



NEWSLETTER



Number 008

August 2017

Welcome to the EC-47 History Site Newsletter

PHYLLIS ANN CHANGED TO COMPASS DART

United States Air Force airborne radio direction finding (ARDF) began in fits and starts with project names like HILO HATTIE and MONA HI. In late 1962 to early 1963, USAF successfully configured a C-47, tail number 45-0925, with phase angle discrimination direction finding technology developed by Sanders Associates of Nashua, N.H. This testbed project was named HAWKEYE.



'Old Hawkeye'

Read more about this early system and its eventual growth into the production model in the article *PHYLLIS ANN Makes Her Entrance* that website manager Joe Martin uploaded to the [History of the EC-47](#) folder on Jan. 20, 2017.

While researching nose art featured on many EC-47s prior to Gen. William W. Momyer, commander, Seventh Air Force (1966-68) and commander, Tactical Air Command (1968-73), ordering it discontinued circa 1970, we located an unidentified artist's notional painting of PHYLLIS ANN in photographs with Valente Vera and James Robins. Of the more than 60 nose art examples found, there were none of this painting used as nose art on any of the EC-47 aircraft. So, we decided to create one in tribute to the completion of project PHYLLIS ANN and "her" name change to COMPASS DART some 50 years ago.

Using this photo and WWII nose art featuring female subjects as inspiration, this is our "nose art" version on a model of EC-47 tail number 43-15112.



Valente Vera with Phyllis Ann

Aircraft No. 112 was the first PHYLLIS ANN version delivered to Tan Son Nhut AB on May 14, 1966.



Phyllis Ann - Courtesy Tom Nurre & artist Peipei

Island Enterprises (Angeles City, Philippines) has been carving EC-47s for several years, and all the distinctive ARDF details are included in these custom models. See more photos of this latest model in the website [photo gallery](#). Contact Tom Nurre at tknurre1@suddenlink.net for EC-47 community discount prices and order information.

The first PHYLLIS ANN model



112 for its "FINI" mission out of TSN on Nov. 6, 1972. Jim ordered the first model with the PHYLLIS ANN nose art, and he is delighted with the craftsmanship.

360th TEWS pilot, Col. (Ret.) Jim Clement, was assigned to Tan Son Nhut as a second lieutenant right out of UPT. He later flew as copilot with the unit commander, Col. John Griffith, in the left seat on Aircraft No.

REUNIONS

6994th Security Squadron
August 17-19, 2017
Dayton, Ohio
blk67cougar@gmail.com

This reunion includes a visit to the Air Force Museum and a raffle for the second PHYLLIS ANN/ANTIQUA AIRLINES No. 112 model. The reunion attendance RSVP desk is now closed.

362nd Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron
October 3-5, 2017
Branson, Missouri

The 362nd TEWS reunion is usually for squadron personnel only, but check the reunion [website](#) or contact Ed Diehl at ettediehl@gmail.com for more information. This group will have a special drawing for a model of EC-47Q 43-49771.

War Stories

The July website article, *Task Force Alpha—Project Muscle Shoals/Igloo White*, drew a lot of attention and netted some very interesting stories that were shared in the June 19 website email broadcasts. We also heard from two sons of 6994th SS crewmembers.

U.S. Army Maj. (Ret.) Alan Taylor asked about what his dad, David E. "Sonny" Taylor (photo right), might have been doing in the late 1960s on the C-121R College Eye flights out of



Sonny Taylor - Korat

Korat, Thailand. Sonny is a Russian/Vietnamese linguist who flew those missions before going to NKP in the EC-47 program. He also did some work with Task Force Alpha and the 6908th Security Squadron prior to going on special assignment to SAC.

War stories continued:

While on assignment to SAC, Taylor flew aboard the KC-135 radio relay aircraft (LUZON) supporting the 1973 Linebacker I & II operations. Click on [Teaball Net](#) to read a research paper about those operations. Alan advises that his dad lives in Bremerhaven, Germany, and is in good health at 81 years young. We are hoping to work out a Skype opportunity later this year.

The recently assigned National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) liaison officer at Goodfellow AFB is U.S. Army Lt. Col. (Ret.) Danny Henderson. He is the son of 6994th Security Squadron Bravo Maintenance Technician Basil L. Henderson.



Basil Henderson - Arizona 2017

Danny is working with local EC-47 veterans to find out more about his dad's work and is encouraging him to tell some of his experiences with the highly classified ARDF and signals intelligence equipment used by the USAFSS back-end crews. As a tribute to Basil's training connection to Goodfellow AFB, and the EC-47 replica aircraft and ARDF Exhibit at the Norma Brown building, Danny got his dad a custom-made EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit shirt for his 82nd birthday coming up in August. The photo (left) we received on

July 19 is proof that Basil received an early birthday gift.

Of special note, both sons expressed how cautious their dads are about not telling them any of the details of their classified work during the Vietnam War. Both families have been encouraged to use the declassified [unit histories](#) available on the website as a guide to what may now be open for conversation. Hopefully, with the help of their sons, Sonny and Basil will write some of their stories for sharing here.

War stories are an important part of our mission history for both front-enders and back-enders alike. The "work" stories are important as they serve to personalize the formal unit history products. The personal anecdotal stories are just as important. For example, George Hollis wrote the DRILL PRESS "work" story in early June 2017 and recently amended it with a short personal story about mortar and rocket attacks. Quite a perspective! Here is an excerpt:

"At Phu Bai, there were earthen trenches surrounding the base for perimeter defense rather than the typical bunkers. All personnel, including us Air Force TDY'ers, had assigned positions for base defense. We took incoming 81mm mortar and 122mm rocket fire about every other night around 0300 or 0400. The rule was, once we hit the trenches, we stayed until daylight. So, we learned to take a can of C-rations or something to eat while we waited for the sun to come up after the incoming fire ceased."

George goes on to tell about the early morning quiet being shattered by a U.S. Army 175mm self-propelled artillery gun firing over their heads and how the guys in the trenches reacted to the unexpected and deafening muzzle blast. The punch line has something to do with toilet paper. Read the [full story](#) here.

Alan H. Brown, 360th TEWS pilot (1970-71) relates to the base rocket attacks with this quip excerpted from his "work" story.

"There was a 'rocket attack' at Tan Son Nhut the night of my FINI Flight party, but some of us were totally unaware of it until we wondered where all the people went."

Read Brown's adventures at [Alan Brown Remembers Antique Airlines](#), recently added to the website [Tell your EC-47 story!](#)



Alan Brown - TSN



50th Vietnam War Commemoration Partner Program

The EC-47 History Site celebrated its second anniversary as a Commemoration Partner by sponsoring the All Veterans Council of Tom Green County's tribute to Vietnam veterans ceremony in San Angelo, Texas, on July 15, 2017. Two hundred local and visiting Vietnam

veterans, their families and guests attended this event. The mayor and 10 other community leaders presented commemorative lapel pins to 54 Vietnam veterans and 10 Vietnam veteran surviving spouses.



San Angelo Texas, July 15, 2017: Certificate of Honor and lapel pin presentation to surviving spouse, Jan Meyers, during the ceremony at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. (L-R) Laura Serrano, Chairwoman of the All Veterans Council of Tom Green County; Mrs. Jan Meyers; City of San Angelo Mayor, Brenda Gunter. Photo by Faith in a Flash Photography.

Commemoration committee chairman, Tom Nurre, introduced the Certificate of Honor program and described the new lapel pin and certificate being presented in San Angelo for the first time. Mrs. Jan Meyers, surviving spouse of ARDF operator Dick Meyers, was very pleased to attend in honor of her husband and to receive her own special lapel pin and Certificate of Honor. The after action report and photos from this ceremony are available [HERE](#). Click this link to view the San Angelo [KLST TV News](#) coverage.

The EC-47 History Site commemoration committee has increased to 20 community leaders and their organizations. Commemoration ceremonies are scheduled for the 362nd TEWS and 6994th SS 2017 reunions in Branson, Mo., and Dayton, Ohio, respectively. The Heritage Chapter - Freedom Through Vigilance Association and Historic Fort Concho Museum are sponsoring The Wall That Heals (a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at Arlington Cemetery) visit to San Angelo on Nov. 16-19, 2017. An expanded commemoration ceremony is being planned to honor the U.S. allies, and to note special advances in Vietnam war-time technology that is now used in the public domain. Every event is an opportunity to recognize EC-47 program veterans, as well as all Vietnam veterans and their families from throughout our communities.

Freedom of Information Act Update

Professor Christine Lamberson, Angelo State University History Department, reports receiving additional declassified 6994th Security Squadron histories through the FOIA Request process started in late 2015. The university initiated this project through their War Stories Project. These products (1969-1970) are available [HERE](#).



Since the website counter was activated on March 30, 2015, there have been over 27,000 users, 45,000 sessions, and more than 210,000 page reviews. There are over 400 subscribers to this newsletter.

Please send in your story to: info@ec47.com