



NEWSLETTER



Number 010

April 2018

Welcome to the EC-47 History Site Newsletter

It's Never Too Late. . .



March 29, 2018: (L-R) Carol Bonds, representing the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, poses with Peggy Leftwich Ryan and Joe Martin after presenting Mrs. Ryan a Gold Star lapel pin and 50th Vietnam War Commemoration Certificate of Honor. Ryan is one of three daughters of TSgt Raymond F. Leftwich honored during the ceremony. Leftwich was an EC-47 crewmember (Tide 86) killed in action on March 9, 1967. The EC-47 History Site Commemorative Partner Program (CPP) committee teamed with American Legion Post 572, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 457, VFW Post 1815, DAV Chapter 237 and Angelo State University to host the First Annual Vietnam War Veterans Day celebration in San Angelo to honor veterans and their family members with day-long activities on Goodfellow AFB and the surrounding community. Gold Star and Blue Star lapel pins and Certificates of Honor were presented to nearly 20 family members and surviving widows. Of the 200-plus attendees, 35 veterans were recognized by name and presented the Commemorative Lapel Pin and a *Thank You Goodie Bag* filled with stickers, pins, brochures and proclamations. EC-47 Gold Star veteran family member Mr. Timothy Sebers, son of TSgt Fred Sebers (ground attack 7Nov67) and Mr. Gene Brandenburg, brother of Sgt Dale Brandenburg (Baron 53 5Feb73) were invited but unable to attend. Their presentations were made subsequently in separate venues. The EC-47 History Site continues to lead the community organizations in planning and hosting these special ceremonies. Since June 2015, more than 3,000 veterans and family members have been recognized and thanked for their service during the Vietnam War. See the after action report [here](#). Goodfellow AFB story, TV News & photos [here](#). Some photos have also been uploaded to the national website [here](#).

HERITAGE DAY

94th Intelligence Squadron
10-11 May 2018
Ft. Meade, Maryland



In tribute to the Vietnam War EC-47 airborne radio direction finding (ARDF) mission, the 94th Intelligence Squadron has again planned an annual Heritage Day event that includes two days of activities. All ARDF veterans of the 6994th Security Squadron and its detachments, and 360/361/362 Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron veterans are invited. Other USAFSS & TEWS veterans in the Ft. Meade area interested in attending are also invited to contact the event organizers for more information.

10 May, 1200-1500: Tour of the 94th IS Heritage Room, command Mission Brief, and presentation by the POW/MIA Accountability Agency. A no-host dinner is being planned for the evening.

11 May, 1030-1500: Guided tour of the NSA Cryptologic Museum followed by BBQ and festivities at Burba Lake on Fort Meade.

PLEASE RSVP BY 26 APRIL 2018

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Added information: There are numerous hotels in the area; prices typically range from \$85 - \$105/night. Within 5 minutes from Ft. Meade are the Courtyard by Marriot Ft. Meade and Knights Inn Laurel.

If you have access and prefer to stay on Ft. Meade, there is the Candlewood Suites/IHG Army Hotels at \$80/night.

The 94th Intelligence Squadron works hard to honor the legacy of the 6994th SS and ARDF associated partners. Joe and Tom are both attending...and encourage all frontenders and backenders alike to consider attending this year. It is a special occasion and an opportunity of a lifetime to share your war stories with an eager and interested active duty workforce. Hope to see you there.

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NORM TAYLOR - USAF 1953-1976 Phu Cat 1970-1971 Photographer extraordinaire...

Norm Taylor was my first supervisor at the 6981st Security Squadron, Elmendorf AFB, Anchorage, Alaska, when I arrived in 1962. A tall, big man, it was a little intimidating at first to watch him copy Morse code with his huge hands and fingers dwarfing the manual Royal and Underwood typewriters we used on the intercept consoles. It took no time at all though to find out he was (and is still today) a “gentle giant” who liked the work and loved the people...but with a real passion and vocation for aircraft photography. Norm has told more than one story about successfully using his USAFSS operations security access badge to gain entry to, or more times than not, to explain what he was doing in various restricted access areas on the flight line or aircraft parking areas. He is well known for his photography work with the Flying Tigers and any and everything C-47. As we both went on with our Air Force careers, we did by chance meet again in 1970 in the PACAF Jungle Survival School barracks at Clark AB, Philippines. Norm had just completed the course enroute to Phu Cat as I checked in to start the course before my tour at Nakhon Phanom. It was a quick but fun reunion. Norm continued to haunt the flight lines everywhere he went in Southeast Asia and the EC-47 History Site is loaded with his photographs.

Three weeks ago, Norm telephoned the Goodfellow AFB Wing Historian, Doc Garrett, and offered his collection of EC-47 prints, negatives and slides (10 4-drawer filing cabinets full) to be archived at the EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit there in the Normal Brown building. Joe, Doc and I have had follow-up contacts that reveal Norm is really feeling his 83 years...now with a titanium left knee, Agent Orange heart issues, reduced vision and migraine headaches all tended to by a list of 10 doctors and more pills than he cares to count. He no longer maintains an on-line computer, so does all his communicating via the telephone or large font snail mail. Needless to say, we are distressed by his medical issues, but also very interested in his priceless collection. We are working on a plan for a possible trip out to help sort, inventory and ship his collection to San Angelo. If you were ever assigned with Norm or just know of him, I am sure he would enjoy a telephone chat with you. Norm Taylor - a great friend and advocate of the EC-47 community.
Norm & Betty Taylor, 7 Wingate Ct., Sumter, SC, 29154.
803 481-3754.

By: Tom Nurre/April 13, 2018



NORM TAYLOR - JOE MARTIN CONTINUES: Like Tom, I got to know Norm while serving in the 6981st Security Group at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. We've kept in touch, although sporadically at times, over the intervening 50 years. Way back then, Norm was already a well known aircraft photographer whose work appeared in books and magazines all over the world. His tally of slides and negatives goes well into six figures, if not over a million. I still have a dozen or more 8 X 10 glossies he's given me at one time or another. Below is an example of Norm's work.



A pristine EC-47P (45-1046) of the 361st TEWS on the Phu Cat Ramp.

A couple of years after I left the 81st for the 6994th at Tan Son Nhut, Norm ended up with Det. 1 at Phu Cat. I later volunteered for a 30-day TDY up there during which time Norm and I flew a few missions together. He also showed up at TSN when a typhoon forced Phu Cat to send some birds down our way. Norm of course immediately hit the flight line, where he captured images of many of the 360th TEWS EC-47s.

As Tom notes, Norm is one of the all-time USAFSS nice guys as well as a big Gooney Bird fan/photographer and a great supporter of all things EC-47. Join us in wishing him well as he makes his way through his eightieth decade.



We continue to publish articles and slideshow headlines on ec47.com that highlight new information gleaned from more recently declassified TEWS & USAFSS unit histories as well as “War Stories” from readers like you. Joe does a great amount of research in his continuing series of [History of the EC-47](#) articles emphasizing, when possible, “connecting the dots” of ARDF & SIGINT contributions to combatant commanders and results of their actions taken. His goal is to write/consolidate articles with a more exact 50-year lookback theme with Tet of '68 on his desk right now. However, both the 94th and TEWS histories make surprisingly little mention of their tasking and/or support of the 1968 Tet offensive, although there are a couple of good, usable sections. You can help...please tell us your experiences during the Tet of '68...your recollections and photos...even if you may have previously posted years ago on what is now the legacy site. Use the info@ec47.com email and put Tet 68 in the subject line. Thank you for helping.