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Rustic News

www.rustic.org



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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to the Rustics and Rustic Families.

Claude Newland has put together a "jammed packed" Rustic Newsletter with a lot of good information about the Rustics, especially the upcoming Reunion at Moody AFB, GA. Laura and I look forward to seeing all that are able to attend. The Reunion planning team has been working months in coordination with the 74th Fighter Squadron to create a very interesting and entertaining event for all. If you are "on the fence" with a decision of whether or not to attend, I STRONGLY recommend you plan to make the trip. You won't be disappointed. Among the many scheduled events we will conduct our usual Rustic Business Meeting where we will discuss the future of the Rustic organization.

This Newsletter also mentions the recent FAC Association Reunion in Colorado Springs, CO. I attended a few of the scheduled events and it was great to see the attending Rustics. I especially enjoyed hosting almost 70 of the Reunion attendees for a tour of the National Museum of WWII Aviation.

Again, Laura and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible next March.

ANNUAL ROSTER UPDATES. In addition to receiving this newsletter, every Rustic and person on our Next-of-Kin should be receiving a separate email that contains an updated Rustic Roster and Next-of-Kin Roster. If you did not receive these, please contact our newsletter editor, **Claude Newland**, at 850-582-1074 or rustic19@cox.net.

2023 RUSTIC REUNION. Our next reunion will be 22-25 March 2023 at Moody AFB in Valdosta, Georgia. That's only three months away, so we hope you will start making plans now to join us. The reunion Schedule of Events and Registration Form are located at the end of this newsletter. WE REQUEST YOU SUBMIT YOUR REGISTRAZION FORM NLT 1 FEBRUARY so we can place our shirt and hat order in time for the reunion. **Tom Capps, Claude Newland** and **Doug Aitken** are our reunion planners.

74th "FLYING TIGERS" TO HOST THE RUSTIC'S 2023 REUNION.

Our 2023 reunion is a bit unusual in that it is being held in the Spring. This is so we can visit the 74th Fighter Squadron who will be our host. They are the "Flying Tiger" A-10 squadron whose lineage dates back to the famed Flying Tigers of WWII. They have a personal connection with the Rustics because they use the Rustic callsign when flying their A-10 designated FAC missions. They have a full Southeast Asia Rustic FAC commemorative wall display in their squadron. Some of you may even see your photo on that wall.

The squadron has a full schedule of events planned for our visit which include



flying the A-10 simulator (wives too), a field trip to the nearby A-10 bombing and gunnery range to observe A-10s conducting an actual range mission, an A-10 static display, and a joint banquet to conclude the reunion.

Several briefings and social events will be held at the squadron so we can interact and get to know these modern-day warriors who include several female A-10 pilots.

The 74th FS's sister squadron at Moody AFB, the 75th FS, fly their FAC designated missions using the Nail callsign. As you recall, it was the Rustic and Nail FACs who flew the last FAC missions in Southeast Asia when the war came to sudden and final halt for all U.S. forces on 15 August 1973.



74th Fighter Squadron A-10C Thunderbolt IIs.



74th Fighter Squadron A-10C Thunderbolt II's arriving in Estonia, 2015.

REUNION HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS. The Moody Inn at Moody AFB will be able to accomodate all 2023 reunion attendees. Hours of Operation are 0600-2200. Advise the Moody Inn clerk you are part of the Rustic FAC reunion. The Guest Services Manager is **Molly Winterstein**.

Room Reservations:

--Everyone must make their own room reservations as soon possible by calling Moody Inn at 229-257-3893. All room rates are valid for days before and after the reunion.

--Failure to check in prior to 1800 will result in your reservation being cancelled unless your reservation has been guaranteed with a credit card.

--Non-guaranteed reservations are held until 1800.

--25 Standard VQ rooms have been reserved for our reunion; however, more are available if needed. TLF Suites and DV Suites are available, if desired.



*Moody Inn, 3213 Mitchell, Moody AFB, GA.
229-257-3893. Open 0600-2200*

Room Rates: (Rooms are located in several adjacent buildings.)

\$89 For a 1-bedroom **Standard VQ room** w/queen bed (2 adults)

\$97 For a 2-bedroom **TLF Suite** (1 queen; 2 single beds (4 adults)

Everyone should call and make a reservation for one of these two type rooms.

\$97 **DV Suites** are available for retired 0-6s & Chief MSgts and above (1 bedroom, queen or king bed, with a separate living area a mini-kitchen.)

If you qualify for a DV Suite, and would like one, you must first call the Moody Inn and reserve a Standard VQ Room or a TLF Suite to ensure you have a room reserved.

To reserve a DV Suite, you can call Wing Protocol (229-257-4144/9810) three (3) days prior to your arrival to request a DV Suite. Let them know you have already made a reservation at the Moody Inn, and they will cancel your Moody Inn reservation for you.

Keep in mind, DV Suites can be bumped if active-duty requirements emerge.

The Chief of Protocol is **Cheryl Bourgoin** (civilian).

GAINING ACCESS TO MOODY AFB. Moody AFB has four points of access, but only two are used by visitors--the Main Gate and the North gate.

The Main Gate and Visitor Center are located at the south end of the base at 9320 Davidson Rd. It is open 24 hours. You will travel to the base on Bemiss RD/GA Hwy 125. When you arrive at Davidson Rd (red light), turn east off of GA Hwy-125 and follow the road a short distance to the Main Gate.

The North Gate (which is the closest to the Moody Inn) is open M-F, 0600-2000. It is located along Bemiss Rd/GA Hwy 125 which runs north/south along the west side of the base. This gate is also directly opposite the entrance to the base golf course which is on the west side of the base and GA Hwy 125.

IMPORTANT - One military ID card is sufficient to get all passengers in a car on base.

If no one in your vehicle has a Military ID card, we will need to put each person in your car on an Entry Access List which will be maintained by the security police at Moody AFB's Main and North entry gates. When you arrive at the gate, tell the guard you should be on the Rustic Reunion Entry Access List.

Once you arrive on-base, if you carpool with someone who has an ID, you will not need to be checked at the gate.

If you have no Military ID and need to be put on the Entry Access List, please provide the following information to Claude Newland NLT, 1 Feb 2023, for each person who will be in your car when you arrive.

Last name, first name, MI, driver's license #, SSN, DOB, Sex, Race

Send information to Claude at 850-582-1074 or rustic19@cox.net.

GET READY FOR SOME ROCKIN' GOOD TIMES AT MOODY AFB. Our very own **Roger Dodd, Rustic 07**, is bringing his magical keyboard to our 2023 Rustic reunion. He has been entertaining and regaling us for years, with his wit, cheerful countenance, and lively music. He will surely enliven our reunion social gatherings at the hooch and the banquet happy hour. When contacted, he responded by saying, "What an honor to share musical moments with my Rustic compadres. Count on my being there. By the way, Moody was my UPT base, so it holds special significance for me. Thanks again for including me in this meaningful event."

VALDOSTA REGIONAL AIRPORT SERVES VALDOSTA, GA. The airport is three nautical miles south of the central business district of Valdosta. Moody AFB is approximately 17 miles north of the airport. **Delta Air Lines** offers three arrivals and three departures per day, Sunday through Friday, plus two arrivals and two departures on Saturday, to and from ATL.

Rental cars are available at the airport. There is no shuttle to Moody AFB. If you can get yourself to Moody AFB via a taxi or Uber, we anticipate having enough POVs available that we can carpool to the various reunion events, and you won't need a rental car. By 1 March 2023 **Claude Newland** should know if you will need to rent a car. Give him a call at 850-582-1074.



“WITNESS TO WAR” FOUNDATION TO ATTEND RUSTIC REUNION. Mr. Martin S. Madert of the Witness to War Foundation will attend our Moody AFB reunion to interview Rustics about their experiences in

Southeast Asia and members of the 74th Fighter Squadron. The foundation's goal is to "Preserve & Share the Oral Histories of Combat Veterans."

This is an excellent opportunity to tell your story(s) and have them recorded for posterity. The interviews are scheduled for 1½ to two hours. You can talk about any number of subjects. Mr. Madert has some initial questions to introduce you and get your interview started. Once the interview is completed, Mr. Madert will mail you a DV copy of your interview. This will no doubt become a family heirloom.

If you would like to be interviewed, please indicate that on the reunion Registration Form. We will coordinate with you prior to the reunion to develop an interview schedule so you will know when you will be interviewed.

Information about the Witness to War Foundation is available on their website: www.witnesstowar.org

SHORT BURSTS.

1. **The 74th A-10 Fighter Squadron** was based at Pope AFB, NC from 15 June 1993-October 2006. They have been at Moody AFB from October 2006 to the present. They just returned from a three-week deployment in November to the Pacific to Guam, Palau, and Saipan.
2. **George W. Bush** (43rd president) trained at Moody AFB. **Roger Dodd**, Rustic 07, and **Tom Capps**, Rustic 12, both went through pilot training at Moody AFB. **Tom Capps** later came back in 1967-1969 as a T-37 instructor pilot.
3. **74th FS outgunned more than 10 units** to win its first-ever Top Overall Award during the 2018 Hawgsmoke competition, Oct 18, 2018, at Whiteman AFB, MO. With the best of the best from the close-air support community pitted against each other, the 74th FS showcased their bombing, missile and tactical gunnery capabilities to also garner both the Top Tactical and Top Conventional team awards.
4. **U.S. Presidential Visits to Cambodia.** Only two U.S. presidents, **George W. Bush** and **Joe Biden**, have made visits to Cambodia. Both short visits were made in conjunction with an on-going ASEAN conference, Bush in Nov 2012, and Biden in Nov 2022.
5. **Last FAC Association Reunion, 2024.** The FAC Association announced at their recent Colorado Springs reunion that their 2024 reunion in Ft Walton Beach, FL will be their "FINI" reunion. (Yep, the last one.) They are in the process of figuring out how to "fold their tent."

RUSTICS ATTEND RECENT FAC ASSOCIATION REUNION. **Rowdy Hetherington, Robert Ryals, Claude Newland, Don Brooks, Doug Robertson, Johnny Drury, and Don Haller** all attended portions of the recent FAC Association reunion held 17-21 Oct 2022 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Highlights of the reunion included Tuesday's trip on 18 October to Denver's Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum at the former Lowry AFB. In addition to viewing all the great aircraft and space displays, a dedication ceremony



The Forward Air Controller Memorial



was held for O-2A aircraft, tail # 868977, that was recently restored by museum personnel.

Returning to Colorado Springs that afternoon, a well-attended FAC memorial service was held at the city's Memorial Park. This is the FAC memorial that was dedicated in conjunction with the FAC Association's 2008 reunion. At both the 2008 and 2022 ceremonies the Misty F-100 fast FACs were also memorialized as well as all our fallen Forward Air Controllers. Most notable, in 2008, Col Bud Day was the Memorial speaker.

Wednesday, 19 October, started with a tour to the National Museum of World War II Aviation which was narrated by our very own **Johnny Drury**. Local sight-seeing included an optional cog-train trip to the top of Pikes Peak or a trip to nearby historic Manitou Springs.

On Thursday, a tour of the Air Force Academy was conducted with stops at the visitor's center and the extensive veteran's memorial complex which houses innumerable unit markers to include several by FAC units. A short tour through the scenic Garden of the Gods followed. A membership meeting was held in the afternoon and the reunion banquet concluded events that evening.



Forward Air Controller Marker at USAFA.



Rustics who attended the FAC reunion banquet, L-R: Doug Robertson, Rowdy Hetherington, Don Haller (sitting), Robert Ryals, and Claude Newland.

USAF ACADEMY NEW FRONT DOOR PROJECT. Don Brooks, Rustic 02, sent in the following report.

A \$500 million project to build a “new front door” for the Air Force Academy is underway after more than a decade of planning.

Construction has begun on “TrueNorth Commons”, a 32+ acre development project just outside the security checkpoint of the academy’s north gate. The project will include a new, larger visitors center, a 375-room hotel and conference center, an office complex focused on cybersecurity, space and aerospace, and a retail area with a gas station, restaurants, and shops. The development is expected to take up to five years to complete.

The location of the new visitor center complex will be easily accessible to the public since it is located outside of the Academy’s north gate security checkpoint.

WINGMAN SUPPORT. Keep Rustic **Tim Eby** in your thoughts and prayers. He was having fainting spells and minor seizures and was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. The surgery was accomplished in late October at Temple Hospital in Texas. He is still in therapy, which will be followed by radiation treatments. Presently, he is staying at his sister’s house while he receives treatment, but he is not receiving visitors.

It is suggested everyone mail Tim a card to his home address, 308 CR 134, Hico, TX, 76457 or send him an email at Teby540@hotmail.com. Tim's wife, Judy, can be reached at 703-932-3372. Tim reports, "My update is very slow progress in strength and dexterity, not very exciting. Still some mysteries outlook unknowns. I'll stay at my daughter's house for a while yet. It's God's richest blessing on this earth to have so many genuine friends. All you guys are making a difference!"

Tim served one month as an OV-10 "Rent-a-Rustic" in August 1970. At that time, the Rustics needed extra assistance as their mission requirements continued to grow. Several other Rustics came down as Rent-A-Rustics, liked what they saw, and ended up staying on full-time. **Jim Seibold** is one who comes to mind.

RUSTIC ALPHA GREG LACHON TAKES FINAL FLIGHT. Doug Robertson received a phone call on 15 Aug 2022 from **Janet Lachon**, Greg's wife, notifying us that Greg passed away on Monday Aug 9, 2022, in Port Huron, Michigan. Greg's services had already been held.

Greg served as one of our Rustic Alpha radio relay operators on top of Nui Ba Dinh mountain. While there he sustained a knee injury during an enemy attack and was medevacked. He later served at Sundog Alpha and was discharged on 1/31/73. Greg's wife, Janet, has requested we put her on our Next-of-Kin Roster. *Slow hand salute for a fallen brother.*



Greg Lachon and Lt Col Kon Om, 2015 Rustic Reunion, Ft Worth, Texas.



NORMAND FALCON, RUSTIC Q, TAKES FINAL FLIGHT. Cathryn Falcon notified us on November 11 that her husband, Norm Falcon passed away on July 24, 2022.

Norm was a Canadian citizen born in Bedford Quebec. He became an American citizen in 1957 and joined the U.S. Air Force in 1957. He served as a French-speaking interpreter with the Rustics at Bien Hoa Air Base, Vietnam from June to Sep 1971. After 20-years of service, he retired as a MSgt. in 1977. He went back to school to get a degree and then taught elementary school in Texas for 15 years.

Norm's wife has requested that we keep her on our Next-of-Kin Roster. *Slow hand salute for another Rustic brother.*

THE FT WORTH AVIATION MUSEUM (FWAM) & FAC MUSEUM ARE PLANNING A MAJOR EXPANSION AND THEY NEED OUR HELP. Sometime in the future we will be hearing more about the planned expansion of the FWAM and the FAC Museum. They are in the process of acquiring additional land just north of the current site which will grow the complex from 4.5 acres to 11 acres. This will be a major expansion.

They will soon start a capital fund campaign looking for approximately \$6 to \$7 million to complete the anticipated buildout. **IF YOU KNOW OF ANY POTENTIAL CORPORATE DONORS**, please contact **Jim Hodgson** at jhodgson@ftwaviation.com or (c) 817 291-6101. They would greatly appreciate your input.

They plan to replace their current building with three new buildings. The center hanger will be a new 37,000 Sq' FWAM. The south building will be a 28,000 Sq' FAC museum, and the north building will be a 27,000 Sq' STEM Science Center.

You may recall that several years ago the Rustic Board authorized our historian, **Jon Safley**, to return all of our accumulated Rustic FAC Association memorabilia to their owners if they wanted their items returned. Those items not claimed were all donated to FAC Museum.

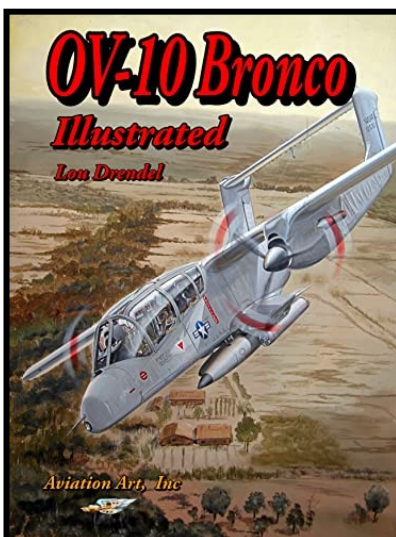
As a reminder, if you have FAC memorabilia that someday you'd like to have given to the FAC Museum, be sure you have this stated in your estate plan.



The expanded Ft Worth Aviation Museum and FAC Museum footprint. The new FAC museum will be the blue building located at the south end of the complex.

PROJECT MISTY BRONCO. In April - June 1969 the USAF completed its Misty Bronco concept tests and approved the arming of OV-10s in SEA so they could provide an immediate strike presence to ground forces.

Not all OV-10 units in SEA were allowed to arm their guns and carry high explosive rockets. However, this authorization was especially important for the OV-10 Rustics. They were often required to declare a Misty Bronco (i. e. Tactical Emergency) so they could self-expend their ordnance in support of troops-in-contact battles while awaiting their scrambled fighters to arrive on-scene. As a result, a good many of the Distinguished Flying Crosses received by the OV-10 Rustics were probably Misty Bronco missions. Needless to say, enemy groundfire was always present during those missions.



NEW OV-10 BOOK PUBLISHED. **Lou Drendel**, a well-known Florida author and artist, has published a new illustrated book about the OV-10. **Doug Aitken** recently met Lou who asked if he could include some of Doug's stories from our Rustic history book in his book. Doug checked with members of the Rustic Board who concluded there is no conflict or problem if Doug had some of his stories included. For that matter, any Rustic who has personal stories in our history book are free to use their personal stories elsewhere.

CHINA & CAMBODIA BREAK GROUND ON PORT, DISMISS U.S. CONCERNS

June 8, 2022. The US Embassy expressed concerns over the impending threat of Chinese military presence to Cambodian autonomy and security.

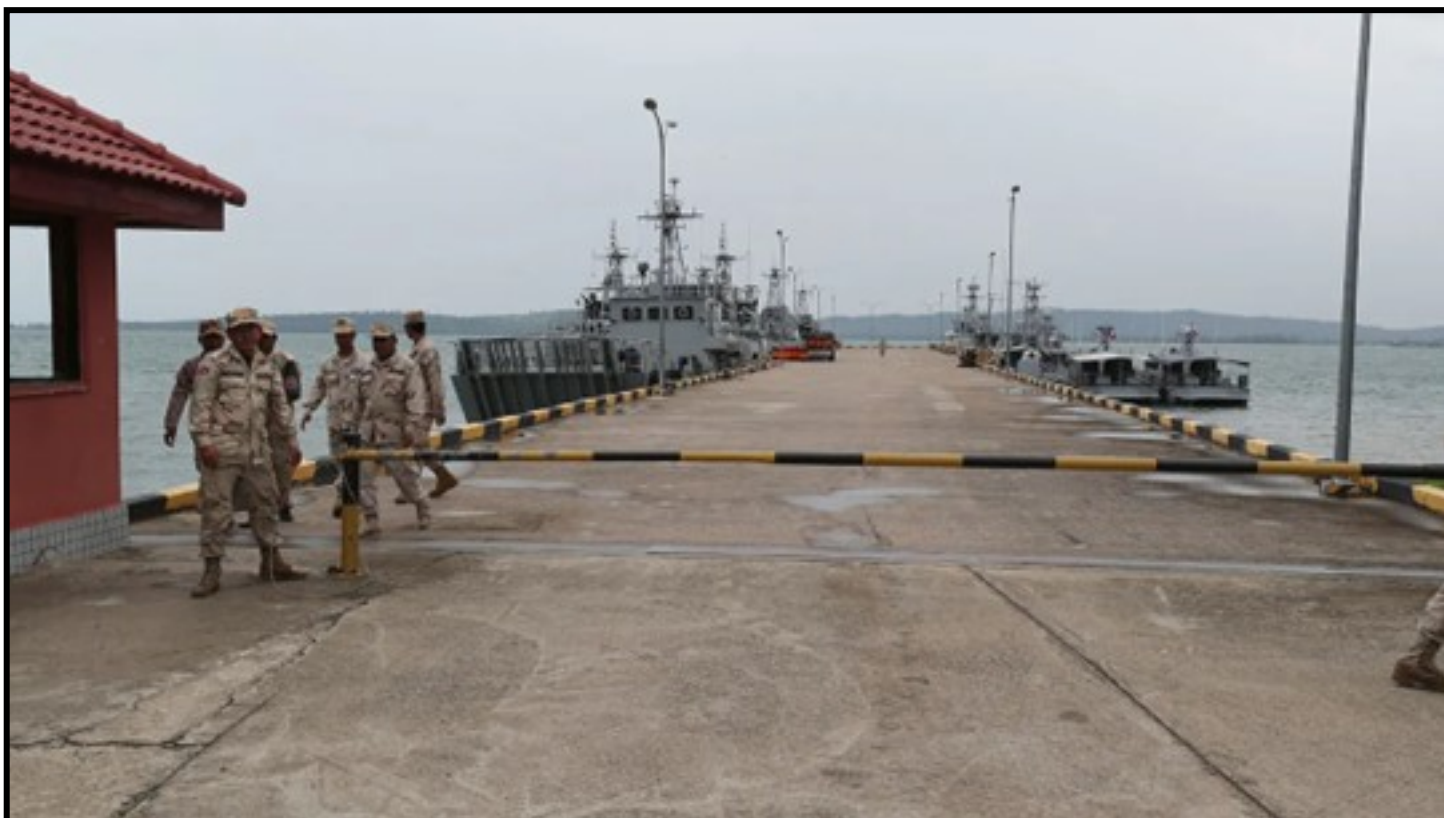
Chinese and **Cambodian officials** broke ground Wednesday, June 8, 2022 on a contentious naval port expansion project, dismissing American concerns it could provide Beijing with a strategically important military outpost on the Gulf of Thailand.

Cambodian Defense Minister Tea Banh, Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Wang Wentian and other officials donned white gloves before turning over shovels full of dirt to launch the official "modernization" of the Ream Naval Base, which will include a dry dock for ship repairs, an extended pier, a hospital, a workshop and a "reception building."

Longtime authoritarian leader Hun Sen in 2019 reportedly **granted China** the right to set up a military base at Ream, but has long denied that, saying Cambodia's Constitution prohibits foreign military facilities.

Dredging is already underway to allow larger ships to use the port. Tea Banh told guests, including the U.S. defense attaché, that it would still only be able to accommodate ships of up to 5,000 tons displacement — an improvement from the current 1,000 tons but too shallow for all but the smallest of naval ships.

"Please don't be too worried about this Ream base," Tea Banh said, speaking in front of a sign proclaiming the project is being funded by "grant aid from the People's Republic of China."



Cambodian navy troop members walk on the pier at Ream Naval Base in Sihanoukville, southwestern of Phnom Penh, Cambodia on July 26, 2019. Cambodian officials broke ground Wednesday, June 8, 2022, on a naval port expansion project in Ream, dismissing American concerns it could provide Beijing with a strategically important outpost on the Gulf of Thailand. (AP Photo/Heng Sinith, File)

"This port is too small and even after upgrading it can't be a port that would threaten any countries," he said.

Tea Banh said he invited the U.S. and other foreign representatives to the base so they could see for themselves "there is nothing here," though he added that once construction is complete the facility will become a restricted military zone with no access for foreign nations.

Following the ceremony, **the U.S. Embassy** in Phnom Penh reiterated American concerns that a Chinese "military presence at Ream could threaten Cambodia's autonomy and undermine regional security."

"The U.S. and countries in the region have expressed concern about the lack of transparency on the intent, nature, and scope of this project as well as the role the PRC military is playing in its construction and in post-

construction use of the facility," embassy spokesperson Stephanie Arzate said in an email to The Associated Press.

Ream faces the Gulf of Thailand, adjacent to the South China Sea, where China has aggressively asserted its claim to virtually the entire strategic waterway. The U.S. has refused to recognize China's sweeping claim and routinely conducts military maneuvers there to reinforce that they are international waters.

Tea Banh said the port project is expected to take two years to complete. He did not say how much it would cost, but China has given Cambodia hundreds of millions of dollars in grants in recent years for infrastructure projects.

Chinese Ambassador Wang said the construction will follow a plan agreed upon by Hun Sen and Chinese President Xi Jinping earlier this year to "further promote the building of a community with a shared future with strategic significance."

"China and Cambodia have become ironclad brothers, economical with words but generous in action, treating each other with all sincerity and standing side by side at challenging times," he said, according to an English translation of his remarks.

ADDENDUM: China only operates one acknowledged foreign military base, in the impoverished but strategically important Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti, but many believe that its People's Liberation Army is busy establishing an overseas military network, even if it doesn't use the term "base."

Beijing recently signed a security agreement with the Solomon Islands that has raised fears of a possible Chinese outpost in the Pacific, and it has reached out to multiple other island nations in the region.

IN HIS 3rd SUMMIT WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS, BIDEN BETS ON FACE TIME. Cambodia hosted the 10th annual ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh in November. Here are excerpts from a Times report:

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — President Biden told members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Saturday (12 Nov) that the United States was committed to deepening "peace and prosperity throughout the region" by protecting against threats like climate change and the economic fallout of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The president was betting that an in-person appearance at the ASEAN gathering in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, would help reinforce his administration's broad efforts to promote human rights in a country where democracy has been suppressed and to counter China's rise, even as ASEAN countries embrace economic ties with Beijing.

"We will build a better future we all say we want to see," Mr. Biden said at his third ASEAN summit as president, "for all one billion people in our countries."

Mr. Biden, on the second leg of a three-country international swing, landed in Cambodia on Saturday morning after an overnight flight from Egypt. It was his second overnight flight in two days, and though the president did not appear publicly in Phnom Penh until late afternoon, the travel seemed to be taking a toll: In his opening remarks at the ASEAN summit, Mr. Biden thanked the prime minister of "Colombia," not Cambodia, for welcoming him.

In his brief speech, the president announced a series of new initiatives between the United States and the ASEAN countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The initiatives include efforts to promote electric vehicle use in the region, to improve clean-water access and to offer loans to support female entrepreneurs.

Mr. Biden's advisers said that in the president's meetings on Saturday and Sunday, beginning with Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia, he would emphasize the need for freedom of navigation, a principle that the Pentagon says demonstrates the United States' commitment to free maritime passage in the increasingly militarized South China Sea.

After the president's meeting on Saturday with Mr. Hun Sen, White House officials said that Mr. Biden pressed the prime minister about Chinese military activities at a Cambodian naval base, human rights and free elections. Mr. Biden, "urged Prime Minister Hun Sen to reopen civic and political space ahead of" the general elections next year in Cambodia. "He also called for the release of activists detained on politically motivated charges, including U.S.-Cambodian dual citizen Seng Theary," they said, adding, "President Biden reiterated the United States' commitment to the Cambodian people and their aspirations for a more prosperous, democratic, and independent country."

Beijing's recent economic stumbles may have given the United States an opening to push for greater influence in the region. China's growth slowed significantly this year amid a crisis in its real estate sector and the continuing effects of Covid-19 lockdowns across the country.

ASEAN leaders at the summit reiterated their strong ties with Beijing while taking pains not to upset Mr. Biden. In a joint statement on Saturday with China, Cambodia reiterated its support for Beijing's "One China Policy" — including opposition to independence for Taiwan.

But on Thursday, a Cambodian official told CNBC that U.S.-China relations were critical to regional development in South Asia, and that the ASEAN countries were staying out of the economic competition between Washington and Beijing. "ASEAN remains neutral in this competition, and we don't want to choose sides," Kung Phoak, Cambodia's secretary of state of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, told the network. "ASEAN wants to work closely with both countries."



President Biden and Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen at an East Asia Summit Gala, Nov 2022. Photo: Saul Loeb/AFP via Getty Images

REPORT FROM SUNRISE MINISTRIES IN CAMBODIA. Sunrise Ministries, which the Rustics support, in Kompong Cham, Cambodia has been working with the local prison for a number of years. Here's the 29 Nov report from **Susan Smith**.

Earlier this week, several experts in clean water visited the Kompong Cham prison with our Sunrise staff to make final arrangements for the installation of a biosand water filtration system. Soon, no one at the prison will be getting sick anymore because of coliforms in the water supply! Whoo hoo

Our budget for improvements to the water system was about 10K and included digging a new deep high capacity well to provide sufficient water for the whole prison population. However, tests run in the past two days indicate that the existing wells provide enough water and so our budget was just cut in half!



Still, we need funding for the prison water system and other work being done at the prison, such as the Biblically-based relationship skills course. First, we meet the physical needs of the prisoners in the name of Christ, then we teach from his word about anger and friendship and forgiveness, then prisoners become very curious and eager to understand more about Him. Will you join in supporting the work of Sunrise for the sake of the prisoners and the reputation of Jesus and his followers? For His Glory, Susan



Editor's Note: Rustics can make a tax-deductible contribution to Sunrise Ministries by mailing a check to our treasurer, Jim Nuber, 1439 Evening Shade, Prescott, AZ. Make check out to "Rustics" and put "Sunrise Ministries" in the check byline.

A contribution can also be made on the enclosed 2023 Reunion Registration Form.

CALENDER OF EVENTS.

RUSTIC REUNION, March 22-25, 2023, Moody AFB, GA

FAC ASSOCIATION "FINI" REUNION (Yep, the last one!), Oct 2024, Ft Walton Beach, FL

LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS

From Doug Aitken, Rustic 16

I cleaned up my office and came across some letters I had mailed from Bien Hoa and Ubon. My brother saved them and gave them to me a few years ago. Here's a letter to my brother dated Feb 2, 1972.

"I've been pretty busy-attending conferences at Korat, Thailand, and Phan Rang, then last week off to Saigon to fly General Brown and his assistant (2 stars). They really enjoyed the tour, and even took our picture together after the flight. I had flown General Lavelle, CC of 7th AF, and I was supposed to fly him again, and Wayne Wood was to fly General Brown (Commander of AFSC and former 7th AF Commander). Turns out Gen Lavelle could not fly, so I flew the 2 star instead. I think those generals go back to the Pentagon and tell their buddies, 'If you want a good deal, go fly with the Rustics in Cambodia when you visit Saigon. So far, we have flown General Lavelle, General Slay (Director of Ops for 7th), General Momeyer (TAC CC), and General Ryan, USAF Chief of Staff, and the last two.'" Good stuff for the Rustics.

Joining me in doing these DV flights were Tom Clinch, Wayne Wood, and Bob Jessup. Note that Tom and Bob were 1Lt IPs. On my first flight with Gen Lavelle, Bob and I were to fly a clean bird and a "dirty" bird to Saigon. We went to Gen Slay's office...you know what a gruff man he was. He asked, "Who is flying the "dirty" airplane and who is flying the clean one?" Bob and I looked at one another, and Bob turns to Gen Slay and says, "I will fly the clean airplane." Slay says, "Fine. I will be with you and Gen Lavelle will be with him." Bob never was shy nor intimidated.

So off we go. It was to be an orientation flight, as well as to watch a Sundog FAC put in a pair of Danang F-4s performing the first drop of a propane bomb in SEA. I got a guided tour from the back seat as I tried to find the Sundog and the right grids. General Lavelle really knew the area. Thankfully I found the FAC, and man, what an impressive show. Those bombs vaporized bunkers and trees. Nothing left. Immediately after the strike we heard a Mayday call on Guard. Turns out Tom Clinch was putting in C-130 low altitude resupply drop on the besieged town of Rumlong. Tom had prepped the plantation to the east of town with several airstrikes and wanted the drop to come in from the east to the west. The C-130 guy nixed that and came in from the other direction. He got hosed, puked his load (killed some Cambodians on the ground I was told by Col Oum), and off to PP for an emergency landing with many holes in the airplane, including shot up tires. I got a call from Ramrod to go over to Rumlong and relief Tom who had to RTB. So, Gen Lavelle and I got to put in some airstrikes on the grids where the ground fire came from. Getting clearance was a hassle. We flew in circles for a while and Gen Lavelle gets tired of waiting. He says, "You are cleared on those grids." So, I go secure and tell Ramrod I am cleared and they said I was not. I said check who is in my backseat, and they changed their tune. We even got to put in a C-130E Spectre, flown by a good buddy, Tom Skinner, from Reese AFB. As we returned to land, almost 5 hours after takeoff, I asked General Lavelle if he wanted to land it, and he said, "No, just get my ass on the ground."

Good memories.

From Sonica Lieou, Col Oum's Daughter, June 11, 2022

Hi Mr. Newland, hope you and Mrs. Newland have a great family reunion in San Diego this July and a great summer! Thank you for the warm regards. Please add my sister, Sovanna, to the Rustic Newsletter mailing list. Her email address is sp_lieou@yahoo.com. *(Done.)*

As far as anyone in our extended family going back to Cambodia goes, my sister-in-law and nephew with their church group will travel to Cambodia in July.

Here is some family news: My dad's cousin, who we always felt as our aunt, sadly passed away of lung

cancer a year ago. A one-year Buddhist Memorial was held for her in Arizona. Mom is doing well health wise. My niece (my older brother, Narith, youngest daughter) just graduated high school and will be attending Oklahoma University in Norman, OK majoring in Psychology. She is the last niece in Texas to graduate high school.

My son and daughter are both attending the University of Texas at Dallas in Richardson, TX. My son is majoring in Computer Science and my daughter, Electrical Engineering.

Two of my sisters sold their homes. Nara and her husband, Will, sold their home in Austin, TX. Soravy and her husband, Vince, sold their home in McKinney.

The rest of my family is also doing well.

Have a great summer! Warm regards, *Sonica*

From Cambodian Radio Operator “Lima.” He recently sent us a brief update from California. He recommends that everyone (*and I second that*) check out the following link to see how Cambodia advertises itself today. You might be amazed!.... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXdz0ZoMvII>

Here's Lima's latest report:

I want to live in Phnom Penh for at least 10 months a year from here on out. I own an apartment in PP which I named "flat broke mini-villa 1845. I've renovated my late parent's home now with A/C, hot/cold shower and a clean toilet. It's located just 5 kilometers from where our Rustic **Joseph Gambino** was shot down. I own a used SUV and named it the "Ramshackle 1-5" to remind me of **Otto Walinski**, Rustic 15, wherever he is? Just keep in touch please 19? Thanks a million for still communicating with Lima. Emotionally yours, *Lima*

From Doug Robertson, Rustic Radio, June 8, 2022

I went to the semi-annual Open Cockpit Day on Memorial Day at the Castle AFB, CA Air Park Museum. Of course, I gravitated to the O-2A on display and took some pictures. The question of the day is do any of you guys have any history with 67-21413 that resides at Castle? No one there could give me any information, so I thought I'd throw it out here to see if anyone bites. (*This tail number is not on our list of O-2s flown at Bien Hoa.*)

Lots of really rare and unusual aircraft reside there. They also have a lot of WWII and Cold War era planes. One of my favorites was the A-26C which was configured as a Nimrod type with a slew of M-2 Browning machine guns in the nose. A lot of aircraft I have never seen up close, most notable, the B-36 and such.

While walking around taking in the planes with my friend we were summoned into a C-123 that was open with a pilot-looking fellow waving us in. He told us he operated spraying aircraft out of Danang if my memory serves me correctly. Now I know you are thinking Ranchhand, Agent Orange, but he said he worked for the Department of Health (pretty sure that it was them) and sprayed Malathion to help control the fly population.

He inquired what I had done. and I told him I was a Radio Operator with the 21st TASS and the 23rd TASS spending time at Bien Hoa and Nui Ba Dinh before going TDY to Thailand at Ubon. When I mentioned NBD he just about fell over in shock. He told us he has sprayed the mountain with Malathion since there were a lot of NVA dead along with VC bodies that were attracting a lot of bugs making it unhealthy. I don't remember any spraying during my stay but if I have my facts correct, he said they would make a run on the mountain at about 150' altitude. Can't remember if it was going up or down but sounded rather sketchy regardless. I think I was the highlight of his day when he said he couldn't wait to go home and tell his wife that he had met someone who had actually been on Nui Ba Dinh. Very interesting guy who went on to fly for United for 27 years before getting screwed out of his pension.

The museum has a lot of great planes. If you happen to be passing by, check them out.

From: Bob Clifford, Rustic 03, July 11, 2022.

Claude: Good hearing from you and hope you and Tona are doing fine. In your message, I can understand why you referenced Belgium because you visited us there when you were flying for Delta Air Lines. When I retired in 2002 to start my third career as a LM consultant we moved to Denmark and have been here ever since, except our time in a condo in Nice, France - which we sold in 2010. We sold our Sandestin, FL condo in 2012. (Wow, time goes by so fast).

We visited San Diego this past January to visit our two daughters and son who live there - along with 6 grandkids and 2 great grandkids. We just had two of the youngest grandsons here in Denmark - with a side trip

to Oslo by ferry and train trip to Lund, Sweden by train - plus fishing on boat much like the ones we used in Florida and, of course, visits to Tivoli. We also took a sea cruise to the Canary Islands in February.

I don't miss the heat and humidity in Florida, and we are having a great summer here in the condo in Copenhagen that we bought in 2017. We sold our big house up on the North coast (across from Sweden) but are building a new one up there that should be ready in September. I turn 86 in September and so far, so good. I did have my gall bladder removed last year and had two close calls with throat cancer that the doctors caught early and all is fine now. Dorte is keeping me out of trouble - ok, mostly and she is doing fine.

Enjoy the family in San Diego - great place! *Cheers, Bob*



*Merry Christmas to All
Wishing You a Prosperous and
Healthy New Year !*



2023 REUNION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Moody Inn, Moody AFB, Georgia
Mar 22-25, 2023

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION or NOTES
TUESDAY, 21 MAR		
1730-2200	EARLY ARRIVALS DINNER RESTAURANT TBD	1730-Meet in Moody Inn lobby 1745-Depart (carpool)
WEDNESDAY, 22 MAR		
0700-1000	BREAKFAST – on your own	Moody Field Club or Golf Course Grill
0800-1200	A-10 SIMULATORS	0800-Meet in Moody Inn Lobby (Carpool)
1200-1800	REGISTRATION	Moody Inn Lobby
1230-1315	LUNCH	Moody Golf Course Grill (Carpool)
1300-1500	A-10 SIMULATORS	1300-Meet in Moody Inn Lobby (Carpool)
1500-1545	BANKQUET COORD.MEETING	Moody Field Club
1600-1745	74 th SQN WELCOME EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HERITAGE ROOM HAPPY HOUR	1600-Meet in Moody Inn Lobby (Carpool) 74 Sqn Conference room 74 TH Sqn. Heritage room
1745-2030	DINNER – FRIENDS BAR & GRILL	1745-Depart 74 th Sqn (Carpool)
THURSDAY, 23 MAR		
0800-1000	74 th SQN BREAKFAST & BRIEFING	0800-Meet in Moody Inn Lobby 0815-Depart for 74 th Sqn (Carpool)
1000-1315	TOUR TO A-10 RANGE	1000-Board Bus for range
1200-1315	LUNCH – BURGER BURN	A-10 Gunnery Range by 74 TH Sqn Board bus, return to 74 th Sqn
1330-1430	A-10 RAMP TOUR & GROUP PHOTO	74 th Sqn
1430-1600	74 TH SQN EARLY HAPPY HOUR	1600 depart Sqn for Moody Inn
1600-1730	FREE TIME	
1730-2100	DINNER -- SALTY SNAPPER REST.	1730-Meet in Moody Inn Lobby 1745- Depart (Carpool)
FRIDAY, 24 MAR		
0700-1000	BREAKFAST – on your own	Field Club or Golf Course Grill
0800-1100	A-10 SIMULATORS	
0900-1400	LADIES – Downtown Tour and Lunch Museum & Crescent House	0900-Meet in Moody Inn Lobby 0915-Depart (Carpool)
	LADIES LUNCH	Covington Restaurant. Order off Menu
1400-1500	BANQUET SET-UP	Moody Field Club

DATE/TIME: ACTIVITY	LOCATION or NOTES
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FRIDAY, 24 MAR (Continued)

1400-1500	FREETIME	
1500-1600	RUSTIC BUSINES MEETING	74 th Sqn Ready Room
1600-1700	74th Sqn HERITAGE ROOM SOCIAL	74 TH SQN
1800-1845	BANQUET HAPPY HOUR—CASH BAR	Moody Field Club
		Dress: Party Flight Suits or Business Casual, Tie Optional.
1900-2130	BANQUET	Moody Field Club
2030	GROUP PHOTO(S)	

SATURDAY, 25 MAR

0700-1000	FAREWELL BREAKFAST	Moody Field Club
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Reunion Notes:

-- COVID MASKS. Bring a mask in case one becomes required.

-- **MOODY AFB GATE HOURS:**

Davidson Gate (main gate, south end of base)

Open 24/7

Mitchell Gate: (north gate, closest gate to Moody Inn)

Open M-F, 0600-1800

-- **TRANSPORTATION** to all venues will be POV (carpool), except a bus to A-10 gunnery range

-- **BANQUET DRESS:** Party Flight Suite, Business Casual, Tie Optional



Artwork on back of Tee Shirt.





2023 REGISTRATION FORM RUSTIC REUNION, 22-25 March 2023

Please print all information and return (with payment) **NLT 1 Feb. 2023.**

Name _____ Nickname (for name Tag) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ E Mail _____

Spouse/Guest Name _____ Nickname (for name tag) _____

What day will you arrive at the reunion? Tues. _____ Wed. _____ Thurs. _____ Fri. _____

Approx. time of day: _____ Coming by: Car _____ Air _____ Rental Car _____

I'm arriving at Valdosta Airport Time: _____ Flight Number: _____

Do you or your guest(s) require any special assistance while at the reunion? Please Specify: _____

I qualify for a DV Suite and would like one if available (for O-6 or CMST or above) Yes _____

I/we will attend the early arrival dinner on Tue., 21 Mar, 6 pm. Yes _____

I'm available to help at the Registration desk on Wednesday, 22 Mar., if needed Yes _____

I don't have a military ID (We will need to be on the base Entry Access List (EAL)) Yes _____

I would like to be interviewed by the Witness to War representative Yes _____

I won't be attending the reunion but would like the items ordered below mailed to me. Yes _____

REGISTRATION FEES

	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Number:</u>	<u>Sub-total:</u>
Registration Fee: Rustic \$35.00; Guest \$25.00, (not required if banquet only)	x _____	=	\$ _____
Breakfast & Lunch "Burger Burn" Thurs. 23 Mar	\$ 25.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Ladies Tour - Crescent House & Museum Fri., 24 Oct., AM	\$ 10.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Banquet Fri., 24 Oct., PM	\$ 40.00	x _____	= \$ _____

Contribution to Cambodian Charity Fund (Tax deductible; Letter will be provided) \$ _____

Reunion Memorabilia Items:

You can pick items up at the reunion or have them shipped to you if you are not coming.

Each item has a minimum number that must be ordered by the Rustics. Refunds will be offered if the minimum is not met.

Golf & Polo shirts have the Rustic logo on the front. T-Shirts have the Rustic logo on the front & aircraft artwork on the back.

Men's White Golf Shirt	Med _____ LG _____ XL _____	\$35.00	XXL is \$37	x _____	=	\$ _____
Men's White T-Shirt	Med _____ LG _____ XL _____	\$20.00	XXL is \$22	x _____	=	\$ _____
Men's Blue T-Shirt	Med _____ LG _____ XL _____	\$20.00	XXL is \$22	x _____	=	\$ _____
Ladies White Polo Shirt	Med _____ LG _____ XL _____	\$24.00	XXL is \$26	x _____	=	\$ _____
Ladies White T-Shirt	Med _____ LG _____ XL _____	\$17.00	XXL is \$19	x _____	=	\$ _____
Ladies Blue T-Shirt	Med _____ LG _____ XL _____	\$17.00	XXL is \$19	x _____	=	\$ _____
Rustic Coin		\$10.00		x _____	=	\$ _____
Rustic Maroon Baseball Cap with logo		\$25.00		x _____	=	\$ _____

Circle cap size: **S/M(7 $\frac{1}{8}$ -7 $\frac{3}{8}$) M/L(7 $\frac{3}{8}$ -7 $\frac{5}{8}$) L/XL (7 $\frac{5}{8}$ -7 $\frac{7}{8}$)**

All shirts are polyester.

Shipping costs if not attending reunion: Hat(s): \$5.00 and shirt \$8.00

x _____ = \$ _____
TOTAL TO REMIT: s _____

Please make a file copy for yourself of this completed form.

Mail Registration Form and check (payable to "Rustics") NLT 1 Feb 2023 to:

Lendy Edwards, 11 Poplar Avenue, Shalimar, FL 32579 (Questions? Call 850-651-6766.)