



AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA)

December 2016



“Shell & Flame”



Issue Number XLIII

21 Dec 2016

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:

President - Van Ray vanrayammo@aol.com
Vice President - Mike Robertson me-rob@verizon.net
Secretary - Jack Seaman ammo.chiefs.association@gmail.com
Treasurer - Mike Roylance Mikeroylance@comcast.net
Chief-at-Arms - Fred O'Hern chief.ohern@gmail.com
Director-at-Large - Bart Ivy bart.ivy@evanhoe.com
Director-at-Large - "Big John" Greer bigjohn461@bellsouth.net
Director-at-Large - Joel "Dusty" Rhodes joelrhodes@cfl.rr.com
Director-at-Large - John Ray jray206@gmail.com
Web-Site Manager - Bob Yeager ryeager@atlanticbb.net; siteadmin@ammochiefs.com

From the President:

Well, it's been a great year for the ACA and we are moving forward with our goals! A very special thank you to Joe Dominquez and the Team San Antonio for the superb work in masterminding the ACA Reunion...it couldn't have done any better! We continue to move forward with our enlistment of former Ammo Chiefs and Associate members in our organization. The numbers are increasing and we look forward to new memberships and working with the new members. Also, a very special thank you to Chief Jackie Miller for his wonderful efforts in getting the care packages to our deployed Ammo folks...a gold star! I appreciate the support, inputs and involvement of our entire membership in making this organization one who meets the mission...without fail!

Van

From the Vice President:

It was another great Quarter for the ACA with a ton of accomplishments and great memories. We've added a new Lone Star Chapter which you'll read more about below, the ACA Chapters continue to amaze everyone with the things they are doing, and we've concluded one of the best Reunions to date, thanks to the Reunion Team – SATX. ACA is a superb organization to be part of...if you haven't signed up to be an ACA member and are not supporting your local Chapter, what are you waiting for? Myong and I extend Happy Holiday wishes to all AMMO Troops everywhere!

Mike

From the Secretary:

Hope this finds everyone well and beginning to get into some really good "Holiday Spirits." The ACA has had an exceptional year beginning with slow but steady Membership growth, a great 9th Reunion in San Antonio and the addition of a new ACA Chapter in the "Lone Star" state!! I'm sure Mike, Van, Jim Biggerstaff and Joe will have more to say about those subjects and more in this edition.

Bob Yeager has taken over managing the ammochiefs.com website from Rick Follett. Rick has had a pretty full plate with a full time job and associated travel; we all owe him our gratitude for hanging in there as long as he has. Great job Rick!! You can reach Bob at: ryeager@atlanticbb.net, he's already did a lot of work on the site and I'm sure he would appreciate any comments or suggestions anyone might have for improving an already very informative site thanks to Rick's efforts over the past few years.

January 31st, 2017 will be here before we know it and for our Members paying Annual Dues - - you all know what that means. Get them checkbooks out folks and get'r done, please don't let yourselves fall into delinquent status.

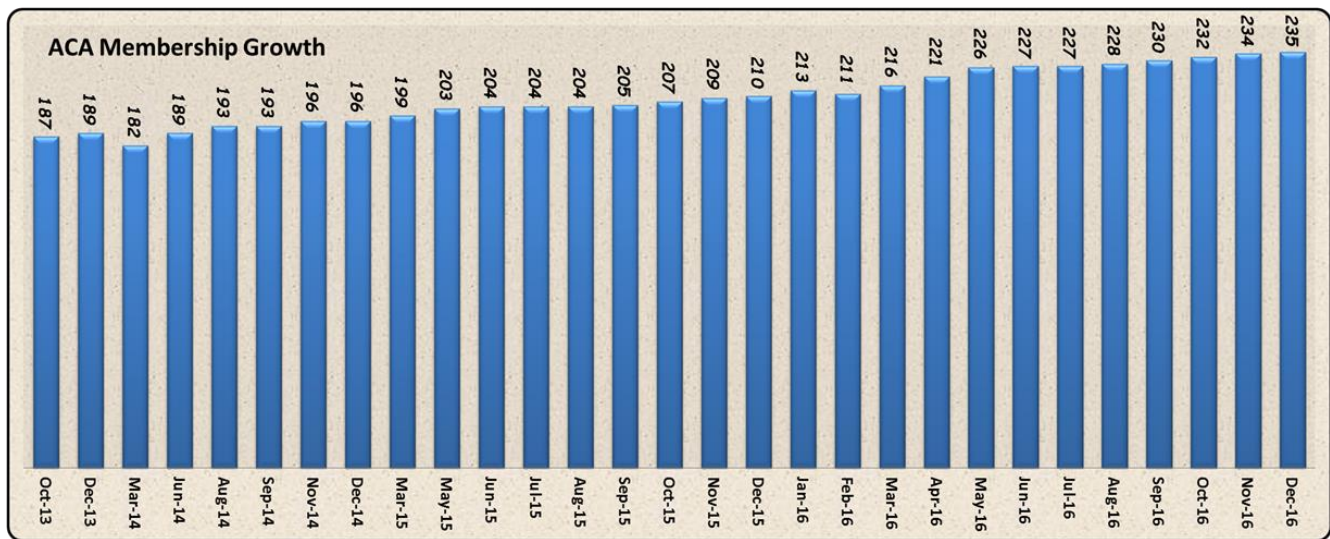
With that said, "Sam" and I want to wish you and all of yours a very Merry Christmas and nothing but good health and happiness in the New Year. Stay safe out there.

Jack
IYAAYAS !!!!

From the Treasurer:

ACA Membership Status as of 26 June 2016

Membership								
Chapter	Total	Chief Lifetime	Chief Annual	Associate Lifetime	Associate Annual	Honorary	Honorary Spouse	Shell & Flame
Lone Star	7	4	3					
Mid West	7	7						
Wasatch Front	19	16	1	1		1		
Mid Atlantic	27	17	5	3	2			
Emerald Coast	45	26		12	1	1	4	1
At Large	130	95	9	10	6	2	6	2
Total	235	165	18	26	9	4	10	3



Membership Roster

We plan to release the next membership roster at the end of March 2017.

Entries will look something like this:

March 30, 2016

Ammo Chiefs Association

All Member/All Chiefs Roster

34

Last Name Rank	First Name Spouse	Member No. Status	Address City State Zip	Email	Home Phone Cell Phone	Share Data	Chapter Last Update
Rott CMSgt	Leroy	None Deceased				No	None 1/1/9999
Roylance CMSgt	Michael J. "Mike" Bonnie	RL-010 Retired	1525 267th PL SE Sammamish WA 98075	mikeroylance@comcast.net	(425) 785-6084 (425) 785-6084	Yes	None 9/2/2013

This membership roster is provided as benefit for being a member of the Ammo Chiefs Association and it is not to be used by anyone outside of the association. The default answer to shared data is NO. If members have agreed to share it with other members then it is captured as a YES. It is not to be shared with non-members in any form. If you want to change your YES/NO decision let me know prior to 15 March 2017. POC for updates is Mike Roylance at acatreasurer@ammochiefs.com.

ACA Calendar

The ACA Calendar is now being updated live on our web site at <http://ammochiefs.com/>. If anyone has any inputs to post to the calendar, regardless of how far out, just let me know and I will post it. I'll load any AMMO Events, not just ACA items. Just let me know, Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How, or TBD, or Save the Date, plus any updates to existing events. POC for updates is Mike Roylance at acatreasurer@ammochiefs.com.

ACA Website (<http://ammochiefs.com>)

As many of you know the Ammo Chiefs website has been around for a number of years in many shapes and formats. It also has seen a number of different administrators donating their time to provide a common spot to find information on the ACA, AFCOMAC and School House Awards, the CMSgt Gauvin Ammo Troop Memorial Fund, AMMO Bowls, pointers on VA benefits, connect with old friends and share AMMO stories.

Around the middle of October, I started helping Rick Follett with the site and he completely transitioned the site to me last month. Rick did a great job managing the site, but after several years and a demanding job, he welcomed the opportunity to pass on the site to someone new.

My name is Bob Yeager and I'm a retired AMMO troop, an associate member of the ACA (Mid Atlantic Chapter) and the new ACA site manager. I work for Booz Allen Hamilton, supporting the Army Research Lab at Aberdeen Proving Grounds as division Technical Coordinator where we conduct basic & applied research developing technologies to protect Soldiers and ground vehicle platforms from a wide range of ballistic and blast threats.

Over the past month or so I've been working with other members to make some changes to the site. Most of these changes are visible to the basic user and probably the biggest change you'll notice is the URL for the site. I moved the site up to the domain root, so the URL to the site is now <http://ammochiefs.com> instead of <http://ammochiefs.com/ammochiefs>. I set up a redirect from the old URL to the new, so your bookmarks should still take you to the site. Another change was the format of the URLs. They are now human readable and understandable. For example, instead of seeing the URL <http://ammochiefs.com/ammochiefs/?p=id123> you will see something easier to read, like <http://ammochiefs.com/aca-officers/>. Some other changes included making direct links to the ACA application form, the addition of a ACA Donations page, expanded the AMMO Heritage area where it now has links to several articles, from Chief Smith's "Your AMMO Heritage - The Ordnance Insignia" to AMMO Stories from the old ACA Tripod site to the "Nellis AMMO Heritage Room". We also added direct links to the Ammo Store and ACA Facebook sites. We updated the Jobs area, consolidated all the Shell & Flame newsletters in one spot and began updating the "Upcoming Events" section. Finally, we have created Chapter Pages where we list the different ACA Chapters and their respective officers. This area is still under development, pending response from all the chapters as to what info they would like on their pages.

Some of the other behind the scene changes I worked on that are not visible to the user was moving the site to different hosting company that reduced the annual ACA cost significantly. In addition, I added some new security plugins that has eliminated the spam we were seeing on the site and as of this writing, we have blocked over 1.5 million IP addresses from foreign countries that have been attempting to hack the site and inject malware.

Going forward we're looking at maybe adding a photo gallery, organizing & consolidating photos and comments from past ACA reunions, cleaning up the VA links and continuing to consolidate & reorganize some the navigation tags on the site. If you have any questions, suggestions or find a problem, please contact me through the ACA site contact form: <http://ammochiefs.com/contact-aca/>.

Bob Yeager
ACA Web-Master

Chapter News

Lone Star Chapter (ACALSC)

December 13th, 2016 - A Chapter is Born!

Building from the comradery and work put into the 2016 ACA Reunion, seven AMMO Chiefs banded together and gave birth to the Lone Star Chapter of the AMMO Chiefs Association (ACALSC). James Biggerstaff, Joe Dominguez, Fred Lee, John Rivard, Fred Schoettler, Rick Webb and Steve West met on December 8th to finalize a constitution, select a name for the Chapter and elect its first officers. The Lone Star's constitution was approved by the ACA's Board of Directors on December 13, 2016. Congratulations to the Charter Members of the ACALSC and their newly elected officers: President - James Biggerstaff; Vice President – Fred Schoettler; and Secretary-Treasurer – Joe Dominguez. The Alamo City may never be the same, because, I-Y-A-AMMO-Y-A-S!

Mid-Atlantic Chapter (ACAMC)



The Ammo Chiefs Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter (ACAMC) continues to strive to support our Ammo Community. We received a partial payment for the September Richmond International Raceway (RIR) fundraiser and are awaiting receipt of the remaining funds. Since September, we sent the Joint Base Langley-Eustis Ammo Morale Team (AMT) a \$503.00 donation for their assistance.



Our President, Jackie Miller, put together and mailed four Holiday ACAMC care packages to austere bases in combat locations (Kandahar, Bagram, Jordan, and Ali Al Salem). The ACA, individuals, and other chapters augmented our funding for this program. “Jake” Jacobsen played a major role in acquiring site points of contact and demographic information. So far, we received confirmation of package receipt and thanks from Ali Al Salem. Also, in an e-mail from Kandahar: “We received the care package yesterday. THANK YOU! Wow, package was absolutely stuffed to the gills with amazing stuff. It definitely put a smile on all of our faces and almost lets us feel like we're home for a few minutes. Everything was perfect. Please pass our thanks on to the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Ammo Chief's Association. We are truly grateful and appreciate that our Ammo family is out there thinking of us.”

Rich and Sue Pennington encased the flag flown at Bagram this past summer, along with the certificate, so they can be permanently displayed at the 1 FW Munitions Flight. This flag was sent to us as a “thank you” for the care package we sent.

We held our last general membership meeting on December 3rd at Bill McCullough's house in Fredericksburg, VA. Eight members, along with guests, and one Associate Member were in attendance. With 10 proxy votes, we legally conducted Chapter business. Unfortunately, Frank Waterman is still in the recovery mode from back surgery and was unable to attend. We wish him the best in his recovery process. John Nye had to cancel because his wife Angela had complications from her appendix surgery. The Chapter sent a get well card.

Additionally, John Matthews presented six new draft Chapter logo designs that better depicts our area of responsibility and our commitment to the Ammo Troops. The members decided on one design with minor modifications that John will refine for letterhead, coin, hat, and shirt use.

Dave Nixon obtained three First Term Sharp Ammo Troop award packages from the units. We evaluated these and determined SrA Jonathan Schwartz from the New Jersey Air National Guard was our 2016 winner. He will receive a Chapter coin, certificate, and \$50.00 Visa card from us.

The membership reviewed the proposed 2017 Calendar of Events and Proposed Budget. Both required minor tweaks before publication. 2017 will be another busy year!

After the meeting, the Chapter was treated to a feast provided by Bill and Marilyn. Based on health issues, this will be the last time Marilyn is able to host the meeting. During this time, we held two fundraising raffles for the Holiday Ammo Troops-in-Need program. John Matthews donated some beautiful Ammo belt buckles and Bill McCullough provided the 2016 White House Christmas ornament. John Matthews won the ornament and Rick Follett won both belt buckles. The raffles, along with donations, generated an additional \$150.00 to provide some Ammo Troops-in-Need help. The membership reviewed seven potential candidates Dave Nixon acquired from the units and we selected four worthy recipients. Each will be taken on a shopping trip with a \$287.50 budget! Our membership remains at 22 Chiefs and 5 Associate members.

Bill McCullough
ACAMC Secretary-Treasurer

Thank You from Kandahar AMMO to Mid-Atlantic Chapter for support of deployed AMMO Troops.

From: Jovanovich, Michael J SMSgt USAF (US)
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 1:29 AM
To: Jacobsen, Michael M CIV USAF (US)
Subject: RE: AMMO Care Packages

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

We received the care package yesterday. THANK YOU! Wow, package was absolutely stuffed to the gills with amazing stuff. It definitely put a smile on all of our faces and almost lets us feel like we're home for a few minutes. Everything was perfect.

Please pass our thanks on to the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Ammo Chief's Association. We are truly grateful and appreciate that our Ammo family is out there thinking of us.

V/r,

MICHAEL J. JOVANOVIICH, SMSgt, USAF
Munitions Flight Chief/ 1st Sergeant
62 EATKS/AMMO
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan

Emerald Coast Chapter (ACAECC)



EMERALD COAST CHAPTER

DEC 2016 ACA NEWS LETTER INPUTS

The Emerald Coast Chapter held its annual outstanding munitions performer awards dinner/dance on 4 Nov to recognize the top munitions troops from Eglin, Tyndall AFBs and Hurlburt Field. Each Munitions Flight selected their best Ammo Troop for the year and the ECC presented them with awards recognizing them for their contributions throughout the year. Winners for the year 2016 were A1C Xavier Moss (Tyndall AFB), A1C Michael Bell (Eglin AFB), TSgt Seth Johnson (Hurlburt Field) See attached PICS.

The ECC held their end of year meeting on 17 Dec at the Asiago Skillet on Okaloosa Island (see attached picture). 2016 budget and activities were discussed with modification and adjustments made for 2017, members voted to approve all changes. Volunteers were selected to perform the annual audit. This will be coordinated with our Treasurer Johnny Long with results made available at our March meeting.

John thanked all the officers for their contributions throughout the year and all the members and their wives for supporting our functions and coming to this meeting and wished all our Ammo Brothers and Sisters a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ECC – December 2016 Breakfast Meeting



ECC Region - AMMO Flight Annual Outstanding AMMO Troops

A1C Moss - Tyndall AMMO



A1C Bell – Eglin AMMO
(Deployed: Award accepted by SSgt Reedy)



TSgt Johnson – Hulburt AMMO



Midwest Chapter:

The Midwest Chapter wishes everyone a Great Holiday Season!

Wasatch Front Chapter (ACAWFC)

On 20 Oct 2016, the ACA Wasatch Chapter inducted Lt Col (Ret.) John S. Stewart as an Honorary Associate Member of the Wasatch Chapter.

AMMO Chiefs in attendance were:

CMSgt (Ret.) Dave Calandra (President)

CMSgt (Ret.) Mike Eisenberg
(Treas/Sec)

CMSgt (Ret.) Gabe Aguirre

CMSgt (Ret.) Richard "Chet" Atkins

CMSgt (Ret.) Mike Robertson

CMSgt (Ret.) Tim Culbertson

CMSgt (Ret.) Vincent Lowe

CMSgt Chris Hazard

CMSgt Vicki Lemke

CMSgt Dave VanErt

Mike Eisenberg, CMSgt, USAF (Ret.)

Secretary/Treasurer

ACA Wasatch Front Chapter

Hill AFB, Utah



The ACA Wasatch Front Chapter held its Quarterly General Membership Meeting on 9 Nov 2016 at Bldg. 1235, Hill AFB, UT. Members Present:

Mike Eisenberg (Outgoing Secretary/Treasurer)

Vicki Lemke (AD) (Incoming Secretary/Treasurer)

Chris Hazard (AD)

Stan Madaj

Gene Porto

Dave Van Ert (AD)

Joe D'Arco

John Pfromm

Chris Lakkala (AD); visiting guest from 86 MUNS

Old Business: The Treasurer's report, coin inventory, and plans to design a new ACA Wasatch Chapter coin. POCs are Paul Smith and Chief Vicki Lemke. The current plan is to contact our Osan contact to purchase 50 more of the current coins as no new designs were submitted. A vote was taken to accept the nominations for our new club officers; a unanimous vote was received; CMSgt (Ret.) Shawn Scott is our incoming President and CMSgt Lemke is our incoming Secretary/Treasurer. A motion was made at our last meeting to increase the officer term of office to two years effective November. The constitution will be updated and sent out to the membership and the ACA BOD for review and approval.

New Business: A reminder to the group in attendance to turn in their ACA membership forms if they were not currently an ACA member. Mike Eisenberg announced he is collecting donations for our annual distribution of DECA (commissary) gift cards to troops that could use a little help over the holidays. They will be equally shared among the active duty, reserve, and deployed Ammo Troops stationed at Hill AFB. The process of collecting names and numbers from the 388 MXS, 419th MXS, 649th MUNS, GACP, 86 FWS/WSEP, and SMO is underway and the DECA gift cards will be presented on or about 20 Dec 2016 by the AMMO Chiefs of the Wasatch Chapter. Vicki Lemke and Chris Hazard announced they would accept donations for their respective heritage rooms. Dave Van Ert announced MSgt Baughman's retirement, 10 Nov 2016, at the Hill Museum. Vicki Lemke announced that the Hill Chiefs Group Holiday Social is 7 Jan 2017 and that the 649th plans on holding a combined Ammo Call, once each quarter, for active duty, reserve, and the retired AMMO community. The meeting was adjourned at 1300 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2017.

Mike Eisenberg
Secretary/Treasurer, ACA Wasatch Front Chapter

The ACA Wasatch Chapter membership thanks Dave Calandra and Mike Eisenburg for their selfless support and dedication during their tenure as the ACA Wasatch Chapter Officers. Job Well Done! And, the Chapter welcomes its new Officers CMSgt (Ret.) Shawn Scott (President) and CMSgt Vicki Lemke (Sec/Treas) and wish them a successful term!

ACA Wasatch Front Chapter offers Holiday cheer!

It's all about looking out for the troops and that is what Hill Ammo does best! The ACAWFC recently raised and distributed \$2,100 during their annual holiday campaign to help out troops (active duty, reservist, and retired) stationed at Hill AFB. The chapter canvassed Ammo leadership from the GACP, 388 MXS, 419 MXS, 649 MUNS, SMO and 86 FWS (WSEP) for folks that could use a little assistance over the holidays. The selected troops received a DECA commissary gift card for \$100 to help them enjoy the holiday season. Also, a \$500 donation was also given on behalf of TSgt Paullus and his family as he is facing a life threatening illness.

From left to right: CMSgt (sel) Jackson, CMSgt Stamper, CMSgt (ret) D'Arco, CMSgt (ret) Robertson, CMSgt (ret) Porto, CMSgt (ret) Lowe, CMSgt Van Ert, CMSgt (ret) Scott, CMSgt Hazard, and CMSgt (ret) Eisenberg



Presentation to 649 MUNS Leadership



AFCOMAC - ACA Outstanding Performer Awards

Subject: Class 16-007 ACA Winner, SSgt Ditizio, ANG 177th MXS (New Jersey)

SMSgt Jovanovich,

I wanted to pass on my sincere congratulations to SSgt Timothy Bench for his selection as the recipient of the Ammo Chief's Association "Outstanding Performer" award. This award goes to the Airman who demonstrated the most determination, innovative thinking and hard work during the grueling 3-week Combat Ammunition Planning and Production Course. The selection process is accomplished entirely by class leadership; making this recognition even more significant.

Being selected for this award puts SSgt Bench at the top of his 69-person class. He should be very proud of himself and all he achieved while attending the Air Force Combat Ammunition Center. Timothy's technical knowledge and dedication to accomplish the AMMO mission were clearly demonstrated and have earned him this well-deserved award. Again, my congratulations on an exceptional achievement!

JASON D. YODER, SMSgt, USAF
Curriculum Flight Chief
9th Munitions Squadron
Air Force Combat Ammunition Center
Beale AFB, CA



From the Sheppard AMMO Schoolhouse training professionals...

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, October to December 2016



A1C MICHAEL BARRETT

Gaining Base: Hill AFB, UT
Grad Date: 8 Nov 2016
Class Number:
16037-1

A1C KYLE SCHARER

Gaining Base: Hill AFB, UT
Grad Date: 8 Nov 2016
Class Number:
16037-2





A1C STEPHEN NYE

Home Town: Milford, NH
 Gaining Base: Kadena AB, Japan
 Grad Date: 16 Nov 2016
 Class Number:
 16038-1

AMN TRACE MILLER

Home Town: Sutherlin, Oregon
 Gaining Base: Mountain Home
 AFB, ID
 Grad Date: 01 Dec 2016
 Class Number:
 17001-1



A1C MATTHEW HELM

Home Town: St. George, Utah
 Gaining Base: TBD
 Grad Date: 16 Nov 2016
 Class Number:
 16038-2

2016 Moody Blues Ammo Fest aka M*A*S*H

BOB JONES · FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016



Ammo troops and families from all over the Eastern United States made the trip to the Forward Operating Location, Jones Pecan Farm of Ray City, Georgia for the Annual Ammo Veterans Association **Moody Blues Ammo Day**. This year's theme was our old MASH characters who we all grew up with on the Far East Network and the Armed Forces Network Radar, Klinger, Hawkeye, Hotlips and the gang. Ammo troops from as far away as Michigan, Virginia, Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, South and North Carolina and Virginia merged to celebrate along with the Active Duty Ammo Troops from Moody AFB, Home of the Famous A-10 Hogs, "The Flying Tigers"!

Activity began early on Thursday 29 September with the raising of the Ammo Flag at Ground Zero. Campers began arriving soon afterward in RVs, camping trailers and tents. Motels and Moody Billeting soon began check-ins of more Ammo troops. The smell of burgers, brawts, and hot dogs filled the air as the sound of laughter, greetings and stories got louder! The celebration had begun! Two four ship flyovers of A-10s wooed us late afternoon! Friday saw more and more arrivals as our Ammo Chiefs began appearing. We were honored this year with Chief O'Hern, Chief Zima, Chief Fick, Chief Wilson, Chief Whitten, and many more of Ammo's Pride! Colonel Hopkins (ALCMs) had a great time with us and was appointed our commander in case there was trouble! Luckily we didn't have to use him! What a great bunch of Ammo troops from Viet Nam, Cold War, Desert Storm and present day all celebrating what we know best as FAMMOLY.



Saturday October 1st, was a super day with well over a hundred Ammo Troops and their families enjoying the camaraderie once again of fammoly. Ammo Brother Joe Santua cooked us up a fine hog along with playing us a few songs. Ammo-Dog, Dave Bressler arrived. We had a wonderful raffle and auction to help raise funds. Ammo Sister Dolly Witt began singing us into the evening where karaoke got the attention of our Moody Ammo Troops. They did a fine job singing several songs that entertained the crowds. What a blessing to be able to recognize and

enjoy being around our active duty folks. They are very special to all us, and we praise them for carrying on the Ammo Life. The party lasted throughout the evening.

Sunday brought a few sighs and lots of hugs. Everyone promised to keep in touch and to “Keep the Flame Burning” through social media and of course by telephone. The Ammo Veterans Association wants to thank everyone who participated in this year’s event and invites everyone back for Moody Blues Ammo Day October 7th, 2017!

ACA Ammo Spirit Award to James (J.T.) Taylor and Bob Jones



I presented the first Ammo Chiefs Association, Ammo Spirit Awards for Exceptional Achievement to Ammo Comrades James (J.T.) Taylor and Bob Jones at the 2016 Moody Blues Ammo Fest!

J.T. and Bob have been instrumental in organizing and putting on reunions and get togethers for the Ammo Community at large; i.e. Ammo Bash at the Beach (3 times); Moody Blues (3 times); a Northeast get together at Burlington Vermont in July; STAMP/STRAPP reunion in 2015 in San Antonio; Ammo Monster Bash in Las Vegas this past October; J.T. organizes a monthly Ammo Breakfast in the Hampton VA area; they are extremely active in promoting Ammo in the social media; and provided assistance to the Emerald Coast Chapter (which Big John recognized at this year’s Bash on the Beach). In addition they led in forming an Ammo Veterans Association open to all former/active Ammo Troops as well as an Ammo Riders Group. They have amply demonstrated that they are truly worthy and deserving of recognition from the ACA for promoting AMMO Spirit.

Well Done!

Fred O’Hern
ACA Chief@Arms

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ACA Recognizes HQ ACC/A4W Master Sergeant Meer

On 29 Nov 2016, Chief Richard Pennington (Ret.), the previous President of the AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA) presents MSgt Meer with an ACA Certificate and ACA Support the Troop Coin on behalf of ACA Director-at-Large, Bart Ivy.

Bart initiated this ACA award to recognize MSgt Meer for his undying dedication to the Ammo Community for taking the Combat Ammunitions System (CAS) 2.0 to the next level with the Munitions Integrated Tablet (MIT).

The MIT is the single most significant contribution to the Ammo Community since munitions accountability was automated.



First Female AMMO Chief in the ANG to take a new Position!

It was announced on 11 Dec 2016 that CMSgt Kristen Miller, the first female AMMO Chief in the ANG, will be the new Ammo Chief in Portland. Congrats!



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

AMMO Chief (Ret.) Matt Sanders Thanked by CBS Broadcast Team on Live TV

I was watching the Gator game today and the CBS broadcast team had AMMO Chief Matt Sanders on the sidelines at halftime and thanked him for his years of service on TV.

As some of you may know, Matt works for CBS Sports and he is in charge of all that data/stat stuff that shows up on your TV screen during golf and football games.

Matt was a week behind me in tech school and he used to come over and Cindy would school him on the stuff learned the week before. We were both honor graduates, although he beat me by 1 point.

He was our sponsor for our arrival on Okinawa and a good friend through the years.

Fun fact: He was also from Winter park and I was from Orlando so we probably crossed paths at ball games in our youth as well.

Submitted by Joel "Dusty" Rhodes



2016 ACA Reunion Recap – San Antonio, TX

The San Antonio Reunion Planning Team left no stone unturned, hosting one our best reunions to date. A great location and well planned agenda were all that the 74 attendees needed for an exceptional visit to the Alamo City. The tours to the USAF Gunsmith Shop, Basic Military Training Squadron, The USAF Airman's Heritage Museum, and the Lackland Munitions Storage Area were highlights of the week. But then again when the ladies found artistic talents few knew they had, well little was going to top it. The Hospitality Room proved to be the "hot spot", providing a convenient venue for everyone to gather and catch up with old friends while meeting new ones. The libations flowed freely as did the conversations throughout the week in this popular spot. Our short time together concluded by honoring our two Shell & Flame awardees, Col (Ret) David Corley and CMSgt (Ret) Larry DiAmco, during the dinner on Saturday night.

While comradery was the primary purpose of gathering, the attendees also managed to raise money to support the ACAMC Deployed AMMO Troop Care Package program. A lively and hotly contested silent auction during Saturday night's dinner raised \$580 while another \$255 was raised through the generosity of several raffle winners donating their cash prize winnings. Members of the newly chartered Lone Star Chapter boosted the total donation to this worthwhile endeavor by adding another \$415.

This successful and enjoyable reunion has left us all looking forward to our next gathering in Branson, MO.

IYAAYAS!

Joe Dominguez
9th ACA Reunion Boss









AMMO - NOTAMs

Ammo Supply Store

The new larger logo is now the default embroidery, check it out here:

<https://ammochiefs.qbstores.com/>

Ammo Chiefs Sales Store (AFK)

The ACA has the following items in inventory for sale! To order make checks payable to Ammo Chiefs Association (AFK) send to ACA Chief at Arms, c/o Fred O'Hern; 6046 SW 98th Loop, Ocala, FL, 34476.

ACA Coin

(1.75 inches in diameter)



\$10 each includes postage; 10% discount for orders of 5 or more!

ACA Logo Patch

(6 inches in diameter; embroidered, can be ironed on)



\$6 each includes postage; 10% discount for 5 or more



We also have auto window decals

(4 x 6 inches)

\$3 each includes postage; specify ACA or Chief
10% discount for 5 or more

For these make checks payable to Fred O'Hern address
as above!

Proceeds for the sale of these will go to the
Ammo Veterans Association!

Marion and I wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Ammo Chiefs and Troops wherever you may be.

Fred O'Hern

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

AMMO Alley

Source: Copied from a Story called "Fiddler's Green" attributed to the United States Field Artillery Association and adapted to fit the other guardians of peace, United States Air Force Ammo Troops.

(Submitted by Mike Roylance)

We Ammo folks are indeed a very privileged group. In addition to the protection of our Patron Saint, St Barbara, during life, we can look forward to our own special heaven after the sounding of Taps. I refer, of course, to Ammo Alley.

Down through the ages, all purveyors of the fire and members of the ancient profession of Bomb Builders better known as Munitions Maintenance Specialist aka Ammo Troops have discussed this special place in the hereafter, where someday each of us will be privileged to roam. There are as many tales of the Alley as there are of old Ammo Chiefs. The stories are rich with the smell of gunpowder and campfires and flavored with a taste of jungle juice.

Imagine, if you will, a starry night in southwestern Kuwait just after the first Gulf War. Nestled in the shadows of the hangers is a line of loaded trailers staged for the night. As the campfires dim and the flasks of rum and lemon empty, the conversation turns to life in the hereafter. A rugged, old Ammo Chief making his rounds is surprised to learn that all present have not heard of the special destiny of departed Ammo Troops. As the young Ammo pups listen intently, he shares with them the legend of Ammo Alley.

It is generally conceded, he explains, that the souls of the departed eventually end up in heaven or hell. Heaven lies about six miles down the dusty road to eternity, and Ammo Troops get there by turning left at the first crossroad. From this same junction, hell is about eight or nine miles straight ahead. The road's easy to identify, it's the one paved with good intentions. A little way down the road to hell, there is a sign pointing to a trail that runs off to the right of the main road. It reads Ammo Alley, Ammo Troops Only.

When Ammo Troops die, their souls are assembled in the munitions storage area where they are turned in to Munitions Supply (FK) to be accounted for. As precious as a silver bullet some are then reissued as new ammo troops at tech school. Others linger in storage igloos until eventually they are told to load their belongings on to a trailer and point their Bob Tail down that long road to eternity and move out at the respected speed of 25mph.

Like most crusty old airmen, they face the call to eternal damnation and pass by the turnoff to heaven. But unlike the others, Ammo Troops are met by a road guard at the next turnoff, the one and only road to Ammo Alley.

The road to hell, which lies beyond, is crowded with Load Toads, Security Police, Red Horse and other maintenance types from all AFSC's, not to mention the droves of soldiers, sailors and Marines (of course non-Ammo types). But at this point, Ammo Troops bid farewell to their old comrades and those of other branches and services, and wheel their tractors down the trail to the Alley.

The Alley nestles in a large valley spotted with trees and crossed with many cool streams. One can see many earth covered igloos, revetments and several large magazines in the center. Laughter can be heard from afar. At the entrance are several long convoy lines waiting to enter and be unloaded. Those trucks will wait forever as there will be no Frag built tonight.

There is a representative of the MAJCOM Ammo Chiefs on hand to scan the rolls of orders and to attest to the fact that all who are seeking entrance are true Ammo Troops and have attained at least a 3-level. Once certified true Ammo Troops they are met with open arms and immediately given a generous bowl of that immortal nectar jungle juice.

Ammo Alley is a unique place. It is believed to be the only heaven claimed by a professional group as exclusively its own. (Even the Security Police, who didn't choose Ammo for a career can only claim to guard the gates of someone else's heaven.)

The Alley is a gathering place of rugged professional airmen. Their claim to fame is that they served their squadrons well and each other selflessly while on earth. The souls of all departed Ammo Troops are camped here, gathered in comradeship. In the center of their countless tents and campfires is an old BX package store where liquor and beer is free.

There are NCO Clubs with dance halls and live music. Credit is good; no questions asked, no club cards needed. There is always a glass, a friend and a song. At any hour of the day or night, one can hear old NCO's singing Ammo Road and everyone yelling IYAAYAS. Duty consists of full-time R&R. There isn't even a standby roster. Everything is strictly non-regulation. The chow is plentiful and good, and there is no waiting in line. The main pastimes are dancing, drinking and singing all day, dancing, drinking and singing all night. The Alley flows with beer, rum, whiskey and pleasures known only to a few on earth. The Chiefs, NCOs, and Crew Daddys down through the last ammo pup, all are here. Many are even reunited with sweethearts of their youth.

Periodically, an Ammo Troop feels a compulsion to continue down the road to hell. He bids farewell to his comrades, ties down his gear, fills his canteen, makes adjustments to the placards on his tractor and departs for the main road, turning south toward hell. He was not forced to leave the Alley, but felt he must of his own accord and guilt. But don't despair! Not a single Ammo Troop has ever made it all the way to hell. His canteen of jungle juice would be emptied long before he made it, and he'd return to the Alley for a refill never again to leave.

The legend of Ammo Alley has been aptly summarized in a brief poem:

*Halfway down the trail to hell,
In a shady meandering lane,
Are the souls of many Ammo Troops
Camped in a beautiful valley.
And this eternal resting place
Is known as Ammo Alley.*

*Though others must go down the trail
To seek a warmer scene,
No Ammo Troop ever goes to hell,
Ere he's emptied his canteen.
And so returns to drink again,
With friends who never tell.*

The campfires die out, and the troops doze off to sleep, knowing Ammo Alley awaits them and all their bomb building brethren in the life hereafter.

This, then, is the story of Ammo Alley. There are many versions. This one is representative of them all, compiled from available written and verbal accounts. Of course, occasionally stories circulate to the effect that the Alley is shared with Weapons Loaders, Security Police, etc. Don't you believe it! Only the NCO's and airmen of the noblest arm, the Ammo Flight, could continue to enjoy the comradeship and spirit of their most honored and traditional branch after death. Just as in life, where not all are privileged to be Ammo, so too, after death may only these privileged few enjoy the rewards of a special heaven that is uniquely their own.

So fellow BB Stackers, as we march and begin our road into the 242nd year of service to our nation, we can proceed with confidence. Protected by Saint Barbara, we need fear nothing. And even if we should collide with the rocks of temptation or bog down in the quagmire of sin, remember: your comrades will be waiting by the campfire in a peaceful meadow in the middle of Ammo Alley.

LAST CALL

Shawn Patrick Byrne

(1961-2016)



Shawn Patrick Byrne, 55, passed away on November 21, 2016, after a courageous two-year battle with brain cancer. He is survived by his wife Yon Hui ("Suk Kyong") Byrne and daughter Jessica Byrne. He will be missed terribly and remembered with tenderness.

Shawn, who spent 27 years in the U.S. Air Force and retired as a Chief Master Sergeant (E9), was born in La Mesa, California. He spent several years of his childhood in San Diego, then moved with his family to Dodge City, Kansas, where he graduated from Dodge City Senior High School. He joined the Air Force soon after and spent his career as an electronics technician at major USAF installations around the world, including Aviano in Italy and Osan in Korea. He retired in 2006 and settled with his family in Cypress, Texas, just outside Houston. At the time his illness was diagnosed, he worked at FMC Technologies as a project manager.

While in the Air Force, Shawn completed his bachelor's degree in computer management. He had a natural gift for computers and math, but he also loved Porsches, tattoo art and movies, especially science fiction and action films. Classic rock n' roll was his life-long passion – he believed Led Zeppelin was the greatest band in the history of the world – and before he became ill, he was learning to play the guitar. He was a man of extraordinary patience with a gentle demeanor – Shawn volunteered for a time as leader for his daughter's Brownie troop at the elementary school near Aviano AFB. He loved maple donuts, sushi, iced coffee and chopped barbecue beef sandwiches, and he was always a good sport about bringing a corn dish to the family's Thanksgiving feast. He was also famous within the Byrne clan for grilling kalbi (Korean short ribs) to go with his wife's Korean japchae (glass noodle stir-fry) and dumplings.

Shawn and his wife Yon Hui were married for 36 years. Shawn is also survived by his father Joseph Byrne and mother Joan Byrne of College Station, as well as his sister Melissa Byrne Vossmer and her husband Mark Vossmer of Lago Vista, nephew Jacob Vossmer and his wife Leslie Vossmer of Lago Vista, sister Teresa Byrne-Dodge and her husband Cameron Ansari of Houston, niece Taylor Dodge of Houston and nephew Samuel Dodge of Winter Park, Colo.

Shawn never stopped making plans for the future, all the way to the edge of life. His excellent sense of humor shone even more warmly as his illness progressed.

A memorial celebration was held on Saturday, December 17, 2016, at the family home.

Source: Houston Chronicle, Dec. 4, 2016:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/obituary.aspx?pid=182816975#sthash.SqrlHMwo.dpuf>



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
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
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.*