

June 2002

Remain In Touch

President's Corner

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Greetings. It's June 2002. We are about four months out from the 21st FTVA Annual Reunion and planning for the event is coming together nicely. You'll soon be getting your Reunion package in the mail and you will note a couple of changes from information previously provided to you. Our guest speaker for the Reunion Dinner Dance will be Major General (select) Paul J. Lebras, Commander, Air Intelligence Agency. Having previously served as the AIA Vice Commander, General Lebras is no stranger to Security Hill, nor to FTVA. We are pleased that he has agreed to address us at the dinner, and that he will be involved in other Association activities during the reunion.

You may recall that in the December 2001 newsletter, I recounted the parliamentary dilemma we faced after the 2001 Reunion was cancelled following the events of September 11. I also explained that we would need to amend our Constitution and By-Laws to avoid such problems as the succession of officers etc. I asked FTVA Vice President Grover Jackson to examine our Constitution and By-Laws and develop proposed changes that would help us avoid such problems in the future. Grover did a thorough job of identifying the problem areas and developing appropriate changes to fix them. He presented his recommendations to the Board in May 2002 and, with a couple of minor changes, they were approved by the Board for presentation to the membership. A copy of the proposed changes will be included in your Reunion package. Please review them prior to our Annual Meeting which will take place on Saturday, 28 September, at 1100 hours in the Larger Auditorium at AIA Headquarters. We will review the proposed changes and vote to adopt them at that meeting. Hopefully, these administrative adjustments will provide the necessary procedures to allow us proceed with our activities during extraordinary circumstances. My thanks to Grover for his diligence in finding the appropriate solutions to our problems.

Also included in the Reunion package is a ballot. We will be electing four officers this year, and with those elections, will get our terms of office back on track. Please be sure to cast your ballot

With operations in Afghanistan continuing and the role of the command and its many units vital to the success of our efforts there, it is most appropriate that the theme for this year's reunion is "Salute to Our Silent Warrior Heritage." We'll have a full slate of activities during the weekend, and you'll have a great opportunity to catch up with comrades who you may not have seen for two years or more. We'll also get to formally recognize last year's Hall of Honor selectees and induct them into the Hall of Honor, along with this year's selectees. We are looking forward to a great reunion, and it will be even better if you attend. Plan now to join us 26-28 September.

We'll look forward to seeing you then.

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John Worthington

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Individual Development Grant Program Status Report

Your efforts to help us help deserving AIA folks has placed just over \$15,000 in our endowment fund. While a good start there just isn't enough money in the fund to award even one grant. The endowment fund has to be considerably larger for grants to be provided from the interest earned on the endowment. Our initial estimate of the size necessary to permit grants of a reasonable amount was \$100,000. Obviously, we are not even a quarter of the way to meeting that goal. Your help is badly needed to make this grant program a success. Please send your tax deductible donation to:

**USAFSS/ESC Memorial Fund
Attn: Grant Program
P.O. Box 691616
San Antonio, TX 78269-1510**

March Newsletter Corrections

(1) Re: March Newsletter (pg 24/25)

Dear Dan,

I appreciate you posting my memo to Dan regarding March AFB and the Alaskan Command. The only problem with the memo is that it did not give my e-mail address. I would appreciate it if you would include it so anyone, who was in the 3rd RSM, Det2 can get in touch with me. Pastorfrank50@aol.com Thanks

Frank

(2) Re: Tom Fallon (Ref March Newsletter Fallen Eagle Section)

((Ed Note: The Tom Fallon reported in the March issue (pg 14) was mistaken to be our FTVA Member, Tom Fallon from Lecanto, FL. The message below further identifies the correct Tom Fallon who is not an FTVA member. In our FTVA newsletter we include all former USAFSS/ESC/AFIC/AIA personnel no matter if they're members or not. They are also listed on our website <http://www.ftva.org/Dap>))

Hello Dan and Jack (?)

In reply to your e-mails, may I offer the following information? The Tom Fallon I reported deceased served with the 136th CSS Det 4 in Wiesbaden, Germany, from Dec 51 thru 11/54. His DAFSC was 29351, Sr. Ground Radio Operator. His death was reported to me by a reliable source, so I never questioned it. I am/was not aware of another Tom Fallon in the 136th.

Sincerely,

Tony Lemons

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR COMBAT COMMAND**

Col Dennis R. Mitzel
Commander
373 IG
Unit 5001
APO AP 963 19-5001

4 Mar 02

John Worthington
C/c Freedom Through Vigilance Association
P.O. Box 691616
San Antonio, TX 78269-15 10

Dear Mr. Worthington,

It is with deep appreciation that I accept the Freedom Through Vigilance Association's donation to the Security Hill Heritage Hall project on behalf of the men and women of the Misawa Cryptologic Operations Center. Your generous gift of \$500 in support of this historical endeavor will assist our efforts in making the Heritage Hall a reality by this coming July.

As we start counting down to our golden anniversary in January 2003, it is indeed fortunate and appropriate that we receive financial support from organizations such as yours. The FTVA continuously strives to preserve the memories of our Air Force's rich cryptologic history by informing the present and future intelligence professionals of their predecessor's contributions.

I strongly believe our Heritage Hall will serve as a catalyst to inspire the local workforce to look back with pride upon our past accomplishments, then look forward with courage to tackle the future challenges faced by the U.S. Cryptologic and Intelligence Communities.

Please pass on to your general membership my personal gratitude for your contribution.

Sincerely

DENNIS R. MITZEL, Colonel, USAF

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Air Intelligence gets new boss

Brig. Gen. Paul J. Libras, Air Intelligence Agency vice commander from 1998 to 1999, took command of AIA and the Joint Information Operations Center during ceremonies Feb 19 at Lackland AFB's Security Hill." AIA is the nerve center of Air Force intelligence. It studies data culled from friends and foes and feeds it to pilots and commanders. Backed by a staff of 13000 worldwide, the agency was created as the Air Force Security Service in 1948. It's been in San Antonio since April 1949 and has a work force of 3,000 in the city.

((Source: San Antonio Express-News, 3/4/02))

Security Hill face-lift begins with safer gate

*((Source by Capt. Trish Wiegman-Lenz, 30th Com Sq,
Lackland Tailspinner, Apr 19, 2002))*

Officials broke ground Monday (Apr15) on a \$775,000 project to move the Security Hill entry gate about two blocks east, greatly increasing pedestrian safety and better protecting Air Intelligence Agency facilities.

Brig. Gen. Paul Lebras, AIA commander said during the groundbreaking ceremony that the project kicks off a major investment by the Air Education and Training command and the AIA "to improve the security, safety and appearance of the Security Hill Complex.

The current entry gate at Hall Boulevard will remain in operation until the new gate and first phase of the connector road are completed and fully operational around the end of August, officials said. The new gate will be just west of the Mobile Engineering Alteration and Repair Compound.

General Lebras said the gate relocation "is the first step in a plan to improve our facilities and appearance on the Hill. This plan includes the construction of a new gym and other community support facilities, the construction of a medical clinic and improved parking.

"By relocating the gate ," General Lebras said, "we will better protect our most precious resources, our people , from those that would perpetrate such heinous acts as those we witnessed on September 11th in New Your and at the Pentagon, at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia and at the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City."

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Looking for Active Duty/Retirees

If you are looking for someone and have their Service Number or SSAN, it is possible to go through the (official) USAF Locator (not to be confused with Charlie Jones and www.usaf-locator.com). It is a FREE service for retirees but there is a charge if you are not a retiree. There is a LOT of information here for retirees. You may want to keep this address handy.

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afretire/assist.htm>

Locating Air Force retirees or active duty members —The Air Force may not release home or overseas duty addresses, but will forward a personal letter. Seal your letter in a stamped envelope, enter your return address (including retired grade) and send the letter and addressee's name, grade and SSN or service number in another envelope to

HQ AFPC/MSIMDL, 550 C Street West Ste 50, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4752. (If addressee's SSN/SN is not available, locator needs the most recent Air Force base assignments/dates, etc., to help in research.) For a reply about the status of your letter, provide a stamped self-addressed envelope. Locator service - free to retirees and their immediate families - is limited to one address per request. There is no reunion locator service.

Helen Henderson

Fallen Eagles/Wounded Eagles items

As of late we have been inundated with notices of illnesses and deaths of members and non-members. We cannot forward all of the notices we receive. The process is very time consuming and not all members want to receive these notices. We have a section on our website that can be used for posting this type of information. The section is titled "Chatter Roll" and is at

"<http://www.ftva.org/cgibin/guestbook/guestbook.cgi>".

Posting is immediate and can be viewed by anyone visiting the website. Please post any illness/death notification there. If you'd like your news to be published in the next FTVA Newsletter (space permitting), please also send it to newsletter@ftva.org and the Editor will attempt to include it in the next newsletter.

Bob Baert

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Fallen Eagles

The Association has learned of the following losses from caring relatives/friends and/or obituaries. We extend our prayers and sympathy to their loved ones.

Jesse Almazan, GS-Civ (Ret)
Mark Ashley USAFSS 6924th Vet
Ed Block, Lt Col, USAF-Ret
Donnie Childs, USAFSS, USAF-RET
Roy Couvion, CMSgt, USAF-Ret
Floyd E. Cross, Col., USAF-Ret
Jefferson Davis, TSgt, USAF-Ret
Robert Anthony Dimambro, MSgt, USAF/GS-Civ (Ret)
Carlton W. "Cully" Dommissie, MSgt, USAF-Ret
James E. Dufour, MSgt, USAF-Ret
Charles E. (Charlie) Dugger, USAFSS, USAF-Ret
Robert A. Emery, USAFSS, 6913th RSM Vet
Dennis Ethen, USAFSS 6911th RSM Vet
John J. Fitzgerald, SMSgt, USAF-Ret
Louise Fletcher, Wife of Marvin J. Fletcher
Jack Hamer, MSgt, USAF/ GS-Civ (Ret)
Ned Hatton, USAFSS 6910th 50s Vet
Cliff House, USAFSS, 2nd RSM Vet
Bob Houseman, USAFSS 6918th Vet
Gene L. Hutton, USAF/GS-Civ Ret
Jane Darlene Jackson, Wife of SMSgt Wilbur L. Jackson, USAF-Ret
Samuel L. King, USAFSS, 41st RSM Vet
James R. Line, CMSgt, USAF-Ret
Gregory Miller, Lt Col, Texas Air National Guard
John F "Jack" O'Brien, CWO USAF-Ret
Jules Picciuolo, MSgt, USAF-Ret
George R. Ronka, Col., USAF-Ret
Ralph Southers, SMSgt, USAF-Ret
Lillian M. Sullivan, Wife of Lt Col Norman E. Sullivan USAF-Ret
Katherine Wearden, USAFSS GS-Civ (Ret)

*Col. Floyd E. cross, USAF retired, age 83, died Saturday, march 30, 2002. He was born in Logansport, PA, was a former resident of Kittanning, PA and had

been a San Antonio resident for 30 years. Col. Cross retired from the United States air Force after 30 years of dedicated service. //Obit// Floyd was a Maj. (?) in Pacific Security Region when I was there in 1962-65. Think he came back to Hqtrs and I lost touch with him. // Grover McMakin // I worked for Floyd in Misawa for awhile and worked with him in the

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headquarters. Truly great guy. Smart as a whip and a hard worker. Calm, cool in any situation and made super decisions. Knew the business very well. Floyd was close to many great NCOs. //Bill Ballard// Floyd Cross ran the new system requirements and testing shop in the DCS Plans and Programs when I was here in 67-68. He was either a lieutenant colonel or colonel. If I remember correctly, Billy Locke was his deputy. //Grover Jackson//

Carlton W. "Cully" Dommissie died 24 Feb 02 in Waupun, WI. He lost his fight with diabetes (from 1986) and heart failure, at age 61. Many of us knew him. Cully was a Chinese and Vietnamese linguist, an intensely loving husband and father, and very active in his hometown of Waupun. He is deeply missed. //Hank Conners// Cully was retired from the USAF after 20 years of service. Cully was married to his wife Joyce for forty two years. Condolences may be sent to the family at the following address. 912 Rock Ave., Waupun, WI 53963. //John French//

SMSgt Ralph Southers passed away January 6th 2002. Ralph had been ill with cancer for the last two years. Ralph Southers was assigned to the Materiel Branch of the 6913th RSM from 20 June 1961 until 13 June 1964. During the first two years, he held the position of NCOIC Inventory Management in Material Control. During his final year in Bremerhaven, Ralph was NCOIC of One of the accounts—AF (N) 5626 Account. As additional duty, Ralph was a member of the Unit Fund Council, recorder of the Squadron Mission Equipment Ralph h Outage Review Board, member of the Message Review Board, member of the Squadron OJT Advisory Council, Section OJT Supervisor, and member of the Squadron B and J Fund Council. Many will remember that Ralph Southers was an excellent bowler in Bremerhaven. He held a 182 average in three leagues. He had been ill with cancer for the last two years. Ralph Southers was assigned to the Materiel Branch of the 6913th RSM from 20 June 1961 until 13 June 1964. During the first two years, he held the position of NCOIC Inventory Management in Material Control. During his final year in Bremerhaven, Ralph was NCOIC of one of the accounts—AF (N) 5626 Account. As additional duty, Ralph was a member of the Unit Fund Council, recorder of the Squadron Mission Equipment bowled mostly on "Snoopy's TeamRalph enlisted on 6 February1951and completed his Air Force career in late 1971 as a Senior Master Sergeant. We thank you, Stan Smith, for sending us the informationRest in PeaceArlen Trapp//



Robert Anthony Dimambro Sr., born on February 14, 1924 in Cassino, Italy, passed away on March 29, 2002 in San Antonio, TX at the age of 78. He was in the US Marine Corps; retired from the USAF and retired from Civil service. He was an active member of the community, involved with the Boy Scouts of America, Lions International, S.U.A.V.E. and numerous activities within his church, Mission San Jose. //Obit//

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The Robert Dimambro in today's Obits was one of ours. He worked in AFCD in Tech Services both on active duty and then after retirement as a civilian. He was a Crypto Maintenance manager and supported units worldwide on problems. //John Conners// Bob Dimambro, an outstanding NCO (Retired as a MSgt) served the COMSEC and SIGINT community, then worked as a Civil Service employee in the Air Force Cryptologic Depot. //Doug Holden//

I don't think that John (Fitzgerald) maintained his membership with the organization, but I am sure that there are a lot of members who knew John and will be sorry to hear that he passed away, on Friday, April 26, 2002, after a long battle with prostate cancer. He retired as an E-8 with 26 years of service. I believe that he retired in the mid to late 70's. I didn't get to know John until 1983 even though we had both been stationed at Kirknewton at the same time. I think that he was stationed in possibly Ashiya, Japan before he came to Kirknewton. I was there from 1956 thru 1959 and he arrived after I did, so he should have been there probably from 1957 thru 1960. I also know that he was stationed at Chicksands but am not certain just when it was. I seem to recall that he was there after I left in 1970 but cannot confirm that. I believe that most all of his stateside tours were here at Keesler.// Joe Mullican// John Joseph Fitzgerald Jr., 69, died Friday April 26, 2002 in Gulfport MS. Mr. Fitzgerald was born in Quincy MS and had resided in Gulfport for the past 40 years. He was retired from the US Air Force after 26 years of service and was a retired real estate agent. He was also a member of the D'Iberville Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2434. John joined the Loyal Order of the Moose in Gulfport in 1978 and was a member of the D'Iberville lodge #332. John's passion was the Moose lodge and its principles. In 1991 he received the Pilgrim Degree of Merit. //Obit//

Gene L. Hutton, a devoted family man, passed away Wednesday, March 27 2002. He was born March 19, 1920 in Collinsville, TX. He joined the Air Force in early 1942 and retired after 21 years of service. During that time, he was stationed in Italy, Africa, England, Florida and Michigan and eventually returning to Texas. Hutton retired from the military in 1963 and took a job with the USAF Cryptologic depot at Kelly AFB. //Obit/ Carmina Danini San Antonio Express Staff writer//

Jack Hamer, age 85 passed away Sunday, March 24, 2002. MSgt Hamer served in the United States Air Force and retired from OSI-special Investigations Group. He was also a civil Service retiree working at the Security Command as a Security specialist at Kelly AFB. //Obit//

I do not know how to address the proper individuals at the 6924th Heritage Assn regarding my husband, Mark Ashley, recent death. I know he often spoke of the interesting information he gained thorough your website and the camaraderie he shared with many of the members. Will you please update your records and let the appropriate people of his passing. "Mark died on Monday, April 22nd of cardiac arrhythmia. He had just celebrated his 55th birthday on

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April 8th and appeared to be the picture of health despite having undergone a quadruple bypass a year and a half-ago and prostate cancer the year before. He was in his 27th year of employment with Norfolk Southern and still very active with the boy scouts, his church and of late an avid golfer. He was my best friend and the love of my life and I truly feel blessed for whatever time God allowed us to be together yet I am at a total loss as to the eternal questions of why him and why now. Sincerely,/ /Kim Ashley// Mark was an Iron Horse analyst and later 202 plotter/reporter in S&W on Charlie Flight from 22 November 1967 until 19 November 1968. //Mike Gilkerson//

Ned Hatton was at Landsberg from 54 to 56. Last year Ned rode a bicycle from Phoenix, AZ to Dillon, MT, a distance of 1,500 miles. Not too bad for a 70 year old. Then late last year (2001) his colon cancer reared its ugly head and ended his life. //Blair Hoyt//



Artist Jesse Almazan, one of the founders of the influential Chicano art group Con Safo, has died of complications from pneumonia, almost seven years to the day after he had a lung transplant. He was 64. A graduate of Fox Tech high School (San Antonio), Almazan studied at the San Antonio Art institute and the Hunter School of Art in San Antonio. At 19, he became one of the first Mexican Americans invited to join the Men of Art Guild. Almazan served as an artist/illustrator for the (USAFSS)/US Air Force

Electronic Security Command and the Air Force Intelligence Command for 34 years. // Elda Silva San Antonio Express News staff writer, Apr 4, 2002//

Dap - I just received word of the passing of Roy Couvion. He was an old time member of USAFSS and will be severely missed. He passed away on 15 April after a long and tenacious battle with illness. I believe he was a chief but I am not sure. He served at Elmendorf while I was there and at Taipei. After he retired he became a tech rep for some company and attended several of our Reunions at Kelly. He was actually the other Grandfather of my Grandson. His son married my daughter. I am sure that if you talked to any maintenance type they might remember him. //Ray Field//

Bob I just got a call this morning (Saturday/23 Mar) that James R (Bob) Line (also affectionately known as Jim Bob) passed away in his sleep last night. He had had heart problems for several years and according to the family friend that called Bob went peacefully. The caller said Bess is doing as well as can be expected. That's about all I know at this time. The address & telephone in the latest FTVA directory and email list are current. // George W. Hollis // Thanks, George...Bob helped run the "little planes" (EC-47s) at PSR in the early 70's with Butch Wheeler and Mike Christy and Mel Berg while I watched Lou Guerrera and Billy Daniels run the BIG planes (C-130s and RC-135s)....He was one of those quiet but super good guys! //Bob Cope //

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Col. George R. Ronka, 92, Sarasota and formerly of Port Charlotte, died April 8, 2002. He was born April 27, 1909, in Astoria, Ore., and retired to Port Charlotte in 1964. He came to Sarasota in 1986 from Port Charlotte. He graduated from Boston University in 1934. He received a Jacob Sleeper Fellowship from Boston University to attend graduate school at Albertus University in Koenigsberg, East Prussia. He then served as principal of the Thompsons Academy, Thompsons Island in Boston, Mass. He entered the U.S. Air Force in 1942 and served with distinction in North Africa and Germany, in England with the Royal Air Force, and in Turkey, where he commanded four USAF communications intelligence bases. He also served as policy division chief for the National Intelligence Committee in the CIA. While in Germany, he was the second American to be awarded the 550-year-old City of Zweibruecken's plaque and certificate of appreciation for his cooperation and liaison work with the Germans. He was also a briefer to the chief of staff and to President Eisenhower. He retired in 1964 to Port Charlotte, where he taught at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County and served as lecturer to several civic organizations. He moved to Sarasota in 1986. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Sarasota. // Obituary from the Sarasota Herald Tribune 4/10/2002 submitted by Claude Procktor //



Jane Darlene Jackson, 74 years of age, passed away April 6, 2002. Jane was born September 29, 1927 in Hastings, NE. In May of 1950 she graduated as a Registered nurse from St. Luke's School of Nursing in Denver, CO. In October of that year she married Wilbur, and traveled extensively abroad with her husband and children while Wilbur was in the Air Force. she was very active for over 40 years in her church, St. John's United Methodist, where she sang in the choir, helped with Youth Fellowship, played the piano in Sunday school, and was involved in many Bible studies with her husband. In 1989 Jane participated in the Walk to Emmaus, Walk No. 109; thereafter being actively involved in the San Antonio northwest Emmaus community. Jane also was actively involved in the city community as a Docent for the Institute of Texan Cultures as well as serving on the board of the Jefferson Area Co-Op. For fourteen years she worked as a nurse at Santa Rosa hospital. //Obit // Jane and Wilbur spent overseas tours at Burtonwood, Mildenhall, England; Crete; Eursctyrn, Frankfurt Germany. //Jim Youngson//

Dennis Ethen, former 6911r, died suddenly in April of a heart attack. His wife, Colleen, called Keith (Billy) Butt today and let him know. Dennis was Keith's first roommate in Darmstadt. Last year in San Antonio they met for the first time in 40+ years at the 6911th reunion. Please keep Colleen and family in your prayers. //Pat for Rich (Merrill) //

Katherine Wearden, born November 1, 1919 entered rest march 12, 2002. She was a good friend, mother and grandmother. Katherine was in Federal Service

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for 35 years at Kelly AFB in the USAF Security Service Cryptologic Depot and Support Center and Electronic Security Command where she received many outstanding awards and recognition for outstanding suggestions, achievement and accomplishment. She was commended for her conscientious and aggressive efforts to upgrade the standards of the document control section. For two years after retirement from Kelly she served as a Bexar County election judge. //Obit

Gregory Miller, age 45, Lt. Colonel, Texas Air National Guard passed into the lord's hands on Thursday, April 4, 2002, from his home in Boerne, Kendall County, TX. Born August 15, 1956 in Cumberland Allegany County, MD. In 1974, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. On active duty for almost 10 years, he was stationed in Omaha, NE, Fort Yukon, AK, the Pentagon in Washington D.C. and the Medina Annex of Lackland AFB in San Antonio. He left active duty as a staff sergeant and joined the Texas Air National Guard with the 149th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) at Kelly AFB in April 1983. He also enrolled at the University of Texas at San Antonio that year to pursue a degree in Human Resources management, and graduated in December 1985 with a Bachelor of Business Science. In 1986, he was a distinguished Graduate of the Air National Guard Officer Commissioning Program and in 1989 became the full time chief of Intelligence for the 149th TFW. As a major, in 1996 he graduated from the USAF Weapons School at Nellis AFB, NV. In April 2000 he was promoted to Lt. Colonel. At the time of his death, he had been the Senior Air Force Liaison Officer to Czech Air Forces in Prague, the Czech Republic. //Obit// Greg was an airman/NCO in USAFSS/ ESC before going into the ANG. He served at NSA and with the 6978th ESS (Mobile) //Doug Holden//

Dan - I wanted to express my sadness on the news that CWO John F "Jack" "OB" O'Brien passed away on Dec 26th. He was a long time friend. I worked for him in the 6931st SG, as his administrative supervisor in the base CBPO (68-69). When I arrived at Crete, from Vietnam, I had the understanding that I was to be assigned to the Comm Branch in the Compound, but John had other ideas, and with his persuasive power, I was assigned to the CBPO. It was he that enabled me to make TSgt. We had kept in touch, every Christmas since our departure from Crete, including the last one (with help of a caretaker) at the assisted living facility that he was at. He was a tough-minded person; however had much compassion underneath his exterior. Both my wife and I knew his wife, Charlotte and enjoyed their company on several occasions. She passed some years ago. She was an inspector of furs for a large furrier firm in New York City and gave us some invaluable info on what to look for in fur coats. She got my wife involved in Family Services, resulting in her becoming the Base Coordinator for Family Services there. Charlotte could make a wicked good avocado dip. John had a hobby, so to speak, with investments of mutual funds, no loads, etc and became very proficient at it, and gave me some good investment tips. John also enjoyed bowling and dancing and like to brag about it. I will miss him, but I have the pleasure to have walked in that particular time of my life, with him. // John S. Cobb, TSgt USAF Ret. //

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Lillian M. Sullivan, age 70, born in Harper, Texas passed away Monday, April 29, 2002. Lillian was very active in sports as a young girl and active in Family Services in the states as well as overseas as a military Air Force wife She is survived by her beloved husband of 48 years and 10 months, Lt. Col. Norman E. Sullivan, USAF (Ret); sons, Randall Sullivan and wife Sandy and David Sullivan; daughter Carolyn Collier. //Obit// The Sullivan's were stationed in San Vito, Italy and also here in San Antonio. //ED//

Received the following today. I have no idea as to its origin. Hakata was the 6918th RSM. Bob Houseman, At Hakata '61'- '64, passed away in January. He worked in operations. // Jack Allen//

Lt Col (Ret) Ed Block passed away at home near Bandera, TX on 13 May 2002. Ed had been a WWII P-51 photorecce pilot in the European theater. Following his wartime experiences, he was assigned to USAFSS in Logistics and spent tours on Shemya, St Lawrence and at the Headquarters. He was a worldwide troubleshooter wherever supply problems occurred. Ed was the brother of Harlon Block, the Marine who planted the tip of the flag on Iwo Jima in that world famous photo. His wife, Gussie, is at home at: 798 Oak Hills Road, Pipe Creek, TX 78063-5650 //BobCope//

MSgt James E. Dufour, USAF (Ret) was born Feb 20, 1934 and passed away May 7, 2002 at the age of 68 years. A native of Manchester NH, Jim entered the USAF in 1954, serving during the Vietnam War and in Germany, Taiwan, Greece, and Kelly AFB in San Antonio. He retired in 1978 and began working as a realtor //obit//

Robert A. EMERY died five months ago, on October 18, 2001. He was 68 years old. Mrs. Emery told me today when we spoke by phone that her husband died due to complications of lymphoma, which had been in remission. Bob Emery was given a full military funeral at Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. While assigned to the Squadron in Bremerhaven, Bob Emery served on Charlie Trick initially as a Morse intercept operator and, later in his tour, probably as a Morse Block Controller. While there, Bob extended his enlistment and tour of duty, leaving the Squadron sometime in early/mid 1958. When Bob returned to Continental U.S., he was assigned to Travis AFB in California to finish the few months left on his term of enlistment and then relocated to Stockton, California. Soon after Bob left the Air Force, he married Bobbie (they had gone through high school together). At Stockton, he began a career in upholstery work. For many years he owned and operated his upholstery shop there. A few years ago, Bob and Bobbie retired and moved to Warner, Oklahoma. //Arlen Trapp//

This morning Diane Picciuolo, daughter of Jules V. Picciuolo, posted the sad news on our 6913th/41st RSM Forum that her father had died on Thursday, February 28th. Jules served at the 6913th RSM as RT Controller on Baker

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Flight at first, then on Dog Flight. He was assigned to the Squadron from September 1957 until May 1962. He enlisted in the Air Force on August 22, 1950 and retired as a Master Sergeant in September 1970. // Arlen Trapp// Following was posted by on the Chix Website: I am sorry to inform you that my father, Jules (age 73) passed away on Thursday, February 28, 2002. He retired with the rank of Msgt. in 1970 after 20 years of service in the Air Force. He was stationed at RAF Chicksands from 1965-1968. My mother's address is Margaret Lillian Picciuolo, 329 E. Prairie Ave., Lombard, IL 60148. Please keep our family in your prayers. Diane Picciuolo// Bill Grayson//

This morning's San Antonio Express News carries an obituary for Louise Fletcher...wife of Marvin J. Fletcher (294X0-ELINTer). According to the obit, she passed away on 8 March, age 71...she and Marv were living in Conroe, Texas...due North of Houston. Big Marv was in the airborne program for quite awhile...Tampa, Yokota, Okie, and Homestead. Warm regards to all PWGers...//Darr King.//

From Dan Ford: "Wanted to pass on the death of Donnie Childs, on 18 Dec 2001, a 207X1 assigned to San Vito 1982 to 1986. Donnie was well known throughout ESC and also served tours in Turkey, Crete, and Chicksands. He was an avid softball player and played for Dog Flight all four years. He was seriously injured in a swimming accident 16 years ago and was paralyzed for the rest of his life. He passed away after fighting for 16 years and he will be truly missed. His wife Sandy now resides in Maine. He hung on long enough to see is daughter Jessica graduate for High School and to get married. If you have some way of passing this on to former members of San Vito members I would greatly appreciate it. Also knew Donnie when I was stationed in Crete 1976 to 1979."//San Vito Morning news 16 Mar 02//

I received the following e-mail today from John Dorn regarding the passing of Cliff House on March 13, 2002. Cliff had attended the last two 2nd RSM reunions in Las Vegas in 1998 and 2000 and had also planned on attending the upcoming Biloxi reunion in April of this year but was forced to cancel in February. He had been suffering from bone cancer in recent years. Our condolences to his wife Rolande //Bill Campbell//

John (Sinnard). I got this from the monthly Phoenix Society mailings. (Phoenix Society is the NSA retiree's org.) Richard (dick) Powell, retired 1989, died 20 Dec 2001 at age 69 ,following a lengthy illness complicated by multiple strokes; survived by his wife , Annette, two sons, one daughter, 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Dick retired as Chief Master Sgt. USAF in 1969. He held various positions at comm centers while serving overseas tours in Germany, Turkey and England. He retired from the agency

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after managing the comm ctr at Rosmon in North Carolina. Prior to his illness Dick enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and playing golf. //Dave Thompson//

After battling cancer for the past several years, Samuel L. King died on March 8, 2002. Sam King served in Bremerhaven at the 41st RSM from 1952 until probably December 1954. He was a crypto operator, who was assigned to the Communications Branch, but attached to Charlie Trick. Sam is remembered by many of his friends from those days in the 1950's. //Arlen Trapp//

TSgt Jefferson Davis was not a member of FTVA, but he was a member of Security Service with the 6989 Spt Sqd from 1968-1970 in charge of the Teletype/Crypto Maintenance shop. TSgt Davis died of a stroke in his home town of Moriah New York. Jeff was a good friend and talked about Security Service with much pride. //TSgt. Robert Bergeron (ret) //

Charles E. (Charlie) DUGGER died on Wednesday, February 28th, at the age of 70. Charlie Dugger served at the 6913th RSM as RT Controller on Baker Flight from February 1956 until probably August 1959. He retired in 1971. Most of us also remember Charlie Dugger as one of the best bowlers in the Squadron. We extend our condolences to the widow and family of Charlie Dugger. //Arlen Trapp//

Honorary Fallen Eagles

(1) **Moses Reyes** - age 69, born on May 23, 1932, entered into rest on March 15, 2002. Mr. Reyes was a veteran of the Air Force, and retired from Kelly AFB as a barber. Moses took great pride in making his clients look sharp. He was a Master Mason and a member of the Lonnie Irvin Daylight Lodge#1309, a Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner. //Obit// Moses was the Barber in the Building (2000, HQ USAFSS) for years. //Jim Gonzalez(2) Lt Col Fritz Hyde III - I am forwarding an edited obit for Lt Col Fritz Hyde III who served at Kadena AB, Okinawa, Mildenhall RAF, England, and Offutt AFB, NE as a Raven/EWO on the Rivet Joint and Combat Sent. I served with Fritz in Mildenhall and he worked in the vault closely with the SS/ESC crew members and most knew him well. He talked fondly of his work at other locations with SS/ESC members. // Gary Hess// Fritz C. Hyde III, 62, died at home Feb. 3, after battling lung cancer. Fritz had a long, successful, and rewarding career with the USAF, primarily in SAC. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1988 after 29 years of service, mostly in Reconnaissance. Fritz, Marty and two sons spent time at bases around the world including: Okinawa, Japan, Mildenhall, England and three tours at Offutt AFB, Omaha, NE. The family chose to retire in Omaha due to the many wonderful friendships developed over the years. Fritz was an avid golfer who lived life to the fullest. He was a dear friend to many and will be truly missed. He is survived by his wife Marty, two sons, two grandch(3) Maj Gen Jim Brown - All--sad to report that Maj Gen James L. Brown yesterday (2/26/02) at age 73. Funeral is

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tomorrow in San Marcos, with burial in Ft. Sam Houston. No other info available. From talking with his widow today, I understand that Maj Gen Brown died rather suddenly from circulatory system and respiratory problems that may have started from a throat infection. Less than 24 hours in the hands of the medics. He never served a tour in our command. Grew up in SAC, was SAC/IN in the mid-70s, ACS/I USAF in the late 70s, and was in the senior leadership at DIA when he retired in 1982.

Wounded Eagle - George Williams

My Dad asked me to send you this email for him. His name is George Williams (My name is Barbara Towner), and says that even though he is probably not well-known amongst you all, he is a member of USAF Security Service and ESC from November 1963 to December 1983. He recently underwent a quadruple bypass on February 18. He had an angiogram done on Feb. 15 and they determined he needed bypass surgery. He was released from the hospital this past Monday, Feb 25. He is on oxygen and cannot come downstairs to his computer s it is located too near hot water heater (and its open flame). However, he wanted me to give you his and my e-mail address in case you can pass on any message of support.

George: gfmwilliams1052@prodigy.net

Barbara: mrst1969@attbi.com

Please feel free to pass on the above information as you see fit , and feel free to e-mail either of us. I check his e-mail for him. I know he would appreciate any support or encouragement you can provide. Thank you! Sincerely

Barbara Tower

((ED Note: the above e-mail was received by Bob Cope on 2 March and subsequently directed to selected members (based on George's assignments) via the internet. The message below was received on 5 March and is being published in this current newsletter to prove to our members that the USAFSS "family" still exists //Dap))

Thank You From George Williams

I am – so – overwhelmed!!!

I don't know where to begin or what to say. Always looked at myself as one of the many "little guys" just trying to do the job, whatever it entailed. Never expected the response to the message I asked my daughter to send out for me. First of all, let me express my sincere heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has responded to my daughter and myself for your prayers and support.

Believe me when I say I cannot express enough my gratitude to all of you. As you can see, I now have access to my computer again. Still on oxygen. Last night, my daughter and son-in-law came over and brought my computer up from the basement and set it up in my living room. They ran a 100 foot

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telephone cord from where I had the computer in the basement, so now I am set.

Let me now apologize to those who attempted to send messages to me that were kicked back to them. Don't know what happened, unless my e-mail server got overloaded and was for some reason not accepting any more incoming messages. I know that when my son came down from Denver this past week-end to visit, when he got on the computer, I had over 80 messages lined up to be read. Since then, my daughter has been coming over and downloading all the messages in order to "keep the lines open" so to speak. For those of you who have inquired as to "which George Williams" I am – I am not the **George S. Williams** that you are asking about. (Sorry, am not able to help you locate him). I was not a Vietnamese linguist. I was an analyst

.....
(202X0) – understand they have changed the AFSC designator – am curious to know what we are now called.

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I presently live in Pueblo, Colorado (my hometown). Pueblo is located about 100 miles south of Denver. Am 45 miles from NORAD and Space Command and Peterson AFB. And 60 miles from the Air Force Academy. Pueblo, Colorado is the only town in the U.S. Of A. that can boast of being the hometown of **4 Medal of Honor Recipients!** 2 from WW-II, 1 from the Korean campaign and 1 from Viet Nam. When president Eisenhower was presenting the M.O.H. to the Korean Veteran, his question to him upon learning about the first 2 M.O.H. recipients from Pueblo was – “What is it – something in the water there?” Have been able to come down for the annual FTVA reunions almost every year. Missed a few. If we can make it down this year. It will seem extra specials to me this time. Well, enough rambling for now. Time for some breathing exercises. Again – Thank you!!!!

George Williams

2501 Driftwood Ln.

Pueblo, CO 81005

((Ed Note: 202's today are identified as a N4 Sigint Analyst.//Dap))

Larry Munns – Wounded Eagle

FTVA Members—Larry's had surgery and comes out of it with a not-so-good prognosis with a rare form of liver cancer. He's at home with Cheri and would love to hear from any and all of his many friends! E-mail is rlmunns@earthlink.net (the last Newsletter wasn't quite correct....) and the snail mail remains: 3909 Tybre Downs Circle, Little River, SC 29566 and the phone is (843) 280-1028 Keep those digits and card and letters flowing!

Remain In Touch, Bob Cope

Larry Eshleman – Wounded Eagle

Please pass on to FTVA members that long time Aloha Chapter member, Larry Eshleman, suffered multiple heart attacks the week of May 6th and remains at Tripler Army hospital in serious condition. Family requests prayers for Larry as he strives to recover. Larry's email address is: LAMIEL@FLEX.COM Aloha, **John Toillion, Treasurer, Aloha Chapter**

Mitch Cooper – Wounded Eagle

Bob, Just thought I'd let my fellow FTV friends know I've had a rather rough 3 months. Have been in the hospital twice with severe diverticulitis and also a blood clot in my liver. Came out of nowhere. May go back in hospital next week to go on IV antibiotics again. Am taking anticoagulants now for the rest of my life and am on and off antibiotics for the diverticulitis. Doc is considering taking out portion of intestine that is infected, but is taking a wait and see attitude. Some days I feel good and others I feel rotten. I've run so many fevers; I burned out 3 thermometers (just kidding). But I do have fever to burn.

Mitch Cooper, Austin, TX, Ret. MSgt,

USAFUSAFSS, ESC 1965-1986, 6917th, 6994th (EC-47s), NSA (twice), US Embassy, Japan, Kadena (Torii Station), 6911th, Goodfellow, 6918th

Larry Cromer – Wounded Eagle

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Tuesday, March 05, 2002

Larry Cromer is in Wilford Hall. He just had a quadruple bypass and apparently his recovery is hampered by emphysema. Just got this info on Larry Cromer. Larry is an old time USAFSS guy. Spent some time in COMSEC as well as tours at HQ, RIRAK, & Vietnam. His address is:
PO Box 329Lytle TX 78052-0329

GEORGE W. HOLLIS USAMISSA DT&E (210) 637-4693 Northrop
Grumman Information Technology
16500 San Pedro, Suite 302,
San Antonio, Texas 78232

Reunion info

FTVA 2002 ANNUAL REUNION REMINDER:
Don't forget 26 thru 28 September, Reunion packets are being prepared and should be in the mail shortly.

BIA Reunion in Conjunction with FTVA Reunion

The **BERLIN ISLAND ASSOCIATION (BIA)** has scheduled a Reunion Banquet on the evening of 26 September and a Social Gathering on the evening of 27 September, in conjunction with the FTVA 2002 Reunion. For more information about the BIA, check our web site at <http://www.geocities.com/pnaanda>. For more information about the BIA 2002 Reunion, contact

Phil Adams at berlinerphil@earthlink.net. Thanks,

Phil Adams

Chicksands Baker Flight

Chicksands Baker flight members of the 1970s: A reunion is being planned for August 16-18 in Chicago. See <http://www.bakerboozers.org> for more information.

Ralph Robinson

Beaner Reunion

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The Association of Spanish Flyers, AKA Beaners will hold a reunion here in San Antonio from September 26-29, 2002 in conjunction with the FTVA reunion. Contact for the reunion is Segundo "Espy" Espinoza at segundo@juno.com, work phone (210) 736-5420, home phone (830) 276-3533. Final reunion details will be posted at our website <http://www.beanerbanner.com/> in the near future.

Segundo "Espy" Espinoza

Project Manager/Facility Security Officer

BLACKHAWK Management Corporation San Antonio, Texas 78228

Fax: (210) 736-5370 Email: espinozas@blackhawkmgmt.com

1ST Radio Squadron Mobile

Johnson AFB – Misawa AFB – Wakannai, Japan Affiliated detachments and flights

We received a lot of favorable feedback to our newsletter of December, and it brought about 29 new members to our ranks. You will be pleased to know that our former Commander of the 1st RSM at Johnson AFB, Col. Lowell Jameson, has joined our membership. Our paid membership is now 72 out of a possible 205. Quite remarkable from three years ago when we had just 19 former 1st RSM members located. Thanks to all of you for the spreading of the word and helping bring about the wave of interest in our reunion. This newsletter is being mailed to the entire mailing list so that we don't miss anyone that is interested. But, it does cost money for mailings. You can help with the expenses of the newsletters and the reunion by sending in your membership today. If you have not already submitted your dues for the current year, you can still do so by completing the form attached. We are now putting together the program for the **4TH REUNION** to be held in Biloxi, Mississippi, on August 11 – 13. Rooms have been reserved in our name beginning Sunday, through Wednesday, at the discounted price of \$49 plus tax. Contact Phil Perry at pandhperry@aol.com. We are soliciting any other help you wish to volunteer in your particular expertise. If you have not already made your hotel reservations, **we urge you to do it as soon as possible**. Although they are holding a block of rooms in our name at the discounted price, we need to know if we need to increase that block. By early reservations, we will get a feel for the turnout, and room blocking. **The cutoff for our block of rooms is July 14, 2002**. All rooms that have not been reserved by this date will be released from our block and made available for resale to the general public. Any rooms reserved after this time may be subject to the hotels prevailing rack rates. **To make your reservations** call the Imperial Palace Hotel in Biloxi at 1-800-436-3000, enter 1 for reservation desk, then enter 3 for the group reservation desk, then ask for AGENT RED and tell them you are with the 1st RSM. The hotel will request a credit card guarantee at the time of booking. Each person is responsible for their own hotel expenses. **Reunion Coordinators and Newsletter Editor: Philip and Helen Perry**

6927th RSM Reunion

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The 6927th RSM Onna Point Okinawa will hold the 6th Reunion in Colo. Springs, CO Oct 6th thru Oct 10th 2002.

Contact Ray Thibodaux at raytib@aol.com

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FLAG 2002

The fifth annual Florida Group (FLAG) of the Prop Wash Gang (PWG) met March 8 - 10, 2002 in Leesburg, Florida. The highlight of the weekend was that Nate Britt, Curtis Cross, Jeff Wilcher and Charlie Acton were together for the first time in almost 40 years.

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front and Center: Ron Buteau Front Row (L-R): Dave Bristol, Larry Tart, Jon Gwinn, Charlie Acton, Butch Moore, Ed Stacey, Jack Riedel Back Row (L-R): Dave Heberling, Pat O'Neal, Nate Britt, Curtis Cross, Dick Snyder, Jeff Wilcher, Pete Olive Roger Pollock, Bill White Not Pictured: Jon "Mike" Doty

--- Dave Bristol, sending from Leesburg, Florida.

FLAG 2002 Gals

The ladies pictured are much more interesting than the guys at FLAG 2002.

Back (L- Front (L-R): Diane Tart, Sherry Heberling, Shirley BristolR): Shelia Gwinn, Mavis Moore, Edie Acton, Carolyn Riedel, Jo Olive, Bette Wilcher, Sun Yi Pollock. Dave Bristol, sending from Leesburg, Florida

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History & Memories

FLR-9 Demolition

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From the Brindisi Newspaper IL QUOTIDIANO (provided by BrunoCarlo:
THE GIGANTIC ANTENNA OF SAN VITO AIR STATION IS BEING DISMANTLED AFTER 40 YEARS - GOODBYE, DEAR OLD ELEPHANT CAGE - In a few months the circular "Big Ear" will only be a memory. The end. In a few months there won't be any more radio antenna. There won't be any memory of the USAF installation. From the highway the circular "big ear" won't be seen anymore, the maxi radar will be dismantled. Piece after piece the symbol of the "big American family" which had been set between Brindisi and San Vito dei Normanni will go away. Yesterday morning the first antennae of the "Elephant Cage" were dismounted. For forty-five years they had become an important part of the landscape. They were a reference point for people arriving to or departing from Brindisi. The OK for the dismantling was probably given by Aviano Air Base in the past few weeks. "It was known that they would dismantle everything" say people that have worked on base. "We knew it since the Americans decided to close the base. There were rumors about it in December 1999. But it is difficult to get use to the idea that we will pass by the base and won't be able to see that enormous antenna". "This morning I had a funny feeling when I saw a team operating in the area of the radar. That area had always been off-limits to all, only US Air Force

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officers had access”. Those antennae located one next to the other as a circle had allowed the United States to better “listen to” conversation in the crescent going from Iceland to the Middle East countries. They were able to capture every kind of communication. The “Big Elephant” had intercepted precious information during the Cold War, it had been able to gather important elements of knowledge from the Communist countries during the conflicts in Vietnam and Afghanistan and during the years when the two blocks were busy in the race for conventional and nuclear weaponry. There were no weapons on base. There never have been. Only a sophisticated “listening system”. The Americans called it the “big ear”. From San Vito AS the officers were able to guide the air operations over Libya and over Bosnia in the early 90s. Only recently it was discovered that the USAF Station was part of the “Echelon” network: 120 satellites scattered worldwide and able to keep under control Internet, faxes and cellular phones. More than ninety percent of the communications was intercepted. From a satellite one could even photograph a post-stamp laying on a curb. The American family had been developed around that gigantic circle during forty years: 5000 people, including military and civilians, the majority of whom were hosted inside the base. On the ground that the Italian State had granted as a concession in the early Sixties - by a lease with indefinite time - 480 housing units had been built to host American families, as well as four tennis courts, two baseball diamonds, one soccer field, a swimming pool, a gymnasium and a 16-lane bowling alley. The children went to school there. There were 40 American and Italian teachers who were teaching them through the school cycle as far as the end of high school. Some people remember Romina Power when she used to accompany her children Ylenia and Yari to school and when this singer was busy playing softball with the American girls. The big family remained there until December 1999 when the radars were turned off. Only a small group had remained of that big family: the military in charge of security and the civilians of the Solar Observatory. The administrators of the Brindisi Commune and of the Italian Olympic Committee had planned to transform the American town into a sport citadel, however the project was never enacted. In September 2001 the Station had been proposed to host the UN FAO conference. In a few months when the cage is totally dismantled, the ground will be returned to the Italian Government: At the symbolic price of one dollar. It will be the end of the story.

BRUNO'S CORNER No. 65 - This week's article should be entitled “The Saga of the Elephant Cage”. This impressive manufac which someone hazardously compared to the Coliseum or the Leaning Tower of Pisa has been part of the Brindisi province panorama from 1962 to the present day and its disappearance will be missed not only by the thousands of US military people that have worked in its vicinity (both inside the “sancta sanctorum” or outside in its shadow) but by the countless Italians or foreign tourists that have traveled in this area over the past 40 years. As a matter of fact, my initial personal perception of its disappearance - an information I first obtained through our Family site - was one of amazement for the deep sense of loss that

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pervaded the local community the day when the first trucks, bulldozers or workers were noticed around it; it caused such an incredible reaction that during the first 48 hours I was given an interview on our dear “cage” by a local newspaper and one by a local TV station; and I read in the local papers other articles on the subject which were not all complimentary, but some aimed to make scandal as in the best tradition of journalism. The legend of the “elephant cage” viewed from my prospective begins when the huge monument was not even existent. When I was called to drive to San Vito on the morning of 1 December 1960 to assist the acting Commander, Major Jack Frost, in a protocol visit with the Archbishop of Brindisi, I had a very hard time finding my destination; I was coming from my town of residence, Sava (in the Taranto province) through Francavilla and San Vito and I had received instruction to go on Highway 16 and I would find the base half-way between San Vito and Brindisi. At the time I was working in the SJA office at Taranto “Luigi Bologna” Air Base but I had already accepted a new contract, and a move, to San Vito dei Normanni Air Station to become effective in a couple of months, so I was very concerned to get there on time (0900 in the morning) not to give a wrong image of myself. Well, I drove (for the first time in my life) through San Vito and headed towards Brindisi, watching very carefully on both sides not to miss my destination. Great was my disappointment when I saw a sign stating that I was in Brindisi; in spite of my best attention, I had surely missed the base I was expected to find. So I made a U-turn and headed back towards San Vito and this time I drove very slowly as I didn’t want to blow my chance to work there by failing to report on time. Finally I saw in a distance what looked like a dome and tried to see if there was a road going that direction, unfortunately the only thing available was a sort of country path and I had to resign myself to driving my little Fiat 600 and miss as many bumps as I could. Finally I reached a stretch of asphalted road and I realized that I had set foot in my new home, San Vito dei Normanni Air Station. There was no antenna system visible from the highway then, when I started my career in the SJA office in February 1961 but I soon learned that the mission performed by the 6917 Radio Squadron Mobile (soon to become Radio Group Mobile) required a very large antenna system to be built with a few hundred cylindrical pipes set on the ground and a circle in the center of which the operation command would be hosted. In the meantime some conventional, linear antennae were planted in some farmers’ land behind the Officers’ Club and the Clinic for which an easement right had been obtained and that we cleared about 1965. Finally, in August 1961 work began on the huge field in front of the base and everyone from the highway could see the cylindrical pipes that were being erected and spaced away from one another. The immediate reaction was hysterical, the local people and the local papers started expressing their concern about the Americans building missiles near the city of Brindisi thus making this area the target for enemy retaliations. I remember it was decided in a hurry, with the prior blessings of the HQ, USAFSS and of the US Embassy in Rome, to invite all civilian and military authorities of the Brindisi area to a meeting where the Base leading officers would show a plastic likeness of the antenna system (I must have the picture of that artifact

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somewhere) and to explain as clearly as possible that the monster that was being built was not an offensive weapon but a link in the network of the worldwide communications system set up in defense of the US and NATO common interests. Looking back to that day, when I did the translation of the main speeches, I realize that most of the words used were the usual garbage to confuse minds instead of clearing them, however the luncheon was a success and the local papers (there were no local radios or TVs then) reported unbiased the basic information to set the local hearts at rest. I still have a report of that meeting showing that the attendees were: Col. McVey, Commander, Lt Col. Rifkin, DC, Locos Frost, Materiel Officer, Major Morrison, Finance Officer, Maj. Venturini, Personnel Officer, Captain DuPaul, Contracting Officer, Lt Rowland, SJA, WO Swayzee, Provost Marshal, Mr. Angelo Almiento, SP interpreter, Mr. Argentina, Contracting specialist, Mr. Sancilio, Civilian Personnel and your truly from the SJA office; facing us were Dr. Tedesco, Prefect of Brindisi, Dr. Pasquale Locurcio, Chief of Police, Dr. Massari, Public Prosecutor, Attorney Palma, President of the Brindisi Province, Attorney Bruno, Mayor of Brindisi, Dr. Gregorio, Mayor of San Vito plus all other military and civilian authorities of that time. Having overcome this obstacle, the work continued with increasing tempo and by May of 1962 the last cylinder was up and I remember that when the closure work was completed a branch of olives was placed at the final joining point. The story of the "elephant cage" continued without more excitement for the years which turned into decades and the huge monument became an accepted part of the landscape, marking the arrival to Brindisi from the highway, from the railroad or from the sky and it was fully accepted by the local community (the people born after 1962 have never seen the area without it and have accepted it as part of the local scenario). What really struck me was - after I had learned of the imminent fate of our beloved cage through our Family site - the emotional reaction of many local citizens who had never had a direct involvement with the base. When the journalist who was to interview me (and the article has been posted and translated last week) made the first phone call to set up such interview, she told me that many common citizens had called the newspaper expressing their dismay for seeing workers engaged in the removal of a monument that they had come to love and consider as the Romans do the Coliseum or the Pisans the Leaning Tower. The only thing I can add is that, as long as we live, the memory of our "Elephant Cage" will remain with each of us and therefore it will never die. But as there always are two faces in any coin, even this event has been used by people that were never overly happy about the American presence in this area; I am speaking about the campaign supported by some local Parliament members belonging to the left (formerly Communists) and by some local leaders of the Green Party. There have been a few articles in the local media which are trying to pass the theory that both the paint used for the antennae and the cement to surround the underground construction going down-earth for seven (or even fifteen) floors may constitute a serious health hazard for the local community, as reference is made to massive quantities of asbestos. My only rational reaction to such

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defamatory statement is that, even if one hundredth of what is being said were true, there would have been a massacre of all the people working in the “compound”! But I know differently and know that 99 percent of my Family friends that worked inside the “Elephant Cage” are still happily and hope will be for a long time with us. With my best wishes to everybody, **Bruno Carlo**.

(ED Note: Mr Bruno is a Lawyer who has worked on the base since its activation. He is a contributing editor to the “San Vito Saturday Morning news” placed on the “La Famiglia (SVASAA) site operated by Harry Meekins email: wrp@trib.com /Dap))



Flr-9 Demolition Day 2 - Source La Famiglia (SVASAA) web site



2002 FLR-9 Scrap 22May 2002 Source La Famiglia (SVASAA) Web site
Picture posted by Dean Cummings

34th RSM

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I read each issue of "Remain in Touch" hoping to see something about the old 34th RSM at Wheelus. I was picked to be in the original cadre. We were assigned to the 12th at Landsberg, Germany until quarters and operation facilities were ready. There were a few who went to Wheelus directly, but most of us came later. I arrived at Landsburg in early Dec, 1951 and arrived at Wheelus on July 1952. I left there in late Sep of '53 and wound back at Brooks in October. With the exception of four guys that worked for me in the crypto center, I haven't heard from any of them for over 40 years – When I ws first assigned to USAFSS in Jan 51 there was only the Hq sq, 5 RSMs and the 6923rd Personnel Processing Sq. Five RSMs were overseas and the 8th RSM was largely a training outfit there at Brooks. Except for three guys who worked for me in the crypto center, I haven't heard from any of the guys din over 40 years. – I got out finished college, was commissioned. I would love hearing from anyone who was there during that era, Best regards

Paul Edrington – pkedrin@aol.com

April, 1952

Fifty years ago today, April 1, 1952, the MTSC troopship General Harry Taylor, departed Staten Island for Bremerhaven. Eventually, after a stop in Norfolk, Va., the ship carried an all-African- American AAA outfit, 500 Puerto Rican infantry and about 20 young USAFSS airmen and officers. They included Ed Gerlich, Jack Blakley, Jim Ballard, Art Lane, Herman Ferger, Mort Freije, Gayle Williamson, yours truly and probably another dozen I can't recall off the top of my head. If any of you were on the Taylor for that trip, please let me know. One of the Army GIs aboard the Taylor was a corporal by the name of Vito Farranola, who later became known as Vic Damone. Easter was later in 1952 and we celebrated in the middle of the Atlantic. We stopped in Iceland to disembark some of the infantry and stopped at LaPalaise on the French coast before arriving in Bremerhaven. In Bremerhaven, before boarding a train for Darmstadt, several of us played golf on a course that used to be a Luftwaffe fighter strip. (Golf balls went a long way on concrete runways.)
Ah, memories. –

Jim Duffy, erstwhile S/Sgt., AFSC 20470, USAFSS.

((USAFSS 6910th 50s Group))

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Letters & Bytes

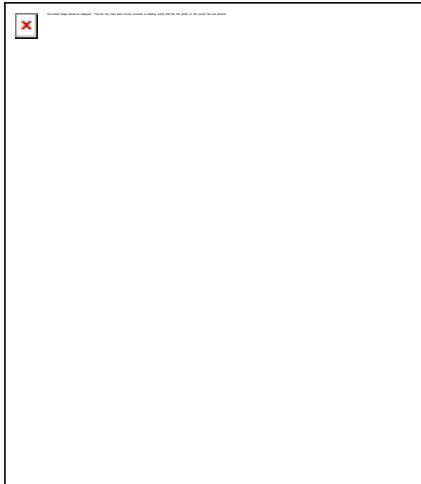
USAFSACS Emblem

As a member of FTVA, I am trying to locate a patch or pin of the attached emblem from the USAF School of Applied Cryptologic Sciences at Goodfellow AFB. Could you assist me?

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Bob Dudley
Culver and Company, Inc.
(303) 442-3670, ext 49
(800) 873-3388, ext 49
www.culvercompanies.com

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[usafss6910th50s] Your Letter, March 2002 FTVA Newsletter

Hi, James... Had a hard time tracking you down, as you didn't list your e-mail address, and the URL to your webpage on MIL.COM didn't work! :-). In fact, searching for 6910th SECURITY WING didn't find you either, but I kept futzing around until I discovered your e-mail address! Please help me get to

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your website, and please check out our webpage for USAFSS 6910TH SECURITY GROUP: (below) We may (or may not?) have some "history" in common, and would enjoy talking about it and possibly linking to each other.

RAY M. THOMPSON: Host USAFSS 6910th-50's Mail List

HOME PAGE: <http://www.usafss6910th.org>

MAIL LIST: usafss6910th50s-subscribe@YahooGroups.com

NEWSLETTER: To Inquire About Membership,

Send Name/Address to: <raymackt@attbi.com>, or Snail Mail: 1120 Eton Drive - Richardson, TX 75080 My Home Page: <http://www.raymack.com>

Message to Danny Hull

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Good Afternoon,

Please get a message to Danny Hull, assigned to "C Flight of the 6918th SS, Hakata Admin Annex, Kyushu, Japan, in the early 1960s. He registered at your site on 10/4/2001, and I would like for him to get in touch with me, if possible. I was not in the 6918th, but was instead assigned to Det 5, 6348th Support Squadron. He will/should remember me as "Butter" Johnson. We played basketball and football together and against each other at Hakata. I also spent quite a bit of time with my "C" flight friends just having a great time away from work. You may also give him these names to jog his memory cells: Lew Kelley, Bob Colbert, Haywood Prescott, Henry Roundtree, Bob Sheperd, Dan Toppings, Dan Hollingsworth, Gaylord Fields, Jeffery Swan, Andy Harvey (Army), Mace Ishida, Dick Guidry, Hershel Beard, Ed Bocklage, Willie Oates (Coach), and Joe Madden, to name a few. I can be reached at: bjbbj1@worldnet.att.net (H) or, johnsonj@mtmc.army.mil (W). Would really like to hear from him. Thanks much for your assistance.

Jim "Butter" Johnson

A1C (E4) Det 5, 6348th Support Squadron

Hakata Admin Annex Sep 62-Jul 65

Donald Jones

I am trying to trace Don Jones who I believe was stationed at RAF Chicksands in 1959 and I believe he was in the 6950th Radio Mobile Group at that time. He met my mother Ellen Nicholls at a dance on the base so I assume he was stationed there in the 6950th. He originally came from San Diego and he was born between 1932- 1938. Do you have any info on him? i.e. was he in the 6950th? Regards.

Colin Harris - Colinharrisuk@hotmail.com

June 2002

Remain In Touch

Kudos

Thank you for responding! Was wondering why it hadn't cleared yet, but can understand. Keep up the great work! You do so well! Problem sometimes is we take it for granted and don't realize the work involved in "**keeping in touch**".... Again, thank you. Love to read the "newsletter" when it arrives in the mail. I don't believe I served with a bunch of better people in my life, even in civilian life; the dedication, joy, and commitment. It makes one feel good to have associated with and being a member of a great organization.

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--Murlin G. Everson

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6921st Security Wing Misawa Japan 1962-1967

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Could you kindly forward this to the individuals listed below or allow this note to be posted where same individuals will see it. Thank you for your time and trouble.

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I am looking for friends we knew between February 14, 1962 and February 14, 1967 when we were stationed at Misawa AFB Japan. We have lost contact with everyone. My husband who worked on the "hill" was AFC James Warren KOLLMAN. Does anyone remember him or any of the others who I could contact from that time frame. All correspondence gratefully appreciated.

Leona Kollman Garcia

Miller John "Mike" Misawa AFB Oct 63-65, Bursleson Lee, John Orr, Aubrey Sanderson

- DO NOT MAIL TO VERIZON ADDRESS
- USE:Mailto:lgarcia@ncia.com
- Leona Kollman Garcia, PO Box 636, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

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TUSLOG Det 94

I'm Lowell C. "Carey" Bankhead, and was a Personnel Specialist in USAFSS 1969-73. I was stationed at both OL 1, EurSctyRgn at Kelly AFB, and later TUSLOG Det 94 at Karamursel, Turkey (our son was born there.)

I would like information on any organization of such veterans. Thanks.

cbaankhead@ultraweb.net (Cary)

Remain In Touch
Looking for Spencer Barksdale

June 2002

Hi. I am a friend of Spencer Barksdale. (Who) was an Officer assigned to an RSM in the Far East in the late 50's. I was a pilot, etc. Keep me posted. Thanks.

Col. L. J. Magers,
USAF-Rt. I am at:
mailto:cltlmagers@carolina.rr.com>cltlmagers@carolina.rr.com
(Ed Note: above was received from Ray Thompson 6910th 50s Group)

Subject: [pwgers] 6927th RSM at Onna Point

Gang; is there anyone out there who served in the 6927th At Onna Point?

There is a fellow from there (Jerry ...) who got wind of my name somehow (I was in Det 1, 6927th at Kadena but didn't have much contact with Onna Point) and told me of a 6927th RSM group and asked me to join.

If anyone wants to contact them get in touch with Ray Thibodeaux at email raytib@aol.com, phone in New Orleans is (504) 488-8214.

Their web site is www.erols.com/ssfeit/6927rsm.htm. And this fellow says that they have about 900 people signed up. Just in case!

Ed ((Submitted by Bob Cope))

Email contact

Hi, Keith (Clem) Davis here. I would like to get the email address for Ronald K. Bonner. I was stationed with Ron at Misawa from 71-73. He and his wife lived off base and we used to go over and visit them. His wife is responsible for our getting a daughter (adopted). I would like to talk with him and Paula. Entered AF July 1961 and was sent to Iraklion 6931st in Sept until 1963. 6948th (San Angelo) 63 to late 64. 6922nd det 2 and 6924th Danang Nam 65-66. Kelly (rirak) 66-67 Darmstadt Germany 6910th then to Misawa 6921st until 1973. Cross trained to Physical therapy and went to Wright-Patterson AFB, Oh. SS tracked me down and went to Skivvy 9 (Osan) from 80-81. Back to Wright-Pat and then retired MSGT 1982. Living in Bothell WA (425) 672 7212. Thanks,

Clem

Peshawar

Howdy Dap, this is JJ Reynolds. I was sitting here getting caught up on the FTVA Newsletter March 2002 and I saw some correspondence about Peshawar. Since I was stationed there in 1964 & 1965 I was interested in finding out if there is a web page and or contacts from the old 6937TH. I spent 21 1/2 years overseas and the assignment in Pakistan looms as the ultimate YUCK assignment. Mangla Dam was the only thing that kept me

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June 2002

Remain In Touch

from going bananas. In the limited info I have read there has not been any mention of the Dam and the nice folks that took us in--FOR FREE! If there is someone who is collecting memorabilia of the 6937th, I have some black and white photo's I will be glad to donate. Regards,
jjreynolds@sbcglobal.net

PS I have been running a bow hunting operation for the past 8 years www.huntinfo.com/finfur but I still can't get that Karachi odor out of my mind

jjreynolds

((ED Note: Provided contact with Milt Fulghum 6937th contact/Dap))

TUSLOG Det 94-1

Dear FTVA,

I was a 207X2 stationed at Karamursel, Turkey in the early 1970's and was a member of Baker Flight, Det 94-1. Because of the world political situation at the time and our close proximity to the Soviet Union, we were not allowed to wear the USAFSS patch and we were all "radio operators".

Now that the world situation has changed I am trying to get a unit history for Det 94-1. I believe, but am not sure if we were really part of the 6933 Security Group during the 1970's or not.

Any information or help that you might be able to provide would be greatly appreciated. Lastly, given my statement above do I qualify to join FTVA?

Thanks for the help.

Sincerely,

Bob Boatwright

Information Technology - Technical Support Services
2565 Horizon Lake Drive, Suite 113
Memphis, TN. 38133
Tel: 901-371-8114
Pager: 8777326461@airmessage.net
Toll Free: 800-424-2214 ext. 18114
Fax: 901-380-8223
bobb@efsnb.com

Message to forward to Richard D Ebersole

Original Message (*Request to forward message to Dick Ebersole*)

From: "John & Audrey Stembridge" <aj.stembridge@tesco.net>

To: <info@ftva.org>

Hello Richard

My name is John Stembridge and I live in Bury, near Manchester, England. I am trying to trace Pauline A Stembridge who married Richard D Ebersole in 1959 in Luton, Bedfordshire, England. Could this be your wife? If so could she please contact me on my e-mail aj.stembridge@tesco.net as soon as possible? Kind Regards

John Stembridge

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Remain In Touch

Merle Vernone

Merle, Though I've seen you since that time, I cannot forgot my parting words to you at Chicksands back in the 1950s, when Jim Wooten and I shook your hand as you were departing, we told you (an old grizzled MSgt) that you were an old S.O.B., but at least you were a fair S.O.B! You (pi**ed) on EVERYONE's shoes.

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Such memories enrich our lives. I was pleased to have known and worked with you. By the way, I have some grainy photographs of you playing volleyball with Captain LaChance, Max Hawkes and others, while you were in dress blues **WITH YOUR GARRISON CAP ON!** Talk about up tight!

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Al Gray

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Memorial Day

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In a message dated 5/25/02 12:40:35 AM, brosenstrom@yahoo.com writes:
Clarence B. (Boone) MacNeil, a student and friend of mine in 68, killed on EC-47 in 69. No remains found. Viet Linguist. I saw his name on the miniature wall a few years back.. it may be spelled MacNeal.....he was a distant relative of Daniel Boone (hence the middle name), from North Carolina.

Rosie

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Alle:

On Memorial Day weekend, it was especially appropriate to pay tribute to McNeill (spelled CLARENCE L MCNEILL according to my files) and other American veterans who have paid the ultimate price defending America. The list that follows includes the names of forty-seven USAFSS/ESC/AFIC/AIA comrades (forty-six recon flyers and Paul Anthony--a comm center technician at DaNang) who died while defending our American way of life during the Cold War. Please join me in honoring these men and all other fallen American veterans. HEROES, ALL--RIP!!!!.

Larry Tart, sending on the road from Syracuse, NY

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-----List of USAFSS/ESC/AFIC/AIA Cold War Losses-----

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1st RSM Losses

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July 29, 1953 - RB-50 shot down over the Sea of Japan.
SSgt Donald G Hill

Remain In Touch
A2C Earl W Radlein Jr.

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Det 1, 6924th RSM Losses

September 10, 1956 RB-50 disappeared over the Sea of Japan on its maiden operational flight.

Maj Lorin C Disbrow
SSgt Raymond D Johnson
SSgt Theodorus J Trias
SSgt Paul W Swinehart
A1C William H Ellis
A1C Harry S Maxwell
A1C Leo J Sloan

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Det 1, 6911th RGM -- (6916th Scty Sq) Losses

September 2, 1958 C-130 # 60528 shot down over Soviet Armenia after inadvertent entry into denied air space.

MSgt George P Petrochilos
TSgt Arthur L Mello
A1C Robert J Oshinski
A2C Archie T Bourg Jr.
A2C Joel H Fields
A2C James E Ferguson Jr.
A2C Harold T Kamps
A2C Gerald C Maggiacomo
A2C Clement O Mankins
A2C Gerald H Medeiros
A2C Robert H Moore

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Vietnam Conflict Losses — 6994th & 6924th Security Squadrons *

March 9, 1967 EC-47 shot down over Vietnam by ground fire.

TSgt Raymond F Leftwich
A1C Charles D Land
A1C Daniel C Reese

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November 7, 1967 Ground attack at Tan Son Nhut Airport, Vietnam
TSgt Frederick Sebers

February 5, 1969 Pleiku-based EC-47 shot down over Vietnam by enemy ground fire.

TSgt Hugh L Sherburn
TSgt Louis J Clever
SSgt Rodney H Gott
SSgt James V Dorsey
A1C Clarence L McNeill

October 8, 1969 Phu Cat-based EC-47 shot down over Vietnam by enemy ground fire.

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SSgt Elmore L Hall
Sgt Michael L Stiglich

April 8, 1970 Mortar attack at DaNang Air Base, Vietnam.

Sgt Paul W Anthony *

* Assigned to 6924th SS; other Vietnam Losses from 6994th SS.

April 22, 1970 EC-47 shot down over Vietnam by artillery fire.

SSgt Michael R Conner

November 21, 1972 EC-47 crash near Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand.

MSgt John W Ryon

February 5, 1973 EC-47 "BARON-52" shot down over Laos.

SSgt Todd M Melton

Sgt Peter R Cressman

Sgt Joseph A Matejov

Sgt Dale Brandenburg

6985th Security Sqdn Losses

June 5, 1969 RC-135 Rivet Amber. crew lost in Bering Sea.

TSgt Eugene L Benavides

SSgt Roy L Lindsey

SSgt Richard J Steen Jr.

Sgt Douglas Arcano

Sgt Sherman E Consolver Jr.

Sgt Lucian Rominiecki

March 16, 1981 RC-135 Cobra Ball. Accident at Shemya AB, Alaska.

SSgt Harry L Parsons III

SSgt Steven C Balcer

381st Intel Sqdn Losses

September 22, 1995 E3A AWACS crash at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

TSgt Ernest Parrish

((Above list submitted by Larry Tart))

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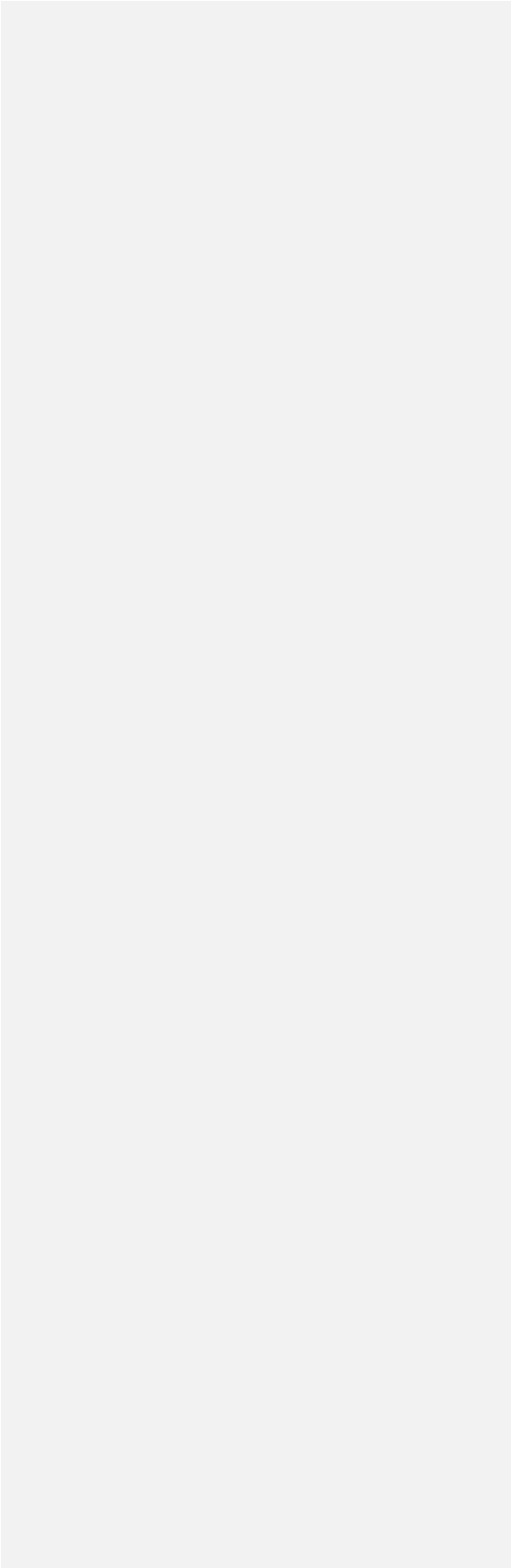
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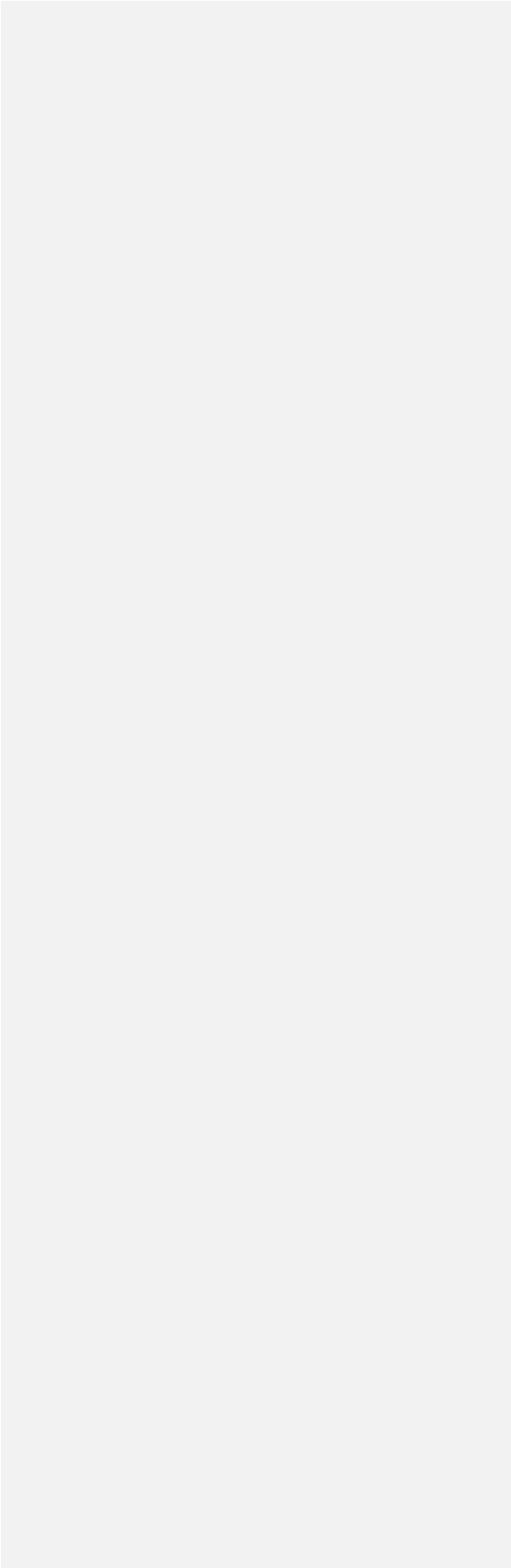


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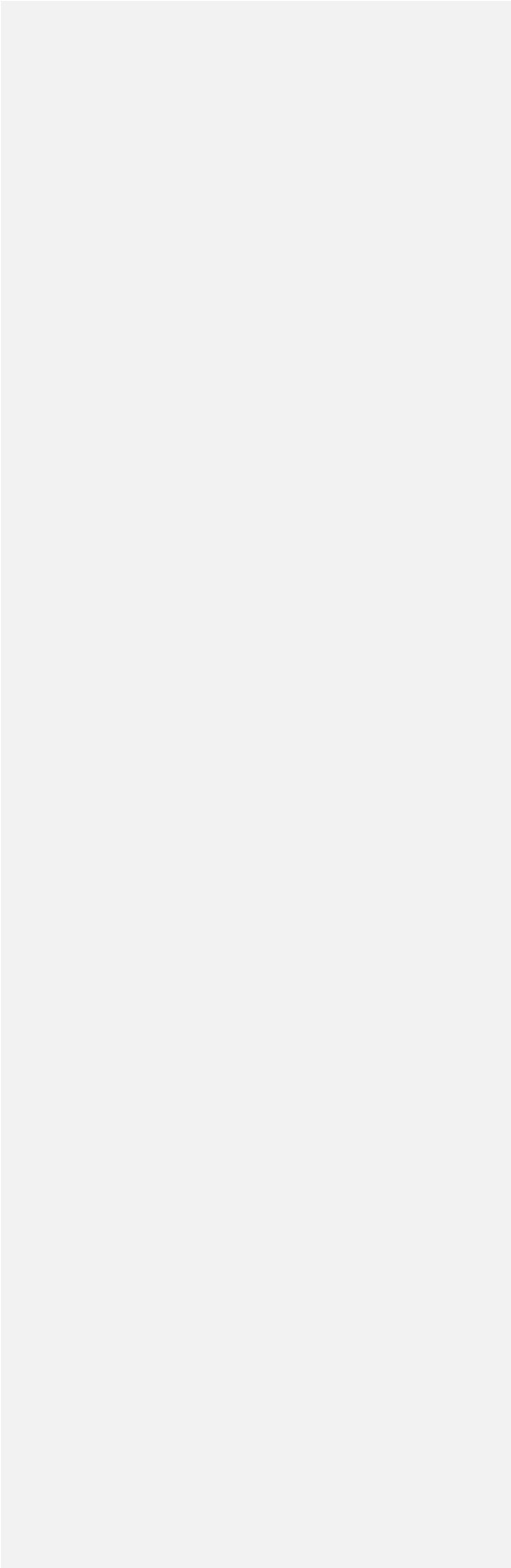


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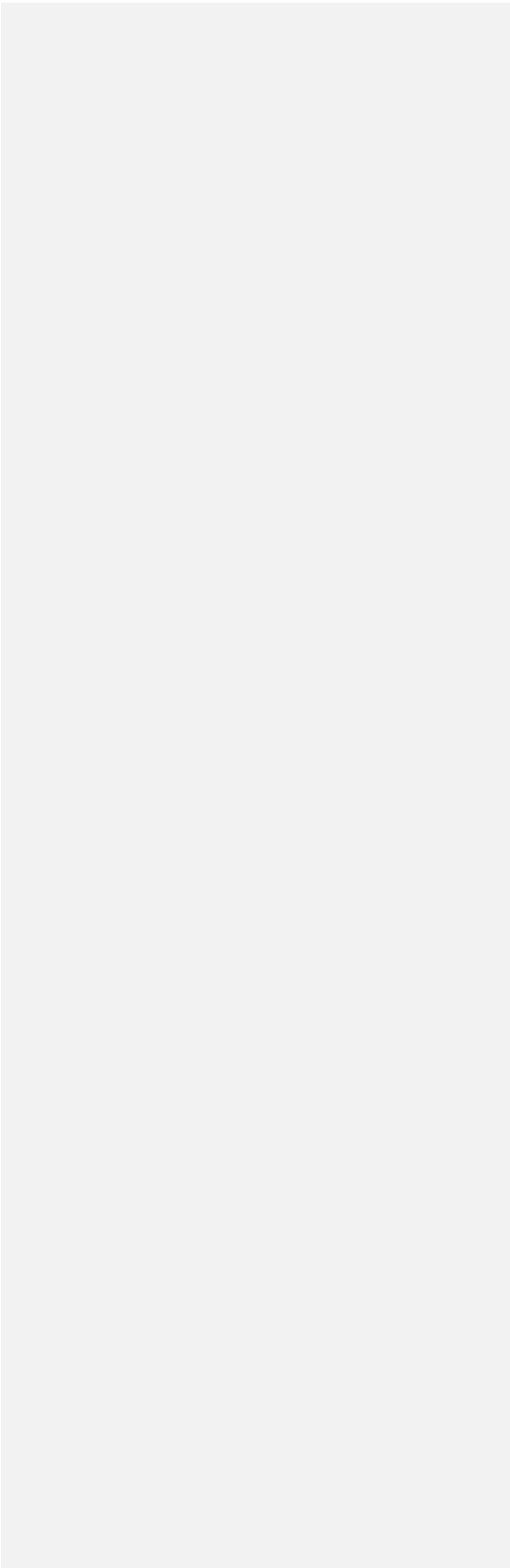


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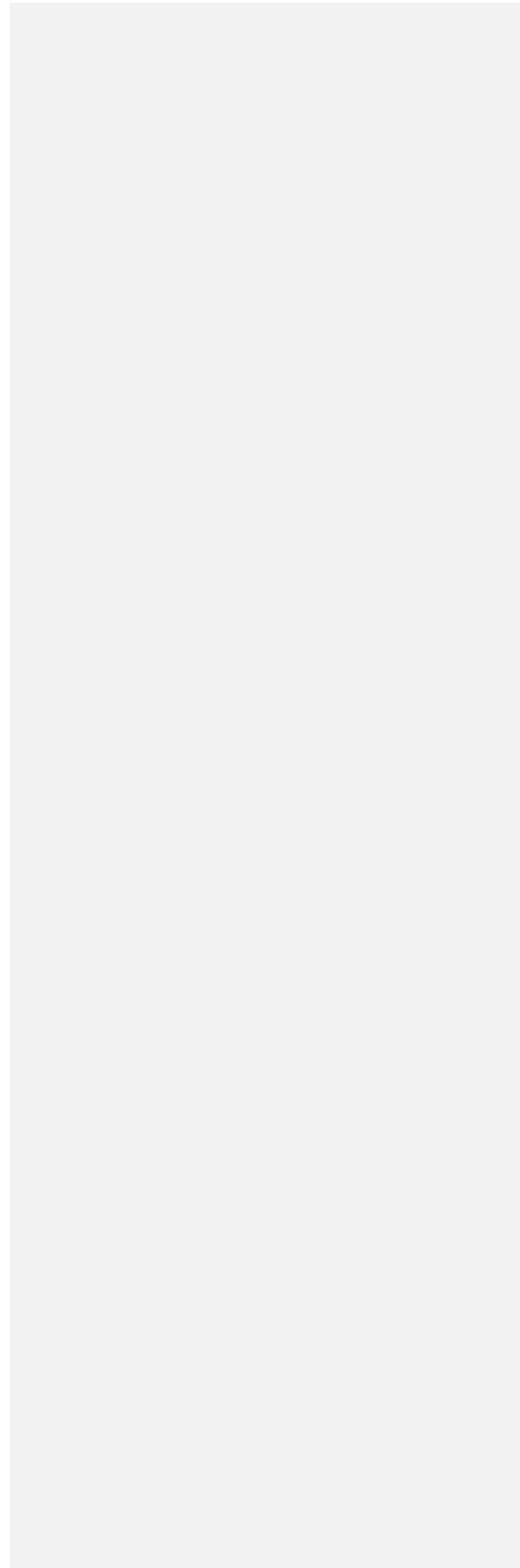
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