



*315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association
315th Airlift Wing Excellence over the Years
Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina*

31 March 2017, #6

Visit our website at: <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>

C-141 Model Aircraft Has Been Refurbished

The C-141 model that was displayed outside the base headquarters for many years was moved to the entrance of the bowling alley when it was replaced by the C-17 model. The bowling alley requested it because their name is "Starlifter Lanes." Over the years, the model fell into despair. Recently however, members of the sheet metal and corrosion control shop of the 437th MXS volunteered their time to restore the model.

The model was pressure washed, then the entire surface was sanded and all cracks and holes were repaired. Next, the multi stage painting process, including touch ups, was completed and, finally, the appropriate aircraft markings were added. The tail number chosen for the model was 40652 in memory of the crew who lost their lives in Knoxville, Tennessee on 31 August 1982. The model aircraft honored was a C-141B. The aircraft was flying on a Special Operations Low Level I training mission over Tennessee where it crashed into a mountain called John's Knob. The aircraft was found the next day on 1 September 1982 and all nine crew members had perished.

I checked out the C-141 model last week and it's looking great. A large plaque has been placed at the bottom of the pedestal listing all nine of the crew that were on board. They are: Major Robert E. Meeks, Capt Robert E. Down, Major Elmer E. McNeily, Capt Allan W. Gist, SMgt Monty G. W. Nicholson, TSgt Billy J. Canter, SSgt Wayne R. Huggins, Jr., SSgt Daniel L. Vanarsdall, Sgt Jack C. Sweatman

The ESGR Presents Three Great Patriot Awards

Three recipients have been awarded the Patriots Award of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). Those selected for the award were Sheriff of Charleston County Al Cannon, supervisor officer Lt John Plunkett, and nominator employee USAR SGT Thomas Junkin. ESGR Area 1 volunteers are Area Chair Chief Dick Fuller and Deputy Chair Steve Wichmann. Steve is the Executive Vice President of Heritage Trust, sponsors our Heritage Trust Luncheons for the 315th AW Alumni members. Steve attends our luncheons.

Sheriff Al Cannon supervises the Charleston County Sheriff Department and he's a member of the BAR Association. Al is also an Air Force reservist but not in the 315th Wing. He's an IMA reservist with the OSI and was called to serve an active duty tour in Afghanistan as a translator after 9/11. He speaks the Arabic language fluently.

Facilities of interest at Joint Base Charleston SC

JB Charleston Outdoor Recreation Center & RV Park – Each spring many of our Alumni members out of the area begin asking about the RV parks in the area. You may wish to call the RV Park at (843) 963-1672 here on base first to see what is available. Office hours are Mon-Fri 0900 – 1700. After hours, you may find a site and make yourself comfortable. You may check in the following day at the Outdoor Recreation Center according to the management.

Fitness Center, now designated at Fitness & Sports (843) 963-3347— Several updates have been made and the new equipment is the very best in the physical fitness industry. There's also plenty to choose from and there's lots of extra room to move around. The two racquetball courts and the basket court are still in place. There's a sauna in the men's and lady's locker room area. Personally I prefer to work out during duty hours with the troops. They're in great shape, have a good military appearance and they're all pumped up. The facility is open 24/7.

Starlifter Lanes -- They've been renovated and updated with a large and spacious lounge area and snack bar. It's still only two dollars for shoes and two dollars to bowl. Weekend hours: Sat 1:00 – 10:30 pm. Sun 1:00 – 6:00 pm. For further information call (843) 963-3315.

100th Anniversary of World War I

The end of World War I for the United States was 6 April 1917, one hundred years ago. There was a documentary with a lot of coverage about that war on TV. Some of us may still remember someone that served in that war. I had an uncle, Millard Brown, who served in France and I have many photos of him in action. I have one photo of him sitting behind his water cooled machine gun on a tripod. I also have his Army field handbook. My spouse takes those items to her World History class when it's time to teach World War I. This enhances the interest of the students. When this war is mentioned in conversations, what normally comes to mind is the famous fighter ace Eddie Rickenbacker, the JN-2 trainer aircraft, the Hat and Ring Squadron, the Red Baron, and the leader of that war General John "Black Jack" Pershing.

Obtaining a copy of your DD Form 214

The question about obtaining a copy of your DD Form 214 is a question that continues to arise on a regular basis, especially spouses and families of those who served in the 315th Airlift Wing that are deceased. Initially, you submitted a SF Form 120 to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) of Page Blvd in St Louis MO. A fire broke out in 1972 and destroyed many records that could not ever be recovered. After the fire they were transferred to microfilm. Currently you may get them online. More recently there has been a new updated digital process where you can go on their website and follow the instructions. Just type in National Personnel Records Center.

Final Fly-Bye

SMG George Michael "Mike" Counts, retired 317th ALS Chief Loadmaster, passed on 3 February 2017 at the age of 56, according to Lt Col Stan Davis, Commander. Mike was involved in an automobile accident and lost his life, as well as the lives of his spouse Cynthia M. Counts and his father George M. Counts, Sr. Mike was in the 315th Wing 31 years. Shellhoue Rivers Funeral Home in Aiken SC provided services to the family. You may sign the online guest book at www.shellhouseriversfuneralhome.com

Leutenant Colonel Eileen Smith Hadbavny, Flight Nurse, 31st / 315th AES, burial was at the Beaufort National Cemetery, Beaufort, SC on Thursday 30 March 2017 with full military honors. Eileen passed on 24 February 2017 in Charleston SC. A memorial service was held in Charleston and a second service was held in her hometown of Findlay, Ohio on 18 February. <http://www.redeemercharlestdon.net/>

Leutenant Colonel Richard "Dick" Cole, General James "Jimmy" Doolittle's co-pilot in the lead B-25 that bombed Tokyo after the Japanese bombed us at Pearl Harbor, is still alive at the age of 101, lives in Comfort, Texas, 55 miles from San Antonio. More later on this story.

In the next newsletter issue, we will be talking about our history and those that are deceased.

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