

315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association

315th Airlift Wing Excellence over the Years

Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, Alumni Association Newsletter
March/April 2013

<http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>

Sequestration and the Spending Cuts:

We're seeing it in the headline news every day. It will affect all of us, civil service, active service and retired. All the news that will eventually affect us may not always be published or aired in the main stream news media. So it's important that all of you send us any information you have on proposed spending cuts even though we may have that information already.

Proposed base closings around the country

Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City, LA, Home of the 2nd Bomb Wing, the largest bomb wing in the Air Force's Global Strike Command. Other bases, including those in Montana and Virginia could take over their operations if the base is trimmed or shut. **Population:** 5,372 active-duty, 1,534 reservists, 7,125 family members, 1,288 civilians.

Eglin Air Force Base, Okaloosa County, Fla. Home of the Air Force's Air Armament Center, distributing air combat weapons to the entire service. **Population:** 8,249 active-duty, 1,321 reservists, 21,500 family members, 5,180 civilians.

OTHERS: **Cherry Point Marine Air Station, Ft Benning, Ft Leonard Wood, Ft Riley, Ft Irwin, Ft Sill, and New London Naval Submarine Base.**

Federal Civil Service Employees may be working only four days a week, which would represent a 20% weekly cut in pay. The base commissaries may be closing an additional day each week.

You may click on the following Kiplinger link for the original article:

<http://www.kiplinger.com/article/business/T019-C000-S005-base-closings-around-the-country.html>

Retiree ID cards now have expiration dates: CMSgt (ret) Bob Strobel, former Chief of the 315th CBPO (personnel), informs us that blue retiree ID cards issued prior to December 2012 had the word “indef” instead of an expiration date. Since December, retiree cards issued have an expiration date effective the day before the retirees 65th birthday. Those who retired before the December card change took effect do not need to get a new ID card just because of the expiration date. Retirees who have the new card showing the expiration date will get a replacement card showing the indefinite status once they turn 65. <https://mypers.af.mil>

New co-pays for TRICARE pharmacy customers: All of you have probably received information in the mail about the rise in the co-pay cost of Rx under Tricare which went into effect in February 2013. Those of us that are over 65 and on TRICARE for Life have already seen an increase in our co-pays. Meds from a military hospitals and clinics will continue to be free for now. This information was received from SMSgt (ret) Ray Ardis, Contributing Editor, 315th Alumni Association Newsletter. For more information, visit: <http://www.tricare.mil/Costs/PrescriptionCosts.aspx> for more details. For more retiree news and information, please visit www.retirees.af.mil

Final Fly-bye

CMSgt (ret) Richard “Dick” Thomas passed on 13 February 2013 at the age of 82, and survived by his loving wife Connie Thomas of Ridgeville, SC. Dick was First Sergeant in the 300th Airlift Squadron for many years. He was well known within the 315th Wing, as he was very outgoing and pleasant at all times. Dick Fuller talked to Connie and was informed that services were to be private, family only. Chris Beiler said that he and Jim McDonald (both former flight engineers) sure had a fine time with the family one night reminiscing and telling stories about Richard’s life in Charleston. ***Dick was an active member of the 315th AW Alumni Association.***

TSgt (ret) Michael “Mike” Broz passed on 10 March 2013 at the age of 58, and survived by his loving wife Dixie Felder Broz of Ridgeville, SC. Mike was a former Loadmaster in the 701st Airlift Squadron. He was a volunteer firefighter and was responding to a fire call when his vehicle left the road on a sharp curve and hit a tree. He had a very impressive funeral service with a dozen fire trucks, 100 policemen & firemen, Air Force Honor Guard, 2 TV News crews, and a med flight helicopter flyover which did a dip like a salute at 100 feet and flew away. **CMSgt (ret) “Bundle Bill” Hamilton** said he flew lots of air drops with Mike and the late MSgt (ret) Elmo Jackson. Guest book: www.legacy.com/obituaries/

Family Member Deceased: SMSgt (ret) Ray Ardis, Sister, of Norton, Virginia passed.

Family Member with Serious Health Issues: Lt Col (ret) Derek Duke's spouse, **Pat**, was admitted to the hospital over the weekend with critical health issues. Good news is that we have received several messages on Facebook from Derek that she has continued to improve. In a more recent message Derek said, "your prayers are needed, but please realize they are being answered." *Lt Col (ret) Derek Duke, 701st AS Pilot*

Colonel Russell Fingar, 315th Vice Wing Commander, Retires

A formal retirement ceremony for **Colonel Fingar** was held at the Viper Hangar at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, and followed by a big retirement function with family, friends, and many members of the 315th Airlift Wing. *CMSgt (ret) Dick Fuller*

CMSgt Michael Peterson, former Senior Enlisted Advisor of the 315th Airlift Wing, received a Commanders Coin from Colonel Martha Meeker, 628th ABW Commander, during the 437th Wing Stand-Up on March 21, 2011. Chief Peterson was recognized for his excellent work as the Director of the Equal Opportunity Office. (Source: The Patriot, 25 March 2011) *SMSgt (ret) Ray Ardis, Contributing Newsletter Editor*

ROA Celebrates 90 Years of Service

On February 5, members and friends of the Reserve Officer's Association gathered at the historic Willard Hotel in Washington, DC, to stand together for **America's Reservists** by honoring our associations 90th Anniversary. *Lt Col (ret) Eileen Hadbavny, former Flight Nurse, 31st / 315th AES*

Lt Col (ret) Barry Straus recently celebrated his **70th birthday**. We wanted him to receive at least 70 cards celebrating 70 years of the good life! I sent mine late and you can too. If you should wish to join the happy crowd of well-wishers, his address is: 4980 Lambs Rd, N. Charleston, SC 29418 *Mike Speers & Barry's 315th AW friends*

ALUMNI BOARD SCHEDULED MEETINGS/HERITAGE TRUST SPONSORED LUNCHEONS FOR YEAR 2013

13 Apr, Sat, 09:30 Board Meeting, Maintenance Conference Room

4 May, Sat, 09:30 Board Meeting, Maintenance Conference Room

7 June, Fri, 09:30 Board Meeting, 11:00 hours, Luncheon at the Charleston Club

13 July, Sat, 09:30 Board Meeting, Maintenance Conference Room

10 Aug, 09:30 Board Meeting, Maintenance Conference Room

6 Sep, Fri, 09:30 Board Meeting, 11:00 hours, Luncheon at the Charleston Club

12 Oct, Sat, 09:30 Board Meeting, Maintenance Conference Room

2 Nov, Sat, 09:30 Board Meeting, Maintenance Conference Room

13 Dec, Fri, 09:30 Board Meeting, 11:00 hours, Luncheon at the Charleston Club

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The **Newsletters** are scheduled to be on this website on the following dates whenever possible, but there may be times when they will be posted at a later date.

1 May - 1 July - 1 Sep - 1 Nov - 1 Dec 2013

On 1 May 2013, we will be posting the names of all members of the 315th AW that are deceased. This will be a joint effort by many.

Special Fly-Bye --- *This is a late entry, by Lt Col (ret) Eileen Hadbvany, 31/315AES*

Evelyn Kowalchuck passed at the age of 93. *Evelyn was a flight nurse in World War II, and she is one of our own, having served in our 315th Troop Carrier Group. She was one of the very first flight nurses to land in Normandy, 3 days after the invasion on 9 June 1944. She was among 500 flight nurses evacuating wounded troops from Omaha Beach. A true American hero. We will miss her deeply. Her daughter April tells the story. Contact Eileen at: Eileen.Hadbavny@redcross.org*

The next newsletter will be posted on this website on 1 May 2012 at:

<http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>

Hope everyone's enjoying the early Spring time!

MSgt (ret) Del Oxford, Newsletter Editor

ddoxford@aol.com

1 attachment: Election Time

Election Time

The 315th Alumni Association is requesting Nominations for new officers and directors. Due to health problems and old age, we are looking for some new personnel. Most of the existing officers date back to the sixties and have done an outstanding job keeping the Alumni going. We are looking for some help to insure our organization continues to be a success.

The election will be held in June and we request the nominations be submitted by the end of May.

The following nominations are requested.

President _____

Vice President _____

Treasury _____

Secretary _____

Three Directors _____

These positions are for a two-year Term

Contact CMSgt (ret) George Shread at: glg_gas@tds.net

