

Remain In Touch



***FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE
ASSOCIATION***

NEWSLETTER

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Howdy fellow FTVA members,

Hope all is going well with each of you. Winter is just around the corner and we are beginning to prepare for what we hope is a mild season here in south Texas. Since I last wrote, we have been very busy in San Antonio. We just recently concluded a very successful reunion at the end of September. I would like to thank the planning team provided by 25 AF, led by Maj Chris Bailey, and the FTVA members providing not only oversight, but lessons-learned from previous years. Special thanks go out to Bob Benitez (Golf), AJ Harrison and Jacque Lerma (Picnic), Phred Sevening and Lee Anthony (Remembrance Ceremony), and a huge thank you to Ken Williams for all his efforts to ensure the banquet was a success.

Those of you that were able to make it during the week noticed a few changes to the agenda and those were made for a reason. We added a 5K run on Thursday morning that had over 110 participants. This was a suggestion from our active duty members and was a great success. We also moved the golf tournament at the Golf Club of Texas to an earlier start at 1000 hours. This actually gave folks a couple of extra hours after the tournament to prepare for several of the mini reunions happening around the city. The Golf Club of Texas was again a gracious host and the course was in tremendous shape, despite the torrential rains earlier in the month.

We again held the Hall of Honor Induction on Friday and based on comments, we will keep it there for the near future. We honored four new inductees in front of a standing-room only crowd. Over 400 former and current members of our Command were present to honor Mr. Keith Thomas, Lt. Col (Ret) Doug Kleist, Capt. (Ret) Albert Turner and SMSgt (deceased) Doris Keeton.

The Remembrance Ceremony followed and was moving as always. Unfortunately, we had to call out over 140 names this year. As someone who read the names for a number of years, this gets harder and harder as time goes on. Each name read off touches someone in the crowd and it is our privilege to honor their memory and contribution. We ended the day with our annual picnic with food, beverages, and the telling of a few...okay

lots of war stories. One of the highlights was the performance by The Air Force Band of the West during the picnic. They enjoyed sharing some stories and promised us they would be back again next year.

We started the last day of our reunion festivities on Saturday with the annual meeting of the membership and voting in of the new officers and culminated the week with a superb banquet that evening. Our guest speaker was Lt Gen Bradley Heithold, one of our former Commanders. He led the crowd through a rousing recognition of those who have served the Command over the last 70 years and left no doubt in anyone's mind how much he thought of what our silent warriors have done and continue to do for our country.

I mentioned this for those who attended the banquet, but we have had to change next year's Reunion to the first week of October (3-5 Oct 2019). It seems there is a young couple out there that needed to reserve the banquet hall for the same night we were going to have our Reunion Dinner. Rather than track them down and sabotage their wedding, Ken Williams and I decided we might need to move to the following weekend. So please plan accordingly for the 2019 Reunion, 3-5 October 2019.

Finally one of the last things we need to bring to the attention of the membership is the cost of printing and shipping the Remain In Touch Newsletter. As briefed to the board at our last meeting, the cost to put publish and ship the black and white copy of the Remain In Touch for our members runs over \$3,600.00 per quarter, or approximately \$14,400.00 per year. We simply cannot keep up with the rising cost of publishing and shipping it out. During our October board meeting we decided to reach out to the membership to encourage all of you to sign into the website and view the on-line color version of the RIT. We are also going to explore curtailing the hard copy version of the newsletter starting in 2020. We are projecting out over a year in order for you to provide your opinions on how the on-line version looks and if you any druthers on receiving the hard copy or using the on-line version. If you do not have a current password to review the on-line version, please reach out to Our IT and Membership Director, Roy Burnett, at rebyells@gmail.com.

I want to close by asking for your support. I encourage you to reach out to your nearest FTVA Chapter and get involved. These folks meet once a month and definitely can use your help supporting the local units and members in their area. The Alamo Chapter (San Antonio), Rocky Mountain Chapter (Colorado Springs), Heritage Chapter (San Angelo), Gold Country Chapter (Beale AFB), Mid-Atlantic Chapter (DC and Baltimore), Aloha Chapter (Hawaii) and Wasatch Chapter (Hill AFB) are

always looking for new members. I encourage you to get out and support. We need each of you to remain proactive to keep our association strong. Encourage new membership to come in and continue the legacy so many started before us...and most importantly...REMAIN IN TOUCH!

Cheers,

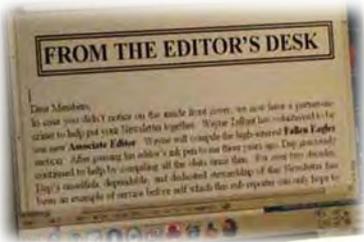
Ted Colquhoun

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The Reunion is Over!

The reunion is done! What a great reunion it was with the “main events” and numerous mini reunions and activities filling everyone’s time for 3 full days and more. I know many of you saw me (and others) taking tons of pictures but some were lost because of

an ‘operator error’ on my part, quality too poor, or space (cost!) just does not allow inclusion of every happy snap. So, apologies in advance if you don’t see you. One area that seems lacking though in the last few issues I’ve done is that there is a virtual ‘dearth’ of Letters to the Editor. We welcome your inputs and comments about most all topics. For example, how did you like the picnic? Golf Tourney? Other? What would you like to see changed? Added or deleted? If we don’t hear from you, we will continue on our merry, blissful way of doing things as they are. This publication is for you! Send me your comments via email or text message or even snail mail. Whatever is best for you.



Also, on another note, because of the skyrocketing costs of hard copy printing and mailing (about \$2k-\$3k per issue), we are in the process of 'scaling back' the amount of content in the hardcopy version of the RIT. A larger, in-color version will be available online at www.ftva.org. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes you, but costs are always rising, and we believe that by adopting the online technology as the rest of the publishing world is doing, slowly but inevitably, we can continue to bring you the information you need to Remain In Touch. If you would like to help us out during this transition and will agree to take only the e-version please send an email to newsletter@ftva.org and membership@ftva.org requesting this; every little bit helps.

Enjoy the read,

Get the e-Edition, it's prettier and has double the content!



Dennis Buxton, Editor

Full, Expanded Edition of RIT is only available online at www.ftva.org. If you need the password to log in and view, please send email to Roy Burnett, rebyells@gmail.com,



HALL OF HONOR NEWS

The Hall of Honor Class of 2018 was inducted on 28 September at Headquarters, 25th Air Force. The following individuals were honored: (Photo credit: 25 AF/PA)



***Mr. Keith D. Thomas, DISL,
USAF (Ret)***

***Lt Col Douglas K. Kleist,
USAF (Ret)***

***Capt Albert R. Turner Jr.,
USAF (Ret)***

***SMSgt Doris E. Keeton,
USAF (Ret) (Deceased)***



Flanked on the left by Maj. Gen. Mary F. O'Brien 25th Air Force, Commander, and on the right by Ted Colquhoun, FTVA President are this year's honorees: Lt Col Douglas Kleist, USAF (Ret), Ms. Morgan Keeton, granddaughter of SMSgt Doris E. Keeton, USAF (Ret).

FTVA Hall of Honor Nominations Needed

The Hall of Honor was created in 1983 to honor individuals who served USAFSS/ESC and its successor commands with great distinction and contributed immeasurably to mission excellence. The Hall preserves the



legacy of those who have gone before, highlights their deeds, and honors their contributions. The 25th Air Force, along with the FTVA, inducted four new members into the Hall during a ceremony in HQ 25 AF Sept 27th bringing the total to 192 members of the Hall of Honor. We know there are many more who need to be recognized, and the only way they can be

Honoring SMSgt (Ret) Doris Keeton. Flanked on the left by Maj Gen Mary O'Brien and on the right by FTVA President Ted Colquhoun, SMSgt (Ret) Robert Guthrie accepted the honor on behalf of SMSgt Keeton, MSgt (Ret) Peggy Robinson represented SMSgt Keeton's son, and Ms, Morgan Keeton (SMSgt Keeton's granddaughter) represented the family during this year's ceremony.

nominated is if you

take the time to do that, so they can receive the recognition they deserve. The selection process is arduous to ensure those we induct are worthy. The committee members are willing to work with you to help write a nomination so please help by nominating those who are deserving. Nominations will be due the first Monday of June, 3 June 2019, so you have time!

A.J. Harrison, HOH Chair

Thank you and Remain In Touch,

A.J. Harrison, Hall of Honor Program Chair



25TH AIR FORCE NEWS

Compiled by Ken Maynard,
Associate Editor

DOWNRANGE ‘MACGYVERS’ CREATIVELY GET THE JOB DONE

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

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- For six successive years starting in 1986, faithful viewers tuned in every evening before Monday Night Football to see what kind of clever solutions Secret Agent Angus

MacGyver would concoct to solve cases for the fictional Department of External Services.



An Airman from the Air Force Technical Applications Center ascends to the top of a wind turbine at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, to inspect components used to power the seismic site. This trip was part of AFTAC’s annual

The rise of MacGyver’s popularity largely stemmed from his innovative and resourceful use of common items to repair things in an improvised way. His ability to use everyday objects to solve seemingly impossible crimes quickly morphed into a verb (to MacGyver

something) to describe when someone uses items on hand to make a quick repair. Today, members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center sometimes find themselves applying a few MacGyver tactics as a last resort when they travel to one of the center’s many overseas detachments to conduct periodic maintenance on vital seismic equipment.

AFTAC, the sole organization in the Department of Defense tasked with detecting worldwide nuclear events, has more than 3,600 sensors across the globe to monitor seismic activity. While some of the sites are located in relatively accessible places geographically, many of them are unmanned and positioned at austere locations in extremely rugged territory.

Despite the austerity, Airmen assigned to the 709th Technical Maintenance Squadron at AFTAC must perform periodic maintenance at these sites to ensure uninterrupted access to critical seismic data. From the frozen mountain peaks above the Arctic Circle to the windswept deserts of the Australian Outback to the sub-zero temperatures in the Antarctic, the maintainers trek to some of the most remote corners of the world. And while they travel with a large amount of supplies to repair and maintain their precision equipment, they sometimes find themselves in situations that require MacGyver-like problem-solving skills.

Take for example a recent trip to one of their unmanned sites in an isolated area of the north arctic. The frigid winter temperatures and ten months of precipitation led to build-up on the exterior of the seismic boreholes. The maintainers had to fabricate an ice-catching bucket and ice removal tool due to significant ice incursion. Technicians weren't able to pull the instrument out for repair until the ice was chipped away. But chipping away at the ice posed another problem – the ice chips would tumble down the borehole and damage the seismometer. So the team concocted the bucket-and-pick system they now use at sub-zero locations to catch the ice before it can fall into the hole.

Another unusual situation for the team occurred in eastern Asia. When the Airmen arrived to conduct routine maintenance, they discovered a red-footed falcon had made a nest five feet in diameter on one of the site's solar panels.

“We had to fashion a way to carefully remove the nest in one piece and relocate it to a nearby rock outcropping, all while the falcon was keeping a sharp eye on us as we moved her home,” said Master Sgt. Chevis P. Stanley, subsurface maintenance flight chief. “The good thing was there were no eggs in the nest; otherwise, I'm not so sure she would have kept her distance as we moved it from point A to point B.”

The maintainers travel with a large kit containing items that are included for obvious reasons -- and some, not so obvious.

“You'll always find standard supplies like electrical tape, all-in-one multi-tools, nuts and bolts, welding materials, etc., in our travel kits,” said Stanley. “But from experience, we also travel with other more obscure things we may need at our sites, items like super glue, zip ties, toilet paper, electrical plug adapters, wet wipes, pick-axes, even a few tennis balls.”

AFTAC's seismic mission touches every continent on earth through the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System – the largest sensor network in the U.S. Air Force. Once a disturbance is detected underground, the data is

transmitted to AFTAC's 24/7 operations center at Patrick AFB, then analyzed to determine if the disturbance is nuclear in nature.

It's a critical mission that has national command authority interest, and the Airmen who maintain the precision equipment take their role in global nuclear event detection very seriously.

"We go to great lengths to ensure we've made the necessary repairs and calibrated all the sensors before we ship them to our operating locations," said Master Sgt. Joseph King, 709th Support Squadron central repair facility superintendent. "We've also built an entire continuity program on 'unacceptable calibrations.' For the most part, AFTAC's seismic arrays are located in unpopulated, aseismic areas of the world, which is what we strive for in order to analyze and report clean and accurate seismic data. However, when we conduct the calibrations here at Patrick, which by our standards is an industrial area with lots of foot and vehicular traffic, that kind of 'noise' tends to give our calibrators headaches because the seismometers are so incredibly sensitive, making calibration very difficult."

So King and his co-workers in the CRF came up with an ingenious way to perform precision calibrations right here at their home base prior to shipping the equipment downrange.

"To further isolate the seismometer from environmental noise, we used an isolation table and a noise-cancelling sound booth," he said. "Then we concocted a system for the table to ride on tennis balls placed in a bed of sand on a thick rubber mat. I'm very proud of the 'out-of-the-box-thinking' that went down with this particular project. It works like a charm."

The equipment undergoes meticulous calibration in Florida prior to being shipped to an overseas detachment, but a small chord of fear is still struck in the hearts of the Airmen who perform the work.

"While we ensure the seismometers are sufficiently calibrated in the CRF, they still need to endure the frightening task of being shipped halfway around the globe," said King. "I think we all know what the word 'fragile' means to a cargo company. More often than not the seismic equipment will need some level of additional repair when it arrives at its final destination."

Of course, the CRF's MacGyver-like techniques are used as a last resort when an unusual situation arises at a maintenance site.

"The Airmen who conduct the repairs at our overseas detachments are

governed by some pretty stringent Air Force instructions, policies, standards and contractual obligations,” said Dave Merker, AFTAC’s Director of Systems Development. “They know the need to follow established technical orders to make any necessary adjustments on the equipment. But at some locations, such as our seismic site in Antarctica, we have an exceedingly small window of opportunity to perform annual maintenance. And sometimes, a bit of old-school ingenuity is required to ensure we have uninterrupted access to that vital seismic data. The ‘MacGyver’ technique is employed only as a last resort when all other avenues have been exhausted.”

When the team returns the following maintenance cycle, they’ll adjust the MacGyver’ed equipment to its proper state with the necessary accessories and parts, Merker said.

“We have to make the most of the short period of time we’re on the ground to work on the equipment, troubleshoot anything that needs troubleshooting, and leave it better than we found it, so the data flows as required,” said Stanley. “One of the biggest lessons I’ve learned in this job is that you never truly know what issues you may encounter, and all you can do is prepare as best you can for every contingency. Once you’ve done that, you just have to do the best you can with what you’ve got and be as flexible as possible. It’s definitely a challenge.”

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Joseph, AFTAC’s command chief, has been continuously impressed by the creativity and ingenuity of his maintainers.

“Our Airmen are well trained and prepared to do the mission, but sometimes they are faced with unique challenges,” said Joseph. “They just find a way to ensure the mission can continue uninterrupted.”

RC-135: TEAM MILDENHALL AIRMEN ENABLE MISSION (Adapted from an article by A1C Alexandria Lee, 100th ARW/PA)

RAF MILDENHALL, England --The U.S. Air Force long ago recognized future wars would not solely be fought on air, ground, or sea, and to prepare for that reality, the use of electronic warfare was crucial.

Electronic warfare is comprised of jamming communication systems, and electronic support protection tactics, such as infrared homing to distract missiles. The mission of the 95th Reconnaissance Squadron at RAF Mildenhall focuses on support, collecting intelligence and data. With the

help of these devoted Team Mildenhall Airmen, the Air Force shows its



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Brett Edholm, 95th Reconnaissance Squadron, electrical warfare systems NCO- in-charge, and Staff Sgt. Randy Duncan, 95th RS RC-135 Rivet Joint electronic warfare craftsman, check the voltage on loose fiber optic cables on a RC-135 Rivet Joint at RAF Mildenhall, England, Oct. 16, 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Alexandria Lee)

dedication in dominating air, space and cyberspace. The RC-135 Rivet Joint is a reconnaissance aircraft, hosting a myriad of technology behind the cockpit. Once the RC-135 lands, it no longer becomes an aircraft for the 95th RS; it becomes a computer ready to be downloaded and decrypted from data collected throughout the flight.

“Our focus is on the computers, data networking and radio maintenance for the RC-135 Rivet Joint,” said Staff Sgt. Randy Duncan, 95th RS RC-135 electronic warfare craftsman. “We enable the mission and fix the instruments that help with the purpose of the mission.”

“We are in an interesting realm; we aren’t solely information technologists or maintainers, we’re a marriage of both,” said Senior Airman Jonathan Cobb, 95th RS electronic warfare technician. “We take care of everything behind the pilot. We collect information and maintain the materials used to collect the information.”

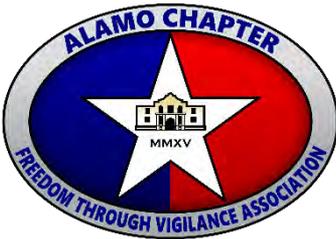
Duncan agreed with the influence and the impact of electronic warfare. One of the biggest benefits Duncan saw was the first-hand experience of how they affect the mission, and how electronic warfare plays a role in the ‘big Air Force’ as well as on the base. Duncan and his team bring real-time information to the troops on the ground as well as for the folks in the office.

The squadron remains one of the Air Force’s oldest and most decorated units taking part in many military operations, including Operations Allied Force, Unified Protector, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The 95th RS mission is global information and electronic warfare dominance, any time and any place.

FTVA CHAPTER NEWS

It was great seeing many chapter members at this year's reunion and learn first-hand what the haps were in Colorado, Salt Lake City, San Angelo, and Hawaii, plus the here at the home of the Alamo Chapter. Many accounts and inputs are below, and as always, please remember to forward your chapter inputs at any time (monthly, weekly or all at once) to Evan Smith, FTVA Board Vice President and current Chapter Liaison (evan.v.smith@gmail.com).



Alamo Chapter
San Antonio, TX
Barnie Gavin, President
Mike Nielsen, Secretary/Treasurer

August Meeting

The August Meeting of the Alamo Chapter of the FTVA was held at the Saltgrass Steakhouse on IH-10 at 5:30 PM. The meeting was called to order by President Barnie Gavin at 6:30 p.m. with 16 Members and Spouses in attendance.

Support to the 543d. Opening discussion centered on supporting the 543rd. Jesse Greene, acting on behalf of the Chapter, has made contact with the Group and suggested a \$400 yearly contribution from the Chapter would help their recognition programs. Jesse will continue to coordinate this action. It was also suggested that the Group be offered a little presentation of our Chapter at a future Commander's Call.

Airman's Heritage Foundation. LeRoy Rogers pitched support to Airman's Heritage Foundation. A question was asked if there was anything prohibiting contributions from our Chapter to organizations "outside" of FTVA associated units. The answer was "NO". Consideration will be given.

Cheers! There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM followed by good fellowship and comradery.

October Meeting. The monthly meeting of the Alamo Chapter of the FTVA was held on 18 October at the Saltgrass Steakhouse. The meeting

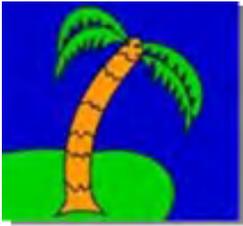
was called to order by President Bernie Gavin at 5:30 p.m. with 21 Members and Spouses in attendance. The main event of the meeting was a discussion moderated by Ron Haygood and Bernie recapping the recent (September 29) annual General Membership FTVA Meeting.

RIT Newsletter Costs. Bernie mentioned that there was discussion about the costs related to the printing and mailing of the quarterly RIT newsletter. Due to the tremendous expense associated with this project, the FTVA Board will discuss how these costs can be minimized. Some consideration might be given to only produce a soft copy and place it on the web. Other suggestion would be to charge the member for the mailing of the RIT if the member wants a hard copy. These items will be discussed at the October Board meeting and possibly subsequent Board meetings.

Membership Dues. Another item that was discussed was membership dues. One of the thoughts would be to have all memberships come due on the first of the year, thus cutting the cost of mailing out reminder notices and saving the money spent on postage. All of these discussions ultimately boil down to the fact that our membership continues to dwindle due to the younger folks not wanting to join the Association and the number of Life Time members. One suggestion would be to ask the Life Time members to make a voluntary contribution to the Association to help keep the funds up. Again, this is something the Board will be discussion at subsequent meetings.

Chapter Support. In other business, Bernie mentioned that the Heritage (San Angelo, TX) and Rocky Mountain (Colorado Springs, CO) Chapters are very active with projects in their areas. While will be supporting the 543rd for annual awards, is there anything else we could do in our area to publicize the Association and the Chapter. Bernie asked for everyone to think about it and bring any ideas up at future Chapter meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM followed by good fellowship and comradery.



Aloha Chapter Honolulu, HI

John "Tilly" Toillion, President

The FTVA Aloha Chapter held its latest get together on October 25 at Mililani Ruby Tuesdays, our favorite watering hole, to catch up on our recent happenings. Unfortunately only the four amigos (Dickie Hites, Fred Collins, Steve Crain, and yours truly) were able to attend. Other stalwart members were either "under the weather", involved in grandparent duties, or experiencing car troubles (Ken "Sluggo" Een).

The main topic of discussion was my (Tilly's) feedback from attending this year's Annual FTVA Reunion in late September in San Antonio, along with several pictures (as proof I actually attended). We also discussed



With a Shout Out to Rass! Depicted l-r, Steve Crain, Fred Collins, Dickie Hites, and John Toillion.

resubmitting Ken "Hopi" Hopkins for Hall of Honor consideration. Danny Pritchard has offered to assist us as he served with Hopi.

I want to pass along my personal "Mahalos" to the FTVA Board for an outstanding reunion. It's super to be able to add an "in person" aspect to "Remain In Touch" as I was able to connect with former members of the 6987th Security Squadron (Shu Lin Kou AS) the night before the reunion.

Last but not least, I received an email from Jerry Gething who will be on island the week of November 13. We're looking forward to having a get together during that time. A bit of trivia in that Jerry was Steve Crain's best man at Steve's wedding.

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

The following was presented by "Tilly" at the FTVA's annual general membership annual meeting on 29 September.

To fulfill a promise in last year's annual report, I'm happy to be here despite lots of goings on with mother nature in the land of volcanoes, fires, and

flooding thanks to Hurricanes Lane and Olivia.

On behalf of my Aloha Chapter compadres – that being Ken Een, Dickie Hites, Steve Crain, Fred Collins, Leroy “Oly” Harrison, John Harman, Dave Jones, Al Teel, and Larry Nishihara, I’d like to pass along that all are well and doing just fine.

Even though we continue to remain a small group, we do manage to stay active socially meeting once every 2-3 months, usually for lunch at Mililani’s Ruby Tuesdays - of which I now own 25% RT’s shares.

Topics of choice continue to focus on politics, old age, retirement, Medicare – you name it – just “old people” stuff and of course lots of war stories. It’s also nice to get some updates from those still working full time (Al Teel & Steve Crain).

Looking forward, I commit to renewing our Chapter's efforts to reaching out to groups of both active and retired candidate members here locally. Specifically I plan to renew my past connection to the 201st Intel Squadron, Hawaii Air National Guard, who we all know have long contributed to the fight on Global Terrorism.

Last but not least, we encourage anyone visiting the islands to give one of us a call as we'd love to talk story over lunch.

Again, “Mahalo” (aka “thanks”) for the support you folks here in San Antonio are providing to ensure we here in paradise “Remain in Touch.”

Aloha until next year.....

John "Tilly" Toillion



Heritage Chapter San Angelo, TX

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

Submitted by

Larry Ross, Chapter Secretary
Your humble scribe in San Angelo,

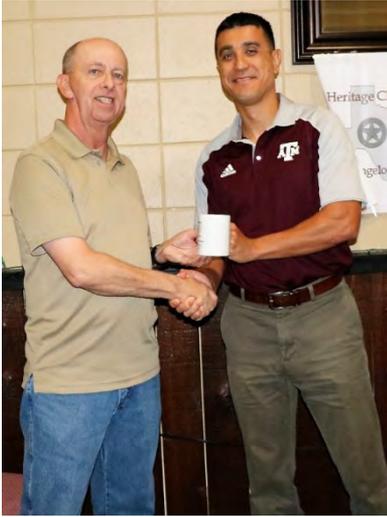
It has been a slow quarter for news. We just keep plodding along with the usual mundane. A bright spot however was our quarterly social.

On 6 September, 31 cheerful members and guests gathered for our quarterly social. We had the distinct pleasure of having Col Ricky Mills, 17 TRW/CC, attend as our special guest. He even persuaded papa Larry Mills to attend. This gave those who hadn't met the Colonel a chance visit with him. JJ Graham presented Col Mills with one of our 25th Anniversary cups. Col Mills expressed his appreciation for the gift and his desire to attend future socials. Maybe we got him hooked to visit more often. Other guests included Ray and Kitty Leftwich. On behalf of the 6994th Reunion Association, Ed Bendinelli, on behalf of the 6994th Reunion Association, presented them with a \$500 check for the TSgt Ray Leftwich ROTC scholarship fund. I think we can safely say that everyone had a good time.



L-R (facing) Carl Wood, Ray Favre, JJ Graham (standing), Steven Goff, Mary Goff, Pat Miller, Mary O'Brien, Larry Miller, Larry Mills, Col Mills (at table's end), L-R (front) Wayne Bascom (back of head), Kitty Nurre, Tom Nurre, Kitty Leftwich, Ray Leftwich.

More outtakes from the 6 September meeting of the robust Heritage Chapter follow.



Coffee's Up! (left) Heritage Chapter President JJ Graham presents special guest Col Ricky Mills, 17 TRW/CC, with one of the chapter's 25th Anniversary cups.

Below, At the Heritage Chapter's 6 September quarterly meeting, Ed Bendinelli, on behalf of the 6994th Reunion Association, presents Ray and Kitty Leftwich with a \$500 check for the TSgt Ray Leftwich ROTC scholarship fund.



Below, the Distinguished Tribunal of Ed Bendinelli (l-r), Carl Wood, and Ray Favre pay close attention to the proceedings to ensure all goes as planned





Rocky Mountain Chapter Colorado Springs, CO

George "Ike" Eichelberger, President

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/229888673742365/>

The monthly FTVA Rocky Mountain Chapter (meeting was held on 10 October as scheduled, despite a brief hint of winter showing up earlier in the day. Those attending were Stan Cook, George

Ike Eichelberger, Chuck Maerten, Ron Polomsky, Greg Roman, and Jeff Waldeck.



Ike filled us in on some of the annual FTVA gathering happenings in San Antonio. First off, a BIG congratulations to this year's four Hall Of Honor inductees; well-deserved by all!

Second, it appeared that our own Chapter received some attention for providing the longest (11 pages!), most detailed FTVA Chapter write-up. Good on us!

Having a hardcopy of the FTVA "*Remain In Touch*" newsletter is becoming cost prohibitive. Would you rather have a color version e-mailed to you or receive the black-and-white hardcopy version? A poll of the attending RMC members indicated they would opt for the e-mailed version. This result will be forwarded to the FTVA staff, and the change wouldn't happen overnight.

Payment of annual FTVA dues is also an issue. The FTVA board is looking into setting up a PayPal account so that we can send our payment(s) electronically. There are other peculiarities with this issue that will be worked by the FTVA.

Ike suggested the RMC invest \$40 in FTVA dues for two members of the local 544 ISRG; one NCO, one CGO. We've tried many times to get the 544th interested in our FTVA RMC mission, with limited success. This is in hopes that they will be able to observe our activities and how we can support the 544th recognition programs.

Greg mentioned the proposed opening date of the new "Rhino's Ranch" on 29 October. It will have rooms for meetings and private get-togethers. Something to

look forward to!

A suggestion was put forward at last month's meeting about changing the date and/or time for our monthly meeting. A temporary change for our next meeting is as follows: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 6 PM, Rhino's.



Gold Country Chapter Yuba City, CA John Aurelius, President

20 Years and Counting. The FTVA's Gold Country Chapter, founded by



Richard Sacchetti in August 1998 at Beale AFB, CA, celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a dinner featuring chapter members and guests (see photo below). We are continuing to recruit new members

Celebrating the 20th! Members of the FTVA's Gold Country Chapter, Beale AFB, CA, break bread and have a good time at the chapter's 20th Anniversary celebratory dinner. Clockwise from the top right are: Richard Sacchetti (Founder, Treasurer), Russ Clark (an original member), Col Scott Nahrgang (Commander 548th ISRG), Asia Pagan (Secretary), Lt Col Catherine Hoard (Deputy Commander 548th ISRG), John Aurelius (President) and member Ruben Gomez.

from the active ranks at Beale. Note that three of the seven attending our 20th Anniversary dinner were active duty. The three active duty members is the good news. The other four

represent the problem we are facing with membership and demonstrate our need for more active recruiting.

Heritage Speaker Series. Related to recruiting, we continue to work on our new lecture series on base named the "Heritage Speaker Series". It

now looks like our first presentation will be in January. This joins our educational goals with our recruiting goals. With increased publicity and our presence at more base events, I expect that that our FTVA chapter will have a lot more name recognition by the end of 2019.

Oh Pioneers! One more action we have taken is to create a second meeting each month for our two pioneer members. These members were no longer interested in driving up to the base in the evening since we moved all of our meetings there. One of those two were in basic training before I was born, and I will be 70 in January. This new second meeting has been named the "Pioneers Lunch" and will be held 40 miles to the south in Roseville. All members are welcome to attend, and the lunch is far more convenient for our pioneers.



Wasatch Chapter Salt Lake City, UT Scott Lawson, President

The FTVA Wasatch Chapter officially activated on January 11, 2018. We held our first meeting at Salt Lake City VFW Post 3586—they have been gracious to offer up their spaces as a central meeting place. We reviewed and

approved our charter and bylaws and elected our first board of officers pictured below.

Since then, we've held five additional meetings throughout the year as we strive to find our groove and figure out how to best make the FTVA more meaningful to the newer generation. Starting with just five members in the local area, we've grown to over 30 members as of

FTVA Wasatch Chapter Officers (l-r): Eric Rasmussen, treasurer; Scott Lawson, president; Nick Batura, vice president, and Melanie Sparr, secretary.



November 2018.

Most of our membership comes from the men and women of the 169th Intelligence Squadron (Air National Guard), now part of the 151st Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group (ISRG) which activated in 2017.

The 169 IS (then 169th Electronic Security Squadron) was activated in April 1987 as an Electronic Security Command (ESC) gained unit to provide a pool of reserve airborne linguists for wartime and contingency operations. Initially they augmented COMFY LEVI and the replacement SENIOR SCOUT system with the 94 IS. In 1993, the SENIOR SCOUT platform transferred to the Utah ANG making history with the 169th becoming the first and only reserve unit in the DoD to be assigned an ISR mission. While still flying SENIOR SCOUT, the 169th also became a Distributed Mission Site (DMS) supporting the AF Distributed Common Ground System in 2000. They continued flying SENIOR SCOUT with nearly 1,700 operational ISR missions flown until the system was decommissioned in 2015. Today the 169th continues their DMS role while expanding support to national missions with their extraordinary pool of linguist and analyst talent.



Buddy Walk. On September 7, 2018 several of us participated in the Utah Down Syndrome Foundation Metro Buddy Walk and helped raise over \$800 for their programs. This was personal for us as one of our very own chapter's family members, Markus has Down syndrome. It was a great showing for a great cause and we were proud show off our FTVA hats.

The 169th has a long history of association with 25 AF, and we're excited to stand up a local FTVA chapter to commemorate our past while reestablishing our ties with the greater FTVA community.

To help spread our message and connect with the more tech savvy members, we've implemented a number of social media strategies to include Slack which is at (www.slack.com) for messaging and collaboration, Trello, used

(www.trello.com) for managing projects, as well more common means: Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/147113162599404/>) and our Chapter website (<https://www.ftvawasatch.org>). Slack had been a great tool to foster instant, topic driven content and communication between our members—it’s been very popular. Bottom line, we are providing a number of ways in addition to email for our members to engage in chapter activities.

As we continue to grow, the most common question we’re asked by prospective members is “Why?”

The “Remain in Touch” part is easy, but they want to be a part of something more. As a group, we wanted to support activities making a difference in the community.

Another project we’re exploring is supporting the Utah Honor Flight organization, which sends veterans to Washington D.C. several times a year to visit memorials built in honor of their service. For now, we’re just being there to show our support during send-off ceremonies from Salt Lake City. In the future, we’d like to sponsor one or more guardians (who normally travel at their own expense) to accompany the veterans participating in the program.

The FTVA Wasatch Chapter looks forward to growing and participating in activities that preserve our historical ties to 25 AF while supporting our local community. Our focus for the near-term continues to be on messaging, expanding our membership, and finding the right balance and location for meetings. We’re proud to be the newest Chapter in the FTVA!

Utah Honor Flight Send Off Support. New Wasatch Chapter member Sean McMurtrey, alongside a World War II veteran at the airport just before departing on November 1st.



25 AF/FTVA Reunion Events: Golf Tournament

By Bob Benitez
FTVA Golf Chairman



O-DARK-30. Arriving in the wee dawn hours, these stalwart volunteers from “The Hill” were invaluable in getting it all ready for the 100-plus duffers who teed it up. Pictured left to right are: 1Lt William Galco, and Airmen Kearra Davis, Brian Rodriguez, and Andrew Cook. Thanks! We couldn’t have done it without you.

sunshine. The 10 AM shotgun start was a change over previous year’s start times and by all accounts, the 104 golfers who participated in this year’s event were happy with the adjusted time.

EARLY BIRDS. Right, early check-in was the order of the day for Ann and Jim Willis, the first of 100-plus golfers.

The staff at Golf Club of Texas were very accommodating and logistics were well planned and executed on time. The pre-tourney putting competition and on-course Flop Wall were carried over and continued to attract a lot of interest.

The Freedom Through Vigilance Association’s (FTVA) 70th Anniversary celebration took place 27-29 Sep 2018 here in San Antonio, TX. Kickoff for the week’s activities took place on 27 Sept with the Best Ball Golf Tournament at the Golf Club of Texas (GCOT).

We couldn’t have asked for a better day with the morning starting off in the high 60s with slightly overcast skies and finishing in a typical Texas fall with high 70s and



The tourney ended with an outstanding BBQ meal served with all the trimmings. There were several raffle prizes including Titleist Golf Balls, some embossed with 25 AF and FTVA logos (thanks to Lee and Jen Anthony), Towels, Titleist Hats, a Taylor Made putter and the top prize, a cart bag. As for placement, the following teams were recognized:

First Place, with a score of 56, went to the team of Paul and Zach Salaz, Drew Andrews, and Scoty Lee. Close on their heels at 59 for Second Place were Joe Hurst, Ron Haygood, John Kotch, and Jim McClendon. The Third-Place team (with a score of 60) was manned by David Bush, William Apodaca, George Earhart, and Greg Mason.

The skills challenge winners are:

Longest Drive (#2): Lones Seiber; Closest to the Pin (#6): Dave “Ziggy” Ziegler; Closest to the Pin (#12): George Earhart

It was great to see so many of our brothers and sisters enjoying each other’s company on a beautiful day on a great golf course. Of course, this event couldn’t have been successful without the selfless efforts of some key volunteers. Thanks go out to Dennis Buxton who mentored me in my first FTVA tournament. 1Lt Bill Galco arrived early and helped unload and stuff 104 goody bags with snacks. Finally, a special thanks to our President, Ted Colquhoun and Secretary, Loren “Phred” Sevensing for their assistance during registration and throughout the day.

I look forward to seeing you all again next year and until then, wishing you all the very best.



WHAT’S SO FUNNY? Really Bad Hair Day. Sue Sorenson, Jim McLendon (with built in grey hair), and Donna Rios checking in at the Golf Club of Texas, the venue for this year’s FTVA Reunion Kick Off Event, a wild golf scramble.



SNARL! Left. Please sir! May I have another? The Indomitable Ed Rodriguez, a tournament regular, bargains hard with Ted Colquhoun, before making a major investment at the Mulligan Station.

COUNT'EM UP. Below. Yes, 5, that's five balls I lost today. Then we went to the second hole. 😊 Below, Jimmy Jones of Security Forces fame, waves at the camera on his way to pick up his lucre from the door prize drawing. I think the prize was a sleeve of balls.



KEY PERSONNEL. Jen and Lee Anthony mugging for the camera. Jen and Lee are instrumental in helping the tournament go. Jen volunteers to make the Vigilant Partner signs seen on the tee boxes as well as imprinting the FTVA logo on the door prizes. Thanks Jen and Lee. Much appreciated.





CHECKING IN. Left. Golfer Extraordinaire Craig Fuhrman (right) eyes the photographer as he checks in to the golf tournament. Ensuring his papers are in order are Phred Sevensing (left) and Mr. Mulligan, Ted Colquhoun. Notice the busy volunteers (background) from The Hill putting the ‘swag bags’ together.



YOU NUMBA ONE! Mike Lukowiak (center) and teammates Jim Lipa (left) and Greg Laskowski (right) giving the thumbs up to the post-round feed.



FULL HOUSE. Below the dining area is filled to capacity as the FTVA-25th AF golfers and guests enjoy camaraderie, catch up with old acquaintances and swap stories.



WHAT THE.....!?!?!? Above: How'd he do that? Trick shot artist Willie Rios somehow manages to get the golf ball around the side of the flop wall (or so it appears) instead of the more conventional (and legal) method of OVER the flop wall. However for most, the wall served as an automatic ball return; bowling anyone?



MORE GROG! On the left, Paul Turner and Mike Labbe enjoy the after round culinary delights and potent potables.



CORNERED THE MARKET ON MULLIGANS. The first -place tournament winners who are rumored to have purchased 1,018 mulligans, consists of (l-r) Scoty Lee, Zach Salaz, Paul Salaz, and Drew Pearson.



WE DON'T NEED NO STINKIN' MULLIGANS. Below, The Right and Honourable Team finished last and were led by Team Captain First Lieutenant Bill Galco in the charming kilt along with team members Josh Miller and Chad Dickson. Here they proudly display their trophies prior to placing them on the mantels at home.

MR. SPEAKER. Ted Colquhoun, FTVA President, at the podium with the C-47 as a backdrop addresses the distinguished visitors and guests during the 28 September Remembrance Ceremony.



Left and below, post ceremony mixing and catching up amongst the attendees.



**25 AF/FTVA Reunion Events:
Picnic**



GAGGLE UP! Left, members of the 35th IS, “Bull Dogs”, this year’s premier Picnic Volunteers, take time out to get some shade during the setup of the picnic. As every year, without the volunteers from 25 AF and FTVA, these reunions wouldn’t happen. Thanks all! Go Bull Dogs! (Photo by Rass).



GAGGLE UP PART DEUX. More of our esteemed volunteers from the 35th IS, “Bull Dogs”. The team was responsible for the majority of the logistics required at this year’s picnic. (Photo by Rass).

Editor’s Note: There were many, many other pictures taken at the picnic. However, due to ‘operator error’ on the part of ‘yours truly’ they were lost to the ether (if they ever really existed at all). Mea Culpa. My apologies to those who patiently posed, smiled, and gave me your time that day.

25 AF/FTVA Reunion Events: Banquet



The grand finale of 3 days filled with fun is always the semi-formal banquet held on Saturday night at the Lackland AFB Club. Depicted below are some candid shots taken by our roving and intrepid reporter

on the scene (AKA the famous and much-loved Rass) and photos provided by 25 AF/PA.



DISTINGUISHED GUEST. Lt Gen (retired) Bradley Heithold, guest speaker at this year's banquet (clockwise from top), receives a donation of for the Center for the Intrepid and an FTVA hat to commemorate his visit and speech which highlighted the importance of the 25th Air Force mission and products to the USAF special forces.



Okey Warden and Ed Jolly.



General (retired) Grover Jackson, FTVA President Ted Colquhoun and Mrs. Doyle Larson



Greg Mahoney, and Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Coultrap

Sheila Williams and Ken Thomas



Bob and Donna Crabtree



Judy and Ken Maynard

**Ken Williams, Lt Gen
(Retired) Bradley Heithold,
Sue Douglas**



Shaka Sign! John “Tilly” Toillion, FTVA Aloha Chapter president for over 16 years, uses the ‘hang loose’ shaka hand sign to express his friendly approval of the FTVA Annual Banquet. Travelling from The Aloha state, Tilly regaled the assemblage with tales of the south seas.

REUNION REPORTS

2018 Misawa Project Annual Reunion

On 10 August, a lively crowd gathered for the 2018 Misawa Project Annual Reunion held in Branson, Missouri. In addition to the good fun, food and inevitable ‘war stories’, the gaggle mugged for the camera.



Depicted here are:

1. Don "Red" Maddox, 2. Helen Henderson, 3. Randy Roby, 4. Jane Doolittle, 5. B J Cook, 6. Bill "Spanky" Parker, 7. John "Stump" Lamonica, 8. Bob "Skosh" Wynn, 9. Woody Wilson, 10. Jay Emmer, 11. Joan Vislay, 12. Jim Lipa, 13. Denny Arnold, 14. Leo Fox, 15. Walt McKee, 16. Marv Schroeder, 17. John Hughey, 18. Raymond Chandonnet, 19. Jerry Eastep, 20. Dan DaCunha, 21. Roger Talbot, 22. Gary Dunham, 23. Dean Rauch, 24. Gary Laraway, 25. Robert "Sully" Sullivan, 26. Bill Ratliff, 27. Syd "Mouse Man" Scales, 28. Bubba Stephens, 29. Buster Donahue, 30. Steve Swerline, 31. Doug Wood, 32. Bob Price, 33. Charlie Ballew, 34. Jack Howell, 35. Ben Whitten, 36. Mac McMasters, 37. Alberto Rivera, 38. Jim "Pete" Herbst, 39. Wayne "Cat" Catanzarite, 40. Lee Carpenter, 41. Phil Symmonds, 42. Dave "Mule" Mueller, 43. Waco Wetterman, 44. Dave Schroeder, 45. Kirk Broadhead, 46. Russell

“Wally” Wallace, 47. Mark (Ox) O’Neil, 48. Ralph Patterson, 49. Paul Stinson, 50. Harold Hollingshed, 51. Skip Wright, 52. Rick Deal, 53. Larry Rogers, and, 54. George “Squid” Logan.

Submitter’s Note: This is posted through the combined efforts of Jane Doolittle, Gayle Laraway, Larry Rogers, Syd Scales, Waco Wetterman, Bob Wynn, and Ben Whitten. Email corrections to Benwhitten1939@gmail.com.

6994th Security Squadron 2018 Reunion Recap

The 6994th Security Squadron held its 2018 Reunion at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Louisville, KY from 9-11 August, with 65 Veterans and 40 guests in attendance. The 6994th conducted the Airborne Radio Direction Finding mission aboard EC-47 configured aircraft in Vietnam/Thailand from 1966 to 1974. During this time, the squadron suffered casualties of 17 of its members due to hostile actions. The squadron remains the most decorated unit in the history of the command from the USAFSS to the current 25th Air Force.



6994th 2018 Reunion

row 1: Ed Flinchum, Bobby Bilips, Lars Ritola, Tom Glass, Dave Brittingham, Ben Dawson, Ted Dietz, Ellery Preece, Rich Krejsa, John Lauser, Bob Hull, Ed Bendinelli, Tom Grabski, Archie McDonald, Bob Spittler. Row 2: Gary Schmitt, Tom Holt, Gene Dugal, John Craig, Dick Burda, Dale Short, Jack Kimmich, Roger Sigworth, Paul Smith. Row 3: Jack Armstrong, Ken Versele, Bill Ash, Steve Larsen, Dave Shigley, Tom Hutchings, Tom Rinderle, Vai Tuialuuluu, Karl Hammerle, Joe Martin, Tom Pedersen, Chris Jones, Rick Yeh. Row 4: Bob Thomas, Ron Whiteside, Steve Underdahl, Jim Lamb, Rich Renkas, Jim Jart, Lewis, Foster, Howard Brummett

Reunion activities began with a golf outing at the Quails Chase Golf course in Louisville, KY, with 14 attendees participating.



2018 6994th Reunion Golfers
Front: Tom Sheridan, Jim Lamb, Rick Yeh, Steve Larsen
Back: Tom Glass, Dale Short, Rich Krejsa, Jack Kimmich, Jack Armstrong, Gary Schmitt, Ron Shelby, Ken Versele, Helen Versele, Jean Shelby

Next, reunion participants toured the famous Churchill Downs racetrack with a back-scene tour of the training facilities and had the opportunity to watch the horses as they trained and were cared for after their runs.

Following the tour, squadron members returned to the hotel and were invited to participate in a Derby Hat Crafting activity with both men and ladies' styles available.



Hatitude - Ladies Division
front: Marie Sheridan, Jean Shelby, Janet Dugal, Donna Short, Laura Ross, Jeanette Holt, back: Jan Pedersen, Ann Dawson, Bonnie Smith, Cathy Flinchum, Fon Armstrong, Rose Thomas, Pat Loomis, B.J. Sigworth, Diane Ross



Hatitude - Men's Division
Dan Loomis, Ed Flinchum, Lewis Foster, Rich Krejsa, Larry Ross



Amarillo trainees
Gary Schmitt, Ron Shelby, Tom Grabski, Rich Renkas
Tom Hutchings, Tom Glass, Joe Martin, Jim Hart

At the banquet, eight veterans were presented with 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemorative pins and certificates of honor. In addition, the squadron presented a special certificate and pin to Linda Cico Vincent, who was attending the reunion in hopes of meeting someone that knew her brother Greg Cico during his tour. Linda was a student in college when Greg was tragically killed in an auto accident shortly after his discharge and Linda did not have the opportunity to see him alive between his discharge and untimely death.

2018 Misawa Social at The Annual Reunion



Walt Ritter Gunny Herrera JJ Pitzeruse Junior Barnes

Vietnam Veterans
September 26th, 2018
Lily's Kings Lounge
San Antonio Texas



Front: L to R Jim Kaus, Maria Miller, Dick Guidry, Middle: Jim Lipa, Dave Sheppard, Junior Barnes, Walt Ritter, Back: Lanny Abby, Waco Weatherman, Charlie Milsap, Al Budington, JJ Pitzeruse

2018 MiMi Call at The Annual Reunion

27 September 2018

A whole gaggle of KORLINGS (both Airborne and Chairborne) accompanied by family, friends and other shred-outs gathered at Big'z Burger Joint in San Antonio during this year's reunion. While there was no kimchi or makkoli in evidence, "war stories" and other tales abounded.



Bob Askew presents Chris Mitchell with an 'official' Skivvy Nine t-shirt.

On the right, Matt Poole, topped off with the correct headgear, simulates calling in a KL while in the background, fellow linguists wonder "what is he doing?"

More photos at the Skivvy Nine Facebook Page.

No MiMi gathering would be complete without the appropriate wardrobe. Here Jim Kaus (l) and



Prop Wash Gang Reunion

Post Mission Flight Report (PMFR)

Submitted by Lonnie Henderson

The Prop Wash Gang gathered in Bellevue, Nebraska from August 30 to September 2 for their annual reunion and to honor the 60th Anniversary of the 17 crew members of 60528 who lost their lives on September 2nd, 1958 over Soviet Armenia. At the Offutt AFB memorial on August 30, and at the PWG banquet on September 2, I opened with the quote from Silent Warrior Bill Mahan.

“We are a group of rapidly aging and steadily disappearing veterans, of a war that was fought with skills and talents not normally associated with the military, nor understood by the general public. Our pride is in accomplishments that are often secret, and memories are about things that happened, but will be officially denied.” - Bill Mahan, 15 June 2008

Under graying skies with a hint of rain, 30 or so members of the Prop Wash Gang joined about 60 active duty members of the 55th Wing and the 97th Intel Squadron to honor and remember the 17 crew members of the C-130 Herky Bird reconnaissance aircraft that was shot down over Soviet Armenia 60 years ago on September 2nd, 1958. None of the young active duty airmen were even alive when that event happened and among the aging Prop Wash Gang members, Sam Clark was the only person in attendance who was stationed with the crew on Rhein Main Airbase, Germany, when the event happened.

In that ceremony held on base, the Wing Chaplain offered a prayer, and I then read the PMFR from the September 2, 1997 event – the first time the Prop Wash Gang gathered to pay tribute to our fellow airmen. A wreath and 17 red roses were laid by the Honor Guard, followed by Taps by a lone bugler. After a moment of silence, there was our reading of “*We Saw the Eagles Fly*,” another tribute to those Silent Warriors who paid the ultimate price.

We see the eagles fly...

A2C Joel H. Fields

...lookin’ north

A2C Gerald H. Medeiros

toward the Caucasus Mountains

A2C James E. Ferguson, Jr.

'bout nine in the morning

A2C Gerald C. Maggiacomo, Capt Paul E. Duncan

Warm September day

SSgt Laroy Price

Clear

1Lt John E. Simpson

No clouds

TSgt Arthur L. Mello, A2C Robert H. Moore

We see the eagles fly...

Capt Edward J. Jeruss

...effortlessly

MSgt George P. Petrochilos

riding the currents

A2C Clement O. Mankins

Soaring above all

1Lt Ricardo M. Villarreal

Majestic

A1C Robert J. Oshinskie

Supreme

Capt Rudy J. Swiestra

We see the eagles fly...

A2C Harold T. Kamps

...and those eagles

A2C Archie T. Bourg, Jr.

look a lot like

Paul... James... George... Robert...Gerald... Rudy... Ricardo...

Archie...Laroy... Clement... Harold... Gerald...Edward... John... Arthur...

Robert... Joel...

Fly Long, Fly High, Silent Warrior

Forever on Watch, Forever on Orbit.

I concluded with the following followed by a long, slow salute.:

*Do not stand at my grave and weep.
 I am not there, I do not sleep.
 I am a thousand winds that blow,
 I am the diamond glints of snow,
 I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
 I am the gentle autumn rain.
 When you awaken in the mornings hush,
 I am the swift, uplifting rush
 Of quiet birds in circled flight.
 I am the soft stars that shine at night.
 Do not stand at my grave and cry.
 I am not there, I did not die.*



Missing Man Table. Lonnie Henderson at the modified "Missing Man Table" set up for the PWG banquet on September 2, 2018, 60 years after the shootdown of C-130 recce bird 60528. The table is set with 17 red roses in bud vases representing the 17 lost crew members, and a place setting for one – one representing them all. A shaker of salt was a bitter reminder. On the left is a plaque, "W Saw the Eagles Fly" in honor of those men. In the middle is a framed and printed document with a quote by Bill Mahan, and the poem, "I Did Not Die." To the right is a small fragment of 60528 taken from the crash site. On the easel to the left is an enlarged portrait of 60528 in flames taken through the gunsights of the MIG-17 that shot it down over Soviet Armenia. To the right on an easel is a picture of an American Bald Eagle taken by Airlee Owens on the Oregon coast. The Eagle has become the symbol of the Silent Warrior airborne cadre.

Following a reception in the Base Chapel, we gathered in Tennant Hall, home of the 97th Intel Squadron, where a large piece of debris in a framed shadow box was presented to Lt Col Casey Hayden, 97th

Commander. The Tom Tennant Memorabilia Room was then dedicated with the unveiling of the display case containing Tom's flight suit and, of course, his MC-88 Royal typewriter. On behalf of the Prop Wash Gang, I presented a Comanche War Club to TSgt Allan Karoumi, designer and architect of the display case. TSgt Karoumi is an active duty linguist assigned to the 97th IS. Tom Giroir rendered an invocation, and I again read the September 2nd, 1997 PMFR.

After the dinner, Tom introduced our keynote speaker, Fr. Vazken Movsesian, a priest with the Armenian Church in America. He is also a descendant of Armenian genocide survivors. Fr. Vazken gave us a brief history of the Armenian genocide in 1914, explaining that genocide started before Hitler and continues to this day. Just as we should not forget those days, we should also not forget the price paid 60 years ago by American servicemen. He paid homage to those who “stand in the gap,” to military men and women who answer the call to protect freedom and warned us never to forget. He concluded with a mass for the crew of 60528, calling out each name.

Mr. John E. Simpson, Jr., son of Captain John E. Simpson, one of the 17 was in attendance. Mr. Simpson also has other ties to “Our Thing.” He was a ground radio maintenance technician with the 6949th ESS, and his son, John E. Simpson III, was a Spanish linguist flying with the unit.

Before presenting the “Elder Award,” we did something different. We presented a hand-crafted “Mail Box” to the youngest, and the newest, PWG-er in attendance, Darrell McCormick. Monte Pettitt designed and made the item and donated it to the PWG. Oh, and they are not called “wire benders” anymore – they are now *Airborne Maintenance Engineers* – but they still bend wires.

And then the “Elder Award.” Another close race, but using our normal highly scientific selection protocol, we were able to determine that our eldest member in attendance was Mr. Artie Doyle. Artie missed out last year by only two days. He was presented with a handcrafted genuine Comanche Head Knocker – one used on Custer, with a brass button from Custer's coat attached.

I then read the 2008 60528 reunion PMFR from the 50th anniversary of the incident.

In closing, Molly Mayer joined me in closing with another reading of “We Saw the Eagles Fly.”

Relatedly, and as you read above, sometimes the friendly skies are not so

friendly. As you may have heard, very recently an unarmed Russian IL-20 reconnaissance aircraft was shot down with the loss of all 15 crewmembers on board. The 15 Russians were ordinary guys doing an extraordinary job. Not one of them expected to die on Monday. From across the aisle, I will render a silent and solemn SALUTE!_to those 15 just as I honored our own.

Doggers Orbit DC/NOVA

By Larry Miller

"This summer a small band of Doggers, all former Air Force Vietnamese linguists, living around the D.C. area were busy in honoring United States intelligence agencies critical in supporting our military forces throughout the Vietnam War, with presentations of some of our cherished bricks from the Hoa Lo prison in North Vietnam. This prison was sarcastically referred to as the "Hanoi Hilton" by the American POWs that were incarcerated there. The group's grand finale in September was to present one of the bricks to the actual POW that coined the term "Hanoi Hilton."

NGIA Visit and Geronimo! On 19 July, Jim Cavanaugh, Bob De Mayo, and Bob Finch traveled to the National Geospatial Agency, and met with Mr. Gary Weir, the NGA Historian. After receiving the command briefing, Jim and the "two Bobs" were greeted at the NGA College by the Chief-of-Staff Ed Mornston and the Senior Army Operations Representative to

NGA Mr. Colin Agee. Following Jim

Cavanaugh's

presentation of the

brick to Mr.

Mornston, NGA was

also given a copy of

the Dogger's

provenance letter on

the brick and an

emotional reading of

Tom Penn's very



Mr. Ed Mornston and Mr. Colin Agee expressing thanks to Bob Finch, Bob De Mayo, and Jim Cavanaugh for the "Doggers" gift of a brick from the Hanoi Hilton to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

the group to the Directorate floor to view the landscape model created by NGA for operations planning leading up to the Bin Laden mission, *Operation Geronimo!*



Bob Finch (l-r), Bob De Mayo and Jim Cavanaugh discuss the invaluable support that NGA gave to COMBAT APPLE missions during the Vietnam War with Mr. Mornston (not pictured)

NSA Museum. The very next day, the group along with Jim’s wife Pat traveled to the National Security Agency - Jim’s old stompin’ grounds - to make the brick presentation to the National Cryptologic Museum. They were met by Mr. Patrick Weedon, the museum curator and his staff. Following brief discussions, they were escorted to the Vietnam Exhibit area for the presentation and swapped more than a few war stories from “back in the day.” After a brief lunch, the group returned to tour the museum, chatted with visitors, and viewed the construction progress of the museum new expansion.

Bob De Mayo (l-r), Jim Cavanaugh, and Bob Finch presenting the Hanoi Hilton brick to the National Cryptologic Museum curator Mr. Patrick Weadon (far right).



A photo of the actual brick that was presented to the Cryptologic Museum.

Stop at DIA. As an alum of the Defense Intelligence Agency's HUMINT programs, Bob De Mayo headed up the Dogger contingent of Bob Finch and Jim Hebert out to the DIA. Once checked in, they were joined by a



"surprise guest" of the DIA Director, Brig Gen Reynolds (USAF, ret.), a former POW at the Hanoi Hilton! They then commenced a guided tour of DIA's

newly-opened museum in their spacious atrium; this spectacular museum, now only about 25% complete and growing, illustrates many of

Hanoi Hilton brick presentation at DIA. From left to right: CMSgt Benjamin Higginbotham, Bob De Mayo, Jim Hebert, BGen Jon Reynolds, Lt Gen Robert Ashley Jr. (Director of DIA), and Bob Finch.

DIA's intelligence coups' and underscores their major collection and analytical contributions to our

national security. The group was absolutely floored by the gracious welcome given them by the DIA Historian and Museum Curators, DIA

protocol officers, and the reception by the Director, LTG Ashley (USA), in his personal office suite. General Ashley broke from his planned schedule after the brick ceremony and graciously spent more than forty minutes chatting with these old war horses. Subsequently, the "two Bobs", Jim, and Brig Gen Reynolds were each videotaped during individual Q&A sessions about Vietnam War experiences for about fifteen minutes each. The tapes will probably be edited into one and Bob will try to obtain a copy.

Freedom Museum, Inc.

Former POW to Receive Brick from the "Hanoi Hilton"

Rear Admiral Robert H. Shumaker, USN (Ret), a former POW during the Vietnam War, will be presented with a brick from the Hoa Lo prison at the Freedom Museum's Quarterly Speaker Series.

RAdm Shumaker, a prisoner of war for eight years and one day, is credited with coining the term "Hanoi Hilton" for the infamous prison.

Join us on September 25 at 7:30 p.m. for this special Freedom Museum event

in the Manassas Regional Airport Terminal
10600 Harry J. Parrish Blvd.

Open to the Public – Free Admission

However, the highlight of the day was when Brig Gen Reynolds quietly mentioned in an aside to Bob De Mayo after his video session that he had, in fact, been held captive in the Son Tay prison during the Vietnam War! As the Position 14 crewmember on one of the most memorable COMBAT APPLE missions during the Vietnam War which supported the Son Tay Raid, Bob was awestruck by the irony of his comment and very proud to relate to the general how he and his '90th crewmembers had a small part in that magnificent effort to free our POWs. “Bravo Zulu” to all involved.

Freedom Museum. Just this last week, on September 25th, the same Dogger group, joined by Rich Bini and John Rowan (VVA President), sallied forth again to make a face-to-face Hanoi Hilton brick presentation to one of the true POW heroes of the Vietnam War, Rear Admiral Robert



Bob Finch addressing the crowd at the Freedom Museum

H. Shumaker, USN (Ret). For those readers unfamiliar with his story, Admiral Shumaker was the second “guest” of the Hanoi Hilton during the War, quickly following Everett Alvarez in occupying one of the posh VIP suites in the prison for almost eight years. Of particular note, Admiral Shumaker was the POW who cynically described the prison as the “Hanoi Hilton.” Bob Finch, a key member of the Freedom Museum located in the main terminal of the Manassas (Virginia) Regional Airport, headed up the veterans of the 6990th in a formal ceremony to honor Admiral Shumaker and presented him with a brick from that infamous prison. The Doggers paid tribute to ADM Shumaker by individually regaling the large audience (including several WWII veterans) with stories detailing his stalwart resistance to his torturers, factoids on POW prison life, and the COMBAT APPLE/6990th involvement in the Son Tay raid which contributed to the movement of our Vietnam War POWs out of jungle pits to the Hoa Lo

prison in Hanoi. Mrs. Lorraine Shumaker was thanked for her steadfast courage and very outspoken support of Vietnam POWs during those long eight years, and then presented with a lovely bouquet of yellow roses. Former Chi-ling Steve Hood, also a veteran of the 6990th, pitched in and helped out immensely with many of the “behind the scenes” aspects of this formal program. Great job by all!

Since the Dogger presentations of bricks made last March at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall to the Medal of Honor Foundation, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, this Washington-area group including Jim Cavanaugh, Bob De Mayo, Bob Finch, Randy Seitter, Jimmy Hebert, Rich Bini, Perry Keeton, Mick Cole, and Steve Hood has been instrumental in keeping the ball rolling in honoring those who contributed so much blood and sacrifice during the Vietnam War. They’ve already made some initial plans for several more brick presentations honoring heroic organizations in and around the DC area.



War Horses: (l-r) John Rowan (President of the Vietnam Veterans of America), Bob De Mayo, Bob Finch, Rear Admiral Robert Shumaker, Jom Hebert, and Rich Bini



**REUNION
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

November 7-10, 2019
6918th RSM/Security Squadron
Brady / Hakata, Japan
Location: Jacksonville, FL
(Doubletree Hotel)
Comments on 6918th Website
<http://6918thhakata.com>



September 2019 (Dates TBD)
6994th Security Squadron
Location: Nashville, TN
(Doubletree Hotel)
More Details Forthcoming

October 3-5, 2019
FTVA-25th Air Force Annual Reunion
Location: San Antonio, TX
More Details Forthcoming

Freedom Through Vigilance Association Vigilant Partners
P.O. Box 91616
San Antonio, TX 78269



PLATINUM PARTNERS

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(IMO Maj Gen Doyle E. Larson)
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(IHO The Doggers)
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(IMO Col Duane Russell and Capt Rory Foran)
Donald Bundy





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(IMO of CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant)
Ronald Hentz
(IHO Col (Ret) Bob Cope)
Larry and Alice Boyce
E.W. Forbess



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

**Thank You,
Vigilant Partners,
For Your Caring Support!**

SIGNING IN

The following is a selected list of folks taking that extra step to “Remain in Touch” who have signed into the FTVA Website (www.ftva.org) in the past few months.

E-Mail address: patrick.rice58@gmail.com

First Name: Patrick

Last Name: Rice

Unit: 6920th

Country: United States

Comment: We were the Silent Sentinels. We had our little village on "the Hill". Best time of my life - miss the camaraderie.

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - Bastian

First Name - Robert

Email - bobbast@comcast.net

Comments - I may not have successfully submitted this request, but if it's a dupe, my apologies! I need a current email list for those in the Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter's area (PA, MD, VA, DE, W. VA) to verify membership status of those wanting to vote in our upcoming Executive Board election.

Thanks, Bob Bastian, FTVA MARC Treasurer

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - Drachsler

First Name - Peter

Email - peterdrachsler@gmail.com

Comments -

Date - 24-Oct-18

-----Tear Line-----

E-Mail address: peterdrachsler@gmail.com

First Name: Peter

Last Name: Drachsler

Unit: 6910 RGM Det. 6

Country: USA

Comment: Camp Pieri 1960 to 1963.

-----Tear Line-----

E-Mail address: URC119@AOL.COM

First Name: Fred

Last Name: Abel

Unit: 6940 SS Goodfellow AFB, TX

Country: USA

Comment: Baker Flt, Det 94, 65-67

-----Tear Line-----

E-Mail address: eagle6916@yahoo.com

First Name: Aaron (Ron)

Last Name: Kriegel

Unit: 6916th SS

Country: United States

Comment: Just checked the "Fallen Eagles" listing. So sad to see so many "old-timers" early Rhein-Mainers listed....Ahhh but what wonderful memories! RIP. You are NEVER forgotten!

-----Tear Line-----

E-Mail address: stanz74@comcast.net

First Name: Howard "Stan"

Last Name: Poyas

Unit: USAFSS, ESC

Country: USA

Comment: Was an Airborne Maintenance Repairman from 1961-1978 on flying status. Most important time in my life and served with the greatest airborne comrades flying missions worldwide. Served in SEA, Europe, Mid East, and flew missions from home base Offutt. Longest mission was 25.5 hours. Round robin from Offutt. Most precious time in my life.

-----Tear Line-----

E-Mail address: hotdog1949@hotmail.com

First Name: Stephen

Last Name: Steed

Unit: 6970ESW Fort Meade, MD

Country: USA

Comment: 6921/20SW/SG 1971-74 6931SS1974-76 6993SS 1977 6948ESS 1981-83 6910ESW 1983-85 Det. 1, 6910ESW 1985-87 6970ESW 1987-89 6970ESW 1990-91

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - White

First Name - Robert J

Email - bobwhite2181@sbcglobal.net

Comments - My information in the Members Directory needs to be updated.

White, Robert J. Last few mailings from the FTVA was addressed to Robert L. Please correct to Robert J White. Thank you!

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - Laffitte

First Name - Paul

Email - laffitte@earthlink.net

Comments - We are having a debate on some of our USAFSS Spokt sites as to why did the USAFSS change from our beginning 1 & 2 digit squadron numbers to the fours digit 69xx ones on 8 May 1955???? Sure would like to know the answer and thanks for any help. SMSgt Paul Laffitte, 2nd RSM 49-52, Keesler 52-54, 29th RSM Clark, Det 1 29th RSM and 6927th Security Flight (on that fateful day 8 May 1955) Okinawa 54-55 and 6911th RSM 55-57.

Date - 04-Oct-18

-----Tear Line-----

Email address: hmvickers1@gmail.com

First Name: Heather

Last Name: VICKERS

Unit: 1N2X0

Country: USA

Comment:

-----Tear Line-----

E-Mail address: Omagraves@yahoo.com

First Name: Oma

Last Name: Graves

Unit: 6917th San Vito

Country: USA

Comment: I just found out that there is a reunion going on. I did not know about it and so now I'm trying to make I've covered all my bases so that I don't miss anymore.

-----Tear Line-----

E-Mail address: rma9007@gmail.com

First Name: Robert

Last Name: Alcorn

Unit: USAFSS

Country: USA

Comment: USAFSS - 6994th Det.1 - 69-70 6947th 70-71

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - MACKAY

First Name - DAVID

Email - d.g.mackay1@stir.ac.uk

Comments - PhD research at Stirling University, Scotland, UK. I am a retired British Army lieutenant colonel (Parachute Regiment). I am trying to contact personnel who served at RAF Kirknewton, Scotland, from 1952 to 1966. My US contacts are Doug Wise (former Deputy Director DIA) and Joe Mazzafro (former US Navy intelligence officer).

Date - 26-Sep-18

-----Tear Line-----

E-Mail address: axel@anaruk.com

First Name: Axel

Last Name: Anaruk

Unit: 6903rd ESG

Country: USA

Comment: Retired in Wylie, TX. Served 1969 to 1994 AFSCs 203/ 208/ 8035/ 8055/ Assignments DLIWC* / 6993rd/ 6988th/ 6903rd*/ 6987th/ USAFSACS and 3480th TTG*/DIA/TAWC. Language shreds MB/SB/QB * = multiple tours

-----Tear Line-----

E-Mail address: bosley117@hotmail.com

First Name: Leigh

Last Name: S

Unit: 6988, Yokota, AFB

Country: USA

Comment: Jan. 62-Sept 64

-----Tear Line-----

E-Mail address: thomashardee@live.com

First Name: Thomas

Last Name: Hardee

Unit: 6986 RSM, Wakkanai

Country: USA

Comment: I am interested in reunion info.

-----Tear Line-----

E-Mail address: fhziemer@comcast.net

First Name: Frederick

Last Name: Ziemer

Unit: USAFSS

Country: USA

Comment:

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - Dudkiewicz

First Name - David

Email - cqmisawa@yahoo.com

Comments - I haven't rcvd the yearly directory and have only rcvd the monthly list in May. Nothing since.

Date - 13-Sep-18

-----Tear Line-----

E-Mail address: rpeugh74@suddenlink.net

First Name: Roger

Last Name: Peugh
 Unit: USAFSS/AFCD
 Country: United States
 Comment: Looking for personnel that used to serve in the AFCD next to USAFSS HQ during the period from 75-78.

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - Dudkiewicz
 First Name - David
 Email - cqmisawa@yahoo.com
 Comments - I haven't received this year's directory and also the last monthly address list I received in my e-mail was for May.
 Date - 11-Sep-18

-----Tear Line-----

E-Mail address: scvsatx@yahoo.com
 First Name: H. Steve
 Last Name: VOSS
 Unit: AFEWC
 Country: USA
 Comment:

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - Nurre
 First Name - Thomas
 Email - tknurre1@suddenlink.net
 Comments - Please add this website link to the listing: <http://www.ec47.com>. This website is managed by Tom Nurre and Joe Martin, both 6994th Security Squadron veterans during the Vietnam War. This website chronicles the activities of the USAFSS EC-47 backend operators and the 360th/361st/362nd Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron personnel who owned, operated and maintained the aircraft. Thank you.
 Date - 11-Aug-18

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

- Adkinson, James E., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Beeler, John D., USAFSS
- Berg, Russell P., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Burnette, Denver, H., USAFSS
- Cargill, Roger D., USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Cook, Marvin K., USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Crawford, Ronald, D., USAFSS
- Green, Joe B., Col (ret), USAFSS
- Gregory, Joe H., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Grinsel, David C., USAFSS
- Hain, Richard M., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Hawkins, Ronnie D., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Hoag, Charles, USAFSS
- Huigens, Lawrence H., TSgt (ret), USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Lynch, John P., Col (ret), USAF **FTVA Hall of Honor 1995****
- Mackey, Billy J., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Mitchell, Voy J., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Montecino, Allen J., Col (ret), USAFSS
- Neely, Cecil, CMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Parker, Donald W., Maj (ret), USAFSS
- Payne, Norman, E., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Pearson, James H., SMSgt (ret), USAFSS **FTVA Member****
- Stewart, Benjamin L., USAFSS
- Suckstorf, Dennis A., USAFSS
- Sweeney, Carlton J., USAFSS
- Walls, Leon, MSgt (ret), USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member****



Adkinson, James E., MSgt (ret), 79, passed away Aug 31, 2018. //www.findagrave.com//

I regret to inform you all of the passing of James (Jim) Adkinson, Master Sergeant (Retired), United States Air Force. Jim passed away 9/1/2018 in San Antonio. Jim was my very first Mission Supervisor at San Vito Air Station, Italy. He was a superb Senior NCO and role model and I never forgot the lessons he taught me all those years ago. He experienced so much personal tragedy in his life, more than anyone should have to, and remained the same kind, funny, gentle man through it all. I was lucky enough to get to see him here-and-there when I was TDY to or stationed in San Antonio. Then we were able to stay in touch via Facebook. I liked and respected him so much. RIP Master Sergeant Jim Adkinson. See you on the other side my friend. //James Pritchard//

Jim was on C flight with me at Hakata, Japan in the late sixties. Ran into him over the years and then he joined our Tues at Applebee's group for a few years in the 2009-12 time frame. A great guy and talented with a wry sense of humor //Dennis Rassmussen//



Beeler, John D., 76, passed away Aug 30, 2018. Survivors include wife, Josephina and daughter Cynthia. //Obit – Dignity Memorial//

John was a 292 during his assignment 1966-1968 at Hakata. //Carol Farr//



Berg, Russell P., MSgt (ret), 88, passed away Aug 12, 2018. I first met Russ at Wakkanai in late 1959 where we were both 202 Radio Traffic Analysts. We subsequently served together in Zweibrücken and Vietnam. In Vietnam, we were members of the 6994th, but our duty station was with the ARDF Coordination

Center at “Whitebirch” station, a joint operation with the 509th Radio Research Group (ASA). After retiring from the USAF, Russ went into law enforcement with the federal government to include a final assignment as a criminal investigator at the Pentagon. He is survived by his wife Anna and three sons Rusty, Edward, and John. He is predeceased by his daughter Pamela. //Obit – Roland Kearley//



Burnette, Denver H., 70, passed away Oct 4, 2017. He is survived by his daughter Angie.

Sonny was at a 292 during his assignment 1968-1969 at Hakata. //Carol Farr//



Cargill, Roger D., 87, passed away Dec 2, 2017. He served as a SSgt in the USAF during the early days of the Cold War and Korean Conflict. He was the Cryptologist in charge of the Air Force Security Service team that broke Romanian military transportation code, allowing the US to track Soviet-bloc troop movements. He is survived by his second wife Patricia; children Robert,

Richard, Roger, Mary, Daniel, Margaret, Thomas, and Sarah; step-children Kathy, Joseph, and Beth. //Obit – Allen Memorial Home//



Cook, Marvin K., 90, passed away May 24, 2018. He served for 26 years. He served in the US Army 88th Division, protecting the Italian border at the end of World War II. He boxed for the Army in the Welter Weight Division and was Golden Gloves Champion for three years. He was a contender for the 1948 Olympics. After serving his Army enlistment he joined the USAF, doing a

tour in Vietnam. He is survived by his daughters, Cheryl, Susanne, Judy, and Linda. //Obit – Mission Park Funeral Home//

Marv was a 292 from 1962-1965 at Hakata. //Carol Farr//



Crawford, Ronald, D., 87, passed away Oct 22, 2018.

He served in the USAF during the Korean War as a Mandarin Chinese linguist intercepting enemy radio traffic and received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award as part of the 15th Radio Squadron for operating behind enemy lines. Following this tour he returned to Yale and graduated in the class of 1957 with a BS degree in sociology and Mandarin Chinese. He married Nancy Taylor and they

recently celebrated 54 years of marriage. He is also survived by his children: Dr. Amy Crawford-Faucher, Susan, Rachel, Tad, and Katherine.
//Obit – Monahan Funeral Home//



Green, Joe B., Col (ret), 85, passed away Oct 8, 2018. In 1954, he entered the USAF where he became dual-rated as a navigator and pilot. He flew typhoon penetration over the Pacific Ocean and provided air support for the nuclear weapons testing on Eniwetok and the Bikini Islands. He served in Vietnam where he commanded helicopter rescue crews in Southeast Asia. He flew over 30 rescue missions and his bravery led him to be nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor. Joe was awarded the Air Force Cross, 2 Silver Stars, 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses and 8 Air Medals. He was inducted into the Legion of Valor in 1998. Joe Green was one of the most decorated aviators of the Vietnam War. Joe then served as Senior Military Advisor to Nicaragua and Bolivia. He wrapped up his 21 exemplary years of service as the Director of Plans and Programs for the USAF Security Service. Joe is survived by his wife, Nancy; two sons, Kelly and James; daughter, Janice. **//www.legacy.com//**



Gregory, Joe H., CMSgt (ret), 84, passed away Aug 29, 2018. He enlisted in the USAF in 1953. Joe’s 26-year military career included tours in Texas, Germany, Alaska, Japan, Italy, Okinawa, Maryland and his final assignment at MacDill AFB in Tampa, FL, where he retired as a Chief Master Sergeant. From there, he went on to work another 13 years for the US Postal Service. His survivors include his loving wife, of 64 years, Myra two sons; William and Joe. **//Obit - Heinz Funeral Home//**



Grinsel, David C., 73, passed away Oct 23, 2018. He entered the USAF in 1968 and studied at Syracuse University as a Russian linguist. After security school in San Angelo, TX and a few months at Offutt Air Base in Omaha, NE, Dave was sent to Rhein Main Air Base in Germany where he spent the next two years flying in the back of a C130 recording and then translating Russian intercepts. He served for four years. He is survived by his

wife, Kathy; Jennifer, Jodi, and Mark. //Obit - Westgor Funeral Home//



Hain, Richard M., CMSgt (ret), 85, passed away Jul 23, 2018. He served in the USAF in electronic security command from 1951 to 1974. He had a top secret/crypto/special access clearance in special intelligence. During his time in the service, he was awarded the Korean Service Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross. //Obit – Dignity Memorial//



Hawkins, Ronnie D., CMSgt (ret), 87, passed away Jul 30, 2018. Ronnie was a 1949 graduate of Leavenworth High School and received his Bachelor of Business from Angelo State University in 1979. Ronnie joined the USAF in 1949 and retired in 1976. He served in Security Service (now known as Intelligence) in the Communications career field at various assignments to include Newfoundland, Pakistan, Alaska, and Texas. He was the first African American Chief Master Sergeant at Goodfellow AFB. He also served two tours of duty in Vietnam. Survivors include his children, Ronnie, Arthur, and Shawn. //Obit – Robert Massie Funeral Home//



Hoag, Charles, 88, passed away Sep 4, 2018. In July of 1948, he enlisted in the USAF. Based on his high IQ score, he was immediately transferred to the security services and served his country as a cryptographer. His assignments included England, Germany, Japan, and San Antonio, TX. During his time in the military, he received the Japan Occupation Medal and Korean Service Medal. He was an American Mensa member. He is survived by his children Darryl, Karen, Susan, Charles, Michael, Donna, and Lyle. //Obit – Fredericksburg Funeral Home//



Huigens, Lawrence, H., TSgt (ret), 76, passed away May 29, 2018. //Obit – Dignity Memorial//

Saddened to receive this notification on death of Larry Huigens in San Angelo last May. Larry retired at TSgt as a USAFSS Morse/printer op for 20 years. I knew him when he worked as one of the most popular bartenders at the Goodfellow NCO (later COM) Club for 20 plus years. Hope this is in time for the Dec issue of RIT. //Dennis Rasmussen//



Lynch, John P., Col (ret), 83, passed away Oct 3, 2018. He enlisted in the USAF at age 17. His first assignment was RAF Kirknewton in Edinburgh, Scotland. After eight years as an enlisted airman, John graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1961 and began a distinguished career as an electronic intelligence officer in the United States Air Force Security Command. His assignments took him around the world, including Texas, England,

Greece, Germany, Vietnam, the Pentagon and the National Security Agency. During his almost 38 years of active service, John was awarded the Airman's Medal and Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam. He is survived by his children. //Obit – Angelus Funeral Home//

I got to know Moira and Colonel Lynch well. They were truly soulmates until the end. They are both missed. Just know how well they were loved by all who knew them. My condolences. //Raleigh Macklin//



Mackey, Billy J., MSgt (ret), 69, passed away Sep 5, 2018. He joined the USAF and worked in intelligence. During the Vietnam War, he was sent to Thailand, where he married his wife, Tugta. Their first daughter, Melody, was born there in 1971. They came back to the States, and their second daughter, Stephany, was born in 1972. After he retired from the USAF, he finished his college degree at Southwest Texas State in 1989 and went to work as a consultant and contractor for companies supporting the USAF and other government agencies. He is survived by his loving wife, Chaturaporn “Tugta”; daughters, Melody and Stephany. //Obit – Ozark County Times//

Billy was a great co-worker and a fun golfing buddy. We enjoyed many rounds together. The man could spin a yarn. He will be missed. //Dennis Buxton//



Mitchell, Voy J., MSgt (ret), 78, passed away Aug 18, 2018. He enlisted in the USAF in 1958 and retired in 1978. Sixteen of his twenty years were spent overseas in Japan, Germany, England, and the Philippine Islands, with temporary assignments in Turkey and Okinawa. For the majority, he was assigned to the USAF Security Service, the forerunner of the present-day Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency. Mitch is

survived by his beloved wife, Anna; his children, Marlene, Sylvia, and Brian. **//Obit - Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home//**

Mitch was a Y202X0 specializing in radio printer analysis & reporting in Chicksands. He was also a Flight Senior Reporter at Chicksands from 1974 to 1976. **//USAFSS Roll Call//**



Montecino, Allen J., Col (ret), 81, passed away Sep 17, 2018. He served 30 years as an enlisted Airman and USAF pilot. He flew many aircraft and combat missions in Southeast Asia and commanded USAF Squadrons in Athens, Greece and Hahn, Germany and was Wing Commander of the Electronic Security Wing at Ft. Meade,

MD. His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bronze Star. He is survived by his wife Virginia; children Virginia, Allen, Lisa and Michael. **//Obit - Donaldson Funeral Home//**



Neely, Cecil, CMSgt (ret), 84, passed away Oct 26, 2017. He served in the USAF for 26 years, retiring in Fort Meade, MD in 1977. He is survived by his wife, Lucille; sons, Daryl, Jeffrey and Gregory; daughter, Vicki Baglama. **//Obit – Southern Funeral Care//**

Assignments - Lackland AFB, TX; Camp Gordon, GA; Camp Kilmer, NJ; Thule, Greenland; Patrick AFB, FL; March AFB, CA; Bremerhaven, Germany; Kelly AFB, TX; Key West, FL; Danang, VN; San Vito AS, Italy; Kadena AFB, Okinawa; Ft Meade, MD. **//Vicki Neely Baglama//**



Parker, Donald W., Major (ret), passed away on Sep 22, 2018. He joined the USAF in 1961 and served for 30 years. After his active duty service, he served several more years with the Civil Service. Although his military assignments took him all over the world, he always considered San Angelo his home base - he returned to it over and over again. He attended Yale University

Institute of Far Eastern Languages to obtain his certification in Chinese Language. Don was proud to serve his country and loved being part of the USAF intelligence community. His decorations include the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross (with one device); and a Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Don is survived by his wife, Patricia Ann; daughter Catrin; and son Donald W. Parker III. He is also survived by his brother, Steven Larry Parker, MSgt, USAF Retired, and his sister-in-law Donna Parker. //Obit - GoSanAngelo//

So sorry to hear of Maj Parker's passing. We worked together at Goodfellow and he was always a very knowledgeable and fun guy to be around. He will be sorely missed. I'll keep Patty and the family in my thoughts and prayers. //Ron "JJ" Graham//



Payne, Norman E., CMSgt (ret), 93, passed away August 20, 2018. He joined the Merchant Marine during WWII. In 1948, he enlisted in the USAF. He went on to work in communications and USAF Security Services throughout a 28-year career. His assignments include Alaska, Turkey, Okinawa, and Taiwan. He is survived by his wife, Yvette Payne; sons, Craig and Don; daughters, Jody and Lynette.

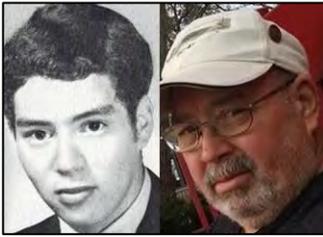
//Obit - GoSanAngelo//

Norman Payne was a USAFSS veteran and was stationed at the 6927th at Onna Point, Okinawa. //Ed Bendinelli//



Pearson, James H., SMSgt (ret), 87, passed away Jul 23, 2018. He enlisted in the USAF in 1949 and retired from the USAF in 1972. Howard said, "I loved the military. The Air Force was good to me. I had a job I loved. I made many treasured friendships. I visited the nations of the world and I served my country." He is survived by his son, James.

//Obit - Memory Chapel Laurel//



Stewart, Benjamin L., 65, passed away Oct 3, 2018. He joined the USAF and served as a Sergeant in Vietnam with the 6994th Security Squadron where he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals, and two Vietnam Service Campaign Medals. He is survived by his wife Susan Stewart of 41 years; his three

sons: Benjamin, Wade, and Alex. **//Penn Love Obit//**



Suckstorf, Dennis A., 68, passed away Sep 19, 2018. **//Obit – Lewis Crematory and Funeral Services//**

I am sorry to tell you that Denny passed away this past Wednesday, September 19th. He was at home with me and his kids. We will have a Wake for him here in North Myrtle Beach on October 14th and memorial in Nebraska in December. Please raise a glass for him. **//Kowena Suckstorf//**

Denny and I were on the NCO PME instructor staff at Goodfellow in the late 1978-81 time frame. Great at teaching and keeping me in check. RIP ol' friend. **//Dennis Rassmussen//**



Sweeney, Carlton, J., passed away Oct 19, 2018. During the Korean War he enlisted in the USAF and served an adventurous four years as a radio operator with high security clearance in USAFSS. While stationed in Germany he was fortunate to be on the Air Force ski team. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne; his

sons: Dr. Michael and John. **//Obit - G. F. Zimmer Funeral Home//**



Walls, Leon, MSgt (ret), 83, passed away Aug 6, 2018. Some of the highlights of his military career include; two tours of duty in Bremerhaven, Germany as a Radio Printer Controller and Morse Controller. During his off-duty hours he coached the Mox Nix football team. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 1975

and was very proud of his “Meritorious” license plates on his car. After

retirement from the Air Force in 1979, Leo worked 15 years as a Civil Service employee at USAFSS HQ in San Antonio; he retired in January 1997. He is survived by step-sons, David and Don. //Obit – **Mission Parks Funeral**//

Leo and I never served together, but met through the annual Misawa Project, Inc. reunions. He was a gentleman, and happily shared stories of his Air Force history. Rest in Peace, Leo. //Ben Whitten//

Was stationed with Leo in Rhein Main and Hahn AB Germany with the 6911th SS(M) and we became good friends. We reconnected in 2003 at a military reunion. Kept in contact through many e-mail exchanges and an occasional reunion. I am honored that I had a chance to serve with him and to be able to call him my friend. Prayers and condolence to his whole family. He will surely be missed. //Woody Wilson//

I had the pleasure of serving with Leo in the 6911th (M) at Hahn. He was professional and a jokester. His humor made deployments fun. RIP. //Jerry L Jones//

Leo enlisted Oct 1953; he retired Oct 1979. He completed two tours of duty at the 6913th RSM/Scty Sq in Bremerhaven, Germany. During his first tour (Dec 58 to Mar 61), he was the Radio Printer Controller -- on "C" Flight until Sep 60, then on "A" Flight for the rest of the tour. During his second tour (Oct 63 to Jun 67), Leo was again Radio Printer Controller on "A" Flight until about Oct 66, then Morse Controller on "A" Flight until the end of his tour. During his off-duty hours in 1964 he coached the Mox Nix football team. Highlights of the rest of Leo's USAFSS career include the following assignments: Keesler AFB, MS (Class 24034, graduated 28 Sep 54); Kelly AFB, TX; March Field; Darmstadt, Germany (6911th RGM, Dec 54 to Dec 56); Samsun, Turkey (TUSLOG Det 2, Dec 56 to Dec 57); Darmstadt (6911th RGM, Jan to Dec 58); San Vito, Italy (6917th RSM, Feb 61 to Sep 62), San Antonio, TX (USAFSS HQ, Sep 62 to Oct 63). Since then, Leo has remained in touch with so many of us, both by personal contacts and by attending reunions of so many organizations. We miss you already, Leo. God Speed! //Arlen Trapp//

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 691818, San Antonio, TX 78288-1818.
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Yearly Memberships are \$20.00 Please check one: <input type="checkbox"/> NEW REGULAR MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER (**see below for description) <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/> ADDRESS CHANGE
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Age Range for Life Membership Rates	
<input type="checkbox"/> 76 and over	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> 71-75	\$95
<input type="checkbox"/> 66-70	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> 61-65	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> 56-60	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> 51-55	\$185
<input type="checkbox"/> 46-50	\$200
<input type="checkbox"/> 41-45	\$220
<input type="checkbox"/> 36-40	\$235
<input type="checkbox"/> 31-35	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> 30 and under	\$265

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

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

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT: The authority to request this information is contained in Public Law 88-38 and Executive Order 12958. 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 I S R

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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!!