

# **463<sup>rd</sup> AIRLIFTERS NEWSLETTER**

March 1, 2011

## **FROM THE SECRETARY**

*I hope the New Year has found everyone in good health and ready for the warmth of spring. I know I am, I've had enough snow this winter.*

*We have a supply of 463<sup>rd</sup> Hats, Polo Shirts, and Sweatshirts in both black and white. They will all be available at the 2011 reunion. Or contact Jerry Haines whose e-mail and phone number will be available at the end of the newsletter if you're not going to make the reunion. Hats are \$10.00, Polo Shirts and Sweatshirts are \$25.00, and the 463<sup>rd</sup> Challenge Coins are \$10.00 plus shipping.*

*I am going to attach a registration form for the 2011 reunion to this newsletter, even though we are hoping for the registrations to be sent in by August 15<sup>th</sup>, if you want to attend and missed the August 15<sup>th</sup> date we will accept later registrations. Just try to get them to Jerry as soon as possible. Jerry's address is on the bottom of the registration form. We're hoping for a great turn out, so schedule your vacation for September 12 thru 16 at Pigeon Forge, you'll have a great time.*

*The registration fee for this year's reunion was raised, due to the cost of the meals and refreshments. We hope this doesn't deter any of our members from attending the reunion.*

*Rick Kirkpatrick*

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*Hello Fellow Airlifters, I would like to wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year. The next reunion will be September 12–16, 2011 in Pigeon Forge, TN. For all of you troops that didn't make the last reunion in Pigeon Forge, you will find that there is much to do and plenty to see in the Smoky Mountains, the accommodations and personnel are outstanding. We have plenty of sweatshirts, shirts and hats and coins available at reasonable prices. Mike Gaylor had a couple of shirts made up for drawings that I am sure all will like and probably want one for yourself, I know I do. We will be changing a few things what we have done in the past and adding a few different things, but I'm sure all will enjoy themselves. For all of you on the sick list, I wish you a speedy recovery and hope to see you at the reunion. Until we meet again, keep smiling.*

*Jerry Haines*

## **FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT**

*January 2011 marks 20 years since the start of Desert Storm. I was a reservist in the 913<sup>th</sup> TAG at Willow Grove ARF, PA and had planned to retire February 1991, with 20 years' service. During the call-up of reservists and guardsman, my supervisor had assured me that I would be able to retire. However, one week before Christmas, 1990, I received a call letting me know that I was to report to the base the day after Christmas for activation. So much for retiring!*

*Our Group had 12 C-130E models and about 300 maintenance personnel. As it turned out, all of the aircraft and 270 personnel ended up going to the desert,*

*with the balance going to Rhein Main AB, Germany. I was in the 30 that went to Germany.*

*After arriving at Rhein Main we were assigned to our specific duty stations. I was the second shift Section Supervisor of the various shops that supported the heavy maintenance work on the aircraft returning from the desert. We had a very tight turn-around schedule to get the aircraft back to the desert and everyone did their best to stick to the schedule. The reservists (now active duty) and full time active duty personnel worked hand in hand with virtually no problems. We worked 12 hour shifts, 7 days a week, with little if any time off.*

*We stayed in Germany for about 3 months and returned to Willow Grove on Good Friday. I stayed in the reserves for another 2 years and then retired in March, 1993, with 22 years of service (4 active duty and 18 in the reserves).*

*Looking back at the time that I was activated, I was amazed at the ability of both active and reserve members to blend together in order to accomplish the tasks at hand and work almost seamlessly to achieve a common goal. All of the training that we did on reserve weekends paid off. I know that a lot of people think that the reservists are nothing more than “weekend warriors” but the truth is that they are truly the backbone of the services. Most reservists now do more than one weekend a month and 2 weeks active duty during the year. Some have been activated for months if not years at a time.*

*Would I do it again? Sure I would. I had a great time and would recommend*

*it to anyone looking for a satisfying career.*

*Bob Powell*

## **FROM THE ARCHIVIST**

*I've got a request for the new members that may have some Old Orders, Pictures, etc, of there times in the 463<sup>rd</sup>. Please bring them with you to this year's reunion. I'd also like everyone to be thinking about a location where they would like to have the next reunion. Then finally start thinking about the elections of new officers, who do you want to represent your Association for the coming year.*

*Mike Gaylor*

## **ANNUAL DUES / MEMBERSHIP**

*Annual dues of \$10.00 comes due on the first day of July. We've had a very good response in keeping current on the dues, but like every organization you're never at 100%. If you haven't sent your dues for 2010 please forward them to Rick Kirkpatrick, 1676W. 300S., Peru, Indiana 46970-7331. Please make checks payable to 463<sup>rd</sup> Airlifters Assoc.*

*I want to apologize to Jerry & Linda Wald, and Richard Marks for holding their checks, I had them in a folder and over looked sending them to our Treasurer. To make things worst our treasurer is in Florida and won't be back until April 1<sup>st</sup>. I hope you don't hold this against the Association, because this was my fault. I will get your membership cards out directly and your checks sent to Ralph, so that they'll be there when he gets home. Again I truly apologize.*

## **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE C-130 IN ABILENE, TX.**

*All 463<sup>rd</sup> members have been invited to attend this celebration by Dyess AFB. Dyess AFB will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of C-130 presence here April 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Dyess Big Country Airfest April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Abilene Regional Airport. Events will highlight the relationship Dyess and the local community have shared, as well as 50 years of flying Hercs over Big Country skies. An anniversary banquet will be held April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Abilene Civic Center celebrating the past, present, and future of C-130s here. The Big Country Airfest will include B-1, C-130, and C-47 demos, as well as experimental aircraft, old cars and food. We also have two websites that can be checked out for more information.*

[www.bigcountryairfest.org](http://www.bigcountryairfest.org)

&

[www.facebook.com/pages/c-130-50th-anniversary-at-dyess-afb/195273053817079](http://www.facebook.com/pages/c-130-50th-anniversary-at-dyess-afb/195273053817079)

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

*The only way we are informed of the passing of one of our members is notification from a friend of that member or by one of you. If you know of any members that have fallen to bad health or have passed away please notify Jerry Haines, Bob Powell, Joe Mobley, Mike Gaylor, Ralph Fischer or myself. Contact information will be added at the end of this newsletter.*

*Please keep James "Jim" Williams in your thoughts and prayers. Jim was scheduled for surgery February 17<sup>th</sup>. Get well soon Jim we'd like to see you and*

*Kat at the reunion. You were missed last year.*

*Sherry L. Moir wife of David Sweet for 28 years passed away February 19, 2011 following an auto accident. Sherry participated and a supporter of [www.AnySoldier.com](http://www.AnySoldier.com) and [www.katy-support.org](http://www.katy-support.org). Please keep David and family in your thoughts and prayers.*

### **463<sup>RD</sup> WEB SITE**

*Please check out our 463<sup>rd</sup> web site for updated reunion information, photos from the past, and issues of the "Yankee Doodle". We will also have a 2011 Reunion Registration Form to download. [www.463rdairliftersassoc.org](http://www.463rdairliftersassoc.org)*

### **CONTACTS**

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