



NEWSLETTER



Number 015

July 2020

Welcome to the EC-47 History Site Newsletter

Amid COVID-19, #204 gets new paint.



Put in place in front of the east entrance to the Norma Brown building in 2005, the static display replica EC-47 aircraft is maintained by direction of the National Museum of the US Air Force, which owns the airframe. The base con-

tracts an estimated 27,190 hours of work to maintain more than 2,200 specific training equipments and historic/static display items. The Goodfellow wing historian inspects the static displays annually and decides the required upkeep actions. The recent contract was signed at a total cost of \$1,255,462.63. This includes 1,500 hours of work to maintain the 9 aircraft and 18 fire truck static/historic displays. As part of her aperiodic maintenance schedule, the *Electric Goon* was repaired (corrosion control) and given a fresh coat of paint starting in early July 2020. We are all thankful and indebted to Goodfellow for providing this service.

Danny Henderson took photos of

the recent repairs and repainting. Joe posted them on the ec47.com homepage. Danny also drew this artwork of the newly painted gooney just a few days after the painting was finished. This is actually the second drawing...the first one did not sport the whimsical protective mask. The original drawing has been uploaded to the website and is available [HERE](#) for viewing/downloading. Please credit Danny if you choose to use or display his work. (Henderson is the son of our own Bravo Maintenance technician, Basil Henderson. He is a retired Army Lt Col currently serving as the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) liaison officer at Goodfellow...and our great friend.

Website Communications: Since Newsletter #14 (Dec 2019), we have issued 18 emails using the newsletter subscription listing. Ten emails were updates about the Memorial Plaza project, and 8 dealt with email address recoveries from the old ec47.com website. Joe Martin initiated that project that recovered and validated more than 200 unique addresses. He also wrote an article that highlights a collection of early inputs and welcomes some real old timers back to the website. Click on [OPERATION HOMECOMING](#) to read the full presentation.



The plaza subject emails detailed the progress of the actual pavers installation, ordering procedures, bronze plate prices and engraving options, and the online payment process. (Thanks to everyone for your learning the system so quickly.)

We also reached out to all of you asking for donations to pay for 4x8 pavers honoring the 36 EC-47 aircrew members killed during the war. **You responded so generously...there was enough money to not only cover those costs but enough extra to pay for about 75 additional pavers honoring crewmembers who have died since the end of the war.** To date, approximately one-half of the total 335 pavers sold have been purchased by you and your organizations to honor deceased aircrew veterans. Please check out these [plaza graphics](#) showing the locations and groupings of pavers already sold. The Heritage Chapter-FTVA sponsors of the EC-47 Memorial Plaza project have also provided an excellent update in their article on page three of this newsletter.

Tell Your EC-47 Story

The email recovery and paver projects have stirred our EC-47 community interest and we enjoy your questions, comments and war stories. TEWS flight engineer, Jose Silva, (*El Sarge*) was happy to reconnect with us and shared a great story about his ferry flight to TSN in 1966. Read his personal journal and see more pictures [HERE](#). He was also overjoyed to purchase a personal paver.



Like Jose and the groups sponsoring the In Memory Of pavers, Charlie Phippin and Ray Ivey have also invested in the memorial plaza. Charlie arranged for a grouping of pavers honoring generations of his military family. Ray selected pavers for a group of friends representing his professional military family.

Why not honor your family and friends this way too? Call Tom for specifics.

325 949-7188 or text him at 325 450-4476

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Guestbook bombarded & now off-line. . .

The current ec47.com website was restructured in Aug 2014 with the Guestbook app added in April 2015. This app served well until PHPJabbers.com stopped their support in early April of this year. We quickly added a new app from the same company and recorded the first new entry on April 15th. In early July, internet spammers began to successfully trick the app security (CAPTCHA) and bombarded us with dozens of spam messages. This increased to more than 300 spam messages on July 22nd, and then 900+ mostly sex oriented spam messages on July 23rd. Although the spam messages were stopped from appearing on line, the spam issue became an almost unmanageable administrative workload. We took the app off line that same day. The previous valid entries are still available for viewing on the Guestbook webpage...but nothing else.



What say you? Since the ec47.com website Contact Us app and info@ec47.com email are available, do we even need a Guestbook? Let us know your thoughts and suggestions about continuing (or not) this website feature.

Upgrading our websites to HTTPS and using PayPal for secure payments.



Mediajaw Web Design and Hosting, owned by Jody Gentry, San Angelo, Texas, hosts our ec47.com and vietnam50thcpp.com websites. Jody has just upgraded the vietnam50thcpp.com website from the unsecured hyper text transfer protocol (HTTP) to the secured HTTPS protocol for transferring documents on the world wide web. The secure HTTPS protocol is most important for websites that require or collect user sensitive personal data - especially data like your credit card information. Jody is in the process of upgrading ec47.com to the HTTPS protocol as well.



Although our websites will now be much safer to use, your credit card transactions have always been secure via our PayPal connection.

PayPal uses the HTTPS protocol and our websites are linked for accepting online payment and donation transactions. When you opt to make a credit card transaction on our website, you are actually connecting to the secure PayPal HTTPS domain. Your payment data is collected and secured by PayPal and only the dollar amount, your name and transaction number are transferred to our account. Your credit card data has always been protected, even more so now with this upgrade of our websites to the HTTPS protocol. Thanks for your questions and inputs that prompted this action.

Lastly, you do not need a PayPal account to make a paver purchase payment or donation. PayPal is the only on-line payment option set up on these two websites. Always check ☒ the PayPal payment option on the order forms when prompted. Once you are on the PayPal secure website, look for and use their option for paying with your personal credit card. FMI contact us at: pavers@vietnam50thcpp.com or 325 949-7188.

EC-47 History Update

By Joe Martin

In the midst of everything else that's going on—or *not* going on, as the case may be—we keep plugging away at the history of the EC-47 and our operations in Southeast Asia. The FOIA request initiated on our behalf by Angelo State University back in 2015 for release of the 6994th Security Squadron histories ultimately yielded a sizeable trove of material. However, we found that several chunks were missing. Some, like the Det 1 and Det 2 segments for the first half of 1970, either were never submitted or have been lost. Others appear to still exist but the outbreak of COVID-19 effectively brought FOIA activity to a standstill. As a result, the original request has been closed. We've decided to submit new requests for the missing histories but it will likely be many months before we see any results. Meanwhile, [take a look](#) at what we've received.

Despite their original Top Secret classification, these histories aren't "now it can be told" blockbusters, but there are some goodies here and there. For example, WILLARD MUSIC, the Laotian DSU that CIA flat refuses to acknowledge, is revealed. Mostly, though, they provide the best glimpse we're going to get into the "back end" workings of the Electric Goon and how ARDF contributed to the larger intelligence effort.

Speaking of that effort, every so often we come across something that, while not relating exclusively to our EC-47 operations, is too good to pass up. A recent NSA monograph entitled *Focus on Khe Sanh* is a concise yet thoroughly detailed account of how SIGINT helped to shape that momentous campaign. We've condensed the most relevant passages into a couple of web articles. These are a bit longer than usual, but we think even former back-enders will find a lot here they knew nothing about. In all, NSA released over a thousand contemporary documents related to Khe Sanh, a couple of which we've linked as examples. We're also beginning to explore the U.S. involvement in Laos. Find it all in the [What's New](#) website link.

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Guest Column by JJ Graham Heritage Chapter President

The San Angelo Heritage Chapter of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA), supported by a \$7,500 grant from the San Antonio-based association's Board of Directors, sponsors the EC-47 Memorial Plaza paver project. Goodfellow AFB officials accepted the Heritage Chapter proposed design and gift of 975 pavers on June 24, 2019. Early plans were to install the pavers as soon as possible...and then insert the engraved bronze plates as part of a plaza dedication ceremony (and Vietnam War Veterans Day Commemoration event) scheduled in San Angelo over the March 27, 2020 weekend. Our chapter was coordinating all the registrations and RSVPs for the plaza ceremony. We were as disappointed as you were when the COVID-19 pandemic-related travel bans and community "lockdown" restrictions resulted in the subsequent postponement of all these events. To their great credit, dedicated Goodfellow AFB civil engineers and a San Angelo contractor did complete the plaza construction the first week of April 2020. The site is now ready for us whenever the opportunity window reopens. The "before", "during", and "after" construction progress photos that I was able to get on base and take are uploaded on the EC-47 History Site.

COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on Goodfellow AFB operations with many base-wide



restrictions implemented in late March still in effect. For example, all students are restricted to base, many offices are "distance working" with only key and mission-essential personnel admitted to the base. Military retiree ID card holders are allowed access to limited base facilities between 1300 - 1900 on Wednesday's and Friday's. These restrictions obviously negate any ideas we might have for planning a ceremony on base anytime soon.

Looking forward, we are hoping to host the plaza dedication ceremony on 29 March 2021, which is national Vietnam War Veterans Day. Watch the two websites for more information as it becomes available to us.

From the **"Just So Ya Know Department"**: While this memorial is important to so many of you who were involved in the EC-47 mission...and those of you who served in so many other aspects of the Vietnam War, please also understand this memorial is just as important to those who serve today and those who will serve tomorrow. As you know, the mission at Goodfellow includes training and preparing the

next generation of intelligence professionals. It is imperative that our trainees have knowledge of and appreciation for the achievements and sacrifices of those that came before them. Having the EC-47 Memorial Plaza, to include both the inside and outside displays, allows us a unique opportunity to present our history to these young Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen. Over the years, members of the Heritage Chapter and the EC-47 History Site have had opportunities to meet with permanent party personnel and students to share "war stories" and expand upon our history of service. Your support of the paver project enhances our ability to proudly display this heritage to thousands of military and civilian personnel each year.

We are all amazed at the overall enthusiastic response to the plaza paver project! Working the hundreds of paver requests coming in from individuals and from groups has been inspiring. Working arm-in-arm with the EC-47 History Site to make this a reality has been an honor and a privilege. We are looking forward to working many more paver purchases yet to come. Thank you for your continued support! J.J. Graham on behalf of the Heritage Chapter-FTVA, San Angelo, TX.



362nd TEWS
2020 Reunion Rescheduled

May 4, 5, 6, 2021

Branson Towers
Branson, MO

FMI: eteddiehl@gmail.com

6994th SCTY SQ
2020 Reunion Rescheduled

Aug 26, 27, 28, 2021

Holiday Inn Downtown
Mobile, AL

FMI: blk67cougar@gmail.com



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Tan Son Nhut, Then and Now

Below is a shot I took sometime in '70 or '71. It was a no-no to buzz over the populated areas adjacent to the base, but an Air France 707 was eating us up from behind and at the last second tower told us to take a hard left. Find the swimming pool at the right margin. (Yes, folks, war was hell at TSN.) Just above that is the 8th Aerial Port, with our barracks (880 and 881) down the street to the left. If you know what you're looking at and squint really hard, you can see a little dot (circled) that was the roof of Cougar's Cavern. The bottom image is the most recent Google satellite view. Note the 18 hole golf course just off the north runway! Looks like they finally got the money to demolish the overhead revetments that once housed the RF-4s, but the open pens for our Goons, or at least their footprints, are still visible.

Joe Martin, 30 July 2020

