

*Remain
In
Touch*



***FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE
ASSOCIATION***

NEWSLETTER

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The President's Corner



Howdy Silent Warriors.

Happy 2017! Hope your holidays went well. Football season is over, basketball and hockey season are in full swing and baseball season is around the corner. We have a new President and administration just getting off the ground...and the world hasn't come to an end yet. The Air Force is currently in a hiring "strategic pause" that we hope won't last too long. Everyone I've talked to recently are really impressed with the new SECDEF, so we'll see how things change in the trenches.

The FTVA has supported our troops in several ways this last quarter. First, we supported the 36 airmen representing 12 different AFSCs stationed around the world at the Larson Award presentations. They all were brought back to San Antonio and the ceremony was conducted in the B. A. Larger Auditorium in front of their Wing Commanders and Command Chiefs. Before the ceremony, we talked about the FTVA and presented the medals with Gen Shwedo. 25th AF is one of the few organizations that has been able to continue to recognize their airmen during these days of cutbacks across the force. The FTVA was also able to support the first 25th AF Christmas Party. Over 200 personnel attended. During the festivities, Chief Towberman, 25th AF Command Chief, thanked the FTVA profusely and recommended the entire assembled body to join our great organization.

We are already planning for the Anniversary activities (28-30 Sept). We have decided to change some things up this year. First, the golf venue will stay the same as last year, but have been promised the food will be "upgraded". Second, we are moving the Hall of Honor ceremony to Friday morning at 0900, followed by the Remembrance Ceremony at 1030 and the picnic at 1100. We have moved the Hall of Honor to help get better participation and understanding by the active duty personnel of 25th AF. We believe this is more and more important as the missions, locations and personnel have changed over the years. The Annual Board Meeting will still take place on Saturday, but we are still working on the time and location. The Banquet Saturday night will still be at the Gateway Club on Lackland AFB and we are working on the guest speaker. Hope to see many of you at the festivities.

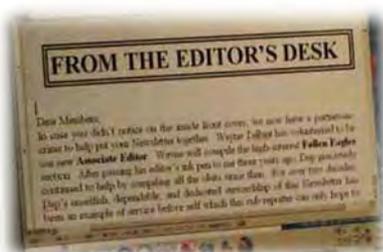
As the A2/3 (intel and ops) Deputy Director, I thought I would say a few words about the ISR operations we are conducting in key spots around the world. From Afghanistan, to Syria & Iraq, Africa, Russia, China, North Korea and many other places around the world, our airmen are working in all domains (air, land, sea, space and cyber), and in all INT's including SIGINT (COMINT, ELINT and FISINT), GEOINT, MASINT and even OSINT. Bottom line: our units/personnel are doing unbelievable work. Unfortunately, you won't read about it online, in the newspapers or on the TV news...some things don't really change, do they?

We're always looking for new members. You never know when new prospects will turn up, whether it is wearing your FTVA hat around town, replying to strangers that have signed onto the FTVA website for the first time, or just running into old friends, please remember to educate them about the FTVA and invite them to join. And always remember our FTVA motto to "Remain in Touch".

Finally, we are always open to suggestions on ways to improve the FTVA, increase enrollment, add or better support to our existing chapters, and finding new ways to support our active duty airmen. So, get your USAFSS, ESC, AFIC, AIA, AFISRA or now 25th AF friends/colleagues to join the FTVA. We need a constant infusion of members to stay healthy as an organization so we can continue to support the troops.

Thanks...and always remember to "Remain in Touch".

Ron



Hi Everyone,

Once again, thanks to all of you who contributed to this quarter's FTVA poop sheet that's fit-to-print. We spent some time catching up on getting those articles published that have been "in the queue" for a while. There

wasn't room in our December 2016 issue for the annual Roll Call Reunion from last September, so that one was delayed. Our Associate Editor, CMSgt (Ret) Joe Figueroa, has two years of researching and compiling our *Fallen Eagles* section in his wheelhouse. Joe does such a great job putting together a timely and thorough list of Fallen Eagles each quarter. Then

there's A.J. Harrison's reminder to submit your nomination(s) for the 2017 *Hall of Honor*. We've also requested your nominations for the annual election of our next BOD President and Vice President. We continue to support the 25th AF as well as teaming with the Command in hosting the annual **Spring Social** event coming up on April 8 in San Antonio. Once again, another full plate awaits you in this issue.

Happy Easter,



Editor's Disclaimer

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



Letters To The Editor

Jan 14, 2017

From: EC-47 Newsletter

To: FTVA Newsletter

Joe Martin suggested that a custom Google Search capability be added to the new ec47 website as J.C. Wheeler had provided on the original website. Our website designer and host, Jody Gentry (mediajaw.com), upgraded ec47.com with this service as of yesterday, January 13, 2017.

The **Google** Custom Search box on the website now searches both the current ec47.com and archive.ec47.com websites. Try it the next time you visit ec47.com, I think you will be surprised and pleased at this new capability. Thanks to Joe for the idea and to Jody for making it happen. Please tell us of any/all ideas you also might have concerning ways to increase the usefulness and presentation of data on ec47.com.

Best,

Tom Nurre & Joe Martin

Jan 8, 2017

Bruce Case <bcase92@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Rass,

My friend Myles Halliwell just sent me a copy of your June 2016 Newsletter. I must admit I've never heard of your wonderful organization before. I am a 4-year veteran of USAFSS having served as a 202 from 1954 thru 1958 in the 6932nd CSS at Clark Field, Nagoya, and Shiroy. My last year was in the NSA at Arlington and Fr. Meade. At the NSA I worked in AG32. Will you please send me an application form? The form on the back cover of the newsletter is barely legible. Also, I wanted you to know about my novel "Ladybug". It was published in late 2014 and has been on Amazon ever since. You can read the reviews by searching: "Amazon Ladybug Sean Mikell" (Sean Mikell is my pen name). The story takes place in late 1956 and early 1957. The venue is Shiroy, Tokyo, Arlington, Ft. Meade, & Saigon and concerns a Top-Secret NSA Vietnam Project. Perhaps some of your members may have already read it.

Best regards,

Bruce Case (Sean Mikell)



What can anyone tell us about the airborne recon program in the late 60's called Sentinel String?

posted by Jim Kaus (57-81)

Sentinel String was an ARDF program out of Osan AB supported by three CT-29A aircraft targeted against N. Korea. I was involved in the Stateside testing in New Hampshire and was the first linguist AMS and Stan/Eval.

I sent Larry Tart a picture and an article for his books, but it didn't make the cut. The airplanes had R-2800 engines; way bigger than the original ones along with a couple of big cameras on board. USAFSS crew of six - two linguists and four ditty boppers plus maintenance - usually one. We flew 1320 feet south of and parallel to the Korean DMZ at 15K feet; seldom made a round-trip ... nope, whenever we passed a check point, had to see the next check point in our belly camera or else we aborted. We made lots of attempts in the summertime but had few completions. Got stalked by MIG's at least twice during the program's 2 1/2-year life. DF system was fancy - and worked well for a system that couldn't fly a circle around our targets. Daily flights on oxygen is a real pain - and messed up my ears to the point of being grounded for about a year. AMS had a large plastic bubble outside the fuselage in one of the window spaces. We could stick our head out and check lots of things on that side of the plane. I saved an engine one day by visually detecting a pre-ignition knock situation and notifying the flight engineer. He shut it down and we went home early. Told me it would have cooked the heads if it was left running much longer. A very interesting tour. BTW, we did get combat pay... so, it wasn't all bad. Being at Osan had its own reward.

Posted by Steve Mobry

2017 FTVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The first FTVA Board of Directors (BOD) meeting for 2017 was held on January 20th at the Security Service FCU HQ building on La Cantera Pkwy in San Antonio. Present for a photo opportunity (above): L-R: Membership Chair Bob Baert, Historian Bernie Gavin, Secretary Loren (Phred) Sevensing, Vice President Ted Colquhoun, President Ron Haygood, Golf and Chapter News Dennis Buxton, and Social Chair Ken Williams. Not pictured due to other commitments: Treasurer Bob Cope, Fallen Eagle News Joseph Figueroa, Partners Mark Hess, Picnic Jacque Lerma, and HOH A.J. Harrison. (Staff Photo by D. Rassmussen)

FTVA Officer Elections

The BOD has appointed the nominating committee for the annual officer elections to be held in September 2017. This year, the nominating committee is accepting submissions for the offices of Vice President and President. Any member in good standing may be submitted to the nominating committee; however, for obvious reasons, only those who can attend the monthly BOD meetings in San Antonio can be seriously considered. Please submit your nomination(s) prior to May 1, 2017. Selected nominees will be published in the June issue of *Remain In Touch*. One submission per position at a time please. E-Mail to: Newsletter@ftva.org or use USPS address:

FTVA BOD Nominating Committee
ATTN: Dennis Rassmussen
9511 Aqua Verde
Helotes, TX 78023

BOD Group Date Nite Out



One day after FTVA’s Jan BOD meeting, the members welcomed the New Year with a group get together at a local BBQ restaurant.

(L-R) Ken & Sheila Williams, (Front kneeling: Sheri and Ted Colquhoun) (back row) Joe Hurst, Ginny Harrison, Dennis Rassmussen, AJ Harrison, Judy & Bernie Gavin, Loren Sevening, Ron & Kathy Haygood, Debe Sevening, Mark & Amy Hess, Joe & Rosario Figueroa.



ANNUAL SPRING SOCIAL

Our 2017 FTVA Spring Social will again be held in the Alamo/Concepcion Room of the San Antonio SeaWorld/Westover Hills Marriott Courtyard Hotel (11605 State Hwy 151 - San Antonio 78251). Activities begin at 1700 on Saturday, April 8TH. FTVA members and all active duty service men and women are invited to enjoy this special evening when we recognize 25th AF recent returnees from deployment. Your donation of \$5.00 per person includes heavy “puu-puu’s” such as, Chips & Dip, Meatballs, Buffalo wings, and Sliced Fresh Fruit along with a pay-as-you-go bar and the chance to re-connect with fellow FTVA members. See You There!



HALL OF HONOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2017

The Hall of Honor Selection Committee is soliciting nominations of candidates for induction into the Freedom Through Vigilance Association's Hall of Honor. The induction ceremony is a major element of the association's reunion activities and is scheduled for Friday morning, 29 September 2017, at Headquarters, 25th Air Force - formerly Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency (AF ISR Agency).

Since the creation of USAFSS as a major air command in 1948, members of USAFSS/ESC/AFIC/AIA/AF ISR Agency/25th AF, hereinafter referred to as the command, have been at war 24/7/365 as anonymous sentinels, engaged in combat with foreign enemies of the United States and its allies while conducting operations in the air as aircrew members, on the seas aboard U.S. naval ships, and on each of the major continental land masses as well as numerous islands around the world. In no small measure, their contributions toward the preservation of our freedoms, though largely unheralded, have been vital to the continuance of our national security and our way of life. The command has been blessed with an abundance of talented members who possessed the skill sets and intellectual capacity, coupled with unselfish dedication and commitment, to conquer whatever challenges they encountered – often while confronting significant adversity and at great personal sacrifice.

The Freedom Through Vigilance Association's founders established the Hall of Honor in 1983 to honor those individuals who served the command with great distinction and contributed immeasurably to successful mission accomplishment. To date, 184 individuals have been inducted into the Hall of Honor. They include former officer, enlisted and civilian personnel whose contributions as technicians, supervisors, planners, managers and leaders extend from World War II through the ongoing conflicts. The Hall of Honor preserves the legacy of those who have gone before, highlights their deeds, and honors their contributions to the Nation.

We have all had the privilege of serving with individuals who are viable candidates for induction into the Hall of Honor. This is an opportunity to nominate deserving individuals in an attempt to ensure they receive the recognition and lasting tribute they have earned. The Selection Committee will review all eligible nominations and select individuals for induction into the Hall of Honor using eligibility criteria and procedures pursuant to the Hall of Honor Charter. A copy of the Charter is available in the newsletter and on the web page at <http://www.ftva.org>.

Nominations must be received not later than 5 June 2017 by email. Email nominations to myself at chiefajh@gmail.com or to Bob Cope at rcope6@earthlink.net. When submitting nominations, please limit to one page, front and back, using the HOH Nomination Form available on the website.

Thank you and Remain In Touch.

A.J. Harrison, Chairman
Hall of Honor Program

FTVA Vigilant Partners' Program



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

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

IT'S A FACT

Gold is the ONLY metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground or in a pyramid for thousands of years.



25th AIR FORCE NEWS

Compiled by Ken
Maynard, Auxiliary Staff



RED FLAG EVOLVES AS ISR, CYBER PRESENCE INCREASES

Adapted from an article by Lori A. Bultman, 25 AF



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO – LACKLAND, Texas — The silent warfighters of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance and Cyber communities are honing their operational skills and testing new capabilities during Red Flag 17-1 at the Nevada Test and Training Range north of Las Vegas, Jan 23 through Feb 10. Red Flag is a realistic combat training exercise

involving the air, space and cyber forces of the United States and its allies.

“We are bringing the non-kinetic duty officers into the fight at Red Flag,” said Lt. Col. Neal, chief, current operations, 25th Air Force. “These experts in ISR and cyber warfare are the newest weapons in our command and control arsenal.”

Going to Red Flag and blowing up things kinetically is no longer enough to keep us ahead of the game, Neal said: “The new face of warfare includes land, sea, air, space and cyber.”

To test the readiness of all warfighters, Red Flag employs realistic threat systems and an opposing enemy force that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world.

The simulated battlefield allows combat air forces to train to fight together, with their cyber and ISR partners, in a peacetime environment, so they can survive and win together in combat situations. Warfighters will also test the latest in targeting technology, Network Centric Collaborative Targeting (NCCT), during Red Flag 17-1.

NCCT is the latest effort to ensure the ISR global portfolio delivers actionable data to decision-makers, airborne platforms and Air Force Distributed Common Ground Systems, said Garland Henderson, operational integration branch chief, 25th Air Force. This new technology will improve targeting capabilities through coordination of assets.

"NCCT theoretically shortens the amount of time needed to fix targeted emitters, fleeting targets and moving ground targets by simultaneously cueing airborne with other collection assets," Henderson said. "Correlation of assets and cross-cueing of command and control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance data across multiple security domains is the main objective of NCCT."

Formal testing of NCCT at Red Flag is the last step in ensuring this technology represents a highly visible Air Force ISR enabler within the Global Integrated ISR portfolio, Henderson added.

RED FLAG was established in 1975 as one of the initiatives directed by Gen. Robert J. Dixon, then commander of Tactical Air Command, to better prepare our forces for combat. Tasked to plan and control this training, the 414th Combat Training Squadron's mission is to maximize the combat readiness, capability and survivability of participating units by providing realistic training in a combined air, ground, space and electronic threat environment while providing for a free exchange of ideas between forces.

A typical RED FLAG exercise involves a variety of attack, fighter and bomber aircraft, reconnaissance aircraft, electronic warfare aircraft, air superiority aircraft, airlift support, search and rescue aircraft, aerial refueling aircraft, and command and control aircraft, as well as ground-based command and control, space and cyber forces. It has expanded in recent years to include all spectrums of warfare (command, control, intelligence, electronic warfare), and added night missions to each exercise period.

USAFCOS VISITS ISR AIRMEN STANDING WATCH

Adapted from an article by Lori A. Bultman, 25 AF

(Right) Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein met with Airmen and leaders at 25th AF Headquarters Dec. 19.



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO – LACKLAND, Texas —“ My mission this week is to get out and say thanks to all of those who are standing watch, not only on behalf of the Joint Chiefs, but also on behalf of a very grateful nation,” Goldfein told the Airmen of the 625th Operations Center.

Goldfein thanked the Ops Center Airmen for their hard work and dedication. “Nothing that you do is easy. Nothing that you have shown me walking around here is simple, but the way you knit it together ... the way you work the relationships that matter so much in this business, are very often what keeps our nation safe and allows us to sleep at night,” Goldfein said.

The Chief of Staff, a Texas native, reminded Airmen they are an important to global security. “It’s not only our families, it’s families around the world that rely on us,” he said. “We are a global power for one reason and that is because we have global capabilities, and that is what you provide every day. Never take for granted the impact that you are having on a truly national level. Our families sleep well at night because you here. And I, for one, couldn’t be prouder to serve with each and every one of you and to say thank you for what you are doing every day.”

During his visit, Goldfein also presented his recognition coin to several outstanding team members at 25th Air Force Headquarters.

Maj. Octavia Heard, squadron section commander, was recognized for her courage in ensuring the safety of one of her Airmen.

In early December, an Airman under her supervision was abducted by a group of men, beaten and forced to drive around town withdrawing cash from ATMs and selling his personal property at pawn shops. When the Airman did not report for work the next morning, Heard worked with the Airman's apartment complex manager and the San Antonio Police Department to conduct a welfare check. While they were there, the abductors drove into the apartment complex in the Airman's car, with the Airman in the back seat. Heard approached the car, opened the back door and pulled the Airman out of the car as the abductors attempted to drive away. The alleged perpetrators were later arrested, and the Airman was treated and released from the hospital.

Tech. Sgt. Dan Schultz, an airborne mission systems manager, 625th Air Support Squadron, was recognized for his key role in finding a more problem-centric, deductive and anticipatory approach to ISR operations. An example of his impact was shown when he recommended delaying an RC-135 to assist when another aircraft was incapacitated. His actions allowed 25th Air Force to continue support for a critical Focused Collection Operation. Schultz also assisted with coordinating and synchronizing ISR activities supporting EC-130H missions designed to test a new capability in support of the 624th and 625th Operations Centers.

Carol Glover, spouse of 25th Air Force Command Chaplain (Col.) Bruce Glover, was recognized for her service as the 25th Air Force Key Spouse coordinator. She coordinated efforts to recognize and care for the families of deployed service members.

EC-130S MARK 15 CONSECUTIVE YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN

Adapted from an article by SSgt Katherine Spessa, 455th AEW

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — All around the dimly-lit tent are enduring symbols of a constant presence. A name scrawled across a wooden wall, a lengthy list of deployment dates written underneath, updated year after year. A library stacked with books and games to pass the time. A built-in couch labeled "Snooze Town." All the things people do to make a place feel like home are apparent in this place where its inhabitants often spend half their time each year.

The 41st Electronic Combat Squadron and the 755th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, part of the 55th Wing and based at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, have been continuously deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and now the Resolute Support Mission, since 2002. They have been at Bagram since 2004. The unit operates the EC-130H Compass Call, a modified version of the C-1 130H Hercules airframe.

Right: Staff Sgt. Kyle Poston, 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, oversees engine maintenance on an EC-130 Compass Call at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. To date, 41st EECS crews have flown over 39,000 hours and 6,800 combat sorties supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, and the Resolute Support Mission. 455th EAMXS received the 2016 ACC Maintenance Effectiveness Award (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Katherine Spessa)



It serves as an airborne weapons system capable of disrupting enemy command and control communications and limiting adversary coordination essential for enemy force management. Many of their maintainers have been with the unit since the beginning. The members of the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's EC-130 Compass Call aircraft maintenance unit currently deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan have 146 deployments among them. "I've been on 13 deployments, nine of them here [at Bagram] and all of them have been with this unit," said TSgt Michael Meredith, 455th EAMXS expeditor. For those with families back home, they say the key is to make the most of the time they have. Tech. Sgt. Tony Rivera, a 455th EAMXS crew chief, has two sons back home and says he spends the time he has with his boys participating in their lives and making every moment count.

"I've been deployed 13 times in my career, and the last two since I've been with this unit have been the best by far," said Rivera, who just arrived at Bagram for his third deployment in the two years since joining the EC-130 AMU. "This is without a doubt the tightest group of folks I've ever worked with."

To date, 41st EECs crews have flown over 39,000 hours during 6,800 combat sorties in these operations. The unit has broken the monthly flying records for three consecutive months since this past October – something that has never been done before.

“This is truly an incredible feat and I couldn’t be more proud of these dedicated Airmen who continue to answer their nation’s call,” said Col. Marty Reynolds, 55th Wing commander and former EC-130H pilot. “What they bring to the fight is unparalleled and everyone in the Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth is honored to have this group as part of our team.”

The unit’s mission capable rate, the maintenance term for number of functioning aircraft, hit a 27-month record high in November – 96.5%. This has led to the 455th EAMXS winning the 2016 Air Combat Command Maintenance Effectiveness Award.

2016 Chief James Swindell Award Winner

Each year, 25th Air Force recognizes our premier communications-computer systems program and the unit that demonstrated the greatest support for the diverse missions across this Numbered Air Force. This award is named in honor of CMSgt James C. Swindell. Chief Swindell is considered the most professional communicator ever assigned to the United States Air Force Security Service (a predecessor to 25 AF) and our history attributes the genesis of several strategic programs to his exceptional dedication to our mission.

Join me in congratulating the 531st Intelligence Squadron (70 ISRW) as the 25 AF 2016 CMSgt James C. Swindell Award winner! I am proud to have the men and women of the 531 IS represent 25 AF and wish them continued success. Thanks for all you do!

BRADFORD J. SHWEDO
Maj Gen, USAF
Commander

FTVA CHAPTER NEWS

Compiled by Dennis Buxton, Auxiliary Staff

It has been nearly 3 months since the holiday season ended and as a result, the current worldwide SITREP for FTVA chapter activity is once again OPS NORMAL. Now that the Christmas decorations and New Year’s party hats are repacked and stored once again in attics and basements the world over, monthly membership meetings are again starting up. Commendably, chapter activities continue to focus on growing the FTVA membership, supporting good causes locally, as well as enabling local past and present command personnel to “Remain in Touch.”

Below, please enjoy the various chapter inputs to this edition of RIT. We encourage all readers to find (or start!) your local chapter and become active in keeping the memories and traditions alive. Also, please continue to send your chapter 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](mailto:Wings_of_Blue@yahoo.com) who serves as our Chapter Liaison. Please remember that all inputs for our quarterly newsletter are due no later than the 1st of the month before publication.

First up this issue we go TDY to San Angelo, Texas.



Heritage Chapter

San Angelo, TX

Ronald ‘JJ’ Graham, Chapter President

All is well here, thank you! Hope all is well in your corner of the universe as well. Here are a few items to report.

Hangover Party. We just had our annual Christmas Hangover Party (☺) with about 30 members and wives attending in what was a great time for all. We met at the Peppercorn Grill where the food was plentiful and tasty. In other chapter business....

The Wall That Heals. We have confirmed that “The Wall That Heals” will be coming to San Angelo 16-19 November. The Heritage Chapter has taken the lead on making this happen (signed the contract, covered costs, etc.). We have briefed the Fort Concho board of directors which will

provide the physical space for the display. Also we are working with the All Veterans Council on the progress and expectations as the event will require 24/7 manning, etc. In addition, we'll be partnering with the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, Angelo State University, and other organizations to make this a truly community event. Later, we'll have plenty more to come on this.



The Wall That Heals: A replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC, the Wall replica and a mobile Education Center spread The Wall's healing legacy to hundreds of thousands across the country.

Heath Hall. Building 900, better known as Heath Hall, housed the USAFSS NCO Academy for many, many years. When it was shut down several years ago, it housed Goodfellow's Airman Leadership School (ALS) until the new education center was built a few years ago. Heath Hall is now being converted into a training facility for foreign students. I received a call the other day telling me to get over there right away if I wanted to take anything out before they cleared the building. Because the building contains many mementos and artifacts I ran right over. I found out that Doc Garrett (our base historian) had already been through and grabbed some key items. I took a few of the older command shields (some wood and some glass), an encased flag donated by a 1993 ALS class, and a large mirror donated by a 1985 NCOA class. As of this writing, I still haven't been able to reach Doc on what he took out of there, but do know that bigger items like the John Levitow bust have been moved to the current ALS building. Chief Heath's uniform (on a mannequin) will remain with the building but has been moved for safekeeping while the renovation takes place.

DLI Road Trip. Some of our chapter members are planning a trip to the Defense Language Institute (DLI) over the Memorial Day weekend to attend a ceremony for the DLIFLC Hall of Fame. Larry Miller found out

some Vietnamese linguists (Doggers) weren't in the DLI Hall as they should have been. After much discussion, DLI agreed to take care of that.

Larry will also present a brick from the Hanoi Hilton for permanent display. More to follow as information becomes available.



Monterey by the Sea

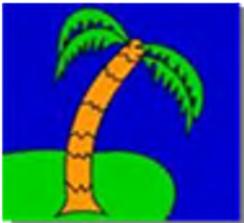
*(Left)
DLI - The Defense
Language Institute,
Monterey, CA.*

Former training

“home” of many command members.

I think that about does it for this issue, holler if you have any questions.

Cheers...JJ



Aloha Chapter, Honolulu, HI
John “Tilly” Toillion, President

The Aloha Chapter held its latest social on January 27, 2017 at Ruby Tuesdays Mililani.

As usual there were several topics for discussion – war stories, health issues, Hawaii cost of living (oh yah!) and of course politics, politics and more politics! Oh yah, we did acknowledge our concern for you folks back on the mainland who are experiencing terrible winter weather. Do I dare say that it's been chilly here in the islands as well - down to 59 degrees in Mililani and that doesn't even factor in the wind-chill factor which would have least brought it down to 57!



L-R:
 John "Tilly" Toillion,
 Fred Collins,
 Al Teal,
 "Oly" Harrison,
 Ken "Sluggo" Een,
 and Dickie Hites.

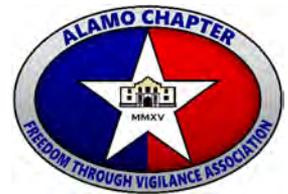
We retirees acknowledged our hard working members - Al Teel - full time, and Ken Een part-time, and Steve Crain - full time.

One of our potential initiatives we're still "kicking" around is the possibility of connecting with the Honor Flights program which brings our Vets back to DC. Tilly's continuing to research a possible connection with a HF Hub in the Bay Area. Hopefully we'll have more info at our next meeting. That be it from the coconut wireless. A-looooo-ha!!

Tilly

Alamo Chapter, San Antonio, TX

Barnie Gavin, Chapter President
 Mike Nielson, Chapter Secretary
 (photos by Ken Maynard)



The January 19 meeting was called to order by President Barnie Gavin at 6:10 PM at Logan's Roadhouse, 12477 W. Interstate 10, San Antonio, Texas with 28 members, spouses and other distinguished guests in attendance. Even though this was not a formal meeting (it was the quarterly "sit-down" social occasion with the spouses) some 'official business' did arise as the membership learned from President Gavin that the chapter leadership is continuing to work with the NSA/TX commander about how best the Alamo Chapter can support the NSA/TX enlisted award programs;

more on this to follow in future editions. On the social side, new friends were made and old friends became reacquainted as everyone stood and introduced themselves. New members were welcomed and quickly engaged in lively banter. A highlight of the evening occurred when it learned that it was Sheila Williams' and Jeanie Smith's birthdays! As a result, the assemblage engaged in a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday."



(Left)
Chow's Up! Members and guests of the FTVA Alamo Chapter enjoy camaraderie and good Texas victuals at the January 19 chapter meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

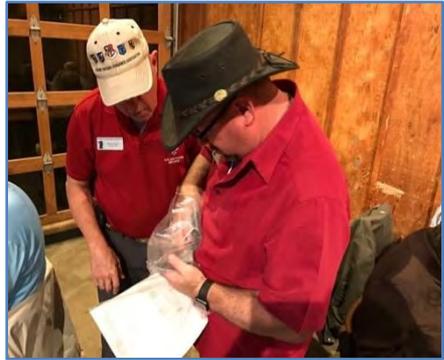
(Right) These Be What's in Charge: The Alamo Chapter's esteemed movers and shakers (l-r), Mike Nielsen, secretary-treasurer, and Bernie Gavin, "El Presidente" caught by the camera at the January 19 chapter meeting. Would you buy a used car (or anything for that matter) from either of these two?



(Left) Eyes Front and Center: Alamo Chapter members and spouses mugging for the camera at the 19 Jan chapter sit down dinner and social. (L-R Ginny Askew, Kay and Ron Weaver and Bob Askew)

)

(Right) Digging Deep: Chapter Member Andy Smith (right) donning a mighty spiffy chapeau is reaching for a U/I object much to the curiosity of Alamo Chapter President Bernie Gavin.





Rocky Mountain Chapter, Colo Springs, CO
Ftva-rockymountainchapter.com/
George “Ike” Eichelberger, President

The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the FTVA meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Rhinos Sports Bar, in Colorado Springs.

Five souls braved the elements on Thursday, 12 January to attend the first Rocky Mountain Chapter (RMC) FTVA meeting of the year. These stalwarts are Stan Cook, Dennis Daniels, George Ike Eichelberger, Chuck Maerten, and Jeff Waldeck. These were the main topics of discussion:

AAR: Tom Nurre e-mailed us a copy of the After Action Report from our 3 November Vietnam Commemorative Ceremony, including pictures.

The following Chapters were **NQ** or **Nil Heard** since our last report:

Gold Country Chapter
Yuba City, CA
John Aurelius, President

Florida Chapter,
//This Page Under Construction//

National Capitol Chapter,
Washington, D.C.
Jerry Gething, President
Erika Coleman, Secretary

With no further activity to roll on, this edition’s FTVA Chapter News and Events is now signing off.

2015 REUNION ANNOUNCEMENTS



Notifications of Upcoming Reunions

NOTE: Any Reunion plans for 2017? Let us help. The form found on the FTVA web site will ensure widest dissemination of your upcoming reunion contact details. Please Go To <http://www.ftva.org/>

NOTICE: For a variety of reasons, the annual FTVA Reunion dates for 2017 are 28 - 30 September. Information is noted here: <http://www.ftva.org/REUNION/index.cfm>

April 2 – 5, 2017
15th RSM/6922nd RSM

Location: N. Myrtle Beach, SC

POC: Joe Setzer joersetzer@gmail.com Ph [910-579-6581](tel:910-579-6581).



May 3 – 6, 2017
USAFSS Roll Call Reunion

Location: Gatlinburg, TN

POC: Jim Kaus (flajim@mchsi.com)

Comment: Go to www.usafssrollcall.com for registration and details.



April 27 – 29, 2017

Fall of Saigon Party (FOSP) 2017 Doggers Reunion

Location: Las Vegas, NV (The Flamingo Hotel)

POC: Joe Turney (parrotjet@yahoo.com)
or John Slyman (johnsly55@hotmail.com) .

Comment: Plan for a golf outing base tours and banquet at Nellis, a High Roller ride. Go to the USAF Doggers page on Face Book for details.



June 22 – 24, 2017

15th Annual USAFSS in Misawa Reunion

Location: Providence, R.I. (The hotel is in Warwick, which is about 10 miles from the center of Providence. T.F. Green Airport will show up if the destination is Warwick, or Providence.)

POC: Syd Scales

Comment: Spokt Website for details.

Aug 17 – 19, 2017

6994th Security Squadron' next reunion

Location: Dayton, OH.

POC: Will advise @ <http://6994th.com>

Comment: Arrangements in progress with Holiday Inn Hotel (2800 Presidential Dr in Fairborn)

Sep 22 – 27, 2017

COMBAT APPLE 50th Reunion

Location: Rockwall/Greenville, TX

POC: Bob Cotti (rfc2k@sbcglobal.net)

Sep 21 – 24, 2017

6918th SS/SG Hakata, Japan

Location: Colorado Springs, CO

POC: Don Dickson ph. 303-751-7554 email: milehidickson@yahoo.com

Comment: Go to Hotel Elegante' <http://www.hotelelegante.com/>

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

Sep 28 - 30, 2017

FTVA ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY REUNION, San Antonio, TX.

Location: Security Hill, San Antonio, TX

POC: Ron Haygood president@ftva.org

Comment: 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/REUNION/index.cfm>



REUNION REPORTS



**2016 Worldwide ROLL CALL
San Antonio, TX
September 22nd – 24th
Newsletter Compilation**

(This report was delayed due to space limits in the RIT Dec issue.) A smiling group of nearly 60 USAFSS World Wide Roll Call members enthusiastically joined hands in San Antonio, TX for their biennial reunion. Bob Askew hosted this year's shindig with his better half, Ginny's help. Getting things started the group enjoyed a rousing ice- breaker, a Bus trip and tour to Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, TX, Mexican Buffet, Lackland AFB BMTS graduation, FTVA Remembrance ceremony and picnic followed by a special banquet on Friday evening. Additional highlights of the gathering included recognition of Roll Call's USAFSS Pioneers" (those attendees who were serving in USAFSS 50 or more years ago), the always enjoyable silent auction and the presentation of Vietnam Commemoration Pins to Vietnam-era veterans.

Wednesday Early Bird Lunch at the Acadiana Restaurant



Far back end of the table is Tom "Ike" Isaacs. We served on Trick 3 back in 1959. To Ike's right is Dennis Rassmussen, and then JJ Pittseruse. To Ike's left is Ben Whitten, Walt Ritter, Pappy Ivey, and Ron Marcoulier; Jim Kaus is front left and I'm at head of table. //Waco Wetterman //

Thursday Day-Trip to San Angelo



San Angelo City Wall Murals

“0” dark thirty Thursday morning found this gang of 16 stalwart alumni on the bus heading 220 miles up the road to San Angelo, TX. While there they enjoyed a breakfast with veterans attending the 6924th SS Reunion hosted by the local Heritage Chapter. Roll Call group was then whisked off for a tour of Goodfellow AFB. Also, while there, they were shown the “Murals of Downtown San Angelo” (above).

Visit to Goodfellow Training Base

(Right) Danny Russell was waiting for us at Goodfellow. Ron Marcullier and Ray Shoemaker in background. The guy Danny is talking to is Greg Herrera, recently retired Army 1st Sgt who was hanging with our group this week. He was fascinated with Danny's story and spent quite a bit of time talking with him. Greg had three tours to Sandland and has three Purple Hearts and four Bronze Stars. Really nice guy.



Thursday in the Hospitality Room



Talk about a few **old** ‘war stories’! These three fellas were part of the initial cadre of “founders” that transferred from the Army Air Corps Security Agency into the USAF Security Service in 1949.

Hugh Hill (86yr) Duke Keeter (86yr) and Virgil Fordham (87yr)

Roll Call’s local reunion organizer Bob Askew (left in photo) was there to welcome a featured guest speaker for Thursday, Paul Clever. Paul;s father, TSgt Lewis Clever, was KIA in the shoot-down of ARDF mission CAP 72 on Feb 5, 1969.



(L) Pete and Linda Chamlee came in from Livingston, TX and enjoyed catching up on things with Tom Echols who is from Cibolo, TX.

(R) Opting to stay in the hospitality suite to help Bob Askew get folks settled in at the reunion:

Randy Roby Duke Keeter
Jay Johnson & Jim Kaus



Thursday Evening Guest Speakers

Once those bus travelers returned from San Angelo, the group convened in the hotel's eatery for a sit down Mexican buffet. Then everyone gathered for the evening's festivities.



Former USAFSS Senior Enlisted Advisor Tom Echols talked about his experiences as a Command CMSgt. Tom talked about several assignments both overseas and 'at home' in that capacity. Of note was Tom's experience with the creation of Comfy Olympics (now the Maj Gen Doyle Larson) Awards program. Thanks Tom.

FTVA's Vice President Ken Gendolfe gave everyone a briefing on the USAFSS ARDF program in Viet Nam, using vintage newsreel video. Ken flew 116 missions on EC-47 aircraft as an airborne analyst earning a DFC, MSM and three Air Medals in the process.



Paul Clever's talk was the highlight of the reunion. Paul told of his quest to locate his father's remains in SEA. Paul learned all he could about the crash and how to go find it for himself. After years of planning and research, he and his wife, Nita, were ready. Nita, who grew up in Thailand, was his enabler. Seven of the ten crew members of CAP 72 were identified. One of those was Paul's father, who finally made it "home".

The group spent Friday morning at the BMT parade and graduation exercise at Lackland AFB followed by the FTVA Remembrance Ceremony and Picnic at Security Hill.

Friday Night Banquet



(L-R) Lisa and Charlie Millsap; Alice Kaus, Bill and Valya Burhans; and Bob and Ginny Askew

Roll Call Vigilant Partner Presentation to FTVA



(Left) Roll Call has established a tradition of supporting the FTVA through the Vigilant Partner program. Every two years Roll Call holds its Reunion in San Antonio in conjunction with the FTVA annual reunion weekend. Here, Jim Kaus is shown presenting a check to FTVA’s Newsletter Editor, Dennis Rassmussen, renewing the organization’s Gold Partner membership for 2017.

(Next page) Earlier this year, Roll Call’s Jim Kaus arranged for special recognition of five original USAFSS founders. We obtained a special certificate signed by General Schwedo for each of them. We were grateful to have three of these founders with us at our banquet.

Below: Colonel Kyle Forrier presents a cup to each founder with their certificate replicated on it.



L-R Virgil Fordham, Duke Keeter, Hugh Hill

Note: Duke Keeter’s bio is highlighted in “Then & Now” Section of this issue (p 57). (Ike Borland and Tom Hunter are two guys whose names need to be added to the early bird ASA troops assigned to 2nd RSM, Herzo/Darmstadt).

Roll Call presents Vietnam Commemorative Pins



L-R, Col Kyle Forrier (Guest Speaker), Jim Sains, Stan Van Meter, Joe Moyher, Bill Burhans, Steve Mobry, Dave Shephard, Kerry Sandstrom, Oma Graves, Tommy Smart, Randy Roby (presenter).



With Special Appreciation

The Roll Call reunion hospitality suite, complimentary comfort food and drink, Bus tours to San Angelo and Lackland, Mexican buffet and Reunion banquet were all planned, arranged and executed under the careful eye and hands of **Bob and Ginny Askew**. An excellent performance by two very exemplary people!

Annual USAFSS Maxi at St. Augustine 2017

Posted w photos by Jay JJ Johnson



Magnuson Hotel, 1111 Ponce de Leon

L-R: Wayne Wheeler, Joyce Godfrey Jane Doolittle, Randy Roby, Harold Hollingshed, Greg Laskowski.

Dinner for a few of the folks at Aunt Kate's Seafood Restaurant.



FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION

Attn: Mark Hess

8203 San Fidel Way San Antonio, TX 78255-2303

12 Feb 2017



PLATINUM PARTNERS



**Prop Wash Gang
(IMO CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant)
General Dynamics Information Technology
Berlin Island Association
Ozmen Family Foundation at the
Community Foundation of Western Nevada
(IMO Maj Gen Paul Martin)**



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Jeff and Cecelia McRaney
Security Service Federal Credit Union
Air Force Federal Credit Union
Mrs. Doyle E. Larson (IMO Maj Gen Doyle E. Larson)
William F. (Bill) Sheck
Bill and Fumiko Sheck
(IMO of SMSgt (Ret) Robert and Chieko Pfister)
USAFSS Roll Call**



SILVER PARTNERS



**Anthony F. Jensen
Grover Jackson
Bob Cope
To The Penny Tax Services
Arrowhead Electric Service
Lee and Jen Anthony
Regis F.A. Urschler
“Picnic Partners”
Richard Hain (IMO CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant)
Charles “Jerry” Ellis
Greg Radabaugh
Grant and June Howells & Ken and Hide Lantz
(IHO The Doggers)**



BRONZE PARTNERS



Henry Whitney
BJ Cook
(IMO CMSgt (Ret) John Sinnard and CMSgt (Ret) AC Chamblee)
Donald Bundy
William F. McCarthy
Bob & Debbie Cope
(IMO of CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant)
Ronald Hentz (IMO CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant and Col Grover McMakin)



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Engrave-Tech & Graphics
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IMO SMSgt Robert W. Lantz)
Bob and Debbie Cope (IMO Lt Col (Ret) Chancel T. French)
James Mayer
Richard Sacchetti
Charles Bishop

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



(Left)
Nice turn-out at the
Creekside Diner



John & Jody LaMonica with Bob & Anne Wynn - Marianna, FL - 1/23/2017

Mini-Reunion in Wabasha, Minnesota – Dec 2, 2016



Tim Locken drove down from Center City, MN and met with CQ Dudkiewicz (Visiting from P.I.) and Duane Jahns. All of them had been at Linkou, Misawa and Meade.

Tim is on left as you view, “CQ” is in middle and Duane is on the right.

Posted by “CQ” Dudkiewicz



HISTORY & MEMORIES



AN/MSR-1

(“Misery”) Communications Intercept Van

Published May 18, 2015 by the National Museum of the USAF



DAYTON, Ohio -- AN/MSR-1 ("Misery") Communications Intercept Van on display in the Southeast Asia War Gallery at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo)

During the Southeast Asia War, the Department of Defense sought to limit the amount of information having possible intelligence value that could be gathered by enemy intercept teams. Long range HF (high frequency) radio communications were known to have been monitored and short range VHF (very high frequency) and UHF (ultra-high frequency) communications had not only been monitored, but also had been intruded upon; that is, false information had been passed by the enemy. The need for better transmission security to protect military operations had become so important that Headquarters USAF asked the Air Force Security Service to provide the means for improving that security.

The Air Force Communications Security Center at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, as the Air Force Security Service's experts, took on the task with assistance from the 6906th Electronic Security Squadron located at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas. The result was the development of the air transportable AN/MSR-1 Communications Intercept Van for monitoring friendly communications. Its purpose was to determine if sensitive military information was being inadvertently divulged in radio transmissions. If so, improved communications security procedures then could be quickly established.

In addition to its capability of monitoring HF, VHF and UHF radio transmissions, the AN/MSR-1 could monitor microwave communications as well. This last capability was useful in keeping a watch over Department of Defense microwave communications that might be vulnerable to interception by hostile forces. The fully-equipped van had four racks of equipment, and two racks containing three radios (one HF, one VHF and one UHF). The microwave rack consisted of monitor equipment and 12 cassette recorders, which were later removed because of operational restrictions.

The AN/MSR-1 van had several qualities that "endeared" it to those who used it. It was said that "... in the winter you could use it to store popsicles and in the summer you could fry eggs in it." Furthermore, individuals taller than 5-feet-8-inches tall either had to bend over or sit down. When the van was in transit, it would lean precariously when rounding corners.

The van monitored air-to-air, air-to-ground and intra-base radio communications during operational readiness exercises and inspections, training exercises and contingency support operations. During its 10 years of service it has been to all corners of the globe. It was operated in deserts, jungles, forests and cities, and has been subjected to snow, monsoon rains and typhoons. Whatever the environment, the "Misery" served well in fulfilling its missions.



Two Alaskan fishermen, sitting in a kayak, were chilly, so, they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly the kayak sank, proving again that:

“You can't have your kayak and heat it too”.

HISTORY & MEMORIES Cont'd

29th RSM Records Turned Over to 25th AF History Office Friday, October 21, 2016



25th AF Historian Gabriel Marshall & Bob Rennick

On October 6, 2016 all 29th RSM records and material were turned over to the 25th Air Force History Office, Lackland Annex, San Antonio, Texas. For those of you that haven't kept track over the years, the 25th Air Force is the latest name of what we knew as the US Air Force Security Service. I gave them eleven loose leaf notebooks and ten photo albums. The notebooks contain a written and photo history of the 29th RSM and other subjects, for example, the detachment at Okinawa, special operations at Chang Mai, Thailand, photos of an operation on the Lingayen Gulf, Palawan and assorted documents and photos of and about Clark Air Force Base, all contributed by members of the 29th RSM. The photo albums were pictures taken at all ten of our reunions. 25th Air Force plan for this material is to first scan each piece and then archive for future reference. My hope is that someday our unit will appear in the magazine they publish annually "A CONTINUING LEGACY".

Enclosed is a photo of myself and Gabriel Marshall, 25th AF Historian. Physical size of the material turned over equal to three 12"x16" plastic crates.

by Bob Rennick





Thanks to everyone who have made contributions to this group in keeping the memory of the 6910th Darmstadt to Augsburg group alive. It would be amazing to know how many photos and conversations that have been posted in this group, or how many phone calls and meetings have taken place because of the connections that this group has facilitated. Here's a salute to all who contribute and to all who enjoy what others share, and a special

salute to those early members who continue to keep the group going. Jan 4, 2017 by Bobby Edwards



This has been a great 15 years for me. 15 years ago woke me up to many, many friends. Thanks to Red and Bobby.
by David "Charlie" Church

I appreciate the opportunity to hitch a ride along with you who were in the 6910th after you departed my station 6911thRGM/Darmstadt.

by Brad Whipple



Brad, you have been a most valued historian and chronicler of great information from the views of the 6911th. Your stories, always appreciated.
by Bobby Edwards

AND I appreciate the opportunity to tag along with you who were all in the 6911th, 6910th and the 6900th and followed our 2nd Radio Squadron Mobile, Ernest Ludwig and Cambrai Fritsch Kaserne's in our great home away from home, APO 175 US Army, Darmstadt Germany.
by Paul Laffitte





Bobby, just missed you at Darmstadt, Arrived the month you left. I stayed on Charlie 3.5 years, went to skivvy nine, and back to Charlie for 2 more years. knew many of the guys you talked about.

by Gary Gonchar

Congrats guys it has been quit a ride. What started with a chat on Yahoo groups 15 years ago has become a great place to trade stories and pictures. Thanks to Bobby in getting us started on My Family and thanks to all for keeping us active on SPOKT. Without your input we wouldn't have a hub. I look forward to and hope I'm still here for another 15 years with you. It would be great if we could get back those we lost in the transition from My Family website to spokt. Anyway, happy anniversary all of you.



by Merritt Barthel



Congratulations from a long gone 2nd RSM leftover.
by Carroll Sickles

Ditto Paul's post. Duke
by Aubrey Keeter (47-68)



I always believed of USAFSS troops that some favored Europe while others preferred the Far East, To me my tour at Misawa was like the wild west where anything went while my tour at Darmstadt was like living in the USA with a German accent. by Jim Herbst .

Happy New Year and thanks to all the guys who keep this site interesting. by Ellsworth Bahrman (61-63)



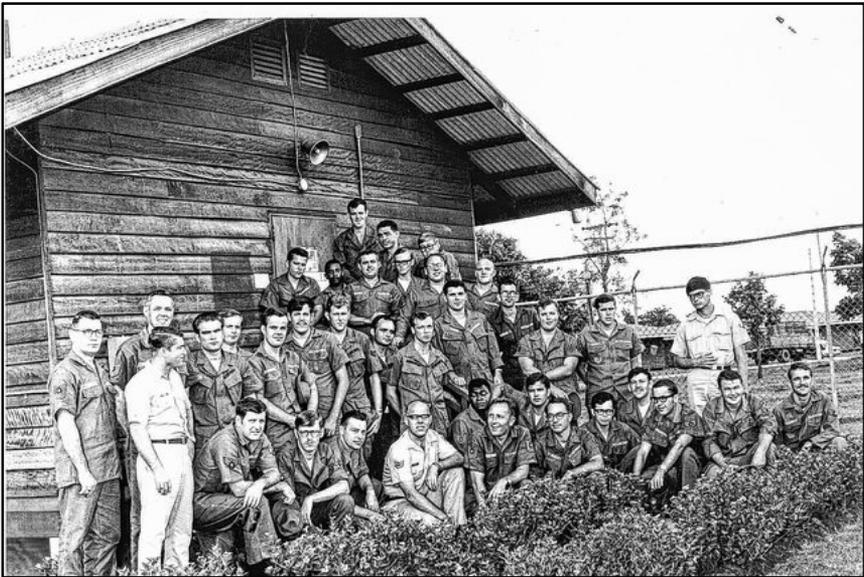
Sure glad you found me. I think it was in May of 2001
by Tex Wright



I've really enjoyed the site also. I was in Darmstadt and later in Amberg (about 50 clicks East of Nurnburg). Also over to Bayerische Eisenstein, Rotz, and several other locations near the Czech border. I don't wish to get carried away, but I could go on and on about Germany and my service there in 3 tours. I wouldn't trade the experiences for anything. by Roger Fowler

They called us 'ditty-boppers'

By Kasie Strickland - kstrickland@civitasmedia.com



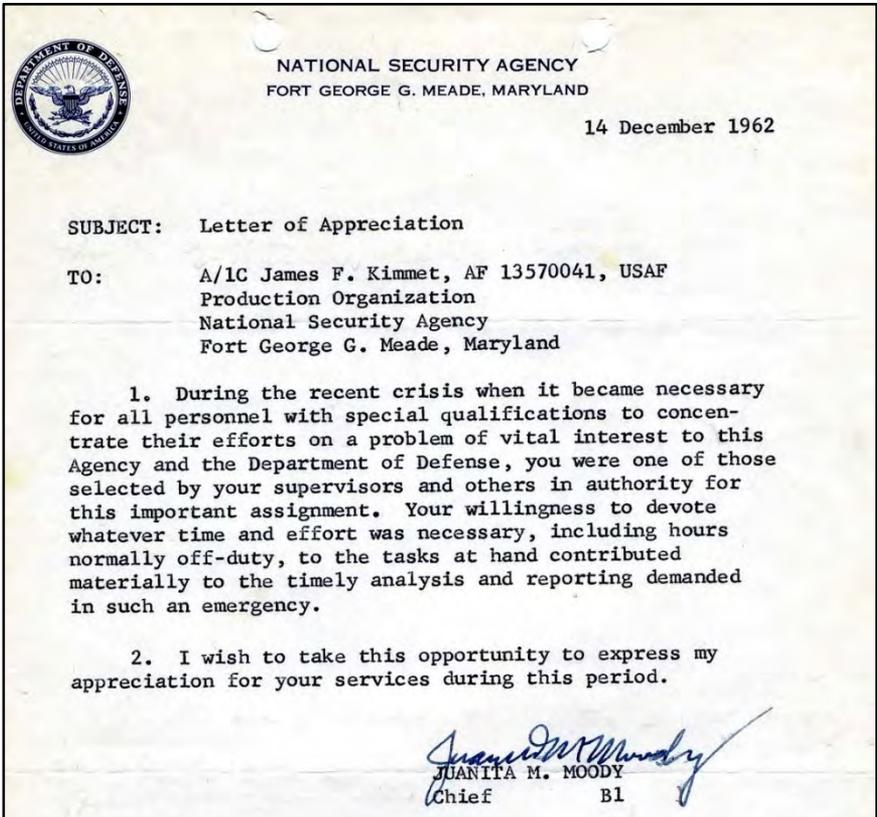
Morse code interceptors were called ditty-boppers, said Joe Jones. "We were a rowdy bunch. We weren't on the main base at any location, we were kept separate. Those guys (regular Air Force) would get so mad because if the main base went on alert, we didn't take part. They'd be all busy running around and we'd be cutting through the base in civvies on our way into town."

The Letter of The Law?

(A memory from the “old days” posted by Jim Kimmett that reminds us of “another time”).

I served in the USAFSS 56-64. Assignments included Germany 57-60, NSA 60-64. During the Cuban Crisis, I worked a 12-hour shift from midnight to noon for 90 days without a day off.

As a result, I received a nice Letter of Appreciation for my work. However, the Personnel office would not accept it for inclusion in my 201 file because, although it was signed by a GS-17 Office Chief, it wasn't signed by a military officer.





FALLEN EAGLES



Received word of the following losses from caring relatives, friends or obituaries and offer prayers and sympathy to loved ones.

“It is

the soldier above all others who prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.” Douglas MacArthur

Compiled by Joe Figueroa, Associate Editor



MEMORIALS



The FTVA gratefully acknowledges these bequests, generously donated by the following:

IMO Ray & Joann Rivera by Jose David & Patricia Colon

**IMO CMSgt John Sinnard & CMSgt AC Chamblee
(6989th RSM Founders of Misawa Operation Eyesight)
by B.J. Cook**

- Boul, Donald J., USAFSS
- Carstensen, Harold T., USAFSS *FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Cave, John Benny “JB”, USAFSS
- Conigliaro, Michael G., USAFSS
- Cook, Joseph J., MSgt (Ret), USAF
- Cooper, Robert, Capt (Ret), USAF *FTVA Lifetime Member ****
- Dairyko, Samuel, USAFSS
- Dickson, Donald L., USAFSS
- Doran, James V., USAFSS
- Emerson, Paul R., USAFSS
- Feit, Donald L., USAFSS
- Feller, Robert M., USAF
- Fredette, Douglas A., MSgt (Ret), USAFSS
- Gladden, John A., TSgt, (Ret), USAFSS
- Glenny, Clinton M., Col (Ret), USAF
- Heckler, Daniel G., USAF
- Heinrich, Thomas J., USAF
- Higgins, Charles E., USAFSS
- James, Herschell M., USAFSS

- Jasper, Ralph E., USAFSS
- Kuchenritter, Louis, MSgt (Ret), USAFSS
- Langton, Roy H., USAF
- Liaci, James A., Maj (Ret), USAF
- Lightell, Vernon E., MSgt (Ret), USAF
- Mahan, William G., USAFSS
- Mastronardi, William E., USAFSS
- Moeckel, Shirley H., USAFSS *FTVA Lifetime Member *****
- Russell, Erik M., Maj (Ret), USAF
- Shipley, Robert M., USAFSS
- Thompson, John W., USAFSS
- Thornton, Lex E., USAFSS
- Triemstra, Kenneth A., USAFSS
- Vogel, Paul K., MSgt (Ret), USAFSS
- Wilhite, Stephen E., USAF
- Wolder, Harold L., CMSgt (Ret), USAFSS
- Wray, William L., MSgt (Ret), USAFSS
- Youngson, James J., Col (Ret), USAF *FTVA Member*



Boul, Donald J., 87, died January 13, 2017. He was a U.S. Navy and Air Force veteran, working as a communications technician for both branches of service, and worked as a civil service employee before his retirement. Surviving are his loving wife of 61 years, Helen M., nee Clifton, Boul, whom he married on March 17, 1955; one son, Bruce and two daughters, Donna and Terri. **//Obit – Renner Funeral Home//** Don served as a 292 on Dawg Flight from 1963-1967 at

Hakata. **//Carol Farr//**



Harold T. “Whitey” Carstensen, SMSgt, (Ret), 83, passed away Jan 11, 2017 at University Hospital in San Antonio, TX. Harold was born the youngest of 10 children in rural St. James, Minnesota. He enlisted in the USAF In Jan 1952 and served for 22 years retiring in Feb 1974. He served in Greenland, Alaska, Hawaii, Taiwan, Korea and England as well

as at the Pentagon, Minnesota, South Dakota, and several years at HQ, USAFSS in San Antonio. After his military retirement, he worked for the Veterans Administration. He started his own business in the Bookkeeping/Accounting and served several clients in the San Antonio community. **// Obit self-composed //Assoc Ed//**



Cave, John Benny "JB", 80, passed away on March 6, 2016. He served in the U.S. Air Force with the 6913th RSM, at Bremerhaven, Germany from 1956-58. He retired after 21 years of service. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Jesquer "Jackie" Atkins Cave; daughter Kara and son Steven. //Obit – **Moody Funeral Services//** //6913th.org//



Conigliaro, Michael G., 74, passed away June 25th, 2015. . He was a cherished husband, survived by his wife Laura; daughter Alison Leigh, Andy, and Kimlou. He was the President of AMIC Research, a computer services firm, and proud Veteran of the United States Air Force. //Obit – **New York Times//** William served his country in the USAF as a 202 during his 1961-1963 tour at Hakata. //Carol Farr//

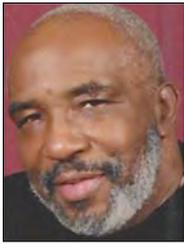


Cook, Joseph J., MSgt, 77, passed away on November 10, 2016. Joseph was a resident of Bellevue, Nebraska at the time of his passing. He is survived by his wife Kaz and daughter Lisa. //Obit – **Omaha World Herald//**



Cooper, Robert, Capt. (Ret), passed away November 21, 2016. He enlisted in the USAF in March 1954. After he was promoted to Master Sergeant, June 29, 1969, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant the very next day. He served as a squadron commander and achieved the rank of captain. He was stationed in New York, Mississippi, Alaska, Florida, Hawaii, Guam, Nebraska, Texas and California where he retired after 25 years of service. He is survived by his wife of 60 years,

Dominga; daughters, Deborah, Stephanie, and Michele. //Obit – **Boulder City Family Mortuary//**



Dairyko, Samuel, 74, passed away Oct. 31, 2016. He was a United States Air Force veteran assigned to the 6987th RSM (Dawg Flight Morse Controller 1969-1970) and a member of Harvest Reaper Church. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Jean; his children, Eugene, April, and Tracee. //Obit– **The Sumter Item**//
www.6987thalumniassociation.org/



Dickson, Donald L., 71, passed away December 6, 2016. Don was a 292 on Dawg flight during his tour at Hakata 1968 to 1971. Don was very supportive of the 6918th Reunions. //Carol Far//



Doran, James V., 85, passed away Oct 1, 2016. He served in the USAFSS 41st RSM Squadron in Germany as an intercept operator from 1951 through 1954. Survivors include his wife of 60 years Esther; and 3 sons. //Obit – **Mason Woodard Funeral**//

After completing basic training and the Morse Intercept Course at Keesler AFB, MS, Jim served a 30-month tour of duty in Bremerhaven, Germany at the 41st RSM on Dog Trick until 20 Dec 1954. Jim played on the '53-'54 "D" Trick basketball team (a photo of that team is available on our Web site). During the 1990s, Jim and Esther attended the reunions held for alumni of the 41st/6913th RSM and 7011th PPS. //Arlen Trapp//



Emerson, Paul R., 76, passed away December 19, 2016. He and his wife Marty were married in Switzerland in 1982. Paul served for 30 years in the Air Force. He was a member of the Air Force Gunner's Association. He flew 360 missions during the Vietnam War. He also worked for Booz Allen Hamilton and the Department of the Army in Washington DC. He retired in communications at Kelly AFB in 2007. Survived by

his wife Marty of 34 years. //Obit - **San Antonio Express News**//

Paul and I worked together many years on Security Hill. He was a very good person and always tried to help where he could. He will be missed. I send my sincere sympathy to all his family members. Bless you!
//CMSgt (Ret) Edward Jolly//



Donald L. Feit, Donald L., 78, passed away on December 25, 2016. He is survived by his wife Linda; three children Randy, Timothy and Andrea; three step-children Daniel, David and Michael. //Obit-Legacy.com//

Don served with the U.S. Air Force, 6913th RSM in Bremerhaven, Germany on Baker Flight from 1962 to 1965. //6913th.org//



Fr. Feller, Robert M., 94, passed away February 8, 2016. A military chaplain in the United States Air Force, he also was chaplain at Veterans Administration Medical Center and Veterans Administration Hospital, Tuskegee, Alabama, from 1983 until 1993. In a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving, Fr. Feller celebrated the 60th anniversary of his priesthood ordination on June 5, 2015. // Obit - St. Norbert Abbey// Fr. Feller was at Hakata 1970 to 1971. //Carol Farr//



Fredette, Douglas A., MSgt (Ret), 80, passed away Oct 29, 2016. Doug was a 20-year veteran of the USAF. His military career included assignments in New York, Alaska, Texas, Taiwan, and Germany. He subsequently retired after nearly 20 years with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in San Antonio, Texas. He was preceded in death by his wife of nearly 50 years, Mary Catherine and daughter Teresa. He is survived by his

second wife, Margaret Fredette; son, Thomas; daughters, Nancy and Elizabeth. //Obit – Porter Loring//



Gladden, John A., TSgt (Ret), 78, passed away December 5, 2016. Retired from the US Air Force, John travelled the world and ended his career as an AF recruiter. He served in USAFSS at Darmstadt. John is survived by his children: Shana, John, and Hannah.

//Obit – Tennessean//



Glenny, Clinton M., Col (Ret), 82, passed away December 9, 2016. In 1956, he completed pilot training at Goodfellow Air Force Base. He served as a B-47 and B-58 pilot and retired as a command pilot after 30 years of service. His combat roles comprised well over three hundred missions and

6,000 flying hours including the Cuban Missile Crisis, the former Republic of Vietnam and Laos. His assignments included tours at ESC and AFIC Headquarters. Colonel Glenny is survived by his wife of 56 years Ann, daughter Diana, and son Clint. **//Obit – Mission Park Funeral//**



Heckler, Daniel G., 58, passed away Sep 29, 2016. Dan was a man of few words but when he did talk, it was of his Air Force days and getting to fly planes. One of his proudest moments was taking his "new step-children" to the US Air Force Museum to see the airplane he flew in when he was in the Air Force. He is survived by his wife Debra; Children, Tabitha, Christopher, and Jeremy; and daughter, Jennifer. **//Obit – Littleton and Rue//**



Heinrich, Thomas J., 64, passed away January 12, 2017. He served 2 years in the US Army he went to work for USAF and retired in 2005 from the Air Force Information Warfare Center after 40 years of dedicated civilian service. He is survived by his spouse Joyce; son Michael; daughters Amy, and Melissa. **//Obit – MySA.com//**

A salute to you Tom. I met Tom in 1979 while at work at the Medina annex of Lackland AFB. He took time out of his busy schedule to answer some work-related questions and from that day on, he was a coworker, for a time my boss and civilian career mentor (the best you could have) and a best friend for 37 years. //Barry Booth//



Higgins, Charles E., 75, passed away on January 17, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Julia; children, Charles, Christopher, Kelsi, and Aaron. His assignments included Darmstadt and the 6916th in Greece. //Obit – McComas Funeral//



James, Herschell M., 82, passed away Oct 10, 2016. He joined the USAF and served in Bremerhaven, Germany with the 6913th RSM as a Russian Language translator from 1954-57, on Baker Flight. Herschell is survived by his wife of 54 years, Jean; sons: **Stephen** and **Gregory**; daughter **Shelley**. //Obit – familyowned.net// [//www.6913th.org//](http://www.6913th.org/)



Jasper, Ralph E., 80, passed away August 9, 2016. [//www.riemannfamily.com//](http://www.riemannfamily.com/)

Ralph served on Charlie Flight from 1954-1956 at the 6913th RSM in Bremerhaven, Germany. His other USAFSS assignments included Yokota, Offutt, Pleiku, DaNang and Ubon as Airborne Op. //6913th.org//



Kuchenriter, Louis, MSgt (Ret), 73, (Late report) passed away on Wednesday, August 26, 2015. He was a 292x1 with assignments at Darmstadt, early 60's, Pakistan, Italy, and the 6922d in the Philippines. //Obit – Idaho Statesman// //Gary Gonchar//



Langton, Roy H., 68, passed away November 27, 2016. He is survived by his wife, of 44 years, Donna; sons, Christopher and Paul. //Obit – **The Town Talk**//

He was one of the folks that originally moved from Denver to Goodfellow with the Intel courses. He retired as a 1N0 Training Manager when he retired a few years ago. //Johnny Garza//



Liaci, James A., Maj (Ret), USAF, 77, passed Jan 22, 2017. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Mary and daughter, Julia. He entered the USAF in Sep 1962 and retired as a Major from the AF Reserves in 1996. He had a long, rewarding career in communications, spending many years at Kelly AFB, and Electronic Security Command. //Obit – **Mission Park Funeral**//

Condolences to Mary and Julie....I worked with your father at Kelly (Lackland) Security Hill. He had wonderful stories, a happy outlook and engaging smile. I will miss him. //Ranee Laws//



Lightell, Vernon E., MSgt (Ret), USAF, 85, passed away November 5, 2016. He is survived by Daughter Toni. //Obit - **Omaha.com**//

We lost another Silent Warrior. MSgt (Ret) Vernon E. Lightell passed at a care facility in Omaha, NE. Vern started his military service with a hitch in the US Navy. Got out and a few years later joined the USAF. After Russian language training, he went to Yokota AB to fly on the RB-50s. He was an instructor at Goodfellow AFB in the early '60s and then went to the C-130's at Rhein Main GE. From there he went to Offutt AFB, Upper Heyford RAFB, Mildenhall RAFB, and back to Offutt RC-135s. He retired in the late '70s and remained in Omaha. Vern was a close friend for over 50 years and will be sorely missed. RIP old buddy! //Greg Mahoney//



Mahan, William G., USAF, 74, passed away on Dec 14, 2016. Survived by his wife Martha. //Bill was a 2-term, Intermediate Level Russian linguist at Zweibrucken who flew C-130 missions out of Rhein Main from 1966-69. He had an exceptional mind that manipulated the English language in fantastic ways. He was the Prop Wash Gang's AMS (Author Most Spectacular) and will be missed. //Bob Cope//

Bill was an expert with the English language and his clever musings will be missed. I remember Bill from our time at Syracuse for Intermediate Russian training. He exhibited the same ability to charm the teachers with his quick wit using Russian vocabulary. One of our teachers was a poet and writer, who lived through the siege of Stalingrad. He and Bill got along famously and Bill cracked him up with a short story he wrote called the "Iron Suitcase". Some good memories. RIP Bill. //Greg Mahoney//



Mastronardi, William E., 76, passed away Jan 18, 2017. He is survived by his wife Joyce; daughters Ann-Marie and Nicole. Bill was a USAF Veteran serving from 1956 - 66. His passion was bowling. He bowled on many leagues and tournaments throughout the United States. He entered the Peoria Area Bowling Hall of Fame in 1984. //Obit – Dignity Memorial//

I have lost a longtime (57 years) friend and USAFSS Brother. Joyce told me that in the past few days she received some phone calls from Bill's old military friends and was pleased to have had a lengthy conversation with a former DLI classmate of his. //Aaron Kriegel//



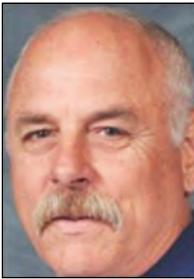
Moeckel, Shirley H., 87, passed away Jan. 28, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Hazel; daughter, Kim; sons, Herbert and Jon. Shirley served in the USAF from 1951-1955. He was assigned to the 29th RSM and was helpful in starting and conducting their reunions. He was a Technical Sergeant in the USAF

reserves. He then started his career as a farmer and business owner in 1956. He was a life member of the VFW; life member of the American Legion; and life member of the FTVA. //Obit – The Southern Illinoisan//



Russell, Erik M., Maj (Ret), USAF, 40, passed away November 15, 2016. He is survived by his wife Courtney and son Grady. His assignments included the 390th Intelligence Squadron. //Obit – Legacy.com//

Very sorry to hear this. He had a large part in where I'm at today...first met at AFSOC IFTU in '06 where he peaked my interest in the RC mission and the IIO position. We lost a good one. //Brad Higby//



Shipley, Robert M., 75, passed away Oct 19, 2016. "Master" Shipley trained with Sa Bom Nim Song-Ki Kim (Dan #327) in Korea while serving in the USAF. Additional military training at Yale University included East Asian language and history. He began his Tang Soo Do/Soo Bahk Do career in the Republic of Korea in the fall of 1960 while stationed at Osan Air Base. Survived by his wife Han, Kyong Ok. //camaskarate.com//



Thompson, John W. "Jack", 70, passed away Nov 9, 2016. After graduation from New Brighton H.S. in 1964, Jack served in the USAF during the Vietnam War. He is survived his wife, Rose; three children, John, Bryan, and Sherri. //Obit – The Times//

Jack was a 292 on Charlie flight during his tour at Hakata 1966 to 1968. Jack was an active member of the 6918th Brotherhood and Charlie Flight member. His smile will

be missed at the Reunions. //Carol Farr//



Thornton, Lex E., 66, passed Jan 17, 2017. In 1971, Lex began his 15-year career in the USAF as a Far East linguist. Lex served in Vietnam and remained a passionate patriot throughout his life. After leaving the Air Force in 1986, Lex began his 25-year career as a defense contractor supporting the intelligence community, working for E-Systems, L-3. Lex is survived by his wife, Anne; two daughters, Jennifer and Jessica. //Obit – Pierce Funeral Home//



Triemstra, Kenneth A., 76, passed away April 8, 2016. Ken chose a career in the United States military. He served in the Air Force, retiring in 1980 after 22 years. He served in several parts of the world including, Scotland, Germany, Okinawa, Taiwan, Vietnam and several stateside postings. His service was decorated with unit awards and medals of commendation and excellence, including the RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm and The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

//Obit – Kalamazoo Gazette//



Vogel, Paul K., MSgt (Ret), 83, passed away July 21, 2016. Paul was a proud retired master sergeant of the USAF serving for 22 years, including the Vietnam War. Prior to his retirement, he was employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Plains Township. He is survived by his wife of 61 years Linda; sons, Ronald, Randy, Rick; daughter, Wendy. **//Obit – Legacy.com//**

Paul was a Morse Intercept Operator on Able Flight from Jun 1953 until May 1955 at Bremerhaven, GE. When I spoke with him about 12 years ago, my first impression was that he had an excellent memory: he casually recalled the names and home towns of 16 of the people he met while serving in Germany. **//Arlen Trapp//**



Wilhite, Stephen E., 62, passed away December 17, 2016. He served for 11 years as a crypto-linguist, and became fluent in Russian. He was an instructor at the Defense Language School in Calif. He served in the Air Force until 1983. **//Obit - Heffner Funeral//**



Wolder, Harold L., CMSgt (Ret), 87, passed away November 9, 2016. He served his country for 30 years and retired from the United States Air Force as a Chief Master Sergeant. Harold is survived by his wife, daughter, and son. **//Obit – Dignity Memorial//**

Harold was a number one CMSgt who I knew during my military career. I know there are many friends out there that will truly miss Harold. God only takes good men and Harold was one of them. **//Edward Jolly (CMSgt Retired)//**

Stationed at Shu Lin Kou Jan '75 to Jan '77. I was a SSgt then, and retired as a MSgt, Also knew folks like CMSgt Harold (Top) Wolder. **//Larry Anderson//**



Wray, William L., MSgt (Ret), 72, passed away Nov 20, 2016. William was a resident of Bellevue, Nebraska at the time of his passing. He is survived by wife Joyce; daughters, Crystal and Wanda; and son William. **//Obit - Bellevue Funeral//**

Bill (Sugar) Wray was one of the USAFSS old timers. I don't know much about his career, except I flew with him at Offutt from 1977 thru 1980. **//Benny Spear//**



Youngson, James J., Col USAF (Ret), 79, passed away December 25, 2016. He was commissioned in 1959. During 30 years of active duty service, Jim was stationed in San Antonio, Germany, Greece, Thailand, Hawaii, and Alaska. He spent his career in Financial Management, starting with the Air

Force Security Service. He is survived by son Michael Youngson (Lt Col, USAF retired); son Patrick Youngson (Colonel, USAF); Jim is also survived by a very special lady friend and companion, Faye Eberling. **//Obit - Legacy.com//**

I worked with Col Youngson on Security Hill. What a great person he was. If he could help you he would. He will be missed by all Airman that knew and worked for him. **//Edward Jolly (CMSgt Retired)//**

I am so saddened to learn of Colonel Youngson's passing. I worked directly for him when he was the Comptroller at Air Force Security Service. He was a wonderful person who was always very kind and fair to all. **// Olivia Dominguez//**

Our sincerest condolences to the family of Colonel Jim Youngson. We will always remember Jim as the complete gentleman and caring and gentle husband to his wife, Jean. We worked together at the old Electronic Security Command for many years and we were able to keep in touch at various social events. //Jerry & Gail McKenna//

Col Youngson was a regular contact in support of our RIT. He often sent us Fallen Eagle alerts on elder alumni of Security Hill. //D. Rassmussen//

IN MEMORIAM

February 5, 2017 Posted by Tom Crowley



On this 44th anniversary of the loss of some of our own, let us pause to pay respect to their memories and to remember their surviving family members. These were our reconnaissance brothers and they are our heroes. They made the ultimate sacrifice. Paid the ultimate price.

We Still Remember the loss of the eight-man crew of **BARON 52**, an EC-47Q reconnaissance aircraft (Tail #636) flown by a 4-man reconnaissance flight crew from the 361st Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (TEWS). The 4-man USAF Security Service (USAFSS) reconnaissance crew were members of Detachment 3, 6994th Security Squadron located at Ubon RTAB, in southeast Thailand (formerly designated Detachment 2, 6994th SS), shortly prior was operating from Da Nang AB, Republic of Vietnam. These heroic crew members' names follow:

TEWS Flight Crewmembers

- Captain George Spitz (Pilot)
- 2nd Lt. Robert Bernhardt (Co-pilot)
- 2nd Lt. Severo Primm III (3rd pilot)
- Captain Arthur Bollinger (Navigator)

6994th USAFSS Intelligence Crewmembers

- SSgt Todd Melton
- Sgt Joe Matejov (Airborne Mission Supervisor)
- Sgt Pete Cressman
- Sgt Dale Brandenburg

Thoughts on Post Mortem Financial Affairs

(After Another Sad Visit to Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery)

by Bob Cope, Retired Financial Planner

WHAT DO YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE NEED? YOU MUST HAVE, IN YOUR POSSESSION...RIGHT NOW:

1. A CURRENT Will (If you have a disabled child, consult a Board Certified Estate Planning Attorney for a Special Needs Trust)
2. An Advanced Health Care Directive or Health Care Power of Attorney
3. A DURABLE Power of Attorney
4. MAYBE a Living Trust--Some States with complex probate requirements may mean you should explore having one. (In my opinion Texas isn't one...Again, see an Attorney)

DOES YOUR SPOUSE KNOW WHERE TO FIND:

Military ID cards; DD Form 214(s)--The last one is the most important; Your VA Claim number, VA certified Disabilities and Service-connected conditions; Birth Certificates-- (including former spouses); Marriage License/Certificate (Current and former); Social Security cards; Divorce Decree(s); List of ALL your assets/investments/annuities and liabilities (Updated quarterly); Current Life Insurance policies/documents (including VA).

THIS IS IMPORTANT STUFF! The Will and both Powers of Attorney are MANDATORY... for EVERYONE. That's YOU!



BEDSIDE MATTERS

Tom Penn//Odenton, MD//Feb 3,2017// Tom's been in and out of the Univ of MD hospital for fever and breathing problems. Currently reviewing his options on continuing heart treatment/surgery.//**Bob Cope**//

Don Cole//DeRidder, LA//Jan 6, 2017// Don continues to cope with the debilitating effects of Parkinson's. Had a visit with him and his wife in early January. He currently is at home with his mobility restricted to wheel chair or automotive transport. //**Sue Cole**//



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

**6994th Memorial Highway Dedication Ceremony
20 April 2017**

A section of interstate I-86 near Horseheads, New York, is being renamed the 6994th Memorial Highway. An unveiling of the highway sign and official dedication ceremony are currently scheduled for **20 April 2017 at 0900 hrs** at a location near the actual signs (too dangerous to actually have the ceremony on the interstate). Joe Giammichele, who spearheaded the effort, is in the process of setting up a tour of the local aviation museum and a luncheon. He is also checking in with some local hotels to try and find some special event pricing for any that need hotel rooms for the evening. Below is the latest information.

Hotel information:

Hampton Inn, 51 Arnot Road, Horseheads, NY 14845
Phone (607) 795-3333
\$89 - \$94/night - Be sure to say you are with the 6994th to get the rate.
Reservations must be made by 15 Mar 2017 to get special rate.

Ceremony Site:

National War Plane Museum, Horseheads, NY 14845
Phone (607) 796-6597

Schedule for 20 April 2017

- 0915 hrs: participants meet in lobby of hotel
- 0930 hrs: depart for ceremony
- 0945 hrs: arrive at ceremony site
- 1000 hrs: ceremony starts
- 1100 - 1230 hrs: tour of war plane museum including use of flight simulator.
- 1300 hrs: luncheon

Joe would like to meet with all participants at the hotel at 2000 hrs on 19 April to set the logistics and make sure everyone has a ride.

Cost of the lunch and museum fee is \$10 per person. Joe would like the money by 1 April 2017. Joe needs a full count and payment for the lunch is due on 7 April 2017. Joe's address:

Joe Giammichele
4 Valley View Drive
Elmira, NY 14903

If you are considering going at the last minute, please contact Joe at giammichelej@gmail.com and let him know of your intentions so he can make sure there is enough food at lunch.

MEMBER FYI ITEM

(The following exchange is an example of FTVA timely feedback to those folks visiting the FTVA website.)

FTVA Sign In

E-Mail address: jib_rsvl@hotmail.com

Name: Jim Betterton

Unit: 6911 Security Squadron

Comment: I served from 1966-1973 in various Comsec units in Europe and Southeast Asia. I was a SSgt when I separated.

FTVA REPLY

To: jib rsvl ftvabod xsab2, membersupport

Jim,

Thanks for signing in to the FTVA web-site. I hope you are a member of the FTVA since one of our primary missions is to enable to our members to either get in touch or remain in touch with friends and co-workers from previous assignments. We also support our active duty units/personnel that are conducting many of the same missions we did back in the day...just with different equipment and maybe a different location. Again, thanks for signing in and hope to see you at our annual anniversary activities the end of Sept.

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



Then and Now

MSgt Aubrey “Duke” Keeter
USAAF USAFSS
1947 – 1968



Born on January 19, 1930 on the family farm near Merry Hill, NC where I attended Merry Hill elementary school and Edenton High School. I enlisted in the Army August 7, 1947 at age 17 I rode a Trailways bus to Ft. Bragg, NC and after 3-days of testing, I was assigned to in the Army Security Agency (ASA) and would take basic training at Ft. Jackson, SC. After basic, spent 2-months at Vint Hill Farms learning Morris Code and awaiting approval of a security clearance.

(Right :1947 Pvt Keeter in ‘tent city’).



In January, 1948. I was with a group of 15 with direct assignment to ASA-Europe in Frankfurt, Germany. First order of business was to turn in our khaki uniforms because only ODs and fatigues were authorized for Army EM wear in Germany.

Feb 12th, our group was designated as an advance party and transported to Pier 13 at Brooklyn Port of Embarkation and boarded the USNS Heinzelmann troop ship. We had early boarding to get trained on KP duties (included tours of the ship’s galley and dining area). We were scheduled KP duty every other day for the entire voyage. Our ship took 13-days to reach Bremerhaven Germany. Upon our arrival at Bremerhaven we boarded a train for the Army Replacement Depot in Germany. After 3 weeks of indoctrination and processing we were reassigned to Herzo Base, GE. In 1948 Herzo Base was the primary ASA radio intercept station in Europe. It was a small Luftwaffe base during WWII. Not one allied bomb fell on Herzo during WWII due to their excellent camouflaging techniques.

Hanger #5, the German’s alert hanger was converted by ASA as the Intercept Operations Building. Herzo Base was home to three operational units, the 114th Signal Service Company, 6th Det 2nd Signal Service Battalion, and 2nd Radio Squadron Mobile (2RSM). Commander of 2RSM

was Major David S. Shaw and Base Training Officer was Major James A. McClung, both WWII Infantry Officers so soldiering continued with personal inspections, Full Field Inspections, morning roll calls and Saturday morning detail. Our group of 15 Pvts plus 2 Tech 5s (T/5 rank) immediately entered radio intercept training in the established intercept course on Herzo Base. The curriculum included typing, copying Morse code, transcribing paper tapes and operation of radio receivers, freq meters and paper tape recording devices. Three of the Pvts failed to complete the course. Upon graduation I was assigned detached duty in the 6th Det 2d Sig Svc Bn operation because 2RSM had no functional intercept operation at the time. I was assigned trick chief of one of the four tricks based on my experience with 6th Det and continued in that position until the 2RSM was relocated to Darmstadt, Germany in February 1949. A constant influx of operators trained at Fort Monmouth Radio School and required OJT intercept training.

In February 1949 the 2nd RSM was transferred from the ASA to the USAFSS and the squadron relocated from Herzo Base to Darmstadt Germany. This was USAFSS' initial intercept operation in Europe. Aubrey continued as Trick Chief and performed OJT for incoming graduates of the USAF radio operator school at Scott AFB. In May 1950 I returned stateside and was assigned to Langley AFB for discharge in August 1950, however the Korean War began and all discharges were canceled. I was assigned to the 4th FIW when the 4th FIW deployed to Korea in July 1950. Since I had just returned from overseas I was transferred to Brooks AFB. The USAFSS Intercept Operators School at Brooks AFB was in dire need of experienced operators so I was assigned duty as instructor and development of lesson plans for the Intercept course.

In the spring of 1951 four instructors from the Intercept school were ordered to meet on the Brooks flight line with duffel bags filled with military clothing for a week's trip. SSgt Keeter was one of four "volunteers". We were met by an O-6 Colonel and boarded a C-47 with no knowledge of our destination. We refueled at Davis-Monthan AFB and continued on to March AFB, CA. The Colonel told us that the purpose of the trip was a base survey to determine if USSR transmissions could be intercepted on the US West Coast. We had 2 Collins 51J receivers and 2 typewriters. We set up an intercept position in the March AFB Transit Barracks with a bare wire (long wire antenna) hung out the barracks window The CQ told us that the Colonel took Jensen and Tyler on the plane and left word for Fitzgerald and

I to operate our intercept system until he returned. Fitz and I took turns searching the HF frequencies for USSR stations.

Once we learned the time of day that the “ionosphere skip” was best we concentrated on that time of day to operate. We only copied Call Signs and logged frequency and time. We filled a yellow chatter roll during the week. The Colonel returned to March a week later and flew us to Hamilton AFB. At each base where the Colonel went he met with base commanders and staff to determine if there were adequate facilities for a USAFSS unit.

I spent tours in Germany and Libya and returned to Brooks 2 years later and the 26th RSM was in the process of moving to March AFB.

In August 1951, The 34th RSM was organized at Brooks AFB, destination Wheelus AB, Tripoli, Libya. I was deployed to 12th RSM in Germany while the 34th RSM facilities were constructed at Tripoli. I supervised a training program that was established at the 12th RSM Detachment at Schleissheim Germany to provide real-time operation experience for the 34th RSM operators earmarked for 34th RSM. In May 1952 all 34th RSM personnel were transported to Tripoli and operation commenced. For 11-months we lived in 8-man tents while the permanent barracks were being built. At the end of my overseas tour I returned to Brooks AFB in May 1953 and continued instructor duty in the Intercept school. At the end of the Korean War in 1953 I requested and was granted an early discharge from USAF and was employed by the Coast Guard at Elizabeth City, NC.

My San Antonio wife never adjusted to living in NC so I gave in, quit my civil service job and moved to Texas. I went to the USAF recruiter in San Antonio to reenlist back in USAFSS. Their answer was that they weren't authorized to recruit for Security Service and advised me to reenlist for Randolph AFB and submit a transfer request for USAFSS. I was mal-assigned out of my AFSC and assigned as admin NCO for base Special Services, then later was stationed at Thule Greenland for 12-months, from September 24, 1955 to September 1956. After my 12-month tour was completed I was assigned to Homestead AFB, Florida, a SAC base in October 1956. We did very little operation other than scheduled operational checks with Barksdale AFB, the net control station.



1957 Rasat, Morocco

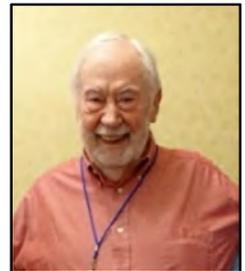
In 1957 USAF declared 29370 a surplus AFSC and cross-training was authorized. I applied to cross train in Radio Maintenance and completed Ground Radio Maintenance School at Scott AFB followed by 2-months OJT at Globecom sites at Andrews AFB, Maryland. Following my training I deployed to the 6910th RGM at Sembach, Germany. At the completion of my 3-year deployment at Sembach I was reassigned to Goodfellow AFB, Texas and assigned instructor duty in the Y30472 Intercept Systems Maintenance Course at Goodfellow AFB. In 1963 four instructors including myself, were transferred to Corry Field, Pensacola FL as instructor in the Navy Communication Training Center FLR-11/FRA-44 Maintenance Course. Also, I was assigned the added duty as NCOIC of 6940 Tech Trng Sqdn Detachment 2 located at Corry Field. The joint Navy/USAFSS training was canceled and I transferred back to Goodfellow and assigned another 3-year stabilized tour as instructor in the Y30474 course and promoted to MSgt.



1965 San Angelo w son and daughter

In August, 1966, I was deployed to 6980 Security Squadron at Northeast Cape, Alaska as NCOIC of Maintenance. The 6980th operation at NE Cape was terminated in April 1967 and I was assigned to NSA at Fort Meade and taught the first class in the CP-818 Computer (a.k.a. Iron Horse) Maintenance course. **I retired from the Air Force August 1, 1968.**

CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT: I was employed by Wyle Laboratories in Hampton, VA from January 7th, 1969 until January 31st 1992. Wyle Labs had a support services contract with Langley Research Center (LaRC) to provide Support Services for aeronautical testing in wind tunnels. My specific activity was design, install and maintain computer based data acquisition and control systems for wind tunnel testing. **Fully retired on January 31, 1992 and currently reside in Howard, OH.**



Duke – September 2016

Membership Application

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

Inclusive Years of Service:
 _____ to _____
 (MM/YYYY) (MM/YYYY)

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

Yearly Memberships are \$20.00
 Please check one:

NEW REGULAR MEMBER

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER
 (**see below for description)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

ADDRESS CHANGE

Age Range for Life Membership Rates

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

Optional Information we publish in yearly directory:

Rank/Grade: _____

Retired? Y / N

HAM Call Sign _____

CELL Phone: _____

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

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT: The authority to request this information is contained in Public Law 88-38 and Executive Order 12038. The principle purpose of the information is to establish a mailing list for membership rosters containing the name, address and telephone number of all members of the association periodically. Furnishing the information is voluntary; failure to provide the requested information will result in your not being listed. Your signature below* indicates that you have read and understand the above.

SIGNATURE _____

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

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

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

WE ARE ISR

Past Present Future



***THE FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE
ASSOCIATION***

THE FTVA IS A PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT CORPORATION ESTABLISHED IN 1981. WE ARE DEDICATED TO THE SUPPORT AND PERPETUATION OF SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN SERVICES FOR THE USAF AND 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 !!