

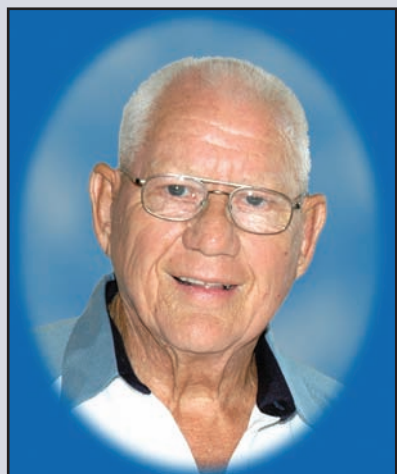


AIR COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

December 2006

Charlie's Final Flight



With heavy heart we report the passing of Charlie Jones, a very special warrior and air commander. Charlie has meant so much to the ACA. He was one of our leaders who played a key role in obtaining our building and developing our association. He has served as president, board

See **CHARLIE** pg. 2

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Eglin honors Air Force vet

Building bears general's name

By Mladen Rudman

The father of modern Air Force special operations was honored Friday with a dedication ceremony.

The 9th Special Operations Squadron headquarters auditorium is now known as "Ben King Auditorium."

Located on Eglin Air Force Base, the headquarters is on Eglin Boulevard across from the base library.

Brig. Gen. Benjamin H. King, who died two years ago, was a colonel when he took command of the newly formed 1st Air Commando Wing at Hurlburt Field in 1961.

The World War II ace with seven kills and many other distinctions understood the responsibility of command and understood men, as noted by retired Air Force Lt. Col. Eugene Rossel, who handles publicity for the Mary Esther based Air Commando Association.

Rossel, reading a quote from the book, "Air Commando Chronicles," emceed the ceremony. The book included King's first speech to 1st ACW troops:

" 'Welcome! Some of you are here because you expect spot promotions,' " read Rossel. " 'Some are here seeking fame and glory, some are here to escape your last assignment, and some are here because your country needs you and you answered the call. Well, all I can promise you are long hours and hard work in preparation for what lies ahead! Dismissed!' "



Air Force Brig. Gen. Benjamin H. King stands in front of Matilda III aircraft. The 9th Special Operations Squadron's headquarters auditorium on Eglin AFB is now known as the Ben King Auditorium. King, who died two years ago, was commander of Hurlburt Field's 1st Air Commando Wing.

What lay ahead was Vietnam.

ACA vice president Dick Geron of Destin was a friend of King.

Geron described the brigadier general as a "tremendous guy" and an immensely skilled fighter pilot. King's charisma and zeal motivated troops.

The brigadier general, continued Geron, seldom, if ever forced airmen to do good work.

"He was a great leader who inspired people," the ACA vice president said.

Courtesy of the Northwest Florida Daily News

ACA reunion wrap up

By Gene Rossel
5 Oct Thursday

Our gambling trip to Biloxi, MS took off at 0600 with 6 ACA members hosted by Tomiko Branch. The trip went well and included Ron Workman and his wife Marjorie from Australia, an Air Commando, who runs the RSL clubs (similar to

our Am Legion and VFW clubs) on the Gold Coast in Queensland. He was interested in seeing their operations since the RSL clubs have various forms of gambling. No one came back who broke the bank of the casinos in Biloxi but all had a good time.

See **REUNION** pg. 3

**AIR COMMANDO
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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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ACA Newsletter

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Editorial: Suicidal hand wringing



By Thomas Sowell When you enter a boxing ring, you agree to abide by the rules of boxing. But when you are attacked from behind in a dark alley, you would be a fool to abide by the Marquis of Queensberry rules. If you do, you can end up being a dead fool.

Even with a nuclear Iran looming on the horizon and the prospect that its nuclear weapons will end up in the hands of international terrorists that it has been sponsoring for years, many in the media and in the government that is supposed to protect us have been preoccupied with whether we are being nice enough to the terrorists in our custody.

The issue has been brought to a head by the efforts of Senators John McCain, John Warner, and Lindsey Graham to get us to apply the rules of the Geneva convention to cutthroats who respect no Geneva convention and are not covered by the Geneva convention.

If this was just a case of a handful of headstrong senators, who want us to play by the Marquis of Queensberry rules while we are being kicked in the groin and slashed with knives, that would be bad enough. But the issue of applying the Geneva convention to people who were never covered by the Geneva convention originated in the Supreme Court of the United States.

Article III, Section II of the Constitution gives Congress the power to limit the jurisdiction of federal courts, and Congress has specifically taken away the jurisdiction of the courts in cases involving the detention of illegal combatants, such as terrorists, who are not -- repeat, not -- prisoners of war covered by the Geneva convention.

The Supreme Court ignored that law. Apparently everyone must obey the law except judges. Congress has the

power to impeach judges, including Supreme Court justices, but apparently not the guts. Runaway judges are not going to stop until they get stopped.

In short, the clash between Senator McCain, et al., and the President of the United States is more than just another political clash. It is part of a far more general, and ultimately suicidal, confusion and hand-wringing in the face of mortal dangers.

The argument is made that we must respect the Geneva convention because, otherwise, our own soldiers will be at risk of mistreatment when they become prisoners of war.

Does any sane adult believe that the cutthroats we are dealing with will respect the Geneva convention? Or that our extension of Geneva convention rights to them will be seen as anything other than another sign of weakness and confusion that will encourage them in their terrorism?

No one has suggested that we disregard the Geneva convention for people covered by the Geneva convention. The question is whether a lawless court shall seize the power to commit this nation to rules never agreed to by those whom the Constitution entrusted with the power to make international treaties.

The much larger question -- the question of survival -- is whether we have the clarity and the courage to go all-out in self-defense against those who are going all-out to destroy us, even at the cost of their own lives.

There are too many signs that we do not and those signs are visible not only in our political and judicial institutions but throughout American society and western civilization.

Sheltered for years from terrorist dangers that we so much feared after the September 11th attacks, many have come to act as if those dangers do not exist and that we now have the luxury of dismantling the means by which they have been held at bay this long.

In a country where all sorts of individuals and organizations tap into

our personal computers and our computerized medical, financial and other records, some have gone ballistic over the fact that the federal government tries to keep track of who is being phoned by international terrorist organizations.

No amount of security precautions can protect us from all the thousands of ways in which terrorists can strike at times and places of their own choosing -- and eventually strike with nuclear weapons. Our only hope is to get advance information from those we capture as to where other terrorists are and how they operate.

Squeamishness about how this is done is not a sign of higher morality but of irresponsibility in the face of mortal dangers.

Dr. Sowell is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and served in the USMC.

Courtesy - MILITARY

Charlie

Continued from page 1

member, and chaplain. His eloquent, inspiring prayers at all our functions will remain in our memory. Because of his efforts, our reunion memorial service in the beautiful Hurlburt Air Park is always a highlight. To honor Charlie, an inspiring memorial service was held on 27 November 2006. The Church of Christ, where Charlie taught Sunday school and inspired so many, was full with over 400 friends. Special tribute was paid to Charlie for his outstanding career as a combat controller/ special forces operator; his good works; his strong beliefs; and his love and devotion to God, his country, his family, his law enforcement friends, and all air commandos. Well-done, faithful friend, we will miss you. Our sincere sympathy to his devoted wife "Sugie" and all his family.

Felix "Sam" Sambogna
President, ACA

Reunion

Continued from page 1

Pete and crew had early registration at the Quality Inn and made all attendees glad they were attending our reunion.

A social was held at Mr. T's at the FWB Golf Course later in the evening hosted by Hap Lutz which got the weekend off to a great start.

6 Oct Friday

The dedication ceremony for the Ben King Auditorium at Eglin AFB in building 439 started at 0900. The 9th Special Operations Sq and the 5th SOS Reserve Sq occupy building 439 at Eglin which is across from King Hangar, the base library and the Climatic Hangar. The building has a large auditorium which seats over 150 people. The base designated this auditorium as Ben King Auditorium. John Connors and Eglin Protocol have been working on this event for the last 2 months. There were about 80 people, including Ben King's daughter, Alicia King; his sister, Tillie Wood; his niece, Dr Mary Jo Osteen; his nephews, Tom Mills and Jerry Wood; his first cousin, Dr Emily King; and family friends Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Hoffman. Maxine King, the General's widow, was not able to attend because of illness. There were about thirty, 9th SOS personnel; ACA members to include MG L.W. Svendsen, MG Dick Secord, BG Clay McCutchan, Col Bob Gleason, Col Joe Kittinger; Ron Workman, Royal Australian Air Force; and several Eglin personnel to include Col Dean Clemons, the 96 ABW Commander; and the Mayor of FWB, Michael Anderson. Ten attendees gave testimony to BG King as a warrior and a leader and this included MG L. W. Svendsen; Mayor Jerry Wood of Roswell, GA, whose favorite uncle was Ben King; Col Dean Clemons, the ABW Commander; Gene Rossel, Charlie Jones, James "Chili" Wills, Col Bob Gleason, and ACA President, Felix "Sam" Sambogna, John Connors,

and Wade Everett.

The reason the dedication was at Eglin is because Col King had been both a BOMARC missile manager and also commander of the Combat Application Group which supported SAWC and Air Commandos/Special Operator weapons development for Hurlburt Air Commandos/Special Operators and for our forces in SEA; Eglin AFB was very gracious in offering to name something after BG King who had an Air Force career which is seldom equaled. Col King was responsible for getting the BOMARC operational which had been failing before he took over this expensive and important ground to air missile. The BOMARC could not be launched and when it got off the pad it would explode leaving noxious chemical fumes over Hurlburt. He got it operational and saved the missile which was later made operational and deployed on some of our northern bases.

In 1962 he was assigned as the 1st Combat Application Group's (CAG) commander. CAG was organized to develop and improve weapons systems used by the Air Commandos and special operators in South East Asia. In this capacity he was responsible for creating numerous weapons systems on short notice that were successful in Vietnam and other SEA locations.

In early 1961 he was assigned by General LeMay to organize, train and develop the forerunner of the Air Commandos and Special Operations for worldwide deployment. He had no idea where they were going to fight since he was told to develop the force and doctrine to use worldwide. In October 1961 he found out they would be heading to Vietnam in November. He had a commando fighting force on Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam in early November 1961 and was ready to fight a war with the insurgents - quite a remarkable feat with the time he had, the far flung assignments and the obsolete equipment he had to fight with.



BG Ben H. King was a WWII Ace with 7 enemy aircraft destroyed in the Pacific and in the European theatre. In Korea he was credited with destroying two more enemy aircraft. While in the Pacific theatre he was shot down in a P-38 near Bougainville, made a water landing, survived his fast sinking aircraft, was harassed by Japanese fighters, survived for 6 days without food, and was strafed by Japanese fighter aircraft on several occasions. He was rescued by natives on Mono Island in the vicinity of the crash and survived on the island with 6 other American flyers for 60 days. He finally paddled out to sea and was picked up by a Navy PBY Catalina and was more scared of taking off on this aircraft than fighting the war. There were large waves and it made takeoff in the Catalina a touching problem.

He fought in WWII, Korea and Vietnam and flew numerous aircraft but he was primarily a fighter pilot.

Eglin AFB provided an honor guard, military escorts, with protocol directing everything to make sure it was a memorable military occasion. They made the building ready for the occasion, installed speakers and provided numerous support for the King family and the memorial. Members of the 9th SOS attended the dedication as AFSOC representation.

The people who supported the long process, caused by AFR and Base Regulations, of getting something named after BG Ben King are as follows:

General "Pete" Piotrowski
MG "Svede" Svendsen

MG Dick Secord
Col Bob Gleason
Lt Col John Connors
LtCol Gene Rossel
CMSgt Jack Kelso
MSGT Ed Douglas

Jim Boney had his Golf Tournament at the FWB Golf Club and had 13 golfers. Hurlburt had a retirement ceremony for one of its commanders and the usual Hurlburt crowd couldn't make it. Apparently they had a good old time and loads of fun.

Registration of attendees continued at the Quality Inn.

The fish fry that evening was a total success. The entire King family attended as honored guests of the ACA. Everyone was totally full and satisfied after eating this feast.

The bar in the Quality Inn was opened in the evening and all the merry makers and old friends were gathered to start the 2006 reunion. The Spooky group was larger this year and held up its tradition of being the biggest and last surviving group of the evening. Dick Geron was the gracious host, with the best stories and barman who kept the liquid flowing and the coffers filled with green bills. He made sure that the partiers were generous with their tips.

7 Oct Saturday

The annual business meeting, Middle East briefing and 20th SOS cookout was held on Hurlburt at the 20th SOS building. The 20th SOS building is something we could only dream of in the 60s for an Air

Reunion

Continued from page 3

Commando/Special Operator facility. It is first class. John Grove in his usual outstanding manner hosted the morning coffee and had a beautiful spread to fill the needs of all our hungry, tired, and late night party revelers. He outdid last year's spread which was excellent. How do you do it John?

The ACA president opened up the business meeting with Charlie Jones invocation, the pledge of allegiance and then got directly into business matters. Our balance sheet looked good. Our assets are worth \$490,625.00 with real property of \$194,528.00 which has not been appraised in the rising property values in Florida. Our bills are still covered by annual dues, and interest from the CDs. Costs are going up in mailing and printing the ACA Newsletter, communications cost, and upkeep of our facilities. It was also agreed to put the ACA Newsletter on ACA member Gene Rossel's website www.home.earthlink.net/~aircommando1.

John Grove gave us an update on the McCoskrie Threshold Foundation. They have a lot of activity in Honduras because they need aid and they have someone they can depend on to distribute supplies. They had some problems with Guatemala. They have the supplies shipped by the empty banana boats returning to Central America but the MTF is getting the supplies from FWB to the port in New Orleans. John has purchased a school in Honduras as well as a coffee plant farm in Honduras - what a guy.

The Business meeting was followed by an outstanding briefing on the Middle East by Maj Stephanie Kelley and Capt Scott McIntosh from the Special Operations School. They had some great slides to summarize their analysis of the world of Islam and the Middle East problems. Maj Kelley had lived in Algeria which gave her a good insight into the Middle East culture. The brief-

ings were first class. This briefing was followed by an EOD briefing from the tri-service EOD School on Eglin which is run by Captain Thomas Green, USN. The big issue is solving the IED problem and that is where the research and money is going. The speaker, who was an Army Specialist, could not go into what they were doing about the IEDs but indicated that it is using a lot of funds to try and solve this problem.

We then went out to a hamburger/sausage feast prepared by John Grove and his workers. It was really good. We then returned back to the Quality Inn.

The ladies luncheon, hosted by Joyce Harrington at Mr. T's at the FWB Golf Course had 28 in attendance with good food and ladyship. Leftovers were returned to the hospitality room for all to enjoy.

The social hour and ACA banquet started at 1800 hours with our favorite bartender, Fred Taylor, of 29 years still serving us our favorite drinks. Honored guest at this year's reunion banquet included Alicia King, daughter of BG King who started 45 years of history of Air Commandos and Special Operations, Lt Gen Michael Wooley AFSOC Commander, MG Dick Secord, MG "Svede" Svendsen, MG George Norwood, BG "Heinie" Aderholt, Edwin Horton a member of the Doolittle Raiders, and Col Norman Brozenick, 16 SOW Commander, our guest speaker. President Sambogna started the banquet with the National Anthem sung by three lovely ladies from the USN JROTC from Navarre High School. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Jones invocation. Dinner was then served which was quite good. After the smoking break President Sambogna introduced the Guest Speaker, Col Norman Brozenick who gave us a stirring speech on the readiness and competency of 16 SOW forces. He introduced 14 young officers,

NCOs, and enlisted personnel who demonstrated superior performance in both preparing for and fighting the war in the Middle East. Lt Gen Michael Wooley then made a surprising announcement that AFSOC was nominating BG "Heinie" Aderholt for the National Aviation Hall of Fame and that his name would be on the nomination list for the next 10 years or until he is inducted. This was a real surprise but one that "Heinie" deserved for all his contributions to Special Operations. The President then recognized the ACA Newspaper staff with engraved plaques to Jim Boney the Editor, Jim Yealy and Gene Rossel. Ron Workman who flew with the Royal Australian Air Force 35 Sq in Vietnam under the 315 ACW and 315 SOW addressed the banquet and gave the Aussie salute to the troops of "Lest we Forget." He then played some stirring Aussie music which had just been made and it was really beautiful. The banquet ended without a band this year because so few danced in previous years. We had recorded music played by a disc jockey.

From there many departed for home and others went to the hospitality room in the Quality Inn where we continued the drinking from last night. The Spooky held up the traditional USAF support of the bar and closed it when everyone was too tired to drink and Dick Geron decided it was time he went home.

8 Oct Sunday

John Connors was early at the ACA Hq giving a tour of our indispensable HQ building which is probably worth over \$500,000 at today's Florida prices. He had coffee and donuts as well as good Irish wit to anyone who came to grace our building. This open house was first suggested by Rita Griffin, wife of Nimrod Lee Griffin. About 25 members and guests took advantage of this Sunday open house - many for the first time. They were all

impressed with our facility and memorabilia. The Memorial Service at Hurlburt Field Air Park started at 1200 with Charlie Jones as MC. You got to hand it to Charlie - he is dedicated and did a tremendous job in MCing the memorial even though he had some medical problems which would have kept the average person home. The base provided an honor guard and the National Anthem was sung. The 16th SOW Chaplain made some comments. This was followed by Les Matheson on bag pipes playing "Going Home." Names of the departed comrades were read and wreaths were laid. Col Marc Stratton gave tribute to one of his own KIA. A memorial dedication was made to WWII Commando Carlous Christian and a dormitory wing was named after him on Hurlburt. Taps were played and "Amazing Grace" was played on bagpipes by Les Matheson. Charlie Jones concluded with a benediction. The setting for the memorial was great weather and a very beautiful air park.

The BBQ was held over at the Quality Inn and started about 1330. The cooks are to be commended for the excellent and delicious meal they prepared. The BBQ was just terrific and meets the great taste of southern hospitality.

Fred Platt had the auction in the hospitality suite at the Inn and as usual with his dynamic Texan personality, again filled our coffers with the generous purchasing of ACA member's donations to the cause.

At 1630 the reunion ended and we all left with the great excitement which a reunion can conjure up and with the feeling of where did all these happy hours go in the last three days. The ACA crew who put the reunions on are to be commended for giving all our members and guests that rush which comes with a reunion of seeing our friends, comrades and special guests once a year.

Membership News



TAPS

In Memory of:

TERRANCE H. FREGLY
FEBRUARY 2006

MAURICE S. GASTON
SEPTEMBER 2006

BGEN RICHARD INGRAM
MAY 2006

GEORGE R. LATTIN
OCTOBER 2006

RICHARD W. MEEKS
OCTOBER 2006

KENNETH H. MOSES
AUGUST 2006

CONCY PHIMHAVVONG
JULY 2006

ROBERT C. WALKER
OCTOBER 2006

CHARLIE JONES
NOVEMBER 2006

CONVERTED TO LIFE

GERALD W. FLYNN
TIMOTHY R. GRESS
JAMES HANDLIN
KIRBY LOCKLEAR R.
CLYDE F. MOREHOUSE

LOST

RUTH BIRD
JOHN CAINE
WENDELL E. COSNER
CRAIG R. GREENWOOD
JOHN A. HILL
ROY L. JACOBSON
WILLIAM T. JEFFERSON JR
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PETER O. BROWN
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ED HORTON
DONALD R. INGERSON
ELBERT LONG
LESLIE P. MATHESUN
JAMES E. MCNEILL
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JIM PHILLIS
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NEW LIFE MEMBERS

RICHARD BINGHAM
JAMES R. CLARK
MARK DALEY
ROLAND D. GUIDRY
JERRY L. MEEK
NICHOLAS MORRIS

Financial News

Treasurer - Felix "Sam" Sambogna
A financial report was presented at the annual business meeting. Here is some information for those who could not attend the meeting.

As of 31 August 2006:

Assets including cash, CDs, country store inventory, and real property total \$490,625. (Value is even greater because we do not have a current property appraisal. Our land and building is worth much more than the \$194,528 used for the current asset valuation.)

Cash and CDs
Unrestricted general fund..\$18,436
Restricted building fund...\$53,233
Restricted life fund. . . . \$214,139
Total: \$285,808

2007 Budget:

Income:
Annual dues 10,000
Life. 7,350
Country store. 7,000
Donations 1,000
Newsletter (ad). 60
Reunion 18,000
Interest (from CDs) 11,000
Total 54,410

Expenses:
Occupancy. 8,000
Country Store 5,000
Donations. 8,000
<i>(Includes scholarships)</i>
Reunion 15,000
Printing & Publications . . . 6,000
Postage 4,000
Equip/Maint/Supplies. . . . 3,500
Telephone 1,400
Services Contract 9,500
Total 60,400
Therefore <5,990>

Notes:
1. Values based on assessment of three-year averages and adjustments.
2. There are several variables such as received donations, change of interest rates on CDs.
3. Reasons for the deficit projected include: increased costs for occupancy, newsletter, postage, scholarships, & our services contract.
4. We have sufficient funds to cover the deficit. At the 2007 annual business meeting we will discuss options if necessary.

Membership

Continued from page 5

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COLORADO SPRGS, CO 80904

FREDERICK O. TAYLOR
809 PIPPIN DR #809
MARY ESTHER, FL 32569

CHARLES G. TROUT
4968 FM 672
DALE, TX 78616

RICHARD E. VASSAR
505 E 14 AVE #1
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

RICHARD H. WALKER
108 GREENBRIER LN
HEBER SPRINGS, AR 72543

GARY L. WASHBURN
35 28 ST SW #212
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49548

KENNETH T. WILHITE
16269 DURSLEY CT
WESTFIELD, IN 46074

F. JACK WILLIAMS
14 COTILLION CT
SPRING, TX 77382

SETH G. WILSON
9761 E VISTA MONTANA
TUCSON, AZ 85749

DAVID P. WIRTZ
E 4468 W RESTONE DR
LA VALLE, WI 53941

JOHN T. WOTRING JR
6302 NELWAY DR
MCLEAN, VA 22101

WILLIAM J. WUNDERLIN
1410 WALNUT DR
CAMPBELL, CA 95008

CHAO NOI YANG
PO BOX 1714
BROOMFIELD, CO 80038

Hurlburt dorm dedicated to an original Air Commando

By Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes
COMMANDO staff

The east wing of building 91053 was dedicated in honor of the late retired Senior Master Sgt. Carlous Christian during a ceremony here Sunday.

The four-by-four style dormitory is located next to the Riptide Dining/Fitness Facility.

Sergeant Christian was one of the original members of the 1st Air Commando group and was known for his caring and dedication to his troops as a First Sergeant.

He served in many operations during his more than 30-year career, including the invasion of Burma, India in March 1944. While Burma, India, Sergeant Christian was in a violent glider crash where he was one of only five survivors of a 22-man crew.

Sergeant Christian's son and daughter-in-law and his two daughters were in attendance during the ceremony.

They were presented with a mock-up of the memorial statue. Felix "Sam" Sambogna, president of the Air Commando Association also attended the ceremony.

The memorial will serve as a reminder of Sergeant Christian's commitment and dedication to the special operations community.

Air Commando Association General Membership meeting 7 October 2006

1. President Felix Sambogna called the meeting to order 7 October 2006 at 0905 hours. The meeting was held in the auditorium of the 20th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida. Those ACA officers attending were President Sambogna; VP Dick Geron; Directors John Connors; Gordo Scott; Joe Harris; Bob White; Dave Harrington; and Ted Saunders; Executive Secretary Pete Bowman; Chaplain Charlie Jones; Past Presidents Hap Lutz, Robert Downs, Heinie Aderholt, and Bill Brown. Honorary member Sugie Jones recorded the minutes. Absent was Director Mac McDaniel. There were approximately 50 ACA members present for the meeting.

2. Chaplain Charlie Jones led the invocation, and Director Bob White led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Motion was made by member Bill Brown to approve the minutes of last year's General Membership Meeting. Member Joe Kittinger seconded. The motion carried with none opposing.

4. President Sambogna, acting as Treasurer, briefed the assembly on the Association's finances. (The office of Treasurer continues to be vacant.) Sambogna briefed using a PowerPoint presentation. The full detailed report is filed with the ACA official records. A budget for 2007 was discussed. Projected income reported at \$54,410, expenses \$60,400. Reasons for the anticipated deficit of \$6,000 were discussed. After discussion of dues, Hap Lutz motioned annual dues remain at \$20; life dues remain at \$150 with exception: anyone who has been a member for at least 5 consecutive years, is 70 years old or more, can become a life member for \$100. Seconded by Jim Willis. The motion carried

with none opposing.

The current membership is reported to be 1781 life members; 579 annual members; 290 widows; 23 honorary members; and 85 associate members (total: 2758).

5. President Sambogna opened discussion on the ACA Charlie Hicks Scholarship. Motion was made from the floor that the scholarships be cut in half. The motion died for lack of a second. The scholarship will remain at \$1500, for each of four awardees, to be determined with a drawing of submitted names.

6. There was a short discussion on the time and location for next year's ACA Reunion. Member Joe Kittinger moved the Reunion be held as in the past, in the Ft. Walton area, during the Columbus Day weekend. Jimmy Ifland seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. President Sambogna briefed on the Newsletter. The quarterly print dates are changed to February, May, August and November.

8. President Sambogna discussed the results of a survey concerning ACA matters, including any suggested changes. The survey was sent out in the Newsletter. There were only 300 replies of 2800 sent out. Comments were favorable. A discussion followed concerning publication of the Newsletter online. ACA Publicity Director Gene Rossel opined that if it is placed on line, ACA might lose members. Lutz described the printed Newsletter as ACA's "life-line." Donald Pitts motioned the ACA publish the Newsletter as is presently done, and to simultaneously place it online. Fred Platt seconded. During discussion, publicity Director Rossel said he could handle the online matter. The motion passed unanimously.

9. President Sambogna stated

that the concern to have in place a "dissolution plan" is no indication the ACA is in trouble; instead just a forward looking philosophy.

10. Jimmy Ifland motioned the drawing for ACA scholarships are accomplished in October rather than in May. Bill Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion to amend the Constitution so that the Board can withdraw funds from the life membership funds, which are presently protected by a constitutional provision. After discussion, Fred Platt moved that the Board have authority to withdraw up to five percent annually from the protected fund. Motion seconded by John Grove. The motion carried with four votes against.

12. Threshold representative John Grove briefed on work done by that organization. He told of work in Honduras, and the annual Christmas airlift by USAF C-130 aircraft. Grove received a round of applause.

13. President Sambogna opened a discussion on electing the President and two Board members. Candidates are Sambogna for President, and Directors Scott and White to fill their vacancies. There were no other nominations. Charlie Jones motioned the candidates be seated as nominated. Bill Brown seconded. The motion carried.

14. There was a drawing of four names for the Charlie Hicks ACA Scholarship. This year's fortunate recipients are Veronica Winters, Amelia Eanes, Stephanie Saunier, and Heather Fields. There was applause.

15. President Sambogna outlined the remaining events and encouraged all to attend the "burger burn" behind the 20th building.

16. The meeting adjourned at 1005.

Recording Secretaries: Charlie and Sugie Jones

Attest: Felix "Sam" Sambogna, President, ACA.



We were honored recently when Brig Gen (Retired) David Lee "Tex" Hill and his lovely wife visited our ACA building. They were in Fort Walton Beach attending a reunion of the USAAF 23rd Fighter Group. General Hill flew with the American Volunteer Group (Flying Tigers), later designated as the 23rd Fighter Group, and was a double ace with 12 1/4-recorded kills. ACA Member Wes Fields escorted the General and his wife.

Hap's Comments

Let me first tell you about our trip to Bangkok! As most of you know by now, Heinie, Anne Bruner and I, travelled to Bangkok for an American Expatriates in South East Asia Reunion. The reunion was from 21 September thru 24 September. Our trip was from 14 thru 28 September.

There was a lot of initial concern about Heinie's ability to handle this event, especially after his horrific bout with a pancreatic cyst. I must tell you though that he did marvelously well throughout the entire trip.

When we first arrived in Bangkok, Dave Spurling met us at the airport. His driver, Kuhn Sai, then took us to the Ambassador Hotel to house Heinie and Anne.

Following that, Dave and I proceeded to Hua Hin, Thailand. The 16th of September, was the anniversary of Liam Spurlings unexpected and sudden death in 2004. A celebration of her life was planned and conducted with great respect and Buddhist fanfare. Nine Monks chanted a very moving and somber service. I was honored to be part of that special occasion.

Dave and I returned to Bangkok on the 18th and checked into the Ambassador Hotel. We found Heinie and Anne to be doing very well.

Clyde Howard and Les Hall were due in on the 20th. (As you may or may not recall, a bloodless coup d'etat occurred on the 19th.) With Kuhn Sai at the wheel, we drove out to airport to pick Clyde and Les up. It was the only time in my history in Bangkok that it was actually pleasurable driving. Remnants of the day-before-coup kept everyone inside.

That evening, Clyde's friend, J.C. Cummings, invited us to a social at his penthouse apartment. It was an interesting gathering with interesting people, among them

Morty Freedman. J.C. and Morty otherwise operate a four star restaurant in Angeles City, Philippines.

The AESEA Reunion was a fun event and we saw a lot of old friends. Chief among them were Mac Thompson, Les Strouse, Dr. Dick Graham, Keith Dennis, John and Nancy Sweet, Judy Porter, Fred Platt, and Steve and Michie Stevens.



Keith shared with us that since moving to New Mexico he's in the movie making business as an actor. So those of you that frequent the movie houses, look for Keith! He's been rubbing elbows with some very high profile folks in the industry doing cameos.

After a brief respite, our return home was met by the ACA Reunion. After shaking off the jet lag, I got down to business with my responsibility.

I suggested and conducted the Thursday night social at Mr. "Ts" Two Trees restaurant. It was offered in the fond hope that it would be a spring board for the other upcoming reunion events. It was unexpectedly hugely successful, to the extent that while 37 participants signed on to attend, 73 decided to come! As you can now imagine, this was overwhelming to Mr. "T" and me. Eager eaters depleted our planned food affair rapidly. Those that made reservations were, in some cases, left without. It was embarrassing to me, and Mr. "T."

My message here is; if you intend to attend any ACA reunion function, have the courtesy to RSVP as provided in the newsletter or

other invitational events.

Now on to other matters. Along with my Commando Cooking Team comrades, that would be the fish fry.

Accordingly, I want to thank those who were responsible for making it a very successful and profitable event. First, David A. Krebs, Jr., owner and manager of Aerial Seafood, Inc. of Destin, FL, was our chief fish benefactor. It is because of his extreme generosity that our fish fry has been so successful over the many years. Our fish fry proceeds trickle down to finance our scholarships, assistance to veterans, Christmas Empty Stocking Fund, Hurlburt Chaplains Fund, and various other very worthwhile programs. It is suffice to say that without his support, many of our programs would either go sparsely or completely unfunded.

The others responsible for our successful fish fry are Head Chef Ernie Mack; Production and Logistics Manager Ray Bourque; Hush Puppy Cooker Mike Sheehan; Fish Preparers Doug Blair, Willie T. Hall, Roger Klair, and Bobby Dixon; Beer and Soft Drink Servers; Dave Lunnen and Fred Nowak; (Fred wedged this event in between his other photo shooting activities) Food Servers; Brenda Hall, Kaye Sheehan, Colin Sheehan and Yvonne Broadway; Ticket Taker. Ted Saunders. Other helpers for other reasons were Ray Benkosky, Van Carter, and Marty Jester.

From my perspective, the fish fry was a super social event. It was successful because of all the reasons and persons stated above.

Larry King continues to plow the local flea markets to supply the McCoskrie/Threshold Foundation with athletic components of all persuasions. He is adamant in his commitment to supply all of those of need, and bring pleasure and joy to their lives.

I had the occasion to meet Mary

Ann Walker and her son Terrance on 17 October. Her husband, Robert Calhoun Walker, passed on 9 October. They were visiting the building to refresh old memories.

It was a chilling experience for me. (It was chilling in the sense that I got goose bumps all over.) My last contact with "Bob" Walker was in the jungle of Ban Me Thout, SVN. Charlie Jones, Joe Orr and I were recovering the remains of Dick Foxx and Terry Booth; a U-10 shoot down. While doing so, "Bob" Walker and Billie Chambers were flying T-28 cover. Billie Chambers got shot down in the process, while "Bob" continued to fly cover. Billie successfully crash landed during the melee and we were able to painfully extract him from his crimped aircraft while "Bob" continued to fly cover. Billie suffered broken back problems and other extenuating injuries.

It was indeed a pleasure to meet Mary Ann after all these years and to share my story with her and her son personally. Mary Ann also revealed that "Bob" crafted our Det. 2 ALPHA Zap Patch. She retains the original sketches he worked with. It was most interesting to me because I had always given credit to someone other than "Bob."

As we wind up to 2007, I believe it is vastly important to remind everyone of the folks that keep this organization in operation. Remember first, they are all volunteers.

Pete Bowman is our Executive Secretary. Without him, our administrative needs and goals would be in the toilet. He's here, day in, day out, without fail, as the old truism goes. He's fun to work with and seldom has a discouraging word. His favorite hat is emblazoned, "DYS-FUNCTIONAL VETERAN, LEAVE ME ALONE."

Ms. Jeanette Moore is "Our Girl

Hap

Continued from page 8

Monday thru Friday" and a very welcome office assistant. She has taken most of the office burden away by setting up new procedures and time cutting innovations. I have known Jeanette for some 15 years and she is a delightful lady to work with. (She is compensated for her efforts.) Accordingly, my visibility in the office will be much less in the ensuing years.

Former Board Member Roger Klair and Willie Hall have been the architects of transforming the back room into a place of beauty and wonderment. Their special care brings many oohs and ahs to those visiting our building, which is often



Roger Klair, Clyde Howard, and Hap Lutz christening our newest addition to "The Hangar," a beautiful bar and stools donated by Clyde.

and from many areas. They are also great "fixers" of broken things and do a heck of a job labeling newsletters.

Joyce Harrington is our Country Store Manager, among many other things. She spends countless hours providing you in the field with all your special ACA personal or gift items and works tirelessly at annual reunions. Beyond that, she graciously hostesses our Christmas and 4th of July Social events. She is peerless in her giving nature and graciousness.

Our Editor, Jim Boney, keeps you informed of things both present and past. He has done so now for 20 years. During that time he has threatened to quit 1,360 times by my count alone. He keeps returning with a renewed sense of urgency, a

cup of coffee, donut, and plan for today's activities. He sets meaningful deadlines, but generously breaks them for his or some one else's purpose. His long time sidekick and Assistant Editor, Jim Yealy, continues to do what proof reading he can in spite of his near fatal stroke of some years past. You remember the ODD COUPLE of movie fame? Jim and Jim fit the profile perfectly.

President Sambogna keeps the organization on course with many hours of devoted service. He is also a volunteer in many other public needs; Pharmacy at Hurlburt, Guardian Ad Litem, etc. He is also a fierce competitor on the tennis and handball courts.

Heinie and I visited briefly with Charlie and Sugie Jones following the 21 October reunion "wrap-up" and monthly meeting. Charlie's medical problems have taken a downside during the ensuing past week. This is according to all the lab, x-ray, and personal physician reports. Keep Charlie in your prayers.

Along with Roger Klair, Clyde Howard, and "Bud" Gonzalez, I attended the Stand Up of the 1st Air Commando Wing on the 16th of November. (See story elsewhere in the newsletter.) It was most impressive and nostalgic. It brought back many of my fondest memories of AF service; first in the 4400th Combat Crew Training Squadron, then to the 1st Air Commando Group, then to the 1st Air Commando Wing, and finally to the 1st Special Operations Wing, from which I retired on 1 January 1974.

Rex Busler and Same Baley called in. Both are experiencing health issues, but called because of their concern for others. Typical Air Commando stuff. Ah, the Golden Years (golden for the doctors as someone wisely put it!)

Our local Christmas Social is set for 17 December at Mr. T's Two Trees Restaurant at the FWB golf course. A flyer will remind you.

Closing, I wish you all the best of health, the merriest Christmas, and a most happy and bountiful New Year!

REMARKS; CACCF/CRASH/NON-AIR- CREW/16 YRS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.

No further information available at this time.

TO: Joseph C. Mosher, or anyone who might have an interest in my father, TSgt Elbert "Bert" Austin Phillips. I have just come upon this website and found an e-mail dated May 9, 1998 from then TSgt Joseph C. Mosher AF recruiter. Mr. Mosher has worn my dad's bracelet and expressed his thoughts and concern for my family. I have just returned from Washington DC attending the Government Briefings regarding POW/MIA's. It is the first that has been attended by my family and I must say it was very informative. I am thankful for the continued efforts that our government is putting forth in order to recover missing service members, my father included. He is one of 1833 still unaccounted for. I was eight when my dad, an AF Medic stationed at Udorn AFB in Thailand, was declared KIA on August 28, 1968. My mother raised 6 children alone with only the help of the memories she had of her true love and the help from our loving God who sustained her through the years. I am learning more and more about my father's mission in Laos and his demise.

There are still so many questions unanswered so I ask that if anyone who reads this, served with my father or has any information on the T-28 he was in that was downed in the Mekong river on that date, to please contact me. He was a back seater in the T-28 with

pilot Maj Robert Charles Miller of Hayward CA who has never been recovered. We have just learned that President Bush will schedule a visit to Vietnam in 2006. We hope that these meetings will create a relationship that is conducive to bringing of servicemen home. On behalf of my 3 sisters and 2 brothers I thank you for your continued support and prayers. My mother just passed away on August 11, 2004 from a brief battle with cancer. I asked her, on what would have been their 49th wedding anniversary June 29, 2004 what she thought her life would have been like if daddy had come back...I could hear in her voice the love she still held for him after 36 years. She was an exceptional person and an awesome mother who played dual roles and supported each of us in all we did. The only thing that helps me accept her death is that they are together forever now. A love story that continues...May we never forget...I love you daddy!

Please contact me at: teresaschmitt@comcast.net or teresa_schmitt@countrywide.com 256-533-8618 work, 256-651-6574 cell.

Sincerely,
Theresa Phillips Schmitt

READERS:

I received this appeal from former combat medic retired chief Chuck Williams. Please respond accordingly if you know anything. HAP



Letters

DEAR HAP,

Many thanks for your help on the "Blood Chit". Enclosed is a donation to MTF of \$60. Look forward to seeing you again soon. Thank you for all you do!



COMMANDER
UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION COMMAND
SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE IL 62225-5357

Sincerely,
Norty

Gen Norton A. Schwartz
Commander USTRANSCOM
508 Scott Drive
Scott AFB IL 62225-5357

★★★★★

DEAR EDITOR,

Thank you for September copy of the Air Commando Association news letter. I was delighted to read of Charlie Jones and Heinie Aderholt being in somewhat better health. They are two of the best people I have ever known. Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the reunion but hope I may be able to visit in Florida soon and meet both of them. I am out of the USA at times with not much choice. Please note my change of address and give my best regards to all Commandos, especially my buddies in Combat Control.

Alex MacPherson
621 Canvas Dr
Wake Forest NC 27587-6146

★★★★★

SEEKING INFORMATION

Douglas Kail is trying to locate information on his father, SMS J. L. Kail who was assigned to the 14th Psy Ops unit at Nha Trang, VN in 1965. Please forward any information available to the ACA web site or call the ACA office,

(850) 581-0099.

HELLO HAP,

Hope the rest of your trip went well for all of your party and that Heinie is still doing fine.

I've made a CD of all the pictures on our trip for you as I thought perhaps you would enjoy some of the pictures up at NKP as well as Bangkok besides those at the AESEA reunion. I need your mailing address to send them off; I'm sure you will share them with everyone.

I've been in touch with Mac Thompson, who has agreed to join our Assistance Committee to smooth out the organization of the aid being planned for Alternate 20A. Mac will be in touch during the next couple of months; we won't commence till about the end of the year awaiting the dry season. You know what the roads can be like over there this time of the year.

Great to see you and Heinie at the reunion and be able to sit with you all. Keep in touch and I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,
John Sweet
Assistance Committee Chairman
Thailand Laos Cambodia
Brotherhood
Tactical Units Operations Center
1987th Comm Nakhon Phanom
69070
Air Commando Association
#2924
American Legion China Post 1
<http://aircommandoman.tripod.com>

Dear John,

Forgive my delay in responding to your generous offer. Shirley had an optical surgical procedure that kept us both occupied with medical ancillary care procedures. She's

doing very well now. We've also had reunion "wrap-up" meetings, which have required time and attention.

My mailing address is: 707 Crestwood St., Mary Esther FL 32569-2010.

I very much enjoyed seeing and being with you and Nancy at the AESEA Reunion. Perhaps we'll see each other again in the ensuing future. Until then or again, I send my kindest personal regards to both.

*Very Sincerely,
Hap*

PS: I have received the CD and will attend to having it developed in the near future. Thanks.

★★★★★

DEAR JIM,

I received your packet of goodies yesterday. Thank you, friend, it was a very thoughtful thing to do and I genuinely appreciate it.

You are right about the video bringing back some good memories. The fact is that the entire time I spent in El Salvador and Guatemala representing the ACA is crammed full of good memories. I consider myself one of the world's luckiest men to have had the opportunity.

Congratulations on reaching the 20 year mark as editor of the Newsletter. I believe I received virtually every copy during those twenty years and found them uniformly excellent. During the more than three years I received them in Guatemala, there was a large segment of the expatriate American population there to whom I passed them along. They looked forward to receiving them nearly as eagerly as I.

I am afraid that the reunion is

not in the cards this year. The trip would be a bit too much for Bev, and at this stage of the game, I am unwilling to be away from her for even a few days.

Thank you again for your thoughtful gesture.

Les Hanson
12767 Hunters Ridge Rd
Bonita Springs FL 34135-3431

★★★★★

HELLO TO ALL AT HEAD-QUARTERS ACA,

Just a few words along with my dues. I regret I won't be able to be there this year for the reunion. I sure did have a good time last year. The camaraderie was great. Please accept my deepest wishes to all who come. And to all that can't come this year, be in good health and have a great time.

Please keep me and all the other commandos, present and past, in your thoughts and prayers.

Until we meet again, may God Bless you all.

Sincerely,
Bruce E. Hendrix (ACA#3925)
588 Rocky Pt Rd
Conway AR 72032

★★★★★

HOWDY HAP,

Unfortunately, Nancy and I will be unable to attend this year's reunion in FWB. I really had wanted to see all of the old folks once again. Maybe next year.

Anyway, I have a favor to ask of you (doesn't everyone?) Since we can't attend, I'd like to sponsor an active duty mid-grade NCO and his or her spouse to attend all of the events. It is up to you or your rep to find someone that might enjoy the BBQ, fish fry, and ban-

Letters

Continued from page 10

quiet. I'd prefer someone who has served a tour in the gulf but that is not necessary and....if you could find one of the old guys to keep an eye on them so they don't get lost in the crowd I'd really appreciate it. A check for \$150.00 is enclosed. Please use the additional thirty bucks for the ACA or MTF as you see fit.

One more thing, Gene Rossel was going to get me a couple tickets to the General Ben King dedication. If they are in the mail I'll send them on to you to use as you see fit. If they end up in FWB I'm sure you or Gene can find good use for them

Give my best to the gang and I am sooo happy to see General Aderholt and Charlie Jones are once again almost combat ready!

Thanks for your help and give our best to Shirley.

Ed Douglas
7513 Briecesco Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78414
edouglas@stx.rr.com

Dear Ed,

Regrettably Ed I'm returning your check without action. I had just returned from Bangkok when I opened your letter and didn't have time to personally act on it. Sorry to disappoint you, but thanks to you and Nancy for your very generous offer. My best to you both.
Hap

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEAR HAP,

Please find enclosed my ticket order for this years reunion and something for the McCoskrie Threshold fund.

Thanks for the mention in your "A Fascinating Story" article, except you've mixed me up with someone else. I was never in Lucky Tiger (wish I had been).

We first met at L-39. At sometime during my tour you convinced me that I should obtain material for and install electrical circuits (re-wire) in an old French barracks. Later, after some paint and tile, a beautiful 30 Bed hospital emerged.

Your "can do, will do" and love of this country inspired me then and continues to inspire me now.

Looking forward to seeing you and Shirley and many others again this year. 'Till then, may God bless.

With love & respect,
John Delmar L'Heureux
133 Laureen Ln
Panama City FL 32404-7520

Yo John,

Thanks for setting me straight concerning your tour in Laos. Perhaps my long term memory disc needs recalibrating. It is getting more difficult to remember all of those I served with during my six tours there.

Thanks also for your very kind words John. Without your electrical expertise and "I can" attitude our Royal Lao Air Force Lao Hospital would have never happened.

Hap

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HAP,

Enclosed is my proxy for the membership meeting as I will be unable to attend this year.

Hope Heinie is still progressing. Give him my regards.

Alfred S. Gummerson,
CMSgt USAF (Ret)
2225 Oswego Hwy
Sumter SC 29153-9945

AL,

Regret you missed the reunion. Thanks for your faith in me with your proxy. Didn't need it howev-

er. Perhaps you can make the scene next year Al.

Best always, Hap

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ACA,

My proxy is enclosed for the pending ACA Annual Meeting. Regrettably I found this late and cannot find my ACA# (please arrange for a replacement), I hope to attend more frequently in the future. I would have greatly enjoyed the BG King dedication this year as well as all the visiting. Please welcome Hap and General Aderholt home for me, what an amazing pair of "tough, dedicated guys." I envy you your privilege to be around them and "soak up by osmosis" all that history.

A promise made is a promise kept. Enclosed, please find two checks. The first to ACA for \$20.00 should go to Hap for my 2006 renewal dues (Life membership coming in 2007). The second to MTF for \$100 is a donation for the STMP, Inc. Mortgage (for your handling). I GREATLY regret that I cannot attend any reunions this fall (I really was looking forward to STMP), but I'm greatly looking forward to STMP over the Memorial Day holiday, 2007.

I very much look forward to receipt of the East European Blood Chit for this year's donation. Would you make a plea for me to receive a second Korean Blood Chit (for my sponsorship of David Carpenter during the 2005 ACA Reunion last year). I want to present it to my Mabton VFW Post 10384.

Warmest regards,
Maury Lange
670 North Elm Street
Grandview, WA 98930

Hap's Note:

I spoke to you on the phone

Maury regarding the Blood Chit status. We do not have anymore of the East European Blood Chits in the inventory. I'm sending a SEA Chit instead as you suggested...and a Korean Chit for your recruiting efforts.
Best always, Hap

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEAR SAM,

I would like to thank you and fellow Air Commandos for working so diligently to have a dormitory at Hurlburt Field named in memory of my father, SMS Carlous L. Christian. What an honor, for my father and for our family.

Peggy and I were planning on coming to the reunion, but because we had already committed to assisting with our church's missionary program, we will miss Friday and Saturday. However, my sisters Ruth and Marie, and I will attend the memorial service and barbecue on Sunday.

The quarterly newsletter has kept us up to date on Air Commando activities and events. We continue to pray for Heinie, Charlie Jones and others.

Thank you to all who contribute time to putting the newsletter together. It's a great newsletter and a great organization. We'll see you in October!

Love,
John & Peggy Christian
308 Birch Lane
Pine Mountain, GA 31822-2839

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THANK YOU

The family of the late Thomas J. Whitaker Jr. sincerely appreciates your kind expression of sympathy in our great loss.

Your sympathy to our family was greatly appreciated.

We find healing in God's tender

See **LETTERS** pg. 12

Photos of my Vietnam aircraft



Hi, from Dave Younger,

I'm calling to see if you can help me with finding out any history or info about my Vietnam aircraft. This aircraft was sent to Vietnam new in 1951 and was used by the French (F-OAKK) until they left it behind. You can still see the old paint under this newer paint job. Next it was painted with South Vietnam's Flag down each side and has #U6-138 on the tail. Next the paint was retouched up by North Vietnam, as you can see in the photo's below it is now HANG KHONG VIETNAM, with the North Vietnam flag on the tail. This aircraft was shipped back to Canada in the 1990's with no log books or paper on it's history. I'm going to restore it, but I need to find any history from Vietnam. I know lots of aircraft were worked on, repaired or maintained at Udorn. I don't know if the South Vietnam Beaver's were worked on there but I was hoping you would know some one I could get in contact with or could contact me. I would be interested in any kind of info/photo's on mine or any other Beaver aircraft. Things like which group worked on them (Air America) (Vietnam) (Other)? Which group was flying

them? Any info at all. Thank you for your help .

INFO ON MY AIRCRAFT

Made - Dehavilland, Canada
Beaver, L-20 SER # 135
FRENCH F--OAKK
SOUTH VIETNAM--U6-138
NORTH VIETNAM--HANG
KHONG VIETNAM

Photo's of my aircraft now, old paint but it will look good after restoration. It's got lot's of history; if only it could talk. Under this paint job you can still see the South Vietnam flag and call # on the tail (U6-138) and also some of the paint from the French paint job (F-OAKK.)

List of SouthVietnam AF
Beavers,
51-16862 MM (433)
51-16534 MT (327)
52-6120 MR (502)
52-6127 MS (513)
52-6129 MU (516)
52-6153 MZ (550)
53-8166 MN (669)
53-8168 MO (675)
56-0363 MP (1051)

Dave Younger
2979-168st
Surrey, B.C.
Canada V3S0A7
(604) 531 5023
dyounger@shaw.ca

Veterans Ruling Broadens Eligibility

The Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims has ruled that Department of Veterans Affairs regulations defining which Vietnam veterans were exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange were too restrictive.

As a result, troops who received the Vietnam Service Medal for service in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia or aboard Navy ships off the coast of Vietnam, or those who flew high level missions above Vietnam, may be eligible for disabilities compensation.

Veterans previously denied, or those with presumptive disability for exposure to Agent Orange, as well as surviving spouses, should contact the Okaloosa County Veterans Service offices at 689-5922 or 651-72581.

Haps Note: In view of the above ruling, please let me remind all of you that I prepared certificates for, and were denied, to resubmit your claim to the Veterans Administration or your local Veterans Services Office.

US Passports in France

At Charles De Gaulle Airport (Paris)... A group of American retired teachers recently went to France on a tour. Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, was part of the tour group.

At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry-on.

"You have been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically. Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously. "Then you should know enough to have your passport ready."

The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it."

"Impossible!" barked the officer. "Americans always have to show your passports on arrival in France."

The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained. "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in '44 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find any Frenchmen to show it to."

Letters

Continued from page 12

wasn't with me. Lonely area!

Again, may I express my thanks to you and Col Connors. Those were great days in 834CSG/CC offices. God Bless.

Genny Morgan
114 Trey So Road
Freeport, FL 32439



BERETS

Many of our airmen are authorized to wear berets. They look great and are color coded as follows:

- Scarlet red - combat controllers (CCT)
- Blue - security police (SP)
- Grey - combat weather (CCW)
- Maroon - para rescue (PJ)

Now you know.

Letters

Continued from page 11

love and embrace, and in knowing others remembered and cared.

Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,
The family of Thomas J. Whitaker
Maria Jean I. Whitaker
P O Box 23
Gray Summit, Missouri, 63039

★★★★★

ATTN: GENE ROSSEL

Thank you so much for our wonderful weekend. It was nice to bask in my Uncle Ben's (King) glory and enjoy a weekend of festivities with my family. We are all so glad that you included us.

Mary Jo Osteen
High Field Farm
675 Jones Rd
Ballground GA 30107

Note:
Mary Osteen sent a generous donation of \$100 with this letter of thanks.

Jeanette

★★★★★

HEINIE,

I hope this finds you in better health. It was good to talk to you a few weeks ago. I am sending

you a model of a Sky Raider for the Air Commando Museum. It was given to me by a friend who served in your outfit. His name is SSgt Bill Moyle, 602 SOS NKP 1959. Hope you enjoy this gift for the Association.

Our prayers are with you always.

Your friend Ed Dearborn,
24001 Muirlands Blvd SPC#139
Lake Forest CA 92630-1732



Ed Note: The A1-E Sky Raider arrived in excellent condition Ed and has become a wonderful addition to our "Hall of Memories." We are all grateful to you and Sergeant Moyle for this most generous and thoughtful gift.

★★★★★

HI YOU ALL,

Could you change my address to: David L. Reinhold 7151 Creekwood Lane, Prior Lake, MN 55372-2211.

I enjoyed the short article on

Pop Buell. I heard rumors about him when I was a young EOD troupe working in the Savanahket and Pakse areas in 1973. I promptly looked him up on the internet and found a wealth of information to read for several hours. An interesting individual to say the least.

Sincerely,
Dave Reinhold
7151 Creekwood Lane
Prior Lake, MN 55372-2211

★★★★★

ACA,

I was a member of Det 1, 56th Air Commando Wing, Udorn RTAFB, Thailand from 1968 until the end of 1969.

I believe I was a member of this (ACA) great organization many years ago, but somehow lost touch.

Please accept my request for reinstatement to this outstanding group.

Sincerely,
LtCol Jeffrey M. Bunts, (Ret)
11120 Desert Classic Ln NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111-7512

Ed Note: You were lost and now you are found. Welcome back Jeff. Sent you some back newsletters and other "stuff."

★★★★★

DEAR SIRs,

Thank you for honoring my Uncle Ben, and for all of your efforts to having the auditorium of Eglin Air Base named for him and for keeping his memory alive.

America is a great country in large part because of the efforts of its heroes, people like Uncle Ben and the Air Commandos. If America is to remain a great country, it needs heroes to emulate. Uncle Ben is one of those heroes.

Thank you also for accepting the responsibility of safekeeping Uncle Ben's scrapbook. I'm sure that the Air Commando

Association will take care of it, and make it available so that Uncle Ben will be remembered and honored.

Sincerely,
Mayor Jere Wood
City of Roswell
38 Hill Street
Roswell, GA 30075

★★★★★

HAP,

Always enjoy receiving the Air Commando Association's quarterly newsletter, particularly Hap's comments. Enclosed is check for my membership dues and the ACA 2006 ballot.

Thanks,
George Rose
104 Winter Fax
Williamsburg VA 23185

★★★★★

DEAR COL SAM,

I apologize for not acknowledging sooner the receipt of your letter and the honorary membership card. I am so thrilled and humble to be a member of the ACA - what a privilege! I appreciate the opportunity I had to be associated in some small way with the Special Operations Troops.

When I retired they gave me a "bush hat" with my name on it, which I proudly display in my home. Also a 1SOW coin, a trivet and a 1SOW wooden plaque.

I am enclosing several personnel listings saved from SAWC, (1CAG), BLACK SPOT, and TROPIC MOON 1. I thought someone might want to reflect on who was on those projects. One young Airman was killed by an explosion soon after arrival.

Rex died of pancreatic liver cancer in December '03 so my youngest lives with me now. I couldn't live here on the river if he

See **LETTERS** pg. 13

To All ACA members

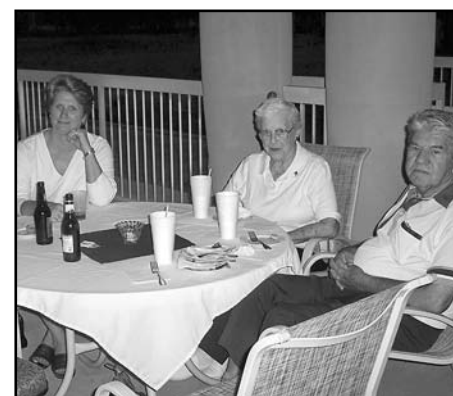
If you have not already done so, please send your email address to aircomando@aol.com. Note: the one m in commando. Please title subject of email "ACA MEMBER'S EMAIL"

We intend to send out information of interest to as many folks as possible. By using email we can fill the gap between publications of our quarterly newsletter and allow us to keep our membership informed of special events, loss of members, and other items of interest. Your email address will not be given out to anyone, it will be used solely for ACA official business.

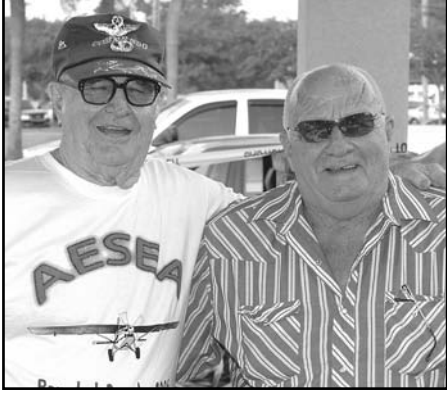
King Dedication Ceremony



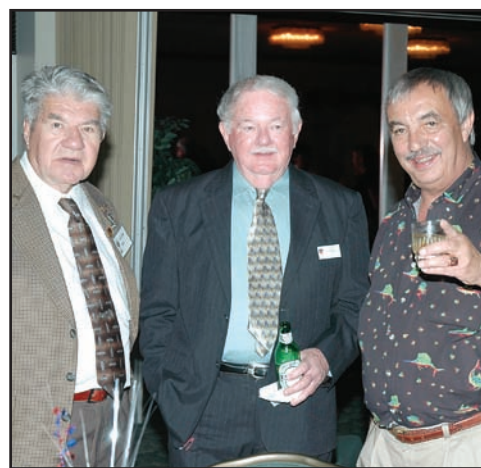
2006 Reunion Pictures



ACA FISH FRY



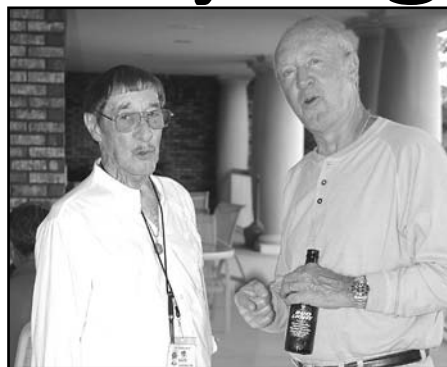
Air Commando Association 2006 Reunion Banquet



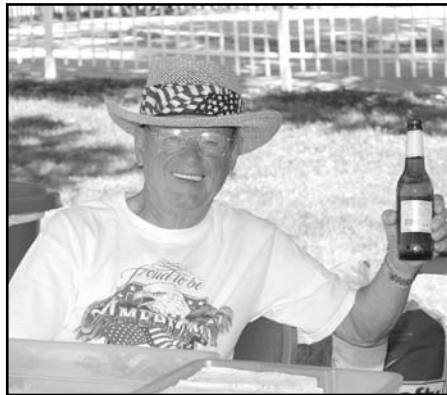
Memorial Service



Thursday Night at "Mr T's"



Business Meeting, Bar-B-Que & Auction





The Air Commando Association Hall of Fame

In 2006 there were no inductees into the ACA Hall of Fame. This has created some interest and concern by ACA members and, perhaps, I should have explained what happened at the annual business meeting. The reason is simply the HOF committee did not recommend any of the nominees for induction based on their judgement that none of the nominees made significant contributions to special operations. The ACA Board, the final approving authority, supported the recommendation of the Committee.

HISTORY

The HOF was initiated in 1968 at the Special Air Weapons Center, Eglin AFB. Brig Gen Cardenas dedicated the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Force (SOF) HOF on 26 April, 1969. Twenty airmen who made special worldwide contributions to special operations were inducted and their pictures hung on the walls of Special Operations Headquarters, Eglin AFB.

No other action was taken until 1994 when the Air Commando Association took the initiative and revitalized the HOF. Each year thereafter there were inductions until this year, 2006.

There are 131 member: 89 officer, 42 enlisted

INDUCTED 1969

1. MGEN GILBERT L. PRITCHARD
2. COL BENJAMIN H. KING
3. COL HARRY C. "HEINIE" ADERHOLT
4. LT COL ROBERT L. "BOB" GLEASON
5. COL CHESTER A. JACK
6. COL WILLIAM C. "BILL" THOMAS
7. MAJ QUINTON H. EVANS
8. TSGT RICHARD L. FOXX
9. MAJ JOSEPH W. "JOE" KITTINGER, JR
10. LT COL HOMA B. STILLWELL
11. MAJ LEROY W. "SVEDE" SVENDSON
12. MAJ GEORGE G. DUKE
13. MAJ JIMMY A. IFLAND
14. MAJ LAWRENCE "LARRY" ROPKA, JR
15. CMSGT JAMES A. "JIM" CHERRY
16. SMSGT CHARLES LOKOTOS
17. SMSGT ROLAND H. "HAP" LUTZ

18. MSGT CARLOUS L. CHRISTIAN
19. SMSGT CHARLES L. "CHARLIE" JONES
20. TSGT JACK KELSO

INDUCTED 1994

1. CAPT CARTER HARMAN
2. COL PHILIP G. COCHRAN
3. MGEN JOHN R. ALISON
4. CAPT JOSEPH A. BILLINGS
5. MGEN LEVI R. CHASE
6. LT COL W. W. "BILL" JOHNSON
7. MSGT ARTHUR E. BURRELL
8. COL W. ROBERT EASON
9. MGEN JAMES L. HOBSON, JR
10. LGEN LEROY J. MANOR
11. SMSGT CHARLES E. DAY
12. GEN MICHAEL J. DUGAN
13. MAJ DAVID E. HENRY
14. SMSGT VANCE M. HINCH
15. CAPT JOHN D. MITCHELL
16. MAJ BROOKS MORRIS
17. LT COL PHILLIP W. O'DWYER
18. CAPT JOHN L. PIOTROWSKI
19. MGEN RICHARD V. SECORD
20. MSGT RAYMOND J. BOURQUE
21. MSGT JAMES M. FITZPATRICK
22. SMSGT DAREL L. McCOMBIE
23. CMSGT JAMES H. LAWRENCE
24. MAJ WILLARD ELLEDGE
25. MAJ EUGENE P. "GENO" VALENTINE
26. SMSGT GAYLORD L. HALL
27. CMSGT JAMES A. HOWELL
28. MAJ BERNARD F. FISHER
29. LT COL WILLIAM A. JONES
30. LT COL JOE M. JACKSON
31. SGT JOHN J. LEVITOW
32. CAPT JAMES P. FLEMING

INDUCTED 1995

1. CAPT JAMES H. AHMANN
2. LT COL ARTHUR W. "CAL" CALLAWAY
3. LT COL H. JERRY CARLILE
4. COL JOHN T. CARNEY, JR
5. COLDREXEL "BARNEY" COCHRAN
6. LT COL JOHN S. CONNORS
7. COL KENNETH E. HELLER
8. COL LEON E. HESS
9. SMSGT CLYDE HOWARD
10. CMSGT ROBERT "RED" JONES

11. CMSGT MICHAEL I. LAMPE
12. COL RAYMOND H. LAHMEYER
13. LT COL ROBERT E. MOIST
14. MAJ DONALD NICHOLS
15. MAJ WILLIAM E. POWERS
16. MSGT FRANK J. "TURK" TOSSAS
17. COL LEONARD "LEE" VOLET

INDUCTED 1996

1. COL CHARLES W. BROWN
2. SSGT JOSEPH J. CONATY, JR
3. CMSGT ROBERT L. GABRIEL
4. COL KEITH R. GRIMES
5. MAJ JOHN W. GROVE
6. CMSGT MICHAEL J. HOSENBAKEZ
7. LT COL JEROME W. KLINGAMAN
8. CMSGT JOHN C. RODDICK
9. LT COL JAMES F. YEALY
10. MSGT STANLEY G. ZAJAC

INDUCTED 1997

1. CAPT ALFRED G. PLATT
2. MAJ EDWIN J. RHEIN
3. LT COL EUGENE D. ROSSEL
4. BGEN NORTON A. SCHWARTZ
5. LT COL THOMAS L. WICKSTROM

INDUCTED 1998

1. COL PHILLIP J. CONRAN
2. COL JOHN A. DOONAN
3. CMSGT LAMAR H. DOSTER
4. MAJ RICHARD P. GERON
5. MAJ CORNELIUS L. GRAY
6. LT COL ROBERT T. SCHNEIDENBACH

INDUCTED 1999

1. CMSGT JAMES E. ANO
2. CAPT GLENN E. FRICK
3. TSGT JOHN J. HYLAND
4. CAPT JOHN R. PATTEE
5. LT COL WILLIAM W. ROSS
6. CMSGT RICHARD "TACO" SANCHEZ
7. CMSGT JOHN D. SELFRIDGE
8. CMSGT MICHAEL O. STEINBECK

INDUCTED 2000

1. MAJ PETER R. BOWMAN
2. MAJ ALFRED A. BRASHEAR

Hall of Fame

Continued from page 12

- 3. MSGT GEORGE C. CELIS
- 4. COL GEORGE E. "BUD" DAY
- 5. LTCOL WILLIAM G. HARDEN
- 6. MSGT ROGER L. KLAIR
- 7. CAPT DON ROBERT LEWIS
- 8. SMSGT FRANCIS J. MATTHEWS
- 9. LTCOL HOWARD PIERSON
- 10. SMSGT JAMES J. STANFORD
- 11. SMSGT FRED E. SANDERS

INDUCTED 2001

- 1. LTGEN MAXWELL C. BAILEY
- 2. COL THOMAS P. BRADLEY
- 3. COL MICHAEL E. HAAS
- 4. LTCOL WILLIAM P. HEATH
- 5. COL ELLWOOD E. JOHNSON
- 6. LTCOL ROBERT B. MADDEN
- 7. CMSGT WILLIAM B. WALTER

INDUCTED 2002

- 1. BGEN ROBERT J. CARDENAS
- 2. COL MILTON FUERST
- 3. LTGEN WILLIAM H. GINN, JR
- 4. MSGT GEORGE D. McNAMARA
- 5. LTCOL ROBERT W. MOORE
- 6. CMSGT MICHAEL C. REYNOLDS

INDUCTED 2003

- 1. LTCOL WILLIAM E. BROWN
- 2. COL ROBERT A. DOWNS
- 3. COL JOHN GARGUS
- 4. LTCOL DONALD R. MOODY

INDUCTED 2004

- 1. COLONEL ROLAND McCOSKRIE
- 2. MAJOR PLASTER
- 3. CMSGT WAYNE NORRAD

INDUCTED 2005

- 1. MAJOR JOE HOLDEN
- 2. SMSGT KELLERMAN

Current Abbreviated Guidance:

Eligibility Criteria:

- 1. Nominees must meet eligibility criteria for membership in the ACA.
- 2. Nominees must have served at least one year in an AF Air Commando, USAAF or USAF Special Operations Unit.
- 3. No nominees shall be selected based on a single act of bravery or heroics, except in the

- case of Medal of Honor awardees.
- 4. Nominees shall have served honorably on active duty and in civilian life.
- 5. JUSTIFICATION OF THE NOMINEE MUST CLEARLY REFLECT SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BETTERMENT OF AIR COMMANDO OR AF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES.

Nomination Procedure and Guidance

- 1. Anyone may nominate any air commando who meets the criteria.
- 2. Nomination package:
 - a. Verifiable and detailed information about the nominee.
 - b. DD-214 or equivalent documentation to verify service, awards, and decorations, etc.
 - c. One paragraph citation to be used in the induction ceremony.
 - d. Photo, if available
 - e. Two references
- 3. Nomination packages will be sent to ACA HOF Committee, PO Box 7, Mary Esther, FL 32569 to arrive no later than 31 July of each year.

We want to keep the HOF alive and active. Therefore, we need folks to submit nominations. I realize that it takes some initiative to prepare a nomination package. The package does not have to be in perfect format. The most important element is to highlight the significant contributions to the betterment of special oper-

ations. If you do not have a computer, hand-written nominations are accepted. I repeat it is accomplishments that are important. Many of us realize there are many enlisted folks in all specialties that have done significant things but have not been recognized with this prestigious award. Let's do it!

Because of the current interest by members, we will have a special meeting to review the HOF procedures and to seek ideas on obtaining nominations and to review the criteria. Any one with ideas or comments should contact the ACA office - we will listen.

Felix "Sam" Sambogna
Your ACA President

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ACA, PO Box 7,
Mary Esther, FL 32569.

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An Ode to Charlie Jones

by Gene Rossel



Charlie Jones was a star in the Commandos
He was a Jumping fool anywhere he went
His CCT was proud of him then and in his bygones
There never was a more passionate CCTer

Charlie was a Southern Charm
You knew you were in genteel surrounding
He knew all the best Southern Alabama euphemism
He was a gentle soul yet so strong

Charlie not only had charm but had great intellect
When you first meet him you knew you were in the
presence of a real thinking man
He solved his problems in most difficult times
Yet he come out smelling like a southern rose

Charlie was a leader
He had his folks do the impossible
He was always positive and so was his folks
He never refused to do the hard work
He was both a grand leader and follower

Charlie was a president
He ran the ACA in difficult times
His success always shone
Yet he always was there for the common folk

Charlie did the impossible
He served in the Army with pride
He used his keen intellect to study to the end
His two PhDs and other degrees testified to his rigor in doing his best
He was admired for what he did.

Charlie was there whenever things had to be done
He organized his organization to accomplish getting things done
He never had to be asked because he was Johnny on the spot
He made sure it was done with his appreciated initiative

Charlie was in need by many
He not only was a college professor but he practiced what he preached
Lawmen and the CCT were always at his doorstep for one more thing
Charlie was a dream come true for many

Charlie was in love
His wife Sugie and him were a force to be reckoned
She was there when Charlie wasn't
His marriage was made in heaven

Charlie was a preacher
His eloquent style rivaled all the greats
His demand was heavy
When he delivered everyone knew and felt his great calling

Charlie and I were great friends for 45 years
His friendship was cherished
His honesty and forgiveness should put him well at the pearly gate
Looking down on us and welcoming our future visit

Charlie could take disappointments like no others
His charity and Christian love for man overwhelmed all negative vibes
He never gave up like ordinary folks when it come to diversion
He was a Christian force to be reckon with

Charlie took the end like everything else in his live
He accepted it with a Christian spirit
He was strong to the end knowing that better things were ahead
He meet his own demise asking not for any special attention
Yet the multitude showed up in his final goodbye to say goodbye to the man

If I was still young enough I would like my son to be called Charlie
To be a man Like Charlie that I deeply respected and loved
To be a true Christian and honor the values of honesty and integrity
To face life like Charlie did

Many a tear were shed for Charlie while the preacher said goodbye
They were tears of love and joy for knowing someone like Charlie
Hoping to imitate life like Charlie did
We will miss you Charlie and hope to see you in the promised land



Important ACA Website Information

Please note the old website www.aircommando.net is no longer maintained by the Air Commando Association. The ACA cannot be held responsible for any information and/or content associated with that website. The ACA can not guarantee the availability or price of any Country Store items ordered off www.aircommando.net or any web pages associated with www.aircommando.net. In order for your Country Store purchase to be valid, all Country Store items must be ordered either from the printed ACA newsletter or from www.home.earthlink.net/~aircommando1, this is the website the ACA is currently using for all internet based inquiries. This site is belongs to and is maintained by ACA member Gene Rossel.

McCoskrie/Threshold Foundation Update

Christmas Wish

Your MTF and the men and women of the 1st SOW at Hurlburt are working together for the 14th year to help the kids in Honduras at Christmas. It is the 15th year of the program but we started a year late. Each year the 1st SOW has a training exercise in Honduras and the C-130 is usually near empty. This allows the troops plenty of room to haul presents to the orphanages in La Ceiba and the Soto Cano areas.

This year the wing has several great action dudes. Capts Hewins and Cuadra plus TSgt Padillacruz, MSgt Ringland several more are all over this project. The airplane is scheduled to depart about the time you receive this letter, 11 December. The load will contain the presents individually packaged in 20 qt snap top plastic containers that hold school, hygiene, toys and clothing supplies. One container for each child. The list of names is large and each year seems to grow. Santa, MSgt Chris Ringland, has checked his list and is sure all the kids will get gifts.

Many of the children are abandoned and have been left on the doorstep of the orphanages. The kids look forward to the American Santa delivery plus the gifts are of great value to the kids and orphanages. Santa and the elves will be the crew. Next newsletter we will include photos of this fun mission. Fun humanitarian work.

Airmen's Attic Update

By Bob White

As the year winds down the Eglin Airmen's attic is gearing up for the Christmas season. We transform the facility into a holiday mode complete with lots of garland, 10 or more 6 and 8 foot tables loaded with toys, displays and lighted Christmas trees which we give away. Last year we decorated 35 artificial trees and

they went fast. We already have one room busting at the seams with Christmas stuff that we have collected.

The plan is to push all the everyday items into corners and set up for the toy distribution. Tables will hold the toys according to age and gender groups. G&W meals on wheels will provide light refreshments. Families utilizing the attic and others as identified by unit 1st Sgts will come in



Bob at Eglin Airmen's Attic.

and pick out gifts for their children. The program is extremely popular with the military throughout the Eglin area. Our customers are from all the services including Coast Guard and Army Rangers. The program allows them to redirect their funds as needed to offset expenses at this time of year. We will also receive some 2000 toys from the U.S. Marines "Toys for Tots" program which will add significantly to our effort.

Aside from the Christmas program some 40 customers on average visit the attic every day we are open. From March through November we had 2444 shoppers. We issued 4322 items, everything from diapers to living room sets. Individual donations from Eglin and the surrounding community totaled 489 loads. We made 43 deliveries and picked up 82 donations. We look forward to carrying out this wonderful quality of life program for Eglin and assisting our brave warriors and their families.

Montagnard Update

By John Grove

News from North Carolina concerning the resettlement is good. More 'Yards' are arriving monthly, several hundred in 2006, and the need to get the 'new' home land paid off is more urgent. They need to be mortgage free so they can concentrate on the arrivals of new American/ 'Yard' citizens.

For our members who have not kept informed, the 'Yards' have purchased a 101 acre farm on a river south of Greensboro NC. They use the farm for crops and ceremonies and have started to build traditional buildings to keep the culture alive. The new arrivals have found work, learned our language and entered schools, some are driving and most are very productive American citizens, or soon will be American citizens.

The mortgage is still \$ 98,000, down from the \$327,000 land cost and \$150,000 in improvements. To help please send funds to: Sam Todaro, Treasurer SFA 57, 5209 Mockingbird Rd, Greensboro, NC, 27406. or Arch Gammons, STMP Treasurer, 1033 S. 17th ST, Arlington VA 22202. Arch can be reached at 703-909-8849, Sam at 336-674-3310.



Start of the traditional Long house.

The McCoskrie Threshold Foundation supports this effort with any of our collected 'stuff' and encourages any support you can provide.

The MTF plans to haul a load of supplies as soon as we collect the 'good stuff' they need to add to the

building. I have seen the progress at the farm and am impressed at the work they are doing and the pride these people have in ownership. Help if you can.

1ST Shirts meet at ACA

The Hurlburt First Shirt council met at the Air Commando headquarters building for the kick off of the Christmas wish program. Command Chief Todd Small and most of the Hurlburt 1st Shirts met to discuss the Christmas mission and the usual daily business of the council. This is the second time we have welcomed them to our building. Command Chief Small will depart Hurlburt soon for another assignment. He has been a good friend of the ACA and MTF. He has gone out of his way to include us in many of the base activities. Good luck Chief.

ROTC Help Pack

The Choctaw High School Air Force ROTC has been active helping pack and make sense out of our piles of 'stuff'. The cadets have been involved several times with sorting the piles of clothing, shoes and supplies. They are great to work with and show lots of enthusiasm and get up and go.

Major Butch Sluschewski who is the new treasurer for our MTF is also the ROTC instructor at the high school. What a great combination for our organization, an accounting dude who has lots of eager young helpers who need community involvement.

The student officers who have helped so far are Viviana Padilla, Nakita Kirkland, Chris Hector, George DeCoste, Tiffany Price, Justin Phillips, Amanda Quills, Steven Price, Garrin Young and Jessica Cobb. Most of the students helped several times. We can hope they all choose the Air Force after college. Great young Americans.

The Phantom of Bien Hoa

This is a true and unembellished story that can be ratified by a few of the inter circle comrades operating out of Det2A in 1961 and 1962. It must be noted that even some of our brother Commandos and surely none of the support group knew who, why, or what the deeds of the Bien Hoa Phantom was all about. **DISCLAIMER:** It is not the intent of article to bring embarrassment to honorable, peace loving, hard working warriors of the Air Commandos

The story begins in late 1961 when the newly formed Air Force Special Forces

(4400 Combat Crew Training Squadron, Commando) was assigned to train the South Vietnam Air Force to fly and maintain their aircraft under combat conditions. Initially this was very close to a bare base operation. PSP had to be installed for a runway and living conditions were sparse. A civilian construction group (RMK) was sent in to beef up the runways and build a living area, called a contonment area, for the Commandos. The relationship between RMK and the commandos was great. RMK, built in, free of cost, a few perks to add to creature comfort. The Air Force decided to send in a Base Support Squadron, under the command of a person I will identify as Col. K, to provide base maintenance, food service, and security. One of Col. K's first orders was that all Air Force personnel would attend his commanders call. He completely ignored the fact that we were working twelve hours a day and had a mission to accomplish. Our Commander, I can't remember who it was at that time, soon put a stop to that. One night the Army Special Forces, Green Berets, Commandos, and RMK personnel

were having a beer or two or three and discussing how hot it was. As if a light came on, everybody decided they needed a swimming pool. The next morning RMK had the Bull Dosers and dirt moving equipment digging a big hole. This went on for a couple of days before Col. K approached the RMK workers. He thanked for building the pool but informed them that they would not be allowed to use it because our area was considered restricted. RMK removed their equipment and left a big hole in the ground.

It is said that a commando never gets angry he gets even. Thus emerged the "Phantom Of Bien Hoa". Strange little things started to happening to and around Col. K. There was always notes on his bulletin board from "THE PHANTOM". As I remember Col. K had planted a little tree, which he watered every day, outside of his hooch. After a couple of weeks it became obvious that the tree was not growing. In fact it was dead. Upon closer inspection, he found the roots had been removed. Of course, Col. K was unable to catch the culprit (Phantom) but it was shortly after that he order his security police to start giving ticket to all vehicles in the contonment area. The only vehicle that parked in this area belonged our commander. Col. Doyle thought it was a joke at first, however, after about the fourth ticket he confronted Col. K. It would not be proper to state what was said. Rest assured it was not nice. The next day the Phantom had a BIG note Col. K's bulletin board stating "What Dummy Would Give a Ticket to an Emergency Vehicle in a Combat Zone- The Phantom. Then there was the potable water incident. Col. K would not allow the Army

SF potable water trucks to fill at our water tower. To combat this, we (Commandos) filled the trucks and took them over to the Army. Another note was on the board. U.S. Army Denied U.S. Drinking Water, Vietnam AF Gets All They Want - The Phantom Of course there was some mistakes or should I say miscalculations. One of our guys, his initials are Hap Lutz, somehow came up with one of the Army SF jeeps. When it was returned it had U.S. Air Force written all over it. As I said before, SF troops don't get rangy, they get even. Somehow the Army obtained one of what they thought was our jeeps. When it was returned they had painted little eyes on the head lights, had poker dots and U.S. Army painted all over it. They only problem was,

the jeep was Col. K. personal vehicle. You can guess who had to clean that mess up. There have many other incidents and many other Phantoms, on duty, to render their protest to unfair situations during the course of battle. The names of the original Phantom(s) have never been revealed until this moment. If you are wondering how I became privy to this highly classified information, TSGT Fox, one of the originals, resided in my hooch. The other, for sure is mentioned above Hap Lutz. The third I was never quite sure of, but all indications point Charlie Jones. Thanks guys, your actions did a lot to relieve many stressful situations for many of us.

Chilli Wills



All 3 Wars Veterans Assn, Inc.

-World War II, Korea and Vietnam-
Administrative Headquarters

849 Mesa Drive Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Tel 805/481-3434 • Fax 805/481-9083

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☐ Coast Guard ☐ Merchant Marine

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Dues are Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) per annum: Check # _____

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I hearby apply for membership in All 3 Wars Veterans Association, Inc. Attached are my verifying documents, such as - DD 214 - as is my dues payment.

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail forms, checks and documents to:
Richard E. Venable at the address above.

Rossel Report

Vietnam info needed

Dear Nicolas,

My name is Sheryl Jo Bedal. I am the daughter of Arthur Eugene Bedal. But most people knew him as Skip Bedal. You wrote that you remember the crash but don't remember Art Bedal, but since he wasn't known as Art, maybe you remember his as Skip.

I was only 1 1/2 yrs old when my dad was killed in Vietnam, so I really didn't know him. I am doing research about him and his family so that all the gaps are filled in. Plus I just want to know my dad.

Thank you for the information about the wing being sheared off. It helps us to know exactly what happened.

If you remember anything about my dad, or know of anyone who knew him, I would really appreciate hearing from you.

Thank you for serving this country and I am very thankful that you returned home. I see you as a hero.

God Bless, Sheryl Jo Bedal (805) 650-6771, email: SJoBedal@aol.com

Dear Sheryl Jo Bedal,

Thank you for your email and the pictures that you sent of your dad. I can appreciate your need to learn as much as possible about him. I am happy to answer your questions to the extent that I can.

While the name "Skip" Bedal sounds a bit more familiar to me than "Art" Bedal, I did not know your dad even though he and I deployed to Vietnam together on the same aircraft in June of 1963. (See: attachments. Your dad's name is listed eighth from the top on the flip side of the orders.)

For nearly six months, my job at Bien Hoa Air Base, Republic of Vietnam was as a detachment intelligence officer. (For a month or more after my arrival, I was the only intelligence officer assigned there.) In all likelihood, your dad may have attended morning intelligence briefings that I presented. He may have debriefed me after missions that he flew, but the pilot usually did that. If photography was taken, I reviewed it usually within a day or two after each mission.

I can only speculate on who may have known your dad. They would include the other men on the C-135 that flew us from Hurlburt Field, Florida to Honolulu International, Hawaii and then to Clark AB, Philippines, where we remained overnight before flying on to Bien Hoa. (It seems like there was a refueling stop enroute to Clark at Wake or possibly Guam? It also seems like we remained overnight at Hickam AFB, Hawaii for only one night while we stayed at Clark for at least two nights due to maintenance.) Of the people listed on the attached order, James H. Ahmann, Howard R. Cody, and Miles T. Tanimoto are deceased. Of course, your dad and John H. McClean are also deceased. Colonel George Finan was our detachment commander. I was told that he is deceased. I do not know the status or whereabouts of any of the others listed on the orders as well as that of Major "Mac" McDaniel, who was our detachment operations officer. Your dad's name does not appear on any of my earlier orders.

While I did not know your dad, I remember knowing John McClean, his pilot, quite well even though I can no longer picture him

in my mind's eye. I am of the opinion that he redeployed to Nha Trang or Danang possibly along with your dad shortly after arriving at Bien Hoa. However, the crash that took their lives is vivid in my memory for a couple of reasons. As I recall, they were the first crew from my rotation who was killed in action after arriving at Bien Hoa. I was shocked to see how cleanly the wing of their aircraft was severed at its root from the fuselage, but the photo I saw was not part of an official accident report of any sort.

I regret that I am unable to provide you much more information on your dad's life, Sheryl Jo, but I would be happy to talk to you about the deployment if you wish. My telephone: 253-631-5257.

May God's peace be with you!

Nick Emigholz, email: n.emigholz@earthlink.net

Author of the "Flight of the Erawan."

The Air America T-28 program began in May 1964 and lasted at least through 1968, but it was at that time we initially got recurrent in Udorn with the Air Commandos from Hurlburt Field.

John Wiren, email: jwiren@centurytel.net

The Fall of Lima Site 85

AF Magazine By John T. Carrol. An excellent story of Site 85 in Laos here is the website for the story:

<http://www.afa.org/magazine/April2006/0406lima.html>

Editor's Note: If you desire to read the complete and accurate account of Site 85, get the book *One Day Too Long: Top Secret Site 85 and the Bombing of North Vietnam* by Dr. Timothy N. Castle.

Loss of a great driver and wonderful father

Hello everyone, My name is Scott Lattin, I am the youngest son of Maj. George Lattin.

I have been charged by my father to contact his friends and family at the time of his death. Such a burden for the baby of the family. Well, My father made his final departure on Sunday 22 Oct 2006 at 3:50 p.m. Exactly one week to the minute that we had to admit him into hospice care. For some this will come as quite a shock but for others and for family we prayed that dad would let go to end his pain. He was and always will be the strongest man I have ever known. We grieve for our loss but we all know that my father will be flying high for eternity. If you feel so inclined to send your wishes to our family please email me at scott.lattin@sbcglobal.net.

I apologize that I am not willing to post my mothers phone number but I am sure you would understand. Thank you all for being my Dads friend I'm certain that he will be with each of us until our time has come. God Bless, The Lattin Family
George Lattin

To all of my Fathers friends that sent loving wishes and flowers. I say thank you from the bottom of my heart. It is comforting to know that my dad was so well loved. I was given the rare honor to present my mother his flag. I was able to hold myself together until I had to look at my mother in such pain. That's when I lost it. It was a beautiful service and I thank everyone that was able to attend. God bless all of you. Scott

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Rossel

Continued from page 25

Lattin. scott.lattin@sbcglobal.net

Scott,

I am very sorry to hear that your father died. I was with him in the Air Commandos and Special Air Warfare and we kept in touch after retirement by email. He also served as a FAC in Vietnam. I had no idea that he was very sick though I did notice that I wasn't getting many emails from him.

If I can I will help you get his death notice out. Will you be sending anything out to the Air Force Times, the AF Magazine and any of the organizations he may have belonged such as the VFW, American Legion, etc? If I can help, let me know.

Gene

Walt FACS

I worked with the Walt FAC's quite a bit. The "Walts" all flew in support of the 23rd ARVN Division. There were 7/8 locations that had Walts, such as; Gia Nghia, Dalat, Kontum, Ban Me Thout and Bao Loc. I worked the "Carbon Outlaw" net at both DASC ALPHA in Nha Trang and II DASC at Pleiku. The Outlaw net had the 23rd ARVN stations and the "MACV" stations on it. The Mike FACs were out of the MACV compounds, usually flying in support of the Special Forces operations. The "Ragged Scooper" net had the American unit FACs on it. Some of the ones I remember are the 4th INF (Cider/Herb? FACs) and the 173rd (Tonto? FACs). Since I worked Outlaw all the time, I'm not as familiar with the Scooper FACs. The Outlaw net had fewer stations on it but it was usually "busier" because the ARVN seemed to get hit more than the American units. In the Walt FACs, the "-0" was the ALO and the other pilots were the 1-2-3 guys. At Gia Nghia, Maj. Lattin was Walt 20, Lt. Geagly was 21, Lt. Gustke was 22. Lt. Dan James may have been 23 or 24, CRS has me there. Daniel James was the son of "Chappy" James and later made it to General status if I remember correctly. Gen Hal Hornberg was also a Walt 2X FAC but that was after I went back to Pleiku. Mike Leonard that posts here was Maj. Lattin's replacement. I know he worked with us before I left Gia Nghia. Somewhere there is a list of the FAC callsigns with the dates they were in effect on the web. If I can locate it, I'll post the link to it. Hope this helps. Clay Peacock, Radio Operator, Carbon Outlaw, RVN 69/70.

Clay, email: claypk@scottsboro.org

Walt 20 - From the Ft. Worth Star-Telegram

Major George Lattin died 22 Oct 06. Memorial service 1100 hrs, Fri, 27 Oct, Winscott Rd Funeral Chapel, 1001 Winscott Rd, Ft Worth, TX. Internment 1300 hrs, Fr, 27 Oct DFW National Cemetery, 2000 Mountain Creek Parkway, Lane A, Dallas, TX.

I've known, associated, and partied with Walt 20 many, many years. We've had many a beer (or better) together. I'll miss our conversations, our war stories, and our "hand-to-hand" (there I was...) explanations. No need to check 6 any more, Walt 20. You're now in friendly territory. Rest in peace! OX, Snoopy 50. email: Goaviation@aol.com

A-26 Painting

Harley Copic has just finished an A-26 painting for me. Thought you might like to have a look at it. It's the mate to the one hanging in the ACA HQ. It will bear a brass card in memory of Maj. Glen Duke and Capt. Mouse Tanimoto both killed in a crash while attempting to land with dry tanks and heavy rain at NKP on the night of 24 JUL 66. Although not visible in the photo, the painting bears the tail number of the plane they were flying that night. Feel free to send it around to any ex A-26 folks you might know.

Regards, Paul Tobey, email: ptobey@comcast.net

It is a real neat picture. Contact Paul to get it emailed to you. They may be selling them at a later date.

Marine Ground Crew Finds F-100

Good story.....true or untrue! Super Sabre Had An Unbelievable Starting Option.

The F-100 Super Sabre had a chamber to accept a large gas generating cartridge. When ignited by electrical current, the expanding gas from the black powder-like pyrotechnic cartridge drove a starter turbine which brought the engine up to a self-sustaining RPM via a drive system. This eliminated the need for heavy and bulky ground starting units, but the starter cartridge spewed out a characteristic dense cloud of choking black smoke, which was often mistaken by inexperienced ground crews for an engine fire. The powder charge for the ground start came in a big sealed can, and on opening and extracting the cartridge, you'd find two small metal tabs on the bottom of the cartridge. These tabs were the electrical contact that fired the cartridge when the pilot moved the throttle outboard on start, before bringing the throttle forward. As soon as a tiny RPM registered on the tach, you brought the throttle around the horn to feed fuel and engine ignition to the rapidly-building engine speed.

Sometimes the big metal receptacle that held the gas generator cartridge would get so dirty from repeated use that the metal tabs wouldn't make contact. Then the cartridge would refuse to fire, and the crewchief would give the starter receptacle a good healthy whack with a wooden wheel chock, usually curing the powder charge of any reluctance to detonate. We'd often take a can containing a starter cartridge along with us as an alternative starting means on cross-country.

The story is told, of USAF Capt. John Green going into Memphis, Millington NAS or MCAS, in an F-100 way back in the early '70s.

He was met by a couple of young Marine ground crewmen, who asked what kind of plane he was flying. "F-100 Super Sabre" = only got him further puzzled looks. One of the ground crew said, "Sir, I don't think we have tech data on this bird. What do you need for start . . a huffer . . or just electrical?"

"Neither one," John replied with his tongue in his cheek. "If I can get, oh, about six guys to give me a push to start me rolling, I'll just pop the clutch and get the engine started that way."

More and more doubtful looks. "Yessir" was their suspicious response. What else would a young Marine say?

The Hun was pretty finely balanced on the two main gear

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Rossel

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struts. When you tapped the brakes, the nose strut compressed so much that the nose took a dip, just like the hood of our cars used to dip when being clutch-started after a similar push from our friends.

So now six Marines are standing at the ready, still doubtful but not about to question an Officer on Procedure. "Just get me going at about a fast walk," John instructed. "I'll wave you all clear when we're fast enough, pop the clutch and be on my way. "

"Thanks for the good turnaround!"

With six Marines pushing, they quickly get the bird up to a brisk-stepping speed. John waves his arms, and the Marines warily stand well clear. The nose dips as John " pops the clutch " . . THERE IS A BIG CLOUD OF CHOKING SMOKE AS THE F-100'S ENGINE WHINES TO LIFE.

And off goes Captain Green to the takeoff end of the runway, leaving six puzzled Marines in his wake.

Submitted by Bob Hagar, email: bob308@charter.net

Dear Sir,

Jerry Clayton gave me your name and suggested I write you.

I found Jerry about three years ago accidentally. My uncle, Msgt. James Calfee, was killed at PPT in Laos in 1968. Our family had been seeking further information as we had not heard the complete story. No matter what had happened, our family had been not been told the entire story and I was trying to put the pieces together. Casualty had been told we were no longer interested in our loved ones story and we were out of the loop. Since then, we have been placed back on the information list. My sister and I had the privilege and pleasure of meeting Jerry and Ann and spending a couple of days with them in Florida. We still talk every couple of days and I am so grateful that I was somehow allowed to locate him.

Back to why I have contacted you. I met a lady a couple of weeks ago who was telling me about the loss of her father. It seems like he was in the Vientiane area and killed in an explosion near an Air America/CIA runway where weapons were stored in a hanger during the monsoon season. There were 2 men killed and 3 injured. This event occurred in 1967 or 68.

It was classified and she is totally unaware if the event was ever declassified. Her dad's name was added to the Wall in 1985. (I'm assuming part of the event was declassified in 1984-85 so that the names could be added. I am sorry that I do not know the gentleman's name or where he was from.

However, I was wondering if you might recall the event and could share what you know about the Incident so I could share it with her. Information of this type is so precious to families. I know, I have been in that position. Closure, in this case, is extremely healing for all concerned.

If you know of this occurrence and can possibly share what you know, I would be grateful!

Thank you, Debra Morris, email: tomanddeb@sbcglobal.net

Dear Debra:

Sorry about the delay in answering but your email.

I was on detail to the CIA and in Laos in 1966, 67, and 68. However I do not recall any incident of the type you mention near the VTN airport. If you find a name I suggest you write to Gene Rossel of the Air Commando Ass'n. The Air Commandos based at Hurlburt Field, FL supplied most of the troops for Project 404 which would cover USAF personnel working in VTN. Gene's email is eugene.rossel@verizon.net.

A week never goes by but that I remember the tragedy at LS 85. There is a chapter in my book (HONORED AND BETRAYED) on the subject.

Best Regards, RV Secord, MajGen, USAF(Ret)

An ode to our dear old DC-3 / C-47

Nicknames: Gooney Bird; Super DC-3 (R4D-8); Skytrooper; Biscuit Bomber; Tabby (NATO code name for the Showa L2D); Cab (NATO code name for Lisunov Li-2); Dumbo (SC-47 Search-and Rescue variant); Sister Gabby/Bullshit Bomber (EC-47 dispensing propaganda-leaflets in Vietnam); Spooky/Puff the Magic Dragon (AC-47 Gunship); Dowager Dutchess; Old Methuselah; The Placid Plodder; Dizzy Three; Old Bucket Seats; Duck; Dak; Dakleton (South African C-47s which replaced their Avro Shackletons), Vomit Comet (Nickname used by US Army paratroops during the Normandy invasion.)

Submitted Terry Colvin, email: fortean1@mindspring.com

Both C-47/DC-3 aircraft have had a great history and many records have been broken by these great birds.

They were also known as the R4D, DAKOTA SKYTRAIN C-53, and the C-117. Some C-47s have been converted to Turbo Props and are still flying today. As a matter of fact the Thai Air Force has a few. Did you know the company that converts the aircraft (BASLER) to Turbos only uses C-47s Not DC-3s. Here is some Info:

Dimensions: Length: 64' 6"; Wingspan: 95' Weight (empty): 15,800 lbs. Construction Materials: Aluminum, fabric on ailerons, elevators and rudder Builder: Douglas Aircraft Company, Santa Monica, California Cost: \$110,000 new; \$35,000 when bought by North Central Airlines in 1952 Number Built: 10,926 in U.S. (10,123 military, 803 civilian);* about 3,500 additional Japanese and Soviet versions* Engine Type: Two Wright Cyclone, 9-cylinder, 1,000-horsepower, radial, air-cooled internal combustion engines Engine Builder: Wright Aeronautical Company, Patterson, New Jersey Configuration: 1-pilot/21-passenger tractor monoplane Maximum Speed: 190 m.p.h. * Flying into the Record Books As an airliner for Eastern Airlines and North Central Airlines, this DC-3: Flew more than 12 million miles in 83,032 hours Used 550 main gear tires and 25,000 spark plugs Wore out 136 engines Consumed almost 9 million gallons of gasoline Taxied over 100,000 miles Flew an additional 1,843 hours after being refitted as a corporate plane When it was donated to the Museum in 1975, it had spent more time aloft than any other airplane in history. That record has since been broken by another DC-3. Don M. Rangsit Thailand

Rossel

Continued from page 27

Albert C. Del George wants to hear from his buddies

I received a call from Al this week and he gave me the following information and would like to hear from people he served with. Al came in with the original Air Commandos in early 1961 and was a crew chief on a B-26. He went to Vietnam with the original group in Nov 1961 and flew with Capt Biggers, Carrington and Hope while in Vietnam. He left the Air Commandos in 1963 and went to work for Sothern Calif Edison. He enjoyed the ACA home page that he went through all the 234 pages of the ACA Guest Book just to see who he knew etc. He is joining the ACA. Albert C. Del George, email: aldelgeorge@hotmail.com, Bull Head, AZ Tel 928-234-2080

Pappy Boyington USMC

Pappy Boyington had 28 enemy aircraft to his credit in WWII, received the Congressional Medal of Honor and was portrayed in the 1970 TV series "Black Sheep Squadron." The school he graduated from, the University of Washington, shot down a memorial to him this year because "a Marine is not an example of the sort of person we want to produce," and compared his actions in WWII to murder. Where have our schools went wrong? This is not an isolated incident. This political correctness has become so common that it mostly goes unreported. The WWII Veterans Committee are asking for help to fund a nationwide scholarship program dedicated to the memory of Pappy Boyington. I am sure many of you have received letters from the Committee to donate money. The address for the WWII Veterans Committee is PO Box 96543, Washington, DC 20090-6543.

Born on Dec. 4, 1912, young Greg had a rough childhood - divorced parents, alcoholic step-father (who Greg believed to be his natural father until he entered the Marine Corps), and lots of moves. He grew up in St. Maries, Idaho, a small logging town. Greg got his first ride in an airplane when he was only six years old. The famous barn-stormer, Clyde Pangborn, flew his Jenny into town, and Greg wangled a ride. What a thrill for a little kid!

Greg's family moved to Tacoma, Washington in 1926. In high school, he took up a sport that he would practice for many years - wrestling. Especially when he had had a few too many (which was often), adult Boyington would challenge others to impromptu wrestling bouts, frequently with injurious results. He enrolled at the University of Washington in 1930, where he continued wrestling and participated in ROTC. He met his first wife, Helene there; they were married not long after his graduation in 1934. His first son, Gregory Clark Boyington, was born 10 months later.

Boyington's Flying Tiger Record. Boyington claimed to have shot down six Japanese fighters, which would have made him one of the first American aces of the war. He maintained until his death in 1988 that he did, in fact, have six kills, and the Marine Corps officially credits him with those kills. From AVG records, which were loosely kept, he was credited (paid) for 2 aerial kills.

From the FACNET

PAVE NAIL was the call sign for OV-10s that were equipped with

the LASER POD, The LASER was operated by the WSO who conversed with the Fighter Jock with phrases such as "The Music is ON" and the F Jock would reply on bomb release by calling out "Pickle, Pickle, Pickle." The WSO then guided the LGB to the target. Darrel Whitcomb being a pilot could not have guided any LGBs on the QT Citadel. Darrel might have been the driver but the operator of the ZOT was a WSO.

I hold the one day (2 hr) record of guiding 24 LGBs (2000 lbs) to give NVAs in QT a big headache.

The last 23 into the NE wall of the QT Citadel with friendlies about 100 meters away. The 1st LGB which was used to calibrate the POD was guided into an air duct on top of very large warehouse which was full of ammo, The resulting explosion was a good imitation of a WMD. My reaction when the LGB impacted was "Shit, I am 3 meters short" The resulting crater was ~ 150x 250 meters about 20 meters deep. The F4 wingman's reaction was "Shit - What the hell did you drop Bob."

In fact some WSOs were so adept at using the ZOT, they could guide a LGB into a cave with the bomb flying near horizontal when it reached the mouth of the cave which allowed the bomb to impact deep into the cave. Rick Atchison, I believe was considered to be the master of this technique which was used against AAA sites located in the BK and MG passes. BTW I was also a Spectre FCO and the Spectre's could also guide LGBs. The TV operator was the operator of the LASER.

Eugene D. Rossel

Tel 909-930-5700 Work, 909-591-7342 Home, Fax 909-930-5710

E-mail aircommando1@earthlink.net

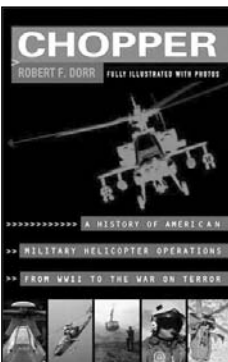
Web site <http://home.earthlink.net/~aircommando1>



Lt/Col Darrel Whitcomb, USAF (Ret), presented a seminar, "The War in Laos, Call sign Raven," at the AF museum, Dayton, Ohio on 14 Nov. His long flying career included a recent TDY to Iraq as a contract pilot, over 30 years after being in SEA. David and Joyce Harrington attended his seminar and obtained a DVD, which is available at the ACA office.



BOOK REVIEWS



Helicopter Book "Chopper"

This information (below) about my book on helicopter combat is being sent in the hopes you'll share it with others who might be interested. Note that this includes my offer to provide a signed copy directly from the author. I will continue to have copies available here until the end of 2007.- Bob

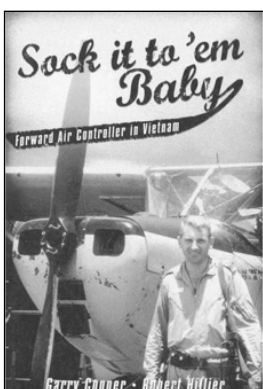
"Chopper" is a beautiful, new hardbound book (100,000 words and 100 photos) that covers U.S. helicopter pilots and crews in combat from the very beginning straight up to today's headlines. The cover price is \$24.95. Amazon.com offers "Chopper" at a discounted price.

You can get a personally inscribed copy by contacting Bob --- robert.f.dorr@cox.net, or (703) 264-8950 --- and sending him a check for \$31.05 (that's the undiscounted cover price plus priority mail postage plus a penny). If you're planning to do that, send Bob an e-mail message first.

What's different about this history of rotary wing combat is that the story is told in the first-person, in the words of the men (and one woman) who were there --- from the first, primitive Air Commando R-4 combat rescue in 1944 to a battle between Marine AH-1W Cobras and Iraqi tanks in 2003.

There's a new and different look at the battle of Ia Drang Valley in the words of men who flew UH-1D Hueys, and it covers events of helicopter pilots and crews in rescues, in covert operations, and in straight-forward, point-blank fighting. There are extended segments on Medal of Honor missions. The first-person memoirs in this book cover all military service branches.

Robert F. Dorr, 3411 Valewood Drive, Oakton VA 22124
robert.f.dorr@cox.net (703) 264-8950

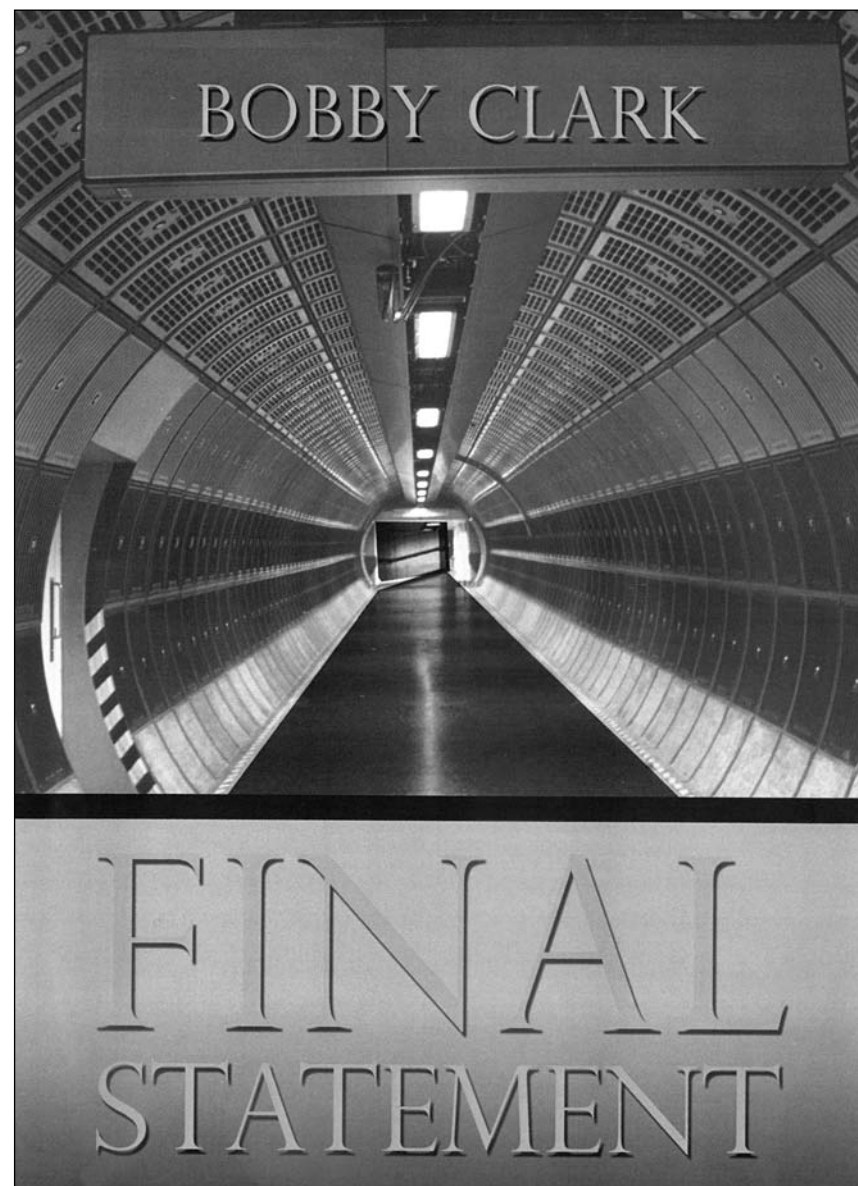


"Sock it to 'em Baby Forward Air Controller in Vietnam"

This is an Australian book is written by Garry cooper and Robert Hillier and published in 2006 by A&U Press, ISBN1 74114 849 9 and will be available in the US in October 2006.

It is one of the better FAC books that I have read which really gets you into the intimate details of what they did. Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Flight Lt Garry Cooper explanation of the duties of the FACs is excellent and with all the adventure that goes with it.

Most of us did not know what the RAAF contribute to the war effort in Vietnam particularly the flying part. It is an excellent history for his short period in Vietnam but well written and exciting. Garry Cooper can be contacted at tamale35@bigpond.net.au



Terrorists seize a train, shutting down the Eurotunnel linking England and France. British response to the hijacking and plans to resolve the crisis move along traditional lines. The story soon takes an unusual twist, however, as our counter-terrorist experts Nelson Bartlett (British) and Jim Grissom (American) join talents to get to the bottom of the plot. With the help of the CIA, the Italian Intelligence Service, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the officers uncover the theft of two thermonuclear bombs in Italy that the US Air Force was denying. With help from their friends in USAF Special Operations, the two officers answer the question: Are the terrorists' demands real, or is someone making a Final Statement!

This exciting book is available at www.publishamerica.com (\$16.95 + postage). Autographed copies are available from the author (check or money order) for \$19.00, postage paid.

The author: Retired Air Force officer, Bobby Clark, worked closely with the United States Army Special Forces and their counter-parts, the British Special Air Service, in a career spanning three decades. He logged more than 400 hours as pilot-in-command on nearly 100 combat missions in the AC-130 "Spectre" Gunship, often providing critically-needed close air support to special forces teams during the Vietnam war. Later Colonel Clark flew the MC-130 "Combat Talon" low altitude intruder aircraft throughout Europe and Africa. His more "routine" flying operations include four years with the USAF Hurricane Hunters, pitting his aviator skills against such famous storms as Camille and Gladys.

Dear fellow Air Commandos:

Enclosed is a copy of my book, Final Statement, a work of fiction. I look forward to hearing from a number of old friends. Bobby Clark, LTC, USAF (Retired) ACA Life member

16th Special Ops honors vets

By Mladen Rudman

Hurlburt Field. - It was a beautiful day at the Air Park for the 16th Special Operations Wing to honor valiant men of today and yesteryear.

At Thursday's Veterans Day ceremony at Hurlburt Field, retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Bill Zell spoke about the sacrifices veterans and their families made to defend America.

"Our veterans and their families gave so much and asked for so little,"

he said.

Zell recalled the doughboys of World War 1 and the troops that were mistreated after returning from Vietnam.

"It has been my honor to serve with some of the country's finest souls in the greatest fighting force in the world," Zell concluded.

Veterans Day is officially honored on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. That is Saturday this year.

Col. Norman J. Brozenick, Jr. focused on the 16th SOW's accomplishments in Iraq and Afghanistan - 25,000 sorties, 76,000 combat flying hours and deployments to some 16 places.

"Our veterans continue their beautiful service in the finest tradition of veterans of the past," he said.

At the end of the ceremony, veterans of tomorrow exchanged saluted with veterans of days past.

Courtesy of NWF Daily News.



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Authentic Blood Chits

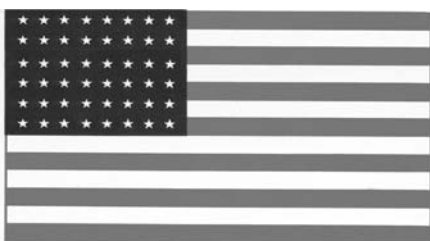
Genuine USAF issue Blood Chits are available. To obtain a Korean War Blood Chit, all you have to do is recruit a new member. If that is too hard for you to handle, a \$15.00 donation to the McCoskrie/Threshold Foundation will achieve the same purpose.

There are three varieties of Blood Chits currently available; The Korean War variety, published in 1951; the Southeast Asia variety published in 1963; and the East European and Middle Eastern published in 1951. For a donation of \$30.00 you can obtain the Southeast Asia variety. And for a \$50.00 donation, you can obtain the East European and Middle Eastern variety. Again, make check payable to the McCoskrie/Threshold Foundation and mail to the address listed below.

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



*Official Korean War Blood Chit
 1951 issue from survival kits*

ACA Reunion Golf Results

By Jim Boney

14 Golfers - small in number, but they had an enjoyable afternoon at Fort Walton Beach Oaks Course. There were two notable reasons for the small turnout. One, conflicted with the Gen Ben King dedication; and two, our Air Commandos want to play at home - "Gator Lakes on Hurlburt Field." (Golf at Reunion 07 will return to Hurlburt)

Thanks to Dottie Brittain and Lee Somers for checking-in the

golfers and giving each one several goodies (caps, balls, towels, pens, etc.)

The following individuals deserve a big thanks for their contributions: Bob White; Gordo Scott; Edwin Watts; Bill Brown; Mr. T. (donated all liquid refreshments, and yes, we still have some thirsty golfers); Jim Fraizer, the golf course administrator, gave us a very reasonable rate on green fees and cart.

The winners are: 1st Place - Gordo Scott, Robbie Roberson, Carl Brown, and Merle Andrews. 2nd Place - Don Ridgeway, Don Radike, Bill Brown, Andy Overturf, and Clay McCartney. 3rd Place - Karl Schaefer, Don Meade, Frank Harrison, and Kevin McKenzie. Closest to Pin - #3 Don Ridgeway, #12 Gordo Scott, and the longest putt #18 went to Bill Brown.



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**Air Commando Association
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Old soldiers opt to disband group, not just fade away

by *HARRY LEVINS: Post-Dispatch*

For the first summer in years, Dave Dale of Affton has time to relax. You'd think that at age 83, Dale would have slowed down a long time ago. But until now, he spent his summers gearing up for the annual convention of the CBIVA.

The what?

The China-Burma-India Veterans Association. Back in World War II, a quarter-million young Americans served their country in the CBI theater. They flew supplies from India over The Hump (the Himalayas) to China. They fought the Japanese in the backwoods of Burma. But they got

little if any attention. Theirs was a largely forgotten war.

Even so, in 1948, some CBI vets met in Milwaukee to form their own national group. At the time, the vets were young enough to shrug off the fact that they had, in effect, formed a biodegradable group - one that would shrink relentlessly as its members aged.

Think about the Grand Army of the Republic, formed by Union Army veterans just after the Civil War. For decades, the GAR wielded real clout in American politics. But as the 19th century rolled over into the 20th, time began to take its toll.

In Indianapolis in August 1949, the GAR held its last "encamp-

ment," or national meeting. By then, the group had but 16 members. Only six made it to the last encampment - a pitiful finale.

Back in the 1950s, Dale wasn't thinking of any last encampment when he joined the CBI group. Eventually, he became the editor of Sound-Off, the group's quarterly newsletter. That job kept him busy all summer, getting ready for - and then covering - the annual convention. (St. Louis was the setting for the national gatherings of 1955, 1966 and 2002.)

By the 1995 convention, the CBI vets recognized that their ranks were thinning. Rather than peter out pitifully like the Civil War group, the CBI Veterans Association voted to disband itself before death could do the disbanding. "There was never any discussion about stringing this thing out indefinitely," Dale says.

The vets voted that year to go out of business after the 2005 convention - their last encampment. And late last August, about 300 of them (plus 450 or so friends and

relatives) mustered in Washington.

The group had a treasury big enough to cover a grand party, which by all accounts the gathering was. As Dale's final newsletter says, "The hospitality room was packed when it was open, and the volunteer bartenders were kept busy."

Still, Dale says that last encampment mixed gaiety and poignancy. "You could hardly get around the banquet room for all the wheelchairs," he says.

Well, yes. In all, 16.1 million Americans wore uniforms in WWII, and 15.7 million survived the war. But by last Veterans Day, says the Department of Veterans Affairs, only 3.5 million WWII vets remained - and they're dying at the rate of more than 1,000 a day.

So I think the CBI vets deserve a salute for going out en masse, drinks in hand, and not as a tiny knot of six old men huddled in some hotel lobby in Indianapolis.

"Besides," says Dale, "now I have time to play golf."

Lighter Side

THULE INFO



A US Air Force C-141 is scheduled to leave Thule Air Base Greenland at midnight. During the pilot's pre-flight check, he discovers that the latrine holding tank is still full from the last flight. So a message is sent to the base and an airman who was off duty is called out to take care of it.

The young man finally gets to the air base and makes his way to the aircraft, only to find that the latrine pump truck has been left outdoors and is frozen solid, so he must find another one in the hangar, which takes even more time. He returns to the aircraft and is less than enthusiastic about what he has to do. Nevertheless, he goes about the pumping job deliberately and carefully (and slowly) so as not to risk criticism later. As he's leaving the plane, the pilot stops

him and says, "Son, your attitude and performance has caused this flight to be late and I'm going to personally see to it that you are not just reprimanded but punished." Shivering in the cold, his task finished, he takes a deep breath, stands up tall and says, "Sir, with all due respect, I'm not your son; I'm an Airman in the United States Air Force. I've been in Thule, Greenland for eleven months without any leave and reindeer's asses are beginning to look pretty good to me. I have one stripe, it's 2:30 AM, the temperature is 40 degrees below zero, and my job here is to pump shit out of an aircraft. Now, just exactly what form of punishment did you have in mind?"

Submitted by:

Jim Alberts

13015 N Joan D'Arc
Phoenix AZ 85032

A BRIEF NOTE ON KUE CHAW

By *Hap Lutz*

Some 400 of us attended Charlie Jones' Memorial Service at the Ft. Walton Beach Church of Christ on Hollywood Blvd. It was beautifully planned and presented.

I chauffeured Heinie and Kue Chaw, who traveled from Morgantown, NC. I also sat with them during the service, among other people.

Charlie is beloved by the Hmong people, which he established during his tour to Lima Site 20A, Long Tieng, Laos during 1966.

Kue Chaw's attendance at Charlie's service, and the attending travel and financial sacrifice, is a

testament to their endearing bond of friendship.

Kue Chaw, the first Hmong FAC, lives on a two and one-half acre plat of land. He farms the land, including "sticky" rice, which he provides for the local Hmong residents, now which number some 20,000 folks. He also raises chickens for self and others. He has been a spearhead in helping to settle the new arrivals by assisting with their creature comforts and language difficulties.

Kue Chaw is a longtime personal friend of mine also, and I proudly cherish that friendship.



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December 2006

President's Corner

By Felix "Sam" Sambogna

have passed away. Please see the articles in this newsletter covering these dedications. The goals of the ACA include honoring personnel of all ranks who have helped make this nation great by their achievements in special operations and to perpetuate their memory with suitable memorials. We did it right this year by honoring Brig Gen Ben King and SMSgt Carlous Christian

The banquet was very enjoyable and memorable because of several events. It was an honor to have as a special guest and honorary ACA member, MSgt (Retired) Ed Horton who was one of the gallant airmen who took off in a B-25 from the carrier Hornet and bombed Tokyo. The Dolittle Raid was an important and significant event early in WWII. When Ed was introduced he received a standing ovation - it was very impressive.

The second special event was the presentation by our guest speaker Colonel Brozenick, 16th SOW Commander. To accompany his presentation covering the wings involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, Colonel Brozenick brought with him 14 young members of his dynamic wing. As they stood by the podium, he briefed on each of their qualities and accomplishment in the wing mission. Very impressive. It was so good to see so many young faces at the banquet.

The next special event was a surprise announcement by Lt Gen

Wooley, AFSOC Commander, that his command submitted a recommendation for Brig Gen Aderholt to be entered into the National Aviation Hall of Fame. What an honor for our founder and inspirational leader. Gen Aderholt attended all of the reunion events, looked great, and had a super time. He too expressed concern over the reduced turnout.

We honored our three newsletter editors (Jim Boney, Jim Yealy, and Gene Rossel) this year - an honor they certainly deserve. It takes a lot of effort to get the NL out four times a year and we believe the membership enjoys receiving it. Perhaps it is the glue that holds us together.

The Sunday Memorial Service at the wonderful Hurlburt Airpark on an absolutely beautiful day was inspiring once again. Colonel Marc Stratton, Commander of the 720th Special Tactics Group, related an emotional and inspiring story covering the loss in combat of one of the Group's very special warriors. Senior officers and many others attended the funeral services in the hometown of this warrior. Colonel Stratton skillfully told the story of the honor, patriotism, and respect for the military displayed throughout this small community.

I am your president again for two more years as I was elected unopposed. Bob White and Gordo Scott agreed to remain on the Board for three more years and they too were unopposed. It remains difficult to

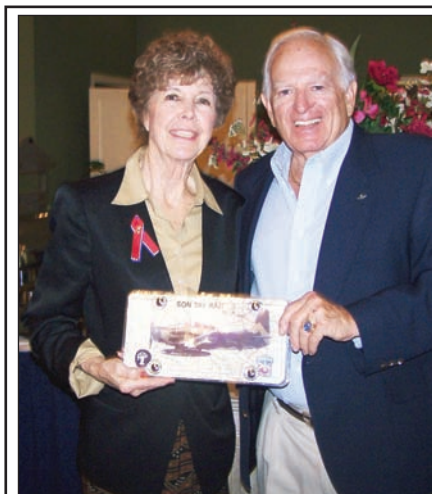
inspire others to compete for the Executive Board positions so we can be very thankful Bob and Gordo agreed to continue to serve.

This year the Hall of Fame committee did not recommend anyone for admission to the Hall of Fame. There were three new nominations. I realize this causes some concern as it is the first year I can remember when we had no inductees. I hope this does not discourage others to submit nominations. Without doubt, there are others who should be recognized with this prestigious honor.

A special thanks to all who helped this year's reunion a success.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Cheers
Sam



Shaw AFB - 12 Nov '06
Jim Boney presenting a Son Tay Raider license plate to Patty Gochnauer, loving wife of the late Bob Gochnauer, "Mr. A-1." This was in commemoration of Bob's heroic participation in the daring raid on the Son Tay Prison.



Reunion number 35 was a great success and very enjoyable for those who attended. However, we had the lowest turnout that I can remember, and it is difficult to understand why. Does it cost too much, is the agenda stale, are folks getting too old to travel, or are folks just losing interest after so many years? It always surprises me why so many of the locals do not attend. Responses to the survey we sent out this year were mostly favorable so the low attendance was an even greater surprise. I understand that many other organizations have the same problem. We certainly don't want folks to come just to have a large number to report; we want folks to attend because it is fun, enjoyable, and they want to see old comrades. We will try again next year to motivate our membership and have a good program. During our 2006 wrap up session, we discussed various options to vary the events and hopefully promote more interest for 2007. All ideas are welcome via phone or email. We would enjoy hearing from any member.

Back to this years reunion. It was especially successful because we (the ACA) dedicated facilities to two of our great commandos who