



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

APRIL 2013

AACAnewsletter@gmail.com

ISSUE #3

AACCA President's Corner

AACCA Membership,

Our Strategic Compass

A stronger organization is the guide we laid forth in the development of the strategic plan. A year ago we were at 58 members; currently the AACCA resides with 73 members. The AACCA has tackled three of the four short term goals with minor work left to achieve 100% completion. Many of the AACCA members have been actively pursuing the mid-term goals in such areas as gathering heritage and historical information on the Aircraft Armament Community, working to bring on line a new website, and drafting an AACCA recognition program. Additionally, there is a move to request some space (hallway, classroom) at the Aircraft Armament Training school house for honoring 462/2W100's which plays a vital aspect in promoting the aircraft armament community.

So let's talk about this plan, or guide to strengthen our association. Yeah, we by pass that vision, mission statement, and went straight into the goals and the planning aspect, why, because it was there, we needed to get down our objectives and ideas of building our association right away because the vision has always been in our hearts to support one another through basic belonging of camaraderie, and second the mission statement was within our

soul, its within our basic understanding what it takes to be a weapons troop and being aware that there are many others who help you get where you wanted to be and the truism of any mission we accomplish daily as aircraft armament specialists. Now these words do not negate the possibility of a vision or mission statement, they are merely an explanation on how we, the AACCA, jumped right into knowing what direction our compass was pointing and we addressing these proactively in our first strategic plan. The best thing is that it's a plan that has the inputs of all its members, as well as their approval.

There are a few areas that are midterm to long term that require some gathering of ideas and information. Getting involved is an excellent way to support the association and the BoD can really use all the help we can get from its members. If you would like to get involved in the strategic efforts, please check out the strategic plan on the Community of Practice and simply let the BoD know which area you will be working on so we can keep track, all assistance is much appreciated.

In closing, the strategic plan is our plan, the AACCA compass; no one weapons troop's vision, but a whole lot of aircraft armament specialist's voice and leadership, leaders who created a plan with heart and soul.

Michael Lucchesi



Editor's Comments

I hope everyone had a Very Merry Christmas and a Super New Year (I know, that was months ago, but I hope you enjoyed it anyway)!! I very much enjoyed my time in Wisconsin with my family.

Well, here is the LONG AWAITED issue #3 of our newsletter. Thanks to everyone that sent in articles. It is your contributions that make the newsletter worth reading. I just assemble it in one place☺

I'm very disappointed that I missed the very first AACA reunion. However, I did enjoy my niece's wedding in Minnesota. Thanks to everyone that made the event a great success. I can't wait for the next reunion! I hope you enjoy the photos and article from Dick Vancil. If you would like to see more pictures, please visit the AACA website.

Keith

Introducing Our New Career Field Manager

Chief Rick Barbee hails from Ripley, TN. He entered active duty on 19 September 1985. Since completing basic training in December 1985 he has served in a myriad of aircraft armament maintenance and MAJCOM positions. Rick is married to his beautiful wife April. They have one child, Charlie.



Rick assumed the duty as Aircraft Armament Systems Career Field

Manager from Mike Lucchesi in December 2012. He is assigned to the Munitions and Missile Maintenance Division, Headquarters Air Force Logistics, Installations and Mission Support Directorate, Pentagon, Washington, DC. Rick advises the Chief, Munitions and Missile Maintenance Division on matters including policy, manpower, training, equipment, deployment and effective utilization issues for approximately 12,000 aircraft armament personnel assigned world-wide. He oversees the acquisition logistics programs involving all aircraft armament systems involved with a myriad of platforms overseeing weapon system acquisition, sustainment and modifications to A-10, B-1, B-2, B-52, C-130, CV-22, F-15, F-16, F-22, F-35, F-117, HH-60, MQ-1, and MQ-9 aircraft. Rick currently serves as the chair for the Air Forces Maintenance Chief Advisory Board, Maintenance Training Advisory Group, and Munitions Material Handling Equipment Product Improvement Working Group.

2W1 Career Field Updates

Our Nuclear commitment is still our most important challenge today. The 2W1 career field is still the backbone for this great Nuclear deterrence. We are still moving ahead with future modification on the B-52 that will keep it around for many more years to come.

With the new focus on Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA), 2W1s are in high demand to field the platform and ensure that we are ready to meet any threat. Currently we have 2W1s supporting the PRA mission in several different countries. As the platform grows so do the responsibilities of our 2W1s.



Cannon AFB and Creech AFB currently hold the largest amount of our 2W1s supporting this effort.

Moving ahead into the future the Joint Strike Fighter platform is gaining speed and each day more and more 2W1s are transitions into the unit at Eglin AFB. Future plans for this airframe is to replace our aging A-10 and F-16 fleets. With many new weapons features, this is where the next generation of 2W1s will be employed. Gone are the day of chasing wires throughout the airframe. The new 2W1 will eventually walk up to the aircraft, plug in a laptop to determine the aircraft fault, and will be given the solution before walking away.

So it's a must that our leaders are prepared for the global challenges that lay ahead. Chief Lucchesi created a 9-level weapons course before retiring and I plan to keep it growing. It's imperative that our leaders understand the challenges that lay ahead and are provided the right tools to be successful. The 9-level course is just one way to help develop our future leaders. We've expanded Chief Lucchesi's 2W1 Enlisted Developmental Team (eDT) to include master sergeants. These teams help to build criteria for those positions in our career field that require unique skill that were not being developed. It is also a tool used to provide feedback to the individual in the field to help them understand how the decisions they make early in their careers can affect their chances for promotion and to hold certain positions. All in a better effort to ensure that the 2W1 career is set up for success.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide insight as to what happening in the career field

Rick

Quotable Quotes

“Airplanes are interesting toys, but of no military value”

WWI Supreme Commander of Allied Forces

Character Skill Sets

There is only one way in March 1965 that bombs were delivered to sustain a campaign (code-named Operation Rolling Thunder) and that was through aircraft armament specialists, who at the time were 462's. This campaign's purpose was to destroy the will of the North Vietnamese to fight, destroy industrial bases and air defenses, and to stop the flow of men and supplies down the Ho Chi Minh Trail, while forcing North Vietnam into peace negotiations. In order to sustain this tactical operation, it relied on the sweat and confidence of armament personnel to load, lock-in, and secures these munitions in each station to provide the reliability needed for this mission to be effective. The safe operations of these weapons loaders and the armament technicians who maintain the bomb racks required not only maintenance skill sets, but character skill sets, dedication and team work. It is these disciplined attributes that define the aircraft armament specialists.

Today the attributes have not changed. The raising of our armament system specialists is much the same. They may have sophisticated aircraft, as compared to earlier years, but either way, the engineering of these delivery vehicles does not matter, only the package in which they deliver. This is the essence of the tactic, the package, the hammer, the armament. This is why our specialists train to a higher level of proficiency, which is demonstrated continually in today's missions to where munitions loading, and reloading require the same set of attributes, teamwork and dedication.

Character is something we must ensure remains within our aircraft armament specialists. Dedication and teamwork are but a few attributes, but the take away is

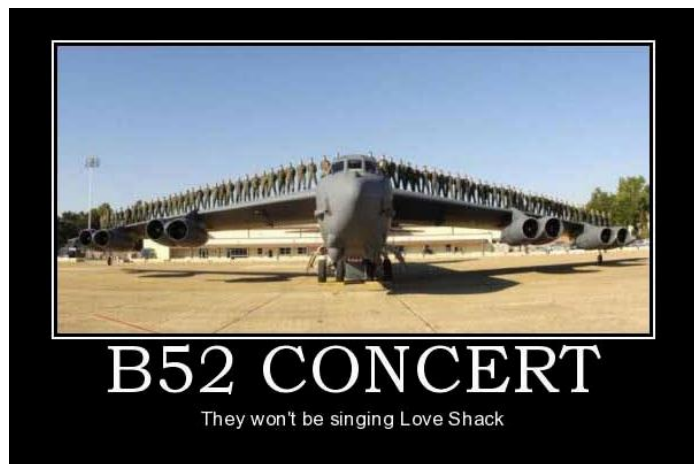
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that we as aircraft armament leaders should take every opportunity to instill and reinforce these attributes in our weapons personnel.

“Most people say that it is the intellect which makes a great scientist. They are wrong: it is character.” Albert Einstein

Mike Lucchesi



A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE AACA REUNION TOURS ...

By: Dick Vancil

The first AACA reunion was held 25-28 Oct 2012 in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. It was a GREAT reunion and a fun time was had by all, but I wanted to take a moment and tell everyone about the tours that were conducted. These tours were kinda sandwiched between the Thursday evening icebreaker and the First AACA Reunion meeting, Friday afternoon. They were offered as an alternative for the Golf Outing (that sounds a little Gay ... Jimmy M. probably planned it that way).

Although the tours were a high-speed refresher course for most of the attendees, it was a lot more than that. So we wanted to take a few brief minutes to explain.

The tours were masterfully orchestrated, professionally narrated, and personably conducted by a highly skilled and knowledgeable team of fellow Chiefs and their designated “talking heads.” The scheduling, meeting points, attendee caravan, and a myriad of other potential extremely confusing sequences of events or areas would certainly hinder or prevent lesser experts from accomplishing the tours’ objectives. Every aspect and detail were handled flawlessly and seemingly effortlessly by an amazing team of folks that were dedicated to showing our AACA attendees and their guests exactly what was on the schedule, at the correct time, and MORE ... it was a pleasure to participate in and a beauty to see it all come together.

It was very impressive to watch this herd of AACA “cats” being gently “facilitated” (read that: “manipulated”) to the proper points in space all over the place between Hurlburt and Eglin. We will quickly summarize the program to briefly recap the morning’s ambitious tour events:

We met for the AC-130 tour at the 4th SOS at Hurlburt. Chief Russ Edwards and his folks gave us the full inside/outside narrated overview of the “Spooky” Gunships complete with photo ops and hands-on explanation of all of the crew positions and special “Weapons/Armament” issues.



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Next we went completely to the other side of Hurlburt's runway to CV-22-land and Chief Chris Wilbur had his Armament folks explain all about the different gun systems and then ... more photo ops while we climbed all over the CV-22.

From there it was on to the world-class 33FW Maintenance Facilities and the New F-35 Hangar at Eglin where we were granted unparalleled access in and around the JSF.

The F-35's weapons bay was open as was the cockpit and we had ample opportunity to see and discuss all the highlights. Once the F-35 tour was complete, we proceeded to the



King's Hangar. Chief Craig Brandenburg met us and his WSS personnel conducted a very comprehensive weapons tour of all of the latest test and development items. We were afforded hands-on access to the F-15, F-16, and A-10 and an entire array of current training weapons in the WSS petting zoo. Then it was off to a timely lunch and the follow-on AACA meeting at 1400hrs.

Note: See additional reunion photos on pages 10 – 12.

AACA Recognition Program

The development of an Aircraft Armament Chiefs Association Recognition Program is well under way. The AACA Charter includes "advocating for continued efforts and sponsorship of Aircraft Armament Community related awards and recognition activities for active duty Aircraft Armament troops". The goal is to develop and implement an AACA Recognition Program in 2013. In order to accomplish that goal, the AACA Membership will have to determine whether AACA will have a Recognition Program, and how AACA will recognize the award winners.

During the annual reunion, the AACA Membership helped to define different Recognition Program options. Those options have been used to develop a draft presentation of the AACA Recognition Program, which was included in the January 2013 General Membership Meeting Minutes. AACA members will have an opportunity to review the different options and are encouraged to provide recommendations and feedback on the Recognition Program options and development. A final AACA Membership vote will be held in the near future to determine which option AACA will use for its Recognition Program.

The four draft Recognition Program options are: (1) Sponsor recognition of AF-Level 2W1 award winners (for example, recognize winners of the Lt. Gen Leo Marquez Award or AF Level Weapons Load Crew/Armament Technician awards), (2) Sponsor recognition of AF-Level and MAJCOM-Level 2W1 award winners (same categories as option 1), (3) Develop, manage and sponsor an AACA-Level 2W1 Award (by using the AF-Form 1297s that are submitted for the AF category awards), (4) No AACA Recognition Program. Each option includes choices on method of recognition (for example, coins, certificates, letters, etc) and the different approximate costs for each option.



Could that be Jimmy McMahon with a beer?



The AACA Recognition Program would also be used to recognize AACA Members for their outstanding achievements.

Once the AACA Membership determines the type of Recognition Program and categories, I will work with AACA Membership to build a Recognition Program document that will define selection criteria, program management and program execution. That document would be ready for BoD review/approval and presentation to the AACA Members in 2013.

An AACA Recognition Program will support the Active Duty Aircraft Armament Community and recognize outstanding achievements by

Aircraft Armament troops and AACA members. The program will also help to spread the word about our AACA and promote the preservation of the Aircraft Armament Community and its Heritage. I appreciate and look forward to all of the feedback and recommendations from all members as we move forward on developing the AACA Recognition Program.

Thanks! *Mike Cannon*

Quotable Quotes

From President Ronald Reagan

“There are some who've forgotten why we have a military. It's not to promote war, it's to be prepared for peace.”

“Here's my strategy on the Cold War: We win, they lose.”

“Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the U.S. was too strong.”

CMSGT GREGORY A. KEBIL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

On 6 Feb, the Aircraft Armament Chief's Association (AACA) (4 local members) presented a Check for \$1500.00 to CMSgt Mark Gonzales (363 TRS Superintendent) for the Chief Master Sergeant Gregory A. Kebil Memorial Scholarship Fund in the Instructor Break room of Hgr 1045 (Armament Flight) at their Flight Call.



Pictured from left to right

Back Row: Aircraft Armament Chief's Association members (Mike Hawkins, Lou Johnson, Lenny Krombel, Larry Brown) 363 TRS Superintendent (CMSgt Mark Gonzales), Armament Flight Chief (MSgt Derrick Morris)
Kneeling: Armament Load Toad Officers (TSgt Roxanne Coble, TSgt Danielle Lynch, TSgt Dontaye Taylor)

The Aircraft Armament Chief's Association is an official Not for Profit organization based out of Florida with 73 members made up of both active duty and retired Aircraft Armament CMSGts. The purpose of the AACA is to encourage and facilitate camaraderie amongst all Aircraft Armament Chiefs; to provide useful services to the membership and the Aircraft Armament Community;

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and to promote the welfare of their dependents, survivors, and the Aircraft Armament Community by preserving heritage, professional development and supporting the 363 TRS Armament School House at Sheppard AFB.

At the AACA October 2012 reunion in Ft Walton Beach FL, we raised \$1500.00 for the CMSgt Gregory Kebil Memorial Scholarship fund that annually provides scholarship money for children of retired or active duty 462/2W1s (Armament Specialists). CMSgt Gregory Kebil was an Aircraft Armament CMSgt that passed away while on active duty at Robins AFB, GA as the Superintendent of Munitions Material Handling Equipment Focal Point.

The Chief Master Sergeant Gregory A. Kebil Memorial Scholarship Fund was founded by the USAF Aircraft Armament Systems community as a continuing legacy to pay tribute to Chief Kebil for his selfless contributions to his country and the weapons community. That scholarship is managed out of 363 TRS Armament Flight in coordination with the AF Functional and MAJCOM career field managers.

Packages are received annually and a board of advisors select the children that will receive funds. For the 2012/2013 school year the scholarship gave out \$4200.00 to 7 children of retired/active duty 462/2W1s.

Larry Brown

Quotable Quotes

"It is God's job to forgive Osama Bin Laden. It is our job to arrange a face to face meeting."

General Norman Schwarzkopf

AACA Coin & Emblem



Lee Stirewalt presenting Aircraft Armament Chiefs Association coin number 001 and letters to MSgt Frank Espinoza from the 336th MXG, Mountain Home AFB on behalf of the AACA.



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The last three Career Field Managers (Evan Godwin, Rick Barbee, Mike Lucchesi) hanging out in Ashburn, VA displaying a toad crossing sign, reminding those be aware of load toads...long live the loader

Quotable Quotes

“There are very few personal problems that cannot be solved with a suitable application of high explosives.”

Author Unknown

“A piece of spaghetti or a military unit can only be led from the front end.”

George S. Patton

Show Your AACA Pride

Have you misplaced your AACA coin, outgrown your shirt, or haven't had an opportunity to purchase either yet? If so, please contact me to let me know you're interested in some goods! We still have plenty of high-quality coins for sale for \$10 each plus shipping, thanks again Wayman, but the store is temporarily sold out of the polo shirts at the moment. I'm in the process of pricing shirts and hats to get the best "bang for your buck" and will push out a price guide and selection to everyone via email once complete. Take care!!

Evan Godwin

Contact info:

Evan Godwin

Cell 808-561-4048

Home 571-210-8311

evangodwin1@hotmail.com

AACA WEBSITE

Our webmaster, Neil Reinsmoen, maintains our Knowledgenow.net Community of Practice at the below link. Neil posts AACA documents and the current contact list on this site. You may access from your home computers and it's restricted to AACA members only. If you haven't already done so, please register at the following site.

<https://www.knowledgenow.net/Community/Views/Home.aspx?Filter=170>

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History

Courtesy of Steve LeBron: U.S. Air Force Weapons Handlers Tech. Sgt. William Gilge and Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Smallerz, both assigned to the 119th Fighter Wing "The Happy Hooligans", North Dakota Air National Guard, upload training AIR-2 Genie weapons onto a McDonnell F-101B-80-MC Voodoo aircraft (s/n 57-0252), under the watchful eye of a competition judge, during the "William Tell" weapons competition at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida (USA), in 1970.



Photos

Please submit photos you would like to share with the group. I'm running out of pictures of myself!! I'm sure the photos will bring back found memories of the past. The photos may also be current. Some of us old guys enjoy seeing the great things that the young troops are doing out there.

Please provide a caption with as much information you can recall.

What makes you feel old? Seeing an aircraft that you used to work on in a museum! Yah, I know, you B-52 guys. Your airplanes are older than you are....and they are still flying and performing the mission!!



Keith Hilton standing in front of F-106 "Balls 3" that he used to work on when assigned to the 5th FIS at Minot AFB, ND from 1982-1984. The photo was taken in October 2012 at the Pima Air Museum in Tucson, AZ.



(Left to right) Evan Godwin, Shell Vancil, Dick Vancil, Paul LaFlame, Linda Hamburg, Jeff Hamburg, Dave Kerr, Line Kerr, Bob Davis, Jim McMahon, Linda McMahon, Jeff Hulme, Mark Carter, Dale Burbick, Andrew Wheat, Andrea Wheat, Donnie Tims, Larry Brown

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Without them, where would we be?

“Let us now set forth one of the fundamental truths about marriage. The wife is in charge.”
Bill Cosby

**“ALL YOU NEED FOR HAPPINESS IS
 A GOOD GUN, A GOOD HORSE, AND
 A GOOD WIFE.”**
Daniel Boone

“I have learned that only two things are necessary to keep one’s wife happy. First, let her think she’s having her own way. And second, let her have it!”
Lyndon B. Johnson

“My most brilliant achievement was my ability to be able to persuade my wife to marry me.”
Winston Churchill

“Happy is the man who finds a true friend, and far happier is he who finds that true friend in his wife.”
Franz Schubert

“My wife was afraid of the dark.....Then she saw me naked and now she’s afraid of the light.”
Rodney Dangerfield

“BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL MAN IS A PROUD WIFE AND A SURPRISED MOTHER-IN-LAW.”
Hubert H. Humphrey

“Every man who is high up loves to think that he has done it all himself; and the wife smiles, and lets it go at that.”
David Bailey

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Standing (left to right) Steve Lebron, Chris Wilber, Mark Carter, Pete Peterson, Mike Cannon, Dan Craven, Pete Romeo, Bob Davis, Dick Vancil, Dave Kerr, Jeff Hamburg, Andrew Wheat, Bob Sherrill, Paul LaFlame, Mike Lucchesi, Dan Keane, Darell Brewer, Jeff Hulme, Larry Brown, Donnie tims, Dale Burbick, Robert Cowen

Kneeling (left to right) Jim McMahon (with a beer of course), Ernie Valencia, Evan Godwin, Dave Petzdolt

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Where Are They Now?

If you don't see your bio here and would like it included in the newsletter, when you have a few minutes, please send me a quick bio. I know everyone enjoys seeing what the members are up to. I plan to include the entire collection of bios in every newsletter, so if you have any updates, please let me know.



Larry Brown – Retired from active duty in Mar 2008 after serving 30 years. My last assignment was as the 82nd Training Group Superintendent, Sheppard AFB, TX. Karen and I stayed in Wichita Falls, TX. I worked one year as a Navy Contractor teaching Interior/Exterior Electricians.

Boy was Civil Engineering different than the Weapons Career Field. I learned to climb utility poles in ¼ inch metal gaffs. Glad I didn't pick that as a career field back in 1978 or I would not have any knees left. In 2009 I was hired as a Federal Civilian instructor teaching F-16 Armament where I mentored our young Airmen in the skills of the Armament Career Field. After graduating 10 classes, I was moved to Training Development where I managed seven armament courses for our career field instructors as a Single Point Manager. In July 2012 I moved to Field Training as a Curriculum Manager and have 46 courses that support U-2s, MQ-1/9, RQ-4s and munitions.

Karen and I have 4 sons. The oldest, Tom, just got out of the Army after 3 Iraq tours, David is an Air Force Aircraft Structural Technician at Kirtland AFB, Jeff is a roughneck working oil rigs in Midland TX and Josh has plans to attend Vernon Auto Mechanics classes. Karen and I are Directors for the local Honda Goldwing Chapter and enjoy riding with our motorcycle group. My other hobby is bicycling both on the road and racing mountain bikes. In addition I am on the steering committee for the Hotter N Hell Bicycle ride/race which brings over 14K riders to Wichita Falls annually and supports fund raising for the Red Cross, rural fire departments and many other local non-profits. - *Larry*



Mike Cannon – I retired in Feb 2008 around the Whiteman AFB, Missouri area (Trish and I live in Bates City, Missouri). After working 1 year for the USPS as a letter

carrier (fantastic job), I was fortunate to be hired on with Northrop Grumman as a B-2 Configuration Analyst (better job!). I work with the Whiteman AFB maintainers daily, and the best part of my job is that I also get to be around the Whiteman weapons community (active and retired). Trish and I have 3 very-cool granddaughters (8, 7, 6) and 2 even-cooler grandsons (4, 1) that live nearby with my son. We stay pretty busy spoiling all of them as much as possible. I'm lucky that I also live close to my mom, dad, brother and sister---that's meant lots of family get-togethers. I also keep busy fishing, golfing, and going to the Royals and Chiefs games. Because of my location,



I get to see a lot of the old gang when they are either TDY or passing through on travel. Our home is always open if you need a place to hang out for the night, or if you just want to stop by to fire up the grill and drink a beer. Trish and I look forward to the reunion this fall, and we hope to see you there. *Mike*



Nathan "Nate" Dixon Jr. - I retired on 1 Aug 10 after 30 wonderful years of service. My last assignment was as Superintendent of Edwards AFB's 412th Maintenance Group. Subsequent celebratory travels included a 12-day stint in China with 4-day stops in

Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong. He is the proud father of two wonderful adult children, daughter Natasha and son Darrell who reside in North Carolina. Natasha has blessed him with two magnificent grandchildren; 9-year-old granddaughter Caroline and 6-year-old grandson Michai. I assumed my current position as Chief, 412th Maintenance Training Division on 16 Aug 10. In this capacity, my staff interacts with the Weapons Manager and WSS quite often on training matters related to Weapons Academics and are trying to professionalize their instructors by providing principals of instruction as well as instructional systems design training and guidance. The position, and the things I get to do are proof-positive the education gained on active duty pays off over a lifetime. In my spare time (what little there is), I enjoy the honor of owning and operating a successful exact methods marketing team business. *Nate*



Chief Donald E. Felch is the 12th Commandant of the Paul H. Lankford Enlisted Professional Military Education Center at the I.G. Brown Air National Guard Training and Education Center, McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn. As Commandant, Chief Felch manages a staff of personnel who conduct education and

training courses that accomplish the professional military education program directives of the Thomas N. Barnes Center for Enlisted Education and the Community College of the Air Force. He has overall responsibility for the Airman Leadership School, the Noncommissioned Officers Academy, and the satellite broadcast versions of both courses. More than 2,000 students per year receive professional education through these courses.

Chief Master Sergeant Felch began his military career in 1984, as an aircraft armament systems specialist. His background includes various assignments in armament systems, aircraft maintenance, logistics, and professional military education. He has served overseas in Guam, Turkey, Kuwait, and Iraq and supported Operations Northern Watch, Southern Watch, and Iraqi Freedom.

Prior to his current assignment, Chief Master Sergeant Felch was the Air National Guard Advisor to the Commander of the Thomas N. Barnes Center for Enlisted Education at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Ala. As the Advisor, he provided guidance on Air National Guard issues involving policy, program, requirements and curriculum for all levels of enlisted education and professional development. *Don*



Evan Godwin - Cheryl and I are living in Brambleton, Virginia, and are thoroughly enjoying life! Our four “kids” are all grown and married and we have six grandkids we

love to spoil every chance we get. In my spare time, Cheryl puts me to work in the garage sorting through/pitching all the “CRAP” we (I) collected throughout the 30-years traveling the world in the military...you know the feeling! *Evan*



Jeff Hamburg - I retired in Oct 2008 from Robins AFB and Linda and I still live at the same place. After taking 3 months off up in South Dakota (took about that long to recover from the retirement party) back on the farm it was clear again in my head how much work farming was. I figured I better come back to

Georgia and the family. Speaking of the family, Linda is doing great and is still the manager at the base travel office. We have 6 grand-kids, 4 boys and 2 girls, Jen has 3, Amber has 2, Jill has 1 and Josh is still in school up at UGA in Athens, he finished his BS and MBA, decided to go back for another year as work on the outside was not looking that great. As for me, not wanting to be tied to a desk I started Hamburg Consulting Inc. so I could work out of the house, deer stand, river back or anywhere I have cell service. Been working with 3 companies for almost 4 years, had one other

but they were bought out by a larger company and didn't need me. I really enjoy the work and love the hours and flexibility. Have spent some time down in Australia, Singapore, Canada, UAE, Saudi and Norway and many places around the states. Get to do some vendor show and always seem to bump someone from the 30 years in the AF, if fun catching up on old times. Living near Atlanta allows us to attend some of the Braves games, NASCAR races and fishing/hunting is never far away (even out the laundry room window). Deer and pheasant hunting has been very good in South Dakota as was farming until the lack of rain this year - corn and beans were a total loss - ouch!! It is always nice to hear from loaders when they come to the base for different meetings. With the kids all gone we have plenty of room in the house and the bar is always open, stop on by there is always a cold beer or few and a bed to crash on. 478-952-2904 *Jeff*

Keith Hilton – I retired from active duty at HQ ACC in 2004 after 24 years of service to our great country. After retiring I was fortunate to land a job at HQ ACC as a contractor working logistics, weapons, and maintenance on the Joint Unmanned Combat Air System (J-UCAS).



The J-UCAS program was a joint program with the Navy developing the X-45 and X-47 aircraft. The Air Force decided to opt out of the program in December 2005 (Merry Christmas). Again I was fortunate to literally move down the hall to the MQ-1 Predator program.

In May 2006, after many attempts, Scott Ashcraft (some of you may remember him from HQ ACC),



convinced me to move to the Washington, DC area to work for the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office (AFRCO). Since May 2006 I have worked for Modern Technology Solutions Inc. as a contractor in the AFRCO. The AFRCO develops emerging technologies and gets needed systems to the field as “rapidly” as possible. The work is incredibly rewarding and a lot of fun. Sometimes I think I should pay them to let me come to work! We convinced Jim McMahon to come work for us after he retired as the 2W1 Functional Manager.

I recently acquired land back home in Wisconsin where I intend to build a home in a few years. When I get a chance to get back to Wisconsin I enjoy spending time tinkering with my 1926 Model T.

I currently live in Broadlands, VA (North of Dulles Airport). In my spare time I enjoy working on home improvement projects, riding my motorcycle, and have recently begun flying gliders. *Keith*



Jeff Hulme – I retired from active duty in Jul 2006 after serving for 25 years. My last assignment was as the AFMC Weapons MAJCOM Functional Manager at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. Elaine and I stayed in the Dayton area, and for the next 3-4 years I worked as a support contractor in AFMC/A5C on capabilities-

based planning, CONOPS and doctrine. In Oct 2009 I was hired as an AF civilian back in A4MW. Although I sometimes still get involved with armament issues, my primary focus is on the nuclear enterprise...never a dull moment. Our daughter graduated college and is living

nearby, and our son is a freshman at the University of Toledo. We own a horse, and although I rarely ride, it keeps Elaine busy and happy. We’ve got plenty of room in the house so if any of you are coming to the Dayton area, or just passing through; let me know if you need a place to stay. Take care and I hope to see many of you at the reunion. – *Jeff*



Mike Lucchesi - In my last year of the service, I currently reside at the Pentagon working with and for, 6700+ aircraft armament personnel. My family has taken in a lot of change and adventure the past 3 years, from moving, to finishing college, to their old man

moving away, leaving the final years for my wife to manage the house and kids, and yet she still moved away from them to be with me in D.C my final two years. My wife and I have been enjoying the D.C. area and taking in the sites and traveling here and there. Our five children are all grown either serving in the military, attending school, or making a living on their own. It’s hard to manage a family get together with two in the service, but we seemed to manage to have some pretty good get-togethers at our wonderful home in Florida. The thing I miss the most is the friendship and good times with the weapons families that brought most of the weapons community together; that I am grateful and fortunate to experience. Recently, I finished a few college degrees and mostly work on my house in Florida, take in a few runs, and now my latest adventure is triathlons. Hope to see everyone at the first reunion, it will be the start of



another great aspect of what the weapons community has always demonstrated—strength in friendship is the integrity of weapons camaraderie. *Mike*



Thomas (Pete Peterson) –
It's hard to believe I've been retired for eight years; time sure does fly when you're an official "old fart" (not as old fart as Dick Vancil though). I retired from active duty in Jul 2004 after serving for 27 years. My last assignment was as the PACAF Weapons Functional Manager at

Hickam AFB, Hawaii. Diane and I chose to retire back in the Fairbanks Alaska area where I was promptly shanghaied by an old Maintenance Officer to help him run an Alaska Native 8(a) Company where I still work to this day, so much for my plan to take a vacation after retirement. As you can see from the attached photo I'm still doing the Alaska Adventure stuff as much as possible for a little while longer anyways. House is up for sale; have to move back to Florida to help with my Father. My son Logan joined the Air Force (against his Dad's wishes) and is an SRA Electrician stationed at Ramstein AFB and has just reenlisted and is looking to cross train to "door gunner" (I have no idea where he got that idea) must be from his mother's side. In a few months we should be in the house down in Citrus County on Lake Rousseau and the "Band of Brothers" are always welcome to stop by and have a beer or glass of wine (the wife has a bloody collection of the damn stuff) on the boat dock and watch the sun go down or better yet jump in the boat and we'll go fishing!

Florida Pete aka Alaska Pete



Dave Petzoldt – I retired from active duty in Jul 2008 after serving for 30 years. My last assignment was as the MMHE Chief at Eglin AFB, FL. Staying in the Eglin area, for the next year and a half I worked as

a support contractor in the Fuze Program Office, specifically doing Logistics/Test work on the Hard Target Void Sensing Fuze. In Dec 2009 I was hired as an AF civilian as a Loggie in the same office. The last three years I've made it a point to go fishing in Alaska for a week each year. The photo is from one of those trips. Hope to see many of you at the reunion. *Dave*



Chief Steven W. Poole is the Chief Enlisted Manager, 702d Munitions Support Squadron, Buechel AB, Germany. In this position he leads, directs, and manages 140 assigned enlisted personnel from 23 different Air Force Specialty Codes in accomplishing a unique, NATO-supporting

mission. CMSgt Poole was born at Fort Hood, Texas and graduated from Lyndon Banes Johnson High School in 1982. He entered into the Air Force in April, 1985. His background includes numerous weapons-related assignments throughout the maintenance complex at the squadron through major command levels. CMSgt Poole is married to the former Dee Ann Heiderscheit of Dubuque, Iowa, and they have two children, Jonathan and Megan. *Steve*

Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline



Pete Romeo – I retired from active duty in May 2005, and my last assignment was as the ACC Armament Functional Manager at Langley AFB, Va. Pam and I remain in the Hampton Roads area where she volunteers for the American Cancer Society and I continue to work supporting the MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper programs as a support contractor on the ACC staff. We both enjoy travelling to visit family and to spoil our 5 grandchildren. We hope to see many old friends and look forward to meeting new friends at the reunion. Until then; cheers. Oh yeah, there’s always a cold beer in the fridge and room at the table if you’re ever in the area.

Pete

Bob Sherrill - I retired from active duty in Mar 2005. After serving 26 years in the Aircraft Armament Systems career field, I’m now a Government Civilian managing the Air Combat Command Antiterrorism Program. I oversee the DoD Antiterrorism Managers throughout ACC. Although a great departure from the Aircraft Armament Systems Career field, it goes to show you the situations we’ve experienced during our active duty careers easily are transferred to other aspects of the Air Force necessary to ensure “bombs on target.”



I retired from the ACC Inspector General team as the Weapons and Aircraft Maintenance Superintendent in 2005, and then worked for a small aviation company as the Operations Manager for two years. I then was offered and accepted a contractor position in the ACC

Antiterrorism Program, which in 2009 was converted to a Civil Servant position. At this time, I continue to work with Security Forces, Civil Engineering, OSI, Intel, Operations, Surgeon General, and Communications to administer the Antiterrorism Program throughout Air Combat Command.

I’m married to my high school sweetheart Linda for over 33 years, and have two great kids; Amy, 33 and Taylor, 20. Linda is an investment broker’s assistant, Amy is married and working as an optometrist associate, and Taylor is a Junior at Campbell University majoring in Sport Management. I am the District Administrator for Virginia Little League and oversee seven leagues and over 4000 LL families; keeps me out of trouble. We all enjoy a great life and are purely blessed.

I’m absolutely thrilled to be a part of this noble organization, and look forward to making the AACA prosper. If in the Hampton Roads area, drop us a line and we’ll hook up.

Bob

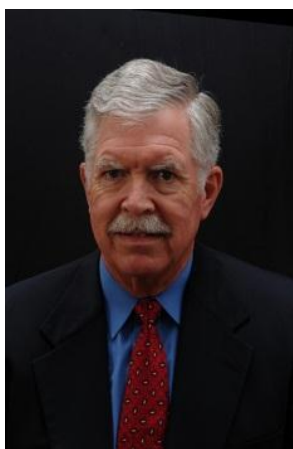


John A.T. Spronk – I retired from active duty in Nov 2009 after serving for 28 ½ years. My last assignment was the ACC IG Command Weapons Inspection Manager at Langley AFB, VA. Becki and I decided to stay in the Newport News area, where I was immediately hired as a civilian for the Aerial Targets

Functional Manager position, working for the ACC Acquisition Management and Integration Center. The



work is fast paced and quite enjoyable, while learning new knowledge in program and contract management. Additionally, I have the opportunity to work with maintenance personnel who support our Air Force Aerial Target program consisting of QF-4s, BQM-167 (small rocket assisted target), and the newest full scale aerial target the QF-16. Since then, I have filled in as the Deputy Program Manager for T-38 Companion Training Program during a sources selection, and working on the bed down of new T-38 sites at Tyndall and Langley AFBs supporting F-22 Adversary training. There is definitely a wonderful life after retirement and I'm truly glad to be a part of this outstanding organization of weapons Chiefs! Take care and God Bless! *John*



Dick Vancil – I retired after 30 years (plus a month or so) of very interesting and enjoyable USAF service. I was very fortunate to serve on three MAJCOM Staffs (TAC/ACC, USAFE, and PACAF) and the IG at Hickam, Hawaii. My AF career included being a gunner on AC-130s in SEA, chasin' "Soviet Bears" with F-4Es out of Keflavik NAS, Iceland where

our son was born, to my final four year assignment as the Armament School House Chief at Sheppard AFB, Texas. It was a GREAT ride and we made lots of wonderful friends. Upon retirement, I worked with Raytheon/Vertex Aerospace at Sheppard as the Quality, Safety, and Environmental Manager for five years before moving on to Spectrum Sciences & Software, Inc. of Fort Walton Beach, Florida as the VP of Manufacturing Business

Development for four years. I now work from my home in Niceville, Florida as the Senior VP of Contracts for J&P Khamken Industries, Inc. of Montgomery, Alabama. Shell and I enjoy company, so y'all come on out and visit! *Dick*

Does this give you flashbacks??



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