



80TH FIGHTER SQUADRON HEADHUNTER HEADLINES



905 Arapaho Court; Columbus, GA 31904-1242
* (706) 324-7360 *

Volume V Number 16

"AUDENTES FORTUNA JUVAT"

June 1, 1995

Greetings, Fellow **HEADHUNTERS!**

Bonnie & I hope this Newsletter finds all of you in the very best of continuing health and happiness!

headhunter reunion!!



Well, our 15th Reunion is now history, and what a great reunion it was! The weather was superb with 60's at night and 80's during cloudless days. Our sincere thanks go out again to Bob & Nan Kan who hosted this superb event; "Big Ed" & Margaret Joyner and Dave & Mary Oakes who put in so much work on the banquet, hospitality room, and golf details; Tom Slee who gave us the name of his pilot training classmate, Roy Shoffner for our guest speaker, and who volunteered his services to negotiate, purchase, frame, transport, and head up the raffle of those beautiful aircraft pictures and models--with 80th markings; Lois Ince for her help with the raffle; Bob Railey who is now "shakin' the bushes" to get other Korean-era Headhunters to join; and all the other members who pitched in to make this reunion an outstanding success and one of our very best!

All of the planned reunion activities were well enjoyed. About twelve people visited the Gulfarium to see the porpoise show, and 16 "slipped the surly bonds" to fly over the local area in Eglin AFB Aeroclub airplanes. Golf was, as always, very popular. Dave Oakes even arranged extra tee-times Thursday and Saturday for the real golfers!

Deep sea fishing was also great! Eighteen of us climbed on board the party boat *America II* with "Capt Bill" at the helm to enjoy a half day of fishing in the Gulf. It's customary for everyone fishing on the boat to throw a dollar in a pot to go to the person who catches the largest fish while still fishing. When Capt Bill asked for a volunteer to collect the money from the 58 people on board, my daughter, Kathy, took the job. As a prize for doing it, he announced she would get to reel in and keep the fish caught by a trolling line they had out on

the way to our fishing spot. Sure enough, a few minutes later a fish was hooked and Kathy got to reel in a 5-lb. Tuna--yelling to her sister, Donna, to "Get the camera! Get the camera!!" The pot went to a lady in another party who caught a 2-lb. Porgy. The rest of us caught a lot of Snappers, which were filleted for us on the way back by the crew. We took ours next door to get them cooked, and Kathy, Donna, and I ate ours when we got back to the hotel--delicious!

A great tradition at each reunion is our "headhunter open" golf tournament. Well, no exception this year! We had 9 foursomes roaming the links at Eglin AFB's golf course! Dave Oakes did a super job of teaming people up as equally as possible. Only one stroke separated 1st Place and 3rd Place, while a total of 8 strokes was the difference between 1st and last Place. That's equal! The team of "Big Ed" Joyner, "Wild Bill" Hagar, "Fibba" McGee, & "JayBird" Riedel (can you believe it?!) took 1st Place with a 68. Robbie Robbins & Gene Fudala won "Closest to the Pin" on holes #2 & #16 respectively, while Dave Oakes & Fibba McGee captured "Longest Putt Sunk" on #4 & #14. Individual trophies and four sleeves of golf balls were awarded to the members of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place teams--and special trophies went to the last place team with their 76! All in all, it was a great time, on a superb course, on a beautiful day--with the best of friends!! What else is there?!

There were 140 people at our Saturday night banquet to hear our guest speaker, Mr. Roy Shoffner, narrate his slide and video presentation of finding, extracting, and completely restoring a WWII P-38 from under 268 feet of Greenland icecap!! When we first approached Roy about being able to be our guest speaker about a year ago, he was hoping to have the P-38 restored and able to fly it to the reunion for us to see. Unfortunately, he's close to a year behind schedule with the restoration. P-38 parts are hard to find, and with close to \$1.4 million invested so far, expensive, too!! To Roy & his wonderful wife, Eddie Lou, thanks again for a fascinating presentation--it was the highlight of our reunion! A phone patch was set up during the banquet with our 80th Squadron in Korea. We all got to hear the "JUVAT Boys Choir" serenade us with a few songs, while they got to hear our Aces (who they sing about in their songs) say hello to them--a truly memorable 50-year bridge of Squadron history!

Gen Robbins presents painting to squadron

At our Business Meeting, Lt Gen Jay T. Robbins (Ret) presented print #22, of only 50 made, of "High Noon Over Alicante" to the "Head Headhunter" Jay Riedel for the Squadron. The signed print, from an original oil painting by Roy Grinnell, depicts:

"High noon, 14 November 1944. Eleven P-38's of the 80th Fighter Squadron 'Headhunters' weaved back and forth above two groups of B-24's droning north at 16,000 feet toward Japanese-held Alicante Airdrome, located on Negros Island in the Philippines. Major Jay T. Robbins, leading Blue Flight, sighted one *Zeke* and three *Oscars* 8,000 feet below at 10:00 o'clock and dove to the attack.

Suddenly aware of the three *Lightnings* screaming down upon them, the four Japanese fighters split into two elements of two, one element breaking right and the other left. Then, in Robbins' own words, 'I followed the two that broke to the right...I made a shallow dive and went underneath and to the outside of the enemy leader's

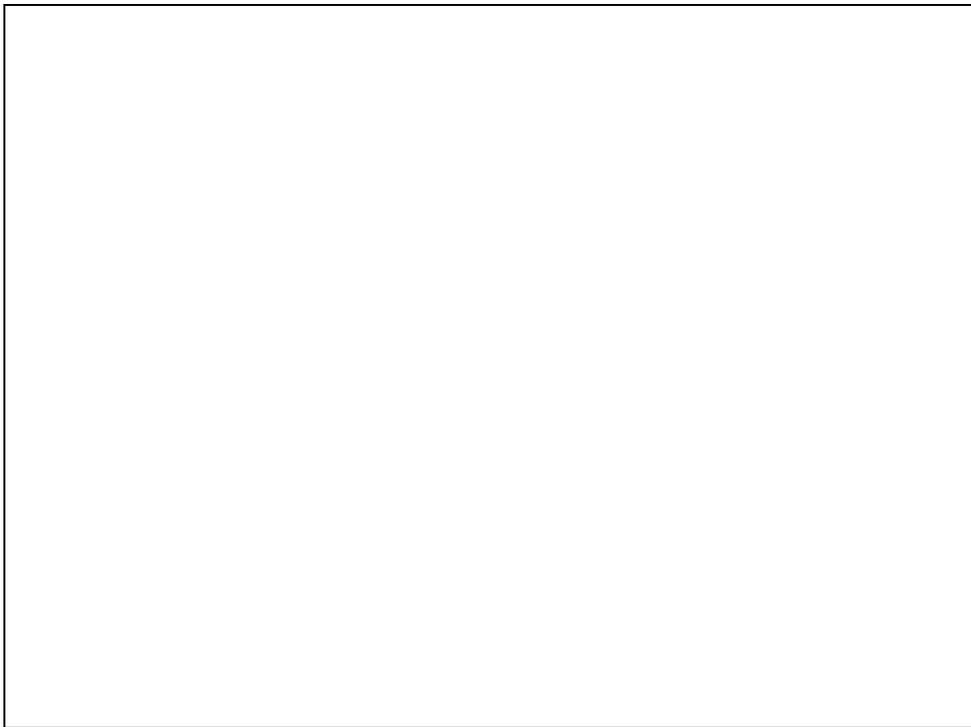
gradual right turn. Giving my plane the throttle, I drove up to within 150 feet before opening fire...My first burst knocked pieces out of his rudder and left wing, and my second burst hit the canopy which blew off, barely missing my plane. Black smoke and bursts of flame came from the left side of the plane...both the pilot and plane fell to the ground several miles northeast of Alicante drome.'

This victory, Major Robbins' 22nd, proved to be his final victory of the war. Completing his combat tour two weeks later, he returned to the United States."

(Research courtesy of James Lansdale, and the American Fighter Aces Association)

On behalf of the entire Squadron, I would like to again thank Gen Robbins for this outstanding piece of Squadron history that he presented to all of us. As an added bonus, we had the other four WWII Aces in attendance also sign. Thanks to all!!

**25th anniversary of headhunter reunions
celebrated!**



(L-R) Jay T. Robbins, M. F. Kirby, & Norb Ruff

Back in 1970, three men from the 80th got together on the phone, with a bottle of scotch, and started talking about "old times" when they were flying flying together in WWII. They were Jay T. Robbins, M.F. Kirby, and Norb Norb Ruff. "Wouldn't it be great if we could get all the guys together for a reunion!" Well, Kirby set out to do just that. He checked old Squadron orders & rosters, phone

books, Directory Assistance in cities all over the country, etc., and started putting together a Master Roster--before the days of computers!. A few short months later, over 100 people got together in Jackson Hole, WY for the first reunion. Since 1970, we've had reunions every 12 - 18 months with a growing number of **headhunters** from all the different time periods--not just WWII. Kirby held the reins for almost 20 years and put together, with some help from Yale Saffro (the WWII Crew Chief who designed & drew our logo), a Master Roster of 1500 names! Without that one phone call back in 1970 and a lot of hard, dedicated work on Kirby's part, there is a very good chance there would be no Master Roster, no reunions, and no WWII, BTW, Korea, Vietnam, & JUVAT 80th Fighter Squadron great friends of ours--or yours. **Thanks** to Jay, Norb, & Kirby for giving all of us this joy.

headhunters promoted!

Defense Secretary William Perry announced February 9th that President Clinton had sent the names of 24 brigadier generals to the Senate for confirmation to the rank of major general. One of those 24 was our own LifeTime Member Brig Gen George W. W. Norwood, commander of the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base, Japan. Gen Norwood was the 80th TFS Commander from 29 Oct 1982 to 14 Oct 1983. Congratulations, George & Connie, from all of us!!

Maj Gen Lloyd "Fig" Newton, now the Director of Operations for the U.S. Special Operations Command was nominated for his third star and to become the Assistant Air Force Vice Chief of Staff. Congratulations!

It's also very gratifying to note all the other promotions that I see at the time of each mailing: many Capt's to Maj; Maj's to Lt Col; and Lt Col's to Col. Although too numerous to list here, we would like to extend our congratulations to everyone who has received a promotion within the recent past. Promotions are hard to get, but it looks like our **headhunters** are getting their share!!

LATE BREAKING NEWS!!

We received a very interesting 28 February letter from Maj Gen Richard T. Swope, Commander of Thirteenth Air Force (HQ located in Guam), and a former 80th Squadron Commander from Feb to Jul 1980. He sent his regrets for not being able to attend our reunion, but he was in Singapore and Thailand during that time. He also wrote:



"By the way, just returned from a trip to Australia and passed through Port Moresby enroute back to the AF Hq at Andersen AFB. Having been to many 50th

Anniversary commemorations these past few months, I've heard many fascinating accounts of those days. So it took little to imagine the heroics of our HEADHUNTERS in and above the jungles of the region. Papua New Guinea is still much as it was in those days. My flight occurred on one of the rare, almost cloudless days. It was impossible not to recall the accounts read and heard of our AF aviators. Further, coming in to land off the harbor (unfortunately, not a P-38) one had no trouble envisioning the backdrop of the period. Today, the only real change is the new terminal off the west side of the runway. We departed heading 340 after circling in the climb to 7000'; even today's aircraft don't always climb fast enough to go straight out on takeoff. For the next 180 miles there was virtually no habitation visible. We saw only a few dirt runways on some hogback ridges; VERY few huts. Crossing the major river valley west of Lae--perhaps 60 miles wide, we saw only a few buildings and for the next 80 miles to the coast--again, nothing. Along the coast a few dirt or grass strips with again few buildings. Obviously, we did not get the up close and personal look, but it would appear much the same to our WWII comrades I believe.

So much for a quick update. From here in the Pacific our best wishes to all of you.

CHEERS & CHECK 6--"

Our sincere thanks go out to Gen Swope for this great update on our Squadron battlefield of WWII. We all look forward to seeing both you and Jane at a reunion as soon as you can make it. Until then, we all wish you the best of luck, happiness, and continued success--JUVAT!!

Juvat boys' choir

We've had many questions regarding *The JUVAT Boys' Choir*. What is it? How did it get its name? What does it do? Well, to clear up some of the questions, we asked one of our LTM's, Col Bruce "Big Fella" MacLennan for the answers. Here is an excerpt from his letter (the complete letter is being entered into our Squadron History and Memoirs):

"I arrived at Kunsan in the Spring of 1972 after recurrency training in the [F-4] Phantom. Having already completed one tour in [South East Asia] SEA, I was one of the "Old Heads" that were scheduled to go back for the Linebacker series of operations. However, due to the influx of new crews from training units in the States; the shortage of experienced guys to train them, I and several other old heads were kept at "The Kun" to do that job. Needless to say, WE WERE [quite upset]! However, we set about our job of teaching these young crews how to be Fighter Pilots of the Old School; both in the air and on the ground.

As with a lot of Fighter Wings in those days, Friday afternoons were usually pretty light on the flying schedule so that everyone could convene at the weekly/bi-weekly Flying Safety Meeting over in the O'Club dining/ball room. After the usual safety messages, praise, and/or admonishment by the Wing Staff, the two squadrons made a presentation every other week.

During our training of these new guys, we, the experienced types, had noticed that a knowledge of--and capability to perform--the age-old ritual of "Singing Fighter Pilot Songs" was almost totally non-existent within our eager charges. We, of course, had immediately initiated a ground training program after duty hours in the O'Club bar and wherever else was appropriate. In the course of about three months, the results were outstanding! These young guys had great, un-whiskey-tainted voices, and learned the words to the songs faster than they learned some of the nit-picking Stan Eval questions.

Once it was determined that we had enough knowledge of the songs, and enough variance in the voices to form a choir, we decided to take our show "On The Road." The best opportunity we had in those days was to initially perform at the O'Club--in front of the whole Wing's Safety Meeting. Since it was the 80th's week to make the presentation, I requested the Choir to join me on stage. Of course, we were all decked out in our locally tailored black party suits and yellow scarves, and made quite a presentable showing, if I may say so.

Picture this: After the doom and gloom from the recitation of aircraft accidents from all over the world by the Safety Staff, warnings and implied threats of being permanently grounded if we did those things by the Wing Staff, it was time for the 80th to make their contribution to this program.

Do you know what we did? We sang a hymn "BESIDE A KOREAN WATERFALL", frequently sung by our predecessors during their time in the 50's, and beautifully performed in harmony by what I then dubbed the "**JUVAT Boys' Choir**" due to the youthful nature of our makeup (of course there were a few older leaders!). Needless to say, after a few more songs, the levity and esprit that developed from that meeting carried over. We were on top of it all!

My year at Kunsan with these young crews was one of my most rewarding as an "Old Head" training young guys to go to war. Those of you who fought the war in Korea remember the challenges presented by the terrain and the living conditions. Our conditions were much better, but the challenges of bringing young aviators into our way of life were as great--if not greater."

Reunion business meeting

The traditional Reunion Business Meeting was held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Our next reunion was firmed up to be in Cincinnati, OH, in September, 1996. Don & Susan Wykoff will be our hosts. They already have it well underway!

- ◆ The next reunion after Cincinnati will be in the Seattle, WA area in the April - May 1998 time period. Our hosts for this one will be Tom & Angelina Slee. The big Air Force Association (AFA) 50th Anniversary of the United States Air Force celebration to be held in Las Vegas 22-26 April 1997 was discussed. It was decided not to have this as an official reunion for us, for it would be only 7 months after Cincinnati, which is now too far along to change. If we were to go to Las Vegas, it would hurt attendance at Cincinnati, Las Vegas,

and the Seattle reunions. For anyone interested in going to Las Vegas on your own, please contact Mr. Jim McDonnell at AFA HQ (703) 247-5810.

- ◆ Membership & dues are going well. Yearly membership remains at \$10 for 1995 - 1996. Our yearly membership has been as follows:
 - ◆ 295 for 1 Jul 91 - 30 Jun 92
 - ◆ 395 for 1 Jul 92 - 30 Jun 93
 - ◆ 434 for 1 Jul 93 - 30 Jun 94
 - ◆ 442 for 1 Jul 94 - 30 Jun 95
- ◆ --plus 230 LifeTime Members--a total of 672 members. We had a total of 65 new members join us this year.
- ◆ One hundred eighty-three have already signed up for the 1995 - 1996 year. About five hundred renewal notices were mailed three weeks ago and are now coming in at 15-20 per day.
- ◆ It was decided the \$600 Cook Book money held by Jim & Lois Ince is to be turned in to the main fund, and specially earmarked to be used to benefit all at our next reunion.

headhunter financial statement

As of 23 May 1995, we have the following cash on hand:

Columbus Bank & Trust Company CD	\$5000.00
Columbus Bank & Trust Company CD	\$1000.00
Columbus Bank & Trust Company CD	\$ 750.00
Columbus Bank & Trust Company Savings	\$ 593.87
TIC Federal Credit Union Savings	\$ 215.82
Columbus Bank & Trust Company Checking Account	<u>\$1801.19</u>
Total Cash on Hand	\$9360.88
Cookbook Fund held by Jim & Lois Ince	<u>\$ 600.00</u>
TOTAL HEADHUNTER CASH	<u>\$9960.88</u>

Although much of this came from one-time LifeTime Membership fees, and is slowly being used up, it shows we are in great shape for years to come with yearly dues of \$10 continuing for our yearly members. Our reunions pay for themselves with no money coming from these membership funds. Close to \$2000 per year is being saved by sending out new Master Rosters every two years instead of every year. Roster currency is being maintained with quarterly changes sent with each newsletter. This mailing will be approximately \$1500.

CHANGE #6 TO MASTER HEADHUNTER ROSTER !!

Enclosed, please find Change #6 to the Master Roster that was sent to you with the 1 November 1993 Newsletter. Please note these few pages are only CHANGES to the Roster--NOT a full new roster!! If you're not on it, don't worry--it only means you didn't have any changes since 1 February.

GOOD NEWS!! A complete new updated Master Roster will be sent out with the next (1 September) Newsletter!

80TH HISTORY update!

Please keep working on your memoirs, and send them in to Lt Mark Madaus. He has incorporated all of the information that's been sent to him so far--and it's lookin' GOOD! Please keep those cards and letters coming in! Thank you.

We had a 17 February letter from Robert P. Taylor: "...If you want some info on the 80th when we first went to Thailand in 1964, you might get in touch with Vic Vizcarra in San Pedro, CA. He was our squadron historian during this period. We were the first [F-] 105's to take ground fire in Vietnam, in November '64." What do you say, Vic, do you have any notes stashed away in the attic?! Mark, this is a great piece of history! Thanks, Bob, for the lead!

LATEST INTELLIGENCE FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

Our highly reliable sources have WWII Aces and LifeTime celebrated their 50th Wedding of the entire Squadron, we wish to We all wish you many more of health and happiness!



informed us that Paul (one of our Members) & Sue Murphey just Anniversary this past week! On behalf congratulate you on this special time. anniversaries together in the very best

HURTIN' HEADHUNTERS

QUIET PLEASE



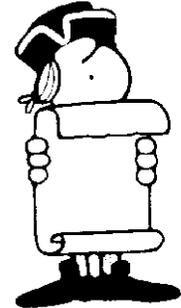
Florence, Kirby's wife, has had a very rough month of May. She had a heart attack on April 29th, went into the hospital to treat it, and ended up with two (2) major heart operations plus pneumonia before she was ready to return home on the 19th of May! She's feeling great now, and we all wish her continuing improvement as she gets stronger and totally back on her feet!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

It gives us great pleasure to welcome these **11 new members** to our organization for the **first time** (in the order of "signing up" since 1 February). **Equally rewarding** are the many members who have **renewed** after 1, 2, or even 3 years absence! Welcome back! The roll call of **new** members are:

Col Daniel K. Fetzer
Harry A. Crump
Col Peter H. Fox
Col Clyde W. "Cy" Strain
Tim McDonald
Col Kenneth R. Latour

Earl L. Lyle
Richard L. Creed
Lt Col Richard T. Frank
Patrick W. Christopherson
Jack Barry, Jr.



Friends of yours? You bet!! Look 'em up in your new Master Roster Change #6 (enclosed) and give 'em a call, or write 'em a letter. Or better yet, tell them you'll meet them at the next reunion! Great to have you all back in formation--and what a great one it is!!
Welcome!

head headhunter corner



We had a few newsletters left over from our last couple of mailings, so we sent them out as samples to people on the roster who had never joined us. We included a cover letter with it giving that information, and saying we'd really like them to join us. Some did, and we're all glad to have you with us!

Many thanks go out to Robbie Robertson for taking the time and effort to look through the Master Roster at the reunion, cross reference with his Daedalian book, and write in the missing addresses for almost 30 of our missing **headhunters**!! We immediately sent out "Please Join Us" letters, and they're now signing up! Thanks again, Bob!

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wives for answering a lot of the mail, renewing dues, and sending in news worthy information.

Thank you, ladies!! Please keep up the great work!

Well, it's that time of the year again for all our Yearly Members--dues are due! Notifications went out three weeks ago to 540 members whose memberships have or will expire the end of this month (June). If you didn't get a letter, SUPER--you're still paid up for the 1 July 1995 - 30 June 1996 membership year. However, if you did get a notice, PLEASE renew your dues for this next year. You don't want to miss these great literary masterpieces known as **headhunter headlines** Newsletters, the new Master Roster, plus reunion notifications, and all the other great benefits of membership. Of course, there's a way not to get bothered every year with those "Dues are Due" letters--get a LifeTime Membership (LTM) and your worries are over! Details were included with your "Dues" letter! Thanks!

THE STORK CORNER!



We take great pride in announcing the birth of the world's youngest **HEADHUNTERS!**

Maj (S) John "Glib II" & Laci Wallin are very proud to announce the arrival of their fourth child and third son: Michael Patrick Wallin. His roll-out date was 0816 on 31 Jan 95, with a gross weight of 11 lbs 3 oz, and a wing span of 21.5 inches. Yep, they rechecked his weight & balance, and 11 lbs 3 oz is correct. He was just signed up this week by the Dallas Cowboys as Left Tackle!! Our congratulations go out to John & Laci for their newest formation member--and John's promotion!

Col Frank Bay & Pat Wille apologized for not making the reunion; however, they had a great excuse--their son Cannon Bay Wille was only three weeks old! Does his name sound familiar? Well, it should--he was named after a former 80th Squadron Commander & one of our members, Cannon Randall! Congratulations to Frank & Pat! And to Cannon--you must be very proud!!

*** CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL! ***

HEADHUNTERS AT REST

Last, but certainly not least, we would like to take this opportunity to pass on to all members the names of those **HEADHUNTERS**, who we know of, that have made their last takeoff in this lifetime since our last newsletter:

Franklin K. Manges	WWII/LTM	13 Nov 94
Robert M. Bickett	Korea	21 Dec 94
John Gillam	WWII	Unknown
Harold P. Mosback	WWII/LTM	1 Mar 95
Julian M. Brisendine	WWII/LTM	27 Mar 95
Capt Kenneth W. "Buck" Levens	JUVAT	10 May 95 (F-117 crash)

We had a note from Mr. Larry Miller, son of Col Don Miller who was one of our Korean era LTM's that passed away back on 8 Jun 94: "Please take my mom, Martha Miller, off your mailing list. She passed away 15 Jan. (She's up visiting dad in the big O'Club in the Sky)." Thanks for the note, Larry, and we're sorry to hear that news.

We also had a 9 Feb letter from Jerry Minton; "This evening I got a call from Bob Bickett's widow.... He flew fighters in WWII in Europe--several different outfits. [In the 80th in Korea] he was "A" Flight Commander for a while, and when he left on Thanksgiving Day of 1952, I got the job. 'Bick' was a good guy and a good Headhunter! He and his wife were planning to make their first reunion ever at Ft. Walton Beach."

O.C. Dyer called us the morning of 28 March. He said that Julian Brisendine had called him about a week ago and wanted to know if O.C. had made his reunion reservations yet. Julian told him that he had pneumonia, but he was going to get better and go to the reunion and wanted O.C. there, too. Helen called O.C. five days later--Julian had passed away.

On behalf of the entire Squadron, we wish to officially pass on to their families our deepest sympathies and sincere gratitude for the outstanding contribution each of these individuals made to the Squadron and our Country.

May God bless and keep them in His Flight forever.



The next **HEADHUNTER HEADLINES** will be dated 1 September 1995.

WE HAD A BLAST "ON THE BEACH" 27-30 APRIL!!

✓6,

Col Jay E. "Jay Bird" Riedel, USAF Ret

P.S. Please don't forget to:

- * **Send your memoirs to Lt Madaus!!**
- * **Renew your Membership, if expired**



80th Fighter Squadron
"HEADHUNTERS"
905 Arapaho Ct
Columbus, GA 31904

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS