

# Rotorwash

A Newsletter for Air Force Rotorheads

**Issue 2006/3**

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By ROTORHEADSRUS

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Contact: [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

This is the first issue of our quarterly Newsletter. The Newsletter will be published at the end of each quarter and will be posted on our website.

All group members are encouraged to submit articles of human-interest and/or personal experiences to be included in the Newsletter.

The group continues its quest for new members. We encourage all members to share our information with their helicopter friends and encourage them to join.

We as a group need to place an emphasis on finding later generations of Air Force rotorheads and possibly current generations of a dying breed. We have documented a considerable amount of data and pictures on our Blog and website and in order to preserve it for the future we need to have some young Rotorheads in our midst. Having active duty Rotorheads would be great and add a new perspective to what we are doing.

Membership in our informal group is free and one may participate to the extent they desire. We would like to have individual biographies and a photo of the member with their spouse as applicable. We would like to have each member provide information concerning their total

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military service and those decorations they have received. It is understandable that some prefer not to share this information and that we understand. We have a page on the [web site](#) where this information is compiled visualizing the years of dedicated service our group has served and the decorations they have been presented.

During the month of July Wes Costley and Dick Kuenzli joined our group increasing the number of members to 25.

During August Ernie Cyrus joined our group and in September Charley Bramhall joined bringing the total to 27.

Check out your old records and find some old friends and get them to join in our group. Sometimes it just takes a phone call or an email and providing them with the link to our Blog and website. Nothing strenuous.

We are honored to have Mr. Sid Nanson join our group as an Aviation Historian. Mr. Nanson lives in the UK and aviation history is his hobby. In the pursuit of his hobby he has traveled extensively in the US gathering data and photos. He continues to provide us with some great helicopter photos as well as historical data. His value to the group is endless due to the fact that he is willing to assist in whatever manner needed. It is an honor to have a true "historian" in our group as we strive to document our life experiences surrounding Air Force helicopters.



Sid provides us with many great photos from his extensive collection. This picture is one of many that he possesses. This is aircraft 53-4410 taken at Clark AB.

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New pages are continually being added to our website. Check back frequently to view the changes. We constantly strive to insure all the information on our Blog and website is accurate. If you have corrections or suggestions for additions, changes or deletions please email [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com). Additionally, if you have Air Force helicopter related items or stories you would like to see posted to the Blog send it via email to the above address.

The number of posts to the Blog has slowed during the summer months, which is understandable as many are enjoying the summer and possibly a well-deserved vacation. We encourage all to submit their stories to be included with those currently posted. The number of visits to the Blog continues to grow and you are encouraged to share the site with your helicopter friends.

With the over 400 years of service our members have, there must be numerous personal stories that took place during our careers, stories that tell about the service each of us performed. We shouldn't think we are bragging by relating these stories. We all had a job to do and we done it well. The awards and decorations received, as a result of outstanding work is our Government's way of honoring us for our dedicated service to this great country.

Posting these stories on our Blog or website is a way of preserving what it was like during the period of our service. Some may feel we are bragging and if so they obviously *"haven't been there or done that"*.

Fellow Rotorhead Will Davis is preparing for his annual Christmas support to his community by playing Santa Claus for the young children. Will started growing his beard back in March in order to have adequate growth by the time the season arrives.

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How many recognize this helicopter and know the story behind it? Does anyone know which member of our group "almost" got a chance to work on it? If not check our [Blog](#) to find out.

If you would enjoy seeing a picture, possibly one of yours, of a "old" helicopter or an "old rotorhead" of days past, in a forthcoming issue please let us know at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

Contact has been established with Mr. Leon Wohlert who is a Dutch citizen and resides in The Netherlands. Leon maintains a website that is a very interesting and informative site on the history of the South Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF).

The US Air Force provided helicopter training for VNAF pilots and mechanics on the H-19 in 1963/64 at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. The aircraft had VNAF markings and Leon asked if we had pictures of the H-19 to place on his site. He has posted some of Don Cannon's pictures and Dick Kuenzli has provided some excellent color photos that have been posted. Check out <http://vnaf.net/> and see the results of Leon's work.

It was suggested that some sort of locator be placed in the Newsletter in an attempt to locate those that we have lost contact with over the years. If any one knows where these folks are please let the person requesting the info know. Pass this on to your contacts that

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are not members of our group. Widest dissemination is requested to assist in locating these "rotorheads".

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→ **ROTORHEAD LOCATOR** ←  
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**Jimmy W. Blackwell** I last talked to him in 1967 at Udorn when he was a FE in the 20th SOS. (Please contact Don Larsen at [donlar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donlar@sbcglobal.net))

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**Larry Dreyer** Last seen at NKP as a FE in the 21<sup>st</sup> SOS in 1969. (Please contact Jim Burns at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com))

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**Donn Hassman** Contact Bob Runniger at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com) if you know where Donn Hassman may be.

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**Hienrich "Herbie" Herber** He was German born and the last I saw or heard from him was in September of 1965. We were stationed together at Minot for about 2 years. He was from New York State. (Please contact Jerry Bucknall at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com))

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**Richard "Rick" Wert** He was in the 21st SOS in 73 - 74 time frame. He was an old rotor head from Hill AFB. I lost contact with him when NKP closed in 75. (Please contact Woody Freeman at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com))

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**Francis Fisher** I believe we were together in the 5040th in Alaska. We were also together at NKP and the 20th in 67-68. (Please contact Jim Burns at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com))

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**Les Bunning** Last seen in 1970 at Homestead AFB with H-21s supporting the TAC Sea Survival School. (Please contact Jim Moore at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com))  
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The names in this locator will remain in forthcoming issues of the Newsletter. The point of contact, at their discretion may remove their search request.

If anyone knows how to contact the following individuals please pass contact information to [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

Dennis Bowling	Glenn D. Hunter	<b>David Livelsberger</b>
Richard J. Thibert	Paul B. Carter	Patrick J. Cook
<b>Vince A. Depersio</b>	Kenneth L. Hudson	Ernest R. Kerns
Steve McKone	John F. Reese	Jon E. Sorensen
Alfonso M. Rivero	Christopher R. Scott	Mark D. Smith
Floyd Watson	Paul A. Heller	<b>Joe Ramirez</b>
John J. Rushford	Joseph A. Slavik	

Red indicates individuals have been located

Please forward a copy of this Newsletter to all your Air Force rotorhead friends and encourage them to join our group.

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