

# Bits and Obits

Word has reached our Tanker Tales Office that "one of our own", Charles Hart (431st 1958-62) was honored by being named Texas State Superintendent for the Year 2001 by the Texas Associations of School Boards and Administrators. He represented the Canutillo Independent School District where he had brought recognition and high ratings. He also was instrumental in getting a \$23 million Bond Issue passed for new facilities and improvements.

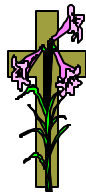
A sad note was received from Sue Welnetz telling of the passing of her husband Ken (429th) on 30 March 2002. He had pancreatic cancer for about 14 months. We had hoped to see them during our mini-mini trip through Indiana. (7 Clark Dr., La Porte, IN 46350-1924).

We also have learned that Col Ralph I. Kretzer (622nd) answered the call of the Supreme Commander on 17 July 2002. His loving wife, Irene, would appreciate condolences to 2369 Sun. Country Rd, Biloxi MS 39532 3114.

Word from Carol Harrell that Charlie (421st, 622nd) had triple bypass surgery recently and is doing fine, but could still use a prayer or two. (505-296-9165). Oddly, it was Carol who had become ill en route to Hampton in May and their trip had to be cancelled.

Another passing notice came from the son of Dale Erickson of the 420th, 431st and the 622nd, who stated that his dad had passed on 18 February 2002 in Sherwood AR. He was survived by his wife, Dorothy, and children Dean (a Major), Kenneth, Robert and Kimberly and 2 grandchildren. (5 St. Andrews Ct., Sherwood AR 72120-4643, 501-835-6180).

Mary Pat Parker, wife of Jim Parker (420, 431), passed away on 24 July 2002, after a long battle with her illness. Word was received though Don Penrod..

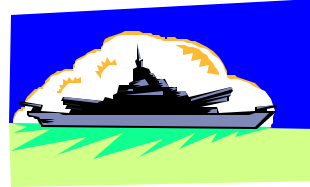
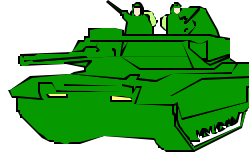


## Subject: The Air Force is better because.....

An article forwarded to us from Tom Price

Of all the services, the Air Force has the most intelligent enlisted people. It is not just theory: it's a provable fact.

**Take the Army:** When the stuff hits the fan, the young Army Private wakes up to the bellowing of his First Sergeant. He grabs his BDU's out of his footlocker, dresses, runs to the chow-hall for breakfast on the fly, then jumps into his tank. Pretty soon, the company commander, a Captain, arrives, gives him a big salute, and says, "Give 'em Hell, soldier!"



**Now take the Navy:** When the stuff hits the fan, the Sailor is eating breakfast in the mess. He hustles the 20 feet to his battle station, stuffing extra pastries in his pocket as he goes. There he sits, in the middle of a big, steel target, with nowhere to run. When the Captain comes on the MC and says, "Give 'em Hell, sailors! I salute you!"

**Now take the Marines:** When the stuff hits the fan, the young Marine is kicked out of bed by his Gunny and puts on the muddy set of BDU's he was wearing on the field exercise he was part of three hours earlier. He gets no breakfast, but is told to feel free to chew on his boots. He runs out and forms up with his rifle. Pretty soon, his company commander, a Captain, come out, gives the Marine a sharp salute, and says, "Give 'em Hell, Marine!"



**And then there's the Air Force:** When the stuff hits the fan, the Airman receives a phone call at his off-base quarters. He gets up, showers, shaves, and puts on the fresh uniform he picked up from the BX cleaners the day before. He jumps in his car and cruises through the McDonald's drive-thru for an Egg McMuffin and Coca-Cola on his way into work. Once at work, he signs in on the duty roster, proceeds to his A-10, spends 30 minutes pre-flighting it and signs off the forms. Pretty soon the pilot, a young Captain, arrives, steps into the jet, and starts the engines. Our young Airman stands at attention, gives the aviator a sharp salute, and says, "Give 'em Hell, Captain!"



A letter from Robert (Bob) W. Harris:

Greetings... Just received my copy of the "TAC Tanker Tales." Took me back a lot of years. A few of the names jumped out at me. In particular was Charlie Vellines. The navigator (who was more than a crewman, but a real help in many ways).. I recalled an adventure we had in Tripoli which involved a street fight where Charlie got kicked in you know where. I guess time has eroded my memory cells to the extent that a lot of names I know I should remember have faded, much to my regret. Hopefully, a lot will slowly come back. Congratulations on a fine piece of work. The Langley reunion did make me a bit homesick for the wonderful officers and men that I worked with at the 427th. I replaced Tom Tiernan at the 622nd much to Major Hamilton's disappointment ( I thought at the time). Again thanks for sending me the "Tales."  
Bob Harris

Health Heads Up:

Millard Ratcliff (431) advises having a periodic re-evaluation if you have a service connected disability. He did and went from 30% to 100% and it only took 60 days to process.

