

Torii Typhoon

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Official Newsletter of ASA Okinawa

2014 ASA
OKINAWA
REUNION

ALBUQUERQUE,
NM

SEPT. 17-21

MCM ELEGANTE
HOTEL



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Flag Flies Once Again

Under a blue Texas sky the sun reflected off the flag pole as Don (Tex) Davenport raised the US Army Field Station Okinawa flag. The white background carried the official logo of a U.S. flag and a screaming eagle, and the logo Torii Station, "Best in the Business." This particular flag design was voted on and approved at the Tucson, Arizona reunion. Later it

was replaced with another design. But, this flag and this design was what "Tex," remembered.

Davenport couldn't hold back the tears as he stared up at the flag he had won in an auction two years prior to this happy day. He had long waited to fly his unit's flag, on his flag pole, on his ranch. Next to the flag the United States flag caught the autumn

breeze and unfurled its beauty followed by the Texas flag which stands next to it.

"Tex," reflected back in time to Okinawa and the three years he spent there. "I was a young guy then, full of hopes and dreams. This flag will fly at this post until time and weather render it to rags and only then will I take it down."

2013 Chattanooga Reunion a Great Success!

Each year the veterans of the ASA Okinawa Association come together for a few days of reminiscing and fellowship with one another. This year the event took place September 11-15, 2013 in Chattanooga, TN, with thirty-



two members and thirty-four of their guests attending. The reunion was based at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel, which provided a great meeting place for the group. Things started off on Wednesday when Daniel Carr, first to arrive at the hotel and first at the registration table,

signed in. The reunion had officially begun. The remainder of the afternoon saw a steady influx of attendees registering and stopping by the hospitality room for a snack, a cold drink or a hot cup of coffee and to see who had arrived. Everyone was brought together for the first time at the 5:00 PM Welcome Reception. Old friends shook hands (maybe even gave a hug or two) and looked forward to catching up on the happenings since the last reunion. Association President Dallas May welcomed everyone and introduced the first-time attendees, Paul Duffau and his wife Sara (Lib). They were made to feel welcome and soon became part of the ASA Okinawa reunion family. Dinner this evening was on one's own, either at the hotel or one of Chattanooga's many fine restaurants.

Thursday breakfast was at the hotel's buffet and was excellent. It featured fruit, cereal, biscuits & gravy, eggs, sausage, bacon, breakfast chicken patties, French toast sticks, juice and coffee. After filling up on the buffet it was time to get started on the day's agenda—a Chattanooga city tour. The tour took the group on a riding tour of Chattanooga. The guide pointed out historic landmarks and narrated some of Chattanooga's history, traditions, and customs. This was an interesting and enjoyable morning. Following the riding tour of the city it was off to Pier 2 for a cruise down the Tennessee River and a delicious lunch featuring the *Southern Belle's* lunch menu. Some people enjoyed one of Chattanooga's own Moon Pies for dessert. After lunch it was easy to sit back and relax and enjoy the informative commentary in the climate controlled *Southern Belle*, watch the scenery on the promenade deck while getting a breath of fresh air, or enjoy the live music or a game of bingo. The tour returned to the hotel in mid-afternoon which left plenty of time to explore the Chattanooga Choo Choo's train collection or just relax on the hotel grounds, in the hospitality room or maybe even take an afternoon nap! No matter what one did in the afternoon, it was up and at 'em again for the 6:00 PM social hour and 7:00 PM dinner. Dinner was a simple affair of a variety of pizzas and hot or BBQ wings. No one went away hungry. Following the pizza and wings, everyone's favorite ASA Okinawa entertainer, Charlie Hoover, put on a show for the group. His songs included a mixture of comic songs, country ballads, traditional songs, and up-beat Jerry Lee Lewis style music. Everyone loved it!

After another wonderful breakfast buffet on Friday

morning, it was off to Lookout Mountain. Three major attractions comprise Lookout Mountain—Ruby Falls, Rock City, and the Incline Railroad. The first attraction of the day was Ruby Falls which holds the distinction of being America's deepest commercial cave, more than 1,000 feet below the mountain and the most-visited underground waterfall. Annual visitation exceeds 400,000. There was a waiting area for those who did not feel up to the walk. This was a guided tour and there was no "turn back" procedure – people who try, normally get lost. The rock formations are beautiful and interesting and the waterfall is fantastic. Those who did make the trek will look back on this as one of the highlights of the reunion! Next was Rock City, lo-

cated atop Lookout Mountain in Georgia, just six miles from downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. Here the group had lunch at the Big Rock Grill then after lunch there was plenty of time to really see Rock City Gardens. At leisure, one was able stroll the enchanted, 4,100-foot



walking trail showcasing soaring rock formations, caves and lush gardens. Nearly a half million people from all over the world visit this natural attraction each year. The 60 to 90-minute, self-guided walking tour (depending on your pace) along The Enchanted Trail that gently meanders through the 14-acre property was a superb demonstration of nature at her best. Along the trail massive rock formations estimated to be 200 million years old were seen; also gardens featuring more than 400 different species of native wildflowers, plants, shrubs and trees, and a view of the Chattanooga Valley and Missionary Ridge-Civil War battlefields. Other points of interest along The Enchanted Trail included the 100-foot waterfall; 1,000-ton balanced rock; Swing-A-Long Bridge (ideal for pictures); legendary view of seven states from Lover's Leap; and Fairyland Caverns and Mother Goose Village. "Created by God and enhanced by man", Rock City is a unique geological and botanical wonder. Final attraction was the Incline Railroad. Known as "America's Most Amazing Mile," The Incline's trolley-style cars climb through the natural beauty surrounding historic Lookout Mountain at a breathtaking 72.7% grade – straight up! The calmer ones were able to sit back, relax and enjoy the scenic views of the mountains and valleys from the observation windows on the train as well as the panoramic views from the observation tower at The Incline's top station. The nervous ones wondered if the train was going to roll backwards down the incline with them in it!!! It was a great day of sight-seeing and everyone was happy to relax back at the hotel until dinner.

Again there was a social hour beginning at 6:00 PM, followed by dinner at 7:00 PM. Dinner was a variety of salads, black oak sugar cured ham, BBQ spare ribs, Ja-

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maican jerk grilled chicken with black bean mango salsa, green beans, honey glazed carrots, bread pudding, key lime pie, red velvet cake, coffee and tea. Quite a meal! After dinner the annual raffle of gifts brought in by members was held. There was also a special raffle for the 8 needlework pictures donated by Association honorary member, Dottie Turner. Participation was excellent, with \$600.00 in ticket sales for the Association treasury. In terms of attendance, this was the smallest number ever, yet it was the second most successful fund raiser in reunion history. After the raffle, the group was again entertained by their own Charlie Hoover with his music.

The annual ASA Okinawa business meeting was held at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning. In summary, the minutes from the last meeting and the treasurer's report were heard a approved. A \$500.00 donation to the Fisher House was approved. David Merritt was elected as Vice-President/President elect and Duane Sands was elected treasurer. Tracy Davis remains as secretary. Kissimmee, FL was selected as the 2015 reunion site. Then at 10:30 the group departed the hotel for the Memorial Service which was held at the Armed Forces Pavilion in the Chattanooga National Cemetery. Chaplain Ross Lee, President Dallas May assisted by bell ringer Duane Sands and name reader Gary Duenow, conducted the service. Billy "Tex" Davenport and Bill Overholt presented the wreath honoring the deceased. The Association was fortunate enough to obtain a Color Guard from the Chattanooga Vietnam Veterans Association to post and retire the National Colors. The bugler was from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Twenty-one former ASA soldiers were honored at this moving ceremony.



The setting was absolutely beautiful. The pavilion, dedicated to all branches' armed forces, was surrounded by perfectly aligned graves of veterans from the Civil War until today (one burial took place the day before our service) as the backdrop for the ceremony. The weather was perfect. After the names were read the lone bugler played taps, bringing a tear to more than one eye. Deborah Kendrick, Cemetery Director, provided seating, a portable podium and microphone. She was also present at the service and remarked that it was one of the best ever conducted at the cemetery.

On Dec. 25, 1863, Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, "The Rock of Chickamauga," issued General Orders No. 296 creating a National Cemetery in commemoration of the Battles of Chattanooga, Nov. 23-27, 1863. The site Thomas selected was approximately 75 acres of a round

hill rising with a uniform slope to a height of 100 feet; it faced Missionary Ridge on one side and Lookout Mountain on the other. Gen. Grant established his headquarters on the summit of the hill during the early phase of the four-day battle for Lookout Mountain. In addition to Civil War veterans, there are 78 German prisoners of war buried here. The Pavilion pays tribute to all veterans and was the perfect setting for a solemn memorial service.

Upon departing the cemetery, a stop for lunch was made before proceeding to the Tennessee Valley Railroad and museum for a short train ride. This was one of the original rail lines into Chattanooga. Along the way the group got to witness two unique methods of turning a train around, the better known "turntable" and the "wye" (think of doing a three-point turn with your car and you're close). One of the highlights of the trip was riding through pre-civil war Missionary Ridge Tunnel a.k.a. the Chattanooga, Harrison, Georgetown & Charleston Railroad Tunnel completed in 1858 and especially noted for its uniqueness as a horseshoe tunnel. The bottom of the tunnel actually pinches in so that as it rises, the sides curve out before carving back in to form the roof. The train stopped at East Chattanooga, allowing riders to see the locomotive rotating on a turntable and participate in a tour into the railroad restoration shop before re-boarding for the return trip.

Saturday evening's activities began with the pre-dinner cocktail hour and photo session at 6:00 PM. Col William Roscher, LTC Marvin Huff, CW3 Larry Eckard, CPO James Elder (USN, but a former soldier at Torii Station) looked dashing in their uniforms for the event. Then at 7:00 PM the ASA Association banquet commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem. Dallas May, Association President, welcomed everyone to the banquet and made the introductions of Chris Petro and her husband David. Chris is the National Accounts Director of the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau, and she is the lady who put the Association in touch with the Wounded Warrior that was honored later in the ceremony. Also introduced was Andrea Lawrence from the Tennessee Fisher House Foundation. For the past several years ASA Okinawa has contributed to the Fisher House, a charitable organization that provides housing (in a home-style atmosphere) for families of wounded or ill veterans. This wonderful service allows loved ones to be near the wounded or ill warrior while he/she is recovering. Andrea gave an update on the newest facility in Murphysboro, TN and brought for display photos and other information about the services and needs of the Fisher House. Treasurer Jim Norrbom presented the Fisher House with a donation of \$500.00 from the association.

The group was saddened by the fact that our Wounded Warrior, Andrew Smith and his wife Tori, could not be present to receive our special thanks in person, but we had the next best things, his mom and dad, Todd and Cathy Smith. The Smiths' were welcomed by the ASA Okinawa Association. A letter was read from the Steps 2 Hope Foundation acknowledging the receipt of a \$1,000.00 donation earmarked for Team Andrew, and expressing sincere thanks for the contribution. In addition, a letter and certificate from

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the association was presented to Andrew and Tori making them honorary members of the association. A patriotic needlepoint picture crafted by Dottie Turner was presented to them.



Finally, Edna Huff presented a beautiful handmade quilted wall hanging (her own handiwork) with hand written notes from ASA Okinawa members on the reverse side.

Following the introductions and presentations both Todd and Cathy expressed their gratitude for the association's generosity and friendship. Cathy gave an update on Andrew's condition and shared some very personal emotions – how they felt upon learning of Andrew's injuries and the agony of waiting on news of his condition. Todd told everyone about the new completely handicap-accessible house that was built from donations such as ours, as well as the swarm of volunteers who helped in every aspect of the construction – electricians, plumbers, carpenters, landscapers, businesses that donated materials – the list went on. The keys were presented to Andrew and Tori on July 4th of this year. Hopes are for Andrew to be released from the hospital and discharged from the Army in time to be home for Christmas. Association Chaplain Ross Lee summed it up best when he said to Todd and Cathy, ***“All of us here were soldiers, but your son is a hero.”***

Finally Col Bill Roscher was recognized for his recent honor of being selected into the OCS (Officer Candidate School) National Hall of Fame. His induction ceremony took place on 10 May 2013 at Ft Benning, GA. Only those graduates who went on to have distinguished military careers are considered for induction into the Hall of Fame and the honor of actually being inducted is limited to a very small percentage of OCS graduates. Congratulations to one of our own for your recent honor. The Colonel then gave a few remarks on the value of high quality soldiers within a command and how they helped him achieve his latest honor. He closed by reminding everyone that an ASA soldier is the best.

The last event of the evening was the formal change of command ceremony. On behalf of the entire association, immediate Past President Tom Sevits thanked Dallas May for his two years as President and asked him to make a few farewell remarks. Dallas essentially said that it had been an honor and pleasure to serve the association as president, thanked the other officers and staff for their help and asked them to support the incoming president Gary Duenow just as they had supported him. After Dallas' farewell remarks he lifted the guidon from the stand and passed it to Immediate Past President Tom Sevits who then passed it to new president Gary Duenow who placed the guidon back into the stand, signifying his assumption of command. After Gary's initial remarks thanking everyone for the honor of being the new President, Charles Hoover began the entertainment portion of

the evening with his great music. Everyone enjoyed their last night of the reunion very much and were hesitant to say good night.

Sunday morning was the last chance for goodbyes, and it seemed like everyone gravitated towards Tex Davenport, the real glue and probably the most loyal and supportive member of this organization. Everyone wanted to be sure they got a chance to say, “See you in Albuquerque.” Everyone agreed that Chattanooga was a great city and were sorry that so many people missed this year. They missed a great reunion, but hopefully Albuquerque will draw them in again.



2013 Reunion Attendees

Daniel & Margaret Carr
 Dina, Susan, Andi & Erin Coffey
 Billy (Tex) & JR Davenport
 Tracy & Carol Davis
 Edward, Edward B, Tim & Stephen Domanski
 Gary & Linda (Rusty) Duenow
 Paul & Sara (Lib) Duffau
 Larry & Brenda Eckard
 James & Lucy Elder
 Gerald & Ann Hardesty
 Charles & Nancy Hoover
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Hoover, Jr.
 Marvin & Edna Huff
 Jane Kendzierski &
 Linda Bonkowski
 John & Diane Lanier
 Ross & Sue Lee
 Johnnie Luke
 Dallas & Linda May
 David Merritt
 Phillip & Martha Sue Minton
 Theodore Mish & Rea Murray
 Louis Mosher
 James & Sharon Norrbom
 William (Bill) & Elaine Overholt
 Herbert Powell
 Louis & Lovaghn Quigley
 Granville & Judy Rainey
 William & JoAnn Roscher
 Duane & Lou Anne Sands
 Tom & Judy Sevits
 Byrd & Mary Lou Shepherd
 John & Carol Stanley
 George (Bill) Mary Rose Williamson

Total Members:	32
Guests:	34
GRAND TOTAL:	66

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We would like to welcome Dina (Coffey) to our reunion meeting group. It was a pleasure meeting you and your daughters. Please feel free to join us at any time. Thanks to Larry and Brenda and Dina for getting us to Chattanooga and helping us to enjoy the highlights of the area. The Chattanooga Choo Choo hotel was a very historic setting for our reunion, although a little more spaced out than what we are normally used too; it did have its' charm. I believe my highlights of the week were the tour of Ruby Falls and the memorial service at the Chattanooga National Cemetery. That was a very moving service. I felt and saw several teary eyes.

I would like to welcome our new elected board members - Dave Merritt as Vice president (president elect) and Duane (Sandy) Sands as Treasurer. I believe these gentlemen will add some good new ideas. Sandy has been busy setting up our new bank account and the spread sheets to keep account of our memberships and news letter requests. I think he will do an excellent job and I am certain Dave will be very helpful to our board and to the general membership.

We should also give a big thanks to Dallas for his leadership for the past two years as president and a bigger thanks to Jim for his take over of the Treasurer job. His tireless efforts are very much appreciated by the entire ASA Okinawa group. Thanks Jim

Good news - With the help of our longtime friend and honorary member Dorothy (Dot) Turner, we were able to donate another \$500 to our "Wounded Warrior" family, Andrew and Tori Smith. You should recall his parents Todd and Cathy Smith were our guests at the reunion banquet. These young people have a long and difficult road ahead. If any of you would like to send Dot a note for her gifts to the Smith's or for the many things she makes for our gift exchanges her address is: Dorothy Turner, 1501 Brick Rd, Cherry Hill, N.J. 08003. She would appreciate a note for her work.

The new ASA caps went over well at the reunion. We ran out by Saturday AM. I have ordered and received a new order and am happy to report we have some for sale at the popular price \$13 plus shipping. Let me know.

I hope all of you are beginning to make your plans to join us in Albuquerque in Sept '14. I am certain that Premier Reunion Services will be finding the highlights and excellent facilities for our stay. If anyone has any suggestions for me or the board members, please feel free to contact any of us.

Gary Duenow

The Torii Typhoon is Published By:
Premier Reunion Services
PO Box 11438
Hickory, NC 28603

828-256-6008 (voice)
828-256-6559 (fax)

Dina@mlrsinc.com
Larry@mlrsin.com
Karen@mlrsinc.com

WWW.MLRSINC.COM/ASAOKINAWA

Treasurer's Report ASA Okinawa Association October 31, 2013

Beginning Check Book Balance

July 1, 2013 ----- \$3263.40

Income from ASA Dues	\$1,800.00
Income from raffles	\$600.00
Income from caps, patches, etc	\$526.77
Other income	\$1,526.77
Total Income	\$4,489.37

Disbursements

July issue Torii Typhoon	\$962.66
Fisher House	\$500.00
Other disbursements	\$2,016.83
Total Disbursements	\$3,479.49

Ending Check Book Balance as of October 31, 2013

\$4,273.28

Total Membership is as follows:

- 10 Life Time Members
- 12 Life Time Deceased Members Wives
- 203 Paid Members for 2013
- 121 for 2014, 49 for 2015 and 13 for 2016

If anyone would like a detailed list of incomes and disbursements, email me at sandysands66@msn.com and I will email it to you.

Duane R. Sands, Treasurer

NEWSLETTER EXPENDITURES

November 2013 \$184.67

Mailed to 59 members who paid an additional \$5.00 newsletter fee.



MAIL CALL

Gentlemen and Scholars,

Since I have nothing else to do I thought I would see what is working well and how I can mess it up; that way we can have some enlightened conversations. Much as to do with entering into the 21st century and our electronic newsletters, registration material, etc.

First, all of the membership expiration dates are Dec 31st of the year they are due to expire. Everyone has the same expiration date. Without asking for permission because it seemed like a reasonable idea, when a new

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member joins, if he joins the first nine months of the year his expiration date will be Dec 31 of that same year. If he joins the last quarter of the year he'll get the rest of that year free and his expiration date will be Dec 31st following year. If that doesn't make sense read it again, eventually you'll understand or get tired of reading it and agree—(that is a joke, by all means call if you have a question or disagree.)

We are going to change the membership application on the website to reflect the correct name and address for new members.

A good many people with e-mail addresses have not "subscribed" to the new system of receiving newsletters and registration material – including some of you (whom I won't name in public). Please go back and read the July 2013 issue of the Tribune and bring yourself up-to-date on the procedures and if you haven't subscribed you need to do it. It ain't right for a board member not to subscribe. Call Dina if you have any problem, but for goodness sake do it. We are going to send out reminders to those with e-mail addresses (so you may get a second notice).

The **Albuquerque reunion will be September 17-21, 2014 at the MCM Elegante Hotel.** We're working on the tours and other agenda items. Those who are able should really go to the Acoma Indian Dwellings, about 40

miles west of Albuquerque. It is a lot of walking over rough terrain, but well worth the effort if you can make. It is not wheel chair or handi-accessible. We'll probably schedule it for those who are physically able and do something else for the sick, lame and lazy. There are just a ton of things to do out there and we are really looking forward to it.

Respectfully,
Larry Eckard

Dear ASA Members:

I just want all of you to know that it gives me great pleasure to do the crafts for you to enjoy. I'm sorry that I'm not going to be able to celebrate with you, but you are all in my heart and in my prayers. I was surprised to see the article in the paper and very happy to know you really appreciate my work. I truly enjoy doing the pictures and ornaments. When I got the gift in the mail today, I cried and was very thankful for your gift and thoughtfulness. I would like to send a donation for ASA with love. Please accept this as a gift of thanks and for all you and your fellow members have done for our country. I love you all and am working on an idea for next year.

Thanks again and take care.

Love,
Dottie (Turner)

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.

Jeffery Bristol (1962-63) SP5
321 N Melrose Dr Unit D
Vista, CA 92083
760-758-0220

Henry Chapman (1952-54)
694 Old Country Rd
Washington, ME 04574
207-845-2072

Carlton Clouth (1955-56) Radio Rep
16 Whippoorwill Way
Belle Meade, NJ 08502
grandy16@msn.com

Mario Ballard (1972-74)
1335 6th Ave
San Francisco, CA 94122
415-753-1715
marioballardsf@aol.com

Louis Mosher (1956-59) SP5
164 Steadwell Rd
Amsterdam, NY 12010
518-842-9959
lbmosher@verizon.net

Thomas Richardson (1976-78) O5D
41 Court Square, Suite D3
Harrisburg, VA 22801
540-430-0537
tom@drawbridgetechnolo



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.

Merle Jackson
Died July 6, 2013

Raymond Roberts
Died January 4, 2004

Martin Snyder
Died Sept. 27, 1997

Jack Reagan
Died January 7, 1994

Lawrence Mulligan
Mess Sgt
Died February 17, 1977

Charles Bouma
Died April 7, 1969

Louis Lefrancis
Died January 19, 2007

Thomas Roberts
Died July 27, 1990

Harold Tucker
(1957-59)
Died November 2, 2011

John Kerr
Died 2010

Edwin Nuhring
Died December 24, 2012

Anthony Bates (1953-56)
Died August 2012

James Bias
Died July 10, 2010

Donald Virgl
(1952-53) Cpl
Died May 15, 2012

Leo Hensens
1st Sgt
Died January 21, 2011

Clarence Steele
Died February 8, 2013

John Bishop (1952-55)
Died July 31, 2013

NCU 37 SOBE CAMP, OKINAWA 1956

BY NEAL P. GILLEN

The China-Taiwan Standoff

Recent news reports, discussing the amazing buildup of the Chinese Navy with the construction of 70 new warships initiated in the past year, including a number of landing craft and other auxiliary vessels necessary to support an invasion force, recall a similar threat some 50 years ago. Today's construction program is buttressed by the recent purchase of fully equipped Soviet-made guided missile cruisers and destroyers and Kilo-class submarines. Chinese military expenditures have risen by double digits in each of the past ten years. Included in this growth are funds for an expansion of their electronic intelligence capabilities.

Current Pentagon estimates limit Chinese sealift capability for an amphibious landing to a division of about 10,000 troops. While such a capability is not an immediate threat to the Government of Taiwan, the continuing Chinese naval buildup will tend to intensify the 55-year crisis in the region. Until the matter is resolved we will continue to be witness to an offensive buildup in China and a defensive one in Taiwan.

There are reasons to believe that the crisis will abate since China's entry into the World Trade Organization has fueled a tremendous growth of its commercial sector driving China's expanding and increasingly dominant role in world trade. This development by itself seems to rule out future hostilities between China and Taiwan as the current leaders of China are not likely to resort to military action in their long-standing dispute.

Fifty years ago there was a greater threat when Mao Tse-tung's six year old government positioned a half million troops on the coast of Fujian Province as it planned to recapture Taiwan and silence the voice of the U.S. supported Chiang Kai-shek. At that time a number of Naval Security Group (NSG) personnel were busily going about their business engaged in other unrelated intercept work at a number of shore bases in the Pacific.

Series will continue in future issues.

Next: Getting Underway

COME TO ALBUQUERQUE, NM IN 2014

Albuquerque combines a unique blend of multi-culturalism, natural beauty, profound historical attractions, spectacular climate with four distinct seasons, museums, galleries and shopping to create a distinct and unforgettable visit for every kind of visitor. Albuquerque's distinct cultures and unique charms give visitors the opportunity to experience a part of America that is truly enchanting.

Located in the Rio Grande Valley in north central New Mexico, the city of Albuquerque with a population of about 500,000, may just have the best year round weather of any place on the planet. Crystal blue skies, bordered by majestic colorful mountains, winter skiing, unforgettable sunsets, ancient petroglyphs, the biggest annual balloon festival in the world and a rich and unique cultural history unlike any other place you have ever been, await you.

ATTRACTIONS

Historic Old Town: Come explore a beautiful charming and serene Historic Village within a modern city. Old Town Albuquerque is a must visit to a place where centuries of history and modern life merge to blend 18th century architecture with narrow brick paths, world famous artwork, the finest in jewelry, delicious food and rare specialty shops offering you the creative talents of our Spanish, Native American and Anglo heritages. A shopper's and photographer's dream, Old Town Albuquerque is full of enticing nooks and crannies where you will find quaint merchant shops in the true southwestern style all located within a ten minute walk from each other. For the romantic in you, horse drawn carriages can transport you back in time allowing you to imagine how life was in Old Town, 300 years ago. Take a walk through history around Albuquerque Old Town Plaza, the serene village that has been the focal point of community life since 1706. Quiet hidden patios, winding brick paths, gardens and balconies are waiting to be discovered. Wrought iron and adobe

benches beckon you to rest in the shade and watch people stroll by. Visit historic San Felipe de Neri Church and relax in the Rose Garden.

Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway:

Ride the world's longest continuous single-span tramway to Sandia's 10,378-foot peak with an 11,000 square mile panoramic view. From the base to the top of the peak, time and terrain



seem to move in harmony as passengers lift from the desert floor, above canyons and lush forests, to the mountain top—2.7 miles of sky-view travel and discovery of New Mexico's varied landscape and life zones.

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center:

This museum showcases the history and accomplishments of the Pueblo people from Pre-Columbian to current time. Its central focus is a 10,000 sq. ft. museum of the authentic history and artifacts of traditional Pueblo cultures and their contemporary art. Permanent exhibits highlight the creativity and adaptation which made possible the survival, diversity and achievements of each of the 19 Pueblos. The 19 Pueblos are unique in the world in the respect that there is only one place on Earth that you can find this flourishing culture that they are so proud of. Many local artists also conduct demonstrations of their art at the Center.

Petroglyph National Monument:

This national monument stretches 17 miles along Albuquerque's

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West Mesa, a volcanic basalt escarpment that dominates the city's western horizon. It protects a variety of cultural and natural resources including five volcanic cones, hundreds of archeological sites and an estimated 25,000 images carved by native peoples and early Spanish settlers. Many of the images are recognizable as animals, people, brands and crosses; others are more complex. Their meaning, possibly, understood only by the carver. These images are inseparable from the greater cultural landscape, from the spirits of the people who created them, and all who appreciate them. Petroglyph National Monument is a place of respect, awe and wonderment.

National Atomic Museum:

The National Atomic Museum is the nation's only congressionally-chartered museum of nuclear science and history. Through artifacts and audio-visual presentations, the museum tells the story of the nuclear age and the ongoing developments in nuclear science. A few of the exhibits include "The Manhattan Project, WWII and the Cold War", "Secret No More-A Look into Russia's Nuclear Weapon Museums", "Robotics" and many more.

On the first Saturday in April and the first Saturday in October, a very special tour is available. Buses leave from the National Atomic Museum for the Trinity Site, ground zero for the first atomic bomb testing on July 16, 1945. The tour includes a visit to ground zero, where the bomb was placed for the explosion; the McDonald ranch house, where the plutonium core to the bomb was assembled and a drive-by of one of the old instrumentation bunkers. This is an experience not to be forgotten for any true history buffs.

Bataan Memorial Military Museum:

The central focus of this museum is the men of the 200th Coast Artillery Regiment which was sent to the Philippine Islands early in WWII to furnish anti-aircraft support to Clark Air Force and Fort Stotsenberg. The Regiment was divided to form the 515th Coast Artillery Regiment while in the Philippines. Both Regiments were lost to enemy action on Bataan when the Japanese overran the Philippines in 1942. The 200th consisted of 1,800 men when deployed. After three and one half years of captivity, less than half were to return to the United States. The museum has many truly fine artifacts and memorabilia, with current exhibits encompassing military eras from the 16th century through the Gulf War.

National Hispanic Cultural Center of New Mexico:

Opened in 2000, this museum showcases historic and contemporary Hispanic arts, humanities and achievements. It is currently home to an 11,000 square-foot art museum and three galleries and a sculpture courtyard, a full-service library and genealogy center, a lecture hall, a gift shop and a restaurant. Its lovely setting is on the edge of the Rio Grande Bosque, close to downtown Albuquerque.

Acoma Pueblo: The oldest continuously inhabited community in the United States, situated on a 356-foot mesa is one of the state's most dramatic landmarks. Located an hour west of Albuquerque, this site is often called "Sky City," because of its perch atop the mesa overlooking the desert. Take a walking tour through the pueblo, the plaza and 17th century mission church.



Acoma Pueblo

Coronado State Monument: This is the site thought to be the place where Spanish explorer Coronado spent the winter of 1540-41. Explore the remains of Kuaua Pueblo, follow an interpretive trail and visit a restored kiva.

2014 ASA OKINAWA SURVEY

In order to give you the best possible reunion at the best possible price, please help us by answering a few questions about the reunion format and activities.

1. Do you want breakfast all three mornings ____
or only on Sunday morning?

2. Do you want entertainment after the banquet? Yes ____ No ____

Please check the attractions you would like to see on your reunion agenda.

Historic Old Town ____

Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway ____

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center ____

Petroglyph National Monument

National Atomic Museum ____

Bataan Memorial Military Museum ____

National Hispanic Cultural Center of NM ____

Acoma Pueblo ____

Coronado State Monument ____

**Return surveys before
January 13, 2014**

**To:
Premier Reunion Services
P O Box 11438
Hickory, NC 28603**

Or Fax:

828-256-6559

Due to the report on the 2013 reunion and the preview of the 2014 reunion, much of the material available for this issue will have to be held for inclusion in the 03/14 issue. Thanks to everyone who sent in material for the newsletter. It will be used later.



ASA OKINAWA ASSOCIATION
Duane Sands
4331 Pine View Dr NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-1712



For those of you who are members of the ASA Okinawa Association, please look at your address label from your last issue of the newsletter and note your membership expiration date and send in your dues before the expiration date. Renewals are the lifeblood of our membership, so please be aware of your expiration date and renew accordingly.

To anyone who is not association members, please consider joining. Dues are only \$10.00 a year. Any former soldier who served in the 111th Sig Svc Company 327th Comm Recon Co, the 8603rd AAU, 3rd ASA Field Station, ASA Field Station Sobe, Army Field Station Okinawa, or any of the other units that fell under the Torii Station designation between 1945 and 1985 are cordially invited to become members.

Now, why should you join the Association? First, we were all elite soldiers that served without much recognition because of the nature of our work. We are part of a brotherhood and an organization that needs to be remembered. The Association is the vehicle to carry on the memory and tradition of the Signal Intelligence organizations that served on Okinawa. In order to do this, the help of every former member is needed. Membership gives you that opportunity! You will be able to participate in the management of the Association by attending the business meetings and voting on the matters brought up by the membership. The most important thing is comradeship that you will find by becoming a member and attending our reunions. This is something you will not find anywhere else, in any other walk of life. So often we hear the excuse, "Well, I won't know anyone." So what? It would be great to find that old friend that you ran around with, but an hour after you arrive, you'll feel like you've belonged there all your life. Ask anyone who has attended a reunion, they'll tell you the same thing. Give it a try: it'll only cost you ten bucks and it may possibly be the best \$10.00 you ever spent. Come on, we need you as a member!

Membership will also allow you to attend the business meeting, to bring business before the assembly, and to vote on issues brought up at the meeting. Among the recurring issues will be election of officers and selecting reunion sites. Every voice and vote is important and we'd like to have yours.

Our excellent newsletter, The Torii Tribune is also available to be mailed by USPS for an additional \$5 per year. That is a bargain for three issues. If you are comfortable on the computer and able to subscribe to the ASA Okinawa E-mailers list, you can receive the newsletter by email and save the \$5.00. (Information on subscribing is on the reunion web site at www.mlrsinc.com/asaokinawa)

The Association needs your support, please join and be a party of keeping the memory of ASA Okinawa alive.

-----DETACH HERE-----

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ e-mail: _____

Dues are \$10.00 per year. One year membership expires on 12/31/2014—(two years on 12/31/2015)

I wish to join the ASA Okinawa for: one year @\$10.00 _____ two years: @ \$20.00 _____

I prefer a paper copy of the Torii Tribune. In addition to my dues I have:

Enclosed is \$5.00 for the 03/2014, 07/2014 and 11/2014 issues _____

Enclosed is \$5.00 for the 03/2015, 07/2015 and 11/2015 issues _____

Make checks payable to: ASA Okinawa Association

Mail checks to: Duane Sands, 4331 Pine View Dr NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-1712