

AIR COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

June 2005



The 16th Special Operations Wing held its annual Air Commando Dining-Out June 10 at the Emerald Coast Conference Center.

The theme of this year's event was "Burma to Baghdad: The Commando Legacy Continues."

The 16th SOW joined forces with the Air Commando Association to celebrate the Air Commando history and heritage. Air Commandos have been instrumental to the security of our Nation and success of the Air Force mission for more than 60 years.

A formal military function, the Dining-Out provided an opportunity for Air Commandos, along with their spouses and guests, to gather socially and celebrate this long, rich history.

Celebrating Sixty Years

By Dick Geron, ACA Vice President

This year's ACA Reunion will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II and pay tribute to the spouse and families of Air Commandos, for "They too serve who watch and wait." We also wish to honor Air Commando Widows. These special ladies will be recognized during the Reunion Banquet ceremonies. We hope all of our wonderful widows will be in attendance.

The Reunion for 2005 will, in many ways, follow the traditions which have been established by previous reunions. These traditions include Thursday registration at the Quality Inn in Ft. Walton Beach, Friday morning golf tournament, Friday evening fish fry by Hap Lutz and Ray Bourque with their many able assistants, Saturday morning general membership business meeting, Saturday night Banquet, Sunday noon memorial

services at the Hurlburt Field Air Park under the direction of Dr. Charlie Jones, ACA Chaplain, and Jerry Broadway's BBQ on Sunday afternoon.

In addition, we will have some new events. For ladies interested, there will be a luncheon on Friday at Mr. "Ts" Two Trees Restaurant located at the Ft. Walton Beach Golf Course. We are also exploring the possibility of arranging a day bus trip to the casinos in Biloxi, MS on Thursday, October 6. Let us know if you are interested in these events. Arrangements will be made if we have sufficient response. Please indicate your interest in these initiatives by responding to the questionnaire located in your newsletter.

Nationally known singer Phyllis Hasty, accompanied by Ray Brown's Band, will provide enter-

See **REUNION** pg. 3

INSIDE FEATURES

Editorial pg 2 Hap's Comments pg 7 Letters pg 8 McCoskrie T. F pg 16 Membership pg 5 Personal Affairs pgs 21 President's Corner back page Reunion Info pgs 14 & 15 Rossel's Report pg 23

"Through the Eyes of a Commando" Part Four

By Hap Lutz

Several months ago 16th Special Operations Wing Commander O.G. Mannon (ACA L-3949) tasked the Hurlburt Field Company Grade Officers Council to develop a series of lectures to be given by living Air Commandos, with the above title, which portrayed the history and legacy of Air

Commandos from inception until now. Captain Keyra Reyes of Air Force Special Operations Command volunteered to perform this service.

Once structured, these series of lectures would be presented to those special operators now serving at "The Tip of the Spear."

Colonel Mannon also touched

base with past ACA president Dick Geron for assistance in developing this initiative. I asked President Geron if I could be the ACA representative for the association in obtaining speakers and providing ancillary services. He readily agreed.

Accordingly, Captain Reyes vis-

See COMMANDOS pg. 3

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Editorial Comments

How Jane Fonda Slipped The Surly Bonds Of Treason

A group of senators and U.S. congressman pleaded passionately with Brigadier General "Robbie" Robinson Risner, USAF. It was summer 1973, just a few months after our POWs were released from North Viet-Nam. They told him that he would be the key witness in congressional hearings to bring the charge of treason against Jane Fonda. Her infamous visit to North Viet-Nam while her country was at war caused great harm to American soldiers in the field bringing aid, abetting and encouragement to the enemy. The NVA fought with even more confidence knowing the American will was waning, which caused even more American casualties. She (Fonda) caused U.S. POWs held in Hanoi to suffer more torture and torment and should surely be convicted of treason.

General Risner, one of the highest-ranking POWs and held for seven years, would be the final and most important witness to make the charges of treason hold. No matter how hard they attempted to convince General Risner, he held firm. He would not testify. Reluctantly, the congressional hearings against Jane Fonda were canceled.

When Jane Fonda was a Hollywood pre-teenager, completely oblivious of the war waging in Korea, then-Captain Risner, USAF, was flying F-86 Sabres high over North Korea, locked in air-to-air combat against Russian-built MiG-15s. He became an Ace, having shot down a total of eight enemy planes. During the Viet-Nam War, his picture was published in TIME the very week his F-100-Super Sabre was brought down by North

Vietnamese anti-aircraft fire. As a squadron commander and Lt. Colonel, he was a "prize" POW to the North Vietnamese. He was held in solitary confinement for the first three years of his captivity and tortured unmercifully to sign statements or to make recordings against his country. After three years, the North Vietnamese guards finally allowed him to be placed in a cell with another prisoner, and even more American POWs in surrounding cells, but the torture and mental anguish never stopped.

JANE FONDA'S VISIT

Jane Fonda's well-publicized visit to North Viet-Nam in 1972 brought even more inhumane treatment from the enemy guards because an important American was on "their side" and spoke against the war. She said that all American military forces were fighting against "the people" of Viet-Nam in an unjust war; the North Vietnamese were elated. The photo taken of Fonda sitting in a North Vietnamese anti-aircraft gun with grinning NVA soldiers around her, was one of the highlights of her trip. Jane Fonda propagandized on behalf of the North Vietnamese government, declared that American POWs were being treated humanely and condemned U.S. soldiers as "war criminals" and later denounced them as liars who claimed they had been tortured.

Her visit was applauded back in the United States by anti-war protesters, including the misguided Vietnam Veterans Against the War, led by new-Senator John Kerry. Also in 1972, she said, "I, a socialist, think we should strive toward a socialist society, all the way to communism." In November 1970 speaking to students at the University of Michigan, she said "If you understood what communism was, you would hope, you would pray on your knees, that one day we would become communist."

She didn't go to North Viet-Nam to try to bring about peace or to reconcile the two warring sides or to stop Americans from being killed; she went there to support the North Vietnamese cause. She lauded the North Vietnamese military and citiwhile she denounced American soldiers as "war criminals" and urged them to stop fighting, she lobbied to cut off all American economic aid to the South Vietnamese government even after the Paris Peace Accords ended U.S. military involvement in Viet-Nam, and she publicly thanked the Soviets for providing assistance to the North Vietnamese.

To add insult to injury, when American POWs began returning home (some held captive for nine years) and described the tortures they had endured at the hands of the North Vietnamese, Jane Fonda told the country that they should "not hail the POWs as heroes, because they are hypocrites and liars," Fonda said the idea that the POWs she had met in Viet-Nam had been tortured was "laughable," claiming: "These were not men who had been tortured. These were not men who had been starved. These were not men who had been brain-washed." The POWs who said they had been tortured were "exaggerating, probably for their

See TREASON pg. 4

Commandos

from page 1

ited our building for a "look see" and briefing by President Geron, Dr. Charlie Jones, and myself. We spent about two hours over viewing our future roles in these auspicious events and identifying the needs thereof.

The first of these lecture series was presented on 28 October at 1830hours in the base theater. Major General retired John Alison and retired Senior Master Sergeant Carlous "Chris" Christian were the presenters. Their subject was. "The 1st Air Commando Group in the China, Burma, India Theater of Operations." 16th Special Operations Wing Commander O.G. Mannon was the moderator.

Readers, I cannot adequately tell you how overwhelmingly successful this first of the scheduled series

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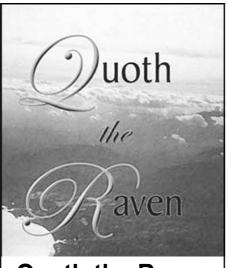
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went. There were about 300 attendees, including about 12 of us from the association. We were all absolutely spellbound about the historical events these two marvelous people shared with us.

General Alison spoke first and told us how he and Colonel Phil Cochran were tapped by General Hap Arnold to form a clandestine group of volunteers for duty in difficult circumstances, in austere conditions, and under almost insurmountable problem areas. It is a poignant story of unheralded bravery by all who participated. Most assuredly that of General Alison who survived two shoot downs.

And Sergeant "Chris" Christian, a chosen volunteer, followed with his harrowing exploits during his tenure with the 1st Air Commando



Quoth the Raven By Jim Roper

A no-nonsense memoir of Covey nights over the Trail and Raven days around Luang Prabang. This great read can be purchased on the internet at www.PublishAmerica.com or phone 877-333-7422.

If you want a signed copy of his book, you can call Jim Roper at 703-250-6233 or email him at jroper3531@aol.com. You can write him at 11200 Robert Carter Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. The book sells for \$18.95 plus \$2.85 S&H.

Group. This included crash landing in a glider into the 18th Imperial Japanese Army Headquarters. It took him some 55 days to E&E back to friendly lines after first attempting to swim across a river with a wounded Gurkha on his back. "Chris" made it, but the wounded Gurkha asked"Chris" to tell his wife he loved her and disappeared into the raging waters.

"Chris" also spoke of his stint with Merrills Marauders and duty under British General Orde Wingate. It was a thrilling evening for all. Colonel Mannon moderated superbly. Captain Reyes greeted the arrivals and artifacts from our building were displayed for everyone to enjoy and ponder.

Our down the road speakers will include L/Gen Manor, Dr. Charlie Jones, John Grove, Jerry Klingaman, M/Gen Comer, Gary Weikel, Bill Patterson, Jimmy Bates, Wayne Fisk, Bernie Frakes, M/Gen Secord and B/Gen "Heinie" Aderholt next up in January.

Reunion

from page 1

tainment, featuring songs from the World War II era.

Howie Pierson has agreed to be our Master-of-Ceremonies.

As our Guest Speaker, we are honored to have retired Major General John Singlaub. General Singlaub's Special Operations career goes back to the very beginning as a member of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). His duties included a parachute mission into occupied France to organize, train, and lead French Resistance Units. He then went to China to train Chinese guerrillas.

General Singlaub was also Commander of the Joint Unconventional Warfare Task Force (MAC SOG) in Vietnam and afterward he was Chief of Staff, United Nations Command, U.S. Forces Korea and Eighth U.S. Army, Korea.

General Singlaub has just been selected to be new Chairman of the OSS Society. General Bryan "Doug" Brown, Commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command, has been named Honorary Chairman of General Singlaub's Board.

Don't miss the Reunion. Make

your reservations early. We are looking forward to seeing you in October!

PURPLE HEART STAMP

According to an unconfirmed report, the Purple Heart stamp, which was finally released after years of effort by veterans and their organizations, may be discontinued as of March 2005. The Post Office plans to raise postal rates by 3 cents and will discontinue several stamps, including the Purple Heart. The Purple Heart stamp was supposed to be a permanent stamp but so far no explanation has been given by the postal service for its possible discontinuation.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The 2005 winners of the ACA Charles Hicks Scholarships were: Victoria Harbison daughter of John Harbison; Jennifer McRae grand-daughter of James McRae; Derek Ondrusek grandson of Herman Baldwin and Stephanie Whitbeck daughter of Susan Chavers.

Treason

from page 2

own self interest," she asserted.

Jane Fonda began her participation in anti-war activities around 1967, allegedly after meeting with communists and American citizens who were revolutionaries while in France. She participated in demonstrations, rallies, radio broadcasts and plays and helped in organizing a production group called FTA (F@#% the Army). This group helped to set up coffee houses near military bases where they would perform anti-war sketches for visiting soldiers. The coffee house sketches were intended to counterpoint the USO shows that increased morale and gave positive support to American soldiers. Some FTA coffee house employees would mingle with the soldiers to help them "relax and unwind," while encouraging the soldiers to desert. Some soldiers alleged that they were promised jobs and money by FTA if they deserted.

The Vietnam Veterans Against the War Organization received major financial support from Jane Fonda. Jane Fonda's coffee houses helped recruit soldiers and veterans for the Vietnam Veterans Against the War Organization; achieving approximately 7,000 members at its highest point -comparatively low number when you consider that more than 2½ million Americans served during the War. Jane Fonda personally sought out returning American soldiers soliciting them to publicly speak out against American atrocities against Vietnamese women and children. North Vietnamese officials based in Canada allegedly coordinated her broadcasts.

After seven years of captivity, however, General Risner could not bring himself to talk, think or "go back" over the brutal torture that she brought him and his fellow POWs. He had lost seven years of his life and could never bring them back, even if his testimony would cinch the charges against Jane Fonda and place her in a federal penitentiary for many years. For him, any more time thinking, talking or testifying about those years would bring back too many horrible memories and further mental anguish. He had to get on with his life, even if it meant freedom for a treasonous American. General Risner was a broken man, physically, emotionally and mentally. It would be years before he could bring himself to even mention any details of his captivity.

DINNER WITH GENERAL RISNER

In 1988, 15 years later, I was stationed at Ft. Hood, TX with the III Mobile Armored Corps. I was commander of an 800-member Air Force tactical detachment among 44,000 soldiers and I served as senior Air Force Liaison advisor to the Corps commander, LTG Crosbie E. "Butch" Saint. That year, thenretired Gen. Risner was invited to be the honored speaker for the National Prayer Breakfast at Ft. Hood. As he described his capture, torture and his faith in God and country, there wasn't a dry eye in the huge auditorium filled with soldiers. Everyone had a very difficult singing "America Beautiful" at the end of his presentation, choking back tears. I couldn't sing at all. We knew that the humble man who stood before us, a three-war veteran, was a true American hero.

After the breakfast, I asked Gen. Risner if he would stay and speak to my Air Force detachment later in the day; he graciously agreed. My troops were awed by him, his quiet manner and his inspiring story and patriotic motivation. After his presentation they crowded around him, trying to get closer, many just wanting to shake his hand and thank him, through their own tear-filled eyes.

At that time, Lt. Colonel Bill Spencer, USAF, was working for me, who also had been a Viet-Nam POW. I invited Gen. Risner to join my wife and me, along with LTC Bill Spencer and his wife, for dinner that evening. It was a cozy restaurant and we enjoyed a wonderful meal along with very interesting conversation. As Gen Risner relaxed, he and Bill exchanged POW experiences, which I found riveting. They talked about the tap

code, the terrible foul-tasting thin soup and pig grease that they were fed along with hard bread rolls crawling with weevils. They always ate it though; they needed any kind of nourishment they could get, as revolting as it was.

The conversation soon turned to protesters anti-war and General's manner stiffened; he slowly shared with us the pleading of the senators and congressmen who wanted to file treason charges against Jane Fonda. He told us, at the time, his experiences and torture were just too raw and, mentally and emotionally, he just could not deal with it. After years of reflection and re-playing that scene in his mind over and over, he truly regretted not testifying. She had flaunted her anti-war activism and made a half-hearted "apology," albeit many years later without real sincerity. He also noted that after our troops were withdrawn from Viet-Nam, the anti-war crowd quickly disintegrated and turned a blind eye to the millions of Vietnamese, North and South, who were killed in the next two years of vicious war. It was clear to see that the misguided anti-war protesters were not really "anti-war" at all millions more died while the North Vietnamese overthrew South Viet-Nam and conquered Cambodia, and the Khmer Rouge in Laos left fields filled with death.

I wondered what even more pain and regret he must have felt when General Risner learned that Jane Fonda was being honored in 2000 by Ladies Home Journal and Barbara Walter's A Celebration: 100 Years of Great Women."

My hope is that someday, when BG Risner and Jane Fonda finally "touch the hand of God," they each will be judged accordingly.

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See **MEMBERSHIP** pg. 6

Membership

from page 5

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Hap's Comments

comrades-in-arms, two of whom I was closely associated with; Kellis E. 'Danny' Deaver and James E. 'Ski' Osieczanek. I was informed of Danny's impending demise, but Ski's was a complete surprise.

Along with the American Legion Post #235 Chaplain, ACA Board Member 'Mac' McDaniels and accompaniment Bill Zell, eulogized Danny to a packed Post #235, with family members present. Their commentary was both riveting and healing. Another highlight of the service was the return of a Combat Control beret to family members by Roger Klair. Danny had given the beret to Roger 36 years earlier with the caveat that it be returned someday.

Ski's services were conducted by our ACA Chaplain, Dr. Charlie Jones, with brief inputs by Charlie Kapsa and yours truly. Charlie's presentations are always very meaningful and uplifting and this was no exception. I sat with 'Heinie' and Lamar Doster.

'Heinie' leaned over to me and whispered, "that Charlie really does things right." I nodded in complete agreement.

The folks at the Mary Esther Post Office have been most helpful in all aspects of getting your newsletter to you over the years. In these days when it is much easier to find fault rather than to praise, I prefer the later.

Considering that ACA member Rhonda Moody, a postal clerk there, is a Air Force reserve Master Sergeant, who has done two tours in Iraq as an AGE Technician Supervisor, it's easy talking. She's been back on more than two occasions as well, on limited TDY's.

Dru Bancroft is the wife of ACA member Ken Bancroft, a Desert One Loadmaster C-130 sur-

Sadly, we continue to lose our vivor. Dru has been very helpful in all aspects of her various clerk positions. She is the only remaining clerk that I proudly served with during my tenure there.

> ACA Member Dennis Peterson, retired SMSgt C-130 Gunner, is a rural route rough rider. This position is far removed from his former duties...and far less harrowing...but he does them equally as well.

> Dean C. Crane died on 8 May 05. This word just came from his daughter Karen.

> I was stationed with Colonel Crane at Bien Hoa Air Base, SVN during 1962. Something quite remarkable occurred during that tour that I think you'll find quite interesting.

> I was alerted that we had a B-26 coming in with one engine out. I repaired to the flight line in response to the emergency and waited for the PSP landing. The aircraft came in, one engine out as reported, and overshot. It was either take back off or crash into an enormous crane that was parked at the end of the runway. The pilot opted to take back off.

> By now a crowd had assembled at flight ops and we all watched with craned necks (no pun intended) as the pilot poured everything he had into that remaining engine. It pulled gently back into the sky, missing the crane, literally by yards, came back around, and landed without incident.

> We all let out a hoot and holler. distinctly remember Oscar Gonzalez (retired Chief) being the first egress crew member. He kneeled down and kissed the PSP immediately! Next was the pilot, Capt. Dean Crane. It was one of the most superb performances of airmanship I have ever witnessed, before or since.

After rounds of congratulations,

we repaired to flight ops and debriefed with rounds of 'Old Methusalah.'

At this juncture I've got to share some personal pride information. My nephew, LCol (Doctor) Robert H. Lutz, took command of the Joint Medical Augmentation Unit, Ft. Bragg NC on 29 April '05, relieving Colonel (Doctor) Virgil T. Deal. has Robert two tours in Afghanistan and one in Iraq.

Another note of interest to all: Gilberta Guth Pierson (Howie's dear) has written a book titled; The Fighter Pilot's Wife, A Military Family's History. Gilberta recently told me that it would be available sometime in August '05. You may e-mail her at: gilgp@comcast.net. Howie howie.p@comcast.net. Phone to either at: (415) 893-1862. You may also visit their website at: www.fighterpilotswife.com.The publisher is Call Sign Press. (They reside in California, so allow for time zones.)

The third in the series of "Through The Eyes of Commando" was presented by Dr. Charlie Jones and Jerry Klingaman last March, with 16th SOW Commander Colonel O.G. Mannon (BG Selectee) as Emcee and Moderator. Their subject was "Butterfly and Raven FACS." To the delight of the audience, their talk additionally educated the listeners about our secret war in Laos, Project 404.

John Grove and Bob White hosted a First Sergeants meeting today, 17 May, with some 19 attendees, including 16th Special Operations Wing Command Chief Small. President Sambogna welcomed the group and briefly overviewed the history of the ACA. From all accounts, it was a most successful get-together, which yet

again closely aligned us with folks at Hurlburt in a common undertak-

I'll close reminding all of you that we have again scheduled a social for our nation's birthday, July 4th. (Flyer of events tucked in newsletter.) Come and enjoy the company of your friends in a gala celebration! (Judging from the current list of deceased members, we better enjoy each other while we're still on this side of the grass! And...eat your dessert first!)

Postscript: I just had a phone call from dear friend Roger Klair, I somehow transposed his phone number. Please correct your roster to his correct phone number, which is (850) 863-2323. If any of you were equally afflicted, please call or write me.

**** DEAR DONOR.

On behalf of the veterans and staff of the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System, thank you for the donation of games and reading materials that were given on May 25, 2005.

Please convey our heartfelt appreciation to the members of your organization for their assistance. Thank you for your continuing support of our Voluntary Services program.

Your efforts ensure that our veterans are truly not forgotten. Thank your for supporting America's heroes.

William H. Perry Chief, Volunteer Services Department of Vets Affairs 2400 Hospital Road Tuskegee, AL 36083

Ed Note: Another affirmation of the many hours of volunteer work done by John Grove, Ray Bourque, and Bob White in concert with the FWBHS AFROTC and American Legion Post #296.

TO AIR COMMANDOS

Enclosed is my payment of 2005 dues. Since your last issue I have attempted to contact one of your correspondents to provide some requested background on Major Frank Farthing.

His name is George T. Andrews, his e-mail address is tandrea's@vertisinc.com

But my wife can't get through to that address. If you or the Association can give me his mailing address I will send him the letter I have written concerning my brief association with his uncle. Perhaps Gene Rossel has it, but I no longer have his phone number.

Hope you can help me with this.

Thankfully, Capt. F.R. Jackes, USAF(Ret) 2849 Hadean Rd Monroe MI 48162

Ed Note: Hap informed me that he has answered your request.



HEY GUYS

Enclosed is my check for my annual dues. It's late, but with the move.... Could you also please update my new address info in your records as well. Hope all is going well there in sunny Florida. It ain't all that bad out west either! Looking forward to getting the news letter again soon! Thanx.

Ed Hux (#2699) 2846 Bennet Court Tucson AZ 85708 (520)-571-1071



SOUTH EAST ASIA TOUR

This trip will be upwards of 20-25 days and includes Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, River Kwai, and numerous other places. Please write to me immediately your comments as we expect to have a proposed itinerary within 15 days.

We plan to leave in mid October for the West Coast, then Hong Kong, then Bangkok where we will form tours for other travel. We plan to see as much as we possibly can and now are trying to include Singapore express from Bangkok to Singapore.

I know this is short notice but the Air Commando newsletter goes out tomorrow and I have just finished talking with people in SE Asia on how we are coming along.

Heinie Aderholt 25 SE Miracle Strip Parkway Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548



TO: "THE GUY (OR GAL) THAT GETS THINGS DONE"

I, Arnold O'Brien, ACA life member, recently found two buddies from 1965 and wish to pay for their first year as ACA members, and send them a hat plus stuff. I would like you to send them a membership card, news letter, plus the stuff (plus some stuff for me) and any \$\$ left over can be donated by you to where it will do the most good at this time as I am not up to date as much as you must be.

Do all this for me and I thank you very much!

Arnold O'Brien 120 NE 651 Knob Noster MO 65336

Ed Note:

Your request has been done, thanks to Hap Lutz!



NEWS FOR OLD LAO HANDS

Here's a news bit that just came in. Perhaps put this on the ACA www page?

March 11, 2005 from Western

Borneo which is now called Halimantan.

Father Bouchard started work-Western Borneo in ing in September 1977. For the past nine years, he has been assigned to a mission area of 23 villages. It takes him about 2 months to visit all of the villages. He visits 13 villages by outboard motor and the ten other by motorcycle or on foot. While he loves his work, his age (76 this month) and a two year back problem is making it more and more difficult to visit the villages of his parish. He has decided to go back permanently to the USA.

He will send his new address when he gets his assignment in the United States.

MacAlan Thompson P.O. Box 5 Thaniyaburi, Pathum Thani 12110 Thailand

MAC.

Thanks for the input Mac, it is good hearing from you. Hope everything is going well for you in Thailand.

I'll pass this on to General Aderholt, Felix Sambogna our ACA President, and Jim Boney our Newsletter Editor for possible use in the Newsletter.

Robert Downs



TO: "THE GUY (OR GAL) THAT GETS THINGS DONE"

I, Arnold O'Brien, ACA life member, recently found two buddies from 1965 and wish to pay for their first year as ACA members, and send them a hat plus stuff. I would like you to send them a membership card, news letter, plus the stuff (plus some stuff for me) and any \$\$ left over can be donated by you to where it will do the most good at this time as I am not up to

date as much as you must be.

Do all this for me and I thank you very much!

Arnold O'Brien 120 NE 651 Knob Noster MO 65336

Ed Note:

Your request had been done, thanks to Hap Lutz!

$\star\star\star\star\star\star$ HI SAM,

Thank you for your recent note. It is my privilege to send in a donation and I always wish I could send more. The least I can do since I can't be there to help physically.

The March newsletter was great - I'm taking time to re-read it and I believe every issue is better than the previous one. You've got a real bunch of pros working there!

I well remember the newsletters in the early 70's when Barb and Frank Owens were doing the job - mimeograph pages stapled together, and very scant at best - but they did a great job! Those early volunteers were the cornerstone of the fine organization that exists today. I am so filled with pride at what all you are doing and glad I can have a small part in its success.

I hope you are enjoying your work as President. I'm sure it's very time consuming - but gratifying. Keep up the good work!! The organization needs you!

The weather out here is fabulous - hope it is in F.W.B. too. We've all had our share of mother nature at her worst - I hope she will act like a lady this year!

Best wishes to you and all the gang - be happy!

Mary Lou McCoskrie 2345 C Via Mariposa W Laguna Hills CA 92653

See LETTERS pg. 10



Hall of Fame



Air Commando Hall of Fame Seeks Nominations for Year 2005 Induction

by Jim Ifland

The Hall of Fame Committee, headed up by Maj Gen Dick Secord, USAF, Retired, is seeking nominations for the year 2005 selection process. This selection process provides a unique opportunity for each of us to recognize those individuals that have made significant contributions to Special Operations. Air Commandos have been deeply involved in both overt and covert operations in all parts of the world spanning a time frame from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm/Shield, Kosovo, and more recently, intensive operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. We have many unsung heroes from each of these eras that were "just doing their job," but in fact were designing, improvising, developing new procedures/equipment/tactics and laying the ground work for Special Operations as we know it today. I urge each of you to take a moment to reflect on your vast experiences and reflect and identify those individuals that stood out and really made a difference. Remember, this process isn't just about medals and decorations and the aircrews that earned them, it's also an opportunity to recognize the "troops in the trenches" whose significant contributions were so vital to our success. Your recommendations should include in depth details this individuals significant contributions and or continuous outstanding performance. A short paragraph saying he's a good guy won't hack it. Please observe the Hall of Fame criteria. Your nomination should include awards and decorations, a copy of the 214, a narrative justifying selection to the Hall of Fame and any other supporting data will assist the committee in their selective review. Recommendations for consideration should arrive at the Air Commando Association office no later than 31 July 2005.

ACA Hall of Fame Nominating Policy

Eligibility Criteria:

- Nominee must have been officially assigned or attached to a recognized USAF or Special Ops/Special Air Warfare Unit.
- 2. Served honorably while on active duty and in civilian life.
- 3. Made a significant, unique contribution to the betterment of Air Force Special Operations (AFSOF).

Nomination Procedures and Requirements:

- 1. Anyone may nominate any Air Commando/Special Operations member who meets the criteria to the ACA HOF.
- 2. Nomination packages will include:
 - Verifiable and detailed personal information (DD214) and complete justification for selection.
 - A one paragraph citation to be sent in an induction ceremony.
 - The name, address, and phone number of two additional references.
 - Nominations packages will be sent to the ACA HOF Committee, P.O. Box 7, Mary Esther, FL 32569-0007, to arrive NLT 1 July of each year.

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from page 8

DEAR GENE,

I am writing a short note to find out if there is any of the pilots that flew the U-10 helio's at Da Nang from when we were assigned there in Dec 1965 through Sept 1966. I was the Detachment line chief. We were Detachment #1, 5th Air Commando. Maj. Neil Gobrecht was the commander.

I was also in the 21st Troop Carrier Sqdn in 1950/51, assigned to the Phys warfare detachment with General Aderholt when he was the detachment commander as a major. Returned to the 21st after 25 missions and flew Air Eavc prior to returning to the states.

I would like to hear from anyone that was there at the same so I can catch up on things.

Ralph B. Bahr 9515 W Maiden Ct Vero Beach FL 32963



DEAR PETE,

Sorry to be so late getting this check to you. Seems like the years just keep going faster. Don't know if I told you all that a couple of years ago I stopped at the McBride Library at Keesler and gave them a nice framed photo of a plaque that was hanging on the wall at the Club in Savannakhet when I was based there in 1972-73. Someone had the plaque made after Hoss got killed there. The director of the McBride Library assured me it would go on the wall in the library, but have never been back to check. It is a nice brief tribute to Hoss. I think I still have a photo of it around here somewhere and if I find it I will send it to you for the office. I knew Hoss in Panama in 1964-66 from the 605th. I was in C-46 and Hoss in the T-28. Hoss was killed when I was at Keesler in the T-28 Foreign Pilot Training Program.

Brooks (now deceased), Ron Phillips and I were Pallbearers for Hoss when he was buried in Hattiesburg. Marty Saunders wanted to be a pallbearer with us but that was back in the late 60's in southern Mississippi and thought better of it. I ran into Hoss again in 1971 when I lead a flight of four T-28s from the rehab factory in Columbus, Ohio to Santa Cruz, Bolivia where Hoss was stationed at the time. That was during Che Guevarra days; in fact Che was caught and murdered not far from Santa Cruz while Hoss was still I subsequently replaced Hoss in Santa Cruz for two years in 70-72 where I was accused of assisting Hugo Banzer in his successful revolution to become president replacing a communist army general (That is another long story). From Bolivia I went to Det 1 56th SOWg where I spent half the year with Jay Norton who was doing his 404 thing. I retired in 1975.

For my second career I served nearly 20 years with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) running civil aviation development projects in developing countries. Spent two years in Argentina, nearly five years in Brazil, a year in China and my last nine years at the headquarters in Montreal. Now I'm taking care of the cat.

I have run into a Catch 22 situation with the VA. VA has established a link between Agent Orange and prostate cancer and gives at least an automatic 10% for it. I had my cancerous prostate removed six years ago and subsequently put in to the VA for additional disability (I got 10% when I retired). Bottom line is the VA rules say you must have served in Vietnam. They consider Laos and Cambodia the same as Thailand that is as far as they are concerned there was not a war in

Laos or Cambodia so unless you were physically in Nam you don't get the disability. I tried to explain about the nice little war in Laos and the fact that the trail ran through Laos but their rules say Nam period. Does anyone know if there are any senators or congressmen who have any interest running a bill through which would benefit the few of us who were in Laos and Cambodia so VA could change their rules and acknowledge us?

This has gone on way too long. Keep up the good work over there.

Bob Lundin

Ed. Note: If anyone can assist Bob please contact him at: Bob Lundin, 16 Courtside Circle, San Antonio TX 78216



DEAR SAM,

It is with great sadness but deep gratitude that I write. Erik passed away at home where he requested to be on 3-9-05, with his family. Unfortunately he didn't get to read the March '05 newsletter, the letter sent him by fellow Air Commandos, or Colonel Gleason's book, Air Commando Chronicles. How he would have enjoyed that!

Eric's alertness was unpredictable. We hung onto every moment he recognized us or could answer our questions. I would tell him who had called or who was coming by. He'd say, "I'm so surprised."

Many thanks to Hap Lutz, Heinie Aderholt, Sam (Sambogna), Gene Rossel, Bob Hollowell, Chili Wills, Nick Emigholz, and if I've left anyone out, thanks for circling the wagons. Is it any wonder that Eric was so proud of being an Air Commando? He was a good soldier to the end. Such strength and willpower. Never complained. He told his boys to "watch their six."

I received a call from Mrs. Clayton Freeman who's going through appeal for her Air Commando who passed away from cancer last year. He mentioned Eric by "Stew" a number of times and flew 123's in Nam in 1963-64.

James 'Jim' Humphrey called from IN. He knew "Stew" in the Air Commandos. His time in Nam was February '63 'til Aug. '63. He had survival school in Reno, NV as did Erik. He knew Gerald Kent, who he said has passed. Some other names he recognized, but not all I read to him from a slide of Eric's we had printed. (I've included a copy.) They were with the 5th RECCE TECH SQ. The poster is quite original. Workers: SSgt G. Kent, A1C E. Stewart (Yea!), A1C P. Rydzewski, A1C P. O'Laughlin, A2C C. Mayne, and A3C J. Osborne. Leaders were 1stLt Armstrong (Bossman), and 2ndLt (Little) Diamond.

Air Commando Lt. Col. Albert D. Shinkle, USAF, (Ret) wrote from Washington state and was kind enough to share that he was an Intel type also. He served in Nam and Laos same time as Eric tho they never crossed paths. He personally knew of Agent Orange use many times in So. Laos. His records reflect VN but not Laos service.

For his memorial service Eric requested his jump boots, dog tags, bush hat, three flags (American, Scottish, Norwegian), and bagpiper. The Port Orange, FL VFW Post 3282 Honor Guard played taps, gave gun salute, and presented me the American flag.

On May 28th '05 we will bury Eric's cremains at St. Rose in Springfield, KY of Washington County.

Eric's claim has been reopened and letters included from Colonel Gleason and Hap Lutz. We await an

See LETTERS pg. 11

from page 10

answer. Keep sharing your information. Sounds like many others need help.

Sincerely, Judy Stewart 2342 Brian Avenue S. Daytona, FL 32119-2750



ALOHA GENERAL ADERHOLT,

I am just trying to find someone who has known my deceased husband, Douglas G. Brandt. He was at NKP, Thailand in 1968.

I need to find someone who may have known him and most especially may have known that he did in fact go to Vietnam as a part of the support squadron.

He worked on the 0-1's and then on the 0'2s. He and I were not married until August of 1969, so I do not have any memory of particular names who he may have been with during his time in Thailand.

He talked often of being in Vietnam. However in asking for papers from the National Personnel Record Center, they have only sent a stack that has no proof that he was in Vietnam.

Doug put in a claim with VA 2 years ago and they are trying to force me to drop the claim by saying that there is no proof that he was ever in Vietnam. The proof is now for me to come up with and I am finding that it is not easy to prove.

His entire family knows that he was in Vietnam, however, we are not able, as of yet, to come across anything that shows on paper that he was there. For instance, combat pay records, TDY orders, etc.

Is it possible that when he went to Vietnam, that he was flown in as a mechanic and there were no TDY orders? I have recently changed VA advocate. They are not an easy group of people to deal with and it has been tough for me to do this.

I too have cancer and am trying to keep my health as good as possible. However, I am in remission and determined to see this claim through to the end. Actually my family has been insulted by the way that VA deals with us.

I have 2 newspaper articles that he sent to me from Thailand in '68. One is of him and a Tsgt Robert Collins, flight chief, 23rd TASS, and another page that shows several of the men who were a part of the "Crickets",

DO YOU THINK that there is anyway that someone could help me in finding any of these men from the 23rd TASS? Do you possibly know of an e-mail address, etc. that would help?

I can hope that someone reads this and can respond. That would be great!

My husband, Douglas G. Brandt, died of lung cancer in July of last year. He also had many other health problems such as being severely diabetic - and more!

Thank you so much for your time. I do hope to hear from someone who has read this in the near future.

Mahalo Nui Loa (Thank you very much!) And Aloha

Mrs. Carol A. Brandt BrandtHawaii@aol.com Submitted By: John Sweet

Dear Mrs. Brandt,

Sorry to have delayed so long. I intended to run your letter in the ACA's March newsletter. Hopefully it will bring some results.

I left NKP in January 1968, and do not recall your husbands name. (We had 7,000 men there). I will make a copy of your letter and will send a copy of our June newsletter to you.

I am sorry I have not done better, but will try harder.

Sincerely, Heinie Aderholt Commander 56 ACW 1967



PETE,

Trust this finds you and the association in good health and spirits. I think the enclosed \$150 covers my application for Life Membership. If not, please just give me at call (775-853-8336) and I"ll send the difference to you.

Mike Haas 900 S Meadows Pkwy Apartment #2624 Reno, NV 89521-5952

Dear Mike,

You're covered Mike. Should have your new membership card by now.

What's new in the writing business? Do you have something new to share with us? Please advise.

Pete



ROBERT.

I must express my amazement and appreciation to you for all your time spent in sending me your ACA sponsored e-mail! I read everyone! Save many of them in a file folder of my own.

Thank you so much

Bob Gochnauer 9 Goldfair Court Sumter, SC 29154-6130



EDITOR, AIR COMMANDO (FARMGATE)

As a correlation to the article "Plausible Denial (Farmgate) by Susan Katz Keating, I wish to add my experiences in Vietnam in 1962

and happenings as I recall them.

In late December 1961, while serving as a staff officer at HQ ATC, I received orders for assignment to an unknown location in SEA. The orders required me to have refresher training in first aid (I had never had any training in first aid before), target practice with pistol and rifle (I was already classified as an expert with both), and training in counterinsurgency (a term with which I was not familiar). In January I attended a one week course at Hurlburt and after a short period to clean up any personal affairs I left for SEA.

Before leaving I was advised the assignment was classified and I would travel in civilian clothes, use a civilian passport, take a civilian flight from San Francisco Airport, destination Manila, PI. From there I would travel to Clark AB for further instructions. My departure from the US was in late February and after I got to Clark I was advised I could wear my uniform and was to report to a certain building late the next night.

Upon checking in at the prescribed place, which appeared to be a warehouse, I found that there were about 20-30 of us, all uncertain as to what it was all about. The first person I recognized was Lt Col Herb Mann, known to many of you. I had been his instructor at Moody when he was getting qualified in the F-86D before becoming the AF rep with an Air National Guard squadron. He informed me that while he did not know where we were going he had been advised that he would be in charge of a small detachment (two ops and one intel officers) and invited me to go with him. I then picked Capt Ken Wells, who had attended the course at Hurlburt with me. The intel officer, Capt Frank Sadowski, volun-

from page 11

teered for our group and we all went to get our bags ready and have a few drinks before we left. We boarded a C-130 and took off sometime after midnight and landed about sunup. They lowered the ramp and when an enlisted man came aboard he greeted us with a "welcome to Bien Hoa!" A number of us asked the question, "Bien Hoa what?" His reply, "South Vietnam" left most of us thinking we could use a little more info. After breakfast Mann and several others were kept back for briefings and the rest were told where we were going. That afternoon I rode a C-47 to Danang and began the process of learning some of the intricacies of counterinsurgency. The hard part was to be trying to provide air support when you had no airplanes and the few that could be borrowed to help the mission were controlled by a VNAF command that was capable, but more concerned with CYA.

Several months prior to our arrival two pilots from Danang flew their F8F bearcats to Saigon and bombed the palace. This resulted in the removal of all F8Fs from Vietnam and their replacement with T-28C's. While they had four bomb racks none of the aircraft at Danang could be loaded with anything larger than 250lb fragmentation bombs and when loaded could not have enough fuel to reach Saigon.

Those of us assigned to 2nd Air Div and worked as operations officers had to be rated, but did not have to fly in order to receive flight pay. I remember Secord and

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Charlie Shelton and when visiting Saigon I always bunked at Shelton's abode. There were a number of guys living there, but they had a spare cot and if you received per diem they charged you a small fee. However, the drinks were free. Also, working in the ASOC was VNAF Capt Loan. Loan was a quiet, introspective individual, but if you needed anything for your ASOC and he thought you were okay then he always managed to get the item for you. I have always empathized with him when I see the picture of him executing the VC who had just killed his friends. He would have known how our young warriors in Iraq feel when they are crucified for being a little trigger happy while their friends are being killed.

Excuse the digressing. As a result of the palace bombing there had been a dramatic reorganization of the VNAF. They flew one mission in the morning and after a long break for lunch and a nap they flew an afternoon mission, provided there weren't too many clouds. About July we suggested to Gen Anthis that if we flew the aircraft during the noon time we could greatly upset VC activities, because Charlie used that time to move his people and equipment. Gen Anthis agreed and convinced the VNAF to let us fly their airplanes. With one exception though, we were never allowed to go out on our own, but we were used as replacement pilots whenever we wanted to fly. Of course, we had to have "trainees" with us, but this was accomplished by giving a pack of smokes to any enlisted man who would go. We never lacked volunteers. The local VNAF had only one experienced pilot and three former copilots, and the political situation being such and Danang was at the end of the supply line. The flight commander was a 2nd LT but had over 2,000 missions. He originally was an enlisted pilot, but was resigned to the fact that he would never have a high rank. The first time I flew with them I was an element lead and when we came in for landing and I was turning on final my wingman came right over me and landed ahead of me. He had not seen me since the break....after that I kept careful track of everyone in the pattern

Twice I lost a wingman to ground fire. Each leveled off at tree top level and then as their nose started up they rolled to the right and crashed. Neither time did any of us see ground fire, but those losses and some holes found after we landed told us that there were more enemies out there and they would all cause trouble.

Shortly after I arrived there we had to call on Farmgate for help. Four Special Operations Forces sergeants were scouting the area when they encountered a greater force of VC's. Two of the men managed to break away, but the other two were captured. I was in Saigon at the time, but Ken Wells was on duty and he got 2nd AD to send some Farmgate aircraft to help in the rescue. After debriefing the two SOF that got back the Farmgate aircraft interdicted the path they thought the VC would take. I don't know the type of aircraft they used or what they dropped, but two weeks later when the two captives were released they credited Farmgate for forcing the VC to alter their plans and stay closer to the capture site. The SOF believed that the night attack kept them from being taken so far away that they would not have been released.

Soon after we started flying with the VNAF the ASOC received a late night request for air support

from and SOF leader in the field. He was located just south of Danang in a small village being attacked by the VC. Since the VNAF would not respond at night Mann and I responded, with me leading since I knew the area a little better. The village was close to the coastline, but also very close to a karst to the west. I thought the karst might be about 600-700 feet high, but just to be sure I left my navigation lights on and with a circular pattern to the right was able to keep my wingman within the circle, thus, if I hit the karst he would be able to avoid it. It worked well and when the VC, who could see me fired at my lights Mann could see their fire and accurately strafe them. The VC quickly retreated and the blood trails indicated 10-15 wounded or dead. A flight in that area the next day showed that I was missing the karst by about 100 feet.

I flew 36 missions with the VNAF and at the end of my tour I was told by the VNAF that I was to receive three medals. Two for my flying and one for leadership in my regular job. However, a personnel officer (06) in Saigon put out the word that none of us were to accept any awards from SVN. Shortly after I rotated I read where the same officer had received six medals from the SVN government. There was such an outcry that he was forced to give back his medals and I heard he took early retirement. I never received the medals and when I returned for a second tour in '68 I did not tell anyone that I was personally acquainted with most of the senior VNAF officers, for fear of being assigned a liaison position. I only wanted to fly the A-1 and stay away from the political scene.

In regards to a recent article about RB-26's in March/April '62, some civilian engineers were doing

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT W. MOORE

We all knew him as "BO" back to the mission like no one I ever in 1966 at a place called Can Tho, Viet Nam. When I first met him he looked like a young high school graduate looking to do something other than the ordinary. He got his wish.

We were part of Air Force Advisory Team7 (AFAT7) with the mission of advising the Vietnamese Air Force elements in 4th Corps (Mekong Delta). As we all know, we often went beyond "advising" and BO went beyond anyone else. He flew ancient helicopters along with his Vietnamese co-pilots on some of the riskiest missions in the delta. BO never turned down a flying assignment and more than once flew his rusty bucket of bolts into triangular forts under mortar attack to take munitions and supplies in and take the wounded out. To say that he was courageous is an understatement. BO was fearless thinking absolutely nothing about his self-preservation. He was wedded

met. In combat, he was duty bound - no matter what.

BO was a Commando in all of its forms. When I got to Can Tho, I was temporarily given quarters in a house in which he was a resident. The week before the bad guys had bombed a house across the street and all that was left was a pile of bricks. It impressed me being a new guy, but BO nonchalantly shrugged his shoulders and said, "They must have gotten the wrong address". During off-duty time, BO bellied up with the best of them often hearing that mournful reminder, "Gentlemen, the bar is closed". I could tell you countless stories of his off duty endeavors, suffice it to say, they are documented in the (I believe) seven books he wrote in his later years. BO lived life to the fullest giving all he had. He lived on the edge in those days because he looked for more thrills than any of us ever sought.

Letters -

from page 12

some work on Monkey Mountain, which is next to Danang. I placed a request to 2nd AD and the next day a B-26 came to our ASOC and said he could take the pictures. I never saw the aircraft, but they did take the pictures and sent them to me a few days later.

I did get to go on a leaflet drop by a Farmgate B-26. The pilot had been stationed at Moody when I was there. My mind won't recall his name, but I had always wanted to fly the B-26 and he let me have a little "stick" time. I did frag a number of Farmgate missions in I Corps but met very few of the pilots.

While my primary mission was to work directly with the VNAF I also had to contend with the MACV senior advisor. Fortunately, his C-2, Capt Max Thurman kept me advised to most activities and I helped him with the very little that I knew. Max went on to become the USA Vice Commander and was the CinC, Southcom during the capture of Noriego.

I won't express my opinion about how the entire Vietnam campaign was handled, but most of us who were there won our part.

Col James D. Reeves 2072 Ridge Rd Littleton CO 80120-3141

Ed Note: Thanks for sharing some of your experiences associated with FARMGATE. An interesting story.

It is trite to say that BO loved flying - especially the machines that vibrated you silly and that had their propellers misplaced by putting them on top. He mastered those flying machines with a blend of manual dexterity and intellectual reasoning better than any other fly guy I knew. He could land on a postage stamp with finesse while bombs and tracers came at him like a magnet. And he would come back and do it again. Because of his flying skills, the Vietnamese helicopter pilots often gave BO the tough ones to fly. And they loved him and respected him.

There was only one time that BO, then a Captain, got completely disoriented. After one of those "socials" with monthly the Vietnamese officers, he found a pretty lotus blossom and found one of the BOQ suites in which to continue his conversation. BO was rudely awakened the next morning by our AFAT7 Commander, a Colonel who will remain nameless, demanding to know, "What the Hell was going on". The Colonel apparently was awakened by lotus blossom taking a shower in the Colonel's bathroom and BO, tired as he was, snoring in the spare bedroom of the Colonel's quarters. "There must be some mistake" was BO's instant reply as he saluted, dressed and exited the hooch in a micro second with lotus blossom in tow. This had to be one of BO's most exciting moments and one he could never forget.

There are few Commandos as brave and as loyal to America as was BO. This country will miss him as will all his buddies. Well done, BO.

Jose Olvera, Col USAF (Ret) **FAC Advisor** 116th VNAF Liaison Squadron 2816 North View Ave Arroyo Grande CA 93420-5560 GEN. H. C. ADERHOLT

Well Hell, if you gotta go! This is the Place! Would have loved to have sent it to Bobbie Moore.

PILOTS

I hope there's a place, way up in the sky, where pilots can go, when they have to die.

A place where a guy can buy a cold beer, for a friend and a comrade, whose memory is dear.

A place where no doctor or lawyer can tread, nor a senior officer type would ere be caught dead.

Just a quaint little place, kind of dark, full of smoke, where they like to sing loud, and love a good joke. The kind of place where a lady could go, and feel safe and protected, by the men she would know.

There must be a place where old pilots go, when their paining is finished, and their airspeed gets low.

Where the whiskey is old, and the women are young, and songs about flying and dying are sung.

Where you'd see all the fellows who'd flown west before, and they'd call out your name, as you came through the door.

Who would buy you a drink, if your thirst should be bad, and relate to the other, "He was quite a good lad!"

And then through the mist, you'd spot an old guy, you had not seen in years, though he taught you to fly. He'd nod his old head, and grin ear to ear, and say,"Welcome, my son, I'm pleased that you're here.

For this is the place where true flyers come, when their journey is over, and the war has been won.

They've come here at last to be safe and alone" from the government clerks and the management clone. Politicians and lawyers, the Feds and the noise, where all hours are happy, and these good ole boys can relax with a cool one, and a well deserved rest, this is Heaven, my son...You've passed your last test!"

Submitted By: Joe Ballinger

McCoskrie/Threshold Foundation Update

The Mission

Our very own Jim Galluzzi called a couple months ago and said he had some 'stuff' from a defunct cruise line in his warehouse in Port Canaveral Fl. Could we use it? John Grove misunderstood the amount as 3000 pounds so off he went to get the small load. WELL! the amount was about 30,000 pounds and involved some real heavy lifting by several folks. After determining that it would be about 3 trailer loads, we contacted Karen Hubbard of Bless the Children across the state in Clearwater Fl. She rented a storage unit, and two loads were taken to that facility. These goods; soap, shampoo, conditioner, backpacks, hand lotion, and etc are being sent as a shipment from Clearwater with the help of some great MacDill AFB troops. They are being combined with school desks and supplies and loaded in sea land containers for shipment to Honduras and other Central American countries. Thanks to Karen Hubbard and 'Becca Smith for the support in Clearwater. Thanks also to Audra Murray for the coordination of the shipping.

Now the rest of the story! We needed help with the loading in the Tampa area. We were chatting with Air Commando Walt Heidmous, who has helped load so many loads, about the need to load in Tampa. His stepson Bill Carver is on active duty at MacDill so he contacted Bill to see if he could help. Not only has he helped with our load of 'stuff' he continues to support Bless the Children with the many loads of school supplies they are sending. Great to have such a worldwide connection of outstanding humanitarians.



MacDill Load Crew

Honduras a Continued Success

The MTF/ACA support to Honduras is continuing with great success and is sure welcomed in such a poor country. The folks who we support, Bless the Children, have many activities in Honduras and other countries. In Honduras Mr. George Mealer and his family do the lions share of the distribution of the 'stuff' we send. His daughter- in- law Gillian writes;

"Thank you Thank you!!! We just finished unloading the container about two hours ago. Some stuff already has homes, some hospital beds and the kids walker for example, (I will send you photos of the little boy once he has learned to balance himself better) We will be using ALL that fabric for a new work shop for the kids in Pronino, they will be learning to sew and upholster furniture so the timing could not be better on that. The food as you know is always a huge hit here and we will be distributing it soon"

Commandos continue to do great work. Thanks to the folks who donate the time and effort. The program continues with the financial help from all of your donations. Thanks

Montagnard Update

The MTF just delivered a load of clothing to the new facility for the Montagnards in North Carolina. The 'Yards' have purchased a large (about 100 acres) tract of land near Farmer NC. They have built several buildings, planted some crops, and are really working to have a home away from their native SEA. The potential is great for them. The MTF/ACA have been active in support of this resettlement in NC. The load delivered in May 2005 is one of many. We feel the little we do might help make up for the shoddy treatment the United States handed the clans as we pulled out of SEA. Memorial weekend is the gathering of the 'Yards' at the property. Over 2000 assembled for the celebration. Your donations are distributed during these celebrations.

VA Support

Air Commando Ray Bourque has been taking books and games to Veterans Hospitals for years. A few months ago he has asked that some one pick up some of the work. So the MTF asked our commando Capt Karen Kramer from Tyndall AFB to help. She has delivered loads of books to the Panama City Fl area hospital and nursing home for vets.

In May 2005 a load of books and games were delivered to the Tuskegee VA hospital in Alabama. The facility in Tuskegee is large and somewhat underused at the moment, however, some of the patients are just returning from the Global War on Terror and these young troops need books and games. The volunteer coordinator for the facility, Joe Webster, expects more patients as the war continues and can use the support. They share books with the facility in Montgomery Al and he said they sure appreciate the Air Commando effort.

2004 DONORS TO THE McCOSKRIE THRESHOLD FOUNDATION

We sincerely appreciate all who donate to the McCoskrie Threshold Foundation. Since we no longer send individual thank you letters we intend to print a list of donors starting with year 2004. If your name is missing and you donated in 2004, please forgive our administrative error and let us know, and we will make a correction. Thanks to all for your generous contributions used for storage and shipping expenses.

Robert Mayo Teofil Sluschewski **Aaron Combs** A. L. Hilpert Marion Stokes Parkwood Sq Homeowners Assoc Frank Harrison Melvin Bryant Richard Atchison Orel Hooks **Betty Brooks** Richard Guertin John Daly Ron Allaire Phyllis Mains Noll-Reynolds Richard Koeteeuw William Conklin Francis A. Wolak Robert Gilliam (CPA for Joe Vaden) Carl Nilsson **Scott Norris** Norman Blankenship Woodruff Halsey Mariorie O'Connell John H. McCoskrie K. Sweet **Edward Bryant** G. M. Johnson R. Slater Juan Bazan Marilyn M. Jones Ferris Van Meter Bexar County Kennel Club Karl Schaefer (Joe Vaden) Raymond Dawson Fred Nowak Robert Cardenas Steven Gallagher **Bob Zarr** Thomas Murphy Robert Maxwell Joe Robinson James McAliley Paul Tobey Robert Picket Doris Petersen Bill Heath Art Goodwin Charles Ramsey Elizabeth Mains Philip Conran Mary Lou McCoskrie Terrance Fregly Reagan Gray David Weakley **Edward Laughary** Donald Moxley Shelby Moore Matilda Wood

Stephen Reich John Drennan Ventues Arthur Napolitano Tom Mills Bob Vaughn **Ernest Shervey** Association of Graduates USAF C. Freeman Academy (Larry Sanborn) Busbey Family Trust (Maile Thomas King Jean Busbey) John Ojaca Robert Gleason Bill Campbell Wilfred Mackey Jack Drummond Lester Hansen Janice Sanborn Lawrence Cato Francis A Wolak Joe Kittinger William Fialkowitz **Edison Scholes** Joseph Reynes Maxine King Gary Crowther Debra Henderson Robert Trainor C. D Hoffman

Sylvia Nikonovich James Arendt John McDonald Stendley C. Moore Linda Delaney Robert Cooper Willard Elledge Andrew Lewis Glen Bremenkamp Hal C. Smith Waldon Byers Virginia Hein Craig Landefield William Blatchley L. S. Taylor Willie Leach Nicholas Emigholz Betty Kenyon Ronald M. Schwade Johnathon Rudman James Gibbs Otis Mannon Maurice Orr Shelly Loftis Michael Flynt Eric Hanson

American Legion Post 296 VA HOSPITAL PROGRAM Highlights						
09/23/04	Tuskegee VA Hospital Trip Value of Donated Items\$800.00					
10/25/04	Tuskegee VA Hospital Value of Donated Items\$740.00					
11/19/04	Ft. Walton Beach High School Check/Cash Donation\$300.00					
11/19/04	Clifford Sims State Vets Nursing Home Check/Cash Donation\$300.00					
11/28/04	Post Fish Fry/Auction Raised\$4999.00					
12/08/04	Tuskegee VA Hospital (Xmas Party) Cash/Check\$500.00 Value of Donated Items\$4964.00					
12/21/04	Clifford Sims State Vets Nursing Home (Christmas) Check/Cash\$500.00 Value of Donated items\$250.00					
03/08/05	Post Fish Fry Raised\$920.00					
03/23/05	Cliffords Sims State Vets Nursing Home Check/Cash \$200.00 Value of Donated items\$150.00					
04/01/05	Tuskegee VA Hospital (Trip) Check/Cash\$200.00					
Ed Note: Under the direction of Chairman Ray Bourque (ACA Member) and						

Co-Chairman George Yeabower, 143 Legion and AFROTC Student Members

volunteered a total of 1617 service hours in accomplishing the above activities.

They are all to be highly commended.



Tribute to Spouses/Families "They too serve who watch & wait."

Buy Your Tickets Early!

The 2005 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.

Something New This Year!

We will pay tribute to all the spouses and families of air commandos - "They to serve who watch and wait" - and to our widows. We encourage all widows to attend. Also, for ladies interested there will a Friday lunch at Mr. "T's" Restaurant at the FWB golf course. We are also exploring the possibility of arranging a day bus trip to the casinos in Biloxi on Thursday, October 6th. Please let us know if you are interested in these events. Arrangements will be made if we have sufficient response.

Nationally known singer, Phyllis Hasty, accompanied by Ray Brown's band, will provide inspiring entertainment featuring songs from WWII. Some of us have seen her performance and she is great - don't miss it! Howie Pierson will be our Master of Ceremonies this year.

Directions to The ACA 2005 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 6-9, 2005

Thursday, October 6

1600 - Hospitality Suite open at the Quality Inn

1600-2000 - Early registration and check-in

Friday, October 7

1000-1600 - Registration at the Quality Inn in FWB 1200-??? - Hospitality Suite open at the Quality Inn

0800 - Golf Tournament registration

-- Hurlburt Gator Lakes Course

- Golf Tournament shotgun start
 - Awards ceremony in clubhouse
 - Fish Fry at the Quality Inn in FWB

-- Libations served and stories embellished

Saturday, October 8

0900-1030 - Annual Business Meeting

-- Conference Room, Quality Inn

1200-??? - Hospitality Suite open at the Quality Inn

1300-1500 - 20th SOS Briefing Hurlburt Field

1800-1900 - Hurlburt Soundside Club - Social hour

1845-1855 - Early entry for assisted seating

1900-2130 - Hurlburt Soundside Club - ACA Banquet

-- Hall of Fame Presentation Ceremony

-- Guest Speaker - M/G John Singlaub

-- Awards presentations

2130-??? - Entertainment/Dance band after dinner

Sunday, October 9

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.

2005 Reunion Ticket Order Form

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

	Ticket Price	Number of Tickets	Total Cost					
Reunion Package (Includes all meals	s.) \$60.00							
Friday Golf Tournament	\$45.00							
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 functions of the reunion at no charge.								
Banquet Meal Selection:	☐ Prime R	ib 🗆 Chic	ken					
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 host 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								

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

ACA # Email

Spouses Name

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY

I will be staying at

The Quality Inn serves as headquarters for Reunion 2004. The Rodeway Inn is the overflow hotel. Room rates are \$69.99 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!

Remembering Francis X. DeFonce (AKA Frankie Hollywood)

Our old friend, Francis X. DeFonce, who came in the second group of Air Commandos at the end of 1961 died on 5 Nov 2004, was cremated and interned in the Ft Rosecrans National Cemetery, Point Loma, San Diego, CA. On 21 January, 2005 a memorial service was held at Ft Rosecrans and I attended for the Air Commando Association. Frank had been my

friend since 1961 and we went through the testing phase and entered the Jungle Jim program together. The memorial service was just perfect overlooking the Pacific Ocean and San Diego. A Catholic priest officiated and about 30 people attended - a perfect combination of old Donaldson AFB navigators, Air Commando comrades, fellow neighbors at Norton AFB, Ciba

ACA SPONSORS HURLBURT 1ST SERGEANTS MEETING

In our ongoing efforts to support our troops and enhance our relationship with the active duty Air Force Air Commandos, we invited the Hurlburt 1st Sergeants Council to hold one of their monthly meetings at our facility.

Our invitation was warmly received, and on Tuesday, 17 May, eighteen 1st Sergeants and 16th SOW Command Chief Todd Small, met in our Hall of Memories. We provided .coffee, juice, doughnuts, and cookies. As they signed in, we also souvineered each with a commerative ACA emblazoned glass mug and pen.

President Sambogna gave a welcome speech. This was followed by a overview of the humanitarian efforts of our companion organization, the McCoskrie/Threshold Foundation, by John Grove and Bob White.

As I viewed the gathering, I saw a lot of "us" from time gone by. It was most impressive to see these professional managers so smartly dressed in their BDU's.

They thanked us for hosting their meeting, and the attending "munchies," and it was obvious they were taken quite aback with our building and the trappings therein. Before departing, we extended an open invitation to conduct future meetings here and from all indications, they will.

Bob White, Member, Board of Directors

AIRMAN'S ATTIC ACTIVITIES

Our Board of Directors recently authorized the purchase of \$500 worth of small appliances and tableware, which we gleefully distributed to the Airman's Attic at Hurlburt Field and Eglin AFB. These items will be given to our military personnel and their families to assist them in defraying their cost of living on an "as needed" basis.

John Grove, Assistant Director of the McCoskrie/Threshold Foundation, recently authored a letter to many of the local business heads, (Wal-Mart, Target, Sears, K-Mart, etc.), requesting financial assistance to further pursue this initiative. Thus far, two local Wal-Marts have provided \$75.00 total in shopping cards. Other replies are pending.

These generous donations will greatly assist us to actively continue this most worthy "Quality of Life Program."

Bob White, Member, Board of Directors

Ed Note: The shadow of "good deeds done" is cast on each of us as Bob and John expend great effort and energy in this most notable program.

(Lozanno) Meyer, his former wife, and his Son Chris. Some of the other people included; Ellen (Bonner) Trimpert, one of the southern school teachers in Fort Walton Beach during our time who is married to an old Commando, former aircrew pilot and navigators to include Skip Thompson, Larry Roth and Bruce Lake. We later had an exquisite dinner at the Harbor House in San Diego at water edge of the bay. Pictures of Frank were displayed which really brought some fond memories back of the guy we knew.

During the memorial service and at the restaurant the following remarks were made which some were new, some amazed me and others I knew about:

Frank was a member of the Mensa organization of high IQ peo-

Maj Gen Don Shepperd,
USAF (ret)
recently announced the
publication of "Misty",
a collection of personal
accounts of the Misty FAC
missions flown in Vietnam
using the F-100.
E-mail him at:
shepdonald@aol.com or
call (520) 299-5710.

First Person Stories of the F-100 Misty Fast FACs in the Vietnam War

3ud Day, Bill Douglass. Glenn Jones. Gary Tompkins. Bill Mayberry. Dick Meyer Sarney Dalton. Maurice McHugh. Chuck Turner. Jack Harris. Paul Magill. Bol Slocher. Kipp Kippenhan. Sam Boyd, Keith Heiniger. Dick Cunningham. Bol Craner. George Pinney. Nape Miller. Bob Porter. P.J. White. Charlie Neel. Jer Wallace. Jim Mack. Jones y Jones. Sib Sibson. Gene Mooney. Ray Wellington Guy Gruters, Mieck Greene. Jim Fiorelli. Ed Risinger. Hog Piner. Don Shepperd Oon Jones. B. Willy Williams. Bill Williams. Wilnspering Smith. Elmer Slavey Dick Rutan. Charlie Summers. Stopcock Mamlock. Howard Williams. Lamy. Lancaster. P.K. Robinson. Mike McBihanon. Don Kilgus. Frank Swartz. George Hanks. Wells Jackson. John Overlock. Chuck Shaheen. Dekt Durmit. Steve Amdor David Jenny. Ted Powell. Bud Bacon. Jim Perry. Don Harlan. Roy Bridges Frank Kimball. White. School School School. S

Edited by Major General Don Shepperd, USAF (Ret.) ple. He loved Frank Sinarta's music and was a great Italian cook. Frank died in Washington and kept his prostrate cancer medical problems quiet and asked the family not to say anything about it. The family said he died heroic, accepted his fate and wasn't afraid to meet his maker. Everyone agreed that Frank was a great actor, had a great sense of humor, and made everyone who knew him felt that they were his special friend.

I toasted the celebration of Frank's life and indicated that many of the old Air Commandos he served with would have been there except for the travel distance and a number of people were sick and in particular one of his fellow briefer Chuck Fisher who passed away 3 Mar 05. I told the group that his old friends from the ACA were there in spirit and we would drink a toast to his life at the next ACA reunion. I remembered the many great parties we had at Fort Walton when we were young Commandos and some of us met our future wives at these parties to include Frank. Since he lived in California I had many occurrences to visit Frank at his Wright Wood home in the mountains overlooking San Bernardino. I had many great memories of Frank in the last 44 years.

The aircrew from Donaldson AFB, which was Frank's first assignment, had various comments on Frank. One of his best friends who flew a C-124 with Frank the first time said he hated Frank after the flight but they were lifetime friends. The navigators recalled flying in C-124s over both poles and it seemed like they had a number of navigators on board. They said he would come over when they were over the poles and asked them if they knew where they were to scare them as if he was lost.

Frank will be missed by us all. Gene Rossel

DOD Official Blames Retirees For Lack Of Funding

In what can only be described as a shocking and dismaying development, DoD undersecretary for personnel and readiness David Chu, told the Wall Street Journal that the cost of the benefits being given to military retirees are hurting active duty military personnel. "The amounts (of retirement benefits) have gotten to the point where they are hurtful. They are taking away from the nation's ability to defend

itself," Chu stated in a front page article on January 25.

According to the Journal, "Rising veterans' benefits are a big factor behind the billions of dollars in weapons cuts to be proposed (in President Bush's FY2006 budget). New retiree entitlements also are crimping the Pentagon's ability to increase incentives for enlistment at a time of dangerous, year-long Iraq deployments."

The Journal article followed on the heels of a January 11 New York Times op-ed piece by Cindy Williams. Dr. Williams, a former assistant director of the Congressional Budget Office, also blamed retirees for the inability of the government to devote more money to active duty personnel. It is hard for us not to conclude that the appearance of the two articles was more than coincidental. It

seems to us that this was at least a pre-emptive attempt on the part of the Pentagon to stop our agenda for this year. Whether or not DoD will attempt to roll back the benefits we've already won is not clear, but you can rest assured AMS will fight with all our might to stop any such attempts.

Courtesy American Military Society ADVOCATE

Remember The Guy Who Got On A Plane With A Bomb Built Into His Shoe?

Did you know his trial is over? Did you know he was sentenced? Did you see/hear any of the judge's comments on TV/Radio? Didn't think so. Everyone should hear what the judge had to say.

Ruling by Judge William Young US District Court

Prior to sentencing, the judge asked the defendant if he had anything to say.

His response: After admitting

his guilt to the court for the record, Reid also admitted his "allegiance to Osama bin Laden, to Islam, and to the religion of Allah," defiantly stated "I think I ought not to apologize for my actions," and told the court "I am at war with your country."

Judge Young then delivered the statement quoted below, a stinging condemnation of Reid in particular and terrorists in general: January 30, 2003, United States vs Reid. Judge Young: Mr. Richard C. Reid, hearken now to the sentence the Court imposes upon you. On counts 1,5 and 6 the Court sentences you to life in prison in the custody of the United States Attorney General. On counts 2,3,4 and 7, the Court sentences you to 20 years in prison on each count, the sentence on each count to run consecutive with the other.

That's 80 years. On count 8 the Court sentences you to the mandatory 30 years consecutive to the 80 years imposed. The Court imposes upon you each of the eight counts a fine of \$250,000 for the aggregate fine of \$2 million. The Court accepts the government's recommendation with respect to restitution and orders restitution in the amount of \$298.17 to Andre Bousquet and \$5,784 to American Airlines. The Court imposes upon you the \$800 special assessment.

The Court imposes upon you five years supervised release simply because the law requires it. But the life sentences are real life sentences so I need go no further. This is the sentence that is provided for by our statutes. It is a fair and just sentence. It is a righteous sentence. Let me explain this to you. We are not afraid of you or any of your terrorist coconspirators, Mr. Reid. We

are Americans. We have been through the fire before. There is all too much war talk here and I say that to everyone with the utmost respect. Here in the court, where we deal with individuals as individuals and care for individuals as individuals. As human beings, we reach out for justice.

You are not an enemy combatant. You are a terrorist. You are a terrorist. You are a terrorist. To give you that reference, to call you a soldier, gives you far too much stature. Whether it is the officers of government who do it or your attorney who does it, or that happens to be your view, you are a terrorist...And we do not negotiate with terrorists. We do not treat with terrorists. We do not sign documents with terrorists. We hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice.

So war talk is way out of line in this court. You are a big fellow. But you are not that big. You're no warrior. I know warriors, You are a terrorist. A species of criminal guilty of multiple attempted murders. In a very real sense, State Trooper Santiago had it right when you first were taken off that plane and into custody and you wondered where the press and where the TV crews were and he said you're no

On a Patriotic Note

On November 12, 2004, Ms. Cindy Williams wrote an editorial piece for the Washington Times denouncing the pay raise(s) coming service members' way this year, citing that the stated 13 percent wage was more than they deserve. Here's an out-standing response to Ms. Williams.

I just had the pleasure of reading your column, "Our GIs Earn Enough," and I'm a bit confused. Frankly, I'm wondering where this vaunted over-payment is going, because as far as I can tell, it disappears every month between DFAS (The Defense Finance Accounting Service) and my bank account.

Checking my latest earnings statement, I see that I make \$1,117.80 before taxes. After

taxes, I take home \$874.20. When I run that through the calculator, I come up with an annual salary of \$13,413.60 before taxes and \$10.490.40 after.

I work for the Air Force Network Control Center where I am part of the team responsible for a 5,000 host computer network. I am involved with infrastructure segments, specifically with Cisco Systems equipment. A quick check under jobs for Network Technicians in the Washington, D.C. area reveals a position in my career field, requiring three years experience with my job. Amazingly, this job does not pay \$13,413.60 per year.

No, this job is being offered at \$70,000 to \$80,000 per annum.

See **PATRIOTIC** pg. 20

See SHOE BOMBER pg. 20

Shoe Bomber

from page 19 big deal.

You're no big deal.

What your counsel, what your able counsel and what the equally able United States attorneys have grappled with and what I have as honestly as I know how tried to grapple with, is why you did something so horrific. What was it that led you here to this courtroom today?

I have listened respectfully to what you have to say. And I ask you to search your heart and ask yourself what sort of unfathomable hate led you to do what you are guilty and admit you are guilty of doing. And I have to answer for you. It may not satisfy you, but as I search this entire record, it comes as close to understanding as I know.

It seems to me you hate the one

thing that is most precious. You hate our freedom. Our individual freedom. Our individual freedom to live as we choose, to come and go as we choose, to believe or not believe as we individually choose. Here, in this society, the very winds carry freedom. They carry it everywhere from sea to shining sea. It is because we prize individual freedom so much that you are here in this beautiful courtroom. So that everyone can see, truly see, that justice is administered fairly, individually, and discretely. It is for freedom's sake that your lawyers are striving so vigorously on your behalf and have filed appeals, will go on in their representation of you before other judges.

We are about it. Because we all know that the way we treat you, Mr.

Reid, is the measure of our own liberties. Make no mistake though. It is yet true that we will bare any burden; pay any price, to preserve our freedoms. Look around this courtroom. Mark it well. The world is not going to long remember what you or I say here. Day after tomorrow, it will be forgotten, but this, however, will long endure. Here in this courtroom and courtrooms all across America, the American people will gather to see that justice, individual justice, justice, not war, individual justice is in fact being The very President of the United States through his officers will have to come into courtrooms and lay out evidence on which specific matters can be judged and juries of citizens will gather to sit and judge that evidence democratically, to mold and shape and refine our sense of justice.

See that flag. Mr. Reid? That's the flag of the United States of America. That flag will fly there long after this is all forgotten. That flag stands for freedom. You know it always will.

Mr. Custody Officer. Stand him down.

So, how much of this Judge's comments did we hear on our TV sets? We need more judges like Judge Young, but that's another subject. Pass this around. Everyone should and needs to hear what this fine judge had to say. Powerful words that strike home. God bless America

Submitted by: Bob Gochnauer

A-1 Skyraider Assn Reunion 16 - 17 September

2005 Menger Hotel, San

Antonio Texas

Contact: Rocco DeFelice 104 Will Rogers Drive Schertz, TX 78154 (210) 659-5965

email: roccodef@earthlink.net or Ralph Hoggait at (210) 494-3190

Air Rescue Association Annual Reunion September 7-11, 2005 Colorado Springs, Colorado

Contact Sandy Gonzalez
(407)834-0105
P.O. Box 300945
Fern Park, FL 32730-0945
email: sgonzalez2@cfl.rr.com or
Jim Fall (951)849-3777
email jimbetf@verizon.net
 Visit the Rescue web site
 www.home.cfl.rr.com/airrescue

Patriotic

from page 19

I'm sure you can draw the obvious conclusions. Given the tenor of your column, I would assume that you never had the pleasure of serving your country in her armed forces. Before you take it upon yourself to once more castigate congressional and DOD leadership for attempting to get the families in the military's lowest pay brackets off of WIC and food stamps, I suggest that you join a group of deploying soldiers headed for Afghanistan. I leave the choice of service branch to you.

Whatever choice you make, though, opt for the six-month rotation. It will guarantee you the longest possible time away from your family and friends, thus giving you full "deployment experience." As your group prepares to board the plane, make sure to note the spouses and children who are saying good-bye to their loved ones. Also take care to note that several families are still unsure of

how they'll be able to make ends meet while the primary breadwinner is gone. Obviously, they've been squandering the "vast" piles of cash the government has been giving them.

Try to deploy over a major holiday; Christmas and Thanksgiving are perennial favorites. And when you're actually over there sitting in a fox-hole, shivering against the cold desert night and the flight sergeant tells you that there aren't enough people on shift to relieve you for chow, remember this: Trade whatever MRE (meal ready to eat) you manage to get for the tuna casserole or cheese tortellini and add Tabasco to everything. This gives some flavor. Talk to your loved ones as often as you are permitted; it won't nearly be long enough or often enough, but take what you can get and be thankful for it. You may have picked up on the fact that I disagree with most of the points you present in your oped

piece.

But tomorrow from Kabul, I will defend to the death your right to say it

You see, I am an American fighting man, a guarantor of your First Amendment rights and every other right you cherish. On a daily basis, my brother and sister soldiers worldwide ensure that you and people like you can thumb their collective noses at us all, all on a salary that is nothing short of pitiful and under conditions that would make most people cringe. We hemorrhage our best and brightest into the private sector because we can't offer the stability and pay of civilian companies.

And you, Ms. Williams, have the gall to say that we make more than we deserve! Rubbish!!

(This response was written by Airman First Class Michael Bragg who is assigned to Hill Air Force Base, AFNCC)

Personal Affairs

By: John Connors

Several issues have surfaced at ACA Headquarters recently that we thought might be of interest to you. We have also added a few other current items to give the column some depth. The format is to give you the subject title, succinct info, internet references (if available), and a bottom line. Perhaps it will develop into a permanent feature in the newsletter if members are interested and enough subject matter is available. If you have any questions or inputs, please email us at aircomando@aol.com. Stay tuned!

DIC: Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

This item is a follow-up on our letter of 11 November 2004 about this subject.

Bottom Line: Effective 16 December 2003, qualifying spouses who remarry after age 57 retain their DIC benefit.

DD Form 214: Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty

This is probably the most important document a military retiree possesses. It is used for almost all dealings with the various departments of the U.S. Government, especially for military honors at the retiree's funeral or memorial service.

Bottom Line: If you want the rifles to fire, the bugles to play, and the airplanes to fly (sometimes) at your final military formation, make sure that your spouse, children, or a trusted friend have a copy of your DD-214 or know where to get one in a hurry. Just do it!

SBP: Survivor Benefit Plan

Two significant events will take place on 1 October 2005 regarding SBP. A one-year open enrollment season will commence, and the Social Security offset that reduces the SBP annuity from 55% to 35% when the annuitant reaches 62 years of age will now reduce the annuity to 40%.

Internet Reference: www.dfas.mil (As soon as implementing data is available - please don't call.)

Bottom Line: The good news is that by 1 April 2008, the full 55% annuity will be restored to SBP recipients 62 years of age and over.

Thank you, Congressman Jeff Miller!

Senior ID Cards:

As a result of the FY 2005 National Defense Authorization Act, the Services are now authorized to issue an "indefinite" ID card to dependents and survivors of retired military personnel who are 75 years of age or older. Implementation is expected sometime this summer. Check with your Pass & ID office for updates.

Bottom Line: No more worrying about whether your ID card has expired or not; no more quadrennial hassle about getting it renewed; and no more embarrassment at the BX, Commissary, and Hospital when it has expired. Great News!

Living Wills, etc:

Since the recent death of Terri Schiavo, the TV and print media have been inundated with stories and advice on how to make important decisions regarding life and death issues. Articles by Dr. Isadore Rosenfeld (Parade Magazine, 22 May 2005), AARP, Dear Abby, the U.S. Army PIO at Ft Sam Houston, and several others all seem to home in on a "livingwill" as the key ingredient in your preparations to ensure that your end-of-life wishes are carried out. The lack of a standard national document seems to be a problem.

Internet References: <u>www.parade.comand</u> click on "Health;" www.compassionandchoices.org and click on bottom of the Web page "Information About Advance Directives;" <u>www.flabar.org</u>, <u>www.flacathconf.org</u>; and <u>www.agingwithdignity.org</u>.

Bottom Line: If you believe health, wealth, and faith are important to you and your heirs, please ensure that your medical, financial, and spiritual affairs are in order before departing the planet on your final PCS to the hereafter. As my old Latin teacher used to say, "Tempus Fugit - Carpe Diem!" (Time Flies - Seize the Day!)

First Hmong In Naval Academy

May 18, 2005

A 17-year-old St. Paul girl recently learned she is going to be the first Hmong American from Minnesota to attend a U.S. Military academy.

Ka Xiong is ready to serve her country, as a newly appointed cadet at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

"It feels exciting, very exciting," Xiong said.

Xiong was one of 1,200 students chosen from a pool of 14,000 applicants.

"(It's a) very significant achievement for her, the school and the community," said Cmdr. George Clifford, the Navy ROTC area manager.

Xiong attends Arlington High School. She moved to Minnesota from a refugee camp in Thailand when she was four years old.

She is at the top of her class, having a perfect 4.0 grade point

average. Her favorite subject is physics and she hopes to one day be a NASA scientist.

She comes from a strict family that instilled discipline and Xiong was determined to get into the academy. She even got help from local politicians.

"I was at home on my computer and all of the sudden, my phone rang and (U.S. Rep.) Betty McCollum said 'you've been accepted," Xiong said.

Xiong said she did not know anything about the naval academy until she started hanging out with other cadets in her junior ROTC program two years ago.

"That's when I was like, that's a school?" Xiong said. "Then I got online and started researching about the naval academy."

The research and her love of the military paid off. She begins boot camp next month.



Attention!! ACA EXECUTIVE BOARD

We have four openings for the Executive Board that need to be filled this October. The office of: Vice President; Treasurer; and two Board of Director slots will come open. Any member in good standing, who lives in the local area, is eligible to run. Those interested please contact the ACA office.

THE MIKE GROUP

a novel by GARY CROWTHER

Four retired Special Operations experts, disillusioned with government spending of tax dollars, covertly impose their own priorities. The Mike Group exposes a rogue government operation. Weapons are fired, people die and a cover-up is launched.



Gary Crowther is a retired military officer with a background in Special Operations and unconventional warfare. Crowther served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force with assignments in South America, Africa, Southeast Asia and Europe.

To ORDER: Go to www.authorhouse.com
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\$17.95 or order from author
Gary Crowther, \$15.00, ACA
Member #L-0021:
32 7th Avenue, Apt. #117,
Shalimar, FL 32579.

Ed Note: A very good read.

SKYRAIDER RECEIVES MAKEOVER



By MSgt Kevin Owens, 19th SOS

Members of the 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron working with the 16th Special Operations Wing history office, to ensure historical accuracy, recently completed some long-needed repairs on the Hurlburt Field Air Park's A-1E Skyraider.

The Skyraider was a rugged single engine close air support platform that saw action with Air Force and Navy in Southeast Asia. The Air Park's Skyraider, tail number 52-132598. saw all of its active service with the Navy as a trainer. Its last flight was a test mission at Eglin AFB in 1971. The Airframe was severely stressed during the flight and was deemed no longer flight worthy. It was installed in the Air Park in 1972.

"When it was decided the A-1 needed to be repaint-

ed and have some structural repairs done, we really wanted it to represent what the airframe meant to Special Operators and Air Commandos who served in its era, " said Dr. John Dabrowski, 16th SOW historian.

In order to ensure the paint scheme on the aircraft was correct, Dr. Drabrowski spoke to retired Col. Bernard Fisher, one of the two men to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions while flying Skyraiders.

"It's an incredible feeling for all of us who work on the planes in the Air Park when someone who flew on or was rescued by one of them praises the efforts we make to keep the planes in proper condition," said TSgt Carl Peterman, 16th EMS structural maintenance shop.

"More than one veteran has told us that it as if our efforts honored the sacrifices they and their brother in arms had to endure," he said.

Several hundred man hours were spent planning and conducting the repairs to the A-1 Skyraider. In addition to new paint and structural repairs, the A-1 also received new tires.

Commandos Watch As Ship Is Renamed For Their Friend

Valerie Chapman christens ship named for her husband, Tech Sgt. John A. Chapman

A handful of air commandos based at Hurlburt Field watched Friday as one of their friends, a combat controller, officially had a Navy merchant ship renamed after him.

The 670-foot long MV TSgt. John A. Chapman is co-sponsored by Navarre's Valerie Chapman, widow of the highly decorated airman.

She busted a champagne bottle over the Chapman's railing to bring the ship to new life.

"Oh, it was wonderful. It was marvelous," she said by cell phone occasionally asking to be excused for a moment and then explaining. "Sorry, I'm kissing people goodbye."

Valerie and the Chapmans' two young daughters were at the military ocean terminal in Sunny Point, N.C. for the ceremony and they were among her family's special operations friends.

Air Force Special Operations Command commander Lt. Gen. Michael W. Wooley and Air Force Chief of Staff John P. Jumper were among the high-level officials in attendance.

AFSOC's 720th Special Tactics Group oversees the service's combat controller units. Chapmans was attached to the 24th Special Tactics Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, N.D. when he deployed to Afghanistan.

He died near Gardez in the eastern highlands of Afghanistan on March 4, 2002, during rescue of a Navy SEAL sailor who had fallen out of a helicopter that was hit by machine gun fire and a rocket-propelled grenade.

The technical sergeant was awarded the Air Force Cross posthumously for his participation in the Operation Anaconda battle.

That Chatman earned one of the country's highest military decorations was no surprise to 1st Lt. Rodger Jennrick of the 720th Special Tactics Group at Hurlburt.

Jennrick, who was a combat controller for 14 years, is now a special tactics officer and was a longtime friend of Chapman's.

"He was just the total package," said Jennrick. "He had it all. He had the brains. He had the brawn."

The first lieutenant was delighted when he heard the Navy was renaming one of its pre-positioning ammunition ships after Chapman.

And he was happy to see Valerie co-sponsor the vessel.

"She is part of the special tactics family and always will be," Jennrick said.

Courtesy: Northwest Florida DAILY NEWS

Rossel Report

Howdy Commandos, Need your help

My name is Wyatt Jones and I'm seeking your help regarding C123 aircraft assigned to NKP, Thailand from Viet Nam during the 1970-71 time frame. I'm currently fighting my second Viet Nam conflict this time with the VA. I have type 2 diabetes and think I was exposed while working on these aircraft at NKP. These aircraft flew mission from NKP, Thailand (I don't know if they flew Ranch Hand or Candlestick missions). If you have any information regarding these aircraft at NKP Thailand, please forward me an email wijones@comcast.net statement regarding the aircraft assignment, (any photos, tail numbers, configuration). These aircraft would have been assigned after their Viet Nam Ranch Hand mission had ended. I'm aware NKP had C123 aircraft assigned(606 SOS) but the info I'm seeking pertain to aircraft that came from Vietnam and were parked on the Det.1, 362 TEWS ramp and maintained by 362 TEWS ground crews at NKP. I thank you for your help. NKP, Korat, Udorn 68-72 A1E, 01 & 02, C-47, C-123.

Thanks for the information. I sent you some information and hope it was useful. If anyone can help Wyatt please contact him.

Jungle Jim

From: "John Livesay" jslivesay@earthlink.net

I was at an air show yesterday and talked to a man that had a T-28 on display. His information sheet talked about the 4400 CCTS, Jungle Jim, etc. and stated that the T-28 was used for combat missions by Americans in late 1962. When I informed him that it was used in early '62 (I flew with Col. Jack on one) he seemed interested in any information that he might be able to get on Jungle Jim operations and particularly on the T-28. If you have any information, or are still in contact with others who might have any, he would appreciate you contacting him. E-mail: captvmmo@aol.com, Doug Lea, P.O. Box 51645, Lafayette, La 70505.

Doug - I will put your interest in the ACA Newsletter. Thanks for preserving our heritage.

Davis Monthan Office of History

Comments: I'm looking for anyone who might have known USAF Lt Col (ret) John M Rowan. One of the "original" pilots 4400 CCTS, deployed Bien Hoa, Nov 1961, deceased, buried at Arlington, died Nov '82, Columbia, S America. Thanks

Also looking for Paul Howell, SEA, USAF Spec Ops NCO, or anyone who knew him.

Dennis Mills, dennis.mills@dm.af.mil

Thanks for the email. We'll put this in the ACA Newsletter in addition of the information we have sent you.

Not an ACA Member yet

Mike Clothier, mcclothier@sbcglobal.net, Norco, California

Stationed at NKP Thailand 67/68. 609th ACS as weapons loader on the A26.

We want you as a member! Go to www.aircommando1/acapplication.htm and download an application and send it to the address on the application with your \$20.00. You'll enjoy the quarterly newsletter, the reunion and old war stories which get better with the years.

Battlefield Air Support, A Retrospective Assessment, Dr Richard P. Hallion.

www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil/airchronicles/apj/2spr90.html

MORE than 70 years have passed since armed aircraft first attacked troops in what would now be considered close air support (CAS) and battlefield air interdiction (BAI) missions. An extraordinary amount of thought and discussion has resulted in numerous publications, papers, and symposia concerned with the issue of battlefield support in virtually all its aspects. Today, this continuing interest is particularly significant, as the military services struggle to come to grips with the future of the CAS/BAI mission.

I see that this is a 1990 article. It seems to argue that Close Air Support should be a subordinate mission for the USAF. Reckon the guys on the ground with their noses in the dirt would not agree. I say turn over the A-10s to the Army!! The Marines have their own CAS capability.

Mac

MacAlan Thompson, mact@peak.org.

Montagnard refugees off to Finland!

Montagnards will probably find warm reception from Finn people but winter climate might be a shock.

PHNOM PENH, May 11 (UNHCR) Months after crossing through the jungle to seek refuge in north-eastern Cambodia, a group of 27 Montagnard refugees from Viet Nam's central highlands are on their way to Finland to start a new life, in a climate that couldn't be more different from what they're used to.

The refugees, who were flying on Tuesday night from Cambodian capital Phnom Penh to the coastal city of Oulu in Finland, were excited but nervous when UNHCR staff went to brief them on conditions in their new homeland. They are the first group of a total of 72 Montagnards accepted for resettlement in Finland.

"There were a lot of smiles and some laughter duringour orientation briefing. Overall they seemed a bit nervous but excited about their new future," said a UN refugee agency protection officer.

The major concerns of the refugees were about the cost of living, which they heard was very high in Finland, the availability of schooling and whether they could work in their new country.

Another refugee said it would be sad to say goodbye to friends and relatives at the site where they had been living in Phnom Penh.

A second group of Montagnards is scheduled to fly to Finland in early June after taking a Finnish orientation course this week.

Most Montagnard refugees in Cambodia have preferred to resettle to the United States, where there is a strong Montagnard community and connections. Cambodia has always insisted that local

from page 23

integration was not an option for the Montagnards.

An agreement was signed in Hanoi in January between UNHCR, Viet Nam and Cambodia aimed at finding solutions for some 750 Vietnamese Montagnards who had fled into Cambodia, the majority of refugees are now choosing to resettle to a third country.

In March, 35 Montagnards decided voluntarily to return to Viet Nam under the terms of the January agreement, under which the Vietnamese government gave written guarantees that the returnees would not be punished, discriminated against and/or prosecuted for their illegal departure.

A further 101 Montagnard asylum seekers were rejected as refugees and will have to return to Viet Nam. No date has been set for their return. By Jennifer Pagonis Sent by Bill Laurie, bill laurie@yahoo.com

Frank Farthing

Sincerely, Tim Andrews

Eugene,

Yes, I would like to meet and speak with all of you guys. I know my uncle was a wild and crazy guy. My e-mail has changed to: tandrewss@sbcglobal.net, My phone number is (951) 780-1977 at home and my cell number is (951)321-9650. I hope that helps. I will try to contact your friend about my uncle Frank. I also would be more than happy to send any dues along with, an application to join the Air Commando Association.

Tim, Here is the guy who called me and wanted to send you something on the Internet but said your address didn't work. I asked him to give me his Internet address and he said it was his wife's and it wasn't working--interpretations--he didn't know how to use the Internet and his wife said keep your cotton picking hands off my computer. He flew with your uncle and he has some stories to send you and it was all the result of having put your email in the ACA Newsletter. If you got some more email from other guys would be glad to use the information in the ACA newsletter. Bob Jakes

2849 Nodeau Road Monroe, MI 48162 Tel 734-289-7797

Eugene,

I apologize for not sending my addrress: Mailing address is: TimAndrews P.O. Box 5443. Riverside, CA 92517
Home address: Tim & Esther Andrews, 1760 Old Bridge Road Riverside, CA 92506
Tim Andrews | QA Manager | VERTIS
7190 Jurupa Avenue | Riverside, CA 92504
tandrews@vertisinc.com

Bailout of A-26

Gene some things that come to mind after 40 years.......

In the 66-68 time period a 3-man crew-one pilot and 2 navigators-successfully bailed out of a '26 over Laos. The names and details are unknown to me. I spoke to one of these navigators some years later at a Commando reunion. As I recall the story, they were returning to NKP at night with battle damage, one engine shut-down and one failing. They went over the side in an extremely well-planned, well-executed drill that put all 3 men safely on the ground, and resulted in the safe recovery of all 3 men.

Clearly a job well done!

I believe another Nimrod crew bailed out somewhere over Laos. If I am right both of these aircraft were abandoned in level flight and with a bit of time to prepare for going over the side. I am not aware of any other loses where men left a B-26 in a controlled situation. In 1962 a navigator by the name of Johnson bailed out of a 26 in SVN and was picked up un-injured, the pilot went in with the aircraft. In 1963 navigator Adi Lielmanis went over the side of a '26 shot down over Cau Mau. Witnesses stated he exited at about 2000' but that his parachute failed to open properly. Pilot Bill Cody went in with the aircraft.

The nature of close-air-support, with little if any nav.-aids, in rough country, often at night, often in mountainous areas, with poor communications, usually with enemy fire, gave '26 crews from zero to as much as 30 seconds to get out alive when things went wrong. Even if the aircraft could grab some altitude, and even if a man cleared the cockpit, he still had to clear the tail, then hope there was enough sky below him for his parachute to open. The odds were not good.

There were about 20 Air Commando '26's lost in SEA between 1962 and 1969. These were Farm Gate and Nimrod aircraft. Most of these crews simply didn't have the time or the altitude to escape. We'll never know exactly what happened in many of these losses. Several were crews who simply didn't come back.

If I remember correctly there were only about 300 men total who checked out in Air Commando B-A-26s in the 60s. I assume that about half of these were pilots and about half navigators. Some 49 of those names are inscribed on the lost memorial at the Hurlburt gate. I know of several other men who flew the 26 and then were lost after going on to other aircraft/commands. Most of these were combat losses. One '26 was lost in Panama. At least 2 at Hurlburt. As for my experience, we were on a simple napalm delivery practice run on a pretty sunny morning, no mountains, no enemy, no ground fire, no turbulent air. An experienced crew and a simple target (a G I truck). Nobody was hollering on the radio. It was a very controlled situation- yet in about a ten-second period when I failed to slap the master-arm-switch to the "safe" position, the cockpit of that B-26K turned into a burning hell. With 100 lb bombs trailing out and impacting about 30 feet below our belly, pieces of the airplane were coming off. I won't forget looking back into that bomb-bay and seeing that white shining flame and saying, "Tom, we're burning. We've got to get out."

Then the bomb-bay fuel tank blew (remember the B model and

from page 24

early K models had a 125 gallon tank right behind the cockpit.) Tom and I both hit the canopy-jettison lever at the same instant and I went over the side. I simply hurled myself over the cockpit rail. nothing planned, just sheer terror. I was praying to clear the tail and praying for my chute to open.

When my chute caught I looked up and saw the canopy and looked around and failed to see another parachute (there wasn't one). I looked down and saw a pine tree about 50 feet below and noticed that from my right knee down nothing was there except a funny white bone sticking out sideways.

Since I have rambled on here I need to say one thing more. Of the handfull of men who bailed out of a '26 in the 1960s and lived, most of them were navigators. This tells us something of the kind of pilots who flew for the First Air Commando Wing. When life or death was down to the last few seconds, they were willing to give that extra 2 seconds to the man in the right seat. My hats off to those guys.

Maury, "M W Bourne", mwbourne@aerobourne.com

Back Home

Gene I just returned home from a 6 week sojourn searching for a new place to move to. No decisions yet. You may care to update the Stewart story in your next submission. To sum it up in a nutshell Hap provided me with a sworn statement that he worked with Erik in Thailand and probably also did so in VN via "Waterpump". I sent that along with a copy of Air Commando Chronicles as requested by the VA and also talked twice to the VA action officer. Chaplain Miller finally called to let me know that this was accepted and they are in the process of awarding her lifelong pension. A good ACA coordinated success story. We don't have that many turn out that well. I will give you a call when I get my cell phone back on line, Regards, Bob

Bob Gleason, RIgleason22@aol.com

Buffy the Bear Goes to the World By Bob Blough.

In the summer of 75, with the impending closure of NKP (Nakhon Phanom RTAFB) and the uncertain future of the 40th ARRS, several of the Jolly pilots undertook a mission to find a suitable retirement home for our mascot. Since Buffy had been raised from a cub in captivity, we knew he couldn't survive in the wild. The St. Louis Zoo, near Air Rescue Headquarters at Scott AFB, Illinois, agreed to take Buffy if we could get him there from Thailand at no cost to the zoo. Somehow, enough money was scrounged to pay a professional live animal collector to transport Buffy to St. Louis. The collector provided a special cage used to transport "dangerous" animals, and Buffy was coaxed into the cage and given a tearful Sawadee. He was then loaded onto a truck for the trip to Bangkok airport. A few hours later, the truck carrying Buffy returned to NKP. Seems Buffy was tearing apart the special cage. A couple of the pilots took a couple cases of beer to the Security Police and returned with a large dog transport cage. They then took some

more beer to the motor pool, and welded reinforcements all over the cage. Buffy was again loaded onto the truck headed for Bangkok. A few weeks later we got word from friends at Scott that Buffy had successfully passed quarantine, and was safely ensconced in his new home. He was by far the largest Malaysian Sun Bear at the zoo (was it the high-protein dog food or the Budweiser?). The guys at Scott arranged for a plaque to be mounted to the cage, detailing Buffy's service to his adopted country. They also reported that Buffy would run up to greet them when they called his name, but the zoo wouldn't let them inside to wrestle. I don't know how long he survived, but I like to think there are lots of little Buffy Jrs. and Buffyettes running around Jeff

Bob is a member who was an H H-53 pilot with the 40th ARRS (Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron) at Korat in 1974 and 1975.

Capt. Thomas C. Ewen

Seeking any information that you have on Capt. Thomas C. McEwen, Jr. We have heard he was KIA on 24 Feb 65. That's all we know.

Thanks, His old fraternity brothers at Vanderbilt University Nicks Williams, paddymurphy74@yahoo.com, Charlotte, NC

Why do you want information for and what do you know about Capt McEwen?

Gene, thanks much for such a quick response. Here's what I know (or I think I know).

Capt. McEwen started at Vanderbilt University then must have transferred to the Naval Academy around 1951. Not sure where he is from. He was a memebr of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at Vanderbilt. I found his name listed on our SAE master roll as Capt. Thomas C. McEwen, Jr.

Saw somewhere on the Internet where he was killed in action on 24 Feb 1965. However, I went to a Vietnam casualty site and they have no listing for him. Would love to find out anything I can to pass along to our Vanderbilt SAE alumni (650 men from Classes of '1934 to 2004.) I have yet to poll men from his era at vandy who may have known him but am getting ready to next week. Thanks for your help.

The old 1964 SAWC booklet on the 1st ACW listed Capt McEwen as being killed on 4 Feb 1962 at Greensboro, NC and it also had some other descripancies.

On May 1, 2005, at 11:28 PM, Gene Rossel wrote to the Skyraider Organization.:

You have Capt Thomas C. McEwen on Express-09 Condra/Re which states he was KIA 65/02/24. I knew Tom when I got in the Air Commandos in late 61. I liked him as a friend and talked to him often. What I remembered of him was he was a USNA grad, a

from page 25

karate expert and an all around good guy. I thought he had died in an T-28/A-1E in the US when he failed to come out of a dive. Do you have anything to add to this.

Gene Rossel

Hi Gene, I have him KIA as indicated on 1965/02/04. Here is the writeup.

CAPT GAREISS WAS THE INSTR PILOT & CAPT MCEWEN THE PILOT ON AN EVALUATION/TNG FLIGHT. THE AIRCRAFT ENTERED A SPIN AT 3000 FEET WHILE EXECUTING AN ACROBATIC MANEUVER. THE AIRCRAFT STRUCK THE GROUND IN A FLAT ATTITUDE & EXPLODED 15 MILES SE BIEN HOA.

Hook, Byron Hukee, <u>a1hukez@t-online.de</u>, F-100/A-1/A-7/F-5/F-16 <u>skyraider.org</u>

Joe Kittenger

Sorry to get into this late, but I was having trouble getting on the server. A couple of years ago the Naval Institute Press published a great book about high altitude balloons and the men that went up in them. As can be expected Joe Kittenger was the centerpiece of the book, which was titled: "The Pre-Astronauts, Manned Ballooning on the Threshold of Space", by Craig Ryan. Kittenger stepped out of a balloon at 103,000 feet, and reached 614 mph! He logged over 1,000 hours of combat flight in SEA, had three tours of duty and flew a total of 483 missions in SEA in March of 1972 he shot down a MIG-21 and two months later he was shot down over the North, spending 11 months in solitary confinement. Tony Tambini

Tony Tambini, Tglb8@aol.com

Hi Guys

Yep I know about Joe Kittinger... even had a couple of e-mails from him some years ago.

Phantom driver at Udorn in 1971/1972. I am not sure but he might have commanded the 555TFS. Anyone know that for sure. Anyway I do know he was the Vice Commander of the 48TFW here in the UK in 1977. He led the first twenty F-4D's back to the States in a 12 hour flight from Lakenheath to Nellis non stop in April 1977. His jet had a kill star on it... his kill though and not that particular Phantom's!

Fact is his was the first kill on the intake ramp of none other than F-4D 66-7463. Not surprisingly it was the bigger star of the bunch before Ritchie's 5th and the big re-paint on August 28 1972. You can date pictures by that star.

He was shot down over north Vietnam on May 11th I think and was captured. Released in1973. Like you say the first man in space and all

That is one hell of a record and he almost was the first of the bunch to get around the world in a balloon. Crashed in Italy just short of the record.

I also seem to remember he had something to do with combat in Vietnam way earlier than 1972 and flew twin engine prop aircraft that could only be the old Invaders but can't lay a hand on that here right now.

Good guy to know.

Ron... again keep that stuff heading this way mate. Your pictures or part of a collection??

Yep Rod the Sea Fury but a Bristol engine.... I forget the name but a big Radial. Anyone save me the trouble of looking it up tonight guys. If ever there was a more impressive and powerful piston engine fighter I haven't seen it yet,

Good stuff.

Cheers now, Mike

Michael France, London F-4 historian

Australian FAC in Vietnam

Eugene, Thanks for the photo. A bunch of Aussie FACs managed to get together in the same city on Anzac Day (25 April) for a little reunion. We marched in Brisbane and we were joined by Joe Sowa (USAF). Photo attached.

Regards, Peter Condon, petercondon@icunet.com.au

Capt Ed Cook Air Commando Navigator Killed in crash of C-46 in Panama 1 Sept 1967

I received the following email from John Cook looking for information on his uncle Capt Ed "Ned" Cook who also was his surrogate father. Ed's brother John died in a crash of an F-84 in 1954 before the birth of his son. John Jr never knew his father. John lived with Ed and his family for most of his young life.

Dear Sir

I don't know if you can help me sir but I have been thinking about this for some time especially after I viewed your website.

My father Lt. John P. Cook was killed in the Sea of Japan when his F-84 crashed in 1954 when I was born. His brother Edward R. Cook took over as a surrogate father afterwards. Ned also joined the Air Force in 1960 and was a Commando. As a navigator aboard a C-47 gunship he spent time in South America (I still have the money he brought back) and much time in Vietnam and Thailand. I used to spend summers with him in the mid 1960's when he lived in Destin Florida, while being stationed at Hurlburt Field. I think around 1965 he brought home his friend who I think was named Dave Washington (Maury Bourne) who had lost his leg. Ned left home in the summer of 1967 for Panama. On Sept 4, 1967 The plane crashed upon takeoff killing all aboard. Even though they died 10 years apart both brothers are buried next to each other at Arlington. Losing both boys devastated my grandparents and they never were the same. I came home one day and my grandmother had burned all family photographs of both my father and Ned.

I was wondering if by chance you knew Capt. Ned Cook or someone who might be able to help me. My goal is to find someone who

from page 26

might have served with him and have photographs of him in the service that can I can have copies of for my wall. Although I am the only surviving family member the Government won't allow me to have his service records since I am not a son or daughter. I thank you for your time.

Sincerely, John Cook, 1203 Hambrooks Blvd., Cambridge, MD 21613, (H) 410-228-1967 email: jpcook@dmv.com

A memory I had about Ed was when he came down from England AFB to Hurlburt and the plane broke down on Friday (wonder why) about a month before he was killed. He called me about borrowing a suit to go out on the town and since we were about the same size I gave him a suit and said he would return it after he got back to Hurlburt again. Unfortunately he never returned. I always wanted to know what really happened to Ed and John's letter motivated me to find out. I was told originally that the cable connected to the elevator didn't have the nut safety wired and which came loose during flight causing the C-46 to loose control and stalled and crashed on takeoff.

I sent out emails and called Commandos to find if any remembered the C-46 accident and knew what happened. Don Mack (our Jay Leno of the times) had some details when I talked to him. He lives in 7 Elgin PL, Dunedin, FL 34698-8575 Tel 727-734-7584. He remembered Maurice Bourne, and said he was with Air America at one time. Don and I had a great conversation on old commando days and the people we knew. Always great to talk to him. I sent Maurice an email and got this back;

"M W Bourne", <mwbourne@aerobourne.com>

I was Ed Cook's room mate in 1964 while at Hurlburt. We rented a house at La Bresa just outside the Hurlburt main gate. Others who rented cottages there were "Big Mitch" Mitchell, C-46 pilot, and Bob Dutton B-26 pilot and his wife Troy.

Ed was my best friend. He was a C-46 nav. I was a B-26 nav. I hated to hear of his death. We were losing a lot of our flight mates during those years. I cannot count on both hands the number of close friends I lost during those years.

I read the letter from John Cook. Ed had told me about his older brother who had died in the F-84.

I was the navigator on the B-26K that went down on range 52 just before Christmas 1964. Pilot Tom White was killed. I bailed out and lost my right leg 4 inches above the knee.

I am likely the man who visited Ed at his home. That was a long time ago, and my memory is fuzzy. I am sorry, but I never had a single picture of Ed. Those things didn't seem important then. I'm not sure how I can help John Cook. I will send

him an email just to say hello. Thanks for sending this on to me. Maury Bourne, 1 Lt. USAF (retired)

I talked to Bob Gleason and he was in the Pentagon at the time and was ready to go down to help in the C-46 investigation. He thought he had a similar problem with the C-46 during WWII. Bob told me

that he was a Lt pilot flying C-46s over the hump. Every time I talk to Bob I find something new about his life. He also flew C-46 in the Air Commandos. Our flying record with the C-46 was a good record and primarily due to the aircraft mechanics who maintained them and the skills of our crews who flew them.

I called others and want to thank them for their help and advice. With one lucky email I was able to get both John and Ed Cooks Mishap reports. The two reports together were about 1.5" thick and were interesting reading. I have sent these mishap reports to John Cook on his father and uncle. I took the opportunity to extract something of both men accident in case any of you knew either and wish to drop John a note-he is particularly interested in getting any picture of either his uncle or father since his parents apparently destroyed them after Ed was killed.

John Cook wrote to me after he was unable to get reports of his father and uncle mishap reports.

Mr. Rossel

I really thank you for all you have done I can't tell you how much I appreciate your efforts. I would like to make a donation to your museum. Your website looks great. You sent the gentlemans' address and I can contact him for the report. It would be cool though if someone in your organization might have a photo or something. Would you recommend the book by Col. Gleason? Thanks so much!

Take Care, John

I have already got the reports and I will get a copy of Col Gleason's book for you. It is a great history of the early days of the Vietnam Air Commandos.

Dear Mr. Rossel

Thanks for everything. I have tried to call but have not been able to reach you. Hope all is well with you. I have started the Air Commando Association logo. I have made it the size that would fit on a podium. The one I am doing first is the association one. I picked a piece of Honduras mahagony that came from a

table Ned's father made and Ed and I would sit around and eat pizza and beer as we watched TV or played cards.

I think this is appropriate and I will enjoy doing it. Take care! My address is below

John Cook

If any of you knew Ed Cook or John's father who died in an F-84 accident or have any pictures of either drop him a line on the internet or call him. John is a wood carver and is making a carving of the ACA patch and the ZAP patch to use on our podium.

from page 27

Young Amerasian searching for father.

I am forwarding a request I received from a young woman, named "Pun" presently living in the Netherlands, age 32. She is Amerasian with a Thai mother and an American father, an AF GIB named Bob (maybe just a young mechanic). He served at Udorn RTAFB in the 71-72 time frame. She does not have a last name for her father. His front seater was an Afro-American, named Ronny.

If anyone knows a GIB (or a young talented GI) fitting Bob's description below, or knows of an Afro-American front seater (or a young GI), named Ronny from the 71-72 time frame at Udorn, please contact me or contact Pun directly at valkenstein@tiscali.nl MacAlan Thompson, mact@peak.org

Fr Luke Bouchard

Saw the note re Fr B in the latest ACA newsletter. Comment below. Following is from another net, just in last week:

March 11, 2005 from Western Borneo which is now called Halimantan.

Father Bouchard started working in Western Borneo in September 1977. For the past nine years, he has been assigned to a mission area of 23 villages. It takes him about 2 months to visit all of the villages. He visits 13 villages by outboard motor and the ten other by motorcycle or on foot. While he loves his work, his age (76 this month) and a two year back problem is making it more and more difficult to visit the villages of his parish. He has decided to go back permanently to the USA.

He will send his new address when he gets his assignment in the United States.

Another guy I'd like to locate is Fr Jerry Orsino, OMI. Worked with him up at Ban Houei Sai, L-25, in 1969-70, and later helped introduce him to Fr Boonlert here in Bangkok, where he worked with the same folks up north in the early '80s. Any ideas on Jerry? Mac IVS & USAID/Laos 1966-'75; retired in Thailand

They collected some \$13,000 for the Tsunami drive by his order and several ACA members donated to help Fr Bouchard. They told me that they would give it to his replacement in the area.

U-2 and SR-71 History

This site is most impressive. If you enjoy aviation history and most importantly U-2 and SR-71 history this is a must see site. It takes awhile to download but is well worth the +15 minutes you'll spend viewing.

www.area51specialprojects.com/PowerPoint_RR/Roadrunner_long.pp.swf

Capt Robert T. Bennett

Gene, Life has been crazy, but here is my new email address: mandate2serve@yahoo.com

I am excited to get more information on my dad (Capt Robert T. Bennett, KIA Vietnam Nov 1962)!!!!!!!!!!

Thanks, Shari L. Herold (Bennett) BTW feel free to share the new email!!!!!!!

Dear Sir:

I was in the 5th Tow Target Sq. based at Neubiburg AFB Germany during the years 1955, 1956, 1957. I was a crew chief on a TB-26, tail number 139499.

I knew a Capt. Robert D. Bennett that arrived there in oct. 1956 I believe, The Squadron was disbanded in the latter part of 1957. when Neubiburg AFB was returned to the Germans, and I lost contact with him. The Capt Bennett that I knew AFSN was A0227973, If this was the father of Sharon Bennett, would you please relay a message to her that her father was a fine man, well thought of and liked by all that were fortunate to have known him.

I have Orders that were cut during the time Capt. Bennett was in the 5th Tow Target Sq. with his name and AFSN on them, they list all the Officers and men that were in the Squadron on 1/11/1956, I would be glad to either Fax them or mail a copy to Sharon or anyone that is interested, I can't send them with this little Mickey Mouse computer of mine.

Best Regards, Richard K. Cooke Moneta, Virginia. High Mileage@webtv.net

Thanks! I have passed on your email to Shari and it was her father. Also thanks for the orders.

Agent Orange

The Longest War: Herbicides Used in Vietnam, Agent Orange Several websites are available for your Agent Orange research:

www.members.aol.com/warlibrary/vwhr1.htm

www.lewispublishing.com/herbs1.htm

www.lewispublishing.com/map1.htm

Military News and Information Editor, The American War Library, Est. 1988, www.amervets.com

Or our phone number dot com (13105320634.com),

16907 Brighton Avenue, Gardena CA 90247

Tel 1-310-532-0634

"Spooky"

As an infantry commander in VN I called "Spooky" on many occasions and had my butt saved; thank you very much! In the early years (1966) Spooky was a AC-47 firing 20mm cannon and, I think, 7.62 all tracer. In the middle and later years (1968 to 73) Spooky was an AC130 but I seem to remember the call sign changed to Puff. The armament seemed similar except they also had a 105mm gun that would scare the crap out of everyone but was very effective. Am I just imagining the name change to Puff? I have bumped into some AF types and I am getting conflicting answers from them also. I'm confused.

from page 28

Thanks. William King, Manager of Panel Manufacturing, The Watt Stopper Inc.. Tel: 401.562.4105, Fax: 401.562.4150

Email:william_king@wattstopper.com Web:www.wattstopper.com

The AC-47 was first called Puff the Magic Dragon and later was called Spooky. The AC-130 was called Spectre.

Air Force Magazine

I work for Air Force mag. I do the backpages. I would like to do one on the Air Commandos. Call me if you like @ 301 455-6588 Paul Kennedy, pskfoto@earthlink.net

Thanks Paul. We are working this out now. It was called off once by your office but we are awaiting for a change of plans for the AFM. I think I got something set-up for your photo shoot. All the people I talked near you had all their old things disposed. I have two at FL and will set you up when you are ready. Col Gleason's book on the Air Commandos is on its way to you plus a few other Air Commando momentos.

5th ACS Mini-Get Together

This past weekend, Dick Larsen and his wife Betty visited us on the way to Branson, Mo for some fun. We met with Ed Carnes who lives here. Both were C-47 pilots in the 5th. Ed got out in '69 and eventually flew for FedEx for 27 years before retiring. Ed is building a spectacular house in Lakeland TN which he hopes will be finished by July. We toured it - it must be 7,500 sq ft.

After the house tour, we met with Dave Stevens and his wife, Jan. Dave is a son of the late Leo Stevens, 5th ACS navigator. We socialized at my house and then went to dinner. Leo retired in '72 and died in 1990 from what his son called "a less than ideal life style". Dave is a real fine fellow. He served as a Navy officer and now is Navy civil service at NSC Millington, involved in equipping ships.

Regards, Art Benjamin, ajbenjamin@fedex.com

Thanks for the update and thanks for the great pictures you send of aircraft and some of their mishaps.

Ron Phillips

Gene, haven't heard from you in ages so checked the website and found my email address is not current. Please update. New email is ronaldphillips612@msn.com

I was wondering why I haven't heard from you since I have continuously sent you email. I had several failures with my email and may have lost your email when you sent me email change. I have changed it in my email and will change it tonight with the ACA listing. I am looking for Charlie Appling--do you know where he is at? I used to have his address when Frank was alive but it is no longer good. It used to be in Texas and then he had an address in AZ and it is no good. Tried a web search and couldn't find him.

Royal Australian Air force pilot

Hi. I am an ex Royal Australian Air force pilot (Flight Lieutenant) who flew one of the original RAAF F86s into Ubon in June 1962 to help deter activities in Laos. There was nothing and no-one there except a USAF Radar detachment setting up Lion Control, which became operational, along with our No 79 (F) Squadron in mid June 1962. I would like to track down the early history of the SEATO/JUSMAGTHAI era, from late 1960 to 1962, especially Lion Control. I spent a total of 6 months at Ubon spread over 3 detachments.

I would very much like to correspond with any personnel who were on the base when we arrived, to fill in historical gaps and background. I have forgotten all the names. Any websites and/or book titles would also be appreciated.

Cliff Viertel, viertelc@optusnet.com.au

I will put your email in the ACA Newsletter.

Gordon Personal Inventory

Hi, Gene,

Did you ever find the footnote reference on the Gordon Personal Inventory (GPI)? (Not the Gordon Personal Profile or GPP.) It would help if I had the last (a) place of publication, (b) publisher, and date of publication (or last copyright date).

Thanks for checking. Please let me know what you find out. Even a lead on where else to look or who else to contact would help.

Best, Bob Cecil

Robert D. Cecil, rdcecil@insightbb.com
(CAPTAIN, Supply Corps, USNR - Retired)
Chairman and President, R. D. Cecil and Company,
1151 Middle Road # B, Dixon, IL 61021-3904, (815) 284-0937

I will find this for you which is in the AF report on testing personnel getting into the Air commandos -1961-early 1963.

GREAT SITE

My name is Laurie Cordell, wife of Jim Cordell, Terry's younger brother. Wow is all I can say. I was killing time and googled Terry as I often do and came across your "site". GREAT job, I can"t wait to pass this along to Jimmy. Also, I would like to see the picture of Terry up close. It of course would be the last picture of him taken. Thank you Art for your service to our great nation.

Best Wishes, Laurie Cordell, Ponte Vedra FL whoha@bellsouth.net

I will put your email in the ACA Newsletter. Thanks for letting us know of your relationship with Terry Cordell.

from page 29

RAAF FACs & 35th RTVF.

With the help of Heinie Aderholt we have Air Medals submitted for the Australian FACs and the 35th RTVF who flew with us in USAF/Air Commando organizations. It is still a lot of work but it is in AF channels now. You can't imagine the amount of coordination this must go through since 9/11. The AFOSI, FBI, CIA, DIA, Defense Attache, Ambassador and the host country.

I have submitted 15 of the FACs and 85 of the Caribou aircrew for the Air Medal which is being concurrently coordinated by the DIA, the AFOSI, the Defense Attaché and being submitted by Congressman. They have been waiting over 30 years to be recognized by the US and they may never live long enough to be awarded a US medal for supporting our efforts in Vietnam as an integral of USAF units. The Australians military were prevented from receiving US medals, even though they were put in for by American commanders, during the Vietnam War because the Australian Government did not permit it.

Anyone who has served with the Australians 35Sq RTVF please contact me by email or phone. aircommando1@earthlink.net

Obit for Lt Col Arthur G. Limpantsis USAF Retired

Arthur Limpantisis, 76, of Sea Girt, died Wednesday Feb 16 at Jersey Shore University Medical Center; Neptune, NJ. He was a former command fighter pilot and retired from the Air Force after 20 years of service. He served in combat in Korea and Vietnam for several tours of duty. He was a member of the Air Force Association, Washington, DC and the Air Commando Association (original Air Commando who joined in 1961), Fort Walton Beach, Florida. He graduated from HS and joined the Aviation Cadets and went to pilot training. He was sent to Korea and served one tour there. He joined the original Jungle Jim program in 1961 and served two tours in Vietnam. He served as a general's aide to General Lynn and General Lee. He led the acrobatic team "the Silver Falcons." His final tour of duty was at EUCOM (originally in Paris and transferred to Stuttgart, Germany when DeGaulle kicked out the US military from France). He retired in 1969. He had three Distinguished Flying Crosses and two air Medals. He was interned in the Arlington National Cemetery on 13 April 2005.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Arthur G. Limpantsis

Hello, my name is Pat and I am sorry to inform you that Lt. Col. Limpantsis died on February 16, 2005. I am his former wife, and I am helping our sons to sort through his belongings. We are in possession of many uniforms helmets, etc. including an orange "moon suit", mess dress both black and white, fatigues, etc. As your records will show, when Lt. Col. Limpantsis was a Captain, he was a volunteer for the early Jungle Jim program. Could you help us by offering some suggestions as to places that would like to have uniforms, etc.?

billpat2@optonline.net

Please ship the uniforms to both the ACA Newsletter and to the Chino Planes of Fame which has a Air Commando Association display. Apparently the ACA has an ample supply of old Air Commando paraphnellia and the Chino Planes of Fame could use more. I am the ACA coordinator for the chino Planes of Fame since I live about 7 miles from it.

Robert L. Westfall

My name is Jim Malachowski. I am the new wing historian for the 71st Flying Training Wing at Vance Air Force Base in Enid OK. I have been trying to track down the personal information on A1C Robert L. Westfall who died in a C-47 crash in February 1962. Do you have anything in your records that could help?

A1C Robert L. Westfall was in a C-47 dropping supplies in the hills of Vietnam and they found themselves locked in a canyon in the hills. He died with Capt Kissam pilot, Cap Moore, Lt Letourneau, 1st Lt Hartson and TSgt Frazier. What is your reasoning for doing his story, are you only interested in Westfall himself, are you related to him, did he come from OK and anything you can add? I will get information for you. How soon do you need it? I can get info now and I can put your request in the ACA newsletter for help. My home number is 909-591-7342 home, 909-930-5700 work.

Like I mentioned, I'm the new AF historian at Vance AFB. The enlisted dorm building on Vance AFB is named after Robert L. Westfall, but no one ever put up a plaque up. I've looked through the office files and there is nothing in the history stating who he was or why the command selected him for memorialization. I spoke with the historian at Hurlburt and they don't seem to have anything either (they have a street named after him). We seem to have lost part of our history. I would like to get a plaque made for the building and build a heritage display for the dorm's hallway – which is why I emailed you. An Internet search turned up your ACA webpage and your email address. The AF web security will not let me access your page from work, so I'm doing it from home.

I appreciate any help you can provide. Knowing where he was from, what he was like and details on the mission he was on when he died will help me preserve his memory. A photo would be great too. I don't have a time deadline, but I would like to keep it on a front burner.

I am TDY right now but check this email often. My official AF email is <u>james.malachowski@vance.af.mil</u>, fax 775-314-8189 and mobile 417-343-7135.

Jim Malachowski

Eugene D. Rossel E-mail aircommando1@earthlink.net

NEW PROPOSALS FOR REUNION 2005

Dick Geron, ACA Vice and Reunion Chairman

In keeping with trying to make the Reunion a more exciting and memorable occasion, I am proposing two new events. One is an all ladies luncheon at Mr. "T's" Two Trees Restaurant located at the Ft. Walton Beach Golf Course on Saturday, 8 October 2005. The other proposal is a one day excursion to a casino in Biloxi, MS, on Thursday, 6 October 2005 via chartered bus. The bus ride is approximately 2 1/2 hours with 2 pit stops on the way. Coolers acceptable.

In order to proceed with bringing these proposals to fruition, I need your concurrence. Accordingly, enough of you have to sign up to make these initiatives feasible, especially the Biloxi trip. Thus, if sincerely interested in either, please cut and return this form.



YES! I WISH TO ATTEND THE LADIES LUNCHEON AT THE TWO TREES RESTAURANT ON SATURDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2005

PRINT NAME ABOVE & SIGN



YES! I/WE WISH TO MAKE THE ONE DAY EXCURSION TRIP TO A BILOXI CASINO ON THURSDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2005.

PRINT NAME(S) ABOVE & SIGN

RETURN TO:

ACA REUNION ATTN: DICK GERON

PO BOX 7

MARY ESTHER, FL 32569-0007

IMPRESSIONS OF A PILOT, Gary Claud Stokor

Flight is freedom in its purest form,
To dance with the clouds that follow a storm;
To roll and glide, to wheel and spin,
To feel the joy that swells within;
To leave the earth with its troubles and fly,
And know the warmth of a clear spring sky;
Then back to earth at the end of the day,
Released from the tensions which melted away.
Should my end come while in flight,
Whether brightest day or darkest night;

Whether brightest day or darkest night;
Spare me the pity and shrug off the pain,
Secure in the knowledge that I'd do it again;
For each if us is created to die,

And within me I know,

I was born to fly.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER CHANGES

Since mailing out our Membership Roster some days ago, many of you have called or e-mailed and brought my attention to changes or mistakes I made or those of you that have moved in the interim. Those changes are herewith printed for those of you that wish to change your roster accordingly. The changes are as we received them and not alphabetically. Casual changes underlined.

MGen Douglas S. Metcalf 4405 86th Avenue West Winter Park, FL 32789-5862 407 628 8889

407 628 8889

Sid Pascua 4609 Gaines Road Tampa, FL 33611-3107 813 837 6553

William J. <u>Wunderlin</u> 817B Stevens Circle Mountain View, CA 94043

Philip D. Stinson 823 Turnberry Way Niceville, FL 850 897 3442

Jana Martinez 231 Woods Road Greer, SC 29650

Roger Klair 244 Thomas Court Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548 850 863-2323

William E. Brown 17040 SE 94th Chaplewood Circle The Villages, FL 32161 352 259 6962

Steve Peters 34 Yates Court Prestonburg, KY 41653

Gary Cooper PO Box 641 Sanctuary Cove Qlsd, 4212 Australia

Russel T. Kaskel 239 Sweetwater Run Niceville, FL 32578-4550 Ralph M. Naddeo 405 Virginia Drive University Place, WA 98466 PH: 253 565 2319 FAX: 253 565 2319

Paul Ray Jensen 20306 Old School Lane Pelkie, MI 49558-9451 906 334 288

John S. Brush 185 Watch Hill Dr., Apt B Colorado Springs, CO 80906-7950 719 510 7748

<u>Dorothy</u> Hamacher 1007 Sherri Jane Lane Aurora, MO 65605-2871

Terrie Klauser 2243 S Crosscreek Lane Boise, ID 83706 208 343 6513

Hermine Downing 1416 Escambia Avenue Brewton, AL 36426-1122 251 867 7568

Wesley E. Brown, Jr. 217 Greentree Trail Temple, GA 30179

William F. Woodard 18 Cedar Mill Troy, IL <u>62294</u> 618 667 1323

Marguerite (Gibson) Foreman

315 Spanish Moss Trail Destin, FL 32541

850 837 7505

Hugh E. Doebrick 156 Old Bridge Lk Houston, TX 77069-3464 281 893 8403

Delmar B. Spivey 6344 Longwood Dr. Murrells Inlet, SC 33774-8955

BGen Gary Willard Fennec Fox Preserve Crestview, FL 32536-5438

Gloria Richards 9257 SW 82 Terr #A Ocala, FL 34481-8558 352 624 0823

Nancy Waters PO Box 1181 Keller, TX 762244-1181

James R. Kesterson 1952 Iris Lane Navarre, FL 32566-8315

Robbye Binkley 633 County Road 574 Hanceville, AL 35077 256 352 0211

James R. Foreman 315 Spanish Moss trail Destin, FL 32541 850 837 7505

Walt K. Hennigan 8939 Hwy 87 Troy, AL 36076 334 566 6083

Hurlburt Field Air Park Web Site

www.hurlburt.af.mil/basewide/airpark is really a great little site to bring many old memories back. Check it out. Some of the history of the aircraft could be tuned up a little for accuracy and if you have time you could submit a little of your own history to enhance the site.



AIR COMMANDO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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June 2005

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Felix "Sam" Sambogna

The first announcement of our annual reunion is in this issue. The theme, "They too Serve Who Watch and Wait," is a tribute to the spouses and families who valiantly serve at home while air commandos/special operations personnel performed their missions. Military spouses and families are truly unsung heroes! I encourage everyone to plan to attend this reunion.

Since our last Newsletter I had the privilege of representing our association at the First Annual Battlefield Airman Heritage dinner sponsored by the 720 Special Tactics Group, Hurlburt Field. It was a well-done celebration of the heritage of Combat Controllers, Pararescue Personnel, Combat Weather Personnel, and Tactical Air Control Party. CMSgt (Ret) Wayne L. Fisk, a highly decorated pararescue man, was the speaker. There were lots of real heroes in attendance - a gung-ho group of warriors. Also, several members of our association attended the 25th anniversary of the mission (Eagle Claw) to rescue our hostages in Iran. Ross Perot and many other dignitaries and military leaders were in attendance as the Warrior Foundation sponsored this prestigious event. The Warrior Foundation is an outstanding organization with enough horsepower to raise large sums of money used to provide college educations to the sons and daughters of special operations personnel lost in train-



ing or on missions. If you want to learn more about the Foundation go to www.specialops.org.

It is not uncommon for retirees to contact the ACA office and specifically Hap or Gen Aderholt to verify their service in Vietnam or Laos. Apparently, many air commandos who served at those locations PCS or TDY are not able to prove their service creating a problem when they attempt to get disability benefits. Hap and the good general do all they can to help and quite often they are successful.

Al Shinkle, one of our enthusiastic ACA members wants to get involved in the process. He says he knows what to do to help retirees. So anyone who has a problem verifying their service in Laos or Vietnam can contact Al at the following addresses:

shinkle_al @hotmail.com , or 1652 South Grand Avenue, #239, Pullman WA 99163-4906

Of course, the ACA office is willing to help in any way possible.

Also, it behooves each of us to make sure our records are up to date before we get into a crunch.

Many of our members continue to send in donations to the McCoskrie Threshold Foundation (MTF), and every donation is appreciated and helps with storage and shipping costs. Recently, we received a \$15 donation with a note by the donor saying "Sorry, I couldn't give more." That note really got my attention. We are so thankful for any amount and truly appreciate these donations that come from the heart. Just think, if each of our 2500 members gave \$10, it would amount to \$25,000.

I hate to keep repeating myself but this is another plea to our local members. We need volunteers! Before long we will have another annual business meeting and the requirement to elect a treasurer and board members. We have been without a full-time treasure for several years and that makes me uneasy. We are financially sound, but we need a savvy treasurer to ensure all is well. In the meantime, Pete and I will do our best. It would be great if someone, perhaps one of our ladies, would be willing to be our historian or publicity director. Please think about it.

On May 17, 2005, the Hurlburt Field First Sergeants held their monthly meeting at the ACA building. The event was arranged and sponsored by Board Member Bob White and John Grove. I welcomed the group and mentioned a few items concerning the history of the Association. Bob White and John

Grove spoke about the humanitarian efforts with the MTF and support of the Airman's Attics at Hurlburt and Eglin AFB. It was great to see so many stripes in our building.

On June 10, 2005 the ACA is cosponsored with the 16th SOW an event to commemorate 60 years of special operations - Farmgate to the present time. It was a dinning out at the Conference Center. This is another example of our cooperation with the 16th SOW. Colonel Mannon, 16th SOW Commander, has been selected for promotion to Brig Gen and will be leaving Hurlburt soon. He is a great supporter of the old warriors in the ACA.

When I told our youngest son that I was president of the ACA he asked me what perks go with the job. I have not found them yet.

Stay well and start making plans for our October reunion. We would love to see you all.

Cheers, Sam

