



# ***AIRCREW LIFE SUPPORT AIRCREW FLIGHT EQUIPMENT NEWSLETTER***

*News for the men and women who served (USAF or civilians who worked in Government or industry) in the Aircrew Life Support or Aircrew Flight Equipment professions. The views expressed herein are that of the individual mentioned and do not represent the views of the retired, active duty, ANG, Reserves, or veteran members of the Aircrew Life Support or Aircrew Flight Equipment career fields.*

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## **Looking Forward**

As we look toward 2011, the "Newsletter Crew" would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you Happy Holidays and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

2010 has been a very busy and event filled year for each of us I'm sure...seems like we can't get through a year without some sad or disturbing news from within the "ALS/AFE Family". We pray that only good news dominates our computer screens and mail boxes in 2011. Keep our "family members" in your prayers and thoughts throughout the year.

## **From The Field**

Congratulations to the new active duty Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) Chief Master Sergeant selectee's: SMSgt's Kenneth Boteler, Edward Canino, Jean Fontenot, Darrell Sanderson, Dion Cawthon, and James Crites.

*(Based on available records, six (6) active duty AFE CMSgt selectees in a single promotion cycle is a first.)*

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The 4th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment technicians, who support the 336th FS, have spent the past few months equipping pilots with the

## Joint Helmet-Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS).

The JHMCS integrates a magnetic helmet mounted tracker that determines where the pilot's head is pointed with a miniature display system that projects information onto the pilot's visor.

Together, the head tracker and visor display act as a targeting device that can aim sensors and weapons wherever the pilot is looking.

Although aircrew flight equipment technicians and aircrew members had to overcome some initial challenges in equipment maintenance and training, the implementation process has gone smoothly. *(Courtesy of AF News)*

So, where does the military turn for personnel recovery missions? The United States Air Force (USAF) Guardian Angels. The Guardian Angels are comprised of three distinct USAF specialties. Combat Rescue Officers (CRO) are trained in all areas of battlefield medicine, and are the supervisory, leadership, and management arm of the team, Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE), and Pararescuemen.

Pararescuemen (PJs) are "boots on the ground" and are the most visible members of the team. Guardian Angel teams deploy into uncertain or hostile environments and execute all five parts of personnel recovery - report, locate, support, recover, and reintegrate.

PJs are USAF Special Operations Command and Air Combat Command operatives. Their mission is to handle recovery and medical treatment of

personnel in various environments. They are the only members of the Department of Defense who are specifically trained for missions in hostile or denied areas.

To give the Guardian Angels every advantage in the field, the USAF is always seeking out new and better technology and equipment. Recently, they issued a mission use statement detailing the need for a better oxygen delivery system for recovery operations.

Of the five companies that were approached, Essex Cryogenics was selected as having the best value and solution and was subsequently awarded the contract by the Air Force.

The Guardian Angel Integrated Oxygen System (GAIOS) will be capable of providing medical oxygen treatment and supplemental oxygen during the full range of personnel recovery operations carried out by USAF Pararescue Teams. The GAIOS is a modular family of systems consisting of a Mounted Medical Oxygen System (M-MOS), a Dismounted Medical and Supplemental Oxygen System (D-MOS), and an Oxygen Generator System (OGS).

The M-MOS will be used in both air and ground transport of personnel needing oxygen treatment. It will be part of the standard gear used on ground and airborne Combat Search and Rescue Alerts, and primarily employed on board the HH-60 helicopter, the HC-130 aircraft, as well as GA Rescue Vehicles. It will be able to treat one or two patients for four to six hours.

The D-MOS is back-packable, making it easier to transport oxygen to injured personnel. It will also be used to provide supplemental oxygen for the PJs during

high altitude parachuting and for recovery operations above 10,000 feet. It will interface with the new Guardian Angel helmet/mask and parachute systems.

The OGS will generate and store the liquid oxygen (LOX) that will be used to fill/refill the M-MOS and D-MOS systems. When finished, the OGS will automatically restart and refill itself, then go into stand-by/no-vent mode when full. The system is fully automatic and does not require monitoring.

The GAIOS has moved from the drawing board stage and prototypes are now being built. Tim Bannister, at Essex Cryogenics, also envisions this life support system being repackaged in the future and made available for commercial use. This essential tool could be used by air ambulance operators all over the world, taking it from rescue operations in the battlefield to life-saving mission's right here at home. *(Courtesy of Steve Wyatt)*



Senior Airman Erving Perkins wheels his wingman, Airman Colton Brown, out of Walter Reed Army Medical Center Oct. 8, 2010, for the first time while recovering from an illness.

Shortly after arriving at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, fluid was found in Airman Brown's lungs, drainage tubes were placed and he was medically evacuated from the Air Force Theater Hospital to Germany.

Airmen Perkins and Brown are both 4th Operation Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment technicians. *(Courtesy of AF News)*

### **Final Roll Call**

Linda Sutton, wife of Gerald Sutton, informs us that Gerald passed away on 15 November 2010. Gerald was a long-time supporter of our reunions and attended 10 years in a row until 2009 when his health started to fail.

*(Please keep Linda and the Sutton Family in your prayers and thoughts.)*

Dave Van Meter advises that Al Foy passed away in September 2010.

"If you didn't know Al, He was a MSgt working in the old MM of AFLC pushing through the major ECPs generated out of SA-ALC. I was the OPS guy and he the Maintenance side of the command back in the 70's. As civilians, he replaced me in the old Life Support SPO here at WP AFB when I moved on to the Maverick Missile SPO.

Best Regards  
Dave"

*(Our prayers and thoughts are with the Foy family.)*

Bob McElwain reports that Jim Llewellyn passed away on 8 November 2010 at Travis AFB. Jim will be long remembered by those of us that knew

him as a kind and gentle man and will be missed at our annual reunions.



If you desire, please pass on your condolences to Christa Barton, Jim's devoted and long time companion at the address provided in the [Life Support Address List](#) on the website or contact Al Loving or Bob McElwain and they can provide Christa's contact information.

*(Our thoughts and prayers are with Christa and the family of the Chief.)*

Chief Les Davy, 22 AF, informed us of the passing of Greg Coulson. Greg had been dealing with lung cancer for the last year and the disease finally took him. Greg was an ART at Dobbins for the past 6 years and retired about a year ago.

*(Please keep the Coulson family in your thoughts and prayers.)*

Billy Goss shared the following regarding John Backstrom's passing earlier this year: "Sent John a birthday card and when it returned as undeliverable I checked my ancestry.com account and found this obituary. He lived in Palm Beach Gardens. Can you get the word out?"

From George Braue: Regretfully, if you missed the passing of the following two Old Buds from our days of KAFB activity. I spotted them in the obit pages of our local paper.

Duane Hupp: 89 yrs. old

Ben Griffith: 90 yrs. old. Was known as "Mr. Kelly" in the days we all dealt with our respective careers.

### **Vietnam Wall**

The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam War with the names, bio's and other information on our lost heroes. Those who remember that timeframe, or perhaps lost friends or family can look them up on this site. Pass the link on to others, as many knew wonderful people whose names are listed.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

*(Courtesy of Jim Rooney)*

### **Tidbits and Notes**

Alberta Yager advises that if you want to send Don cards, etc use the following mailing address:

CMSgt. Donald A. Yager (Ret.)  
Eastern Nebraska Veteran's Home  
12505 South 40th Street, Room 140  
Bellevue, NE 68123

"Hi, all of you former and present Life Support members. My name is Larry Garcia, (MSgt Ret.) I would like to give a brief history of my career. Some of you have shared my journey and if so it would be nice to hear from you.

I was in the Navy, 60-63. Civilian, 63-65. Air Force, Las Vegas (baker), 65-66. Philippines (baker), 66-68. Viet Nam (baker), 68. 765 Radar Sq. Charleston, Maine, (baker), 68. Life support School, 68. 4626 Air Base, Maine, 68-69. Viet Nam, 20th TASS, Da Nang, 69-70. 18th TASS, Kadena Okinawa, (PACAF), 70-73. 93rd Bomb Wing, Castle AFB, 73-76.

614th TFS, Torrejon Spain, 76-79. 310th TFS, Luke AFB, 79-83. (I was in charge of the Life Support Shop and the 1ST Sgt of the 310th Squadron).

I would like to give my thanks to Monroe Whitt, Victor Sanchez and the man, Don Yager, for all the inspiration in guiding me in my career. My email is AZnGOLF@aol.com.”

### **Bob McElwain Retiring From NASA**

After some 20 years of dedicated service with NASA, Bob will retire effective 31 January 2011.

Bob's Life Support career started in 1968 at Perrin AFB. Subsequent assignments included Anderson AB, McGuire AFB, Ubon AB, Kadena AB, Holloman AFB and HQ TAC. His final Air Force assignment was at George AFB where he served as the Aircrew Life Support Superintendent. He retired from active duty on 1 Sep 1991, but continued his service as a NASA Life Support Aerospace Engineer.

Bob, on behalf of the ALS/AFE “family”, we thank you for your service to this Great Nation, your leadership in formalizing and organizing the ALS/AFE Retirees Group and annual reunions. We trust that you'll be able to continue as the Group and reunion focal point.

### **Sick Call**

From Wilma MacKenzie: “For all who didn't know...part of the hardware in my hip replacement broke and I had to get another hip replacement. Third one and I am tired of it!!!!

Anyway, I am way behind in the emails and will catch up as quickly as possible. If there are any personal messages, I will get to them ASAP.”

Tommy Tompkins, John Patti, and Danny Keith all “reported for Sick Call” since the last newsletter.

We understand each are doing well and are on the mend.

*(We wish Wilma, Tommy, Danny, and JP each nothing short of a full recovery.)*

### **Military Discounts**

The following establishments routinely offer discounts to active and retired military personnel. They don't necessarily advertise the discount, but will usually (but not always) apply it if asked for it. Discounts are usually 10 percent, except as noted.

Restaurants: Arby's, A&W, Back Yard Burgers, Burger King, Captain D's, Chick-Fil-A, Cotton Patch, Denny's, Dunkin' Donuts, Farmer's Boy, IHOP (20 percent), Java Café, KFC, Long John Silver, Pancho's Mexican Buffet, Pizza Hut, Quizno's, Sizzler, Sonic, Taco Bell, Whataburger

Services: AT&T, California Cryobank, GEICO, Jiffy Lube, Meineke, Sears Portrait Studio.

Travel and Leisure: Blockbuster, most movie theaters. Ripley's attractions, museums, and professional sports teams.

Products: Apple Computers, AutoZone, Barnhill's, Bass Pro Shop, Bath and Body Works, Big 10 Tires, The Buckle,

Champs Sports, Copeland's Sports, Dell, The Discovery Channel Store, Dress Barn, The Finish Line, Foot Action, Footlocker, Gadzooks, GNC, Goody's, Great Party, Happy Harry's, Home Depot, Hot Topic, Jockey, Lerner, Lowe's, Michael's, NAPA Auto Parts, New York & Company, Pac Sun, Payless Shoes, Play It Again Sports, Pure Beauty, Sally Beauty Supply, Spencer's Gifts, Suncoast, Timberland Outlets, Wilson's Leather

Cell Phone Service Discount: All Federal employees are able to get a 15 percent discount on their personal cell phones by calling their carrier and mentioning the "Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 - Discount to Federal Employees Past and Present." Use the following contact numbers: AT&T: 800-331-0500, Sprint: 877-812-1223, T-Mobile: 866-646-4688, Verizon: 800-865-1825.

### **Reunion 2010 In The Books**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Aircrew Life Support/Aircrew Flight Equipment Reunion was held at Don Laughlin's Riverside Hotel & Casino in Laughlin, NV 4-7 October 2010.

We were pleased to see many long-time attendees and welcome "First Timers" Kevin and Darcey Snyder, and Tim Bannister. Congratulations to Kevin and Darcy on "tying the knot" during the reunion...all of our best to the newlyweds!

Many hands go into making the reunion a reality each and every year. Our thanks to Bob McElwain and KB Kinchen for planning and organizing the festivities; our 2010 Master of Ceremony's Steve Wyatt; the Golf and

Pinochle Tournament Organizers Ed MacKenzie, Jim Rooney, and Bob McElwain; our "Grill Kings" Tim McQuitty and Bill Sparman for taking the lead to revive the annual picnic and for slaving over the hot grills to provide some fantastic "eats"; Eddie Aguilar, "Shep" Shepard, Mary and "Pro" Provenzano, Ed Kishbaugh, Andy Baker, Will Oost, Cesear Bruno...thanks for all you do each and every year; to those that contributed items for the raffle and a special "Thank You!" to Lou Meyer for the carved wooden Life Support logo's.

Those carvings were well received and many folks asked if there was a way they could get one. Bob McElwain will provide samples of the Life Support and Flight Equipment carvings along with info on how to order one at next year's reunion.

As always, we were thrilled and pleased to have several supporting Corporate Members and individuals make contributions to the reunion activities that included the hospitality suite and golf tournament. Our thanks and gratitude to the following for their continued support:

East/West Industries, Inc.  
Essex Cryogenics  
Stratus Systems, Inc.  
Tommy Tompkins  
Bill Wood

### **Reunion 2011**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion will be held September 26 – 29, 2011 in St Louis, MO. Details will be made available on the ALS/AFE Retirees Website and in our May 2011 Newsletter.

## **Good To Know Links**

Veterans Exposed to Chemicals:

<http://www.veteranstoday.com/2010/10/24/veterans-exposed-to-chemicals-need-to-know>

Widow wants other vets to get checked out for heart condition:

<http://www.newsun.com/news/102410-eb-Foster>

Agent Orange Is Going To Cost America \$42 Billion Over Ten Years:

<http://news-world-report.com/news-articles/agent-orange-is-going-to-cost-america-42-billion-over-ten-years/>

War-zone burn pits violate laws, GAO says:

<http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2010/10/military-gao-says-burn-pits-violate-laws-101410w/>

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with the Veterans Administration in any way.

The VAS website is

<http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>

## **In Closing**

The ALS/AFE Newsletter Staff would like to pay a special tribute to the memory of an icon of the Life Support Systems community who passed away earlier this year, Ken Troup.

We "senior" members of the community had many dealings with Ken in our careers...a kind and knowledgeable

professional. Please keep the Troup family in your prayers and thoughts.



**Kenneth Ford Troup** - Retired Colonel U.S. Air Force of Fairborn, OH, died on June 2, 2010 in Tucson, Arizona of complications from lung cancer. He left college in 1940 after completing Reserve Officer Training Corps and began a career of public service for the United States military that spanned more than 62 years. He served in Panama with the US Army Coastal Artillery and in Hawaii with the Army Air Corps during World War II as a rated pilot, completed his college degree in Chemical Engineering at KU after the war, and having remained in the Air Force Reserves was called back to active duty in 1950. Col. Troup served in Korea from May 1953 through April 1954, was at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base 1954-1960, and subsequently retired as a Colonel in the Air Force in 1965 at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts. He returned to civil service at Wright Patterson in 1966 and became a national expert in flight suits, survival kits, helmets, and other life support equipment used by Air Force pilots. He retired from Civil Service at Wright Patterson in 2003 at the age of 84. Mr. Troup was a member of SAFE and received honors for lifetime achievement from the organization. He was awarded the Dinosaur designation because of his longevity and contributions to keeping USAF pilots safe in hostile environments

as well as numerous other honors at the time of his retirement. In 1992 he received the SAFE National Award. Mr. Troup is survived by his wife of 10 years Nicole Kirkpatrick. In addition to his

service to the US military, Mr. Troup served the town of Fairborn Ohio on the Parks and Recreation Department Board and was a volunteer at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force until 2010.

