



Videmus Omnia

55th STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2004

55th SRW ASSOCIATION 24TH REUNION 9-13 March 2005 – San Diego, CA



Reunion Central

The Red Lion Hanalei Hotel in Mission Valley will be the **55th SRWA HQ** from **9-13 March (Wed-Sun) 2005**. The hotel has plenty of amenities – two dining rooms, a bar, pool, spa, fitness room, meeting rooms and a banquet room. The venue is conveniently located in Mission Valley, the heart of San Diego, just east of the Interstate 5 and I 8 interchange at 2270 Hotel Circle North.



Room rate for single or double is \$99. That rate is good for **three days** either side of the reunion booking (6-16 March).

To make your hotel reservations, the number to call is 1-800-882-0858. It goes directly to the hotel's reservation desk. Or you can book on-line at: www.hanaleihotel.com, click on 'Reservations', then click on 'Groups'. The password is **55RECON**. You can get all the information on the hotel, as well.

Transportation to/from airport is not provided by the hotel, but cab fare is less than \$20. Cloud Nine Shuttle service can be arranged ahead of time by calling 1-800-974-8885.

The hotel is on the famous and convenient trolley line which connects to Old Town, Downtown, Tijuana, and several other places and sights of interest in the San Diego area. Adjacent to the hotel is the scenic Riverwalk, and the Embarcadero on San Diego Bay is just ten minutes south.

San Diego is renowned for its great weather all year round, scenic beauty, a great waterfront and marinas, all sorts of history, attractions, entertaining tours, recreation, and outstanding shopping and restaurants.

Reunion Activities

Bill and Carol Lewis have worked on this gathering since they returned from the one in Dayton last year. They have a schedule planned for

the attendees to include the always popular hospitality room (with many and convenient hours), an obligatory golf outing, tours, a dining cruise, a membership meeting and the grand banquet. A daily schedule is enclosed with this newsletter. Some changes may occur and an updated slate will be part of the registration package when you arrive.

Festivities begin with check-in on **Wednesday**, the 9th, registration and the hospitality room open (every day with various and generous hours). **Thursday**: registration, tours or free time. **Friday**: the obligatory golf outing, tours, and an evening dinner cruise on San Diego Bay.

Saturday: a morning membership meeting (*important business: election of Board of Directors and where to have the next reunion – Fall of 2006?*), tours, cocktails and banquet (*coat and tie*) in the evening.

Sunday is breakfast on your own, saying good-byes and hanging out or moving on.

Let's have another great turnout in this fabulous city. MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW! SEE YA THERE!!!!

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NOTES: Included with this newsletter are: A description of the tours offered and a daily schedule of events. Please note that there are two tours offered each day and the times are the same or overlap (the dinner cruise being the exception), so just pick and pay for one tour a day.

The tours must have a minimum of 40 bodies to proceed. If we load 'em up, they will add more buses. The dinner cruise maximum is 325.

Most importantly, a reunion registration form to be completed and returned with full payment for registration fee, tours and golf, as appropriate, not later than 1 February 2005 so the planners have time to tidy things up . Be sure to make a copy of the form for yourself.

If you register before 31 December 2004, the fee is \$75 per attendee. After that date, the fee is \$80, so get the form in soonest!!!!

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Compatriots,

Bill Lewis and his wife Carol have put together a wonderful party in San Diego slated for 9-13 March 2005. Linda and I look forward to seeing you all, and to enjoying all that San Diego has to offer. Come early and stay as long as you can.

I need to apprise you all of a couple of financial matters. First, the Association Board continued the support to the **55th Wing** with the annual donation of \$1000 to offset the cost of young enlisted folks attending the annual **55th Wing Birthday Ball** in January 2004 and will do so again in January 2005.

A second official donation was made in August for \$500 (plus \$100 from 'an anonymous donor') to the Tuskegee Airmen Reunion held in Omaha that month.

There were numerous 55th'ers who attended the opening ceremony of the National Air Force Association Convention and Technical Exposition and Symposium in Washington, DC, on 13 September. We witnessed the award presentation by Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force of the Silver Star to **John McKone** and **Bruce Olmstead**. It was a very moving, emotional ceremony that I shall never forget. Later in the ceremony the O'Malley Award for Outstanding Reconnaissance Crew in the Air Force was presented to a 55th crew. Another example of how our proud legacy is being continued.

Eight years ago this month, I missed a membership meeting at the Strategic Reconnaissance Reunion here in Omaha, and suddenly found myself with the awesome honor and responsibility of being elected president of the **55th SRW Association**.

Since then, I have had the honor and great pleasure of working with the best Board of Directors anyone could possibly ask for. I can't begin express my gratitude to each of the following outstanding individuals for their candor, leadership, dedication and all they have done in the service of the **55th Association** during my tenure: **Robb Hoover, Max Moore, Errol Hoberman, Sam Pizzo, Sparky Adams, Ben White, Charlie Waters, Jim Maloney, Don Griffin, Mike Cook, Jim Thomas, George Ross, Joe Gyulavics, Denny Haun, Beth Kelly, Will Hampton, Lloyd**

Navarro, Hank Dubuy, Bob Krist, Craig Kibbe, Bo Marlin, Scott Merrow, Steve Haggett, and Kerm Neal.

I would be remiss if I failed to thank **Dave Johnson** for his tremendous work with Don Griffin in producing our outstanding website; and **Jack Kovacs** and **Larry LaFlair** for their untiring efforts in seeing the **55th SRW** Cold War Memorial to fruition.

In regard to the Memorial, you all were magnificent in your unprecedented support of this very rewarding and enduring project. I seriously doubt if any organization will ever match your overwhelming support to produce a monument such as the **55th SRW** Cold War Memorial.

With all that said, it's time for me to step down and a younger individual to step up and assume the mantle of responsibility/leadership of this great Association. Only by bringing in a new generation of leaders, can we ensure the continued viability and vitality of the Association.

A past president, Sam Pizzo, has been appointed chairman of the Nomination Committee for the elections to be held at the **Membership meeting Saturday morning, 12 March 2005** at the San Diego reunion. Any member desiring to be nominated to the Association Board of Directors, and/or an office, please forward your name and background information to Sam **not later than 31 January 2005**. (*Sam's contact info is in the Association roster. His e-mail address is: sampizzo@webtv.net*)

There will be a **Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday evening, 9 March at 1800 hours** in the Red Lion Hanalei Hotel, San Diego. Board members who cannot attend, please advise me prior to **1 March 2005**.

Again, thanks for your tremendous support for the past eight years. It has been a great ride. I look forward to working for many years with the future leadership to ensure that our organization remains innovative and vibrant.

Please say a prayer for, and contact, our many members who are victims of the repeated hurricanes that have wrecked havoc in Florida and the Southeast in recent weeks. They need our support.

Videmus Omnia, Bill

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TREASURER'S REPORT

The Association, on 1 October 2004, had a checking account balance \$4468. Another \$24,939 is in a saving account. There are no CDs in the account. (*Note: There are expenses of \$1270 to close out the **55SRW** Cold War Memorial costs.*)

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of 1 October 2004, the Association had 1034 members in good standing, 159 of which are Honorary Life Members (HLM), 13 are Life Members (LM) and 39 associated members. This is an decrease of 59 members since 1 May 2004. (*Lapsed and TAPS.*)

The Association has members in **49 states** (*still no Alaska rep*), DC, Guam, Puerto Rico and APOs in Europe.

The good news is that the number of **active duty members** continues to rise as interest has picked up due to the Association's exposure in the Offutt area, and as members continue to recruit.

The most frequently asked question of the membership chairman is "when do my dues expire?" Explanation: **On the top line of your address label for this newsletter, or in the greetings line of e-newsletter, will be a year number or letters.**

Those indicators are herein defined: 2006 means your **dues expire at the end of that year**, and you are a member in good standing. Likewise, any other year shown indicates when your **dues expire, or have already expired**. In the latter case, **its time to reup, now.**

LM indicates you are a life member. *Dues not required* .

HLM denotes Honorary Life Member (widows and other selected persons who have made significant contributions to the status of the Association). *Dues not required.*

Assoc denotes an affiliated organization, or position in same; or active duty position: such as **55 Wing CC** and other **55th Wing** senior staff members. *Dues not required.*

Please retain this info for future reference. Errol.

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If your dues have expired, \$10.00 is due for 2004; \$25 will update your membership for three years. NOW is the time to renew.

Hey, its okay to pay your dues in advance of expiration. 2005 will be here before you know it.

Please remit dues to **55SRW Association** and mail to Errol Hoberman as soon as practical. For those who receive this newsletter via regular post, an enclosed Association-addressed envelope is for your convenience.

New members receive the Association's dual-shield lapel pin and the **55thSRW** Cold War Memorial coin when they join. Members desiring replacement or additional pins can get them from Errol for \$5.00 prepaid (*if you want more than one pin, the cost is just \$3.00 for each additional pin if mailed at the same time; i.e. one pin, \$5, two pins, \$8, three pins \$11, etc.*).

Ernst and Moore have pins, as well, so members in the Omaha area can get the pins from them for \$3.00 without the S/H.

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ASSOCIATION BUSINESS & MEMBERSHIP SOURCES DIRECTORY

Business/Policy/Reunion Suggestions:

President Bill Ernst

410 Greenbriar Court

Bellevue, NE 68005

E-mail: BillErnst@aol.com

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Vice President Robb Hoover

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Bellevue, NE 68123

E-mail: RobbHoover@aol.com

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Treasurer Errol Hoberman

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E-mail: SAC-EWO@mchsi.com

Newsletter Editor:

Secretary Max Moore

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E-mail: MaxMoore55@aol.com

Association Web Page Comments/Ideas

Don Griffin

8683 Rawhide Lane, #11

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E-mail: dgrif@citlink.net

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TALES OF THE 55TH

The fifth edition of the "*Tales of the 55th*" is slated for Friday, 18 February 2005, at the Offutt Club.

The brainchild of Robb Hoover, who also lines up the speakers, orchestrates and emcees, is the opening function of the **55th Wing** Birthday Ball weekend. Various eras of 55th heritage are represented by veterans who tell their tales.

It is one more opportunity for **55th** alums, both local and out-of-towners, and active duty troops to mingle, and relive or learn of some significant stories from the **Fightin' Fifty-Fifth's** history.

The event is co-sponsored by the **55th SRW Association** and the Strategic Roost of the Association of Old Crows (AOC).

LtCol Ricky McMahon dubbed the weekend gathering as "a yearly winter migration to Recca", since the **55th** is the equivalent to Mecca for all recon dogs. So, "Return to Recca" is now part of the **55th** lexicon.

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55TH WING BIRTHDAY BALL 2005

The **55th Wing** will hold its 27th annual Birthday Ball on Saturday 19 February 2005 at Harrah's Hotel/Casino in Council Bluff, IA.

Maj Gen Ron Sams, a former 55th commander, will be the guest speaker. **BGen Craig Koziol**, the current Wing CC, will host the Ball. In his previous position before coming to Offutt, MGen Sams was his immediate boss.

Also on the program are the **55th Wing** Hall of Fame induction ceremony and the presentation of the **55th SRW Association** Award for Excellence.

1Lt Karen Lee, Fuel Management Flight Commander of the 55th Maintenance Group, heads

the 2005 Ball committee. The Association is once again represented on that committee by Moore, Ernst and Hoover.

The entire weekend is more like a mini-reunion as between 80-100 Association members attend the weekend events.

If you get an invitation to the Ball, please be courteous enough to respond even if it is with a “regret” or to have your name removed. If you don't receive an invitation by mid-January, but want to attend, call [55th Wing Protocol](#) at (402) 294-5797 to request one. Be sure to ID yourself as a member of the [55th SRW Association](#).



55th WING HALL OF FAME

In 2003 the [55thSRW Assn](#) assumed the administrative lead for the selection process of the [55th Wing Hall of Fame](#).

Nominees for induction are being solicited for 2004 to be announced at the Wing Birthday Ball in February 2005.

That process has been an evolving one for a number of years, and this year an Association presidential appointed committee continued the revision and refining for the selection criteria and process.

Following is the latest directive for the program.



HALL OF FAME RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Administered by

[55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association](#)

This document establishes the [55th Wing Hall of Fame \(HoF\)](#) recognition program as administered by the [55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association \(55thSRWA\)](#). It prescribes the procedures for nomination and selection of members to the HoF.

Objective: To recognize those former members of the [Fightin' Fifty-Fifth](#) whose mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or sacrifices stand out while performing or providing direct support to the mission of the [Fightin' Fifty-Fifth](#).

General: On behalf of the [55th Wing](#), the HoF program recognizes former members of [Fightin' Fifty-Fifth](#) for significant mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or sacrifices in support of the mission of the [Fightin' Fifty-Fifth](#). HoF induction will occur on an annual basis, with nominations accepted from July through October of each year. A maximum of two (2) awards (a crew will be considered as one

award) may be given in one year. Consideration of nominees does not mandate selection to the HoF. In coordination with the [55th Wing](#), the newest inductees selected for the HoF may be announced during the annual [55th Wing Birthday Ball](#) or other venue as determined by the [55thSRWA](#) and in coordination with the [55th Wing](#).

The final selection will be the end result of two processes:

1. The HoF Screening Committee will receive and review all nomination packages and select those to be considered by the Selection Committee. Nominees for the HoF recognition will be former military members who have served as members of any of the following units: [55th Pursuit Group](#), [55th Fighter Group](#), [55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing](#) and/or [55th Wing](#). These units will hereinafter be referred to as [Fightin' Fifty-Fifth](#). The HoF Screening Committee will be chaired by an Omaha-based member of the Board and be comprised of at least four Association members in good standing, one of which will be the [55 Wing Vice Commander](#) or his designated representative.
2. The Selection Committee will consider all nomination packages forwarded by the Screening Committee and make the final selection recommendations to the [55th SRWA Board of Directors](#) for their approval. The Selection Committee will be comprised of Chairman of the Awards Committee, Chairman of Screening Committee and not less than three or more than five Omaha-based Association members in good standing, one of which will be the [55 Wing Vice Commander](#) or his designated representative.

Eligibility

1. Must have been assigned to the [Fightin' Fifty-Fifth](#).
2. Mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or sacrifices must have been accomplished while assigned to and performing the mission of the [Fightin' Fifty-Fifth](#); or having been assigned to the [Fightin' Fifty-Fifth](#), the mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or sacrifices must have had a direct, significant and sustained impact on the accomplishment of the [Fightin' Fifty-Fifth's](#) mission.
3. Nominee cannot be on active duty.

William H. Ernst, President
[55thSRW Association](#)

2 June 2004

NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Nomination packages will be comprised of the following items:

1. Nominating group or individual:

Name:

Address:

Phone number/email:

2. Nominee(s):

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

If nominee(s) is/are deceased, please provide name, address, and phone number of an appropriate family member who can represent the individual (if possible) at the HoF induction ceremony.

3. Photo of nominee (color preferred)

The following will be in narrative format

4. Assignment Dates – Provide assignment history to the **Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth** and/or assignment history and nature of relationship in direct support to the mission of the **Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth**

5. Narrative – Detail specific mission accomplishments, contributions, and/or sacrifices to the legacy of the **Fighting’Fifty-Fifth**.

6. Nominations **must** be signed by nominator and one additional individual who was either witness to the acts, unyielding service, etc., or someone who can attest to the validity of the nomination. In the absence of an additional signature, the nominator must provide supporting documentation wherever possible to ensure the HoF selection committee can be convinced of the authenticity of the facts forwarded in the nomination.

7. Submit nomination to: The Screening Committee Chairman. For this year that is Jim Thomas, 4418 Anchor Mill, Bellevue, NE 68123-1168, Jthomas927@aol.com.

8. Nominations may also be submitted electronically by forwarding to: Michael.Cook@cox.net

RESPONSIBILITIES

The 55 SRW Assn administers this program.

Nomination schedule:

First week in June – Process review

First week in July – Call for nominations

NLT 15 October – Receives and screens all nomination packages

NLT 1 November – Forwards nominee packages to Selection Committee.

The Chairman and Members of the Screening Committee

Screens all nominations for eligibility.

The Selection Committee - Makes final selection of HoF Inductees.

The 55th SRWA President:

- a. Prepares “Call for Nominations” memo for inclusion in the **55thSRWA** newsletter and website.
- b. After the Selection Committee has finalized the selection of any new inductees, the President will forward this information to the Board of Directors for concurrence.
- c. Informs the **55 Wing** Commander of the new inductees.
- d. In consonance with **55th Wing** Protocol and Wing Birthday Ball Project Officer, coordinates presentation at the annual **55th Wing** Birthday Ball, or other event or venue as coordinated between the **55th Wing** and the **55th SRWA**.



THE 55TH SRW ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The 55th SRW Association Annual Award for Excellence is presented to that individual, crew, group, or organization that best exemplifies the basic tenants of the **55th SRW Association**.

The award winners are announced at the annual **55th Wing** Birthday Ball and at **55thSRWA** reunions. Their names are inscribed on the base of the trophy and they receive a representative plaque.

The previous award recipients are **LtCol Ricky McMahon**, 338th Combat Training Squadron commander, 2000; and **MSgt Steven and MSgt Lisa Hagggett**, **55th Wing** Command Section, for 2001; **LtCol Kurt Kramer**, 38th RS commander, for 2002; and **Col (select) Glen Gulleckson**, 343rdRS commander, in 2003.

The unveiling of the imposing trophy always gets an appreciative response from the crowd at the Ball.



SILVER STARS AWARDED OLMSTEAD AND MCKONE

A **55th SRW** RB-47H was shot down by a Soviet MiG pilot on 1 July 1960 over the Barents Sea. Four of the crewmen perished in that unprovoked attack: AC/pilot **Willard Palm**, EWOs **Dean Phillips**, **Oscar Goforth** and **Eugene Posa**. The copilot and navigator ejected successfully and survived over six hours in the frigid ocean until they were ‘rescued’ by Russian fishermen.

Bruce Olmstead, the CP, and **John McKone**, navigator, subsequently spent seven months in the infamous Lubyanka Prison in Moscow. They were released in January 1961 as a gesture to newly elected President John F. Kennedy.

Forty-three years later, the two retired colonels were awarded Silver Stars on 13 September at the opening ceremony of this year’s Air Force Association convention in Washington, DC. Secretary of the AF **Dr. James Roche**, and **General John Jumper**, Chief of Staff of the USAF, officiated.



*L to R: Gen Jumper, Olmstead, McKone, Dr Roche
(Photo courtesy of 55th Wing PA)*

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55TH WIDOWS VISIT RUSSIA

The widows of Dean Phillips and Oscar Goforth could not possibly have conceived of the events that would transpire over time to have them travel to Russia 44 years later.

Pat Phillips and **Maria Goforth McAtee** attended a POW/MIA conference in Washington, DC, a few years ago, and while there they met **Russian Navy Rear Admiral (Ret) Boris Gavrilovich Novvy**. He is an expert on Russian archives and has been a major player in research on the RB-47 incident.

Through Adm Novvy's efforts, documentation was located which stated that Eugene Posa's remains were recovered by a Russian trawler crew a few months after the shootdown. Posa's final burial location and information on the other two EWOs is still a matter of archival research.

Pat and Maria were especially taken by Adm Novvy's genuine and helpful manner, and he encouraged the ladies to visit Russia. The Admiral helped facilitate arrangements for such a trip.

Fast forward to May of this year and here is an account from Pat Phillips:

After many months of preparation and much paperwork, we were finally on our way to Russia. On May 29, 2004. Maria Goforth McAtee, her daughter **Linda Schilder**, my daughter, **Roxann Phillips**, and I departed for St. Petersburg, Russia. We were very excited, and a bit anxious. How would we manage with the language and cultural barriers?

We had been invited by RAdm Boris Novvy, Russian Navy (Ret), who met us at the airport with flowers, hugs, and a big smile. We spent twelve days in St. Petersburg under his guidance. He had arranged an itinerary for us, and for a translator to be with us every day.

The Admiral and Kate (our translator) met us each morning at our hotel and off we went. We were escorted to many wonderful museums, including the Hermitage, and to churches, and palaces. Adm Novvy had arranged for a small bus to take our group to outlying areas of St. Petersburg.

Following is an edited release from USAF Public Affairs: "Secretary Roche and General Jumper specifically recognized both men, presenting the Silver Stars to retired Cols John McKone and Freeman B. Olmstead.

The officers distinguished themselves during operations 1 July, 1960 to 24 January, 1961. During that time the two **55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing** crewmen were held captive in solitary confinement in a Moscow prison after a Soviet fighter aircraft had shot down their RB-47 aircraft over international waters.

For 208 days the two men were continuously questioned and harassed by numerous Soviet secret police interrogation teams.

Although gravely weakened physically by the lack of food, denial of sleep and the mental rigors of constant interrogations, the two steadfastly refused to give sensitive defense information, or to be exploited for propaganda purposes. They resisted all Soviet efforts to obtain the confessions the captors sought as part of a pretrial investigation.

After enduring seven months of unrelenting hardship, the officers were finally released to the United States under the condition that the situation would not be used as a public demonstration of Soviet defeat. A showcase trial in the Soviet Union was never held."

Several **55th SRW** veterans were present, among them: Bill Ernst, **Larry Mitchell**, Jim Thomas, Mike Cook, **Bill Betz**, **Tom Shepherd**, and **Tommy Harrison**.

Ms. Stacey Knott from the 55th Public Affairs Office covered the event for the **55th Wing**. Her article on the presentation was in the 17 September issue of the *Air Pulse*, the Offutt base paper.

We spent several days roaming the city, shopping, and boating on canals.



Somewhere in Russia. L to R: Maria, Adm Novyy, Pat, Linda, and Roxann .

We enjoyed wonderful bright, sunny weather and we learned it didn't get dark until 2:00 AM and was bright again by 5:30 AM.

Our out-of-town visits included Novograd, a 13th century village with a working monastery. So very beautiful. Another day we traveled to Gatchina, a village where the naval archives are kept. We met the gentleman who heads the archives. He assured us that they were still searching for answers for us.

The palace in Gatchina is still under reconstruction of damage from WW II bombings. How proud they are of the treasures they have saved and the work they are doing.

Another day trip was to Pushkin where the summer palace of Catherine the Great is. It is also where Adm Novyy and Kate lived.

The next out-of-town venture was to Peterhof, the summer palace of Peter the Great, with its beautiful gardens and fountains. Adm Novyy treated us to an evening at the Marinski Theater where we saw three beautiful ballets.

We ate several wonderful Russian meals. Our translator did a super job ordering for us. The vodka that came with the meals was very potent!!

We learned so much and saw so much beauty, that it changed our thoughts of Russia, and especially the people. We found them to be very warm and welcoming.

One bit of irony, we were in St. Petersburg when President Reagan passed away. Everyone

offered us their sympathies for "your great president."

After twelve truly fantastic days we flew to Moscow arriving on June 12th, Russia's independence day. Red Square was a hub of festivities. Mr. Putin was speaking so security was tight. We did visit the Kremlin and toured the armory where many of the crown jewels are kept. We also saw Lubyanka Prison where John McKone and Bruce Olmstead spent several months.

We did get to attend the Bolshoi Ballet and saw "Sleeping Beauty". It was magnificent.

This was the trip of a lifetime! How fortunate for us, after all these years, to have such a wonderful experience. Wherever we went we were treated royally and with the utmost respect.

Our host and our translator wanted very much for us to leave with wonderful memories. Oh my goodness! What a few days and kind people can do for one's memory book.

Maria McAtee added these comments:

Initially, I had mixed feelings about Russia. Some expectations came from my misconceptions of who the people really were. I found them to be very friendly, religious and proud of their country. They appeared to be very family-oriented with both mothers and fathers spending time playing with their children in the parks.

The country itself is very majestic with beautiful buildings everywhere. Everything was kept spotless and well maintained even though the buildings are very old.

Russian food was delightful, especially the ice cream.

Note: Robb Hoover contributed to this article.

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It's All About Information Operations Integration

*By BrigGen Craig Koziol,
Commander, 55th Wing*

Air Combat Command's (ACC) RC-135V/W Rivet Joint (RJ) has evolved over the past 14 years to become one of the most dynamic, operationally tasked airborne reconnaissance aircraft in the Department of Defense fleet. On any given sortie it's typically tasked to support an array of mission

areas, ranging from complex strikes to personnel recovery and beyond.

Today's modern battlespace often depicts a web of integrated assets, to include airborne, space based and complex ground nodes. These nodes help refine and focus right-time/right-place effects on an enemy. The RJ is well on its way to becoming the central airborne Information Operations (IO) node in support of warfighting operations. The RJ mission will soon become the main clearinghouse between traditional ground-based assets and real-time tactical systems. By cutting out the proverbial middleman, the RJ can fuse disparate sources of battlefield information to direct and enhance situational awareness to both kinetic and non-kinetic assets. Simply put, it's the tactical hub of National Tactical Integration.

The RJ generally achieves full horizontal integration through the use of advancing technology and the professional warriors conducting the mission. At any given time, there are literally hundreds of sensors on the battlefield with eyes and ears actively working 24/7, 365 days a year to nail down targets essential for Predictive Battlespace Awareness and Time Sensitive Targeting. The RJ's capability to bundle real-time multi-axis sensor data with persistent dwell time is the key to information superiority over an opponent. When we can disrupt, degrade and destroy an enemy inside its battle cycle, they can never win.

So how is this accomplished? It's done with Machine-To-Machine, known as M2M, technology. Through automation, computers solve complex intelligence and engagement solutions and provide decision makers with actionable information within seconds, vice minutes or even hours. One of the newest emerging M2M systems is known as Network Centric Collaborative Targeting. It's designed to employ geo-locational algorithms that tie both on- and off-board sensors/databases to pinpoint Time Sensitive Targeting actions in the Find, Fix, and Track phases of the F2T2EA—the "Find, Fix, Track, Target, Engage, Attack" kill chain.

Not only does the RJ bring traditional strategic partners to the battlefield through NTI, it also plays a significant role with other critical warfighting assets. These are typically referred to as the Command and Control, Intelligence, Surveillance,

and Reconnaissance, (C2ISR), platforms, such as the E-3 AWACS, E-8 JSTARS, EC-130H Compass Call, U-2, and various Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), such as Predator and Global Hawk.

The RJ enhances war-fighting capabilities through a combined direct support campaign where cross-cueing and fusing of individual C2ISR feeds contribute to a larger picture. This includes active participation on both data and voice networks like Information Broadcast Service, Link-16, Improved Data Modem, Voice Product Net, and Satellite Communications (SATCOM). Effectively integrating and cross-cueing the RJ mission with other ISR platforms is a force multiplier providing correlated target information. In a typical cross-cue scenario, one platform provides a signals or imagery intelligence tip-off to the Combined Air Operations Center, which then tasks one or more systems to correlate the target and provide amplifying information. For example, if an RJ relays combat information used to identify weapon system types and potential threats to friendly forces, weapons employment decisions can be made based on the data.

One of the most recent technological innovations the RJ has seen involves direct connectivity to national intelligence producers. The system is referred to as Narrowband Reach Back (NABRE). The primary goal of the position, known as the Information Integration Officer or IIO, is to act as a real-time gateway between key intelligence nodes, both on and off the battlefield. The IIO's charter is to keep tactical platforms on the same sheet of ISR music with an assortment of other mission support functions, like the Distributive Common Ground System, Cryptologic Support Groups and space-based assets. This facilitates focused collection and reporting efforts to synchronize the entire ISR constellation with the theater commanders' battle rhythm. The ultimate aim is to provide a true simultaneous Time-Phase/Task-Apportionment ISR mission to support specific effects-based operations.

The RC-135 fleet has also participated in every sizable armed conflict involving U.S. assets. RC-135s were present supporting operations in Vietnam, the Mediterranean for Operation EL DORADO CANYON, Grenada for Operation URGENT FURY, Panama for Operation JUST

CAUSE, and Southwest Asia for Operations SHIELD and DESERT STORM. have maintained presence in Southwest in the area Balkans early large round applause given to the



Operations SHIELD DESERT RC-135s a constant both Asia and of the since the 1990s. A of must be

outstanding Airmen who've endured many long deployments and hardships to ensure mission success. These professionals, along with emerging capabilities, will guarantee the RJ an even more important role in future conflicts. Combatant commanders never leave home without it!

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(Note: BGen Koziol is a career intelligence officer and the first non-rated commander of the 55th. His previous positions prior to coming to Offutt were: Deputy Director, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, Deputy Chief of Staff, Air and Space Operations, HQ, USAF in Washington, DC; and Vice Commander, 8th AF at Barksdale AFB, LA.)

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(Nother note: The above article was printed in the May issue of the Air Intelligence Agency's Spokesman magazine, and in the Freedom Through Vigilance Association's September newsletter. It is republished here with BGen Koziol's permission.)

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MEMORIAL REPORT

Jack Kovacs reported in an e-mail of 15 September that he and Larry LaFlair spent three hours at the Cold War memorial patio assisting the Dodds Monument bricklayer in replacing the bricks that had been damaged or had incorrect engravings.

All the bricks are now correct and in place.

Additionally, he was present when a good-sized blue spruce was planted in the area immediately behind the monument, thus enhancing and completing the project.

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T A P S



Ronald L. Chrisley, died 26 November 2003; Newar, OK; wife: **Vicki**.

John J. Cornelius, 22 June 2004; Old Lyme, CN; wife: **Janice**.

Esley "Ray" Davis, 10 August 2004; Longmont, CO; wife: **Joanna**. Ray was an RB-50 pilot and cartographic officer in the 55th at Ramey AFB, PR. He later served with the Aeronautical Chart and Info Center, then with NOAA after retiring from the AF.

Donald W. Gardner, 74, 9 September, 2004; Tallahassee, FL; wife: **Joan**. Don was a veteran 55th 'old crow' in RB-47s at Forbes, -135s at Offutt, and held numerous staff positions at SAC and USAFE.

Austin Hogan, Jr, 74, o/a 20 September 2004; Arlington, VA; pilot in 55th, 1953-55.

James W. Jones, 31 August 2004; Cocoa Beach, FL; wife: **Betty**. Veteran aviator "Jimmy" flew in the Korean War and was a longtime 55th pilot/AC in RB-47s at Forbes and RC-135s at Offutt, retiring in 1971.

Sonya Mark, 64, 1 July 2004; Omaha, NE; wife of **John**, a longtime EWO in the 343rd SRS and 82nd SRS; later worked in the recon center at SAC HQ.

Guy Reed, 31 August 2004; Baufort, SC; wife: **Sue**. Guy was an RB-47 copilot at Forbes who was medically discharged several years ago.

John Staley, 58, 25 June 2004; in a river rafting accident in Montana. He resided in Algonquin, IL; wife **Jeanette**. John was an EC-135 pilot and stand/eval IP; a former ops officer, then commander of the 2ACCS. He flew with United Airlines after retiring from the AF.

Dorothy Winkleman, 68, 12 May 2004; San Antonio, TX; widow of **Wayne** who passed away

December, 1996. He was an RC-135 pilot in the 55th at Offutt and in the 82nd at Kadena AB.

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TAPS – News of Association members, friends and associates taking the “Big PCS”, hitting “High Flight”, or “folding wings”, should be sent to Bill Ernst and Max Moore (*see DIRECTORY, page 4 for contact info*). **Please include next of kin and an address to which the Association condolence card may be sent; date of demise, pilot/nav/EWO, whatever; time with 55th, and any other pertinent information.**

The news in TAPS is limited by how much and how accurate the given information.

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LETTERS AND STUFF

Dear Errol, July 13, 2004

I enjoyed reading the June 2004 issue of the 55th SRWA newsletter, which I received today in the mail.

Having been assigned to the 55th Group/Wing in 1947-49, I really don't know many of the members mentioned in the newsletter, but my memories of the 343rd SRS at MacDill AFB and Topeka (later Forbes) AFB; the 7th Geodetic Sqd and 1st (later 23rd) SRS at Topeka make (*serving in*) that wing perhaps the most outstanding of my 30+ years active duty in the AAF/USAF.

I look forward to visiting the 55th SRW memorial at Wright-Pat the next year or so.

You folks – Bill Ernst, Robb Hoover and yourself – deserve special thanks for developing the Association!

Sincerely,

H.P. Smith, MajorGeneral USAF-Retired,
Fort Lauderdale, FL

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Dear Bill, July 31, 2004

Thank you so much for sending the Cold War commemorative coins.

Since my daughter and grandsons, Jonathan and Colin, did not know **John (Dunham)**, I hope this memorabilia will give them a sense of the very important work he did in serving to help protect this country from a possible nuclear war.

Hopefully, I'll see the Cold War Annex (*at the USAF Museum*) while on a trip to see family in Indianapolis soon.

Most sincerely,

Mary Dunham Nichols, Baltimore, MD

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Greetings to you!!

I have hesitated for a long while to e-mail this message because I wanted to keep connected to something that my husband was very proud of. I am sorry to say that **Ron** died on November 26, 2003, of cancer. His time in the Air Force was a source of pride that he carried to the grave.

Thanks to all of you!!

Vicki Chrisley (proud wife), Newar, OK

(From an e-mail to Errol Hoberman, 30 June, 2004.)

* * * * *

Thank you!!!! A GREAT newsletter! I always look forward to them.

Our days at Forbes were some of the happiest in our lives. The 55th is like “home” to me even though I, as a young bride, spent just six years in Topeka. **John** was always so proud of being a part of the organization and I feel certain he felt it was “home” too.

Every time I get a newsletter, it brings back fond memories – and for some reason, also reminds me of a very young Regis Urschler doing a solo dance in Turkish trousers in the middle of the O'club dance floor one Saturday night. I was just over 21 at the time and had never seen anything quite like it before!

Thanks again!

Joan Kothanek, Warner Robins, GA

(From an e-mail to Hoberman, 29 June 2004)

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Max,

That's a good looking June 55SRWA newsletter!

CONGRATULATIONS! Very newsy and interesting.

Wayne Corbett, Columbia, SC.

(Former Chief, 3902nd Public Affairs at Offutt)

(From an e-mail 29 June 2004)

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Thank you so much (*for the newsletter June 2004*).

My first husband, Major Francisco J. Tejada flew P-38s (photo recon) out of Coffeyville, KS, in 1945. We lived in a little town called Independence.

He went on to do many things (fly the Berlin airlift the entire 15 months of it); joined the 55th and flew out of Yokota AB in Japan, twice, TDY from Travis AFB and Ramey AFB; and eventually was lost in a Cold War shootdown the day after the Korean War ended. (*Stan O'Kelley's RB-50 crew, Raven 2, 29 July 1953.*)

I do appreciate all the things you send me
Thank you,

Mrs. Bess Tejada Bergmann, Pamona, CA
(*E-mail to Hoberman, dated 29 June 2004.*)

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Max:

Thanks much for the super good newsletter.
I really appreciate the work that goes into it.

Dean S. (Buddy) Goddard, Wimberly, TX
(*E-mail 30 June 2004*)

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Max:

Congratulations on yet another professionally produced, written and edited newsletter. We are very fortunate having you and your "helpers" keeping all of us informed on our 'old' outfit.

I did note in the TAPS section **Ray Fullner's** passing identifying him as a nav. Ray was an AC in the 343rd who took his crew to Japan for perhaps more than one tour, of which we were very envious.

Reg Urschler, Bellevue, NE
(*E-mail 13 July 2004*)

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Max: 17 August 2004

I just wanted to add my two-bits to **John Draper's** comments regarding air rescue backup and those who may have flown on "both sides of the fence" (*Newsletter-June 2004*).

Prior to joining the 55th SRW at Forbes in 1964, I was a navigator in the 81st Air Rescue Squadron based in Sembach, Germany, in 1957-58. In addition to our primary SAR aircraft, the SA-16 Albatross, we also flew SC-47s. Almost nobody has ever heard of these aircraft. They were basically Gooney Birds that were airborne gas and oil tanks.

The primary mission was long range rescue and recovery. If I remember correctly, they could stay aloft for something like 43 hours. No in-flight refueling for us.

I didn't get to take the training at Stead AFB, NV, (maybe since I was already based in Germany).

The first contingent of aircraft left Stead flying non-stop for Sembach, with their primary alternates in Africa and the secondaries in England. That's a long way to bore holes in the sky at 120 knots IAS. Even then there were still hours of fuel remaining on board.

A typical training mission was 6-8 hours long.....takeoff, gear up, level off at 300 feet and stay there for the rest of the flight. To make it more interesting, we had to make a 15 to 30 degree heading change every 3 to 5 minutes. No radar, no inertial guidance, nothing but a windshield. That's right, the one and only nav on board stood between the pilots. It's a wonder any of us can stand up straight nowadays.

The aircraft were capable of landing in cow pastures, and if memory serves correctly, they had JATO capabilities. We were on-call, never knowing what our destination was, just that we just might be bringing some of our own home from someplace across the border to the northeast. The unit, to my knowledge, never flew an operational mission of that profile.

After getting into the 55th, it was comforting to know that a 'friendly' might come along if we were ever in need of a low and slow ride home. So, John, there are indeed some of us who, along with you, worked both sides of the fence.

I joined the 343rd SRS at Forbes in 1964 and flew RB-47s; transitioned to the RCs and went to Offutt; and then on to Eielson for five years before going to Southeast Asia in 1972.

Frank Schoonover, Spokane, WA

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343SRS REUNION

A reunion was held 9-10 September in Topeka, KS, for former 343rd crewmembers and maintenance personnel who supported the RB-47 aircraft and missions (1954-1967 era) at Forbes AFB, KS. **Paul Dolby** was the honcho.

About 70 attended and enjoyed visits to the Willard G. Palm Park in Topeka, the Combat Museum and tour of the old flight line at Forbes Field. Reg Urschler did a flyover in his P51-Mustang, "The Gunfighter."

There was an informal gathering on Thursday and a buffet banquet Friday night.

Another gathering will be planned for 2006, time and destination TBD.

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Robb Hoover added this report:

A contingent of former 55'ers (Urschler, Hoover, **Jim Taylor** and **Dick Hedge**) at that reunion paid an unannounced visit to retired LtCol **Bob Rich**, an original inductee of the 55th Wing Hall of Fame (1999), at his home in Topeka.

Bob and his wife, **Lydia**, were overjoyed to know they were still remembered by the by the 55th, which, he told us, 'lives forever in his heart'.

He was presented with a 338th squadron coin. Bob had commanded that unit 50 years ago (Mar-Sep 1954). He is 87 years old and not in the best of health, but mentally alert and appreciated the attention.

Bob Rich's valiant actions as an RB-50 aircraft commander in driving off attacking Soviet MiGs near Petropavlosk in 1953 will live on in the annals of the *Fightin' 55th*.

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B-47 BENCH DEDICATION

The B-47 Stratojet Association commissioned a commemorative granite bench to be placed at the nose of the B-47 bomber on display at the former SAC Museum near Ashland, NE. The dedication ceremony took place on 13 August 2004.

After a 30 minute reception and opening/welcoming remarks by Museum Director **Scott Hazelrigg**, B-47 Stratojet Association President (and a member of the 55th SRWA) **Dick Purdum** unveiled the bench. He stated, that the "bench is in memory of those who had anything to do with the B-47. This includes the Boeing engineers, crewmembers, crew chiefs, maintenance troops, cooks, security police and many others."

And "to our wives who kept the home fires burning and raised our kids while we were on home alert or reflex around the world."

He also stated that the B-47, as a deterrent to nuclear war, helped win the Cold War.

There were 2,040 B-47 bombers built and used in 36 SAC bomber and reconnaissance wings.

The top of the bench has a depiction of an RB-47H in the center, flanked by a B-47 and WB-47. Also shown are the American flag, SAC and MAC shields, the Stratojet Assn/Boeing B-47 logo, dedication words, and the phrase, "Peace is Still Our Profession".

About 30 people attended, including ten 55th SRW Association veterans who crewed Stratojets during the Cold War.



L to R: Bob English, Gene Murphy, Robb Hoover, Max Moore, Frank Hicks, Harry Tull, Bob Robeson, Arlen Howe, Dick Purdum (Not pictured: Charlie Daubs).

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B-47 STRATOJET ASSOCIATION REUNION

The 4th reunion of the B-47 Stratojet Assn was held 23-25 September at the USAF Museum near Dayton, OH. Nearly 400 attended at sites and events very similar to the Recon Rendezvous/55th SRWA reunion of September 2003.

The group dedicated its \$25,000 monument on Friday 24 September to all who flew, maintained, and supported B-47 operations over the tenure of the Cold War. It is located in the Memorial Gardens of the UASF Museum.

RB-47 strategic reconnaissance missions are recognized on an adjacent marble bench.



Back view: the 55th SRW is listed second row from bottom, second in from left.

The front of the monument depicts a B-47 airborne in front of a mountain range (note the jagged top) and displays the SAC shield with the dedication words.

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Editor's plea: If any members wish to contribute letters, stories and articles, such as those above, please send them to me. If events occur in your area that you think would be of interest to the general readership, mail or e-mail the pertinent details, and include the names of those Association members who attend. Names are news.

If it seems that some of the reporting in the VO is 'Offutt-centric', that is because the corporate 'we' know about those events, and that the 55th Wing is here at Offutt. The only way to broaden our coverage is to get input from 'out there'.

Thanks, and Videmus Omnia, Max

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ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRTS/CAPS

You will surely want to acquire a shirt and/or cap before the next reunion, so it is suggested you order soon, as there is no guarantee they will

be available at the San Diego gathering due to logistics of getting them there.

And, hey, the ol' man is always hard to buy gifts for, so hint to your family members that you would like a shirt and/or cap this Christmas, for your birthday, whatever. Maybe Santa will help.

They are unisex, so get one for your spouse, significant other, or other family members. They make great gifts.

The October shirt inventory by sizes is: small- 2; medium- 3; large- 7; XL- 1; XXL- 2; XXXL- 0. **We can always reorder more of any size, as needed, but I need lead time.**

Cost is \$25 per shirt.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ORDER.

The dual shield logo is on the left breast, white with red trim, navy blue front placket. They are 100% combed cotton. The quality is such that there is little to no fading or shrinkage.

There are 10 **golf/ballcaps** on hand. They are royal blue with the dual shield logo on the front and adjustable back strap. **They go for \$7 each.**

The items can be viewed in color on the Association web site at www.55srwa.org, and click on the *Clothing Sales* link.

Anyone desiring to purchase either or both can send an e-mail to: MaxMoore55@aol.com; phone: (402) 291-8272; or write to: 201 Basswood Court, Bellevue, NE, 68005-2001

There are charges for postage to be added to the individual item costs: \$7 for two shirts; \$5 if both a shirt and cap are ordered; \$4 for a shirt only; \$2 for a cap only.

Checks for the full amount of your order should be made to the 55th SRW Association, or to Max Moore. Either way, the bucks end up in the Association treasury.

One more way to identify with your Association and "show the logo" at appropriate functions, on the golf course, wherever.

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THE ASSOCIATION TIE

After the original order of over 330 ties was sold, there was such a demand to continue this new Association symbol that **Jim Thomas** has picked up the baton from Sam Pizzo as the 'regimental tie' vendor. A new batch of 75 is on hand.

The tie is an attractive and distinguished blue and red striped design with the Association's dual shield logo prominently displayed in the tie's center. A fine gold line defines every fourth blue/red stripe.



The price is \$20 each which includes shipping postage. You will want one for the next reunion banquet, and other appropriate events.

If you don't already have one, now is the time to order so you can have it for San Diego.

Contact Jim at JThomas927@aol.com, or write him at 4418 Anchor Mill Dr, Bellevue, NE 68123-1168. Make checks payable to the **55SRW Association**.

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MEMORIAL COINS

The coins shown below (*actual size: 1½ in diameter*) were produced expressly for the purpose of providing them to Association members at the September 2003 reunion as a memento.

Those who did **not** receive one as yet, and want to have a Memorial Coin, **contact** Errol Hoberman (SAC-EWO@mchsi.com, or 6441 Avenida De Galvez, Navarre, FL 32566-8911); or Bill Ernst (BillErnst@aol.com, or 410 Greenbriar Ct, Bellevue, NE 68005). One memorial coin will be mailed to you **free of charge**. Additional coins are available for \$5 each.



Coin Front



Coin Back

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SPARKLY 55TH PINS



Pin shown is near actual size

As a direct result of the last newsletter notice, the above pins have sold at a steady pace to members all over the country.

You may want to acquire one for that special lady in your life to wear to the San Diego reunion, or any other appropriate occasion.

The Association does **not** sell these pins and receives **no** money. But, as a service for those who wish to possess same: **Erwin's Jewelers, Frank Kumor**, proprietor, in Olde Town Bellevue, has an inventory and **you can purchase directly from the store**.

Send requests to 223 W. Mission Ave, Bellevue, NE; or call: (402) 291-2454, or fax to (402) 293-5873 to order the pins. Cost is \$9 for the pin and \$3 for shipping.

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YOUR 55TH SRW ASSN WEB SITE

www.55srwa.org

The Association website is an integral and vital part of the Association's line of communications. If you have not already done so, you are urged to check it out.

Everything you want to know about the Association is there: **constitution, bylaws**; officers and bios; membership form, library, picture gallery, **an e-mail address listing**, bulletin board, and links to many other associated sites.

Info and updates on the next reunion and important bulletins on any projects in progress are posted. Also, there is e-mail traffic on subjects of interest to members.

Webmeister **Don Griffin** and his creative cyber-sidekick, **Dave Johnson**, maintain and update the site so as not to get stale.

But, they are always looking for new and fresh ideas. Grif welcomes input from members. Send him pictures, war stories, anything you want to share with the Association.

An area in need of continuous attention is the e-mail address roster. The active members e-mail address listing is found at http://www.55srwa.org/55_adr1.html.

The webguys would like for anyone who does **not** want their e-mail address posted to let them know and that address will be deleted. If your address is **not** currently listed, but you wish it so, tell 'em that, too.

They would also like for all members to check the list and see if the information is correct and up to date. If not, send corrections.

Any change requests to the e-mail listing should be sent to **both**:
dgrif@citlink.net and SAC-EWO@mchsi.com.

Notice: Grif and Dave desire to retire from those duties and hand them over to younger, fresher blood. So, any super cyber-dudes or dudettes with interest in taking over this endeavor are urged to contact Grif and communicate your willingness and qualifications.

WHO SHOT WHAT?

Picture credits to: San Diego websites for skyline and hotel; Ms. **Stacey Knott**, 55th Wing PA, for the Silver Star ceremony; Pat Phillips provided the group in Russia photo; 55th Wing PA for BGen Koziol's photo; Dick Purdum for the B-47 bench group; Jack Kovacs, the B-47 monument shot; tie, Sam Pizzo (actually, his cyber-pal, Copper); Jim Maloney for coins; Beth Kelley for 55th pin;

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E – NEWSLETTER

Association members in good standing (paid up dues) who so desire can receive the newsletter via electronic transmission. To get it, go to: **www.55srwa.org** for full instructions on how to read and/or download.

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MILITARY RECORDS

The straight word from AF Retiree News Service:

The rumor circulating on the Internet, in e-mails and among veterans organizations that official military personnel files at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) will be digitized and then destroyed **is simply not true.**

Neither the Department of Defense nor the NPRC intend to destroy any official files stored at the Center, according to officials of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the agency NPRC is under.

The purpose of **any** electronic scanning is to help **preserve** the originals and increase efficiency in handling reference requests.

NARA preserves and protects records that were transferred from the military service departments because they are permanently valuable records that document the essential evidence of military service for the veterans of our nation. NPRC stores and services official records for retired, discharged, or deceased military personnel.

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**55TH SRW REUNION
SCHEDULE
MARCH 9-13, 2005**

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 9

CHECK IN
HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN: 1500-2400
Board of Directors Meeting 1800-1930 (Room TBD)
DINNER ON OWN

THURSDAY – MARCH 10

CHECK IN
HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN 1000-2400
TOUR #3 - MEXICO 0900-1700 **OR**,
TOUR #6 - DISCOVER SAN DIEGO 0900 – 1500
DINNER ON OWN

FRIDAY – MARCH 11

CHECK IN
GOLF OUTING - 0900
HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN 1000 – 1700
TOUR #1 - TEMECULA WINE TASTING 0900-1500 **OR**,
TOUR #7 - SAN DIEGO ZOO 0900-1500
TOUR #2 - DINNER CRUISE Bus leaves hotel at 1800 (1830-2130)
HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN – 2000 - 2300

SATURDAY – MARCH 12

HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN 1000-1700
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING – BALLROOM – 0800 - 0900
(Wear your Association polo shirt)
TOUR #4 - BALBOA PARK 0900-1500 **OR**,
TOUR #5 - LA JOLLA SHOPPING 1000-1500
DINNER **(Coat and Association tie)** AT HOTEL BANQUET ROOM
COCKTAILS 1800
DINNER 1900
HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN 2030 -2400

SUNDAY – MARCH 13

BREAKFAST, GOODBYES and
CHECK OUT ON OWN

HOTEL AND TOUR INFORMATION

RED LION HANAIEI HOTEL

2270 Hotel Circle North

San Diego, CA 92108

For reservations call (800)-882-0858

FAX – 619-297-0555

Price is \$99 for double room

(Good three days either side of reunion dates)

TOURS

#1 – TEMECULA VALLEY WINE TASTING

Escape to Temecula Valley and enjoy a day of wine tasting in Southern California's premier wine producing region. You'll visit two wineries on this tour, including Callaway Winery where you'll tour the wine cellars, learn the art of wine tasting and sample the fine wines. Then, visit historic Old Town Temecula to stroll the wooden boardwalks and browse the antique malls. The picnic lunch is included at one of the wineries. – Duration 6 hours. Activity level is easy.

#2 – SUNSET DINNER CRUISE ON SAN DIEGO BAY

Experience the ultimate in waterfront dining on this 3 ½ hour cruise aboard a fine dining vessel. Enjoy a welcome glass of champagne and settle into a romantic evening as the sun settles into the blue Pacific. Attentive stewards content your desires with fine food and a selection of spirits served at your table. Relax and enjoy San Diego's stunning harbor and magnificent glittering skyline from the top deck, or dance the evening away with continuous music provided by your entertainment host. The cruise price includes an elegant 3 course seated dinner, a boarding cocktail and gratuity. Duration – 3 1/2 hours Activity level is easy

#3 – PUERTO NUEVO LOBSTER VILLAGE

Take a ride down the coast of Baja Mexico for a traditional Mexican lobster lunch in the village of Puerto Nuevo. We'll stop first in Rosario Beach for some bargain hunting in the unique open-air marketplace a block from the beach. Later, you'll continue south along the rugged Mexican coastline to Puerto Nuevo, where you'll enjoy a welcome margarita and a traditional Puerto Nuevo-style lobster lunch including tortilla cheese soup, Spanish rice, refried beans and warm tortillas in a quaint seaside restaurant. On the return trip, we stop at a Mexican Bakery Shop in Tijuana. Duration is 8 hours – Activity level is at own pace

#4 – BALBOA PARK AND SPANISH VILLAGE ART CENTER

Enjoy a brief guided tour of historic Balboa Park, a 1200 acre recreation and cultural center that was the site of the Panama-California International Exposition in 1915. Over 11 museums are housed in the original Moorish and Spanish Renaissance-style buildings. Following the walking tour along El Prado, you'll use your admission pass to visit 4 of your favorite museums. Then visit the nearby Spanish Village Art Center where talented artisans create, display and sell their wares in more than 40 quaint shops. Duration is 6 hours. Activity level is easy.

#5 – LA JOLLA SHOPPING EXCURSION

Visit the upscale seaside village of La Jolla known for its charming boutiques, designer shops and international art galleries. You will visit La Jolla Cove, where wild sea lions bask lazily in the sun on the sandy beach. Enjoy lunch on your own in one of the many fine restaurants overlooking the Pacific Ocean and shop for unique gifts and fine art at your leisure. Duration is 5 hours and activity level is easy

#6 DISCOVER SAN DIEGO

Embark on a comprehensive journey that highlights San Diego's most notable points of interest. Visit inspiring landscapes and seascapes in the upscale seaside community of La Jolla, see breathtaking views of San Diego, Mexico and the Pacific Ocean from atop Mount Soledad. Explore the Gaslight District, Balboa Park and Coronado Island. Enjoy lunch overlooking the harbor and take a ferryboat ride across the bay to the Embarcadero. This tour covers it all.

Duration is 6 hours and activity level is easy.

#7 THE FAMOUS SAN DIEGO ZOO

Visit the internationally acclaimed San Diego Zoo, nestled in the canyons and mesas of beautiful Balboa Park. The world-famous zoo is home to 4,000 animals of 800 species as well as an accredited botanical garden with a collection of over 6,500 species of trees, plants, and flowers. Your tour includes transportation from hotel, admission, a narrated double-decker tram ride through the park and an aerial tram ride and time on your own to explore the many exhibits and animal shows.

Duration is 6 hours and activity level is at own pace.

*Please note the reunion daily schedule for departure times for the tours.
Two tours are offered Thurs, Fri, and Sat and times are the same or overlap.
(Exception – the harbor dinner cruise is on Friday evening.)*

