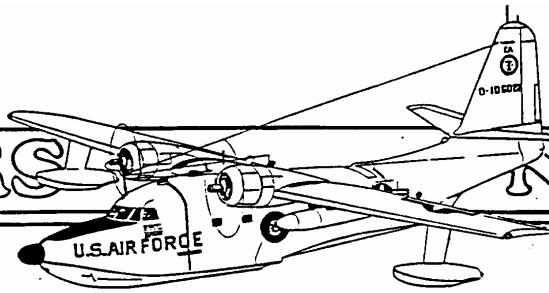


OL TIMERS' NOOZZE



Volume 11, Issue 2

May 2007

The Prez Sez

The President's Column

LTC Jesse Craddock (Ret.)

The annual Old-timers' lunch was attended by 130 members and guests who enjoyed the opportunity to reminisce and update friends and associates. The next luncheon will be held in March 2008, come out and enjoy the camaraderie.

This year's lunch raffle, with an Association jacket as the prize, raised \$263 for the Association Scholarship Program. Thanks to Rose Boddington and Grace Darrin for their efforts selling raffle tickets.

I would like to thank the Bay Area MOAA Chapter for their generous \$500 contribution which allowed the Association to award a second \$1,000 scholarship. Congratulations to winners A1C Krystal Solchaga and SrA Daniel Maxey.

The Association's successful Scholarship Program is primarily due to the dedication and efforts of Cindy Kepple. Cindy's new full-time State Headquarter responsibilities precluded remaining an active Director. She has agreed to remain as the Scholarship Chairperson. On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our appreciation for her hard work and perseverance which produced the Association's

The Prez Sez - *continued*

successful program. The Board presented Cindy a certificate of appreciation and a flower bouquet to recognize her service.

The Association recently lost two members: Mrs. Shirley Hemphill passed away February 17th and MSgt Tommy Brooks passed away April 5th. As is customary, the Newsletter contains a tribute to Shirley and Tom.

The Wing is again participating in Operation Iraq Freedom and Afghanistan's Operation Enduring Freedom. The last several deployments, the Association has supplied individual deployment bags containing energy bars, candy, drinks and other goodies. Newsletter Editor Lynda Fawcett assembled 220 bags to be dispensed to deploying Wing members. During the Old-times Lunch, Lynda presented the 129TH Wing Commander Col Amos Bagdasarian with the first deployment bag. Vice President Ken Moore presented Lynda with a flower bouquet expressing the Board's appreciation for her Association support. Lynda, many thanks for all you do!

The 129th Rescue Wing Operations Group Commander, Colonel Mark Sheehy was recently promoted to Colonel. Congratulations!

Welcome to our newest Board member, Lt Col Dave Russell. Dave is currently employed as a United Airlines captain.

The Alumni Association's life blood is members. If you have friends or former associates who served with the 129th, why not suggest they consider joining. A membership application is available on page 10; on the Association web page at www.129AHA.org; or contact Secretary-Treasurer John Ruppel at 209-869-2879 or email j.l.ruppel@worldnet.att.net.

Until the next Prez Says, have a great family summer!!!

Jay

P.S. – Just as we prepared to go to press, we received news of the passing of Brigadier General Albert R. Santos. A memorial is included.

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2007 Ol' Timers Luncheon

Col Bagdasarian, Jay Craddock, Roscoe Presley – Sr NCO of the Year



Col Bagdasarian, Jay Craddock, & Erik Blackburn – Airman of the Year



Dave Russell & Ken Moore



Gladys Calvin draws the winning raffle ticket for the special prize she supplied



Col Bagdasarian, Jay Craddock, & Chris Underwood – 1st Sgt of the Year



Rose Boddington with Jennifer Newman – the lucky raffle winner



John Ruppel with Roger Higby – claiming raffle prize of an AHA jacket for Phil DiGiovanni



Col Bagdasarian &
Lynda Fawcett



Ken Moore &
Cindy Kepple

Flowers for
the Ladies



Steve James



Jeff
Lawson



Ken Moore, Lynda Fawcett,
Jay Craddock



John Ruppel

Our World War II Vets



Ken Moore, Jim Badgrow, Phil DiGiovanni, Jay Craddock, Jim
Calvin, Mel Woolcock

129th Alumni & Heritage Association Memorial Day Honor Roll



*Day is done.
Gone the sun
From the lakes,
From the hills,
From the sky.
All is well.
Safely rest.
God is nigh.*



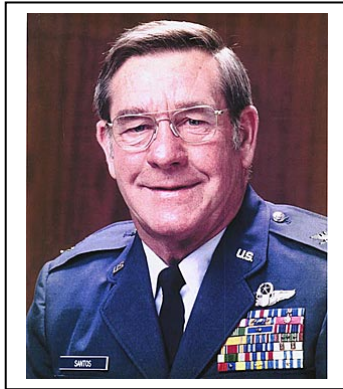
MSGT Pastor D. Abelaye
BGen Harold A. Aherns
SSGT Harry Ahlborn
TSGT Gary R. Albertson
LTC Richard Allen
MSGT Manuel Amaral
LTC Shirley R. Ashby
MSGT Howard Bachman
MSGT David S. Bain
SMSGT John S. Beasley
LTC Gregory A. Bose
COL John R. Breeden
MSGT Tommy D. Brooks
LTC Joseph J. Budro
MSGT Sam Burgess
SMSGT Fredrick E. Burkett
TSGT Larry Butts
LTC Malcom B. Campbell
LTC Neil Campbell
SGT Steven Carlyle
1LT Desmond Casey
SMGT Robert Clayton
SMSGT Vaughn H. Clearman
SRA Raeann M. Cordova
SSGT Steve Courtney ★
LTC Gene Cunningham
LT Gary Curtis ★
SMSGT Donald L. Delucchi
MSGT Robert Denham
SSGT Robin Eal
COL Raymond J. Fitts
MSGT Herschel Flygare
SSGT Johnny Forlanda
LTC Billy Freeman
★ Killed in Action

CWO4 William Gateley
SMSgt Howard L. Gibson
SMSGT Arch R. Girvin
MSGT Clarence F. Gruenert
SMSgt Blaine D. Hall
MAJ Carl Haller, MD
MSGT Lloyd Hamilton
COL William Hein
Mrs. Shirley L. Hemphill
TSGT John E. Horton ★
LTC James A. Hunt
COL Eugene J. Ignatow
MAJ Jerry Ingram
CPT Clyde Jackson ★
TSGT Bobby J. Jarman
MSGT Art Johnson
TSGT John Karpaty
A3C Alan A. Kelley ★
MSGT Henry Kern
BGen (Chaplain) James Kintzi
BGen Charles W. Koenig
COL Charles J. Kuban
SRA Mary Lou Lara
COL Paul Lavoie, MD
MSGT Bartley J. Lee
CMSGT Joseph Martin
MAJ Lawrence Mauch
COL Ralston D. McKee
SGT Kevin McKenna
MSGT Edwin D. McNemar
LTC Charles Means
MSGT Paul Medeiros
LTC Robert Morrison
LTC Robert A. Morton

TSGT Rodney W. Morton
MAJ Mark Mutchler
MAJ Terry Nelson ★
SSGT Charles L. Nobriga
COL Ralph L. Nobriga
LTC John W. O'Sullivan
SMSGT Michael Patterson
COL Fred H. Petersen
MSGT Leon Pope
Marge Rainsford
LTC John Reading
Ronald Roach
COL Joseph W. Rodricks
A1C Robert R. Rossie ★
MSGT Frank M. Sacramento
MSGT Thomas Santiago
BGen Albert R. Santos
SMSGT Don Shanks
Claudia L. Cortez Sonnenfelt
LTC Les Spencer ★
MAJ Ira States
LTC Donald W. Stewart
TSGT Nicholas Stoopin
CMSGT Harold R. Strickler
COL Herman Vandever
LTC Urban B. Vandever
LTC John A. Vinther
MSGT Clarence W. Wagner
LTC Louis F. Wang
CWO4 Albert S. Warnick
LTC James Ward
SMSGT Paul F. Wilkins
LTC Don F. Winters
A1C Larry Zimmerman ★
MSGT Donald H. Zumsteg

Brig Gen Albert R. Santos

23 February 1918 – 14 May 2007



Brigadier General Albert R. Santos was born February 23, 1918, in San Jose, California. He grew up on the family farm in the Santa Clara Valley. In 1939 he received his first flight instruction at Progressive Air Service, Mountain View, California, and soloed in the 35 horsepower Aerocinn Collegiate. He would trade tractor fuel for flying time in a Fleet biplane.

Initially drafted into the Army Signal Corps, he transferred to the Army Air Corps in February 1942. In January 1943, he received his pilot's wings and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. In February 1944 he was sent to 8th Air Force in England where he would log 320 flying hours on 66 combat missions in P-51 B "Lois Carolyn" & D "Lois Carolyn II". Returning to the United States in January 1945, his World War II service ended in May 1945.

In 1948 he joined the California Air National Guard's 61st Fighter Wing, later re-designated the 144th Fighter Wing. When the wing moved in 1951 to its new home at Hayward airport, the now Major Santos was its Operations officer. When the Fighter Wing moved in 1954 to Fresno, he elected to stay at Hayward with the newly formed 129th Air Resupply Group. He would later command the Group's 129th Air Resupply Squadron. The 129th Air Resupply Group would later become the 129th Special Operations Group. In 1974, he would become the Group Commander and received a promotion to Colonel.

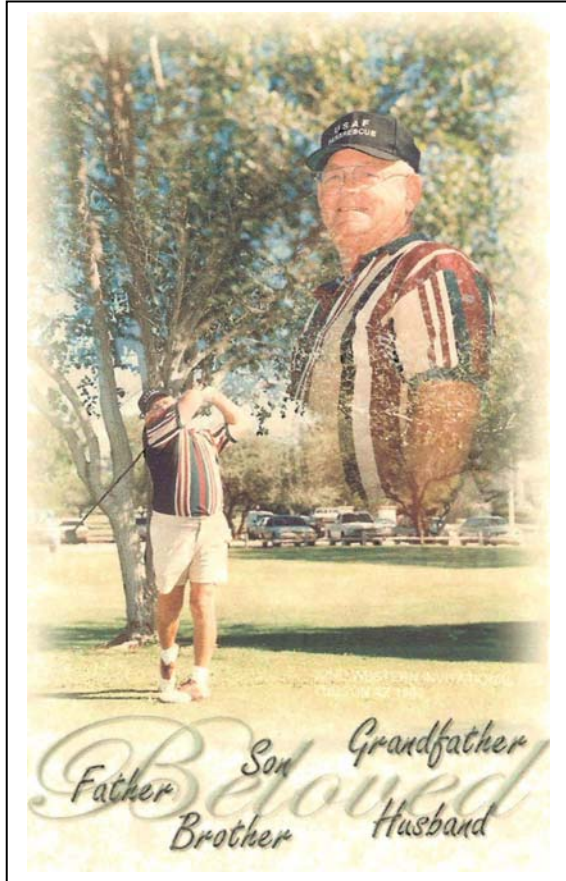
Shortly after he assumed his command, the Group's mission was changed to Air Force Rescue and was re-designated as the 129th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group. After seeing the unit through its training and attaining combat-ready status, he was assigned to Headquarters California Air National Guard as Deputy Commander in 1977. He was then promoted to Brigadier General. While with the 129th, General Santos had flown the C-46, HU-16, C-119, U-10 and the HC-130 Rescue Hercules. After thirty-six years of military service, he retired in 1978.

During his long and distinguished career, the General had flown twenty-five types of military aircraft, single and multi-engine, land and sea, from piston-powered to turbo-props to jets. On General Santos's uniform below his Command Pilot wings, awarded in 1955, are 21 military decorations received from a grateful nation. Most notable among them are the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit, the Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

General Santos passed away on May 14, 2007, at age 89. He is survived by his wife, Lois; son, Brad; and daughter, Carolyn.



MSgt Tommy Dee Brooks
5 January 1943 – 5 April 2007



Tommy Dee Brooks was born January 5th, 1943 in Peru, Indiana and passed away April 5th, 2007 in Marysville, California. Loving husband to Judy Brooks, and father to Pamela, Angela, Traci, Shannon, Janet, Brian, and Michael. Grandfather of 10 wonderful grandchildren, and son of Norma Brooks.

Tommy served in the 129th from 1975 to 1989, and was active in the 129th Alumni and Heritage Association. He organized several fund-raising golf tournaments to benefit the Scholarship Fund.

Burial was with full military honors at Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, California.

To Those I Love

*When I am gone, just release me,
Let me go – so I can move into my
afterglow.*

*You mustn't tie me down with your
tears;*

*Let's be happy that we had so many
years.*

*I gave you my love,
You can only guess how much you gave
me in happiness.*

*I thank you for the love you each have
shown,*

But now it's time I traveled on alone.

*So grieve for me awhile, if grieve you
must,*

*Then let your grief be comforted with
trust.*

*It's only for a while that we must part,
So bless the memories within your
heart.*

*And then, when you must come this
way alone,*

*I'll greet you with a smile and a
"Welcome Home."*

Shirley L. Hemphill

5 August 1927 – 17 February 2007

Shirley L. Hemphill

Cherished Mother and Long-time Civil Servant

Shirley L. (Batt) Hemphill was born on August 5, 1927, and passed away February 17, 2007, at the age of 79 in Santa Rosa. She was the loving wife of 61 years to Richard Hemphill of Healdsburg. Cherished mother and mother-in-law of Patty and Larry Hemphill of Kirby, Texas, and Kathy Glessing of Healdsburg. Adored grandmother of Joshua, Isaiah, Blanca, Tiffany and Jeffrey. Also great grandmother of six. Dear sister of Laurel Crook of Phoenix, Arizona, and Judi Evans of Reno, Nevada.

Shirley was employed with the California Air National Guard as a civil servant for 26 years. In her last days, she regularly mentioned the 129th ARRG and said she missed being around all those people she worked with. She enjoyed bowling with the 129th ARRG leagues.

She frequently played the California Lotto - and frequently won. She loved Tahoe and Reno and played the slots and Keno.

Contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California at 1211 N. Dutton Ave., Ste. A, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. At the family's request, no formal services will be held. Her ashes are in her niche at Oakmont Cemetery in Healdsburg.



Russian aircraft transports ANG rescue helicopters

by Capt. Alyson M. Teeter

129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

4/24/2007 - **MOFFETT AIR FIELD, Calif. (AFNEWS)** -- Air National Guardsmen here worked with an aircraft that was vastly different from the MC-130P Combat Shadow tankers, HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters and other Air Force aircraft they are accustomed to.

Airmen from the 129th Rescue Wing were deploying to Afghanistan and needed aircraft to transport HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters. Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have kept C-17 Globemaster III and C-5 Galaxy aircraft extremely busy, and the high operations tempo of these aircraft led to the scheduling of contracted cargo airlift, said Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Przymus, the Logistics Readiness Squadron Contingency Plans superintendent and Deployment Control Center logistics representative.

Enter the Russian Volga-Dnepr AN-124 long-range heavy transport aircraft. The enormous white fuselage splashed with blue paint and Russian writing provided a rare sight for 129th Airmen. "This was the first time the AN-124 hauled 129th cargo," Sergeant Przymus said.

Volga-Dnepr Airlines is a civilian company based out of Russia and has the world's largest fleet of AN-124 aircraft, according to its Web site. The AN-124's unique capabilities and loading equipment make it possible to transport out-sized and bulk cargo, like heavy engines, satellites and helicopters. In January 2002, Volga-Dnepr became the first civil aviation company to operate flights to Afghanistan. Volga-Dnepr Airlines transports military aircraft, cargo and servicemembers all over the world, said Sergey Menashev, a radio operator for the AN-124 who has flown on the aircraft for more than 20 years. "We airlift the military quite a bit and fly in to combat zones in Afghanistan," he said. "It's nice to be here in California."

After the aircraft landed and the air crew disembarked, the load crew got down to business. The nose of the plane opened up and the Russian and 129th load crews worked through a language barrier to solidify the load plan for the three Pave Hawk helicopters. "Once they landed the crew wanted to load the cargo right away, which helped facilitate schedules," said 1st Lt. Mario Montero, the logistics readiness squadron installation deployment officer. "The crew was really friendly and timely."

With the nose cone up and the front end open, the Russian crew operated the winching equipment and 129th Airmen steered the helicopters up the ramp and in to the aircraft. The process required swift communication and coordination between the two crews. While the crews loaded the helicopters, Tech. Sgt. John Szelog, a 129th Maintenance Squadron electronic countermeasures maintainer, curiously inspected the AN-124. He was one of the two 129th Airmen scheduled to fly on the aircraft. "I'm looking forward to the flight -- it should be interesting," he said.

Three hours after the AN-124 landed, the helicopters were loaded and secured for the long journey to Afghanistan. But there was more work to be done. A C-17, flown and operated by Air Force Reservists from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., was loaded with deploying 129th Air National Guardsmen during the helicopter loading. The AN-124 was parked near the C-17 on the tarmac.

Adding to the total force mix was an active duty tanker airlift control element from Travis AFB. The TALCE team provided necessary equipment to load the cargo aircraft. They also provided additional expertise preparing the cargo for proper air shipment.

In the end, the deployment of 129th Rescue Wing equipment and Air National Guardsmen was a resounding success because of the cooperation between Air National Guardsmen, Air Force Reservists, active Airmen and Russian civilians.

"This is a great example of our total Air Force at work," said Col. Wayne Albright, the 129th Rescue Wing vice commander. "The active duty, Guard and Reserve train to and work with the same standards making even the novelty of loading an AN-124 go effortlessly."



A Russian Volga-Dnepr AN-124 long-range heavy transport aircraft is parked April 20 at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif. The contracted AN-124 transported 129th Rescue Wing deployment cargo to Afghanistan because the high operations tempos of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have kept C-17 Globemaster III and C-5 Galaxy aircraft fully engaged. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Hartman)

Airmen from the 129th Rescue Wing load cargo onto a Russian Volga-Dnepr AN-124 long-range heavy transport aircraft April 21 at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif. The contracted AN-124 transported 129th Rescue Wing deployment cargo to Afghanistan because the high operations tempos of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have kept C-17 Globemaster III and C-5 Galaxy aircraft fully engaged. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Daniel Kacir)



Airmen from the 129th Rescue Wing load a HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopter onto a Russian Volga-Dnepr AN-124 long-range heavy transport aircraft April 20 at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif. The contracted AN-124 transported 129th Rescue Wing deployment cargo to Afghanistan because the high operations tempos of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have kept C-17 Globemaster III and C-5 Galaxy aircraft fully engaged. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Hartman)

A Russian Volga-Dnepr AN-124 long-range heavy transport aircraft takes off from Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif., April 22. The contracted AN-124 transported 129th Rescue Wing deployment cargo to Afghanistan because the high operations tempos of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have kept C-17 Globemaster III and C-5 Galaxy aircraft fully engaged. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Daniel Kacir)



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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>SIZES</u>
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

*Lt Col Jackie Parker
SrA Westly Hammond
SSgt Erik Blackburn
MSgt Roscoe Presley
MSgt Chris Underwood
SMSgt Norma Lopez*

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.

*Brig Gen Albert R. Santos
MSgt Tommy D. Brooks
Mrs. Shirley L. Hemphill*



2006 Scholarship Awards

Lt Col Cindy Kepple

The Association awarded two Wing members \$1,000 2006 scholarships. The second scholarship was awarded with the Bay Area MOAA Chapter's partnership and generous \$500 matching contribution. The winners received their checks during the annual Old Timers Lunch. Congratulations to following Wing members who have been awarded the 2006 scholarships!

129th AHA

A1C Krystal Solchaga

Nursing



129th AHA and MOAA

SrA Daniel Maxey

Oceanography

(accepted by Al Yeh)

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AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.)

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Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

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Safe Journey & Safe Return For Our Deployed Troops

