

Remain In Touch



FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Evan Smith

Salute!

Greetings from San Antonio!

It's hard to believe that March is already here. Time goes too fast! But on the brighter side, it means it's time for another edition of the *Remain In Touch*. Every edition is a treat to read for me as I learn about the on-goings in the Chapters and see pictures of old friends. Once again Dennis has knocked it out of the park. I salute Dennis, Rass before him, and all of the Chapters' leadership for developing and contributing to the newsletter, keeping us informed and connected.

All heritage organizations like FTVA face similar challenges. As time passes and the organizations they are connected to evolve, it can seem that their purpose becomes more and more distant. For all of us, we are connected by the common bonds of service and sacrifice as Silent Warriors in a never-ending fight against adversaries who would do us harm. We employed state-of-the-art technology to our trade, established new TTPs, got the job done and done well. The same fight is going on today as you read this edition. The only thing that has changed are the new faces of today's Silent Warriors, the new tools they employ, and the new threats that they face. As the official heritage organization for 16 AF (AF Cyber) the FTVA membership is literally the living history of the organization, and I'm happy to report that the NAF leadership appreciates everything we do for them and their great Airmen. In that sense, we're all still in the fight.

Locally, on 21 March, we will be hosting our annual Spring Social here in San Antonio. The 16 AF Commander, Lt General Tim Haugh, has graciously accepted our invitation to give us all a current update on the state of the new NAF. We're excited to hear about how far the organization has come in such a short period of time. You are welcome to attend if your travels bring you to south Texas. Specific event details are posted on the FTVA Facebook page. We hope to see you there.

In closing, I encourage each of you to stay connected, get involved with your local chapters where you can, and know that all you do matters and is greatly appreciated. Now, on to the important stuff in this edition...Remain in Touch!

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Dear Readers,

Here is the first issue of 2020 and hope it finds all of you well and happy in the new year.

You may notice something ‘different’ about this issue and I hope you like it. Because we went online, the options for formatting increase greatly. Previously, with the hardcopy booklet style it was

technically challenging to include all we wanted to and in a format that was logical and pleasing. Sometimes we succeeded and sometimes we didn’t.

This issue looks very similar but is now using a template that is 8-1/2” by 11”. The goal is to increase the size of the photos used and some of the ‘headlines, titles, and captions’ (enhanced readability without having to use zoom on your computer). Being of a comparable level of ‘experience’ as you, I hope I do not make changes for change’s sake. Change is not necessarily progress and there should always be a good reason for it.

Thus, please feel free to comment and let me know if you do – or don’t – like the larger pages and perhaps have some layout ideas to share that will make reading the RIT an even more enjoyable experience. Just send comments to newsletter@ftva.org.

Thanks and Remain In Touch!

Dennis Buxton, Newsletter Editor
Newsletter@ftva.org, 210-627-7586



FTVA HALL OF HONOR



A.J. Harrison, Chairman, Hall of Honor Program

Hall of Honor Soliciting Nominations

Do you know someone who you think should be in the Freedom Through Vigilance Association's Hall of Honor (HoH) and who is not? The only way people are selected is if they are nominated, and the only way they get nominated is by members doing the work to nominate an individual! Please take the time to nominate those who are worthy as the HoH Selection Committee is soliciting nominations of candidates for induction. The induction ceremony is a major element of the association's reunion activities.

Since the creation of USAFSS as a major air command in 1948, members of USAFSS/ESC/AFIC/AIA/AF ISR Agency/25 AF/16 AF, hereinafter referred to as the command, have been at war 24/7/365 as anonymous sentinels, engaged in combat with foreign enemies of the United States and its allies while conducting operations in the air as aircrew members, on the seas aboard U.S. naval ships, and on each of the major continental land masses as well as numerous islands around the world. In no small measure, their contributions toward the preservation of our freedoms, though largely unheralded, have been vital to the continuance of our national security and our way of life. The command has been blessed with an abundance of talented members who possessed the skill sets and intellectual capacity, coupled with unselfish dedication and commitment, to conquer whatever challenges they encountered – often while confronting significant adversity and at great personal sacrifice.

The Freedom Through Vigilance Association's founders established the Hall of Honor in 1983 to honor those individuals who served the command with great distinction and contributed immeasurably to successful mission accomplishment. To date, 192 individuals have been inducted into the Hall of Honor. They include former officer, enlisted and civilian personnel whose contributions as technicians, supervisors, planners, managers and leaders extend from World War II through the ongoing conflicts. The Hall of Honor preserves the legacy of those who have gone before, highlights their deeds, and honors their contributions to the Nation.

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

Nominations must be received not later than 1 June 2020 by email. Email nominations to me at chiefajh@gmail.com and to Lee Anthony at LeeAnthony@satx.rr.com. When submitting nominations, please comply with the page, front and back, and font using the HOH Nomination

Form available on the website. I am more than willing to assist anyone on how best to develop a nomination. Thank you for your support and for recognizing those who are deserving.

Thank you and Remain In Touch.

**FTVA HALL OF HONOR
SUBMISSIONS
for the
CLASS of 2020
MUST BE SUBMITTED
NO LATER THAN 1 JUNE 2020
to
A.J. HARRISON
chiefajh@gmail.com
and to
Lee Anthony at
LeeAnthony@satx.rr.com**

16TH AIR FORCE NEWS

Compiled by Ken Maynard
Associate Editor

AFTAC HOCKEY STUNS CANADIAN EMBASSY TEAM IN D.C. THRILLER

Adapted from an article by Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs / Published February 12, 2020

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- On a weekend historically dedicated to tailgate parties, million-dollar TV commercials, puppy bowls and halftime extravaganzas, members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center hockey team traveled to Washington, D.C., Super Bowl weekend to face off against the Canadian Embassy, a first for the Florida-based club.



Members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center and Canadian Embassy hockey teams pose for a post-game group photo Jan. 31, 2020 after the Florida-based AFTAC team traveled to Washington D.C., for a match-up against the Canadians based in the nation's capital. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jason Nehmer)

Led by team captain Bill Hungate, a senior scientist at the nuclear treaty monitoring center, eight players made the trip to play a game that was a few years in the making.

AFTAC's hockey team is made up of skaters who work at the Department of Defense's sole nuclear treaty monitoring center headquartered at Patrick AFB in Cocoa Beach, Fla. Since 2015, the hockey enthusiasts have played more than 60 games, most of them for charity, as a way of coming together in a sport they all love.

"Back in May 2018, we hosted the FBI on our home ice in Rockledge, Fla.," said Hungate. "When it was time for us to travel to the National Capital Region to play the FBI on their home ice, they suggested we make a double-header out of it and play their cross-town rivals at the Canadian Embassy."

Forward Mike Nolan could barely contain his excitement at the prospect of playing against the North American team.

"These guys are Canadians!" he said, with a hint of reverence in his voice. "They represent the birthplace of hockey and probably learned to skate before they could walk. I couldn't wait to take to the ice for our match-up with them."

According to Hungate, the Embassy team was loaded with talent including Kirk Sullivan, who played collegiate hockey at the Royal Military College of Canada, which competes against universities and academies including the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

From the opening faceoff, it appeared the Canadians were in it to win it and quickly took a 3-0 lead in the first period. Before the start of the second period, Hungate rallied his teammates with a quick pep talk.

"I reminded the guys to keep the mistakes to a minimum and not to lose confidence," he said. "We can easily gain the momentum back, so let's go out there and put some behind their goalie."

As the second period began, the Canadians quickly changed the score to 4-0. AFTAC responded with a goal of their own three minutes later, and at the end of two, AFTAC knotted the score at 4-4.

"Bill flipped one by their goalie early in the third, and we never trailed again," said defenseman Tommy Flynn. "It was really exciting to be a part of this game and represent AFTAC in our nation's capital."

With just two minutes left in the game and the scoreboard showing 8-6, the Canadians pulled their goalie to get a 6-on-5 skating advantage.

"I don't ever want to see that many Canadians in our defensive zone again!" Nolan joked. "I was proud of our resiliency to win the game with only ten players. Every person on our team contributed with either a goal or an assist. Total team effort!"

AFTAC scored an open-net goal and went on to win, 9-6.

Getting a team on the road is never easy, especially since their first priority is accomplishing the AFTAC mission.

"A full squad is typically 14 skaters, but we left Florida with eight," said Hungate. "Nolan was able to reach out to some of his friends at the Fairfax County Fire Department and secured two more skaters for us."

Hussein Hirji, a Canadian diplomat and team captain of the Embassy’s team, had nothing but praise for the Florida-based team.

“From my perspective, AFTAC brought some of the best of what this country has to offer, and our game was a great symbol of friendship between our nations. It was a pleasure and an honor to play this great group, and I hope we can do it again soon.”

Hungate and his team were touched by Hirji’s comments and are already looking at dates to host the Embassy at the Space Coast Iceplex and possibly return to Washington, D.C., in the future.

“This was truly a first-class experience all around,” said Hungate. “I love this sport, and I love how it brings people from such varying backgrounds together. I can’t thank the FBI enough for connecting us with the Canadian Embassy, and I hope they will come to Florida so we can show them the same level of courtesy and respect as they showed us.”

CYBER SELS TALK ENLISTED MATTERS DURING PANEL

Adapted from an article by Tech. Sgt. R.J. Biermann, Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) Public Affairs / Published November 25, 2019



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas -- Several cyber senior enlisted leaders, including U.S. Marine Corps Master Gunnery Sgt. Scott Stalker, command SEL of U.S. Cyber Command, and U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Summer Leifer, Sixteenth Air Force command chief, discussed various cyber enlisted matters during an Alamo AFCEA Chapter Event panel in San Antonio, Texas, Nov. 20, 2019. The annual, four-day conference connected more than 2,500 cyber- and technology-focused professionals across military, business and academia.

THE SUN SETS FOR EAGLE VISION ONE

Adapted from an article by Tech. Sgt. Darnell T. Cannady, 480th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing / Published February 04, 2020

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. -- On Jan. 28, 2020, the 24th Intelligence Squadron held a sunset ceremony for the Eagle Vision One operation at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Eagle Vision was the Department of Defense's only deployable commercial satellite imagery downlink station centrally located in Europe. It used commercial software to provide aerial electro-optical or radar imagery. It produced fast, unclassified imagery useful for a variety of military and humanitarian operations.

This ceremony was one of many throughout the Air Force as units relinquish the use of Eagle Vision One.



A wooden plaque, memorializing Eagle Vision One in Ghana, lays on a table during a sunset ceremony at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Jan. 28, 2020. Eagle Vision One used satellite imagery to support operations as well as aiding allies during natural disasters. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Manuel Zamora)

REALIGNMENT - CONSIDERING CULTURE, VALUES AND RELATIONSHIPS TO END THE AIR FORCE SUICIDE CRISIS

Adapted from an article by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Hulter, Sixteenth Air Force / Published February 07, 2020

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii -- In the year 2019, the U.S Air Force reached an unprecedented rate of suicide, and our leaders were at a loss. Many took on a puzzled, somber tone in addresses to Airmen, often asking for insights, repeating over and over that they were listening, unsure how to take on this unrelenting, invisible adversary that continues to take our brothers and sisters from us. In August of 2019, I watched as Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General David L. Goldfein, stood in front of hundreds of Airmen at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam with little more to say than “We don’t know why this is happening, but we are listening.” I couldn’t help but wonder how a force with him and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

Kaleth O. Wright at the front, both vocal proponents of human-centered and connected leadership, could struggle to hear what it is our Airmen need.



I see similarities between this conundrum and the push in recent years for the Air Force to adopt a “culture of innovation.” Here also, our highest-level leaders demonstrate a firm grasp on the value of a new, inclusive approach calling on leaders to temper their risk-aversion and deconstruct barriers to divergence so that new ideas can emerge. Yet, the reality for Airmen on the ground often doesn’t reflect the proposed cultural shift. Mere insistence from the top appears to be powerless in the face of ingrained culture.

It is remarkable how senior leaders can insist on a new approach, yet it doesn’t do anything to change leadership habits on the ground. The truth is that leaders throughout our institution are aligned to a set of values with far greater influence than any senior leader. To solve this, we need to realign ourselves to new values, and that will take a lot more than mere commands from the top.

Our current leadership values are the product of a persistent industrial-age management mindset, in which individuals are mere complicated components whose productivity and efficiency should be optimized. This approach aims to calibrate parameters for maximum output. Motivation is simply the product of proper doses of punishment and reward. Managers are like chemists, adjusting doses of praise and punishment to a prescribed balance. That approach succeeded in a manufacturing-heavy world, where most work was the repetition of uniform tasks, at the quickest rate possible, with the least variance and error. But that is far from the world we live in today, where most work is knowledge work, and increasing complexity requires a new degree of autonomy, adaptability, and agility.

The Power of Relationships

Chris Fussell and General Stanley McChrystal know what it takes to successfully navigate the complex human domain. In their books One Mission and Team of Teams, they describe how a cumbersome, hierarchical command structure rendered U.S. forces in their Joint Task Force helpless against an agile, decentralized, and ideologically aligned enemy network in the early years of the Iraq War. This prompted them to undergo a complete organizational transformation.

In One Mission, Fussell provides a clear prescription for any organization to transform into an agile team-of-teams, prepared to take on the volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous environment that we now face. Here, I found insights that I believe the Air Force could take to the fight to keep our Airmen alive.

General McChrystal had an equation that he repeated often as the basis for the Joint Task Force's realignment:

$$\text{Credibility} = \text{Proven Competence} + \text{Integrity} + \text{Relationships}$$

Relationships are an integral part of becoming an agile organization. In One Mission, Fussell describes how relationships serve to shorten the distance between information and action by creating a network of "dotted-line" connections that aren't stifled by the inherent friction and latency of our bottlenecked official, hierarchical chains of communication.

Creating an agile team-of-teams requires:

1. Orienting around an aligning narrative.
2. Adopting conditions, habits, and systems which cultivate relational, dotted-line connections that span boundaries and connect silos.
3. Granting decision-space to leaders at the lowest levels.

The Air Force Aligning Narrative

The Air Force core values:

- Integrity First
- Service Before Self
- Excellence in All We Do

These tenets constitute the Air Force's aligning narrative, the set-in-stone principles that will guide us, regardless of what Air Force leaders attempt to advocate. It is significant that our core values only mention the individual to imply that they are less important than the mission.

Core values are far more important than many of us realize. They are a powerful instrument to grant decisive autonomy to leaders at lower levels, because they place guard-rails that define boundaries within which a leader's actions are preemptively sanctioned. Values-based execution empowers leaders and individuals across an organization to step outside standard practice when values are being threatened.

In the case of "service before self," what we've sanctioned is the unimportance of people relative to the function that they serve. Though intended to be in praise of sacrifice, in practice the value of individuals' experience is diminished. A degraded view of the individual has found its way into our aligning narrative. Though this may be a perversion of what "service before self" was intended to mean, the real power of core values lies in their clarifying simplicity, in their capacity to provide unambiguous guidance in uncertainty. If historical background and caveats are required to understand it, a value will not serve its aligning function well.

Throughout my career, I have seen the core value of “Service Before Self” employed casually as a bludgeon by NCOs, to justify the needless suffering of their charges, to dismiss objections to the sacrifices demanded of families, and to excuse their own tendencies for toxic, reactive, punishment-first, norm-enforcing management. Many leaders exercise their autonomy through negligence and cruelty, feeling perfectly aligned to our core values.

Making matters worse, we still intentionally train our leaders to view people as components of systems of systems. We fail to teach the leadership competencies required to navigate the more complex domain of human beings. This isn’t a mere misunderstanding of one of our core values. It is something we intentionally instill in our leadership corps, beginning with how they themselves were treated as young Airmen. An unchecked demand for sacrifice at the expense of the individual is a core component of our culture.

The human social environment is highly complex—the complexity of social dynamics compounded by that of each person’s internal state. Within that environment there is significant noise, so it takes a type of ‘weak-signal detection’ to know when a person near us is spiraling into a quiet, internal crisis. That detection is not just a skill. It is a function of the distance between us and the amplitude of the suffering individual’s signals. To draw any closer than arms-length, to express vulnerability over the cacophony of our noisy environment, to move against all of the cultural friction that holds us back, a suffering Airman has to feel they are safe. But Air Force leaders are often kept at a distance. Many are not trusted, because they explicitly value the individual’s function over feelings, in concert with the language of their core values. Many Airmen simply do not feel safe.

Realigning

“If we want people to fully show up, to bring their whole selves including their unarmored, whole hearts—so that we can innovate, solve problems, and serve people—we have to be vigilant about creating a culture in which people feel safe, seen, heard, and respected.”

— Brené Brown

The human-centered leader, in contrast, exercises autonomy on behalf of the individual. They foster an environment in which distress can be detected and responded to. They actively engage with their charges to build trust and detect anguish, to sense out the need to adapt their approach to what will empower the individual to contribute. They value, above all else, the well-being of every individual in their charge.

“Probably the most important thing you can do to build trust is to spend a little time alone with each of your direct reports on a regular basis.”

— Kim Malone Scott, Radical Candor

Every one of us plays a part in rolling this massive boulder of culture forward. We must personally and institutionally embrace and internalize the value of our people without pitting their well-being against mission accomplishment. Until we recognize, communicate, and consistently demonstrate putting people first, we will continue to fail to create the sense of safety

that they need to allow us to know what they need. It takes a different kind of bravery to remain unmoved by how a person's struggle may be impeding our mission.

Even beyond the recent scourge of suicides, our lack of alignment with human-centered values holds further consequences. Relationship-driven, human-centered values play a pivotal role in making our organization agile, adaptive, innovative, responsive, and resilient, as General McChrystal did with the Joint Task Force. The culture that facilitates openness, candor, psychological safety, and positive divergence pays dividends not just for individual well-being, but for advancement and innovation as well. Human-centered leadership *is* how we move the mission forward.

We, as a culture, have drifted drastically off course. We have contracted a cultural malady that confounds our best efforts to detect it. It pulls us apart and isolates us. It saps our creativity and inhibits innovation. It strips us of our sense of safety and belonging and leaves in its wake a devastating chain of deaths.

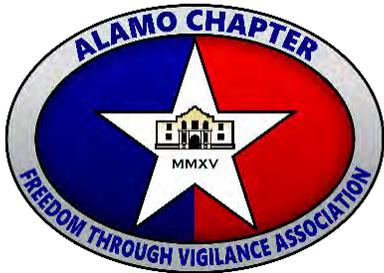
It is time to realign to better values. We must create a culture propelled by the power of relationships, in which leaders value the 'self' of their charges more than merely their 'service'. This is how we will lay the groundwork for an Air Force that allows, enables, and empowers Airmen to escape their isolation, to admit their pain, and to brave the vulnerability of expressing their experience.

Until our Airmen feel safe enough to speak, no amount of listening will let us know what they need.

FTVA CHAPTER NEWS

Forward your chapter inputs at any time (monthly, weekly or all at once) to William "Bill" Brockmiller, FTVA Board Vice President and current Chapter Liaison WBUSAF@gmail.com.

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Alamo Chapter
San Antonio, TX
Barnie Gavin, President
Ken Maynard, Secretary/Treasurer

January Meeting. The San Antonio Chapter of the FTVA held their monthly meeting at the Saltgrass Restaurant on 16 January 2020. Fellowship and dinner were enjoyed by the 20 members, spouses and guests present. Those attending included:

- Barnie Gavin
- Ken Maynard + 4
- Ken Williams + 1
- Dan Hagy + 1
- Bob Crabtree + 1
- Dennis Rassmussen
- Leroy Rogers + 1
- Jesse Greene
- John Lopes
- David Martin + 2

President Barnie Gavin called the meeting to order at 1830 and entertained discussion about whether or not monthly meetings were too frequent. After some debate, Ken Maynard moved to keep the current meeting schedule. Ken Williams seconded, and the motion passed.

Ken Williams briefed that the annual FTVA Spring Social is set for 1730, 21 March 2020, at the Sea World Marriott. We plan to have either 16 AF/CC or 16 AF/CMS as the guest speaker.

The transition to 16 AF, the largest Numbered Air Force, is complete. The commander, Lt Gen Timothy Haugh, pinned on his third star concurrent with the standup of the new organization.

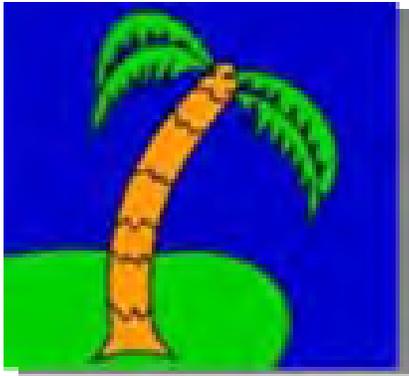
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1836, and fellowship continued.

February Meeting. The San Antonio Chapter of the FTVA held their monthly meeting at the Saltgrass Restaurant on 20 February 2020. Fellowship and dinner were enjoyed by the 15 members and spouses present. Those attending included:

- Barnie Gavin
- Vince Colaccio +1
- Ken Williams + 1
- Dan Martin
- Grady Robinson +1
- Homer Waring
- Bob Crabtree +1
- Mike Shields
- Mark Hess +1
- Alan Daugherty

President Barnie Gavin called the meeting to order at 1800 and discussed the upcoming annual Spring Social activities set for 21 March 2020 at 1730 at the SeaWorld Marriott, Hwy 151. It was decided the Spring Social would suffice for the Alamo Chapter's March meeting and the next get together of the Alamo Chapter would be on 16 April. Grady Robinson discussed the recent passing of a Tuskegee Airman in San Antonio, leaving only two remaining San Antonio resident Tuskegee Airmen.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1830.



Aloha Chapter Honolulu, HI

John “Tilly” Toillion, President

The Aloha Chapter held its first quarterly get together on March 6 at Mililani Ruby Tuesdays, our favorite watering hole. Attendees were Dickie Hites, Ken Een, and John Toillion. Unfortunately, Fred Collins couldn't make it as he was not feeling well.

Main topics of discussion included: Hawaii's first COVID-19 positive case; war stories; DAV, and a wee bit of politics (e.g., the fact that Hawaii's Rep Tulsi Gabbard continues in the POTUS race with one delegate. Also, we were happy to hear that FTVA heritage continues to live along with the 25th AF under the 16th AF.

While we've had lots of winds and rain lately, the palm trees continue swaying and the surf's a pounding for anyone headed this way. That be it from the coconut wireless. A-looooo-ha!!



Aloha Chapter Members (L-R) Dickie Hites, Ken Een and John “Tilly” Toillion at the 6 March meeting.



Heritage Chapter San Angelo, TX

Ronald 'JJ' Graham, Chapter President

Larry Ross, Secretary/Treasurer

Heritage Chapter Social

**Submitted by and photos by
Larry Ross, Chapter Secretary**

With 43 members and guests attending, the Heritage Chapter on 9 January held its annual winter social. This was the largest gathering in memory. There was no business meeting - just fellowship and having a good time. Special guests were CMSgt LAVOR Kirkpatrick, 17th TRW Command Chief, his son LAVOR Jr., Dr. Joe Ryan, 17th TRW Historian, Ray and Kitty Leftwich, and my daughter Laura Ross, who traveled from Austin. Below are some photos commemorating this historic occasion. On the next couple of pages, we have some highlights of the festive occasion.



One of the two fully occupied tables depicting about half of the 43 members and guests who attended the 9 January Heritage Chapter Social.



ABOVE, Cindy Willey arrived bearing gifts for each family while Wayne Bascom performs quality control of the wares displayed using past IG Team methodology. I think Cindy's work was rated OUTSTANDING.



ABOVE, Heritage Chapter President JJ Graham presents Ray Leftwich with a Certificate of Honorary Membership in the Heritage Chapter.



RIGHT, Chief Kirkpatrick (right) congratulates Ray Leftwich on his award as Larry Miller and JJ Graham look on approvingly.



ABOVE, Karen Bingham, Diane Ross, Laura Ross (both with back to camera), Ray and Kitty Leftwich (in background). BELOW, Ed Bendinelli and Laura Ross smile for the photog.

ABOVE, Tom Nurre, JJ Graham and Ed Bendinelli each received a coaster depicting a Trans Texas Airways C-47 aircraft. Records show that the EC-47 replica aircraft on display in front of the 17th Training Wing headquarters building on Goodfellow AFB was once operated by Pioneer Airlines. It's almost certain that it was used on a route that included San Angelo.

BELOW, Stalwart Al Wankowski gets a smooch from Harriett Samad at the Heritage Chapter's Winter Social.



To the RIGHT, Sherry Kirner happily displays made her selection of the gifts donated by Cindy Willey.



FORMER VIETNAM-ERA EC-47 PILOT VISITS GOODFELLOW FOR THE FIRST TIME

Written by JJ Graham
Photos by Larry Ross

On 13 November, a class of Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Operators graduated from technical training. Some of the graduates, including A1C Casey Schaive, were lucky enough to have some of their relatives attend the graduation. For one relative, this was a special visit.



Retired CMSgt Tom Nurre (left) presents former Capt. Jack Bulleit an EC-47 challenge coin in front of the EC-47 display inside the 17th Wing Headquarters Building.

Jack Bulleit, A1C Schaive's great-uncle, has a connection to Goodfellow AFB that he only recently became aware of. A former Air Force captain, he flew EC-47s during the Vietnam War. While communicating with A1C Schaive prior to his graduation, Mr. Bulleit became aware of the EC-47 memorial located at the 17th Training Wing headquarters building. Having no idea that such a memorial existed, Mr. Bulleit decided he needed to accompany A1C Schaive's father, John, to attend the graduation and visit the memorial. When A1C Schaive informed a 316 TRS staff member that his great uncle

flew EC-47s in Vietnam and would be here for his graduation, things started happening. The staff member, retired CMSgt Ron "JJ" Graham, happens to be the president of the Heritage Chapter of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association, an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of the Air Force intelligence mission and its personnel. Chief Graham alerted fellow chapter members, including retired CMSgt Tom Nurre, who runs the EC-47 History Site. They contacted the 17th Training Wing Base Historian, Dr. Joseph Ryan, and in no time at all a tour of the EC-47 memorial was arranged. There was also a dinner arranged for Mr. Bulleit and his family to meet with members of the Heritage Chapter.

Mr. Bulleit entered the Air Force in February 1967. "I knew I wanted to fly at an early age and the Air Force was known for its high quality training and that's what I wanted. So I went through

ROTC in college and that's where it all began. I can honestly say that the training saved me and my crews throughout my career."

"My first assignment was flight training at Selma AFB, Alabama, and I received my wings in February 1968." Mr. Bulleit stated he actually requested follow-on training with the C-47 aircraft as a veteran Air Force pilot told him that was the best aircraft to start out with. "My next assignment was C-47 training at England AFB, Louisiana, which lasted until April 1968, and then off to Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam, and the 360th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron. I came back to the states in December 1969 as I was asked to extend due to a shortage of qualified pilots." Mr. Bulleit separated from the Air Force in August 1972.

He loved talking about his Vietnam experiences. Reflecting on his time flying the EC-47 and working with the intelligence personnel from the 6994th Security Squadron, Mr. Bulleit said he really enjoyed flying those then highly classified missions. A part of the "front end" crew, he had no specific knowledge of the intelligence mission details. He referred to himself as the "bus driver" for the Morse code operators in the "back end" of the aircraft, who were busy finding and fixing enemy locations. Mr. Bulleit added, "I loved flying the EC-47 and (working) the mission. I was always impressed and thankful that my crew and all the radio operators I flew with wanted to get the job done no matter what we had to do. I sometimes put them in what some would consider dangerous situations, but they never complained. I had no thoughts that the plane wouldn't get us through it and it did."

When asked if there were any particular missions that stand out in his mind, Mr. Bulleit recalled one especially satisfying mission. "I want to tell you about a particular mission that I am extremely proud of that took place in early January 1969. We were flying a night mission in the 3 Corps area of Tay Ninh Province. This area was a known infiltration area for the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong (VC). The radio operators picked up a signal from a VC regiment and determined that they were about to assault a U.S. fire support base near Tay Ninh City. My navigator made contact with the ground troops and alerted them to the danger. He told me they were totally unaware of the coming action and immediately prepared. We stayed on top to monitor transmissions and spot ground fire. The VC apparently thought they had total surprise, but the surprise was on them. The assault lasted about 45 minutes to an hour and our guys ruled the day. I could not have been prouder of the guys. I wasn't able to confirm it, but I was told the action contributed heavily to the 360th receiving a "Unit Citation with Valor" from the Army. I think the 6994th received the same citation."



A1C Chase Schaive, recent Goodfellow graduate, is flanked by his father, John Schaive, and his great-uncle, Jack Bulleit, Vietnam Era EC-47 pilot, as they pose at the EC-47 aircraft display outside 17th Training Wing Headquarters Building.

During his time in the Air Force, Mr. Bulleit flew 201 missions in the EC-47 and accumulated 1,545 hours of flying time. Near the end of his time in the service, he flew C-141 missions. Some of these missions included flying KIAs from Vietnam back home to the United States. He stated this was not a particularly “good” mission, “but a necessary one.”

Mr. Bulleit now lives in Cleveland, Georgia, in the shadow of the Appalachian Mountains. He is proud that his great-nephew will be adding to the legacy of service in the Air Force and in the intelligence mission. And it’s safe to say Goodfellow was proud to welcome this veteran and provide some insight into his service in Vietnam.



Dr. Joseph Ryan, 17th Training Wing Historian, retired CMSgt Tom Nurre, EC-47 Association, and former Capt. Jack Bulleit, former EC-47 pilot, at the EC-47 aircraft display outside 17th Training Wing Headquarters Building.

Hanoi Hilton Brick Presented to National Vietnam War Museum

**Written by Larry Miller
Photos by Larry Ross**

Last December 7th, the two Larrys – Ross and Miller – traveled to Mineral Wells, Texas to visit the National Vietnam War Museum and present them with one of the “Hanoi Hilton” bricks on behalf of Heritage Chapter and the Doggers.

The trip coincided with the Museum’s annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony near their display



of a Huey helicopter on the Museum’s grounds. The Museum is in the midst of a long-term, multi-year construction plan with the first phase now nearing completion giving them 18,000 square feet of displays depicting all aspects of the Vietnam War. Ultimately, they will have more than 54,000 square feet of displays honoring all the services’ veterans of the conflict. Following a number of introductions and approaching sunset, the local family of a

deceased Vietnam vet was called forward to turn on the switch to the brightly decorated Christmas tree on the Museum grounds adjacent to the static displayed Huey helicopter.

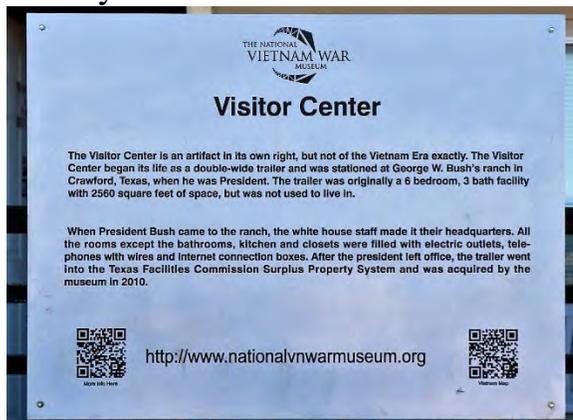
Mr. Jim Messinger, the Museum’s treasurer, then called Larry Miller and SSgt Candace Weiss forward to present the brick. SSgt Weiss, assigned to the 1st Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field, FL., created an extraordinary painting depicting an F-4 flying over the Hanoi Hilton entitled “Waiting For Your Return” which will be displayed along with the brick in the Museum.



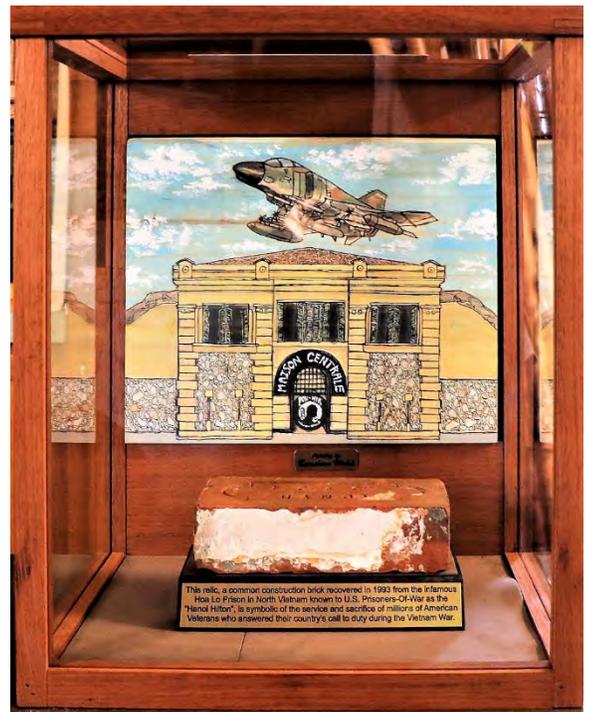
SSgt Weiss and Larry Miller present a brick to Jim Messinger, Museum treasurer.

Larry passed on a few words about the brick’s origin and its symbolism for veterans of the War. Following this, SSgt Weiss and Larry Miller presented the two items in a beautiful teakwood case to Mr. Messinger and the Museum.

The following photos taken at that time by the Heritage Chapter official photographer (cause he’s free!) Larry Ross. Our hosts at the Museum extended a very sincere thank you to all of us for our donations and indicated that



the brick and painting would be wonderful additions to their collection. We were invited back to the Museum in the future once all



Brick in Case

the dust settles and they have their new facility completed and the brick and painting on permanent display.



Future Museum Building



Veterans Paying Respects



Display Case



Visitors Center

SSgt Candice Weiss and Larry Miller assembling brick display case.



A Request from the Heritage Chapter

For those who maintain a mailing list or web site please give widest dissemination.

As many of you are aware, the web site to order memorial pavers to honor your service or that of your loved ones is now active.

**Many have already ordered.
If not, you may order on-line or via mail.**

Payment can be made through PayPal or by check.

The plaza will be located on Goodfellow AFB adjacent to the EC-47 aircraft.

Full information and options for ordering paver(s) is at:

<http://www.vietnam50thcpp.com/pavers>

Goodfellow AFB representatives have confirmed the following dedication ceremony schedule for Friday, March 27, 2020, at the EC-47 Memorial Plaza:

- 1400 (2:00 pm) Welcome/opening remarks
- 1410 Invocation/Colors/National Anthem
- 1420 Dedication Remarks
- 1435 Dedication of individual/groups of pavers
- 1445 Closing Remarks
- 1530 Reception for all attendees at the GAFB Events Center
- 1600 Open mic time for select attendee guest speakers
- 1700 Reception Closes
- 1700 - til Free Time or possible pre-arranged dinner option TBD

All times tentative except start time promptly at 1400 hrs (2:00 pm)

Please complete and submit an RSVP form as soon as your attendance plans are complete. We will take care of providing name tags, reserved seating and base passes as appropriate. The Sunday event has been a sell-out crowd in previous years...hint hint.

<http://www.vietnam50thcpp.com/rsvp-vietnam-veterans-day-ceremony>

Send questions/comments via info@ec47.com or contact Tom Nurre, NKP 70-71, at 325-949-7188.



Wasatch Chapter Salt Lake City, UT

Jacob Scheid, President
Shawn Heckman, Vice President

The FTVA Wasatch Chapter reached an important milestone in January 2020 marking our second anniversary as a Chapter. This also marks the turnover of our founding board members, Scott Lawson (President), Nick Batura (Vice), Melanie Sparr (Treasurer), and Eric Rasmussen (Secretary) to our newly elected officers for the next two years, Jacob Scheid (President), Shawn Heckman (Vice), and Lindsay Rasmussen (Treasurer/Secretary).

We kicked off the new year with a luncheon at the Hacienda Mexican Grill nearby the Air National Guard Base making it convenient for members to attend, great turnout with 16 members (no photos). Later in the month, we held our first official Chapter meeting at the Garage Grill in Draper where we welcomed out of town guest who also became our newest FTVA members, Ted Gambogi, John Holly, and Jon Hummen. We referred them to the Mid-Atlantic Chapter so they can engage from their home location in Maryland. We're off to a very good start for the next term and look forward to the ideas and leadership from our new board.



Jon Hummen, John Holly, Shawn Heckman (back), Emily Swinarski, Ted Gambogi (back), Jen Heckman, Jake Scheid (back), Lindsay Rasmussen, Eric Rasmussen (back), Nick Batura (back), Scott Loveless, Mark and Heather Allred, Scott and Angela Lawson (with daughter, Audrey)



Left, New and former FTVA Wasatch Chapter officers: Lindsay Rasmussen replacing Eric Rasmussen (Secretary), Nick Batura replaced by Shawn Heckman (Vice), Jake Scheid replacing Scott Lawson (President)/

Below, February 28, 2020 meeting at the Garage Grill in Draper. Mike Batura, Eric and Lindsay Rasmussen, Shawn and Jen Heckman (back), Nick and Elisha Batura

Our new leadership hosted their first meeting on February, 28th 2020 at the Garage Grill in Draper and set goals for the coming year. We continue to focus on increasing membership within the chapter and attendance at future meetings and events. For May, we're sponsoring our first annual FTVA Wasatch Spring Bowling Mixer where we hope to invite some of our British counterparts to attend. In June, FTVA Wasatch Chapter plans to participate in the Huntsman Cancer Walk in June in honor of Rich Marks. Rich is an honored and beloved retired member of the 169 IS as a Hebrew Linguist and AMS, currently battling cancer. August will feature FTVA Wasatch Chapter sponsoring the "Beaner Banner" reunion, details to be announced. See our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/147113162599404/>) for more information as announcements on our meetings held fourth Fridays at 6:00pm (locations vary). If you're ever in town visiting, we'd love to see you join us.

We continue to invite you to connect with us on Slack (slack.com). We've created a workspace for the FTVA organization at large and have all the chapter presidents and



officers added, we're just waiting for you to join us. It's very flexible, easy to use and provides a great way to "Remain in Touch" with FTVA members near and far. The more members we can get on the platform, the more active and productive we can all be in promoting our FTVA. Please follow the link in this newsletter and contact Scott Lawson at lawson.scott1@gmail.com or Roy Burnett at rebyells@gmail.com if you need help.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Submitted By

Bob Bastian, Chapter Member

"The Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter is looking for a few good Airmen willing to serve through December 2020 as President and Vice President.

Both those positions became vacant recently due to the unexpected departures for greener pastures of Dave Doiron and Bill Grayson. Anyone in the Maryland, D.C., Northern Virginia, Southern PA, Delaware, and West Virginia area that would like to volunteer for either of those positions may contact Bob Bastian @ bobbast@comcast.net.

Once we have a new President and Veep installed, the Chapter can move forward in planning activities for Armed Forces Week (May) at Fort Meade, MD, and a potential fall 2020 Mid-Atlantic Region Social. In the meantime, if you are interested in helping plan Armed Forces Week activities and/or a Fall Chapter Social, please contact Bob Bastian.



Rocky Mountain Chapter Colorado Springs, CO

Greg Roman and Stan Cook Co-Presidents

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

The FTVA Rocky Mountain Chapter had new chapter leadership elections during the last monthly meeting. Congratulations to:

- Co-Presidents: Greg Roman and Stan Cook
- Vice President and Secretary: Mike Click
- Treasurer: George Eichelberger

Congratulations to our very own, Greg Roman, as a 2019 Hall of Honor inductee. The ceremony took place in October 2019 and Greg had a large entourage of family in tow for the ceremony. Greg also attended the annual National FTVA meeting and represented the Rocky Mountain Chapter.

The Rocky Mountain Chapter made a commitment to conduct a Vietnam Commemoration ceremony for those eligible and attending the Roll Call meetings in San Antonio during the 2020 FTVA events in San Antonio. As the possible future home for the new Space Force, we are proud that Chief Towberman has been announced as the first Command Chief. He has extensive time with our command starting with AIA to today's 16th Air Force. Roll Call leadership asked us to get involved and see if we can invite Chief Towberman to be a guest speaker at the Roll Call dinner.

The annual Rhinos golf tournament is 27 July 2020 and the FTVA Rocky Mountain Chapter is one of the beneficiaries of the fund raiser.



Gold Country Chapter Yuba City, CA



By

Stewart Harris, President

Hello FTVA Community!

The Gold Country Chapter has appointed Stewart Harris as the new president taking over for John Aurelius. In chapter news, we moved the monthly meeting from the Coyote Pub to the Vault (Heritage Room) at the DGS-2 campus in order to recruit and appeal to more active duty members.

Our first meeting was a success with four new prospects for membership. I plan on reaching out to a prior U-2 and SR-71 pilot to join us for the next meeting as a guest speaker to further encourage and appeal to the population at DGS-2 to come out and support the association.

The chapter is also interested in learning if there any awards offered at the association level that we could send on a quarterly or yearly basis? Many packages I submit for my Airmen are for various associations across the nation and serve as a good advertisement for their programs but was unaware of a similar program through FTVA but thought it would be worthwhile to ask.

Additionally, if there any speakers at the Board of Directors in San Antonio that enjoy traveling or frequent Northern California that would be interested in coming to talk to our chapter to further drum up interest in the association, they would be most welcome. Members of other chapters (Aloha, Heritage, Mid-Atlantic, Alamo, Rocky Mountain, etc.), are always welcome

Finally, if you could put me in contact with someone who could get me a roster of all the Gold Country chapter members HQ is tracking, it would be much appreciated.

Thank you and looking forward to working with you in the future.



**REUNION
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Misawa Project Annual Reunion
June 25-28, 2020**

The Misawa Project is holding its annual reunion this year in Tucson Arizona from 25 June through 28 June 2020 at the Tucson Casino Del Sol. All USAFSS Members who served on "The Hill" at any time between 1949 and 30 September 1979 are invited to attend. If you are not a member of the Misawa Project SPOKT site, please go to the "USAFSSMisawaHill" Web Site listed below for reunion information and/or to request membership in order to access Reunion Registration forms. BCNU in Tucson. URL: <https://usafssmisawahill.com/>. POC: Gayle Laraway, Phone: (719) 310-7056, E-mail: ladyosfan@gmail.com

**Peshawar Air Station Alumni Association Reunion
September 27-October 1, 2020**

The 12th reunion of the Peshawar Air Station Alumni Association will take place at the Holiday Inn Dayton/Fairborn in Fairborn Ohio September 27 - October 1, 2020.

The primary activity will be the dedication of a Memorial Plaque for all of those who served at Peshawar Air Station. The plaque will be located at the Memorial Park of the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The dedication is scheduled for Wednesday September 30 at 11AM. All are welcome to come to the dedication.

Activities will include tours of the National Museum of the USAF and The Wright Brothers National Museum at Carillon Historical Park. Potential visits include The Huffman Prairie Flying Field, The Wright Brothers Memorial, the Armstrong Air and Space Museum, the National Veterans Memorial and Museum and many other points of interest in the area.

For further information and updates, please contact Tom Davis at badaber@att.net or 937-470-3395.

FTVA VIGILANT PARTNERS

P.O. BOX 691616
San Antonio, TX 78269
March 2020



PLATINUM PARTNERS
Mrs. Doyle E. Larson
(IMO Maj Gen Doyle E. Larson)
Prop Wash Gang
(IMO CMSgt Tom Tennant)



GOLD PARTNERS
Security Services Federal Credit Union
Engrave-Tech & Graphics
Air Force Federal Credit Union
William F. Sheck
Anonymous
(IMO MSgt Robert "Bob" Fenstermacher)



SILVER PARTNERS
Anthony F. Jensen
Grover Jackson
Regis F.A. Urschler
Bob & Debbie Cope
"Picnic Partners"
Grant and June Howells & Ken and Hide Lantz
(IMO Robert Lantz)
Donald Bundy
Greg Radabaugh



BRONZE PARTNERS
Mark and Amy Hess
Henry Whitney
Ronald Hentz
(IHO Col Bob Cope)
Larry and Alice Boyce
E.W. Forbess
Perry Eisenhower



PATRON PARTNERS
CMSgt Roger Towberman
James Mayer
Charles Bishop



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

CHATTER ROLL

The following is a selected list of folks taking that extra step to *Remain In Touch* by signing in to the FTVA Website (www.ftva.org) in the past few months.

E-Mail Address: hofreunion@ptd.net

First Name: Jerry

Last Name: Mangas

Unit: 6915th Security Gp, Hof, Bavaria

Comment: 203 -1, -A, -N, Trabzon, Turkey and Hof Germany for overseas assignments, Goodbuddy, NSA Fort Meade (long TDY) and Syracuse - Skytop, 2 tours, for US assignments.

E-Mail Address: Mailman.we@gmail.com

First Name: William (Bill)

Last Name: Etherton

Unit: 6960th Kelly AFB

Comment: Nicknamed Shaky at Chix and Pitbull at San Vito.

E-Mail Address: huskphin@aol.com

First Name: Charles

Last Name: Long

Unit: 6910 Scty Gp/Supply Admin

Comment: 6937 (63-64) HQ USAFSS/64-65; TSN (Drill Press) 65-66; Det 2, PSR/66-67; PSR/68-69; 6910/70-72.

E-Mail Address: donhaygood@msn.com

First Name: Don

Last Name: Haygood

Unit: USAFSS 1974

E-Mail Address: sim35mamm@frontier.com

First Name: David

Last Name: Simpson

Unit: Shiroy AFB

Comment: 1956-1958 reassigned to Tachikawa 1958-1960 (202)

E-Mail Address: SMSgtMike@aol.com

First Name: Michael W

Last Name: Murray

Unit: NSA

Comment: Assigned to NSA Jun 83 as DOD/JT Acty Education and Training Officer. Ran the CY-200 National Level Senior Military Cryptologic Supervisors Course. Retired Oct 1984.

E-Mail Address: eyezman6215@gmail.com

First Name: Lawrence

Last Name: Straszewski

Unit: TUSLOG Det 94 (KCDI)

Comment: Former USAFSS and AFIS member.

E-Mail Address: rm.jacobs@verizon.net

First Name: Ronald

Last Name: Jacobs

Unit: 6970 SW, FT Meade, MD

Comment: Just a hi and Merry Christmas to members of AFSSO 31AD, AFSSO Eielson, 6924 SS, 6937 SG, HQ ESR,6970th in its various iterations, 6923 Student SQ.

Last Name - Kitkowski

First Name - George

Email - georgepearl1@gmail.com

Comments - Charles T. (Tom) Purkiss will be celebrating his 80th birthday on Jan. 25. He served as a Russian linguist in C-47 aircraft during Vietnam and continued on in USAFSS/ESC as an officer, retiring as a major. He is a member of the Prop Wash Gang. Please send him birthday greetings. It would be great if the Prop Wash Gang would also send him birthday wishes. Thank you.

His email address is: Ctpurkiss@earthlink.com

E-Mail Address: jeddzeppelin@gmail.com

First Name: Jed

Last Name: Rogers

Unit: 6917th ESS

E-Mail Address: hdlang23@gmail.com

First Name: Harry

Last Name: Lang

Unit: Det. 94, Karamursel 4/66-10/67

E-Mail Address: fmcjunki@comcast.net

First Name: Frank

Last Name: McJunkins

Unit: 6924th Security Squadron Da Nang, Vietnam

E-Mail Address: dicksmith4@hotmail.com

First Name: Richard

Last Name: Smith

Unit: 6940th

Comment: Just checking in to say hello and happy new year to our Association.

Last Name - Samad

First Name - Harriet

Email - samad2@suddenlink.net

Last Name - Marti

First Name - David

Email - davroma33@gmail.com

E-Mail Address: jimrobirds@yahoo.com

First Name: James

Last Name: Robirds

Unit: CGG Munich, Germany

E-Mail Address: glkob83@gmail.com

First Name: Gene

Last Name: Kobussen

Unit: 6987 Security Group, USAFSS

Country: United States

Comment: Basic Trng - Jan/Feb 1966 @ Lackland AFB Sqdn 3725, Flt 95 R79251 Morse Intcp
Opr Trng @ Keesler AFB Feb/Aug 1966 1st Assign - Adak Is, Naval Sta. AK Oct66 - Apr67
DF Operator, 2nd Assign, USAFSS HQ Kelly AFB (Medina Annex) May67 - Aug68, 3rd
Assign, Shu Lin Ku AS, Taiwan, DF Operator, Oct68 - Dec69

E-Mail Address: jimrobirds@yahoo.com

First Name: James

Last Name: Robirds

Unit: CGG Munich, Germany

E-Mail address: worriers@worriersanonymous.org

First Name: Bill

Last Name: Hazelwood

Unit: USAFSS

Country: USA

Comment: Just stopping by to say Howdy. I think I signed up here but cannot remember. Getting a bit long in the tooth now. Have a good day.

E-Mail address: WILLSON503@AOL.COM

First Name: William

Last Name: Wilson

Unit: Temple Central Airport, Berlin, GE

Country: United States

Comment: Photo and graphics

E-Mail address: ctpurkiss@earthlink.net

First Name: Charles

Last Name: Purkiss

Unit: HQ ESC

E-Mail address: garyanderson1938@gmail.com

First Name: Gary

Last Name: Anderson

E-Mail address: Bcampb3@gmail.com

First Name: Bennett (Ben)

Last Name: Campbell

Unit: 6988ESS

Comment: 6980th, 6981st,6988th,Electronic Security Alaska, and AF Liaison Office at NSA.

E-Mail address: Bacheek54@charter.net

First Name: Bruce

Last Name: Cheek

Unit: USAFSS

Country: USA

Comment: 207X1 Served in the security service at RAF Chicksands 74-76. Medina Jan - Aug 77

E-Mail address: gh-ov.texas@sbcglobal.net

First Name: George

Last Name: Hollis

Unit: USAFSS



FALLEN EAGLES

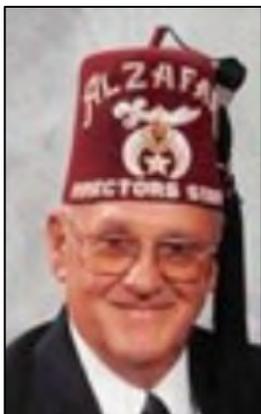


Received word of the following losses from caring relatives, friends or obituaries and offer prayers and sympathy to loved ones.

“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

- Barker, Bill, R. CMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Barnes, Frederick, W., MSgt (ret), USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Callow, Bennett L., USAFSS
- Cooley, Hiram Lindal “L.C.”, SMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Dix, Robert D., MSgt (ret), USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Grisham, Woodie R., Maj (ret), USAFSS
- Jones, Lee, MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Lanty, Michael, USAFSS
- Larkin, Duane W., CMSgt, (ret), USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member****
- McLane, Daniel William, USAFSS
- Meagher James P., MSgt (ret), USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Mihelcic, Henry “Hank”, Lt Col (ret), USAFSS
- Naab, David J. SMSgt (ret), USAF **FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Neeley, Thomas L., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Overton William T., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Potempa, Robert H., USAFSS
- Rehor, Michael W., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Rhoades, Donald E., USAFSS
- Scott, Jon M., MSgt (ret), USAF
- Shelton, Tommy Joel, Sgt, USAFSS
- Sjolander, Ardell “Red”, CMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Staples, Steve O., USAFSS
- Stevens, Jerry A., SMSgt (ret), USAF
- Webster, Alicia Britt, USAF
- Weeks, Ralph, USAFSS



Barker, Bill R., CMSgt (ret), 87, passed away Jan 18, 2020. He is survived by his son Franklin. Bill served 5 years in the US Army and 25 years in the USAF, retiring with a combined 30 years of service. He was stationed in various locations, including 15 years overseas, returning to Headquarters Air Force Electronic Security Service Command in San Antonio, Texas after each assignment. He spent three years in Saudi Arabia as a contractor with McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corp. after his military service. Upon returning to the U.S. in 1986, he went to work for the US Air Force as a Civil Service employee, until he once again retired in 1997. Bill considered Berlin, Germany, the pinnacle of his military career, where he served as a Senior

Enlisted Advisor (Command Chief) to the Berlin US Air Force Commander. **//Obit Porter Loring Funeral Home//**



Barnes, Fred W., MSgt (ret), 86, passed away Jan 7, 2020. Fred served 20 years in the USAF retiring in 1971 as a Weather forecaster. He met his future wife, Edna, at Offutt Weather Central, NE, where they served as USAF coworkers. His overseas assignments were: Thornbrough AFB, Cold Bay, Alaska; Seoul, Korea; Hakata Japan and Frankfurt, Germany. Fred was a sports enthusiast. He played fast pitch softball, basketball and nine man touch football in the USAF. The Air Weather Service Teams at Offutt AFB, NE,

were base and district champions in softball and football many times. Additionally, Fred served as a Little League Manager, Coach and Player Agent in Japan and Germany. Left to cherish Fred's memory are his loving wife Edna for 64 years and son, Ted. **//Obit Bryan-Braker Funeral Home//**

Frederic Wayne Barnes (AKA: Fred) was a 253 (Weather Forecaster) assigned to the Daze Flight with the 6918th RSM/SS during the 1965-67 time frame.

On 02 July 2019, based on Fred's many years of service to the city of Fairfield CA, the Fairfield CA City Council unanimously approved the renaming of the Street that Fred had lived on for many years from Chestnut Drive to Fred Barnes Drive. An honor truly deserved by our FTVA Lifetime Member and "Fallen Eagle" Brother. **//Bill Spencer//**



Callow, Bennett L., 83, passed away March 16, 2019. He is survived by his wife Carolyn; Daughters Beth, Lisa, and Kathryn. **//Obit Slack Funeral Home//**

He served on C Flight at Bremerhaven, Germany with the 6913th RSM from 1958 to 1959. **//6913th.org//**



Cooley, Hiram Lindal "L.C.", SMSgt (ret), 76, passed away Dec 20, 2019. He is survived by his wife Gayle Cox; daughters, Stephanie, Stacey; sons, Jeffrey, Colin, Mr. Cooley was a USAF Veteran serving multiple tours in Vietnam and serving in the security services. He retired from the Air Force in 1984. **//Obit McEvoy Funeral Home//**



Dix, Robert "Bob", MSgt (ret), 75, passed away Dec 3, 2019. He was a proud retiree of the USAF and the US Postal Service. He's survived by a brother, wife & four children. **//AZ Central//**

Bob was a Russian Linguist. Assignments included 6917th Scty Sq 1972-1974. **//Grover Gore//**



Grisham, Woodie R., Maj (ret), 97, passed away Feb 11, 2020. Woodie joined the USAF to see the world. His assignments included Asia, Europe, Hawaii, and six states on the mainland. He worked his way up from Morse code operator to major in the intelligence branch of the Air Force, and was once assigned to the National Security Agency at Fort Meade, Maryland. Woodie retired from the military and moved to Austin in 1967.

//Obit [www.legacy.com//](http://www.legacy.com/)



Jones, Lee, MSgt (ret), 80, passed away Feb 25, 2020. He joined the USAF and was trained as a Russian Linguist and deployed to the military base in Samsun, Turkey. The next assignment brought him to Bremerhaven, Germany. In August of 1960 his buddy, Stan Coster invited him to his wedding to Maria Schuette in Bremerhaven. At the reception he met one of the bridesmaids, Anita Sudmann. Lee spent 26 years in the military, with assignments to Turkey (twice), Germany (three times), Shephard AFB, Wichita Falls, Washington, D.C., Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and his last assignment at Bergstrom AFB, Austin. He is survived by his wife Anita; sons Stefan and Bertram. **//Obit [www.legacy.com//](http://www.legacy.com/)**

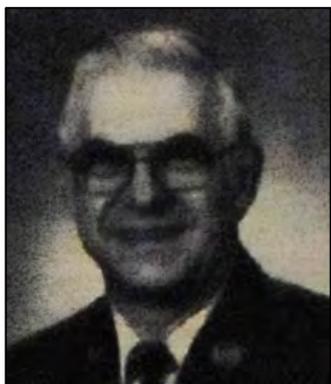


Lanty, Michael "Mickey", 71, passed away Jan 19, 2020. He was married to Rosalie Ann Lanty in Springfield, Massachusetts on December 26, 1969 and began a 20 year career in the U.S. Air Force. He retired in 1990 in San Angelo, Texas. His passion for photography resulting in his photographs being purchase in local newspapers. **//Johnson's Funeral Home//**

Mickey's service was held out at Lawnhaven Cemetery out by the base at 2:00 PM on January 29th. Turnout was probably close to eighty people. The military portion of it included a firing party, a beautiful playing of Taps by a single bugler, and the best flag folding ceremony I've ever seen. Besides me, Carl Muellner and JJ Graham were there. Following the pastor's words,

I asked if I could say a few words. Lanty trained as a Vietnamese linguist and later Arabic. I kind of set it up by talking about what I knew of Mickey's career, and that I was privileged to have flown with him out of Kadena (6990th), and introduced Carl as one who had flown with Mickey out of Athens (6916th). I read Lonnie's poem and then presented the poem in a nice frame to Rosalie. She seems to be bearing up well despite the suddenness of Mickey's passing and appreciated having a few of Mickey's fellow Air Force friends in attendance. **//Larry Miller//**

I meet Mickey at several craft shows. He was a very accomplished photographer, especially wildlife and birds. I have a large framed print of two cranes sitting on my desk. **//Larry Ross//**



Larkin, Duane W., CMSgt (ret), 81, passed away Feb 8, 2020. Chief was 207X1. His assignments included the 6917th in San Vito (1965), 6910th at both Darmstadt & Augsburg (1968-1974) and 6920th at Misawa (1974-77). Duane served with 6994th, Det 2 in Pleiku I think. He was inducted into the Hall of Honor (2001). He leaves behind his wife Dolores, and children Debbie, Tammy and Duane, Jr. **//Ed Bendinelli//**

The picture is from the FTVA Hall of Honor Plaque. It can be viewed at <http://www.ftva.org/hoh/images/large/2001.jpg> **//Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//**



McLane, Daniel William, 68, passed away Feb 25, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF in the intelligence career, including as a Korean Linguist, for 23 years, retiring in 1993. Dan was a linguist who spoke multiple languages and was an instructor at Goodfellow AFB. Following his retirement, Dan earned a bachelor's degree to continue to serve his country as a systems engineer on defense projects in Florida and Virginia. The family held a memorial service on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at St. Mark Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Craig Meyers and Korean pastor Rev. Homoon Jeong officiating.

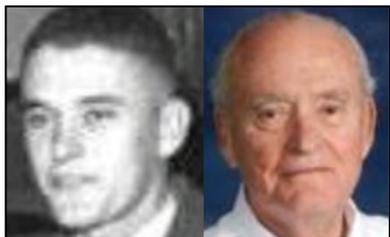
A military interment took place on Monday, March 2, 2020 at 2:15 PM at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio with full military honors. Interment arrangements were by Robert Massie Funeral Home, San Angelo.

Dan was born on December 23, 1951 to Russell and Pearl McLane. He was a 1970 graduate of Edison High School in Tulsa. Dan loved his country; however, the most important part of his life was his family. He married his love Lani in Korea in May of 1976. Dan was a devoted husband and father, who was present and involved in all the family's activities and education. He cherished his wife, their children, and later the grandchildren. He was their anchor and loved sacrificially.

The family would like to thank Kindred Hospice, especially Kathy, Pam, and Peggy, and his health care aides, Sam, Mercedes, Cynthia and Robbie for their dedicated care and support of the family, as well as Fire Station #4 for their kindness to the family and help with monthly transport.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents and by a sister, Kathleen McLane. He is survived by his wife, Lani; daughter Susan McLane; and son William McLane. **//Obit Robert Massie Funeral Home//**

//RIP Dan. Was my honor serving with you at Skivvy Nine. One of the best linguists and dart throwers. – Dennis Buxton//



Meagher James P., MSgt (ret), 86, passed away Nov 25, 2019. He served his country proudly in the USAF. He is preceded in death by his wife of 42 years, Arva Louise Meagher. **//Obit Harper Morris Memorial Chapel//**

He was stationed at Bremerhaven, Germany with the 6913th RSM from 1957 to 1959 and again from 1963 to 1965 on Charlie, then Delta then Easy Flights. **//6913th.org//**



Mihelcic, Henry "Hank", Lt Col (ret), 88, passed away February 23, 2020. Henry retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after a total of 25 years of service in the USAF. He was a veteran of the Korean War, Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam conflict. He enlisted in the USAF and served as a Morse code radio intercept operator during the Korean War. In 1955 he entered the Aviation Cadet program and in 1957 was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Regular Air Force. Most of his subsequent service was as a Navigator/bombardier in B-36 and B-52 aircraft of the Strategic Air Command. He married Darlene Nelson and a very happy 57 years of marriage followed. He is survived by his two sons, David and Peter. **//Obit**

– **www.legacy.com//**



Naab, David J., SMSgt (ret), 83, passed away Feb 5, 2020. He began his military career in 1953 and spent virtually all of the next 24 years in the United States Air Force Security Service, where he served as cryptanalyst and radio communications superintendent. He served in various airborne and ground units in Japan (Ashiya, Misawa, and Brady), Okinawa, the Philippines, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Greece, and Germany; in addition to assignments at Fort Meade, Maryland, Kelly and Goodfellow AFBs in Texas. He married his beloved wife, Suiko Kobayashi on August 27, 1963. Following his retirement from the Air Force, Mr. Naab worked for Sylvania Technical Systems in Mountain View, California and in Teheran, Iran as an

intelligence advisor to the Royal Iranian Air Force, performing both airborne and ground assignments until the Iranian Revolution in 1979. When he was released by the Revolutionary Government in March 1979, he returned to San Angelo, Texas. He was a member of the Association of Old Crows (Electronic Warfare), the 15th Radio Squadron Mobile Association, the 6918th Security Squadron Association, the Air Force Association, Misawains in America, Veterans of Foreign Wars (Post 7108), and the Angelo State Alumni Association. He was also a life member of the Air Defense Artillery Association and the Disabled American Veterans and the Freedom Through Vigilance Association. He is survived by his wife of over 60 years, Suiko; sons, Jonathan and Scott. **//Porter Loring Mortuaries//**

//David served from the mid 1950's til his retirement in the late 1970's - No obit or specific funeral plans are yet available. Dave was a long-time life member of FTVA and an original cadre of USAFSS traffic analysts in the Far East --Japan (including Atsugi, Misawa, Hakata, Okinawa) and also served in Europe including Crete as well as in the states at NSA and Goodfellow. RIP Amigo. //Dennis Rassmussen//



Neeley, Thomas L., MSgt (ret), 87, passed away Nov 19, 2019. His sense of duty helped lead him into the military where his understanding of rank, his willingness to abide by rules and regulations and his desire to follow orders was admired by his fellow service men and women. He started his military career at Kessler AFB. Tom served in multiple state-side and overseas assignment to include San Antonio, San Angelo, Germany, Philippines, Japan and Hawaii. He served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He received several awards recognizing for his service, including a Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force and Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Medal, Air Force Longevity Ribbon and Air Force

Marksmanship Ribbon. Tom met and married his sweetheart Anna Zirlott in 1954 in Pascagoula, Mississippi. They continue their journey through multiple military assignments and locations where they became world travelers. Thomas was blessed with four sons, Larry, David, Thomas and Jimmy; and daughter Renee. **//Obit Colonial Funeral Home//**

Thomas Leon Neeley (AKA: Tom) was a 202 (Radio Intercept Analyst) assigned to Baker Flight with the 6918th RSM/SS during the 1965-1968 timeframe. He retired from the Air Force in 1972 in the grade of Master Sergeant. //Bill Spencer//



Overton, William T., MSgt (ret) 84, passed away Dec 1, 2019 at the Arizona State Veterans Home in Tucson, AZ. He served in the USAF for 27 years, retiring as a MSGT. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Norma Overton and his children, Ladorn, Wilhelm, Mark, and Michael. //Obit Tucson.com///

He served as a Morse Intercept Operator on B Flight at Bremerhaven, Germany with the 6913th RSM from 1958 to 1960. //6913th.org//



Potempa, Robert H., 73 passed away Jan 28, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF 1965 and was assigned to 6950 Security Wing, Chicksands Base in England for 3 1/2 years as a Morse Code Interceptor. Robert is survived by his wife Barbara, son Robert. //Obit www.legacy.com///



Rehor, Michael William, CMSgt (ret), 78, passed away Aug 5, 2019. He graduated from Albion High School in Michigan in 1958 and enlisted in the USAF at age 17. Michael served thirty years with distinction and retired in 1989 as a Chief Master Sergeant. Michael is survived by daughter Jennifer and son Michael. //Obit T.M. Ralph Plantation Funeral Home///

Mike was an X2. I also worked with him at Chix, 76-79. //Francis Donahue//



Rhoades, Donald E. "Dusty", 83, passed away Jun 24, 2019. He served in the USAF from 1954 to 1958. //Obit www.legacy.com///

He served at Bremerhaven, Germany with the 6913th RSM from 1955 to 1958. He is survived by his sons Teddy and Jimmy. //6913th.org//



Scott, John M., MSgt (ret), 57, passed away Jan 19, 2020. He is survived by his best friend, soulmate and wife Deborah A. Scott and his mother Joyce Scott. He enlisted in the USAF in 1984 where he received extensive training in linguistics and communications. He was a decorated combat veteran of the Persian Gulf and Kosovo and served at numerous stations around the world where he received many commendations and medals. //Davis Watkins Funeral Home//

The March 2000 issue of the Air Intelligence Agency Spokesman Magazine has an article on how Jon was involved in the rescue of a downed F-117 pilot in Serbia. John was on the lead MH-53 helicopter that was part of the combat search and rescue operation. //Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//



Sjolander, Ardell "Red", CMSgt (ret), 85, passed away Nov 27, 2019. Red served 27 years in the USAF and had assignments in Okinawa, England, Germany, Vietnam and Texas. He retired from the USAF in 1979 and made San Antonio his home.

Red was preceded in death by Mary Grace Sjolander, his parents, and brother Roger. He is survived by his children: Weaver, Michael, Ronald, and Laura.



Staples, Steven Owen, 70, passed away Jan 18, 2019. He was a USAF Veteran. Steve is survived by his wife Diane, children Chad, Kami, Dari', Trent, Amanda and mother Lorraine Staples. //Obit www.legacy.com//

Steve O. Staples was a 292 (Morse Code Intercept Operator) assigned to Dawg Flight with the 6918th RSM/SS during the 1968-1970 timeframe. He passed away on 18 January 2019 at the age of 70. //Bill Spencer//



Shelton, Tommy Joel, Sgt, 68, passed away Monday, Feb 24, 2020. He was a Kentucky State Trooper from 1975-1979, and a US Air Force Vietnam Veteran. He is survived by his wife, Sherry Hancock; one son, Jeremy; three daughters, Melanie, Samantha, and Jessica. **//Obit Taul Funeral Home//**

He served from 1971 to 1974 as a 207X1 in Misawa on dog flight. **//Keith Hyland//**



Stevens, Jerry A., SMSgt (ret), 69, passed away Jan 22, 2020. He served in the USAF for over 25 years, retiring as a SMSgt. Jerry will be remembered for his quick wit, his beautiful smile, and his kind and compassionate spirit. He is survived by his wife Debbie; son Jeremy; daughter April; stepson David; and stepdaughter Amy. **//Facebook Post by Ms. April Wilkes on Jerry Steven's page//**

We were all shocked to learn about Jerry's passing. Amazing person. One of my AMSes in Panama. His assignments included Offutt AFB, Nebraska and Howard AFB, Panama. Honored to have served with him. Many tributes have been shared on social media for the family to view. My favorite quote is from CMSgt (ret) Fred Kerzic. "HUT II, Jerry, HUT II". Very fond memories. **//Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//**

I have very fond memories serving with Jerry looking up to him as my S&W decades ago. He has been a tremendous blessing and encouragement to me in recent years as a brother in Christ. **//Gerald Prater//**

Definitely one of a kind. Hard working, intelligent and devoted brother in arms. Your humor and love for life will always be remembered. So many years sharing so much time by your side, most of it in the airplane we both loved so much...So much pride my Hermano. Rest in eternal peace. **//Segundo Espinoza//**

We had a lot of fun as MKs. Was a great 2 op and AMS. One of a kind and thoughtful person. **//John Shultz//**



Webster, Alicia Britt, 43, passed away Jan 21, 2020. Alicia was a patriot and served our country in the USAF for 7 years where she was a Korean linguist. While in service, she met and married the love of her life for 21 years, Daryl Webster. They had 2 children, Sydney and Everett Webster, who she loved with her whole heart and soul.

Alicia worked for the last 15 years for the Veterans Administration.



Weeks, Ralph, 78, passed away Nov 10, 2019.

He joined the USAF, serving 20 years with two tours in Vietnam. He retired from the military as a recruiter. He is survived by his wife, Karen; son Cash; stepsons David and Lance; and stepdaughter, Lisa. **//Obit John J. Buettgen Funeral Home//**

He was stationed in Bremerhaven, Germany with the 6913th RSM as a 292, from 1960 to 1963 on "C" Flight **//6913th.org//**

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