



1997 7/8

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The Boomer's Prayer 156

NOTE: **ACT:** Active Duty **AFR:** Reserves **ANG:** Air National Guard

Preface

*

The "Boom Signal" is a compilation of inputs from Boom Operators, past, present, or future. It is the only one of its kind and several attempts have been made to mirror it, without success. The primary purpose of the signal is a communications link between each Boom Operator, past, present and future. It is a historical document that can trace fellow booms back to before the original signal, January 1979, when CMSgt Bob Truelson took on the task of developing a communication link for all booms. We need to ensure this tradition continues. We owe it to ourselves and the booms who have gone before us.

Quoted from that first issue of the boom signal; "If this is to become a meaningful and successful venture, it will require the participation of all of us." The final comment from the Chief was; "This is the first edition of "The Boom Signal." It is only the start, and with your help it will grow."

As I put this year's edition of the signal together I was very moved by the solidarity and commitment we have to the Union as a whole. It's amazing how far we have come. I want to thank each one of you, past, present, and those of you who are reading this in the future, for making each edition of the Boom Signal one more page in the history book of Air Refueling. **Do Not** let this tradition die.

Boom stowed, leaving position.....

Jim Eden

NOTE: This year's Boom Signal was formatted using Word 97 and a Hewlett Packard 5Si/Mx printer driver. If you encounter formatting problems, your printer drivers are probably not capable of imulating the HP 5Si/Mx. Solution; reformat the entire document.....Sorry??

Any comments or questions about the 1997 7/8 Boom Signal can be directed to SMSgt Jim Eden, HQ AMC/DOV, DSN 576-5305, E-mail: edenjm@hqamc.scott.af.mil. The next signal input will be due at the 1998 program manager's conference. Instructions to follow. As some have done, if you can, include the retirees in your local area. I'm sure they would appreciate it.

We always wonder...what happened to ol' so-n-so...Now we'll know.

Altus, OK

97 OG

It's hard to believe I've been here for a year now since PCSing from Scott AFB. I never thought I'd end up at the schoolhouse, be it at Castle or Altus AFB. The town folk here are super friendly, in fact I've never been to a base where the town throws a welcome feast once a quarter and provides great entertainment to boot. What's more important is I'm surrounded by a select group of professionals from all four airframes. Truly some of America's finest; it's a humbling experience.

One of the neat things about having the CCTS at Altus AFB is, we get to start new traditions here, while not forgetting the old. This is definitely a team effort at the Mobility Schoolhouse consisting of FlightSafety Services Corporation, the 55 ARS/CCTS, 97 TRS/CFIC, and 97 OSS.

Let me fill you in on what's been happening over this past year and provide you with some statistics. I have 67 authorized instructor boom operator slots divided up as follows: 55 ARS, 45; 97 TRS, 14; and the 97 OSS, 8.

We reached a low of 12 booms short this year, reaching it's peak (or should I say valley) during the summer months, and we didn't skip a beat. The instructors from all three squadrons pulled together like booms always do, and got it done, no lost training. I DO NOT want the instructor force to go through that again, and yes it was painful.

We are getting better now, thanks to all the squadron ops supers who've sent me a terrific group of young instructors. I can tell you've sent me some of your best. We've welcomed eight new IBOs over the last five months and have six more inbound through the end of spring. On the flip side, I have some great IBOs hungry and ready to return to the field and face new challenges.

So please, keep the schoolhouse in mind, if you're thinking about career enhancement. Our promotion statistics are usually double the Air Force average. Altus is the place to be, just look at our promotion numbers, consistently high over the last four years.

We produced 144 new boom operators in FY 97 for active-duty, guard, reserve, and international customers. We expect to produce slightly more than 150 this year. In CFIC, we produced 43 new instructor booms for the three components, and expect to produce 101 (Wow!) this year, including some international IBOs.

On the negative side we eliminated 11 boom students at Altus AFB for the following reasons: academic, judicial, medical, self elimination, and unit recall. I promise to do my best to insure we send the units quality booms, this is a responsibility I regard as priority one, as does my OG/CC; keeping in mind that we're not a one mistake Air Force and nobody is perfect.

Our state-of-the-art CLT is just about complete. Let me tell you it was a sight to behold seeing a KC-135 on that flat bed tractor-trailer. Additionally, the new KC-135 training facility to the tune of \$10.5M, is also nearing completion. What a campus we are going to have, the only thing we need now is the BOSS, short for boom operator system simulator.

Finally, let me make a plug for the next (19th Annual, 2nd at Altus) Boom Operators Symposium scheduled for 17-19 April 97. Last year's was a rousing success, over 350 showed up, we're hoping for 500 this year, so get approval from your OG/CC and get it on your quarterly schedules NOW! Come see the schoolhouse grow! Your Heritage!

LESLIE E. McPEAK Jr., CMSGT, USAF
SUPERINTENDENT

Altus, OK
97 OSS/DOU

Hello from the mighty 97 OSS. Where a mixed group providing a broad range of first class operational support enables the 97 AMW to accomplish its training mission. Consisting of Quality Assurance, Current Ops, Training, Student flight, and Group Stan/Eval.

DOU STAFF (Quality Assurance):

Greetings from DOU, courseware manager elite's. We ensure the Aircrew Training System (ATS) contractors and Contract Logistic Support (CLS) contractors professionally provide quality training through quality assurance. We support and ensure training is of the highest standards to produce the best mobility crewmember possible. If you have any questions regarding FlightSafety and the courseware they teach please give us a call.

FRAN NICHOLSON, SSgt (nicholsonf@ltsgate2.lts.aetc.af.mil) DSN 866-7773

Fran has been in DOU for a year, she is currently working the CLT trainer, Hoping to pass it on to FlightSafety very soon to begin training. Fran and Tony are expecting another baby packer in Mar of 1998.

JOE REED, TSgt select (reedj@ltsgate2.lts.aetc.af.mil) DSN 866-7075

BIG JOE just arrived in DOU in Nov and is already enchanting the Flight Safety guys. He just took the big plunge and got married and it hasn't change him one bit.

DOOS (Current Ops):

Roggy Kennedy, SSgt (doos@ltsgate2.lts.aetc.af.mil)

Roggy is a KC-135 mission developer for the group. He finds us the missions and A/R we need to train students. It's a thankless job someone has to do, and he excels at it. He's hoping for an assignment to Mtn Home in the near future.

DOT STAFF (Training):

STEVE TUTTLE, MSgt (tuttles@ltsgate2.lts.aetc.af.mil) DSN 866-6493

Steve is the training manger for the group. He works the Program Flying Training (PFT) and any questions that would come up about student training slots he is THE MAN to call. The top headhunter in the Progress Review Committee (PRC). He seems to be loving his job and working on his masters.

JOE SUROVY, MSgt (surovyj@ltsgate2.lts.aetc.af.mil) DSN 866-7075

Joe is the new CDC writer for the booms. Any question or inputs give him a call. He is looking for your suggestions and has been seen looking at new material. Be afraid, be very afraid!! Just joking. Joe continues to be the boom operator fitness god, he's always looking for another power bar (this is not a commercial endorsement).

DOKS (Tanker Student Flight):

Mike Adams, TSgt (adamsmi@ltsgate2.lts.aetc.af.mil)

Mike is tasked to watch over the boom students while they are here attending CCTS and CFIC. In the last year Mike has won every award known to man. Including awards from AETC, and HQ AF just to mention a few. He tells everyone he's here to help them out one way or another.

Operations Group/OGV (Stan/Eval):

Jeff Reuter, SMSgt (reuterj@ltsgate2.lts.aetc.af.mil) DSN 866-6545

Jeff is the senior evaluator for the group. With the CDCs published he's getting back into flying and enjoying the new position. He wonders what the next great adventure will be and where it will take him. Anybody have a crystal ball.

Altus, OK
97 CFIC

CFIC BOOM OPERATORS



Greetings to all boom operators worldwide from T-tail country. Altus is home to the C-5, C-141, C-17 and, oh, by the way, the KC-135 school houses.

Changes continue to shape all that we do, as I'm sure everyone out there is familiar with as well. Since the T-tailers don't have a CFIC, they still aren't sure what we do or what to do with CFIC. So for now, we are still at Altus and upgrading candidates. CFIC is supposed to get a new squadron designation, although no one really knows when this will happen. We will be changing from the 97th TRS to the 54th ARS. What's another patch change when you've already done it four times in the past five years and never changed jobs?

Checkrides given here at CFIC are here to stay. Active duty R model and requested Guard checks are the norm. This seems to be working well and does help units by getting a "finished" instructor instead of having to fly and check them when they get home. We know how busy all the units are with deployments and TDY's. Don't let the AETC patch fool you, the evaluation you get here will not be any harder than the one you would get at home. That may be good or bad. The Guard short course is still alive, although we don't know for how long. The short course, originally designed for pilots only, has its enemies in AETC. CFIC has changed a lot in the past few years. We now have set scenario's that are predetermined and supplied to the candidate before flight training begins. Candidates receive a guide that lists specifics of the scenario for each of the four sorties, goals for each phase of ground and flight instruction, and goals for briefings and critiques. This standardizes the training each candidate gets and lets them fairly prepare and anticipate methods of instruction. Instruction is the focus of every sortie. Of course, associated directives, aircraft systems, amplified checklist knowledge, training folders, as well as weight and balance are the vehicles we use to practice instruction. Pre-attendance training for CFIC always seems to be a problem but is getting better. What we would like to see is pre-attendance training focusing on briefings, critiques, amplified checklist knowledge, and weight and balance, NOT practice role playing.

Please call us with any inputs or questions about the course. DSN 866-5690. We don't know it all, but we know where to look. Hope to see you all at the Boom Symposium here at Altus the weekend after Easter. We will conclude by saying.....

"FLY THE AIRCRAFT!"

This will in all likelihood be the last Boom Signal input from CFIC as a Squadron. CFIC will become a flight in the 54th ARS when it stands up in mid April or May. The 97th TRS patch will go the way of CFIC instructor patch....Gone but not forgotten... Like most of our tanker heritage.

Operations Superintendent (1st Shirt)

SMSgt (Sel) John Harris (BT, Big Talk, Big Toe, Black Tooth...etc.) Still.... - John has been in CCTS for 7 plus years and his opinion (many and varied) really carries weight around here, just ask him....he'll tell you. Seriously, John's day to day duties revolve around taking care of his booms and Nobody does it better.

Program Manager

MSgt Dean Oulela (Noonen) - Program Manager.....mmm well I guess that means fixing BT's meddling or fixing his golf swing. Seriously John ran a good program before me and made my transition from CCTC to CFIC easy. I'm still always looking for ways to do better business, old ways or new. My E-mail address is on the Boom Home page please feel free to send any comments, suggestions, gripes, anytime.

A Flight - Support

TSgt (Sel) Ken Crowe (Peeper) - Flight Superintendent - Ken just took over flight Super duties from Fred Malone and WOW what a difference... he actually occupies the desk.

SSgt Frank Acosta (Jacke!!!) - Frank is quietly becoming a giant in the shipping industry. He'll give UPS a run for it's money in a couple of years, yet he still has time to put through candidate after candidate.

SSgt Brett Clark (Flaps) - Brett (don't call me Shannon) is a new and welcome addition to CFIC. He is doing a top-notch job as Squadron Snacko...

SSgt Jim Eustis (Roxanne) - In-between bar brawls in Lawton, Jim is a hard working instructor who just has to learn to keep his right hand up.

TSgt Lonny Hall (Husker) - Lonny just got here from the 55th if he does half the work here that he did up there then he'll be working twice as hard.

B Flight - Scheduling

TSgt Fred Malone (Flight Superintendent) - Fred is our hardest working instructor and would make a wonderful program manager for a needing Squadron and coincidentally he's looking for a needing Squadron.

SSgt Gordo Ringler (Older Wood) - Ahhh what would I do without Gordo...He forces people to remember if your lose your sense of humor you lose everything. Gordo maintains the old style CFIC corporate knowledge in his head. He is also our creative writing award winner. His 2 page dissertation (or ramblings) on E-Mail earned him accolades from around the world and almost cost me my job.

SSgt Ron Strobach (Strobe-light) - New arrival from AMC/DOU Working hard to keep up the ground scheduling. Scheduled for major shoulder surgery in January. Till then he's happy to be here and glad to help out.

C Flight - Stan/Eval

TSgt Dean Pickering (Pick) - Dean finally got his tech stripe after some long hard battles, he should of traded it for more hair. Dean is in line to be the next CFIC boom to take the plunge...again. Good Luck.

SSgt Dave Robinson (Smokey) Ted Carrier Clone. Dave is still living and loving life in Duke Oklahoma. He always provides some wonderful entertainment at the boom camp-outs (AITW). He is also our building custodian for the new mission planning annex. A duty that gives him endless pleasure

SSgt Bobby Chambers (Stick-Boy) Bobby is our computer network manager and as most of you all know this means this is all he has time for and he does it well. Bobby's office continues to grow and like the Borg Collective it will soon assimilate the whole squadron.

D Flight - Training Flight

TSgt Jaime Recuero (Panama Jim) - Jim finally got his orders to Fairchild and should be there in March, he just got done putting through the first Turkish instructor candidate. Good Job you will be missed.

SSgt James Hill (Old Wood) - James Hill... Booms world wide know him as the webmaster...James' Boom home page is the best thing to come by since Moral calls in the post SAC era. Information, locating former booms, keeping booms in touch, it does it all and it's growing and improving.

97 OSS - Attached Personnel for flying

SMSgt Jeff Reuter - Jeff finally got those pesky CDC's done and is now our wing DOV Hammer. Good job with those CDC's

TSgt (Sel) Tony Nicholson (T-Nick) - Packers and Altus forever....Tony just left CFIC for a 3 year controlled tour with AMC Det 2. He will be missed.

TSgt (Sel) Joe Reed (regional entry) - Joe just got married and left CFIC for AETC/DOU. His Bachelor party will be the talk for many years to come. Joe and Jim Eustis put on a valiant Tag Team match against a numerically superior enemy. State ChampsBoth

SSgt Fran Nicholson (mama-Nick) - Left CCTS for AETC/DOU Fran (and Tony) are expecting a second Nicholson.

TSgt Mike Adams - Mike is currently the superintendent of student admin. Duties include making sure the students are changing their underwear on a regular basis.

The Departed

SMSgt Greg Durand - Greg is currently enjoying the beautiful sub-tropical island paradise in the east China sea....Kadena And rumor has it CMSgt Sel Dan Mongeon will be heading that way when CMSgt Roy Schufft retires

SSgt George Tobola (Tebo) George went back upstairs to monkey town (55th) Training flight to show 'um how to do business

Author's

Dean R. Oulela, MSgt, USAF
CFIC Program Manager

Gordon W. Ringler, SSgt, USAF
CFIC Instructor Boom Operator

Altus, OK

55 ARS

“MASTERS OF THE ART”

Greetings from the 55 ARS home of CCTS! Yes, we're still here in Oklahoma, which is, by the way, the largest county in Texas. If you don't believe me just ask any TEXAN! Well, another year has sped by, but not without changes: The new cargo load trainer is just days from becoming operational. CFIC has joined us in the Holsey Combat Center (they got kicked off the hill). The BOPTT has been decertified for C-5 CAT Qual training. And, of course, let's not forget the future cockpit, PACER CRAG (coming soon to a neighborhood near you)! And the crowd roars!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

For those inquiring minds; the new cargo loading trainer has arrived and was bedded down in it's own special hanger. The training hanger is awesome. We now have a full size (cut from a real KC-135) fuselage to use for the training, plenty of classrooms, and all in a brand new building equipped with central heat and air. In other news; the training tempo remains high and we are staying busy. We are training Royal Turkish Air Force boom operators and might get involved with training booms from Singapore.

We finally had to say good-bye (or maybe good riddance, I'm not sure) to our former Operations Superintendent, SMSgt Dan Mongeon; or should we say CMSgt select, first time out!!!, great job! He departed for the "Great White North" (McGuire) mumbling something about teaching 3-HOLERS about REAL air refueling. Sorry Dan, STATE CHAMP!!!! ROXEANNE!!! If you don't know what "state champ" and "Roxeanne" means, ask him about it.

Our goal has been, and will always be, train the best boom operators in the world. If you think you have what it takes to meet the challenge, send a package. There is an application available on the Internet at WWW.INTELLISYS.NET/USERS/ALTUSBOOM. This assignment provides many opportunities not the least of which are: Stable home life, civilian educational opportunities (you will have your A.A.S. degree complete within a year of arrival at no charge), great opportunity to earn a bachelors degree and higher (many instructors at Altus have their bachelors and are working on their masters degree), and priceless CCTS experience worth a great deal when looking for future assignments. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call, fax, or e-mail your suggestions or concerns. Boom Shop: 866-7940, Operations Superintendent: 866-6079, SQ Fax: 866-7948.

Here's our line-up of the OLD HEADS, the NEW and the GONE! E-mail addresses are located on the BOOM OPERATOR homepage noted above.

OLD HEADS

Operations Super / 1st Shirt

SMSgt Dalton (Gunner) Pratt- Took the helm from Dan Mongeon and hasn't looked back since. He's really set a fine example for all of us junior enlisted folks. Following his promotion he purchased a truck and bass boat. He's still looking for a way to get the SQ to fund his bass tournament TDYs, RHIP!

Program Manager

MSgt Mark (the lost Wright brother) Sletten- Took over for Dalton when he took over for Dan. Lost yet! Found out recently that he was one of the Wright brothers in a previous life. He brought a plane and hasn't landed yet. Took some great airborne photos of the new cargo trainer being towed into Altus. He still keeps the Boom Pod rolling with his "Joke of the Day".

1st Flight (Future 54th ARS Flight. CCTS/CFIC merger. Don't ask, its just another change).

MSgt Rodney (Just proud to serve) Derringer- Came to us from Mt. Home, didn't have long to wait before being thrown in the trenches. He's been a flight super ever since. He can crack a mean whip to keep his troops in line; said he learned everything from Steve "Gunny" Myrick.

SSgt Paul (I miss my 50 cal) Greene- Stan/Eval boom & Asst. Chip head that is just loving life in Altus. Let's see. young, single, SSgt on flight pay. life is good! Recently seen conversing with Gunner Pratt on putting a defensive mod on a tanker. Voted "Most Intimidating Evaluator" by the students.

SSgt Douglas (I need a smoke) Templeton- Came to us from the EC's, has had a real blast pushing students. If you need it done quickly call Doug. If you want it done right, never mind! Proud owner of a BA degree in something, wants to be a zero. Lt could be close in this young man's future. Real go getter.

SrA Dave (Skeeter) Coleman- This young man has his priorities right; Owns his house, numerous cars and trucks, and, of course, has a running competition with Gunner Pratt on who can buy the biggest bass boat. Go Dave!

2nd Flight

SSgt Tom (U'nner) Unerfusser- Tom is on his second tour at Altus. First time as a 702 (SAC speak for admin troop), and now as a zipper suited sun god. Tom is the acting flight super with heavy emphasis on ACTING. .Doing a great job!

SSgt Gary (I miss Montana) Elliot- Stan/Eval guru. He keeps the students (and a few old head instructors!) on their toes. If you have a Stan/Eval question, Gary will always have an answer.

SSgt (Yes, I said SSgt) Lance Quenga- Looking for an assignment soon. Trying to get to the east coast. Still trying to figure out how many tanks of gas it's going to take to get his "Super Beast" truck out there. So much for that pay raise. P.S. Don't ask him about C-141 BREAKAWAY PROCEDURES and INNER LIMITS!

"A" Flight (The beginning of the "CCTS only" Flights)

TSgt Lonnie (I hate ducks) Hall- Moving to CFIC. I hope his aim is better there. Has been a doing a great job as a flight super. Keeps his troops uptight and out of sight. A real mentor. Soon to be passing the reigns. Leaving some pretty big shoes to fill.

TSgt (sel) Tom (Nice hair) Hess- One of our newest additions here at CCTS, Tom recently completed the faculty training course and has started pushing students. Will soon take the A-flight's reigns from Lonny. Has had good luck with students so far, keeps asking what it's like to deal with a "rock". Careful what you wish for Tom...

SSgt Nick (Mr. Fix-It) Burney- Home, auto, plumbing, and painting. Nick stays busier than Bob Villa. Was asked to guest star on "Tool Time" as Al's long lost brother. Another fine instructor if you can find him.

SSgt Steve (Big Fester) Hines- Good guy and a fine instructor. He tends to make people very nervous because he's so quiet. Still waiting for his wife to let him drive his new car.

SSgt Mark (Enunciate) Batties- Another new addition, claims to love it here at CCTS. He hasn't done anything to make a name for himself yet. Things that make you go hmmm... Guess we'll have to keep our eye on him.

"B" Flight

TSgt Scott (Three Holer) Hicking- Our newest Flight Super, Scott is also a recent retread. He just came back to -135s from the -10s. More things that make you go hmmm... Since he used to teach here at CCTS he couldn't understand why he had to requal, complete the buddy instructor program, and meet an R&C board before he could fly with students. Welcome to AETC Scott!

SSgt (sel) Chris (Bevis) Whatley- Chris has had a stellar year. Made SSgt, won "Airman of the Quarter" for the Wing, and even got one of those BA thangymajiggers. Another zero wannabe. Doing a great job as SQ/Wing Cargo Loading Training Manager. Not a bad IBO either. Still trying to get the t-tailers to convert.

SSgt Craig (Has anybody seen my student) Eyre- Another silent but deadly instructor. Keeps his students on a real tight leash. No kidding. Doing a great job assisting Bevis with the cargo loading job. Teddy Roosevelt kinda guy; talks softly but carries a BIG stick.

SSgt Frankie (Don't call me Frankie, Call me Rocky) Rollins- Call me Frankie; I kill ya! Touch my stuff; I kill ya!
Relax Francis. Good IBO doing a bang up job. Taking over the SQ Ground Safety job. Perhaps we should all seek shelter!

"C" Flight

TSgt (sel) Dave (No really, I'm in charge) Cox- Made TSgt, took over the flight, and still gets no respect. Rodney Dangerfield would be proud. Just got back from the NCO Academy. Now trying to figure out if what he learned works on Boom Operators. Oh yeah! Fine IBO and a super Super!

SSgt Tim (Anybody want to buy a pathfinder) Arsenault- Tim's doing a great job here at CCTS. Has dreams of getting out and moving back to MAINEIAC country. If only he could sell his Nissan.

SSgt Dicky (I hate being building custodian) Hunt- One of the finest "young" instructors we have (finally got rid of his Barney lunchbox). Has practically rebuilt the whole squadron with the help of T-Bone Rice, but still hasn't figured out how to get lighting on the 2nd floor.

SSgt Russ (Stand back, she's gettin' ready to blow!) Gardner- Russ's wife is getting ready to have their second child. Seems like she's been in labor for the last two months; and the delivery date isn't 'til next month! Oh well... Russ gets lots of compliments from the zeros about his "good work". I guess he must be doing something right.

"D" Flight

TSgt Brad (Ham & Eggs) Hamann- One of the "very" old head supers. Seems always to be where the action is (thanks to his subordinates). Not only does he do his "super" job but he also evaluates, and when he finds time he assists W.T. with his chiphead duties. A real jack of all trades.

SSgt Kevin (Is it beer'30, yet?) Beccard- Kevin is another Altus returnee. Just couldn't find a good pub in England. He's been doing a super job instructing and maintaining a low profile.

SrA Chris (S* screen) Hargett-** Keeps Brad pretty busy. It must be all that mentoring he has been receiving. "Would you guys just Shut up!". Young instructor with plenty of potential.

SrA Al (AKA Brown) Smith- Still can't sign into a motel without getting funny looks (must be the name). Al's fitting in well so far. Pushing students seems to agree with him. Keep up the good work!

"E" Flight

TSgt W.T. ("Bill" Gates) Moore- SQ chiphead. "If it works, give me a sec and I'll fix it." Has more time in computer classes than most people have in the flare. MICROSOFT bought stock in *him!*

SSgt Bryan (Gunny) Barthlow- Has worn out all the action here and is looking to try his luck up north. Working an assignment to El Forko Grande. Hide the women. Big "B" is on the way!

SSgt Tom ("T-Bone", I also hate building custodian) Rice- Doing a bang up job! He and Dicky stay pretty busy with all the squadron movement. Another one of the Mr. Fix-its in the SQ. If you got the job, he has a price. "Just remember, I'm easy, not cheap!", so he says.

SSgt Dave (What's FTC?) Padilla- Dave in another recent addition to CCTS, Dave seems to be fitting in very well. Another guy that thinks CCTS is great. Love that attitude!

"F" Flight (Training Flight)

SSgt Charlie (Porkchop) Weaver- Spends all his time buying and selling. Anything you need, call Charlie. During the summer he drove a Boom sponsored race car at the local track. Made 50 of the scheduled 100 laps before blowing it up. When asked what he did with the car he replied, "I took her out back and put a bullet in her radiator." When asked why, he took off his Stetson and proudly said in his well known Texan mumble, "Because that's the "Law of the West!"

SSgt George (Tebo) Tobola- Yes I'm back!. Splitting my time in training flight with Charlie. Looking to be pressing on soon, but not in a real big hurry...YET! Spending a lot time trying to stay out of trouble; NOT!

"G" Flight (Stan / Eval)

MSgt Todd (I never have enough time) Salzman- Head honcho for the S/E guys. Keeps a real tight reign on his troops, not!. Will soon be heading up north to Scott (The land of the 14 hr duty day). Was also bitten by the NASCAR bug (notice a trend?). Look out Jeff Gordon, he plans on sponsoring his own team soon.

SSgt Troy (702) Doane- Has been down for a while with a bad back, "I hate doctors." It must be all that paperwork that Todd keeps burying him under. SQ pubs and testing guru. Evaluator scheduler on a mission. Has been really bummed that Odessa Permian is really sucking this year. "Fire the coaches!"

SSgt Tim (It ain't dead yet) King- Still working hard to keep the SQ staff car running. Does a fine job making sure Todd earns that flight super pay. Big NASCAR fan and local grease monkey. Works out at the local race tracks during the summer months. Just about has a complete racing car built in his garage from all the parts & pieces that he has collected.

SSgt Ray (Would sell his wife to meet Jeff Gordon) Lewis- Sorry Chris! **BIG TIME NASCAR FAN!** Is waiting for his shot at the BIG SHOW. Another local race track junkie. He does all the flagging for the races. Hopes to be joining the reserves and his wife "Boomer chick" up at McConnell. Has been seen walking around the squadron mumbling, "How come she gets to go to all those exotic places while I have to sit at home? It's not fair!"

"H" Flight (Scheduling)

TSgt Paul (Sling Blade) Giles- Just took over at scheduling. "It's good to be the king!". Came up with the best quote during our IG visit, "Heck, let 'em tell us what's wrong, then we'll fix it!" You think you have problems just sit down and chat with Paul. Looking forward to retirement soon (maybe).

SSgt Mark (Big Red) Anderson- Thinks that all schedules should be printed in red text. "It would save me some time." Keeps pretty busy managing his junior basketball team at home. Thank goodness he wasn't a football fan. Doing a fine job and is a real hard worker.

SSgt Paul (Swany) Swanson- Another real hard worker. Stays pretty busy training Paul. "Can't wait to get back on a student line." NOT!.

SSgt Paul (Wally) Wallace- Another real hard worker (notice a trend yet). Finally finished his private pilot training. We'll try to let ya'll know when he's airborne! Stays pretty busy building and executing the schedule, and manning the duty desk.

SSgt Dave (Doogie) Keller- Spends most of his time manning the "Doogie Desk" when he is not slaving away in the scheduling pit. Pinned on Staff this year. Looking to be moving on soon. Does a great Bevis & Butthead. Local Rock-N-Roll guru. VH rocks!

Attached to the SQ

CMSgt Les McPeak (OG/SUPT) For all you old SAC diehards. That's (Wing Boom).

MSgt Joe Surovy (OSS/DOU)

MSgt Steve Tuttle (OSS/DOT)

SSgt Roggie Kennedy (OSS/DOO)

MSgt Elmo Diaz (AMC Det 2)

SSgt Jerry Burns (AMC Det 2)

SSgt (Tech sel) Ben Selvidge (AMC Det 2) Leaving us and the career field due to medical reasons. Going into computers, OH NO, not another chiphead! Good Luck anyway, don't forget about us!

SSgt Jerry Burns (AMC Det 2)

PCA's

MSgt Dean (Deno) Oulela- Moved down-stairs to take over the program manager job at CFIC. "I'm not a MONKEY BOY".

TSgt (sel) Ken (Peeper) Crowe- traded to CFIC for two players to be mentioned later.

SSgt Jim (Roxanne) Eustis- Karoke KING! Tried to living up Big Joe (STATE CHAMP) Reed's bachelor party (Eddie Murphy would have been proud). ended up doing his best Rocky imitation. Don't give up your day job!

SSgt Brett (Give me the microphone) Clark- Another CFIC hire, finally. Just don't ask him for his opinion unless you have a week to spare.

SSgt Fran (Franny) Nicholson- Moved on to greener pastures over at OSS DOU. Any questions about the new Cargo Load Trainer, call Fran!

PCS'ed & Retired or Seperated Bunch

SMSgt Dan Mongeon- PCS to McGuire (KC-10)

TSgt Mike Routheau- PCS to Travis (KC-10)

TSgt Merv Arthurton- PCS to MacDill . Working on his tan in Florida.

SSgt Tony Edwards- PCS to Travis (KC-10)

SSgt Chris Reiger- PCS to Mildenhall

SSgt David (Red) Paulett- Separated to who knows where? He's everywhere (kinda like Waldo) probably riding with the Hell's Angels. No really, he's a reserve 3 holer at McGuire AFB and Boom Symposium King!

SSgt John Clauss- Separated. Last seen heading south.

SrA Howard (Butch) MacDonald- Separated (Grissom Reserves) was last seen scalping tickets at the "Jerry Springer" show.

SrA Rod Smith- Separated (Seymour Johnson Reserves) Looking to be a lead guitarist for some rock group.

TSgt Eddie Cole- Finally retired. Stayed in the local area and comes by every once in awhile to fling a dart or two. You will be missed but never forgotten.

DALTON PRATT, SMSGT, USAF
SUPERINTENDENT

GEORGE TABOLA, SSGT, USAF
TRAINING FLIGHT

Altus, OK

DET 2

YAHOO from the land of courseware and the best-kept secret in the boom career field. Our mission is not for the faint of heart and requires total self-sacrifice. As Aircrew Training Systems Managers we are tasked with the enviable task of being deployed to the entire 135 world (Active, Reserves, and Guards) to insure that all Ground and Continuation training is being complied by FlightSafety. We evaluate all of the courseware for CBT's and OFT's. We discuss training matters with the unit and its personnel whom we are visiting, then send a written report to HQ AMC/DOTK. Through our interviews and processes, numerous training concerns have been addressed and changes have come about because of "from the heart" comments given and taken to heart by HQ AMC. Here is a few priority projects at the DET: We and AETC are waiting to turn over the new CLT building and trainer to FSSC, this ATD will significantly enhance Cargo Loading Training, we are working with AETC to design the next generation Aircrew Training Device (ATD) known as the Boom Operator System Simulator (BOSS). If any of you boom operators out there have any training concerns please call us and we will help in any way to get any training situation corrected

DET 2 STAFF:

ROCKY RACOMA (racomar@det2.lts.aetc.af.mil) DSN 866-7181

Rocky is a long time Castle boom that came to Det 2 by way of civilian life through Flight Safety. He retired in August 1988, worked odd jobs, went to college to get smart (didn't think you could teach old dogs new tricks) but he did graduate, but the crew dawg in him wasn't ready to sit on the porch. He is the office manager and runs a pretty tight ship (who ever taught we would work for a short Hawaiian, or is it Filipino, or Japanese, whatever)! He invites all of his old buddies, retired or active to call and talk about old, old, and I mean OLD times.

ELMO DIAZ, MSgt (diaz@det2.lts.aetc.af.mil) DSN 866-1389

Elmo arrived at the DET in Nov 95. He felt the only way to get promoted was to get a staff job, and behold he was promoted to MSgt and sewed it on 1 Oct 97. If he is not at his desk he is either TDY, flying, or you might find him pounding nails, or sawing 2x4's. This is his joy to work on homes that needs fixing (at a minimal cost). Watch out world of boomers, Elmo was able to keep it in the family. He was able to influence the Air Force to hire his son, Andy, as a boom operator; now we don't just have one, we got two!

TONY NICHOLSON TSgt sel (nicholsona@det2.lts.aetc.af.mil) DSN 866-7984

Tony is our CFIC expert that replaced Tsgt. Ben Selvidge. He occupies Ben's desk so we expect him to become a computer nut to fill the void. He and Fran are expecting another little cheese head in March of 1998. He and a few other boom operators are orchestrating the "Boom Symposium 98", and according to him this one will be the best, see you at the flagpole. "GO PACK GO"

JERRY BURNS, SSgt (burnsj@det2.lts.aetc.af.mil) DSN 866-7991

Jerry has been here at Altus since he left Carswell in '92. Decided to stay around for CCTS to pay back his debt to the boom field. He came to Det 2 in May of '96, and loving every minute of it. He has a new wife, a son, and a three-month-old baby girl. Rumor has it that the boy makes smoother contacts than "Jerbo" does! Hopefully he won't follow the old man's footsteps too closely!

BREAKAWAYS

BEN SELVIDGE, TSgt

Ben came to us from EAUC through the CCTS schoolhouse and was our resident computer guru. The flight doc sidelined him. He is now going to be a financial analysis genius at Travis and educate the rest of the finance world what being a crew dawg is about. He calls us from Sheppard often to let us know that there is no job compared to being a Boom Operator. He will truly be missed by all.

TIM ABLY MSGT RET.

Tim retired and now works for the MEO our civilian aircraft maintenance. He finally got someone to marry him and now he has lots of kids in a small house and he loves it. It seems that he works so much that we hardly hear from him, but I know we will see him at the symposium, he likes beer!

Altus, OK Flight Safety

Greetings from the Civilian Boom Operator Instructors. I'd like to fill you in on what has transpired at Flight Safety Altus since the last Boom signal was printed. The proposed completion date for our new school house is March 9, 1998. This new building will house two Boom Simulators (BOPTTs), four pilot Operational Flight Trainers (OFTs), classrooms, offices, curriculum development and maintenance. The new building has 64,000 square feet of floor space compared to the 15,000 square feet that we had in the old 4017th building at Castle.

Additionally, a state-of-the-art, 1.3 million dollar building will house the new full-size cargo loading trainer. On September 22, 1997 a KC-135A, minus the wings and tail section departed Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona on the back of a flat bed truck. The truck and fuselage measured 19 feet tall and 105 feet long! The driver (who was the best we've ever seen) had to avoid all highway overpasses due to the height of this cargo. After four days of travel along a very creative route the "Load" finally arrived at Altus. The news media coverage was extensive with many pictures taken from both the ground and the air. The trainer will be used for student hands-on training to include floor loading, palletized operations and cargo evaluations. After successful evaluation completion the student will be cargo loading qualified when they report to their gaining unit.

After waiting many years for a full-size cargo loading trainer it is only fitting to give a brief history of the aircraft.

	99AREFS	Westover AFB, MA	4/2/58 to 28/7/63
	19 OMS	Homestead AFB, FL	28/7/63 to 26/7/68
KC-135A	42 OMS	Loring AFB, ME	26/7/68 to 3/4/92
Aircraft 56-3624	410 OMS	K.I. Sawyer AFB, MI	3/4/92 to 15/9/93
	93 OMS	Castle AFB, CA	15/9/93 to 6/7/94
	AMARC	Davis-Monthan, AZ	6/7/94 to 22/9/97
	Full-size cargo trainer	Altus AFB, OK	26/9/97 to present

The aircraft records show too many TDY's and depot inputs to list on this page. If anyone has flown this aircraft, rest assured it is being treated well by the Flight Safety instructors.

This past year also provided time for the Flight Safety Boom Operators to organize and host a number of social functions for all to enjoy. The annual golf tournament was again a great success and was limited in size only due to the number of people the Quartz Mountain Golf Course could accommodate. An overnight camp out at Lake Altus allowed time to relax with boat rides, water skiing, fishing and plenty of card playing. The Christmas party was enjoyed by all and the ladies efforts in decorating and organizing made this function a huge success.

Here are the highly qualified Altus FlightSafety Boom Instructors who are always working hard to teach and motivate:

<u>NAME and YEARS OF FLYING</u>			
Bill Baker	15	Harvey Price	20
Terry Daffern	15	Rick Raprager	13
George Dion	11	Jim Reese	24
David Gallegos	17	Marty Sabourin	19
Roger Gossett	19	Steve smith	18
		Chuck Stewart	21
		Gene Thomason	17
		Lew Timbrook	17
		Greg Wheeler	21
		Sam Wilson	11
		Phil Zamagne	23

Flight Safety and the Air Force have joined to make the Boom Operators the best trained crew members in the Air Force. For fiscal year 1997 there were 141 Initial Qual students, 3 Requal students, 28 CFIC candidates, 8 CFIC short course candidates, and 9 Faculty Training Course Instructors.

That's about it from beautiful downtown Altus. If you're ever in this part of the country, drop by and see the new facilities. The coffee pot is always on.

Terry Daffern
Boom Operator Instructor

Harvey Price
Chief Boom Operator



Bangor, ME
132 ARS



MAINE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

101ST Air Refueling Wing
132ND Air Refueling Squadron
Bangor, Maine 04401-3099
(207)-990-7341 / 7041
DSN 698-7341 / 7041

Greetings once again from all the MAINEiacs!! Things have been quite busy for us in the Northeast, there have been a lot of changes. Bangor is looking forward to the Boom Conference this year to meet some new friends and tell some stories with some of the older friends. Hopefully we will be sending someone to the Boom Symposium this coming year, I am working on it so I will be attending myself. Well we have lost a few older booms to retirement, but have brought on some new rookies. IF YOU STOP INTO BANGOR MAKE SURE YOU DROP INTO THE BOOM OFFICE AND SAY HI!! WE WILL TRY TO POINT YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. HAVE A GREAT 1998 AND FLY SAFE!!!

SSgt Ed "SPED" Seymour

RETIREES 97/98

CMSGT GLENN M. PREWITT ("SPYDER" "OLD CHIEF")
CMSGT STANTON W. HUNTER ("C-DON" "STAN")
MSGT THOMAS M. JONES ("BEACON")
MSGT JOSEPH F. GIFFORD ("JOE-FRED")
MSGT PETER A. LERETTE ("PETE")
MSGT ARTUR M. STEVENS ("ART")

NAMES FROM THE PAST- BUT STILL AROUND

CMSGT JOSEPH PHILIPPON ("GOOD-TIME CHARLIE")
CMSGT JAMES WINCHESTER ("WINCH" "CUPCAKE")
SMSGT JAMES WOOD ("SKYBIRD")
TSGT KYMPTON LOVELY ("KYMPTON")

MSGT JAMES M. PURCELL (“MIKE”)

Mike left us for the nice weather in Alaska and for the alert tours! GOOD LUCK Mike!
And we'll see you on the road .

SSGT WAYNE T. VINCENT (“BANJO” “WHISKEY VICTOR”)

Wayne has left us to pursue a more fitting career, he's heading out west to become a
COWBOY....YEEE-HA!!!!!!

SSGT SUSAN M. FLAGG (“SUE SLICK”)

Sue had just got back from Altus and informed us that she was getting married, so to
change everything from Flagg to Slick. Then she said that she was moving to be with her husband in Kansas, sorry Clint!
Good Luck Sue!!

NOW FOR THE STARTING LINE-UP

CMSGT MYRON E. REYNOLDS (“SONNY”) Program Manager -- Technician

Sonny has taken the reins of the boom office keeping us all in line. It's been a real full-time job just keeping us booms out
of trouble and still have time to run his Golf school and Driving range.

SMSGT EDWARD J. ST. HEART (“STREET HEART”) Evaluator -- Traditional Guardsman

Eddie is really our most distinctive boom operator with his outspoken attitude and political correctness and his Rodney
Dangerfield look and attitude. His electrical business in the real world has been keeping Eddie quite busy, not a lot of time
for trips or even a golf game.

MSGT CHARLES F. HALSTED (“CHUC”) NCOIC -- Technician

Chuc has been helping the chief out by keeping everything in order in the boom office. For Chuc there are not enough
hours in the day for his workload, you'll most likely see Chuc in the office long after everyone else is gone.

MSGT ROBERT A. PHAIR (“SLICK” “BULL”) STAN/EVAL -- Technician

Slick is the new hard hammer in Stan/Eval since Sonny moved into the hot seat. Congratulations to Bob and his wife
Stephanie on their new arrival a baby boy. (Another Little Slick)

MSGT JAY E. ELLINGSEN (“TATOO” “SMEGGY”) CLT Manager -- Technician

Jay's been real busy getting all the new booms cargo certified and even busier getting the older booms re-qualified, with
all the deployments the unit is going on, he's going to be even busier. Jay also has two Altus booms to get mission
qualified.

MSGT BRUCE J. GEROUX (“BRUCE”) Training Flight Manager -- Technician

Bruce has taken over Training Flight. He has also taken the chief literally when he told Bruce to go climb a mountain! He
has been doing a lot outdoors, like hiking, camping and mountain climbing.

TSGT CARLA L. CYR (“CARLA”) Instructor -- Traditional Guards woman

Carla is one of our night flyers, still working at the Big Red Give-Away-House (Department of Human Services). And
also one of our newest instructor booms. Carla also still flies her own Cessna 140.

TSGT SCOTT M. HESSELTINE (“HYDRO”) -- Traditional Guardsman

Scott is employed for the local power company, where high voltage and he go hand-and-hand. But when he is not there
he's working either out at the guard or his own electrical business.

TSGT JAMES A. SIMMONS (“SWIMMY”) Northeast TTF Boom Operator -- AGR

Jim, our Alaskan transplant finally got hired out at the guard in the T.T.F. Jim is trying to stay out of trouble and so far he
has semi-succeeded.

SSGT EDWARD J. SEYMOUR (“SPED”) Duty Boom -- Technician

Sped just got back from Altus CFIC. He has still been out on the road a lot but Bob has been trying to keep him in the
office.

**NOT SO NEW BOOMS FROM ALTUS....
BUT STILL OUR FIRST MISTAKES!!**

SSGT CHRIS BOUCHER ("CHRIS") -- Traditional Guardsman

Chris is working for James River Paper Company, a local toilet paper company and still gets to fly at night.

SSGT LAURIE CLARK ("LAURIE") -- Traditional Guards woman

Laurie is presently attending school full-time, she is always willing to fly either night mission or a T.D.Y.

SSGT FERGUS KENNY ("FERGY") Scheduling Boom Operator -- AGR

Fergy has taken over the scheduling office since Mike has moved to Alaska. Fergus and his wife Tricia are new parents to a son, Congrats!

SSGT CHERYL MARTIN ("SKID") Duty Boom Operator -- AGR

Cheryl is one of our brand new hires as an AGR. Not to say that she is always in trouble but the chair in front of the chief's desk has her name on it.

SSGT JERRY MARTIN ("LORD HELMET") Duty Boom Operator -- AGR

Jerry is our other brand new hiree as an AGR. Jerry has just had a loss, he just bought an apartment building and just moved his stuff in and one of his tenants decided to make french fries and burned the apartment building to the ground.

SSGT RAYMOND RAUSCHER ("SEVEN") -- Traditional Guardsman

Ray's a bouncer in a local drinking establishment (Holiday Inn's Lounge-Pete & Larry's)
If your T.D.Y. it's the place to go. Ray is also a full-time student at the university.

SRA JASON DUPUY ("ZIPPY") -- Guard Bum

Zippy is our only guard bum now that Pete Lerette retired. He's always on the computer helping out the other booms with programs, I guess he is some kind of computer whiz.

F.N.G.'S FROM ALTUS -- THE BABY BOOMS

SSGT BOB RICE ("CLEM")

SSGT DAN BENNER ("HANS")

SSGT JOHN HANEY ("FRANS")

SSGT JAMES DICKSON ("BUFFY")

SSGT DENNIS BRADLEY ("BALONEY SKIN" "DISNEY")

FORMER BOOM OPERATOR'S THAT MOVED ON

CPT TIM MARQUIS ("TIM") 132ND ARS - NAVIGATOR

CPT ANDY SHUMAN ("SHU") - 132ND ARS - PILOT

1LT RICK THOMPSON ("KID") - 132ND ARS - PILOT

2LT MIKE STEVENS ("LITTLE SHAVER") - SEYMOUR-JOHNSON - PILOT

SEE YA !!!

BIRMINGHAM, AL

106 ARS

To all our fellow boom operators, hello from the Bama Booms. We finished up a long and arduous conversion this year. Very hard work paid off. First, was our ASEV, we did well. The booms were lauded by 21st for excellent CRM. I'd say pretty damn good for our first inspection. They put everything in and it showed. Next, we continued our preparation for the Mother of all inspections, our ORI. We watered their eyes and managed an OUTSTANDING ! All our hard and dedicated work was apparent. Of particular note by the IG was the cargo loading, both deployment and re-deployment phases. Finally, our SIOP inspection, **OPS** did excellent !! So now it's time to take a break. Many good trips are ahead and the plan is to make the best of them.

Well, having said that, It is with a heavy heart that I announce my retirement. Time for me to move on, kinda surplus to requirements if you know what I mean. I will retire in April of 98 with 24 years of working with some of the greatest people God ever put on the face of this earth. I will truly miss you all and I will miss being part of the best career field in the service. A special thanks to our brothers in Meridian and Knoxville. Throughout this conversion Ed Mikell was always there for assistance and advice. And that rib eatin, no house, walkin the dog, Jeff Dyer, Thank you my friend for all your kind and caring assistance. This, by no means is meant to exclude any one else. I know your out there, thank you.

We lost one and gained two since our last input. And we have some new instructors as well.

Once again, the BAMA BOOMS are:

TECHNICIANS

SMSgt Nate Wilds, IRPM

SMSgt Dickie Drake, New instructor and our STAN-EVAL guy.

MSgt Caroline Bearden, Scheduling.

MSgt Butch , CLUTCH CARGO, Turner. New instructor and Cargo Load Manager

TSgt Len Naugher. New instructor and assistant Cargo Load Manager.

TSgt Paul, "any body got a spare twinkie?", Hudson. DOX/Plans.

AGR'S

MSgt Herschel, aka biscuit, Young. Current Ops

MSgt Rick, "have I got a story for you" Dillard. New Instructor in Current Ops

TSgt Phil Lee, Training Flight Instructor

GUARD FOLKS

CMSgt Mary Washburn, Boom Manager

MSgt Don Doyle, Knows every insurance agent in town

TSgt Scott Naden. Hey! Wanna buy a flight lunch ?

TSgt Elizabeth Manning, New Mom.

TSgt A. J. Sharit, New Home owner

SSgt Jerry Davis, Get Your tires here, Get em while there hot! Instructor Boom

SSgt Steve Hay, Some people have all the luck

SSgt Shane Rogers, FNG.

SSgt Mark Bryant, FNG.

Nate Wilds, SMSgt, ALANG
Inflight Refueling Program Manager
"BOOM STOWED" 1974-1998

Birmingham, AL
DCMC PEMCO

Greetings from Alabama the Beautiful. Despite what you may have heard the flight test business is still active down here. For those of you that don't know, there are 2 active duty KC-135 aircrews stationed here at Birmingham. We fly all models of -135 aircraft.

This is our 22nd year of accident free flying. This is also our 22nd year in the same old run down building. Come up and say Hi when you drop off an airplane. DSN 697-4157, 59
Here is our current line up:

TSgt (MSgt select) - Michael D. Davis - Beale Bandit, Kadena Free - Styler, and 9th ACCS beachcomber.

TSgt (Mister select) - Tony L. Rhoden - Robins Black Knights, Minot, and Offut

PS. Tony was suppose to get this out earlier but he was probably getting the windshield of his vehicle fixed after a love spat with one of his many girlfriends. Tony has GEICO on speed dial.

Michael D. Davis TSgt USAF
Superintendent FlightOperations



Chicago, IL 108 ARS



Home of the Boomer's Prayer

Another year has past, and we are another year closer to our big move down to Scott AFB, IL. As we get closer to our move we are saying goodbye to old friends and welcoming new one's who will make the move with us.

This past year has been a busy one, just like everyone else. We had an ORI back in April, and despite our support function we teamed up with our maintenance side and got an excellent. On a side note, if you can avoid Salina Kansas in April, DO IT! We also did numerous Guard lift and Business Efforts, along with a rotation to Pisa. On top of that we participated in an exercise with our future partners in NATO, Poland.

We are looking forward to another year filled with more fun, like channel missions, and a possible unit deployment to Europe. Nothing like bringing bean counters on a TDY to ruin it.

As always, if any of you ever pass through Chicago, be sure and stop in to say hello. And anyone with an interest in moving to Scott, bring a resume.

Joe Long
Weekender and loving it

Our Boom Line up for this year:

Ssgt Brian Allendorfer: Brian is a part timer who just returned from Altus earlier in the summer. When he's not Booming, he's sucking in tar fumes from his roofing business.

CMsgt Roy Balsamo: Roy is still here wearing Chief. When Roy is not over at Northwest Airlines he's at the Guard reviewing the upper limit for fighter A/R. Many of us are planning his retirement so we can be promoted.

SMSgt Sammy Gerros: Sam is our Technician DOV Boom. He and his wife are eagerly awaiting the end of Ken Phillip's career. (as we all are)

TSgt Matt Glover: Matt is loving life as a technician. He is also wearing his tech stripes proudly. Matt is taking over training from one of the finest booms to ever grace the technician system.

MSgt Jeff Groch: Jeff is one of our top weekenders, as well as working for United, Jeff enjoys dabbling in the stock market. The only time he's not thinking about stocks is when he's refueling.

TSgt Dom Guerrieri: Dom is another one of our top weekenders. On his time away from the Guard, Dom enjoys selling wine. He's working on a sequel to Men are From Mars Women are From Venus. He is one of the most sensitive men I know.

MSgt Faruza Kalaba: When she's not Booming, Faruza enjoys wintering in Florida. She has more flying time these days just from the commute.

MSgt Pete Lagioia: Pete is holding down the fort in the vault. It's a tough life as an AGR, but he still finds time to work at Fed Ex when most normal people are sleeping.

TSgt Joe Long: Joe has left the technician ranks and crossed the thin blue line. Joe is now a weekender and attending the Chicago Police academy. The OG has issued an order forbidding Joe to handle any squadron plunger.

TSgt Susan Luciani: As an AGR Susan keeps the squadron office running like a well oiled machine. She is also studying to be a math teacher. She's looking forward to multiplying with her young students.

SSgt Pat McCauley: Pat just returned from Altus in the spring time. He spends more time at the Guard than at the Fire House, and he's not even taking any extra time off.

SSgt Sherry McNamara: Party Party Woo Woo

TSgt James Miranda: Rock is one of the Chicagoland's leading financial analysts. He's also the head planner of the Chief's retirement party.

SMsgt Ken Phillips: Ken is our senior AGR. He's also our "program manager" Ken is the consummate ROAD.

MSgt Pat Quaid: Pat is showing Joe the ropes at the CPD, he is also the author of "The Boomer's Prayer"

TSgt Bob Rizzo: Rizz is our AGR Cargo loading manager. He recently bought a house out in the sticks with his special friend and crew chief. We expect her to pop the question soon.

TSgt Rick Spejewski: Spooze is the proud father of a little girl, he's already shopping for convents. He and his wife also just opened up a postal service shop. We think he was instructed to do so by the mother ship.

MSgt Keith Wagner: Keith is our technician scheduler. Keith has also been spotted in the local newspapers, refueling the T-Birds and just being himself. Rumor has it that Tiger Beat magazine wants to interview him next.

TSgt John Weber: John is now working for Fed Ex, the strains of being a guard bum were too much so he had to finally get a job.

SSgt Scott Heim: We said good-bye to Scott this year. His duties as a Tinley Park Policemen didn't mesh well with boom operating. Shortly after that Scott said good-bye to his pinky finger. Not to worry though, the docs reattached it.

SSgt Jay Heimann: Jay will be joining us as a part timer later in October. We look forward to welcoming Jay.

Davis-Monthan, AZ

12 AF

Greetings from the "Old Pueblo"

The weather is warm, sun is bright (I have to wear shades) and the fairways are cut. Sounds too good to be true....it is!! I'm never here to enjoy the good life. Words according to Willie Nelson..."on the road again". Busy with Formal Visit, SAVs, Informal Visits, conferences, and all the other stuff that goes along with the Stan/Eval business.

I'm still working with all the different aircraft in ACC and 12 Air Force. I have learned to do the staff work and paperwork that's required. Just wish I could get out more to fly !! My "thanxz" go out to the units that I fly with.

We had a very busy year with a lot of changes. We gained and lost the C-130s, welcomed the G-Tact (air and ground controllers) folks, and said a "good-bye" to a lot of excellent people in this office. It seems the more things change the more they stay the same !

If you get out this way for a Business Effort and need a extra Boom Operator or Tanker Pilot, Maj Hertenstein and I will always be happy to tear ourselves away from our desk. Until then a cold one is always ready!!

On the air waves and keep the right side up.

MIKE BAUER, MSgt, USAF
12 AF/OV

Dyess, TX
317 ALCS

WE AT THE 317 ALCS WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY HELLO TO OUR UNION MEMBERS. FOR YOUR INFORMATION WE AT THE 317 ARE FAIRLY NEW TO THIS GAME. OUR NEW KC-135 TEAM MEMBERS ARE MSGT VERN HARVEY FROM FAIRCHILD AND SSGT JAMES BAUTISTA THAT JUST JOINED US FROM McCONNELL. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, MSGT DON HESS OUR RESIDENT KC-10 REP FORMELY AT BARKSDALE. HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE OUT IN THE SYSTEM. ANY QUESTIONS OR IF ANYONE OWES YOU MONEY CONTACT US AT DSN# 461-3230, 4903

MSgt Vern Harvey
MSgt Don Hess
SSgt James Bautista

Edwards, CA

452 FLTS

MSgt Don Cash is still the "head cheese" here. He has even changed his name to "Cappy" or "Slick 50" (depending on who you talk to). Seems he had a little problem with his oil cap on the trip home from work one day. He single-handedly established a new California smog record, an oil slick larger than the Exxon Valdez and a complete oil change all in the same day! He has also just about completed his Bachelors Degree from Southern Illinois University and the degree isn't even in automotive repair!

MSgt Paul "Cruise" Pillar just pinned on MSgt last year. He seems to stay busy with the MPRS program and his new son. When we are graced by his presence, he sure looks sharp (tap, tap, tap of the metal boot taps). He sure would make good IG material! We still don't know if he has ever refueled the B-2 before even though he has been here a while (inside joke- just ask him). Only three classes left for his degree from Embry-Riddle.

SSgt Dave "Frailly" Francey is perceived by the squadron as having too much time on his hands. So, he has taken on several additional duties (like the human spell checker). He really doesn't have a lot of time but gets all the work done that the squadron gives him. Dave even logged a SR-71 "save" at the Oshkosh Airshow last year. He has started working on his Masters Degree from Embry-Riddle.

SSgt Todd Cole is the young guy here. He stays busy keeping the other booms out of trouble (by doing all their work). Seems his hands have gotten so good they have stopped calling him "Skippy" and that nickname has returned to its rightful owner Chief Roy "Big Skippy" Schufft. He is also completing his Bachelors Degree from Embry-Riddle.

SSgt James D. Francey and SSgt Todd N. Cole

The New and Improved Air Refueling Boom is for Foreign Military Sales to the KC-135 foreign customers. The boom is an improvement directed towards reliability and maintainability. Initial flight testing was conducted in August, 1997, at Pease International Airport with the New Hampshire Air Guard. The preliminary test results showed some handling difficulties at the lower airspeeds with A-10 and C-130 receivers but, there was improved handling with the C-5 receiver. The handling difficulties are from the increased weight of the boom due to the manufacturing design of the outer structural tube. The outer structural tube is of a single piece extrusion as opposed to the current riveted segments currently in use. This design weighs approximately 180 pounds more but has maintenance access doors to key areas versus having to remove several panels to accomplish the same task. Boeing has made several improvements to the design, aerodynamically, and appears to have improved the low speed handling qualities in free air. Testing is scheduled to resume at the Arizona Air Guard facilities in February.

Donald R. Cash, MSgt, USAF
DSN 525-4100

Eielson, AK

168 ARS

Hello again from all of us "Way Up North." Since this Signal is coming out at the beginning of the year, we'll take this time to wish all of you and yours a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. Considering the pace that all of our units seem to be "enjoying", I think we can use all the good luck we can get. It was a great year here at the 168 ARW especially due to the fact that so many of you were able to come up here and participate in the annual Cope Thunder exercise. Last year was the first time all Tanker operations were conducted out of the 168th Squadron Ops building, and we hope the visiting units share our thoughts that it was the best Cope yet. If nothing else, it gave us a chance to get the Guard, Reserve, and Active Refuelers together and do some face-to-face. Two of our finest, SMS Bob Hauer and TSgt Mario McGee, are the primary reason this new way of doing business came off so well. But, there certainly was plenty of behind the scenes help, and most of it was from our wonderful complement of Booms. Soon to be named below. A note for all of you looking for someone you thought went to the Finest Tanker Unit in the World (that would be us), some of our folks are computer Unfriendly and did not fancy the idea of their name being on a web page. So, don't hesitate to give a call if you're looking for some poor lost Boom. Well, like all of you, we're busier than ever, so down to business. Here's our line-up:

MSGT Mark J. McGrath: Still holding down the fort as the new Chief Boom. His hair was just a little gray around the edges two years ago, but now....well, let's just say he knows what it's like to have kids. Lots of kids. He loves it.

MSGT Ron Merbach: Here is the scheduling guru of all time. All Ron has to do is pass his hand over the schedule and amazing things happen. He has an excellent scheduler-in-training and we should continue to keep the part-timers happy for a long time. Alert helps too.

MSGT Hauer: The Mushing Man is our Cope Thunder master mind. Bob is another amazing individual. His ability to handle ten complex issues simultaneously is a thing to see. So, come up for a Cope and bare witness. Bob is a handler in the famous Yukon Quest, the only real sled dog race in Alaska.

MSGT Robert "Bob" Edgett: Everyone knows Bob, and it's hard not to like him. He does his best to keep us entertained as the Stan/Evil guy. No slack here. Bob still has visions of putting on some weight, and stoking the fire in his cabin as a full-time occupation, but maybe we can keep him for another year.

MSGT Bridget Tamburino:

MSGT Steve Forge: This is a bit premature, but he should be a MSGT by the time this comes out. He should have been one a year ago. Our newest scheduler and the best Fuels Manager imaginable. Steve doesn't miss a detail, just ask any of his students.

TSGT Mario McGee:

Those are our Full-timers, and these super traditionals round out the flight:

SrA Robert Carr: When you come to visit, make sure you call Robert first. As a B&B operator, he will see to your needs or recommend someone who can. Robert does his best to stay current, even taking time off work to fly in the day. His Christmas wish of us having night time flights still hasn't appeared.

TSGT Todd Cook: Todd was an AGR up until Jan when he decided to give the island life a try. He is living in southeast AK doing some teaching and we're sure lots of fishing and hunting. We miss his pushing some of us to the gym everyday, and it shows!

TSGT Paul Nunemann:

MSGT James "Mike" Purcell: Just arrived from the Maniacs and seems to not even notice the cold. That may be due to the fact we've kept him on the road quite a bit too. We're glad to have a fresh perspective and all of Mike's experience.

SrA Christy Rossiter: This is one of our real consistent players. With a full time job and school, she still pulls her share. Thank heavens this is the last semester she takes accounting, set of books has become a critical factor in planning roller missions.

TSGT "Butch" Stein: If any of you have been here for Cope and rented a car, you should either know Butch or send him a Christmas card. He IS the rental car man in Fairbanks. The folks with the commercial that says, "not exactly" dare not compare their service to this guy. He serves the customer! And he brings snickers bars on his flights. Not too bad.

SrA "Foy" VonDolteren: Currently in the police academy down in Anchorage. We would say more but he could be learning more than we want him to about the law. They promised us in the interview he would only get one rubber bullet for the first year. Good Luck Foy!

Those our are current and qualified part-timers. We expect TSGT Kauriee Headrick, "you ain't going TDY" back from CCTS next month along with SSGT Curt "so, would you build me a log cabin too" Gipson. Everything we hear about their training is good and we are really happy to have them onboard.

SSGT Pat Kerber is in CCTS as we write and doing well also.

SrA Tanna Carter: A former intel person, she leaves for CCTS next month.

That's everyone that wanted their name in lights. We do have a great bunch of Booms here and are happy to have the busiest Ops Tempo around. You know what we mean. But!!!

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD BOOMS!!! If you're interested, please don't hesitate to call Mark.
DSN 317 377-3424/1620

We are working the Symposium and hope to see all of you there, here at Cope, or in the pattern somewhere.

Fly Safe.

Very Big P.S. THANKS TO JIM EDEN FOR PUSHING TO GET THIS SIGNAL OUT. WE'RE ALL BUSY, AND HE REMINDS US OF WHAT'S A REAL PRIORITY. Thanks Jim.

Fairchild, WA

92 ARS

The 92D ARS Blackhawks have had a very busy and exciting year (but then who hasn't).

We started off the things living the good life in tent city at Prince Sultan AB, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. After two or so weeks of adjustment to canvas walls and lots of dirt, it seemed just like home. Fifty-three days later we were back, just in time to start several months of short notice Coronet taskings, with some Atlantic/Pacific Express missions thrown in. Got to go to some neat places (just ask Jeff Bishop about Thailand). Things cooled down a little during the summer, but the pace is picking up as we speak.

Our manning is finally up to speed, with lots of "baby booms" to keep the instructors busy. Its not a bad thing as it sweeps some of the cobwebs from our minds and gives us a chance to actually, no-kidding, instruct again.

Here's our current line-up:

Chief Boom - MSgt Mike Hammond

A Flight

SSgt Mark Reuter - Flight Super - Bought a yellow, Ducati motorcycle, but we let him stay anyway
SSgt (S) Rick Recaido (Instructor) - Training Flight - New SSgt, but the money's already spoken for
A1C Jeff Bishop - Want to know all about Thailand? Just ask
A1C Chris Mcgee - One half of the Bobsey Twins
Amn Robert Long - The other half

B Flight

MSgt Glen Forward - Flight Super - Two Decades at Fairchild and ready to take on his two new "baby booms"
TSgt (S) Todd Fairfield - Should be here mid-January
SSgt Lou Rushano (Instructor) - Mr. Computer trying to become Mr Scheduler?
SrA Derek Larson - Going Palace Chase in January - Gonna be a cop again and some kind of Air Force commando on the weekend
SrA John Baugham - New guy, should be here and ready to be abused any day now
A1C Mike Sapp - A man for all seasons: between hiking, framing and stained glass classes, canoeing and everything else, has little time for the USAF (just kidding, is a super troop)

C Flight

TSgt Colon Miller - Flight Super - Never a hair out of place, has a big future in interior design
SSgt Jay Stiles - Mr TDY has been grounded due to too many exotic trips
SSgt Bert Fristad - "Bad Luck Bert" has more boom malfunctions than the whole Boom force combined
SrA James Dickson (Instructor) - Glad to out of wing scheduling and going TDY to all those exotic places
A1C Jason Lancaster - Just back from SAAM trip impressing a plane full of generals, super troop

Fairchild, WA

93 ARS

Hello again from the 93d ARS, Fairchild AFB, WA. This will be the last Signal input I will make. I've put my papers in and can't wait for June to get here to start my terminal leave. You probably got a good idea of how I feel about what's going on in the career field by the letter that I wrote in December to the Air Force Times. Unfortunately only a portion of what I wrote was published. The field is being ransacked and unless we are more vocal the outlook can't be good. I hate to sound so negative but we have to wake up.

Here's what is left of the 93d. The numbers are decent right now, but wait until June. We will have lost most of our instructors by then. Fortunately I have some very good young booms that will step into some big shoes. But I am sure they will do the job. Booms always find a way.

A Flight Flight Supervisor - TSgt Eric Choker - Retiring in March. HYT. I think we've trained most of the gunner out of him. He's doing a great job for us. He'll be missed.

SrA Ken Abbott - A seasoned youngster. Finished his degree in math. Too bad he is planning to bail.

MSgt Norm Arnold - A cross-trainee from England. Just got fully qualified while we were in SWA and came right over with the 96th to replace us. What a way to get welcomed into the job. Will take over the flight in March.

A1C Nate Hackney - A new kid on the block. I'm not sure if his mom knows he stays out after dark.

A1C Tom Long - Brand new. Just started mission ready training.

B Flight Flight Supervisor - TSgt Larry Westwood - Just in from England. Had to retrain him that USAFE and AMC do things differently. Getting settled into training flight.

SrA Jesus Tarango - Still working hard. We sent him early to CFIC and he did a bang-up job. Another boom that will be lost to DOS.

A1C Jake Malone - Our inflight hatch installer. Saved a mission while over SWA. I'm not sure if I could have done it. He's another looking for a way out.

SrA Jason Beauchamp - Swapped a new airman with the 96th for him. Newly upgraded to instructor. Seems up to the task.

C Flight Flight Supervisor - SSgt Charles Armstrong - A non-instructor doing a great job. Came to us from Nellis as a cross trainee. Hope to get him upgraded early.

SSgt Pat Bennett - Another cross trainee. Do we see a trend here? Has gotten just about every malfunction in the book.

SrA Chris Wilkins - Finished with his degree. Waiting to see if he gets to become an officer. Working really hard. If he doesn't get it I'm sending him to Altus.

SrA Phil Dalrymple - DOSing in June.

A1C Brad Lampel - No longer the new guy in the squadron. Doing a fine job.

Those are the current booms (for now) in the 93d. We had some losses over the last year I need to mention.

SSgt Rocky Rollins - Instructor at Altus now. Our newest (Long) had him for an instructor. We'll see.

SSgt Charles Mix - Got promoted and cross trained at the same time. Was medically disqual'd. Thought we might get him back but he's in contracting now.

SrA Rick Fried - DOSd and is going to school.

SSgt Bob Boettcher - NON VOLUNTEERED to TALCE at McGuire. There are some big scratch marks in the concrete outside the squadron.

SrA Kristy Kilmer - Now at Travis TALCE enjoying herself.

SSgt Larry Lewis - Now at Kadena

Well, that's it. Since this is the last time I'll get to say anything in the Signal, I'll close by saying I have had a good time as a boom. I can't think of anything else that I could have done over the last twenty two years that could have been any better. To those of you that are continuing your careers I wish you the best of luck. It will take some hard work and even a few knocks to get the big guys on the hill to listen to our problems, but it will be worth it.

JAMES D. ZARKOS, SMSgt, USAF
93D ARS, Chief Boom

Fairchild, WA

96 ARS

Hello Booms,

I get the distinct pleasure to submit the first input to the "Signal" from the new 96th ARS.

Just three years old, the 96th has had a memorable stand-up. First was a last minute tasking for the entire squadron to deploy to Bahrain, where our booms learned to drive forklifts and partake in a non-stop schwarma feast (what's with the weird dreams after eating schwarmas?). On the heels of that month long trip was an ETTF where most of us spent Christmas in a five star hotel in Antaylya, Turkey. Our next adventure took us to Saudi where the uninitiated were initiated. After SWA came our biggest tasking so far, the first AEF in which tankers deployed as part of the force. The 96th broke new ground in Azraq Jordan, supporting fighters enforcing the Iraqi southern no-fly zone, operating from a bare base, and I do mean "bare". Our next trip is Saudi during the Christmas/New Year time frame (notice a trend here?). In between trips to exotic locations we have had the pleasure to be the lead unit in the last ORI two years ago, and since we did such a bang-up job we get to do it again next fall. Hey it's the 96th, where good deals go to die! Whining aside, it's been a lot of work but we play hard too, thanks to the likes of Jay Lively (92 OGV) and Jerry Swanson. They keep a bright light on the horizon for us in the trenches.

Here's what the 96th looks like today, many changes in the near future.

CHIEF BOOM-MSgt. Wally Tennyson: I think the 92 ARW plans it's exercises around my schedule to ensure my full participation. Still lives for Oct-Nov grouse hunting. Looking for a Scott assignment soon.

A-FLIGHT SUPER-SSgt. Todd Corey: Family man Todd. Spends most of his time in Idaho. Bought a Mercedes to go along with that hot Harley. Looking to separate in April.

B-FLIGHT SUPER-SSgt. Jerry Swanson: Heart and soul of the 96th, too bad he's going to OGT. Swany has worked harder than most (those of you who know him know what I'm talking about). Keeps busy with his family and church. He found his biological mother recently and has been walking on cloud nine with his new found family.

C-FLIGHT SUPER-SSgt. Dom Peterson: The Dommer. He has taught us all the two known versions of the "boom cheer". Dom is always an attraction at any occasion where libations are consumed. He still entertains us with the fake puke bit. (It backfired last boom X-mas party, he actually puked in Walkers \$25,000 van). He has a little son and another child on the way, those TDY's paid off !!! He plans on putting in a package for Altus next summer.

SSgt. Scott Walker: Had to trade that van in after Dom's incident, moved up to a new Mercedes. He has turned into a computer geek lately, he promises it won't last long. Scott is the Kareoke king of the 96th. Don't plan on going to his house without belting out a tune or two. He had the visiting Turk's singing like bluebirds, well not quite. Also looking south to Altus.

SRA Jeff Cathey: Geddy boom. He is still the same quiet sort. Geddy has been one of our most dependable guys, always is available with a smile to boot. A pleasure to work and socialize with.

SRA Ben Davis: Ben recently was the wing CFC guy. Too many appointments to fly. He says it was a lot of work, but I wonder. Before CFC he was our Safety man, keeping us all safe from ourselves, yeah right. Ben has been at Fairchild longer than any of us and that's just the way he likes it.

SRA Shawn Wagner: Crazy Cooter. Shawn has been our "Flavor of the Month" hobbist. First was 4x4's then RC planes then guns then dirt bikes now it's RC cars.

We don't know how his wife handles it. One thing is for sure, he is not boring to talk too. He is also a proud new daddy to a little Cooter look alike.

SRA Walter Hinton: Pooh Bear. Walt has come buy that name during a TDY, I don't think any of us really want to know the story. Walt has been outstanding in the squadron. A new instructor, he has been called upon by other squadron's to fly some of their sorties due to his demeanor and professionalism. A new daddy too.

A1C John Lavin: John is another quiet type until he starts to talk, then you better be ready to listen because he talks at rate that is almost humanly possible to understand ! A quick talker but a good JEEP boom.

A1C J.L. Smith: J.L. is the reigning “prince of puke”. The cow bell was humbly worn at the last “animals in the woods” retreat. J.L. has been a most enthusiastic baby boom and has acquired more TDY days in the last 6 months than all of us. An all around good guy.

Amn Chris Solomon: The “King” has been busy getting ready to deploy with us to Saudi. He too has been TDY and likes it. A couple of trips to the desert will kill that boyish enthusiasm !!!!

Amn Brendan Jacobson: Brendan has been with us for only a few weeks but is almost at home. He is usually hanging around asking what he can do next for his mission qualification, he wants to go to SWA; we’ll see what we can do young man....

INBOUNDS

SSgt, Mike Armstrong: Cop cross-trainee from Korea. He signed in and took leave.

SRA Ernest Burns: F-15 Muzzle @\$%&* from Alaska. Nice guy, looking forward to his return from Altus in April.

MSgt. Wally Tennyson
96 ARS, FAFB, WA
DSN 657-4163

Fairchild, WA

97 ARS

Bacon Bits Newsletter

Hello from the 97th ARS. Another year is gone and we have gone from an all instructor boom corps to an almost all baby boom corps. With no end in sight for the heavy workloads that we all have to share, we are fortunate to have picked up some real go-getters that are eager to get things done. We have also been blessed with a Chief select. Be sure to congratulate CMSgt (S) Steve Bacon when you see him.

CMSgt (S) Bacon - Has to reformulate the plan for the future after the good news. The new booms will remain in good hands for some years to come.

MSgt Kevin Watton - Keeping things running smooth in B-flight.

TSgt Tim Clark - C-flight supervisor who will be enroute to Altus soon. Has a bad case of Giant Pumpkin Fever.

SSgt Mark Villacis - A-flight Supervisor and has the coolest radio voice on base.

SSgt (S) Matt Shaffer - Squadron Stan Eval. Our resident alpha geek proudly displays his pocket protector.

SrA Alecia Judd - Bakes the best cookies on base when she isn't blazing up and down the Spokane River on her new Jet Ski.

SrA Greg Berry - Brand new cross-trainee still at Altus.

A1C Jesse Olhiser - Mr. Auto Mechanic. If he isn't busy fixing cars, he's busy wrecking them so he can fix them again.

A1C Jayson Chatham - Loves to borrow Jesse's car so he doesn't have to buy his own. Always sure to bring it back on empty.

A1C Benjamin Boone Neal - Our resident Panamanian street survival instructor and cultural liaison man.

A1C Vince Estes - Our resident stock market expert and future CEO of Coca-Cola.

A1C Brad Kesterson - That boy ain't right!

A1C Matt Hamblin - Purple hair, baggy pants around his ankles, homeless girls living in his dorm room. I guess Kesterson isn't so bad after all!

A1C Frank Warner - Pipe smokin', snow skiing, wild man from Colorado.

A1C Mark Schlimgen - This boy is from Texas and damn proud of it!

Amn Tina Roy - Sassy gal, not afraid to tell it like it is. Likes Harleys and bodybuilding.

Fairchild, WA

98 ARS

Hello from Woody's world,

In case any of you hadn't heard yet this will probably be the last input from us. The powers that be decided to eliminate one of the 92 ARW squadrons and guess who's getting the ax. We will probably close our doors anywhere from March 98 up to Sept 98. This is a good and bad. Bad because one of the most unique squadrons in the Air Force will no longer be around and the probability of a Saudi (again!) deployment goes up for the remaining four squadrons. Good because the remaining four squadrons will go up by about two crews apiece (no more augmenting Saudi deployments) and maybe I'll get a break from this Shirt stuff for awhile. Other than that things around the 98th are going pretty well. The big topic of conversation right now is where will all our people end up. A lot of our people have already received orders and like I said earlier the rest of us will be integrated into the remaining squadrons. Hope to see some of you out on the road or if you happen to be in the neighborhood stop in and say hello and have a cold one!

Rich Kozak, MSgt(Sel)
98 ARS, Superintendent

Chief Boom MSgt (Sel) Rich Kozak- Still waiting to pin on.

A Flt TSgt Joe Rieker- Stepped to Tech. Thinks the squadron can't live without him. Ask him.

SSgt Pat Ingram- Recent cross trainee from life support. Just couldn't leave the 98th

A1C Steve Olson- Hard charger. Trying to get a guard job in Illinois.

A1C Justin Winks- Assistant UDM. The person you hate to see.

A1C Matt Hunsinger- One of our newest booms. "Outstanding Performance" out of Altus.

B Flt TSgt Randy Crittendon- Waiting for a KC-10 training date. Stan Eval guru.

SSgt(sel) Bruce Perkins- Latest addition to the fleet.

SrA Ted Buit- Lots of toys. Wish he could trade one of them in for a Staff stripe.

A1C Josh Rindall- "Vanilla Ice"

A1C Jason Burianek- Lots of TDY time. AKA "Brainiak"

C Flt SSgt Mike McPhee- Jimmy crack corn (you know the rest). Next WWF champ.

SSgt Rick Geraci- Former Cop. Found the scheduling revolving door.

A1C Tom Ireland- Hides out by staying TDY.

Former Woodpeckers:

MSgt Vern Harvey- My predecessor. Back home at Dyess, TX with the TALCE.

MSgt Mike Crews- Got his wish to stay TDY. TALCE job at Little Rock.

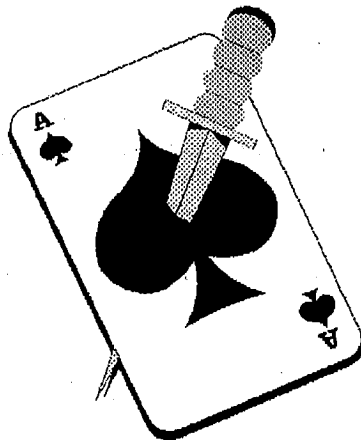
SSgt Dave Padilla- Had enough TDY's. Gone to CCTS at Altus.

SSgt Dan Whetzel- Non Vol to TALCE at McGuire.

SSgt Geoff Potter- The other non vol to TALCE at McGuire. Wish we didn't have to lose him. Wish him and his wife the best.

Fairchild, WA

116 ARS



**WASHINGTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD
141st AIR REFUELING WING
FAIRCHILD AFB, WA.**

Greetings to all from the "Guard Guys" (and Gals) at Fairchild! Another year has passed and as you all know, the pace just keeps picking up. As the saying goes; "the only constant is change". This year, our unit has the distinct privilege of getting to host our "friends" from the IG team for a fun-filled ORI. As can be expected, "Pinging Warrior" has been implemented. We just finished with the SIOP generation portion in November (overall Outstanding by the way) and we finish up with the Conventional Mobility portion in September 98. This year we are combining with the 92nd ARW for this inspection. It sounds like the upcoming year will bring new deployments for us; most notably of which will be another trip to "Sand Land". There's not a whole lot of personnel changes up here. We have one new "Baby" down at Altus and it sounds as though we are going to be able to get three more positions (a Master, Tech. and Staff) so that should help out on deployments and getting a few deserving people another stripe. (Chief, did I mention all my PME is complete?). We're still flying the "Mighty E-model" up here and it looks like we will be for the foreseeable future. If anyone would like to trade 12 of their R-models, we'd be more than happy to take them off your hands! That's about it from the Great State of Washington, GO SEAHA..... never mind. See you out there in the wonderful world of AMC! Next time you're in Spokane, stop by and we'll take you over to one of the active duty squadrons and buy you a beer!

Here's our current line-up:

CMSgt Rich Weatherly (WXLY)- EB, Technician, Inflight Refueling Program Manager (GOD)

SMSgt Glenn Nelson (Full Nelson)- EB, Technician, Stan/Eval (When's Weatherly retiring?)

SMSgt Ray King (Radon)- EB, Partimer, City Manager (Father of two booms)

MSgt Andrew Isaacson (Ike)- EB, Technician, Tactics (Enlisted Aircrewman of the Century)

MSgt Bruce Olson (Oly)- EB, Technician, Current Operations (Most -135 hours in the unit 7,500)

MSgt Dan Moriarty (Disco Dan)- EB, Technician, Scheduling (Appaloosa Horse Club President)

MSgt Sam Via (Pancho)- IB, Technician, Crew Comm. (Former Postman; Going "Postal" soon)

TSgt Don Roberson (Roby-Won-Knowbee)- MB, Partimer, City Manager (2 months; 2 near misses)

TSgt Chris Nordlund (“Nordo-36 Heavy”)- MB, Partimer, Salesman (aka “Loud Boom” no radio required)

TSgt Rich Visintainer (Low Vis)- MB, Partimer, Truck Driver (Wanna go golfing?)

Tsgt Dane Porter (Stain)- EB, Technician, Training NCOIC, CLT Manager (Best Boom in the Unit cause I wrote this thing!)

TSgt Richard Downing (Tim Dog)- MB, Partimer, Deputy Sheriff (Come on guys, am I doing a good job?)

TSgt Molly Baldwin (Golly Miss Molly)- MB, AGR, Crew Comm. (Soon to step down a notch and join the pilots)

TSgt Tim Flock (What The)- IB, AGR, Scheduling (New Instructor, Baby-Maker 5 so far!)

SSgt Sheri Papham (Oh Canada!)- IB, Partimer, College Student (In love with a Canadian T-33 guy)

SSgt Lance Dahl (Baby Huey)- MB, Partimer, Fireman (Tell some more of those gross fireman stories!)

SSgt Melinda Hirst (Mel)- MB, Guardbum, New Mom (Married to one of those officer guys)

SSgt Wayne Nelson (Half Nelson)- MB, Temp. Tech/AGR, Logistics (Can I get on permanent ?)

SSgt Steve Tilford (George Clooney)- MB, Partimer, Alaska Airline’s Mech. (Nice haircut Steve!)

SSgt Steve Waddell (F.N.G)- UB, Partimer, Spokane Chiefs Hockey (Came from Life-Support, too new to give him the business)

That’s It!

Until Next Time,

Dane A. Porter, TSgt, WA ANG
116 ARS/DOT

Forbes, KS
117 ARS



KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD
117 AIR REFUELING SQUADRON
FORBES FIELD, TOPEKA, KANSAS



Greetings to all Boom Operators from the Land Of Oz (North). The Air Guard is alive and well in Kansas, may the E-Models live forever. We have been very busy as everyone else with back to back TDY trips all over the world. Here is a list of the Kansas Coyote Boom Operators.

CMSgt Mike Pierson - Chief Boom, trying to keep sense of humor and wits even though the younger booms are putting him to the test.

SMSgt Ken Griffin - CLM/Training, a refuge from Alabama and trying to get back someday, still thinks the South (a.k.a. Alabama's ball teams) shall rise again.

SMSgt Steve Stucky - Stan/Eval, he wants everyone to do it the same way- go hunting on Tuesday and Thursday, fishing on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

MSgt Harvey Deweese - Fire Fighter, recently made Captain in the Topeka Fire Department.

MSgt Keith Fulton - Current Ops, our stealth Boom, goes about his business and you hardly know he's there.

MSgt Chuck Hanna - Scheduler, trying to keep everyone happy. Will go on any TDY just so someone else won't have to go.

MSgt Ron May - CRM/Pubs Manager, works in Stan/Eval also subscribes to the standardized schedule of hunting and fishing theory.

MSgt Lee Perry - CLI/Training/Editor, keeps coming up with ideas on how to make things new and improved.

TSgt Marvin Hittle - Traditional "Staff Boom", if you got the days and dollars he'll be right there.

TSgt Mark Mertel - Scheduler, Mark is the original "TDY Hog". He spends most of his time on the road and the rest at home "with a bottle of Merlot and call it a health night."

TSgt Jim Spurlock - CBT Guru, our resident stock car driver and Denver Bronco fan. You would think he is related to Elway.

TSgt Mark Sweeney - Mark works for Ma Bell. He just became the proud father of a baby girl.

TSgt Mac Torrez - works with the Highway Patrol. He recently completed a world tour including a stint at McGee Ty High.

TSgt Tim Treinen - Tim came to us from Offutt and if you need some insurance he can help plan for the future.

SSgt Darin Coash - our resident drug authority, been accepted to Pharmacy school at University of Kansas.

SSgt Brandi Dodds - works with handicap children, she has really helped in the Boom Shop.

SSgt Jamy Dunbar - looks like a Marine and talks like a Marine but soft as a two day old puppy.

SSgt Brian Thomas - another Boom looking to get ahead by attending University of Kansas. His major is in Human Science (the study of girls).

SRA Trey Forrest - our "Baby Boom" is attending CCTS at Altus.

SRA Matt Miltz - Matt likes to play golf for charity purposes, mostly when he is in need of TDY cash.

NON-CURRENT BOOM OPERATORS:

CMSgt (Ret) Joe Breedlove - still in the area working for the US Post Office printing office.

CMSgt (Ret) Gus Parsel -works for FEMA, just wants to help those less fortunate and play golf.

SMSgt (Ret) John Young - "Benny Hill" is living in Kansas City and working as a investment broker.

SMSgt (Ret) Lowell Seymour - got a real job with a time clock and a deadline.

MSgt (Ret) John Roth - retired from his civilian job and living in Overland Park, Kansas.

Fort Dix, NJ

AMWC

Greetings from Fort Dix Army Installation, New Jersey. The Air Mobility Warfare Center claims two boom operators, SMSgt Craig Blessing and myself. I belong to the Tactics Division and SMSgt Blessing, well, runs the empire for the rest of us in the Center. We're another place where most folks don't know boom operators are stationed. Fort Dix shares a common fence with McGuire AFB, so we're close enough... yet not quite there.

The Air Mobility Warfare Center is about 270 strong. We're a headquarters unit directly subordinate to AMC/CV. We are AFORMS, RAVENS, intelligence analysts, stage managers, and generator repair instructors. You'll find the center can qualify you in four wheelers, or M-60's, we'll teach you to avoid the airborne threats, load your flying time, and then we'll test new equipment on your jet. The Center provides training to 6000 students a year through 35 different courses. Seems I find a new closet everyday, and in there they teach something new. The Tactics Division runs the Combat Aircrew Tactics Training (CATTS) course. That's where we fit in.

You can find Craig or myself just about anywhere. We never seem to know what's next (though we have our favorites). You'll find us at the AMC bases, Little Rock, Yuma, Hurlburt, Gulfport, Pax River, etc., or by the pool basking in the sun with a really cold frosted barley pop in Las Vegas (that's somewhere near Nellis AFB). We stay involved in most things new in the tanker community and come across many great booms in our travels. Flag us down... We're always good for the first round.

If your ever passing through this part of the northeastern megalopolis, be sure to look us up. You can find Craig Blessing at DSN 944-2514 (or at Kelly's, TI's, or Pudgy's) and I'm at 944-1157. Again, we're always good for the first frosted barley nectar and hope to see you soon!

DANIEL J. REPP, MSgt, USAF
Supt, AMWC Tactics

Grand Forks, ND

319 OGV

Greetings from the Vast Lane. It has been a busy year here at the "Forks". We supported a high ops tempo, despite the devastating flood of the Red River. Our people did a great job during the ASEV, considering their low experience levels. We are now ready to enjoy some Christmas cheer.

The heavy TDY commitment has started to take its toll on our retainability, as it has at most other tanker bases. The CCTS is doing a remarkable job training new boom operators for us, but there is a problem with the valuable experience that is leaving the career field. If anyone is interested in an assignment to an area where the hunting and fishing are good, the cost of living is low, and the people are the friendliest you could find, you need to join the ranks of over 500,000 that call North Dakota their home. Give me a call if you are interested. That's it for my recruiting speech. This is the same one I used last year, I hope I get better results.

This letter has attached inputs from our four flying squadrons to update you on who showed up here plus those that have homesteaded. Yes, there are people who love it here and want to stay. In addition, the following individuals fill our staff slots in the wing/group:

CMSgt Paul Christensen	Ops Group Stan/Eval
MSgt Gary Davis	Ops Group Training (STEP PROMOTION)
TSgt Mike Frovarp	Special Ops (Soon to be vacant, retirement)
SSgt Dan Goewey	Wing XP (Soon to be vacant, PCS)
Tactics position	Vacant

I hope this input will provide you all a little insight of our operation up here. If any of you are interested in the challenges and the rewards that only a northern tier assignment can give, please give me a call, this may be the place for you. We have a lot of challenging positions for talented instructors. Look us up if you are ever in the area. Take Care.

PAUL H. CHRISTENSEN, CMSgt, USAF
319 OG, Standardization/Evaluation

Grand Forks, ND

905 ARS

Greetings from Grand Forks AFB and beautiful North Dakota, it's hard to believe another year has passed and brought so many changes with it. My recent promotion came with an all expense paid PCS to the Great White North. We arrived in August and I immediately deployed to Saudi with the squadron. The best thing about the assignment so far has been the people.

Since our return from sunny Southwest Asia the time has been spent getting to know all the booms. Just like most everyone, we have an extremely young but very capable group of flyers. There is not much else to report so here is a list of our current rogue's gallery.

SMSgt Jeff Boutwell (chief boom)

TSgt Mark Adame (A flight super)

SSgt Brian Satterlee (B flight super)

SSgt Paul Danio (C flight super)

SrA Andy Stutts (training flight)

SrA Ryan Sherbondy (off-to Pitt guard)

SrA Nathan Cates ("Nate")

A1C Jason Hall

A1C Jason Dodge ("4x4")

SrA Charles Maxie

SrA David Tickle ("me-elmo")

SrA Ken Wygart ("wingnut")

Amn Paul Scheppf

SrA Steve Gelling ("Ozzy")

A1C Richard Potts

A1C Jaime Lamont

Jeffery L. Boutwell, SMSgt, USAF

Grand Forks, ND

906 ARS

Returned from the Program Manager's Workshop just in time for the first blizzard of the season. OK, it was just a mini-blizzard, 50+ mph winds and a couple inches of snow (which all ended up in my back yard as a 3½ foot drift). It was great being around a bunch of guys who are older than me...I don't get much of that around here. We've just finished an ambitious year of floods, Saudi deployments, ASEV, and turnover in the squadron. We have 16 booms right now, and 8 have arrived in the last year. We expect to be saying goodbye to SrA Kevin Mathews in January (on his way to CCTS), and are waiting for his replacement, probably also from CCTS (with all of 70 hours under his/her flight suit). Asi es la vida.

The following is a list of our assigned boom operators. Since we live in a great electronic age, I feel compelled to let everybody know that their email addresses are their last name and first initial followed by @grandforks.af.mil (ie wrightj@grandforks.af.mil). All can be reached at various times at my phone number, DSN 362-6431. Our fax number is 362-6416.

Jeff Wright - Old guy in the squadron. This time next year will be on short final for somewhere (where the job is) in West Virginia. No offense to those folks who love the wide open plains, but after a career of Indiana to Kansas to Oklahoma to North Dakota, I need to find some hills and trees to settle around.

Joel Parker - Joel and I are going to retire within 5 days of each other. Bought a piece of North Dakota to raise horses on, and has a nice start with an expecting mom and a foal.

Jody (Moon Beam) Riggs - Tied to North Dakota. I feel bad for my homey, since his two assignments have been Minot and Grand Forks. Good to have someone around who can keep everybody loose.

Bud (aka A.J., Andrew, and a few other names not printable) Verdi - One of the many hockey enthusiasts here in the not so Great White North. How can you watch/play this sport when it's so dang cold?

Kevin Mathews - Trying to go home to Oklahoma (he calls Tulsa home). I keep telling him that Altus and Tulsa have all the same letters, but it's not the same.

Mike Usevich - Our seasoned non-IB. New Jersey guy who'd like to someday be a KC-10 guy at McGuire. Also might like to go to Mildenhall. Can't imagine why he doesn't want to stay here.

Chris Campbell - Ex-Missile Cop. So happy to be a boom operator that he'll have to have plastic surgery to wipe the smile off his face. New dad this year. Eventually wants to end up near home in the MacDill area.

Jenny Little - Happy Illinois kid with no intentions of moving back to the farm. She cut her driving way down since her boyfriend moved to the Forks.

Brian Wright (no relation, I think) - Ex-Cincinnati resident. Great kid. I'll take 12 more just like him.

Brad Pittman - Another Okie, different from most because he's so quiet. Tried to tell a joke once, but A1C Little gave him so much grief that he hasn't talked since.

Ryan Dobos - Still another ex-OK guy. Still can't believe it gets this cold. Almost volunteered to stay in Al Kharj rather than come back to the Forks. Hates it here, but does great work. Needless to say, always a volunteer to go TDY...anywhere.

Frank Sabu...Sabaluki...Sabalauskas (Snuffy) - I don't think my spell checker will ever understand his name. Back on flying status after lengthy DNIF. President and only member of the April Blizzard Fun Run Club. Ask him about 'Nature Boy'.

Dan Beecher - Was here 2 months before I met him. Finally got his first TDY (Al Kharj with one of our brand X squadrons).

Paul Jacobs - Cross trained from the Russian Linguist career field. Still can't speak a word of Russian. Hope he learns his new job better. Had another baby while he's been here.

Scott Conner - Another West By God Virginia resident misplaced in the land of NoDak. Has never missed a 'free beer' event.

Dan Rando - Ex-C-5 maintenance troop. Happy to be a boom even if it's North Dakota. From NY state, got married somewhere between Altus and here.

Mike Frovarp - SpeCops. He's assigned here, but we only see him when a good deal is in the works.

A few tearful farewells to those who moved on to other things:

Dan Goewey - Scott (TACC), Steve Mason - Offutt, Garry Isbell - Mildenhall

Good Luck to those guys as they move onward and upward.

Terry Klementz moved down the street to become the 912 ARS Program Super.

Andy Stutts went to the 905 ARS in the Great Grand Forks Instructor Balancing Act.

Finally, a "Boom Stowed" to Harvey Schneider, who was medically retired on 17 Oct this year. Gonna miss his wit and wisdom, his expertise, and having him to pick on when things are slow. Thanks for 17 great years, Harve.

Jeffrey A. Wright, MSgt, USAF
906 ARS/CCF

Grand Forks, ND

911 ARS

Greetings from the best air refueling squadron in AMC, (two times over, looking for a three-peat). Winter came early this year. The old man is already brewing the Red River for the Spring Flood of '98. Look for us on the early edition of CNN's Weatherscope. I always said, "you gotta be tough to survive a North Dakota winter". Here's a list of our great survivor's and those that are going to be:

MSGT JEFF POTTER: Chief Boom, 1st Shirt, marriage counselor, divorce attorney, brain surgeon, barber, the list is endless. That's why he gets paid the big bucks.

SSGT JEFF MURPHY: Flight Chief, still as awesome as he needs to be. Just ask him. Created a new caution for deflating the Life Preserver Unit. Thank goodness for the leatherman.

SSGT MIKE MURRAY: Flight Chief, soon to be an Altus homesteader, he hopes.

SSGT RAY OUELLETTE: Flight Chief, Mister TDY, and another one in the oven.

SSGT BRIAN QUAM: Quamstradamus, sees all, tells all, knows nothing.

SRA JOE CORDER: Motherboard of all the accolades in the squadron.

SRA STEVE GASPER: Look out Bozo, there's a new clown on the beat.

SRA AMANDA PEARSON: Mrs Below the Zone. Finally left scheduling, to move onto bigger and better things; marriage?

SRA TOM MOSQUEDA: One of the new kids on the block, at least he's on the block, can't find him in the squadron.

SRA MAX MORKIN: You rang, Lurch is off to Airman Leadership School to gain a back his brain cells he lost in Saudi. He'll be the President some day.

SRA BILL FITCH: Mr Below the Zone has been hanging out with Mrs Below the Zone. They might be expecting little below the zones after coming back from Nellis.

A1C MANNY SANDOVAL: Manny who? Knows the travel voucher better than Rosie.

A1C DAN REGESTER: Knows Rosie better than the travel voucher.

A1C CHRIS MALESKI: Come on Chris smile. Really the beach is only an hour away.

A1C JAMES ANDREWS: Fresh meat, General Andrews, sharp as a tack, going to be Vice President some day. Good Luck and welcome to the great white north.

To the rest of the boom force. We are in need of a few good swap-outs. Don't be shy, this beautiful tundra should be shared by all. Lewis and Clark deemed it inhabitable. That's why the military is here. Igloos are cheap this time of year, with plenty of vacancy.

FLY SAFE. HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND SAFE HOLIDAYS FROM THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE GREAT WHITE NORTH IN THE 911TH ARS.

JEFFREY L. POTTER, MSGT, USAF
Ops Super (Chief Boom)

Grand Forks, ND

912 ARS

Greetings from the 912th ARS Grand Forks AFB, ND (the Frozen Chosen). During every Packer game the announcer will invariably mention the "frozen tundra." They just don't get it. Actually it's not nearly as bad as I expected. Last year we only had 8 blizzards, one of which knocked out power for 72 hours. We had an awesome three day luau. I guess as the old saying goes, "That which doesn't kill us makes us stronger." So Tim, Steve, Gary, anybody?, please come help. It's a great place to get started after that new place they teach the kids, and the 912th is the best squadron. I'd rather be here with the booms of the 912th than the finest booms in the world! So if anybody gets p here stop by for some coffee or other libation, we don't get many visitors

Farewells

SrA Randy Schaub Cargo Load Manager (we think), moved to Detroit that is where the wife wanted to go. Last seen dragging a big ball & chain, saying yes dear, what ever you say dear (now divorced)

MSgt Jim Haskell Please honey go home! And don't call my office or cell phone! Only man known to have a cell phone attached to his leg and only able to call alpha with it.

TSgt Mark Adame Left us to go to the 905th got a by name request for him over there, or was there some kissing up to their new commander maybe. Squadrons old Ops Officer.

SrA Juan Murillo I take my leave to cross train, Murillo. One day a Boom the next day a Command Post controller and nobody knew anything about it, nobody. TDY was putting a strain on his married life. So moved to Command Post to be closer to the wife now if they can ever get working on the same shifts they may get to see each other. Can't be to stupid, received \$13,000 for re-enlisting after cross training. (SRB 2 or SRB .5, you decide)

SSgt Darrell Macomber Said he would stay in if he got a KC-10, is currently out processing for civilian life, No longer a federal employee.

Regulars

A Flt.

SSgt Corey Grape Flt. NCOIC "I don't want to do, send somebody else" If he's not in the squadron can find him following Arevalo around.

SrA Leslie A. Yarbough (L.A. don't say Tri-care) New daddy, currently in training flight? Expected to go to CFIC in the next year. Can we do that?

SrA Elisabeth Puetz (Cover Girl) Stan Eval "hey woman" Got huge picture on the front of the Marauder magazine in Mildenhall, but no centerfold.

A1C Tom Conley Proficient at push-ups from constantly losing sporting event bets, need to stop betting in the past. Go Patriots.

B Flight

SSgt Joe Wilkins Flt NCOIC I gotta feed my horse... Wilkins

A1C Jason Larimore Hey Mario, the life support van isn't supposed to take corners like that. \$50, \$100, \$150 Dam speeding tickets are expensive, anyone got \$5.

A1C Kelly Mueller Shaved his head and left. He's gone , he's back, Is he around? Yes. Where is he? Haven't seen him.

A1C Johnny White (Stone Cold Steve Austin) wanta be. WWF is only on 4 days a week, you have to be kidding. But girlfriend(wife) would not let him.

C Flight

SSgt Matt Arevalo Flt NCOIC Hey it's 1500 any one seen Matt, He went to the gym. The Mr. Universe Midget class, or maybe he is golfing.

A1C Matt Hartman The Big Dog had a Little Dog

A1C Richard Kelsey Watch out, don't bump into him too hard or you'll knock out his tooth.

A1C Jeremy Morris "Holy Cow it's the size of a grapefruit!" Yes his ego, but that's not what we are talking about.

New kids

Msgt Terry Klementz (Smurf) Program Manager New head boom came over to us from the 906th. Didn't know until the day he showed up if he was actually coming to the 912th or not. Wandered aimlessly for about a week, and still does from time to time.

A1C Tim Mitchell "Alley Cat" Has fond memories of Malta Air show, the girls there all know him as Capt. Mitchell:— All others know him as Dork.

A1C Heath Peed Hey I'm gonna quit smokingtomorrow

SrA Ryan King (SSgt. Sel.) Welcome to Grand Forks, and pack your bags your going to Saudi!

SrA Melvin (Dino) Fultz An extra cop that just got here still doesn't know what he has gotten himself into. Leaves for Boom School sometime in May.

Grissom, IN

72 ARS

Greetings from all the booms in the land of corn and the INDY 500. Staying busy is what we do in the 72nd from road trips to the sand, beach, rollers, exercises to living like rock stars on UTAs.

During this years line-up we have dropped a few Pros and gained some new meat and not forgetting to mention a summer college student we have been grooming to enter society AKA DDA.

CMSgt Mel Wiemer (Worm) still holds the reins as the program manager or truant officer for the boom shop. Mel lives up on boom lake with teenage women, a pontoon boat, surf choppers and a hot tub, to bad he still has to work on weekends. Favorite dance tune (Up on Cripple Creek).

SMSgt Larry Bartel (Uncle Larry) is almost finished with his clinicals to become a physicians assistant. Larry will become a former boom and possibly the worlds oldest lieutenant next to CAPs. Favorite dance tune (Help me make it thru the night).

SMSgt Tony Fansler (Fans) Tony is still dealing out pain in DOV while trying to maintain a Bob Villia lifestyle up on boom lake; You do the MAF! Ask tony what he has in common with Withrow and Houser. Favorite dance tune (Brick House).

MSgt Paul Houser (Doogie) The most complex scheduler/ office manager/ union king pin/ Air Boss/guidance counselor seen to date. Doogie pulls all of his data from his desk which holds as much paper as IBM's Big Blue has memory. If you need to know about being punctual or how to tie down a Hazardous spill kit ask Doogie. Favorite dance tune (Slow Ride).

MSgt Ron Johnston (Shark) When Rons not out sticking it to the man as a state police officer he is logging time in F compt; Studying for the never ending macro test putting him closer to completing his degree. Ron enjoys washing his police car with new towels on his off-duty time when he is not working on his book " My Wife, My Buddy and Power Saw Safety". Ron also likes to put stethoscopes and tongue depressors on his voodoo doll L.B. Favorite dance tune (King of the Road).

MSgt Jim Seidle (Suie Seidle) Holding a position in DOTO has helped Jim maintain the Loner Boy, Obsessive compulsive lifestyle he so enjoys. Jim likes to pick up car parts for his restoration projects from all his TDY locations with or without dead mice inside them, this makes the airplane smell great. Favorite dance tune (One Piece at a Time).

MSgt Jeff Williams (Remo) Has recently become our newest evaluator , we've had a lot of people quit. Remo spends his off time from being a fire person hoisting his blown engine with his favorite tree. Restoring a classic antique like the dodge omni is hard work. Remos favorite tool has croquet balls and a ski rope. Favorite dance tune (Mandy).

MSgt Jeff Withrow (Killer) Is quite potent lately, you guessed it another hillbilly enters the family and I think he/she will have more teeth than their old man. Killer has also taken up body shop repair work, bartending, selling out of state whiskey, fine cigars and making cappuccino. Favorite dance tune (Great Balls of Fire).

TSgt Jeff Maier (Heffe) Our most controversial Alert Facility Manager yet! To go along with his lovely new wife he has a new house and a dog. Yes the dog is a rottweiler and no the house isn't on wheels. Favorite tune (I ain't first class but I ain't white trash).

TSgt Lisa Polston New home owner currently works at Coconuts and hands out gas masks for us on the side. Favorite tune (Take this Job and Shove It).

TSgt Doug Preece (Mud Vein) Voted most likely to bring their work home with them. Doug works as a corrections officer at the juvenile detention center. He is currently trying to re-enact the movie "Sleepers". Favorite tune (Hot Child in the City).

TSgt Scott Ward (Carl) But he's just the assistant greens keeper. Scotts doing an excellent job as the mobility Nazi and CLT manager he spends all his other time becoming a surf pro. If the mouse isn't clicken we have to put a mirror under his nose to see if he is breathing. Favorite movies (Forrest Gump/Sling Blade). He could also be the first RainBoom.

Gloria Jones (G Spot) Gloria has finished college had a job and quit to become the Kokomo Zoo keeper having a cat, and a rhesus monkey named Stibbe. Gloria also has dreams of becoming a pilot if they approve the booster seat modification. Favorite dance tune (Oohbedoo I wanna be like you).

SSgt James Maxwell (Booger) Locked up in his dungeon/basement/new business allows him to keep his Dracula white skin. Keeping his S*** bomb and business running is more than enough for Jim. Favorite dance tune (Monster Mash).

SSgt Howard MacDonald (Tick) Our first CCTS Instructor dork to join our evil forces. Tick has gotten a lot of gravy dumped on him to keep him in military gin, lung sticks and gambling mags. Oh he has taken up smoking to get all that gravy too. Favorite dance tune (Don't it make my Brown Eye Blue).

SSgt Laura McKee Temp nickname (FNG) Our newest baby boom just back from Altus or most people call it H***. Having a big money job throwing transmissions around at Chrysler she doesn't need to turn in her pay for months. Favorite dance tune (Flash Dance).

SSgt Mike Morgan (Leonard) Assistant mobility Nazi whatever that is ? Leonard finally decided to get a job driving the Schwanns wagon around trying to be the young Elvis spreading joy and song to all the lonely ladies in Frankfort. With all his extra income he will be making he will try to get Darrin the RTO monkey off his back and have the deed to the Sony play station. Favorite dance tune (Tub Thumping). Favorite things fast cars and fast women.

Dead Wood List

Chris Hermon his criminal justice major was put to good use by starting his own insurance agency. He still has bacon grease delivered for his hair.

Larry Page now working for the establishment is also an ORF.

Grissom, IN

74 ARS

Greetings once again from the 74th ARS, The following inputs culminate the prior year for each individual of the squadron that ROCKS! So if you are in the mood for a cold beer or the urge to see the corn grow stop by.

CMSgt Kim "you think you have problems" Ayers (Chief Boom/ART) Kim's a mom again this year, two teenage daughters this time. She just bought another house, this one must be for the kids.

SSgt James "Dusty" Baker (Reservist) EX-Gunner made good. Rumored to be the Don Juan of the boom shop, however he is not allowed at Bucks house on UTA's anymore.

CMSgt Billy "Short timer" Carter (Wing Program Manager/IBO/ART) Last seen riding around with the local police New Year's eve, looking for booms, Singing bad booms, bad booms, watcha gonna do, watcha gonna do.....

MSgt Jenny "I'm outta here" Carmichael (Reservist) Found herself an airline pilot, decided it was time to call it quits and retire. Good Luck!

TSgt Shad "Fudgeman" Culp (IBO/ART) Isn't quite the Frugal Gourmet yet, but with all the recipe's he's swapped with the "Chief," he's getting close.

SMSgt Roger "No life" Drumm (Senior Res/EB) Has done nothin funny/stupid this year, at least nothing we can talk about!

TSgt Bryan "Doc" Hettinghouse (Reservist) Spends more time in the physicians waiting room than working for us.

TSgt Dave "Mr. Fix It" French (Reservist) Local business owner kept afloat by the squadron.

SSgt Dennis "Family Jewels" Jewel (Reservist) Apparently hired for his photogenic qualities (Don't ask).

MSgt "Buck" Henry (Flight Cmdr /EB/ART) Sporting a new look for 98, Is it PERMANENT or not ? You've got to be kidding!

MSgt John "Cool J" Ley (EX-Reservist) Had enough, found a real life in the civilian world. Best of luck.

SSgt Mike "Odd Job" McGowan (Reservist) Got himself a new woman and a new computer, can't turn either one on.

MSgt Kym "Buddy" Orange (IBO/Reservist) Still agitating the chief . When you can find him here, he is usually in the mission planning room doing his "BUDDY" Jewels paper work.

TSgt Larry "Shower Curtain" Santine (IBO/ART) Picture this, TDY, 4:00 am, naked, wrapped in a shower curtain and locked out of his room. Nobody but Larry!

MSgt Jerry "Daniel Boone" Schumacher (Flight Commander/ EB/ART) Last seen on I-70 heading west to Colorado, humming the theme song from "Deliverance".

SRA Scott "SID" Spangler (Reservist) Tough Ex Army cop, passed out at an Air Force Clinic after receiving annual flu shot. Look out he might fall on you!

SSgt Robert "Spike" Spsychalski (Reservist) Ex crew chief awaiting boom school date. Don't know much else, we can't get him to talk to us.

MSgt Tim "I've gone country" Stibbe (Wing Scheduler/IBO/ART/) Got himself a woman, a truck and a dog. Now he has all the making's for a C&W song.

TSgt Darren "Discovery Zone" Zollman (Reservist) Full time college boy. Living in a tornado magnet (mobile home) in the middle of a flood zone. What are they teaching these guy's?

Hickam, HI

203 ARS

ALOHA!!!! From the land where winter is a 2 week TDY to Iceland and Christmas is spent at the beach.

We are just off the heels of our first ever ORI. It was a little different than most ORI's in the Guard, being that we have two other MDS's in the 154th Wing. We are very proud of the Excellent rating that our squadron received, we are also pleased to say that our C-130 and F-15 squadron also received an Excellent!

Now it's time to go back on the road, and if you have never been to Indonesia you need to get off the road and the sidewalks and find a safe place to have a nice cold Bintang beer. Yes, we've been there, done that, and we don't need a T-shirt. Next up Commando Sling which is of course is in the home of the Singapore Sling. We keep busy here that's for sure. I won't bore you with more details of the exotic and not so exotic places we visit.

We like to bid farewell to MSgt Bill "call me Mr. Montgomery", who retired this past September. We don't know exactly what he is going to choose for a second career, but we wish him and his family all the best. As for the rest of our line-up, here we go:

SMSgt Steve "Disco" Cid

Steve's been busy trying to keep us all in line. He is also trying to select the trips without making anyone angry! Keep trying Steve.

MSgt Tony "Tone" Fortney

Tony is our Stand Eval Guy and is currently looking to the Alaska C-130 guys to make him a Flight Engineer. He wants to move from the beach to the frozen frontier of Anchorage. I never could understand those Stand Eval guys!

MSgt Gary "U-Taphao" Mau

When Gary isn't busy with tactics or his additional duties you can usually find him living the single man's dream in Thailand.

MSgt Kris "Tizz" Tisdale

Kris is one of our Schedulers. We are going to see if she can keep the "red ink" off her scheduled CFIC slot sometime early 1998. Ask Kris about what beverage is best as Wake Island.

TSgt Frank "Taz" Santos

Frank stay's busy in our Current Ops Shop. Frank and Nani were just blessed with a 10 lb. baby girl. Mom and baby are doing fine, as for Frank he now lifts his baby instead of weights.

TSgt Chris "Gun's" Killion

Chris is our Training Flight Boom. When Chris isn't getting in trouble with Steve, he's off telling some poor soul, a war story about his B-52 daze.

SSgt Greg "Phantom" Genenbacher

He's managing an electronics store in downtown Honolulu. If you see Greg out there, tell time to phone home.

SSgt Warren "Dad" Faurot

Warren is a firefighter with the City. He and Dawnelle are also new parents, although they don't win the biggest award we are happy for them and the new addition to their family.

SSgt Eric "Killa" Faurot

Does this name look familiar: Yes, Warren and Eric are brothers, but it doesn't stop here, their brother Chris is a fighter jock with out F-15's. If you think this is All in the Family thing stops with the Air Guard! Guess what? Eric's civilian job is....yes he and yet another of the Faurot's family are Fire Fighter as well.

SSgt Paul "Stankie" Stankiewicz

Do you know anyone who needs a job, because if we go to war Fire Departments here will be looking for some help. Yup, you guessed it, Paul is a Fire Fighter as well. All our firemen came in handy during our ORI because most of them were in the bldg., when the IG set a smoke generator off in our air conditioning room. It's the same type as the Fire Dept. uses for training and because it let's out a licorice smell before the smoke hits, our Fireman had the building evacuated before the IG could get back into our building.

SSgt Mark "Tred" Sindiong

Mark helps out in Current Ops. He is also a great admirer of Thailand's fairer sex. Marks not finicky, he likes all Asian women. watch out for those Thai Billy Boy's Mark.

A1C Curtis "Yosh" Yoshimoto

Curtis is our newest Boom and was declared MR in record time. It's truly amazing how fast Training Flight can get some MR when the IG is on final.

As we speak we have 2 booms at Altus learning the trade, SrA Kula Cummings and SrA Bruce Roberts. We look forward to their arrival, because it's their turn to buy the next round.

Well that's our line-up, what we lack in quantity we make up for with quality!!! And a lot of hours. If you find yourself in town and want some help getting something for your trip or just to find the hot spots, drop on into the squadron or give us a call AUTOVON (315) 449-7722.

Till we meet again

ALOHA

Da Hawaiian Boomah's

Hickam, HI

Paradise

MSgt Jackie Hale: KC-10.

TSgt Rick Brack: KC-135.

Any Booms passing through Hickam please stop by and see us. We're in the old Tanker Task Force building, Hangar 2. Our office phone number is 449-1265. If you want to call us from the mainland (that's the part of the States you're all at), the DSN number is 315-449-1265. If you need to get hold of us after duty hours, call the Mission Manager at 448-8888 and ask for either Rick Brack or Jackie Hale. They'll phone patch you to us. Having way too much fun here. If you can't reach us we're probably at the beach. Gotta go. The waves are calling.

Jackie Hale

Escaped from McGuire, still a KC10 Boom. Took Bubba Cox's job at Hickam. I'll have twenty years in the AF come March.

Incirlik, Turkey

???

SSgt Chris Hauge

???-???

This unit was either not found,
or did not submit a Boom Signal input for 1997.

Irving, TX

Det I

Greetings from Dallas!

It's been a very busy year down here with all the new courseware for the initial qualification courses and the new BOT development going on simultaneously.

The most recent date for new BOT delivery to McGuire is 22 February 98, but it's not firm due to construction negotiation difficulties.

Travis hosted the small group try-outs for the new initial qual courseware some months ago. Raytheon has nearly completed the required changes to this courseware and it will be ready for classes starting in March 98.

If you're ever in town, stop by for the tour, and remember, the reason there's a hole in the roof of Texas Stadium is so God can watch his favorite team!

DET 1, AMCAOS (MSgt Crowder, 1-800-753-7181, EXT 7195)

P.O. BOX 619490

DFW Airport, TX 75261-9490

Home E-mail: LitlPigs@aol.com

work: det1amcaos@compuserve.com

Cody Crowder

KC-10 Boom Operator QAR

Kadena, Japan

909 ARS

I have to admit, being a Boom Operator in the Pacific has to be the best duty since Mother SAC was put to rest. The Kadena booms have had another whirlwind year and have been doing OUTSTANDING at supporting any and all flying operations within their 35 million square mile theater of operations. We continue to find new landing strips throughout the Pacific and have been involved with practically every PACAF tasking to date...and then some! We proudly live up to our squadron motto "Always There" and on occasion have been known to rescue land locked Admirals and dignitaries throughout the Pacific. Our most recent contribution to maintaining world peace was providing pivotal air refueling support for six Operational Barksdale B-52s. Wonder where they were going? Anyway, we had lots of help from the Fairchild and McConnell Booms and successfully offloaded over one million, two hundred thousand pounds of JP-8 in a matter of hours.

We spent a good bit of time on the road this past year to include two months at Misawa in support of Cobra Ball operations (Chief Schufft's favorite code name for this TDY is "Operation Provide Perdiem"). The majority of our TDYs run from one to two weeks and take us to Korea (a lot!), Japan (a lot!), Singapore, Malaysia, U-Taphao, Diego Garcia, Guam, Hawaii, Russia, China, Alaska, and back home to the USA. The average TDY rate can go as high as 120 days per year depending on our support taskings. The rapid pace of Pacific ops has been an excellent breeding ground for producing some of the finest Boom Operators in the field. At least that's what Chief Schufft tells us! Speaking of "THE CHIEF!" (AKA "The Warden") - he was spotted at the MPF Customer Service counter submitting his extension paperwork! Wonder what that's all about?

Recently, our beloved Boom Association was being forced to join and convert over to a single squadron MWR booster club or disband (pressure from HQ PACAF). We voted to take the later and have unofficially/officially disconnected ourselves and moved to an covert underground location somewhere on the island. Oh, and closer to the beach too. We will be back! At least "they" haven't taken away our right to wear our Boom union Patches!

This year we will see our Chief Boom Roy Schufft retire (a moment of silence please!). Chief has been the catalyst by which not only the booms relied on, but, the entire 909th Air Refueling Squadron and the 18th Wing. Chief Schufft has contributed more to the Air Force and the career field than any of us could ever imagine contributing. He is the "Chief" of all Boom Chiefs! The "best of the best!" His ability to schmooze, motivate, chew-butt, BS with LLL, support his booms, and air refuel are only but a few of the Chiefs finest qualities. Chief...you will be missed...you will be remembered...and you will be talked about for millenniums!

Being the new boomer on the island has been a great experience for me as well as my family. I have never before been so impressed with a finer group of Booms, their families, and their friends in my entire career. Stepping off the freedom bird, my family was greeted by almost every boom and their families...What a class act! Here is a run down on Kadena's finest!

CMSgt Roy Schufft (Chief Boom) Vigorously training to be a Louisiana State Game Warden, he applies for duty next August upon retirement. Plans on getting a bigger bass boat than Dalton's from DNR and being the first Warden on circuit!

SMSgt Greg Durand (Program Manager) Fresh from Altus CFIC. Delighting himself in making his instructors squirm with questions and new shop projects...working on his golf swing and softball skills ...Glad to have you on the Kadena team!

MSgt Jerry Head (18 OSS Plans) Hiding out with the OSS, he makes guest appearances occasionally to prove his existence; we don't see much of him.

MSgt Dave Pileski (PACAF ALCE) Proud endorser of Miller Lite Beer; able to avoid any and all ground training classes with ease. Ponders his fate with the rumored demise of PACAF ALCE

MSgt Bill Shippey (AMC TALCE) Avoids the 909th; teaches affiliation training throughout the theater. If you hear or see him tell him the booms at the 909th said hi.

TSgt Shadow Lewis (18 OSS Plans) Married to an Aussie; he's claims to be tired of the Air Force and is pursuing civilian status...Most well connected planner in the Pacific, he should consider being an airfield manager somewhere close by

TSgt Nathan Peachey (Stan/Eval) Can be found most weekends on the beach playing volleyball or surfing...hopes to PCS to RAF Mildenhall next July

TSgt Pat "Chip" Stevens (B Flight Supervisor) Loves *clowning* around with computers or being a clown; he works for hours customizing the boom office computer so no one else can use it

TSgt Lloyd Rand (Facilities Manager) Spends his duty time hanging drywall, wiring rooms, and painting...never misses a boom function or a chance to help others.

TSgt Tony "P+9" Panganiban (C Flight Supervisor) The designated 909th interpreter for Manila Control...is really into Okinawan Karate, hopes to be a "Sensei" someday.

TSgt (sel) Phil Frank (18 OSS Plans) Left Stan/Eval for the challenges of flight planning. Claims to have plenty of time for golf and other sporting pursuits.

TSgt (sel) Rod "Gigantor" Targos (Training Flight) Sits at the office computer wondering if a typewriter wouldn't be easier to learn...Introduced a 3rd and final son to the Targos clan...hopes and prays to PCS to RAF Mildenhall

SSgt Rod "Yeti" Cline (D Flight Supervisor) Winner of the 1996 Dutch Huyser Award for safely recovering a jet with total electrical failure...snaked 3 PDMs and a Diego Garcia trip from scheduling (if he goes on one more we're gonna ...)

SSgt Ed "Hatch" Smith (Line Boom) Newlywed with a Thai wife expecting...he is happy and content, though he found out wives and families can be expensive.

SSgt Tom Roetzler (A Flight Supervisor) Puts Led Zeppelin to shame when he sings "Stairway to Heaven," just call him Mr. Karaoke...hopes to PCS to Altus in July for a little CCTS experience.

SSgt Robert Jepson (Ground Scheduler) Wanna-be Biker; he decided the pain of his Gecko Tattoo is too much, and besides how many bikers do you know with gecko tattoos.

SSgt Dave "Hollywood" Steiner (Line Boom) Need to find out how the Dow Jones stands, just ask him. He also is the local windsurfing Guru (available for lessons).

SSgt Larry "LLL" Lewis (Line Boom) New kid on the block.; helped the booms clinch a win against the Officers in softball...a welcome addition.

SSgt Tony "No TDY" Aparicio (Stan/Eval) Enjoys his current position; markets his photography skills for off duty hire...his wife wants to institute a permanent "No-TDY" clause if possible.

SRA Bryan "Elvis" Sellman (Line Boom) Waiting to catch the big wave in December as a civilian...Jennifer, his wife, will PCS to the Pentagon for her next assignment soon.

SrA Michael "Max" Webster (Line Boom) Soon to leave us for McGuire AFB, NJ to take on challenges of the TALCE world...will be stationed with his brother... hopes to find some good fishing spots close by.

SrA "Smokin" Joe Gellis (Aircrew Scheduler) Started his own shoe shining business so he can afford another piercing...can be found most nights on his new computer searching for "pictures".

SrA Fred "Flex" Ramey (Line Boom) 1996 PACAF Outstanding Enlisted Aircrew Member of the Year (Airman category)...he lives on the road most of the year, teaches Tactics and provides assistance in Training Flight while he's here.

SrA Wayne Keiser (Line Boom) Wayne who? Oh him, we never see him unless he is flying. We hope Altus can keep track of him during CFIC.

SrA William "Duck" Kaczor (Line Boom) Preparing to go off to college so he can be one of those overpaid Officers (Joy will soon be one too)...Veteran Dining-In toaster and food fight instigator.

A1C Zach Hughes (Line Boom) Loves the off station excursions, wants to continue his world tour at RAF Mildenhall.

A1C Damian Ash (Line Boom) Working hard to be the next Arnold Schwarzenegger; lifts weights and refuses to eat anything associated with fat.

THE DEARLY DEPARTED

CMSgt (sel) Bill Karasko (McConnell Wing Boom) The Booms at Kadena were proud to see CMSgt (sel) go to McConnell AFB and share his knowledge. We heard that he received a warm welcome from the McConnell booms.

MSgt Cliff Pankonien (Retired Boom) Loves the new rank Mr. and enjoys spending days as a retiree partying Down Under.

MSgt Dean Fuller (Retired Boom) Enjoys retirement, but enjoys taking your money posing as a financial advisor even more.

TSgt Michael Steinkraus (RAF Mildenhall bound) Very happy the bars over in England stay open to accommodate him; Mike is planning on renting a corner of the bar...Stay in touch.

Eric Turner (Retired Boom) You'll probably catch him riding his hog and opening up his own bar somewhere in Texas or reach him through www.wildboomer.com.

Well, time to stow my boom and get out of here! I would like to thank A1C Zach Hughes for his witty work in helping me put this together. If you're ever passing through Kadena or run into any of us on the road, please stop us and say HI or come by the squadron and meet the guys.

GREGORY M. DURAND, SMSgt, USAF
Program Manager

Kadena, JAP
633 AMCF

634-2277?

This unit was either not found,
or did not submit a Boom Signal input for 1997.

Langley, VA
HQ ACC

Greetings from Hampton Roads and home of Air Combat Command Headquarters. It has been a very busy year in ACC. As with most of the headquarters, ACC has gone through a significant reorganization and with it a change of offices for me. I now work in the Stan/Eval & Realistic Training office with bomber and fighter guys. Believe it or not but there are more old SAC guys here than TAC so we gang up on the pointy nose folks. SAC still lives.

Some have asked why ACC is still mandating a special air refueling category for the B-2 at night. Well the answer is pretty simple. We are still experiencing some significant damage as a result of boom contacts outside the receptacle during night operations. In May, I conducted a survey to determine if there was still a need to retain this special EC/KC-135 night air refueling qualification for B-2 aircraft. The survey involved PACAF, USAFE, AETC, AFRC, ANG, AMC and ACC units resulting in the recommendation to extend the current restrictions. Continued emphasis on special training and air refueling directives was also a recommendation from a KC-135/B-2 inflight mishap investigation board. We will readdress this issue again next year.

As many of you might have heard, the 7th ACCS at Offutt AFB has been identified for deactivation this FY. The mission is going to the Navy TACAMO so beginning this summer, some of those crewmembers will be coming back to AMC and out to the units. Treat them right. They have done an outstanding job in an extremely demanding environment. Currently there are plans to keep the CINC aircraft, "Casey O1" flying out of Offutt which will require a few boomer billets to remain. TSgt Tom Weirauch retired this year and is probably on TV somewhere being the Weather guy. MSgt Terry Ross has also retired. Doug Hershey will be putting on his new stripe 1 Dec. Congrats SMSgt Hershey.

The 22 ARS at Mountain Home has also been extremely busy with AEF taskings and unit deployments. The composite wing concept has provided some very interesting training opportunities. I want to express my thanks to CMSgt John Randall for his outstanding efforts in getting some problem areas cleared up and helping me through this last year. SSgt Steve "Opie" Flax was picked up on the supplemental promotion board and is now TSgt (Sel) Opie.

Lastly, I want to thank and extend my best wishes to CMSgt Mike Mawhorr on his retirement for his contributes to the Boom Operator Career Field. Chief, you can retire knowing you have made a difference that will be felt through-out the AFSC for many years. "Thanks Chief" If any boomers are ever in the area, give me a call and I'll show ya around. My number is DSN 574-8170/7713,

Email John.Buckland@Langley.AF.Mil Fly Safe!

John K. Buckland
ACC IFR Functional Manager

Lincoln, NE

173 ARS

Greeting from the frigid Great Plains. The past year has been very busy and productive. We continue to add instructors to our cadre of boom operators and in October-November we had an ASEV interrupted by a rare fall blizzard which knocked out power and phone service in Lincoln and the surroundings area for much of the week that the inspectors were here. We've been in the KC-135R business now for about five years and loving it (compared to the old F-4C days). Our arguments on base now are about which restaurants in France have the best house wine as opposed to the old days when we argued about the best gumbo in Gulfport, MS. Here's a little something about each of our booms:

Gordon Anderson: Leaving shortly for instructor school at Altus. Still smoking "illegal" cigars (overseas only) and getting married in May to a woman he met in a furniture store, if you can believe that. He went in to buy a queen size bed and came out with a package deal.

Lang Anderson: Full time instructor boom in Current Ops—did Saudi Arabia (Southern Watch) when he expected to be in Istres, France. Wife was going to meet him; all reservations and tickets were paid for (non-refundable). She went to the Riveria for two weeks and he played in the sandbox. He's still in a state of shock. Went to Turkey (Northern Watch) for Christmas and New Year's; a glutton for punishment.

Kevin Block: One of our three new booms here in Lincoln—currently at Altus. He's into firearms and other scary stuff. Wants to be called "Psycho". Who's on the aircrew selection board, anyway?

Gary Bornemeier: Chief boom and amateur Elvis impersonator. Thinks that "Guard Bums" are the wave of the future. Actually enjoys ice fishing. Lincoln chapter president of the Polar Bear Club. In need of psychiatric care.

Mary Bundy: Active in the base "Bear" program pairing Lincoln area schools and the NEANG. Takes teddy bears to exotic locations and relates travel experiences to school kids upon her return. Considering going back to college for her masters degree. Abandoned her opera career after a cruel twist of fate caused her to inhale a bumblebee during a Wagnerian aria.

Randy Douglas: Recently returned from a lengthy pax haul to Puerto Rico where he "went native". Spends his days drinking rum and speaking rather poor Spanish. A recent college graduate who is thinking of becoming a flight attendant he says he is "willing to learn".

Mat Ellison: Another new boom and former crew chief. He's so young he never heard of Elvis Presley much to the consternation of Gary Bornemeier—much less he doesn't care. Mat's into head banging music. Will marry soon and reproduce.

Mark Forster: Works in Stan Eval full time replacing Chris Hatley who retired last year and now works for Burlington-Northern Railroad. Mark is slowly becoming a "tree hugger" and has started wearing tie dyed clothing lately. A pierced body part may be in his future.

Mark Heithoff: Lincoln firefighter and cartoon channel fanatic. Won't go TDY to locations that don't have cable TV capability. Plans to pattern his life after "Danger Mouse". Dresses like Ren and Stimpy and is attempting to mimic Mel Blanc's speech pattern—another nut case.

Mel Kauk: Works for the local ATT affiliate but will probably retire soon to a life of "Guard Bumping". Still a party animal who burns the candle at both ends. To those who are interested—Mel's irritating rash is starting to clear up.

Leighton Michaelson: Current Ops full timer, instructor boom and amateur entomologist. Returned from Saudi Arabia in June with a pet camel spider that he keeps in his desk. Is attempting to crossbreed his pet with a tarantula. Loves to answer questions on space-a travel; call him anytime.

Randy Millwood: Full time Scheduling instructor boom. Our resident expert on "rap" music and developing an interest in "slam" dancing. Going steady with a long-time flame. Spends a lot of time practicing semaphore.

Mike Minnick: Happily married to another guard member and living in Lincoln after years of commuting. Still into astronomy, he spends hours peering into the night sky—or is it that sorority house on the other side of town. He can't understand why those lottery tickets have yet to pay off.

Steve Minnick: Another full time scheduling and instructor boom. Recently became an evaluator and his dog bit him on the leg, his cat ran away, and his kids are begging for military school. As a former airport Hari Krishna, he sometimes sits at his desk humming his mantra. Another guy who needs help.

Dwight Morehead: Full time instructor boom in Training when he's not illegally burning cars in his driveway. His insurance company is getting suspicious. Dwight's home brew is being looked into by government "Revenooers" after several people went blind at his Christmas party. Sponsors the "Booms in the Woods" get together every summer.

Sandy Reynolds: Full time Cargo instructor boom and resident "new age" Guru. Spends her days carrying crystals in her backpack, listening to Enya, and drinking herb tea. Currently at the NCO Academy in Knoxville where she's probably having an out of body experience.

Russ Sladky: Full time Combat Crew Comm instructor boom—our newest full timer. Licensed master electrician who wears his baby teeth on a chain around his neck. Wants to get into the Guinness Book of World Records by eating a plate glass window. Sits in his darkened office listening to funeral dirges. Why us?

Mark Stocking: Ice hockey fanatic and carefree bachelor. If it's not ice hockey he's discussing it's fishing or disco. He believes that Donna Summer is "the greatest singer of all time" and that Saturday Night Fever got robbed during the 1977 Academy Awards. He drinks Harvey Wallbangers and Annie Greensprings—weird guy.

Jeff Vannortwick: New boom who's still at Altus. Lincoln police officer who carries a set of handcuffs in his flightsuit. Keeps telling receivers to "Freeze". One of our more normal booms.

Chris Hatley: Retired to Spokane, Washington, but still checks in once in awhile. His wife, Jody, is now a member of the Fairchild Washington ANG unit.

Kerry Gulzow: Retired. Last we heard he is a travel agent in Omaha.

See you all "on the road". Stop in for a chat if you're in the area.

Little Rock, AK

463 ALCS

Greetings from all three TALCE Boom Operators down at the Rock! It has been a very interesting transition from squadron crew dogs to Airlift Control Squadron booms. We've been welcomed with open arms and for some of us, open backsides. If traveling to far off exotic lands like Fort Polk and Cherry Point sounds like excitement to you, change your dream sheets now. Boys and girls step right up to the world of TALCE! It's not just a job it's a total nuisance! In all honesty, things are busy for us right now. We are preparing for an ORI and in the meantime trying to keep up with those pesky real world taskings. From Bahrain to Boda, Norway we have plenty on our plates to keep us gainfully employed. Enough about the unit and on to the individuals.....

MSgt Mike (I joined the TALCE for this?) **Crews-** Supervises the other two booms in the load/boom shop. Joined the unit in October and has been seen standing on the retirement fence lately. At a recent JRTC deployment declared that at his 22 year point (a mere 16 months away), should be sufficient enough time in the ol' Estados Unidos Aero Fuerzo. Looks like master sergeants at the core bases beware, a slot is coming open soon. As a single Master Sergeant with no children, he has enough money to buy 27 jump aircraft and employ pilots to fly them as a retirement project.

SSgt Barry (When will I ever make Technical Sergeant?) **Mayhew-** Supervisor and master of nothing! Also joined the TALCE in October. Has been ridiculed for everything from a 5 year old Levitow plaque to the flying armada he erected above his desk in the office. Has more additional duties than a one-armed wall paper hanger. Thanks God for fly breaks.

SSgt Tom (I'm not that short!) **Morrison-** Will be joining us in late February from McConnell Air Plane Patch. Has already asked if TALCE booms will be working on the multi-point refueling system while with the ALCS. No Tom, that's not what we do here at the TALCE! His indoctrination to our way of life begins with a really cool trip to McGuire for CSOC. If you don't know what that is, ask your boss about how neat that training is!

Most frequently stated, incorrect myths about these units:

- a. Those guys at the TALCE go TDY over 200 days per year. (Reality: about 120, but it's negotiable)
- b. You will never get promoted at a TALCE unit. (Reality: Of two eligible staff sergeants last year, one made it.

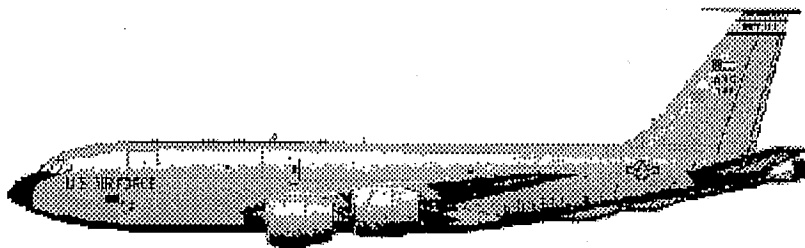
While at home station you have many opportunities to study for promotion, take the opportunity.)

Well, that about sums it up from the back forty at Little Rock. If you're in the neighborhood, stop by and say Howdy Partner!

From all of us at Little Rock
DSN 731-7512

MacDill, FL

91 ARS



Greetings from MacDill, (The Sunshine Base) FLORIDA. As we all know the OPS Tempo is very high here, at your base, and around the world. We at MacDill would like to say HI!, to all Booms. We a Elite' group of individuals because we do things above and beyond and have been for a long time. It seems that we are on the road more and more each year. All I can say is buckle your seat belts tight because the ride has just begun. As the tempo increases around the world, and the number of Booms to do the job slowly decreases, we are becoming a breed apart. Don't let this deter you or your troops. Keep your chins and your pride for this great country up, and know in your hearts that you have the best job in the Air Force. "Be Proud of it", the history of the Boom Operator is long and distinguished. Knowing that we are all doing our part to keep it that way should make you feel good inside. Why, because we do more with less, and do it better than any other enlisted career field out there. Enough of my soap box, you and your families know your good and that's what counts.

Here at MacDill, we have a great group of gas passers!!

First Sergeant: MSgt Ricky "To Tall" Geiger
Chief Boom: MSgt Clayton "Grey" Fox
Group Stan Eval" SMSgt Rick "By the Book" Hackett

"A" Flight

MSgt Clayton "Grey" Fox
TSgt "Question" Mark Harper
Sra Howard "Milo" Gibson
A1C Shelly "Miracle Ear" Cornwell
Amn Mathew "Flight Kitchen" Dellalucca

Training

TSgt Merv "Train Me" Arthurton

Stan Eval

TSgt Ryan "Victoria Secret" Cermak
Sra Chris "I'll be back" Ochoa

"B" Flight

TSgt Stephen "Fuzzy" Zoller
SSgt Shawn "Whine" Lane
Sra Nicole "-9" Moats
Sra Luis "Eyes" Gonzales
Amn Mike "Hair Dye" Fatone

"C" Flight

TSgt Jim "Re-tired" Handy
SSgt Rob "TMO" Schofield
SSgt Carmelo "Probe and Drogue" Alamo
Sra Bernard "TDY 1" Echiverri
Sra Scott "TDY 2" Teague

"D" Flight

MSgt Tim "NRA" Sawyers
Sra Chris "My pants don't fit" Sprague

Wing Scheduling

SSgt Phil "Show Me The" Money
SSgt Patricia "Baby Maker" Brown-Davis

Wing Tactics/Plans

Msgt (Sel) Dan "Tactical" Wells
MSgt Jake "I'm out of here" Vogt

March, CA

336 ARS

Greetings from the RRATS! It's been an up and down year for us here at March Air Reserve Patch. We've suffered some personal losses, moved to what we hope is our final location here on base, and all the while kept doing all the flying, cargo hauling, and assorted other fun stuff we always do. Through it all we still managed to smile and keep coming back for more.

We have finished our conversion to the R-model and are now bracing for our conversion to Pacer Crag, which is scheduled to begin in March '98.

On that note, here's a short run-down of our folks...

CMSgt Bob Dunning, ART, Program Manager: The Chief suffered a tremendous loss this year with the death of his wife to cancer. We all mourn the passing of a bright, cheerful, courageous woman, and fellow member of the 452nd AMW.

SMSgt Curt Massey, ART, Stan-Eval: Newest member of the 336th to join the "Middle-aged Bikers of America Association."

SMSgt Zen Olson, ART, Supply: Keeps himself busy playing with his wood and showing it to other people.

SMSgt Steve Hamer, Reservist: Busy flying his Classic Luscombe and building a super fast, all metal, RV-6, his "retirement motor-home." (Sounds awfully testosterone-y to me!)

MSgt John Everette, ART, Tanker Scheduling: He's the guy we have to thank for the great trip to Misawa in the middle of November. John... don't you know it's COLD in Misawa in November!

MSgt Ken Horner, ART, Pay: STILL trying to hold onto his ART slot, even more important now as he expects the birth of his 2nd child in June '98. Ken, I was going to make that "coyote" joke here but I'll restrain myself, for once.

MSgt Phil Stidham, ART, Training Flight: Phil lives for building up his empire in the training flight. This helps keep his mind off the fact that he can't keep a car going for long without the transmission falling out.

MSgt Deborah McGuane, ART, Boom Scheduling: "Leaner, meaner, biking machiner." Deb has recently gotten into cycling, and not long ago completed a race in Rosarita, Mexico. Is there anything physically challenging this woman doesn't do???

MSgt Tina Skropos, Reservist: Trying out two new titles, either "Boom/Coordinator" or "Event/Operator," as she manages to juggle two children, the Reserves, and her new job as Event Coordinator at the Ontario Convention Center.

MSgt Maurice Walker, Reservist: We have flashbacks to the old "ChiPs" television show seeing Maurice in his new role as motorcycle cop for the CHP's. He's back to being "available," but it's gotta be the right guy.

MSgt Tony Wright, Reservist: Had his 2nd child, a baby girl, last Jan. Working as an Analyst for the City of Redondo Beach.

TSgt Ron Herzer, Reservist: "Dancing Bear." Recently worked security at the Ritz Carlton for Vice-President Gore's visit.

TSgt "Beans" Baxter, Reservist: Pole climber for Pacific Bell. "Bean Pole!" We *finally* met his flight attendant wife and can verify that she's real.

TSgt John Irish, Reservist: Back on patrol in Moreno Valley for the Riverside County Sheriff's office. He recently got his private pilot's license. Not sure *how* he paid off his corvette though because he's NEVER here!

TSgt Nicole Canada, Reservist, Mobility NCO: Yes, folks. Nicole is still here. (How's that, Nic?)

TSgt Erica Scott, Reservist, Sq. Historian: What do you get when you cross a Boom Operator with a U.S. Marine??? We'll soon find out... This non-flying, non-TDY-going, pregnant Boom is expecting her 1st baby in March '98.

SSgt Brent Johnson, Reservist, Alt. Pay: This is the 1st Boom Signal in about three years that Brent HASN'T been expecting a baby. We know for a fact that he won't be...ever again.

SSgt Yvonne Sell, Reservist: Our newest boom operator. Busy getting her fully mission qualified.

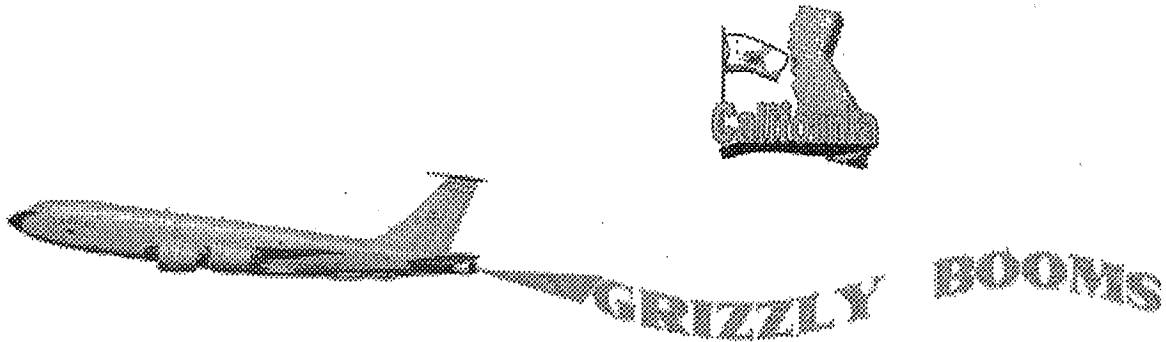
Remember, March has not closed. So if you are ever in the area, stop on in and say, "Hi," and try out our new 'Cory Tarpenning Memorial Ping Pong Table.' We will be here, holding down the fort, making sure that the southwestern portion of our great country is safe for everyone.

ERICA A. SCOTT, TSgt, USAFR
Boom Signal Scapegoat

ROBERT DUNNING, CMSgt, USAFR
Air Refueling Program Manager

March, CA

196 ARS



THE 196th AIR REFUELING SQUADRON BOOM OPERATORS

Well, another year has gone by, and we have some new faces, but mostly the same group of Troops. Looking forward into the next year or two, we hope to kick off the PACER CRAG program here at March for the West Coast location of the ANG program, and we're also slated to get three planes modded with the MPRS (Multi Point Refueling System, aka Drogue Pods) in addition to a spares kit. We also hope to host the 1999 Inflight Refueling Program Managers' Conference in conjunction with our sister unit here, the 336th ARS RRATS. Anyway, Nuff said, here now are your 1997/1998 196th ARS GRIZZLY Boom Operators!!!!

CMSgt Norm "The Silver Fox" Perry: Yes folks, the Silver Fox is still alive and kicking! (Well, at least he's kicking the slackers!) He finally got his own office, so that he would no longer have to take messages for Keith and Bruce.

SMSgt Bruce "The Riddler" Garcia: Well, Bruce continues to live up to his nickname: here is one guy who seems to enjoy making a request for a simple lunch order into an enigmatic query from the depths of his Gray Matter! Oh, by the way, he and the Mrs. just had their second child- Paige Elizabeth Garcia. Bruce is also continuing to improve his "Benchmark" CLT program, you all should stop by his CLT Web Site. Way to go Bruce!!!

SMSgt John "Waldo" Walund: No, he has not had any recent offspring, but he is moving over to Stan/Eval to do some baby-sitting. (We all know how those Nose Gunners can get)

MSgt James "Jimbo" Blucher: Double Congratulations to Jim- pinned on MSgt, then he and the wife turn around and have a beautiful baby girl, Nicole Cheri Blucher! Last I heard, he was still selling the boat- Any takers?

MSgt Mike "Uncle Mikey" Dunn: Yep, he's still here, only he left the agonizing stress of Training to the calmer waters of Scheduling. He sends his best out to all of his former students and colleagues.

MSgt Dave "CHiP" Navarro: Well, good ol' Dave went and got promoted to Lieutenant in the CHP. I guess you could say that he turned coat and became an officer (that is if you wanted to rile him up!) We're not sure, but we think he might be opening up a car dealership- he seems to show up to each Drill Weekend in a new ride.

MSgt Jim "Psycho" West: What can we say? L.A.P.D., recent promotion to Sgt, and loves being an "advocate". Just give him a large stick, and he will start stirring that pot!

TSgt Dave "Kim" Basinger: Dave is back to building bridges here in sunny SoCal, that is when he's not buying leather in Turkey, or enjoying a relaxing out and back pax haul to Korea.

TSgt John "Cool Runnings" Bradbury: He thought he worked for McDonnell Douglas, until he got his brand new Boeing I.D. card. Who Knew??!!

TSgt John "Little" Haus: aka Joe Friday- because he wants "Just the Facts sir/ma'am". Works near Jim West, in the LAPD, that is. Not too much you can say about John, other than the fact that he's just "Damn glad to be here".

TSgt Gary "Duck" or "The Chef" Howard: Gary is still pounding out the schedule, and delighting all who fly with him by preparing Gastronomical Delights with his extraordinary culinary skills. Oh, we almost forgot- He and Tess just had their second son- Joshua Howard. Again, Congratulations!

TSgt Keith "Lineman" Lequire: Well, he stopped being a lineman for GTE and came on full-time with the Grizzlies, but he kept the nickname. Right now he is rebuilding everyone's computers and managing the Ops Group side of the LAN. Recently moved into a new house up in "Boom Heights", and is designing his yard on the computer. (OF COURSE!)

TSgt Jamie "McFly" McMath: No, no new Bambinos, he's just nurturing his D.J. business, while going to school at night. He also says that his golf game is something to behold! I wonder what he means by that?

TSgt Aaron "Bear" Scott: Still working for the Immigration & Naturalization Service full time, and looking to go over as a criminal investigator or move up in the world as a US Marshall. Mr. Brent Has also had his plate full- got married about a year ago, and recently finished up CFIC with \$ammy. Hey, Don't blame us- Dave "Smokey" Robinson was their instructor!

TSgt Julianne "Jewels" Tregillis: Just went part time, moving down to Florida, and her new business is going through the roof! Gotta love those Boom Operator/Entrepreneurs!

SSgt Steve "Barstool" Barcza: Tried the CHP, but it was just not what he wanted to do, so he delivered for Pepsi, until he found his calling- Railroad Conductor for Union Pacific!, I guess we have to call him "ChooChoo" instead of "Barstool" now. It just fits better.

SSgt Justin "\$ammy" Ciasullo: Yep folks, still a Guard Bum after all these years! Worked as a fire arms instructor for State Headquarters for a while, but couldn't hack the commute, then came back to being a bum. Went and got shipped off to CFIC, came back from Altus and got Engaged! Don't Do It Man!!!!!! (SEE Aaron Scott for other comments)

SSgt Lisa "Brian" Piccolo: Tried to Bum for a while, but felt it better to go back to teaching High School math, then went on to become our "Tokyo Talon Crash Test Dummy"

SRA Angel "Boot" Gomez: Angel is still in the LAPD Academy with a projected graduation sometime near January or February 1998. I don't know about the rest of you, but I see a definite trend in our hiring practices.

McClellan, CA

314 ARS

Greetings from the 940th ARW/ 314 ARS, McClellan AFB, Ca. This year will finally see us move to Beale AFB after surviving five and a half years in temporary facilities. The following personnel are presently assigned.

MSGT MICHAEL "SPIKE" BELL- ART Training NCO - Still adamantly single and enjoying his cigars. Planning on upgrading the rowboat to a sailboat and sailing the high seas with his harem. He's finally figured out how to check his e-mail this year.

MSGT WARREN DALY- Warren is still our resident general contractor and birdman of Grass Valley. He still smokes like a chimney and continues to complete all CBT requirements on the 31st of December. Just moved his clan out from Oklahoma and into the new double-wide.

MSGT MAGGIE (SISTER MARGARET) EVANS- Mother Maggie is still doing her "ART THING" in Mission Development. She loves her new grandson and continues to not take crap from anyone.

SSGT MIKE HARSTON- Mike works full time at the McClellan Depot and manages to stop by the Boom Shop every week or so. He crawls around inside KC-135 fuels cells at the depot all day sniffing fumes, which, may account for why he has applied for an art position.

TSGT MIKE KIBLER- Kibbles came to us from the KC-10's at McGuire AFB. He had to take off a stripe (again) in order to make the transfer, but hopefully he will move his family up from Southern California and finally start living a "normal" life in the near future!

TSGT EVE LOVELACE- Eve travels between Carson City Nevada and Sacramento avoiding blizzards, road kills, and making more in travel pay than she does as a TSGT. She has finally figured out how to fill out a travel voucher.

MSGT MIKE MECUM- Our resident Deputy Sheriff is still giving out free legal advice and signing off "fix it tickets." He made it through a rather wild year but met a real "babe" and life is good.

SSGT STEVE MOULTON- A.K.A. "Uncle Moulty." Steve also works full time at the depot KC-135 systems. He's still trying to figure out how to fill out a monthly availability sheet and figure out when he can fly. He now understands the difference between per diem and military pay.

MSGT DAVE MYRICK- Dave is still carrying a big stick at UPS. One of our "old timers," Dave plans to stick around until September and then have all his weekends free!

TSGT LARRY NASO- Larry drives a truck for UPS and manages to get into fly once a week and stay current in the Jet, except for December when life is hell at UPS during the Christmas rush. Then Larry isn't seen around here until January. Larry also raises boxers-Anyone want a puppy?

MSGT BRIAN (ANT-EATER) O'ROURKE- B.J. is still the ART body scheduler. High energy, high stress, easy going, and a make it happen kind of guy. Favorite quip "I can't please everyone." You know what they say about big noses!

TSGT JOHNNY PULLEN- is a full time student at Shasta College in Redding. He manages to drive his Porsche at mach 3 to Sacramento on a regular basis to keep up his currency in the jet. A wolf in lambs clothing. If you want to see the real Johnny add liquor and stir. He only has two payments left on the damages to a hotel room in Italy and was recently cleared of all charges in an international incident.

MSGT DAN "Q-MAN" QUASIUS- Our resident physical therapist. He's off for a tour in Saudi to teach running techniques to camels! Don't ever give this man any kind of dairy product!! This is not a caution it's a severe warning.

MSGT BOB (MR. CLEAVER) RENN- ART Stan Eval. Flying with the test squadron here at the depot on a regular basis on a wing and a prayer.

TSGT FRANS (THE FLYING DUTCHMAN) STENKEN- ART "On the Road" instructor. He shaved his head and mustache recently to participate in a police line up?!! The S.S. Garlic is still afloat.

TSGT JOHN "WALLY" WAHLEITHNER- John completed his degree from UC Davis this year and has been accepted to pilot training. He will be leaving us in June for OTS. Can be found during the winter UTA's giving technical instruction to the ladies in the fine arts of snowboarding and hot-tubbing. That is technique only Wally!

CMSGT JIM WELBORN- Still trying to hold the reins on a herd of runaway horses! Loves country music he should; lost his wife, his house, dog, car, and boat all in one year! All is not lost though; he now plays country music backwards, trying to get it all back in '98!

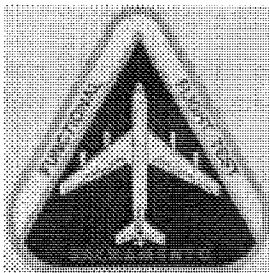
Our move to Beale AFB in March is near approaching. We would love to have you visit when in the area. However there is no easy way to get to Beale. Ten miles of cow dung must be crossed regardless of direction of travel!

Have a great year!

Spike Bell
314 ARS/DOB
DSN 633-2100X123

McClellan, CA

77 OSS



Just a quick "Hi!" to all booms from Sacramento.

It's just me here—I'm sort of the Maytag repair man of the boom field, doing functional check flights on PDM jets coming out of the Air Logistics Center here at McClellan. I log an average of about 6 sorties and 8-10 hours per month—no A/R, no nav legs, no cargo. Hey, it's a tough job, but somebody's gotta do it!

The good part of my job is that I'm the only boom here, and the bad part of my job is that I'm the only boom here. Kinda tough to get a stunt double for me when I wanna take leave or anything. And AF Material Command is a little, um..., different. AFMC is also rumored to mean "A Frickin' Million Civilians", or "Air Force Metrics Command", but in spite of all the little irritants that come with working here, it's pretty much an 8 to 4, Monday thru Friday sort of gig, so who am I to complain? But I sure miss those per diem checks!

Anyway, if'n you're ever in town, or have any FCF type questions, feel free to give me a call. It's DSN 633-5207 or commercial (916) 643-5207. The most common question I get is "Are you hiring?" from the good-deal hounds, and the answer is no. Sorry, but it's a one-deep position, there isn't enough flying to keep two guys current, and this joint is closing (it's just that nobody knows when the work will go away), blah, blah, blah.... Though I would not mind moving down the road to Travis to open this slot, it does not appear to be in the cards, so the big *No Vacancy* sign is still up for the foreseeable future.

Hope all is well with everybody in the real world. Call or come visit anytime—3rd floor of base ops. Fly safe!

MSgt Ted Glick
77 OSS Flight Test
3028 Peacekeeper Way, Suite 4
McClellan AFB, CA 95652-1020

McConnell, KS

22 OGV



Salutations from the 22 Air Refueling Wing...the absolute finest tanker wing in the free world! While I've only been in place a couple months, I can say without any reservation, that the boom operators of this wing are of an extraordinary caliber. It is their dedication, perseverance and commitment to mission that makes this wing run. The adage of today's Air Force..."Do more with less"...has never been better applied than here in the 22 ARW. After spending nearly five years in PACAF theater of operations, I was truly shocked at the operations tempo placed upon AMC tanker crews. From rotations in Al Kharj, short notice deployments to Spain, channel missions, Pacer Crag and Multi Point Refueling System (MPRS) modifications, not to mention the special operations taskings, the 76 assigned boom operators have performed splendidly. I'm not sure how the senior boom supervision kept up, but their record of accomplishments during deployments is true testimonial to the herculean efforts they employed.

As with the other core wings, manning (or lack of it) is our top concern. While we may be fully manned on paper, 20% of those "paper" airman are not yet trained or even arrived on station. The area of most frustration is the lack of middle tier NCOs and instructors. Given the large influx of 3-levels with the shortfall in instructors, we simply won't be able to train the baby booms to mission ready status in any reasonable amount of time. We are well aware that since the manning woes we now face took years to develop, we shouldn't look for resolution anytime soon, however, every option must be considered in order to provide the available experienced manpower where it's most desperately needed. These efforts will require that all wings and squadrons share in the pain by maintaining the same ratio of experience to inexperience.

We as a wing, have begun the process of regaining control of our destiny by reasserting ourselves as leaders of the wing boom force. From program managers rating their flight supervisors to divesting ourselves of First Sergeant duties, we are attempting to provide the young enlisted aviator the true mentorship/leadership he or she deserves. We would like to see this effort applied throughout AMC, beginning with the wear of the Boom Operator's patch. With the Year of the Enlisted well underway, the opportunity to regain those symbols that define who we are, has never been better. The hostile takeover is history...it's time to see a resurgence of our heritage and to write a new chapter for our legacy. Remember...there is strength in numbers!

The boom operators of the 22 ARW look forward to extending their hospitality to all who pass through our fair base. If you ever have the opportunity to drop in for a visit, don't hesitate to call. Till then...Keep your mach up!

WILLIAM P. KARASKO, CMSgt, USAF
22 ARW Inflight Refueling Program Manager

McConnell, KS

344 ARS

Howdy from Kansas, I have learned that they do say howdy up here. It's a good thing too, because I was starting to go into withdrawal from not hearing it. Things in the 344 ARS (America's premier Air Refueling Squadron) are in such a state of flux that you can't even keep up with the changes if you DO have a program. By the end of March 98, there will not be a single person in the squadron that was here when we opened. The "Ops Tempo" has kept us hopping and it is beginning to look like the light at the end of the tunnel is in fact a train! It doesn't seem possible that we opened this place three plus years ago. In that time we have converted to a new airframe (we were mostly A-model guys), seen every corner of the world, and accomplished more transition than Castle AFB ever dreamed of...even counting the B-52s. It has been a wild ride with a lot of turbulence and more changes to our way of life than anyone ought to be expected to bear. We keep running as fast as we can, trying to keep up, and just keep putting the pole in the hole.

This will be my last Boom Signal before I retire, and although you may not care, I want to reflect a little on the last 16 years as a boom operator. I say today what I said 16 years ago: This is still the best job ever created, and it has the best people that ever wore a blue uniform. I am proud to have served with fellow boom operators and regret that I didn't get the opportunity to meet all of you. We are a special breed that will get the job done regardless of the adverse conditions, and sometimes in spite of the guidance given to us from above. Change has been the norm for the last five years. We saw the end of the Cold War, the hostile takeover of MAC, and endless days of fun in Saudi Arabia. People used to try to go to Beale AFB to quit pulling alert and get more TDY. Now we wish we could pull alert and quit going TDY. Getting an Alaska TTF in the winter used to be the bad deal, today it is Sand Land in the summer. We have been asked to increase our services, while our numbers dwindled. Through it all, the Boom Operator community has adapted to and excelled in every task we were given. That is nothing new though. Boom Operators have always done the job, and always will do anything it takes to complete our mission. I look forward to moving on to new challenges, but will miss working with the best that America has to offer. The Boom Operator Corps will continue their proud traditions, and to hell with anybody who doubts our commitment to duty or to each other.

"Boom Stowed, Leaving Position."

GLENN FAUGHT, SMSgt, USAF

"Boom Operator"

Chief Boom – SMSgt Glenn "**Leatherneck**" Faught – Can't wait to retire and go back to that one place...what is it – TEXAS?? He needs to work on spreading his tan evenly throughout his body instead of concentrated on his neck. Nobody knows what he is going to do after he retires. Some rumors are that he is going to start his own TV show. BASS FISHING IN TEXAS. He is the best chief boom some of us have had. Actually, the ONLY chief boom some of us have had. He is going to be missed greatly.

A-Flight

Flight Supervisor – TSgt Jerry "**Spanky**" Linscott – Well Spanky "Finally" made it to Saudi! He had a good trip, we heard, but is anxious to get back to his "TSgt of the Air Force" throne. Spanky always has a story that is bigger and better than the last one. He was on his way to Germany, but decided that he had already spent too much time overseas, so he involuntarily canceled his slot. "WWWHHAAATTT???" "Hey! Can't you guys come up with any new material?"

SrA Randy "**Dukes**" Kay – Randy is our Training flight boom and our resident #1 contender for the WBC heavyweight championship of the world! He says he can kick Mike Tyson's @\$ in the ring. Ya know and after watching Mike's last flight, I think I believe him! He tries to keep himself in check by splitting his head open every few weeks. Randy is also the king of canceled assignments! He has had two go by him so far to crappy places like Mildenhall & MacDill. Man, who did you piss off?

SrA John "Broken" Pickett – Well ol' Johnboy did a great thing. He went to CFIC and got an "OP" on his checkride! And then when the squadron thought they had a new instructor, he broke his leg two days later playing soccer! Been DNIF ever since! Well, we know when he gets to fly again, he will be a good IBO. Not only is he the president of the Society of Wayward Booms, he is also a member.

A1C Clint "TDY" Deeder – Well, Clint was caught up in the "Pacer Crap", oh! I mean "Pacer Crag" thing for awhile, and never went anywhere, except to work on weekends. He finally had to go TDY to Saudi in the middle of the summer, his first deployment! Didn't mind much, says it was better than working seven days a week and doing transition all the time (whatever). Nothing like a pilot's jet, huh?

A1C Brett "SHHH" Prothe – Brett doesn't really say a whole lot around the squadron, but says a whole lot when he is TDY. It took us a whole month to get him to tell us his whole name. Heard he even cussed! He is married, but lives in the dorms (what's that all about?).

B-Flight

Flight Supervisor – SSgt Jimmy "Jaws" Bautista – Well Jaws' wish finally came true!...An assignment back to the Motherland...TEXAS!!! He will be doing a TALCE job there. He says his sentence in Kansas is now over and he is returning to his native soil. What! You mean this wasn't Leavenworth?

A1C Matt "Bones" Galloway – You will know how Matt got his nickname when you see him in his flightsuit. "Hey! You got a sack of potatoes in there?" Matt also thinks he can take on anyone with his 6'3", 130 lb. build!? Must be hanging around Randy too much!

A1C Mark "Earthquake" Johnson – Mark has owned more cars than anyone here! Seems he runs them into the ground, then sells them real cheap! He wants to be a Champion Drag Racer when he grows up, if he grows up! "Hey Mark! Were there any 'earthquakes' in Saudi this time?" Spends more time in the Ops Officer's office talking about cars than he does hanging out with the other booms...or women.

SrA Brian "X-Red Chicken" Buss – Well, Brian used to be one of them "fighting red cocks", but saw the light and came to a real squadron! He is a true "Raven" now! Sorry Jimbo, but when we trade the other guy usually gets screwed!

C-Flight

Flight Supervisor – TSgt Rick "Tattoo" Brack – I think there are only two places that he doesn't have any tattoos, but that has not been confirmed! We will just take your word for it. Rich got himself a hardship assignment to Hickam AFB, HI as a scheduler. Must be nice to know someone in PACAF! We will be expecting a party every time we go through there! Seriously... Good Luck.

SrA Clint "Deal with It" Slick – Clint used to do refueling on the ground and now he does it in the air. Slick went to Saudi for the first time as a boom and proceeded to earn the nickname "Scarface." Clint claims he has a "Maniac" wife, but no one has ever seen her. We think it is a ploy to get more BAQ to pay off John's terrible house rent.

A1C Jeff "The Spaniard" Villarreal – Jeff is the only person in the squadron that can speak that special language "Mexican." Jeff is also the resident Spanky harasser. "What's the problem, Jeff?" Always initiating all "BAD" things.

A1C Dave "LBG" a.k.a. "Crazy Dave" Chandonnet – Dave's money finally paid off and he got his security clearance. YIKES! Dave hasn't been able to go TDY for a while, so he is always broke. He is the only one that spends \$500 a week on phone bills. Quit calling those 900 numbers (or your girlfriend). Dave's in Japan right now visiting all the other LGBs.

A1C Alex "Bronx" Scilletta – We never had to lock down the cash box until Alex got here. By the way, has anyone seen my hubcaps? Alex is working on becoming MR, but still needs to get his life support training in line. Ask him about his motorcycle.

Stan/Evil

SSgt Tom "BooBoo" Morrison – Tom does a good job when he is in the squadron. Tom does a great job on the golf course. He has a TALCE slot to Little Rock AFB. Tom probably has more hours on the golf course than he has in the plane, and he has a lot of aircraft hours. Good luck in Arkansas!

Booms Lost or Separated (Voluntary or Other)

SrA Bill King – Bill got out and is in school to become a paramedic. It's not safe to call 911 anymore.

SrA Travis "No, I don't have any of my stuff done" Williams – Travis went Palace Chase in sheet metals to the Guard in Arkansas. Travis has travel vouchers left open from years ago.

AB/AMN/A1C/AMN/AB Chris "GRR" Smith – Changes rank more than he changes his underwear. He is only familiar with one article of the UCMJ. I think he forgot the other 133. Talks a lot, but doesn't say anything.

SrA Matt "Grunt" Lienhard – Matt was just too good for the boom field and went to Combat Controllers. He is a lean mean fighting machine now! Left his Corvette here to be stored in Jaws' garage. Now Jaws only drives the Vette. Wishes he was in the Army!

McConnell, KS

349 ARS

Greetings once again from the premier air refueling squadron of the 22 Air Refueling Wing and very probably the world. It's hard to believe that it's been a year since we sat writing last years signal. I must say, however, that I'm much more comfortable writing this one. Last year I was in the sand box.

It's been an extremely hectic year with all the TDYs, non-vol assignments to the 10s and the TALCEs. Not to mention people just bailing to avoid one of the aforementioned good deals. I'm sure it's been no different anywhere else though - except perhaps overseas.

To make things even more interesting, as if they haven't been interesting enough, we had our ASEV in July. ASEVs as you well know aren't in and of themselves such a painful event. It's the prep. The countless practice EP tests, AD tests, EPEs and the like. I miss the days of old when the reward for a job well done was simply less punishment. Anyway, our guys were up to the test and really watered the eyes of the ASEV boys. My hat's off to each and every one of them.

One thing that has really set this year apart from those gone by is the inordinate amount of 3-levels that are typically in the squadrons. My squadron has gone from 0 when we stood up in '94 to 11 today - 35 in the wing. Needless to say, we have really become quite proficient in our instructor duties. We're really forcing our young booms to grow up fast. Hurry up and complete mission qual training so I can deploy you. Then, deploy more so I can upgrade you seems to be the norm. We are getting a lot of very talented young boom operators who will some day replace us. The challenge we face though is how to keep them around long enough so they'll be here to replace us.

Well, as much as I'd like to, I can't sit around here jawing all day - got training to do. So if you ever drop into McConnell for any reason, don't hesitate to drop in for a cup of jo or a soda. It's always nice to compare notes with our comrades in arms from other bases. It also affords us a perfect opportunity to do a little recruiting. See ya around the world. Fly Safe!

→

SCOTT SWILLING, SMSgt, USAF
Operations Superintendent, 349 ARS

SMSgt Scott (Judge Dredd) Swilling, (Chief Boom), Again!

Swill went to the wing to fill in until our new chief arrived. Now he's back and making his presence known. He's a legend in these here parts for the manner with which he deals with criminals in the squadron. He fills both positions - judge and jury!

MSgt Larry O. (The Free Agent) Greenfield, (First Sergeant)

Larry's been traded so many times that his velcro needs replacing from over use. He's hoping to find a permanent home with the 344 as their new chief boom. We know he'll do a great job over there.

TSgt Marvin D. (You can call me "T") Taylor, (B Flight Super and squadron trouble shooter)

Recently returned from Turkey. When he's at home, he gets his mail at the gym. He'll be CFIC bound as soon as his waiver is approved. We'll have 3 instructors when he upgrades. Bought a new PC - now he thinks he's Bill Gates.

TSgt Milton (Greedy) Griggs, (Ex squadron scheduler/C Flight Super)

Still loves to go TDY which is how his nickname came about. Recently returned from Turkey and assigned as a flight chief, he'll have to stay home more so he can take care of his boys. Sorry Greedy!

SSgt Barry (Mr. Self Help) Mayhew, (A Flight Super)

Barry is the master of procurement but got stung trying to get Materhorn boots for everyone and at the same time stock the Bill McQueen Army/Navy Surplus Store. Tried to blame it on Swilling but he had a perfect alibi. He was in the desert. Barry will be heading for the TALCE at Little Rock. His expertise and leadership will be missed by all.

SSgt Glen (Stally) Stallard, (C Flight Super)

Glen got picked up for one of the Ramstein jobs so he'll be heading for greener pastures. He bought an uhmpa outfit and accordian before he left so he could hang out with the Germans. Enjoy the beer and sausage Glen, we'll miss ya.

SSgt Stephen (Teach me anything) Estell (duty dog and shop bit head)

Stephen came to us via Spangdahlem - soon to be retread. He still has to go through the boom processing line. (Sheppard, Altus, and Fairchild.) If he flies a boom like he answers a telephone, he'll be a great addition to the 349th.

SSgt (Select) Christy (I just have a quick question) Milligan

Christy departed Stan Eval for the wing to work in plans. She's been hard broke for a while awaiting parts but the Doc just recently signed off the exceptional release so she's back in the saddle. Welcome back and congratulations on your promotion. Good luck up in XP.

SrA Jason (Mr. TDY) Resler, (Stan Eval Boom)

Jason is the squadrons newest instructor. We threw him right into training flight to handle the mission qual training for a bunch of new booms. What a way to start. Did such a good job, we moved him into stan/eval.

A1C Bill (Beautiful Bill) McQueen, (C Flight)

Just bought a new motorcycle so he can cruise for chicks with his roommate. Anyone wanting to make a lot of money should take out a short term life insurance policy on Bill because the first time he ever drove a motorcycle was when he drove his new crotch rocket off the lot. Drive safe Bill!.

A1C Carroll (Stealthier than Stealth) Lewis, (A Flight)

You've heard of stealth booms. Well Carroll could teach the F-117s and the B-2s a thing or two. Carroll is now checked out in special ops and marriage. Let Lewis show you what it feels like when your skull presses against your brain.

A1C Neil (Hopsing) Husong, (A Flight)

Just back from Turkey, Neil finally got his wish and got checked out in special ops. He was last seen over at base supply trying to get issued his black flight suits, helmet bag and Delta Force boots. Welcome to the SOAR team Neil.

A1C Rafael (Just call me Cruz) Cruz-oyola, (A Flight)

Rafael has heard so many pronunciations of his name since being here, we were afraid he might start forgetting how to pronounce it himself. We finally got Cruz mission ready and now he's out touring the world. First stop Moron. Heard he's moon lighting over there as an interpreter.

A1C Greg (How do you like my pecks?) Wells, (C Flight)

Greg had to take a little hiatus this summer, but now he is back and can march and call cadence with the best of them. Greg can be found hanging out at the local Sonic showing off his new Z-28 and his pecks.

A1C Cecil (All the women love me) Little, (C Flight)

Cecil's been on a hot streak lately. He's had more girlfriends than Heidi Flietz had customers. Cecil finally figured out that women didn't like to walk on dates so he purchased a vehicle. Every girl loves a man with a truck..

A1C David (Dave Clarke Five) Clarke, (B Flight)

No relation to the headset manufacturer. Dave is McQueen's room mate and another excellent chance to make a quick buck on a life insurance policy. Dave went out and bought a bike that is almost as big as he is, we suspect that chaps, saddle bags and tatooes are next.

A1C Patrick (Radar) Haney, (B Flight)

Pat is our "Radar Aligner of the Year". That's right folks, Pat went on his first TDY and fell for the old ground radar calibration pimp. And we captured the moment on Kodak. He's a good sport about the whole thing though and can't wait to try it on the next innocent by-stander.

A1C Daniel (Hands) McNitt, (A Flight)

Dan has the velvet touch, but we're not talking about his boom control. Dan has been seen walking around with his hands in his pockets mumbling something about "It was just a innocent massage." For more details please contact Dan.

HONORABLE MENTION

A1C Brian (The Brain) Kinkade

Brian came to us a short while ago but never really got his feet off the ground due to an air sickness problem. He was still a vital part of the squadron and contributed greatly to it during his short time with us. He got tagged for every SLD that came up and never complained once. Brian finally got approved retraining into the optometry career field. He will be greatly missed. Best of luck Brian.

Attached or Guys Who Fly for Cash

MSgt Tim Bowser (TACC)

MSgt Greg Conrad (TACC)

PCS, PCA or Separated

MSgt Mike Sage - USAFE Stan/Eval

MSgt Steve Yavornitzki - Traded to the 384th. Their new Chief Boom.

SSgt Bart Jordan - Traded to the KC-10's. Stationed at McGuire.

SrA John Wanner - Separated and now back in the homeland of Oregon.

A1C Chad Eason - Separated. Look for him on Saturday afternoons quarterbacking for the Tide.

McConnell, KS

350 ARS



Greetings,

From the Red Falcons of the plains. This past year has been hectic and this coming year looks like its even more hectic. We had the pleasure of spending 64 days working on our tans. The only good thing about that was we missed ASEV and got to help out the guys up at the Forks after the flood. PACER CRAG training starts early next year. We are looking forward to providing the best training possible.

Here's the current line up of the RED FALCON's

MSgt Jim Morman (OLE HARDASS) Getting more gray hair everyday I don't know what causing it. Could be all the young booms or maybe it's the teenage daughter.

MSgt Larry Hopkins (GRUMPY) If you know Larry then you know how he got the nickname. Don't ever asked Larry to wake you up his clock runs an hour faster than normal.

SSgt Paul Lankes (GONZO) Paul is trying to go to OTS and I really hopes he gets it. Paul has more awards than Patton. NCO of the Year, ATA young Leader of the year, and Instructor of the year.

SSgt Kathy Steiner (SUPER BOOMETTE) STEPED to SSgt in January and she really earned it. It looks like Kathy will be getting out this January to go back to school.

SSgt Paul Frownfelter (FROWNY) Came over from the 344th to instruct PACER CRAG. Frowny is trying to start his own women's basketball team, just had daughter number 3.

SSgt Shawn Hewett (SATAN) This guy listens to some weird music and his favorite numbers is 666. PCSING to Mildenhall in the spring and he's a happy man.

SrA Pete Rodriguez (The Natural) Pete just had a baby boy and is the PACER GRAG expert. Pete runs training flight and is doing an outstanding job.

SrA Shane Haney (HOLLYWOOD) Headed to CFIC in Feb and is going to be a good one. Shane only has one problem...he attracts crazy women.

SrA Drew Sottovia (CHUNKS) Good news Drew finally got himself a car after over a year without one. Drew is getting ready to go to CFIC after Shane.

A1C Cole Brantley (GREENDAY) Changes his hair color more than most people change their socks. Always trying to get one over on me but rarely succeeds.

A1C Frank Esposito (THE MOUSE) The only guy that can stop traffic when he takes his shirt off. Quiet but always gets the job done. Big thing are in his future.

A1C Ben Hopp (STARRY EYE) Got here and 36 days later was in the sandbox. Met a girl there and wedding bells are in the future. Super new boom and we'll take a boat load just like him..

A1C Jeremy Warzybok (ELLEN) Bought a car that had personalized license plates, ELLEN, hence the nickname. Franks partner in crime.

A1C Jeff Cumming (TWO) Fresh out of Altus and ready to go as long as he doesn't forget his pubs.

A1C Matt Calisi (SIR) This guy always stands at parade rest. Doing a good job and is ready to go anywhere anytime.

Amn Roger Kriess (I CAN DANCE) Has more moves than Barry Sanders. Can't drive worth a damn. Good boom

Gone but not forgotten

MSgt Clyde Soumas...PCsed to Travis AMOG, but still flys with us.

SrA Brian Buss...PCA'ed to the 344th

A1C Pete Davis...Crosstrained to the MPF.

Well that's about all. If you ever find yourself down this way stop in and say hello and the first one is on us.

MSgt Jim Morman

McConnell, KS

384 ARS

Greetings from the 384 ARS PRIMARY another busy year for 384th as well as the testing, Singapore Air Force Training always full! Not to mention channel runs Saudi, JRX's, ETTF, Moron, AEF Alert and mission, all the time every time. These are getting younger, SrA are now running mention the challenging TDY schedule. folks, always to do more with less. Then to the 10, TALCE's and AMOS, or some baby's (more than half the squadron) are becoming seasoned, by a sort of baptism by fire. Sounds like something broke? When in the land of OZ come on by 384th if your a instructor we just may draft you. Or for some Joe, and talk about some lies. Like motel 6 well keep the light on. Remember; "If Your Patch Isn't Square, Then You Are"



squadron of the 22d Wing. It's been Wing. With PACER CRAG, wing tip pod Detachment, and a ASEV visit our plate is east and west, Panama, Turkey, France, other small TDY's our booms compete the changing times in our boom force. It's flights, Stan Eval, Wing jobs not to We're asking more responsibility of our our experienced booms get non volunteered get out to avoid the draft all together. Our

CHIEF BOOM

MSgt Steve (Coach) Yavornitzki - Actually, the only person not referred to as "Coach." After finally figuring out the "GAZER" game, this self proclaimed King of Cheese flatulated on demand to clear the room.

FLIGHT BOOM

A-FLIGHT

TSgt Steve (Commandant) Klinkhammer - New arrival from the 350th who is the silent type. Smooth contacts aren't all he is known for. Steve will be in front of you one moment then gone the next.

A1C Stuart (Bowling Pin #1) Kirk - ASEV? Whaaat??!! I still have 3 hours of post mission crew rest. Stuart is our recent poster child: clean cut, photographic memory, and a lead foot. Been known to do donuts in his truck in front of the Chairman of the SrA below-the-zone board.

A1C Robert (I'm in my flight mode, man) McMorrow - Rob has more leather attire than Harley-Davidson rider going to Sturgis. Recently engaged to be married. Good luck Rob.

A1C Jim (I'm trying to be GQ) Trombley - Jim is learning the ropes to be a babe magnet from Travis Queen. Changed his image with a pair of contact lenses, 86ed the cheesy mustache, learned what after-shave was, and borrowed a pair of leather boxers from McMorrow.

A1C Reggie (Not Jackson) Rittenhouse - New arrival from Altus. With his new bride and dog, eager to go TDY and take over as permanent duty person.

FLIGHT BOOM

B-FLIGHT

SrA Pat (Tim the Tool man Taylor) Denson - Building fences isn't his only forte, he is the squadron handy man, and go to guy. However, he can't seem to decide if he's Stan/Eval, Training Flight, or B-Flight Chief Boom.

SrA Hannah (Married with Children) Kahahawai - Talk about handling pressure, working in flight scheduling, holding down the household with husband and two children, as well as teaching the new booms how to enunciate her last name.

SrA Kelly (Bowling Pin #2) Morris - Second half of the famous bowling pin twins. Also counts his crew rest down to the last second. World class golfer with a -2 handicap looking to get on the Nike Tour. Currently moonlighting as waiter to get tips from the pros.

A1C Travis (Checks in the mail) Queen - Between 1-900 calls, American Express, house sitting, and hotels, it's been a busy year for the cagey old cat. He had nine lives but used up eight of them.

AMN Aaron (Pelé) Tolson - Aaron found him self a steady girlfriend, impresses her with his soccer skills, as well as keeping her house in inspection order. I think she gives him a break on the rent.

FLIGHT BOOM

C-FLIGHT

SSgt Todd (**The Enforcer**) Daniels - Todd single handily almost started up another Cold War on a CDT Start mission, when he wouldn't allow the Russians to bring their precious K-Mart trinkets aboard. He also has some experience with the Portuguese police.

SrA Jason (**Chuck Norris**) Ryan - Proud dad of a new baby girl, Jason is already going over Cautions and Warnings with her. Been active in the TDY circuit and going to school for his Bachelor degree.

A1C John (**911**) Carter - After surviving a drive by shooting at his house, John is our newest CFIC instructor candidate. Boom of the Quarter, Outstanding Performance by ASEV; brings a tear to our eye.

A1C Jason ("**That diamonds not big enough**") Whiting - Recently engaged to be engaged. Thanks to Jason all booms will be getting a 10% discount at the local jewelry store.

A1C Ralph (**Hoffbräu**) Hoffmann - Another new arrival from Altus. Won't stop asking when he can go TDY. Have we got a deal for him. How does a two month beach vacation sound? Sans ocean.

Other noteworthy booms

SSgt Rick (**Bugsy**) McKenna - Yeah, see? Another transfer from the 350th Screaming Chickens. Then went off to scheduling. What? ASEV is on final approach? I think I've got an ear block, but can you send me East for a cargo eval?

SrA Greg (**Cool-Breeze**) Carron - Greg is going to take his expertise to be Wing Training Boom guru. Greg did outstanding job for us, his programs was praised by ASEV. Our loss is the Wing's gain.

X SQUARE PATCHERS

MSGT Jack (**GAZER**) Martin - The original GAZER! took his gazer show on the road and coming to a base near you disguised as a I.G. Inspector. Don't be fooled by cheap imitations. Bricker is having trouble flying his D4D (desk four drawer) below 335 KIAS.

MSGT Larry (**Lucious Larry**) Greenfield - Larry O is going through the big "D" and I don't mean Dallas. Typical boom divorce keeps his Lazy Boy chair, the boat, and his shirt on his back. Still maintaining his cool-b-smooth image.

TSgt Chris (**I need another new toy**) Zaher - After buying a Tahoe, a Z-28, and a ZX-11, Chris decided he didn't like us anymore so he took a job at the AMOS at Travis. I guess he really does want closer to the 10's. Rather it be the airplane or his quarter mile times.

SSgt (TSgt select) Tom (**Gorgeous**) Hess - Broke a few hearts, took his little black book, his bag of tricks, and his "sometime soon" to be finished '57 Chevy down to Altus by the sea. Maybe he can produce fine young BOs in his spare time.

SSgt Mark (**Here's how it happened**) Batties - Also packed his bags and went to Altus. Between golfing poorly and making everybody laugh at his wild stories, this former flight boom didn't have time to complete EPR's.

SSgt Dennis (**Terminator**) Struve - Dennis finally used his head for something other than a hat rack. He moved across the ramp to the 931st ARG where he fly's when he wants to.

MSGT STEVE YAVORNITZKI 384 ARS/CCF
52968 Piper St. Suite 13
McConnell AFB, KS 67221
DSN 743-3366

McConnell, KS

18 ARS

Greetings from the land of OZ! It has been a busy year for the 18th boom section. We went from a split to two squadrons to one super squadron with 32 crews. This year will be another fun filled schedule with Pacer Crag training starting in May, Rodeo in June, Saudi in March and who knows what else we can do more with less of. Here is the current line up.

CMSgt Don Askren - Program Manager, chief cook and bottle washer. Purchased a beef herd. Stop by and have a steak.

SSgt Tex Austin - DONO expertise. Promoted this year and doing a bang up job.

TSgt Bill Baker - Still pushing students through the door at Altus school house.

MSgt Brad Beyer - Worked for Lear Jet, put in water sprinklers and back to professional reservist.

SSgt Rick Clark - Recent promotion and one of our career college kids.

TSgt Doug Cook - Weekend stan/eval rep when he is not on vacation.

SSgt Rich Costafelis - Brand new boom / career college student.

SMSgt Monsa Dugger - Recently promoted, chief of standardization, had an addition to the family this year.

SrA Ed Estagin - Procured this year from the New Jersey ANG, going to school.

SSgt Ken Girty - Traditional reservist works at Vance AFB maintaining training aircraft.

SSgt Tonya Halenka - Professional reservist works in body scheduling.

TSgt Tatia Krueger - Resident short Texan, professional reservist takes care of our mobility needs.

TSgt Troy Lawson - Chief of boom operator training, would like to be a career college kid.

SSgt Debra - Traditional reservist, works for a major paint company, lives on a Jet Ski.

SSgt Christine Lewis - Our resident Altus intelligence expert, lives in Altus Oklahoma. Trying to teach husband Ray what real world boom job is all about.

TSgt Mark McGougan - Traditional reservist just got back from Saudi then left to help the Okies out in Istres France. Food must be good over there.

SSgt Mark McIntosh - Professional reservist, spends a lot of time at Sporties selling earplugs or something. Need any aircraft artifacts give him a call.

TSgt Paul Douglas Foster Morgan Jr. - Previous professional reservist, got married, got a job, keeps current, hasn't been around much.

SrA Mindy Mulich - Brand new boom from Eieleeson, got hold of some bad water, DNIF for 9 months. Congrats Mindy.

MSgt Jack Norris - Just promoted, in charge of scheduling and fills in for the chief more than occasionally, does a bang up job on late EPR's.

MSgt Darryl Pettis - Previous professional reservist, moved to Florida and trying the life as a traditional reservist.

SSgt Susan Slick - New boom gained from the Maine ANG. Got in trouble drinking the same water as Mulich, DNIF for 9 months. Congratulations to Susan.

MSgt Billy Stacey - Sold the big rig and turned to the life of professional reservist.

SSgt Kathy Steiner - Just hired from the 350th ARS, professional student.

SSgt Dennis Struve - Traditional reservist, right hand man for training issues.

SSgt John Wallman - Professional reservist, mission development expert likes to go TDY.

TSgt Lisa Wasierski - Traditional reservist, career student, professional mover. Pack up the Toyota and move this week end? At least she doesn't own a large piano, yet.

SSgt Jim Yokom - Resident computer nerd, knows his way around transportation, thinking about going to school.

MSgt Rand Sanders was our only loss this year. If any one seed Rand around Seymour Johnson, please wish him the best.

McConnell, KS
AFOTEC

Greetings from Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC) here at McConnell AFB. We're just a little operating location with a 5-person team (1 boom operator), who are assigned to Kirtland AFB, NM. For the last two and a half years, we've been getting ready for, and completing operational test and evaluation on the PACER CRAG modified aircraft. For those of you that don't know what that is, it's the new avionics upgrade for the KC-135. Some people call it the "Glass Cockpit" and some people call it names that I cannot print. Approximately 600 of the KC-135's will be modified in the next couple of years. Active Duty, Guard and Reserve will all have modified aircraft. What it means to the us (boom operators) is that we are operating the navigator's station equipment. We have not assumed the role of the navigator. (Who ever thought we would see the day when the KC-135 would fly without a navigator). We are not operating any of the PACER CRAG equipment (at this time). Only the first 180 aircraft will have the navigator station populated with PACER CRAG equipment. It's kind of hard to operate equipment that may not be there. Even though we are not operating the new PC equipment, we have our hands full, backing up the pilots. All of the boom operators involved in flying the test missions worked incredibly hard, and performed exceptionally well. Some of them were flying so much, they were meeting themselves coming and going. I have gained a lot of respect for some of the younger booms. One in particular, but I won't embarrass Pete in print. Our testing is finished, and after writing the final report, we will be shutting down our operating location sometime in early summer. It's been a really great job. If any of you are ever offered the opportunity to work for AFOTEC, take it. My job is done, and it's time for me to get back to the real world of flying. If anyone has any questions about PACER CRAG, give me a ring at DSN 743-5775.

M. SUE KEISTER, MSGT, USAF
Deputy Director for Analysis

McGhee Tyson, TN

151 ARS

Hello from east Tennessee, the land of the Smoky Mountains and Dollywood. Everything at the 134 Air Refueling Wing is fine. We're preparing for our ASEV visit in February followed by a unit deployment to the desert in March. An air show is planned for the first weekend of May with the Thunderbirds here plus many other aerial displays. You're all welcome to our air show or just any other time. We'll always extend our southern hospitality to you when you visit. Here is a line up of our folks in the boom section at McGhee Tyson.

CMSgt Bob Brown (Chief Boom)

SMSgt Joel Lewis (Squadron NCOIC)

SMSgt Jim Quagliana (Stan/Eval)

MSgt Jeff Dyer (Training Flight)

MSgt Denny Buchanan

MSgt Ed Hatton

MSgt Bo Sunderland (Stan/Eval)

MSgt Bill Witt

TSgt Mark Allen

TSgt Karen Bryson

TSgt Mike Buckner (Current Ops)

TSgt Todd Derrick

TSgt Ronnie Dixon (Cargo Loading)

TSgt Randy Keener (Scheduling)

TSgt Nancy Martinek (Current Ops)

TSgt Greg Waters

SSgt Wayne Atkins

SSgt Hiram Williamson

MSgt J. J. Mehall retired in late December - he will be missed by all of us in the squadron. Also, 2nd Lt Jeremy Taylor (formerly SSgt) is getting ready to go to UPT at Vance in February; we wish him the very best in his new adventures.

If you're in the Knoxville area, please stop by and visit with us. Our DSN phone number is 266-4387 or commercial (423) 985-4387. We hope that 1998 is a very good year for each and everyone of you.

SMS JIM QUAGLIANA
DOTO - 4395
jquagliana@TNTYS.ANG.AF.MIL

McGuire, NJ

21 AF

Greetings from 21 AF/DOV. Let me introduce you to the booms assigned here at stan/eval.

SMSgt Dave Hetrick – Dave is the ANG advisor to the 21 AF Chief of Stan/Eval. The only thing the DO can say about Dave is 'He gives a thorough check ride'. He does a great job working the 847 program here, and represents the NAF at all the KC-135 flight manuals review conferences. You can thank Dave for the Cargo Certification instead of Cargo Qualification. He worked long and hard getting the procedures nailed down and into the AFIs. Dave is getting ready to go back to Phoenix this summer , so any you Guard guys looking for a four year tour here is a great opportunity!

SMSgt Al Miller – Al is the KC-10 boomer. He is currently being audited by the IRS. They can't figure out how they owe him money. He spends all his time working important issues for the KC-10 community.

SMSgt Lee Winter – The other KC-135 boomer, was last seen running across the flight line at Dover in his BDU's. Lee is our turbo test guru and is doing a good job keeping the units up to date with the MQF's. Lee is also looking to move to Randolph AFB for some reason?, I don't think he likes to play golf in the cold weather. So for all you booms, if you are going on an Aviano Eagle, keep your eyes peeled for a renegade BDU donned boomer.

LEE WINTER

AL MILLER

DAVE HETRICK

McGuire, NJ

305 OGV

To All Booms,

A last hello while I sit in the Ops Group Stan/Eval position at McGuire AFB. Last year I said I'd be retiring from the Air Force and that day is fast approaching; effective 1 Apr 98 I enter the retiree ranks, and I've already secured employment in Cleveland, TN as manager of a new Auto Zone that's being built right now.

Life at McGuire is better - better than when I got here 3 1/2 years ago. A new hangar for the KC-10s, new squadron buildings. We are having difficulty keeping manning levels up, like many KC-135 units. To compound this, we're getting tasked to fill TALCE positions and to be honest, our people would rather take their chances with a social disease than volunteer for this job. I know there's no money for assignments and when a boom can fill a spot at home station, tag, you're it. But sometimes getting the right person to the right place involves more than walking across the street to a squadron and nabbing someone. Money ought not always be the driver...I mean, when has fiscal sense ever prevailed? I'm never going to be king for a day, so I may as well not bother to dream about how I'd help the troops on this one.

We've managed to dry up the pool of people coming to the KC-10; if you don't like California or New Jersey, nothing we can do will entice you from the KC-135, and I'm not sure I'd try, because the R model is a fine aircraft. So now we're looking at attracting folks who understand what a good thing it is to fly versus standing security detail or busting knuckles at 0300 on a frosty night somewhere. We're recruiting; if you can help us draw quality folks, tell them to consider us, please.

I am intentionally making this entry short but I want to pass along what I think is important for you consider: Many years ago a Chief Steve Hunnicutt passed this along to me...

- *Do your best at work...* even when the place drives you nuts. You enlisted and promised to do your best. You know the core values - Integrity, Service before Self, Excellence In All We Do. If you're a career airman, stay the course. If you're in for just a little while, still do your best and thanks for giving xx years of your life to a noble cause. Maddening at times, but still noble.
- *Take care of family.* Sooner or later you'll change jobs/careers, but you can't change family (not easily, anyway). Your family is as deep into this military commitment as you, so treat them right.
- *Go to school whenever you can sandwich it in.* Too many are still not pursuing college. Earning an associate's degree or higher only makes you marketable later in the civilian sector as well as in the military when competing for the super grades.

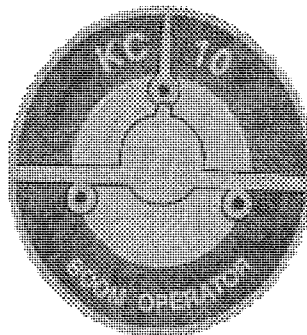
Time to go...got a second life to start on. I'll be the bearded guy working parts orders and work schedules in Cleveland. I'll be looking for you on the internet. Thanks to all who made this a most excellent quarter century!

I salute you and send my best wishes out to you,

JOHN R. PAGE, SMSGT, USAF
305 OG / OGV
Boom Stowed, Leaving Position

McGuire, NJ

2 ARS



Greetings from the Happiest Place on EARTH!!

Is it a year already? Well before I rave about how wonderful everything is , I would like to extend greetings and salutations to all past and present BOOM OPERATORS. Now on to the nitty gritty. The glorious 2nd ARS moved into the 32nd ARS on an interim basis. Yes, we have finally moved out of BIG BEIGE.

As you already know, Our brethren in the 13th lost some cherished crewmembers, our hearts will always be with the families and friends of those gone but never forgotten. The base put on an excellent memorial and kudos went out to all those involved.

As you probably know, crewmembers are leaving in an ever increasing number. Many of our finest are opting to leave rather than stick it out. Those of you who are our experience, stay in the books. Please instill in the young men and women entering our career field a sense of pride and admiration. Those before you worked hard for respect, help keep their legacy alive and our boomer blood strong.

Now, a little bit about McGuire.....(need I say more)

We have a BOOM WEB page--Please check us out at WWW.EXTENDER.COM-One of our very own, TOM CAMPBELL set up a neat page-please logon and tell us what you are up to.

Let me run down the list of key personnel in the 2nd Air Refueling Squadron. I'd like to tell you about each individual in detail, however because of the space allotted, I must keep it brief. Before I begin, all of these individuals volunteered to come here and never want to leave.....and before I forget, that check for \$600.00 in flight pay is in the mail.....

MSgt Mike Barnes - Chief Boom/Cheeks. Still mourning the many Alabama losses/just took over, always busy(so we think)

MSgt Jackie "five O" Hale - turning over reigns to J.C - last seen stocking up on 3yrs supply of meow mix and sun tan lotion - taking over for Bubba Cox in Hickam - (rough stint, huh)

MSgt Terry Dover - Chief SOC - Looking for good deals/retirement - got the best job, in at 9:00 out at 12:00

MSgt Ric Kempfer - Chief of Training - Loves the animals in the woods outings/ever want to see a Honda go four wheeling, call Ric.

MSgt Derek Suficiencia - seeking greener pastures in Maine, resident antique guru, well known on the east coast for his bargaining skills

MSgt (select) John Brannen - Training Flt B - hard worker - can't wait to sew on those stripes so he can start dropping the hammer.

MSgt Ken Holman - returning from TALCE - can you say "fresh meat"

TSgt Paul "Big Dawg" Adkins - Training Flt A - Recently returned from CCTS - You can see him riding that big harley when he's not on the road or at Otter's

TSgt J.C. Coleman - Chief Stan/Eval - Yes, he's the chief/ no it is not a typo/emersing himself in the office/excellent delegator of duties(while on the golf course)

TSgt Doug Garrett - Stan/Eval - Yes if you knew him at Seymour, he is still in Stan/Eval/resident computer guru and sometime golfer-he and J.C. work excellent together

TSgt Shawn Lamb - works in and around the sq./always looking to help out.

TSgt Phil Blaisse - Awards and Decs - is looking for a position in the Dept of Probe and Drogue/Phil is looking to start a new business - "Probes Inc."

TSgt C.D. Franklin - might be going to scheduling - Mr. laid back is looking to extend/I guess he just can't shake that wonderful McGuire feeling, or is that stench

TSgt Al Kaczor - Sched. A - can be seen dealing in computer software/loves computer gaming - maybe too much

TSgt Jim Protzmann - Another recruiter coming back to the '10/got a gnarly set of tools

SSgt Tony Taylor - Training Flt C - loves to four wheel, especially with Ric Kempfer's car

SSgt Doug Bloom - Stan Eval - Recently married - getting out in Jan/Feb time frame, pleading to God for an Ohio State win over Michigan

SSgt David "Stu" Decou - Stan Eval - new guy in the ax factory - Loves his Harley, first cargo ck was, was, well once we peel him off the ceiling, we'll tell you how it went

SSgt Mike Cahill - Safety - he's making every effort to leave wild wonderful McGoo, Digital Camera purchased by life support on permanent loan to Mike(monthly allotments to follow)

SSgt Stacy Tansits - looking for someone to explain the travel voucher system and still looking for the sextant port

SSgt Loren Will - 135 guy who arrived about 8 months ago, still trying to figure out the flush toilet

SSgt Brian New - Training Flt B - loves the road, seen in parts unknown - namely the Sq.

SSgt Bart Jordan - Another newbe, working hard to excel and get a little respect

SSgt Chris Edmonds - Sched. B - presently working on a Mod for tinted glass in the ARO

SSgt Keith Vancamp - Prof. Dev. - recently upgraded, fears cargo doors and any boom named chuck

SSgt Reggie Hammond - Ground Training - he's never met a crew member he didn't like to argue with

SSgt Rich Anderson - Training Flt C - Rich just loves poodles, If you ever have a question about how to discipline a poodle, just ask him

SSgt Jim Dudgeon - Sched. C - Often heard saying, "This is not a sales pitch, this is not a sales pitch, really, your the only one available"

SSgt Bob Burdick - Just finished his cargo check - wants to enter upgrade immediately - a real go getter

SSgt Dan Phillips - working hard/excellent worker-(no dirt yet, maybe next time)

SSgt Jim Van - One of our new RELs, still looking for a training date

SSgt Todd "AIM HIGH" Cleveland - Recently arrived from recruiter duty/were working hard to dull that shine

SSgt Rob Vossen - getting ready to start CCTS/New REL from Mt Home/ex-weapons guy, seen trying to hang a 5,000lb bomb on the KC-10

Sra Chuck Fernandez - NUFF SAID!!

Sra Bonnie Campbell - proud mother of two, sorry three(if you count Tom)

AIC Weston Kissel - One of our baby booms/arrived from Tennessee(shoes in hand)yes Wes, you must were your boots on the airplane

AIC Don Butler - Another REL straight from the pipeline/recently educated in proper car securing procedures, police are still finding parts of his car in South Philly

Now some kind words for our attached personnel.....

SMSgt J.R. Page - OGV - Getting ready to retire-Got a job managing Auto Zone in Tennessee-Will be the cleanest store on record-he may not know much about tools, but at least you'll be able to see your face in them

SMSgt Al Miller - 21st AF - Al has been all over the world, so if you think your safe from a no-notice, your not

MSgt Don "Bubba" Cox - OGV - recently returned from Hawaii(tough tour, huh?)Taking over for J.R./looking forward to getting back into the '10 community

MSgt Rich Lusk - 305 OPG - He is our static JAATT king/got a problem, call Rich

MSgt Glenn Barclay - 305 OPG - Silver bullet guru -(I guess it's the good food that keeps him in the program)

MSgt (select)Tim McDermott - 305 OPG - Taking over OSS - always working on a lower handicap

TSgt Tim Fowler - CCTS - can be seen with his friend Captain Morgan while listening to Jimmy Buffett and stroking his seven iron(wishing Mike would let him go to play golf)

TSgt Phil Deal - OSS - working on a conspiracy that the squadron is out to get him/now we all know that is not true, or-is it

TSgt Danny Mendonsa - 21st AF - coming back to the sq./ has had enough of the outside world, now he wants to reattach the umbilical chord

TSgt Tony Ceraolo - 21st AF - Loving Germany, says he never wants to come back - likes taken his bike to 100+
TSgt Joe Duarte - CCTS - always looking for a good cigar(however, if he offers you a cuban, don't take it
TSgt Derek "Snappy" Cantre - CCTS - Ric's number one "man" in training flight, Joe's running buddy/never turns down a
good stogie
TSgt Ken Strother - HQ/AMC - Ken says that McGuire was such a good deal, that he decided to let somebody take his
position so he didn't have to hog all the fun
TSgt Pete Abraldes - Wing Plans - saw a good deal at headquarters and never looked back
TSgt Jeff Sidles - 21st AF - Jeff's off to Germany, found a new respect for German beer and bratwurst/hopes the '10 moves
before he has to move back
SSgt Tom Ecker - OSS - got a BMW and then didn't seem to notice all the little people(pilots, engineers)working hard or
hardly working , you be the judge

Well fellow Boomers, I must sign off. Please call us at DSN 440-5879 or 5885. We are always wondering how things are
in your neck of the woods.

Best Wishes

Douglas Bloom, SSgt

McGuire, NJ

32 ARS

SMSgt (Chief Sel) Dan Mongeon	Currently attending KC-10 training
MSgt Rick Taylor	32D Program Manager
MSgt G.W. Loftin	A-Flt Supervisor
MSgt Van (Doc) Gibbs	C-Flt Supervisor
MSgt James (Jay) Davis	Squadron Stan/Eval NCOIC
TSgt John Reigelsberger	Squadron Stan/Eval
TSgt Steve Custis	Squadron Stan/Eval
TSgt Mark Schumann	Squadron Scheduling NCOIC
TSgt Stew Horton	Training Flight NCOIC
TSgt Eric Thomas (E.T.)	B-Flt Supervisor
TSgt Dana Hutchinson	Flt trainer, will PCS to Kadena Talce in Apr
SSgt Jefferson Whited	Training Flight
SSgt Tim Pates	Squadron Stan/Eval
SSgt Steve Jackson	Attending Instructor Upgrade
SSgt Dave Foster	Flt trainer
SSgt J.D. Harston	Squadron Scheduling
SSgt Carl Davenport	Squadron Ops Center, Awaiting DOS
SSgt Leo Brown	Drogue Specialist
SSgt Todd McPeak	Finishing KC-10 Qual training
SSgt Marc Weddelton	A Quality guy, Flying the line
SSgt Devan Debarr	Mr. 791, going to school
SSgt (TSgt Sel) Della Griffin	Flt Trainer, Trying to get back to the KC-135
SSgt Joel Salley	Mr. TDY, Has anybody seen him lately?
SSgt Mike (Snake) Casey	Still trying to find a way back to Grand Forks
SSgt Eric Moyer (Le' Porky Chop)	Great Instructor, Flt trainer, Training fit assistant
SSgt Marvin Pearson	Squadron Scheduling
SSgt Jimmy Rush	Squadron Scheduling
SSgt Mike Dunlap	Will DOS this spring, back to Pa. To be a cop.
SSgt Steve Johnson	Flying the line, longs for the old days at Robins
SSgt Dennis Pratt	Squadron Operations Center, flies the line
SRA Scott O'Neil	On the verg of being a full fledged KC-10 Boomer
SRA Kevin Locascio	Will complete training soon, Loves the SOC desk
A1C Chad Pass	Bright young man who flies the line with pride!
A1C Woody Cox	Just finished contractor training, now at CCTS
A1C Derek Tarr	Another bright star of the 32d, doing very well
A1C Tim McHugh	Sharp young flyer, doing excellent

Also attached to the 32d for flying purposes are the following:

MSgt Mike Cardina	Chief Boom KC-10 CCTS
MSgt Steve Roche	Air Mobility Operations Squadron
MSgt Don Hess	Dyess TALCE
TSgt Will Rappaport	CCTS Instructor
TSgt Carl Slusher	McGuire TALCE
TSgt Scott Dawe	Mission Development
SSgt Dan Jorgensen	Wing Scheduling
SSgt (TSgt Sel) Scott Anderson	CCTS Instructor
SSgt Pete King	McGuire TALCE

This year we retired SMSgt Paul Hodge. Paul left us for the good life in Florida. When last seen he had a drink in his hand and a smile on his face, BEST WISHES PAUL! We also gave up some other valuable people; SSgt Dave Monk left for Altus in Nov, SSgt Tom Glosser packed it in and returned to Goldsboro N.C. for a job with FEDEX and the reserves at Seymour Johnson, SSgt Jim Webb PCS'd to Travis. Give us a call at DSN 440-6924, 2248.

McGuire, NJ

141 ARS

Hello from the 141st Air Refueling Squadron NJANG. We had a busy year just like everyone else. Kind of short boom operators now but just got a few more on the hook. They are building us a new ops facility and ramp. Until it is finished we (the booms) are living in a trailer behind the old ops building. The new place should be nice. Maybe it will even be done before I retire.

The 97 lineup

Bob "Vette" Buccino Works for BASF as a chemical engineer. Does the boom thing for distraction and fun. Real busy at his real job.

John "PSI" Connors Works in current ops. However has created his very own "mobility deployment kingdom" and lives in the trailer park behind ops. An outstanding "government property redistributer"

Steve "Stinky" Desanto Loves trains, model planes and delivering the mail (his real job) something about black shoes, blue knee socks, baggy short pants, and a pith helmet. Had a real good time telling the phone guys he was tom miller's lover. Miller however was not a happy camper when his name ended up on the stalls at work in the mens room.

Rich "Sgt. Rock" Emley Cargo load guy. There isn't a ribbon at clothing sales that is not firmly secured to his chest. We don't know if he earned all of them but he sure looks pretty with his blues, fore & aft cap, and aviator sunglasses on. A sight to behold. Don't let these stripes intimidate you darlin.

Steve "Grump" Gonzalez Anybody wanna buy a power saw? Steve tried to saw his left hand off in November. Didn't quite succeed. Did manage to get 6 tendons, lose lots of blood and undergo micro-surgery. Steve is going thru physical therapy now and should be back with us soon. He is a very lucky man.

Carl "Jughead" Heinert Wing scheduling, lunch ordering, former navy guy. Just bought a new house down the shore. Tries to keep the rest of us straight, but having a tough time.

John Holland Deputy police chief of Nutley N.J. Not allowed to associate with Desanto since John packs heat and Steve is a postal dude.

Brian "Snappy" Kilpatrick Stan/evil person. Cop wannabe, however i think he finally gave up on that. Loves model planes, real planes, and fishing. Works out of the trailer park. South jersey land baron.

Ed "S-1" Leary Works for the Army as a GS rate that is sinful. Reliable boomer, loves a good time. Does an outstanding job jumping on TDY's when we are hurting.

Joe "Lambchop" LaMantia A certified nut case. Banned from Germany, Iceland, and a few other locations unless Monaco goes with him. Can fix anything and knows more about the jet than any of the rest of us. Self taught computer geek.

Tom "Pa Bell" Miller The phone guy. Not allowed to pal around with Desanto for obvious reasons, likes tiger meets and Czech vodka, only flies at night, kid #2 almost here

Ken "Dutch" Schultz Works for a perfume joint. Likes trips, fishing, and boats. Was going to become a guard bum but found a new real job.

Jim "Names Jim Damnit" Monaco Hates the "chief" word. All the above keep me out of trouble. They are a great bunch and I am a lucky person to have them all. We will have some new one's to tell you all about next year.

Fly safe

McGuire, NJ
150 ARS

DSN 440-2124

This unit was either not found,
or did not submit a Boom Signal input for 1997.

McGuire, NJ

76 ARS

Greetings once again from the 76ARS and the Garden State. The 76th has been moving forward at the speed of light this past year. We finally got to move into our new BRAC funded Squadron building (after a "small" delay) and now we are the envy of everyone at McGuire. If we charged for building tours, the squadron coffers would be overflowing. If you happen to be in the area, stop in for your free tour.

We have suffered some personnel losses since our arrival at McGuire, but our gains have begun to offset those losses and our prospects look very bright for the coming year.

Here is the list of the Booms that make up the 76th ARS: FREEDOM'S SPIRIT

CMSgt Ron Jackson - EB - Ron cracks the whip, keeps both hands on the reins, and keeps everything moving in the right direction. Hasn't needed to use the whip or his spurs too much this past year, but everyone agrees they make a nice addition to his wardrobe. His cookouts still produce the best food north of the Mason Dixon Line.

SMSgt Charles Younce - EB - Charlie has reinherited the scheduling desk. When not in the office, He's looking for somewhere to park his motor home for the evening. Never know what parking lot you'll find him parked in.

MSgt Donna "Hey Bud" Dobbins - IB - Donna has moved from the squadron scheduling desk into the Op.'s Group Training position. From the way she is quoting the MCI's folks are beginning to wonder if she has a CD ROM hidden in her head.

TSgt David "Red" Pullet - FB - Red came to us from Tinker. He is our new Boom ART hire. After getting over the price shock of things in NJ, he was over heard to say that if his girlfriend didn't get a raise she was going to have to find a third job. Welcome aboard Red!

TRADITIONAL RESERVISTS

SSgt John Aselton - MB - John is our attached resident ALCE expert. We only get to see John when drops by to catch up on his currency. Spends most of his time on the road.

MSgt Dave Brock - EB - Dave still lives in Atlanta and commutes to Disneyland every month. Produces the Boom News letter for the Reserve side of the house and is the squadron Stan Eval guru. He's getting better with a computer, but still insists that he's a road kill on the information highway.

SSgt Jim Carden - MB - Jim got fully qualified at the beginning of the year and started to instructor school in October. Still looks forward to staying in billeting at Moron.

TSgt Paul (P.W.) Carter - MB - Paul still lives in Atlanta and keeps Dave company. Made TSgt in September and started to instructor school in October. Was overheard to say " He didn't realize how dumb a SSgt was until he made TSgt".

MSgt Dan Ciambrone - IB - Dan quit his job with Gemini and took an ART job with the 78th. See the 78th ARS for a complete update on Dan.

SSgt Anthony "TACO" Cleaver - MB - Taco is still a true work of art. Thought he had found an artist to paint him but said it wasn't his responsibility to make the appointment. Still calls in daily to find out when he's going to get paid.

SRA Robert Culbertson - IB - Bob saw the light and abandoned ship with the active duty. He has moved back to Louisiana. Said he still has trouble remembering that he doesn't have to call in every day.

TSgt Mari Haynes - UB - Mari came to us from the Air Evac squadron here at McGuire where she was a Med Tech. She's currently in upgrade training and should be fully qualified in a couple of months. Go Mari!

TSgt Bruce Hewlett - MB - Bruce finally completed his degree this year. Is still our only house husband. Bruce, how many times have you saluted your wife this year?

TSgt Greg Jones - IB - Greg is our resident tax expert. Since getting a job as a tax auditor with the IRS everyone hides their pay statements whenever Greg's around.

TSgt Glenn Kotch - IB - Glenn upgraded to IB is still employed by the postal service. Has been seen browsing through gun catalogues lately. ????

TSgt Gene Lorandean - MB - Gene is a common sight around the scheduling desk. He still gets a sentimental tear in his eye every time he sees a C-141. Gene some habits are just hard to break.

TSgt John Mercer - IB - John got promoted to TSgt and upgraded to Instructor this year. Learned a valuable lesson when playing with a sharp knife on which end to grab. John, how many stitches was that?

TSgt Luis Perez - MB - Luis still commutes from San Antonio. Say's McGuire is a great place to be from -- FAR away from.

TSgt Nathaniel Pierce - MB - Tony is still blowing off steam at the Ft. Dix heating plant. Can usually be seen flying the evening locals for a dual TP. We think that it's only for the flight lunch.

SSgt Jim Polhemus - MB - Jim upgraded to MB earlier this year and is on the fast track to becoming our next instructor.

TSgt John (Jack) Reffner - MB - Jack got qualified and as a reward found himself being shipped off to survival school. After returning from Fairchild, Jack said, "Jeirmiah Johnson ain't got nothing on me".

TSgt Dwayne Ruffin - MB - Dwayne is going to be leaving us later this year for a position with the Andrews ALCE. Guess we'll have to get some cargo missions to Andrews to see Dwayne.

SSgt Blenda (Chris) Ruggiero - MB - Chris came to us as a prior 135 boom, but not without a delay en route as a Med Tech with the Air Evac squadron here at McGuire. Decided that she liked passing gas better than bed pans.

SSgt Stewart (Craig) Shackelford - MB - Craig lives in Charleston SC and is a former KC-10 Boom from Seymour Johnson. He returned to the 10 after taking a hiatus from flying. Got back up on speed in record time. He thinks people in NJ talk with a funny accent.

SRA Jim Shulack - MB - Jim just got fully qualified and is looking forward to getting out on the road without an instructor looking over his shoulder. Wishes that HUMMWV'sm would roll in a straight line.

AIC John Soltysik - UB - John has just started KC-10 formal training. He is our first "off the street hire". HE holds an Aeronautical Engineering Degree and has ambitions of acquiring a UPT slot.

SSgt Sean (Pop Eye) Swieringa - MB - Sean is fully qualified now and is looking for a position in law enforcement in Austin Tx. Hoping that the next new TV series will be: Swieringa -U.S. Marshall.

SSgt Garrick Towles - MB - Gary departed the fix earlier this year and was last spotted working in the Baltimore area.

SSgt Martin Vinson - MB - Martin is the squadron historian. Says he likes the job because it gives him a chance to work with the elderly. Martin, just exactly what are you trying to say?

TSgt Stephen Weigert - MB - Steve is still the squadron fixer upper, but since we moved into our new building the need for his carpenter expertise has diminished somewhat. You want to get approval to build WHAT in the front lobby?

Well, that just about covers all of the guys and gals in the 76th who make it all happen. If you're ever in the area, stop in for a building tour while they're still free.

Dave Brock, MSgt

McGuire, NJ

78 ARS

Greetings from the 78th. We're still looking for a few good booms to recover from the McGuire move. Anyone interested, give us a call at DSN 440-8260.

ARTS

CMSgt Steve Reeff: Still trying to find out how the "SUPPORT" organizations at McGuire define support.

SMSgt Joel Montgomery: Recently back in the ART program after a three year sabbatical with our training contractor. He made himself so indispensable that they decided to keep him part time.

MSgt Dan Ciambrone: Our newest ART has been busy getting his feet wet right up to his ears. He's already figured out that it's easier to be on the complaining end.

MSgt Ken Maneely: Still "slaving" away in Mission Development, so he says.

MSgt Bob Wolfe: Now working in the Ops Group Stan/Eval. Bob finally bought property in New Jersey.

Reservists:

TSgt Al Alonso: Works for Gemini and insists they do their tipping by how far the nose strut is extended. Started the new year by going to instructor school.

TSgt Anthony "The Voice" Bartolomeo: Anthony is our resident DJ and crooner. The word on him is, when he starts to sing Unchained Melody be hanging on to whomever you want to take home.

SrA Rick Boettinger: Rick is one of Eastern Pennsylvania's finest, prowling the streets of Philly in his patrol car. Recently became a father.

SSgt Ramon Cruz: Ray is about to complete IB upgrade. Wants to be the first eight year Chief.

SSgt Steve Dolan: Finally decided to reenlist. He graduated college and is working for an investment company in Raleigh, NC. If you need an idea on how to invest your 2.8% pay raise give him a call.

TSgt Bobby Duckworth: Bobby is our lone remaining fireman from Little Rock. I guess his neck is so thick he can't tell if the grass on the other side of the fence is better or not.

MSgt Dwain "Pirouge" Gerace: The big man is back. He tried to retire when we left Barksdale but couldn't stand it and showed up on our doorstep one day begging to get back in. They finally killed enough goats to get a leather jacket around his 315 pounds.

SSgt Dave Glacken: Moved to Ft Myers, Florida and will be processing out of the unit in the very near future.

TSgt Henry Grill: Henry drives a train for the South East Pennsylvania Transit Authority, SEPTA, ten hours a day, six days a week. Coming out to fly and go TDY is like a vacation for him.

TSgt Victor Guzman: Came to us from our Medical Squadron. Goes to Altus in March.

TSgt Marty Johnson: Driving trucks all over Texas, giving us a little of his time when he remembers.

TSgt Glenn Kotch: Back in the 78th after a three year tour of the 76th. If you need a tree stump removed, he's your man.

SSgt Lonnie Lisser: Started working at a Cadillac dealership. He's the person with the work order you vent your frustration on because the mechanics can't duplicate your problem.

SSgt Sigrid "Re" Roche: Our first Reduced Entry Level. Has single handedly taken Awards and Decs to a new level. Recently married, to a boom operator, and learning the downside of a two crewmember family.

MSgt Lynn Stoddard: Lynn is still working for the KC-10 contractor, whatever they call themselves today. He spends a lot of time in the squadron working Stan/Eval issues and once in a while he even goes home.

TSgt Andy Sylvain: Graduated from school and got a high-tech job with a company in Connecticut. Does an excellent job of staying current and qualified.

SSgt Eric Trotman: Has been DNIF for the last seven months. He came by to visit recently and nobody recognized him.

TSgt Charles Watson: Charlie started instructor school in October, hopes to be complete with his upgrade soon.

Gone But Not Forgotten:

TSgt Felicia Anderson: Now with the 79th at Travis

SMSGt Bobby Drinnen: Retired

MSgt Mike Kibler: Now with the 940th at McClellan

SMSGt Dirk Olsen: Retired

MSgt Rodney Sanders: Now with the 465th at Tinker

MSgt Dennis Smith: Now with the 465th at Tinker

McGuire, NJ

621 AMOS



Greetings from the Garden State!

For those of you who don't know who we are or what we do, here is a little inf. about the 621st AMOS. First, we're one of two Air Mobility Operations squadrons in AMC, our sister squadron being the 615th AMOS at Travis AFB CA. Our job is to deploy during a time of crisis to support the Air Operations Center (AOC) or Joint Air Operations Center (JAOC). Although the majority of the squadron is tasked to establish the initial Airlift Coordination Cell (ALCC) and the Air Mobility Element (AME), the tanker toads primarily work in the Combat Operations and Combat Plans sections of the AOC using Contingency Theater Automated Planning System (CTAPS) to produce the Air Tasking Order (ATO). (Wow, was that a JAR (Joint Acronym Rich) sentence. Often, most tanker toads confuse us with the Air Mobility Control Squadron (AMCS) which deploy to forward operating bases to establish Tanker Airlift Coordination Elements (TALCEs). Our job, however, is to provide command and control for the entire Area of Operations (AOR). To be ready for any tasking, training is accomplished in unit with our mobility exercises and TDY with various "Blue Flag" exercises. It can definitely keep you busy. Well, enough of that "Air Force" stuff for now. Here is a list of booms presently working here in the tanker cell.

MSgt Stephen Roach - The top dog, the man in charge, the Irish Ambassador, Master V. Steve has had a busy year. In addition to numerous TDYs and a back operation, Steve decided to add more pain in his life by getting married. Oh well, it seems to suit him fine, plus I heard it improved his golf game. Isn't sex great!! Best of luck to Steve and RE(Steve's boss)

MSgt Battaglia - New guy from Fairchild (seems MPC loves these folks!! Are there any other bases out there?). Got here and decided to attach to Macdill for flying, so then we decided he was good enough to go to charm school in Florida for the Joint Air Operations Staff Course (JAOSC). Can't wait till he is back so he can go back to Hurlburt for the next Blue Flag. My suggestion is that he might think about buying some land down there.

ME - MSgt Murman - Another "volunteer" from Fairchild. If you look hard enough, you can still see scratch marks as they drug me out the main gate. Now that I'm here, I have to admit that this is a great assignment. The area is nice and quiet and I'm glad I didn't take the rumors about this job seriously. Yea, you can spend some time on the road, but if your looking for an interesting job, in addition to being a tanker boom, well this is it. One neat caveat is I get to fly locally with the 108th ANG. If they ever get a Stan Eval, I might like it there.

So that's about it from here. If any of you ever get a chance to come out this way, come visit. The beer always cold and the atmosphere is always warm. Have a great year!!

PS... If you have any questions or just want to talk, our DSN is...440-8342/8343.

McGuire, NJ

621 AMS

Greetings from the former 621st AMCS. Yes, this year has definitely had it's share of changes. From sometime around the middle of '96 we kept getting told that we were reorganizing the AMOG. Finally, on April 1 it happened. The Maintenance (AMMS), Aerial Port (APS) and Control (AMCS) squadrons all merged into three new squadrons with now even more AFSCs than before. However, we are still known as the TALCE to most and that bossy *!?*#! to others. We still love all you wonderful crew dogs even though we are now part-time ground-pounders.

Unfortunately, we still have more loadmasters than booms in the squadron, but one of these days we will be the 'experienced TALCE'. Seems like the Load Toads have had enough. We just can't seem to keep 'em. As for us Booms, we're 'Proud To Be Here, Proud To Serve!'

So anyway, here's the list. It's short and sweet.

MSgt Ken Holman (KC-10): "I'm never here but I'm not ALWAYS flying". Ken is our B Flight Superintendent as well as our Functional Super. He's attached to the 2nd ARS here at McGuire and trying his hardest to get back there. His line is "June marks my three year stint. I AM going back to flying." Good luck finding that replacement, Ken.

TSgt Michael Barnes (KC-135): 'Mikey' is Mr. Calm, Cool and Collected. He only joined us about 7 months ago. Came up to the cold from the nice humid heat of Robins AFB. He just recently became the proud papa of a beautiful baby girl. Way to go, Mike!

SSgt Chris Sidoli (KC-10): Our newest member! He joins us from the 32nd ARS but changed his attachment to the 2nd ARS. What was it about those schedulers again?

SSgt Russ Carlson (KC-135): Russ definitely didn't waste any time making himself at home, that is, when we finally found him after a month's search. The first thing he did was find a girlfriend (and she ain't the kind you bring home to mama). Guess you'd call him our problem child. But, he's being kept very busy so the mischief doesn't catch up to him.

SrA Lisa Ameigh (formerly Miller for all you who forgot) (KC-135): Lisa's one of our Functional Training Managers and I must say she does a great job! She's been married now for almost a year and a half and has yet to meet up with her husband. It's tough when you're both in the same unit. She'll be leaving us soon for bigger and better things and getting paid to do it, to boot! Well, good luck girl. Is that the Guard I hear calling?

INBOUNDS

SrA Brian Webster (KC-135): Brian will be joining us about mid-January 98. He's coming from the 909th at Kadena. Welcome aboard!

Well, that's all for this year. Hope to see you all on the road sometime, just not in Saudi, please. If you'd like to say hi to one of our folks, here's our Operations Center number: DSN 440-5091, Comm (609)724-5091. Take care and Happy Booming!

McGuire, NJ

721 AMS



Boom Operators

MSgt David Sealey – He is retiring on 1 May 98 and will be missed. "It has been fun happy contacts"

MSgt William Williams (Bill Bill) – Always on the go with a smile.

SSgt Guy King – Has arrived and is doing well.

SSgt Robert King "Pete" – Cross-trained into the KC-10 and is still sword fighting.

SrA Charles Hunter – Has arrived and likes being on the go.

We would like to tell everyone "Hi" and if you are ever at McGuire look us up and when you deploy we will meet you there!

Pete

DSN 440-8028, 8184, 2746

McGuire, NJ

821 AMS

Greetings to all Boom Operators....

I bet you are asking yourself what is an AMS and what are we doing in the Boom Signal. I bet people are saying, "I can't believe he made an error like that". I didn't make an error and you are reading the correct text. "What goes?", you still ask. Well, I am going to tell everyone so they can learn. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

This input is from the Boom Operator Force in the 821st Air Mobility Squadron, 621st Air Mobility Operations Group (AMOG), McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey. We are usually called the TALCE Booms. Are you getting the picture yet? We are the Booms still attached to Air Refueling Squadrons for flying purposes only.

We are the booms that VOLUNTEER or GET VOLUNTEERED to go on "to bigger and better things" as we have been told. We have a vast range of expertise. We have Booms from both airframes (KC-135 & KC-10). The Loadmasters still outnumber us but we don't complain because they would appoint more slots for Boom Operators. I don't want to be known as the person to bring more Booms to this world.

The following is a review of our personnel as of 18 January 1998. The first two in the review are charter members and the rest are all new (ranging from a couple months to a few days).

TSgt Carl Slusher (KC-10)- The new research technician for designing a way to fit his new daughter, **Madison**, on his Harley Davidson. Recently got to meet Senator Phil Gram in person (ooooohhhh).

TSgt Danny Mendonsa (KC-10)- Calls himself a scheduler (1 wk on the desk; 5 wks off the desk)! You decide? Has four months remaining to serve on his probation to the TALCE.

SSgt Bob Boettcher (KC-135)- Reports that his probation ends in 2 years and 10 months. States, "he may not like it but will live it and make the best of it".

SSgt David "STU" Decou (KC-10)- Got selected for this job after only being in Stan/Eval for 40 days. Calls himself a "Harley Dude" but has not ridden in months.

SSgt Geoffrey Potter (KC-135)- Signed in the day of this input. A new member of the "Ball and Chain" club.

SSgt Scott Smith (KC-135)- A recent arrival to the rank of SSgt. Our very own Off Roading expert. Will come in handy during field conditions.

SSgt Dan Whetzel (KC-135)- **HELP!!** 1034 days remain on probation. Has already proven his skill from the Wing Plans Office.

DEPARTURES:

TSgt Isaac McMillian (KC-10)- recently joined the ranks of the Ole' Retired Person community. We wish him well in his new beginning.

This completes our entry for the Boom Signal. Warmest regards to all in the best specialty in today's Air Force. See you'll on the ROAD.

David P. Decou, SSgt
821st AMS/OPS
McGuire AFB, NJ
DSN 440-8651
Email: decoud@x1.mcguire.af.mil

Meridian, MS

153 ARS

Greetings from the Magnolia Militia Hunting and Flying club.

This last year was a blur. Fortunately, our unit was between inspections so the theme to "Love Story" has been playing all year long. However,our "close friends" from 21st /NAF will be here in May and that means we have to put up with Mr. Ping soon. We are also getting prepared for the "big ole" Istres deployment. Now allow me to switch hats and discuss a few items from the ANG Enlisted Aircrew Council. The ANG boomers have had a prosperous year. We have increased our manning and promoted a few well deserving souls. This initiative was the result of the hard work and dedication of many former and present boom operators. We also must give credit to the Bureau personnel - without their support none of this would have been possible. Now it's on to PACER CRAG, CDC's, flight pay issues, cargo certifications and who knows what else. Once again I must thank Pittsburgh for hosting one of the best conferences ever. If you're in the Meridian area and want to kill a deer, let me know and I'll let you borrow my wife's van. Our boom shop DSN is 778-9473. The line up.

CMSgt Lee Martin-IB, Technician - too many teeth in his head.

SMSgt Rick Robinson-IB, AGR - self appointed motorcycle club president.

MSgt Glenn Hancock-IB, Technician - computer and loud talking expert.

MSgt Gerald Harper-IB/EB, Technician - red headed son of Satan.

MSgt Ned McCormick-IB, Technician - Oatis Campbell body double.

MSgt Tom Stamper-IB, Technician - professional gambler and casino guide.

MSgt Lane Meadows-MB, Part-timer - postal worker and gun collector.

MSgt Sonny McCarra-IB, Part-timer - retired fireman and genius.

TSgt Ronnie Blackwell-IB, Technician - four finger bass specialist.

TSgt J.R. Benson-IB, Technician - say it again, only slowly this time.

TSgt Chuck Smith-IB/EB, Technician - the bosses secretary.

TSgt Robbie Knight -IB, Technician - Ole Miss sports expert.

TSgt Tony Boykin-MB, Part-timer - look me in the eye when I'm talking to you.

TSgt Blake Stanley-MB, Part-timer - Fred Flintstone had no neck either.

TSgt Mike Powell-MB, Part-timer - I will kinda work for food.

SSgt Al Rigdon-MB, Part-timer - pretend cop at Wal-Mart.

SSgt John Massey-MB, Part-timer - greatest hunter on earth, just ask him.

SSgt Ross Goodin-MB, Part-timer - what career can I get into this week?

SSgt Jay Ziller-MB, Part-timer - nurse and father of a new little boomer.



Edward Mikell, SMSgt, MS ANG

186th Chief Boom

Mildenhall, UK

351 ARS



Greetings once again from RAF Mildenhall, the "Best" tanker unit in USAFE. Our flying tempo remains steady with just a few TDY's to date. A week here and there to Norway, Souda Bay, Italy and lately Turkey seems to be the brunt of the TDY's for us. Bravo Alert still shows up every now and then. We have finally gotten back into the European airshow touring business now after almost a year long hiatus. With a good many of the airshows being in the former Eastern Block countries. We are scheduled to get back into the channel run business by the first of the year. The run will originate from here to Ramstein then on to Aviano and back here, all in one day. If you are here for the ETTF or just passing through, stop by the squadron and say Hello. We have a Beer Fridge! Were located next to the 100 OSS in Building 621. Here's our current lineup of people along with our e-mail addresses. Look forward to hearing from everyone.

CHEERS

Chief Boom - SMSgt Troy "Big Daddy" Sinclair (Troy.Sinclair@mildenhall.af.mil) - He has the youngsters wondering how he knows what their going to do before they do most things.

MSgt Bobby Skaggs - (Bobby.Skaggs@mildenhall.af.mil) - Went back to school for the first time since the "Leave it to Beaver days" took a class in English. Currently the Flight Boom Superintendent and the Squadrons resource manager. He still claims to be the oldest boom operator on active duty. We will not argue with that!

MSgt Red Skelton - (Robert.Skelton@mildenhall.af.mil) - Currently he claims to work at Wing Plans. Can be found most likely in a Embry-Riddle classroom learning the finer points of accounting and statistics.

MSgt Terry Casey - (Terry.Casey@mildenhall.af.mil) - Is the new hammer over at Group STAN/EVAL. Took over for Red back in May. He just finished working out the final details for boom cargo checks, since we never did them here in the first place. He just had to be different.

TSgt Jim Sugden - (James.Sugden@mildenhall.af.mil) - Currently still the King of the TTF and doing a great job.

TSgt Gary Frederick - (Gary.Frederick@mildenhall.af.mil) - Cosmo bought himself a new ride after the last one met its fate on an English country road, with him at the wheel. Still in Squadron Stan/Eval.

TSgt Bruce Zahn - (Bruce.Zahn@mildenhall.af.mil) - Bruce is hurriedly completing his final purchases of antiques before he moves on to Altus. Left the squadron back in May to go over to the OSS to work in Tactics. Should be in Altus by Sea sometime in January. Good Luck and fly safe.

TSgt Mark Miller - (Mark.Miller@mildenhall.af.mil) - Mark is the "Big Daddy" wing scheduler. He was Step promoted back in June, much deserved.

TSgt Tim Ballentine - (timothy.ballentine@mildenhall.af.mil) - Just arrived in May from Fairchild. Was homeless his first two months here, kept getting kicked out of billeting. Finally found a place to call home and grow his giant pumpkins. Took over for Bruce as A-Flight Superintendent.

TSgt Mike Steinkraus - (Michael.Steinkraus@mildenhall.af.mil) - Just arrived from PACAF, was serving a sentence in the TALCE at Kadena. Bought himself a Russian made automobile his second week here. It has a whopping 1600cc engine in it. I think it's called a Boris. Still getting settled in over here.

SSgt Frank Antonsen - (Francis.Antonsen@mildenhall.af.mil) - Frank left the squadron for the TTF. Maintains a stealth profile around the squadron. Doing a great job over at the TTF.

SSgt Greg "Smitty" Smith - (Greg.Smith@mildenhall.af.mil) - A while back Smitty opted to try out a new accessory for the new spring and summer flight suit fashions, during a preflight with the SEA onboard. The sweaty headband didn't go over to well, to speak of Smitty has found a home over in Wing Scheduling.

SSgt Melton "Yuri" Brewer - (Melton.Brewer@mildenhall.af.mil) - Melton went to the Czech Republic for an airshow this summer and after a bottle of vodka or two, was inducted into the Russian Air Force Boom association. If you ever get to the Czech Republic, he recommends Club Dallas, it's a bit out of the way but worth it. Melton is working in squadron scheduling and doing a great job.

SSgt Cliff Bermodes - (Clifford.Bermodes@mildenhall.af.mil) - Cliff finally left the TTF after a long fight to stay there. Has found a home in wing scheduling. He will be leaving us soon for the Midwest plains of McConnell.

SSgt Dave Stadnicki - (David.Stadnicki@mildenhall.af.mil) - Dave is pulling double duty here at Mildenhall, by day he works in wing scheduling, at night it's the Pizza Cove. He has been doing a great job for us at wing scheduling and he is looking forward to coming back to the squadron soon. "But not in Sqd scheduling"

SSgt Mike Conner - (michael.conner@mildenhall.af.mil) - Mike was released from a four year sentence in the TALCE at Travis back in May. The Flight Doc's say that over time he should recovery and resume a normal boom operator lifestyle. He continues to have an occasional TALCE flashback from time to time, and all booms here have been briefed not to say the words TALCE or Loadmaster around him. Currently the B-Flight Superintendent.

Ssgt Chris Rieger - (Christopher.Rieger@mildenhall.af.mil) - Arrived here in May from the school house. Bought himself a puke green mini. Currently our Cargo Loadmaster program manager. Soon to take over in training flight.

SSgt Jeff Hy - (Jeffrey.Hy@mildenhall.af.mil) - Jeff is the only boom here that has a quarterly requirement to update his shot records for penicillin. Currently our training flight boom, soon to move to the OSS.

Sra (SSgt sel) Jack Gates - (Jack.Gates@mildenhall.af.mil) - Jack is still Mr. antique, spends a great deal of time at antique auctions in the local area. Jacks looking to call it quits, wants to try his hand at a Guard Unit somewhere. Our newest squadron STAN/EVAL boom.

Sra Garry Isbell - (Garry.Isbell@mildenhall.af.mil) - Garry arrived here in May from Grand Forks. One of the squadron's computer whizzes.

Sra Patrick Elliott - (Patrick.Elliott@mildenhall.af.mil) - Last year Patrick was bummed out that he got stationed here at Mildenhall instead of Grand Forks, this year he is bummed out that his extension was turned down. Has something to do with his new found girlfriend I suppose.

A1C William "Young Will" Perdew - (William.Perdew@mildenhall.af.mil) - Will is still our youngest boom here. He has been hard at work decorating his barracks room into the Will Perdew Love Shack. It even has a disco ball hanging from the ceiling. Will is doing a great job here in the squadron for us as a line boom.

Departures

SSgt Larry Westwood - Left for Fairchild in the summer. Good Luck and Fly Safe.

Arrivals

SSgt Hewitt - On his way here from McConnell sometime in April 98.

Boom Malfunction Guide

Here's our contribution to the rest of the boom union. MSgt Skaggs and SSgt Mike Conner worked hard on this for the past month. Freely distribute to all booms that would like a copy. (See Attachment)

TO THE TDY FOLKS

Just a short note to say thanks for all the hard work and putting up with all the unpredictability over here. Just remember, 80% of the missions we fly over here are operational and the schedule changes like the English weather. The ETTF is one of the last good deals left for AMC Tanker crews. Don't be a stranger, stop by the squadron and say Hello sometime.

Timothy D. Ballentine, TSgt, USAF
A-Flight Superintendent

Milwaukee, WI

126 ARS

Greetings and salutations from the land of the soon to be two time World Champion Green Bay Packers. Yes, we are the "Cheesehead Booms" and damn proud of it. Just like the Packers, 1997 was a busy year for us. The operations tempo is hectic to say the very least, but I'm sure you'll all agree that the 2.8% raise we all received in January will make things so much easier (yes, I purchased some swampland in Florida). It amazes all of us that they need to seek out justification for additional flight pay or other incentive pay; has everybody in the command structure been blind and deaf for the past few years. Like the rest of you, we've supported Operation Northern Watch, Iceland Alert, Foreign Sales at Geilenkirchen, and more Business Efforts and Channel Missions than I care to recall. In addition, we found the time to have a week of fun in the sun at Salinas, Kansas. Yes, the garden spot of the world found us doing our ORI in the balmy month of March. Overcoming numerous obstacles, including having a joint ORI with Chicago (just kidding), we were able to come away with an overall Excellent rating.

Here's a quick run down of our current boomers. We've experienced quite a few changes in the last couple years. In fact, we have so many brand new baby booms (for you active duty guys, our "babies" could include Staff Sergeants who are 30 years old) that we're getting ready to set up our own branch of CCTS.

CMSgt Roger Steckhan - Old Roger just signed the papers saying he'll leave (kicking and screaming) in two years, but until then, "All hail the chief".

CMSgt John Famularo - Held Steckhan's hand while he signed the retirement papers. Why? Hey, as long as there's a projected loss, everybody moves up. Check out the rank.

SMSgt Cliff Klingbeil - If he survives the evaluation of all these young kids, he could see Chief in the not:sodistant future. See what happens when you have a lot of old geezers at the top.

SMSgt John (just call me Terry) Sands - Scheduler for life.

MSgt Robert Derrick - Fellow AGR cohort. Runs the daily operation of Stan-Eval with an iron fist.

MSgt Steve Schweiss - Only guy who'll show up ten minutes late for his own funeral.

MSgt Dean Dachenbach - The past year has been rather difficult for Dean. He had his nose and sinus "rota-rootered" and been DNIF for quite some time. Oh, you probably thought this bothered him from a boom operator standpoint. No, he misses his job as a pilot for Midwest Express Airlines.

MSgt George Snamiske - If you have questions or complaints regarding the AGR vs. Air Tech program, just ask George.

MSgt Jerry Schiessl - The conscience and spiritual guide of the section.

MSgt Dave Eddy - Leader of the traditional guardsmen revolt.

TSgt Teckla Thorn - Teckla is a full timer who everyone wants to have in their office because she brings order to chaos.

TSgt Don Harvey - Freelance guardsman.

TSgt John Magnus - Scheduler prot, g.,

TSgt Dan Schmidt - Engineer, pilot, boomer.

TSgt Marlin Mosley - Soon to be crowned, "King of the Vault".

TSgt Mike Weimer - Winner of the days gone TDY award. Somewhere in the range of 230 to "a whole lot more".

TSgt Mark Lipinski - A voice of sanity in a sea of futility.

SSgt Patrick Sosinski - Baby Boom #1

SSgt Herman Suarez - Baby Boom #2

Sra Lauri Hrovatin - Itty Bitty Baby Boom #3

Soon to return from Altus:

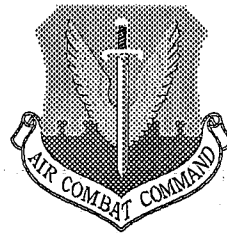
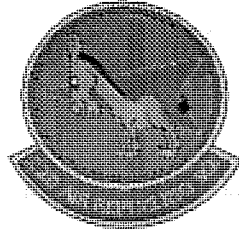
SSgt Donald Strickland

SSgt William Echevarria

Mountain Home, ID

22 ARS

22 Air Refueling Squadron



Mt. Home AFB

Greetings and salutations from the world of ACC. Last year we made our second input to the Boom Signal, this year we hope we are continuing what will become a long and time honored tradition for the 22 ARS. We fly in the support of the 366th Air Expeditionary Wing out of Mt. Home AFB, ID.

The base is nestled in a high desert surrounded by the Owyhee and Sawtooth mountains. The scenery around here hasn't changed since the early 1800's, when there was a huge drive of domestic cattle and sheep that lasted for decades. Over grazing destroyed what use to be grasslands (similar to the great plains) and left us with our current topography, miles and miles of sagebrush. The mountains are an hour and a half away by car, and when you get into them it's "Gods Country".

The role of the 22 ARS is ever evolving and changing. The one thing that will never change is tankers are at the end of the whip in the Gunfighter community. No matter when, where or why, we provide "Gunfighter Federal Express" service, when our fighters think their spare parts have to be there overnight. We have just resurrected a long-standing tradition from SAC (what's that?) and are now doing most of our flying as hard crews. The good thing is we have all the fighters a guy can want, and our young troops get a taste of how hectic it can get early on, which helps them when they get out in the world. We have just completed not only our first rotation in SWA as the host wing (with help from Grand Forks) but we just helped the wing make history. The 366th was the first unit in the Air Force to complete an ORI in a combat zone, the first unit to deploy B-1's to the theater, and the first composite wing to deploy aircraft from every MDS on station (we have KC-135R's, F-15C/D/E, F-16C/D and B-1's) in support of an AEF. One good deal, hardly no TDY's ("Home Games"), is over.

The 22 ARS has been in operation since October 1992. Since that time we've put to rest three Boom Mafia Godfathers and are working on four. MSgt Lew Timbrook was the first to fall, the rival mob erected a brick wall (fighter mentality), that got the best of him. Lew made Senior and opted for the greener grass of Texas and retirement. In came a hard nosed, ex-law enforcement pitbull with both barrels blazing, MSgt Brad Arnsperger. Brad tore a majority of the wall down, during the process, he ran out of ammo and threw in the towel. Latest sightings have placed Brad in a law enforcement uniform impersonating "Baywatch" on the lakes of the U.P. SMSGT Eddie Masten joined the rest just this summer after working both in the squadron and the wing. At last report, he is living in the Fort Worth area and working for a large computer company. His retirement ceremony was one of the best in history. Just remember Eddie, in case of emergency, don your original helmet.

The current Godfather, CMSgt John Randall, has realized that the real enemy isn't the rival mob. The enemy is within the walls of the 22nd. However, since getting here in January, he has turned this place around. Plus with the departure of some key figures in the squadron and the wing, the relationship between us and our maintainers and base support agencies has improved vastly. The current *Mafia* is as follows:

CMSgt John "Chief" Randall: Chief came to us from Malmstrom, where they pulled his unit out from under him. He still has a house in Montana and commutes regularly. Every now and then he goes on the "program", a self-inflicted health routine involving bike riding and no beer. That's until a good reason pops up (fishing, hunting, Friday, etc.). He's the one who did Eddie's retirement ceremony. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. Hey Chief, I think Victoria's working tonight.

TSgt Brian "Trigger" Thayer: Brian works in Wing Stan/Eval, taking Eddie's place. Made tech this year on a supplemental board. Has quit saying "back at Red River" and now mostly complains about FCIF's, fighter tech orders (when the hell is my F-16 weapons book ever going to show up!) and the like. Has spent almost a month TDY this year and likes it that way. Enjoys setting policy concerning the booms (whatever you want, Chief). When are you guys going to lunch?

TSgt Steven "Gunny" Myrick: From the day he arrived, Gunny has been wondering if this is just a bad nightmare. Now working as our training flight boom. Just received a HYT waiver through July 99. He got the waiver so he could collect VA benefits (going to school) and pay for his new house and love boat. Let's hope he doesn't roll another truck and has to stay in another year. I'm telling you Gunny, quit using pepper and replace it with #8 steel shot. That should fix your problem. By the way, a guy walks in a bar with a monkey...

TSgt Glenn Harris: Just goes to prove that almost anybody can be a boom. Glenn is a former cop who saw the light and decided to get a job where there's no more roll call and doesn't have to write reports on people. Has been seen studying his PFE, why we have no idea.

SSgt Steven "Opie" Flax: Currently working as "A" Flight Supervisor. Since the last Signal, his wife has returned from Korea and he is back in the swing as a dad. Also got selected for tech on a supplemental board. Should pin on sometime in the spring. Is currently helping us all out by shooting as many ducks as he can. Unfortunately had some of his brand new decoys destroyed by one of his dogs. You always know what season it is by looking at his truck to see if the canoe is on top. If you need any knives sharpened, give him a call.

SSgt Shawn "Huey" Hughes: Employed as "B" Flight Supervisor. He and Opie basically run the flights for the booms. Is happy to be working as a flight boom and not in scheduling any more. Had some surgery on his knee a while ago and seems to have fully recovered based on his ability to lead the pack during boom mountain bike outings.

SSgt Mike "Quack" Morris: Is the undisputed champion of the duck slaughtering community. Nobody ever told him your supposed to wait for the birds to fly before you shoot. Heard wondering out loud "I bet spotted owl's are good eatin'".

SSgt Tim Tuttle: One of our many cross-trainees. Came to us via maintenance in Korea. Tim's main passion is canoeing and kayaking. He couldn't have picked a better place to do it.. Had to return from Shaikh Isa to supervise a rafting trip. Has been known to fly now and then.

SSgt Mark Babel: Mark is one of our newest arrivals. Came to us from weapons loading here at Mountain Home. Just completed day and night fighter qual. Famous last words are "That's not what they said at Altus". Rumor has it he is thinking about marriage.

SSgt Brad Wolfe: Came to us from Davis-Monthan where he was a linguist on EC-130's. Still gets nervous when we go faster than 300 knots. Has also completed qual training.. Hey Brad, how about those antennas?

SSgt Jeff Ledoux: Our newest arrival. Came to us from Nellis where he was in POL with Mike. That's all we need! Looks like he's another great white hunter. Hopefully he shoots them while airborne.

Sra Doug "D-Money" Meyer: D has taken over stan/eval. He recently got married and has adjusted to life by becoming an "X-Files" addict. Also commands his own Federation starship on the Internet. Has recently read the writing on the wall and decided to leave the service next fall. Has a job lined up in his father's company.

A1C Scott "Bones" Hoke: Would have to gain 10 pounds to become a 98 pound weakling. Got his first taste of Saudi this summer. Scott is from Boise, so if you want to know anything about Idaho, he's the man.

A1C Jesse Talamantes: Has also recently married and is now making the Boise commute. Played a very convincing Ralph Cramden (bus driver) in Saudi. Just survived his first ACC checkride on a mission that would have made most young booms go into fits.

A1C Brian Johnson: Another of our pipeline booms. Brian screwed up one of his knees and has had two operations. Will be down for awhile. Stay away from him and Thayer when their in the same room, because conversation will eventually turn to either the Minnesota Vikings or other things Norwegian which nobody else gives a damn about.

A1C Todd Lupo: Use to be a truck driver. Too bad he never took auto shop in school. Seems every time he takes the family camping the truck breaks down. Just got a new duck dog and moved into base housing.

A1C Jayon "Duke" Leonard: Another fairly new boom. He has just completed day fighter qual training. Has forsaken the rest of us for women. Says he has many lady friends although he has only been seen with Masai.

A1C Masai Ford: Our 2nd newest arrival. Had his 1st flight here not too long ago. Still trying to gather good intel on him.

INBOUNDS: SSgt Troy Hales (cross-trainee).

RETIREES/DEPARTURES:

SMSgt Lew Timbrook: Running loose in the greater Texas area last we've heard. Now working at FlightSafety.

SMSgt Eddie Masten: As noted above, is now in Texas becoming a computer wizard.

MSgt Brad Arnsparger: Peace Officer with Marquette County Sheriffs Department in Michigan.

MSgt Mark Graham: Moved to Utah and never looked back.

TSgt Chuck Miller: Moved back to Michigan and bought a Semi, on the road most of the time, which is probably good because his oldest daughter just gave birth to a girl. That ups the Miller women under one roof to 7.

TSgt Lenny Beck: Still in the local area, started his own computer troubleshooting business, also a locksmith in the neighboring town.

SrA Chris "Target" Hargett: Is now at Altus teaching the young'un's.

SrA Kerry Montgomery: We think he's still living on base with his military spouse. Working at Micron in Boise.

Amn Jeremy Koon: Couldn't cut the mustard and is now a civilian, living in Las Vegas.

HONORARY BOOMS: Occasionally We run across individuals that go out of their way, above and beyond the call of duty, and well past the point of "just doing their job", to make our lives as boom operators better. They make the Air Force a better place. They have earned our respect, in turn, we induct them into the Honorary Boom Operator Hall of Fame.

SSgt Paul Smith, SSgt Angela Patterson, Sra Donnie Lambert and A1C Justus Hanks, they are 22 ARS life support technicians. It may have something to do with the fact they are the equipment custodians, but I don't think so. Donnie took the Hall of Fame too serious and has just been approved for cross-training into the boom field. Wants to go to Grand Forks.

In closing we would like to thank SMSgt John Buckland, our functional manager at ACC for all he is doing for us. Thank you Chief Mawhorr, for lending your guidance and support to the ACC "Red-headed Step Children". To all Boom Operators, past, present and future.

FLY SAFE!!!

Questions, comments or getting in touch with friends can be accomplished by dialing the following:

Program Manager DSN 728-4828

Flight Booms DSN 728-1871

Squadron Stan/Eval DSN 728-4148

Ops Group Stan/Eval DSN 728-6472/4600

Niagra Falls, NY

136 ARS



GREETINGS FROM THE NIAGARA FALLS BOOMERS. The Guinea Pigs for the Air National Guard Jenny (Pacer) Crag Program. The past year has been a busy one. We finally recovered from the ORI that we did with Pease back in April. We all have experienced the joys of living out of the suitcase, and looking forward to the new 3 boom positions that have just opened up. If you are ever in the area stop by and we will buy you a soda pop(beer). Now for our lineup:

Chief Jack Tuchols - Air Technician - Our Chief Boom. "AKA MUD BOY" "Thats Stuiip"

SMSGT Harold Clark - Air Technician - Mr. Smothee - Harold is our Stan-Eval Boom. Honey guess what? We are broke in Hawaii again. Can you believe that.

MSGT Dave Hess - Guardsman - Mr. 20-20 See ya short timer. 28 years, 8 years to long!!!

MSGT JJ Cichocki - Penguin - Still the cargo loading manager, barely. Wants to know if any of you guys have BINFORDS built yet? JJ swears they're the wave of the future.

MSGT Jay Hopper - Air Technician - Time Cop - Hey where did that solitaire game go? I can't find it. Now what am I going to do at work?

MSGT Dave Wohelben - AGR - Chia - We all wish we had half his hair. Likes to do air drops with 10 oz bloody mary drinks when he his TDY.

MSGT Sam Davies - Air Technician - Torch - Brings Thanksgiving dinner to work everyday in his scooby doo lunch pail. Where does all that food go?

TSGT Bob Major - Air Technician - Split Flap - Can tell you how many floor tiles there are in the squadron. Makes more in per diem than he does as a technician.

TSGT Gary Henning - Air Technician - Passes out "Green Cards" with his last name on them in every country he goes TDY to! Isn't it three strikes and your out?

TSGT Kenny Isgrigg - Guardsman - Casper - One of the few guys with a real job. Is that the back of my head in that photo?

TSGT Jim Pohle - Guardsman - Pee Hole - Graduates Dec 97 in elementary education. Now would be a good time to pull your kids out of school. Needs an extra 48 AFTP's to pay his school loans off.

TSGT Terri Santoro - Guardswoman - Oomps - Where are those drill excusal forms? What do you mean I have to fly to get paid!

SSGT Dale Franklin - Guardsman - Moogie Man - "Crew Rest" What do you mean I can't work a double and then come into fly? Hey does anybody have any nail polish remover!!!!

SSGT Timmy Gemsheim - Guardsman - Gum shoe - Our resident Motor Mouth.
Every unit needs one. "Hey wake up I'm still talking".

SSGT Ray Fitzpatrick - Guardsman - Ace - American Express called again they said return that car or else! Our only true traditional guardsman.

SSGT Bryan Dillon - Guardsman - Link - (PILOT IN COMMAND NOT FLYING)
Our newest least experienced boom recently back from survival. "I'll remove the downlock after the next touch and go".

Oh Yea MSGT Jim Sievert - AGR - Worm - Hey, anyone who will listen. When I sober up I need to talk to you. JAAAAAACK!! Your such a great boss! Do I get missed meals for my drive to and from work? Are we on base or off base? TDY is how I make my money. That scheduling shop is so screwed up and everyone in there is against me. Ya know, Ya owe me now!!! To misquote our former President "ask not what I can do for you, but rather what you can do for me.

Offutt, NE

7 ACCS

Greetings to all who shall see this, perhaps the last Boom Signal input from the 7ACCS here at Offutt. What rumor to believe we know not, so like our mission we just fly on. Here's our current line up.

SMSGt Doug Hershey, Special Missions Flt., and boss boom. Anywhere for per-deim, or to avoid waxing Casey right Doug? MSgt Pete Hiracheta, Det 10. Pete is in charge of enlisted air crew training up at the Det. He gets down to the ACCS to fly with us when he can.

TSgt Dennis O'Grady, Wing OGV. His line number for MSgt can't come soon enough. The perfect computer according to Dennis is one with solitaire and a hammer to smash it when it fails to take your inputs. Of course one with it's own Pub would be even better!

TSgt Andy LaCasse, Alert Facility Manager. Get your own damn sheets, I'm doing my home work! Andy is knee deep in his college studies, but never to busy to help out around the ACCS. He's the old man at the 7th, been around since SAC was a corporal.

SSgt Jeff MaGee, Wing Scheduling. Jeff manages to keep his sanity up there. He does a good job keeping our feet out of the fire with scheduling issues. He's always ready to fly for us.

SSgt Lee Robinson, S-101. Lee is the new sheriff in town. He hasn't hammered anybody yet. Stan Eval probably seems like heaven compared to the OSS

SSgt Sal Iannucci, Training Flight/R-103. Sal got the job from Andy. Sal is working to sort out all the good rumors from bad ones on the ACCS future. Perhaps the Sunshine state will be in Sals future.

SrA Ricky Horton, R-104. We're not sure what Rick's nick name should be this week. Based on recent events we'll leave it at Snowball for now. Rick is a solid performer for the ACCS, always ready to help.

SrA Dan Cykewick, R-105. Anybody need a great flag football player or somebody to run the coffee bar? Dan's done a fine job for us here at the ACCS. With a little luck maybe he'll get his KC-10 to Travis.

A1C Dave Weirich, R-106. Number one's onboard! Sometimes Dave's just a little to quiet, or at least until he gets down to the Old Market. He's turned into a solid young boom for us! Always ready for some new challenge.

SrA Tim Blackburn, R-107. As we get smaller Tim has turned his stan eval black hat in for the greener pastures of the line. When things get ugly there's always Mildenhall to remember, right Tim?

SrA Jeff Gaston, R-108. Let's call him Doc Gaston now. Jeff is in pursuing a degree that will lead to becoming a P.A. For the moment Jeff can still put the pole in the hole.

SSgt Cliff Bond, R-108. Still waiting for that line number to come up. Cliff was one of the last guys to be assigned to the ACCS. A fast learner doing a great job for us! No, we'll spare the 007 jokes for another time.

SSgt Steve Mason, R-109. If there ever was a picture of a future CRUSTY OLE MSgt, we have it here in Steve. Steve came to us from the Forks to escape to much time on the road. Although he did manage to pull off about ten days in South America with Casey. Nice suit Steve!

Recently retired but not forgotten is TSgt Tom Weirauch. Tom is in heaven with his house on the fourth fairway at Bay Hills Country Club in Plattsmouth. All are welcome to look Tom up for a beer or to chat.

Alas all good things must come to an end. If this is our last input from the 7 ACCS then lets just say we went out the door with a Hell of a good line up and some great memories. It's a small Air Force, so the Boom Operators here in the heartland we'll be on the look out for our fellow Booms. For the moment lets just say the 7ACCS is running the Post A/R checklist, the booms not quite stowed yet. Fly Safe!

TSgt Dennis O'Grady

Pease, NH

133 ARS



Greetings from the Boom Pod at Pease!

We've all been having tons of fun during the past year. Our ORI square is filled for another four years (thank God)! Our TTF has been real busy and so has the Boom Shop with the ongoing Channel Mission participation. AMC is putting pressure on all the KC-135 units to become cargo prioritized, so we are working on a modification to use the cargo door to perform inflight air drops (that ought to be interesting). Now with Pacer Crag in the near future, we've been working with our navigators to pass on their secrets on how to get to the BX on all of our TDY's. Presently, the 133rd has 22 Boom Operators assigned. The following is the low-down on what's up with all of them.

CMS Carl Sneirson: Carl is our new "Chief Boom". He's doing a fine job although we can't figure out how he gets to work on time. He owns lots of cars but none of them go faster than 40 mph.

CMS Ray Richardson: Ray was the "Chief Boom" prior to Carl. His plans are to hang on right to the end. Once he does retire, he is going to grab his walker and move to the Carolina area to get away from the harsh winter months. (Try shoveling snow with a walker, it's not easy).

CMS Steve Morgan: "Stevie B" is our S/E guy. Flying with Steve is like flying with Santa Claus except Steve is older.

SMS Kelly Philbrick: KP is our Training Boom. He does a fine job of training all of our crews on how to build decks, gazebo's and other misc items. If you stay on his good side, he may even teach you how to make a wooden bowl.

SMS Denis Boucher: Denis is the Cargo Loading Manager. Once in a while he shows up to work but we can't figure out where he gets all the leave days from!

MSG Mike Blandina: "the Ginz" Mike is our Security Manager and CBT guru. He also said he is a general pain in the ass for all of us in the Boom Shop (he said it, not us). If anyone is stealing food from your flight lunch, let Mike know, he is capable of installing an alarm in the box. He's done it before.

MSG Glen Senechal: Glen is one of our part timers. He claims to work at for the US Postal Service. We can't see how he could work there as he spends more time TDY than anyone else. Working for the Postal Service must be nice because you get a paycheck but you don't have to show up.

MSG John Lennon: John is our senior part time Boomer. His full time job is driving a truck for the Postal Service. He must really work for the Postal Service because he has a hard time staying current as a boomer. The only ground training requirement he is capable of accomplishing is his annual rafting trip. You show up, he does the rest.

MSG Marc St Cyr : Marc makes the big bucks working for a local utility company. He climbs poles during the day and extends poles at night. I wonder if it's from pulling too much alert.

TSG Dave Lajoie: Dave is our scheduling Boom. He works real hard and takes lots of abuse. One thing he can't do is pull the hair out of his head.

TSG Tony Casella: Tony is our pubs/passenger terminal manager. He spends more time fixing everyone's computers than anything else. In fact, we're thinking about buying him some high water pants and a pocket protector to go along with his computer fixing image.

TSG Elaina D'Orto: Elaina is our TTF Boom Operator. She is the Marlin Perkins of Boom Operators. She hunts, fishes, and makes her own fly rods. What else can a man ask for!

TSG John Gibb: John is presently residing in Crew Comm. He's also a good 10 pin bowler, at least until his girlfriend shows up, then he becomes an excellent bowler. May the force be with you!

TSG Glen Starkweather: Glen is one of our part time night flyers. In the real world, he's a grounds keeper at our local airport. He's in the process of building a new house for his large family. I guess being a grounds keeper isn't a bad job after all. Shave this guy's head and he looks like Drew Carey, Lucky Guy!

TSG Jim Doyle: A regular part time night flyer, he's got more irons in the fire than anyone we've seen. He runs a couple local bars, he's a full time carpenter, once in a while, he's a Boom Operator. On occasion, he gets all three confused and gets hammered on his TDYs.

SSG Mike George: Another part time Boomer that performs mail man duties on the outside. This guy lives on the edge which might explain why he carries a side arm as he delivers mail.

SSG Sam Blackwell: Sam is fresh from Fairchild and is now sucking up a temporary AGR position here with us. Sam has dedicated his time to doing all the additional duties that everyone else doesn't want to do. (There is a God!)

SSG Michelle Moseley: Michelle, another Thursday night flyer works for an insurance company full time. Her plans are to get hitched pretty soon. Don't forget to explain to Hubby why you can't wear your ring on the aircraft. He'll understand!

SSG Gerry Melanson: Gerry is a traditional Guardsman whose real job is a Bio Tech machine mechanic. He's a newlywed which is quite obvious. Cargo Loading has helped him as he's figured out that chains don't stretch.

SSG John Craig: John is fairly new to us as he just got back from Altus. The problem with John is he's too damn polite! We definitely want to be around when he loses it.

SSG Alan Beaulieu: Alan is another new guy. His father, Real, used to be a Boom with us and now Alan is following in his footsteps. Alan, you've got a tough act to follow. Alan is an auto mechanic in his other job. The only mechanic we've seen without dirty finger nails.

SSG Steve Munt: Steve is a Boomer selectee. He hasn't left for school yet but is soon to happen. More to follow.

If any of you happen to come up for a TTF or a good deal TDY, look us up in the Boom Shop, we'd like to shoot the breeze with you.

That's all Folks!
The 133rd Boom Operators

Phoenix, AZ

197 ARS

Ola from the Valley of the Sun, home of the ASU Sun Devils and the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team. Before we run down the current line up for the 161st, we would like to express our appreciation to Dave Vasquez for his contributions here, good luck at the 108ARW.

Fulltimers

IRPM	853-9031	CMS	JUAN MESQUITA
DOTB	853-9367	SMS	CARLOS TRUJILLO <i>chief want-a-be.</i>
DOV	853-9014	MSG	SHARON JOHNSON <i>chief want-a-be.</i>
DOTS	853-9162	MSG	DON ROGERS <i>chief want-a-be.</i>
DOTO	853-9265	MSG	TY WARREN <i>would like to have the winter off for skiing.</i>
CLTM	853-9085	MSG	TOM ELLINGTON <i>working on a masters degree.</i>
T.O.'S	853-9012	MSG	BUDDY WAITE <i>building a dream home in the mountains.</i>
	853-9085	TSG	MIKE CULLUM <i>can be found Civil War Reenacting on weekends.</i>

Traditional Guardsman

NCOIC	MSG	JOE YOUNG	<i>new CFIC graduate. (Boom College)</i>
	TSG	CRAIG BELL	<i>future grandpappy.</i>
	TSG	BILL BRADY	<i>congratulations on your new job at Boeing!</i>
	TSG	STEVE HANSON	<i>part time Boom whenever he's not fighting fires:</i>
	TSG	LORENA SULADIE	<i>working on graduating from ASU.</i>
	SSG	DAVID HANSON	<i>chasing women and having a great time!</i>
	SSG	JOHN BONNETT	<i>? still looking for the perfect job.</i>
	SSG	WILLIAM GARRETT	<i>congratulations for your new baby boy!</i>
	SRA	ROB GRONER	<i>making more than all of us at his new job!</i>
	SSG	DAVE WRIGHT	<i>spent his honeymoon at Altus, Congratulations!</i>
	SSG	JEFF MADORSKI	<i>finally got a school date, 8 Dec. Have fun Jeff.</i>

Adios, God bless, and fly safely.

JUAN MESQUITA, CMSgt, Az ANG
Inflight Refueling Program Manager

Pittsburgh, PA

146 ARS

It was great to see everybody at the Workshop in the 'Burgh. Thanks again for your support and cooperation. The 146 ARS boom line-up is changing almost as fast as the role of the boom operator. Our **OUTSTANDING BOOM OPERATORS**:

Guardsmen

SRA RYAN SHERBONDY	expected inbound from Grand Forks
SRA ED FITZGERALD	navigator slot bound & look'n for a pilot school date
SSG JOHN GAMBLE	awaiting CCTS date in '98
SSG JOE MORRIS	CCTS date of 11 MAR 98
SSG MIKE NAGY	our politically correct guardsman
SSG AARON EDISON	counselor for the incarcerated
SSG TERRY DAVIS	financial accountant
TSG SCOTT TROWBRIDGE	IBO full-time wanna'be
TSG RANDY MILLER	Fed Ex Management
TSG JON JOHNSON	PenDoT Inspector
TSG JOHN FITZPATRICK	Pittsburgh City Firefighter
MSG JOE GALLIK	US Airways Coordinator
MSG JIM BLOOM	Crafton PD Blue

Active Guard Reserves (AGR):

TSG BILL QUILLEN	Current Operations
TSG KEN TEYSSIER	Long Range Scheduling

Civil Servants:

TSG LARRY STOCKTON	Stan/Eval
MSG TUG McGRAW	Current Operations
MSG NICK LUCYK	Training
MSG JOHN CIMA	Current Operations
SMS PAT PLONSKI	Flight Scheduling
CMS TED INWOOD	Chief Boom

With a line-up like that you wouldn't think that we are still looking for a couple of **OUTSTANDING BOOMS** (or boom candidates) from the local area to compliment our 146 ARS Boom Team, but we are!

THEODORE A. INWOOD, CMSgt, PaANG
146 ARS/Chief Boom
DSN 277-7431
E-Mail inwoodt@paang-pitt.ang.af.mil

Pittsburgh, PA

147 ARS

This has been a busy year for the 147th ARS. The Ops Tempo continues to be high and our Booms are on the road more than they are at home. The Program Managers Workshop held here in Pittsburgh was a big success. We're looking forward to the challenges that will be presented to us in 1998. Here's the lineup of 147th ARS Booms, that truly are the Best of the Best.

Traditional Guardsmen

SRA Jason Costanzo
SSG Steve Moser
SSG Jim Perrott
SSG Mike Worthington
SSG Samantha Bromley
SSG Craig Smith
SSG Steve Grindle
TSG Casey O'Connor
TSG John Buckwalter
TSG Sandy Zenk
TSG Mike Sabatasse
SMS Skip Kubacki

Baby Boom awaiting CCTS date in '98
IBO... This loss for Fairchild was definitely our gain
Jack of all trades... always busy fixing or building something
Always available for any trip... anywhere
Transferred from Alaska ANG... full time student
Union Electrician
Penn Hills Police Officer... Currently attending CCTS
TDY's and Mandays keep him going
Union Boilermaker ..always has a joke to tell
Went part time to become a full time Mom
Keeps the inmates in line
High school computer teacher

Active Guard Reserve (AGR)

TSG Ron Gutowski
TSG Keith Stephens
MSG Marc Barna
MSG Don Hendrix

Flight Scheduling
Current Operations
Training
Conventional Plans

Technicians

TSG Jerry Levato
SMS Tony Trenga
CMS Mike Strauch

Stan/Eval
Mission Development
Chief Boom

Retirees

MSG Jim Sichi
CMS J.T. Williams

MICHAEL J. STRAUCH, CMSgt, PA ANG
147 ARS/Chief Boom
DSN 277-7431
E-Mail strauchm@paang-pitt.ang.af.mil

Ramstein, GE

HQ USAFE

Greetings from the land of beer and bratwurst. It has been a busy past year here at Ramstein. USAFE decided that they needed representation of every crew position at the MAJCOM level and I was fortunate enough to get the nod. We conduct Stan Eval visits to every flying unit in USAFE. Also, USAFE set up it's own smaller version of the AMC/TACC known as the USAFE AMOCC. This created two new positions for boom operators, presently filled by TSgt Shawn Miller and SSgt Glen Stallard. These guys do theater scheduling for USAFE at the MAJCOM level.

If you happen to be passing through on a channel run or, better yet, have the opportunity to stay for a few days, give us a call. I am sure we can find some good food to eat and I do not need to tell you how good and plentiful the beer is here. I can be reached at DSN 480-9363 and Shawn and Glen's number is DSN 480-7114.

MICHAEL E. SAGE, MSgt, USAF
HQ USAFE Stan Eval

Ramstein, GE

623 AMCF

MSgt Sonny Sampayan

TSgt Tony Ceraolo

SSgt Jeff Sidles

DSN 480-7771

This unit was either not found,
or did not submit a Boom Signal input for 1997.

Randolph, TX

19 AF

Howdy! Things are still pretty good here in sunny San Antonio. We've been keeping busy over the past year with various things effecting the boom operator career field. We are just about done with the KC-135 Cargo Loading Trainer. We have a brand new building (1.3 million dollars) and a KC-135 fuselage that we will turn over to the contractors (FlightSafety) sometime in Feb 98. This has been the longest project I have ever undertaken (4 years) and I will be glad to see it come to and end. Ironically the fuselage is from the last KC-135A model to leave Castle. We originally had this aircraft scheduled to become the trainer and were going to disassemble it at Altus in the summer of 94 (except several O-6s got involved and they decided they did not want a fuselage hulk sitting on their ramp) and it was diverted to the bone yard. So 3 and ½ years later it arrives on a flatbed trailer, and went right into our new building which has 2 C-141 fuselages (minus wings and tails) sitting within sand wedge distance. Just amazing how much help O-6s (not to be confused with Colonels) can be. The next big project on the burner is acquisition of 2 Boom Operator Weapons System Trainers (BOWST). We have the R&D and prototype money (9.5 million) in the 2000 POM and the 2nd BOWST to be delivered in 2001 (4.5 million). The folks at AMC hope to piggyback on our initiative and buy 2 BOWST's to be utilized for continuation training. The pilot community is looking at being able to accomplish approximately 50% of their training events in simulators. Their fear is that in the continuation training world boom operators may actually drive flying hours. The senior boom leadership is working to determine just how much training is really necessary and can we accomplish these in a true simulator. Our goal within AETC is to provide the most qualified graduate that we can. We hope that with the BOWST we will graduate people sooner with all categories of receivers signed off. (This is only possible if we get the quality of simulator that will accomplish this and it is my highest priority). Chief Glast, Chief Hubbard, and myself are committed to reducing the burden on the units and this should help.

Another initiative that we have been throwing around for a while and are finally going to accomplish is the development of a basic boom operator course. This course would be the lead-in course prior to going to either the 135 or 10 and would be where the AFSC is awarded. Initial thoughts are that this course will cover all of the basics such as air refueling procedures, terps, weight and balance, systems, hazmat, etc. etc.. Hopefully this course will eliminate much of what is taught in the weapons system courses now. By developing this course we eliminate the KC-10 initial qual booms from having to go to the KC-135 course and reduce their training time, and this also sets us up for the future tanker and not having to teach redundant subjects with that aircraft. This also lets us screen individuals further prior to placing them in an aircraft, just another opportunity to ensure we don't waste training dollars. Hopefully once everything is aligned and the bugs worked out the training time for the 135 will not increase, but that will have to be seen.

I am still working to ensure that the schoolhouse has sufficient instructors to accomplish their mission. Here recently we've been pretty creative since we don't want to force people to move to Altus simply because they are the high time person on station. I still believe that a volunteer is a much better instructor than a non-volunteer and hope that we can keep noting but volunteers at the school house. If you do wish to volunteer please call me at DSN 487-4463 and I will be happy to talk to you. I can truthfully say that those who have left Altus have gotten the assignment that they wanted. It may not have been when they wanted it, but as we all know timing is everything. Let me also assure you that our DP folks and SMSgt Warner at AFPC, Chief Glast, and myself do everything we can to get people the assignment of their choice, and if you are willing to wait for an opening it will probably happen. But do not expect to leave 3 years to the date of your arrival and go to the base of your choice.

If you are ever in the area, Ted and I are usually around somewhere please call and we will show you the sights.

Tom Minton, CMSgt USAF
HQ AETC/DOFM
DSN 487-4463

Ted Carrier, SMSgt, USAF
19 AF/DOV
DSN 487-7335

Rickenbacker, OH

145 ARS



Greetings fellow boomers from the Buckeye state! Despite OSU's recent loss to "that team up north" and coach Cooper's 1-9-1 record against them everyone here is doing well. A statement I'm sure everyone will make this year is "this past year has been a busy one....." After all, why go against tradition! We started the 97 year by ending a holiday deployment to Pisa. We aren't complaining, there are far more worse places to be than Italy over the holidays. In May we were in France as a support unit for the 155ARW. Then in June we were to become the lead unit at Istres with Lincoln as the support unit. Then it happened... [insert mellow dramatic pause here]...the bang heard around the command. With less than a month to our deployment we were notified that the runway at Istres was going to close for repairs and we had to go somewhere else for our deployment. Long story short, we (with Lincoln) ended up at wonderful little oasis in the desert called Al's Garage. You guys on active duty know it all to well. We here in Ohio now understand your pain and have the utmost respect for the job you all are doing over there. We would like to thank the boomers from McConnell for the outstanding support they gave us during the short time we were there. This past year also has had us on a number of shorter trips. Mostly the normal places like Iceland, Germany, Red Flags, and the ever popular Channel runs. Actually, we like the new and improved Tokyo Talon, the overnight in Alaska makes for a much nicer mission(thanks TACC?). And even with all the stop and go's, the Aviano Eagle is a decent mission. We still have a couple short deployments left before the year is up. We'll be doing a short trip the first part of December to Geilenkirchen and we will be one of many units to have the pleasure of spending the holidays in Turkey.

The coming year has some interesting challenges for our unit. The challenge this year will not be our ops tempo but I would like to briefly mention that our unit deployment this year is scheduled to go the Istres France again. We all are having this feeling of Deja`vu! Although proceeding cautiously, we are looking forward to France. Still, who ever is at Al's Garage this May should keep an eye out for us! This year our biggest challenge will be the Pacer Craig conversion. We are scheduled to start our conversion in August. All the "official" reports seem promising but none the less flying without the a Nav is going to take some getting used to. Without the Nav our cockpit is going to be one of the busiest (if not the busiest!) in the command. It's amusing to think about growing pains in a 40+ year old jet. How does that old cliché go.....fly safe, fly smart!

Our people haven't haven't changed much this past year. SSgt Joe Contino was hired into a pilot slot by the Youngstown C-130 unit. Last report on Joe was he was doing well at UPT. SSgt Heidi Rempe was hired as Joe's replacement. She is currently tearing up the program at Altus. SMS Richard Grein recently pinned on Chief. He celebrated his recent promotion by taking the entire shop to lunch. We have a lot of retired boomers in the area one of which is CMS Tom Foster. Tom has a good handle where everyone is. If you are looking for anyone in particular contact our office at (614) 492-4663 or DSN 950-4663 and we'll put you in touch with Tom.

People currently assigned to the 145ARS are as follows.

Full timers:

CMS Richard Grein. Yep, he's the boss.
MSG Bill McIver
TSG Kevin Black
TSG Paul Emler
TSG Matt Foster
TSG Rex Robertson
SSG Kevin Cartwright
SSG Delmar McGee

Part timers:

CMS Terry Kerr
MSG Alan Berg
MSG Mark Hamilton
MSG Bob Reffitt
TSG Tab Bursk
TSG Scott Keller
SSG Shawn Carr
SSG Josh Hanna
SSG Heidi Rempe
SSG Eric Shoemaker

You can E-Mail any of the full time guys by using the first letter of there first name + their last name then @OHLCK.ANG.AF.MIL. Some of the part time guys have E-Mail but I
If you happen to find yourself in our neighborhood give us a call, we'd like to hear from you.
COMM (614) 492-4663
DSN 950-4663

OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD
RICKENBACKER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Rickenbacker, OH

166 ARS

Here's our line-up:

CMS Jack A. Bishop	Program Manager	DSN 950-3399
MSgt Tom E. Guard	NCOIC	950-4574
MSgt Lib Malbon	Quiet Trouble	950-4574
MSgt Mike McKinnon	Stan Eval	950-3123
MSgt Todd Devoe	Peacekeeper	950-4574
MSgt Sam Given	Cargo Load Mgr	950-3514
TSgt Jose Isern	Current OPS	950-3249
TSgt Bob Derryberry	Designated worker	950-4574
Tsgt Barry Anderson		
Tsgt Bob Bissett		
SSgt Mike Bursk		
SSgt Pat Helgerman		
SSgt Kris Kuck		
TSgt Dave Luce		
SSgt Steve Schlinkert		
TSgt Rick Schontzler		
SSgt Joe Semeraro		
SSgt Marq Thompson		
TSgt Dan Toskin		

We have a baby boomer away at school, Joe Semeraro is the latest addition to our gang. We have the perfect instructor waiting for him when he gets home. Steve Schlinkert is our ace in the hole for instructors, he came to us from the prestigious Altus instructor corps. We may get Steve accustomed to the Guard someday.

Our Guard bums are staying busy and would like to know if anyone needs flyers. For information on their skill levels and qualifications call Tom Guard @ 950-4574. (for the real scoop call Todd-their scheduler)

Our E-mail address are: jbishop@ohlck.af.mil. Looking forward to the next Program Managers Conference

Robins, GA

99 ARS

It has been another busy year as usual. We had a few booms gone over 180 days tdy this past year. The only reason our average is 103 days as a whole, a few booms had only 30 days or so. Some of our young booms are even complaining about too much flying and tdy's. Flying only 300 hours is a slow year, 400 to 450 hours is the normal.

Now for bragging rights, all this flying has given us some great training and experience. We won Rodeo in 1994 and again in 1996. You guys don't show up for the 98 Rodeo because we're going to win that one too. Uncle Sam gave us some money and we got our old building remodeled. It feels great to move back into a nice building (We were tdy from our own building for 3 1/2 months). JSTARS gave us two rooms to move into, it was like 14 people inside a telephone booth. As for right now, we're deployed to Panama for some R&R from all this fast pace we're running. Our baby Booms are all grown up now. Well, some of them are. We also got some re-treads into Robins. One is already a flight super and writing EPR's as a SRA, non-instructor.

Here is a list of the booms that are stationed here, and what they have been up to:

Chief Ron Livingston....Retired...After 31 years of military service, he's gone. Amassed over 7000 hours, 2000 Instructor hours, and scared the sh_t out of 546 booms over his career, are just a few of his accomplishments. The Chief is (or was) the most knowledgeable boom around. When he showed up to give you a check ride, our fear was not if we could follow the check list and complete air refueling, It was those darn EPE's he would ask (Eating glass was more fun than getting a check from him). We wish you all the luck in the world, and good luck as a civilian. PS. If you can't answer a question, call the Chief at his house for help, he still keeps a set of pubs with him (R-model, A-model, all EC-models, and KC-97 pubs too).

SMSGt Chris Sadler..... Chris has moved from the Sqdn to OGV. He has some fresh ideas and is doing a great job in there. Chris loves not being the Sqdn senior boom and First Sgt at the same time. His EPEs are a little different than the standard. On a Pacific channel coming back from Japan. Chris was in the back of the aircraft with the passengers, and a toddler needed help fast! The toddlers mom was asleep, so Chris intervened to change a dirty pair of diapers on one of the cargo pallets. The kid survived the ordeal and was very thankful for the help. But the pallet had to be reclassified as "hazardous cargo" inflight. That is passenger service!

MSGt John Beringer....He's back. Its his second tour here and fresh from the Birmingham guard as a advisor. He took over as the senior boom. John doesn't take anything from these booms and keeps them in place with fear. When he moved here, a armored truck had to move all his guns and ammo. We are just hoping John doesn't go postal on us. John also joined the club of "those who have, and those who will get in sooner or later", lost his first nozzle this past year to a fighter. Could you please say how this happen again, that story just doesn't sound right.

MSGt Milt Barnwell....Retired...After 24 years of service. Milt worked in OSK the last couple of years. He is one of the nicest people and hardest workers you will ever know. During ORI's, he would come out and load jets all day and never complain. I wish the young booms could have learned more from him. We're sure miss you, Milt. But the good news is he is going to school down in Florida for the Airlines. He will be making those BIG bucks. Milt, just give me the money for your retired boom squadron dues. I'll see that the money gets to the right spot.

TSgt Don Weller....Retired....Did his time in CENTCOM and decided it was time to go. Now he is flying his own plane and relaxing in the local area. Now he's working on base with the C-130 depot maintenance folks.

TSgt Scotty Bradshaw (Mr. Recon)....After the 712th went away he went to OSK and is very busy working with the spooks in Special Ops to get the JRX's planned. Scotty wants to get back into the squadron in the worst way.

TSgt Pat D'Augustino....He is now in XP and loving itYEAH RIGHT! He was one of our flight supervisors and had told all his stories to everyone he could. At least he has new people to tell his tall tales to, Everytime Pat gets into an argument with somebody, he invites them to go hunting with him....

SSgt Randy Bishop (Sir Randall of...)....You know the rest. He is now a flight supervisor and is taking good care of all his Baby Booms. Except when he is inebriated, then he thinks it's Wrestle Mania time. (Ask Eric Arcara about that).

SSgt Mike (TAZ) Rollins....He is also a flight supervisor and tries to terrorize us with his Q and A sessions. He is a scary little man! He's so short he has to jump onto the crew entry ladder just to get into the jet!

SSgt Kevin (RaileR) Cantrell....Former head of STAN/EVIL and now is the Chief of Training for the Whole group. Kevin's got the only car that's ever had a collision with a Cadillac bin, and needless to say the bin won. Life Support played bumper cars with his car and the Fork-Lift.....If you want to find Kevin, go look for the nearest hockey game...

SrA (SSgt Select) Derrick Grant (D-Rock)....Another one of our Stan/Eval instructors and probably one of the best instructors we have seen in a long time. He always has the BIG picture....(and not just related with work stuff.) Also the only guy in the world with a C.D. player in a GEO METRO!

SrA (SSgt Select) Bill Fejeran....Bill is our newest Baby Boom and is up and coming in this career field. He just gave the Air Force a BIG black eye and a bloody lip by making staff! You can't keep a GOOD boom down!!!

SrA John Reed....Finally out of scheduling and is trying to learn how to be a boom again. He is now in Training Flight, and busy keeping our Baby Booms current and qualified. He and Dorian almost got their butts kicked by a taxi driver in Jordan!

SrA Chris Meinken....Chris is done in CENTCOM and is not living the good life anymore. He is one of our new Stan/Eval instructors and is doing a good job keeping all of us on our toes. When is the next BIG Party?! Chris is always trying to sell something, he would sell his first born if he could get full price!

SrA Hector Trinidad (Mr. I'm too Sexy for the 135)....Watch out y'all, he is smart, knowledgeable and he knows it. Hector is our #1 "Stealth Boom". It will be hard to go to CFIC when he can't even show up to work., his girlfriend shows up to work more than he does.

SrA Chris Huelsenbeck (H+10)....Chris is our Vice President of the "Lost Nozzle Club." He and MSgt Beringer are trying to keep membership low! Chris is doing well and is wanting to become a "Gucci Boy." Good Luck! He also tells all the high-school girls that he's a pilot.....UHHH...UH.HUH NOT!

SrA Dorian Williams (Mr. Clean)We decided to call him this because we don't have anything on him. He is always wanting to go TDY to pay for his new house. Dorian's new house might be why he is our #5 "Stealth Boom".

SrA Steve Spalding (A.K.A. Football Head)..Don't dispute Steve, he is always right....NOT!! He just became a new daddy and is too busy with school to worry about being a boom. Take a Saturday class, Life Support had to special order his helmet because his head is so big!

SrA Joel Jones....Joel still has a lot of weight to gain so that the wind limitations on him can be lifted. Last December he was awarded SrA below the zone, we can't see how on earth he got it when he is our #3 "Stealth Boom". Joel is begging to go to CFIC, but they won't let them go until he grows facial hair.

SrA Eric Hicks....Eric is one of the most laid back Booms we have here at Robins. We just need to remind him that "DUDES" doesn't go well in an evacuation brief with the Ops Officer. He is also in the "Stealth Boom" flight as #4.

SrA Eric Arcara....Eric is whiny, the eighth dwarf. He is very involved in school and wants to get his degree so he can fly us to work. His classes may be why he is our #2 "Stealth Boom".

SrA John Phillips..He did short time in CENTCOM and is back slummin' as a line boom again. Thought he was going to MacDill, but didn't get the assignment because his 1977 Datsun Special wouldn't make it to Florida. Also a newly wed. "Warning"- Don't was your underpants together, or she will get pregnant.

SrA Dan Brown....Dan is the first Boom here at Robins to try to wash the A-10 windshield with his boom nozzle. He worked as a POL troop for a while and now loves his job as a boom (it got him a date with the PA lady, Please no PDA while in uniform). Dan is in love, he will probably bite the dust.

SrA Tony Knowlton....Tony crossed trained to the boom field and is our vehicle control manager. He is always busy trying to fix our (1930's) vehicles. He is also a lifetime member to (R.U.O.A.)Rogaine Users Of America!

Departures

TSgt Mikey Barnes and **SrA Dan Hunter** went to the TALCE at McGuire to become load experts on all airplanes except their own.

SSgt Steve Johnson also went to McGuire, but he went there to be a "Gucci Boy".

SrA Eric Graham deserted the boom field to become a doctor.

A1C Nate (I didn't inhale) Christall recently departed the Air Force for a more lucrative job with the DEA as an informant.

If you're ever in town stop by the squadron and say hello

Well till next year, yall take it easy and fly safe.

Wanna be Instructor
SrA John W. Phillips III

Riyyad, Saudi Arabia

???

MSgt Dave Williams

??-????

This unit was either not found,
or did not submit a Boom Signal input for 1997.

Salt Lake City, UT

191 ARS

Greetings to all from Salt Lake City, site of the 2002 Winter Olympics and the home of 18 of the most professional booms on the planet!

The past year has been a busy one for those of us here on the shores of the Great Salt Lake as it has for all of the elite members of the Boom Operators Association. Along with all of the channel missions, business efforts, and PAX hauls (our favorite), we've done the Iceland thing, been to Turkey, and deployed to Pisa twice, which is where this article is being written from. Its a great time to be a boom!

Since you've heard from us last we've really changed. Lost some old familiar friends and picked up some new ones along the way. Chief Denny Daniels, Marv Boase, and "Ole" Ray Madsen have all retired and we miss them more than we thought we could. Denny and Marv come around to visit once in a while and its my very sad duty to report that our great friend "Ole" passed away this past year. Here's to you Ole, wherever you are!

Now let me introduce the rest of us here at SLARCO.

CMS Val Petersen	Val is enjoying his view from the top. The original "cuchimara".
SMS Doug Cline	Doug is the new IFRPM. We all let him think he's really in charge.
SMS Marty Nielsen	Marty is still Mr. Stan Evil. He set two new weight lifting records this year. One in the bench press and the other in the 12 ounce arm curl.
SMS Jim Zaelit	Jim is our NCOIC. In charge of what we still don't know.
MSG Dennis Green	We keep "Brother Green" around to remind us of what it was like in the "good old recip days".
MSG Joe Mace	Recently annointed CLT Mgr. We're not sure how long he'll be able to keep up the frenzied pace.
MSG Jarvis Brown	Our newest and most loved scheduler. Nobody does it quite like the king!
MSG Brian Jensen	Brian is our training flight guy. He and Jimmy Z spend alot of time out in the hills "hunting". Lets not even go there.
TSG Brian Steenblik	Steemy is the last of our AGR's and we all know what AGR stands for. Enough said. :)
TSG Suzette Umphrey	Sue has recently gained control of the units cash as the RA. Shes been so happy lately that we can't even wipe the smile off her face.
TSG Lorin Pratt	Lorin is AGR too but the Army pays him out of their "Black Ops" budget. He'd have to kill us if he told us what he does for them.
TSG Ben Williams	Ben works in the current ops shop. A.K.A. Williams Boys Racing. Spends most of his time trying to get my Master stripe.
SSG Eric Henderson	Eric spends his days crawling around inside C-130's looking for his rhythm.
SSG Brian Lawson	Brian also has a real job now. He really misses the guard bum days.
SSG Tim Molder	When Timmy isn't flying he's out at the track with all the other he-men racing riding lawn mowers.(Go-Carts).

SSG John Salazar

Sal never lets us go hungry and was recently voted the best cook in the unit.

SSG Matt Ocana

Matt is going the way of all the world soon and joining the ranks of the rest of us old married men. Should be one helluva bachelor party!

SSG G.K. Gardner

Nobody knows if its Gary or Ken. After hearing his stories we're changing his name to Bond, James Bond.

SSG Eric Hill

Eric is still enjoying the good life in beautiful Altus OK.

We've also selected two more baby booms to send off to school. Karen Keely and Dan Boyack. We're looking forward to having them around.

CIAO

Scott, IL
HQ AMC

CMSgt Mike Mawhorr, HQ AMC/DOT: Getting ready for retirement and the good life.....SHORT!!

CMSgt Erskin Glast, HQ AMC/DOT: DSN 576-5553. There have been a lot of changes this year; CMSgt Mike Mawhorr attended his last program manager workshop, called it quits, and now enjoys the good life of retirement. Mike, GOD speed, we wish you success and thank you for all your support. The PACER CRAG program is picking up momentum and will begin to focus on a depot schedule in the near future. We are now heavily involved in the channel missions and AMC seems to focus more on cargo than boom refueling...what a transition.

We have a couple of new faces here at HQ; SMSgt Jim Eden took over as the KC-135 DOV and CMSgt Cary Hubbard the KC-10 DOV. Both have been doing a bang-up job.

I never dreamed I would ever get to this position, as the Functional Manager, and I've had a wake up call. There is a lot of work, and more ahead to do, but I am confident we can handle it and look forward to serve you all. Let me say right now there is nothing more important to me than leaving the boom field in better shape than I received it. I will always try to make myself available to you and keep you abreast of what is happening. I am looking forward to getting away from this desk and getting out to visit..... Until then, keep the fan-mail coming. My telephone number is DSN: 576-5553, E-mail; GLASTE@HQAMC.SCOTT.AF.MIL. **Stay focused and Fly safe!!!**

CMSgt Cary Hubbard, HQ AMC/DOV: DSN 576-5305. Greetings from the KC-10 side of HQ AMC/DOV. Many things are happening around the KC-10 world, I'll lightly touch on a few.

The second Boom Operator Trainer (BOT) will be operational at McGuire in March. It's looking good. Refueling an F-16 at dusk over the desert looks real. The only thing missing is a box lunch. Altus is looking to upgrade the KC-135 BOPTT to something similar, and AMC would then buy two more to put at two of the wings for training.

We are still working on a Basic Boom Operator course. We will be ironing out the details in the next few months, and are hoping to have it on line by January, 1999.

We may be making some headway with Kelly on 791's. In FY 99, the money is there to put a reader on all tankers, and some kind of IR transmitter on every DOD airplane so tail number info is recorded automatically. Let's hope it works.

We're still running into problems with HAZMAT. Be aware of your documentation and what you have on board.

I've been here for a year now, and am actually getting used to the pace. But there's still a lot more to do than there is time to do it. I'll get to it eventually, but be patient.

SMSgt Jim Eden, HQ AMC/DOV: DSN 576-5305. The transition to here from DOV at 15th was fairly simple with respect to DOV issues, however, the staffing is killing me. I've always heard the AF exists on paperwork, but this is mind boggling. If any of you aspire to become a staffer, get to know the "Tongue and Quill" like the back of your hand before you get here.

Some of the major issues we're working: Phil Money's weight and balance program; Phil has been very generous by donating his program to the Boom field. We are working hard to get the legal-ease and certification completed and should have something on the street by 1 Feb 98. New improved boom and nozzle (IBN) with independent disconnect; Maintenance is working a new improved boom and IBN. The improved boom will be transparent to us, except for improving the envelope, more reliable and require less maintenance for the LG community. It's still sluggish at the lower airspeeds, but we now have a true square envelope instead of the old upside down tear shaped envelope. The new nozzle is a different problem. Parker Hannifin has re-engaged the AF to continue testing the independent disconnect capabilities of their nozzle. We just finished shutting them off because of continued float-out problems and the receiver community cancelling A/Rs if the tanker had the IBN. We'll see if they have made any progress. We are in the final coord process for the new -9. No changes for the (K)A-9 community, we just added the A-9 to our (K)A-9. We thought it wasteful to maintain two separate -9s.

Last but not least...the "Boom Signal". There seemed to be a lack of time?? Interest?? or something from the boom community when I was taking inputs for OUR annual newsletter. In the larger sense this was very disturbing to me because I feel, NO I know we are the closest nit career field in the AF. As I put the signal together several of the other enlisted career fields (life support, loads, FE, etc.) even the officers complimented us on the signal and "BOOM UNION". They know the strength we have and some have felt the wrath of the UNION. This really made me feel good. Please do not let this union fall. The booms before us fought hard to get what we enjoy today, and we must continue to work hard so those who follow, can enjoy the same. The Gunners were #1 (A111X0), we got rid of them...Now we're #1.....(1A0X1).

SMSGt Cleve Filmore, HQ AMC TACC/XOPME: DSN 576-2410. Retiring 1 July 98; ready to go fishing and maybe work at Walmart as head Greeter.

MSgt Tim Bowser, HQ AMC/XOBK: DSN 576-1940.

MSgt Greg Conrad, HQ AMC/DOOM: DSN 2038. Works in the Mobile Command and Control Branch. He's been on the AMC Staff for 2 1/2 years now. He's the functional manager for tanker and airlift Wing Operations Center (WOC) UTCs for active duty, Guard, and Reserves. He also has the unpopular task of managing TALCE and AMOS boom slots so you probably want to be nice to him. A proud new father of a baby boy which keeps him quite busy.

MSgt Bricker Martin HQAMC/IG: DSN 576-4313. After five and a half years (My wife says I was actually only there for less than 3 years) at windy McConnell I moved 450 miles east to windy Scott. Having a good time on the IG team with the ever changing ORI process. More importantly, the roads out here are great for bike riding. If you get to Scott, look me up. And if I get to your base to see you, remember, I'm here to help you. I will have a Boom Coin connection in Korea by the time this goes to print.

MSgt Randy Seip, HQ AMC/DOOM: DSN 576-3391. Also works in Mobile Command and Control Branch. He's been on the AMC staff for a year now. He's the functional manager for the Air Mobility Operations Squadrons (AMOS). Also helps Greg Conrad with managing TALCE and AMOS boom slots. Says this assignment has been an eye opener.

MSgt Tina Wallace, HQ AMC/XOBK: DSN 576-1940

Tsgt Chris Hctor, HQ AMC/XOOKS: DSN 576-7951

TSgt Larry Hudnut, HQ AMC/TACC/XOBK: DSN 576-1617. Greetings from the land of Cardinal Baseball. Life in the TACC is always busy, and never dull. When you all get tired of dragging those A,C, and D bags around the planet, let me know. I'm sure we can find a desk for you. Stop by...the beer is always cold.

TSgt Keven Schlegal, HQ AMC/XOPMEC: DSN 576-2410

TSgt Scott Stern, HQ AMC/XOPMWC: DSN 576-2087

TSgt Ken Strother, HQ AMC/TACC XOPME: DSN 576-2410. "Manager, Tanker Airlift Mission Support Operations, Global Readiness. Welcome from the world of the zoo. I had the privilege of deploying a slide raft during an IFE in December. I had so much fun that I am trying to get this to be a currency requirement for the KC-10. If you want to drop me a line I can be reached at strothkg@hqamc.scott.af.mil or DSN 576-2410.

Some of the OLD retirees in the local area;

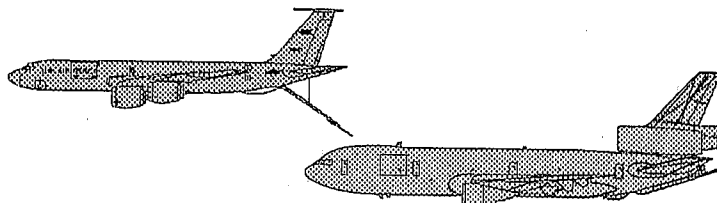
Mike Mawhorr
Will Hillary

Scott Harris
Larry Placide

Jake Benscooter
Roger Smith

John Oglesby
Mike Trace

That's it from your friendly HQ AMC staffer pukes. We're only here to help.



Selfridge, MI

63 ARS

Greetings from the "Motor City Madmen" up here in Detroit, Michigan. 1997 has been quite the year for us here in the 63rd ARS Boom Shop. Most of the unit has been deployed somewhere in the world at some point this year. The year started with being the lead unit at Pisa in the month of March, followed by Denmark in June. With the end of summer approaching, we have also been to Red Flag. During our time at Red Flag the base decided to repair the runway. We are now looking forward to more Aviano Eagles, and a wonderful trip to Iceland during Christmas and New Years. As we look forward to 1998, we see our unit in the desert for the first time as tankers, Geilenkirchen, Germany, Italy in August, but most of all, starting the ORI-PREP again.

But enough about us, hope 1998 provides all of us with a lot of fun. Here is the current line up for the 63rd Boom Shop:

ARTS:

Msgt Reg Nolte: Our Chief boom has been very busy this year with replacing all the slots left by our retirees, along with the new overages provided by our wing commander. When he's not doing that you can usually find his wife and him touring the world on the Harley. On a side note, Reg just hit the 10,000 hour mark, all in the reserves (Is there not a rule about retiring after that many hours!!).

SMSgt Bill Shaw: DOV, OGV, whatever you call them now. Bill is still the top hit man, always on the prowl for his next victim. Bill has been working hard at trying to get changes made to the regs to help make the job just a little easier for everyone. We keep him busy though with all the new booms arriving, he has lots of Form 8's to write.

SMSgt Niki Zachary: Niki, our beloved scheduler, has been locked up in the office so long that we've had to pry him out of the office and get out on the road. Niki is in much better spirits now that both of his kids have gone off to college (one at Michigan, the other at Michigan State), he says it makes for an interesting life at home.

Msgt Frank DeJauregui: Our California transplant, after spending a couple of years in the civilian world, Frank has rejoined the ART force here at Selfridge. He is now the training manager, and keeps busy getting the new booms trained and ready to go so the rest of us can get a little rest. Frank likes it up here, but still has not quite got used to the winters yet (We still don't think he has a snow shovel).

Msgt Greg Ringel: What is there to say about Greg, besides he still wants the C-130 back and quite can't let it go. Greg has been busy at work with lots of additional duties, to include our cargo loading training, mobility, and other odds and ends. But Greg is happy, he sold his house and is getting ready to move into his brand new house. If you try to call him though, you might just get the answering machine, due to the fact that he is on the road more often than in the office.

Msgt Larry Wyland: Larry is the boom operators resident computer expert. Along with having to keep the squadrons computers in line and working, he is also our firearms handler. He has done a great job keeping track of both. Reg also keeps him busy flying around the local area making sure the new booms are getting all the training they need to be ready. And like Greg, Larry is quick to point out that this plane is not built for cargo (and we all agree).

Tsgt Mike Weir: Mike has joined Niki in the scheduling office as the new weekly scheduler. Mike is also become the new scheduling program expert (a full time job of its own). Mike, being the newest ART, has also been layered with lots of additional duties. He seems to keep the spirit up in the squadron and can sometime be a real pain in the @\$ if you know what I mean. Mike also tries to keep Greg and Larry in line about the 130, but I think he's fighting a losing battle.

RESERVIST:

SMsgt Jeff Rooding: Jeff is our local union man, working for GM, and being our unit career advisor. Jeff helps us all out here by attending all the PME schools for us. As the career advisor and weight manager, he spends plenty of days our here at the base making sure we all keep our noses clean, and we even let him fly every now and then.

Msgt Joe Bozzo: Joe, well lets just say the Post Office is a great place to work, it must be because he's there a lot. Recently Joe has been telling us that he has found himself in gun shops late at night, and not remembering how he got there. We think its only a matter of time. You'll find Joe out flying on the weeknights just to get away.

Msgt Fred Goettsche: Fred is now the 63rd First Sergeant, along with being a boom, so on the UTA's you'll find Fred wondering the halls looking at boots and haircuts. Fred is looking forward to next year, when he is retiring from the phone company. Rumors are beginning that Fred, after retiring, is going to start his own military with the combination of Marines and Air Force knowledge.

Msgt Rick Morrow: Rick is the proud new dad of the unit, he just had a baby boy and spends lots of time at home with the family. We try to keep him busy out here with the new students (were trying to build his instructor hours for his hopeful airline job, ya right!). Rick has also been busy building new houses around the area to include his new one. There is one thing for sure though, you never see anything but a smile on his face now.

Tsgt Bennie Lance: Bennie has been keeping busy with his new civilian job so we don't see him very often. We do know that he also is a proud new papa, and for those of you who don't know, Bennie also tied the knot while he was in Pisa, Italy. He got married onboard the tanker while he was preflighting the jet.

SSgt John English: One of our new booms, John flies his butt off for us, along with trying to better his life by attend college up at Saginaw Valley. We don't know exactly what his major is, but we do now he spends a lot of time in his apartment on the Internet (. I guess that falls under don't ask, don't tell.

SSgt John Fill: Our newest boom, and full time bum for us. John has been all over this great land of ours so far. We think he has got more hours now then most of us. John has also working hard around the building with lots of additional duties to keep him busy.

SSgt Michelle Keller: Another one of the new faces around, Michelle is also trying to make life a little better by going to college. Unlike John English, we do know that Michelle is studying to be a nurse. That just about takes up all her time. Every time we see her she's always buried in a book of some sort, and still she finds the time to come out and help us out quite a bit with local flying.

Those are the active flyers around here, but we also have two more baby booms on their way: SSgt Dale Ryan is at Altus right now and is set to be back in about a month. And SSgt Brian McDonald is slated to head down to Altus at the beginning of February. We are very happy to get the help, so that we can get our manning up so that the ARTS around here may be able to get a little break here in the near future. Be sure to check out the 927th home page on the AFRC home page. We'll be seeing you around.

Msgt Reg Nolte, Chief Boom.

Seymour Johnson, NC

77 ARS

HOME OF THE "TOTIN' TIGERS"

Welcome to this years listing of Boom Operators from Goldsboro and the surrounding area of North Carolina. We are now Mission Ready preparing for our first ever ORI in May. We went to PISA, Italy with the 931st out of McConnell in February and in September practiced for our ORI by having an ORE at Volk Field, Wisconsin.

That was our first ever ORE and we received a "Satisfactory." We are going to Gulfport January '98 for a second ORE (leaving Super Bowl Weekend) and will participate in SWA the months of February and March. We had six booms volunteer for the SWA commitment later next month. Our booms always are ready to go at a moments notice. When Sadaam was playing around a couple of months ago, all of our 16 booms would have been ready to go if needed. This is really a great group of Boom Operators. In Fiscal Year 97, the 77th Booms averaged almost 60 days of TDY. I know most of the Active units averaged more, but we also were 100% on continuation ground and flight training. We sometimes hear grumblings from the Active Duty about the Reserve and Guard participation in Real World events. For those, we say, remember, we are a Ready Reserve Unit and that means we supplement the Active Duty. It seems some need a reminder of this sometimes. We don't have green ID cards (although they are on there way) and still do not have the benefits of our Active counterparts. Everyone has a choice to do something different if they do not care for their situation. Just remember, when one retires from active duty, they become a reservist!

On 1 Apr 97, we went from being assigned to 22d AF (Dobbins ARB, GA) to 4 AF (McClellan AFB, CA). It was a big change for our unit and also meant we had to say goodbye to our attached flyer, SMSgt Randy Rinehart, who has been with 22d AF for two years. Prior to that, he was with our squadron since July of 87. Probably the only enlisted DFC recipient during Desert Storm. He will truly be missed. We also lost one of our first retrainees, TSgt Rainni Miller to a medical grounding. Its always sad to see anyone not be able to do what they really want to do. On the brighter side, we picked up three new faces, SSgt Thomas Glosser, TSgt Mark McElmurry, and SSgt Rodney Smith. For the first time in years, we did not have to evacuate airplanes because of hurricanes. Our "Jurassic Jets" are really starting to look good inside and out. A big compliment to our maintainers, as we did not exactly get the cream of the crop when we picked up our -135's. We already have some of the nicest and cleanest planes out there. Give us a year or two and we will have some of the comforts back we lost a couple of years ago that our Guard friends already have. Anyway, here is our 1997 listing heading into 1998.

SMSgt (BAD) Brad Baxter: Brad is still our Stan/Eval Boom. Spends his spare time on the internet stirring up the pot on the McGuire Boom Pod page (always under an alias). When he is not doing that, he is studying for college tests. Should have his Bachelors Degree soon. That will be a great accomplishment.

TSgt Barry (Weasel) Bradley: Barry is our newest ART, hired last April, and also the latest boom to get married. He married a real nice girl (Tammy Graham) from our Intel Office. His NASCAR days are numbered.

TSgt Kenny Fallin: Our first "home grown" boom from maintenance. All finished with mission qual training we think. Recently when asked to "say numbers," Kenny rambled off the tail number. When he goes TDY his Mom packs his bags and then does his laundry when he returns. His dad was a tanker driver, so mom didn't require much training. Drives around town in a '97 Firebird and does not have a car payment. He rat holes pay documents until reaching 4-5,000 dollars? What a life!

SSgt Thomas Glosser: Tom was picked up on the next to last day of the year from the KC-10s out of New Jersey. Came down here and started to work at the local Ford Dealership until he found out the Chief has two Corvettes and an Impala SS and only hired him because he pulled up in a Chevy van when he came to interview. Quit the Ford dealership and now concentrating on requaling in the Jurassic Jet.

MSgt Sean Martin: Sean has left Mission Development and manages Training Flight. Chief says, "that's the most important job in the squadron". Was not easy, but we dragged him away from the Ops Group back to the squadron. Still sneaking off on the nice days to play 18 holes of golf. Does not throw his clubs as much as he used to, but only because they are new.

MSgt Betty (Boom) Matthews: Betty's grateful for our three day cargo trips to Mildenhall every other weekend which helps with participation. A true reservist still making the truckers between Florence, SC and Goldsboro, NC turn their head.

TSgt Mark McElmurry: Mark came to us from the 916th Clinic and finished Altus Initial Qual a few months ago. Just about Mission Ready, but has to go to Fairchild before attaining that status. Wanted to get there so bad that he begged to go ASAP, so is going in January to Survival School. Funny how he got his wish and doesn't even drive a Chevy!

TSgt Rainni (Rae) Miller: Lost last spring to a medical grounding. Although permanently grounded, still able to participate as a reservist. She is now the 916 ARW Historian. Didn't wear the wings long, but is still a boom operator at heart.

TSgt William (Bill) Norris: Bill is a true reservist, seldom seen and never heard from, but always there when you need him. Should be just about done with his college the next time we write the boom signal. Way to go Bill.

MSgt Randy Palumbo: Another Boom working on his college classes. Randy is the Unit Deployment Manager. Has been super getting our squadron prepared for our OREs and ORI. Seems to be adjusting to the culture shock in this small community of Goldsboro after moving from Chicago. Now if we can help his wife, we will be okay. His family has seen more of North Carolina in one year than most of us in ten years. Hard to convince him he needs to go TDY, but loves to wander down east!

TSgt Tony Parris: Tony is one of our newest instructors. The only person we know that doesn't have to wait to eat at "Cracker Barrel". Likes going to the Shady J Club because one of the girls thinks he looks like NASCAR's Mark Martin. Good thing "Cracker Barrel" and the club are about 30 miles apart. Recently establish residence half way between the two.

TSgt Rick Powell: Jeff Gordons biggest fan. Convinced his 1980 Dodge Colt (smokes a lot) is a true chick magnet. He might have to break out one of the Camaro's soon if he hopes to get lucky! Gets a little faint anytime Rowdy takes him into a tattoo shop. Took Seans place in Mission Development last April. Will always go that extra 500 miles before saying no to an air refueling.

SMSGT Randy (Rino) Rinehart: One of the two booms we had to say goodbye to this past year. Randy is still working for Delta in Atlanta as a ground training instructor. He is a guy who would be missed by any unit. Currently attached to the McGuire KC-10 unit for flying.

TSgt Rand (Random) Sanders: Back as a "Totin' Tiger" after spending a couple of years with the McConnell unit. Chief Askren used the same sales pitch on "BTC" that he had used to get Rand hired with the 931st.

TSgt Carl (Bubbles) Sisco: When Carl's not busy flying, he is busy talking. I don't think there is a person out there that enjoys talking more than Carl does. We put him at the Ops Desk as much as possible. His biggest competition at the Ops Desk are the retiree's looking for ride somewhere.

SSgt Rodney (Rowdy) Smith: Ricks sidekick in Mission Development. Another one of those Altus guys. See, we really like Altus. Likes taking Rick to the Tattoo parlors prior to going dirt biking all day. Has already learned not to loan his bikes to rookies. Recently found out he cannot leap three steps at a time in a single bound. Future professional gear jammer - "Good Buddy".

CMSGT Jerry (BTC-Big Tall Chief) Snyder: Currently leading the way for the newly founded Reserve Enlisted Aircrew Planning Council, and what a job that council is doing. Spending a lot more time TDY these days because of the council, but uses the extra money paying for his 2nd Corvette, a 1967 convertible and his 96 Impala SS. Rumor is he has a cot in the garage until one of the toys goes!

MSgt Donald (Don) Templeton: Just recently resigned his ART job to take a job with EDS. He is still a reservist with us but we will be seeing less of him. He is probably missed by the other squadrons whose computers he was always fixing. We only saw him when he was flying or fixing our computers. He is already missed as an ART. Look for Don to be Ross Perots running mate in the future.

SMSgt Kerry (Van-odd-ball) Vanausdall: Kerry is the last of the Atlanta connection. He is currently assigned to the Ops Group. Neither he nor us know what he does or is supposed to be doing down there. Kerry also likes the three day Mildenhall trips our squadron has just cause Betty's always wanting on them.

SMSgt Ronnie (Thor) Wade: Ronnie is certainly one of the last of his kind. Next year will be his last. He has 13 months to go and still wants to go anywhere anytime. It really seems he has beaten all the odds. There are not but a handful of 58 year old boom operators out there and 38 year old boom operators would have a hard time keeping up with Ronnie.

SMSgt James (Jamie) Ward: Yes, it's hard to believe, but he made another stripe. Now working as the squadron boom scheduler and takes the most crap from the Chief. Likes burning brush piles in the woods behind his house. Enjoys making his F-15E WSO neighbor nervous. Something about Kuwaiti oil fields or something!

Ex Booms of Note:

2Lt Corey (Corky) Brown: Corey is now back here after completing UPT and completed Co-pilot training at Altus. Currently in Mission Qualification training and should be Mission Ready in a month or so.

2Lt Michael (Mike) Stevens (Previous Bangor Boom): Mike is currently at UPT at Laughlin AFB. Should be finishing up there soon and will be heading out to Altus for 135 co-pilot training, then return here. Ex boom operators really do make the best co-pilots.

The following is our most current list of Retirees and Ex Boom Operators living in Eastern North Carolina. If you know of any others, any who have moved from the area, or anyone we missed, please let us know.

Vince Bobrowski
Bob Burden
Jon Calcote
Phil Crain
Teddy Davis
Roy Dickson
Bobby Drinnen
Maurice (Mo) Elliott

Bill Fink
Phil Hampton
Dave Hankins
Rick Helt
Jay Howell
Pat Kennedy
Country Maines
Tim Malloy

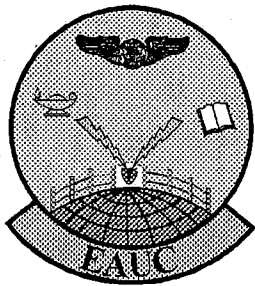
Bill Mitchell
Ed Moncrief
Melanie Potter
Jonnie Powell
Mike Preiskhorn
Larry Roberts

This is our 1997 submission. Our phone number is 1-800-SHAMU-10 or DSN 488-6683. Commercial is 919-736-6683. If you are ever in the area feel free to stop by and say hello, as usual. The light is always on and the beer is always cold.

Fly Safe.

JAMES WARD
Boom Signal Author

Sheppard, TX
EAUC



GATEWAY TO YOUR WINGS

Greetings all you boomers out there in the active flying world. I am saying hello from Sheppard AFB, Texas. I am teaching the Enlisted Aircrew Undergraduate Course. We instructors, here at Sheppard, are still working on sending "ya'll" only the best aircrew members. We are screening all enlisted aircrew positions for the attitude, aptitude, and motivation it takes to be an aircrew member. The course itself is at about an 18% elimination rate while the boomers that come through are the second highest position to be eliminated at about 22%. We enjoy our job and we hope you are happy with the quality of airmen we are sending to you.

Eric J. Ball, Still SrA, USAF
Instructor EAUC
DSN- 736-5365

Boom stowed leaving position with oxygen

Tinker, OK

465 ARS

"THE OKIES"

HOWDY YOU ALL!!!

Greetings and salutations from the OKIES! It's been a pretty busy year for all of us! Joint Guard 97, PAC Express, ORI, etc.... We have also gone down from 8 to 6 PAA and back to 8! Were getting ready for our first ASEV, but it won't be the same as old 1st CEVG! Well here is the line up for the 1997 "OKIES":

CMSgt John "B.J." (that stands for BIG JOHN) Beasley, Program Manager: I would like to write a little about John but he's standing over my shoulder so I'll just say "he's a great guy". Truly a master at the Intimidation style of management.

SMSgt Jim "Gunny" Hackworth, Reservist Swine: OK, so I don't swim very well and I am a "Troughing Reservist"! Jim is currently working several issues that are currently popular with most Booms. The one that interest most of us Reservist's is still the manday at home issue. A new full time reservist Jim is now famous for, "there are to many ARTs on that trip". Attention KC-10 guys, Hack is currently trying to break-in at writing publications: Wants to grow up to be a KC-10 pubs kind of guy. Recently hired into a GS-11, slot already has his eye on the 12 slot. Beasley no longer checking under his car for pipe bombs.

2nd Lt. Page "Pager" Lynn, Reservist: Page has left us to be an "O". He's "working" back at our Intel shop, and we feel the Officer Corps deserve such a fine individual!! "UPDATE ON THE PAGER" NOW A AWACS PUKE!

MSgt Rick "Reborn" Erwin, Reservist: The "River Rat" of the mighty Illinois river! Rick is currently Troughing in the Mission Planning Cell in the OSF. Told the Chief that he was trying to broaden his experience base. It would appear as though he is now part owner in the process. Working very diligently on his pre-CFIC workbook, still no class dates to be had. We are pretty sure he's happy but I've never seen self inflicted paper cuts to the wrist. Senior NCO Academy class date Mar. 98. UPDATE CFIC CLASS DATE 15 SEP 98. Talk about busy.

MSgt Marty "Elvis" Lochman, / Boom Training Guy/CLT Manager/ if you need it done give it to Marty. Marty is our most recent offering to the Boom Instructor world. You got to wonder about a guy that will chase down a guy in the parking lot with a manual in one hand, a smoke in the other, and show them some reference pertaining to the aircraft. The UPS guy was really impressed. Marty is doing a great job. On a sad note Marty has just returned from the Senior NCO Academy and he hasn't been the same since. Something about ein sheik, ein sheik ya fuer!

MSgt Steve "Bif" Robinson, Chief of Wing Scheduling: Bif really didn't want the head position, can't find a "O" that wants to be it. For those of us who have had our turn in the barrel at scheduling understand. One of the slickest dealers there is at the allocation conference. What you use to think was a sure deal for your unit, is now being flown "OKIE" style. Youngest MSgt that I ever met. Must be something in the water here. As this goes to print Bif is now the Stan Eval boom "again". I heard him say something about OP's for everyone or was that Q3's, be afraid be very afraid.

MSgt Max "Mad Max" Staats: Makes too much money for a guy that's never around. Just kidding, Maximum is strictly a night guy here in "OKIE" land. Is willing to show up during daylight hours on a UTA, so long as he is on at least one day of a two day Alert Tour. Best Saturday/Sunday guy in the business. Doesn't even know how to spell whine.

MSgt Dave Fruge': David has been real busy at Continental these days. David came back to the 135 community via the New Jersey connection. Those Jersey-10 guys are still the best 135 recruiting pool that we have here. The women here in OKC weren't ready for "The Peacock", Divorce attorney's are paying him kick backs. Kick Back, must be one of those things they teach Booms in Jersey. We tried to introduce Dave to the local bars but his glasses kept falling or was that KNOCKED OFF. Dave decided reading in his room was safer or was that cheaper on the optometrist.

MSgt 'Whispering' Willie Coleman: Willie has graduated and is working full time as an auditor for J.C. Penny's. According to Willie the women to men ratio in the auditing world is, well to say the least, phenomenal. They actually pay Willie to travel around the states with very attractive women. He is still managing to stop by the unit on occasion. Yes we do have a Penny's here!. Please don't ask Willie to guess your shoe size, this offends him.

MSgt Lee Lytle: I (Gunny) made the big mistake last year and left Lee out of our Boom Signal input. Please forgive me Lee!! Lee has retired from the reserves and we wish him the very best of luck! Lee is working the other side of the Base. Long hair and a Fu Man Chu are the easiest way to recognize him. Lee is our First 'Retired' Member in the OBOA.

MSgt Gary Bristol, "Mobility Guy": Gary had a minor set back (quadruple bypass) this year. He is doing fine and working in the squadron in our FMO office and is Taking the time off to complete his bachelor's. Still gives flight lessons and is currently struggling with the which job do I really want problem..

MSgt John "Scooter" Wilson, Boom Scheduler/ASST. NCOIC : Scooter is President of the OBOA(Okie Boom Operator Association). Scoot wears so many hats in the squadron he was a easy sell to the PEP Board for that Master stripe. He was recognized by the IG team as one of the outstanding performers in the wing. You should see the size of the coin they gave him. Basically corresponds with his head size.

TSgt Kathy Lowman: Social Chair Person Extreme!! Now on 24 hour call for any short notice gathering or project in the wing! The Chief is politicking real hard to host the Programs Managers Conference. That should keep her Happy for a day or two. Kathy is our most recent cross trainer for the maintenance complex. Most of the Maintainers have actually lost weight since she moved into OPS. Really setting the Boom World on fire. Still the Talk of the Security Police Force at Altus. P.S. Kathy's party's are strictly BYOB and I.D. Our most recent graduate with a B.S.: I think that stands for boom stuff.

TSgt Steve "Squirrel" Switzer, Short Range Scheduling: Another highly motivated IB. Finally getting his feet wet in the training world. Steve is doing a bang up job finding us fighters at a moments notice. Is dabbling in the real estate business as of late. He is still on track to retire before he reaches 40. Need a stock tip or a update on Civil service retirement program Steve is your man. With Robinson's departure to stan evil running the hours program. Lots of luck.

SSgt John Williams: (Tsgt select) John has returned to booming after a short hiatus! He manages his family's store over in Porum, OK, when he's not flying with us. Has been a great addition to the "OKIES". If you ever go through Porum stop by the only grocery store there and see John. He's a soft touch for a free soda.

TSgt Lee "Woody" Wood.: Woody and family have moved back to San Antonio, Tx.. Woody has become a more traditional reservist. He is currently working for a Technology company in Texas. Spends more time TDY with them than he ever did with us. Woody will be out processing during the Febuary UTA. He will be sorely missed.

TSgt Philip Brand, Reservist: X-MAN. Not a lot about airplanes that Phil doesn't know. His current work schedule with his civilian employer runs 35 straight days without a break, then the send him to Thailand, to try to straighten out their mess. Phil has dropped out of the Alert line for now. I'm sure that all the technicians will be sending Phil a Christmas card this year. Side bar: Phil, as of this writing has quit his job and is at CFIC, slated to be the next Chief Boom. Another fast burner....

SSgt David "RED" Paultet": Red came to us from "Altus by the sea"! We thought that when he bought a house that he was planting his flag here in OKC, but no! We wish him only happy things as he has left us and has crossed over to the dark side and is now living in New Jersey with the KC-10. Dave if you can still read, please note that we will now take calls from you and most of the boom's will now talk to you, so drop a line..

Special Note:

If any Booms are interested we here at the OKIES have our animal in the woods/float trip every year and everyone is invited, just give us a call. 884-3269

So if your here for a Depot In/Out or any other reason stop in and see us!!

Tinker, OK
10 FLTS

10th FLIGHT TEST



Greetings from the 10th Flight Test Squadron, Tinker AFB OK. The shop here is still operating with only TSgt Quinn Janke and myself, good thing we get along with each other. During the past year Quinn's reputation of having a pleasant personality hasn't changed very much. The Operations Officers refers to him as the squadron village idiot and so far he has managed to retire the Squadron Commander, Tanker Branch Chief and five other pilots have PCSd out of the squadron. I talked to Quinn about this and he assured me he was only trying to be helpful, sure buddy.

On the job front, we are currently completing Functional Check Flights (FCFs) on the Pacer Crag modification to the KC-135R aircraft, and finishing the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program at Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC), Davis-Monthan AFB AZ. In late February or March will start the first FCFs on the KC-135Rs with the Multi-Point Refueling System (MPRS) modification, which are currently being tested at McConnell AFB KS.

If you have any questions or boom problems after depot maintenance please let us know; or if you're in the area, stop by and say hello. Phone us at DSN 336-7719. E-mail hkatus/jaquinn@po15.Tinker.AF.Mil

BEVE KATUS, MSgt, USAF
10 FLTS Program Manager



Travis, CA

15 AF

Greetings from your friendly NAF Stan/Eval Booms at Travis AFB, CA. It's been real busy during the past year. We've been all over doing ASEVs, pyramids checks, line evals, and a few no-notice mobility system checks. With the winter here, our schedule has slowed down dramatically until late next spring.

Jim Eden left 15th early this year. Right now he should be experiencing that freezing cold weather, ice storms, and snow. He can always remember the warm climate of California and come back to visit once in a while. Gene Hagge replaced Jim and arrived in March. He left the cold at Scott AFB to enjoy the comfortable climate out here. Mike Wetzel is still in place and working hard as the AFRES representative. Mike Paynter is still doing the KC-10 thing. We all look forward to seeing many of you out in the system.

Some updated information on the troubles we've experienced here at Travis with the load teams and K-loader drivers during channel missions. Action has been taken on the individuals that argued and refused to listen to the boom operators. The new superintendent at the aerial port squadron has promised they will not give the boom operators a hard time anymore. But if you do experience troubles with load teams or K-loader drivers, don't hesitate to have your aircraft commander put it in the trip report. Also, fill out a critique form at base operations on what happened with names of the individuals involved. But it is equally important to identify those that do a super job supporting your mission. Make sure they get credit too. You can make a comment in the trip report or on the critique form at base operations. I encourage you to document good and bad at all locations you visit.

15 AF has it's own web page on the net, and DOV has a site on it. We are currently in the process of loading the ASEV reports and MQFs on the site. The OG/OGVs will be able to download the MQFs and provide them to their wing personal. Updates to the MQFs will be accomplished as changes come out and posted on our web page. Our goal is not to make you wait long periods for MQF updates. Our e-mail address is posted on the web page. If you have any improvements or suggestions, please let us know. This web page is to support you by providing information useful to your unit.

We would like to thank Chief Mike Mawhorr for his support during his tenure at AMC. We all wish him the best in his retirement. Chief Glast is replacing Mike, so we now have someone new to drive up the wall. We wish him the best of luck working issues in the AMC puzzle palace.

And speaking of working issues, it doesn't appear that the changes in the way we are directed to do business are going to come to an end any time soon. Sometimes we have a little lead time on them, sometimes we find out when you do, or even from you. We at the NAF understand what you in the units are facing. We will keep working hard to decipher what the new volumes of guidance mean for all of us as they come on line and keep you informed of what we will be looking for when we visit. Please keep talking to us! We really are here to help the units do well.

When you come through Travis, please stop by and see us, if we don't see you first. You can't miss us up on the hill where the old hospital use to be. Stan/Eval is on the 5th floor. Everyone is more than welcome to stop by for a visit.

CMSgt Mike Paynter
KC-10
837-0354

SMSgt Gene Hagge
KC-135
837-0351

SMSgt Mike Wetzel
KC-135
837-0355



Travis, CA

6 ARS

Greetings from rainy California. For now at least, life is filled with fog delays and diverts to McClellan and Beale. Give it a month or two and the sun won't quit. But what the heck, most of the guys are out to locations I don't have to name waiting to lay waste to the Bully of Baghdad. I don't have to tell you active duty folks about that. Seems our tasking is starting to look like days of old during "Young Tiger."

Ted left in August and is probably a quality control inspector at the Jack Daniel's distillery by now. We have eleven Reduced Entry Level (REL) booms in to fill the empty holes we have or will have over the next few months. As you might imagine we are up to our necks in students who need fighter refueling and cargo. Soon the complexion of the KC-10 boom force will look similar to the 135s.

I'm going to duck out into another meeting and let Greg Warren complete this with a run down on the gang in the 6th. Best of luck to everyone. Give us a holler if you pass through and find us in town.

Greetings from the 6 ARS Booms-

Another year has passed and were busier than ever. About half of our booms are deployed right now at either the U.A.E. or Diego Garcia. Now getting a large flow of baby booms in and for the most part, they're fairly sharp. Retired Chief Ted Whorley this year. Uncle Ted and his wife Carol have moved to Tennessee where I believe Ted is the head whiskey sampler at the Jack Daniels distillery. We also retired MSgt Chris Burkhart. Hopefully, this letter finds everybody in good health. See ya until next year!!!!!!!!!!!!

Here's our current roster:

SSgt AJ Ashby-AJ is a new scheduler. He's going to school to become a nurse or ambulance driver or something. Maybe someday we can make him an instructor. First we have to teach him how to read and write.

SSgt Greg Atkins-#2 squadron computer geek. Claims he does a lot of hard work but is rarely seen. Wants to move to Turkey.

SSgt Dave Arendse-Newest addition to our fine CCTS corps. Junior is doing quite good. New homeowner (don't know where he gets the money). Did a one or two month touch and go at squadron training and then off to CCTS.

MSgt Billy Black-What can you say about B-Square. Trying to figure out exactly what job he has. Currently A-Flight enlisted commander but wears many hats. Living out his baseball fantasies through his son, BJ.

TSgt Josh Bracht-Josh is chief of training flight for the booms. Avoiding the NCO Academy like the plague. Avid rugby player. Good boom. Stays TD. Avid rugby player. Good boom. Stays TDY a lot.

TSgt Judy Burr-Judy is leaving us for a brighter future in retirement. Her happy attitude and experience will be missed. Good luck to her and Dave.

SSgt Dan Elam-Danny is now a single parent. Has established a new home for wayward boom operators but is now talking about moving again. Will probably take about 14 U-Hauls to move all his stuff.

CMSgt Ken Endrizzi-Our squadron/wing boom. The Chief is back with us after a long absence out at McGuire. Stirring the pot, raising eyebrows, and loving every minute of it.

SSgt Jack Fortner-Jack is keeping busy with his two little girls. We believe he's getting rich on the side with the computers and avoiding the IRS.

SSgt Curtiss Harke-Brand new instructor. Presently on baby watch. Good boom, at least he claims to be. Thinks golf is the meaning of life.

SSgt Jay Hermosillo-Brand new Staff. Very quiet but a hard worker. He and Ashby are joined at the hip.

TSgt Sterling "Way" Keller-Assistant "C" Flight commander. Couldn't avoid writing EPR's any longer. Still single but serious with some mystery woman. Recent NCOA graduate.

A1C Brian Lane-FNG. Don't know anything about him. Baby boom. Heard he takes good inflight air samples.

TSgt Jacky Lemons-"A" Flight assistant commander. Bored to death with new job. Finally quit smoking, almost, and is grumpy as hell. Drinks whiskey. Still swings a mean bat in softball.

MSgt Ed Mang-Retiring soon. Has been a mainstay in this squadron for many years and his experience will be sorely missed.

SSgt Lucy Molina-Became an instructor since last boom signal. On the road a lot. Wears an engagement ring but vehemently denies everything.

MSgt Robert Morales-Safety guy. Earned the name Romo out in Guam. Don't know why. In the process of getting an education and becoming a computer geek.

SSgt Roman Munoz-Rumor has it that someone saw him with a woman under 50 years old. There is no solid proof of this so no one believes it. Solid boom, fairly recent upgrade to instructor.

TSgt Chris Powell-New chief of Stan/Eval. Wants desperately to make Master so he can keep in line with CMSAF by 20 years TIS.

SSgt Saksen Rissabute-Baby boom. We call him R2 because we already have a Riz.

TSgt Kendall Risselada- The real Riz. #1 squadron computer geek. Squadron would fold up and die without him.

SSgt Abel Saenz-Newest addition to Stan/Eval and already claims to know more than anyone. Still looks like a swollen fire plug. His youngest son is six years old and already taller than he is.

SSgt Nick Slahor-Our first baby boom. Ex. P.O.L. Thinks passing gas in the air is much better than passing it on the ground. Very sharp. Set the standard for all other baby booms.

TSgt Gerry Slusher-Scheduler. Authority on sports betting. Plays softball 360 days a year. Last seen looking for third base after losing his glasses rounding second.

SSgt Mark Storrey-New addition to training flight. Avid roller hockey player.

SSgt Rob Tabor-Stan/Eval boom. Wrecks his mountain bike about once a week. Picks up everyone else's slack in stan/eval.

SSgt Lynn Thatcher-Banzaii. Training flight boom. Bets all the brother-in-law good deal trips that come down. Working on becoming Chief SSgt of the Air Force.

TSgt Greg Warren-Stan/Eval boom. Squadron Salmon snagging guide and Delta fishing king. Just graduated from NCOA and has finally learned how to turn on a computer.

TSgt Yvonne Wherry-Bonzy. Has the worlds largest make-up case. TDY a lot. Recent NCOA graduate.

Attached personnel-

MSgt Mike Aldapa-Works at the TALCE. Trying to get back in the squadron. We can use him.

MSgt Marco Defelice. Works in the AMOG. Looks the same as he did 10 years ago.

TSgt Luis Drummond-Sweet Lou has left Stan/Eval after a two year reign of terror. Now scaring the hell out of students over at CCTS. A proud, card-carrying member of the men-boy love club. Looking to be elected president. Don't leave your E-Mail open around Lou.

MSgt Ricky Harris-Ops Group training boom. Ricky has been very busy trying to develop static loads to train all our incoming FNG's. Vast experience and a great asset to us booms.

MSgt Jerry Howe-TALCE boom. Wants to open a synagogue.

TSgt Larry Hudnut-Moved out to Scott recently. Will miss his towering fly balls in softball that occasionally cleared the fence with a good tailwind.

TSgt Randy Johnson-TALCE boom at Kadena. Dialtone is exactly the same as he was 10 years ago but with a little less hair.

SSgt Rick Marshall-Works over at the TALCE or AMOG or somewhere. Big into the stock market.

TSgt Ralph Snyder- Jim is also out in Kadena. Has a line for MSgt. Will probably be a Chief.

MSgt Tina Wallace-Works out at Scott. Tina will be retiring soon. Best of luck to her and Dave.

SSgt Dave York-Dave is finally coming back to the squadron. If you see a Ford sticker anywhere in the world, Dave probably put it there.

Travis, CA

9 ARS



9th Air Refueling Squadron

Travis AFB, CA.

Greetings from the Golden State. It's been a busy year for us here at the 9th Air Refueling Squadron. We finally moved out of trailers and into our new state-of-the-art building, with surround sound theater and all. We have been in it about a year, we are told, soon we will be able to wear our boots inside the building.

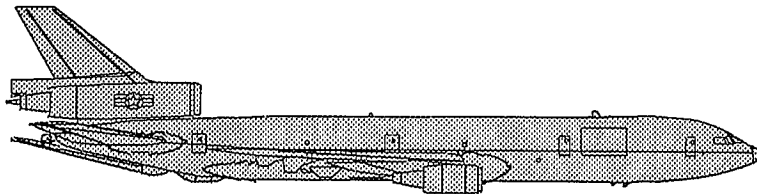
Our Ops Tempo has been fast paced, between our normal trips and deployments we supported Operation Centraz Batt, and continue to support operation Desert Scorpion, and anytime anybody in the world hick-ups, it seems we are all on Bravo Alert.

Throughout this year we've lost some good people through retirements or separations, but we've also started to make up for those loses with genuine Baby Booms. Its refreshing to have individuals that are so eager to learn, without the bad habits left over from SAC.

We are currently in the process of converting back to the Functional Flight. For those of you that didn't know we actually had a time when the Engineers were writing a few of our EPR's. But now they're all working for me again, and there is no better way to take care of your people than having them work directly with you.

So give us a call at DSN: 837-7813 or if you are in the Travis area stop by and say "Hello".

Following is the list of the 9th Air Refueling Squadron line up.



- **Bunker, Seth A1C**
New boom sent to us from CCTS without night fighters. Trying to finish his cargo rides. Drives the prettiest pink car you've ever seen.
- **Crowder, Colton MSgt**
Did everything he could to get down to Texas to work with HUGES INC. only to find out 6 months later that they were trying to get to California.
- **Edwards, William, SSgt**
Fresh meat from Altus, CCTS. Standing in front of the scheduling desk on a regular basis trying to scam a TDY anywhere and everywhere.
- **Ennis, Brian, SSgt**
Currently attached to the TALCE. Since he's joined us we have yet to see another man as tall as him in a chop-top lowered truck. Reminds us of Animal House.
- **Felisky, John TSgt**
Pisces. Likes NASCAR and football, particularly the Detroit Lions. When he's not giving a check ride he'll spread his newfound wisdom from the NCO Academy. Just ask him. (That's a Double-dog-dare)
- **Gilliam, Shay, A1C**
Currently in the school house.
- **Hall, Gary, SSgt**
Our local Squadron computer guru. When he's not chasing static electricity he's chasing trains, or building them. We've never seen anyone else spend so much time behind a computer.
- **Hilyard, Jon, MSgt**
When he's not crashing motorcycles or hurting himself, he's running the Travis CCTS shop, warping young Baby Booms minds.
- **Hinton, Mike, Amn**
Currently in CCTS, look forward to having another new boom in the squadron.
- **Hughes, Herb, MSgt**
Our most senior boom in training flight. Any day of the week you can find him on the Delta in his boat. This may explain some of the 'sailor tendencies' that we've noticed.
- **Jackson, Pete, MSgt**
Currently he's working at XP. We don't see him around too often, so we can only assume that they are keeping him busy.
- **Keach, Troy, TSgt (Select)**
Two and a half years here in California, and he's gone through 7 vehicles. Now that he made TSgt he's been talking about his next vehicle purchase. Soon to receive his first Instructor paycheck. (Yikes!)
- **Kleman, Steve, MSgt**
NCOIC of scheduling, rides his bike everywhere! Says that he'll stay until TOPCAT, then he'll apply for a waiver. Looks like he'll be with us for a LONG time.
- **Leaton, Alan, SSgt**
Al's knowledge of everything in this world never ceases to amaze us. Has had some hard times this year, and we're all pulling for him.....
- **Lockley, Jim, TSgt (Select)**
Squadron Scheduler. Still likes to talk about fixing cars. Since Cody has left he hasn't had anyone to talk to. So now he's spending most of his time talking about guns with Jim Gaddy at the BOTT. "This is my weapon, this is my gun, this is for fighting....."
- **Lundin, Alton, TSgt (Select)**
Works in Training flight. Still a die-hard Panther/Terrentino fan with a dry, but funny, sense of humor. He hasn't taken any leave but has spent the past 31/2 months in South Carolina. Also a NASCAR lover, by the way, he's a Taurus.
- **McCoy, Thomas, SSgt**
Has another baby due in the future. If we have any complaints about the NCO club we go straight to him. After all, he is our NCO Club Squadron Advisor.
- **McMillian, John "D-MAC" SSgt**
Working at CCTS. Planning on getting married in March. We can only hope that he'll show up. Anytime we invite him anywhere he never seems to show. Good Luck to ya "D"

- **McNamee, Allen, SSgt**
He's been working in the Mobility shop, lately he's been pretty busy. Each time we try to deploy him, he reminds us that no one will be here to ensure that the Mobility bags are issued correctly.
- **Mendoza, Ruben, MSgt (Select)**
Attached to the TALCE, and only comes to us when he hears about a trip he might be available to go on.
- **Nimke, Eric, TSgt**
Assistant Flight Chief. Eric has a seven level Boom AFSC and a one level Engineer AFSC. (We don't feel we need to explain in detail.) Still after all these years he's the Squadron seamstress.
- **O'banion, Chuck, TSgt**
Still at the TALCE, he's now a member of the local Harley Davidsons club.
- **Perry, Kurt, TSgt**
Just arrived from the TALCE and wants to live on the road.
- **Phelps, Jim, MSgt**
Our most senior member in STAN/EVAL. Getting ready to go on terminal leave 11 May 98. Recently engaged to a wonderful woman. (She has no idea what she's getting into). Seriously though, we wish the two of them the best of luck in their new life together.
- **Post, Mike, SSgt**
Another TALCE boom that comes to us when he hears that there's a good trip, or when he's gone non current. Loves the TALCE and never wants to return to the squadron.
- **Purdue, Jon, TSgt**
Just left the squadron for the TALCE. He wasn't happy with going TDY under 180 days a year.
- **Purdy, Dan, SSgt**
Squadron Scheduling guru. Has a new baby on the way. Loves to fly his remote control airplanes, and even tried to convince the Wing they needed to use them to chase the birds off the runway.
- **Redden, Mark, SSgt**
Our youngest member in STAN/EVAL. If there is anything to know about Mountain Bikes or how to lift a truck, Mark's the man you want. He has a television screen as large as the base theater.
- **Routheau, Mike, TSgt**
Another new addition from Altus. Was checked out for about a week and deployed to Diego. Loves the 49'ers and lets everyone know.
- **Russell, Jeff, SSgt**
When he's not working in STAN/EVAL he's either making the front page of the local paper or getting free lower box seat tickets to San Francisco Giants games. It's really important to be his friend come baseball season.
- **Schneider, Criscilla, SRA (below the zone)**
Our first Reduced Entry Level Baby Boom. Recently she returned from the desert only 2 sorties shy of a medal. (She believes it's unfair). Burning up the pattern at the speed of heat, beginning to worry the Junior NCO's that they may be passed up.
- **Slobodnjak, Steve, MSgt**
Program Manager. Returned from the Netherlands after helping the Dutch setup their KDC-10 program. Our most experienced boom on the base. Recently bought a home in Sacramento and is realizing it really is an hour to work.
- **Smith, Donald "DK" MSgt**
Chevy Chase lookout! Your Christmas Vacation home ain't nothing compared to D.K.'s. Sources tell us there were over 6,000 lights this year. He loves to work at the Ops. Group, but we always see him trying to pass the beeper.
- **Taylor, (Wild) Bill, SSgt**
Been an instructor for almost a year now. Trying to teach or instruct new students on a regular basis. He's still waiting for the instructor pay to start so he can get a new truck.
- **Thrower (Stone), Chrissy, SSgt**
Working at Current Ops, loving life and going to school. Married life has slowed her down. She's even driving a family car!
- **Valadez, G. Brian, SSgt**
Working in Training flight, promoted April of '97 and is still driving his old car. However, for those who remember the "Beast", this old car isn't that bad. When he's not hurting himself on the slopes he's climbing rocks on his new mountain bike.

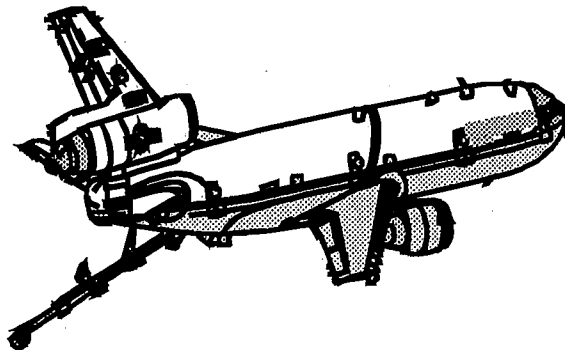
- **Weitershausen, Rob, Amn**
New boom. We have a new ground training class to learn how to pronounce his name. Currently in CCTS. Does an awesome Michael Jackson impression, if there is such a thing. Born in 1978 and likes 70's music?
- **Wenner, Harold, SSgt**
Been here for 2 ½ years and the Ops Officer still doesn't know who he is. Unofficially our official "Stealth Boom". Soon to PCA over to the TALCE (dying to get back to the Pacific).
- **Wiggs, Robert "B.B." MSgt**
Cigar Aficionado 'extraordinaire'. If there is anything you would like to know about the cigar industry, this is the guy you want to talk to. Currently a Flight Chief, and recently bought a new home.
- **Wright, Dennis SSgt(Select)**
New guy still in Cargo training. He's been studying for SSgt for months now, only to find out that he's already made it. Says that he's willing to live on the road once he gets checked out.
- **Yandell, Mark, SSgt**
One of our new instructors in the squadron. We finally got him to stop wearing his cowboy boots with his uniform. Now if we could only get him to stop wearing that cowboy hat.
- **Zaiontz, Randy, SSgt**
Our #1 TDY guy with over 130 days to date. Just started upgrade and he's hoping that he will be TDY more next year.

Departures

- **Brown, Bill, TSgt (retired)**
Bill can still be found on the highways riding one of his collection of Harley Davidson's.
- **Combs, Ronald, MSgt (retired)**
Retirement is effective April fools day; currently on terminal leave. Spent his last days of active duty in Diego Garcia.
- **Limon, Leon, SSgt (separated)**
You can find Leon flying as a boom in the reserve. He spent most of his time with us in the Wing.
- **Robbins, Chester, TSgt (retired)**
Well, what can we say about good ole' Chet. He's headed out to Virginia for a new life. We will miss his no holds barred attitude. Best of luck Chet. Don't forget us.
- **Wright, Ed, MSgt, (retired)**
Worked at Air Operations until his last day, he's now in Florida enjoying his retirement.

Inbound

- **Ainsworth, Dean, SSgt**
Boom cross training from transportation in Fairchild. After driving aircrew around for so long, I guess he wants to be driven around for awhile.
- **Doty, Cari, A1C**
New boom arriving in March.
- **Thomason, Scott, A1C**
New boom arriving in January.



Travis, CA

70 ARS

Greetings from the ORCA's. It's been another busy year here at Travis. In February we had our ASEV and in March we moved into our new squadron building. Now we know why the Reserves didn't have any money to pay us after we moved in! Now that it is a new fiscal year, we look forward to more JTE's, our up and coming ORI, and a summer in the desert. With a few fly away UTA's, here's what the Pod is up to:

CMS Rich Olshefski (ART)- Keeping all of his children out of trouble. Is seen in Winters with Joe and John Bond cleaning all the fish out of the river.

SMS Celeste Barcelo- Newly promoted to Senior. We rarely see Celeste since now she is working for the State Department as a translator. Flies with McGuire to keep current.

SMS Tim Holt- Is our new first shirt. Stops by from the BOT once a week to fly. His wavier for not having to do the quarterly BOT's was canceled and now the instructors at Hughes get to "play" with Tim!

MSgt Joe Lambertus (ART)- Was seen last driving around Winters in his Willy Jeep and a fishing pole. Joe is our DOT guy and has been busy with the rest of our instructors training our new guys.

MSgt Terry "Hue" Monges- Busy helping Joe train our new booms and giving us all checkrides. Poses for Calvin Klien ads.

MSgt Keith Stephens (ART)- Is our beloved boom scheduler. Waiting to go on a good TDY again. Recently started working out between smoking breaks.

TSgt Les Apilado- New to the Orca's. Came by the way of the retired C-141 sq.. Les works out at United Airlines as a mechanic. Fully mission qualified now.

TSgt Dave "Babs" Bablo- After tying the knot, Dave had to hang-up trouthing and get a real job! So McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing) hired him to write manuals for the MD-95. Also watch the skies for he is now a Private Pilot!

TSgt A.J. Baxter- Currently in initial training. Came from the 141 squadron that is no more. So far he loves flying that boom!

TSgt Julie Cassard- Julie is our token TALCE boom. Some of you might remember her from the Darr's. She lives up by and is assigned at McCord. Last time we saw her was in Canada madly dancing!

TSgt Chad Courtney- Glad he had learned all those fancy moves as a probation officer. It came in handy one TDY when Baby Ruth didn't want to leave the Bar! Is consoling his buddy Jeff on his loss of the F-16 ride.

TSgt Dave Donaldson- While working at the prison, he found the secret prisoner winery. In his spare time, Dave likes to play in international sales with the Amway Corporation. Still counting his contacts!

TSgt Barry "Box Lunch" Green- Recently seen cleaning out all the food in the fridge on the jet. The crew chiefs where battling him for it! Almost has his first million.

TSgt Erik Sandvik- After trouthing for two years, decided to go back to his civilian job. We see him occasionally when he is not out playing golf.

TSgt Bret Sherlock- Loves living in Oregon. Still trying to pass the bar, Flies with the unit when his funds run low.

TSgt Chris Youngblood- Missing since gaining employment with a golf club company. One of our bi-weekly flyers.

SSgt Jeff Odell- Still is crying after the Klamath Falls incident when the Co-Pilot beat him out of a backseat ride in an F-16! He can't figure out why they picked her over him for the incentive ride.

SSgt Todd "Baby" Ruth- Still stuck in the deployment office. Looking for a "real job!" If your unit needs any pilot's, give him a call, he is currently begging for a pilot slot- anywhere!!

SSgt Steve Sila- Currently in instructor upgrade. Steve also completed his Private Pilot Licenses. When not flying, Steve spends most of his free time on two wheels touring the countryside.

SrA Corbet "Mongo" Cadwell- You can find Corbet at the bar arm wrestling. During survival school he asked if he could use his RV! Getting ready for his cargo checkride.

SrA Don Mora- Just about done with his upgrade training. Came from maintenance. Currently going to school at Sac State working on his Engineering Degree.

A1C Matt Fisher- Our first "Baby" boom, straight off the street. Went to Boom School at Altus and is now in upgrade training here at Travis. Matt had a great time on his first TDY. I think he is going to be a great addition!

Breakaways-

MSgt Bob Jensen- Bob went to work with Gemini Airways as a loadmaster on the DC-10. After 10,000 hours, he decided to hang it up. Best wishes Uncle Bob!

Contacts-

SSgt Leon Limon- He is coming from the 9 ARS (right of Active Duty). We'll have to break him in!

Still a Boom-

1Lt Mike Block- Was a boom at McConnell and Seymour-Johnson in the 10. Newly upgraded to Aircraft Commander. Still has not forgot where he came from. Married with child and living in Sacramento.

So next time your in T-Tail land, stop in at the Blow Hole for a cold one!

TODD A. RUTH, SSG, USAFR
Troughing Boom Operator

Travis, CA

79 ARS

837-7904

This unit was either not found,
or did not submit a Boom Signal input for 1997.

Travis, CA
615 AMOS

Our line up at the 615 AMOS is as follows:

MSgt Clyde Soumas: (KC-135) He came from MC Connell and is NCOIC of Tanker Plans.

MSgt Dean Fuller: (KC-135) Came from the 633rd at Kadena is retiring in June. I plan on selling securities for Edward Jones, taking the lead from Chief Dan Jones.

MSgt Marco DeFelice: (KC-10) is NCOIC of Scheduling.

SSgt Richard Marshall: (KC-10) is the Assistant NCOIC for Tanker Plans. He recently had an addition to his family.

Take Care and good luck.

Dean G Fuller, MSgt, USAF Bla Bla Bla.....
DSN 837-4016

Travis, CA

- 615 AMS

837-1003

This unit was either not found,
or did not submit a Boom Signal input for 1997.

Travis, CA

715 AMS

Hi to all from the land of the 715 AMS Golden Gate TALCE! We have had many changes the last year. Reorg is our middle name. We have changed so much in name and setup that it is hard to keep up with what day of the week it is!! We have had several changes to our boom section so here we go:

Tsgt Perry has left the love of his life – the Talce – to go back to flying. We still need a gunrunner! Good Luck Kurt back at the 6th ARS.

Sra Kilmer came to us from 93rd ARS and is burning up the training program. Loves the ATSO training and mud!!

Tsgt Purdue is with us from the 9th ARS to replace Perry. Those are large shoes to fill! He is going to be our Alfa Fox package man if we can ever get him CADRE qualified. We are abusing him well.

SSgt Webb came to us from the east (MAGUIRE). He is glad to get back to the LEFT COAST. Not sure what that means, but he is happy. Can't seem to get sorties to maintain currency though. He keeps getting broke jets (4 in a row!). And they use to call me Jonah!

And for me – I have had my fill and am retiring. Yes it is final the 24 of July is my last Duty day and it can't come quick enough (unless I make senior then will have to think about it real hard). Going to go dispatch airplanes for the airlines. No more 200 days tdy for this kid. My hearts felt wishes to all and pray God's speed to all. Keep plugging the HOLE!

MSgt Howe
DSN 837-4354, 4977

Travis, CA

815 AMS

837-0143

This unit was either not found,
or did not submit a Boom Signal input for 1997.

Washington, DC

NGB

Just wanted to say hello to everyone from the National Guard Bureau. This is probably our first input to the signal. Originally we were located at Andrews AFB at the Air National Guard Readiness Center before moving to the Pentagon. Next April we are supposed to move to Crystal City (complex just west of National Airport).

Our branch chief is Lt. Col. "Buzz" Tarlton. Many of you might have met him when he was at 15th AF or when he was an instructor at Castle AFB. We have a new 135 action officer, Maj. John Smarsh, who came from the 168ARW. Our enlisted aircrew manager is CMSgt Al Williams who is from the rescue community. We have added two enlisted positions to our staff, MSgt Mike Ferrell, loadmaster, from the 167AW and MSgt Dave Power from the 129RQG. I have moved over from being the program manager for CRM to be the functional manager for boom operators. When we move to Crystal City, we will also move three people from the Aerial Port office at the Readiness Center.

We are looking forward to 1998 and hope that we can help settle any issues that relate to our aircrews. If we can help in any way give us a call. Good luck and have a great year.

DAVID M. BOWEN, MSgt, USAF
Inflight Refueling Program Manager

Washington, DC

Pentagon

Greetings from the Pentagon;

In all my life I never thought I'd ever find myself working at the Puzzle Palace. Well, here I am, and let me tell you—it really is a puzzle. Although a lot goes on here, I was able to jump right in with both feet. You can't imagine what it's like to wear blues again. It's not really that bad. When I first arrived, I missed flying. Now...I don't miss it, but I really enjoyed the actual refueling part of the mission. Oh well the price one has to pay...

Most of you should know by now we have CDC's and a CFETP (Career Field Education and Training Plan). I know a lot about CFETPs since I do the editing for all 1AXXX career fields. I'm trying to make them all standardized this year. I've received a few calls concerning how to use and what to do with the CFETP. Here's the skinny from the horse's mouth: "All 1Axxx career fields are exempt from maintaining OJT records (AF Form 623)." Which is where you file this document normally. I *recommend* placing a copy of the CFETP in each individuals training folder OR somewhere else as long as a copy exists for each individual. No annotations in the CFETP are required except for a name on or in the booklet (Part II, Section A, Attachment 1 provides a spot)

We've established a web site to provide the force with answers to recurring questions.

The address is: <http://www.hq.af.mil/xo/xoo/xoot/>

From there you can surf through a few pages. We are continuously adding information. Check the site 1-2 times per month. In the near future we will have a page dedicated to enlisted fliers.

A special hello to the 'Warriors of the North'. I've been watching the weather lately and have been thinking about how warm it is here and how cold it is there...and I like what I've got! Besides the weather being nice, there is so much to do that one cannot possibly do it all, but we're trying. One of the first things I noticed is three malls within a 15 mile radius and four more closer than Fargo is to you. Good luck to you through your blizzard/flood season. God speed.

If any of y'all are passing through the DC area, stop by the Pentagon for a tour (provided by the Pentagon) and a visit. We're in room 5C1000.

James C. Haskell, MSgt, USAF
Enlisted Aircrew Training Manager
NKAWTG . . . Nobody!
DSN 224-3443, (703) 614-3443
haskellj@af.pentagon.mil

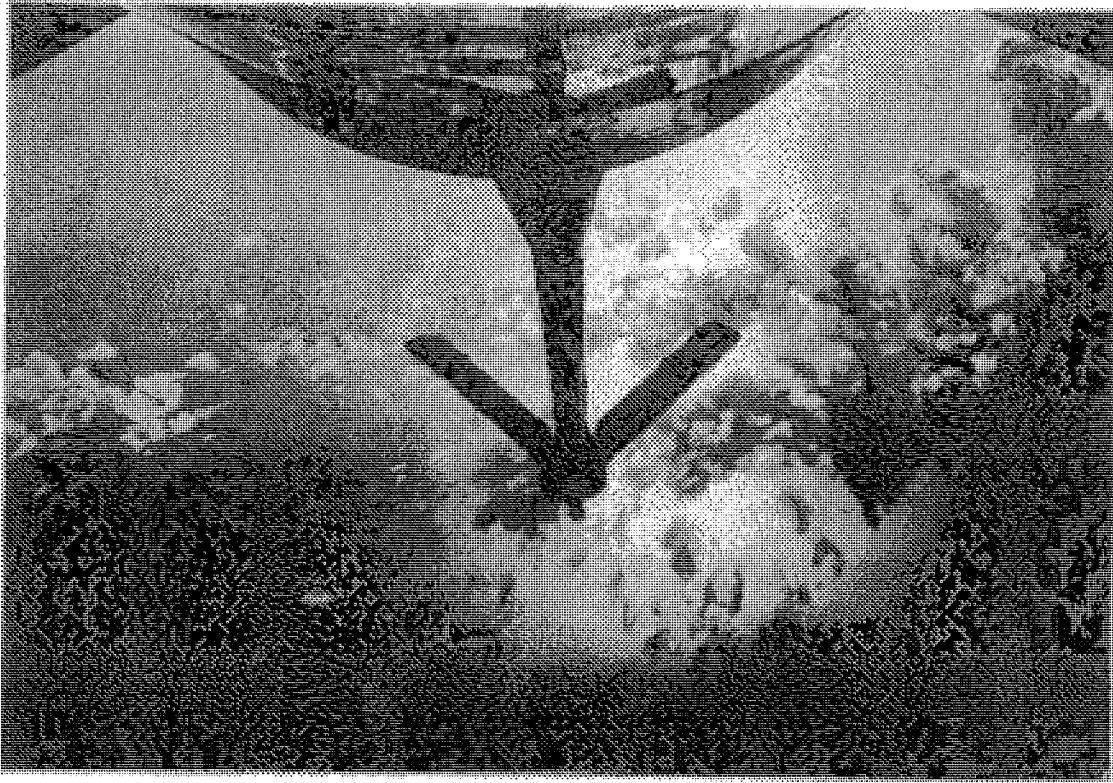
Wichita, KS

Boeing

Hi all. I've been a Functional Check Flight Boom for 2 1/2 yrs, Looking forward to my next assignment at Altus AFB in July 98. Comm 316-526-1962 or DSN 743-1110, McConnell operator, and ask for a connection to Boeing (same number).

SSgt Joe Barry

THE BOOMER'S PRAYER



MAY THE WEATHER BE SMOOTH AND THE BOW WAVE SLIGHT,
MAY THE RECEPTACLE BE LARGE AND HAVE A PLETHORA OF LIGHTS.

MAY CARGO AND PAX BE NOT ABOARD,

MAY WE NEVER HAVE TO USE THE PARACHUTE RIP CORD.

THIS WE ASK FROM THE POWER ABOVE,

JUST LET US DO WHAT ALL BOOMER'S LOVE,

TO DIRECT THE BOOM WITH PRECISION, AND A TOUCH THAT IS SLIGHT

TO GET THE CUSTOMER ENOUGH GAS TO FINISH THEIR FLIGHT

OR TO PUT IT SIMPLY,

SO WE CAN JUST ILLUMINATE THE "BOOM ENGAGED LIGHT"

PJQ
1997