



AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA)

July 2017

“Shell & Flame”



Issue Number XLV

31 Jul 2017

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 CMSgt Richard Gauvin Ammo Troop 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 Top Graduate, and AFCOMAC Outstanding Performer. ACA has contributed to cultural enterprises such as the Air Force Heritage Museum.

We are AMMO, and proud of it! Please visit the AMMO Chiefs web page at: <http://ammochiefs.com>.

The ACA Board of Directors:

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Vice President - Mike Robertson

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Treasurer - Mike Roylance

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Director-at-Large - "Big John" Greer

Director-at-Large - Joel "Dusty" Rhodes

Director-at-Large - John Ray

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From the President:

The weather is hot and the summer long...but the ACA continues to move along a positive road with more membership applications. It is always a good day when we receive the new applications...and the ACA can assure new members that their participation in this organization is a positive for themselves and the entire Ammo Community. We are on-track for the reunion in Branson, Missouri, in the fall of 2018. Rich McVey is our lead and is getting some excellent help from the newest ACA Chapter in San Antonio. A new note in regards to the story written by CMSgt Joe Stuart concerning the start-up of the Lakenheath Missile Shop...it's

enclosed in this Shell & Flame (See AMMO NOTAM section). This is a superb story and clearly reflects the skills and ingenuity of Air Force Ammo folks...and it written by one of our own...Joe, you get an Ammo Gold Star for your efforts. I challenge all of our members to write down their critical experiences and get them to an ACA Board member...this is the kind of basic Ammo history that we should get to our membership and capture for our history. It helps the newer generations of Ammo folks recognize just how their predecessors got the job done...and often in an environment where not all the pieces and parts were supplied. We look forward to receiving lots more of these types of inputs for our Shell & Flame. Keep your powder dry!

Van

From the Vice President:

Caveating what Van has stated concerning AMMO history, I'm going to go out on a limb and dedicate this edition of the Shell and Flame to "AMMO Heritage". Heritage is defined as "something that passes from one generation to the next in a social group; a way of life or traditional culture". Well, if that don't define what we do in AMMO then I don't know what does! The 1992 paper included below (AMMO NOTAMs section) by then MSgt Richard Bussell; and now AMMO Chief (Ret.) Bussell reminds me of the old saying "AMMO was AMMO way before Aircraft were Aircraft". We don't generally have a specific theme for our Newsletter editions, but in this case we have no less than 25 pages devoted to Heritage articles and papers, so I'm thinking that qualifies as a theme. Not only do I encourage you to read, or re-read them, maybe even pass a few of them on to your bosses, mid-level and junior troops, civilians, and contractors who may have never seen them. It never hurts to educate ourselves or others on our chosen profession...Thanks for all that you do!

Mike

From the Secretary:

Greetings to all, hope this finds everyone well and enjoying your summer. It's been an exceptionally hot one here in the Southwest, but we can deal with that. Certainly a small issue compared to the severe storms, flooding, mud slides and forest fires some of you might have experienced so far.

Our membership continues to grow slowly but steadily, most encouraging are some new Active Duty / Reserve additions. These folks, along with additional retired members, help ensure the ACA's existence into the years to come.

I'm glad to see some articles appear pertaining to AMMO history, I think Van also has some more to say about it in this issue. This is good stuff folks and I encourage more of the same.

You all continue to stay well and be safe out there.

Jack

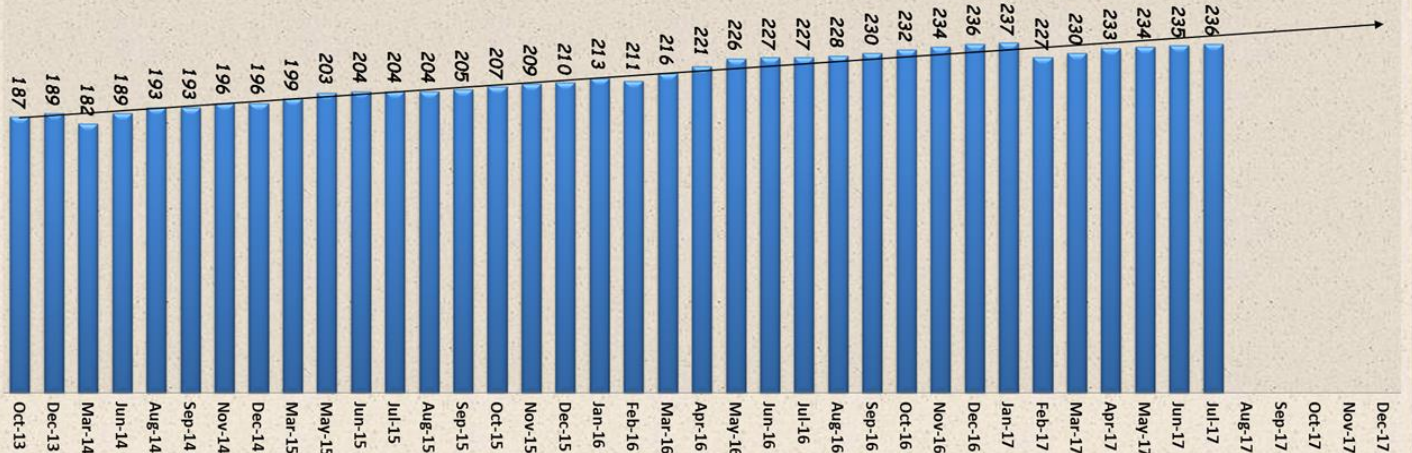
From the Treasurer:

ACA Membership Status as of 11 July 2017

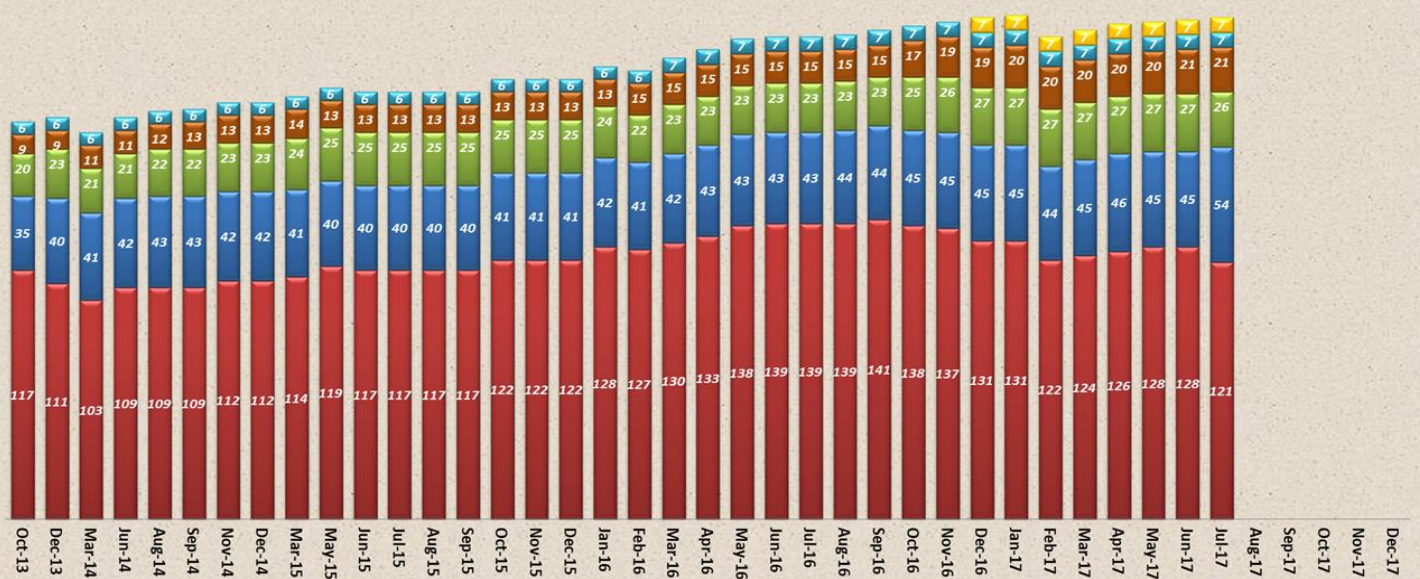
Membership Totals by Chapter and Type

Chapter	Total	Chief Life	Chief Annual	Associate Life	Associate Annual	Honorary Spouse	Honorary	Shell and Flame
Lone Star	7	4	3					
Mid West	7	7						
Wasatch Front	21	16	2	2			1	
Mid Atlantic	27	20	2	3	2			
Emerald Coast	45	25		13	1	4	1	1
At Large	128	98	2	13	5	6	2	2
Totals	235	170	9	31	8	10	4	3

ACA Membership Growth



Members @ Large Emerald Coast Mid Atlantic Wasatch Front Mid West Lone Star



Chapter News

Lone Star Chapter (ACALSC)

With summer temperatures now reaching 100 plus degrees most of the Lone Star Membership has gone on vacation to cooler climates. Future Chapter planning includes: A General Membership Meeting and BBQ (to possibly include inviting local AMMO Troops) for one of the last two Saturdays in Oct. more info to follow. Ongoing discussion of a Chapter Holiday party, but no date or times have been locked down. Lying of Christmas Wreaths at Ft Sam Veteran Grave Sites will occur in Mid-December by chapter members. And discussion for volunteering in support of the Warrior and Family Support Center (WFSC) at SAMMC is being considered for general membership support.

ACALSC Vice President
Fred Schoettler

Mid-Atlantic Chapter (ACAMC)



Since our last input in March, the Ammo Chiefs Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter (ACAMC) again led the way in supporting our Ammo Community both home and abroad.



We worked the April 29-30 Richmond International Raceway (RIR) fundraiser and received a \$4,200.00 check. We sent a \$1,260.00 donation to the Joint Base Langley-Eustis Ammo Morale Team (AMT) for their assistance.

We held our last general membership meeting on June 24th at the 1 FW Munitions Flight administrative building on Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA. Eleven Members and three Associate Members were in attendance. With four proxy votes, we easily conducted Chapter business.

Prior to the meeting, we held a BBQ for the active duty and Air National Guard Ammo troops. Eddie Fuquay, John Usefara, and Jake Jacobsen acquired the food and performed duties as our master grillers. Burgers, dogs, chips, water, soda, salads, and condiments were provided to the group.

Bill McCullough
ACAMC Secretary-Treasurer



While the troops were eating, we held drawings for eight \$25.00 Visa cards.



Our efforts to have Ammocoin.com to make a new coin with the chapter logo John Matthews developed finally came to fruition. The new coins were done on June 23rd and arrived on the 25th.



The ACAMC is gearing up for our next fundraiser at the Richmond International Raceway on September 8-9. The proceeds go a long way in supporting our Troops-in-Need, award, social, and Care Package programs.

Jack Miller got the summer Care Packages out the door. He collected some material goods and he spent about \$1,600.00 on other goodies and shipping. A special thanks goes out to the Lone Star Chapter for their \$1,250.00 contribution which was used for both the 2016 Holiday and 2017 Summer Care Package programs. Jake Jacobsen provided information from five austere locations with gender, quantity of personnel, and point of contact information. We received messages from all five units expressing great appreciation for the packages."

The membership continued the biennial review of the chapter Constitution and Bylaws. Minor recommendations were made and the updated document will be e-mailed to the membership for final approval.

With the help of Rich Pennington, we finally got a copy of our signed charter hung up in the Ammo Heritage Room at Nellis AFB.



We sent out \$50.00 Visa cards, certificates, letters, and ACAMC coins to the following award winners: MSgt George Coppock (Lance P. Sijan USAF Leadership Award - Langley), MSgt Christopher Cummins (ACC/A4 Director of Logistics NCO of the Year - Langley), MSgt Lucas Sanders (SNCO of the Year - Pope), TSgt Amanda Anderson (ACC Outstanding Munitions Supervisor of the Quarter - Shaw), SSgt Timothy Sypersma (ACC Outstanding Munitions Supervisor of the Year - Seymour-Johnson), and AIC Benjamin Latimer (Airman of the Year - Pope).

The ACAMC sent congratulatory cards to SMSgt selectees George Coppock, Stephen Dunham, James Thompson, and Mark Gilligan from Langley AFB. We are trying to ascertain if there are any other promotees within our area of responsibility.

Our membership is currently 22 Chiefs and 6 Associate members. Jimmy Taylor is our newest Associate Member. We will be losing Chris Arnold soon as he will soon be retiring from his post at the Pentagon and moving to Kentucky. We wish the best of luck to him and Elizabeth. They both have contributed to our Chapter goals. The Chapter donated \$50.00 to help pay for his farewell gift.

Our next meeting will be held on September 23rd at Captain Billy's Seafood restaurant in Newburg, MD.

Midwest Chapter:

Chief (Ret.) Don Myers, HQ AFMC and the Midwest Chapter Vice President reports HQ AFMC has awarded the following AFMC Outstanding Munitions Professional Awards for the 2nd QTR 2017:

AFMC OUTSTANDING MUNITIONS PROFESSIONAL AWARD for 2nd Quarter 2017:

AMN:	AIC Kilvio K. Lluberes	96 MXS, Eglin AFB, FL
NCO:	TSgt Benjamin L. Cheng	AFLCMC/EBH, Hill AFB, UT
SNCO:	MSgt John W. Johnson	96 MXS, Eglin AFB, FL
CIVILIAN:	Mr. Douglas P. Sparks	412 MXS, Edwards AFB, CA

The ACA congratulates these Outstanding AFMC AMMO Professionals!

Emerald Coast Chapter (ACAECC)



During this period we had two membership meetings, one in April, held at the Niceville Helen Back where we discussed the upcoming Ammo Call on 20 May and the Charity golf tourney on 9 June. Our second meeting in July (see pics) was also held at the Niceville Helen Back.

The Ammo Call went well even the rain couldn't dampen the spirits with four large mugs of adult beverages being consumed by the 160 plus folks attending the Ammo Call at the Helen Back on the Island in Ft Walton Beach. Many hot pizzas were also devoured before the rains came. The troops told many lies and enjoyed the company of their Brothers and Sisters. We had folks as far away West as Texas and as far North as New Hampshire, plus all over the South. It was great seeing all the Ammo troops both young and OLD and sharing the memories. (more pics)

We had 99 golfers participating in our Annual Charity golf tournament which was held to benefit homeless Veterans with the help of the Okaloosa/Walton County Mental Health Association we were able to raise \$1,426.01 for that cause. Over the past five years we have been able to raise \$7,968.93 toward this cause. I want to thank our members and individual and corporate sponsors for allowing us to support this worthwhile cause. (See attached check presentation pic)

Also that same weekend the South Eastern Ammo Bowl was held at the Niceville Sports Complex with 10 teams competing for the coveted title of champion. Moody AFB came out of the loser's bracket taking two from Eglin to become the overall 2017 Champ. Congrats to a great Champion. Our Chapter donated \$250.00 to the tournament and Doris and John Greer donated another \$276.00, raising that amount by serving cold adult beverages to the thirsty troops. All-in-all a great weekend for the fAMMOly and we hope to do it again next year.

IYAAYAS

EMERALD COAST AMMO CALL





EMERALD COAST COMMITTEE MEETING



EMERALD COAST LADIES



EMERALD COAST GOLF TOURNEY - CHARITY DONATION



IYAAAYAS!

Wasatch Front Chapter (ACAWFC)



The ACA Wasatch Front Chapter held a Quarterly General Membership Meeting on 22 Mar 2017 at the Argentine Corner restaurant in Clearfield, UT.

Subject: ACA Wasatch Chapter Meeting Minutes

1. Date/Time/Location: March 16, 2016 / 11:00 / Argentine Corner / Clearfield, UT

2. Purpose: General Membership Meeting

3. Attendees Present:

Shawn Scott (President)
Vicki Lemke (Secretary/Treasurer /AD)
Dave Calandra
Mike Eisenberg

Mike Robertson
Joe D'Arco
Keith Jackson
Chet Atkins

4. Old Business:

a. Treasury report: was \$435.00 / now \$456.00 / 100 chapter coins left

1. Joe D'Arco bought 3 coins (\$21)

b. Coins are in and available. Contact Shawn Scott or Vicki Lemke if you need a coin (\$7).

c. Reminder the AMMO Breakfast is held every 3rd Saturday of the month at the American Legion in Clearfield

5. New Business:

a. The 7th Annual AMMO BBQ is set for 29 July 2017, at Centennial Park. We have been asked to donate. (Subsequent vote determined we will donate \$100).

b. A request for memorabilia has gone out to any and all AMMO troops to donate to the 649 MUNS and 388 Munitions Flight Heritage Rooms. Please contact Vicki Lemke and/or Keith Jackson if you would like to donate.

c. The next combined AMMO call will be in May (date TBD). Info will go out when the date is set.

6. The meeting was adjourned at: 12:00 P.M.

7. The next meeting is scheduled for: June 2017

Vicki Lemke

Secretary/Treasurer, ACA Wasatch Chapter

IYAAYAS

Subject: ACA Wasatch Chapter Meeting Minutes

The ACA Wasatch Front Chapter held a Quarterly General Membership Meeting on 21 Jun 2017 at 1100 at Wingers in Clearfield, UT. Official meeting minutes to be released at a later date. Meeting was attended by:

Shawn Scott

Chief Vikki Lemke

Chief Keith Jackson

Mike Robertson

Chief Lemke discussed current event around Hill:

- Wasatch Chapter donated \$100 to the Hill AFB Annual AMMO BBQ to be held on 29 Jul 2017

- Chief Jackson purchased a Wasatch Chapter Coin

- Mike Robertson discussed some current ACA matters:

-- Passed around ACA Flyers to the group and encouraged members to post them in their work areas.

-- Reminded the group that Associate members do not have to be Chiefs and that ACA has we've gained several new Associate members over the past quarter.

The 7th Annual Ammo BBQ picnic was held on 29 Jul 2017 at Centennial Park on Hill AFB with over 150 Ammo Troops and their families in attendance. The ACA Wasatch Front Chapter donated \$100 and was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the event's organizers Mr. Tim Matuszak and Mr. Rich Leseberg.



7th ANNUAL AMMO BBQ 2017



WHEN: SATURDAY, 29 JULY 2017
WHERE: Centennial Park (ON BASE)
TIME: 10:30 TO ?????
FOOD SERVED: 12:30
COST: Per Person = \$3.00
\$2.00 PER KID UNDER 12 YEARS

FOOD & DRINKS: Hamburgers, Hotdogs,
Beer Brats, Chicken & Soda, Water,
Anything else is up to each family

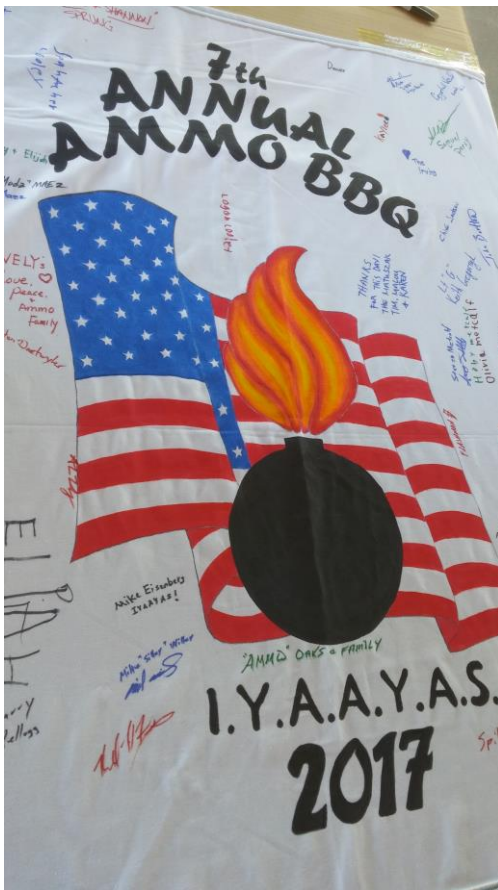
COVER DISH: Bring a dish to share (each
AMMO family, single folks can bring fixing
please contact Richard for more info)

ACTIVITIES: Kids - water park, swings,
Slides. Adults - horseshoes, music, games

RSVP & Pay by 20 July 2017,
family size and type of cover dish.
Contact Richard, Tim or unit POC

Richard Leseberg (richard.leseberg@us.af.mil) or 775-2504)
Tim Matuszak (timothy.matuszak@us.af.mil) or 777-2292)





THE HILL AFB AMMO COMMUNITY SAYS FAREWELL TO MAJOR G!

We say a fond farewell to Major Lupe Gutierrez, Commander of the 388 MXS (formerly EMS) at Hill AFB. He and his wife, Georgia, have been staunch supporters of the AMMO community and pivotal in building esprit de corps wherever they go! Congrats on his recent promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and we wish them well as they PCS to their new assignment at the Air Force Inspection Agency in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



AFCOMAC - ACA Outstanding Performer Awards

Subject: Class 17-003 ACA Winner, TSgt Casshea Coleman

The latest ACA Outstanding Performer Award from the AFCOMAC. TSgt Casshea Coleman from Spangdahlem AB, Germany did an outstanding job and excelled during IRON FLAG week!

BENJAMIN PADILLA, CMSgt, USAF
Superintendent, 9th Munitions Squadron
Air Force Combat Ammunition Center
AMMO I.Y.A.A.Y.A.S!



363rd TRS Sheppard AMMO Schoolhouse

AMMO apprentice students are challenged by their schoolhouse Flight Chief to excel and we are proud to present Sheppard's top Ammo Performers for January through March 2016...those who have truly reached the top in the three A's...academics, aptitude and attitude. On behalf of the ACA, the class Top Graduate is presented with the ACA Top Graduate certificate and the ACA Spirit Award coin. Without the deeply rooted commitment of the instructor cadre, these students could not have achieved such high honor...now THAT's AMMO family at its best!

ACA Top Graduates, April to July 2017



AB Nicolas A. Paris

Class Number: PDS17020-2
Home Town: Las Vegas, NV
Gaining Base: Minot AFB, ND
Grad Date: 25 May 2017



A1C Misael Soto

Class Number: PDS17020-3
Home Town: Brawley, CA
Gaining Base: Ellsworth AFB, SD
Grad Date: 25 May 2017



A1C Chirstjan E. Campbell

Class Number: 17021
Home Town: Hagerstown, MD
Gaining Base: Kadena AB, Japan
Grad Date: 6 June 2017

A1C Tyler A Eggert
Class Number: 17022



A1C Lonoke Zachariah Payne
Class Number: 17022



SSgt Jessica Quackenbush
Class Number: 17023
Home Town: Destin, Florida
Gaining Base: Seymour Johnson





A1C Daniel McFarlane
Class Number: 17024
Gaining Base: Eielson AFB



SrA Kevin S. Eberhart
Class Number: 17024



A1C Justin W Black
Class Number: 17025
Home Town: Tucson, AZ
Gaining Base: Mountain Home AFB

A1C Josef J. Molanr
 Class Number: 17025-2
 Home Town: Lambertville, MI
 Gaining Base: 180th FW, Toledo, OH
 Grad Date: 30 June 2017



SrA Timothy Leon Riggins
 Class Number: 17026

TSgt Johnathan Gaffney
 Class Number: 17027





A1C Geoffrey P Hurner
 Class Number: 17028
 Home Town: Boise, ID
 Gaining Base: Gowen Field, ID
 Grad Date: 1 Aug 2017

AMMO NOTAMs...

Worldwide “AMMO Day”

Two AMMO Troops, James Caufield and Bret Noe, from the Arizona AVA are the original "architects" of this proposal who initially approached Jimmy with their idea. Jimmy Taylor then suggested it to Fred O'Hern and John Greer that the AMMO Veterans and AMMO Chief Associations co-sponsor and select a name / title and date for a worldwide "AMMO Day." Initial reactions have been generally in favor of this initiative and the ACA Board of Directors (BOD) has even suggested "AMMO Awareness Day" for the name of the occasion with the actual date for implementation still being considered.

In Jimmy's words " AMMO Day would essentially be a day on which Ammo Troops would get together for a social and fun day, ranging from BBQs, softball games, beer calls, and maybe as simple as inviting the Ammo Troops in your neighborhood to share a beer at the VFW."

With the number of AMMO social events already on the calendar for the rest of this year, we anticipate a start date sometime in the Spring or Summer of 2018. Fred suggested we consider Armed Forces Day (third Saturday in May) as it would be in line with the creation of the Ordnance Department on 14 May, 1812. Bart Ivy has suggested either the 1st Saturday in July to line up with the creation of the Army Air Force (AAF) Ammunition Career Field in 1945 or the 1st Saturday in March to coincide with the creation of the Air Force Munitions Career Field in 1953. These dates were pulled from background papers/historical documents and may be debatable, but we think they are accurate to the best of our knowledge. Again, your feedback/corrections would be appreciated.

Our two organizations shouldn't arbitrarily designate this event or the name and date of "AMMO Day" without running the proposal by the respective general memberships. That also includes as many other non-member AMMO troops as possible through the social media sites for all comments/suggestions and recommendations to approve/disapprove the suggestion entirely. Any and all feedback is welcome, the sooner the better.

Finally, all AMMO Troops need to give some consideration to this proposal. Our two AMMO organizations (AVA and ACA) would offer as much promotional support and advertisement to AMMO Day as possible. It would be an excellent opportunity for Active Duty, Guard, Reserve AMMO organizations, regional ACA Chapters as well as any Retired/ex-AMMO Troops in groups or individually everywhere to get together socially in remembrance of our AMMO Heritage.

Note: This idea has also been posted to the ACA website where comments and suggestions can be made on the idea.

F-AMMO-ly Roots...

The following article was originally authored by then MSgt Richard Bussell. He served 28-years on active duty and retired as a Chief Master Sergeant (Ammo Chief). He entered civil service immediately thereafter and is currently Chief, Analytics Division, HQ Air Force Inspection Agency, Secretary of the Air Force Inspector General, Kirtland AFB, NM. He has a combined service-time with the USAF of nearly 43 years.

Chief (Ret.) Bussell has graciously agreed to the ACA posting the article in our Shell & Flame newsletter.

AFEHRI File 100.089

Research Materials/Source Documents STUDENT PAPERS

FILE TITLE: Background Paper on The History of AF Specialty Code (416X0) Munitions Systems Specialist

AUTHOR: MSgt R. C. Bussell, SNCOA Student, 13 Apr 1992

Reviewed by:

AFEHRI Representative G. R. Akin date 30 DEC 97

EPC Representative Joe C. De date 9 Feb 98

Scanner Operator Sandra J. Amidon date 9 Feb 98

APPROVED BY: Gary R. Akin
GARY R. AKIN, CMSgt, USAF
Director
Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute

BACKGROUND PAPER
ON
THE HISTORY OF AIR FORCE SPECIALTY CODE 461X0
MUNITIONS SYSTEMS SPECIALIST

The purpose of this paper is to provide a historical background on the development of Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) 461XX, Munitions Systems Specialist. The history of this career field is actually much older than the U.S. Air Force itself. The nature of the work is such that it originated long before aircraft were invented. In fact, it's likely that special precautions were taken for the storage and handling of gunpowder shortly after its development sometime in the 1300's. Of course the munitions of long ago were exceptionally crude and through the centuries they've obviously become much more sophisticated, but they are still inherently dangerous and deserving of our utmost respect. The men and women of our armed forces who endeavor to enter the munitions occupation are no less deserving of that same level of respect, for their history is long and distinguished. Irrespective of their branch of service, be it Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard, someone has to be the keeper of the bullets. Generally, that 'someone' is an enlisted person and in the Air Force this couldn't be more true. In the modern Air Force these enlisted men and women are formally known as Munitions Systems Specialists. But as a result of their proud heritage they prefer to be called "AMMO Troops", and this is their story.

I'll begin with a historical chronology of sorts that traces the roots of the modern day Munitions Systems Specialist from the time of the American Revolution right up to the point that the Air Force became a separate service component. Then, I'll concentrate on how the munitions systems career field has evolved into a diversified, yet highly specialized combat support

MSgt Bussell/HQ AFLC/LGW/7-8286/rcb/13 April 92

function. Finally, I'll get out my crystal ball and try to see what's in the future for those who choose to make this line of work their forte in life. I've personally devoted 17 years of my life thus far to the profession of arms now known as the United States Air Force, all of it consumed in the study of munitions support. However, those of us that currently 'carry the flame' owe much of our modern-day success to those that preceded us. It's only fitting to begin with a historical acknowledgment of our ancestry.

The Air Force munitions systems specialist career field was developed from air components of the original U.S. Army Ordnance Corps. According to a handout prepared by the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, the Ordnance Corps dates to the early days of the American Revolution (9:--). In 1775 the Continental Congress appointed a 'Commissary General of the Artillery Stores' to provide ordnance material. The appointee, Ezekiel Cheever, was in effect the first Chief of Ordnance. However, the Ordnance Department was not an official body until it was formally organized by an Act of Congress on 14 May, 1812. The functions they performed were quite broad. Their responsibilities included issuing supplies to troops in the field, working with industry in the development of manufacturing techniques, improving machine tools, and keeping records of purchases and stocks on hand. They were also responsible for operating several arsenals and armories.

According to an article in the Military Collector and Historian, the Ordnance Department was merged with artillery on 2 March, 1821 and later re-established as the Ordnance Corps in April, 1832 (12:Vol. 5). Their responsibilities for storing and maintaining the nations stockpile of munitions has apparently remained virtually unchanged since that time. Even

today there exists an agreement whereby the Army is established as the Single Manager of Conventional Ammunition. It is their responsibility to maintain control of all conventional munitions that are used by multiple departments of the military services and stored in the continental United States (6:--). Essentially, this means that the Army continues to store and maintain most of the conventional munitions in the U.S. arsenal much like they have since the birth of our nation. Why then, do we have a munitions systems career field in the Air Force instead of letting the Army provide the support. The answer lies in the development of training methods to accommodate aircraft as warfighting instruments.

A book entitled The Ordnance Department, Planning Munitions For War, provides a glimpse of ordnance training in the pre-World War II era (17:122). It shows how a series of 9 month ordnance courses provided instructions in the repair, maintenance and storage of Ordnance material from 1920 thru 1940 for 'groups of carefully selected enlisted men' who had already been in the service for at least 2 years. It's important to note that graduates of these courses were considered *generalists* in the ordnance field. The extended training programs provided them with a versatile background in what was to become several ordnance specialties. As we entered World War II (WW-II) it became obvious to the leaders of that time that the generalist force was no longer practical.

The generalists were graduating from a lengthy training course and being thrown into an enormous variety of field functions for which they may, or may not have been qualified. According to one 1944 report, ordnance roadside service stations were established by ordnance-men at 50 mile intervals along the German autobahn to provide maintenance capability to ammunition haulers

(14:--). This effort apparently met with great success. However, another report by Colonel N. M. Lynde, Deputy Ordnance Officer, Headquarters, First U.S. Army, 15 December 1943 to 5 February 1945, detailed how, "Personnel of Ordnance evacuation companies (collecting) learned to drive all types of equipment on the job. They also learned rigging and obtained a knowledge of mines and booby-traps by actual experience." But an important caveat followed this statement. He said, "In handling enemy ammunition frequent accidents occurred among officers and enlisted men of Ordnance evacuation companies of the First and Fifteenth U.S. Armies while operating in the collecting role (15:--)."

There can be no doubt that specialized training could have prevented accidents such as those mentioned above and the Army may have already recognized this problem in a much broader context. The need to begin the process of separating support for Army Air Forces from that of ground forces became increasingly evident. But it's not clear whether they truly saw this need and made conscious changes or if they simply reacted to individual problems in a consistent fashion. Nevertheless, the Army Air Force required technical specialists and leadership began sorting out how to train them as such.

General Kutz, who became the chief of Military Training Division in 1943 described the problem and its solution in simplistic terms. He said, "We discarded the time-consuming endeavor of trying to train a Jack-of-all-trades and concentrated, instead, upon turning out highly skilled technicians in specialized fields (17:125)." In actuality the U.S. Air Force Munitions Systems field sprang forth from this specialization effort. In fact, the Army Air Corps had apparently seen the need for specialized training of its support

troops as early as 1942 and had established an Ordnance Technical School at Westover Field, Massachusetts on 25 February 1943 (11:--).

According to a letter from the commander of the Westover Field school to the Commanding General, Air Forces, E.D.C. and First Air Force, Mitchel Field, New York, this school had the specific purpose of providing training for ammunition and armament specialists who were to be sent to fighter squadrons in support of the war effort. All students received the same course for the first 11 days of training. They were then split into two sections consisting of ammunitions handlers and armorers. During the last 3 days of training they were brought back together for instructions in general supply, bomb disposal and general automotive information.

If the school at Westover was in fact the *first* technical training course specifically for aircraft related munitions personnel, Sgt W. McIntosh of the 320th Fighter Squadron, and Sgt T.B. Weiler of the 322nd Fighter Squadron were the first technical training instructors for what is now known as the munitions systems career field. In any case, it had been recognized that there was an inherent difference between munitions support for ground forces and that for air forces. They were also beginning to see some differences between the armament (now known as 462X0 Weapons Maintenance) career field and the ammunitions (now known as 461X0 munitions systems) career field.

The dissimilarities and interdependency of these two fields of study were evidenced by a series of combat reports to Western Technical Training Command in 1943. There was concern by field commanders that graduates of armament courses at both Lowry and Buckley Fields, Colorado were insufficiently trained (10:1960-1966). One of these letters indicated that several serious accidents had occurred while loading fuze demolition bombs larger than 500 lbs. on

tactical aircraft. Fuzing and finning procedures were normally accomplished by Ordnance Corps personnel after which the complete rounds were delivered to Army Air Force personnel for installation on the aircraft. It was recognized that close coordination between these two groups of people could help prevent accidents. But, specialization had become so prolific that it was often difficult to tell who was responsible for accomplishing given responsibilities.

Air Evaluation Board reports had generated some concern that organizational and training problems were difficult to overcome throughout WW-II (15:--). The development of numerous specialties was apparently a reactionary attempt to overcome these problems. Army Air Force Manual (AAFM) 35-1, Military Personnel Classification and Duty Assignment, dated 1 July 1945, showed the following breakdown of munitions related jobs (7:55-86).

<u>MOS*</u>	<u>Duty Title</u>
505	Ammunition Supply Technician
815	Ordnance Supply Technician
901	Ammunition Handler
949	Ammunition Renovator
662	Aerial Torpedo Mechanic
967	Aircraft Loading Technician
786	Toxic Gas Handler

* Military Occupational Specialty (MOS)

By the time the Air Force was established as a separate service component in 1947 it appeared that specialization was here to stay. By 1949 the list above had grown to more than 20 different specialties that were associated with armament, according to a MOS listing with proposed Air Force Specialties

(1:--). By March 1953 that list of 20 specialties had evolved to those listed below according to Air Force Manual 35-1, Warrant Officer and Airman Classification Manual (3:46-1 thru 46-25).

<u>AFSC*</u>	<u>Duty Title</u>
46100	Munitions Superintendent
46170	Munitions Supervisor
46150	Munitions Specialist
46171	Munitions Disposal Technician
46200	Weapons Maintenance Superintendent
46270	Weapons Maintenance Supervisor
46250	Weapons Mechanic
46300	Nuclear Weapons Mechanical Superintendent
46370	Nuclear Weapons Mechanical Technician
46350	Nuclear Weapons Mechanical Specialist
46010	Munitions and Weapons Maintenance Helper

* Air Force Specialty Code

Note: There were numerous shred-out, or sub-specialties that are not shown.

The duties accomplished by each of these specialties were now more clearly defined than ever before. No longer were the lines of support so uncertain as they had been in the days of the Ordnance and Armament Specialists of WW-II. In 1953 the 461XX specialty was primarily responsible for the storage, assembly, maintenance, handling, and inspection of all conventional munitions, and was the feeder specialty for munitions disposal duties. The duties have remained essentially unchanged since then with the exception of some merging of functions and changing of AFSC number designators. The following is not

intended to be an all-inclusive narrative of alterations to the field since 1953. Rather, it highlights the more significant changes that have been made.

By December of 1959, AFM 35-1, Airman Classification Manual, no longer showed the 46100 designator and had replaced it with AFSC 46190. This indicated the removal of Warrant Officers from the Superintendent position and realignment of the AFSC's to match the new skill level qualification standards for enlisted people (2:46-1). The 46100 was reinstated as a Chief Enlisted Managers Code (CEM) in a 1978 change to AFR 39-1 Airman Classification Regulation (4:46-1). In 1980 AFR 39-1 reflected the merger of the 316X1L tactical missile career field with 461XX (5:46-1). This enlarged the 461XX career field to include maintenance of guided and unguided missiles and bombs. Also, the 46171 specialty was apparently changed at some point in the 1960's to create a separate career field for Explosive Ordnance Disposal. The designator for this field became 464X0 and remains that way as of this writing. Looking back, we can see that the evolution of the 461XX career field is long and tumultuous. Yet, due to ever increasing technology, the AMMO warriors of today face nearly as much diversification as the Ordnance Corps did during WW-II. The modern complexities of the art of war continue to change the face our world, our nation, and our Air Force.

The period from about 1958 to 1972 was truly the dawn of a new technological era in the age of aviation as it relates to munitions improvements. Senior leaders in the Air Force munitions community saw this era coming and in 1959 they convened a conference to discuss improved ways of doing business (13:--). This was apparently the first World-Wide Airmunitions Conference. It was held at the Newhouse Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah and covered a broad range of topics. Agreements made during this conference laid

the groundwork for how we 461X0's manage airmunitions to this day.

Training was but one of the items on the agenda at this historical conference and of course the plight of the AMMO troop was discussed. Major J. W. Waller, Chief, Armament Training Division, HQ Air Training Command described a problem wherein the 461X0 was being trained to handle, store, maintain, and inspect munitions, but after arriving at his duty station was being tested on how to load bombs on aircraft. This growth process indicated that there was still a misunderstanding of what specific functions to use an individual for at the unit level. Specialization would only work if the individual was used in the capacity for which he or she was trained. Apparently this problem was later overcome since the 461X0 was primarily used to store, handle, assemble, maintain and inspect munitions throughout the Vietnamese conflict.

Vietnam was to be the first true test of the modern-day munitions systems professional. According to a report on the establishment of the Airmunitions Transportation System, the Air Force requested its first 18,929 tons of munitions in 1961 to support the Vietnamese conflict (8:--). Although this report doesn't provide a complete picture, and actual figures are not possible to obtain, we know that more than 3 million short tons of airmunitions were sent to South East Asia (SEA) during the period of 1965 to 1968 alone. What this means is that there were AMMO troops on the other end of the pipeline transporting, storing, maintaining, assembling, and inspecting all of these assets. Their *primary* job, however, was storing, handling, and assembling an ever-increasing array of complex airmunitions. Maintaining and inspecting the munitions is mostly a peacetime mission.

The difficulty of the role these AMMO warriors played was perhaps best

portrayed in a recently declassified SEA report on Out-Country Strike Operations (16:26). This report discussed organizational problems detailing the need to have both 461XX and 462XX personnel in the same squadron in order to adequately support all types of aircraft. It also highlighted the diversification and complexities of the munitions support mission by showing the transportation shortages encountered, storage problems, and general logistical support difficulties that existed throughout the entire period of the SEA conflict. The important thing to remember here is that the AMMO troops always came through. For them, 'AMMO ingenuity' was not just a catch-phrase, it was, and is, a life-style. That same spirit lives on today and was most recently evidenced in the Desert Shield/Desert Storm conflict.

Yes, AMMO troops were in South West Asia (SWA) also, assembling bombs as long as airplanes were there to fly them. At this writing, more than a year after Desert Storm has ended, AMMO troops are still there. For you see, the work of the AMMO troop isn't over when the last battle ends. He or she must stay to disassemble the munitions that are left over and ensure they are repackaged, stored, shipped, or destroyed. It's a huge undertaking that involves millions of rounds of ammunition and bomb components, and hundreds of thousands of bombs. The job requires the AMMO troop to stay long after everyone else has gone home to victory parades. But you won't hear any complaints from these 'grunts' of the Air Force. They are true warriors who know what's required and are willing to do it. So what lies in the future for this career field and those that will choose it as a way of life?

The answer is simple. The world has not changed so much that we are no longer required to fight wars. Unless lasers or other technological inventions replace munitions as killing devices there will always be a need

for someone to get the right quantity, of the right munitions, to the right airplane, at the right time, to fly them against our enemy. My guess is that AMMO troops will always be there to do just that. As you have seen, their history is rich in accomplishment. Before closing, let's look one more time at the high points of their great history.

The lineage of the U.S. Air Force AMMO troop began with the labor pains of our great nation when the Ordnance Department was first formed as a branch of the Army. Later, as aircraft were developed and seen as instruments of war it became necessary to begin separating munitions support for aircraft from that provided to ground equipment and troops. WW-II set the stage for a dramatic shift in the types of training that enlisted munitions and armaments workers were required to undergo.

The leaders of that time recognized they were on the brink of a technological revolution in the age of aviation. Soon after, the Army Air Force became the U.S. Air Force and there was a short time that a sort of grey area existed concerning the real tasks required of the 461X0 vise that of his armament (462) counterparts. Vietnam proved that both were needed and each had a distinctly separate yet interrelated function to perform.

AMMO troops once again answered the call of battle during the Persian Gulf conflict and at this writing, many are still in the desert sands of South West Asia. These are the modern-day warriors that carry the flame of liberty. None are more dedicated to the cause of freedom nor more willing to risk their lives to defend it. They know that many have fallen in the path before them and that those who pick up the flame must be willing to carry it high, for it lights the way of a free nation.

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# Sometimes We Forget...

We sometimes forget that there are Ammo Troops in the other services whose history is inter-winded with our own.

On the 15th of July the US Navy commissioned a destroyer (at Pearl Harbor) named in honor Chief Aviation Ordnanceman John W. Finn. Chief Finn was awarded the first Medal of Honor in World War II for his heroism during the attack of December the 7th. His citation says it all:

*"For extraordinary heroism, distinguished service, and devotion above and beyond the call of duty. During the first attack by Japanese airplanes on the Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Territory of Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, he promptly secured and manned a .50 caliber machine gun mounted on an instruction stand in a completely exposed section of the parking ramp, which was under heavy enemy machine gun strafing fire. Although painfully wounded many times, he continued to man this gun and to return the enemy's fire vigorously and with telling effect throughout the enemy strafing and bombing attacks and with complete disregard for his own personal safety. It was only by specific orders that he was persuaded to leave his post to seek medical attention. Following first-aid treatment, although obviously suffering much pain and moving with great difficulty, he returned to the squadron area and actively supervised the rearming of returning planes. His extraordinary heroism and conduct in this action are considered to be in keeping with the highest traditions of the Naval Service."*

Our Ammo compatriots in the Navy can be justly proud of this great honor extended to the memory of Chief Finn.

The Ammo Chiefs Association salute our brother Chief with the Navy Ammo Cheer, IYA-AO-YAS



Above article was provided by AMMO Chief (Ret.) Fred O'Hern

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# **The Creation of the Missile Shop at the 48<sup>th</sup> TFW, RAF Lakenheath, England, 1980**

The Answer is yes, now, what's the question?

This was painted on the personnel door to the Missile Shop at RAF Lakenheath in 1980. It's been over 30 years, but I thought I would try to recount the development of the missile shop at RAF Lakenheath. I'm sure there are some holes in this story as I had cancer a couple of years ago due to Agent Orange exposure and my memory isn't what it used to be.

As the first NCOIC of the shop I thought I would try to tell the story of how the shop came to be and mention some of the very outstanding Ammo troops that made this organization a success. Our munitions branch chief in 1979 was SMSgt (Chief Selectee) Larry J.W. Eaton, now working in the big bomb dump in the sky. We also had Chief Stiefel Johnson who floated between the 463 shop and AFK in those days. I had just arrived from Kwang Ju AB Korea and was a recently promoted TSgt working in the Munitions Inspection section with TSgts Jackie Hail and Don Berry, SSgts Don Thompson, Matt Sanders, Joe Gast, and A1Cs Barry Ray and Bob Harmon. I happened to attend a staff meeting for Jackie Hail in the fall of '79 when Chief Eaton announced we were adding laser guided bombs to the F-111Fs already formidable arsenal. While maintenance and inspection of LGB guidance sections would have normally fallen to the missile shop, Lakenheath had no missile shop and no missile AFSC (316X11) personnel. To make matters worse, the 316X1L career field was being absorbed into the 461 career field at that time. Chief Eaton needed someone to step up and build the shop. I remember there was considerable grumbling about how we were already maxed out and adding another system would break us. Being the new kid and just sitting in for Jackie Hail at the meeting, I kept my opinion to myself. After the meeting, I told Chief Eaton, I would be glad to take on the task of setting up the Missile Maintenance Section as the Inspection Section was already staffed with some of the best of the best and I was one of 3 TSgts. He invited me to attend the next staff meeting. Chief Eaton calmly announced that I would be standing up the new Missile Shop and that I would be selecting people from the other shops to help standup the organization. He explained that this was non-negotiable and all the other NCOICs were to provide their full support. There was some grumbling but Chief Eaton quickly and aggressively reiterated this was nonnegotiable. (For those of you who might have known Chief Eaton, you know I've cleaned up the language here.) For a facility, Chief Eaton gave me the old 463 shop inside the 463 area. A new 463 shop had been constructed several years before and the old single bay shop had been neglected since that time. Its only use had been housing a sand bag filling area for various sandbagging projects around the bomb dump and the base. You can imagine how it looked as there were about 10 cubic yards of sand and various sand bag filling items strewn about the once pristine maintenance bay. Understanding that I had to start from scratch, I needed a great supply and paperwork guy. I stole (with Chief Eaton's full support) SSgt Mark Morrison from the Storage Section. Mark was a wizard at setting up supply accounts, ordering materials and equipment. I knew I needed a strong number two, so I brought SSgt Don Thompson, better known as DT, on as my Assistant NCOIC from the Inspection Section. DT had been at Lakenheath for many years and was not only a great Ammo man, but knew everyone that was anybody on Lakenheath. He could scrounge anything from anyone and was a key in getting anything to set up the shop that Mark couldn't get through legitimate channels. To this day, I still don't know how he managed to get us a six pack Dodge truck for the shop. With my leadership team in place, the three of us met to flesh out the shop. Chief Eaton had given me authorization for 11 people, which he pulled from other shops to make up our UMD. That meant me and two crews of five each, the yellow team and the

blue team (the PAVETACK logo was half yellow and half blue with an eagle in the middle). That would provide a crew of 5 on each of the 12-hour shifts we often exercised in. As Mark and DT had both been at Lakenheath a long time and knew the people much better than I, they gave me a list of people we wanted. They included the first female 461 at Lakenheath, A1C Tonya Laughlin (who married a 462 named Brown shortly after joining the team so we remember her as Tonya Brown). A1C Greg Ezzell, SSgt Selectee Richard Sheriff, A1C Brent Wyont, and SrA Johnny Lamb are the significant names I can remember. Each was selected for a special skill, Tonya had the patience of Job and was a masterful painter. Greg was a super carpenter who built our test stands and work benches. Rich was a wizard with all things electronic, Brent was the one that kept us all on an even keel, and Johnny could fix about anything mechanical. Chief Eaton's replacement, Chief Tom Jackson did give us our fair share of "special needs" troops. One in particular was A1C Dave Caravella. With a lot of mentoring by all of us, especially Rich, he turned his life around for about a year, until he got drunk one night, went up on the roof of the barracks and poured 5 gallons of yellow paint onto a car in the parking lot. I think it was originally a blue MG that belonged to a SSgt. Needless to say, he couldn't be saved after that incident on top of all his others and we said goodbye to him at the Mildehall MAC terminal with his discharge papers in hand. Chief Jackson also gave us another young lady named Mary, but even Tonya couldn't get her to stop worrying about breaking her nails while unbolting a container of MAU-157s. On one occasion, she was posted as a berm guard for a mass load out during a bitter cold and snowy night shift. She decided she was cold and left her M-16 lying in the snow to go inside and warm up. As she was warming up, the Chief in charge of the night shift asked her who her relief was, she said no one, he asked her where her M-16 was, she said she left it on top of the berm. She was discharged without much fanfare.

As I remember it, here are some of the very important people who helped ensure the missile shop was a success. The Commander was Major/Lt Col Neil White, who left shortly after we started up and went to the USAFE IG Team. I later worked for Col White when he was the TAC LGW at Langley AFB when I was a SMSgt. The Deputy Commander for Maintenance was Col Ed Bracken, who went on to be the Vice Wing Commander and eventually the Wing Commander. Col Bracken retired as a Major General. When Col Bracken moved to the Vice Wing CC job, he was replaced by Col Herbert Place, who went on to 3<sup>rd</sup> AF and was replaced by Col David Reed. Col Reed later was the Commander of Air University when I was the Chief at the Academic Instructor School at Maxwell AFB. We had a great relationship in both of those positions. Major General Reed and I often spoke to various groups at Air University about our days wearing the "green" at Lakenheath standing up the missile shop. Sharing our leadership challenges with young NCOs and Officers became very popular after the El Dorado Canyon operation where LGBs were employed by the Lakenheath F-111s against Libya in April 1986.

When Chief Eaton PCS'd, he was replaced by Chief Tommy Jackson, a true Chief and gentleman. Our OIC was Capt Joe Glenn who was replaced about that time by Capt Frank Graham, who moved up to the Maintenance Super position when he made Major. Captain Lisa Miller, without a doubt, the finest Ammo Captain I've ever known, replaced Captain Graham. (My respect for Capt Miller was such that when I married my wife at Bury St Edmunds in 1982, Capt Miller was my wife's Maid of Honor (DT was my Best Man.) MSgt Mike Curran arrived to lead the Storage section, which was particularly important as we began receiving thousands of LGB kits, which required receiving inspections. Our Munitions Control and scheduling NCOIC was MSgt Gary Shoals who helped keep our workload on track. One of his young controllers, A1C Dan Fry was our liaison in the control room and he often visited the shop and enthusiastically supported our work. I think Dan went on to great things in the Air Force. Gary also introduced me to a key person who provided



unbelievable support at 3<sup>rd</sup> Air Force Headquarters, SMSgt Fred O'Hern, who taught me how to deal with USAFE LGW who really had no interest in our new venture in the early days. Colleague TSgts Al Porter, Bruce Knapp, Mike LaFond and Dwight Howard were also key in those days to getting things working to support us "outside the double fence". I also have to mention SMSgt (Chief Selectee at the time) Bob Smith, who ran the 463 shop. Bob was stunned when he arrived at Lakenheath in 1981 and found us "squatters" inside "his" double fenced area. After a few chats, he realized we had a very important part to play in the overall mission and since Mark, Rich, DT and I had the coveted E (escort) on our exchange badges, along with appropriate security clearances, we really could help him meet his mission also. Bob and I became close professional friends and he relied on the Missile team often when he was shorthanded or particularly under the gun. When he became frustrated with his troops (which was often) he would walk over to the Missile Shop for a Coke and a chat to calm down. Bob was the first person to give me a set of MSgt stripes when I made E-7. He somehow knew I had made it before the list was released on base. Bob was also the one that Mary told she had left her M-16 lying in the snow on top of the berm. That did not go over well with him.

The Air Force Personnel Center never failed to surprise us in those days and that came in the form of a brand new Airman named Jim Thompson. He was in the last of the 316 tech school classes. Why AFPC would send a 3 level to this kind of assignment is beyond me, but there he was. I attended the USAFE NCO Academy in the spring of 1980 and happened to be in the seminar with the NCOIC of the RAF Bentwaters Missile Shop. MSgt Doug Goodman was a great asset in helping me stand up the shop at Lakenheath. I called him many times for technical advice and we even made several visits to his shop for informal training. He also somehow managed to send me a genuine 31651L SSgt, named Frank Mondlak. Frank was a real electronic genius and when no one else could figure out a guidance unit electrical problem, Frank could usually fix it. As his initials were FM, which also stood for "F----- Magic", Frank became our resident magician who spent plenty of time calibrating the very cantankerous GJM-50 test set used for the older MAU-157 guidance units. When we received the newer MAU-169 and its supporting digital test equipment, we almost put Frank out of a job. As one of the first 316s to become a 461, Frank wasn't thrilled at becoming a 461 at first but when he saw how important the overall team was to the mission at Lakenheath, he embraced the career field and was a great success.

The team in the Maintenance Shop was tasked to build the LGBs; fins, fuzes and guidance unit attachment collar. I don't remember all their names, but I do remember they had the biggest torque wrench I'd ever seen used to attach the collar to Mk-84s. One of their important leaders was TSgt Jackie Martin who provided great leadership and support in the Maintenance Section.

In order to be fully operational, we needed to understand the laser end of the Pave Tack system. I made friends with a TSgt in the laser pod shop named Mike O'Boyle. As it turned out, Mike and I both made Chief in 1986 and joined the faculty at the Senior NCO Academy at Gunter AFS in Montgomery AL. Funny how things work out.

Our work for the first few weeks consisted of clearing out the building, refurbishing the maintenance bay with new tile, paint, finding furniture for the office (what Mark couldn't get through supply, DT managed to magically find), getting the power converter in the building to run again (we had to convert the commercial 220 VAC, 50 Hertz power to 120 VAC, 60 Hertz power for the very delicate electronic test equipment). This required many "trades" with the local British PSA bosses to get this converter running. If you've ever been assigned in England, you know all the normal Civil Engineering functions are run by PSA (a British

government organization) and not normal USAF CE troops. Always a challenge under the best of circumstances, but DT “spoke the language” and was key to getting along with the many PSA people that came to the shop to do maintenance work. And for the first several months, every time Mark tried to order something for the “Missile Shop” he was repeatedly told, “there is no missile shop on Lakenheath”. It took about a year before that mantra finally died.

We took turns going to the USAFE Missile FTD at Hahn AB Germany to learn the details of the Paveway system and other missile systems as well. Since we absorbed the 316 field, we would start being testing on our SKT in the WAPS testing program. Going to FTD was a way to learn about the various missiles. I conducted classes on AGM-65s, AIM-7 and AIM-9 missiles for all in the bomb dump that wanted to learn. The smart ones understood they were going to be tested on them and to get promoted, it was smart to learn the systems. Mark made sure we had every T.O. that was applicable to use as study references. I remember one significant trip that Mark, Tonya and I were on. In those days, there was a C-130 rotator that flew from RAF Mildenhall to Ramstein AB Germany, to Torrejon Spain. This was the routine way to get from Lakenheath to Germany and back. The FTD was about a month long and we had enjoyed several weekend cruises on the Mosel River before heading back to Lakenheath. As it turns out, Tonya was pregnant with her first child and could not fit into her blue uniform that was a requirement to fly on the C-130 (which was truly stupid). The geniuses at the MAC terminal at Ramstein were not going to let her on the C-130 in fatigues, which she could still fit into. I failed to persuade the NCOIC but after I made a telephone call to Chief Jackson, Tonya received an apology from the MAC terminal NCOIC and she was allowed to fly home in fatigues. The power of the Ammo Chief should never be doubted!

As we had pretty much Carte Blanch in those days to order anything we needed to get going, we had all new tools and equipment. We had two new oscilloscopes that had to be calibrated by the PMEL lab located out at the RAF Feltwell. As the o-scopes were brand new, the first calibration was fine. DT was our PMEL monitor and set all the equipment up on a staggered schedule so that we would never be without an item. When one of the o-scopes went in for its second 60-day calibration, DT was told it was broken. This was strange since it was brand new and had only been used a few times. After several repeat visits over the ensuing weeks, the story was always the same, it’s still broken. One of my nighttime college classmates was the MSgt NCOIC of the PMEL lab. DT and I decided to visit him at the PMEL shop at Feltwell, unannounced. We weren’t surprised when we found the PMEL shop using the o-scope to do their own calibrations. It was newer and better than any they had and they had decided to just tell us it was broken. You can imagine the NCOICs’ embarrassment when we confronted him with this info. We never had any more problems with our PMEL equipment after that visit.

Once we were trained, organized and equipped, we entertained many dignitaries to showcase this new weapons capability for the F-111. The VIP visit location list always included a tour of the PAVE TACK laser pod shop and for people who could get through our double fence, a visit to the missile shop also. One of the most significant visits was Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General John Vessey when General Vessey was on his inaugural tour of bases after taking over as Chairman in 1982. We had coffee cups made with the 48 TFW patch, the missile badge, and the Ammo pisspot printed on them along with the words “I visited the Missile Shop at RAF Lakenheath”. Mark and Tonya presented the cups to the Secretary and General Vessey after completing their demonstration. By this time we were no longer MMS and had become part of the Equipment Maintenance Squadron (EMS), a designation which we all despised, so we never used the EMS name on anything if we could avoid it. Although one time I wrote a white paper for

Captain Miller on how we had bedded down the thousands of GBUs and typed the signature block as “48<sup>th</sup> Explosives Maintenance Squadron”. She laughed a lot but made me retype it.

We made the Lakenheath newspaper and the following account and pics are from the newspaper article.

When Col Bracken took over as the Wing Commander, he made routine visits to the Missile Shop. I think he came to understand the Pave Tack system like few in senior leadership positions did and came to trust us to meet the mission. He called me one morning and asked me to come to his office. OK, actually it was a brusque order to get my ass up to his office immediately. This was not altogether unusual, but there was urgency in his voice I had not heard. Normally, his civilian secretary would call me. When DT and I entered his office, he quickly asked what we knew about AGM-45 missiles. I responded, not much, but we had the T.O.s in the shop. He told us to get the T.O.s and get up to RAF Waddington to teach the RAF how to use them immediately. Turns out, the US had provided some AGM-45s to the British RAF to use in their Falkland Islands war and the RAF didn't have a clue what to do with them. DT and I took a team to RAF Waddington to help them figure out how to employ the AGM-45s on their Vulcan bombers. It was quite a week for us to see the RAF “ordnance engineers” go from staring at all the bolts holding the various AGM-45 containers together to seeing all up rounds on the Vulcans. Here is a link to an account of how their missions went. <https://theaviationist.com/author/dario1484/>

Another day, Col Bracken asked us to load our equipment and go to RAF Alconbury to help the Alconbury missile shop get its annual inspections caught up. Seems they had failed an IG inspection and needed some help from the experts at Lakenheath to answer the IG report. We had recently sailed through our IG inspection with an Outstanding rating. After meeting with the Alconbury missile shop team I understood why they failed. They were all 316s who were very distressed as becoming 461s and their attitude was showing.

Another interesting meeting with Col Bracken occurred concerning loading AIM-9s on the F-111s. Chief Jackson, Captain Miller and I entered the Col's office when a 462 TSgt (name of dumbass withheld) was explaining to Col Bracken that there was not enough clearance on the pylon to load AIM-9s on the F-111. For whatever reason, Col Bracken was furious at hearing this information, and was on a tirade. The Chief, Captain and I all knew it was best to keep quiet, no matter the facts. The Col threw all of us out of his office with some choice words about our ability to contribute to the mission. Knowing that we could in fact, physically load AIM-9s on the F-111, I called my mentor and friend, MSgt Doug Goodman, NCOIC of the missile shop at RAF Bentwaters. Doug not only confirmed this, but also offered to loan me the appropriate smaller fins and standoff doughnuts needed to demonstrate this fact from the RAF Bentwaters WRM stock. I drove to Bentwaters that afternoon and borrowed the items. The next day I presented these items to Capt Miller and Chief Jackson who called for an appointment with Col Bracken, who was much calmer that day. The Chief, Captain and I laid the fins and accessories on Col Bracken's desk with the appropriate T.O. pages to explain. Col Bracken looked over our case, stood, shook our hands and apologized. It was a good day to be a 461 but not such a good day to be a TSgt 462 who had lied, even if unwittingly, to the Wing Commander.

We hosted technical reps from the manufacturer of the PAVETACK systems, Texas Instruments, in the spring of 1982. This contact resulted in VIP tickets for several of us, including Col Bracken, to the Farnborough Air Show that summer. We were wined and dined like a young man had never seen. TI treated us like royalty, as we were their only USAF customers at Farnborough actively using their products.



Mark Morrison left PCS in early 1982 and was replaced by SSgt Johnny Williams. He fit in super and was a great team player. When my wife and I left Lakenheath for our next assignment, Johnny and Frank Mondlak drove us to Heathrow to catch our plane. I left the team reluctantly, but knew it was in good hands with Johnny, DT and Rich still on board and new adventures awaiting in my next assignment at the 37<sup>th</sup> TFW, George AFB, CA.

Standing up the shop was a massive team effort and these are some of the people that helped make it happen. I'm sure there were many others, but as I said, my memory isn't what it used to be and I apologize for omitting so many who were critical to our success.

This was a significant 4 years in my life, an opportunity to build a shop with unlimited support from the greatest colleagues anyone could ever want. All of the names I've recounted are long retired and most of the names of the enlisted are now retired Chiefs. My only regret is not keeping better records of all the outstanding people involved in this endeavor. I hope I have captured in some small way how so many made this organization a success. For those I've missed, I apologize for my failing memory. Please feel free to adjust my memory as you recall the events. I can be reached at [jas5757@gmail.com](mailto:jas5757@gmail.com).

Joseph A. Stuart, CMSgt, USAF, Retired

IYAYAS



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# ACA Supports 2017 Senior Munitions Manager's Conference

In Oct 2016 at the ACA Reunion in San Antonio, the ACA made a commitment to support the next SMMC and fulfilled that commitment in fine AMMO fashion = Beer Money!



ACA member (Chief (Ret.) Richard Pennington and previous ACA President (center) transfer donated funds on behalf of ACA to support the 2017 SMMC. On the left is Chief Bobby George, HQ ACC Functional manager and on the right is Chief Kevin Hendershot, the new HAF Functional manger.



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# LAST CALL

## CMSgt Robert “Bob” Reinhardt

On 24 Apr 2017, ACA BOD members became aware of CMSgt Robert "Bob" Reinhardt's passing at a nursing home in Niceville, Florida.

While we have very few details, no formal obituary, and no picture to help memorialize our AMMO brother, we shall not fail to properly mention this sad news.

After scanning our membership roster, we have come to believe that Chief Bob Reinhardt very well may have been our most senior ACA member with a Date of Rank of 1962 or earlier. He originally enlisted in 1948. He was an ACA Lifetime member and his membership number was RL-100.

It is also noted that several of our more senior ACA members worked for him back in the 1970s.

RIP!!!



**IYAAYAS!!!**



# LAST CALL

## Airman First Class Shannon Marie Purcell

Tuesday, June 23, 1998 — Saturday, May 6, 2017



Shannon Marie Purcell, 18, was called home to God on Saturday, May 06, 2017, at 6:30 PM, in Okinawa, Japan. Born on June 23, 1998, in Kingston, Shannon was the daughter of Dave Purcell, Swoyersville, and Georganne (Russett) Purcell, Larksville. Shannon was a graduate at Wyoming Valley West High School, Class of 2016. Incredibly musically talented, Shannon played a number of instruments, and also played in a band with her girlfriends - "BAMS". Shannon was a Joan Harris Centre Ballerina where she was a student representative and a well-loved assistant dance teacher. Through her dancing career, she performed in many shows, most recently in a production of "Snow White". Shannon was known for being a very strong and graceful dancer who expressed her sense of humor and bubbly personality through singing.

In 8th grade, Shannon began playing Field Hockey and played up until her senior year for Wyoming Valley West. She made varsity her sophomore year, and played for travel teams such as Kapow, Valley Styx, PA Elite, and Chicks with Sticks. Shannon competed in the Misericordia University and King's College Summer Leagues, and also spent her summers attending field hockey camps at Bloomsburg University and Slippery Rock. She also played in the Keystone Indoor Tournament and was selected to play individually for the Limelight tournament under college connections. Throughout her Field Hockey Career she won a dome championship, a King's League Championship, and a 2014 District 2 AAA Championship gold medal.

On July 19, 2016, Shannon joined the United States Air Force, and was sent to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to attend the 7 week Air Force Basic Military Training (BMT) Course. After graduating from basic training, she was assigned to the 363rd Training Squadron at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, where she completed her Technical Training School to become a Munitions Systems Specialist. Upon graduating from Technical Training School, she received her first permanent duty assignment at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, arriving there on December 09, 2016. Shannon was assigned to the 18th Munitions Squadron where she served as a Conventional Maintenance Technician. During her time with the 18th Munitions Squadron Shannon was awarded the Kadena Air Base Diamond Sharp Award and the Air Force Achievement Medal. While living in Japan, Shannon traveled, explored and said yes to every adventure.

Shannon brought light and peace to the lives of others from all across the world. Her love, kindness, and care for people gave her the unique ability to forge fast friendships that could withstand the test the time. She possessed a genuine concern for every person she encountered throughout her life and she was always ready and willing to extend a helping hand to anyone in need. Although Shannon lived just shy of 19 years, the impact she has made on this world made it all the more beautiful and a much better place!

Shannon was preceded in death by her paternal grandfather, Joseph Purcell; and her uncle, Christopher Doran. In addition to her parents, Dave Purcell and Georganne Purcell, Shannon is survived by her sister, Rikki Purcell; her paternal grandmother, Jeanne Purcell; her maternal grandparents, George and Annette Russett; her aunts, Mary Allen, Laurie Doran Golubieski, Ellen Edmonson, and Kathleen Miick; her uncles, Christopher Purcell, Joe Golubieski, Glenn Edmonson, and George Miick; her cousins, Melissa Allen McHugh, John and Karli Doran, Eric and Jacob Edmonson; as well as a countless number of extended family members and friends.

Shannon's viewing was held on Thursday, May 18, 2017, from 4:00 to 8:00 PM, at the Wroblewski Funeral Home, Inc., 1442 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort. Shannon's funeral service was celebrated on Friday, May 19, 2017, at 10:00 AM at the Wroblewski Funeral Home, Inc., 1442 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort. The funeral service will be officiated by a Military Chaplain from the United States Air Force.

Interment was in Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Hanover Township, where full Military Honors were accorded by the United States Air Force.

*"It is not length of life, but depth of life."* – Ralph Waldo Emerson



US Air Force members of the 18<sup>th</sup> Munitions Squadron, Kadena Air Base Japan provide a Farwell Salute during the Dignified Transfer of their fallen comrade and Sister in Arms.

Source: <http://www.wroblewskifuneralhome.com/obituaries/2017-05/airman-first-class-shannon-marie-purcell>



## *In Memoriam*

*Therefore, it has pleased an all wise Providence, to remove from among us, our much esteemed Friends.*

*We will cherish the memory of those deceased whose memory is ever fresh in our minds.*

*Though parted from among us we hope to meet them where no farewell tear is shed.*

Michael Bachman  
 Wilbur R. Barrentine \*  
 Gail Bechtal  
 Walter Bell \*/\*\*  
 Frank D. Bolin  
 Anthony Borzomowski  
 Jimmie Branson  
 Rennice H. "Jim" Bray  
 Shawn P. Byrne  
 Don Carbonneau  
 Lott S. Carter  
 Edward H. "Ted" Costick  
 Preston Craven  
 Michael "Mike" Curran  
 James Curtin  
 Phillip Delisi  
 Bill Dressler  
 Larry Eaton  
 Charles "Chuck" Eaves  
 James Elledge

Thomas Everett  
 William "Bill" Fick  
 Francis "Frank" Gamache  
 Richard Gauvin  
 Karl J. Gershutz  
 Don Hamilton  
 Gerald "Red" Hess  
 Howard Holt  
 Robert N. Ivey  
 Jay A. Jameson  
 Bill Jolly  
 Perry D. Jones \*  
 Paul H. Klein  
 Karen Long  
 Paul Long  
 William Lovelady  
 Leo Marquez  
 Donald Mayo  
 Lon McAlister  
 Alvin "Al" Mercer  
 Clifton Mills

Kevin Mullaney  
 Darrell Mulvany  
 Edward Patry  
 James Phinney  
 William "Bill" Poe  
 Louis V. Prelip  
 Harold P. Prevett \*  
 Erwin G. "Erv" Redman  
 Robert "Bob" Reinhart  
 Leander Richards  
 Leroy Rott  
 Neil G. Schaible  
 Robert Sechler  
 Ernest Shamburger  
 Ramsey Stonewall  
 Ben Stubbe  
 Addison "George" Wadsworth  
 Richard Watton  
 Bruce Wilson  
 Michael J. Yurkanin

*The Light of the shell and flame will also serve as a reminder of the level of excellence and esprit-de-corps set by those who came before us; the light of the shell and flame will also help us look back to remember those Ammo Troops, both active duty and retired, who are no longer with us and the service they performed for their country and to the Ammo community. In doing so, we will gain strength from the fact that such men and women lived.....FOR WE ARE AMMO!*

Those listed with an asterisk \* held the distinction of being a Charter Chief in the USAF.

Those listed with a double asterisk \*\* are Bataan Death March Survivors.