

The President's Corner By Dan Weber



Even at this date I am unable to define the events of 11 September 2001. While we TAC Tankers Association members were on active duty we had, among other problems, the Lebanon situation, Berlin Crisis, Cuba, and Viet Nam. But those operations pale by comparison to the attack on us and the deaths of thousands of innocent American civilians and military in Manhattan, Washington, D.C., and in Pennsylvania.

I cannot begin to think what other horrible things could enter our lives between the time I write this and the time you read it. Many of us have been overwhelmed by these events. About five days after the initial carnage, Barb and I decided to try and get away from the television and the newspapers for a while and so we set out on a tour of the Pacific Northwest through Nevada, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon and then back home to northern California. We logged about 2,900 miles and were buoyed by the spirit of patriotism we saw in both big cities and small town America. Even in rural areas like the Palouse of southeastern Washington, we saw huge American flags hanging from the sides of barns. We saw literally dozens and dozens of signs and billboards about how great this country is with "God Bless America" and "United We Stand" all over the northwest. We saw cars and trucks flying flags and up in the panhandle of Idaho at Priest Lake there was a sign in front of a local watering hole that said "God Bless America" and then added below was, "Now Let's Kick Some Ass!"

We went by Fairchild AFB, outside of Spokane, and saw a long line of autos waiting to get on base one morning. It appeared that there was a 100% ID check, plus a maze of concrete to drive

through. But across the highway was a Domino's Pizza with a big sign out front that said, "We're Open—We'll Meet You At the Gate."

These attacks are meant to demoralize this country, but I do not see that happening. I believe it will only strengthen our resolve as it should. From what I have heard and seen, our enemies have underestimated the American spirit.

Now on to other more pleasant matters.....

By now, we members have received the information packet for the May 2002 reunion; the Tally-Ho in Tidewater. We ask that you not put it too far away, but do some advanced planning. Nate has already received a good number of replies with checks, so we are off to a good start. As mentioned before, Carel Humme and his Merry Band are putting the final touches to the program and Nate is making some final decisions about such things as whether to have another KB-50 model raffle, and should we have ball caps and should we have logo shirts for sale. Our own Martha Stewart, Natalie Clement has been working on table decorations. So, you can see things are running along quite well. Lastly, we are getting some fine comments about the KB-50 models that were ordered by the membership in Tampa. The first shipments have gone out as I write this and so far everyone is happy.

I look forward to seeing you in Hampton. Dan



Squadron Histories

The following information comes from John Besette's research into the Air Force Archives:

420th AREES 18 Mar 54: Activation at Alexandria AFB, LA, under the command of LTC F.R. Bates. First unit in TAC of its type.
20 Jun 54: First flight in KB-29 from Alexandria.
1 Sep 54: Maj J.F. Groom assumed command.
18 May 55: Maj J.B. Young in command.
4 Oct 55: Unit PCS to Sculthorpe RAF Station, Norfolk, England. Attached to 47th Bomb Wing, 49th Air Division. KB-50s assigned.
22 Jul 55: LTC J.R. Sheffield assumed command.
1 Aug 55-1 Jan 60: History not available.
1 Jun 60: LTC T.J. Tanner assumed command.
16 Jun 61: LTC L.J. Spears in command.
1 Oct 62: Unit assigned to 7375th Combat SuppGrp.
1 Sep 63: Unit assigned to 3rd Air Force.
14 Aug 63: LTC J.F. McAllister assumed command.
25 Mar 64: Deactivation, Sculthorpe RAF, England.

421st AREFS 6 Jul 53: Formed as Detachment 2, 98th Bomb Wing, Japan, with KB-29s.
15 Jan 54: Assigned to 49th Fighter Bomber Grp, Japan.
1 Jul 57: Became part of 67th Tactical Recon Wing, Yokota AB, Japan. LTC Malcolm J. O'Neale, Jr., Commander.
1 Mar 58: Conversion to KB-50s.
1 Jul 59: LTC Ross Davidson, Commander.
1 July 60: Placed under 3rd Bomb Wing.
20 Nov 60: Unit became part of 41st Air Division, Yokota AB, Japan.
Nov 60-1 Jul 62: Histories not available.
1 Jul 62: LTC Keith L. Warren assumed command.
1 Feb 63: Received AF Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA).
28 May 64: LTC Fain H. Pool in command.
2 Nov 64: KB-50s relieved of refueling duties to PACAF.
15 Dec 64: Second award of AFOUA.
15 Jan 65: Deactivates, Yokota AB, Japan.

427th AREES 7 Sep 56: Activated at Robins AFB, GA, with KB-29s; Maj J.F. Yelton in command.
1 Oct 57: Unit control transferred from 9th to 18th AF.
Dec 57-Jul 58: History not available.
1 Jul 58: 4505th ARW activated and assumed control of unit. LTC S.W. Santos in command.
1 Jan 59: Unit PCS to Langley AFB, VA.
1 Apr 60: LTC S.C. Burgess assumed command.
25 Jul 60: LTC Thos. J. Price in command.
10 Apr 62: LTC R.W. Harris assumed command.
12 Oct 62: LTC George C. Welch in command.
9 Jan 63: Unit reduced to one officer and one airman pending deactivation.
1 Apr 63: Official deactivation, Langley AFB, VA..

429th AREFS 19 Jul 54: Activated with KB-29s under the 405th Fighter Bomber Wing at Langley AFB, VA. Capt Marvin F. Stowe in command.
10 Jan 55: Maj G.H. Mullins assumed command.
1 Jul 55: Prep for change from KB-29s to KB-50s.
1 Jul 55- 31 Dec 56: KB-50s in the inventory.
Jan 57: Conducted classes for 427th AREFS, Robins AFB, GA, on KB-50s and its refueling systems. 17 Jan 58: Received first KB-50J from Hayes Aircraft 1 Jul 58: Assigned to new 4505th ARW, Langley AFB, VA. Growth and operations of 427, 431, and 622nd reflected techniques developed by 429th. 6 Jun 58: Maj Chas. J. English assumed command. 1 Jan 60: Maj K.R. Wheeler assumed command. 26 Jan 60: LTC H.P. Schmoltdt in command. (continued on page 8)