



# AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA)

## "Shell and Flame"



Issue Number: 5

30 June 2005

Welcome to the fifth edition of the AMMO Chiefs Association "*Shell and Flame*" newsletter. This edition of the newsletter is being sent to you to provide information about the ACA, a not-for-profit organization of active and retired AMMO Chiefs. Please visit the AMMO Chiefs web page for more information at <http://ammochiefs.com>.



### ◆\* Upcoming AMMO Events ◆\*

◆\* **ACA BOD Elections.** Elections will be held for the following positions on the ACA Board of Directors (BOD):

**Vice President**

**Secretary**

**Orator**

**Directory at Large Three**

Nominations for each position will be open from **July 1<sup>st</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005**. Normally, all ACA offices would be up for election. However, in order to provide some continuity to the Association, we have extended the offices of President, Treasurer, Chief-At-Arms, Director-at-Large One and Director-at-Large Two by one year. Another change is that we now nominate and vote for individuals for a specific office and not just for a position on the ACA Board. Here is how the process will work. At the end of this newsletter is a nomination form to be used for

nominating current ACA regular members for the various open positions. Nominations will be accepted from now through **August 15<sup>th</sup>**. To be valid, nominations must be seconded. Darrell Beasley and Rich McVey (ACA Election Committee) will tabulate the nominations and provide them to Mark Madamba (ACA President) for validation that the nominees meet minimum criteria to be eligible to run for election. Ballots will then be posted on the ACA web page no later than August 31st for members to elect for various offices from among the eligible candidates. For those who do not have access to the Internet, a snail mail ballot will be sent out. Voting cutoff is **September 30<sup>th</sup>**. Results of the voting will be announced at the October 2005 ACA meeting. If you have a candidate you'd like to nominate, fill out the attached Nomination Form and mail it to the name and address on the form. Additional information, nomination and voting forms, are on the AMMO Chiefs web page, <http://ammochiefs.com>.

### ◆\* Worldwide AMMO Bowl Softball Tournament. ◆\*

AMMO Bowl XII softball tournament will be held at Langley AFB, VA on September 3-5, 2005. If you know of AMMO teams that would like to participate, have them contact CMSgt.

Michael Robertson at DSN 227-4270 or commercial (703) 697-4270 or Mr. "TJ" Jensen, ACC/DOTW at DSN 574-5896 for additional information. The Virginia Chapter of the ACA is hosting this tournament. We hope to see the Seymour-Johnson AFB AMMO team back again this year to defend their championship title.

🎖️\* **ACA Awards Night.** The ACA Awards Night Banquet will be held on **September 24, 2005** at the **Soundside Club, Hurlburt Field, Florida**. Various awards will be presented, in addition to the winning AMMO Bowl Softball Tournament team receiving the ACA Commander's Trophy during this banquet. If you're in the area, please plan to attend. More information will be provided on the AMMO Chiefs web site at <http://ammochiefs.com>.



### 🎖️\* Reunions

🎖️\* **2006 ACA Reunion:** The ACA has approved Reno, Nevada as the site for the 2006 ACA Reunion. An exciting town and close to AFCOMAC, look forward to this being the biggest and best ACA reunion to date! Mike Roylance ([MikeRoylance@comcast.net](mailto:MikeRoylance@comcast.net)) and Jerry Modlin ([je464399@worldnet.att.net](mailto:je464399@worldnet.att.net)) are the POCs for the upcoming reunion. If you have any events you'd like to suggest for this upcoming reunion, pass them on to Mike or Jerry. It's not too early to start planning! Visit <http://ammochiefs.com> for more information.

🎖️\* **RAF Welford:** If you've ever been assigned or attached to RAF Welford, UK, read on. In the planning stages is a

**50<sup>th</sup> Munitions Mission Anniversary** celebration at RAF Welford, UK, Friday, 8 July 2005. The event opens at 0900 hours in the Welford Museum with a museum tour, followed by lunch at Sporty and the opening ceremony at Memory Garden around 1300 (1pm). There will be a tour of the Munitions Storage Area and dinner at IbeX in Chaddleworth. There's also a horse show near Swindon on Saturday and Sunday, with an Air Show at Fairford the following week. You will have to make your own transportation and hotel reservation. Check the Welford web site at

<http://www.megspace.com/politics/greenham/index.html> for telephone numbers of hotels in the area. The POCs for stateside information are Jim Wadell, [scotsgrey@juno.com](mailto:scotsgrey@juno.com) and Billie Campbell, [Billie.Campbell@wpafb.af.mil](mailto:Billie.Campbell@wpafb.af.mil).

Additional information will be published in the next newsletter as it becomes available.

🎖️\* **Bitburg MMS:** Another reunion in the planning stages is the Bitburg MMS Reunion scheduled for Labor Day weekend, September 3-5, 2005. POC is John Mathews, 906 Prospect Avenue, Norfolk, NE 68701, phone (402) 371-4776, e-mail address is [bit36mms@lycos.com](mailto:bit36mms@lycos.com). The Reunion will be held at the Lodge of the Ozarks in Branson, Missouri. If you've ever spent time at Bitburg AB, Germany, contact the POC for more information. He has 461's on his mailing list but no AMMO Chiefs.

🎖️\* **Camp Darby Reunion:** If you've ever been assigned to Camp Darby, Italy, there is a reunion scheduled for November 4-7, 2005 in Las Vegas,

Nevada. This exciting event will bring the Darby Alumni together for the first time after 30 years. A reception is scheduled for 4 November and a meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>. A golf event is planned, as well as other events of interest. Contact Rob DeStefano at [wyorob@aol.com](mailto:wyorob@aol.com), or 441 South Missouri, Casper, Wyoming 82609, for more information.



🔴\* **AMMO Schoolhouse Initiative** 🔴\*

See the AMMO Chiefs web page for information at <http://ammochiefs.com>. If you haven't sent in your biography and picture yet, now's a good time to do it!!

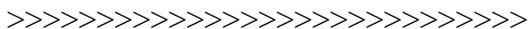


🔴\* **Chapter News** 🔴\*

🔴\* **Virginia Chapter**

ACA Virginia Chapter held a meeting on 11 Jun at 1300 hrs in the ACC/LGW Conference room. Topics for discussion were the AMMO Bowl Softball Tournament and Chapter business. ACA Virginia Chapter officers effective 1 June 2005 are:

- John Matthews - President
- Mike Gavin - Vice-President
- Bill McCullough - Secretary/Treasurer
- Mike Robertson – Webmaster

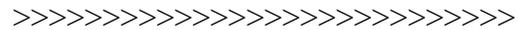


🔴\* **Midwest Chapter (Ohio)**

The ACA Midwest Chapter will hold their summer meeting on 25 June 2005 followed by the traditional AMMO cookout. Anyone who might be in the area and interested in attending should

contact Mark Gossett, [MGossett@Prodigy.net](mailto:MGossett@Prodigy.net), (937) 438-0665.

CMSgt. Bart Ivy will be leaving HQ AFMC in June and will retire from active duty on 31 August. His retirement ceremony will take place at Whiteman AFB, MO. He will be replaced by CMSgt. Don Myers from the 3<sup>rd</sup> EMS. CMSgt. Myers is scheduled to arrive in the Aug/Sep time frame.



🔴\* **Wasatch Front Chapter (Utah)**

Great news! A new Chapter has started in Utah. The name is the **Wasatch Front Chapter**. Some of the key members getting the Chapter started are Fred Schoettler, David Colella, Chet Atkins, Joseph D'arco, Arthur Schultz, Shawn Byrne, and several others. Plan is to submit formal paperwork in June and hold a luncheon in August at the Hill AFB Consolidated Club. A newsletter will be sent out to all local area Chiefs in July announcing the time for the luncheon to take place. For more information, contact Fred Schoettler at 801-779-0532 or e-mail [Fjschoettler@aol.com](mailto:Fjschoettler@aol.com). Great work Fred!! IYAAAYAS!!!



# The History of Chief Master Sergeant

*(Author Unknown)*

To those on active duty today, the rank of CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT is viewed as something that has always been there. Not so for members of the BROWN SHOE AIR FORCE.

The first promotions to CMSgt were effected 1 December 1959 when 620 men were elevated to that rank. The 40 years that have passed by since has dimmed our memories of the events and reasons for those first promotions. Many of the Chiefs on active duty today were not even born when these promotions took place.

The rank of CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT and SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT were created by Congress as a part of the Career Compensation Act of 1958 and are a direct by product of the explosion in TECHNOLOGY that took place during and immediately following World war II. These ranks did not exist prior to 1958 when MSgt (E-7) was the highest enlisted rank.

To understand why these super grades were needed, one must understand the legacy of World War II. America was committed to bringing that horrible war to an early conclusion and threw its mighty industrial and research capabilities into that task. Our scientists and engineers worked tirelessly to invent, develop, and perfect the weapons and support equipment necessary to bring the war to an early conclusion. They created new technology and sophisticated weapons beyond belief. As these new weapons, such as the atomic bomb, jet aircraft, missiles, electronics, radar systems, etc., came on board, the services found a need for

enlisted men with advanced technical and military qualifications who were capable of assuming broad responsibilities and authority, just below the commissioned level.

Since there was no enlisted grade above MASTER SERGEANT (E-7), the services found themselves with a situation they referred to as GRADE SUPPRESSION. This term is not in the dictionary. It is one of those famous military word coined to describe an existing situation, a situation where a MASTER SERGEANT supervised one or more other MASTER SERGEANTS. By 1954, NCO Academies began to appear on the scene to provide the advanced management and leadership training for MASTER SERGEANTS in positions calling for the advanced training and qualifications. MASTER SERGEANTS with the higher capabilities gravitated to these positions, most of which were later changed on the manning documents to E-8 and E-9. Congress created the super grades as a part of the Career Compensation Act of 1958 to relieve the grade suppression by enabling the services to promote above E-7. The basis law provided that each service could promote 2% of its enlisted force to E-8 and 1% to E-9.

The basic law required that an E-7 must have a minimum of 8 years enlisted service to be promoted to E-8 and an E-8 must have 10 years enlisted service to be promoted to E-9. The Air Force opted to require a minimum of 10 years service to be promoted to E-8 and 11 years for E-9.

The percentage that could be promoted to these new super grades was applied to the total enlisted strength. Each slot calling for the higher grade came from an existing E-7 manning document slot. They were not "in addition to" and the

initial promotions did not create vacancies for lower ranks.

The percentage that could be promoted to these new super grades was applied to the total enlisted strength, however, it was obvious that some career fields did not need as many of the super grades as others. The Air Force performed an extensive study to determine where the super grades could be most effectively utilized, categorizing all career fields as either HIGHLY TECHNICAL, TECHNICAL, or NON TECHNICAL. Since the need for the new super grades was greatest in the HIGHLY TECHNICAL career fields, a higher percentage of slots were allocated to these areas. For example, an AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR was classified as being in a HIGHLY TECHNICAL career field. As a result, more of the super grade slots were given to the AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE career field. The first Air Force promotions to Senior Master Sergeant were effected 1 September 1958 and another group was selected and advanced on 1 March 1960. Quotas, for the first time in Air Force history, were allocated by specific AFSC and selection boards were held at command level. Prior to this, promotion boards were normally held at base level and all airmen recommended for promotion to a specific grade were lumped together. The boards looked at cooks and bakers and candlestick makers together and lined them up in promotion order. These lists were subjected to an 'AFSC CLEANSING' when promotion quotas and frozen list came down from higher headquarters. When the frozen list was applied, the 8<sup>th</sup> man on the list might become the 1<sup>st</sup> man and promoted, the first 7 having been frozen out. Rather primitive when compared to systems in

use today but they didn't have the sophisticated equipment of today to work with.

The Air Force promotions to CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT were effected 1 December 1959. Command boards selected about 1700 for advancement from those promoted to E-8 in September 1958 and March 1959, however, only about 620 actually assumed the higher rank on 1 December 1959. The promotion of the remainder was withheld until 1 June 1960 due to budgetary reasons. There were no line numbers at that time and all advanced as a group.

As with the promotions to E-8, all promotion quotas were by AFSC and selection and advancement could be in either the primary or secondary AFSC. Prior to these promotions to E-8 and E-9, the Air Force has started to phase out their Warrant Officer Program, the last warrants having been appointed about 1955. Many of the new CHIEF MASTER SERGEANTS assumed duties formerly performed by Warrant Officers. Many old timers still believe that the Chief and Senior grades were authorized to replace the Warrant Program but such is not the case. The Air Force has already eliminated the Flying Sergeants and Flight Officers and was not eliminating the Warrant Officers. The army and Navy retained their Warrant Programs and continue to use them with great effectiveness today.

The pay rates in effect at that time made these new Chiefs the highest paid enlisted men in history. Top base pay for a Chief with the maximum longevity was \$440.00 plus \$30.00 for rations and \$120.00 for quarters. Imagine almost \$600.00 a month. Today, an Airman Basic enters the service with base pay higher than the combined pay of the

most senior CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT in 1959.

The 1 December 1959 CHIEF MASTER SERGEANTS became one of the most elite rank groups in the Air Force – similar to the ratio for General Officers. Those promoted to CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT in the first increment can be justly proud of their achievement. They are our CHARTER CHIEFS or FOUNDING FATHERS. To the knowledge of this author, all served with honor and distinction leaving a legacy worth of emulation.

Their pride, however, should not be such to overshadow the fact that others equally or nearly equally qualified could not be advanced with the first group and had to wait a year or two for their promotions. Our place in history and windows of opportunity, things over which we have on control, shape and govern much of what happens in our lives. The CHARTER CHIEFS were simply at the right place at the right time. Every man or woman promoted to CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT has every right and should feel just as proud of their accomplishment as the CHARTER CHIEFS.

The selection boards were faced with the arduous task of selecting those men they felt possessed the leadership and technical abilities to serve in the new super grades. Due to small quotas, many

superbly qualified MSgts and SMSgts could not be advanced with the first group.

(Source: USAF Chiefs web site).

### Update Your Contact Information

We have a continuing need to keep the AMMO Chief's roster current. Please take a few minutes to update your contact information and return it to: **Joe Dominguez, 2504 Woodland Village Ct, Schertz, TX 78154.** Or you can update this information on our web site at <http://ammochiefs.com>. If you are in contact with an AMMO Chief who's not on our mailing list, please pass this form on to him to fill out and mail in. Thanks in advance.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: Area Code \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_

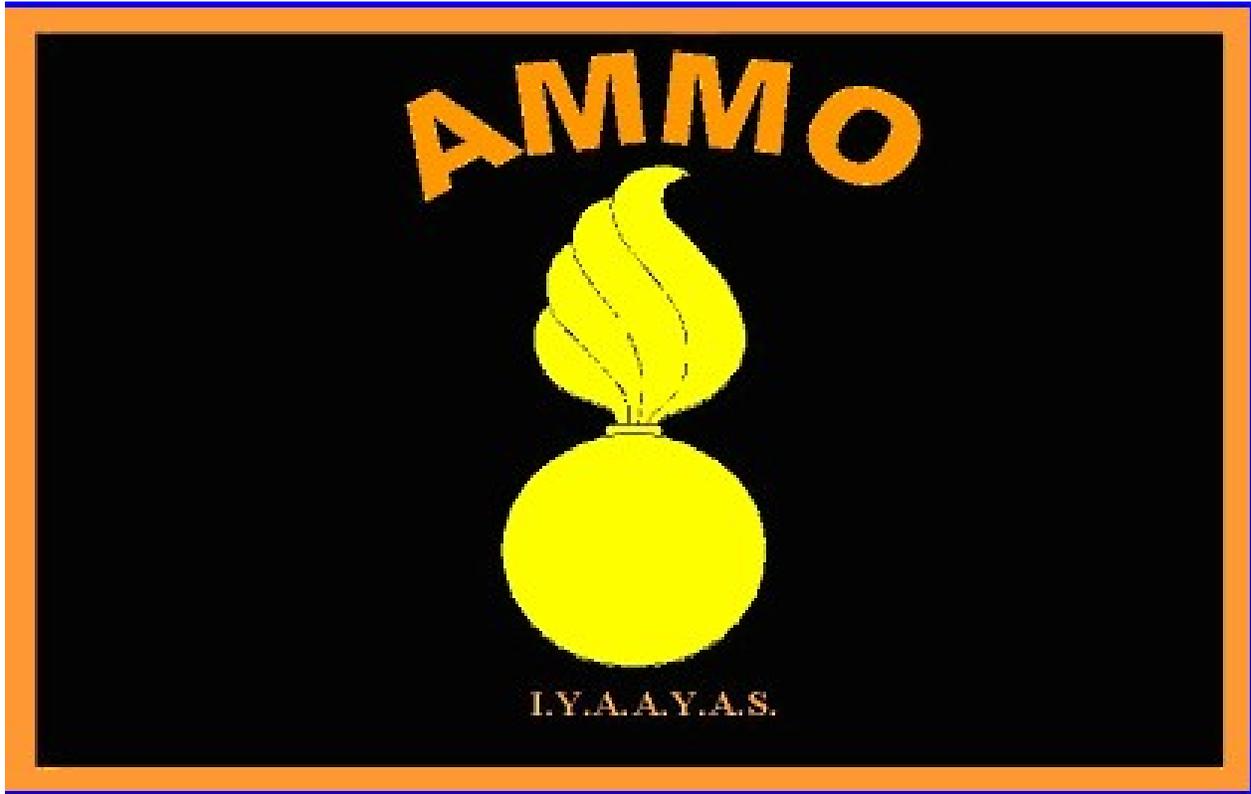
Home E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone Number: Area Code \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_

Work E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Retired: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Rank: \_\_\_\_\_



**ACA Election 2005  
Nomination Form**

Type or print in the name of an ACA member you would like to **nominate** for each position. You may nominate for one or all positions. Mail this form to: **AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA), P.O. Box 266, Mary Esther, FL 32569.**

**Vice President:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Orator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director-at-Large Three:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Submitting the Nomination:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Mailing Address:**

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_