

*Remain  
In  
Touch*



***FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE  
ASSOCIATION***

***NEWSLETTER***

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### Newsletter Editor

Dennis “Rass” Rassmussen  
9511 Aqua Verde  
Helotes, TX 78023  
Ph (210) 695-1334  
[newsletter@ftva.org](mailto:newsletter@ftva.org)

### Associate Editor

Joe ‘Pepito’ Figueroa  
8843 Veranda Ct  
S. Antonio, TX 78250  
[Ph 210-267-1846](tel:210-267-1846)  
[falleneagles@ftva.org](mailto:falleneagles@ftva.org)

### Auxiliary Staff

Ken Maynard  
25<sup>th</sup> AF News  
Dennis Buxton  
FTVA Chapter News  
[newsletter@ftva.org](mailto:newsletter@ftva.org)



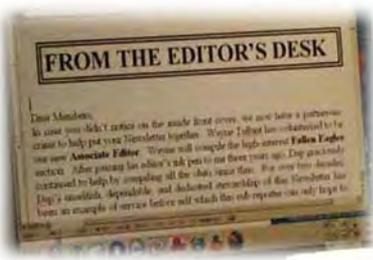
## The President's Corner

Football season is over, basketball season is about half over, and baseball season is inching closer. With Spring comes renewal; from foliage outside, to follow-through on New Year's resolutions, to reminders of FTVA membership renewals. Think about those guys and gals you worked with way-back-when in those faraway locations. Maybe it's time to renew those friendships and connections now. The FTVA is a great way to accomplish that resolution. We have plans to work with some of the active duty members to find ways to bring them into the fold. Many veterans' groups like the FTVA (e.g. American Legion, VFW, etc.) are having a hard time recruiting from the new generation of retirees and active duty personnel. We have to look for new and innovative ways to gain their interest. If anyone has any ideas, we are all ears. Because, if we don't, the FTVA and all it stands for, all the resources we are able to contribute to our active duty activities, etc., will all slowly fade away. Many have never heard of USAFSS or ESC and they have difficulty understanding the close camaraderie that was born at all of those overseas units. It's a different AF today, a different organization (now 25th AF), and a different mindset.

Fortunately, we are seeing some glimmer of hope. A new Command Chief and Commander who understand and are very supportive. Our National Capital Region Chapter has active duty on their Board. I recently traveled to eight of our units in the UK located on five different RAF bases. I was able to talk to them about the FTVA, hand out brochures, and answer questions from interested personnel. Most had never heard of the FTVA. We just have to look for every opportunity to beat-the-drum about the benefits of the FTVA and how we support our members and most of the 25th AF's people programs. Most importantly, I want to thank you, the members of the FTVA for continuing to support our organization over the years. From its inception during the USAFSS/ESC years until now supporting the men and women of the 25th AF, you have helped us keep the silent warrior flame burning. Through numerous conflicts and multiple organizational upheavals, the critical intelligence mission is still being accomplished 24 / 7 around the world. We will ensure the FTVA is there supporting the men and women wherever and whenever we can. Thanks again and always remember to

"Remain in Touch".

*Ron*



Hi Everyone,  
Once again, thanks to all of you who contributed to filling the pages of this quarter's FTVA scuttlebutt that's fit-to-print. We were able to include almost all your submissions in this issue by catching up on getting those articles published that have been "in the queue" for a while. Our Associate

Editor, CMSgt (Ret) Joe Figueroa, has completed his first year researching and compiling our *Fallen Eagles* section. Joe has done a great job putting together a timely and thorough list of Fallen Eagles each quarter. Then there's A.J. Harrison's reminder to submit your nomination(s) for the 2016 *Hall of Honor*. We've also requested your nominations for the annual election of two BOD executive officers. We continue to support the 25<sup>th</sup> AF as well as teaming with the Command in hosting the annual **Spring Social** event coming up on April 23<sup>rd</sup> in San Antonio. Once again, another full plate awaits you in this issue.

*Happy Easter,*



**Editor's Disclaimer**

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

**FTVA Vigilant Partners' Program**



Since 1985, the Vigilant Partners' Program has enabled the FTVA to provide support for programs that reward hardworking AF people who go "above and beyond" to accomplish the Numbered Air Force mission. We invite anyone who might be interested in becoming a Vigilant Partner to contact our POC Col (Ret) Mark "Mutley" Hess (Ph 210-380-6328). E-Mail: [Hessm58@gmail.com](mailto:Hessm58@gmail.com)

(Take a look at the centerfold of this newsletter to see the most recent list of Vigilant Partners.)

**FTVA Board of Directors**



FTVA Board of Directors (BOD) for 2016. Monthly meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at the Security Service FCU HQ building on La Cantera Pkwy in San Antonio. Present for a photo opportunity (above) were: Back row L-R: Dennis Buxton, Barnie Gavin, Bob Baert and Ken Williams. Front row seated are current FTVA executive officers: Secretary Loran Sevening, President Ron Haygood, Vice President Andy Smith, and Treasurer Bob Cope. (Staff Photo by D. Rassmussen)

**Annual 2016 FTVA Officer Elections**

In accordance with Article VII of the FTVA By-Laws, the BOD has appointed the nominating committee for the annual officer elections to be held in September 2016. This year, the nominating committee (composed of Grover Jackson, Jim McLendon, Ken Maynard and Dennis Rassmussen) is accepting submissions for the offices of SECRETARY and TREASURER. Any member in good standing may be submitted to the nominating committee; however, for obvious reasons, only those who can attend the monthly BOD meetings in San Antonio can be seriously considered. Please submit your nomination(s) prior to May 10, 2016. Selected nominees will be published in the June issue of *Remain In Touch*. One submission per position at a time please. E-Mail to:

[Newsletter@ftva.org](mailto:Newsletter@ftva.org)

or use UPS address:

FTVA BOD Nominating Committee  
ATTN: Dennis Rassmussen  
PO Box 69616 San Antonio, TX 78269-1616

## IMO "In Memory Of"

When you see "...or charity of your choice." in an obituary, please think of FTVA and please check with online sites such as Charity Navigator or the BBB before deciding. We have found some that claim to serve the military often are designed to benefit those who run them. FTVA's charity of choice is The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, which has the charity rating sites' highest recommendations. If you want the donation to FTVA to be tax deductible, make the check to the "USAFSS/ESC Memorial Fund". If you are not concerned about tax deductibility or don't file a Schedule A, make the check to "FTVA" and mail it to FTVA Official Activities, P.O. Box 691616, San Antonio TX 78269-1616. Please include the name you wish to memorialize on the "Memo" or "For" section of the check. It would help to include the honoree's family's address in a note. We'll advise the family of your donation, but not the amount. Help preserve our common legacy and celebrate your friendship at the same time -- truly a win-win combination.



## ANNUAL SPRING SOCIAL

Our **2016 FTVA Spring Social** will again be held in the Alamo/Concepcion Room of the San Antonio SeaWorld/Westover Hills Marriott Courtyard Hotel (11605 State Hwy 151 - San Antonio 78251). Activities begin at 1700 on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. FTVA members and all active duty service men and women are invited to enjoy this special evening when we recognize 25<sup>th</sup> AF recent returnees from deployment. Your donation of \$5.00 per person includes heavy "puu-puu's" such as, Chips & Dip, Meatballs, Buffalo wings, and Sliced Fresh Fruit along with a pay-as-you-go bar and the chance to re-connect with fellow FTVA members.

See You There!

## Hall of Honor Nominations



The Freedom Through Vigilance Association's Hall of Honor induction ceremony is a major element of the association's reunion activities and is scheduled for Saturday morning, 24 Sep 2016, at Headquarters, 25th Air Force (formerly Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency).

Since the creation of USAFSS as a major air command in 1948, members of USAFSS/ESC/AFIC/AIA/AF ISR Agency/25th AF (hereinafter referred to as the command) have been at war 24/7/365 as anonymous sentinels, engaged in combat with foreign enemies of the United States and its allies while conducting operations in the air as aircrew members, on the seas aboard U.S. naval ships, and on each of the major continental land masses as well as numerous islands around the world. The command has been blessed with an abundance of talented members who possessed the skill sets and intellectual capacity, coupled with unselfish dedication and commitment, to conquer whatever challenges they encountered – often at great personal sacrifice.

The FTVA's founders established the Hall of Honor (HOH) in 1983 to honor those individuals who served the command with great distinction and contributed immeasurably to successful mission accomplishment. To date, 180 individuals have been inducted into the HOH. The Hall of Honor preserves the legacy of those who have gone before, highlights their deeds, and honors their contributions to the Nation.

We have all had the privilege of serving with individuals who deserve induction into the HOH. Take this opportunity to nominate an individual who has earned such recognition and lasting tribute. The Selection Committee will review all eligible nominations and select individuals for induction into the Hall of Honor using eligibility criteria and procedures pursuant to the Hall of Honor Charter. A copy of the Charter is available on the web page at <http://www.ftva.org>.

Nominations must be received not later than 6 June 2016 by e-mail. E-mail nominations should be addressed to myself at [chiefajh@gmail.com](mailto:chiefajh@gmail.com) or to Bob Cope at [rcope6@earthlink.net](mailto:rcope6@earthlink.net). When submitting nominations, please limit to one page, front and back, using the HOH Nomination Form available on the website.

Thank you and Remain In Touch,

*A.J. Harrison*  
Hall of Honor Chair

**25<sup>th</sup> AIR FORCE NEWS**



Compiled by Ken Maynard, Auxiliary Staff

**25th AF LARSON AWARD WINNERS**

Adapted from an article by Vincent Childress,  
25th Air Force Public Affairs

11/25/2015 -- JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - LACKLAND, Texas - Thirty-nine Airmen, from across 25th Air Force, were honored here last week as medal winners in the 36th Annual Maj. Gen. Doyle E. Larson Awards competition. The Larson Awards recognize the top technicians in 13 different Air Force Specialty career fields vital to the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.



During their three days at 25 AF headquarters, the Airmen were formally recognized in a medal-presentation ceremony, and participated in an Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century event. AFSSO21 is the Air Force program to increase value and decrease waste in Air Force processes. The Airmen were also invited to a social at the home of 25 AF Commander Maj. Gen. Bradford Shwedo, along with 25 AF leaders. During their visit, the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce hosted the Airmen for dinner and a boat ride on the San Antonio River.

During the medal ceremony, Maj. Gen. Shwedo personally congratulated each of the NAF-level medalists. "The enthusiastic efforts and outstanding scores of all competitors are evidence of our highly skilled and knowledgeable cadre of professionals," he said. "The winners are truly the 'best-of-the-best' in their categories, and exemplify the Air Force's core value of 'Excellence In All We Do.' "

The Larson Awards program originated in 1979, the year Larson took command of the United States Air Force Security Service, one of the predecessor organizations of 25 AF. Larson began the awards to officially recognize the command's enlisted operations and support technicians. Since then, all eligible units conduct annual preliminary testing, or other selection methods, to determine who qualifies for enterprise-level testing.

Only about 14 percent of the eligible Airmen advanced to test at the Numbered Air Force level and vie for a coveted Larson Award. NAF-level testing includes 75-100 knowledge and experience-based questions, worth a combined 200 points. The top Airmen in each of the 13 career fields included receive a gold, silver or bronze medal signifying their level of achievement. In addition, the top 10 percent of all competitors join the awards honor roll. Each receives a certificate of appreciation recognizing accomplishments as ISR professionals.

The Freedom Through Vigilance Association, which supports a number of 25 AF events, paid for the cost of the plaques, medals and shirts for the 39 medalists. The local Air Force Association chapter and the Security Service Federal Credit Union also provided direct support for the Airmen during their week-long visit.

## DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM Game Changers for AFISR

Adapted from an article by by Marcia Klein  
25 AF Public Affairs

1/21/2016 - **JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - LACKLAND, Texas** -  
- [Editor's note: Information for this article was provided from the book "The Dragon Lady Meets the Challenge: The U-2 in Desert Storm," by Coy F. Cross II, 9 RW historian, and unit histories from the 480th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, the 9th Reconnaissance Wing, and the 55th Wing.]



*Above: 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing crew deployed an RC-135V/W Rivet Joint from Hellenikon Air Base, Greece, to Riyadh Air Base, Saudi Arabia, Aug. 8, 1990. After its initial flight over the Central Command Area of Operations Aug. 9, two more RJs arrived at Riyadh and 24-hour coverage began Aug. 11. Since then, Rivet Joint crews have flown more than 11,700 sorties in the CENTCOM Area of Operations. (File photo, 55th Wing Public Affairs)*

It's been 25 years since the start of combat operations for Desert Storm, and in that same quarter century units now part of the 25th Air Force have never stopped 24-7 operations. Early in the pre-dawn hours of Jan. 17, 1991 (Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. Eastern time), the air war phase of combat operations in Iraq began for Operation Desert Storm. The foundation for "surgical" bombing had been laid in the previous five months during Operation Desert Shield.



*Above: Coalition Forces mark the U-2's record number of sorties and mission hours in a group photo at Taif, Saudi Arabia, during Operation Desert Storm, 1991. The U-2 was the primary aerial asset used to identify Iraqi Scud missiles during Desert Shield/Desert Storm. (File photo courtesy of 9RW Public Affairs)*

Iraq began the conflict when it invaded Kuwait Aug. 2, 1990. That same day the Air Force's 480th Tactical Intelligence Group (TIG) began 24-hour operations, providing the early crucial targeting materials, tactical imagery, and recognition materials that would be essential for the campaign's goal: Kuwait's liberation and the retreat of Iraqi troops back within Iraq's borders. The tactics used in Desert Shield/Desert Storm were very different from those in the Air Force's last major air combat campaign in Vietnam. In Desert Storm the U.S. used a parallel warfare approach, with U.S. and coalition aircraft attacking more than 150 separate targets across Iraq simultaneously. In addition, this conflict also began new standards, setting expectations for low casualties on both sides, especially for non-combatants, as well as demanding precision in the application of force.

That approach required vastly different intelligence products than those in the past. Intelligence provided not only to U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), but also to battlefield commanders, had to be very current - called near real time or NRT - to not only provide accurate targets but also almost immediate battlespace damage assessment. The need for information dominance and superiority became a true game changer for how the Air Force ISR capabilities were used. Commanders no longer had

the luxury to wait for finished intelligence products, they needed analysis almost immediately.

To meet those urgent intelligence needs, a newly developed satellite communications prototype was ordered deployed to provide the NRT intelligence directly to the tactical user. The same information provided throughout the theater of operations was also sent for the first time to national decision-makers to better inform their strategic planning. Intelligence collected by the 480th TIG and others gave U.S. and coalition forces almost immediate information on enemy air activity, air and defensive missile threats, and refined target materials.

In the run-up to Desert Storm, the requirement for the 480th TIG was to provide warfighting information to support more diverse, more technologically sophisticated mission planning and execution than ever before. The group issued more than 197,000 imagery products and an average of 45 basic target graphics a month, answered hundreds of unit requests for information and broad area products, and provided hundreds of maps, charts and other country reference materials. As support for combat operations began, a later mission wrap up noted that previous standards for targeting materials were made "instantaneously moot." Successful targeting of airborne strikes meant targets had to be updated on a 24-hour cycle, and not rely on materials created stateside months earlier. The warfighting target materials they had to provide included wide-area coverage, current target imagery, accurate measurement processes and very fast battle damage assessment.

Following closely on the heels of the 480th TIG, the first RC-135 "Rivet Joint" was deployed to Riyadh Air Base, Saudi Arabia, by the then 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. The Rivet Joint flew its first mission Aug. 9, 1990. The wing quickly deployed two more Rivet Joints, and Aug. 11, 24-hour coverage of the theater began. At the time a part of the then Strategic Air Command, these Rivet Joint aircraft began a new focus that would make them prized NRT intelligence platforms. The Rivet Joint missions provided NRT on-scene collection, analysis and dissemination of signals throughout the electromagnetic spectrum, a role very different from their previous Cold War-era missions.

To provide the intelligence support for the RC-135 operations, Airmen from the 6916th Electronic Security Squadron (ESS), part of the Electronic Security Command, were deployed to Riyadh Aug. 9. In November, the 6975th ESS (provisional) was activated at Riyadh to provide continuous

support to the Rivet Joint missions, monitoring Iraqi military activity during Desert Storm's combat operations. The Rivet Joint platforms provided critical intelligence to CENTCOM and coalition forces throughout Desert Storm. After the ceasefire April 6, 1991, the RC-135s and their crews remained in theater to support Operation Southern Watch for more than 10 years. In fact, the Rivet Joint remains deployed to the CENTCOM area of responsibility in what is believed to be the longest continuous deployment of any Air Force platform.

Targeting materials developed by the 480th TIG not only supported the Rivet Joint operations, but also became crucial to the success of the U-2 "Dragon Lady" missions, as that high-altitude aircraft moved for the first time from a strategic surveillance and reconnaissance mission to a near-real-time tactical reconnaissance platform. At the conclusion of operations, it was estimated that the U-2 provided about 50 percent of all imagery intelligence and 30 percent of the total intelligence for the war.

In the last week of December 1990, the 1704 Reconnaissance Squadron, part of the 1700 Reconnaissance Wing (Provisional) established at Al Taif Air Base, Saudi Arabia, stepped up its preparation for the upcoming simultaneous air combat operations that would begin Desert Storm. Its early exercises gave an exciting preview of the capabilities the U-2 would bring to this fight, changing air warfare forever. Before this, U-2s flew high-altitude missions collecting still photography and data, requiring post-mission processing and analysis.

That first December 1990 preparation flight demonstrated that the U-2 could provide near-real-time target-of-opportunity information to a theater air control center, which could quickly send the information to the airborne battlefield command, control and communication (C3) aircraft. The C3 platform promptly relayed the information to airborne F-111s, which then struck the simulated target. The first test was so successful at speeding up the target acquisition process that a second test was conducted just a few days later, with a different sensor on the U-2. Within 10 minutes of target acquisition by that sensor, the theater air control center had coordinates ready for the strike aircraft - an exponential jump forward in near-real-time tactical intelligence for the battlefield commander, changing commanders' expectations for ISR products forever.

At the time, the U-2 had to be "tethered" to the receiving stations on the ground, limiting the range of communication. So an imagery processing ground station, part of what was then called the Tactical Reconnaissance

Exploitation Demonstration System (TREDS), was deployed to Riyadh to receive the data sent by the U-2. The deployment of a second ground station later in Desert Storm allowed the U-2 to cover all of southern Iraq and remain "on tether." Those ground stations and TREDS were the precursors to today's Distributed Common Ground System, the Air Force's DCGS weapons system.

When Desert Storm combat operations began Jan. 17, 1991, the U-2 was initially used for bomb damage assessment sorties. Since the U-2 had demonstrated it could provide NRT data about suspected launch areas, its missions quickly changed to searching for Iraqi SCUD missile launch sites. U-2 pilots became used to having missions changed in flight, rerouting them to examine suspected sites, and then sending NRT data to ground stations in Riyadh, leading to immediate air strikes. Then Maj. B.L. Bachus, who flew the first U-2 border crossing into Iraq, also recalled receiving a new tasking mid-flight, directing him to look for a suspected fixed SCUD launch site in western Iraq. He found the site and U.S. fighters destroyed it later the same day. Observers credited this use of the U-2 with the destruction of 15-16 missile launchers in the first week of the war alone.

Demand for U-2 products doubled the platform's operational tempo almost overnight. From Jan.1-16, 1991, the squadron flew 38 sorties. In the last 15 days of January, they flew 73. The February 1991 flying schedule set an all-time record for deployed U-2 operations, with 182 sorties flown that month and more than 1,386 total flying hours.

The combined success of those key ground and air intelligence operations helped introduce a new age of information warfare, underlining the importance of information dominance. With elements deployed continuously since Desert Shield/Desert Storm, members of today's 25 Air Force intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance enterprise remain an unrelenting part of that 24/7 dominance.



**It is written that Roman soldiers did not march “in step” when going across bridges because they could set up a vibration which could be sufficient to knock the bridge down.**

## COMMANDER OBSERVES SEISMIC WORK ‘DOWN UNDER’

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

1/20/2016 - **PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.** -- The commander of the Air Force Technical Applications Center and her command chief master sergeant visited the center's most far-reaching detachment located in Australia's Northern Territory Dec. 14-18.



*Maj. Jesse Foster, commander of the Air Force Technical Applications Center's Detachment 421 in Alice Springs, Australia, briefs his commander (seen in foreground), Col. Jennifer P. Sovada, during her visit Dec. 16, 2015*

Col. Jennifer P. Sovada and Chief Master Sgt. Neil Jones made the 10,200-mile journey to get an up-close view of the seismic work being conducted by AFTAC personnel at Detachment 421 in Alice Springs, a small outpost in the center of the Australian outback. The duo also

wanted to see the steps the detachment has taken to improve the living conditions for the assigned Airmen.

AFTAC, the Department of Defense's sole nuclear treaty monitoring center, has nine detachments, six operating locations and more than 60 unmanned equipment locations worldwide and on every continent that monitor and record natural and man-made seismic disturbances in support of AFTAC's long range nuclear detection mission. Det 421 is an integral part of the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System and has a seismic array that includes 22 detectors buried 30 meters deep, covering an area of approximately 80 kilometers. The assigned Airmen operate and maintain the seismic equipment to ensure it delivers accurate geologic data to analysts here at the center.

Foster knew one of the biggest challenges his Airmen consistently faced was the accessibility to decent housing. So when he arrived at the Det in 2014, he began working with Air Force forces to secure contracted

housing for assigned detachment members. "Over the course of various assignments, AFTAC Airmen have had to live in housing areas that weren't always consistent with security standards recommended by the U.S. Embassy in Canberra for federal employees living overseas, especially in a remote area like Alice Springs," said Foster. "So we engaged Col. Sovada and AFTAC's chief of International Affairs, Robert McLaughlin, to hammer out an agreement with Air Force Materiel Command to alleviate the burden newly-assigned Airmen and their families face when they are searching for clean, safe and affordable housing areas in the Alice Springs community. Through this agreement, AFMC will now provide government-managed, fully-furnished housing for all eligible detachment personnel. It's a huge victory for Det 421."

During their stay in Alice Springs, the visitors toured AFMC's contracted living quarters and neighborhoods, and were impressed with what they saw. "Caring for our Air Force families is an extremely high priority for me," said Jones. "Providing dependents adequate places to live allows our Airmen to focus on the mission, and this partnership with AFMC does just that. It's definitely a win-win in every aspect."

In addition to visiting detachment personnel and facilities, Sovada met with the U.S. Ambassador to Australia, the Honorable John Berry, who's served at the embassy in Canberra since September 2013. The meeting gave the commander the opportunity to thank the ambassador for his continued support of the work being accomplished at the detachment and discuss the ongoing networking between the diplomat and the detachment. "The work your Airmen are conducting is so important to our government," Berry told Sovada, "and it's literally being conducted in the middle of nowhere, oftentimes in 100-degree conditions. Many people don't realize that being assigned to the Northern Territory is extremely austere and quite a hardship, and your folks are doing great work for both the U.S. and our allies here in Australia. You should be quite proud of them."

The colonel also carved out time to visit the Australian War Memorial, similar to Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknowns. The site combines a shrine, a world-class museum and an extensive archive that is open to the public and commemorates the sacrifices of the nation's fallen military members. Sovada and Foster were given the honor of laying a wreath at the memorial's Pool of Reflection for the museum's Last Post Ceremony to honor the 102,000 Australians who gave their lives in service to their country over the past century.

## **GENERALS DISCUSS INTEGRATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN AIR FORCE ISR AND CYBER**

Adapted from an article by USAF Photo /William Belcher, Photographer  
25th Air Force Public Affairs

12/22/2015 - **JOINT  
BASE SAN  
ANTONIO-Lackland,  
Texas** -- U.S. Air

Force Gen. Hawk  
Carlisle, commander of  
Air Combat Command,  
left, and Gen. John  
Hyten, commander of  
Air Force Space  
Command, center, met  
Dec. 21 with the



commanders of 25th Air Force, Maj. Gen. Bradford Shwedo, right, and 24th Air Force, Maj. Gen. Ed Wilson, far right, to discuss the continued integration and collaboration between Air Force intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and cyber.

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## **AFTAC HONORS PEARL HARBOR AND PACIFIC VETS**

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

12/8/2015 - **PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.** -- Despite 74 years having passed, their memories are vivid and their emotions deep.

Two Pearl Harbor survivors were the distinguished guests of honor at the 20th Annual Pearl Harbor and Pacific Theater Veterans Ceremony Dec 7, hosted by the Air Force Technical Applications Center here. In addition to the survivors, nearly 100 other Pacific Theater veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam were in attendance to be recognized for their crucial role during those conflicts.



*Above: George Herold (center) a Pearl Harbor survivor, speaks with other veterans during the 20th Annual Pearl Harbor and Pacific Theater Veterans Ceremony Dec. 7, 2015 at Patrick AFB, Fla., hosted by the Air Force Technical Applications Center. Herold, a 91-year-old U.S. Navy veteran, was one of two survivors to attend the ceremony. (Courtesy photo)*

George Herold, 91, and Clarence "Bud" Lane, 90, were both seamen 1st class when the Japanese bombed the Hawaiian island seven decades ago. Lane was stationed at Pearl Harbor as a member of a PBY (patrol boat) beaching crew. He was scheduled to muster at 8 a.m. that fateful Sunday morning, but he never made it there. The hangar where muster was to take place had been obliterated by Japanese kamikaze pilots.

"It was gut-wrenching to see," said Lane. "I had just come off liberty that weekend and was ready to report to duty when the attacks happened. Everywhere you looked was chaos." Through tears, he continued, "This day - this ceremony - is not about me. It's about those who laid down their lives in 1941. My mates on the Arizona, on the Utah, and those just sleeping in the barracks - they're the ones this day is all about. They're the ones who paid the ultimate price. We can never forget them."

Herold, an Art Carney doppelgänger with an accompanying New York accent, was not permanently stationed in Hawaii at the time of the assault. "I went through boot camp in the summer of 1941 and went to submarine school in San Diego right after that," he recalled. "The Navy sent me to Pearl Harbor for more schooling in October of '41. I was at the sub base, not far from the harbor, when the Japs flew over us. They weren't interested in the subs at the time - they had their eyes on those big battleships."

He continued, "It doesn't feel like it happened yesterday, and I don't remember all their names, but I definitely remember all their faces - all the faces of the fellas I was there with, seeing our beautiful ships being destroyed from above. Broke my heart."

Crackling over outdoor speakers, audience members listened to the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt as he delivered his historic address to Congress, calling Dec. 7th, "...a date which will live in infamy." Immediately following Roosevelt's speech were recordings of President Harry S. Truman discussing the U.S.'s entry in the Korean War, and President Lyndon B. Johnson's remarks about Vietnam.

The morning event drew AFTAC's largest crowd to date - nearly 400 people in attendance - and boasted the largest number of veteran-honorees, all of whom were bestowed certificates of appreciation for their service. U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Vincent Stewart, the director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, was the event's keynote speaker.

"These survivors among us, and all those who served during World War II, they truly are the greatest generation," the general said. "We are here on this day to honor the legacy of them and all our Pacific Theater vets who served to protect our way of life. Today's combat veterans can relate to what the Pearl Harbor veterans went through that morning, for it is their



*Above: Clarence "Bud" Lane, a World War II veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor, speaks to a reporter about his experience 74 year ago. Lane was one of two survivors who were honored at a ceremony hosted by the Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick AFB, Fla., Dec. 7, 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew Jurgens)*

blood, sweat and tears that have brought us our freedom. I thank you for your service, your sacrifice and your commitment." After the keynote, 45th Space Wing Chaplain, Capt. Barry Kemp, delivered the benediction.

"We offer a prayer of remembrance as we see these incredible faces with their incredible stories and their magnitude of sacrifice," said Kemp. "We thank them for blessing our great nation, for they are truly the answer to our prayers." Prior to the conclusion of formal portion of the ceremony, members of the Naval Ordnance Test Unit fired off 40mm cannons in a 21-gun salute, and AFTAC's own Senior Airman Robert Scott played Taps on the bugle.

**RANDOLPH AFB AIRSHOW 2015**



*(Left) Col. Michael Lovell and Johnny Emory visiting at the 25th Air Force booth during the RAFB Airshow on Nov 1, 2015. Col. Lovell is a gentleman and very interested in our USAFSS history.*

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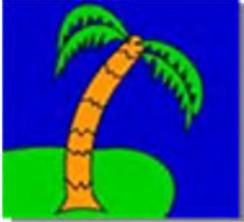
**FTVA CHAPTER NEWS**

Compiled by Dennis Buxton, Auxiliary Staff

The latest happenings from around the FTVA world as reported from our intrepid chapter correspondents located from the Aloha State to the National Capital Region. See what's happening in your area and become an active part of keeping the FTVA active around the globe and in your region. First up and moving west to east in this issue, we hear from the very active Aloha Chapter with the following snippets and goings-on as related by "Aloha Tilly".

**Aloha Chapter, Honolulu, HI**

John "Tilly" Toillion, President



The Aloha Chapter held its first 2016 meeting on January 22 at Ruby Tuesdays Mililani. There was a good turnout but Al Teel and Steve Crain were unable to attend as Dickie Hites reported the sad news that Steve Crain's mother-in-law passed away this week and Steve and Marivic are headed back to the Philippines tomorrow (01/23). Our thoughts and prayers are with Steve and Marivic's Ohana (as are those of all FTVA, Ed.).



Front: L-R: Fred Collins, John Toillion, Dickie Hites    Standing: Ken Een

Al Teel, the only other non-retired-retired chapter member besides Steve, was still hard at work at the local office of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency when the festivities began and was unable to attend. One of the highlights of our latest get-together was to get caught up on life happenings since our last meeting back in October 2015. The topics ranged from health issues (always a #1 topic), memory challenges (#2 thanks to Ken – I think!), and the “good ole days” when life in the Air Force was simple.

Also, there was much talk about the severe weather out on the East Coast which triggered stories about being assigned to Alaska, Japan, South Dakota and Iowa.

As always it was great getting together to continue our pledge to "RIT."



### Heritage Chapter, San Angelo, TX

Ronald 'JJ' Graham, Chapter President  
Ed Bendinelli, Chapter Vice President

Now we travel north about 3 hours up the road to the sprawling metropolis of San Angelo, TX to hear from Cub Reporter Larry Ross, the Heritage Chapter Secretary.

The Heritage Chapter held its annual holiday social on January 7 at a local restaurant. Twenty-two members and guests attended the event. Two new banners were unveiled, a smaller one for indoor use and a larger one for outdoor activities. Secretary Larry Ross, as keeper of the Seals and Scrolls, presented President JJ Graham with an engraved gavel as a symbol of his prestigious office. While we were waiting for dinner to be served, JJ gave a summary of the chapter's activities in 2015 and of things to come in 2016. Tom Nurre spoke enthusiastically about the Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration program highlighting local accomplishments and thanked the chapter for its support during many pinning ceremonies. We look forward to another successful year. But it was not all business as attested to by the below photographic evidence.



(front row) Don & Mary Goff, Terry Giroux, Ed & Kathie Bendinelli, Rick Premo. (back l-r) Steve Goff, Diane Ross, Larry Miller, Mary O'Brien, Pat Miller, Sherry & Marc Kirner, JJ Graham, Karen Bingham, Tom & Kitty Nurre, Russ & Jane Thoma, Jim Cox. Small banner (on display at back of room).



(Left) Kathie and Ed Bendinelli with Terry Giroux putting “ears” on Ed B.



(Above) Corky & Karen Bingham

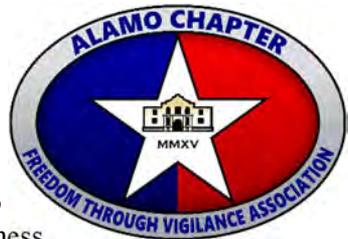


(Above) Larry Miller with sister-in-law Mary O’Brien and Pat Miller

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**Alamo Chapter, San Antonio, TX**

Barnie Gavin, Chapter President  
Mike Nielson, Chapter Secretary



On 19 November, 17 members and 3 spouses attended a monthly social and business meeting of the Alamo Chapter at Logan’s Roadhouse. The social festivities commenced at 5:30 PM and was followed an hour later with business discussions. Among the highlights of the even, the following items were addressed.

**SSgt Richard Dickson Memorial.** Mike Nielsen, chapter secretary, proposed the Alamo Chapter sponsor a memorial to be placed at 25 AF in San Antonio to remember the 1A8X2 Airborne ISR Airman who died in April 2013 on the MC-12 Liberty, Independence 08, in Afghanistan. Recovered material, Nebula box, from Independence 08 operated by SSgt Dickson has been made available for the memorial. Mike Nielsen will reach out to the Gold Country Chapter at Beale AFB to see if they have initiated any memorial actions as well as would be able to support. Bernie Gavin presented this idea at the FTVA board on 20 November. Updates to chapter members will be made at the next chapter meeting in January.



**Newest Member.** (Left) Bernie Gavin welcomed our newest member, Jim Irwin, a former radio operator to the group.

**Spouses Auxiliary.** A reminder to the members that we now have a Spouses Auxiliary led by Sheila Williams. This group will work in conjunction with the 25<sup>th</sup> AF spouses in projects they hold such as care boxes for our 25<sup>th</sup> AF deployed

members. To date we've only received one name to add to their membership. Please confer with your significant others and let us know if they would like to participate in this great cause.

**The first meeting of 2016** for the Alamo Chapter of the FTVA was held on 21 January at Logan's Roadhouse. Bernie introduced Sharon Frizzell (insert) from the Rocky Mountain Chapter as our honored guest. Kevin Slater's son's rendition of the San Antonio FTVA chapter logo was unanimously approved and special thanks given to his son David for his graphic rendition. Logan's was unanimously voted on as the future location for all chapter meetings. A discussion was held and approved that during our quarterly spouse get together, other venues will be considered besides Logan's, such as the Spaghetti Warehouse, Umberto's, or another locale. Everyone agreed that Logan's was a good choice, though we had maxed out the space available to sit people comfortably for the night's meeting. The 543 IG (out at NSA/TX) was discussed and unanimously approved as a place to focus our Chapter efforts on supporting the local 25<sup>th</sup> AF Airmen.



*(See out-takes from the January meeting on the following page.)*



J. Lopes, J. Greene, Al Buddington, D. Killian     Judy & B. Gavin, Doris Bowers



V. Prez Ken Gendolfe & wife Carole

Okey & Helen Warden



(Left) Mark & Amy Hess; Sheila & Ken Williams & Kevin Slater.

(Right) Stan & Paulette Heide with sister Judy & brother-in-law Ken Maynard.



### Chapters MIA

No inputs were received from Rocky Mountain, Gold Country and NCR Chapters in time to make this issue. Trained analysts believe this is because of Super Bowl fever up in Colorado and the Race for the White House brouhaha in the NCR. Updates next issue!

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## REUNION ANNOUNCEMENTS



Our 14th National Misawa Project, Inc. Reunion will be in Mobile, Alabama June 22-25, 2016. The Reunion will officially kick-off on Wednesday. Our Raffle will take place on Thursday evening. Our Banquet will be held on Friday evening. See you there!!  
Ref: USAFSS Misawa.com

### USAFSS Roll Call

Note: Our search has been broadened to include all former single or two digit RSM members, basically from 1948 to 1955.



Attention. . .

If you were ever a member of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 10th, 12th, 15th, 29th, 34th, 37th, 41st, or 85th Radio Squadron Mobile, USAFSS Roll Call has an honor dog tag for you. Email your name, address, which unit you were assigned to and dates to [Jim Kaus \(jim@floridajim.com\)](mailto:jim@floridajim.com) or [Steve Mobry \(sdmobry@gmail.com\)](mailto:sdmobry@gmail.com)

## Combat Apple 50th Reunion

I am planning to host the **Combat Apple 50th Reunion** here in Rockwall, Texas (with some activities at L3 Communications in Greenville) in September 2017. If all goes as planned, our reunion will precede the FTVA Reunion in San Antonio by a few days such that we can move the party to San Antonio and celebrate FTVA. The second reason to elicit input from those of you who were involved in Combat Apple. So ... please provide your feedback directly to me at [rfc2k@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rfc2k@sbcglobal.net) please. I will guard and protect any information you share ... and I do look forward to reading MANY stories with great anticipation. //Bob Cotti//



Bob Cotti

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### 1960's Chicksands Reunion Planning

Several elder statesmen are organizing a reunion of OED/OPN-X RAF Chicksands assignees during the period 1960-69. Co-chairs for the activity are Ernie Maldonado and Ron Betts. Contact either of us if you were a part of the transition or the follow-on activity. We are open to anyone who served in that section during that period and immediately following. Ron Betts: [penelope@vermontel.net](mailto:penelope@vermontel.net) or 802-259-3740.

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### April 28 – May 1, 2016 Annual Fall of Saigon Party (FOSP)

Vietnamese Linguist “Doggers”  
Location: Philadelphia, PA  
Comments: Visit Doggers on-line website for particulars  
POC: Randy Seitter Ph 215-313-1801



**Wanted:** Operators, Analysts, Maintenance, Administrators, of all ranks who were ever assigned to Elmendorf, Alaska. Reunion forming for June of 2016.  
POC: Jim Kaus  
Email: [jim@floridajim.com](mailto:jim@floridajim.com) for info



## REUNION REPORTS



**Apologies:** We were unable to include the following reports provided by the 6994<sup>th</sup> SS and 6918<sup>th</sup> SG in our December 2015 issue of RIT due to suspense and space limitations experienced for the *Reunion Reports* section.//Editor//

### 6994<sup>th</sup> Reunion News Release

Submitted by Rick Yeh

The 6994<sup>th</sup> Security Squadron held its 2015 reunion in Gettysburg, PA from August 13 thru 16. This was by far the most successful reunion the squadron has had, with 79 returning veterans among a total of 169 attendees. The 6994<sup>th</sup> conducted the Airborne Radio Direction Finding mission in Vietnam from 1966 to 1974, and is still one of the most highly decorated units in the history of the 25<sup>th</sup> Air Force and all its predecessor commands.



**Links of Gettysburg Reunion Golfers:  
front l-r: Rick Yeh, Pat McCafferty, Ben Stewart,  
Gary Schmitt, Tom Glass, Jean Shelby.  
standing l-r: Helen Versele, Ken Versele, GG Gore,  
Dale Short, John Pferdehirt, Mitch Cooper, Rick  
Krejsa, Doug Campbell , Jim Hart, Ron Shelby,  
Tom Sheridan**



**6994th Security Squadron**

**Front 1-:** Rick Yeh, Ellery Preece, Jerry Jackson, Ray Corse, Dave Seidl, Leon Heying, Barry Moore, Paul Grisham, Richard Ice.  
**Row 2:** Carl Ramey, Lars Ritola, John Fitzpatrick, Archie McDonald, Bob Hull, Mitch Cooper, Charlie Phippin, Ed Bendinelli, Bob Profit, George Montague, Ted Dietz, Bill Francis, Al Budington, John Craig.  
**Row 3:** Ken Versele, Herb Francis, Dale Short, Ron Aungst, Benny Spear, Jim Lane, Tom Glass, GG Gore, Ron Hendrix, Mark Schaefer, JJ Pitzeruse, Richard Brewer, Ron Shelby, Tom Sheridan.  
**Row 4:** Frank Falkowski, Gary Schmit, Joe Giammichele, John Lauser, Rich Miklaucic, Dale Carruth, Tracy Rogers, Tom Pedersen, John Lelerzaph, Roger Sigworth, Larry Leard, Butch Maybury, Owen Costello, Lee Jewett.  
**Back Row:** John Pferdehirt, Jerry Cook, Pat McCafferty, Dave Shigley, Doug Campbell, Dan Loomis, Bob Pakenas, Wayne Klemme, Rich Renkas, Bob Thomas, Tom Hutchings, Bill Sommer, Ray Payne, Rich Krejsa, Dave Abel, Andy Valdez, Rick Valdez, Rick Sinka, Dusty Mosier, Steve Underdahl, John Hannan, George Brune, Jack Armstrong, Al Forbes.

**Missing from pic:** Joe Martin, Jim Trozzo, Mike Homcha, John Ritner

The reunion began on Thursday with a round of Golf at the Links of Gettysburg, with 17 reunion duffers. As a special thanks for our service, the course managers let the entire group play for the price of the cart fees. Those not golfing had the opportunity to shop and visit various attractions in the town of Gettysburg.



(L-R) Tom Hutchings, Dale Short, Richard Brewer, Dave Seidl, Wayne Kleeme, Rick Valdez & Rich Krejsa get a history lesson from a tour guide.

Friday morning, 118 of us went on a bus and walking tour of the Gettysburg battle field. Friday night, we enjoyed a Papa John's pizza party with about 60 other reunion attendees..



(Clockwise) Charlie Phippin, Jerry Cook, Bob & Mary Lou Pakenas, Wilma & Pat McCafferty, Mitch & Lynn Cooper



Saturday was another round of golf in the morning, this time at the Mountain View Golf Course, with 20 golfers participating. The business meeting was held on Saturday afternoon, followed by the reunion banquet. At the banquet, an Air Force Honor Guard from Ft. Meade, MD presented the colors, and we had 3 special guests from the 94 Intelligence Squadron at Ft. Meade join us. The 94IS is the successor squadron to the 6994th. The banquet began with the presentation of colors, followed by the Missing Man Table ceremony during which the names of the 17 squadron members killed in action were read. During the 'open mike' session of the program, Frank Falkowski gave a eulogy for Stan Long, who passed away this past year, and then surprised his wife, Christine, with a special 30th anniversary gift. Joe Giammichele then announced that a special stretch of interstate highway in New York has been tentatively approved to be named in honor of the 6994th Security Squadron. Finally, Paul Clever, president of the Maximum Recovery Southeast Asia (MRSEA) was glad to announce the for the first time since 1969, all of the Squadron's Killed In Action were accounted for and properly laid to rest.

The next 6994th reunion is currently planned for 21-23 September 2016 in San Angelo, TX. As this will mark the 50th Anniversary of the activation of the squadron at Tan Son Nhut, planning is underway to make this a very special event.

## 6918<sup>TH</sup> Hakata Reunion at Minneapolis, MN 25 – 27 Sep

An RIT Staff Compilation (Delayed inputs)



A big "THANK YOU!" to Dave Bethard, Stan Freymuth, Carol Farr, Bill Mink, Carl A, Wayne Gresicyk, their spouses, and all who worked over the past year or more to put on this past weekend's reunion. And "Thanks!" to all of you who attended, for its the attendees who make the reunions special. Tamie and I had a wonderful time and so appreciate the opportunity it provided to enjoy the company of so many of my 6918th brothers and their family members, a time to share the great memories we have of that special place and time. //Bob Hale//



(Left) Here's a photo of our busy check-in desk Linda Freymuth and Carol Farr (behind Linda) working very hard. Also shown are the Earhart's and checking in are David Gerke and Karen Krogman. Following check-in, the new arrivals were given their goodie bag which included 2 DVD's of patriotic and inspirational

videos for their enjoyment, photos, and other pages of information about the 6918th history. They were also photographed for posterity--and so we can keep track of their names and faces later!

(Right) Here Lorraine Hughes is shown with Bill Spencer, our locator extraordinaire. Lorraine is now on Spokt and attended her first Reunion in Minneapolis last September. We had a lot of fun visiting and getting to know this lovely lady during the Reunion and are looking forward to the next one. Lorraine was found about six months after Morris P. "Miles, MPH, Speed" Hughes (Hakata 61 – 65) passed away in Jan last year.



**Daze:** Some folks were pictured with the flights as well. Others that are not pictured in any group photos. Seated left to right are Randy Gardner (C), Tom Neeley (B), Fred Barnes (Daz), George Earhart (B). Standing are wives: Anna Neeley, Edna Barnes, and Marcia Earhart.



**Able Flight**

Shown is one of several versions of the Flight photos from the reunion last month--9/26/15. Shown seated left to right are Sharon Hegg, Kay Turner, Wanda Shumate and Rosemary Cherry. Standing left to right



are McKinley Mitchell, Vern Hegg, Dave Blatt, Vic Shumate, Paul Cherry and Ted and Delores.

**Baker Flight**

Shown seated, left to right, are Bill Spencer, Bud Lutz, and Tom and Anna Neeley (also shown in Daze photo). Standing in back, left to right are Survivor Family members Kathy (mother) and Jon (brother) Norine of Baker Flight's Steve Norine, George and Marcia Earhart, and Eileen and Dave



Blackmer. Not pictured are Ken Bergstrom and Bill Daniels.

**FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. BOX 691616**  
**San Antonio, TX 78269**  
**1 Feb 2016**



**PLATINUM PARTNERS**

**Leidos**

**Osmen Family Foundation at the  
 Community Foundation of Western Nevada  
 (IMO Maj Gen Paul Martin)  
 General Dynamics Information Technology**



**GOLD PARTNERS**

**Prop Wash Gang**

**Security Service Federal Credit Union  
 Air Force Federal Credit Union**

**Mrs. Doyle E. Larson (IMO Maj Gen Doyle E. Larson)  
 William F. (Bill) Sheck  
 USAFSS Roll Call  
 Neil T. Robinson  
 Jeff and Cecelia McRaney**



**SILVER PARTNERS**

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**Bob Cope**

**To The Penny Tax Services  
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**Regis F.A. Urschler**

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**“Picnic Partners”**

**Grant and June Howells (IHO CMSgt (Ret) Larry Mills)  
 Ken and Hide Lantz (IHO CMSgt (Ret) Larry Mills)**





**BRONZE PARTNERS**



**Donald Bundy  
Joseph Hurst  
Berlin Island Association  
Association of Spanish Flyers  
(IMO Col Bruce Strotman)  
William F. McCarthy**



**PATRON PARTNERS**



**Marco and Rachel Aldaz  
Francis Sabourin  
Thomas H. Tennant  
James Mayer  
CMSgt (Ret) Ronald D. Hentz (IMO Robert Pfister and Col  
Grover McMakin)  
Richard Sacchetti  
Charles Bishop (IMO Mike Gilroy)  
Engrave-Tech & Graphics  
Mark and Amy Hess  
314<sup>th</sup> TRS Booster Club (IHO CMSgt Roger Towberman)  
William Lantz (IHO CMSgt (Ret) Larry Mills and  
IMO SMSgt Robert W. Lantz)  
Robert Quinn (IMO CMSgt (Ret) Ken “Hopi” Hopkins)**

\*//Platinum Partner \$2,500 +//Gold Partner \$ 1,000 - \$2,499//// Silver Partner \$500- \$999// Bronze Partner \$ 250 - \$499// Patron Partner \$ 100 - \$249

### Charlie Flight



'Charlie' flight (above) had the most attendees this year, included two 'first timers' who were stationed at Hakata during my tour: Gary Paris and Jim (& Kay) Wetzel. From left to right seated in the front row only are: Terry Durei, Alan Nowak, Randy Page, Rich Zahnle, Jack Thompson, Bob Franklin, Vern Hegg, Gary Paris, and Rick Hull.

Standing in the back two rows, left to right are: Jeff Gribble, Steve Hoegh, Neal Dillon, Carl Aegler our host, Al Benzing, John Fitzpatrick, Myron Taylor, Bob Hale, Charlie Stetson, Bob Wolgemuth, Wayne Graczyk, Larry Sheppard, Ron Epperson, Randy Gardner, Jim Wetzel, and Joe Clark.

### Reunion Organizers



Shown are Dawg staff members Linda and Stan Freymuth, Carol and Bob Farr, and Takeko and Dave Bethard after the free breakfast buffet on Day one of the gathering. Our gang arrived on Tuesday, and departed on

Monday following the reunion. We all had a great (if too short!) time, and hope our friends/wives/members all did also. Many hours of efforts were undertaken by numerous other staff (not shown) to make this event possible, much less, the success that it was. A big thanks to all who supported, attended and assisted!

We are looking forward to next time, even as we're recovering from this time! The old systems just don't 'bounce back' like they used to!!!//Dave Bethard//

### Dawg Flight



Above: One of the photos I received of Dawg flight and wives.

Shown seated/kneeling from the left are: Desi Sanchez, Tom Winter, Karen Krogman and David Gerke, Don and Kathy Dickson, Troy Powell and Jill Thorne, Jim Sullivan and Dave Bethard.

Shown standing from the left are: Laura Sanchez, Brad Mingay, Mike Ryan, Cleve Green, Tom and Janet Dragoo, Tom Stephens and Suzanne Starley, Frank and Evelyn Shemek, Linda Sullivan, Stan and Linda Freymuth, Bob Farr, Takeko Bethard and Carol Farr.//Dave Bethard//



### Reunion Guest Speaker - Chaplain Glen Rodgers

Chaplain Glen Rodgers, 92 was the guest speaker for the Reunion. Friar Tuck approached the podium, and kept us laughing and entertained the whole time. His words were not written down, no cheat sheets for him, all words came from his heart and soul. What an wonderful and witty gentleman

Above: Front row (L-R) Glen Rodgers (Days 1971-1972), Shirley Taylor, Mary Klauda (Rodgers family friend). Back row: Myron Taylor (C flight 1969-1972), Margaret Rodgers (Charles' wife), Charles Taylor (Glen's son).//Carol Farr//

// This Newsletter reports Col Rogers passed away on December 20, 2015 (see Fallen Eagles section pp 57). //

### The Akadama Wine Saga

Shown are some of the many bottles of Akadama wine that the organizing crew 'acquired' for this year's event. Several bottles were taste tested in the hospitality suite, but the remainder were raffled away for our members.



We owe deceased member John Baker (Baker Flight) a huge domo here--as John brought 4 bottles in his luggage at least twice on trips to America from Japan, in order for us to have these. We had worked with him over a couple of years before that, trying to find Akadama wine, since it wasn't able to be imported. John made it happen for us at great expense to himself.

Also, Troy Powell (Left Inset) received, stored and transported the vino for all to enjoy, and, word is, only a small fraction of the original inventory was consumed on the way-- big thank you from all of us 6918<sup>th</sup> alumni to both John and Troy for their donations and generous support. Can you recall any Akadama wine stories from your days at Hakata? //Dave Bethard//



Also, Troy Powell (Left Inset) received, stored and transported the vino for all to enjoy, and, word is, only a small fraction of the original inventory was consumed on the way-- big thank you from all of us 6918<sup>th</sup> alumni to both John and Troy for their donations and generous support. Can you recall any Akadama wine stories from your days at Hakata? //Dave Bethard//

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## HISTORY & MEMORIES

### 25<sup>TH</sup> AIR FORCE HISTORY (For March 2016 Issue)



Twenty-Fifth Air Force traces its origin to 20 October 1948, when the Department of the Air Force established the U. S. Air Force Security Service (USAFSS) as a major air command at Arlington Hall Station, Va. In May 1949, the USAFSS headquarters and the 8 Radio Squadron Mobil (RSM) moved from Arlington Hall Station to Brooks AFB, Texas. Plans at the time called for the establishment of ten RSMs worldwide. When the Korean War erupted on 25 June 1950, USAFSS and its 3,050 assigned personnel answered the call. The command's performance earned it a permanent place in America's intelligence community. On 31 July 1953, USAFSS ceased operations at Brooks AFB, and opened its headquarters at Kelly AFB, Texas. In mid-1966 as the tempo of the Vietnam War increased, the Air Staff made USAFSS the central evaluation agency for all USAF electronic warfare activities. The 1970s saw numerous changes in the command's structure and strength as the Vietnam war came to an end. The Air Force placed more emphasis on electronic warfare by renaming the Air Force Special Communications Center under USAFSS as the Air Force Electronic Warfare Center on 1 July 1975. The change gave the command greater visibility throughout the Department of Defense. In early 1978, USAFSS transferred its cryptologic school training mission and host base duties at Goodfellow AFB, TX., to Air Training Command (later Air Education and Training Command). On 1 August 1979, the Air Force re-designated USAFSS as the Electronic Security Command (ESC). Then, ESC with its long-standing SIGINT responsibilities, took on a new mission to improve the Air Force's use of electronic warfare technology in combat. In May 1985, ESC also assumed the computer security mission from the Air Force Computer Security Office at Gunter Air Force Station, AL. On 1 October 1991, the Air Force re-designated ESC as the Air Force Intelligence Command (AFIC) to implement a Secretary of Defense direction to consolidate existing intelligence commands, agencies, and elements into a single intelligence command. On 1 October 1993, the Air Force re-designated AFIC as the Air Intelligence Agency (AIA). Throughout the 1990s, the AIA focused on Information Operations. Then on 1 February 2001, AIA became a primary subordinate unit of Air Combat Command (ACC). The Air Force re-designated AIA as the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and

Reconnaissance Agency (AF ISR Agency) on 8 June 2007. That transformation turned the AF ISR Agency into a multi-disciplined intelligence organization, with its Distributed Common Ground System under the 480th Intelligence Wing functioning as a fully integrated weapons system for the Air Force. In late 2013, the Air Force decided to implement a 20 percent reduction in headquarters manpower and eliminate as many FOAs and Direct Reporting Units as possible. That change turned the AF ISR Agency into Twenty-Fifth Air Force (25 AF), again as a subordinate unit to Air Combat Command. In that transformation, 25 AF gained several new units—the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale AFB, Ca., the 55th Wing at Offutt AFB, Ne., and the Air Force Targeting Center (re-designated as the 363d ISR Wing) at Langley AFB, Va.

### Keesler 1964

Posted by Dr. Greg “Willie” Wilson 68-73 Misawa Trick 3



I just found this picture of my Keesler BMTS class from September 1964. Embedded in this photo (not all went to ditty school) are USAFSS guys (besides myself) Jerry Baker, Terry Painter, Joe Martinka, Frank

Borsellino, Bill Testa, John Mankowich, and Joe Durran. We were completing the second phase of basic training during the A shift and then attending Thompson Hall (morse intercept school) on B shift. I was in the 3406 School Sq in the Triangle at this time. Testa and Mankowich (with Hogan) went to Misawa (6921st), I ended up at Elmendorf (6981st) - Frank Borsellino ended up crewing EC-47s. Gosh, we were so young.

## GLOBAL HAWK



This is a photo of the Global Hawk UAV that recently returned from the war zone under its own power from Iraq to Edwards AFB in CA - Not transported via C5 or C17.

Note the mission paintings on the fuselage. It's actually over 250 missions. (And I would suppose 25 air medals). That's a long way for a remotely piloted aircraft. Think of the technology as well as the required quality of the data link to fly it remotely from a source thousands of miles away. Not only that, but the pilot controls it from a nice warm control panel at Edwards AFB, CA. It can stay up for almost 2 days at altitudes above 60k.

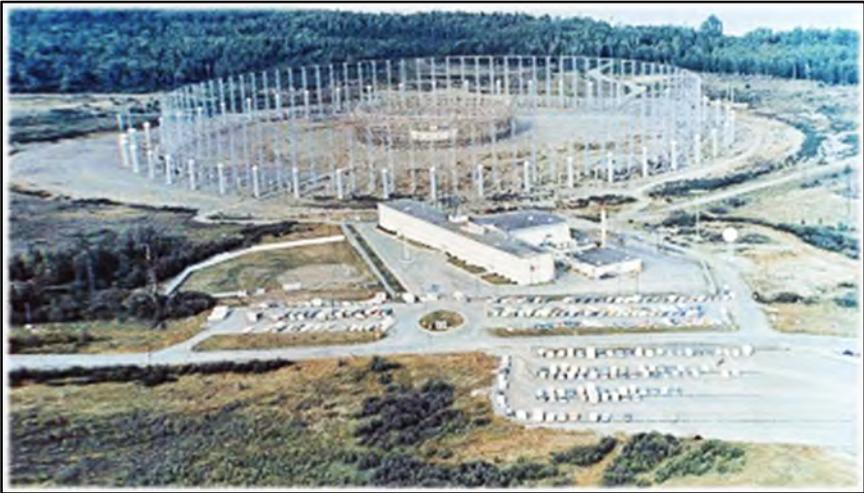
The Global Hawk is controlled via satellite. It flew missions that went from Edwards AFB and back nonstop. Basically, they come into the fight at a high Mach # using military thrust power, fire their AMRAAMS, and no one ever sees them or paints with radar. There is practically no radio chatter because all the guys in the flight are tied together electronically and can see who is targeting who, and they have AWACS (Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems) direct input, as well as 360-degree situational awareness from that and other sensors.

The enemy had a definite morale problem before it was all over. It is to air superiority what the jet engine was to aviation. It can taxi out, take off, fly a mission, return, land and taxi back on its own. There are no blackouts, pilot fatigue, relief tubes, ejection seats, and best of all, no dead pilots, and no POWs... The Global Hawk will be stationed in Guam!!

## Elmendorf FLR-9

### “Another One Bites the Dust”

Posted on Spokt//Jan 10, 2016 by Jim Kaus (57-81)



As you may know, I am organizing a reunion in Anchorage for summer of 2017 (see this issue Reunion Announcements pp ). In early January I got an email from Colonel Streeter, where she mentioned the following:

*I'm adding Capt Chris Arnold to the mix as he'll be contacting you about an upcoming project we're working with the base in regards to the FLR-9. We're shutting down the system after 60 years of venerable service but would like to see it remain standing as a Cold War relic. We've known this day was coming for a bit now, but the actually decommissioning notification dropped quite unexpectedly. All mission systems have now been removed from the antenna array. And, yes, we are proceeding forward with an effort to convert the structure to an historical facility.*

*Up to this point, I've been engaged primarily with the JBER Cultural Resource Management Office, who will be our liaison to the local Wing Facility Utilization Board who will ultimately be the deciding factor on this structure and the property it sits on. No matter what's decided, this will eventually become the property of local AF. And not our site. So in order to sell the preservation piece, versus destruction, we need to illustrate that support exists within the community to maintain it.*

*I'm engaging a few national entities, such as the Center of Cryptologic History (they have expressed some interest already), to have them take over the day to day administration of the facility. But what we are currently lacking is the community support. Specifically, local support. In order to see our case for preservation, whomever administered the site would also have a year requirement to open the facility for tours to the public. From what I've gathered, this requirement can be satisfied with as little as 5 tours a year. Entry for the public would need to be secured to the base and they would, most likely, have to be bussed on. There may be other requirements, but this is the only known element at this point.*

*Apologies for the length email, but the gist of our support request is that we need local community support to be able to maintain the facility and operate tours. If we ARE able to get the Center of Cryptologic History on board, they'd be unable to support this aspect for sustainment; which is why we are in need of a third-party. With all that said, are you able to provide the type of support outlined above? Is there a population around Anchorage that can take this on, or would anyone be willing/able to travel here on a regular basis to fulfill these requirements?*

I think this to be the last of the FLR-9s and looks like its life is short.//Jim//

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

Posted by Tom Crowley

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**February 5, 2016  
The 43rd Anniversary of  
the loss of Baron 52**

*On this forty-third anniversary of the loss of some of our own, let us pause to pay respect to their memories and to remember their surviving family members. These were our reconnaissance brothers and they are our heroes. They made the ultimate sacrifice. Paid the ultimate price.*

*(How Can It Be So Long Ago, Yet Still So Fresh in Our Memories?)*

The loss of the eight man crew of BARON 52, an EC-47Q reconnaissance aircraft (Tail #43-8 636) flown by a 4-man flight crew from the 361st Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (TEWS) based at Nakhom Phnom RTAB, in east central Thailand .

Accompanying was a 4-man USAF Security Service (USAFSS) reconnaissance crew who were members of Detachment 3, 6994th Security Squadron located at Ubon RTAB, in southeast Thailand (very recently arriving from Detachment 2, 6994th SS, operating from Da Nang AB, Republic of Vietnam).



This mission was launched from Ubon RTAB February 4, 1973 at 23:30 (local Thailand time).

The aircraft and crew were shot down in the early morning of February 5, 1973 between 01:40 and 02:00 approximately 45 miles southeast of Saravane in the Steel Tiger area of Laos while on an unarmed nighttime reconnaissance mission. At last report, after reporting in stating that they were taking fire and were altering course, the crew gave an "all clear" signal a few minutes later.

The incident occurred nine (9) days after the formal signing of the Peace Accord between the U.S. and both North and South Vietnam, "ending hostilities in Southeast Asia". Laos was NOT a signatory to that agreement.





**FALLEN EAGLES**

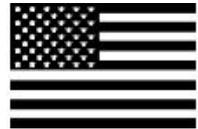


We have learned of the following losses from caring relatives, friends or obituaries and we offer prayers and sympathy to loved ones. *“It is the soldier above all others who prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.” D. MacArthur*

Compiled by Joe Figueroa, Associate Editor



**MEMORIALS**



The FTVA gratefully acknowledges the following bequest, generously donated “in memory of” (IMO):

**Robert Quinn IMO CMSgt (Ret) Ken “Hopi” Hopkins**

- 
- Baskerville, John C., USAFSS
  - Bauknecht, William “Bill” E., USAFSS
  - Beach, David, SSgt, USAFSS
  - Brock, Jimmy, USAFSS
  - Buccola, Victor, TSgt (Ret), USAFSS
  - Carter, Bruce, MSgt (Ret), USAFSS
  - Clarence, Jon, USAF
  - Coward, James, Lt Col (Ret), USAFSS
  - Dolan, Richard, USAFSS
  - Dorobiala, James, MSgt, (Ret), USAFSS
  - Dugan, William, USAF
  - Edwards, Harry, Lt Col (Ret), USAF

Elizondo, Henry, USAF  
Esposito, Ralph, USAF  
Falke, Oscar, USAF  
Gowen, Peter, USAF  
Hand, Charlie, USAF  
Harris, Ozzie, USAFSS  
Hill, Edward, TSgt (Ret), USAFSS  
Honermann, David, MSgt (Ret), USAF  
Humphries, Gregory J., USAF  
Jameson, Benjamin, MSgt (Ret), USAFSS  
Joyce, Keith, MSgt (Ret), USAF  
Kimbrell, James, SMSgt (Ret), USAF  
Kleck, Peter, USAF  
Laske, Ron, USAF  
Lee, William "Bill", MSgt (Ret), USAFSS  
Lemons, Roy, Col (Ret), USAF  
Lockwood, Walter, SMSgt (Ret), USAF  
Mays, Margaret  
Murray, Gene, USAFSS  
Ness, Allan, USAFSS  
Ng, Bin, USAFSS  
Nope, Darrell, Lt Col (Ret), USAF  
Pohl, Kenneth, USAFSS  
Raasch, Ronald, USAFSS  
Rield, Donald, USAFSS  
Rockne, Larvick, USAF  
Rodgers, Glenn, Lt Col (Ret), USAF  
Saylor, Kenneth, Lt Col (Ret), USAF  
Serafen, Richard, USAFSS  
Siler, Paul, TSgt, (Ret), USAF  
Smith, Charlie  
Tallant, Wayne, SMSgt (Ret), USAFSS  
Taylor, Denny, USAFSS  
Thompson, Solomon, CMSgt (Ret), USAFSS  
Weaver, Donald, Col (Ret), USAF



**Baskerville, Dr. John Cornelius Sr.**, 74, of North Chesterfield, Virginia, died April 9, 2015. John served in the United States Air Force Security Service (Communications Intelligence), in the European and Asian theaters. He served until 1964. He is survived by Jane Jiggetts Baskerville Ph.D. (beloved and devoted wife of 50 years); three children, Jeri Camille, Colonel John Cornelius Baskerville Jr. Ph.D. (Shelisa) and Justin Cumbo Baskerville. **//Obit - Richmond Times Dispatch//**

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**Baucknecht, William E.**, 77, of East Falmouth passed away January 10, 2015. He enlisted in the US Air Force on Aug 10, 1955 and was accepted into the Security Service, spending 2 years with a mobile unit in Alaska. He was honorably discharged in 1961. In addition to his wife of 56 years, Mary Sue, Bill leaves behind his children: Debra; Lori; Vicki; and David.

**//Obit-Chapman, Cole, and Gleason//**

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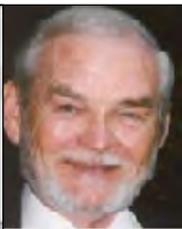


**Beach David E. "Dave"**, 80, passed away November 28, 2015. He joined the United States Air Force in 1956. He graduated from the 6-month Russian language course at the Army Language School in Monterey, California. He served with the 6913th RSM at Bremerhaven, Germany, on Charlie

Flight from 1958-61. Dave is survived by his wife of 52 years, M. Jean (Morton) Beach, daughter Elizabeth Bryant, and daughter Roberta Beach.

**//www.6913th.org// //Obit – Amundson Funeral Home//**

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**Brock, Jimmy Mason**, 81, died April 21, 2015. He served his country in the US Air force in Germany. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Jane Faires Brock, daughters Starr Brock Carpenter, and Pam Blount Hope. **//Obit - Hankins and Whittington//**

We have known Jim and Jane Brock since 1955, when we were young newly-weds living in Bremerhaven, Germany. Jim and my husband Charles, served in USAFSS with a wonderful group of friends there. There. We have maintained our friendships through all these years. Jim was one of a kind, never to be duplicated. //Jean Rodenbough//

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**Buccola, Victor Joseph**, 89, passed away May 6, 2015. In 1942, at age 17, Vic joined the U.S. Navy. When NAS relocated to Belle Chasse he transferred to the U.S. Air Force Security Service and served in Morocco, N. Africa, for a year. Upon his return to the U.S., he, his wife, and children transferred to Carswell AFB in Ft. Worth, Texas. They also lived on Okinawa and in Japan and Germany for 10 years until his military retirement as TSgt (E-6) in 1967. Vic is survived by his loving, devoted wife of over 65 years, Rose Jeanne Roussel Buccola. They had three children. //Obit – Garden of Memories//

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**Carter, Thomas Bruce**, MSgt, (Ret), 84, of Begleton, VA, passed away May 12, 2015. He served his country during the Korean War and served in Security Service in Japan, Turkey, Germany and the US for 27 years. He was a Russian linguist and Analyst for 27 years and knew more about Russian aircraft than the Russians did. After retiring from military service, he worked for NSA for 15 years and then retired again. He was the

Post Commander of the American Legion Post # 72 in Warrenton, VA, a member of the Moose Lodge and of the VFW. He coached Air Force high power rifle teams and taught hunter safety to youth groups. He is survived by sons Tom and Garrick Carter. //Obit – Providence Funeral Home//

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**Clarence, Jon "Jack"**, 69, passed away January 27, 2016. Jack proudly served his country for 6 years in the U.S. Air Force as a Radio Communications Specialist. Jack leaves behind his brothers Jim and Dan. //Obit – Dignity Funeral//

Jack was my room-mate at Hakata and a person and personality I shall never forget. //Tom Keefe//

I knew Jack as a result of our time together in the Air Force, and he was truly a special person. I remember his keen mind and his always pleasant manner. Jack, from the time we met at Keesler, traveled to Japan together, and returned home together for discharge, I always thought of you as the older brother I never had. I have so many memories of our adventures during our time in Japan. //Chuck Miller//

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**Coward, James Bernard**, 91, died peacefully Monday, January 5, 2015. He began his military career in December of 1942, volunteering for the U.S. Army and serving in the Signal Corps, later attached to the 17th Airborne Division. He landed in France shortly after D-Day, saw action in the Falaise pocket, the Battle of the Bulge and the subsequent push into Germany. He was commissioned as a Second

Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. Jim was recalled to active duty, assigned to the Air Force Security Service in 1951, serving in Korea, Japan, and Okinawa, where he was wounded in combat. Jim remained active in the U.S. Air Force reserves for 30 years and retiring as Lieutenant Colonel in 1983. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Ruth Sugg Coward, of Arden, NC; and four children: Jane; Beth; James; and John.

//Obit – Groce Funeral Home//

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**Dolan, Richard James**, 77, passed away on October 30, 2015. Dick joined the Air Force and served 21 years in Air Force Security Service which was an arm of NSA intelligence gathering. He served in the Philippines, Taiwan, Germany, Turkey, Japan, New York and San Antonio, Texas. His work entailed intercepting, decoding and analysis of foreign communication during the Cold War era. Some of his work involved management of projects which earned

him the Meritorious Service Medal. He retired from the Air Force in 1976. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Binetta Mattoscio Dolan, and their 7 children: Richard, Michael, Marie, Christine, Peter, Catherine, and Madelaine. //Obit – [www.mycentraljersey.com](http://www.mycentraljersey.com)//



**Dorobiala, James “Jim”,** MSgt (Ret), USAF 80, passed away December 5, 2015. After high school he enlisted in the Naval Reserve. He later joined the United States Air Force where he served for 20 years before retiring as a Master Sergeant. His career took him to numerous locations including Montana, Nebraska (2), England (2), Texas and Germany (2), where he met Irmgard while stationed in Bremerhaven.

He is survived by Irmgard, his wife of 58 years; 3 children: Gary, Eric); unofficially adopted son Greg Hodges, and daughter Carmen Dye. //Obit – **The Gazette**//

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**Dugan, William Lee,** 64, passed away January 8, 2016. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1972 to 1981 in Air Force intelligence. Survivors: Wife, Rosellen; daughters, Connie; Crista; Jessica; and son, Dallas. //Obit – **Star Telegram**//

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**Edwards, Harry L.,** Lt Col (Ret), 91, passed away January 27, 2016. He



served his country from 1942 to 1973 in the USAF. His military career started in Shreveport, Louisiana where he entered the Army Air Corps at 18 years of age. During a break in service at the end of World War II, he met his future wife at the University of Texas at Austin. Harry returned to active duty and attended the Russian Language Course at Monterey, California.

Since that time, except for a tour as an instructor of ROTC at Auburn University, he was assigned in the Special Intelligence career field. Harry served as the Commander of the 6924th Security Squadron at Da Nang Vietnam from 1966 to 1967. This unit served as the cryptologic focal point for the tactical air forces. Harry served a second tour in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. He was responsible for responding to the 7th Air Force requirements for intelligence support and was awarded the Bronze Star. Harry served as Chief of the Operations Program Division at Headquarters of the UASFSS and retired in 1973, with over 30 years of military service. He was awarded the Legion of Merit. Additional assignments included Austin, Texas; London, England; Bremerhaven and Frankfurt, Germany; and Ankara, Turkey. He is survived by his five daughters: Sandra; Sharon; Pamela; Teresa; and Valerie. //Obit – **Porter Loring Mortuaries**//



**Elizondo, Henry Gonzales**, 58, died Friday, Aug. 28 2015. From 1975-81 and served in the United States Air Force where he reached the rank of Senior Airman (SrA) as a Printer Systems Operator, an Intelligence Specialty. Henry served in Loring AFB Maine, as well as 2 years of overseas service in London, Great Britain. He is survived by his wife, Vlada, his children, Henry, and Elena. //Obit - Harrell Funeral Homes//

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**Esposito, Ralph Joseph**, 77, passed away on September 1 2015. He spent time in the United States Air Force before working as an Intelligence Analyst for 35 years at the National Security Agency. He is survived by his wife Betty Ann Esposito, whom he married on July 13, 1963; children Christopher Brian Esposito of Crofton and Angela Marie Terry of Severn.

//Obit – Hardesty Funeral Home//

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**Falke, Oscar Edwin “Ed”**, 87, died, November 20, 2015. He served in the United States Air Force Security Service with the 6982nd Radio Squadron during the Korean Conflict. Ed is survived by daughter, Lynne; son, Dr. Mark E. Falke. //Obit – Providence Funeral Home//

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**Hand, Charlie 'Sarge'**, 77, died Monday, January 12, 2015. Sarge served in the U.S. Air Force at Bremerhaven, Germany as an Able Trick Ditty Bopper from 1955-56. He is survived by his wife: Ernestine "Teeny" (Brownlee) Hand; daughter: Beverly Hand of Cross Anchor. //Obit - [www.6913th.org/](http://www.6913th.org/)//



**Harris, Ozzie** born in 1927 in Armstrong, Ala., joined the U.S. Army in 1944. After a break in service, he chose to re-enlist, this time with the recently created U.S. Air Force. Ozzie's aptitude for electronics was recognized. He trained to use specialized communication equipment in Illinois and Texas. After his training, he was selected by the highly regarded Air

Force Security Service (a branch that focused on cryptographic and signal intelligence; later, renamed the Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Intelligence Agency). In 1954, Ozzie was sent to the United Kingdom. He lived and worked in Great Britain for seven continuous years. This was during the Cold War. Servicemen with his type of responsibility and from this period of time are known as "Silent Warriors." In Scotland, Ozzie was part of a small team that developed "classified" technology to "intercept" Soviet radio communications. It was a very gratifying professional experience. Stationed in many U.S. states, he also lived and worked in England, Greenland, Germany and Thailand. Ozzie served his country for almost 27 years. His service extends from WWII, to the Korean War and the conclusion of the Vietnam War. Ozzie is survived by his wife, Josephine Harris; children, Ozzie Harris, Shannon Jones, and Glenn Harris. //Obit – The Oregonian//

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**Hill, Edward L.**, TSgt (Ret), 77, died September 29, 2015. He served over 23 years in the United States Air Force until his retirement in 1978. He spent 22 years with the Security Service including working in the National Security Agency (NSA), the Pentagon, Washington D.C., Karamursel, Turkey, Rhein Main, Germany, Danang Air Base, Vietnam, Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo, Texas, Kelly Air Force Base,

Texas, Security Hill, San Antonio, Texas, Lackland Air Force Base Annex (Medina), Texas. He was a Telecommunications Operations Supervisor. He also retired from Air Force Civil Service in 1998. He is survived by his wife, Barbara J Hill; daughter Vickie Lynn-Quattrocchi. //Obit – Porter Loring//



**MSgt. David H. Honermann**, USAF (Retired), entered rest on December 28, 2015, after a long, valiant struggle with complications from various illnesses. MSgt Honermann entered the Air Force and served our country as a voice processing specialist (208); specifically, as a Chinese linguist.

His overseas assignments included Vietnam, Taiwan, Korea and Japan. His natural talents and technical abilities were uncommonly superb; the depth and breadth of his knowledge of Chinese Mandarin was astonishing and amazing. Many a linguist is in his debt based on what they learned from his superior capabilities in translation, analysis of material, and his solid command of diversified ancillary linguistic skills. His vast sphere of knowledge included memorizing scores of mission-related technical data. Upon his Air Force retirement, he was employed for 17 years on Security Hill. With his free time, he continued serving in his parish church's activities. Claiming credit was an alien concept to him as he never sought the headlines. Many successes, in and out of the Air Force, came about because of his quiet behind-the-scenes involvement. He was the living definition of "the power behind the throne". MSgt. Honermann was firmly on the side of justice, fairness and fair play. When apprised of a wrong, he strove to right things. The loving husband and father of two daughters was described by his wife as "...the best thing that ever happened to [me]." MSgt. Honermann wholly exemplified the finest in what one individual can accomplish: the consummate professional with the bearing of a clergyman and the patience of a saint. May this kind gentleman rest in peace, and his family and friends be comforted. He will be sorely missed. //Obit - Tony Cook//

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**Humphries, Gregory J.**, 76, passed away April 29, 2015. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force from 1957 until 1961. In addition to his wife, Didi Campbell Humphries, he is survived by his children, Gregory P. Humphries and Laura Humphries Ryan; step-children, Allison Hardy Owens and Emily Hardy Schneider. Gregory was a 292 at Hakata during his 1958-1959 assignment. //Obit - McDougald Funeral Home// Notified Carol Farr//



**Jameson, Benjamin F.**, died Nov. 13, 2015. He enlisted in the US Air Force and served for over 21 years. His assignments included Goodfellow AFB (Student) 6931st Scty Sq. Baker Flight 202 1965-66. He retired from the USAF on April 30, 1973. After retirement, Benjamin worked in Civil Service for over 18 years. He is survived by his wife Marlene; two sons, Ronald F. and Benjamin F. Jameson; daughter, Debra L. Dean. //Obit – The

**Oklahoman// //Notified Carol Farr//**

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**Joyce, Keith B.**, MSgt USAF (Ret) Sep 12, 1963 - Dec 19, 2015. He served in the USAF for 22 years. Included in his many assignments was a special one to England, where he met his wife, and concluded his service at Offutt AFB, where he had many deployments to Qatar supporting Afghanistan and Iraq. After he retired in 2008, he continued to serve his country working as a civilian contractor on Offutt AFB with Spiral Solutions. Keith is survived by wife,

Jacqui Joyce; children, Connor, Hannah, and Liam Joyce. //www.omaha.com//

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**Kimbrell, James Neal**, SMSgt (Ret), passed away Nov 30, 2015, in San Angelo, Texas. On Sept. of 1954, James joined the United States Air Force. On Oct. 4, 1958, James married the lovely Mary Lou Nieto of Roswell, New Mexico. Already fluent in Spanish, the Air Force quickly recognized James' talent for languages. As he entered the Air Force Security Service, he was assigned to the Defense Language

Institute in Monterey, California, learning to speak both Mandarin Chinese and Russian. James' almost 30 years of active service to his country is too extensive to record in its entirety but can be highlighted by saying his service tours brought him overseas to such assignments as Japan, Germany, the Republic of China and Turkey. He also had several stateside

assignments to include four years working with the National Security Agency and several teaching positions at the National Defense Language Institute. He attended the Senior NCO Academy, Tactical Air Operations and Doctrine Course, and was awarded "Master Instructor," Air Force Training Command. He retired in February 1985, as the Branch Chief and Senior Technical Language Assistant of the Defense Language Institute, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant.

**//Obit – San Angelo Standard Times//**

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**Kleck, Peter** was born February 17, 1928. He graduated in 1945 and enlisted in the Army Specialized Training Reserve Program for an accelerated course in engineering at Texas A&M. He was required to serve 11 months active duty after completion at A&M. After a short tour in Japan, he was released from military service in May, 1947, and returned to San Antonio. The impending Korean conflict led him to Civil Service employment with the newly formed USAF Security

Service. He subsequently transferred his Reserve Army commission to Air Force and was recalled to active duty under reserve mobilization in February, 1951. During the subsequent 19 years, his assignments included tours of duty in San Antonio, TX, Syracuse, NY, Houston, TX, Topeka, KS, College Station, TX, Washington, D.C., and Sumter, S.C. He performed temporary and permanent overseas duty in England, Germany, Turkey, Greenland, and Vietnam. He retired from the Air Force after 20 years of active military service. He is survived by his loving wife, Patricia Weber Kleck, his son, George Wayne Kleck.

**//Obit – Fredericksburg Funeral Home/**

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**Laske, Ronald, D.**, passed away September 27, 2015. Ron served in the US Air Force and the National Security Agency for 34 years. He is survived by his wife, Marjay; his son, COL Bryan Laske; his daughter Dr. Janeen Laske Cooke.

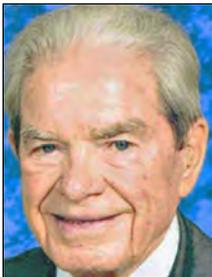
**//Obit – The Baltimore Sun//**



**Lee, William Howard, "Bill"** was born Sunday, May 22, 1932. Bill passed away June 21, 2015; he was 83 years old. Bill is survived by his son, Curtis B. (Bernie) Lee. Bill joined the U.S. Air Force in 1951. He was stationed near Houston TX and there met and married Jean Elizabeth Chadwick in 1952. Bill served a distinguished U.S. Air Force career with the Security Service/National Security

Agency; he retired as a Master Sergeant with 24 years in service. //Obit – Barr Price Funeral Home//

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**Lemons, Roy D., Col (Ret), 88,** passed away on Wednesday, January 20, 2016. Roy began his military career in the US Navy in the medical field. The majority of his military career was with the Air Force. He served in Air Force Civil Engineering. His distinguished career included Program Manager of the New Generation Hospital which included many features now incorporated in today's hospitals. He concluded his military career serving as the Chief of

Staff for the Air Force Security Service. He is survived by one son and three daughters. //Obit – SanAntonio Express-News//

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**Lockwood, Walter Nethery** died December 10, 2015. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Gloria, his six children, Cheryl Gusler (Michael), Donna Costello (Randy), Pamela Reith (David), Kevin Lockwood (Becky), Stacie Davis (Kent Jr.) and Shaylyn Marie Lockwood. Walt enlisted in the US Air Force in 1957 where he would serve for 20 years. He worked in intelligence with the National Security

Agency as an Intercept Operator. During his service, he was stationed in Texas, Mississippi, Korea, the Mediterranean Island of Crete, and Pensacola, FL. While he was in Crete, Walt was recruited to develop a computer program to be used by all branches of the military and thus was stationed at Corey Field Naval Air Station in Pensacola, FL. He taught Psychology at the Naval Air Station and the University of West Florida. Walt retired from the Air Force in 1978 as a Senior Master Sergeant. //Obit – Veterans Funeral Care//



**Margaret (JoAnn) Room Mays**, 79, passed away, December 29, 2015. JoAnn was preceded in death by her husband, CMSgt Mike Mays. She is survived by her children, Roger Mays (Joann), Lois Shumaker, Carol Busbee (Steve) and Richard Mays. //Obit – Dignity Memorial//

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**Murray, Gene W.**, 87, died August 1, 2015. He served his country with the United States Air Force during the Korean War in the 15th Radio Squadron and earned the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was an intelligence coder for the mobile United States Security Service during his military duty and was proficient in translating the Morse Code. Japan, Alaska, and Korea were a few of the places he had been stationed. Gene was discharged in 1952. Gene is survived by his children Kent, Keith, Donna, and Kevin. //Obit – Penwell Gabel Funeral//

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**Ness, Allan Louis**, passed away March 24, 2015. Allan served in the US Air Force in security services in Crete and San Antonio, TX. He graduated from the University of MN in December 1969. He joined the FBI in April 1971 and served until his retirement in July 1998. Allan married Jeanette Bowe on March 15, 1969. Together they have 3 daughters, Kathleen Jensen (Troy), Ann Camarillo (Jaime)

and Kristina Contardi (Bradley). //Obit – Star Tribune//

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**Ng, Bin Moon**, passed away December 11, 2015. He worked over 40 years with distinguished awards in combined military and civilian federal service. As a project leader in electronic intelligence, he gathered information and set up computer systems. For a priority project ESCAC he received the AF Meritorious Civilian Service Award. He is survived by his wife Kim Quan Ng; children Christina and Wayne Yee, Eugene Ng, Jana

Ng, Madelyn and Ling Lock. //Obit – San Antonio Express//



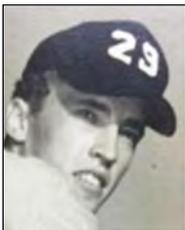
**Nope, Darrell A.**, Lt Col (Ret), passed away, April 28, 2011. He leaves behind a son, Darrell W. Nope and wife Suzanna; daughter, Dianna Tanner and husband Mike. Darrell served our country for 34 years in the U.S. Air Force, and was a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars. He leaves behind a son, Darrell W. Nope and daughter, Dianna Tanner. //Obit – Dignity Memorial//

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**Pohl, Kenneth** passed away March 28, 2015. He entered military service with the U.S. Air Force Security Service. The top half of one per cent of the USAFSS was a secretive branch of cold war warriors tasked with monitoring, collecting and interpreting military voice and electronic signals. Stationed in Germany, Ken served as a Russian linguist transmitting intelligence to the National Security Agency. He returned from Germany, and while registering for classes at KU, caught the eye of a co-ed. He married that young lady, Naomi Ruth Armstrong, December 26, 1959. He is survived by his wife Ruth; his daughter Cynthia. //Obit – Snyder Funeral Home//

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**Raasch, Ronald**, passed away, Aug. 10, 2015 at the age of 82. Ronnie was a proud US Air Force Veteran of the Korean War, Security Service and 29th Radio Squadron Mobile. He was a professional baseball player, signing with the Boston Braves then playing for the Appleton Papermakers and Milwaukee Brewers. //Obit – Bruskewitz Funeral Home//

We of the 29th Radio Squadron Mobile are saddened by this news. We knew Ron when he was a young man playing baseball and basketball and still fulfilling his duties as a Radio Intercept Operator. We met him again later at our reunions. We enjoyed sharing stories with him. His name will be read along with other deceased members of our unit at every gathering until our end comes too. //Bob//



**Riel, Donald F.**, 81,died November 20, 2015. He was a United States Air Force Veteran, serving during the Korean War, and was a recipient of the National Defense and United Nation Service Medals. He had been an Intercept Radio Operator with the Air Force Security Service and worked in the Cryptography Department of US Intelligence and Security Service located at the Pentagon. //Obit – **The Herald News**//

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**Rockne, Larvick**, 83, died on March 18, 2015. He served in the United States Air Force Security Service, stationed in Mississippi, Texas, and two and one-half years in Bremerhaven, Germany. //Obit – **The Spokesman Review**//

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**Rev. Dr. Glen Ernest Rodgers**, Lt. Col., USAF (retired), 92, passed away on Dec. 20, 2015. He was a minister in the United Church of Christ and was a career Air Force chaplain, serving in Vietnam. Glen is survived by his wife of 65 years, Lucy Blake (Royce) Rodgers, his four sons Glen Jr. ("Kitty"), Charles (Margaret), Frank (Vicki), John (Margie); his grandchildren Jennifer (Nancy) Rodgers, Rebecca (Warren) Sands, Emily (Alex) Bisset, Brittany, Grant,

Devin, Jessye. //Obit – **The Baltimore Sun**//

Glen spent over 20 years as an Air Force chaplain. He served as the Chaplain (892) at Hakata during the 1971-72. He retired from the USAF as a Lt. Col. Glen was the keynote speaker at the Sept 2015 6918th Reunion in Minneapolis, MN. //Carol Farr//

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**Saylor, Kenneth D.**, Lt Col (Ret), enlisted in the US Maritime Service during WWII. He was in Buckner Bay, Okinawa when the war ended. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1946 and was sent to MTC (Military Training Command) in San Antonio where he was made a Drill Sergeant. Ken was called up for the Korean War and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. His first assignment was an in intelligence officer at the 580th

ARC (1<sup>st</sup> Psychological Warfare Wing) in the Air Force. In 1952 he deployed to Tripoli, Libya, near Wheelus Field.. After a 10-month Russian language immersion course at Syracuse University, he was assigned to USAFSS' 6970th Supply Group at National Security Agency. Ken met married Penny Plummer in 1953. In 1960, Ken was sent with the 6930th RGM at Iraklion AFS, Crete where he served as Assistant Director of Operations. In 1962, he was transferred to the Joint Liaison Office, NATO Headquarters, Southern Europe in Naples, Italy, as the Senior Air Force Representative. After attending the Armed Forces Staff College in 1965, he became an NSA Branch Chief then became Executive Assistant to the Director of NSA. In 1969, Ken became the Base Commander of Trabzon (Turkey) Air Base where he negotiated protocol agreements for the USA with local Turkish officials. Ken retired in 1970 and is survived by his wife of 62 years, Penny; daughter, Kim Carr and son-in-law Rick; and son, Kenneth. //Obit – **Tondre Guinn**//

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**Serafen, Richard (Dick) M.** died March 11,2015. He served in the USAF during The Korean war and graduated from SUNY Cobelskill. He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, two sons, a daughter and their spouses. //Obit – **The Evening Sun**//

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**Siler, Paul.**, TSgt (Ret) 79, passed away Jan 30, 2016. Paul served in the USAF from 1954-75 as an Intercept Operator assigned to USAFSS. He later went to school for Airborne Direction Finding Operator. Prior to serving in Viet Nam, Paul attended the Escape and Evasion and Interrogation course Washington state. He also taught the jungle survivors course in the Philippines. He flew on intelligence gathering missions as an EC-47 crew member. His decorations

include: Air Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Viet Nam Cross of Gallantry, Viet Nam Service Medal with four Battle Stars, Viet Nam Campaign Medal among others. He also served in Germany, England, Italy, Taiwan and Japan with several temporary assignments (TDY) to Korea and the Philippines. Paul is survived by his beloved wife, Geraldine Oldham Siler of Hitchin, England; a son, Chief Warrant Officer USCG Steven (Annette) Siler; and daughter Nicola Siler. //Obit – **The Record**//



**Smith, Charlie Lee**, MSgt (Ret). 80, of Unionville, passed away, Oct 5, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Kamplang Smith; a daughter; two stepdaughters, Chutimar Altizer and husband, and Nusara Engstrom; stepson, Kuan Sagaow and wife, Vi. //Obit – Johnson Funeral Home//

Charlie, a former 292, was a long-time friend. We first met when we were assigned to the 6987<sup>th</sup> in 1974. His wife, Kamplang, and my new bride became close friends in the small 'community' of Thai wives living in Tien Mou (Tianmu) in Taipei, Taiwan. Following reassignments, we re-established contact after I was assigned to Ft. Meade and found out that Charlie retired from the Air Force and was living in Virginia. Charlie was an honest Southern Gentleman who loved country living. He was a loving husband and a solid and strong family man who took great care in raising his adopted children. This is evidenced in how well each of them has grown into fine upstanding and very productive citizens. We will miss Charlie, his honesty and his sense of humor. I am sure our Lord has prepared a room for Charlie where he will continue to watch over us all. Rest in peace my friend. Regards //Tom Penn//

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**Denny Taylor**, 77, of Lake Toxaway passed away at his residence on Monday morning, December 21, 2015. //Notice – Blue Ridge Now//

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**Thompson, Solomon**, CMSgt (Ret) died November 14, 2015. He enlisted in the USAF in 1947 and embarked on a 25 year career with the USAFSS. In 1952, while stationed at RAF Mildenhall, England, Benny met Frances Lockley, a beautiful U.S. Air Force flight nurse from Gloucester, Virginia who was also stationed in England. Benny and Frances were married on October 17, 1953 in New Market, England and reassigned to

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona. In 1969, the family returned to San Antonio where Benny served a final tour of duty at Kelly Air Force Base. He retired in 1972. Benny is survived by his devoted wife Carolyn; and his four children. //Obit – Porter Loring//



**Weaver, Donald, E.,** Col (USAF Ret.), 85, died November 21, 2015. He was commissioned through the AFROTC program in 1952. He served 30 years of active duty in the United States Air Force Security Service including tours of duty in Korea and Vietnam. He was DCS/Operations for the Security Service from 1975-1977 and Wing Commander at Goodfellow AFB,

TX 1977-1980. He retired from the USAF at Ft. Meade, MD in 1982. In addition to his wife Don is survived by his two sons David and Daniel. Weaver. //Obit – [www.obituaries.expressiontributes.com//](http://www.obituaries.expressiontributes.com//)

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*In Memory Of... MSgt (Ret) Wayne Tallant*



**MSgt. Wayne Tallant,** USAF (Ret), age 70, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Thursday, December 3, 2015 in San Antonio. He was a graduate of Mt. Vernon, KY high school.



After enlisting in USAF in 1963, Wayne served 20-plus years in several different overseas units. He was stationed throughout the world serving as a

Morse Systems Operations Specialist with the USAF Security Service and Electronic Security Command. His assignments included Chicksands, England, (where he met and married the love of his life, Margaret); Shu Lin Ku, Taiwan; Crete, Greece; Misawa AB, Japan and San Vito, Italy in addition to Ft. Meade, MD and Kelly AB, TX where he retired in 1989 capping a dedicated 26-year career. After military retirement, he worked as an area manager for the Valero Corp until 2007. He was a member of a Masonic Lodge while in Maryland.

**Wayne served on the Board of Directors of the Freedom through Vigilance Association as Associate Editor of its newsletter from 2009 – 2014 where he compiled the quarterly Fallen Eagles section.**

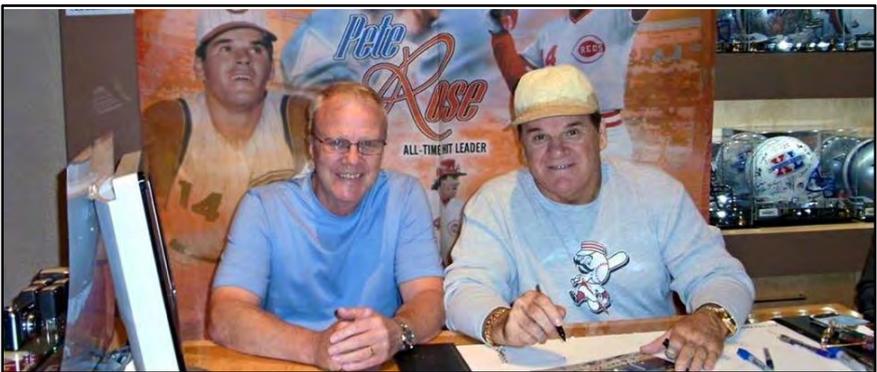
Wayne is survived by his wife, Margaret; his children, Debbie, Steve & his wife, Sabrina; and Craig Tallant & his wife, Lisa; grandchildren, Talisia, Shyanne, Shayne, Charlene and Hudson; brother, Richard and his wife, Rita; sister, Laura; and numerous nieces and nephews. // **Obit – San Antonio Express News** (Modified) //

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Dad, I miss you so much. I will miss your wise council, even though I didn't always listen, I will miss it. You are my best friend and confidante. I know you are in heaven with Mee Maw, Papaw, Uncle Roy, Uncle Tal and Haven, probably playing poker if I know you :) When I look up now I know you will be looking back at me. Hug my sweet Haven Rose for me and I'll see you on the other side one day.//Debbie Tallant, daughter//

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Wayne, you will be missed more than you know. Your many friends were emboldened by your bravery as you faced the inevitable and long-suffering effects of Pulmonary Fibrosis. A decades-old friendship and recent partnership with you on the FTVA Newsletter created a bond that remains unbroken by your final farewell. May the Good Lord keep you close by and provide you with his eternal comfort. RIP Amigo! //Dennis Rassmussen and Staff of RIT//



Wayne at an autograph signing with his favorite player, Pete Rose



## BEDSIDE MATTERS

**John Pitzeruse**// //Jan 25, 2016 // San Antonio, TX//  
Just a quick note. I have been out of action for approximately 8 months with some major problems (i.e. lost weight down to 165 lbs. and ended up with back surgery). Two more days and I will see my surgeon and find out what the prognosis is and how long a rehab I have. Initially he said from 6 months

to a year if everything goes well. I know that I have some work to do so I will be in shape for the FTVA annual in September. My thanks to all my friends and brothers in arms that have prayed for this heathen and provided words of confidence. And of course, Miss Lily who provided me with food in the hospital and then took food to Marsha who has been my rock through this whole ordeal and has been patient to the extent that Ron Marcoullier raised her status to “saint”. She deserves it for putting up with me. Anyway, mine wasn't any worse than my brothers and sisters who have endured much more. Just want to say, JJ is back on track.

**Danny Prichard**// // Jan 27, 2016// Martinez, GA//

Good news friends. I had a hospital appoint early this morning and got the results of all my recent tests. Cancer free! Still some issues to deal with like a lump in my stomach and scar tissue in my shoulder from the tumor that was there. But this was the best possible news. I have another appointment near the end of February to get my lungs checked again (this will be an ongoing deal for the rest of my life) but for now, I beat back the beast once again. 5 times and counting. No comments necessary. I just wanted to let you all know.

**Don Cole**// Jan 15, 2016// Phone call from Sue Cole, De Ridder, LA//

Just to let you know, my husband, Don, was hospitalized for the last two weeks in January and is non-ambulatory due to the progression of his Parkinson's Disease. The first week in February he moved into a Long-Term Care/ Assisted living facility for the foreseeable future.

**Ned Gates**// Jan 30, 2016// San Antonio, TX//

Although Diabetes and Lymphoma have taken their toll, Ned continues to volunteer at SAMC every week and is getting out and about. Prayers continue.



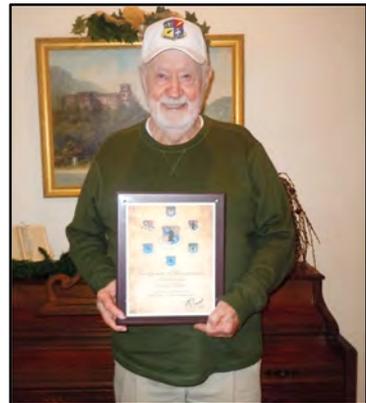
.....BITS::AND::BYTES.....

Roll Call Presents Founder’s Plaques



Roll Call recently honored five of the original 2nd RSM US Army personnel who were moved to the Air Force and became the nucleus for USAFSS. The plaques were printed by 15AF, signed by General Schwedo and personally delivered by Roll Call members at their homes. The recipients are: Aubrey Keeter, Hugh Hill, Tom Hunter, Virgil Fordham and Isaac Borland. //Jim Kaus//

(Right) **Aubrey ‘Duke’ Keeter** (1947 – 68) Aubrey was transferred from the Army Security Agency (ASA) to the newly formed Air Force Security Service while deployed to Germany in 1949. USAFSS was established to collect, process, and report special intelligence information in support of the National Security Agency (NSA). From a small contingent of less than 100 radio operators in Germany and Japan, the Security Service has grown to a major Air Force Command. //Aubrey Keeter//



(Left) **Ike Borland** receiving the Roll Call Founders Plaque from **Duke Keeter** (R) at Ike’s home in Warren, PA on January 28, 2016. Ike is 1 of 5 surviving 2nd RSM veterans who served during the transfer of the unit from the ASA to USAFSS in the late 1940’s. //Aubrey Keeter //

E-Mail address: [couming@roadrunner.com](mailto:couming@roadrunner.com)

Name: Tom Couming

Unit: 6912SS, Berlin, Germany

Comment: Assigned to Berlin, Templehof AFB 1965-1968 Sgt, Flt Admin. Served under Jim Armbrister, Frank Whitehouse, Lt Crombie, Lt Couser. First Sgt Stan Fedishen.

Seeking contact with fellow airmen, Sgt Norman Riley, Al Gose, Neil P Gregerson, Tony, Barbetti.

E-Mail address: [tcp42@charter.net](mailto:tcp42@charter.net)

Name: Tom Pugh

Unit: Zweibrucken, W. Germany

Comment: Arrived at the 6901st in Dec '62. 20250-4. Worked SAWD2 (Lt Col Ernie Short, Capt. David J. Cambridge, SMSgt Mike Karnes). Produced Recon Reaction Reports for SAC and manned SAC Condition Warning post over the Sky King SSB network. Departed May '65 and took early out due to phasing out of mission requirements.



## 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: <b>FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION</b>
Mail to: P.O. Box 891818, San Antonio, TX 78288-1818.

Yearly Memberships are \$20.00 Please check one: <input type="checkbox"/> NEW REGULAR MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER <i>(**see below for description)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/> ADDRESS CHANGE
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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 12038. The principle purpose of the information is to establish a mailing list for membership rosters containing the name, address and telephone number of all members of the association periodically. Furnishing the information is voluntary; failure to provide the requested information will result in your not being listed. Your signature below\* indicates that you have read and understand the above.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**WE ARE ISR**

**Past Present Future**



***THE FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE  
ASSOCIATION***

THE FTVA IS A PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT CORPORATION ESTABLISHED IN 1981. WE ARE DEDICATED TO THE SUPPORT AND PERPETUATION OF SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN SERVICES FOR THE USAF AND 25<sup>TH</sup> AIR FORCE .

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.

**WE ARE YOU !!**