



# AMMO Chiefs Association (ACA) April 2011



## “Shell and Flame”



Issue Number: XX

25 April 2011

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



### From the gavel...

My fellow chiefs and friends, we have started the new year with a change to our constitution to extend the terms of officers to 4-year terms and elections to be held every 4 years starting this year. Our goal is to keep the BOD stable over a four year period without having to reelect officers every year. As we go through this new process and we see it does not provide the benefit we wish then based on our constitution we can change. With this being said we will be getting ready to start the election process real soon. If you know of members who would be willing and ready to serve the ACA on the BOD be ready to nominate those

when the nominations are called.

I would also like to ask everyone to beat the bushes and get those members who have not been active in a while or have now applied for membership to join the ACA. Our strength is in our members with the outstanding accomplishments and support of the AMMO community by our members and chapters.

Finally, remember our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen who are in harm’s way and their families. As I look into the young faces of these patriots I see the same young faces in every war or conflict who sacrificed many things to include the ultimate sacrifice to serve this country. Please keep them in our prayers.

IYA AMMO YAS!

Darrell



## From Your Vice President

ACA Members, We are well into 2011 and I pass on my thanks to the membership for their continued support of the ACA organization. In this edition we will highlight a few human interest stories of our members. If you have any short stories or items of interest you would like to share with the rest of our membership send it to John and I and we will work to get it published in the next edition of the Shell and Flame. I would like to thank everyone for their support and hard work in supporting our AMMO family. We need to continue to remember our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen who are in harm's way and their families. Later this year we will begin the task of electing new officers for the Ammo Chief's Association. I ask each of you to start thinking about nominations and considering volunteering for one of the positions. Our association can only survive through the continued support of our members and dedicating some of their limited free time to carry out the duties of our organization. If you are nominated please consider this as an honor by your fellow Ammo chiefs.

For ACA Newsletter inputs please send to:

John Matthews at [AmmoChief63@comcast.net](mailto:AmmoChief63@comcast.net)

Rich Pennington at [rpennington7@cox.net](mailto:rpennington7@cox.net)

Richard Pennington  
ACA Vice President

## Secretary's Section



At the General Membership Meeting held last November, the attendees agreed to change the Constitution with regard to the terms of office and election cycles of the Officers. Additionally, it was agreed to extend the term of office of all current Officers to 31 December 2011. A PDF copy of the revised Constitution is attached. The revision changes the term of office from two years to four years and provides for all officers to serve concurrent terms.

Since the term of office for all officers expires this year it will be necessary to hold elections in the coming months. The President will shortly be calling for nominations for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chief at Arms, and four Directors at Large, all to serve for four years from 1 January 2012. Please consider serving your Association as an Officer. The Treasurer (Danny Bridges) and I as Secretary will be stepping down at the end of this term. The ACA needs your support.

**Membership:** Our current Membership is 147 members in good standing with 66 in-active or lapsed members. Annual Dues for the current year should have been paid by 1 February. We know everyone gets busy at this time of year, but please take a few minutes to send in your dues.

The attached membership roll is current as of 20 April 2011! If you have not paid since 2007 you have been dropped from the Membership Roll. Please check it and if you believe there is an error let me know. If you have paid dues continuously you are eligible to convert/upgrade from Annual Membership to Life Membership by paying the additional years to receive credit for 10 years payments. Please contact me for the balance of your prorated payments.

If you previously joined or submitted an application to the ACA and you are not listed, your membership has lapsed! We would welcome you back, you may be reinstated by paying 2011 dues, \$25; send checks to ACA Secretary, 6046 SW 98 Loop, Ocala, Florida, 34476.

Please check the roster and use it to recruit those active duty or retired Ammo Chief's who have lapsed or are not yet members. Send applications to ACA Secretary, 6046 SW 98 Loop, Ocala, Florida, 34476 with a check for \$25 (or life membership \$250)! Applications for Associate Membership must be endorsed by a current member.

PS-All annual members are reminded that dues of \$25 are payable by 31 Jan 2011.

Please keep your address and contact details current. A quick e-mail to me will suffice.

Fred O'Hern  
6046 SW 98 Loop  
Ocala, FL, 34476

[ACASecretary@aol.com](mailto:ACASecretary@aol.com)  
[fohern@aol.com](mailto:fohern@aol.com)



Interesting pictures from a by-gone era should bring back memories to some of the older Ammo troops. We kicked 220 frag bombs out of C-46s over Laos, really got the Pathet Lao guys attention. Fred

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

Darrell Beasley     [ammobeasley@cox.net](mailto:ammobeasley@cox.net)  
President

Rich Pennington     [rpennington7@cox.net](mailto:rpennington7@cox.net)  
Vice President

Fred O'Hern     [fohern@aol.com](mailto:fohern@aol.com)  
Secretary

Danny Bridges     [dannyandjanice@cox.net](mailto:dannyandjanice@cox.net)  
Treasurer

Tom Zima     [zimat@mchsi.com](mailto:zimat@mchsi.com)  
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John Cecere     [cecerejc@aol.com](mailto:cecerejc@aol.com)  
Director-at-Large

Mark Gossett     [mgossett@prodigy.net](mailto:mgossett@prodigy.net)  
Director-at-Large

Dwight Howard     [DHoward@jpkii.com](mailto:DHoward@jpkii.com)  
Director-at-Large

Bart Ivy     [bartivy@alaweb.com](mailto:bartivy@alaweb.com)  
Director-at-Large



**New ACA Website Manager Rick Follett** E-mail: [Rfollett@egginc.com](mailto:Rfollett@egginc.com) We appreciate Rick stepping up to take over ACA website.



### **New Functional Manager**

We welcome Chief Ricky Hamada, as the new functional manager at USAF AF/A4LW. He's a very strong supporter of the ACA and plans to take part when time permits with the Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

## **2010 Air Force Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Award Announcement**

### Missiles/Munitions Maintenance

Field Grade Manager - Maj Keith G. Hepler Jr., 17th Munitions Sq, Minot AFB, ND, AFMC

Company Grade Manager - Capt Andrew Slaughter, 19th Munitions Sq, Whiteman AFB, MO, AFMC

Supervisor Manager - MSgt Frank Erzar, 62d Maintenance Sq, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA, AMC

Technician Supervisor - SSgt Eric L. Boling, 19th Munitions Sq, Whiteman AFB, MO, AFMC

Technician - SRA Joshua T. Chapman, 756th Aircraft Maintenance Sq, Luke AFB, AZ, AETC

Civilian Manager - Mr. Johnny M. Long, 46th Maintenance Sq, Eglin AFB, FL, AFMC

Civilian Technician - Ms. Dawn M. Santo, 56th Equipment Maintenance Sq, Luke AFB, AZ, AETC

We wish these outstanding professionals continued success and again congratulations to all the 2010 Air Force Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Award winners.

### **Additional Ammo Plaques**

A motion was made and passed to dedicate two additional Ammo plaques during the ACA General Membership meeting in Nov 2010. ACA is working with Gunter Enlisted Heritage and Denver museums. The cost per plaque will be \$376.00 and there will be an \$11.00 charge to ship to the Denver area and a \$9.00 charge to ship to Montgomery area. There were enough funds left over from what was allocated to purchase first two plaques to pay for two additional plaques.

## **7<sup>th</sup> AMMO Chiefs Association Reunion**

This will be one of the first actions the newly elected ACA officers will have to undertake. It would be good if we could get a jump on some ideas of where we would like for it to be held? We need our membership to start the communication process to start identifying some candidate locations. Once a location is nailed down a reunion committee will have to be formalized to start the planning. Some of the key areas/options for consideration, location, time of year. We look forward to hearing back from you with ideas—at this point everything is open for discussion.

## Future Leaders

Those of us who live in one of the southern states we are familiar about Junior ROTC and the benefits of grooming young people to be successful productive citizens of this great country. As a young man growing up in the mid-west, JROTC did not exist. Even today my home state only has one Air Force Junior ROTC unit. When asking why, excuses range from lack of funds to resentment by many about teaching our youth military core values. The Air Force Junior ROTC Mission is to develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community with the Goal of instilling values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and sense of accomplishment. Never have I walked into a JROTC class with the intention of convincing students to go into the military. My goal is to help them be successful, and help them get through high school. Whatever choice a student makes in becoming a productive successful citizen—my goal is to help them get there. The curriculum tools the Air Force provides, such as lessons in leadership, aerospace science, physical fitness, life skills, community service and drill and ceremonies help prepare these students to be America's future leaders.

At Z. B. Vance High School in Charlotte, North Carolina we take great pride in community service activities. Community services such as going to the middle schools and teaching various lessons in money management, group dynamics, and behavioral skills. Every AFJROTC cadet at Vance HS in the grades 10 through 12 participates in this program. Another service is during the local, state and national elections when we station cadets at polling stations to inspire America's youth to vote. This program is called "Kids Voting" and serves to instill knowledge and awareness in our electoral system. Drug Abuse Prevention education teams continually fan out to the middle schools to present talks and skits in an effort to deter drug use and abuse. Kids teaching kids----building future leaders.

Drill and Ceremonies is a vital part of the curriculum of every Air Force Junior ROTC program. Cadets learn teamwork, discipline, and learn to understand and accept the individual behaviors associated with working in a group. Every cadet must learn to be a follower and a leader. Military drill is an excellent device to make that happen. Every cadet at Z. B. Vance is required to learn military drill movements. What's unique at Vance is that each year, every cadet is also required to command a flight through a series of drill movements (marching). The first time they command a flight is very much like giving a speech for the first time----their scared and unsure of themselves-- but they do it. An amazing transformation occurs; they are becoming confident, motivated leaders.

The United States Air Force and our sister services invests heavily in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century JROTC programs. There are over 490,000 students enrolled in over 3,400 schools nationwide and overseas. The Air Force alone has about 869 programs in the high schools utilizing about 2000 retired officers and NCO's as instructors. Attendance and graduation rates of JROTC cadets consistently average in the mid to high 90 percent. . Too my fellow Ammo Troops be confident that America will be in good hands. These young Americas are bright, energetic, and want to lead our country into the future.

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



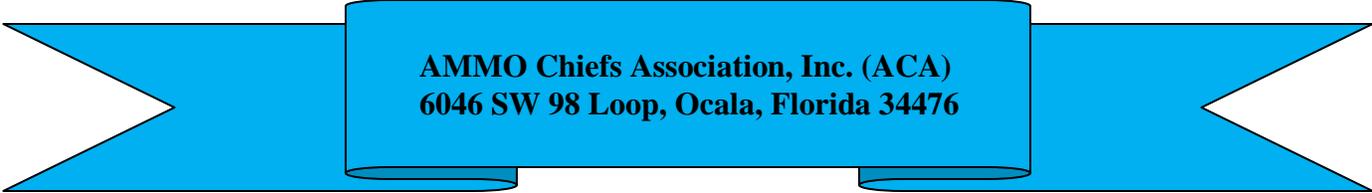
Veterans Day parade in Charlotte, NC



Cadet teaching at Martin Middle School



Getting ready for inspection



**AMMO Chiefs Association, Inc. (ACA)  
6046 SW 98 Loop, Ocala, Florida 34476**

## **ACA Web Page News**

Visit <http://ammochiefs/ammochiefs.com> or further information.

## **💣\*Chapter News\*💣**

### **Mid-Atlantic Region**

Since our December input, the Ammo Chiefs Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter (ACAMC) has been quite busy.

The chapter reviewed packages of Ammo troops-in-need to determine two who needed holiday support. Both selectees were from Langley AFB. Mike Gavin and Steve Bowersox each took a family on a \$200+ shopping trip and treated them to lunch. 2 Lt. Glover, the 1 EMS Ammo Flight Commander, stated "...you bring truth to the saying, 'AMMO always take care of its AMMO!'" The ACAMC also donated \$250 to the CMSgt Richard A. Gauvin Memorial Scholarship Fund.

During our December meeting, we held elections for Chapter President and CMSgt Pat Barcus got the nod. He replaced Mike Gavin who served us honorably, but had to step down to support his many other endeavors. Pat officially took the reins on January 1<sup>st</sup> and led our March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Our membership rolls have temporarily dropped down to 16 Chiefs and 3 Associate members. Ricky Hamada is our newest member (again!) and we look forward to his assistance and wisdom. We hope to regain a couple of members by the next meeting in June.

We accomplished a lot at our March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Besides the normal agenda items, we further developed our plans to hold a yard sale to raise funds for the chapter. This was based on the success of last year's yard sale which netted over \$460. Additionally, the chapter decided to send a care package to our Ammo troops in Afghanistan. Since this was not a budgetary line item, members were asked to make donations, and boy, did they! So far we collected \$115 for the goodies. Mike Robertson is heading up this effort and we are all sure it will be as successful as last year's was. Our biggest endeavor was our biennial review of the ACAMC Constitution and Bylaws. The group did a line-by-line evaluation and made numerous updates. The draft document will be sent to the membership for examination prior to our final review at the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. A special thanks go to one of our Associate members, John Usefara, for his insightful inputs.

As usual, fund-raising is paramount to our success. Not only did we make some coin sales, we purchased some hats Mike Gavin acquired for sale. These were bought at a loss to Mike and will help replenish our coffers. Additionally, we received another \$100 donation from one of our members. Thank you very much!

## Midwest Chapter

The ACA Midwest Chapter will be holding our summer meeting on 18 June 2011. We don't have any major items to report; however, we continue to support the local area and are gearing up for our next meeting. If anyone is in the area and would like to attend they can let me know; give me a call at 937-258-6747.

Mark Gossett

## Emerald Coast Chapter

The folks down here on the coast would like to pass on to all our very warm greetings and hope all the ACA and chapters are doing well and enjoying life. Our chapter has rested from hosting the ACA reunion and would like to let everyone know that if the ACA so wishes the ECC membership has offered our services to host the next reunion. So please let us know and we will do our best to support this very special event.

The chapter has many events planned for this year. We will be hosting the northwest Florida AMMO Call for all AMMO troops in the area and anyone else who would like to show up. The event will be in May and the actual date has not been determined yet but we will get a flyer out to all folks...cost if free to all AMMO coin carrying troops. We have our annual golf tournament scheduled for 8 July and of course we will support the Southeastern AMMO Bowl in late July. We will finish the year with our dinner and dance in November and of course this is an open invitation to all ACA members.

Finally we hope everyone has a great year and we look forward to working with the ACA leadership and all the members of this great organization. IYA AMMO YAS!

John Greer (aka Big John)  
President  
ACA Emerald Coast Chapter

## Deployed Ammo Troops

We just had some former NFL guys out to the bomb dump and actually had them "assist" in a GBU-31 build. Two of them have already blogged about their visit out here. I'll put together a little update on who, what and where and some pictures for the next Shell and Flame.

FYI - We had Merrill Hoge, Matt Millen and Anthony Munoz was the former players.

CMSgt Tim M. Ouzts  
379 EMXS, Munitions Flight Chief

## 50 YEARS of SERVICE

We at the AFMC Staff would like to recognize retired AMMO Chief, retired Civilian, and still active contractor Billie Campbell on his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary serving with the US Air Force/Gov't. When you consider the Air Force is only 63 years old, it is truly amazing at what he has seen, done and heard. We are extremely fortunate to still have him around! LOL May he and his wife Linda continue to live long and prosper.....



## **25th Annual Southeastern AMMO Bowl**

**Dates: 22-24 July 2011**

**Location: Niceville, Florida**

Tournament Coordinator      MSgt James Nagle      DSN: 872-2287 Comm.: 850-882-2287  
   MSgt Bryan Cooper      DSN: 872-5026 Comm.: 850-882-5026

This program is tentative based upon unit participation and weather cooperation.

### **Myrtle Beach Update**

Officials from **South Carolina's Myrtle Beach** have been working for the past six years to preserve the history of the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base. One of the projects is the Wall of Service dedicated to the men and women, military and civilian, who served at the former base. They are attempting to reach those men and women to let them know about the Wall of Service and the many other ongoing preservation projects at the former base. In May, they completed the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base Museum housed in the old base recreation center on Gabreski Lane. Officials are trying to reach men and women who once served at MBAFB. People who are interested in having their name placed on the Wall of Service can visit [www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com](http://www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com) or call 843-918-1050.

### **AFCOMAC 25 Years Later**

AFCOMAC will be celebrating their 25th year of operation in September 2011. They seem to have found a permanent home at Beale AFB, which have some of the best facilities for conducting class room training and living quarters, not to mention the nice dirt field they have to play with setting up the MAC operation. The plan at this time is to have the 25<sup>th</sup> year ceremony at end or beginning of a class.

The 25th Anniversary of AFCOMAC is scheduled for 16-17 Sep 2011 at Beale AFB. The following is a preliminary agenda of AMMO festivities to commemorate this AF milestone.

#### **DRAFT ITINERARY:**

16 Sep

0800 - Past Cadre Reception

0900 - Lt Gen Leo Marquez Building Dedication (package at CSAF but expect it to be approved)

1030 - History/Slide Show/Luncheon

1200 - Facility Tour/New Equip Showcase

1400 - Camaraderie Time (Games/Bombuilder's Brewfest)

1600 - Pub time

17 September

0800 - Golf Tournney?

TSgt Sady is heading up the anniversary celebration

I received the following email from AFCOMAC/CC.

We are planning a ceremony to celebrate this occasion but will most likely host it in coordination with the AFCOMAC Curriculum review in September 2011, which brings Chiefs in from all

MAJCOMs back to Beale AFB. That being said, would you be interested in having your reunion here in September? I think it would be a great way to include the Airmen that have gone before us and helped forge the traditions that we carry on today. We also plan on dedicating the AFCOMAC Schoolhouse building for Lt Gen Leo Marquez and inviting him to attend. We will invite all old Commanders, Chiefs and Cadre back to the "nucleus" of the AMMO world, too.

NEAL A. VAN HOUTEN, Major, USAF  
Commander, 9th Munitions Squadron  
Air Force Combat Ammunition Center (AFCOMAC)  
DSN: 368-3513 Comm: 530-634-3513

Rich Pennington  
ACA Vice President

### UPCOMING REUNIONS

**Bitburg AB Germany, 3, 4 & 5 September**, Lodge of the Ozarks, 3431 West Hwy 76, Branson, Missouri. This is the seventh reunion for AFK (Munitions Supply), EOD, Missile, Munitions, Weapons, Special Weapons Maintenance and supporting administrative and staff personnel assigned to the 36<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing and the 525<sup>th</sup> FIS at Bitburg AB, Germany from 1952 to 1994. If you are interested in attending contact:

Jay Mathews  
906 Prospect Ave  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
(402) 371-4776  
[bit36mms@lycos.com](mailto:bit36mms@lycos.com)

**Camp Darby 7235th Ammo Reunion October 7th and 8th** which is a Friday and Saturday. A number of people will be arriving early on Thursday and some are staying on past Sunday. The reunion will be in Nashville. This is the web site <http://www.radisson.com/7235th> for the reunion. You can make your reservation and get some information about the area from the site. If you have additional questions please feel free to contact me back. My number is 630-894-6944 and of course you have my e-mail address.

Jerry Young  
Committee Member  
[gywhatever@att.net](mailto:gywhatever@att.net)

### Vacation Discount in East Tennessee

CMSgt (ret) Roger Jennings is offering AMMO troop past or present that want to stay in one of his condos in East Tennessee an additional discount. All they have to do is go to the website below, select the dates they want from the website calendar and click email owner with the dates they want and note in the remarks section that they are an AMMO troop to receive a discounted quote. No AMMO verification required, Roger trusts Ammo Troops.

[www.vrbo.com/325490](http://www.vrbo.com/325490) (Pigeon Forge two-bedroom condo website)  
[www.vrbo.com/314017](http://www.vrbo.com/314017) (Gatlinburg one-bedroom condo website)

## **LAST AMMO CALL**

One of the things ACA does in tribute to our Ammo brothers and sisters is make a donation to a charity selected by the family in their honor or send a check to the family.

**MSgt (Retired) Rene Thomas Thornton "RT"** passed away 29 January 2011. In lieu of flowers a contributions was made in his memory to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He was born in NY, NY. He graduated from Alfred E. Smith High School. He retired as Master Sergeant from the USAF. He attended Davis Applied Tech. College. His work included Parson's Construction, Ideal Cement Company and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

**MSgt Craig Wiese** passed away in early April. He was assigned to the Barksdale AFB. He was laid to rest with full military honors in Davenport, Iowa, 11 April 2011. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Wendy and children.



# AMMO Chiefs Association

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## Membership Application

**Dues: \$25.00/year or \$250 Life Membership**  
**(Note: Applications for Associate Membership must be submitted and endorsed by an active AMMO Chief Member.)**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mailing Address:

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

City, State, ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Service Status: Active Duty: (Circle one) Yes No

Present Grade/Rank or Rank at Retirement: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Entered Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Retirement: \_\_\_\_\_

War Veteran: (State War or Conflict) \_\_\_\_\_

Brief history of your AMMO work, i.e., duty/unit assignment, dates, bases stationed at, etc.