

2003-10_NL Reunion News

Hot off the press. REUNION DATES

22-26 Sept. 2004. Quality Inn and Suites, Arlington, VA.

Will inform you as we get the tours, etc. scheduled. Have a great day! Semper Fi. JG
Latest update!

**PLACE: Quality Hotel and Suites
Courthouse Plaza
1200 N. Courthouse Road
Arlington, VA 22201**

Phone: 703-524-4000 or 703-247-1007 (Ms. Isa Santana)

www.qualityhotelarlington.com

Group Code: VA311

Cutoff Date: 25 August 2004

I will add links to the Hotel and a Map Later.

fnt

MARINE FIGHTING SQUADRON-311

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON -311



Hells Belles from World War II, Whiskey Lovers in Korea and Tomcats Viet Nam to Present

19 Oct. 2003 I just got this in an E-Mail from Jim this morning. It looks like the mail fund needs replenishing again so dig deep into those pockets again.

....For CHRIS HARMON, *I was wrong about the "BILL THE CAT" patch, but I have to think real hard about all the changes I need to make to get everything corrected and looking right.* So, I haven't

changed it yet. That's the way the ball bounces as we used to say at K-3 in the early 1950's. I promise to get it changed sometime before the end of this CENTURY. OK!!!

Please send your e-mail address to me so I can notify you of new information and updates as I get them added to the web site. If you have any photographs to share, send them to ssgt_fred@sbcglobal.net . I do not or try not to put e-mail address in here as links, as spammers use a program to "HARVEST" them and then send you unwanted e-mails (SPAM).

ssgt_fred@sbcglobal.net

MARINE FIGHTING SQUADRON-311
SQUADRON-311

MARINE ATTACK

THE FIGHTIN' 311 TOMCATS

LES AND BONITA MCMILLAN, CRESTON, OHIO (330) 939-2827

GEORGE AND JACKIE PHANDER, NORRISTOWN, PA (610) 584-5654 piboxer@comcast.net

JIM AND SUE GALCHICK, SALEM, OHIO (330) 337-9383 jimsue@raex.com

OCTOBER 2003 EDITION

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: BEEN A TOUGH YEAR GUYS AND I OFFER THIS AS AN EXPLANATION AND APOLOGY FOR MY LACK OF EDITORIAL EFFICIENCY. I HAD A 2ND OPERATION FOR CANCER IN FEBRUARY, THE OHIO NATIONAL GUARD RETIRED ME IN THE SUMMER, HAD A HEART ATTACK IN JULY, FLASH FLOOD GOT MY BASEMENT IN AUGUST AND HAVE LOST FAMILY MEMBERS AT THE RATE OF 1 A MONTH FOR THE PAST YEAR. EVERY TIME THAT I'D TRY TO GET THE NEWSLETTER GOING I HAD TO BACK BURNER IT. HOPEFULLY ALL THE WORSE STUFF IS BEHIND. SUE HAS MAINTAINED HER SANITY AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT SHE WAS IN THE CORPS IN A PRIOR LIFE! SO HERE WE GO AGAIN!

WASHINGTON D.C. IN 2004

GEORGE AND JACKIE, LES AND BONITA AND SUE AND I WENT DOWN TO WASHINGTON, D.C IN LATE SEPTEMBER TO CHECK OUT A COUPLE OF HOTELS FOR REUNION 2004. AS OF THIS WRITING WE STILL HAVEN'T SELECTED THE BEST HOTEL. THE HOTELS ARE STILL SHAVING ORIGINAL OFFERS AND WE'RE LETTING THEM HAGGLE OVER WHO CAN GIVE US THE BEST DEAL FOR OUR MONEY. OBVIOUSLY, D.C. IS A PRICEY PLACE BUT THERE ARE SOME GOOD BARGAINS AND THE HOTELS DO WANT OUR BUISNESS. WE'RE DEDICATED TO GETTING YOU THE BEST DEALS FOR YOUR MONEY SO THAT IT WILL BE AFFORDABLE TO MOST OF YOU. WE ARE SETTING UP A GOOD "MARINE CORPS" ORIENTED REUNION WITH TOURS AND FESTIVITIES. WE HOPE TO HAVE A GREAT TURNOUT. ALL INFO WILL BE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IN JAN-FEB (HONEST!!) SO MAKE PLANS TO BE WITH US IN SEPT OR OCT OF 2004. IF ANYONE IN THE D.C. AREA CAN HELP US OUT WE WOULD APPRICIATE IT.

TAPS

DICK ARNOLD	ROI NAMUR	BEMUS POINT, NY
ELLIS MURPHY	ROI NAMUR	SPOKANE, WA
NICK SOLOMON	ROI NAMUR	SALEM, OH
JOHN ADAMS	ROI NAMUR	MIDDLETOWN, MD
PERRY SCHUMAN	CO 311, WWII, ACE	RESTON, VA
JACK McCoy	MARSHALL ISLANDS	NEOGA, IL

THESE NAMES WILL BE READ AT THE MEMORIAL SEVICE AT THE NEXT REUNION. ANYONE KNOWING OF ANY OTHER TOMCAT WHO PASSED PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN GIVE THEM DUE NOTICE AND HONORS.

NEW TOMCAT ALUMNI

HUNT, DON AND FRAN 84 BOTA LANE, SANTA ROSA BEACH, FLORIDA 32459

PH: 850-622-4786 EMAIL: franvovem@aol.com

1954-55, LINE CHIEF

TODD, SHIRL AND JEAN 147 LOUIS LANE, CALUSA, CA 95932

PH: 530-458-4629

PLANE CAPTAIN, K-3, K-9, FLIGHT LINE

ROSENBERG, RICH AND KAREN

506 W. CLINTON ST., BRIMFIELD, IL 61517-0204

PH: 309-446-9737

1966-67, CHU LAI, ORDNANCE

HARMON, CHRIS

PHONE: 612-532-6393 EMAIL: jharmon2@mn.rr.com

1985-87, EL TORO, WESTPAC 1986.

ANDERSON, DAVID K.

6767 W. BUTLER DR. #363, GLENDALE, AZ 85302

PH: 623-463-0111 EMAIL: KILLERTOMCAT@aol.com

1997-02 POWERLINE, YUMA

EMAIL CHANGES AND ADDITIONS....

ANTON, ROBERT

robertanton@msn.com

AVERY, FRED

frederick.avery@pa.ngb.army.mil

BERRELLEZ, J

jberrellez@hotmail.com

BJORKLUND, DARRELL

debjorklund@cox.net

BLACKBURN, BILL

blackya4@dellempro.com

BYRNE, KATE

byrnek@hotmail.com

CHEEKA, CECIL

ccheeka@attbi.com

CREGO, DON

djcrego@hotmail.com

DAVIS, JIM	davis_jim@bellsouth.net
DAVIS, LEON	lldavis99@northweb.com
GRIST, WALT	bub612v@astound.net
LIEBHABER, MORRIS	morrismill@adelphia.net
MCURLEY, DAVID	davemcc@tds.net
TIERNAN, TERRY	ttiernan1130@comcast.net
Townsley, Fred *	ssgt_fred@sbcglobal.net
WHYTE, DAVE	dwhyte888@aol.com

PHONE NUMBER CHANGES AND ADDITIONS...

ANDERSON, ANDY	520-408-0678
AREHART, RICHARD	937-588-3901
BJORKLUND, DARRELL	850-477-8902
BLACKBURN, BILL	760-728-2808
BANCROFT, DOUGLAS	215-945-0907
CREGO, DON	509-465-5017

ADDRESS CHANGES...

CONGER, JIM	5150 CONCORD PL, CARPENTERIA, CA 93013-1452
CREGO, DON	819 E. GOLDEN RD., SPOKANE, WA. 99208
FALKENSTIEN, MIKE	24114 BRACH ST., GEORGETOWN, DE 19947
OUBRE, JOHN	3400 BOCAGE DR., APT 104, ORLANDO, FL 32812-7587
PSAROS, GEORGE	3017 79TH AVE. CT NW, GIG HARBOR, WA 98335-6030

CHANGE OF COMMAND FOR VMA-311

IN AUGUST OF 2003 **LT. COL MIKE HILE** RELINQUISHED COMMAND OF THE 311 TOMCATS TO **LT. COL. CLYDE WOLTMAN**. LT. COL. WOLTMAN SENT ME HIS BIO WHICH I'M PLEASED TO PUBLISH FOR YOU. WE WISH BOTH MEN WELL IN THEIR ENDEAVORS.

LT. COL. CLYDE WOLTMAN WAS BORN IN SPOKANE, WA IN 1959. HE GRADUATED IN 1981 FROM USC WITH A Bachelor of Science DEGREE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND WAS COMMISSIONED IN THE MARINE CORPS IN 1982.

HE WAS DESIGNATED A NAVAL OFFICER IN 1985 AND SUBSEQUENTLY ASSIGNED TO MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 102 FOR OPERATIONAL TRAINING IN THE A-4M SKYHAWK. IN NOVEMBER OF 86 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO VMA-211 WHERE HE SERVED AS LOGISTICS AND EMBARKATION OFFICER. DURING THIS TWO-YEAR PERIOD HE DEPLOYED TWICE TO WESTPAC.

IN 1988 HE UNDERWENT TRANSITION TRAINING IN THE AV-8B HARRIER WITH MARINE ATTACK TRAINING SQUADRON 203. IN NOV 88 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO VMA-513 WHERE HE SERVED AS MAINT QC OFFICER AND LATER, AS PILOT TRAINING OFFICER.

IN AUG 90 AT THE ONSET OF THE IRAQ-KUWAIT CRISIS, HE WAS REASSIGNED TO VMA-311 FOR DEPLOYMENT TO THE MIDDLE EAST. HE PARTICIPATED IN DESERT SHIELD /DESERT STORM FROM 15 AUG 90 TO 15 APR 91. DURING THIS COMBAT TOUR HE FLEW 40 COMBAT MISSIONS IN THE KTO.

FROM AUG 91 TO NOV 93 HE SERVED AS USMC EXCHANGE PILOT WITH THE SPANISH NAVY. DURING THIS TOUR HE FLEW EAV-8B HARRIER AND DEPLOYED FROM THE SPANISH CARRIER *PRINCIPE DE AUSURIAS*.

FROM 1993-96 HE ONCE AGAIN SERVED WITH VMA-311 DURING WHICH TIME HE WAS DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND STANDARDIZATION. SQUADRON MO AND XO. HE DEPLOYED ONCE TO WESTPAC WITH THE SQUADRON.

IN 1996 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO VMA-211 AS THE XO AND 11TH MEU AV-8B DETACHMENT OIC. DURING THE SIX-MONTH DEPLOYMENT ON BOARD THE *USS ESSEX* HIS DETACHMENT PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH.

IN 1997 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING IN PREPARATION FOR HIS INTERMEDIATE LEVEL SCHOOL TOUR AT THE FRENCH JOINT WAR COLLEGE IN PARIS WHICH HE ATTENDED JAN 98 TO JUNE 99. DURING HIS MILITARY COURSE OF STUDY HE ADDITIONALLY PURSUED A CIVILIAN COURSE OF STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS, SORBONNE WHERE HE EARNED A MASTERS DEGREE IN GEOPOLITICAL STUDIES.

FROM AUG 1999 TO JUNE 2001 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO STIKFORSOUTH IN NAPLES, ITALY WHERE HE SERVED AS STRIKE AIR OPS OFFICER. DURING THIS TOUR HE WAS DESIGNATED A WESTERN EUROPE FOREIGN AREA OFFICER.

FROM JUNE 2001 TO AUGUST 2002 HE ATTENDED TOP LEVEL SCHOOL, SERVING AS A SEC. OF DEFENSE CORPORATE FELLOW ASSIGNED TO PRATT AND WHITNEY OF UNITED TECHNOLOGIES CORP. IN EAST HARTFORD, CONN. HIS PRIMARY ASSIGNMENT WITH P&W WAS THE F-135 JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER ENGINE PROGRAM.

FROM AUG 2002 TO JULY 2003 HE SERVED AS XO OF MAG-13. FROM JAN TO MAY 2003 HE WAS DEPLOYED WITH THE GROUP ON THE *USS BONHOMME RICHARD* IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

HIS PERSONAL AWARDS INCLUDE THE DFC, DEFENSE MERITORIOUS MEDAL, AIR MEDAL W/ 4 STRIKE DEVICES, NAVY COMMENDATION W/ SILVER STAR, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL, AND SPANISH MERITORIOUS CROSS-WITH WHITE DEVICE.

LTCOL. WOLTMAN IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER DESPINA LOIZOS. THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN, NICHOLAS AND ALEXANDER.

LETTERS AND EMAILS...

DAVID ANDERSON, GLENDALE, AZ: " I DID MCRD AND MTC IN SAN DIEGO. C SCHOOL IN

MILLINGTON AND A SCHOOL IN CHERRY POINT...THEN GOT ORDERS FOR VMA-311...AT THE FIRST I GOT FAP OUT TO C/C (I WAS THERE FOREVER BUT I LOVED IT) AND AS SOON AS I GOT BACK TO SHOP I STARTED WORKING ON MY PC, WITH THE HELP OF ARABIE, ESTRADA, HALE, H8 AND ALL THE AWESOME MARINES OF 311 P/L...DID A COUPLE MORE SCHOOLS HERE AND THERE. LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, IF I HAD THE CHANCE TO GO BACK IN TIME, I'D DO EVERYTHING AGAIN...THOSE WERE THE BEST TIMES I EVER HAD IN MY LIFE, EVEN WORKING 14-16 HOURS A DAY AS NIGHT CREW, OR ENJOYING VACATIONS AT THE 12 HOURS SHIFT IN THE SHIP, AND ALL THIS SEVEN DAYS A WEEK...I GUESS THAT'S THE PRICE YOU PAY FOR BEING THE BEST."

CHRIS HARMON TO FRED TOWNSLEY: " YOU SHOW A VMA-311 SQUADRON PATCH THAT SHOWS "BILL THE CAT" FROM BLOOM COUNTY FAME. IT SAYS YUMA 1993. YOU COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG! BERKLEY BREATHHEAD STOPPED DRAWING THAT CARTOON IN 1992. THAT PATCH WAS DESIGNED BY THE AVIONICS CREW ON WESTPAC 1986 AT THE HEIGHT OF THE COMIC STRIP. I WAS THERE, I KNOW! FURTHERMORE, WE WERE NOT ALLOWED TO WEAR THAT PATCH ON OUR FLIGHT SUITS, AS PER LT COL A.W. LIND. SO!! WHO WAS THAT WHO TOTALLY MISLED YOU AND PLAGIARIZED OUR CREATION? TAKE A LOOK AT THE 1986 CRUISE BOOK IF YOU NEED FURTHER PROOF. WHOEVER WROTE THAT UP SHOULD BE IN KANGAROO COURT."

JOHN VON ALLMEN, MURRAYSVILLE, PA: " APPARENTLY, SHIRL TODD WHO WAS ON THE FLIGHT LINE IN 1950 AND 51 SAW MY NAME IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER...HE JUST JOINED THE "311 OLD TIMERS" AND HE CALLED ME FROM HIS HOME IN CALIFORNIA. WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE HEARING FROM HIM AND MADE MORE PLEASANTLY BY THE FACT THAT CAPTAIN PERRY, WHO HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN IN KOREA SURVIVED. APPARANTLY SHIRL RAN INTO HIM AND THEY EXCHANGED STORIES. SHIRL SAID HE MADE A CAREER IN THE CORPS AND WENT ON TO VIETNAM AS A MGYSGT AND WAS ASSIGNED TO AN INFANTRY UNIT. ..IT WAS PLEASANT TALKING TO HIM AND I WILL BE WRITING HIM AND EXCHANGING SOME PHOTOS...I ALSO NOTED IN THE NEW MEMBER LIST THAT DAVE HALL JOINED OUR GROUP. I REMEMBER HIM AS WE WERE KIDS TOGETHER (18 YEARS OLD) IN KOREA AND GOING ON R&R TO JAPAN WITH HIM...I SHALL GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM ALSO...MAYBE SOMEONE OUT THERE KNOWS THE WHEREABOUTS OF SAM CARAVELLO, PAT TURMAN, PETE CAVELLO, CLARENCE JOHNSON OR LOU JACKSON....I LOCATED DICK JABLONSKI IN CALIF. AND WE KEEP IN TOUCH."

VIC CROWE, AUGA DULCE, CA: " WITH THE ALUMNI ROSTER I WAS ABLE TO CONTACT MAX HALPIN, JACK McCoy, AND JAKE TORRENCE AND RECIEVED EMAIL FROM BILL PRODOUZ, ALL FROM ROI-NAMUR. AMAZING AFTER 58 YEARS!...I LOCATED ROI NAMUR BUDDY CARLOS AMSPOKER, WHO YOU LISTED AS LOST IN THE MAIL. HIS ADDRESS IS 180 HOLIDAY HILLS DR., MARTINEZ, CA 94553, PH: 925 229-0780, EMAIL: caamspok@pacbell.net."

THE MAILING FUND

I HAVE ENOUGH FUNDING FOR TWO MORE NEWSLETTERS INCLUDING THIS ONE. MANY THANKS TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE MAILING FUND THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS OR PURCHASE OF TOMCAT MUGS, TSHIRTS AND RELATED TOMCAT ITEMS. THOSE DONATING TO THE MAILING FUND SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER: DON HUNT, SANTA ROSA BEACH, FL; RALF MYER, FLORA VISTA, NM; JIM NAVIES, ST. LOUIS, MO; BILLY DALE, GALES FERRY, CT; AND MAX HALPIN, HOUSTON, TX. THANKS GUYS.

LOST IN THE MAILS

M.T. "COTTON" SCHUERMAN	MEMPHIS, TN
MILT KIROCIK	FREMONT, CA
ALONZO MARSH	HAMLET, IN
DONALD "SLIM" HARRIS	LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA
TIM ARNOLD	SUNNYVALE, CA
BRUCE SCHWAND	WINTER SPRINGS, FL

PARTING SHOTS...

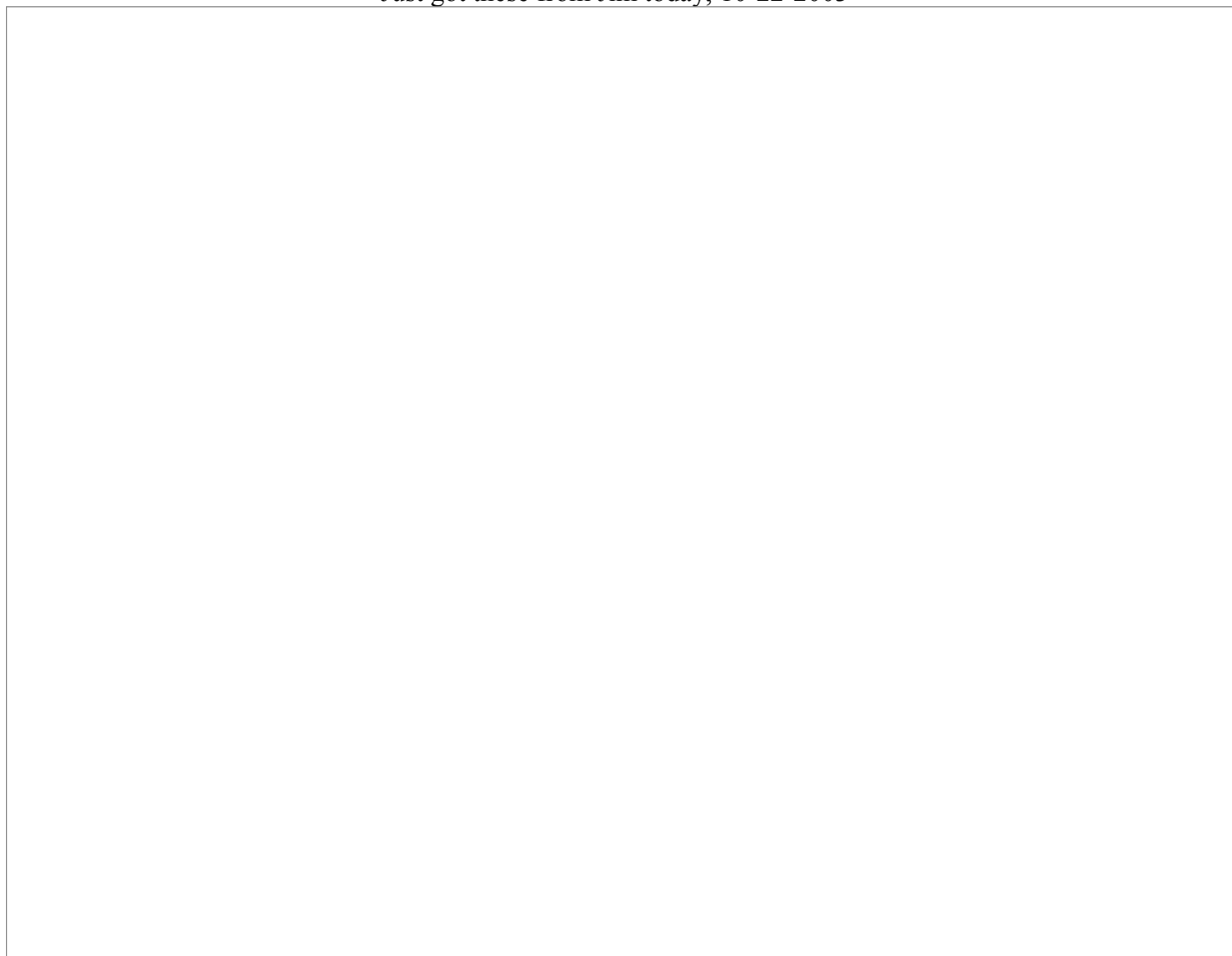
IF YOU ARE FOR SURE GOING TO D.C FOR REUNION 2004 LET ONE OF THE COMMITTEE KNOW BY PHONE, EMAIL OR LETTER SO WE CAN MAKE SURE YOU GET A PACKET. TOO MUCH EXPENSE TO MAIL ONE TO EVERYONE....LTCOL WOLTMAN STATED TO ME THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO BRING A CONTINGENT OF MARINES AND HARRIERS TO REUNION 2004 IN D.C. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE....WE WERE SADDENED TO LEARN OF JACK McCoy's PASSING. THE REUNION OF JAKE TORRENCE, JACK McCoy AND MAX HALPIN WILL STICK OUT AS ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE EVENTS OF OUR TENURE...I KEPT ALL THE EMAILS FROM VMA-311 TOUR OF DUTY IN IRAQ. LT COL HILE DONE A GOOD JOB IN KEEPING EVERYONE INFORMED OF THE SQUADRON'S ACTIVITIES IN THE WAR. I WILL ADD THEM TO THE ARCHIVES FOR YOU TO READ AT REUNIONS...RAY FOUST, WHO EDITED THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE 211 ALUMNI PASSED SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER. I DON'T KNOW WHO WILL CONTINUE THAT...MUGS. SHIRTS AND ANY OTHER THING IS AVAILABLE WITH THE 311 LOGOS ON IT AND WHATEVER ELSE YOU WANT ON IT. IF YOU HAVE A FAVORITE PICTURE WE CAN PUT IT ON ANYTHING. ALL PROFITS GO TO THE MAILING FUND...BUDWEISER CAME OUT WITH A NEW USMC BEER STIEN. THE PHANDERS WILL HAVE ONE TO RAFFLE OFF AT THE REUNION....ANYONE WHO WANTS TO STOP IN AT THE SQUADRON DOWN IN YUMA YOU IS ALWAYS WELCOME. LT COL WOLTMAN IS LOOKING FOR A SPEAKER FOR HIS FAMILY DAY AND THINKS ONE OF THE ALUMNI WOULD BE MOST WELCOME....ONE OF THE HARRIERS FLEW INTO IRAQ WITH THE OLD TOMCAT LOGO AND THE NAME OF MICHAEL YUNCK PAINTED ON IT...

WITH THAT WE'LL SIGN OFF FOR NOW. HOPE THIS FINDS YOU ALL WELL. KEEP IN TOUCH IF YOU HAVE MOVED OR ARE INTENDING TO MOVE. SEMPER FIDELIS AND GOD BLESS.

JIM GALCHICK

FOR THE ALUMNI COMMITTEE

Just got these from Jim today, 10-22-2003





This is all of the October Newsletter. My thanks to Jim & Sue for sending this to me. s/fnt 10-22-2003

Here are some of the e-mail's that were NOT delivered for one reason or another.

rflotta@sesibe.com, twgreen@home.com, terryt@mindspring.com, papajack@msn.com, thatwhichisnot@hotmail.com, peace@lava.net, pangeli@earthlink.net, rewriter@onemain.com, samrich@citizen.infi.net, wolfmanz@flash.net, tony@crnt.com, waltstrow@espeedaz.net, BILL blackya4@dellepro.com, caamspok@pacbell.net, frederick.avery@pa.ngb.army.mil

If you know the correct e-mail address for any of these, PLEASE send on to me at

ssgt_fred@sbcglobal.net

Thanks, s/fnt

**[Click here to take a look at our
2002 Reunion Pictures](#)**

**Dec. 1, 2002 is the 60th Annaversery of forming of
VMF-311**

The following e-mail is for all members of VMF-311 mad VMA-311 past, present and future.
s/FNT

From: "Hile LtCol Michael K" <HILEMK@3mawyuma.usmc.mil>
To: "William Galchick (E-mail)" <jimsue@raex.com>,
"Fred N. Townsley" <derf@brightok.net>
Date: Thu, 14 Nov 2002 14:24:46 -0700
Subject: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TOMCATS

Jim,

I hope all is well. I am having trouble getting an email out to all former Tomcats due to number of recipients, so I thought I would send to you & Fred. I thought some might like this message and our recent squadron photo as well.

Sixty years ago from this up-coming December 1st, Marine Fighting Squadron 311 was one of the many commands that were established during the rapid expansion of our Armed Forces after the attack on Pearl Harbor. This squadron was born of war and baptized in the islands of the Pacific. Just nine short months after its commissioning, "Fighting 311" began its historic journey that would later take the squadron to the homeland of the imperial Japanese Empire. Two months after beginning its journey westward "Fighting 311" found itself based at the Seabee constructed airfield on Wallis Island. Wallis Island was no paradise, but instead a remote, hot, damp, volcanic island. Conditions were austere; days were long. This was to be the location of the squadron's first Marine Corps birthday celebration. Over the history of this

squadron, little has changed regarding what is expected of us. VMA-311, unlike any other squadron in MAG 13 today, has participated in every major conflict our nation has faced since its birth. And throughout its history one thing has remained unchanged; 311 has done what others would consider the impossible. Each time, this squadron has risen to overcome its challenges. This is signified on our squadron patch with the band-aid on the cat's bottom. I encourage all Tomcats to embrace the "can-do" heritage of your past. Recognize that you are the present. You are the Corps. Look at the Marine on your left and right. Can he or she depend on you; can you depend on them? Finally, I challenge each and every Marine to uphold the proud heritage of our Corps and this squadron. Your lineage is that of a warfighter. You are here at this point in history by design - right now; right here. As it was in 1942 and throughout our history, the United States of America will not tolerate tyranny of any kind. I know when called upon, VMA-311 will be ready to meet any challenge, head-on.

Semper Fidelis and happy 227th birthday, Tomcats!

LtCol Michael K Hile

"Zieg"

Commanding Officer VMA-311

928 269 2390

DSN 269 2390

Fax 269 3013

Mob 928 580 2616

SIPR: hilemk@3maw.usmc.smil.mil

VMA-311 Awards

<http://www.3maw.usmc.mil/MAG13/VMA311/streamers.asp>

Presidential Unit Citation Streamer with three Bronze Stars

Okinawa, Japan: 4 Apr-14 Jul 1945

Korea: 8 Mar-30 Apr 1951, 18 May-30 Jun 1951, 3 Aug-29 Sept 1951

Vietnam: 1 Jun-15 Dec 1965, 15 Feb 1966-15 Sep 1967

Iraq I MEF participation in OIF, 21 Mar-24 Apr 2003



Army Distinguished Unit Citation Streamer

Korea: 22 Nov-14 Dec 1950



Navy Unit Commendation Streamer with one Silver and three Bronze Stars

Korea: 1 Aug 1952-27 Jul 1953

Vietnam: 18-23 Aug 1965

Vietnam: 7 May 1965-15 Apr 1966

Vietnam: 15 Sep 1967-31 Mar 1968

Vietnam: 1 Apr 1968-31 Mar 1970

Vietnam: 12 Feb-1 Jun 1970

Vietnam: 1 Nov 1970-7 May 1971

Vietnam: 17 May-31 Dec 1972

Southwest Asia: 14 Aug 1990-16 Apr 1991



Meritorious Unit Commendation Streamer with two Bronze Stars

Vietnam: 14 Apr 1971-21 May 1971

1 Jun 1987-9 Jun 1988

1 Jan 1994-30 Jun 1995



Asiatic-Pacific Streamer with three Bronze Stars

Marshall Islands: 7-8 Feb 1944

Okinawa: 2 Apr-30 Jun 1945

Third Fleet Operations Against Japan: 22 Jul 1945



World War II Victory Streamer

1 Dec 1942-31 Dec 1946



Navy Occupation Service Streamer with Asia Clasp only

Japan: 30 Sep 1945-15 Aug 1946



National Defense Service Streamer with three Bronze Star

27 Jun 1950-27 Jul 1954

1 Jan 1961-15 Aug 1974

2 Aug 1990-30 Nov 1995

11 Sep 2001-present



Korean Service Streamer with one Silver Star and three Bronze Stars

Communist China Aggression: 10 Dec 1950-24 Jan 1951

First UN Counteroffensive: 25 Jan-21 Apr 1951

Communist China Spring Offensive: 22 Apr-8 Jul 1951

UN Summer-Fall Offensive: 9 Jul-27 Nov 1951

2d Korean Winter: 28 Nov 1951-20 Apr 1952

Korean Defense, Summer-Fall 1952: 1 May-30 Nov 1952

3d Korean Winter: 1 Dec 1952-30 Apr 1953

Korea, Summer-Fall 1953: 1 May-27 Jul 1953



Vietnam Service Streamer with two Silver Stars and four Bronze Stars

Vietnam Defense Campaign: 24 May-8 Dec 1965

Vietnamese Counteroffensive Campaign: 15 Feb-30 Jun 1966

Vietnamese Counteroffensive, Phase II: 1 Jul 1966-1 Mar 1967

Vietnamese Counteroffensive, Phase III: 4 Jun 1967-29 Jan 1968

Tet Counteroffensive: 30 Jan-1 Apr 1968

Vietnamese Counteroffensive, Phase IV: 2 Apr-30 Jun 1968

Vietnamese Counteroffensive, Phase V: 1 Jul-1 Nov 1968

Vietnamese Counteroffensive, Phase VI: 2 Nov 1968-22 Feb 1969

Tet 69/Counteroffensive: 23 Feb-8 Jun 1969

Vietnam, Summer-Fall 1969: 9 Jun-31 Oct 1969

Vietnam, Winter-Spring 1970: 1 Nov 1969-30 Apr 1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive: 1 May-30 Jun 1970

Vietnamese Counteroffensive, Phase VII: 1 Jul 1970-11 May 1971

Vietnamese Ceasefire Campaign: 18 May 1972-28 Jan 1973



Southwest Asia Service Streamer with three Bronze Stars

Desert Shield/Storm/Stay: 14 Aug 1990-16 Apr 1991



Korean Presidential Unit Citation Streamer

9 Dec 1950-11 Jun 1953



Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm

24 May 1965-20 Sep 1969



Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Civil Actions Streamer

21 Sep 1969-20 Nov 1970



Copy of letter from LtCol. B. MC SHANE shortly after the ARMISTICE went into effect on 27 July 1953

MARINE FIGHTER SQUADRON 311

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 33, 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMF

C/O FPO, SAN FRANCISCO , CALIFORNIA

19 August, 1953

MEMORANDUM

From: Commanding Officer

To: ALL Hands

1. I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all members of this command for the untiring attention to duty that you displayed during the period of time we were flying combat missions against the enemy and the cooperation and loyalty rendered by you during this truce period. Your assistance during this critical period is the key to keeping the squadron a fighting unit in case hostilities break out again. I feel sure your appreciation of the problem confronting the squadron during the next several months will assure your continued support. .

2. My associations with the personnel of this command have made my tour an enjoyable one and one which I will always cherish.

(signed)

B. MC SHANE

This page is furnished and maintained by SSgt. FRED N. TOWNSLEY USMC Ret.

VMF-311, MAG-33, FMAW

K-3 Airfield Korea May 1953 to Sept. 1954 AND

VMA-311, MAG's 12,13, & 11 FMAW

<http://www.vmf-vma-311reunion.org/>

The Official Squadron site is at <http://www.3maw.usmc.mil/MAG13/VMA311/default.asp>

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~~~~~  
Got this from Jim on 6/19/2002: Good morning Fred. Be advised the 311 website in Yuma has been changed.

<http://www.vma311.org/> does not work. The new one is

<http://www.3maw.usmc.mil/mag13/vma311/default.asp>

It Doesn't have the History and pictures like the old SITE, BUT The Squadron has a web page on the internet. s/FNT

I Will Add REUNION INFORMATION as I get it.

[Fred N. Townsley](#)

This SITE is Under Construction at this time. If you have any information about VMF-VMA-311 that you would like included on this site, please send information or pictures (*.gif or *.jpg) to yelsnwot@msn.com Thanks a lot.

Just got this on Nov.22, 2002 and this is an example of the types of pictures I would like to add to the site;FNT:

I was looking through your website and came across a photo of LtCol Hile. I remembered that I was in VMA311 when he was a CaptainI pulled out my Desert Shield/Storm Album and found his picture. Thought I'd send it to you for your photo collection. LCpl J.V. Armstrong



Capt M. K. Hile - "Zieg"

REQUEST FOR HELP

Subject: Vma-311 Chu Lai Inquiry

Date: Sat, 13 Dec 2003 13:02:47 -0500

Good afternoon TOMCATS. Got an email from someone who needs your help if you can. This is from a David Prendergast: " I have been in contact with LtCol. Charles Palmer, USMC (Ret.) who has been searching for someone who might assist in obtaining information regarding the crash and death of 1st Lt. Thomas H. Hawking (KIA) September 16, 1966 A-4E #152020 with VMA-311, MAG 12 in Chu Lai. Please contact him at cbp.mlp@sbcglobal.net Also , you can contact me at 707-443-4463, or www.sats-eaf.org The Lts. son is the Col.s nephew, and they are both trying to locate anyone who may have information on this matter."

Help this guy out if you can. This was a little before my time but I pulled the names with emails off the data base that were from this time frame. I will put this in upcoming newsletter and maybe Fred can put it on our web page. Thanks guys. Semper Fi--Jim Galchick

Wish I could help, but left Chu Lai in May 1966 from MABS-12 after VMA-214 Blacksheep returned to CONUS. But there should be someone who can help. Semper Fi Fred

A follow up on this request for help!

On 12/18/2003 I received this email and think it needs to be seen.

Speaking for myself, it affects me more now than it did while I was In 'NAM.

Dear Bob Hughes, Jim Galchick and Con Silard,

I appreciate your responses to my request. I don't know if David Prendergast told you I was also in Chu Lai at that time. I was a few miles north of you at MACS 7, where the large radar domes sat above MAG 36's pads. I went out in March 66 and extended to stay until July 67 when the Sqdn was replaced by MACS 4 on Monkey Mt by Danang. About the time I retired in '73 I acquired a new nephew when Lt Tom Hawking's widow married my wife's brother. Chris Hawking was born a few weeks after his father was killed. After I learned he wanted information about his father, I went to the www.skyhawk site and found the Lt listed on the casualty list with a short report of the circumstances. That's also where I found David Prendergast listed as the MAG 12 contact. David has copies of Chronological Reports and other reference books. These are some of the excerpts he was able to find and send to me. Quoting:

I first looked at a source book I use for quick reference. **"Vietnam Air Losses" by Chris Hobson, Published by Midland Publishing in 2001.** They report as follows:

"16 September 1966

**A-4E #152020 VMA-311, MAG-12, USMC Chu Lai
1Lt Thomas Howard Hawking (KIA)**

Although the Marine Corps A-4 squadrons were primarily in Vietnam to support Marine ground troops, they also supported non-Marine Corps operations when required. Operation Seward was a minor offensive by the Army's 101st Airborne Division against the Viet Cong's 5th Division in Phu Yen province. During a strike in support of Operation Seward a VMA-311 Skyhawk hit trees as it pulled from its attack on a target about 12 miles

southwest of Tuy Hoa. The pilot ejected safely and was spotted by an Army UH-1 Huey, which attempted to rescue him. Tragically, the helicopter was not equipped for rescue work and the pilot slipped out of the makeshift sling and fell 1,000 feet to his death."

As noted, it was an **un-equipped "ARMY" UH-1 Huey** that attempted the rescue.

I have reviewed and printed the U.S.M.C. Command Chronology for September 1-30, 1966 for VMA-311

On page 4, paragraph number 2, it states:

"1stLt T.H. Hawking was killed on 16 September during the Helicopter rescue attempt following a successful ejection."

I located additional references to the Sept. 16th crash in the 1st MAF Command Chronology for September, 1966 at page 20. The document has 132 pages, too much to email. It states, at page 20:

"(S) 16 September - One A4E from VMA-311 was lost at (CQ 024 268) approximately 165 miles SSE of Chu Lai in the II Corps area. The pilot made a successful ejection after collision with ground. The pilot was picked up from the ground by U.S. Army UH-1B. However, the pilot who was picked up from the ground sustained fatal injuries, when he dropped/fell from the rigged pick up gear at an altitude of 800 to 1,000 feet."

End of quote.

Because of your interest in VMA 311 history I thought you might like to see what David was able to find for Chris. Chris says he heard a story regarding the large amount of money chits (MPC ?) that were among his Dad's personal effects. The story is that his Dad was a heavy winner at cards the previous night and had also been drinking quite a bit. For the information of anyone who might have close knowledge of Lt Hawking, Chris doesn't exclude pilot error although he hopes it wasn't. I include this in hopes someone who knew Lt H closely might come forward. Chris called them "chits", so I guessed MPC, although I would have expected whoever packed his gear to not let them out of country.

Again, THANK YOU.

SEMPER FIDELIS, Chuck Palmer

9 Nov. 2003

Jim/Fred,

Updating for your records and website. The PUC for I MEF's participation in OIF was approved. I have update 311 Unit Streamers for your website/newsletter. I would also like to wish the both of you an early Happy 228th Birthday, Marines.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol Michael K Hile
"Zieg"
Executive Officer MAG-13
