



# ***AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA)***

## ***March 2016***

### ***“Shell and Flame”***



**Issue Number XL**

**31 Mar 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 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 Top Graduate, 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>.

### **From the President:**

It's 2016 and I certainly take great pride as the new President of the Ammo Chiefs Association. As a group, the Ammo Chiefs are committed to enhance Ammo throughout the active and retired ranks. We consistently do a great job in recognizing and helping our Ammo troops across the spectrum. This year will be busy and we look forward to seeing many of our members at San Antonio for the reunion in October.

As we move forward, one of our main goals is to increase the membership with active duty and recently retired Ammo Chiefs...we are committed to this endeavor and ask for the support of our Ammo Team. Our very existence is linked to finding new members and engaging them in joining the Ammo Chiefs Association. Let's roll on this effort!

See you in San Antonio!

Van Ray  
IYAAYAS!!!

The ACA BOD encourages your continued support and your recommendations to continue growing our organization into the future. Please contact any of the members of the ACA Board of Directors at the email addresses below if you have any items of interest or information you feel would be of benefit to the ACA.

President – Van Ray [vanrayammo@aol.com](mailto:vanrayammo@aol.com)  
Vice President – Mike Robertson [me-rob@verizon.net](mailto:me-rob@verizon.net)  
Secretary – Jack Seaman [ammo.chiefs.association@gmail.com](mailto:ammo.chiefs.association@gmail.com)  
Treasurer – Mike Roylance [Mikeroylance@comcast.net](mailto:Mikeroylance@comcast.net)  
Chief-at-Arms – Fred O'Hern [chief.ohern@gmail.com](mailto:chief.ohern@gmail.com)  
Director-at-Large – Bart Ivy [bart.ivy@evanhoe.com](mailto:bart.ivy@evanhoe.com)  
Director-at-Large - "Big John" Greer [bigjohn461@bellsouth.net](mailto:bigjohn461@bellsouth.net)  
Director-at-Large - Joel "Dusty" Rhodes [joelrhodes@cfl.rr.com](mailto:joelrhodes@cfl.rr.com)  
Director-at-Large – John Ray [jray206@gmail.com](mailto:jray206@gmail.com)  
Web-Site Manager Rick Follett [RFollett2@gmail.com](mailto:RFollett2@gmail.com)

## **From the Vice President:**

The ACA has gotten off to a good start in 2016 and is making progress on a number of issues and areas that are covered in this edition of the Shell and Flame. And in case you did not notice this is our 40<sup>th</sup> (XL) edition of the Shell and Flame Newsletter. I appreciate all the great inputs for this edition from the BOD, Chapters and Membership. It is clear from the inputs that a lot of good things are happening in AMMO!

Mike

## **From the Secretary:**

Greetings AMMO guys and gals!! Hope you are all ready for some Summertime weather and the chance to get out and about with family and friends.

If the ACA's S&F Newsletter has always been published quarterly then this marks approximately the 10th year since our predecessors began putting it together. Pretty amazing it has endured over the years (2001 to present) and still receives the amount of positive feedback it does from the recipients. From the comments I and the rest of the BOD receive after each edition "hits the streets," it appears to be much appreciated.

As you all know, Joe Dominguez and Team SATX are putting together this year's Reunion in San Antonio. His input to this edition gives all the information he has to date. Joe will be keeping us all informed as the events are firmed up and then sends out the sign-up sheets. This year's "get together" is shaping up to be one of the best ones yet! I would just add - - if you possibly can, commit to attending early on so the organizers have firm numbers to work / negotiate with, it would really help those guys a lot.

Our Membership continues to grow slowly but steady. Again, a few more Active Duty Chiefs are signing up and that's vital to the Association's continuance into the future. We all would appreciate anything any of you could do to get more information on the ACA's existence and what we do, out to as many "eligible" as you know of. More information on our recruiting efforts are scattered throughout this issue.

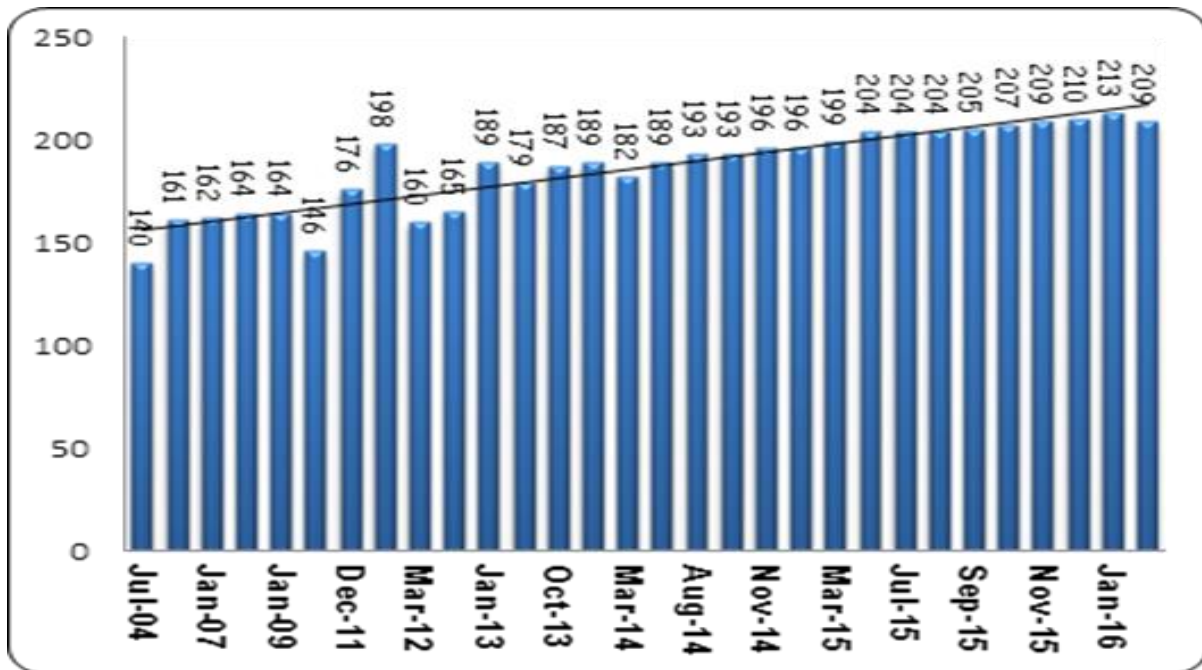
Having said that, some of you are delinquent on your 2016 annual dues and many others we have not heard from since joining the ACA years ago. Contact Mike Roylance or myself and we'll tell you immediately how to get back into "Member in good Standing" status where we all want you to be. Just for the record, several of the "old time" members have done just that in the past few months, hopefully that trend will continue.

You and all of yours stay well, be safe, and keep in touch.

Jack **IYAAYAS !!!!**

## From the Treasurer:

### Membership Status as of Feb 2016



23-Feb-16

#### Membership by Chapter

Mid West	6
Wasatch	15
Mid Atlantic	22
Emerald Coast	41
None	125
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>

23-Feb-16

#### Membership by Type

AA = Associate Paying Annual Dues

AL = Associate Lifetime

H = Honorary

HS = Honorary Spouse

RA = CMSgt Paying Annual Dues

RL = CMSgt Lifetime

SF = Shell and Flame

AA	7
AL	22
H	4
HS	11
RA	8
RL	156
SF	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>

23-Feb-16

#### Membership by Status

Retired/Shell & Flame	1
Honorary Spouse	11
Active	13
Retired	184
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>

## ACA Calendar

The ACA Calendar is a new edition to the Shell & Flame Newsletter to provide membership with those key AMMO events being planned throughout the AMMO community in the current year. If we're missing something, please let us know and we'll add it.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
March 18, 2016	AFCOMAC 30 Year Anniversary	Beale AFB Ca
March 22, 2016	Middle Georgia AMMO Group Dinner	Georgia Bob's Barbecue restaurant 120 Howland Ave Warner Robins Georgia 31088 at 6PM. Stop by if you can.
March 31 2016	ACA Roster due out	
March 31, 2016	Shell & Flame Newsletter release	
April 22, 2016	Ammo Bash at the Beach	Clarion Hotel Myrtle Beach, 101 Fantasy Harbour Blvd, Myrtle Beach South Carolina 29579
June 1, 2016	CMSgt Gauvin Memorial Fund Applications Due, NLT	
June 30, 2016	Shell & Flame Newsletter release	
July 2, 2016	USAFE Ammo Bowl	Ramstein AFB Germany
July 29, 2016	NE Ammo Call	Burlington Vermont
July 29, 2016	South East Ammo Bowl	Niceville FL
July 30, 2016	Wasatch Chapter 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Ammo BBQ	11am Centennial Park, Hill AFB. POC is Richard Leseberg and Tim Matuszak
August 1, 2016	CMSgt Gauvin Memorial Fund Awards Selected and announced. NLT	
September 30, 2016	Shell & Flame Newsletter release	
October 1, 2016	Check funding for AFCOMAC Outstanding Performer Award coins and name plates	
October 7, 2016	Western Ammo Bowl	Big League Dreams Field, 4536 E Elliot Rd, Phoenix Arizona 85234
October 26, 2016	Ammo Chiefs Association Reunion	San Antonio TX, POC: Joe Dominguez, <a href="mailto:jfdm2504@hotmail.com">jfdm2504@hotmail.com</a>
November 16, 2016	AFK Reunion in planning stages	Las Vegas NV, contact Mark Gossett
December 21, 2016	Shell & Flame Newsletter release	
December 31, 2016	ACA Account Audit, NLT	
January 1, 2017	Check funding for ACA Recognition Coins for Ammo Schoolhouse	
January 31, 2017	ACA Annual Dues payable. NLT	
January 31, 2017	ACA Chapter Reports due to ACA Secretary	
May 15, 2017	ACA Tax Filing due, NLT	
December 31, 2019	ACA Elections, NLT	

## Chapter News

### Mid-Atlantic Chapter (ACAMC)

The Ammo Chiefs Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter (ACAMC) held its first meeting of 2016 on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the HQ ACC/A4W munitions conference room, Joint Base Langley-Eustis (JBLE). This is the first meeting with Jackie Miller at the helm as our Chapter President. Yvonne Watts is our new Vice president, but couldn't attend due to recovering from hip surgery. We had ten Chiefs and two Associate members in attendance. We also had six proxy votes available to guarantee all business was officially conducted. Our newest member is CMSgt Willie Mothersell from JBLE. This brings our total to 22 Chiefs and 4 Associates. We are in the process of recruiting two new Associate members.

Since our last meeting in December, we received two "Thank You" cards from deployed units for the holiday care packages Jackie Miller assembled and mailed in November. The packages were gratefully received and the recipients provided feedback for future packages. We also received a card from Kathy Kibodeaux thanking us for our donation to help out her family after her husband passed away.

Also since the December gathering, we took two Ammo Troops-in-Need (Seymour-Johnson AFB and JBLE) on holiday shopping trips. Each individual received over \$375.00 worth of holiday cheer and/or necessities to help alleviate some of their personal financial stress. The leaders (SMSgt Meador and MSgt Dunham) who took their respective troops shopping went above and beyond to support our AMMO community.

The ACAMC submitted their annual report to the ACA on time. However, the annual audit report was delayed a few weeks due to the chapter Treasurer assisting with family health issues. Rick Follett and Robert Byrd did a quick-turn to get the audit report reviewed and approved. We appreciate the ACA leadership's flexibility and understanding in this matter.

The chapter is gearing up (pun intended!) for the next fundraiser at the Richmond International Raceway (RIR) April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. We anticipate this will be another successful endeavor to raise funds to support our various programs. Since we get help from the JBLE Ammo Morale Team at the RIR, we are discussing and developing a formula to fairly compensate them.

Because of the troop rotations at our austere locations, we spent part of the meeting discussing a June care package program. We anticipate sending goodies to two sites, with a budget of \$300.00 (plus donations), to each location. With more female AMMO warriors deployed, we are trying to take care of their needs as well.

As usual, the ACAMC looks forward to serving the Ammo community within its realm and the scope of our Constitution and Bylaws! We will continue this effort at our next meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> in the JBLE area.





## **Emerald Coast Chapter (ECC)**

The ECC Chapter held a Golf Tournament to raise funds for AFCEMAC and will be sending a donation to them. The ECC also held a quarterly dinner meeting at Logan's Roadhouse with 27 people to include spouses. And no pictures were taken!

This great ECC Chapter input below missed the Dec 2015 Edition 39, so here it is...

The ECC chapter held four general membership meetings; two at Helen Back Café in Niceville, one at the Shalimar Cheers Pub, and Mangos on the Bayou during the calendar year. Our final meeting in December we held elections and all incumbent officers retained their positions. President: John Greer, Vice President: Dennis Tagney, Treasurer: Johnny Long, and Secretary: Darrell Beasley.

We, along with the help of local supporters, sponsored an Ammo Call, in June at the Okaloosa Island Helen Back Café, Ammo Bar, providing free pizza and adult beverages for all area Munitions personnel with over 125 Ammo troops attending.

We also conducted two charity golf tournaments one in July to raise funds for the Okaloosa/Walton Counties Mental Health Association supporting, Homeless Veterans and one in October to aid The Richard Gauvin Memorial Scholarship Fund. With help from the local business community and various sponsors we were able to raise over \$2,100 for the Homeless Veterans and \$1,200 for the Richard Gauvin Scholarship Fund.

We also held an Awards recognition dinner/dance in November at the Wyndham Gardens Hotel in FWB FL to recognize the Top Outstanding Munitions Performers from Eglin AFB, A1C Carbone, Tyndall AFB, SSgt Cyphers, and Hurlburt Field, TSgt Pinkerton. Award photos are posted below.

I would like to thank all the Emerald Coast Chapter members for their support throughout the year and our many local businesses and individual sponsors for their help in making 2015 another great AMMO year. We look forward to working with you in 2016. IYAAAYAS!

### **ECC Awardees**



**A1C CARBONE** was touted for his leadership and outstanding job performance even at his early stage in his career. He assisted in a \$4.5 million GBU-28 project, built BDU-50/GBU-12 bombs which ensured the our ability to sustain next-generation weapons systems while enabling phase III system integration and which allowed aircrew proficiency training, and he built RSAF laser guided bombs which effected the 1st successful program weapon drops. He totally crushed Part A of his Career Development Course (CDC) leading the Flight with a 98% on his End of Course exam setting the example for his peers and is on-track to complete the course 3 months early. His off duty involvement includes aiding POW/MIA Ceremony; honored missing and fallen service members, and aided in performing the set-up/tear down duties. A1C Carbone displays community leadership qualities by volunteering for the national Meals on Wheels program delivering meals for local seniors. A1C Carbone's overall job performance and community involvement are commendable and make him well deserving of this award.



**SSGT CYPHERS** As a Stock Control Manager, he was responsible for formulating the QUICKDRAW exercise which involved coordinating shipment of 17 tactical missiles-to exercise AFNORTH's alert jet capabilities by conducting 8 live-fires. He directed the support of 143 successful joint force Dissimilar Air Combat Training Missions, and was responsible for COMBAT BANNER operations resolving shortages by sourcing 83K rounds of munitions, resulting in 64 successful missions and enabling 38 pilots to receive live-fire certification. He worked a destruct kit service life extension which negated \$1.2 million in DEMIL costs and upgraded DoD main full scale drone program. He personally took the lead working with Naval Ammunition Logistics Center for USAF/Navy outload negotiating the movement of 159 assets and cleared 6K pounds NEW and 4,900 square feet of critical storage and maintenance space. He validated munitions authorizations by identifying overages and FY16 shortfalls requisitioning 1.3M assets, returned 63K stock items to USAF inventory, and aligned Wing with ACC allocation directives enhancing 325 FW warfighter capabilities. While performing his daily duties he diligently trained 3 NCOs and 4 Airmen on 194 work center and wartime tasks increasing work center qualifications by 40%. SSgt Cyphers is the 325 FW/Panama City Government community support liaison and personally helped organize 12 events and recruited 147 volunteers and committed 550 man-hours to help raise over \$3K for local programs. SSgt Cyphers outstanding job performance and community involvement make him well deserving of this award.



**TSGT PINKERTON** As Assistant NCOIC of Conventional Maintenance he leads 37 technicians to provide 24-hour munitions support to sustain 6 special operations squadrons executing a flying hour program that produced 2K sorties and 16K hours in FY15. During his recent deployment he led the JSOAC munitions section which sustained 7 aircraft producing 282 sorties and expending 35K munitions in 120 days resulting in the destruction of 135 enemy strongholds and 316 enemies KIAs. He also maintained an intense 56 day alert status while concurrently generating both AC-130U and W model aircraft engaging in 104 sorties. His team's efforts ensured the completion of a POTUS directed mission that resulted in 159 KIAs. Additionally, this past year TSgt Pinkerton guided 8 USSOCOM directed SAAMs that delivered 480 AGM-176s (Griffins) worth \$35.6M to sustain 638 Operation Inherent Resolve-Syria sorties and 650 KIAs. He directed the Conventional maintenance efforts to inspect and build 175K AC-130U artillery rounds; provided 6 squadrons and 74 aircraft with 628 tons of ammo while sustaining 16K flying hours and 2K sorties. He has completed 6 classes with 18 credit hours towards an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice while maintaining a 3.5GPA. In his off duty time TSgt Pinkerton coached 9-11 year old football. He mentored 2 teams while teaching 22 athletes in leadership and discipline. TSgt Pinkerton's outstanding job performance and off duty commitment make him well deserving of this award.

## Wasatch Chapter

The ACA Wasatch Chapter AMMO Chiefs held a quarterly general membership meeting on 23 Mar 2016 at 11:30 am at Runway Ruby's restaurant.

Chiefs in attendance were: Mike Eisenberg (Ret) (Secretary/Treasurer), CMSgt Vicki Lemke (AD), Mike Robertson (Ret), John Pfromm (Ret), CMSgt Shawn Scott (AFRAT), CMSgt Dave Van Ert (AD), Gene Porto (Ret), and Dave Nixon (Ret) (Visiting from ACAMC Chapter).

Old Business included the Treasury Report (\$427 and 7 coins remain). Mike Robertson and Shawn Scott both received chapter coins, which will be sold for \$7 from now on. We are awaiting design inputs for the new ACA Wasatch Chapter coin (POCs are Paul Smith and Chief Vicki Lemke). The Chapter agreed to support the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual AMMO BBQ with a \$100 donation.

New Business included the ACA Wasatch Chapter will help sponsor the 6th Annual Ammo BBQ for all active duty, reserve, retired, and/or their family members. It will be held on 30 July 2016 @ 1100 hours at Centennial Park on Hill AFB, Utah. The POCs for this BBQ are Richard Leseberg ([richard.leseberg@us.af.mil](mailto:richard.leseberg@us.af.mil)) and Tim Matuszak ([timothy.matuszak@us.af.mil](mailto:timothy.matuszak@us.af.mil)). Mike Robertson provided an update ACA reunion planning to be held from 26-30 Oct



2016 in San Antonio, Texas. Chief Shawn Scott retires May 2015; more details to follow. The Clothing Sales will be getting in new AMMO Shirts, 48 each of grey and brown around the end of March. Chief Delauder and CMSgt (Select) Stamper were sent ACA Membership applications. Chief Lemke announced that there will be a Combined Ammo Call on 15 Apr 16 at the Hill AFB, Centennial Park. Mike Robertson discussed tax exemption status, guidelines, and rules. The next Shell and Flame newsletter will be out on 31 Mar 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at: 1215 P.M. The next Wasatch Chapter meeting is scheduled for June 2016

//Signed//  
Mike Eisenberg  
Secretary/Treasurer, ACA Wasatch Chapter  
IYAAYAS

## **Midwest Chapter**

The Midwest Chapter acknowledged the 2015 HQ AFMC AMMO winners again this year with a certificate and Midwest Chapter coin. The winners are...

### **2015 AFMC OUTSTANDING MUNITIONS PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR:**

AMN:	SrA Trey A. Maulden	96 MXS, Eglin AFB, FL
NCO:	SSgt Michael J. Whitfield	AFTC/SMO, Hill AFB, UT
SNCO:	MSgt Trapper M. Skrypek	649 MUNS, Hill AFB, UT
CIVILIAN:	Mr. Matthew J. Klund	412 MXS, Edwards AFB, CA

Mark Gossett was re-elected as president serving a 1 Jan 2016 – 31 Dec 2018 term. Mark also retired from Battelle on 29 Feb 2016 and is now enjoying the life of leisure.

Bill Campbell attended the AFCOMAC 30 anniversary.

The AFK community is planning a reunion in Las Vegas in Nov 16. Anyone interested can contact Mark Gossett for details.

# From the AMMO Schoolhouse

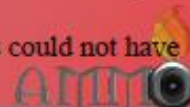
ACA recognized Top Graduates, June 2015 to December 2015

From Sheppard's Ammo training professionals...

## ACA Top Graduates !

AMMO apprentice students are challenged by their schoolhouse flight chief to excel and we are proud to present Sheppard's top Ammo performers for the last half of 2015...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 it's best!



Class 150022, A1C West, graduated 9 Jun 15



Class 15023, A1C Hamilton, graduated 16 Jun 15



Class 15024S, A1C Bradley, graduated 23 Jun 15



Class 15025T, A1C Snodderly, graduated 30 Jun 15



Class 15026S, A1C Naguit, graduated 8 Jul 15



Class 15027S, A1C Folds, graduated 27 Jul 15



Class 15027T, A1C Schult, graduated 27 Jul 15



Class 15030, A1C Cantarutti, graduated 28 Jul 15





Class 15031S, A1C Coffman, graduated 4 Aug 15



Class 15031T, A1C Updegraff, graduated 4 Aug 15



Class 15033T, A1C Hood, graduated 28 Aug 15



Class 15035, A1C Bolduc, graduated 29 Sept 15



Class 15037S, A1C Kampa, graduated 3 Nov 15



Class 16001S, A1C Hamlin, graduated 24 Nov 15



Class 16001T, A1C Nazareno, graduated 24 Nov 15



Class 16002S, A1C Martz, graduated 3 Dec 15





Class 16002T, A1C Rose, graduated 3 Dec 15



Class 16003S, SSgt Little, graduated 9 Dec 15



And NOT to be forgotten...  
...ACA Top Graduates...  
that due to technical difficulties (human and/or mechanical) we did not  
obtain photos for!

Class 15028, A1C D. Vessey,  
graduated 11 Aug 15



Class 15029, A1C W. Oakey,  
graduated 21 Jul 15



## AFCOMAC - ACA Outstanding Performer Awards

**Subject:** Class 16-003 ACA Winner (SrA Combs)

I want to pass on my sincere congratulations to SrA Brett Combs 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 Combs 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. Brett'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!

//SIGNED//

BENJAMIN PADILLA, CMSgt, USAF  
Superintendent, 9th Munitions Squadron  
Air Force Combat Ammunition Center  
IYAAMMOYAS!!!!!!!!!!



**Subject:** Class 16-004 ACA Winner (SSgt Lee)

I wanted to pass on my sincerest congratulations to SSgt Landre Lee (ACC, 57th MXS, Nellis AFB Nevada) for his selection as the recipient of the Ammo Chief's Association "Outstanding Performer" award during the 30th Anniversary class here at AFCOMAC! 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 Lee 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. Landre'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!

Respectfully,

CMSgt MARK P. JACKSON  
Munitions Superintendent  
9 MUNS/MXW





## AMMO Troops in the News

### Munitions Airmen build bombs at record pace

By Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs / Published December 18, 2015

Source: <http://www.af.mil/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/223/Article/637367/munitions-airmen-build-bombs-at-record-pace.aspx>



Senior Airman Christopher Haynesorth and Staff Sgt. Daniel Eisenhart, both members of the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight, install a tail kit on a 2,000-pound joint attack direct munition at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, Dec. 17, 2015. Eisenhart, a native of Hanover, Pa., and Haynesworth, of Richmond, Va., are part of a record-setting munitions team that has built nearly 4,000 bombs since July. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman)



Airman 1st Class Ralph Pangilinan, of the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight, prepares a joint attack direct munition for transport at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, Dec. 17, 2015. Pangilinan, a native of San Diego, is a part of a record-setting munitions team that has built nearly 4,000 bombs since July. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman)

**AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar (AFNS) --** The 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight at Al Udeid Air Base is setting a new record with each bomb they build.

The team of nearly 60 Airmen has assembled almost 4,000 bombs since July, surpassing the previous record by more than 1,600.

The weapons that the unit provides are in high demand. More than 3,700 weapons they built have been dropped on enemy targets since July.

Senior Master Sgt. Gordon Comerford, the 379th EMXS Munitions Flight production superintendent, said he's proud of how committed his team has been over the past several months.

"I'm incredibly proud of what we contribute to the battlefield," said Comerford, of Chatsworth, Georgia. "We generally build 24 joint direct attack munitions per day but have cranked out as many as 66 during high demand times. Demand really spiked in October when our technicians built 1,058 JDAMs.

"I cannot think of anyone, anywhere at any time who can make that claim," Comerford continued. "I am incredibly proud of my Airmen for sustaining production at that level for such a long duration."

The munitions flight maintains a weapons stockpile valued at \$2 billion. The flight provides weapons for the B-1B Lancer and chaff and flares for the C-17 Globemaster III and C-130 Hercules. Every weapon is meticulously built by hand and every component is inspected prior to any construction.

"I inspect every single component to create a weapon and make sure everything is good to go before any bomb building begins," said Senior Airman Anthony Anderson, a 379th EMXS munitions inspector from Waco, Texas.

In a matter of minutes, Anderson inspects nearly 100 different weapon components including tail kits and fuses. He said he likes supporting such an important mission.

"We're making a direct impact here and that's something that only a few career fields in the Air Force get to experience," Anderson said. "We pour our sweat into these bombs and 12 hours later we see it on TV, knowing we're having that impact is a great feeling.

"I got here right after the battle for Kobani, seeing the Kurds push forward, reducing (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) territory, preventing them from expanding and supporting the Iraqi people as they take back cities," Anderson continued. "It's good to know that we're supporting all of that."

Anderson's teammates agreed.

"We are making a huge difference and that's a great feeling," said Senior Airman Justin Moyle, a 379th EMXS conventional maintenance crew chief from Mayfield, Pennsylvania. "You don't hear much about us and what we do, but without us, today's warfare wouldn't be possible. We know what we're doing and we do it to protect our fellow service members and to keep America safe."

Moyle oversees bomb building operations and said the greatest part of the job is knowing the bombs his team builds are used to stop enemy forces.

"We're taking out enemy resources and having an impact on them financially and on their morale," he said.

Many in the unit believe strongly in what they're doing. More than a dozen Airmen, roughly a quarter of the team, volunteered to extend their deployments by six months.

For Staff Sgt. Jody Kemper, a 379th EMXS munitions maintenance crew chief from Vilonia, Arkansas, the decision was easy.

"I like building live munitions that will be used and have a prominent effect on what's going on in the world," Kemper said. "We are supporting the men on the ground, taking out enemy targets and preventing the enemy from having an attack capability; I like knowing I have a hand in that."



## **2016 ACA Reunion Update – See you in San Antonio, Texas!**

Mark your calendars, the dates are set: 26 to 30 October 2016. And don't forget to set those alerts for the best discounted airfare to San Antonio!

A large "Thank You" to all our members who responded to our request about who is planning to attend. The results speak for themselves: 53 Chiefs and 47 spouses/significant others are planning to make the trip. This initial headcount helped us significantly in our planning and coordination efforts and suggests this could be one of our largest reunion turnouts yet.

Your SATX Reunion Planning Team now includes Fred Schoettler, Fred Lee, Steven West, James Biggerstaff, and John Rivard. The venue for this year's reunion will be the Holiday Inn San Antonio Riverwalk. After competing with two other properties in the downtown area, the Holiday Inn Riverwalk's winning offer included discounted room rates, reduced daily parking fees, a discounted daily breakfast buffet as well as a no-cost, 900 square foot hospitality room dedicated for our use.

Here's a sample of the events we are planning for your enjoyment: a bus tour of three Hill Country wineries with an Italian lunch and shopping time in Fredericksburg; a private tour of the USAF Gunsmith Shop and sightseeing around San Antonio; a visit to Lackland's Basic Military Training facilities where you will meet the new TI, see those old and new barracks, have a guided tour of the Airmen's Museum and lunch with recent graduates; a 2-person scramble golf tournament at Randolph Oaks Golf Course; a cocktail cruise with hors d'oeuvres on the San Antonio River; and a beer bus tour of two San Antonio breweries and a distillery. There will also be an opening night reception, an AMMO Call, and a banquet on the last night of the reunion. All of this plus plenty of time for you to set out on your own and see some of the sights around the Alamo and the Riverwalk which are within easy walking distance of the hotel.

We will open sign-up and event registration for the reunion around the first week of June. Since some of the events are limited by the mode of transportation being used, the earlier you can sign-up, the better. At that time you can also make your room reservations directly with the hotel using our special block code (this will be published on the sign-up sheet) to ensure you get the discounted room rate. The hotel does have a 48-hour cancellation policy should an emergency arise.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the reunion, the planned events, the venue, etc., please contact me, Joe Dominguez at [jfdom2504@hotmail.com](mailto:jfdom2504@hotmail.com), and I'll be happy to answer. On behalf of the SATX Reunion Planning Team, we look forward to seeing you in San Antonio the last week of October 2016.

Joe Dominguez

## **AMMO - NOTAMs**

### **AMMO SMSgt one of eight selected for supplemental promotion to Chief!**

The ACA congratulates SMSgt Branden Okura stationed at Misawa Air Base, Japan on being picked up on the recent supplemental board. His line number is 268.5.

Source: <http://www.airforcetimes.com/story/military/careers/air-force/enlisted/2015/02/12/443-enlisted-selected-for-supplemental-promotion/23308945/>

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## Shell and Flame Award to Squadron Leader Ted Costick's Widow



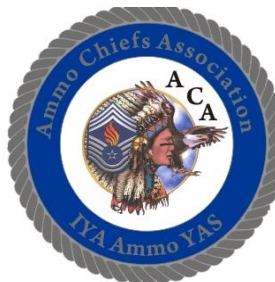
In December 2015, ACA Member, Joe Gast, Ammo Chief (retired) presented the Shell and Flame Award and Honorary Membership Certificate to Moira Costick (Ted Costick's widow). Those of us who served in the UK in the 70s and 80s will remember Ted as a great supporter of the USAF Ammo Mission. His bio was covered in the 39<sup>th</sup> edition of the Shell and Flame.

Fred O'Hern



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## Ammo Chiefs Association Ammo Spirit Awards



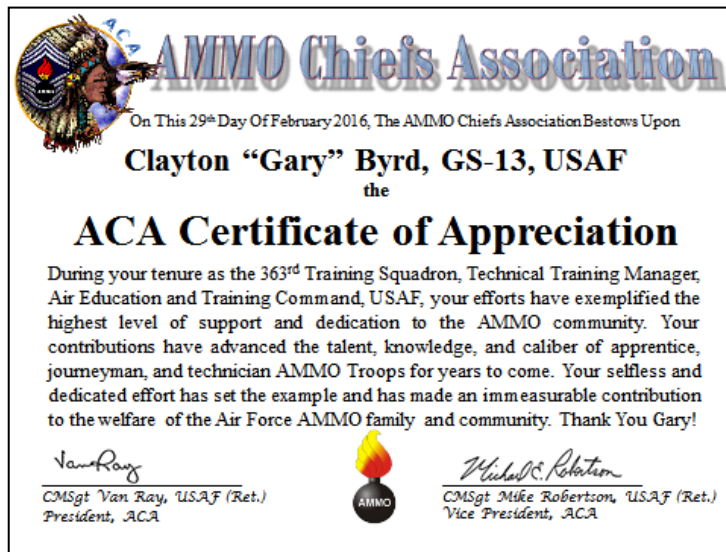
For several years the ACA has awarded an ACA Ammo Spirit Coin to the Outstanding Graduates of AFCOMAC and the Honor Graduates of the Ammo Course at Sheppard AFB Schoolhouse. This year the ACA Board of Directors (BOD) decided to extend the Ammo Spirit award program to Air Force and MAJCOM level AMMO winners of the Technician, Technician-Supervisor, and Supervisor-Manager (except Chiefs) of the Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Award and winners of MAJCOM Munitions Functional Awards (for the same levels (i.e., Technician, Technician-Supervisor, and Supervisor-Manager (except Chiefs). Upon notification by MAJCOM or Air Staff 2WO functional managers, the ACA will send a coin and a Certificate of Achievement to the individual's Unit Commander for presentation to each AMMO winner.

In addition, all of us know or knew great Ammo Troops who demonstrate outstanding Ammo Spirit and supported us every day, but yet they will never be considered let alone win awards beyond the local level; and lest we forget there are many retired Ammo Troops who continue to support the Ammo Mission and are deserving of the ACA's recognition. Consequently the ACA BOD will accept nominations from Members of the ACA for Ammo Spirit Awards to retired or active AMMO Troops in grades A1C to SMSgt. To submit a nomination, send a one paragraph justification to the ACA Secretary ([Ammo.Chiefs.Association@gmail.com](mailto:Ammo.Chiefs.Association@gmail.com)); include contact details for the recipient and an ACA Member who will make the presentation. Awards are limited to a maximum of 10 / year and no more than one nomination from a member will be accepted each year.

Fred O'Hern  
Chief at Arms, IYA Ammo YAS

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## Ammo Chiefs Association Presents Certificate of Appreciation



MSgt Joshua Chrest, USAF AETC 363 TRS/TTM presents the ACA award on behalf of the Ammo Chiefs for his outstanding dedication to the 363 TRS schoolhouse and contributions to the AMMO community through training management of new ammo troops being inducted into the career field.



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## Chief Master Sergeant Gauvin Ammo Troop Memorial Fund



A few months ago I got a call from an individual who used to work for me and has since retired and now has a child who will soon attend college and he wanted to know about applying for benefits of the CMSGT Richard Gauvin Memorial Fund. He said he recalled hearing about this when he attended AFCOMAC a few years ago and wanted to know if I could help him find out about applying.

Not too long after this happened I was at a local Ammo Call and the subject once again came up about the Gauvin Fund and when I started to explain it several people started asking many questions about the program. I realized there might be a need to get the word out to as many of our folks as possible.

So, I contacted Chief Padilla at AFCOMAC since they are responsible for managing the program and discussed writing an article for our Shell and Flame Newsletter. Since the deadline is fast approaching to have the applications turned in by 1 June 2016 we hope this will help get the word out and all you AMMO guys and gals will pass it on to your folks so our troops can utilize this program that was established to benefit the AMMO community.

A current copy of the application procedure is being posted at <http://ammochiefs.com>.

John Greer  
[Bigjohn461@bellsouth.net](mailto:Bigjohn461@bellsouth.net)

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## Ammo Supply Store

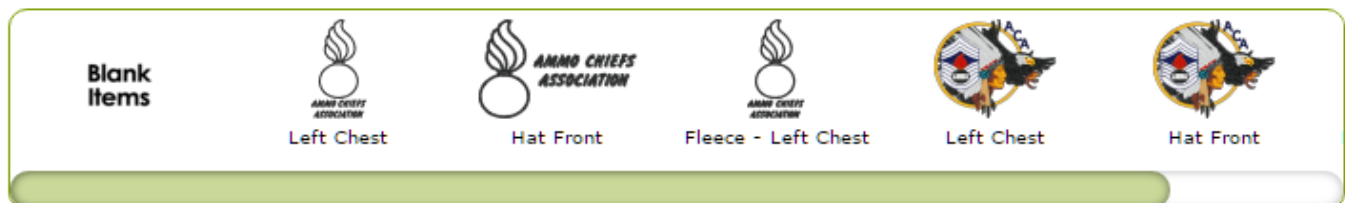
The ACA uses Queensboro Company to offer AMMO Chiefs a choice of clothing and other items with embroidered logos. You get to order what you want without going through a middle man. Their full range of products is available to order. What does the ACA get out of this arrangement? We get to provide a quality product with the ACA logo direct to you, our members.

In the past, the logo was a simple Pisspot with the words “Ammo Chiefs Association” under it. Now we also have the regular ACA logo available. The Pisspot logo is still available. Of course there is a multitude of items and colors to pick from. One note of caution, I find that on some items the sizes run on the small size so I would recommend ordering items one size larger. Customer service is great and they have a 30-day Guarantee.



With the ACA Reunion coming up in San Antonio this October you will want to order several items for you and the spouse. At checkout you can even add your name or the name of your Chapter.

At the bottom of each product page you will see the following logo selections, make your first selection here before picking a product. Also, that “Blank Items” tab will get you into an area where you can purchase Gift Certificates.



Our Ammo Supply Store is at: <http://ammochiefs.qbstores.com/home.html>. Check it out!

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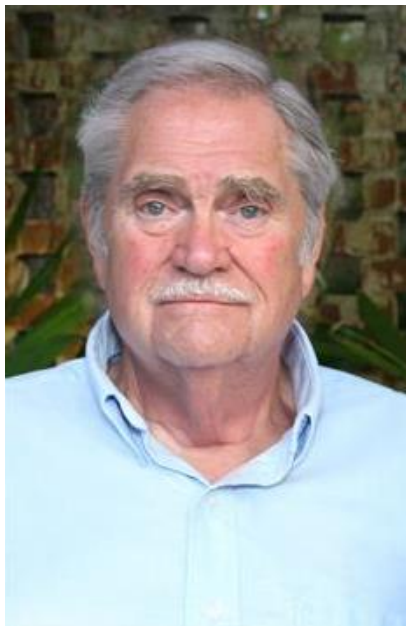
## LAST AMMO CALL



AMMO Chief (Retired) Paul H. Klein, age 75, passed away Friday, December 25, 2015 at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center following a short illness. Born in E. Rockhill TWP., Bucks County, Pennsylvania, he was a son of the late Paul G. and Wilhelmina Klein. In addition to his parents, Paul was predeceased by a brother, James Klein. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Mitsuko; a son, Toshio Klein and his wife Lisa of Spartanburg, SC; 2 daughters: Mary Klein-Tijero and her husband David of Monterey Park, California, Joy Klein of Myrtle Beach and his granddaughter, Mina Klein. Paul was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend. He retired from the USAF as a Chief Master Sergeant, actively serving in Vietnam and retired from the Georgetown County School System where he taught small engine repair and computer science. He loved to go fishing and hunting with family and friends. Paul will be dearly missed by all.

Paul is said to have had a great sense of humor and total devotion to his family and the AMMO business. God Bless you Paul and watch over your family as they cope with your loss.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 P.M., Monday, January 4, 2016 at St. Michael Catholic Church with Fr. Edward Fitzgerald officiating. A family guestbook can be signed at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries;http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Paul-Klein-2/#!/Obituary](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries;http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Paul-Klein-2/#!/Obituary)





## 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 \*/\*\*  
 Anthony Borzomowski  
 Jimmie Branson  
 Rennice H. "Jim" Bray  
 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 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  
 Paul Long  
 William Lovelady  
 Leo Marquez  
 Donald Mayo  
 Lon McAlister  
 Alvin "Al" Mercer

Clifton Mills  
 Kevin Mullaney  
 Darrell Mulvany  
 Edward Patry  
 William "Bill" Poe  
 Louis V. Prelip  
 Harold P. Prevett \*  
 Erwin G. "Erv" Redman  
 Leander Richards  
 Leroy Rott  
 Neil G. Schaible  
 Robert Sechler  
 Ramsey Stonewall  
 Ben Stubbe  
 Addison 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 \* have the distinction of being a Charter Chief in the USAF.  
 Those listed with a double asterisk \*\* are Bataan Death March Survivors.*