

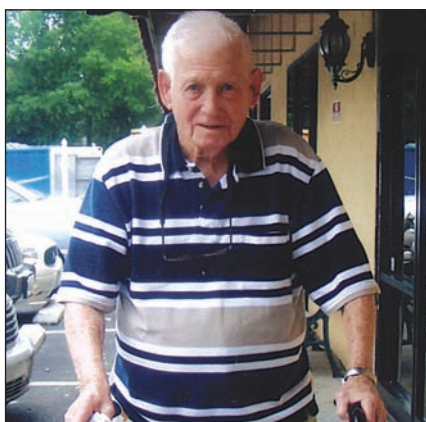


AIR COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

September 2006

To My Dear Friends:



To You, who have touched my life and served with me from many quarters; Air Commandos, Special Operators, Air America, Bird Air, Hmong Comrades, Soldier of Fortune Buddies, and all others I have had the pleasure to associate with in and out of the military, I send my deepest appreciation. Your support has been overwhelming.

Without the encouragement

See **HEINIE** pg. 3

Inside Features

Editorial	pg 2
Hap's Comments	pg 5
Japan's Invasion	pg 10
Letters	pg 7
Lost Over Laos	pg 23
McCoskrie T.F.	pg 12
Membership	pg 4
President's Corner	back pg
Reunion Info	pg 16 & 17
Rossel's Report	pg 25

35th Annual ACA Reunion October 5th thru 8th

Get Ready for Reunion 2006

By Dick Geron
ACA Vice President

The ACA Reunion is almost upon us. October 5 thru October 8. Be there to welcome your old friends and meet new ones.

This year's Reunion theme is:



**A Salute to the
16th Special
Operations Wing,
"America's Air Commandos."**

We hope all members and their families will plan to attend.

We are honored to have as our speaker for the Reunion Banquet, the Commander of the 16th Squadron Operations Wing, Colonel Norman J. Brozenick, Jr.

Thursday morning, October 5th starts off with a one-day casino excursion to Biloxi (\$20) providing enough people sign up.

Thursday evening we are having our "First Nighter's Social" at 5pm at Mr. T's Two Trees Restaurant, located at the Ft. Walton Beach Golf Course. This is a pay-at-the-door social event featuring exquisite delicacies from Thailand.

Early registration and check-in will be Thursday from 1600 – 2000 at our Hospitality Suite at the Quality Inn. On Friday morning,

registration will be open again in the same place from 1000 – 1600.

The Golf Tournament is set for Friday at the Fort Walton Beach Golf Club. (Hurlburt Golf Course is closed for repairs) Registration is 0830 Friday with shotgun start at 1000.

We will hold our Friday Fish Fry at the Quality Inn starting at 1600.

Saturday, October 7th the Annual Business meeting is scheduled from 0900 – 1030. Following the Business meeting there will be a briefing by two area experts from The Special Operations University on the situation in the Middle East. It should be very interesting. The

briefings will be held at the 20th SOS. Lunch will be available.

Ladies don't miss the "Ladies Social" with hostess Joyce Harrington on Saturday from 11 am to 2 pm at Mr. T's Two Trees Restaurant. This was a huge success last year and we anticipate a wonderful turn out again!

The ACA Banquet will be held on Saturday evening at the Hurlburt Sound Side Club, social hour is 1800 to 1900 and the Banquet is from 1900 to 2130.

On Sunday, October 8th the Memorial Service will be held at the Hurlburt Field Air Park, begin-

See **REUNION** pg. 4



Air Commandos (L-R) David Harrington, Felix Sambogna, Joyce Harrington, and John Connors. See Story pg 2.

**AIR COMMANDO
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CHAPLAIN

Charlie Jones

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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Editorial Comments

Sorry Islam

Sorry, Islam, but we are not a bunch of illiterate, uneducated tribes roaming the Middle East and worshipping nature. We do not need to be united by a religion to progress. We do not need to be subdued to accept that religion, or be dominated for it to grow.

Your religion, Islam, was spread by the sword. You conquered areas and countries and imposed your religion on the defeated. Or killed them. Or enslaved them. They had no choice Once converted, your religion became tradition, and subsequent generations knew nothing else You made sure of that by prohibiting the teaching of other religions under punishment of, guess what, death. Those are the facts. You can't change historic truth.

Converting the world is your goal. Good luck. You can't even decide within Islam who is right (much like the Christian Catholicism vs Protestantism). I am hard-pressed to understand why any African-American would choose Islam, since it is the religion primarily responsible for the capture and enslavement of their ancestors. I can understand why someone who knew nothing else would embrace this, or any other religion for that matter.

God is God. Belief and faith are foundations of any religion. Is it not enough that we believe? Is it not the same God? Why would Mohammed have any greater right to convert the world than the Pope, or the Mormons? Because he said so? Believe what you will. God will ultimately decide, not you. Personally, I follow the Prophet of Peace, not the Prophet of War.

Signed, Just another white, American Christian, i.e. an infidel. (Name withheld by request.)

LACK OF MORAL AND PHYSICAL COURAGE

Maj. Paul Quattrociocchi, Jr., USA (Ret), Templeton MA

I am tired of the issue of Iraq and the congressional call to bring the troops home now, before the job is done. A majority of Congress (both parties) voted to give President Bush the authority to commit troops to Iraq. In 1964 another Congress of the United States gave President Lyndon Johnson the same authority in Viet-Nam, in the form of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.

Now this illustrious band of "leaders" claim they were duped. The 1964 crowd did the same thing. Our elite political establishment cry foul now, as they did then, and state they were misled. The sad state of affairs if that the troops have been committed based on what the Congress and the President did. The how, why or what did it, is a moot point - it's a done deal.

All too many Congress members in both parties are running scared - just as they did in the '60's. They are afraid of losing their jobs and are going to put the blame on someone else. They show a complete lack of moral and physical courage in accepting responsibility for their actions. Instead of a Congress that supports our troops and the mission they

were so instrumental in giving to them, we have a bunch of gutless leaders who are only looking out for themselves and couldn't care less about the troops. Congress did as much as the President in putting us in Iraq, as they did in Viet-Nam. I wonder if they will force us to exit Iraq, not with dignity, but running out with our tail between our legs. Both parties need to get their acts together or the U.S. Congress will be the authors of another military and moral defeat in Iraq. Some Congress members have experience in preaching defeat, but Representative John Murtha, himself a Viet- Nam Veteran, should know better. If he wants to protest his vote for the war, maybe he should resign, other members can join him.

Our military is outstanding and they deserve support and encouragement from every American, including the United States Congress, no matter who voted for what. That is what will make our troops safer and get them home sooner. As it stands now, our political leaders' rhetoric and playing politics only provides the media something to write about and gives aid and comfort to our enemies.

Courtesy: Military

Memorial Dedication All Purple Heart Recipients

Several members of the ACA attended an impressive ceremony at the Eglin Air Force Museum on 7 August 06 honoring Purple Heart recipients. The Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter #566 presented a monument that is placed near the entrance to the museum. The excellent program included remarks by several key personnel, the history of this spe-

cial award, and acknowledgement of the recipients in attendance.

The Purple Heart differs from all other decorations in that the individual is not "recommended" for the decoration: rather he or she is entitled upon being killed or wounded in a manner meeting specific criteria. The decoration and the monument honor those who gave some and those who gave all.

Charlie Jones Update and Thanks to All

Well folks, I really took some time away from sending updates and I apologize again for my tardiness in getting some word to you on Charlie's progress. But, it is now time that I again make contact with you to let you know what is going on in our lives.

Charlie had his eighth chemo three weeks ago (5 July). He is rallying around very well. His oncol-



Sugie - A loving wife, and the driving force behind Charlie's on going recovery. (4th of July 2006)

ogist at Eglin left the AF to enter private practice. A TDY doctor was here for a week or so. A new PCS oncologist is to be on board soon. Charlie has an appointment to be told what now lies ahead in his case. He has been told that a smaller, more limited form of chemo will be in his life from now on. It is not expected to have such severe effects as the full blown versions of chemo he has been undergoing. As Charlie continues to improve, my updates will become less frequent. Rest assured we will keep you all posted of significant changes.

Below is some of Charlie's own thoughts of thanksgiving to all of you, and to the Lord. I now pass this on to you.

Sugie

Dear Jim Boney,

Thanks for your continued loyalty and hard work for the ACA! You asked that I write some remarks about my thanks to my friends. See article to the right. God Bless all! Charlie Jones

Gratitude to fellow Commandos, Friends, and Loved Ones

Please allow these remarks to reflect my deep personal gratitude to so many of you who rallied to my side upon learning of my dreadful battle with bone-marrow cancer. We are now "in remission" according to the current status.

My humble thoughts turn constantly to a self-evaluation of my humble place amongst you all, the best, the finest and most compassionate friends one could ever hope to accumulate! To be personal for a moment, during the past six months, I have more than once teetered on the banks of Jordan's dark waters. Literally speaking, the skilled physicians, and very competent medical personal at USAF Eglin AFB hospital saved my life more than once. Only a few short weeks ago, I was categorized at "Stage IV," a dark place to be with cancer. Then, within weeks, a bone-marrow biopsy revealed amazingly, "no cancer cells found!" How can this be?

I (we) will learn the complete answer to this question in the hereafter, if these things are still important at all in the mystical glories of eternity! Until then, I am convinced that the Almighty worked Himself once again in favor of this unworthy (yet humbly grateful) child of his! I unashamedly tell you that I and my sweet, and caring, and valiant wife Sugie were repeatedly on our knees in total yielding to whatever the next hours, or the morrow, might bring. I gave silent voice once again in my invocation to God — as I did so many times in combat — that if it be not in my Father's will to intervene in my behalf, would He bless me and Sugie that I cross into the realm of Eternity with some measures of painlessness, and with the uncomplaining dignity and grace befitting a child of the King!

Yes, I am convinced that the

power of God has yielded me some more days of mortality. And I am further convinced that His Will was persuaded by the countless prayers of you all and prayers of my beloved family, and prayers of my brothers and sisters of the Lord's Church — all for my life!

You have heard me say more than once that part of our God-assigned duty to each other is to



If you have any doubt about the value of prayer, just take a look at these two heroic warriors. (4th of July 2006)

"bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the Law of Christ!" (Galatians 6:2). You have borne with me so very well these great burdens of the last long days! God bless you for it!

Another Scripture I often read is I Timothy 2:1. There the Apostle Paul tells his young Christian brother Timothy "I exhort you, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks be made for all men!" I have received countless cards, emails, phone calls, and messages in my behalf. The one thread that characterized each thought was your insistence that you were constantly lifting my name to the throne of Mercy and Grace! How can I ever adequately thank you all? God bless you even more as you show compassion for beloved others now in like circumstances. You all have my heartfelt gratitude! God bless you all!

Charlie

Heinie

Continued from page 1

of your phone calls, visits, cards, letters, e-mails, and many prayers I would have never made it.

As you all know by now, I experienced a large cyst on my pancreas, demonstrated by "cat scan."

To combat this excruciatingly painful malady, I was hospitalized and treated some three and a half months. This hospitalization occurred here, Birmingham, and Montgomery, Alabama. Those are the facts related to me, for I simply do not remember most of the events surrounding my life during these times.

I'm mostly on the mend now, excepting for a back problem that occurred some years ago and which excessive hospital bedtime now causes occasional painful flareups.

My purpose for writing is to very sincerely thank the many of you that called, sent letters, cards, e-mails, and prayed on my behalf. All of those wonderful caring things certainly contributed to my getting well. My arthritic hand prevents me from writing each of you a personal note of thanks, but please know how very grateful I am and continue to be.

And to those patient, devoted friends of you that sat by my side, day and night, for over three months, a very "special thanks." You made my life livable and beyond. I'm sure I wasn't very good company, even during some of my best days, if there were any, but you were there. You gave "Any Time, Any Place" a whole new meaning.

I've been told of the long vigils you spent, ensuring that all my vital signs were trying to normalize, and that of all my machine attachments were functioning properly. And yes, the bathroom thing had to be a chore above all others. THANKS!

God Bless You All and God Bless America!

Your friend, Heinie Aderholt
PS: Rose, you picked a heck of a time to be away. I miss you.

Membership News



In Memory of:

JOHN F. BALDWIN
JUNE 2006

LARRY D. BOWER
JULY 2006

GUY E. HUGHEY JR
JULY 2006

WILLIAM W. LOFTIS III
UNKNOWN

THOMAS J. WHITAKER
JUNE 2006

TERRY F. CLARK
7203 ZOE CIR
NAVARRE, FL 32566

REX CORBIN
4604 MIJAS DR NW
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87120

RICHARD W. CRUTCHFIELD
2448 WHISPERING PINES
BLVD
NAVARRE, FL 32566

JOSEPH K. DENNIS
353 TAYLOR PL NE
LOS LUMAS, NM 87031

EDWARD M. DUNKER
8620 FECRET WAVES WAY
COLUMBIA, MD 21045

ROBERT GERMANN JR
16800 LARGO BLVD #2022
FOUNTAIN HILLS, AZ 85268

E. LANCE GREENWALD
8723 HAYES RD ANCHORAGE
MIRAMAR BEACH, FL 32550

GEORGE W. GRILL
6904 SE RIVERSIDE DR
VANCOUVER, WA 98664

ALEX GROSS
PSC94 BOX 1737
APO AE 09824

MICHAEL D. GRUBBS
1509 DOUGLAS DR
IOWA PARK, TX 76367

LINDSEY J. JACKSON
PO BOX 738
DAVID, AZ 85630

ROY JACKSON
N 10392 MOUNT ZION DR
IRONWOOD, MI 49938

APRIL S. JANSEN
1197 RIPPLE CT
FRONT ROYAL, VA 22630

MARTIN P. JESTER
1220 WEEPING WILLOW DR
DELAND, FL 32724

D. EDWARD LAUGHARY
PMB F374000 3590 RND BTM
CINCINNATI, OH 45244

REGAN E. MCCLURKIN
1308 ASHBURTON DR
MILLERSVILLE, MD 21108

MICHAEL T. MCEWEN
970 PACIFIC HILLS PT 101
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80906

GEORGE D. MCNAMARA
1505 W PINTO RD
COLBERT, WA 99005

MARIE WEST MELANCON
1 GRAND LAKE DR
YOUNGSVILLE, LA 70592

CLARENCE D. MOODY JR
PO BOX 459
CHINO VALLEY, AZ 86323

THOMAS R. OWENS
11714 LAKE ASTON CT #108
TAMPA, FL 33626

STEVE PETERS
8390 HIGHWAY 493
BAILEY, MS 39320

MRS CHARLES PIPER
5370 MCCAGHREN DR
COLUMBUS, GA 31909

PHILIP J. RECHNITZER JR
1711 LAKE CYPRESS DR
SAFETY HARBOR, FL 34695

JOE F. REYNOLDS
PO BOX 5326
SUN CITY CENTER, FL 33571

CAROLINE S. RICHARDS
3102 VISTA HEIGHTS LN
HIGHLAND VILLAGE, TX
75077

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10790 ST AUGUSTINE RD #326
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32257

LETHA SOMERS
1490 LANDAU RD #407
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32225

WALTER F. STUECK
4312 S 31 ST #142
TEMPLE, TX 76502

SCOTTIE S. THOMPSON
220 CAREFREE TRL N
KERRVILLE, TX 78028

KATHY WARNER
30 HOLLY AVE #2028
SHALIMAR, FL 32579

GARY L. WASHBURN
719 BUTTERWORTH ST SW #2
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49504

SETH G. WILSON
9225 E TANQUE VERDE #202
TUCSON, AZ 85749

PHILLIP MORRIS BUTLER

- I am looking for him. I do not know his rank. He was a navigator in NKP Thailand from 1968-69 and flew F-111s at Nellis AFB, NV, in 1969. Contact: R. Anthony, 1710 Kingsley Court, Lawrenceville, GA 30043, (678) 518-4436, rala62559@evl.net.

Reunion

Continued from page 1

ning at 1200.

Our tremendously popular BBQ is also scheduled for Sunday at 1300 – 1600 at the Quality Inn. We will follow the BBQ with our annual ACA auction. The reunion will come to a close after the auction.

Please make your reservations early as the Sound Side Club is limited to 320 people. Y'all come, You Hear!!

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

JOHN BASHONSKI
JAMES COTTRELL
GILBERTO FLORES
STEEN LUNDE

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

DOUG JOHNSON
PAUL SULLIVAN
JOHN F. TATE

LOST MEMBERS

DARRELL L. CLARK
ROBERT G. HAINES JR
ART PERRY
WILLIAN B. VANCE

ON THE MOVE

GLENN R. ANDERSEN SR
720 E LOCUST ST #3
DAVENPORT, IA 52803

GARY L. BENSON
PO BOX 290341
PORT ORANGE, FL 32129

ROY E. BREWER
3727 SUTTER HILL LN
CARMICHAEL, CA 95808

ROBERT B. CARLSEN
155 SERENITY RDG
SPARTA, TN 38583

JESSICA K. CLARK
7203 ZOE CIR
NAVARRE, FL 32566

Hap's Comments

By Hap Lutz

I begin by lamenting the loss of former Board Member Tom Whitaker and good friend "Gene" Hughey. We learned of Tom's demise via a phone call sent by his step daughter in California and "Gene" deceased locally.

Tom was an ardent Board Member with stimulating ideas that he vigorously pursued. He was also a close personal friend over our many years on active duty together, and beyond. I called former Board Member Dwayne Huffman in Missouri, a former co-worker of Toms and a close personal friend, to learn the circumstances of his passing. Dwayne shared that Tom had had several bouts with cancer, which he beat, but prostate cancer finally overcame him. (There's a lesson here guys...GET CHECKED...in spite of the brief discomfort.) I also let Dave Spurling in Thailand know of Tom's demise.

I knew "Gene" Hughey in Laos after he transitioned to Air America. We ran into each other on infrequent occasions, but it was always a fun get-together. That continued after he retired from all his wanderings through the medium of Socials and Reunions. I now know why he and Mary Lou were not at the 4th of July Social.

We're still getting cards and letters concerning Heinie's welfare and progress. At this writing, he's continuing to improve daily. He walks every morning, about 0.8 miles, and his appetite is voracious. As I reported in my after action 4th of July missile, he was there and greeted all those present.

Old friend Sam Baley kept his own vigil on Heinie's progress via weekly calls to me at home, as did many others of you. Shirley and I were running a command post of

sorts. It was a labor of love, especially when things were going good. I avoided many of your questions, or lied to you, when they weren't.

Paul and Jean Tobey visited recently from Sarasota. It was an occasion for Shirley and I to break bread with them and Doug and Helen Blair. And Paul treated! What a guy! (Paul also cracked the age 65 barrier.) There was a small caveat, however. Show son George around Hurlburt and through the ACA building. (Small price for a sumptuous meal at the Sealand Restaurant.) George is a Coast Guard Academy Grad and former Lieutenant of same, with a lot of duty on the low seas chasing dopers and illegals. Paul and Jean will be no-shows for the reunion as they will be in Italy for some three weeks.

Mary Lou McCoskrie came for a visit. Her purpose was to be with and assist Ginny Gates during her convalescence from hip replacement. This was Ginnie's second hip procedure and she's now cleared safely for complete take-off. Mary Lou did notice that the McCoskrie/Threshold Foundation sign was missing from in front of the building. One of the many hurricanes we experienced last year uprooted it and we hadn't replaced it. But now it is back Mary Lou, owing to the expertise and generosity of former Board Member Roger Klair. (There might be a picture of same elsewhere in the newsletter.) *See photo on page 12*

I visited former Command Chief Lamar Doster in the hospital last Friday. He experienced a collapsed lung and was on a "Red X" to get it reinflated. He's doing well following radical surgery to correct the anomaly. In fact, he's home now, resting comfortably,

according to an e-mail just received from wife and caretaker Gloria. He's on limited duty for about 2 months.

Interestingly, Lamar's roommate in "A" bed was former Wing Commander and former Mayor of Ft. Walton Beach, Bob Gates. He too was in for hip replacement. He was just two days out of surgery when I visited. Says he can't walk on it for six more weeks and it'll be slow and easy after that for quite awhile. I asked why he waited until he reached 87 to have the procedure. He boomed back, "Hell Hap, these things don't happen when you're younger!" Stupid question from a former medical guy.

Just learned via phone call that Bill Loftis died sometime in the past. A family member called. I was with Bill in Bien Hoa during 1962. Bill was a Loadmaster and I flew numerous flare throwing missions with him. I vividly remember the day that Bill, Dr. Robert Baker, and Combat Controller Joe Orr rappelled into a C-123 crash into the jungle of SVN and rescued three survivors. It was a harrowing rescue by all measures.

Past President Bill Brown stopped in on his way to a family reunion in Pensacola. Loves his new digs in "The Villages," FL. Plays golf about four days a week and relaxes the other three. He exemplifies the word "retired."

"Jungle Jimmer" George Rosenstrom has moved on from this area. He has had some health issues and has moved to Jacksonville, which is closer to his son Kris and family. George and I did the AF together, followed by the Post Office.

I'm going to wind this up now with some startling news. Heinie, Anne Bruner, and I are attending

the AESEA Reunion, slated for 21 to 24 September, in Bangkok! Yes, Heinie feels good enough to tackle that rather awesome physical endeavor. We are departing here the 14th of September and returning the 28th.

Others I know that are attending are John and Nancy Sweet, Keith Dennis, Clyde Howard, Les Strouse, McAlan Thompson, and David Spurling. David, as many of you know, lives in Hua Hin, Thailand. Les and Mac also live in Thailand and are on the planning committee for this event. David has been more than helpful to me over the years in my former trips to Thailand and will be in the middle of assisting again. Robby Robinson, formally of Thailand and now of Pensacola, has touched base with all of the military elite of Thailand to prepare for Heinie's coming. I'll debrief the happenings in Thailand in my commentary in December.

This just in: Received a note from Joan Fregly that husband Terry had been killed in an aircraft accident last February 25. (See Letters.) Terry and sons were featured in our last news letter.

Also just in: My former Lao Wing Commander, General Concy Phimphavong, died in Mesa, AZ, after a losing cancer bout. He was my commander during three of my six tours in Laos. Along with working for him, and the folks of the Royal Air Force, we became close personal friends. Roger Klair and I were treated to a trip on the Chaopyra River by Concy and wife Lam during our trip there in 1999...and we have maintained communications over the past years.

I keep trying to wind this up, but other news continues to pop

See **HAP** pg. 6

4th of July Social

By Hap Lutz

Celebrating America’s 220th Birthday at Mr. T’s Two Trees Restaurant was an exciting, fun filled event. It was especially so in that two of our major players were there to join in the festivities. Founder and Past President Heinie Aderholt and Chaplain and Past President Charlie Jones found their way there in spite of their on going struggle with debilitating illnesses. It was a high plus for all of us to be able to wish them well in their recovery. These two former warriors are in a major battle again and are winning!

We had several out of town celebrants. Ashley Saunders from Georgia; Robby and Dee Roberson from Brandon, FL; Fred Nowak from Leesburg, FL; Robbye Binkley and her house companion Annette Lambert from AL. And they all helped to decorate! Ashley is the granddaughter of Board

Member Ted Saunders. Fred took most of the pictures you are viewing.

There were special fire works for Marjorie Ketcham and Robbye Binkley. Marjorie announced her engagement and forthcoming marriage to member John “Jack” Sirney. This union is slated to take place sometime in October. Congrats to you both. Perhaps if it is early enough you can join us as Mr. & Mrs. at our annual reunion!

Robbye has reconnected with a former high school sweetheart. I am remiss in not remembering his name, but she had a picture of them both while in grade school and went around excitedly showing us all. Perhaps that rekindled romance will come to marriage fruition and they too will be featured as husband and wife at our annual reunion. Again, congrats to that loving couple.

Board Member Bob White

thought it fitting to share our nation’s Birthday with an active duty member away from home and family. Accordingly, he invited and guested Army Specialist Alan Kimmel, a student at the US Navy Explosive Ordnance School, Eglin Air Force Base. Alan was glowingly received by all and it was a “top drawer” thoughtful thing for Bob to do.

Bim Barker’s baby-back spare ribs were very professionally cooked in his unique cooker...and the sauce a delicious accompaniment! His special helper Jackie and associate helpers Damon and Shirley Campbell from Union City, TN, added to the fun and flavor of the day. Damon is Bim’s lawyer and as Bim tells it, “ has kept me out of jail for the past twenty years!”

The dogs, burgers, slaw, and potato salad provided by “Ts” staff

rounded out a traditional 4th menu. Of course, our usual America Birthday cake went mighty well for those that could.

A special thank you goes to Joyce and David Harrington. They have been our traditional and offi-



Joyce and David Harrington

cial Host and Hostess over the past years during both our 4th and Christmas Socials. To sum it up, it was a great get-together and if you missed this one, plan ahead for all the next ones.

AIR COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

2006 BALLOT

PRESIDENT (VOTE FOR ONE)

FELIX “SAM” SAMBOGNA ()

Write in ()

BOARD (VOTE FOR TWO)

GORDON SCOTT ()

BOB WHITE ()

Write ins ()

()

PROXY

(To vote in your stead at the General Membership Meeting)

I GIVE MY PROXY TO

NAME:

ACA #

PLEASE RETURN BY 1 OCT 06

Hap

Continued from page 5

up. To wit:: I ran into Frank Orr in the Hurlburt BX and had a delightful chat with him. He’s back to full time government service at FT. Benning, GA. He teaches “Sensitivity” and Small Arms Training to those deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan. “Sensitivity” training covers a host of issues, but consistent with Franks’s expertise in the weapons field, in both the AF and US Army, his prospectus is primarily tailored to identify IED’s. It’s a 1 week crash course, consuming some 12 hours a day.

I also learned from Robby and Dee Roberson that ACA Associate Life Member 2nd Lt. Christine Lukasik is being assigned to the 16th Special Ops Wing at Hurlburt. She’s their granddaughter! And, she’ll become a regular

member the moment her foot steps on Hurlburt! Her grandfather Bernie was stationed here in the early sixties and deceased in Viet Nam as a result of being shot down during a successful rescue attempt. There is a LUKASIK Street on Hurlburt.

And finally, I think, “Pipeline Willy” Elledge surprisingly called from Panama. He has a contractual business deal of some sort with the folks down there. It requires his presence several times a year. Somehow he rigged a phone service that he can call out for only a cent a minute! He’s doing well and they are just starting to build their new home. They may, or may not make the reunion. Will says he has grapes to harvest and stomp about that time!

Letters

DEAR HAP,

I just received the June 2006 of the Air Commando Association Quarterly newsletter. I was very pleased to find a letter from my husband to Hap telling about two photographs of our sons. My husband passed away on February 26, 2006. He was in a L-39 aircraft like the one we owned, and did not survive a crash. The accident occurred in California. The Air Commando Association meant so much to Terry, especially his friendship with Heinie. Please let me know what I can do for your organization in the future. Terry would have wanted me to continue to help you with your mission. I am well and my son's are doing fine. Thank you for printing the letter from Terry. I will miss him forever.

Joan Fregly
P.O. Box 3886
Tallahassee FL 32315

Dear Joan,
I received your brief note and I'm stunned and terribly saddened by Terry's tragic fatal accident. An immeasurable loss to family, friends, and especially you. Please accept my most heartfelt sympathy and sincerest condolences.

I got off the phone a few minutes ago with General Aderholt, telling him of the circumstances. He too was taken very much aback with such startling news. He is home now, continuing his convalescence from his recent illness. He asked for your address and will sincerely try to send you a note in the in suing future. He still has some difficulty writing, Joan, so while the spirit is definitely willing the flesh may not cooperate.

Thank you for offering to assist in matters of the association. Our

apart distances make it difficult to ask you for task assignments, but if you plan to attend any of our future reunions (like the one coming up in October), I'm sure the Reunion Chairman can find you something interesting to do.

I'll close now Joan. You'll continue to receive the newsletter and are entitled to all widow amenities the association provides.

Very Sincerely,
Hap

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEAR HAP,

I'll bet the author did not list the "CH-3 Helicopter" in the ACA history on page 6 in the June 2006 Air Commando newsletter just to make sure I would write to correct the error. But the error serves a good purpose since, whenever I write, I always include a check to the McCoskrie/Threshold Foundation.

Hope the weather holds this summer in Ft. Walton Beach and I pray Heinie's health continues to improve. Please give my best to him and to all those who remember me.

Phil Conran
4706 Calle Reina
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Dear Phil,
How special hearing from you and for correcting our omission of the "CH-3 Helicopter." I'll remind Editor Jim Boney to tighten up his proof reading, but if it takes that to hear from you, we'll status quo it.
Your McCoskrie/Threshold donations are also much appreciated, and needed, Phil. John Grove and staff continue to do the work of saints.

Heinie is very much improved and I related your message to him

just moments ago. He, in turn, wishes you the best of everything. Heinie is so much improved that he and I are going to the AESEA Reunion in Bangkok! We depart here the 14th of September and return the 28th.

Now Phil, plan your schedule to include spending a future reunion back here, preferably this October!

Hap

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

READERS PLEASE:

My name is Lawrence A. Neal (Larry). I was in the 19th ACS at Tan Son Nhut Air Field from 10/22/64 to 10/212/65. We changed from that to the 33rd CAMRON and by August of 1965 it was the 6250th Air Maintenance Squadron.

I am trying to find someone to verify that I flew on the Air Force Blue and White U3B's (U-Birds); Training - 5 passengers.

We flew Vietnamese Pilots for

training purposes and other passengers for various reasons.



Lawrence A. Neal

Please, if you have any information that would verify the above facts, please contact me ASAP. I need it to assist me with my Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome claim.

Lawrence A. Neal
PO Box 90081
Tucson, AZ 85752-0081

Ed Note: This is the second appeal we've had from Larry. If you know, or know of anyone that can assist him in his needs, please do so. This appears to be another regretful case where records were either misplaced or lost during the events of the Viet Nam war.

See **LETTERS** pg. 8

ACA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

STUDENT'S SSN _____

RELATIONSHIP: _____ AGE: _____

COLLEGE: _____

ADDRESS OF COLLEGE: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

MEMBER'S NAME: _____

MEMBER'S # _____

Rules: The number and amount of the scholarship(s) will be determined annually by the Board of Directors. The Scholarship(s) will be awarded annually in May. The Board of Directors will randomly select the winner(s) from the eligible candidates submitted by the membership.
Scholarship eligibility criteria are as follows: The Candidate must be the child (natural, adopted, or step), grandchild, or great grandchild of a member in good standing of this Association. The candidate must be accepted to or enrolled in an accredited college or university and be less than 24 years of age at the end of May. Candidates may not be a member of this association, on active duty, attending a Service Academy, or on full scholarship to a college or university. **Note:** There will be four \$1500 scholarships drawn at the 2006 Reunion.

Letters

Continued from page 7

DEAR BROTHERS,

Was so sorry to hear our dear leader is under the weather. He is in our prayers and we fervently pray for full recovery very soon.

Judy and I are fully retired...travelling the U.S. with 7 couples in three motorhomes for one and one-half years. We will arrive Ft. Walton Beach on 4 October and stay for 1 month at the Emerald Beach RV Park in Navarre. (Check enclosed for desired reunion activities.)

This is the first year that Judy will have made the reunion. She just retired from teaching Band for 41 years. She plays a mean trumpet. We also retired from years of singing Barbershop and Sweet Adelines as did our travelling companion couples. See you soon!

D. Edward Laughery
PMB F374000
3590 Round Bottom Road
Cincinnati, OH 45244

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HAP,

With Doc Fitz long gone, and I must confess that I miss the idea that the ornery old cuss isn't around any more, I guess that, next to Heinie, you are the person in FWB and the ACA that I know best.

At least, I know you well enough to know that you won't resent the small imposition of delivering the enclosed note to Heinie. I had no idea he was seriously ill before I received the last issue of the *Newsletter* and the news rocked my world.

The friendship I have enjoyed with Heinie goes back to Saigon and SOG in 1966, and included spaces of ten years and more when we have neither seen nor heard from each other; but even in those

long intervals I have always known that in a pinch I could get in touch with him.

Frankly, a world without Heinie in it would be a greatly diminished place for this old man. I'm pretty sure he already knows this, but I don't wish to pass up the opportunity to making certain this is so.

I thank you and send my warmest personal regards.

Les Hansen
12767 Hunters Ridge Drive
Bonita Springs, FL 34135-3431

LES,

Your request has been pleasantly honored. Tried to call you, but woke Beverly instead. I provided her with Heinie's phone number in that you may wish to call him.

Along with countless others, I share your sentiments completely.

*Best always,
Hap*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TO: BGEN HEINIE ADERHOLT

Also being emailed to Hap Lutz and Gene Rossel at Air Commando Newsletter

General - Now that I know you have been honestly sick and now recovering it was good to re-read "Air Commando One" especially the days at NKP '66-'67. I would bet the guys could put together another book just of personal stories from that year! My photos of you and also of the PCP rock pick-up that first Sunday morning was burned in our house fire several years ago.

Col Sheehan was the base commander who did nothing and peed in his pants once you were on board. Lt Col Haworth was the A-26 pilot who went down in

December. I was gone getting Bob Hope out of Bangkok and up to us. All his writers thought I was crazy. Hope told them to write all the names and stories because they would be great with the Commandos. We spent one night talking about missions etc. It was the night Walt Disney died.

Still waiting to be your campaign manager for your run for governor of Alabama.

Re-reading the book made me recall some of the stories you told about Major Secord, Kittinger, your brother, Ropka, Robeson and others. Your respect for them is still remembered. Yes, I wanted to write it yet IT GOT DONE.

Al Heeter, who did two rescue tours out of Udorn and NKP, actually remembers the great days - through his Alzheimer's. I tell him you ask about him and other lies. We have agreed that God lets Commandos and Jolly Greens tell whoppers.

Bill Turk
P.S. The book is exceptional. Now we all need to compile stories from the 56th and before at NKP.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEAR PETE - ETAL OF THE ACA

These pictures were taken at the air show in Hiber VT on 8 July. The A-1 is beautifully restored. The owner could not find LAU 3 or 58, CBU canisters or rope so he used 5" HAVAR rockets - not authentic but civilians didn't know



the difference.

The T-28 came from Laos, via Australia. It is in original colors



and used by the RLAF, owned by a retired airline pilot. Spad drivers enjoy.

Jack Spey
425 South Rome Way
Hurricane UT 84737
(435) 877-1166

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

RESPONSE TO MOAA ARTICLE

From your informative article {"Premiums Already Paid-In Full," May 2006} it would appear my retiree health care is "impinging" on DoD's perennial search for the newest, most expensive weapons it can find-as for example, the F-22 Raptor, which for some quarter-billion dollars apiece can fly Mach 2 at 40,000 feet. Too bad these impressive statistics are near- totally relevant in a global war in which America's enemies stand about 6 feet tall and move in sandals at 4 mph. Did I mention the military procurement scandal of our times, the problem-plagued and deadly (to U.S. Marines at least) V-22 Osprey, whose costs are spiraling over \$100 million apiece?

I could swear I've seen this movie somewhere in the past, when...our military wanted to buy every weapon but the ones it needed most to fight the only war on its

Letters

Continued from page 8

hands. As I recall, we lost that war.

Mike Haas
900 S Meadow Pkwy #2624
Reno, NV 89521-5982
Courtesy MOAA

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEAR HAP,

I hope this finds all of you well and cool being the summer heat is upon us.

My family and I went to



Karen Sweet Standing below Replica of the Liberty Bell and proudly representing the ACA by wearing her ACA cap and patch.

“Wounded Warriors, Fallen Heroes” in the little town of Benbrook TX for a July 4th celebration - in support of our troops. Benbrook has a small population, about 25,000. At least 15,000 North Texans honored wounded military personnel at a celebration at Dutch Branch Park.

All branches were represented and about all wars since 1776 too. One young man about 18 years old had a large display of WWII articles including pin up's in an original WWII foot locker.

The man that did the jump had lost both his legs several years ago in a plane accident. The F18's that flew over were awesome. The best

fly over I have ever seen.

The whole celebration was awesome! Patriotism is definitely alive and well in Fort Worth TX. My hands were painful for a week from all the clapping I did.

I enjoy the ACA newsletter. Read every word, every page. Thank you all for your hard work and what you do for us. Love and God Bless.

Karen Sweet
6088 Bear Creek Dr E
Ft Worth TX 76126-9202

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

“Airman” gratitude to his family and USAF

Capt Kapadia is a naturalized United States citizen who emigrated from India along with his parents and brother in March 1990. Being new to the US and having limited financial resources, he started working two jobs, seven days a week, to support himself and his parents. He worked as a cashier during the day and in a factory at night. He commuted by bicycle everyday, summer and winter, forty minutes each way, to earn his living. His ambition was to be educated and have a challenging career. His Bachelor of Commerce (in Accounting/Auditing) degree from India didn't equate to an equivalent bachelor's degree in United States due to the differences in educational system and course requirements, so he started taking courses at the local community college while working part time. His brother contributed to Capt. Kapadia's tuition at this time. Unfortunately, his brother got laid-off and Capt Kapadia had to quit school. Finally, he decided to join the armed forces and enlisted in the United States Air Force

from his home state, Michigan, in 1993. His income as an NCO allowed him to go back to school part-time to complete his undergraduate courses.

Because of his duty hours and frequent course cancellations, Capt Kapadia wasn't able to make much progress towards his educational goal. With great determination to earn his bachelor's degree and with the financial support of the Montgomery GI bill, he decided to attend school full-time in 1997 while serving as a reservist with Air National Guard. He continued to ride his bicycle to school and work. Capt. Kapadia's wife Chetna also helped him advance toward his educational goal, which became a reality in 2000 when he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. Capt Kapadia is grateful to his parents and aunt who made it possible for him to come to the United States, the “Land of Opportunity”. Capt Kapadia is equally thankful to the United States Air Force for allowing him to take advantage of the Montgomery GI bill that financed his education. In 2001, Capt. Kapadia received his commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Currently Capt Kapadia is assigned to the 53rd Wing, 36th Electronic Warfare Squadron. Capt Kapadia is an Engineer, a Student Pilot, and Professional Linguist for an International Affairs Program, native-fluent in four of the Southeast Asia region languages, with twelve plus years of varying active duty experiences-Ops: Bioenvironmental Engineer, Maintenance/Logistics Readiness, CE, Research Lab/INTEL, Fight

Test Engineer, and Professional Linguist.

Capt Kapadia and his wife have a three year old son, Tegan and they take care of their old parents.

According to Capt Kapadia – “It is never too late in your life to be something if you have true desire and determination to achieve your goals. Our great nation has opportunity for all. It's up to you to bring your dreams to life. I've found that the Air Force has given back to my family and me ten times what I've contributed, and I'm profoundly grateful. I cannot fully express how honored I am to be part this team of more than two million service members and one big Air Force family. When I put on the blue uniform in November 1993, I never imagined that I would come this far. I remained in the military because I believe in our mission, and I can think of no better way to serve our nation than by being part of this great team of dedicated and hardworking professionals. The men and women of the armed forces represent the very best of American values: integrity, compassion, commitment, and selflessness. It has been a constant privilege to serve beside each of you everyday. After meeting many at leadership and other military education schools, and at bases and deployed locations around the world, I am fully confident that America's future is in good hands. I thank all of you for your service, and thank your families for their patience and support. I wish you all the best.”

Ashok N. Kapadia
Captain, USAF

An Invasion Not Found in the History Books

From time to time we are forced to justify our two nukes on Japan. Here is some background the decision makers had on the table at the time. Good decision... #1

By James Martin Davis
Reprinted from the Omaha
World Herald, November 1987

Deep in the recesses of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., hidden for nearly four decades lie thousands of pages of yellowing and dusty documents stamped "Top Secret". These documents, now declassified, are the plans for "Operation Downfall", the invasion of Japan during World War II. Only a few Americans in 1945 were aware of the elaborate plans that had been prepared for the Allied Invasion of the Japanese home islands. Even fewer today are aware of the defenses the Japanese had prepared to counter the invasion had it been launched.

"Operation Downfall" was finalized during the spring and summer of 1945. It called for two massive military undertakings to be carried out in succession and aimed at the heart of the Japanese Empire.

In the first invasion - code named "Operation Olympic" - American combat troops would land on Japan by amphibious assault during the early morning hours of November 1, 1945 - 50 years ago. Fourteen combat divisions of soldiers and Marines would land on heavily fortified and defended Kyushu, the southernmost of the Japanese home islands, after an unprecedented naval and aerial bombardment.

The second invasion on March

1, 1946 - code named "Operation Coronet" - would send at least 22 divisions against 1 million Japanese defenders on the main island of Honshu and the Tokyo Plain. It's goal: the unconditional surrender of Japan. With the exception of a part of the British Pacific Fleet, "Operation Downfall" was to be a strictly American operation. It called for using the entire Marine Corps, the entire Pacific Navy, elements of the 7th Army Air Force, the 8 Air Force (recently redeployed from Europe), 10th Air Force and the American Far Eastern Air Force. More than 1.5 million combat soldiers, with 3 million more in support or more than 40% of all servicemen still in uniform in 1945 - would be directly involved in the two amphibious assaults. Casualties were expected to be extremely heavy.

Admiral William Leahy estimated that there would be more than 250,000 Americans killed or wounded on Kyushu alone. General Charles Willoughby, chief of intelligence for General Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Commander of the Southwest Pacific, estimated American casualties would be one million men by the fall of 1946. Willoughby's own intelligence staff considered this to be a conservative estimate.

During the summer of 1945, America had little time to prepare for such an endeavor, but top military leaders were in almost unanimous agreement that an invasion was necessary.

While naval blockade and strategic bombing of Japan was considered to be useful, General MacArthur, for instance, did not believe a blockade would bring about an unconditional surrender. The advocates for invasion agreed that while a naval blockade

chokes, it does not kill and though strategic bombing might destroy cities, it leaves whole armies intact.

So on May 25, 1945, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, after extensive deliberation, issued to General MacArthur, Admiral Chester Nimitz, and Army Air Force General Henry Arnold, the top secret directive to proceed with the invasion of Kyushu. The target date was after the typhoon season.

President Truman approved the plans for the invasions July 24. Two days later, the United Nations issued the "Potsdam Proclamation", which called upon Japan to surrender unconditionally or face total destruction. Three days later, the Japanese governmental news agency broadcast to the world that Japan would ignore the proclamation and would refuse to surrender. During this same period it was learned — via monitoring Japanese radio broadcasts — that Japan had closed all schools and mobilized its school-children, was arming its civilian population and was fortifying caves and building underground defenses.

"Operation Olympic" called for a four pronged assault on Kyushu. Its purpose was to seize and control the southern one-third of that island and establish naval and air bases, to tighten the naval blockade of the home islands, to destroy units of the main Japanese army and to support the later invasion of the Tokyo Plain.

The preliminary invasion would begin October 27 when the 40th Infantry Division would land on a series of small islands west and southwest of Kyushu. At the same time, the 158th Regimental Combat Team would invade and occupy a small island 28 miles

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.

BLOOD CHIT
ACA COUNTRY STORE
P.O. BOX 7
MARY ESTHER, FL 32569

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



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

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

Invasion

Continued from page 10

south of Kyushu. On these islands, seaplane bases would be established and radar would be set up to provide advance air warning for the invasion fleet, to serve as fighter direction centers for the carrier-based aircraft and to provide an emergency anchorage for the invasion fleet, should things not go well on the day of the invasion. As the invasion grew imminent, the massive firepower of the Navy - the Third and Fifth Fleets — would approach Japan. The Third Fleet, under Admiral William “Bull” Halsey, with its big guns and naval aircraft, would provide strategic support for the operation against Honshu and Hokkaido. Halsey’s fleet would be composed of battleships, heavy cruisers, destroyers, dozens of support ships and three fast carrier task groups. From these carriers, hundreds of Navy fighters, dive bombers and torpedo planes would hit targets all over the island of Honshu. The 3,000 ship Fifth Fleet, under Admiral Raymond Spruance, would carry the invasion troops.

Several days before the invasion, the battleships, heavy cruisers and destroyers would pour thousands of tons of high explosives into the target areas. They would not cease the bombardment until after the land forces had been launched. During the early morning hours of November 1, the invasion would begin. Thousands of soldiers and Marines would pour ashore on beaches all along the eastern, southeastern, southern and western coasts of Kyushu. Waves of Helldivers, Dauntless dive bombers, Avengers, Corsairs, and Hellcats from 66 aircraft carriers would bomb, rocket and strafe enemy defenses, gun emplacements and troop concentrations along the beaches.

The Eastern Assault Force con-

sisting of the 25th, 33rd and 41st Infantry Divisions would land near Miyaski, at beaches called Austin, Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler, and Ford, and move inland to attempt to capture the city and its nearby airfield. The Southern Assault Force, consisting of the 1st Cavalry Division, the 43rd Division and Americal Division would land inside Ariake Bay at beaches labeled DeSoto, Dusenbergh, Essex, Ford, and Franklin and attempt to capture Shibushi and the city of Kanoya and its airfield.

On the western shore of Kyushu, at beaches Pontiac, Reo, Rolls Royce, Saxon, Star, Studebaker, Stutz, Winston and Zephyr, the V Amphibious Corps would land the 2nd, 3rd and 5th Marine Divisions, sending half of its force inland to Sendai and the other half to the port city of Kagoshima.

On November 4, the Reserve Force, consisting of the 81st and 98th Infantry Divisions and the 11th Airborne Division, after feigning an attack of the island of Shikoku, would be landed — if not needed elsewhere — near Kaimondake, near the southernmost tip of Kagoshima Bay, at the beaches designated Locomobile, Lincoln, LaSalle, Hupmobile, Moon, Mercedes, Maxwell, Overland, Oldsmobile, Packard and Plymouth.

“Olympic” was not just a plan for invasion, but for conquest and occupation as well. It was expected to take four months to achieve its objective, with the three fresh American divisions per month to be landed in support of that operation if needed.

If all went well with “Olympic”, “Coronet” would be launched March 1, 1946. “Coronet” would be twice the size

of “Olympic”, with as many as 28 divisions landing on Honshu.

All along the coast east of Tokyo, the American 1st Army would land the 5th, 7th, 27th, 44th, 86th, and 96th Infantry Divisions along with the 4th and 6th Marine Divisions.

At Sagami Bay, just south of Tokyo, the entire 8th and 10th Armies would strike north and east to clear the long western shore of Tokyo Bay and attempt to go as far as Yokohama. The assault troops landing south of Tokyo would be the 4th, 6th, 8th, 24th, 31st, 37th, 38th and 8th Infantry Divisions, along with the 13th and 20th Armored Divisions.

Following the initial assault, eight more divisions - the 2nd, 28th, 35th, 91st, 95th, 97th and 104th Infantry Divisions and the 11th Airborne Division — would be landed. If additional troops were needed, as expected, other divisions redeployed from Europe and undergoing training in the United States would be shipped to Japan in what was hoped to be the final push.

Captured Japanese documents and post war interrogations of Japanese military leaders disclose that information concerning the number of Japanese planes available for the defense of the home islands was dangerously in error.

During the sea battle at Okinawa alone, Japanese kamakaze aircraft sank 32 Allied ships and damaged more than 400 others. But during the summer of 1945, American top brass concluded that the Japanese had spent their air force since American bombers and fighters daily flew unmolested over Japan.

What the military leaders did not know was that by the end of July the Japanese had been saving all aircraft, fuel, and pilots in

reserve, and had been feverishly building new planes for the decisive battle for their homeland.

As part of “Ketsu-Go”, the name for the plan to defend Japan — the Japanese were building 20 suicide takeoff strips in southern Kyushu with underground hangars. They also had 35 camouflaged airfields and nine seaplane bases.

On the night before the expected invasion, 50 Japanese seaplane bombers, 100 former carrier aircraft and 50 land based army planes were to be launched in a suicide attack on the fleet.

The Japanese had 58 more airfields in Korea, western Honshu and Shikoku, which also were to be used for massive suicide attacks.

Allied intelligence had established that the Japanese had no more than 2,500 aircraft of which they guessed 300 would be deployed in suicide attacks.

In August 1945, however, unknown to Allied intelligence, the Japanese still had 5,651 army and 7,074 navy aircraft, for a total of 12,725 planes of all types. Every village had some type of aircraft manufacturing activity. Hidden in mines, railway tunnels, under viaducts and in basements of department stores, work was being done to construct new planes.

Additionally, the Japanese were building newer and more effective models of the Okka, a rocket-propelled bomb much like the German V-1, but flown by a suicide pilot.

When the invasion became imminent, “Ketsu-Go” called for a fourfold aerial plan of attack to destroy up to 800 Allied ships.

While Allied ships were approaching Japan, but still in the open seas, an initial force of 2,000

See **INVASION** pg. 20

McCoskrie/Threshold Foundation Update

Sewing Machines

ACA member Mike Flynt (Spec Ops School, and 21st SOS pilot) has put us onto a great find. His recently deceased uncle was a major repairman for industrial sewing machines in South Carolina. His shop was full of numerous makes and millions of repair parts and supplies for the textile industry of that area. It was destined for the salvage yard until Mike thought of our Honduras work. We will send all of the machines and parts to Honduras, some will be used in the Vo Tech type schools and the others will be bartered to a repair shop to keep the school machines running. Problems are; they are in SC, we ship from FL. They weigh well over 30,000 pounds and it will take at least 5 trips in the ol' Grove truck and trailer to get them. Two trailer tire blowouts so far. It is hot loading and unloading these in the summer heat and your local labor force is getting old. Jerry Gilbert, Dave Freeman, and Bill Vano can attest to that. So far 3 loads have been brought down. Thanks Mike and your family for the great machines and parts.

School Need Food

In our June newsletter we told you of the need for food for Honduras. We are doing what we can locally to obtain food they will eat, but we need your help. Here is a great idea that you can actively participate in. Coming to the reunion or live locally, bring dried beans or rice to the ACA for shipment south. We can purchase large bags of rice and beans from Sam's Club if you wish to just donate\$\$\$. We will not send food that is 'strange' to them.

A major setback to learning in

Honduras has been the lack of food for the children of the mountains. Hungry kids just can't learn. MTF has sent lots of excess food from local area donors, BUT we



School stove

need more. The next shipment will include corn, just yellow field corn that I hope can be used for flour or tortillas. This is only a test to see how it is accepted. If this works then we will send corn on every load. Corn is only about 5 cents/ pound.

What we need more also is Red Kidney Beans in bulk and cheaper than the store price. Store prices are about 75 cents/ pound. The farmers in New York get 24 cents at the barn. I will get some way up north when I visit relatives, but it is a long haul. Roasted Soy Beans are another great snack and would go well in the schools of Honduras. We need a supply near Ft Walton for these. They are a great source of fiber and protein as are Kidney Beans. IF ANY OF



Load arrives in Honduras

YOU KNOW OF A SOURCE CALL JOHN GROVE, 850-496-4007 or email

john.grove.ctr@hurlburt.af.mil.

Peanut butter is another product we wish we had. Our Ft. Walton scrounge crew of two just has not had time to look at the supplies of this in the Dothan area where they make it.

Reunion bound folks please bring bucks or food for this effort. Your ACA HQ is open 9 AM till noon and can accept the donations.

Mountain High School

By John Grove

The land and shack are purchased! The 1.5 acres are covered with coffee. Anyone have ideas about "Air Commando Coffee". The land will produce lots of pounds of beans and could provide



Mountain High School

an income to the village?

Mr. George Mealer and his group have started to rebuild the shack to make it into a school building. They have spent \$781 for building repair items including roofing, plywood, blocks, cement and the like. MTF will send building materials on the next shipment and I will send more construction funds. George said "The John Grove School is going great, we had a yard sale in support of this school"

An ACA member has provided lots of his excess construction items

for this effort. Nails, paint, roofing, and electrical items that were left over from construction jobs are now ready for shipment and will offset some costs to repair the shack. BUT WE NEED MORE 'STUFF', IF ANY OF THE LOCAL MEMBERS KNOW OF USED METAL ROOFING, OR TREATED WOOD LET US KNOW.

Christmas Wish

The Hurlburt Christmas program in Honduras has been approved and the MTF is once again involved in the planning and execution. The 6th SOS and 15th SOS have provided the POC's and the plan is coming together. We will provide lots of toys and goodies for the sleigh, as we have in the past 13 or more years. This mission is a great retired/ active joint program. Any local folks wishing to help please contact John Grove to volunteer.

Airman's Attic Activities

We continue our hands on participation at the Eglin Airmen's Attic helping area airmen in time of need. The doors are open to any military, enlisted or officer, that are in need. Our operation depends entirely on donations, so please keep us in mind. We always need appliances, kitchen ware, bedding, furniture and the like. If Bob White, the manager at Eglin, can't use it he donates the leftovers to the MTF for shipment.



BEFORE THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN...

Gaylord Hall was among instructors who taught the first class of black mechanics.



Photo by DEBI HAUSSERMANN/Daily News

Gaylord Hall, ACA life member, talks about his time spent at Chanute Air Base IL in late 1941, where he taught the first class of blacks who later became known collectively as the Tuskegee airmen.

Fort Walton Beach - In the storied history of the Army Air Force's black airmen during World War II, little attention is paid to the other bases where they trained.

The troops are collectively known as the Tuskegee airmen because many of them learned the ropes at the air field in Alabama.

The last of the group's pilots graduated nearly 60 years ago.

Before mechanics trained at Tuskegee Army AirField, they went to ground school at Chanute Air Base in Rantoul, IL.

Fort Walton Beach's Gaylord Hall was among the white instructors who taught the first class of black airmen in late 1941.

He saw no difference between black and white in terms of talent.

"They were like all the rest," he said. "They were willing to learn."

What he did notice was that the black airmen from cities tended to know less about engines than those from the country.

"You had to explain to them what a spark plug was before you could go further," the retired senior master sergeant said. He figured that's because the kids had never driven or maintained automobiles, let alone worked on farm machinery.

His interaction with the black

troops was limited to the classroom, but their presence at Chanute was known.

They came with marching chants that Hall described as having an "up-beat cadence."

They were respectful and they were segregated. It didn't matter that they were in the Midwest.

Though some others at the base and nearby towns had trouble with the idea of blacks being in the military or just among them, Hall didn't.

"It didn't bother me because I didn't have the common prejudices of the time" he said.

Skin color didn't matter to Hall. What mattered was beating Germany and Japan.

Resistance in the military to tapping black Americans for the global fight was a strategic mistake.

"I think they wasted a lot of manpower until (the program) happened," said Hall.

Even then the number of black troops in America's World War II air force was small. For example, from 1942 to through 1946 Tuskegee air field produced only 994 pilots, according to Tuskegee University.

Hall said the black airmen at Chanute were patriotic despite their treatment at home.

"I think they wanted to be there" he continued.

The 84 year old Hall who fought in the China-Burma-India theater after being a ground school instructor, never served in the field with black troops during World War II. But he didn't stop thinking about them.

"I always wondered what happened to some of those guys," he said.

By: Mladen Rudman
mladenr@nwfdailynews.com
Courtesy of Northwest Florida Daily News

News from Commando in Afghanistan

Karen Kramer, our Commando in Afghanistan, is just about to finish her tour with the Civil Military Affairs & Assessment Combined Forces Command. She reports that the tour was great and the needs of the country are greater. She reports back to Ft Bragg to out brief then down to Tyndall AFB to continue her work as the Military Health Officer. She reports on her last week of work. "I delivered 2000 more blankets to the Minister of Public Health for distribution to the needy. So far over 6000 have been delivered.

The past week I planned and organized a trip to a very remote health clinic in the mountains east of Kabul about 3 ½ hours away. We delivered three vehicle loads of much needed medical supplies to this clinic which supports about 10,000 Afghans from the surrounding mountains. Before our support they had no health care whatsoever and if they had an emergency they would have to travel about 2 hours to the closest town. This was an amazing adventure to the most remote place I have been in my life. I believe I will return to this country either as

a military member or with an NGO (Non Governmental Org).

I have A+ blood, Afghanistan positive, and the outlook for this country is looking good. More help is needed with their health care system and it sure would be great if the MTF could find a way to help" The MTF sure would like to help keep this country on the road to its form of democracy. All we need is some free transport to get the much needed items to the Minister of Health or NGO's in country. We will discuss this with Karen on her return to the Gulf Coast.







Commando Jake



Another Nowak unable to handle booze!

ACA 2006 REUNION

Salutes the

16th Special Operations Wing

America's AIR COMMANDOS

Buy Your Tickets Early!

The 2006 banquet will feature table service with choice of entrees: prime rib or chicken. Please mark your ticket order with your choice. The banquet facility has a strict seating policy enforced by the base fire marshal. The maximum number of guest seats is 320...no squeeze-in seats for last minute space-A hopefuls. Please buy your tickets early. An accurate, early head count for planning purposes is very helpful. Thanks. The good news is that there is plenty of space for fish fry and BBQ attendance, so bring a friend and set a spell. The agenda has lots of free time built into the schedule. Access to the base is still tightly controlled. Don't forget your ID card. If you are driving a rental car, you will be required to park at the front gate and get a base pass for the vehicle. For those without an ID card who wish to enter the base, everyone must have a picture ID and a sponsoring party who will act as their escort. At Hurlburt, when you enter the gate area, the guard will check your ID. For those visiting Hurlburt, an event pass is available for vehicles without a sticker. Everyone must have a picture ID. Check at the registration desk about the vehicle pass for use on Sunday if needed.

We encourage all widows to attend. Also, for ladies interested there will a Saturday social at Mr. "T's" Restaurant at the FWB golf course. Please let us know if you are interested in this events. Arrangements will be made if we have sufficient response.

Our President, Fleix Sambogna will be Master of Ceremonies. Howie "Commando Clean" has permission to be AWOL.

Directions to The ACA 2006 Reunion

Refer to the approach plate on the right side. From the Hurlburt Field front gate intersection on Air Commando Boulevard (Hwy 98), head due east through Mary Esther for 4.5 miles. Upon entering the city limits of Fort Walton Beach, the speed limit drops to 35MPH and you will need to be in the right hand lane as you are on final approach to the hotel complex. You will pass Liza Jackson Park on your right. This is your final approach fix. Transition to visual and sight the Waffle House at your one o'clock. Sight the Quality Inn at your 2:30. Cross check gear down and locked as you pass the Red Lobster at your three o'clock. You are cleared for landing at the hotel for which your reservation was granted.

Schedule of events - October 5-8, 2006

Thursday, October 5

- 0700 - Biloxi Trip (\$20) contingent on enough people
- 1700-2100 - Buffet "The First Nighters" - Mr "T"s, pay as you go
- 1600-2000 - Early registration and check-in

Friday, October 6

- 0830 - Golf Tournament registration at Fort Walton Beach Golf Club
- 1000 - Golf Tournament shotgun start
- 1000-1600 - Registration at the Quality Inn in FWB
- 1200-??? - Hospitality Suite open at Quality Inn
- 1430 - Golf awards ceremony in clubhouse
- 1600-??? - Fish Fry at the Quality Inn in FWB

Saturday, October 7

- 0900-1030 - Annual Business Meeting (Buses will be provided to/from Quality Inn. Buses will depart at 0800 to 0830 in front of Quality Inn)
- 1030-1400 - Event to be scheduled
- 1100 - Ladies Social, Mr. "T"s Two Trees Restaurant, FWB Golf Course
- 1800-1900 - Hurlburt Soundside Club - Social hour
- 1900-2130 - Hurlburt Soundside Club - ACA Banquet
 - Hall of Fame Presentation Ceremony
 - Featured Speaker - Col Norman J. Brozenick
 - Awards presentations

Sunday, October 8

- 1200-1300 - Memorial Service at Hurlburt Field Air Park
- 1300-1630 - BBQ at the Quality Inn in FWB
- 1430-1530 - Commando Auction in Hospitality Suite
- 1630 - Reunion ends



Hurlburt Field lies 6 miles west of Brooks Bridge and downtown Fort Walton Beach (shown above). The Quality Inn is the old HoJo's motel.

2006 Reunion Ticket Order Form

Register early! Don't pay more at the door!

	Ticket Price	Number of Tickets	Total Cost
Reunion Package (Includes Fish Fry, Banquet, and BBQ.)	\$60.00	_____	_____
Friday Golf Tournament	\$50.00	_____	_____
Friday Fish Fry ONLY	\$15.00	_____	_____
Saturday Banquet ONLY	\$35.00	_____	_____
Sunday BBQ ONLY	\$15.00	_____	_____
ACA Widow Package*	N/C	_____	\$0

*Widows of ACA members may attend all the above functions of the reunion at no charge. Except for golf.

Banquet Meal Selection: ☐ Prime Rib ☐ Chicken

Special Banquet Needs Request: Please indicate if you need assistance with:

- ☐ Wheelchair
- ☐ Seating near exit across from restrooms
- ☐ Early Seating
- ☐ Special Dietary Requirements (Please call us)

Please Note: Banquet seating is strictly limited to 320 people by the Base Fire Marshal.

Indicate status: ☐ ACA Member ☐ ACA Widow ☐ Separate Guest Registration

For separate guest, please list guest name on separate piece of paper and attach to this form.

The above order is for: ☐ Myself ☐ My Spouse ☐ ___ (# of) Guest

Please list host name on separate piece of paper and attach to this form.

For Golfers: My handicap is _____

Name _____ Spouses Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ ACA # _____ Email _____

I will be staying at _____

Signature _____

Please Note: The Fish Fry and BBQ will be held at the Quality Inn (old Howard Johnsons) complex on Miracle Strip Parkway in Fort Walton Beach. Saturday's Banquet will be held at the Hurlburt Soundside Club at Hurlburt Field. The Fish Fry will start at 4:00 pm on Friday. The BBQ will start approximately 1:00 pm on Sunday

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY

The Quality Inn serves as headquarters for Reunion 2006. The Rodeway Inn is the overflow hotel. Room rates are \$73.00 for both hotels, first come, first served. Call 850-275-0300 to make your reservation. We have 85 rooms reserved until September 6, after that, no guarantees, so make your reservation early!

SIGN UP FOR REUNION 2006 EVENTS

Please indicate on this form if you plan to attend the following events. (Indicate number of people.)

☐ YES!

I/WE WISH TO ATTEND THE LADIES LUNCHEON AT THE TWO TREES RESTAURANT ON SATURDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2006. Cost: \$10.00 with a pay-as-you-go bar.

PRINT NAME(S) ABOVE

of People

☐ YES!

I/WE WISH TO MAKE THE ONE DAY EXCURSION TRIP TO A BILOXI CASINO ON THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2006. Cost: \$20.00 - Traveling by Charter Bus

PRINT NAME(S) ABOVE

of People

☐ YES!

I/WE WISH TO ATTEND THE THURSDAY EVENING BUFFET AT THE TWO TREES RESTAURANT (on the Veranda) ON THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2006. Cost: \$10.00 with a pay-as-you-go bar.

PRINT NAME(S) ABOVE

of People

RETURN TO: ACA REUNION
ATTN: DICK GERON
PO BOX 7
MARY ESTHER, FL 32569-0007

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I wanted to let you know that my father Col Concy Phimphavong, former wing commander of the 3rd tactical fighter squadron of the Royal Lao Air Force has passed away. I know that some of you probably fought along side my father. He was a great man and will sadly be missed. He passed away on Wednesday, July 26th 11:35a.m. He was diagnosed with lung cancer back in October. He is survived by his wife and 5 children. The funeral will be on Saturday Aug 5th at Green Acres Cemetery in Scottsdale AZ at 12 noon. For more info please call 480-464-1660. Please remember him in your prayers.

Sincerely,
Pete Phimphavong
2301 E University Dr
Apartment #D335
Mesa AZ 85213-8338



Country Store Items Available

ZAP Patch.....	\$3.00
Original Air Commando Gp Patch	\$3.00
ACA Cloth Patch	\$3.00
POW/MIA Patches	\$3.50
ACA "AIR COMMANDO" Cloth Tab.....	\$3.00
Project 404 Coin	\$10.00
ACA Challenge Coins (Bronze)	\$5.00
50th Commemorative Coin (Bronze).....	\$5.00
Pens with "60 years Air Commando"	\$1.00
ACA Bumper Sticker	\$2.00
"AIR COMMANDO" 8" decal car window display	\$3.00
NEW ACA License Plates, white or blue	\$12.00
ACA License Plates, white.....	\$10.00
Printed Plastic License Plate Holders	\$4.00
ACA Decal (4"x 5")	2/\$1.00
POW/MIA Decals	\$2.00
ACA Lapel Pin (Large & Small)	\$4.00
ACA Ball Cap (navy, royal & lt blue, black ,white, gray, denim, camo, & red) ACA logo or lettering	\$10.00
Air Commando Bush Hat (M, L, XL).....	\$20.00
ACA T-Shirt (white only) (S, M, L,XL)	\$10.00
ACA T-Shirt (white only) (XXL)	\$12.00
ACA Golf Shirt (misc colors, white, red, royal blue, waffle weave, navy and black with lettering).....	\$15.00
Denim long sleeve shirts (Ladies M, L, XL Men M, L, XL, & XXL).....	\$20.00
Jackets - (M to XXL- Tan, Navy, Black, Royal Blue)	\$35.00
**50th Poster (full color) (20"x 24").....	\$1.00
POW/MIA Flags	\$12.00
Golf Towel (24"x16" with ACA Logo)	\$8.00
Beer Mugs with logo or lettering "60 years Air Commando"	\$10.00

ORDER FORM

ACA, Post Office Box 7, Mary Esther, FL 32569-0007

Qty	Color	Item	Size	Unit Price

Sub Total _____
20% Shipping & Handling _____
Grand Total _____

Please understand that we do not accept credit cards or cash through the mail.

Brig Gen Ben King Dedication Ceremony

Good Afternoon All,

My name is Capt Louis Juliano and I am the point of contact for the memorial effort for Brig Gen Ben King. We have pinpointed a date and time that seems to work

great for all. We are targeting 6 Oct 06 at 0900 hours.

Early next week, our protocol folks and I plan to take a "field trip" over to the auditorium to gather further information. As

soon as more info becomes available, I will certainly pass it along to everyone. I understand the auditorium to be used primarily for Commander's Calls and ceremonies of many sorts. I also understand it to be a very charming, classy facility.

One thing that I do ask for from the ACA folks is an estimate of how many of your folks will be in attendance at the ceremony itself. This information is key in helping us determine a proper venue for the ceremonial portion of the dedi-

cation. I appreciate any help I can get from you there. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call either me or Lt Justin LaComb. Our contact information is below. Thanks and I look forward to further communications.

Respectfully,
LOUIS C. JULIANO,
Capt, USAF
Executive Officer, 96 ABW
COM: 850-882-9600
FAX: 850-882-7823
louis.juliano@eglin.af.mil

Jim Phillis Remembers the 4400 Combat Crew

I was killing some time looking around the net to affirm what I saw on the history channel about my old outfit still being active. I happened onto the Air Commando Association and saw an article on the "Jungle Jim" outfit. I don't remember knowing of that nick name, I remembered being in the 4400 combat crew training squadron, which was later renamed the 1st air commandos. I remember thinking when I heard of the new name I was amused, I was 5'10" and weighed about 140 lbs and thought who would believe me if I told them I was an Air Commando.

I also read of the death of Col King. I met him and talked to him several times while I served under him. I liked and respected him as few men I have ever met.

I was an airman 2nd class when we went to Vietnam the first time and was surprised to find my name listed on your article. I remember going to Bien Hoa, living in tents for a while. at first I remember our shower was a canvas wall with some pallets spread out to stand on and a pipe suspended on a frames with some holes drilled in it and being warned to shake our boot out before we put them on in the morning because of what might have crawled into them in the night.

between then and Oct. 1963 when I was discharged. I spent most of the time flying in the back seat of T28s and the photo compartments of an RB26, I also remember a few flights in a U10 and numerous hours flying the coast sitting in the rear doorway of a C47. In all I had 125 combat support missions when I left. I was also in the first group into Da Nang. I remember we went there in the rainy season and spent the first night sleeping on the concrete floor of the main hangar in a sleeping bag and waking up laying in a soaked sleeping bag laying in a half inch of water.

Since then I have been an aerial photographer for the State of Illinois and the dept of transportation. I did mapping photography on the interstate system in Illinois for about 20 years and then headed their Photo Lab until I retired a few years ago. I wondered many times if my old outfit was still in existence and wondered if Hurlburt was still in use or if it was one of the bases that had been abandoned.

If any of the guys in the old bunch remember or want to get in touch with me I can be reached by Mail at

Jim Phillis
1219 N. 4th St, Pawnee, IL
62558

Or email me at:
j.phillis@insightbb.com

I spent 3 TDYs in Viet Nam

Hurlburt Quarterly Awards Ceremony

By Hap Lutz

Representing our sponsorship, I had the high honor of recently attending the Hurlburt Quarterly Awards Ceremony at the Hurlburt Soundside All Ranks Club.

It is one of the many fitting ways our organization is involved in nurturing and furturing the life of the organization. And...one of the most enjoyable.

The event started with the Base Chaplain presenting the Invocation. But before doing so, he asked that each of us look to the person at the right and left of you and say, "I really like you!" What an intro! To my right stood recently retired Colonel Dennis Barnett and to my left stood former Command Chief Carl Roberts, both ACA members, and I really do like them! This was followed by a hearty breakfast and chit chat.

Then came the main event; the announcement of the nominees and selectees in the eight categories. The presentors were 16th SOW Commander Norman Brozenick and 16th Command Chief Todd Small. Also ACA members. The winners were as

follows:

AIRMAN
A1C ANTHONY D NORTH

HONOR GUARD
SENIOR AMN JAMIE L BARY

NCO
TSgt LINWOOD R STULL

SNCO
MSgt RONALD L THOMAS

CGO
Capt DANZEL W ALBERTSEN

GS 1-8
CHERRI A DUVAL

GS 9-12
AMY L OLIVER

WG/WL/WS
MARK EGER

As a remembrance to this auspicious occasion our association presents the winners with a congratulatory letter, newsletter, 50th Anniversary challenge coin, and a Korean War Blood Chit (Escape Flag.)

Invasion

Continued from page 11

army and navy fighters were to fight to the death to control the skies over Kyushu. A second force of 330 navy combat pilots were to attack the main body of the task force to keep it from using its fire support and air cover to protect the troop carrying transports. While these two forces were engaged, a third force of 825 suicide planes was to hit the American transports.

As the invasion convoys approached their anchorages, another 2,000 suicide planes were to be launched in waves of 200 to 300, to be used in hour by hour attacks.

By mid-morning of the first day of the invasion, most of the American land-based aircraft would be forced to return to their bases, leaving the defense against the suicide planes to the carrier pilots and the shipboard gunners.

Carrier pilots crippled by fatigue would have to land time and time again to rearm and refuel. Guns would malfunction from the heat of continuous firing and ammunition would become scarce. Gun crews would be exhausted by nightfall, but still the waves of kamikaze would continue. With the fleet hovering off the beaches, all remaining Japanese aircraft would be committed to nonstop suicide attacks, which the Japanese hoped could be sustained for 10 days. The Japanese planned to coordinate their air strikes with

attacks from the 40 remaining submarines from the Imperial Navy — some armed with Long Lance torpedoes with a range of 20 miles — when the invasion fleet was 180 miles off Kyushu.

The Imperial Navy had 23 destroyers and two cruisers which were operational. These ships were to be used to counterattack the American invasion. A number of the destroyers were to be beached at the last minute to be used as anti-invasion gun platforms.

Once offshore, the invasion fleet would be forced to defend not only against the attacks from the air, but would also be confronted with suicide attacks from sea. Japan had established a suicide naval attack unit of midget submarines, human torpedoes and exploding motorboats.

The goal of the Japanese was to shatter the invasion before the landing. The Japanese were convinced the Americans would back off or become so demoralized that they would then accept a less-than-unconditional surrender and a more honorable and face-saving end for the Japanese.

But as horrible as the battle of Japan would be off the beaches, it would be on Japanese soil that the American forces would face the most rugged and fanatical defense encountered during the war.

Throughout the island-hopping

Pacific campaign, Allied troops had always out numbered the Japanese by 2 to 1 and sometimes 3 to 1. In Japan it would be different. By virtue of a combination of cunning, guesswork, and brilliant military reasoning, a number of Japan's top military leaders were able to deduce, not only when, but where, the United States would land its first invasion forces.

Facing the 14 American divisions landing at Kyushu would be 14 Japanese divisions, 7 independent mixed brigades, 3 tank brigades and thousands of naval troops. On Kyushu the odds would be 3 to 2 in favor of the Japanese, with 790,000 enemy defenders against 550,000 Americans. This time the bulk of the Japanese defenders would not be the poorly trained and ill-equipped labor battalions that the Americans had faced in the earlier campaigns.

The Japanese defenders would be the hard core of the home army. These troops were well-fed and well equipped. They were familiar with the terrain, had stockpiles of arms and ammunition, and had developed an effective system of transportation and supply almost invisible from the air. Many of these Japanese troops were the elite of the army, and they were swollen with a fanatical fighting spirit.

Japan's network of beach defenses consisted of offshore mines, thousands of suicide scuba divers attacking landing craft, and mines planted on the beaches. Coming ashore, the American Eastern amphibious assault forces at Miyazaki would face three Japanese divisions, and two others poised for counterattack. Awaiting the Southeastern attack force at Ariake Bay was an entire division and at least one mixed infantry

brigade.

On the western shores of Kyushu, the Marines would face the most brutal opposition. Along the invasion beaches would be the three Japanese divisions, a tank brigade, a mixed infantry brigade and an artillery command. Components of two divisions would also be poised to launch counterattacks.

If not needed to reinforce the primary landing beaches, the American Reserve Force would be landed at the base of Kagoshima Bay November 4, where they would be confronted by two mixed infantry brigades, parts of two infantry divisions and thousands of naval troops.

All along the invasion beaches, American troops would face coastal batteries, anti-landing obstacles and a network of heavily fortified pillboxes, bunkers, and underground fortresses. As Americans waded ashore, they would face intense artillery and mortar fire as they worked their way through concrete rubble and barbed-wire entanglements arranged to funnel them into the muzzles of these Japanese guns.

On the beaches and beyond would be hundreds of Japanese machine gun positions, beach mines, booby traps, trip-wire mines and sniper units. Suicide units concealed in "spider holes" would engage the troops as they passed nearby. In the heat of battle, Japanese infiltration units would be sent to reap havoc in the American lines by cutting phone and communication lines. Some of the Japanese troops would be in American uniform, English-speaking Japanese officers were assigned to break in on American radio traffic to call off artillery

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.

Invasion

Continued from page 20

fire, to order retreats and to further confuse troops. Other infiltration with demolition charges strapped on their chests or backs would attempt to blow up American tanks, artillery pieces and ammunition stores as they were unloaded ashore.

Beyond the beaches were large artillery pieces situated to bring down a curtain of fire on the beach. Some of these large guns were mounted on railroad tracks running in and out of caves protected by concrete and steel.

The battle for Japan would be won by what Simon Bolivar Buckner, a lieutenant general in the Confederate army during the Civil War, had called "Prairie Dog Warfare." This type of fighting was almost unknown to the ground troops in Europe and the Mediterranean. It was peculiar only to the soldiers and Marines who fought the Japanese on islands all over the Pacific — at Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

"Prairie Dog Warfare" was a battle for yards, feet and sometimes inches. It was brutal, deadly and dangerous form of combat aimed at an underground, heavily fortified, non-retreating enemy.

In the mountains behind the Japanese beaches were underground networks of caves, bunkers, command posts and hospitals connected by miles of tunnels with dozens of entrances and exits. Some of these complexes could hold up to 1,000 troops.

In addition to the use of poison gas and bacteriological warfare (which the Japanese had experimented with), Japan mobilized its citizenry.

Had "Olympic" come about, the Japanese civilian population, inflamed by a national slogan -

"One Hundred Million Will Die for the Emperor and Nation" - were prepared to fight to the death. Twenty Eight Million Japanese had become a part of the National Volunteer Combat Force. They were armed with ancient rifles, lunge mines, satchel charges, Molotov cocktails and one-shot black powder mortars. Others were armed with swords, long bows, axes and bamboo spears. The civilian units were to be used in night time attacks, hit and run maneuvers, delaying actions and massive suicide charges at the weaker American positions.

At the early stage of the invasion, 1,000 Japanese and American soldiers would be dying every hour.

The invasion of Japan never became a reality because on August 6, 1945, an atomic bomb was exploded over Hiroshima. Three days later, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Within days the war with Japan was at a close.

Had these bombs not been dropped and had the invasion been launched as scheduled, combat casualties in Japan would have been at a minimum of the tens of thousands. Every foot of Japanese soil would have been paid for by Japanese and American lives.

One can only guess at how many civilians would have committed suicide in their homes or in futile mass military attacks.

In retrospect, the 1 million American men who were to be the casualties of the invasion, were instead lucky enough to survive the war.

Intelligence studies and military estimates made 50 years ago, and not latter-day speculation, clearly indicate that the battle for Japan might well have resulted in

the biggest blood-bath in the history of modern warfare.

Far worse would be what might have happened to Japan as a nation and as a culture. When the invasion came, it would have come after several months of fire bombing all of the remaining Japanese cities. The cost in human life that resulted from the two atomic blasts would be small in comparison to the total number of Japanese lives that would have been lost by this aerial devastation.

With American forces locked in combat in the south of Japan, little could have prevented the Soviet Union from marching into the northern half of the Japanese home islands. Japan today could be divided much like Korea and Germany.

The world was spared the cost of "Operation Downfall", however, because Japan formally surrendered to the United Nations September 2, 1945, and World War II was over.

The aircraft carriers, cruisers and transport ships scheduled to carry the invasion troops to Japan, ferried home American troops in a gigantic operation called "Magic Carpet".

In the fall of 1945, in the aftermath of the war, few people con-

cerned themselves with the invasion plans. Following the surrender, the classified documents, maps, diagrams and appendices for "Operation Downfall" were packed away in boxes and eventually stored at the National Archives. These plans that called for the invasion of Japan paint a vivid description of what might have been one of the most horrible campaigns in the history of man. The fact that the story of the invasion of Japan is locked up in the National Archives and is not told in our history books is something for which all Americans can be thankful.

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Bless the Children, Inc.

Befriending Aboandoned and Poor Chilren around the World
411 Cleveland St. Box 195, Clearwater, FL 33755 • 727-631-0088
blessthechildren@earthlink.net

May 30, 2006
McCroskie Threshold Foundation
c/o Mr. John Grove
1 Lakeside Court, NE
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

DEAR McCROSKIE FOUNDATION,

Thank you for all you've done to contribute to the success of Bless the Children.

Our programs are successful because of each individual person's dedication to loving and helping children through the efforts of a group. Over the last 15 years it has surely proven, time and again, that a team of good-willed people can effect lasting change.

Although there may be times when any of us may feel that what we are doing is little compared with what is needed by the world's children, let us never forget the words of Mother Teresa, "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

So let's all carry on and continue this beautiful family of good people who know change is possible and who are taking true action in that direction. The children of the world are depending on us all, our actions, our love, our care.

Just think, every day, through our combined efforts, we are bringing smiles to the children who are growing up to be the future.

All our love and appreciation,

Karen S. Hubbard
Executive Director/Founder

Rebecca S. Smith
Deputy Director

MR. SAMBOGNA,

Thank you very much for the Air Commando Coin and the Korean Blood Chit. What an honor it is to receive these rare, historical items. Be assured they will be displayed prominently in my office at Hurlburt. It was an honor and surprise to win Civilian of the Quarter and I appreciate your support.

Amy Oliver
726 Persimmon Way
Niceville, FL 32578

INFORMATION ON PATCHES

Below are some of the copies for ACA archives of patches now in my possession.

I have 100 of each. I had two of them. John Knowlton sent me the C-123 patches and the 605th Air Commando Squadron. I still have 2 patches ©-123) one with "Jungle Jim", and one with just "Goon", both yellow.

The newsletter sure is good to receive. Keeps us up to date on all of the old gourds. E-mailing back and forth John, Joe and I realized it is 45 years now since Fort Walton Beach, Field 9. Too many are

moving to the big landing in the sky.

I am willing to work on any patches that individuals are looking for. One glitch is we have to order 100. It takes less than 14 days from time of order until received. I am also willing to foot the initial cost to get the patches.

My wife and I hope to get to Hurlburt this October.

Richard A. Henderson
843 Crance Avenue
Hastings NE 68901-4259



This Special Ops Patch is free with any ACA Country Store Order.

Lost Over Laos: Bat Masterson A-1 Pilot KIA 1968

The Aug 2006 Smithsonian Magazine has an outstanding article on LtCol Michael “Bat” Masterson KIA in an A-1 Skyraider in Laos 13 Oct 1968 by Robert M. Poole. We have obtained permission to print it in the ACA Newsletter and if there is space it will be in this issue. His widow lives near me in Upland, Ca and she would like to hear from Bat’s old friends.

Her email is “Fran Masterson” f_masterson@hotmail.com. She has been a real fighter for all these years to get the Government to locate his remains and to answer some of her questions.

www.smithsonianmagazine.com/issues/2006/august/laos.php

Scientists and soldiers combine forensics and archaeology to search for pilot Bat Masterson, one of 88,000 Americans missing in action from recent wars.

By Robert M. Poole

Night closed over Laos, where clouds were piling up over the rugged mountain jungle. An American pilot, on a mission to disrupt enemy traffic bound for North Vietnam, was flying into trouble. The artificial horizon on his A-1 Skyraider, a single-prop workhorse of World War II vintage, had suddenly stopped functioning, making it impossible for him to gauge his position among the clouds.

Dizzy and disoriented, Air Force Capt. Michael J. “Bat” Masterson radioed to a companion flying nearby that he was ejecting. “I’m losing it and getting out,” Masterson barked

Wingman, Air Force Maj. Peter W. Brown, saw an orange fireball light up the jungle. Masterson’s plane was down. Brown noted the time and date—6:55 p.m., October 13, 1968. But



Capt. Michael “Bat” Masterson with Skyraider A-1H at Udorn RTAFB (Courtesy Masterson Family)

where was Masterson?

Brown circled the crash site for more than two hours, searching for some sign of life. Other aircraft took over the search at first light, scanning the site for hints of movement. There were none, just the fuselage of a Skyraider drilled into the steep mountainside, a pair of broken wings smoldering nearby, but no Bat Masterson. Had he parachuted to safety?

Those questions would remain unanswered for almost 40 years—through clandestine night raids on Laos, through days of fighting along the border with Vietnam, through the sanguinary years that finally ended the war in April 1975. Masterson—nicknamed for the frontier gambler and deputy marshal who shared his surname—became one of the missing souls, lost between the world of the living and the dead.

Meanwhile, back at home, Masterson’s family held out the hope that he was still alive. Two daughters, ages 11 and 6 when their father disappeared, eventually acquired MIA bracelets engraved with his name, which they pledged to wear until his return.

After Fran got word of Masterson’s crash, she flew to Southeast Asia to search for her husband while the war was still raging. After a few weeks, she returned to Upland, California, and continued to wait.

Years passed. Masterson was promoted, in absentia, to lieutenant colonel. Hope flared when his name appeared, along with 20 others, on a list of prisoners captured in Laos and transferred to Vietnam. But the others on that list, from a 1972 report by the Defense Intelligence Agency, came home alive; Masterson, who had been included erroneously, remained at large. A decade after the 1968 crash, his status was routinely changed to missing in action, presumed dead. While many grass-roots activists believe that former enemies may still hold Americans captive, a lengthy investigation by Senators John Kerry, John McCain and others found no evidence of any POWs remaining in the region. Their 1993 report was unanimously approved by a Senate select committee.

Fran Masterson never remarried. Frustrated by a lack of progress, she became a founding member of the National League of Families, an activist group that lobbies on behalf of missing service members, who are more numerous than one might imagine. The United States counts more than 88,000 Americans as missing from its recent wars—some 78,000 from World War II; 8,100 from the Korean War; 1,805 from the Vietnam War; 126 from the cold war; one from the Gulf War of 1991; and one from the current Iraq war. About half are considered “unrecoverable,” lost at sea or sequestered in sunken vessels. But another 45,000 are thought to

be recoverable, and in the years since Vietnam, military investigators, working with civilian scientists from the world’s largest forensic anthropology laboratory at Hickam Air Force Base next to Honolulu, have made an arduous effort to whittle down the roster of the missing.

A number of factors have contributed to the recent surge in recovery and identification operations. Prodding from people like Fran Masterson and other family members has created a strong political constituency for POW and MIA work, boosting the federal budget and personnel for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), the military unit charged with finding missing warriors.

It took some persistence to find Bat Masterson’s crash site. It was 1993 before the first investigators were admitted to northern Laos to search for Masterson, with follow-up missions in August 2004, October 2004 and July 2005. Each foray into the mountains yielded a few scraps of new evidence—a 1967 quarter from the site, which fit the time frame of Masterson’s disappearance; two 20-millimeter cannons consistent with the A-1 Skyraider’s armament; parts from the plane’s parachute assembly; many fragments of the blue glass used exclusively in the Skyraider’s canopy; and a few shards of bone thought to be human. The bone was in such small pieces and so badly burned, however, that it contained little organic material, which made it an unlikely source of DNA to link Masterson and the wreck.

But the crash site—prosaically logged in military records as Case No. 1303—was almost certainly Masterson’s: it fit the coordinates

See **MASTERSON** pg. 24

Masterson

Continued from page 11

noted by his comrades in 1968, and the aircraft debris made it clear that the downed plane was a Skyraider, the only one of its kind lost in this part of Laos. Although the place had been thoroughly scavenged prior to our arrival by villagers looking for scrap metal and other useful bits of hardware, members of the recovery team were optimistic that a month's excavation might finally solve the mystery of Masterson's fate.

In most criminal investigations, a case is considered "cold" if it remains unsolved for more than two weeks. The investigative trail in most of the JPAC cases, by contrast, has been cold for 20, 30 or 40 years, with witnesses dying, landscapes shifting and evidence degraded by time and weather, as at Site 1303. "It's a puzzle with 10,000 pieces scattered around us," said Mannon, gazing down at workers screening soil and hoisting buckets of dirt up the mountainside. "We've got to figure out how all the pieces fit together."

After a few days of digging, those pieces began to pile up, mak-

ing it look as if Bat Masterson had not bailed out after all, but had perished on the hillside in 1968.

By early November, Goodman had examined and bagged several hundred pieces of bone, which she labeled as "possible osseous remains," for future scrutiny by JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii. Since there was no village at Site 1303, no cemetery there and no history of human occupation, it was reasonable to suppose that the remains belonged to Bat Masterson.

Other evidence pointed toward that same conclusion. Three more coins—nickels dating from 1963, 1964 and 1965—were recovered, as were more than 30 unfired rounds from a .38-caliber weapon, most likely the sidearm Masterson carried on flying missions.

In the days ahead, other artifacts would emerge to round out the picture—the fragmentary remains of a parachute still folded neatly into a corner of its pack, a harness buckle, several zippers from a flight suit, a captain's rusty insignia pin and a metal insole

from a pilot's boot. The insole was surprisingly small—size seven or so—but it was a likely match for Bat Masterson, who stood 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighed 137 pounds. "I knew what it was as soon as I saw it," said Navy Cdr. Joanne Petrelli, who uncovered the insole while swinging a pickax in the pit one afternoon. "It was the shape of a human foot. It was about the size of my husband's foot. He's small, too—and he's a marine."

While strongly suggestive, such evidence was hardly conclusive. That changed on the day that Army Sgt. Christophe Paul, 33, a combat photographer attached to JPAC, discovered a clay-caked sliver of metal in his screening tray, rubbed off the mud and reached for his radio.

"Hey, Zib," he said. "What is the name of the guy you are looking for?"

"Michael John Masterson," she answered.

"I think I have his ID tag here." Despite the chaos of the wreckage, the extensive scavenging and the acidic soil eating away at bone and steel for nearly four decades, the team had culled more than enough evidence to close Site 1303. What little remained of Bat Masterson was carefully labeled and placed in 26 small plastic bags, each keyed to the place and date of its discovery. Other artifacts, consisting of personal effects and material evidence, filled another 75 bags. The entire yield fit neatly into a black Pelican briefcase, which Goodman secured with two brass padlocks and kept in her possession for the long journey home.

Goodman and the other anthropologists signed over their evidence to the laboratory, which triggered the meticulous review process. While she wrote her exca-

vation report, the rest of the case was analyzed by other lab specialists and finally sent for outside review.

"We don't want any doubts," said Holland. "Our goal is to make certain that there is never another unknown soldier."

Since neither teeth nor DNA was available in Masterson's case, it was finally closed, February 7, 2006, on the basis of circumstantial evidence. Later that month, Air Force officers presented the findings, along with Masterson's dog tags, a few coins, other effects and a copy of the case file, to his wife. Her reaction was surprising. "I told them I didn't agree with any of it," she said. "It's all based on circumstantial evidence. I still don't know that he is dead or alive. He could be in a POW camp." Fran clings to that hope, based on the 1972 intelligence report that listed Masterson as captured. But what about the dog tags, the bone fragments, the unused parachute, the insole matching her husband's foot size?

"All circumstantial," she said. "They just want to close this case and get it off the books. We've gone all this time. What's the hurry?"

She has appealed the findings, which will be reviewed by a board of senior military officers from all service branches, and if necessary, returned to the laboratory for further investigation. Meanwhile, the remains of Bat Masterson will stay where they have been since last Thanksgiving, locked in a Hawaiian laboratory, halfway between Laos and home.

Robert M. Poole was executive editor of National Geographic. Photographer Paul Hu lives in Hong Kong. Army photographer Christophe Paul is based in Washington, D.C.

LIGHTER SIDE

Two Arabs boarded a flight out of London. One took a window seat and the other sat next to him in the middle seat.

Just before takeoff, a Marine sat down in the aisle seat.

After takeoff, the Marine kicked his shoes off, wiggled his toes and was settling in when the Arab in the window seat said, "I need to get up and get a coke."

"Don't get up," said the Marine, "I'm in the aisle seat, I'll get it for you."

As soon as he left, one of the Arabs picked up the Marine's shoe and spat in it.

When the Marine returned with the coke, the other Arab said, "That looks good, I'd really like one, too."

Again, the Marine obligingly went to fetch it.

While he was gone the other Arab picked up the Marine's other shoe and spat in it.

When the Marine returned, they all sat back and enjoyed the flight. As the plane was landing, the Marine slipped his feet into his shoes and knew immediately what had happened.

"Why does it have to be this way?" he asked. "How long must this go on? This fighting between our nations? This hatred? This animosity? This spitting in shoes and pissing in cokes?"

Rossel Report

DEAR JIM:

BG BEN KING AUDITORIUM DEDICATION.

BG King, the Father of Post WWII USAF Air Commando/Special Operations, will have the 9th SOS Auditorium, Bldg 439 Eglin AFB (Near Kings hangar, the base hangar and the climatic hangar) named after him during the ACA reunion. John Connors is the ACA coordinating officer with the Eglin and Hurlburt project officers for this and more will follow. Gen King spent about 3 years at Eglin and his accomplishments include getting the failed BOMARC Missile operational and then deployed. He headed the Combat Application under the Special Air Warfare Center which had developed many new innovative weapons for the Vietnam War. Additionally he established the Jungle Jim program (forerunners of the Air Commandos) in 1961 and in the same year deployed the first USAF combat unit to Vietnam. BG King's family is being invited to attend the dedication and it is expected many of the base personnel and old Commandos will attend the ceremony. This was a five year effort because of changing requirements such as he had to be dead for one year before they could even consider naming something after King on the base. Additionally no two buildings could be given the same name and they already had King's hangar at Eglin near where the Auditorium is located. The Eglin base commander is to be commended for the efforts his office put in finalizing this effort. The following Commandos helped in getting this through and they include Gen Piotroski, MG Swedsen, MG Secord, BG Aderholt, Col Gleason, and Sgts Kelso and Douglas. MG Swedsen flew with BG King in Korea and knew him as a fearless leader as he followed him in attacking North Korean targets. In WWII BG King became an ace flying P-38. In Korea he flew many combat hours. In Vietnam he brought the first combat unit in 1961 before anyone knew what it was all about. He later returned in the late sixties and through his fearless fighter pilot bravado got more combat time in various aircraft. He accumulated more than 6,000 hours of fighter aircraft flying time including 1,146 combat hours logged in 400 missions fighting in 3 different wars.

FLT LT GARRY COOPER, RAAF FAC 19TH TASS

The 9ID 5Battalion/60 Infantry reunion was held in St Louis on 15-18 June. I attended as a guest of Garry Cooper. He supported the 9ID 5/60 as a FAC in 1968 and they were honoring him for the FACing work he did for them and getting praise from the attendees who remembered him for heroic work which they credit it for keeping them alive. They paid for his entire trip to and from Australia and he was their honored guest and the only AF/RAAF FAC who attended. It was a testimony to his low and slow down in the dirt action in providing them air support and keeping the enemy from overrunning their position. Their testimony, which I was able to witness, really showed an appreciative group who survived due to his unselfish and heroic effort permitting the grunts to return home alive. Garry Cooper is to be commended for his contribution to the USAF effort and support he provided the 9ID 5/60. It was a very impressive display of appreciation. Even Foster Beer had a banner with praises for their native son. Foster Beer provided the reunion with many cases of beer.

A LETTER TO THE CHIEF

To: General T. Michael Moseley, Chief of Staff of the Air Force
1040 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, DC 20330-1040

Dear General Moseley:

I am Eugene D. Rossel; USAF LTC Retired, and was a veteran of both the Vietnam War and the war in Laos. I operate a veteran web site and write for a veteran magazine. In this position I get a lot of request for help on how they can get credit for their service in Vietnam and Laos where our orders did not say Vietnam or Laos. I served in both areas and I know their problems. It took me almost 15 years to get credit service for these two countries because my orders did not say Vietnam (Sp Orders T-36) or Laos (Project SEA/Project 404)—see two attached orders. It was persistence with the base personnel that I was able to convince them that these orders were for Vietnam in 1962 and Laos 1969-70. There were many USAF personnel, since 1961, which were sent to these areas with orders that did not say Vietnam or Laos. There are people of all ranks that are still trying to get credit for their service in these two countries. In Laos we had to wear civilian clothes and were issued a civilian ID card and our military ID cards were locked in a safe.

The other item that many veterans are having problems with is Agent Orange (AO). Veterans are looking for sources to identify areas where AO was used during the war since they are suffering symptoms which the VA says their health problems were caused by AO. They cannot receive VA help since their records don't show them in AO areas. This is almost a daily quest to find sources that they could use to get VA to recognize that they were in the area when AO was used. A number of us have helped various veterans to show they were in the area of AO usage and one person, in particular, was given testimony from a number of members of our organization which VA finally gave him credit for AO health problems just before he died. This will help his family. It would have helped him live longer had he been able to get VA help with his AO related health problems.

I would like you to get the USAF Personnel Center to identify clandestine orders which sent our veterans to war area and in places and dates where AO was used and make this information available so these veterans can use this information in their VA appeals. I suggest that the internet be used to distribute this information. Our experience with one of our veterans who was dying and couldn't get any VA help because his orders did not show him in the AO area though we all had served with him in the area where AO was used. This would help veterans get credit for their service and to identify time and places where AO was used. I think the USAF owes this to their veterans after serving faithfully in sheep-dipped areas.

Eugene D. Rossel, LTC USAF Ret
6083 Rosa Ct
Chino, CA 91710

THE AIR WAR IN KOREA - A RUSSIANS PERSPECTIVE

By AlexandrPavlowich from June 4 1990 Komsomol

This story sounds similar to our Det 2A Vietnam (Jungle Jim,

Rosset

Continued from page 25

Farmgate, Air Commandos) experience at Bien Hoa AB in 1961-1963 but at a different time than the Russians were in Korea. Seems like the Russians weren't crazy about being in Korea. We were allowed to speak English but our aircraft had SVN markings and later we put in a Vietnamese in the back seat (both enlisted and pilots) to claim we were training the Vietnamese in case an aircraft went down and newspaper reporters were around.

MICHAEL KADENACY IN FRANCE

In May I visited Michael and Victoria Kadenacy in Lorgues, France in Provence, which is located near the French Riviera. Michael was one of the original Air Commandos who came in 1961 as a B-26 navigator. We were bunk mates at Det 2A at Bien Hoa, Vietnam in 1962. We flew over in an Air France Boeing 777 which had excellent food but cramped space. Michael lives in a large house which he has built over the last 4 years on a hill side overlooking a beautiful valley which has an excellent view. Michael ended up in France for a number of reasons. He left the Air Force after serving with the Air commandos in Vietnam and the Canal Zone and attended law school. He was a corporate lawyer in Los Angeles and traveled all over the world. One of his clients was Domecq International who offered him a job he couldn't refuse which involved running a large organization building their empire in Europe, Russia and China. He built their infrastructure which included Baskin Robbins, Kentucky Fried Chickens etc.

After leaving Michael and Victoria we flew Italia Airline (a very crummy airline but the price was right) to Lisbon, Portugal which is really a 3rd world country. We took an overnight train to Madrid, Spain. What a change since I left in 1977. It has a vibrant economy, new buildings are going up all over the place starting about 70 miles outside Madrid and people have money. For those who were stationed at Torrejon you would not recognize it now. The Spanish Air Force has moved in all kinds of units on the base and has been modernizing it. The base is now used for Government & VIP aircraft including the Real Madrid football team and the old golf course is now used exclusive by Government officials and civilians VIPs. The Spanish wanted us out of the base because our aircraft interfered with Barajas Airport traffic. They changed takeoff directions away from Barajas and the problem seems to have went away. The road to Zaragoza, where many of you were assigned, from Madrid is now a modern freeway. Zaragoza has hundreds of windmills generating electricity on its hillside and is several miles long. Don Quixote would have had a hard time to fight these tall beasts. It was a great trip to see an old Commando living the life of a retired gentleman in France. Michael can be contacted at m.kadenacy@libertysurf.fr.

“SOCK IT TO ‘EM BABY FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER IN VIETNAM”

This is an Australian book 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

COL. CONCY PHIMPHAVONG

Just want to let you know that Col. Concy Phimphavong passed away Wednesday 26 th at 11:00 AM at a hospital in Phoenix after losing the fight to cancer. Kham Phiou Manivanh, email: KManiT28FB@aol.com See Obit on page 18.

KHAM, YES, SAD NEWS INDEED

Concy was former RTAF base CO at Savannakhet, well known to the Air Commandos who worked out of there. Good guy gone!! Mac. MacAlan Thompson, email: mactbkk@gmail.com

DAVE LAMOUREUX NEEDS SOME HELP

Dave Lamoureux was a navigator who came into the Air Commandos with the second group in late 1961. He was sent to Vietnam under the same orders we all had which did not say Vietnam. Sometimes in 1963 he left the Air Force and worked for another agency in the Government. He maintained his reserve status and later retired as a USAFR LtCol. He is now trying to get credit for his tour in Vietnam. Anyone that can give him orders which has his name on and could vouch for him being in Vietnam please get hold of him. He does not have any of his old records. I found one with his name on since we both went to Stead and came into the Air Commandos together as well as TDY to Vietnam in 1962. He can be reached at:

10620 Democracy Lane, Potomac, MD 20854-4006
Tel 301-299-7998, Email: odlgoat4@hotmail.com

U-10 HISTORY IN THE MILITARY

Walt Fitzgerald wanted a U-10 show at the EAA at OSH and had tentatively reserved time in the Vette theater for a presentation on “The Helio In The Military.” The date at OSH War Bird would have been on Wednesday or Thursday, July 26-27 2006 but we did not have enough time to get U-10 aircrews, maintainers and others to make presentations. He said he was doing this in response to a suggestion made by General Aderholt that we set up a presentation on the “Helio in the Military” similar to that which I set up for 50th anniversary of the Helio Courier at OSH in 2004. In addition to background on why Military Helios were designed and what roles they played suggest input from those of you who flew it, maintained it, jumped from it, dispensed leaflets, took photographs and operated loud speakers from it etc. Next year he wants to organize a U-10 the show again at OSH and any of you U-10 aircrew who want to show off your skills with the aircraft contact “Walt Fitzgerald”, pointandshoot@comcast.net, tel 609-709-2411.

Rosset

Continued from page 26

THE HELIO IN THE MILITARY

Hi Gene, Yes I flew in the 605ACS in Panama..I flew the C-46 and U-10 while there. The U-10 was such great fun that the only thing that could be better was to fly helicopters. That was a great idea but I didn't count on being assigned to HH-3E Jolly Green Giant. No regrets, the greatest ego with building, self satisfying assignment in the world. Nothing compares to the feeling that you have saving a life. I'm only sorry I didn't ask to return to the Air Commando's. That was my first love although the four fan jets, air conditioning and flush toilet of the C-141 were a step above the Air Commando environment. "Que lastima" I don't think I would have many war stories to add to those of the "Bullshit Bomber" in Panama or combat. Thanks for asking and please keep in touch. ULTREYA! (upward and forward), Bob Heron, email: rheron@earthlink.net

AIR COMMANDO AUTHORS

Hap Lutz and John Connors want to get a copy of all books written by ACA members to put in the library. The library has been fixed up and we want to honor our members who have written books by making them available for our members. Please send it to the ACA in care of Hap Lutz. If you have a book review of your book please include this so that it can be used to inform our members what your book is about.

HISTORY OF THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY AIRPORT

I am writing a History of the New Castle County Airport near Wilmington, Delaware which was, in WW II, New Castle Army Air Base - today has an Air Guard unit on the airport. On page 21 of the June 2006 Newsletter, O'Brien mentions ferrying a C-123 to the All American plant near Wilmington.

I would like to know more about this, if possible. Would appreciate it if you could forward my request to O'Brien. Thanks, You do great work! Jan Churchill, website: www.janchurchill.com, email: JanFlyO2@aol.com

HI TO ALL

Can you do me a favor and resend my newsletter. The original came in shreds and I would like to have another. If there is an expense just let me know and I will be happy to pay to have another.

Also I have a copy DECEMBER 1968 newsletter from UDORN and would like to find a good home for it. If you think you have a use for it please let me know and I will send it down. I'm afraid to part with it and have it wind up in the bottom of someone's drawer. If you have any knowledge of how to transfer it to a disc I would also be glad to do that and send a copy down. Hope to hear from you soon. Bill Crean, 11trs 68-69. email: F4CREWCF@aol.com

We will get a copy for you and please send me the newsletter you have.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It is with a very heavy heart that I inform all of the Ravens with the

passing of our father, Dale, on July 31st...He is to be laid to rest with full military honors, on September 18th 2006, at 9am at Arlington National Cemetery...Dad was mentioned several times in Robbins book "The Ravens"...He was very proud of his military career, especially as a "Raven"!...Perhaps we may see one of you at his funeral in September.

Thank You! Joe Richardson (son). email: Jfrichardsonpac@aol.com You may sign an online guest book in remembrance of our father at the link www.baldwinfairchild.com.

Thanks for keeping us in mind and we will put this in the Newsletter.

LOST AIR COMMANDO

I am trying to find buddies of my dad, Wesley Parsons. He served in Udorn and NKP in det 1 56 ACW. All I have are nick names of his friends as Hood, Bull, Moose, Wop, Pappason, and Ghost Tiger. Any help on locating his friends would greatly be appreciated. Thank you. Ann Parsons, email: anparsons@hotmail.com

We will put this in the newsletter and hope someone will come forward.

LTCMDR CASTLE USN RESCUE - A-1 RESCUE

Gene, Today I finally got in contact with Bob Castle. He mentioned that Bobby Lay had passed away, could you provide additional info? Also, he mentioned that there was a A-1 (SANDY?) story about his rescue. Do you have any knowledge of it? Thanks, Steve Mock

Capt Robert N Castle, Jr USN retired was shot down in Laos about 17 NM from NKP on 28 Dec., 1970, while flying an A-7E from the Carrier Ranger. He was rescued by a HH-43 Pedro Helicopter, flown by Capt Bobby S. Lay and his crew, of Det 9, 38ARRSq from NKP. He was preceded to the rescue by four Sandys' A-1 and a Nail FAC. The Pedro helicopter normally didn't perform SAR but it was the only helo available that day. This is LCDR Castle debriefing and praise for his AF rescuers. He has a plaque for the Pedro crew which he never was able to give to and would like to do it if he could find them as well as treat them to fine wine, liquor and a meal. If any of the other rescuers are around from Sandy & Nail FAC they are also welcomed to participate. Please e-mail me at aircommando1@earthlink.com any information available to locate the aircrew who saved him that day.

Stephen P. Mock, email: pedronews@libby.org

FLYING THROUGH MIDNIGHT

Gene; I bought the above book with anticipation of getting some intricate details of Candlesticks operations during the time I was at NKP, Dec 69 - Nov 70. What I got was a questionable work of fiction. The red flags went up at the very beginning when I read that "Nobody knows they're coming here until the last second." Things really got worse with the statement ".....the only music they play on Armed Forces WKPN is our father's music. You know, Lawrence Welk, Mitch Miller, Andy Williams...that kind of crap...nothing any good." As the AFTN Station Manager during the first six (6) months of Halliday's tour I'd like to say that we received weekly shipments of the latest music direct from

Rossel

Continued from page 27

AFRTS - Los Angeles and had this music on the air immediately. Our goal was to play something for everyone, not attempting to please everybody all the time. And what about the troops that liked Andy Williams, Frank Sinatra, etc? Then there are statements like “To be assigned here you have to pass a security clearance above top secret___”, You can expect your letters to be opened and sampled.....”, “And a trip to the BX trailer.....”. I don’t know where this guy was but it sure wasn’t the NKP I remember in 69 and 70. Maybe he should have titled the book Flying Through B/S., Jim “Dutch” Treat email: fatcat@psci.net

Others were going to send in reviews but I haven’t received any yet. To the author—we don’t mean to slam the book just review it as we saw Vietnam.

DOUGLAS A-26/B-26 INVADER

I know you have the B/A-26 master e-mail list so you can pass this along. Check out Volume 18 of the INTERNATIONAL AIR POWER REVIEW published by AIRtime Publishing which is now on the newsstands. The “Variant File”, pg 104 has a thorough description along with pictures, tail numbers and history of the Douglas A-26/B-26 Invader. It takes up 24 pages of the magazine and looks very complete. Written by a gentleman named David Willis it contains descriptions and pictures of some strange models I’ve never seen before. The article shows some of the foreign models, the US Navy models and various civilian birds. Did you know one was used to test AGM-65 Maverick seeker heads (Rock Island Consort 26)? It was sold to Lynch in 1975. All the ex-26ers should enjoy this article. I bought my copy at Border’s Book Store (\$19.95). If you can’t find it AIRtime Publishing, Inc. is at 191 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06880, Phone: 203-454-4773. Any Time Any Place, Jay Norton, nimrodj@earthlink.net

Thanks for this Nolly.

LOOKING FOR ENLISTED CREWMEMBERS

Looking for enlisted crewmembers of “Spooky 03” 7 Apr 69, operating out of Udorn, Thailand in operation Barrel Roll. Sergeant Claud Allen, Flight Engineer; 4th SOS; Staff Sergeant Leo Biehl, Gunner, 3rd SOS; Tech Sergeant Gerald Cooper, Gunner, 4th SOS. Mission saved Lima Site 50, 50/A in Laos. Please contact John Lamb, dalambos@comcast.net

I will put this in the ACA Newsletter. Good luck in finding your buds.

HANOI JANE

Dear Mike, Reference your recent email to Henry Holzer. I am a POW from the Viet Nam war and spent 11 months as a POW in Hanoi. I’ll assure you that all of the American POWs from that conflict consider Jane Fonda as a traitor of our country and should be treated as such. Ask the person that refused to take down her picture if he would display a picture of Benedict Arnold, Tokyo Rose or Axis Sally, all traitors of our country, up for any reason. That is an insult to all Americans par-

ticularly to the service men and women that serve our country.

Thank you for all your actions and initiative to bring this injustice to the attention of your superiors so that she can be regulated to the garbage can where she belongs. We cannot allow any generation to overlook this act of treason or we are all guilty of neglect.

Good Luck and thanks again from all of us that love our country. God Bless America. Joe W. Kittinger, Colonel USAF (Retired) email: ACOLJOEADV@aol.com

THE HISTORY OF MY FATHER’S HAT

My father, Gilbert E. Artman, was a member of the Air Commandos. He passed away in 2001 and my mother, Rae Artman, just passed in 2005. My dad always wore this one particular hat and I never had the history of it until I read your website. It definitely will be kept in a place of honor in my home. At this time I am requesting that they please be removed from your mailing list.

Thank You, Brian G. Artman, email: Brian@ArtFXnow.com

Thanks Brian we will comply with your wish.

JERRY’S ONE LAST ROLL - TOAST

I just got back from my nephew’s USAF Pilot Training Graduation at Columbus AFB, MI. It was about 35 years ago that I went though the ceremonies so it brought back a lot of memories for my wife and I. The ceremonies end that evening with a formal “Dinning In”. At the Dinning In, a table is set for the MIA’s. Which was very moving since I was unaware that it must be part of the ceremonies now. However, when I heard this toast, it was beyond moving. I first thought of those that were shot down in South East Asia while I was there. I’ve included it below. Thank you again for your service. Very Respectfully, Lt Bledsoe

Let me share a quick story: one night during a bombing raid on Hanoi, Captain Jerry Coffee, U.S. Navy, peeked out of his cell window and watched a flight of four F-105’s during their bombing run. As they pulled up, it was obvious lead was badly hit. Trailing smoke, he broke from the formation and Jerry watched the damaged bird until it disappeared from sight. He presumed the worst. As he lay there in his cell reflecting on the image, he composed a toast to the unfortunate pilot and all the others who had gone before him.

On New Year’s Eve, 1968, Captain Tom Storey and Jerry were in the stardust section of Hoa Lo (wa-low) Prison. Jerry whispered the toast under the door to Tom. Tom was enthralled and despite the risk of terrible punishment, insisted Jerry repeat it several more times until he had it committed to memory. He then promised Jerry when the time came and they were again free men, he would give the toast at the first dining in he attended. Tom’s first assignment following release in 1973 was to the USAF Academy. During that same year the academy hosted the annual Air Force Conference for General Officers and the associated dining in. Tom found himself seated with Generals Curtis Lemay and Jimmy Doolittle (two men of heroic proportions in their own rights). The jovial clinking of glasses accompanied all the traditional speeches

Rosset

Continued from page 28

and toasts. Then it was Tom's turn. Remembering his promise so many years ago, he proposed Jerry's "One More Roll." when he was finished, there was total silence. To the men in that room, men who spent their careers flying into combat and laying their lives on the line, it was a stunning toast, and one they would never forget.

"Amazing Grace musics stops"

Please stand and raise your water glasses for a silent toast to our comrades in arms. . . (pause for standing)

*"We toast our hearty comrades who have fallen from the skies,
And were gently caught by God's own hands to be with Him on High,
To dwell among the soaring clouds they have known so well before,
From victory roll to tail chase, at Heaven's very door.
And as we fly among them there, we're sure to hear their plea:
Take care my friend, watch your six, and do one more roll for me.
A silent toast to all our POWs, missing in action, and our comrades.*

CHINO AIR SHOW

Thanks for your note and interesting information. I am very "sorry" about not attending reunions (of any kind). The worse part about it is that I mostly live at my Florida Panhandle beach cottage and am only an hour or so from the base. In all fairest to myself, I am an avid Troy State football fan and have not missed a home or away game in over 20 years. What ever happened to Charlie Jones? He was at Troy State with me for years. Hope all is going great for you. Walt Hennigan, whennigan@yahoo.com

Walt, the old timers are still looking for your presence at the reunion. Charlis Jones has been under a doctor's care and I have his stats on the ACA home page as Sugie keeps me informed of his health.

MILITARY RECORDS

I am an email "nut" I suggest that all the people who are having trouble with the VA get a SF-180 and send it to the NPRC for their records. I did that several months ago and found what a complete mess they are, however sometimes you find things that help. I can't even tell them what section to look for but in reviewing my Form 11, I found no indication that I had been to Vietnam in the section which chronologically list your assignments, however there is a section called Combat Record, in that I found an entry which says I flew 166:25 hrs of Combat in Vietnam in a T-28 from Jun 63-Nov 63, I also found an entry in the same section that says that from 17 Jan-21May 66, 145 Out of Country Combat Missions as defined in ALMAJCOM Message#421/66, during this time I was living in Savanahket Laos, my replacement was Bob Downs. It doesn't however list the 303 Combat missions I flew in Laos from 7 Feb 67-30 April 68. During that time I was the AOC Commander in Vientian Laos. One person I know tried to get the AF Corrections board to correct his Form 11 to show he was in Laos for 22 months, he had a certificate from me, the Col. who was Air Attache and several others who were there during that period, they would not accept that, the reason that is important is so you can get the VA to acknowl-

edge that you were exposed to Agent Orange.

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS

My new email address effective 6 July is: almotley1@cox.net

A-1E - 602 Ftr Sq. Vietnam 64/65, A-37 - 604 SOS / 90 Attack Sq. Vietnam 69/70

Cheers; Al Motley

Thanks Al, we made the change.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

My new e-mail address is: fletch12@charter.net. Happy Independence Day! Larry Fletcher

Have made the change.

PAVE LOW

Howdy, Thought you would appreciate this message about PAVE LOW from an anti-Osprey guy. Take care. Cheers - - - Charlie

"If it weren't for the United States Military, there'd be NO United States of America."

I just learned last week that the MH-53 Pave-Low will be phased out within 2 years and replaced by the CV-22. That plane will never do what the 53 did. I have worked Paves' many years. The Army ranger love it, they have a blast going out the back fast roping down. You can not even stand up in a 22 (my height 5' 9") and they carry half as many people. When the CV-22 comes in to drop people off it is nothing more than a bullet magnet, where the 53 could make maneuvers that keep our people safe. I just think is a great loss and the Spectre members will not feel the same. Pave Low and Spectre go together. I have spent to many years in Spec. Ops, and hate to see this brother go. During the first Gulf war, who was it that took the first aircraft into Iraq? It was the Pave-Lows, they escorted them under cover of darkness, provided them (USA Apache) with cover and a signature that they could not pick up. They went in with success and it was all because of the Pave-Low. Charles F. Spicka, GunshipII@aol.com

Thanks Charlie. I think a lot of us have the same opinion which apparently AFSOC and the Marines disagree with us.

FORMER FAC IN VIETNAM LOCATED

I attended the 9ID 5/60 reunion in St Louis last week as a guest of RAAF Flt Lt Garry Cooper, a FAC, who flew in Vietnam supporting the 9ID. Garry was being honored by the 5/60 at the reunion and I heard some real great things about him from the attendees. Everything that Gen Ewell, 9ID Commander, said about his nomination Garry for a MOH was verified by the attendees that I listened to and met. Ike must have saved some of the 9ID 5/60 with your low and slow O-1 faccing for the 9ID because he wanted to find you. Garry's new book "Sock it to them Baby" had a picture of your O-1 which must have pranged in somewhere and when Wendy Winslow saw it he said he was trying to

See **ROSSEL** pg. 30

Rossel

Continued from page 29

locate you but could never find you. Garry's book is an excellent read on the war and he does some of the best explaining how the FAC system worked. He had a lot of exciting stories to go with his young life and his duty in Vietnam. I told Wendy I would track you down because he wants to talk to you. Apparently Garry knew you fairly well.

I am not a 9ID guy but an old USAF Air Commando and I write a column for the ACA Newsletter each quarter. I am also a member of the FAC Assoc as an associate member. So I am old AF and do a lot of research for the Air Commando Association. If you haven't joined the ACA I will send you info on joining—great organization with a quarterly newsletter, a yearly reunion with embellished war stories and have several parties a year on July 4th and somewhere near Christmas. A lot of old FAC belong to the ACA. You may have known Lee Alley (a MOH nominee who never got it), who is in Wyoming, and can be located at 800-833-5987 and his email is in the CC. Ike Payne

I hope this helps. Thanks for a great reunion—the donut Dollies, the opera singer and your preacher were terrific.

PHIL COLEMAN LINKS

Hi Gene,

I just heard (and have not seen yet) that all of Phil Coleman's links are in the current ACA newsletter. I know we talked about him before and you felt that it was OK to use his links regardless of his abuse he has subjected the veteran community to - I don't believe you are really aware. I believe that Jake Jacobson was ripped off by Phil as well years ago.

This is "one" of the many posts that Phil Coleman made about "me" - which I know is not relevant in that I am not a veteran, "however", it "is" a classic example of how Phil Coleman treats veterans - he says much worse about them. - and "yes" - his links are accurate - he goes to other pages - like yours - Views the Source and Steals them.

Please don't ever send him anything that you hold of value from the War - he will declare copyright on them - and "you" will have to sue for "your" rights. I'm pretty sure he stole photographs in this manner from Jake. I don't support Phil. Regards, Anne Faulkner, faulkneranne@hotmail.com

We will take care of this Anne. Sorry for the controversy that Phil has caused many veterans.

INFO ON SGT. JIMMY F. WILLIAM

Comments: I would like to post a request to help me find anyone who may have known a friend of mine who was stationed all over SEA during the Vietnam war. His name is Sgt. Jimmy F. William. He was with the Air Force Security Police. I am just a civilian looking for anyone who may have some information about my friend and where and when he was wounded in SEA. I have his last known address and service information that I could post if you approve of my request. Please email me direct if this meets with your approval. The website is great, it gives me a lot of background that I have been looking for in trying to

find out what happen to Sgt. Williams. Kathy Bays , pkhadley@yahoo.com

We will put this in our newsletter.

DOYLE C. RUFF, A-1 PILOT IN SEASIA.

Hi Gene, Wondering if you have a Doyle C. Ruff on your Membership List. Doyle flew A-1s in SEAsia and joined me on the Air Academy military staff in 1965 before I departed for SEAsia and Gunships. Take care. Cheers - Charlie Spicka, GunshipII@aol.com

Thanks Charlie. We'll run this in the ACA Newsletter in case someone know Doyle because he wasn't listed in the ACA membership.

POP BUELL REMEMBERED

Pop Buell died 29 December 1980 in Manila at the home of a SKY friend whom he'd known in Laos. I'd seen Pop the previous Friday, he came to my office here in Bangkok saying that he'd not received confirmation from the friend that he, Pop, was coming to Manila for New Years. I sent a telex off to a friend in Manlia and asked him to contact Pop's friend and confirm ETA, and meet with San Miguel in hand. Saturday received a telex with a message to pass to Pop that "Pop's friend, San Miguel, will meet him at the airport." Pop flew to Manila on Monday, 29 December, was staying at the guy's house, where he died that night. I worked for Pop for several months at Sam Thong spring of 1969. Mac MacAlan Thompson, mactbkk@gmail.com

I remember Pop well. Some years back someone in Hollywood wanted to make a movie of his life. Never saw the guy again but he had a big interest in Pop. Hope someone does it someday to pay tribute to this man. He liked good whiskey and to occasionally gamble.

LOOKING FOR COMRADES

Who were at NKP 66-67 CES

Richard Bengtson, ourturn4750@sbcglobal.net

OLD MEMORABILIA

Hi, I have visited this site often but never signed in. My name is Kerry Rogers son of Maj Charles E. (Bud) Roger USAF Deceased 5-4-67 (Laos). I have been trying to find some of his old friends to up-date my memory and to leave as a legacy for my children. I have set up a page for him on the virtual wall see URL below. <http://www.virtual-wall.org/dr/RogersCE01a.htm>

I wanted to contact the ACA so you would know about it and to see if you would like some of his old squadron photos which I have recently scanned into my pc. I also have quite a bit of old memorabilia that I have thought about donating to the ACA if you have a museum. Please contact me at your convenience. Sincerely Kerry Rogers, roger-sk@bellsouth.net, Dacula GA

Rossel

Continued from page 30

AF HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

Gentlemen: Seem to recall there was an AF Helicopter Pilots Association back in the early 90s.Does it still exist?? Trying to locate anyone with the 20th Helicopter Squadron out of Udorn (NKP??) March 1968. They flew CH-3s and supported SOG. Many thanks! Jack, JBVKulFAM@aol.com

MY FATHER IS CURRENTLY, MIA

Captain Carl E. Jackson USAF 12th DET. MACV-SOG Special Activities Squadron 1st Flight detachment. I would like to locate any members of this group. Would like any and all photos of C-123 aircraft. Would like to know any members involved in a “Bright Light” raid that took place on December 30, 1966. Alan Jackson, SKYJACKS@AOL.COM, SHREVEPORT, LA.

Thanks for the email. We will put this in the ACA Newsletter.

VIET-NAM, LAOS, AFRICA. NOW ABILENE, TX

Found you following links from Air America Assn. home page. Thanks to the guys for the rides to/from out of the way places. Now doing individual & family therapy with SO people & their families. Champus, Medicare, VA accepted. Free services to families of SO people no longer with us. Remember going thru Jungle Survival School at Clark AB while a patient at USAF Hospital Clark. Someone asked an instructor, “What about Laos ?. He had been talking about guys who used a ballpoint pen sheel to survive a neck wound & another who used his machette to amputate his foot caught on canopy. The instructor said: “Save a bullet for yourself.” Remember shot up rangers who never would have made it out of LA; except for a crew that made a night radar landing with the only landing aids being cans hanging from a barbed wire fence. In lot of ways, Air Commandos were “Air Rescue Service” & many a prayer was answered when spookey rolled on station. Thank you! Wayne Briggs, Abilene, Texas, briggs@abilene.com

4TH ACSQ

Looking for Crews I flew with in 66,67 Na Trang 4Th ACSq Flight Mech., Msgt James Harris, Pearland Tx, flyboyjd@sbcglobal.net

Thanks for the email and we’ll put this in the ACA Newsletter.

GLIDER PILOT IN THE ORIGINAL BURMA UNIT

Doing a scrapbook for my nephews that includes info on my father’s, F. L. Randall, war experiences. He served as a glider pilot in the Original Burma Unit under Col. Phil Cochran in WWII. There was an article and picture of all the glider pilots in National Geographic and Aug. 26, 1943 issue of Colliers Magazine. I can’t locate the original and just have newspaper clippings. I do have lots of pictures of those who served with him. I’m not sure where to go to find more information. Can you direct me? Thanks, Randa Korson, 51037 Greenway Dr., Gates, Oregon 97346

Thanks for the email and we’ll put this in the ACA Newsletter. I will get back to you on where to find more information.

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?

Was a C-123 Pilot stationed at Nha Trang and Phan Rang, RVN 1967-68. My unit was the 310 ACS. Trying to reach members of my unit. Is anybody out there. Went through transtion school at Hurlburt Field in Feb-Mar of 1967. My training partner was George Bye. Richard Pradel, Waynesboro, Va. email: kayakeen40@yahoo.com

WOULD LIKE TO JOIN ACA

My name is TSgt Nathan Brownhill. I have been a Pave Low FE since 1998. I was in the 551 SOS, 20 SOS, and currently am assigned to the 21 SOS. I would like to be a member of the ACA. Can you send me some information or perhaps tell me how to join. I would like to spread this information with some of my fellow Dust Devils. Nathan Brownhill, TSgt, USAF 21 SOS Evaluator Flight Engineer. Mailing Address PSC 37, Box 1809, APO, AE 09459

Thanks Nathan. Information has been sent to you.

..... Eugene D. Rossel E-mail aircommando1@earthlink.net ACA Home Page Web site <http://home.earthlink.net/~aircommando1>

REUNIONS

ARCA REUNION 2006

WHEN: Oct 2 - 5 WHERE: Reno, Nevada

Silver Legacy Resort Casino, 407 North Virginia Street, Reno Nevada. (775) 329-4777 or (800) 687-8733 (toll free) www.silverlegacycasino.com

★★★★★

FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER REUNION

WHEN: October 4-8, 2006 WHERE: Dayton, Ohio

REGISTRATION: Look for the formal registration package in the late spring. Check: <http://www.fac-assoc.org> for updates.

QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS: Contact Zot Barazzotto at: (937) 429- 2119 or

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September 2006

President's Corner

By Felix "Sam" Sambogna

ness meeting will include:

- Comments on the recent survey
- Financial report
- Future reunions
- Dues
- Scholarships
- Election – President and two Board Members
- Possible change in schedule for the newsletter

Dedication during the reunion of two facilities honoring two outstanding air commandos is in the planning stage. A dormitory on Hurlburt Field is being dedicated in memory of SMSgt Carlous Christian and a facility on Eglin AFB will honor BG Ben King. Hopefully, these dedications will be worked into our reunion schedule.

This year our theme is tribute to "America's Air Commandos" – the men and women of the 16th Special Operations Wing who are playing a significant role in the battle against terrorism. This long-term battle is critical to all those in the world who treasure freedom. The life style in many parts of the world has changed since 9-11. The frequent security checks and the constant threat of terrorist attacks cannot be ignored.

We have solved our treasurer issue. I am the acting treasurer but much of the work is done through our services contract. Jeanette

Moore, our services contractor, records our income and expenses on a computer program so it is easy for me to complete our tax form each year. In addition, I monitor our assets/investments, am involved in all the financial decisions, and brief the Board Members. Jeanette also designs our newsletter, has streamlined many of our administrative procedures, and has taken some of the workload off of Pete Bowman. She is a valuable asset to our association and well worth the expense.

As usual, persons selected for the ACA Hall of Fame will be acknowledged during the Saturday banquet. Colonel Dennis Barnett is chairman of the HOF Committee that includes Jim Ifland, Gordon Scott, and Gaylord Hall. Colonel Barnett replaced

MG Secord who performed this task for many years. Recently, the number of nominations and selections has decreased. I realize that it takes a significant effort to prepare a nomination package. However, some deserving commandos may not be receiving the recognition they desire – the recognition that goes with joining this select group. Currently, there are 131 members of the HOF – folks who have made significant contribution to special operations. I encourage all to review the criteria and make the special effort to nominate deserving individuals. Stay well, and I hope to see you all at the reunion. I know General Aderholt is looking forward to the event. He enjoys seeing as many air commandos as possible.

Cheers,
Sam

The Reunion By Rachel Firth

**Autumn leaves rustling, together to the appointed place,
the old warriors come.**

**Pilgrims drifting across the land they fought to preserve.
Where they meet is not important any more.**

Greetings echo across the lobby.

Hands reach out and arms draw buddies close.

**Embraces, that as young men they were too uncomfortable to give,
to shy to accept so lovingly.**

**But deep within these Indian Summer days,
they have reached a greater understanding of life and love.**

**The shells holding their souls are weaker now,
but hearts and minds grow vigorous, remembering.**

ACA Reunion Oct. 5 - 8 2006

Thanks to Hap Lutz and his volunteers we had another great 4th of July Social. As a special treat, General Aderholt and Chaplain Charlie Jones, who both have made extraordinary recoveries, attended this great BBQ. Also attending was Ed Horton, one of the surviving Doolittle raiders a crewman on one of the B-25s that took off from the carrier Hornet and bombed Tokyo in April 1942 – truly a member of the greatest generation. As a guest of Board Member Bob White, a young army soldier Alan Kimmel who recently returned from Iraq represented the current generation of warriors. Alan is attending EOD School at Eglin AFB and helps Bob White out with many tasks at the Airman's Attic. Both of these individuals received an impressive round of applause.

I hope many of you are making plans to attend this year's reunion. We will do our best to make it an enjoyable event. I also encourage those of you who will attend to bring your thoughts/comments to the business meeting. We appreciate input concerning how our association functions and manages our assets. The agenda for the busi-