



CHINA POST # 1 POOP SHEET



June 2004 • Year of the **Monkey**

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REUNION-CONVENTION- REUNION

By now I would hope that most members have made their Hotel Reservations with the New Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas. Remember the dates, activities start on **Thursday, Sept 16th**, **Buffet on Friday the 17th**, **Meeting and Banquet on Saturday the 18th** and the phone numbers: **(800) 634-6966 (702) 794-8200**. Our block is under "China One". Remember you can cancel up to 48 hours before arrival but once we reach our **cut off date—which is now August 8th**, **rooms are at the prevailing rate**. The event registration form is included with this Poop Sheet. The last PS had a listing of activities and sites to see, it also had a typo in the section on **room rates: Regular / Standard rooms are \$ 39 Sunday through Thursday and \$ 89 on Friday and Saturday. Atrium Suites are \$ 59 for Sundays through Thursday and \$ 109 Fri / Sat.**



DUES-NOTICE IS ON THE WAY

The fiscal year for the Legion year 2005 starts 1 July. Even if you have recently paid your dues for 2004—that was for 2004, we are starting 2005. The best thing to do if you do not have a 2004 card is to pay your dues for 2005 as soon as possible. If you do not get a dues notice (National sends them out) you might not have paid for 2004 and 2003. After two years, National saves postage by not sending you dues notices or magazines. **PLEASE SEND IN YOUR 2005 DUES AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE A DUES NOTICE**. We will save several time consuming steps with continuous years and

will get everyone processed as soon as possible with less expense to the Post. The 2005 cards have arrived and we are sorting them for distribution shortly. The SAL, PUFL and Auxiliary cards will come in later shipments.

ANDROS ISLAND DIVISION, BAHAMAS

From our members there, a little background as they have opened up a new Division Home. Thanks to Division Adjutant **Christine Benn**. "We are located on the desolate island of Andros with the U.S. Navy's Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC). The AUTEC facility is operated by 45 active duty Navy personnel and about 300 government and contractor personnel. The deep ocean range east of Andros Island provides the Navy with a unique location to test and train using new technologies and operations. The Navy provided us a newer larger trailer to replace the 17-year old trailer that had faithfully served as the Division's Post Home.

A small group of volunteers have worked tirelessly to transform the trailer from the previous duplex living quarters to our new Home. (pictures should be available on the web site) From the Post deck, the spectacular view of the azure waters of the Atlantic is unbeatable! And there is no better place to watch a Caribbean sunset!

Andros Memorial Division is committed to providing assistance as necessary to our members, military veterans and active duty range users.

We are committed to upholding the American Legion Charter, our local base community and to our school. Each month we honor the Student of the Month with a "Patriot" bond and certificate for

their excellent school work and commitment to their country. We also provide support to the Andros Island Charities and their work in the local island communities.

Regards to All,

Members of the Andros Memorial Division”

Most of you have met some of the former Andros Division members who have attended the annual meeting over the years. Hopefully we can get some of the current members to attend in the future if their home leave permits.

LAS VEGAS DIVISION

Many thanks for the work that **Bill Anton, Mike Kandt and Tom Krohn** have already done in planning for the September meeting. We had a meeting of the Las Vegas Division on May 15th and were joined by **John Lear** and **Arnold Frank** at the Gilligan's Hideaway.

ADDITIONAL DRAGON FUND DONORS

**ORRIS H CASEY, JR / JOHN N KRAMER /
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MUSEUM FUND DONORS

ABE GOLDFARB / JAMES LUKE /

RAYEN DOWD

Post Vice Commander, Raven President, Director of the Air Commando Assn, **Larry “Sandy” Sanborn** died unexpectedly in his sleep in May. On the 12th of June the Ravens, Air Commandos and Post members gathered at Hurlbert AFB AirPark for a Memorial Service complete with a formation fly-by of bird dogs and a missing man formation. The base honor guard did an impressive folding the flag ceremony with a 21-gun salute. We then adjourned to the Tiki Room at the Sheraton where Post VC / ACA Vice President Dick Geron had set up the room for the wake and basi. The following morning, Hap Lutz set up a spread for a last farewell at Jan's house and Dick provided the liquid refreshments. Jan was the Post's first female 'bull

shipper' and we hope that she will continue to come to the Post reunions.

Robert J ‘Bob’ Moberg passed after a long battle with cancer in Bangkok on Memorial Day 2004. Bob started as a pilot with the U S Army during Korea and flew through the Vietnam War, retiring in 1972. He flew as chief pilot for the DEA in Thailand and was responsible for other operations in the Sudan, Singapore and other areas. A huge cadre of friends will miss him.

Colonel **John F Farnham** who retired after serving for 32 years, most of it at high levels of Intelligence Operations passed away at age 82. After retirement at MacDill AFB, he stayed in the Tampa area and taught 20 + years at the Univ. of Tampa.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

LTC Sherri Galante turned over her Command at Goodfellow AFB. The Galante clan with two SAL members in tow will be reporting to a new assignment at Scott AFB in Illinois.

Capt Thomas Lucario who was doing double duty both as a Blackhawk Pilot, servicing the Pentagon, and as the Airfield Commander at Ft. Davis, had a Change of Command Ceremony on June 17th. He will take a short vacation to before a two year assignment to Graduate School in Florida and then later reporting to Ft Leavenworth Kansas.

FRANCE

There was some speculation that this might be our last meeting in France but the graciousness of the French Civil and Military Officials convinced us that we would return to do the V-E Ceremonies in France again next year. Do to the operational tempo, some of our members from Germany were not able to attend this year, and **BJ Robertson** was unable to come up from Pisa due to operational commitments. **Tim Brown** and **Hans Stockenberger** were able to take a break and come in from SA, and **Roger Gowen** flew in from CONUS. **Dr Bob Eager**, who splits his time between England and the South of France was in place and we had an especially moving ceremony to honor our departed 'leader' **Mel Rosen** in the Village of Roquebrune and with a Post Everlasting Ceremony at the Post business meeting. The Post

meeting was attended by some of the Legionaires from the Nice Post. **Frank Corrigan**, Grand Chef led our Grand Promenade, and we approved a slate of Grand Officers with Roger taking over as the Grand Correspondant as well as holding the Voiture job. **John Davis** came down from Paris as we formally merged VFW Post 2496 into the Benjamin Franklin Post in Paris to form VFW France Post. Many of the Post members who were members of the "in House" VFW Post in Southern France were automatically transferred to the Paris VFW Post. There is an option to transfer to any VFW Post but for the time being, most of us are willing to transfer to VFW France, Commanded by John Davis, a CP member. Pictures are available on the website.

ADDRESS LABELS

If it comes out, we are planning to add the "Last year dues paid" to the address labels. If it says 04 you are current and will be getting a dues notice soon as earlier reported under the Dues-Notice is on the way column on the first page. LM, LFDR or anything that starts with an 'L' are Paid Up For Life members in our file. There are some that say '95 through 02 that have been delinquent for some period of years. You will not be receiving a dues notice from National because they have dropped you as a member. We have kept sending you Poop Sheets as long as we have a good address since China Post, and it's members are unique and we realize the 'extengincies' of your location or duty assignment might preclude you keeping up with your mail. But some of these go back a long way and, at a minimum, are at least an annual cost of 5-6 dollars to the Post to keep you on the mailing list.

SKY REUNION

Generals Secord and Aderholt hosted the bi-annual SKY Reunion in Ft Walton Beach over 20 – 23 May. Many of the attendees were China Post members, including a contingent from Air America led by **Jack Knotts** and including "Mule". The activities included a tour of the flight line at Hurlburt hosted by the 6th Air Commando Squadron, who included a tour and brief of the foreign aircraft that they fly on their special mission. For those who got up early enough, and they filled the bus over

capacity requiring some cars, there was a tour on Saturday morning of the US Army Ranger training camp. **Dick Geron** did his usual masterful job or running the refreshment bar and we got a chance to meet with **Hap Lutz** and **Robert Downs**.

AIR AMERICA

The annual meeting in Dallas was hosted by the "Next Generation", the adult children of the Air America Personnel, most of whom were in the American School in Laos and Thailand while their parents fought the War. **USMC Mgen Larry Taylor** and **Mule** shared my table for the banquet and the Hospitality room is roughly the same size that we have in Las Vegas. While there, several of us went to Mongolian Bar-B-Que with **Jeff Wendling** who has settled in the Dallas area on assignment. We also got a chance to go to lunch with **Jim Luke** and **Abe Goldfarb** to go over some Post business at the 'Midway Point' safe house. The Post members included **Emily Conde**, a VIM in our Auxiliary, and yes Emily, I am sending **Lance** after the samlar. **Bob Stensloff**, **Larry Fraser**, **Ed Adams** and many others made for a great weekend that included the first **Leon LaShomb** golf tournament and a tour to the History of Flight Museum and a tour of the archives at UT Dallas. Steven Maxner, from Texas Tech has digitized some of the past scrap books of past reunions and **Dan Gamlin** had these as well as his usual assortment of new types of shirts for the Air America store.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Of course, number one is the **Post Convention / Reunion** September 16-20 in Las Vegas. The event and meal registration form is in this Poop Sheet. Send it in as soon as practical but no later than 3 September.

American Legion National Convention. Nashville, Tennessee begins on the 27th of August and ends on Thursday 2 September.

The **Special Operations Association** meets at their usual Plaza Hotel location in Las Vegas 29 September through noon on the 3rd of October.

40 & 8 meeting in Anchorage, Alaska beginning on the 4th of October through the 8th.

Air Commando Association, Columbus Day weekend, 8 October through the Memorial Service and bar-b-que on Sunday 10 October.

WE WILL BEGIN PROCESSING RENEWALS IN JULY—PLEASE GET YOUR DUES IN WHEN YOU GET THE NOTICE FROM NATIONAL. IF IT WORKS, AND THERE IS A NUMBER AFTER YOUR NAME ON THE ADDRESS LABEL THAT DOES NOT START WITH 'L' OR YOU ARE PRIOR TO 2002 (202) THEN SEND YOUR DUE TO THE POST'S PO BOX.

