

*Remain
In
Touch*



***FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE
ASSOCIATION***

NEWSLETTER

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The President's Corner



It's that time of year; baseball in full frenzy, football gearing up for another season and our Anniversary activities are right around the corner. The golf tournament will be at an outstanding new venue. We are installing four super silent heroes into the Hall of Honor. And, the guest speaker at the Banquet this year is Lt. Gen John Bansemer. The general has been around intel his entire career, much of it in the SIGINT business including command of the 70th ISR Wing a couple of years ago. Before his current job, he was the Dep CSS at NSA and the J2 for OIR (the force fighting in Syria and Iraq). He is currently working with the DNI, Dir/Gen Clapper. He should give us some great insights from that level.

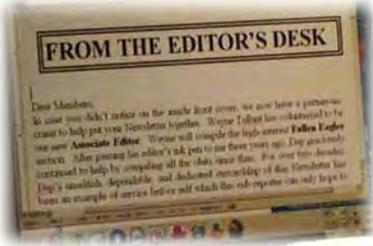
I have recently been able to visit several of our operational units, from Elmendorf, to Nellis to Beale to Ft Meade. You would be extremely proud of our young men and women in the middle of the fight every day. I was able to attend the Red Flag 16-3 exercise...in the 116-degree heat. The integration of tactical aircraft with our ISR aircraft (RC-135, U-2, RQ-4) along with our Cyber, Space and EW assets was truly unbelievable. The "non-kinetics duty officer" and his missions were on-par with the fighter and bomber missions. This was not possible just a couple of years ago.

I am also privileged to be speaking at the 6916th Reunion. This will be primarily the Athen's crowd that I was fortunate to serve with from 1982-84. This was a chaotic time; the Beirut Marine Barracks bombing, F-14 shoot-down in the Bekaa Valley, Israeli incursion into Lebanon, Arafat being ousted out of Lebanon, Ambassador Habib's shuttle diplomacy, and the first three-ever deployments of the RC-135 into Egypt and Sudan. It will be great to see some of the true heroes of that unit again.

Finally, we continue to take every opportunity to enlist new membership in our active duty and recent retirees with limited success. Unfortunately, as the Fallen Eagles list continues to get longer, our new membership gets shorter. We need your help in recruiting members. The FTVA supports its members, local chapters and our successor organization, the 25th AF, in every-way we can: i.e. the Larson Awards (Comfy/Sensor Olympics), deployed & family picnics, memorial plaques around the world and many other pop-up areas that the active duty just can't fund anymore.

Thanks again for your continued support to the FTVA and our chapters in the field...and remember to "Remain in Touch"!

Ron



Hi again,
Your BOD continues to evolve with the resignation of our erstwhile Vice President Andy Smith. Many thanks to Andy for dedicating over 3 years to serving in that capacity, and a big welcome to our new VEEP Ted Colquhoun. A big thanks to Dennis

Buxton who has been added to the RIT auxiliary staff under his by-line for our Chapter Reports section. This time around, A.J. Harrison is announcing four more additions to our Hall of Honor. I say THANKS to our dedicated staff and those of you who personally contributed to September's RIT. Enjoy this issue and look forward to attending the annual reunion in September!

Sincerely,



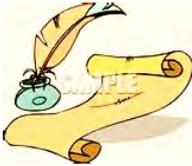
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FTVA Vigilant Partners' Program



We invite anyone who might be interested in becoming a Vigilant Partner to contact our POC Col (Ret) Mark "Mutley" Hess E-Mail: Hessm58@gmail.com (Ph 210-380-6328). Centerfold provides the most recent list of FTVA Vigilant Partners.



Letter To The Editor

May 15, 2016

My apologies: At 90 years of age I miss some obligations. I would be saddened not to receive your quarterly Newsletter publication. My husband, CWO4 Donald Kearsley served in the 2nd RSM at Darmstadt when Col. Richard D. Small was commander there. I have fond memories of that time. I don't know of any 2nd RSM'ers here in San Antonio. I would really like hearing from any of them. Ph 210-316-1726

Best Regards, Patricia "Pat" Kearsley

Editor's Note: At the monthly FTVA BOD meeting on June 17, 2016, President Ron Haygood led a discussion on Mrs Kearsley's note and it was decided that we send her a complimentary life membership.

Annual 2016 FTVA Officer Elections

This year, the nominating committee accepted submissions for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. For obvious reasons, only those who can attend the monthly BOD meetings in San Antonio were seriously considered.

With the unanimous concurrence of the FTVA BOD, Loren Sevening and Bob Cope accepted re-nomination to serve as your Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, for 2016 - 2018 term.



Loren



Bob

FTVA Vice President Resigns

As of the BOD meeting held on July 15, 2016, **Andy Smith** submitted his resignation from his position as FTVA Vice President due to ever-increasing demands from job and family. Andy accomplished a great deal for FTVA over the past three years, especially in supporting our growing number of chapters. **Ted Colquhoun** subsequently has accepted the BOD's invitation to serve the remainder of Andy's term as Vice President (2016 – 2017).

A Message from our new FTVA Vice President



Ted Colquhoun ... some of you may know me ... some of you may not. I've been in the business for over 37 years. Came in as a RU linguist (MA) and spent all my overseas time in Europe: Berlin, Chicksands and Menwith Hill. My



stateside assignments included San Antonio (multiple times) and Vandenberg AFB and I had three deployments thrown in - to Vicenza, Italy; Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia; and Balad AB in Iraq. During the past 4 years I have kept busy compiling the **FTVA Fallen Eagles Database** archive. Now, with me assuming duties as the VP, **Lee Anthony** has volunteered to take over FTVA database compilation.

v/r *Ted*



FTVA Hall of Honor Nominations



The Hall of Honor selection committee takes great pleasure in announcing this year's selections for induction into the Hall of Honor at the 24 Sep 2016 induction ceremony. The following Hall of Honor members comprised this year's selection committee: Brig Gen Grover Jackson - USAF Ret; Col Bob Cope – USAF Ret; CMSgt Bob Crabtree – USAF Ret; CMSgt Ed Jolly – USAF Ret; CMSgt Bob Egger – USAF Ret; CMSgt Marco Aldaz – USAF Ret; CMSgt Edward Barnes - USAF Ret; and SMSgt Lee Anthony – USAF Ret.

On behalf of the Committee, I am pleased to announce the following individuals selected for induction into the FTVA Hall of Honor for 2016:

- Mr. Kenneth A. Williams, USAF (Ret)**
- Chief Master Sergeant Charles J. Ellis, USAF (Ret)**
- Chief Master Sergeant Thomas G Rioux, USAF (Ret)**
- Senior Master Sergeant Larry R. Boyce, USAF (Ret)**

Thank you and Remain In Touch.

A.J. Harrison, Hall of Honor Program Chair

25th AIR FORCE NEWS



Compiled by Ken Maynard, Auxiliary Staff

AFTAC CONTINUES TO SUPPORT STEM OUTREACH

by Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs/July 07, 2016 (Adapted)

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- While children from Brevard County elementary schools were putting their science knowledge to work, more than a dozen members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) were volunteering their time to help make the event a success. The National Organization for the Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBBChE) hosted a Science Bowl May 21, 2016 at the University of Central Florida in Orlando for students in elementary, middle and high school. More than 50 students participated, including AFTAC's own community school, Endeavour Elementary.



Endeavour Elementary School students Marshall Sasnett, Obrien Ortiz and Messiah Parker listen to a question posed by a moderator during a Science Bowl. Members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center from Patrick AFB, Fla., volunteered their time to serve as moderators, timekeepers and judges at the bowl. (U.S. Air Force photo by Susan A. Romano)

The NOBBChE Science Bowl consists of students competing in teams of four. Challenge questions are based on an overall understanding of physical sciences (primarily physics and chemistry), life and earth sciences, engineering, mathematics and an emphasis on black scientists and inventors.

AFTAC has been partnering with Endeavour since early 2015, with its Airmen serving as science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) mentors for students at the Title I school. This was the second time Endeavour participated in a NOBBChE-sponsored science bowl.

“I was delighted to volunteer my time to serve as a moderator for the competition,” said 1st Lt. Joshua Hall, a data analyst at AFTAC. “One of the best things we can do is give back to our community, and it makes it even more impactful when our time is spent in an educational capacity. I was really impressed with the STEM acumen of the participating students.”

Officially called “Panther Pride” after their school mascot, but better known to their fellow students as “The Outsmarters,” Messiah Parker, Maurice Robinson, Obrien Ortiz and Marshall Sasnett comprise the team. The quartet were advised by Endeavour teachers Stephanie Lay and Mikki Corriveau

In addition to Endeavour’s involvement, Rose Day, AFTAC’s human resources program manager, reached out to other local Brevard County schools to inform them of the opportunity to participate. One school, Quest Elementary in Melbourne, signed up to be a part of the program.

“This is a brand new concept for our school and our students,” said Beth Conti, Quest’s science bowl coordinator and teacher at the K-6 school. “We have three teams in grades five and six participating, and they’ve been practicing and studying after school for the past several weeks to make sure they’re prepared. I’m confident they’re going to do well!”

Quest’s “Explorers” team took first place in the competition, with Endeavour’s “Outsmarters” coming in a close second.

Both schools hope to be able to participate in NOBBChE’s National Science Bowl, which will be held in November in Raleigh, N.C.

AIR FORCE WINS 2016 JOINT LANGUAGE WARS

by Staff Sgt. AJ Hyatt, 70th ISR Wing Public Affairs / June 14, 2016 (Adapted)

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. -- More than 100 linguists recently competed in the 4th annual Joint Language Wars, May 9 – 13, 2016, at Fort Meade, and the Air Force won the overall service award, ending the Army's three-year streak.



Col. Greg Gillinger, 70th ISR Wing vice commander, poses with Air Force language analysts who took first place in the 4th annual Joint Language Wars, May 17, 2016 at Fort George G. Meade, Md. (Courtesy photo)

The Joint Language Wars is an annual joint service competition where linguists from all services form two-person teams, only one of whom can be a native speaker, and compete in six events. Each service rotates hosting the event and this year the Marines were host.

“The six competition languages were Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Chinese, Russian and Spanish,” said TSgt Nicholas, 691st Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group Command Language Program manager. “Language Wars is an opportunity for language analysts across all services to show off the skills they work so hard to hone,” Nicholas said. “It recognizes the top three teams in each language as well as the overall service winner, so participants compete for both personal accolades and service pride. Additionally, the games provide a week of time where the participants can take small break from the pressures of mission and use their language skills to have some fun.” This year, the Air Force took first place in four languages: Arabic, Korean, Chinese and Farsi. Members from the 7th Intelligence Squadron, 29th IS, 34th IS, 94th IS, and 70th Operations Support Squadron represented the Air Force teams in the competition. Members from the 691th ISRG, 707th ISRG, 70th OSS and 707th ISRG also supported as proctors or on the planning committee.

**FROM LOWS TO HIGHS:
AN AIRMAN'S FIGHT TO TRANSFORM COLORADO**
by Airman 1st Class Dennis Hoffman, 21st Space Wing Public Affairs
Published July 14, 2016 (Adapted)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. -- There was no light and no tunnel, just the darkness that clouded Nick's every thought. All of his energy had slowly washed away from years of misfortune. He had hit rock bottom. "Why isn't anything changing," he thought to himself sitting alone in his car, contemplating dangerous thoughts. With one last hopeful call, Nick reached out to a mentor. "Instead of just talking about what I should do to fix my life — he listened to me," he said. "It was so empowering."

Like a phoenix rising from its own ashes, Senior Airman Nicholas Cavanaugh, 544th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group command support staff specialist, was empowered by such a simple



Senior Airman Nicholas Cavanaugh, 544th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group command support staff specialist, speaks to the Junior Enlisted Association about suicide prevention at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., July 7, 2016. After a low point and because he reached out for help, Cavanaugh credits his mentor with saving his life. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Dennis Hoffman)

gesture that he would go on to create change in his local community by creating an organization dedicated to helping victims of sex trafficking.

Everything began after a series of unfortunate events kept interrupting the normalcy of Cavanaugh's life. With a hurdle in his education, the passing of his unborn child and the loss of his possessions in a house fire, it was as if someone kept knocking him down after he gained enough footing to be able to stand up again, said Cavanaugh.

Cavanaugh gathered himself just enough to reach out to a mentor he became close with and with zero hesitation, his mentor met him at a local restaurant. After confiding in his mentor for more than three hours, Cavanaugh said the shroud of darkness

that once clouded his mind lifted and he began to see hope for himself and his future. “That was the first time I ever experienced someone truly caring and really being there for me,” said Cavanaugh. “At my lowest point in my life, he was there when I needed someone to just listen – he saved my life. That started the slow progression of me wanting to make my life and others’ lives better.”

From there, Cavanaugh opened himself up and sought opportunities that would help propel this idea of betterment. “I took a course centered on creating transformation out in the world,” said Cavanaugh. “It made you look outside yourself and actually taking action consistent with what you want to see in the world. That is what really inspired me to do something for people.” Cavanaugh took this revitalized-emerging momentum, put his thoughts into action and created an organization with a focus on helping others in their times of need, said Cavanaugh. He called this organization, Transforming Colorado. Transforming Colorado, in its beginning phase, used manpower and resources to raise funds for individuals who found themselves falling on hard times, said Cavanaugh. These gestures ranged from providing a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal to 30 families to purchasing a vehicle for a family to make it to and from work safely.

“I heard that Denver was the second largest city in the United States for sex trafficking,” said Cavanaugh. “I was completely blown away by this issue. I had never heard of it, never knew it existed and thought this was an issue only in third-world countries. I felt called in that I needed to do something about it.” Cavanaugh listened to the stories of adults and children who experienced the harsh realities of sex-trafficking and quickly thought of his own experiences of feeling powerless and without any hope. In a way, Cavanaugh said he knew that by helping these human beings that he was helping part of himself. While still gaining steam, Cavanaugh’s organization is still in development stages. They are working hard to maintain vigor and grow the organization with resources and volunteers ready to help those affected by sex trafficking. “The reason I joined the military was to make a difference,” said Cavanaugh. “In my life I try to accomplish that in every aspect. I really want my life to be about what I believe in, and that is to defend and uphold the freedoms that everybody deserves.”

To date, Transforming Colorado has partnered funds and resources with organizations to better the lives of more than 20 individuals affected by sex trafficking.

25TH AF AIRMEN HELP LOCAL SENIORS

by 25th Air Force Public Affairs (Adapted)

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - LACKLAND, Texas --

Every other Tuesday, 25th Air Force's Maj. Erin Brilla and Master Sgt. Michael Knapp, give up their lunch breaks to work as volunteers for the Meals On Wheels program by delivering freshly prepared meals to seniors living in the nearby Five Palms area.



“I would say we deliver up to 30 meals ... Looking at past lists, we’ve delivered anywhere between 18-28 meals on a given day, depending on the number of people on the list,” Brilla said. “And for holidays, and double meal deliveries, it’s even more.”

The San Antonio Meals on Wheels program is a function of the Christian Senior Services, a non-profit organization serving senior residents of Bexar County; Through the program Bexar County seniors get hot, nutritious meals each weekday.

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-Lackland, Texas—25th Air Force's Maj. Erin K. Brilla, left, and Master Sgt. Michael C. Knapp pack hot meals.(U.S. Air Force Photo/William B. Belcher, 25 AF/PA)

Brilla and Knapp pick up the prepared meals at the Crossroads Community Church on Ray Ellison Boulevard, near the Lackland Medina Training Annex. Then they organize the meals and delivery list, ensuring a smooth, methodological delivery, which takes about an hour.

Many of the residents Brilla and Knapp serve just outside Lackland's Security Hill gate area are connected to the military themselves: former military families, disabled veterans, and even Air Force widows. “Not only is Meals on Wheels an amazing opportunity to strengthen ties with our local community,” Brilla said, “it’s a chance to take care of our own and reconnect with former generations of service members living right here.”

If there is no response at a recipient’s door, they leave a Meals On Wheels card on the doorknob, letting the resident(s) know they were there.

“There is always a need for good people to do good things in our communities,” Knapp said. “And one such need is to prevent our elderly and disabled from going hungry. The Meals On Wheels program is an excellent way to get involved, to make a difference, and to achieve a sense of fulfillment and communion with the community.” Knapp indicated the program is suffering some attrition through permanent change of station moves and civilian transfers, and the need for new drivers is paramount.

Diana Saucedo, Meals On Wheels volunteer coordinator, is focusing on recruiting volunteers and sites for San Antonio’s Southwest Side, her highest need area. “We have been losing volunteers on the Crossroads Community Church routes and it’s becoming (more) difficult to get it covered,” Saucedo, said.

Knapp would like to gain exposure to the program and drum up support on base. “The last thing we want to happen is to have members of our community go hungry because we couldn’t find 90 minutes every other week to make a difference!”, he continued. "The communities right outside our gate should never be short of drivers given the number of personnel who work on JBSA-Lackland.”

AF DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND SYSTEM

Published October 13, 2015 (Adapted)

<http://www.af.mil/AboutUs/FactSheets/Display/tabid/224/Article/104525/air-force-distributed-common-ground-system.aspx>



The Air Force Distributed Common Ground System (AF DCGS), also referred to as the AN/GSQ-272 SENTINEL weapon system, is the USAF primary intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) collection, processing, exploitation, analysis

and dissemination (CPAD) system. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Background

Air Force DCGS evolved from ISR programs dating back to the late 1960s, however the current weapon system traces its direct lineage to the Contingency Airborne Reconnaissance System (CARS) established in 1992 at Langley AFB. CARS was housed in approximately 27 deployable shelters and undertook deployments to Guantanamo Bay (Cuba) and Saudi Arabia. In October 1994, ACC and the Pacific Air Forces signed an Organizational Change request (OCR) that stood up DGS-1 (Langley AFB), DGS-2 (Beale AFB), and DGS-3 (Osan AB). In 1996, CARS became AF DCGS.

Since its early inception, Air Force DCGS has evolved from a deployable system to a distributed ISR operation capable of providing world-wide, near-real-time simultaneous intelligence to multiple theaters of operation through a robust reach-back communications architecture. The system integrates data collected by ISR platforms with exploitation performed by intelligence professionals to provide critical and actionable intelligence to leadership and supported commanders worldwide. Through a federated/distributed architecture, AF DCGS can move data between multiple worldwide sites to align intelligence production to meet ISR collection demands. Over the years, the Air Force DCGS weapon system and its predecessor systems have supported ISR operations in every major conflict in which U.S. forces have been involved. In addition, AF DCGS has provided intelligence exploitation during humanitarian and coalition partner operations via specialized products specifically cleared for release.

Mission

The Air Force Distributed Common Ground System (AF DCGS), also referred to as the AN/GSQ-272 SENTINEL weapon system, is the Air Force's primary intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) planning and direction, collection, processing and exploitation, analysis and dissemination (PCPAD) weapon system. The weapon system employs a global communications architecture that connects multiple intelligence platforms and sensors. Airmen assigned to AF DCGS produce actionable intelligence from data collected by a variety of sensors on the U-2, RQ-4 Global Hawk, MQ-1 Predator, MQ-9 Reaper and other ISR platforms.

Features

The Air Force DCGS is currently composed of 27 regionally aligned, globally networked sites. The sites have varying levels of capability and capacity to support the intelligence needs of the warfighter. An Air Force DCGS Distributed Ground System (DGS) is capable of robust, multi-intelligence processing, exploitation and dissemination (PED) activities to include sensor tasking and control. It can support multiple ISR platforms in multiple theaters of operation simultaneously. A Distributed Mission Site (DMS) normally has specialized analysis/exploitation capabilities, limited sensor command and control (C2) capabilities, and may be limited to select platforms and/or sensors. The Air Force DCGS PED Operations Center (DPOC) and 480th ISR Wing DCGS Operations Center (DOC) provide worldwide command, control, mission management and data dissemination allowing the Air Force DCGS to operate as a federated enterprise to meet worldwide intelligence needs. DGS and DMS sites are manned by a mixture of active-duty, Air National Guard, Reserve and coalition partner units working to provide an integrated combat capability.

AF DCGS active-duty units are assigned to 25th Air Force (Air Combat Command), however AF DCGS employs a total force integration (TFI) concept for expanded capacity, using both Air National Guard units assigned to their respective states until activated by presidential order and classic associate Air Reserve intelligence units. The 480th ISR Wing, headquartered at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, is the Air Force DCGS lead wing and is responsible for executing worldwide Air Force DCGS operations.

The individual weapon system nodes are regionally aligned and paired with corresponding Air Force component numbered air forces to provide critical processing, analysis and dissemination of intelligence collected within the numbered air force's area of responsibility; however, globally networked capabilities enable other DGS sites to execute missions beyond their numbered air force's geographic area of responsibility.

The 480th ISR Wing DOC relies on daily coordination with liaison officers embedded in worldwide theater command and control elements to ensure current knowledge of dynamic PED capacities. This ensures that (1) the weapon system remains operationally aligned to specific theater collection priorities and (2) intelligence missions are executed in keeping with the combined forces air component commander (CFACC) coalition intelligence needs.

U-2 Returns to Red Flag

By Tech. Sgt. Mike Slater, / Published July 25, 2016 (Adapted)

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, (AFNS) -- The 9th Reconnaissance Wing is taking part in Red Flag 16-3, which is nothing new, as the wing regularly supports Red Flag exercises. What makes this Red Flag different is they are operating from Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, and not from their home station of Beale AFB, California. “It’s been over 20 years since we’ve had a chance to pack everything up and come out here,” said Senior Master Sgt. David Hatch, the U-2 maintenance superintendent. “It’s not often we actually get to pick up and operate from an exercise location, so it really gives us a chance to shake off the rust.”



(Left) Capt. Arthur Bull, a U-2 pilot from 99th Reconnaissance Squadron, in his pressurized space suit at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., during exercise Red Flag 16-3. This is the first time this decade the U-2 has flown in Red Flag while staging out of Nellis AFB. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. David Salanitri)

At any given moment, day or night, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, there is probably a 9th RW aircraft flying an operational mission somewhere in the world. That kind of global reach takes practice. “We normally operate from already established forward operating locations. It’s a rare opportunity to come out and test this skill set,” Hatch said. “It’s like anything else, if you don’t use it, you lose it.”

The U-2s from the 9th RW provide intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance in Korea, the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq. When requested, they also provide peacetime reconnaissance in support of disaster relief from floods, earthquakes and forest fires, as well as search and rescue operations. These mission sets sometimes require being self-sufficient at remote locations, where support is limited. “In my prior experience, I deployed where we already had everything in place,” said Senior Airman Logan Lasko, a U-2 maintainer. “This has given me an opportunity to see just how much equipment we have to bring to be self-sufficient. It surprised me a little.”

Red Flag has given Lasko and his co-workers the chance to experience firsthand what operating out of a bare base may be like. “It’s a great opportunity to take part in Red Flag,” Lasko said. “I’ll know what to expect when we’re sent out somewhere and be more mentally prepared to deal with the challenges.”

Hatch said the experienced gained was not limited to mobility. “We’re here supporting operations, but we have also received some exercise injects. So, it gives our Airmen a chance to practice contested, degraded operations,” Hatch said. The U-2 will continue to fly in support of Red Flag 16-3 until the exercise ends July 29.

SILENCING THE ARCTIC MAMMOTH

Adapted from an article by Air Force Capt. Christopher Arnold, 301st Intelligence Squadron / Published May 23, 2016



A large circular antenna array, the AN/FLR-9, or Flare-9, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson was built in 1966 during the height of the Cold War. The facility is commonly referred to as the "Elephant Cage" due to its large 40-acre footprint. JBER's Flare-9 antenna will be officially shut down for the first time in 50 years on 25 May, 2016. (Courtesy photo)

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- For half a century, the "Elephant Cage" has cast a shadow over the Alaska landscape, silently collecting and finding the direction of communications signals, guarding against adversary threats and intentions. The intelligence collected informed our nation's and allied decision makers, from presidents to warfighters. In later years it fulfilled a crucial role aiding in navigation and direction-finding for civilian and military search and rescue missions. After five decades of service, this symbol of intelligence operations is being retired.

The AN/FLR-9 (commonly pronounced Flare-9) is a large circular antenna array affectionately referred to as the "Elephant Cage" because of its massive 40-acre footprint and 120-foot tower height. Its design was based on the German Wullenweber antenna. During World War II, German naval technicians in a secret research and development program designed and built the original antenna. Following the war, the original structure was destroyed according to terms negotiated under the Potsdam Conference, and a secondary system was disassembled and brought back to the U.S. for an in-depth engineering analysis.

Built in 1966 at the height of the Cold War at what is now Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, the antenna is the last of eight systems which originally comprised a worldwide network. Each system could intercept and directionally locate high-frequency radio transmissions up to 4,000 nautical miles away. Over time, these structures succumbed to many different fates.

Three were dismantled as a result of base closures: Ramasun Station, Thailand in 1975; San Vito Air Station, Italy in 1993; and Royal Air Force Chicksands, England in 1997.

Another at Karamursel Air Station, Turkey, was demolished following a conflict over foreign aid to Greece in 1977. The array at Clark Air Base in the Philippines was irrevocably damaged by the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991 and subsequently converted to a covered amphitheater.

Most recently, Misawa Air Base, Japan, deactivated their AN/FLR-9 in 2012 and demolished it in 2015.

Initially maintained and operated by the United States Air Force Security Service, and locally by the 6981st Electronic Security Squadron, today, the operation and maintenance of the AN/FLR-9 is executed by the men and women of the 373d Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group and a cadre of trained civilians.

This month that will all change when, during a Decommissioning Ceremony at the 373d, the last of these mammoth structures will be deactivated and powered down for the first time in 50 years.

"The development and diverse geographical deployment of these systems was a noteworthy intelligence achievement for the period," said Air Force Col. Suzanne Streeter, 373d Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group commander.

"Advances in technology, along with the high cost of maintenance and availability of replacement parts, have shifted the AN/FLR-9 antennas across the Air Force from an operational capability to historic monuments."

Though upgraded over the years, it is a testimony to the engineering and workmanship of the antenna that many parts are still original and have never been repaired or replaced.

The antenna array is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. There is already interest in preserving the site, similar to the Nike Missile Site on Site Summit near JBER's eastern edge.

"I've been fortunate to have three tours flying fighters at Elmendorf, and I've seen a lot of changes since my first sortie here in 1994, including the runway orientation," said Air Force Col. Charles Corcoran, 3rd Wing commander.

"One thing that never changed was the 'elephant cage.' Whether sighting it from long distance on a beautiful clear day in Alaska, or catching a glimpse of it after breaking out of the clouds on an instrument approach, a pilot always knew he was home as soon as the 'elephant cage' was visible."

Efforts are currently underway to explore the conservation of the antenna to honor its 50 years of service.

FTVA CHAPTER NEWS

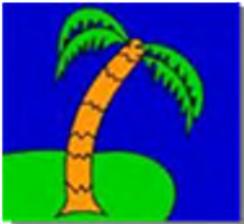
Compiled by Dennis Buxton, Auxiliary Staff

The latest chapter news fit-to-print as reported from our intrepid chapter correspondents located from the balmy breezes of Waikiki to the hot air of the nation’s capital. Read what’s happening in your area; better yet become an active “Jimmy Olsen” by participating in local activities and telling the world-wide FTVA community of your chapter happenings. Simply send your inputs to your local chapter president who will compile and send them to Ted Colquhoun, your esteemed FTVA Board VEEP at Wings_of_Blue@yahoo.com.

We are now “Wheels Up” in Hawaii, and begin rolling on activity from the very active Aloha Chapter as related by “Aloha Tilly”.

Aloha Chapter, Honolulu, HI

John “Tilly” Toillion, President



The Aloha Chapter held its second social of 2016 on May 6 at Ruby Tuesdays Mililani. Al Teel continues to be MIA – probably due to he’s the only one of two (Steve Crain the other) **STILL** working!

We welcomed Dave Jones to his first social with this group. Dave shared, “I’ve lived on this island for 40 years and have been to Mililani once and that was 35 years ago!” Well, now it’s twice!



(left) **Mahalo!**

L-R: Ken Een, Fred Collins, Steve Crain, Dickie Hites, John Toillion, Dave Jones

Highlight of our latest get-together discussions was Ken Een's sharing that he had recently submitted an HOH consideration for Ken "Hopi" Hopkins. Mahalo to Ken Een for taking this on. The remainder of our discussions focused on our usual two topics of: Old War (and I mean OLD) Stories of assignments to Clark AB, PI; Hakata, JA; Viet Nam; and someone (?) to Cambodia. Concerning stories of health issues, Fred Collins shared his recent 12-hour experience at the Tripler Emergency Room, and Dickie Hites shared that he is scheduled for outpatient surgery on May 9th, which highlights our goal and pledge to "Remain in Touch" (RIT)!

We held our latest social on July 29 at Ruby Tuesdays in Mililani.

As usual there were several topics for discussion – war stories, health issues, and of course politics, the latter of which some comments were R-rated. Hindsight being what it is, we should have put headsets on Dickie's grandson Phoenix during these discussions.



L-R: Fred Collins, Al Teal, Ken Een, Dickie Hites, Phoenix (Dickie's grandson), Leroy "Oly" Harrison, and John Toillion

A new topic of discussion pertained to several former Misawan's who live in the islands. Oly Harrison shared the list of names and contact information that we will use to reach out and invite to our next get together. We also committed to reaching out and inviting other former USAF members who we know reside here on Oahu. Last but not least, we are anxious to hear who the new HOH selectees are for 2016.

That be it from the coconut wireless. A-looooo-ha!! Tilly

Our next orbit point takes us to a place near and dear to many of us from days of yore, beautiful Goodbuddy Airplane Patch in West Texas.



Heritage Chapter, San Angelo, TX

Ronald 'JJ' Graham, Chapter President

Ed Bendinelli, Chapter Vice President

Larry Ross, Chapter Secretary/Photographer

President Graham called the monthly meeting to order at 1815 hours on June 2d at the Peppercorn Grill. Eleven members and 6 guests attended.

Old Business

- **Cressman Dedication.** President Graham originally received word that the facility would open in the next few days. No information on any type of “grand re-opening.” We will pick out some dates and check with the base to make sure we don’t interfere with anything. The shadow box is in the final construction stage. Update: The Cressman Dining Facility “rededication” will take place sometime in the near future (90 days or so is our best guess right now). We may try to tie it in with the reunion visitors we’ll have in late September.
- **Web Page Update.** Wayne Bascom has made some additions to the Heritage Chapter’s web site. Recent minutes have been added and Wayne is now creating code to display event photos. Update: Wayne Bascom has done a great job getting our new web page going and we appreciate the help from Bob (Baert) at your (FTVA BOD) end.
- **EC-47 Display Guest Log.** Not much progress has been made. We are still investigating hardware and software needed to support an electronic guest log. Update: As for the EC-47 visitors log, we are coming into a lot of red tape getting a “pooter” hooked up in the HQ building; we may just go with a good, old-fashioned paper book if this doesn’t get sorted out soon.
- **Moving Wall.** There are at least four groups that have a Vietnam Memorial moving wall exhibit. Based on his research, Tom Nurre recommended the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) “Moving Wall That Heals” as the best choice. The estimated cost of bringing the “wall” to San Angelo is \$10,000-\$12,000, which includes the exhibit and its support personnel. If the wall is to come to San Angelo, a sponsor is needed. Ed Bendinelli is locating an underwriter for funding assistance.

New Business

Fort Concho Ceremony. The All Veterans Council of Tom Green County will conduct a ceremony at Fort Concho, Officers Quarters #8 on 18 June at 1300 hours. Events will include a cannon volley, a speaker, a video highlighting the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary, pinning of Vietnam era veterans, and refreshments.

- September Reunions/Visits. Ed Bendinelli and Tom Nurre are coordinating events schedules. Members of the 6994th SS Association, the USAFSS Roll Call Association and probably some from the FTVA will be attending. Activities include a tour of Goodfellow AFB, a remembrance ceremony, Vietnam War 50th Anniversary pinning ceremony, and an evening banquet. Members approved an expense not to exceed \$300.00 for a noon BBQ luncheon.
- FTVA Board. Andy Smith has stepped down as Vice President and Ted Colquhoun will serve out the remainder of his term. President Graham sent Andy an e-mail thanking him for his service and wished him well.
- Election of Officers. Ronald “JJ” Graham, Ed Bendinelli and Larry Ross were re-elected to serve the next two years as President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer respectively. Guests enjoyed a social get together.

Heritage Chapter members participated in two ceremonies celebrating Memorial Day.

(Right) A small group of members attended the first ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial near Mathis Field airport.

(Right: JJ Graham, Tom & Kitty Nurre, and Ed Bendinelli).





(Left) The second was at a wreath laying ceremony on the Tom Green County courthouse lawn sponsored by the Concho Valley All Veterans Council. A Central High School Jr ROTC Cadet Color Guard opened the ceremony.

(Right) GAFB 17th Training Wing Commander, Col Michael Downs, gave the memorial address.



(Left) Chapter member Carl Frenz laid a wreath on behalf of American Legion Post 572.

Heritage President JJ Graham had the honor of presenting the final wreath which was donated by the Heritage Chapter.



On 2 June the Heritage Chapter held its quarterly merry feast at a local restaurant. From the smiles looks like everyone had a good time eating and visiting. Jim Cox got a table all to himself - showed up too late to get a seat at the big table. It was sure nice to see Corky Bingham out and about. He had recently recovered from a serious medical issue. After due consideration JJ Graham, Ed Bendinelli, Larry Ross were re-elected respectively as President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer for another two-year term.



Left side (L-R): Al Wankowski, Ed Bendinelli, Tom Nurre, Marc & Sherry Kirner, Chae & Wayne Bascom, unk.
 Right side (R-L): Corky & Karen Bingham, Diane Ross, Don & Mary Goff, Steve Goff, JJ Graham and Jim Cox

Carelessness Damages VA Memorial in San Angelo, TX Helicopter and 46 Memorial Pavers Marred

Every year, the local chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America makes plans to clean up the memorial at the San Angelo Regional Airport after Independence Day. Revelers congregate at the site to watch the Lake Nasworthy fireworks, invariably leaving behind trash like beer cans and exploded fireworks debris. Tom Bright, president of the VVA chapter, said this year the situation was much, much worse.



(Left) Tim Bright, president of the San Angelo chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America, stands over a large grease stain left on the memorial bricks by a camper who set up a barbecue pit for Independence Day at the site. 7/09/16

According to Bright, one visitor set a grill up directly beneath the memorial's helicopter, and the fire must have gotten out of hand, as evidenced by the greasy scorch marks on the helicopter and grease drippings all over the engraved commemorative paving stones beneath.

"Normally, folks just go out there and shoot off fireworks," Bright said. "We

always find food wrappers and other trash after the holiday — but this is outrageous — we're just sick about it — and we have Veterans Day coming up." The cleanup will be difficult, if not impossible. "There were 46 engraved stones ruined," he said. "That's not counting the blank stones that got grease on them." "I went to two different places in town that sell chemicals and told them what the problem was ... they said since the stones are unglazed concrete we were probably out of luck, because they're very porous and they just suck that grease in." Bright said the pavers are not easily replaceable, because the man they ordered them from has since retired, and the stones are costly. He said there also was damage to the helicopter, a Vietnam era Bell UH-1H Iroquois or Huey that likely will stall their plans to have the aircraft repainted. "It was already going to cost us \$12,000 to get the chopper painted," he said. "But now we will have to get the grease off it first, or the paint won't even stick to it."

Subject: RE: Vietnam Memorial Damage in San Angelo - Update

From: FTVA

To Heritage Chapter

JJ -- The FTVA Board has passed a motion to provide the Heritage Chapter up to \$1,000 if and when the Chapter calls for it in furtherance of cleaning/painting refurbishing the San Angelo Veterans' Memorial. Just let me know if you can use any or all of it to support the Chapter's goals.

Regards,

Bob Cope, Treasurer

//Response to FTVA BOD from JJ Graham //

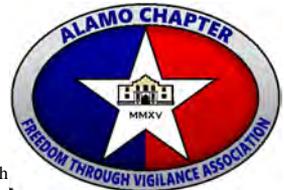
Sir, I talked with Tom Bright this weekend. The Vietnam Veterans held a “Eat with a Vietnam Vet” BBQ meal fundraiser in the Best Buy parking lot. He told me the pavers are being worked on by a company donating its time and services. Right now it looks like most of the pavers may be saved by their method of cleaning. The helicopter, however, is not going to be so easy. They’ll need to clean and repaint the chopper, and they are going to cordon off the display in some way as to indicate the area is closed off, but not detracting from the display itself. It certainly looks like they can use whatever the FTVA is willing to donate. Needless to say they were very appreciative when we discussed a possible donation. If the board is willing to donate \$1,000 towards this project I believe every penny will be put to good use.

As always, we appreciate your support more than words can express! Please holler if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Cheers...JJ

Alamo Chapter, San Antonio, TX

Barnie Gavin, Chapter President
Mike Nielson, Chapter Secretary



The **June meeting** of the Alamo Chapter of the FTVA was called to order at 6:15p.m., June 16th, 2016, by President Barnie Gavin with 17 members and guests in attendance.

- Pres Gavin mentioned that he has been in contact with “Willie’s Roadhouse” on 1604. Willie’s stated that for charity, they would donate 15% of the billing of an event. Pres Gavin has queried Willie’s Roadhouse to see if that would apply to a veteran’s organization like the Alamo Chapter. He contacted Willie’s, but has not heard back from them yet. He will follow up on this. Pres Gavin mentioned that he had also been in contact with the Commander of the 543rd to discuss how the Alamo Chapter could contribute to the 543rd Awards Programs. Member Dennis Buxton, FTVA Golf Tournament Director, provided an update on the status of the Tournament to be held on 22nd of September at the Golf Club of Texas on Rt 211, East of Castroville off Highway 90W. The cost will

increase to \$45 per player with a scheduled noon (1200) Shotgun Start. All members, including non-players are invited to the festivities.

- Member Ron Haygood, President of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA), provided an update of the FTVA Anniversary/Reunion Activities Scheduled from 22 – 24 September, commencing with the Golf Tourney on the 22nd, the EC-47 Rededication Ceremony honoring our Fallen Eagles and the following picnic at Stapleton Park on the 23rd, and the Hall of Honor Induction and 25AF Direction/Update on the morning of the 24th in Ardisana Hall.
- Ron Haygood also briefly related the events that took place at Elmendorf AFB this past May when the last remaining AN/FLR-9 was taken “off line” after running continuously for 50 years. Ron reported that there is a move afoot by our brethren FTVA folks in Alaska to set aside at least a portion of the FLR-9 apparatus as a historical artifact.
- Finally, Ron stated that the Florida Chapter is about to be reinstated. The Chapter will support our SOF troops in the Hurlburt Field area.
- Pres Gavin adjourned the meeting at 6:19 stating he will be checking with Houlihan’s for next month’s meeting as a “sit down” meeting with all spouses cordially invited.

As promised above, **the July meeting** of the Alamo Chapter was held on the 21st and was called to order at 1830 by President Bernie Gavin. There were 26 members, spouses, and family members present for our quarterly sit-down dinner meeting. The following business was completed:

- President Gavin asked those present to consider responding to the Oral Interview Questionnaire previously sent to the membership. Oral history interviews would be conducted this fall in conjunction with the various reunion meetings in September.
- Leroy Rogers from the Airman Heritage Museum provided an update on the status of building a museum on Lackland AFB near the Luke Gate. Currently the land for the museum has been made available but funding is needed in order to move forward. Leroy also stated that he has received over 8000 artifacts dating back to pre-WWI from the Airman Memorial Museum in Suitland MA. Please call Leroy at 210-616-0682 if you wish to contribute to this historic cause.
- The meeting was adjourned at 1845 followed by a meal and great fellowship and comradery. The next Alamo Chapter meeting will be on 20 October 2016 back at Logan’s Roadhouse on I-10 W. Hope to see everyone at the annual reunion festivities next month.

Out-takes from Alamo Chapter July 21 Meeting

Photos by Chapter Member Ken Maynard



L-R Jeanie & Andy Smith, (hidden), Jesse Coultrap, Judy Maynard, Pete and Betty Siegel and Chapter VP Ken Gendolfe.

L-R Sheila Williams, Diane Nielsen, Chapter President Bernie Gavin, (Judy's fore head), Doris Bowers. Foreground: Chapter Secretary Mike Nielsen



Marco & Rachael Aldaz with D. Rassmussen

L-R: Kay & Ron Weaver, Darby Stacey, Ken Williams, Judy Gavin and Doris Bowers





Rocky Mountain Chapter, Colo Springs, CO

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

George "Ike" Eichelberger, President

The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association held our regularly scheduled meeting on 14 Jul 16. In addition to regular chapter attendees; Mike Click, Stan Cook, Dennis Daniels, Ike Eichelberger, Tom Nurre, and Jeff Waldeck, we were joined by special guest Chuck Maerten. Chuck traces his service back through the early days of Security Service when he was first stationed at Det 2, 6921RSM (Radio Squadron Mobile), Wakkanai Japan, 1955-1957; and then 6913RSM, Bremerhaven Germany, 1957-1959. Dennis Daniels, our membership secretary gave Chuck a membership form to fill out and send to the FTVA National Chapter in SATX. We look forward to seeing Chuck at future meetings and hearing his stories; Lord knows we need a break from Chief Nurre's! During today's meeting, FTVA name tags were handed out to those who ordered them; a thank-you card from Ken Schnarrenberger was read to the group; and there was a short discussion about our next Vietnam commemorative ceremony to be held on Friday 4 Nov 16.

OC: No further Chapter Reports were intercepted since last issue.

With no further activity to roll on, this edition's FTVA Chapter News and Events is now off-orbit. Hope to see many of the chapters' members at the September reunion!



REUNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 rhc2k@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

Sep 15 – 18, 2016

37th RSM/6952 RSMG (RAF Kirknewton, Scotland)

Location: Courtyard by Marriott, Seattle, WA (425) 255-0300

POC: Stan Harris ph (615) 971-9527. Email: sharris02@sprynet.com

Comment: We welcome anyone assigned to either organization.

Sep 21 – 23, 2016

6994th Security Sq and Detachments

Location: San Angelo, TX

POC: Bob Hull ph (740) 924-5261. Email: shibob27@columbus.rr.com

Comment: See web site for details, forms & registration

The theme of this reunion is a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the activation of the 6994th Security Squadron and the two detachments at Tan Son Nhut, Nha Trang, and Pleiku, respectively.

Reunion events include a detailed tour of the USAF Heritage Award winning EC47 ARDF History Exhibit, a base tour, and a special 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War ceremony honoring all the 94th SS Vietnam War era veterans and their families. The USAFSS Roll Call

group will take a day out of their San Antonio reunion to attend this commemoration ceremony scheduled for September 22nd. All veterans and their families from these and other groups or associations are invited to participate in the commemoration ceremony. Representatives from the War Stories project will be available to provide more information and invite these veterans to participate in their project. There is more information about the 94th reunion at: http://6994th.com/?page_id=2355

Ice Breaker for USAFSS Misawa Alumni - Wed Sep 21st

Submitted by Walt Ritter

USAFSS Misawa Annual Alumni Social: Make plans to attend the 17th annual alumni gathering to be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 6 PM at Lily’s Kings Lounge, 111 Whitewood, San Antonio, Texas. Group pictures taken at 8 PM. Reservations not required. All USAFSS veterans old and new are encouraged to stop by or phone 210-260-3062

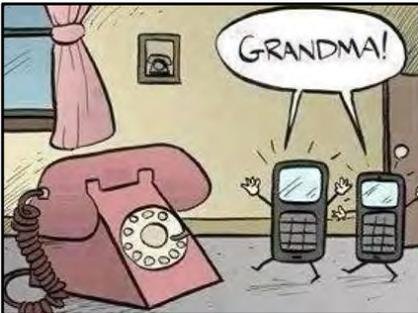
Sep 22 – 24, 2016

FTVA Annual Reunion (See poster on following page)

Location: Security Hill, San Antonio, TX

POC: Ron Haygood, president@ftva.org

Comments: Reunion packets are mailed to the membership along with the annual *Member Directory* in early July. Further information available at our website: <http://www.ftva.org>



FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION

**P.O. BOX 691616
San Antonio, TX 78269
2 Aug 2016**



PLATINUM PARTNERS

**Osmen Family Foundation at the
Community Foundation of Western
Nevada**



**(IMO Maj Gen Paul Martin)
General Dynamics Information Technology
Berlin Island Association
Prop Wash Gang (IMO CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant)**



GOLD PARTNERS

**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

**Grover Jackson
Bob Cope
To The Penny Tax Services
Arrowhead Electric Service
Lee and Jen Anthony
Regis F.A. Urschler
Anthony F. Jensen
“Picnic Partners”**



**Grant and June Howells (IHO CMSgt (Ret)Larry Mills)
Ken and Hide Lantz (IHO CMSgt (Ret) Larry Mills)
Richard Hain (IMO CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant)**



BRONZE PARTNERS



**Donald Bundy
Joseph Hurst
Association of Spanish Flyers
(IMO Col Bruce Strotman)
William F. McCarthy
Henry Whitney
Bob & Debbie Cope
(IMO of CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant)
Ronald Hentz (In Memory of CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant and
Col Grover McMakin)**



PATRON PARTNERS



**Marco and Rachel Aldaz
Francis Sabourin
Thomas H. Tennant
James Mayer
Richard Sacchetti
Engrave-Tech & Graphics
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314th 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



All members of Roll Call are invited to its annual Reunion, September 21-24, 2016, in San Antonio, TX.

We are gathering at the Sleep Inn and Suites, and will offer a bus trip to Goodfellow (all day Thursday), Mexican buffet and entertainment in hotel Thursday evening, attend Basic Training Graduation, EC-47 Memorial, Picnic, and Banquet Friday.

For more information go to usafssrollcall.com/sanantonio.html

Print, complete, include check and mail to Bob Askew by July 20. 2016



REUNION REPORTS



San Antonio MiniReunion May 10th Submitted by Walt Ritter

Had a gathering of folks get together when Mike Wilson came down from Alaska. We were all at Misawa, Vietnam and San Antonio. Some of these friendships go back to 1961.



6981st Reunion in Elmendorf Submitted by Jim Kaus

This group of gents gathered at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska recently for a reunion to bid farewell to the deactivated FLR-9.



L-R George McCain, Jim VanEpps, Ted Moninski, Jim Woelfel, Walter Moore, Jim Moody, Roger Oleson, Jim Kaus, Wayne Prigge, Joe Martin, Steve Mobry and Tim Loden

Misawa Project 2016 National Reunion (RIT Staff Compilation)



(Above) When the Misawa Project opened its doors on June 22 to welcome the throng of attendees too Mobile, AL, Bob “Skosh” Wynn and the Carpenters were among the first to arrive.

Syd Scales rode over to Mobile with Waco Wetterman at the controls while Syd’s reunion mascot “Steamboat Willie” (right) got his view of the road from the back seat.



L-R, Syd, Waco, Jim and Wanda.



(Left) On their way from New Orleans, Waco and Syd stopped and had lunch with Jim and Wanda Alverson.

(R) Jane Doolittle is flanked by Rose & “Spanky” Parker.



(L) U.S. Flag Folders: Harold Hollingshed, Jane Doolittle, Jay “J J” Johnson and George Logan

(R) Jesse Tibo forwarded this photo of the MIA/POW memorial table set up at the Mobile, AL banquet.



(L) The Raffle Table was very generous once again.



Misawa Reunion - Mobile, AL - June 2016 - Veterans



Misawa Reunion - Mobile, AL - June 2016 - Spouses

2016 6922nd Security Wing Kuyas Reunion



This reunion was held May 11-15, 2016 in Jacksonville, Florida. The announcement was made on the 6922nd SW Animal House web page, 6922nd SW Facebook page and via email.

SEE: <http://6922ndswanimalhouse.homestead.com/Photoalbum.html>

Reunion Summary

About 40% of the Kuyas arrived on Wednesday, 50% arrive on Thursday, and the remainder arrived on Friday.

The Hospitality Suite was open for business on Wednesday and remained open around the clock until late Saturday night. The hospitality suite was fully stocked with snacks, beer/wine/soft drinks, etc. and was included in the cost of the registration fee.

Thursday evening was a Filipino buffet in the hospitality suite – also complimentary

Friday during the day, the chasers of little white balls played golf –while many folks were sightseeing or spent the time in the hospitality suite catching up.

Friday morning was a brunch for the wives and girlfriends at a local restaurant – cost included in your registration fee.

Friday night was a river launch from the landing below the hotel to a fun restaurant across the river for dinner and drinks – also included in your registration fee.

Saturday evening was our annual banquet that is a wonderful event with a great meal, presentation of a donation to a local Veterans' organization, and entertainment – all presided over by our master MC Kevin "Pooh Bear" Brown. The cost of the meal is also included in your registration fee.

As we continue to get older, we unfortunately are losing our brothers way too quickly so the Reunion becomes even more important to the bond we created those many years ago in a far off land while serving our country.
//Mike "Lulu" Gilson (Able '68-'69) Ph 925-766-6114//



L-R - Bob and Sue Zuchowski and J. Johnson (of course) in the hospitality room.

Posted by Charles A. "Charlie" Ballew (1964 -1991)

Clark AB Reunion-Balik Clark 2017 in Philippines

Another "Clark Air Base-Balik Clark" reunion is planned for March 2017 This "reunion" will be held in the Angeles City/Clark Freeport Zone (former Clark AB) area. Anyone interested in participating this time around (and for specific details) should "join" the "Clark Air Base-Balik Clark 2017" FB group... — with Cathy Forren and Bob Marthey.

FaceBook posting by Gary Kirk - Go to “Balik Clark” page:
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=the%20clark%20balik%202017%20reunion%20> and follow up page:
<https://www.facebook.com/gary.kirk.9/posts/999364406798350>

A 2017 reunion of those who served or lived on/at Clark AB at any time is set for March 10-March 20, 2017.

This is not a formal organization, nor is this reunion sponsored by any group or organization. It is simply a get together to share memories and experiences at the site of the base where we all served and/or in the Philippines. There is a formal, scheduled program set by sponsors of the “Balik Clark” program to be held on March 10 and/or the 11th depending on the number of participants. These sponsors, the Clark Development Corporation, Nayong Pilipino and the Local Government of Angeles City, have a wonderful program planned (and based on what we experienced in 2015 it will be great). The CDC will provide a rolling tour of the Clark Freeport Zone, a luncheon on the former base as well as a visit to the Clark museum and the 4D theater. The Nayond Pilipino organization will provide what can only be described as a mini-tour of the country and Filipino culture with local and traditional entertainment. The city government will provide a tour of the Heritage District (Angeles and Kapampangan museums included) and a dinner with the mayor (no doubt with some excellent entertainment, if the 2015 program is any guide). The Mayor is considering securing Fields Avenue for a night of a kind of “mardi gras” type celebration if enough people will commit to going. The sponsors are also attempting to obtain some special hotel rates on Clark or in Angeles for those of us who intend to attend that formal program. I will post information regarding that when I get it. If you have not heard anything about this by the end of July, assume that no special rates are available. Anyone can come before March 10 or leave anytime they want (before or after March 22), but if there are special hotel rates obtained by the Balik Clark program one must attend that program. All that being said, I would strongly suggest that anyone who wants to participate in the Balik Clark program make arrangements to arrive at Angeles/Clark by at least the evening of March 8 or the morning of March 9 in order to recover sufficiently to be able to enjoy the festivities that these sponsors will provide us.



HISTORY & MEMORIES



“A Memory Never Forgotten”

Posted by Keith Gary Flanagan



At 3:12 am Central Time, I will be holding a personal vigil for the 16 souls lost in a helicopter crash in northern Vietnam at this time on 8 April 2001.

I knew all 16 souls on board, and I miss them tremendously. I was scheduled to be on this joint US/SRV flight, but my detachment commander directed me to stay in Hanoi in order to brief a Congressional Delegation. I was ordered to brief the CODEL, fly commercially to Hue, and pick up the team when they arrived at Hue/Phu Bai, in order to continue to prepare for the next Joint Field Activity (investigations and surveys jointly conducted by the US and SRV). I had settled into the hotel in Hue, and was awaiting notification from the helo crew. At 1400 hours, I received a message through the hotel from the PAVN Senior Colonel heading up the helo mission that they were on schedule. I went to the hotel lobby and logged on to a computer in order to work on my income tax return for the year. I was concerned that I would not be able to return to Hanoi in time to file via regular mail. At precisely 1502, a colleague of mine walked into the lobby and said hello. He had just returned from Laos on a trilateral investigation and I had not known when he would return. He checked in and went to his room. At 1512, while I was working on my income tax forms, I experienced a "black" moment. For one second, everything went black. I could not see anything. Pure ink black. Then my eyesight returned quickly. I went to the hotel desk and asked if they had received any updates from my team. None. I had a pre-arranged procedure for departing the hotel in a van to pick up the team. First, the team notifies me when they are 30 minutes from arrival. Then I meet the van driver and depart for the airfield. No further contact from the helo team. No further contact from the helo team. NO FURTHER CONTACT FROM THE HELO TEAM. All souls on board died in a foggy crash on a rocky prominent just a few hundred yards from a safe "beach run".

Det 2, 6910th Security Wing – Camp Pieri

Remembering the Bar-B-Q behind the ops building in the summer of 1967.
by Bill Elliott



That sure brings back some great memories from my days with Det 2.
Danke by Mike Baye-USAFSS 64-68



I am not sure if you are aware, Paul, but a lot of intelligence can be obtained from determining the contents of what was consumed at these convocations.
by Bill Elliott



Bill, you are right. I do suppose all that intelligence needs to be done away with properly also.... were they using burn bags for trash bags ??? lol
Paul Carson, (USAFSS 64-68) 6927th, 29251

USAFSS Kirknewton Alumni Dedicate Memorial Bench

On April 21, 2006 there was a dedication of a bench in the Edinburgh, Scotland Princess Street Gardens commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the closing of USAFSS operations at RAF Kirknewton. The bench was purchased by volunteer donations from members of the RAF Kirknewton Alumni Association. Attending the dedication were Susan Wilson, Principle Officer U.S. Consulate General of the U.S. and Susan Fraser of the Edinburgh City Council, Robbie McGregor from the Consulate General office and some family and friends of Kirknewton members.



Organizations and families purchase benches in the Garden to honor or as a remembrance of someone. They are maintained by the city of Edinburgh for 20 years.

Originally there were two RAFK benches in the Gardens donated by RAFK organizations. One was beyond repair and the RAFK Alumni Association took on the task of getting a replacement. All proceeds were voluntary. At the same dedication another RAK bench, which had recently been refurbished was also replaced in the garden. The benches are on either side of the WWI Scottish-American Memorial.



The new bench is on the right and the refurbished one on the left.

Sembach NCO Management Course Certificate - 1961

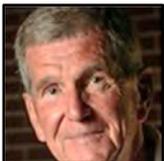
Posted by Aubrey Keeter



Duke - Congrats for completing that course. Put you right up there with the Elite Supervisors. Hope it added 20 points to your promotion scores. Now the big question, did it help getting the next promotion???? Hope so. You should have been up there in the first group going to the new (at that time) Super Duper Stripes (SMSgt and CMSgt). // Paul Laffitte //



Paul, I'm confident I would have been promoted to Super grade if I had hung in there past 20. However, at that time, my computer maintenance experience was highly marketable in civilian life and I had two kiddos starting elementary school that I had to consider. //Duke Keeter//

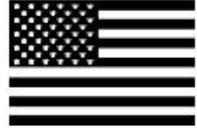


Duke -Thanks for posting this. Dig out some more. // David "Charlie" Church//

(Ed Note: "AF number" versus SSN appears on the certificate.)



MEMORIALS



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

Prop Wash Gang (IMO CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant)



FALLEN EAGLES

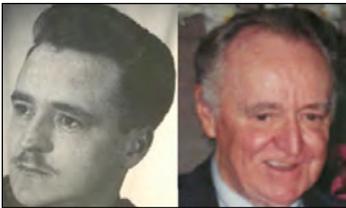


We have learned of the following losses from caring relatives, friends or obituaries and we offer prayers and sympathy to loved ones. “It is the soldier above all others who prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.” D. MacArthur

Compiled by Joe Figueroa, Associate Editor

- Appleton, Frank W., MSgt (ret), USAFSS, *FTVA Lifetime Member* ***
- Ayers, Phillip C. USAFSS
- Behnke, Paul, Col (ret), USAFSS
- Bolen, Ronnie R., USAFSS
- Boward, Richard, C., USAFSS
- Brown, Wayne J., USAFSS
- Butler, Jimmie L., CMSgt (ret), USAF
- Chapelle, Conrad, USAFSS
- Dessert, William E., USAFSS
- Dooley, Horace M., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Dorr, Robert F., USAFSS
- Duff, Donald L., MSgt (ret), USAFSS

Eifler, Michael J., USAFSS
 Farnsley, Glenn R., SMSgt (ret), *FTVA Member ****
 George, James L., Col (ret), USAF
 Gilbert, Jerry F. "JZ", USAFSS
 Jeffares, William "Don" MSgt (ret), USAFSS
 Jones, Dennis R., USAFSS
 LaHue, John G., USAFSS
 Lambert, Norman, E., CMSgt (ret), USAF
 Laske, Ronald D., USAFSS
 Laurrell, John L. "Luke", USAFSS
 Massenburg, Isaac W., USAFSS
 McKee, Kenneth G. Jr., MSgt, USAFSS, *FTVA Member ****
 Nelson, John B., USAFSS
 Newton, Anna M., USAFSS
 Parks, Russell L., CMSgt, (ret), USAFSS
 Poole, Eugene T., USAFSS
 Quigley, Donald R., USAFSS
 Ryans, James M., USAFSS
 Shafer, Ralph C., USAFSS
 Simpson, Paul L., Col (ret), USAFSS *FTVA Lifetime Member ****
 Spears, Clyde C., USAFSS
 Stacey, Darrell G., USAFSS
 Starr, Louis A., USAFSS
 Wagner, David C., USAFSS
 Wright, Howard J., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS



Appleton, Frank W., MSgt, 78, passed away June 14, 2016. Frank exhibited his own special brand of kindness and generosity to us all. Frank was deeply rooted in his family and had filled his bucket list. Frank entered the USAF in 1955 and was assigned to the 6984th

Security Squadron. After traveling the world for 22 years, Mr. Appleton retired from the Air Force as a Master Sergeant in 1977 and spent many years working with Boeing and NASA. Frank's military comrades, brothers and sisters, were an important part of his life. He always spoke fondly of the adventures he shared with them all, especially with his dear friend, Al Forbes. //Obit Page **Funeral Home**// //Notified **Alan Forbes**//



Phillip C. Ayers, 76, passed away May 30, 2016 following a brief stay at Shoreline Health and Rehabilitation Center in Shoreline, Washington. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Amy. He grew up in Vancouver Washington. After high school he entered the Air Force where he served in Japan. He continued his love relationship with his Japanese friends until the time of his death. //Obit – Whidbey Memorial// Phil was a 292 at Hakata during his 1958-1962 assignment. //Carol Farr//



Behnke, Paul J., Col (ret), 86, passed away on April 21st in San Antonio, Texas. Col. Behnke served as a Navigator in the United States Air Force. He served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars and retired after 29 years. He is survived by his wife Carol; his children, Karen, Jean, Diane, David, Kevin, Jo-ann, Jeff Fox, and Shawn. //Obit – Sunset Funeral Home// His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bronze Star medals. //findagrave.com//



Boward, Richard C. "Dick", Jr, 91, passed away March 15, 2016. He was a loving husband to his wife, Ginger, for 54 years, a loving and respected father to Linda, Randy, Nancy, and KaCee. He served in the military, first in the Army Air Corps and then the Air Force. He worked in USAFSS/Electronic Security Command from 1962-1985. // Obit – MySA.com //



Bolen, Ronnie R., 76, died July 13 2016. He served in the Air Force from 1958 to 1962. Two years were spent as a radio intercept operator in Misawa, Japan. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Judith Ulbrich Bolen. And two daughters.//Obit – Barlow Bonsall//

It is with much regret that I pass along this message from Jim Kaus via a Guestbook post by George Still that we've lost Ron Bolen (Misawa 292 T3 59-61). I know that many of you served with Ron in Misawa and will remember him fondly. Ron was

my roommate while we were at Misawa. A gifted ditty bopper and an all-around nice guy. Our friendship continued past our Air Force days, including personal visits and occasional ham radio contacts. Rest in Peace, Ron, this world is a little sadder at your passing. **//Jim Boone//**

Ron was a good man with whom I was honored to serve on Trick 3 in Misawa. Go with God and may God bless your family during this difficult time. **//Ben Whitten//**



Brown, Wayne J., 67, died January 29, 2016. From 1968-1972 he served in USAFSS, where he specialized in Morse Code. He served 18 months in Okinawa, Japan. The last 3 years of his active duty was at RAF Chicksands, England. While there, he met and married Sharon Smith and

had one daughter. In February 1978, he married Ollie L. Inabnit in Hanford, CA. and spent the rest of his life with her. He is survived by his wife and daughter. **//Obit – People’s Funeral Chapel//**



Butler, Jimmie L., CMSgt (ret), 70, passed away May 18, 2016. The world has lost a remarkable man. Jim was a hero, a fighter, a survivor, a husband, and a father. He touched all lives he encountered and will be dearly missed. He is survived by his wife Jane, daughters Linda and Nicky. In 1963 he joined the Air Force and began travelling the world with USAFSS. Jim served our

country for 20 and a half years, retiring in 1984. **//Obit - McGilley & George Funeral Home//**

Jimmie was a heck of a guy. His wife Jane needs all the support FTVA can give her. She has had a rough time. **//Joe Wesner//**

Our condolences on the loss of Jimmie, a really outstanding Chief, effective silent warrior and a very special amigo to many of us. **//Dennis Rassmussen//**



Conrad “Ron” Chapelle, 82, May 28, 2016.

“I saw An Eagle Fly” - looking north, toward the Sangre de Christos Range, 'bout six in the evening. Warm spring day, Clear, no clouds.

I saw an eagle fly - effortlessly Riding the currents, Soaring above all, Majestic, Supreme.

I saw an eagle fly -.and that eagle Looked a lot like Conrad "Ron" Chapelle.

Fly Long, Fly High, Silent Warrior. Forever On Watch. Forever On Orbit.// Prop Wash Gang May 2016. //Composed by **Lonnie Henderson**//

His loving family wishes my husband of 58 years, their dad and PaPa...God Speed. //Obit - **Albuquerque Journal on May 29, 2016**//

I remember a fresh faced mustang 2Lt Chappelle pitching pennies and 1 yen pieces with us when we were working nights in the "Bat Cave" at Yokota AB, Japan, fifty years ago. RIP old friend. //Pete Siegel//



Dessert, William “Bill” E., 70, July 3, 2016. He was the husband of Rebecca E. (Webster) Dessert with whom he shared 26 years of marriage. Bill served in the USAFSS for nine years, including a two-year tour in Vietnam as an airborne Morse Systems intercept operator. He was recognized for flying more than 100 missions behind enemy lines.

//Obit – **Fairlawn Obituary**//

Bill was a 292 on Baker and Charlie flights during his 2 tours at the Hakata ground site 1964-1965 and 1969-1971. Bill served in Vietnam during his 9 years’ service in the USAF, flying in over 100 missions. The 6918th RSM/SS Alumni would like to express our deepest condolences to the Dessert family. //Carol Farr//

I remember Bill when I worked with him in Japan. He was a great guy. //Gary Millette//



Dooley, Horace M (Tom), MSgt (ret), 85, died March 22, 2016. He was a retired Master Sergeant in the USAFSS with over 20 years of service. Survivors include his wife, Edith Pritchett Dooley and one daughter. //Obit – Evans Funeral Home//

Tom was a 292 at Hakata during his 1966-1969 assignment. //Carol Farr//



Dorr, Robert F. “Bob”, 76, passed away June 12, 2016. Mr. Dorr served as an airman in South Korea for four years. It was his experiences in Korea, in fact, that inspired his second career as a Foreign Service Officer in the U. S. Department of State. In this capacity as a senior diplomat, which he held for 25

years, he traveled around the world, from Madagascar, South Korea, Japan and Liberia to Sweden and England. In 1968, he married his wife, Young Soon, a native of South Korea. As a writer, historian, diplomat and prodigious archivist and collector, Robert F. Dorr inspired countless people, all of whom were drawn to his powerful writing skills, his abiding sense of duty, honor and country, and his compassion for others. He is survived by his wife and two sons. //Obit – Fairfax Memorial//

Bob wrote on September 9, 2002: I was an USAFSS voice intercept specialist (Korean language) in Korea 1958-60. Class K-9-10 at Monterey and served at Osan AB, having arrived too late to be assigned to P-Y-do. I flew the C-47 "Blue Sky" aircraft on reconnaissance, but spent most of that era doing voice intercept work on the ground.

[//www.koreanwar.org/html/units/usaf/usafss.htm//](http://www.koreanwar.org/html/units/usaf/usafss.htm/)



Duff, Donald L., MSgt (ret), 83, passed away April 8, 2016. He served during the Vietnam War and stayed in the USAFSS for nearly 28 years. Donald is survived by his wife, Victoria, married over 29 years having 5 children. //Obit – Express News//

In addition to his other assignments, Don was a 304 at Hakata from 1965-1968. //Carol Farr//



Eifler, Michael J., 85, June 24, 2016. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years Alice R. Eifler; daughter Sara; and son Michael. He joined the Air Force, came to San Antonio for training and fell in love with the city and her people. There he met and married Alice Rose Drinkwater in

1952, setting up permanent residence in San Antonio. While he served in the Air Force and Security Service he worked as a linguist, cryptographer and in the electronic warfare command during his long career, which took him overseas and away from his family at times. //Obit- MySA//



Farnsley, Glenn R., SMSgt (ret), 79, June 13, 2016. He was a U.S. Air Force Veteran of the Vietnam War. He retired from the Air Force after 21 years of service and also retired as the Veterans Representative for the State of Indiana after 25 years of service. Survivors include his wife, Donna J.

Farnsley; four stepsons, Rick, Greg, Jeff, and Tim. //Obit – Seabrook Dieckmann & Naville//

It is with a sad and heavy heart that I report to you the passing of Glenn Farnsley. Glenn served with USAFSS from 1958 to 1979. I first met Glenn while stationed with the 6987 RSM at Shu Linkou, Taiwan in September 1958. During his career, he served two tours at the 6987th, and additional tours at 6911 RSM, Darmstadt, Germany, 6950 RSM at Chicksands, England, 6993 RSM at Medina Annex, San Antonio, Texas and, I believe, one tour at the 6903 RSM at Osan, Korea. Glenn and his wife, Donna, resided in New Albany, Indiana following his retirement from the Air Force. Glenn and I (and our families), were good friends and remained close throughout our Air Force Careers. He retired from the Air Force in 1979 as a Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt). //Edward Benningfield//



George, James L., Col (ret), 89, passed away May 7, 2016. Colonel George served as an Army enlisted soldier in WW II prior to commissioning as a USAF officer, where he served primarily in USAFSS units. As a young SIGINT officer, he served in Japan (6920th) and the Philippines (29 RSM), then oversaw clandestine SIGINT sites along the Iron Curtain. He was the 6931st Operations Officer at Iraklion AS, Crete

(during the '67 Arab-Israeli Six Day War), then the 6924th commander at DaNang ('68-'69) and later commanded RAF Chicksands (6950th). He did two tours at NSA and two tours at HQ USAFSS. Col George is survived by his wife of 66 years, Catherine, and his children - James, Mary Jane, and David (a retired USAF intel officer). //Obit – Florida Today//
//David George//

James L. George, as a Lieutenant, was the officer in charge of Traffic Analysis at the 29th RSM. He was in the army during WW-II and served with the 31st Air Division. He was the Ops Officer of the USAFSS unit on Crete, Greece. //Bob Rennick//



Gilbert, Jerry F. "JZ", 77, passed away February 4, 2016, in the arms of his loving companion of 20 years, Susan D. Cornell. During his life he served in the Air Force as a Morse Code Intercept Operator in Scotland. This sparked his love of traveling the world, which became a central part of his life. //Obit – Dignity Memorial//



Jeffares, William "Don" MSgt (ret), 74, passed away December 27, 2015. He served in the Air Force for 20 years. Don Jeffares was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 16 May 2016. He was stationed in Casablanca Morocco before being assigned to USAFSS as well as being an Air Force Recruiter before his last assignment at Offutt AFB working for

1st ACOMM. He is survived by his wife of 53 Years, Donna and two children. //Obit – Herald Tribune//Harry Larrabee//

I worked with Don Jeffares when we were both assigned to the 6922nd Security Wing at Clark Air Base and again when we were both assigned to the 6920 Security Wing at Misawa AB. Both Don and I were stationed at Offutt AFB when I was assigned to the 6944th Security Wing and Don was assigned to the 1st ACOMM. He retired while assigned to Offutt AFB, lived in the City of Bellevue before moving to Punta Gorda FL. Don was born and raised in Birmingham AL. //Harry Larrabee//



Jones, Dennis Rex, 81, died on July 12, 2016. He joined the U.S. Air Force and served in Bremerhaven, Germany with the 6913th RSM as a Russian Language translator. In Bremerhaven, he met and married his first wife Erika Krause. After returning to the States, he worked for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, and traveled extensively to "serve those who serve". Dennis retired from AAFES. Survivors include his wife, Martha Bradley-Jones, son Russel; and daughter

Kirsten. //Obit – Dallas Morning News// //6913th.org//



LaHue, John G., 67, passed away on May 28 2016. Greg served our country proudly in the Air Force, including his service as a radio interceptor during the Vietnam War and received the Distinguished Flying Cross. On several occasions he volunteered for additional missions so that fellow Airmen with children and families would not have to fly in harm's way. He was preceded in death by his beautiful and loving wife, Yvonne. Survivors include 2 children,

Greg and Genny. //Obit – Porter Loring//

As a member of the former USAF Security Service I salute your service in Vietnam as an Airborne Radio Intercept Operator. Those were dangerous missions and you most certainly deserved the Distinguished Flying Cross where you were subjected to hostile fire. We grieve the loss of one of our cherished members and offer prayers for your family and loved ones. //Franklin D. Shepard CMSgt, USAF, Served in the Military together, San Antonio, TX, Jun 02, 2016 //



Lambert, Norman, E., CMSgt (ret), 71, passed away June 18, 2016. Norman proudly served his country in the USAF until 1986. Norman is survived by his loving wife of forty-nine years, Sheila Ann Lambert and his four sons. //Obit – MySA//

Very sorry to hear about Norm. I remember the early years when he was flying a mission out of Eielson and his wife gave birth to his twin boys (a little earlier than expected) and they notified him over the radio. Needless to say he was anxious to get back home, but had to finish the mission. As civilians he and I later worked on a project for Rome Labs at ISN. I went back to work in the HQ and he finished it up. He was a great guy to work with and we shared some good memories. RIP old friend. //Greg Mahoney//

Norm, your fellow Silent Warriors honor your legacy. Until we meet again, RIP. //Rick Jefferson//

Norm was my first supervisor in the Air Force at Rhein Main. He taught me so much in those first couple years. So sorry to hear of his loss. Deepest Condolences to the family. //Alan Daugherty//

I worked for/with Norm in StandEval for a time at the 85th. He was a great supervisor, fishing partner, and friend...May you be in Heaven an hour before the Devil knows your dead Norm....I am sure we will meet further down the line. //David 'Dave' Dodson

Norm my favorite StandEval guy and inspiring AMS. "I smell a SCUD!" You honored me with a lot of QC and IRO duty. All honor to YOU. Your memory is for a blessing. //Robert Rowland//



Laske, Ronald, D., 76, 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//Notified by Dave Naab//

Ron served as a 202 and worked at NSA after the USAFSS in A2. The agency record shows he was an E4 in the Air Force. //Baumgartel Dick//



John “Luke” Laurrell, 82+ I just received the sad news that one of the USAFSS old-timers from Rhein-Main — **John “Luke” Laurrell** — passed away this morning (June 11, 2016). Luke and German wife Hedy have lived in Roedermark-Urberach, Germany (between Langen & Frankfurt) for the last 30 years or

so. At 82-83 yrs old (my guess), Luke is one of our eldest PWG members. Entering the AF in '52, he was in one of the first Pre-language classes at Kelly AFB in 1952-53 and completed a 12-month Russian course at Syracuse in Feb '54, followed by tours in the 15th RSM, Ashia, Japan, Det 2, 15th RSM, P-Y-Do, Korea, Det 8, 6982nd RSM, Brunswick NAS, Maine, and the 6901st Spec Comm Group at Zweibrücken, German. After returning to Syracuse in 1959 for Bulgarian, Laurrell went airborne with the 6916th RSM @ Rhein-Main in 1960. His USAFSS career ended abruptly in 1965 when he submitted papers to marry Hedy, and ironically, the West German government also debriefed Hedy from her job with BND (West German's SIGINT service) for marrying a 'foreigner.' Luke's non-USAFSS tours included stents at Offutt AFB, Korat, Thailand, and culminating 5-year tour at Rhein-Main, where he retired from the AF in 1973. Then, following a career as a programmer for Univac (later Speery & Unisys) in Germany, Holland, and England — he finally retired in the Frankfurt area in 2000. On my last trips to Germany — during a trip to Moscow in 1994 and a trip to Armenia in 1997 — I spent a few days with Luke & Hedy while transiting through Frankfurt Airport. Afflicted by Parkinson's a few years back, Luke's has not been good for the last couple of years, but he kept in touch with old friends with phone calls every few months. Luke, you were a great friend, and we miss you dearly -- RIP.

//Larry Tart//

(Ed Note: Luke Laurrell was a life-time member and loyal fan of the overseas mail-out of our hard-copy quarterly Newsletter for many years.)



Massenburg, Isaac W. "Wimp", 80, passed away April 3, 2016. He leaves to cherish his memories, his dear wife Anne of 54 years; his devoted children, Tyrone, Tonya, and Bettye. //Obit – The Progress Index//

T.I. enlisted in the Air Force on 7 January 1954. After basic training and completion of tech school at Keesler AFB, Texas, he served as a Morse intercept operator on Able Flight from

early 1955 until 1958. Later in his career, he served a tour of duty at Karamursel, Turkey in the early 1960's. He retired in 1976. Jim Reusch found and contacted T.I. about 15 years ago. He has been in touch ever since. Carl Roberts, Ben Candelaria, Paul Reihms, Charlie Brown, Tex Matthys, Twitch Wimmer and others have said that they remember him very well. **//Arlen Trapp//**



McKee, Kenneth G. Jr., MSgt, USAF (ret), 84, died on Thursday, March 31, 2016. In 1951 Ken enlisted in the Air Force and spent his entire career in the United States Air Force Security Service (USAFSS) which took him overseas to Japan (twice), Okinawa, Germany (twice), and Turkey. Stateside he was stationed in San Antonio TX, Grandview MO, Omaha NE, San Angelo TX, and Ft Meade MD, where he retired. Ken followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a "ham" radio operator, which was his hobby for over 60 years. He is survived by his wife Marilyn McKee and two daughters.. **//Obit – Beall Funeral Home//**



Nelson, John B., 71, passed away August 31, 2016. After serving in the United States Air Force, John worked in the construction industry. He is survived by his wife, Debbie; children, Carolyn and Steven. **//Obit – Sacramento Bee//**

John was at Hakata 1966-1968. **//Carol Farr//**



Newton, Anna M., 62, died March 8, 2016 at her home. She married Aaron "Ben" Newton Dec. 16, 1981 in West Berlin, Germany. She is survived by her husband, a daughter Nicole and son Ben. She was a veteran of the USAF and loved reading, cooking, crocheting and travel (ie. cruises). **//Obit – Airmans-Hires//**

Dates of Service - 72-76, 80-82 Deceased AFSC - RU 208. Assignments 6912th SS 73-76, 6912th ESG 81-82 Comments - Anna Morgan, Anna Showalter, Baker Flight Marienfelde 81-82 **//Ben Newton//**



Parks, Russell L. CMSgt, (ret), 86, passed away 12 July 2016.

To the Parks family – Russ was a great person and always tried to help others. We send our deepest sympathy to all of you. He will be missed. God Take care of you all. **//CMSgt Edward Jolly Jr (Retired)//**

Dear Parks Family: Russell was closer than a brother. We met in Germany almost 60 years ago. Our friendship withstood the test of time, challenges and pitfalls that occur in most relationships, but ours always involved agreement and understanding. I will miss you my brother. We pray Gods blessings on Kent (Deborah), Bruce, grandchildren and all the family. We love you, **//John and Dr. Gwendolyn Lockett//**



Poole, Eugene T., “Geno” passed away July 12, 2010. He is survived by his wife Sharon. He served in the Air Force from 1973 to 1995 as an Arabic Linguist. His assignments included Athens & Ft. Meade - Monterrey 1973-1974, 6916th 1974-1977 & Ft Meade. He got out in 1977 but then re-upped in 1980 and stayed in until retirement.

I was in Geno's basic Arabic class and went through Goodfellow, Webb, & all the survival schools with him in addition to being assigned to the 6916th at about the same time. He fell off the map after retiring and didn't hear anything about him until finding his obituary. **//Paul Piatkowski//**



QUIGLEY, Donald R., 70, passed away January 23, 2016. He was appointed to the USAF Academy in Colorado Springs, CO and later graduated from the University of Syracuse Air Force foreign language program where he became a Russian linguist. He served honorably and was a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict.

After his years of service, he received a bachelor's degree in business from Wittenberg University. He retired at Wright Patterson Air Force Base after 38 years of service in the National Air Intelligence Center where he was an Intelligence Analyst and then Chief of Engineering and Software Development at the time he retired. He is survived by his wife of 46 years Mary Ann and three sons. **//Obit – Springfield News Sun//**



Ryans, James M., “Jimmy”, 57, died June 29, 2016.

After high school, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he served honorably until 2000. He was stationed in Berlin, England, Colorado, and California throughout his military career, serving as a Russian linguist. He was united in marriage to Diana Lindsey on December 20, 1984 in Berlin, Germany. After retiring from the Air Force, they settled in Cedar Rapids. He is survived by his wife, and; three children, **//Obit – Cedar Memorial//**

Jimmy Ryan was one of the finest Russian linguists I ever knew...and what a pure shooter on the basketball court **//Ted Colquhoun//**

I served with Jimmy in California and Berlin. I know I share this with others from back then - I can't think of a time that running into him didn't leave you with a smile, if not busting out laughing. We'll miss him. Condolences to his family and loved ones. **//Jim Turner//**

It was both an honor and a privilege to serve with Jimmy in Berlin. It's been many years but I remember him as a calming force who always had kind words.. **//Angela Swinton Alexander//**

I was privileged to serve with Jimmy on his first overseas tour in Berlin. He was a great guy with an infectious laugh **//Pete Pedersen//**



Shafer, Ralph C., 73, passed away April 29, 2016.

He proudly served his country in the Air Force, where he was an intelligence agent and linguist in the Cold War. When asked, he always said he'd do it again. He is survived by his wife, Dixie Lee; and 4 children. **//South Bend Tribune//**



Simpson, Paul L., Col (ret), (c. 87) enlisted in the Army in 1947. He was initially assigned to an Army Security Agency (ASA) unit in Jamaica, British West Indies. In 1949, he became a blue suiter when that unit was transferred to the USAF Security Service. From then until 1955, he served in USAFSS units in Florida, Texas, Japan, and Korea. In 1954, he was promoted to

MSgt, which at that time was the top rung of the enlisted ladder. He attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a second lieutenant in March 1956. From then until 1971, he served with USAFSS units in Virginia, Texas, Shemya, AK, Darmstadt and Frankfurt, Germany. In 1971, he left the USAFSS for an assignment with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, DC. Subsequent assignments were: Commander, 351st Comm Sq, Whiteman AFB, MO; Commander, 392nd Comm Gp, Vandenburg AFB, CA; Deputy Director J6, US Forces Korea; Deputy Director for C3S, CINCPAC, Camp Smith, HI; and Director, Plans and Programs Directorate US CENTCOM, MacDill AFB, FL. Colonel Simpson retired in 1986 after 39 years on active duty. He is survived by his wife of 65 years: Carolyn "CC". //Dawn Thompson//



Spears, Clyde C., 90, passed away July 24, 2016. Clyde was the 801 on Daze during his tour at Hakata 1969-1970. Major Spears served in WWII and Vietnam during his service to his country. //Carol Farr//

It was good to be at the 6918th (Hakata) in '69: Maj Spears took care of us Flight workers as Operations Officer. Lt Col Hal Perry put the enlisted troops first as unit Commander. //D. Rassmussen//



Stacey, Darrell G., 82, died April 7, 2016. He served in the United States Air Force Security Service from 1952 to 1955 during the Korean conflict. On May 25, 1956, Darrell married Grace Tietje. Survivors include his children, David and Susan. //Obit – Austin Daily Herald//



Starr, Louis A., 74, passed away May 2, 2016. Louis was a 292 at Hakata during his 1964-1966 assignment. //Carol Farr//



Wagner, David C., 66, died April 16, 2016. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force as a Morse code operator in both Okinawa, Japan and Shemya, Alaska between 1968 and 1972. Upon his honorable discharge he returned to Menasha where he married Deborah Hett on March 8, 1974. Dave is survived by his loving wife, Deborah and 3 children. //Obit – **Wichmann Fargo**//



Wright, Howard J., CMSgt (ret), 84, passed away June 30, 2016. Howard served 29 years in the U.S. Air Force. He served on PT boats, listening to Russian communications and Morse code, managing air traffic control, and working in communications intelligence. His first tour of duty was in Germany, where he served alongside Johnny Cash, who became one of Howard's favorite country musicians. His next tour took him to France, then he returned to Germany where he married Hilde. Returning to the U.S. with a wife and two

children, he served at multiple locations, such as Keesler Air Force Base; Saudi Arabia; Eglin Air Force Base; Germany; Vietnam; Okinawa; and Plattsburg Air Force Base. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1978. Howard is survived by his step-son, Karl. //Obit – **NWF Daily News**//
Notified by B.J. Cook//

BEDSIDE MATTERS



Dick De Bosh//Bloomsbury, NJ//Aug 1, 2016// Says he's hopeful for a successful hip replacement surgery and recovery. Looking to be back "dancing with the stars" soon.//JJ Pitzeruse//

Tom Riggins//Henderson, NV//July 29, 2016// Just spoke with Tom Riggins. Hadn't heard from him since his recent surgery. Says to say hi to everyone, and that he's still working his way through recovery. Not quite back to the golf course yet, but he has a 60-degree wedge in his living room that he plays with.//Larry Miller//

Don Cole// De Ridder, LA// July 7, 2016// Don says he has been making slow but steady progress and is gradually more mobile since returning home. He has been able to get out and about more often lately and welcomes your phone calls. Ph. (337) 462-4659

Leroy Timbrook//San Angelo, TX// July 28, 2016//On Sunday, 7-24-16, Lee Timbrook was taken to the ER by his wife Jodie. Tests for infection and dehydration and a CT scan were run. Also an MRI was done to check for possible stroke and tests for blood clots were performed. All tests and scans came back good, with no signs of infection, dehydration, stroke or blood clots. The doctors determined that a recent increase in lee's pain medication patch caused the problems. He came home on Tuesday 7-25-16. He is home resting comfortably. Please keep Lee and Jodie in your prayers.//**Bob Crabtree**//

Corky Bingham// San Angelo, TX//Aug 1, 2016// Corky spent June and July on home health care recuperating from his bout with "Dyskinasia". He graduated from the walker to a cane last month and is back to driving the car on his own. Doing well.//**Ed Bendinelli**//



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

From: Frank Thewes frank0771@att.net

Date: July 28, 2016

Comments - I was in Security Service from Sept 64 until July 75. Assignments: 6937th Comm Gp, 6922 Scty Wg, 6910th Scty Group, and USAFSS HQ. I'm looking for friends that still may alive. Would be interested in joining the FTVA again. Thank You. Frank

From: rlhaygood@aol.com

Date: July 28, 2016

To: frank0771@att.net

Subject: Re: FTVA Sign-in- 28 July

Frank, Thanks for getting on our website and we would love to have you re-join the FTVA. Looks like you had some great assignments over the years. The FTVA website has all the information you need to re-join and get reacquainted with lost friends and co-workers. Besides the website, the quarterly newsletter is a great resource to touch base with others...and sadly, even the Fallen Eagles portion may help in some areas. Let us know if we can be of further help.

cheers, Ron
Col (ret) Ron Haygood
President, FTVA

From: Ken Russell kjrusse@gmail.com

Date: August 2, 2016

Comment: Joined the AF in May of 1977 and retired in January of 2000 as a CMSgt. Assignments included 6931ESS in Iraklion (78-80), 6920ESG in Misawa (80-83), Det 3 HQ EST at Nellis AFB (83-85), 6950ESG at Chicksands (85-88), 693ESW at Chicksands (88-90), and Ft George G. Meade

Ken Russell

From: rlhaygood@aol.com

Date: August 2, 2016

To: kjrusse@gmail.com

Subject: Re: FTVA Sign-in- 2 Aug, 15:15

Ken, Thanks for signing into the FTVA website and hopefully being a member. I was a flight commander at Iraklion (6931 ESS, 1977-1979)...small world. FTVA is a great way to stay in touch with old unit-members, friends and co-workers. We also support the organization that continues to do those same missions we use to do...just at different location and using different systems. Hope to see you at the upcoming anniversary activities in Sept. Take care and remember to "Remain in Touch".

cheers, Ron

Col (ret) Ron Haygood
President, FTVA

From: ken.russell <ken.russell@caci.com>

To: rlhaygood@aol.com

Sent: Wed, Aug 3, 2016

Subject: Thank you for writing back...

Ron, It was nice to hear from you. You were my Flight Commander in Crete when I first got there in May of 77. I was a Morse Op and it was the start of a 39 plus year gig in the intel business and still going strong. It was a great place to start a career! I just joined the FTVA yesterday...the check is in the mail. Tom Giroir reached out to me yesterday morning and told me about the reunion. I hope to make it there as it sounds like a good time. I'll be sure to look you up if I make it.

cheers, Ken

From: rlhaygood@aol.com [<mailto:rlhaygood@aol.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2016

To: Russell, Kenneth J @ NSS

Subject: Re: Thank you for writing back...

Ken, Great hearing from you and thanks for joining the FTVA. Can't believe it's been almost 40 years...we got to Crete in May of 77, too. We served with some great people back then...Hank Hayes, Mike Turner, Sam Curley, BJ Lyden, Al Jorgenson, etc. Hope to see you in person in Sept.

cheers, Ron

VA Opens New National Veteran’s Cemetery

55th Wing Public Affairs / Published August 01, 2016

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Nebraska --

The Department of Veterans Affairs will formally dedicated the new Omaha National Cemetery in a ceremony at 10 a.m.2 Friday, Aug. 5 at the SumTur Amphitheater in Papillion, Nebraska.

During the ceremony, the U.S. Air Force Heartland of America Band provided music and taps. The Offutt AFB Joint Color Guard presened the colors as veteran James Skaja recited the pledge of allegiance.

The new 236-acre cemetery will serve the burial needs of more than 112,000 Veterans. When it is complete, the cemetery will serve veterans, spouses and eligible dependents in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa not currently served by an open national, state or tribal veteran’s cemetery within 75 miles of their residence.

For information on VA burial benefits, visit www.cem.va.gov or call (800) 827-1000. For a listing of all national, state and tribal cemeteries, visit <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/cems/listcem.asp>

Then

and

Now



Membership Application

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

Inclusive Years of Service: / / to / / (MM/YYYY) (MM/YYYY)	Make your check or money order to the: FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION Mail to: P.O. Box 891818, San Antonio, TX 78288-1818.
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Yearly Memberships are \$20.00 Please check one: <input type="checkbox"/> NEW REGULAR MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER (*see below for description) <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/> ADDRESS CHANGE

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

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

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

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.

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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.

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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 25TH AIR FORCE .

ALL FORMER AND CURRENT MILITARY OR CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF 25TH 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 !!