



80th FIGHTER SQUADRON

HEADHUNTER HEADLINES



905 Arapaho Court; Columbus, GA 31904-1242
Call or Fax: (706) 324-7360
E-Mail: JayBirdOne@mindspring.com



Vol. VIII, No. 31

"AUDENTES FORTUNA JUVAT"

November 1, 1998

Greetings, Fellow **HEADHUNTERS!**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Bonnie & I hope this Newsletter finds all of you in the very best of health and happiness as we enter this great Holiday Season!

NEW SAN ANTONIO REUNION DETAILS!

Our next reunion hosts for this 18th get-together, Dr. Jack & Wanda Shelton, have firmed up the dates and hotel! It will be in **San Antonio on 21-24 October 1999 at the Marriott Plaza!** This hotel, with its beautiful 6+ acre grounds, is right downtown only 1½ blocks from the famous Riverwalk. The complex incorporates several historic buildings which have been renovated and are used for meeting rooms, etc. (President Bush signed an agreement there during his tenure.) Our Hospitality Room will be an old German schoolhouse with a porch set in a gorgeous courtyard! Rooms at a more modest rate have also been reserved at its sister hotel, the Sumner Suites, one block away. Amenities of each can be shared by all.

Captain Haynes, the United pilot who landed the DC-10 at Sioux City a few years ago with complete hydraulic failure, will be our guest speaker! Many others have tried this feat in simulators—all without success.... Stay tuned for further details as they develop! **Please block these dates on your calendars now so a fishing trip doesn't sneak in there and clash later!!!**

Lost time is never found again

OUR AIR FORCE READINESS

(Reprinted from an *Air Force Times* article by Jim Wolffe, 12 October 1998)

Now that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have declared their concern over readiness problems, the Air Force is launching an all-out effort its own readiness message out.

Commanders and public-affairs officers down to the base level have been instructed to “seek opportunities to explain the state of readiness” and “use all available channels of communication, including interviews and commentary in base newspapers, commanders calls, staff meetings, town meetings, and other venues, to tell the readiness story to the internal audience.”

To get the word out to the public, commanders and public-affairs officers are instructed to “engage with local, regional and national media to accurately convey details as they relate to their organizations,” and to convey the same messages to civic groups and their civilian audiences through speeches and base visits.

The guidance from the Pentagon’s public-affairs division included “talking points” to be used to explain how bad the problem is. Here are some of them:

Recruiting

- Recruiting the best and brightest of our high school and college graduates continues to be a challenge. Since 1989, males are 30% less likely to enlist; we have similar indicators for females. A strong economy and alternative opportunities have decreased the pool of interested and qualified recruits.

Retention

- People are leaving the Air Force because they are concerned about their retirement benefits, their pay is not comparable to the civilian job market, and their workload and the time they are away from their families is excessive.
- The Air Force is experiencing an unprecedented loss of pilots. Today the service is more than 700 pilots short of our requirement and that number is steadily growing. If pilot retention does not change, we will be short 2000 pilots by 2002.
- The service is very concerned about the loss of midlevel NCOs. Some examples: retention among F-15 avionics technicians has dropped 39% over the last five years. The retention rate for F-15 crew chiefs has dropped 24% in the same period.

Operations tempo

- Uncertainty and increased demands for U.S. military involvement around the globe have replaced the fixed, predictable requirements of the Cold War era.
- Over the past decade, Air Force presence abroad decreased from 50 bases to 17, leading to more deployments from bases within the U.S. to overseas locations.
- Since 1986, Air Force manpower dropped by more than one-third while the number of people deployed increased to four times the previous level.

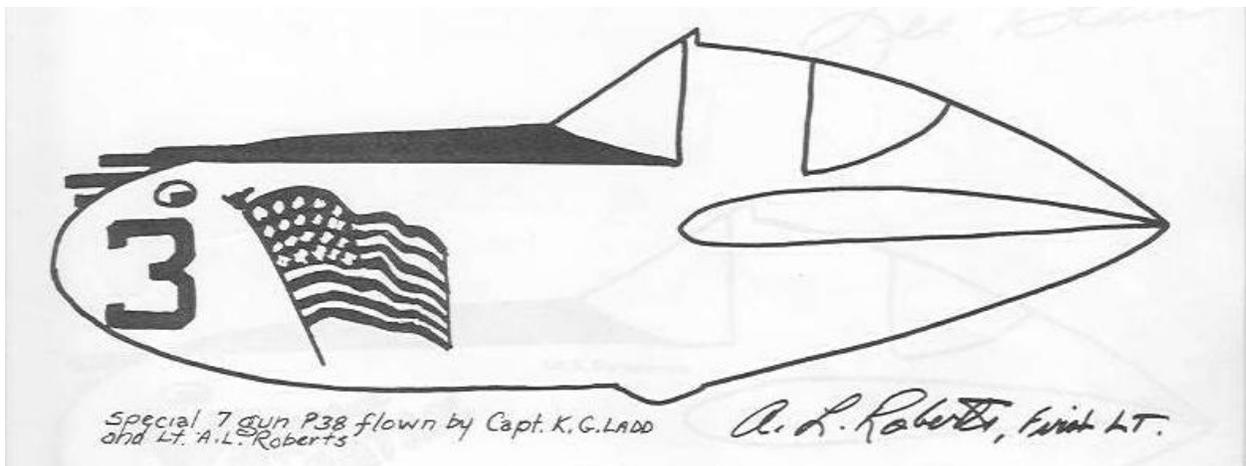
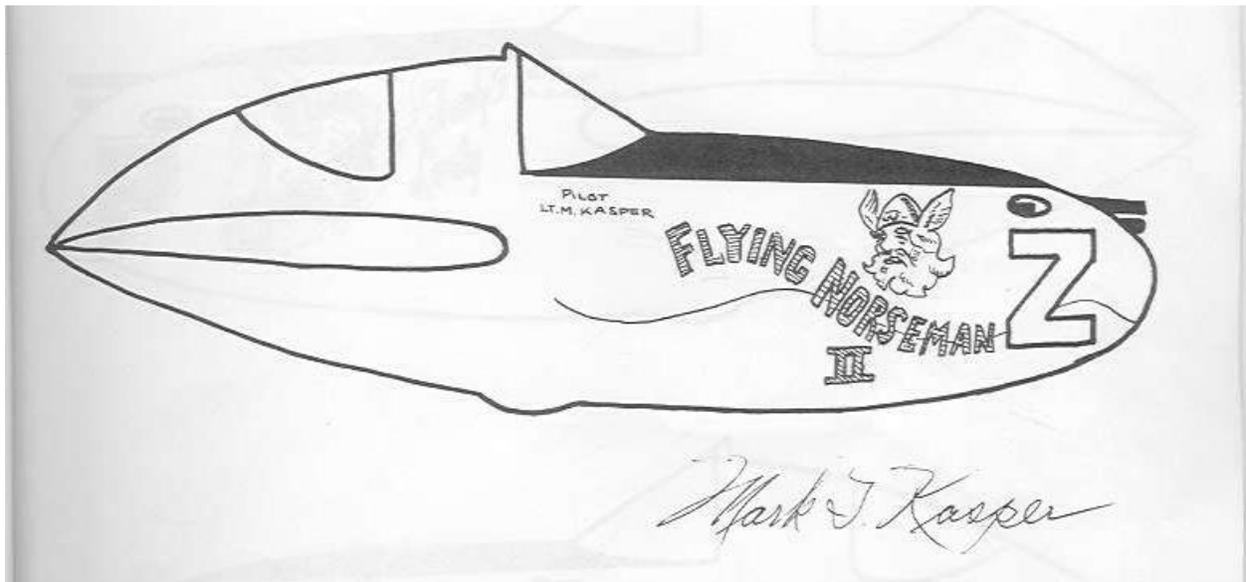
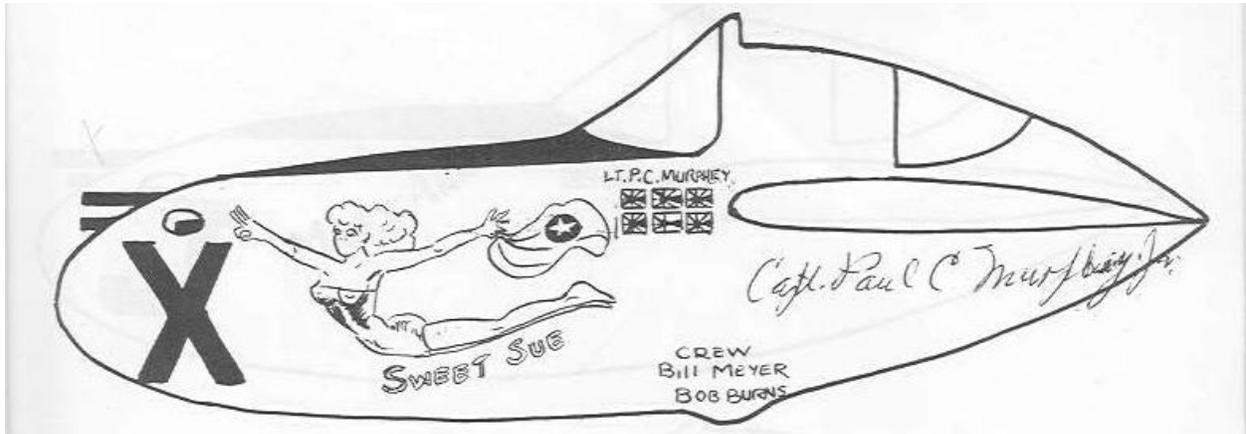
Unit readiness

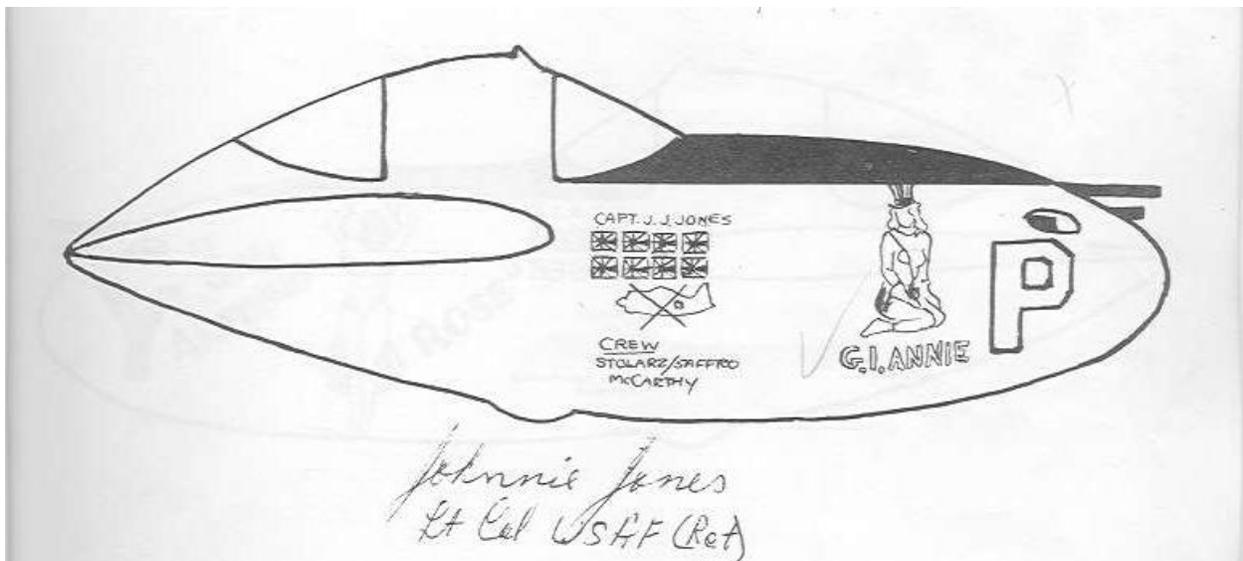
- Overall, unit readiness is down 12% in the past 2½ years.
- Unit readiness for stateside units is down 49% in the same period.

Aging aircraft and equipment

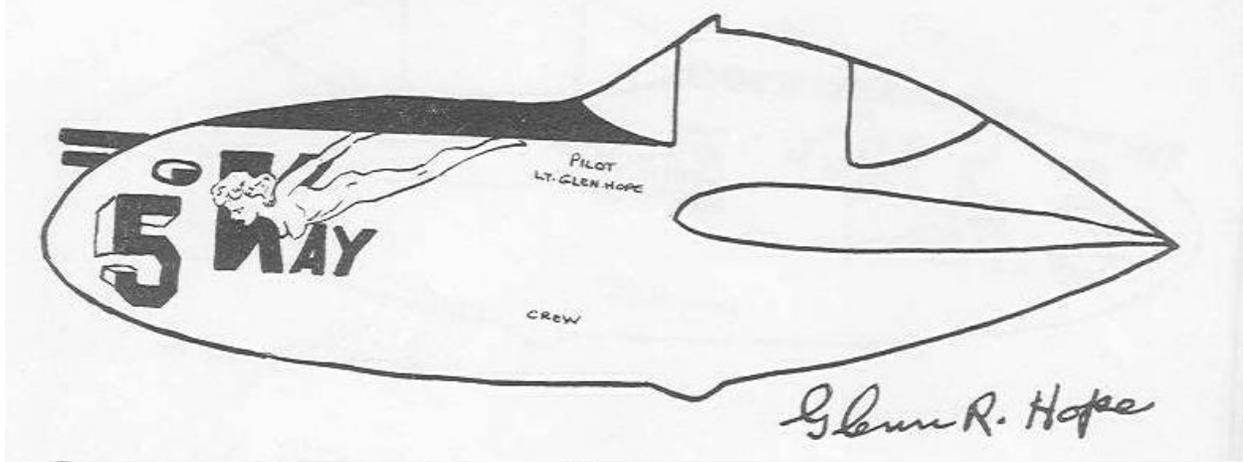
- One year from now, 75% of the service’s aircraft will be more than 20 years old. By 2015, the average age of our aircraft will be more than 30 years.
- When an older F-15 goes in for overhaul, it costs 37% more to service than it costs to do the same work on our newer F-15s.
- Between 1991 and 1998, mission-capable rates declined 53% for a cross-section of 15 types of the most critical fighters, bombers, transports, and AWACS.
- The service is short of spare parts. Between 1995 and today, there has been a 58% increase in cannibalization—the practice of removing parts from one aircraft and installing them on another to keep the second one operational.

MORE WWII 80TH P-38 NOSE ART

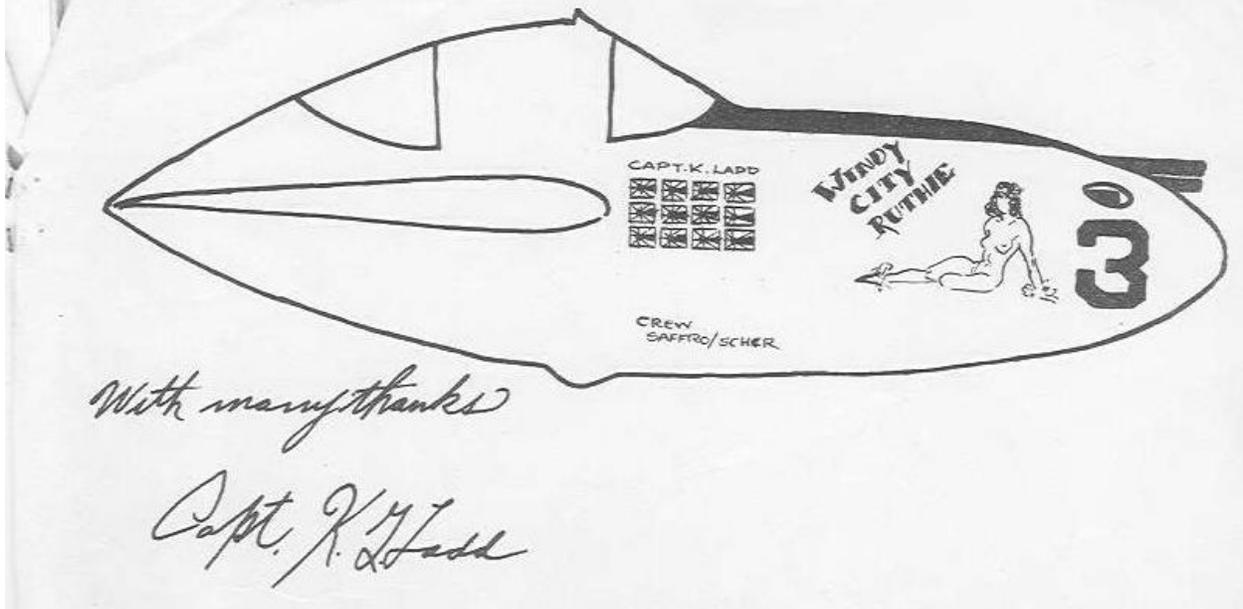




*Johnnie Jones
Lt Col USAF (Ret)*



Glen R. Hope

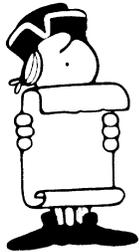


*With many thanks
Capt. K. Ladd*

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

It gives us great pleasure to welcome these **12 new members** to our ranks for the **first time** (in the order of "signing up" since 1 August). **Equally rewarding** are the **many** members who have **rejoined** after 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or even 7 years absence! **Welcome back to all!** As of this date, we have 376 yearly members plus 363 LifeTime Members—**739 Total!!**

Here is the roll call of our **new** members:



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Capt Don F. Aaser (80-81) | 1Lt David D. Sundlov (98-99) |
| 1Lt Andrew J. Rydland (98-99) | Capt Sonny P. Blinkinsop (98-99) |
| Capt Philippe R. Malebranche (97-98) | Capt Bryan K. Turner (97-98) |
| Col Douglas M. Nix (68-69) | Lt Col William O. Johnson (81-82) |
| Lt Col Rickie A. French (98-99) | 1Lt Thomas P. Seymour (97-98) |
| 1Lt Lans P. Courtney (97-98) | Capt Trey Fuller (98-99) |

Friends of yours? You bet!! Look 'em up in your new Master Roster Change #4 (enclosed), give 'em a call, write 'em a letter, or beam an e-mail message over to them. Or better yet, ask them to meet you at the **next reunion—in San Antonio 21-24 October 1999!** Great to have you **all** in formation—and what a **super** one it is!! **Welcome!** Do you have **Headhunter** friends that aren't members? If so, please let me have their addresses, and I'll send a "Please Join Us" letter to them. **How about all the Juvat HEADHUNTERS in our active Squadron in Korea----come on, Y'all, cleared in hot!!"** **Thank you!**

THE MAIL BAG

Dear Col Riedel:

Please accept the enclosed contribution made on behalf of George Robert (Bob) Pittman (deceased) for the purpose of the continuation of the **Headhunter Headlines** newsletter.



Even though I never served in the military, the recent watching of "Saving Private Ryan" was a real eye opener and very sobering dramatization of what actual battle may have been like. I remember Dad telling me about one time when he was on route by ship to another Pacific island late in the war and saw the Japanese Kamikaze's began dive bombing his convoy. Bob expressed seeing one Kamikaze strike what was evidently an ammunition ship. Bob said he could see the silhouettes of the sailors with their fire hoses running down the deck towards the impact point. Before they could get to the fire there was a bright flash of light, a huge concussion and the ship was gone.

According to recent statistics there were over 16 million Americans who served in World War II. Today there are a little more than 6 million still alive and every month an additional 31,000 are dying. As the population of this group of heroes continues to age, the memories and exploits of their military service will unfortunately continue to disappear. Thanks for keeping the 80th Fighter Squadron sagas and legend alive and well for future generations!

Sincerely,

Ron Pittman

Ed Note: Do we have your memoirs in our Squadron History? If not, please jot them down and send them to us for inclusion—very important for us to write down our Squadron experiences so we may pass them on—not for ourselves—but for our future generations. If we don't, who will....)

6 Beechfield Road
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire HP1 1PP
England
1st September 1998

Dear Col Riedel,

May I introduce myself. My name is Matthew Lohead and I am 16 years old. I live in the town of Hemel Hempstead in the County of Hertfordshire, with my 19 year old brother Darren, and my Mum and Dad.

I have a great love and interest in military aircraft especially WW2 American Squadrons. My Grandad Ken flew with the RAF during WW2 and flew Wellingtons and Liberators. He has often told me of the great American Squadrons and their pilots. My Grandad Denis was on an Aircraft Carrier during WW2.

My ambition is to one day join the RAF as a pilot but sadly my eyesight is rather poor so maybe my dream will not come true. I am working very hard at school at present to get my qualifications. I would still like to join the RAF and shall be working hard as I know how dedicated and committed you have to be.

Due to my love of WW2 Military Aircraft I am endeavoring to collect autographs of the brave pilots and aircrew of the American squadrons of WW2. I have tried so hard to establish a way of politely enquiring about such a venture only to end up disappointed and dismayed that I could not write to individual squadrons/pilots.

Recently my Dad had our computer connected to the internet, and I was thrilled to see that your Squadron was listed along with your forthcoming reunion dates. My reason for writing to you is to very politely and humbly inquire if it might be possible to send me a print/picture/with your associations Pilots and Crews autographs on it. I am very aware that I may be wasting you, and all of your colleagues time and I would fully understand if I did not receive a response.

I understand the sacrifice, bravery, and courage of all of your Association Members during the conflicts of WW2 and I have, and always will retain the greatest respect and admiration for you all.

I know you must get lots of requests similar to mine but I hope with all my heart that I can be your friend and receive a response. I would be happy to send you my pocket money if you wanted me to.

Any response you might consider would be greatly appreciated and I would treasure it forever.

I love going to Airshows, our dog Oscar who we have sadly just lost, used to love the American Airshows best as he always used to get a hamburger and a can of BUD. Sadly there are no American Airshows anymore.

All of my family send you their kindest regards and best wishes, my father has told me not to be expectant explaining how big an organisation you are, and that you and your colleagues are very busy.

I hope that your reunion is a great success and please send my friendship to all of your colleagues.

I am aware that this letter is a little long so I will close now and let my brother use the computer.

Always a friend of the '80th Fighter Squadron'

I shall be keeping my fingers crossed.

Your Friend
Matthew Lohead

Ed Note: We sent him a package of autographed P-38 nose art, Squadron History, autographed drawing of a P-38 by the pilots, and of a P-38 engine by the crew chiefs, along with a couple of patches and a history of our patch. Any other letters/contact to Matthew would, I'm sure, be greatly appreciated by him. We also received, and answered, a very nice letter from his Dad hoping I would answer Matthew—but understanding if I didn't.

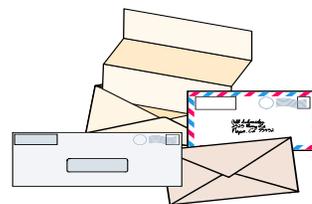
HURTIN' HEADHUNTERS



We had an e-mail message back in mid-August that Denny “Pancho” Stanford was in the hospital undergoing treatment for kidney cancer. As of this writing, he is still in the hospital. We put the word out over the **Headhunter** e-mail net to approximately 320 members, and Pancho and wife Janet received many supporting cards, calls, and letters. Now the rest of our 700+ members who aren’t on the Internet would also like to wish both of you continued support in this time of treatment. You’re in our prayers for a fast and complete recovery, Pancho! HEB Hospital; 1600 Hospital Pkwy; Bedford, TX 76022; Room #211.

LOST MEMBERS

The following is a list of past members that we’ve lost track of due to returned mail for various reasons. If you know the whereabouts of any of these **HeadHunters**, please let me know so I can get their mail to them. Thank You!



Capt David Allen
Lt Col David L. Connors
Capt Mark W. Devane
Lt Col Kurt K. Eichorst
J. Todd Hicks
Spike Jordan
Gerald Lanagan
Maj Stephen M. Lowery
Maj Dillon L. McFarland
Maj Calvin T. Miyatake
Capt Stephen M. Plescha
Karl A. Schlimm
Richard W. Sheldon
Lt Col Thomas J. Steichen
Lt Col Verlin B. Tranter
Bob Whitehouse
Capt Robert J. Zyriek

Capt Lex Brockington
Capt Dale L. Cothren
Capt Stephen M. Duffy
Capt Merrill Fink
J. J. Hokaj
Capt Mike R. Kelley
Capt Michael R. Lightner
John Martin
Maj Mark Merkel
Capt Martin E. O’Connell
Joseph M. Pongrace
Maj Thomas J. Schrader
Col Charles N. Simpson
Capt Tommy N. Taylor
Gary Vanderveer
Lt Col John W. Wyatt

Capt Larry L. Burkett
Capt Chad L. Crawford
Capt Michael A. Efferson
Col Donald F. Gabreski
K. C. Jones
Capt Steven S. Kempf
Lt Col Victor C. Lin
Col Steven C. Mays
Maj Gregory J. Miller
Maj Eric M. Pell
Dave Riesselmann
Joe Sepessy
Lt Col Robert P. Steel
Maj Garrett J. Thompson
John Vignetti
Capt John Wynne

MASTER ROSTER CHANGE #4!

Enclosed is your Master Roster Change #4. Please note this is only a **change**, and not a complete new roster! Only information that has changed since the last (1 August) newsletter is included. If you have any additions/corrections to any of the information, please send to me for updating. Thanks.

People don’t plan to fail—they just fail to plan.

head headhunter corner



In my rush to get the last newsletter to the printer, I forgot to put “CHANGE #3” on the top of the 4-page Master Roster change that was included with it. Yep, you guessed it—a couple of people caught me by telling me they had been dropped from the Master Roster included with the newsletter!!! Rest assured, it was only a 3-month change—you are all on “the” 1700-person Master Roster! I apologize for any confusion. **Thank You!**

Over the past few years, our Korean-era members have worked hard to contact each other and not only join up, but attend the reunions on a regular basis. My personal thanks go out to them for going that extra mile! Now I would like to ask our Vietnam-era members to do the same thing. Bob “Hippo” Hipps, one of our members from that era and very active with *the River Rats* Internet action, passed me the names of the five **HeadHunters** on-line in the *Rats* that he was aware of. I contacted the five, and they are now all members! My thanks to Hippo for taking the time out of his very busy schedule!! Who else would like to get us five new members?!

SANTA’S HEADHUNTER STORE!!



Santa has a sleigh full of these items that are now available for Christmas in our “**HEADHUNTER STORE!**” Put some of these gifts under your tree for that special **HEADHUNTER** in your life!! **Golf shirts, T-shirts, & both type hats are back in stock!** The “**Blazer Emblem**”, “**Squadron Unique Tie**”, and “**Ladies Floppy Bow**” were



designed and made especially for our Squadron—with our inputs!! Get them now, and wear them proudly—not just at the reunions, but whenever you get dressed up!! It’s a great way to find other **HEADHUNTERS**, to!! Unless purchased at a reunion, a small fee of **\$3 should be added** for postage to all orders:

Blazer Emblem (men’s or ladies)	\$35	Golf Shirt (specify size)	\$25
Squadron Unique Tie	\$30	T Shirt (specify size)	\$12
Ladies Floppy Bow (matches tie)	\$30	Squadron Print	\$20
Squadron “Nickel” Coin or Keychain	\$ 4	White Hat	\$10
* <u>Personalized</u> Sq coffee mug	\$17	Black Hat	\$10

* <u>Personalized</u> Sq beer stein	\$20	Squadron Memorial Plaque	\$10
*Mug & Stein set as above	\$35	Korean-era Sq Patch	\$ 5
Current Squadron Patch	\$ 5	** <u>Personalized</u> Sq beer mug	\$25
Squadron Golf Balls (sleeve)	\$ 5		

●●●●● Las Vegas Reunion Souvenir Book (only 2 left).....original (cost) price \$20 ●●●●●
 (Full color 16 pages of reunion pictures of our largest reunion to date!!)

* Please include **name and/or callsign** desired on your mug/stein (up to 20 letters), and **right/left** handed with your order. **Unless otherwise stated**, the Squadron logo & your first name in Old English will be on the front (handle left for right-handed drinker), and an F-16 will be on the back.

** Large 25oz mug is beautiful **etched glass**. Please indicate **Squadron logo** or our **Association logo** desired, choice of **P-38, F-86, F-4, or F-16**, and include **name and/or callsign in “HEADHUNTER” or standard bold font**, and **right/left** handed, with your order. Other aircraft may be available. **Personal markings** (tail number/markings, aerial victories, etc.) available. Please call for quote.

Please send check to **“The Headhunters”; 905 Arapaho Ct; Columbus, GA 31904-1242**. Please don’t forget to include **\$3 postage** on all orders.

Fighter pilot songs (Rated G) on CDs and/or tapes are available from our fellow **HEADHUNTER** Dick Jonas. Contact him at: *Erosonic*; 2001 Mountain View Glen; Ft Mojave, AZ 86426-8833.

NEW BOOK OUT!

A new book, *The Forgotten Fifth*, by Michael John Claringbould, has been released. This Exceptional 145 page book is “A Photographic Chronology of the U.S. Fifth Air Force in WWII.” Not only does it have many rare photos, but a never-before-published list of more than 1500 5thAF aircraft identities—their squadron, groups, tail numbers, & nicknames—including every type and variant of aircraft flown by the Fifth. Please see the enclosed paid flier for details.

The only real failure in life is the failure to try.

HEADHUNTERS GETTIN' HITCHED!



Check 6!!

Let Col Richard W. Wyatt, one of our LifeTime Members from the 1957 time period when the 80th was at Kadena Air Base, had a great excuse for missing the Las Vegas reunion back in March—he was getting married!! We all wish Dick & his new bride Margaret all the best in health and happiness—and we can now look forward to seeing both of them in San Antonio 21-24 Oct 1999!

THE STORK CORNER!



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

Maj Tom “Gumby” & Jody Webster proudly announce the arrival of their new son, Bradley Thomas Webster on 21 July at 0002 hours. Bradley tipped the scales at 8lbs 12oz on his 20” frame. His two little sisters, Caitie & Megan, will help mom & dad with their new brother! **Congratulations to you both!!**

Jon & Nancy Casello are very proud to announce the 1310 PDT 4 August 1998 arrival of their daughter Sanne Marie Casello. Little Sanne weighed in at 9lbs 3oz on her 20” frame. Nancy, Sanne—and Jon doing great!! **Congratulations to you both!!**

Dr Jack & Wanda Shelton, who will be our hosts at the next reunion in San Antonio, also take great pride in announcing the birth by c-section of their new daughter Madison Renee Shelton. Madison made her debut at 1530 on Friday, 7 August, at Wilford Hall Medical Center. She was 5lbs 15oz and 20” long, “and very, very beautiful,” Jack wrote. He continued, “Baby and Mommy are doing wonderfully and will be home tomorrow. Laurel’s the model big sister.” We look forward to meeting her at the reunion!! **Congratulations to you both!!**

Capt Lynn “Squirrel” & Ro Scheel sent an e-mail on 22 August. It reads in part, “...I’m a proud father of a beautiful healthy baby girl. Seriously, I’m not being biased here, she’s gorgeous and looks like a little doll. (Never mind the fact that I’m not going to let her date until she’s 30!!) Chloe Annabel Scheel was born 20 August 98 at 1914 at Luke AFB hospital. She weighed in at 7lbs 14oz, and was 20¾ inches long. She was born with one small minor uncor-

rectable deformity—her father is permanently wrapped around her little finger!!” We understand how that can happen—**Congratulations to you both!!**

Capt G. Larry “Cowboy” & Dana James sent in this e-mail: “Just wanted to let everyone that we know that there is a new member to the James’ Gang. Lauren Rene’ was born on Sunday night (6 Sep) @ 1137 p.m. She weighs in at a whopping 6lbs 8oz and is 18½ inches long. She’s proved to be a typical women already, daddy and mommy had to wait for her grand entrance. Dana’s water busted at 6 a.m. on Saturday and Lauren showed up 41 hours later. After an hour or so of pushing with no results, Dana had to have a C-Section. Mommy and baby are fine; daddy is going to invest in a shotgun for all the future boyfriends!” We hear you, Cowboy! **Congratulations to you both!!**

Congratulations to all new Moms, Dads, & “Wingmen”!!!!
All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today.

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.

John R. Breeden	WWII/CC	1996
Earl E. Lacey	BTW	Unknown
Harry R. Kimpel	WWII/LTM	5 Sep 1998
Tom “Gumby” Carr	Juvats	12 Sep 1998

A 26 Oct letter; “It is with deepest regret that I write this letter to inform you of another loss of a ‘Headhunter.’ On Sept 5, 1998, my Dad Harry R. Kimpel passed away. He suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage and was gone in 24 hours. It was a deep shock to all of his family. My Dad was so very proud of being a part of the 80thFS. Having the honor to accompany him to the 17th reunion in Las Vegas, I found out why. Over the years I had heard so much about the men my Dad served with. I’ve also read much about them in several books I have in my collection. It was an experience I will never forget and always treasure. What a great group of men. Please notify the necessary people of my Dad’s death. Thank you. ‘Audentes Fortuna Juvat’ Alan H. Kimpel.” Alan, thank you for your letter. We are all saddened by the loss of your Dad, and will miss him much.

Maj Tom Carr, from the 93FS at Homestead Air Reserve Station, FL, flew his last Viper sortie on 12 Sept. Tom was a member of a 4-ship routine surface attack gunnery mission to Avon Park Bombing Range about half way between Orlando and Lake Okeechobee in Florida when his F-16D two-seater went down on the range at about 3:00 p.m. The back seat was unoccupied at the time. He was a highly experienced pilot with almost 15 years in fighters. An accident investigation board has been convened to determine the cause of the unexplained crash. Tom was promoted to Major posthumously.

On behalf of the entire Squadron, we wish to officially pass on to these families our deepest sympathies and sincere gratitude for the outstanding contribution each of these individuals made to the Squadron and our Country. May they rest in peace and forever soar with the eagles.

May God bless and keep them in His Flight forever.



The next **HEADHUNTER HEADLINES** will be dated 1 February 1999.



Thanksgiving - 27 Nov



Hanukkah - 24 Dec



Christmas - 25 Dec



New Years - 1 Jan

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!



✓ 6,



Col Jay E. "JayBird" Riedel, USAF (Ret)
The "Head Hunter"



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

**ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED**

FIRST CLASS