



NEWSLETTER



Number 013

April 2019

Welcome to the EC-47 History Site Newsletter

KHE SANH AND MINI-TET

Have you read the latest website article researched and written by Joe Martin?

“Among the options considered during the Khe Sanh siege was the utilization of five EC-47s equipped with the specially developed QRC-346 communications jamming suite. In late January, 6994th Security Squadron representatives briefed MACV staff on Electronic Warfare Operations Plan 1-68. The plan called for the jammer birds to operate in mission areas along Route 9 from the Laotian border over to the coast then south to Chu Lai. In preparation, Pleiku was ordered to fly Q-system-trained operators on ARDF missions in these areas so they could become familiar with potential targets.” The full story [HERE](#).

How many of you recollect preparing for and/or flying these special missions? Did any of you, like Joe, complete the QRC-346 system training either as an operator or maintainer? Any of you avionics technicians get involved with this? Tom remembers learning about jammers, but never operated one until the 1980s with the Alaska Air National Guard C-130 & USAFSS Comfy Bolt jammer used in Brim Frost exercises.

Leave Your Mark!

MEMORIAL BRICKS UPDATE

The paver project for the EC-47 plaza is on track. Base legal and Civil Engineering offices approved the project on March 21st. We are now working the “gifting” process. The design includes 4x8 bricks with inlay bronze plaques. The vendor is allowing us to expand the text to 4 lines & 24 letters per line as in the photo above of an actual prototype. We are working on design options for the 8x8 brick with 4 1/4” round bronze plaque. At left is a computer graphic example with center emblem. (Without the wings or other emblem, add 3 lines of text, maximum 18 characters per line.) Once the bricks installation date is set, we will publish the order forms on ec47.com with more facts and instructions. You will be able to use online, email & snail mail ordering forms and payment options through the Heritage Chapter-FTVA 501(c)(19)account. Your donations may be tax deductible if you itemize your IRS tax returns.



Photo L-R: Ed Bendinelli, Joe Martin, Larry Ross, Doc Garrett, Tom Nurre, and JJ Graham.

JANUARY 25, 2019: Dr. John “Doc” Garrett retired after 27 years of service as the 17th Training Wing Historian. He was the primary Goodfellow AFB point of contact for the 2005 EC-47 aircraft static display and the 2014 ARDF History Exhibit projects. In his last weeks of service, Doc coordinated the initial plans for the proposed EC-47 memorial pavers project. In tribute to his priceless contributions, San Angelo veterans surprised him with a one-of-a-kind granite marker that will be installed near the memorial pavers plaza. We also presented him an engraved retirement plaque, and a “short timers” booklet with photos, calendars, and many of your comments about the Seagram’s VO short timers ribbon. Doc wrote this in his Thank You note. “I had some limited involvement in the project to place commemorative brick pavers along a pathway leading to the EC-47 display in front of the 17th Training Wing headquarters, so I caught wind that Tom Nurre and the FTVA were planning to present me with a brick at my retirement dinner. I hadn’t expected anything, and was quite moved that they thought to do that. But I was thinking ... brick. You know, a 4-inch by 8-inch brick with my name on it. Wow! What Tom and the guys actually unveiled that night at my retirement absolutely blew me away. Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined anything remotely like this massive, granite stone. It’s such a magnificent gift ... and all I have to offer in return, from the bottom of my heart, is my deepest gratitude. Thank you all so very much!”

I hadn’t expected anything, and was quite moved that they thought to do that. But I was thinking ... brick. You know, a 4-inch by 8-inch brick with my name on it. Wow! What Tom and the guys actually unveiled that night at my retirement absolutely blew me away. Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined anything remotely like this massive, granite stone. It’s such a magnificent gift ... and all I have to offer in return, from the bottom of my heart, is my deepest gratitude. Thank you all so very much!”

Welcome to the EC-47 History Site Newsletter

REUNION 2019

6994th Security Squadron

September 5-7, 2019
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs
700 Cool Springs Blvd
Franklin, TN 37067
888-236-2427
FMI: blk67cougar@gmail.com
<http://6994th.com>

362nd Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron

October 1 - 3, 2019
Branson Towers
236 Shepherd of The Hills
Express Way
Branson, MO 65616
417.336.4500
FMI: eteddiehl@gmail.com
362ndtews.com/events.html

VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY 2019



The EC-47 History Site 50th Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program committee continues to promote the objectives of the national program. One of our partners, Jody Gentry (Mediajaw), generously donates an ec47.com sister website: vietnam50thecpp.com for our specific event publicity, registrations and photo galleries. This website is also being expanded with Vietnam War related memorials and historical places of interest in this community. The Vietnam War Veterans Day commemorative events this year included dedication of the Goodfellow AFB Fritz Military Working Dog Kennels, a Hanoi Brick presentation by EC-47 back-ender Larry Mills to his son, 17th Training Wing commander Colonel Ricky Mills, and the 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony hosted by American Legion Post 572 and other EC-47 History Site committee organizations. It was held at the Angelo State University LeGrand Visitors and Alumni Center. These are great opportunities to inform the veterans and general public about the purpose and mission of the EC-47 ARDF operation in Southeast Asia. It is not uncommon to have veterans approach us after these events and remark about how they appreciated the direct combat support Intel that they received in the field. We also meet veterans who were stationed at the same bases as our TEWS and SS squadrons...and they appreciate being able to learn a bit of truth about the aircraft with all the "spies" or "spooks" in the back-end. Click [HERE](#) for stories and photos of the most recent ceremonies. Click [HERE](#) for the Sergeant Gerald W. Fritz memorial updates.



BOOKS...AND MORE.

Especially since taking over management of the ec47.com website in 2014, Joe and I have enjoyed swapping our own stories as well as reading your inputs to the website *Tell Your EC-47 Story* section. The very first of those new website stories came from Chuck Miller in February 2015. Chuck was one of the original PHYLLIS ANN pilots and after ferrying an EC-47 (#37 of 45) across the Pacific, he served in Vietnam from March '67 to February '68. He introduced his story like this: *"I don't know if I sent you my article on the "Million Dollar Gooney Bird" (Operation Phyllis Ann), but if not you might find it interesting, with a place on the website. This is an updated version of an article I gave to JC many years ago for his site. My original ferry destination to Vietnam was to be at Pleiku. However while we were enroute on the ferry flight into Clark Air Base, Tide 86 was shot down on 9 Mar '67. Our final destination was diverted to Nha Trang to fill the void of the loss of Tide 86, which had not yet been located, leaving the Squadron personnel in a state of very depressed morale."* All this and more are included in Chuck's new book, *Soaring with Destiny: A USAF Pilot's Memoirs of Challenges, Experiences & Accomplishments*. I finished reading it a few weeks ago and especially enjoyed Chapter 4 that is devoted to the EC-47 ARDF mission. Of course, there is some duplication of the original story on the website and this chapter in his book; however, there are 5 additional chapters full of stories that "... provide insights into the thrills of flying - both low and slow C-47 aircraft, and then flying Heavy-Jet tankers in global support of aircraft that were decades before their time in unmatched high performance far greater than the tankers that refueled them in flight." I recommend it as an excellent addition to your military related reading list.



Here are some additional book titles/authors that we find interesting too:

[Flyboys, Round Engines & Spooks](#) - Lee Croissant, Pilot

[Tears of Tay Ninh](#) - Thomas Hutchings, Operator

[In My Viewfinder](#) - Bill Van der Ven (NKP Combat Photographer)

[EC-47 Missions](#) - David Steiner - (on-line)

[The EC-47 Experience](#) - J.C. Wheeler (Now on-line by special permission from J.C. and scanning by Joe Martin.)

[Freedom Through Vigilance, Volume V](#) - Larry Tart