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January 2005

FAC NEWS



www.fac-assoc.org

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Dennis Crouch

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dennis Crouch, FAC Assn Pres.

Hello all. The summer of 2004 has passed very rapidly as I'm sure it has for you as well. Seems the time flies much faster than it used to. As I begin to write this, we have just completed re-electing

President George W. Bush for his second term and we have celebrated Veteran's Day.

I think many would agree that this election period was one of the most difficult in memory. Charges, counter-charges and the differences and allegations reach delirious levels at times. However, when all was said and done, the vote came in and the winner was recognized and the loser gave his concession speech. And importantly, the nation came together and recognized the outcome. There was acceptance that "we the people" had elected a president and we would all go about business and move forward. There were no fights or riots, no tanks in the streets, and our government was looking forward. We are blessed to be a part of this nation. Our democracy and our freedom is a glorious thing to watch, isn't it? Imperfect? Yes! But, there is nothing better!! And this nation has all of those that gave their last breath and all of you to thank for our freedom.

As many have said, "Freedom is not free"! An understatement I'm sure you would agree. All of those that are receiving this newsletter have done their part to keep this nation free. Thank you, everyone of you. I hope Gene McCutchan, a FAC brother, and one who served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam won't mind my quoting something he said on the FACNET:

Gene said as he was referring to contrails crisscrossing the sky:

"Contrails are a logo and automated link to my Air Force which I dearly love. And the scenes scope

(Continued on page 2)



The new Board of Directors. Front: Ned Helm, Tim Eby, Cal Anderson. Rear: Byron Sutton, Fred Pumroy, Ken Blutt, Cal Alexaitis, Skip Smothermon, ?, Darrel Whitcomb. Missing: Dennis Crouch.

(President's Corner, Continued from page 1)

through my life and finally find me smug and hunkered down with my service in three wars. Content and at rest.”
 “Then I met the FAC group. It changed my life. It made me humble. You all served but you didn’t hang it up. You didn’t stop there. Your actions shout that being a veteran is only a prelude to service to Country. A never-ending duty and responsibility. I thank you for this example in my life.”
 “My respect to you Veterans on Veterans Day.”

Red Marker

Thank you Gene for your service and thanks to each and every one of you, for your dedicated service!

Many are probably not aware that our own Darrell Whitcomb, Nail 25, returned to the fray in Iraq and flew 95 surveillance missions in 102 days. Wow, that’s a lot even for a young guy!! I know each and every one of us gives him a hand salute! Glad you’re home. Darrell. I’m sure he’ll be able to give us some insight into his missions in our next FAC Newsletter. As he just got back from Iraq, he still has a lot to do and can’t make this edition.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

George Ferkes
 FAC Association Treasurer
 Trail 26

1 January 2005

The FAC Association is in excellent financial condition. As of 1 January 2005 the current balance in the FAC Association general fund is \$37,701.43. There are no outstanding accounts payable and the only known expenses in the next 6 months are for the newsletter and routine administrative costs. I estimate these costs to be \$2500. .

Currently we have 44 FAC Association lifetime members. As we accumulate more lifetime membership dues we will move this money into a separate account. This account will be fenced but annually a percentage of these funds will be moved to the general fund to pay for a portion of the services provide to the general membership.

As of 1 January 2005 the current balance in the FAC Memorial fund is \$6,667.56. There are no outstanding accounts payable and the only possible expense in the next 6 months is the cost of engraving 3 additional names to the Hurlburt Field FAC Memorial. I do not have an estimate of this cost at this time but based on past engraving additions it should be less than \$500.



Lady O-2 Pilot (Karen) in San Antonio

IN MEMORIAM

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

Ken C. Culp	3MAR02
Joseph E. Gorley	6APR04
Jerry D. Furche	3MAR02
James C. Hunley	4APR04
Larry Meredith	OCT04
Ray Green	OCT04

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. Email <kblutt@csc.com>**. Even if you're not a member, we want to know who and where you are.

HERO HONORED

One of our own has belatedly been recognized for his heroics some 35 years ago. (Narrative edited for space limits) The Special Forces camp at Bu Prang, near the Cambodian border was isolated and in danger of being overrun by NVA forces. Sgt. Clay Peacock volunteered to be inserted to assist the TACP as radio operator. On Nov. 26, 1969, he arrived by helicopter and was wounded by mortar shrapnel even before he made it to the command bunker. The narrative, written by George Latin takes up here:

After the air support arrived overhead he found that the lieutenant Forward Air Controller had been wounded in the chest by a mortar round, was in another bunker, and he was not able to direct the fighters. Sergeant Peacock then began directing the supporting fire himself, after receiving information on targets by radio from different posts within the camp. The supporting fire from the aircraft was successful in reducing most of the mortar fire. After about an hour the mortar fire resumed and continued throughout the night.

During the early morning hours of 27 NOV the North Vietnamese dramatically increased the incoming fire. Within minutes of this increase in fire the enemy breached the northern perimeter of

the base. Sergeant Peacock made immediate contact with an AC-47 gunship to obtain air support. By observing the direction of the incoming tracer rounds he was able to direct the fire on the enemy causing them to withdraw.

During the late afternoon of 27 November the incoming rounds of mortar began again. After sunset the enemy began firing artillery rounds, the first time that this heavy weapon had been employed. After about an hour, in total darkness, the enemy attacked from four directions with a determined infantry unit supported by heavy mortar, recoilless rifle, rocket propelled grenade and automatic fire. Sergeant Peacock immediately began directing the supporting fire from the AC-47 aircraft; this time directing two of the aircraft at the same time. Within thirty minutes the enemy attack again subsided.

During this lull in the battle, fearing that care of his wounded officer may have been overlooked, Sergeant Peacock crawled to the other bunker with water for the wounded FAC. While caring for the officer the heavy incoming fire began again. He left the safety of the bunker and returned to the command bunker and the radios. Again he was able to direct the aircraft fire on the enemy and this assault ended.

In the early morning hours of 28NOV devastating artillery fire began, with rounds impacting constantly. The AC-47s had left to refuel, replaced by aircrews unfamiliar with the area, who refused to fire on verbal descriptions. Without this supporting fire the base would quickly fall to the enemy. Removing his survival strobe light, and surviving a direct hit on the bunker, he left the protection of the bunker, crawled a distance from the entrance and threw the light into an open area where it could be seen by the aircraft. The aircraft immediately began providing supporting fire. Within an hour of this aircraft fire completely around the base, all firing ceased completely. It did not resume; the enemy was in full retreat back into the sanctuary of Cambodia four miles to the north.

Sgt. Peacock's valiant efforts saved the SF camp, the lives of 15 Americans and 275 troops of

the Mike Force. They cost the enemy over 200 dead, found within 1/2 mile of the perimeter.

Belated hand salute, Clay Peacock!



George Latin and Clay Peacock

(Continued from page 2) President's Corner

As your FAC Association Board and Committees look at the future, we find many areas to work for the association. This is your association and the Board and Committee members invite your comments on areas that should be worked. We also look forward to your help should you want to lend your time and talent to an effort. Here are some of the areas being worked to improve the FAC Association.

FAC History Book CD: I hope you all have had the opportunity to get into the CD. A tremendous effort and it does a great job of telling the history and keeping the FAC legacy alive. If you're an active member of the FAC Association and/or attended the reunion at San Antonio, you should have received a copy. If you're not a current paid up member and you're receiving this newsletter, join the association and you'll receive a copy of the CD for free. Al Matheson, FAC Book Project, is handling additional sales and CD distribution. The CD is doing a great job in preserving the FAC history and Al and others are working to place the CD in Museums to further preserve FAC history, your history.

FAC Memorial at National Museum of the United States Air Force: Lots of work is going into the vision and concept of the FAC memorial that we intend to install at the National Museum

of the USAF, formerly called the Air Force Museum. Zot Barazzotto is leading the effort of his team. The memorial will be primarily a tribute to the FACs and FAC organizations that served in the Vietnam War and our FAC brothers that gave their lives. Although the design is not completed, the team is planning on raising funds through the website and the newsletter. A location is already picked out on the National Museum grounds and the concept is well along. The fact that from 1.3 to 1.5 million people visit the museum annually, and many of them will see the memorial, makes it an extremely important way to present a tribute to our brothers. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope you plan to contribute.

Website Improvements: As you probably know, Bob Gorman was a major contributor to the FAC CD. Bob did a lot of wonderful and user-friendly things with the CD and he has volunteered his talents to improve the FAC Association Website. Bob promises to not only improve the site, include items of interest to all, ensure its currency, but also to maintain its user friendliness. You'll be seeing lots of positive changes in the future. Bob, we thank you for your work now, and that you'll be doing in the months to come. This comes at a good time as Zot Barazzotto, the webmaster, is very busily engaged in planning the 2006 reunion and is the leader of the memorial effort.

Lifetime Memberships: Just a reminder to let you know that the Lifetime Membership dues were approved by the membership at the San Antonio Reunion. George Ferkes, FAC Treasurer, is accepting them, but he and many other Floridians are still recovering from the damage of the hurricanes of this summer. George is behind in his Association work in getting the checks cashed and notification back to those that submitted payment, including yours truly. He expects to get back on top of that in the near future and I'm sure he will. Hope you too decide to accept the Lifetime Membership. Directions to submit your Lifetime Membership are also in this newsletter. Here's the prices depending on age:

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Literary Corner

This is a new feature: a list of books authored by FACs or about the FAC mission. It is not an exhaustive list. If you are aware of other such books, please inform the editor for inclusion in future newsletters. Use this as a reference, and happy reading.

The Ravens

Christopher Robbins

The men who flew in America's secret war in Laos
ISBN: 0-671-67316-5
Crown Publishers, Inc.

Viper 7

Charles Pocock

Forward Air Controlling in South Vietnam in 1966
ISBN: 0-9703068-0-6
Butterfly and Viper Publishers

The Rescue of Bat 21

Darrel D. Whitcomb

The definitive history of the most famous rescue of the war in SEA
ISBN: 1-55750-946-8
Naval Institute Press

Da Nang Diary

Tom Yarborough

A Forward Air Controller's gunsight view of combat in Vietnam in support of Green Beret SOG missions
ISBN: 0-312-98493-6
St. Martin's Paperbacks

SOG

John L. Plaster

The secret wars of America's commandos in Vietnam. The ground war perspective of operations described in **Da Nang Diary**.
ISBN: 0-684-81105-7
Simon and Schuster

Quoth the Raven

Jim Roper

The adventurous combat tour of a Covey/SOG/Raven FAC
ISBN: 1-59129-051-1
AmErica House

Aardvarks and Rangers

Jim Roper

FACing in Granada with the Rangers and other adventures
ISBN: 1-4137-0679-7
AmErica House

Naked In Da Nang

Mike Jackson and Tara Dixon-Engel

A Forward Air Controller in Vietnam
ISBN: 0-7603-2076-4
Zenith Press

Misty

Don Shepperd, editor

First person stories of the F-100 Misty Fast FACs in the Vietnam war
ISBN: 0-7596-5255-4 (dustjacket)
1st Books Library

Vietnam Above the Treetops

John F. Flanagan

Memories of an early O-1 FAC
ISBN: 0-275-93738-0

Inverted Flight

Don Mercer

A book of poetry from the author's Vietnam and Cambodia experiences
ISBN: 1-4134-4897-6
Xlibris Corporation

A Certain Brotherhood

Jimmie H. Butler

A novel from flying the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos
ISBN: 0-9655396-0-1
Cricket Press

Red Lightning—Black Thunder

Jimmie H. Butler

A novel of Cold War action and suspense
ISBN: 0-525-93377-8
Cricket Press

The Iskra Incident

Jimmie H. Butler

A novel of Cold War thrills and action
ISBN: 0-525-24898-6
Cricket Press

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The Rustics

James W. Reese, Book Coordinator
A top secret air war in Cambodia
Self-published, available only to Rustics

Callsign Rustic

Richard Wood
The secret air war over Cambodia, 1970—1973
ISBN: 1-58834-049-X
Smithsonian Press

A Lonely Kind of War

Marshall Harrison
Forward Air Controller, Vietnam
ISBN: 0-671-70347-1
Pocket Books

Point of the Spear

Covey Association, Cal Anderson, President
A collection of personal stories and photos
ISBN: 1-4120-0052-1
Trafford Publishing (sales@trafford.com)

FAC History Book CD

The Forward Air Controllers Association
A collection of first-person stories and pictures,
history and tributes from slow FACs in SEA
Electronic media on CD

NOTE: To buy any of these books not available in bookstores or the internet, contact the publisher, author, or e-mail this newsletter editor, listed on cover.

(continued from page 4) *Lifetime Memberships*

Under 55 years of age:	\$225
From 56-60 years of age:	\$200
From 61-65 years of age:	\$175
From 66 years and up:	\$150

As I said in the July newsletter, the FAC Association is yours and your Board and committees have volunteered to serve and make the association even better. We do want to hear from you, hear your thoughts on issues and any ideas you think we should look at. Let us know and we'll work the issues. Let's hear from you!

A final thought. Our military; Army, Navy, Marine Corp and Air Force members are doing a tremendous job in Afghanistan and Iraq and other places in fighting the War on Terrorism. They have displayed the respected core values of Duty, Honor, and Country with dedication, courage and tenacity. I know we are all proud of them. We must ensure that their contributions never go unnoticed, unappreciated nor unrewarded by US citizens. They will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
Denny Crouch



DON'T HAVE A FACBOOK CD YET?

Ordering information

Send \$15 postpaid to:

Al Matheson
8847 West 2200 South
Cedar City, UT 84720-4829

e-mail citabriair@yahoo.com

Consider ordering several and contributing them to your local schools and libraries. They make excellent reference material for students and scholars researching the Vietnam era. Help keep your legacy alive!



Red Marker aka Gene McCutchan

NEWS & NOTES

From Jim Roper:

Ed Eberhart had his change of command at Northern Command on November 5, and will have a retirement ceremony soon in the D.C. area, to the best of my knowledge. I'll send details when I can, and yes, I plan to attend and present a gift on behalf of the Coveys.

Gen. Eberhart (AFA '68) was a Pleiku Covey, 1970 as a 1Lt., ending his career as Commander, U.S. Northern Command, and Commander, North American Aerospace Command, and was acting AF Chief of Staff at one point. Congratulations on a superlative career, General Eberhart. (ed, Capt. Skinny)

Official bio available at www.dod.gov/bios/eberhart_bio.html.



PROPOSED FAC MEMORIAL AT THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM

The FAC Association Reunion is scheduled for October 4 to 8, 2006 in Dayton, Ohio. As part of the reunion, a FAC Memorial will be dedicated on October 5 in the Memorial Park of the National Museum of the Air Force. The memorial will focus on those Forward Air Controllers who served and died in SEA. Although the memorial will parallel the Hurlburt Memorial in focus, it will be unique in its design. Illustrations of the design and setting can be found on the FAC Association web site at - <http://www.fac-assoc.org/memorial/memorial08-dayton-pictures.html>. Some details of what you see may vary, but the concept will remain.

The Reunion Committee is aware that this project will require substantial funding. However, the Committee feels that having a memorial at the AF Museum will serve to generate more interest in the mission of the FACs since 1.3 million people visit the museum each year. This is far more exposure than at any other site.

The project budget is \$30,000 which will cover the cost of the monument, a maintenance trust fund fee (required by AF Museum), the cost of the dedication and miscellaneous expenses. Because of the requirements set by the museum and the monument company all **funds need to be secured by September, 2005**. The Reunion Committee is pleased to announce that the first \$2,500 has been pledged. We are confident that the FAC community will be

generous in their support of this memorial to our fallen comrades. The memorial will be a lasting legacy to the FAC mission and to those who made the supreme sacrifice in SEA.

Please send donations to the:

**FAC MEMORIAL FUND
C/O Fred Pumroy
1849 Southlawn Drive
Fairborn, OH 45324**

For questions, call Fred at 937-878-7357 or e-mail flmapumroy@aol.com

Checks may be marked "FAC MEMORIAL FUND". Donations may be tax deductible, but at the moment the official IRS status of the FAC Association is being researched. We will let you know ASAP when we have the answer.

The Reunion Committee thanks you in advance for your generous support and we look forward to seeing you at the Reunion.

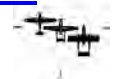
Warm regards,
Zot

Judy

Zot Barazzotto
Covey 250 / Rustic 55
(Barky 15)
General Chairman

Judy Powell
Sister of John Powell
Memorial Committee

<http://www.fac-assoc.org/memorial/memorial08-dayton-pictures.html>



RUSTIC REPORT

by Claude Newland, President
Rustic FAC Association

NEXT RUSTIC REUNION ON TRACK FOR FT WALTON BEACH, FL, 22-25Sep 2005. Despite the wiles of Mother Nature and Hurricane Ivan, the Rustics and the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort will be more than ready for our 2005 reunion. Mark your calendar today and plan to come frolic on the beach, spend sun-filled days basking at the Ramada's pool-side waterfall, catch an evening sunset, eat some fresh seafood, and enjoy cool liquid refreshments while enjoying the company and camaraderie of your Rustic buddies and their wives. Life doesn't get any better than this! Who knows how many more of

(Continued on page 8)

these great gatherings we'll have, so don't miss this one. One of the highlights of the 2005 reunion will be a visit to the Hurlburt Field Air Park to see the new FAC Memorial and FAC aircraft on display.

HURRICANE IVAN SLAMS FLORIDA'S PANHANDLE; RUSTICS SURVIVING. The eye of Hurricane Ivan passed over Mobile Bay, Alabama on the night of 15 Sep leaving a path of destruction in its wake. Areas west of Ft Walton Beach, FL (Pensacola, FL, and Orange Beach, AL) bore the brunt of the storm, but considerable damage was still in evidence in the Ft Walton Beach, FL area. Storm surge on the gulf and inland waterways caused extensive damage to area beaches and waterfront structures from Panama City, FL to Orange Beach, Alabama. Wind damage affected everyone. The Ramada Beach Resort Hotel (site of our past Rustic reunions) closed for about a month to effect repairs to the tower building that is located on the beach. They expect to be fully open soon and will be in tip-top shape for our 2005 reunion.

Highway 98 between Destin and Ft Walton Beach was washed out which caused a major disruption in traffic for about two weeks until they reopened two lanes. It will be another month before they restore the remaining two lanes. The Air Force's All Ranks Beach Club located near the Destin Bridge on Okaloosa Island was totaled. Sand dunes on Okaloosa Island between Destin and Ft Walton Beach are now almost non-existent. For the most part, the local Rustics dodged a direct hit, but everyone had some damage in varying degrees. Several roofs will need replacing and waterfront docks were a common loss. Those who live on the inland waterway (Sound) had the most damage.



A CONUNDRUM

A recent request to publicize a fund drive for a veteran's memorial park in Colorado has presented your board of directors with a tough decision. The short version of the conclusion is this: Opportunities to contribute to veteran's memorials are many; our association's members and available dollars are few, therefore we will support and promote those projects that relate directly to the aims and purposes of our association as stated in the by-laws, "The fundamental purposes of the Association are to remember those we left behind, promote Forward Air Controller (FAC) camaraderie, and to preserve the FAC history." Nevertheless, since the requester is one of our own, if you want to know more about the Eagle County Memorial Park, contact: Theron "Buddy" Sims, Lt Col (Ret), USAF—bsims@vail.net

FAC MUSEUM

A "How go zit" from Jim Hobson:

1. Mission statement: *Preserve and perpetuate the history and heritage of Forward Air Controllers, both civilian and military, ground and air, of all eras and countries through educational programs and displays.*
2. Upon entering the museum, the visitor will walk through a series of exhibits arranged as a timeline from the use of balloons in the Civil War, through the introduction of airplanes during early 1900s. Next are the developments between WW I and WW II that had a large impact on the Forward Air Control mission as it developed during WW II and progressed into Korea. The timeline will continue through Vietnam, the Cold War, Bosnia, Desert Storm and continue to today and into the future. The largest single area of consideration will be the Vietnam and Cold War era.
3. The museum is located next to and will be connected with the OV-10 Bronco Association museum and Ready Room. Incorporated into the design is the Veteran's Memorial Air Park. The Air Park will eventually contain over 30 FAC and FAC controlled airplanes outdoors.
4. Now the hard part begins. We are preparing a fund raiser to generate the funds needed to continue work. The basic build out will cost \$15,000. Total cost will be \$25,000. If the initial \$15,000 cannot be raised by April 15th, we will consider the FACM concept not viable. All donations will be recognized and will be tax deductible.
5. Donations can be sent to the Forward Air Controllers Museum at 505 NW 38th Street, Fort Worth, TX 76106. Checks can be made out to FACM. Credit Card donations and pledges will be processed through the OV-10 Bronco Association.

Good work, guys! (ed.)



OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE...

To this date three of our number have volunteered to return to combat in the War on Terror. Join me in saluting these intrepid warriors. They are,

1. Lt. Colonel Bill Jankowski, who returned to fly combat in command of a B-52. Rumor has it that he really did retire in July, 2004. Bill was a FAC in O-2s in SEA.

2. Lt. Colonel Theron "Buddy" Sims, who toiled in a command post billet to free up a younger officer for a cockpit assignment. Buddy also flew O-2s in SEA.

Buddy and Bill teamed up for a fascinating briefing of their experiences at the San Antonio 2004 reunion.

3. Colonel (ret) Darrell Whitcomb, the author of *The Rescue of Bat 21*. Well known as an authority on SAR doctrine and a FAC spokesman on TV specials, Darrell returned to combat in Iraq in a contract role, flying reconnaissance missions. He flew O-1s as a Raven, and OV-10s as a Nail and Covey.



Blaster (Bill Shelton) and C3B (Crew Chief Bob) Green

Hand Salute, men!



**FAC Association Membership Application,
Membership Renewal, Database Update Form
2005**

Yes, I would like to support the goals of the 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 page six.

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

FACs and only the FACs

The FAC Association membership

by Ken Blutt,
Membership Database guy

The FAC Association now has 815 members:
72 "Life" Members
53 paid through 2005 or beyond
232 current for 2004 with 2005 dues now due
458 members with their dues delinquent
208 last paid dues for 2003
98 last paid dues for 2002
152 not paid since 2001

Two more FAC Facts:

980 Non-Member FACs receiving the FAC NEWS
A little less than 300 "lost" FACs without a current address
Unknown number of FACs, FANs, and FAC support we've never had an address for.

Please check your mailing label to see your standing. If not in agreement, contact your Membership Database guy!

FAC Association
472 Parish Blvd
Mary Esther, FL 32569

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

BLAST FROM THE PAST

PLEIKU, circa 1970

Foreground, "Wild Bill" Hartsell, Major McCaw



Watched over by dedicated ground support troops