

Rotorwash

A Newsletter for *AIR FORCE ROTORHEADS*

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By *USAF ROTORHEADS*

Contact: [USAF ROTORHEADS](#)



"Final Flight"

(SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER)

Sydney Smith Pool Jr. (September 5, 2007)

Charles T. "Charlie" McSweeney (September 2, 2007)

Edward S. Modica, Sr. (August 29, 2007)

Pleas M. "Pete" McKee (August 21, 2007)


Richard McCabe (August 10, 2007)

Ralph Bush (August 4, 2007)

Dick Butchka (July 28, 2007) ([Coast Guard pilot with 37th ARRS in DaNang in 1969](#))

Jim Stanley (July 17, 2007)

Jim Phelen (May 16, 2006) ([Crew Chief on 1st Helicopter Combat Rescue--25-26 April 1944](#))



During July Larry Butera, Jim O'Gorman, Jim Kinter, Christopher Wise and Glenn Fleming joined our group.

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

During August John Dorgan, Mike Van Der Maelen, Woody Kimsey, John Martin, Don Waters, Bruce Ware, Louie Alexander and Gary Lane joined.

During September Ralph Reed, Charlie Nachbar, Joe Fiorillo and Bill Follette joined.

USAF ROTORHEADS has discovered little known information indicating the "**FIRST**" **Air Rescue** helicopters to be assigned to South East Asia (SEA) were two H-19 helicopters. Det 14 EARC, Langley AFB VA sent them along with four pilots to Takhli RTAFB in September 1961. They were sent TDY for 180 days to support the F-100 Triple Nickel unit. If you have any info about this please let us know.

Did you know there is a **free** Power Point and Excel viewer available for download is you are unable to open these documents? To be able to view pdf files download the free Adobe reader. Check the below links.

POWER POINT:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=428D5727-43AB-4F24-90B7-A94784AF71A4&displaylang=en>

EXCEL:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=c8378bf4-996c-4569-b547-75edbd03aaf0&displaylang=EN>

ADOBE READER:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

Did you know that Canadians were used as Fire Fighters on the H-43 at Harmon New Foundland when the unit first transitioned to the H-43? There were several instances of Foreign National exchange pilots. If you are aware of Foreign Nationals serving in other than a pilot capacity please let us know.

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"



This may be one of the oldest helicopter patches. It is from the 7th Geodetic Squadron, 1943. This is a color rendition of the original patch by Jim Kinter.

If you have any additional information on the 7th please let us know at <http://rotorheadsrus.us/>,

Did you know that the H-43 was once fitted with a Norden bombsight and used in classified testing? (Read related story on our Blog)

Did you know the H-43 was used to launch missiles? (Read related story on ur website along with pictures)

Did you know that the H-43 was **not** the first Air Rescue helicopter assigned to SEA? (Check the website or see above)

The **USAF ROTORHEADS** web site, <http://rotorheadsrus.us/>, is a work in progress and is updated frequently with information that is pertinent to our goal of documenting and preserving Air Force heicopter history. Send us your stories and pictures and we will get the items posted. Check us out.

Our website was awarded the **Casper Aviation Platoon Organization (CAPO) Patriotic Excellence Award.**

"H-43 Information"

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

For all of you H-43 fans, especially those that served in SEA on that grand old bird, Johan Ragay has received copies of all the old Kaman "Rotor Tips" from Kaman with authorization to publish the stories on his website. He has published several of them and has more to go. If you can assist him with any info such as dates on some of these stories it would be greatly appreciated. You may contact him through his web site which is <http://www.h43-huskie.info/>.

Check the "[Links](#)" page on our website for links to other sites that document and preserve Air Force helicopter history. No one site can gather all the information so with a concerted effort we are doing a great job. These other sites have a significant amount of history posted. Check them out.

 **ROTORHEAD LOCATOR** 

20th SOS Pony Express. Louie Alexander would like to contact anyone that served with the Ponies. (Contact Louie at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

John Perry I would like to locate John who was our jet engine mechanic at Loring AFB, ME during the 1965 era. (Contact John Dorgan at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

Sgt. Mark McKenna stationed at Patrick AFB 1974-5 to 1976-7, stationed at 40 ARRS NKP Thailand '73-74. (Contact Mike Vandermaelen at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

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Sgt. Patrick Conley stationed at Patrick AFB FLA '75-'77 and Kadena AB Okinawa 77-78. (Contact Mike Vandermaelen at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

Tom Brownlee Tom has one of my trainers when I served in Air Rescue at McConnell AFB back in 1971-72 time frame. (Please Tom Skaug at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

Bill Scravini Tony Markham is looking for him. The last I knew he was at Hill AFB UT in the Test Sq. In the 80's I believe his rank CMSgt. (Please contact rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

Terry C. (T.C.) Smith He was in the 21st SOS from Sep 67 to Nov 69. When he returned from NKP he went to Eglin and I lost track of him there. His home was Palatka FL but I haven't been able to locate him via the Internet. (Please contact Rick Estep at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

Fred Faust The last time I talked to him he was at Patrick AFB and a Lt. Col. flying the H-3. I also know that at some point he was flying H-3's out of NKP or Udorn but I am not sure of the time frame. (Please contact Don Larsen at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

Huey/Pave Hawk Looking for anyone that is either a helicopter maintenance crew chief type or flight crew member currently associated with the Hueys or Pave Hawk. (Please contact us at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

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 rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

Donn Hassman Contact Bob Runninger at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com if you know where Donn Hassman may be.

Larry Dreyer Last seen at NKP as a FE in the 21st SOS in 1969. (Please contact Jim Burns at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

William "Bill" Wilson Last seen in 1962/63 at Stead Air Force Base. (Please contact Jim Moore at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

Larry Collins Last seen at the 33rd ARRS at Kadena have been informed he retired out of Indian Springs. (Please contact Jim Moore at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

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)

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)

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)

William O. Johnson We were together at Det 11, 38th ARRS, Tuy Hoa Vietnam in 68/69. (Please contact Ron Smitham at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

Hank Theriot Information is as follows: ACFT HH-53C, tail # 68-10366, Call Sign Jolly Green 70, Unit 37th ARRS, Crash date 25 Nov 71, Survivors were: FE Hank Theriot, PJ R. L. Steed (Please contact Mike Wade at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

Members of the 917S/917H FTD that was at Tan Son Nhut in 1963/64 training VNAF helicopter pilots and mechanics on the H-19 (Please contact Jim Moore at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

Bill Cavano would like to find Paul Krieder, Gus Dowling, Louie Bond, Bob Rector or John Hazzard. Any information please contact Bill at rotorheadrsu@yahoo.com

If anyone knows how to contact the following individuals please pass contact information to rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com

<i>Dennis Bowling</i>	<i>Glenn D. Hunter</i>	<i>Alfonso M. River</i>
<i>Richard J. Thibert</i>	<i>Paul B. Carter</i>	<i>Patrick J. Cook</i>
<i>Kenneth L. Hudson</i>	<i>Ernest R. Kerns</i>	<i>Mark D. Smith</i>
<i>Steve McKone</i>	<i>John F. Reese</i>	<i>Jon E. Sorensen</i>
<i>Joseph A. Slavik</i>	<i>Christopher R. Scott</i>	<i>Paul A. Heller</i>
<i>Floyd Watson</i>		

NOTICE~~INFORMATION BEING SOUGHT~~NOTICE

One of our group Historians, Wayne Mutza, is seeking stories from anyone who may have had anything to do with the Hughes OH-6A "Loach". If you have anything to contribute please get it to Wayne. If you don't have his email send it to rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com. Wayne has a book in progress on the Loach and would appreciate your assistance.

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

Wayne has a new book that is available at Amazon.com. The title is ***"Green Hornets" The History of the U. S. Air Force 20th Special Operations Squadron***

Jim Henthorn, who is doing research for a book on AF Helicopter Special Operations, is looking for the any crewmembers or anyone with specific information from the 20th Helicopter Squadron during the A Shau Valley SF Camp rescue.

Jim is also looking for a member of the 20th SOS, time period Nov 68 to Jan 69. Contact Jim at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com



"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

The above picture is of Joe Kittinger shortly after his landing on Project Excelsior III. We believe the H-21 may have been from Holloman AFB NM. We are curious as to the Sikorsky "Winged S" on the one individual's ball cap, what is the story here? If you are able to provide any additional info on the H-21 or the ball cap please let us know at rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com

Did you know that two former Air Force helicopter pilots became Astronauts? (Check our website)

Did you know that 39 Air Force helicopter pilots became General Officers?



IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION PLEASE LET US KNOW/PHOTO DATED FEB 1969
COURTESY OF ART BRAND/

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

Did you know the H-19 was once utilized as an Aerial Spray aircraft?
See our website.

"YOU HAVE NEVER LIVED 'TILL YOU HAVE ALMOST DIED. FOR THOSE THAT HAD TO FIGHT FOR IT; FREEDOM HAS A FLAVOR THE PROTECTED WILL NEVER KNOW" (UNKNOWN)

Please forward the Newsletter to all your Air Force ROTORHEAD friends and encourage them to join. Note: If you are not a member check out our website at <http://www.rotorheadsrus.us/> and see what we are all about and then contact us and sign on. We need your helicopter experiences to achieve our goal of documenting Air Force helicopter history.

Contact your friends and encourage them to join.



COURTESY OF BRETT FOSTER

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"