



AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA) March 2012

“Shell and Flame”



Issue Number: XXIII

31 March 2012

We are the Ammo Chiefs Association, a not-for-profit; fraternal Association dedicated to the promotion of camaraderie among active duty and retired **USAF AMMO Chiefs**. Our members work throughout the year to raise funds for worthwhile charitable causes such as the Richard Gauvin Memorial Fund, the Enlisted Widows Foundation, and to respond to members of the Ammo community in time of distress. The ACA contributes to the morale of active duty AMMO troops at the Chapter level through recognition and sports programs. The ACA sponsors awards programs for the AMMO School House Outstanding Performer, and AFCOMAC Outstanding Performer. ACA has contributed to cultural enterprises such as the RAF Welford AMMO Museum. *We are AMMO, and proud of it!* Please visit the AMMO Chiefs web page for more information at <http://ammochiefs.com>.

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Please keep your address and contact details current, a quick e:mail will suffice to me at Ammo.Chiefs.Association@gmail.com

You can reach ACA Officers by email at the addresses above if you would like their snail mail addresses contact the Secretary. Please contact any of the members of the ACA Board of Directors if you have any items of interest or information you feel would be of benefit to the organization.

I just fixed the link so all you have to type in is www.ammochiefs.com and you will get to the site! That should work a little better. The other link (<http://ammochiefs.com/ammochiefs>) still works as well!

Rick Follett
Web-Site Manager



From Your President

As we begin the 2012 year a lot of planning has already been accomplished in support of our 2012 ACA Reunion. “Big” John Greer from Emerald Coast Chapter presented a solid game plan for the 25-28 Oct 2012 Reunion to the ACA BOD during our meeting 14 Mar 2012. He was able to work with Holiday Inn Resort in Ft Walton Beach Florida to provide rooms for the same price as 2010. I’ve attached more details in the newsletter for your review. All info is also being posted on the ACA website. Please take some time to review reunion information and start making plans to attend what will be another outstanding reunion.

Again I want to pass on my thanks to our membership and new Board of Directors for their continued support of the ACA organization and local chapters. Without your candidate support we would not be able to do what we are so proud to do as an organization. To sustain our organization, we must continue to grow through new memberships and regain support from past members that have allowed their membership to lapse.

I plan to write up what some might call a mission statement for our organization for the next newsletter. To put forth an attainable game plan, I would like to have your feedback to help guide me as I draft up a roadmap. One of the areas we will address is updating the constitution. To be a successful organization, we must review and update every couple years or so; we mustn’t get stuck in a rut.

I hope to make a few changes in the Shell and Flame Newsletter in the coming months. I would like to have a section for our younger Ammo troops to ask an Ammo chief(s) question(s). To make this work we have to get the word down to their level by sharing the newsletter with them. They would send me an email to my home email address rpennington7@cox.net ; they would have the option to have their name and base published. I think our younger Ammo troops have many questions they would like to have feedback on from an historical stand point; old weapons versus new ones; deployments/short tours/-what it was like being an Ammo troop 20-30-40-50 years ago.

I would also like to get pictures from around the globe of our Ammo troops supporting the mission. We might not be able to put all of them in the newsletter; however, we can create an area on our ACA website. I’ve put a few in this newsletter I got off the wire that our membership not on a military network wouldn’t be able to see. I think it’s important to let our young Ammo troops know we appreciate their dedication in supporting the mission and upholding the true Ammo tradition of team work and brotherhood that only the Ammo troop understands.

This year as well as every year we see our fellow Ammo chiefs retire and move on to another phase in their lives. Some get lucky and find employment in some form of Ammo line of work while others venture off into a new career path. We wish all of them success in whichever path they take; we only hope they will continue to support the Ammo community that made them successful, for without the support of the team, they wouldn’t have made it to the top.

I look forward to your feedback.

On a sad note we lost an Ammo troop while on R&R at home, his Obituary is included in our newsletter.

For ACA Newsletter inputs please send to:

John Matthews at rammoc1994@comcast.net

Rich Pennington at rpennington7@cox.net

Richard Pennington
ACA President



Distinctive Badge for 2WO Ammo!

A proposal for a distinctive Ammo Badge was submitted to the Uniform Board in May 2008 by Ammo MSgt Richard Mortimer with the support of the ACA. Unfortunately, the board did not approve the badge. However, it has recently come to our attention that there is a modicum of hope that the badge stands a chance of being approved in the foreseeable future. Many of us were disappointed in 1986 when the proposed Munitions Occupational Badge was combined with Aircraft

Maintenance to create an Aircraft Maintenance & Munitions Badge. In 1993 that badge was renamed the Maintenance Badge. Whenever, we have the opportunity let's provide positive support and publicity for approval of this symbol to recognize our profession.



IYA Ammo YAS
Fred O'Hern
ACA Vice President



From the Secretary

First of all, my thanks to Fred for his help getting me up to speed on what this job includes. Next, let's talk about this year's reunion in Ft. Walton Beach. One of my first "official acts" was to ask everyone who planned to attend. So far, only 55 of you say you are coming and that includes your wives & guests. With an active membership of around 160, I know we can do better than that! We owe it to "Big John" Greer and the ECC to get off the dime and make a commitment to make this reunion the biggest and best one yet!

To date, we have 31 members who are delinquent paying their 2012 dues. Get out the checkbooks and let's get it done guys! By the way, why not consider converting what you have already paid in yearly dues into a Lifetime Membership? Contact me, I'll make sure we're in "synch" and it's a done deal. Several long time members have gone this route, makes it easier for all.

Look forward to working with you all in the next few months / years to help keep the ACA strong and make it even better where possible. One area you could all assist us with is reaching out to a prospective member or two and doing some "recruiting" work for the ACA. Thank you in advance for doing it. Reach me anytime at: ammo.chiefs.association@gmail.com.

Jack Seaman IYAAYAS !!!!

Ammo Chiefs Association Board of Directors Meeting; 14 March 2012; Ft Walton Beach; Helen Back

Call to order and welcome of attendees at 1730 by President Rich Pennington; those attending-Darrell Beasley, Treasurer; Dwight Howard, Director at Large; Fred O'Hern, VP; John Greer, Reunion Committee Chair; As Fred had a full proxy from Jack Seaman, Secretary **there was a quorum.** As meeting continued into the evening the following Chief Members were in attendance at some point during the evening; Ricky Hamada, Mark Madamba, Jack Shields, Christ Arnold, Billy Campbell, Tom Zima, Pat Barcus, and Tim Culbertson.

Chief Ricky Hamada, USAF Ammo Functional Manager, joined us for the closing. He also stressed that we should be communicating what we are doing to support the troops. He will assist in promoting the ACA to the active duty Ammo Chiefs at official meetings and allow agenda time for Rich to promote and recruit.

The following information was passed on from the Secretary:

A total of 53 (members and guests) have said they plan to attend the 25-28 Oct 2012 reunion.

There are 31 delinquent members who have not paid 2012 dues.

Three new members have recently joined.

The Secretary has an inventory of 30 un-numbered and 3 numbered coins!

Darrel Beasley made a motion that Jack Seaman be authorized to have an additional 5 coins engraved! Passed All In Favor

Billie Campbell said he has a source for coins, Darrel Beasley to liaise with him.

Reunion: Big John briefed on the preparations for the reunion, he and Darrel have them well in hand!

It was decided that the ACA will not subsidize the \$25 registration fee as in past years!

Reunion communications to note that Ice-Breaker (25 Oct) and Ammo-Call (26 Oct) will be open to Ammo non-members.

Big John will consider a unique Reunion Pin to be given to all attendees, Fred to provide details of a supplier.

Big John will send Reunion info and sign-up sheets to Rick Follett to post on the ACA website. Info will also be included with next Shell and Flame Newsletter.

Changes to the Constitution: (all proposed changes to the Constitution to be approved by the full membership and discussed at the reunion business session (27 Oct)

Associate Membership (no voting rights)

Applications from E-7/E-8s without sponsorship was agreed with provision that BOD is notified and if there is objection would require 2/3 thirds majority of BOD and/or query for additional application details/sponsor.

Open membership to Ammo Officers (must be 21M) with a sponsor; approved by majority of BOD.

Do not open to Loaders, Nukes, other services; do allow Old EOD, i.e. 46191 and Civilians working in Ammo (not item managers); must be strongly justified and require a sponsor.

Honorary Memberships: Only to Shell & Flame recipients and Widows.

All members required to pay dues; except for Widows, Shell and Flame recipients (who are not members in their own right), and current Honorary members.

Awards: draft a new article that includes Shell and Flame, AFCOMAC, and Schoolhouse Awards.

Future Joint Reunions and/or all Ammo Reunions: Deferred until at least 2014

Trinket Shop: Big John is working with local retired Ammo troop who has his own business; we will consider endorsing him and allowing exclusive rights at ACA events based on some remuneration. Big John to get back with details.

Sponsorship of Events: It was agreed that we would pursue sponsorships of events taking advantage of the ACA's IRS 501 (c) 19 Tax Exempt Status. Those soliciting sponsorships should contact Jack Seaman for the Tax Number.

Strategic Plan: Rich solicited inputs for the "dated" Strategic Plan. Fred suggested that perhaps a simple two page mission statement might be more useful!

Newsletter: Rich asked to get inputs to him ASAP.

President adjourned meeting at 1920. A social evening with local Ammo and Munitions Working Group attendees followed! IYA Ammo YAS!



Barrentine Trophy (CMSgt Wilbur R. Barrentine)

Is on display in Enlisted Heritage Hall at Gunter AFS AL. The Barrentine Trophy was retired to the hall in the mid-90s. The SAC Bomb Comp entailed a buildup of 82s and M117s on a 40' for competition. We've taken the opportunity to glean from the past so my team and the 6 BWs are plowing new ground for the Global Strike Challenge Munitions Maintenance Competition. Our plan includes assembly 42ea Mk-82s on 40', 18ea GBU-31s and MAC assembly; we've also introduced a Handling Skills Rodeo with MHU-110 trailer, 40' trailer backing and bomb stacking competition.

So, far the guys love the spirit of competition and bragging rights. Last year the 2 BW won the Best Bomb Munitions Maintenance Team Trophy and Ellis Giant Sword Trophy for Best Bomber maintenance while the 28 BW at Ellsworth one the Best Overall Bomb Wing (Fairchild Trophy).

This was mainly a SAC loading award. I've advocated to the Global Strike Challenge Committee to start our own traveling ammo trophy we'll see how much I can get done with fiscal constraints in our near future.



Rick Velasquez, CMSgt, USAF
2W0 Munitions Functional Manager
HQ AFGSC/A4WC

First Ammo Chief?

With the new year and as we enter the 70th anniversary of the first year of World War II, it is perhaps appropriate to reflect on who were the first Ammo Chiefs in an attempt to identify and honor them. Certainly they would have been individuals who served during or immediately after WW2. This has turned into a perennial discussion for the ACA as we have not been able to pin down specific Chiefs. On the first Chiefs list, individuals were selected and promoted with dates of rank of 1 December 1959 and 1 June 1960. There are two Ammo Chiefs on the 1 June 60 list, i.e. CMSgt Wilbur R. Barrentine and CMSgt Harold Prevett. If you are so inclined perhaps you would peruse the list and see if you recognize any other names that can be included as the First Ammo Chiefs:



Chief Barrentine with 27th MMS Commander Lt Col Warren (abt 1965) (l-r Lt. Peasley, LC Warren, Maj Alms, Maj Glenn Profit, Lt. Felt,

At the time the first Chiefs were selected they may have been 462's as SAC administratively converted all SAC 461X0s to 462 in 59/60. The most senior member of the ACA is CMSgt Bob Reinhardt (with a 1962 DOR, enlisted 1948); Bob was a 462 at the time he was selected. Also before 1965 the EOD AFSC was 461X1 and 9-levels moved freely between EOD and Ammo as you had to be Ammo to become EOD and you had to be filling a 9-level slot to be awarded a 9-level (how times have changed).

Both Chief Larry Diamco and I were well acquainted with Chief Barrentine, in interest of full disclosure I was once his gopher (when he was Munitions Chief of the 27th MMS at Little Rock) and he was my mentor over a number of years. I knew Chief Prevett from my early EOD days.

Chief Rick Velasquez is the Global Strike Command Ammo Functional Manager. The munitions trophy for "Giant Sword" is named for Chief Barrentine. Rick is trying to gain a historical perspective of the old SAC Bomb Comp. He would appreciate anyone who was part of those competitions before they were wound up in the 80s contacting him richard.velasquez@barksdale.af.mil

From a historical point on the 1 June 60 list is CMSgt Walter Bell (EOD 461X1). Chief Bell was an Ammo Troop survivor of the Bataan Death March. I know of two other Ammo troops who were on the Bataan Death March, Lt Col Herb Tyson and SSgt Jessie White. If anyone out there hears of others please let us know so we can compile a "Roll of Honor".

IYA Ammo YAS
Fred O'Hern
ACA Vice President

2012 Reunion Activities

ACA members, please mark your calendars and plan to join us for the 2012 Reunion on the beautiful Emerald Coast 25-28 Oct 2012 at the Holiday Inn Resort in Ft Walton Beach FL. To help you plan your trip we have listed some of the activities we have planned for you. Please be sure to pass this info to your lovely brides.

Thursday, (25 Oct) evening is the first planned activity with the ICEBREAKER in the Hotel starting at 6 PM / (1800 for you diehards). There will be finger foods and a CASH bar open until 9 PM. After that you have the evening to yourself for whatever you choose. The hospitality suite will be open until midnight.

Friday, (26 Oct) 0800-1300 we will have our golf outing at the Hurlburt Fld, Gator Lakes Golf Course or the FWB public course, whichever is available. We will have tee times based on the number of participants. This will take about 4 hours. Our business meeting will commence at 4 PM and wrap up at 5 PM Ammo Call starts at 6 PM/1800 at the Helen Back Cafe. There are many local sites such as; the Battleship Alabama in Mobile AL, 2hrs away, The Armament Museum at Eglin AFB, NAS Pensacola Naval Museum with IMAX theater, 45 minutes away and several local institutions such as the Indian Mound Museum to visit. The ladies will go to the Crab Trap for a pay-as-you-go dinner at 7 PM and then the Howl at the Moon Saloon at 8 PM for the Dueling Piano show. They will return to the Hotel or join us at Helen Back's around 10 PM

Saturday, (27 Oct) 0530 we will leave the hotel and drive to Destin to board a charter boat for our fishing trip into the Gulf of Mexico. We will return approximately 1:30 PM to clean our catch, clean up, and take a nap before the dinner. There will be shopping available at the Destin Commons, if enough of the ladies sign up. The glass bottom boat trip with dolphin watching is also available in Destin at 11AM, and 2 PM. We have a tentative trip to the Ebro dog track which will take about 4-5 hours. The social hour starts at 6 PM at the hotel and the dinner bell will ring at 7 PM.

Sunday, (28 Oct) 0730-0930) breakfast buffet at the hotel and then say our farewell to "Ammo in Paradise" and head safely back to your homes. The hospitality room will be open through Sunday if you would like to check out and put your bags there before you leave.

"Big" John Greer
Reunion Boss
Vice President ECC Chap

Holiday Inn Resort
573 Santa Rosa Blvd.
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
850-244-8686, www.hifwb.com

Ammo Chief Reunion- Reservation Info

October 25-28, 2012

- \$79.00 **two double beds or one king bed, ground floor or inland view room**
 - \$89.00 **for two double beds or one king bed, beachfront room with private balcony overlooking the Gulf of Mexico**
 - \$109.00 **for our one bedroom suite - one bedroom with two double beds, queen sleeper sofa in living room, full kitchen and private balcony overlooking the Gulf of Mexico**
- **For reservations, please call 1-800-238-8686 and indicate you are with the “Ammo Chief Reunion”. Please make your reservation by 09/01/12 for guaranteed room rates and availability.**

**Once you have made your reservations you need to fill out the attendance sheet and mail it in with your check and we will see you in October. We look forward to seeing you at the best reunion ever.
IYAAYAS!**

**“Big” John Greer
Reunion Boss
VP ECC**

7th AMMO CHIEFS ASSOCIATION REUNION

25-28 October, 2012

Fort Walton Beach, Florida

ATTENDANCE SIGN-UP SHEET

--- Fellow ACA Member ---

If you intend to participate in the events below, please fill in the appropriate blocks, costs, and totals. The Total costs at the bottom right must be remitted with this sheet to ensure pre-paid event costs are covered

Full name of Attending ACA Member: _____ **Registration Fee: \$25.00**_____

Guests: _____

Contact Address: _____ Phone: _____

ICEBREAKER, THURSDAY- 25 Oct 6-8pm

(Vegetable Crudite w/assorted dips, hot crab dip/Crostinis,
Italian meatballs, Chicken fingers/with ranch & honey mustard dips)

Number attending X \$12.00 = \$_____

**AMMO GOLF OUTING, FRIDAY- 26 Oct
0800-1200, (FWB course/Hurlburt, Gator Lakes**

Pay at course=#PLAYERS_____

AMMO CALL, FRIDAY – 26 Oct 1900-2200
(Keg beer and pizza at Helen Back Cafe)

Number attending X \$10.00 = \$_____

LADIES NITE OUT, FRIDAY- 26 Oct, 1800-2200
(pay as you go dinner) Howl at the Moon show

Number attending _____

AMMO FISHING TRIP, SATURDAY 27 Oct,
0530-1330 , (Destin charter boat, TBD)

Number of fishers__X\$80.00=_____

26 Oct, **FRIDAY** 1600-1700, Membership
meeting, at the hotel, St. Margaret Room

27 Oct, **SATURDAY, 1900-2300,**

COAT AND TIE DINNER

MENU: Salad Bar, Pasta Station, (bowtie/penne pasta)marinara/alfredo
sauces, julienne veggies, grilled chicken, bay shrimp. **Entrée Station:** Crusted
Tilapia, sliced roast beef, crab cakes, garlic mashed potatoes, broccoli Asiago,
sautéed mushrooms/onions, dinner rolls/butter, coffee/tea. **Dessert Station:**
cheesecake canapés, bread pudding, tarts, finger desserts, fruit accents.

Number Dining_____ X \$35.00= \$_____

28 Oct 0730-0930--**BREAKFAST BUFFET**

(Scrambled eggs, sausage/bacon, home-style potatoes,
grits, biscuits/ gravy, orange juice, coffee, tea)

**Note: MUST HAVE AT LEAST 30 PEOPLE SIGN
UP FOR THIS OR IT WILL BE CANCELLED.**

AT THE HOTEL ICEBREAKER ROOM

Number Dining X \$10.00 : _____

Add Total costs in the right hand column and
remit this amount by cash or check made out to:

“AMMO Chiefs Association - Emerald Coast Chapter”.

Mail your check and this sheet to:

**Darrell Beasley
53A Country Club Rd
Shalimar, FL 32579**

Don't forget the Registration Fee

Total Remitted: _____

Chapter News

ACA Emerald Coast Chapter

Members Present:

President, Jim Shelingoski	Vice, John Greer
Sec, Darrell Beasley	Treas, Chuck Wills
Chief at Arms, Dennis Tangney	Danny Bridges
Tom Zima	Brad Pattullo
Jack Shields	Johnny Long
Nick Sims	Gassie Orr
Dwight Howard	

1. Meeting was opened at Scully's on the Bayou at 1710hrs by Jim Shelingoski. The Prez welcomed all. The new president officially recognized all new ECC Officers and officially installed each to their position. Minutes from last meeting: discuss/approve report from 17 Nov 11. Tom motioned, sectioned by John. Members approved

2. Treasurers Report: Was provided to the membership, the chapter is in good standing.

3. Agenda: For this first meeting of the year the President went through this year's scheduled events and assigned POC's for each;

a. **Financial Audit Committee**. The 2011 Audit Committee is Johnny Long, Danny Bridges and Dennis Tangney. The ECC Treas turned over the audit documents and the committee will provide their report at the next Business meeting.

b. **April Dinner Meeting with spouses**. POC is Johnny Long who will set the date and place. More to follow.

c. **May Biloxi Trip**; POC is John Greer who will set a date. More to follow.

d. **May Belks Charity Sale**; POC is John Greer who will set a date. More to follow.

e. **May-Jun AMMO Call**; POC is Jim Shelingoski and John Greer who will set a date and time.

Dwight asked if Business's could sponsor the AMMO Call and all members agreed. We could put up a banner to let everyone know who sponsored the event. Also Chuck Wills volunteered to buy one keg for the AMMO Call. More to follow.

f. **Jun Dinner Meeting with spouses**; POC is Nick Sims who will set the date, time and place. More to follow.

g. **Jun Picnic**; POC not assigned yet. Jim and Sam volunteered to do the cooking but we'll need a POC to do all the other coordination and legwork.

h. **Jul Golf Tournament**; POC is John Greer who will set the date. We will again go to FWB Golf Course and as always we'll need all members to get out and get teams, sponsors and door prizes. More to follow.

i. **Aug Business Meeting/Reunion Committee Meeting**; More to follow.

j. **Sep Business Meeting/Reunion Committee Meeting**; More to follow.

k. **Oct 25-28 ACA Reunion**; POC is John Greer who will need plenty of help between now and then to make this a great event. John gave a quick overview of the last reunion and he has said we will add fish to the menu this year for those who prefer. John will be getting costs for rooms, and events for the next meeting and we will get the reunion signup sheets out to the ACA so we can start planning now. The Prez and Vice asked all present to solicit attendance for the upcoming reunion. All need to encourage friends to attend so we can have a great turnout. Also he encouraged the active duty members to encourage their fellow active duty Ammo Chiefs to support the ACA and try to support the reunion this year. More to follow.

l. **Nov Belks Charity Sale**; POC is John Greer who will set the date. More to follow.

m. **Nov Business meeting/Reunion After-action Meeting**; More to follow.

4. New Business:

a. **Correspondence**; None.

b. No new business.

5. Income;
 - a. Dues collected: None.
 - b. Fines collected: \$5.00, fines for Jack, Dennis, Zima, Howard and Wills.
 - c. Other: None
 6. Agenda items for next meeting...
 - a. Discuss how upcoming events are progressing.
 7. The next meeting will be set up at TBD, date TBD. More to follow.
 8. Motion by Johnny and seconded by Shields to adjourn at 1800hrs. Members approved.
- Take care and keep your powder dry.

Darrell H. Beasley
Secretary

ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

The Ammo Chiefs Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter (ACAMC) officially installed Eddie Fuquay as our new Vice President effective January 1, 2012. The chapter looks forward to Eddie's service in this position.

Our membership is holding at 17 Ammo Chiefs and 3 Associate members. We continue to reach out to our Ammo Chiefs at Seymour-Johnson AFB, but to no avail. Hopefully, the next Ammo Chief PCSing in will participate since we have a lot to offer for the Ammo troops. We also started a new initiative to see if qualified members from Georgia and South Carolina would like to join our chapter. It appears they have not been included in the Emerald Coast chapter and do not have a chapter of their own. We see a lot of potential around Robins and Shaw AFBs.

John Matthews retired from his job at the Pentagon and the Chapter sent a card and a gift certificate for a classy restaurant (in Upper Marlboro??? - ☺) for him and Myong.

On a sad note, we sent a condolence card to Lt Gen Leo Marquez' family when he passed away. The Ammo Community will miss him! We also sent a condolence card to Hank Lightbody in sympathy of the passing of his wife June. TJ Jensen and John Matthews had surgery and we sent get-well cards to them.

We submitted the annual chapter report to the ACA Secretary. We still owe the annual fiscal report to the ACA (the computer with the data was lent out for a long time).

We passed on information about the 2012 ACA Reunion to the membership. It looks like it will be another memorable affair!

The ACAMC held its first meeting of the year at Pat Barcus' house. We had seven members present and three proxies. We discussed purchasing more coins so they are available to sell at the Senior Munitions Managers Conference. Our beginning balance of over \$1675.00 will allow us to support this purchase. We also owed money to Pat Barcus for two awards and to Bill for McCullough for John's gift certificate.

Finally, we reached out to our Loader Chiefs and sent copies of our Constitution and Bylaws to them so they can possibly start a local chapter in the Washington, DC area. Imitation is the greatest compliment!!!

Wilbur C. McCullough III
Secretary, ACAMC

Original Women of Air Force Ammo

In addition to our efforts to preserve Ammo history with regard to the first Ammo Chief, the ACA supports the effort to recognize the first distaff members of Ammo. Patti Logue and MSgt Marty Gladu have compiled the following list of the first group of your ladies to join the fraternity of Ammo. If you can add to or improve the list drop either Marty or I an e:mail at martha.gladu@ang.af.mil or chief.ohern@gmail.com.

Pearl Gibson: 1978?
Carol Holmgren Buckles: June 1977/1978?
Laura (Henderson) Gomez: 28 Nov 1978
Brenda (Jersild) Crouch: Late 1978
Tamsen Thistle-Ranck: January 1979
(Ammo Chief) Yvonne Watts: 1 April 1979
Lisa Seddon Bone: April-May 1979
Tonja Loughlin-Brown: May 1979
Mary Hastry: October 1979
Linda (Urbach) Johnson: Late 1979/Early 1980
Lisa Hernandez: 1981
-----Hambry: ??

Jeannie Cooper: ??
Marty Gladu: 5 October 1978
Vickie Roop Ingoldsby Wallace Spitz: Nov 1978
Patty (Cohrone) Havener: 1979
Alura "Pepper" Weimer: March 1979
Chris Fluharty: April 1979
_____James : April-May 1979
Libby Yelland Bandy Coons: June 1979
Dolly Witt: December 1979
Brenda Napier: April 1980
Linda Way:??
Maryellen Joga: ??

Ammo Troops in Action

SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. -- *Editor's note: This was part four of a four-part series on the 20th Fighter Wing's role in Operation Unified Protector.*

The primary role of the 20th Fighter Wing's F-16 Fighting Falcons is the suppression and destruction of enemy air defenses. During OUP, they supported NATO by protecting assets through finding and eliminating anything that could take out coalition aircraft.

However, they also had another role in OUP. The 20th FW dropped more than 40 product dispenser unit-5s containing more than 50,000 leaflets each, contributing to NATO's psychological operations.

"We were heavily engaged in the psyops game," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Johnny Vargas, 77th Fighter Squadron commander. "We would watch CNN and see people holding up the leaflets dropped by us that caused some of the Libyan regime fighters to defect."

The leaflets had another goal beyond defection.

"This showed we were also concerned with preserving lives," said U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Delbert Areford, 55th Aircraft Maintenance Unit superintendent. "We let the civilians know we were coming in so they could get out of the way."

Involvement with the PDU-5s was a rare experience for all of those involved, from building to dropping them.

"Leaflet bombs have been dropped by F-16s before," said U.S. Air Force Col. Charlie Moore, 20th Fighter Wing commander. "But none of our pilots currently here have ever dropped them before. It was a unique thing trying to figure out how to do it: making, loading and dropping them."

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Beaty, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron munitions flight, was the Shaw lead on building the PDUs.

"It was a pretty incredible experience putting them together," he said. "Not many people in the Air Force have gotten this opportunity."

The PDU is based on the idea of cluster bombs, Beaty explained. A box inside would peel open like a banana, then the leaflets come out and float to the ground.

"There's very little explosion to it," he said.

The process to making a PDU was long and sometimes stressful, Beaty said. It took about three hours to do it with a six-man team. The hardest part was rolling the leaflets because there were so many and it took awhile.

"We'd have leaflet parties where a bunch of us would get together and roll them," he added.

Many times someone would almost finish a roll, and then it would burst open, Beaty described while laughing. Or, someone would stand up to pick up and move a roll, wouldn't have it tight enough and it would all come apart.

"There was an art to it," he added. "I never saw anyone get it right the first time. It was stressful, but it gave us some good laughs."

After rolling the leaflets, they'd pull the fin kit off the back of the PDU and put about 20 rolls into the container.

We rolled whatever lot NATO needed and got in as many that we needed to fill or build, Beaty added.

The munitions troops worked around the clock in three separate shifts to ensure everything was always ready for the jets heading out.

"We always had everything prepped for the jets before they were ready to go," Beaty continued. "It was stressful, but it was a good feeling knowing what we were doing was for such a great cause."

The story of the 20th FW's role in OUP is a story of success based on team work, Moore said. Individuals from every group in the wing contributed to it.

"Everyone was there to complete the mission," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Schnabel, 55th Fighter Squadron commander. "Being a part of something to remove a tyrant from killing his people is a noble cause. I believe everyone there was proud of that."

"The success of the 20th FW in OUP was superb," Moore exclaimed. "A war broke out and the unique capabilities of the U.S. Air Force were needed, and we knocked it out of the park. They came and asked for the best to do it, and we sent the best."



Two Libyan civilians show off a leaflet that was released from NATO assets during Operation Unified Protector. The 20th Fighter Wing at Shaw Air Force Base, N.C., had the unique role of dropping leaflet bombs to give NATO messages for the safety of Libyan civilians. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo/Released)

More Ammo Troops in Action



Airman 1st Class David Reed, 86th Munitions Squadron, participates in a tactical air munitions rapid response package exercise at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, 27 March 2012. Members of the 86th MUNS participate in a TARRP exercise quarterly to stay familiar with current processes and become more efficient for real world missions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brittany Perry)

Tech. Sgt. James Pyeatt, 86th Munitions Squadron, secures a chain to a pallet during a tactical air munitions rapid response package exercise at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, March 27, 2012. Members of the 86th MUNS participate in a TARRP exercise quarterly to stay familiar with current processes and become more efficient for real world missions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brittany Perry)



Words from the AOR

I saw your “call for photo’s” in the latest edition of the Flame and Shell. We recently performed a GBU-54 (LJDAM) build (total qty 54ea) in December. There were a mix of Seymour Johnson and ANG AMMO troops from DC, NJ, SD and IA.

In the last two months of 2011, Bagram Air Field has expended 228ea GBU-38s, 66ea GBU-54s, 70ea GBU-31(V1)s, 5.2K rnds of 20MM HEI and 10,400 sticks of Flare. It’s not “humping” by any means, but enough to keep us gainfully employed.

Thanks again for the box of goodies and the ACA’s continued support...

V/r, Nik
STUART K. NIKOLAS, CMSGT, USAF
455 EMXS / AMMO Chief
Bagram AB, Afghanistan





Airman 1st Class Cristian Grady, 35th Maintenance Squadron, packs bearings for a Munitions Handling Unit 141 trailer that is due for a 720 day inspection here, Jan. 17. Grady, a Cedar Rapids, Iowa native has been working as a mission support equipment crew member since November 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kia Atkins)



Senior Airman Quintin Chandler, 35th Maintenance Squadron equipment maintenance crew chief, bleeds brakes on a Munitions Handling Unit 141 trailer that is due for a 720 day inspection here, Jan. 17. The MHU-141 trailer is a four-wheeled, two axle automotive type steering vehicle capable of transporting loads up to 5,700 pounds. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman 1st Class Kia Atkins)

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- A select group of men and women of the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron gathered together around a munitions assembly conveyor to execute a semi-annual assembled munitions serviceability inspection at Bagram Airfield Dec. 28, 2011. Munitions systems specialists, known as Ammo Dawgs, receive, inspect, issue, assemble and test, maintain, inventory and transport guided and unguided munitions. They use and maintain munitions test sets and munitions-specific trailers, loaders and tractors. Ammo Dawgs ensure the war fighting readiness of explosives from small arms or egress components, to ejections seats and 4,500-pound bunker penetrating bombs.



Staff Sgt. Alex Brzoska, 455th EMXS conventional maintenance supervisor, said the Ammo mission is to be a war fighter. One aspect of this is to arm the fight by ensuring munitions will function as designed when the trigger is pulled.

"We build bombs from scratch," he said. "We receive the bomb body and the components for assembly. Then every six months we have to verify that what we built is still accurate. We undo all the components to make sure it is still serviceable."

During the AMSI, Ammo Airmen disassembled armament within their stock and verified that all the components were still functioning. The inspections are performed twice as often here as

in the United States due to the dirt, sand and weather conditions that exists.

The team members visually inspected each component of the MK 82 bomb bodies and KMU-572 tail kits which lay in front of them. Also, electronic fuses and laser detector kits were inspected. In addition, they ran an integrated built-in test using the AN/GYQ-79A test set to test electronic features.

All bombs passed the AMSI. Throughout December, the Ammo team inspected 22 bombs and performed 355 post load visual/IBIT inspections on bombs that were unloaded from aircraft due to aircraft maintenance.

Airman 1st Class Zachary Coleman, 455th EMXS munitions systems specialist, said he enjoys his job at Bagram Airfield. He said, "It is a good feeling to know that whenever troops on the ground call in an air strike, the bombs that we build work dead on and save lives." That feeling is shared by many of his fellow Ammo Airmen. "It's very satisfying," said Brzoska. "You're keeping people alive. It's very gratifying."



In Memory
of
TSgt Aaron David "Cicc" Ciccocioppo



Newport News, VA: TSgt USAF, Aaron David "Cicc" Ciccocioppo, age 32, died April 1, 2012. Aaron was a native of Pennsylvania, but spent the last several years as a Newport News resident. Aaron graduated from Hempfield High School in Landisville, PA, and had recently earned his Bachelor's degree in Sociology through American Military University.

Aaron was known to be an overachiever, always striving for perfection. Aaron will always be remembered for keeping everyone's spirits high through his ability to make people laugh with his dry wit and contagious smile. After meeting Aaron for five minutes, you could feel as if you had known him a lifetime. He had a gentle way that put you at ease. Second to his wife, his best friend had four legs, and his name was O'Neil, who Aaron called his little "bear cub." Aaron was a loving husband, son, brother, uncle, friend, and hands down "the best Daddy in the World." You will forever be in our hearts, E Love You CuteFace. I.Y.A.A.Y.A.S.!

He was preceded in death by grandparents, Norma King, F.W. "Pete" Bitting Jr., and Michael Ciccocioppo.

He is survived by: Wife: Rebecca L. Ciccocioppo; Daughter: Julia M. Ciccocioppo (Johnson); Son: Josh Ciccocioppo; Stepchildren: Madison, Rian & Olivia Crowell; Mother: Michelle McGowan & husband Mike; Father: David Ciccocioppo and wife Rose; Brother: Kyle Ciccocioppo and wife Hannah; Sister: Tonya Allen and husband Ty; Paternal Grandmother: Blanche Ciccocioppo; Nieces: Gabrielle, Izzy and Kenya; Mother-in-law: Jeanie Woo; Brother-in-law: Philip Cart-ledge; as well as many other children that will forever remember him as Uncle Aaron.

Funeral services were held 3:00 p.m. Thursday, April 5, 2012 at Providence Baptist Church, 3501 Providence Road, Hayes, Virginia. Interment followed in Rosewell Memorial Garden Cemetery.

In memory of "Cicc," memorial contributions may be donated at www.afenlistedwidows.com to assist Air Force widows.

Condolences can be sent to: Rebecca Ciccocioppo
8398 Forever Lane
Hayes, VA 23072

