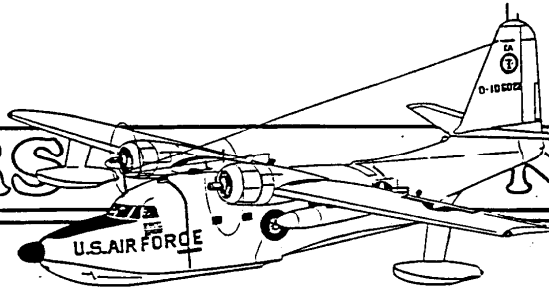


OL TIMERS NOOZZE



Volume 5, Issue 2

June 2001

Save the Commissary & BX!

Do you use the Moffett Commissary and BX? If so, we need your assistance. At a recent meeting between NASA Facilities officials and military commanders, NASA announced plans to require the commissary and exchange to vacate the facilities no later than 2004. This action has been initiated by local Ames NASA officials and does not yet have official NASA approval. The stated reason for the closures is to allow NASA to lease the properties to various civilian concerns to generate income to defray operational expenses.

Contact your Congressman and Senators and voice your opposition to the attempt to deny service to both retired and active military personnel. Additionally, contact the local Mountain View / Sunnyvale area officials to voice your concerns. Let other military organizations know of your concerns. You may voice your concerns directly to the Director of Ames NASA at:

Dr. McDonald
Building 200
Moffett FAF, California

We'll keep you posted on the status of this plan.

Old Timers Luncheon & Board Election

Thursday, March 15, 2001

The 2001 Annual Meeting of the 129th Alumni and Heritage Association was held in conjunction with the Annual Old Timers Luncheon on March 15, 2001, at the Alameda Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda.

The membership has re-elected CMS Ed Boddington and SMS Don Delucchi to the Board of Directors. LTC(s) Cindy Kepple was elected to the third position, and takes the place of LTC Pat Darrin, who has served for the past two years. Our thanks and best wishes to Pat in his future endeavors. And welcome aboard, Cindy!

Thanks to the generous support of the 129th AHA membership, the Association awarded four scholarships to members of the unit. The awardees of the 2001 scholarships are:

TSgt Marcquel Frieson - 129th RQW

SSgt Jacqueline Gittens - 129th RQS

SSgt Shirley Keay - 129th CES

SRA Joseph G. Shelton - 129th RQS

Congratulations!



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The Prez Sez

The President's Column

CMS Ken Moore (Ret.)

The 129th Alumni and Heritage Association is prepared to take an active roll in the retention of the commissary and exchange facilities currently located at Moffett. As you know, the commissary and exchange are a great benefit to both retirees and active / reserve members of the services. The Ames NASA facilities officials plan to convert the AAFES and NEX facilities into commercial rentals to generate income to cover operations expenses. Not only will these conversions deprive the local military community of their shopping privileges, but the considerable funds NEX and AAFES have recently spent expanding and modernizing these facilities will be for naught.

Contact your Congressional and Senatorial representatives in Washington. Contact your state senators and representatives in Sacramento. Contact the local representatives in the Mountain View / Sunnyvale / Santa Clara area. Contact the Office of the Adjutant General in Sacramento. Contact the NGAC in Sacramento - they are your official lobbyists in the State of California. Contact NGAUS at the national level. Contact the NGB. Contact the Department of Defense. Contact any other military associations you may be affiliated with - the Retired Officers Association (TROA), the Air Force Association (AFA), the Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA), the VFW, AMVETS, and anyone else you can think of.

We must be proactive to prevent the closures of our commissary and exchange facilities!

The Old Timers Luncheon was an enjoyable event. The membership would like to welcome LTC(s) Cindy Kepple as our newest Director. She is filling the position vacated by LTC Pat Darrin. We much appreciate the hard work Pat has done with the scholarship program and look forward to his continued involvement in Association activities.

The raffle for the prints of the SA-16 sitting on Clear Lake and the current assigned 129th aircraft, MC-130P and HH-60, over the Golden Gate Bridge raised \$142 for the scholarship fund.

The Prez Sez (continued)

The 129th AHA is proud to have presented four scholarships this year, and hopes to expand the program in the years to come. Special thanks to our newsletter editor, Lynda Fawcett, for all of her volunteer hours. Her employer, California Federal Bank, recognized her volunteer efforts with a check for \$200 to the scholarship fund.

Congratulations to our former Wing Commander, BG Steven C. Speer, on his well-deserved promotion. CMS Liliana Ramos attended the pinning ceremony as a representative of both the Wing and the AHA. She delivered a set of crystal champagne goblets etched with a General's star and "2001" from the Association.

Congratulations are also in order for Col Ed Lewis on his recent promotion. We look forward to working with Col Lewis for many years to come.

The annual Family Day picnic will be drill weekend, Sunday, July 8. The Wing will be presented the Air Force Outstanding Unit award. Plan to attend and help celebrate this great accomplishment. A flyer will be sent at a later date to fill you in all the details - time, place, tickets, etc. See you there!

Did you know you can access the newsletter on-line? The Alumni Association web site currently resides within the Wing web site. The Wing page with the table of organization lists the Alumni Association. This is the link to our site. We are currently working to develop a direct link to our site. More information will be available in the September newsletter.

Ken



129th Alumni & Heritage Association

Memorial Day Honor Roll

Day is done.

Gone the sun

From the lakes,

From the hills,

From the sky.

All is well.

Safely rest.

God is nigh.



BGen Harold A. Aherns
SSG Harry Ahlborn
TSG Gary R. Albertson
LTC Richard Allen
MSG Manuel Amaral
LTC Shirley R. Ashby
MSG Howard Bachman
MSG David S. Bain
SMS John S. Beasley
COL John R. Breeden
LTC Joseph J. Budro
MSG Sam Burgess
SMS Fredrick E. Burkett
TSG Larry Butts
LTC Neil Campbell
SGT Steven Carlyle
1LT Desmond Casey
SMG Robert Clayton
SMS Vaughn H. Clearman
SSG Steve Courtney ★
LTC Gene Cunningham
SSG Robin Eal
MSG Hyrshel Flygare
SSG Johnny Forlanda
LTC Billy Freeman
SMS Arch R. Girvin
MSG Clarence F. Gruenert
Lloyd Hamilton
LTC James A. Hunt
MAJ Jerry Ingram
TSG Bobby J. Jarman
MSG Art Johnson

TSG John Karpaty
A3C Alan A. Kelley ★
MSG Henry Kern
Chaplain James Kinsey
BGen Charles W. Koenig
COL Charles J. Kuban
SRA Mary Lou Lara
COL Paul Lavoie, MD
MSG Bartley J. Lee
CMS Joseph Martin
Lawrence Mauch
SGT Kevin McKenna
MSG Paul Medeiros
LTC Robert A. Morton
MAJ Mark Mutchler
MAJ Terry Nelson ★
LTC John W. O'Sullivan
MSG Leon Pope
Marge Rainsford
A1C Robert R. Rossie ★
MSG Frank M. Sacramento
MSG Thomas Santiago
LTC Les Spencer ★
TSG Nicholas Stoopin
CMS Harold R. Strickler
LTC Urban B. Vandever
LTC John A. Vintner
MSG Clarence W. Wagner
LTC Louis F. Wang
CWO4 Albert S. Warnick
A1C Larry Zimmerman ★

★Killed in Action

Spring Golf Tourney

Blind Man Bogey - Coordinated by

MSG Tommy D. Brooks (Ret.)

The 129th Alumni and Heritage Association hosted the annual spring golf tournament on Sunday, April 29. We had 60 golfers (15 teams) playing Blind Man Bogey. Each team plays best ball on each hole, for a single team score. After play is complete, a course official selects 3 holes from the front nine (holes 1, 5, & 9) and 3 holes from the back nine (holes 11, 13, & 16) to calculate handicaps. This is an interesting concept, since the team with the lowest raw score may not even be in the running when the handicaps are calculated!

Prizes (gift certificates to the pro-shop) were awarded to the members of the six lowest scoring teams, as well as to the golfers (both male and female) who scored longest drive (hole #9), most accurate drive (hole #14), closest to the pin (hole # 7), and closest to the pin (hole #15). A grand total of \$1,100 was awarded.

Congratulations to all the golfers who played, and special recognition to those who won!

1st Place - Team 6

Jim Rommelfanger
Dave Rommelfangr
Jim Newman
Nick Rudnicki

2nd Place - Team 12

Steve Mihara
David Walton
Mark Lucas
The Phantom

3rd Place - Team 9

Carl McLain
Tommy Guinn
Mike Yehee
Gary Hooks

4th Place - Team 11

Joe Preciado
Russ Schofield
Ray Trill
Merle Johnson

5th Place - Team 10

Rich Schwarting
Dan Guerrero
Lenny Lemieux
Yong Kim

Spring Golf Tourney (continued)

6th Place - Team 14

Darren Kruse
Al Costa
Brian Henrikson
Dewayne Wilson

Long Drive #9

Shawn McGrath
Jane Kim

Accurate Drive #14

Nick Rudnicki
Judy Brooks

Closest to the Pin #7

Rich Schwarting
Judy Brooks

Closest to the Pin #15

John Pattinson
Jane Kim

The Fall Golf Tournament is being planned for drill weekend in September. Plan now to play. The dinner afterwards is good, the company is great, and, best of all, it is a great day of golf!



Commissary to Eliminate Social Security Numbers on Checks

Kevin Hennelly
Defense Commissary Agency Public Affairs

FORT LEE, Va. (AFPN) -- Starting in May, the Defense Commissary Agency will no longer require customers to put their Social Security numbers on checks when paying for their groceries. It is another example of how the commissary is listening to customers and giving them what they want. "Our customers are telling us they are increasingly concerned about disclosing personal information on their checks that may result in 'identity theft,' violations of personal privacy, fraud or personal financial loss," said Colonel Ed Jones, DeCA's comptroller. "We are listening to our patrons and are taking the steps needed to reduce their exposure to these risks."

As national anxiety over identify theft mounted and various civilian retailers stopped asking for SSNs, military shoppers began asking DeCA to change too. As a result, customers will have extra security and the convenience of not having to write their SSN on a check when shopping at the commissary. By this May, commissary patrons will no longer be required to show a SSN on the front of their personal check. It also means that the agency is modifying its cash register system to stop printing SSNs on the back of checks. Customers still will be required to provide their SSN, but not on the checks themselves. DeCA has succeeded in developing a closed system to safely retain the SSN to comply with U.S. Treasury guidelines for collecting bad check information. The cashier will enter this information into the system when the customer's identification is checked at the register. "The results of this re-engineered business process will ensure transaction confidentiality and appropriate audit trails are maintained with the assurance that individual identity is protected," said John Goodman, DeCA's program manager for the cash register system.



"The Promotion:
Who Would
Have
'Thunk' It?"



The Chiefs - Old & New



Do you know who used to fly these big birds - the B-25?

Thanks to SMS Larry Rengstorf for the B-25 pictures taken at the recent Doolittle Raiders fly-in.
Chiefs' pictures - CMS Liliana Ramos.
BG Speer's promotion pictures - 193rd SOW.
OTL pictures - MSG Lyle Crater.
Golf Tournament - Cody Fawcett

"Thank You, America"

French Government Recognizes American Veterans

Tony Rollis, President, AFSA Division 13

The California Department of Veterans Affairs has been requested to assist the French Government in formally recognizing WWII veterans living in California, who participated in the landing at Normandy and in the liberation of France from 1944 through 1945. In turn, the California Department of Veterans Affairs has asked County Veterans Service Officers and Veterans Services Organizations to make this information known to eligible veterans. A portion of the request from the French government is included below. As noted in the information below, the application for certificates for eligible veterans can be obtained online at:

<http://www.info-france-usa.org/news/statmnts/ww2/index.htm>.

There are two locations of French Consulates in Division 13 where eligible veterans may submit their applications. They are:

For persons living in Arizona, California (whose ZIP code is under 93400), Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico, submit your completed application to the French Consulate in Los Angeles at the following address:

French Consulate / "Thank You America"
10990 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90024

For persons living in Alaska, California (whose ZIP code is above 93400), Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington State, and Wyoming, submit your completed application to the French Consulate in San Francisco at the following address:

French Consulate / "Thank You America"
540 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

All recipients of this message are encouraged to pass this information on to other veterans who might be eligible for this certificate. Persons who are not online and are unable to receive an application from the online address above should check with their County Veterans Service for a copy.

Cold War Recognition Certificate

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 personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States anytime during the Cold War era, which is defined as September 2, 1945, to December 26, 1991. The certificate may be awarded posthumously to those whose relatives apply on their behalf. National Guard and Reservists are eligible.

For more information go online to:

<http://coldwar.army.mil>

If you have already applied for your (or a loved one's) certificate, and it has not yet arrived, DO NOT PANIC. Processing requests is running AT LEAST twelve months (yes, one full year!) behind. Be patient. You will eventually receive your Cold War Recognition Certificate.



If you do not have inter-net access, contact:

Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (ret)
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

(209) 869-2879

New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

SSgt Rick Gaylord

TSgt William L. Jackson

Maj John S. Woods

SMS Rich Ybarra

Welcome!

Do you know someone who has been affiliated with the 129th RQW or its predecessor organizations - and is not a member of the Association? Let's get them signed up!

129th AHA Jackets Available

Customized with your name and rank!

After much searching we have found a new source of MembersOnly jackets - so we are once again taking orders for 129th AHA jackets. Order forms will be available at the Old Timers Luncheon.

Want to own a really distinctive jacket to show your affiliation with the 129th 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 your jacket from Don Delucchi at:

(925) 689-2683

or online at Nonononi@aol.com

Have you moved? Know a former member of the 129th who isn't a member yet?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2001 Dues \$10.00

NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP+4: _____ + _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

RANK: _____ 129TH SERVICE DATES FROM: _____ TO _____

Please complete the above information and mail to:
129th Alumni & Heritage Association
c/o Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (ret)
6718 Zerillo Dr.
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

**If your personal information has changed,
PLEASE USE THIS FORM AND NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY!!**

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AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ltc Jesse Craddock – (650) 968-0446 – B25jay@aol.com

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J-L.RUPPEL@worldnet.att.net

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6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Are You Missing in Action?

Dead Letter Department

Have you moved recently - or not so recently? Do we have your correct mail and e-mail addresses & phone number? Please let us know when you move.

The newsletter is mailed out with a request for address correction. The post office does not forward the newsletter to you. They return it to us - and charge us 34¢. Then we update your file, put your newsletter in an envelope, put a 34¢ stamp on the packet, and mail it out to you. Total additional cost to the association is nearly \$1.00 per returned newsletter.

Please take a moment to remember the 129th AHA when you notify your correspondents of your new address. A member information form is included in every issue.

Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

E-mail: J-L.RUPPEL@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
RIVERBANK, CA
PERMIT #20

Don't Forget the Family Day Picnic!