

Volume 3, Issue 4

December 1999

## Change of Command

*Col Steven Speer Departs 129<sup>th</sup> RQW*

Major General William Lynch, the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania, announced Col Steven Speer as his selection as the new Commander of the 193<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Wing at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The 193<sup>rd</sup> SOW has recently acquired all the geographically separated units in Pennsylvania and put them under the command of the 193<sup>rd</sup>, bringing the wing strength to over 1,800 personnel. The unit is undergoing conversion to the EC-130J and is working toward acquisition of 8 new aircraft. These specially modified Psychological Warfare Operations aircraft are usually the first aircraft in and the last ones out. They are the heaviest C-130s of all the various models and are in-flight refuelable. The change of command took place Sunday, November 7, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Col Tommy Williams has assumed command of the 129<sup>th</sup> RQW. The formal change of command took place Sunday, December 5. A dinner was held on Saturday, December 4, at the Hyatt.

A fond farewell and good luck, Col. Speer!

## Cold War Certificates

In accordance with section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States any time during the Cold War Era, defined as September 2, 1945, to December 26, 1991.

*How do you apply for your Certificate?*

To apply for your own (or for a deceased service member's) certificate, you must send a copy of proof of service and your request to the following address:

**Cold War Recognition**

**4035 Ridge Top Road**

**Fairfax, Virginia 22030-7445**

You may fax your documentation to: **1-800-723-9262**.

**Be sure to include your return address!**

*What constitutes proof of service?*

Acceptable documents for proof of service include any official government of military document with recipient's name, Social Security Number, Military Service Number, or Foreign Service Number. **Reminder:** Send copies ONLY. The source document(s) WILL NOT be returned.

Due to the remarkable success of this program, turn around time for mailing certificates may take as long as six months. The CWRS Operations Team is working as fast as possible to clear the backlog. Please do not request feedback prior to six months from the request date.

For more information go to: [www.coldwar.army.mil](http://www.coldwar.army.mil)

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# The Prez Sez

*A Word or Two from the President*

Ken Moore

Our most important news is the fact that the 129<sup>th</sup> Alumni & Heritage Association is now officially a California Non-Profit Mutual Benefit Corporation. The endorsed Articles of Incorporation were received November 30, 1999. We are tax exempt in California pending IRS concurrence. My sincere thanks to all who worked to make this happen.

There are currently 220 members listed on our roster. However, a few are not current with their dues. We need each one of you, and your interests are important to us, so let us know how we can add activities that will be of interest to you. Please show your support by paying your dues.

Of course, we are planning for our New Year and the annual activities we sponsor. March 14, 2000, will be the Old Timer's Lunch. Ltc Charlie Davis will be the speaker. Please mark this day on your calendar and watch for further information in the coming weeks.

Alumni Day and the Golf Tournament are being planned in August. More information will be forthcoming as dates and plans are finalized.

My sincere thanks to Col Steven C. Speer, "Father" of the Association, for all he has done to make the AHA a reality. As you are aware, Colonel Speer relinquished command of the 129<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing to Colonel Tommy Williams at the Change of Command Ceremony on December 5, 1999. I am very pleased that the Association was very well represented at both the dinner and Change of Command Ceremony. We presented Col Speer with a collage of all the planes flown by the 129<sup>th</sup> since the inception of the Unit.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to work with Colonel Speer for these past two years, and I am sure I speak for all the AHA members in wishing him success in his new assignment.

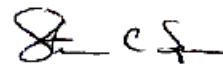
Happy Holidays, and my sincere thanks to each one for the successful year just completed!

# Farewell from the Commander

*A Farewell Note from the Wing Commander*

Col Steven C Speer

It is with regret that I will be leaving our Rescue Wing with 825 professional warriors who truly believe our motto: "That Others May Live". Our team has just been awarded the National Guard Association of the United States Spaatz Trophy for the Outstanding ANG Unit of 1998, as well as receiving the Air Force Association Award as the Outstanding ANG Flying Wing for 1999. Competition was tough when you consider we in the rescue business competed against all the bombers, fighters, tankers, and airlifters. We are a solid team here, and I will truly miss the exhilaration of saving lives (we call them satisfied customers, and we have over 276 people today who are fortunate the 129<sup>th</sup> was there for them). I've been here 9 years now, and it has been a great time. I will truly miss my friends here. Thanks for all your help and support.



Steven C. Speer, Col, PA ANG



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 14, 2000

OLD TIMERS LUNCHEON

DETAILS WILL BE FINALIZED AND INFORMATION SENT OUT SOON!

RESERVE THE DAY!

JUNE 29 – JULY 4, 2000

NASA TRADE SHOW

AIR SHOW & FLY IN

JULY 9, 2000

FAMILY DAY PICNIC AND OPEN HOUSE

SET THIS WEEKEND ASIDE NOW!

AUGUST 5 & 6, 2000

ALUMNI DAY AND GOLF TOURNAMENT

MAKE PLANS TO TAKE PART IN THIS EXCITING WEEKEND.

FINAL FLY-BY IN MEMORIAM

LTC BILL WHALEN

SMS VAUGHAN CLEARMAN, JR.

129<sup>th</sup> AHA Jackets Available

*Customized with your name and rank!*

Want to own a really distinctive jacket to show your affiliation with the 129<sup>th</sup> AHA? Order your navy blue, MembersOnly, summer-weight poplin jacket today. The left breast has the current wing patch and the original troop carrier group patch (now worn by the Rescue Squadron), with 129 AHA embroidered below. The right breast sports the Air Force Patch with your name embroidered below. Jackets are available for \$70 (\$35 deposit per jacket required). Order yours from Don Delucchi at (925) 689-2683 or online at [Nonononi@aol.com](mailto:Nonononi@aol.com) – or contact 'Hoot' Gibson at (510) 581-9501.

Do you have an idea for an activity you'd like to see the AHA sponsor?

Do you have something you'd like to see in the newsletter?

Do you have an issue you would like to see the Association address?

This is your opportunity. Use the form below to let us know what you would like to see the Association sponsor, address, or accomplish. Your input is important to us. This is YOUR Association and we welcome your active participation!

Form with 10 horizontal lines for input.

Please make your suggestions & comments above and mail to:  
129<sup>th</sup> Alumni & Heritage Association, c/o Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret), 6718 Zerillo Dr.,  
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122  
**e-mail: [j-l.ruppel@worldnet.att.net](mailto:j-l.ruppel@worldnet.att.net)**

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AND  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ltc Jesse Craddock – (650) 968-0446 – [B25jay@aol.com](mailto:B25jay@aol.com)

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

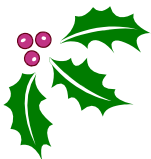
# Happy Holidays!

The 129<sup>th</sup> Alumni & Heritage  
Association Board of Directors  
would like to take this opportunity  
to wish you and yours  
A Joyous Holiday Season  
&  
A Safe and Prosperous  
New Year



**Where are the missing Board Members?**

US POSTAGE  
ATTACH  
STAMP HERE



# Happy Holidays!

