



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

23 April 2020, Issue #3

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

COVID, continued

Today's front page headline news, the Charleston Post & Courier

Air Force preparing to fly virus patients

Reservists based in Charleston training for worldwide effort

Service members at Charleston Air Force Base are preparing and training for how to transport COVID-19 patients on C-17s without exposing fellow airmen and pilots to the novel coronavirus.

The training comes as more Air Force reservists from South Carolina are being deployed in the fight against the novel coronavirus.

Charleston Air Force Base also announced Tuesday that 10 reserve airmen with the 315th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron will be mobilized somewhere in America or Europe this week to help transport COVID-19 patients.

Air Mobility Command said the base would be the sole military installation that would train service members on how to use the Transport Isolation System, a piece of technology that protects patients from spreading contagious illnesses as they're transported on aircraft. It's also used to transport sick service members to and from hospitals and bases.

The Transportation Isolation System is the size of small college dorm. It has plastic walls and special air circulation valves so that crew members won't be exposed to the disease.

After the COVID-19 pandemic emerged in South Carolina in early March, SSgt Ranell Buenviaje of the 43rd AES at Travis had been an instructor less than a month, and was reassigned to Charleston to help with its Transportation Isolation System. He became an instructor shortly after. Buenviaje said "I feel like every generation has their moment of battle or trial, and this is our time," he said. "This is where we shine. I feel like this is going to be pretty much the biggest thing I'm going to do in my career."

TSgt Samantha Pinzon of the AES at Pope Field in North Carolina said, "Once you put that PPE on, it's exhausting sometimes, being in there for long periods of time. I'm a firm believer that if you train every day for the worst-case scenario... when you get on the aircraft and actually have a patient, it's a less stressful environment."

2020 Schedule of Heritage Trust Sponsored Quarterly Luncheons

The Friday 20 March 2020 quarterly luncheon was cancelled. Our webmaster Tom Clemmons posted that change on our official website today at <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>

Friday, 11 Sept 2020, board meeting at 09:00, Heritage Trust Luncheon at 11:00 am

Friday, 4 Dec 2020, board meeting at 09:00, Heritage Trust Christmas Luncheon 11:00 am

This information is tentative at this time. Updates will be posted in future correspondence.

315th AW Alumni Association Membership Information

There's a separate attachment to this newsletter from Ray Ardis that explains the procedure for membership renewal and it's a very enjoyable read. For the past 25 years we have not changed our membership fees. They remain-

\$5 per year -- \$12 for 3 years -- \$24 for 6 years

Make checks payable to 315 AW Alumni Association

So what are we doing at home during lockdown?

There are numerous and unending reactions to this question. Many of us are creative and innovative and the lockdown has little or no effect on us. If you have ever served on a remote tour of duty as I have several times you have endured the solitude already. All my family members work from home online as they hold positions where they can do this. I've noticed that many of you have put in a lot of time into landscaping and the garden shop at Lowes is always packed. Some of us get tired of eating at home so we go out and order our dinner at a drive-in window where the line is often 30 minutes long. Those of us that are retired are still limited on base Saturday and Sunday weekends. You can no longer enter the base commissary without a mask. I was there last Sunday and did not have one, so they gave me a mask designed for temporary usage only. All my doctor appointments have been cancelled. With all that said, I have spent a lot of time in my home library catching up on books I received as gifts but never had the time to read them until now. I've read two of Bill O'Reilly's books, Killing of the Rising Sun and Killing of the SS. Then I reread Tom Clancy's book Op-Center, Balance of Power. I saved the most inspiring book that I have ever read for last, I Could Never be so Lucky Again by General Jimmy Doolittle.

The Doolittle Raiders Reunions

The Doolittle Raiders first reunion was held at Patriots Point on the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown in the seventies. I met Doolittle for the very first time and his copilot Lt Col (ret) Dick Cole. My first aircraft on flight status was a B-25 N model so we had much in common. Lt Col (ret) Eileen Wilson, 31st AES Flight Nurse and currently the Benevolence Chair of the 315th AW Alumni Association was on board but we had never met at the time. Eileen said she hugged him for a long time and would not let go of Doolittle.

Al Cannon, Chief, Charleston County Sheriff's Office

I became Facebook friends with Al on Monday. Chief Charlie Hall, past vice-president of the Alumni Association and I are retired officers from the department and served under his leadership. Al is a graduate of USC and he's a member of the bar association. Al served in the Air Force Reserve, was attached to the OSI, speaks Arabic fluently and served an active duty tour as colonel in Afghanistan as a translator. Al had just started Facebook and had only one other friend on Facebook, Lt/Col (ret) Wiley Johnson, 300th Squadron pilot and the recent outgoing Mayor of the town of Summerville. I asked my good friend Lt Col (ret) Derek Duke of the 300th if he knew Wiley and he said he had flown with him. I was looking at Wiley's current Facebook photo today and he has wasted no time sporting a big gray beard and a ball cap.

Final Fly-By

TSgt Steven “Steve” M. Linder, 300th Squadron Loadmaster and Administrator of the 315MAW/AW on Facebook, passed suddenly Thursday night, 16 April 2020, at the age of 63. I had been receiving daily updates from Steve on Facebook letting us all know that he was going downhill fast with cancer. Steve’s wife Joanne said Steve fought a good fight, but did not win in the end. She said “he was my best friend and the love of my life, and my heart is broken. Thanks everyone who enriched his life. Steve would be proud of all your sentiments.” Chris Beiler, 300th Squadron Flight Engineer, said Steve was always an upbeat guy to fly with. Joanne said if anyone should wish to send their condolences to the family, you may send them to his email address: nofish95@hotmail.com Dial-Murray Funeral Home in Moncks Corner will be providing arrangements for the family but they are incomplete at this time because of the virus. You may sign the guest book at <https://www.dial-murrayfuneralhome.com/obituary/steven-linder>

Missed Deadline

I had promised to get a newsletter out every 7 days on Tuesday of each month, but I missed that last one. We have been in the process of moving and downsizing by 600 square feet as I’m at that age now. This has been a monumental and overwhelming experience like no other but worth all the effort. Our beautiful new home is exactly what we were looking for and the neighborhood’s a perfect fit for us. We’re happy campers!

The future of the Alumni & the Newsletter

Every reunion has a time limit even when the reunion planners and coordinators are in there giving it their best. First order of business is that you keep an inspiring and motivational line of communication so that you are getting lots of great feedback. That’s where we’re at right now. The virus is putting a hold on the Alumni association until further notice, as right now we are just like all the other organizations, work places and schools. Once again I will be publishing the newsletter weekly in an effort to keep us connected until the virus is over. In next week’s issue, I will expound on the many outstanding Alumni members that are currently making great contributions to our association and our mission.

Stay well and be safe.

Del Oxford, Communications

