

Rotorwash

A Newsletter for AIR FORCE ROTORHEADS

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By *USAF ROTORHEADS*

Contact : [USAF ROTORHEADS](#)



"Final Flight"

(SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER)


John Grove (December 14, 2008)

James "Jim" Quick (November 27, 2008)

Marlon M. Coffee (2005)

Robert Schannep (18 November, 2008)

Joseph "Joe" Pinaud (9 November, 2008)



During October Robert "Bob" Johnson, Mike Chisholm and Fred Cook joined our group.

During November Mike McKinney, Tim Hudson, Richard Ropski, Terry "Doc" Pleasanton, Roy O. Adams and Robert "Bob" Stone joined our group.

During December Philip V. Sturges Jr., Thomas Murray, Michael Thomas, Norbert Beilman and Troy Knight joined our group.

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

As of 31 December 2008 we have 169 members. With the coming of the New Year *USAF Rotorheads* enters our fourth year. It doesn't seem like three years have passed since our beginning. If you have visited our website recently you seen the large amount of Air Force history we have documented.

We rely heavily on our members sharing stories and pictures of their Air Force helicopter experiences. We also accept stories and pictures from non-members, appropriate credit will be given to items we use. While browsing our website should you find typos, broken links etc., please advise us.

If you are non-member and meet our membership criteria, we encourage you to consider joining our group. There is no charge and participation is at the discretion of the member. We are always looking for new members.

Prior to the establishment of our website a Blog was utilized to document many Air Force helicopter stories and pictures. If you haven't looked at our Blog, take some time to browse through it. Our home page contains a link to our [Blog](#). A significant amount of historical stories and pictures you don't want to overlook.

One of our Historians, Wayne Mutza, is beginning work with Specialty Press on an in-depth book covering the history of Air Rescue. He is seeking personal narratives, information about missions, operations, and aircraft, along with photos, which are copied and credited. Wayne would appreciate any assistance you may provide. Contact Wayne at his email or at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com.

We are seeking an article from The MATS Flyer. The article is "[Controller 1, Pilot 0](#)" and appeared during the 1955-1961 time frame. If you know how we may get a copy please let us know.

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

Erich Anderson has created a website paying tribute to U.S. Military Veterans. He contacted us stating it might be of interest to our group because he has created tributes for several Air Force Helicopter crewmen, including Arthur Black, Duane Hackney, Warren Lilly, Duane Martin and Oliver O'Mara. All of his work is at his own expense and he stated he is willing to do one on members of our group. He would need a good photo, bio, military records, etc. If you are interested his website is www.veterantributes.org. He may be contacted through his website or email at Erich@veterantributes.org

For all Air Force (to include AFRC and ANG) helicopter active duty, veterans or retirees. Does your mind sometimes wander off and bring back memories of old friends, humorous tales, war stories, times when the pucker factor was pegged high or just the plain "no s**t there I was" stories? Does the CRS factor tend to dull the clarity of your thoughts? What would you say should you locate a place where you could store all those rich memories of yours before CRS further erodes them and they are lost forever without your grandchildren ever knowing? Do you recall the action that was taken when something was threatening the valuable machines we flew and maintained? The alarm would sound and the call went out to "hangar" the birds for safekeeping. There is such a "hangar" for storing all the above mentioned historical data of yours for safekeeping and that is the *USAF ROTORHEADS website and blog*. As you browse these "hangars" you will find that numerous members have stored many of their memories where all can enjoy. We encourage our members to continue to store additional items in the hangar. If you are not a member of *USAF ROTORHEADS* we invite you to join us before CRS blocks all of your Air Force helicopter experiences. We have plenty of storage space in the hangar and we will "leave the light on for you" in order for you to browse through the "hangar" at your leisure.

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

Have you viewed our website lately? Our website is being updated frequently, usually every 7-10 days. There is a link on the home page linking to a listing of new additions. This prevents searching the site to determine what has been added. A large amount of our rich helicopter history has been documented, however there is a considerable amount remaining. Send in your stories and pictures and if you are not a member consider joining us and assist with our goal of documenting our valuable history.

Did you know the H-53 was utilized to carry an FSK? The H-53 carried the FSK in support of the Space Shuttle program. It only contained water which was used to rinse space debris from the capsule. It is believed this is the only mission the H-53 was utilized to carry the FSK.

The next USAFHPA reunion will be at Colorado Springs, CO, home of the Air Force Academy in September of 2009. Check the "Reunions/Special Events" page on our website for additional reunion information. <http://rotorheadsrus.us/documents/537.html>

Are you interested in checking on current legislative issues? There are several sites where you can check. One to check is Military.com at <http://www.congress.org/military/issues/>.

We are seeking information concerning the shipment of an ex-Air Force H-3 helicopter that went to Egypt during the Carter administration. If you have any information please contact us.

Jim Mardock is attempting to determine the tail numbers of the 14 CH-3s that were sent from Eglin AFB to Tan Son Nhut in Dec 65 as the 20th SOS. Check our Message Board for more details and a place to respond if you have additional information.

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

The Navy apparently loaned at least two UH-34Js to the Air Force from the 6th of Jan 1965 to the 25th of April 1966. If you have information about the loan of these helicopters please contact us.

["H-43 Information"](#)

For all of you H-43 fans, especially those that served in SEA on that grand old bird, Johan Ragay has received copies of all the old Kaman "Rotor Tips" from Kaman with authorization to publish the stories on his website. He has published several of them and has more to go. If you can assist him with any info such as dates on some of these stories it would be greatly appreciated. You may contact him through his web site which is <http://www.h43-huskie.info/>.

Check the "[Links](#)" page on our website for links to other sites that document and preserve Air Force helicopter history. No one site can gather all the information so with a concerted effort we are doing a great job. These other sites have a significant amount of history posted. Check them out.



Have you seen this patch before? It was for being on an H-53 flight and reaching 200+ kts. One of our members is the only Air Force type that we know of to receive this patch. Read about it on our website.

Should you know of additional Air Force types to have received this patch please let us know.

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

Are you interested in seeing pictures of main gates of the past? Check this website <http://www.3973cds.com/3973cdsmaingate.htm>

For those interested in the Pave Low, there are several great videos on the Pave Low website. Check for the link on the "Links" page on our website.

ROTORHEAD LOCATOR

Carl Metzger. Was a SSgt when he went to the 20th about 1968 time frame and was on the UH-1P/F Hueys. (Contact Bill Kaseman at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Looking for: Julius Webb. He and I were crew chiefs on Green Hornet 484. Would like to hear from him again. (Contact Bart Anderson at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Russell N. Duckett He was my maintenance supervisor at Malmstrom AFB Montana in 1963. Last known address was in Missouri. (Contact Norm Spicer at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Cris Gonzalez last known at Davis-Monthan and DaNang respectively. (Contact Norm Spicer at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

20th SOS Pony Express. Louie Alexander would like to contact anyone that served with the Ponies. (Contact Louie at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

John Perry I would like to locate John who was our jet engine mechanic at Loring AFB, ME during the 1965 era. (Contact John Dorgan at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Sgt. Mark McKenna stationed at Patrick AFB 1974-5 to 1976-7, stationed at 40 ARRS NKP Thailand '73-74. (Contact Mike Vandermaelen at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

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Sgt. Patrick Conley stationed at Patrick AFB FLA '75-'77 and Kadena AB Okinawa 77-78. (Contact Mike Vandermaelen at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Tom Brownlee Tom has one of my trainers when I served in Air Rescue at McConnell AFB back in 1971-72 time frame. (Please contact Tom Skaug at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Terry C. (T.C.) Smith He was in the 21st SOS from Sep 67 to Nov 69. When he returned from NKP he went to Eglin and I lost track of him there. His home was Palatka FL but I haven't been able to locate him via the Internet. (Please contact Rick Estep at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Fred Faust The last time I talked to him he was at Patrick AFB and a Lt. Col. flying the H-3. I also know that at some point he was flying H-3's out of NKP or Udorn but I am not sure of the time frame. (Please contact Don Larsen at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Jimmy W. Blackwell I last talked to him in 1967 at Udorn when he was a FE in the 20th SOS. (Please contact Don Larsen at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Donn Hassman Contact Bob Runinger at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#) if you know where Donn Hassman may be.

Larry Dreyer Last seen at NKP as a FE in the 21st SOS in 1969. (Please contact Jim Burns at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

William "Bill" Wilson Last seen in 1962/63 at Stead AFB. He was in Det 6, 38th ARRS in 1970 (Please contact Jim Moore at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Larry Collins Last seen at the 33rd ARRS at Kadena. We have been informed he retired out of Indian Springs. (Please contact Jim Moore at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

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Hienrich "Herbie" Herber He was German born and the last I saw or heard from him was in September of 1965. We were stationed together at Minot for about 2 years. He was from New York state. (Please contact Jerry Bucknall at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Francis Fisher I believe we were together in the 5040th in Alaska. We were also together at NKP and the 20th in 67-68. (Please contact Jim Burns at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Richard "Rick" Wert He was in the 21st SOS in 73-74 time frame. He was an old rotor head from Hill AFB. I lost contact with him when NKP closed in 75. (Please contact Woody Freeman at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

William O. Johnson We were together at Det 11, 38th ARRS, Tuy Hoa Vietnam in 68/69. (Please contact Ron Smitham at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Hank Theriot Information is as follows: ACFT HH-53C, tail # 68-10366, Call Sign Jolly Green 70, Unit 37th ARRS, Crash date 25 Nov 71, Survivors were: FE Hank Theriot, PJ R. L. Steed (Please contact Mike Wade at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Members of the 917S/917H FTD that was at Tan Son Nhut in 1963/64 training SVNAF helicopter pilots and mechanics on the H-19 (Please contact Jim Moore at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Bill Cavano would like to find Paul Krieder, Gus Dowling, Louie Bond, Bob Rector or John Hazzard. (Any information please contact Bill at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

One of our groups Historians, Wayne Mutza, is seeking stories from anyone who may have had anything to do with the Hughes OH-6A "Loach". If you have anything to contribute please get it to Wayne. If you don't have his email send it to [USAF ROTORHEADS](#). Wayne has a book in progress on the Loach and would appreciate your assistance.

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

Wayne has a new book that is available at Amazon.com. The title is "Green Hornets" The History of the U. S. Air Force 20th Special Operations Squadron

Jim Henthorn, who is doing research for a book on AF Helicopter Special Operations, is looking for any crewmembers or anyone with specific information from the 20th Helicopter Squadron during the A Shau Valley SF Camp rescue.

Jim is also looking for a member of the 20th SOS, time period Nov 68 to Jan 69. Contact Jim at [USAF ROTORHEADS](http://www.rotorheads.us)

Please forward this Newsletter to all your Air Force ROTORHEAD friends. If you are not a member check our website and see what we are all about at <http://www.rotorheads.us/> and then contact us and sign on. We need your helicopter experiences to achieve our goal of documenting Air Force helicopter history.

Contact your friends and encourage them to join.