



# *AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA)*

## *March 2013*

# “Shell and Flame”



Issue Number: XXVII

31 March 2013

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>.

Rich Pennington [rpennington7@cox.net](mailto:rpennington7@cox.net)  
President

Fred O'Hern [Chief.OHern@gmail.com](mailto:Chief.OHern@gmail.com)  
Vice President

Jack Seaman [Ammo.Chiefs.Association@gmail.com](mailto:Ammo.Chiefs.Association@gmail.com) Darrell Beasley [ammobeasley@cox.net](mailto:ammobeasley@cox.net)  
Secretary Treasurer

Kevin Lewis [kevin.lewis@atk.com](mailto:kevin.lewis@atk.com)  
Chief at Arms

Rick Follett [Rfollett@egginc.com](mailto:Rfollett@egginc.com)  
Web-Site Manager

John Cecere [cecerejc@aol.com](mailto:cecerejc@aol.com)  
Director-at-Large

Mark Gossett [mgossett@prodigy.net](mailto:mgossett@prodigy.net)  
Director-at-Large

Dwight Howard [DHoward@jpkii.com](mailto:DHoward@jpkii.com)  
Director-at-Large

Bart Ivy [bart.ivy@evanhoe.com](mailto:bart.ivy@evanhoe.com)  
Director-at-Large

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

Membership Application can be found on our website, if you know of anyone that would like to renew membership or join please pass on the application.

If you have something you would like to have posted on the [www.ammochiefs.com](http://www.ammochiefs.com) website send to one of the ACA BOD members for approval! A special thanks to Rick Follett our Web-Site Manager.

# From Your President

As we get 2013 underway we continue to be faced with many challenges that are outside of our control; however, they are impacting the Ammo community. During budget cut drills no one is a winner, everyone suffers at some level. It's during these times we as leaders must keep our Ammo troops informed of the pending actions that could impact them personally.

Our organization is gearing up for the ACA audit. I've asked Chiefs Fred O'Hern, Bart Ivy, and Bill McCullough to conduct the full audit and report back to the ACA BOD. The results will be published in the next newsletter.

Over the past few months we have received not so good news on several of our members, spouses, and young Ammo troops. I've included a few pictures of the Ammo troops (SrA Powers and Amn Mayfield) with a short note later in the newsletter.

Big John Greer is recovering from knee replacement and will be laid up for a while. He's out of the hospital now and starting three months rehab physical therapy. Big John we wish you a speedy recovery. If you wish to send Big John an email his address is [bigjohn461@bellsouth.net](mailto:bigjohn461@bellsouth.net)

We also send our best wishes out to Chuck Norton who had to have one of his legs removed at the hip. I'm sure he would enjoy hearing from our members as well as the numerous veterans he has assisted over the years with their claims to the Veteran Administration. His email is [ammochief22@hotmail.com](mailto:ammochief22@hotmail.com)

Roger Gagnon's wife Miyoko passed away after a tough battle with cancer in February, his email and home address are below; note his email has changed to [rag0403@yahoo.com](mailto:rag0403@yahoo.com) I'm sure he would enjoy hearing from some of the old timers.

Roger Gagnon  
94-819 Leomana Way  
Waipahu, HI 96797

Would also like to thank Bud Rabuano, retired Ammo for providing an excellent Ammo history document that has been posted to the ACA website. If you would like to add, change or include additional pictures in this Document, please send your input to Bud at [budammo@yahoo.com](mailto:budammo@yahoo.com). Bud is also filling out an application to become a member.

On a personal note--the biggest news this quarter is that my wife has retired after 35 years of Civil Service and is ready to now do her own "honey do" list.

For ACA Newsletter inputs please send to:

John Matthews at [rammoc1994@comcast.net](mailto:rammoc1994@comcast.net)

Rich Pennington at [rpennington7@cox.net](mailto:rpennington7@cox.net)

Richard Pennington  
ACA President

## SMSgt Selects Ammo

Congratulations to all of the new SMSgt Selects. To be selected for promotion to SMSgt is very rewarding and provides you the opportunity to start the roadmap for that top honor of becoming an Ammo Chief. It's very challenging to be promoted through the senior NCO ranks and you are well aware of what it took to get selected to SMSgt. With new rank also come new responsibilities and challenges. If you haven't already done so, you need to start thinking about the next position or assignment to fill a few more squares on the road to the top. It only gets tougher from this point on when you consider only one percent can fill the position of CMSgt. In a few years we hope to see some of your names on the much smaller list that comes out, for there's no higher honor than to serve as an Ammo Chief in the United States Air Force and have your own flight.

Rich Pennington  
ACA President

BARKER, KIRK	JACKSON, KEITH
BAULCH, COLLIN	JOHNSON, ROBY
BEAUCHAMP, JONATHAN	LINGELBACH, MATT
BOSWELL, KEITH	LITTLEFIELD, BARRY
BURRIS, BILLY	ODDO, MICHELLE
CLARK, DANIEL GARET	REED, MIKE
COOPER, BRYAN	REEVES, DAVID
DAVENPORT, MIKE	SAMUEL, KELVIN
DODWELL, DARNETTE	SHARPE, SAM
GLENN, PLEZ	SPRIGGS, FULTON
HALL, DEMETRICE	STAMPER, JENNIFER
HANGE, SAM	TOM, KURT
HENSLEY, PHIL	WEIR, WILLIAM
HINES, BOBBY	WHITE, DANIEL
HURLEY, JASON	WITT, JASON
	YOUNGBLOOD, RICKY

## Words from the Secretary

Greetings to all of my AMMO Brothers & Sisters. Hope those of you and yours living in cold climates have "weathered out" these past few months, staying healthy and keeping warm. "Sam" and I have seen more snow since before Christmas than we have in the last 27 years!!

Let's talk Membership. We have picked up a few more Lifetime Members in the ACA, either by some converting over from annual dues to paid up Lifetime status as well as a couple of brand new members. On the other hand, we still have over twenty members who are delinquent paying 2013 dues. Those guilty ones need to get out their checkbooks and take care of business. Remember new address for mailing in your dues:

**ACA**  
**P.O. Box 104**  
**Phillipsburg, KS 67661**

You all enjoy the upcoming Spring weather, stay safe and keep in touch.

Jack  
**IYAAYAS !!!!**

## **Update on our young Ammo Piper**

TSgt Wilhide sent me the following update on Ammo Piper. She appears to be on the road to good health and a speedy recovery from all of the treatments; we wish her the best.

Email from TSgt Wilhide

Just wanted to shoot you a quick note on the latest from Piper. We had the spine surgery and the other surgery to remove the tumor. Everything went well and the doctors were able to get everything out. We are waiting on the histology to come back to see how many and which type of chemo rounds we are going to go with once she is completely healed up.

TSgt Randy Wilhide

## **Chapter News**

### **ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter**

Jan – Mar 13 ACAMC Shell and Flame Inputs

The Ammo Chiefs Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter (ACAMC) rolled through the first quarter of 2013 taking care of business. We met our obligation to our 2012 Sharp Ammo Troop award recipient, SrA Paul M. Smith of Seymour-Johnson AFB. He received an ACAMC coin, certificate, and \$50.00 check.

The beginning of the year was spent taking care of administrative tasks. We submitted our Annual Report to the ACA in January and mailed out our annual audit in March. Of course, dues were rolling in in and we ensured any dues for the ACA were rapidly processed.

Although the Ammo Care Package program was over, we still received thank you cards from the units. Since the program has expanded, we continue to look for more ideas on what to send to our Ammo troops stationed in austere and hazardous locations.

We held our first meeting of 2013 on March 16<sup>th</sup> at the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center in Richmond, VA. This resulted in one of our best turnouts yet! We had 10 Chiefs and 2 Associate members. In addition to the typical business items, we performed the initial review of the Chapter Constitution and Bylaws. The main changes were expanding our area of responsibility and formalizing that our Associate members no longer are required to pay dues. Another big business item was the election of Stuart “Nik” Nikolas as our new Vice President. He filled a void from when Eddie Fuquay stepped up to take the helm of President due to Pat Barcus’ departure from the area. We also honored the memory of Olen D. Sheperd who passed away on January 30<sup>th</sup> with a donation to his favorite charity and the goal to post a write-up for the ACA web site. Finally, we set the wheels in motion to recognize SMSgt Steven D. Farwell from 4 FW, Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC as the 2012 ACC AMMO Annual Outstanding Munitions Manager.

The highlight of the day was a visit with SrA Bryce Powers and his mother Cathy. The members joined Selina Arnold, Rita Follett, and Sue Pennington up in Bryce’s room. Bryce was involved in a vehicle accident at Misawa AB in October and is recovering at the medical center. We learned about the ups and downs of Bryce’s recovery and of the strength of hope, prayer, and love during the course of our conversations. Eddie Fuquay presented Cathy with a donation to help out Bryce and his family.

The ACAMC continues to meet our promises to the Ammo community at large.

*Wilbur C. McCullough III*  
Secretary, ACAMC

I asked the Ammo school house to provide us a breakdown on the courses and how the program is broken down. They don't have an Ammo chief position at the school house; however, they do have Ammo troops from the field being reassigned to be instructors so fresh Ammo blood continues to flow through the school house.



**Greetings from the Sheppard AFB Munitions Training Flight! The following is a tidbit of data that will attempt to give you a picture of where future ammo troops are created. All of this data can be readily found on the WWW so nothing coming out here that isn't "shoot you if I tell you" releasable. So let's get going....**

The 363rd Training Squadron is based at Sheppard AFB, TX with a mission of: "Training the world's best armament, munitions, nuclear weapons, maintenance scheduling/analysis and maintenance officer professionals that are capable of fulfilling the goals and objectives of the Air Force." The 363rd TRS trains more than 3,800 graduates in armament systems, nuclear, and conventional munitions annually, of which approximately 2,000 are AMMO bound.

Utilizing 5 flights, the 363rd Training Squadron is composed of the following to accomplish its vital mission:

***Aircraft Armament Flight:*** Produces highly trained and motivated aircraft armament systems personnel (apprentices and craftsman) to support multiple aircraft to include the F-15, F-16, B-52, B-2, B-1, A-10, F-22, MQ-1/9, H-60 and the C-130.

***Munitions Training Flight:*** Provides both the nuclear and ammo apprentices along with conducting craftsman training for each AFSC. Courses include the Muns Apprentice, Craftsman Online, Accountability (both in-resident and MTT), Inspection (both in-resident and MTT), Security Assistance Trng Program (SATP), Nuclear Apprentice, and Nuclear Craftsman.

***RM Flight:*** Trains numerous officer and enlisted Airmen in subjects directed at Aircraft, Missile, Nuclear, Conventional, Analysis, Production, and Engine management. Courses include: Aircraft Maintenance (Mx) Officers Course, Nuclear Mx Officers Crs, Nuclear Fundamentals Crs, Nuclear Accountability Crs, Munitions/Missile Mx Officers Fund Crs, Conv Muns Mx Officers Crs, Analysis Apprentice/Supplemental/Craftsman/ANG/RES, Production, and Engine Mgt.

***Military Training Flight:*** MTLs maintain control of the vast flux of Airmen traveling through Sheppard on their way to their new careers. Currently housed in a fairly new 27.5 million dollar dorm, with 600 beds, the MTF is responsible for military training, bearing and discipline, and room standards for 600 Airman in training, all while managing a constant Airman turnover.

***Training Resources Flight:*** Responsibilities are heavily involved in over 65 courses – 53 resident/12 non-resident CDCs with a student load averaging 5,500 students annually. More specifically they administer student scheduling (entry to grad), direct training development/measurement, and oversee squadron resources management.

For more info on current happening in our squadron, be sure to check out the **363d Training Squadron** facebook page.

## School House Top Graduates



The AMMO Schoolhouse Top Graduate Award was presented to Airman First Class Logan Z. Crittenden for Outstanding achievement in the Munitions Apprentice Course, Sheppard AFB, Texas, 10 January 2013. On behalf of the ACA, the Munitions Training Flight Chief, Mr. Byrd, further recognized A1C Crittenden's superior accomplishments with the presentation of the AMMO Chiefs Top Graduate Award along with the ACA Spirit Award coin.

A1C Crittenden is from Maryville, TN and graduated with top honors from the Munitions training school house. His first assignment is with the 18<sup>th</sup> Munitions Squadron, Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan.

The AMMO Schoolhouse Top Graduate Award was presented to Senior Airman Christian M. Hand for Outstanding achievement in the Munitions Apprentice Course, Sheppard AFB, Texas, 7 March 2013. On behalf of the ACA, the Munitions Training Flight Chief, Mr. Byrd, further recognized SRA Hand's superior accomplishments with the presentation of the AMMO Chiefs Top Graduate Award along with the ACA Spirit Award coin.

SRA Christian Hand is from Colorado Springs, Co and graduated with top honors from the Munitions training school house. He is assigned with the AF Reserves at Peterson AFB, CO.



The AMMO Schoolhouse Top Graduate Award was presented to Airman First Class Samuel K Fulton for Outstanding achievement in the Munitions Apprentice Course, Sheppard AFB, Texas, 14 February 2013. On behalf of the ACA, the Munitions Training Flight Chief, Mr. Byrd, further recognized A1C Fulton's superior accomplishments with the presentation of the AMMO Chiefs Top Graduate Award along with the ACA Spirit Award coin.

A1C Fulton is from Maui, Hawaii and graduated with top honors from the Munitions training school house. His first assignment is with the 1st EMS, Langley, VA.



The AMMO Schoolhouse Top Graduate Award was presented to Airman First Class Brent Maddox for Outstanding achievement in the Munitions Apprentice Course, Sheppard AFB, Texas, 21 February 2013.

On behalf of the ACA, the Munitions Training Flight Chief, Mr. Byrd, further recognized A1C Maddox's superior accomplishments with the presentation of the AMMO Chiefs Top Graduate Award along with the ACA Spirit Award coin. A1C Maddox is proudly serving with the Indiana ANG.







The AMMO Schoolhouse Top Graduate Award was presented to Airman First Class Anthony W. McGee for Outstanding achievement in the Munitions Apprentice Course, Sheppard AFB, Texas, 13 March 2013. On behalf of the ACA, the AMMO Course Chief, MSgt. Keefner, further recognized A1C McGee's superior accomplishments with the presentation of the AMMO Chiefs Top Graduate Award along with the ACA Spirit Award coin.

A1C McGee is from Sipoke Falls, Florida and graduated with top honors from the Munitions training school house. His first tour of duty will be at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

## AFCOMAC Award Winners

With the continued efforts to reduce TDY budgets we hope the AFCOMAC school house can continue to operate. There are those that might think the school house has outlived its purpose; however, it's the only opportunity many get to work with a broad range of munitions and further hone their skills in building munitions and understanding what it takes to build and meet the FRAG.

We wish all AFCOMAC graduates continued success as they continue to climb the Ammo ladder of knowledge.



**SSgt Nunley Class 1208**



**SSgt Veldhouse Class 1301**



**TSgt Foster Class 1302**

Congratulations to another group of outstanding performers at AFCOMAC. We wish them continued success in their Ammo career. The most important part is taking the teamwork and lessons learned during their AFCOMAC experience back to their respective units and sharing with others.

## AMMO Troops on Road to Recovery

The Ammo community wishes SrA Powers and Amn Mayfield the best as they continue down the road of recovery.



ACAMC Chapter members visit SrA Powers

For those that might not have gotten the word about SrA Powers; he was injured in a POV accident while assigned to Misawa AB Japan. ACAMC Chapter visited SrA Powers on 16 March 2013. SrA Powers is reaching the end of the period of time he can stay at the VA Hospital located in Richmond VA. We had the opportunity to meet with his mother who is very committed to supporting him. Based on what his mother has been told, he must be transferred from the VA facility 10 April 2013. It's not known where he might be transferred to as this time; he still needs special care. HQ ACC/A4W Ammo troops have also made visits. Chief Arnold presented the Misawa Ammo flag and certificate during one of his visits. Once we get a home address we'll pass it along.

SrA Powers link for fund raising and his story

<https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/9Nlv1?psid=375f598b0f9b4ec098b6fabfa8475760>

Amn Mayfield was also injured in the same POV accident as SrA Powers and has been reassigned to Luke AFB hospital medical unit to continue her recovery. She was able to participate in a special presentation last week where she was presented a Misawa Ammo flag that was flown by the wing commander. Amn Mayfield has a link where you can follow her recovery.

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/kameemayfield/journal>

I'm sure she would love to have some cards from the Ammo community wishing her a speedy recovery.



Amn Kamee Mayfield  
3033 E. Thunderbird Road Apt# 2092  
Phoenix, AZ 85032

CMSgt Whisler, Amn Mayfield, A1C Short, SMSgt Jackson and SMSgt Johnson.

As the expression goes, we never know what's around the next bend on the highway of our lives. These two outstanding Ammo troops need the continued support of our Ammo community as they continue their recovery. It's been about six months since the accident and SrA Powers still has a very tough road ahead in his recovery. Amn Mayfield is able to get around; however, it will be some time before she's back working in AMMO. As an Ammo community, we take great pride in taking care of our own and this has been very evident over the past months. We need to continue to keep SrA Powers and Amn Mayfield in our thoughts and prayers. I'm sure the Powers and Mayfield families would appreciate receiving cards from Ammo troops from around the globe to let them know "Once Ammo Always Ammo."

Rich Pennington  
ACA President



12/20/2012 - **SOUTHWEST ASIA** -- For the Velasquez brothers, being a part of the military continues a family tradition of serving their country.

Not only did their father serve in Operation Desert Storm, but two of their great uncles landed on the beaches of Anzio, Italy, during World War II. So when a deployment opportunity placed all three of the brothers in Southwest Asia's area of responsibility at the same time, it gave them a unique opportunity to tell future Velasquez generations about service and sacrifice.

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Velasquez, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight chief, is the oldest of the three brothers and the first of the three to join the military. He said when they were growing up it was common for them to look at photos and hear stories about their family's military heritage.

However, having not just one son deployed, but three, provided a bit of anxiety for their mother.

"Our mother was a bit of a wreck knowing three of her boys were (in the AOR) at the same time," Chief Velasquez said. "Our father, being a veteran, understood this situation and was able to ease her mind some. Someone over the years has always been gone, but this has been the first time all three of us were gone at the same time."

Currently only two of the brothers are deployed as the youngest brother, Army Sgt. Andrew Velasquez, redeployed back home just a few weeks ago.

"One of the leading factors for me wanting to be here was the opportunity to be here at the same time as my brother," said Master Sgt. Daniel Velasquez, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Operations Squadron. "There is no other way to be deployed, than to be deployed with family during the holiday season."

Family is a common word when one hears the two older Velasquez describe one another. When it came to describing their youngest brother, one can tell the pride both have for their younger sibling. The chief even has a picture of his youngest brother framed on his office from his time deployed as a combat medic in the Kandahar Region of Afghanistan.

"(Andrew) received a Bronze Star and a Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his deployment in Afghanistan, but we didn't hear about it from him we heard it from his wife," Chief Velasquez said. "That's just the kind of guy he is; very humble."

When the brothers are not deployed, they consistently take advantage of the relatively short distances they live from one another. The chief is stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., the master sergeant at Dyess AFB, Texas, and the Army sergeant is a reservist out of Austin, Texas. The families of the two oldest also are pretty close together as they both have seniors in high school and also have children in grade school.

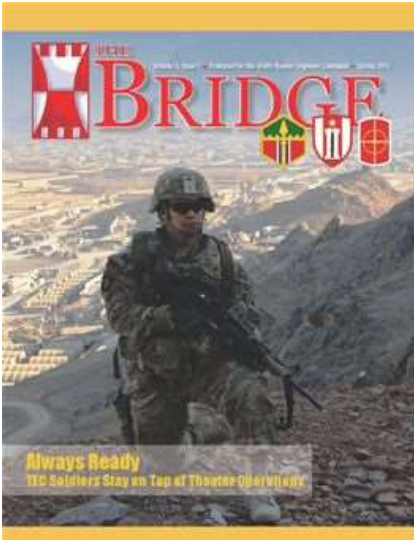
"Going back to family, it's always been important for us to be around one another," Master Sgt. Velasquez said. "Not just for us, but for our children as well."

After the deployments are over - and the brothers spend some much needed time with their wives and children - the three brothers plan to get together to bond over their experiences.

"When I get done with this deployment we will take some time together as brothers and possibly take a trip to Vegas," Chief Velasquez said. "We will definitely get a few brotherly (Army versus Air Force) jabs in at each other, but at the end of the day we are brothers in arms."



SOUTHWEST ASIA – Master Sgt. Daniel Velasquez (left), 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Operations Squadron, and Chief Master Sgt. Richard Velasquez, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, are brothers deployed in the same location at the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing. The two brothers along with their younger sibling Army Sgt. Andrew Velasquez, who was recently stationed in Afghanistan, were deployed at the same time in 2012. The master sergeant is deployed from Dyess Air Force Base Texas, the chief’s is deployed from Barksdale, AFB, La., and the Army sergeant is a reservist out of Austin, Texas. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Joel Mease)



SOUTHWEST ASIA – Army Sgt. Andrew Velasquez is featured in his Reserve unit’s magazine, The Bridge, during the spring of 2012 while deployed in the Kandahar Region of Afghanistan. Chief Master Sgt. Richard Velasquez, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, has the cover of this issue hanging on his wall. Both service members are brothers who were deployed at the same time during 2012. Army Sgt. Velasquez’s story while in Afghanistan is available for download at [http://static.dvidshub.net/media/pubs/pdf\\_10320.pdf](http://static.dvidshub.net/media/pubs/pdf_10320.pdf) . (Courtesy of the 416th Theater Engineer Command)

**BRIGADIER GENERAL LEE K. LEVY II (MG Select)**

For those having been around for a few years, most likely you’ve crossed paths with MG (S) Levy a few times. I’ve listed a few of the Ammo related positions he’s held over the years; many will remember him from AFCOMAC. He was recently selected for his second star and is pending his next duty assignment.

Assignments:



- OIC, Munitions Services Branch; and Maintenance supervisor, WSA, 7th Munitions Maintenance Squadron, Carswell AFB, Texas
- OIC Munitions Services; OIC Munitions Maintenance and emergency actions officer, 7362nd MMS, Volkel Air Base, The Netherlands
- Commander, Munitions Flight, 48th EMS, RAF Lakenheath
- Logistics evaluation manager, HQ AFOTE Center, Kirtland AFB, N.M..
- Commander, 9th Munitions Squadron, Beale AFB, Calif.
- Deputy Director of Logistics, HQ AFMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- Commander, 402nd Maint Wing, Warner Robins ALC, Robins AFB, Ga.
- Director of Logistics, HQ Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.

If you recall, he was at the dedication of renaming the AFCOMAC Academic facility in honor of Lt Gen Leo Marquez.

We wish him continued success and hope he gets another chance to serve with Ammo.

## Mike Curran, Regular AMMO

When I'm in a room full of AMMO troops I've been known to state **"I've got more exposure to ammo than anybody else here!"**). The reason being; **I was born on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1941 in London, England during a German air raid.** My parents were both Irish so after our home was destroyed by a direct hit, when I was about 18 months old, they sent me to live with relatives on an island of the west coast of Ireland. I stayed there for a couple of years until the German bombing campaign slacked off. When my parents brought me back to London it was already getting hit by both the V-1 and V-2 Vengeance weapons. The V-1 was a pulse jet powered flying bomb, and as long as you could hear the engine you were relatively safe. When it ran out of fuel it was on the way down. The V-2 was a supersonic rocket that you didn't hear coming until after it hit. It was later used to start the U.S. Space Program.



My father immigrated to Boston in 1948 and in 1950 my mother, two brothers and myself followed. My experiences in the Boston area until I entered the service are another story. I joined the Air Force at the Boston Army Base on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1963. The draft was in full swing especially after the Cuban Crisis and companies refused to hire if you hadn't been in the service. Then it was off to Lackland, then to Lowry for tech school. It took me a while to get a security clearance to start school because I wasn't a citizen yet, this resulted in a lot of K.P.

After tech school I was assigned to Laon, France which had a small munitions area. While stationed there I was sent TDY to Wheelus, Libya twice, once to the on base area and once to the off base munitions storage area. The off base area had a Leper colony across the road and a number of Bedouin encampments. While there I had a lot of unusual experiences as any AMMO troop who was stationed there can relate to.

I volunteered to go to Vietnam and applied for, and received, my citizen ship while on leave in Boston on my way over. Somehow I was miss- assigned to 7<sup>th</sup> Air Division Headquarters at Ton Son Nhut so I was assigned to Danang and then to Phan Rang where I spent the majority of my tour. You spent the first two weeks in the rocket shop to build you up. (What plus or minus 80 lbs?). I was in charge of all hard bombs, (250lb to 1000 lbs.) frag clusters and cluster bombs. We even had the same PT-1 oil clusters that were dropped on Japan and German Thermite & Magnesium clusters. Believe it or not I re-enlisted while stationed there. I left Vietnam and went straight overseas to RAF Alconbury, England. In total I spent 20 years overseas in places like Korat, Thailand, Welford, Lakenheath, Suwon, Korea, Camp Derby, Italy and support of Desert Shield/Storm as well as the previously mentioned areas.

After tech school in 1963 I was never stationed in the States for more than 20 months at a time. Were they telling me to keep my Irish arse out of the country? While stationed at Grand Forks I was the WSA Superintendent and performed Level 4 Completed Maintenance Inspections on clip-in assemblies and Minuteman II warhead and bus assemblies, so I feel that I had a varied career and used to get great satisfaction being on the sending end rather than the receiving end of bombs and clusters as I was in the early 1940's. I retired at port, 1 Sept. 1992, in McGuire AFB, New Jersey after a final tour at RAF Welford.

**Mike Curran, CMSgt (Ret) USAF  
IYAAYAS!!!**



Some old photos from Viet Nam; provided by retired Ammo MSgt Donald Brodersen.



For our young Ammo troops that had Ammo family serving in past conflicts; we continue to seek old pictures to share with the rest of our Ammo community. If there's a story to go along with the picture please provide and we will include it as well as noting who provides the pictures.

Rich is always looking for old AMMO pictures for the S&F so I dug out some taken a little over 40 years ago when I was at Udorn Royal Thai Air Base in 1971 - 72. Included are: (1.) The old AMMO Area, (2.) Newer AMMO area, (3.) Preload facility and (4.) Flight line holding area. For the younger guys and gals who haven't been to that part of the world yet, those are rice paddies around the AMMO areas. Aircraft in the revetments are F-4's, this was during the time Capt's Richie, Feinstein and Debellvue all became the only "Ace's" from the Vietnam War, all flying missions from Udorn. Interesting times and oh by the way - - they wouldn't have done that without AMMO!!



(1.) The old AMMO Area



(2.) Newer AMMO area



(3.) Preload facility



(4.) Flight line holding area

If anyone has more pictures they would be willing to share with the rest of the Ammo community, scan and email them to me at [rpennington7@cox.net](mailto:rpennington7@cox.net) and we'll get them published in coming editions of the Shell and Flame Newsletter.



## Pictures from around the Ammo community.

I enjoy visiting with our Ammo troops whenever given the opportunity; I also enjoy getting pictures from around the globe with Ammo theme. We continue our quest for historical Ammo stories and pictures.



Chief Nikolas, TSgt Virgil and SSgt Virgil



A1C Mackenzie



Presenting SrA Powers a ACAMC coin



Amn Mayfield and A1C Short



SrA Powers before the accident



Who said Ammo wasn't a cool place to work

One of the longtime supporters of Ammo as well as service to our country passed away in January. I've pulled some highlights from his obituary that you will find very interesting. Ammo chiefs that served at the Pentagon and MAJCOMs knew they had someone that understood and supported efforts to procure munitions as well as advocate for new weapon systems.



Born in Feb 1920, Olen was a shining example of the "Greatest Generation." After his father died early, Olen helped support his family by working the family farm. Following college, he accepted a high school math teaching position where he met his future bride, Elizabeth (Betty) Green. They fell in love and married during the war. Olen believed in America and knew they needed men with his skills to turn the tide of war. He owned a private pilot's license, and enlisted as an aviation cadet in 1943. Following flight training, Olen flew B-25s as a navigator in the China Burma Theater. He was part of the 12th Bomb Group.

After WWII, Olen remained in the Air Force and continued to fly heavy aircraft (B-36) until he left flying for the world of supply and resource management. He was stationed primarily in the middle of the US (Strategic Air Command) but also had an assignment in Puerto Rico. Olen retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1965 after 22 years on active duty but was soon asked to come to work at the Pentagon as a civil servant. During the years at the Pentagon, he worked on the deputy chief of staff for supply and munitions. He supported efforts during the Viet Nam War, and towards the end of his career, he supported Operation Desert Storm. Olen was a quiet warrior and was fascinated by how the Pentagon operated. For him, each day of work was a joy. During those years he mentored many airmen and was a friend to all. General officers knew Olen when they were Majors and Olen's sense of honor, service, and sacrifice left an indelible mark on those he served with. Olen's fondest memories were with the enlisted force whom he admired greatly and made lifelong friends. Olen treated people with kindness and respect and years later, men and women would remember his integrity and love of the Air Force.

After 59 plus years of combined federal service, Olen retired from the Air Force and was honored at his retirement ceremony in 2001. During the ceremony he spoke passionately about honor, dedication, and his war experiences. He told his audience that the Air Force was putting too much stock in fighter aircraft and that they needed to develop a new bomber to carry the workload. He was right, and the Air Force is currently developing its next generation bomber aircraft. Following retirement, Olen was sought out and later wrote autobiographical papers for the Library of Congress archives about his WWII experiences.

In 2010 at age 90 he wrote a resume looking for a job. Thought you would enjoy reading part of the resume.

In 1981 I moved back to the munitions world. Initially I did the same kind of munitions support as I had done 10+ years earlier, albeit with a smaller budget. Gradually I moved to other responsibilities and was especially involved in development of new, more effective munitions. I remembered WW II bombing missions requiring massive bomber formations over a target area to be sure at least two or three bombs destroyed a target. Of course those big formations were subject to multiple attrition, either to enemy fire or aircraft malfunction. The munition I was especially involved in was a bomb with built in guidance. That bomb became known as the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM). It permitted the coordinates (Degrees, Minutes, Seconds) of a target to be preset in it. Then, so long as the carrier aircraft was in the general vicinity, the target would be destroyed. Today a B-1 bomber can loiter over a section of Afghanistan. If a task force on the ground is tied down, but has a forward observer with a GPS to identify the enemy position, he can call the coordinates to the B-1. Result, coordinates set in a JDAM, bomb dropped, target obliterated, and the task force can move on.

In 1990 I was advanced to civilian Deputy Chief of the Munitions and Missiles Plans and Policy Division, a sub unit of the Air Force Directorate of Maintenance. I served in that position until I retired in 2001.

We truly appreciate Lt Col Sheperd's contributions to the Ammo community.



## Olen Dean Sheperd

A true patriot, friend, colleague, and mentor to many airmen and officers, Olen Dean Sheperd passed away in Washington, Georgia on January 30th, 2013. Olen was a shining example of the "Greatest Generation." He spent almost an entire lifetime (1965 – 2001) at the Pentagon supporting the supply side of the house and before moving over to the munitions community.

If anyone has had the opportunity to spend any time at Headquarters Air Force, Pentagon, there's no doubt you would have bumped into him. Olen was the foundation for almost anything to do with munitions policy and procedures that came out of the Pentagon. He definitely was the "corporate knowledge" of the office. When a "new" division chief took over, the first order of business was to make the traditional in-processing appointment with Olen so he could get the "newbie" up to speed on all the hot issues affecting Ammo. This basically meant Olen rolled out the proverbial "fire house" and let em' have it full blast.

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Phil Kennedy, CMSgt, Retired  
IYAAYAS!!!!!!