

THE ACCA FLYER

The Newsletter of the

Strategic Air Command Airborne Command Control Association

Volume 4, Issue 2

July 1998

REUNION 1998 REUNION 1998 REUNION 1998 REUNION 1998

ALL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO OUR 1998 REUNION IS INCLUDED IN THE FINAL SECTIONS OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

LOOKING GLASS CLOSURE: To correct an error in concept and terms which we have been using pertaining to this item, according to information available to Greg Ogletree, our ACCA Historian, the term "LOOKING GLASS" is not being retired. The EC-135 aircraft of the 7th Airborne Command Control Squadron (7ACCS), 55th Wing (55W), when it is flown on the final mission on 25 September 1998, will be the last USAF aircraft participating in what was formerly the SAC Post Attack Command Control System (SAC/PACCS). Future strategic airborne command post missions, which will be conducted by U. S. Navy aircraft, will still go under the name of LOOKING GLASS for certain types of missions and under the name of TACAMO (Take Charge and Move Out) for other missions. So our term above, LOOKING GLASS CLOSURE, is a misnomer and the event really marks only the retirement of the EC-135 fleet. The proud name of LOOKING GLASS will live on but it may have a salt-water flavor to it in the future.

EC-135 FAREWELL EVENTS: If you care to participate in the golf tournament and/or the dinner party (both are events which require advance registration and payment), which will mark the closure of EC-135 LOOKING GLASS operations, a registration form is included in this newsletter. Some of the details of the golf and dinner events are included in the registration form and further details follow. All times are Offutt AFB local time.

Thursday, 24 Sep 98: A golf tournament will be held at the Willow Lakes Course, Offutt AFB, with a shotgun start at 1100 hours. Entry fee includes green fee, cart, golf towel with EC-135 logo, sleeve of balls with logo and, following play, a pig roast to be held in large tents near the golf club house.

Friday, 25 Sep 98: The final EC-135 LOOKING GLASS mission of four hours duration will terminate at 1300 hours. Ceremonies, marking the EC-135 farewell, will follow immediately after the mission termination at either the NAOC Hanger in the 55W area or the Aero Club Hanger near Base Operations. *This event is open to all who wish to attend.*

Friday, 25 Sep 98: Cocktails, dinner and farewell ceremonies at the SAC Museum in it's new location on Highway I-80, southwest of Omaha, will commence at 1800 hours. Dress requested is coat and tie in civilian clothes or service uniform. The ceremonies will include a keynote speaker, a review of the LOOKING GLASS history and other appropriate activities. A keepsake memento is planned for every attendee.

ACCA PARTICIPATION IN EC-135 FAREWELL: Our Association is an active player in the farewell activities. John Irwin has served admirably as our "point man", working very hard as a member of the committee of military and civilians which has taken on the task of making the EC-135 closure an event worthy of the history which it represents. We are serving as a sponsoring organization in order to provide a vehicle for the establishment of a bank account through which funds are managed for the various activities and we have contributed \$500.00 in seed money, an amount which other organizations, hopefully, will match or exceed. The letter, soliciting participation from commercial and organizational sponsors, also went out over ACCA President Jack Suggs' signature on new our ACCA letterhead. Historian Greg Ogletree with his wealth of SAC history, will contribute much to the historical portion of the farewell dinner. For those who participated in the thirty-seven-plus years of **LOOKING GLASS**, SAC and STRATCOM variety, these farewell activities promise to be extremely interesting and extremely emotional.

NEW ASSOCIATION LOGO ITEMS: The SAC/ACCA logo, which is shown on the outer cover of the newsletter, has been applied to two new items. A 5' by 8' banner, featuring the logo, in color, on a white background, has been obtained and will be featured at the EC-135 farewell ceremonies and in the various activities during our reunions. White, long-sleeve sweat shirts, with the logo, will be available for purchase at the reunion at a very reasonable price. We hope that every one will wear these shirts to the AF-Navy game where we can present a solid block in the stands. The shirts should be very comfortable for the early Fall climate of Colorado Springs.

HISTORY OF THE AIRBORNE LAUNCH CONTROL SYSTEM SCHOOL by Major Greg Ogletree (SAC/ACCA Historian)

We continue with the outstanding and detailed history of ALCS Training which was so vital to the airborne capability to launch our country's Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles. Due to the necessity of covering the EC-135 closure and our reunion in this issue of the newsletter, this history has been divided into three segments. The concluding segment will appear in our next issue.

Part Two

In 1970, a reorganization of the PACCS into three ACCS units, in conjunction with fiscal considerations (everyone going TDY to Vandenberg to learn or familiarize themselves with the ALCS weapon system), prompted the decision at year's end to transfer ALCS ORT to Ellsworth AFB--where it would stay for the next two decades. It appears as though the "training device" was moved "lock, stock, and barrel" to Ellsworth as well. (*Endnote 10*) It was around this time that the trainer started being referred to as the "ALCS procedures trainer" (APT). The APT was located in the 4 ACCS building between the Emergency War Orders (EWO) office and the only classroom (in what would later become the Stan/Eval office). This trainer was described in a magazine article as a training device "produced from salvaged equipment.... No technical diagrams or schematics were available, since it was the only ALCS trainer in the world." (*Endnote 11*)

Also, about this same time, ORT finally attained "formal school" status. In accordance with the provisions of SAC Supplement 1 to AFR 53-15, the commander of 4 ACCS was appointed Commandant of the school by the Fifteenth Air Force commander. (Endnote 12) The school was staffed with three full-time instructors and one augmentee from the ALCS branch instructor shop (DOAI). The first ALCS ORT class at Ellsworth began in February 1971. The course of study took 20 training days to complete and an average of 10 classes were conducted each year.

By the mid-1970s, plans were underway to replace the APT with a new computerized simulator. Early in 1975, the Air Force authorized procurement of two new simulators, one for the 4 ACCS at Ellsworth and one for the 2 ACCS at Offutt. (Endnote 13) The contract was awarded to GTE-Sylvania. Although construction was scheduled for completion in September 1977, the Installation and Checkout/Interim Acceptance Demonstration on the east coast was not completed until the following month. Both APTs were operational by August 1978, and the "Grand Opening" of the new facility at Ellsworth occurred on October 6th. (Endnote 14) This new training facility, located on Second Street near the flight line, included not only the new APT, but also a maintenance area, ORT instructor office area, and a secure classroom. Class 78-10 was the first ORT class to be trained in the new state-of-the-art simulator. ALCS and ORT continued pretty much the same for the next decade.

The last class of FY 89 contained the 500th student graduated from ORT. An interesting bit of trivia concerns the DG program for ORT. Of these 500 graduates, 26 had earned the DG distinction--a rate of about 5 percent. (Endnote 15) Over the 20 years of the course's existence, one or two students each year had been DGs. Class 90-1, however, apparently gave pause for concern when four of its six students (66 percent) attained DG status. (Endnote 16) To ensure (i.e., reestablish) the lofty status that DG was supposed to confer, the ORT instructors, in typical military "knee-jerk" response, scrambled to increase the course's level of difficulty before the next class started. (This is something SAC could get away with that ATC would never have allowed!) There have been only two DGs in the 10 years since! (Endnote 17) (To compensate somewhat for the low DG rate, a "Top Performer" program was established in 1993 for high achievers who couldn't quite meet the DG criteria.) Another matter related to the DG program arose when a former ALCS crew member, after several years away from the system, entered ORT again for requalification and asked whether or not he could qualify for DG status the second time around. The question was put to HQ SAC, who answered with the standard SAC response...a definitive and emphatic "no." (Endnote 18)

The addition of the Peacekeeper ICBM to our nation's strategic arsenal in the late 1980s initially had little effect on the ALCS ORT curriculum, but there were some very obvious physical changes to the buildings housing the APTs. Introduction of the "Common" ALCS weapon system (called "CALCS" at the time) circa 1987 necessitated the construction of an addition to the Ellsworth "schoolhouse" (and a similar appendage to the APT building at Offutt). The ORT building nearly doubled in size to accommodate the new Common APT. Students attending ORT continued to be taught "Phase II" (i.e., Minuteman) ALCS for several years after CALCS was introduced. They were "Commonized" after graduation in upgrade training at their home units. This sequence was finally reversed in 1991 when the ORT weapon system curriculum was switched to Common with Class 91-5. In addition to a complete courseware revision, the effect of this change was a lengthening of the course from

SACACCA REUNION OCT 7-11

REUNION RESERVATION

To: SAC ACCA
Mr. Fred Kemp, Treasure
19 Lutz Dr.
Bunker Hill, IN 46914
Tel 317-689-9373

From: _____
member spouse/friend

Address: _____

city state zip

Tel # _____

Check if this is a change of address ()

REUNION PACKAGE: Includes Wed. reception, Thur. Buffet, Fri. Flying W western dinner
Entertainment and Sat. night banquet \$90

Reunion package (save \$10) _____ x \$90ea \$ _____

Registration fee: _____ \$10 per member \$ _____
required of members if package NOT selected

Wednesday Reception: _____ x \$15ea \$ _____

Thursday Buffet: _____ x \$20ea \$ _____

Friday: Flying W. western dinner and entertainment (includes transportation) _____ x \$30ea \$ _____

Saturday banquet _____ x \$25ea \$ _____

Total \$ for dinners \$ _____

Total \$ for tours (from reverse) \$ _____

Total due \$ _____

See reverse side and attached sheets for tour and schedule information

Note: This registration must be received by September 9th 1998. We will be on the road after that date. If you are late registering, please leave a message at the Embassy Suites % of Jackie Duff (719) 599-9100. Advise that you are with the SAC ACCA group. Early submission is greatly appreciated. It helps with planning the numbers and activities.

SEE YOU IN THE SPRINGS

OVER

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____

SACACCA REUNION TOUR RESERVATIONS

	Thursday October 8	Friday October 9	Saturday October 10	Sunday October 11	Total \$
Pikes Peak @\$30/Person	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Garden of the Gods & Local Sites) @\$25/Person	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Royal Gorge@\$45/Person	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cripple Creek (All Day) (Complementary)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NORAD (@\$10/Person if previously Booked & provided SSAN(Trans. Fee)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Golf @\$5/Person + Tee Fees Contact Jan Suggs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
AFA Football @\$32/Person (Includes Transportation)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
SAC ABNCP Tour \$10/Person	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total Tour \$ Submitted	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

NOTE: Please check scheduled activities to ensure you do not conflict with desired activities. Tour availability will depend on group size. We can accommodate van through 55 passenger bus.

EC-135 Farewell Registration Form

Please complete a copy of this form and mail to:

EC-135 Farewell
PO Box 13052
Offutt AFB, NE 68113-0052

Banquet Registration Information:

Name: _____

Guest: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____ Seating request: _____

Background Information:

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Dinner Information:

Please indicate choice of dinner by initials:

_____ Roast Tenderloin of Beef, Green Peppercorn Bordelaise or Béarnaise Sauce

_____ Stuffed Boneless Breast of Chicken, Apricot Glaze or Tomato Basil Cream

_____ Grilled Fresh Salmon Filet, Dill Lemon Cream

with: Garlic-Herbed Whipped Potatoes
Sautéed Fresh Vegetables
Mixed Greens, Raspberry Vinaigrette
New York Style Cheesecake Raspberry Sauce

Golf Classic:

Player/Team Preference _____

Golf Course Club Member # _____ (not required)

Banquet:	\$45.00	_____
Guest:	\$45.00	_____
Golf Classic / Pig Roast:		
Member:	\$35.00	_____
Non-member:	\$45.00	_____
Pig Roast w/o Golf:	\$ 5.00	_____

* all prices are per person. Total _____

Please mail a copy of this registration form, check or money order made payable to "EC-135 Farewell", to the address given above. Questions concerning registration should be directed to the EC-135 Farewell Committee through email (amy.walton@offutt.af.mil) or Phone: Comm: 402-294-5805, DSN: 271-5805.

4 to nearly 6 weeks because of the Peacekeeper-related retargeting and remote command capabilities that had to be taught. (Endnote 19) Eventually, an additional week was also added to incorporate the classroom training, self-study, and aircraft flights of the upgrade training program into the ORT curriculum. (Endnote 20)

Although not affecting ORT directly, another change occurred in the late 1980s that related indirectly. From the beginning, maintenance on the APTs had been performed primarily by Air Force personnel (usually five at each location). In March 1988, the maintenance was turned over to civilians; Boeing Technical Operations (later, Boeing Aerospace Operations, Inc.) won the contract. This action reduced the number of personnel involved in maintenance support of the ALCS trainers (and provided convenient post-retirement jobs for several Air Force APT technicians who were retirement-eligible!).

ENDNOTES:

10. The letter in Note 1 mentions that the unique trainer at Ellsworth was built at Vandenberg.

11. "Airborne Procedures Trainer," Combat Crew Magazine, December 1979, (pp 14-15).

12. Ltr, 4 Aug 71, from 15 AF/CC to 28 BMW/CC; subject: Appointment of SAC ALCS School Commandant.

13. Plainsman (Ellsworth base paper), 26 Nov 76.

14. Ibid, 2 Nov 78.

15. The DG rate for ALCS graduates at the 4315 CCTS was 18 percent, according to information in the article referred to in Note 8; however, this fact was immediately followed by the fact that the OVERALL DG rate for all of the 4315th's ORTs was less than 5 percent—so it would appear that either the earlier course was easier than the later one or ALCS got the "cream" during its infancy (the latter seems more likely, especially considering the early program spawned at least three future generals—not bad stats for such a very small cadre).

16. Actually, this was not unprecedented. In fact, all three students comprising ALCS Class 17 graduated in late 1969 as DGs. Not only was this the first class to have a 100 percent DG rate, it was also the first to confer such status on "non-missileers" (Maj Keyes was an Ops Controller and Capt Williams was a Comm Controller; the third DG, Lt Guinn, was a missileer). Moreover, the following year, on 9 Jun 70, four of the five students in another ALCS class attained DG distinction (Maj John L. Lytle, Jack C. Crawford, Ronald L. Hasse, and James C. Pigg). These details were unknown to the ORT instructors in 1989 however.

17. Capts Joseph E. Mecadon and Brian S. Pletcher, both in Class 91-6 (and both of whom were DGs of Squadron Officer School). (Current as of 1 Jan 96)

18. Ltr, 4 Dec 85, from HQ SAC/DOCAL to 4 ACCS/DOA; subject: Distinguished Graduate Policy.

19. The record holder for completing the ALCS ORT course in the shortest period of time is Maj John Francis, DG of Class 78-5. He finished the 4-week program in only 3 weeks. (Apparently, for reasons unknown, he was allowed to self-pace.) On the other end of the spectrum, one student is

known to have been enrolled for over 8 weeks (he kept busting his APT eval, getting retrained, re-evaluated, etc—and was finally disenrolled).

20. As incredible as it sounds, until 1992, ORT students generally never flew aboard an aircraft until after graduation.

REUNION 1998 REUNION 1998 REUNION 1998 REUNION 1998
7 - 11 OCTOBER 1998
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

SIGN UP NOW !! The enclosed information sheet from CINC/REUNION 1998, Dick Doolittle, and the accompanying activities schedule and reunion reservation form tell the complete story. Remember that you must include payment for each activity with your reunion reservation form. The reunion reservation form should be filled out on both sides: the front side is for the basic reunion activities and the reverse side is for the "special" events, such as the football game, tours, etc.

Please do not send your reservation form and payment to Dick Doolittle. Send the completed reunion reservation form, along with your required payments, to ACCA Treasurer, Fred Kemp, at the address shown on the front of the reservation form.

However, if you have questions, you can contact CINC/REUNION 1998, Richard N. Doolittle, 3714 E. Mineral Place, Littleton, CO 80122, Home: (303) 741-6087, Office: (303) 971-5859, E-mail: rnd3@msn.com.

For those who have prepaid for AF-Navy game tickets, a note of clarification; the cost of the bus trip to and from the stadium is in addition to the cost of the ticket. The total cost for ticket and bus is \$32.00 and any difference between your prepayment and that figure must be collected at reunion registration. We apologize for any confusion this may have created. The prices shown on the reservation form are complete prices, including transportation, admission fees (where applicable), gratuities, etc.

A REMINDER OF AN IMPORTANT SPECIAL EVENT AT THE 1998 REUNION: The last remaining LOOKING GLASS EC - 135 aircraft will be flown into Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, CO, on Friday, 9 October 1998, as part of our SAC/ACCA reunion activities. The aircraft will be on static display and available for on-board tours by ACCA members and invited guests on Friday from 0930 until noon. The aircraft will then be flown on its final mission on Saturday, 10 October, performing a farewell fly-over as part of the pre-game festivities prior to the football game between Air Force and Navy and then proceeding directly to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center, more commonly known as "the boneyard", at Davis - Monthan AFB, AZ.

BUSINESS MEETING: The business meeting to be held at the reunion will be very important since several items of Association business must be addressed. Among those are (1) Election of Officers, including a publisher for *THE FLYER*. The offices of President, Vice-president and Secretary/Newsletter Publisher will be vacated after this reunion and, to insure that the Association continues to thrive, volunteers are needed to fill these posts., (2) Selection of the site for Reunion 2000 and (3) Other business as necessary.

SAC ACCA 1998 Reunion

It is time to make your plans for our reunion. Many have already responded with interest and funds for the Air Force/Navy game. It is still not too late to submit your reservations for tickets. (\$22 per ticket and \$10 each for transportation. - send to Fred Kemp). Your Association has arranged for a block of tickets to be set aside for us but we would appreciate an early response. We must finalize and pay for our attendees by 1 August 1998. We have worked up the promised schedule of activities and costs which provide you a wide variety-of options. It will help us a lot if you make your interests known as soon as possible. We will work very hard to make our reunion an enjoyable event.

As mentioned previously, our members may make any travel arrangements they wish. SAC/ACCA is pleased to announce that it has been able to secure a special discount agreement with United Airlines unavailable to the general public. An additional 5% discount off the lowest applicable fare will be offered ONLY when you or your travel agent call United's toll free number 1-800-521-4041 and refer to Meeting ID number 520YJ. A 10% discount off the unrestricted mid week coach fares is available when purchased 7 days in advance. The same discounts apply on Shuttle by United and United Express. Dedicated reservationists are on duty 7 days a week, 7:00 A.M. to 12 midnight EST. Book early to take advantage of promotional fares that give you the greatest discount. Mileage Plus members receive full credit for all miles flown to this reunion. Avis and Alamo rental car companies offer to the attendees of our reunion, discounts of 10% off the applicable rates when reservations are made in conjunction with United Airlines air reservations. **Late breaking news** - For those of you who desire to go to Omaha for the last flight and closing ceremonies of the 7 ACCS, you may use this discount as long as you continue your trip into Colorado Springs for our reunion.

We have contracted for 35 mini suites at the new Microtel (immediately across the street from the Embassy Suites) at a price of \$79 per night plus tax (about \$85). A Continental breakfast is provided. Jackie Duff, our hostess at Embassy Suites, has granted permission for reunion guests staying at Microtel to join the social each evening at the Embassy Suites. We now have a range of prices for our attendees. Call Dee Smith, 1-888-771-7171 at Microtel or Jackie Duff at Embassy Suites (719) 599-9100 or 1-800-EMBASSY or Fax (719) 599-4644. Embassy Suites are \$100 single or \$110 double and include a complimentary, cooked to order breakfast and the social hour. The Embassy Suites will be our headquarters. Rates also include a complimentary coffee, USA Today delivered daily, Microwave, refrigerator and wet bar in each suite. We have tried very hard to provide a range of prices and amenities during one of the busiest weeks in Colorado Springs. We have the following suites blocked for our members: 10/7/98 - 40 suites; 10/8/98 - 75 suites; 10/9 and 10/10/98 - 100 suites. What we don't book we will have to turn back. Reservations are to be made directly to the Embassy Suites or Microtel. All reservations must be made NLT September 6, 1998 or we lose the rooms. (We strongly recommend early reservation so you have your choice—accommodations during Navy week go fast).

Our banquet is scheduled at the Embassy Suites for the evening of October 10, 1998 starting at 1800. We will have time to return from the game, clean-up, have a social and begin the festivities. The menu includes:

Seasonal Greens with Assorted Dressings
Choice of Chicken Cordon Bleu or Marinated London Broil
Potato, Vegetables du joir
Rolls with Butter
Cheesecake with Strawberry Sauce
Coffee, Tea, Brewed Decaffeinated

The NORAD tour had to be arranged early as we announced in a previous newsletter. Those who provided names and social security numbers were listed by date of receipt. We were limited to one (1) group of 30. The first 30 were submitted to NORAD for our tour which is scheduled for Thursday, 8 October 1998 at 1300. Four people have been put on a waiting list and we may be able to submit them within 72 hours of our tour if we have unforeseen cancellations. We regret that we were unable to get more than one tour but we had no control of the NORAD scheduling process.

It is our intent to use the services of Stuart Kupfer "City Concierge" for our tours.. Stuart has an extensive background with previous employment at the Broadmoor Hotel among other noteworthy experiences. Your response to the enclosed tours sign up sheet will enable us to have needed transportation and tickets ready when you arrive. Stuart can accommodate small groups with vans or large groups with full size buses. We hope you will consider your priorities and desires for tours early.

Dick

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, 7 October

Registering arrivals	10 am - 5m
Reception Hors d'oeuvres & cocktails at the hotel	5 pm- 7 pm
Hospitality room open	12 pm - 5 pm

Thursday, 8 October

Registering arrivals	10am - 5 pm
Tours NORAD	12:15pm - 4 pm
Tours Cripple Creek (gambling town)	All day
Pike Peak, Garden of the Gods, Old Town, AF Academy	As desired
Formation Flying at the hospitality room	5 pm 6 pm
Buffet dinner at the hotel	6 pm
Hospitality room open	8 am ? pm

Friday, 9 October

LOOKING GLASS static display, Peterson AFB	9:30am - 12pm
Tour Cripple Creek (gambling town)	All day
Pike Peak, Garden of the Gods, Old Town, AF Academy	As desired
Golf @ Air Force Academy	1pm- 5:30pm
Formation Flying at the hospitality room	5 pm 6 pm
Dinner at the Flying W ranch	6:30 pm- 9pm
Hospitality room open	8 am ?

Saturday, 10 October

Business Meeting	8:30am - 10am
FOOTBALL GAME AIR FORCE - NAVY	10:30 am - 3pm
Cocktails at the hotel	6 p.m. 7 pm
Banquet dinner (sit down, coat & tie) at the hotel	7pm - 10 p.m.
Hospitality room open	8am - ?

Sunday, 11 October

Sayonara breakfast at the hotel	8 am - 11am
Memorial Service at the hotel	11am
"For those who have gone before"	

The NORAD tour will depart the hotel at 12:15 hrs. This tour is limited to the first 30 people who signed up for the tour. The Looking Glass is open for all. Transportation will be from the hotel.

Hotel reservations: 6 SEPT 1998 is the cut off date for ensuring the reduced rate at The Embassy Suites Hotel. Reservations are to be made directly with the hotel. Embassy Suites phone (719) 599-9100. For the Microtel phone 1-(888)-771-7171

Your SAC ACCA BOARD

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Reunion Chairman LTC Richard N. Doolittle	Historian, Maj. Greg Ogletree

SAC AIRBORNE COMMAND CONTROL ASSN.
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855 Crenshaw Loop North
Keiser, OR 97303-7465

(Address Correction Requested)

FIRST CLASS

