



A Word from Willie

Society of Wild Weasels Newsletter October 2022



CINCWW's Corner

Fellow Weasels,

In the October issue of Word from Willie we have some great updates and interviews for you. Col “Toro” Hauck 52nd Fighter Wing Commander tells us about the F-16 and what they are facing in Europe now. It’s a tough mission, but they do it with skill and courage. We hear about the Shaw Weasels and what they have done over the last year, and I for one can’t thank them enough for their combat expertise. We have a primer on the Linebacker Missions in anticipation of our 18 December Zoom call to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Linebackers 1

& 2. We need veterans of those missions to tell their stories and both Brig Gen Abu and I will set it up. Liaison officers will be invited to update the Wings, and if they show interest, we are ready to support their times.

Your board and our two CINC Emeritus have been busy. We are now testing the new website that will decrease our Webservices costs by \$3500 per year. Our new liaisons have made contact with the wings, as you will read below, and it has been a pleasure to work with our intern. We now have a medical issues section on the current website and are in the process of completing a store. What's next is a big consideration, so we would love your ideas.

Here is what we are thinking for the next 6 months:

- Finish the new website and test it out
- Setup the store for Weasel gear
- Proceed with our education grants
- Set up a volunteer mentor program

A special thanks to Dave Brog (WW #420) and Phillip (WW #346) and Mimi Drew for attending George "Budda Bear's" Miklos (WW #296) Arlington internment ceremony on behalf of the Wild Weasel Society. One of the strengths of this Society is our appreciation for and service to our past and current warriors! Almost weekly I experience or read about something honorable our members did, and I am proud of our legacy. Lastly, to close out this update I want to honor Victor Ballanco for his induction in the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame on 1 November. Well done and well-earned Victor!

Very Respectfully

Budman Redmond

WW Society CINC

YGBSM

FILO

Fallen Wild Weasels

[John E. Barrow, WW #691](#), Pilot, F-4C, 15 Mar 2011

[Robert E. "Frank" Chaney, WW #880](#), EWO, 07 Apr 2016

[Harold C. "Hal" Clinger, WW #672](#), Pilot, F-105F, 21 Jul 2017

[Jerome M. "K+11" Kwiatkowski, WW #735](#), Weasel Keeper, 01 Dec 2018

[Basilio "Basil" Kypuros, Jr., WW #632](#), EWO, 04 Apr 2017

[Blake Morrison, WW #1332](#), Pilot, F-105, 24 Oct 2009

[James G. "Jim" Violette, WW #400](#), EWO, F-105F, F-4C, 08 Jul 2022

[James A. "Jim" Whitmore, WW #1337](#), EWO, F-105G, 22 Sep 2022

[Russell G. "Russ" Wright, WW #1522](#), Pilot, F-105G, 26 Sep 2022

Our Condolences to their families, friends, and brothers in arms. Hand Salute! Rest in Peace!

L.A. Bud

Membership Update

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Eric "Peewee" Fick, WW #2861, F-35 Program Element Officer

William Glojek, WW #2859, USAFA CS-35 Air Office Commanding

Gary "Shooter" Kurdys, WW #2860, Pilot, F-16 CJ, 14TFS, F-16FWS, 85TES, 113FS, 149FS

Kevin "Dubs" Lord, WW #2857, Pilot, F-16 and 20 FW OG

Christopher "Saint" Pauley, WW #2858, Pilot, F-16CM

Surviving Family Members

We welcome the following new member:

Russell Van Driel, WW #138

Beth Miklos, WW #294

If you know of family members who qualify, have them contact us at:

LABudF4G@gmail.com

L.A. Bud

Victor goes into the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame!

On 1 November 2022, Victor will be inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum of New Jersey. This will take place at the 47th Hall of Fame Induction Dinner in Woodbridge, NJ.

The write up reads:

Lt. Col. Edward Ballanco

“Edward was essential in implementing the “Wild Weasel” program during Desert Storm. In addition to combat mission planning, Lt. Col. Ballanco flew 18 F-4G Wild Weasel combat missions, employing the AGM-88 High Speed Anti-Radiation Missile (HARM). Lt. Col. Ballanco served as the Chief Officer of the Society of Wild Weasels, a Non-Profit military fraternal organization.’

Editor’s Note: Superb in Combat operations, brilliant in designing and testing the F-4G and instrumental in early F-16 Weasel tactics, Victor has been a great WW Society CINC and a tireless CINC Emeritus! Our biggest salute as you undergo this great honor!

Link to the New Jersey Hall of Fame: [The Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum of NJ – Passion, Dreams and the History of Aviation! \(njahof.org\)](http://njahof.org)

Wild Weasel Society Happenings

50th Anniversary of Linebackers 1 & 2

In honor of the courage and skills of the Wild Weasels during this time we will be having a zoom call on 18 December hosted by Abu and me. What we are looking for is people that flew in one or both and have a story they would like to impart. Please contact me at WildWeaselReports@gmail.com or Budmanrocketsnow@gmail.com so we can set you up. If we get enough stories, we will go to the active duty squadrons to invite their participation. Part of my combat experience was based on what I learned from Weasel Vietnam Veterans, and we would love to impart those stories. See our synopsis on Linebackers 1 & 2 below.

We will send the zoom link by NOTAM and for those that haven't worked with Zoom we will have a practice on the day before so everybody can attend.

Liaison Officers

Mike "Kad" Kadlubowski—35 Cadet Squadron AF Academy

As our Academy liaison Mike "Kad" Kadlubowski met with Major William "Jack" Glojek, the 35th Cadet Squadron (CS) Air Officer Commanding (AOC), and gave the Weasel Briefing to 35 CS in October. For his ongoing outstanding support in promoting the Wild Weasel heritage at USAFA, Maj Glojek is an honorary Wild Weasel Society member.



35 Cadet Squadron, Major Glojek and Kad standing tall!

Pete “Pistol” Morelli—Spangdahlem AB

Has made contact with Spandahlem and attended the interview with the Wing Commander in this quarter’s edition. He has also attended roll calls and is working on any needs the squadron may have.

Bill “Thunder” Thornton—Tyndall AFB (New F-35 Ops Wing)

Has made contact with the new Wing CC and is working on their needs.

Jim “Uke” Uken—Luke AFB

Uke has reached out to both the new Wing CC and OG and is setting up times for the Wild Weasel Briefs

We are looking for liaisons at Nellis AFB (Weapons Schools), Hill AFB, and other F-16 and F-35 units. A big Word from Willie thank you to our liaison officers! You represent our best.

Our newest intern:

Michael McLawhorn is a Senior in High School whose grandfather was a Wild Weasel. Michael has recommended changes to the Museum, studied the Principles of War as a project, attended the interview with Col (Ret) JohnBoy Walton and is reading up on Linebackers 1 & 2. Hats off to Michael for being a great intern!

Intern Programs – accepting applications at WildWeaselReports@gmail.com now

What we are looking for: High School Juniors or Seniors who are thinking about a military academy or military focused ROTC program or any college student that has an interest in this area and could benefit from an unpaid internship recommendation. All positions work remotely. We would provide a 6–12-month internship aimed at 2.5 hours per week working on key areas of our program and supporting our veterans.

Academy Prisoner of War Memorial Ceremony

The AFA 35 Cadet Squadron reached out to their Wild Weasel Society Liaison Mike “Kad” Kadlubowski for a speaker for their 12 September POW Memorial Ceremony. Working with the Society and POW organizations through Tom Hanton and others, Kad enlisted the support of Brig Gen (Ret) Curt Emery II whose pictures officiating the ceremony are below. The speech which included a tribute to our POWs and what it means to him as an American Airmen was met with great praise. He also remembered those who lost their life in 9/11 and those who died protecting freedom since that day and we thank him for sharing the Wild Weasel ethos throughout the Academy.

A Word from Willie special thanks to Brig Gen (Ret) Curt Emery!



Interview with Col “Toro” Hauck, 52nd Wing CC



Editor's Note: Col. Leslie F. Hauck III (Toro) is the Commander of the 52nd Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany where he leads a wing that maintains, deploys, and employs the F-16 Fighting Falcon and other assets in support of NATO and U.S. This wing supports Europe with personnel and systems providing expeditionary air power for suppression of enemy air defenses, counter air, air interdiction, and close-air support. He is a career F-16 pilot with over 2,400 hours in the F-16, including 285 combat hours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Noble Eagle.

- *Tell us a little about your background.*

My first flight in an operational F-16 squadron was at Cannon AFB in 2001, flying Block 30 Vipers. Then I transitioned about a year and a half later to Block 50s, as our Block 30s went to the New Mexico National Guard, and we got a squadron from Shaw. I am happy today to have grown up flying SEAD, although A LOT has changed since then with tactics and capability. I bounced between Luke Air Force Base and Korea for the first part of my career, serving at both Osan, Yongsan, and Kunsan, until somehow after Air War College, while sitting in the Pentagon in the A3, I got a call that I'd been picked up for O-6 and was headed to Ramstein. What?! I'm incredibly "lucky" to have been sent to Aviano for two years prior to my current assignment, serving as the Operations Group

Commander. And now to be at Spangdahlem...sometimes you just have to wait 20 years to get to Europe. Let me tell you, it just keeps getting better!

- *How did you train the Wing for such diversity of mission?*

The only way to train for such a broad spectrum of missions is through flying the F-16 and understanding the complexity of each mission. People ask me what I think of other aircraft and what they do. Although they each have their great attributes, to be honest I don't think there is another aircraft out there that can accomplish as many roles as the F-16, including the Wild Weasel mission. There are a couple of other aircraft that could get close. For example, the Strike Eagle does a lot, but not the Wild Weasel mission, and for sure the F-35 is highly capable of SEAD, it still doesn't have the "Great White Hope" AGM-88! The great thing for the F-16 is the challenge, still to this day—as you do it all yourself, without quite the computing power of the F-35, or with the Weapons Systems Officer of the F-15E. I love it that way! If you look at the Strike Eagle you've got a guy in the back seat that's helping you on your way. If you've got an F-35, you've got a jet that does a lot of that decision making for you. So, bottom line; to get Wild Weasel team ready we have to train hard and understand each mission.

The investment we put into the F-16 to keep it a significant player consistent with 5th Gen aircraft like the F-35 is impressive. I saw a lot more of this when I was an Ops Group commander because we go to the Air Combat Command Realistic Training Review Board each year, and I saw ACC's synchronization between all involved. I got to see the team there working across-the-board with all directorates and Headquarters Air Force--to ensure we looked to the future capabilities and weapons. I was happy to also see how the Systems Program Office (SPO) and everyone else did a great job keeping us relevant beyond 2040. I'm certainly happy to see that because I love flying the F-16. Now, if I'm flying it then, that will be something...but I'm certainly happy to have been flying the Viper for now over 22 years!

As I mentioned HAF also helping further capabilities, I'll give a plug to a friend of mine and the Ops Group commander I replaced at Aviano, Col Cowboy Nelson. There have been impressive programming efforts from him at the Pentagon in A8, to help keep the F-16 relevant. Knowing the cost of the F-35, it's important to think how we can use 4th Gen aircraft to compliment 5th Gen—whether that be with weapons delivery capability, or with additional coverage. One of the upgrades we are getting in the F-16—and we are the first USAF Active-Duty F-16 base getting them—is upgrading the radar on the F-16 and replacing "round dials" with Center Data Units. These are akin to iPads, or oversized Multifunctional Displays (MFDs). We're looking at Electronic Warfare futures and other things. It's great to see the Viper staying ready for the future fight.

Part of that is the radar upgrade I mentioned. The Scalable Agile Beam Radar (SABR) upgrade (APG-83) is incredible. I flew the first sortie for our base with the APG-83 and it was awesome. Great to see what the F-16 will better contribute to things like cruise missile defense or any type of low observable platform detection. Anyone watching the news knows the threat is clearly there.

- *You are a great representative of the Wild Weasel heritage as part of your leadership ethos. Tell us about your command philosophy.*

The communication part at the base across all levels is hugely important. The words “Mission. Airmen. Community.” are what our Airmen, Families, and Host Nation visitors see when driving onto the base. Breaking down what that means is important. I just finished a morning briefing, defining lines of effort under each one of them and communicating what they mean to my leaders. Under mission, we talk about deterrence, defending the base, and then dominance—three big words. The purpose is to go in depth on each of those for everyone to hear and understand the philosophy. Then I work to ensure the group commanders, squadron commanders, and even frontline supervisors know what they mean. At that point we’re effectively communicating to the Airmen and the families what it is we’re doing here.

Two or three years ago we heard that the 480th, as part of a 10,000+ US Servicemen redux--would be leaving Germany. That was a shock to the Eifel, and the base. Fortunately, that was placed on hold—not just for the Community, but importantly for the strategic posture in Europe. What would we have done in response to recent crises such as Operations Allies Refuge and the current Ukrainian crisis? These have significantly changed the strategic dynamic in the region, and I would presume it’s made people realize it’s important to have a blunt force forward, and have a base that’s ready to accept forces like the F-35 in less than 96 hours.

All that is important to realize—for the Airmen, dependents...the Community. My leadership philosophy is to emphasize the importance of why we are here and emphasizing what we do that contributes to integrated deterrence. It could be the wing at Spangdahlem or our geographical separated units where we’ve got 4 munition squadrons out in 4 NATO countries, or our Operations Group detachment, in Poland and who are currently hosting F-22 Raptors.

You’ve got to tell the story; tell them the picture that I see at my level. Emphasizing that everyone is important to the mission and explaining to them and the families the rationale of why things change, why certain decisions are made, and why they may be going to a different region. I think a Commander has to be

tireless in this approach because our Airmen at all levels are smart and want to know how they contribute.

- *What does YGBSM and FILO “first in; last out” mean to you?*

We say “Seek. Attack. Destroy.” around here, as that’s on our patch. When I’m in a meeting where there is more than 10 people I’ll say “Seek!” My Command Chief will say “Attack!” And collectively everyone in the room will say “Destroy!” We may not be “destroying” in SEAD, we may be just trying to disrupt, but we’re there to protect every other aircraft or unmanned asset. Let’s be first in so we’re ready to protect. Let’s be the last out so they stay protected. It’s what we do. That is the Weasel ethos and we are proud of that. Of course, I have the YGBSM and FILO saying in my hip pocket for use “on the fly!”

I was talking to newcomers this morning and told them to go to our air park. Go look at the POW/MIA memorial that talks about the Wild Weasel mission and the F-4s lost in Vietnam, largely in the ‘70s. Or go look out there at the F-4 and F-105 and read the story of those aircraft and the heroes that flew them—learn of the stories about Airmen and those who have gone before us, and what they did to save other Airmen. If I can impart our heritage, I feel it will go a long way toward building a warrior ethos and team that results in full-up mission capability that will stand the test of time.

- *What is the mission interplay with NATO and the Allies as the only SEAD asset assigned to NATO?*

We work with NATO partners doing exercises when we go up to Leeuwarden Air Base, and sometimes fly in the Dutch airspace. Lakenheath often joins us with their F-35s, which is now another SEAD capable platform in the region, and F-15Es. And they come here, too. This demonstrates we’re ready. We train all the time using the Polygon range, alongside NATO partners. We’ll stay strong and optimally train and communicate with NATO and our other teammates.

We continue to use their training systems that we wouldn’t have done in the past. The F-35 pilots who were stationed here TDY from Hill Air Force Base and from Vermont Air National Guard were able to do simulators with the Dutch. Integration is at a different level today. Their SEAD mission is an example of NATO strength, and we’re still doing exercises. NATO is doing Shield missions and then Assure missions. At first, we were flying a lot just letting our adversary know we remain present in our NATO countries off to the east, but now we’re doing more training sorties with our partners. In addition, because of the Ukraine situation we have greatly improved the technology available for secure communications and joint—and coalition— airborne, all-domain command and control, with NATO forces.

- *Tell us about your command.*

This is an amazing base and the 480th Fighter Squadron, the Warhawks, are an amazing squadron. They—along with their Fighter Generation Squadron, and our mission support Airmen—were among the initial responders to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as they headed to Romania to support enhanced air policing in the eastern region and to ensure defense of NATO and further deter Russia. Last January, we pushed the FGS out as fast as we could. Meanwhile, within about 96 hours we received the Hill AFB F-35s to Spangdahlem. We were ready and we still are. We are letting the world know that Article 5 [defense of NATO countries] is a real thing, and we stand ready. We continue to increase our communication with our regional and NATO partners because we are united and understand that there is a threat out there ready to do harm.

- *What have we missed that you want to tell us?*

Over the past five years I discovered that I love living in Europe. I've done triathlons and the biking is fantastic here and throughout Europe. It's great to go out and enjoy where you are even as you look at some of the practical things that aren't easy about living over here. It's important to remind myself of all the things that do exist that make this assignment the best on Earth. The people in Spangdahlem and those around us—the Community, both on- and off-base—are incredible. Our Airmen are incredible. There will always be challenges, but when you are down and in, and see our Airmen, you don't worry about figuring out how to win, if we're called upon. They have drive, are energetic, and are innovative.

Getting back to the “why” of things, I am reminding myself to go home and tell my 14- and 17-year-old kids, my family, what they are supporting being overseas. Again, it's incredible and I'm just blessed with the opportunity.

Ensuring NATO is ready against Russian aggression is a mission for the ages! Thank you, Col Toro, for ensuring our Airmen are ready for anything! WfW salutes you and your Command!

20 Fighter Wing Operations Update

Editor's Note: Fighter Squadrons are about as busy as possible and while deployed have seen multiple combat operations. Nowhere is this truer than the men and women of the 20th Fighter Wing! WfW salutes their skill and courage and the time they spend away from their families to keep us safe!

55 Fighter Squadron Shooters

The Shooters have been very busy deploying to three different locations from Oct 2021 through September 2022. Here are some highlights below:

Shooters deployed 18x F-16s to execute every mission-set of the F-16 during deployed operations, including Close Air Support, Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses, and Defensive Counter Air.

- During the course of the deployment, the Shooters executed simultaneous support of 3 Areas of Responsibilities, and flew 2084 sorties totaling 9482.3 hours.
- The Shooters dropped 141 bombs during the course of the deployment.
- In January the 55th planned, lead and executed a base defense exercise at Muwaffaq Salti Air Base (MSAB). The intent of the exercise to develop, test and certify base defense TTP's against current and future UAS threats in the AFCENT AOR.
- In January Weasel flight shot down a Mohajer-6 with AIM-9X which had operated outside the Restricted Operating Zone and posed a credible threat to coalition forces.
- In February a Weasel four-ship supported a President of the United States Directed Capture Kill operation of the leader of the Islamic State. This was the first time that F-16s had ever carried the AGM-158 in combat.
- In February a Weasel two ship flight dropped 4 GBU-31v3s against Islamic State.

In addition, we worked directly with coalition forces in various nations such as:

- The 55th planned, led and executed exercise Red Sands in Saudi Arabia.

The exercise was a counter UAS mission set with Israel, Egypt, Jordan, US and Saudi

Arabian forces over the Red Sea. The exercise also supported the CFACC's third priority of partner nation integration.

- The 55th sent 2xF-16s to participate in Tuskegee Shield 22.3 in Egypt. The intent of the exercise was to requalify 19 Egyptian F-16 pilots in air to air refueling
- The 55th sent 2xF-16 to participate in Tuskegee Shield 22.4 in Israel. The focus of the exercise DCA against simulated cruise missiles.
- The 55th sent a detachment of 6xF-16s Pakistan for a partner nation integration exercise driven by the CFACC. The detachment executed 28

sorties conducting Escort and SEAD missions sets. This was the first time that US forces had ever conducted an exercise at Mushaf AB and we developed joint tactics.

- On 6-28 March the 55th participated in Operation Agile Spartan. The intent of this operation was 24/7 DCA coverage provided entirely by the 55th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron.
- The 55th planned, led and executed exercise Yellow Sands in Jordan. The exercise was a tri-lateral counter UAS mission with 3 countries.

77th Fighter Squadron Gamblers

Double Down from Shaw AFB and the “World’s Greatest”, the 77th Fighter Squadron. It has been an incredible summer as the Gamblers have been preparing for the Initial Response Force (IRF). While it has been a lot of hard work; there has been some time for fun as well.



The Gambler Family

The 77th Fighter Squadron appreciates and respects our legacy as Fighter Pilots and as Wild Weasels. For the Shaw Air Force Base Air & Space Expo, the Gamblers hosted the Desert Storm Reunion where 100+ USAF Desert Storm Veterans enjoyed the air show from “Sweet Floyd’s” (77 FS Bar) and shared their experiences flying the F-4G and F-16 in the first Gulf War with our younger pilots...while our younger pilots shared the “new way” we execute to the Wild Weasel mission in the F-16. It was a fantastic event...topped off with the ACC Air Dominance Demonstration...led by the 77 FS.



Gamblers host the Desert Storm Reunion



Capt “Tank” Martin flares after his bomb run during the ACC Air Power Demonstration

The Gamblers started Initial Response Force (IRF) preparation in May of 2022 at Tyndall AFB by participating in Weapons Systems Evaluation Program (WSEP) and Exercise Checkered Flag (CKF). These are the Air Combat Command’s premier exercises for combat units to prepare for IRF. For WSEP, the Gamblers fired 12 live AIM-9 and AIM-120 missiles and shot over 6,000 rounds of 20mm against air targets to validate and test the F-16 systems in combat scenarios. Additionally, the 77 FS executed Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO), integrating 4th and 5th generation fighters from joint services and multi-nations against a near-peer adversary in Defensive Counter Air (DCA). While it is incredible to watch the 5th gen fighters execute against that threat...the 4th gen F-16’s from the 77 FS proved reliable and lethal as ever. “4th Gen for life...”...

After WSEP and CKF, the Gamblers sent 6 jets to Nellis AFB on an Agile Combat Employment (ACE) TDY that directly supported the A-10 in their Weapon School

Close Air Support integration phase. Multiple bombs dropped, rockets shot, bullets strafed, and beers drank...



1Lt "Reflex" Brooks steps to his 4xGBU-12's

Led by Maj "Slam" Morris, the Gamblers also nailed the Atlanta Braves Flyover...



#1 Maj “Slam” Morris, #2 Capt “Ringo” Johnson, #3 Capt “The Wizard” Williams, #4 Capt “Morty” Testerman, and Maj “Gru” Cruz calling in timing as the ground party

The USAF is adapting to our threat and environment by evolving the way we present combat air power to the combatant commanders: through Agile Combat Employment (ACE). The 77th Fighter Squadron executed an Agile Flag exercise that tested and certified the USAF’s first “Lead Wing” while maneuvering combat power to complicate our enemies targeting, improve asset survivability, and put weapons on target. The Gamblers hopped from airfield to airfield, forward operating site and contingency location, executed Forward Arming Refueling (FARP) behind an Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) MC-130, received gas, bombs, and struck their targets.



77 FGS prepares to FARP at a contingency location



Maj "RIP" Rule gets gas and bombs behind AFSOC MC-130

The 77th Fighter Squadron is entering the fall ready for the IRF. The Gamblers are ready to deploy and support our Combatant Commanders anywhere in the world. The Weasel Culture is still alive and well...ready to provide combat ready professionals anywhere, anytime.

DOUBLE DOWN!



World's Greatest... "All Aces, No Jokers"

79th Fighter Squadron Tigers

ROAR! The 79th Fighter Squadron has been hard at work since our March newsletter update. As the first Shaw squadron designated to be on the Immediate Response Force (IRF), we spent the winter preparing for a no-notice deployment, anywhere in the world. With dynamic world events and no clear tasking, we executed mission F-16: SEAD, DCA, CAS, Escort, etc. In May we were notified of an AEF deployment to CENTCOM in support of Operation Inherent Resolve for the July-October timeframe.



Two months into the deployment and the Tigers are striking fear into the heart of the enemy. Largely tasked with DCA and XCAS, Tigers are keeping U.S., coalition, and allied forces on the ground safe from ground and air threats. *One of the highlights of our time so far was the Northern-Syria strike ordered by POTUS against a weapons depot operated by IAMG actors. With Weasel-standard precision and discipline, 100% of targets were destroyed and 0 SAMs interfered with achieving CFACC's intent.* Looking forward to seeing what other opportunities this deployment provides to represent the Wild Weasels and project combat airpower!

Wild Weasel Website Update

We have added a medical update section and are in the process of adding a store for our members. The medical section provides the latest on studies and legislation as well as links to key medical places. The store allows you to purchase Wild Weasel apparel and other things with the Weasels getting a modest 5-10% of sales.

Wild Weasel History Update

Here is a rough history of the Linebackers

Linebacker 1

Linebacker 1 lasted from May through October 1972. American aircraft attacked targets like airfields, power plants, and radio stations which disrupted the flow of supplies and reinforcements to the units fighting in the South. Laser-guided bombs proved effective, especially against bridges, severing the bridge at Thanh Hoa, which had survived Rolling Thunder, and the highway and railroad bridges over the Red River at Hanoi. However, the enemy made use of alternate methods of crossing the streams, usually traveling at night on ferries or movable pontoon bridges. Electronic jamming as in Rolling Thunder confused the radars controlling the surface-to-air missiles and antiaircraft guns. Nixon's use of air power to disrupt supply lines and kill the enemy on the battlefield stopped the offensive and helped drive the enemy back a short distance without a reintroduction of the ground forces he had withdrawn from the South. In fact, the last combat troops of the U.S. Army departed in August 1972 while the South Vietnamese were counterattacking. Only 43,000 American airmen and support personnel remained. Linebacker I, as it came to be known, marked the world's first widespread deployment of precision-guided weapons, high-tech electronic warfare and air defense suppression (the Wild Weasels).

The Wild Weasels were busy from Day 1 of Linebacker 1. "On the morning of 10 May, the initial strike of the new bombing campaign occurred under the designation 'Rolling Thunder Alpha'; the name 'Linebacker' had not yet reached field units. Thirty-two F-4s from Thai bases attacked one of Rolling Thunder's most frequently bombed targets, Hanoi's Paul Doumer Bridge. They also struck the city's Yen Vien Railroad Yard. Pilots dropped twenty-nine laser- and electro-optically guided 'smart' bombs on the bridge and eighty-four conventional bombs on the marshaling yard, heavily damaging both targets. F-105Gs of the 17 WWS, 388 TFW, and the 561 TFS on temporary duty at Korat RTAFB, Thailand, continued Iron Hand SAM and AAA suppression missions. In support of these attacks, "The first day of the 'Linebacker' campaign... saw the heaviest day's fighting in the air over North Vietnam. The North Vietnamese Air Force rose to the challenge and did its utmost to stop the American aircraft bombing their country. During the day a whole series of air battles developed close to Hanoi and Haiphong."

Linebacker 2

After a 72-hour ultimatum, which had no response, President Nixon ordered Operation Linebacker 2, which took place between the 18th and 29th of December, 1972, when the Americans bombed Hanoi and other targets in North Vietnam. In fact, around 700 B-52 sorties attacked the military and industrial centers around Haiphong and Hanoi. This campaign focused mainly on high

altitude radar bombing, especially at night by B-52s with massive waves of attacks with 4-5 [minute] intervals. Actually, Linebacker 2 was an altered extension of the Linebacker bombings that took place earlier, from April to October.

In terms of the tactics employed in these two campaigns, the American aircraft attacked strategic targets like power plants, airfields, and radio stations, which disrupted the supplies and reinforcement to the units that were fighting in South Vietnam. These bombs (laser-guided) were very effective, severing the bridge at Thanh Hoa . The North Vietnamese made use of different tactics to cross the streams, usually moving at night with ferries or even with movable bridges.

Wild Weasels in Linebacker 1 & 2

Since the end of Rolling Thunder in 1968, the North Vietnamese had developed their fighter forces and created an integrated defense system of mutually supporting early warning radar, AAA and SAM sites. By 1972 the North Vietnamese had more than 200 SA-2 launchers, extending their coverage into parts of South Vietnam. To assist the 17th Wild Weasel Squadron, the USAF sent over part of the F-105G-equipped 561st Tactical Fighter Squadron -- together they totaled 28 F-105 Wild Weasel aircraft. In addition, the USAF introduced the F-4C Wild Weasel IV to combat during Linebacker II.

During the campaign Weasels would fly numerous missions to Hanoi and Haiphong and in September we lost the last three Weasels of the Vietnam war. On 17 September 1972, while escorting a strike force en route to a strategic target near Hanoi, North Vietnam, Captain Zorn and Lt Turose repeatedly exposed themselves to enemy anti-aircraft defenses to draw fire away from the main force. From Capt Zorn's Silver Star citation, "His courageous and aggressive attacks on two key surface-to-air missile sites enabled the American Forces to penetrate the target area defenses, successfully complete their mission and safely withdraw. They were hit by a SAM after attacking a Fansong radar in North Vietnam." Capt Thomas O'Neal "Zoomer" Zorn, Jr., 17 WWS pilot was KIA. 1Lt Michael Stephen Turose, 17 WWS EWO ejected but was KIA. Lt.Col. James W. O'Neil was the pilot and Capt. Michael J. Bosiljevac the EWO of an F105G jet fighter which was shot down by a Soviet SAM (Surface-to-Air Missile) on September 29, 1972 while attacking a Fan Song Radar. :Both Bosiljevac and O'Neil ejected successfully, and landed 23 miles southwest of Hanoi. A rescue attempt was unsuccessful. Radio Hanoi/Moscow/Cuba reported the capture of both "pilots" alive on 29 September 1972. O'Neil was subsequently transferred to Hoa Lo (the "Hanoi Hilton") and repatriated March 29, 1973

One F-4C Wild Weasel unit, the 67th TFS at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, sent six F-4C Wild Weasels to Korat, Thailand, in September 1972. Used in southern North Vietnam during Linebacker, the F-4C Wild Weasel aircrews effectively

supported strikes around Hanoi during Linebacker II, flying 460 sorties in Southeast Asia without loss. Even so, the Wild Weasels, along with other anti-SAM measures, kept SA-2 losses relatively low, without any losses to themselves. In 1972, the year of Linebacker and Linebacker II, the North Vietnamese fired over 4,000 SA-2s -- nearly half the total they fired during the entire war -- shooting down 49 U.S. aircraft (meaning it took over 80 SA-2s to down one aircraft).

Bearly Larry

Frank Alfter

SoWW Historians

Keeping up with M&M and KJ from the 35 Cadet Squadron

Editor's note: We reached out to the former cadets who built the 35th Cadet Squadron Wild Weasel legacy room to check on their progress as 2nd Lieutenants. The following are their updates:

2nd Lt Kelly "KJ" Jackson

Things are going great! I just started Initial Flight Training on September 22nd (I attached a picture below of me in front of the plane we fly). I had a week of academics and a test before flying. I am now flying in the DA20 with an IP and am studying to hopefully complete my solo flight in the next week and a half, then we move onto doing some navigation sorties. My class graduation date is November 16th, and then I'll go back to Vance AFB and casual status until I start UPT. I do not have a UPT start date but am hoping for April at the earliest.



2nd Lt Mekenzie “M&M” Mercer

I'm currently at Shaw AFB flying in the backseat of the mighty F-16 at least once every week while awaiting pilot training. I've flown on 4 SEAD missions and am extremely excited to be in the Weasel mission.



A Word from Willie says "Go Get EM KJ and M&M"



Keep your coin handy! ROE is in effect!

Finance Status

As of 10/21/22:

Available balance - \$57,047.02

Dave Brog

Your Information

Here is your contact information that we have on file. If there are any errors, please go to [Home](#), select your name and update your information. If you are non current, you can pay your dues here also.

Name: Josh Redmond

Nickname:

Wild Weasel Number: 2801

Address: 58 Bedford Road

Newport News VA

23601

Phone:

Member Level: Honorary Membership

Member Status: Active

Member Renewal Date: Never

If you are unable to update your information, just reply to this message with your updated information and the membership team will update.

If you are Non Current you can regain currency by going to [Get Recurrent](#) and then paying your dues.



Help Us Look for Weasel Aircraft

Mike Hopf (WW # 1892) let *A Word from Willie* know that aircraft F-100F 232 is on display at the Pearl Harbor Museum and we want to know where other Weasel aircraft are on display. Please let us know as you find them at WildWeaselReports@gmail.com or through the Wild Weasel Board.

Upcoming Events

ZOOM call December 18th in honor of 50th Anniversary of Linebackers 1 and 2 and the Wild Weasels from those missions will tell their stories (link to follow by NOTAM)

Dedication of the A-1H Skyraider at the National Museum of the AF at Dayton 18 November

<https://skyraider.org/skyassn/NMUSAF1H/A1Hded.htm>

Contact-- arnharmon4@yahoo.com

The last active duty Skyraider was Gen (Ret) Lance Smith who recently stated "I hope some of the Wild Weasels make it because their support in rescue operations made a lot more of us come home."

Warhawk Nation Reunion (has not been rescheduled as of this time), POC Pete Zimowski reunion, (petezimo@me.com)

Warhawk website: