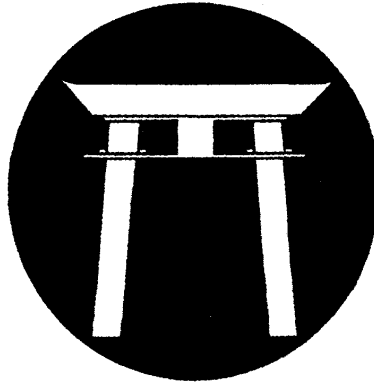


Torii Typhoon

Volume 9 Issue 2

March 2010

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ASA OKINAWA



Special Points of Interest

- *Read Mike O'Neill's cover article and go back in time to Torii Station.*
- *President Tom Sevits' message and VP Dallas May's article are on page three.*
- *Mail Call on page five has a letter of concern about the participation of the 111th SSC, 327th CRC and early 8603rd personnel.*
- *On page seven, Larry Eckard discusses the promised changes that were made in the Association.*
- *Flag and shirt order forms are on pages 6 & 8.*

MEMORIES OF TORII STATION-1973 & 1974

By Mike O'Neill

Torii Station, Okinawa, Japan

I remember.....

I came to Torii straight from Ft. Devens, MA in May 1973 at the ripe old age of 20 and I served my 18 months doing a 6-2 rotating shift in the box as a SP4 O5K.

Must have been the first week there, I borrowed my buddy Dave's 185 Yamaha and rode it straight out the front gate and up the hill behind the hotel on to an abandoned air strip. That was my first time on a bike. I learned to shift gears on the way up the hill and I loved it. I bought a brand new 250 Suzuki with my next paycheck and was riding for 18 months straight. Put an oversized rear

sprocket on it and was a dirt demon from then on. My trick had a motorcycle gang named the Bamboo Hot Doggers, and we rode all over that rock. We would make the trip all the way around the island in a day on perimeter roads with very few miles on pavement. We did the Peter Rabbit thing, picked and ate pineapples right from the local farmer's fields; got lucky and were never fired upon! We had bottle rocket wars mounted on our wheeled steeds on the abandoned air strip and out by Bolo Point. We would ride in the mud after a good rain trying to throw rooster tails and cover the other riders with mud. We would sneak onto the local motocross track when it was closed and race each other and a couple of us even

entered a real race or two. No dirt hill was too steep or too high and no footpath too narrow. What a blast we had on our two wheelers.

I remember going out to a place called Suicide Cliff which was a touristy memorial to the thousands of Japanese military and civilians who jumped rather than be taken prisoner at the end of WW-II.

I remember eating the best tacos at a place called Charlie's. The lore was that Charlie hunted for his own meat and that was why there were no dogs or cats in the vicinity of his place. All I know is that he had the best tacos around.

The pachinko parlors, the massage parlors, the trips into Naha for that Kobe Beef, the warm Saki sitting around a low table with a

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

built in quilt and a light bulb burning under for warmth. I had two friends living off base with their wives that had these tables we would gather and sit around, drink warm Saki and solve all the world's problems.

One time my trick chief caught me hosing down a new guy with a fire extinguisher inside the box. He threatened me with an article 15 until I realized all he really needed from me was an apology and my word that I would not do it again. What a lesson in personal integrity that was for a youngster to learn. I think I ended up mowing the grass around the HQ for the rest of the summer. After that we just blew smoke at the new guys from behind their radio racks.

I remember playing third base on the slow-pitch softball team and making a particularly good throw out at first, and playing catcher in that same game and having a runner slide right between my legs to score.

I remember a (military run?) 'library' across the street from the end of one Kadena runway, where you could check out phonograph albums, both recent releases and oldies, take them across the room where there was a bank of state-of-the-art phonographs and cassette recorders, buy the blank tapes and bootleg away. I got so much 'free' music there it must have been criminal. The cheap stereo and camera gear, we all had new stuff. My dad never did get off my back about spending so much money on that camera.

I remember getting NAUI and PADI scuba certified in that swimming pool on Torii Station and doing my first open water dive with that bunch. I was introduced to Sashimi on that dive when our instructor caught and served up some fresh octopus. Me and my buddies did countless dives during my time on the rock. Sometimes we would strap on our scuba tanks and ride right out the front gate on our motorcycles and down to the beach. One time I hooked up with a friend from another trick and started doing night dives with that bunch. There was a totally

different ocean around that island at night. Mostly we would picnic on the beach, snorkel out to the reef and then switch to scuba and explore. There was one place I remember where we would climb down into a cave and scuba out to the open ocean.

I remember the bad Japanese accents of the local bands in the local clubs trying to sound like Deep Purple playing and singing *Smoke on the Water* and how expensive booze was there as compared to on-post at the EM club.

Yea, I ran the antenna field road a time or two, but was never much for running when not being chased by someone bigger and better armed. I did get popped one time early on for riding my brand spanking new Suzuki through one of the gates and onto the antenna field road. The MP jeep was sitting right there. Hardly an infraction yet, but I got the ticket and learned the seriousness of the antenna field in a big hurry.

I remember the EMHO reporting in the box and going down the hall to listen to the targets tracking the Habu, throwing up missiles that were never even close. Seeing that bird coming up off of Kadena was awesome.

Had a couple of buddies get married in the base chapel and a couple that got the Dear John letter. Learned how to play this new interactive video game called PONG in the snack bar. I quit smoking cigarettes on a five dollar bet. Quit for seven months, won the bet, collected my money the day I left the rock. Bought a carton and smoked two packs on the flight back to the world just because I could. Was I smart or what? Glad to be able to say that I have been off the tobacco for 17 years now.

I spent the remainder of my 3 year hitch at Ft. Hood, TX. Hand brushed a few deuce-and-a-half trucks OD Green down at the motor pool and did some summer time camping with the group where we ran communications wire out amongst the cactus and we cut up a bunch of the other team's wire. I remember fishing at StillHouse Hollow

Lake and down the river below the dam. I got my first and last chew of tobacco cat fishing just below the dam. Thanks Clay! Did some mock civilian camping up at Mother Neff State Park and ate way too many way hot and way bad Taco Bell Tacos in Killeen. Learned to play cribbage from Mark but spent most of my Fort Hood time being on all night CQ then driving down to Austin, TX and drinking ice-cold Lone Star beer at the Armadillo World Headquarters. I liked that so much that I lived there for four years after my separation.

Been great reminiscing. Was great to be there even if I was counting down the days the whole time; I would not trade them.

I remember: Richard Michaels and his wife and son, NamMyo-HoRenGeKyo buddy; Nelson Bethke; Dave Toth; Mike Drees and wife; Steve Whittig; Gary Royer; Pete (from the Nam) Johnson and his bride Ola, Bill (4 stroke) Roose and wife; Jim (country boy) Freeman; Roger Smith; Rich Masterson; Gay (Sunshine) Newman; Clay from Oklahoma; Mark Burchfield; many more faces and memories but the names escape.

Y'all take care now and thanks for listening.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome, oh ye month of March! Hopefully, it will bring the end of winter weather here in Northwest Ohio, and I am sure you folks scattered across America feel the same! I know some of you got plenty of the "white stuff"! Only one of our fifty states did not have at least some snow on a particular day in February. Amazing!

During this winter, I worked on revising our unit flag. The wording now says, ASA OKINAWA and The Best in the Business. The logo remains the same. We will also have a new guidon, and unit streamers that represent the eight different unit designations given over the years to the base unit. The streamers will be attached to the new unit flag, which will be unveiled at our reunion in Plano in September.

You will find order forms in this newsletter for those desiring to purchase a 3' X 5' or 2' X 3' flag. At the present time, I have garden flags on hand, and I can fill orders for those. For the larger flags, I need to have at least an order of

12 to be able to get the prices quoted to me.

I trust we will have a great turnout for our reunion in Plano. The years seem to be speeding by as we age, and keeping in touch with our comrades (and the spouses and guests) is, hopefully, a priority for you!

It has been a long time since my Fort Hood 10 week basic training days in 1956, so I am really looking forward to this Plano reunion and our experiencing some wonderful times and events in the great state of Texas!

I recommend you go to the ML&RS website for updates on events for our reunion. I am sure we will once again have the opportunity to vote on what we would like to see and do in and around Plano.

While we finish these colder days of winter, just remember, "It will be a hot time in the old town" as we revel in Plano, Texas!

Tom Sevits, President

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978-465-7473

Ross Lee, Chaplain

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Benton, AR 72015
501-778-3345

VP'S MESSAGE

Hello to all out there in Torii land. Great to see a break in the weather. We had one snow fall in Mississippi this year—six inches. Had a couple of dustings with no accumulation. Hey, Mort, did you ever get that car dug out from the snow avalanche??? Well, guys and gals, not much to write about this time, but would like to encourage all of you to come to our reunion in Texas this year. If you know someone who was a no-show in St. Louis, please give them a call, write or e-mail and let them know we would like to see them at South Fork this year.

Thanks and God bless,
Dallas May

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION REMINDER

Please check the membership expiration date on the outside of this newsletter envelope. If the date is 12/31/09, you will need to send in your membership dues of \$10.00 to continue receiving The Torii Typhoon. Dues are to be sent to Tom Sturgeon, Treasurer, 12 Cherry Lane, Olmstead TWP, OH 44138-2916.

2010 REUNION ASA OKINAWA

DALLAS, TX

SEPT. 8-12, 2010

SOUTHFORK HOTEL PLANO, TX



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.

Kenneth Bonneau
(1966-67) 51st SOC
67 Cudworth Rd
Webster, MA 01570
508-943-1081

Johnnie Young (1963-65) SP4
3966 Lakeside Dr
Odessa, TX 79762
214-213-9690
jyoung1942@gmail.com

Michael Rubner (1974-76) Spc4
8304 Karen Ln
Terrell, TX 75160
214-793-7567
mrubner@netportusa.com



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.

Nadeem Aide
Died December 19, 2002

Alvin Chambers
Died July 12, 2006

John Conn
Died January 11, 2008

William Duckhardt
(1953-54) CPL
Died October 16, 2009

Darrell Fouts
Died November 23, 2009

Charles Kendzierski
(1951-54) Sgt
Died September 15, 2009

Richard Lake
Died November 5, 2008

William Mappin, III
(1954-56) SP3
Died August 14, 2006

Fred Pittman
Died May 12, 2009

Leiland Chambliss
Died April 22, 2009

Robert Monk
Died October 14, 2009

Billy Cope
(1959-61) M/Sgt HQ
Died October 21, 2009

Joe Stapleton
Died October 6, 2005

Harry Broxson
Died March 18, 2009

William Galvin
(1946-47) FC3
Died April 24, 2004

Harold Kreuzer
Died May 27, 2008
(See photo below)

TREASURER'S REPORT— ASA OKINAWA ASSOCIATION MARCH 1, 2010

Beginning Check Book Balance
Sept. 7th, 2009.....\$7332.01

Income from dues.....\$1645.00
Total Income.....\$1645.00

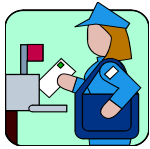
Disbursements
November 2009 Newsletter to
1309 persons on roster.....-\$1780.76
ASA Okinawa Flag re-design
and re-construction.....-\$859.65
Total Disbursements-\$2640.41

Miscellaneous
Reserve Change Fund.....+\$50.00
Adjusted Balance
March 1, 2010...+\$6386.60

Submitted by Thomas Sturgeon



HAROLD CREUZER (ON LEFT)



MAIL CALL

To Larry Eckard:

This is written in response to the concern about participation of 111th SSC, 327th CRC, and early 8603rd personnel in the ASA Okinawa reunions. As stated in the most recent publication of the Torii Typhoon, ex-111th SSC (these are, for the most part, the same personnel as in the 327th and early 8603rd AAU) were instrumental in initiating the reunions. That is, indeed true. I personally have spent many hours locating our 111th people since the mid-nineties after on-line computers became of age.

My real concern, and also the concern of most of my friends from the 111th, is the slant toward our military function rather than a real reunion of civilians *who just happened* to be in the army during the Korean War and later. It seems that the reunion has been taken over by retired military people and run as a military function when over 90% of 111th personnel only spent one hitch in the army. I have no idea what the retention rate was for Torii Station, but you might find it has the same effect on attendance by those personnel as well. We treasure the two years we spent together on Oki, but

not necessarily the military aspects. Most of our people went on to become engineers, executives, postmen, lawyers, and many other professional.

Quoting from the Torii Typhoon, "Following dinner, the Elite Drill Team wowed the audience with their rifle and close order drills." This is an example of what arouses my concern. Also, I've noticed that over the years most commissioned officers are referred to by their rank. In my view, rank has no place at the reunions. I enjoyed my three years in the army, was privileged to be allowed to attend leadership school in preparation for OCS, but made the decision to return to civilian life. That's what I am: A civilian who just happened to be in the army when I met so many good guys while stationed on Okinawa. In no way is this intended to take away from my deep appreciation for the service of all ex-Okinawa veterans, one term of enlistment or retired.

Also, this is a small point, but why is the organization's organ called the "Torii Typhoon"? We of the 111th SSC also had a company organ called the "111th Typhoon." Why not "ASA Okinawa Typhoon"?

Randy (no last name was included)
rangj31@cox.net

Larry,

Saturday's banquet was great. In fact, the whole reunion was well ap-

preciated, with the drill team, guest speaker, Lonnie's farewell, Tom's remarks and the change of command ceremony.

I didn't think anyone was ready to sit through another speech, so I thought a note would be better. I had enough free airline miles for my trip up to St. Louis and back to California, but the rest of the group had to pay for planes or car gasoline, so I figured I could have some ASA patches made for the guys. Tex and Helen passed out the big envelopes with the patches in them. Hope everyone got one. No ASA money was used for the patches. Thanks again, and see everyone in Dallas this year.

Gene Knutzen
3921 E Sycamore Ave
Orange, CA 92869-2836

To all ASA Okinawa members:

Karen Bagot from the Crown Plaza St. Louis called me to tell me that her brother-in-law, Col. Alfred Jason Bagot, was MI from Korea to Vietnam era. She asked if anyone knew him in any of their Far East posts.

He is 86 years old, lost his wife and remarried at 85.

If you know him, contact ML&RS and we'll let Karen know and get in touch with him.

Brenda Eckard

TRY A CRYPTOGRAM

TAKEN FROM TORII TYPHOON NOVEMBER 1960

The following cryptograms employ the simple substitution cipher wherein one letter of the plain text represents one letter of the cipher text.

Here are some clues for the beginner:

The clue of the repeated "e". The most frequently used letter in a plain text is the letter "e". It is very common in the beginning, middle and end of words. It is often repeated in words or doubled.

The clue of the one-letter word. "a" is found frequently, "i" occasionally, "o", rarely. In the Army, you find the T shirt, B girl, and the T formation.

The clue of the two letter word. One letter of the two must be one of the six vowels.

The clue of mirror image. The pair of common two-letter words made up of the same pair reversed is "on" and "no."

Here is a very simple cryptogram to get you started:

WDWNWF ZMFVJWV EWF SFV TGOK SJJANWV ZWJW
LGVS LG WFDKAL AF LXW SJE, LZW FSNO SFV LZW SAJ
XGJUW.

Try solving this by using the frequency table. Start it by writing down the letters of the alphabet and the number of times it appears in the text. Thus A-4, B-0, C-0, D-2, —W-13, X-1, Y-0, Z-5. You will find that W appears the most number of times, so write "e" over the letter W in the cryptogram. One more clue. Notice LZW appears three times, so just try "the".

And here is one more for the "pros." It is clear, undistorted, grammatical English.

RUDDE SXYYE YSAXG AISLN OLAES TCRUX
ASZBE HZYNI XNOBE HESTC RUXAS ZLAZY.

WHEN THE MUSIC STOPPED

For those who are unaware: At all military base theaters, the National Anthem is played before the movie begins.

This is written from a Chaplain in Iraq:

I recently attended a showing of "Superman 3" here at LSA Anaconda. We have a large auditorium we use for movies, as well as memorial services and other large gatherings. As is the custom at all military bases, we stood to attention when the National Anthem began before the main feature.

All was going well until three-quarters of the way through the National Anthem, the music stopped.

Now, what would happen if this occurred with 1,000 18-22 year-olds back in the States? I imagine there would be hoots, catcalls, laughter, a few rude comments, and everyone would sit down and yell for movie to begin. Of course, that is, if they had stood for the National Anthem in the first place.

Here in Iraq, 1,000 Soldiers continued to stand at attention, eye fixed forward. The music started again and the Soldiers continued to quietly stand at attention. But, again, at the same point, the music stopped. What would you expect 1,000 Soldiers standing at attention to do?

Frankly, I expected some laughter, and every one would eventually sit down and wait for the movie to start. But No!! You could have heard a pin drop, while every Soldier continued to stand at attention.

Suddenly, there was a lone voice from the front of the auditorium, then a dozen voices, and soon the room was filled with the voices of a thousand Soldiers, finishing where the recording left off:

"And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh, say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave."

It was the most inspiring moment I have had in Iraq and I wanted you to know what kind of Soldiers are serving you. Remember them as they fight for us!

Written by Chaplain Jim Higgins, LSA
Anaconda is the Ballard Airport in Iraq, north of Baghdad

Submitted by Thomas Sturgeon



ASA OKINAWA FLAG AND GARDEN FLAG ORDER FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE # _____

E-MAIL _____

3' X 5' ASA OKINAWA FLAG QUANTITY _____

Cost is \$70.00 each plus \$5.00 shipping = \$75.00. I need at least 12 orders to get this price. Do not send money at this time! The flag will not have fringe.

2' x 3' ASA OKINAWA FLAG QUANTITY _____

Cost is \$60.00 each plus \$5.00 shipping = \$65.00. I need at least 12 orders to get this price. Do not send money at this time! The flag will not have fringe.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING AUGUST 16, 2010

Moon Landing. They remember the 50 plus Peacekeeping Missions from 1945 to 2005, not to mention Vietnam.

If you bump into an Old Fart on the sidewalk, he will apologize. If you pass an Old Fart on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. Old Farts trust strangers and are courtly to women.

Old Farts hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady it on the inside for protection.

Old Farts get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children, and they don't like any filth or dirty language on TV or in movies.

Old Farts have moral courage and personal integrity. They seldom brag unless it's about their children or grandchildren.

It's the Old Farts who know our great country is protected not by politicians, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country.

This country needs Old Farts with their work ethic, sense of responsibility, pride in their country and decent values.

We need them now more than ever.

Thank God for Old Farts!

Pass this on to all the Old Farts you know.

I was taught to respect my elders. It's just getting harder to find them.

OLD FARTS

Old Farts are easy to spot at sporting events; during the playing of the Star Spangled Banner, Old Farts remove their caps and stand at attention and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.

Old Farts remember World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy, and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Jet Age and the

PROMISED CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE

If you will, take a few minutes and go back to the Nov 2009 issue of the Tribune and re-read the article on page 3 "Changes Are Being Made." If you don't have your paper copy of that issue, go on line to www.mlrsinc.com/asaokinawa, click on the newsletters button and read it. It is important for everyone to read and understand the changes that were proposed and why they approved at the St Louis business meeting. Thanks to the hard work of Association President Tom Sevits, those changes pertaining to the flag, guideon, and streamers are a reality. All of them have been made, mounted, and will be presented to the Association at the Welcome Reception on Wednesday Sept 8th.

The association is making every effort to accommodate ever member who ever served in the SIGINT community on Okinawa and we hope this goes a long way to make everyone feel a part of the Association. We are not foolish enough to think that everyone will be completely satisfied, but the hope is, at the very least everyone will recognize and appreciate the effort. There is a wise old Proverb (probably penned by a Warrant Officer), "You cannot influence the outcome of anything by staying home - participate, participate, participate - if you don't - you have no reason complaining about the end result." If you do participate and are out-voted - then that is Democracy at work - Get over it! It's that simple." The point is, if you have an idea, suggestion, or even a complaint - don't sit on it, bring it to the next meeting and get it out in the open.

The letter received from former 111th member Randy was welcomed and we appreciate hearing everyone's comments and suggestions. We realize that only a small percentage of people who were part of ASA Okinawa were career soldiers, and that is reflected in the make up of the current leadership. There are 11 members that comprise the current "Executive Board" and only three were career soldiers,

so the Association leadership has not been "taken over" by retired military personnel. As far as rank being used at the reunion, it is not used in any official way. When rank is used as a title, it is purely a matter of courtesy and respect to the individual.

Randy is correct when he says the original newsletter was the 111th Typhoon. I cannot find exactly when the name Torii Typhoon was first used, but it does predate the name Torii Station. The name represents the Torii on the patch that we all wore, including the 111th, until ASA developed its own patch (early 1960s), and later INSCOM (early-mid 70s); so, the name of the newsletter has nothing to do with Torii Station.

Some of you may still be fence sitting when it comes to traveling to Dallas for the next reunion; Why? Like all of our reunions, it is going to be a great one. Much has already been said about the activities that are available and much more will be said in the reservation packets that will be mailed in early-mid June. We especially are looking for members from the later years - the late 70's and early-mid 80's. You men and women are the future of the Association - and we need you now. If you know someone who served at US Army Field Station Okinawa during those years, urge them to get in contact with ML & RS, Inc to get their name on the roster - and more importantly become an active member of the association.

Finally, there are a lot of you out there who were a part of the family, some of you more than once that we'd really love to see. Our reunions are just like the potato chips; "Bet you can't go to just one".

Larry Eckard

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Torii Typhoon is the official publication of the Security Agency Association Okinawa. It is published tri-annually in March, July and November. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. Contributions should be sent to the treasurer. All members are encouraged to support the voice of ASA Okinawa. A financial statement appears annually in the November issue.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another member will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations.

ML&RS, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication. It would be a monumental task to check each story. Therefore, we rely on the submitter to re-search each article.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family, by submitting your stories and suggestions.

NEWSLETTER EXPENDITURES for March 2010

\$456.45 (mailed to 243 dues paying members.)

Association Offers Shirts, White & Light Blue With or Without Collars

(Picture of collared shirt not available)



DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS AUGUST 16, 2010

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

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____</p> <p>State: _____ ZIP: _____</p> <p>Mail your order to:</p> <p>ASA Okinawa Association Gary Duenow 6090 Indian Dr NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52411</p> | <p>Size: Small ____; Med ____; Large ____</p> <p>XL ____; XXL ____; XXXL ____</p> <p>Color: White ____ Blue ____</p> <p>With collar ____ without/collar ____</p> <p>With pocket ____ without pocket ____</p> <p>Cost w/collar: S thru XL \$18.00; XXL \$19.50 XXXL \$21.00</p> <p>Cost w/o collar: S thru XL \$15.00; XXL \$16.50 XXXL \$18.00</p> <p>Postage and handling (if not attending reunion) \$6.00</p> <p>Total Enclosed: \$ _____</p> <p>Make checks out to: ASA Okinawa Association</p> <p><u>Dead line for ordering is August 16, 2010</u></p> |
|--|---|