



Number 009

December 2017

Welcome to the EC-47 History Site Newsletter

The primary EC-47 mission was to provide actionable signals intelligence in support of allied ground operations. Because ARDF was so tightly classified, it's been difficult to determine what impact we actually made. Now that the 6994th histories are being released, we can begin to "connect the dots" between our activities and the overall con-

duct of the war, although sometimes not in the detail we'd like. Click [here](#) to read about ARDF and the bitter fighting around the DMZ in late 1967. [This link](#) will take you to our ongoing history of the EC-47 and its people. You're a part of that history, and only your contributions can fill in the blanks that no "official" history recorded.

Click [here](#) for a recent example. We need more like it!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.



[Bob Hope Christmas Special 1967](#)

From Oct. 3-5, 2017, veterans of the 362nd Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (TEWS) celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Feb. 1, 1967, activation of their EC-47 airborne radio direction finding mission unit at Pleiku AB, South Vietnam. Squadron veterans and family members attended featured shows in Branson, MO., plus other attractions and shopping. There was much reminiscing and story-telling, as well as a raffle for donated gifts and a special squadron aircraft model. The EC-47 History Site also hosted a special 50th Vietnam War Commemoration recognition ceremony that welcomed home all the veterans and extended a big "Thank You" to their family members. The 2018 reunion, with a similar program, has already been booked at the same hotel. The complete 362nd TEWS Reunion AAR is linked [HERE](#).



362ND TEWS
BRANSON, MISSOURI - OCTOBER 5, 2017



August 18, 2017: 6994th Security Squadron reunion attendees pose in front of the Air Force Museum C-47 painted to represent the C-47A flown by the 91st Troop Carrier Squadron to recover gliders used in the invasion of France, June 6, 1944.

The 6994th Security Squadron held its annual reunion at the Holiday Inn, Fairborn, Ohio, August 17-19, 2017. The EC-47 History Site CPP committee co-chairmen, Tom Nurre & Joe Martin, organized a Commemoration program to welcome home and pay tribute to these Vietnam War veterans and their families as part of the annual celebration of the 1966 activation of the squadron at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam. Throughout the reunion weekend, veterans and their families were treated to a golf outing, pizza party, and hospitality suite gatherings. They visited the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force on Wright-Patterson AFB and conducted a remembrance ceremony at the EC-47 memorial plaque in the center gardens. The squadron reunion leadership, Rick Yeh, Rich Krejsa and Bob Hull, were joined by the Dayton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 97 leaders Stephen Ratcliffe and David Fuchs, and the Heritage Chapter of The Freedom Through Vigilance Association vice-president, Ed Bendinelli, for the presentations of the commemorative lapel pins, unit and chapter certificates and commemorative materials. The 6994th Security Squadron AAR is linked [HERE](#).

Welcome to the new EC-47 History Site Newsletter



The EC-47 History Site Commemorative Partner Program (CPP) Committee chairman worked closely with The Heritage Chapter – Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) and the Historic Fort Concho Museum Board to bring the half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, The Wall That Heals (TWH), to San Angelo, Texas, Nov. 16-19, 2017. With TWH as the backdrop, the CPP Committee organized a special Welcome Home for Vietnam War veterans and In Memory Of (Gold Star) and Surviving Spouse (Blue Star) Certificate of Honor and lapel pin recognition ceremony on the Fort Concho parade ground on Nov. 18.

CPP Committee representatives from the EC-47 History Site, Heritage Chapter-FTVA, VFW, Lions Clubs, Goodfellow AFB, American Legion, Association of Asian-American Women, Fleet Reserve, Texas Veterans Commission, Fort Concho, and West Texas Counseling and Guidance assisted with publicity, registration, a public-address system and chairs, and outdoor set up and tear down. More than 500 people attended the ceremony, which featured several guest speakers: Col. Ricky Mills, GAFB Wing Commander; Gold Star daughter Debra Tijerina Brown; author Aryn Lockhart, who was saved from a Saigon orphanage as part of Operation Babylift in 1975; San Angelo Mayor Brenda Gunter; and Tom Nurre, Sr., CPP Committee chairman.

Eighty-one Vietnam veterans were each honored with a Welcome Home handshake, commemorative lapel pin, mayoral proclamation, Heritage Chapter-FTVA Certificate of Honor, and Thank You goodie bag of commemoration materials. A medley of service songs was also played so veterans of each service could stand and be recognized during their respective songs. Additionally, 16 Gold Star and 15 Blue Star family members

were each presented with a Certificate of Honor and commemorative lapel pin. CPP Committee volunteers from Angelo State University, Texas Veterans Commission, Fort Concho, East Side Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, the “Doggers” Vietnamese linguists group, GAFB and Heritage Chapter-FTVA handled the presentations.



Raymond Leftwich (center) receives a Vietnam War Commemorative Certificate of Honor and Gold Star lapel pin from Colonel Ricky Mills (left) and Mayor Brenda Gunter during a ceremony held at Fort Concho, San Angelo, Texas on November 18, 2017. Leftwich is the son of TSgt Raymond F. Leftwich, killed in action aboard EC-47, callsign Tide-86, March 9, 1967. Col. Mills is the son of retired CMSgt Larry Mills, Vietnamese Linguist of USAFSS renown.

Following the ceremony, a catered reception for about 250 veterans, Gold & Blue Star family members and CCP Committee volunteers was held at ASU's LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center. In addition to a buffet of Asian and Texas-style hors d'oeuvres, the reception featured displays and exhibits by the ASU West Texas Collection and History Department, Association of Asian-American Women, EC-47 History Site and ARDF History Exhibit, U.S. Border Patrol, and authors Aryn Lockhart (Operation Babylift) and Mitty Griffis Mirrer (Gold Star Children).

Photo coverage was provided by Faith in a Flash photographer Carl Bradley; the San Angelo Fire Department provided on-site medical services; Tom Nurre, Jr., from the ASU Office of Communications and Marketing emceed the ceremony; and the Concho Pearl restaurant catered the reception. It was a well-attended, very successful commemoration event.

[Click Here](#) to read the full after action report and media coverage.

ASU History Professor Lamberson writes:

As part of the *War Stories: West Texans and the Experience of War* project, Angelo State University's History Department has been collecting the official histories of the 6994th Security Squadron (USAF) through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request since 2015. Upon receipt, these histories have become part of the War Stories collection and are available at the West Texas Collection at Angelo State University and on the *War Stories* project website

(www.angelo.edu/warstories). The declassification process takes a significant amount of time and the histories have been released slowly in six-month increments over the past two years. We currently have received the official histories of the 6994th from January-June 1966 and from January 1967 through June 1970. The broader War Stories project seeks to collect the stories of West Texas veterans and their loved ones through oral history interviews and by collecting digital copies of photographs, documents, and other memorabilia. These histories are an exciting addition to the War Stories collection as they provide the official documentary record to complement individual veterans' views and experiences as shown through documents and recollections recording in oral history interviews.



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The website counter was activated on March 30, 2015. As of December 15th, there have been 50,836 sessions, 29, 829 users, and 240,000 page reviews. There are 400+ subscribers to this newsletter.