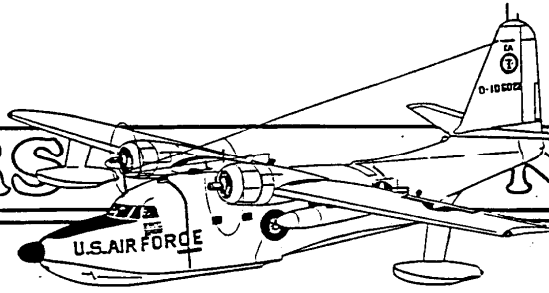


OL TIMERS NOOZZE



Volume 11, Issue 4

December 2007

2008 UTA Schedule

5-6 January	12-13 July
2-3 February	2-3 August
1-2 March	6-7 September
5-6 April	4-5 October
3-4 May	1-2 November
7-8 June	6-7 December

*These Things We Do...
That Others May Live*

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Board Elections - Officers

March 2008

An election for the three Board Corporation Officers - President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer - is scheduled for 2008. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribes that Officers are elected in even number years (2008) and Directors are elected in odd number years (2009).

The AHA President, Jay Craddock, appointed an Election Committee composed of Vice President Ken Moore; the Secretary-Treasurer, John Ruppel; association member at large, LTC Jim Rommelfanger; and Newsletter Editor Lynda Fawcett. The committee will be responsible for gathering nominations, distributing, collecting, and counting the ballots. The newly elected Officers will be announced at the Association's annual meeting, the Annual Old Timers Lunch, scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2008, at the Castro Valley Loyal Order of Moose Hall, 20835 Rutledge Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Any AHA member in good standing may serve as an Officer. Individuals interested in serving as an Officer should complete the form included in this issue. Return the completed form (or a reasonable facsimile) no later than January 19, 2008, to:

**Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122**

Nominations must be received by January 19, 2008, to be valid. All nominations will be included on the ballot. Ballots, a self-addressed stamped postcard, will be mailed to all members, with information regarding the Old Timers Luncheon, no later than February 12, 2008. There is no write-in provision. Ballots must be returned no later than March 17, 2008, to be valid. The nominees with the highest number of votes for each office will be declared Officers, and will be announced and begin their two-year term at the Old Timers Luncheon

The Prez Sez

The President's Column

LTC Jesse Craddock (Ret.)

'Tis the season to be jolly... and the Board would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Col Ed Lewis former 129th RQW Wing Commander, 1984-1986 was killed in an aircraft accident November 8th. Col Lewis was a 129th member from 1950 to 1986. An obituary is on page 4.

The 2008 annual Old-timers lunch will be held Wednesday March 26th at the Castro Valley Moose Lodge. Mark your calendar! The February 2008 newsletter will include reservation information and directions.

I heard from Col Bill Cox who now resides in Maui. Bill provided the Association with a generous \$1,000 scholarship program gift in the names of Col Ralph Nobriga and SMSgt Don Delucchi. The Association will present three scholarships to Wing members at the annual luncheon.

The Association By-laws require a 2008 officer election. The Newsletter contains information on the election and a form for nominations.

The internet notification system I previewed in the September Newsletter is now ready for implementation. Steve James has provided an article detailing the system. You will find a postcard in your Newsletter which will provide you system access. Please complete and return the card if you wish to participate.

Steve James and I represented the Association at the annual Wing Family Day. The event provided an opportunity to interact with Wing personnel and provide information on the Association.

The Wing 2008 Outstanding Airmen of the Year are featured in the Newsletter. The Association will honor them at the annual Old-timers luncheon. They will represent the Wing at the annual State Outstanding Airmen of the Year banquet. The 129th is host Wing for 2008. Information on the banquet is on page 4. The Association traditionally sponsors two junior non-commissioned officers' banquet attendance.

The changing Air National Guard environment has resulted in Wing manpower changes. The Civil Engineering Squadron was downsized from more than sixty members to about thirteen. The Wing MPF also lost personnel. Col Bagdasarian believes that more manpower cuts are probably inevitable given the ANG's fiscal constraints and end strength numbers.

Lastly, please keep those who are serving and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year to all of you!

Jay

Email Notification and Information Sharing Tool

LTC Steven L. James

Members of the 129th AHA asked the board if we could find a simple and timely way to communicate information and notifications to our association membership. To that end, we began development in October of an email notification system that our members could utilize. By simply sending a message to all@129aha.org, the message is distributed to all email addresses that have been previously entered in the system.

The notification system was a big success with one exception. Many of the email addresses we had on file were no longer active. This caused many email address rejections and returned error messages. In order to fix this challenge and make sure everyone registered receive the messages, we are providing a post card for you to fill out in this publication of the OL' Timers' Noozze. Please provide us with your current email address and CMSgt Jim Badgrow, our Webmaster, will update your email listing. In addition, Jim provided a link on the 129th AHA website to update your email address electronically. Go to www.129aha.org. Click on the "Members" link at the top of the page and click on the "Email address update form" under the "Email List" heading. Fill out the form and submit by clicking on the "Email request to Webmaster" tab.

This new notification system is currently operational. All your messages will be initially moderated by our webmaster during the testing phase and forwarded on to the membership the same day. Our future plan is to allow all messages sent to all@129aha.org to go directly to our membership when testing is complete and all the bugs are worked out.

My thanks go out to Jim for the tremendous job he's done in providing us with this valuable tool! Any of us can now communicate with our membership at a moment's notice.



Have some good ideas about things the 129th AHA should do?

Want to make changes in the way things are done?

Want to be more involved in the day-to-day operations of the AHA?

Then nominate yourself to become an Officer of the Association!

Any member in good standing (that means your dues are paid) can run for and be elected to the Board of Directors. Officers are elected in even years (2008). Directors at large are elected in odd years (2009).

Now is your chance!

Let your voice be heard!

Choose to become involved!

NOMINATION FOR CORPORATION OFFICER

Yes! I want to be more involved in the 129th AHA!

Place my name in nomination for Corporation Officer.

_____ **President**

_____ **Vice President**

_____ **Secretary-Treasurer**

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Rank: _____ Dates of Service in 129th: _____

Signature: _____

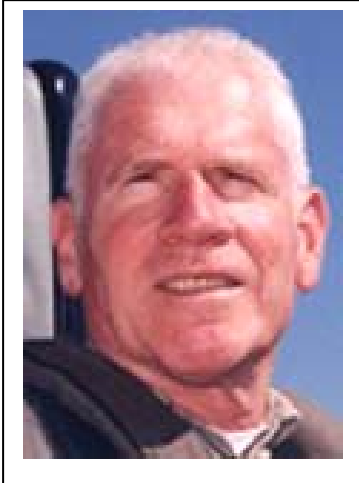
Must be received no later than January 19, 2008. Mail to:

COL. JOHN L. RUPPEL, JR. (RET.)

6718 ZERILLO DRIVE

RIVERBANK, CA 95367-2122

Col Edwin W Lewis, Jr
19 May 1936 – 8 November 2007



Col Edwin W. Lewis, Jr., a research pilot at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center and director of operations for Civil Air Patrol's Pacific Region, died Thursday November 8, when the CAP Cessna 182 in which he was flying crashed into a mountain outside Las Vegas. He was 71. The cause of the crash is under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board. Ed was born in New York City and began flight training as a Civil Air Patrol cadet in 1951. He received a bachelor's degree from Hobart College, N.Y., and entered the U.S. Air Force through the ROTC. He served from 1965 through 1966 in Vietnam, where he was a forward air controller, flying more than 1,000 hours in the O-1 "Bird Dog" aircraft. He earned a Bronze Star medal as well as a Distinguished Flying Cross. He then joined Pan American World Airways as a pilot. Lewis served with the California National Guard while working for Pan Am. He retired as commander of the 129th Air Rescue and Recovery Group. He took early retirement from Pan Am in 1989 to join NASA. He flew for eight years at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View and at Dryden since 1997. Lewis had served in the Civil Air Patrol as California Wing commander from 1978 to 1982, Pacific Region commander for four years and was elected national vice commander in August 1993. Ed was preceded in death by his parents and brother John. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Midge Lewis of Castro Valley and sons Eric of Castro Valley and Steve of Los Angeles; sisters-in-law, Beverly Lewis of Utah, Sheila Conway (Jack) of Petaluma and Beverly Borges (Jeff) of Modesto; nieces, Susan Tsutsumi (Paul) of Palos Verdes, Kathy Lococo (Larry) of San Anselmo and four great-nieces and nephew. A Memorial Service was held Saturday, November 17 at Transfiguration Church, Castro Valley. Additionally, A memorial observance in Southern California was held Friday, November 30, at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center on Edwards Air Force Base.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the CAP Lewis Scholarship Fund, c/o Pacific Region CAP, PO Box 4718, Hayward, CA 94540.

DFAS Announces 2008 Retired & Annuitant Pay Adjustments

CLEVELAND (AFRNS) -- Based on the increase in the U.S. Consumer Price Index, there will be a cost-of-living adjustment increase for retired pay and Survivor Benefit Plan annuities effective Dec. 1, according to Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials.

Retirees being paid on an account where the retiree first became a member of the uniformed services before Sept. 8, 1980 and retired before July 1, 2007 will receive a full COLA increase of 2.3 percent.

The COLA increase for retirees being paid on an account where the retiree first became a member of the uniformed services on or after Sept. 8, 1980 will be as follows:

- ✚ 2.3 percent for those retiring before Jan. 1, 2007
- ✚ 2.3 percent for those retiring in the first quarter calendar 2007
- ✚ 2.3 percent for those retiring in the second quarter calendar 2007
- ✚ 0.2 percent for those retiring in the third quarter calendar 2007
- ✚ No increase for those retiring in the fourth quarter calendar 2007

Retirees being paid on an account where the retiree first became a member of the uniformed services on or after Aug. 1, 1986 and retired on or before Jan. 1, 2007 but elected to receive a Career Status Bonus at 15 years of active service, will receive a COLA increase of 1.3 percent.

Retirees being paid on an account where the retiree first became a member of the uniformed services on or after Aug. 1, 1986, retired on or after Jan. 1, 2007, and elected to receive a Career Status Bonus at 15 years of active service will receive COLA as follows:

- ✚ 1.3 percent for those retiring before Jan. 1, 2007
- ✚ 1.3 percent for those retiring in the first quarter calendar 2007
- ✚ 1.3 percent for those retiring in the second quarter calendar 2007
- ✚ No increase for those retiring in the third or fourth quarter calendar 2007

The COLA increase will be reflected in the Jan. 2 payment. (Courtesy of DFAS)

Please consider making a donation to one of the more than 300 nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping our troops and their families listed on the "America Supports You" website, www.americasupportsyoudil



Shingles Vaccine Available to Tricare Beneficiaries 60 and Older

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFRNS) -- Following a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Oct. 19 recommendation, Tricare now covers Zostavax, the vaccine designed to prevent shingles for beneficiaries 60 and older.

Shingles is a painful viral disease that affects more than 1 million Americans every year. More than half of those cases happen in people age 60 or older. The CDC recommends a single dose of shingles vaccine for everyone within this age range.

In a shingles prevention study done by the Veterans Administration Cooperative Trial, run by Dr. Michael Oxman of the University of California in San Diego, Zostavax was more than 50 percent effective in reducing the incidence of shingles and more than 60 percent effective in reducing some of its associated symptoms. Even in people who suffer from the disease, most of those who were vaccinated experienced less pain.

Shingles is caused by the varicella-zoster virus, the same virus that causes chickenpox in children. It remains in the body for decades, sleeping in nerve cells along the spinal column. A shingles rash usually appears on one side of the face or body and lasts between two and four weeks. It is painful and can be accompanied by fever, headache, chills and upset stomach, said Tricare officials.

"We cover all immunizations recommended by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and formally endorsed and adopted by the CDC," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director of the Tricare Management Activity.

Beneficiaries who receive the shingles vaccine must have vaccinations administered in a provider's office. Zostavax is covered under the Tricare medical benefit and is not reimbursable under the pharmacy benefit. Beneficiaries with coverage or claims questions should contact the Tricare regional claims processor found on their beneficiary explanation of benefits notice, or if living overseas contact the local Tricare Service Center or the Tricare area office for the area in which they live. (Courtesy of Tricare)

TRICARE Debuts New Web Service

TRICARE Prime and Prime Remote beneficiaries in the United States can now manage their health care online. Prime and Prime Remote beneficiaries can log on to the [TRICARE Beneficiary Enrollment \(https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe/\)](https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe/) website to enroll, disenroll, update personal information and perform other procedures.

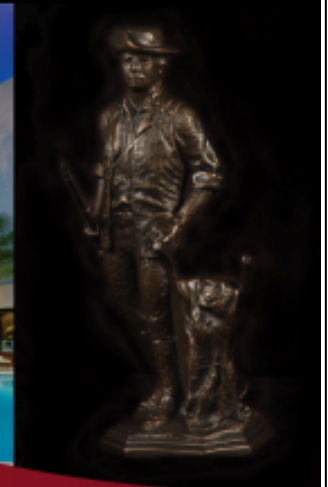
The site also allows standard beneficiaries to update personal information, add other health care information and enroll in Prime. Enrollment forms are still available at the [TRICARE My Profile \(http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/overview/Enrollment/WebEnrollment\)](http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/overview/Enrollment/WebEnrollment) website to fill out and mail to a TRICARE regional office. Beneficiaries can also visit a TRICARE Service Center to enroll and obtain assistance with other health-care needs.



THE CALIFORNIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

2008

Outstanding Airmen and 1st Sergeant of the Year Banquet



SATURDAY - 12 JANUARY 2008

Location
Double Tree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose, CA 95110

Attire
Military - Mess Dress/Semi-formal
Civilian - Formal

No-host Bar 6pm - 7pm

Dinner 7pm

Menu
Porcini Crusted Chicken
Wood Grilled Top Sirloin

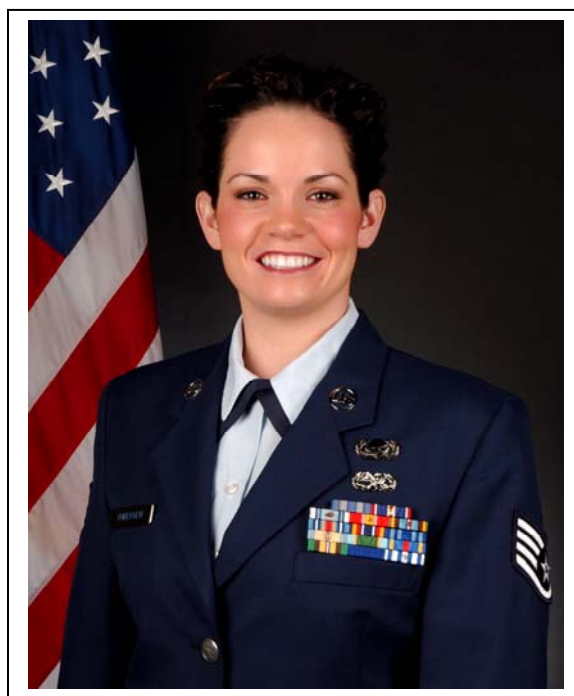
Price
\$55 / Person

For More Information Contact
CMSgt Lilliana Ramos
liliana.ramos@camoff.ang.af.mil
Commercial: 650.603.9202
DSN: 359.9202

REGISTER ONLINE BY 17 DECEMBER 2007 AT WWW.CA.ANG.AF.MIL/OAY08



*Senior Airman Emmanuel Matsamura
Airman of the Year*



*Staff Sergeant Maria Tubergen
NCO of the Year*

2008 Airmen of the Year 129th Rescue Wing



*Master Sergeant Steven Beaulieu
Senior NCO of the Year*



*Master Sergeant Dave Burkhalter
1st Sergeant of the Year*



Please join us for the Retirement Dinner and Celebration of

Lt Col Stephen “Claw” Spillane

January 5th, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Festivities will be held at the Historic Del Monte Building
100 S. Murphy Avenue Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Social and Drinks at 5:30 p.m. Dinner to follow at 6:00 p.m.



Cost

Enlisted: \$30

Officers: \$45

(See MSgt Jennifer Johnson for ticket sales **NLT** than 4 Jan)

TRICARE Beneficiaries Saving Time and Money Switching to Mail Order Pharmacy

Nearly 20,000 TRICARE beneficiaries are saving money on their prescriptions after making the switch to mail order through the new Member Choice Center (MCC). After only two months of operation, beneficiaries saved approximately \$600,000 on prescriptions by switching from retail to the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy's (TMOP). In all, individual beneficiary's savings through TMOP could range from \$24 a year for each regular formulary generic drug to as much as \$176 a year for each non-formulary brand-name drug. The savings increase with each additional prescription.

Beneficiaries that do not have other health insurance and are currently using a retail pharmacy can go now go online to www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE to complete the registration, without downloading or mailing forms, and request that their prescription be converted to mail order from retail.

A toll free number is also an option in the United States. A patient care advocate at the MCC at 1-877-363-1433 can initiate the process to obtain a new prescription from the beneficiary's provider to be filled by the TMOP.

TMOP also notifies beneficiaries by letter when one of their medications is switching to the third tier, which has the most expensive co-pay. This gives beneficiaries time to ask their doctor to switch them to the formulary drug at a lower co-pay before they need a refill.

For more information about the new Member Choice Center and filling prescriptions through the TMOP program, visit the prescription area on the "My Benefit" link of www.tricare.mil.

Dondi's Mercantile Store

129th AHA Merchandise & Apparel

If you would like to order a 129th AHA jacket, we again have jackets in stock. Please contact Ken Moore for ordering information.

Want to own a really unique & distinctive shirt or cap to show your affiliation with the 129th AHA? Dondi's Mercantile Store has a healthy stock of 129th AHA related items. Jackets are customized with your name and rank.

All merchandise can be ordered by phone or on-line. Items and prices are shown at right. Shipping and handling are EXTRA.

Order from Ken Moore at:

(510) 656-1529

or online at sirsgtst@pacbell.net

ITEM	COST	SIZES
Logo Jacket	\$70 - \$75	
Logo Polo Shirts	\$22	M, L, XL, & 2XL
Logo Baseball Cap w/ Embroidered Logo	\$10	
Logo Baseball Cap w/ Silk-screened Logo	\$5	
Large Jacket Patch	\$10	
Small Shirt / Hat Patch	\$5	
Logo Pin	\$5	
129 th Aircraft Collage	\$10	
129 th 50 th Anniversary Commemorative Coin	\$5	

All items can be shipped. Shipping and handling are EXTRA. All items are sent via U.S. Mail.

Have you moved? Know a former member of the 129th who isn't a member yet?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2007 Dues \$10.00

NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP+4: _____ + _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

RANK: _____ 129TH SERVICE DATES FROM: _____ TO _____

Please complete the above information and mail to:
129th Alumni & Heritage Association
c/o Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (ret)
6718 Zerillo Dr.
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

**If your personal information has changed,
PLEASE USE THIS FORM AND NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY!!**

New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

CMSgt Ray Estrella

Welcome!

Do you know someone who has been affiliated with the 129th RQW or its predecessor organizations - and is not a member of the Association? Let's get them signed up!

Final Flyby

In Memoriam

We bid farewell to our members who have departed on their final journey.

Col Edwin W. Lewis, Jr.



Gifts for 'Any Servicemember'

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service's (AAFES) "Gifts from the Homefront" program makes it possible for anyone to purchase products for "any servicemember" through gift certificates that can be redeemed at exchange facilities worldwide. "Gifts from the Homefront" gift certificates can be sent to deployed troops by logging on to www.aafes.com or calling 877-770-4438. From there, the gift certificates are sent to individual servicemembers (designated by the purchaser) or distributed to "any servicemember" through various military aid organizations.



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AND
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Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Are You Missing in Action?

Dead Letter Department

Have you moved recently - or not so recently? Do we have your correct mail and e-mail addresses & phone number? Please let us know when you move.

The newsletter is mailed out with a request for address correction. The post office does not forward the newsletter to you. They return it to us - and charge us 41¢. Then we update your file, put your newsletter in an envelope, put a 41¢ stamp on the packet, and mail it out to you. Total additional cost to the association is nearly \$1.00 per returned newsletter.

Please take a moment to remember the 129th AHA when you notify your correspondents of your new address. A member information form is included in every issue.

Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)

6718 Zerillo Drive

Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

E-mail: J-L.RUPPEL@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

NON-PROFIT ORG.

US POSTAGE

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RIVERBANK, CA

PERMIT #20



Merry Christmas!

