



THE LIFE SUPPORT NEWSLETTER



News for the men and women who served in the USAF or civilians who work in Government or industry in the Aircrew Life Support business.

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Visit our web site at: www.usafals.net June 2006 Issue

TOMMY'S COMMENTS

As I start this newsletter I just got off the phone with Lee Wise in UAE. Lee and I go back a long ways. Mainly while Lee was at Fort Wayne and we were working laser visors. He was in Saudi for quite a while and is now working in Abu Dhabi with the Block 60 F-16's. Lee reached his 70th year this year, has been working Aircrew Protection since 1953 and is still at it. The only "older" Life Supporter I know still actively working is Jim Hurst who also works for Lockheed. Congratulations to both Lee and Jim. Super Troops!!!

There are two retirements to note. Chief Mike Freebury retired from AMC at Scott the 16th of this month. Chief Rich Robichaud retires on 4 August at the Pentagon with Capt Dawn Wise (ex-Life Supporter) doing the honors! Chief Dave Chittwood replaces Rich at Air Staff and Chief Cathy Cox has the helm at AMC until a replacement arrives.

I was honored to attend Chief Mike Freeburys retirement ceremony. Brigadier General Robert "Dice" Allardice was the Retirement Official. As I have mentioned previously each of the retirements get better. Special Congratulations to Mike's Staff of Rick Murray, Matt McMullen, Steve Summers, Rick Burke. Matt McMullen was the lead and as I mentioned did an outstanding job. Dave Mills, AMC SERE Functional Manager presented Mike a "Blood Chit" that had been flown over Afghanistan and signed by a B-52 Combat Crew. It was really neat.

Also in attendance at the retirement were Dave Delano, Steve Skaggs, Tim Morrow, Bob Mendez, Beatle Bailey, Rich Lahn, Ken Rennie, and Brett Curran, Shannon Miller, and Kevin and Susan O'Neal.

Chief Martin Austin has moved to Hurlbert replacing Dave Chittwood but the AMC replacement has not yet been announced.

I also got an email from Al Foy. Al is still working at the F-16 SPO at Wright Patterson. Some of the "older" troops will remember the "hang up bags" that Al and Jim Hurst made. Mine is still upstairs somewhere!

A great email from Ron Hartman who I attended many of those AFLC Meetings with. See below.

I hear from Skip Clawson every so often. He and JoAnn are still at "The Villages" in Florida playing golf and Skip has now moved up to Tournament Liaison at Palmer Golf Course. He has retired twice so far!

Jim Rooney has also fully retired and is playing golf every chance he gets there in San Antonio. Jim will be missed there at Brooks but golf calls! I need to get Suzy's opinion!

The Reunion this year will be held in Reno at the same time as SAFE and MAJCOM Workshops. Both of these will be held at the Hilton in Reno.

Make plans to drop over from the Nugget in Sparks and visit with your old SAFE friends and our Active Duty, Guard and Reserve Life Supporters when you have time.

The following is from the June 06 "Survival Newsletter": Attention retired enlisted members and/or their surviving spouses, and also dependents of active duty or retired enlisted members: are you aware of the Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV) facilities in Shalimar FL (Bob Hope Village) and Fort Walton (Teresa Village)? The purpose of the AFEV is to provide the surviving spouses of Air Force retired enlisted members with housing facilities and related services. This is also available to retired enlisted couples and dependent parents of active duty and retired members. Eligible Air Force widows in need of financial relief are given first priority for admission and their monthly cost is based solely on their monthly income. For more information the web site is www.afenlistedwidows.org and their number is 800-258-1413. Please pass this on to anyone you think might be interested.

Lost Life Supporters Found

Hi Tommy,
I have finally decided that computers are not a passing fad like CB Radios and 8-Tracks ... but I'm still basically computer illiterate. I have a Yahoo account which I've been using for playing mahjong. This will be my first attempt ever to send an E-mail. If you're reading this I have succeeded.

I am totally retired ... I have not worked since I retired from McGuire AFB in Oct 92. This past December I moved back to the Eglin AFB area where I will remain for the next 40 years.

I've lost the net twice while typing this much ... so I'll finish later. My new address is:

John Nusbaum
11 Tall Pine Trail
Shalimar, FL 32579

904) 430 2472
popspenguin@yahoo.com

Hey Bob,
Are you the one we used to call Chili Mac? Well, you have found me at last. I got your your email address today from Tom Phillips at Tyndal AFB, so right away I am sending you my e-mail address that is as follows:
pvelasquezjr@aol.com. I retired in the Panama City, FL area and have been in the Law Enforcement career field for the past 15 years as a certified Police/Correction Officer. I'd be glad to get any news of old friends from the life support career field.

Ciao
PV (Pablo Velasquez)

CHILI SEZ



We hear there are discussions at Air Staff level on combing the life support and survival equipment career fields. If and when this happens we will keep you posted. A merger would mean another AFSC change and that would be number five. I don't know about you, but I'll always be what I started out as and that is a 922. In addition to regular life support work, as a 922 I inspected and packed flotation equipment, worked at a MAJCOM water survival school, and occasionally strapped aircrew members into jets. Some of you retirees did other things as well. If life support is going back to doing some of the things that we used to do then let's bring back the old name,

PE (that's personal or protective equipment to you youngsters out there) and re-name the career field APES (Aircrew Protective Equipment System)! Hey, I'm just kidding. I'm sure some of you out there don't want to be called an APE!

As far as I know consideration for a merger has never gotten to Air Staff level before. Because it has I believe the merger will happen. What do you think they should or will name the new career field? I'll post all suggestions to the web site and come up with some kind of prize for the first person who correctly guesses the new official name. I don't know when the AF will announce the new name so e-mail me your guesses ASAP!

In Memoriam

I don't know how many of you knew MSgt. Ret. Charles Haig. His wife called and said that he passed away on 3 June 2006. She had him buried in the National Cemetery at Riverside CA. Charley was a good Life Support man and a good friend to everyone that he worked with. Cesare Bruno

We also lost an active duty troop by the name of SSgt Dustin Williams a month or so ago from the Travis AFB area.

Congratulations!

Congratulations are in order for all the 2005 outstanding USAF Aircrew Life Support of the year award winners. A special congratulation goes out to the following civilian award winners: Ms Mary Harris, 412 OSS, Edwards AFB, CA; Mr. John Bock, 12 OSS, Randolph AFB, TX; and Mr. Larry Cuffee, Det 4, 645 MATS, Waco, TX. All winners will be at the worldwide/reunion so come on out and meet or reacquaint yourself with them.

Web Site

I have not been able to update the retiree's web site as timely as I would like to so I've decided to

stop managing the Active Duty Page's address list and assignment history. You guys move around too much! The page will remain but will be re-identified and only list ANG and Reserve Life Support Personnel information. A new and up and coming site for the active duty is being managed by TSgt Shane Williams and is located at www.lt1x1.com.

If you served in the military as a life supporter, when you send in your assignment history for our web site, please include your rank when you retired or separated or the information might not get posted. If you don't want to include your street or e-mail address, or phone number that's ok.

As a lot of you have noticed, the Guest Book on our web site has been SPAMMED!!!! Some idiot out there has been adding links to the book that include gambling and adult sites! Every time I clean up the mess he puts it back. Because of this I have decided to temporarily shut down the automatic entries. Entries can still be submitted, but they will have to be e-mailed to me. Your comments will then be cut and pasted into the book. Send entries to: bob.mcelwain@charter.net with the subject titled "Guest Book".

Reunion

This year's reunion will be held 23 - 26 October at the Ascuaga Nugget Hotel located at 1100 Nugget Ave in Sparks, NV. Monday, 23 Oct and Friday, 27 Oct will be travel days unless you're coming in early to play in the SAFE Golf Tournament. The SAFE Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, October 22, 2006, at the Silver Oak Golf Club in Carson City, Nevada. For additional information see the attached SAFE Golf Tournament document.

The hotel is located four miles from the Reno/Tahoe International Airport. Hotel amenities include complimentary access to the indoor pool and health club.

The hotel also features a gift shop, Sky Walk Arcade, wedding chapel, and complimentary airport shuttle service. The casino has a full range of table games, Bingo, Keno, poker room, slots, e-ticket machines, and a sports book.

For dining, the hotel offers Restaurant Orozko (in a European style setting with an American and Mediterranean menu), Steakhouse Grill, Trader Dick's (with a 6,000-gallon fish tank featuring many exotic fish), Rotisserie Buffet, John's Oyster Bar, Gabe's Pub & Deli, Rosie's Café, and the Farm House.

Attached is the registration form for the reunion. Please mail it in ASAP and remember hotel check in time is after 3 PM. After checking in, look for our booth somewhere in the lobby to pick up your reunion package and information on the location of the hospitality room.

Ed Mackenzie needs our help with the golf tournament. Ed is looking at having the tournament at Stead AFB and needs to get an idea on the number of people interested in playing.

Secondly, he needs someone to take over Jim Rooney's responsibility of soliciting contributions, gift, and prizes for the tournament from the MAJCOM chiefs, industry, etc. Golf give aways such as cash, tees, balls, towels, trophies, etc will be appreciated and appropriate credit will be given at the reunion and in our newsletter.

If you plan on attending this year's reunion and think you might be interested in participating in our golf tournament or replacing Jim Rooney, give Ed a call at (702) 346-4980 or e-mail him ASAP at twomacks@cascadeaccess.com.

Thank You

I want to take a little space to thank everyone who has supported our reunions over the years, especially the folks who donated their time to

make gifts for our raffles. I know I have thanked you before, but I just can't say it enough. Without you wonderful, giving and caring people there might not be a retiree's web page, funds to mail the newsletters, or the tremendously successfully golf tournament that we put on every year. We want to thank Ed MacKenzie and Jim Rooney one more time for that. Now that Jim has decided to fully retire, I'm not sure of his involvement with future reunions. So...we thank you Jim for everything you did for us and wish you, Suzie, and your brother well. The tournament will not be the same without you.