

Torii Typhoon

Volume 6 Issue 2

March 2007

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ASA OKINAWA



Special Points of Interest

- *Read more about the plans for the 2007 reunion in the cover story.*
- *Your president and vice president have a message for you on page three.*
- *Four new members have been located. See who they are in Welcome Mat on page four.*
- *Mail Call has the letter that Lonnie Frampton sent to LTC Tipton, as a thank you for his time as guest speaker at the 2006 reunion.*
- *Journey back to 1960 and take a look at what was going on at Torii Station. See page six for a step back in time.*

About the Reunion

By Larry Eckard

For the last number of years Brenda and I have had the privilege of setting up our reunions, and we thank you for the opportunity. We have looked forward to and enjoyed each one. It would be hard to pick a favorite – that is until this year. I have a feeling this is going to be the best reunion we've ever had—and for so many reasons. We are looking forward to this one more than any other. In addition to the real reason for the reunion—to remember the past and those we served with—Tucson has more to offer than we can do in the couple of days we will be there. Make your plans to be there, you'll never regret it!

OUR VIEW

The dates of September 12-16, 2007 are firm. You can make your airline reservations based on this. Note that this is a Wednesday thru Sunday instead of Thursday thru Sunday. It was decided at the last business meeting to add the extra day because over half of us arrived on Tuesday or Wednesday. Reunion rates will be available 48 hours before and after the reunion dates. If you are not able to come until Thursday that option will still be available.

All of the plans are not finalized and we (and you) know tentative plans can change, but right now let me tell you about some of the things planned, and available if you want to spend more time in the area. First, Tucson is easy

to get to. Most major airlines serve Tucson International, Interstate highways from all four directions intersect Tucson, and Amtrak and Greyhound serve the city. Getting there is not a problem.

The host hotel is the Hotel Arizona located downtown. Unlike most downtown hotels, they are willing to waive the daily parking fee for ASA Okinawa overnight guests. That concession is made only to those staying overnight in the hotel. Also, they will send their van to pick you up from the airport! That too is a significant concession – plus the room rates aren't bad either. In the paragraph center you can see a photo of the outside as you approach the

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hotel from the west. The parking garage is to your right.



The registration will begin on Wednesday morning, and if necessary maybe even Tuesday afternoon—depending upon the early arrivals, if there are any. As currently planned, Wednesday will pretty much be a check-in, get acquainted day with the welcome reception being on Wednesday evening.

As you know the last issue of the newsletter contained a brief description of the major attractions and asked you to tell us what interested you the most. We got a ton of responses and that is great! The agenda and format of the reunion has been developed exclusively from those replies. I mentioned earlier, we don't have the exact sequence of events, much of that depends on when we can go to Ft Huachuca. That was by far the most popular activity, so assuming the cooperation of the post; we'll go there one day and schedule everything around that. Friday is our preferred day. I don't know yet how much we will be able to do/see on post, but we have asked for a command briefing and tour of the Intelligence Center and School, maybe even sit in on a class of some type; have lunch in the mess hall (which by the way is called a "Dining Facility"). It is operated by civilians supervised by a mess officer, a mess sergeant, and some Army cooks—no more KP's. We'll visit the MI Museum, the Old West Museum and have a riding tour of the post. This may be of no interest to anyone but me, but I'm going to tell you anyway. My last duty assignment in the Army was at Ft Huachuca. We lived in post housing until we built our own home in Sierra Vista, and our youngest child, Jason, was born in

the hospital on post. So this is a special place to me and Brenda!

There may be time enough to go on to Tombstone the same day we are at Ft Huachuca, if not we'll make it a separate trip—Tombstone was the second highest "vote-getter." You'll love "The town too tough to die" even if you are not an old west freak. You must have a brew (one only and it's on your own) in one of the old saloons, buy a souvenir from Allen St, see the old Courthouse, OK Corral and Boot Hill.

We'll also have trips to Pima Air & Space Museum where more than 130 aircraft plus hundreds of exhibits are on display. Maybe we'll get to the "bone yard" where thousands of aircraft are preserved.

Also, there may be a trip about seven miles south of Tucson to the Mission of San Xavier del Bac, "The White Dove of the Desert," founded in 1692 by Father Kino. Farther south just off I-19 is the mission of Tubac. Flags of the governments of Spain, Mexico, the Confederate States of America, Arizona, and the United States have flown over this hamlet on the Santa Cruz River. The Apaches used to terrorize Tubac.

If it can be squeezed in, we'll try to get to the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, southern Arizona's most visited attraction. Here in their natural habitat you can see 200 different living animals and 400 types of plants. The museum grounds are primarily a walking experience over 21 acres and two miles of trails. In the Saguaro National Monument you'll have a breathtaking view of these giants of the desert.

The Titan Missile site was also popular, but there is a drawback visiting there. Only about 15 people can be accommodated at a time. Each guided tour lasts an hour and fifteen minutes, so you can see how long a couple of bus loads would have to wait to accommodate everyone. There is nothing else there to occupy your time

while waiting nor is there another near-by attraction to visit while waiting. It is a fascinating place, but one that I think may be better left to visit on your own.

One evening, either Wednesday or Thursday (probably Thursday) we'll make a trip to the Steak Out, a classic western restaurant about 40 miles south of Tucson. The Steak Out sits at the crossroads of AZ highways 82 and 83 in Sonita. It is a famous local place, one that you are sure to enjoy. Oh yes, since this is cattle country, steak is the house specialty (although I suppose you could have a leg o' lamb or pork if you like being laughed at and called names).

We'll see how to best arrange the tours to get the most people to the most places and still have time to socialize.

I can tell you without reservation this is going to be a great reunion. If you are a regular, get ready; if you are a fence sitter, get off the fence and be there; if you've never been, make your plans now. Don't make the mistake of saying, "I won't know anyone." It really does not matter if you know a dozen people or no one, in two hours everyone will be your friend.

Lastly, we have been in contact with the leadership of the ASA Arizona group. They are not interested in joining with us, but rather having their own reunion at the same time and same hotel. I believe that is their plan right now. They don't plan on arriving until Friday, though I've made it clear anyone of them wanting to come early is welcome at our events.

Looking forward to seeing you this fall!!

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"Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To"

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TREASURER'S REPORT ASA OKINAWA March 1, 2007

Beginning Balance as of October 6, 2006.....\$9044.34
 Dues Received\$1355.00

Disbursements

November 2006 Newsletter.....\$1406.21
 Balance as of March 1, 2007.....\$8993.13

Miscellaneous

Reserve Change Fund.....\$50.00

Adjusted Balance.....\$9043.13

Respectfully Submitted.....Thomas A Sturgeon, Treasurer

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Norrbom

Okay, everyone, the reunion in Tucson in September is shaping up to be real good and a busy one. We hope to see a lot of you folks there this year. Make sure and get your reservations back to Larry and his group as soon as possible when you receive it. Also make sure and respond as soon as possible about what you want to see and do when the list is published so a good program can be put together for us. This will be my last reunion as President, then Lonnie Frampton will take over as President. We will be holding elections this year for a new Vice President. Give some thought about who you would like to nominate this year. It has been a pleasure serving you these past two years. See you all in Tucson in September.

Jim Norrbom
 President ASA Okinawa

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Lonnie Frampton

To All Sobe Camp Veterans,
 This message is intended to generate interest in, and foster a desire to attend the annual ASA Okinawa Reunion. I know there are some who have never attended a reunion. Expense could be one reason, but I find the predominant reason most people use is, "I won't know anybody there." How do you know if you don't go? I can assure you that if you don't know anybody there, that you will by the time the reunion is over. In fact, you will probably make a lot of new friends. And these gatherings always produce a good time and great fellowship.

Here is a message for a few guys I know that have never attended a reunion. OK: Akabu Sanders, Bruce Butler, Clark Schrock, Neil P. Johnson, Red Slocum and Harold Kreuzer and other Sobe Camp alum, get off your collective donkeys, get on your feet and come to Tucson, AZ on Sept 12-16, 2007. I would like to see you guys one more time before I go to the Great ASA Field Station in the sky. Reunions are only once a year for 3 or 4 days. I hope you can see your way to come to Tucson and visit with me and the other Sobe Camp alumni.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY FROM TONY BLAIR

In case we find ourselves starting to believe all the anti-American sentiment and negativity, we should remember England's Prime Minister Tony Blair's words during a recent interview. When asked by one of his parliament members why he believes so much in America he said, "A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at how many want in and how many want out. Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you: 1. Jesus Christ 2. The American G.I.
 One died for your soul, the other for your freedom."



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.

Johnny Mosley (1970-72)

39119 Dungan Dr
Zephyrhills, FL 33542
813-782-6120
jlo714@verizon.net

Donald Fox

5129 McIntosh Dr
Aliquippa, PA 15001
724-378-3147
donaldfox7630@comcast.net

M. Dean Jendro (1965-66)

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Buckley, WA 98321
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TAPS

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

Samuel Walton, Jr.

Died June 27, 1999

Owen Kobin

August 11, 2004

Francis Kent

June 19, 2005

Billy Ford (1957-58)

Died in 2005

the United States Army.

We also appreciated the conversation and picture taking with you and your wife PJ after the program was completed. It was an enjoyable part of the evening and will be remembered for quite some time. Remember you and PJ are honorary members of ASA Okinawa and you are invited to our reunion in Tucson, Arizona in 2007. Again we thank you and PJ for taking time from your busy schedules to present your program to a group of old soldiers and their wives.

Sincerely,
Lonnie Frampton
CW3, USA, Ret

Dear Tom,

I appreciate receiving the newsletter. Even though I was at ASA Okinawa in 1953-54, I do recognize some of the names mentioned in the newsletters. A few of them I also saw at NSA, where I worked for 23 years and retired in 1979, with 26 years service, including the 3 years of related service with ASA. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Bob Myhrer



MAIL CALL

The following is a copy of the letter sent to LTC Tipton, our guest speaker at the 2006 banquet, from Lonnie Frampton.

Dear LTC Tipton:

On behalf of the Army Security Agency Okinawa Reunion Group (ASA Okinawa), we thank you for being our guest speaker on September 30, 2006. It was indeed gratifying to have you come to our banquet and present us with information about your tour in Iraq and the direction of today's Army. The group as a whole found your program to be enlightening and informative. In the eyes of many of us you are our hero for the job you are doing and the way you represent

Hello Tom,

I finally finished reading the last Torii Typhoon and found it to be very interesting, especially the part about the Tucson reunion scheduled for Sept. 07.

We have been looking forward to this reunion for some time, being it's a little closer to home.

I say, "we," speaking for me and my friends, Hobie Crawford of Tucson and another member that was with us on Okinawa in '51, Walt Kusmierczyk of Hamburg, NY. Granted, Hamburg, NY isn't what you would call very close to Tucson, but he and his wife, Bev, are looking forward to the trip.

Speaking of Hobie and Walt, they were at last year's reunion and Walt donated to me an ASA Oki-

(Continued on page 5)

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION REMINDER

Please check the membership expiration date on the outside of this newsletter envelope. If the date is 12/31/07, you will receive two more issues before you need to send in your \$10.00 dues again. Dues are to be sent to Treasurer Tom Sturgeon, 12 Cherry Lane, Olmstead TWP, OH 44138-2916.

2007 ASA OKINAWA REUNION

SEPTEMBER 12-16

TUCSON, AZ

(Continued from page 4)

nawa cap that Hobie had found. It was very much appreciated. We all three, with our wives, were at the Reno reunion a few years ago, but that was the first and last that I have attended, but I'm sure looking forward to Tucson in '07.

Another thing that has crossed my mind is that I had heard that there would be a tour of the Ft. Huachuca area, just outside of Sierra Vista, which is an intelligence and training facility for all branches of military service and still boasts the 111th Signal Svc. Co. I don't know if it is in any way connected with the 111th we were connected with, but I know there is a lot of "hush-hush" activity on the fort, so I imagine it would probably be impossible to find out anything about it.

I don't know where Walt and Hobie got the info on a tour from Tucson to Sierra Vista, but there is no indication of anything like that in the Torii. Maybe they were just talking about a tour with just the 3 of us with our wives. I do know that Walt and Bev plan to spend more time in this area than the reunion in Tucson, so that's probably it, now that I think about it.

Well, I hope to meet up with you in Tucson in '07.

Regards,
Tom Housh

Hi Tom!

I just wanted to let you know I enjoy your e-mails. Keep them coming. Sorry I have not been able to make any of the reunions, but with Tucson being the first part of September, maybe this time. I always go fishing in Minnesota at the end of September and the first of October. By then it has started to cool down and the Walleye fishing is very good.

I correspond with my old friend Ed Domanski at least once a year at Christmas.

Don Wineland

**NEWSLETTER EXPENDITURES FOR
March 2007—\$369.02**

OKINAWANS GROW FAT ON U.S. DIET

Okinawa once boasted more centenarians than anywhere in the world. Now the island has the highest prevalence of obesity in Japan, and life expectancy is falling rapidly. The culprit: six decades of U.S. influence.

Growing up in postwar Okinawa alongside the U.S. military's largest overseas bases, residents developed a bigger appetite for American-style barbecue, hamburgers and sodas than the fish and vegetables that sustained prior generations.

"My body instinctively craves for succulent meat," said Tomomi Inose, 46, during a hospital visit where her blood-sugar level is tested monthly to monitor the type-2 diabetes that's impaired her vision and increases her risk of heart disease. Inose also is overweight.

Diabetes afflicts 8.2 percent of Okinawans, compared with 5.7 percent nationally.

On Okinawa almost half of men and a quarter of women are either overweight or obese. In contrast, a quarter of the 130 million people in Japan fall into either category.

The U.S. military has about 36,000 people based on Okinawa. Experts blame servicemen for bringing burgers, French fries and canned meat to the island earlier than to the rest of Japan.

Inose recalls her mother serving fried vegetables with Spam, regular meals at diners and American-style barbecues on the beach.

Before 1945, Okinawans consumed mostly fish, soybeans, sea-

weed, vegetables and pork. The diet was rich in antioxidants, minerals, omega-3 fatty acids and proteins that helped protect against vascular diseases such as stroke and heart attack, and lowered the risk of cancer, according to Yamori, director of the International Center for Research on Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases in Kyoto, Japan.

Those who retained the traditional diet are healthier than their peers. With an average life expectancy of 86 for women and 78 for men, Okinawa's elders have one-fifth the heart disease, a quarter of breast and prostate cancer and one-third the dementia of Americans of the same age group, according to the Okinawa Centenarian Study.

Shizu Miyagi, 100, enjoys strolls around her garden. She often invites friends to her Naha city home to share a lunch of stewed pork leg, potatoes, rice and red beans.

"The secret of longevity is to eat three proper meals a day," Shizu says with a smile that reveals a full set of her own teeth.

Miyagi, whose grandmother also reached 100, and the 740 other centenarians on Okinawa represent a disappearing generation, said Hiroshisa Arai, a visiting professor at Showa University and author of "Diet for Healthy Long Life."

Submitted by Frank Nocerito

*Since the above article mentions Naha and my memory serves me correctly, I believe these are pics of Naha, the capital of Okinawa, from some sort of restaurant high up. Note the cars—possible early 50s models. I took both pics.
Frank Nocerito.*





VOL. IX, NO. 4

JULY 1960

TORII STATION APO 331

FROM THE TYPHOON, JULY 1960:

Commentary on Ike's Visits to Okinawa

Ike on his good will tour of allied countries in the Far East, paid a brief two and a half hour visit to Okinawa. The President's orange and silver jet landed at Kadena Air-base on Sunday, 19 June at 11:30 a.m., where he was greeted by some 2,000 Americans and Ryukyans. At a brief plane side speech Ike assured the people of this US Military stronghold that the American people are aware of their responsibility to Okinawa and of their intention to generously continue the economic development of the Islands and the promotion of the people's welfare. After the official welcoming ceremonies, the open car motorcade began its 15 mile ride to Naha, Capital city of the Ryukus. The four lane highway between Kadena Air Force Base and Naha was lined with 12,000 Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine troops and an enthusiastic flag waving crowd estimated at 200,000 of the Island's 640,000 civilian population. Sitting next to the Ryukyuan Chief Executive Seisaku Ota, Ike responded to the crowd with his usual warmth and flashed his famous "Million Dollar Smile." As the motorcade approached Naha the crowd became more dense and Ryukyuan Police were shoulder to shoulder holding back the crowds who lined the sidewalks. Here in the capital city, Ike, for the last time during his tour, came face to face with a group of demonstrators. Hours before Ike's plane landed at Kadena Air Base a small group carrying placards reading, "We don't want atomic and hydrogen bombs here." "Take U-2 Plane from Okinawa."

"Give us back to Japan." and "Immediate reversion to Japan." were tenaciously but unsuccessfully trying to stir up the crowds who had turned out to welcome the first American President to ever visit the Island. The snake dancing, chanting group paraded up and down the sidewalks disregarding the women and children, pushing them into the police who were trying to keep the streets unobstructed. Several times the group broke through the police lines and rushed into the streets. As the demonstrators showed no signs of wearing themselves out, but became more unruly. After ignoring attempts on the part of an interpreter to get them to cooperate, three companies of Marines in combat dress, carrying rifles with fixed bayonets, were marched in to reinforce the line of local police.

As the motorcade reached Naha, the banner draped city and many well wishers were in sharp contrast to the jeering demonstrators who in a wild state of frenzy succeeded in making themselves heard over the majority thus creating a false impression of the crowd.

The president went directly to the USCAR Headquarters where he met and addressed the Ryukyuan Legislators. The demonstrators consolidated and rushed to the crowded square in front of the building and were met by a solid line of Okinawan Police and US Marines; after several attempts to break through the lines failed, they contented themselves with dancing around in circles and yelling, "Yankee, Go Home," "Ike Go Home," and other slogans the leaders decided would be appropriate for the occasion. They succeeded in making a lot of noise, shoving a lot of people and causing Ike to make a last minute change in his planned

route to Naha Air Base where he left for Korea, thus disappointing many who had stood for hours hoping to get a glimpse of the president and welcome him in the true spirit and feeling of the Okinawa people.

The demonstrators generously estimated their following at 15,000, official estimates were somewhere between 1,000 and 1,500. The group proclaimed victory, but in retrospect responsible citizens are wondering just what victory can the blatant demonstrators claim and what did they actually accomplish other than disappointing their own people, embarrassing their country, and showing their own ignorance.

GENERAL POWERS OPENS THE NEW "TORII CLUB"

With the cutting of the ribbon on Saturday morning at 1000 hours, 19 June 60 by General George T. Powers, the new "Torii Club" was open for business. The festive celebration was an all day affair with free gifts, a cigarette lighter for members and corsages for the ladies; free food, Chinese, Italian and American dishes; and free drinks.

All through the morning, afternoon and evening a series of shows featuring some of the top entertainment groups in the Far East were on hand for the gala occasion.

The new club, operating under the slogan "The best in the business," is a welcome addition to Torii Station and one we can well be proud of. One distinctive feature of the club worthy of special note is the revolving door, the only one on the island of Okinawa.

It's the best little club on the island. If you don't believe it—just ask the men at Torii Station.