



The Straphanger Gazette



Volume 10 Issue 1

Find us on the web at <http://www.araassociation.com> July, August, Sept, 2017
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“Aerial Rocket Artillery”....when called on by those who were in danger, our units were there laying it on the line.

We were proud of our Aerial Rocket Artillery Team then and still proud of it now. The Straphanger Gazette is a quarterly publication of the Aerial Rocket Artillery Association. Issues will be published on or about the 1st of January, April, July and October. Members who have e-mail will receive a copy as an pdf.

The Land of the Free Because of the Brave

The 20th Reunion of the ARA September 13—17, 2017 Williamsburg, VA



President's Corner

Trending into History

As I sit down at my computer to write down my message for this edition of the Straphanger, the 4th of July is just ahead of us. By the time you get to read this message, the 4th will have passed.

As we all learned in school, the Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of Independence declaring the United States independent from Great Britain's rule on July 2nd. Two days later on July 4th, the Declaration of Independence was signed.

How fitting that our ARA Reunion will be held in Williamsburg, VA from September 13 to the 17th. Williamsburg was the thriving capital of Virginia at that time and many patriots such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, George Mason, and Peyton Randolph were all Virginians. Williamsburg is often referred to as the Revolutionary City. There is so much to see and do there. This is why we have a bus tour to go to Jamestown and Yorktown, the site of the last battle of the Revolutionary War.

You can stroll through the historical section and see people dressed in the costumes of Colonial times. We have a speaker scheduled for the dinner on Wednesday night to give a brief overview of the area and answer questions. The area is beautiful and I believe this reunion will be remembered for a long time.

Please get your Registration Forms in as soon as possible. There are cut off dates for the bus and dinners and I don't want any of our members to miss out. Also, call the Embassy Suites, 3006 Mooretown Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185. The phone number is (757) 229-6800 and our code is ARA. You don't have to pay until check out.

The best to all our ARA members and families. We hope you had a great 4th of July.

Dave Borgeson
ARA 6



ARA WILLIAMSBURG REUNION
20th ARA REUNION, Williamsburg, VA Sept 13 – 17, 2017
Reunion Registration Form

Information	
Name/Membership #	
Wife/Guest name(s)	
Additional Guest(s)	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Telephone/e-mail	
Any special assistance/ needs required	

Arriving on _____ Departing on _____ Flying _____ Yes or No

Please list name(s) as you would like for them to appear on NAME TAG(S)	Where From
Member	
Spouse/Guest	
Units(s)	
Dates	

REGISTRATION/EVENT FEES	Details	Price	# In party	Total
Registration Fee	per member in party over age 18	\$30.00		
Annual Membership Dues	If not already paid for 2017	\$25.00		
Wednesday Dinner	per plate charge	\$34.50		
Friday Bus Tour to Jamestown and Yorktown**	Per person charge is \$49; if 50 people sign up; the charge goes to \$41. Refund as needed	\$49.00		
Saturday – Farewell Dinner	Dinner at Fort Magruder	\$47.00		
Total for Reunion		185.50		

****Registration forms will be numbered in order received to insure seating on bus.**
Please complete out and return by August 1st so that we may finalize all plans and secure set prices for events. Please send a confirmation of attendance e-mail to reunion host for head counts. Thanks and hope to see you all in September in Williamsburg, VA.
E-mail address for host –David Borgeson is dborgeson41@gmail.com; Telephone # 310-773-1295

Please make checks payable to **ARA ASSOCIATION and mail to:**

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ATTENTION ALL ARA MEN:

DO NOT DELETE THIS PUBLICATION UNTIL ALL SPOUSES, SIGNIFICANT OTHERS AND COMPANIONS HAVE READ IT.

THE INFORMATION IS FOR ALL IN THE FAMILY.

ONLY A TRUE NAVIGATOR WOULD DO THIS!

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought the master, Captain John Phillips, the result. The Warrimoo's position was LAT 0° 31' N and LON 179 30' W. The date was 31 December 1899.

"Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line".

Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check & double check the ships position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then headjusted the engine speed. The calm weather & clear night worked in his favour.

At mid-night the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line! The consequences of this bizarre position were many:

The forward part (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere & in the middle of summer.

The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere & in the middle of winter.

The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899.

In the bow (forward) part it was 1 January 1900.

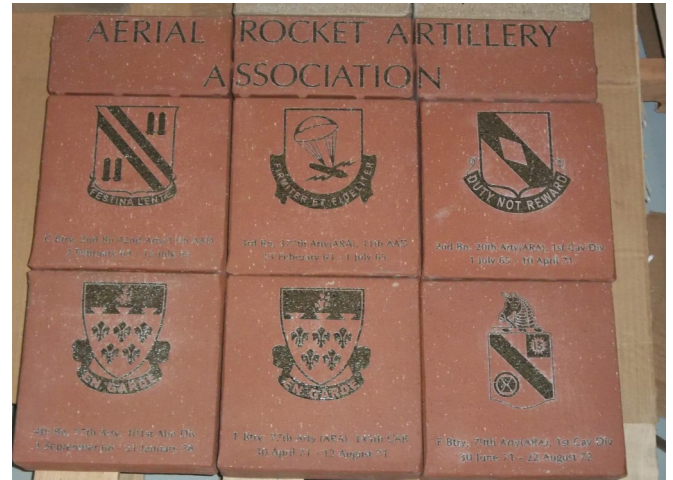
This ship was therefore not only in two different days, two different months, two different years, and two different seasons, but it was also in two different centuries - all at the same time.

Contributed by Bob Craig—my first CO



Progress Note on the Plaques and Pavers

As most of you know, Dave Borgeson was instrumental in procuring funds from his American Legion Post No.283 in Pacific Palisades, California. These funds were donated to the association for plaques to be placed in museums at military posts where ARA units were located. These plaques are to be placed at Fort Benning, Fort Bragg, Fort Sill, Fort Campbell, Fort Hood, and one to be placed at the Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker. Below is the picture of the plaque which has been placed in the Fort Rucker museum.



These pavers are to be placed in front of the Fort Rucker museum.

If anyone is interested in placing individual pavers (which Regina and I did), you can contact Mrs. Leslie Edens, manager of the Army Aviation Museum Foundation, at 334-598-2508, or go to [www. Army Aviation Museum Foundation.com](http://www.ArmyAviationMuseumFoundation.com) for information. Prices are \$150 for the small paver and \$300 for the large paver. Pavers shown are the large.

AS A COURTESY TO A FELLOW VET.

One A/2/20 unit photo is showcased in *Vietnam War Army Helicopter Nose Art*, which will be released on September 28th, 2017, from Fonthill Media. The book's approximate total photo-count will likely be around 295. Let me know by email at johnmailman@yahoo.com if you would like to receive **pre-sale ordering instructions** towards the purchase of an author-signed copy of this book. Please consider offering a copy to your local library, a friend, or a relative.

Thank you,
John Brennan, former SP5, 114 AHC, 1970-71, Vinh Long AAF, Mekong Delta.

PS The author's six previously published books feature **four B/2/20 photos** and **two C/2/20 photos**. All publications are still available from the author. Inquiries welcomed.

A young ventriloquist is touring Sweden and, one night, he's doing a show in a small fishing town.

With his dummy on his knee, he starts going through his usual dumb blonde jokes.

Suddenly, a blonde woman in the fourth row stands on her chair and starts shouting, "I've heard enough of your stupid blonde jokes. What makes you think you can stereotype Swedish blonde women that way? What does the color of a woman's hair have to do with her worth as a human being? It's men like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and in the community, and from reaching our full potential as people. It's people like you that make others think that all blondes are dumb! You and your kind continue to perpetuate discrimination against not only blondes, but women in general...pathetically all in the name of humor!"

The embarrassed ventriloquist begins to apologize, and the blonde yells:

"You stay out of this! I'm talking to that little shit on your lap."

Blame Larry Mobley

A Rare Editorial Comment from Doc Talbot

For the past nine years it has been my privilege and honor to compile and publish this quarterly newsletter, under the watchful eye of the Board. I am grateful for the contributions which have come and made it possible to have, what we hope has been an interesting and informative publication. That said, there is something else that needs to be said.

This being the mid-year and time to remember our roots from which freedom grew from a political experiment to the greatest country in the history of the world, we must acknowledge that these same freedoms have allowed for the rise of dissension in our band of brothers.

In past issues we have published numerous cartoons, anecdotes, poems and barbs directed toward brothers in service, former enemies, current foes and politicians. We have also pointed a finger at some people who are breaking our laws, misappropriating our resources, bringing disparagement upon others of their ethnic background who are trying to truly make a new life for themselves and their families within the bounds of law. As the late Cardinal Newman said, "If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and talks like a duck—it's a duck".

Regrettably, some of our readers have found these items offensive. Your Editor is not without experience and training in Journalism, both academically and professionally. The First Amendment guarantees the right to express ones opinion within the bounds of slander and libel. Slander requires the intent to defame and truth is the ultimate defense for libel. All figures in the public eye are subject to criticism from every front, have abdicated their rights to the above protections, and know this full well.

The readers of this newsletter have paid a high price to agree, disagree, protest, cheer, cry or express themselves as they wish. It is only because we served that we still have the freedoms that allow free expression. There are even now those among us who would deny us those freedoms.

There are some who feel this newsletter should not carry political content. Politically correct is a pile of pointless poop. This nation, which we celebrate this month, arose from brave men who dared to disagree with the then current government and declare that "when in the course of human events....." and back it up with a call to arms. By the way, the second amendment was written to protect us from government, not to legalize hunting. You take the office—you take the heat.

In keeping with the principles of our democracy/republic the Editor, who really does depend on the contributions of his readers, we reiterate our appeal for reader input, promise to publish (within the bounds of decency and language) ALL opinions and positions, regardless of his opinion or position. They will be published with accreditation to their source, edited only for style and space needs, and welcomed in the light.

To any brothers I have offended, I am sorry. All has been done in good taste, fun and according to the rules. Nonetheless, we do not want to sow dissension. Unfortunately, this is no longer the land where we old folks grew up. Washington is a quagmire of political infighting and self-perpetuation, neglecting the needs of the very people who sent those politicians to Washington. Our universities and colleges are in the control of the now grown-up hippies of the 50's and 60's and tolerance now means abject agreement or condemnation. Where once free speech and opinion, measured debate, peaceful confrontation and mutual respect were the rule, chaos and bullying are the norm.

YOU HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEW? BRING IT ON!

A MILITARY TOWN SHOWS IT COLORS

By Michael Macchiorola and shared by Matt Genovese, my ROTC classmate

Elgin Joint Base Command located near Ft. Walton, Florida, encompasses a large contingent of Air Force units, Naval Warfare units, the 7th Army Special Forces and 6th Army Rangers.

Most folks in the USA don't live in a Military Town, with lots of guys in uniform walking the streets and jets overhead daily. They go on with their lives unaware of what a Military Town is all about. And that's OK.... but I want to share with y'all what it's like to live in a Military Town.

We see guys in uniform all the time, we have state of the art, high performance aircraft in the air nearby all day long. We hear the SOUND OF FREEDOM when an F-22, or F-35 streaks over the house..... and we read in the local paper, sometimes daily, but at least weekly, of the loss of one of our own in combat in the Middle East. And that is what brings me to the reason for this email.

Staff Sergeant Mark DeAlencar was killed on April 8th. He was an Army Special Forces soldier stationed here in the Fort Walton area. He had a family. In January he deployed, again, to Afghanistan. He promised his adopted daughter Octavia that he would be home for her High School Graduation.. He didn't make it. But she went to graduation yesterday anyway. And in the audience were eighty (80) US Army Special Forces soldiers from her dad's unit, in full Parade Dress Uniform. Additionally, they brought THEIR FAMILIES to be with them as well.

And as Octavia ascended the steps to the stage to receive her diploma THEY ALL SILENTLY STOOD UP. And when she was presented her diploma they ALL CHEERED, CLAPPED, WHISTLED and YES CRIED. Everyone in attendance then stood up and cried and cheered. Octavia had graduated and yes she had lost her Dad..... but she had 80 other DADS to stand there with her and take his place.

I just wanted to share this moment with you..... and remind you that THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE IN A MILITARY TOWN. THIS is the real America we all love..... and I'm proud to be part of it. God bless our men in uniform and their families who give so much. (Take a second to pass this along to someone you know. It's the least we can do for Octavia and SSgt Mark DeAlencar, 7th Special Forces, United States Army).

This past April I was back in Houston and was able to meet up with Joseph S. Lahnstein, COL (Ret) for lunch. He passed another batch of documents from his father's files to me and this is the first of another round from the early days of ARA in Vietnam. There are more to follow and we owe a debt of gratitude to Joseph J. Lahnstein, LTC (Ret), for preparing many of them, collecting others along with numerous photos and maps, and to his son for sharing them with us. The following article was done by Maj. "Al" Woodruff during his tenure as S3 of 2/20th Artillery (ARA).

Jesse L. Hobby

Armed Falcon 29F1

Aerial Artillery Fire Support By Maj, A. R. Woodruff

At 1700 hours, 30 March 1966, the radio in the operations tent of Battery "A", 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery, blared "Fire Mission"! Less than two minutes later a section of the Aerial Artillery lifted off and was "On the Way" as their UH-1B helicopters mounting the XM-3 rocket system headed southwest toward the target area.

Earlier that afternoon, Troop "A", 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry had discovered a squad of Viet Cong troops in a small open area south of the Chu Pong Mountain in the rugged central highlands of Vietnam. A prisoner was desperately needed to provide intelligence information so an infantry platoon was given the mission of airlanding in the area and capturing a prisoner.

The first troop lift into the LZ was surprisingly uneventful as there was no immediate contact with the enemy. However, after the second lift was departing the LZ, the enemy opened up with automatic weapons. One UH-1D was shot down and two more were damaged. Additional infantry was urgently so Company "A", 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry was helilifted to the area to relieve the pressure on the 1/9 Cav platoon. Despite an intensive preparation of the LZ by "gun ships" of the lift unit, more aircraft were downed as they approached the landing area. The situation was so critical that crews of the downed aircraft joined the beleaguered infantry troops in defense of the area.

When it was first learned that the cavalry platoon was to be air landed south of Chu Pong, the Aerial Artillery operations officer plotted the proposed LZ and realized that the platoon was well beyond the range of any tube artillery and that Aerial Artillery would be the primary fire support means in the event contact was established with the enemy. With this in mind, all the firing platoon leaders were thoroughly briefed on the situation, plotted the location of the LZ on their maps, and jotted down the frequencies and call signs of the forward observers with the airmobile units. All platoon leaders were, thus, alerted and prepared to provide immediate fire support.

Immediately upon landing in the LZ, the artillery forward observer with Company "A" requested Aerial Artillery support. Within minutes of his initial fire request the Aerial Artillery section leader contacted him for the precise location of friendly units and for target information. At 1708 hours the first of hundreds of rockets

were fired in support of the surrounded defenders. Throughout night and into the following morning the Aerial Artillery provided close fire support for the besieged position. A continuous cycle of Aerial Artillery fire support was put into effect so that at least two aircraft were always overhead and firing. As one section was firing another was enroute to the LZ and two more were refueling and reloading. All the fires were controlled by the forward observer on the ground



Two sections of ARA supporting the infantry on the ground with close in fire to counter the enemy surrounding them

who used cans filled with gasoline and sand to form a lighted "Tee" in the center of the LZ to show the direction that the fire was needed. By using polar plot from this "Tee", the Aerial Artillerymen were able to place their fires within thirty meters of the defending troops and drove back the VC attack with punishing losses. Between 1700 hours on 3 March and 0730 hours on 4 March, Battery "A", reinforced by two platoons of Battery "B", fired 1250 rounds of rocket ammunition around the defensive position. Shortly after dawn the Viet Cong attackers were forced to break contact and attempted to escape into the surrounding mountains. They were relentlessly pursued and as the infantry swept the battle area, over sixty enemy dead were found. The Commander of Company "A" stated that the supporting fires of the Aerial Artillery saved his position from being overrun.

This is only an example of the Aerial Rocket Artillery fire support that has been provided to the 1st Cavalry Division by its organic Aerial Artillery Battalion. Of course, not all missions are flown under circumstances as dramatic as those described above. A typical day starts with the execution of a Ground Air Plan (GAP). A GAP is standing operating procedure by which the Aerial Artillery accompanies the lift elements to a landing zone and fires in a preparation just before the lift aircraft land. Normally only half of the available rocket ammunition of each aircraft is expended during the preparation so that the remaining rockets are available to attack targets of opportunity in the event enemy contact is established. The Aerial Artillery aircraft then remain on air cap until the LZ is secured. Once the LZ is secured the aircraft assume a strip alert status. When fire support is needed, these aircraft are immediately responsive to the ground commander through the artillery forward observer. The fire mission



The night view for the enemy to see and pray.

received by the firing section is simple and effective. It consists of the location of the target by reference to grid coordinates or a shift from a known point, nature of the target, and the call sign and channel of the fire control agency. As the Aerial Artillery approaches the target area, the flight commander contacts the controller to receive additional information concerning the target, the location of friendly units, and any special instructions. By this system Aerial Artillery fires have become highly responsive and extremely effective.

Target identification presents a big problem in Vietnam where the jungle canopy and heavy growth provide excellent concealment for the enemy. The most effective and fastest method of locating targets is by polar plot from either the observer's position or a prominent terrain feature that is readily identifiable to both the air crew and the ground observer. Adjustment of rounds, if necessary, is accomplished by either cardinal direction shifts or terrain shifts (i.e. 30 meters up the tree line).

A forward observer, however, is not always need to locate targets. In many instances, the Aerial Artillery locates their own targets. All crews have been trained in the techniques of aerial observation and are constantly alert for enemy activity. In addition, an O-1D, piloted by an Aerial Artilleryman has been used with great success to acquire targets. One of the functions of the observer/ pilot of the O1-D is to maintain up-to-the-minute information of friendly unit movements. By knowing the exact location of units at all times, valuable time can be saved in delivering fire missions within 30-50 meters of friendly troops. As the friendly units advance, and the enemy discloses his position, the Aerial Artillery observer in the O-1D is on hand to acquire targets. One example of the Aerial Artillery developing their own targets occurred on 17 April 66 during "Operation BEE BEE" in the vicinity of Bong Son, Vietnam. At 0830 hours aviators from Battery "C" spotted several VC moving along the base of a hill. After coordination with the ARVN in the area the battery was cleared to take the enemy under fire. As the rockets began to fall on their position, the VC were routed and fled the area. In their attempt to escape, many of the VC ran into the open rice paddies where they became ideal targets. The battery pressed the attack for almost three hours and expended 806 rounds of ammunition. During this entire mission, an O-1D flown by an Aerial Artilleryman directed the fires of the rocket ships and provided the continuity of control and fire direction that was essential for a successful mission. When the battle was over at least 58 enemy lay dead at the base of the hill and in the surrounding rice paddies.

Although the 2.75" aerial rocket is the primary weapon system of the Aerial Artillery, the battalion also has the capability of firing the SS-11 wire guided missile. While suitable targets for the SS-11 are not often found in Vietnam, 20 missiles have been successfully employed against point targets. One of those mission was fired by Battery "B" in the early morning of 28 Nov 65. A Special Forces "A" Team planned an attack on a village north of their position at daybreak; however, the entrance to the village was blocked by two heavy log gates and fortified with entrenchments, automatic weapons, and booby traps. In order to not completely destroy the village, the team commander did not want to use tube artillery. It was also considered undesirable to use a demolition team because of the enemy's covering fires. The target was, however, ideally suited for the SS-11. Just before dawn a flight of three aircraft departed the battery area. Two aircraft were armed with the XM-3 rocket system and one with the SS-11. The rocket aircraft were to provide protection for the missile aircraft and were to attack the area adjacent to the gate in order to neutralize the mutually supporting entrenchments. A multiple direction attack was used with the SS-11 aircraft in the center. The missile was launched first while the rockets were not fired until minimum range in order to insure pin point accuracy. Three missiles effectively destroyed the gates and the attacking CIDG troops met only light resistance which they quickly overwhelmed.

In addition to this battalion's primary mission of providing Aerial Artillery support, it has several other capabilities. One is the dispensing of riot control agents. Three methods of dispensing this agent have been employed. The first method of dispensing the agent is by dropping an M-159 canister from mounts on either side of the aircraft. This is the least complicated method of dispensing the agent but it is suitable only for relatively small, circular shaped target areas. Another method which is used for laying larger belts of the agent is the M-5 dispensing unit and the dropping of CS grenades. The M-5 system uses a pressurized tank filled with CS powder that is dispensed in about the same way as a crop duster dispenses insecticides. The grenades, on the other hand, are dropped from a series of metal tubes mounted on each side of the aircraft. 400 grenades can be dropped in various patterns and permit a larger area to be covered.

Battlefield illumination is another mission that has been assigned to this battalion. Two methods have been utilized to this illumination. The first is standard MK24 aircraft flare and the other is the airborne searchlight.



Sometimes it was a real but deadly show

This searchlight is the M-60 tank searchlight modified for operation from an aircraft. Various missions have been accomplished using this light, the primary being reconnaissance of roads, rivers, and trails. One of the most successful missions was the extraction of a downed aircraft from a hostile area in December, 1965 The searchlight was used to illuminate a landing area for the landing of security, demolition, and rigging personnel. Subsequently, the light was shifted to the vicinity of the downed helicopter and the area was continuously illuminated while the aircraft was readied for



O-1 D (Birddog) possibly from E/82nd DivArty.



Parachute flares

evacuation. As soon as the helicopter was lifted from the crash site, the light was again shifted to provide illumination for the extraction of the ground forces.



The mission described above are many and varied but all have been performed by this battalion during the last nine months of combat in Vietnam. The missions exemplify the responsiveness and versatility of the Army's newest fire support unit, the Aerial Artillery Battalion. From the beaches of Bong Son, to the mountains of Kontum and the Cambodian border, this battalion has flown over 14,000 hours and fired over 100,000 rounds in support of division troops. The sight of the UH-1B with the rocket pods on the sides have become a familiar and welcome sight to many infantrymen of the division. When we hear words like "That's it, beautiful, you sure knocked the hell out of that machine gun" – we know we have done our job.

Ladies of the Association

Hi Ladies of the ARA,

Happy Summer!! Hope the beginning is good and the summer will end in Williamsburg with a fabulous reunion! Can't wait!!

Dave and I have just returned from a wonderful 2 weeks in Morocco with a few days in Lisbon. Morocco is truly an amazing country— safe, clean, friendly and remarkable landscapes. Did you know that Morocco was the first country to recognize our independence?? Dave did and the Moroccans were so surprised as most Americans do not know this fact!!! If any of you are thinking of an exotic place to travel contact us – definitely Morocco.

Have not heard from any of you ladies about any adventures you have encountered so that I might share!! Therefore, not much to report other than I am always the last one to submit my report for the Straphanger !! Send me news!

We are off to Iceland in August! September will be such fun with lots of history!

Hugs and happy summer!

Pat B.

The Power Behind the Six

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The taxpayers are sending congressmen on expensive trips abroad. It might be worth it except they keep coming back.

-Will Rogers



Be thankful we're not getting all the government we're paying for.

WILL ROGERS

RD.COM/QUOTES



Chaplain's Corner

“The Man was born Blind!”

I think most of us know the story of the blind man in the Gospel of John. Blind from birth, this man was healed by Jesus, who spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, “Go wash in the pool of Siloam.” Then he went and washed and came back able to see. Neighbors, Pharisees, and the man's parents were not about to accept the miracle performed by Jesus.

The man's blindness defined who the man was. Witnesses were not willing to accept his being healed. He had been blind since birth. Those who had seen him before as a beggar doubted him to be the same man. The Pharisees discounted the miracle as it had been performed on the Sabbath; therefore Jesus was not from God because he did not observe the Sabbath. The parents wanted no part in answering the question of who did this. To confess Jesus to be the Messiah would have put them out of the synagogue. The man was driven out. When Jesus heard of this action, he found the man and asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.”

The blind man now has a future! He can stop looking behind and looking at what is ahead. That's why we have large windshields and small rearview mirrors. We need to see where we are going, not where we have been!

There is a program called “Landmark Forum” out of south Florida that assist people to live in the present and not the past. When we live our lives through our past we are not able to see our potential or possibilities. The forum helped me see where I had let three defining moments in my early life guide the way I was living my present life. What an amazing reality when I was able to move out of that “blindness,” and move on into my future redefined with new possibilities and potential.

God has given us the power to let go of our past and see with new eyes the wonderful future he has given us. And may it be so! Amen. Peace,

Bruce Wilder,
Chaplain

*“One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”
John 9:25*

PHILOSOPHY 101

As we grow older, and hence wiser, we slowly realize that:

Whether we wear a \$300 or \$30 watch --- they both tell the same time.

Whether we carry a \$300 or \$30 wallet/handbag --- the amount of money inside is the same.

Whether we drink a bottle of \$300 or \$30 or \$3 wine --- the hangover is the same.

Whether the house we live in is 300 or 3,000 or 30,000 sq. ft. --- the loneliness is the same.

And we realize our true inner happiness does not come from the material things of this world.

Whether we fly first or economy class, if the plane goes down --- we go down with it.

Whether we fly first or economy class, if the plane reaches its destination --- everyone arrives at the same time.

We should realize that when we have mates, buddies and old friends, brothers and sisters, with whom we can chat, laugh, talk, sing, talk about north-south-east-west or heaven and earth --- that is true happiness.

Six Undeniable Facts of Life:

1. Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy, so when they grow up they will know the value of things, not the price.
2. Best wise words: "Eat your food as your medicines. Otherwise you have to eat medicines as your food."
3. The one who loves you will never leave you because, even if there are 100 reasons to give up, he or she will find one reason to hold on.
4. There is a big difference between a human being and being human. Only a few folks really understand that.
5. You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between, you have to manage.
6. If you just want to walk fast, walk alone; but, if you want to walk far, walk together.

Six Best Doctors in the World:

1. Sunlight
2. Rest
3. Exercise
4. Diet
5. Self Confidence
6. Friends and Family

And, finally: The nicest place to be is in someone's thoughts,
the safest place to be is in someone's prayers,
and the very best place to be is... in the hands of God.

Contributed by :Larry Mobley

Why do We Wait Until the Last Minute?

Every year the ARA assembles in some fascinating site to once again share war stories and current events with old comrades-in-arms. In all the years I have gone to the Reunions I have yet to hear anyone decry the site, the activities or the fellowship. Many new friendships have been formed at these gatherings because not all of us served at the same time.

Every year the hosts, organizers and Board members find themselves three months out from the actual opening day wondering if they will be the only ones there. For reasons, as yet unfathomable to medical science, people who are normally totally organized and know when and when their lives will take any turn seem unable to make the decision to send in their registration for a party that they know they want to attend.

There are consequences to this bent on procrastination. Hotel rooms become unavailable, especially at the special rate. Seats on tour buses fill and desires remain unfulfilled. Last, but not least, those who are trying to get it all together suffer advanced and self-inflicted hair loss and ulcers worrying that the Association will have to cover the mandatory costs of events—using YOUR Monies.

The following have committed themselves to attending, gotten their reservations and made life a little easier for the administration.

Dave Borgeson, Jim Fleming, James Forman, Millard Garrison, Johnny Grice, Gerald Hipp, Herb Hirst, Jesse Hobby, Rodger McAlister, Lynn McKinnie, Larry Mobley, Huey O'Dell, Michael Okeefe, William Ratterath, Jule Szabo, Asa Talbot, George Wachs, and Billy Wood. Finally getting into the swim are Bruce Wilder, Alan Klinger, Jim Castillo, Clovis Jones and Rory Roberson and Cecil Hengeveld and, of course, their significant others whose charm makes up for their partners indolence.

If your name is not above, we need you to become a part of the "in crowd" and get your registration to Herb Hirst and your reservation to Embassy Suites—Williamsburg, VA (757) 229-6800 or toll free at (800) 774-1500 and request the ARA room block. (Code ARA) For the techies in the crowd, go to www.embassysuiteswilliamsburg.com and make a direct reservation.

The promising but inert are Gary Adams, Monroe Ballton, Jerry Brooks, N.G. Brown, Thomas Cochran, David Cooper, James Dauley, Jim Giles, Claude Gomez, George Govignon, Calvin Hyatt, Larry Jensen, Erik Johnson, Joseph Lynch, Sherod Mallow, Ed Miller, Michael O'Connor, George Padilla, Mike Russel, Richard Tokar, Frank Trvino, Chuck Voeltz, Wallace Voss, and James Wiggins.

LET'S GO GUYS!

GET ON THE BALL!

Conundrum.....This is too important to keep just on Facebook!!

"A gun is like a parachute. If you need one, and don't have one. You'll probably never need one again." The definition of the word Conundrum is: something that is puzzling or confusing.

Here are six Conundrums of Socialism in the United States of America :

1. America is capitalist and greedy - yet half of the population is subsidized.
2. Half of the population is subsidized - yet they think they are victims.
3. They think they are victims - yet their representatives run the government.
4. Their representatives run the government - yet the poor keep getting poorer.
5. The poor keep getting poorer - yet they have things that people in other Countries only dream about.
6. They have things that people in other countries only dream about - Yet they want America to be more like those other countries.

Think about it! And that, my friends, pretty much sums up the USA in the 21st Century

Makes you wonder who is doing the math. By the way.....

1. We are advised to NOT judge ALL Muslims by the actions of a few lunatics, But we are encouraged to judge ALL gun owners by the actions of a few lunatics.

Funny how that works. And here's another one worth considering...

- 2 Seems we constantly hear about how Social Security is going to run out of money. But we never hear about welfare or food stamps running out of money? What's interesting is the first group "worked for" their money, but the second didn't.

Think about it.....and Last but not least:

3. Why are we cutting benefits for our veterans, no pay raises for our military and cutting our army back, but we are not stopping the payments or benefits to illegal aliens.

Am I the only one missing something?

From the politically incorrect (bless his heart) Larry Mobley



AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

Membership Application/Renewal Form

This form may be used for Applying for New Membership or for Renewing Existing Membership. Please circle that which is appropriate.

Name _____ Wife's Name _____

Rank _____ Membership Number _____
(At time of service in ARA) (If known)

Retired Rank (if applicable) _____ Service Number _____

List all ARA Units that you served in.

<u>Battery/Battalion</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>
_____	From mo/yr to mo/yr _____	_____
_____	From mo/yr to mo/yr _____	_____

Current Address: _____
Street or PO Box

_____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Home _____ Work (if okay) _____ Cell _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Association membership is on an annual basis (unless member opts for life membership) running from January 1 to December 31 and is past due on January 31.

Annual dues are **\$25.00** regardless of when submitting.

Life membership (if paid in full) is **\$250.00**. Life membership may also be paid in **\$50.00** installments on a quarterly basis until paid in full.

Total amount enclosed _____ (Please indicate in remarks section of check whether this is Initial Membership, Membership Renewal, Life Membership in full, Life Membership payment #.

Mail completed application to: Aerial Rocket Artillery Association
C/O Herbert L. Hirst
P.O. Box 220
North Plains, OR 97133-0220

For Office Use Only

Check # _____

Check Date _____

Amount _____

Date Rcvd _____

Web address – www.araassociation.com