80th FIGHTER SQUADRON HEADHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

HEADHUNTER HEADLINES

James W. Ritter
1030 E Hwy 377, Suite 110 PMB 174
Granbury, Texas 76048
Tex@80FSHeadhunters.org
www.80FSHeadhunters.org

"AUDENTES FORTUNA JUVAT" 1 May 2013

WWII HEADHUNTERS

THE ORIGINAL CADRE
These images are composites – splicing two snapshots together in Photoshop – which hopefully give a little flavor of the Headhunter experience at Suwon’s K-13. Relaxing in the rec room was the easiest way to kill time between sorties, especially if you were hanging around trying to pick up an extra mark toward the magic “100” and speed your trip home. Photos above courtesy of Ed Gund.

Splicing a couple Kodachromes makes for a nice panoramic ramp shot of K-13 during the summer of 1952. Ship #492 waits with fuel caps popped in between sorties as the pilot fills out the Form 1; the bomb truck hovers in the background to rearm once the refueling in complete. Images courtesy Jerry Minton

BETWEEN THE WARS HEADHUNTERS

Received this from Ken Foust (next page): “Here are some pictures from the 80th when we were at Ashyia in 1948 and 1949. (We) armormers were cleaning the guns and reloading the ammo bays after they had completed a training flight- “Always Ready” C Flight.” Ken Foust.
All pictures of F-51 in Sydn or Hiyoko, Japan 1945

Some times.

"HELEN" hot stuff and best

F-51 fighter 49

Clearing 506 MG 1947
Col. Douglas “Stoli” Nikolai, 8th Fighter Wing vice commander, performs a toast for the crowd during the Korean American Friendship Council Friendship Night at Gunsan City, South Korea, Jan. 22, 2013. Nikolai and others from the 8th FW joined members of the KAFC to showcase the support provided by the 8th FW and KAFC for the Gunsan City community. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Fowler/Released)

**JUVAT BOYS CHOIR - ORIGIN and HISTORY**

By Bruce “Big Fella” MacLennan

Some time ago, JayBird asked me to try to recall enough of a fading past assignment with the Headhunters to put together some history of the Juvat Boys Choir. Due to the ever-present threat of the onset of CRS, I thought I’d better finally get with it before everything totally disappears from the “floppy” above my neck. There’s going to be a lot of names—and perhaps some events—missing due to the above mentioned CRS, but I’ll run the story by Bob Kan in hopes he can fill in some voids. I’m sure JayBird will do the same if he wants a plausible article.

I arrived at Kunsan in the Spring of 1972 after a tour in the Pentagon, Armed Forces Staff College, and recurrency in the Phantom at Homestead AFB. The Wing had sent a squadron of aircraft crewed by the most experienced guys they had south to join the fray in SEA for the Linebacker series of operations. Having already completed one tour in the war, I was scheduled to join that group as one of the experienced troops when replacements were needed for those who had completed their one-year remote tour. However, due to the influx of new crews from training units in the States, and dearth 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 PISSED! However, we set about the job of teaching these young crews how to be Fighter Pilots of the Old School; both in the air and on the ground.

I’ll skip a lot of the ancillaries to this story, and jump right to the subject—which was really the only thing I was asked to do. 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/biweekly Flying Safety meeting. I think we had ours weekly in the dining/ballroom of the O-Club.

After the usual safety messages, praise and/or admonishment by the Wing Staff, the squadrons (we only had two) made a presentation on alternate weeks. These usually dealt with some lesson(s) learned that needed to be passed on, or some prediction of impending doom if we didn’t do something to change a trend. We of the Headhunters dutifully did our part in contributing to the program.

During the above mentioned training of the new guys, we experienced types had noticed that a knowledge of—and capability to perform—the age-old ritual of “Singing Fighter Pilot Songs” was almost totally nonexistent 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 the some of the nit-picking Stan Eval questions; i.e. how many holes are in the vari-Ramp on the F-4?

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 the 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 by the Wing Staff, it was time for the 80TFS to make their contribution to this program.

Do you know what we did? We sang a hymn “Beside a Korean Waterfall” that was 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.) We followed that up with a few renditions of old favorites, such as “Mary Ann Burns,” “I Wanna Play a Piano in a Whorehouse,” and “I Wanted Wings.” Needless to say, the levity and esprit that developed from that meeting carried over. The other squadron, TDY from Okinawa to replace the 35th who went down south, couldn’t keep up with our young aggressive guys once they had found out what it was like to be ON TOP OF IT ALL. And we were!

We added other songs to our repertoire as the weeks went on, and my wife Eileen even participated in her own Party Suit on one of her visits to “The Kun.” She had solo parts in “My Father is a Fireman,” and played accompanying piano to the Choir’s exquisite rendition of “The Balls of O’Leary.”

To the best of my recollection, that’s how the Choir was started. I know it continued as a cult thing after I left in 1973, but I’ve never heard how this was received. I’d like to know the follow-on to what I believe we started. I need to acknowledge as many of the folks who got this thing going and kept it viable beside me and Bob Kan. Among the Experienced Heads were singers Woody Bryant, Wally Armstrong and Paul Chase. Non-singers (but knew the words) Babe Brandy, Bob Gadd, Jack Arnold and Swede Swendner. Among the young guys that I can remember were Mike Bovey, Hank Kuhlman, John Locke, ---I need help here, Bobby –there was Dan “Toppy”? , and a lot of our young guys. I don’t have names. Do you? ---

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.

When I was at the Kun (’77-’78), the JBC was a rather informal affair. We met wherever and whenever there was free booze. Generally, the first drunk to his feet was JBC lead (singing ability be damned) and we performed, mostly haphazardly, at all Squadron parties and Hail and Farewells- and often to the chagrin of the CO and displeasure of the Wing Kings- probably no different from all the other squadrons in the world since Captain Eddie.

But, in the early 80’s the JBC took on a life of its own. Now, singers are actually recruited by The Choir and are required to attend all practices, write songs, actually have the ability to carry a tune, AND buy all the vocal lubricants. The Choir is now an institution, with its own will and separate existence. It is virtually untouchable by the forces of political correctness. Excellent progress!

The JBC is known throughout the free world, as are the Headhunters/Juvats. Loved by some, hated by others for their intense élan and spirit-but known and respected( sometimes grudgingly) by all. The JBC is alive and well at the Kun and the tradition of loud, often vulgar singers of fighter pilot songs continues!- Tex
4/9/2013 - **SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, S.C.** -- On April 5, 2013, Shaw AFB flags were slowly brought to half-staff at noon honoring a fallen 20th Fighter Wing combat Airman. The Airman, 77th Fighter Squadron pilot, **Capt. James “Mano” Steel**, died April 3, 2013, after his F-16 Fighting Falcon crashed in Afghanistan. He is the first 20th FW aviator lost in combat since 1945 during World War II in England.

"Mano was the finest American and patriot warrior," said Lt. Col. Scott Shepard, former 20th Operations Support Squadron commander. "He worked extremely hard enhancing the combat readiness of the 20th FW during his tour in my squadron as the chief of air-to-surface programs. Mano never said 'no' or 'I can't' and never tried to deflect even the most difficult tasking. He was happy, friendly, funny, ever so patriotic, and loved flying the mighty F-16 Viper like you can't even imagine. This young man was truly cream of the crop and there's no explanation on this earth why he was chosen to depart this world early. He will be sorely missed."

Capt. Steel, a 2006 U.S. Air Force Academy graduate, is remembered throughout base, not just the 20th OG. The exuberant pilot befriended everyone he met. *by Capt. Ann Blodzinski  20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

*(Mano was a Juvat Headhunter in 2009. His memorial service was held at Shaw AFB on April 30 - Tex)*

From **Jaybird**: Andy died on 13 January after complications from heart surgery. [http://wcfish.tributes.com/show/Lothar-Andy-Olman-95101934](http://wcfish.tributes.com/show/Lothar-Andy-Olman-95101934) *LtCol. Lothar "Andy" Olman, USAF Retired, of Austin Texas, a fighter pilot of 28 years with the U.S. Air Force took his Final Sweep on 13th January 2013. He retired in 1979 as a Command Pilot with over 5000 hours of flying time. All his combat missions were flown in North Vietnam in F-105 jet fighters. His military decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medals, Commendation Medal, and Presidential Unit Citation as*
Dear Mr. Ritter,

With heavy heart and great sorrow, I lost my husband, Allen E. “Red” Wilson on 12-20-12.

Sincerely, Barbara Wilson, 166635 Arrowhead Dr., Oregon City, OR 97045

“My husband Denson W. Ware passed away on February 14, 2013. He was a proud member of the 80th Fighter Squadron and looked forward to reading your “headhunter Headlines”. He had fond memories of past reunions with both the 8th Fighter Group and the 80th Fighter Squadron. He was 90 years old and never hesitated to tell about your missions in the South Pacific during WWII. Thank you for keeping in touch with him through your interesting “Headhunter Headlines”.

(signed) Frances Ware, 13707 Wilderness Creek Dr, San Antonio, TX 78231

Correcting a long-overdue omission

“Lt Col Todd Dabney served in the US Army Air Corps from 1941-1945 the end of WWII. He was one of the first to be sent to Australia-New Guinea after Pearl Harbor, having been commissioned a 2nd Lt in the class of 1941 E, July 1941. He was awarded the Air Medal, DFC and the Silver Star. He died in Richmond, VA, April 2007.” Mrs. Lucy Dabney.

News and Requests from Around the World

Received this from Steve Teske:

From last week’s Senate news:

**GENERAL OFFICER CONFIRMATIONS:**

The Senate has confirmed the following general officer for appointment to the grade of general with assignment as indicated: GEN PHILIP M. BREEDLOVE

FROM: Commander, United States Air Forces Europe; Commander, United States Air Forces Africa; Commander, Air Component Command, Ramstein; and Director, Joint Air Power Competency Center, Ramstein AB, Germany

TO: Commander, United States European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Sir Bwana: OUTSTANDING! - Tex

SAY HELLO TO THE NEWEST JUVAT LEAD (#107):

Tex, Nogas, and Jaybird,

Thanks for the welcome. I’m stoked about the job. I’ve visited the Kun TDY a few times over the last decade, but it’ll be nice to officially get back to the Juvats, 12 years after my previous arrival on the Freedom Bird. I haven’t chimed in, but I’ve been listening in on Guard to all the Association going ons, including website and facebook stuff. I still have my old beat-up JBC songbook from 2003, but an up-to-date version would be welcome. I’ve been trying to get any words on my inbound DO as well - nothing yet. Four of the Juvats that were in town to use the Misawa simulators stopped by late at night a couple weeks ago as a visit to congratulate me as well - good work. My final act as DO with the Samurai will be taking us to Red Flag-Alaska, where wouldn’t you know it, the Juvats will be there at the same time. Then I'll be off to Korea for a 10 Jun RNLT. No date yet for CoC. Looking forward to coordinating with you all in the future; the Association and active Juvats have a valuable relationship that I know we'll continue to strengthen!

Crush 'Em! Lt Col Paul "Bender" Miller 14 FS/DO millerft6@gmail.com

Greetings,

I was a member (#88) of the 80th TFS Headhunters while stationed at Kunsan in 1972-1973.
For years, my info has been on the website but I can't seem to locate it, nor can I log in on the site. I am a Lifetime Member and would like to continue follow the goings-on of my fellow Juvats. Please help me sign up electronically, if that is still possible.

I had the fortune to fly some combat missions in April, 1972 in Southeast Asia. Volunteering to help ferry aircraft to help our sister squadron 35 TFS crews, wound up staying, first at Ubon Air Base, then at DaNang, with a short stint at Clark AB for a short jungle survival course. More later on that. Anyway, could you please update my info and help me utilize this site a little better?

Thanks for your help, Richard B. Young, Lt Col, USAF, Ret. 20 Jana Lane Stratham, NH 03885-2108 (603) 778-1191 richiko@yahoo.com

(Richiko, good to hear from you. I've re-re-sent you a letter of instructions to help you register- Tex)

THIS IS A GREAT REMINDER: IF YOU HAVEN'T REGISTERED ON THE NEW WEBSITE, YOU ARE MISSING OUT ON THE FORUMS, MASTER ROSTER AND EMAIL ADDRESS LISTINGS OF YOUR OLD SQUADRON MATES. IF YOU NEED TO REGISTER (AND YOU KNOW YOU DO NEED TO), CONTACT ME FOR A SET OF INSTRUCTIONS OR CONTACT THE WEBMASTER NOGAS@8oFSHEADHUNTERS.ORG FOR HELP. PLEASE DO IT TODAY- TEX

Reposted:  Got an email from Lt Col “Toro” Hauck, current Juvat Lead reminding me that Juvat Lead 103, Lt Col “Decoy” Sine has email addresses available. @juvats.org If you want one, contact him directly.
Here's his email address: decoy@juvats.org

From Decoy: “I have admin rights to the Juvats google domain. If you, or any of your Juvats, want a xxx@juvats.org e-mail address, drop me an e-mail and I will set it up. Comes with (sts) cloud storage, etc. Just need to send me your desired e-mail address--you will get an e-mail with a temp password when it is established. Cheers, WIG!? Decoy-- Juvat Lead #103"

NAME: Rex Paulus
EMAIL: rex8001@hotmail.com

Tex-
It's been too long since I've emailed you. I find myself in Kunsan for 30 days again, having just left a "Meet AJ" and I'm here to tell you that, without a doubt, the Juvats remain strong! Much has changed since we were there last, but nothing has changed! The warrior spirit that was brought down #225 is the same and still waiting for the opportunity for #226. Merry Christmas brother, God bless, get back in touch. Say hello to Rita for me. WIG?!

Rex/Deuce Paulus

From Edgar “KTown” Knouse: I just finished professionally recording my first single! Although I don't have a full album (and I'm no Garth Brooks!), I think you will find "The Goodbye" a very patriotic song with a "reverent country feel" with "military undertones" that is a fitting tribute from the victims of, to the survivors of the tragic events of September 11th, 2001, including those from the Pentagon.

I wrote "The Goodbye" several months after the events of 9/11 when I was playing my guitar one evening while stationed at Beale AFB, California. The song gathered dust in my guitar case, rarely seeing the light of day for nearly 11 years, until a few months ago, when my wife surprised me with a very special gift for my upcoming 50th birthday, where she paid for a professional music producer to record "The Goodbye", one of my biggest dreams since I wrote the song! We also professionally produced an accompanying video which can be viewed on YouTube at the following link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMSExqpio2I

Tex, You think you could put out a word on my new book? It comes out this month. Here's the publisher's link: http://www.potomacbooksinc.com/test/Books/BookDetail.aspx?productID=355124. Here's the Amazon
link: http://www.amazon.com/Killing-Without-Heart-Persistent-Conflict/dp/1612346138. I also have a site at www.shaneriza.com. I have a blog and information about publications and appearances. I’m attaching a synopsis of the work here as well. Thanks for helping get the word out. **Shane “SPAM” Riza** Juvat 95-96, Juvat DO 07-08, LTM  But of course, Spam

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**FROM THE ORDERLY ROOM**

**NOTES FROM THE REUNION:**

*This says it all:* “Tex, Thanks again for getting me into our area at the airshow yesterday on very short notice. It was a very special day visiting with the Juvats of recent and not quite so recent and the remaining WW II members. They are disappearing all too fast. The 5-ship fly-by most likely will be a once in a lifetime event and I sure am glad I was there to see it with other Juvats. "What is good?”, 80th FS Association.” **Tom Strong**

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**“LIGHTNING STRIKES CHINO”**

FIVE OF THE REMAINING SEVEN FLYING P-38s IN THE WORLD. YOU WILL NEVER SEE THIS AGAIN ON THIS SIDE OF “THAT HEADHUNTER HEAVEN ABOVE.”

http://tinyurl.com/bt8qqwr
https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=xubCaOlHJOE
This is **Col Abner Aust**, former CO of 3rd TFW from Misawa who formed what would become the 8th TFW at Kunsan AB. **Note the rocker on his left shoulder—“JUVAT”**

**S/Sgt Whitey Freberg**, Headhunter P-38 Crew Chief, Korean war loadmaster, reunion stalwart and beer drinker extraordinaire. 88 years young.

**Reunion Hosts, Buster & Robbin McGee.** Buster (here showing his “combat grimace”) is a former Thunderbird and F-100/A-1 driver with more than a few combat missions. **Thank you for a great reunion!**

**T/Sgt Ben Byland,** Armorer and member of the original cadre to New Guinea. 92 ½ years young and throwing his first snakes!

Lest you think **Ben** was always “an old guy with a hearing aid”. 1943. Milne Bay. That’s a Thompson sub-machine gun with 50 round drum. There were Japs in the jungle.
Zippo Fahey throwing snakes from a P-51.
Thanks for a great show, Zippo!

Picture of the live hook up with the JBC at Kunsan.
Thanks to Tootsie Roll and JBC Lt Matt “Red” Robbins for making that happen!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
Congratulations to Tom Slee. He won the drawing for the ride in the P-38. Due to mobility requirements, his ride actually took place in a P-51 which was piloted by Zippo Fahey.

This reunion was less-well attended than I would have liked to see.

Part of that was my fault as I simply did not bug you all enough. Part of that was also the sheer number of changes to the schedule and the event costs that were taking place right up until you got the mailing I sent out 6 weeks prior to the start of the reunion. You got the info just as soon as we could finalize it all.

We had a great presentation by Association Historian, Bob “Driver Mac” McNeese on Kirby, his restored leather jacket (the true owner of which was Bob “Peanut” Nevil- one of the original cadre) and the Driver Mac’s efforts to preserve our artifacts and history.

We never did finalize the dates and location for the next reunion during the business meeting. I am looking for venues and will let you know soonest.

Look for more pictures on the website, soon.

PLEASE REGISTER ON THE WEBSITE. CONTACT YOUR WEBMASTER Nogas@8ofsheadhunters.org for help.

W.I.G. Tex n Rita2
“TWIN TAILED LIGHTNING
AS WE ROAM’D PACIFIC
SEARCHING OUT, THE SONS OF
SENDING THEM TO THEIR

WAS OUR WARPLANE,
SKIES...
NIPPON,
DEMISE.”