



FAC NEWS 30 June 2002

www.fac-assoc.org

472 Parish Blvd, Mary Esther, FL 32569

FAC Memorial



ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP: Officers and Committee Chairmen are:

President:	Toby Rushforth	rushfortht@aol.com	808-235-0207	Kaneohe, HI
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Secretary:	Howie Pearson	gilguth@aol.com	??	??
Treasurer:	George Ferkes	beachflyr@aol.com	850-581-4953	Mary Esther, FL
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Director:	Gibber Gibbs	jegibbs@onr.com	512-253-6868	Lexington, TX
Director:	Hen Min Hiu	hen.house@verizon.net	808-732-2225	Honolulu, HI
FACNET:	Skip Smothermon	skipsm@earthlink.net	405- 528-5496	Oklahoma City, OK
Website:	Zot Barazzotto	zotthefac@netscape.net	973-429-2119	Xenia, OH
Newsletter:	Hen Min Hiu	hen.house@verizon.net	808-732-2225	Honolulu, HI
FAC Search:	Fred Pumroy	fpumroy@earthlink.net		
All FAC Database:	Glenn Bremenkamp	gsbrem@aol.com	228-388-2817	Biloxi, MS
Membership Database:	Ken Blutt	kblutt@csc.com	719-559-0557	Monument, CO
Charter/By-Laws:	Charlie Jones	btrflyfac@aol.com	850-936-9688	Navarre, FL
Mission:	Jay Barnes	barnesjay@juno.com	973-325-6208	West Orange, NJ
FAC Historian: (Interim)	Claude Newland	cnewland@gnt.net	850-654-2955	Destin, FL

Book Project:	Charlie Pocock	charmarpock@aol.com	719-488-9056	Monument, CO
2004 Reunion:	Cal Anderson	calvindolly@earthlink.net		San Antonio, TX
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Corporate Sponsors:	Byron Sutton	wteor@gdi.net	407-876-6209	Windermere, FL

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Toby Rushforth

On behalf of the FAC Association membership, I would like to thank our now-retired president Rowdy Heatherington and his able staff, some of who are still serving on the new board of directors, for their guidance in making the FAC Association the viable and visible war veterans' organization that it is today. This was evident by the news coverage and recognition received in the Honolulu newspapers and TV stations during our most successful FAC Reunion 2002, the Hawaii R&R.

There were some among us who served with distinction and honor during the SEA conflict yet never received well-deserved awards due to the vagaries of war; constant unit reshuffling, personnel disruptions, and the hasty withdrawal of our combat forces at the end. Sometimes accounts of bravery were lost in the labyrinth of paperwork and bureaucracy or not submitted at all. If you'd like to know more about the methodology to redress some of these oversights, please let us hear from you.

In the near future, we will review formulae to insure the continued success of the FAC Association, but it is of overriding importance that you renew your membership. With your support, we can find more FACs and continue to encourage the fundamental purposes of the Association which are to remember those we left behind, promote Forward Air Control (FAC) camaraderie, and to preserve the FAC history. So say our Constitution and Articles of Incorporation.

FR2002 Hawaii R&R was a success because those who were asked to serve, did so with enthusiasm, pride, and generosity. Please join me in using that momentum to make the FAC Association an icon among veterans' organization. ...MAHALO



The Board of Directors Left to right : "Gibber" Gibbs (director), Howie Pierson (secy), Randy Hetherington (director), Glenn Bremenkamp (database keeper), Toby Rushforth (President), George Ferkes (treas) and Hen Min Hiu (Newsletter editor). Dennis Crouch (vp) was missing from the group photo.

FAC ASSOCIATION INCORPORATION

Charlie Jones, Chairman, Charter and By-Laws Committee

Copies of the FAC Association Constitution and Bylaws, as accepted by the State of Florida, were presented to the board by Charlie Jones. His interpretation of the fine print is that this organization is officially incorporated as a 501 (c) (19) Veterans Not for Profit organization. The Association is a "war veterans" organization and therefore donations are tax deductible. See your accountant about the extent of deductibility of contributions to the Association.

MEMBERSHIP KEEPS GROWING

George Ferkes, Treasurer

The FAC Association continues to grow and prosper. Our current membership is 668 as of 1 June, 2002. After paying expenses associated with our recent reunion, our current funds balance is \$7055.14. As a reminder to FAC Association members, it is time to pay your 2002 dues(\$20). FAC Association members who pay their 2002 dues will be receiving a sample of the FAC book that is now in the works. This sample book will give all our members a look at the current progress in this book writing effort. If you are not a member and want to join you can find a membership application on our web site: WWW.FAC-ASSOC.ORG. The FAC Association is incorporated in the state of Florida as a non-profit veteran's organization. Send your FAC dues to the: FAC Association, 472 Parish Blvd, MaryEsther, FL 32569. Please make the check out to the "FAC Association."

FAC Association "charter" memberships were accepted thru the end of our FAC Reunion 2002. Each charter member should have received a copy of the FAC Trivia booklet. Note: FAC Association charter members who joined after last November's booklet mailing will be receiving their booklets as soon as we can put together another mailing ...NLT end of July. Any questions let me know. My e-mail is: Beachflyr@aol.com telephone number is 850-581-4953. If you are not a FAC Association charter member and would like a FAC Trivia booklet this 100 page booklet is available thru me for \$10. It is a wonderful historical document containing a collection of many of the individual accomplishments of FAC's in SEA. You will find it a great read and most interesting. Special thanks go to Chuck Johnson who prepared the booklet.

SENIOR MOMENTS

A typical email from FAC friends seen on the desk of Association officers asks, "Am I a member? I think I paid in 2000, or was it 2001? Is this an association-wide problem or just a senior moment?" George Ferkes replies: "...The FAC Association Database is managed by Ken Blutt, e-mail is: kblutt@csc.com. I have added him to the addressees on this e-mail. At the reunion I believe Ken and Glenn (Bremenkamp) talked and have set up an information exchange that will provide the most current FAC Association membership information to the FAC Database. If this has not occurred, I would request that they set up this information exchange.

As for Ken's position as the FAC Association Database manager, it is akin to being an executive secretary, in that he is the source of our "official" FAC Membership and will have the most current addresses of our membership and all the data on each member that was provided on their membership data form. For this reason it is important that Ken be an integral part of our Board of Directors discussions and planning. Request he be included on all future e-mails regarding FAC Association matters. "

To which Ken opines, "...I now have a little less than 2000 FACs in my database, of which 638 are Charter members. Additionally, 38 members have paid double for Charter dues which I am now recording for 2002 dues..... I can't tell you anything about pre-"Charter Membership" duesThere are a few things that I believe need to be ironed out - "

So as you can see, it's still a work in progress being done by devoted volunteers. George Ferkes can tell you if you're paid up; Ken Blutt can tell you if you're in the membership database and on the mailing list. Glen Bremenkamp is trying to an All-FAC of all known FACs (even non-members).

FAC SEARCH COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

The FAC Search committee's goal is to locate an additional 500 FACs before the 2004 FAC reunion. This is an ambitious undertaking, but it's possible! We plan to do this by working with the AF Locator, USAA, Airline pilot Reps, USAFE Association of Graduates, and post notices in a number of magazines.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- 1) If you have any old orders, unit rosters or names of the FACs you served with in Southeast Asia, please mail a copy of them to Claude Newland, 4033 Indian Trail Dr., Destin, Fl 32541, or via email at: cnewland@gnt.net.**
- 2) If you are an airline pilot, please contact Claude and tell him where you are based and which airline you are with. Call 850-654-2955 or email cnewland@gnt.net. We plan to get the word out to all airline pilot FACs about our organization.**
- 3) If you have any suggestions for the Search Committee, please contact, Fred Pumroy, Chairman, at: pumroy@earthlink.net or call 937-878-7257 (H) or 937-255-4169, ext. 3027 (W).**

FAC MEMORIAL DEDICATION 2002:

by Bill Ernst, Rustic 04

The FAC memorial was dedicated on April 13, 2002 in Punchbowl Cemetery before a crowd of about 330 people. The 15th ABW Honor Guard provided the Color Guard, Firing Party and Wreath Bearers; the 15th ABW provided a Chaplain; the Air Force Band of the Pacific provided the music, anthems and taps; the University of Hawaii AFROTC detachment provided cadets to greet, usher, and seat attendees; the Australian Consulate General attended; the New Zealand Honorary Consul and the Mayor of Honolulu sent representatives to participate; and the FAC Assn., both Consulates and the Mayor provided four large floral wreaths to honor the fallen. Two local pilots flew an O-1 and an O-2A over the ceremony as the monument was unveiled.





Guest Speaker

At the Saturday night banquet, Gen. William Begert spoke of alternative methods used in recent operations in Afganistan in lieu of flying FACs. His presentation included video surveillance clips testifying to the awesome accuracy and timely response upon target identification. Gen. Begert was a Covey FAC.



Our fund raising efforts were successful because of the generosity of FACs, their relatives and friends. We recently received \$430 from EEM Tours that was attached to reunion registrations and designated by reunion attendees as a memorial donation. The names of the donors of the \$430 has not been provided but has been promised in future correspondence by EEM Tours. All known donors were sent a letter of

appreciation, a copy of the program and some photographs. This will be done for the last group, when identified by EEM Tours.

At this time we have \$1,888 in the memorial account in Hawaii. We anticipate sending all remaining funds to the FAC Assn. treasurer.

The Hawaii Reunion 2002 committee members want to thank all of the donors for making it possible to create and install a lasting tribute to all of the American, Australian and New Zealand aviators who served together in Southeast Asia.

...a footnote: Unfortunately, a truck belonging to the Punchbowl Cemetery maintenance department struck the FAC memorial on May 31 and damaged the granite base. It has been removed for repair and the Director of the cemetery has promised that the VA will pay for the repairs.

Editors note: Bill Ernst impressed his colleagues on the FR2002 planning committee by his diligence and attention to detail. If I were writing his ER, I'd put all the Xs to the farthest right they could go and recommend him for any project you'd want zero defects performance. Along with him, Mike Cavanaugh deserves special mention for his work as Chairman of Protocol and Banquet MC.

Coveys-----Rustics
THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS
Ravens-----Nails
(email received from Darrel Whitcomb)

"Hen, please put in a best wishes for Charlie Pocock. He had to evacuate his house north of C Springs yesterday because of that terrible fire. We pray that he and his wife are safe and he does not lose his home."

(ed. Apparently, this is in reference to the Hayman Fire in Colorado.) A FACNET posting by Charlie stated he was heading out from his house with computer hard drive in hand. Once again God has taken care of Charlie and both he and the house escaped unharmed.)

In a report to FAC Assn President Toby Rushforth, Charlie wrote: "...It has been about a month since I returned from the Great Hawaiian Reunion and I owe you an update on the change in the direction the FACBOOK committee is taking.

1. I believe the 100 page mini-book went over quite well. In spite of the poor reproduction quality of the pictures, I've received several kudos on the effort. I've agreed with Claude Newland that if you approve of the idea we'll put together a fall mailing to everyone who pays their 2002 Association dues.

2. I proposed to the Executive Committee that we should establish a cutoff date for additional stories and pictures for an eventual book. However, the committee decided that we should continue collecting stories and pictures forever, even though some might not make it into our first published effort. I agreed with this concept and will continue to collect stories, pictures and other related information.

3. Since no one has yet stepped forward with the knowledge, skill, energy, etc., to publish a real book, the Executive Committee agreed that the next best plan would be to put all of our data on a CD and have it available for sale at the next reunion. While this is less of a task than publishing a book it is still a tremendous undertaking to organize and edit the material in a format suitable for a CD.

4. The stated objective of the FACBOOK project is to collect our history and make it available to the world. So far we have collected more than 1,000 pages of stories and over 450 pictures. So the collection objective is being met and we are now starting into a new phase of making the information available to whomever wants it. Accordingly, I've reorganized our committee slightly with the emphasis on editing. A new committee listing is attached to this e-mail. I have just distributed a CD with all of our stories and pictures to the key editors and they should have it by the end of this week. This also ensures that if anything happens to me or my computer the data will be in several other hands. "

"...Greg (Bassine) threw me a curve ball and I would like you to really consider it hard. His idea is to supplement the CD concept (done by Larry or Bob) with a stand alone History Book website, which he would build and maintain, on a time available basis. (Remember this is business) His idea is that the FAC Association website and the History Book website would be cross linked, but the history book site would only contain the history, while the Association Website would contain all of the information about the Association. This is not a bad concept, considering the objective of making our history available to the world and the large amount of history information we are going to be producing. It would also relieve Zot of the responsibility of maintaining the history book section of the present website. The downside would be that there would be a cost for doing this...Greg's initial effort can be viewed at: <http://www.buddysbend.com/FAC-Website/index.html>. (Zot's Comment - The FAC Book will take on a life of its own and this makes a lot of sense because it will entail a lot of effort.)"

FAC BOOK 'POINTS OF CONTACT':

SECTION 2: The Early FACs, 1961-1963 (prior to the 19th TASS), including early Air Commandos and Butterflies

**Scott Freeman, 7812 Hilo Court, Diamondhead MS 39525, freeman.james1@worldnet.att.net
And Early Ravens, Craig Duehring, cwdueh@kreative.net**

**SECTION 3: 19TH TASS: Mike Morea, 3858 Timber Ridge Court, Palm Harbor, FL 34685, moreas@ij.net
and Noel Wilson, 1119 Oriole Dr., Starrville MS 39759, sewilson@futuresouth.com**

**SECTION 4: 20TH TASS: Bud Jones, 65 E. River Rd. #20, Rumson NJ 07760, covey583@yahoo.com and
Tim Eby, Rt. 22 Box 8BB, Hico TX 76457, teby@htcomp.net**

SECTION 5: 21ST TASS: Byron K. Sutton, 505 W. 2nd, Windermere, FL 34786, Bsutton310@aol.com

**SECTION 6: 22ND TASS: We need a volunteer for this section, but in the meantime send submittals to
Jack Webb, 420 Jones Ave, Ft. Atkinson WI 53538, spider@compufort.com**

SECTION 7: 23RD TASS: Ron Russell, 9811, Summerday Dr., Burke, VA 22015, ronrus@gateway.net

SECTION 8: Our Gone But Not Forgotten Brothers: Jim Roper, 4646 Kashmire Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920, jroper3531@aol.com

SECTION 9: Our Legacy to Others: Bobby Mack, 637 Emerald Lane, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547, bobby.mack@baesystems.com

SECTION 10: Prop Wash—Appendices; Glossary; slang and jargon; call signs; trivia; songs; poems; jokes; sayings; index; etc. Chuck Johnson, 225 Brian Circle, Mary Esther FL 32569, chuck.johnson@baesystems.com and Larry Hughes, 11712 Admiralty Way #G, Everett, WA 98204, larryh@w-link.net

PERSONAL/PERSONNEL MATTERS

FACs recognized recently as still moving up the active duty ladder are Gen. Danny James, III and Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart. Gen. James was an O-1 driver at Gia Nghia and Ban Me Thout 1969/70 and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the new Director of the ANG. Gen. Eberhart was an O-2 FAC at Pleiku in 1970 and was nominated by the President to be the Cdr US Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command at Peterson AFB, CO. Congratulations, gentlemen!

Fred Pumroy and Dennis Crouch joined in the dedication of Valor Park at the Wright-Patterson Museum at which five living Medal of Honor winners were in attendance. Our own George "Bud" Day was among those honored by about 300 guests who were privileged to hear the stories of each of the MOH holders.

Chris Neale, Jade 08, wrote "...It has been in the back of my mind for some time, but would "regional reunions" be worth discussing or mentioning in the Newsletter. I am in the process of setting up a move to central Calif., so won't be able to do much for some time, but it seems as if we could work up "all call sign" gatherings of guys in close proximity. I know the guys near FWB do this all the time, so it seems like others could do the same in other area. (ed. Chris can be reached at jade08@worldnet.att.net)

FAC TRIVIA BOOKS AVAILABLE

The FAC Trivia Book is available for sale by the FAC Association at \$10.00 per copy. This 100 page booklet is a wonderful historical document of many of the individual accomplishments of FACs in SEA. You'll find it a great read and most entertaining. See the Dues Form (enclosed) to order your booklet. (Note: Charter members of the association should already have received a copy of this booklet in 2001 as a result of their becoming a charter member.)

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that Aussie and Kiwi FACs who served with US Forces did not receive Air Medals. Their respective governments did not authorize acceptance of any awards or medals from the US. Ken Semmerle reports that his government "did a back flip on this" in the mid '90s, however, "few of us kept any paperwork or whatever..." Don Mercer, Rustic FAC who has worked on other Awards and Decoration oversights of the SEA conflict is providing leads to help our down-under friends obtain the guidelines and find appropriate channels for the consideration of such awards. If you have any inclination to assist in this effort, please contact FAC Association president Toby Rushforth.

...that there is a group of retirees living in Thailand who are in the process of organizing a reunion for any and all of those who were stationed and or worked in South East Asia? Families and guests are welcome.

The reunion is scheduled for 27-29 September 2002 to take advantage of off-season hotel and transportation rates. The venue will be the Ambassador Hotel on Sukhumvit Road in Bangkok, a 3-star hotel charging US\$25/day, good for 3 weeks on either side of the reunion dates. For further information, contact les@loxinfo.co.th and indicate (1) If you are definitely planning, (2) giving it serious thought, or (3) just thinking about it. Also, how many in your party and other tour interests.

...that the Cessna O-1 Bird Dog flown over the Hawaii FAC Reunion dedication ceremony was making its final flight before being donated to the Military Aviation Museum of the Pacific which is slated to reopen at its new location on Dec. 7, 2004 in the historic hangars and control tower on the south side of Ford Island. FACs who enjoyed the O-1 and O-2 flyover during the dedication can thank the pilots via the editor's email address: Willy Schauer (Col. USAF, ret.) flew the O-1; David Gray (USA, ret) flew the O-2. A trivia question: The current civilian N number of the O-1 is N5074B. What was its original USAF tail number?



**A PARTING SHOT
Hen Min Hiu, Chairman, FR2002**

The Hawaii FAC Association gratefully acknowledges the help of many volunteers during FR2002. Carolyn and Ben Petty (Nail FAC) of EEM Tours provided professional advice and on-site assistance from beginning to end while many of you made spontaneous donations of goods and greenbacks.

I am happily in debt to the HIFACs for their loyalty, hard work, and cheerful encouragement. Namely: William Begert, Vic Bonfiglio, John Callahan, Mike Cavanaugh, Bill Ernst, David Greenlee, Mac McNeill, Putt Richards, Toby Rushforth, and Buck Welch.

And thanks of course to my wife Arlene for her usual indulgence and support. MAHALO to all of you!