



AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA)

June 2012

“Shell and Flame”



Issue Number: XXIV

30 June 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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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.

Please keep your address and contact details current, a quick email will suffice to Jack Seaman Ammo.Chiefs.Association@gmail.com

If you have something you want to share with the membership send me an email and I'll post it on our website!

Rick Follett Rfollett@egginc.com
Web-Site Manager



From Your President

As the year is speeding by we are only a few months away from the 2012 ACA Reunion. "Big" John Greer from Emerald Coast Chapter continues to head up several fund raising events to support the reunion. Reunion info is posted on the ACA website and in the newsletter. Please take some time to review reunion information and start making your plans to attend what will be another outstanding reunion.

I want to pass on my thanks to our membership and Board of Directors for their support over the past few months as we worked to update the ACA Constitution. Special thanks to Jack Seaman and Fred O'Hern for chairing the Constitution Committee. Without everyone's candidate support we would not be able to do what we are so proud to do as an organization.

I'm still seeking input from membership for ideas on articles you would like to see published in the newsletter. If you recall in the last newsletter, I asked to have the young Ammo troops send in questions they would like to have feedback on from active duty or retired Ammo chiefs.

To do this, they would send 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 a historical stand point. I put a couple pictures in this edition from one of our Vietnam veterans.

I would also like to get electronic pictures from around the globe of our Ammo troops supporting their 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 think it's important to let our Ammo troops know we appreciate their dedication in supporting the Air Force mission and upholding the true Ammo tradition of team work and brotherhood that only Ammo troops understand.

We should be receiving inputs from AFCOMAC and Ammo school house for our next edition. We had to update certificates for both. We would like to have an electronic picture and short caption for these outstanding Ammo troops.

For ACA Newsletter inputs please send to:

John Matthews at rammoc1994@comcast.net

Rich Pennington at rpennington7@cox.net

Our treasurer has been on the road for the past couple months and is trying to get caught up on paperwork. If you sent in your membership dues and the check hasn't cleared, please let us know so we can get back on track.

Hope everyone had a chance to enjoy Independence Day. Our country has many things we all don't agree on; however, I've found it to be the best country for freedoms that many take for granted and other countries wished they had.

Richard Pennington
ACA President



From the Vice President Agent Orange Exposure in Thailand

A few of us managed to not have documented evidence of "boots on ground" in the RVN during the Southeast Asia War Games. Rather we served our time in other parts of Indochina (Laos/Cambodia) or in Thailand. The VA has conceded that individuals serving near/on the base perimeter in Thailand may have been exposed to AO. The following statement is from the VA web-site:

Vietnam-era Veterans whose service involved duty on or near the perimeters of military bases in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975 may have been exposed to herbicides and may qualify for VA benefits. The following Veterans may have been exposed to herbicides:

U.S. Air Force Veterans who served on Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) bases at U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom, Udorn, Takhli, Korat, and Don Muang, near the air base perimeter anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975.

After a six year battle, I recently settled a compensation claim for the effects presumptively caused by AO exposure. While my claim was primarily for exposure to AO in Laos, I did include evidence for exposure at Udorn. The VA accepted that I had been exposed at Udorn but ignored the claim for exposure at Eglin or in Laos. As regards Ammo exposure, the following statement was included in my justification, I will gladly provide further details to Ammo Troops who contact me directly:

Daily travel to remote ammunition storage areas off the main installation were also necessary; . It was evident that herbicides were being used to control vegetation in all of these areas, point spraying and/or application was observed with the use of 5-gallon, back pack style, sprayers. Protective clothing was never seen nor were there warnings that herbicides could be hazardous. It is assumed that the herbicides used were what is now commonly referred to as Agent Orange.

It should be understood that unlike "boots on ground in RVN" exposure in Thailand is not presumptive. You must have detailed statements from others that were there at the same time as yourself, stressing the noticeable effects of AO in runway over-runs, between taxiways, on the perimeters, convoy routes, and in the bomb dump for vegetation control.

Good luck, if I can help contact me; I can make statements relative to Udorn 70 and 71!

Note: See feedback later in newsletter from Chuck Norton.

IYA Ammo YAS
Fred O'Hern
ACA Vice President



From the Secretary

Greetings my AMMO Brothers!! It's hard to believe this year is half over already and in less than 4 months it will be reunion time again. Hopefully those of you planning to attend are signing up with "Big John" or will be soon.

All ACA AMMO Chiefs in good standing were recently sent proposed ACA Constitution changes for their review and vote. As of 25 June the requisite 30 days for a reply was satisfied. We have received 65 votes approving the changes as written; as well as 9 votes of minor disagreement / disapproval. Since well over the required 1/4 of eligible voting members voted and approved the changes, they will be written into the Constitution.

When finished, a copy of the revised / new Constitution in PDF format attached to an email will be sent to all ACA members. Our thanks to all who participated.

We now have 130 AMMO Chief, 26 Associate and 9 Honorary Members for a grand total of 165 ACA Members. That's a few more than last reported but still well below where we should be considering the data base of eligible Chief's out there who have chosen not to become members. I urge you all to reach out and try recruiting an AMMO Chief today.

Finally, we still have 12 members delinquent on their 2012 membership dues. Additionally, the 10 members who have not paid either their 2011 or 2012 dues have been removed from the active membership roster. I know a lot of you have full time jobs and we all have family commitments. Please try to make a little time to get a check in the mail guys; it would help us all out. As a reminder, any member, no matter how many years delinquent, will be put back on the active Membership roles by simply paying 2012 dues.

Thanks and enjoy your Summer!

Jack IYAAYAS !!!!

1 JUNE 2012 REUNION UPDATE

Well folks, we are starting the countdown for the reunion and you will probably get tired of hearing from me but, what the heck, we want to keep you informed. As of now we only have 11 rooms reserved(of the 30 we have blocked) at the hotel so there several of you who need to contact the Holiday Inn Resort, 1-850-244-8686, and make your reservations or take the chance of not getting the room/bed size you want if you wait until the last minute to call. Don't forget you have up until the last few days before the event to cancel in case you can't make it.

As we start getting close to the drop dead date, 15 Sep (probably not a good term to use with this group) we will post a list of who is coming based on who has paid. This will mean they are committed and we can probably count on them showing up.

As in years past we will be waiting until just before the reunion to get the best deal on our fishing trip so we don't know which boat we will be taking yet but there appears to be fish aplenty In the Gulf this year.

Also keep in mind our reunion is open to guests so if you have someone you would like to invite by all means bring them to the FUNCTIONS. Just bring money.....

The main thing you need to do is fill out the sign-up sheet on the web site and send it in to the address on the bottom with your check. If you have any questions please contact me at bigjohn461@bellsouth.net or Darrell Beasley at ammobeasley@cox.net and we will answer any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you all in October for the best reunion ever.

JOHN K. GREER
REUNION BOSS
VP Emerald Coast Chapter

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. IYAAAYAS!

**“Big” John Greer
Reunion Boss**

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 Field, 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

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:

Don't forget the Registration Fee

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

Total Remitted: _____

Chapter News

ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

The Ammo Chiefs Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter (ACAMC) held its second meeting of the year at the HQ ACC Munitions Conference room on June 23rd. With the eight Members and one Associate in attendance, along with the six proxies, we were able to conduct business. We welcomed CMSgt Robert Byrd as our 18th Ammo Chief. Robert is leading the 1 FW Munitions Flight. Attendance would have been higher but we have three members (Jack Miller, John Matthews, and Chris Arnold) out on health issues. Myong Matthews is also recovering from neck surgery. We wish them all our best!

Mike Gavin headed up two fund-raisers at the Senior Munitions Managers Conference. His efforts netted \$437 for the ACAMC. The big item was an Ordnance statue that was raffled off. CMSgt Dave Knight from Camp Darby won it. This will go a long way in supporting our Ammo troops. Mike pretty much wiped out our Chapter coin supply so we are making another order. Thanks a lot Mike!

As many of you know, we sent care packages to our Ammo troops in Afghanistan. Jack Miller headed up the project and he received personal "thank you" cards from six troops.

Our efforts to include the Ammo Chiefs at Robins AFB in our chapter fell short. We were disappointed but hope they band together to form their own chapter in the near future.

Our President, CMSgt Pat Barcus, will have his retirement ceremony on July 20th. We look forward to his post-military career leadership in and outside the ACAMC.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 15th at Mike Robertson's house.

Wilbur C. McCullough III
Secretary, ACAMC

16th anniversary of the Khobar Towers



A terrorist attack at Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, June 25, 1996, resulted in 400 casualties among civilian and military personnel. Total of 19 personnel were killed; 12 were from 33rd Fighter Wing Nomads.

"It reminds us, as a nation, that America is in a time of war and has always known conflict. After 16 years, the eternal flame of remembrance still burns brightly. Those who paid the ultimate sacrifice will never be forgotten."

During your visit to Fort Walton Beach area take a few minutes and visit the Nomads Memorial.

Rich Pennington

USAFE Munitions Conference (we were young Ammo warriors) those were the days!



Provided by Don Harp

Munitions Conference at USAFE about 85; I don't recognize everyone but in addition to Don Harp, Fred O'Hern; George Harding, John Greer, Bob Schrock, Don Wesolowski, Don Hamilton, Bob Bellmon, ___ Newton; Alex ____; my facial recognition grey cells are fading but I'm sure with a little effort we can pin all of these characters.

Fred O'Hern
ACA Vice President

Old School AMMO



Da Nang Air Base RVN, 1969: Mk 82 "Snake Eye" Bomb Build Crew.....Some of the toughest Ammo Troops in the Nam. These guys could build 250 Snake Eye Bombs BEFORE LUNCH!!!!



The 12-Man AMMO Crew in the back center right could build this many M117 750 lb GP Bombs in Four Days. Four troops breaking-out and pulling plugs, two troops jamming boosters, two troops lugging, two troops prepping fins, two troops hanging fins to start.....and the others caught up with the fin crew to finish it off. They were the BEST I EVER SAW.

John Cecere

VIETNAM WALL

This is really sobering. Click on the link and find the city you went to high school and look at the names.

Click on the name and it will give details of the death.

First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear. Then click on their names. It should show you picture of the person, or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it.

I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country. The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam War with the names, bio's and other information on our lost heroes.

Those who remember that time frame, or perhaps lost friends or family can look them up on this site.

Pass the link on to others, as many knew wonderful people whose names are listed.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

Feedback to Fred on Agent Orange

Thanks for the info...you are absolutely correct. I have assisted several vets with their claims for AO exposure while stationed at Air Bases in Thailand. When the VA first put out the admission, they were very clear as to who may file a claim and expect approval. They specifically pointed out security guards and sentry dog handlers. My first case was with a sentry dog handler who was stationed at NKP. He had contracted type II diabetes and lost a leg because of it.

As you pointed out, ammo troops had to travel the base perimeter on a regular basis to get to and from the bomb dump, those were also likely candidates. I have had several guys who worked in offices on base, maintenance back shops, dining hall, etc who insisted they were exposed to AO while stationed in Thailand. To the best of my knowledge, none of those were approved. Any time I am asked to assist with a claim, I always tell the vet what my opinion is based upon the info/evidence the vet provides. In all cases concerning AO exposure in Thailand, I was right...

I have been assisting our fellow vets for more than 10 years now. I do it on my own...I don't work for anyone, I don't get paid by anyone and I don't answer to anyone. I still speak on base twice each month and have been doing so for more than 6 years. I do not assist any vet who has less than an HONORABLE discharge and I do not assist with an obvious frivolous or unsubstantiated claim.

I am always ready to assist any fellow vet who has the basis for filing a legitimate claim. I will express my opinion/views, but that does not mean the vet cannot file a claim anyway. I just want the vet to get what they have "earned" and truly deserve...

CHUCK NORTON
CMSGT, USAF, RET
VETERANS ADVOCATE
AMMO
BOOTS ON THE GROUND VIETNAM COMBAT VETERAN

60th Anniversary of Korean War

The Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee will be hosting “Heroes Remembered” the 59th Anniversary of the signing of the Korean Armistice Friday, 27th of July 2012, at 0900, at Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater, Arlington Virginia.

Dress for the occasion will be Business Casual.

To RSVP for the event, go to <http://koreanwar.defense.gov/july27rsvp.html> or call (703) 545-2656.

Rich Pennington



THE DEATH OF SAC (20 YEARS LATER)

By Raymond L. Ruetsch

I've asked to have the four page document posted to the ACA website at <http://ammochiefs.com>.

AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA)

300 Salida Drive

Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937

Eligibility: AMMO Chief Members are Active Duty and Retired USAF, Air Force Reserve (AFR) or Air National Guard (ANG) AMMO Chiefs and SMSgt's with a line number for Chief whose Association dues are current. AMMO Chiefs are individuals who now serve or have served as a Chief or Chief Selectee in Duty AFSC's 2W000, 461X0, 465X0, 46191 or 645X0A and includes AFSC's converted administratively to the foregoing. AMMO Chiefs and Chief Selectee's requesting membership apply directly to the ACA and do not require Board of Directors (BOD) approval.

Associate Members are Retired USAF, AFR or ANG AMMO E-7's and E-8's, who served consistently and honorably in AMMO Duty positions in AFSC's 2W0X1, 461X0, 465X0, 46191 or 645X0A and includes those AFSC's converted administratively to the foregoing. These applicants do not require a sponsor and may apply directly to the ACA. After publication to the BOD, if there is an objection from any one member, the application may require a query for additional details and possible sponsorship of an AMMO Chief member in good standing. Final approval requires a 2/3 majority BOD vote.

Also included as candidates for Associate Membership are all other ranks of Retired USAF, AFR or ANG AMMO troops who served consistently and honorably in AMMO Duty positions in AFSC's 2W0X1, 461X0 and 465X0 and includes those AFSC's converted administratively to the foregoing. Applicants require the sponsorship of an AMMO Chief member in good standing and after publication, a unanimous BOD vote for approval.

Retired USAF, AFR or ANG Officers (21MXA / Conventional Munitions) who have served in designated AMMO Duty positions for significant portions of their careers may be considered for Associate Membership. These positions normally existed within a Munitions Storage Area or on a NAF or MAJCOM Munitions staff. Rank or position titles alone do not justify membership consideration. Applicants require the sponsorship of an AMMO Chief member in good standing and after publication, a unanimous BOD vote for approval.

Retired Civilians who have served in AMMO Duty positions for a significant portion of their career may be considered for Associate Membership. Applicants require the sponsorship of an AMMO Chief member in good standing and after publication, a unanimous BOD vote for approval.

Individuals who are not otherwise eligible for ACA Associate Membership but who are sponsored by at least three AMMO Chief members in good standing may be considered for Associate Membership. Detailed recommendations from the sponsors are essential to obtain a unanimous BOD vote for approval.

Associate members may attend ACA meetings and participate in social events / reunions but do not have voting rights. With approval of the BOD they may serve on committees. All Associate Members pay dues.

New Membership Application Form has been posted on the ACA Website.

Dues: \$25.00/year or \$250 Life Membership. Send check or money order with this application to address above.

First Name: _____ **MI:** _____ **Last Name:** _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Mailing Address:

Street: _____

City, State, ZIP Code: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address (Home): _____

E-Mail Address (Work): _____

Service Status (circle one): **Active Duty** **Retired**

Present Grade / Rank or Rank at Retirement: _____

Date Entered Service: _____

Date of Retirement: _____

War Veteran: (Which War / War's or Campaign's) _____

Brief history of your AMMO work, i.e., Duty Position / Unit of Assignment, Base, Dates, etc.