



AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA)

March 2015

“Shell and Flame”



Issue Number: XXXV

28 Mar 2015

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

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Please keep your address and contact details current, a quick email will suffice to me at Ammo.Chiefs.Association@gmail.com

You can reach ACA Officers by email at the addresses above if you would like their snail mail addresses contact the Secretary. Please contact any of the members of the ACA Board of Directors if you have any items of interest or information you feel would be of benefit to the organization.

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

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

From Your President

I received some great inputs for our Ammo troops serving in the AOR and also notable achievements from AFCOMAC which celebrated the graduation of its 15,000th student 19 Dec 2014. The AFCOMAC article is included later in the newsletter.

Support the Ammo troops (care packages) for the holidays was a success again this past year. A special thanks to Chief Jack Miller (ret), member of the ACA Mid-Atlantic chapter, who has volunteered for several years now collecting the goods and shopping for items to put into the separate packages and getting them mailed in time to reach the different locations before Christmas. The ACA Mid-Atlantic chapter started the effort and, with the support of the ACA organization and donations from ACA members, it has allowed each of the locations to receive a care package. We appreciate everyone's support in continuing this effort until we get all of the Ammo troops out of the AOR.

At this time of year we get notified of the selection of the next generation of SMSgt's; their names are listed later. I'm sure many of you had a direct impact on their career and mentorship for them to be successful as they climb the ladder to become an Ammo Chief. We wish them success as they continue their career in Ammo.

We have reached a milestone in our organization; we now have breached the 200 number of active membership. Mike provided a great graph to show the range of our membership over the past years; it's outstanding to see our membership continue to grow. We are starting to see some of our Ammo troops in the ANG finally get recognition for their support to the mission and get selected for Chief; one of our latest members is Chief Nye from the ANG unit at Langley.

We welcome the new Career Functional Manager, Chief Chris Arnold, as he replaces Chief Hamada. We wish Chris success as he takes over the controls and guides the Ammo ship in some of the most challenging times for the Air Force.

During my travels I've had a chance to talk to some of our Ammo troops that returned from AFCOMAC and want to share with you some honest Ammo feedback from one of them. I pasted their comments later in the newsletter.

We still need historical inputs and old and new Ammo related pictures to share with the rest of the Ammo community. I've received a few emails with intent to submit an article for the newsletter. Once we receive them, they will be included in a future newsletter. It's always good to have articles and pictures from the past as well as the present on events the Ammo community is engaged in. Our career field is represented by a lot of outstanding Ammo troops who compete for Air Force level awards, as well as many local level awards. I would like to include these types of recognition in our newsletter, so send them in with a picture and a short article.

We wish those serving overseas a safe return; we truly appreciate what you are doing to keep the Ammo flame burning and making the world a safer place to be.

For ACA Newsletter inputs please send to:

John Matthews at rammoc1994@comcast.net

Rich Pennington at rpennington7@cox.net

Richard Pennington
ACA President



Congratulation to our Ammo SMSgt selects:

BAGBY BLAINE J	BONHAM MICHAEL J	BRANSTETTER PAUL N
CASTILLON CHRISTOP	COOPER MARCUS B	COUSIN ANTONIO
CROXFORD BENJAMIN	DAY SCHENNAY V	DELGADO RAYMOND
FINLEY RYAN J	FISHER DONALD A	HERBSTTRITT CHRISTO
KILLINGSWORTH REGI	KLEMISH MATTHEW D	KOEHLER WAYLON J
KOERPER PAUL D	MACNEIL MICHAEL S	MOSLEY CHERISE L
NAGLE JAMES L	RIFFLE CHRISTOPHER	ROBERTSON GEOFF T
SCOTT DENNIS G	TKACS BRYAN K	WILLIAMS HOLLY AMB
WURN JEFFREY M	YODER JASON D	



I'm sure we will see some of these folks in a couple years on the Chief List.

From the Secretary

Hope this finds you and yours all well. A lot of our members have been dealing with some really nasty weather these past few weeks and I'm sure they will be glad to see things return to normal - - whatever normal is these days.

There are still a few of you who are delinquent on your 2015 membership dues. Please take a few minutes, get those checkbooks out and take care of business. My thanks in advance to those doing so. Our ACA Membership continues to grow and we have reached the 200 mark. What's encouraging is the number of Active Duty eligible troops signing up over the past year or so. Hope this trend continues, we need Active Duty guys and gals to help keep the ACA alive and well.

Keep in mind this is an ACA election year, Rich has addressed this issue also, would welcome any of you Active Duty or Retired CMSgt Members wishing to throw your "hat in the ring" for consideration. You will all be hearing more about this subject in the next few months. Stay well and keep in touch.

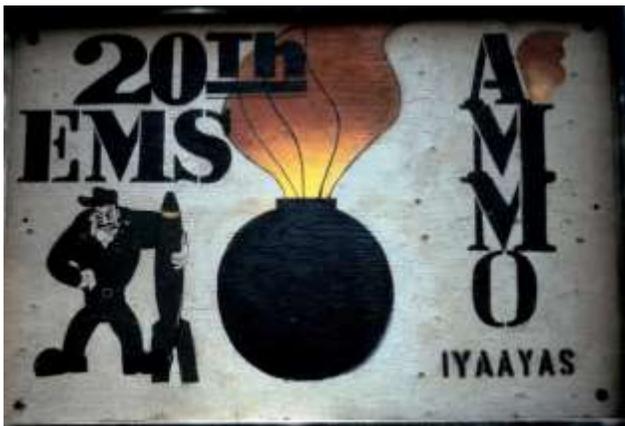
Jack **IYAAYAS !!!!**

Election of new ACA BOD

This year we will be electing the following positions to the ACA BOD; President, Vice President, Secretary, Chief at Arms, and four Director-at-Large positions. Mike Royslance, our Treasurer, will continue in his present position. Rick Follett, our Web-Site Manager, will also continue to maintain our website. We need your support in the coming months to consider volunteering for one of the vacant positions and consider talking with other members about accepting a nomination from their fellow Ammo brothers and sisters if so nominated. The new ACA BOD will take office on 1 January 2016.

We need to have the names of those interested in taking on a position or nominations completed by 15 September 2015, in order to establish the ballot sheet. We will send out the ballot sheets 1 October 2015, and cut off the voting 30 October 2015.

Rich Pennington



CAP-1 the Predecessor of AFCOMAC

Thirty years ago this month, the largest (to that date) peacetime munitions production exercise in USAF history was conducted at RAF Upper Heyford. As we approach the 30th Anniversary of AFCOMAC (first Class March 1986) it is well that we remember the exercise that was used to justify the need for AFCOMAC.

The 20th EMS, Munitions Branch with support from the 7551st ASUPS at RAF Welford was chosen by USAFE to lead in the test to validate munitions planning and production capabilities. To the maximum extent possible the exercise simulated wartime production requirements. All items were taken from stock (never having been previously assembled), built-up and delivered to a teardown/repack operation carried out by the Ammo troops from Welford. For the purposes of the test pre-built munitions were not allowed and it was assumed that all items once delivered were expended. During the 65 hour duration of the exercise (24 of which were in full simulated chemical environment) the 20th was tasked to produce 2,600 fully assembled rounds made up of a menu of ten different items. Ninety per cent of the tasked items were delivered on schedule. Of note is that there were no injuries (even minor ones) or explosive incidents during the exercise.

The exercise met all objectives for the test and would lead to AFCOMAC being stood up a year later. From the local point of view it fully validated Ammo's pre-planning and preparation. It was always understood that 110 Ammo Troops, using antiquated pre-load rail sets (i.e. before RAMS), maintenance facilities not geared for mass production, and widely dispersed build-up sites could not keep up with three squadrons of F-111s if we had to go from a standing start. Therefore, three to five days of a likely frag mix was maintained in a fully assembled (except fuzing) ready to go state, with the first days sorties being trailerized and pre-loaded. Further the wing had dedicated a Hardened Aircraft Shelter for build-up and pre-load operations.

The test results lent support to increased manning and equipage. But more importantly the lessons learned would be put to good use later in 1985 when the wing was tasked to produce a complete attack package from no-notice in a comm blackout, Operation Ghost Rider a trial for Libya Attack, and again again in April 1986 when we were tasked to produce a full package of spares for Libya Attack, again with no-notice and in comm blackout conditions.

As the Wings Ammo Chief, I remain extremely proud of the Ammo Troops (including the 65 troops from RAF Welford led by MSgt Jim Sacks), Weapons Maintenance, and AFK personnel who gave their best efforts to insure the success of CAP-1. They can be proud of their contributions to the Ammo Mission. I would be remiss to not mention the role played by the Ammo observers/judges from the USAFE staff. As a note for the Ammo Chiefs Association of the approximately 200 Ammo participants in CAP-1 at least eight would be promoted to Ammo Chief: i.e. Don Stillwell, John Hough, Steve Petersen, Dick Whitten, John Cecere, Felix Vasquez, Rich Whatton, and Paul Cox.

Fred O'Hern, Ammo Chief, IYA Ammo YAS

PS-I will never forget the looks on the faces of the USAF and USAFE evaluators when Don Stillwell and I pulled a tandem MHU-110 tow loaded with palletized built-up MK-82s out of a building used for fuzing. The stake pockets on the back 110 caught on a door edge, since we had only minutes to make the frag I chose to go with it, the accordion fold doors literally burst out of the tracks. Gave us a good laugh at the pub when it was all over.

455 EMXS: Making Airpower Possible

By Staff Sgt. Amstutz , 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs / Published January 16, 2015



Airman 1st Class Moore, 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron line delivery crew member, inspects a trailer prior to transporting munitions to the flightline Jan. 14, 2015 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Line delivery Airmen have completed 741 munitions deliveries since October, ensuring the timely facilitation of airpower to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Whitney Amstutz/released)



Airman 1st Class Martinez and U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Moore, 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron line delivery crew members, read Technical Orders in preparation for a munitions transportation mission Jan. 14, 2015 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Whitney Amstutz/released)



Airman 1st Class Moore, 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron line delivery crew member, connects a munitions trailer to a vehicle prior to delivering the munitions to the flightline Jan. 14, 2015 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Whitney Amstutz/released)



Munitions, secured to a trailer by Airmen assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron line delivery crew, are prepared for transportation to the flightline Jan. 14, 2015 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Whitney Amstutz/released)



Airman 1st Class Martinez and U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Moore, 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron line delivery crew members, loosen the straps on a transportation trailer in preparation for a munitions load Jan. 14, 2015 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Whitney Amstutz/released)

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan --

Since the Air Force's inception nearly 70 years ago, the image of aircraft overhead and the roar of jet engines may have fostered feelings of patriotism and instilled an indelible sense of security in many Americans. Working behind the scenes to ensure citizens have placed their faith in a steadfast force, Airmen assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron here deliver the firepower that commands the respect of nations across the globe.

"Our job is extremely important to the Air Force mission," said Airman 1st Class Martinez, 455 EMXS line delivery crew member. "Without us, there are no bombs. Without us, there is no airpower."

Hailing from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Martinez and his fellow line delivery crewmates have conducted 741 real world munitions deliveries valued at more than \$75 million since their arrival in October. "A lot of people are under the impression that bombs just magically appear on an aircraft," Martinez said. "They don't realize there are a lot of processes within the munitions career field, line delivery being the final step, that have to take place before a bomb is loaded onto an aircraft."

The men and women of line delivery adhere to strict Technical Orders and regulations prior to, during, and following the transport of munitions. When travelling with thousands of pounds of explosives, perfection isn't a goal, it's an expectation.

"Expose the least amount of people to the least amount of explosives for the least amount of time," Martinez said. "This principle governs everything we do. We can't be sitting in the middle of a populous area with trailers full of bombs. When we travel we use specific roads to get from point A to point B; we call it the explosive route. If we get the job done as quickly as possible and get the munitions to the safe zone, that's the best we can do for our fellow Airmen."

At the moment a munitions delivery is ordered, a chain of events is set in motion, events that must take place with the utmost precision and finesse to ensure the safety and security of the thousands who live and work on Bagram.

"When we get an order requiring a munitions delivery we have to first locate those specific bombs in our munitions yard or at the Ammo Storage Point," Martinez said. "Once we've done this, we have to set up a crew book, conduct a crew brief, and roll out to the site for pick up. We have to check out the trailer in its entirety to make sure everything's kosher, then we hook up to it."

"Once we're ready to go, we call in on the radio to communicate what we have and where we're going with it," Martinez continued. "Once we receive the go-ahead, we start making our way to the flightline. After we arrive, we contact the expediter who lets us know where we need to be and when the load crew will arrive. The final step is accountability: We call in to let everyone know where the munition is because we have to maintain positive control at all times."

Contrary to most stateside line delivery operations, there are no dry runs or training scenarios. Mission success can be measured in the continued suppression of terrorism, while mission failure can equate to devastating loss. When dealing with the highest stakes, standards and the caliber of personnel must be even higher.

"The intensity here is completely different than at Hill," Martinez said. "Back home, it's more of a training environment. Here, if they need a bomb, they absolutely need it as soon as possible. I derive my sense of satisfaction from seeing the bombs go up onto the aircraft and watching it take off at the end of the runway. When the planes come back empty it means we did our job and I take a lot of pride in the role I play in ensuring our nation's security."

Fight against ISIL: Ammo troops keep up with tempo

By Senior Master Sgt. Carrie Hinson, U.S. Air Forces Central Command Public Affairs / Published January 06, 2015

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) -- There's nothing more exciting than watching a fighter jet loaded with munitions roar down the flight line headed off to take out the bad guy.

Since hitting the ground, ammo troops assigned to an expeditionary maintenance squadron in Southwest, Asia have worked nonstop building bombs to support the war against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

What used to be standard training missions and guarding of munitions for many ammo troops has now turned into building bombs to support everyday, real-world combat missions.



“This time it’s nothing but the real deal,” said Master Sgt. Adam, the NCO in charge of conventional maintenance. “This is what you’re trained to do; this is what you train for at your home station when you go through exercises. We’re really going after it this time around and I like it.”

With a 40 to 50 percent increase in the amount of bombs ammo troops are building, and over 500 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) GBU-38s and GBU-54s already dropped since their arrival, ammo troops are looking to break new records with the amount of bombs they continue to build

each month.

“We’re only halfway through our deployment,” said Master Sgt. Adam. “A lot of these guys are pretty green and they haven’t really gotten to do something of this magnitude. This is even big for me.”

Senior Airman Adam, a munitions crew chief, knew he would be supporting an active mission here but had little knowledge of what he would be walking into with his first deployment as an ammo troop.

“I had no idea how high tempo the mission was going to be or how many munitions we would be building,” said the senior airman. “In the last three months we have already built over nine times the amount of munitions than the last rotation did in their entire six (months).”



As the U.S. and coalition forces continue to target specific capabilities to project combat power on the enemy, this leaves ammo with no choice but to ensure their Airmen are trained and proficient in every aspect of their job to keep operations running smoothly.

“Our job is to ensure that when each warhead is dropped that it will find its target and detonate as designed, so that each mission is always a success,” said Senior Airman Adam.

Bagram Airfield, Parwan province Afghanistan.

The attacks of Sept 11, 2001 sent the entire nation on a war footing to hunt down and kill Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. Ammo troops stood up operations on Bagram Airfield and got to work. The conditions were austere and cruel. Advance the clock 14 years later and Ammo troops who were in some cases 5 years old at the time of the 911 attacks are building bombs at roughly the same location, providing the "curtain of steel" for our brothers in the field. The 388 EMS/AMMO Flight has come forward once again to provide the steel that vanquishes our enemies. Many in our own community have come through the gates to fight in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF). Many reading this newsletter remember the dust, the heat, the ice, the mud and the sting of battle or most times the monotony of the Air Tasking Order.

Operation FREEDOM's SENTINIEL has taken over for OEF; the mission now is to Train Assist and Advise the new Afghan Security Forces. AMMO's mission has not changed we still meet the ATO; we still provide the precise and deadly munitions on target. The young and old vets with the 388th and other locations throughout the Combat, Special Ops and Mobility Air Force have done an outstanding job doing our nation's work. During this rotation we shipped 63 tons of excess MMHE, shipped "retrograded" 541,000 munitions assets (20%) of the stockpile, provided forces and rotated a unit to fight the ISIS monsters, expended 77,000 rounds of various munitions to support 4,800 combat sorties, 120 troops-in-contact and the destruction of 61 high-value targets (and counting). All of these ops while enduring 60+ rocket attacks, a few bruised egos and a few moves. The beat goes on...

Chief "Rick" Velasquez

IYAAYAS!

Care Packages To The AOR



But of course we got creative with M206 Flare cans filled with care package



AFCOMAC Outstanding Performer

ALCON,

Please convey my sincere congratulations to SSgt Brett Baker for his selection as the recipient of the Ammo Chief's Association "Outstanding Performer" award. This award goes to the Airmen 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 Baker at the top of his 70-person class. He should be very proud of himself and all he

achieved while attending the Air Force Combat Ammunition Center. SSgt Baker'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 accomplishment!

John D. Shaw, MSgt, USAF
Curriculum Flight Chief
9th Munitions Squadron
Air Force Combat Ammunition Center
Beale AFB, CA



New Career Field Manager



Chief Chris Arnold takes over as the new CFM.

Patty and I have enjoyed our time in the NCR and our association with the ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter. It has been great fellowship and friendship these past few years. Our future has us moving to California, where I will be working in the Edwards MSA.

We're looking forward to being close to Los Angeles and all of my family. It'll also be easier for Patty to get to Hawaii and Korea.

Ricky and Patty Hamada

AFCOMAC Outstanding Performer



award. Again, my congratulations on an exceptional accomplishment!

John D. Shaw, MSgt, USAF
Curriculum Flight Chief
9th Munitions Squadron
Air Force Combat Ammunition Center

AFCOMAC Outstanding Performer



Being selected for this award puts SSgt Shaw at the top of his 70-person class. He should be very proud of himself and all he achieved while attending the Air Force Combat Ammunition Center. SSgt Shaw'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 accomplishment!

John D. Shaw, MSgt, USAF
Curriculum Flight Chief
9th Munitions Squadron
Air Force Combat Ammunition Center

ALCON,

Please convey my sincere congratulations to SrA Alexander Lewis, for his selection as the recipient of the Ammo Chief's Association "Outstanding Performer" award. This award goes to the Airmen 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 SrA Lewis at the top of his 70-person class. He should be very proud of himself and all he achieved while attending the Air Force Combat Ammunition Center. SrA Lewis's technical knowledge and dedication to accomplish the AMMO mission were clearly demonstrated and have earned him this well-deserved

SMSgt Cunningham,

Please convey my sincere congratulations to SSgt Cory Shaw for his selection as the recipient of the Ammo Chief's Association "Outstanding Performer" award. This award goes to the Airmen 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.



I had a chance to talk with some of the AFCOMAC younger Ammo troops on their experiences during their attendance at AFCOMAC and got some honest Ammo feedback that we should pay attention to what's going on in the career field. They truly enjoyed the team effort and Ammo spirit that AFCOMAC brings out; however, what we need to do is keep the Ammo fire burning when they return to home station. I asked some of them to send me an email with their thoughts on AFCOMAC and I would like to share one of them with you. I removed their name.

Chief Pennington,

My experience at AFCOMAC was excellent. This course makes you look at Ammo in a bigger picture rather than just the section you work within. I never realized how much work goes into just the planning stages of a deployment. It makes you see how every single person's role, whether large or small, is critical to mission success. It also taught me that no matter where in the world an Ammo troop works, you can throw a group of strangers together on a bomb pad and build massive quantities of bombs with exceptional accuracy. I think every Ammo troop should take this course. Especially those who have never seen or built live munitions in their career.

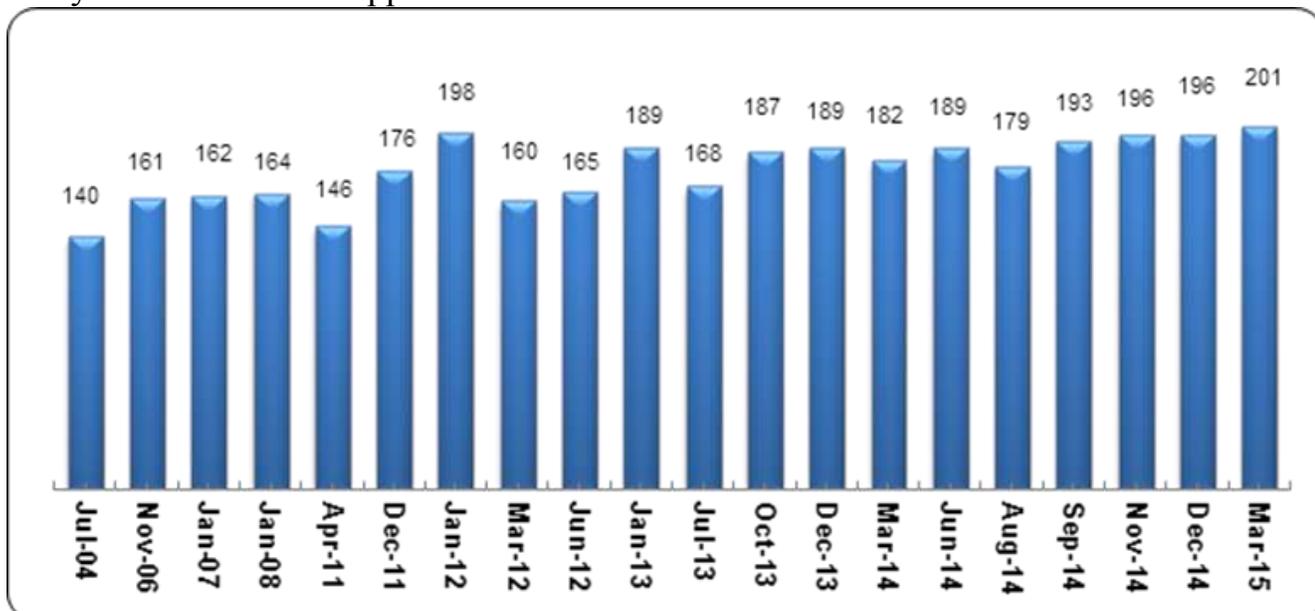
As far as the Ammo spirit today, I believe it is slowly dying. The Air Force is changing and Ammo is changing with it. In the 5 years I have been in the changes in Ammo pride have greatly decreased. Ammo calls used to be a day of fun and entertainment but now are considered mandatory fun by Airmen. Ammo calls and coin checks seem to be an extreme rarity. But, the Ammo spirit at AFCOMAC lives strong. AFCOMAC is where the Ammo traditions will live forever.

I hope this will help with your article. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinions.

V/r,
SrA, USAF
Munitions Storage Crew Chief

ACA Membership Stats

Mike Roylance pulled data from past data files and provided a chart to show how the organization has progressed over the years. Most notable this year, we passed the 200 mark of active memberships. **The chart only reflects active paying members.** We appreciate everyone's continued support.



Chapter News

ACA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

The ACAMC held its first meeting of 2015 on March 14th. We had 11 members and 2 associate members in attendance. With the three proxies, we had plenty of votes to meet quorum requirements. Our newest member is CMSgt John Nye from the Joint Base Langley-Eustis Air National Guard unit. We lost Ricky Hamada as a member due to him moving to California. In lieu of receiving a parting gift, Ricky asked the chapter to donate \$50.00 in his name to the CMSgt Richard A. Gauvin Memorial Scholarship Fund.

We started the meeting with \$4,246.19 in our account. After aggressive coin and hat sales, we added another \$270.00 to our coffers. Our next big fundraiser is at the Richmond International Raceway April 24th and 25th. We received a "Thank You" card from one of our Ammo Troops in Need program recipients. Our members had a great time taking the troops shopping for the Christmas holiday season. We look forward to increasing our fiscal support in the upcoming years.

We initiated the biennial review of the Chapter Constitution and Bylaws. We anticipate minor changes to include the incorporation of a reserved percentage of our discretionary funds for the programs directly supporting our Ammo community.

The group also discussed changes to our Sharp Ammo Troop award process. Our goal is to make it simple for submitters and reviewers, while keeping the focus strictly Ammo.

Our next meeting is June 20th in the Joint Base Langley-Eustis area.

AMMO Supply

The Ammo Chiefs Association now has an on-line store, we call it Ammo Supply. You can check it out here: <http://ammochiefs.qbstores.com>. Queensboro will handle all the details and all we have to do is advertise within our group. They handle all the orders, inventory, shipping, returns, etc, everything. You can read more about them here: <http://www.queensboro.com/welcome-queensboro-shirt-company.html>.

Your support for this store helps us support the ACA and our causes. Five percent of all orders come back to the ACA, that's about \$1.00 for every \$20 spent. Also if there is something you would like added or a particular line you prefer, let me know and I'll see if they carry it.

So support the ACA with an order today and show off our association. Again, the monies we collect go toward our causes. You can see it and order here: <http://ammochiefs.qbstores.com>.

Mike Roylance
ACA Treasurer

**Ammo Chiefs Association (ACA)
Wasatch Chapter
Enlisted Recognition**

SrA Alisha K. Miles

SrA Alisha Miles was assigned to Convention Maintenance early in her tour with the 388 EMS at Hill AFB, Utah. From the beginning she proved herself to be a vital part of the team. She took on each task given to her with a determination to get the job done efficiently and correctly the first time. Although SrA Miles had great supervisors, her leadership describes her as a “Self-Learner.” She used each task given to her to build on her knowledge and skills.

SrA Miles is what we like to call a “Fire and Forget” Ammo troop. She can be tasked with any day-to-day job and we know it will be completed correctly and on-time. Whether she was working the bomb pad, 20mm, or chaff/flare operations, SrA Miles proved proficient in all aspects. Not only has she proven herself to be an outstanding performer in all areas, she also takes the time to pass on what she knows by training others.

When CAS AIT came on line at Hill AFB, she volunteered to attend the training class and come back to the unit and train others. Again, she took it and ran with it! Very excited to learn the system and spread the knowledge.

SrA Miles has also shown herself to be a leader. After earning SrA Below the Zone, she had no problem running her own crew. Additionally, SrA Miles’ distinguished performance amongst her peers during Airman Leadership School was recognized when she was awarded the John L. Levitow Award for outstanding leadership. Additionally, SrA Miles was the winner of the 2013 Maintenance Group’s Airman of the Quarter and ultimately Air Combat Command’s 2013 Outstanding Munitions Technician of the Year.

SrA Miles has also shown herself to be an outstanding Airman outside of her assigned duty location. She was a dedicated volunteer at both the Hill AFB Base Theater and Hill AFB’s Junior Enlisted Rec Center. Between these two endeavors, SrA Miles logged more than 500 hours of volunteer time. At one point she was the sole representative for the Base Theater. Her efforts raised over \$10,000 for Hill’s “1st Four” organization.

SrA Miles left the 388th in February of this year to move on to future challenges at Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea.



Col David Lawrence 75 ABW/CV, SrA Alisha Miles 388th EMS/MXMW, and CMSgt Rhonda Miller 75 ABW/CCC.

AFCOMAC Reaches A Milestone

by The Air Force Combat Ammunition Center staff
9th Reconnaissance Wing

1/15/2015 - **BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.** -- The Air Force Combat Ammunitions Center celebrated the graduation of its 15,000 student Dec. 19, 2014, at Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

AFCOMAC has provided ammunition troops with realistic training and the skills needed to perform during wartime scenarios. It is an Air Force level school for senior airmen and above to receive 7- or 9-level upgrade training.

Staff Sgt. Olivia Tipton, AFCOMAC student from the 509th Munitions Squadron, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., was recognized as the 15,000 student to graduate from the school house.

"My first thought was, 'wow, I'm the 15,000th student,'" Tipton said. "This is an accomplishment for AFCOMAC. The training given is so important to the ammunition community. I'm thankful to be a part of its history."

AFCOMAC has provided ammunition educational courses since 1984. The primary course provided by AFCOMAC is the Combat Ammunition Planning and Production course. Eight classes are held each year consisting of 70 students per class and lasting three weeks. The first two weeks the students have in-depth classroom discussion and general hands on training. The third week consists of a four day intensive practical exercise known as the Iron Flag. The Iron Flag exercise tests the students' abilities to assemble their work pad, follow their created plan of execution, meet order numbers, time and quality, and repack the equipment when the exercise is completed.

The Iron Flag gives the students a chance to put all their planning and practice to work as they are tasked with building more than 1,000 bombs that must be inspected and delivered to simulated aircraft. The graduating students leave with four Community College of the Air Force credits.

"Our whole purpose and motivation is to ensure that our knowledge is passed onto the up and coming ammunition troops," said Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Adams, 9th Munitions Squadron AFCOMAC combat advisor. "AFCOMAC has been the epitome of continuity for ammunition troops throughout the years. The 15,000 graduate is a testament to that. To continue the shared knowledge of all things ammo, the doors to the AFCOMAC school house must stay open."

According to the AFCOMAC school house, since 1984 students have built more than 275,000 munitions, supported more than 38,500 simulated sorties, and recently graduated its 15,000 student.



Staff Sgt. Olivia Tipton (right), Air Force Combat Ammunition Center student from the 509th Munitions Squadron, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., receives a certificate of completion from Col. Douglas J. Lee, 9th Reconnaissance Wing commander, after completing the munitions upgrade training course as the 15,000 student at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., Dec. 19, 2014.



LAST AMMO CALL



MSgt Robbie Gene Dickey (Retired)



Robbie Gene Dickey, 49, of Panama City, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015. He was born on Nov. 27, 1965 in Alton, Ill. He retired from the United States Air Force after 26 years at the rank of Master Sergeant.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Dickey; three sons, Cory Dickey (Kim Flores,) Justin Dickey (Sandra Reiland) and Wesley Dickey; one granddaughter, Mela Rose Dickey; parents, Ernest and Rozella Dickey; two brothers, Marion Michael Dickey and Dennis Ray Dickey; nieces and nephews, Chandra Dame, David Dasher, Katie Dickey, Paige Dickey and Michaela Dickey; father-in-law, Larry Davis (Terri Davis); and mother-in-law, Ruby Davis.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations may be made to the Lady's Auxiliary [Relay For Life](#) , c/o AMVETS Post 2298, 5510 Highway 22, Panama City, FL 32404 in memory of Retired Master Sergeant Robbie Gene Dickey.

I also received the following list of Ammo troops that have also made their last Ammo Call. I didn't receive any additional details; however, our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

TSgt (R) Ronald W. Hampton, 52, 21 Jan, NM
SSgt (nr) Harold Turner, 69, 22 Jan, OK
MSgt (R) Michael A. Garcia, 57, 29 Jan
MSgt (R) Frank Spivey, 43, NV
SMSgt (R) David Mark McClanahan, 66, 25 Feb
MSgt (R) Robbie Gene Dickey, 49, 26 Feb, FL
MSgt (R) Adrian Swanson Bingley Sr, 49, 7 March, SC
Sgt (nr) Tim Hart, 62, 7 Mar, CA
SRA Anthony Hill, 27 Mar, GA