



AIRCREW LIFE SUPPORT AIRCREW FLIGHT EQUIPMENT RETIREE NEWSLETTER

News for the men and women who served (USAF or civilian, Government or Industry) in the Aircrew Life Support (ALS) or Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) 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 ALS or AFE career fields.

Reporters

Tommy Tompkins, P.O. Box 372, Equality IL 62934 Email: tombob@shawneelink.com
Allen "Al" Loving, 38 Crestwood Drive, Newport News VA 23601 Email: aloving@cox.net
Bob "Chili" McElwain, 12320 Roadrunner Lane Victorville CA 92392 Email: bob.mcelwain@charter.net
Ed "Fast" Chewning, 301 Huntington Chase Circle, Warner Robins GA 31088 Email: mamachew@cox.net

Visit our web site at www.usafals.net

May 2012 Edition

Looking Forward

Hope this Annual Reunion edition of the newsletter finds all of our readers well and enjoying 2012. We hope to see each of you at the upcoming annual reunion in Biloxi. If not, we ask that you please spread the word about the reunion...our goal is 200 attendees this year. With the change in venue and your help, we don't see how we can miss our goal. There are many ALS/AFE retirees, active duty, ANG and Reserve members living along the Gulf Coast and we would love for them to "come up visual" and join in the

camaraderie and festivities...you won't be sorry you did! On with the news...

From The Field

Our sincere congratulations to the following AFE MSgt's recently selected for promotion to SMSgt:

Michelle Bell	Jeremy Raymond
Jonathan Corp	Joseph Shelton
Eric Cox	Dave Stelling
Chris Culley	Jill Pratt
Lawanda Hansen	Jason Pool
Chris Kelley	Michael Miller
Daniel Lewis	Jason Long

We see that all recent 2012 enlisted AFE promotion lists were pretty healthy...congratulations to all!!

<http://www.dyess.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123289944>

Develop one aircrew mask that can be used on over 100 different air frames. That is the challenge for researchers assigned to the Joint Service Aircrew Mask-Fixed Wing (JSAM-FW) Program.

We have also been advised that the 436th will soon add the Life Support Equipment Investigation (LSEI) Course to their list of AFE courses of instruction.

In early December, JSAM-FW researchers visited the 167th Airlift Wing, a West Virginia Air National Guard unit, to evaluate the JSAM's ability to integrate to the C-5 Galaxy aircraft. Nicole Fletcher, an Army chemist and JSAM-FW systems engineer, said the mission was to "nail down configurations so that they can start working on logistics and test plans." Mr. Kevin O'Neal, HQ ACC AFE and member of the Joint Service Aircrew Mask (JSAM) Team, had a wonderful week at the Martinsburg ANG unit working with their C-5 folks.



LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Texas-Airman Jacob Pearce, 47th Operations Support Squadron, conducts a helmet fitting on Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz in preparation for a T-6 Texan II sortie here March 9. Schwartz was a keynote speaker at the graduation of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 12-06, where 23 new pilots were awarded silver wings. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Nathan L. Maysonet)

Check out the details in an on-line ACC news article at:
<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123283746>

CMSgt (Ret) Dave Chitwood announced that he will be taking an extended break from his contractor support job in the Readiness and Emergency Management Division at HQ USAF to focus on family and friends. I'm sure we'll see you around, Dave!

The 436th Training Squadron (TS) at Dyess AFB, TX has become the Air Force's "one-stop shop" for new Aircrew Flight Equipment formal courses.

Air Force personnel who will be required to complete the Aircrew Flight Equipment Officers Course, Aircrew Flight Equipment Deployed Leadership Course, Aircrew Flight Equipment Program Managers Course and the Combat Survivor Evader Locator Course will attend the courses created by 436th TS instructors. The full details can be found in an on-line Dyess AFB news article at:

A reunion of those who served in the USAF at Beale AFB, CA in the Physiological Support Division (PSD) will be held at the base on 22 and 23 June 2012 (Fri/Sat) and will include a tour of the current facility, a dinner at The Refuge in Yuba City, an optional golf outing on Saturday, and a Bar-B-Q on Saturday afternoon. Additional

information can be found on Facebook by typing in PSD Alumni and/or sending an e-mail to: psdreunion@yahoo.com.

Pending 2012 AFE leadership retirements include: CMSgt Jeff Bingman, USAF AFE Functional Manger, and CMSgt Martin Austin, ACC AFE Functional Manager.

Final Roll Call

Ray Uris advises that his first NCOIC, MSgt James "Jim" Mims of Abilene TX passed away on 30 March 2012. Ray stayed in touch with Jim since his first assignment at Malmstrom AFB, TX in the 1977-79 timeframe.

ANG AFE Superintendent, CMSgt Don "Burrhead" Brackin, from the 187th FW, Montgomery AL, passed away after suffering fatal injuries from a motorcycle accident on Sunday, 25 March 2012.

Former Strategic Air Command ALS Functional Manager, CMSgt (Ret) Kenneth "Mike" Hampton, passed away Saturday, December 31, 2011 in Lincoln, NE after battling MS and Parkinson's for the past 16 years.

In late December 2011, we were surprised to learn that CMSgt (Ret) Oscar Noble passed away on Tuesday, October 18, 2011. Oscar was a resident of Wasco, CA.

Sick Call

SMSgt (Ret) John Patti has experienced several significant medical issues over the last several months that required hospitalization. However, he is on the road to recovery and should be back to his old self soon. Hang in there, JP!

We recently received word that CMSgt (Ret) Tommy Tompkins has been undergoing some medical tests at a Carbondale, IL area hospital.

MSgt (Ret) Kevin (Snyd) Snyder advises that Offutt retiree Dan Wagner has been admitted to a local hospital after suffering cardiac arrest. He is doing better, but its touch and go with his condition.

Checking In

CMSgt (Ret) Al Cricks on the passing of Chief Hampton: *Thanks for informing us of the passing of CMSgt Mike Hampton. SMSgt Connie Batts and I were hired by Mike to work on the SAC/IG team once he procured slots for the team. Mike and SMSgt Dave Happel were assigned to HQ SAC at the time. I spoke to Mike after he retired. He informed me about the MS. His wife was a nurse. With her concerted efforts, Mike stated they were able to find medicine to help him get some mobility back. Mike, Connie Batts, and CMSgt Ray Turbyfill were instrumental in facilitating my career in SAC.*

From Lt Col (Ret) Bob Lee upon receipt of the Dec 11 Newsletter: *Thanks Chief for passing this on. I actually still recognize many of the names, of course they have (Ret) associated with them. I'll do my best to make next year's reunion. Too bad there isn't one in San Antonio sometimes. Hope all is well with you. I am still "mayoring" until 2013. (Bob is the current Mayor of Castroville, TX.)*

From SMSgt (Ret) Bob Weaver: *I hope and pray that all is well with you and yours. I had heart catheterization and quadruple heart by-pass in Nov 11. I am at home improving daily. Also enrolled in a 12 week Cardiac Rehab program with the FWB Medical Center. I hope that you and your family enjoyed a Merry*

Christmas and a Happy New Year!!! Blessings to all.

From Mary Lou May: Roger and I are doing fair. Our 17 year old son has just come down with leukemia-an "A" student, Senior, and star baseball player-catcher. We are asking everyone to remember him in your prayers.

From CMSgt (Ret) Rex Robnett: Hi Al...hope you and the family had a Merry Christmas and will have a great and prosperous New Year. Val and I are cleaning out the attic (NO, REALLY!) and I can't think of anything I'd rather do. While up there I was looking through some old stuff and found the attached picture of my Chanute graduating class. Bet you can't pick me out. Anyway, I can't remember my instructor's names, maybe one or two were still there when you were. Maybe you recognize someone else. Feel free to share it if you want.



From SMSgt (Ret) Bob Wiley: Bob (McElwain) I think we have a mutual friend in Dominic Compana? Dom was my boss at the 78th TFS RAF Woodbridge 1969-1970. I was a SSgt at the time, made E-6 April 1970 and went to the 91st TFS at RAF Bentwaters as the NCOIC replacing SSgt Chuck Bailey. I enlisted 23 Aug 1962 and arrived at Chanute AFB in late Sept 1962. Started tech school in Oct and

caught pneumonia, spent 2 weeks in the hospital. They then said I had TB and they sent me to Scott AFB and I was there for 2 months. Came back and graduated in Mar 63 and was sent to Duluth MAP, MN. Duluth subsequently became an IAP. I went to the base shop, T-33's, C-47, U-3A and a U-6A. What a place--no leadership and a crappy facility in the back of the base ops building. The A1C in charge went PCS leaving an A2C and 2 A3C's. The IG was due and although I was the "junior" airmen, I fully realized we were in deep trouble! We had a captain base ops OIC who was lost in the woods and didn't care about the "boys in the back!" Fortunately, the base ops NCOIC was an outstanding NCO and realized the disaster in the life support shop. I told him I wanted out of the mess in the back. Of course the IG "ripped us" a new one and finally the powers to be took notice. By now its Oct 63, I made A2C and then all hell broke loose. They unleashed TSgt Jim Muldoon on us. Jim was a big ole Irishman and they took him from the 11th FIS and brought him over to the base shop. I soon learned how a "REAL" NCO takes charge and makes things happen. He took me aside one day and "chewed me out" like I'd NEVER been chewed out. He told me I was better than how I'd performed--and--I was feeling good about my performance! He made me feel like a failure. What an eye opener. He slowly built me up--I saw that someone REALLY cared about me and took an interest. He gave me responsibility. One day he remarked what a "junky mess" the spare parts bins looked like. Not my responsibility, but, I took the challenge and after supper I went back to the shop to straighten out the mess. Ever get the feeling someone is watching ya--well--I turned around and it's now about 2100 and low and behold ole Jim is standing behind me. He nodded his head and never said a word. Next day when he walked in, he winked at me and from that day forward my whole AF career changed. He wrote my APR and gave me the X in "Capable of Increased

Responsibility" and in Oct 1964 I made A1C with just over 2 years. Oh yea, he also sent me to the 11th FIS--what an honor. In June 1965 I made Airmen of the Month, got married and then got orders for Takhli, Thailand! Takhli was my BEST and most memorable assignment. I had my own shop, 354th TFS as an A1C and SSgt under 4--I was flabbergasted! Went back to Duluth IAP in Jul 66 and against my wishes--back to the base shop. I was like-get me outta here--this place has reverted back to being a mess! Stayed at Duluth until Dec 1967 and PCS'd to the 62nd FIS at K.I.Sawyer AFB. Loved it there--we had an award winning shop, great troops and commander support. I initiated the AF Form 601A that got TA006 changed to authorize 922X0's jump boots--no joke! Justification was because we taught PLF's and did survival training. I was living the good life and then got orders for RAF Bentwaters. I got assigned to the 78th TFS, TSgt John Warner, another top notch NCO was the boss. John made MSgt and went to the Wing Life Support as NCOIC. I was in charge of the 78th TFS until TSgt Dominic Compana, another Top Notch NCO arrived. I made TSgt in April 1970 and was transferred to the 91st TFS at RAF Bentwaters. The 91st--or "90 worst" as people called it was a mess. They had just miserably failed their ORI inspection and once I got there, it was painfully clear why--no leadership. Fortunately I had 3 guys who wanted to do right--they just needed direction. We also had one "slacker" who saw the light and joined the team. We had 3 months to get ready for the re-inspection and thanks to the effort of the troops--we got an excellent! The Chief who conducted the follow-up asked me if he was at the 91st Life Support shop--he couldn't believe the turnaround. I was so proud of those young airmen! I realized I was approaching 9 years in the AF and thought--what am I going to do when I retire? I didn't want to work at the post office, there were few civilian life support jobs in the AF and I was in a quandary. I wanted to become an air traffic controller--but--they wouldn't send me

back to the states for school. So, I asked what other career fields were open. Of course, cops and cooks were offered--no thanks! Then he told me about club management--sounded good--so I cross-trained in Dec 70 at RAF Bentwaters. Talk about a change--going from a job I knew inside out--to one that was totally foreign! I retired an E-8 after 20 years and managed civilian clubs for 2 years and then I missed the camaraderie of the military and went civil service. Managed AF clubs until Aug 1989 when I became Deputy MWR Chief and then MWR Chief at RAF Alconbury. MWR & Services merged and I was the Deputy Chief of Services. Finished my civil service career at McConnell AFB in Oct 2002. I always took time to visit the life support shops at every base. While I enjoyed my club management and MWR/Services jobs, life support was always in my blood.

From CMSgt (Ret) Tommy Tompkins: I had the privilege of attending the Retirement Ceremony of Chief Rod Welch at Scott AFB IL. The AMC Staff did an outstanding job for Chief Welch and family. In attendance from the retired community was Chief Larry Cuffee. I got to meet and talk with Chief Darrell Sanderson as he moves into the AMC AFE Leadership position.

From SMSgt (Ret) Ed Chewning: Fellow Life Supporters or Aircrew Flight Equipment folks. I'd like to pass on that Lt Gen Marc E. Rogers retired on 3 May, 2012 after a 38 year career in the Air Force. General Rogers was the Air Force Inspector General, and was my Life Support Officer at the 8th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Holloman AFB, NM back in 1981-82.

The General enlisted in the Air Force in 1974 and was assigned to the Space Positioning Division at Edwards AFB, CA. He was accepted into the Bootstrap Program, graduated from the University of Missouri in 1978, and was commissioned

through the Air Force ROTC program. He served as an electronic combat pilot, Aggressor pilot, instructor pilot, evaluation pilot, operations officer, and commander.

I wrote an article about Marc in one of the early newsletters. As I recounted, in the days of the TFS's, the NCOIC would invariably get a LSO who lost the coin toss for the additional duty. Marc actually wanted to be the LSO. He let me run the program, but was always at the forefront when I needed his help, wisdom, or counseling (the good type). He and his wife Debbie were and still are some of our closest friends. He will be missed, but when it's time to go, it's time to go.

Ran into MSgt (Ret) Ike McCann at the Langley AFB BX earlier this month. He's working at the Langley Recreation Center and is doing well.

Save A Copy of Your Life

A new website has been established to provide information on how every veteran can "write" his or her own personal military legacy/history book to leave something of lasting personal worth behind that your descendants will greatly value... and a book that will gain in monetary value as it ages through the generations to follow. Check out the website:

www.americanwarlibrary.com/personnel/savealife.htm

In Closing

That's it for this reunion edition, friends. Block those calendars for the last week of September 2012...we'll see you in Biloxi, MS.

"BILOXI OR BUST IN 2012!!"

17th Annual Aircrew Life Support (ALS)/Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) Reunion Details and Registration Form

The 17th Annual ALS/AFE Reunion will be held at the Imperial Palace (IP) Casino Resort in Biloxi, MS starting Monday, 24 Sep, thru Thursday, 27 Sep, 2012. Monday (24 Sep) and Friday (28 Sep) are travel days.

All former, retired, active duty, guard, reserve, and civilian personnel who work or have worked in the USAF Aircrew Life Support, Aircrew Flight Equipment, or Survival Equipment professions and their guests are invited to attend.

This year's schedule of events includes, for the ladies, a trip to the Tanger Outlet Mall in Foley, AL on Tuesday during our opening activities; our golf tournament and picnic on Wednesday; a boat ride down the Mississippi for a truly unique way to enjoy viewing the coastline and islands on Wednesday night; a bus trip to the French Quarters in New Orleans on Thursday during the day and our farewell banquet Thursday night. Also scheduled is our usual pinochle tournament on a day to be determined.

- To register for the reunion you must send in the Reunion Registration Form **NLT 15 Jul 12**. Hotel reservations (rate of \$75.99 plus tax per night along with a \$5.60 resort fee per night) must be made **NLT 31 Aug 12** by dialing 888-946-2847, and giving the agent **Group Code S120428**.

- Confirmation of your reservation will not be mailed out unless requested.
- Rooms will not be available for check-in until 4 pm on Monday, 24 Sep. Early check-in is allowed if your room is ready.
- A special area will be set-up in the hotel lobby from 2-5 pm for reunion attendees to sign in.
- After checking in, stop by our Hospitality Room after 5 pm for food and drinks.

IF YOU ATTENDED LAST YEAR'S REUNION, DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR NAME TAG. NEW NAME TAGS WILL ONLY BE ISSUED TO FIRST TIME ATTENDEES. GUEST NAME TAGS WILL BE ISSUED TO ANYONE WHO FORGETS TO BRING HIS/HERS.

If you plan on participating in the golf tournament please contact Ed MacKenzie via email at 2macks@bajabb.com or by phone at 702-682-6485. Ed needs a \$50 golf fee from each participant **NLT 1 Sept 12**.

We are accepting gifts/prizes/giveaways for our banquet raffle and tournaments from all who wish to donate. Gifts/prizes should be in the mail **NET 17 Sept 12 and NLT 20 Sep 12** and addressed to Ed Mackenzie (golf gifts/prizes) or Bob McElwain (raffle gifts/prizes) as indicated below.

Imperial Palace Casino Resort
Attn: Ed MacKenzie or Bob McElwain/Life Support Reunion (As appropriate)
850 Bayview Ave
Biloxi, MS 39530

TRANSPORTATION TO THE HOTEL FOR 4 PEOPLE W/LUGGAGE

Coordinate your arrival with other attendees to take advantage of this rate.



Airport-Casino-Military Taxi Service

Reservations Strongly Suggested

\$35 Fee-Rates Less Than Shuttle in Some Cases...Get To The Casino Quick!

AMEX - Visa - Master Card – Discover Card Accepted

Military We Appreciate Your Service!

Just Call for Reservations or a Rate Quote

Phone: (228) 596-5220

For additional reunion information visit our website at www.usafals.net

**17th Annual USAF Aircrew Life Support/Aircrew Flight Equipment Reunion
24 – 27 September 2012
Imperial Palace (IP) Casino Resort
850 Bayview Ave, Biloxi, MS 39530**

REGISTRATION FORM
(Registration includes one guest)

Name (As you want it to appear on nametag): _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Email: _____ Fax _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Name of Guest(s): _____
 Emergency Contact (Name/Phone): _____

COST

Hotel room rate is \$75.99 plus tax per night must be made **NLT 31 Aug 12** by dialing (888) 946-2847
 (Pressing 1 and giving the agent Group Code S120428)

<u>REGISTRATION FEE</u> (Covers name tags, T-shirts, picnic, meeting rooms, etc.):	\$75
<u>BANQUET:</u> (Cajun Seafood Buffet)	Number of people _____ X \$45.00=\$ _____
<u>BUS TRIP:</u> (Tanger Outlet Mall in Foley, AL)	Number of people _____ X \$30.00=\$ _____
<u>BUS TRIP:</u> (New Orleans French Quarters)	Number of people _____ X \$30.00=\$ _____
<u>SAIL ALONG THE BILOXI BEACHFRONT</u>	Number of people _____ X \$21.50=\$ _____

A truly unique way of enjoying the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Come sail along the beachfront and see the coastline and islands as never before.
 (Must have a minimum of 20 people at this price.)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NOTES:

1. Reunion cancellations must be received **NLT 31 Aug 12** or there will be a loss of banquet fee.
2. **Cancellation of hotel reservation** must occur at least 2 days prior to arrival date to avoid a fee.
3. Receipt of your registration fee will not be acknowledged unless requested.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our annual golf tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, 26 Sep 12. POC is Ed MacKenzie
 A \$50 golf fee is required in advance if you intend to play.
 Ed MacKenzie, P.O. Box 7025, Bunkerville, NV 89007
 Phone: (702) 346-4980 Cell: (702) 682-6485 Email: 2macks@bajabb.com

If you have any historical information, equipment, or pictures that you would like to share with us please bring them with you.

DoD organizations/personnel are responsible for approving attendance to this event. If you are attending on official orders, to avoid being taxed make sure you use a government issued credit card when checking in at the hotel.

Complete this form and mail it with a check or money order **NLT 15 Jul 12** to:

KEMPER KINCHEN
 700 SOUTH RANGE RD
 HAMMOND, LA 70403

CELL PHONE: (760)912-2806
 HOME PHONE: (985) 542-5205
 E-Mail: kbkinchen@gmail.com

PROPOSAL FOR 2013 ALS/AFE REUNION

NAME OF HOTEL/CASINO: _____

LOCATION OF HOTEL/CASINO: _____

COST OF LODGING FOR 50 ROOMS:

DBL OCC: _____

SUITE: _____

COST FOR MEETINGT SPACE (75 PEOPLE): _____

COST FOR AUDIO/VIDEO EQUIPMENT: _____

COST FOR TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE AND PASTRIES FOR 75 PEOPLE: _____

COST OF HOSPITALITY SUITE PER NIGHT (MON/TUE/WED) FOR 75 PEOPLE: _____

COST OF FOOD: (BRING COPY OF MENU FROM HOTEL CATERING) _____

ARE YOU ALLOWED TO BRING YOUR OWN FOOD/BOOZE INTO HOSPITALITY ROOM? _____

ARE FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR A PICNIC IN THE LOCAL AREA? _____

WHAT TOURS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE LOCAL AREA AND WHAT IS THE COST? _____

WHAT ENTERTAINMENT IS AVAILABLE? _____

COST FOR BANQUET PER PERSON FOR 75 PEOPLE? _____

COST FOR BARTENDER AT THE BANQUET: _____

COST FOR GOLFING: _____

ARE COMPLIMENTRY ROOMS OFFERED? _____

REMARKS/COMMENTS:

SUBMITTED BY: _____

PHONE/E-MAIL: _____

