



The SAC ACCA Flyer

Strategic Air Command
Airborne Command Control Association

Recording, Preserving and Celebrating the Legacy of PACCS

Volume XIV, Issue 3

October 2008

DAYTON AND BEYOND

Jim Dart

We just completed our reunion for 2008 in Dayton, Ohio and I would say that it was a success and that everyone had a good time. It was good to see so many familiar faces and to see some new ones come out and join us.

The memorial dedication was the centerpiece of the reunion with the ceremony filled with pomp and



Please see **Dayton and Beyond** on Page 4

MEMBER ROSTER

The roster of members printed elsewhere in this newsletter includes those current members who have authorized their name and address to be listed. It is **confidential** and **for the use of members only!** Please do not reproduce or distribute it to non-members.

PACCS MEMORIAL

The culmination of President Emeritus, Jack Suggs' vision to "develop a memorial to recognize those members of the Strategic Air Command who operated and maintained the Post Attack Command Control System" took place at 1100 hours on 16 October 2008. The ceremony opened with the posting of the colors by the Wright-Patterson Honor Guard, the playing of the National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the Invocation given by our own Jim Simons.

Following welcoming remarks that included a brief history of PACCS by MC Wilton Curtis, President Dart and PACCS Memorial Chairman Fred Kemp came forward and removed the bench and presented it to the Director of the

Please see **Memorial Bench** on Page 2

drape covering the bench. Museum Director, Major General Metcalf, USAF (ret) then joined them and was presented the memorial by President Dart.

After the presentation and acceptance, Jim Simons offered the benediction and the Honor Guard retired the colors. SSgt Dave Diamond, USAF, concluded the ceremony with the playing of Taps. Then, members and wives gathered for group pictures while standing with the memorial.

Copy of the Welcoming Remarks

Following introductions of the Museum Director, SAC ACCA Officers, Norm Goetz and Jim Simons, the remarks printed below were delivered:

“Unable to be here today due to health reasons, are our immediate past president, Jim Kroskey, and our President -Emeritus, Jack Suggs.

It was Jack who first proposed in the fall of 2007 that consideration be given to developing a memorial to recognize those members of the Strategic Air Command who operated and maintained the Post Attack Command Control System (PACCS). The Board agreed and a study group was appointed to assess input from the membership. The response was so positive that museum procedures were initiated and a contract with Dodd’s Monuments of Xenia, Ohio was signed in February. President-Emeritus Suggs summarized this moment very eloquently when he said “this is an exciting time for all of us who were involved with the LOOKING GLASS and PACCS operation for all those years. It was an awesome responsibility and all of you made your mark in the history of that program...”

The PACCS System maintained a continuous, airborne alert over the United States for more than twenty-nine years from February 3, 1961 to July 24, 1990. The centerpiece of this system was the EC-135C aircraft, call sign LOOKING GLASS, based at Offutt AFB, Nebraska. Included at various times were Auxiliary Airborne Command Post aircraft- 2AF’s ACHIEVE, 8AF’s GRAYSON, 15AF’s STEPMOTHER and four Relay Aircraft, PINCHERS 13-16. Carrying a general officer and a battle staff, supported by communicators and maintainers and flown by a top-flight aircrew, the plane’s mission was

2008-2010

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim Dart abncp@earthlink.net
Vice-President	Fred Kemp fkemp8367@aol.com
Treasurer	Steve Leazer ec_135paccs@verizon.net
Secretary	Wilton Curtis wcurtis135@aol.com
President Emeritus	Jack Suggs

APPOINTED OFFICERS

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PACCS Memorial Committee	Fred Kemp fkemp8367@aol.com Norman Goetz Jack Suggs

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

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Richmond, VA 23238-3026

Renewals & New Memberships to:

SAC ACCA
c/o Steve Leazer, Treasurer
6141 Bagley Avenue
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-2502

(Editor's Note: The following article was first published in the April 1974 issue of the Strategic Air Command's "Combat Crew" magazine and recalls a very special mission. Three current members of SAC ACCA were participants on this unique flight: William "Bud" Creek, George Miller and Dave Williamson, the author of this account.)

THE FLYING MISSILEMEN OF GLORY TRIP 42GM-1



At the missile launch controls are author Capt Dave Williamson (foreground) and Capt Bob Parker, both former Minuteman Combat Crew members.

By Capt David M. Williamson 2nd ACCS

In the evening of the 21st of November 1973, an EC-135 of the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 2nd Airborne Command Control Squadron, lifted off the runway at Offutt AFB. The aircraft was on a special mission: the airborne launch of an operational Minuteman III missile from Vandenberg AFB, nicknamed Glory Trip 42GM-1.

Three times a day, 365 days a year, similarly equipped EC-135s of the 2ACCS launch from Offutt AFB as the Strategic Air Command Airborne Command Post. Equipped with the on-board Airborne Launch Control System (ALCS) equipment, these aircraft provide a continuous alternate launch capability for SAC's Minuteman missile force. The ALCS equipment on the aircraft is capable of generating the same preparatory and launch commands as the underground launch control centers at each Minuteman missile wing.

On the daily SAC Airborne Command Post flights, the ALCS equipment is operated in only a limited manner. Operational testing of selected Minuteman launch facilities is accomplished to confirm the capability of the aircraft to generate, and the launch facility to receive, UHF-FM data commands. During this operational test, the UHF-FM data does not enter the electronic data processing equipment of the missile itself; but is received and terminated in a special receiver. This receiver then relays to the underground launch control center the fact that airborne UHF data was received at the launch site. Only on special missions, such as Glory Trip 42GM-1, is the entire ALCS system tested and its total capability employed.

For the entire crew of the aircraft, the ALCS launch of Glory Trip 42GM-1 was to be a special mission in an additional manner. Participating in the flight were Colonel George D. Miller, Commander of the 55SRW, and Colonel Roscoe E. Crowder, Chief of the Airborne Division, DCS Operations at Headquarters SAC. At 1700 hours on the evening of the launch, Colonel Miller and Colonel Crowder joined the flight crew, ALCS instructor crew, and the communications specialists as they arrived at the aircraft to begin preflight. Colonel Miller conducted the aircraft preflight with the flight crew and ground crew. He and Colonel Crowder then went to the back of the aircraft to observe the ALCS instructor crew prepare their System for the mission. Captain Dave Williamson, Capt Bob Parker and Captain Tim Emrick performed an extensive checkout of the ALCS data processing unit, launch control and launch monitor panels, and the ALCS Minuteman

Please see **Glory Trip 42GM-1** on page 5

was to direct SAC's nuclear retaliatory forces in the event of the destruction of the ground command facilities.

As members of the Strategic Air Command Airborne Command Control Association (SAC ACCA), our mission is to record, preserve and celebrate the legacy of PACCS. We date to February 1991, when a small group of SAC veterans organized a reunion of the 3ACCS at Grissom Air Force Base. In 1994, the first reunion of SAC ACCA was held in Omaha with subsequent reunions being held every two years thereafter.

Today, we are privileged to gather here to dedicate this beautiful, granite memorial bench on behalf of all those who served and we wish to thank a number of individuals who have been most cooperative: To General Metcalf and his very capable museum staff, Sarah Parke, Public Affairs Specialist, and Jane Leach, Special Events Coordinator; to Larry Morrison of Dodd's Monuments; to the Air Force Honor Guard; to Bugler SSgt Dave Diamond; to the Chairman of our Memorial Committee, Fred Kemp and his group; and finally, a special acknowledgment to the fifty-two members of the Association who contributed, noting that several were surviving spouses honoring the memory of their loved ones...

To all of these individuals, we extend a very well-deserved THANK YOU!"



Wright-Patterson AFB Honor Guard

and circumstance and military protocol. We had an Air Force Honor Guard, a military bugler to play taps, an unveiling of the monument and acceptance by the Director of the Museum, Major General Metcalf, USAF (ret). The memorial now stands as a permanent tribute to those who participated in the Airborne Command and Control Mission. Thank you to all that contributed and thanks to Fred Kemp and Norm Goetz for leading this effort.

As with any reunion, we toured the National museum of the Air Force with its seven football fields full of aircraft, missiles and displays (the wives loved it) that define the history and the spirit of the US air Force in its sixty-plus years of existence. The museum also opened up the EC-121D for us to walk through. While the 121 was not an airborne command post, it is the closest thing the museum had available and, believe it or not, we had someone who flew on that very aircraft.

Dayton is also the birthplace of the Wright Brothers and the reunion toured a remarkable setting called Carillon Park that tells the story that Dayton and the Wright brothers played in our history. Here, we were able to see an original Wright Flyer carefully preserved and displayed.

Our night events included dinners and, as we did in Tucson, we took in a dinner theatre performance and saw "The Full Monty." This funny, yet revealing show had a lot of us laughing and rumor has it that a couple of gentlemen in our group may be considering a new career.

On Saturday, we conducted our business meeting which covered a variety of topics from our next reunion location, clarifying our bylaws, and establishing a financial review process, to how we might grow in order to continue our existence. Wilton Curtis, SAC ACCA Secretary has provided minutes from that meeting in this newsletter for everyone to review. Please look them over and if you have comments or questions, please contact one of the Board members.

code component units that would assemble and transmit the launch command from the aircraft to the missile launch facility.

With all preflight checkouts complete, the flight crew, consisting of Captain Tim Kinnison, IP 1Lts Johnnie Currie and William Johnson, copilots, Captain Dennis Daigger, Navigator, and TSGT Jimmie Moore, Boom Operator prepared for engine start and takeoff. Once airborne and on course to the Vandenberg launch orbit area, the ALCS crew began verification of the five high powered UHF transmitters. SMSgt Wilfried Pelletier, TSgt Darrel Naab, TSgt William Creek, and TSgt Charles Brooks, the communications specialists, completed test data transmissions. After all five systems were verified, one transmitter was selected and put on the line to send the UHF-FM data launch command.



Seated at the controls for the powerful ALCS transmitters are TSgt Charles Brooks, radio maintenance technician, and TSgts Darrel Naab and William Creek, radio operators.

When the aircraft arrived in the launch orbit area, an extensive system checkout began. The ALCS test commands were initiated to verify the data link from the aircraft to the ground launch facility. With all verification procedures successfully complete, the launch countdown was initiated. At the specified moment, the ALCS launch keys were turned to initiate an automatic launch command to the Minuteman III.

A short programmed delay between key turn and actual launch allowed most of the crew to gather around the cockpit to see actual first stage ignition and launch. The blackness of the night was then suddenly interrupted by a bright orange and yellow glare as the first stage motor ignited and the missile began to rise out of its launch facility. Climbing out of its silo the missile could be seen leaving a long, pure white trail of fire. As it passed almost directly over the aircraft, the crew was able to see first stage burnout, separation, and second stage ignition before the missile climbed out of sight.

With the ALCS launch completed and totally successful, there was a good deal of gratification and mutual congratulation among the entire crew. For the 55th SRW and 2nd ACCS, the special mission ALCS launch of Glory Trip 42GM-1 was complete. For the many dedicated professionals who poured untold hours of hard work into the development of the airborne launch capability, it meant a job well done. Colonel Miller accurately summed up the spirit of the occasion when he said, "It was extremely gratifying for me, as a commander, to be able to personally observe the dedicated and professional actions of all members of the crew as they prepared for the launch. The reliability of any unit to accomplish its mission is directly dependent upon the efforts of its personnel. It was a very good mission."

Editor's Comment: Thanks to William "Bud" Creek for providing a copy of this article and to the author, Dave Williamson, for allowing it to be reprinted in the FLYER. (Note— A picture of the flight crew does not appear due to space limitations.)

Our final dinner was held at the Wright-Patterson AFB Club. We again had the honor guard to present the colors. Following the posting of the colors, we presented the four airmen with a coin commemorating the Memorial Dedication. As part of this coining ceremony, I selected the senior most Commissioned (Lt Col Tom Cantarano) and Noncommissioned Officer (CMSGT Ed Hersey) in attendance to join Fred Kemp and me in coining the airmen. It brought together a span of military service from WWII to the Airmen currently serving our nation today.

The ceremony so touched the Airmen that I received a call when I got home from one of them calling on behalf of all of them to thank us for allowing them to be part of our reunion. The Airman also added that each one of them felt so proud of getting the coin from us. The Airman said that no other group has ever taken the time to recognize them as we did and that each of them felt honored to be coined by us and it is something that will stay with them throughout their careers.

Our guest speaker at this final event was Mr. Bill Lublin (a former Silk Purse guy) from the Joint Staff. Bill discussed the importance that airborne missions had played in winning the Cold War. He also discussed the current airborne missions and how important they are today and will be for some time to come. Mr. Lublin also brought along some Joint Staff Coins that he presented to several people in attendance from the oldest to the one who came the farthest. He also presented a coin to me commemorating the Pentagon Memorial Dedication for the victims of 9/11. He thanked us for inviting him to speak at our event and how honored he was to be among such a group that made the airborne mission the success that it is.

For all of those that came to the reunion, I just want to say thank you for coming and participating. I hope you enjoyed your time in Dayton. If so, we hope to see you in Seattle in 2010. For those that did not come to the reunion, you missed a good time with friends old and new. So, start planning now for 2010. The presentation by Deb Laughery really has a lot of us thinking



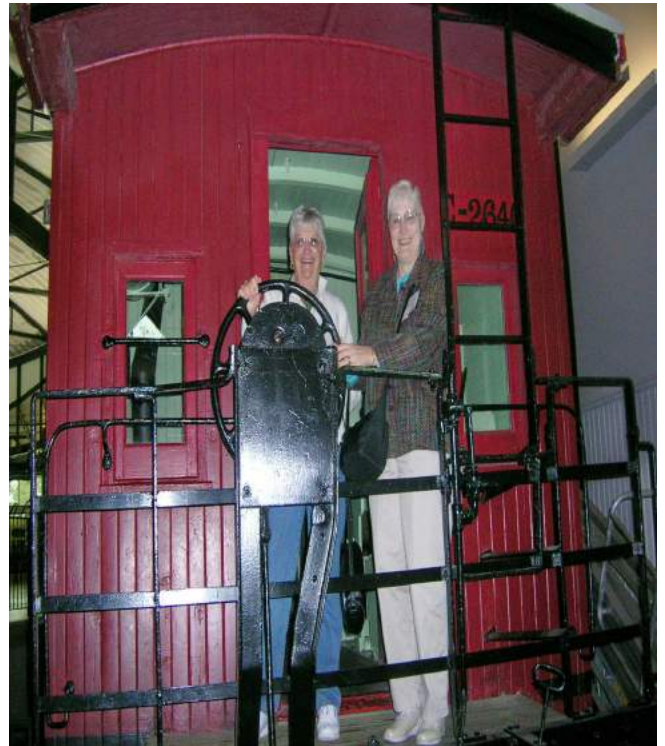
**Winners of a new special award: The "Airborne Monty"
Jim Simons and Fred Kemp**



**Banquet at WPAFB Club
Stephen & Mary Kissinger and Alice & Lee Clegg**



**Registration Area
Karen Dart, Sandy Kemp, Pat Curtis**



**R.R. Exhibit, Carillon Historical Park
Barbara Yaroch, and Sandy Kemp**



**Banquet, WPAFB Club
Jim and Karen Dart**



**Banquet, WPAFB Club
Charlie Jones, Speaker Bill Lublin, Rick Stone**

that four days might not be enough to see all of the things that Seattle and the surrounding area have to offer.

Finally, I would like to ask your help over the next two years to help grow our membership. I challenged each member at the business meeting to reach out to someone they know who was a part of the mission and invite them to join our family. I would ask each of you reading this newsletter to try and do the same. The way we get new members is by word-of-mouth so spread the word on who we are and what we are all about. To help with this, we will also be revamping our web page. The new address is:

WWW.SAC-ACCA.ORG

In the coming weeks and months we will populate the web site with pictures from the reunions, newsletters, forms for joining and renewing memberships and much, much more. Jim Bostick has agreed to help us with this effort. As we transition to our new web site, I want to thank Ken Witkin for all the work he did over the years with our previous web site. His efforts helped us to get the word out and gave us ideas that lead us in formulating our new site.

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

1. Your newsletter editor requests that you please consider writing a story for the FLYER. Your recollections of past experiences will help to continue the legacy of PACCS.

2. Member, Hugo Evans, a military historian, has an interest in SAC and its role in the United States' Cold War Defense. He interviewed members at the reunion. Contact him at: hugo@hugomania.com

3. Tim Sawyer of Van Citters: Historic Preservation LLC of Albuquerque, NM (505-220-3707) is interested in talking to SAC veterans who may have served at Eglin AFB between 1958 and 1965.

The following members and their guests attended the Reunion

Rodney & Diana Berlin	Charlie Jones
Jim & Mary Ann Bostick	Larry & Charlotte Jones
Herbert Bowers	
Ed & Ann Bowman	Fred & Sandy Kemp
Tom & Betty Cantarano	Steve & Mary Kissinger
Lee & Alice Clegg	Deb & Del Laughery
Bud & Josie Creek	Steve Leazer
Wilton & Pat Curtis	Les Robbins
Jim & Karen Dart	Sam & Jerrie Silvers
Dick & Loretta Doolittle	Jim & Bonnie Simons
Hugo Evans	Larry Springer
Norm & Dalene Goetz	Rick Stone
Ed & Doreen Hersey	Al & Barbara Yaroch

DUES REMINDER

ASSOCIATIONAL DUES COVER THE PERIOD OF 1 JAN—31 DEC AND ARE DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY OF THE NEW YEAR. TO DETERMINE IF YOU ARE CURRENT, PLEASE CHECK THE YEAR FOUND IN PARENTHESES ON YOUR NEWSLETTER'S MAILING LABEL.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU COMPLETE THE ANNUAL DUES FORM WHEN YOU RENEW. SIMPLY MAILING A CHECK DOES NOT ALLOW FOR THE UPDATING OF PERTINENT INFORMATION SUCH AS PERMISSION TO RELEASE YOUR ADDRESS.

PLEASE BE SURE TO NOTIFY ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS OF ANY CHANGES SUCH AS U.S. OR EMAIL ADDRESSES AS THEY OCCUR. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO RENEW SEVERAL YEARS IN ADVANCE.

Strategic Air Command
Airborne Command Control Association
Recording, Preserving and Celebrating the Legacy of PACCS

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, October 18, 2008

President Jim Dart called the meeting to order at the Doubletree Hotel, 11 South Ludlow Street, Dayton, Ohio at 0910 hours.

The first order of business was the reading of the minutes of the 2006 business meeting. Following a motion by Dick Doolittle, seconded by Jim Bostick, they were approved as read.

The next order of business was the Association's financial status by treasurer, Steve Leazer. Preliminary figures were given with a detailed report to follow in the Association's newsletter.

Fred Kemp reported on the completion of the PACCS Memorial Bench and the issue of erecting a larger memorial in the future. Following discussion, Steve Kissinger moved that the Association use the remaining memorial funds towards the building of a larger monument. The motion, seconded by both Jim Bostick and Deb Laughery, passed unanimously.

Fred also noted contact with Jack Gatewood concerning the filing of the Association's Corporation in Florida in light of his advancing age and the need for future renewals. Following discussion, Tom Cantarano made a motion, seconded by Sam Silvers, that an attorney be contacted for future renewals of the Association's Charter. The motion was approved.

Jim Dart reviewed the events of the replacement of the Treasurer, Vice-President and President due to two officer resignations. Bylaws of the Association generally provided for the transitions that were necessary to maintain efficient organizational operation. However, the Board recommended a revision to one section in order to ensure clarity:

CURRENT WORDING:

Section 5.3, "In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the President. The Vice President shall assist the President generally and may exercise other such powers and perform such duties as shall be prescribed by the Board."

PROPOSED REVISION:

Section 5:3, The Vice President:

- a In the absence or disability of the President, shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the President.
- b Shall assist the President generally and may exercise other such powers and perform such duties as shall be prescribed by the Board
- c Shall ascend to the position of President upon receipt of a letter from the President and its approval by a quorum of the Board.

President Dart reported that museum officials were very complimentary of the speed and efficiency of the Association's placement of the PACCS Memorial. He further related a talk with Museum Director, Major General Charles D. Metcalf, USAF (ret), concerning the Association's desire for PACCS aircraft recognition. It was learned that a future hanger will be built to include among its collections, a "135" aircraft with surrounding displays featuring the many variants. The Director will work with us in telling the story of the EC-135.

The next order of business was a discussion of the Disposition of Funds should the Association dissolve. A motion made by Ed Bowman and seconded by Charlie Jones that any remaining funds be donated to the National Museum of The United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB and that these funds be designated for the preservation and telling of the story of PACCS passed unanimously.

Following a discussion on the growth of the organization, each member was charged with making an attempt to enlist at least one new member next year. In addition, the advantage of coordinating future reunions with another organization to provide greater economy of scale, (i.e. the lowering of hotel costs) was also discussed and President Dart indicated intentions of contacting other groups such as 4ACCS to determine if there is any interest.

Following a detailed presentation by Deb Laughery utilizing video, Lee Clegg moved that Seattle, Washington be selected as the site for the Association's 2010 reunion with Deb as Planner. Seconded by Ed Bowman, the motion was enthusiastically approved.

A future site for the 2012 reunion was also discussed, primarily focusing on the second and third choices of the 2006 Member Preferences Survey: San Antonio and Washington DC. With concerns of an insufficient number of activities in San Antonio being raised, Jim Dart and Ed Bowman, both residents of the general vicinity of Washington DC, will evaluate that area more and report at the next reunion.

Notification that the current provider of the website (AOL) is terminating this capability, and with appreciation for the six years of service provided by Ken Witkin, following some discussion Jim Bostick was assigned to investigate other options for a new website.

Upon a recommendation by the Treasurer and following discussion, a motion that the Board appoint a committee of two to three members to review the financial records of the Association at each reunion was made by Lee Clegg and seconded by Jim Simons. The motion was approved.

Recognizing the enormous number of tasks for the Reunion Planner, a motion to award any hotel-complimentary room to the planner was made by Steve Leazer, seconded by Jim Simons and approved.

The final order of business was the election of officers for 2008-2010. Jim Bostick moved that the current slate be returned for another two years. The motion was unanimously seconded and approved.

2008-2010 OFFICERS

President-Jim Dart
Vice-President -Fred Kemp
Secretary-Wilton Curtis
Treasurer-Steve Leazer

The meeting was adjourned at 1106 hours following a motion by Jim Bostick seconded by Sam Silvers.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Bostick	Ed Hersey
Herbert Bowers	Charlie Jones
Ed Bowman	Fred Kemp
Tom Cantarano	Steve Kissinger
Lee Clegg	Deb Laughery
William Creek	Steve Leazer
Wilton Curtis	Les Robbins
Jim Dart	Sam Silvers
Dick Doolittle	Jim Simons
Norm Goetz	Larry Springer

Wilton Curtis, Secretary



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: [22nd ARS - IP (74-82)], [34ARS - BO (63-66)], [HQ SAC - ABS (69-71)], [2nd ACCS - In-flight Maint (69-72)], [55th SRW - Staff (72-73)], [(4th ACCS - Crew Chief (74-76)], [AEAO/40ADIV (74-76)], [SAC Hq - Planner (88-90)].

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
6141 Bagley Avenue
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-2502

Make your check out to:

SAC ACCA

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**PACCS MEMORIAL BENCH
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO**