

12th TFW Association, June 2010 Newsletter

1. News from or about the VA:

A. The Executive Director of the Veterans Assistance Network offers his help for Mesothelioma.

Carl Jewett is the Veteran Liaison for the Mesothelioma Center (Asbestos.com); is a retired Lieutenant Commander in the US Navy. Countless veterans are currently suffering from life-threatening illnesses that are a result of exposure to asbestos, a material that was commonly used in hundreds of military applications, products, and ships primarily because of its resistance to fire. The Mesothelioma Center provides a complete list of occupations, ships, and shipyards that could have put our Veterans at risk for developing asbestos-related diseases. In addition, they have thousands of articles regarding asbestos and Mesothelioma and they've even created a veterans-specific section on their website in order to help inform all about the dangers of asbestos exposure. With your help, we can save some lives.

Carl Jewett is available by e-mail at carl.jewett@asbestos.com

B. Vets Urged to File 'AO' Claims Now, Not Wait for Reg. Military.Com

Tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans with ischemic heart disease, Parkinson's disease or B cell leukemia should file claims now with the Department of Veterans Affairs for [disability compensation](#), not wait until VA publishes a regulation officially linking these diseases to wartime service. Advocacy groups are urging the swift filing of claims because veterans eventually found eligible for disability pay for these diseases will be able to receive compensation back to the date their claims were filed. Those who wait for a regulation to add these ailments to VA's list of diseases presumed caused by exposure to Agent Orange and other toxins used in the war could lessen, by several months of compensation, any retroactive pay that they will be due once their claims have been approved. "File your claim now so you can get what you've earned," urged Peter S. Gaytan, executive director of The American Legion. VA officials, in a statement, agreed. "The only way an eligible Vietnam veteran can lose out is if he or she delays filing or does not file a claim, as the effective date of benefits hinges on the date of actually filing of the claim," the VA explained.

C. VA Issues Phone-Scam Warning Armed Forces News 16 Apr. 2010

The Department of Veterans Affairs is advising veterans to beware of anyone seeking to obtain personal information, including Social Security or phone numbers, via telephone. According to the American Legion, a veteran notified VA officials after receiving a call from someone purporting to represent a VA pharmacy. The caller asked the veteran numerous questions. The veteran noticed through caller ID that the call originated from (888) 555-1234, a number known by law-enforcement authorities to be the source of numerous reported scams. Sometimes a caller will tell a veteran that an identification card has expired and a fee is required to renew it, or that a bank account is listed on a computer and verification of the number is required for its removal. The VA does not conduct business in these manners.

D. Shinseki Vows to Reduce Backlog Armed Forces News 16 Apr. 2010

One year into his job as chief of the Dept. of V A, Secretary Eric K. Shinseki reaffirmed his commitment to focus on reducing the backlog of pending disability claims. The number of veterans awaiting resolution of claims for pensions, health care, and disability compensation is nearing one million and rising steadily. Shinseki promised, "We are going to break the back of the backlog this year," in an April 6 statement. Veterans can probably expect in the near future to have the VA provide them a checklist of items they will need to complete their applications. Also, Shinseki said that the VA will switch modes from adversary to advocate for applicants, improve communications, and debug the system before there is any chance that glitches be incorporated in plans to automate the application system.

2. Military News;

A. 1st female Air Force general dies at age 88 by Valerie J Nelson, Los Angeles Times (extract)

Jeanne M. Holm, who played a pivotal role in opening up the military to women and who was the first female general in the Air Force and the first in any branch of the military to become a two star general, has died. Her military career started when she drove trucks for the Women's Auxiliary Corps during WWII. Prior to Holm, women in the AF were largely viewed as vast secretarial pool.

B. Congress Takes Action on TRICARE

Military.Com 19 Apr. 2010

Congress has taken steps toward putting military people at ease over how benefits will be protected under the new health care reforms and to extend benefits for older children. But Congress continues to take only clumsy temporary steps to relieve another source of anxiety for Medicare and TRICARE users -- a scheduled 21.2 percent reduction in reimbursements to participating doctors. If such a cut were allowed to take effect, it could severely crimp access to care.

C. 6 More names added to the VN Memorial

Armed Forces News 7 May 2010

The names of six service members who died as a result of serious injuries they sustained in action have been added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Army Lt. Col. William Taylor, Capt. Edward Miles, and Sgt. Michael Morehouse, and Marine Corps Cpl. Ronald Vivona and Lance Cpls. John Granville and Clayton Hough Jr., joined the list of 58,261 members of the U.S. armed forces who either were killed or are missing in action as a result of their service during the Vietnam conflict between November 1955 and April 1975. Though all six men survived the war, the Defense Department has determined that they later died because of maladies they incurred during service in the combat zone during the war.

D. The Medal of Honor in Vietnam The medal is relatively rare. Of the 2.1 million men who served in Vietnam, 246 earned it -- 154 of them posthumously. Military.Com, 13 May 2010

E. Celebrated WWII Ace Dies Walker "Bud" Mahurin, a fighter pilot who shot down two dozen planes in two wars and was regarded as one of America's top aces ever, has died. He was 91. Military.Com.

3. A permanent 12th Tactical Fighter Wing memorial was established at the War Memorial Park at Fremont County Airport, Canon City, Colorado, in 2001 and a dedication ceremony was held on 16 September 2001. Since then, a few former 12th TFW members have gathered in Canon City each year. These gatherings have consisted of socializing, touring the area, and an informal "re-dedication" ceremony at the memorial park. **The 2010 event is scheduled for 26-29 Aug.** Everyone is invited. <http://www.12tfw.org/memorial/> Ron Doughty, Cape Girardeau, MO

4. 12th and 37th TFW History: (by Norman Malayney)

A. History Project Update: Have ordered 12 microfilms reels on S&R from Maxwell and still waiting for the material. After the October reunion, I plan to visit Maxwell and search the FAC files for info on 12th missions. Have also been in contact with Maj. Gen Usher and I am hoping to get an article on the deployment of his unit to Korea during the Pueblo Crisis.

B. Did You Know? USAF rebuffs group looking to refurbish F-105

By Scott Fontaine, Staff Writer, Air Force Times 10 May 2010 (condensed)

A Vietnam-era fighter is pitting a nonprofit group that restores old airplanes against the Air Force, its source for the mobile museums. The Collings Foundation wants to refurbish an F-105 Thunderchief and fly it at air shows across the country. The Air Force is refusing to make the donation because the 100 or so F-105s it still owns don't meet flight or safety standards and would be a liability if an accident occurred. This issue has been referred to congress.

"There are a number of regulations and policies in place which restrict our ability to donate aircraft to outside agencies, particularly if the intent is to fly the aircraft," Gen. Howie Chandler wrote "Given this," the letter reads, "the Air Force cannot support any legislation directing the transfer of an F-105 from the national historic collection."

Lewis disagreed. "Like the other planes that have been sent over to us, the [Air Force] releases the liability," Lewis said. "We sign a hold-harmless agreement. There's no cost to the government." The foundation is pressing so hard for the Thunderchief because the service is scrapping the few that remain, Lewis said.

The Air Force began flying the F-105, also known as the "Thud", in 1958 and relied on it heavily in Vietnam for both flying bombing runs and attacking surface-to-air missile sites. Of its 833 Thunderchiefs, the service lost almost half in Vietnam and started phasing out the aircraft in the mid-1970s. The final F-105 was retired in 1984.

The Air Force Association supports the transfer, provided the Air Force is freed of all liability.

5. Please welcome our newest members since March 2010;

Robert A. Bass 12 TFW Dep. Commander/Logistics, Cam Ranh Bay Aug. 67-Jun68.

Jim Huelsmann 12th Transportation Sqd., Hauling Bombs for Ammo Dump
Cam Ranh Bay Jan.-Jun. 1968.

Henry Stewart 12th USAF Hospital, Admin Section, CRB, Jan 1967-68.

6. The next Reunion is planned for Fort Worth, Oct. 7 – 11th, 2010 Wilbur “Andy” Anderson

If you did not receive the 15 February Update, Please contact EJ Sherwood. We hope to have the registration forms and activities defined by early July. There re about 75 rooms remaining.

Holiday Inn DFW South, Reservation phone 817-399-1800 Ask for the 12th TFW/BG group rate of \$99 + tax.

7. USAF Thunderbirds, 57th Season, 65 shows in 27 states from Military.com

June

Ocean City, MD 5/6
Quebec City, Canada 12/13
Tinker AFB, OK 19/20
North Kingston, RI 26/27

July

Gary, IN 10/11
Duluth, MN 17/18
Fairchild AFB, WA 24/25
Cheyenne, WY 28

August

Moffett Field, CA 7/8
Abbotsford, Canada 14/15
Westfield, MA 21/22
Atlantic City, NJ 25
Brooklyn (Coney Island) 28/29

September

Martinsburg, WV 4/5
Coraopolis (Pittsburg), PA 11/12
Whiteman AFB, MO 18/19
McConnell AFB, KS 25/26

8. Last Known Member of the 12th TFW serving, retires from the Air Force by Charlie Wells

NAS-Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, TX., May 2, 2010: CMSgt Michael E. Jacobssen, the last known member of the 12th TFW, Phu Cat AB, RVN retired from the Air Force Reserves on this day. Michael was a crew chief in the 480TFS at Phu Cat 1969-1970. We had the pleasure of attending the retirement of CMSgt Jacobssen and his wife, MSgt Patricia Jacobssen. It was a unique occasion to have a husband and wife retire from the Air Force together on the same day, both with 26 years service time. Col. Gerald Micheletti, during his remarks prior to the retirement ceremony commented that this was the first time he had seen a retirement like this and asked the audience if they had heard of one. The audience comprised of a B. Gen., many senior NCOs and Airmen representing numerous years, all answered no. Another bright spot was MSgt Jacobssen’s son and daughter (both in the Air Force) were present and joined in some of the activities after the formal retirement ceremony was completed. You might say it was a family affair.

9. 12th TFW Web Reminder: The **Members Only** section for you and the link is located on the left side of the home page in the light blue menu selection. **This is the depository for current Newsletters, the latest Membership Roster, and our latest short story release.** <http://12tfw.org/>

Click on access labeled **Members Only**, then enter Password (temporarily allow scripts, if asked).

The 12th Association roster is proprietary, so please keep contact info away from solicitors. **Roster is organized, with non-email and deceased/widows at the rear portion.** Please check the web page for periodic updates and photos recently added to the album at the **What’s New?** Link is on the front of the home page.

Best regards and stay safe,

E J Sherwood for the 12th TFW Assoc. Staff

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