At this reunion the members will be electing officers of the association. We need to elect a new Vice-President/President Elect, a Secretary, and a new Treasurer (Tom Sturgeon has resigned, mainly due to health reasons). If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact me either by e-mail, phone, or snail mail. Contact information is printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

I will have ASA Okinawa flags for sale at the reunion. I will have the garden flags and also 2x3 ft. flags. If space permits in this newsletter, there will be an order form you can get to me if you cannot attend the reunion.

Again, it has been a pleasure to be President of this remarkable organization. I have been much honored to have served you these last four years. I pledge to continue to attend, and to promote these reunions for as long as the good Lord will allow me!

Tom Sevits, President
They did move all the gaming machines, table games and furniture to the upper floors as a precaution. They are all back open now and going strong. We had it lucky here compared to other parts of the country, with their flooding, tornadoes, straight winds, earth quakes, after shocks and now the wild fires ravaging several of our western states and Florida. Let us all pray that when our president walks thru that white house door, he will do what he said he would do. give aid and assistance to those in need, bring our men home from the middle east, Quit tampering with our social security and retirement plans, get our factories back up and running, put our unemployed back to work and by golly, balance that budget. Now, that is enough of the soap box. Dina, Larry and Brenda have gotten the applications out for the reunion in Cincy. Please get them in as soon as possible. We are looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Thanks and God Bless,
Dallas May

Beginning Check Book Balance 1/31/2011………….$4370.76

Income from dues ………………………………………$120.00

We now have 168 Dues Paying Members and 6 Non-Dues Paying Members

TOTAL INCOME………………………………………..$120.00

Disbursements
March 2011 Torii Typhoon………………………………$388.14
Returned check to Betty Sturbaum…………………… $20.00
Returned check to Loraine Williams…………………..$30.00
Postage Jim Norrbom…………………………………….$8.60
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS……………………………..$446.74

FINAL BALANCE AS OF 06/15/2011………………$4044.02

Association Officers

Tom Sevits, President
25703 McCutcheonville Rd
Perrysburg, OH 43551
419-874-7680
Tom.judy@wcnet.org

Dallas May, Vice President
1840 Horn Lake Rd
Nesbit, MS 38651
662-429-4980
dallmay1@bellsouth.net

Lonnie Frampton, Immediate Past President
20 Heights Rd
Newville, PA 17241
717-776-5139
lonboy1@embarqmail.com

Jim Norrbom, Past Pres/ Treasurer
11409 Christensen Ct
Burnsville, MN 55337
952-890-2384
norrbom@aol.com

Billy “Tex” Davenport, Past Pres.
PO Box 241
Tioga, TX 76271
903-564-7012
texokinawa@aol.com

Larry Eckard, Past Pres
1225 34th Ave NE
Hickory, NC 28601
828-256-6008
larry@mirsinc.com

Bill Overholt, Past Pres
69 Hillside Rd
Tumersville, NJ 08012
856-218-0124
asasobie@aol.com

Gary Duenow, Secretary
6090 Indian Dr
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411
319-393-2234
thedue60@msn.com

Tom Sturgeon, Treasurer
Exofficio
12 Cherry Lane
Olmstead TWP, OH 44138-2916
440-427-9985
duosturgeons@aol.com

Enzie Harshman, 1st Pres.
701 Oak Creek Rd
Franklin, NC 28734-1373

Richard Rettig, Past Pres.
4775 Crestwood Dr
Hamburg, NY 14075

The Torii Typhoon is Published By:
ML&S, Inc
PO Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603
828-256-6008 (voice)
828-256-6559 (fax)
Dina@mirsinc.com
Larry@mirsinc.com
Karen@mirsinc.com
WWW.MLRSINC.COM/ASAOKINAWA

“Our Reunions Work So You Don’t Have To”
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.

Charles Nelson
(1961-62) SP4
2424 Honeysuckle Rd
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-942-3007
nylic76@nc.rr.com

Barry Friedland
(1955-57) CPL
1000 38th St SE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124
505-342-0551
horga01@cableone.net

Walter Medley
(1954-57) SP3
6420 Nordic Cir
Edina, MN 55439
952-941-2867
nanmead@aol.com

John King
(1949-52) M/Sgt
111th/327th
Died June 24, 2011

Nicholas Williams
(1952-54) Staff Sgt
Died February 24, 2011

James Nordberg
Died Sept 7, 2010

Ronald Danicic
Died August 8, 2007

Anthony Victor
Died June 21, 1989

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.

Deaths:

Died June 21, 1989
Died June 24, 2011
Died February 24, 2011
Died Sept 7, 2010
Died August 8, 2007
Died June 21, 1989

Torii/Sobe/Okinawa COMSEC Operations
By Dave Whitney

For starters, I'll try to establish the timeline for the existence of the 104th ASA Detachment that was formed on Okinawa on 1957.

The last known linear descendent of it is the 104th Military Intelligence Bn. (U.S. Army Reserves) formed in California in July 1986.

The 104th MI Bn., assigned to the 4th Inf. Div. was organized in September 1980 and remained on active military duty at Fort Carson, Colorado, until December 1995 when it moved to Fort Hood, TX, in January 1996.

Prior to the formation of the 104th MI Bn., the 104th ASA Security Detachment served on Okinawa from January 1957 to January 1968. The 104th ASA Security Detachment was a redesignation of the 126th U.S. ASA Detachment 4 in January 1957.

The 126th ASA Co. traces its roots, in name only, back to the 126th Signal Service Co. from which the 8610 AAU, and 10th USASAF Field Station grew in Kyoto, Japan, in 1950. The 126th ASA Co. had that a detachment on Okinawa traces it roots to the 50th Signal Security Detachment.

The 50th Signal Security Detachment was organized in Tokyo in 1950 and was the first Army Security Agency activity to operate in a tactical situation when it was dispatched to Korea.

In May 1951 the 50th SSD was moved from Korea to Camp Matsushima, Honshu, Japan, where it became the 851st Communications Recon Detachment in October 1951.

In September 1952, the 851st Comm Recon Det. was relocated to HQ ASAPAC at First Tokyo Arsenal in Oji, Japan, a Tokyo suburb.

The 851st Comm Recon Det. remained in Tokyo until, in June 1955, and then was transferred back to Camp Matsushima. It remained in Camp Matsushima for only five months and then moved to Camp Fuchinobe, a sub-post of Camp Zama, the HQ of U. S. Army Forces Far East.

The 851st had been expanded to company size in 1953-54 and was redesignated the 126th ASA Co. in January 1956 and remained that until it was deactivated in 1958-59.

The 126th ASA Co. maintained a number of detachments in Northern Honshu, Japan, (Camp Hague), near Tokyo at Camp Drake (AKASAKA), at an old Japanese airport in Sendai, and at Camp Zama. Another team was deployed to Okinawa during this period.

That’s where I entered the picture with the 126th. I was in the first class of school-trained Communication Security Analysts out of Fort Devens in 1956. I was sent to USASAPAC Headquarters in Oji, Japan, and then to the 126th ASA Co. Headquarters at Camp Fuchinobe. As the team was formed on Okinawa I was assigned to it as its only analyst.

When I arrived on Okinawa in early 1957, I found a detachment of a dozen ASAers who had been performing COMSEC activities out of an old Marine BOQ area above Machinato Airfield and Camp Butler on the South China Sea coastline of Okinawa. The 3rd ASA Field Station, 8603 AAU, was operating on up the coast above Kadena Air Base at the time, but I never processed in or out of the 3rd, instead going directly to the small ASA detachment that was just being designated Det. 4 of the 126th ASA Co.

While we drew our payroll once a month from the 3rd ASA Field Station, and occasionally had some travel orders drawn through them, we no other way had any inter-unit communications or social intercourse with them.

I do not know the exact derivation of the dozen ASA operators that included a CO, a 1st Sgt., an administrative sergeant, a supply sergeant, and a company srounger – a supply specialist. Some had been there for several months performing the same functions we assumed as the 126th ASA Co. Det. 4.

This detachment supplied all the COMSEC monitoring and activities for various American forces on Okinawa including the RYUKYAN Command, 1st Marine Division and later the 3rd Marine Division, and the 1st Special Forces.

We were responsible for monitoring American phone traffic into and out of the island, radiotelephone, radiotelegraphy, C一口 and voice transmissions from and to U.S. military units serving on or near Okinawa. In addition we monitored the U.S. codes and their use and tracked and turned over for apprehension any clandestine signal operators we identified and located in the Ryukyan Islands.

Ironically the first signals intelligence unit to serve on Okinawa was the 126th Signal Service Company that arrived on April 8, 1945, just one week (Continued on page 4)
COMSEC monitoring resources although I once did a parallel, and much more complete one, using information from the public domain such as the Stars & Stripes, local English language newspapers and phone books found laying around on most military installations. I was told emphatically to never do that again although it was much more complete and certainly information that was readily available to the Ruskies and Chicom who might be trying to figure out what U.S. troops were up to.

I took place in some black operations, but played only a limited role in any of them. They varied from tracking down clandestine operators using mobile monitoring units, particularly in the northern hill country of Okinawa, to stealing and copying Russian Navy Code books in Japan.

The only way I eventually learned what some of these black ops were is from conversations with retired Lt. Col. Bill O'Donnell many years later at a couple of ASA reunions in Florida. O'Donnell was a captain and CO of the 126th ASA Co. at the time I worked for him.

He would go on after I left to organize the 7th Radio Research Unit and take it into Vietnam to perform the COMSEC operations for that war.

ASA STORY
By Tom Sevits

I enlisted in the Army Security Agency in August 1956 after graduating from high school. I had no idea what I wanted to do after high school, as I had been raised on a farm and knew only farm work. One of my high school classmates, Bob Meyer, had decided to join the ASA because his older brother had been in the ASA and said it was a growing organization and you could get promoted pretty rapidly. Although it was the military, they weren't really all that gung ho. I decided to go along with him to talk to the ASA recruiter. The recruiter told us about the different jobs in the ASA and had us take a test to see if we would fit into what the ASA had to offer. We both had the aptitude and decided we would sign up to go into the Army the end of August. Oh, the ASA recruiter ended up at Torii Station. He was there when I left.

We were inducted in Cleveland and sent by train to Ft. Chaffee, AR, for processing. We then went by bus (5 or 6 bus loads) to Ft. Hood, TX for basic training. It's still very hot in September, October and November in Texas!

After completing basic in the middle of November, we flew by C47 to Worcester, MA. We left Texas with temperatures in the high 80s to arrive in MA with a foot of snow and temps in the teens. What a change!

After the usual testing, once we got to Ft. Devens, we were assigned to training companies. Bob went to 058 school, and I had qualified for the Russian language school in California. I thought that would be pretty cool to go to school in California, but after some serious thought, knowing I only lasted one week in high school Latin, I decided I would probably wash out of the school and then probably get assigned to some other unit not in the ASA. So I also went to 058 school.

That's where I met Mort Miller and Jerry Mueller. Mort and I were in the same barracks and became good friends along with some of the other guys. We had a good time at Devens and traveled all over New England seeing the sites.

After graduating from school, we all went on leave for about 3 weeks and then were to report to Oakland, CA for transport to Japan for assignment. I flew out of Toledo and had to change planes in Chicago, where I ran into Jerry Mueller, who was also heading to Oakland.

We flew from Oakland to Japan with stops on Hawaii and Wake Island. It was late at night when we arrived at Camp Oji, so we didn't see much of the country along the way.

Jerry and I were both assigned to Okinawa and left after a few days at Oji. When we arrived a Sobe Camp in August of 1958, we were assigned to Trick 3. I remember that the first month or more we worked 14 days before we got a day off. Then we worked another two weeks of afternoons and then midnights. They were really short of men at that point.

Finally, more men arrived and work time got better. I remember quite a few different work schedules: 7 days on, 3 off; 7 afternoons on, 3 off; 6 midnights on, 2 off; 4 days on, 3 off; 4 afternoons on, 3 off; 3 midnights on, 2 off. Also at one point they assigned Trick 3 to all midnights. (I think they called it the jock shift, although there didn't seem to be any jocks from other tricks assigned to our trick.) That got to be quite a grueling shift because there were so many guys on that trick that sometimes when you went down to work, there would be no place for you to work, so they would send you back to the barracks. Now after sleeping after the previous shift, what were you to do but go back to sleep, and then the next day while eve-

(Continued from page 3)

after the invasion of Okinawa began in World War II. However, I can find no direct lineage from the 126th SSC to the 126th ASA Co., Det. 4. I joined in late 1956. Like most of the signal intelligence service units that were used during World War II, the 126th SSC was shifted about following the war and, although its mission was most likely absorbed into the Army Secur-

By mid-1957 we moved our operations to the Sukiran area and were billeted and ran our operations out of an “H” style metal building around which we built our field of vertical di-pole antennas. This was all behind a security fence that was patrolled on a 24-hour basis by hired Okinawan security guards in uniform.

We continued the same monitoring operations and were responsible for the same special operations functions that we had been at the Machinato site.

But in 1957 military operations on Okinawa began to grow as military troop cutbacks began to take place in mainland Japan. Along with the growth grew a rapid expansion of our duties and with that came new ASA personnel.

Since the metal “H” building we had been using for both operations and living quarters was not large enough to billet out expanding numbers, we were assigned a portion of a modern concrete block military barracks down the street for living quarters. Most of the original Det. 4 members moved to these new billets although we maintained a day room and some limited sleeping quarters in the “H” building for those on special round-the-clock duty or other special assignment.

We were so strictly compartmentalized that we never talked about what duty we were assigned to at any given time. As the analyst for the group I was back and forth to Japan on a regular basis as a courier, carrying certain code materials and other COMSEC investigative findings to the 126th in Japan, to Far East Command Headquarters in Camp Zama, and to first USASAPAC and later USASAFE head- quarters in Camp Oji.

Occasionally I would deliver work we had done for other military organizations such as the 3rd Operations Group in Tokyo that at that time conducted some CIC and CID operations.

My primary responsibility was developing as complete an Order of Battle of all U.S. forces in the Ryukyus and on a quarterly basis, a report that was forwarded up the ASA chain or command to Arlington Hall. I was charged with doing this from only the information that was available from our
Along with Mort Miller, Jerry Mueller and others from our trick. We traveled to Formosa first and then back up to Yokohama, Japan before heading to San Francisco. It was almost two weeks before we got to California. After arrival we were to board planes to our various discharge bases. I was to fly to Chicago. Since we had to wait for a couple of hours for the plane, a lot of the guys spent time in the airport lounge. However, we could not take off because of some problem with the plane. There were a lot of pretty drunk guys on that plane, and I think the stewardesses were just as glad not to leave at that time. So they put us up in a hotel for the night and flew out the next morning.

After I got out of the Army, I worked for a year in a chemical plant and decided to go to college. After two years at Ohio University, I ran out of money. During those college years, I met my future wife, Judy, on a blind date and we got married after she graduated from Bowling Green State University. I worked for a couple of years and then went back to college in the computer field at Owens Community College. I worked there part-time before graduating and then worked for 30 years at the college. I retired the end of 1995.

I first learned about the reunions of ASA Okinawa in 1998, via a postcard sent by Paul Watson to my former home address, where my eldest son was living. I got in touch with Paul right away and Judy and I attended our first reunion at Myrtle Beach in 1999. We have not missed any reunions since then. We have made many great friends at the reunions and renewed some old Sobe Camp/Torii Station friendships.

Somehow one of those old friends, Bill Overholt, talked me into running for Vice-President/President Elect in 2008. I’m not sure how I won, but I surely am very proud to be the President of this great association. I’m also very grateful for those that really got this association started back in 1995, and especially to Paul Watson, who has done more than anyone to locate and contact the vast majority of the membership.

I extend a special THANK YOU to Larry Eckard and his group for putting together these reunions. Larry and Brenda do a fantastic job for us each year!
MAIL CALL

From Axel Torvi:
I just received the March 2011 Vol 10 # 1 Newsletter. Congratulations to you and all of the contributors!!! That was a tremendous response!!!

Charlie Hoover’s recollections seemed almost identical to almost everything that I also remember, except that I didn’t have as exciting “gotcha” as he did. I did appreciate the reinforcement notes about the individuality of the operators and even their equipment, and as I may have already mentioned, have included a similar use of individuality of Scandinavian rune authors and rune carvers, that used deviant runes and sometimes repeated reverse runes and other anomalies, that might eventually reveal the master and apprentice runors, or even the hierarchy of the runic system. That might also allow us to chain together many rune inscriptions that really do NOT have their authors or carvers identified. One of those of course, might be the Kensington Rune Stone that was found in the center of Minnesota in 1898.

I surely must have overlapped service on SOBE with Lonnie Frampton. Maybe he might recollect that one year on April Fools Day, the crew maintaining the Antenna Field added an extra antenna made out of welded beer cans, that was right in the center of the antenna field. It seemed to disappear just about as fast as it had appeared.

I remember the USO Club, but never was able to visit, or might have met Richard Krantz. One recollection that it was in the lower right barracks was familiar.

The experiences that we had with typhoons were memorable. The wind would hit at the base of the concrete barracks, then rise vertically up the wall, then shake the steel window shutters so violently that they finally ripped right off of the building, and the rain water would find a tiny hole, and squirt 20 to 30 feet right across the room. The wind was from one direction for a week, then a day’s lull, then a week from the opposite direction. We were all assigned to work—3 hours on, 3 off, sleep on a blanket on the floor. Minor earthquakes slowly moved all of the bunks to one wall, and all objects on tables or desks to the floor. Never, ever forget to clean and oil your carbine, Kadena Air-base was just overhead, and KOREA DUTY very available.

Lonnie, the Gaffey was one of the better transports!! I’m sure my sympathy is added to that of Don Anderson, for the victims of the quake and tsunami at Sendi, Japan.

Also from Axel Torvi:
I got to wondering how on earth I remembered being at Operations for a whole 2 week typhoon, and then remembering being in the barracks during the same time period!!! Then I remembered how we put on all of the clothes we could (50 degrees there was a bad or worse than 50 here) and filing (informal marching) down to OPS in the dark just before the storm with a blanket too. Then after a week of 3 on 3 off, came the lull, and we groggily climbed back up the hill to the barracks. The other Trick and 1/2 passed us as a relief team on their way down to OPS for the other half of the storm.

That explained how I remembered looking out of the window of the barracks, after the massive steel shutters blew off, and being amazed at the rain water flowing up (not down) the window. It varied from 3 inches to 6 inches thick, looking for tiny holes to squirt indoors or to flow up and over the top of the building.

As Garrison Kiellor says every eve on NPR, “Be well and keep in touch.”

Tori Typhoon:
I am writing you as a contact from the publishing page of the Torii Typhoon page. I noted by searching the internet that you noted the death of my father, Leiland Chambliss, on April 22, 2009.

My sister and I have been researching our family at the e-mail or phone number you could point us to?

My sister and I have been researching our family since his death to learn more about his service. We see you noted the death of my father, Leiland Chambliss, on April 22, 2009. I am writing you as a contact from the publishing page of the Torii Typhoon page. I noted by searching the internet that you noted the death of my father, Leiland Chambliss, on April 22, 2009.

Also from Tom Sevits:
From Tom Sevits:
I received a thank you card today from Martha Butler. As you recall, I had sent her a garden flag a couple of months ago for her to display on her husband Earl’s grave.

She wrote: “Thank you for the flag. Our son helped me make a pole and attach the flag. It was displayed for 3 days during Memorial Day weekend by the headstone. I have the flag and pole ready for the next time I want to fly it. Will put it on again on the 4th of July. Our wedding anniversary is the 2nd of July. Will fly it that day also.

Thank you,
Martha Butler

Dear Tom,
After receiving your ASA newsletter, I guess I should give you another name to put on your death list. Nicholas Williams. He died of a heart attack on 2/24/11. He had a heart attack on 12/20/10. We thought he was doing OK, but needed a valve replacement, but didn’t make it for that.

We enjoyed the reunions, so keep them up. Last year was the first we missed since Kentucky.

Sincerely,
Lorraine Williams
211 Briar Ln
Neward, DE 19711-3611

Editor’s Note: The following letter accompanied the photos on page 7. The only person known in the photos is the first one who is Robert Frye (on the bike). If anyone recognizes anyone else in the photos, let ML&RS know at karen@mlrsinc.com or Robert Frye at rflye1@verizon.net or Tom Sevits at tom.judy@wcnet.org. Thank you.

Tom,
I would think the steak pics were taken in 1955. I got there in early 1955 and left in May of 1956. My MOS was 1207. I was a D/F analyst and worked all tricks. We also did RFP and MAP in the same area. Hope this helps. Its been too long and I have a hard time remembering names of those I worked with.

Robert (Bob) Frye
In April of this year, Mr. & Mrs. Shinsho Miyaga (Skosh, to many of us) visited his son and daughter-in-law in Cleveland, OH. During their visit with family, they were also able to visit with Tom and Marian Sturgeon who live near Cleveland. To the right you will find a couple of photos of that visit—thanks to Tom. All photos were taken in Tom and Marian Sturgeon’s home.

Tom Sturgeon and Mr. Miyaga holding the Garden Flag that Tom Sevits made available as a gift.

Tom and Marian with Mr. Miyaga and his wife Kazuko.

Tom and Marian with Mr. Miyaga’s son Masaru and wife Chiyoko

Mr. Shinsho Miyaga and wife Kazuko
Association Order for Shirts, White & Light Blue (With or Without Collars)  
(Picture of collared shirt not available)

To go along with the hat you ordered last year, the association is offering shirts with and without collars. Shirts are available in two colors, white and light blue, with and without a pocket and the logo shown above will be above the pocket. For those attending the reunion, the shirts will be available for pick-up there; for those ordering a shirt but not able to attend the reunion, the shirt will be mailed to you. Please use the order form below.

Name:__________________________________________
Address:__________________________________________
City________________________ State____ Zip Code__________
E-mail address ________________________________

Size: Small _____; Med _____; Large _____
XL _____; XXL _____; XXXL _____

Color: White____ Blue____
With collar ____ without/collar____
With pocket _____ without pocket _____

Cost w/collar: S thru XL $18.50;
XXL $20.00 XXXL $21.50
Cost w/o collar: S thru XL $15.00;
XXL $16.50 XXXL $18.00

Postage and handling (if not attending reunion) $6.00 for 1 shirt, $7.00 for 2 shirts
Total Enclosed: $________________

Make checks out to: ASA Okinawa Association
Dead line for ordering is August 15, 2011.

Mail your order to: ASA Okinawa Association, Gary Duenow, 6090 Indian Dr NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52411