

Torii Typhoon

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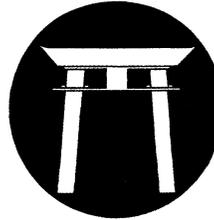
Official Newsletter of ASA Okinawa

ASA OKINAWA
REUNION

SEPT. 14–18,
2011

CINCINNATI, OH

HILTON CINCINNATI



From the President

As I write this letter in mid February, the outdoor temperature is in the low 50's. What a treat! The snow cover we have had since early December is gone, except for the remains left by the snow plows. However, one never knows what March will bring in Northwest Ohio. In the past, we have had significant snow in March, but at least we know it will not be on the ground for long!

On January 4, ASA Okinawa member Jerry Sturbaum passed away. Jerry was a very good friend, and a strong, supportive member of our association. He will be greatly missed. We send our deep condolences to Jerry's wife, Betty, and the family. It is our hope Betty can be persuaded to attend a reunion in the near future.

Jerry and Betty attended their first ASA Okinawa reunion in 1999, as did Judy and I.

Jerry's name was one of the few names I recognized on the attendees' list for the reunion at Myrtle Beach. Jerry and Betty were the first to greet us, and in a matter of a few minutes, we four were making friends with many more couples. That is what happens at our ASA reunions and is another great reason for you to attend the next reunion!

Plans for the September reunion in Cincinnati are moving forward, and more information will be given in the July Torii Typhoon. In the meantime, mark September 14-18 on your calendar and plan to come for the fun and fellowship in Cincinnati!

At the reunion there will be election of officers. The three positions that will be up for election are: Vice-President/President Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you are interested in any one of these positions, please inform me via e-mail.

Now for my usual ASA Okinawa sales pitch! I am still trying to get more orders for the 2'X 3' flag. Thus far, I have four orders, but I need to get a total of 12 orders to get the best price. If you are interested in purchasing a flag, please fill out an order form. If a form is not included in this newsletter, you can go to MLRSINC.COM/ASAOKINAWA and retrieve an order form. (*Editor: There is no room for an order form in the newsletter this time.*) I also have a few garden flags left from the last reunion. Let me know if you are interested in one of those. You can send your form to me via "snail mail" or e-mail, and you will find my addresses elsewhere in this newsletter.

See you in Cincinnati! For now, THINK SPRING!!!

Tom Sevits
Association President

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From the Vice President

As I sit here gazing across the rolling hillside and toward the sun setting in the west, everything looks so bleak, as the sun dips below the horizon. I am ready for springtime. Here in the mid-south, most of our trees lose their leaves and the grass goes dormant. To put it bluntly, they are ugly. We have a few trees that stay green year round—pine, fir, and the MS state tree, the Magnolia. They are very pretty. The state plants these along the major thoroughfares and it makes for a very pleasant drive along I-55, which runs north and south. I am ready for the dogwood and cherry trees to blossom with their array of white and pink as they sprinkle the roadways. A more serious thought. I would like to report on a couple of men who served with us on Okie. I am sure that some of you will remember them. Ronald L. Tanger and Eugene B. Franke. Tanger I knew quite well, for he was an 058 and in my barracks. I met Franke from 1955-1957. Franke was in charge of the radio shack until he left in

1957. At this time Tanger took over. Franke was a grad from MIT and quite intelligent. He designed and built a radio transmitter while on the rock. He sold it to another CBer before he shipped out. After their discharge from service, both Franke and Tanger went to work for NASA in California. Franke designed and supervised building several of the shuttles that went to the moon. Tanger worked in the technical field putting shuttles together. After a few years Tanger returned to his home of Boiling Springs, PA where he opened a TV repair shop in Carlisle, PA near his home. As far as I know, Franke retired from NASA. I tried to call Tanger to get an update on what they were doing, but got no response. I assume that Tanger and Franke were in FL at the Kennedy Space Center to see Discovery make her last trip to the moon. Well, all, hope to see all of you in Cincy.

Later and God bless,
Dallas May

Treasurer's Report ASA Okinawa Association January 31, 2011

Beginning Check Book Balance 11/22/2010.....	\$4893.87
Income from dues and Torii Typhoon Paper contributions 135 person paid dues and 3 non-dues paying mem- bers for 2011.....	\$1210.00
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$1210.00
Disbursements	
November 2010 newsletter.....	\$1728.09
Returned check to Jane Kendrierski.....	\$5.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS.....	\$1733.09
FINAL BALANCE AS OF 01/31/2011.....	\$4370.76

NEWSLETTER EXPENDITURES March 2011 \$388.14

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION REMINDER

Please check the membership expiration date on the outside of this newsletter envelope. Dues are \$10.00 and are to be sent to **Jim Norrbom**, 11409 Christensen Ct, Burnsville, MN 55337.



Welcome Mat

The following members have been located since the last newsletter. Welcome to the Association. We hope to see you at the next reunion and hear from you about your memories of your time spent in Okinawa.

George Morton
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TAPS

The Typhoon learned of the following deaths since the last newsletter was published. The deaths are not necessarily recent, but they were just learned of. The entire membership extends our deepest sympathy to the widows, families and friends of the deceased.

John Weir (1949-52) SGT
Died January 2011

Clarence Cheney
(1952-54) Cpl
Died September 27, 2010

Robert Gallant
Died January 23, 2009

Earl Butler
(1950-52) Cpl 111th SSC
Died October 12, 2010

Gerald Sturbaum
(1957-59) SP4
Died January 4, 2011

William Sullivan
(1954-57) E-5
Died November 19, 2010

Julius Hoover (1954-57) E-5
Died August 2010



MAIL CALL

I thought each and everyone of you would like to know by husband, Jerry, passed this morning at 5:44 (01/04/11) at Longmont United Hospital.

He has been ill for quite some time and we moved him from Vibra Hospital Thornton, CO to Applewood Living Center, Longmont, CO Monday, 1/3/11. He was very happy to be home and told Michi (daughter-in-law) and me to go home at 10:00 PM and that he would see us in the morning. The paramedics worked on him for some time and transported him to LUH (unconscious the whole time). His body just shut down.

He is no longer suffering and is in HEAVEN. I miss him dearly; we were together 49+ years, going on our 50th in October.

Thank you for your prayers and support. He had a very peaceful passing.

In Christ's name,
Betty (Sturbaum)

I know that not all of you who I am sending this to are country music fans, but I just wanted to let you know that yesterday I was informed that sometime in June, I will be inducted into the "Maryland County Legends Music Hall of Fame." This is a fairly new group, formed last year by the Country Legends Music Association of MD to honor the "more mature" musicians who worked the area's country music bars and night clubs, etc. over the years. At 80 and still playing in a band, I've been doing this longer than most, so I guess longevity is an asset in some cases! Most of those inducted last year are probably unknown names to you, but Ronnie Dove may be one that you remember. That's pretty good company to be in!

Wishing you all a Happy New Year and hope to see you again.!

Charlie Hoover

(Below is some correspondence between Jim Norrbom and a new member, George Morton.)

Hello Jim,

Very nice to hear from you. I remember those days at Sobe very well and that I enjoyed them. I was stationed there from January '57 until December of '57. I got out on the 26th of December of '57 and came back in on March of 1958. I was a CTR1 when I retired on Taiwan in 1974.

I caught "ditties" there the whole time and spent a lot of time in Kadena Circle and the Club. The other CTR1, Dick Carlson, and I lived in a room just above the Club and could hear music coming up through the floor boards at night.

I thought the Club was quite a place. I remember playing a lot of chess in the open area that was in front of it.

At the present time I am 76 years old. We just moved down to Oklahoma in 2009 because our oldest daughter lives here married to a man who retired from the Air

Force. We have four other children spread out over the U.S.

I am still copying CW. I am a ham operator and my call sign is K2GHM. I had two other call signs, KN2FGSJ and KB2QLK.

You might wonder what I did after I retired. Well, I worked for a radio station WBAZ-FM, at that time out of Southold, NY for 12 years.

I guess that is about it for this time. Those were good days back in 57 at Sobe, that's for sure. Take care.

George Morton /K2GHM/USN -RET

I have a book that's been published with several chapters about life on Trick 2 at Sobe Camp in 1957-59. The book is available on Amazon. It is called "Rat Tales and Other Stories" by Harris Cohen. The book is also available on Kindle Tks.

Harris Cohen

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My Job at Torii Station

Editor's Note: I sent out an e-mail asking for you to tell us (in unclassified terms) about your job in Okinawa—training, men you worked with, advantages and disadvantages of this job, dangers, proud moments, recognitions received and if any skills transferred to civilian life. We are happy to share the following accounts with you:

From Bob Lubberman:

I have a lot of good memories about Torii Station, especially the friend I had there from Jan '62 to June '63. Jim Berkeheimer 058 went to Chester, PA Post Office to join the Marines. The recruiter was out to lunch and we ended up joining the Army with ASA. I had 711 training at Ft. Dix and Jim ended up at Devens. Believe it or not, but he ended up at Torii Station as an 058. Jim stayed in the NSA and his life ended with a motorcycle accident in England a few years later. I worked for Ivan Nall (a great NCO and someone who shaped my life). He is a member of our organization and I have talked to him. The only other person I have been able to locate is Mike Gray, someone else I worked with in Personnel. I am still looking for my best friend, John R. Hubbard, but cannot locate him. I must have done a good job on Oki because I was given a Certificate of Achievement from Headquarters ASA Pacific. Since I was in Personnel, I did not work in the Operations Area, but believe it or not, I worked for a Japanese contractor who was hired to clean the place, but they could not because of security and they hired and paid us to clean it. I worked for CWO Falacci who I believe is also a member of this organization. But the two best guys I remember from that time were the 1st Sgts at both Hq Co and 3rd Ops Co. Exploring Oki was one of my favorite things to do there. I ended up as an E5 716 at Ft Meade. Thanks for the opportunity to put out a few facts about the ASA at Torii Station. I could go on about the good times.

From Arthur Hoover:

I entered the Army in '54 with basic training at South Carolina. I had no idea what was ahead—going to Ft Devens from the South to the cold of Massachusetts. I had good training at Fort Devens. I had fun and good times at a dance hall with big bands every Saturday night. Then it was on to Ft. Lewis, Washington where I boarded a military ship that went out in the Puget Sound. It was the worst boat ride in

my entire life! It stormed until we docked up in Alaska for off load to Japan, where we were in Japanese Army barracks next to a Japanese crematory. We could see the smoke stack working regularly. We were called out one day and lined up. So many were chosen for Korea and I guess the rest of us went to Oki. I don't remember how I got there, but I was in the barracks bottom right and into a cubical. The food was fair, work wasn't bad or hard in the concrete building. One year the barracks had a case of Asian flu. The cooks placed hoop cheese and grape juice in the aisle and that was it until you was able to go to the mess hall. The only medicine was APC. I don't remember any officers names—maybe a couple of Warrant Officers or so, and one young one who played ball with us. I was a ham operator and during one typhoon the CO of Kadena Air Base came to us for outside communications. We had the only transmitter working on the island. The antenna was a folded dipole between two clothes poles. The general gave us a letter of commendation. I'm still proud of it today. I did something others could not do. I finally got promoted to E5 and another stripe if I re-upped. I left in 57 by boat with a load of Marines. There were about 30 from 8603 with the 3rd Marine Division members on board for San Francisco. It was so hot on the boat we all slept on deck. The Golden Gate Bridge was a sight to see! I was discharged from Fort Smith, Arkansas and I used the GI Bill to major in Education. I spent 35 years in technical high school and on university staff. Many of the fellows I remember are gone, but I remember BB Crenshaw, Anderson, Don Johnson, Charles Gordon, Huber King, McManus, Jack Smith and more. Good times and a good experience. I am 75 and still going strong.

From Charles (Chuck) Kennedy:

I was a Morse Code interceptor graduate of Fort Devens and was assigned to the 8603rd AAU in 1953. Field Station 8603 moved from Futema to Sobe area and into four large barracks. Initially I was a security guard until new operations building opened at Sobe. I was then assigned to the ICR section or International Commercial Radio. Specifics not printable for now. I worked with Paul D. Camus of Pittsburgh, PA, James Callery of NY, Robert Fritz of NY, and cannot recall the other members of the trick or shift. Our job still involved Morse Code but not like man-

ual Morse Code operators. The job was what we were trained for at Devens and actually doing it was usually a busy job irregardless of the shift. We all shared in the various duties within the section and rotated different positions to cover our assignment. Nothing spectacular to us was ever evident; however, after our work was sent to National Security Agency it may have been another question, but one which we at the operator level were unaware of. Our job was a routine job, not overly strenuous, sometimes monotonous, sometimes highly interesting. I still keep in contact with Paul D. Camus of Pittsburgh, PA, as I now live in Waynesboro, PA, which is about two to three hours drive west of Waynesboro. I also talk with Leonard Hunter who was a manual Morse Code interceptor. Also have had a short visit with Steve Balog who lives near Pittsburgh. After Okinawa I returned to USA and was discharged. After ninety days I reenlisted in the Agency and was returned to Fort Devens, MA, and then assigned to Europe and the 8606th DU located near Nurenburg at Herzogenaurach, Germany, a former Luftwaffe air base which was converted to an ASA field station. I left the agency in July 1956 and initially was with Adjutant General Corps, After an auto accident near Heidelberg, Germany, I was hospitalized for over ten months and upon return to duty was assigned to Army Medical Service at Letterman Army Hospital at the Presidio of San Francisco, CA. From Letterman Hospital I was reassigned to Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and eventually went to IBM school and subsequently was assigned to Signal Corps with duty with 7th Infantry Division in Korea and A Company 127th Signal Battalion as a Communications Center Specialist/Cryptographer. The remainder of my active duty was spent in the Signal Corps and I retired 1 May 1974 at East Coast Telecommunications Center, Strategic Communications Command, at Fort Detrick, Maryland, as security NCO and NCOIC of the Security Division of the center. From the army I returned to college full time and became a secondary teacher and retired from education in 1990 at Harpers Ferry Job Corps Center, Harpers Ferry, WV. Prior to that teaching job I retired from Logan County Public School, Logan, WV. I now live in Waynesboro, PA, and am retired, married and father of three sons with first wife and one son and daughter with second wife.

That's about it.

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From Richard Krantz:

I was stationed at the 8603rd from the end of 1954 until April 1957. I worked in the USO club for 50 cents an hour. I used to decorate the USO club and paint the murals for the various holidays. I was involved in the production, "There's No Business Like Show Business," with a number of other guys and some gals who were daughters of the officers. Tom Sturgeon was in it. He sang a number from "Brigadoon" called "Heather On The Hill." The two ladies that ran the USO while I was there were Mary, and Jean came after her. I had a good tour of duty but did too much drinking.

I was a "ditty-dot" man who fell asleep at his desk one time (a little hung over) and my fellow workers removed my desk, and gave me a hot foot, that is, a match was wedged in my shoe and lit. I woke up startled to say the least and was not taking to being exposed. But I had brought it upon myself. I didn't do that again. I was one of the many who lived off post in a little Okinawan house and somewhat melded into the community. Met a lot of great guys and enjoy the reunions that are being held.

From Don Anderson, 31Z5H, since 05C5H only goes to E8 and then they deleted that position and MOS.

I enlisted in the US Army ASA, in March 1952. I had basic and then went to Camp Ga for school. I graduated as a 1766 High speed radio operator, sent code at 20 wpm and receive at 25 wpm. I went to Tokyo and then on up to Camp Matsushima near Sendai, Japan. Worked shifts and enjoyed the area. The unit I was assigned to was the 356 Comm Recon. We were in support of the 24th Infantry Division who were shuttling back and forth to Korea. One day the First Sgt asked for volunteers to go to Oki and I volunteered as that was another place to go, and it was tropical. There were ten of us. I was an E5 with a rocker and then the unit sent an E6 to take over. Our detachment #6 was assigned to the 8603 for rations and quarters. Worked out pretty good and then they needed to use the space we were using. So we found a new place to work. Old Camp Napunja on the other side of the island. Then a brand new 2nd Lt came in and took over and made a mess of things. Our Commander came down thinking he would have to court martial some one. He talked to me first and I told him what happened. He talked to the Lt and then both, and I still do not know

the outcome except I was back in charge and the Lt learned to play golf.

I met this sweet thing in the little PX on Sobe Camp and eventually put in papers for marriage. They wanted to disown me then. But I then went to HQ SW Command as a High Speed Radio still an E5 as promotions were hard to get. We got married and when she got her visa we came state-side the end of December. I was discharged but was transferred to reserves. That created a hassle. I stayed in on active duty until Nov 1979 retiring an E9. I am now retired more than 30 years and still enjoying life. The wife still calls her sister and we are planning another trip to the island.

From Douglas J. Usiak, PFC Retired, USASA:

Well, I was a lonely PFC 33C. My short time on Okinawa was spent working on R-390s, AN-FRA-86 back in the summer of 1974. However my real experience was when I went north to visit the underground deactivated missile site. I was not aware it was off limits (but I guess I should have known that).

But as the four of us went down into this installation I was amazed at how cool it was. Unfortunately as I went for a souvenir of a pressure gauge it blew up in my face.

If not for the three men with me, Sgt. Roger Ruskowski, Spec 4 Dennis Jensen, and Sgt Dennis Pearson, I would have probably died.

These three men carried me out and got me to a hospital where I went into immediate surgery.

As a result of that accident, I am now a service connected totally blind veteran. However, thanks to these three guys and the VA I am now a father of 3 daughters, and 2 grandchildren, holding down a good job and paying taxes.

Just want to thank publically the three men who saved my life and gave me a wonderful future.

From Jack Summers, SFC (Ret):

I was a "ditty bopper"; Morse Intercept Operator, MOS 05H20. I received Morse code. I scanned different frequencies on a radio receiver to find and identify enemy targets and monitored them on a regular basis. I worked the swing shift which meant I worked 5 days on/3 days off, 5 evenings, 2 days, 5 midnights, 3 days off. When I came to Okinawa in March 1967, I was one of the first Viet Nam Vets in my company. After I left Okinawa I went to Vint Hill Farm Station where I was

recognized by the ASA for my efforts in the Broadband efforts. There was a plaque in the museum with my name on it along with 5 others. The job skills I learned from my training was not applicable to anything else I wanted to do in my life. I was discharged in 1969 and then enlisted in the GaARNG in 1981 where I eventually became a recruiter. I retired in August 2000 with 25 years of service. I guess all of the typing I did while I was in the ASA finally came in handy after all.

From Richard Mears:

I served at Torii Station from late 1967 through early 1969. I was a telecommunication specialist within the Criticom Communication Center.

It was a very interesting time in my life. While on station, I assisted NSA in the development of a new satellite communication center which was cutting edge technology. I received an unexpected commendation for my duties while on the island. From Okinawa I was assigned to the Material Support Command where I was assigned to a criticom installation team and did work building communication centers. During that time I took a side trip to Japan for a few months and ultimately finished my tour of duty in Virginia at Vint Hill Station. I left the agency as a SP5 and returned to civilian life to go to college on the GI Bill.

The Agency did prepare me for a life in the Criminal Justice system. My service duty allowed me to mature and at the same time provided me with increasing responsibility and self confidence. Upon graduation from college, I became a police officer in Maine and quickly worked my way up through the ranks to the position of Deputy Chief of Police and Director of police operations.

After 20 years of police work I had secured a Masters Degree in Public Administration and I moved on to become a University Professor of Criminal Justice. I currently hold a tenured professorship at the University of Maine at Augusta.

My ASA background actually came back to help me shortly after September 11, 2001 when I was involved in preparing for a response to terrorism in the state of Maine. My military intelligence background allowed me to get involved in the training of police on terrorism at both the state and national level simply because I had been in the agency and had the credibility with current intelligence services.

Over the years I have been involved in a variety of assignments and tasks at the state, national and ultimately, international

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level. Military experience coupled with police experience and a college professorship have all played significant roles in my work to date.

While in the agency, I met a number of people that I still have contact with to this day.

From Ed Casto:

I served at Torii Station from Dec '59 till June '61. It happened on one of those hot, humid Okinawan summer days. The day was hot and muggy. Of all things to happen, the AC died. The operations building soon heated up beyond comfortable on to barely tolerable. Did we stop work and leave?? No, everyone stripped down to our underwear and continued pounding. With no windows, the front and back doors were opened and guards stood by. Thank goodness our shift finally ended and it was like leaving an oven.

Looking back, it was during our young adult years and we felt we were doing something important and of significant benefit for our country. It wasn't all work....we had time to play and play we did. I often think it would be interesting to return for a quick look around at all the change. I'm rather confident the change would be awesome.

From Fred Rathel:

I served in the US Army Security Agency from May '56 to Apr '59 ... Entered service and departed service at Ft. Jackson, SC ... Received Basic at Ft. Hood, TX; Processed for schooling at Ft. Devens, MA; Received Cryptographic Schooling at Ft. Gordon, GA; Processed for further assignment at Oji Camp, Japan; Permanent duty station for two years (57 - 59) at 3rd ASA, Torii Station, Okinawa; with, TDY during that time at Formosa; Korea; and, Japan. After leaving the military in '59, I was employed as a Dept of Army Civilian at 3rd US Army Hqs Communications Operations Center at Ft. McPherson, GA (just outside Atlanta) till '65; then, transferred to Mt. Weather, near Winchester, Virginia with US Army Inter-Agency Communications Agency where I remained until my early retirement in '86. The agency underwent a number of 'Organizational' changes and ultimately wound up as FEMA—now, it's Homeland Security. While I enjoyed my military service time — the job and the people I worked with and for all of this training and experiences certainly provided me a good foundation with multiple skills that served me well in the many years in civilian life,

afterwards—even today in my "total retirement" environment! I was just a "green behind the ears kid" in '56 —just out of high school and with no intention or capability to go to college or vocational schools. So, the military was my pathway to good experiences and worthwhile training! I wish more high school students/graduates could have my experiences and career successes!

Thanks for the opportunity to share! I'm sure many others have much more elaborate experiences than mine, but I'm extremely satisfied with what I've achieved with just plain "want to" and my relationship with "Uncle Sam"!!

From Charlie Hoover:

I found the work I did to be very interesting. Basically, my job was to listen for, and copy down, the messages that were being sent by the North Koreans in the war zone. These were all in code, so I didn't know what they were saying. After I copied them, they were taken to cryptanalysis, where the code experts decoded them and sent on that intelligence to headquarters. As you listen to each kind of radio transmitter, you find that they have different sounds that they make when sending code. You get so you can pretty well tell one from another. Anyway, one time we were told that they suspected the enemy was planning a big offensive and that we should be alert for any changes. Most often, this meant that the station would move to a different frequency and use different call letters so that anyone who might be monitoring them would not be able to listen in to their very important transmissions.

The Korean operator who I was monitoring regularly had the call sign "BAT ", which he always sent in a very rhythmic fashion " dah di di dit, dit dah, dah" (– – –). He always transmitted regularly every half-hour and came up exactly on time, not like some of the others. He had to be looking at his watch and counting down the seconds and would start right "on the dot". He must have been a real "eager beaver!" Anyway, it was time for him to transmit and he wasn't there. I waited about 10 seconds, figured that he must have changed frequencies, and then started moving my dial upward. (The last time they had changed frequencies, they moved to a lower one, so I was guessing they might go higher this time). Less than a minute later I heard a transmitter that sounded like his, so I started copying. We had a large continuous roll of paper in front of our mill (typewriter) to copy on, and I copied about 20 feet of

coded material -- a sure sign that something important was going on as messages were usually much shorter. Actually, I had no sure way of knowing it was my man, other than my guess that the sound was his transmitter. The call letters I had heard him use when I first picked him up were different, and of course he was on a different frequency.

Finally he finished sending his long message, and I guess he was so relieved to be finished that he wasn't thinking too well. By force of habit, he signed off by repeating his old call letters, BAT, then paused, realized what he had done and started sending his new call sign. I thought to myself "GOTCHA ", as this was positive confirmation that the message came from the same location that I had previously been monitoring. It was a very good feeling to know that I had captured one of the earliest transmissions concerning the new offensive. I always wondered how important it might have been to the war effort, but we were not privy to that information.

From Barry Friedland (Corporal) 1954-57 Okinawa 1955-57 :

Basic at Fort Jackson then Fort Devens in Ayer, Mass. for next nine months

Learned to type to a Bill Haley record
Shipped to Okinawa in August of 1955
Became an 058.6
Promoted to corporal (rather than specialist)

Became a room supervisor
Got really pissed the way the base was being run by a new base commander and let everyone including the new base commander, know about it.....Stayed at corporal for the remainder of my military career (can you believe that??) although I did receive a letter of commendation from the Secretary of the Army or something for my work or something. Got out in Sept of 1957

Went back to college at Temple University in Philadelphia. Believe it or not, I was recruited into the army ROTC and graduated as a DMS (distinguished military student and DMG (distinguished military graduate)

My dad died suddenly in my last semester and I had to drop out of college....never served a minute as a 2nd Lt, although after being a civilian for almost two years, during the Cuban missile crisis, I received a telegram addressed to 2nd Lt. Barry Friedland that stated, "Pack a bag and be ready to report in 24 hours"?????

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I truly enjoyed my time on Okinawa (despite the new base commander). I understand that Okinawa has changed very much in the last 54 years.....(imagine that). The last thing I heard was it has become the number one vacation destination for Japan.

By the way, what has become of the Army Security Agency?????

If anyone would like to be in touch with me, my e-mail address is horgra01@cableone.net and I live in Rio Rancho, NM.

From Lonnie Frampton:

I enlisted for the ASA on 29 December 1954 on the advice of a neighbor who was in the ASA at the time. I first went to Ft Knox, KY for basic training and after graduation in March 1955, on to Ft Devens, Ma. for processing and testing. Near the end of March, 10 of us were sent to Ft Monmouth, NJ. to attend the Fixed Station Receiver Repair Course, which was five months in duration. Upon completion of the course we went back to Ft Devens for further processing. We did a lot of "ash and trash", waiting for further orders. We became tired of that in a hurry and one day we went to Personnel to see the Classification and Assignment (C&A) NCO. We told him we wanted to go somewhere, we didn't care where, as long as it was overseas. He wrote an assignment on individual pieces of paper and asked one of us for a hat. He placed the pieces of paper in the hat and said, "Draw your assignment", as he held the hat out to each of us. A rather unique way to get an assignment. I drew the Far East along with Glenn Bartlett. We shipped out of Seattle on the MSTS Hugh Gaffee headed for Yokohama. We arrived in late November and were taken to Camp Drake outside Tokyo to process and await an assignment. When mine came down Glenn and I were sent to 8603 DU, Okinawa. I worked in the Signal Maintenance shop repairing radios, ink recorders, headsets, intercoms and anything else electronic. I did this job for almost two years and when my time was up I went back to the States and got out on 20 December 1957. I went back to Somerset, Pa. looking for a \$10,000 a year job, which didn't exist in Somerset, at least not for me at that time.

To tell the truth I was bored at home and missed my comrades who were on Okinawa when I left. I guess the Army

had me. So in February 1958 I called Arlington Hall Station and said I would reinlist if I could be assigned to Okinawa or Japan. I was to call back in two weeks and I would find out my fate. To my surprise I was told I would be sent back to Okinawa.

So on March 13, 1958 I reinlisted and went back to Okinawa. I arrived back on Okinawa exactly six months to the day on the same ship I left on. We were trucked in a duce and a half from Naha port to Sobe Camp. The first person I saw when I jumped off the truck was Hershel Camp from Chattanooga, TN. He was a maintenance man in Comm Center. He said, "Lonnie K what are you doing back here?" I replied, "I missed you guys." Which was the truth. He asked how I was doing and I told him I hadn't been paid in a month. He pulled out his wallet and asked, "How much do you want?" It is extremely rare to find that kind of friendship outside a close knit group like the Army.

I soon had the opportunity to be assigned to the Theater Technical Support Team (TTST). It was part of Headquarters USASAPac in Hawaii. Our job was to install electronic equipment and antennas at ASA sites in the Far East. Since Okinawa was centrally located to all the other ASA units in the Far East, our duty station was Sobe Camp for rations and UCMJ. I traveled quite a lot. We did jobs at Hakata (14th USASAFS), Chitose (12th USASAFS), ASA Comm Center at Camp Drake, all three in Japan; 177th USASA Company in Korea, and the 9th USASAFS in the Philippines. In early 1961 we went to Saigon and set up an operation on Ton San Neut Air Base. We also set up an operation in Bangkok. We wore civilian clothes in Saigon and Bangkok because we (ASA) were not supposed to be there. In June/July 1961 Headquarters moved to Camp Zama and in August I left Okinawa and went to Camp Zama. Warren Gaudette, a Team member, and I made SSG-E6 there and requested to go to the Intercept Equipment Repair Course at Ft Devens. We left Camp Zama together in May 1962.

The course was six months in duration. We received our assignments towards the end of the course. This time I did not fair so well. I was assigned to Sinop, Turkey located up on the Black Sea, "Sunny Sinop by the Sea," as it was called. I did not care much for that assignment and when I left I felt the best thing I got out of Sinop was ME. I was there Jan-Dec 1963. When I got home

Faye and I were married on December 31, 1963. From January to March I was TDY at Ft Meade (NSA) to learn a particular piece of electronic equipment which was being deployed to Two Rock Ranch Station in Petaluma, Ca. I liked the area but eventually wanted to go back overseas. I stayed there 14 months. I put in a request to go to Germany, it was approved and I was assigned to Field Station Berlin. Faye and I left Two Rock in May 1965. I received concurrent travel which meant Faye went with me. We arrived in Berlin in June 1965. It was a good assignment but different from anything I was associated with before. I applied for Warrant Officer in June 1966. The day before Thanksgiving I was informed I was due to make Warrant 1 December. The Captain in HQ Personnel in Frankfurt said in order to receive the Warrant I would have to accept an assignment to the 509th Group. Do you know where that is? I assured him I did indeed know where that was and I did want the Warrant. I was promoted on 1 December and had to be at the 509th Group by 20 January 1967.

I arrived at the 509th Group as scheduled and was taken next door to the 224th Aviation Battalion RR where I was assigned to the 156th Aviation Company RR in Can Tho down in the delta, where I would be the Commo Maintenance Officer. I was responsible for maintenance of the electronic equipment in the Comm Center and on board 15 Aircraft. I really enjoyed that assignment. The company became short of pilots and Battalion authorized non aviator officers and senior NCO's to fly in the right seat (Co-Pilot's seat) and do that part of the mission he would do. I was able to get sufficient mission flight time that I was awarded the Air Crewmember Badge. That was one award that I cherish above all others. I was one of two non aviator officers in the company and had more time in ASA than anyone else. The aviators treated me as if I was one of them and that meant a lot to me. In September 1967 I went to Hawaii on R&R. Faye and Charlie flew over from PA and met me there. That was the first time I saw Charlie, my oldest. I have pictures of him and I playing in the water at Waikiki Beach. What a fun memory that is. At six months I requested Okinawa and got it. I left Vietnam two weeks before the Tet Offensive in January 1968 for my third tour of duty at Sobe Camp.

When I got to Okinawa I cleared in on post, signed up for Government housing, joined the American Legion and VFW and any of the necessary things a new guy has to do and then I took a 30 day leave and caught a hop to the States. While home I visited all the inlaws and outlaws and made

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certain Faye and Charlie had transportation to Okinawa. In fact they arrived on Okinawa before I did since I was relying on catching hops back. My tour was rather routine except for us adopting Karen from Korea. Faye and I went to Korea in September 1969 to view the child that was selected for us. Rules were that both parents had to view the child and agree that the one picked for them was acceptable to both. We agreed that she was just right and the adoption process proceeded. On the last Saturday in November I received a call that our child was ready for pick-up. I flew to Korea, picked up my daughter and returned to Okinawa. She was about nine days shy of being 11 months old and on the flight back to Okinawa I fed her mashed potatoes with gravy and peas which I believe was the first solid food she had ever eaten. She really liked the mashed potatoes. There was a small bit of excitement while waiting for our flight at Osan Air Base. I was well prepared and met the challenge of changing her diaper (wet only) on a shipping crate. I think I handled the chore very well. I always consider Karen to be my delivery and I found it to be a piece of cake. She has been a pure blessing and I consider it an honor to call her my daughter.

After Okinawa I was assigned to the USASA Training Center and School, arriving there in August 1970. Our youngest child, Matthew was born there on July 22,

1971. He threw a scare into us when he stopped breathing when he was one month old. Thanks be to the good Lord for the skills and expertise of the doctor at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston Matthew survived that episode and today you wouldn't know he had been so ill. He is a State Police Trooper for the State of Pennsylvania. We spent two years at Ft Devens and in August 1973 I went to the 177th USASA Company at Camp Humphreys, Korea. After Korea I was assigned to USASA Material Support Command at Vint Hill Farms Station, Warrenton, VA. where I was again associated with installation teams. On April 30, 1975 I retired after 20 years, 3 months and 11 days of service, all with the ASA.

I had an outstanding career in ASA. I thoroughly enjoyed it and would not trade that experience for anything. Money cannot buy the experience of the places I have traveled to, the sights I have seen and most especially the people I met and the men I served with. I will always remember Glenn Bartlett-CA, Homer Greer-MS, Bruce Butler-NY, CWO Blomley-FI; Col Verneau-PA/OH, John Spillane-CA, Hersher Camp-TN, Gene Knutzen-CA, Willie Bull-WY, Arlie Bearden-TX, Warren Gaudette-MA, John Pollpeter-IA, Lew Sigman-WA, Bill Hackett-CA, Jackie West-OH, Larry Eckard-NC, Tom Sturgeon-OH, Willie Reich-AZ and all my friends from the ASA Okinawa Associa-

tion.

Awards I have received: Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal (Two Awards), Good Conduct Medal (Four Awards), Army Occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation, Air Crewmember Badge and Expert Badge(w/Carbine).

My most memorable assignments and from which I derived the most satisfaction and pride were the Theater Technical Support Team and the 156th Aviation Company in Can Tho, Vietnam. They were very, very special and I felt very good about them. I believe what impacted those assignments the most is that I could readily see the results of my endeavors and I received very positive comments from my peers and superior officers and EM.

Job skills that translated to civilian life were predominately people, organizational, and leadership skills. Those skills seem to fit well no matter what your occupation. They held me in good stead when I worked for the Department of Public Welfare, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and all other jobs I held.

The Big 50

By Larry Eckard

For some members of our Association 2011 is going to be a big year. We already know of at least three couples that will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year – and one of those (maybe more) celebrate it in September. We also know there are others who have already celebrated their 50th and are still going strong. We'd like to know how many couples will be celebrating their Golden Anniversary during this year. (that means married to each other all 50 years; two spouses of 25 years each don't count). Please let the Torii Tribune Editor know if you will be celebrating your 50th in 2011 (that's karen@mlrsinc.com). We may do something special for those couples.

Speaking of special things, the 2011 reunion is going to be special. Don'tcha' dare miss it. Cincinnati (actually the hotel is in Northern KY) is in a terrific location and we'll certainly not lack for things to do, plus the real reason for the reunion, friendship! The location is central to the Eastern half of

the US – where the bulk of our members live. There is excellent air service, Amtrak, and major Interstate Highways. OK so the price of gas is higher, start saving now – just like Uncle Sam "We want you" to be there. This is going to be one of the better, maybe even the best reunions ever. The complete itinerary has not been developed this early, but based on the survey results there are a few things that are pretty certain. The Air Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB near Daytona is a must and will take a full day to really see everything there. The reunion format will stay pretty much the same, the vote for a riverboat cruise is pretty well split, we'll see how that pans out, we've got a new game for one of the evenings; it's called "The Oldies Newly Wed Game". We'll get four "guinea pig" couples and the rest of us can enjoy their discomfort when they give the wrong answers. It won't be that bad, but I would search my memory banks for little known facts (that you can share) about your lives together. We of course will have the annual fund raiser one of the evenings, so be sure to bring a raffle gift to donate to the Association. We've pretty well exhausted all of

the "traditional" items representing our hometowns/states, so it'll be open season; bring what you wish, if it represents your city/state that is a plus. President Tom Sevits has also got some special ideas that he is going to bring to the reunion. We know for sure that Tom has discovered a few sips of Jack Daniels makes one smarter and improves their singing, so we may have a one-man concert in store for us. Our goal is to get our attendance back to the 100 member mark..

This is also election year. Dallas May will take over as President. We don't have an "election or nominating committee" as such so if you are interested in running for the VP (President Elect) position let Tom Sevits know to get your name added to the list. As usual, nominations will also be taken from the floor. About the only requirement is that you have to be at the meeting to accept the position.

The excellent location, the activities, and the friendships will make this one reunion that you don't want to miss.

As you know the 2012 reunion will be in Nashville, TN. More on that later.