



FAC NEWS



VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1
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www.fac-assoc.org

1849 Southlawn Drive
Fairborn, OH 45324

ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP:

Officers and Committee Chairmen:

President: Phil Litts, Elk Grove, CA, 209-329-6970, philliplitts@sbcglobal.net

Vice Pres: Robert (C3B) Green, King George, VA, numbalcc@crosslink.net, 540-775-2830

Secretary: Joseph "Jay" Barnes, West Orange, NJ, 973-325-6208 barnesjay@juno.com

Treasurer: Bob Gorman, Newbury Park, CA, 805-376-9893 jake4404@hotmail.com

Director: Brad Wright, 3268 Catkin Court, Marietta, GA, 770-579-9901, wrightbj@bellsouth.net

Director: Tom McGrain 480-460-1969 Phoenix, AZ Nail28@cox.net

Director: Dennis Crouch ,937-426-6246, Beavercreek, OH, denniscrouch@earthlink.net

Director: Darrel Whitcomb, 703-359-7824, Fairfax, VA nail25@aol.com

FAC Historian: Al Matheson 435-586-9762 Cedar City, UT citabriair@yahoo.com

Legal Advisor: J. D. Caven, Sunrise Beach, MO, 573-374-8275, jcaven002@charter.net

Website: Bob Gorman, 805-376-9893, Newbury Park, CA, jake4404@hotmail.com

Newsletter: Gene Rossel, Chino, CA. 909-591-7342 aircommando1@earthlink.net

FAC Search: Jon Alexaitis 817-581-8381 Bedford TX jalexaitis@sbcglobal.net

Membership Database: Fred Pumroy 937-878-7257 flmapumroy@aol.com

Chaplain: Dale Hill, 8708 Lilington Cir, Montgomery, AL 334-260-3718, nail49@bellsouth.net

Mission: Jay Barnes 973-325-6208 West Orange, NJ barnesjay@juno.com

FAC Book Project: Al Matheson 435-586-9762 Cedar City, UT citabriair@yahoo.com

Reunion Advisory: Zot Barazzotto, Beavercreek, OH, 937-429-2119, zot250@ameritech.net

Reunion Advisory: Claude Newland 850-654-2955 Destin, FL rustic19@cox.net

Reunion Advisory: Cal Anderson, Whitakers, NC, 252-437-0550, calvinandersonsr@hotmail.com

FAC Memorial: Don Echelberger , Mary Esther, FL echelberg@aol.com

www.fac-assoc.org



Phil Litts

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Phil Litts

Jake 26, Bully 21, Tam Ky, DaNang
September 1970-71

Ladies & Gents,

I have no clue where the year 2012 went to! I know mentally from a physics standpoint that

time doesn't pass more quickly as you get older. BUT the rest of me tells me sumthin' all together different!

The Reunion in Tucson was a resounding success!!

About 255 of us and our spouses/significant others/family members/ and Honored Guests, gathered from the 17th through the 21st of October for an absolutely wonderful time. There were literally dozens of folks who labored for the better part of two years since we left Ft. Worth in '10, to make sure it was a Reunion for the Ages!! I do need to point out two men who lead the fray and herded the cats, and they are **Pratt Ashworth and Tom Bohan**. Further on in this issue, **Jay Barnes** will give a detailed After Action Report (AAR) on the whole affair.

While I'm on the subject of reunions, block out the month of October, 2014 for our next one. Claude Newland is heading this one up and it will take place in Fort Walton Beach, where it all began for us FACs, and where the first reunion was held back in 2000. So start a FAC Reunion Savings Account, and set the time aside for it. Two years down the road from that in 2016, we're headed to Williamsburg, VA. Jay Barnes and Crew Chief Bob Green will be co-chairing the festivities. And a gentleman approached me after the General Membership Meeting on Saturday offering to set up the 2018 reunion in the Seattle area, and we've never held one up in the Northwest before. The only problem is that due to my advanced case of CRS, I forgot to get his name!! So Mystery FAC, could you please contact me so we can discuss the offer further.

With that comment, I'll segue right into the General Membership meeting itself. As with each reunion, elections were held. Five positions were open—President, Veep, Historian, and two Director slots. **Crew Chief**

Bob (VP), **Tom McGrain** (Director), and **I** (Pres) ran again and were elected. **Cal Anderson** decided not to run for Director this time, but **Brad Wright** (Covey 251) stepped up and was elected. **Rick Atchison** also decided to step down from his position as Historian, and **Al Matheson** (Batcat 13/ Nail 213) is our new Historian. Additionally, after 10+ years of phenomenal work as our FAC Newsletter Editor, **Tim Eby** stepped down.



2012 New FAC Management

Debt of gratitude we owe Capt'n Skinny is hard to express. We put out the word for someone to step into Tim's flight boots, and Gene Rossel (Air Commando 1) jumped at the chance to be our new Perry White! OK- that may have been a slight exaggeration, but Gene said he'd be glad to do it! Thank you Gene!

Also in this issue you find some very interesting articles. **Denny Crouch** has written a piece on the Wall of Honor that is being built at the Wright Pat Air Museum to help finance construction of a new hangar, and how we can purchase Legacy Plaques that will go on the Wall.

Tom Petitmermet (P+10!) tells us about the COS FAC Memorial Expansion to commemorate those individuals who have given the last measure in a FAC role since the SEA War, and how we can contribute to that endeavor.

Darrel Whitcomb also has submitted a piece on the new SEA Pavilion at the Air Force Academy, sponsored by the Association of Graduates (AOG), and how we, as members of our Association, can pledge or contribute monies to see a FAC Association plaque put in the Pavilion.

Each of these is a very worthwhile project and I encourage each of us to contribute and be a part of them.

Lastly, I have to report that for health reasons, our beloved Chaplain, Howie Pierson, Nail 01, is stepping down from his position as our FAC Chaplain. Howie is only our 2nd Chaplain we've had, and took over from Charlie Jones after the Dayton Reunion, back in '07. Howie wants us to know that "he's not departing the fix, but simply holding high and dry!!" We wish Howie and Gilberta all the best and know we'll be seeing them at future Reunions. With that, I am most pleased to announce that **Dale Hill**, Nail 49, has graciously accepted the position as our new Chaplain. And I know that if his performance as Howie's stand-in at the Tucson Reunion is any indication of his talents in this area, the spiritual needs of the Association is in most capable hands! Welcome aboard Dale and Susan.

I think that's about it from me. Patricia and I hope that you all had a Happy and Blessed Holiday Season and wish all of you Health, Happiness, and Prosperity for the coming year! Phil Litts



Howie & Gilberta Pierson



Bob Gorman, jake4404@hotmail.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

WE NEED A FEW MORE GOOD MEN !! TO HELP !

For the past four years we have been trying to figure out a way to reach out to those of our comrades who flew with us, who played with us, but, as of today, have not joined us in this fantastic organization!!



Last week, after sorting our Master Data Base by state and then sorting each state by city, I called the retiring (overworked) Tucson reunion committee asking if they would take on the state of Arizona and see how many of the folks who are listed as Non Members they could contact. **THEY AGREED TO TRY.**

Walt Want, Nail 21, has agreed to take on the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska.

Charlie Pocock, Viper 7, has agreed to take on the state of Colorado. Here are two challenges:

Texas has 122 life members and 300 Non Members

Florida has 77 life members and 293 Non Members

We will send you a copy of the database for your area of interest and a link to a fantastic telephone number search engine. The process is simple, frustrating, time consuming, and rewarding when you connect with an **OLD WARRIOR**. Won't someone or group step up and take on one of these states?

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION IS STILL SOLID

Checking—\$5724.49

Money Market — 56574.24

Investments — \$ 149205.87

In 2013 we will fund a \$25,000 Scholarship

For this issue of the FAC NEWS, on a one time basis, we will be expanding the distribution for the state of Colorado to include everyone in our database so that we can spread the word about the Colorado Springs memorial expansion. Next year we will be doing the same thing for the state of Florida to advertise the upcoming 2014 FWB reunion.

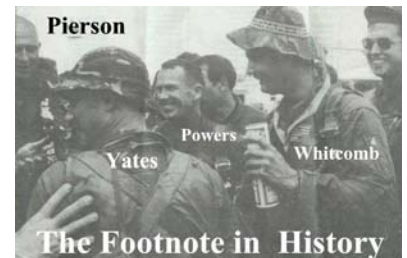
IN MEMORIAM

"To fly west, my friend, is a flight we all must take for a final check." — *Author unknown*

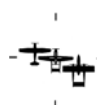
	Callsign	DoD
William J. Anderson	Helix 31	30 Mar 12
Gene McCutchan	Red Marker	24 Jun 12
Charlie Yates	Covey 25, Nail 50	23 Sep 12
BG John Flanagan	Ragged Scooper 74	1 Oct 12



Gene McCutchan



John Flanagan



FAC Association After-Action Report - Tucson Reunion 17-21 Oct'12

Over 250 SEA FACs, spouses, families and honored guests gathered in Tucson for what was in my opinion the best, most successful FAC Reunion ever! Kudos to the Arizona Reunion Committee for an outstanding plan, well-coordinated and superbly executed. Under the leadership of Pratt Ashworth, the Reunion planners received from attendees the best critique scores yet on nearly every aspect.

Besides the usual reunion tourist handouts and pre-ordered merchandise, each attendee received a striking Tucson Reunion Challenge Coin, classy nametag, and a straw cowboy hat, with the reunion medallion on the front. There was also a FAC Country Store where FAC merchandise was for sale, and a "Boutique" with lots of available gifts for the ladies.



2012 FAC Reunion Attendees

The conveniently located Doubletree Reid Park was an outstanding facility, and gave us a great price of just over \$100 double, mucho "bang for the Buck". A daily Continental breakfast hosted by USAA was included, and for those preferring a more substantial breakfast, the hotel restaurant offered an excellent full hot breakfast buffet at a reasonable price.

The FAC Hooch was a great setup, with one room as the Hooch Bar and a second, adjacent room for overflow. The real Hooch was the area right outside these rooms, with plenty of outdoor seating and large deck tables. The Hooch was open nightly, except when it conflicted with one of several events requiring use of a hotel-hosted bar. The FAC Hooch was a cash bar, with beverages available at-cost, either \$1 or \$2 per serving (mixers 50c), with light snacks provided.

Some FACs chose to arrive a day early, as a golf outing was planned at the Tucson Country Club on Wednesday morning. The opportunity to play this golf club was truly a gift, as it is usually a totally exclusive course. To play there, each four-

Club membership learned that the FACs wanted to play, the Clubhouse was overwhelmed with volunteers! A special thanks to Peter Collins, who made the golf event happen! There was also a tennis match, and Tom McGrain won first place. He also received the "Last Place" award, as he was the only FAC who signed up (I never did find out who he played against).

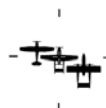
After golf, the FAC Assn. Board met for the rest of the day for our annual meeting. Much business was tended to, in anticipation of Saturday's General Membership meeting. Both Wed and Thurs were on-your own days for dinner, and many of us discovered the most awesome Mexican restaurant in Tucson! Then back to the Hooch, and let the fun begin!

Thursday and Friday, most FACs and spouses opted for the tours. Thursday was an all-day deal, with the morning spent in "Old Tucson". Most of us were surprised to learn that, rather than an Historic district of Tucson, it is a large movie set built on the back side of Sunrise Mountain from downtown. We divided into smaller groups, each of which had its own Hollywood Cowboy tour guide, who described many of the most famous features of the set, and of the over 160 Westerns shot there, told us about many of the most famous, along with many of the famous actors who starred in them. We finished with an on-your-own Western lunch at "Big Jake's Saloon (from John Wayne's film "Big Jake") before heading on to our afternoon stop, the Tucson Desert Museum. We didn't quite know what to expect, but it is a "Living Museum", and we saw about every desert critter and plant that lives in the desert. Totally fascinating! Then back to the FAC Hooch to refresh. There was an optional casino night, but I chose instead to take a group for another Mexican dinner (many of us wanted to go back to the same place, it was that good). Those who went to the casino raved about it,

Friday, most chose to go on more tours. Many of us toured AMARG (the DM "Boneyard", with over 4,200 airframes stored there), then all of us toured the Pima Air Museum, which is MUCH more vast than I expected. If it flew mainline, they've probably got one at Pima! An exhausting but fantastic day! Friday evening included a private catered Mexican buffet (with live Mariachis) adjacent to the Hooch area.

At the Business Meeting, Vern Spohn formally stated what most of us noticed – very little about FACs, just a broken – down shell of an O2, and a Marine OV-10. Phil is committed to lots of us writing a letter to the Pima Museum Director, requesting that the Museum provide more on the FAC legacy, and accepting the FACA's commitment to assist.

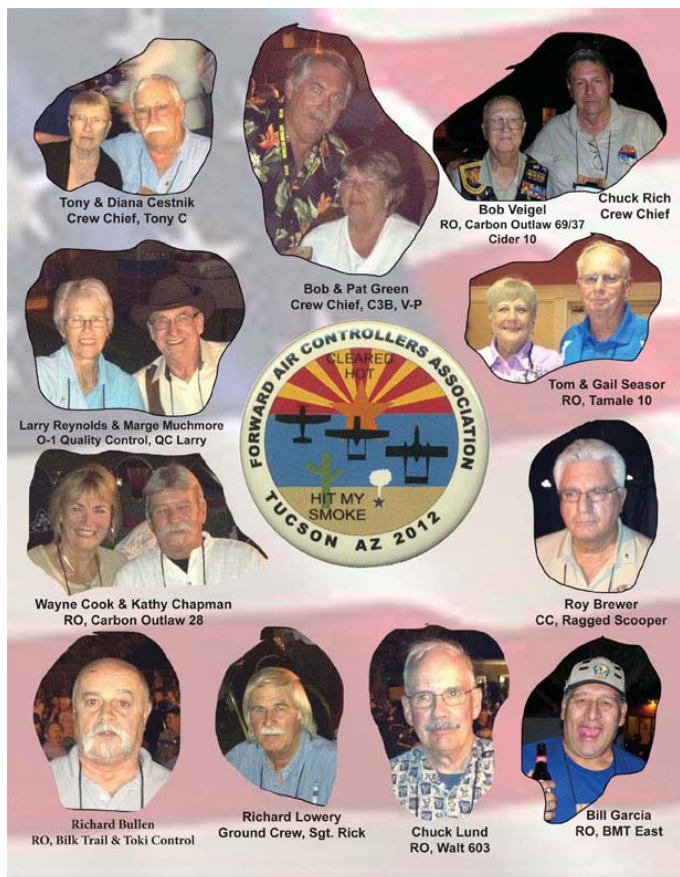
Saturday, a group of spouses and Honored Families opted to visit historic Tubac for lunch, tours, and shopping, while the rest of us returned to DM. First we had our traditional FAC



Memorial Service at the FAC section of the DM Heritage Airpark, followed by visits to the HH-60G Rescue Helicopter unit and the AFRES A-10 unit. Two of the A-10 pilots explained that all A-10 drivers get FAC training as part of their qualification curriculum. After these tours, we regrouped at the DM Club for lunch with the 12th AF Commander, and presentations on DM Air Base Wing, 12th AF HQ and the ANG MQ-1 Predator there.

That afternoon we regrouped at the hotel for the General Membership meeting, with elections of Officers, Officer Reports, and other Association business. Complete minutes of that meeting should be available via the FAC Assn. website. That evening, we had our final Reunion celebration with a great casual dinner, with a presentation by our A-10 tour guides on the A-10 FAC role. The 2014 FAC Reunion (tentatively 23-26 Oct) will be back at Fort Walton Beach, site of our first reunion in 2000, back where it all began. Look for the 2016 reunion to be held in historic Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, for a Patriotic trip back in time to 1774, when the seeds of the Revolution were newly planted, to visit with many of our Founding Fathers!

Jay Barnes, Jake 26, Tam Ky'70, Secretary, FAC Assn. Board of Directors



Thomas Seazor Tamale 10 Reunion Collage

Jim Bloomberg; jlbbloomberg@aim.com

Nav and EWO training is now a combined course at NAS Pensacola. They are now referred to as Combat Systems Officers (CSO). When they get their wings they are qualified as both NAV's and EWO's. Plus, during their training if they are in the fighter-track they receive FAC/CAS training.

Tim Eby report on Fred Austin our guest speaker at the buffet.

After the Friday Mexican buffet in the great out-of-doors, reunion attendees were treated to a unique and special event. Former SF/SOG chase medic Fred Austin was an honored guest who wished to share with the FACs some of his memorabilia from his two tours with SOG at NKP. He presented to Tom Kemp, representing the FAC museum and all of us, a plaque based on the 23rd TASS patch, with Jiminy Cricket wearing a green beret. He also included some small pins and such things for display. Then he told a couple of war stories that captivated the audience. Judging from the group of FACs that congregated around him immediately after he spoke, he was a big hit.

What he didn't relate is that he is about to complete his second Masters degree, is a gospel preacher, Biblical scholar, bear hunter, and mountain man. And that he endured a painful gunshot wound to the hand, but refused a Purple Heart because as a chase medic he had seen so many others more badly wounded. With his second Masters he intends to serve troubled vets as a counselor, fighting the frightful trend of combat vets and suicide. Tim Eby, personal friend.

FAC Air Losses in Vietnam From the book "Vietnam Air Losses" by Chris Hobson. A Statistical Summary. O-1 Bird Dog. Total number of aircraft lost: 178, Fatalities 93, POWs 1. Aircraft lost by year: 1963 (2), 1964 (3), 1965 (28), 1966 (38), 1967 (40), 1968 (40), 1969 (15), 1970 (7), 1971 (3), 1972 (2). Aircraft lost by region: South Vietnam (159), North Vietnam (4), Southern Laos (11), Cambodia (2), Other regions (2).

O-2. Total number of aircraft lost: 104, Fatalities 84, POWs 2. Aircraft lost by year: 1967 (7), 1968 (35), 1969 (24), 1970 (16), 1971 (8), 1972 (14). Aircraft lost by region: South Vietnam (73), North Vietnam (5), Southern Laos (19), Cambodia (6), Other regions (1).

OV-10A Bronco. Total number of aircraft lost: 64, Fatalities 43, POWs 5. Aircraft lost by year: 1968 (2), 1969 (11), 1970 (19), 1971 (10), 1972 (19), 1973 (3). Aircraft lost by region: South Vietnam (53), North Vietnam (1), Southern Laos (18), North Laos (1), Cambodia (6), Other regions (3).

Jim Roper, jimroper@ropersbook.com, Covey 591, Raven 12.

I do know that a lot of research went into "who was a Raven" and "who died as a Raven." We put up a memorial at Hurlburt in the 1970's with brass plaques containing the names of the fallen. It weathered a lot of hurricanes and was mercifully taken down after the nice large FAC memorial went up. Before Chris Robbins's book came out, Chris sent out galleys, and we did definitive research so that the list of fallen Ravens was accurate. Also, that book contains a researched, definitive list of who served as a Raven FAC. As an organization we consider Butterfly FACs to be part of our organization. If you flew with the Raven call sign, you are considered to be a Raven FAC. The Army guy flew with a Raven call sign. A lot of things happened that was not reported officially. (For example, taking hits was not reported officially because it could get you sent home.). During the past year 4 Ravens died, including Butterfly 44, Jim Stanford. Best of luck, Jim Roper





OV-10 BRONCO AIRCRAFT PAINTING

This painting represents the myriad missions flown by Forward Air Controllers (FACs) in Southeast Asia 1962-1977. This mission could be any place in SEA, but the setting is in Laos at a place called Steel Tiger North at "The Dog's Head." Many Ho Chi Minh Trail missions were flown in this area to slow the flow of logistic materials through Laos into South Vietnam and Cambodia.

"The prints can be sold to all who are members of FAC Association, to include spouses of FACs as well as other FACs and non-FAC veterans eligible to become members of the association resulting from their "passion" in the FAC mission."

Non-FAC members add 15% . See [http://www.fac-assoc.org/reunion/OV-10%20Brochure%20Rev %201.pdf](http://www.fac-assoc.org/reunion/OV-10%20Brochure%20Rev%201.pdf) for prices and forms. For Prices on O-2 and OV-10 pictures contact: Walter W. Want, tel 503-789-6029, Nail21www@gmail.com , 1216 E. wood Drive Newberg, OR 97132-6122. *No Visa or MC, check or cash only.*

CS FAC Memorial. The FAC Memorial is located in the Military Section of Memorial Park in Colorado Springs. The FAC Memorial recognizes and honors the 289 FAC pilots, support staff members, and members of the Army and Marines that were flying with FACs and were KIA. The Colorado Springs FACs will dedicate the new expansion of the FAC Memorial on Friday, 5 July 2013. Donations large and small (all tax deductible) are welcome for this very important FAC Memorial.

Donations can be made in the following manner at <http://www.ppcf.org/products/forward-air-controllers-fac-memorial>, send check to PPCF, 730 North Nevada Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 payable to PPCF-FAC Memorial Fund or contact Tom Petitmermet, Pretzel 06: pplus10@aol.com (719) 528-1038

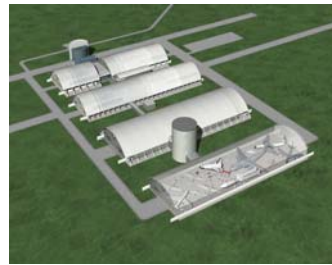
Expanding the Legacy at the AF Museum

A "Wall of Honor" is being built at the entrance of the NMUSAF through the AF Museum Foundation. The museum is expanding to include a new fourth hangar that will allow visitors to view the additional contributions of the Air Force. The fourth building will house Global Reach, Space Exhibits and the Presidential aircraft which are currently housed in a remote location with sometimes limited accessibility. Global Reach will bring under roof the famous C-141 *Hanoi Taxi*, a C-5 and KC-135 and other Global Reach assets.

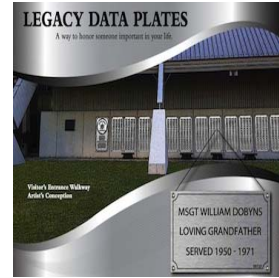
You can be a part of this expansion through the Wall of Honor by honoring family, friends, patriots and other loved ones (no military service is required) and at the same time help to make the museum addition a reality. A 4"x8" Legacy Data Plate to be placed in the Wall of Honor, made of stainless steel with a chemically etched inscription of your choosing will be

inscribed. A short biographical narrative (250 words max.) can also be displayed on the Foundations website to complement the Legacy Data Plate message. Information to purchase a Legacy Data Plate, and the order form, are at <http://www.legacydataplates.com/> along with a short video of the project.

The cost for a Legacy Data Plate to honor your loved one and to help make the 4th Building on the NMUSAF a reality is \$250.



NMUSAF with 4th Building



Legacy Plates Viewed from Museum Entrance

Your support is invaluable and this is the perfect opportunity to honor/memorialize that special person(s).

Thanks Denny Crouch, Nail 23

USAFA Memorial. Guys, -One of our organizational goals is to preserve our heritage by "laying down our markers." We have done this now in several locations. Here is another opportunity to do so. Many of our FACs were graduates of the Air Force Academy (USAFA) from the classes of 1959 through 1973, with 29 killed in the war. The USAFA class of 1970 is sponsoring the building of a Vietnam War Pavilion. Among other things, It will have a wall for Unit Plaques. We have been invited to fund a plaque. It will be cast in bronze as per our design - which we will determine. This will cost \$5,000. We want to pay for this with private donations and ask for your generosity in supporting this latest effort. Checks can be sent to: Bob Gorman, 3416 Broken Hill St, Newbury Park, CA. 91320-5501. The check should be made out to: FAC ASSOCIATION with a notation - For USAFA Plaque. Thank you, Darrel Whitcomb BOD

William Ernst; bertnst@hawaii.rr.com; 17 Nov 2012

We had a great Veterans Day celebration at the Punchbowl and a new Viet Nam era map was unveiled. There are two granite panels and each is about 6 by 8 feet. Defense Sec. Panetta, State Senator Akaka and the Honorable Max Cleland were speakers. (Triple amputee//State Senator from Georgia) Cleland is in charge of Monuments for the Federal Government) (Cleland is the Current Chairman of the "American Battle Monuments Commission"). This was the first Viet Nam monument to be built in the U. S. with Federal Funds. John Callahan flew his O-2 as lead, along with an O-1 and two Viet Nam era helicopters over the cemetery in a four ship formation. John was a OV-10 FAC and was a part of our celebration back in 2000. Bill Ernst Rustic 04



Pretzel Hooch Quan Loi

Chris Hobson, CHobson.jscsc@defenceacademy.mod.uk, Author of the book "Vietnam Air Losses" and the reason he didn't include Raven FACs aircraft losses in his book. Gene, I didn't include Raven losses because at the time I couldn't find really reliable information about either the aircraft or the personnel losses. The information that I did find was fragmentary and often contradictory, perhaps not surprising when considering the sensitivity of the program. I admit it was an omission but perhaps now is the time for somebody to compile a detailed record of Raven losses by aircraft and aircrew. I think it will require some in-depth research into Government and military records to which I do not have access. Chris

Jim Ollis, wolfmandi@embarqmail.com. In late 1968 or early 1969 (I returned to the US on 13 April '69) I was an Army Air traffic Controller with the 1ST Inf Div located at Di AN, Viet Nam. I had finished my shift and was walking along the dirt runway when an OV-10 taxied down the runway for takeoff. The pilot waved to me and I returned the wave. He then roared down the runway. As he began his climb out the aircraft pitched up into a very nose high attitude and crashed outside the perimeter wire killing the pilot. I have thought about him all these years and have searched the web for info and finally found this site. If you have any information on who the pilot was it would be most appreciated.

RAAF & NZRAF FACs. This year we had attendees coming from both the top and bottom of the world going from Alaska to Australia and in between. There were 36 RAAF and 14 NZRAF FACs who served with us. Garry Cooper, Tamale 35, worked with me, to get their belated USAF Air Medals since the award must be submitted by an American to his US Congressman. It took almost 9 years to get 22 Air Medals for the Vietnam era RAAF FACs and 105 Air Medals for the RAAF 35 Sq awarded in Canberra on April 2008 with some of you in attendance. There were both RAAF and NZRAF who Garry couldn't find and they weren't included in the initial Air Medal submission. After the Air Medal awards Garry was notified by the remaining that they wanted to be included. The remaining 13 RAAF and 14 NZRAF FACs have been submitted in 2009 and currently their award is anticipated in about a year. My Congressman has a request for reawarding Peter Condon a DFC lost in the shuffle.



The RAAF FAC Reunion Attendees: Mac Cottrell, Ken Mitchell, Gene Rossel, & Peter Condon

Robert Green, Bob/C3B, was at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier when someone started to make comments in the audience. The Sgt of the Guard informed the audience that they did not tolerate disruptions. The ceremony was stopped and two MPs escorted the troublemaker out of the audience. He said that after this it was a respectable silence. The 3rd I.D. Guard Unit takes their duty very seriously. Now we got to get our youth to react accordingly in playing the National Anthem.

Tom Seasor Tamale 10 has a collage picture of the enlisted group from the Tucson reunion and if anyone wants a copy please contact him at thomasseasor@att.net and he will email you a copy. He did a very good job putting it together. He also has a DVD of an air strike put in with an O-1 with F4's and will send copies to anyone requesting it.

Snippets from the Rustic FAC Newsletter

2013 RUSTIC REUNION. Our next reunion will be 12-15 September, 2013, in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado. Dick Wood, Rustic 11, took his final flight west on May 31, 2012. Rustic book is on file with the Library of Congress (LOC). Jim Reese has confirmed our recently revised book, "The Rustics-A Top Secret Air War In Cambodia" is now on file in the LOC catalog. The call number is DS554.8.R89 2011. Vietnam War Website. If you flew or were in SEA, here is a website that answers anything you ever wanted to know about the air war in SEA but were afraid to ask. <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html#Arc>. Arlington Cemetery has opened a new website to search for burials at <http://public.mapper.army.mil/ANC/ANCWeb/PublicWMV/ancWeb.html>. New FAC Book Published. Gary Willis has just published a 230 page hardbound book about the Red Marker FACs in Southeast Asia, "Red Markers, Close Air Support for the Vietnamese Airborne, 1962-1975." Venezuelan officials report two military OV-10 planes collided Thursday 22 Nov. during an air show killing a pilot who steered his stricken plane away from populated areas. Two other pilots ejected safely from their Bronco aircraft and were not injured in the mishap. This occurred at the Palo Negro base. The AC-119 Gunship Association Website is www.ac-119gunships.com. In 2009 they published a book, AC-119 Gunships History Book 1968-1973. Dr. Fletcher has also published two novels, Shadows of Saigon and its sequel, The Shadow Spirit, and is working on a history book about the AC-119. His website is: www.shadowgunships.com. Shadows of Saigon covers the Cambodia operations during his tour of duty from May 1970 to May 1971.



Ron Slater & Peter Condon



Books by FACNET members:

If you are a FAC and have written a book about your experience and it is available on the market please send its information for the Newsletter.

James Roper "Quoth the Raven" about his FAC experience in SEA.

BG John Flanagan "Vietnam above the Tree tops."

George Nolly novel about a FAC in Vietnam, Hamfist Over The Trail, will be a free Kindle download over Veteran's Day weekend (10-12 Nov 2012). [http://www.amazon.com/Hamfist-Over-The-Trail-ebook/dp/B008MB4RPI/ref=sr_1_2?s=digital-](http://www.amazon.com/Hamfist-Over-The-Trail-ebook/dp/B008MB4RPI/ref=sr_1_2?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1352336060&sr=1-2&keywords=hamfist)

[text&ie=UTF8&qid=1352336060&sr=1-2&keywords=hamfist](http://www.amazon.com/Hamfist-Over-The-Trail-ebook/dp/B008MB4RPI/ref=sr_1_2?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1352336060&sr=1-2&keywords=hamfist)
Also, my short novel, Happy Hancock, is a free Kindle download from today through Veteran's Day. http://www.amazon.com/Hancock-Adventures-Hamilton-Hamfist-ebook/dp/B00A2M6KGO/ref=sr_1_3?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1352335839&sr=1-3&keywords=hamfist

Garry Cooper "Sock it to 'em, Baby" is a gripping account of an Australian serving with the Americans FACs in Vietnam. It is available from Barnes and Nobles

Goaviation@aol.com The O-2 accident history (from USAF Safety) is at <http://www.afsec.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-090922-082.pdf>.

Many FACS were Buff drivers before their call to Hurlburt to fly the tiny bird.

Don Brown nahkbin@cox.net says Happy Birthday, BUFF. This anniversary brings back a few memories -The BUFF Reaches 50 Years of Service: The final B-52 bomber delivered to the Air Force a B-52H has now reached 50 years of operational service,. This was announced recently by Boeing. This airframe, serial number 61-040, is assigned to Minot AFB, N.D., where it flies with the combat-coded 5th Bomb Wing, according to the company's release on Oct. 26. It was on that same day back in 1962, that Boeing delivered this airplane to the Air Force from the company's production plant in Wichita, Kan. Between 1952 and 1962, Boeing built 744 B-52s in eight different models,. Today, the Air Force's B-52 fleet comprises 76 H-model aircraft, including two used as test aircraft at Edwards AFB, Calif. And Barksdale AFB, LA., hosts the service's second combat-coded B-52 unit, the 2nd BW, as well as Air Force Reserve Command's 307th BW that runs the B-52 schoolhouse. The Air Force intends to keep B-52s in service out to around 2040. [they think ... how many pressurizations is that?]

Australian Bird Dog. A FAC O-1 is still flying in Australia. It is owned by Randal McFarlane of Brisbane and flown by Australian FAC, Garry Cooper. SN 51-11976 (22290) "Little Puff" crashed on 04 May 1968 while being flown by Major Gregory and was subsequently rebuilt using some parts from 51-4661 (21546) which had also crashed shortly before while being flown by Joe Sowa. Both aircraft suffered engine failure on take-off, as so many O-1s did at the time, due to a carburetor linkage problem. After the war 51-11976 went to Thailand from where Colin Pay shipped a number to Australia. Randal McFarlane bought this one and rebuilt it. Garry Cooper Tamale 35.

Holm, Cheryl Civ JPAC ; Going forward, you may also wish to view and track Vietnam MIA status on DPMO's website where all unaccounted for are listed by name, and where the 'recently accounted for' are announced to the public. See: <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/vietnam/reports/>

There are a number of FAC memorials around and I would like to start documenting them as to their name, location, and a short history so that when we are in the area we can stop and honor our people. Some examples are as follows:

1. USAF Capt. Willbanks (Medal of Honor) was serving as a FAC and was KIA in Vietnam. There is a school named after him in Demorest, Georgia
2. Major Edward Ernest McBride a Mississippi country-boy, called "Hoss" KIA Laos has the only USAF Library named after someone at Keeser AFB, MS and in Ocean Spring, MS he is on a Mississippi memorial.
3. USAFA
4. Hurlburt AFB, FL

The modern father of Forward Air Controller is MAJOR GENERAL CARL G. SCHNEIDER. In July 1962 General Schneider went to Vietnam. As one of the first U.S. Air Force officers assigned to the 2d Air Division, he helped establish a forward air control/air liaison officer program, working and flying with the Republic of Vietnam Air Force. He became the Tactical Air Control Party commander with the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan., in June 1965. He was a fighter pilot.

FAC Trivia Book Being Revised Fellow FACs,

Every FAC has a story to tell or a "Claim to Fame", and we'd like to hear about your exploits and accomplishments! In 2000 we published an 81 page FAC Trivia Book that included many of your FAC "Claims to Fame," a lot of FAC Trivia, and many of your notable accomplishments and memories. We want to revise and expand the book to include inputs from all the FACs who never had the chance to contribute to the original book. That's a lot of you. Don't be left out. You lived history, now let's record it. We'll help make you famous, plus, your grandkids will know what you did in the war. Our objective is to have the book ready for the Oct. 2014 "FAC Homecoming" reunion in Ft Walton Beach, FL.

You can send us your inputs in three ways: 1) Use the link <http://www.fac-assoc.org/reunion/Trivia%20Book.htm> (preferred method), 2) submit inputs to Chuck Johnson at jake7367@gmail.com or, 3) mail your written inputs to Chuck at 120 Sleepy Oaks Drive, Kingsland, TX 78639. Send your inputs in today. We'd like to get them NLT 30 June 2013 if possible. By submitting your stories, you agree that they can be used and published by the FAC Association. **Questions? Contact Chuck Johnson at jake7367@gmail.com or (325) 388-3738.**

We look forward to hearing from each of you who were not included in the original book. Chuck Johnson (Jake 73) & Claude Newland (Rustic19), are Project Coordinators. See the FAC website 'Reunion' page and the 'FWB 2014' Reunion link to fill out the FAC Trivia Book Questionnaire



FAC Association

1849 Southlawn Drive
Fairborn, OH 45324

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Annual dues are \$20

Life membership dues depend on your age

55yrs and under — \$225

56 to 60 yrs — \$200

61 to 65 yrs — \$175

66yrs + — \$150

Copy this page, fill in the table below, and
send your check to:

Bob Gorman
3416 Broken Hill St.
Newbury Park, CA 91320-5501

FAC Association Membership and Annual Dues Form

Last Name :		First Name:		Initial:	
DOB (dd/mm/yyyy)		Spouse Name			
Address		Phone #			
City	State	Zip + 4	Cell #		
email					
A/C or Specialty		Call Sign			
Organization/Sqdn/TASS		FAC Tour Dates			
Locations					
Comments:					
Enclosed is my check for \$ -- -- --- Make me a member of/continue my membership in the FAC Association. (Note: Your Dues Status can be found in the address block printed above.)					
Dues Status		Signature			

