



AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA)

September 2012

“Shell and Flame”



Issue Number: XXV

29 September 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

We are only a few days away from the 2012 ACA Reunion. “Big” John Greer and crew from Emerald Coast Chapter headed up several fundraising events to support the reunion. We understand everyone can’t make it to the reunion; however, that doesn’t mean you can’t take part in the business meeting that is scheduled to take place during the reunion. Please take some time to put your thought on paper and send them in to us, the floor is open at this point to discuss any issues relevant to our association. I’ve included a proxy for you to appoint one of the attending ACA BOD members to act on your behalf. This process will ensure we have the voice of the membership on any issue identified before or during the business meeting. The proxy must be received prior to the start of the business meeting.

Got some of the highlights from one of the Ammo Bowls with a few pictures, its great the Ammo community can still rally to a good softball game. Many of the old timers remember when the Ammo troops from around the globe would assemble at a central location for what could be considered the Ammo World Series. Due to funding cuts and world events we may never see those days again; however, it doesn’t mean the spirit of the game isn’t still there. Congratulations to all of the teams that took part.

We would like to pass on our thanks to Chief Ricky Hamada for his support to the Ammo community while serving as the Air Force Ammo Functional Manager; and best wishes as he heads back to Kunsan. Chief Chris Arnold has been selected as the next Air Force Ammo Functional Manager, he’s moving up from HQ ACC we wish him the best in his new position and look forward to his continued support to the Ammo community.

Special thanks to Fred and Jack for leading the effort to get the new Ammo Spirit Award Coin designs for AFCOMAC and the Ammo School House. They have them on hand now and will be presenting them to each of the outstanding performing students. We hope to get pictures from AFCOMAC and Ammo School House to post on our website.

I’m still looking for 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 same newsletter; however, we will use them in future editions. I think it’s important to continue 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.

For ACA Newsletter inputs please send to:

John Matthews at rammoc1994@comcast.net

Rich Pennington at rpennington7@cox.net

Look forward to seeing you at the reunion and for those that can’t make, we still need your continued support to keep our organization moving forward.

In a few weeks the new Ammo Chiefs list will be published and we look forward to congratulating them and wishing them continued success in their career and new assignments for many of them.

Richard Pennington
ACA President



Spotted in the parking lot during my visit to Eglin

From the Vice President



The new certificates and Ammo Chief's Spirit Award coins were provided to AFCOMAC and the Ammo School House. We congratulate SSgt Condrey as being recognized as an outstanding performer in his class. The following note was received from the Ammo school house.

We have awarded the Ammo Chief's Award to the following Graduate of the Munitions Apprentices Course here at Sheppard AFB:

SSgt Jason Lee Condrey. He is from Buckley AFB, Colorado as an Air National Guardsman with the 140th Fighter Wing. He graduated from the Munitions School house at Sheppard AFB, TX on 12 September 2012.

SSgt Condrey was extremely thankful and appreciative for the recognition. Please contact me if there was any information that I forgot to add. I appreciate your time in working with us to recognize this stellar performer. Thank you.

ERIK D. KEEFNER, MSgt, USAF
363 TRS/TTM
Sheppard AFB, TX

We now have a supply of a new design coin. Temporarily I will handle orders for them. All profits to ACA Treasury.

Coins will be available at the reunion for members @ \$8pc and non-members @ \$10pc (reunion price, not mail-order).

Chapters that wish to purchase coins in batches (5 or more); I will pack and ship them @ \$8.50pc. (Checks payable to ACA, 6046 SW 98 Loop, Ocala, FL, 34476)

For individual orders I will pack and ship @ \$10pc for members \$12pc for non-members or members not-in-good-standing. (Checks payable to ACA, 6046 SW 98 Loop, Ocala, FL, 34476)

We have arranged for a supplier of ACA Polo Shirts, the logo below is embroidered on the left chest in contrasting colors. For members only I will order and have them shipped for \$25 ea (estimated, depends on quantity); colors available white, tan, dark blue, light blue, red and grey (sizes sm to 2X, they are available in ladie's styles). Contact me individually (FredOHern@Ocala.com or Chief.OHern@gmail.com) and I will give you actual price after ordering (profits to the ACA).



IYA Ammo YAS
Fred O'Hern
ACA Vice President



From the Secretary

Hope everyone had a great Summer. Most of us are now looking forward to some cooler weather, football and before you know it, Thanksgiving and Christmas!! I hope most of us will take the time to Vote on 6 November. This is an important one folks, like they all are, but I think this one is even more so considering the shape our country is in.

All ACA Members in good standing should have received an email a while back with the newly revised Constitution attached in PDF format. To date, have not received any comments on it one way or the other so I'm assuming most of you are good with it. For the information of those who opposed opening up more Associate Membership, guess what? I have yet to receive the first application for one. Those of us who thought we'd get a few more Associates and maybe bump up our \$\$ in the ACA treasury were fooled also.

The newly "minted" Challenge Coins have been received and sent out to be presented to the Top Academic Graduates at the Schoolhouse and to Top "Iron Flag" Performers at AFCOMAC. We also have the new ACA Membership coins for all future Members.

I'll close by mentioning this one last time this year. The nine (9) Members delinquent on their 2012 dues are no longer considered Members in good standing. You know who you are guys, either pay up or remain on the inactive list. What more can I say?

Have a great Fall Season.

Jack **IYAAYAS !!!!**

Ammo Chief Reunion- Update

The Emerald Coast Chapter had two reunion meetings.

We have 23 rooms reserved for a total of 74 room nights and we are still expecting 3-5 locals to get rooms at the last minute. There are presently 45 folks signed up for the Icebreaker, 57 people signed up for the Saturday dinner, 9 golfers signed up, 5 fishermen, and 37 signed up for breakfast. The worst thing about the reunion is so many people have backed out for health and other reasons (17) we are off our numbers from last year by a substantial amount. (96) Many of our regular attendees did not sign up and when I inquired via email they either did not respond or said they changed their mind and decided not to come. So I guess we are getting to be old hat and need to find another place to host it. (Which won't break my heart by the way) But either way as our membership continues to age we will have to deal with less and less attendees each year and the venue will have to be something that draws them to a good location. Each year we ask for critiques to see what we can do to make it better for the next one but receive very few comments other than good ones. We have made drastic changes to the menu this year in hopes of having those changes help folks want to come back next time but with the low turnout it may well be a lost effort. Oh well, those attending will enjoy it I am sure.

As I said I have also attached the August meeting minutes that I believe Darrell already sent you but, I have made some minor changes to them but there is our activities for the quarter and although like I said when we talked the wives did the Lion's share of the work for the golf tourney Doris and Ronnie were the leaders in those efforts. They are also taking the lead with Heather Sims (new VP's wife) in dealing with the Homeless Veterans Stand down day efforts.

Maybe after the reunion we can steer our efforts towards getting some new members signed up and bolster our sagging rosters and draw some new blood into the fold. As always I stand ready to do whatever it takes to make this organization better.

IYAAYAS
BIG JOHN



2012 Western AMMO Bowl

The 2012 Western was held in Ogden Utah at the 4th street complex over the 4th of July weekend. There were 10 teams entered: DM, Luke, Nellis, Mt Home, APU (Whiteman & Pick-ups), ORF, Beale, Hill 388th, Hill 649th, Hill combined (defending Champs). The festivities started off with a nice Ice Breaker at the Copper Club in Ogden with a special surprise, a local brewer renamed one of their beers AMMO Ale. The round robin draw was set at the ice breaker and we were ready to throw down Saturday.

On Saturday at 0800 the opening ceremonies started with the national anthem and some opening words from the 388th Chief, Chief Eisenberg. The games can now begin. There were some hick-ups as there are with many AMMO Bowls most can be chalked up to a lack of volunteers. At the end of day one there were some unfamiliar teams at the top of the bracket. APU was the top seed, Beale was # 2 and the Hill combined team snuck it at number three after taking a beating at the hands of Beale at the end of the day.

Sunday started off and there were some more surprises. Rounds 1-2 were not kind to the top two seeds as they dropped to the losers bracket quickly clearing the way for the number 3 seed Hill to have a shot at repeating. As the day progressed and the heat continued to climb you started to see the teams running out of steam but Hill remained hot. It came down to a repeat of last year, Hill vs ORF for all the marbles. ORF was depleted by injuries but put up a great fight. In the end team Hill proved to be too strong and with consistent play they pulled off the repeat only losing one game in the RR to Beale. finished 2nd, DM pulled the 3rd spot, with APU coming in 4th. It was a great time Beer, Sun, Softball and old friends does it get any better than this! IYAAAYAS!!! More photos can be seen on Facebook, Western Ammo Bowl

All Tourney team

Crenshaw - MVP - Hill
Brandon Pearl - Hill
Blaine Bagby - Hill
Robert Wood - Hill
Dave Gifford - Hill
Ross James - ORF
Skeeter Johnson - ORF
Ron Kramer - ORF
Eric North (Meat) - ORF
Robert Shaub- DM
Chief Wilkinson- DM
???- DM
???- APU
Chris Rogers - APU





ORF 2nd Place



Tim

Johnny



D-M 3rd Place



Dave



Blaine



James



Robert



Ron



Brandon



Eric



Skeeter

Hi, I am a retired SMSgt, 46190, had a line number to Chief when I retired. I was a SSgt, 46170, with the 56 Special Operations Wing, Det. 1, Udorn Thailand assigned for 13 months to the clandestine operations in Laos. I wrote this article for a T-28 site and Fred liked it because it was different from other AMMO stories, we were a 13 man team, trained some on each other's jobs so we could carry on if one got hurt or was gone for some reason. Even got to do a lot of back seat flying too, to search out targets and put in air strikes, and to be a part of an air strike if we were in a T-28 loaded with munitions. I have photo's at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/60121715@N00/> We were a disciplined group, made our rules as we went and bent them as needed to make the daily effort a success. I can say that my best assignment in my Air Force career was at RAF Welford, this one was second.

Thanks for your interest.
Don Harp, IYAAYAS



Approximately 440 miles south of Vientiane Laos lies the quiet and peaceful city of Pakse, provincial capital of Champasak. Situated on the banks of the Mekong and Xe don Rivers, a city of 70,000 people was known as the boring part of Laos when compared to Louang Phabang and Vientiane. I arrived in Pakse in April 1969 and instantly realized how welcome I was and very happy to be here. I moved in to the AIRA house, a mansion situated among the loosely boarded houses, on stilts with corrugated tin roofs that our neighbors live in. I got situated in my room, met the house girls,

Hoa and Si, who did an excellent job to keep the house clean and meals served. I can't remember the name of the cook but he was full of personality and made a lot of jokes and laughed at them more than we did. I met the rest of the crew at dinner and had a feeling I was with a great bunch of men. The boss (Bender) had a f__k you Snoopy Flag in one hand and a bottle of Crown Royal in the other, a sign this was a close knitted group with a colorful persona and meaningful mission.



I went to the flightline the next day and met the RLAF T-28 Pilots, base Commander, Col. Khoung, and the maintenance personnel. As I met more and more of the Laotian people I knew I had been given a good assignment, to help these wonderful people in their struggle for what they believed in. I counted eleven T-28 aircraft, two O-1's, and one Cessna Skymaster. At that time I never realized how much work these planes would make for us. The RLAF personnel were mission dedicated,

honorable and patriotic with an eagerness to defend his country equal to any Air Force in the world. We never had to look for pilots as they were there every day ready to rock and roll. The maintenance personnel, watched over by Gene Wallace, John Tolley and Van, maintained the fleet of aircraft at 100% in commission rate on a daily basis. I made sure the munitions were ordered in and assembled for loading on the aircraft. I soon learned that each pilot liked a certain type of munitions and I would give them what they wanted as long as it fit the target requirements. I also worked on the T-28's with Gene and loaded bombs with Mike. Our T-28's (56 Special Operations Wing, Det 1) flown by the RLAF pilots (who

never referred to them as trainers) and the O-1's flown by the Ravens searched out and destroyed targets in all the southern part of Laos, mainly on the Bolovens Plateau over to Attapeu and Saravane and the Ho Chi Min Trail. The pilots were good and hit the target most of the time and were brave on the run in on target to get low enough to see, judge, and destroy it. In the fourteen months I was there we lost two O-1's, one flown by Jay Puckett, went down on the way back to base after a day of putting in air strikes, one flown by Ken Thompson crashed at Attapeu with a blocked fuel line, one O-1 was seriously damaged by ground fire, two T-28's were lost, one of which took the life of pilot Dara at Saravane, two T-28's were damaged- one ran off the runway at Pakse, one suffered explosion and fragmentation damage from a near miss by a Russian 140 mm Rocket. We could have suffered from sabotage when someone wired the landing gear with arming wire so it would rip out the fuel lines when the landing gear was raised after takeoff. The routine morning inspection of the aircraft discovered this and prevented a disaster, the culprit was never caught.



Coolies assembling Mk-82, 500 lb bombs

The T-28 pilots would bring back the empty CBU Dispensers so they could sell them as scrap metal. One day we nearly suffered a disaster when a T-28 landed with four CBU Dispensers, one of which failed to dispense all the BLU-3B Bomblets. When the T-28 touched down the jarring effect caused the bomblets to fall out all over the runway. Now we had fifteen armed and very dangerous fragmentation bomblets lying on the runway, T-28's in the air low on gas and wanting to land, one Lao Airlines Turbo Prop in the landing pattern. The Boss (Bender) asked me if I was brave and

crazy enough to go out and move the bomblets off the runway so the aircraft could land. I did this and I can say this had me scared and wrecked my nerves. Normal EOD would have safed the bomblets but I had no way to do that so had to handle them fully armed and ready to function if the striker plate was tapped even slightly. I brought them back to the T-28 ramp, locked them in a storage building and took them out and destroyed them a week later. The aircraft landed safely and the pilots bought me beer that night at the Mekong Bar. The rocket attacks we got on average of three or four a month were nothing compared to this! I was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for this action.

In June 1970, with a heavy heart, I had to leave Pakse and return to the USA for a follow-on assignment to Lakenheath England. The pilots gave me a "RLAF AFB PAKSE" silver and gold bracelet with my name on it as a going away and thank you gift. This meant so much to me that today, thirty-nine years later, it still is out on display beside a model of a T-28 with a Cobra painted on the Oil Cooler Door. I have never worked with a better bunch of men, Laotian and American, in all my twenty-four years in the U. S. Air Force. The Laotian people are most wonderful and gracious with an unmatched willingness to share and welcome you in to their lives and homes. I felt like family and I think of them often. My pride is high when I remember all those smiling faces getting in to their T-28 Fighter Bombers, the sound of the engine starting and the roar as it goes down the runway taking off fully loaded with munitions. I hope all of them are alive and happy, if any of them read this I say "Hi my friend, thanks for giving me the privilege of knowing you".

Don Harp, Pakse Lima-11, 69-70

Chapter News

ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Held meeting at Mike Robinson house were the members were treated to outstanding hospitality and food by his wife Myong. The chapter also took part in the retirement ceremony of Retired Chief Mike Gavin from civil services. Counting his active duty Mike complete 37 years of service to his country. We all wish him the best as he now has more time for one of his favorite hobbies—hunting. Another chapter member will most likely be moving on to his next career as Chief Pat Barcus retired and looking to move to the Dayton area for his next job. The chapter also welcomed a new member Chief Stuart Nikolas who replaced Chief Barcus. The chapter is gearing up for the end of year events, supporting our Ammo troops by sending care packages, and helping junior Ammo troops during the holiday season. The chapter is also sending out notifications for Outstanding Young Ammo Troop Award. The next chapter meeting will be held in December which includes a social event for the members and spouses.





AMMO CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

EMERALD COAST CHAPTER

“AMMO in Paradise”



“Birthplace of the AMMO Chiefs Association”

To: ACA Emerald Coast Chapter Members

Subject: ACA Emerald Coast Chapter Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

John and Doris Greer, VP

Nick and Heather Sims

Danny and Janice Bridges

Darrell and Ronnie Beasley, Sec

Mark and Mary Madamba

Dave and Meaia Ward

Friends:

Kathren Sims

Johnny Beasley

1. Dinner with spouses and meeting was opened at the Biergarten at 1815hrs by John Greer. The VP welcomed all. The VP thanked Nick Sims for setting up the dinner meeting with spouses. Minutes from last meeting: discuss/approve report from 20 Apr 12. Danny motioned, sectioned by Mark. Members approved.

2. Treasurers Report: As of 3 Aug 12 the chapter has \$9,057.00 in checking, \$5.00 in savings, \$22.00 in cash for a total worth of \$9,084.00.

3. Agenda:

a. **May AMMO Call**; Everyone enjoyed the AMMO call with over 120 local Ammo troops attending and the folks at Helen back were great as usual. The chairman reported that we budgeted \$900.00 for this year and spent \$1,000.00. We collected \$780.00 from many sponsors but the primary ones were ZITEC and J&P Khampken so we ended up paying out \$220.00 for this year. Great work from, Jim Shelingoski, Dwight Howard, and, John Greer on getting the sponsors.

b. **Jun Picnic**; Everyone enjoyed the picnic...food was great as usual...great many thanks to the chefs Sam Giardina and Johnny Long for cooking the beer butt chickens and all the ladies for bringing the covered dishes.. The final bill for the picnic was \$275.00.

c. **Jul Golf Tournament**; This year was one of the best fundraisers we have ever had. We had 26 teams and 42 hole sponsors. Many thanks to all the folks who went out and got sponsors, prizes and teams. Special thanks to Ammo wives Doris, Ronnie, Beth and Heather for really beating the bushes and getting the majority of the sponsors and prizes and driving the beverage carts...gotta love the ladies. Thanks to Dwight Howard for his efforts in getting all his sponsors. We were able to give \$1,819.00 to the Okaloosa/Walton County Mental Health Association to help the Homeless Veterans. Thanks again to all the folks who helped this year.

d. **Oct 25-28 ACA Reunion**; John Greer reported everything is on track and we need all the local folks to send in their sign-up sheets. Currently have 20 members signed up (7 local members) so far...We have 23 rooms reserved so you need to get you rooms ASAP as they are going fast.

5. Correspondence;

a. Received a letter from MHA thanking us for the donation for the Homeless veterans. Also passed out Veterans stand down day item needs letter for those items needed for the ditty bags handed out to the veterans in Oct. John said he would send this letter to the members and he would collect those items and take them to the MHA and let everyone know when the date was so if they wanted to volunteer to help stuff the bags they could.

b. Received a letter from AFCOMAC thanking us for the \$500.00 donation we made to the CMSgt Gauvin Scholarship Fund.

6. Income;

a. Dues collected: None.

b. Fines collected: None.

c. Other: None.

7. New Business;

a. Jim Shelingoski had to resign as president so John Greer moved up to Prez and Greer nominated Nick Sims as VP, seconded by Darrell. Nick accepted nomination and members approved.

b. Mark Madamba and Dave Ward questioned what we are doing as an incentive for the newly selected Ammo chiefs to bring them in to the fold. Darrell briefed that the ACA was offering the first year free and that few were accepting. It was suggested that we offer \$50 off the lifetime membership in an attempt to try and get more of the new chiefs to join up lifetime and get involved. Darrell said he would present it to the BOD.

8. Agenda items for next meeting...

a. ACA Reunion update.

8. The next meeting will be set up at TBD in Sep for a Reunion Committee Meeting.

9. Motion by Dave and seconded by Danny to adjourn at 1910hrs. Members approved. Take care and keep your powder dry.

(signed)

Darrell H. Beasley

Secretary

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.