



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

## ***June 2016***

### ***“Shell and Flame”***



**Issue Number XLI**

**30 Jun 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:**

Folks, we've motored into the summer of 2016! It's been a busy six months as the ACA continues to move forward with very good progress. We've worked on the constitution and sorted out some issues with positive results. Our programs are functioning well as we move forward with supporting Ammo Troops worldwide and recognizing those who have done outstanding work for the ammo community. We are making progress with signing up new members and reestablishing ties with former members. This fall is the ACA Reunion in San Antonio. Joe Dominquez and his team have done a wonderful job laying the groundwork for an exciting reunion! Please consider attending...it'll be a hoot! Let's continue with the ACA mission in true Ammo style!

Van Ray  
IYAAYAS!!!

**Note:** The ACA BOD encourages your continued support and your recommendations to continue growing our organization. Please contact any of member of the ACA Board of Directors if you have any items of interest or information you feel would be of benefit to the ACA.

## The ACA BOD:

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

## From the Vice President:

ACA, below is another great edition of the ACA Newsletter for your reading pleasure. We’ve added some new events to the ACA Calendar to help you keep up with the AMMO “Battle Rhythm” and we have some great AMMO Call pics courtesy of the Emerald Coast Chapter. We also included some great articles to include an AMMO Chiefs Reunion update from the “Reunion Boss” Joe Dominguez, Veterans information from Bob Jones and Chuck Norton, info about Saint Barbara (the patron saint of artillerymen) from Mike Roylance, and a brief History of the ACA Care Package Program from Jack Miller. I hope you enjoy reading this edition...

Mike

## From the Secretary:

Joe Dominguez and Team SATX have put together a jam packed schedule of events for this year’s Reunion. There are events for every attendee to enjoy. Now it's up to us so please get your sign-up sheets and checks mailed to Joe as early as possible. We're looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio!!

We will have a business meeting at the Reunion for ‘all’ Members to attend. Now is the time for ACA Members including Associates to be thinking of any agenda items they would like to see brought up at this meeting and / or be voted on by the Chief Members attending. I would welcome any agenda item you might have at your earliest convenience. Some of you may not be aware of an Associate Member’s right to provide suggested agenda items so I've included the applicable ACA Constitution's wording on the subject:

***Article IV, Section 2 (e). Associate Members may attend ACA meetings and participate in social events / reunions but do not have voting rights. However, they are allowed to submit suggestions to the BOD for consideration and possible inclusion as an agenda item for upcoming General Membership or BOD Business meetings. With approval of the BOD they may also serve on committees. All Associate Members pay dues.***

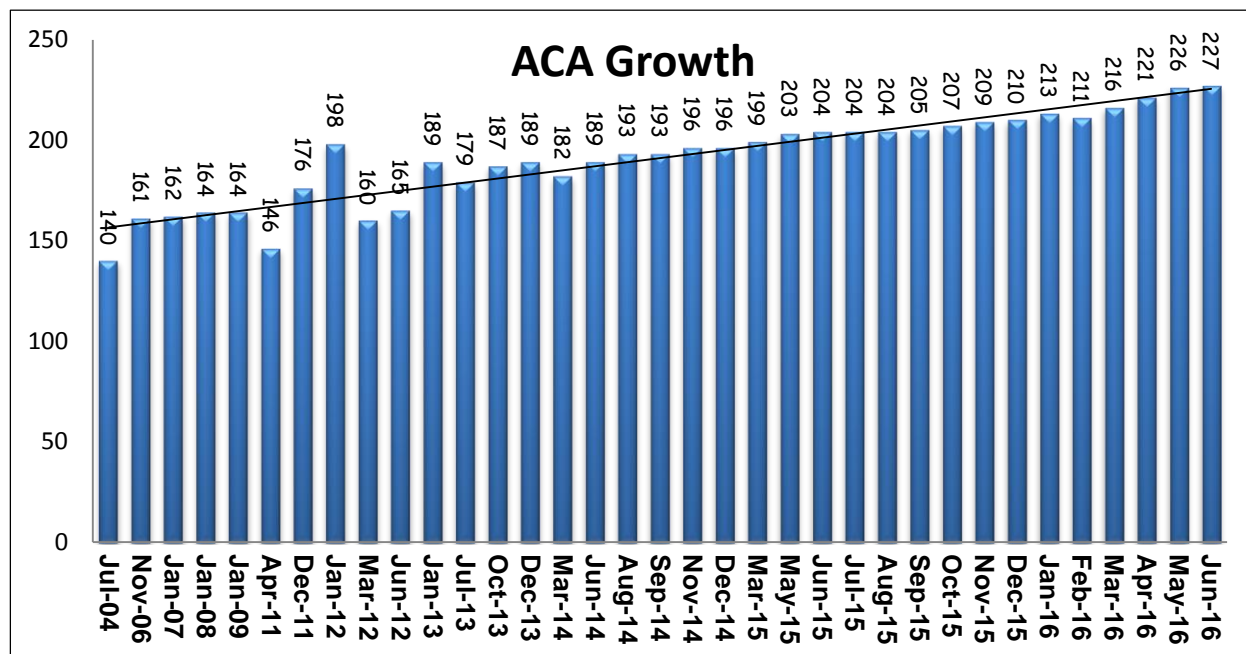
For those Chiefs who don't plan to be at the Reunion, you can give your voting proxy to a Chief who will be there. I'll be putting more information out about this subject along with agenda items to be discussed and the formatted proxy sheet in a few weeks. I know there are those who get tired of hearing it, but the few members out there who have still not paid their 2016 dues need to get their checkbooks out and get it done! Naturally, we'd like to see you pay off your entire dues balance and become Lifetime Members. Contact either Mike Roylance or myself to make it happen. You and all of yours stay well, be safe this Summer and keep in touch.

Jack

**IYAAYAS !!!!**

## From the Treasurer:

### ACA Membership Status as of 26 June 2016



### *Membership Totals by Chapter and Type*

Chapter	Total	Lifetime Chief	Annual Chief	Lifetime Associate	Annual Associate	Honorary	Honorary Spouse	Shell & Flame
Mid West	7	7						
Wasatch	15	14				1		
Mid Atlantic	23	16	3	3	1			
Emerald Coast	43	25		11	1	1	4	1
At Large	139	100	11	10	7	2	7	2
Totals	227	162	14	24	9	4	11	3

### AMMO Chief Locator

We have a number of Chiefs from the past in our database and we have little to no information on them. We've decided to begin advertising these names in our newsletter to see if any current members have any info on these folks. We believe that many older Chiefs may not even know about the ACA. So with that said we'll start with some actual ACA members we have not heard from in some time then we'll move to the non-members. We'll include a few folks in each newsletter. If anyone has any information on these folks please drop Mike Roylance a line on email: [mikeroylance@comcast.net](mailto:mikeroylance@comcast.net); or any other member of the ACA BOD. We'd like to get these folks back on board the ACA.

Chiefs			
Last Name	First Name	Rank / Grade	Member No
Bowersox	Steven J	CMSgt	207
Duff	Larry D.	CMSgt	163
Johnson	Stuart D.	CMSgt	151
Lamb	Johnny A.	CMSgt	095
Moreland	Donald W. Jr.	CMSgt	138
Nielsen	Wayne	CMSgt	140
Thompson	Gerald K	CMSgt	177
Whitten	Dick	CMSgt	184

## From the Chief-at-Arms

For those of us who follow Facebook, we have noticed an increase in groups with an AMMO focus. This reflects the wide diversity of the Ammo Community. For the most part these have been largely a social communications vehicle, allowing Ammo to have a medium for chatting and connecting with long lost brethren. However, a few dynamic Ammo Veterans have taken the lead in forming a formal Ammo association. As a result gatherings of Ammo Troops are springing up all around the country.

I recently attended the Bash at the Beach, what a great weekend meeting old Ammo friends and making new ones. Thanks and kudos to the organizers; Jimmy Taylor, Bob Jones, and Arthur Stubbs. Events are being planned for Northeast Ammo Bash (29-31 July); Moody Blues, Ray City, GA (30 Sept - 2 Oct) and the Ammo Monster Bash in Las Vegas (end of Oct).

You can find contacts and details at <https://batchgeo.com/map/Ammo> and on the Facebook Ammo Veterans and Ammo Chiefs Association pages. I would like to encourage all to join the AVA and assist in leading the Ammo Community. See articles within this newsletter below about the Bash at the Beach and the Ammo Veterans Association which has a membership application.

Fred O'Hern

## 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.

KEY: Complete Scheduled

<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	Released
March 31, 2016	Shell & Flame Newsletter release	Published
April 22, 2016	Ammo Bash at the Beach	Clarion Hotel Myrtle Beach, 101 Fantasy Harbour Blvd, Myrtle Beach South Carolina 29579
May 21, 2016	All Ammo Call, ACA ECC	Helen Back Okaloosa Island 1800hrs, Facebook Page: <a href="http://www.helenbackcafe.com/">http://www.helenbackcafe.com/</a>
June 1, 2016	CMSgt Gauvin Memorial Fund Applications Due, NLT	Deadline passed
June 2, 2016	ACAMC Prep and Ship Care Packages Sortie 1, NLT	Shipped 50 plus LBS to 4 different APO's. Thanks Jack Miller and ACA MAC.
June 30, 2016	Shell & Flame Newsletter release	Published
June 30, 2016	ACA 2nd Quarter Finance Report	Released
July 2, 2016	USAFE Ammo Bowl, POC Chris Davis	Ramstein AFB Germany,
July 29, 2016	NE Ammo Call	Burlington Vermont
July 29, 2016	South East Ammo Bowl	Niceville FL, POC is SMSgt Jon Beauchamp, <a href="mailto:jonathan.beauchamp@us.af.mil">jonathan.beauchamp@us.af.mil</a> ., 850-882-5026, TSgt Stephanie Hewlett, <a href="mailto:Stephanie.hewlett@us.af.mil">Stephanie.hewlett@us.af.mil</a> , SSgt Elizabeth Olney, <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.olney@us.af.mil">Elizabeth.olney@us.af.mil</a> . Checks to Richard Olney, 108 Mohawk Trl, Crestview FL 32536 NLT 15 June 16.

<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Event</b></i>	<i><b>Location</b></i>
July 30, 2016	Wasatch Chapter 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Ammo BBQ	11am Centennial Park, Hill AFB. POC is Richard Leseberg and Tim Matuszak; Hill AFB UT, Contact: matthew.mills.12@us.af.mil 586-4392, scott.lauritzen@us.af.mil 775-4331 michael.rosiere@us.af.mil 777-7213 Web Page: BYOB
August 1, 2016	CMSgt Gauvin Memorial Fund Awards Selected and announced. NLT	
September 8, 2016	Central Ammo Bowl Sheppard AFB TX	James Conner Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/central.ammobowl">https://www.facebook.com/central.ammobowl</a>
September 30, 2016	Shell & Flame Newsletter release	
September 30, 2016	ACA 3rd Qtr Finance Report	
October 1, 2016	Check funding for AFCOMAC Outstanding Performer Award coins and name plates	
October 1, 2016	Moody Blues Ammo Woodstock Fest	Bob Jones Ray City, Ga. First weekend Oct each year. Facebook Page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/1472508693025795/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/1472508693025795/</a> Contact: Bob Jones. Hotel info: Bring yer Tent Phone Number: (716) 685-2762 Web Page: <a href="http://www.mapquest.com/?le=t&amp;hk=6-to9I2kmY&amp;cid=fb_maptitle&amp;vs">http://www.mapquest.com/?le=t&amp;hk=6-to9I2kmY&amp;cid=fb_maptitle&amp;vs</a>
October 7, 2016	Western Ammo Bowl	Big League Dreams Field, 4536 E Elliot Rd, Phoenix Arizona 85234. Checks/money orders payable to: Luke AMMO Top IV C/O 2016 AMMO Bowl Entry Fee. Mail to: Howard Suggs, 10937 W Pierson St, Phoenix, AZ 85037 or Matthew Werner, 10609 W Watkins St, Tolleson, AZ 85353 or Michael Bessette, 10912 W Sieno Pl , Avondale, AZ 85395. Fees due NLT 1 August 2016
October 26, 2016	Ammo Chiefs Association Reunion	San Antonio TX, POC: Joe Dominguez, <a href="mailto:jfdom2504@hotmail.com">jfdom2504@hotmail.com</a>
October 27, 2016	RAF Welford Reunion & Ammo Call	Seattle WA. POC is Tina Speer

<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Event</b></i>	<i><b>Location</b></i>
October 28, 2016	Ammo Monster Mash	Ammo Monster mash 2016 Saturday night Ammo call to include entertainment and buffet dinner location the Fremont Hotel & Casino ballroom 200 Fremont St Las Vegas Nevada 6-10 , meet and greet is Friday night 6:00 until starting at the Fremont aka the Fremont ammo experience. POC Greig Hartman. Working on a hotel room deal now; you are welcome to stay where you like. Wolfpack will be joining us on this reunion awesome. All Ammo welcome more events coming for Saturday to include a party bus Facebook Page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/1639648296314322/">https://www.facebook.com/events/1639648296314322/</a>
November 16, 2016	AFK Reunion in planning stages	Las Vegas NV, contact Mark Gossett
November 30, 2016	ACAMC Prep and Ship Care Packages Sortie 2, NLT	
December 4, 2016	Saint Barbara's Day; the patron saint of those who work with explosives	
December 21, 2016	Shell & Flame Newsletter release	
December 30, 2016	ACA 4th Qtr Finance Report due out	
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	
March 31 2017	ACA Roster due out	
March 31, 2017	ACA 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr Finance Report due out	
May 15, 2017	ACA Tax Filing due, NLT	
September 2, 2017	Morbach Reunion	Branson Mo 49682. Jon Shively 213-357-4546

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
November 10, 2017	Texas Ammo Call	San Antonio, TX. Scott Bishop/Jimmy Taylor <a href="http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/the-emily-morgan-san-antonio-a-doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-SATEMDT/index.html">http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/the-emily-morgan-san-antonio-a-doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-SATEMDT/index.html</a>
April 27, 2018	Ammo Bash at the Beach	
December 31 2019	ACA Elections, NLT	

## Chapter News

### Mid-Atlantic Chapter (ACAMC)

Since our last meeting in March, the Ammo Chiefs Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter (ACAMC) has been meeting its goal to lend support to the Ammo Community.

During the period of 23-24 April, the ACAMC enlisted the assistance of the Joint Base Langley-Eustis (JBLE) Ammo Morale Team (AMT) for a fundraiser at the Richmond International Raceway (RIR). The effort yielded \$2,500.00 which will be used to support the AMT and chapter programs.

The ACAMC is catching up with our Awards Program and is recognizing the following individuals with a certificate, chapter coin, and \$50.00 gift card:

SrA Lilly: Seymour Johnson AFB - 3rd Qtr ACC Munitions Technician  
 MSgt Enoch: Shaw AFB - 4th Qtr ACC Munitions Manager  
 SrA Burke: Shaw AFB - 4th Qtr ACC Munitions Technician  
 TSgt McKinley: JBLE - 2015 Munitions Supervisor of the Year

Our President, Jackie Miller, put together and mailed four summer **ACAMC** care packages to austere bases in combat locations (Kandahar, Bagram, Jordan, and Ali Al Salem). CMSgt Nielson from Bagram acknowledged receipt of their package. Our thanks go out to the ACA and other donors who help make this **ACAMC** program a success. This is the second summer package we've sent and plan to make this a recurring effort.

The next RIR fundraising event will take place September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. We anticipate another profitable venture.

Frank Waterman is still in the recovery mode from surgery. We wish him the best in this long, drawn out, process.

Due to busy summer activities and issues finding a suitable venue for the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, we had to cancel. Our next meeting is to be held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to have the meeting at Captain Billy's Seafood Restaurant in Newburg, MD.

Bill McCullough  
 ACAMC Secretary-Treasurer



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

The Emerald Coast Chapter held our Feb meeting with spouses at Logan's Steakhouse at 1910. John Greer thanked everyone for coming. Meeting opened at 1910 hours.

### Members and Spouses Present:

John & Doris Greer, Pres	Dennis & Pam Tangney, VP
Darrell & Ronnie Beasley, Sec	Johnny & Jeanne Long, Treas
Lupe & Sunshyne Ruiz(chief selectee)	Dan Roberts
Nick & Heather Sims	Larry & Billie DiAmco
Tom & Lois Zima	Danny & Janice Bridges
Dave & Peggy Osborn	Mark & Donna Dunn

### Guests:

John & Stacie Diesel	Dale Andrews
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John briefed on the Annual Myrtle Beach AMMO Bash on the Beach, 22-24 Apr 16. John also briefed on the Annual Moody Blues AMMO Bash on 30 Sep -2 Oct 16. He also reminded everyone about the Annual ECC Emerald Coast AMMO Call, FWB Helen Back, 21 May 1800 until.

John welcomed Mark Dunn and his wife Donna, he paid his lifetime ACA and ECC dues to Johnny and he will forward that to Mike Roylance. Welcome to our newest member.

Larry DiAmco donated \$100.0 to help defray costs for the year.

John also reminded all that the Southeastern Ammo Bowl will be co-hosted by Eglin and Hurlburt in Niceville 29-31 July this year and we need to get out and support the teams. Members have previously voted to donate \$250.00 to tournament. Johnny will handle this.

We will be hosting our annual charity golf tournament to benefit homeless veterans on 22 July at the FWB Pines course so if you are interested in sponsoring a hole or entering a team contact John 850-686-6805, 850-939-6659 or Darrell, 850-865-0665.

Our next meeting will be 2 Jun to finalize the golf tournament and address any pressing issues. Meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.

The annual Emerald Coast Ammo call was held on 21 May at the Helen Back Cafe AMMO BAR on Okaloosa Island in Ft Walton Beach. There were approximately 125-140 outstanding young and OLD ammo troops and their spouses and significant others attending (see pictures attached below). We want to thank all the sponsors who donated their time and money to make this event happen. We especially want to send out a special thanks to our newest sponsor, Kevin Vance and FAXON MACHINING for their support. It was great to see all these ammo troops enjoying themselves and having a good time renewing old friendships and making new ones.

The ECC, 2 Jun 16 meeting was held at the Niceville Helen Back at 1700 hours with the following members attending:

John Greer-Pres	Tim Outz
Dennis Tagney-VP	Nick Sims
Darrell Beasley-Sec	Glenn Riley

John Greer opened the meeting at 1705 hours and briefed that the main reason for this meeting was to get things rolling for the golf tourney. John said he had already received sponsor checks from Creative Awards, Playground Auto, Chuck Wills, with promised support from Darrell, Dennis, Tom Zima, and several others. But we all need to get out and beat the bushes for sponsors and teams for the tourney. The ladies, Doris Greer and Ronnie Beasley have been out hitting our regulars but we need to get as many sponsors as we can. We were able to give the Vets over \$2100.00 last year, let's try and beat that number this year. All members concurred they would get out and sign up teams and sponsors.

Glenn Riley said he has a potential new member he will be signing up in the ACA and bringing to our next meeting. Good job Glenn, helping make our chapter and the ACA grow.

John briefed that the Ammo Call was an outstanding success with all attendees having a great time. With copious amounts of adult beverages and many great Helen Back pizzas consumed. Many of those young ammo troops attending were constantly thanking us for having this event for the troops. He personally told them it was our pleasure to support the troops for keeping the flame burning. Thanks to Ammo-Dog.com for their support of this event.

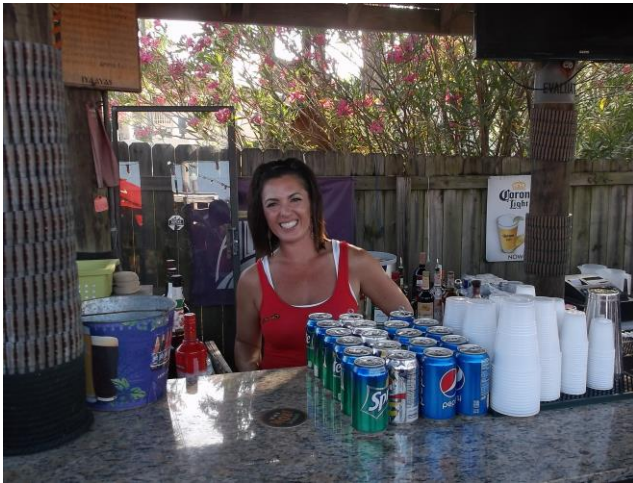
With no new business the meeting was adjourned at 1855 hours. The next meeting will be decided after the golf tourney.

### Emerald Coast AMMO Call Pictures





## Emerald Coast AMMO Call Pictures (cont...)





## **Emerald Coast AMMO Call Pictures (cont...)**



## Wasatch Chapter

The 6th annual Hill AFB AMMO BBQ will be held on Saturday, July 30th at Centennial Park and here are the details. The ACA Wasatch Chapter will donate \$100. It is open to active duty, reserves, and retired folks...and their families!!

This is a really fun event and great opportunity to meet and network with our AMMO brothers/sisters across many different agencies here at Hill. There will be plenty of food served as well as activities for both adults and kids. We would prefer to have tickets purchased prior to help offset cost but paying at "the door" is fine as well. Please see the attached flyer and myself if interested in attending or if you have any questions. See you there!

WHEN: SATURDAY, 30 JULY 2016

TIME: 10:30 To TBD

COST: Per Person = \$3.00

WHERE: Centennial Park (On Base)

FOOD SERVED: 12:30

\$2.00 Per Kid Under 12 Years

FOOD & DRINKS: Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Beer Brats, Chicken, Soda, and Water.

COVERED DISH: Bring a dish to share (each AMMO family)

ACTIVITIES: Kids - water park, swings, slides. Adults - horseshoes, music, and games.

RSVP & Pay: By 22 July 2016 with family size and type of covered dish.

POC's: Richard Leseberg ([richard.leseberg@us.af.mil](mailto:richard.leseberg@us.af.mil)) or 775-2504)

Tim Matuszak ([timothy.matuszak@us.af.mil](mailto:timothy.matuszak@us.af.mil)) or 777-9339



Mike Eisenberg  
Secretary/Treasurer, ACA Wasatch Chapter  
Hill AFB, Utah  
IYAAYAS!

Midwest Chapter: Chapter Officers traveling, so no input for this newsletter.

## From the AMMO Schoolhouse

**From Sheppard's Ammo training professionals...**

### **ACA Top Graduates, January 2016 to March 2016**

AMMO apprentice students are challenged by their schoolhouse flight chief to excel and we are proud to present Sheppard's top Ammo performers for January through March 2016...those who have truly reached the top in the three A's...academics, aptitude and attitude. On behalf of the ACA, the class Top Graduate is presented with the ACA Top Graduate certificate and the ACA Spirit Award coin. Without the deeply rooted commitment of the instructor cadre, these students could not have achieved such high honor...now THAT's AMMO family at its best!

#### **Top Graduate: SrA Takacs, David M.**

Hometown: Washington DC  
Grad Date: 1 Mar 16

Gaining Base: 114th FW Washington DC  
Class Number: 16010





**Top Graduate: A1C Diamond, Richard K.**

Hometown: Honolulu, HI  
Grad Date: 8 Mar 16

Gaining Base: Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam  
Class Number: 16010



**Top Graduate: A1C McDuffie, Chiante K.**

Hometown: Dallas, TX  
Grad Date: 15 Mar 16

Gaining Base: Kadena AB, Japan  
Class Number: 16011



## **Top Graduate: A1C Chen, Yolanda Y.Y.**

Hometown: Germantown, MD  
Grad Date: 15 Mar 16

Gaining Base: Minot AFB, ND  
Class Number: 16011



## **AFCOMAC - ACA Outstanding Performer Awards**

**Subject:** Class 16-005 ACA Winner (SSgt Allen)

Chief Velasquez,

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

Being selected for this award puts SSgt Allen at the top of her 71-person class. She should be very proud of herself and all she achieved while attending the Air Force Combat Ammunition Center. Mary's technical knowledge and dedication to accomplish the AMMO mission were clearly demonstrated and have earned her this well-deserved award. Again, my congratulations on an exceptional achievement!

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





**Subject:** Class 16-006 ACA Winner (TSgt Weber)

Chief Fenimore,

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

Being selected for this award puts TSgt Weber 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. Jay's technical knowledge and dedication to accomplish the AMMO mission were clearly demonstrated and have earned him this well-deserved award. Again, my congratulations on an exceptional achievement!

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



# AMMO in the News

## B-52s Double Rate of Strikes Against ISIS



A B-52 Stratofortress refuels over Iraq on April 21, 2016. Air Force photo by SSgt. Larry E. Reid Jr.

B-52s [deployed to fight ISIS](#) have almost doubled their rate of strikes over the past four weeks, as airmen have built up the infrastructure and tactics at Al Udeid AB, Qatar, necessary for the massive bomber. Strato-fortresses began flying strikes as part of Operation Inherent Resolve on April 18, and have since flown more than 130 sorties, employing 630 precision weapons during more than 125 strikes, according to numbers Air Forces Central Command provided to *Air Force Magazine*. AFCENT Commander [Lt. Gen. Charles Brown](#) said during a May 26 briefing that [B-52 operations started slow](#) because there was not enough infrastructure at its deployed base, since the heavy bombers hadn't been based in US Central Command for more than 26 years. Since late May, the B-52s have flown 77 of the 130 total sorties, using

351 precision weapons during 73 strikes, according to AFCENT. While the B-52 is known for its nuclear-capable, large payload, the bombers deployed against ISIS are specifically using laser-guided GBU-12 Paveway IIs, GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munitions, and GPS-guided GBU-31 bombs, according to AFCENT. "Because accuracy is critically important in this war, this capability in addition to the more than 12,000 ISR missions in support of OIR, allows the coalition to degrade Da'esh's capability, deny them sanctuary, and [it] provides the air coalition a critical capability," said AFCENT spokesman Maj. Omar Villarreal.

**Source:** Air Force Magazine, Daily Report, Tuesday, June 21 2016 (Journal of the Air Force Association), Brian Everstine.

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

Your San Antonio Reunion Planning Team has developed an exciting and fun-filled reunion schedule for your enjoyment. The activities our team has planned are intended to ensure everyone would find something of interest to participate in during your short, but festive stay in the Alamo City.

There are two documents (in PDF format) you can download by clicking [HERE](#). The first is our Schedule of Events that also contains a description of the activities you and your significant other can sign-up for and the second is a reunion sign-up sheet. Please note that some activities have a minimum or a maximum number of participants that is normally dictated by the transportation requirement. For those activities with a maximum number of participants we will do everything in our power to accommodate all that sign up for the event. For those with a minimum number, if we don't get enough people to sign-up for an event we will notify you of that condition and refund all fees paid for that event after the final sign-up cut-off date.

**BOTTOM LINE: Return your sign-up sheets early to ensure you have reserved a spot in the activities that you want to attend.**

### **Here's what to do:**

1. Download the Reunion Schedule of Events and the Sign-up Sheet



2. Review the schedule of events, pick those events you want to participate in and sign-up for them on a **PRINTED COPY OF THE SIGN-UP SHEET**.
3. Fill out the top portion of the sign-up sheet (name, address, etc.). Be sure to indicate the banquet entree and number selection for everyone attending.
4. Calculate the amount owed for the individual events you selected as well as a total amount.
5. Write a check made out to "Ammo Chiefs Association" for the total amount due, place your check and sign-up sheet in an envelope and mail it to me at the address shown on the sign-up sheet.
6. Click on the link at the bottom of the sign-up sheet, it will open a web page where you can make your hotel reservation (the link pre-fills in the group code to ensure you get the discounted room rate).

### **Deadlines:**

1. Sign-up to attend the reunion and the planned events of your choice – NLT 1 Sept 2016
2. Make your hotel reservation – NLT 25 Sept 2016
3. Cancel a hotel reservation – NLT Midnight, 24 Oct 2016

Information about the Holiday Inn Riverwalk San Antonio and what is available in the hotel and each guest room can be found on their website (view this information after you've made your room reservation using the link provided on the sign-up sheet). Here's some additional information specific to our ACA Reunion agreement with the hotel:

1. Discounted room rate is \$134 per room per night (+ 16.25% taxes). This room rate is guaranteed for a period of time extending 3 days before until three days after our reunion dates (23 Oct to 2 Nov 2016). We initially have 50 rooms blocked under this group code. If we need more, I'm fairly sure the hotel will accommodate us.
2. Parking fees in the hotel's garage are normally \$25/night, for our reunion this was discounted to \$15/night.
3. The hotel has a great restaurant (Windows on the River) on premise that offers our group a discounted full American breakfast for \$12/person daily.
4. We will have full use of a ballroom (The Fiesta Ballroom) located on the second floor of the hotel as our hospitality suite between the hours of 6:30 AM till 11:30 PM daily during our reunion dates. This room will be setup with tables and chairs, a refrigerator and a wet bar/kitchenette. We will stock it with various beverages (beer, wine, alcohol, sodas, bottled water, etc.) and snacks. One of our volunteers will normally be there to assist as needed.
5. Other discounts applied to our reunion activities include: waived bartender fees for the reception and banquet, waived room fees for all ACA Reunion activities held at the hotel, discounted menu prices on the banquet dinners, and a complimentary hospitality room.

I will send out other pertinent information helpful in planning your travel (car rental agencies, transportation to/from the airport and hotel, etc.) by email, individually, after I receive your sign-up sheets. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to email them to me at [jfdom2504@hotmail.com](mailto:jfdom2504@hotmail.com).

On behalf of the SATX Reunion Planning Team consisting of Fred Schoettler, Fred Lee, Steve West, James Biggerstaff, John Rivard and myself, we hope that many of you can attend and we look forward to seeing you in the Alamo City this October!

**IYAAYAS!**

Joe Dominguez  
2016 ACA Reunion Boss

# AMMO - NOTAMs

## Ammo Veterans Association



Ammo is a close knit kinship that doesn't have to end just because we leave the military. Many of us feel alone when the transition occurs from military to the civilian world. A few retired Ammo troops have learned that support, morale, and that connection to f"AMMO"y makes life a little easier after the transition occurs. Through social media they organized the first "Ammo Bash at the Beach" in 2012 which helped many folks to reconnect and find lost friends. Talk began at that time about doing more for all Ammo troops active, retired, or those who served.

The newly created Ammo Veterans Association (AVA) does just that. Ammo brothers and sisters from across the globe are reuniting at sponsored events such as the Myrtle Beach Ammo Bash, Moody Blues Ammo Day (the "Ammo Woodstock"), the Northeast Ammo Call and the newly formed Ammo Monster Bash to be held in Las Vegas at the end of October this year. The AVA is aiding in the formation of monthly breakfast clubs at Langley, Seymour and Phoenix. The AVA is helping to organize the Ammo Nation.

"Our Ammo brothers and sisters should never feel alone. We've got each other. Makes no difference active, retired, guard, reserve or just spent four years in, you're an Ammo troop. If you need help in any way, anyone should be able to ask for it. We got tired of hearing folks passing away or needing help after the fact. Our Ammo folk should be close enough for us to be there for them. That's the way it was for us while in the Air Force, and it never needs to end!", says Jimmy Taylor, AVA Board Member.

Through reunions, sponsorships, family support and membership, the Ammo Veterans Association is helping brothers and sisters across the country to support one another and continue to be part of the f"AMMO"ly. The Ammo Veterans Association, Jimmy Taylor, Joe Santua, Art Stubbs, Greig Hartman, Scott Wansor and Bob Jones invite everyone to come out and help us "Keep the Flame Burning!" a Membership Application is attached on the next page.

Bob Jones  
AVA Board Member  
ACA Associate Member



## Ammo Veterans Association

# Application for Membership

You are invited and encouraged to attend our meetings and participate in our projects. Donations are gratefully accepted and always welcome. Volunteer opportunities are abundant. For membership complete this form and send along with a check for the appropriate amount to:

Jimmy Taylor, c/o AVA, 505 Ryans Run, Newport News, VA, 23608

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Membership Dues (June 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>)

\$10 (Membership Card Only); \$20 (Card and T-Shirt); \$30 (Card, T-Shirt, and Coin)

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to make an additional gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The AVA has applied for tax exempt status.

Office use only: Membership date \_\_\_\_\_ Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## **RULES FOR DOING BUSINESS WITH THE VA**

**RULE #1...** There is no claim if it cannot be proved.

You bear the burden of providing sufficient evidence that your injury or illness is more likely than not to have occurred in the service. Otherwise, the VA will deny your claim. The VA is particularly interested in seeing medical documentation in your ACTIVE DUTY medical records. You need to show that you had a problem, got medical treatment and had continuing medical treatment over the years up to the point of retirement/separation, or the VA will consider it a one-time event. Pay close attention to what I just stated...you MUST be able to show that you had a medical issue happen while in ACTIVE DUTY STATUS, got treatment and then continued to have complaints and treatment with the medical issue up til separation from military service. I am going to repeat this at the closing of this information. If you cannot provide the VA with the evidence I just stated, your claim will be denied. DO NOT file a claim for unsubstantiated or frivolous issues such as simply filing a claim for everything you have in your medical records...that is absolutely crazy as they too will be denied. Guard and Reservists be made aware...many of you are not in ACTIVE DUTY STATUS 24 hours a day like regular ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL are. This means that you cannot claim a medical issue unless you are or were in ACTIVE DUTY STATUS when the condition happened. You have to prove to the VA that this is the case be either orders or a LOD (line of duty) document.

**RULE #2...**Don't file for compensation benefits unless you have all the evidence.

This is especially true if you are filing while on active duty. Instead, file an "INFORMAL CLAIM" for the benefits. This action protects your date of entitlement up to one year and allows you to do the job right. It prevents the VA from prematurely denying benefits because you have not submitted sufficient evidence for them to rate the claim. Never go forward with a claim until you have all of the medical evidence to properly support your claim. UPDATE: The VA is considering eliminating the INFORMAL CLAIM, so check to see if this is still valid.

**RULE #3...**What do you do if your claim is denied? APPEAL it!

The VA isn't right just because it said no. Claims for complex issues, such as PTSD, undiagnosed illnesses, and heart disease, often are denied because the individuals responsible for rating the claims have no experience in law, medicine, or occupational limitation imposed by injuries or illnesses. Another reason for so many errors is that the adjudication groups are pressured to clear as many claims as possible or it affects their annual performance pay bonus. If the claim is denied, they get credit for completing a claim action. To file a successful appeal, you must provide new or additional compelling medical evidence that was not a part of your original claim. Simply providing the VA with previously submitted medical evidence is not sufficient.

**RULE #4...**Know the rules the VA must follow.

It's easy to access their statutes, regulations, manuals, legal opinions, and pertinent case law. If they in any way stray from the golden rule then drop the hammer on them. The VA has limited responsibility in obtaining information which may be critical to your claim. The burden is on you to provide all of the necessary documentation and medical evidence when you file your original claim.

**RULE #5...**Take your medical records to a non-VA specialist along with the appropriate VA diagnostic code. Diagnostic codes are found in Part 4 of the 38 CFR.

It is more likely than not that the VA medical evaluations will be performed by a physician's assistant, a doctor who does not speak English as a primary language leading to communications difficulties, nurse

practitioner, or a retired general practitioner. The findings of these marginally qualified medical staff members are another reason why many claims are denied. If this happens to you, start yelling "flawed examination" by filing a "Notice of Disagreement" (appeal) immediately. Take someone with you when being examined. Later they can offer a sworn statement as to what kind of questions you were asked, how long the exam lasted, what the medical findings were, if the examiner followed the proper protocol, and if the Compensation and Pension (C&P) examiner had your claim file and reviewed it prior to the exam. One last thing: C&P examinations have been known to tell you one thing and file a report that is entirely different. Remember to yell "Flawed" and file a Notice of Disagreement (NOD). I recommend every veteran who has a C&P exam to request a copy of the medical report. This can be done by visiting the "Release of Information" office at the facility where you are having the exam. You can visit their office just prior to completing the exam and sign the necessary paperwork. This report will tell you exactly what information was forwarded to the VA. This information could be invaluable in the event you need to file an appeal.

**RULE #6...**If you are claiming a disability based on a combat injury or illness and have related awards or decorations; be sure to mention this in your claim.

The VA must accept your explanation if your service records show you have a Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, or Air Medal with V device along with other awards and decorations. This cuts out all of the guesswork on their part. They only have to evaluate the degree of disability as indicated by the medical evidence. However, I am seeing a trend coming from the VA where they are requiring all Vietnam veterans filing a claim to show proof that they actually served "in country".

**RULE #7...**Become a paper PI, learn how to track key evidence to support your claim.

Here are several examples where evidence may be hiding: after-action reports, unit's history, sworn statement from those who were with you, and your sworn statement detailing the events and circumstances.

**RULE #8...**Look for a qualified advocate if you need assistance.

You can measure their worth by how well they know VA regulations, manuals and case law. You do not want to join up with a service officer who can only fill out VA forms. Ask them how many appeals they have filed and how many cases they have won. Look for the service officer who says "OH YES!! I'll go head to head with the VA". If you ask the person who is attempting to assist you how much they know about the 38 CFR and they respond by saying...what is that??? Or, if you have someone looking in your medical records and telling you to simply file for everything that you received medical treatment for during your military career...Seek assistance from someone else as this person is not really looking out for your best interest.

**RULE #9...**Read every letter from the VA with great care.

Immediately after filing a claim (approximately three months later), the VA will send you a notice titled Expedited Action Attachment. Don't let yourself be forced into allowing them to expedite the process of your claim. You have ONE YEAR by law from the date they received your claim to submit all the evidence before they can render a final decision. They may even send you a notice after sixty days to say that they are denying your claim for failure to provide compelling evidence. Don't ever believe them! Respond by sending them a Notice of Disagreement stating you have by law one full year to submit the necessary evidence to support your claim. You most likely will receive notification from the VA that you have an appointment set up with a VA medical center in your area where you are supposed to have a C&P (compensation and pension) examination. This examination is very important to your claim so do not miss it!! If an emergency arises, contact the medical center and ask to be re-scheduled.



**RULE #10...**Join and support service organizations (such as VFW, DAV, American Legion, Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees (USDR) [www.USDR.org](http://www.USDR.org)), etc.

I feel this is very important to every veteran because each of these service organizations have a Service Officer who may help you understand the VA claims process and may assist you in preparing your claim or send you to someone else with more knowledge since most are not highly trained in most cases.

### **ALWAYS REMEMBER, YOU ARE NOT A "CUSTOMER"!!**

In VA facilities throughout the country there are signs and banners stating "We support our veteran customers!!!" American Indians expressed it best by saying "The big Washington chief speaks with forked tongue". Always remember the White House, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Department of Veteran Affairs see you as nothing more than an expense they wish to minimize. You have already paid dearly for these benefits. Therefore, to keep what you are entitled to, band together with your fellow veterans and dig in. Hold the line when they want to cut benefits. Make them comply with the laws as provided by Congress. A report establishing how many of the White House staff, including the executives, OMB, and all the political appointees in the Department of Veterans Affairs have had actual combat experience would make interesting reading. Less than 30% of the VA employees are veterans. The majority of the workforce is made up of civil service employees. Who do you think has your best interest at heart?? I do not consider the VA to be an enemy, I do not consider the VA to be a friend...I do consider the VA to be an adversary.

The only way veterans can tip the odds in their favor is to know exactly what their rights are and how to go about protecting them. It is incumbent upon all of us veterans to band together and helps each other; no one else will do it. We can do this by educating ourselves about our "Earned" benefits, how the VA claims process works and simply assisting a fellow vet or pointing them in the right direction for honest and genuine assistance from someone who understands what the VA wants to see.

I recommend the following book for everyone who is currently serving or who has served in our military forces.

Current year edition...**Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents**...cost is \$5.00...toll free 1-866-512-1800...credit cards accepted. Or you can do a google search and read it on line for free.

This book tell about your EARNED benefits because of your military service and is a must read for veterans and their spouses.

Let me comment again about why all veterans should belong to and support a Service Organization such as the VFW, American Legion, and DAV, etc. Not only do you have the opportunity to learn more about your benefits, you have a Service Officer in each of these organizations whose duty it is to assist every veteran, their spouses and their children in understanding their benefits and assist them in filing a claim with the VA.

I also want to remind everyone that you can submit a claim with your local State Department of Veterans Service Representative or if you have a VA representative in your area you can submit it through them. Any questions you may have should be addressed to the VA at their toll free number... 1-800-827-1000.

It is my opinion that if a veteran truly has a disabling condition which can be directly attributed to their military service and is properly documented in their ACTIVE DUTY military medical records showing treatment with continued complaints and treatment up till the time of separation from military service, they can win their claim every time by following the steps listed above. If you cannot show what I just stated...don't waste your time filing a claim and contributing to the claims backlog!

If your claim is approved, be sure to complete VA form 10-10EZ to be included in the VA health care system and obtain a VA ID card right away, even if you have a retired military ID card. Why?? You can get certain medications from the VA that you cannot get thru the military pharmacy, and, you can get durable equipment, glasses, hearing aids and other needed items thru the VA. Do not fail to get your VA ID card.

**“YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU KNOW YOU DON'T KNOW IT!!”**

If I can help you with any VA claims related questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

CHUCK NORTON, CMSGT, USAF (RETIRED)  
VA ACCREDITED CLAIMS AGENT  
[ammochief22@hotmail.com](mailto:ammochief22@hotmail.com)

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## **After Action Report**

### **Ammo Bash at the Beach 2016**



The Greatest Ammo call of all time is the only way to describe the Ammo Bash at the Beach 2016. All Ammo active duty, reserve, guard, retired or just served, past and present are invited. The official dates were 22nd and 23rd April. ADVON arrival on the 21st, however, NORAD called and asked why so many Ammo troops had gathered in one place on the same day. NORAD asked, "Were we gonna start building bombs?" We feel like we had over a hundred Ammo troops on Thursday not including family members. Ammo troops from Arizona, Utah and every state east of the Mississippi were arriving! The hugs, smiles and the laughter of fammoly began once again in on the Grand Strand. The Clarion opened the banquet area for us and said since their bar was closed that we were welcome to bring our own. Bring our own we did.

Friday brought our usual pig roast over at Grand Park Sports Complex where our beloved base once stood. Brother Joe Santua began early working on getting that "hawg" ready. Many others had burgers, dogs and ribs cooking. The park was full of laughter, ammo cheers and we even heard a few stories that we're sure was true. Folks came from all over to be together once again. At dusk the celebration moved back to the Clarion Headquarters where the camaraderie continued with a little singing, karaoke, and of course plenty of refreshment. We found out Friday evening we got some excellent talent in Ammo and even got entertained by Ammo "Teds the dirty bears!"

Saturday brought a full day with air boat and pontoon rides for many. Of course, as ammo luck would have it, we had an ammo crew get "loader" for a captain who broke his boat and couldn't fix it! Everyone made it back, and, of course, we had a good laugh about it. Brother Jimmy Taylor took over as the Master of ceremony to begin the night. Hotel staff opened all conference rooms to accommodate the crowd. Brother Joe Santua sang "Ammo Road" the Ammo Veterans Association's Anthem! Announcement of the Ammo Veterans Association Kickoff was the first topic.



The fellowship turned very ceremonial as Brother Roger Puffer stepped to the front for our prayer. The reading of the names of the known fallen Ammo brothers and sisters since the Bash 2014 began. You could hear a pin drop as, one by one, the names of our fallen brothers and sisters were spoken. Ammo Mom Flo Stubbs, Minchi Bass, Gene Morehouse were called. All folks that celebrated the Bash 2014 with us. In all, sixty eight names and our Fallen Ammo Fammoly were called out. The bell just kept ringing as the tears flowed when memories of those passed were spoken by friends and families.

Chief O'Hern spoke and presented Ammo Chief Coins to Joe Santua, AJ Stubbs, and Scott Wansor in recognition of their efforts in making the Bash a success. Chief Greer (President of the Emerald Coast Chapter of the Ammo Chiefs Association "ACA") briefed us that you don't have to be a Chief to belong to the ACA. Big John also invited all of us to the Emerald Coast Ammo Call the 21st of May 2016 at Ft Walton. Chief Collins spoke and stated what a great time this was. Chief Wes White and of course, our beloved Chief Tom Zima was present. We want to thank our chiefs for coming for they are real treasures in our fellowship. Ammo troops from the Viet Nam war era to fresh out of Tech School were present and are all treasures!



The Ammo Veterans Association presented the "Joe H. Pliler Ammo Team Spirit Award" to the Bob Jones Family April 2016. The Jones Family hosts the Moody Blues Ammo Woodstock Fest the first weekend of October each year at their farm in Ray City, GA close to Moody AFB. They open their pecan farm to all fammoly for a weekend of camping, fishing, and fellowship. Ammo Brothers Jimmy Taylor and Bob Jones were presented special plaques from Ammo Brother Pete Lawler for their efforts. Langley AFB won the active duty "Ammo Call" participation award this year.

The auction began with the bidding on the gun housing and nose of A-10. Mugs, glasses, Inert 30MM rounds, patches, coins, ammo sweaters, ball caps and an array of ammo wreaths and pictures were auctioned. We want to give a special thanks to all who donated this year for the auction. The proceeds will be used to sponsor future events, flowers for lost loved ones and supporting the Ammo Nation. Ammo Brother Eric Ankelién gave us one hell of a fireworks show over the waterway as we sat and enjoyed them poolside. The fellowship continued on into Saturday night and early Sunday morning with

singing, laughter and spirits. Sunday morning checkouts began early with a few fammoly staying over in other hotels on the beach. Total attendance is hard to pinpoint, but we believe we had over 200 Ammo troops present at different times between the pig roast and the hotel.

Special thanks to the Bash Organizers, Ammo Brothers Jimmy Taylor and Arthur Stubbs. Thanks to Ammo Brother Scott Wansor for the design and acquisition of this year's commemorative coin. Thanks to Ammo Brother Joe Santua's pig pickin' jamboree and band organizer. Thanks to Roger Puffer for memorial services. Thanks to all of our folks who cooked and especially Ammo Brother Pat Conlin and Ammo Brother John Davis to name just a few. Thanks Ammo Brother Pete Lawler and wife Dorothy for their tireless efforts creating ammo wreaths, mugs, glasses and presentation items . Thanks to Ammo Brother Eric Ankelien for the fireworks presentation. A big thanks to Ammo Brother Dave Bessler and his wonderful wife (Ammo-Dog.com) for supporting us! Most of all, a big thanks to all the Ammo Brothers and Sisters and fAMMOly who came and participated in the "Best Ammo Call" ever!

Bob Jones, ACA Member



Ammo Lady's

PS - Mark your calendars for First weekend in October 2016, Moody Blues, Ray City, GA and Last weekend in April 2018, Myrtle Beach.

Go to Facebook: Join the Ammo Bash at the Beach group for more pictures and info; Also Moody Blues Ammo Call (Ammo Woodstock)

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## **St Barbara**

### **Saint Barbara's Day<sup>1</sup>, December 4,**

Saint Barbara became the patron saint of artillerymen. She is also traditionally the patron of armorers, military engineers, gunsmiths, miners and anyone else who worked with cannon and explosives. She is invoked against thunder and lightning and all accidents arising from explosions of gunpowder.

Barbara, the daughter of a rich pagan named Dioscorus, was carefully guarded by her father who kept her locked up in a tower in order to preserve her from the outside world. Having secretly become a Christian, she rejected an offer of marriage that she received through him.

Before going on a journey, he commanded that a private bath-house be erected for her use near her dwelling, and during his absence, Barbara had three windows put in it, as a symbol of the Holy Trinity, instead of the two originally intended. When her father returned, she acknowledged herself to be a Christian; upon this he drew his sword to kill her, but her prayers created an opening in the tower wall and she was miraculously transported to a mountain gorge, where two shepherds watched their flocks. Dioscorus, in pursuit of his daughter, was rebuffed by the first shepherd, but the second betrayed her and was turned to stone and his flock changed to locusts.

Dragged before the prefect of the province, Martinianus, who had her cruelly tortured, Barbara held true to her faith. During the night, the dark prison was bathed in light and new miracles occurred. Every morning her wounds were healed. Torches that were to be used to burn her went out as soon as they came near her. Finally she was condemned to death by beheading. Her father himself carried out the death-sentence. However, as punishment for this, he was struck by lightning on the way home and his body was consumed by flame.

Saint Barbara's Day is celebrated by the British (Royal Artillery, RAF Armorers, Royal Engineers), Australian (Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, RAAF Armorers), Canadian (Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians (EOD), Canadian Air Force Armorers, Royal Canadian Artillery, Canadian Military Field Engineers, Royal Canadian Navy Weapons Engineering Technicians), New Zealand (RNZAF Armorers, RNZA, RNZN Gunners Branch) armed forces. Additionally, it is celebrated by Irish Defense Forces Artillery Regiments, Norwegian Armed Forces Artillery Battalion, United States Army and Marine Corps Field and Air Defense Artillery, many Marine Corps Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians, and other artillery formations. The units and sub-units celebrate the day with church parades, sports days, guest nights, cocktail parties, dinners and other activities.

Several mining institutions also celebrate it, such as some branches of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. The West Australian Mining Club celebrate St Barbara's Day and use it to remember those people who have died working in the mining industry during the year. Although they do not celebrate her saint's day, she is also the patron saint of US Navy and Marine Corps Aviation Ordnance men and women.

As plagiarized and combined from several sources<sup>(2,3)</sup> (M. Roylance, June 09 2016)

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Barbara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Barbara)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.landscaper.net/artylgnd.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.saintbarbarafw.org/who-was-saint-barbara/>

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## **A Brief History of the AMMO Care Package Program**

The AMMO Chiefs Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter (ACAMC) started the “Care Package Program” in 2010 to support and recognize our AMMO Warriors defending this great nation. The initial effort led by Mike Robertson was unfunded and consisted solely of donations from within the Chapter membership. Items such as DVDs, CDs, playing cards, books and snacks were collected and sent to one deployed unit in December of 2010. This process was repeated in 2011 with outstanding feedback from the troops and led the Chapter to institute the care package endeavor as a major yearly project.

In 2012, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter voted to fund \$500 and expand the program. The Chapter decided to focus and concentrate on those AMMO troops assigned to combat and austere locations with little or no commissary or BX support. The packages would be shipped once a year during the November/December Holiday period. A call was addressed to the ACA and the other Chapters to support this cause. The ACA voted to annually fund \$500 and support the Mid-Atlantic Chapter’s Care Package Program. I believe the Midwest Chapter also contributed \$250 that year. Jack Miller, JROTC Instructor (1999-2013) took on this project with the help of his cadets from Z. B. Vance High School. Four care packages were prepared and shipped to AMMO troops in DiJbouri, Manus, Camp Bastion, and Kandahar. In 2013 and 2014 the process was repeated and units like Jordon, Al Dhafra and Bagram were also included.

In 2015, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter again expanded the program and decided to support two shipments a year in June and December. We realized that those troops serving in the summer months also needed our help. ACA again kicked in \$500 to support the summer shipments and we now have \$1000 for the June packages and \$1000 for the December packages. These monies don’t include the donations generously provided by the members of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

June 2016 we shipped our first summer care packages to four units, 62 ERS/AMMO, 407 AEG/EMXS/AMMO, 455 EMXS/AMMO, and 386 EMXS/AMMO. The contents of these care packages are very similar to all previous packages and include hygiene items, books, magazines, snacks, games, DVDs etc. Each shipment weighted about 50 lbs. This year Jack Miller’s wife, Denise, solicited \$200 in donations from local groceries and Lowes for the 2016 shipment. Harris Teeter, contributed \$100 in books and magazines. Lowes provided \$100 in shipping boxes and packing tape.

The members of the ACA, Mid-Atlantic Chapter took on this project because a fellow member (Chief Weisheit) assigned to an austere site requested help for his troops. This Chapter jumped at the chance to provide a much needed service. This project has blossomed from very humble beginnings to a major effort to provide support for hundreds of AMMO troops annually. Every Ammo Chief and Associated member has completed their fair share of deployments and short tour assignments. We remember the joys of receiving care packages and knowing that the AMMO community cares for our own. This Chapter with the unconditional support from the ACA will continue to support AMMO troops in every way possible.

This is what the ACA is all about! IYAAYAS!!!

Jack D. Miller, CMSgt, (Ret.), USAF

**NOTE:** The ACA wants to thank Jack and the ACAMC for maintaining the helm on this outstanding program!

**Care Package Testimonial:** Barry Littlefield sends...

“On behalf of the AMMO troops kicking ass and taking names at Kandahar, thank you for the awesome Care Package! It was very much appreciated! IYAAYAS!!

Another Happy AMMO Customer...



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## Ammo Supply Store

We started the Ammo Chiefs Ammo Supply Store in Oct 2013 with Queensboro for the express purposes of enabling each member to order their own embroidered items directly on line taking any middle man out of the logistics loop. You can do that at <http://ammochiefs.qbstores.com/home>. Check it out!

The second purpose and the reason we chose QBstores was because for every item sold a percentage would be remitted to the ACA. This remittance is based on a percentage of sales but will only be paid once that amount exceeds \$50. *I am happy to announce* that we received our first payment on 28 June. That payment was directly deposited in our EFCU account and will be in the amount of \$59.96. This does not sound like much but it is \$59.96 we did not have previously. These earnings are based on 16 orders comprised of 42 items from 13 different members since Oct 2013. Thanks to all those who have ordered in the past.

If you are looking for anything, they offer a host of products, with our logo on it please consider our ACA Ammo Supply Store. The new logo added this year has been a hot seller and I hope those of you who have ordered an item have been pleased with the product and services provided. If not please let me know.

Mike Roylance  
ACA Treasurer

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## In Memoriam

Therefore, it has pleased an all wise Providence, to remove from among us, our much esteemed Friends.

We will cherish the memory of those deceased whose memory is ever fresh in our minds.

Though parted from among us we hope to meet them where no farewell tear is shed.

*Michael Bachman*  
*Wilbur R. Barrentine \**  
*Gail Bechtal*  
*Walter Bell \*/\*\**  
*Frank D. Bolin*  
*Anthony Borzomowski*  
*Jimmie Branson*  
*Rennice H Jim Bray*  
*Don Carbonneau*  
*Lott S. Carter*  
*Edward H. Ted Costick*  
*Preston Craven*  
*Michael Mike Curran*  
*James Curtin*  
*Phillip Delisi*  
*Bill Dressler*  
*Larry Eaton*  
*Charles Chuck Eaves*  
*James Elledge*

*Thomas Everett*  
*Francis Frank Gamache*  
*Richard Gauvin*  
*Karl J Gershutz*  
*Don Hamilton*  
*Gerald Red Hess*  
*Howard Holt*  
*Robert N. Ivey*  
*Jay A. Jameson*  
*Bill Jolly*  
*Perry D. Jones \**  
*Paul H. Klein*  
*Paul Long*  
*William Lovelady*  
*Leo Marquez*  
*Donald Mayo*  
*Lon McAlister*  
*Alvin Al Mercer*  
*Clifton Mills*

*Kevin Mullaney*  
*Darrell Mulvany*  
*Edward Patry*  
*James Phinney*  
*William Bill Poe*  
*Louis V. Prelip*  
*Harold P. Prevett \**  
*Erwin G. Erv Redman*  
*Leander Richards*  
*Leroy Rott*  
*Neil G. Schaible*  
*Robert Sechler*  
*Ramsey Stonewall*  
*Ben Stubbe*  
*Addison George Wadsworth*  
*Richard Watton*  
*Bruce Wilson*  
*Michael J. Yurkanin*

The Light of the shell and flame will also serve as a reminder of the level of excellence and esprit-de-corps set by those who came before us; the light of the shell and flame will also help us look back to remember those Ammo Troops, both active duty and retired, who are no longer with us and the service they performed for their country and to the Ammo community. In doing so, we will gain strength from the fact that such men and women lived.....FOR WE ARE AMMO!

*Those listed with an asterisk \* have the distinction of being a Charter Chief in the USAF.*

*Those listed with a double asterisk \*\* are Bataan Death March Survivors.*