

News about Reunion 2024 the “FINI” Reunion

Submitted: by Claude Newland, 2024 Reunion Coordinator
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OUR 2024 REUNION WILL BE HISTORIC, 24-27 OCTOBER 2024. (THURSDAY-SUNDAY). You don't want to miss this one, so start making plans now to attend. The reunion will be at The Island Hotel on Okaloosa Island, Ft Walton Beach, FL. The Island Hotel is the former Ramada Plaza Beach Resort where we held our 2000 and 2014 FAC reunions. This property is now under new ownership and has undergone a number of upgrades and remains, by far, the best hotel in town for a large reunion group.



The Island Hotel, Okaloosa Island, Ft Walton Beach, FL (www.theislandfl.com). The FAC Hooch will be the poolside building in the lower left corner with the blue roof.

HELP US GET A COUNT! IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND OR THINK YOU MIGHT ATTEND, PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY ATTACHED TO THE END OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT AND MAIL IT TO THE REUNION COMMITTEE. This will help us better plan for the reunion. Currently, we have no idea how many may register next July when we send out the Registration Newsletter and Registration Form. We don't want to be overwhelmed at the last minute as in 2000 when 750 attendees unexpectedly registered for that reunion.

Remember how great that 2000 reunion was? That reunion spawned the formation of the FAC Association and served as the launching pad for writing and publishing of our Forward Air Controller history books.

MAKE A HOTEL OR RV RESERVATION NOW. We recommend you make your initial hotel reservation now to ensure you get the room rate and room type you prefer. The hotel has 329 rooms available at three different discounted prices (See “Hotel and RV Reservation Information” below).

Why do this now? Since we have no idea how many rooms will be needed, we gave a low-ball estimate of the number of reserved rooms needed because the hotel contract will hold us to pay for 80% of the number of rooms reserved. We didn't want to overcommit and place the association in a financial bind.

If you make a reservation now, the hotel will charge you a one-night room deposit. The balance is due when you check out. You can always cancel, if necessary, by cancelling 48 hours before your check-in date.



HOTEL AND RV RESERVATION INFORMATION. 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.

The cutoff date for getting our discounted room rates is Tuesday, September 2024.

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

Hotel Room Rates: (Good 3 day 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. Destin West RV Resort (www.DestinWestRVResort.com) is directly across the street from the Island Hotel. Contact them at 850-200-4533. This is a beautiful facility. They get booked up early so make a reservation now.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS. There will be an Early Arrivals' dinner Wednesday night, 23 October 2024.

Thursday's events include Registration, a Meet & Greet, Welcome, and dinner at a nearby seafood restaurant.

Friday's events include a tour of Eglin AFB's Armament Museum with a briefing on Eglin's mission, sunset sailing from the beautiful Destin harbor, and seafood dining afterwards.

Saturday's events include a tour of Hurlburt Field with mission briefings, followed by a FAC Memorial Service at the Air Park. Lunch will be at the Hurlburt Club. An afternoon membership meeting will be followed by the Big Finale – A farewell banquet. The FAC Association Board is working hard to put together a banquet program that will make this a memorable event.

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

If you have any suggestions for the reunion, please contact the reunion coordinator, **Claude Newland**, rustic19@cox.net, or 850-582-1074, or members of the FAC Board.

AIRPORT AND RENTAL CAR INFORMATON. The Destin-Ft Walton Beach (VPS) airport terminal is co-located at Eglin AFB, 11 miles from The Island Hotel. Six companies provide rental cars.

WEATHER REPORT. Expect daily high temperatures in the high 70s or low 80s. Daily low temperature will be in the low 60s.



Our first FAC Memorial & OV-10 # 67-14626 which were dedicated at the Oct 2000 FAC reunion.

“WITNESS TO WAR” FOUNDATION INTERVIEWS (www.witnesstowar.org). Martin Madert of the Witness to War Foundation will attend our 2024 reunion if there is sufficient interest. He conducts interviews about your experiences in Southeast Asia. The Foundation’s goal is to “Preserve & Share the Oral Histories of Combat Veterans.”

This is an excellent opportunity to tell your story(s) and have them recorded for posterity. The interviews are scheduled for 1 ½ to two hours. You can talk about any number of subjects. Mr. Madert has some initial questions to introduce you and get your interview started. Afterwards, you will be mailed a DV of your interview. This will no doubt become a family heirloom.

Cut off survey on dotted the line.

**FAC Association 2024 “Fini” Reunion Survey
24-27 October 2024**

Please fill out this survey if you plan to attend the 2024 FAC reunion in Ft Walton Beach.

This is important because it will help us better prepare for this historic gathering of FACs.

Please print all information and return soonest.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Nickname for name tag _____
Street number: _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Telephone (____) _____ Email _____
Spouse/Guest First & Last Name: _____ Nickname for name tag _____
Your Callsign(s) _____ I have a military ID for access at Hurlburt Field: Yes ___ No ___
What day will you arrive at the reunion? Tues. ___ Wed. ___ Thurs. ___ Fri. ___
Coming by: Car ___ Air ___ Rental Car ___
I will attend solo, but would consider sharing a room with another FAC Yes ___
I will make my hotel reservation now and give a one-night deposit Yes ___
I/we will be staying at another hotel/facility rather than The Island Hotel Yes ___
I/we will attend the early arrival dinner on Wed, 23 Oct, 6 pm. Yes ___
I would like to be interviewed by the Witness to War Foundation. Yes ___
Do you or your guest(s) require any special assistance? Please Specify: _____

Please mail survey to Lendy Edwards, 11 Poplar Ave, Shalimar, FL 32579.
