



AIR COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

December 2005

M/Gen Singlaub Addresses 34th ACA Reunion

By Dick Geron,
ACA Vice President

The Air Commando Association held its annual reunion in Fort Walton Beach during 6-9 October. The reunion was in honor of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II and to pay tribute to the spouses and families. "They too serve, who watch and wait."

Approximately 300 people attended this year. This was a

marked improvement over last year's attendance. All who attended were treated to a full schedule and a great time.

Thursday night was registration and social time at the Quality Inn Hospitality Suite. The golf tournament was Friday morning followed by a Fish Fry on Friday afternoon. The ladies attended a luncheon at Two Trees restaurant on Saturday. Saturday night was our banquet. Sunday morning was

for our memorial service followed by BBQ and our annual auction.

The 20th SOS and their commander, Lt. Col. Scott Howell, invited us to hold our business meeting in their squadron auditorium. While there, they provided us with a capabilities briefing and a static display of their aircraft. Everyone who attended thought this was outstanding. They even provided us with a hamburger cookout and bus transportation to



and from our hotel. We wish to thank Lt. Col. Howell and his organization as well as Lt. Col. Alvarez of the 6th SOS and all of Hurlburt for their kind hospitality.

M/Gen. John Singlaub, USA Retired, was the guest speaker at the banquet at the Soundside club. He gave us a very interesting history of Special Operations begin-

See **REUNION** pg. 4

Hurlburt Field Gets New Squadron

By 2nd Lt. Amy Gonzales
16th Special Operations Wing
Public Affairs



Pilatus PC-12

Primary function: Intra theater airlift for special operations forces

Length: 47 feet, 3 inches

Height: 14 feet

Wingspan: 53 feet, 3 inches

Maximum takeoff weight: 9,920 lbs.

Ceiling: 30,000 feet

Range: 1,513 nautical miles

Unit cost: \$20 million plus upgrades

The 319th Special Operations Squadron was reactivated during a ceremony in Hurlburt Field's Freedom Hangar Oct. 12.

The 319th SOS, assigned to the 16th Special Operations Wing, will provide intra-theater support for Special Operations Forces. Approximately 45 Airmen will comprise the squadron.

Lt. Col. Michael D'Argenio assumed command of the newly reactivated squadron from Col. Mark Alsid, 16th Operations Group commander.

"You were selected because of the unique capability you bring to the fight," Colonel Alsid told the members of the 319th SOS standing in formation. "That fight will last a long time."

The squadron was officially reactivated on Oct. 1 and began flying operations six days later,

Colonel D'Argenio said during the ceremony.

The addition of the 319th SOS to the 16th SOW and Air Force Special Operations Command will provide a new intra-theater support capability for Special Operations Forces, and will help Air Commandos deliver their specialized airpower any time, any place.

The new squadron also brings a new aircraft to the Hurlburt Field flight line.

To accomplish its mission, the squadron will fly a modified version of the Pilatus PC-12. The military designation will be U-28A. This single-engine utility aircraft has a crew of two, but can be flown by one pilot.

The PC-12 was selected for its versatile performance, utility and

See **HURLBURT** pg. 4

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The Board Of Directors normally meet at 9:00 AM the last Saturday of each month (Except December) at 2502 W. Hwy 98, Mary Esther, FL.

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and Hap Lutz

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Editorial Comments

Iraqi War Pre-Battle Speech

By Lieutenant Colonel Tim

Collins, British Forces, Iraqi War

Given to the men of the 1st
Battalion, Royal Irish Guards, on
war alert in Kuwait, Wednesday,
19th of March, by Lt Col Collins,
their commander.

"We go to liberate not to con-
quer. We will not fly our flags in
their country. We are entering Iraq
to free a people and the only flag
which will be flown in that ancient
land is their own. Show respect for
them!

There are some who are alive
at this moment who will not be
alive shortly. Those who do not
wish to go on this journey, we will
not send. As for the others I expect
you to rock their world. Wipe them
out if that is what they choose. But
if you are ferocious in battle
remember to be magnanimous in
victory.

Iraq is steeped in history. It is
the site of the Garden of Eden, of
the Great Flood and the birthplace
of Abraham. Tread lightly there.

You will be seeing things that
no man could pay to see and you
will have to go a long way to find
a more decent, generous, and
upright people than the Iraqis. You

will be embarrassed by their hospi-
tality even though they have noth-
ing.



Lt Col Tim Collins smokes a cigar
after addressing his men

Source: Daily Mail / This is London

Don't treat them as refugees
for they are in their own country.
Their children will be poor, in
years to come they will know that
the light of liberation in their lives
was brought by you.

If there are casualties of war
then remember that when they
woke up and got dressed in the
morning they did not plan to die
this day. Allow them dignity in
death. Bury them properly and
mark their graves. We will put
them in their sleeping bags and
send them back. There will be no

time for sorrow.

The enemy should be in no
doubt that we are his nemesis and
that we are bringing about his
rightful destruction. There are
many regional commanders who
have stains on their souls and they
are stoking the fires of hell for
Saddam. He and his forces will be
destroyed by this coalition for
what they have done. As they die
they will know their deeds have
brought them to this place. Show
them no pity!

It is a big step to take a human
life. It is not to be done lightly. I
know of men who have taken lives
needlessly in other conflicts, I can
assure you they live with the mark
of Cain upon them.

If someone surrenders to you
then remember they have that right
in international law and ensure that
one day they go home to their fam-
ily. The ones who wish to fight,
well, we aim to please.

If you harm the regiment or its
history by overenthusiasm in
killing or in cowardice, know it is
your family that will suffer. You
will be shunned unless your con-
duct is of the highest, for your
deeds will follow you down
through history. We will bring
shame on neither our uniform or
our nation.

It is not a question of if, it's a
question of when. We know he has
already devolved the decision to
lower commanders, and that
means he has already taken the
decision himself. If we survive the
first strike we will survive the
attack.

As for ourselves, let's bring
everyone home and leave Iraq a
better place for us having been
there. Our business is north!!"

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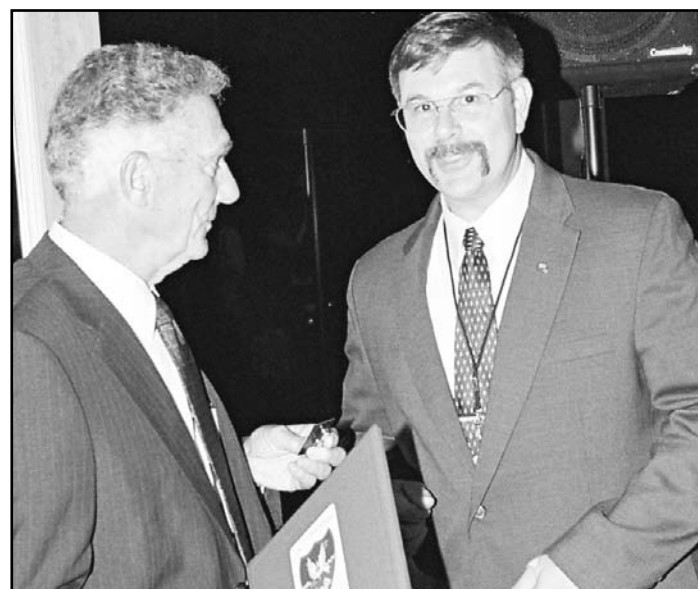
Hall of Fame Inductees

JOSEPH C. HOLDEN

Major Joseph C. Holden distinguished himself in the service of his country for over 23 years as an instructor pilot, combat pilot, Detachment Commander, Squadron Commander and staff officer of Special Operations units. His most significant contributions were primarily as a volunteer special operator on several assignments in support of the Royal Thai and Laotian Air Forces. During his three tours in Southeast Asia, he constantly demonstrated his enthusiasm and dedication to the mission under very difficult and dangerous circumstances. Major Holden was tasked with establishing a basic pilot training program to train Lao and Thai pilots with no prior flying experience to fly the T-28 aircraft. In this unique capacity he not only trained his students, but led them in countless combat operations while providing valuable leadership and pilot skills that earned him the respect and admiration of fellow pilots as well as Thai and Lao commanders. An unsung hero whose many exploits in clandestine operations went unnoticed for many years due to the secrecy of these activities. Among his many awards and decorations are the Distinguished Flying Cross with 1 OLC, the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal with 20 OLCs and the Air Force Commendation Medal. Major Holden's extraordinary dedication to the special operations mission reflects great credit upon himself, Air Force Special Operations and the United States Air Force.

RONALD H. KELLERMAN

Senior Master Sergeant Ronald H. Kellerman distinguished himself in the service of his country for over 26 years. Throughout his career, he epitomized the professional airman: an outstanding special operator, communications specialist, weather technician and above all, a tremendous leader of men. Although he had many notable achievements during his career, it was during his assignment with the 39th Special Operations Wing that Ron contributed most as an Air Commando. While deployed to the United Arab Emirates during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, he single-handedly built the largest ever weather network. Traveling across the AER, Ron managed the flow of time-sensitive data from all special operation, Air Force, Army, Joint and Coalition weather teams: an astonishing 23 teams. Using HF radios, he configured his network to ensure the smooth and timely reporting of several thousand weather observations, forecasts, surf zone observations and pilot reports. Without Ron's network, it would have been impossible to provide timely and accurate weather information to combat units spread across the AOR. More than anyone else in the AOR, Ron ensured commanders and mission planners had the environmental intelligence where and when they needed it. Among his many decorations and awards are the Meritorious Service Medal with 1 OLC, AF Commendation Medal with 1 OLC, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal and a host of other significant awards. Senior Master Sergeant Kellerman's outstanding contributions reflect great credit upon himself, Air Force Special Operations and the United States Air Force.



Letter to the ACA from Ronald Kellerman

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for being accepted into the Air Commando Hall of Fame. This honor means more than anything else I have been noted for during my career in the Air Force.

Throughout my career I always tried to present a

Air Commando Association General Membership Meeting

1. The General Membership Meeting, convened at Hurlburt's 20th Squadron, was called to order by President Sam Sambogna at 0930. Officers present included President Sambogna; Vice President Dick Geron; Board of Directors members John Connors, Dave Harrington, Joe Harris, Mac McDaniels, Gordo Scott, Ted Saunders, and Bob White; Executive Secretary Pete Bowman; and Recording Secretary (Chaplain and Past President) Charlie Jones. There were several Past Presidents attending, including Gen. Aderholt, Hap Lutz, and Bill

Brown. General officers included Heinie Aderholt, Gen. Ginn, and special Guest Gen. Jack Singlaub.

2. President Sambogna presented and commended the Board of Directors, and Hap Lutz and Pete Bowman, who stood for a solid round of applause.

3. The Invocation prayer was offered by Chaplain Charlie Jones. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Bob White.

4. Sambogna announced that the meeting would follow a power point presentation of agenda items.

5. Past President Bill Brown motioned the Minutes of the last General Membership meeting be

approved as published. Seconded by Joe Kittinger. Carried unanimously.

6. President Sambogna announced that the ACA office of Treasurer is still vacant, and urged someone to fill the office. He is performing duty as fill-in Treasurer until the office is filled.

7. Sambogna presented the membership specific figures compiled to show the financial status of the Association. He projected on to a screen data (as of 31 August 2005) showing cash assets, Country Store inventory, and real property values as nearly as can be stated. He showed figures depict-

ing life membership account. He presented charts with data on liabilities and equity for the Association. He discussed dues amounts.

8. There was a motion from the floor that the ACA dues remain the same. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

9. Phil Barber suggested the Charlie Hicks ACA Scholarship be doubled. There ensued considerable discussion. Paul Toby motioned the scholarship be \$1500.00. Seconded by Bobby Dixon. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Sambogna raised the matter of next year's meeting location. One member suggested the meeting be at Wright Patterson, and provided a number of reasons for this. After some discussion, Jimmy Ifland motioned the next meeting be in the Hurlburt/Ft. Walton Beach area. Bill Brown seconded. Motion carried unnamiously.

11. President Sambogna again praised the ACA volunteers. He restated the need for a Treasurer. He reminded the attendees of the need of Threshold Foundation for volunteers. He gave a brief report on Threshold matters and financial status. A copy of the data may be reviewed from Threshold files. Sambogna stated that Threshold received over \$26,000.00 in memory of Jessie Aderholt.

12. Sambogna announced the plans for the elections of Vice President, and two Board members. The nominees are Dick Geron for VP, and Joe Harris and Mac McDaniels for the Board seats. Motion was made from the floor that the membership seat the nominees by acclamation. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

13. Sambogna briefed on the remaining features of the reunion:

See **MEETING** pg. 8

Reunion

from page 1

ning with the OSS during World War II. He was in the OSS during World War II and served behind enemy lines in Europe and Asia. He served in Korea with the CIA. He was the commander of MAC-SOG in Vietnam and served with the UN Command in Korea as Commander of US Forces. He has written a book, Hazardous Duty, An American Soldier in the 20th Century. General Singlaub is now the Chairman of the OSS Society. What a wealth of Special

Operations history we received from Gen. Singlaub.

I wish to thank all those who put in so much work to make the reunion the success it is each year. Among the many were the same regulars: The wives who decorated the club, Mr. "T" and the Two Trees Restaurant Staff, The Quality Inn Staff, The Hurlburt Soundside Club Staff, Pete Bowman, Robbye Binkley, Hap Lutz, Joyce and David Harrington, Joe Harris, Bob

White, Charlie Jones, Ray Bourque, Jerry Broadway, Gen. Secord, Jim Ifland, Fred Nowak, Gene Rossel, Sam Sambogna, John Grove, Gen. Aderholt, Bob Trainor, Master of Ceremonies Howie Pierson, Fred Platt, and Bobby Dixon. I wish to again thank all the good people from Hurlburt.

See what you missed? Planning has already begun for reunion 2006. Be sure to plan to attend and join your old friends as well as some new ones. It will make you feel much younger (maybe.) If not, you can fake it for a weekend anyway.

'Til then. ANYTIME, ANY PLACE



Hurlburt

from page 1

ability to operate from short and unimproved runway surfaces. It's capable of landing on dirt and grass strips, and it is equipped with weather radar and a suite of advanced communications and navigation gear.

There are currently no other PC-12s in the Air Force inventory.

The 319th SOS will grow in the next few months, and the Airmen will be ready for their first combat mission in February, said Colonel D'Argenio.

The heritage of the 319th SOS dates back to the beginning of Air Commando history. The squadron gets its roots from the 319th Troop Carrier Squadron (Commando), which operated C-47s in the China-Burma-India theater during World War II.

The squadron returned to AFSOC in the 1960s at Hurlburt Field, flying C-47s and C-46 Commandos.

Membership News

In Memory Of:

ROBERT C. BINDERIM
AUGUST 2005

WILLIAM COOK
OCTOBER 2005

ROSE DYKES
AUGUST 2005

JAMES R. GOCHNAUER
NOVEMBER 2005

ROY L. GREEN
UNKNOWN

WILLIAM T. REEDER

THOMAS W. SHERMAN, JR
AUGUST 2005

PETER N. SMITH
AUGUST 2005

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

KAREN CRANE
THOMAS C. DOERING
IRVING E. GREENBERG
ASHOK KAPADIA
DALE L. KARNES
RONALD H. KELLERMAN
PHILLIP N. MEANS
DENNIS H. STANG
STEVEN VAUTRAIN

CONVERTED TO LIFE

ANNE FAULKNER
EDWARD L. HUX
DAVID C. LAMOUREUX
BRUCE W. PERKINS
ROBERT H. PICKETT, JR
GEORGE F. THOMPSON

LOST MEMBERS

DONALD B. BORTNER
ROBERT G. DAVIS
JACK L. GREEN
ALBERT T. WARD
ZELA D. WOOD

FOUND MEMBER

DOUG KREULEN
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ON THE MOVE

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Membership

from page 5

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We Need Help!!

For many years we have been able to open the ACA office five days a week from 0900 - 1200 thanks to the efforts of Pete Bowman and Hap Lutz. It is time to help them out and relieve them of some of their functions if we want to continue to provide services as in the past. Since we have not been successful in recruiting volunteers, we are negotiating a services contract with a highly qualified lady to handle many responsibilities including our database management. Although we are in excellent financial condition, paying for services for the foreseeable future will reduce our cash reserves significantly. We would have to use the life membership funds currently restricted.

We will still need:

- **Volunteers** to serve in the office for three hours one or two days a week. During that time, the volunteer will answer the phone, direct messages and inquiries, and do many other tasks now performed by Pete and Hap.
- A **"real" treasurer** to take over for Sam. We have not had a treasurer for over three years - one who truly is involved and understands the requirement and needs.
- **Copy editor/assistant** editor to assist Jim Boney with the newsletter.

It is difficult to determine for how many more years the ACA will be a valuable and viable association. If we do not have the interest of the over 500 local members, it may be time to consider a dissolution plan.

WE NEED FOLKS TO STEP FORWARD AND JOIN THE TEAM! ANYONE INTERESTED CAN CONTACT THE ACA OFFICE (581-0099). Thank you, Sam.

Authentic Blood Chits

Genuine USAF issue Blood Chits are available. To obtain a Korean War Blood Chit, all you have to do is recruit a new member. If that is too hard for you to handle, it will cost you \$15.95 to purchase one of these authentic 1951 Korean War issue Blood Chits.

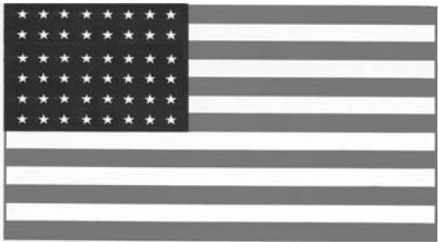
There are three varieties of Blood Chits available. The Korean War vintage was issued in 1951. The S.E. Asia vintage was issued in 1963 and costs \$29.95. The East European and Middle Eastern vintage was issued in 1951 and costs \$49.95.

These authentic Blood Chits are ideal for framing. Your satisfaction is guaranteed or your money back.

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Blood Chit
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or call (850) 243-0442 and ask for Rose.

If you are recruiting a new member, make sure you indicate on the application that you recruited the new member so that Pete can give



Official Korean War Blood Chit
1951 issue from survival kits

you credit for your Korean War Blood Chit. Get busy today so you can get your chit together!

Hap's Comments

I preface my remarks with a sincere apology to new member 16th Special Operations Wing Command Chief Todd Small. My commentary in the last newsletter referred to him as new member Chief Hall. I can only say that I must have experienced a "Senior Moment." Mea Culpa. (Sometimes you're the windshield and sometimes you're the bug!)

It was a great reunion! Others will fill you in with more of the details, but on behalf of the Fish Fry Commando Cooking Team I invite your attention to our perennial helpers under the skilful guidance of Ray Bourque; Mike Sheehan, Marguerite Foreman, Joanne Bourque, Fred Nowak, Larry & Lori Caison, Roger & Dorothy Klair, Bobby Dixon, Super Chef Ernie Macks, and yours truly. The fish was fresh grouper, which was donated by David Krebs, Jr., owner, Ariel Seafoods, Inc. of Destin, FL.

Also, I've had nothing but high fives about Shirley's sponsorship of the Lady's Social at Mr. "Ts" Two Trees Restaurant. (Find several notes expressing same elsewhere in the newsletter.) From all accounts, this should be considered as a continuing item on the annual reunion agenda.

The decorating committee, headed by Dee Roberson and Bonnie Smith spiffed the Soundside Club up like the good old days. Dee rightfully blasted me for not having Bloody Mary's available for the gang. Again, I had forgotten that vital aspect of the job. Another "Senior Moment" of a more serious nature. Dee is not as forgiving as Chief Small. Mea Maxima Culpa.

We had several disturbing pre-reunion phone calls. George McNamara had to cancel because of an auto accident. He's OK. Dave Lunnen couldn't make it because of hernia surgery. Gene Traczyk opted out for new house priorities. Lou Schindler busy with other matters. Marty Jester cancelled to assist with hurricane Katrina victims. (Good on you Marty!) And Juan & Gretchen Bazan had just moved to Canyon Lake, TX. Canyon Lake is also the home of Lou Schindler and I provided him with their new address.

Pete and I worked John Connors' recent initiative of wooing former members back to

active status. To all of you that returned, we say welcome back, you were missed. If you know of a inactive member, talk him or her back. It's the best organization going.

HEADS UP!

I purposely captioned the above to get your attention, particularly those of you in the San Antonio area. Reunion Bar-B-Que Chef Jerry Broadway has donated two tickets to the Annual East West Shrine Game to be played in the San Antonio Alamodome on 21 January 2006. They are lower level tickets for either section 103 or 104. The back of each ticket reads accordingly: "MUST REDEEM AT BOX OFFICE. This voucher must be redeemed at the Alamodome's Southwest Box Office Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or on game day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Alamodome's Northeast Box Office - for a reserved lower level end zone seat. For an additional \$10, this ticket can be upgraded at the Box Office for a lower level sideline seat. No refunds. Seating on a first-come, first served basis."

So, any of you in the San Antonio area that are interested in receiving these two tickets, please call (850) 581-0099. The first phone call

gets 'em! Leave your voice mail if Pete or I aren't here.

For you in the local area and beyond, our annual Christmas Social will be on the 18th of December at the Two Trees Restaurant from 1300 'til 1700. I'm sorting out the details now and a reminder local flyer will be mailed down the line. Norm Evans has volunteered to provide Christmas tunes and it will a enjoyable event for all attending.

I receive a lot of phone calls, both near and far, during newsletter time frames. Joe Coleman called to say how Maury Bourne's article in the last issue totally cracked him up. I got a big kick out of it also. It fits the profile perfectly.

Merry Christmas



and Happy New Year!

HOF

from page 3

positive image for the Air Force Special Operations Command and the Combat Weather career field. During many of my recruiting trips to weather units around the world I would always present the need for technically as well as tactically proficient warriors. In my opinion we bring weather knowledge to the fight, and if we are not good at that, we might as well stay at home. That's not to say we don't need to know how to fight, but we have a special skill that takes years to hone, and that is what we do best. Aviators know this well, but ground operations aren't always willing to accept that at face value.

I will continue to push for Combat Weathermen on the forward edge of the battle-

space (which may be way behind traditional enemy lines) providing those in the rear with the ground truth. In my current job I still have the ability to influence the direction of Combat Weather for the future. In true Air Commando style I will do my best to carry on the traditions of the Air Force Special Operations Command and the Air Commandos. Again, thank you for this honor and I'll see you all at next year's reunion!

Sincerely,
Ronald H. Kellerman, (L-4010)
11 Mill Run
Sanford NC 27332-8088

Homecoming Queen Makes Brigadier General

By: Mladen Rudman
Daily News Staff Writer

Choctawhatchee High School Class of 1973 now has an Army Reserve Brigadier General among its ranks.

Some locals also may remember Robin Bailey - now Robin Bailey Umberg - as the class's homecoming queen.

Though the General lives in Orange County, CA with her husband, a California assemblyman, and their three children, Umberg has a very strong connection to Fort Walton Beach. Her mother.

"Isn't that wonderful?" said Jo Bailey about her daughter's ascent through the officers' ranks. "Is there anything that she hasn't

done?"

Bailey pinned the star on her daughter during a ceremony in July at Fort Gillem, GA.



"I was very proud of her," said Bailey. "She was her usual exuberant self." After the ceremony Umberg did something akin to the Macarena dance backstage.

If Bailey had a worry about the pinning ceremony, it was that her daughter would get the giggles during the event. Instead, Umberg offered a wonderful speech.

As a Brigadier General, Umberg is deputy commander for Clinical Services at the 3rd Medical Command. The Army reserve unit is charged with coordinating health care services for U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to a press release.

Along with being a Choctaw homecoming queen, Umberg was a very good student and runner up in the Miss Fort Walton Beach contest during her junior year in high school.

Bailey also described her daughter as capable and adventurous, the apple of her father's eye.

Frank Bailey was a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel. After leaving the service, he owned Bailey Motors in Fort Walton Beach.

"She was daddy's girl from the get go," Bailey said. "He was her hero."

Her daughter's star is a tremendous source of pride for Bailey; but it's not the biggest source.

That belongs to the special commendation and humanitarian medal Umberg received several years ago from the secretary of the Army.

Driving her children home from school, the nurse came across a man slumped at the steering wheel of his car. A crowd had gathered but no one tried to help.

Umberg took control and tried to resuscitate the man while waiting for an ambulance to arrive.

He didn't survive, but the man's family was so grateful to Umberg that it wrote to the Army secretary.

Their letter turned into the special commendation.

Though bragging isn't generally Bailey's style she couldn't contain herself entirely when she found out about her daughter's promotion.

Well, I did the first day or two and then it got old," Bailey said. Besides, she had told everybody who needed to know.

Meeting

from page 4

the ladies' luncheon; the banquet featuring special guest Gen. Jack Singlaub; the 20th Squadron's briefing and "burger fry" following the meeting; and the importance of the Sunday ACA Memorial Ceremony at Hurlburt's Airpark. He opened the floor for attendees' remarks.

14. There was thanks and high praise for the 20th Squadron for sponsoring the ACA in its facilities. The Commander and several others were recognized and thanked. Commando John Grove was singled out for coordinating the various events of the 20th Squadron. Grove urged all to participate in the scheduled 20th briefing, and to tour the Squadron's aircraft and flightline. He noted the burger fry is free, but donations are welcomed.

15. ACA National Publicity Director Gene Rossel reported on efforts to recognize and remember John and Ed Cook. The fate, work, and circumstances of the pair were reported by Rossel. Rossel pre-

sented a carved ACA sign as a tribute to the Cooks. The beautiful piece of artwork will be displayed in the ACA building. He also gave an update on some of the work with ACA's web, and other Internet work and exposure. He was thanked for his work.

16. Ken Lengfield suggested ACA work to get something named for Gen. Jimmy Doolittle, who trained on Eglin's ranges and at Hurlburt. Sambogna briefed on ACA and Hurlburt's efforts to remember the name of W.W.II Commando Carlous Christian

17. Jim Albert asked of ACA's work to help lower grade airmen. A brief report was made on ACA's support of the "Airman's Attic."

18. Bill Brown motioned adjournment. The motion was seconded. Jim Boney told of the availability of auto plates depicting certain aircraft and symbols. He will be the person to contact for this. The motion to adjourn was carried unanimously.

Enlisted Village opens assisted living doors in Shalimar

After two years, a reneged \$8-million donation and several major hurricanes, the Air Force Enlisted Village opened the doors to Hawthorn House, the latest addition to the community that provides a home for widows of retired enlisted Airmen. Hawthorn House, a 64-apartment assisted living residence, brings a 38-year dream to life for an organization whose goal has always been lifetime care for these widows.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, Jim Binnicker, president and chief operating officer

for the Air Force Enlisted Village said that many obstacles had to be overcome, including funding and one of the most damaging hurricane seasons on record. The entire Air Force Enlisted Village team has been totally involved from the start and is to be commended for their outstanding support. Divided into four "neighborhoods" that include 16 apartments, a dining area, living area and laundry room, the upscale, two-story, state-of-the-art facility was built on five acres of land on the Bob Hope Village campus.

Letters

AIR COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

ATTN: Hap/Pete, Sam, &
All you fine guys & gals

Hap,

I am sorry that I (we) missed the reunion this year, but due to my health problems we could not make it, maybe next year!

I am very sad to hear that we are losing so many fine people, some I know very well and others I wish that I would have been lucky enough to have been their friends.

Gene (Rossel), I was especially touched to hear that Francis X. DeFonce (AKA Frankie Hollywood) and Chuck Fisher had gone on to the "Big BX in the sky." They will surely be missed. I used to support their briefing team with graphics at the Special Air warfare Center along with Capt Maxwell and Lt Col Bill Sheppard. Between them and their SAWC briefing and Gen Prichard's, they inspired me so much I decided I wanted part of the action and volunteered for gunships and Viet Nam (AC-47) (Spooky). The last time I saw Maj Defonce it was about dawn in 1974 at Hickam Field at the BOQ office and we sat on a bench and had a beer together. I was flying out of Travis on C-141's and was eastbound and had just come in from the P.I. and I had not seen him since 1966 - "Great Guy"

"Hap", well I have done it again, forgot that my membership dues were due in September; so lets solve that problem and make Pete happy and convert to life membership. If I am not around Aiko loves your newsletter as much as I do. She's 'tuff as nails and will out last me. Well enough of that!

Say hello to everyone and our very best, "can do."

Bob and Aiko
Robert (Bob) H. Pickett, Jr.
5822 Skewen Street
Humble, TX 77346
(281)-852-7975

Yo Bob,

Hope your health problems are resolving Bob and that you and Aiko will be present for muster at next year's reunion.

Your comments about Chuck Fisher and Francis Xavier DeFonce are right on target. Both super guys, as fits the profile of all Air Commandos.

Hap

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEAR HAP & GANG,

Cope so much enjoyed all of the ACA get togethers. Those were just happy times remembering times spent with each of you. He loved the Air Force and all associated with it.

I am sorry I won't be able to come to the reunion this year. Give my love to all.

Love,
Anise Copeland
RR3 Box 26A
Headland AL 36345

Dear Anise,

Thanks so much for your for your meaningful note. I remember so well when I first met "Cope" back in 1958 at Holloman AFB. I was a fresh transfer from the U.S. Navy, still stumbling around trying to fit in as a USAF Staff Sergeant. He became a instant friend and remained so until his untimely demise.

You were a Godsend to his world Anise and meeting you, although a little later in his life, was a blessing.

Hap

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEAR "SAM" SAMBOGNA ACA PRESIDENT,

It is an honor to be invited to the Air Commando Association reunion in October. The men and women who serve our country now and then are no doubt responsible for the freedom and way of life all Americans enjoy today.

I can never thank you enough.

It is true that those who watch and wait on the home front and keep the family together are a different kind of hero. How wonderful to be recognized as such.

Although I am unable to attend the reunion I thank you and wish one and all a jolly good time!

Sincerely,
Doris Byrne
2 Adriatic Avenue
Hampton VA 23664-1902

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HELLO TO ALL OF YOU:

Thank you for the invitation to the reunion. At this time I cannot attend but hopefully next time.

I reflect on all (or as much as I can) you guys have done all the time. Your paper is very informative. I'm saving all of them for history for the young ones who are very much into the military. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Gail Cohenno
RR 4 Box 408
Needles CA 92363

HI JIM,

Thank you so much for sending me the photos of my Dad and Mom. I will share them with my sisters. It was very thoughtful of you and I am very grateful.

May God Bless You!

Sincerely Yours,
John Christian
120 Bermuda Circle
Niceville FL 32578

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEAR FRIENDS AT AIR COMMANDO ASSOCIATION,

Thank you for your recent generous donation of \$1,000.00 to the American Red Cross of Northwest Florida.

Your donation will directly assist those in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida who were affected by Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005. Many residents of these affected areas have lost their homes, their memories and their lives in this catastrophic Category 4 hurricane. With your contribution, Red Cross can continue to support its humanitarian effort to provide disaster relief to those victims in need.

Again, many thanks for your generosity. Red Cross is there when you need us, thanks for being there when we need you!

With gratitude,
Clarissa Stanley
Service Center Coordinator

American Red Cross of
Northwest Florida
4100 S. Ferdon Blvd. Suite B2
Crestview FL 32536

(850)-682-3356
Fax: (850)-423-1246

Letters

from page 9

ATTENTION READERS

Lawrence A. "Larry" Neal is seeking to contact anyone who worked with or was stationed with him at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, SVN during the period of 10-22-64- until 10-22-65. Larry was the Flight Engineer on a U3B Cessna aircraft.

He is attempting to resolve a medical claim and desperately needs confirmation of his service there.

Larry was either an A1C or SSgt at the time. (His application for the ACA depicts rank as Sgt.)

He indicates his direct boss as being SSgt Woods and mentions A1C John Frost and A1C Cantrel as being other engineers assigned.

If you know Lawrence A. "Larry" Neal, even remotely, in the Viet Nam arena, please contact him ASAP at: 7014 E. Golflinks Road, Apartment #156, AZ, 85730. (I tried to call him to call him, but no phone listing.)

Hap

★★★★★★

DEAR FELLOW COMMANDOS,

I know you guys will put this \$500 to good use without the overhead of the large agencies. Thanks for supporting for those in need.

Bud Britain
19445 Upper Skyline Drive
Eagle River, AK 99577

Dear Bud,
You'll be happy to know that your very generous donation was in turn provided to ACA member Ray Bourque by the Board of Directors. Ray is Destin American Legion Post #296 Veterans Representative. He makes an

annual Christmas trek, along with High School AFROTC students, to the Vets Hospital in Tuskegee, AL and Panama City, FL. Along with other cash donations, they provide many creature comfort items otherwise not afforded by our hospitalized veterans.

It will be a very Merry Christmas for many, many vets as a result of your graciousness!

Hap

★★★★★★

DEAR JIM,

Thank you so much for the pictures. Seems like it was just yesterday, but yet a lifetime ago.

I'm sorry I won't be able to join you this year. I will be leaving for Australia, New Zealand and Fiji plus visiting our kids on the west coast just a few days later.

I know you will have a great time visiting with old friends and reliving another part of your life.

Give all my regards and enjoy reliving "ole" times.

Sincerely,
Emily Maheu
1002 Lakeway Drive
Niceville FL 32578-1721

★★★★★★

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

Hope the reunion was a huge success. Thanks for the invitation!

Even tho I have moved a long way from Fort Walton Beach, I really enjoy the copy of the newsletter that I receive. Thanks so much. Keeps me in touch with my long time friends such as Heinie (and late Jesse), (late Rose), Joy Downs, and several others. I enjoy the pictures!

Wish Heinie well for me on his

next trip to Thailand.

Sincerely,
Margaret Hennessy
10586 La Lila Lane
Fountain Valley, CA 92708-5234

★★★★★★

DEAR FELIX (Sam),

Saw you are the President of ACA. Great!! I love reading the newspaper when it comes.

Thanks for all the ACA invites. If I ever get back to Fort Walton Beach will attend one, its been years.

Have a great year.

My best regards,
Beverly Jean Hunter
803 Green Street
Alexandria VA 22814

★★★★★★

MR. FELIX L. SAMBOGNA ACA PRESIDENT,

I'm sorry to say that I won't be able to come to the reunion this fall.

My national dog show for Lhasa's is being held Oct 16th this week. I have a 6 month old puppy that I am taking and I must show her myself as she is in the futurity.

Believe me if this did not conflict I would be there.

This week I am attending the final reunion of the Academy group so there is only so much time. I leave Thursday for Denver CO.

I bought the ball last year and have had some luck so it is with regret that I return it.

I received it late last year, but I will send it.

Tell every one hello for me and wish me luck with the pup.

Mary Pepper Vaden

(Both husbands were Commandos)

13515 Beltway Drive
San Antonio TX 78217

★★★★★★

DEAR FELIX L. SAMBOGNA,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and tell you how honored I am to be awarded the 2005 Charles Hicks Air Commando Scholarship Award. I promise that this much needed funding will be put to good use in furthering my education at the University of Central Florida. I hope one day after I have established my career that I am able to set up funding such as these to give back to those aspiring students. Once again I graciously thank you for choosing me as one of your 2005 recipients.

Sincerely,
Jennifer McRae
12161 Renaissance Court
Apt # 106
Orlando FL 32826

★★★★★★

DEAR HAP,

I'm so sorry I could not attend the reunion of 2005. I had seriously considered returning until the hurricanes hit LA and TX. I'm hoping that next year I can find someone in the Fort Worth area to travel with so I won't have to do all the driving and travel alone.

I hope this card finds all of you in the best of health for the upcoming holidays.

Also, Nadine Mitchell (Mitch's) wife and I spoke. Hope to see her in Dallas next spring.

The world is a much better place with you in it - so true! God bless

See **LETTERS** pg. 11

Letters

from page 10

you and all in the ACA family.

Karen Sweet, RN (Ret)
6088 Bear Creek Dr East
Fort Worth TX 76126-9202

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your heartfelt note Karen. You'll be happy to know that the very poignant article you provided for the newsletter, "They Too Serve Who Watch and Wait," was also very professionally read by Howie Pierson, our pre-eminent Master of Ceremonies, at the Reunion Banquet. It was a moving occasion.

Hap

PS: You Dallas area folks coming next year might consider giving Karen a lift.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEAR MEMBERS,

Thank you for the many acts of kindness towards my husband and for remembering us after Sam's passing. We miss him terribly but feel the support of his friends.

Please correct address.

Dottie Porter
1922 Kadima Circle
Fort Walton Beach FL 32547

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEAR SAM,

This is in response to your invitation to attend the ACA Reunion in October. Remembering last year - and the enjoyable time I had and the reuniting with old friends, I'd love to return this year, but other plans negate this possibility. As a matter of fact I am writing

this at the airport in Cincinnati enroute to New York and ultimately to Istanbul. My daughter, Maile, and I are on a trip of a lifetime to visit Turkey, Greece, Italy and France for a months duration. Am I lucky or what?? One has to take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves. Maybe next year I can be in Fort Walton Beach in October!

Hope all is well with you and Fort Walton Beach. Thankfully "Katrina" and "Rita" didn't call on Fort Walton Beach but this whole hurricane season keeps one hoping and praying. I'm wondering if ACA was able to play a part in the relief system - food, clothing, whatever in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana? The need is so tremendous and will go on for years. Looking forward to the news in the next ACA newsletter.

Best wishes to you and all the gang. Have a wonderful reunion. Maile sends you best wishes too!

Take care - be happy!
Mary Lou McCoskrie
2345-C Via Mariposa W
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEAR SAM,

Just a note to tell you and the Association how much I enjoyed the ACA Reunion weekend.

Thanks to you and Hap and all the wonderful people that cooked, served, and cleaned up, mixed, poured, prayed and spoke, sold, bought, played and sang, smiled shared and cared, worked so hard so all of us could have a great time.

The ladies social was a huge success and I hope it will be an "event" every year. Shirley did a super fantastic job.

Also want the ACA to know

how much I appreciated all the kind words to "they also serve who only stand and wait" and to those of us who still stand but have no one to wait for anymore.

Thank you for inviting me to participate in all the festivities. Your "personal invitation" was a nice touch and made me/us feel so welcome.

Sincerely,
Peg Simpson
287 Beachview Drive
Ft Walton Bch FL 32547-2802

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEAR SIR:

This is to thank you for the special Air Commando Reunion letter to an Air Commando Widow. I enjoyed many of the reunions with my husband, a long time Air Commando. In fact our last trip was in 1995. Col. Pouliot passed away in 1997. We always looked forward to our trip to Florida in October. Fun Golf Tournaments and seeing old friends.

Truly appreciated the letter and again thank you for remembering Air Commando widows.

Have a great '05 Reunion.

Sincerely,
Eleanor H. (Larry) Pouliot
102 Sunridge Way
Redlands CA 92373

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ACA,

Please give my best to Heinie who is a great inspiration to all of us old retired work horses that wish we could still be on active duty.

Dale Sissell
246 Chatuge Shores Overlook

Hayesville NC 28904-9250

SHIRLEY,

Sending this thank you note to let you know how very much your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Thanks for the lovely luncheon! It was great to get together with the women and catch up on the news! The food, wine and company was stupendous! Thanks again.

Bonnie Smith
50 Cinderella Lane NW
Fort Walton Beach FL 32547



DEAR SHIRLEY,

Thank you for hosting the wonderful ACA Ladies Social. We all had a lovely time and the food was quite delicious.

Your kind generosity is greatly



**Wonderful Hostess - Mis Hap
AKA Mrs. Shirley Lutz**

McCoskrie/Threshold Foundation Update

Support of Our Troops

Our direct involvement with Hurlburt Field's Airmen's Attic ceased on 5 July 2005 when the Spouses Club took over from the Family Support Center. Although we have helped several Airmen since, we have not heard from the current program managers. Too bad!

We have actively assisted the program at Eglin since July and went into high activity mode at the end of August when hurricane Katrina hit. We actually took over the Eglin AFB Airmen's Attic in mid September and oversaw the accumulation and distribution of tons of stuff, so much that we jammed the entire ground floor of the old NCO club including the main ballroom. We helped many Keesler AFB 'relocatees' and civilians from New Orleans, Mississippi, and Alabama. As the need for hurricane support subsided we opened the doors to all military needing assistance including Hurlburt and NAS Pensacola. The generosity of the local population made it possible and your MTF was privileged to take an active part.

Having satisfied our local needs, we are sorting and boxing the remaining inventory of mainly clothing for shipment to Honduras.

Looks like one and a half a tractor-trailer loads, which we will crate and truck to the old Carver Hill Gym in Crestview where it will be put in Sea land containers destined for El Progreso Honduras.

Tampa to Honduras

Your MTF shipped the load of goodies to Honduras from Tampa. This load contained the items we received from Air Commando Jim Galluzzi of Merritt Island Fl who had it stored in his facility at Port Canaveral. Also sent were many desks and school items from the Tampa area schools. These were received by Bless the Children as a donation and packed and loaded by Bill Carver plus his very helpful crew from MacDill AFB. All the school fixtures were sent by the MTF and our partner Bless the Children. Too bad we do not have the help to continue more of these shipments, but what we have done to date is great. We will ship what we can when we can.

Letter of Thanks

We received a letter of thanks from Bless the Children for our work with them in Honduras. It is quoted in part.

Dear John;

Thank you so much for all that you are doing to help the poor. By

providing the tools they need to improve their conditions, you are making a tremendous difference in the lives of the impoverished people through out north Honduras. On my recent trip I saw so many things that you have shipped including bicycles, food, tires, toys, household items, furniture and more. The medical supplies you donated for the trip were ideal. They were used every day. The doctors really liked the little surgical kits!

Karen S. Hubbard
President/ Founder
Bless the Children

Farm Animals

The MTF has been supporting the people of Honduras for years. We do this for many reasons, some of which are the need, the fact that they support the United States interests, and it is the easiest place to send our "stuff". We have been advised that one of our supported projects is in need of funds to buy farm animals. John Grove sent funds for one cow. We hope that



John Grove

our generous donors will contribute to this cause. We will send your money to them and they purchase them on the local economy. Your funds are a tax deductible donation as always. I am waiting for photos of my cow and expect

soon to see what the Honduran cows look like.



Picture of Honduran cows compliment of the world wide web and the editorial staff.

Costs; Cow \$585, goat \$35, sheep \$35, chickens 10 for \$35, pigs \$50, ducks 10 for \$30, and a horse is worth \$225.

If you donate to this cause please indicate the donation is for farm animals. We will publish photos of them in future issues of this newsletter.

Airmen's Attic Eglin Christmas Program

Eglin has a program where families of E-5 and below or others identified by the unit 1st Sgt can come and shop for new clothing and toys. Donations are being collected and will be available around the last week in November. This year we will have the event in the old Eglin NCO Club. Already we have set up and decorated 35 trees, which we will give away. We are decorating the club and will have a nice food and punch buffet. Volunteers will escort all children to a fun and activity room so Mom and Pop can make selections on the QT. We'll even have a booth where we plan to wrap the presents for them away from prying eyes.

This will be a great event and we are proud to manage it for Team Eglin.

ACA Website

For several years the ACA has maintained two Websites, one by past VP Rip Kirby www.aircommando.net and one by Gene Rossel

www.home.earthlink.net/~aircommando1.

Both sites contain interesting information and we appreciate the efforts of Rip and Gene for creating and maintaining the sites. However, because of his heavy schedule Rip does not have the time to keep his site current. Therefore, the official ACA site is the one Gene Rossel maintains.

President Felix "Sam" Sambogna

Letters

from page 11

appreciated.

With best regards,
Sue King Marschalk
100 Kelly Ridge Road
Bristol TN 37620-4542



DEAR SHIRLEY,

Thank you so much for inviting me to your luncheon. It was the loveliest I have attended in many years.

Please thank Hap too for his dinner party. We enjoyed it very much.

Sincerely,
Kay Boney
626 Powell Drive
Ft Walton Bch FL 32547-1715



DEAR SHIRLEY LUTZ,

What a pleasure to have lunch while the men were discussing and



cussing! You had such a good idea. Thank you!

Nita Schaefer
2001 Savanna Ct N
League City TX 77573-5031



HI HAP,

Thanks for having me at your party on Thursday eve. It was great. Congrats to you and Shirley for a job well done.

The entire reunion was wonderful - again congratulations to you and Pete.

Bill Brown
17040 SE 96th Chapelwood Cr
The Villages, FL 32162



Hurricane Relief

The few volunteers we have with the MTF sure found plenty to do this hurricane season. Our very own Bob White worked many hours collecting for the relief effort and providing the transportation for stuff which was stored and shipped from the Eglin AFB closed NCO club. (a new club was built and the old club stood empty) The Commanding General at Eglin had the old club up and staffed with volunteers in short order. Nice how rank makes the red tape turn colors. Two giant loads of stuff were transported to the Keesler AFB area and tons of items were given out to the evacuees who moved to our area. Great work Bob.

Another volunteer was roped into the effort. John Grove has asked Jim Connors (old gunship dude) for help packing and shipping the Honduras stuff. Turns out Jim's wife is one of the heavies in the Red Cross. When the Red Cross needed help they just called in some green stamps and one of them was John. Teach him to check all the family connections before asking for help in the future. It was interesting to watch a non military organization thrash about.

Write It In The Sand

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who was slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand: TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE.

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?" The other friend replied, "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

LEARN TO WRITE YOUR HURTS IN THE SAND AND TO CARVE YOUR BENEFITS IN STONE.

Life is a Symphony when God is the Conductor.

Author Unknown

MEMBERSHIP DUES
If you pay annually (\$20), please do so now for 2006 or consider life membership for \$150. Thanks!



OUR WINNERS

ACA Golf Tournament

Thirty-six players enjoyed a round of golf at the Gator Lakes Course. Even players who performed poorly were not dismayed - just being able to spend four or five hours on Hurlburt Field was reward enough. Several ladies played and held their own against the men, Sue Rhodes outdid everyone. She was closest to pin on #14, had longest drive for ladies and her team was second - congratulations Sue!

At check-in each player received a sleeve of golf balls, and a ticket which entitled them to unlimited beer and sodas while playing. Jim and Bob gave each player a choice of a cap, golf towel or an ACA coffee mug. All supplied by our outstanding Country Store manager Joyce Harrington.

Gift certificates were given in the following amounts: 1st Place \$45 each, 2nd Place \$35, 3rd Place \$25, and 4th Place \$15.

Thanks to the following whose able assistance contributed to a smooth operation - Jo Bailey, Dottie Brittain, Lee Somers, Jim Alberts, Bob Moneymaker, Chuck Wheelahan, Bill Brown, Bill Page, and Ron at Gator Lakes.

We are also very appreciative for the gifts from Lockheed Martin (Gene Eller), Edwin Watts Golf Shop, Gator Lakes Management, and to Gordo Scott for his goodies.

At Reunion 2006 we're shooting for at least 50 players (ask a friend to play) most of us are getting long-in-the-tooth, which may diminish our skills a bit, but please come back next year and enjoy the cheerful camaraderie with great friends. Thanks to all.



Jim Alberts and Bob Moneymaker



Jo Bailey, Dottie Brittain, and Lee Somers



Dwayne Chum, Marie Wheelahan, and Ken Spring



Ed Muro



Bob Moneymaker



Jim Boney, Al Shortt, Sherrill Jones, Howie Pierson



Paul Tobey, Bill Brown, Don Haren, and Mike Maroney



Chris Spring



Sue Rhodes

Jim Boney



Jim Boney, Al Shortt, Sherrill Jones, Howie Pierson



Paul Tobey, Bill Brown, Don Haren, and Mike Maroney



Chris Spring



Sue Rhodes



Jim Alberts and Bob Moneymaker



Jo Bailey, Dottie Brittain, and Lee Somers



Dwayne Chum, Marie Wheelahan, and Ken Spring



Ed Muro



Bob Moneymaker

Jim Boney



Jim Boney, Al Shortt, Sherrill Jones, Howie Pierson



Paul Tobey, Bill Brown, Don Haren, and Mike Maroney



Chris Spring



Sue Rhodes



Jim Alberts and Bob Moneymaker



Jo Bailey, Dottie Brittain, and Lee Somers



Dwayne Chum, Marie Wheelahan, and Ken Spring



Ed Muro



Bob Moneymaker

Jim Boney



Jim Boney, Al Shortt, Sherrill Jones, Howie Pierson



Paul Tobey, Bill Brown, Don Haren, and Mike Maroney



Chris Spring



Sue Rhodes



Jim Alberts and Bob Moneymaker



Jo Bailey, Dottie Brittain, and Lee Somers



Dwayne Chum, Marie Wheelahan, and Ken Spring



Ed Muro



Bob Moneymaker

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Paul Tobey, Bill Brown, Don Haren, and Mike Maroney



Chris Spring



Shirley's Social



.....FISH FRY.....



ACA Reunion 2005 Banquet



Memorial Service



Bar-B-Que



2005 Air Commando Association Reunion

By Gene Rossel

4 Oct Tues

I Visited the ACA HQ and they were very busy getting things done for the reunion. Jim Boney, Roger Clair, Felix Sambonga, Pete Bowman and others were there working on the reunion. Since they didn't need any help I got out of their way so progress could be made.

6 Oct Thurs.

I went over to the AF Armament Museum at Eglin. They have a great collection of aircraft and bombs which has a long history of their development. The history of the Air Commandos from WWII to today has really improved since the last time I saw it. They have some great flying photos and stories and it would be great to make a booklet out of all the history and pictures they have. I was really impressed with their setup. It is the best AC/SOF display that I have seen. Someone is doing a great job in preserving our history at the museum. The museum is becoming one of my favorite with what they offer and the excellent condition of the facility itself. It brought many memories of my time I spent at Eglin and Hurlburt.

Later I went to the hospitality room at the Quality Inn where Dick Geron was giving us history lessons of some of his great wartime stories that only Dick can tell.

The Hospitality room, opened at the Quality Inn at 1600 hours for registration of Air Commando members for the 2005 ACA Reunion. Peter Bowman and crew had everything setup and the registration moved along efficiently. The bar was open at the hospitality suite and Dick Geron performed his magic with the drinks and secret ingredients for his magic potions. The Spooky crowd keeps the bar going until Dick had to close the bar down. They did a good job in supporting our reunion efforts.

Hap Lutz had a bash at the Bangkok House and it was quite a meal and the renewing old friendships. Larry Casion, former administrative guru in Vietnam and the 605th ACS and his wife were there and we discussed old times when Dr Baker was with us. The food was delicious and next time I am in town I intend to eat there again because of their service and

culinary delight.

The A/B-26 had a hospitality room setup at the Quality Inn. They weren't as noisy as they had been in the past. Don Maxwell, Paul Marschalk, Nolan Schmidt, Dave Henry and others were there to party as late as their bodies permitted.

Chili Wills was remembered by a number of people but he couldn't make it to this reunion. Next time Chili we expect you there. Swede was there to support the local folks. Doug Blair also was in attendance.

Friday 7 Oct.

Registration continued at the Quality Inn. The Golf Tournament, under the driving leadership of Jim Boney, brought more golfers than expected and they had a wonderful time at Hurlburt Gator Lakes. The award ceremony for the golfers was held at 1330.

The fish fry was held at the quality Inn at 1600 and Hap and his crew did a great job of putting another excellent meal for hungry Commandos and guests. Even some of the Bangkok management came down to taste their food. Good job guys for putting such a feast together every year.

They opened the hospitality suite and war stories were being embellished. Bob Schneidenbach showed up to harass me about things in the past. His CCT team always took care of me when I was jumping with them and never suffered any mishap while they were pushing us out of a perfectly good airplane.

We had a number of guests but one that many people didn't know was Belinda Green- a guest of Bill Brown. She was the tall, statues blond which Bill was squiring around. Bill and I met her as a result of the Australian B-17C Memorial which she participated in since her uncle was one of the 40 who died there in the crash on 14 June 1943 at Baker Creek, Australia. Joe Kittinger and his lovely wife attended and is always a great couple to update history or listen to some fine war stories. And what would a reunion be without Heinie Aderholt holding court at or near the bar. Takes a lot of effort to keep up with him. Bob Schneidenbach reminded me that he and Frank DeFonce were great buddies and appreciated a Commando presence at his funeral. Joyce really had a good collection of Air Commando

pins, patches, clothes etc. She really does a great job in supporting us at the hospitality room of getting our money for the excellent items she has. Jim Boney had his patriotic red-white and blue jacket. I almost stole it off him since I wanted one myself. The gunslingers always keep the bar hopping and there were quite a few at the reunion to include Spooky's -Pilots: Gene Overton Al Sproul Merl Andrews Ron Haren, Flt Eng: Van Carter John Vasilik, Load: Ray Benkosky, Gunners: Bob McGarry Bobby Dixon.

Bill Page had some of the greatest stories of a young fellow I have heard in a long time with documentation to go with it. He must have been the youngest fighter pilot in WWII including flying a P-38 in the Pacific. He served in Panama while I was there and he was a favorite of the 605th ACS. He and Hoss McBride were great friends. We discussed Hoss's loss as a Raven when he was shot down near Savankahet and died in the river since help wasn't readily available.

We missed Don Moody who is always there to cheer up the crowd. Someone said that he was having some health problems but we expect him there next year. An ACA reunion without Fred Platt would have been a dull affair. He livened up the bar with his untold and re-embellished war stories. His cigar-prefers Dom Rep cigars rather than the real Cuban cigars which he has access to through his other organizations is never far away. Fred's stogie and brandy sniffer is the life of any party that is looking for an action man with thrilling stories. Even the smell of burned cigar ashes still brings the crowd around Fred.

The Spookies gathered in mass and were the last standing holding up the bar and wild war stories. Got to hand it to their stamina and staying power.

Saturday 8 Oct.

What a great showing from an organization which almost sank at the beginning with limited funds. Our yearly expenditure includes \$4000 scholarship funds given out each year, \$7,000 for newsletter, and a \$1,400 telephone bill to keep all commandos informed. To regain some of our 450 Commando lost souls. The

Reunion

from page 20

amnesty program allows lost members to start clean and 39 have taken advantage of it and more are expected. The reunion will be held in FWB each year after the yearly vote on a change. The ladies had a social in FWB during our yearly business meeting. Election of two staff members were made and the old exiting members were recalled to perform for another couple years.

Capt Eric Compton of the 23FTS is a basic helicopter instructor at Ft Rucker, AL for the USAF helicopter training program. Only the Navy, USMC and Coast Guard have their helicopter training done in Pensacola, FL. The future helicopter pilot must have fixed wing training before they go to the 6 month helicopter training program.



Gene Rossel at Reunion 2005

Lt Col John Alvarez of the 6th SOS followed with his briefing on the foreign support aircraft. Jerry Klingaman, an old Vietnam Air commando, is a civil servant advisor to the 6th SOS. LtC John Alvarez has an interesting career as a naval aviator who was assigned to the USAF as an exchange officer. He had an accident and lost a foot. Because he was so well regarded by the USAF SOF he was picked up as an AF pilot as a result of the accident when the USN discharged him. He is now the 6th SOS commander. The 6th SOS was formed in 1994 but didn't get any aircraft until 1996. Their current aircraft consist of leased C-47T, AN-26, MI-17 and they are working on leasing an OV-10 to use in training foreign aircrew and logisticians teams in 4 areas of the world.

After the briefing we were allowed to see some of the aircraft on the flight line. The 20th had a BBQ in their hangar for us which were just excellent. Their hangar designs are unique in that they are able to open two sides of the

hangar to provide excellent ventilation for the maintenance in the hot Florida sun. The floors in the hangar appeared clean enough to eat off. It was very impressive.

Don Maxwell found time to remind us that in 1963 he briefed SAWC on the future Air Commandos that they had planned at that time to have aircraft similar to the CV-22 and we still don't have them yet. They expect the CV-22 sometimes in 2006. Don further expounded that the early SOF forces in WWII had P-38 and B-17s as Psy ops aircraft and he is doing research on this. He further concluded that Orde Wingate named the Air Commandos and is the father of the Air Commandos and will present his research proof at another date. Don is working hard on these findings as well as tracing his Scottish ancestors. Expect him to be wearing a Scottish kilts followed by bagpipes at the next ACA Reunion.

The banquet started at 1900 hours at the old Hurlburt Officer Club called the Soundside Club on the Bay. The Commando ladies did an excellent job of decorating and setting up the banquet room. What would we do without the beautiful, talented and dedicated wives? Sam opened the evening agenda followed by Charlie Jones invocation with praise to the Lord for all our bountiful and surrounding by such magnificent comradeship. Howie Pierson then led us into the Pledge of allegiance. Music was provided for our eating pleasure by the Ray Brown Orchestra. MG John Singlaub, USA retired gave us an excellent history of the OSS. MG Singlaub served in WWII in the OSS and served behind lines in Europe and Asia. He served in Korea with the CIA. He was Commander of MACSOG in Vietnam (a number of Air commandos served under him at the time-Bob Gleason was his deputy at one time) and served with the UN Command of the Military Armistice Committee at Panmunjon. He was instrumental in the establishment of the USA Rangers Training Center at Ft Benning in Georgia. He is a graduate of the Air War College and has written a book "Hazardous Duty, an American Soldier in the 20th Century." He is now the Chairman of the OSS Society. He was given a plaque from the ACA for his contributions to the ACA.

MG Singlaub's speech was followed by MG Dick Secord's awarding the ACA Hall of Fame

certificates. Gen Secord has been chairman of the Hall of Fame for 5 years and he will be replaced this year. Thanks for the great leadership in running the ACA HOF Program. There are also HOF board members; Jim Ifland, Gaylord Hall, Dennis Barnett and Gordon Scott. Two HOF awards were made this year and they include Maj Joseph Holden and SMSgt Ronnie Kellerman of the Combat Weathermen. Maj Holden was an early Commando and flew T-28 in Vietnam. SMS Kellerman established a weather network in Iraq.

Robert Downs, former ACA President, was



Charlie, Heinie, and Jim at Reunion 2005

recognized for his work with an ACA plaque. He also built our beautiful ACA HQ building.

Ray Bourque was recognized for his volunteer for the ACA.

Anne Faulkner of Canada, whose father was a medical doctor in Gen Orde Wingate's Chindit unit, gave the ACA a Chindit sword in memory of her father.

Col Howell of the 20th SOS was thanked for his gracious hosting of our reunion and for organizing a great show and tell of what modern SOF people are doing.

Don Maxwell gave us a short history of WWII psy ops and gave Col Norman J. Brozenick Jr, commander of the 16th SOW, mementos of the WWII psy ops group. He said that the B-17 dropped leaflets and would like to see a B-17/B-24 in the Air Park and is working on a history of their efforts to give to the 16th SOS. He finally gave Col Brozenick a short written history of the early psy ops.

Sunday 9 Oct.

The Memorial Service was held at the Air Park and services started at 1200 hours. The Honor

Air Commando Association Membership Application

Membership is open to:

- A. Persons who served with or supported Air Force Air Commando/Special Operations Units.
- B. Widows of persons eligible for regular membership qualify as non-dues paying members.
- C. Other units/interested parties may join as non-voting associate members with approval of the Board of Directors.

Newsletter is published quarterly.

Annual Reunion held in October

Type Membership requesting:

_____ \$ 20.00 Annual Regular _____ \$ 20.00 Annual Associate
 _____ \$150.00 Life Regular _____ \$150.00 Life Associate
 _____ Widow (No Dues)

Name: _____ Rank: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Home# (____) _____ Work #: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Branch of Service: ☐ USAF ☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ USMC ☐ Other

Please list: _____

AFSC/MOS: _____ Job Title: _____

Dates of Service: From ____/____/____ To: ____/____/____ Retired? Y or N

Air Commando/Special Operations Service:

From ____/____/____ To: ____/____/____ Unit _____
 Location _____ Aircraft _____

From ____/____/____ To: ____/____/____ Unit _____
 Location _____ Aircraft _____

From ____/____/____ To: ____/____/____ Unit _____
 Location _____ Aircraft _____

From ____/____/____ To: ____/____/____ Unit _____
 Location _____ Aircraft _____

Present Occupation: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Permission to provide phone # & address to other Members only? ____ Yes ____ No

Permission to publish phone # & address in ACA Newsletter? ____ Yes ____ No

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Return application to: Air Commando Association
 P.O. Box 7

Mary Esther, FL 32569-0007

For Office use only: Membership Number: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Entered in Mailing List: _____ Entered in Accounting Log: _____

Welcome Letter: _____ Membership File: Sponsor: _____

Sky King/Mr. A-1 goes West



Truly "one of a kind." James Robert Gochnauer--known to many as "Bob," "Goch," "Mr. G.," "Sky King," or "Mr. A-1." His personality was reflected in those nicknames. Born in Colorado Springs, CO on July 1, 1933, Bob filled out the following 72 years with a life rich in experiences, friends and a loving family; wife Pat and daughters Lori, Melanie and Jodi. Bob and Pat nurtured a marriage love story lasting 51 wonderful years.

In an Air Commando unrelated history, many will remember that Bob's aviation experiences included flying the F-100 "Hun" as a young captain in Chuck Yeager's squadron, and another European theater assignment as an Air Liaison Officer with the U.S. Army in Germany. But he is best known to us as "Mr. A-1" because of approximately 3,200 flying hours as a combat pilot, instructor pilot and functional check flight pilot in the Skyraider. This earned him the distinction of being the "high-time" USAF pilot in the A-1. More humble about his aviation prowess and accomplishments than many of his fighter pilot peers, his DD-214 record shows a Silver Star award for one of the most significant operations occurring in Southeast Asia, the Son Tay Raid. on a dark night of November 21, 1970 Bob was Jerry Rhein's deputy lead for the A-1 supporting flight. This effort to rescue American POWs greatly raised the morale and optimism when news of the effort reached their ears.

One of the first two dozen members when the ACA was formed, Bob missed but two reunions in 36 years. In addition to his lifetime ACA membership, Bob was a member of American Legion Post #15 (Sumter, SC), the A-1 Association and the Quiet Birdmen. he was laid to rest, appropriately, on Veterans Day; on a beautiful VFR afternoon that included a USAF Honor Guard tribute from Shaw AFB. Bob's demise came from injuries received in an ultra-lite accident in November 2005.

Let us remember Bob Gochnauer as a unique, colorful and genuine Air Commando comrade and friend, ever loyal and supportive of the Special Operations mission. His absence leaves the ACA ranks profoundly diminished.

Bobby Dixon Is Cited For Saving Two Airman

Airman Second Class Bobby J. Dixon, 18, of Dalton GA has been awarded the Soldiers Medal for an act of heroism performed while he was serving in Korea last year. The medal was presented by Colonel H. A. McDaniel, commander of Lockbourne Air Force Base near Columbus, Ohio, in appropriate ceremonies.

The citation, which accompanied the award, stated that young Dixon distinguished himself by heroism involving the risk of life, near Pangojin, Korea on August 7, 1954.

Young Dixon observed two airmen struggling in the water about 50 yards from the shore. One of them was attempting to save the other but was rapidly being overpowered and in danger of being dragged under the turbulent waters.

Dixon unhesitatingly plunged into the heavy surf and went to the aid of both men. He was successful in assisting them to the shore and administered resuscitating methods to the two half drowned men until other help arrived.

Dixon, the son of Mr. And Mrs. Melvin M. Dixon of Brickyard Road, Dalton GA, entered the Air Force June 26, 1953. After completing his basic training at Lackland AFB, TX he was assigned to a technical training school at Lowry AFB CO, where he graduated as an ammunition technician. He was sent to Korea in February 1954.

After completing his tour of duty overseas, Dixon was assigned to the Strategic Air Command for duty with the 801st Supply Squadron at Lockbourne Air Force Base, Ohio.

Courtesy, Dalton Citizen, Dalton, Georgia



Reunion

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Guard did an excellent job in presenting the colors. Charlie Jones was the MC and he introduced the USAF chaplain who reminded us that his father was a USAF Chaplain also. He led us into prayer and preached to us for a short time.

The 3 striper from AFSOF history office sang some very beautiful patriotic songs and what a voice she has. The various organizations were asked to announce all the people they lost since the last reunion. Hap Lutz added the combat medics who died-remember those guys who took care of us in all our needs in the combat zone and it was announced that they will be included in all future ACA

reunions.

Col Brozenick, 16th SOW, gave us a very enlightening speech on Special Ops, our accomplishments and our losses.

The Memorial Service was followed by BBQ at the Quality Inn. The food was great and the weather was just right to enjoy the day. Fred Platt, his stogie and a little booze, later led the auction in the hospitality room. He was great in his performance and made the ACA a lot of money. Next year we need some of those war booty that we have squirreled away to get a bigger interest.

After a lot of goodbyes the reunion was ended.

COUNTRY STORE ITEMS AVAILABLE

ZAP Patch.....	\$3.00
Original Air Commando Gp Patch	\$3.00
Project 404 Coin	\$10.00
ACA Bumper Sticker	\$2.00
ACA Challenge Coins (Bronze)	\$5.00
50th Commemorative Coin (Bronze).....	\$5.00
ACA Ball Cap (navy, royal & lt blue, black ,white, gray, denim, camo, & red) ACA logo or lettering	\$9.00
ACA Lapel Pin	\$4.00
ACA Cloth Patch	\$3.00
ACA "AIR COMMANDO" Cloth Tab	\$3.00
ACA Decal (4"x 5")	2/\$1.00
ACA T-Shirt (white only) (L,XL).....	\$10.00
ACA T-Shirt (white only) (XXL)	\$12.00
ACA Golf Shirt (misc colors, ACA logo or lettering).....	\$15.00
ACA Golf Shirt (white, red, royal blue - waffle weave with pocket)....	\$15.00
Air Commando Bush Hat (M,L,XL).....	\$20.00
Straw Hat	\$10.00
**50th Poster (full color) (20"x 24").....	5/\$1.00
Jane Fonda Poster (black & white) 11x14.....	\$3.00
ACA License Plate	\$10.00
Jackets - (M to XXL-tan, Navy, black,)	\$35.00
Jackets - XXL (2 yellow/black windbreakers)	\$25.00
POW/MIA Decals	\$2.00
POW/MIA Patches	\$3.50
ACA 50th and 55th Reunion Videos (Various films of various events. Costs include S&H.)	\$5.00
Hat Bands (black, wine, royal blue).....	\$5.00
Printed Plastic License Plate Holders	\$4.00
Golf Towel (24"x16" with ACA Logo)	\$8.00
Denim long sleeve shirts (Ladies M, L, XL Men M, L, XL, & XXL)....	\$20.00
Beer Mugs with logo or lettering "60 years Air Commando"	\$10.00
Pens with "60 years Air Commando"	\$1.00

ORDER FORM

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Rosset Report

VO-67 DVD-1 now available NKP- 1967-68

Greetings, Some time back a notice that some 8 mm film had been discovered showing VO-67 in action and that this was to be placed on DVD. This copyrighted DVD is now available with an additional 7 minutes just discovered. Total length of the DVD is 1 hour 13 minutes. It was decided that no editing was to be done on this one of a kind film. Below is the description on the back cover of the DVD.

Brief description of DVD content.

Thanks to shipmates AX-1 Ray Braley and AE-2 Ken Dwelle, a small part of VO-67 history will once again make a visual appearance. These images have not been edited and were transferred directly from the VHS films as they were discovered. The locations jump around a lot and at times the images are a little out of focus. Although most of the content is of Crew-1 on R&R in Bangkok, (Floating Market) and Philippine Islands, most all VO-67 personal and others will find something in here they will remember.

Some things to watch for: The Bob Hope Xmas show (1967) with Bob Hope, Barbara McNair, Miss World, Gary Crosby, and of course Raquel Welch with her famous blue and white sweater dress. If you look just to the Right hand side of the stage, the VO-67 unit sign can be seen. Also a visit to "Tim Land" in Bangkok with Crew-1. Snakes, working elephants, native dancing, kick boxing, and temples.

This DVD also contains, we believe, the only images of VO-67 Implanting "Adsids" and flying OP-2E's during missions over the Infamous "Ho Chi Minh Trail". Some shots over the rear M-60 machine guns. Several flight line scenes of A-1H Hobos, a T-28 Zorro or two, and a C-123 Candle landing. The A-26 Nimrod line is shown briefly. In one special scene, MR-1 and MR-2 are taking off. MR-2 comes back across the runway then slowly banks to the right. This is a very memorable image as the aircraft and crew were lost a short time later in Laos. Zipper, the Crew-1 mascot is also seen along with lots of cameo shots of VO-67 members on and around the NKP base.

If you are interested in acquiring a copy of this DVD please send a \$ 21.50 donation to The VO-67 Association at address below and mark DVD-1 on your donation. Other DVD's will be available soon including the recovery of VO-67 Crew-2 from Phou Louang mountain in Laos by CILHI in 2002. This DVD is over 2 hours and is very detailed in this pristine recovery of MR-2 crew lost 1-11-1968. The VO-67 Association 1614 Hallbrook Dr. San Jose , Ca. 95124. Questions. Bob 408-978-8245 Email: Bob VOSixtySeven@aol.com

US Policy in Laos post WW2--a good read.

www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/1989/RME.htm

C-47--a real tough bird

Gene, Thank you for submitting a photo to our site. It is now featured in Shock & Awe!

Recently, we redesigned S&A. With the new design, we implemented a NEW rating system, which allows our members to rate individual photos. Check to see how your fellow members have rated your submission!

Thanks again! Editors, email: militaryshock@yahoo.com
www.military.com

A-26 Crash - Bedal

Gene, my name is Andi Biancur (I sent you a previous e-mail) around the time of this year's reunion concerning the McClean/Bedal crash. It was in response to your article in the ACA newsletter. I believe I have quite a bit of information about the incident that day. The events are very clear in my mind and I can, today, picture the scene but, my memory may well be playing tricks on me so I would like to run my recollection by you before it goes any further. If you can give me a time and a phone number, I'll be happy to call and talk to you about it, as I remember it. Andi Biancur (719) 488-4317
Email: 2biancurs@adelphia.net

Air Force rejects benefits for 'Air America' employees

By Paul Singer, National Journal

If you were once a pilot for a secret airline run by the CIA, flying all sorts of clandestine military operations in Southeast Asia for three decades, are you entitled to government retirement benefits?

The Defense Department doesn't think so. The Air Force has rejected a petition by former Air America employees to have their time in the unfriendly skies declared "active duty," which would earn them veteran's benefits. The CIA has acknowledged that it owned Air America and its predecessor Civil Air Transport beginning in the late 1950s, and that it used the airline to run support missions in Southeast Asia for two decades. The famous 1975 photo showing a helicopter snatching evacuees from the roof of a building during the fall of Saigon? It was an Air America chopper. Shortly thereafter, the airline was dissolved and the employees were cut loose. "It was, 'Adios, fellas, have a nice day,'" said Air America alum Jesse Walton.

Full story: www.govexec.com

Raven Reunion

We just finished another highly successful reunion. 33 Ravens joined us at various times during the weekend. Around 70 people at the Saturday night dinner. Biggest in several years. 2 new "Ravens" approved by the Board. More details in the Nov/Dec newsletter. Working on it already, so get info to me. Dues are due for those not at the reunion.

Big item: Our scholarship is a reality. Thanks to Chad & the Scholarship Committee for their great work. Contact any and all who might be interested/eligible, including your local high schools. Evermore. Ed Gunter, Edgunter@aol.com

New email and contact info

My name is Allen Williams. You currently have my name and e-mail address listed as: Williams, AL - badger03@peoplepc.com and badger03@romad.com. Please delete those entries and update my name and

Rossel

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e-mail address to: Williams, Allen - mrfixit@clearwire.net. Thanks, Allen Williams, 2318 Rexie Circle, Abilene, TX 79606, (325) 690-6578.

The change has been made.

Hurlburt Field flying historic 'Gooney Bird' built 62 years ago

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. - Air Force Lt. Col. Al Phillips is ready for the inevitable questions and nostalgia whenever he flies to another base or civilian airport in what World War II pilots affectionally dubbed a "Gooney Bird."

The white, twin-engine C-47 transport, with a black question mark appropriately painted on its tail, is the oldest aircraft flown by the Air Force. It was built 62 years ago.

"It's not uncommon for us to get anywhere from two or three to a dozen people asking about the airplane and reminiscing about, maybe, when they flew on it or flew it," said Phillips, assistant director of operations for the 6th Special Operations Squadron.

A military version of the DC-3 airliner, the C-47 earned its stripes in World War II, when it was flown by every branch of service and many foreign air forces.

Officially named "Skytrain" by the U.S. military and "Dakota" by the British, it saw action in every theater of operations for such missions as dropping paratroopers and towing gliders on D-Day and flying supplies over the "Hump" in Burma.

Douglas Aircraft Co. built more than 10,000 DC-3s and C-47s and about 3,000 were manufactured in foreign countries including Japan, Russia and China. At least 300 Gooney Birds are believed still flying around the world.

The Army and Air Force flew them from 1941 through 1975. Some packed a mean punch as AC-47 gunships during the Vietnam War and earned yet another nickname: "Puff the Magic Dragon."

Hurlburt's C-47, serial number 26120, is one of nearly 50 Gooney Birds modernized by Basler Turbo Conversions LLC in Oshkosh, Wis. The company leases the plane to the Air Force.

The converted planes, designated BT-67s, are about 65 percent original C-47s or DC-3s, said Randy Myers, director of production, engineering and maintenance for Basler.

"It's built like a tank," Myers said.

Nothing else can match a converted C-47's 10,000-pound payload and ability to fly from unimproved airfields for the price - \$5 million, Myers said.

The Hurlburt squadron also trains on two Russian aircraft, an Antonov 26 transport and an MI-17 helicopter, and the American UH-1 Huey helicopter of Vietnam War vintage, all also widely used around the world.

None, however, is as historic - or old - as the C-47.

Phillips said that when learning to fly the Gooney Bird he once complained to his instructor, a seasoned C-47 pilot, "I just can't get this beast to do what I want it to do."

"It's not a beast," he recalled the instructor admonishing. "It's the

grand dame of aircraft." BILL KACZOR, Associated Press

605th Air Commando & 19th Air Commando Patches

Have you had any luck either finding out if any one has those patches or have you had any luck on getting them made??

I was in the 605th '64-'66 & the 19th '67-'68 and in '70... Thanks in advance.. An EC-47 Crew Chief and His Airplane Still Working
Joe B Peck USAF Retired
Email: JBPECKSR@webtv.net

Hello Folks,

Just got the note from one of our former EC-47 Crew Chiefs, Dick Snook. Dick is still in service with his C-47s/DC-3 doing a great service for humanity. Drop in on his web-site in his note below. Dick is the gentleman who had offered to bring one of his C-47's to the 2005 Reunion in DC/Maryland but we could not generate enough funds to foot the fuel/oil bill.

Any other of you still working with/on the C-47's let me know.

For now, Take Care and Keep in Touch, J.C.
J.C. Wheeler, The EC-47 History Site. An EC-47 Crew Chief and His Airplane Still Working, Email: jc@ec47.com

Quotes of the Month from Bill Chambers

Do not fear the enemy, for your enemy can only take your life. It is far better that you fear the media, for they will steal your HONOR.

Jay Leno, With hurricanes, earthquakes, fires out of control, tornados, flooding and severe t-storms tearing up the country from one end to another, with the threat of bird flu, terrorist attacks, and more, the quote of the month is from.. "Are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?" Email: blc11@cox.net

Looking for patches

I was looking for patches to fill a org.board for all units I was in during my AF service. I was with the 432nd Supply Sqdn. Gun Runners,Udorn, 1966 -67. I was the parts runner for the A1E. It was a great assignment and I met some super guys. Tom Hill, Glen Rose Texas USAF 1st Sgt. Retired, Email: akhunter44@aol.com

"Cleo Mitchell"

I was in the 317th ACS from 1963 to 1967 when I went to nam and was assigned to the 309th ACS. I was a loadmaster on C-123 assault. I belonged to the ACA for awhile, and would like to rejoin. Also I have sent several e-mails to Mary Esther but received no response. I need to know how to locate three friends , I was assigned with Sam Letson, Pat Tinker, and Tom Lafrance. Please let me know if you know where these x Commandos are. Also send me what i need to rejoin.

Cleo Franklin Mitchell, 25154 18th St, San Bernardino CA 92404, cmitchell093@adelphia.net

Cleo--I am sending everything you need for re-joining and will get your

A B-26 Story For The Air Commando Association

I sent you a response to the 2005 Reunion stating that I was going to attend. Katrina and Rita have convinced me to not make the trip. My route is along I-10 from near my house to Pensacola. I am sure you know what has happened along this route from East Texas through Mississippi. They are having enough trouble without my adding to it. I hope you have an enjoyable time and that every one attending comes away with smiles.

Now for something a little different. The last Quarterly Newsletter had some requests for information and some answers regarding a B-26 crash on 16 August 1963. Jim Cone, my navigator and I were one of four crews at Danang at that time. We had three aircraft and would rotate among them. We basically covered the air war for I and II corps. Captain Robert (Bob) Seaton was the ranking officer. Captain Howard McClean and I were friends and had bunks beside each other. I believe the other pilot was Andrew Biencur. I am not sure I spelled that correctly.

The runway at Danang at that time was five thousand feet of broken concrete. It was hard on airplanes, especially the tires. Besides our three B-26's there was a squadron of C-123's and a contingent of Marine H-43 helicopters. We did not fly at night in the mountains of I and II Corps so that became party time.

Our hooch was next to the officers club which made it easy to stumble back home after a night of festivity. Let me see, we would draw a chalk circle and stand around it. Then put a frog in the center and if it jumped toward you, you were to buy the round. As the night wore on and it became more difficult to control the frog we would put it in a glass of whisky with some ice and keep it there for a few minutes. That slowed the frog nicely. Another great game was to turn off the ceiling fan and put empty beer cans at the end of each blade. Then we would stand in a circle and have the bartender turn on the fan. If you flinched or got hit by a can you would buy the round. For those of you who came later, I must tell you that these were tin cans, not aluminum, and so could make a dent in the skull. There would at times be some blood at our festivities.

Captain Seaton got the jeep one night and we went over to Marine club. They had a large contingent of H-43 helicopters. There was also a Air Force C-123 squadron and one or two Army FAC's. Bob and I were sitting at the bar of the Marine club telling war stories to Marines who were very envious of our jobs. Some one called out "clear the club the fogger is coming." Bob put his hand over his glass and shouted out anyone who leaves is a candy ass. Of course, now I could not leave, but most of the Marines were a lot smarter than us and they left. Ten minutes of breathing that stuff was enough. Bob and I downed our drinks and went out the door.

Then there was the Danang Rodeo. We were headed for the club one evening when we saw some cattle coming by. We all climbed over the barbed wire fence and tried to climb on their backs. I was the only one to make it and the cow took off toward some high grass. A light came on and I slid off. Then you could make out the ARVN sentry looking my way. This was during the Buddhist crisis and they were not playing games. I laid there not moving for a long time hoping my friends would yell out that we were Americans. Nothing, not a sound. Finally the light

went out and I slowly crawled back to the fence. By the time I got into the club everyone else was in a jolly good mood. That is every one but me.

It seems to me that McClean went in on a Saturday morning. To the best of my recollection I was also up that morning in a different area. When we heard that McClean had gone in I went to the area and located the wreckage. Some people from Bien Hoa along with Captain Seaton went to the crash site by helicopter. Later Bob told me that they had to land down hill from the site and then work their way up to it. They spent some time retrieving the remains and making sure that all the guns were no longer usable. The wreckage was examined to the extent possible and Bob told me that they believed the wing had failed as one of them was some distance from the main wreckage. Then someone had to set charges on the unexploded bombs and every one left. Luckily there were no VC in the area. Captain Seaton was TDY from Edwards AFB and I went out to see him on one of my flights. I have tried to locate him again and have not been able to do so. Someone told me they thought he had gone back to SEA and gotten killed. If he can be located he would have the best word on Captain McClean's demise.

I flew one B-26 to Taiwan for repairs. Someone had pulled too many Gs while loaded and had torn one of the wing racks off, peeling off some of the skin from the lower wings as well. You could look up and see the bottom of the main spar. As you may well guess, I flew that aircraft as carefully as possible. First to Danang then over 900 miles of water to Clark AFB in the Philippines. Remember we only had an eight channel push button VHF radio so once you were fifty or so miles out you could not talk to anyone. Navigation was simply dead reckoning until we got about two hundred miles from the Luzon and could pull up Manilla radio on ADF. We were also exceeding the recommended range for the aircraft without a ferry tank. We could not have a ferry tank for it would add an unsafe load for this wreck of an airplane.

Air America had repair facilities on Taiwan where they could repair this broken airplane. They had another ready to return to Bien Hoa so Jim Cone and I ferried that one back.

One thing of note. None of our aircraft had G meters. Soon after McClean's accident they started installing G meters on all the aircraft. I was surprised that we did not have more accidents with wings coming off. The steeper the dive the more accurate the drop when dive bombing. That means more Gs on the pullout. Then the pilot would roll to the left during the pullout to try and see the explosion. This put additional loading on the right wing. This was the only way we could correct our drops. When dropping into the jungle you could seldom come back over and find where the bomb had hit. I have had missions were I was given fourteen targets and that means I would have to make each and every drop hit a target. To top it all off we were delivering ordnance in mountainous terrain. This was the case with McClean's mission. Sometimes the only way you could see the target was to approach it from the low side and fly toward the ridge or mountain top. That made your pull out even more critical.

Several years later I went back as a FAC flying O-1F's. When I called for air in Laos I would generally get a flight of four Thuds (F-

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B-26

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105's). In the delta (IV Corp), I would get a flight of 4 F-100's. You have a small target and you have to unload four aircraft on it as they cannot go home and land with any of it. What a waste!! I would sure have been glad to have a A/B-26 show up instead.

And troops in contact. In the old days we would be over the troops in the delta at 0600 when they started moving. We could sit on top of them for four to six hours when we would be replaced. When I say on top of them, I mean at 500 to 1,000 feet. We could see each and every one of them.

Suddenly the troops would drop to the ground and smoke grenades would be thrown. I would already be rolling in hot when I got the first radio contact from an advisor. Years later as a FAC I would patrol over



Pete Bowman and Paul Marschalk at Memorial Service

WORTH MENTIONING

Veterans Day brought back memories.

As a Merchant Marine veteran, I was wearing my cap. A young lady ran to my side and hugged me with great gusto while saying, "Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

Bewildered, I questioned the sincere act of kindness.

"You're a veteran and I thank you."

It made my day.

Later, services for veterans at Beal Memorial Cemetery drained some of my thoughts. Veterans from all services - Air force, Army, Marines, Coast Guard - were mentioned and honored. It has always appeared that certain organizations never deem the Merchant Marine veterans worthy of mention or recognition.

Terry "Ace" Shepherd, 164 Bryn Mawr Blvd., Mary Esther, FL 32569

A LITTLE HUMOR

A couple had been debating buying a new vehicle for weeks. He wanted a truck. She wanted a fast little sports car to zip through traffic around town. He would have settled on any beat-up old truck, but everything she liked was way out of their price range.

"Look!" she said. "I want something that goes from 0 to 200 in just a few seconds. Nothing else will do. Christmas is coming up, so surprise me!"

He did just that. For Christmas, he bought her a brand-new bathroom scale. Nobody has seen or heard from him again.

troop movements and when the ARVN would get fired on you had to wait for forty five to sixty minutes before you got air. By then Charley had scrambled down the canal and hid. You would get four Huns to unload and no real target. Then once the F-100's and the troops started to move Charley would open fire again. The closest answer I could find was my AR-15 and I used it from time to time. One day the Senior Army Advisor called me and said the ARVN were pinned down by machine gun fire from a canal line and wanted air. I went over the area at about one hundred feet and could not find no one. Just then one of the Huey gun-ships came by. It looked like the door gunner was firing to one side. I called the gun-ship and asked if the gunner was firing at right angles to his path down the canal. He said he had ordered the gunner to fire when they went below five hundred feet. So our VC machine gunner was really a door gunner in a Army helicopter.

How sad it all was? Our marking rockets would do spirals, loops and other interesting things on the way toward the target. It was impossible to really make a target well. We could just come close. Then in the fall of 1966 they added two more racks to the O-1's and we could now carry four marking rockets and four HEAT's We got the High Explosive Anti Tank rockets from the Army. They were so accurate that we could hit a small sampan with ease. What was the difference? The Air Force rockets were high speed rockets while the Army's were low speed. I was first told that high speed was better. Then I found out that high speed meant they were to be discharged for the rocket tube on a high speed aircraft. They were fin stabilized and the fins were not effective at our air-speed of 95 knots. The Army's slow speed rockets had canted nozzles and were spin stabilized. They came out of the tubes already spinning. Don't you think someone in USAF armament would have realized that?

Well I just wanted to add what little I knew about Captain McClean's last flight and got a little carried away. Cut out what you want and send the rest to the Widows. Howard McClean's widow may not remember me but I sat next to her husband at the going away party. If my memory serves me correctly they had two young sons. I hope they have some fond memories of their father. My wife was not at Hurlburt as I was just one of the TDY warriors. We partied on what was to be our last night before leaving for SEA. Then the next day our departure was set back one day because of weather. All the husbands who had wives at Hurlburt went home for one more last time. All I could do was sit at the club with some of the other single types.

Sincerely,

Donald Shirkey, P.O. Box 253, Center Point, TX 78010
(830)-634-2845

P.S. If you are interested I shall send you my recollection of the day they killed Diem. Jim Cone and I were in Saigon that day and took refuge at the bar and restaurant atop the REX hotel. We had the best seats in the house to watch the attack on the Palace.

Editor's Note: Donald thank you for the informative and hilarious story. We gotta do that "frog thing." Maybe at Reunion 2006. Fred Platt will be tasked as frog supplier.

Rossel

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notice in the next ACA Newsletter which come out in December. Thanks for finally getting it to me to provide the help you need

Daughter of Robert Swenck

I am the daughter of Robert Swenck, 20th SOS 1969-70. I am interested in meeting anyone who knew my father.

Stacy Swenck in San Deigo California, Email: sswenck@adelphia.net

Comments on the : U-28A

No, I don't care what its shortcomings are If they took me back on active duty I would fly it tomorrow and for the next 10 years. Bob Gleason, Email: Rlgleason22@aol.com.

Air Commando Who were Generals

For some reason this didn't get into the home page or was corrupted somewhere along the line of the AC General Officers. Would appreciate if you could add to the list. I will add it to the home page this week. Thanks for letting me know.

Air Commando/Special Operations General Officers Served in AC/SO Units, commanded, or are still on active duty.

1. BGen Harry C. Aderholt
2. MGen John R. Alison
3. MGen S. Bowen Ballard
3. MGen Walter H. Baxter
4. BGen Edward N. Brya
5. BGen Robert L. Cardenas
6. BGen James B. Cobb
7. MGen/DR William A. Cohen
8. BGen George P. Cole JR
10. BGen James L. Cole Jr
11. MGen Richard L. Comer
12. MGen Hugh L. Cox III
13. BGen Richard H. Dunwoody
14. MGen Thomas E. Eggers
15. LGen William H. Ginn JR
16. BGen A. Gray III
17. MGen Lee V. Greer
18. MGen James R. Hildreth
19. MGen James L. Hobson Jr
20. Gen Charles Holland
21. LGen James D. Huges
22. BGen Richard A. Ingram
23. BGen James M. Johnston III
24. BGen Benjamin King
25. BGen Noah E. Loy
26. LGen Leroy J. Manor
27. BGen James R. McCarthy
28. LGen George D. Miller JR
29. MGen George W. Norwood
30. MGen Robert B. Patterson

31. MGen Walter S. Putnam
32. Gen Norton A. Schwartz
33. BGen Hanson L. Scott
34. MGen Richard V. Secord
35. MGen Donald W. Sheppard
36. MGen John K. Singlaub
37. MGen William A. Studer
38. MGen Leroy W. Svendsen Jr
39. MGen Daryle E. Tripp
40. BGen Garry A. Willard Jr
41. LTGen Joseph G. Wilson
42. MGen Kendall S. Young
43. Gen Duane H. Cassidy
44. Gen Michael J. Dugan
45. Gen John L. Piotrowski

Gen Secord, "RV Secord" Email: rvsecord@cox.net

The list (Gen Officers) seems complete to me.

Congress' Vanishing Veterans

There are more than 25 million veterans in the U.S., but fewer in Congress. Of 100 Senators, 31 served on active duty or in the reserves. Just eight saw combat, including WWII pilot Ted Stevens (R. Alaska) and Medal of Honor recipient Daniel Inouye (D., Hawaii). In the House, 110 out of 435 are veterans, but just 29 saw combat. Only one vet is a woman: Rep Heather Wilson (R., N.M.). 9 November 2005 Parade Magazine

Article is very complimentary to CCTers

The Nov/Dec 2005 VFW magazine had an article "GIs Waging 'Straight Up' War IN Afghanistan" which mentions our CCT brothers.

Air Medals for the Aussies

There was an article in a Nov 05 Army's Vet newsletters and they talk about the medals of one Army Col who just died and who had served in Vietnam. He was airborne and infantry. He had 3 DFC and 13 Air Medals and wasn't even on flying status (there were many other Army troops who got the same thing for riding in helicopters as passengers). How did they do it? I am working with other Commandos to get Air Medals for the Australians and New Zealand FACS and the aircrew who flew the Caribous in the 35RTVF and the AF is making it very difficult to get these medals for airmen who truly deserve the medals. We will get them with the help of my Congressman. I never understood how the Army ground pounders riding in helicopters could get DFCs and Air Medals.

Postal Honors for Marines, 9 Nov 2005 Parade Magazine

On Thursday, the US postal service will honor four Marine heroes with stamps. Lt Gen Lewis "Chesty" Puller won five Navy crosses for

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heroism in action, earning the last one at age 52 in Korea. Lt Gen John Lejeune spent 40 years in the Corps and was a WWI hero. Sgt Maj Dan Daly won the Medal of Honor twice, for two separate acts of heroism. And Gunnery Sgt John Baslione won the Medal of Honor for three days of fighting on Guadalcanal in WWII before dying at Iwo Jima. The stamps go on sale across the nation on Nov 10.

Why can't we get some of our Commando heroes put on a stamp? Lets try and make an attempt at this. Anyone interested?

AFSOC History

Gene,

The AFSOC heritage pamphlet is being updated as we speak and as soon as it is published I will send you several copies. I will have my folks look over the list of Gen Officers and make the additions we know about. I am also going to change the grade of those on the list who have been promoted such as Norty Schwartz who is now a four star.

B787 for Vietnam

The Nov 2005 Avionics Magazine reports that the Hanoi-based Vietnam Airline is buying 4 of the new Boeing B787 which starts deliveries in 2008.

A/B-26ers:

Last month Di and I went to the Indiana State Fair. It was hot and the sun was out, so I wore my broad brimmed EAA hat -- the one with two pins on the front -- an A-26 and the F-4. While looking at antique farm machinery a guy in his 80s walks up and asked me if I built models of A-26s or why I had the pin? I told him about NKP and -26s in '69. He almost had tears in his eyes while telling me he was part of Heinemann's team at Douglas and, to him, the -26 was the best aircraft he ever helped design. He knew enough about details of the airframe that he had to be legit. Anyway, after further correspondence, I sent him a copy of my 8mm stuff with the WINGS video at the end. He called me tonight and we talked for an hour. I told him I would sponsor him as my guest at the reunion if he could make it. He's checking with his wife (they just celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary). I doubt that he is physically able to make it, but if he does, he would be an interesting attendee. At least he would make a great target at the roll toss -- he can't move that fast anymore. Anybody have any objections???? Smitty, Nolan Schmidt, Email: nolschfly@aol.com

None-great idea.

The adventures of Joe Holden

Joe and I have had a number of emails about his experience at Scott AFB, IL as a fighter pilot. We had one F-51 crash killing a Lt near Belleville, IL and a F-86 killing a Major when he avoided hitting a school in Mascoutah, IL, my hometown. I remembered both crashes well since it is big news in a small town like Mascoutah and we were in awe of the flying at Scott. Joe was at Scott AFB during these crashes and he brought back many memories of my youth as he was the guy buzzing our town. Here is Joe:

I wasn't really at Scott that much, I spent about three months going to instrument school and F-86 transition. then I ferried aircraft for about six months from the factory to squadrons and I was transferred to Grandview AFB Missouri in the spring of 1954. I did have one interesting experience, the squadron command a Lt/Col wanted me to check him out in the F-86, all jet fighters at that time had emergency buttons. They were surrounded by a wall so that they could not be accidentally pushed so it was like a button in a small bucket. The F-86 had two such buttons on the instrument panel, one was checked just before take off, it failed the main fuel control system and made sure the emergency system worked, the other one was located nearby and when activated dropped the external fuel tanks. We taxied out, I was on his wing and lined up beside him. I told him to run the engine up and check the emergency fuel system, he ran it up and then I noticed both his fuel tanks on the runway, he didn't say anything but came back on the power and taxied back to the parking ramp. As far as I know he never tried to fly the F-86 again. Incidentally at Grandview I was again amongst a group of 2nd Lts, fortunately we didn't have to check them out in F-51s, they had all been to F-86D school.

I was assigned to Scott AFB in August 1952 when I completed my tour in Korea. I'm fairly sure I was ferrying airplanes when the Major was killed (I think his name was Yancy Williams) but do recall that he made an extra effort to clear any possible ground casualties probably costing him his life. You are correct, fortunately the P-51 Lt. only killed himself, horrible thing for his wife to see however. We lived in base housing which was across the road from the base, they were like town-houses with two stories, they had three bedrooms upstairs, I already had three kids, all boys but if I recall they were quite comfortable. Most of the new pilots were bachelors so we got a graphic picture of the dating game at that time, It wasn't too much different than now as most of them found a girl to shack up with. It was kind of a shock when we went to visit some of them and the girls were lounging around with less cloths than the Burlesque queens in St Louis.

It was the 113th Ftr Squadron and was an Air National Guard Squadron from Indiana. They were equipped with F-51s and I was one of only about four non-guard pilots assigned , that changed shortly when we received about twenty five pilots fresh out of flying school, interestingly they never had any tail wheel experience. We prepared them to fly the F-51 by teaching them to fly the T-6 from the back seat. One pilot couldn't hack it and lost his wings. The first pilot who went for a flight in the F-51 exceeded the design limits of the airplane and managed to pull the wings off buzzing his wife's house and the next one ground looped on landing. this got the attention of all the rest and we had no more problems. In December of 1952 a new squadron was formed the 85th Ftr Interceptor Squadron, in the spring of 1953 three of us went to Tyndall AFB and were actually the first three pilots in the Air Force to get the full forty hours of training. After about twenty hours our instructors were asking us questions. The Major who later crashed was one of the students, I was assigned duty delivering aircraft fresh out of the North American factory to various bases around the country, ultimately

Rossel

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I spent six months doing this and delivered over forty aircraft. For a while the 85th Fighter Squadron was the largest in the Air Force with 22 Guard F-51s, 25 USAF F-51, 3 T-33, 5 T-6s, 1- L20 and 25 F-86Ds, this only lasted a few weeks as the Guard Planes returned to Indiana, I can't recall where our F-51s went since I was ferrying airplanes. I think the T-6s went to the bone yard.

aceusaf@earthlink.net

4400 CCTS

Hi, I saw your email when doing background information check for a fictional book I am writing. One of the main characters was in the 4400 CCTS, the original Jungle Jim unit. I wanted to know a few things about Jungle Jim if I could: Where did the name "Jungle Jim" come from? Can you describe the uniforms (color, look, uniqueness) I see that some of these individuals (maybe yourself) wore unique hats that looked like Bushman hats. What were they called and why did they use these head covers? Thanks for your time, Stephen Ambrose, Email: doc@doctorembrace.com

T-28

David Kensler owns a T-28 and is painting it like the one that Capt Simpson was killed in. There is a South African T-28 rebuild project at <http://www.yptaerospace.com/Contact.htm> Email: dkensler@aol.com

Jim Biggie, biggie1738@yahoo.com

4408th ccts C123k Lockborne , 483rd TAS Cam Rahn Bay.

Flew on UH-1N gunships

Flew on UH-1N gunships as an aerial gunner from 1978 to 1980 at Hurlburt Field. Participated in the MGM rescue in 1980. Aerial gunner instructor and flight examiner on HH-53, MH-53J, and MH-60G. Retired as the Chief, Rotary Wing Aerial Gunner from HQ AFSOC in August 1995. Cordis Dale Blackwood, MSgt (RET), Email: dispatcherdale@earthlink.net

Steve Hiott , Location: Round O SC Comments:

In 1970 I was transferred from HH53's & H3's to UH1n (twin eng Hueys). I am researching the N models being tested in Nam about that time frame. We had at least one that was returned with battle damage. No one so far has any first hand info. Any info would be greatly appreciated. ACA Member

Check out Chapt 11 in "Colt Terry, Green Beret", or pg 117 in Gen Schwarzkoph's book (Hard Copy) "It Doesn't Take a Hero". Both stories highly embellished, but it was an exciting day! E. "Van" Van Inwegen, La Jolla, CA Email: evani@pacbell.net

Assigned to 14th Supply Sq.,14th Air Commando Wing

Nha Trang 6 Aug 66 to 1 Dec 66. Placed on orders to Pleiku Dec 66 to 1 Aug 67, on Project Phyllis Ann. Returned to 16 EMS, 1 SOW April 83

until retirement 1 Aug 85. Provided munitions support for AC-130s (to include URGENT FURY). Kim Gnader was my CO. Consider the time in and around Special Operations a very special time. Pete Ford, Email: fordpeterj@aol.com

Sorry I missed the reunion

I was a member of 19th ACS (C-123) at Tan Son Nhut Jan 67-Jan 68. Also 603 SOS (A-26) at England AFB, LA, Jan 68-May 69. I just saw the notice of your reunion in the Eglin AFB newspaper today, 9 Oct 05. Randall Schamberger, Niceville, FL, Email: rschamberg@cox.net

HARRY BEAM, CANONSBURG PA. GREAT SITE LONG TIME MEMBER OF ACA. HOPE TO MAKE IT TO REUNION ONE DAY. Harry, I need your email address.

I am looking for evidence for the VA

I was slightly wounded in a rocket attack at tan son nuht on 6-29-1969. I was a loadmaster on C-123k with the 19ASC and was driven to the bases infirmary at about 23:00 hr by a crew buss and then returned to the barracks. I realize this is like a needle in a hay stack but I need a buddy letter as evidence. I don't remember the guys name but if anyone remembers I really need his assistance. Thanks in advance for any assist you might be able to give. It just seems that a guy would remember doing this even all these years later. ACA Member. Larry G Porter, Hines, Oregon, Email: lgportermc@hotmail.com

Too soon old, too late wise

I am a veteran of the Carter-era Air Force. I most admire the most reticent of SOF operators, and the operators whose training is first to save life, the PJs. and the story of Lance Sijan has stayed with me for years. Steve Layland, Las Vegas Email: steve.layland@pgicorp.net

Don Alford

Plieku / nhatrang 67-68 4th acs Comments: worked on spookies, a-1, bird dogs, u10's and alike. Email: alford16@juno.com

John Riley

CCT 65-75, Dover 65-66, RVN 66-67, Langley 68-75 John Riley, Virginia, Email: john040@usafct.com

US Flags for an Australian Monuments and Schools

Hello, friends,

I was rather surprised when this flag presentation I made on Friday October 28 appeared on page 2 of our Mackay daily newspaper, Wednesday, November 2, 2005.

The Daily Mercury photographer went to the school after the presentation and took the details from my media release and a call to the principal, Phil Wilson.

Rossel

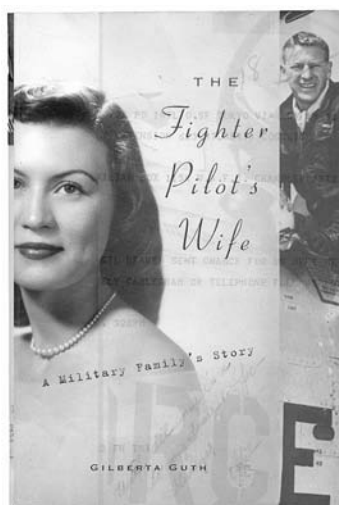
from page 30

After chatting with the journalist early last week, I expected a story to be in a free weekly paper from the same stable.

So, the school that plays the national anthems for our ceremonies now has its own American flag thanks to Gene Rossel, Chino, California, who arranged this and other official flags through Congressman Gary G. Miller.

Regards, Col Benson, Mackay, (ACA Member) (Queensland), Down Under Email: valiant@mcs.net.au

Send in your comments and questions to: Eugene Rossel
Work 909-930-5700 Home 909-591-7342 Fax 909-930-5710
Email: aircommando1@earthlink.net
Web site: www.home.earthlink.net/~aircommando1/



BOOK REVIEW

An Excerpt from *The Fighter Pilot's Wife: A Military Family's Story* by Gilberta Guth

... my heart was pounding as I walked slowly toward the front door. A dozen memories flashed through my mind: Pat Petersen being escorted into the chapel, all in black; Mary Willerford with her three small children, a widow at age twenty-five; Claire Pribble looking out the

kitchen window of her home at Cherry Point and seeing that column of black smoke.

By the time I got to the door I was shaking. I saw Father O'Neil, the base chaplain, standing there with a visiting priest at his side...

PRAISE FOR THE FIGHTER PILOT'S WIFE

"passionate"... "eloquent"... "engrossing"

Guth brilliantly details the other half of military life. She skillfully describes love, loneliness, and loss that accompany military families. Thousands of people, from WWII to Iraqi Freedom, will relate to this harrowing story. A must-read for military and non-military as well. -Ron Knott, Lt. Cdr. USN, (Ret.), former airline captain, author *God's Guarantees for Giving and Trophies of Heaven*

Gilberta married Air Force fighter pilot Joe Guth, whose career took them around the world as they raised four children. She later earned a master's degree in education and now lives with her husband, Howie (Commando Clean) Pierson, in Novato, California.

To order this "very good read" book please send \$19.95 (plus \$5.00 for shipping) to Sign Press, 145 Oak Shade Lane, Novato, CA 94945 or order by phone at 707-939-9212.

More from the ACA Reunion 2005

20th SOS Briefing. Several new USAF buses, a lot fancier than we had, waited in front of the Quality Inn to take old Commandos to the



20th SOS briefing room at 0900 to see what the new Commandos had and were doing for the war effort. Before the action briefing started we had our annual ACA business meeting. The 20th facilities were just excellent and to add to this they had all the coffee and donuts to make us more than comfortable. Our President Felix Sambogna opened up the business meeting. Charlie Jones led us in prayer not to be forgotten. Sam then introduced his staff. He gave an excellent and very clear picture of our treasure report.

The 20th SOS briefing was started by the Sq Commander on their helicopter operations. Capt Matthew Berg (??), an Iraqi veteran who has about 500 hours in the MH-530M 250 of which were in combat earning him a DFC for a particular hazard rescue he performed as a helicopter commander. The 1980 HH-53H Pave Paws replaced the Vietnam CH-3G. The 20th SOS had the first aircraft over ground zero on 9/11 since they were in the area that day when the towers were hit. They have 3 flights with one in Iraq for 3-4 months which is replaced by one of the other two flights at Hurlburt. The MH-53M are equipped with the latest gear to include getting real time threat information from satellites.

A carved mahogany ACA logo was presented to the ACA by John

Cook in honor of his father he never meet who was killed in an F-84 in Korea in 1954 and his uncle Ed Cook, a Air Commando navigator, who was killed in a 605th ACS C-46 in Panama in 1967. He is an excellent wood carver and the large ACA Logo was a fine wood carving. He will make two more carvings to include the ZAP patch and an original 1st ACW logo. His idea was for us to use it on our podium during our annual meeting and to hang it in the ACA museum. He will be sending brass plaques to put on the carvings. He asked if anyone has any pictures of his uncle Capt Ed Cook that he would like to get copies. Ed's parents burned all the pictures of their sons when Ed was killed in 1967 and he has none of his uncle. Ed was like a father to John.



John Cook

Bill Brown told us of his C-119 stories before Vietnam War started and he was supporting the French in the early 50s. He was accompanied by a very beautiful Kentuckian who had stories of making Kentucky bourbon in her family.

Paul Marschalk reminded us that he spoke at the Planes of Fame in Chino, CA this year for all Commandos and they could have used more but didn't ask.

Dr Robert N. Baker was asked about and was he around anymore. No one knew but suggested that he might be in the Biloxi area. If you are out there let us know.



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December 2005

President's Corner

By Felix "Sam" Sambogna



Our 34th reunion was a success and well attended. We had 275 folks at the banquet. Thanks to all the folks who made it happen and all those who came and enjoyed. The reunion is for the benefit of our members, an opportunity to get together once a year and renew friendships and honor certain folks. Please see reunion comments by VP Geron and others in this newsletter. During the reunion, there were some minor glitches - we will try to correct them for next year. Although constructive criticism is welcome and will help with a better performance next year, remember no matter how hard we try, we cannot totally please all our folks. When local members have comments, I always solicit their help to be on a committee to make things happen better.

Charlie Jones, the Hurlburt Chaplain Lt Col Donald Wilson, and the inspiring comments of the 16th SOW Commander, Colonel Brozenick, combined to make this the most memorable and inspiring event of this reunion. Thanks to all who participated.

This year we had a ladies social on Saturday. The social was the idea of Joyce Harrington. While we were discussing it, Hap Lutz stated that Mrs. Hap, Shirley, wanted to take charge and sponsored the event at Mr. T's Two-Trees Restaurant. It was a great success, and thank you Shirley for your generosity.

The briefings and cookout at the 20th SOS worked out superb. Lt Col Howell, 20th Commander, and his folks turned out the welcome mat. Not only did the 20th folks brief and feed us, they made us feel so welcome in their first-class facility. These warriors have a great history and are frequently deployed in the fight against terrorism. Among the many awards they have received in 2004 are: Cheney Award, Jolly Green Award, AFSOC Pilot of the Year, AF Level Lance P Sijan Award winner-CGO Category, AF Koren Kolligian Safety Award Winner, and AF Aviation Valor Award. In addition, crewmembers have received a multitude of DFCs and many Air Medals. Also, the 20th SOS flew support missions at the Pentagon and in NYC the day after Sep 11. They were training at Ft Bragg and when the balloon went up they went directly to Dover AFB for follow-on missions. The 20th SOS is a very special squadron.

We have made great progress in the back

room (referred to as the hangar). It looks good, and now we are able to display more memorabilia and better organize our books. Once again our special volunteers have made it happen.

We need help in our ACA office. For many years, Hap and Pete have manned the office five days a week from 0900 to 1200. Anyone who is interested in volunteering should also contact the ACA office. Of special note, Board member Mac McDaniels has recruited six new members since the reunion. Good work Mac!

As usual, on Veterans Day some of us gather for a service at the Beal Cemetery to honor all veterans. We place an ACA wreath as the names of our comrades who passed away in this year are read. This touching ceremony is



Sam, Charlie, and John

highlighted by a beautiful missing-man fly-by in F-15s timed to occur just as the bugler stops playing. After all these years, my heart still skips a beat as the F-15 pulls out of the formation and flies straight up to the heavens. I hope others get that same feeling.

Cheers,

Sam