

**7th Air Commando Society (7 ACS) and ALL Combat Talon  
Reunion**

**15-18 May 2014**

**RAMADA Plaza Beach Resort**

**1500 Miracle Strip Pkwy.  
Fort Walton Beach FL 32548  
(800) 472-1790**



**Hot Wash and Lessons Learned Report**

**16 June 2014**

**4:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

**Richard "Dick" & Pam Guessford's  
711 Swan Lane, Destin, FL**



2014 7<sup>th</sup> AIR COMMANDO SOCIETY and ALL COMBAT TALON REUNION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By: Max Friedauer ([maxfriedau@me.com](mailto:maxfriedau@me.com))

**Hot Wash attendees were:**

Richard “Dick” & Pam Guessford (Hosts); Tom “Omar” & Tommie Bradley; Max Friedauer; Alan “Al” & Donna Goldsborough; Robert “Buff” Underwood; Barry “B-rat” & Wally Ratcliffe; Richard “Dick” Brauer; George & Cathy Ferkes; Pickens “Pick” & Susan Ferrell

**Unable to attend:** Ned and Jill Calvert; William “Slim” Conner; Darren “DARN” Eskind; Brendon “Grimey” Grimes; Maj Josh Kirkum; Russell “Russ” Painter; Bill “Boomer” Saier; Mike Scott.

We agreed to the following reunion schedule for the next 3 years:

10-12 Oct 2014 .....SGI Reunion and ALL friends of the Combat Talon are invited.

9-11 Oct 2015.....SGI Reunion and ALL friends of the Combat Talon are invited.

19-22 May 2016.....7<sup>th</sup> ACS and ALL Combat Talon Reunion, RAMADA Plaza Beach Resort.

7-9 Oct 2016 .....SGI Reunion and ALL friends of the Combat Talon are invited.

7 July 2017 7:07 PM.....7<sup>th</sup> ACS Reunion at RAF Mildenhall, UK one or two weeks prior or one or two weeks after the 7th of July 2017. Total trip expected to be approximately 14 days.

I know this is “cliché,” but once again, the SOT7 (Sons of the 7th) came together for the largest turnout ever and a fantastic Reunion. Yes, we hit it out of the park, but not without some problems and hiccups, most of which were not known or visible to those attending.

Thursday night brought approximately 215 Combat Talon and 7th Air Commando warriors together for an informal Reception on the 6th Floor in the Empire Room of the RAMADA Plaza Beach Resort. Heavy hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar were available from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM. After the formalities of the reception everyone retreated to the Oasis hospitality room near the pool. The Oasis was finally closed at about 1:00 AM.

Friday morning 37 reunion attendees played golf at the FWB City Oaks Course. In the afternoon at 5:30 PM, over 330 Air Commandos joined us on the patio deck by the beach on the Gulf of Mexico for the “Wurst Burn”. The bratwurst and knockwurst was prepared and cooked by the 7th's own Slim Connors and Evans Glausier, accompanied by baked beans, potato salad, and apple strudel. The last 2 standing on Friday night stood all night and the Oasis hospitality room never closed.

On Saturday Morning, over 100 reunion attendees attended a Symposium at the 15 SOS and a static display of a Combat Talon II aircraft at Hurlburt. The group met in front of the RAMADA

at 8:00 AM and we shared rides with about 30 cars driving in tight formation to Hurlburt Field. Our own 7th "Ned Calvert Productions" arranged for the symposium at the 15 SOS. The 15 SOS overview was presented by Maj Josh Kirkum and Capt Scott Welshinger; AFSOC's mission overview was presented by Brig Gen Albert M "Buck" Elton II, AFSOC/A5/8 and former 7th SOS commander. The 15 SOS also arranged for a static display of a Combat Talon II aircraft. Before returning to the RAMADA, many of the group stopped at Hurlburt's Memorial Air Park to see CT A/C #64-0567 on display.

At 1:00 PM, our silent Auction was open for business in the Forum room of the Ramada Tower. This was followed at 2:00 PM with the convening of the 7th ACS business meeting in the Forum room. The new Officers elected at the meeting were: President....Bill Saier (elected in abstention and when contacted declined the position due to personal reasons)....Buff Underwood agreed to remain as President until a new one could be appointed ... Vice President .... Tom "Omar" Bradley, Secretary.... George Ferkes and Treasurer .... Max Friedauer. Additionally, three new Directors were elected: Darren H. "DARN" Eskind, Russell E "Russ" Painter, and Michael "Mike" Scott. During the BOD meeting held in conjunction with the Reunion Hot Wash a new president was elected. We are happy to announce that the following individuals were unanimously elected: President.... Tom Bradley.... and Vice President... Maj Josh Kirkum. A motion was made, seconded, voted on and passed that stated the 7th ACS will pay for ALL costs related to future Reunion registration for 7th ACS widows and widowers. Other subjects covered were the 2016 Reunion, the Silent Auction, and the Combat Talon Memorial Foundation.

At 5:30 PM we started moving people to the RAMADA Tower 6th Floor for our key event the "50 Years of Combat Talon Programs" Banquet. All 213 attendees were served a plated dinner as we were entertained by the "Emerald Gold," a five-piece band who played background music and dance music during the evening. Scott Schaeffler of "Scott Event Photo" was available from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM to take personal portraits, group photos, and action photos. All photos were placed on his web site (<http://www.scotteventphoto.com/7acs>) and members were provided a password "7acs" to download all or key pictures for FREE and could then print their own. A total of 15 past Commanders of the 7 SOS were present and each was presented with a personalized ball cap. A cash bar was available for the evening.

On Sunday we had over 150 Air Commandos attend the Memorial Service on the beach under a 40' x 60' tent. Col (Ret) Bill Hudspeth, previous 7 SOS Commander, provided the invocation and Maj Gen (Ret) Jim Hobson was the Keynote Speaker. The Emerald Coast Drums and Bugle led by 7th ACS member Les Matheson, played prior to the ceremony and finished with Amazing Grace.

There were 25 past Squadron Commanders Present: 7 SOS commanders were Mark B. "Mo" Alsid (#20), Jonathan J. "JJ" Bortner (#10), Tom "Omar" Bradley (#7), Terence L. "Terry" Casteel (#11), Patrick K. "PK" Dean (#21), Brig Gen Albert M. "Buck" Elton II (#22), George Ferkes (#12), William E. "Bill" Hudspeth (#9), Earle C. "Chris" Lauderdale (#14), Col Benjamin R

“Ben” Maitre (#25), Norman C. “Norm” McCaslin (#13), Kathrin A. “Kathy” McLaughlin (Col William A “Bill” McLaughlin’s (#2) widow), Horace S. “Stan” Reece (#1), Walter K. “Walt” Schmidt (#8), David J “Chode” Scott (#15); 1 SOS commanders were: Thomas J “TJ” Doherty and Leon E. “Papasan” Hess. 8 SOS commanders were: Jeff Alderfer, Ted Corallo, Roland Guidry, John Harbison, James L Hobson, Lloyd Moon, Jerry Thigpen; 15 SOS commander present was Evans Glausier.

As during past reunions, we had no arrests, no injuries, or brawls but a lot of war stories were told and re-told. We did manage to drink 13 kegs of beer and 5 cases of 1.5 lt bottles of wine. Well done band of brothers.

Overall, the team concept and the attitude of the 7 ACS members with their motto of “Adapt or Perish” made this reunion what it was.... “THE BEST EVER!” We were again very fortunate to have had Ed Gamble’s stepson, John Graczyk, owner of “Tents of Northwest Florida” provide us with a big discount for two large tents, tables, and chairs. Additionally, we again saved a lot of money with the Wurst Burn by doing all our own cooking and purchasing. And a special thanks to “Mad Max” Friedauer, without whom we could not have pulled off this magnificent event. In particular his organization of the beach Memorial Service ensured a dignified, honorable, emotional, and very memorable event honoring the passing of our warrior comrades. The large tent, with the backdrop of the “Gulf of Mexico” and “The Emerald Coast” was just PERFECT! Additionally, we raised over \$4,400 for the Combat Talon Memorial Foundation (CTMF) from attendee donations and the Silent Auction bringing our current balance to \$35,506.91. We will continue to raise funds to reach approximately \$40,000.00 by the end of 2015 to allow for maintenance and other CTMF expenses like preserving some additional Fulton STARS gear we currently have in storage. A special thanks to all those who made a donation and those who committed to an annual recurring gift.

**As one of our attendees and the first Squadron Commander of the 7th Air Commando Squadron at Sembach Air Base, Germany, Col (Ret) Horace “Stan” Reece wrote in a thank you note to us: “Can’t tell you how much I appreciate how you put together our reunion. It was great. And the fact everything went well attests to the superb job you did. Thanks again. Two years hence, I hope we can make it. Stan”**

**See you at the next “2016 7 ACS and ALL Combat Talon Reunion,” 19-22 May, at the RAMADA Plaza Beach Resort on Okaloosa Island.**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT**

**YOUR REUNION COMMITTEE**

# Reunion Financial Report

By: Max Friedauer ([max@7thsos.org](mailto:max@7thsos.org))

| 7 ACS & ALL CT 2014 Reunion<br>Budget & Expenses   | BUDGET            | ACTUAL          | Actual Attendees:<br>221 on Thu, 303 on FRI, & 230 paid (223 Served)<br>on Sat  |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| <b>INCOME</b>  |                   |                 |   |
| <b>ACTIVITY</b>  | <b>INCOME</b>     |                 | <b>REMARKS</b>  |
| <b>PROPOSED REGISTRATION INCOME:</b><br>250 x \$95 singles for weekend (\$23750)<br>50 x \$30 for one day only (\$1500)<br>50 x \$65 for Sat Bqt & Hosp (\$3,250)<br>(Golf 37 x \$45 \$1665) | \$30,165.00       | \$25,165.00     | <b>ACTUAL REUNION NUMBERS:</b><br>Thursday \$30, Fri \$30, Sat \$65, Sun \$0; Children 12 & under free, 13-18 \$5 per day; Cost per person for Weekend \$95.<br><b>ATTENDED: 221 FOR RECEPTION; 303 FOR WURST BURN, 223 FOR BANQUET.</b>                        |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>  |                   |                 |   |
| <b>ACTIVITY</b>  | <b>COST</b>       |                 | <b>REMARKS</b>  |
| Meetings, Stuffing Party Lunch   | \$100.00          | \$54.00         | 4/9/14 Beer & Wine; Pizza, Beer, etc  |
| <b>HOSPITALITY</b>   |                   |                 |   |
| Wine, Sodas, Water   | \$700.00          | \$485.41        | 3,5 cases of .75 L bottles of Chardanay, 1.5 cases of caber nay savignon, 23 cases of coke (8), sprite (10), and diet coke (6).48 bottles of wine .75 pbs; 6 cases of water. Had 6 cases of soda left (sold them at \$2 per case) and 10 cases of water. (Pick) |
| Beer (6xYuengling \$714, 8xBudLight \$688, 12 & 24 x O'Douls \$34.60) CO2 \$76.83; Cups \$58.92 & \$21.45  | \$2,000.00        | \$1,793.80      | Includes Diesel and co2. Includes beer cups and trash bags, etc. (Guessford)  |
| Diesel Fuel for Refrig Truck   | \$100.00          | \$99.00         | (Guessford)   |
| Snacks   | \$100.00          | \$219.25        | Snacks and Bowls etc. (OMAR)  |
| <b>SETUP/FIXED EXPENSES</b>  |                   |                 |   |
| Tents, tables, & chairs rental   | \$800.00          | \$742.00        | Tents of Northwest Florida  |
| Rental for Hospitality Suite   | \$300.00          | \$300.00        | RAMADA  |
| Rental for Empire Room   | \$250.00          | n/c             | Comped all rooms by RAMADA  |
| Propane for Grill  | \$100.00          | \$114.38        | Bought 2 Full Propane tanks   |
| <b>REGISTRATION</b>  |                   |                 |   |
| Bracelets (500)  | \$200.00          | \$155.68        | InkHead Wristbands  |
| Printing/Advertising/Flyers/Trifolds   | \$300.00          | \$314.57        | Office Depot \$111.81 + \$76.38 +\$76.38 (Max); \$50 B-rat for printing name tags   |
| Large Schedule Posters   | \$120.00          | \$113.08        | FAST Signs (Max)  |
| Postage for mailing flyers/invites   | \$50.00           | \$49.00         | Postmaster (Max)  |
| Name Tags; Holders, Clips;   | \$300.00          | \$289.50        | Marco (Max)   |
| Easel, Mkrs, Pad, D/E Pad, BQT Cards   | \$300.00          | \$306.41        | Office Depot \$193.33; 4 Large Agenda Poster \$113.08 (Max)   |
| 120 Qt Cooler, 6 Bins, 2 am boxes  | \$150.00          | \$124.99        | Walmart \$124.99 (Max)  |
| <b>BY DAY ACTIVITY</b>   |                   |                 |   |
| Thursday Reception (250)   | \$2,270.00        | \$2,806.70      | 221 attended, Includes \$50 for bartender. (RAMADA)   |
| Friday Golf 37 x 32  | \$1,184.00        | \$1,184.00      | 37 Golfers (Goldsborough)   |
| Friday Golf (Prizes & drinks)  | \$300.00          | \$300.00        | Collected \$1,665 (\$181 left over) (At Goldsborough)   |
| Friday Night Wurst Burn Sim (300)  | \$2,500.00        | \$2,028.60      | Cost of food, plates, and plastic (Sim Conner)  |
| Saturday Symposium Coffee, Ice & Donuts  | \$200.00          | \$200.00        | Wrote check #1111 to Scott Welshinger (Ned Calvert)   |
| Saturday Photographer  | \$375.00          | \$375.00        | Took portraits from and free shoot 6-9PM Scott Event Photo)   |
| Saturday Night Banquet \$35.00 each (240)  | \$8,400.00        | \$7,912.40      | 223 meals served, paid for 230. Includes \$120 for Bartender. (RAMADA)  |
| Sunday Memorial Water  | \$100.00          | n/a             | Included in Wine/Soda/Water cost above (Pick Ferrell)   |
| Sunday Hot dogs & Burgers (150)  | \$100.00          | \$157.63        | \$117.63 at Publix for initial Burger and hot dogs then \$40 Cash for second run for hot dogs & burgers. (Max)  |
| <b>ENTERTAINMENT</b>   |                   |                 |   |
| Sat Night Band   | \$1,000.00        | \$1,021.01      | Checks #1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1120 (Emerald Gold) (Max)   |
| Lights, speakers, etc.   | \$100.00          | \$100.00        | (Grimey/Buff)   |
| <b>MISCELLANIOUS</b>   |                   |                 |   |
| Frames by Sharon   |                   | \$198.81        | Re-frame & Clean Reunion Pictures   |
| Frames by Sharon   |                   | \$271.32        | Three Framed Lithographs  |
| Speakers, Bus drivers, Hotel (includes gifts in kind coins and or t-shirts)  | \$200.00          | \$165.00        | 1 t-shirt \$11 (BGen Elton) 14 coins (Veronica/Joe Guidry (8), Elton, Capt Scott, Josh Kirkum, Pilot Flyby, Bus Driver, Pipes 7 \$154)  |
| Framed 50th Anniversary Litho to RAMADA  | \$100.00          | \$126.66        | Presented Framed Litho w/Plaque to Joe Guidry General Mgr of RAMADA for exceptional support of 2014 Reunion.  |
| Hot Wash   | \$150.00          | \$92.00         |   |
| Mailing of refund checks, t-shirts, etc.   |                   | \$140.00        | 14 Cancellations sent refund check & 1a & patches   |
| Cleaning of Tablecloths  | \$50.00           | \$31.25         | Cleaning Bill for cleaning Tablecloths  |
| <b>REFUNDS:</b>  |                   | \$2,120.00      | 14 Cancellations  |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>  | \$22,849.00       | \$24,391.45     |   |
| <b>PROFIT:</b>   | <b>\$7,316.00</b> | <b>\$773.55</b> |   |

**Comments:** Ref the above budget, it is important to note that it is significant that we saved approx. \$1,000 on tents, tables, & chairs and there is no guarantee that this will continue forever and will probably have to budget for this in the future. Also, we saved a good amount of money by doing our own cooking of Wurst for Friday night. Another large expense, over \$1,000.00 was for Flyers, printing of handouts and agendas, registration materials, name tag holders, etc. I think it is absolutely amazing that we can still provide three meals; all the wine, beer, soda, and water; and the venue for \$95 per person for a 4-day weekend, or \$30 each for the Reception and Wurst Burn. Just a meal alone like we provided for Thursday's reception and the Friday Wurst Burn would normally cost you approx. \$30 at an event like this. Our Banquet Meal and event was \$50 for a plated dinner, venue, and band. We will continue to strive to keep the cost down in future reunions. If you have a better and less expensive venue for 4 days we ask you to please let us know.

## Tent Setup

By: Max Friedauer

We contracted with Tents of Northwest Florida, owner John Graczyk. Contract was as follows:

John donated \$1,780.00 to the 7 ACS in remembrance of his father John "Ed" Gamble, 7 SOS EWO 1971-75.

We set the tents up as follows:

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1 30' x 60' white pole tent                  | \$ 500.00           |
| 1 20' x 40' white frame tent                 | \$ 800.00           |
| 150' White sidewalls (2 sides for each tent) | \$ 150.00           |
| 30 x 8' Banquet Tables                       | \$ 240.00           |
| 240 white folding chairs                     | \$ 240.00           |
| Beach set up fee                             | \$ 500.00           |
| Delivery Fee                                 | <u>\$ 50.00</u>     |
| Sub-total                                    | \$ 2,480.00         |
| Tents of Northwest Florida Donation          | <u>\$ -1,780.00</u> |
| Sub-total                                    | \$ 700.00           |
| Sales Tax 6%                                 | <u>\$ 42.00</u>     |
| TOTAL  | \$ 742.00           |

The 20' x 40' tent was set up on the patio behind the RAMADA tower and used for the Wurst Burn.

The 30' x 60' tent was set up on the beach for the Sunday Memorial Service.

**Comments:** The number of tents and their location appeared to be fine and some folks went down to the beach to eat their wurst on Friday. We had more than enough chairs and tables. We could probably do the Sunday Memorial Service on the Patio as well and eliminate the tent rental for the beach the next time. We should consider using the 30' x 60' tent on the patio if we eliminate the beach tent. **Hot Wash Consensus:** Have all tents on Patio Deck in 2016.



## Hotel and Reservations

By: Max Friedauer

- Hotel/Reservations
  - Contracted for a 60-room block with the RAMADA Plaza Beach Resort. I upped that to 70 and then finally to 80. We actually had 78 rooms booked with approx. 320 room nights which reduced our rental cost for the Empire and Forum rooms and Oasis. We also had the suite on the 1st Floor of the Tower, Patio side for three days Free to store the keg and Reunion stuff. This is a must for future reunions as it came in really handy during the Wurst Burn.
  - Room set-up for storage in the Senator Room and Oasis Hospitality Suite were good.
  - Breakfast in the morning was good and convenient.
  - The hotel bent over backwards to help us at every turn and met and exceeded all of our requests.

**Comments:** Buff and I presented Joe Guidry, General Manager, RAMADA Plaza Beach Resort, with a framed 7 SOS 50th Anniversary Lithograph and coins to their support staff for their Outstanding support during the planning and execution of this event.

## Hospitality Suite

By: Omar Bradley and Bill Houston

Below is a tabulation of hospitality suite costs for 2014 with a history from 2008, 2010, and 2012.

|                     | <u>2008</u>   | <u>2010</u>     | <u>2012</u>     | <u>2014</u>     |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Wine                | approx. \$700 | \$515.77        | \$219.50        | \$300.00        |
| Soda (water & soda) | \$156         | \$149.92        | \$ 66.60        | \$185.00        |
| Snacks & Water      | \$118         | \$153.19        | \$122.34        | \$215.05        |
| Supplies            |               | \$ 52.61        | \$ 0.00         | \$ 4.20         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>\$974</b>  | <b>\$871.49</b> | <b>\$408.44</b> | <b>\$219.25</b> |

### Details of purchases:

**Snacks and supplies:** 4 cans Variety Packmix; 6 boxes pretzels, 2 UTZ SpecialF, 2 Pork Barrels, 2 Mixed Nuts, 4 Cheeto Crunch, 1cSweet Stripe F, 2 Bxs of coffee, 1 Doz donuts.

**Comments:** Thanks to the herculean effort of Pick Ferrell, this part went smooth. Bill Houston, Kendall Chapman, Fred “Manny” Bernard, and several others pitched in to make it most enjoyable. Snacks and beverages were always available.

## Wine, Soda, & Water Meister

By: Pickens M. “Pick” Ferrell

3.5 cases of .75 L bottles of Chardonnay  
1.5 cases of Cabernet Savignon  
23 cases of coke sprite and diet coke ( 8, 10, 6)  
20 cases of water

Had 6 cases of soda left and 10 cases of water (WX was cool). We sold the coke and water at \$2 per case and put the money back into the 7 ACS account.

**TOTAL Spent: \$485.41**

**Comments:** Expand the verity of sodas in 2016.

## Beer Meister

By: Richard "Dick" Guessford, William "Bill" Killian, & Fred Allen

This year we increased the number of Kegs from 10 Used two years ago to 14. We used 13 Kegs this year and will use the last keg for the Hot Wash. We again used the Beer Truck from Harbor Docks at no charge to us (we only paid for the diesel fuel). We will still have a bill to pay for the cleaning of the table cloths. We did not run out of beer but emptied what was tapped every night around 3:00 AM and drank the last drop on Sunday of Keg #13.

|                       | <u>2008</u>       | <u>2010</u>       | <u>2012</u>       | <u>2014</u>       |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Beer                  | \$2,500.00        | \$1,439.00        | \$1,051.20        | \$1,602.00        |
| O'Douls 6 six packs   |                   |                   |                   | \$ 34.60          |
| CO2 for beer          |                   | \$107.91          | \$ 20.00          | \$ 76.83          |
| Diesel for Beer Truck |                   | \$75.00           | \$ 100.00         | \$ 99.00          |
| Tablecloths           | \$200.00          | \$264.18          | \$ 101.25         | \$                |
| Table Decorations     |                   | \$55.12           | \$ 0.00           | \$ 0.00           |
| Cups, napkins, misc.  |                   | \$126.56          | \$ 33.00          | \$ 80.37          |
| Sodas                 |                   |                   | \$ 66.60          |                   |
| Wine                  |                   |                   | \$ 219.50         |                   |
| <b>TOTAL SPENT:</b>   | <b>\$2,700.00</b> | <b>\$2,067.77</b> | <b>\$1,591.55</b> | <b>\$1,892.80</b> |

**Comments:** Dick Guessford will continue to order and coordinate as Beer Meister but is unable to load and unload kegs from the truck to the hospitality suite. Need a younger person to volunteer and become the beer keister during the reunion for monitoring and replenishing kegs as they run dry. Russ Painter volunteered to be one of those guys.

# Registration

By Dick Brauer w/inputs by Julie Bradley

## Overview:

Registration this year had its ups, downs and significant challenges. Addressing some lessons learned from two years ago served us well but from my perch as Registration lead there were *new* challenges and frustrations based upon the RAMADA's Registration desk location that were not encountered at the previous 2012 Reunion. (This was my third CT reunion and I had not attended any that were held at the RAMADA before). I'll try to list what I consider the "Good, the Bad and the Ugly" by category and/or topic.

## Location of Registration:

The obvious best choices for the registration tables were immediately outside or inside the Oasis/Hospitality Suite (HS). The hotel lobby would have been a bad idea. At first, inside the HS seemed to be the better option but with the Country Store occupying the only real available space at the rear, registration had to be outside. Also, given the crowded condition of the HS once things got underway, inside would have not been a choice given the jam-packed conditions, noise level and tables for socializing. Outside was our only option. However... **we were lucky in that we had good weather and no rain**. Had it rained, given the slotted roof above us, we would have had to quickly relocate the Registration tables inside the HS to keep from getting soaked (our registration team, folks registering, the Spreadsheet from Hell and all the handouts and paperwork). Think about that when setting up Registration for 2016.

Another downside of being outside - for two days we had unforeseen high winds (and a Venturi effect near the HS) blowing everything about -handouts, spreadsheets, signs and the easel with our notices. Luckily I brought some small two-by-fours to use as paperweights and even some garden wire to attach our dry erase board/easel to the door so it wouldn't blow down as it initially did. "Adapt or (almost) Perish"...get hit by the flying board as I did ...once.

Additionally with the tables and deck just in front of the registration tables, people tended to hang around (socializing) close to the registration tables in the same space needed for people that needed to register. I have a suggested fix for that I'll discuss below.

The process and physical setup of registration need to be re-looked at. Initially I thought we could register people by having them stand in three separate lines (like when in a voting line) in front of each person registering based on the first initial of their last name using A-G, H-O, and P-Z. Based on the physical lack of space and the fact that people arriving to register just showed up in front of any person behind the registration desk this "system" fell apart immediately and I shit-canned the A- G (and other signs). Trying to get Talon pukers to adhere to this system was like trying to herd cats.

Basically the folks doing the registering were **myself, Julie Bradley, Charlie McGuire, Basil Havrischak and thank God, a wonderful volunteer, Tina Calo**. B-Rat assisted when he could at the tables but he had so many other duties (like the Silent Auction) his necessary mobility was understandable. More on B-Rat's superb work later. Linda McCauley helped on Wurst (and I mean WORST) Burn day (Friday) and I'll come back to that nightmare later as we had significant problems on that day.

**Recommendation for the 2016 Reunion.** If the Registration tables are to be set up as they were this year (outside the HS), have a roped off "corridor" a couple of feet in front of the tables with a clearly marked "ENTER" and a clearly marked "EXIT."

Move the hotel social tables on the deck back and well away from the roped-off registration line. Have at least 3 people registering guests at 1000 (start) and increase to 4 (maybe) folks after 1300 when people really start arriving on Day 1. Have 5 on Wurst Burn Day. Perhaps have one person just handle walk-ins (as I tried to do this year, but it didn't work out). Each person registering will have a specific duty or duties such as recording everything on the Master Spreadsheet, collecting money and making change, handing out pre-paid T-shirts, etc. In that way people will be processed faster and more thorough accounting (a real challenge this year) should occur. Pre-pays for the entire weekend were easy to process ...walk-ins, especially on Friday and Saturday (Wurst Burn and Banquet) were sometimes and often a problem. The Registration Team was UNDERSTAFFED for both these days.

**Russ Painter Comment:** The HS area was way too crowded and it was a mad house, the best place for this is the front office of the hotel. Most people will come into the main entrance looking for signage telling them where we are, we can post signs along the exterior access points directing everyone to check in at the front office area of the hotel. There's plenty of room in the lobby area. More volunteers at the registration table would not have done any good since they were squeezed in there like sardines.

### **The Spreadsheets from Hell:**

The biggest challenge in Registration was working with that god-awful but necessary huge spreadsheet. The challenges:

- There were 6 pages (17" wide) and the column headings only appeared on page 1. which contained names A - C (partially). When checking an individual in, who was listed on page 2 - 6, it took quite awhile to figure out what the numbers in each column stood for ...was it Friday Golf or the H3 run? You get the idea. Our initial thought to at least arrive at the correct horizontal line was a long straight edge (I had brought one), but this did not solve the lack of the column heading on pages 2 through 6. Finally (Tina's idea) we took a spare spreadsheet and folded it so it could be used under or over a name and then we could figure out what the number in the column meant. This caused considerable confu-

sion, discussion and delays when there was a crowd at the registration tables and MUST be solved by 2016. Then add the annoying high winds during the first two days.

- When “Orifice” Depot reproduced the spreadsheets there were three last names in the far left column that only had a single letter (example -”n”) and it took a while to figure out exactly who that was, adding further delays. I seem to recall the name “Petersen” which appeared as just an “n” as an example. Proof the Master Spreadsheets thoroughly before using.
- There is way too much info on the spreadsheets for rapid registration purposes. Delete columns not needed. For example.. Years assigned; Lithos Patches and Tubes (which were handled by Max at the Country Store); and anything else not required to be paid for at the Registration desk. I hate to say it but a more streamlined Registration spreadsheet is needed which might generate the need for a second spreadsheet used elsewhere for the above items. A few of our Registration Team (arriving from out-of -town) volunteers first got a look at the spreadsheet when the process began. We needed them earlier (to proof) and a “class” on how best to use it held long before the 1000 start on Day 1.
- I instituted the use of a yellow magic marker to highlight the names of those that completed signing in and this worked very well I believe. I brought 4 markers with me for use by each person on the Registration Team and then made sure I checked every copy to ensure that the name had been highlighted on the Master Spreadsheet. Continue this practice for 2016.

### **Local goody bags.**

Either do away with them completely or only have a few for the “out-of-towners” or folks who have no idea about FWB (I don’t know who that would be). Guys, I have seen essentially the same people during the past 3 Reunions All are either locals or know the area like the back of their hand. No tourist Emerald Coast brochures or maps are needed. These are grown men and women-they can find their way around. Do away with the local goody bags and eliminate the stuffing part (not the name tags) of the stuffing party. We left hundreds behind and most did not want them. They were in the way and rarely used.

### **Lanyards for Name Tags.**

We had about 150 to start with and almost everyone (except for the few that remembered to bring their 7<sup>th</sup> lanyards) wanted them. They were gone in the first two days. If you intend to have them available for 2016 they will have to be purchased for only a few were turned in as we suggested with the box and sign we left on the table. **Hot Wash Consensus:** Re-order 7 ACS or CT lanyards for the 2016 Reunion and charge for them or include the cost in the reunion fee.

### **Name Tags, Plastic Name Tag Holders:**

Kudos to B-Rat for the truly superb work on the name tags and even keeping up with corrections and on-site changes. The plastic holders (though a tight fit for the thin paper) worked out very well and we had lots of positive feedback re the improvement from the cheap and ineffective stick-on types we had last time. If colors are used in 2016 to signify each of the paid events (e.g. All-weekend was Blue, Reception-White, Wurst Burn- Gray) and Banquet- Green), I would advise that White and Grey NOT be used together as they were almost indistinguishable. Perhaps have one color background with paste on stickers for each event. B-rat has some ideas along this line.

### **B-Rat's Comments:**

- Multiple color and multiple event name tags was a lot of work. Some people, because of their ala carte event selections needed up to 3 different color name tags and some required a note on their name tag to show that they only paid for one event on that particular day.
  - o **Recommendation:** One color for entire weekend. One color for ala carte payers with colored stickers or some other type of marking to show what they have paid for.
  - o **Recommendation:** Pay for a day's activities instead of splitting hospitality and major event for that day.
- Updates from Max worked well for me.
- Unit patches on the name tags was a little more work but it should be continued. I believe it provides recognition of the other talon units and helps make a non 7<sup>th</sup> person welcome at the reunion.
- The thin name tag paper is hard to work with after it has been exposed to our local humidity. Because of this I am keeping the left over paper at my house until the next reunion. The clips, lanyards, and plastic holders will be kept at our new storage location.

### **Tickets.**

Good idea but, at times, a royal Pain in the Ass. Pre-stuffing the ticket into the plastic name tags for the All Weekend and other selected pre-paid events was a great idea. This was a great way to keep them on your person. I never heard of anyone who lost their tickets. The challenge was the added numbering system (an extra headache) that got out of control. Although we (the Registration Team) did do a good job accounting for the tickets for the Banquet (there were 300 available) and the Reception, the Wurst Burn was a real problem. **Consider color coding tickets by event.** They all looked alike (in White) when hurrying to process a line of people.

Since the turn-in point for the Wurst Burn tickets was well way from the registration table I had to send Tina down to the patio location to collect them and by the time she got there someone else (I never did find out who) was collecting them. This left me really short-handed at the Registration Table. Julie and Kendal (her beau) were gone (attending the Wurst Burn as they deserved to do) and Charlie and I were left at a time when the walk-in's never stopped coming. Linda McCauley offered to help. Many (most) who showed up had not registered and we asked them to fill out the original registration sheets for record purposes. This turned out to be a hit-or-miss proposition. The line grew and some folks never even put their name down or other required data on the sheets. There was neither time nor enough help to check the sheets. Linda (to my left) was trying to hurry and I was trying to maintain order and proper accounting on the Master Spreadsheet. I had to tell her to slow down because things were getting confused (giving out tickets, making change etc) and people were backing up. Registration of walk-ins continued throughout the entire Wurst Burn evening and at one point there was only one (me) or two of us handling it. I never did get to go to the WB and enjoy it. Lynn even brought be a plate but the walk-ins never stopped coming. Finally when it was over I got to eat a cold wurst.

More ticket challenges: Some people showed up to register for an event and had tickets (in their name-tag holder) for an event the day before that they never attended. For example, some showed up for the Wurst Burn who had tickets for the Reception which they never attended. One individual had tickets for the Reception and Wurst Burn but only showed up for the Banquet. I tried to save these unused tickets as best I could. I can't say for sure others on the team did. Friday was the WURST day of my life! A few individuals cancelled and donated their banquet tickets for others to use. We did a good job of collecting tickets at the Reception and the Banquet 6<sup>th</sup> floor desk and handled all new the new registrants at the Tower location effectively in my opinion. Having pre-made the "Registration has moved to the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor" sign helped I think. When it finally came time to sit down for the Banquet I closed the Tower Registration desk. Moving the Registration desk twice was not the problem I thought it might be. We took only what was necessary skyward. The waitresses in many cases did not collect the tickets from the plates as they were supposed to which caused Max Excedrin headache #86 later when trying to account for the meals that needed to be paid for.

### **Cancellations:**

As mentioned above there were cancellations and as I recollect there were at least about 12. Maybe more. There probably should be a standard, agreed-upon method of listing or accounting for cancellations. This could be as easy as annotating CANX on the Spreadsheet in **RED**.

### **T-Shirts:**

Pre-packing the pre-paid T-Shirts ahead of time and having them available at the Registration desk worked well. The only challenge was getting some of those who ordered them, when registering, frequently forgot to pick up their T-shirts at the desk. Chasing them down by sight or posting notices on the dry erase board took time.



## **Security:**

To my knowledge we never had a cashbox security problem and guarded it carefully at all times.

**Black Combat Talon ID wristbands:** No problems....good idea.

**Volunteers (B-rat Input):** Volunteer sheets were developed but were not very effective this year for many reasons. There were, however, numerous volunteers that helped with the reunion activities.

- **Recommendation:** We need to have a volunteer coordinator to collect names of volunteers and place/schedule them for the various activities during the reunion (country store, registration, silent auction, etc). Once the volunteers are scheduled the lead for the specific event should be given the schedule and phone number of the volunteer.
- **Recommendation:** The volunteer coordinator should not be part of the registration team (they are too busy). For the first couple of reunion days a separate table/area needs to be available for the volunteer coordinator. Make appropriate signs directing people to this area.

## **Julie Bradley's Inputs.**

- You're exactly right about the effects of the weather (rain, wind, heat) has on the placement of the registration area. A proper location needs to be considered with the weather in mind for 2016.
- The traffic pattern is also a huge issue. I think roping off an area in front of registration is priority.
- Also, maybe on Wurst Burn Day, have a table dedicated to "Wurst Burn Only" (BIG sign) registration/payment with several people staffing it with a planned time rotation for those who want to eat as well. Those who have prepaid and need to register on Friday would be directed to the "regular" registration table. Same principle for the Saturday Banquet.
- I think it should be made very well known that if you do not cancel by a particular date, your prepaid fee will be considered a donation to the foundation. Thusly, if you arrive at the reunion later than expected and do not attend any one of the functions that you prepaid, your prepayment of that unattended function will be considered a donation to the foundation. (extreme exceptions recognized, of course). **Russ Painter Comment:** I think Julie hit it on the head, we need a cancellation policy where we do not issue refunds, my input would be a week prior, I'd prefer two weeks but I'll defer to the masses. **Hot Wash**

**Consensus:** Enforce a no refund cancellation fee within one week of reunion, except for emergencies.

- The registration team needs time to meet prior to registration opening on Thursday for "training", so to speak. To go over what to expect throughout the weekend and to do a last check of those registered. (i.e. name tag matches - we had some issues with that on Friday during the Wurst Burn Chaos, where we had name tags for guests but not for the actual Talon/Air Commando. That was a little embarrassing)
- I definitely agree about the spreadsheet needing to be modified for check-in, showing only the necessary information. And have that modified **check-in spreadsheet color coded to indicate those who still owe money for registration.** with a column showing the exact total amount owed.
- Maybe, by 2016, that modified check-in spreadsheet will be computerized and we can process people through registration at lightning speed (I'll bring my lap top!)

#### **Bottom line Problem areas and Recommendations:**

- Spreadsheet was a challenge, not user friendly and needs to be streamlined for 2016. Add column headers to every page as a start. **Color code amounts owed by name.**
- Have a wet weather plan for the Registration Desk
- Wurst Burn is the biggest challenge. See Julie Bradley's ideas above.
- Need a larger Registration staff to accommodate periodic surges (especially the Wurst Burn) and allow Registration staff to participate in the festivities. Possibly have shifts or a split team configuration.
- Goody bags were wasted effort...get rid of them. Hardly anyone wanted them.
- Plastic holders, name tags and CT black wristband were great. Minor adjustments only.
- Need more name tag holder lanyards (if offered again)
- Figure out a better way to handle and account for used AND unused event tickets. Possibly color code tickets for events.

**Golf Outing**  
**Fort Walton Beach City Oaks Course**  
**Friday, 9:00 AM**  
By: Alan Goldsborough

We had 37 golfers play. Each player paid \$45 at registration. There was no expense as no door prizes, goody bags, or winning team prizes were presented. We spent \$300.00 on Free drinks and had the the Club run their cart around the course until the money was spent, and it was! Everyone had a great time.

**Comment:** Suggest for the 2016 look at using the Eglin course. B-rat **Comment:** **Max Comment:** Shalimar was our first option this year, but the date was later booked by a large tournament.

**Hash House Harrier Event**  
**Fort Walton Beach City Oaks Course**  
**Friday, 9:00 AM**  
By: Max Friedauer

This event was cancelled due to lack of interest.

**Fishing Trip Outing**  
**Fort Walton Beach City Oaks Course**  
**Friday, 9:00 AM**  
By: Max Friedauer

Gordon “Gordo” Scott organized a private fishing trip but it was not advertised to the group. **Russ Painter Comment:** I would like to see a fishing trip added to the agenda on the same day as the golf outing. Not sure if the participation level is there or not but think this would be a good alternative to add. **Hot Wash Consensus:** All concurred to make a fishing trip available in 2016 and we should find a volunteer to to head that up.

## **Entertainment**

By: Max Friedauer

No Input received from Brendon “Grimey” Grimes

Max contracted for a five-piece local band called the “Emerald Gold” and they were fabulous! Max knows the owner personally and received a \$500 discount for what would have normally been a \$1,500.00 gig for them.

Comment: Limited support provided this year as far as lighting, video, slide show, sound. Max brought his ION boom box which was used occasionally to play music during the Wurst Burn and to make some announcements. It was also used to make all the announcements and presentations during the Sunday Memorial Service and worked well for that. Extension cords to the patio and the beach were setup by the RAMADA Plaza staff. Buff got some portable lights from Grimey which were used Thursday night for the reception and the RAMADA podium and stage sound system was used to make announcements. On Saturday night during the banquet, we used the Band’s equipment and microphone for all announcements. During intermission we played Papa Joe’s songs from the band’s iPod. The band lighting was all provided by the band and no additional lighting was used.

The one negative comment from a few was that the Band was playing too loud and they did turn things down to their lowest possible level so that people could hear themselves talk across the table. The band volume should be as low as possible during the social period and dinner. Then for dancing they can crank it up a bit.

In the hospitality suite we used the RAMADA DVD and video capability to play Papa Joe’s songs and to play Rone Rowe’s Combat Talon Memorial CD. This also worked well.

It appeared that all the lighting and sound equipment was adequate and I received no input from anyone that said they wished there was more. Moore can always be done to make it more colorful and entertaining, but it certainly was just fine from all accounts.

Recommendation: Use the same set up for 2016 and maybe setup a slide show during the reception. Could possibly use some additional lighting throughout the Banquet room to spice things up a bit.

# Friday Night Wurst Burn

By: William "Slim" Conner

We used 15 SOS Grill again at no charge except that we purchased two full LP Gas tanks for \$114.38. Maj Josh Kirkum picked up the grill at the 15 SOS and delivered and he took it back on Sunday after the hot dog and hamburger grilling. The grill set-up was on the far west corner of the patio and the RAMADA removed the two small grills that were in the grill area of the patio. That location worked well and was easy to position through the gate backing the truck in and position the grill. Slim Conner and Evans Glausier did the cooking and Angie Conner with the help of Susan Glausier did the serving. We also had a volunteer, Lett Lauderdale, who collected all the Wurst Burn tickets from those in line.

We served approximately 350 people.

1. Condiments from Publix - \$20.23
2. Napkins, plates, cutlery, whip cream for strudel from Sam's - \$167.62
3. 10 gallons of baked beans (\$31.80 each) and 10 gallons of potato salad (\$31.80 each) from Jim N Nicks - \$636.00
4. 400 wurst from Publix - \$762.50
5. 450 rolls and 50 strudels from Publix - \$442.25

Total spent - \$2,028.60

We had 2 gallons of beans and 1 gallon of potato salad along with about 10 strudels left over. We had put the baked beans in a cooler under the serving table to keep them warm before starting, then forgot about them. Not everyone got beans - sorry. We should have put the strudel out at the start; a lot of people never came back through the line to get any.

We had a very good time and enjoyed serving everyone; sorry for any problems.

There were no issues and the tent and tables provided worked well. We had less than 12 wurst left over.

|                           | <u>2008</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>2014</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Wurst Burn<br>(Food Only) | \$1,067.60  | \$1,149.43  | \$978.78    | \$2,028.00  |
| <b>Comments:</b>          |             |             |             |             |

# Saturday Night BANQUET

By: Max Friedauer

Comments on the Saturday night Banquet.

- The RAMADA did a great job with the meal. 95% liked the meal and they did serve one Vegan plate by request.
- Good feedback on the quality of the food - there were maybe one or two people that said their pork was under cooked. Some other comments about the slow waitress service in the beginning and then too fast to pick up plates when people were not done eating yet.
- We contracted for 230 meals but only 223 were served. We ended up paying for the additional 7 meals because we actually expected 242 then revised to 238 with only 223 showing up. No refunds were issued so it did not cost the 7 ACS any money.

|              | <u>2008</u>      | <u>2010</u>      | <u>2012</u> | <u>2014</u> |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Sonny's BBQ  | \$1,582.65 (272) | \$2,567.31 (300) | \$2,653.75  |             |
| RAMADA Plaza |                  |                  |             | \$7,912.40  |

## Comment:

- Next reunion, if possible, get a better more accurate count of attendees and use approx. 5% less than what is actually committed for meals because the hotel cooks 10% over what is contracted for. However, we must pay what is contracted for 24 hours prior.
- The cost of \$50 for the Banquet covered the cost of the meal, gratuity of 22%, and the cost of the band, room rental, and gifts for commanders.
- B-rat: Water and coffee service was extremely slow and non-existent. People had to make multiple request for tea or coffee. There was no water or tea on the tables and the servers had to be asked several times to bring some.

## Memorial Service Inputs

By: Max Friedauer

How Memorial was organized:

- Since transportation to Hurlburt was no longer provided by the base, we agreed to hold the Memorial Service on the beach. I contracted for a large tent to be placed on the beach and created a deck for the speaker and our microphone. The RAMADA provided an extension cord to the tent.
- I asked Maj Gen (Ret) Jim Hobson to be our keynote speaker and he accepted. .
- I asked Col (Ret) Bill Hudspeth to do the invocation.
- I also requested that the Emerald Coast Drum & Bugles be present and play at the beginning and finish with Amazing Grace. I gave them each a 50th 7 SOS Anniversary coin.
- I brought my personal speaker and microphone system and it worked well.
- Buff Underwood was the MC and made introductions.
- George Ferkes to read the names of all 7 ACS Combat Talon Warriors that have died since our last reunion in 2012. The SGI was going to recognize their losses at their reunion in Oct.

Note: I think this venue worked well and eliminated the need for everyone to travel to Hurlburt. I was surprised with the number that turned out, as in the past we only had about 75 but this time we had over 150. I did not plan for that amount of Burgers and hot dogs but we made an extra run and got them!

**Comment:** Suggest we do the Memorial Service for 2016 again at the RAMADA out on the beach or in the tower on the 6th floor if it is bad weather. This saves the hassle of transportation and setup on base. We may also wish to consider just doing it under the same tent that we had for the Wurst Burn on the Patio Deck and not do it on the beach. This would also save on providing an additional tent on the beach just for the Memorial Service. **Hot Wash Consensus:** Consider starting the memorial service an hour earlier, 9:00 AM. This will allow more people to attend that have noon or early afternoon flights home.

## **Symposium & Static Display**

By: Ned "Neo" Calvert

Ned Calvert was responsible for the Saturday morning symposium. He planned the agenda, coordinated speakers, requested a CT II for the static display.

### **2014 COMBAT TALON REUNION SYMPOSIUM**

**Saturday, 17 May 2014**  
**15SOS Auditorium, Bldg 90145**

|              |   |                                  |
|--------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 0815 – 0830  | Self transport to 15 SOS                    |                                  |
| 0830 – 0845  | Coffee/refreshments at 15 SOS               | Maj Josh Kirkum                  |
| 0845 – 0900  | Welcome/opening remarks                     | Buff Underwood                   |
| 0900 – 1000  | AFSOC Overview/Update                       | Brig Gen Buck Elton, AFSOC/A5/A8 |
| 1000 -- 1015 | Break                                       |                                  |
| 1015 – 1100  | Combat Talon Operations Overview            | Lt Col Chris Welch, 15 SOS/CC    |
| 1100 – 1200  | Aircraft static display                     | 1 SOW                            |
| 1200 – 1215  | Self transport to RAMADA Plaza Beach Resort |                                  |

Total number: 87 attendees + 4 guest speakers/15 SOS planners

15 SOS agreed to host the symposium in their auditorium. Josh Kirkum, Scott Welshinger and Jeff Taylor did a great job setting everything up and making presentations.

We requested bus transportation from hotel to base but were denied by 1 SOW and 1 SOLRS. JD Walker explained that it was too tough to justify in this current fiscally constrained environment. JD said he could transport folks once they got onto Hurlburt, but that didn't do us much good. Despite this setback, it didn't seem to cause too much trouble for attendees. Don't anticipate any transportation for future reunions.

Flight line static display of a CT II was arranged the 15 SOS planners. No issues.

Symposium. The agenda included an AFSOC update by Brig Gen Buck Elton and 15 SOS operations by Jeff Taylor. There were videos and vignettes spread throughout the morning presentations.



For refreshments, the 15 SOS provided coffee and donuts/bagels from Dunkin Donut. The 7 ACS provided \$200 to the 15 SOS to cover coffee and donuts.

**Comments:** This is an excellent venue because of the large room and proximity to the flightline. The 15<sup>th</sup> support staff did a great job catering to our needs by setting up the AV equipment and following up with DV speaker. The reunion committee should continue to foster a good relationship with the new 15<sup>th</sup> CC. Use the 15 SOS as much as possible.

## Country Store

By: Max Friedauer

**Volunteers were:** Kathy McLaughlin, Ski Skorupski, Al “Skinny” Williams, Gabriele “Gabi” Mussard, and Bill Houston

The Country store was setup in the Oasis Hospitality Suite, which allowed us to keep it open during most hours of the reunion and avoided the problem of having to move the sale items each night. We did not run out of anything. We had six new items available specifically for the reunion. The new items were a light green “7 SOS 50th Anniversary” t-shirt, a blue “50 Years Combat Talon Programs” t-shirt, the new 7 SOS Coin, a 7 SOS 50th Anniversary coin, a 7 SOS 50 Year Anniversary Lithograph, and a 50 Year Anniversary Patch. Other good sellers were Combat Talon Polo shirts in three colors (Red, Navy Blue, and Hyper Blue) and a ladies cut, and stickers and other patches. Other t-shirts, hats (5 styles and colors), stickers, key chains, and patches were also displayed and sold.

We made a table available on Friday during the Wurst Burn to the SGI so they could sell their items.

The SOWF was also allowed to bring their Motorcycle Raffle item to the Wurst Burn for display and sell tickets.

The ACA brought additional and free copies of their Journal edition of the Combat Talon I and were given space or ability to advertise and discuss their fundraising effort for Wounded Airman.

The Country store sold over \$2,000 in merchandise.

### Comments:

- Consider having the Country store in a different location, possibly the Forum Room in the Tower for the entire weekend. If moved up into the tower, it would require some manning of the tables during specific hours and those manning the store would be separated from the activities near the pool and hospitality and Wurst Burn etc. It’s an option. I think the Oasis worked well and allowed for storage and monitoring and made items available.
- Should have scheduled more volunteers and published hours of operation.
- The Oasis does not allow for other units to sell their unit stuff.
- Better accommodations could be looked at for other organizations to sell their own stuff. One option would be to put up individual 10 x 10 tents on the patio and allow them to sell there on Friday only.
- B-rat: Suggest that 15 SOS and SGI be allowed to have a table the entire weekend in the same room that the country store and silent auction is in. This is an all CT event.

**Max Comment:** It’s a 7 ACS event but ALL CT members are invited. Remember, in the future

we will have CV-22 folks at our 7 ACS Reunions. We are 7 SOS-based and not weapon system specific. I know we all love our CT, but the future and viability of our organization depends on maintaining the Squadron heritage. Our 1964-68 year groups did not fly the CT either. We should decide once and for all again, if this is OUR 7 ACS Reunion with an invite and request for all friends of the CT and the 8 SOS, 1 SOS, 711 SOS, 15 SOS, to join us. We exist as an organization only because of the 7 ACS.

**Russ Painter Comment:** Combat Talon or 7 ACS? Max is correct, it's the 7 ACS. I talked to the guys from Ramstein and Sembach, they had no idea what a CT was, although I gave them a lot of education on the airframe, after all they were Loadmasters and Engineers.

## Banquet Photographer and Portraits

By: Max Friedauer

After attending various other reunions and symposiums, I decided that we too should offer to take portraits and group photos and avoid the hassle of having to take pictures ourselves and try to share them all on a website. I was contacted by a number of outfits who offered that service for free but were then going to charge each person approx. \$25 per picture to download it. This was not an option for me as it is the one thing that ticks me off that I should have to pay that much just to download a photo.

I contacted Scott Schaeffler of Scott Event Photo ([scott@scotteventphoto.com](mailto:scott@scotteventphoto.com)) and he told me he would do our event for \$125 per hour. I contracted with Scott for shoot portraits, group photos, and action photos during the Banquet from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. He would then process and post all photos on his website and input a Password provided by me so each individual could download whatever they wanted at no cost and take those pictures to Wal Mart or CVS and print as they like.

The web link is as follows and the Password is “7acs” <http://www.scotteventphoto.com/7acs>  
Based on the feedback I got, our attendees loved it and Scott did an awesome job in capturing all the good action.

**COMMENT:** Strongly suggest we use Scott again in 2016. Maybe we should hire him to stash an extra hour for 4 hrs, from 6 - 10 PM. This would allow for more group photos and more action photos during the Banquet. **Hot Wash Consensus:** Increase the time to four hours for the photographer.

## **Silent Auction**

By: Barry "B-rat" Ratcliffe

This was our second Silent Auction during our reunion but the first one that I was the lead on. The purpose of this year's event was to raise funds for the CTMF. We had many more items than ever before and it was extremely successful in raising funds. It raised over \$2,000 for the CTMF.

Thanks to Rodney Martin and Russ Painter for all their help with the auction. Also thanks to those that helped me pack up the auction after the Wurst Burn on Friday (in the dark).

- Recommend that an auction NOT BE conducted if it has to be moved multiple times as we had to do for this reunion.
- Limit donations to those items that relate to aviation, Talon operations, and Special Operations.
- If auction is conducted at the Ramada, and a tower room is used, make sure that there are enough volunteers to monitor the displayed items.
- Terminate auction prior to final night main activity (ie; dinner) so that those working the auction can enjoy the dinner and program.
- Be prepared to deliver some items after the reunion if individual is not in attendance at the close of the auction. I delivered 3 items to local individuals.
- Auction items were delivered to me every day of the auction.
- Some items were sold outright and not bid on (some patches, t-shirts, and other small items). This worked well.

Below is the document used to describe the Silent Auction and laid out the procedures for submitting items for the auction.



## 2014 COMBAT TALON REUNION SILENT AUCTION BENEFITING THE COMBAT TALON MEMORIAL FOUNDATION (CTMF)

Thursday, 16 May, 1800-2000 in the Empire Room

Friday, 17 May, 1630-1830 at the Wurst Burn

Saturday, 18 May, 1300-1800 in the Forum Room

Donations will be accepted until 1230 on Saturday 18 May

The Auction will close at 1800 Saturday 18 May

It is time to look around at those items/memorabilia that have been collecting dust all these years. What will happen to these items once we are gone? Maybe it would be a good idea to donate them to raise money for the CTMF. As you probably know the plan is to have a memorial placed in the Hurlburt Air Park to remember those Combat Talon crew members that have paid the ultimate price.

Here are some of the items already donated:

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary C-130 Mug (from Germany)      Framed pictures from the halls of a  
Talon Squadron

Unframed 11x14 MC-130E Pictures      Program from 15<sup>th</sup> SOS standup at Hurlburt  
Fulton Equipment Items      Newspaper article about the 7<sup>th</sup> SOS (Rhein Main base  
paper)

Donated items are not limited to days gone by. Items from current squadrons and squadron members are also worthy of donation.

If you or your unit would like to donate something to help raise money for the CTMF please send an email with a picture of the item to Barry Ratcliffe [bwr1972@cox.net](mailto:bwr1972@cox.net). A recommended minimum bid for the item should also be included in the email. If the item needs to be picked up or you have any questions on the Auction please contact Barry at 850-830-8174.

## CTMF Financial Bank Statement

By: Max Friedauer

The CTMF is in great shape and we raised over \$4,000.00 in donations and through the Silent Auction during the 2014 Reunion.

Below is the financial statement of the CTMF as of 1 July 2014.

### Financial Report Combat Talon Memorial Foundation (CTMF) As of 1 June 2014

| <b>Checking Account</b>     |                    |         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| NAME                        | AMOUNT             | REMARKS |
| BALANCE (INCOME -EXPENSES): | \$11,115.26        |         |
| <b>Money Market Account</b> |                    |         |
| NAME                        | AMOUNT             | REMARKS |
| BALANCE (INCOME -EXPENSES): | \$24,291.05        |         |
| <b>Savings Account</b>      |                    |         |
| NAME                        | AMOUNT             | REMARKS |
| BALANCE (INCOME -EXPENSES): | \$100.60           |         |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>          | <b>\$35,506.91</b> |         |
|                             |                    |         |
|                             |                    |         |

**Comments:** Our only expense since the 2012 reunion has been for the storage of two sets of FULTON Equipment, including yolks. That expense totaled \$500.00 and will cover storage through 30 June 2016 with TSC Productions.

**ALL Combat Talon (CT) Reunion (Hosted by 7 ACS)**  
**May 15 - 18, 2014, RAMADA Plaza Beach Resort**

Proposed Schedule of Events and Costs:

- 15 May – 13:00-22:00 Hospitality Ste/Registration Desk open (RAMADA)
- 15 May – 18:00-20:00 Reception. (RAMADA Tower).
- 16 May – 09:00 – Golf, FWB City Course, Oaks, 1955 Lewis Turner Blvd, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547
- 16 May – 10:00-22:00 Hospitality Suite
- 16 May – 15:00 Possible Hash House Harrier (H3) Run. Start at RAMADA. (Need Volunteers for Setup)
- 16 May – 17:30 Wurst Burn (RAMADA). On the Beach under the Tent.
- 17 May – 08:00 Bus departs for AFSOC/1 SOW/919 SOW Update and aircraft static display Hurlburt Fid Flightline.
- 17 May – 13:00–22:00 Hospitality Suite
- 17 May – 13:00-18:00 Silent Auction. Contact B-rat at [bwrf1972@cox.net](mailto:bwrf1972@cox.net) (850) 830-8174 for details, funds go to CTMF.
- 17 May – 14:00 7 ACS and SGI Business Meetings (RAMADA Tower)
- 17 May – 18:00-22:00 Banquet and Program, including five-piece band (RAMADA Tower)
- 18 May – 10:00 Beach Memorial Service (RAMADA)
- 18 May – 12:00 Cleanup, Hot Dogs & Burgers (RAMADA)

NOTE: Lodging is not included in the Reunion cost. Room reservations must be made before **15 April 2014** to guarantee reunion rate of \$144. Call 850-243-9161 or 800-874-8962 and tell them you are with the 7 SOS/ACS Reunion. Maximum usage of the RAMADA ensures rooms for Hospitality Suite and Conference Room. **REGISTER NOW!** Cost for entire weekend is \$95 per person. For individual events costs are \$15 ea. for Thu, Fri, or Sat Hosp Ste Only; \$5 for H3 Run and \$15 for Friday Wurst Burn. \$50 for Sat Banquet only (Does not include access to Hosp Ste). Golf is \$45. T-shirts are \$15, \$20, \$25 if pre-ordered, and lodging is not included in the Reunion Cost.

**Early and Pre-registrants can save \$5 on T-shirts at vs. \$20, \$25, & \$30 each onsite !!!!!**

Make Check or Money Order out to "7 ACS" and mail to:  
 Max Friedauer  
 10 Ridgelake Drive (M)(850)-543-0475  
 Mary Esther, FL 32569-1658 (H)(850) 243-1343  
[max@7thsos.org](mailto:max@7thsos.org)

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS 1 MAY 2014**

YOUR REUNION CHAIR THIS YEAR IS:

Robert B. "Buff" Underwood Jr.

[buff@valp.net](mailto:buff@valp.net) (H) 850-678-6222 (M) 850-803-3722

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 Reunion Registration Form (Please detach and mail in with check. Thanks.)  
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Name (Last, First, MI) \_\_\_\_\_ Planned Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_ Golf (how many?)  Handicap(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guests/Children Names \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Home E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Combat Talon Units Assigned To \_\_\_\_\_ Crew Position/Duty Section \_\_\_\_\_

Annotate "Ladies Cut" with "LC" near the box

T-Shirt (Sold separately) Pre-order price \$15. Shirt Size: S#  M#  L#  XL#  2XL (\$20)#  3XL (\$25)#  = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Single Weekend: \$95 X (# attending)  or Thur Only: \$30 X  Fri Only: \$30 X  Sat Only: \$65 X  = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Children (13-18) (\$5 Fri or Sat): \$5 Fri X  \$5 Sat X  Sat Dinner \$50 X  7 ACS Widow/Widower n/c X  = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Golf: \$45.00 X  (# golfing) Friday H3 Run \$5 X  50 Yr Lithograph \$10 X  50 Yr Patch \$5 X  = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Add \$15 per yr or \$40 for 3 yrs) 7 ACS Dues  or SGI Dues  = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Add the following amount for a donation to the Combat Talon Memorial Foundation (CTMF) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total # Attending:  Total Payment Submitted: = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Children (13 to 18) attending Friday evening Wurst Burn Tent Fest or Saturday activities pay \$5 for each day. If having dinner Saturday night their cost is the same as an adult of \$50 and no charge for hospitality suite on Saturday.

**For widows or widowers of Combat Talon units, the registration fee is waived except for Sat night dinner of \$50**

I understand that attending the 7 SOS/7 ACS CT Reunion consists of drinking and associated hazards that I do of my own free will. Neither I, my family, nor anyone I know will hold the 7 SOS/7 ACS Reunion, the 7 ACS, or anyone connected with it responsible in any way. If injured, I accept full responsibility and will not seek any reimbursement from the 7 ACS Organization.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Changes and new items agreed to during Hot Wash

**Russ Painter Comment:** Use the correct patch for the 8 SOS, the CV-22 has not taken over the CT mission, they have their own mission. **Max Comment:** Determine what patches to use for squadrons on t-shirts, Country Store items, Flyers, programs, etc. Should it be the current unit patch or one of the variants of the unit as it progressed to today in its history? If the current 7 SOS changes their patch, should we follow and depict the current patch? We've had a variety of colors for the 7 SOS already and different views on where the eagle is facing. Currently the 7th uses the camouflage patch version for all their activities. **Hot Wash Consensus:** Use the patch as it relates and is appropriate for the event. The 8 SOS patch should be the one used by the 8 SOS when they flew the Combat Talon aircraft.

# 7 ACS/ALL Combat Talon (CT) 2014 Reunion Agenda



## THURSDAY

- 15 May – 13:00 Hospitality Bar & Registration Desk open (RAMADA Plaza Beach Resort, The Oasis, near the pool. **Beach attire.**  
– 18:00 - 20:00 Reception & Welcome, top of Tower, Empire Room  
“Welcome, finger food” **Shorts, T-shirt or Polo shirt.**  
– 18:00 - 20:00 \*Silent Auction in RAMADA Tower Empire Room

## FRIDAY

- 16 May – 09:00 Golf, Fort Walton Beach City, Oaks Course. Show early.  
– 10:00 – 22:00 Hospitality Bar & Registration Open (RAMADA Plaza Beach Resort, Ft Walton Beach FL) **Beach attire.**  
– 15:00 Possible Hash House Harrier (H3) Run. **Hash attire.**  
– 17:30 **Wurst Burn (RAMADA, on the Patio Deck by the Beach) Beach attire.**

## SATURDAY

- 17 May – 08:00 Transport from RAMADA to 15 SOS (Park in BX Parking Lot)  
– 08:30 AFSOC/A5 Update 15 SOS Auditorium Hurlburt Field. **Shorts/slacks t-shirt or Polo shirt.**  
– 11:00 Flight-line tour (MC-130H CT II)  
– 12:00 Return to RAMADA  
– 13:00 - 18:00 \*Silent Auction in RAMADA Tower Forum. **Beach attire.**  
– 13:00 – 18:00 Hospitality Bar & Registration Open  
– 14:00 7 ACS Meeting (RAMADA Plaza Beach Resort, Forum). **Beach attire.**  
– 18:00 Plated sit-down Dinner, Dancing, Program with live band (RAMADA Tower Empire Room). **Slacks with Polo Shirt.**

## SUNDAY

- 18 May – 10:00 Memorial Service (RAMADA, on the beach). **Shorts t-shirt/Polo**  
– 12:00 Hot Dogs & Burgers (RAMADA, on the beach/Patio)

# 7 ACS/ALL Combat Talon Reunion 2014

## Chair List

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Chairman</b>                  | <b>Buff Underwood</b><br>850-678-6222 (H), 850-803-3722(Cell)<br><a href="mailto:Buff@valp.net">Buff@valp.net</a>  |
| <b>Co-Chairman</b>               | <b>Tom “Omar” Bradley</b><br><a href="mailto:BRADTNT@aol.com">BRADTNT@aol.com</a><br>(M) (850) 499-0726  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                 | <b>Max Friedauer</b><br>(H) 850-243-1343 (W) 850-543-0475<br><a href="mailto:maxfriedau@me.com">maxfriedau@me.com</a>  |
| <b>Bier Meister/<br/>Ice Man</b> | <b>Dick Guessford</b><br>(H) 850-837-2005<br><a href="mailto:rguessford@aol.com">rguessford@aol.com</a>  |
| <b>Wine Meister</b>              | <b>Pickens “Pick” Ferrell</b><br>(H) (850) 651-5674 (M) (850) 218-6941<br><a href="mailto:pickensm1@hotmail.com">pickensm1@hotmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Entertainment</b>             | <b>Brendon “Grimey” Grimes/Max Friedauer</b><br>(M) (850) 621-2437/(M) (850) 543-0475<br><a href="mailto:grimesb@cox.net">grimesb@cox.net</a> / <a href="mailto:max@7thsos.org">max@7thsos.org</a> |
| <b>Hospitality Suite</b>         | <b>Thomas “Omar” Bradley</b><br><a href="mailto:BRADTNT@aol.com">BRADTNT@aol.com</a><br>Bill Houston, Nick Kiraly, Mark Tuck   |

**Memorial Service**    **Max Friedauer**  
**Time and Place, seating music, ...**  
**Invocation: Bill Hudspeth**  
**(M) (618) 201-4074**  
[bnjhuds@comcast.net](mailto:bnjhuds@comcast.net)  
**Speaker: Jim Hobson**  
**(M) (501) 352-5580**  
[jhobson42@gmail.com](mailto:jhobson42@gmail.com)  
**Pipers**  
**Les Matheson**  
**(850) 243-2879**  
[matheson31@cox.net](mailto:matheson31@cox.net)

**Registration**        **Dick Brauer**  
**(H) (850) 651-8380 (M) (850) 357-0958**  
[dickbrauer@cox.net](mailto:dickbrauer@cox.net)  
**Barry "B-rat" Ratcliffe**  
**(H) (850) 863-0021 (M) (850) 830-8174**  
[bwr1972@cox.net](mailto:bwr1972@cox.net)  
**Julie Bradley, Charlie McGuire, Linda McCauley, Basil J. "Shak"**  
**Havrischak Jr.**

**Country Store Sales** **Max Friedauer**  
**(H) 850-243-1343 (W) 850-543-0475**  
[maxfriedau@me.com](mailto:maxfriedau@me.com)  
**Kathy McLaughlin, Gabriele "Gabi" Mussard, Arcadio**  
**"Skinny" Alaniz, Frank "Ski" Skorupski**

**Tent Meister**        **Max Friedauer**

**Wurst Meister**       **Mark "Slim" Conner Purchase/fixings/cook**  
**(H) (850) 897-2403**  
[slim00@cox.net](mailto:slim00@cox.net)  
**Angie Conner, Evans Glausier, Susan Glausier**

**Golfmeister**        **Alan "Al" Goldsborough When/Where/Cost**  
**(H) (850) 864-1250**  
[1lstnav@cox.net](mailto:1lstnav@cox.net)

**Hash Meister**        **Cancelled due to lack of interest**