

Volume 20, Issue 1

10 June 2016



# Rustic News



**www.rustic.org**



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This newsletter has been emailed to ALL Rustics and to Rustic next-of-kin for whom we have an email address. A hardcopy is being mailed to association members who do not have an email. *(Note to Rustic next-of-kin: if you prefer not to receive future newsletter, please notify the editor, Claude Newland, at [rustic19@cox.net](mailto:rustic19@cox.net).)*

**NEXT RUSTIC REUNION. Ft Walton Beach, Florida, 19-22 Oct 2017.** Save the date! This will be the Rustics 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary reunion. Our first reunion was in 1997. You don't want to miss this one. Start making plans now to attend.

**Guest Speaker?** We are debating whether to have a guest speaker at the 2017 reunion banquet. Another option being discussed is to have a few representative Rustics volunteer to talk briefly about "What Being A Rustic Has Meant to Me" or how our Post-SEA friendships and activities have affected you.

As an example we could have an interpreter, a mx/radio guy, backseater, O-2 guy, OV guy and give them the floor for say, five minutes. If we did a total of 8 Rustics, that would be 40 min.

We would ask for volunteers well ahead of the event as to who would like to speak, and if we had more than we need, we would do a drawing before hand and advise each guy.

Topics could run from, "My most interesting/scary/rewarding mission." or "What being a Rustic has meant to me." or "Memories of my favorite Rustics/Cambodians" etc.

Hmmm...give it some thought. Would you want to be part of this type of program?

**PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE.** Fellow Rustics. It is my pleasure to add a note to our newsletter, so faithfully published by our President Emeritus, **Claude Newland**.

This has been a tough couple of years on the Rustics, health-wise. We have seen several of our brothers take their "final flight west," and more of us are struggling with various health issues.

I recall when some of us had prostate cancer issues several years ago, and we basically shared our experiences and lessons learned and things like VA disability with each other. I urge each of you to consider to do likewise with any ailment you might have as you age.....not things like sore knees, or stiff back, but substantive issues, where sharing medical experiences and information would help a fellow Rustic.

And I do have some friends who prefer to keep their medical concerns very private, and I respect and understand that. I bring this up just in case you are willing to share your experiences health wise with your fellow Rustics.

**Rog Hamann** has done a great job in getting the Rustic FAC Family Facebook page up and running, and this closed group might be a way to communicate these issues. I would also remind you that **Doc Thomas** has a wealth of knowledge not only on medical issues but VA issues as well and can help you navigate through that sometimes confusing maze.

Finally, some dates to put on your calendars.....the ALL FAC Reunion will be held Oct 4-8 in Williamsburg,

VA. Here is a link to their reunion page: <http://www.fac-assoc.org/reunion/2016%20Reunion/2016%20Reunion.htm>

And be sure to mark your 2017 calendars for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rustic FAC reunion to be held in Ft. Walton Beach, FL on Oct 19<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>. We will have a grand time and are already in the advanced planning. With **Lendy Edwards, Claude Newland, and Tom Wolford** in charge, you know it will be awesome.

My best to each of you. **Doug Aitken, Rustic 16**

## ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES.

<b>Joe Spenser</b>	662-417-7185
<b>Michael Gagne</b>	<a href="mailto:rustickilo@gmail.com">rustickilo@gmail.com</a>
<b>Gary Ball</b>	Irscher Berg 22, 54296 Trier, Deutschland, Tel: +49-651-976 29 333 <a href="mailto:ballgarya@gmail.com">ballgarya@gmail.com</a>

**CAMBODIAN CHARITIES.** The Rustics continue to support Cambodian charities in Kompong Cham. At the recommendation of our contacts at Sunrise Ministries in Kompong Cham, your association recently sent \$1,370 to Sunrise Ministries. They, in turn, will see that the money is used by the Kompong Cham children's orphanage to provide specialized tutoring for nine students for one year. This is extra schooling to help the senior students prepare for their final graduation exams. This is tutoring which is needed, but which otherwise would not be available to the students. Our thanks go to all who have made this possible through your charitable giving.

Our Cambodian charitable fund is now pretty much at zero. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to future efforts, please send a check (payable to "Rustic FAC Assoc.", byline: "Cambodia Charity") to our treasurer, Jim Nuber, 1439 Evening Shade, Prescott, AZ 86305. *A little goes a long way in Cambodia, so be generous.*

**RUSTICS MAKE A DONATION TO THE HURLBURT AIR PARK.** **Doug Aitken.** The Board of Directors recently approved a \$1,000 donation to the Hurlburt Air Park specifically earmarked for maintenance of OV-10 tail number 626, and included an accompanying request that the Air Park committee attempt to find some rocket pods and a centerline tank so the aircraft will more reflect the configuration we flew. (As you may know, the O-2 on display does have rocket pods under her wings.) In response, we received a nice thank you letter from **Colonel Sean M. Farrell**, Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, FL.

**HISTORIAN REPORT.** **Jon Safley.** The project to return Rustic book source materials (documents/tapes/CDs) to their "rightful owners" is moving along smoothly. These were items that were formerly maintained in our Rustic History archives by our first historian, **Jim Gabel**. They were initially collected to help us write our Rustic history. Now that our book is completed, we want to return these items to their owners. Of the 27 total "rightful owners" I attempted to contact all via either email, snail mail, or phone call.

Their disposition options are: (1) return to "rightful owner," (2) destroy, or (3) forward to the Ft Worth Aviation Museum (FWAM) where a portion of our Rustic artifacts are all ready archived.

Fourteen have responded to me so far and their source materials have been disposed of according to their instructions. The majority of the 14 want their source materials sent to the FWAM. I will follow up with the remaining "rightful owners" who have yet to respond.

For those "rightful owners" I can't contact within a year from the start date of this project (Feb 2016), I will include their source material in the package I send to FWAM.

**8mm Film:** I have yet to investigate transferring the 8mm film in our archives to a useable format but it's etched onto my "To Do" list.

## SHORT BURSTS.

**1. Rustic Facebook page.** If you're not using the Rustic's new FACEBOOK site you are probably missing out on a lot of Rustic communications. The site is called "Rustic FAC Family." It is a closed group. Anyone on Facebook can find the group and see who's in it but **only members** can see the posts. Also, for the time being, any member of the group can add/approve members. Here's the link. <https://www.facebook.com/>

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[groups/702300539793648/](https://groups/702300539793648/)

You can easily post photos, videos, and messages to the Rustic buds on this website. It's a good way to communicate with fellow Rustics and those who have an interest in our mission.

**2. Col Oum's Next-of-kin.** Col Oum's daughter, **Sonica**, reports her mother's ("Mom") address is 18716 Pencil Cactus Drive, Pflugerville, TX 78660. Some may want to drop her a line to wish her well.

**3. Rustic Book Donations.** **Doug Aitken** recently donated a copy of the Rustic's revised (second) book to each of the following: the Charlotte Airport Aviation Museum, his local library, two for his college (archives and library), and one to his high school library. All were very well received. The high school now wants him to speak to the Social Studies Class as "living history." He told them, "They had better hurry up!"

The College archives wants to do a two hour interview. Spreading the word....so to speak.

**4. New Raven FAC Book.** The 781 page book "Raven Chronicles: In Our Own Words", has recently been published and is now available in a Kindle edition for \$8.95. Click on the cover photo at the top left of the Amazon page to get a sense of the content at: [http://www.amazon.com/Raven-Chronicles-Our-Own-Words-ebook/dp/B01B5GADMM/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=digital-text](http://www.amazon.com/Raven-Chronicles-Our-Own-Words-ebook/dp/B01B5GADMM/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text).

**5. All FAC Reunion, Williamsburg, VA, Oct 4-8 Oct 2016, Whose coming?** **Roger Dodd** has confirmed he will bring his magical keyboard to the reunion to regale the troops with some FAC songs and revelry. **Claude Newland** and **Lendy Edwards** will be CINC FAC hooch. If you plan to attend, give Claude a shout at [rusic19@cox.net](mailto:rusic19@cox.net).

**SHAD KIMBELL VISITS THE USAF FIGHTER WEAPONS SCHOOL** **Shad Kimbell** went at the USAF Weapons School and addressed the 19 Weapons Squadron Class 16A WUGs students at a mixer for the Advanced Enlisted Mission Planning Course. He talked about the history of the Rustics, shared some harrowing experiences, and presented the 19 WPS Commander, **Lt. Col. Rusin**, with a copy of the Rustic's first official history book.

Shad went on to say, "I went to the get-together with Capt. **Billy Tompkins** of the 19th. WPS - had a good time. It was a pre-graduation party for a class of new WPS instructors who would be going out to their various units. I met all the new guys, plus the instructors. Apparently this school is similar to the Top Gun school. These instructors teach our pilots enemy techniques and how to handle them.

"While there, I was presented with one of their squadron T-Shirts, a challenge coin, and a unit patch. I gave **Billy Tompkins** and the 19 WS commander, **Lt. Col. Rusin**, a Rustic challenge coin.

The 19 WPS mission statement is: "Forge Weapons Officers who are ISR and threat experts to build, teach and lead Air Force Intelligence and ISR units". **Shad Kimbell. Rustic 10**

**DON MERCER CONTINUES HIS PHOTO QUEST OF OUR NATIONAL PARKS.** **Don Mercer.** Having just returned late Friday night (May 20) from a 24-day road trip covering 6,229 miles, I am now going to attempt to reenter society... well, at least social media via Facebook. I departed on the trip on April 27 with three objectives in mind:

1) To meet up with three friends in McAllen, Texas, to shoot birds from blinds at a south Texas ranch, Campos Viejos, for four days;

2) To visit four fellow Air Force pilots from bygone days, two of whom I flew with in South-east Asia - **Bob "Redeye" Harris** and **Mike Thrower**, along the way in Oklahoma, two in Texas, and one in Tennessee; and

3) To visit and photograph in each of four more National Parks (NP): Hot Springs in Arkansas; Big Bend and Guadalupe Mountains in Texas; and Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico.

Fortunately, I accomplished all with only a couple tests of my flexibility, no accidents, and having experienced no close calls with wildlife. I came by an extra day, as I made the trip from



*Don Mercer at Machu Picchu.*



Campos Viejos on May 9 to Terlingua, Texas, on the west side of Big Bend, in one day as opposed to two.

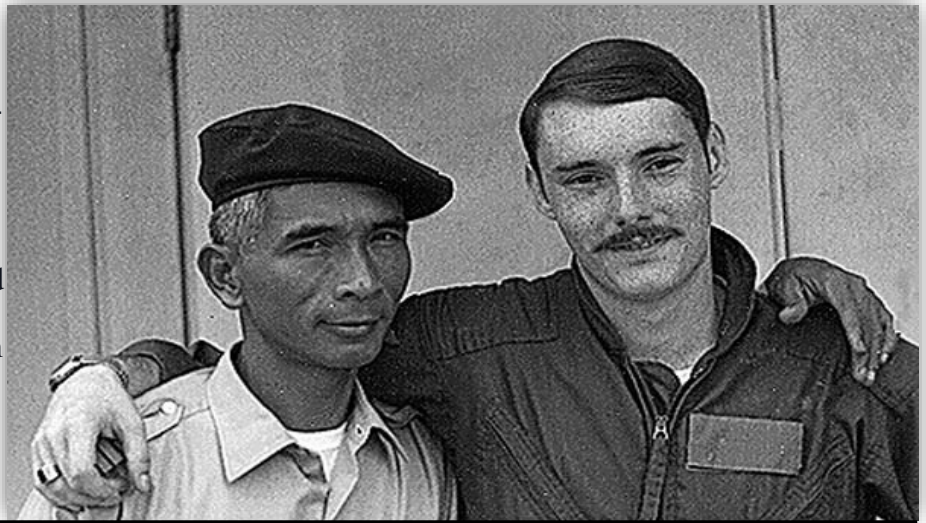
Then, on arriving at Guadalupe Mountains NP, a forest fire initiated by lightning had grown to over 10,000 acres within the Park, resulting in three of the four entrances having been closed. As a result, I reduced my planned 3-day shoot there by two days.

Thanks to the saved days, I added an overnight in Alamogordo, New Mexico, in order to shoot one day in White Sands National Monument. I also added one day to my trek back across the country to ease the overall return road trip, and I arrived home one day earlier than planned.

This brings to thirty-seven National Parks that I have visited and photographed since beginning my personal project in October 2013. With twenty-two remaining, my current target date for completion is the spring of 2019.

*Don has a website where he posts his photos. Check it out: [www.rustic41creations.com](http://www.rustic41creations.com). Great photos!*

**IN REMEMBRANCE – Walt Friedhofen, Rustic Romeo.** Many of you know from our Rustic FACEBOOK postings that **Walt Friedhofen** made his final flight west on April 9 in Springfield, MO, after a valiant struggle with cancer. Please keep Sharon and Walt's family in your prayers. Our thanks go to **Jim "Magnet Ass" Seibold** and **Dave Van Dyke** for representing all the Rustics. **Jim** reports that **Dave** did a great job at Walt's service describing what it took to be a backseater, how they were trained, and how they did their job. **Jim** also provided the following address for donations in Walt's memory. Please send donations in Walt's name to: American Cancer Society, 926 E. Battlefield Rd, Springfield, MO 65804.



**Tim Tanh with Walt Friedhofen**

#### **WINGMAN SUPPORT.**

- 1) **Jim Seibold, Rustic 62/13**, continues his rehab at home from his second back surgery. According to Diane, he is THE PERFECT PATIENT. He is out of his horse collar, feeling great, and ready to take on the world again.
- 2) **Dave Van Dyke, Rustic 04**, is fighting a serious illness so everyone please keep him in your prayers.
- 3) **George "Lunchbox" Larson, Rustic U**, is recuperating from fire coral poisoning. While stationed in Guam some years ago he scraped his leg against some coral and it got into his skin, then it worked its way into the bloodstream, and now the bone. He said it's a re-occurring thing that bothers him about every two years. His rehab facility is right next door to Orlando's new VA hospital. His wife, **Mucha**, is about 15 minutes away. He can be reached at 407-631-6412. He said they are taking good care of him and he hopes to be able to attend the reunion in 2017. **Roger Hamann** called George and said, "Damn, he's 81, but still sounded like the Lunchbox character I met back in '99."

**PAST RUSTIC NEWSLETTERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE.** Have you ever wanted to go back and read some of our past Rustic newsletters? Now you can. Every newsletter, from 1996 to present, can now be viewed on our Rustic website ([www.rustic.org](http://www.rustic.org)). Our thanks go to our talented webmaster, **John Charlton**, for making this possible. The newsletters make for some interesting reading. They chronicle those early days when we were just getting "found" and organized as a group. They also give reports on a myriad of subjects including reports of our past reunions. A hardcopy of each newsletter has also been preserved by our newsletter editor. Can you believe it? It has been 20 years since that first letter went out saying, "It's time to have a Rustic reunion!"

**ANOTHER O-2 FAC AIRCRAFT PAINTING.** Aussie **Peter Condon**. Good Day All.

**Terry Lundby**, the artist who painted an OV-10 for me and donated prints for the silent auction conducted at the 2014 Fort Walton Beach FAC reunion, has just completed a painting of an O-2 over South Vietnam. Aussie FAC **Chris Hudnott** (Issue 27, 70/71) commissioned Terry earlier this year. Terry has prints available



at <http://www.tlundby.com>.

Cheers, **Peter Condon**, Tamale  
15, Sidewinder 23, 1969

**OV-10s USED TO KILL ISIS FIGHTERS WITH SNIPER-LIKE ACCURACY.** Here's an article sent in by **David Parsons**, **Rustic 08**, from The Fiscal Times, by **Martin Matishak**, May 19, 2016.

"A US Air Force lieutenant (*Rustic FAC David Parson*) posing with Cambodian Air Force officers, one of whom flew as forward observer aboard the US plane, in front of his OV-10 Bronco attack and observation plane in 1970. Even decades-old warplanes can have an interesting second act, provided they get the right upgrade.

"Many military observers were baffled when The Daily Beast reported that the Pentagon had deployed two Vietnam-era OV-10 Broncos to the Middle East for three months to provide cover for ground troops fighting the Islamic State, the militant group also known as ISIS, ISIL, or Daesh.

"The small, twin-engine Bronco was used for reconnaissance and light air support in Vietnam, but it wasn't designed for the heavy-duty combat missions that the A-10 Thunderbolt II attack jet has handled in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Some speculated that the deployment was intended to help department leaders get a better grasp on the kind of warplane that should replace the A-10, affectionately called the "Warthog," which the Air Force has targeted for retirement.

Now The War Zone is reporting that the Broncos were actually being used to find and kill Islamic State militants with the Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System, which uses laser-guided 70 mm rockets.

Like other laser-guided rockets such as the Hellfire, the BAE-manufactured APKWS can be fired from close range or from miles away and can destroy enemy personnel and even lightly armored vehicles, minus the collateral damage that occurs with less-precise ordnance.

The Pentagon was apparently impressed with the Bronco's performance, which The War Zone characterized as "almost freakish." The planes enabled crews to find enemy troops, even those hiding in doorways and in dense brush, and kill them with sniper-like accuracy.

**David Parson's** reaction to this article, "Yes, that is me! 25 years old. I was the first US military personnel to go into Cambodia after they switched sides from the Chinese to the USA. I met with the Cambodian Minister of Defense to plan an offensive strategy against the North Vietnamese. Quite an experience for a young kid! This



was my 2nd or 3rd Rustic mission. Claude, thanks for all you do for the Rustics and all us old guys! **David Parsons**

**CLEARED HOT III (FAC BOOK) IS NOW AVAILABLE.** The FAC Association has announced that their new book Cleared Hot III is now available for sale. A number of new Rustic stores not previously published are included. You can order the book by going to the FAC website, [www.fac-assoc.org](http://www.fac-assoc.org). Under "Memorabilia" is a link to the Lulu.com book store. The paper version is \$25. The electronic version is \$10.

If you can't make it to the website, here is a direct link you can use:  
[http://www.lulu.com/shop/search.ep?](http://www.lulu.com/shop/search.ep?keyWords=cleared+hot&categoryId=200468)  
[keyWords=cleared+hot&categoryId=200468](http://www.lulu.com/shop/search.ep?keyWords=cleared+hot&categoryId=200468)

**GOT ANY MORE RUSTIC STORIES TO TELL? IF SO, WE WANT 'EM!** If you've got additional Rustic stories to tell, type them up and send them to our editor, **Claude Newland**, at [rustic19@cox.net](mailto:rustic19@cox.net). We will publish them in future newsletters and post them on our Rustic website in a new section, entitled something like... "Additional Rustic War Stories." The Rustic stories submitted to the FAC history book "Cleared Hot III" will also be added.

**"LOST OVER LAOS"** (Here is a new story just submitted by **Bill Ernst, Rustic 04**).

Baron 52 was an EC-47 operating out of Ubon RTAFB. They were equipped with secret surveillance equipment used to help identify enemy tank movements down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. They were flying a night mission over Laos on 4 Feb 1973 when their aircraft was shot down. Onboard was a flight crew of four from the 361<sup>st</sup> Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron and four electronic warfare specialists from the 6994 Security Squadron. Controversy still remains as to whether there were any survivors. The complete story, and the controversy over whether any crewmembers may have survived the crash and been captured, is chronicled in the April 15, 2016 issue of "Stars and Stripes."



**Rustic 04, Bill Ernst, was involved in the initial SAR effort for Baron 52. Here is his story:**

The EC-47 was shot down over Laos and no crewmembers were recovered alive. One of the men on board was later identified from partial remains found at the site. He had been declared dead in a letter that was sent to his family in February 1973. The family wants his status changed to Missing in Action.

The loss of this USAF aircrew and plane will always be in my mind. While I was assigned as the commander of the 23 TASS unit at Ubon RTAFB, Thailand, flying OV-10 aircraft, we shared our operations building on the flight line with the 361<sup>st</sup> Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron, which flew the EC-47 aircraft.

When the EC-47 did not return from the night flight, rescue procedures were begun at the local headquarters. It was determined that our OV-10 aircraft were the ideal method to begin the aerial search, so pilots were assigned search areas. I took off that next morning, before dawn, to search a segment of Laos. Several hours into the mission I saw what appeared to be an airplane on the ground. A closer look confirmed that I had found the missing airplane. I began an immediate climb to the maximum height that I could obtain and called our tactical headquarters on my UHF radio. After contact was made I switched to the Secure Communications Mode and gave my report of the site and surrounding terrain features. I remained there for a long period answering questions and then returned to Ubon RTAFB, where I gave another report by secure telephone to the headquarters.

The next morning, I was not on the flying schedule so I added myself to fly with one of our pilots. We took off and proceeded to the crash site. At the appointed time just before dawn we saw two rescue helicopters and their fighter escort approaching the site at very low altitude. One helicopter went to the crash site and hovered. We could see the PJ as he lowered himself the last few feet to the airplane.



Small arms ground fire began and he was forced to climb back to the helicopter. A short time later the rescue attempt was terminated.

I am proud of the fact that I was involved with the rescue attempt but sorry that the rescue was not successful. **Bill Ernst, Rustic 04**

**HELLO VIETNAAAM!** From **Doc Thomas**. My first night in Bien Hoa was at the Rash hooch where I stayed. They were having a "wine-tasting" party before driving across the base to the old O'club. We had 3 in front (4 in back and 2 on the hood), while I held Ram-jet (**Roger Dodd**) on the side. Half way there, I dropped him. (*Hmmm....so that explains Roger' odd behavior?*)

At the club they taught me a new "hymn", which we sang to my new commander. Next morning was hell.

*Anybody else have a story?*

**TWO RUSTIC ALPHA MEMBERS UNITE AFTER 45 YEARS.** **Tom Wolford** and **Jim Frick** served together at Rustic Alpha on Nui Ba Den mountain. Tom now lives in Navarre, FL which is just west of Ft Walton Beach, FL and Jim lives in White Bear Lake, MN. When Jim visited the Emerald Coast in January it was time for a long overdue rendezvous. The two of them, along with local Rustics **Claude Newland** and **Lendy Edwards**, got together for lunch at Pompano Joes on the beach near Destin.

Jim sent Lendy the following message:

Lendy, thanks for the photo. I really enjoyed lunch today. Hard to believe it has been 45 years or since we served over there. Lendy, you look great...just need to take care of that shin. We are planning on coming down (to Ft Walton Beach, FL) again next January 2017 so we should plan on getting together with the wives if at all possible. It was good seeing you all again and especially seeing **Tom Wolford** who trained me to work radios up on Rustic Alpha. Best to all, **Jim Frick, Rustic Alpha**



**L-R: Claude Newland, Tom Wolford, Lendy Edwards, and Jim Frick.**  
Jan 15, 2016, at Pompano Joes.

This is **Roger Dodd** visiting **Dave Kurau** and me at Firebase Katum during the Cambodian operation (pre-Rustic operation). The Issue FAC commander asked the FACs if they would like to spend a day with us to see how the field operations were like. Roger visited us twice and another FAC came out once.

## LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS

**From Don Echelberger, Rustic 10**

Hi Claude, Your email about the brass horn reminded me that I need to check in -- I'm way overdue!

I'm sending this from Iceland where we've been since mid-

**ROGER DODD AT KOTUM.** Here are a some photos of Rustic **Roger Dodd** that just surfaced. This was before Roger became a Rustic. The photos were sent by **Tom Wolford** who later became a Rustic Alpha guy on Nui Ba Den mountain. Thanks Tom for forwarding these to us. Does anyone else have photos they have not shared with us? If so, keep 'em coming.

From  
**Tom Wolford.**

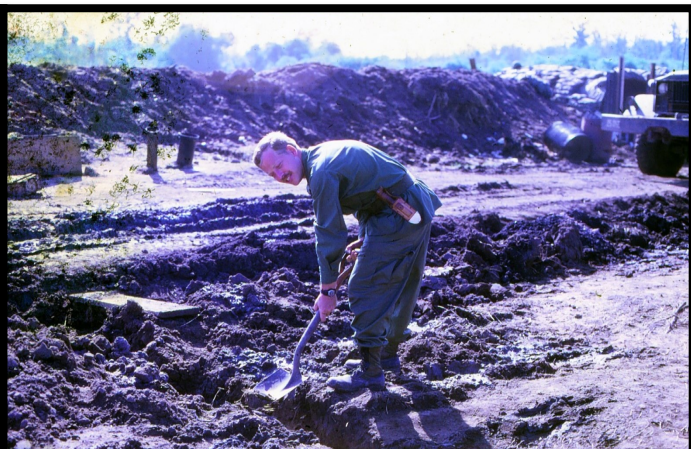


**Roger and the Chaplain at Katum**





**The well-equipped fire support base has toilet paper**



**Not sure what Roger is doing but!!!!**

summer after completing the sale of our Mary Esther, Florida house. We planned to sell our Iceland guest house as well, but the deal fell through when Katrin's nephew couldn't sell his big house, so we're still going strong with a house full of European university graduate student interns. Our daughter, her husband (Chris) and the 3 grandchildren spent a snowy Christmas with us, and our plan to return to the Waterscape beach condo has been delayed until early March as a new group of interns arrives here next month.

Apologies for not being able to make the Ft Worth reunion (again!). Sounds like I missed a good one. I've also had to turn down an invite to the "reopening" of the American Air Museum in Britain (Duxford) that wants more info about the items I donated before leaving England. If you read the attachment, they seem quite interested in our 'party suits' and more details about our mission and personal experiences in SEA. I think sending them one of our extra copies of the Rustic coffee table book might be a good idea. (A shameless plug for the Rustics.)

This is starting to get a bit 'long winded' so I'll wish you and family a belated happy new year, and tack on the Duxford email (and my reply). **Don Echelberger**

#### **From Mike Gagne, Rustic Kilo**

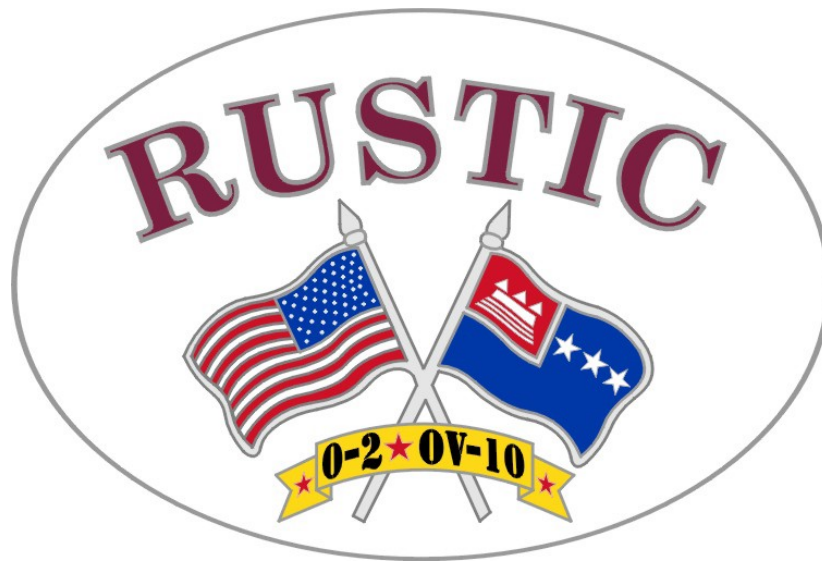
Hi Claude. I'm not traveling much these days but I do plan on the reunion next year. My youngest son lives in North Carolina and plan on stopping by to see him too at the same time.

Only the best to you and yours. **Mike Gagne**

#### **FAC CALENDER:**

**Next All-FAC Reunion**, Williamsburg, Virginia, 4-8 Oct 2016. Details posted at: [www.fac-assoc.org](http://www.fac-assoc.org).

**Next Rustic Reunion**, Ft Walton Beach, Florida, 19-22 Oct 2017. Details to be posted in Spring 2017 at: [www.rustic.org](http://www.rustic.org).



**Rustic Reunion**  
**19-22 Oct 2017**  
**Ft Walton Beach, Florida**

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Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Health & Wellness:** Doc Thomas, [shialary@msn.com](mailto:shialary@msn.com)  
**Database:** Lendy Edwards, [lendy@cox.net](mailto:lendy@cox.net)

*Merry Christmas to all with wishes for a joyous and healthy New Year.*

This newsletter and an updated Rustic Roster is being emailed to ALL Rustics and to Rustic next-of-kin for whom we have an email address. A hardcopy is being mailed to association members who do not have an email.

**NEXT RUSTIC REUNION. Ft Walton Beach, Florida, 19-22 Oct 2017.** Save the date! This will be the Rustics 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary reunion. Our first reunion was in 1997. You don't want to miss this one. Start making plans now to attend.

Here's what to expect weather wise: On 23 Oct 2016 we had our second cold front move through. Daytime highs were in the high 70s to low 80s with low humidity. Lows were in the high 50s to low 60's. Nice! A reunion Schedule of Events will be posted on the Rustic website in May 2017. The Registration form will be mailed in the June 2017 newsletter and posted on our website.

A representative from the 19 Weapons Squadron, Nellis AFB plans to attend our reunion and give us an update on what they are doing. at Nellis AFB.

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE.

Well, one of the sad things about getting older is losing friends. I am sure many of you, like me, have attended far too many funerals in 2016. Losing friends and comrades makes me realize how special those relationships have been, and makes me want to work harder on maintaining those friends and relatives I still have. Once they are gone, it is too late to try and mend fences or tell them how much they have meant to us. (See the "stats article" which details we are losing 290 VN vets a day.) This newsletter details several Rustics who have gone wheels up for the last time. In those cases where we knew of the passing, we made extra effort to have a Rustic representative at the service. Feedback from loved ones gives a clear indication on how much those efforts to attend have meant to them. My thanks to those old Rustics who have made the extra effort to show their respect for our departed brothers. On a less somber note, I am gratified to see several active duty USAF units making special efforts to keep the Rustic history alive. The world famous Flying Tigers, the 74<sup>th</sup> FS, now at Moody AFB and still flying A-10s, is working on a heritage wall. They have been using the Rustic call sign for over 12 years. Scheduling some old Rustics to visit has been difficult due to the 74<sup>th</sup>'s schedule, but we will keep working and will advertise the date once we get it. And the 19<sup>th</sup> WPS at Nellis AFB is also using the Rustic call sign, and you can read more about that in this letter. Finally, this letter would not be possible without the continuing effort and dedication of our long time editor, Claude Newland, Rustic 19. Thanks Claude! And from the Aitken household to yours, Carol and I send our prayers for a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year. Keep the blue side up!"





**ROSTER UPDATES.** Please review your personal information on the accompanying Rustic Roster that is being sent to you via email (or hardcopy if you don't have email.). Please send any corrections or updates to our Database Keeper, **Lendy Edwards**, at [lendy@cox.net](mailto:lendy@cox.net) or 850-651-6767. *Thanks.*

**KOMPONG CHAM CHARITIES AND ORPHANAGE (Edwards).** See the Second Quarter report on our web page. On page 6 the letter from one of the orphanage girls gives an indication of what our funds are helping with. (Gives you a warm Fuzzy that we are helping). Note: Second Quarter and Third Quarter newsletters have also been posted to the web page.

**HISTORIAN REPORT. Jon Safley.** Now that my wife's cancer treatment is almost finished, I'm back in the saddle tying up the loose ends on the project to return Rustic book source materials to their "rightful owners." There are just a handful of Rustics I have yet to hear from so I'll "press-to-test" again and see if they respond. If not, I'll forward their materials to the Ft Worth Aviation Museum (FWAM). BTW, the majority of the Rustics requested that their material be forwarded to FWAM.

## SHORT BURSTS.

**1. Rustic Facebook page.** If you're not using the Rustic's new FACEBOOK site, you are probably missing out on a lot of Rustic communications. The site is called "Rustic FAC Family." It is a closed group. Anyone on Facebook can find the group and see who's in it but **only members** can see the posts. Also, for the time being, any member of the group can add/approve members. Here's the link. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/702300539793648/>

**2. Visit to 74th Flying Tigers Fighter Squadron Pending.** The Rustics would like to plan a visit to the 74<sup>th</sup> FS, Moody AFB, sometime in the first half of 2017. The 74 FS A-10s use the Rustic callsign when flying their FAC missions. We have two copies of our revised Rustic book to present to them. If you are interested in making this trip, or would like to learn more about the trip, contact **Doug Aitken** at [daitken@nc.rr.com](mailto:daitken@nc.rr.com) or (910) 295-5801.

**3. Hurlburt OV-10 tail # 626.** Earlier this year the Rustic Association donated \$1,000 to the Hurlburt Air Park earmarked to help find (or fund) a center line tank and ordnance pods to be loaded on the aircraft. **Lt Sean Col Wade**, Air Park Committee Chairman, recently reported, "At this time we have been unable to locate suitable tanks or pods to mount on the aircraft. Our historian is continuing to work with the AF Museum to locate these assets." *We'll keep you posted.*

**IN REMEMBRANCE.** Sadly, we have lost four Rustics this year:

**Walter Friedhofen, Rustic Romeo (L) (with Claude Newland.)** As reported in our June 2016 newsletter Wally made his final flight on April 9 in Springfield, MO, after a valiant struggle with cancer. Our thanks go to **Jim "Magnet Ass" Seibold** and **Dave Van Dyke** for representing all the Rustics.



**Leo "Jack" Otis, Rustic India, Takes Final Flight, 16 June**



2016. Jack served briefly as an interpreter with the Rustics at Bien Hoa AB, Sep-Oct 1971. He then went on to work for the Tilly FACs. The Rustics received word of Jack's passing from **John Charlton** who read the obituary on Together We Served. Unfortunately, **John Charlton** and the Rustics learned of Jack's passing after the memorial service had already been held.

A memorial service was held Sunday, June 19, 2016 at the Hillcrest Mausoleum Outdoor Chapel, 1000 Hwy 544 Conway, SC. The family received friends 6:00pm-8:00pm Saturday, June 18 at Burroughs Funeral Home, 3558 Old Kings Hwy Murrells

Inlet, SC. Condolences can be made at [www.burroughsfh.com](http://www.burroughsfh.com)

**Dave Van Dyke, Rustic 04**, Takes Final Flight, Jul 17, 2016. **Susan Van Dyke** contacted the Rustics on Jul 17 to tell us of Dave's passing. Dave was one of the original eight OV-10 Rustics at Bien Hoa AB. A number of Rustics attended his memorial service. **Johnny Drury** provided the following report.

Services were held for **Dave** on Sunday morning, 24 Jul, in Kansas City. Susan and the Van Dyke Family expressed their appreciation for such a large Rustic representation. Representing the Rustics were **Claude Newland**, **Jim** and **Diane Seibold**, **Mack** and **Mary Jo McGarvey**, **Greg** and **Barbara Freix**, **Sharon Friedhofen**, **Johnny Drury**, and **Roger Dodd**.

During the memorial service **Jim Seibold** presented the guests with an explanation of our "Nickel on the Grass" tradition which was conducted earlier by each attending Rustic by placing a nickel in Dave's coffin. **Claude Newland** also remembered Dave with a short presentation telling of Dave being Claude's first Rustic roommate and of the humorous antics for which Dave was very well known. Dave's ceremony was concluded with full military honors including presentation of the American flag to Susan by an Air Force Honor Guard, the playing of taps, and a final gun salute.

Susan and family honored the guests with a follow-on luncheon attended by the almost 180 family and friends. Susan says she plans to attend the 2017 Rustic Reunion, perhaps traveling there with **Sharon Friedhofen**. A slow hand salute to Rustic 04.



**Joe Vaillancourt, Rustic H**, Takes Final Flight, Aug 9 2016. Joe served with the Rustics Jun 1970-Feb 1971. He was one of the first four interpreters to volunteer for the Rustic mission. Amazingly, it was only four hours from the time he was first briefed on the Rustic mission (to see if he was interested in volunteering) until he was strapped in the backseat of an OV-10 flying his first Rustic mission.

**Ron Dandeneau** advised us of Joe's passing. "Just dropping a line to make sure that you got the word about Joe's passing in my home town of Berlin, NH. I read about it in our hometown newspaper. He apparently passed away on 9 Aug at the St Vincent De Paul Nursing Home in Berlin, NH. The funeral service was on Monday 15 Aug. Arrangements were made by the Fleury-Patry Funeral Home, 72 High Street, Berlin, NH, [www.fleury-patry.com](http://www.fleury-patry.com).



**Roger Hamann** added, "A couple of previously scheduled appointments prevented me from attending **Joe Vaillancourt's** funeral on Monday but I managed to attend the wake, Sunday 14 Aug. Joan and I attended Joe and Margaret's wedding nine years ago. When she was alone for a second this afternoon, we went over and re-introduced ourselves. Margaret obviously didn't remember us but when I introduced myself as a fellow Rustic, her face lit up and she immediately motioned for her son and daughters to come over. Needless to say, the family was very honored and pleased to have a representative from the Rustics there to pay respects to their husband/step-father. Joe's stepson, Clark, a veteran himself, was particularly touched by this fact. Joe was wearing the Rustic pin on his lapel. I rendered our fellow Rustic brother a slow hand salute and bid him safe travels on his final flight. A sympathy card on behalf of all Rustics was left for the family."

*The above remembrances highlight how important it is for each Rustic to leave some sort of instructions for their family members to ensure the Rustics are notified upon a Rustic's passing. We are brothers-in-arms and brothers want to know.*

#### **WINGMAN SUPPORT. Four Rustics have had health issues recently:**

**George Larson, Rustic Uniform**. "Lunchbox" recently had a re-occurrence of his fire coral poisoning. Apparently, according to **Rog Hamann**, this happens every couple of years.

**Bob Harris, Rustic 33**, has had a hell of a time these past months. **Don Mercer** has been posting fairly regular updates on the Rustic Family Facebook page, with the last one being Sep 16.

—**From Roger Hamann**, 19 Oct 16. I went to visit **Joe Garand**, Rustic Echo, today on the occasion of his



82nd birthday. Joe is in a rehab facility after he fell last week and broke his hip. He was laughing tears by the time Joan and I left. 'Always great to see my old NCOIC but it's also a reminder that none of us are getting any younger. We had to show off our common "sense of style" in footwear. I recently had some tendon and ligament damage, hence my new boot. Rustics forever! Nice foot ware Roger! In the photo to the right, L-R **Joe Gerand** and **Roger Hamann**, 19 Oct 16



**O-2A TAIL MARKING QUESTION from the FACNET July 7, 2016, "recine123@gmail.com [FACNET].**

I am curious if any O-2's had any special marking on the tail fins besides the tail # and "USAF", i.e. logos, unit markings, etc.? I'm restoring the right hand tail boom and fin from aircraft 68-10868. Unfortunately, it's the only major component left of this aircraft aside from a flap and nose gear doors. The rest was cut up and scrapped by an aviation school near Boston a couple of years ago, and that's all I was able to salvage.

I don't have the history of this aircraft, aside from it last being with the 549th Tactical Air Support Training Squadron at Patrick AFB until 1986 when it went to civil registry prior to being given to the aviation school.

It would be nice to see period pics of some aircraft in service in Vietnam c. 1967-1971 to get some idea of markings.

*Can any of you help with photos or information on tail # 68-10868? Was it a Rustic bird? Red Marker FAC Gary Willis reports that Joe Baugher's website (joebaugher.com) has tail numbers for virtually all military aircraft from WW11 on. His site shows 68-10868 as going to civil registry as N4101P on May 25, 1991.*

**THE 19 WEAPONS SQUADRON IS THE SUCCESSOR TO THE 19th TASS.** At different times this past year **Shad Kimball** and **Doug Aitken** (and his Grove City College fraternity reunion group) were hosted by the 19 WS at Nellis AFB. The 19 WPS is now the successor to the 19th TASS, and, as you recall, the Rustics belonged to the 19 TASS at Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam.

The 19th WPS is a non-flying unit, assigned to the **USAF Weapons School** at Nellis AFB, Nevada. The squadron was first activated as the 19th Observation Squadron in March 1942. The 19th originally flew antisubmarine missions during World War II, then moved to China in 1944 to begin observation missions in support of Chinese ground forces. It later flew resupply missions to resistance forces operating behind enemy lines in French Indochina.

The squadron was redesignated the 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron, then organized in July 1963. From 1963 through 1968 the 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron flew forward air support and observation missions over Vietnam. The Rustics were under its banner, as well as the Sundog and Tilly FACs from June 1970 to October 1971. That year, its mission was transferred to Osan AB, South Korea in 1972, where it provided Eighth US Army and Republic of Korea ground forces with aerial reconnaissance and close air support.

The host for **Doug Aitken's** group visit was Captain **Bill "Torn" Tompkins**. Next Fall Torn will be attending school at Maxwell AFB when the Rustics hold their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion in Ft Walton Beach, FL. and Torn said he plans to join us for the weekend.



*At their request, the Rustic Board has approved the 19 WS to become an addressee to all future Rustic newsletters.*



**The 19 WEAPONS SQUADRON BAR NAMED IN HONOR OF RUSTIC JERRY AUTH.** Captain Bill "Torn" Tompkins, Rustic O, reports, "We recently named our squadron bar 'Jerry's' in honor of Capt Jerry Auth who flew the first Rustic mission. I know that he has passed away, but do you by any chance have contact information for his family? We are interested in getting a picture to hang honoring him. In addition to the picture we want to frame an excerpt from "Call Sign Rustic" describing the first mission. We are in the process of getting the walls and floor remodeled, I will send you pictures once it is complete."

*Doug Aitken has been coordinating with the 19 WS and Jerry's next-of-kin regarding this request. Upon hearing the news, Gloria Auth, Jerry's wife, replied:*

"Well Jerry has an AWAC training center named after him, a tree in the park, a Silver Star posthumously, and I am finally taking him back to Pittsburgh to the military Cemetery of the Alleghenies. We were both born and raised in Pittsburgh and I've just been waiting for the right time. Guess 23 years later is enough time, and a bar to boot!"

**RUSTIC DAVE PARSONS COORDINATES 2017 MEDICAL MISSIONS TO HONDURAS.** David Parsons, Rustic 08, is heading up two medical teams to Honduras in 2017 which will share the Good News while using caring medical, surgical and dental care as their platform. They will be in Honduras 22 Aug -4 Sep 2017. The medical teams will have a village component each day so the non-surgical part of the team can offer medical care in rural villages within about an hour drive from the hospital. In 2016 they went to villages in the mountains around 3600' elevation. (Mosquitoes don't like altitudes above 2000'). Guaimaca, where their mission work and hospital are located, is 2600'. Nice!

Dave reports, "We will bring General Surgery, Orthopedics, Ob-Gyn, ENT and Oral Surgery. We need many Anesthesiologists and CRNA's and tons of nurses and surgtechs. We also need dentists and medical doctors. Please help us recruit. But we also need support personnel just like you! Let me know if you are interested. Adios, from Honduras." David can be reached at: 803 487 9434, [www.parsonsmministries.org](http://www.parsonsmministries.org). Donations can be sent to TIME for Christ Global Ministries, 3027 Split Rock Circle, Bulverde TX 78163. We are a 501(c)3 organization so donations are 100% tax deductible.

**STATISTICS FROM THE VIETNAM WAR**, posted on FACNET by AL Matheson/Nail 213, FAC Association Historian:

"Of the 2,709,918 Americans who served in Vietnam, Less than 850,000 are estimated to be alive today, with the youngest American Vietnam veteran's age approximated to be 60 years old." If you're alive and reading this you are among 1/3rd of all the U.S. Vets who served in Vietnam. Only a few of us will survive by 2025. 390 VN vets die a day. So in only 6-10 years... 2190 days... from today, you will be lucky to be alive. (These statistics were taken from a variety of sources to include: The VFW Magazine, the Public Information Office, and the HQ CP Forward Observer - 1st Recon)

#### **STATISTICS FOR INDIVIDUALS IN UNIFORM AND IN COUNTRY VIETNAM VETER-**

**ANS:** 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam Era (August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975). 8,744,000 GIs were on active duty during the war (Aug 5, 1964-March 28, 1973).

2,709,918 Americans served in Vietnam, this number represents 9.7% of their generation.

3,403,100 (Including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the broader Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters). 2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam (Jan. 1, 1965 - March 28, 1973). Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964. Of the 2.6 million, between 1-1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack.

7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam. Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (April 30, 1968).

**AGENT ORANGE.** Agent Orange is taking a huge toll on Vietnam Veterans with most deaths somehow related to Agent Orange exposure. No one dies of Agent Orange. They die from the exposure which purportedly causes ischemic Heart Disease and failure, Lung Cancer, Kidney failure or COPD related disorders.

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**CASUALTIES:** The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1958. He was with the 509th Radio Research Station. Davis Station in Saigon was named for him.

Hostile deaths: 47,378

Non-hostile deaths: 10,800 Total: 58,202 (Includes men formerly classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties). Men who have subsequently died of wounds account for the changing total. 8 nurses died -- 1 was KIA. 61% of the men killed were 21 or younger. 11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old. Of those killed, 17,539 were married.

Average age of men killed: 23.1 years Total Deaths: 23.11 years. Enlisted: 50,274; 22.37 years. Officers: 6,598; 28.43 years. Warrants: 1,276; 24.73 years. E1: 525; 20.34 years.

Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old. The oldest man killed was 62 years old. Highest state death rate: West Virginia - 84.1% (national average 58.9% for every 100,000 males in 1970). Wounded: 303,704 -- 153,329 hospitalized + 150,375 injured requiring no hospital care. Severely disabled: 75,000, -- 23,214: 100% disabled; 283 lost limbs; 1,081 sustained multiple amputations. Amputation or crippling wounds to the lower extremities were 300% higher than in WWII and 70% higher than Korea. Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4% compared to 5.7% in WWII. Missing in Action: 2,338 POWs: 766 (114 died in captivity) As of January 15, 2014, there are 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for, from the Vietnam War.

**DRAFTES VS. VOLUNTEERS:** 25% (648,500) of total forces in country were draftees. (66% of U.S. armed forces members were drafted during WWII). Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam. Reservists killed: 5,977 National Guard: 6,140 served: 101 died. Total draftees (1965 - 73): 1,728,344. Actually served in Vietnam: 38% Marine Corps Draft: 42,633. Last man drafted: June 30, 1973.

**RACE AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND:** 88.4% of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian; 10.6% (275,000) were black; 1% belonged to other races. 86.3% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian (includes Hispanics); 12.5% (7,241) were black; 1.2% belonged to other races. 170,000 Hispanics served in Vietnam; 3,070 (5.2% of total) died there. 70% of enlisted men killed were of North-west European descent. 86.8% of the men who were killed as a result of hostile action were Caucasian; 12.1% (5,711) were black; 1.1% belonged to other races. 14.6% (1,530) of non-combat deaths were among blacks. 34% of blacks who enlisted volunteered for the combat arms. Overall, blacks suffered only 12.5% of the deaths in Vietnam, at a time when the percentage of blacks of military age was 13.5% of the total population.

Religion of Dead: Protestant -- 64.4%; Catholic -- 28.9%; other/none -- 6.7%

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS.** Vietnam veterans have a lower unemployment rate than the same non-vet age groups. Vietnam veterans' personal income exceeds that of our non-veteranage group by more than 18 percent. 76% of the men sent to Vietnam were from lower middle/working class backgrounds. Three-fourths had family incomes above the poverty level; 50% were from middle income backgrounds. Some 23% of Vietnam vets had fathers with professional, managerial or technical occupations. 79% of the men who served in Vietnam had a high school education or better when they entered the military service. 63% of Korean War vets and only 45% of WWII vets had completed high school upon separation. Deaths by region per 100,000 of population: South -- 31%, West--29.9%; Midwest -- 28.4%; Northeast -- 23.5%.

**DRUG USAGE & CRIME.** There is no difference in drug usage between Vietnam Veterans and non-Vietnam Veterans of the same age group. (Source: Veterans Administration Study) Vietnam Veterans are less likely to be in prison - only one-half of one percent of Vietnam Veterans have been jailed for crimes. 85% of Vietnam Veterans made successful transitions to civilian life.

**WINNING & LOSING.** 82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of lack of political will. Nearly 75% of the public agrees it was a failure of political will, not of arms.

**HONORABLE SERVICE.** 97% of Vietnam-era veterans were honorably discharged. 91% of actual Vietnam War veterans and 90% of those who saw heavy combat are proud to have served their country. 74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome. 87% of the populace now say they hold Vietnam Veterans in high esteem.

**GOT ANY MORE RUSTIC STORIES TO TELL? IF SO, WE WANT 'EM!** If you've got additional Rustic stories to tell, type them up and send them to our editor, Claude Newland, at [rustic19@cox.net](mailto:rustic19@cox.net). We will publish them in future newsletters and post them on our Rustic website in a new section, entitled

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something like...“Additional Rustic War Stories.” The Rustic stories submitted to the FAC history book “Cleared Hot III” will also be added.

## LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS

**From Si Dahle**, Rustic 11, [sidahle@icloud.com](mailto:sidahle@icloud.com)

I got your note on the June newsletter. I'm doing great...health wise...turned 85 on last birthday. I had a visit with my regular doc and heart doc. They both said, “You're doing great. Don't change what you're doing” So I said, “Thank you, I haven't been doing much--about what an 85 yr old should.” I do read all the info I can get about the RUSTIC'S. I did see on TV about OV-10s in Iraq but that was all. I hope this gets to you. *Editor. Si, glad to hear that you are doing well. Keep your mach up and stay in touch.*



**From Tim Eby**, Rustic 40, [teby540@hotmail.com](mailto:teby540@hotmail.com)

Subject: Loss of Rustic Interpreter Joe Vaillancourt

Claude, a slow hand salute to a pretty courageous guy. I was a Rustic during August 1970 and must have flown with Joe. But I can't remember any of the individuals; just that they were super quick to learn the business. I remember taking one or more on their first mission after arriving at Bien Hos. The entirety of their combat training was when I climbed up their steps, pointed out the ejection handle and explained that if I say the word, “bailout,” they were to just reach down and pull that thing upward. I felt bad about that, but they sure caught on quickly.

**From Roger Hamann**, Rustic Yankee, 10/23/16. I received this message on facebook from a VFW post in Cambodia and will pass it along. It is from **Roy Day**, Phnom Penh.

I am the VFW Quartermaster for Post 11575 the Mayaguez Memorial Post in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. I'm sending this because I see that you are associated with the Rustics. We would like you to know that we are here, in Cambodia, and would be happy to help you or your association members if you visit Cambodia or need assistance with anything in Cambodia.

We are looking for VFW members, especially members at large, or anyone else who would like to make this their home post. We have slightly over 100 members. Most live in the US but choose to affiliate with us due to their personal connection to Cambodia and SE Asia.

Please forward this on to anyone who might be interested. I can be reached at [gm11575@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:gm11575@vfwdeptpacific.org)

Our Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/groups/VFW11575](https://www.facebook.com/groups/VFW11575) . Respectfully Submitted, **Roy Day**  
Mayaguez Memorial VFW Post 11575, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (38 members).

*The Rustic Board has approved adding an internet link to the Phnom Penh's VFW Post 11575 website to the Rustic's website Links Page.*

**From Doug Aitken**, Rustic 16. Fellow Rustics, I would like to share what I received in the mail yesterday from **Margaret Vaillancourt**, widow of Rustic Hotel, **Joe Vaillancourt**.

"Dear Douglas: You don't know how happy you made me when I read your letter. And thank you for serving our country (Rustic 16). And I'm grateful for my son-in-law to have been able to reach a Rustic & share a nickel on the grass. And yes, **Roger and Joan Hamann came**. I gave him a big hug for being with us for all the Rustics. Joe would have been so pleased. He talked a lot about the Rustics. So thank you again for your lovely letter. Rustic Hotel's wife, **Margaret Vaillancourt**"

Guys, I know how much our efforts mean to those left behind when one of our group takes their final flight west. Thanks in this case to Roger and Joan for making that extra effort....it obviously meant a lot to Joe's



family. And a big thanks to EVERYONE who has been able to "throw a nickel on the grass" to any of our departed Rustics. Kudos to you all. **Doug**

**From Captain Charles J. "WAE" Cole, Capt USAF ACC 74 FS, Moody AFB,**  
**[charles.cole.23@us.af.mil](mailto:charles.cole.23@us.af.mil)**

**Doug Aitken**, I got the CD. Thank you very much. I am still sorting through those. I finally have had time to read through all three chapters (Rustic book) and they are great This chapter 3 I think is where I look at getting some stories/history for the wall to go along with all the great pictures I've got to choose from.

I remember you mentioning that there are three Rustics that never made it home. If you could send me their information for our memorial wall, that would be great. I'll get back to you when I've finished going through the pictures and if I have any more questions.

Also, we were thinking of trying to having a designated roll call and inviting as many of the previous Rustic FAC's that can make it to Moody. I'm not sure how many would be able to go or what the interested would be in coming to Moody, maybe getting out on the bombing range and into the A-10 sims, and then of course, to the bar for roll call and stories, even if it's only a couple of you guys. I've already run that idea tentatively though the commander/DO and they are on board if that's something you think would be well received by your guys.

**THUNDER!/ATTACK! Capt C. J. "WAE" Cole, 74 FS Chief of Training**

#### **FAC CALENDER:**

**Next Rustic Reunion**, Ft Walton Beach, Florida, 19-22 Oct 2017. Details to be posted in Spring 2017 at: [www.rustic.org](http://www.rustic.org). Registration information will be posted on line and in the Jun 2017 Rustic newsletter.

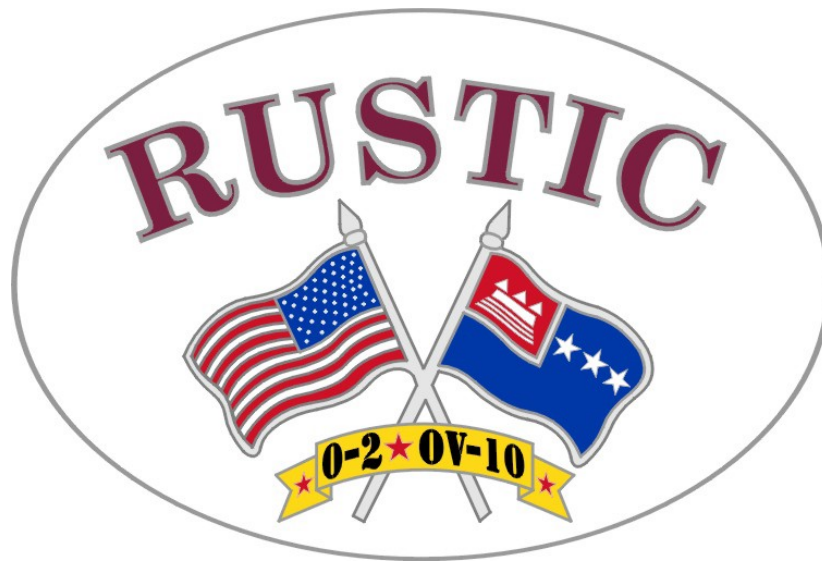
**Next All-FAC Reunion**, Seattle, Washington, date TBA, Fall 2018. Details will be posted at: [www.fac-assoc.org](http://www.fac-assoc.org).

#### **LATE BREAKING NEWS!!**

**David W. Tisdale, Jr.** , In February of this year, we put out a request to see if anyone had any information about David W. Tisdale Jr. a Rustic Intel Officer at Ubon in 1972. Rob Shinafelt responded with an obituary published by the Baltimore Sun on July 26, 2011. There are too many facts that seem to match perfect with what we know about Dave. If anyone has an old order that has him listed, please provide Lendy with his SSN. He can verify through the SSN death rolls if he is deceased. The Obit follows:

David W. Tisdale, Jr., 68, Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, son, brother, uncle and friend, went to be with the Lord Friday, July 22, 2011 from his home in Orlando, Florida. David was born November 13, 1942 in Brooklyn, NY. He was a graduate of The [University of Florida](http://www.ufl.edu), and was commissioned by The United States Air Force and served from 1964 to 1984. David also served during the Vietnam conflict in 1971. From 1984 to 2004, David continued to serve his country by working as a civilian for the United States Government in numerous capacities such as a Senior Staff Policy and Intelligence Officer and Management Consultant. David is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Sue; daughters, Lisa Lorraine Tisdale-Salli and Kimberly Dawn Tisdale of St. Petersburg, FL; grandson, John Richard Jablon, Jr.; granddaughters, Samatha Lorraine, Nicole Elizabeth Hoen and Jessica Crowley; great granddaughter, Breanna Elizabeth Louise Jablon; brother Richard Murdock Tisdale of Melrose, FL; sister Barbara Ann Tisdale of New York, NY; and numerous beloved nieces and nephews. Visitation for David will be Wednesday, July 27th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at The Baldwin Fairchild Conway Chapel. Immediately following, a Funeral Mass to celebrate David's life is scheduled at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, 4545 E. Orlando, FL 32804. (407) 277-6700. Please view and sign the family guest book at [www.baldwinfairchild.com](http://www.baldwinfairchild.com)





# **Rustic 20th Anniversary Reunion**

## **19-22 Oct 2017**

### **Ft Walton Beach, Florida**

Rustic FAC Association  
4033 Indian Trail Drive  
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED