



AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA)

Christmas

“Shell and Flame”



Issue Number: XXXIV

15 December 2014

We are the Ammo Chiefs Association, a not-for-profit; fraternal Association dedicated to the promotion of camaraderie among active duty and retired **USAF AMMO Chiefs**. Our members work throughout the year to raise funds for worthwhile charitable causes such as the Richard Gauvin Memorial Fund, the Enlisted Widows Foundation, and a Sunshine Committee to respond to members' time of distress. The ACA contributes to the morale of active duty AMMO troops at the Chapter level through recognition and sports programs. The ACA sponsors awards programs for the AMMO School House Outstanding Performer, and the AFCOMAC Outstanding Performer. ACA has contributed to cultural enterprises such as the RAF Welford AMMO Museum. *We are AMMO, and proud of it!* Please visit the AMMO Chiefs web page for more information at <http://ammochiefs.com>.

We send our best wishes as another year is almost in the history books. One of the major events of the year was the 2014 ACA Reunion held in Las Vegas. It was great to see many old friends again. The stories of the past seem to get better with time, as in most cases they bring back fond memories of the past assignments and old Ammo friends. The end of the year also means a new group of Ammo chief selects ready to take on the challenge of running their own munitions flight – one of the best jobs in the Air Force.

Our New Ammo Chief Selects:

DANIEL D. ABNER	SANDY S. BROWNING	DONALD C BUTLER JR	SEAN T. CROWN
DAVID A. JAMISON	CHRISTOPHE LAKKALA	VICTORIA L. LEMKE	BENJAMIN T. ODOM
BENJAMIN PADILLA	STEVEN P. WEST	DAVID G. YORK JR	

We wish our new chief selects the best as they become leaders of the pack. We hope they all get a chance very soon to be the chief of their own Ammo flight; there's not many things that compare with the honor and challenges of being an Ammo flight chief.

As we greet the new chief selects we also say goodbye to fellow chiefs that are completing their careers. We truly appreciate their service and support to the Ammo community.

The following link will take you to an article that has the You Tube of the Air Force band as well as a few other stories <http://www.af.mil/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/223/Article/555323/af-band-performs-new-holiday-flash-mob.aspx?source=GovD>. Once opened just scroll down and click play indicator, turn on the speakers and also select full screen option and enjoy a few minutes of Christmas music.

I will close by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Richard Pennington
ACA President



State of the Ammo Chiefs Association

October 2014

(This was presented at the ACA Business Meeting)



At least once each year, one of my duties to the ACA membership is to provide my perspective on the status of the organization. The key areas are: the financial status, major endeavors undertaken, membership status, and present a budget for the next year's operation.

We are doing a great job of supporting the Ammo School House, AFCOMAC, and many other local events in the Ammo community. These are the top reasons/priorities for us.

The financial status of the organization is on solid ground. Our checking and savings accounts are not growing, but they maintain a positive balance. For our budget, we depend mainly on the continued growth of our membership through annual or life membership dues. Over the past few years, we have noticed a downward trend in the number of active duty Ammo chiefs joining or maintaining their membership.

When I look back at the major endeavors of our organization over the past year, a lot of great things have taken place. I would like to thank all of the chapters for their strong support of the Ammo community. Without the strong support of local chapters and members, the ACA organization wouldn't be able to support our Ammo community.

Our membership stands at 193 members. This includes Regular, Associate, Honorary, and Shell and Flame Awards. The majority (121) of our memberships are not members of a chapter. There are areas that contain a large number of retired Ammo chiefs as well as retired Ammo troops that could be associate members that could establish a chapter. We will provide any assistance required to generate the charter and bylaws. Our budget for the coming year will be discussed at the business meeting during the reunion. Since the last annual state of the association, we had a change in the treasurer position. An audit was accomplished as part of the transition and nothing was found to be out of order. Our Treasurer will also provide an annual report during the business meeting at the reunion. This will also give us a chance to get feedback from the membership on the proposed 2015 budget.

After our reunion is over, the next major event will be the nomination of new officers in 2015, to take office on 1 January 2016. I hope we can get ahead of the game on this one so we don't have to draft anyone. I've enjoyed working with the ACA BOD over the years and think we are leaving the organization in good status for the next ACA BOD.

I look forward to seeing our members during the reunion where we will be able to discuss any issue one on one or as a group at the business meeting.

Thanks for your continued support to the ACA organization.

VR
Richard Pennington
ACA President

Best Wishes from our ACA Vice President

Marion and I wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the entire Ammo Community.

Fred IYA Ammo YAS (Chief.OHern@gmail.com)
ACA Vice President

Holiday Greetings to all my AMMO Brothers!

From the Secretary:

As this year comes to a close we can all look back and wonder where the time went!! I think we can agree it's been a pretty good one for the ACA as our financial and membership numbers indicate. I also want to thank everyone who attended the Reunion, just wish more of you had been there. Also want to wish those who couldn't make it because of last minute medical issues all the best and hope this next year will be a healthier one for you.

I know it's early to be reminding everyone about a significant event coming up this next year, but time does move on and we all need to be thinking about what's ahead. First of all, 2015 is an election year for the ACA Board of Directors wishing to stay on and for any volunteers who want to be considered to step into one of the positions. Shortly after the first of the year Rich will be asking for volunteers and for nominations to form up the new BOD who will take over on January 1, 2016. This is the Memberships chance to volunteer or nominate someone. The Constitution specifies the "time lines" for this process and you will be seeing a lot more on this subject after the upcoming Holidays have passed.

I'll also remind those of you who pay your ACA Dues annually to do so NLT January 31st. Failing to do so will remove you from the active Membership rolls as being delinquent and you will remain so until we receive your check. Also, you can easily convert to Lifetime Membership status at any time by simply contacting me or Mike to check what your balance would be to get it done. It would make it easier for us all.

You and yours stay well and be safe. "Sam" and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and the best of everything in the New Year.

Jack **IYAAYAS !!!!**
ACA Secretary

Treasurer Report

The ACA is a Tax Exempt Veterans Organization eligible to receive Tax-Deductible Charitable Contributions. So if you want to; or know someone, or know some business, that wants to make a charitable contribution before the end of the year please consider the Ammo Chiefs Association. We do good things for good people. Go to this site:

<http://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/ePostSearch.do?searchChoice=pub78&dispatchMethod=selectSearch>. And plug in our EIN 59-3738339, select the button: "are eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions" then "Search" to see us listed by the IRS! For more details contact me direct at mikeroylance@comcast.net. Please share this with those considering making a contribution.

It was great to see old friends and meet new Ammo Chiefs at the ACA reunion recently held in Vegas. What was really nice was to see many folks supporting the ACA and wearing shirts available from Ammo Supply at: <http://ammochiefs.qbstores.com/home.html>. Plus you can order more than just shirts; other items are available with the logo, i.e. Golf Towels! Remember 5% of every sale goes directly into the ACA Treasury.

Bonnie and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Mike Roylance
ACA Treasurer
IYAAYAS!!

Present and Past Air Force 2W0 Career Field Managers

During the December 2014 ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter meeting was an opportunity for the present and past Air Force Ammo Chief career field managers to reminisce on some of the changes and also to wish Chief Hamada the best as he starts to wind down his career. He will be retiring in January with his ceremony being held at Edwards AFB CA. Chief Hamada's retirement ceremony is scheduled on 16 January 2015, at 1030, at the 412th Maintenance Squadron Munitions Storage Area. **Military:** ABU **Civilian:** Casual - No Jeans/No Ties



R.S.V.P. by 22 December 2014
POC: [William O. Jones](#) 661-275-8261
Alt POC: [Scott Ford](#) 661-277-8998

We wish him the best as he transitions into the next phase of his life and career.

Ricky Hamada, Eddie Fuquay, Bill McCullough, John Matthews, Mike Robertson, and Rick Follett (ANG)

19-Nov-14

Membership by Chapter

Includes 5 Shell and Flame awardees

Emerald Coast	42
Mid Atlantic	23
Mid West	6
No Chapter	125
Total	196

19-Nov-14

Membership by Status

Active	18
Deceased	4
Honorary Spouse	6
Veteran	168
Total	196

19-Nov-14

Membership by Type

AA = Associate Paying Annual Dues
 AL = Associate Lifetime
 H = Honorary
 HS = Honorary Spouse
 RA = CMSgt (Regular) Paying Annual Dues
 RL = CMSgt Lifetime
 SF = Shell and Flame Awarded *

* Includes 4 deceased members

AA	7
AL	20
H	5
HS	6
RA	8
RL	146
SF	4
Total	196

ACA Mid-West Chapter

We had our meeting 6 December and discussed several issues including the upcoming ACA election next year. Gary Knighton was reelected Secretary/Treasurer again for another three year.

Here is a little something on charitable donations. Many companies offer a Giving Campaign where they match the contributions their employees make. Often this program is overseen by an organization called Truist. They maintain a database of validated 501 (c)(3) agencies. They don't normally list 501 (c)(19) organizations however the AMMO Chiefs Association Inc. was recently added to their list. So if any of our member's work for a company who offer a Giving Campaign and they use Truist we should already be loaded in their system.

Take care and have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Thanks
Mark Gossett

HQ Air Combat Command Munitions Supervisor of the Year

Earlier this year SSgt Victoria Yale was selected as the ACC Munitions Supervisor of the Year for 2013. She is assigned to the 1st Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight at Langley AFB VA. The following are some outtakes from the local Langley base newspaper. "It is my job to take care of the Airmen so they can take care of the mission. Leading by example is the mark of a great supervisor. If I make mistakes, I own up to it. If I need help, I ask for it. I never expect Airmen to do something I wouldn't, or couldn't, do myself."

"In the munitions career field we are truly a family. It's only because of that family that I received this award. They put me on their shoulders, so I owe it to them to give my all as a munitions troop and supervisor."



On behalf of the ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter CMSgt Bobby George presented a certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Performance to SSgt Victoria Yale

Seymour Johnson AFB honors SrA Powers during Promotion Ceremony

SMSGt Will Meador's promotion held at Seymour Johnson AFB honored the occasion by inviting the Powers family to take part in the ceremony. The Powers family didn't know until they arrived, what was about to take

place. As you recall, SrA Brice Powers was injured in an auto accident while assigned to Misawa AB Japan. The ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter visited SrA Powers on several occasions when he was transferred to the VA hospital in Richmond VA. SMSGt Meador pinned on SMSGt 1 Nov 14. He is very close to the family of Brice Powers who you all know passed away last year, and asked if they would come to the ceremony and tack on his stripes. They were excited about doing it. What SMSGt Meador really did is tell a little of the Powers story to the wing during the monthly promotion ceremony held at the base theater in remembrance of Brice and recognize them as still a part of the AF and AMMO family. James even gave an AMMO yell, as he served a few years as an Ammo troop. Well done SMSGt Meador.



Chief Nixon, SMSGt Meador, Madison, James, Cathleen Powers and Chief Nikolas.

Seymour Johnson Ammo Troop Takes Honors



Chief Nixon presented an ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Certificate of Appreciation to MSgt Jeremy Davis for his selection as the ACC Outstanding Munitions Manager. He was also presented an ACAMC coin and a check on behalf of the ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter. The ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter recognizes all of the outstanding Ammo troops for winning any of the base or higher level awards for bases in the ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter region.

Interesting story on Airman Kamee Mayfield. Good to see her progressing and building up her confidence through sports. If you recall she was involved in a POV accident while assigned to Misawa AB Japan. She was reassigned to Luke AFB AZ while she continues her recovery; we wish her continued success as she works toward a full recovery.

<http://airman.dodlive.mil/2014/10/going-beyond/>

ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

The ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter had a busy fourth quarter. Jackie Miller put four care packages together for our Ammo troops at Jordan, Kandahar, Al Dhafra, and Bagram. With donations from our members and the ACA, over \$1,150.00 was spent on the goodies and the mailing costs. Feedback from the recipients was very positive! A few of our members were able to attend the ACA reunion at Las Vegas. They were very pleased with the activities, venue, accommodations, and support from the Nellis AFB Ammo team. Our hats off to Jack Seaman and Chief Elliot for their endeavors in putting the reunion together.

We held our last meeting of the year at Bill McCullough's house. Twelve members and one Associate were in attendance. With four proxies, we had no problem conducting official business. Additionally, eight spouses joined in on the activities. During the meeting, we learned of two Quarterly Award winners we were not apprised of (SSgt Victoria L. Yale and MSgt Barry J. Beddis). Our Awards Committee will catch up on these past winners. The members went over the schedule of events for 2015, as well as the proposed budget. The chapter members reviewed the two Ammo Troops-in-Need packages and approved both. One Ammo troop from Seymour-Johnson AFB, and one from Joint Base Langley-Eustis, will be taken on Christmas shopping trips valued at over \$325.00 each by their respective ACAMC representatives. The group also evaluated two Sharp Ammo Troop Award packages and decided SrA Zachary Winch from Joint Base Langley-Eustis, and SrA Jason Hargrove from Seymour-Johnson AFB were both worthy of the recognition. They will receive a certificate and \$50.00 check in recognition of their hard work and dedication to serving the Ammo community.

Ricky Hamada will have his retirement ceremony on January 16th at Edwards AFB officiated by Col Kim Brooks. In lieu of a present from the chapter, Ricky requested a \$50.00 donation be sent to the CMSgt Richard A. Gauvin Memorial Scholarship Fund at AFCOMAC. In February, CMSgt Chris Arnold will replace Ricky at the Pentagon.

At the end of the meeting, the group socialized and had a feast of appetizers, entrées, and desserts. As the afternoon progressed, we held a drawing for the 2014 White House Christmas ornament. Heidi Kulp drew Frank Waterman's ticket (it must have been birthday luck!). The raffle proceeds of \$255.00 were donated to the Ammo Troops-in-Need program to help make their holiday season a bit more pleasant.



2013 Emerald Coast Chapter

The Emerald Coast Chapter recently recognized the 2014 outstanding Munitions Performers as selected by the supervisors of the Munitions areas at Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Fld, and Tyndall AFB. The event was held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel where a fine meal was served by Asiago catering and the chapter recognized A1C (SRA BTZ select) Cummings from Hurlburt, SSgt Edwin Commet from Tyndall, and SSgt Stephanie (Glaze) Hewlett from Eglin. All three were praised by their supervisors for their dedication, outstanding work ethic, superior job knowledge, leadership and dedication to the Ammo community. They have set the example for all others to follow by their actions both on and off duty. Each were presented with an engraved Chief bust, chapter coin, and a framed letter signed by the chapter President.

We have our usual events planned for 2015 and all Ammo troops are cordially invited to attend. We will have our annual Ammo Call in May at Helen Back's Ammo Bar in Ft Walton Beach. I will be posting this on Facebook as well as sending out the flyer sometime in Feb/Mar when we have a firm date. We will conduct our Annual Charity golf tournament in July and will post it well in advance for anyone interested to have a chance to participate. This past year's tournament we were able to raise over \$2500 split between the Okaloosa/Walton County Mental Health Association and the Local Toys-for-Tots organization.

We held our officers meeting on 4 Dec to discuss the annual audit/budget and agenda items for our Jan members meeting. We have three new chiefs, (Mothersill, Abner, and Crump) reporting into the area and have made contact with hopes of getting them signed up to the ACA and to future meeting and involved with our chapter.



SSgt Edwin Commet from Tyndall



SRA (BTZ select) Cummings from Hurlburt



SSgt Stephanie (Glaze) Hewlett from Eglin



Toys-for-Tots



Okaloosa/Walton County Mental Health Association

WASATCH CHAPTER SUPPORTS THE TROOPS!

The Wasatch ACA Chapter members banded together to raise funds for active duty/reserve/deployed Ammo troops needing a little extra help over the holidays. They collected over \$1,550 and distributed the funds in the form of DECA (commissary) gift cards to members of the 388th EMS, 419th MXS, 649th MUNS, Global Ammunition Control Point, and 86 FWS (WSEP). Chapter President, Dave Calandra and Mike Eisenberg (Secretary) personally visited each organization to disseminate the gift cards to AMMO leadership. A big thank-you goes out to all the Wasatch members for their generous donations and for looking out for their fellow AMMO Troops!

Mike Eisenberg
Secretary, ACA Wasatch Chapter
Hill AFB, UT
IYAAYAS



388 EMS Munitions Flight Hill AFB, UT



649 MUNS, Hill AFB, UT

Care Package Support for Ammo Troops

The Ammo community truly appreciates the outstanding work by retired CMSgt Jack Miller for purchasing, packing and mailing care packages to the AOR forward operating locations. The ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter started this effort several years ago as a chapter project and after a couple years donations were received from ACA members as well as the ACA organization. Chief Miller has taken on this project several years and looks forward to doing it again next year if we still have Ammo troops serving in the AOR. The chapter has received several thank you emails for the AOR Ammo troops expressing their thanks for the care packages. As noted in the ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter input over \$1150 was spent on this most worthy cause. We all owe Jack a big thanks for his super efforts in making this another successful event.

AFCOMAC Outstanding Performer Class 2015-001



Class 1501 AFCOMAC SSgt Thomas Neer, he is from Mt. Home AFB.

We still have Ammo troops serving in harm's way taking care of the mission to secure the freedoms and security of people around the world and back home. We need to keep them in our thoughts and prayers for a safe return home.

I've asked that we add an event calendar to our website so we can get the word out to everyone on future events. We need your support by providing your inputs on any Ammo related event in your area. We are looking for inputs from OCONUS as well as the CONUS locations; some examples are the regional softball tournaments, Bash on the Beach, Chapter Meetings, AMMO Calls. These are just a few examples of what would be good entries to share with the Ammo community.

Non Taxable Donation

We just received a letter and \$75 donation from Dave Bressler with Ammo-Dog.com for the ACA letting him set-up, show and sell his Ammo memorabilia at the ACA Reunion. This will be considered as a non-taxable contribution and send him the appropriate letter indicating receipt.

As far as I know this is our first official non-taxable contribution, at least in the eyes of the IRS that we are aware of. If you or any agency would like to make a Non Taxable donation to the ACA, send a check to Mike Roylance and he will provide the receipt for IRS purposes.

ACA Treasurer 1525 267 th PL SE Sammamish, WA 98075
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Moody Blues Ammo Call

Operation **Moody Blues Ammo Call** began on October 3rd, 2014 as the first of the deploying members began arriving at Camp Jones Pecan Farm near Ray City, Georgia (five miles north of Moody AFB), and the Ammo Flag was hoisted. The operating pecan farm is 54 acres located about a mile outside of the village that supported us with plenty of ice and beer! Our mission was clear. Bring the Ammo Flame to the area of retirees and active duty.

By 1800 Hours on the 3rd, the bed down of tents, canopies, camper and one big muddy RV had been accomplished. Ammo troops and dependents from Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Tennessee arrived and set up bare base operations in just a matter of hours. Showers had already been run into a converted stock trailer and porta-johns were in place. Retired Chief Zima and Retired Chief Fick arrived just before dark from their headquarters at a local motel. With ADVON bedded down, the Ammo Chiefs officially announced the beginning of **Moody Blues Ammo Call**.

Chili dogs, hamburgers and chips were served the first night as the music and campfires began. What a blessing it quickly became when Retired Ammo Brother Joe Santua began to play the guitar and sing. Chief Zima couldn't stand it any longer. Tom and Joe started singing as a duet and taking turns with Ammo Songs, Blues Songs and some original songs written by Joe himself. The night turned magical, and Ammo cheers started echoing the clear South Georgia night once again!

Saturday the 4th of October, started early with sausage and egg biscuits, and plenty of coffee. Ms Terrie Jones sent tray after tray around to everyone as the cooking began! Retired Ammo Brother John Davis started frying fresh caught fish from Florida while Retired Ammo Bob Jones started dropping hush puppies and fries. Retired Ammo Brother Joe Santua carefully started cooking over a 100 lbs of Boston Butts and goat. The smells of Ammo filled the countryside! Side dish after side dish of spring rolls, potato salads, cole slaws, beans, and pasta began appearing till the serving area was full. Ammo coins for the event was being passed out to arriving Ammo troops. Forty two retired Ammo troops had come by noon from the local area, Warner Robbins, the Florida Panhandle, and from all around the South. With the arrival of Ammo Ambassador Jimmy Taylor flying into Valdosta from Virginia at lunch time, the eating began! Ammo cheers, stories from the past, and hugs from members who hadn't seen each other in years filled the landscape. Only six active duty from the 23rd FW line-d arrived, and active duty Ammo Brother Jim Taylor arrived from Hurlbut. There was singing, laughing, joking and even a few lies told till dark.

The air turned cool fast after dark, and the bonfire grew bigger as everyone found a seat to keep warm. The beverage coolers were transported quickly from the dining area to the bonfire. We heard stories from Morbach, Lakenheath, PACAF, Bentwaters, and even Hahn. The history of Ammo was once again lit! The flames went into the wee hours of Sunday morning as people laughed and cheered.

Sunday morning came with pancakes and sausage from the house and plenty of hot coffee. The tents and canopies, RV, and camper started to pack up and engines began to warm up. Hugs were in order, and a few tears were shed that morning as people said good byes as their long treks home began. In the usual way, Ammo Ambassador Jimmy Taylor, stayed to the end to make sure everyone got off safely and the operation had been completed. Everyone thanked myself (Retired Ammo Bob Jones) and the wife for a job well done. As we watched each of our brothers and sisters leave the end of the driveway, we shed some tears as they left, however, we felt proud that we had the opportunity to "Keep the Flame Burning!" It was a solemn moment as the Ammo Flag was lowered Sunday night, but I could still hear IYAAYAS echoing through the limbs and leaves of the Live Oak trees! Ammo Call has returned to South Georgia! Join us at Facebook page: *Moody Blues Ammo Call*.





Chief Hamada donated the Ammo Flag during the ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter meeting in December. The flag will be carried forward to the AOR in March 2015, by Chief Bobby George and raised over the munitions area.



CMSgt George presenting TSgt Simmons a Certificate for being selected ACC Outstanding Munitions Supervisor of the Quarter



CMSgt George presenting MSgt Beddis a Certificate for being selected ACC Outstanding Munitions Manager of the Quarter

Historical Archives:

We need your support to submit articles and pictures new or old to share with the Ammo community. Send to my home email account at rpennington7@cox.net. That way you don't have to worry about sending through military system.





**IN MEMORY
Of**



TSgt Billy J. Thomas



Billy J. Thomas, 31, of Las Vegas, passed away October 26, 2014. He was born August 1, 1983, to William and Carrie Thomas, in Fallon, NV. Billy served proudly in the U.S. Air Force. He was a wonderful and devoted husband, father, son, brother and friend. His wife and children were everything to him. He was a hard worker and always tried to make everyone laugh. Billy was a proud AMMO troop and he loved his job and all the people he worked with. Billy is survived by his beloved wife, Rebecca; daughter, Sarah, age 7; son, Noah, age 4; sister, Kristen; parents, Carrie and William; in-laws Herman and Romelia; many family members and countless friends. He will be dearly missed by all those who met him and got to know him. "Till we meet again my love. I will love you forever and beyond." Services will be 3- 4pm Sunday, November 2, 2014, at Palm Northwest Mortuary 6701 North Jones Blvd Las Vegas, NV 89131.

Chief James (Jim) Elledge

I didn't receive any BIO information or pictures for Chief James (Jim) Elledge who passed away and was buried right after Thanksgiving; we appreciate his service to our country and the Ammo community.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Ammo Families:

We try to collect and post this kind of information when we get it. In most cases we will get it posted on the website right away; the newsletter is about every quarter. So whenever you have this kind of information, we would be honored to post and share with the rest of the Ammo community.

VR
Richard Pennington
President, Ammo Chiefs Association