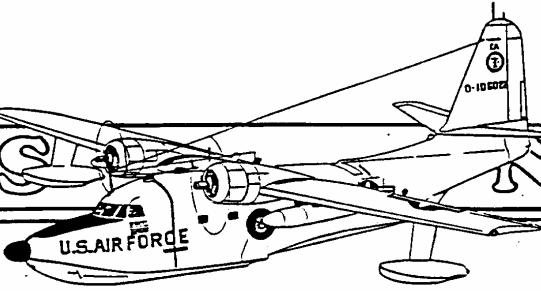


OL' TIMERS

NOOZZE



Volume 10, Issue 4

December 2006

2006 – 2007 UTA Schedule

2006

29 Nov-3 Dec 2006 ORI Phase II – 4 Days

2007

6-7 January 2007	7-8 July 2007
3-4 February 2007	4-5 August 2007
3-4 March 2007	8-9 September 2007
14-15 April 2007	13-14 October 2007
5-6 May 2007	3-4 November 2007
2-3 June 2007	1-2 December 2007

Board Election

March 2007

An election for the three at-large Directors is scheduled for 2007. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribe that Directors are elected in odd number years (2007) and Officers are elected in even number years (2006).

The AHA President, Jay Craddock, will appoint an Election Committee composed of the Vice President, Ken Moore, the Secretary-Treasurer, John Ruppel, and an association member at large. The committee will be responsible for gathering nominations, distributing, collecting, and counting the ballots. The newly elected Directors will be announced at the Association's annual meeting, the Annual Old Timers' Lunch, scheduled for March 28, 2007.

Any AHA member in good standing may serve as a Director. Individuals interested in serving as a Director should complete the form included in this newsletter. Return the completed form (or a reasonable facsimile) no later than January 12, 2007, to:

Col John Ruppel
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

Nominations must be postmarked by January 12, 2007, to be valid. All nominations will be included on the ballot. Ballots, a self-addressed stamped postcard, will be mailed to all members, with the next edition of the newsletter, in early February. There is no write-in provision. Ballots must be returned with a postmark no later than March 9, 2007 to be valid. The three nominees with the highest number of votes will be declared Directors, and will be announced and begin their two-year term at the Old Timers' Luncheon.

Interested in serving? Get your nomination form completed and returned ASAP!

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The Prez Sez

The President's Column

LTC Jesse Craddock (Ret.)

Tis the season to be jolly... and the Board would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I recently traveled to Washington, D.C., for the Air Force Memorial dedication. This memorial is truly an impressive structure, and you can take pride in knowing that the Association's financial contribution contributed to the Memorial's construction. Along with other members of the 57th Bomb Wing, I was privileged to have a special tour of the White House. We even got the opportunity to meet our President, George W. Bush – and I was lucky enough to shake his hand! I hope you will enjoy the articles about the new memorial and the dedication ceremony.

The Association will hold the annual Old Timers' Luncheon meeting on Wednesday, March 28, 2007, at the Moose Lodge in Castro Valley. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Reservation information will be in the next issue of the newsletter

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the 129 AHA, please consider standing for election by submitting a Director nomination. Four Directors will be elected to serve a 2 year term. The Board usually meets quarterly. Ballots will be included in the next newsletter, and election results will be announced at the Old Timers' Lunch.

And speaking of ballots, if you have not paid your 2006 dues you are not eligible to vote and WILL NOT receive a mailed ballot. Of our 317 members, there are 13 individuals we have contacted numerous times in an attempt to collect the 2006 \$10 annual dues. These individuals are identified in the next column. Please forward your dues immediately.

The Board will announce recipients of this year's scholarship awards at the Old Timers' Lunch. Wing members submitted a number of applications. At the December Board meeting, the Scholarship Committee's award recommendations will be considered. This year a maximum of 2 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded. The Board decided fewer scholarships of larger amounts were more meaningful than numerous small grants. Good luck to the applicants!

The Prez Sez – cont'd

Since the last Newsletter two members of the Association family have passed on - Lt Col Don Winters, long time member of the Wing, and of Thelma Davis, wife of CMSgt Lyle Davis. Our sympathies go to the families.

Lynda Fawcett, the Newsletter editor, in keeping with the holiday season, has included a Christmas salute to all our troops. Please keep those who are serving and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

And last, but not least, we have included a little aviation levity in this edition of the Noozze.... Take time to smile, and remember – laughter is good for you!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!

Jay

2006 Dues Delinquent Members

TSgt Stan Baroff

Capt Douglas Bawden

Lt Col Enos Chabot

MSgt Stewart Evans

MSgt Roger Godt

2Lt Toni Gray

SMSgt Todd Hem

TSgt Larry Hite

TSgt Andrew Hughan

TSgt Felix Mongoso

MSgt Joseph Munar

Capt Larry Wokral

SMSgt Bill Wunderlin

You WILL NOT be eligible to participate in the Board of Directors election if 2006 dues remain unpaid.

NOMINATION FOR DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Now is your opportunity!

Do you want to have a hand in running the 129th Alumni and Heritage Association? Do you want to be more involved in the Association? Do you have lots of great ideas for things the Association could be involved in?

Now is your opportunity. Nominate yourself (you CAN NOT nominate another person) to serve for 2 years as a Director at large. If elected, you will serve on the Board of Directors of the 129th Alumni and Heritage Association.

Volunteer NOW!

NOMINATION FOR DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Yes! I want to be more involved in the 129th AHA!

Place my name in nomination for Director at Large.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Rank: _____ Dates of Service in 129th: _____

Signature: _____

Must be postmarked by January 12, 2007. Mail to:

Col John Ruppel
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

A Different Christmas Poem

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.
The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,
Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.
A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!"
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light
Then he sighed and he said "It's really all right,
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."
"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,
That separates you from the darkest of times.
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.
My Gramps died at 'Pearl on a day in December,'
Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always
remembers."

My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam',
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.
I've not seen my own son in more than a while,
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.

A Different Christmas Poem – cont'd

Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,
The red, white, and blue... an American flag.
"I can live through the cold and the being alone,
Away from my family, my house and my home
I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.
I can carry the weight of killing another,
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother..
Who stand at the front against any and all,
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."
"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."

"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?
It seems all too little for all that you've done.
For being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.
For when we come home, either standing or dead,
To know you remember we fought and we bled.
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us."

Please remember our service men and women who are far away from home this holiday season. Keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.



Retirement Party

honoring

CMSgt Victor J Ferrera II

129th Mission Support Group & 129th Operations Group

**for his dedicated service with the 129th RQW
19 October 1978 to 30 November 2006**

January 6, 2007 - Saturday UTA

**'Historic' Old Del Monte Building
100 S. Murphy Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086**

No Host Bar @ 5:30 pm Dinner @ 6:30 pm
Presentations @ 7:30 pm

Chicken & Beef Dinner Buffet

**Officers, Sr NCOs & their guests \$ 35
Jr Enlisted & their guests \$ 30
DRESS - Casual**

Please RSVP and forward payment by Thursday, 21 December 2006 to:

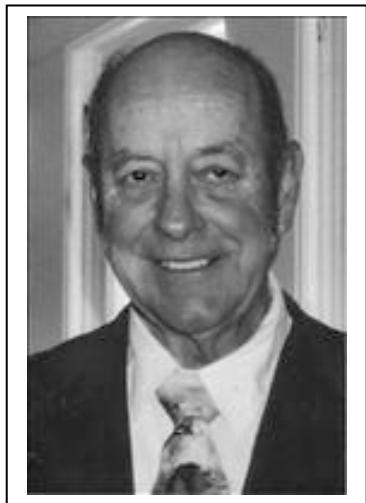
CMSgt Stuart Loux – (650) 603-9461 or (209) 985-7239 cell
Stuart.loux@camoff.ang.af.mil
TSgt Natali Clayton – (650) 603-9487
SMSgt Bill Wunderlin – (650) 603-9343

Checks made payable & mailed to:

Stuart Loux
3908 Rexford Court
Modesto, CA 95356

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name : _____ Guest: _____



Lt Col Don Franklyn Winters, Sr.

11 November 1932 – 13 September 2006

Don Franklyn Winters, Sr., a benevolent California native of the Monterey Bay area and member of the Monterey Church of Religious Science since he was 19 years old, died at age 73 on September 13, 2006, of heart failure.

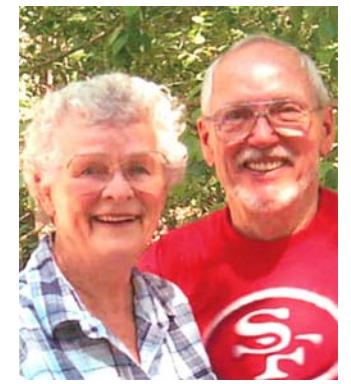
Born to Ernest Eugene Winters and Alberta Hildegarde Winters (Hunziker) on November 11, 1932, (the day of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's inauguration) in Fairfield. During the Depression days and through the era of World War II, he lived in and about Marysville, San Leandro, Fairfield, Alameda, Hayward, Salinas, Prunedale, Dos Palos, Pacific Grove and the Bay Area, etc. He attended Pacific Grove High School. He was the fifth of five siblings.

Mr. Winters traveled extensively as a United States Air Force pilot in the Strategic Air Command and retired after 27 years as a Lieutenant Colonel from the California Air National Guard in Hayward, CA. He piloted and was a flight instructor on many airplanes, to include the C-119 "Flying Boxcar" and the C-130.

Don was a handyman and automotive mechanic as well. Don and Daphne were married for 30 years and managed many children as foster parents, caring for them at their 201 Central Ave. location. They also assisted travelers, family, and oft times people in need through Monterey County Food Bank, transportation, housing, moral support, and other philanthropic activities over the years. He was a member of the Church of Religious Science for 53 years, serving in many capacities, including as a member of the Board of Trustees. He cherished the time he spent with the church and members of the community, and assisted with maintenance and other invaluable activities, as he was able. He was also a poet and musician, playing several musical instruments as a hobby, the favorite of which was a tenor ukulele. However, nothing eclipsed his wry sense of humor. He was a member of Retired Air Force Association, Retired Air National Guard Association, American Legion, Pacific Grove High School alumni, and many others.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ernest E. Winters; his mother, Alberta H. Winters Monlux; his sister, Charlotte Winters; brother, Charles A. Winters; sister, Barbara Nelson; his first wife, Lucille D. Winters and his son, Richard R. Winters.

Don's survivors include his wife, Daphne Winters of Pacific Grove; sister, Ernestine Paine of Marina; sons: Eric E. Winters in MD, Don F. Winters, Jr. in AZ, Ronald A. Winters of Prunedale, Derek L. Hansen of Seaside, and Todd J. Hansen of Trinity Lake; daughter, Christina D. Hansen-Wynn of Seaside; grandchildren: Justin L. Winters, Jay M. Winters, Derek E. Layton, Kerry J. Layton, Shane R. Winters, Michael J. Winters, Sarah E. Winters, Jacob T. Winters, and Samuel R. Winters; and 17 great grandchildren and foster children.



Thelma Ellen Davis

1 September 1925 – 25 September 2006

Thelma Davis was born September 1, 1925, in Las Animas, Colorado. She passed away September 25, 2006.

Thelma was married to Lyle Davis in May 1950. She was a very talented artist and was a signature member of the Pastel Society of America, the Pastel Society of the West coast, the Society of Western Artists, and other local art societies in the areas she resided in. She has been published in four art books and several art magazines. Thelma was also listed in "Who's Who in American Art, 20th Edition."

Thelma was preceded in death by her youngest son, Michael; her parents, a brother, and a sister. Thelma is survived by her husband, Lyle; her son, Morrison, and his wife, Karen; grandson, Scott; and granddaughters, Michelle, Melissa, and Tracy.

Thelma led a full and wonderful life. She has left us with a lifetime of beautiful memories that will never be forgotten.

25 October 2006

Lt Col (Ret) Jesse Craddock, President
129th Alumni Heritage Association

Dear Mr. President:

Very soon, members from various elements in our unit will be deploying on their scheduled rotation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In the past year, through normal attrition, previous Family Readiness & Support volunteers have completed their volunteer service agreement or have moved away. Across the board throughout our entire Wing, we are at ground zero with an active support program for deploying service members. Therefore, I am actively recruiting volunteers for the various positions listed below and are aiming at an established basic infrastructure at the end of 90 days.

I am requesting an inclusion in your monthly newsletter regarding the following Volunteer Opportunities. Your assistance in our efforts is greatly appreciated. Highlighted in RED is the most fundamental and critical position in Family Support Programs. My priority recruitment is on Phone Beacon. Other volunteer positions are listed for those who are not comfortable with phone calls but have interest, talent or skill in these other areas.

- ✓ No previous military experience required
- ✓ Needn't be married to a military member
- ✓ Needn't be married
- ✓ Interested volunteers will be interviewed
- ✓ Upon acceptance, will be provided training through State Family Programs with interim on-demand training from Wing Family Readiness Program
- ✓ Volunteer Service Agreement required

Gratefully,

Carolina A. Wunderlin

CAROLINA A. WUNDERLIN, CIV, CA ANG
Wing Family Readiness Program Coordinator
129th Rescue Wing California Air National Guard
680 Macos Road, Mail Stop 23
HoPst: Federal Airfield, Ca 94036
Commo: 603-9118 / USA: 389-9118
FamilySupportProgram@ang.mil

129th Rescue Wing Family Readiness Program Volunteer Opportunities 2007 Deployment

Phone Beacons: Initiates downward phone notification to families within their own area code to ensure timely communication of essential status-of-deployment information, as directed. Must demonstrate exceptional phone skills while exercising sensitivity in communications security. Should be considered friendly and easy-to-understand.

Squadron Coordinator: Leads a team of volunteers in the execution of a fully operating Family Readiness Program for their individual squadron. Incumbent possesses good people skills, leadership potential, and is willing to develop and maintain good records of contact, phone communications, updates to training developments and disseminate these to unit families in a timely and regular basis. Squadron coordinators are responsible for coordinating training and maintaining communication records with each of their volunteers.

Volunteer At Large: These volunteers are task or event-oriented and support the preparation, management and completion of a particular FRG event. As such, at-large volunteers should commit to a minimum of two years volunteer service since their availability is on-call.

Web Page Design & Maintenance: Should have experience with designing and publishing at least one attractive and professional website depicting easy navigation and multiple pages

General Office (Works at Moffett Field):
General office support skills (copying, collating, stapling, filing and handling mail). Will also assist in compiling information for the Family Readiness Newsletter.

Cyber Clerical Support: Receives simple clerical assignments by email from the WFRPC and reformats in document or flyer format for cyber-distribution.

Project Leader: Project Leaders are needed to execute various aspects of major Family Support events (Family Day, Children's Christmas Party, Family Readiness Fair, etc.). Must have experience with leading a group, giving clear directions, motivating and follow-through.

Special Emphasis Programs: Single Parent Support Network and Single Member Deployment Support needs non-deployable project leader, military or civilian, to kickoff new century program.

Contact Carolann Wunderlin if interested at
(650) 603-9118 or familysupport@camoff.ang.af.mil

Published October 2007



A Soaring Memorial

Air Force finally gets its own monument, with a spectacular display at dedication.

By Dave Montgomery - McClatchy Newspapers

ARLINGTON, Va. -- Framed by three towering spires and a brilliant blue sky, President Bush gave the Air Force a long-sought memorial Saturday, paying tribute to "a long blue line of heroes" that has defended the nation from World War I through the global war on terror.

Hundreds gathered at the memorial site on a cliff overlooking the Pentagon, and thousands more watched on giant screens from a nearby parking lot as Bush and other dignitaries dedicated the Air Force Memorial as the latest entry in the constellation of monuments ringing the capital.

Throughout much of the ceremony, eyes were riveted upward as aircraft past and present -- including a replica of the Wright Brothers pioneer aircraft and World War II bombers -- formed an aerial parade around the stainless steel spires, reaching up to 270 feet, that serve as the memorial's centerpiece.

The most spectacular display came just after Bush's keynote address when the F-16 Thunderbirds soared headlong into the sky, then peeled away from each other in their famous "bomb burst" maneuver just above the tips of the spires. Architect James Ingo Freed, who died last year before seeing his handiwork, designed the spires to emulate the bomb burst maneuver.

"To all who have climbed sunward and chased the shouting wind, America stops to say: Your service and sacrifice will be remembered forever, and honored in this place by the citizens of a free and grateful nation," Bush said.

The dedication ended a sometimes contentious 15-year campaign to erect the monument.

Established as a separate branch of the military in 1947, the Air Force is preparing to celebrate its 60th anniversary next year but, until Saturday, had been the only service without its own memorial.

A Soaring Memorial – cont'd

Ross Perot Jr., a Dallas developer and the son of former independent presidential candidate H. Ross Perot, headed the effort and volunteered the services of his North Texas company, Hillwood Development Corp. The campaign suffered an early setback when the Marine Corps and local neighborhood groups blocked the first choice of a site near the Iwo Jima Memorial.

But thousands of Air Force veterans, from generals to one-stripers, continued to press for the memorial. The site offers a spectacular panorama of Washington and has been judged by many as preferable to the original location.

The ceremony also served as a reunion for current and former airmen and brought together surviving representatives of some of the service's most daring exploits, including Jimmy Doolittle's B-25 raid on Tokyo and the Berlin airlift, which saved thousands when the Soviets blockaded the city after World War II.

Charles McGee, an 86-year-old member of the fabled African American pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen, stood at the base of the spires after the dedication, politely signing autographs. Air Force Chief of Staff T. Michael Moseley approached McGee as he wound through the crowd, then grasped his hand.

"You're a big part of this," the general told McGee, extending a brisk salute before departing.

Dave Montgomery is a reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.



Long-awaited Air Force Memorial dedicated

Arlington monument honors the memory of those fallen in youngest service

ARLINGTON, Va. - President Bush helped the Air Force make a dream come true on Saturday, dedicating a hilltop monument for the service to the memory of airmen lost defending America and to those that fight for it still.

"A long blue line of heroes has defended freedom in the skies above," Bush said. "To all who have climbed sunward and chased the shouting wind, America stops to say your service and sacrifice will be remembered forever and honored in this place by the citizens of a free and grateful nation."

Bush spoke at the base of three soaring steel stalks, meant to evoke the famed Air Force Thunderbirds' "bomb-burst" maneuver, that glinted in the bright sun.

The dedication ceremony concluded with a dramatic demonstration of the real thing by members of the precision flying team. Their four jets flew straight upward in close formation and released silver contrails as they peeled away from each other. A fifth plane followed, flying through the middle of the vapors while spinning.

The \$30 million United States Air Force Memorial, 15 years in the making, is set on a ridge next to Arlington National Cemetery and overlooking the Pentagon and the nation's capital beyond.

'We pay tribute'

"Under these magnificent spires, we pay tribute to the men and women of the Air Force who stand ready to give all to their country," the president said. "And looking from this promontory to a place once filled with smoke and flames, we remember why we need them."

As the Air Force's history was recounted by a series of speakers, a succession of aircraft — from a replica of Orville Wright's historic biplane to an F-117A Nighthawk Stealth fighter — flew overhead.

The 17,000-ton metal spires that are the centerpiece of the memorial arc as high as 270 feet into the air.

"This memorial soars. It soars in space and in the imagination," Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne said. "These three spires echo our values: integrity, service and excellence. ... This memorial is a brilliant symbol of freedom and the spirit of flight."

Long-awaited Air Force Memorial dedicated – cont'd

Nearby are also two inscribed granite walls and an 8-foot bronze "honor guard" statue of four figures. A glass wall engraved with the "missing man" formation — a signature maneuver to honor those missing and fallen in the military — provides the only images of aircraft.

"This memorial says to everybody who visits, today and tomorrow, 'This is the spirit that helped build the Air Force. This is the sacrifice that helped defend our freedom. This is the courage that helped build our nation.' On behalf of a very grateful country, and a grateful people, it says, 'Thank you,'" said H. Ross Perot, Jr., chairman of the memorial's board of trustees and a former fighter pilot in the Air Force Reserve.

The memorial was the last major work of architect James Ingo Freed, who died in December. Among his other projects is the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

The Air Force was the only military branch without a monument around the capital. Efforts to change that, though, were stymied by controversy, lawsuits and congressional action until the current site and design went forward.

legislation was passed to prevent construction. Eventually, a new site was donated and the designing process had to start over. Freed won again with a design said to be inspired after the architect saw the Thunderbirds on television.

The design has been trumpeted. The memorial was first planned for a spot on the other side of Arlington National Cemetery, and Freed's design of a suspended five-pointed star won the competition in the mid-1990s. But the Marines disputed the location, saying it encroached on their cherished Iwo Jima Memorial nearby.

Lawsuits ensued and legislation was passed to prevent construction. Eventually, a new site was donated and the designing process had to start over. Freed won again with a design said to be inspired after the architect saw the Thunderbirds on television.

The design has been trumpeted for its modern appeal and its reflection of the Air Force's advanced technology.

© 2006 The Associated Press.

Great Aircraft Conversations

Actual exchanges between pilots and control towers

Tower: "Delta 351, you have traffic at 10 o'clock, 6 miles!"

Delta 351: "Give us another hint! We have digital watches!"

Tower: "TWA 2341, for noise abatement turn right 45 Degrees."

TWA 2341: "Center, we are at 35,000 feet. How much noise can we make up here?"

Tower: "Sir, have you ever heard the noise a 747 makes when it hits a 727?"

O'Hare Approach Control to a 747: "United 329 heavy, your traffic is a Fokker, one o'clock, three miles, Eastbound."

United 329: "Approach, I've always wanted to say this....I've got the little Fokker in sight."

A student became lost during a solo cross-country flight. While attempting to locate the aircraft on radar, **ATC asked:** "What was your last known position?"

Student: "When I was number one for takeoff."

A DC-10 had come in a little hot and thus had an exceedingly long roll-out after touching down. **San Jose Tower noted:** "American 751, make a hard right turn at the end of the runway, if you are able. If you are not able, take the Guadeloupe exit off Highway 101, make a right at the lights and return to the airport."

A Pan Am 727 flight, waiting for start clearance in Munich, overheard the following:

Lufthansa (in German): "Ground, what is our start clearance time?"

Ground (in English): "If you want an answer you must speak in English."

Lufthansa (in English): "I am a German, flying a German air plane, in Germany. Why must I speak English?"

Unknown voice from another plane (in a beautiful British accent): "Because you lost the bloody war!"

Tower: "Eastern 702, cleared for takeoff, contact Departure on frequency 124.7"

Eastern 702: "Tower, Eastern 702 switching to Departure. By the way, after we lifted off we saw some kind of dead animal on the far end of the runway."

Tower: "Continental 635, cleared for takeoff behind Eastern 702, contact Departure on frequency 124.7. Did you copy that report from Eastern 702?"

BR Continental 635: "Continental 635, cleared for takeoff, roger; and yes, we copied Eastern... we've already notified our caterers."

Great Aircraft Conversations – cont'd

One day the pilot of a Cherokee 180 was told by the tower to hold short of the active runway while a DC-8 landed. The DC-8 landed, rolled out, turned around, and taxied back past the Cherokee. Some quick-witted comedian in the DC-8 crew got on the radio and said, "What a cute little plane. Did you make it all by yourself?"

The Cherokee pilot, not about to let the insult go by, came back with a real zinger: "I made it out of DC-8 parts. Another landing like yours and I'll have enough parts for another one."

The German air controllers at Frankfurt Airport are renowned as a short-tempered lot. They not only expect one to know one's gate parking location, but how to get there without any assistance from them. So it was with some amusement that we (a Pan Am 747) listened to the following exchange between Frankfurt ground control and a British Airways 747, call sign Speedbird 206.

Speedbird 206: "Frankfurt, Speedbird 206! Clear of active runway."

Ground: "Speedbird 206. Taxi to gate Alpha One-Seven."

The BA 747 pulled onto the main taxiway and slowed to a stop.

Ground: "Speedbird, do you not know where you are going?"

Speedbird 206: "Stand by, Ground, I'm looking up our gate location now."

Ground (with quite arrogant impatience): "Speedbird 206, have you not been to Frankfurt before?"

Speedbird 206 (coolly): "Yes, twice in 1944, but it was dark, -- and I didn't land."

While taxiing at London's Gatwick Airport, the crew of a US Air flight departing for Ft. Lauderdale made a wrong turn and came nose to nose with a United 727. An irate female ground controller lashed out at the US Air crew, screaming: "US Air 2771, where the hell are you going? I told you to turn right onto Charlie taxiway! You turned right on Delta! Stop right there. I know it's difficult for you to tell the difference between C and D, but get it right!"

Continuing her rage to the embarrassed crew, she was now shouting hysterically: "God! Now you've screwed everything up! It'll take forever to sort this out! You stay right there and don't move till I tell you to! You can expect progressive taxi instructions in about half an hour, and I want you to go exactly where I tell you, when I tell you, and how I tell you! You got that, US Air 2771?" "Yes, ma'am," the humbled crew responded.

Naturally, the ground control communications frequency fell terribly silent after the verbal bashing of US Air 2771. Nobody wanted to chance engaging the irate ground controller in her current state of mind. Tension in every cockpit out around Gatwick was definitely running high. Just then an unknown pilot broke the silence and keyed his microphone, asking: "Wasn't I married to you once?"

Dondi's Mercantile Store

129th AHA Merchandise & Apparel

If you would like to order a 129th AHA jacket, we again have jackets in stock. Please contact Ken Moore for ordering information.

Want to own a really unique & distinctive shirt or cap to show your affiliation with the 129th AHA? Dondi's Mercantile Store has a healthy stock of 129th AHA related items. Jackets are customized with your name and rank.

All merchandise can be ordered by phone or on-line. Items and prices are shown at right. Shipping and handling are EXTRA.

Order from Ken Moore at:

(510) 656-1529
or online at sirsgtst@pacbell.net

ITEM	COST	SIZES
Logo Jacket	\$70 - \$75	
Logo Polo Shirts	\$22	M, L, XL, & 2XL
Logo Baseball Cap w/ Embroidered Logo	\$10	
Logo Baseball Cap w/ Silk-screened Logo	\$5	
Large Jacket Patch	\$10	
Small Shirt / Hat Patch	\$5	
Logo Pin	\$5	
129 th Aircraft Collage	\$10	
129 th 50 th Anniversary Commemorative Coin	\$5	

All items can be shipped. Shipping and handling are EXTRA. All items are sent via U.S. Mail.

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2007 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!!**

New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

CMSgt Jamie Granada

SSgt Joseph Marty

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!

Final Flyby

In Memoriam

We bid farewell to our members who have departed on their final journey.

Lt Col Don Franklyn Winters

Mrs. Thelma Ellen Davis



In Honor of Our Maintenance Crews

After every flight, Qantas pilots fill out a form, called a "gripe sheet," which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics correct the problems, document their repairs on the form, and the pilots review the gripe sheets before the next flight. Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humor. Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by Qantas' pilots (marked with a P) and the solutions recorded (marked with an S) by maintenance engineers. By the way, Qantas is the only major airline that has never, ever, had an accident.

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.
S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.
S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.
S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.
S: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 feet per minute descent.
S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.
S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.
S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Suspected crack in windshield.
S: Suspect you're right.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.
S: That's what friction locks are for.

P: IFF inoperative in OFF mode.
S: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Number 3 engine missing.
S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny.
S: Aircraft warned to: straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

P: Target radar hums.
S: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.

P: Mouse in cockpit.
S: Cat installed.

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.
S: Took hammer away from midget

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AND
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ADDRESS SERVICE 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 39¢. Then we update your file, put your newsletter in an envelope, put a 39¢ 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, and is available online at:

www.129AHA.org

Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)
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E-mail: J-L.RUPPEL@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

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Happy Holidays!

