

Torii Typhoon

Volume 7 Issue 1

November 2007

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ASA OKINAWA



Special Points of Interest

- *A great reunion was held in Tucson this year! An overview of it is in the cover story.*
- *A message from outgoing president, James Norrbom, is on page three.*
- *If you'd like to see who attended the reunion, look on page three.*
- *Two great stories are in Mail Call starting on page five. One is about a ham radio conversation and another is about an old junk car called the Blue Goose.*
- *A preview of Charleston's attractions and a survey for the 2008 reunion are on pages 7 & 8.*

2007 REUNION IN TUCSON ONE TO REMEMBER

The 2007 ASA Okinawa reunion is now in the history books. The five day-four night event was held September 12-16, 2007 at the Hotel Arizona, downtown Tucson, Arizona. A total of 112 persons; (63 former soldiers and 49 spouses or other guests) attended the reunion. In spite of a wee small problem with I-10 exits to downtown being closed everyone eventually found their way to the check-in desk – although some did miss their exit and made a detour. In spite of last year's decision to begin the reunion on Wednesday, some members still arrived at the hotel a day or two early, Jim Norrbom was the first to "officially" register. By all accounts it was a great reunion!

In keeping with the tradi-

tions set several years ago, registration began mid-morning on Wednesday and a short time later the hospitality room stocked with cold drinks, coffee and a variety of snacks opened. The hospitality room quickly became the focal point for the reunion.

The first "planned" event of the reunion was the welcome reception at 5:00 PM. Association President Jim Norrbom made a few opening remarks and welcomed everyone, especially first time attendees. During his opening remarks Jim passed on the regrets of Treasurer Tom Sturgeon and wife Marian– who were unable to attend the reunion for the first time ever. Tom and Marian were missed, and we hope to see them next year. Following the

reception, some folks had dinner in the hotel and others went out on the town for a little Tucson nightlife. Does the fact that all were back in the hotel by 9:00 PM tell you something about the years? Interestingly enough, practically everyone arrived on Wednesday.

Thursday morning dawned with perfect weather. Breakfast was a private affair, and trust me, it was well attended. Remember back when, if there was ever a formation, someone was always late. Not these chow hounds – mess call was at 0730 hours, but by that time half the group had finished eating. After breakfast fifty-couple persons boarded one "motor coach" (we were

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strongly reprimanded for calling it a bus) for a trip to Mission San Xavier del Bac and the Pima Air and Space Museum, including a tour of the "boneyard" where thousands of aircraft are stored in the arid Arizona desert. It was an interesting and informative day. The second motor coach with thirty-couple persons on board went to the Saguaro National Monument for a day of fantastic scenery and wild life.

Meanwhile back at the Ranch, those not going on one of the tours explored on their own and anxiously awaited the return of the tourists. When the tour group returned, there were a few minutes of what to an outsider must have looked like utter chaos. Then the lobby was clear again as the hospitality room once again became the main attraction.

The evening continued at 5:00 PM when eighty-nine persons boarded two motor coaches for the trip through Arizona cattle country to "The Steak Out" in the little cross-road town of Sonotia.

Talk about a good steak, we had one. The Steak Out is a local favorite and probably never had two bus loads of diners at one time. The steaks were individually cooked, and consequently it took a little longer to be served than we may have liked, but the meal was worth the wait. Since we were told by Arizona friends that "Real Cowboys don't eat sweets" we had no dessert, and no one missed it. Many commented that this trip and meal were the best part of the reunion.

It was late when the busses finally returned to the hotel, but everyone was up at the crack of dawn for an early breakfast and a 0630 hrs departure to Ft Huachuca, home of the Military Intelligence Center and School. The group was met at the main gate of Ft Huachuca by two escorts from the Commanding General's staff and they stayed with us the remainder of the day. First on the agenda was a briefing by the CO of Company E, 305th MI Battalion. His unclassified briefing brought us up to date on some of the modern day ca-

pabilities and resources available to the MI soldier of today. Although most of the group could relate to the mission, how it is done today fascinated everyone. Following this excellent briefing we were given a riding tour of Ft Huachuca with the escort pointing out the interesting and historic features of the old post. Then a stop was made at the three post museums. The main museum and annex feature the history of Ft Huachuca and the exhibits on display depict life in the days when this was "the old west." The third museum is the Military Intelligence Museum and traces the history of military intelligence from its earliest days to today's satellites and unmanned vehicles. Did you know that Gen Pershing had a Signals Intelligence contingent with him while chasing Poncho Villa? They had tremendous success by tapping into phone lines – a technique still used today. Lunch was in the Thunder Mountain Activity Center – now an all ranks club (no more Officers, NCO, or EM clubs). After lunch the tour was continued with a visit to the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Center where we received a briefing on the mission and capabilities of these unique unmanned aerial vehicles. All too soon the day ended and we said good-bye to our escorts and made the trip back to Tucson – still in awe of what we had seen.

Upon returning to the hotel the business meeting was held. The minutes of the 2006 business meeting was read and approved. Due to Tom Sturgeon's recent medical problem he was not able to attend and no treasurer's report was read. Bill Overholt collected dues in Tom's absence. Business conducted included passing a resolution to purchase \$1,000.00 in phone cards and give them to deployed MI soldiers – or any deployed soldier. Also, a member brought a photo of an eagle, American Flag, and the ASA Okinawa logo "Best in the Business." It was resolved to order golf shirts with this emblem and sell the shirts for the association. The association will pay the set-up fee and the shirts will be advertised for sale in the newsletter. Lonnie Frampton was

confirmed as incoming Association President and in a close election; Tom Sevits was elected VP and President-elect. St Louis, MO was chosen as the 2009 reunion site.

After a private breakfast buffet, just over 100 persons headed off to Tombstone, "the town too tough to die." Jim Norrbom thought about wearing a black cowboy hat, but since he was wearing shorts, he decided his Minnesota white legs would clash with the hat. (sorry Jim, couldn't pass that one up). Tombstone met everyone's expectations, and everyone was a cowboy or a cowgirl for a day. Big Nose Kate's saloon attracted a lot of attention (we are told by the older boys).

The banquet evening kicked off with a social hour and photo session. Hopefully every attendee had his/her photo taken for inclusion in the 2007 Reunion Memory Book. The banquet formalities began with the playing of the Army song. An Honor Guard from Fort Huachuca posted the Colors immediately followed by the National Anthem, the Pledge Allegiance, and the Invocation. After a few opening remarks by Outgoing President Jim Norrbom dinner was served. The dinner was excellent, well presented, and adequate staff present to service the assembly. After dinner outgoing President Jim Norrbom made a few closing remarks and a formal change of command was executed. Jim removed the guideon from its stand, handed it to Immediate Past President Billy "Tex" Davenport who passed it to incoming President Lonnie Frampton who returned the guideon to its stand. Lonnie made a few remarks as new President. The Colors were retired and there was music for dancing.

Sunday morning came all too quickly. Following an excellent breakfast buffet the memorial service was conducted honoring those ASA Okinawa soldiers known to have died, or whose death was learned of since the last

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reunion. Chaplain Ross Lee conducted the memorial service, assisted by Billy Davenport, Jim Norrbom, and Lonnie Frampton. They did a great job. Then it was over, four days had never before passed so quickly. Reluctantly and slowly the hugs began until the entire room was abuzz with good-byes and, "See you in Charleston."

MESSAGE FROM JAMES NORRBOM

To all ASA Okinawa members,

I want to tell you what a pleasure it was for me to be your President these past two years. Thanks to all the Board Members who gave me and the Organization strong support and help during those two years. I look forward to working with Lonnie Frampton and Tom Sevits, our new President and Vice President these next two years. We had a great time at the Tucson Reunion this past September. There was plenty to do and see. Don't forget to fill out and send back to MLRS your response forms that you received in your packet when you registered in Tucson about how you thought the reunion was and what we could do to make it better in the future. Personally I want to thank Larry and Brenda and their fine group for all that they do for us. They take a load off of us by doing all the scheduling of hotels, tours, setting up meeting areas and all the other things that they do for our organization. Remember, it isn't too soon to start thinking about Charleston, SC next year and what you would like to see and do there. We hope to see you all in Charleston.

Sincerely,
James Norrbom, Past President

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM
LONNIE FRAMPTON WILL APPEAR
IN THE NEXT ISSUE.**

2007 REUNION ATTENDEES

Joe & Peggy Alexander
Robert & Marilyn Alles
David & Diane Bergman
Earl & Martha Butler
Daniel & Margaret Carr
Jim & Gwen Coatney
Albert Cooper
Thomas & Tonia Cooper
Hobart & Mildred Crawford
Billy Davenport
Tracy & Carol Davis
Earle & Sarah DeKay
Ralph & Betty Derr
Leon & Joan Dick
Jere Dillon
Wayne & Sandra Ditter
Gary & Linda "Rusty" Duenow
Larry & Brenda Eckard
James & Lucy Elder
Harold & Ruth Ellis
Stephen & Joyce Fitzgerald
Lonnie & Faye Frampton
Jerry & Wilma Gabbert
Clifford & Hattie Gilmore
Charles Gurreri
Howard Hartman & Eloise Onskud
Tommy & Loretta Housh
Marvin & Edna Huff
Arthur Jordan
Charles & Jane Kendzierski
Thomas & Kathy Kiklas
Eugene Knutzen
Richard & Wanda Krantz
Walter & Beverly Kusmierczyk
Ross & Sue Lee
Mark & Jane L'Hommedieu
Tony & Shirley Logan
Johnnie Luke
Helen Maki
Dallas & Linda May
David Merritt
David & Kathleen Miller
Theodore Mish & Rea Murray
Gerald & Sandy Mueller
James & Sharon Norrbom
Mike Nuin
William & Elaine Overhold
William & Patricia Phillips
Louis & Lovaughn Quigley
Gene & Kay Riling
Ronnie Rowe
John (Jack) & Diane Sanborn
Duane & Lou Anne Sands
Tom & Judy Sevits
John Stanley
William Stanley II
Ronald & Linda Stradling
Gerald & Betty Sturbaum
Ralph & Sharon Tiffany
Lewis Trunzo
John & Sheila Weir

Nicholas & Loraine Williams
Robert & Edie Zima

Total Members: 63
Guests: 49
GRAND TOTAL: 112

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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501-778-3345

OUR VIEW

BY LARRY ECKARD

It seems such a short time ago that we were all together in Tucson in what has to be one of the better reunions. You can read about it elsewhere in this Typhoon.

For you guys who read this but don't come to the reunion, let me say you are missing the chance of a lifetime. To sit down with the guys you knew 40 – 50 years ago and remember "those days" is a something only a former soldier can relate to. Yes, it'll cost you a few dollars, but by gum we're worth it! You cannot put a price tag on friendship. The most common excuse (after the price) is, "I won't know anyone." So what? Sure we'd all like to see the guys we hung around with, but it makes absolutely no difference once you get there. In an hour you feel like you've known every one there all your life –and ladies, you'll find a great bunch of wives who will welcome you. Come on down to Charleston and let us prove it to you!

Speaking of Charleston the **reunion dates are Sept 10-14, 2008**. Host hotel is the **Sheraton Four Points North**, near the airport. Rates in Charleston are a bit more than Tucson – but that is Charleston; it's is not the sleepy little southern town some people think it is.

Help us help you by reviewing the summary of some of Charleston's most popular activities and returning the survey. Tell us what you'd most like to see on the agenda. As we've done for years, the itinerary will be created from the responses. We are especially interested in whether you want entertainment after the banquet. Last year we had music for dancing but very few people danced, and a lot complained that they could not talk for the loud music. "Our view" is it is a waste of your money, but if the majority wants it, it'll be there. Let us hear from you!

On to another matter, you will recall we (the association) took hat orders to bring to this past reunion. We had an unexpected large number of orders. Every hat was sold! The assoc made a few bucks. This year we decided at the business meeting to sell golf shirts with the below emblem embroidered above the left breast pocket. We'll give you the details next issue and tell you how to order them.



We are talking with the Command Sergeant Major of Ft Huachuca on the best way to distribute phone cards to deployed MI soldiers. We'll keep you posted on that.

Congratulations to Lonnie Frampton and Tom Sevits for being elected Association President and VP/President Elect. I know you will support them as you have others in the past.

Our faithful Treasurer Tom Sturgeon missed his first

reunion due to an illness. He's pretty well recovered now and looks forward to seeing us all in Charleston. Bill Overholt stepped up and substituted for him, collecting dues and other treasurer-like duties. Thanks! Speaking of Bill, Brenda and I had occasion to be in the Philadelphia area a few weeks ago and had the opportunity to have dinner with Bill and Elaine. We had a really good time! The point in mentioning this is very simple. Bill and I were on Oki at the same time, knew each other, had a few beers together, and he went home. Not the end of the story. Before the reunions started, I could have been in Philly a dozen times and probably never thought to call Bill, nor would he have expected it. The reunions brought us back together – our wives became friends – and this same story has happened to so many other people. Get your _ ... to the next reunion and experience the same thing!

TREASURER'S REPORT ASA ASSOCIATION AS OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

Check book balance June 26, 2007.....	\$8011.90
Dues Received.....	\$130.00
Income from Torii hat sales.....	\$888.00
Total income June 27—Sept. 12, 2007.....	\$1018.00
Disbursements:	
Purchase of Torii Hats.....	\$557.81
Total Disbursements.....	\$557.81
Checkbook balance Sept. 12, 2007.....	\$8472.09
Miscellaneous Reserve Change Fund.....	\$50.00

Adjusted Balance Sept 12, 2007.....\$8522.09

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas A Sturgeon, Treasurer

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Tom Sevits

First of all, I was honored and humbled to be elected as your Vice-President at the Tucson reunion I am very proud to be a member of ASA Okinawa. As with most of us, I was very happy to leave after my tour, but as the years have passed, I realized how fortunate I was to be able to serve with such a great group of men, and now to be able to renew old friendships and make so many new ones is the highlight of these reunions.

One of my goals for the organization is that we increase our membership and attendance at the reunions. I would challenge each one of you to locate someone you know or someone who served at the same time as you.

There are many sites you can visit to locate men (and women) who served with the ASA on Okinawa. Just Google ASA Okinawa, and you will find quite a few of those sites. I would like to recommend John Ambrose's site as one that has a lot of contacts in his guest directory. Just in this last year, I have made contact with two men that live within 50 miles of me that were on the rock, either just before or at the same time, as I was there. I am hoping to persuade them to come to the Charleston reunion.

That's all for now, but once again I appreciate the honor of being your Vice-President.

Tom Sevits

THANK YOU TO DOROTHY TURNER

A big thank you is owed to Mrs. Dorothy Turner who cross stitched and framed an ASA Okinawa emblem for the 2007 reunion. She also cross stitched a stocking with ASA Okinawa on it for all attendees at the 2007reunion! These items were beautiful and greatly appreciated by everyone. Dorothy, we appreciate your talent and your hard work! Thank you so much from everyone at the reunion.



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.

John Harper (1960-61) E-4
13954 Magnolia St
Garden Grove, CA 92844
jharper146@aol.com

Charles Gurreri (1956-58) S/Sgt
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Oceanside, CA 92056
ckgurreri@yahoo.com

Michael Ellis
(1965-67) Pvt E-2 B Co
3171 South 83rd St
Milwaukee, WI 53219
414-430-2020
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James Collins
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Sierra Vista, AZ 85638

**NEWSLETTER EXPENDITURES
FOR NOVEMBER 2007 \$378.00**



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.

Carl Kadtko
Died November 1, 2003

Michael Maki (1956-59) E-5
Died April 17, 2007

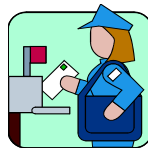
Bill Boyd
Died November 12, 2007

Allen Bell
Died July 26, 2007

Gerald Hodgin (1958-60)
Died August 15, 2007

Hubert Brown (1959-63) CSM
Died September 20, 2005

David Wisyanski
(1968-70 & 1975-78) Col HQ
Died July 24, 2007



MAIL CALL

Dear Larry,

I really enjoy reading your newsletter. In reading your last newsletter in "Taps" I noticed the passing of Billy Paul. To say the least, I was taken back by his name, but I did not know him personally. During my career in the military, I had two tours in Okinawa. My last tour was as Trick Chief of Trick One. I was also with the first group that was sent to Nam back around 1961 where we were required to dress as civilians.

When I returned back to Okinawa, I married a Japanese woman who many of my superiors tried to talk me out of mar-

rying. I'm glad that I didn't listen to their advice. We have been happily married for nearly 45 years!

My wife suffered a major stroke nearly 3½ years ago. She is paralyzed on her left side and requires assistance for all her basic needs. Initially, I had visited her every evening, but it was taking a physical toll on me. Presently my son sees her on the nights that I am unable to meet with her, but through the use of a cell phone, am able to talk to her on those nights that I am unable to attend.

It is my sad duty to report the death of Gerald Hodgin, a former room supervisor of Trick Four between the years 1960—1964. Jerry passed away on Wednesday, August 15, 2007. His wife Yudiko called me earlier today with the news. Apparently yesterday Jerry had attended a baseball game in Washington DC with a group of children earlier in the day. Upon his return home, he passed away. He was 69.

Once again, keep up the great work!

Sincerely yours,
William F Paul MSgt (Retired)

Dear Lonnie Frampton,

I am sending you three photographs and a little true story I wrote for a friend. Perhaps you might use them as you wish at the reunion. I regret that I cannot attend. One photo is the group we replaced in late Jan. or the first week of Feb in 1947. The other photo is of me in front of a mobile radio station. The third photo is the monitoring building I was responsible for building. I just got others to build and do different phases of construction. The Post Engineers helped me scourge everything I needed. The Signal and Ordinance Depots were the hardest hit....not bad for a 19 year old T5! Another monitoring station was scheduled, but I was sent home in December of 1947.

I cannot recall if the commanding officer was Captain or 1st Lt. Edward Day. From our group of seven, I can only remember Deardorf from York, PA, Daniels from Texas and Narimatsu from Culver City, Calif.

I hope to attend a future reunion.

Success with your President's position next year.

Sincerely,
Edward Moreno

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Here is the story Mr. Moreno sent:

J9AAW

It must have been in early spring of 1947 when we were still the 111th Signal Service Company located over 300 yards below the Armed Forces Radio Station on a steep slope on the island of Okinawa. There were three Quonset huts on this narrow ledge. The first was the company office, the second the sleeping quarters for the seven of us and the third housed piles of radio equipment and electronic gear that I eventually inventoried as the company's acting supply sergeant.

In the company office was the desk for the clerk, two transmitters and Superpro receiver. This ham radio station was the personal toy of Lt. Ed D. The second partition housed Lt. Ed D's desk and a desk for 2nd Lt. Leslie plus cabinets. The third partition, the smallest, housed me, Army supplies and records pertaining to radio equipment.

For over two months I had been watching Lt. Ed D. operate the ham radio. He would repeat, "Calling C.Q. Stateside. This is J9AAW, Jigger Niner Able Able William. Calling C.Q. Stateside!" Often someone would respond and they would begin chatting. Several transmitters were about six or eight coils. We did not know what they were for. Some even called them crystals.

One night I had C.Q. duty. I wrote a couple of letters. I did not read for fear I would fall asleep. About 2:30 a.m. when all were asleep and both Lt. Ed D. and 2nd Lt. Leslie were in their sleeping quarters about 100 yards away, I began "Calling C.Q. Stateside, J9AAW!" After fifteen or twenty minutes of no success, I plugged in a coil. If one is good, two would be better, I thought. Sure enough. In a few minutes I was conversing in Spanish with Eduardo from Argentina. I was like a kid in a candy store. Great fun! Eventually I signed off and promised to send him a QSL card.

In about a week Lt. Ed D. received a strong letter from the FCC castigating him for having strayed from the ham radio frequency. He had been heard talking in Spanish in Tokyo and throughout the Pacific. A month after that letter, Lt. Ed D. received a QSL card addressed to Ed from Eduardo in Argentina written in Spanish. Lt. Ed D. was puzzled. He could not remember

speaking Spanish to anyone. His only comment was, "I must have been drunk, dead drunk!"

Now I knew what the coils were for. By the way, Ed is also my name.

The pictures Mr. Moreno sent are on the next page.

Larry,

I'm one of the old Torii Station geezers—Dexter (Dusty) Morgan, SFC (E6)—that rotated out of Korea from the 329th (CRC) to Okinawa in Oct. 1952, leaving in May 1954. My wife and I had hoped to attend one of the ASA Okinawa reunions, but each of us has had health problems that have restricted our travels. We had high hopes of attending this year's reunion, but my old high school class decided to have our 60th reunion on Sept 17. Health permitting, maybe we can make it next year.

I noticed that you have published several "nostalgia" articles in your newsletter in the past. I am forwarding something you may want to publish if it qualifies and is not too long (edit if you like). It involves a car I bought there that I called the "old blue goose." I am sure some of the old timers who served with me will get a chuckle out of it. They sure teased me about it at the time. *(The story follows this letter.)*

I enjoy receiving the newsletter even if my memory is so bad that I don't recognize the names of people I used to serve with. Hopefully, some of them will still be around if I can make it to the next reunion. You and the other association officers are to be commended for keeping the Torii Station tradition alive. Keep up the good work.

Respectfully,
Dusty Morgan

The "Old Blue Goose"

I served at Torii Station from 1952 to 1954, rotating out of Korea from the 329th CRC as an SFC. Some of you who served with me at that time may remember my "old blue goose," a pathetic impersonation of an automobile which my friends loved to ridicule.

There were very few automobiles in Okinawa in those days and they were at a premium no matter what condition they were in. Living in Naha and working trick work required me to have my own personal transportation. I finally located one for sale that I could afford. It was an old Kaiser-Fraizer that looked like it had been

painted by brush with a blue house paint and it had this knotty, bulbous surface that looked like it would benefit from liposuction. However, I was more concerned about whether it ran or not, not how it looked. Not being mechanically inclined, I asked my buddy, the motor pool sergeant, to take a look at it for me to see if I was getting scammed. He said it was a pile of junk, but under the circumstances, I wasn't likely to find anything else that ran for that price. Besides, he said, I can keep it running for you because it is full of jeep parts.

My first inclination that I had made a bad deal occurred while driving it home. I discovered that it had a built-in governor. When it got up to thirty miles per hour, it shimmied and shook like a hula dancer. Then I got to use it for about three weeks before the transmission went out. Not having any Kaiser-Fraizer dealerships on Okinawa, I had to send back to the states to get a new gear. It took four months. Meanwhile, during that time, the front fenders rusted out in the salt air and the guy who I left it with to repair left the windows open and the front seats got wet and mildewed. My next surprise came when I found out that the compression was so low that it wouldn't climb some of the hills on Okinawa. If that wasn't bad enough, it almost got me killed. As I arrived home one day, I had just climbed this small rise near my house and was slowing down to park when the brakes went out. My house was situated on this bluff next to a large ravine. Fortunately, where I parked, there was this metal railing that stopped the car from going into the ravine. That was the last straw. If it had been a horse, I would have shot it. Although I finally realized I had been taken, I didn't know the full extent until one day when my wife and I had gone to the beach. As we were walking back to the car, we noticed this guy walking around the car and looking into it. I asked him why he was so interested in my car and he said, "You know, I think this is my old car. I totaled it and sold it for junk." But that is not the end of the story. Believe it or not, I was able to sell the car even after telling the buyer, a mechanic, all the problems I had had with it. But, true to form, I had to help him push it to get it started.

Dexter (Dusty) Morgan



GROUP BEING REPLACED IN EARLY 1947



ED MORENO IN FRONT OF MOBILE RADIO STATION



MONITORING BUILDING

lovely Georgian-style plantation and the beautiful gardens. Also on the grounds are original slave cabins built from brick made on the plantation in the 1800s and were home to the house servants and skilled craftsmen. These cabins are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, along with the authentic smokehouse, the Avenue of Oaks and the Plantation House.

Charleston Museum:

Founded in 1773, it is the oldest museum in America and contains natural science, cultural history, ornithology, and ethnology departments, the Charleston Silver Exhibit, which is internationally recognized work by local silversmiths, dating from Colonial times to the 19th Century. Also exhibited are objects ranging from ancient fossils and an enormous whale skeleton to Civil War artifacts.

City Hall Council Chambers:

The City Hall Gallery is located in the Council Chamber at City Hall and was built in 1801. It includes portraits of many important leaders, including one by John Trumbull of George Washington

The Market:

In the open air market are stalls leased daily by local artisans and international importers. Here you can watch the lowcountry sweetgrass baskets being woven—an art handed down from African ancestors, and limited to this one area of the United States. Other areas of the market include a complex of small shops capturing the essence of Old Charleston in two interconnected buildings one-and-a-half centuries old.

Drayton Hall:

Built circa 1738, the Hall survived the Civil War intact and is preserved almost in its original condition after more than 250 years. It is the oldest preserved plantation house in America open to the public. It is considered one of the oldest and finest examples of Georgian Palladian architecture in the nation. After seven generations, two great wars and numerous hurricanes and earthquakes, the house is a National Historic Landmark.

Fort Sumter:

A boat will take you from Patriot's Point to Ft Sumter. Some of you may recall this is the fort that the Yankees secretly, and by night, reinforced (no doubt to launch a sneak attack on Charleston). This overt action forced the Confederates to make a pre-emptive strike which marked the beginning of

(Continued on page 8)

IT'S BEAUTIFUL CHARLESTON FOR 2008 REUNION

The **2008 Reunion of the ASA Okinawa Association** will be in the beautiful city of **Charleston, SC** on **Sept 10-13** at the **Sheraton Hotel**. If you have never been to Charleston, you are in for a real treat. Charleston has everything you could possibly want for a reunion site—beautiful natural and architectural scenery, great naval displays at Patriot's Point, rich history, fabulous shopping and great Low country food. Add to this the friendliness of the people and you will see why Charleston is one of the most popular cities for military reunions in the country. This is one reunion you can't miss!

SNEAK PREVIEW OF ATTRACTIONS

Boone Hall Plantation:

Historic Boone Hall Plantation was used in the filming of the television miniseries "North and South" and "Queen." It was also the background setting for parts of "Gone With the Wind." It is perhaps most famous for its Avenue of Oaks, a half mile of massive Spanish moss-draped live oaks that line the drive. Boone Hall reflects Southern heritage spanning 300 years on one magnificent "still working" plantation. You can watch the ladies make their sweetgrass baskets in addition to touring the

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what some historians have called the "Civil War." In Charleston it is known as the "War of Northern Aggression." Once at the Fort, a ranger from the National Park Service will give you an informative introduction before you tour this famous bastion and its marvelous museum.

Fort Moultrie:

Fort Moultrie has defended Charleston Harbor twice. During the Revolutionary War it was attacked by a British fleet and after a nine-hour battle the ships were forced to retire. Nearly a century later, during the Civil War, Federal forces bombarded Charleston's forts from land and sea for nearly two years. Though the masonry wall of Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie crumbled under the shelling, both forts were able to hold back the Union attacks. Now the National Park Service interprets 171 years of American seacoast defenses from 1776 to 1947 in exhibits and an introductory film.

Charleston Carriage Tour:

Leisurely ride through narrow streets and alleyways past carefully restored 18th and 19th century homes and buildings. Your guide will relate three hundred years of history to the accompaniment of horse's hooves clopping along the pavement. A "must-do" while you're in Charleston!

Magnolia Gardens:

Designed circa 1680, this contains America's oldest garden and boasts one of the largest collections of azaleas and camellias. The inside of the country house holds as much history as the gardens, being the pre-revolutionary war summer home of the Draytons. It has something for everyone-nature train tour, petting zoo, wildlife observation tower, orientation theater, gift shop, art gallery, horticultural maze, Biblical Garden, herb garden, and more.

St. Michael's Episcopal Church:

Located on Meeting at Broad Street and completed in 1761, it is the oldest church edifice in the city and one of the few city churches in America to retain its original design. It was here that George Washington worshipped during his tour of the South in 1791. Its clock and ring of eight bells, except for short absences, have shared the lives of Charlestonians for over 200 years.

Patriot's Point:

This is the world's largest Naval Maritime Museum. Tour the famous WW II aircraft carrier USS YORKTOWN and

visit the Medal of Honor Museum on board. Also tour the destroyer USS LAFHEY, a participant in the Normandy landings, the submarine USS CLAMAGORE; and the Coast Guard Cutter INGHAM. A model of a Navy Base like those used by Naval personnel in Vietnam is part of the complex, as well as 25 aircraft and the Cold War submarine memorial.

Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site:

This is the original site of the first permanent English settlement in South Carolina. It is an 80-acre state park showcasing animals indigenous to the state in 1670, with exhibits by naturalist Jim Fowler. There is a 17th century village typical of what the original settlers might have constructed and a 53 foot replica of the trading ketch "Adventure," a vessel typical of what the young colony would have used for conducting trade on the eastern coast and in the West Indies.

Middleton Place:

This carefully preserved 18th century plantation and National Historic Landmark is on 65 acres of America's oldest landscaped gardens. The Middleton Place House Museum is a repository of great Middleton family treasures, including three Benjamin West paintings and two by Thomas Sully, Charleston-made rice beds, a Thomas Elfe table, much of the family's original china, fine English silver, and hundreds of books, letters and documents.

Charleston Harbor Cruise:

Get an even greater appreciation of Charleston's beauty by looking back at the city from out in the harbor during a harbor cruise. Lunch or dinner cruises are available as you enjoy the scenery from the deck or inside the air conditioned cabin of the cruise ship. The captain will tell you all about the history of Charleston as you pass by the different locations.

Now that you have read about all the things that Charleston has to offer, please take a few moments to let us know which of these attractions you would most like to see and do while in Charleston at the reunion. Please fill out the survey on the right and return it to us so we can custom design your activities to your wishes. We will use your responses and the input from your coordinators to plan your agenda.

2008 ASA OKINAWA REUNION SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey of the attractions in the Charleston area and return it to Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc. We will use the surveys to custom design your reunion to what you want to do.

Please check the attractions you would like to visit during the reunion.

Boone Hall Plantation _____

The Market _____

Charleston Museum _____

City Hall Council Chambers _____

Drayton Hall _____

Charleston Carriage Tour _____

Fort Sumter _____

Magnolia Gardens _____

St. Michael's Episcopal Church _____

Patriot's Point _____

Middleton Place _____

Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site _____

Fort Moultrie _____

Harbor Cruise _____

Would you like a Welcome Reception the first evening of the reunion?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings _____ or only on Sunday? _____

Do you want entertainment after the banquet? Yes _____ No _____

Return survey to:

**Military Locator & Reunion Service,
Inc.
P O Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603**

or Fax:
828-256-6559

PLEASE RETURN SURVEYS BY

JANUARY 28, 2008