

1st Fighter Association Newsletter



27th



71st



94th

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April 2016

PETE'S REMARKS



I am proud to report that as part of our mission to strengthen our heritage, your Association continues to hone our relationship with the 1st Fighter Wing. On February 12th, I had the honor of presenting the Association sponsored annual awards to three outstanding Airmen. The awardees were:

- MSgt Bryan Westerhouse - Expeditionary Airmen of the Year
- 1Lt Andrew Gibler - Expeditionary Officer of the Year
- Captain Kristin Wolfe - Expeditionary Pilot of the Year

If you live in the Tidewater Area, you too can help us with fulfilling our Heritage Mission by becoming a 1st Fighter Association Ambassador. Our Ambassadors represent the Association at Wing events and provide a visible reminder to our active duty airman their service is truly appreciated by those who preceded them. If you are interested in helping with this important task please contact Jim "Racquet" Hardenbrook, our lead Ambassador, at ejhbrook@me.com.

The 1FW Commander has reserved a limited number of DV passes for Association Members at the upcoming Langley Airshow, April 22-24, 2016. The distribution method has yet to be worked out. If you would like a pass, please e-mail Steve Gress at sgressjr@comcast.net with the following information:

Name
in your party
Date(s) you will attend
Mailing address for the passes

Passes will be distributed on a first come basis. The Airshow promises to be a great event. Follow it at: <http://www.airpoweroverhamptonroads.com/>.

Cheers, Pete

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WORDS FROM THE WING

1st Fighter Wing Alumni,

It's been a busy couple months here in the 1st Fighter Wing. In December, we hosted a ground breaking trilateral exercise with our French and British counterparts. It marked the first time that we flew the front line fighters of all three nations together in realistic counter-air and air-to-surface scenarios. At the peak of the exercise we had over 90 aircraft on the ramp including French Rafales, RAF Typhoons, F-15Es, AWACS, and our own F-22s and T-38s. In the final week of the TriLat, we were visited by CSAF, COMACC, COMUSAFE, the UK Air Chief, and a French four star along with numerous other DVs. The exercise was a resounding success and we are ultimately better prepared to fight together on night one in the next war.

We are now preparing for our early March unit inspection, the April Airpower Over Hampton Roads Open House, and a series of FLAG level exercises in April, May, and June. I won't bore you with the details on the UEI, but I do want to pass on an invite to attend the Open House. Scheduled for 22-24 April, the festivities will kick off on Friday night with a twilight airshow and a country music concert featuring Craig Morgan. Gates will open at 0900 on Saturday and Sunday and the show will include the F-22 Demo, the F/A-18 Demo, a USAF heritage flight fly by, and the Thunderbirds along with numerous other demonstrations and static displays. I hope to see you all that weekend.

On a more serious note, we continue to work through challenges, particularly in the experience levels of our pilots, maintainers, and air traffic controllers. These are Air Force wide issues, so we are not alone. We are fortunate to have our Virginia Air National Guard partners here with us as they are helping mitigate the risk associated with low experience on the line and in the cockpit. The pilot experience levels will improve over the next 18 months, but on the maintenance and air traffic control side, we will see little change for the foreseeable future. We are working diligently to deal with what is essentially the new normal in those areas. I am confident our Airmen will figure it out and continue to uphold the 1st Fighter Wing standard. They have no choice. Their nation is counting on them to be able to deliver.

Thanks for all you continue to do for our wing, and again, I hope to see you all out at the Airshow.

Sincerely,

Col Pete Fesler, Commander, 1 FW



The Untold Story of "Maloney's Pony"

On August 19th, 1944, the 27th's highest scoring ace of World War II, Lieutenant Thomas E. Maloney lost both engines of his P-38 during a beachhead cover mission, thereby setting the stage for one of the grittiest personal episodes of the war.

After ditching about 6 miles off the southern coast of France he survived a mine blast after his raft landed on the beach and then he survived 10 days without food and trying to move with his wounds in order to find help. He finally found some Frenchmen who got him to a

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doctor. Thus started his recuperation in Marseilles and Naples before being airlifted to the U.S. Amazingly enough, he ended up not losing any limbs.

Maloney was very popular as he was the leading ace in the 1st Fighter Group. After the ordeal, the Group Commander issued a special order that in the 27th Fighter Squadron, airplane "number 23 should for evermore be named 'Maloney's Pony.'"

However, when the 27th transitioned from the P-38, this tradition was lost. The 27th flew without a Maloney's Pony until they received F-15A's. F-15 75-0023 (5023) nose was painted with the words "Maloney's Pony" and the tradition came back to life. Unfortunately, this aircraft was destroyed in an explosion and fire on March 10, 1980 during a ground engine run.

On 5 June 1981, F-15A tail 76-0023 (6023) was designated the next Maloney's Pony. 6023 was transferred to the 5th Fighter Interceptor Squadron when the 1st TFW upgraded to F-15C's. On January 17th 1986, 6023 crashed near the White Sands Missile Range--killing the pilot.

F-15C tail 82-0023 (2023) was designated the next Maloney's Pony. 2023 was destroyed on 21 March 1996 while it was taking off from Nellis during a GREEN FLAG mission. The pilot survived with minor injuries.

After the mishap, F-15C tail 81-0023 (1023) became Maloney's Pony. 1023 was transferred to the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, FL (ANG) when the 1st transitioned to the F-22, and is still flying today.

There is much more to the story, including the Maloney's Pony tradition starting again in the F-22. For the full story see the online article at:

<http://1stfighterassociation.weebly.com/story-of-maloneys-pony.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 22 - 24, 2016 - Langley Airshow

The event will celebrate 100 years of aviation at Langley <http://www.airpoweroverhamptonroads.com/>. See Pete's Remarks above to see how you can get a DV Pass.

May 21-22 - Warbirds Over the Beach,

Military Aviation Museum
1341 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, 23457

On Saturday, May 21st the restored tower from RAF Goxhill will be dedicated. The 71st deployed to Goxhill in WWII and the dedication ceremony will include our own Mac MacAllister.

July 28-31, 2016 - F-15 Gathering of Eagles 44, Fairborn, OH

This event takes place every 5 Years and is sponsored by former F-15 SPO members and engineers involved in making the Eagle one of the greatest fighters ever made.

Contact: Donna Friedman
2508 Cedronella Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Phone: 919-382-7271
E-Mail: donnafriedman@nc.rr.com

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October 13 -16, 2016 - 33FW Nomad Reunion

San Destin Beach Hilton

Hosted by Gen Bill "Tunes" Looney. Tunes wants to establish a bi-annual Nomad Reunion. They are going to start this year with the pilots that have served in the 33rd and then build to include maintainers, etc. down the road.

Contact: 'Shoeless' Joe Shinnick
(850) 803-1461
shoelessf15@icloud.com

September 7 - 10, 2017 - 1st Fighter Association Reunion, Dayton, OH

We are in the planning stages and have locked in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton for our accommodations and The Museum of the Air Force as the location of our Banquet on Saturday, September 9th.

TAPS

Maurice C. "Bill" Terry, 27th Fighter Squadron

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

Hello All

I hope the Spring weather is favorable wherever you reside and you do not have any lingering depression from the March Madness results! As I have already had to cut my grass twice here in Northern Virginia, I must say it is definitely time to send out the annual request for Membership Renewal and Heritage Fund Endowment contributions. You all should be receiving the membership form soon in a separate mailing.

We currently have 262 active members of which 84 have contributed the required amount for recognition in the Lifetime Membership category. I would ask that all annual members consider changing your status to lifetime membership-we can work out an "interest free" payment plan for you if that would help sway your decision. The Squadron Presidents and I are also reviewing prior year records to see if we can contact former members and have them rejoin our active member "formation."

You are also invited to seek out all current and former 1st Wing members to ask them to join and for the few of you that are "bashful," just send me their contact information and I will happily send them a membership form. As a note, you should all be aware that prior year "catch-up" dues, i.e., missed payments, are always appreciated but not required. Just send me your \$20 and you will be recognized as a member in good standing!

Cheers my friends!

Gresser