



Shotgun Blasts

The 221st Aviation Company – Then and Now



Volume 3, Issue 12

December 2011



May each and every one of you experience a joyous and love filled Christmas and a wonderful New Year filled with new and exciting adventures, challenges and opportunities to excel.

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This newsletter is dedicated to the men of the 221st RAC who served from 23 March 1965 thru 10 October 1971, to the ladies that stood behind them and to that magnificent flying machine, the Cessna Birddog.

Brothers in Arms – Always

San Antonio in the Rearview Mirror

It was a fun trip but it's history now.

By Don Smith, Shotgun 8A, '65 - '66

Well, it is now nearly six weeks since we all gathered up our belongings and departed the San Antonio, the Alamo City, leaving behind some doubts and taking with us some renewed hope that the future can only be more exciting and fulfilling. I for one, weary from the preparation and the travel, enjoyed the time that I had to relax with some of my old comrades-in-arms some of whom I had not seen in more than forty years.

Yes, there were some difficulties, most related to the hotel that we were using as our reunion headquarters but nothing so devastating that it destroyed the reunion spirit that had been born anew in that group of young men and women gathered together to celebrate life. Call it life or call it history, we have all seen our share and when we gather as we did in San Antonio it is as though we are beginning again midst a group that shares our beliefs, our morals and our values.

Although no decision has been made regarding the location for the 2013 reunion I am already looking forward to seeing everyone that was in San Antonio again as well as many more that were unable to make the trip for one reason or another. We need to remember that there is also a large number of our comrades-in-arms that we have not yet located and we must continue the search for them and return them to our midst. I plan on continuing my search efforts but I cannot do it all, if you have any thoughts about any of your friends or even some of the folks you didn't much care for all those years ago, it is time for you to dig into your memory bank and try to find them.

OK, enough said on that subject. Let's cover what went wrong and what went right during our Reunion 2011 based on the comments that I received after the reunion. Don't worry, I will not mention your name but I will use your words. We want the folks that did not join

with us to learn what we experienced while in San Antonio so here goes:

- "My wife and I have meds that need to be kept in a fridge. Our room had none and the hotel said none was available. Later we were talking with our maid who said she would get us one and, by golly, she delivered."
- "San Antonio as a venue was a great choice. Loved having a day (Friday) with nothing scheduled so we could do our own thing."
- "It was OUTSTANDING in every respect, we really enjoyed ourselves."
- "Only problems were with the Hotel Food Service and non fixing of elevator."
- "Really a great reunion and my wife felt very comfortable in the crowd of Shotgunners."
- "Reunion was over the top. I feel that I could have done more to help you out if asked. Keep that in mind for the next one."
- "The reunion was great. I enjoyed meeting those with whom I served and meeting new persons, all of whom were just terrific." "In the nice to have category a better arrangement for the speakers at the meetings to help those of us with hearing impairment would be a help."
- "The hospitality room was far too small."
- "I had no idea what to expect after 4+ decades. It was memorable!"
- "There must be a lot of names but if we could have two or three guys each read, in turn, a name, until the list is complete we could honor all our members in a reasonable amount of time."
- "I don't like mariachi music, but that's just me."
- "My suggestion is to not have entertainment for the first night's get together so folks can mix, chat and not drown out the entertainers."

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- “The organization and activities were excellent, especially the awards dinner with DJ.”
- “My only ‘somewhat negative’ comment was that some of the ‘times’ didn’t agree between what was in the Schedule of Events and then the actual program times.”

We did of course have some difficulties with the hotel which have been duly noted and passed on to their management staff. The hotel had been pre-warned of the difficulties that would be encountered with the Saturday and Sunday breakfast rush but chose not to take the warnings into consideration, this was an issue in Florida as well but I do believe that everyone managed to get fed before our events this year. The difficulties encountered with the elevator failure could not have been forecast but noting that the alarm system did not properly work was a major safety violation and the fact that the elevator was still out of service 48 hours later was a failure on the part of the hotel. The hotel also failed to take any action, even that of an apology for lack of hot water in the guest rooms, unforgivable!

There have been several suggestions for additional items that we could include in our program for the 2013 reunion and those will be discussed as we move closer to the time for the reunion. Most folks seemed pleased with what we managed to put together for the Alamo City and now we will have to seek to match or improve upon our few days together in our next Gathering of Eagles wherever it may be.

One parting note, I have had several comments from members regarding the Texas Tech Oral History Project. Some of our members have already contacted them to make plans for their interviews and to arrange the disposition of their mementos to the University.



Christmas Magic

by Joanna Fuchs

Are we too grownup to feel a thrill
As we light the Christmas tree?
Are we immune to cookies,
Christmas cards and Christmas glee?

Are we too adult to “Ooh” and “Aah”
At the Christmas candle’s glow?
Are we blasé about our gifts;
Do we shun the mistletoe?

Are we too mature for carols,
For merry or for jolly?
Do the decorations leave us cold,
The ornaments and holly?

Fat chance! We’ll never grow too old
To love the Christmas magic.
A year without a Christmas
Would be boring, even tragic.

So bring it on! The candy canes,
The feasting and good cheer;
O Christmas, lovely Christmas,
You’re the highlight of the year!



A Few Words from Our “Sixes”

Christmas 1965, almost half a century ago. What memories do this coming holiday bring? One memory is First Sergeant Beetem and me spending Christmas Eve searching the company area for a young man who had had too much Christmas cheer and was wandering the company area with a loaded M-14.

After much searching we finally found the young soldier asleep on top of one of the area bunkers. I also remember having to obtain permission to allow him to ship because he was under age to deploy to a combat area. In this case maybe the Army was right.

By December of 1965, the deployment of aircraft, pilot and crew chief to sector level was nearly complete. In some cases, space for the crew, availability of an airstrip, refueling concerns and security for the aircraft caused major delays. Who knew what a success having the Birddog team at sector level would turn out to be?

Credit for this idea goes to then Chief of Staff of the Army, General H. K. Johnston. After touring Vietnam late in 1964 General Johnston came up with the Sector level deployment of Army Aviation assets. His vision was for one aviator to make daily or twice daily flights in his assigned sector and report any activity that would indicate Viet Cong activity.

IT WORKED! The Sector Pilot became the Sector Aviation Officer. The Crew Chief had the responsibility of seeing his aircraft was ready to go seven days a week. Often the crew chief was also the “back seat guy”. In most cases these young Aviators and Crew Chiefs were not too long out of flight training or the aircraft mechanic course.

The flying hours and aircraft availability are an indication of the team’s sense of urgency of the mission and their response to it. The maintenance team back at Soc Trang had that same sense of urgency of keeping aircraft in the air under the most primitive working conditions and without some of the shop vans that were “lost” in shipment.

One more thought...what the 1965 Shotguns established, those that followed right up until the 1971 stand down, continued with professionalism and urgency of mission. Take some time to read the end of year reports from 1965 thru 1970 on the 221st Web Site, the flying hours and aircraft high availability continue to reflect an outstanding unit. Excerpts from individual award recommendation show that these young men went far above the call of duty to accomplish the unit mission.

WELL DONE SHOTGUNS!!!!!!!

Overheard at the San Antonio 2011 Reunion....“It was like going to a family reunion but without the bickering.”

Merry Christmas 2011

Don Modica, Shotgun 6, 1965



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Christmas Greetings from the Poor House! A few weeks ago our editor-in-chief reminded the "surviving" company commanders that it's time to write the annual Christmas Message for the December "Blasts". Being one of the "survivors" who was honored to serve as Shotgun 6, I jumped at the opportunity to write a few words to try to express my feelings about a great group of men with whom I served during a time of conflict some 45 years ago.

What a great unit it was! It's hard, to believe that we let almost 40 years pass before we had our first reunion! But when we did, starting in 2007, 2009 and our gathering in San Antonio last month we did it with a bang, renewing memories and reinforcing old friendships that were formed at a critical point in our lives.

The respect and admiration I have for the guys I served with during my tenure in 1966 - 1967 continues to grow as we get together at our reunions and through emails, cards and personal phone calls. I have been so blessed in so many ways during my life -- right at the top serving with a professional team called the Shotguns.

The greatest, of course, is my relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ whose birth we celebrate at this time of year. And that, my Brothers, brings me to the purpose of this short note -- that each of you have the peace and comfort of knowing the One whom we celebrate this month! Ann and I wish each of you and yours the happiest of Christmases and a prosperous New Year!

Bill Poor, Shotgun 6, July 1966 – March 1967



Greetings Shotguns,

It's hard to believe that it has been 44 years since we were together in the Delta for Christmas of 1967 and New Years 1968 (perhaps better remembered as Tet 67). It was an eventful time for the 221st RAC, not only for our daily duties but for our hosting of the YO-3A silent aircraft (Sweitzer gliders with engines), diverted to Soc Trang for security reasons.

I would hope that your subsequent holiday seasons have been less eventful and stressful. A large number of you and our comrades probably left the military several years later and pursued other careers and are now retired. I decided to continue my military career and returned to Vietnam as an advisor to ARVIN ground troops in Quang Tin Province in I Corps as our US engagement wound down.

Since retiring I have been reunited with several of you at Delta Combat Aviation Battalion reunions at Fort Rucker, perhaps most notable, our Phantom Battalion Commander, Colonel Harry Harper. It has been disappointing, however, that only a couple of other Shotguns have been in attendance. Hopefully this will be remedied in future reunions, one of which I believe will be a Shotgun reunion here at Fort Rucker. Hope to see you then.

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Hey Shotguns

Send me your New Year's Resolutions so that the entire group can help you to attain your goals (or at least have a good laugh with you when you miss your target). Need them by December 20, 2011.

This Month in Military

History

- DECEMBER 1 CIVIL AIR PATROL FOUNDED IN 1941
- DECEMBER 7 PEARL HARBOR ATTACKED BY JAPANESE AIRCRAFT IN 1941
- DECEMBER 8 THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN DECLARE WAR ON JAPAN IN 1941
- THE USSR CEASED TO EXIST IN 1991
- DECEMBER 11 FIRST ARMY HELICOPTERS ARRIVE IN SAIGON BY CARRIER IN 1961
- DECEMBER 16 THE BOSTON TEA PARTY IN 1773
- THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE BEGAN IN EUROPE IN 1944
- DECEMBER 19 WAR BROKE OUT IN FRENCH INDOCHINA AS HO CHI MINH ATTACKED THE FRENCH IN 1946
- DECEMBER 20 UNITED STATES INVADED PANAMA TO CAPTURE MANUEL NORIEGA ON CHARGES OF DRUG TRAFFICKING IN 1989
- DECEMBER 25 GEORGE WASHINGTON LED 2400 MEN ACROSS THE DELAWARE RIVER TO DEFEAT 1500 BRITISH MERCENARIES AT TRENTON IN 1776

Dates to Remember

- DECEMBER 1 CIVIL AIR PATROL DAY
- DECEMBER 5 PROHIBITION REPEALED 1933
- DECEMBER 7 PEARL HARBOR DAY "A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY"
- INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY
- DECEMBER 15 BILL OF RIGHTS DAY
- DECEMBER 17 WRIGHT BROTHERS DAY
- DECEMBER 20 HANUKKAH (20 – 28)
- DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
- DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
- DECEMBER 26 BOXING DAY
- DECEMBER 27 NATIONAL FRUITCAKE DAY
- DECEMBER 28 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE DAY
- DECEMBER 31 NEW YEARS EVE
- WORLD PEACE MEDITATION DAY
- AND
- LEST WE FORGET, THE ENTIRE MONTH OF
- DECEMBER HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS:
- NATIONAL AWARENESS MONTH
- WORLD AIDS MONTH
- ROOT VEGETABLES AND EXOTIC FRUIT MONTH

Chaplain's Corner

Well, when was He born?

By Ned Moore, Shotgun Chaplain

A fellow said to me – "... I don't believe Jesus was born on December 25th ..."

"I don't either", I said. He blinked a few times and asked, "Then how can you believe in Him?"

"Because the "when" is not nearly as important to me as is the **Who** He was, **What** He did, **Why** He did it and what all that means to me."

"Well, when was He born?"

"I don't care. I only care that He was; That He took my place in God's Justice, and gave me His Grace."

Jesus left us no middle ground – as C.S. Lewis has observed - either He was The Son of God or the biggest imposter of all time. Either He was and is who He said He is or we are all lost in the foolishness of our own arrogance. "I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be] you will indeed die in your sins." (John 8:24, NIV).

Because of the changes He has made in my life, I cannot not believe in Him. I tried that once – and found it to be such a miserable failure of choice and life pathway, that I could not refuse Him any more.

"Why then, did "they" pick December 25th as the Birthday of Jesus?"

"Don't know, don't care", said I. "But "they" did have to pick some time – because He indeed was. There is just too much credible testimony that He did, in fact, exist. There will always be those who claim that His life did not exist. Some have even gone so far as to say He was only one among many – so states the title of a book I found in my Seminary's library stacks. "Sixteen Crucified Saviors", it read. However, crucifixion without Resurrection and

Ascension is just another bad day at "Black Rock"

December marks the Advent of Jesus, His entrance into our world. The beginning of an earthly presence and ministry marked by the story of the three Magi, Wise men, and as the saying goes, "Wise men still seek Him."

Any person can change the circumstances of your life. In the case of us Shotguns, there was a whole double-wad scad of VC who desperately tried to change our circumstances for the worst. Yes, we did lose some awfully good people – and I trust they are with Him. I am sure there were some good people among the bad guys. But that is not for me to say for sure. I am convinced they were very sincere – but to my way of thinking, sincerely wrong. However – that is neither here nor there. That was not Jesus' mission.

His was to change not only our hearts and minds, but our spirits. He did not enter our earthly existence to create requirements for religious observances and obligations. All that stuff does is to create stumbling blocks to spiritual relationships with Himself.

I was never crazy about doing pushups – why in the world would I choose a laborious list of ecclesiological calisthenics to try to make God happy, when what He really desires is a person in whom He can live and re-create in His image. Only God's Holy Spirit – Who is essentially Jesus-in-the-now, as Oral Roberts was fond of saying – and whom I have found to be just that – can do it.

Jesus did not come to create institutions. We need them to satisfy our needs of belonging. He came to recreate humanity into the kind of people The Father intended in the beginning. We have just been making it difficult for Him.

We are humans – and humans only. In order to be about a process, we must have a starting point.

And, for whatever reasons I may have, December 25th suits me just fine.

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The Old Testament said in a gazillion different ways that He was coming, what He wanted of us, and that He was coming to help. (Besides, 25 December is four days into the process of returning to longer days, shorter nights and warmer weather . . . a marvelous Christmas present to all of us – .

Just like God needed Mary to agree to be Jesus' human mother, Jesus needs us to agree to allow Him to live His life in ours. Celebrating His birth among us each December provides us with the reassurance that He has not given up on us – just as Easter provides us with the reassurance that by Faith and Faithfulness we have a Life which we can look forward to after our time on this earth is finished. There are those who do not believe so – reckon they don't open Christmas presents either.

May the Grace of God sustain you until the hands of God can hold you.

Ned



New Tool Helps Veterans Connect to Resources

Veterans and their families now have another tool to help them find information and the support they need to help them meet life's challenges. This new tool is the Department of Veterans Affairs new online resource center at www.MakeTheConnection.net .

In addition to connecting users to resources for issues affecting their health, well-being and everyday lives, the site features inspiring true stories from other veterans who faced life events, experiences, physical ailments or psychological symptoms and found ways to overcome their challenges.



For Your Christmas Gift List Please Remember



Until Every One Comes Home®



The Lighter Side

Pre-Christmas Flight Check

Santa Claus, like all pilots, gets regular visits from the Federal Aviation Administration, and the FAA examiner arrived last week for the pre-Christmas flight check.

In preparation, Santa had the elves wash the sled and bathe all the reindeer. Santa got his logbook out and made sure all his paperwork was in order. He knew they would examine all his equipment and truly put Santa's flying skills to the test.

The examiner walked slowly around the sled. He checked the reindeer harnesses, the landing gear, and Rudolph's nose. He painstakingly reviewed Santa's weight and balance calculations for the sled's enormous payload.

Finally, they were ready for the checkride. Santa got in and fastened his seatbelt and shoulder harness and checked the compass. Then the examiner hopped in carrying, to Santa's surprise, a shotgun.

"What's that for?" asked Santa incredulously.

The examiner winked and said, "I'm not supposed to tell you this ahead of time," as he leaned over to whisper in Santa's ear, "but you're gonna lose an engine on takeoff."



Some Things Never Change

Don Modica was good enough to share some photos with us to demonstrate the truth in the statement above. Many of us do not take the time to think about the similarity of our life today to the way it was some forty-six years ago but when we do take a look back we start to realize that we have not progressed a great deal.....Ed

Don and Machine 1965



Don and Machine 2011



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In retrospect our tours of duty with the 221st in the Delta was in few ways comparable to what our soldiers today are facing around the world, especially the Middle East. We need to keep them all in our prayers for their immediate safety and safe return to their families and loved ones.

On a personal note, since my retirement in 1982, my second career was as a field representative for United Services Life Insurance Company (now a part of ING insurance group). Following that career my wife and I opened a florist business here in Enterprise. The home of the “Boll Weevil bug statue”, you may remember it from flight school. It doesn’t take long to visit it.

If you get by this way give me a call at (334) 393-3766 or e-mail me at jmellish@roadrunner.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

In closing, a Joyous Holiday Season and many Happy New Year’s in the future.

Jim Mellish, Shotgun 6, December 1967 – July 1968



As we prepare for our holiday celebrations, let us remember our brothers and sisters in arms serving in uniform far from the comforts and joys of home. We pray that God will hold our brave troops in his loving hands and put a hedge of protection around each of them. May God grant them and their families grace, perseverance, strength and peace.

Consider an excerpt from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s poem titled, A Psalm of Life---What the Heart of the Young Man Said to the Psalmist. “In the world’s broad field of battle, In the bivouac of Life, Be not like dumb, driven cattle! Be a hero in the strife!.....Let us, the, be up and doing, With a heart for any fate; Still achieving, still pursuing, Learn to labor and to wait.” Courageous hearts shall always be wanted!

Two Hundred Thirty-Six years ago, our forefathers fought foreign tyranny for eight years from town to town through many hardships such as Valley Forge at Christmas time. Today, Americans have been fighting foreign tyranny for ten years in a tough guerilla war to protect our homeland. From the American Revolution to the War on Terror, we have a long, proud history of heroes willing to sacrifice all in the name of freedom and liberty. God bless them!

May the Spirit of Christmas bless you and keep you! From my family to yours, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year!

Tony Ortner, Shotgun 6, January 1969 – July 1969



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In December of 1969 I was S-2 at the 12th Combat Aviation Group (CAG) that was located at "The Plantation" at Long Bien. I was feeling pretty good because I had just received orders for assignment as CO of the 221st RAC at Soc Trang in the Delta of South Vietnam. I was to report on 12 January to the 13th Aviation Battalion headquarters also located at Soc Trang. I could not wait for the time to pass so I could get back to the unit that I had been with in 1966-67.

Christmas Day that year was on a Thursday and started like any other day at 12th CAG. I got cleaned up and went to the office where I got up-to-date on the enemy situation. Once that was done I went to the mess hall for breakfast. I could smell the food of Christmas cooking and there was Christmas music playing. That got me in the Christmas spirit! I walked inside and there were Merry Christmas wishes coming from my comrades-in-arms.

Of course the first words from Colonel Hughes, the Group Commander, were "how is everything in the AO?" Even though there was supposed to be a truce, I told him there had been some minor action by "Charlie" but nothing really big.

Colonel Hughes then reminded us we were going to the hospital to visit the wounded and have Christmas dinner with them. He would like to have as many folks as possible go along.

After breakfast we all returned to the office where we had our Christmas. We had music playing and opened presents from home. It was a great moment to remember and be connected to our loved ones. We toasted everyone from our families to our Commander In Chief.

From there we went to the hospital and first went to the ward to visit the more seriously wounded. Colonel Hughes, whose call sign was "Corn Cob Six", had a tradition of handing out corn cob pipes along with awards. He pinned a Purple Heart on each wounded soldier, and then the SGT Major gave out the pipes. It was both impressive and sad to watch this ceremony. We then wished the troops a speedy recovery and finished it off with a Christmas Carol. It made me proud to be an American Soldier.

So, again, I am proud to be an American Soldier and a member of the 221st RAC. I was humbled at our recent reunion watching every one of us as we bonded, and then again when watching the faces of the distaff as they finished their rides in the Birddog. You could tell they appreciated what we had done in the past. Now it is time to wish my brothers and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I will be thinking of those warriors that I had the privilege of serving with. I have so many memories of them and their proud dedication to the 221st, the US Army, and the United States of America, and I thank them.

Jim McGraw, Shotgun 6, January 1970 - July 1970



As we celebrate the Christmas Season let us pause and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas...the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. As he is the reason for the season!

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Nita and I are wishing you and your families Peace, Love and Happiness during this glorious time of the year. We pray that you all will have a wonderful blessed holiday season. Also, we pray for all our service personnel who are currently serving around the world for our freedom as we did so many years ago.

May God hold them in his loving hands and protect them.

May the Christ of Christmas be with you and yours throughout the New Year!

Lou Sokowski, Shotgun 6, July 70 – Jan 71



Birthdays

From the New Database Forms that we have received we have extracted the following names of individuals that claim December to be their birth month. We have no reason to believe that any of these fine folks have altered records just to let them get double gifts in this month of gift giving.

Only **Names, Dates, City** and **State** will be listed. When our Database is completed a directory with contact information will be available.

December 6	Jeanette Bohringer	Bossier City, LA
December 7	Karen White	Indianapolis, IN
December 10	Phyllis Easley	Grand Rapids, MI
December 22	Carol Warden	Manhattan, KS
December 23	Sharon McMillan	Millersview, TX
December 30	T. Cline Preble	Litchfield Park, AZ

“The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age.”
Lucille Ball

For your birthday, we wish you a happy day and want you to know you are loved by each of your friends.



Final Flight

A simple listing of our Comrades-in-Arms and their wives, our sisters, that have departed on their Final Flight. As confirmation is received notices will be posted.

Harriette Jane Guenther

Wife of Fritz Guenther, Shotgun 8, 1966 - 67

Our sister, Harriette, passed away on November 9, 2011 at the age of 71. A service and Celebration of Life is being planned and will be announced soon.

An Ode to My Wife

Author Anonymous

If I could just turn back the time
To when I heard you say,
That I could be your shining Prince
And all the dragons slay.
I'd build a castle on the hill
So all the world could see,
The lovely princess that I chose,
To live and die with me.

If I could just turn back the time
And start my life anew,
I'd plant some roses near the paths
That I have led you through.
There'd be no thorns to pierce your heart,
No tears to dim your eyes,
I'd leave no stones to bruise your feet,
There'd be no sad goodbyes.

But Father Time will not turn back
The hours that passed away.
I can't remove the thorns and rocks
From all those past gone days.
I cannot live my life again
But dragons would I slay,
If I could be your shining prince
For only one more day.



New Shotgun Database

Before anything else is mentioned I want to thank the Shotguns out there in cyber space who completed and returned the 221st RAC "Shotguns" Database form that I sent out by e-mail earlier this month. To date, fifty-one of our members, roughly 20 per cent of the known members, have responded with an update on their status and contact information.

I am aware that a few of you may question the need for some items like birth dates and the contact information for your spouse but in order to grow our organization a bit closer we need this knowledge. The birth dates are so that we can acknowledge the event in the newsletter (some of your friends may have forgotten) giving us another reason to communicate and information about your career post Vietnam is so that we may contact you when we have a need for your particular skills.

Another item that we plan on doing is to organize the information by state and when there is an occurrence of interest in a particular area we will notify everyone in the area by e-mail. This should allow many of us to develop a mini-network in our areas to stay in touch and share items of common interest.

I hope to receive the updated information from all of you in the near future and, in the event you have misplaced the form, there is another included with the Shotgun Blasts. You can print it, fill it out and either e-mail it to me at Shotgun-8A@hotmail.com or send it by "Snail Mail" to: **Donald Smith, 17815 Yellow Birch Trail, Humble, TX 77346.**

Don
Shotgun 8A, 65 – 66

See page 14 for the blank form.



We are attempting to create a more complete and accurate database for all of our located members to permit you to stay in touch with your Comrades-in-Arms and their families. To do this we need your assistance and cooperation.

Please complete the attached form and return it by e-mail or snail mail to Don Smith at e-mail address shotgun-8a@hotmail.com or to mailing address: **17185 Yellow Birch Trail, Humble, TX 77346.**

221st RAC "Shotguns" Database

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth Day Month
Spouse Name		Date of Birth Day Month

Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Telephone		Cellular
E-mail Address		Spouse E-mail Address

Military Retiree Yes No	221st Call Sign or Duty Assignment
Dates of Service with 221st RAC From: Month Year To: Month Year	
Location of Service with 221st RAC	

Civilian Occupation or Career
Reunions Attended (Circle all that apply) 2007 2009 2011 2013 2015

CORKY'S STUDIO GRAPHICS

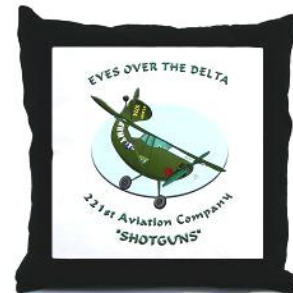
- *Military Unit Wear
- *Embroidered Shirts
- *Embroidered Ball Caps
- *Collectibles
- *Patches
- *Pins
- *Knives
- and more

PERSONALIZED UNIT WEAR * KNIVES * PATCHES * PINS
EVERYDAY WEAR * REUNION WEAR * COLLECTIBLES

corkysstudiographics.com

No ideas for Christmas? Want something that is just a bit "different"? Try some of the great items offered by George "Corky" Cook. You can contact Corky at his web site or, you can wait until the next reunion.

www.corkysstudiographics.com



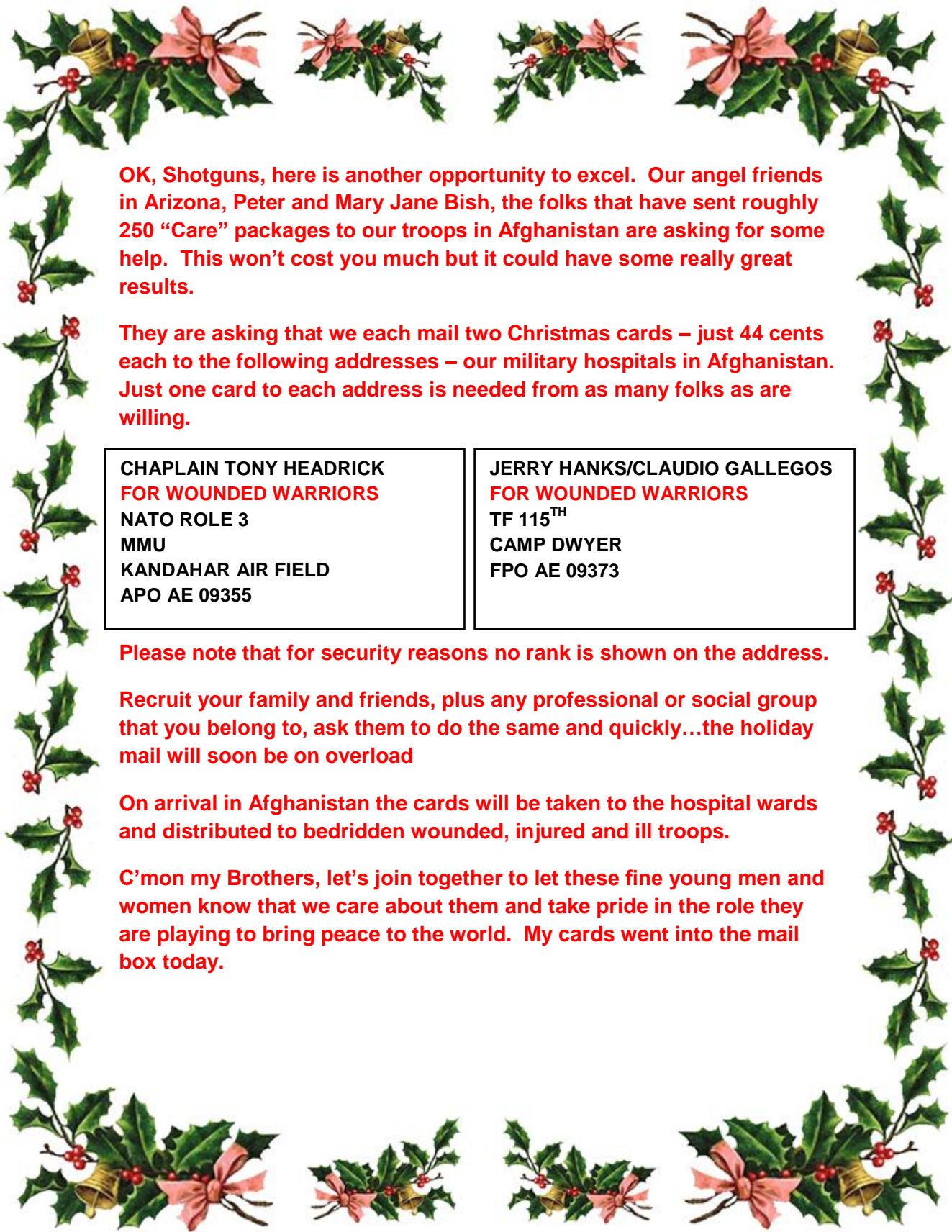
Special – Special - Special

Hey Shotguns, our Brother, Bob Clayton, has taken the initiative to obtain a supply of custom made Shotgun Tie Tac/Lapel Pins for us and he has them available NOW if you wish to purchase one or more as a memento. These pins are really attractive and will be a fine addition to your wardrobe. The price for these great item is just \$3.00 and that includes postage and handling. Bob may be contacted by e-mail at rtclayton@hotmail.com or just drop him a note with a check enclosed to:

Bob Clayton, 913 Birdie Way, Apollo Beach, FL 33572 .

Everyone should be wearing at least one for the Delta Battalion Reunion at Fort Rucker and then again for our Reunion 2013.





OK, Shotguns, here is another opportunity to excel. Our angel friends in Arizona, Peter and Mary Jane Bish, the folks that have sent roughly 250 “Care” packages to our troops in Afghanistan are asking for some help. This won’t cost you much but it could have some really great results.

They are asking that we each mail two Christmas cards – just 44 cents each to the following addresses – our military hospitals in Afghanistan. Just one card to each address is needed from as many folks as are willing.

<p>CHAPLAIN TONY HEADRICK FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS NATO ROLE 3 MMU KANDAHAR AIR FIELD APO AE 09355</p>	<p>JERRY HANKS/CLAUDIO GALLEGOS FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS TF 115TH CAMP DWYER FPO AE 09373</p>
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Please note that for security reasons no rank is shown on the address.

Recruit your family and friends, plus any professional or social group that you belong to, ask them to do the same and quickly...the holiday mail will soon be on overload

On arrival in Afghanistan the cards will be taken to the hospital wards and distributed to bedridden wounded, injured and ill troops.

C’mon my Brothers, let’s join together to let these fine young men and women know that we care about them and take pride in the role they are playing to bring peace to the world. My cards went into the mail box today.

Mekong Delta Vets Reunion

<http://13thdeltacombataviationbattalion.shutterfly.com/>

OK Shotguns, time for some decision making. Seems there will be another reunion hosted by the 13th Battalion at Fort Rucker in May of 2012. We, as a unit have not had a very impressive record of attendance at past Delta Battalion get-togethers and the fling wing guys have had the spotlight.

The reunion will be 18 to 20 May with most activities taking place on Fort Rucker, an early registration will be available on 17 May at the Museum.

Seems the various units are going their own way when it comes to accommodations and unit activities but we have been invited to join with the 162nd Assault Helicopter Company at their hotel. They have chosen to at the Dothan National Golf Club & Hotel with a round of golf included in the room priced which is anticipated to be about \$60.00 per night.

The web site for the reunion is shown above and it provides an overview of activities and the schedule of events. Like all early bird announcements the schedule is subject to change so don't get locked in to a specific event just yet.

If you do plan on attending I would appreciate hearing from you so that we can make an effort to do something as a unit while we are at Fort Rucker.

Project head for this effort once again is CW4 Larry Castagneto and you can contact him at ljc75@hotmail.com.

Remember the Alamo and let's do it again!



Links

A few sites that you may want to check out.

- 74th RAC www.aloft74th.org
- 183rd RAC www.183seahorse.org
- 184th RAC www.184rac.com
- 185th RAC www.angelfire.com
- 199th RAC www.swampfox199thrac.com
- 219th RAC www.219headhunters.com
- 220th RAC www.catkillers.org
- 221st RAC www.221st.org

And

1st Aviation Brigade
www.1stavnbd.com

OV-1 Mohawk Association
www.ov-1mohawkassociation.org

Army Otter-Caribou Association
www.otter-caribou.org

International Bird Dog Association
www.ibdaweb.com

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association
www.vhpa.org

Army Aviation Association of America
www.quad-a.org

