

ASSOCIATION

REUNION 1996: The second biennial reunion of the SAC/ACCA was held at the Marriott Hotel, Omaha, NE, 2-5 October 1996. The attendance this year, approximately 100 members and guests, was not quite what had been hoped for, perhaps due to the repeat venue of Omaha, but, from comments received, it was a very successful affair. One very up-beat note was the fact that more of the *backenders*, communicators, battle staff, maintainers, etc, came to this reunion, whereas the 1994 reunion was pretty heavily weighted to the flight crew side. The slate of activities included a Wednesday evening light buffet and welcome reception. Thursday saw a series of briefings at the Offutt Officers Club, including the missions of the 55th Wing and the U.S. Strategic Command, followed by a tour and briefing of the *new* STRATCOM underground command center. The old SAC Underground is no longer in use. Friday's featured activity was a golf tournament at Offutt AFB with the day free of other scheduled activities. A business meeting was held on Saturday morning (A summary of matters covered follows.) The final activity was the Saturday evening sit-down dinner with music for dancing and listening. The ever-popular Hospitality Room, as usual, served as a focal point for congenial getting-together throughout the entire reunion. If you were not there...you missed a good one!

BUSINESS MEETING

Following is a brief summary of the 1996 Business Meeting:

1. Adoption of Bylaws: The Bylaws, as published in SAC/ACCA Newsletter, Volume 2, Issue 2, were adopted. This action and election of Officers were required for incorporation. (Also see item below, *Disposition of Net Assets.*)

2. Election of Officers:

President, Jack W. Suggs
 Vice President: Donald E. Wilson
 Secretary, Jack E. Gatewood
 Treasurer, Frederick W. Kemp

3. Advisory Staff:

Historian, Gregory W. Ogletree
 Logistics, Wally Landon
 Finances, Russell R. Evans
 1998 Reunion, Richard N. Doolittle

4. Incorporation and Federal Tax Exempt Status: (OPR: Gatewood):

To be initiated in Florida as a Not-For-Profit Corporation. Expenditure of \$400 for legal fees was approved. (Florida incorporation completed 23 Jan 97. Action in process for Federal Tax-Exempt Status.)

5. Dues: Annual dues of \$15 with dues period each year of 1 January through 31 December.

6. Newsletter Publication

Schedule: (OPR: Gatewood) Minimum of three issues annually. Target dates will be February, June and October.

7. Disposition of Net Assets: Laws governing incorporation and tax-status require provisions that, in the event of dissolution, any remaining net assets must be distributed so as not to benefit any Member or Officer of the Association. It was voted that the SAC Museum, would be the recipient of any such distribution. The Museum is currently located in Bellevue, Nebraska, adjacent to Offutt AFB, but will be moved, in the near future, to a new facility on Highway Interstate 80 between Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska.

8. Membership and Reunion

Attendance: Several avenues for encouraging growth of the

Association and attendance at future reunions were discussed with the consensus being that we, as members, are the best recruiters. **Personal contact with potential members**, augmented by notices in the various *trade papers* (AF Times, etc), newsletter mailings to prospective members and close contact with similar and related associations is probably the most effective recruiting program.

9. Reunion 1998—Colorado Springs, CO: Details appear later in this issue.

A HISTORY OF THE PACCS/ACCS/ALCS (CONCLUSION)

(Following is the final of four parts of the overall history of the Post Attack Command Control System/ Airborne Command Post System/ Airborne Launch Control System presented by Greg Ogletree. Future editions will attempt to deal with histories of various units at all echelons of the system. All inputs along these lines will be greatly appreciated. Address them to **Major Gregory W. Ogletree**, USAF, 1007 Ebony Street, Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437-1121.)

The year 1991 saw many significant changes for PACCS and ALCS. The 4th Airborne Command Control Squadron discontinued deployed alerts to Minot AFB, ND, in August and began making preparations for inactivation the following year. The auxiliary command post and ALCC aircraft ceased alert operations shortly after President Bush unilaterally took our entire nuclear bomber force and half of our ICBM force off of strategic alert at the end of September. The last ALCS Operational Readiness Training (ORT) class to graduate Operations Controllers (DOCOS—now called Battlestaff Directors) was conducted at Ellsworth AFB, SD.

ORT was then moved to the 2ACCS at Offutt AFB, NE. The elimination of all PACCS alert sorties, except for **Looking Glass**, resulted in the retiring of all EC-135A, G and L model aircraft from the PACCS fleet, leaving only the C model. The Emergency Rocket Communications System (ERCS) at Whiteman AFB, MO, was decommissioned and its related components aboard PACCS aircraft were switched off permanently. The combined effect of all of these changes was an 85 percent reduction on the number ALCS-qualified aircrew members.

With the stand down of SAC and consolidation of its nuclear forces with those of the U. S. Navy under the new U. S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) on 1 June 1992, the vital role of **Looking Glass** became even more apparent. Manned with a joint Battlestaff under the command of a flag officer (general or admiral), **Looking Glass** still provides the capability to direct surviving elements of strategic nuclear forces in the event that USSTRATCOM headquarters and other ground-based command centers are destroyed or incapacitated. It continues to help deter aggression because of the extreme difficulty of destroying it during an attack. The year 1992 also saw the end of an era for ALCS; the Phase II weapon system was retired on December 31, after more than 25 years of service.

In 1993, nominal changes followed the more substantial changes of the previous two years. After more than 30 years of use, the term *PACCS* was replaced by *SCACS*—for STRATCOM Command and Control System. Furthermore, the term **Looking Glass** was officially replaced by ABNCP (pronounced ab-un-cop), although **Looking Glass** continues to be used unofficially (Editors note: *and affectionately*) by the old-timers. The year of 1994 brought even more changes. On January 1, ORT became the ALCS Combat Crew

Training School (CCTS) and, on April 1, its faculty was transferred from the 2nd ACCS (which by this time had become an Air Combat Command unit) to the Headquarters Staff of the Air Force Space Command. On 20 July 1994, the 2nd ACCS was redesignated as the 7th ACCS as its mission in the conventional command, control and communications (C³) arena continues to expand. In spite of restructuring, reorganizations and redesignations, the bottom line has not changed; whether airborne or standing ready on the ramp as the USSTRATCOM's only *cocked* aircraft with a *hard alert* crew, the EC-135 with its ALCS capability remains ready to respond to aggression. Its crews dedication to the defense of our nation continues a long heritage of vigilance, thus ensuring a lasting legacy of peace.

A CLASS ACT

For those of us who have reached Medicare age and have been virtually excluded from the military health care system, we have a champion who has filed a class action suit against the U. S. Government on our behalf. **Colonel George "Bud" Day**, a lawyer and holder of the Medal of Honor awarded for heroism while an unwilling guest of the *Hanoi Hilton*, needs your support if you meet the following criteria: have 20 plus years of service, age 65 plus, drawing Social Security, paying for Medicare and willing to contribute \$100 toward the expenses of the suit. Contact **CLASS ACT, 32 BEAL PARKWAY SW, FT. WALTON BCH, FL 32548. (904)664-6324, FAX (904)664-6385.**

REUNION 1998

**Colorado Springs, CO
7-11 October 1998.**

Enclosed letter and survey form (back page) from Dick Doolittle tells the entire story.

MILEPOSTS

(Extracts from History of 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, Unclassified, 71/07/01 to 71/09/30): *"...changes and accomplishments included changes to random takeoff times for Looking Glass aircraft, initiation of operational status for Looking Glass trailing wire antenna (TWA) communications system..."*

ASSOCIATION DUES

1997 dues of \$15 are now payable and **due NLT 15 April 1997**. Check your mailing label; if it shows no figure or the figure **96**, then your payment is now due. Those who have prepaid beyond 1996, will show the appropriate figure. For *first time joiners*, include both the \$15 dues for 1997 and \$10 initial entry fee. A payment and member information slip is included in this letter.

THE PREZ SEZ

From the President, Jack Suggs:
Here I go on my first attempt.

What is the SAC AIRBORNE COMMAND CONTROL ASSOCIATION? The Association is a social organization formed in 1994. Membership is open to all former Strategic Air Command personnel who supported or flew the Post Attack Command Control mission (PACCS). These included all Ground Maintenance Personnel, Airborne Emergency Actions Officers, Flight Crewmembers, Communicators, Airborne Battle Staff, ALCC Crews, etc. We meet every other year. The Association is supported by annual membership dues of \$15. Widows/Widowers of former members are members dues free.

Time rolls on. The SAC/ACCA is well and healthy. We just enjoyed our second successful reunion in Omaha this past October. The Marriott folks did an admirable job on service and pleasing the members to the greatest extent

possible. This year, thanks to Al Buckles, we did get the tour and briefing of the new STRATCOM underground. Some of us did, on Friday, challenge the golf course and brought it to its knees—sure we did.

We owe a world of thanks to the behind-the-scenes members who made it all possible. They devoted many hours of personal time to make it all happen. They were the ACCA Board members and their wives: CMSGT Russ and Diana Evans (Treasurer), Col. Jack and Pat Gatewood (Secretary and Information Newsletter), CMSGT Wally and Nancy Landon (On - scene Chairman), CMSGT Don and Jerry Wilson (Board Member) and, last, but not least, my wife, Jan.

Thanks to you all!

The business meeting proved to be very productive. Jack Gatewood's article covers the details.

The selection of the next reunion site for 1998 is Colorado Springs, CO, 8-10 October. LtCol Dick Doolittle agreed to be the Committee Chairman for this reunion. Dick is a very outgoing person with many excellent ideas for ginning up a real class act reunion. The central entertainment activity will be the Air Force—Navy football game on Saturday. If you want to secure your reserved seat for the game, get your deposits in early. Check Dick's column for more details.

PACCS Units involved from 3 February 1961 to 1992 were:

EB-47Ls:

- 4362PACCS
Lincoln AFB Nebraska
- 4363PACCS:
Lockbourne AFB, Ohio
- 4364PACCS
Mountain Home AFB, Idaho
- 4365PACCS
Plattsburgh AFB New York

EC-135s:

- 22AREFS
March AFB, California
- 28AREFS
Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota
- 34AREFS
Offutt AFB, Nebraska
- 38SRS
Offutt AFB, Nebraska
- 99AREFS
Westover AFB, Massachusetts
- 305ARW
Grissom AFB, Indiana
- 906AREFS
Minot AFB, North Dakota
- 913AREFS
Barksdale AFB, Louisiana
- 2ACCS
Offutt AFB, Nebraska
- 3ACCS
Grissom AFB, Indiana
- 4ACCS
Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota
- BATTLE STAFF:**
- Hq SAC
- Hq 2nd Air Force
- Hq 8th Air Force
- Hq 15th Air Force

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**SAC AIRBORNE COMMAND CONTROL ASSOCIATION
DUES PAYMENT - CALENDAR YEAR 1997**

Mail To: SAC/ACCA, Jack W. Suggs, 855 Crenshaw Loop North, Keizer, OR 97303

Dues for 1997: \$15 If NEW MEMBER: Initial Fee: \$10 plus 1997 dues

Name: _____ Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

New Member Rank: _____ Active () Retired () Spouse's Name: _____

Brief Summary of your Affiliation with PACCS/ACCS/ALCS: Dates/Organizations/Location/Duties: _____

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SAC/ACCA 1998 REUNION INTEREST SURVEY

Mail To: Richard N. Doolittle, 3714 E. Mineral Place, Littleton, CO 80122

Name: _____ Number in my party: _____ I am interested in the following activities:

- TOURS:** Pikes peak (Cog Rail Train) Royal Gorge (Tram, Cog Rail to bottom) Garden of the Gods
 Cripple Creek (Town, Casinos) NORAD (Cheyenne Mountain AF Academy
 Peterson AFB, Space Command

GOLF: Hopefully at AF Academy, Thursday Number of Players: _____

FLYING W RANCH: Ranch-style evening meal, Western theme/music, Friday

AIR FORCE - NAVY FOOTBALL GAME: Saturday afternoon

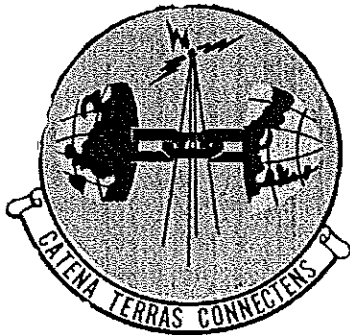
BANQUET, SOCIAL/SIT-DOWN DINNER: Saturday evening

MEMORIAL SERVICE: AF Academy Cadet Chapel, Sunday

**SAC AIRBORNE
COMMAND CONTROL ASSOCIATION**

JACK W. SUGGS, Colonel USAF-Retired
855 Crenshaw Loop NW
Keizer, OR 97303

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I would like to thank our officers for an opportunity to send a letter to all the members of SAC Airborne Command Control Association. I will make every effort to ensure the '98 reunion meets your expectations for a fun time in Colorado. It's a beautiful time of the year here and there's something to do to meet everyone's need.

We have made arrangements to have lodging at the Embassy Suites in Colorado Springs. They are very supportive and have worked to give us a good rate. As you know, the rate includes a full breakfast each morning and a complimentary social each evening. And...we each get a suite, not just a room. With these benefits included, we could not get a better rate in the Colorado Springs area. Surprisingly, the quality hotels are filling up fast. We had three hotels tell us almost immediately that they could not book our group because of previous commitments. The main reason given was that's "Navy" week and that leads me to my next comment.

We would like to have a sizable group at the Air Force/Navy game on October 10, 1998 and we are planning on a block of tickets. If you haven't been to one, I can assure you that the service games are a lot of fun. We can plan to be there early to enjoy the *fly bys*, the cadet wing march on, and the antics between the Air Force and Navy cadets.

I'm including a survey form of some of the activities in the area and would appreciate your early consideration and response. It will help us make the needed arrangements for sightseeing and transportation. If you know of other areas of interest, there is room for write ins. We have been offered the use of the *Concierge of Colorado Springs* to help make arrangements at no charge to our association. I hope to use their services/discounts to our benefit. You may want to contact the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau directly to obtain an information packet. Their address and phone number is 104 S. Cascade, Suite 104, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, (800)-888-4748.

Finally, let me ask each of you to: 1. Make your plans now to join us in '98, and 2. Help us spread the word. Encourage any you know that should be with us to plan to attend. We want this reunion to be an enjoyable time for you. If you have any comments you wish to share with me, I will sincerely appreciate your feedback.

For our members in the local area, I will appreciate it if you would volunteer to help host our *Colorado Reunion*. I'm sure our Concierge can handle a lot of our needs but we need support from the local team.

Dick Doolittle
3714 E. Mineral Place
Littleton, CO 80122
Office: (303) 971-5859 Home (303) 741-6087