

Remain In Touch

*FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER*



June 2024



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The President's Corner

By **Bill Brockmiller**
President, FTVA

Hello, everyone!

Spring has come and gone, and summer has arrived in full force with all the extreme weather events the nation is experiencing. I hope the extreme weather has had minimal impact on you and yours. Stay hydrated and protect yourself from the sun and severe weather.

Speaking of Spring, I would like to thank all of the folks that made our March Spring Social the awesome event it was! Your efforts made the event special for attendees! Chief Master Sergeant Robert Hopkins, 16 AF Command Chief Master Sergeant, was our guest speaker and provided insight into his career and his perspective on the Air Force, the Intelligence Community and what we may expect in the future. There will be organizational changes within the Air Force as we re-optimize amid the Great Powers Competition; we will provide updates as we get them.

Next up is our Anniversary/Reunion events, 17-19 October 2024. If you have any suggestions or want to volunteer for any of the events, please contact the FTVA Board of Directors. We should have the banquet's guest speaker identified in our next newsletter.

The Anniversary/Reunion events are as follows:

17 Oct 2024

5K (TBD) and Golf Tournament

18 Oct 2024

Hall of Honor, Remembrance Ceremony, and Picnic

19 Oct 2024

General Membership Meeting and Anniversary Banquet

Can FTVA contribute to good health and well-being? Absolutely!

People who remain connected with others and have strong personal relationships are likely to have a better quality of life.

The benefits of social connections and good mental health are numerous. These benefits may include lower rates of anxiety and depression, higher self-esteem, greater empathy, and more

cooperative and trusting relationships. Strong, healthy relationships can also help to strengthen your immune system, help you recover from disease, and may even lengthen your life!

While many of these benefits may make you happier and more contented, there may be a flow-on effect, whereby people around you will want to spend more time with you. In this way, social connectedness generates a positive feedback loop of social, emotional and physical wellbeing.

To the contrary, loneliness can have dramatic consequences for your health. Loneliness can lead to disrupted sleep patterns, elevated blood pressure, and increased cortisol (a stress hormone). It can affect your immune system and decrease your overall sense of contentment. Loneliness is also a risk factor for antisocial behavior, depression and suicide.

Older people (present company included) are particularly vulnerable. If one's mobility decreases, it can be harder to get together with other people. However, older people who remain connected with others and have strong relationships are likely to:

- *have a better quality of life*
- *be more satisfied with their life*
- *have a lower risk of dementia and mental decline*
- *need less domestic support*

Younger people (teenagers and people in their 20s-40s) are also at risk when they are isolated. A lack of social relationships can have a direct impact on a young person's physical well-being by increasing the risk of obesity, inflammation and high blood pressure.

Smart phones and social media don't necessarily mean that one is connected to people in a meaningful way.

It's important to recognize that loneliness is different from solitude. Feeling lonely is a problem, but being alone may not be a problem at all. Many people live alone and have happy, fulfilling lives.

Feeling lonely can be hard to cope with. Luckily, there are things you can do to tackle loneliness. For instance, you can nurture healthy relationships with people who make you feel good by spending time with them, and by trying to talk to someone every day.

There are three kinds of connections that you can have with people:

Intimate Connections

- with people who love and care for you, such as family and friends

Relational Connections

- with people who you see regularly and share an interest with, such as workmates or those who serve your morning coffee

Collective Connections

- with people who share a group membership (FTVA) or an affiliation with you, such as people who vote like you do, or people who have the same faith

Ask yourself: Do you have meaningful, long-term relationships in all three areas?

Perhaps you tend to stick with old friends and don't feel able to meet new people. Or maybe you avoid people from your past, preferring to mix with people who don't know much about you. Be honest with yourself and your social habits.

Think about the sorts of relationships you have with people, and the sorts of relationships you would like to have. You might find you want to make new friendships, or perhaps you want to try to make your existing relationships stronger.

One way to strengthen your social connections is to reach out to the people you already know, such as co-workers, family, school friends or neighbors. Give someone a call, write or email them and let them know you would like to be in touch more often. Arrange to have a coffee or a meal, or to listen to music, have a round of golf or play chess. Think about the interests you share. Facebook and other social media (FTVA!) are also great ways to meet new people and/or

Remain in Touch!

While most of us have had resiliency training during our careers, it is always good to pause and reflect upon its purpose. Especially as we, or others around us, experience new challenges or stages in one's life. You can enhance your life and/or others around you.

I write this because you are valued and can make a difference in people's lives.

Finally, thank you FTVA members for your support to those who serve and have served! Until next time...

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Hello Readers,

Welcome to another issue of *Remain in Touch*! This edition features a heavy dose of get togethers and honoring our Vietnam War veterans and their spouses. We’ve also added a “Member Support” section which recognizes our new and renewing members as well as giving you, the reader, a POC to directly contact for any questions you may have about your membership and web site access and support. Please reach out and contact Roy Burnett on these issues. We’re also proud to announce the formation of an official Membership Committee, the brainchild of our own Joe “Pepito” Figueroa. We can use your help in that area, so please contact Pepito. And, since we know all things change – even “our” Air Force, the 16th AF News section can keep you up to date on the evolution of this great branch of the armed services. And of course, take a look-see at what the Chapters are up to and their contributions to keeping our legacy alive. Lastly, but most sadly, we document the passing of alumni and alumna in the Fallen Eagles area.

As always, please send any and all input (including photos!) to me at newsletter@ftva.us or dennis.buxton@me.com. Next inputs are due to me NLT 1 September 2024.

Remain In Touch,
Dennis Buxton
Your Newsletter Editor



FTVA Hall of Honor

Lee Anthony, Program Chair



Nominations Due June 30th

Many thanks to those who have submitted nominations for the Class of 2024! We welcome all others and as I've stated before, we'll gladly find someone to assist with any nomination efforts. The Hall of Honor is a gateway for you to ensure that true legends are recognized. I'm confident that despite the forthcoming reorganization changes within 16 AF and AFCYBER, this program will remain as a legacy to our common crafts and to those who set the standards for all of us.

The cut-off date for 2024 Hall of Honor nominations is **June 30, 2024!** You've got time - go to the website (<https://ftva.us/the-hall-of-honor/>) or e-mail me (leeanthony@satx.rr.com) or A.J. Harrison (chiefajh@gmail.com) with your nominations, questions, and comments.

All Hall of Honor information is posted on the FTVA site, and Roy Burnett has even highlighted the info on the opening splash page of the website.

Thanks again for your program support! I look forward to hearing from you and keeping our Hall of Honor a model for others.

FTVA Member Support

Roy Burnett, Members Support Chair

New Lifetime Members

The FTVA recognizes the following individuals who have stepped up to Lifetime Membership status this past quarter.

Gary Parker, Hanover, MD

Douglas Reeder, Edgewood, MD

New Regular Members

In addition, we extend a welcome to the following folks that have become Regular members or renewed their annual memberships this past quarter.

George Durman, Knoxville, TN

Jeff Rogers, Somerville, TX

Richard Spicer, Cameron Park, CA

Thomas Besterfeld, Fredericksburg, VA

Karen Prendergast, San Antonio, TX

Rick Renshaw, Fort Worth, TX

Linda Hull

Membership or Website Issues?

Please address any issues relating to the FTVA website or membership to MemberSupport@ftva.us.

FTVA Membership Committee

Pepito Figueroa, FTVA Vice President

The FTVA board has given me the opportunity to expand my duties as your Vice President and one of the primary projects our President and board has authorized me to lead is improving membership. The goals are to enhance FTVA value to current members and future members, improve member engagement, and increase membership.

As your newly elected Vice President, I am requesting your assistance and participation. We will be coordinating with chapters and general membership for volunteers to serve on our Membership Committee and, more importantly, garner ideas on how to best meet these goals. **YOUR** ideas will always be better than anything we can come up with locally. Engaging nationwide members is the best strategy. The intent right now is to spread general awareness. Be on the lookout for more communications. Don't hesitate to contact me (pepfig@hotmail.com; joseph.figueroa361@gmail.com; cell: 402-452-4562) for any questions and ideas. Thanks again for this opportunity to continue to pay back the community I cherish so dearly.

Also, I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself and provide awareness on our efforts to improve FTVA membership. First a little bit about myself. I enlisted in 1985 as a Spanish Linguist. My first assignment was the 6933rd Electronic Security Squadron, Howard AFB, Panama.

My entire 29-year career was spent in Electronic Security Command and successor organizations, spanning the Cold War, Panama Invasion, many counterdrug missions, and several OIF/OEF deployments. My last deployment was to Afghanistan in 2013.

Assignments were mostly in the Airborne Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance arena. Operational assignments include C-130 COMFY LEVI/SENIOR SCOUT, RC-135 RIVET JOINT, Special Ops MC-130 Aircraft/AC-130 Gunships/MH-53 Helicopter organizations. Also had some staff assignments; last one at HQ Air Combat Command.

I retired as a CMSgt in 2014 and am committed to paying back the community most responsible for who I am. That's why I insist on being called "Pepito". This is the name **YOU** gave me in 1985 and I wear it as a badge of honor.

(Note: your computer must have a .pdf reader to view the presentation below).



Membership
Presentation April 2:

16th Air Force News

Articles compiled and submitted by Ken Maynard
Associate Editor Extraordinaire

16TH AF Airmen, Global Partners Enhance Information Warfare Effects During Exercise *Austere Challenge*

Adapted from an article by Matthew McGovern, 16AF

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, TX — Sixteenth Air Force Airmen strengthened Information Warfare operation capabilities alongside U.S. European Command, NATO, component staff and combatant commanders during Exercise Austere Challenge March 4-14.



Exercise participants focused on enhancing coordination with combatant commands, command and control, and the integration of capabilities while counteracting adversary narratives in the information environment.

“Austere Challenge allows us to posture cyber effects in a new way by enhancing the unity of effort in the cyber and ISR operations

worldwide arena,” said Lt. Gen. Kevin Kennedy, 16th Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) commander. “In a global environment where peer competition uses non-kinetic effects and mis-information, exercises like Austere Challenge connect us with our other components while increasing our ability to integrate with our allies and partners to enable ‘reveal, conceal, expose, or disruption’ type of activities.”

Airmen from the 616th Operations Center ‘virtually’ provided cyber defense planning and security problem solving scenarios to exercise players in the U.S. and Europe—problem solving situations vital to understanding adversary attacks and effectively counteracting narratives.

Maj. Dawid Grzybowski, 616th OC Battle Captain, ensured the coordination of cyber products and provided intelligence and mission assessments to various leaders.

“General Kennedy trusts us to be the single voice of cyber across the globe and we’re the only ones poised to do that,” said Grzybowski. “We’re a unique organization given that we’re the only true global cyber operations center.”

Austere Challenge requires five different teams to have the same real-time information 24/7, allowing combatant commanders in other continents to make decisions.

Sixteenth Air Force shared IW data with U.S. Cyber Command, U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Strategic Command, U.S. European Command and Joint Force Headquarters - Department of Defense Information Network during the exercise.

“[The exercise] facilitated synchronization and interoperability by allowing 16th Air Force to fully exercise their role as a cyber component, not only to USEUCOM, but to USSTRATCOM, as well,” said Candace Sanchez, 16th Air Force lead exercise planner. “It simultaneously precipitated realistic interaction with our higher headquarters, USCYBERCOM, on everything from authorities to timing and tempo of cyber ‘fires.’”

Exercise “cyber fires” replicate “very realistic scenarios,” explained Sanchez.

“Practicing how we assess vulnerabilities, protect and defend our information systems, and respond to and mitigate such attacks is of utmost importance to our 16th Air Force, AFCYBER and JFHQ-C (Air Force) missions,” said Sanchez.

Col. Darin Earnest, 16th Air Force Battle Staff Director, organized workflow between U.S. Air Forces in Europe and other various commands in the exercise battlespace.

“We have existing relationships with several combatant commands, but the exercise helped us practice the things we do every day in a crisis/conflict situation,” Earnest said. “It was also important to exercise the execution of specific authorities and to understand how command relationships affect operations during a conflict.”

Earnest explained how these vital relationships apply to NATO Alliance and global partners as well, “[Austere Challenge] allowed us to think through how we communicate with partners with whom we have less frequent day-to-day contact.”

Streamlining communications and improving overall processes and procedures is the goal by the end of the exercise. Austere Challenge helps achieve 16th Air Force priorities of maturing information warfare and increasing combat effectiveness.

“The exercise doesn’t end at ENDEX,” said Sanchez. “Rather, we now focus our attention on collecting and consolidating inputs from our staff participants that will lead to real world improvements of our overall processes and procedures for daily operations.”

UK, AUS and US Warfighters Complete Premier, Multi-Domain Operations Integration Course

Adapted from an article by Deb Henley, 505CCW/PA,

HURBURT FIELD, FL -- Royal Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Air Force Reserve Command and U.S. Air National Guard warfighters recently graduated the U.S. Air Force's premier operational-level command and control course designed to advance the operational-level planning expertise of experienced air component (Air Force forces & air operations center) planners, at Hurlburt Field, Florida, 4 April.



“Our continuous real-world updates to our dual-scenario course focuses on an Indo-Pacific pacing challenge, deterrence of Russian aggression and developing highly effective operational-level planners that can lead OPGs and APGs [operational planning groups and air planning groups],” said U.S. Space Force Capt Joel Boxberger, Command and Control Warrior Advanced Course (C2WAC) director for the 705 Training Squadron (TRS).

Twenty-one Total Force Airmen and two coalition warfighters attended the C2WAC 24-03 to learn how to integrate both kinetic and non-kinetic capabilities available to the Combined/Joint Force Air Component Commander.

“This was the first course where we were able to incorporate Australia and United Kingdom planners into the same course and it brought an awesome multi-national coalition mindset to this class; I look forward to more classes like this in the future,” said USAF Lt Col Benjamin Lee, 705 TRS/CC.

C2WAC, taught by the 705 TRS, is an advanced, multi-domain, integration course that trains air component headquarters personnel how to plan and execute air component operations at the operational level to meet joint force commander requirements. The course uses the joint planning process for air and the joint air tasking cycle framework to steep students in the planning, integration, and execution responsibilities of the air component across the competition continuum at the operational level.

“The practical exercises were a great tool to allow us to get multiple repetitions applying the course material. The course had and needs to have an environment to where students can apply the planning process and fail at it. We will not be successful the first time around, but this course produced a safe space to fail, learn from the failure, and improve. Continuing to implement opportunities to plan and with realistic compressed timelines will strengthen the skillsets of future graduates of this course,” said USAF Maj Nick Davis, 4 Combat Training Squadron director of operations, Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany.

In order to offer Mission Ready Airmen and our coalition partners training focusing on a variety of capabilities needed for operational mission readiness during a war, the 705 TRS continuously develops the C2WAC curriculum.

“In a class brimming with talent and experience, I initially felt out of my depth. Yet, despite the steep learning curve, I am so proud of where I have come from, and I realized our diverse perspectives and backgrounds were the true treasure. I am truly thankful for this course, and I am so excited to apply what I have learned,” said USAF Maj. Solange Douglass, 700 Air Support Squadron, Continuity Operations chief, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

C2WAC is taught at the integrated joint special technical operations level, targeting air component headquarters mid-level leaders (officers, noncommissioned officers and civilians), culminating with the awarding of the A-prefix to officer Air Force Specialty Codes and the M-prefix to enlisted AFSCs and designated as multi-domain warfare planners.

“The practical exercises were the most helpful to learn lesson concepts as I was able to match specifications to the scenario and war-game with my classmates on solutions. The time crunch was also an amplifying factor as it helped me to prioritize what was important to the scenario, solidifying the intent of the task, elaborating on the learning objectives, and fostering collaboration with a diverse team to achieve desired end states. Last but not least, the experience of the cadre as well as the class mentors helped frame problem sets that we missed and greatly assisted the digestion of the lessons, both academically and practically,” said USAF Master Sgt. Wong Ly, 33 Cyberspace Operations Squadron, Operations flight chief, Lackland AFB, Texas.

“I really enjoyed the course. This entire process will set me up for success in my career because I am in APG/OPGs on a daily basis,” said U.S. Air National Guard Capt Andrew Gray, 601st AOC strategy planner, Tyndall AFB, Florida.

C2WAC graduates are poised to lead operational planning teams and groups and trained on the effective integration across warfighting domains to provide the operational advantage to the commander of AFFOR, JFACC, and JFC.

“The U.S. Air Force identified the critical need for more operationally minded planners trained and equipped to synchronize effects across all domains, and that is the primary focus of C2WAC. The feedback that we are getting from the field is that C2WAC graduates are really making an impact in AOCs and headquarters world-wide...and I am confident that class 24-03 is ready to plan against the complexities of the next challenge,” said Lee.

also be learning organizations and shape our forthcoming Combat Wing design.”

Airmen assigned to the ATF will work and train together throughout the AFFORGEN cycle to deploy as Units of Action in fiscal year 2026.

During his Air and Space Forces Association conference keynote in September 2023, Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall emphasized the urgency for the Air Force to adapt and innovate in response to growing global challenges with the announcement of ATFs. Clearly defining the force presentation model and rotational demands through the AFFORGEN cycle ensures the joint force receives Airmen prepared for high-end conflict.

Lt. Gen. Adrian Spain, the Air Force’s deputy chief of staff for operations, further elaborated during a panel on Air Task Forces and the Future of Force Presentation at the Air and Space Force Association's 2024 Warfare Symposium Feb. 14.

“In all the ways that matter, this makes us better prepared,” Spain said. “During the Prepare and Certify phases of the AFFORGEN cycle, Airmen will develop into cohesive units, attuned to each other’s strengths and weaknesses. This preparation is key to ensuring that, when deployed, these teams can operate effectively under pressure and achieve their objectives with precision.”

The Expeditionary Air Base model which first deployed in October 2023, served as a critical first step in the transition. The next step is to adopt a more modular organization of teams which generate together through the AFFORGEN cycle and deploy as a unit to maximize combat effectiveness, while minimizing risk to the base mission.

The AFFORGEN cycle is built to enable Airmen to train and exercise together before being operationally employed together as part of a team. While its implementation differs depending on the mission of each major command, the goal is to achieve a common lexicon, more individual predictability, and greater alignment of readiness generating activities such as large-scale exercises across the Air Force.

The introduction of ATFs marks a significant milestone in the journey toward modernization and readiness, laying the groundwork to ensure the Air Force maintains a competitive advantage over the pacing challenge.

“This force generation and force presentation model best articulates our capabilities and capacity to the Joint Force and in turn, improves the readiness of our Airmen,” Spain said.

What Airmen need to know about the Air Task Force

- ATFs will enter the AFFORGEN cycle during the reset phase in summer 2024 and will be prepared to deploy beginning fiscal year 2026
- ATFs will team, train, and deploy together throughout the AFFORGEN cycle
- Over time, the elements of the ATF will be incorporated into operational wings

Elements of an ATF

The ATF consists of a command element with an attached expeditionary A-Staff and Special Staff, Combat Air Base Squadron, and Mission Generation Force Elements with attached Mission Sustainment Teams.

The ATF's A-staff includes a chief of staff who, along with the A-staff, assists with the commander's interaction with higher headquarters and fulfills the commander's responsibility to provide resourcing, policy, oversight, and guidance to the various forces under his or her command. The A-Staff is a standardized organizational structure, representing the following Air Force functions: A1 Manpower, Personnel, and Services; A2, Intelligence; A3, Operations; A4, Logistics and Engineering; A5, Plans and Integration; and A6, Communications. The ATF also has a Special Staff to provide staff assistance for the commander.

The Combat Air Base Squadron is the ATF's primary base operation support element and provides sustainment, protection, and/or airfield management. The ATF commander determines support requirements based upon deployment location and mission. A standard CABS consists of one Combat Service Support Team – Lead and one to two Combat Service Support Teams capable of supporting from several hundred to several thousand service members, depending on size. CSSTs consists of cross-functional teams each sourced from a singular installation.

The Mission Generation Force Element provides the combat capability of the ATF, for example, an expeditionary fighter squadron or an expeditionary special warfare squadron. The MGFES train throughout the AFFORGEN cycle at home station as they do today and join their assigned ATF for specific training and certification events throughout the AFFORGEN cycle before fully attaching with the ATF for the available phase.

Mission Sustainment Teams pair with an MGFE to provide mission specific combat support functions to enable agile combat employment and other operations at a Forward Operating Site or more austere Contingency Location. MSTs provide sustainment and protection for the portions of a MGFE moving forward to one or more locations. The MSTs may be able to augment the CABS when at a Main Operating Base.

Where Combat Wings Come In

At the Feb. 12 Air and Space Force Association's 2024 Warfare Symposium in Colorado, Kendall highlighted the need to evolve the Air Force's approach to organizing, training, and equipping to maintain a competitive advantage in preparation for great power competition.

"We need these changes now; we are out of time to reoptimize our forces to meet the strategic challenges in a time of Great Power Competition," Kendall said.

Air Force combat wings will be structured as mission ready Units of Action with the same basic framework as the ATFs. However, as opposed to only coming together during events in the AFFORGEN prepare/certify phase, these operational wings will have all the necessary elements stationed together at the same installation where they can train together on a day-to-day basis.

Over time, the lessons learned from the ATFs will be incorporated into our combat wings, with the goal to move toward combat wings as the singular force presentation model for the Air Force. Combat wings will evolve to deploy as fully trained teams leaving behind functional base commands prepared to continue operating the base in competition, crisis and conflict.

Online Scams on the Rise And Targeting Service Members

Adapted from an article by Matthew McGovern, 16AF

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, TX -- “There is the old saying ‘trust but verify, ’however, in cybersecurity the saying goes, ‘never trust always verify.’” said Special Agent Johnny Guerrero, 16th Air Force Cyber Investigation and Operations.

The internet provides a vast array of resources to millions of Americans and is a place where cyber scammers use the same resources to commit internet fraud against them.

“The more you put online, the larger ‘digital fingerprint ’you create which makes you a bigger target and more susceptible to being targeted by a malicious actor,” said Guerrero. “They perform ‘reconnaissance ’on their victim by looking at posts to get an idea of what the potential victim is interested in such as hobbies, work, etc. This will allow them to make a more targeted attempt to social engineer or scam the victim.”

Online scammers use social media to create fake personas or hack into other user’s profiles, conning their friends or family members. Scammers adapt their methods depending on the information users share on their social media profiles. Using user-provided information, scammers place ads and take advantage of tools used by advertisers, targeting people based on personal likes, interests, age or past purchases.

“Don’t trust anyone you meet online or any suspicious phone call you receive,” said Guerrero. “Scammers are getting more sophisticated and attempt to impersonate loved ones. Reach out to other family members first to verify the information.”

According to the Federal Trade Commission the most common reported fraud loss in the first half of 2023 stemmed from social-media-attempted purchases. This accounted for 44% of all social media fraud loss reports, largely for undelivered goods, with non-arriving clothing and electronics topping the list.

The loss from social media scams topped \$2.7 billion, this is a fraction since most frauds go unreported.

Master Sgt. Joseph Witz, 16th AF/A39 OPSEC Program Manager, knows cyber actors use social media to target military personnel for intelligence and sensitive information.

“People need to be better about protecting their information on social media; don’t comment on public postings with your birthday or family members info, other personally identifiable records,

or any mission data,” said Witz. “It seems like common sense, but everyday people respond to things like this, putting their info out there for the world to see.”

Scammers also scour online dating sites for both military and civilian information. The FBI reported millions of Americans visit these websites every year hoping to find a companion. In 2022, reported losses from fraud on these sites hit a staggering \$1.3 billion. The median reported loss was \$4,400.

“One of the newest trends is an updated version of the ‘romance scam’ in which a victim is called by an unknown phone number hoping to get the victim to answer,” said Guerrero. “If the victim answers and begins speaking, the malicious actor will clip the victim’s voice and use AI software to replicate the victim’s voice. They then proceed to call other loved ones of the victim usually asking for money.”

Scams usually begin with what appears to be an innocent friend request followed by love bombing and then a request for money. These fake personas use stolen photos of other people to include pictures of real military personnel.

Maj. Aaron Williams, 16th AF/A35 senior intelligence officer, works directly with open-source reporting for malicious cyber-attacks and understands how scammers and hackers can focus on 16th AF members.

“We have observed attempts to target USAF personnel’s devices and communications by cyber actors based on how the actors attempt to access the information,” said Williams. “They want to know as much as possible about how the Air Force would employ our cyber forces to counter our activities in cyberspace.”

He said using multi-factor authentication, phishing awareness, and not re-using weak passwords has the most beneficial impact on nation state cyber activity.

“It is much easier to go after low level cyber targets that have bad hygiene than going after hardened DOD communications or networks,” he said. “Although they still go after hardened targets the attempts to do so are at much smaller scale.”

Awareness about where you leave your personnel devices during the day should be considered. It is much easier to compromise wireless devices than wired networks. When you introduce those mobile devices to wired networks it creates a brand-new entry point for cyber actors to exploit.

Scammers typically use technology to do the heavy lifting and avoid meeting in person. Instead, they’ll ask for money and give instructions on how to pay. They profess their love quickly and appeal to the emotions with stories about family emergencies, hospital bills or travel.

“Sadly, the reason they keep doing it is because people keep falling for scams,” said Guerrero. “It is part of a continuous campaign to educate people on scammers to prevent future scams from occurring.”

To become more cyber resilient at home, people should be cautious of clicking hyperlinks. Guerro also recommends installing ad blockers as browser extensions and other cookie/script blocking browser extensions. If a link seems suspicious, do not click it.

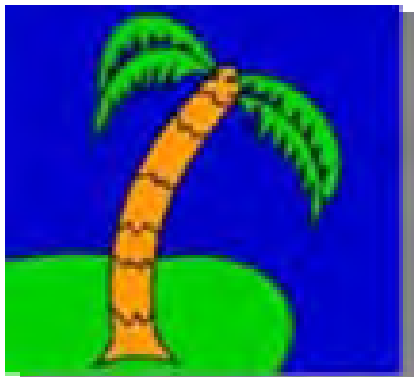
Empowering Airmen and their families with the tools necessary to combat malicious actors will ensure a resilient Joint Force and defense ecosystem.

To learn more about how to spot, avoid and report scams, and how to recover money if you've paid a scammer; visit ftc.gov/scams.

If you spot a scam, report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

FTVA CHAPTER NEWS

Forward your chapter inputs at any time (monthly, weekly or all at once) to Dennis Buxton, RIT Editor, at newsletter@ftva.us or dennis.buxton@me.com. Please include captions and names on all photos submitted. submission can be in any form or format, and I will edit.



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Aloha Chapter

Honolulu, HI

John "Tilly" Toillion, President

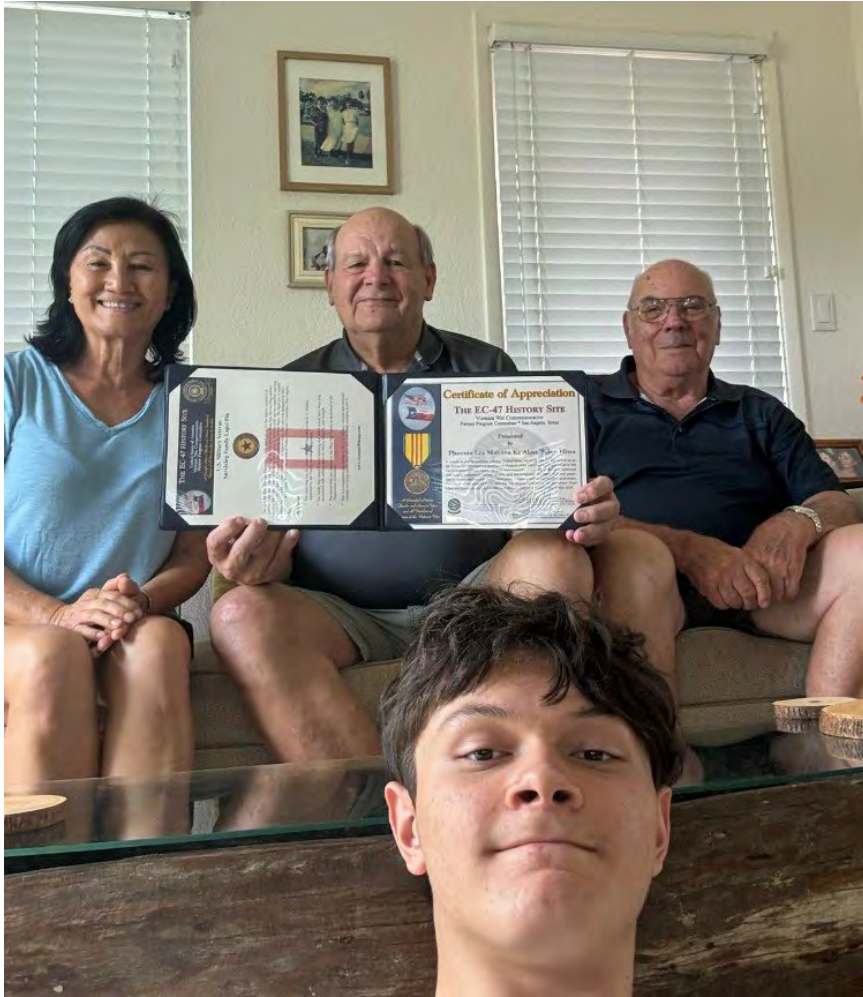
Aloha All –

While we have yet to meet this past quarter, on June 12, 2024, Aloha Chapter members, Ken Een and John Toillion, had the honor of meeting with Jackie Hites, and Dickie Hites' grandson, Phoenix Belen, to present letters of appreciation, lapel pins, and a paver replica provided by the Vietnam Commemoration Committee's pinning program and the popular EC-47 Paver Program located at San Angelo, TX.

Mahalo ("Thanks") to our dear friends, San Angelo Chapter members Tom Nurre and JJ Graham, for spearheading this special honor. Both Jackie and Phoenix are truly grateful for this special honor.

As always, Aloha Chapter's 'E komo mai.' (Welcome) mat is always out for any of you traveling to this beautiful place.

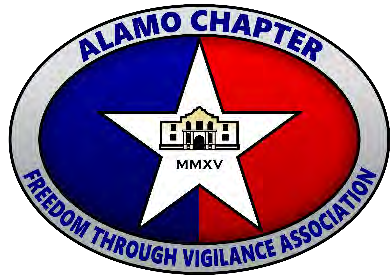
RICHARD "DICKIE" HITES
CMSGT USAFSS 1959-1992
KOR VIET COMINT ANALYST
LOM MSM JSCM * HOH 1998



(l-r) Jackie Hites, John "Tilly" Toillion, Phoenix Belem, and Ken Een.

(l-r) Aloha Chapter President, John "Tilly" Toillion, Dickie and Jackie Hites' grandson Phoenix Belen, and chapter stalwart Ken Een.





Alamo Chapter San Antonio, TX



Ken Williams, President
Dennis "Rass" Rasmussen, Vice President
Ken Maynard, Secretary/Treasurer

Chapter Meeting, 18 April 2024

The San Antonio Chapter of the FTVA held their monthly meeting at the Alamo Café Restaurant on 18 April 2024. Ten members and one guest enjoyed lunch and fellowship. These were:

Ken and Shiela Williams
Dan Martin
Andy Smith
Dennis Buxton
Pete Siegel
Vince and Elise Colacicco
Ron and Kay Weaver
John Lopes
Dave Manor (Guest of Ken Williams)

President Ken Williams called the meeting to order at 1230 pm. The turnout was light due to



many members having appointments elsewhere. A Treasury Report shows our account has \$1,080. Members discussed the ongoing Air Force reorganization and what this might mean for the organization in the future. The next meeting is slated for Thursday, May 16, same location and time. There being no new business, we adjourned at 1315. Photos follow:

Alamo Chapter members (l-r) are Ken Williams, chapter president, with guest Dave Mano; and members Andy Smith, Dan Martin, John Lopes and Elise and Vince Colacicco.



Left, Alamo Chapter member John Lopes patiently waiting for lunch to be served. Above right, amicably chatting about world events is Shiela William and with backs to camera, (l-r), Kay Weaver, Ron Weaver, and Pete Siegel.



A Toast to Friendship! Alamo Chapter member Pete Siegel (back) raises a salute in camaraderie to chapter members Ron and Kay Weaver and, with back to camera, Shiela Williams.

Alamo Chapter Meeting, 16 May 2024

The San Antonio Chapter of the FTVA held their monthly meeting at the Alamo Café Restaurant on 16 May 2024. Attended by 14 members, spouses and guests, the assemblage enjoyed lunch and fellowship. Those who attended included:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Dennis “Rass” Rassmussen | 7 | Bob & Donna Crabtree |
| 2 | Ken & Judy Maynard, | 8 | Darby Stacey |
| 3 | AJ Cummings | 9 | Ted Colquhoun |
| 4 | Dan Martin | 10 | Doug & Ann Williams |
| 5 | Dave Shroads | 11 | Andy Smith |
| 6 | John Lopes | | |

Vice President Rassmussen called the meeting to order at 1220 by welcoming everyone and remarked on the good turnout.

Ken Maynard gave a treasurer’s report—balance is \$1,080.



(l-r) Rass, AJ, Dave Shroads, Andy Smith, Bob Crabtree, Donna Crabtree, Judy Maynard, Ken Maynard’s chair



(l-r) John Lopes, Dan Martin, Ted Colquhoun, Ann Williams, Doug Williams, Darby Stacey.

Ted Colquhoun briefed that Joe “Pepito” Figueroa was developing a strategy to increase membership. More to follow. Ted also gave a few words about the upcoming Air Force reorganization. He anticipates that Air Force Cyber will split from 16AF and become a MAJCOM. The 16AF will remain under ACC and will be the Air Force’s ISR arm.

Andy Smith, the incoming FTVA treasurer, briefed that he is working on a budget for FTVA. More to follow.

Ken Maynard advised that Lois Larson has moved from San Antonio back to Minneapolis, MN. The FTVA sent flowers to her in appreciation for her long support.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:28, and fellowship continued.



Heritage Chapter San Angelo, TX

Ronald 'JJ' Graham, President
Submissions by Wayne Bascom

FTVA Chapter Memorial Day Activities

Story by Larry Miller, Heritage Chapter Vice President

The Heritage Chapter once again had a busy, though thoroughly rewarding Memorial Day this year. Besides attending ceremonies at San Angelo's Vietnam War Memorial and Lawnhaven Cemetery, Chapter members participated in the festivities at the Tom Green County Courthouse in downtown San Angelo with our president "JJ" Graham laying a wreath honoring all those fallen heroes from San Angelo and the County lost in all of America's wars.

Once again, as on both Memorial Day and Veterans Day, the Chapter also placed our Medal of Honor flags to fly over the graves of the two San Angelo warriors awarded the Medal of Honor – 1st Lieutenant Jack Mathis, US Army Air Corps, and Sergeant Finnis McCleery, US Army.



Left, Placed by the Heritage Chapter, the Medal of Honor flag waves over the grave of Sergeant Finnis McCleery, US Army. Right, Chapter President JJ Graham lays a Heritage Chapter wreath at the Courthouse. Photos by Larry Miller.

Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony

An After-Action Report by Tom Nurre

All Photos Courtesy of Carl Bradley, Faith in a Flash Photography

See also <https://www.vietnam50thcpp.com/photoGalleries/index/2024-vietnam-veterans-day-commemoration-gafb>

The third annual Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony was held at the Goodfellow Air Force Base static EC-47 aircraft Weyandt-Eddy Memorial Plaza on Friday, March 29, 2024. This event was open to the public and started with a welcome home social mixer/reception on Thursday evening at the San Angelo Clarion Hotel.



Chapter President JJ Graham Performing Master of Ceremony Duties

Out of town attendees from 10 states and many Texas cities were Welcomed Home by the EC-47 History Site and Heritage Chapter-Freedom Through Vigilance Association members. Free food and happy hour refreshments were available in the hospitality suite. Posters depicting Vietnam War timeline articles from the 1970s highlighting the signing of the Paris peace accords, the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam, and the end of the draft were displayed throughout the suite. Representing Dave's Military Display, Air Force veteran Dave Vargo presented three tables loaded with Vietnam War artifacts and memorabilia. The Friday morning Commemoration ceremony was hosted by the Goodfellow AFB Heritage Committee. This committee was organized and led by the 17th Training Wing historian, Mr. Mark Howell. Mark retired in February and the committee vice chairperson JJ Graham stepped up to coordinate the final seating and sound system, public affairs, and local news coverage as well as invitations and VIP participation. The estimated 260 attendees included nearly 50

Vietnam veterans and 15 deceased Vietnam veteran surviving spouses. The San Angelo City Mayor, San Angelo Chamber of Commerce Director, and the Angelo State University President were among the VIPs attending.

JJ Graham presents guest speaker LTC John J. McAllister, 344 Military Intelligence Battalion Commander, with a commemorative gift courtesy of the EC-47 History Site.



Fifteen Vietnam veterans were individually introduced and called forward to be presented the Commemoration lapel pin and the EC-47 History Site Certificate of Appreciation. A packet of Commemoration materials (brochure, fact sheets, presidential proclamations, tin pins and bumper stickers) was also provided. The presentations were made by the Goodfellow AFB senior commanders. Nine surviving spouses were also introduced with a thumb-nail sketch of the service of their deceased veteran spouses and their family dynamics. These widows were presented with the Commemoration Blue Star lapel pin, Certificate of Honor, and a packet of Commemoration materials.



The Wing Deputy Commander, Col Christopher Corbett, delivered a localized version of the Commemoration provided speech. It was very well received and appreciated. Lt Col John McAllister, 344 Military Intelligence Battalion commander presented a tribute to the Army 138th Aviation Company (RR) (Army Security Agency airborne radio direction finding) mission. The mission callsign Vanguard 216 was shot down and all 5 crewmembers were lost during the Vietnam War. His informative and heartfelt speech was a highlight of the ceremony. He was presented with a Thank You gift of 5 engraved paver Keepsake plates mounted in a frame suitable for display in the Army spaces in the Intelligence Training building.

Nearly 150 newly engraved plates were dedicated in the plaza. Many attendees received engraved plastic Keepsake replicas of bronze plate inscriptions placed in the Weyandt-Eddy Memorial Plaza in tribute to their own service and the service of deceased spouses and/or family members. The final part of the Goodfellow AFB ceremony invited all attendees to view the more than 700 engraved plates in the plaza and pose for pictures.

Nearly 70 attendees enjoyed a catered buffet dinner and Welcome Home party at the Clarion Hotel Friday evening. The dining area was set up with the Missing Man Table and again with more than a dozen 3'x4' posters filled with pictures and information about local community events that the

Heritage Chapter and EC-47 History Site are involved with. Attendees participated in a raffle and silent auction of EC-47 models, raising more than \$1,200 for their Pavers and Pins project. Special Family Blue Star lapel pins and certificates were presented to the deceased Vietnam veteran family members. A great time was had by all attendees. We appreciate the great support from the Commemoration staff. Links to the news reports of the Vietnam War Veterans Ceremony can be found here: Goodfellow PA Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=In5x5snw33U> (Includes Chapter Members) and Fox Report: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yczx3tFbWio> (Includes Chapter Members)



A young U.S. Marine pays her respects as she peruses the paving stones at the memorial.

The Family of Deceased EC-47 Backender Analyst (202) Gene Halfmann gather at the aircraft.





Left, Student Volunteers from the Marine Detachment Provided Logistical Support

Right, a sample of Dave Vargo's Collection of Vietnam Era Memorabilia



Getting dinner: (R-L) Lew DeLaura, Cynthia Willey, Steven Willey, Mrs. Dee Dee Bingham (daughter-in-law of BGen Billy Bingham)



Larry Miller (second from left) looking on while Lt Gen retired Ronnie Hawkins Jr and CSM retired Arthur Hawkins look over the 14 engraved plates honoring generations of Hawkins military veterans. The EC-47 Pavers & Pins Program research began with their father, deceased USAFSS maintenance veteran CMSgt Ronnie Hawkins Sr. The Chief had served two tours in Vietnam and funding was available to secure an engraved paver honoring his service. It was soon learned that the chief's father was also a veteran who had served with the Buffalo Soldiers. This spurred additional interest and subsequent design of the engraved plates for Charles Hawkins and thirteen direct family veterans. Contact was made with each individual or direct family member...inscriptions were designed...plates were engraved and installed in locations #145 through #158. Another proud military family with USAFSS ties is now included in this great memorial.



(Clockwise l-r) Greg Bingham, Dee Dee Bingham, BGen Billy Bingham, Mrs. Joan Briggs, Joan Andress, Bob Andress, Tom Nurre

See also: <https://youtu.be/ln5x5snw33U?si=uDuft4ZwaQXC423W>

1,125 First Term, Vietnam Era Backenders Honored

Story by Tom Nurre

As part of the Heritage Chapter outreach to former Goodfellow AFB Wing and Center Commanders, Tom Nurre contacted retired Brigadier General Bill Collins to discuss his service during the Vietnam War. Both were assigned to Goodfellow AFB in mid-1980s. During the Vietnam War, Collins was a Maintenance Officer assigned to Phu Cat AB from 1969-1970. He was well aware of both the AC-47 Gunship and EC-47 ARDF mission aircraft assigned to Phu Cat as he had observed them many times “working” enemy targets on the perimeter of the base. He was very curious about the Intel mission but was never successful in getting anyone to sponsor his visit to the unit. He was nonetheless very appreciative of the outstanding work of the EC-47 ARDF young, enlisted Airmen and decided to use his paver plate to thank them as a group. He also added a tribute to all the USAFSS enlisted first term backenders who performed so well during the war.



Once these were taken care of, the general asked about how many first term airmen had flown these missions and did not already have a paver inscription in the plaza. The answer was hundreds and hundreds, exact number not known.

Collins challenged Nurre to develop a graphic way to pay tribute to their service. Over the next months, there was a concerted effort to develop such a graphic (see image below)...that includes 1,125 names gleaned from 8 years of published orders on file with the 6994th Security Squadron Reunion Group.

JJ Graham and 17th Medical Group Commander Col Ian Rybczynski Unveil the First Termer Plaque in the Norma Brown Headquarters Building. Photo Courtesy of Carl Bradley, Faith in a Flash Photography

This is a fantastic tribute to the EC-47 mission and the dedicated service of these young Airmen. Again, our thanks to General Collins for his idea and funding support...and the Goodfellow AFB senior leadership for accepting this plaque for permanent display adjacent to the 6994th Security Squadron EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit in the headquarters building.

Pinning Ceremony During High School Reunion

Chapter Honors Vietnam Era Veterans & Spouses

Story & Photo by Larry Miller

The Heritage Chapter sponsored one of the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemorative pinning ceremonies at the 60th Chamberlain High School Class of '64 Reunion in Tampa, Florida recently. This was the alma mater of our vice president Larry Miller.

The pinning ceremony was the highlight of the evening's activities with 25 lapel pins awarded to the veterans in attendance, as well as awarding five surviving spouse pins. The ceremony began with an introduction of the program's intent by Congress to honor the service and sacrifice of all veterans of the Vietnam War Era, and continued with the pinning of all the veterans present that had never received this well-earned, meaningful "thank you" from Congress and a grateful nation

Larry Miller conducted the ceremony along with former Navy Lieutenant Jimmy Fielder presenting all the individual lapel pins. The ceremony was very fortunate in having representative veterans from all five US armed service branches, including the Coast Guard, that were active during the Vietnam War.



Following the veterans pinning, Mrs. April Kelley, wife of former Navy LCDR Ronnie Kelley presented the program's Surviving Spouse pins to five widows of Vietnam War veterans. The ceremony was a complete success with many heartfelt comments made by all who attended the ceremony. One very significant comment made by one of the veterans, a former Air Force firefighter, was that, before our little ceremony, he had never received any form of a thank you for his service during the Vietnam War.

The five Surviving Spouses: (L-R) Sharon Thompson, Kathy Brazinski, Tanya Delatorre, Claudette Collins, and Alice Rick

Second Consecutive Honor

JJ Graham Named Volunteer of the Year

Submitted by Wayne Bascom & JJ Graham

The San Angelo, TX All-Vets Council (AVC) has named JJ Graham its Volunteer of the Year for the second year in a row. Each year the council conducts the Veteran's Ball and the awards program.

He won this year because he was instrumental in providing volunteer support (primarily students from the base) to veterans' organizations in the Tom Green County area. Through his help these local veteran organizations were able to increase fund raising, which not only helps the organizations but also gets the students involved in the community.

The end result is that they gain an appreciation for veterans' organizations. The Civilian Volunteer of the Year Award itself is an engraved display piece (eagle with flag). There was also a certificate from Congressman August Pfluger and another from Senator Ted Cruz. Congressman Pfluger is a big supporter of the AVC.



(l-r) Kathy Fiscus, Secretary, AVC of Tom Green County. JJ Graham, Luis Martinez, Chairman, AVC

Veterans Events in San Angelo, TX

Submitted by Wayne Bascom & Larry Miller

In the past few years, the Heritage Chapter, in conjunction with Goodfellow Air Force Base, and with amazing support from our Chamber of Commerce and the local community, has hosted a large number of outstanding military reunions, ceremonies, and get-togethers here in San Angelo.

These have included two USAF Doggers' "Fall of Saigon Parties", two EC-47 History Site reunions, numerous Vietnam Veteran Memorial Day ceremonies, a visit by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Wall That Heals, and many, many more.

Each time the city has rolled out the red carpet, with the Mayor and other dignitaries attending. We get blocks of hotel rooms at silly-low prices - 50 rooms blocked off just this past March. At one city veteran's event the city donated buses to our Chapter and the EC-47 History Site to ferry veterans around the base and the city.

The Heritage Chapter encourages and invites all of you "alumni" of the schoolhouse here in San Angelo to consider coming back to San Angelo for your next "wing ding". Hotel and venue prices here frankly cannot be beat and San Angelo's hospitality is legendary!

The Heritage Chapter is very happy to assist your group with hotel reservations, working out details of a visit to Goodfellow – the Fire School is always a huge hit! – and sharing all the attractions of San Angelo once you are here.

If you and your group of former 202s, 205s, 209s, 305s, MAs, MBs, MFs, MRs, MIMIs, etc. are interested, please don't hesitate to contact either Heritage Chapter President "JJ" Graham at (325) 651-4236 or Vice President Larry Miller at (325) 718-8661.

Hope to see y'all in the near future as you re-visit your old" stomping grounds" in West Texas!



Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter

P.O. Box 544, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755

Jerry Gething, President
Mike Summer, Vice President
Sharon Frizzell, Secretary
Bob Bastian, Treasurer

Input by Sharon Frizzell

Chapter Regeneration Underway!

Spring brought continued regeneration of the MARC with two general meetings and a social event that brought together more than two dozen chapter members for an afternoon of fellowship and food. It was wonderful to see familiar faces and spend some time remembering old times and catching up on present times.



In March, the chapter held a hybrid meeting, with members who could attend in-person meeting at the East Columbia Branch library in Columbia, MD, and others joining by Zoom.

April's meeting was strictly by Zoom and the chapter secretary produced minutes largely created by a handy AI app called Fathom. We've had the chance to use this app a couple of times and Sharon Frizzell and Beth Yandow both recommend it to those keeping meeting minutes!

MARC is following very closely the developments around National Vigilance Park at Ft Meade that are tied in with the design and construction of a new Center for Education and Innovation. We want to do what we can to assist in replacing the Aircraft 60528 memorial, destroyed when it was moved. Mike Meermans is our primary liaison with Big Safari on this effort.

Membership engagement and growth continues to be a matter of discussion at all our meetings. VP Mike Summers is heading up this effort. We're finding it a challenge to manage membership data and outreach with our old tools. Communication systems have changed from primarily US postal to electronic formats, and landlines to cell phones to smart phones. We are straddling both

the old and the new at the same time we wrestle with some existential questions – who we are and why we exist as an organization.

MARC President, Jerry Gething, has reached out to other chapters to get a sense of how we are all dealing with these same issues to some extent. We think it will be an important conversation for all of us to have.

The following photos commemorated the occasion.







Rocky Mountain Chapter

Colorado Springs, CO

Greg Roman and Stan Cook Co-Presidents

[Rocky Mountain Chapter Website](#)

Submitted by Ike Eichelberger

The Rocky Mountain Chapter took part in the National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29th, by recognizing 20 Vietnam Era Veterans who now reside at the Summit Glen Retirement Center in Colorado Springs. Chapter Co-President Greg Roman spoke to the history of the Vietnam Veterans Commemoration effort and the importance of saying thank you to all of those men and women who served during the Vietnam Era. The RMC was honored to recognize these veterans, but a special thank you went out to LTC Lloyd Woolridge, USA (ret). LTC Woolridge is a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam and he turns 100 years old this year!



Above, Rocky Mountain Co-President Greg Roman (left) addresses Vietnam War veterans at the Summit Glen Retirement Center in Colorado Springs, CO.



Chapter Co-President Greg Roman(left) with LTC Lloyd Woolridge, USA (ret), a veteran of WW II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War.

Dennis Daniels presenting certifiates to the gathered Vietnam Veterans.





Wasatch Chapter Salt Lake City, UT

Jacob Scheid, President
Shawn Heckman, Vice President
Scott Lawson, Treasurer

Check back in September!

Gold Country Chapter

Yuba City, CA

John Aurelius, President
jaurelius@mikodi.com



Check back in September!



REUNIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2024 FTVA Spring Social

The annual FTVA Spring Social was held last March 16 from 1700-2100 at the Lackland AFB Gateway Club. Forty-five members and guests gathered to mingle, enjoy the pu-pu's and reconnect after the October reunion. The event featured CMSgt Robert Hopkins, 16th Air Force Command Chief, as the guest speaker. Many thanks to Ken Williams for sponsoring, organizing and being instrumental in making this event the annual success it is. Thanks, Ken!



l-r: Greg Radabaugh, Elizabeth Radabaugh, Hilda Rogers, Leroy Rogers, Gabe Marshall, Doug Williams, Anne Williams



l-r: Andy Smith, Bill Francis, Shirley Francis. Lois Larson, Gail McKenna



FTVA President Bill Brockmiller at the Podium kicking off the fete with opening remarks.



*Dennis "Rass" Rassmussen,
FTVA Stalwart*



16AF Command Chief and Guest Speaker, CMSgt Bob Hopkins, giving the keynote speech.



l-r: Bob Crabtree, Donna Crabtree, Ginny Harrison, AJ Harrison, Jerry McKenna



l-r: Lanny Abee, Ed Barnes, Dottie France, Paul Weseloh



l-r: Toni Hopkins, Bob Hopkins, Bill Brockmiller, Carmen Brockmiller, Rosario Figueroa and Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa

Hope to See You At Spring Social 2025!

Fall of Saigon Party 2024

Submitted by Larry Miller

This year's Fall of Saigon Party (FOSP), the 49th annual celebration by the USAF Doggers, the association of former USAFSS and ESC Vietnamese linguists, was held in Las Vegas, Nevada from April 29th through May 3rd.

This year's fete was centered at the South Point Casino and Hotel, just a little way off the Strip with 50 Doggers and their spouses attending. Included in this year's entertainment was a ride on the High Roller, the Ferris wheel built in downtown Vegas that offers an incredible 570-foot high panoramic view of the entire city, the annual banquet held out at Nellis AFB, tours of the various training facilities on the base, and hours of reliving old memories and enjoying adult beverages in our hospitality room at the hotel. Of course, Joe (Turney) had to get in a couple of rounds of golf which he and several others played at the Las Vegas Golf Club, the oldest golf club in Vegas (1938) and on Nellis AFB.

The Nellis Combined Club was the venue for our annual banquet with the entire group attending including some "new" old Doggers present. Great job with the room, audio-visual needs, and of course a delicious meal. Certainly the highlight of the evening's entertainment was the presentation of highly prized "Hanoi Hilton" bricks to four of our very esteemed veteran Doggers – Gary Hagland, Tom Wheeler, Gary Fellenz, and Greg Bonnell. Following administrative details like selecting the next year's location for the 50th FOSP, it was back to the hotel and more war stories about the events of the last 50 years.

The focus of the third day of FOSP was a trip out to Nellis AFB, thanks to the incredible efforts of "JP" in arranging all the different attractions there. In between watching F-35s and F-22s taxing and taking off the entire morning, the Doggers were given tours of the Thunderbirds facility and museum display, and visited the Threat Training Facility, affectionately called the "petting zoo" receiving a unit briefing from the 547th Intelligence Squadron and including plenty of "hero shots" of Doggers climbing over all the Soviet-era weapons and aircraft. Several in the group shared their experiences with the staff about their work in Operation Tea Ball during the War.

Following a lunch break, the group was hosted by the Red Flag staff who provided an overview of the Flag exercises; including history, training objectives and target focus. RC-135 participation in the exercises was highlighted with discussion about the support intelligence plays in crafting the various scenarios of the Flag exercises. The Commander, 64th Aggressor Squadron, also briefed the Doggers on the unit's mission of foreign threat replication stressing once again the valuable information from the intel community in developing adversarial tactics and training for air crews.

In a fitting end to the day's activities, the Doggers all gathered at a memorial on Nellis to pay tribute to our fallen comrades. Randy Seitter, Joe Turney, "JP" Hill and John Slyman read the names of each and every Dogger anyone could recall from back in the day. – almost five pages

of our “brothers-in-arms” who have passed on! Always a very humbling and heartfelt ceremony honoring them.

It was decided that next year’s FOSP would be held in the DC area. Since this will be the ***FIFTIETH*** annual FOSP celebration, this will no doubt be the biggest “wingding” the Doggers have ever had! The group is already hard at work planning all the various possibilities for FOSP next year. A special thanks to this year’s planning committee – Randy Seitter, Joe Turney, “JP” Hill, and John Slyman -in arranging all the associated details to have made this 49th celebration such a success. Now on to the 50th FOSP. See all you Doggers there!



Enjoying Shared Moments, l-r) Gary Koehn, John Slyman, Hidami Slyman, Mark Graham, Ying Johnson and husband Ben. Photo Courtesy Randy Seitter



Four REALLY old Doggers (l-r) Gary Hagland, Gary Koehn, Tom Wheeler, and “JP” Hill. Photo Courtesy Randy Seitter.

FTVA Annual Reunion

17 Oct 2024

5K Run (TBD) and Golf Tournament

18 Oct 2024

Hall of Honor, Remembrance Ceremony, Picnic

19 Oct 2024

General Membership Meeting, Banquet

The dates 17-19 October are firm. Final details to include starting times, venues, base access procedures, etc., are being worked out and will be published in the September RIT.

In addition, as these details become available, they will be posted to the [FTVA Web Site](#). Check it often as we get closer to the big day!

Please address any issues relating to FTVA website access or membership to MemberSuppot@ftva.us.

FTVA VIGILANT PARTNERS

**P.O. BOX 691616
San Antonio, TX 78269**



PLATINUM PARTNERS

**Prop Wash Gang
Mrs. Doyle E. Larson
(IMO Maj Gen Doyle E. Larson)**



GOLD PARTNERS

**Security Services Federal Credit Union
Engrave-Tech & Graphics
Anonymous
(IMO MSgt Robert "Bob" Fenstermacher)
Regis F.A. Urschler
(IMO Maj Gen Doyle Larson and
Tom Tennant)
Greg Radabaugh**



SILVER PARTNERS

**Anthony F. Jensen
Grover Jackson
William F. Sheck
Bob & Debbie Cope
"Picnic Partners"
Donald Bundy**





BRONZE PARTNERS

Mark and Amy Hess

Ronald Hentz

(IHO Col Bob Cope)

Jack V. Brewer

E.W. Forbess



PATRON PARTNERS

CMSgt Roger Towberman

James Mayer

Charles Bishop

Edward Sellmeyer

Thank You VPs! Your continued support is vital in helping us continue the FTVA mission.



FALLEN EAGLES

Compiled by Joe Figueroa, Associate Editor



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

–
Ash, John William “Bill”, MSgt (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Member**

Billetdeaux, Robert Edward, USAFSS

Connors, Patrick J., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Member**

Dawidowicz, Daniel J., SMSgt (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Member**

Franzese, Anthony Albert, Col (ret), 16th Air Force

Frederick, Michael James, Capt (ret), 24th Air Force

Haupt, Ronald Richard, USAFSS

Lanier, Tillman Earl, MSgt (ret), USAFSS

Marshall, Jerry, Eugene, Col (ret), Electronic Security Command *****FTVA Member**

Mastaler, George G., SSgt, USAFSS

McCormick, Bill, USAFSS

Parker, Phillip A., USAFSS

Price, Bob J., USAFSS

Rucker, Jerry L., USAFSS

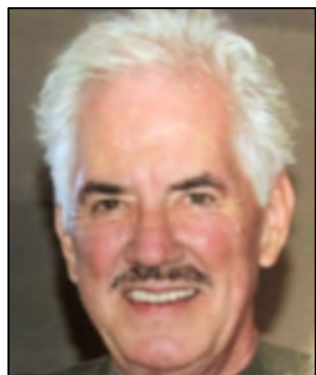
Shaw, Thomas “Tom”, USAFSS *****FTVA Member**

Todd, Robert V., USAFSS

Yablonski, Edward A., USAFSS

Wilcher, John F. “Jeff”, TSgt (ret), USAFSS, *****FTVA Member**

Zerphey, Robert G., MSgt (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Member**



Ash, John William Odell "Bill", MSgt (ret), 86, passed away February 18, 2024. Bill was a Vietnam War Veteran, serving as a MSgt from 1955 until 1975. He supervised a highly skilled and technical section. He earned several medals to include the Air Force Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal. He was part of the 6994th Security Squadron that served in Southeast Asia from 1966 through 1974. This squadron is still the most highly decorated squadron in the history of the current 16th Air Force and all of its predecessor organizations. The aircrews, with the support of the ground crews, flew in unarmed WWII vintage EC-47 aircraft and earned the motto, "Unarmed, Alone, and Unafraid." This Air Force Squadron was responsible for locating and identifying the enemy using airborne radio direction finding (ARDF) techniques and collecting intelligence information in support of ground combat commanders. As a result, many attacks on friendly forces were mitigated and it has been reported that up to 95% of the B-52 attacks in Vietnam were based in part on information collected by the squadron. The discipline and patriotism he learned in the Air Force never left him, as friends and family will attest. "Our pride is in accomplishments that are often secret, and memories are about things that happened, but will be officially denied". – Bill Mahan (FTVA), 15 June, 2008. His favorite pastime was golfing, and his favorite tournament was the annual FTVA Golf Tournament that he and his sons and life-long friends would participate in annually. He played with many of the men that served in the USAFSS with him during the Vietnam War. He met his wife, Margie, at a Super Bowl party in 2005. At first, she thought he was a really nice guy, however too tall for her. Well, he won her over very quickly, got engaged in April, bought their first home in June, and married in September 2005. Bill is survived by his wife, Margie, and his three children: Billy Ash and his wife Sandy, Kenny Ash and his wife Brandy, and daughter Patty Singletary; stepson Bill Cooper, stepdaughter Kim Manes and her husband Joe Manes.

//Obit – Mission Park Funeral Home//

Bill was a stalwart at the annual FTVA Reunions; especially the golf tournament showing up each year with his crew. A nicer, truer gentleman I have never met. //Dennis Buxton//



Billetdeaux, Robert Edward, 83, passed away April 2, 2024. Bob proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force (Security Service) from 1959 to 1962. Following his service, he embarked on a career that spanned various positions at Hennepin County Park Reserve District in Minnesota, Seney National Wildlife Refuge in Michigan, the U.S. Forest Service in California, the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska, Antarctic Inc. in Antarctica, and the National Park Service in Florida. He leaves behind his loving wife, Lisa Billetdeaux (nee Kirkpatrick); his sons, Jon (Jodi), Erick (Stephanie), and Darcy (Nikki); stepdaughters, Trisha (Chris), Tracy

(Alan), and Tamara Travis; his sister, Georgann; and his cherished grandchildren. //Obit – Broadus Raines Funeral Home//

According to Social Media posts, he was assigned to the 6910th RGM Darmstadt Germany Nov 59 to Nov 62. //Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa//



Connors, Patrick J., CMSgt (ret), 82, passed away May 10, 2024. In 1961 he enlisted in the United States Air Force. During the Vietnam War, he was a senior air crew member with several thousand flying hours as a crew member on-board reconnaissance aircraft. After returning from Vietnam, he received an Associate Degree in Communications Processing Management in 1978, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland in 1982. In addition to numerous technical schools, Pat graduated from the Alaskan Air Command Noncommissioned Leadership School, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska in 1966, the United States Air Force Security Service Noncommissioned Officers Academy, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas in 1977, and the Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officers Academy, military training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Pat spent nine months at the Air Force Institute of Technology’s basic Russian Language School, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, and then attended technical training at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas. Following assignments to Zweibrucken, Germany, and Northeast Cape Air Station, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, Pat returned to Syracuse for intermediate Russian language training. An assignment to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska was followed by Hungarian language training at the Defense Language Institute, Monterey, California. Pat met his wife of 52 years, Nila J. Scarf, in 1971 while he was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base. They were married on June 24, 1972, and had two daughters, Jennifer and Kristin. Two assignments flying RC-135 aircraft from Offutt AFB, Nebraska were separated by a long tour at Kadena AFB, Okinawa, Japan. In 1978, Pat and his family were assigned to the U.S. Embassy, Moscow, U.S.S.R. in the Defense Attache System. They then returned to the United States and spent three years at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Two additional assignments in the Attache System, one in Belgrade, Yugoslavia and one in Ottawa, Canada were preceded by Serbo-Croatian language training at the Department of State Foreign Service Institute in Washington D.C. From Canada, Chief Connors was transferred to Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming where he retired on August 1, 1991.

His military decorations and awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Pat is survived by his wife Nila, daughter Jennifer L. Boyd (Wesley), daughter Kristin H. Roshong (Rocco). //Obit - Schmidt Family Funeral Home//

My heartfelt condolences to the Connors Family with their loss. Pat and I first met in the early 70's when we were both assigned to the same unit at Offutt AFB, NE. We were "new-comers" there and bonded immediately. We became great friends over the years and shared many adventures while carrying out our Air Force duties. We had the privilege of working with some of the great legends of the USAFSS flying units. Our careers took different paths, sometimes losing touch, but always remembering the great friendship from our earlier days. I know Pat was a great professional during his AF career and was a well-respected leader. He will surely be missed. RIP Pat. //Keith Johson//

I knew Pat when I was at Offutt AFB 1973 - 1977. He was a great NCO. I remember how irritated he was when he got word he was going to Okinawa. He had just finished doing major landscaping around his house. //Pete Siegel//

I met Pat after his airborne career, while he was preparing for his assignment in Moscow. We corresponded until recently and Nila kept us informed about his declining health. He served his country well. May he RIP. //Jerry Ellis//

Pat and I served together at the US Embassy in Moscow, USSR, from 1978 until 1980. He was an airborne Russian linguist in the Far East prior to that. He went on to an assignment at the US Embassy in another of the Soviet Blok countries afterward. He and I kept in touch until a few years ago when he contracted dementia. //Glenn Miller//



Dawidowicz, Daniel J., SMSgt (ret), 89, passed away April 18, 2024. He graduated from Buffalo East High School in 1952 with a concentration in music where he played piano and flute. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War as a Bandsman and subsequently was reassigned to the electronic communications specialist and linguist fields. He served overseas tours with the Air Force Security Service in the Philippines IS., Turkey, and West Berlin, Germany before retiring as a Senior Master Sergeant. He had earned several awards including two Air Force Commendation Medals and achieved a college degree. Daniel is survived by his Devoted Wife of 65 years, Patricia Ann (O'Connor); Beloved Children Colleen (Joseph) Beshwor and Kenneth Dawidowicz. //Obit – **The Washington Post**//



Franzese, Anthony Albert “Tony”, Col (ret), 59, passed away March 31, 2024. With a remarkable 26-year tenure in the United States Air Force, his military career was distinguished by his strategic acumen and leadership, touching the lives of many who served with him. His many assignments included a successful squadron command tour and multiple deployments, one of which was a year-long tour in Iraq as Director of Intelligence with Combined Joint Task Force Troy that focused on countering the improvised explosive devices (IED) threat to coalition forces across Iraq. He finished his career as the Director of Intelligence at Headquarters Twelfth Air Force Base (Air Forces Southern) at Davis-Monthan AFB in

Arizona. His exceptional service and leadership throughout his career was recognized with various honors to include a Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, and two Defense Meritorious Service Medals. Following his retirement as an Air Force Colonel (O-6) from active duty, he continued to contribute his expertise to the field as an Operations Integration & Innovation Planner at 16th Air Force with Booz Allen/Leidos. He is survived by Cha, his loving wife of 32 plus years; three children, Michael, William, and Kathryn. //Obit – Porter Loring Mortuary North//

Tony was a terrific friend and colleague. I worked closely with him serving in 25th and 16th Air Force at JBSA-Lackland, 2017 – 2023. We went on business trips out to Nellis AFB to support training for AF ISR forces. //Ross Felker//

I worked with Tony for several years. One of the smartest intelligence troops I have ever run across. He had a diverse background that made him unique. But, I would say his sense of humor will be what I really remember him for. //Tim Jacobsen//



Frederick, Michael, Capt (ret), 65, passed away January 31, 2024. He enlisted in the USAF and met the love of his life, Suki, during his assignment to Korea. After four years of serving his country, he attended Michigan State University on a Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Asian History. He would commission as a Second Lieutenant, re-entering Active Duty as an Intelligence Officer, with his inaugural assignment back in Korea. Michael's military service spanned an additional 11 years, including pivotal roles in Kuwait during the Persian Gulf War, and

assignments across the US and east Asia, culminating in his medical retirement as a Captain in San Antonio. His commitment to national security extended into his civilian life, where he worked as a contractor for the US Air Force, serving in various military intelligence capacities spanning 24 years. In 2020, he transitioned to a civil service position within the 24th Air Force, from which he retired in September 2023. His legacy is lovingly carried on by his wife of 44 years, Suki, his daughter Celia and her husband Frank, his four grandchildren: Jaden Michael,

Noah Christian, Elise Faith, and Ella Grace, and his three sisters: Kristen LePalm, Susan Barwick, and Martha Clapsaddle, who will miss him dearly. //Obit – National Cremation//



Haupt, Ronald Richard, 85, passed away May 18, 2024. At age 16, Ron lived with his parents in French Morocco when his father was reassigned by the U.S. Navy. Upon his return to the states, Ron enlisted in the USAF where he spent one year on the island of Crete in Greece before relocating to Fort Meade, Maryland. On October 24, 1959, Ron and Janet (née Ridings) were married at the Brookland Baptist Church in Washington DC. After his honorable discharge from the Air Force in 1961, Ron returned to Fort Meade as a civilian, working over the next 35 years for the Department of Defense (DOD). During that time, Ron attended classes at the National Cryptologic School, to include

completing advanced DOD engineering courses in preparation for the important work he would perform that also required him to travel all over the world. After retiring from the DOD, Ron went to work for Applied Signal Technology for the remaining four years of his distinguished government career. In 1966, they had the opportunity to move to Harrogate, England for Ron's work with the National Security Agency (NSA), and spent seven years on two separate tours living in England as well as traveling throughout the United Kingdom and much of Europe. Ron is survived by his wife, Janet, of 64 years, daughter, Terri (Jason), sons Stephen and David (Nancy). //Obit - Hardesty Funeral Home//



Lanier, Tillman Earl, MSgt (ret), 75, passed away April 5, 2024.

An obituary, once published, will be posted in a future newsletter. However, the following is information garnered from email correspondence and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Gravesite Locator. //Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa//

An obituary is not available at this time for Tillman Earl Lanier. We welcome you to provide your thoughts and memories on our Tribute Wall. LINK: [Tillman Earl Lanier Obituary \(2024\) - San Antonio, TX - Castle Ridge Mortuary - West Military Dr. \(legacy.com\)](#) //Obit - Castle

Ridge Mortuary//

Lanier, Tillman Earl, MSgt, USAF, passed away April 5, 2024. War Period was Vietnam, Interred at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery //U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Gravesite Locator//

You might remember Tillman Lanier from his many, many years of working on Security Hill and being assigned to Security Service units. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. //David Hill//



Marshall, Jerry Eugene, Colonel (ret), 90, passed away, March 17, 2024. Jerry joined the U.S Air Force in 1955, commissioned through the Aviation Cadet Program receiving pilot training. His first 8 years of military service were spent on world-wide missions for the Strategic Air Command and Military Air Transport Service spending considerable time in Laos, Thailand, South Vietnam, India and Japan. A veteran of 120 combat missions over Southeast Asia as a command pilot, accumulating 800 combat hours and more than 5,000 military flying hours. He also served as an assistant professor of aerospace studies with the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Arizona. While at UA, he was

the Advisor the ROTC Angel Flight Squadron. He served 2 years as a pilot in Vietnam starting in 1968. He moved on to the Pentagon with the Defense Intelligence Agency, then to Hawaii as Director of Intelligence with CINPAC (Commander in Chief, Pacific Command), then back to the Pentagon as the Air Staff Division Chief, Headquarters USAF. He finished his Air Force career at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas as the Commander of the Air Force Electronic Warfare Center and Commander of the Air Force Cryptologic Support Center. He was highly decorated throughout his career with numerous awards. Most notable are two Legion of Merit Awards, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and Bronze Star Medal. He retired from the Air Force as a full Colonel in March of 1985. He cherished his extended family, his loving wife, Ann Day Marshall of Madisonville, Texas, his 2 daughters, Kathryn Covert and Laura (and Keith) Fowler. He loved his recent community, Blue Skies/Air Force Village where he served in several leadership roles and developed many dear friendships. The family wishes to acknowledge and express gratitude to the entire staff of Blue Skies/Air Force Village and The Mission for their professionalism and genuine care for both Jerry and Ann Marshall. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 60 years, Margaret Ann Day Marshall. Jerry is survived by his daughters, Kathryn and Laura Fowler (Keith). **//Obit - Porter Loring Mortuary.//**

Jerry we will never forget what a wonderful friend and effective leader you have always been. From the time you were bringing the EC47 to us at Pleiku VN to your time at USAFSS Hq working under Bernie Larser. You were always an exceptional leader able to pull your people up to a higher level. Now you are on your final flight to our Lord and to Ann who is waiting for you. In Christ. //Bill Duvall//



Mastaler, George G., SSgt, 87, passed away March 2, 2024. He enlisted in Intelligence Specialist School, Sheppard AFB, TX. He served as Airman Second Class in the Air Force Security Service. He was promoted to Staff Sergeant and served in Intelligence Operations with the 544th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron at Offutt AFB, NE, where he was librarian of the U-2 bomber photographs, serving for four years. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Christine (Gagnon) Mastaler; his daughter Julie and her husband, Troy Sanders. //Obit – The Recorder//



McCormick, Bill, passed away February 24, 2024.

Obituary, once published, will be posted in future newsletter. However, the following is information garnered from email correspondence and Social Media posts. //Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa//

Bill passed away on 2/24/24 and his wife, Serena, passed away 3/5/24 I hope their souls are resting together in heaven pain free & happy// Joyce Jados//

My Great Friend and Great American, Bill McCormick passed away over the weekend. He carried himself with tremendous strength, continuing to work as cancer progressed. We enjoyed so many good times over the years... He will be missed! //Christopher Hoak//

Many flights together. Also worked together under the AFCO umbrella. RIP my friend. Thoughts and prayers to the family. //Michael Nielsen//

Oh man!!!! What a loss. Oh the stories from Monterey, Yosemite, and Songtan! Bill, I will always have my broken finger to remember you by! Love you Brother and I’m going to miss you. //Kevin Touhey//

Bill and I served together on Okinawa (I was a MiMi then as well). He was always a great person to work with //Michael Lillie//

Omg! My roommate in Monterey! My heart is slit of pain! //Efrain Camacho//



Parker, Phillip A., 88, passed away March 30, 2024. He enlisted in the USAF and attended Syracuse University language school where he studied and became fluent in Russian. He was then stationed in England at RAF Chicksands, working in the intelligence sector. It was there he met his wife Gillian, who lived in the nearby town of Bedford. After separating from the service, he had an exceptional and accomplished career in the FBI, retiring as the Deputy Assistant Director of the Counterintelligence Division after 20 years of service. His assignments included Seattle, Washington, and Monterey, California language school; yet most of his years were spent in Washington D.C. at FBI Headquarters, the Washington Field Office, and the National War College. Fluent in Russian, Spanish and Bulgarian, he had a leading role in the intelligence war against the KGB. He led the investigations for many high-profile spy cases, two of which were featured in the books “The Spy Who Got Away” and “Cassidy’s Run,” by David Wise. He retired in 1987 and was honored to receive the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal that same year. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Gillian, his daughter, Alexandra (Snyder), son-in-law Craig. **//Obit – Oliver Funeral/**



Rucker, Jerry Lee Rucker Jr., MSgt (ret), 69, passed away March 25, 2024. Jerry served his country with honor and distinction as a Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force where he served for 23 years. After retiring the military, he continued his service as a Union Steward for the US Postal Service for 20 years. Jerry’s dedication to his work and his fellow servicemen and women was unwavering. He is survived by his wife Visitacion (Vessie) Rucker, children Jessica Borja, Kimberly Rucker (Regan Cambia, son-in-law), Raquel Rucker, and Mark Rucker. **//Obit - Mountain View Funeral Home//**

According to USAFSS Facebook Posts, his assignments included Kadena, Elmendorf, Kelly, Clark, Goodfellow and Osan Air Bases. In addition, he was stationed at RAF Mildenhall and Fort Meade. He was an X1. //Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa//



Price, Bob J., 91, passed away September 7, 2023. Bob served four years in the Air Force Security Service and was stationed in Darmstadt, Germany, where he worked as a cryptographer. Bob returned to the states in 1956 and married Louise Logan, also of Doniphan, MO. He is survived by his wife Louise, one daughter, DeLess and husband Steve Carroll, two sons, Robert L. Price and wife Mary, and Stanford Price and wife Julie. **//Obit - Oltmann Funeral Home//**



Shaw, Thomas “Tom”, 83, passed away February 29, 2024. Tom enlisted in the USAF March 1959 and retired in San Angelo 30 June 1979. While stationed in West Berlin, he met his soulmate Evi. They would have been married for 60 years this June. //Obit – Johnson’s Funeral Home//

Tom was a long-time member of the Freedom Through Vigilance (USAFSS) Association. He was our real estate agent and tax consultant. Tom prepared my business tax returns for many years. We enjoyed swapping books and talking about the good old days. Then we got old.

We will long remember you good friend. //Tom & Kitty Nurre//

The Heritage Chapter is sad to report the passing of Tom Shaw. Tom was an old-time USAFSS linguist, learning Polish at DLI. He was also a staff member for PME. //Wayne Bascom//



Todd, Robert V., 91, passed away April 24, 2023. He enlisted in 1954 and was assigned to Shiroy Air Base in Japan. He served as a communications officer with the U.S. Air Force Security Service. Upon discharge, Bob & his wife Arla returned to the Akron area where they started their family. He is survived by his three children. Daughters: Dianne (Charles) Sawyer and Shirley (Victor). Son: Robert W. (Paula). //Obit – Anthony Funeral Homes//



Wilcher, John F. “Jeff”, 88, TSgt (ret), passed away April 20, 2024.

Obituary, once published, will be posted in future newsletter. However, the following is information garnered from email correspondence and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Gravesite Locator. //Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa//

Wilcher, John Frank, TSgt, USAF, passed away April 20, 2024. War Period was Vietnam, Interred at Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery //U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Gravesite Locator//

When I met Jeff “Turk” Wilcher — he came TDY to Rhein-Main in conjunction with the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia on 21 August 1968. My records indicate that Jeff Wilcher’s name was John Wilcher, but he was “Jeff” Wilcher to his AF friends. Soon after the conclusion of that TDY — daily missions for 45 days monitoring the outcome of the Warsaw Pact Czech Invasion — Jeff Wilcher concluded a 14-year USAFSS airborne recon career, converting credits towards an AF retirement towards federal service (completing his Russian linguist career as a

civilian (GS-rating) with NSA. Later during retirement, we got together with Jeff & Bettye Wilcher during PWG reunions — RIP JEFF WILCHER!!! //Larry Tart//

Larry, I worked with Jeff in A644 from some time in 1969-70 until I departed for Monterey. He was a civilian and might have just come on board. Nice guy, highly skilled. //William Deister//



Yablonski, Edward A., 87, passed March 22, 2024. He graduated from Kulpmont High School, in 1953. After high school, he served in the U.S. Navy for four years. In 1958, he married Julia, the love of his life, and they set off on an exciting and adventurous life together. He worked for The U.S. Air Force Security Service, graduated from the University of Texas School of Engineering, worked in research at Bell Telephone Laboratories, became a licensed registered professional engineer, was an associate professor of mathematics at Monmouth College, was director of marketing at AT&T International, vice president of engineering at American Mobile Satellite Corp. and founder and CEO of Innovative Telecom International. He is survived by son, Mark Yablonski; daughter, Karen Carroll and her husband, Bill. //Obit **CJ Lucas Funeral Home**//



Zerphey, Robert G., MSgt (ret), passed away October 16, 2022. He joined the Air Force and had lived in various places around the world, including Honsha, Japan, Riverside, CA, Ekenbach, Germany, Ft. Meade, MD, and Darmstadt, Germany. In addition to being in the Air Force, Robert worked for the NSA. He is survived by his daughter, Debbie Gates and her husband Robert. //Obit - **Barranco Severna Park Funeral Home & Cremation Care**//

Dear Zerphey family. I knew your Dad for some years while we worked at NSA and a better man could not be found. //James Kimmet//

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