

VOLUME 6, Issue 2

July 2006

# FAC NEWS



[www.fac-assoc.org](http://www.fac-assoc.org)

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**Dennis Crouch**

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Dennis Crouch FAC Association Pres.  
NAIL 23 NKP 70-71 & 594 TASG 71

**SEE YOU IN DAYTON - THE RE-  
UNION IS COMING FAST**

The FAC Reunion 2006 is about 4 months away and it just doesn't seem possible. This edition of the newsletter is especially dedicated to the reunion and has the information you need to determine what's happening and which of the many activities you want to be involved in. This newsletter provides the registration material for the entire reunion, so make sure you fill it out and mail it back as soon as possible.

In addition, the entire registration package with greater detail on all events than is contained in this newsletter is posted on the website at [www.fac-assoc.org](http://www.fac-assoc.org). This was done to keep the mailing cost down and to ensure all essential information needed is available to you. You can get the entire, very detailed package, by downloading it. If you don't have a computer, I'm sure your family or friends do or you can even go to the library and have them download it for you. But, the important part is that the newsletter has more than adequate information to decide on what events you want to sign up for.

The FAC Reunion promises to be a wonderful event and I'm sure you will want to be part of it. Zot Barazzotto and his crack reunion team have put a great event together. We are extremely pleased that General Bruce Carlson, AFMC/CC, and a fellow OV-10 FAC is the Honorary Chairman for the 2006 FAC Reunion. Hopefully, he'll be able to provide remarks at our Saturday dinner. Of special note, great entertainment from the "Society of Old Bold Aviators" will be provided for your listening pleasure and you will receive a CD of the songs they sing.

This reunion will be centered on the National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF), and they have really been working hard to support this reunion for your enjoyment. You will be very pleased with this fabulous museum, and dinner among the many aircraft on display will be a special treat. In fact, you'll wish you had more time to visit the museum. Importantly, the dedication of the Memorial will be in the NMUSAF Memorial Gardens, a tribute especially to our 262 brothers lost in SEA and also to all those that served. General Ralph Eberhart, USAF, Ret., a fellow FAC will be the master of ceremonies



OV-10 675 in the lead over Laos, 1970 Photo by Tim Eby

for the dedication. A special thanks to all of you that supported the building of the memorial with your dollars. It would not have become a reality without your generous support.

There's much more to include, such as getting a chance to fly again and/or taking tours of notable area attractions. You can read the rest of the newsletter for all the information. Please get that registration in as soon as possible and prepare yourself for a great time and fellowship with your fellow FAC brothers.

The Board of Directors will be meeting Wednesday, Oct 4<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the Association business meeting and then on Saturday, Oct 8<sup>th</sup> to conduct the FAC Association Business meeting/voting with the membership. Issues will include:

**Election of new Officers and Board Members:** We hope to have nominees for President, Vice President and Board of directors ready to go prior to the meeting. Please let me know if you'd like to serve in any capacity on the Board.

**Committee Memberships:** Again, prior to the voters' meeting we would like to have a slate of those that would be willing to serve, or continue to serve, on association committees.

**Next FAC Association Reunion:** This will currently be an open discussion item. However, if at all possible, it would be ideal to have alternative locations determined prior to the current reunion. This would allow the membership to have these alternatives presented for a final decision. I have heard the possibility of several locations to include Colorado Springs which put their hat in the ring for 2006. Others mentioned were Fort Walton Beach, our roots and where our first ever FAC Reunion in 2000 was held and I believe Phoenix was also mentioned. Maybe even the east coast in the Washington DC area.

(cont pg 3)



## TREASURER'S REPORT

George Ferkes  
FAC Association Treasurer  
Trail 26

1 June 2006

THE FAC ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO BE IN EXCELLENT FINANCIAL SHAPE. OUR CURRENT BALANCE IN THE FAC ASSOCIATION GENERAL FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT, AS OF 1 JUNE 2006, IS \$65,436.28. THE ASSOCIATION'S EXPENSES FOR 2006 TO DATE ARE \$7439.48. THESE EXPENSES CONSISTED OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, CHECKING ACCOUNT SERVICE CHARGES, FAC NEWSLETTER COSTS, SEED MONEY FOR THE FAC REUNION, DONATION TO THE FAC MUSEUM AND THE DONATION TO THE FAC MEMORIAL IN DAYTON. THE CURRENT BALANCE IN THE FAC ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL FUND, AS OF 1 JUNE 2006, IS \$6,233.73. MEMORIAL FUND HAS EXPENDED 9.95 TO DATE. THE EXPENSES WERE FOR MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES FOR THE CHECKING ACCOUNT.

OUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS CONTINUES TO BE HEALTHY. THERE ARE 1,055 MEMBERS (484 are in arrears > 2 years) OF WHICH 234 ARE LIFETIME MEMBERS. .

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE REPORT FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME: PHONE # 850-581-4953, ADDRESS: 472 PARISH BLVD, MARY ESTHER, FL 32569, E-MAIL: [BEACHFLYR@AOL.COM](mailto:BEACHFLYR@AOL.COM).

FAC ASSOCIATION TREASURER  
GEORGE FERKES  
TRAIL 26, QUANG TRI, AUG 70 – AUG 71

*Please mail in your dues to Treasurer George Ferkes today. Use the form on page 9 of this issue of the FAC Newsletter.*

## IN MEMORIAM

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

Bob (Rosey) Rosasco	20 Oct05
Chris Polk	27 Feb06
Mort Webb	11 March06

*"I lost a good dear friend yesterday. Mort will be missed by this old crew chief."* Crew Chief Bob Green

Denny Coleman	9 April06
Norman E. Hearn	2006
Rod Himelberger	1 Aug05
George Barsom	14 Dec05

**Ed. Note:** Please submit names and dates of passing to the editor. Short commentary or obituary is welcomed.

## FROM YOUR DATABASE MANAGER

Whether you're a paid member or not, if you change address, notify me of your new info: **Ken Blutt, FAC Assn Data Mgr, 18040 Bankhurst Ct, Monument, CO 80132-2299.**

(pres corner, cont.)

Inputs from anyone? Looking for renewing previous interests and gaining additional volunteers for 2008.

**FAC Association of the Future:** A potential topic for the meeting is a discussion of tomorrow's FAC Association. Should we stay the same as we are today or should we consider other alternatives? None of us are getting any younger. Your board will be discussing this subject between now and the reunion. Although I don't believe we'll be at a point where decisions are made, it would be an ideal time to get the opinions of our membership. The Board of Directors will address this subject through our "virtual e-mail meetings" in preparation for the Association Business Meeting.

**Other Agenda Items:** I'm sure that some of you will have issues that you would like to have addressed during the meeting. Please provide any issues as soon as possible so that your board can consider them through the "virtual e-mail meeting."

This promises to be a great reunion. Get your registration in as soon as possible. Again, I'm looking forward to seeing you this fall, October 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> at the FAC Reunion 2006 in Dayton.

My Best Regards, Denny Crouch

## Overdue Silver Stars

**Donald F. Fulton**, a resident of Vacaville, California, is awarded the Silver Star Medal for extraordinary gallantry in action during a mission flown on 14 August 1969 as a United States Air Force Forward Air Controller (FAC), while supporting classified combat operations in Laos during the Vietnam conflict.

Approval was announced by the Department of the Air Force for the award of the Silver Star Medal, the nation's third highest award for valor.

Mr. Fulton, then a Captain in the U. S. Air Force, served as a FAC while assigned to Pleiku Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, with the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron (TASS).

On August 14 1969, Captain Fulton was the pilot of a lightly armed observation aircraft (O-2) and was participating in aerial flight deep inside Laos in support of Military Assistance Command - Vietnam, Studies and Observation Group (MAC-V SOG), Command and Control Central (CCC). Operating under call sign Covey 538, Captain Fulton coordinated Tactical Air Support for an eight-man Special Operations Strategic Reconnaissance Team while it conducted (Operation Sad Sam) a raid on a major North Vietnamese Army unit headquarters. Recon Team New York was subsequently heavily engaged by a North Vietnamese Infantry Regiment and was immobilized with casualties and surrounded at dusk in mountainous rain forest. With a low ceiling and heavy rain approaching, and no tactical air support immediately available, Captain Fulton, firing marking rockets and an M-16 rifle, made numerous aerobic, treetop level attacks on the enemy forces. During these passes, he was subjected to heavy fire from small arms, 12.7mm Heavy Machine Guns, Rocket Propelled Grenades and 23mm and 37mm antiaircraft weapons, inflicting substantial battle damage to his aircraft. His actions forestalled enemy attacks on the besieged Recon Team, until tactical air support could arrive. Subsequently, Captain Fulton directed the air assets in attacking the enemy and in conducting a night extraction of the Reconnaissance Team during a heavy rainstorm, while his fuel level dropped to near empty.

In his recommendation for the award of the Silver Star to Mr. Fulton, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Wolcuff (Army - Ret) stated that the "operation resulted in the discovery of a major enemy headquarters and nearby main force bivouacs and fortifications, which were subjected to aerial attack and subsequently ground attack by an exploitation force from CCC, whereby the enemy sustained heavy losses and was forced to abandon the complex. The Sad Sam



operation and subsequent ground operation caused the enemy to reinforce security in its sanctuary area at the expense of main force units, and its order of battle in South Vietnam was decremented."

Donald Fulton, is also the recipient of two Distinguished Flying Crosses (one being replaced by the award of this Silver Star), a Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Medal w/ 8 OLC.



**Karen's O-2 at an air show**

#### **OV-10 # 675 at Hill AFB Museum**

The Hill Aerospace Museum requested and received permission from the Mature and Proven Aircraft Division (MAPA/ALC) at Hill AFB to make a trip to Marsh Aviation, Inc. in PHX, AZ. and pick-up the parts to A/C 675 as they were government furnished property, no longer air-worthy and declared excess to future contractual needs".....



**Tom McGrain, Nail 28 and 675**

Photo by Randy Roberts, Nail 38

#### **And Another...** excerpts from NewsOK.com

A Ponca City native will receive the Silver Star for gallantry in action today at the state Capitol, 34 years after he flew his unarmed plane through anti-aircraft fire to save soldiers from annihilation...In Vietnam, **Jim Beaubien** was a forward air controller, flying a propeller-driven plane (O-2) and directing air support on enemy targets...His late father, James, had been a U.S. Army pilot in World War II and a forward air controller in the Korean War. The action for which Beaubien is being awarded the Silver Star occurred at the battle of An Loc, a provincial capital north of Saigon, on June 6, 1972 -- a stormy day when pilots couldn't see the ground because of severe weather. On that day, Beaubien flew into the An Loc area where an American Army adviser and South Vietnamese staff officers were under attack from the North Vietnamese.

...Beaubien didn't hesitate. He flew his aircraft low enough to find the besieged unit and the enemy soldiers. Beaubien then made numerous low-level marking rocket attacks to ensure that fighter-bombers could bomb the enemy troops. "Lieutenant Beaubien repeatedly placed his life in jeopardy while inflicting severe losses to the North Vietnamese troops and their equipment," his citation for the Silver Star said. "The enemy attack was broken and their troops were forced to flee. "His courageous actions saved most, if not all, of the commanding officers and men of the Army Republic of Vietnam and their American adviser." "I did what I did because I thought it was the right thing to do," he said of his actions which earned him the Silver Star.

#### **\*\*\*\*ATTENTION NAIL FAC's\*\*\*\***

All NAIL's who would like to help Nupaul, Nail 00, the former Nail Hole bartender from 1969 to 1975, attend the Dayton FAC Reunion, can send donations to Jon Alexaitis - Nail 68. Also, anybody that could help with Non-Rev travel for Nupaul from San Antonio-Dayton return would be appreciated. Nupaul's phone number in San Antonio is 210-861-5918. He would enjoy hearing from any Nail. Donations can be sent to Jon Alexaitis, 704 Sandlin Dr., Bedford, TX 76021. Contact at 817-581-8381 or [jalexaitis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jalexaitis@sbcglobal.net).

#### **HELP LOCATE SEA FAC's**

Jon Alexaitis, the FAC Association Search Committee, is asking all FACs to check old FAC orders or rosters you might have, and either bring them to the Dayton Reunion or send them to Jon Alexaitis, 704 Sandlin Dr., Bedford, TX 76021.

**FAC Association Membership Application,  
Membership Renewal, Database Update Form  
2006**

**Yes, I would like to support the goals of the newly formed FAC Association to promote FAC Camaraderie and future FAC reunions.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check for \$20.00 to make me a member of the FAC Association. (Add \$10 more if you want the FAC Trivia Book) For Lifetime rates, see President's Corner of this January 2006 FAC Newsletter.

**Please make check payable to "FAC Association" & mail to: George Ferkes, 472 Parish Blvd, Mary Esther, FL 32569**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

FAC Call Sign(s): \_\_\_\_\_ FAC Aircraft: \_\_\_\_\_ TASS: \_\_\_\_\_

FAC Tour Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Locations: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to work on the following FAC committee: \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to attend FAC Reunion 2006 in Dayton, OH: (please circle answer) Most likely YES Most likely NO