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# *USAF MSC Association* **NEWSLETTER**

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**DECEMBER 2006**

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**Officers and Key Contacts**

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Lt Col Arthur H. Small  
President  
Lt Col Ralph Charlip  
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Col Billy Simmons  
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Major Wayne G. Terry  
Director &  
Newsletter Editor  
Col Edward S. Nugent  
Chairman Emeritus  
Capt William M. Copeland  
General Counsel

*From the Chairman of the Board –*

Fellow Members:

It's been a year that I have served as your Chairman. We continue to plan for our biennial meeting in San Antonio that is scheduled for October 11-14, 2007. It will be held immediately following the Senior MSC Leadership Meeting and lead off with the Brigadier General Donald B. Wagner Scholarship Golf Tournament (October 11<sup>th</sup>). For more details, see Colonel Ray (Mac) McClean's report in this newsletter. **We hope you will join us for our 9<sup>th</sup> Association Reunion.**

As a reminder, dues notices for 2007 will be mailed in January. Please remit your dues promptly. For those who pay annual dues, I encourage and invite you to **consider making your Membership a "Life Membership"**. More details, including Life Member Dues, are provided in this Newsletter.

The Membership Committee (Chaired by Colonel (Ret) Jim Moreland) continues to seek ways to expand our membership. Special considerations are being given to recruiting active duty MSCs and encouraging them to seek membership in the Association. If you have any ideas on how the Association can better serve these potential members and retain them, please contact Jim at [jmoreland@satx.rr.com](mailto:jmoreland@satx.rr.com).

The membership of the Association will be electing four members of the Board of Directors at the 2007 Reunion. We must begin the process of selecting candidates to fill these positions. Our Nominating Committee will offer a slate of candidates to the Membership in the summer (August 2007) issue of the Newsletter. Members who are unable to attend the meeting will be invited to complete an absentee ballot and mail it back to the Association Secretary (Ralph Charlip).

We look forward to hearing from members who are willing to serve the Association as a Director. Because much of the work of the Board of Directors is conducted electronically, it is highly

desirable that prospective candidates have computer/e-mail capability, including the ability to download documents.

Members who want to be considered for the Board and serve a six-year term (2007-2013) are invited to send an e-mail message to [afmscassociation@comcast.net](mailto:afmscassociation@comcast.net) or a letter to the Secretary, Ralph Charlip, **not later than 15 March 2007**. Letter applications may be addressed to Ralph at: USAF MSC Association, Inc., 1006 Rosemary Street, Denver, CO 80230-7089.

Your application (not more than one page) must include your name, grade, education, professional experience (military and civilian), experience on boards/committees similar to the Association, and a brief statement why you want to serve on the Board. Please follow that format. Ralph will forward your application to the Nomination Committee.

If you are selected for the slate of candidates, a nomination biography will be prepared for the ballot that is presented to the membership for the Election of Directors for 2007.

On a personal note, Diane and I are enjoying South Texas and being close to our family, especially the 10 grandchildren who reside here in Texas and Albuquerque, NM.

Diane and I wish you a Merry Christmas and/or a Happy Holiday Season. We extend our best wishes to you for a healthy and prosperous 2007. God Bless you and God Bless America!

Frank Rohrbough  
Chairman of the Board

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### **The President's Message:**

Seasons greetings from the great northeast where the skiers, snowboarders and snowmobilers pray for snow. For the past few years it has been in short supply with mild winters.

As I look at the calendar and see that another year has gone by I try and reflect: What have I accomplished this past year? Have you ever asked yourself that question? Are we still making a contribution?

Certainly many of our committee chairs and members have been making their contribution by working hard to accomplish the goals set out at our last biennial meeting. Ray Inman and his committee have put together a package that will aid surviving spouses. This includes a network of area volunteers to implement the program.

Jim Moreland and his group have been working on recruiting, a real tough nut to crack. He has solicited ideas far and wide in an effort to answer this basic question: What does the association have to offer the new MSC and/or the newly retired MSC?

A special thanks goes to Wayne Terry for producing superb issues of our Association newsletter. Even though Wayne is working full time it's apparent that he's devoting a lot of hours to this publication. If the first year of his work is any indication, I can't wait for the next issue to arrive.

Mac McClean and his group are working very hard to make this next reunion in San Antonio a bang up affair. I hope that you all have your calendars marked and will make your hotel reservations early.

As the years go by at an increasingly rapid rate, I look back on my thirty years of active duty and realize that in 2007 I will have been retired from the Air Force Medical Service Corps thirty two years. Where has the time gone? Happily much of it has gone to continuing to spend time with MSC friends and colleagues.

With best wishes for the holiday season and may the New Year bring you and your loved ones both good health and much happiness.

In our thoughts and prayers are our best wishes for our men and women in uniform wherever they serve. God bless America.

Art Small  
President

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### **GET READY FOR THE 2007 REUNION!**

Believe it or not the 2005 reunion was held over a year ago and before you know it the 2007 reunion will be in full swing.

You were asked in the last Newsletter to Save-The-Date, 11 – 14 October 2007 in San Antonio, Texas. PLEASE – mark your 2007 calendars as soon as you can. You don't want to miss this get together. There's lots to do in San Antonio. The Don Wagner Scholarship Tournament is scheduled for October 11. That means that golfers will need to arrive on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Several events and tours are in the planning stages to make the reunion especially enjoyable for all those who attend. We will provide a website for the Crowne Plaza Hotel and a toll free number for booking reservations as soon as the hotel gives us the "green light". That should be the early part of next year.

The daily room rate will be \$129.00. We have booked a limited number of rooms so watch for the "*Okay to call now*" message. You might also want to be looking now for good prices for airline reservations.

You should be receiving your registration package in July. That package will contain the registration form, a description and list of the tours available, and things to do in San Antonio.

Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible next year in San Antonio for the reunion.

Mac McClean  
Chairman, 2007 San Antonio Reunion Committee

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### **HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA**

Members, consider a gift membership in the Air Force MSC Association this holiday season. How else can you promote the Corps, its history and legacy for such a small price? If there is a fellow MSC you hold in high regard that is not currently a member, please consider making them a member. And, current members who give gift memberships will be recognized in our next

Newsletter for their efforts to promote the Air Force MSC Association. We have included a Membership Application/Renewal Form at the end of this Newsletter for your convenience that may be used for this purpose. Write your name at the top of the application form as the sponsoring member. If you have any questions contact Jim Moreland at 210/651-3592 or at [morelandj@saic.com](mailto:morelandj@saic.com) or you may contact Ralph Charlip at 816/818-2110 or at [afmscassociation@comcast.net](mailto:afmscassociation@comcast.net). This year give the gift that shows you care – membership in the Air Force MSC Association!

Jim Moreland  
Chairman, Membership Committee.

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### **LOOKING FOR A CHANCE TO SERVE THE ASSOCIATION?**

Your Association is looking for someone who would be willing to serve as the Association's Secretary starting in mid 2007. The role of the Secretary is essential to the operation of the Association. Among the duties of the Secretary are: taking meeting minutes – there are 3 to 5 meetings per year and these are conducted by phone; maintain the Association's directory of members; attend the biennial reunion and manage the registration for the reunion in cooperation with the Reunion Committee. January is a busy month as members pay their annual dues during that period and 3-4 months prior to the biennial reunion takes some additional time. Otherwise, it takes about 3-4 hours a month to serve in this role. If you are interested, please contact the Association Secretary, Ralph Charlip, at our Association's email address ([afmscassociation@comcast.net](mailto:afmscassociation@comcast.net)) or toll free phone number (866-818-2110).

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### **WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER**

Welcome to a new Association member, Captain Rene Concepcion, USAF, MSC, (Ret). Comments follow:

Hi! I just got my approved membership with the USAF MSC Association from Ralph Charlip, and I am forwarding this article and picture to you for inclusion in the next MSC Newsletter. I am excited about renewing contacts and friendships with the people that have touched our lives during our MSC time. It had been a long time (11 years) since I have retired and probably many of them would not recognize my name without the picture. So I would really appreciate if the picture can also be included. Rene Concepcion.



From left to right, Filipino-American Cat Ding Ding, Rene (Capt., MSC Retired), Rene Jr., Cristina and Pearl Concepcion, photo at Cristina's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday celebration. The Family of Rene and Pearl Concepcion of Bethel Connecticut shared their recent news to members of the USAF MSC Association. Rene Jr. graduated from High School in June and is now a freshman at Fairfield University, Connecticut. Cristina graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, in May and is now working as an Analyst with Bank of America in New York City. Pearl is working as a Client Account Specialist for the past 10 years with a non-profit

organization that caters to people with disabilities. Rene is employed as a computer specialist with the VA Connecticut Healthcare System. The family of Rene and Pearl would like to renew their friendships with members of the MSC association especially those that have touched their lives in the past. Your calls and e-mails are most welcome.

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### **THE GREATEST GENERATION**

The World War II Memorial honors the 16 million veterans who served in the Armed forces of the United States. To enable you to know more about these 16 million veterans, there is now an electronic database of those who served at home or overseas during that period.

You can search the database for names of those who served by entering your name or the name of a friend or relative who served in WWII. All the information that is required is the name, branch of service, and home town of the individual you are researching.

After entering the information, it is verified and included in the database. There is no charge for this listing. Should you wish to include a photograph there is a \$10.00 charge.

Check out the web site at <http://www.wwiimemorial.com/>. For general information call 1-800-639-4WW2.

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### **MILITARY HUMOR**

An Air Force C-141 was scheduled to leave Thule Air Base, Greenland, at midnight. During the pilot's preflight check, he discovers that the latrine holding tank is still full from the last flight. So a message is sent to the Base Ops and an airman who was off duty is called out to take care of it.

The young airman finally gets to the aircraft only to find that the latrine pump truck has been left outdoors and is frozen solid, so he must find another one in the hangar, which takes even more time. He returns to the aircraft and is less than enthusiastic about what he has to do. Nevertheless he goes about the pumping job deliberately and carefully (and slowly) so as not to risk criticism later.

As he is leaving the plane, the pilot stops him and says, "Son, your attitude and performance has caused this flight to be late and I'm going to personally see to it that you are not just reprimanded, but punished."

Shivering in the cold, his task finished, the airman takes a deep breath, stands up tall and says, "Sir, with all due respect, I'm not your son; I'm an Airman in the United States Air Force. I've been in Thule, Greenland, for eleven months without any leave, and reindeer's are beginning to look pretty good to me. I have one stripe; it's two-thirty in the morning, the temperature is forty degrees below zero and my job here is to pump s#\*^ out of an aircraft. Now, just exactly what form of punishment did you have in mind?"

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**"Fanaticism consists in redoubling your effort when you have forgotten your aim."**

**~ George Santayana ~**

## **SURVIVOR INFORMATION (SI) PROGRAM**

The Association now has a Survivor Information and Notification program in place. The purpose is to allow the Association to express in a personal and sensitive manner its condolences to the surviving spouse and offer information which might assist a surviving spouse during the loss of their loved one. It is dedicated to the MSC's and the families of those who have served.

An effective program will rely upon you, the membership, to participate. Upon learning of an Association Member's death you should notify the Honor Roll Manager and Secretary as soon as possible so the information can be passed to the necessary personnel. Members may also phone or email a State/Regional Coordinator directly with an information email to the Honor Roll Manager and Secretary. A list of the participants and their area of responsibility is listed below:

NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	STATES/REGION RESPONSIBLE
Mary Anne Morreale	<a href="mailto:MaryAnn.Morreale.EPH.85@aya.yale.edu">MaryAnn.Morreale.EPH.85@aya.yale.edu</a>	MA,NE,ME,VT,CT, NJ,APO 09,NY,PA
John Labash	<a href="mailto:johnandbettylabash@rcn.com">johnandbettylabash@rcn.com</a>	DE,DC,MD
Ray Chappelle	<a href="mailto:chappeller@aol.com">chappeller@aol.com</a>	VA
Dan Holtz	<a href="mailto:laurohn@bellsouth.net">laurohn@bellsouth.net</a>	WV,NC,SC,GA
George Breault	<a href="mailto:breault3373@aol.com">breault3373@aol.com</a>	FL
Dan Seal	<a href="mailto:danseal@comcast.net">danseal@comcast.net</a>	AL,TN,MS,KY
Daniel Sherred	<a href="mailto:dsherred@whitestoneLLC.com">dsherred@whitestoneLLC.com</a>	OH,IN,MI,IA, MN,WI,ND,MT
Ray Benedetto	<a href="mailto:stratdirect@comcast.net">stratdirect@comcast.net</a>	IL,MO,KS,NE, LA,AR,OK
Steve Dewoody	<a href="mailto:sdewoody@satx.rr.com">sdewoody@satx.rr.com</a>	TX
Duane Newton	<a href="mailto:figgnchita@msn.com">figgnchita@msn.com</a>	CO,WY,ID,UT
Jim Hooper	<a href="mailto:jimh@elrio.org">jimh@elrio.org</a>	AZ,NM,NV
Pat French	<a href="mailto:pmfrench2004@yahoo.com">pmfrench2004@yahoo.com</a>	CA,HI,GUAM, APO 96,JAPAN
Steve Langenberg	<a href="mailto:slosu@yahoo.com">slosu@yahoo.com</a>	OR,WA,AK

HONOR ROLL MANAGER: John Riley at email: [jfr4u@cox.net](mailto:jfr4u@cox.net)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Joe Vocks at email: [jvocks@gvtc.com](mailto:jvocks@gvtc.com)

Ralph Charlip at email: [afmsscassociation@comcast.net](mailto:afmsscassociation@comcast.net)

Ray Inman at email: [rinman2@satx.rr.com](mailto:rinman2@satx.rr.com)

Coordinators have been provided with extensive check lists which will assist them in providing essential information to the surviving member. Additionally, representatives from the Veterans Affairs and the Director of Benefits Information Office at the Military Officers Association of America have agreed to provide the Coordinator with pertinent information upon request. Upon receipt of a notification of death the State/Regional Coordinator will be responsible for contacting a surviving spouse. They will assist the spouse or family member by informing them of who and how to contact key offices about military funeral services, Department of Veterans Affairs and others as required.

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**Be Yourself. Who else is better qualified? ~ Frank J. Giblin II ~**

**MOST RETIREES TO GET 3.3 PERCENT BENEFIT INCREASE FOR 2007**

Social Security payment recipients and most military retired members will receive a 3.3 percent Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) starting in January.

The same COLA will also be seen by Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants and those getting Veterans Disability Compensation and Dependency Indemnity Compensation.

Increases are based on Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers* (CPI-W), from the third quarter of the prior year to the corresponding period of the current year.

The COLA will not be the same for all military retired members. Service members who retired during calendar year 2006 will receive a somewhat smaller, partial COLA for this year only. The reason is that their retired pay is based on the January 2006 military pay tables, which resulted in a higher retired pay than if their pay had been based on the 2005 pay rates.

For military members who retired in 2006, the partial COLAs will be:

Members who entered service before Sept. 8, 1980, and who retired on or after Jan. 1, 2006, will receive a 2.8 percent COLA.

Members who entered service on or after Sept. 8, 1980 (whose retired pay is calculated on their highest 36 months' basic pay rather than final basic pay), and retired between Jan. 1, 2006, and Sept. 30, 2006, will receive a partial COLA based on the calendar quarter in which they retired; January-March retirees will receive 2.8 percent; April-June retirees, 2.4 percent; and July-September retirees, 0.6 percent; those who retire after Oct. 1, 2006, (fourth quarter) will see no COLA this year.

An announcement by the Social Security Administration noted that the 3.3 percent COLA will begin with payments that nearly 49 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2007. Increased payments to more than 7 million Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries will begin December 29.

For retired members and SBP annuitants, the increase will first appear in the January 2 pay check.

In a previous announcement, Medicare noted that the Part B premium will go up \$5 from \$88.50 to 93.50, a much smaller increase than in previous years.

Some other changes that take effect in January are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$97,500 from \$94,200. Of the estimated 163 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2007, about 11 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum in 2007.

## **Unified Medical Command Gains Despite Air Force Opposition**

**Tom Philpott | September 08, 2006**

The Air Force, the only service opposed to creation of a Unified Medical Command, saw its arguments get strafed, rocketed and bombed during a Sept. 6 meeting of the Defense Business Board, a group of outside Management experts that advises Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Management experts that advise The board unanimously recommended that Rumsfeld immediately appoint a task force to oversee establishment of a Unified Medical Command by Jan 1, 2007, a year sooner than Defense officials had planned.

The command would take charge of all direct-care health services of the Army, Navy and Air Force. It would streamline medical logistics, purchasing, information technology, research and development, facility operations, and the education, training and assignment of medical personnel.

The services would continue to control medical care in support of front line units and field hospitals. But Level III operational medicine, which includes all fixed military hospitals and clinics, would be run by the new command which would report directly to the Defense Secretary.

The board, which endorsed the most sweeping reorganization of military medicine in 60 years, also recommended that:

--The TRICARE Management Activity, which oversees the triple-option health plan for military families and retirees, be realigned to function alongside a unified command, with a new focus on policy and oversight. Management of the TRICARE benefit in time would be “out-sourced” to the private sector.

-- A transition team for establishing the unified command be created and given milestones of 30, 60 and 90 days to ensure a Jan. 1 start up. The board believes legislation is not required because the Department of Defense already has authority to streamline health services.

Dr. Stephen Jones, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, said after the meeting that the board’s timeline is “very optimistic.” But a consensus is building toward a unified command “or a similar organization” to merge service medical systems, he said.

Lt. Gen. James G. Roudebush, who became Air Force Surgeon General last month, said his service opposes a unified command. It would take control only of the direct care system, he noted, which has seen only modest cost growth in recent years. It is expansion of the TRICARE benefit that “has driven costs upwards at a very alarming rate,” Roudebush said.

Also, he argued, service missions and cultures are different, and those differences justify having separate medical staffs and resources.

Finally, he argued, the services are responsible under Title 10 of the U.S. Code to provide a fit and healthy force. “That’s a mission we take very seriously,” said Roudebush. A unified command “begins to move that away from the purview of the services,” he said.

The services should consolidate some responsibilities to lower costs, Roudebush said, such as graduate medical education and perhaps information, acquisition and logistical systems, he said. These steps alone would save a lot of money and not put “at risk” service responsibilities to care for their own forces.

The Defense Business Board is an advisory panel, governed by sunshine laws, so the meeting Wednesday was open. Though held in a small Pentagon conference room, it offered a rare public look at a hotly contested issue between services.

Vice Adm. Donald C. Arthur, the Navy's top medical officer, challenged Air Force arguments. He was joined by members of the business board, as well as a two-star admiral on the Joint Staff and a two-star Army general who is the deputy director of TRICARE.

Arthur said the services separately recruit, train and assign medical staff and operate three separate systems for logistics, for the purchasing of supplies and equipment, for budgeting and quality assurance.

As a result, they waste up to \$500 million annually, according to the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA), he said. Henry Dreifus, a board member who led its medical task force, said the CNA figure is probably much too low.

"We are not interoperable, interchangeable or even interdependent," Arthur added. The problems this creates aren't obvious when operating separate hospitals in peacetime. But they arise in war zones like Iraq and Afghanistan, Arthur said, when the medical services learn they "can't interchange people, equipment, supplies or doctrine."

Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger stood to say he saw such difficulties first hand while a senior medical commander and surgeon in Iraq. For lack of compatible gear, he said, Army medical staff could not communicate with Air Force colleagues regarding wounded arriving in medical evacuations. Also, he said, patient ventilators were not interoperable. Consequently, patients had to be taken off ventilators for brief periods during transport back home.

The wounded still got "world class care," said Granger, now deputy director of TRICARE. "But it's all like piecemealed together."

Arnold Punaro, another business board member and chairman of a commission studying National Guard and Reserve issues, challenged the notion that a unified command would encroach on service legal obligations to provide medical care to their own forces. It's more likely, he said, that by maintaining separate medical departments, the services are violating laws that mandate consolidation of common functions.

Retired Army Gen. William "Gus" Pagonis, chairman of the business board, led U.S. logistical operations during the first Gulf War. He said he would brief Rumsfeld on the board's recommendations as soon as possible.

"The key is this transition team," Pagonis said. "It really has to decide what's doable, what's not doable." But he predicted to Jones that if board recommendations are adopted, "you will see all kinds of savings."

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**"Do not seek to follow in the footsteps of the wise, seek what they sought." ~ Basho ~**

**To acquire knowledge, one must study, but to acquire wisdom, one must observe.  
~ Marilyn vas Savant ~**

# Support the New Trend!!



Virginia – Wayne Terry



Florida – Fred Graves

Join in on the growing trend of MSC support of license plates. The pictures show that Virginia and Florida are already setting the trend. If you have an MSC license plate, send a picture to the editor for future newsletters.

## A GREAT TOAST

***Here...here!!!!***

A quick story:

One night during a bombing raid on Hanoi, Captain Jerry Coffee, U.S. Navy, peeked out of his cell window and watched a flight of four F-105's during their bombing run. As they pulled up, it was obvious the lead was badly hit. Trailing smoke, he broke from the formation and Jerry watched the damaged bird until it disappeared from sight. He presumed the worst.

As he lay there in his cell reflecting on the image, he composed a toast to the unfortunate pilot and all the others who had gone before him.

It was on New Year's Eve 1968 that Captain Tom Storey and Jerry were in the stardust section of Hoa Lo (wa-low) prison. Jerry whispered the toast under the door to Tom. Tom was enthralled and, despite the risk of terrible punishment, insisted Jerry repeat it several more times until he had it committed to memory. He then promised Jerry when the time came and they were again free men, he would give the toast at the first dining in he attended.

Tom's first assignment following release in 1973 was to the USAF academy. During that same year the Academy hosted the annual Air Force conference for general officers and the associated dining in.

Tom found himself seated with Generals Curtis Lemay and Jimmy Doolittle (two men of heroic proportions in their own rights). The jovial clinking of glasses accompanied all the traditional speeches and toasts.

Then it was Tom's turn. Remembering his promise so many years ago, he proposed Jerry's "one more roll." When he was finished, there was total silence. To the men in that room, men who spent their careers flying into combat and laying their lives on the line, it was a stunning toast, and one they would never forget

Please stand and raise your water glasses for a silent toast to our comrades in arms.

"We toast our hearty comrades  
who have fallen from the skies,  
and were gently caught by god's own hands  
to be with him on high,

To dwell among the soaring clouds  
they have known so well before,  
from victory roll to tail chase  
at heaven's very door.

And as we fly among them there,  
we're sure to hear their plea:  
take care my friend,  
watch your six,  
and do one more roll for me."

*A silent toast. to all our POWs, missing in action, and our comrades*

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### **THE ROAD TO SUCCESS IS NOT STRAIGHT**

There is a curve called failure;  
A loop called confusion;  
Speed bumps called friends;  
Red lights called enemies; and,  
Caution lights called family.

You will have flats called jobs, but  
If you have a spare called determination;  
An engine called perseverance;  
Insurance called Faith; and  
A driver called Jesus

Anything is Possible!

~ Author Unknown ~

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**Ability is what you are capable of doing.**

**Motivation determines what you do.**

**Attitude determines how well you do it.**

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### **VERY IMPRESSIVE MED-EVAC MISSION**

If you don't think our military pilots earn their pay – you need to take a look at this picture – and then look again and realize what you're seeing...



This photo was taken by a soldier in Afghanistan of a helo rescue mission. The pilot is a PA Guard guy who flies EMS choppers in civilian life. Now how many people on the planet you reckon could set the rear end of a chopper down on the roof top of a shack on a steep mountain cliff and hold it there while soldiers load wounded men in the rear? If this does not impress you, nothing ever will. Gives one the chills and a serious case of vertigo. I can't even imagine having the nerve – much less the talent and ability. God Bless our military!

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### **THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, 7 DECEMBER 1941**

With the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor occurring this month, and the remembrance of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the Towers in New York just past, I thought this would be an opportunity to reflect. Editor

On Sunday, December 7th, 1941, the Japanese launched a surprise attack against the U.S. Forces stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. By planning his attack on a Sunday, the Japanese Commander Admiral Nagumo, hoped to catch the entire fleet in port. As luck would have it, the Aircraft Carriers and one of the Battleships were not in port. The USS Enterprise was returning from Wake Island, where it had just delivered some aircraft. The USS Lexington was ferrying aircraft to Midway, and, the USS Saratoga and USS Colorado were undergoing repairs in the United States.

In spite of the latest intelligence reports about the missing aircraft carriers (his most important targets), Admiral Nagumo decided to continue the attack with his force of six carriers and 423 aircraft. At a range of 230 miles north of Oahu, he launched the first wave of a two-wave attack. Beginning at 0600 his first wave consisted of 183 fighters and torpedo bombers which struck at the fleet in Pearl Harbor and the airfields in Hickam, Kaneohe and Ewa. The second strike, launched at 0715, consisted of 167 aircraft, which again struck at the same targets.

At 0753 hours the first wave consisting of 40 Nakajima B5N2 "Kate" torpedo bombers, 51 Aichi D3A1 "Val" dive bombers, 50 high altitude bombers and 43 Zeros struck airfields and Pearl

Harbor. Within the next hour, the second wave arrived and continued the attack. When it was over, the U.S. losses were:

<u>Casualties</u>		
<u>Military Branch</u>	<u>Killed in Action</u>	<u>Wounded in Action</u>
US Army	219	364
US Navy	2,008	710
USMC	109	69
<u>Civilians</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>35</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>1,178</b>

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### TAPS

Col	John L. Binder	7 Sep 2006
Lt Col	Robert C. Braxton	3 Nov 2006
Capt	Henry W. Ingraham	Unknown
Lt Col	John T. O'Brien	21 Aug 2006
Major	Gary Pinkstaff	21 Oct 2006
Major	George W. Poley	14 Aug 2006
Major	John E. Smith	16 Aug 2006
Col	Don Summers	4 Sep 2006
Lt Col	William L. Walker	17 Aug 2006

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### PASSING OF JOHN BINDER

The following was passed along to us from Jerry Roberts. Jerry went on to advise that “He [JL Binder] was an MSC my wife and I were stationed with a couple of times during our career and a dear friend. He passed away September 7<sup>th</sup> after a long and courageous battle with brain cancer. JB had his retirement ceremony a week before [his passing]. Below is the obituary from [the] Hampton Roads Daily Press.”

YORKTOWN – John L. Binder, a Colonel in the United States Air Force, passed away on Sept. 7, 2006, following a courageous battle with cancer. He was 49 years old and a resident of Yorktown, VA. Colonel Binder served 21 years in the Air Force, most recently as Chief, Expeditionary Medical Operations Division, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. He entered the Air Force as a First Lieutenant in 1985. Colonel Binder’s distinguished career took him all over the world, serving in Korea, Turkey, Germany, Hawaii and several other bases in the United States. Colonel Binder recently received the Legion of Merit Medal in recognition of his meritorious and distinguished service. Colonel Binder was due to retire from the Air Force on Sept. 29, 2006. A memorial service [was] held at the main base chapel at Langley AF Base in Virginia. Internment [was] at Arlington National Cemetery. Survivors include Sue, his wife of 18 years, and their daughter, Emma; mother, Edith Binder of St. Louis; sisters, Dr. Ellen Binder of St. Louis and Deborah Binder of Seattle; and a brother, Dr Arthur Binder of Sonoma.

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“...to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan...” ~ A. Lincoln ~

## **THE FINAL INSPECTION**

The Airman stood and faced God,  
Which must always come to pass.  
He hoped his shoes were shining,  
Just as brightly as his brass.

"Step forward now, Airman,  
How shall I deal with you?  
Have you always turned the other cheek?  
To My Church have you been true?"

The Airman squared his shoulders and said,  
"No, Lord, I guess I ain't.  
Because those of us who carry guns,  
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,  
And at times my talk was tough.  
And sometimes I've been violent,  
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,  
That wasn't mine to keep...  
Though I worked a lot of overtime,  
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,  
Though at times I shook with fear.  
And sometimes, God, forgive me,  
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,  
Among the people here.  
They never wanted me around,  
Except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,  
It needn't be so grand.  
I never expected or had too much,  
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne,  
Where the saints had often trod.  
As the Airman waited quietly,  
For the judgment of his God.

"Step forward now, you Airman,  
You've borne your burdens well.  
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,  
You've done your time in Hell."

~ Author Unknown ~

## MARINE ON DUTY – TAPS

I just wanted to get the day over with and go down to Smokey's for a few cold ones. Sneaking a look at my watch, I saw the time, 1655. Five minutes to go. Full dress was hot in the August sun. Oklahoma summertime was as bad as ever – the heat and humidity at the same level – both too high.

I saw the car pull into the drive, '69 or '70 model Cadillac Deville, looked factory-new. It pulled into the parking lot at a snail's pace.

An old woman got out so slow I thought she was paralyzed. She had a cane and a sheaf of flowers, about four or five bunches as best I could tell. I couldn't help myself. The thought came unwanted, and left a slightly bitter taste: "She's going to spend an hour, my hip hurts like hell and I'm ready to get out of here right now!"

But my duty was to assist anyone coming in. Kevin would lock the "in" gate and if I could hurry the old biddy along, we might make the last half of happy hour.

I broke Post Attention. My hip made gritty noises when I took the first step and the pain went up a notch. I must have made a real military sight; middle-aged man with a small pot-gut and half a limp, in Marine Full Dress Uniform, which had lost its razor crease about 30 minutes after I began the watch at the cemetery.

I stopped in front of her, halfway up the walk. She looked up at me with an old woman's squint. "Ma'am, may I assist you in any way?"

She took long enough to answer. "Yes, son. Can you carry these flowers? I seem to be moving a tad slow these days."

"My pleasure Ma'am." Well, it wasn't too much of a lie.

She looked again. "Marine, where were you stationed?" "Vietnam, Ma'am. Ground-pounder. '69 to 71."

She looked at me closer. "Wounded in action, I see. Well done, Marine. I'll be as quick as I can." I lied a little bigger. "No hurry, Ma'am."

She smiled, and winked at me. "Son, I'm 85-years old and I can tell a lie from a long way off. Let's get this done. Might be the last time I can do this. My name's Joanne Wieserman, and I've a few Marines I'd like to see one more time."

"Yes, Ma'am. At your service."

She headed for the World War I section, stopping at a stone. She picked one of the bunches out of my arm and laid it on top of the stone. She murmured something I couldn't quite make out. The name on the marble was Donald S. Davidson, USMC, France 1918.

She turned away and made a straight line for the World War II section, stopping at one stone. I saw a tear slowly tracking its way down her cheek. She put a bunch on a stone; the name was Stephen X. Davidson, USMC, 1943.

She went up the row a ways and laid another bunch on a stone, Stanley J. Wieserman USMC, 1944.

She paused for a second, "Two more, son, and we'll be done." I almost didn't say anything, but, "Yes, Ma'am. Take your time."

She looked confused. "Where's the Vietnam section, son? I seem to have lost my way." I pointed with my chin. "That way, Ma'am."

"Oh!" she chuckled quietly. "Son, me and old age ain't too friendly."

She headed down the walk I'd pointed at. She stopped at a couple of stones before she found the ones she wanted. She placed a bunch on Larry Wieserman USMC, 1968, and the last on Darrel Wieserman, USMC, 1970.

She stood there and murmured a few words I still couldn't make out. "OK, son, I'm finished. Get me back to my car and you can go home."

"Yes, Ma'am. If I may ask, were those your kinfolk?"

She paused. "Yes, Donald Davidson was my father; Stephen was my uncle; Stanley was my husband; Larry and Darrel were our sons. All killed in action, all Marines." She stopped, whether she had finished, or couldn't finish, I don't know. She made her way to her car, slowly, and painfully.

I waited for a polite distance to come between us and then double-timed it over to Kevin waiting by the car. "Get to the out-gate quick. I have something I've got to do."

Kevin started to say something but saw the look I gave him. He broke the rules to get us there down the service road. We beat her. She hadn't made it around the rotunda yet.

"Kevin, stand to attention next to the gate post. Follow my lead." I humped it across the drive to the other post.

When the Cadillac came pattering around from the hedges and began the short straight traverse to the gate, I called in my best gunny's voice: "Teheh Hut! Present Haaaarms!"

I have to hand it to Kevin; he never blinked an eye; full dress attention and a salute that would make his DI proud. She drove through that gate with two old worn-out soldiers giving her a send off she deserved, for service rendered to her country, and for knowing Duty, Honor and Sacrifice.

I am not sure, but I think I saw a salute returned from that Cadillac. Instead of "The End" – just think of "Taps."

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### **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Association annual membership dues are due in January of each year unless you are a Life Member or have paid your dues ahead. To find out if you need to pay your dues in January 2007, check the address label on this newsletter. You will see a note that says PAID THRU \_\_\_\_\_. If

the label reads 2006, then you **do** need to send a check for \$20 to the Association to maintain your membership. Make your check payable to the "USAF MSC Association" and mail it to the USAF MSC Association, 1006 Rosemary Street, Denver CO 80230. A copy of the Membership Application / Renewal Form is attached for your convenience at the end of the Newsletter. Please send your check before the end of January 2007.

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### **CHANGES TO YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please remember to notify the Association if you change your mailing address, phone number or email address. If you have not had email before, but have recently opened an account, please let us know. You can email all changes to the association at [afmscassociation@comcast.net](mailto:afmscassociation@comcast.net) or send a note to us at the USAF MSC Association, 1006 Rosemary Street, Denver Co 80230. The earlier you provide the data to us the better so that we may include the changes in the January 2007 USAF MSC Association Membership Roster which will be published in mid-January 2007.

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### **WEB SITE HONORS AIR FORCE HEROES**

**Release No. 8 Release No. 8-12-06 | Aug. 24, 2006**

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) -- A nonprofit organization's Web site is providing an opportunity to let people pay tribute to Air Force heroes.

A section in the Air Force Memorial Foundation's Web site, titled Air Force Heroes, allows people to honor an Airman with a paragraph about what makes them extraordinary.

With the Air Force memorial recently opened in mid-October, the Web site is a great resource for people to prepare for the opening. It is a great opportunity for people to see those who may have deserved recognition.

"It is a great opportunity for people to see those who may have slipped through the cracks in regards to recognition," Major Tebrugge, a Public Affairs Officer said. Major Tebrugge thinks the Web site has been underused because it is new and not many people know about it.

"It is very important to recognize the proud heritage we have and the sacrifices and contributions of those who pioneered ahead of us," she said. "It makes you proud to see a collective representation of the similar values that we all share as Airmen and how they are displayed in different ways."

People interested in posting a tribute, or browsing the tributes that have already been posted, can visit the Web site at [www.airforcememorial.org/heroes/](http://www.airforcememorial.org/heroes/). It's important to note that the reference to Airman includes Air Force members of any rank.

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**"Never let your ego get so attached to your position that when you position goes,  
your ego goes with it."**

**~ General Colin Powell ~**

## **HISTORY LESSON OF THE DAY**

Manure: In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship and it was also before the invention of commercial fertilizers, so large shipments of manure were common.

It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, it not only became heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a by-product is methane gas. As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen when manure and sea water came in contact.

Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern BOOOOM!

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening.

After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the term "Ship High In Transit" on them, which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane.

Thus evolved the term "S.H.I.T.," (Ship High In Transit) which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day.

You probably did not know the true history of this word/abbreviation. Neither did I.

(Courtesy of Fred Graves)

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## **F-117: A LONG, STORIED HISTORY THAT IS ABOUT TO END**



After 25 years of storied service, the F-117 Nighthawk, the Air Force's first stealth fighter, is about to retire. The technology that once made it a unique weapon system has now caught up to it and newer fighter aircraft are now joining the fleet. Still, the Nighthawk was the first of its kind, a fact anyone who has spent time around the aircraft is quick to point out.

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**“The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.” ~ Socrates ~**

## **VA ANNOUNCES “VETERANS PRIDE” INITIATIVE**

WASHINGTON, 18 Oct 2006 – Leaders of major veterans’ organizations joined Veterans Affairs Secretary R. James Nicholson in launching an effort to “kindle a new spark of patriotism” by asking men and women who have served in the military to wear their medals on Veterans Day.

We are announcing a “Veterans Pride Initiative to remind Americans of the pride and honor in the hearts of those who have served,” Nicholson said at a new conference at VA Headquarters. “We expect Americans will see our decorated heroes unite in spirit at ceremonies, in parades and elsewhere as a compelling symbol of courage and sacrifice on Veterans Day, the day we set aside to thank those who served and safeguarded our national security.”

The campaign is modeled after a tradition in Australia and New Zealand, countries who honor the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps on April 25 each year, VA officials said. Nicholson said he hopes a U.S. tradition will ensue to emulate this pride in being a veteran and in honoring the nation’s veterans.

VA is offering information about the campaign on a Web page, <http://www.va.gov/veternspride/>, where veterans also can obtain information how to replace mislaid medals and learn to confirm the decorations to which they are entitled.

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## **COLD WAR CERTIFICATE BACKLOG IMPROVES TO TWO MONTHS**

Eligible individuals who have been holding off applying for the Cold War Recognition Certificate in order to avoid the initial rush may now find it a good time to apply. Officials report the program is still going strong and the turn around time has been cut from six months to the current two months.

The certificate was authorized by the FY 1998 National Defense Authorization Act. The Secretary of Defense approved awarding the Cold War Recognition Certificate to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States anytime during the Cold War era – defined as 2 Sep 1945 thru 26 Dec 1991.

Fax the application with your supporting documentation to 1 (800) 723-9262; or mail to:

U.S. Army Human Resources  
Cold War Recognition Program  
Room 3N45  
ATTN: AHRC-CWRS  
200 Stovall Street  
Alexandria, VA 22332-0473

Acceptable supporting documents include any official government or military document that contains the recipients name, Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, and a date showing at least one day of service during the Cold War era.

For any other information, please check the following Web Sites:  
<http://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/TAGD/coldwar/default.htm>.

## **KEEP SENDING YOUR NEWSLETTER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

I wish to thank the many members who contributed items of interest. You continue to make my task a pleasure. The relevant and stimulating items that you have shared have aided immeasurably in keeping the membership apprised of happenings of interest. Please keep sending these timely items to your Newsletter Editor, Wayne Terry, 2081 Germantown Road, Farmville, VA; or [terrywg@longwood.edu](mailto:terrywg@longwood.edu). And, oh yes, I would also welcome your comments and suggestions on ways of improving your Newsletter. Your continuing support is very much appreciated.

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## **CHRISTMAS AT ARLINGTON**

Christmas at Arlington and one big, American thank-you is certainly due to Merrill Worcester and the Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine. To do something like this year after year is above and beyond the call of duty. Here's a salute to you, Merrill, and I hope you get many more.



Rest easy, sleep well my brothers.  
Know the line has held, your job is done.  
Rest easy, sleep well.  
Others have taken up where you fell,  
The line has held.  
Peace, peace and farewell...

NOTE: Readers may be interested to know that these wreaths – some 5,000 – are donated by the Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine. The owner, Merrill Worcester, not only provides the wreaths, but covers the trucking expense as well. He's done this since 1992. A wonderful guy. Also, most years, groups of Maine school kids combine an educational trip to DC with this event to help out. Making this gesture even more remarkable is the fact that Harrington is in one the poorest parts in the state of Maine.

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION LEGIBLY**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM**

Send completed application with dues payment to (make check to: USAF MSC Association):

USAF MSC Association, Inc.  
1006 Rosemary St  
Denver, CO 80230-7089

(phone: 1-866-818-2110 email: afmscassociation@comcast.net)

Application is for \_\_\_ **NEW MEMBER** \_\_\_ **RENEWAL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Rank: (if active, Reserve, ANG, or ret): \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are using an APO or FPO, please indicate:

What city is this for: \_\_\_\_\_ What country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Retirement date (if retired): \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility Status (check all that apply): Is/was Active Duty  Is/was USAFR/ANG

Retired  Former AF MSC  (i.e., not an MSC on AD, AFR/ANG, or Ret)

Dues Payment Plan \_\_\_ Annual - \$20.00 \_\_\_ Life - See schedule below

Declaration: I (agree) (do not agree) to my name, address, phone number, spouse's name and email address being released to other members of the USAF MSC Association.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Applicant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE**

(Payable in Four Quarterly Installments)

Age	Amount (\$)
Over 85	Waived
81-85	60
76-80	80
71-75	200
66-70	250
61-65	295
56-60	335
51-55	360
50 & under	395

## USAF MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Several hundred retired Air Force MSC officers met at an ad hoc reunion organized by a group of dedicated San Antonio retirees in 1991. Some of them were "charter" MSCs, having transferred from the Army when our corps was established in 1949. Others were relative newcomers, younger and with different priorities. However, it quickly became clear consensus supported creating a formal organization to promote the interests of MSC retirees.

In 1992, the USAF MSC Association was incorporated in the State of Georgia and approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit veterans organization. We serve as a focal point for communications with and among members for educational, social and recreational purposes. We convene biennial membership meetings (reunions) which have become excellent learning opportunities, not to mention a place to renew acquaintances and enjoy visiting with old friends.

Since then, our membership has grown to nearly 700 (and still growing). Reunions have been conducted in Las Vegas (1993, 1995 & 2001), Charleston, SC, in 1997, San Antonio, TX, in 1999, Biloxi, MS in 2003 and San Diego in 2005. Membership rosters are printed annually and sent to active members, and periodic newsletters are published on matters of interest to our members. Most members agree that the value of the roster alone exceeds the cost of annual dues (\$20). Added to that are benefits derived from the reunions which are more and more becoming educational seminars featuring presentations by knowledgeable staff from the Surgeon General's Office, The Retired Officers Association (TROA) and similar non-profit groups.

### Membership Criteria

While initially established as an organization of *retired* Air Force MSC officers, bylaws amendments in 1995 opened the association to active duty MSCs and MSCs in the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. Because of the increased number of members from these components, makeup of the board of directors specifically includes an active duty officer, a USAFR officer and an ANG officer. In 2003 the membership eligibility was expanded to include former MSCs who did not attain retirement eligibility.

Air Force Biomedical Sciences Corps (BSC) officers who served on active duty as MSCs and widows/widowers of deceased corps members are also eligible for full membership. Further, the Honorary Membership category is available to recognize worthy individuals who have contributed to the growth of the Air Force Medical Service Corps but are not otherwise eligible for regular membership.

To apply for membership, a candidate completes a short application form and mails it to the address shown. Include a \$20 check for annual dues (or become a lifetime member, at the rates indicated) made payable to the association. For further information, you may check our website at [www.mscassociation.org](http://www.mscassociation.org) or contact Lt Col Ralph Charlip, Association Secretary, **toll-free at: 1-866-818-2110, or via email at [afmscassociation@comcast.net](mailto:afmscassociation@comcast.net)**. Thanks so much for your interest!