



# The SAC ACCA Flyer

Strategic Air Command  
Airborne Command Control Association

Recording, Preserving and Celebrating the Legacy of PACCS

Volume XIX Issue 2

July 2013

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, where do I begin? A lot has gone on since our last newsletter...some good and some not so good. We are less than a year away from our next reunion and Rod Berlin has been working diligently with Mary Hillman from the 4th ACCS on the combined reunion in South Dakota. Rod has done an excellent job in keeping the board informed and asking questions as he works to get everything set. Now's the time to look over what Rod and Mary have submitted in this newsletter and now is the time to save the date and to make plans for joining us and the members of 4th ACCS in South Dakota in 2014.

As many of you know, we are doing our first combined reunion with another group that shares our interests in the Looking Glass. We have several members that are also members of the 4th ACCS and I think it is safe to say that many of them will be people a lot of you already know and worked with over the years. This combined reunion also gives us better purchasing power and helps to keep costs down for things like transportation, meals, hall rentals, etc. It will also be an opportunity to meet old friends and to make new ones. We will have separate business meetings and we will still do our raffle and, of course, we will do our memorial service.

Now, on to less pleasant news. I had hoped that we would have some positive information to report to you in this newsletter on the restoration efforts of 63-8049 which is at the Strategic Air & Space Museum (SASM) in Ashland, NE. Our organization sent letters two months

President's Message continued on page 3

## 2014 REUNION

Plans for the joint 4ACCS and SAC ACCA Reunion are coming together nicely thanks to the planning and coordination between Mary Hillman and Rod Berlin. Scheduled for June 25-29, 2014 at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn in Rapid City, South Dakota, the event offers the advantage of combining buying power with the opportunity to see old colleagues as well as making new acquaintances with all who supported the same mission during the Cold War. (See agenda on page 5.)

2014 Reunion continued on page 4

## EC-135C RESTORATION

As noted in the March 2013 edition of this newsletter, SAC ACCA's genuine interest in seeing EC-135C Aircraft No. 63-8049 restored and positioned for public viewing at the Strategic Air & Space Museum (SASM) in Ashland, Nebraska was communicated to Dr. Scott Tarry, Executive Director of the museum. A request for more information on questions that include how the museum intends to display the plane, the anticipated time line and the projected costs was presented.

To date, Restoration Coordinator, Fred Kemp, has not received specifics from Dr. Tarry since an email of 3/7/2013 in which he stated "as I mentioned previously, I don't think we can answer your questions until we've done some additional planning.

EC-135C Restoration continued on page 3

## WEB SITE UPDATE

If you haven't visited recently, be sure to check out the association's web site at: [www.sac-acca.org](http://www.sac-acca.org). Webmaster, **Jim Bostick**, has added pictures of the 2010 and 2012 reunions and requests if you have any additional photos, be sure to send them to him. He has also posted a number of recent editions of the *Flyer*. The association is very appreciative of his work maintaining the site. Thank you Jim!

## SAC ACCA CHARTER RENEWAL

Since 1998, **Jack Gatewood** has faithfully accomplished the task of coordinating the renewal of SAC ACCA's charter with the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations. He indicated that he will continue to try to find an alternative method of annual filing. Copies of the latest annual update are maintained in the files of both the Association's Secretary and the Treasurer. Thank you Jack!

## GRISSOM AIR MUSEUM Fred Kemp

**Ex-3ACCS Personnel:** At a recent visit to the Grissom Air Museum, I was quite surprised to find that they had nothing about the 3ACCS in any of their exhibits. When I asked their Director, he had never heard of the 3ACCS, didn't know that it had been at Grissom AFB and that 0269, displayed in their yard, was part of the squadron.

He did ask if we could send him artifacts that pertained to the squadron; so, if you have anything you would like to contribute, his address is:

Jim Price, Executive Director  
Grissom Air Museum  
1000W Hoosier Blvd  
Peru, IN 46970-3647

Email: [director@GrissomAirMuseum.com](mailto:director@GrissomAirMuseum.com)

Their patch board did have a 3ACCS patch and a Nightwatch patch which really started another conversation since he had never heard of Nightwatch either.

## 2012-2014

### Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	<b>Jim Dart</b> abncp@earthlink.net
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Ed Bowman</b> aebow@comcast.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Steve Leazer</b> ec_135cpaccs@roadrunner.com
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Wilton Curtis</b> wcurtis135@aol.com
<b>President Emeritus</b>	<b>Jack Suggs</b>

### Appointed Officers

<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Jim Simons</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Greg Ogletree</b>
<b>EC-135C Restoration</b>	<b>Fred Kemp</b>
<b>PACCS Memorial Committee</b>	<b>Ed Bowman</b> <b>Norm Goetz</b> <b>Jack Suggs</b>
<b>Web Master</b>	<b>Jim Bostick</b> <a href="http://www.sac-acca.org">www.sac-acca.org</a>
<b>2014 Reunion Co-Planners</b>	<b>Rod Berlin</b> <b>Norma Kathman</b>

**June 25-29, 2014**  
**Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn**  
**Rapid City, south Dakota**

This newsletter is published three times per year by the Strategic Air Command Airborne Command Control Association (SAC ACCA) and is free to members.

**Information, general correspondence, changes of mailing address, newsletter articles or recommendations to:**

**SAC ACCA**  
c/o Wilton Curtis, Secretary  
2319 Pleasant Run Dr.  
Richmond, VA 23238-3026

**Renewals, new memberships, or merchandise orders to:**

**SAC ACCA**  
c/o Steve Leazer, Treasurer  
5669 Cahuilla Avenue  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-1419

months ago to the SASM Board of Directors letting them know that we are fully committed to preserving the history of this aircraft and its mission as well as recognizing the sacrifices by those that flew it. The aircraft now has become even more vital to us with it being the last of its kind. All the others have been salvaged for parts and cut-up at the boneyard. We also reached out to General Chain, and he wrote to the Director of the SASM and offered to fly out to the museum to address the Board on how important this mission is and how important it is to restore and properly display this aircraft. To date, we have not received a reply.

We remain optimistic and hope to receive a response in the near future to key questions that include when the aircraft will start to be restored, how it will be displayed and how we can help. Fred Kemp is planning to brief us at our business meeting and at the 4th ACCS business meeting on our efforts.

To end on a happier note, the 50th anniversary of the National Emergency Airborne Command Post (NEACP) and National Operations Center (NAOC) known as NIGHTWATCH was held in Omaha, June 28-30, 2013, with a celebration to commemorate the dedicated and professional men and women who made NIGHTWATCH the world's most preeminent, survivable Nuclear Command and Control Center.

For fifty years, the EC-135J and E-4B NIGHTWATCH aircraft have provided the National Command Authority (NCA) with a survivable Command Center from which they may make accurate decisions and transmit timely directions to U.S. Military Forces during all conditions of peace and war. We wish them well and hope that they continue for another fifty years.

## **PACCS STORIES REQUEST**

As noted in previous editions of this newsletter, **please consider writing an article** about recollections or memories of your service/experiences in PACCS. Whether you send them by email or snail mail makes no difference. If you prefer, simply jot down some notes and we'll assist you with the writing and editing. Don't concern yourself with spelling and grammar. The most important thing is **sharing those unique stories** with the membership.

Contact the Association's Secretary. Note that both the U.S. and email addresses are on page two.

we've done some additional planning. I would hate to throw out a number of the cost of restoration only to find that it is insufficient to complete the project. By the same token, I don't want to begin raising money for the project until we've got a better idea of where and how the aircraft will be displayed. This question cannot be answered until we have our master plan for the hangers completed. We actually have a student group at Omaha North High School's Engineering program doing a exhibit design project focusing on the EC-135. I will gladly share their project with you as well as our own concepts once they are developed more fully."

In order to further emphasize the association's commitment to this endeavor, a formal letter signed by the SAC ACCA Board of Directors (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and President-Emeritus), dated April 25, 2013, was mailed to the Chairman of the SASM's Board of Directors with a courtesy copy to each of the nine Board members, Museum Executive Director, Dr. Scott Tarry, and to General John T. Chain, Jr., USAF [Ret], former Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Air Command, 1986-1991.

The text of the letter follows:

**As an organization of U.S. Air Force veterans dedicated to preserving the history of the Strategic Air Command's (SAC) Post Attack Command Control System (PACCS), we recently were encouraged to learn from Executive Director, Dr. Scott Tarry, of the Strategic Air & Space Museum's Board of Directors' "shared interest" in having EC-135C Aircraft No. 63-8049 restored. As you know, the importance of this task has been strongly emphasized in correspondence, including a gracious offer to fly to Omaha to discuss this issue with the board, by General John T. Chain, Jr. USAF [Ret] (Former Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Air Command, 1986-1991.)**

**Most Americans are unaware of the nation's nuclear retaliatory capabilities during the Cold War and especially the role of SAC's Airborne Command Post aircraft. To have maintained a continuous, airborne alert for nearly twenty-nine and one-half years is ample testimony to the role of the Looking Glass and the airmen who were associated with it. In the words of General Chain, "I can not think of anything our museum is missing of a higher priority than Looking Glass."**

Members of this, as well as fellow SAC organizations, are deeply saddened by the amount of deterioration that can be seen on 8049 and hope that it can be restored before it reaches a point of no return. It is the most intact aircraft remaining and after fifteen years of being parked behind the museum exposed to the harsh elements of weather, this irreplaceable piece of Air Force history deserves better as do the dedicated airmen who were fortunate enough to have been associated with it.

Our association is fully committed to preserving the history of this plane and its mission and stands ready to begin a fundraising campaign not only from our membership and similar organizations but also requests to Boeing and other equipment manufacturers that were a part of the mission. Our Restoration Coordinator, MSgt Fredrick W. Kemp, USAF [Ret], (2356 S. Orchard View Drive, Green Valley, AZ 85614; fkemp8367@aol.com) has been in contact with Dr. Tarry and is presently awaiting specifics to a number of questions that will allow us to begin this campaign that include (1) When could the restoration start? (2) How long would it take? (3) Where would the aircraft be placed? (4) What are the anticipated total costs?

While cognizant of the fact that this is not the only plane awaiting restoration and appreciative of the current interest of your board in its restoration, please permit us to point out that the museum's Website indicates that it has now been more than twenty years (March 2, 1993) since the plane was "dropped from inventory by transfer to the Strategic Air & Space Museum." The time to move forward is now and SAC ACCA stands ready to assist.

The Association is most anxious to cooperate in seeing this iconic aircraft restored. It is hoped that the next edition of the newsletter will report additional progress towards this goal.

## Email Roster

The enclosed **email roster** is for the **use of members only**. Please do not copy or distribute it to others. Note that only the U.S. mailed copy, not the website edition, contains the roster. For additions/deletions/corrections, contact the association's secretary.  
 'S SECRETARY

SAC ACCA members, as in previous reunions, will arrive during the day on Wednesday, attend a Meet & Greet Reception that evening and a business meeting on Thursday. All other activities (Tours, Friday Reception and Banquet) will be joint with 4ACCS.

A variety of tours are being planned, with the Mt. Rushmore Lighting Ceremony on Thursday evening among the highlights. Following a 10-minute talk and a 20-minute film the highlight of the evening is the slow exposure of light to the monument until it is fully illuminated with a tribute to veterans following.

Friday's tour will be determined by majority interest. Choices include (1) travel to the town of Deadwood with free time for gaming, touring the town to see sites such as Mount Moriah Cemetery, the burial place of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane; (2) visit to Prairie Berry Winery, the town of Hill City, a one-way ride on the 1880 Train with mining history and Custer State Park vistas and on to the town of Keystone; (3) travel to the mountain monument under construction depicting an Oglala Lakota warrior, Crazy Horse, riding a horse while pointing into the distance. Then, return via Hwy 16A with a break at the Visitor Center near Custer State Park's State Game Lodge and returning via Iron Mountain Road known for its pigtail bridges and tunnels that frame Mt. Rushmore in the distance.

Saturday's tour includes a visit to Ellsworth AFB and South Dakota's Air & Space Museum with numerous aircraft on display including a B1B Lancer, B-52D Stratofortress and EC-135A, No. 61-0262, a PACCS aircraft on which a number of members served. The same tour will also visit the Delta-01 Launch Control Center/ Launch Control Facility, and the Delta-09 Launcher (Cactus Flat.)

Saturday's final banquet with both groups in attendance is an event of good fellowship and fun not to be missed. Included is an Air Force Color/Honor Guard.

## Available SAC ACCA Merchandise

Item #	Item Description	Item Sale Price
101	Cap, SAC ACCA	\$12.00
111	Coin, PACCS Memorial, Silver	\$ 9.00
106	Lapel Pins, SAC ACCA	\$ 5.00
103	Patches, SAC ACCA	\$ 5.00

To order, contact the Treasurer. Please make your check payable to SAC ACCA. Note: The price includes shipping.

SAVE THE DATE...



**4ACCS & SAC ACCA REUNION**  
**June 25– 29, 2014**  
**Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn**  
**Rapid City, SD**



4ACCS & SAC ACCA,

June 26 - 29, 2014 is the weekend set for the combined reunion. If you have access to the internet, go to the 4ACCS websites at: [www.4accs.wordpress.com](http://www.4accs.wordpress.com), or [www.sac-acca.org](http://www.sac-acca.org) for updates. If you have questions or would like to share any interests for the reunion, please contact those listed below. Watch for the official Registration, to include cost and detailed itinerary.

***Schedule of EVENTS***

- |                |                    |  |
|----------------|--------------------|--|
| <b>June 25</b> | <b>Wednesday -</b> | <b>Hotel check-in begins</b><br><b>SAC ACCA Reunion Registration begins (afternoon)</b><br><b>SAC ACCA Reception (evening)</b>   |
| <b>June 26</b> | <b>Thursday -</b>  | <b>SAC ACCA Meeting (time TBD)</b><br><b>Reunion Registration begins (afternoon)</b><br><b>Bus Tour - Mount Rushmore Lighting Ceremony</b>   |
| <b>June 27</b> | <b>Friday -</b>    | <b>Bus Tour - Deadwood for gaming</b><br><i>(or) Winery, 1880 Train, Hill City &amp; Keystone</i><br><i>(or) Crazy Horse, Custer State Park, Iron Mountain Road</i><br><b>Welcome Reception w/Registration (evening)</b> |
| <b>June 28</b> | <b>Saturday-</b>   | <b>Golfing</b><br><b>Bus Tour - Ellsworth AFB and SD Air &amp; Space Museum,</b><br><i>Delta-01 Launch Control Center/Launch Control Facility, and Delta-09 Launcher (Cactus Flat)</i>                                   |

**BANQUET**

- |                |                |                  |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>June 29</b> | <b>Sunday-</b> | <b>Breakfast</b> |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|

*NOTE: Friday bus tour will be determined - most interest. List as your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Choices.*

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion.

**CONTACTS:**

**4ACCS**

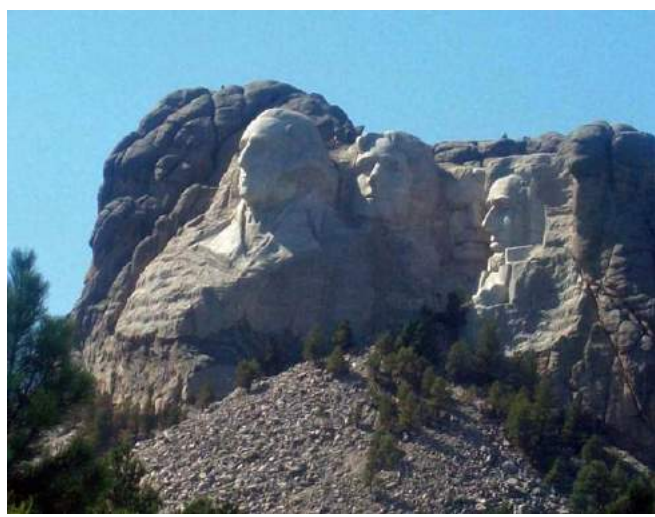
Mary Hillman  
68393 430<sup>th</sup> Street  
Odessa, MN 56276  
(320) 760-8235

[mdhillman@fedteldirect.net](mailto:mdhillman@fedteldirect.net)

**SAC ACCA**

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Beavercreek, OH 45434  
(937) 469-5473

[rodney.berlin@ngc.com](mailto:rodney.berlin@ngc.com)



**Mt Rushmore**

D. Hartley



**Deadwood, SD**

Web



**South Dakota Air & Space Museum**

Web



**Crazy Horse Memorial**

Web



**Delta-01 Launch Control Center, S.D.**

R. Minton



**Custer State Park**

Web



# Strategic Air Command Airborne Command Control Association SAC ACCA

Recording, Preserving and Celebrating the Legacy of PACCS

## Membership Application or Annual Dues Renewal Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Last, First, Middle)

Rank/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Status: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Active, Retired, Other)

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate your affiliation with PACCS, ACCS: [Organization - Duty - (Dates)] Examples: [22<sup>nd</sup> ARS - IP (74-82)], [34ARS - BO (63-66)], [HQ SAC - ABS (69-71)], [2<sup>nd</sup> ACCS - In-flight Maint (69-72)], [55<sup>th</sup> SRW - Staff (72-73)], [(4<sup>th</sup> ACCS - Crew Chief (74-76)], [AEAO/40ADIV (74-76)], [SAC Hq - Planner (88-90)]. Renewals may omit this data unless there are changes.

Amount Enclosed:

\_\_\_\_\_ Initial Fee (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Dues (\$15.00) Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Reinstatement (\$10.00)

**If paying annual dues, please indicate for what year(s) you are enclosing payment. The current paid year for your dues will be found in parentheses on the mailing label of your most recent newsletter.**

New memberships require the payment of the initial fee and dues for the year (\$25.00). Dues are for the period 1 Jan through 31 Dec and are due the first day of January (\$15.00) each year. A reinstatement fee, plus current dues, is due for inactive members who wish to reactivate their membership after an absence of two years or more (\$25.00).

**Please indicate** your preference regarding the publication of your name and address on membership rosters which may be provided to the membership of SAC ACCA.

I authorize: \_\_\_\_\_ Name, U.S. Mail and Email addresses on ACCA rosters to the general membership.  
\_\_\_\_\_ None of the above to be published on ACCA rosters to the general membership.

**Send to:**

SAC ACCA  
Steve Leazer, Treasurer  
5669 Cahuilla Avenue  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-1419

**Make your check out to:**

SAC ACCA

**SAC Airborne Command Control Association  
Wilton O. Curtis, Secretary  
2319 Pleasant Run Drive  
Richmond, VA 23238-3026**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**EC-135A No. 61-0262 at South Dakota Air & Space Museum - Ellsworth AFB, SD** *R. Minton*