

News about 2024 Reunion -- the "FINI" Reunion

Submitted: by Claude Newland, 2024 Reunion Coordinator
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THE FAC ASSOCIATION'S 2024 REUNION THE LAST REUNION. THIS WILL BE A HISTORIC EVENT. THE DATES ARE 24-27 OCTOBER 2024. (THURSDAY-SUNDAY). All guests are invited. The reunion will be at The Island Hotel on Okaloosa Island, Ft Walton Beach, FL. This is the former Ramada Plaza Beach Resort where we held our 2000 and 2014 FAC reunions. This property is under new ownership and has undergone several upgrades and remains, by far, the best hotel in town for a large reunion group. If you have questions about the reunion, contact **Claude Newland**, rustic19@cox.net or 850-582-1074.

This reunion information will also be posted on the FAC Association's website, www.fac-assoc.org. A list of reunion attendees will be posted approximately 15 August.



**The Island Resort Hotel.
The FAC Hooch is the blue roofed building in the lower left corner.**

HOTEL RESERVATIONS. The Island Hotel (www.theislandfl.com) has 329 well-appointed rooms. Most have two Queen beds. King beds are available upon request.

Each person must make their own reservation by calling 800-874-8962 or 850-243-9161. Tell them you are part of the Forward Air Controller Reunion group. If you have any difficulties, call the group housing coordinator, Vanessa Blackmon, at 850-337-9194 or email vblackmon@theislandfl.com.

Reservations after the cutoff date of Tuesday, 24 September 2024, must be booked with Vanessa.

Reservations may be cancelled 48 hours before your check-in date at no charge.

Hotel Room Rates are good 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion.

Standard Guest Room	\$179 + tax
Pool View (Tower bldg.)	\$199+ tax
Beach View (Tower bldg.)	\$249 + tax

The hotel has waived their resort fee and parking fee for all attendees.

RV RESERVATIONS.

The beautiful Destin West RV Resort (www.DestinWestRVResort.com) is across the street from the Hotel. Contact them at 850-200-4533. They get booked up early so make a reservation now.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS. Early Arrivals can register at the FAC Hooch, poolside, after 1500 on Wed., 23 Oct. There will be a Pre-party and BBQ dinner at 6 PM at the Hooch for attendees who have signed up.

Thursday's events include Registration (starting at noon in the lobby), an optional 2-hour morning visit to the nearby Destin History and Fishing Museum, an optional visit to the Destin Executive Airport to view the FAC fly-in aircraft with possible courtesy flights. Two Marine OV-10s, two O-2s and several O-1/L-19s plan to attend. An 1800 Meet & Greet Welcome, and dinner at a nearby seafood restaurant follows in the evening. Order from the menu.

Friday's events include a tour of the Eglin's Armament Museum with a briefing on Eglin's mission, sunset sailing from the beautiful Destin harbor, and dining afterwards at Destin's seafood restaurants. The lunch and dinner meals will be at recommended restaurants with possible discounts. Order from the menu.

Saturday's main events include a tour of Hurlburt Field, mission briefings, a FAC Memorial Service at the Air Park, and a buffet lunch at the Hurlburt Club. An afternoon membership meeting will be followed by the Big Finale – **A FAREWELL BANQUET.**

Come help us celebrate our association's many accomplishments and legacy.

AIRPORT AND RENTAL CAR INFORMATION. The Destin-Ft Walton Beach (VPS) airport terminal is co-located at Eglin AFB, 11 miles north of The Island Hotel. Six companies provide rental cars. Taxis are available. We will try to marry those who need a ride to the airport on Sunday with others headed that way.

REUNION TRANSPORTATION. We will be carpooling to the various reunion events. There are sufficient local FACs and others who are driving to the reunion, as well as those who plan to rent a car, so we will have sufficient transportation for all attendees for each reunion event. Additional instructions will be in your Reunion Welcome Packet. We did this in 2000 and 2014 and it worked well!

WEATHER. Daytime temperatures in the 70s to low 80s. Night lows will be in the low 60s.

“WITNESS TO WAR” FOUNDATION INTERVIEWS (www.witnesstowar.org).

A representative from the Witness to War Foundation will attend our reunion to conduct interviews about your experiences in Southeast Asia. The Foundation's goal is to “Preserve & Share the Oral Histories of Combat Veterans.”

Due to time constraints only a limited number of interviews are available, on Wednesday afternoon, Thursday, and possibly Friday. We will fill the available interview schedule with some of those who have already responded to our Jan 2024 newsletter notice. We will contact you NLT 1 Oct to coordinate an interview date/time. In preparation, come prepared with your important event facts and dates, etc.

FAC TRIBUTE. Our Association Chaplain, **Dale Hill**, plans to bring a limited number of copies of “The FAC Tribute” which is sent to the family members of the FACs who have taken their “final flight.” Many of you may want a copy once you see it, so bring a thumb drive and Dale will help you upload it.



**Elgin AFB Armament Museum
Aircraft are both inside and outside**



**Dolphin & Sunset Cruising,
at the beautiful Destin Harbor**



Destin History and Fishing Museum



Lettering for the baseball cap