

A Word from Willie

Society of Wild Weasels Newsletter

August 2023



CINWW's Corner

Fellow Weasels,

In the August edition we have interviews with Lt Gen (Ret) Sam Angelella whose history is the history of the Viper as a Wild Weasel and Lt Gen (Ret) Peewee Fick whose tenure as the F-35 PEO and Deputy were instrumental in its development. We have a lot going on with the 11-14 October unveiling of the River Rats Museum (see below for links) and its Wild Weasel displays to our own reunion in April 2024 at Eglin.

We are almost done moving the Website from its current Society of Wild Weasels web page to the new one and we need each member to check in and ensure you have access. We believe not only will it save us money, but it is new and improved and we list some of the capability in an update below. Look for a NOTAM this week for you to migrate to the new site.

Some shoutouts to Dave “Perm-Dog” Perme for running the September Fighting Hawk reunion. Please see the update below and we have added an annex for ease of information for everyone. A big shoutout to Uke and Muskrat McNeese for their work with Luke F-35 graduating classes. Bob Petit for his contributions to the River Rats Museum which opens Oct 11-14 in Bowling Green KY. Our newest liaison is Phil “Spot” Taber WW #2201 who is our Nellis representative. We appreciate his volunteering and look forward to his thoughts on Weapons School in the F-16 and F-35. Spot is still a teacher at both schools. A special thanks to Frank Alfter who has handled and worked closely with the Rats for the Wild Weasel section.

Lastly, this is a great time to think about those Warriors of today and what they are doing across the globe to keep us safe and secure. Thanks for all you do!

Very Respectfully

Budman Redmond
WW Society CINC
YGBSM
FILO

Fallen Wild Weasels

Jay N. Mitchell, WW #493, Pilot, F-105, 14 May 2013
Fredrick N. “Lefty” Frizzell, WW #296, Pilot, F-105F, 25 May 2023
James E. “Jim” Bradley, WW #520, EWO, F-105F, 21 Jul 2023

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:

Joshua “Giga” Goliber, WW #2872, Pilot, F-16CM

David Melton, WW #2873, Civilian

Jared “Roam” Aschenbrenner, WW #2874, Pilot, F-16CM

Kaylyn L. Sawyer, WW #2875, Civilian, Historian

L.A. Bud

Surviving Family Members

We welcome the following new member:

Beth Miklos, WW #294

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

LABudF4G@gmail.com

L.A. Bud

50th Anniversary of Freedom for Vietnam POWS



[Historic Reunion of American POWs from Vietnam - Celebrating 50 Years of Freedom - YouTube](#)

WfW salutes your honor, courage, and service to your country!

Wild Weasel Interviews

Interview with Lt Gen (Ret) Salvatore Angelella

Editor's Note: Lt Gen (Ret) Salvatore "Sam" Angelella was one of the first F-16 Weasel Wingman and went on to Command 3 Wings and US Forces in Japan and 5th Air Force. His story is a great history of the Viper in development, peacetime and combat! General Sam has always been a humble man whose leadership and smarts were cherished on the ground and in the air!



Sam and Marci on the last Fini Flight!

(1) Tell us a little bit about yourself?

After the Academy and pilot training I stayed on as a T-38 FAIP in Willie, Graduated Academy in 1981, ASTRA program, studies and analysis. I was able in my staff tours work on F-16 future growth capability, changes to the blocks as a member of the ASTRA program. I then went to MacDill AFB where I got my assignment drop. At the time Spang was not a popular choice because the rumor was you would not checkout as quickly as a flight lead or instructor. What I found was the exact opposite and leading mixed elements built an expertise that was unique and pay dividends in my later years. My Flight Commander Dale “Spike” Shoupe, Weapons Officer “Budman” Redmond, Sq CC Dave “MooMan” Moody and our first F-16 Weasel Weapons Officer Cal Tinkey had great programs for upgrade, tactical expertise and leadership. One of my early highlights was flying/leading in Proven Force which was responsible for the Northern Baghdad and Iraq radar threats during DESERT STORM.

I then went back to MacDill as an instructor for a short period of time. I was selected for ACSC and then SAASS.

(2) Tell us about the School of Advanced Airpower and Space School (SAASS) and what you learned?

I thoroughly enjoyed the school and wrote my thesis on George Kenney the first JFACC. That formed my strategic thought as I looked at his work and its effects on the WW II Pacific theater. I had a great class and instructors and want to call out some great people who really helped me such as classmates Bill Eliaison the editor for Joint Force Quarterly, Kevin Williams a fighter pilot friend and Phil Meillinger who was the Commandant. “Mobile” Holmes, “ET” Williams, and so many other friends and colleagues, you always run the risk of leaving someone out by naming names, so I apologize in advance. My thesis question was “did MacArthur trust Kenney” and my research said yes he did! Kenney was basically “The First JFACC.”

(2a) Tell us about some of the highlights of your other assignments.

- (1) I was the force structure programmer as a Major in the Pentagon where we worked with the requirements team to put things on the F-16.

- (2) Then I worked as the assistant exec for General Eberhart in the Pentagon when he was the XO, followed up as Aide de Camp at USFJ/5th Air force. He taught us all to listen to people, make decisions, take care of people, and stick with it.
- (3) From then I went to be 13th Fighter Squadron Ops Officer at Misawa with the Weasels flying Block 50s. Deployed to PSAB post-Desert Storm, Got some more combat and combat support hours. General Hal Hornburg was the CENTAF Commander and very engaged with the operations. I got to meet him a few times even on the flight line.
- (4) On to Class of 2000 at War College. Stayed in DC and was first in J8 Warfighting Analysis before I moved to be Studies Analysis and Gaming Division Chief in J-8. We had a Promotion Management Level Review going on in our spaces during 9-11 and I remember General Carlson saying to me while looking at the TVs, "Look how clear the sky is, there's something not right about this." Then it happened, we were on the opposite side of the building when the aircraft hit. You can read a lot about what people thought, but one thing for sure, after we evacuated, Secretary Rumsfeld was going to have us back in the building so the enemy knew we were coming back.
- (5) Of course, then we participated in planning for Afghanistan and Iraq. Went direct to the Desert to command the 332 Group, and eventually, wing where we flew combat support and combat sorties. Initially there we no F-16s at Al Jaber so I went to PSAB to keep current. I flew with Fingers Goldfein at PSAB in Block 52. Right before OIF I went back to Shaw to be 20 FW CC, where we immediately deployed some squadrons to OIF.
- (6) I loved the nonstop operations experience. Never would have succeeded without the support of the Senior Enlisted, Group and Sq Cdrs, and DoD Civilians. Went to SHAPE and worked for General Jones as Exec and then on to 35 CC Misawa. Loved being back at Misawa with all the heritage from George AFB and WW on the tail.
- (7) After Misawa I was deputy J-5 at PACOM. Two-year stint before moving back to the Pentagon to be the Joint Staff Deputy J-5. Lots of warplans and planning experience and let's leave it at that. Best day was when I was called into the director's office and he told me that I was going to be nominated to be the 5th AF and USFJ commander, and that meant I was going to get checked out in the Block 50 F-16s and fly again at Misawa!

(3) What are your Leadership lessons learned?

All the leaders I worked for shaped my decision making and style, very early as an Aide studying how he made decisions. Command Philosophy was listened to the

people around you. Empower them so they will share ground truth with you and provide ideas on meeting challenges. Ensure that existing development organizations know you have their back such as the Top 3, the Shirt and the Chiefs who will always be great teammates if you build trust, listen and act on their initiatives. I always believed that by allowing decision-making at the lowest level you could build leaders daily. In the Joint arena as a Commander, it is very different from a Numbered Air Force but I believe that wherever the leadership challenge is Airmen should embrace it and lead across their area of responsibility. Never forget at the end of the day you are the one responsible, trust your instincts. Always understand that in combat you don't have the luxury to make mistakes but preparing people to make the right decisions is what peacetime training is all about.

(4) You are the Chairman of the Air Warrior Courage Foundation. Please tell us how you work with the Foundation to support Veterans?

Talking about Support that the Community has for Veterans. I am extremely happy about it. They asked me to join them a few years and it is about Airman in all the services. College Grants, taking care of Airmen, Therapeutic Horse Riding all supported by the foundation. We are very proud to say that over 95% of the money that comes in goes out to people. I want to give a shout out to Col (ret) Dave Brog is our treasurer and Jerry Knotts is our financial wizard and both are key members of the Weasels Board. They are keepers! Again, lots of mentors from General Dugan and General Hailston, I just can't list them all.

(5) What did I miss?

Families and Spouses never get the credit that they deserve. My wife Marci has been tops for our family and many times pulled double duty due to deployments and such. All my family is amazing, and they moved to support our career many times when it wasn't good for them. I will never forget when General Hester called me, "I know you have a senior in High School, I have taken care of them so they can finish High School." My kids will tell you they are more worldly, socially adept because of their moves. My daughter is a music instructor, my son is a college administrator and math teacher. I can't help but be proud of the Airmen's families I have been lucky enough to Command and I could never do enough to pay them back.



General "Sam" and Marci on the flightline and enjoying retirement at home in Florida!!

Roof Stomping is on the menu!

Word from Willie salutes Lt Gen "Sam" Angelella (Wild Weasel #2561) for his leadership and courage under fire!

Link to Sam's SAASS Paper (well worth reading):

[A Prototype JFACC: General George C. Kenney \(dtic.mil\)](#)

Interview with Lt Gen (Ret) Eric "Peewee" Fick WW # 2861

Editor's Note: Lt Gen (Ret) "Peewee" Fick served as the PEO and Deputy PEO for the F-35 for 5 years. He brought a reorganization, a belief that rapid acquisition is a must for the future and a culture of team building to that organization. His challenges in building, delivering and testing this fighter were tremendous but like your Editor he is a believer in the F-35 capabilities. As WW # 2861 we salute his leadership in delivering this great fighter to the United States Air Force, the United States Marine

Corps, the United States Navy, and to 7 F-35 Partner Nations and 7 additional Foreign Military Sales Customers!



(1) Tell us about your career

I was commissioned in the Spring of 1990 from the University of Notre Dame and as an Aerospace Engineer and reported to Hill AFB for my first assignment as a Logistics Plans and Programs Officer later that Fall. After transitioning into and serving as a F-16 Mechanical Systems Engineer at Hill AFB, I was selected to attend AFIT for a Masters in Aeronautical Engineering. I served as a Computational Aerodynamics and Flight Test Engineer in AFRL, and was then selected to attend the USAF Test Pilot School as a Flight Test Engineer. After graduation, I moved to Eglin AFB, where I worked on Air-to-Ground and then Air-to-Air weapons, gaining an appreciation for flight test and its connection to the warfighter's needs and how we can satisfy them most rapidly through collaborative Surge or Quick Reaction Capability processes. I was fortunate to be selected for Air Command and Staff College, where for the first time I really came to understand what it meant to be blue and to understand airpower employment. ACSC was a great awakening for me because it helped me think more strategic about aircraft, systems and weapons development and my role in those.

After ACSC, I moved to the Pentagon to work for the Weapons PEO and worked to stand up the Weapons Division in SAF/AQ's Global Power Directorate. I then moved to the SAF/LL's Senate Liaison Office where I got to see firsthand Congress's role in acquisition. I followed that DC sprint with a move to Eglin AFB, where I served as the

Ops Officer and then Commander of the 46th Test Squadron, conducting C4ISR test on a wide variety of platforms, including both physical and electronic systems. In that capacity, we were just learning how to do foundational Information Assurance testing, working our way through the DITSCAP and DIACAP regimes, which preceded the risk management framework (RMF). This was another seminal education in everything from logistics security through accreditation security procedures.

In 2008 I attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces – now called The Eisenhower School – and then moved into the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office for a 2-years rapid acquisition sprint. I was then selected for my first PEO position and served as PEO(ISR & SOF), leading a portfolio of acquisition programs including Predator, Reaper, Global Hawk, U-2, the Battlefield Airman portfolio, a multitude of airborne sensor programs, and the 645th Aeronautical Systems Group, also known as Big Safari. Big Safari was my third real experience with rapid acquisition...following my QRC work at Eglin and AFRCO work in the Pentagon. I then transitioned into the Fighter/Bomber PEO, leading the acquisition of all the Fs, Bs, and As except B-21 and F-35. After a short assignment as the Global Reach Capability Director (SAF/AQQ), I moved to the F-35 Joint Program Office, serving in the Front office for a total of over 5 years as first the Deputy PEO and then as the PEO. Looking back on my career...I found myself involved with just about every airbreathing part of the AF at the end.

(2) F-35 Experience

The Joint Program Office was a very interesting place and I am proud of what we accomplished during my tenure. Our transition into the Continuous Capability Development and Delivery paradigm – while not without its flaws – was an essential step in keeping the F-35 relevant through its life cycle. The first steps, including the development of the Technical Refresh 3 computational infrastructure on which these capabilities reside, were both exceedingly important and exceedingly challenging. I see the capability set enabled by this hardware – what we’ve been calling “the full Block 4 Capability suite” – is really only the first of a series of evolutions of this amazing fighter platform. This capability set really enhances the F-35 and makes it more lethal, more survivable...but more importantly, the C2D2 transition makes it easier to update – and therefore keep relevant – over time.

Modernization was an issue I knew I’d be working as the PEO...but we don’t always get to choose what issues we face in leadership positions. To that end, my tenure as PEO was marked by a couple of unexpected challenges...challenges that aren’t covered by Defense Acquisition University textbooks, but challenges that had measurable impact on the acquisition of the F-35.

As PEO I was given the mandate to extract Turkey from the F-35 Partnership and to identify replacement sources for the 1000+ different parts they provided for the system. Like all the partners on the program, Turkey was deeply linked to all aspects

of the program's governance and our development, production, and sustainment work, and held a voting position within the construct of the Production, Sustainment, and Follow-on Development Memorandum of Understanding and on our JSF Executive Steering Board. Their extraction from the program required extensive coordination with all the remaining partners and deliberate actions coordinated across myriad Federal offices. In resolving our supply chain issue, we worked closely with the Pentagon, Lockheed Martin, Pratt & Whitney, and others to select, develop, and qualify alternate sources so that F-35 production could continue at the rate required.

As an aside, I think this is a decent place to note that I was continually amazed by the high quality of the people our International Partners send to participate in the program. For them, an F-35 assignment was a prized career accomplishment and an indicator of greater things to come "back home." Almost to a person, these acquisition and operations professionals are the "rising stars" in each nation's Air Force or Navy. It was truly a pleasure working with them.

As it did with the rest of the country, COVID had a dramatic impact on our workforce. With little prior warning, we transitioned from "everyone in the office" on Friday to "no-one in the office" on Monday. The transition to virtual engagements in place of face-to-face engagements was "sand in the gears" of our work, but like most everyone else, we developed new skill sets and new tools and persevered. And did I mention COVID hit immediately after we instituted a reorganization into an organizational construct that would be more familiar to our workforce and to our customers? Why did we do this?

When I first entered the JPO in the Spring of 2017, I had a brief conversation with a Navy Captain working there. In passing, I commented to him that "it's good to finally understand how the Navy organizes its acquisition program offices and runs acquisition programs...this doesn't look anything like what we do in the Air Force." He immediately looked at me with terror in his eyes and said "...geez, Sir...I thought this was the way the Air Force does things...it's nothing like the way the Navy organizes either." That was the point at which I knew we needed to reconsider our organizational construct. Our Organizational Pivot, launched in Feb of 2020, was the beginning of this transformation. All told, it took about a year to 18 months for people to come up to speed, and the result is a construct in which everyone – internally and externally – can better understand their place and how to deliver for our warfighters. With empowered leaders at every level, this construct drives accountability and more closely matches the USAF, USN, and USMC paradigms for program leadership, involvement, and warfighter and sustainer engagement. This step – while painful – was required to transform the JPO into an organization that is much better positioned to deliver the hardware, software, and weapons changes our warfighters require on operationally relevant timelines.

A couple of other issues also stand out:

The F135 power module crisis ate our lunch for a long time, but we pulled together as a community and fixed it far faster than anyone initially projected. By way of background, early F-35 operations in desert environments revealed erosion of the coatings on our F135 turbine blades. In production we relatively quickly reverted to a coating process that was resistant to this erosion, but the aircraft in the fleet continued to suffer from CMAS erosion. Unfortunately, we had not yet established the engine overhaul capacity required to address this demand signal, so fleet readiness dropped. We worked hard with Pratt Whitney, the Oklahoma Air Logistics Complex, and our warfighters to execute a multi-pronged approach to ramp organic/domestic and global throughput. This was a major lift...in the early days, there was no “get to green” plan...with supply and demand curves diverging quickly. Working as a team, we accelerated the depo work and processes, attacked the return to green curve, and solved that problem. What a great effort...led by the USN Captain that took over our production program management office just as the crisis was breaking.

Bringing the Block 4 capability set to life with its new TR-3 hardware was an extraordinarily difficult task. We knew we needed to get better capability to the field, and that the legacy “SDD-like” process would never get it done. We needed to do something dramatically different and to apply a more modern approach to the problem set. Our initial transition to C2D2 was a little more aggressive than we could execute, but it taught us a lot about what is required to enable agility in a Defense acquisition program like the F-35. Agile development requires far more than writing software fast. It requires changes to the requirements process, the contracting process, the budgeting process, and to myriad administrative tools and processes that support what we deliver and how we deliver it. Importantly, it also requires changes to the Capability Verification process. As a PEO, I found myself increasingly frustrated by a couple of communities, including the Modeling & Simulation community – who fell asleep as soon as we discussed Test & Evaluation – as well as the Test & Evaluation community, who fell asleep as soon as we discussed Modeling & Simulation. To move more rapidly, we need both communities fully engaged – and engaged together – in the continuous verification of capabilities prior to delivery of these capabilities to our warfighters. Gone are the days in which all test points may be conducted in an open air environment (short of war); we needed to think about Capability Verification as a continuum from desktop computers & models to live conflict, including small- and large-scale steps – such as Pax River’s Joint Simulation Environment – in between.

(3) How did you work with the warfighter

I truly enjoyed working closely with the warfighter – and the warfighter’s representatives – during the execution of a number of Quick Reaction Capability (QRC) activities over the course of my career. Our ability to leverage the inherent flexibility in the Defense Acquisition System to compress acquisition timelines is key to these activities. Offices like Big Safari and the Rapid Capabilities Offices are other corners of the Enterprise where we teach this way of thinking. While some would

argue these offices need to be “normalized,” I would argue they should be celebrated, and that the innovation and partnerships they spawn – partnerships between acquirer, supplier, and warfighter – should be used as models for the broader acquisition community. Many of their approaches should serve as guideposts for more traditional acquisition programs. Ideally, rapid, responsive acquisition needs also to be thought of from the beginning, and newer programs like B-21 and NGAD are taking steps to make themselves responsive by design. By including open architecture requirements from the beginning, for instance, we enable more rapid responses to changes in the warfighting environment by design. Finally, a deep, trusting partnership with the warfighter is absolutely required...**and I'll note that the Wild Weasel itself is an example of this type of innovation and partnership.**

(4) Peewee's Principles of Rapid Acquisition.

I've built this list over the course of my career...they're the things I think of when I've seen acquisition done right.

(A) Establish stable requirements at the 80% level and deliver them as fast as possible. The other 20% can come later.

(B) Secure adequate and stable funding. If your program team is constantly working constantly to defend the program budget, they're not working the program

(C) Pick the right contractor and service providers. In most cases, you'll only get to do this once, so do it right.

(D) Start with the best acquisition professionals and warfighters you can find. They must be broadly experienced, aggressive, and big-picture thinkers. They must be “fire and forget” weapons in the defense acquisition domain. Trust is essential.

(E) Demand tailored acquisition processes (the 80% rule applies here too) and direct access to senior decision makers. You already have the best team available (see D above). They don't need to be second-guessed by a bunch of staff offices.

(F) Let. Them. Execute.

(5) What have I missed that you would like to add?

A few leadership traits I offer...

(A) Leaders share success and hold themselves accountable for failures

(B) Leaders must build a culture and climate where people want to come to work

(C) Leaders unlock their people – including all demographics and all career fields – and inspire them to execute, using their full passion and innovation

(D) Leaders must raise the level of their people...requiring we mentor, educate and provide feedback.

Finally, I feel truly blessed to have been a part of the F-35 program through a truly unprecedented series of national and global events. A program as large as the F-35 will always have challenges, but I'm proud of our accomplishments while I was there. Would I have liked to do more? Absolutely! Would I do some things differently if I

were to do it again? Likely so. If I am doing my math correctly, I think I am the longest-tenured member of the F-35 Executive Leadership Team...Chris Bogdan was PEO longer, but I think I've got him for overall time on the ELT! What a great way to end my AF career! It was incredible honor and a thrill to serve my nation, our warfighters, and our allied nations and warfighters in the construction of the Free World's Premier Fighter.

Word from Willie salutes Lt Gen (Ret) Eric "Pee-wee" Fick for dedication, professionalism and having the "right stuff" for the F-35!



Finance Status

As of 8/18/2023

Available balance - \$57, 247, 277

Dave Brog

Happenings

- Gathering of Hawks at Perm-Dog’s farm outside Philly 19-20 September. See Annex at the bottom of this WfW for all the data on when, where and who is going.
- River Rats Museum Grand Opening 11-15 Oct 2023, Bowling Green Ky which will be in conjunction with the River Rats Reunion.
 - *Let’s do a Wild Weasel breakfast for attendees on 15 Oct, just let me know at BudmanRocketsnow@gmail.com*
- Air Force Association with host their gathering from 11-14 Sept. The current President of the AFA Lt Gen (Ret) “Orville” Wright WW’1483 will moderate a panel:
 - **Global Threats and Opportunities**
 - Dr. Christopher Scolese, Director, National Reconnaissance Office
 - Lt. Gen. John D. Caine, Associate Director for Military Affairs, Central Intelligence Agency
 - Vice Adm. Frank Whitworth, Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
 - Maj. Gen. Gregory Gagnon, Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Intelligence, USSF
 - **Moderator:** Lt. Gen. Bruce "Orville" Wright, USAF (Ret.), President & CEO, AFA

Here are two panels on Electronic Combat:

- **Spectrum Renaissance**
 - Brig. Gen. Richard Goodman, Commander, 57th Wing
 - Col. Joshua Koslov, Commander, 350th Spectrum Warfare Wing
 - Joshua Niedzwiecki, Vice President and General Manager of Electronic Combat Solutions, BAE Systems
 - **Moderator:** Lt. Col. Henry Heren, USSF (Ret.)
- **Cross-Cutting Operational Enabler: Electronic Warfare**
 - Capt. Brian Hinkley, USN (Ret.), Vice President, Amentum
 - Mark Visco, Director of Mission Success, Ansys Government Initiatives
 - Joshua Niedzwiecki, Vice President and General Manager of Electronic Combat Solutions, BAE Systems
 - **Moderator:** Col. Joshua Koslov, Commander, 350th Spectrum Warfare Wing

[2023 Air, Space & Cyber Conference | Agenda | Air & Space Forces Association \(afa.org\)](#)

Next Issue

(1) Wild Weasel Operations Update and a big WfW welcome to Col Tuzel the new OG for Shaw AFB

(2) Interview with Lt Gen (Ret) “Orville” Wright and the Air Force Association

Wild Weasel Reunion 11-13 April 2014



Appreciate those who have already signed up for the 2024 Wild Weasel Reunion in Fort Walton Beach at the Island Resort Hotel, and we will be seeing the 33rd Fighter Wing which flies F-35s. We will have a great schedule for people, Eglin has a multitude of Wings and we will see as many of these as possible. We appreciate our volunteers who are part of the reunion committee! Here is the link to the hotel (if you have any trouble let Sleet and I know at WildWeaselReports@gmail.com and we will fix it:

<https://www.theislandfl.com/>

Our current reunion project officer:

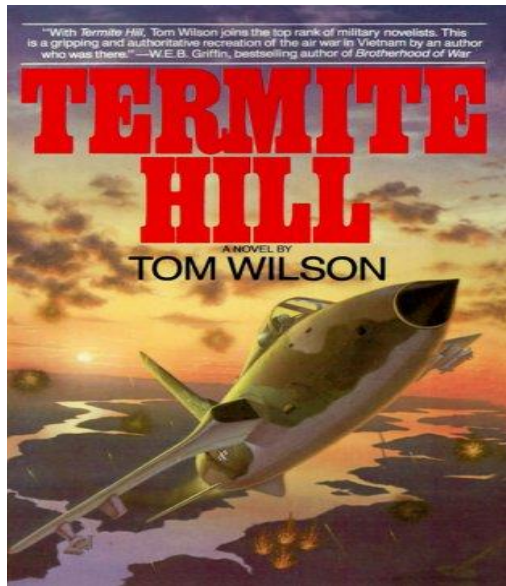


Col Jordan "Gadget" Grant as the Deputy Wing CC is running our reunion on behalf of the 33rd Fighter Wing who have graciously offered to host us in April 2024. Gadget is a very experienced F-15E, F-15C Aggressor, F-16 and F-35A pilot with tactics tours as the Weapons Effects Cell lead at Osan, Commander of the Green Flag training squadron and Commander of the AFCENT Air Warfare Center. Gadget has been a pleasure to work with and will assign a projo as we get closer.

Links of Interest

In this section we will periodically scan links for reading recommendations.

Editor's Note: I just finished reading Termite Hill by Tom Wilson. This is a great read by WW #160. I am a kindle unlimited member, so the book was part of the library for this capability and a free read.



A Primer on F-35 TR-3

[F-35 Flies for the First Time with Tech Refresh 3, Paving the Way for Block 4 | Air & Space Forces Magazine \(airandspaceforces.com\)](#)

A good link on F-35 Block 4

[Block IV: The F-35 'Upgrade' That Should Make China Nervous | The National Interest](#)

VA PACT Act news

[Veterans and survivors have filed more than 500,000 toxic exposure-related benefits claims under the PACT Act - VA News](#)

[Where to Get Help Filing a PACT Act Claim | Military.com](#)

ANNEX—23rd Fighting Hawks Reunion

August 2023 Update

Gathering of 23rd TFS Fighting Hawks

Current Reunion Stats

Hawks	Attending	50	Not	25	Unknow
Spouses	Attending	37	Not	15	Unknow
Totals	Attending	87		Attempted Contact	

Confirmed Hawk Attendees

If the cell is **RED**, then you are coming as a bachelor! If the cell is **YELLOW** you have indicated that your wife is coming or maybe coming, but I do not have her name. Please send me any corrections.

Hawk	Spouse	Hawk	Spouse
Paul Lockhart	Wife	Wes Stowers	Liz
Pete Hessert	Ruth	Jim Bierstine	
Karl Dittmer	Beth	Scott Hubin	Kathy
Mark Devane		Steve Yount	
Dale Shoupe		Mark Svestska	Kelley
David Lujan	Wife	Mike Wickman	Carolina
Miro Jencik	Ivanka	Joe Murphy	Valerie
Curt Emery	Carol	Dale Hollrah	Bonnie
Bruce Geddes	Cheryl	Terry Gellert	Linda
Roger Yauchy	Sandy	Ron Tait	Frankie
Jammer Moore	Patti	John Trauernicht	
George Walton	Carolyn	Mike Miller	Connie
Chris Dunn	Nancy	Anthony Groves*	Janis
Glen Bell	Wife	Dan Haggerty	
John Hesterman		Tom Finke	
Dano Williams	Robin	John Vogan	Jeanette
Karl Kuschner	Bjork	Tim Legel	Judy
John Aymonin	Bobbie	Bill Sullivan	Linda
Mike Connor	Guest	Kevin Short	
Bruce Kreidler	Sharon	Rich Schiano	Cheryl
David Perme	Leslie	Steve Hurley	
Roger Smith	Patti	Bill Reister	
Jack Reimann	Joan	Chip Lamb	
Maggie Brown	Margo	Kim Harrison	Theresa
		Bill Boyington	

- **Hawks with no valid contact yet.** These are Hawks that we have not received any replies from or that we don't have contact information for. Some of these folks have been attempted contact via Facebook Messenger and LinkedIn or we have some phone numbers and some emails for some of them, but they have not responded to any attempted communications, thus far. If you have better info on some of these folks, please send me that.

Attempted Contact – No Reply	No Contact Datat
Bill Lowther	Jeff Thompson
Craig Kleinman	Jerry O’Sullivan
Dale Tyler	Kevin Nagy
Dave Curny	Mark Viele
Mark Baldwin	Mike Carter
Mike McLaughlin	Paul J Thompson
Mike Rokes	Rob Norhon
Randy Hall	Russ Norman
Skip Tindall	Russel Norman
	Mike Nix

Order of Events

- **18 Sept 2023 is a travel day.**
- **19 Sept 2023:**
 - Golf Outing at Honeybrook Golf Course, as many as want to play.
 - **Self Guided Excursions** – See the attached list of potential activities. I would recommend that folks pair up, lots to see and do around Philly
 - **The first meet and greet and how ya doin kicks off at the Honeybrook Golf Course.** <https://www.honeybrookgolf.com/> They have a large outdoor pavilion that can accommodate 100 folks. The menu is a special one from our Zaragoza AB days: **The party starts at 1400.**
 - Caldo Gallego (Spanish White Bean Soup), Pinchos!, Iberian Ham, Salad and Bread Rolls, Dessert
 - **Following the Honeybrook Zaragoza TDY Meal, continued socialization will be at the Farm**

- **20 Sep 2023**

- Morning – Afternoon:

- **Valley Forge Guided Bus Tour** – Almost full, only 4 seats left
- **Self-Guided Tours** – There is a great deal of history around and in Philly, see the attached sheet for a full listing. Suggest strongly that you pair up with some of your squadron mates and spouses.

- **Start time: 1630 - The Farm BBQ - 458 Dilworth Road, Downingtown, PA 19335**

- Food will be German, the **Flying Deutschman** (<https://www.flyingdeutschman.com/our-menu>) will be serving up bratwurst, schnitzels, and a Wagner roll, which is kinda/sorta like a Schwenkbraten.

- **21 Sept 2023 is a travel day.**

- **Hotel accommodations – Alot of folks are staying here, but the “book by date” is expired for the reduced rate, but the normal rate is not bad.**

**Residence Inn by Marriott Philadelphia
10 N Pottstown Pike, Exton, PA 19341
(610) 594-9705**

Event Summary: 23TFS Hawks

Start Date: Monday, September 18, 2023

End Date: Thursday, September 21, 2023

Last Day to Book: Sunday, August 20, 2023

Residence Inn Philadelphia West Chester/Exton for \$119.00 USD per night

Reservation Link - <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1683128174400&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

If you want something different, recommend using google maps, and who doesn't? Just enter “hotels near 458 Dilworth Road, 19335”. I would not recommend the Coatesville hotel, not a great neighborhood.

If you are planning on attending, please email to: dperme@gmail.com with your name, callsign and how many are attending. Thanks!

Looking forward to a great time.

Perm-Dog