years in storage but I managed to save the patches.



## FALLEN EAGLES

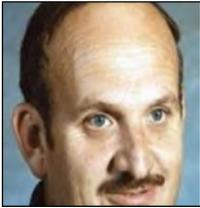


Received word of the following losses from caring relatives, friends or obituaries and offer prayers and sympathy to loved ones. *“It is the soldier above all others who prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.”* **Douglas MacArthur**

Compiled by Joe Figueroa, Associate Editor

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Baynard, Ray Hugh, USAF  
Black, James T. "Tom", USAFSS-Life Member  
Buchinski, Robert, USAFSS  
Cool, Bradley D., CMSgt (Ret), USAFSS  
Coulson, Robert "Bob" L., USAFSS  
Ford, William "Bill", USAFSS  
Herridge, John Robert, SMSgt (Ret), USAFSS  
Hughes, Morris Paul, SMSgt (Ret), USAFSS  
Jones, William Stephen, CMSgt (Ret), USAFSS  
Kerr, Edward F., MSgt (Ret), USAF  
Lantz, Robert Wiley, SMSgt (Ret), USAF  
Malone, Ronald F., USAF  
Morris, Dorothy Helen Clanton  
Newland, William "Don", SMSgt (Ret), USAFSS  
Nix, Raymond John, USAFSS  
Oldham, Loel E., USAF  
Simmons, Clifford N., USAFSS-Life Member  
Sweeney, Edmond Gerald "Jerry", USAFSS  
Thomas, Robert L., USAF  
Webb, Hobert, USAFSS  
Williams, George Franklin, TSgt (Ret), USAFSS-Life Member  
Yule, Lorne Roy, MSgt (Ret), USAFSS



**Ray Hugh Baynard, Sr.**, 71, June 27, 2013. Ray served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War and was a member of Wilson Baptist Church. Ray retired from Rutherfordton-Spindale Central High School where he taught Social Studies and was a Softball and Athletic Trainer. In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife, Mary; son,

Ray; and daughter, Machelle. **//Obit - Padgett & King Mortuary//**  
**//Notified Carol Farr//**

Ray was an 292 on Baker flight while at Hakata during 1962-1965 time frame. **//Carol Farr//**

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**James T. "Tom" Black**, 81, died November 3, 2014. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1971 with 20 years, having served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He was a member of American Legion Post 22, Charleroi, Life member USAFSS Freedom Through Vigilance Assoc., former member and past Exalted Ruler of the Monessen Elks Lodge

773 and Charleroi Lodge 494, and was active in many masonic organizations. He is survived by his daughter Susan. **//Obit – Dalfonso Billick Funeral Home//** **//Notified Dennis Thole//**

I served with Tom in Berlin in 196-69 and at the HQ on Kelly in 1970-71. **//Notified Dennis Thole//**

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**Robert Buchinski**, 66, October 8, 2014. Bob was a 292 on Baker flight during his tour at Hakata in 1967-1969. **//Carol Farr//**



**CMSgt (Ret) Bradley D. Cool**, 72, passed away April 26, 2015. He joined the United States Air Force in 1961. He gave 30 years in service to his country as a Russian linguist, intelligence specialist and RC-135 Aircrew Member. He retired in 1991 as an E-9, Chief Master Sergeant with an Associate's Degree in Arts and Sciences. During his military service, Bradley met his wife, Gladys, in the American Embassy in Moscow. They traveled to many states while he was in the service and ended up in Alaska, not the first time, where he retired and then moved to his home town of Granite Falls. Bradley is survived by his wife, Gladys; sons, Donald and Daniel (Kathryn); and daughter, Catherine. //Obit – **Herald Net**// //Notified – **Ronald Haygood**//

Chief Cool made a huge impression on both Terri and I early in our careers. Underneath the rough exterior was a Chief who really cared about his airmen and we all loved him for that. We feel blessed to have known him. //**Bill and Terri Saari**//

I was shocked and saddened to hear of Chief Cool's passing. Will fondly remember the good times at Offutt and Eielson while serving with him. He was a legend in the Airborne Intelligence business, admired by all who knew and worked with him. My condolences to Gladys and the rest of Brad's family, and thanks for sharing him with the rest of us. Fly high Silent Warrior and touch the face of God. //**Tom Knapp**//

Brad was one of a kind. I owe much of whatever I accomplished to him...both on the crew when he was my AMS and then when he had my back as a wise counsel. RIP dear friend and confidant. //**Jim Glenn**//

So sorry to hear of Brad's passing. He is now with many of his comrade in arms. I had the pleasure of flying with him a few times while at Offutt/Omaha. He was a real hands on leader. We have lost one of the great ones. //**John Shultz**//



**Robert "Bob" L. Coulson** died Oct 18, 2014 at the age of 77. He is survived by his wife Ollie. Bob was a 201 on Daze flight during his tour at Hakata 1961-1964. //Notified Carol Farr//

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**William "Bill" Ford**, 81, died January 25, 2015. He served his country in the United States Air Force from December 9, 1952 to June 30, 1974. Bill's Air Force career took him all over the world. Following Basic Training in Oakland, CA. he attended school in Biloxi, Mississippi, served overseas in French Morocco, and was then stationed at Ft. Walton, FL. From 1957-58 he was stationed at Denver, CO where

Sharon was born. From 1958-59, he was back in Biloxi. He was stationed in Alaska in 1959 and from 1960-63 served in Germany. From 1963-65 was stationed in San Antonio, TX. From 1965-67 he was again stationed in Alaska. From 1967-69 he was stationed in Ft. Meade, Maryland. He served in Taiwan from 1969-71 and from 1971 to 1974 was back at Ft. Meade. Upon his retirement from the Air Force, he and Mary settled in Selby. Bill is survived by his wife Mary; three daughters, Debbie, Sharon, and Janet; two sons, Terry and Alan. //Obit-Lien Funeral Home// //Notified James McDaniel//

Bill was my first supervisor at Hof, Germany. A good man. Also knew him at Ft. Meade, MD. Safe travels Bill. RIP //Jim McDaniel//

Worked With Bill in 1960 in Germany. Great Friend //Edward Danner//

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**SMSgt John Robert Herridge Sr.**, 87, died March 26, 2015 in San Angelo, TX.. Survivors include his wife, Lorene; son John; daughters Carolyn and Brenda. //Obit-Standard Times// //Notified Ed Bendinelli via USAFSS Roll Call//

John started his military career in the USCG, then joined USAAF at end of WWII as Radio Operator then in USAF. I met

MSgt Herridge at the 6994th in Saigon in 1971. John was one of the 94th NCOs billeted in what was known as 1220U, an air-conditioned dorm for aircrew NCOs. John and I flew several missions together during my time there. I know that he had been stationed in Crete at one time but I have no details. I'm sure he retired as an E-8. He was a long-time HAM operator. //Obit-Standard Times// //Notified Ed Bendinelli via USAFSS Roll Call//

I was stationed with John at the 6994th in 1971-72. John was a MSgt back then. He was one of the residents of 1220U, which housed 94th NCOs. John and I even flew a few missions together. John has lived here in San Angelo since he retired but rarely saw him. Ran across him at the Credit Union several months ago. // Ed Bendinelli //

He was our acting first sergeant at Det 2 6994<sup>th</sup> at Pleiku and DaNang 69-70 His running mates were MSgt Joe Garrity and SMSgt Kenny Seals. //Walt Ritter//

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**SMSgt Morris Paul Hughes**, 79, passed away January 7, 2015. Morris Paul Hughes of Clinton, MD, entered into eternal peace. Loving husband of Lorraine R. Hughes. Proud father of Paula, Lori and Kennard Hughes. //Obit-The Washington Post// //Notified Carol Farr//

Bob was 202 on Daze during his tour at Hakata 1961-65. //Carol Farr//

Saddened to learn this. Worked with MPH (called him “Miles Per Hour Hughes” back in 73-74) on DOFC at 6922<sup>nd</sup> in the P.I A big man with a big heart to match and a joy to work for/with... //Dennis Rassmussen//

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**CMSgt (Ret) William Stephen "Steve" Jones**, 62, passed away May 1, 2015. Steve served as Chief Master Sergeant with the United States Air Force from 1971 to 2001, retiring after 30 years. He served in Misawa AFB, Japan; Kelly AFB, San Antonio, Texas; and Shemya AFB, Alaska. He married Patricia Nearman on Dec. 8, 1976, at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, Japan. Following his military service, Steve worked as a senior

electronics technician for Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids for 13 years. Steve was the regional director of the Military Affiliate Radio Systems, Linn County Emergency Management Agency and was the district emergency coordinator for Amateur Radio Emergency Service. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; daughter, Julie Marie (Scott) Schanberger; and son, Brett Stephen Jones. **//Obit – The Gazette// //Notified – Bob Cope//**

It has been my pleasure to serve with Steve many years here in San Antonio. He was truly a professional and one of the best radio maintenance troops I've ever known. My condolences to his family and many other friends. **//CMSgt (Ret) Bill Forst//**

Steve was one of the reasons that made Misawa fun. Great mentor to me on security hill and even better person. Our prayers for the family. **//Jay & Dina Campbell//**

I'm so sorry for your loss. He was one of the sharpest people I ever worked with in my military career. He and I clicked from the first day I met him at Misawa AB, Japan. RIP brother. **//Paul Burchfield//**

I was an operations guy and Steve was a maintenance guy. Sometimes that led to strained relations. Not in Steve's case. He was the epitome of a good guy. He was always calm even under pressure and I didn't know one person who had even one bad thing to say about Steve. He will be missed by us all. RIP my friend. **//CMSgt (Ret) Danny Prichard//**

Steve was my neighbor at Misawa ab Japan in 1976 to 1978. I remember him doing MARS calls from his house. A real nice guy, so sorry to hear of his passing. **//Dave Pillman//**

Steve was my mentor and was an inspiration while I was stationed at Misawa AB in Japan. His wit, humor and compassion was very notable. We even used to joke about his car being our backup antenna in case anything happened with our antennas at the site. Steve you are remembered and definitely will be missed. Rest in peace Steve. **//Jesse Bailey//**



**MSgt (Ret) Edward F. Kerr**, 82, passed away 2 Feb 2015. He served in the USAF from 5 Apr 1950 to 31 Aug 1974. He served in Vietnam, where he earned the Bronze Star. He is survived by his daughter Debra; son, Edward; son, James; and daughter, Anita.

**//Obit - Castleridge Mortuary// //Notified Carol Farr//**

Terry was a 292 on Charlie flight while at Hakata during 1958-1960 time frame. **//Carol Farr//**

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**SMSgt (Ret) Robert Wiley Lantz**, 79, died on 2 Sep 2014. Bob served in Bremerhaven where he married Hideko during the 1960s, Bob joined the Air Force on 15 Jul 53. After completing Russian Language training, he was assigned to the 41st RSM in December 1954 as a voice intercept operator on Baker Flight. He then went to the Fassberg RDF Site, returning to Bremerhaven on 31 Oct 56 and reassigned to the Schleswig RDF Site. He was separated from the Air Force about 20 December 1957. On Veterans Day 2002, he recapped his Air Force career as follows: “[I] went to college for a couple of years, then got recalled at my old rank for another hitch in the reserves, then reenlisted in the regular AF. After his reenlistment in 1959, he served 16 more years and retired in 1975. During his exemplary career he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal. He is survived by his wife; Hideko; and two children. **//Arlen Trapp//**

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**Ronald F. Malone**, 71, passed away, April 30, 2015, after a hard-fought battle with lung cancer. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1964 to 1968, spending 3 years in Hakata, Japan. He is survived by his wife, Laura lee and his son, Ryan Brooks Malone. **//Obit – Belleville News-Democrat// //Notified – Carol Farr//**

Ron (Known to his buddies as “Speed”) was a 202 on Able flight at Hakata during the 1965-1968 time frame. **//Carol Farr//**



**Dorothy Helen Clanton Morris** died November 22, 2014. Dorothy is survived by her daughter, Renee. She served the Command as Records Documentation Manager for many years. Her husband, Joe, preceded her in death. He was a Chief Master Sergeant and also served in the Command for many years in Logistics. **//Notified Mary Holub//**

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**SMSgt (Ret) William “Don” Newland**, 87, died February 7, 2015. He spent 22 years in the Air Force. He is survived by his wife Jo Ann, his daughters, Pat, Terry and Myla. Don was a 202 on Daze flight during his tour at Hakata 1961-1964. **//Obit- Arizona Obituary Archive// //Notified Carol Farr//**

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**Raymond John Nix**, 88, died March 14, 2015. A twenty-three year veteran of the Air Force, he fought in both World War II and the Korean Conflict. In 1944, he joined the armed forces where he served as a Chinese and Russian linguist in the Air Force Security service. After retiring from the Air Force in 1972, he worked for the State of Alabama Department of Industrial Relations. He is survived by his wife Dolores; daughter, Eileen; daughter, Maria; and son, Michael. **//Obit- Montgomery Advertiser//Notified Ramon May//**

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**Loel E. Oldham**, 78, passed away 5 March 2015. Loel served his country in the United States Air Force and later worked for Civil Service where he retired. Mr. Oldham began his civil service career in December 1958 as an analyst in the Air Force Special Communications Center, later he was assigned duties as a senior operations research analyst supporting the

new mission of electronic warfare analysis. Working with Headquarters Air Force, the Foreign Technology Division, and the Air Force Systems Command, he was responsible for the planning, programming, and implementation of the Air Force Simulator Validation Program. The procedures and concepts developed by Mr. Oldham for the program were recently adopted totally by the DOD for defense-wide application. In the 1980s, he served as the Director, Studies and Analysis, for the Air Force Electronic Warfare Center. Mr. Oldham directed the development and evolution of the Air Force Electronic Warfare Center into a major center of computer modeling and simulation for the DOD. He is survived by his wife Faye and daughter Melissa. **//Obit- San Antonio Express New//**  
**//Notified Rob Oldham//**

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**Clifford N. Simmons**, 83, passed away March 14, 2015. He joined the USAF in 1951 where he served in Korea. Upon returning from Korea he married his high school sweetheart, Mercedes Monaghan on January 16, 1954. They lived in Percival until moving to Beatrice in 1962 where he managed the Job Service for 32 years. After retiring in 1984 they spent their winters with their Florida family and friends. He was a member of American Legion Post #27 of the American Legion, Geddes-Thober V. F. W Post #1077, and 15th RSM Air Force Squadron. He is survived by his wife Mercedes of Beatrice; children, Steven, Dale, and Sandra. **//Obit - Harman-Wright Mortuary//**  
**//Notified Deb Simmons//**

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**Edmond Gerald "Jerry" Sweeney**, 80, December 5, 2014. After retirement from the Air Force, he worked for the US Postal Service before retiring at age 60. Jerry is survived by his wife, Shirley, four children; Mike, Ryan, John, and Kelly. **//Obit- Wevley Funeral Home//**  
**//Notified Carol Farr//**

Jerry was a 702 on Daze flight during his tour at Hakata 1966-1970.  
**//Carol Farr//**



**Robert L. Thomas**, Age 69, passed away Apr 13, 2015. He is survived by his wife Rita; sons, Christopher, Eric //Obit – **Omaha.com**// //Notified **John Hurst**//

Last night, Bonnie and I joined Jerry Ching, Larry Meade and a large number of other people that knew and loved fallen AMT Bob Thomas in paying our respect to his wife and family during the visitation at the Bethany Funeral Home in Omaha. Bob had full military honors this morning at his grave side service provided by the American Legion and Offutt AFB honor guard. Please join us in praying for Bob and his family. //John Hurst//

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**Hobert Webb**, 73, passed away February 13, 2015. He proudly served his country as a member of the U.S. Air Force; was a former member of the Shriners; and was an avid golfer. He is survived by a son, Brian and daughter, Patricia. //Obit-Randall Roberts Funeral// //Notified Carol Farr//

Hoby was a 292 on C flight during his tour at Hakata 1960-1961. //Carol Farr//

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**TSgt (Ret) George Franklin Williams Jr.**, 72, passed away April 30, 2015 in Pueblo, CO. George proudly served his country for 20 years in the United States Air Force from 1963 to 1983. George married the love of his life, Mary Lafler, on

May 2, 1964. George was stationed in England, Japan, Korea, Greece, San Angelo and San Antonio; he retired from the AF in 1983 and settled in Pueblo. He also was a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for 13 years, retiring in 1998. George was a member of the Knights of Columbus 557, American Legion, VFW, USAFSS Roll Call, Air Force Association and Freedom through Vigilance Association. He leaves behind his wife Mary Lafler; son, George; and daughter, Barbara. //Obit – **The Chieftain**// //Notified – **Greg Roman**//

George was a very special part of my early AF career in 68-69 when we were stationed at Hakata, Japan. He was active in the FTVA Rocky Mountain Chapter and often drove from Pueblo to Colorado Springs for their meetings. //Dennis Rassmussen//

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**MSgt (Ret) Lorne Roy Yule**, age 85, passed away on September 24, 2014. He was a retired Air Force Master Sergeant. During his 30 years of service he received many medals, including the Air Force Commendation Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. He is survived by his daughters Cathy and his son Douglas. //Obit-Statesman.com// //Notified Carol Farr//

Lorne was assigned Daze flight during his tour at Hakata in 1965-1966. //Carol Farr//

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



Feb 18, 2015

From: Kristopher Morrison

E-Mail address: [kmorrison@int-equip.com](mailto:kmorrison@int-equip.com)

Comment: Hi there! First off my name is Kris, and I have a question that maybe you fine gentlemen could help me (or at least point me in the right direction.) I am the grandson of MSgt Charles L. Barnes and I am seeking more information about what he did in the USAFSS. He never spoke much about it at all while he was alive but and I am very curious. What I do know is that he did some intelligence work in Korea and Vietnam. I also understand that he played a part in the crew of an RC-135 named "Rivet Brass" and was stationed in Alaska. I have also heard him mention "The Rock" which I found out later was Shemya Island. I am not sure of much else. He was my mentor all through my life until the day he passed in December of 2013. He was the reason that I joined the military, even though I joined the Army instead of the Air Force. He was always there for me and helped me learn to cope with life after my tours to the Middle East. I appreciate any information and/or guidance on this subject to help me learn more of my family history and to learn more about the most influential man in my life.

-----Response-----

Feb 18, 2015

From: **Barnie Gavin**

Kris, I knew your grandfather. He was one of my instructors at Goodfellow AFB. I did not know he had passed away. I would be more than happy to talk to you about him.



Feb 20, 2015

From: Kyle Tomaszewski @ [kyle.tomaszewski.2@us.af.mil](mailto:kyle.tomaszewski.2@us.af.mil)

Comment: Sir/Ma'am, I am interested in more information about this organization. I am stationed at Cannon, AFB in NM. Could I be a member of a chapter since we do not currently have one here in NM? Thanks, SrA Kyle Tomaszewski

-----Response-----

Feb 21, 2015

To: SrA Tomaszewski

Kyle,

Great to hear from you. I assume you are with our squadron assigned to the 361st ISRG. If so, you can absolutely become a member of the FTVA. I know your important mission well. We have a Chapter in Florida that supports the 361st and their many programs, so you will benefit thru your Group, Wing and 25th AF. However, you are correct in that we do not have a New Mexico Chapter. You can join the FTVA thru the details in our website at [ftva.org](http://ftva.org) or we can send you a form thru the mail. There you will see our history, activities, the listing of the Hall Of Honor inductees (including our 361st inductee from last year), etc. You will also receive our quarterly newsletter (electronically or thru the mail) and have access to our membership listings/information. Our membership includes veterans that served in Viet Nam, the Cold War, the Balkans, Desert Storm, OIF/OEF and every conflict since.

Again, we would love to have you as a member. Please let me know if you have any other questions or I can be of further service. And...we would love to have more of your squadron teammates join our great fraternity of warriors.

VR, Ron Haygood  
President, Freedom Through Vigilance Association

Feb 26, 2015

Name: Jerry Brown

Unit: 6987th, Taipei, Taiwan

Comment: Graduate of the Yale Institute of Far Eastern Languages basis and intermediate in Mandarin Chinese 1961 and 1963-4.

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Apr 24, 2015

From: Lex Cole @ [lcxdittybop@surewest.net](mailto:lcxdittybop@surewest.net)

Unit: 6994th TSN AB, Vietnam

Comment: 4 years AF - 2 years at Hakata, Japan (6918<sup>th</sup>) and 1 Year at the 6994<sup>TH</sup> TSN AB, Vietnam. Anyone remember me?

May 6, 2015

From: Ron Betts @ [penelope@vermontel.net](mailto:penelope@vermontel.net)

Unit: DET 3-1, Trabzon, Turkey

Comment: Looking for buds and leaders from RAF Chicksands in the early 60s. Great opportunity to check in with former buds. I was at AFSCC 1960-61 and then RAF Chicksands 1961-65, and finally TUSLOG Det 3-1 1967-68.. Got a critical mass for a fall 2015 day weenie reunion which should be a good subset of the FTVA annual reunion. Be in touch with me at [penelope@vermontel.net](mailto:penelope@vermontel.net) to become involved with the "black hat" group. Looking, primarily, for 202's and 685's.

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Apr 20, 2015

From: Ken Bush @ [bushkk@yahoo.com](mailto:bushkk@yahoo.com)

Unit: USAFSS

Comment: Was stationed at RAF Chicksands from 1960-1962. Have made contact with Ron Betts just recently. Like to hear from any that remember. AFSC was 68550.

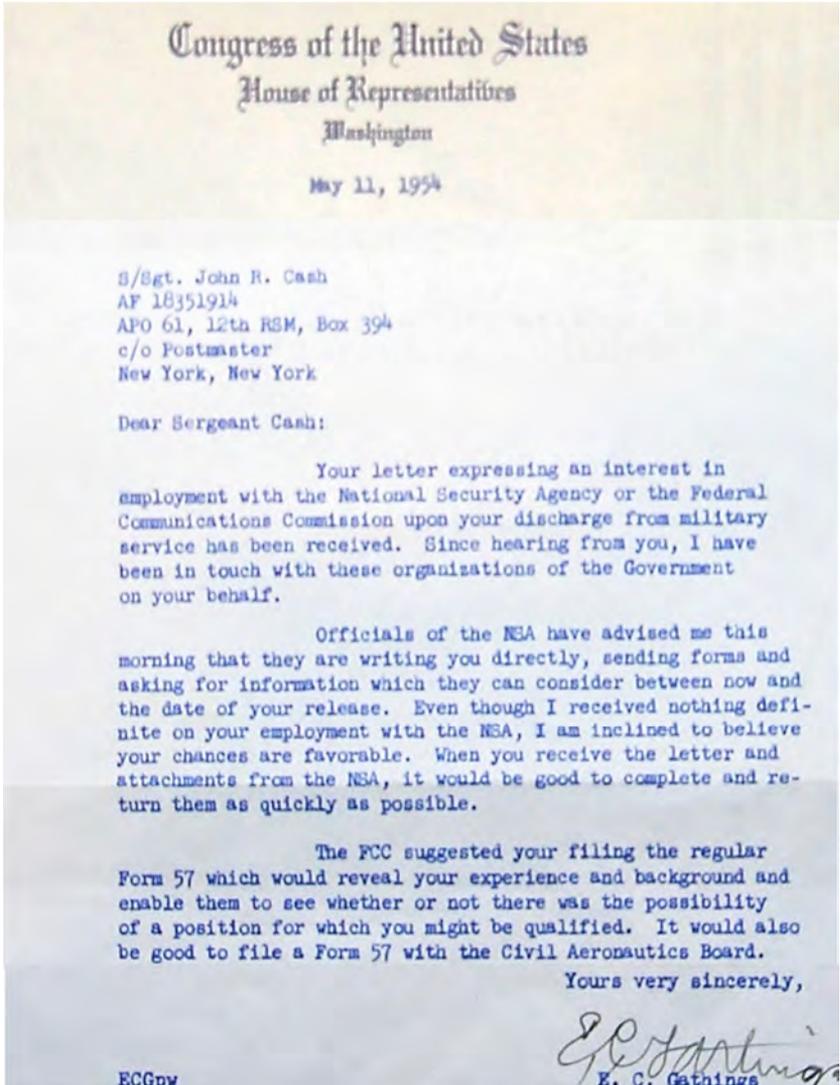
Feb 2015

From: Larry Ross, FTVA Heritage Chapter Secretary

On Nov 2014, we visited the Johnny Cash Museum in Nashville, TN finding that Cash was born with just the initials "J.R." Cash. When Cash enlisted, the Air Force required a first name, so, he chose John R. Cash. He served in USAFSS (1950 – 54) as a Morse Intercept Operator and was stationed with the 12<sup>th</sup> RSM in Landsburg, Germany achieving

the rank of SSgt (E5). Did you know that upon discharge from the AF, he expressed interest through his Representative in getting a job at NSA? Cash did not follow up and the rest is history. I wonder... "What if Cash had accepted the job?"

The following is a copy of the letter from NSA in response to his query:





## Then and Now



*MSgt Frederic Barnes*  
USAFSS 1951 - 1971



Fred graduated from his native city of Lowell, MA in June of 1951. The Korean Conflict was heating up and Fred knew that it was just a matter of time before his Selective Service number would be called and he would be drafted. After a limited time in the Navy Reserves he talked with the Air Force recruiter. On December 28, 1951, Fred joined 20 men and was sworn into the USAF. Thus began twenty years of an experience that only the wealthy can afford. Imagine the cost of living in Alaska for 1 year, 2 years in Japan, and 4 years in Germany. Basic training was at Sampson AB, NY, then he traveled to Weather Observer School at Chanute AFB, IL. Fred's next assignment was Thornbrough AFB, Cold Bay, AK (Weather Observer). The trip to Alaska was an experience. Traveling with two others, with duffle bags, they managed to fit in a 1937 Chevy with a rumble seat and drove to Camp Stoneman, CA. He boarded the MSTs Thomas Jefferson and was sea sick for five days during his cruise to Alaska. Future assignments were Carswell AFB, TX (Chief Weather Observer), Offutt AFB, NE (Weather Observer), Chanute AFB, IL (Weather Forecasting School); Loring AFB, ME (Weather Forecaster), Seoul, Korea (Weather Forecaster), Travis AFB, CA (Weather Forecaster), drafted in 1965 into USAFSS – Goodfellow AFB, TX (Attended W-202 School), Hakata, Japan (6918<sup>th</sup>Scty Sq), I. G. Farben Building, Frankfurt, Germany (Weather Advisor to the Chief of Staff, NSA Office) and then back to Travis AFB, CA where he retired in 1971. At Hakata, Fred was on the NCO Club Board of Directors, PTA Officer and played piano for Sunday School classes. For his work at Hakata, he earned the Air Force Commendation Medal. While working in the NSA Office in Germany, Fred supported additional USAFSS Units in Crete, Turkey, Italy and Great Britain. He also visited a Naval Security Group in Bremerhaven, GE and GCHQ in Cheltenham England. Additionally, he visited Weather Centrals in Ramstein, GE and High Wycombe, England.

In 1955, Fred met and married co-worker Airman Edna Bauer at Offutt AFB, NE. Son, Ted, was born in 1956. After USAF retirement, Fred worked as a Branch Manager for Beneficial Finance; Administrative Assistant for a County Supervisor and Vice President of a large Credit Union. Fred and Edna have claimed Fairfield, California home since 1961. On May 21, 2015, they celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.



## National Cryptologic Museum Foundation (NCMF)

The **NCMF** directly supports the National Cryptologic Museum (NCM), the first public museum in the U.S. Intelligence Community.

Located next to the National Security Agency (NSA) in Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, the NCM houses a priceless collection of artifacts that represent our Nation's history in code making and code breaking. The world class library in the NCM provides visitors an unprecedented opportunity to study works on Cryptology from the very rare to contemporary. The NCMF is also leading the effort to build a new *Cyber Center for Education and Innovation ~ Home of the National Cryptologic Museum*.

Adjacent to the museum, and an integral part of the NCM, is National Vigilance Park. Actual reconnaissance aircraft, including a C-130 like the one that was shot down over Soviet Armenia during the Cold War are on display there.

Learn about the joint mission of the NCMF & NCM, and the ways in which the NCMF supports the Museum by contacting:

POC: 9900 Colony Seven Rd, Fort Meade, MD 20755

P.O. Box 1682 Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755-9998

Phone (301) 688-5436

E-mail [crypt@cryptologicfoundation.org](mailto:crypt@cryptologicfoundation.org)

Donations to the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation may be made by check, money order, or credit card. The FTVA Board of Directors encourages members to make individual contributions to the NCMF new building fund drive. When you do so, please put FTVA in the Memo section of your check.



## Membership Application

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

Inclusive Years of Service:  
\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
(MM/YYYY) (MM/YYYY)

Make your check or money order to the:  
**FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION**  
Mail to:  
P.O. Box 891818, San Antonio, TX 78288-1818.

Yearly Memberships are \$20.00  
Please check one:

NEW REGULAR MEMBER

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER  
(\*see below for description)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

ADDRESS CHANGE

Age Range for Life Membership Rates

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

Optional Information we publish in yearly directory:

Rank/Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Retired? Y / N

HAM Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

CELL Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT: The authority to request this information is contained in Public Law 88-38 and Executive Order 12958. The principal purpose of the information is to establish a mailing list for membership rosters containing the name, address and telephone number of all members of the association periodically. Furnishing the information is voluntary; failure to provide the requested information will result in your not being listed. Your signature below\* indicates that you have read and understand the above.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

- (1) Surviving spouse of deceased individual who would qualify as a regular member.
- (2) Vigilant Partner organizations that actively support AF ISR Agency recognition programs.
- (3) DOD personnel (as individually approved by the Board of Directors) who, because of their close association to USAFSS, ESC, AFIC, AIA, or AF ISR Agency, perpetuate the objectives of the Association.
- (4) Air Force personnel, assigned to intelligence organizations which are not assigned or attached to the Air Force ISR Agency, who support and perpetuate the objectives of the Association. The Board of Directors may designate persons eligible for membership in this category as individuals, by Air Force specialty, or may designate organizations whose members are eligible as a group.

# ***THE FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION***

**ftva.org**

## **WHAT IS FTVA ??**



## **We are You !!**

**A PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT CORPORATION ESTABLISHED IN 1981, DEDICATED TO THE SUPPORT AND PERPETUATION OF SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN SERVICES FOR THE USAF AND 25<sup>TH</sup> AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE EFFORTS IN PARTICULAR.**

**ALL FORMER AND CURRENT MILITARY OR CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF 25<sup>TH</sup> AF AND ITS PREDECESSOR COMMANDS OR AGENCIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP.**

**SURVIVING SPOUSES OF DECEASED PERSONNEL ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBER STATUS.**