

# THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND AIRBORNE COMMAND CONTROL ASSOCIATION

## THE 1994 REUNION

The first reunion of the **Strategic Air Command Airborne Command Control Association (SAC/ACCA)** was held in Omaha, Nebraska, 29 September through 2 October 1994. The response to this first effort at organizing an association and having a reunion was very gratifying to the committee who got things going and to the attendees. Over two-hundred people made it to the Omaha Marriott Hotel, which was headquarters for reunion activity. A full calendar of events was followed and, with no more than the normal, to-be-expected glitches, a good time was apparently had by all.

Early registration started on Wednesday afternoon, 28 September. The Hospitality Suite, with an honor-system cash bar, was located near the registration tables at the Marriott and was open during most of each day of the reunion, being closed only during the periods when we were having no-host bar sales in keeping with the hotel's policy.

The first scheduled activity was a "scramble" golf tournament on Thursday afternoon at Offutt AFB's Willow Springs Golf Course, held with outstanding cooperation from Nebraska's Fall weather. Some of the ladies were treated to a fashion show and tea at the Marriott while the stalwarts were on the links. The first social get-together was Thursday evening with hors d'oeuvres and no-host bars on and around the Marriott patio and pool area.

Offutt AFB tours occupied most of the attendees on Friday, with briefings by U. S. Strategic Command and the 55th Wing in the morning, followed by a briefing on the current airborne command post posture given by the 7th Airborne Command Control Squadron, which has the **Looking Glass** mission. Tours of the 55th Wing Alert Facility were then followed by a visit to the flight line and the opportunity to go through an EC-135 Looking Glass aircraft. Capping off this full day at Offutt was a brief visit to the SAC Museum before returning to the Marriott. In the meantime, for those who chose not to go on the Offutt tour, a *shoppers shuttle* was maintained between the Marriott and Omaha's fabulous Westroads Mall. A no-host bar and cocktail hour preceded an informal buffet dinner on Friday evening.

On Saturday, scheduled tours of the world-famous Henry Doorly Zoo and Lied Tropical Rain Forest and Omaha's Old Market were enjoyed by many of the attendees, while others spent the day in renewing old friendships or in their own individual activities.

A brief business meeting was held on Saturday afternoon to discuss future plans for further reunions and organization of the association. More on the meeting later in this newsletter.

The highlight evening of the reunion was led off by a no-host cocktail hour, followed by the keynote sit-down dinner at the Marriott. An excellent dinner preceded an outstanding show by the Air Combat Command "Heartland of America Band". Dressed in vintage "pinks and greens" uniforms, the members, of what many of us still think of as the **SAC Band**, set our toes to tapping and our memories stirring with numbers from the Miller and Dorsey bands era. Then came the time for introductions and tall-tales, in which everyone was invited to utilize the wireless microphone and to introduce themselves, tell a little about their association with the SAC Airborne Command Control system and, if so disposed, to regale audience with *war stories* or tall tales of their choosing. A most enjoyable evening!

Sunday, 2 October, marked the final day of the reunion. Many participants remained over and enjoyed brunch at one of the fine Offutt clubs and then met for the final activity, a memorial service in the beautiful SAC Chapel and dedicated to those who have *made their last flight*.

The general commentary indicates that the reunion was a success. Based on this and on the opinions expressed at the *business meeting*, plans are now being laid to do it again in 1996.

## PLANS FOR ORGANIZATION AND FUTURE REUNIONS

The Saturday business meeting was attended by only about thirty-five reunion participants, but, lacking any other feel for what the group as a whole wants in the way of organization and future activities, the decisions reached at the meeting will serve as the initial spring-board for activating the *Strategic Air Command Airborne Command Control Association (SAC/ACCA)*.

By a rather informal voting process, the following agenda items were decided:

- (A) The organization will be known as the **STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND AIRBORNE COMMAND CONTROL ASSOCIATION (SAC/ACCA)**.
- (B) Membership will be open to anyone who participated in or who has an interest in the Strategic Air Command Post Attack Command Control System or Airborne Command Control System (SAC PACCS/ACCS).

- (C) The association will be a social organization, with no political, welfare or charitable agenda.
- (D) Reunions will be held at two-year intervals. The next reunion will be held at the Omaha Marriott Hotel in 1996 at approximately the same time of year as this reunion. The time(s) and site(s) for further reunions are to be determined.
- (E) The committee members who organized the 1994 reunion will continue to serve as a steering committee for the Association until such time as the organization becomes formalized and officers are selected by due process. A listing of the committee follows:
  - Jack Suggs, 855 Crenshaw Loop North, Keizer, OR 97303, Phone 503-390-2435
  - Jack Gatewood, 358 Sharon Drive, Niceville, FL 32578, Phone 904-678-6464
  - Wally Landon, 14101 South 65th Street, Omaha, NE 68128, Phone 402-597-3366
  - Russ Evans, 5485 U.S. Highway 31, Peru, IN 46970, Phone 317-689-7418
  - Don Wilson, Route 1, Box 574-A, Tupelo, MS 38801, Phone 601-680-4972
- (F) Association dues will consist of a one-time initial entry fee of \$10.00 and annual dues for calendar years, 1 January through 31 December, of \$15.00, beginning 1 January 1995. If dues payment is not received by 31 March for any year, membership will be terminated. (Note #1: This does not apply for CY 1995, obviously, since this newsletter will not have been received by then.) (Note:#2: Those who paid the \$10.00 admin fee, as part of the 1994 reunion fees, will be credited with payment of the above one-time initial entry fee.)
- (G) Surviving spouse of a deceased member will be entitled to a Lifetime Honorary Membership with all dues waived.

Other items discussed, but decided more by expressions of a majority opinion: than by a vote:

- (A) Publication of a periodical newsletter is necessary; semi-annually as a minimum.
- (B) Development of a comprehensive history of the SAC PACCS/ACCS should be of continuing interest with all sources exploited.
- (C) Incorporation of the Association as a tax-exempt organization should be explored.
- (D) For the time being, at least, no affiliation with any other organization (such as the Society of the Strategic Air Command) should be pursued. The feelings are that the SAC PACCS/ACCS operations were unique in many respects and that this Association, in this formative period, at least, should be a separate and independent entity.
- (E) Probable division of efforts among the Steering Committee (subject to change, of course):
  - Jack Suggs: Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs
  - Wally Landon: Logistics, Local Expediter for 1996 Reunion
  - Jack Gatewood : Administration, Information Services
  - Russ Evans: Finance
  - Don Wilson: Unfortunately, Don could not attend the reunion due to a family illness, but he is ready to work now.
  - Greg Ogletree, Major, USAF, has agreed to serve as Association Historian. He recently PCS'd from Offutt to Vandenberg.
- (F) A data base is being built by Jack Suggs and Jack Gatewood. They are both working with the same software package which will permit share and transfer of data. The initial effort will be to send this newsletter to everyone in the current data base as a result of our search for PACCS/ACCS people during 1993-94. There are over 600 names on this list now. This mailing includes an invitation to join the **ACCA** (form at end of this newsletter). As members are added, they will be put into the membership data base. As you can see, this first mailing will be quite expensive, thus the request for the initial entry fee of \$10.00. Those not caring to join the **ACCA** will then, of course, be dropped from the mailing list. We feel that this process, though relatively expensive initially (and a lot of work) will be well worth while in establishing a stable membership in the Association.
- (G) Membership name/address directories will be provided to all members as soon as possible, with periodic updates, as appropriate.

### LESSONS LEARNED IN 1994

A number of lessons were learned at during the 1994 reunion. Among them are:

- (A) A firm commitment, in advance and with appropriate payment, is needed from each individual for each activity in which he or she wishes to participate. This is absolutely essential so that appropriate arrangements for services and facilities (transportation, meals, admission tickets, golf times and fees, etc, etc) can be made and paid for.
- (B) A heavy schedule of planned activity (tours, briefings, etc) may be counterproductive. It may be preferable to have fewer planned activities, but provide the information and assistance to those who want to participate, but leave the time open for individual initiative.



**ATTENDANCE AT THE 1994 REUNION  
(Primary Member/Attendee and Spouse or Guest)**

ADAMS, Ivan	CONNER, Ike W (Theresa)	JONES, Charlie (Arlene)	PORTER, William G
ALVES, Raymond S (Carol)	CORMACK, David E	KASYCH, Tom	PRINCE, William G
BALL, William E (Jess)	CREEK, William (Josephine)	KEMP, Fred (Sandy)	PRUITT, Edie
BEALE, John C	CRONKHITE, Carleton (Sheri)	KLEIN, Arthur	RATLIFF, Walter B (Cheryl)
BENTON, Don (Gail)	DENISON, Robert (Karen)	KNOX, Robert J (Priscilla)	REED, John
BERLETTE, John (Pat)	DODDS, William	KOEPEL, Ron	REILLY, Charles E (Claire)
BERNET, Tony (Linda)	DOOLITTLE, Richard (Clara)	KROSKEY, James (Betty)	SCHUNEMAN, Steve (Ann)
BILLAU, Ann	DUGGER, Charles C (Terese)	LANDON, Wally (Nancy)	SCHURING, Henry (Loretta)
BIRDSELL, Ted (Mitzi)	ELIA, William (Cindy)	LEDBETTER, Jake (Ann)	SEEHAFER, Lloyd (Judy)
BITSKO, Louis (Guest)	ELZROTH, Merlin (Elsie)	LEECH, Richard C (Marjory)	SEGRIST, Duane E (Shirley)
BLY, Jamie	EVANS, Russ (Diana)	LIBERT, Robert (Joyce)	SHELTON, Glenn (Jo Ann)
BOAB, Patrick S (Mosla)	FISHER, Stephen J (Mrs)	LAUGHERY, Deb	SNODGRASS, Buzz (Norma)
BOSTICK, Jim (Mary Ann)	FOSTER, Mildred D	LUSK, Virgil (Helen)	SONBERG, Clifton C (Eileen)
BOWERS, Herbert H (Jo Ann)	FOX, Gary J (Terrie)	MACKENZIE, John C	SPENCE, Jim (Carol)
BOWERS, Robert O (Lois)	FRANTZ, James R	MANGAM, Robert (Terry)	SPRINGER, Larry W
BOWMAN, Tom	GARRISON, Edwin H (Marie)	MARDEN, Robert W (Allison)	STARNE, Harold (Ann)
BRTEK, George (Beth)	GATEWOOD, Jack E (Pat)	MAXSON, Jim	STOCKTON, Lyle (Ginni)
BRYANT, Carl (Bea)	GAYLOR, Donald (Will)	MAZZIO, Pete	STONE, Rick C (Mrs)
BUCH, Leonard L	GOELZ, Francis C	MCCARTY, William S (Corrine)	SUGGS, Jack (Jan)
BUCKLES, Al (Lucy)	GRESETH, Ben (Phyllis)	MCCLAIN, Donald E (Floy)	SULLIVAN, Kenneth J (Nan)
BUCKMAN, Louis C (Gloria)	GRYGOTIS, Tom (Shirley)	MCCORMACK, Chris	TAYLOR, Eddie L (Patricia)
BUGLEWICZ, Francis (Candy)	HAILEY, James K	MCNALLY, Daniel P (Anna)	THEURER, Dave
BUTSON, David W (Evelyn)	HARDEN, Harold L	MEDIEROS, Robert (Patricia)	THOMAS, John (Joan)
BUTTERBRODT, Vaughn	HEATON, James C (Millie)	MITCHELL, Larry (Paula)	THOME, Benny O (Joyce)
CABEEN, Rick	HERRINGTON, Ralph (Mary)	MOORE, Billy (Julia)	THOMPSON, James
CADOLA, Bill (Sharon)	HILL, Lincoln (Gloria)	MORGAN, Jack	THOMPSON, Patricia (Matthew)
CANADAY, Buster (Sandy)	HOFF, Richard P (Maureen)	MORSS, Marvin N (Rose)	TRESSLER, Jay (Lucie)
CARAWAY, Charles R (Carol)	HOLLOWAY, Wendell	NAGLE, John S (Gyanna)	WALTON, Amy A (Roy)
CATALDO, Vic (Rose)	HUDSON, Clyde	NICHOLL, Robert (Ginnie)	WHITE, Donald S (Margaret)
CHASE, Donald J (Guest)	IRWIN, John W (Mary)	NORDBY, Dick B (Glenda)	WILHEIM, Lee (Pamela)
CLAING, Marcel	ISAACSON, Wayne G (Dorothy)	OGLETREE, Greg (Sheri)	WITHROW, Bobby (Marylin)
CODY, Richard N (Marilyn)	JACKSON, Cliff (Bev)	ORNDORF, Ronald L	YAROCH, Alger (Barbara)
COMFORT, Norman (Joyce)	JACKSON, Tom (Pam)	OSHITA, Miyuki (Mrs)	YOUNG, Tom (Patti)
CONGER, Douglas J (Donna)	JEWETT, Doug (Marge)	OSTRONIC, John	

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