



The Official Newsletter Of The Aircraft Armament Chiefs Association (AACCA)

July 2018

AACAnewsletter@gmail.com

Issue #14

Editor's Comments



O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

We are all familiar with the preceding, but did you know that our National Anthem continues for three more stanzas? I didn't!

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner, O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country, should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave,

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation.
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust.'
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Additionally, in indignation over the start of the American Civil War, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. added this fifth stanza to the song in 1861, which appeared in songbooks of the era.

When our land is illumined with Liberty's smile,
If a foe from within strike a blow at her glory,
Down, down with the traitor that dares to defile
The flag of her stars and the page of her story!
By the millions unchained who our birthright have gained,
We will keep her bright blazon forever unstained!
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
While the land of the free is the home of the brave.

Happy Independence Day!!

In this addition you will be treated to many informative and entertaining articles from our membership. Thank you for your contributions!

If you have any stories, cartoons, photos, etc. that you would like to see included in YOUR newsletter, please send them to me for incorporation into future newsletters. You can send them to me at khilton@glassmile.net or aacanewsletter@gmail.com.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter! I sincerely appreciate everyone's inputs. As I always say, this is YOUR newsletter. I just assemble what I receive from the members.

Keith

Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline



From The Career Field Manager

John Jordan

Hello from the Pentagon. Since our last newsletter, we held our annual Senior Munitions Managers Conference (SMMC), hosted by ACC at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Virginia. From my perspective, the event went off without a hitch and with the one hundred and forty-five total force 2W1 senior leadership present, we were able to educate and drill into topics that are currently or will soon impact their units. Also, following the SMMC, CMSgt Ed Olson retired as the USAFE 2W1 Functional Manager and has been replaced by CMSgt Joel Paxton. I greatly appreciate the contributions Chief Olson made to USAFE and our AF 2W1 community and look forward to seeing Chief Paxton's impact.

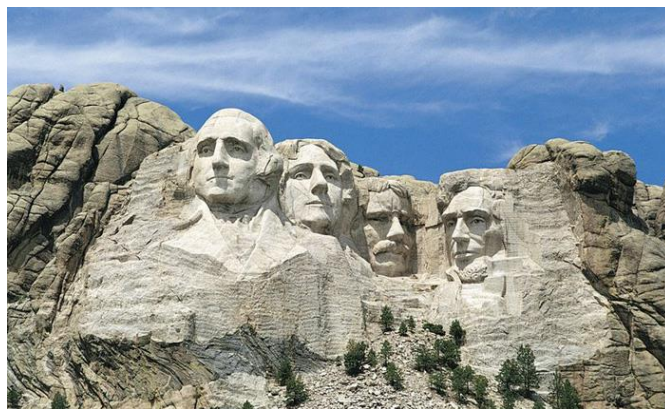
As always, our Airman have been keeping busy on all corners of the globe doing what we do...loading and maintaining lethal weapons systems. Overall, our manning is strong with an active duty world-wide average of 100.4 percent authorized vs assigned. That said, in large part this is due to the increases in accessions we have seen over the past couple of years and into the near future. This however is providing a great opportunity for our 5 and 7-Levels to pass on their knowledge and grow

our future force. Obviously, this is increasingly important as we continue to maintain legacy systems, learn and sustain the new 5th generation aircraft and improve upon our armament maintenance model for future platforms.

Finally, for an update of the CMSgt Gregory A. Kebil Memorial Scholarship Fund, in April the selection committee met to review the packages of five applicants. Going in, we had \$7,614 in funds available. After reviewing the applications, the board decided to award \$1,750, \$1,250, \$1,000 and two \$500 scholarships for a total of \$5,000. This gave us a \$2,614 start to the 2019 cycle. Additionally, during the SMMC, we collected \$2,900 in donations bringing our current balance to \$5,514. I encourage everyone to continue getting the word out to our 462/2W1 family that the scholarship is out there. Any questions about the application process can be directed to me.

Take Care!

John



Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline



2018 AACA Reunion Planning

Michael Lucchesi

The 2018 AACA reunion is planned for 7-9 September 2018 in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Register from the AACA website link. The 33rd and 96 TW will be having their weapon fest on 8 September 2018. The AACA meeting will be held at the Fort Walton Beach VFW, in the Canteen Ball Room at 1000hrs on 8 September 2018. Address: Harvey F. Eckhoff VFW Post 7674, 213 Carol Ave NW, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548

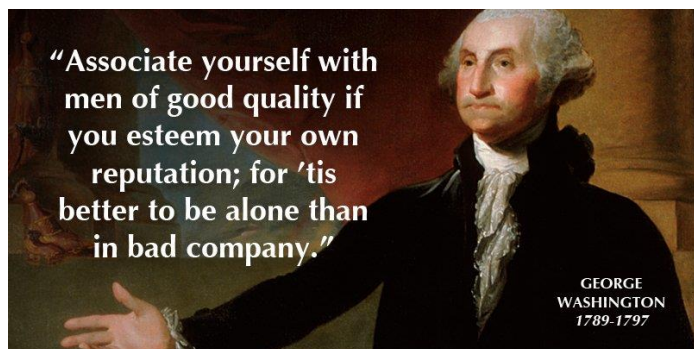
Preliminary Agenda:

Friday - Dinner

Saturday - AACA Meeting, Event, Weapon fest, Get together-dinner/drinks

Sunday - brunch/event (TBD)

Mike



VA Claims

Darell Brewer

My hope is that this newsletter finds everyone still living the dream. Since my retirement in Feb 2016, I settled into a job with the Alabama Department of Veterans affairs as a Veterans Service officer. I am closing in on the two-year mark and I am accredited through the American Legion service organization. This brief note for the newsletter will attempt to provide some information for those getting ready to retire and those who have been out for some time.

Before, I begin let me pass on my perspective on my recent experiences dealing with disability claims. We all have our own opinion about whether to file a claim or not. I have worked with Veterans from World War II to present. When we get out sometimes our first thought is I don't want to deal with the VA, or I don't have anything that the VA would recognize as a service connected disability. If a service member was treated for any sickness, disease or injury while in the service they may be able to receive disability compensation. This may not be that important today, but in the future it could make a difference for your family. Still, the decision is yours to make on whether to file a claim or not. I have dealt with all of the different perspectives and what wasn't important 30 years ago became important today.

For those getting ready to retire or separate and wanting to file a claim. It is important to get all of your medical records together and file the claim within 90 days prior to separation or within one year of separation. There are

Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline



three things key to every claim; one is a diagnosed sickness, injury or disease, second is qualifying military service, and third a connection to the diagnosed issues and the service. Most states have accredited service officers, so my recommendation is to find a service officer close to you and work through them.

For those that have been out awhile and now realize they want to file a claim the same three rules listed above apply. The difference is that the connection to service may be a bit more challenging as a Physician would have to say in his/her diagnosis that the illness or disease is “as least as likely as not related to” something the patient experienced in the service.

There is much more information than I can include in this short newsletter installment. Find an accredited service officer near you (google is your friend) or you can contact me at darell.brewer@va.alabama.gov. I will try to assist in any way I can.

Take Care and have fun!

Darell

Aging is a continuous process...The best advice I can give is: Take care of your body as though you were going to need it for 100 years, because you might.

Robert Waldinger, Psychiatrist, in the Harvard Gazette



AACA Recognition Program

Jeff Hulme

2017 AETC Outstanding Weapons Professional of the Year Award Winners

HQ AETC/A4M announced the winners of the 2017 AETC Armament Professional of the Year Awards. Competition was very tight this year and all nominees deserve recognition and credit for their many accomplishments. The winners and a summary of their achievement are:



Technician Category:
SrA Michael Z. Bartz,
Armament Maintenance Member, 56 EMS, Luke AFB, AZ.



SrA Bartz assumed a leadership role and led a bomb rack TCTO training event qualifying 10 Airmen on complex, 112 step modification procedures resulting in a 58% increase in flight capabilities. He responded to an in-flight emergency for a jammed gun and cleared/removed eight damaged rounds saving 72 maintenance man-hours and averting a potentially catastrophic mishap. SrA Bartz enabled the Air Force's only F-16 Forward Air Controller (FAC-A) training by inspecting 20 rocket pods and rewiring eight faulty stations leading to 1000 successful fires and 24 combat ready graduate pilots. Finally, he discovered an improperly fabricated UALS gear, determined it was a wide-spread problem, and initiated a deficiency report driving an AF-wide One-Time Inspection.

Supervisor Category: TSgt Zachary J. Watts, Loading Standardization Crew Member, 33 MXG, Eglin AFB, FL.

TSgt Watts was selected for Exercise COMBAT ARCHER, a first for the F-35, and oversaw 18 weapons evaluations producing the CAF's first ever F-35A AIM-120 release. He coordinated multi-agency training, provided two weapons courses to WSEP evaluators and US Navy personnel which was key to F-35/DoD evolution. TSgt Watts developed munitions guidance, oversaw munitions fit checks/tech data development with the F-35 JPO, and fast-tracked the GBU-49/F-35 kill chain. Finally, he produced the wing's first flare qualifications, instructed 36 Airmen, generated 68 sorties for a 100% munitions release rate and AETC's first F-35 Ex RED FLAG.



Manager Category:
MSgt David A. Havel,
Weapons Section Chief,
56 AMXS,
Luke AFB, AZ.

MSgt Havel was project officer for a deployment to Mountain Home AFB where he led 70 Airmen supporting 7 F-35 aircraft/105 sorties and provided outstanding training opportunities for F-35 student pilots. He guided an F-35 ALIS software update, advised an engineering team and corrected 33 errors returning 1.7K/\$40M pieces of AME and support equipment to service. MSgt Havel was handpicked for a Joint Technical Data validation for the GAU-22 gun and teamed with JPO/ACC/L-M engineers to verify 29 critical tasks. Finally, he guided 14 crews in loading 121 GBUs, the most in wings F-35 fleet, and captured a 100% release rate--the best in AETC.

"I do the very best I know how, the very best I can, and I mean to keep on doing so until the end."

Abraham Lincoln

Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline



2017 AFMC Outstanding Weapons Professional of the Year Award Winners

HQ AFMC/A4M announced the winners of the 2017 AFMC Outstanding Weapons Professional of the Year Awards. This award is open to all 2W1s (and civilian equivalents) within command whether they are in a direct maintenance or support role such as an aircraft program office. Competition was very tight this year and all nominees deserve recognition and credit for their many accomplishments. The winners and a summary of their achievement are:

Ann Category: SrA Cody D. McCloud, F-35 Weapons Load Crew Member, 412 AMXS/MXAJW, Edwards AFB, CA. SrA McCloud generated F-35 missile surge operations by loading 14 munitions for 9 captive and 5 live launch test missions. This effort led to the certification of F-35 software for a CAF deployment. He executed HAF directed GBU-49 fit checks and identified/resolved a 1760 cable chafing problem prior to fielding this new capability. SrA McCloud developed joint technical data procedures for USN/USMC gun pod operations and co-authored/validated maintenance and loading tasks culminating in 2K rounds fired and certification of the \$920K F-35 gun pod system. Finally, he conducted 36 FMS explosive operations, enabled 30 sorties, 6 AIM-132 live fires and 12 Paveway IV drops that were vital to the \$32M RAF weapons program.



CMSgt Andy Carling (WWM), SrA McCloud, CMSgt Nate Dixon (ret)

NCO Category: SSgt Vincent R. Franco, Quality Assurance Inspector, 96 MXG/MXQI, Eglin AFB, FL. SSgt Franco advanced 4th generation weapons program by developing 1st F-15E Suite 8E s/w integration/nuclear certification tech order procedures leading to his section winning the 96 MXG Team of the Year award. He provided quality oversight; responded to 19 damage incidents, completed root cause analysis resulting in a 29% (\$1.8M) reduction in damage incidents from the prior year. SSgt Franco led F-16 gun install training for 18 personnel, highlighted/corrected common installation errors and increased flight capability by 50 % with no evaluation failures. Additionally, he completed 263 inspections, 15 PEs, identified 19 issues and provided feedback to leadership and was recognized as UEI "Outstanding Performer" by HQ AFMC IG team.

Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline



SNCO Category: MSgt Stephan J. Harper, NCOIC, Weapons Maintenance, 96 AMXS/MXARW, Eglin AFB, FL. MSgt Harper oversaw preparations on 11 aircraft for Exercise Red Flag Alaska resulting in 52 JDAMs expended with a 100% release rate and readying 2 fighter squadrons and 3 AOR mission commanders. He drove schedule discipline, sync'd 2 units WLT plans and cut deviations 40% earning 8 FW 1Q Armament Manager/AFMC 4th Qtr Outstanding Weapons Professional awards. MSgt Harper identified a deficiency with two classified assets valued at \$400K and led a 200-hour multi-agency investigation uncovering fraud and asset recovery. Finally, he managed 18 load crews and drove a 98% pass rate across 3.8K WLT evals on 25 UCML assets enabling 8 FW's first AGM-158 certification.



CMSgt Andy Carling (WWM) and Mr. Brad Kizzer

Jeff

Civilian Category: Mr. Brad E. Kizzer, Aircraft Ordnance Work Leader, 412 MXS/MXMWPB, Edwards AFB, CA. Mr Kizzer expertly loaded and verified 4 JASSMs for B-52 1760/v1.2 release maintaining 100% weapon effectiveness and proven lethality. He skillfully configured/tested a modified B-52 CRL contributing towards a "Highly Effective" rating during an AFMC Capstone UCI evaluation. Mr. Kizzer performed B-52 Distributed System Checkouts to validate Boeing modifications and enabled eight BSB06/1760 integration ground tests. Additionally, he supported the B-2 Flex Strike armament system upgrade by reconfiguring two smart bomb rack assemblies valued over \$9M as well as the \$10M B-2 bomber B61-12 upgrade program.



Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline



Johnny Collett

Hello all, Chief Collett checking in to offer up a wonderful opportunity for a veteran to go on a 2018 Turkey or Deer Hunt in Virginia. I am an executive member of an organization called American Veteran Outdoors (AVO), a Veteran ran, official non-profit organization that takes Veterans and their families hunting or fishing in Virginia. We do this through donations and sponsorships to allow us to fully fund these trips and take care of them 100% once a veteran contacts our website and asks for an opportunity to enjoys the outdoors, that for some reason they may have not had a chance due to his/her service, service related injury, or lack of access to good property.

Chiefs, I ask that if you have a member of an organization that could benefit from such a trip, contact avovirginia2017@yahoo.com for more information. If you would like to donated a few dollars to help, please go to our merchandise service at <http://www.ace.ink/AVO> We have a

decent selection of clothing, hats, etc that will help us take care of a veteran outdoorsman.

Facebook AVO Virginia for more information. We also have a GoFundMe account to raise money for the 2018 Campaign which is *American Veterans Outdoors VA 2018*

Johnny

462 History Chapter 5

The intra War Years 1919-1939: The bombers we worked on

Steve Lebron

In Chp 2 of this series we saw the introduction of the bomber aircraft as an instrument of war. Those first bombers were rather flimsy with limited range, bomb capacity and accuracy. However, they seemed to be an answer to a large problem; how to wage modern war without the mass casualties of WWI.

In Sep of 1918 General Billy Mitchell led the largest ever bomber mission. Close to 1,500 aircraft were used. (William "Billy" Mitchell's Air Power, <http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/mitchell/fro nt.pdf>) His experience convinced him of the potential of Air Power in general and the striking power of the bomber specifically as a means to

Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline



destroy the enemies means of resistance thus obviating the need for ground armies to smash each other to bits. Billy Mitchell wasn't the only person to reach this conclusion. Italian General Giulio Douhet (photo) reached the same conclusion. His book, *Command of the Air*, focused on the theoretical impact of strategic bombing. His book was inspirational to a generation of airmen and thus the role American armorers were to play in the future. (*Command of the Air*;

<http://www.airforcemag.com/MagazineArchive/Documents/2013/April%202013/0413keeperfull.pdf>)

Their ideas were not without critics. Mitchell faced sever opposition within the Army and also from the Navy who saw in *Airpower* a budgetary threat to the supremacy of the battleship. Indeed, Mitchell fanned those fears declaring that the Battleship was obsolete. His premise was that a thousand planes could be built for the cost of one battleship and

those planes could find and sink battleships. The Navy and many others scoffed at the idea that tiny flimsy aircraft could inflict any appreciable damage on the gigantic battleships of the day. Mitchell challenged those assertions and called for a test. The Navy agreed but on the condition that they write the parameters for the test. They wanted to dictate the ordinance used and the altitude the planes could release from.

Naval, Marine and Army aircraft with small bomb loads were used against the captured German battleship *Ostfriesland* on 20 Jul 1920 (<http://www.aerofiles.com/ostfriesland.html>). The *Ostfriesland* was considered unsinkable due to her extensive compartmentalization and the results were predictable. However, Mitchell had organized and trained the First Provisional Air Brigade at Langley Field for the test. Additionally, his ordinance men had designed 2,000 lb battleship killing bombs for the test. On 21 Jul 1921 Mitchell sent in Martin NBS 1s and Handley-Page O/400s loaded with these large bombs. 22 minutes later the *Ostfriesland* rolled over and slipped under the waves.



Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline



Martin NBS 1

Martin MB 2 (variant of NBS 1; note centerline bomb, USAF Museum)



Handley-Page O/400s

Video of Ostfrieland bombing and sinking.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkbQ-qYzrY0>



1923 Test; Martin NBS 1 dropping phosphorous bomb

Mitchell repeated these results in 1923 off Cape Hetaeras
<https://noacoastsurvey.wordpress.com/tag/billy-mitchell>). This only served to further enrage his critics including President Coolidge. Ultimately, Mitchell's refusal to be quiet led to his court martial and resignation
<http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/mitchell/fro nt.pdf>). However, his impact was felt in the development of ever more effective bombers and equipment. One of the pieces of that equipment was the bombsight. Sgt Ulysses Sam Nero, who worked at Aberdeen Proving Ground, developed the sight that was used to sink the ships. Sgt Nero held many positions in the service but one of them was with Armament
<http://www.airuniversity.af.mil/Portals/10/AFEHRI/>

Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline



[documents/EnlistedHistory/nero.pdf](#)). That's enough for me to claim him as one of ours!

Mitchell had clamored for an Independent Air Force. This cost him his career, but the Army began looking at improving its airpower capability. The Handley-Page had been a WWI design. The Martin NBS 1 was an improvement. By 1922 the Army had purchased 130 of this variant. But they didn't stop there. The Keystone Bomber, built in several variants served until 1940. It carried three 30 cal MGs and a bomb load of up to 4,000 lbs on short runs. It would prove to be the Army's last bi-wing bomber.



During this period the Army also began experimenting with "Light Bombers" such as the Huff Deland LB-1. It carried five 30 cal MGs and 2,750 lbs of bombs.

However, the Keystone and Huff Deland both suffered from the same failing. Their large size compared to fighters and correspondingly increased drag due to their bi-wing construction meant they were woefully slow and therefore easy to intercept and shoot down. Despite the admonition of Stanley Baldwin in 1932 that "the bomber will always get through," the bombers of the day were vulnerable (<http://www.lexingtoninstitute.org/the-bomber-will->

[always-get-through-80-years-later-a-prophecy-about-emerging-threats-is-coming-true](#)).

Aircraft designers raced to fill the gap. The B-9 was the first all metal monoplane aircraft designed for the Army Air Corps. It had an open cockpit carried two 30 cal MGs and 2,260 lbs of bombs. However, before more than a few entered service the orders were cancelled. A better bomber had already been designed.



Entering the service in 1934, the Martin B-10 was a truly modern bomber. It had retractable landing gear and carried its weapons internally, thus further reducing drag. It was equipped with three 30 cal MGs and 2,260 lbs of bombs but delivered its load at



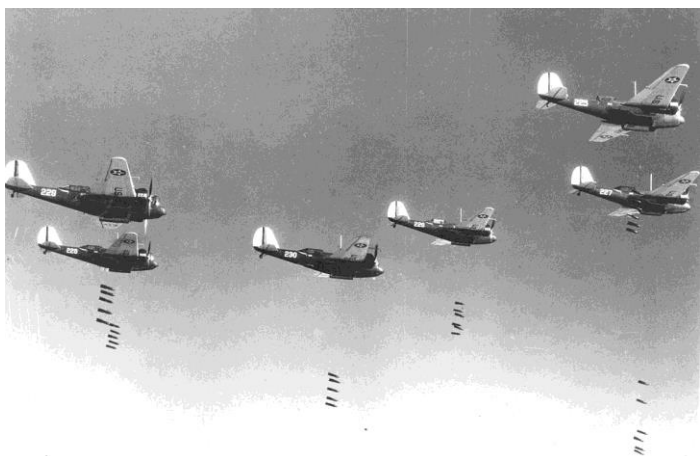
the blistering speed of 213 mph. At the time this made it faster than any fighter. General hap Arnold described it as the airpower wonder of its day. With its introduction it seemed the bomber would finally always get through.

Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline

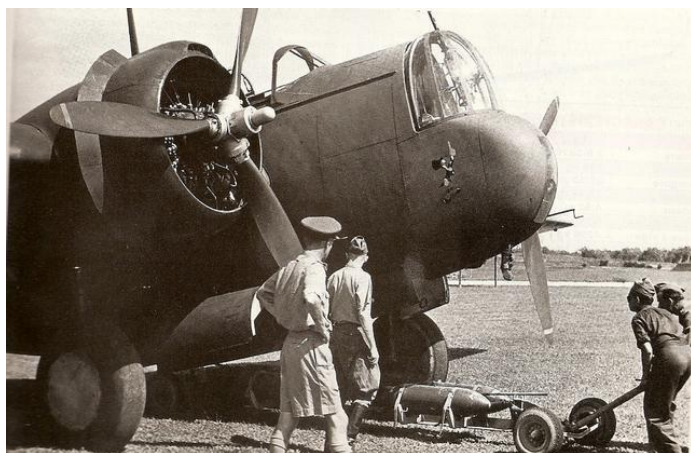


Just look at all those bombs, courtesy of the aircraft armorer!

However, it didn't take long for fighter designers to apply the same principles of design and once again spur on the race for supremacy between the fighter and bomber community. A race that some may say is ongoing.



In our next installment we'll catch up on a few other developments during the intra war years that impacted our armorer brothers (no sisters at that time).



Evan Godwin

Hello Chiefs!

As mentioned in the last newsletter and “call for inputs for this one”, Lou Fields and I worked together to brainstorm ideas, and purchased new merchandise for the store and raffles. I’m pleased to say the items were received (i.e.; engraved cigar box, bottle openers, whiskey decanters, coasters, etc.)... all look great—THANK YOU LOU! We’re putting together pricing now and will advertise on the AACA site soon.

This quarter we’re raffling one of our newest items, a Whiskey Decanter and choice of 2 glasses. We have the cigar glass allowing you to hold your cigar and whiskey in the same hand or regular whiskey glass with wedge to freeze and form an ice wedge in the glass prior to use. Ticket sales can be purchased via the Paypal link on our site, \$10 for 1 ticket, \$20 for 3 tickets. The purchase buttons will be active effective NLT 1 July and the drawing will be held at the reunion in September. You do not need to be present to win, although, it will be GREAT if you are! See pics below:

Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline



Additionally, I received the new order of AACCA Coins and, as promised, they turned out awesome (the pics don't do them justice). They are available for sale at \$10 per coin plus shipping.



As a reminder, to purchase store merchandise, send me an email to the aacageneralstore@gmail.com address and let me know what you'd like. I'll mail the items to the address you provide and you, in turn, send a check to me at the address I provide for the merchandise cost, plus shipping. All store items can be viewed on our website: www.armamentchiefs.org.

Please reach out to me with any merchandise ideas; better yet, run down the details on what it is you suggest and give me a call to discuss. We always welcome and appreciate new ideas and especially the help in running them to ground—thank you!

Evan

Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline