

A Word from Willie

Editor's note: Due to the editor rushing to get out of town to attack the ski slopes in Wyoming, we had a failure to communicate on edits from the board members. This resulted in slighting our own Stanry Goldstein, "10X", who was instrumental in the USAFA Cadet Squadron 35 "Wild Weasel" heritage room effort. This addendum updates the CINCWW's Corner as follows:

As usual, Budman has filled this issue with plenty of meat to chew on to include pieces on our Navy brethren and their contributions to defense suppression, a look at the USAF CSAF and his initiatives, and the dedication of the USAFA Cadet Squadron 35 "Wild Weasel" heritage room on 1 Dec of this year. In attendance were Weasels Curt Emery as flight leader and wingmen Budman Redmond, Chili Chelales Tim Burke and Frank Cantrell. This dedication was a direct result of extraordinary efforts over a 2-year period by C1C McKenzie Mercer, WW #2808, and C1C Kelly Jackson, WW #2809, with the completion of this project. **A special thanks to Stanry Goldstein who took up the mantle of mentor after Andi Biancur passed and really helped our two Cadets continue this project--they called him when they received their pilot slots to let him know. Guidance and mentorship were also provided** by Maj William Glojek, CS 35 AOC, and Weasels Andi Biancur and Curt Emery. Speaking of Maj Glojek, a proposal was put forward to make him and future CS 35 AOCs Honorary Members of our SoWW. This proposal was approved by the Board unanimously recognizing the uniqueness and "Wild Weasel spirit" of CS 35 and providing a conduit for two-way information flow

Additionally, CINCWW added the following information for the reunion:

Under activities/options is an entry for NHL hockey game. The schedule is out and the Vancouver Canucks vs Phoenix Coyotes play the night of 7 Apr at 7 PM.

We will add this information to the Reunion web page. Sorry for the errors, but the skiing has been great!

Victor

CINCWWE

Society of Wild Weasels Newsletter

December 2021

CINCWW's Corner

Fellow Weasels,

On behalf of your Board, we wish you all the best this this Holiday Season and certainly a less tumultuous 2022 than this year. Whether it was a Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah, both will have passed by the time you receive this newsletter. So we trust your celebrations with family and friends were filled with nothing but joy and thankfulness to be blessed by the "spirit of the season".

As usual, Budman has filled this issue with plenty of meat to chew on to include pieces on our Navy brethren and their contributions to defense suppression, a look at the USAF CSAF and his initiatives, and the dedication of the USAFA Cadet Squadron 35 "Wild Weasel" heritage room on 1 Dec of this year. In attendance were Weasels Curt Emery as flight leader and wingmen Budman Redmond, Chili Chelales Tim Burke and Frank Cantrell. This dedication was a direct result of extraordinary efforts over a 2-year period by C1C McKenzie Mercer, WW #2808, and C1C Kelly Jackson, WW #2809, with the completion of this project. **A special thanks to Stanry Goldstein who took up the mantle of mentor after Andi Biancur passed and really helped our two Cadets continue this project--they called him when they received their pilot slots to let him know. Guidance and mentorship were also** provided by Maj William Glojek, CS 35 AOC, and Weasels Andi Biancur and Curt Emery. Speaking of Maj Glojek, a proposal was put forward to make him and future CS 35 AOCs Honorary Members of our SoWW. This proposal was approved by the Board unanimously recognizing the uniqueness and "Wild Weasel spirit" of CS 35 and providing a conduit for two-way information flow

At this writing we are still planning on having the Weasel Reunion in Phoenix (Glendale) from Thurs 7 Apr through Sat 9 Apr being our Sat night catered dinner party in a hangar. Gen. Chuck Horner, WW #333, the CENTAF Air Component Commander for Desert Storm, remains committed to being our guest speaker. The agenda, events, excursion options and hotels remain the same. If you asked for a registration refund for the now slipped reunion in Oct and plan on attending in April, you will need to re-register so we can keep our financial records

straight. If you had a hotel reservation at the Holiday Inn, the manager there canceled all the Oct reservations, but did not move them to April. So, you will need to rebook if you want to stay there. Both the Comfort Inn and Holiday Inn have promised us more rooms than before with the group rates expiring the standard one month before on 7 March 2022. Links to both reunion registration and hotel reservations are available in this newsletter. As long as Covid doesn't kick us in the teeth again, this promises to be a special reunion with roughly 80 Weasels and another 60 ermine/guests currently registered.

Uke

YGBSM/FILO

CINCWW

Fallen Wild Weasels

[Salvatore A "Sal" Bonacasa](#), WW #1663, A/C, F-4G, 25 Sep 21

[Bob E "Bob" Coffman](#), WW #1056, A/C, F-105G, 11 Nov 21

[Richard "Rick" Horne](#), WW #GA 04, EWO, F-105G, 22 Nov 21

Note: we did not have Rick Horne in our database but learned the following about him from Bill Bryan

"I actually flew in the 128 TFS with Rick in the F-105G in the GA ANG and wrote most of his obituary... I saw his Wild Weasel certificate with his GA ANG weasel number of 04 while going through his records to prepare his obit. All of his Weasel time was flown as a GA Air Guardsman in the F-105G. His combat time was in the KC-135 and B-52. As a Title 10 Guardsman at NGB, he developed and fielded an inexpensive and portable threat emitter called the Sentry Dawg that was acquired by most ANG ranges in the 80's to enhance aircrew EC training. Maj Gen (GA ANG Ret.) Tom Lynn and I traveled to his home the last April to present him with a long overdue Georgia Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his efforts fielding the Sentry Dawg those many years ago."

[Charles D "Charlie" Metcalf](#), WW #2528, Director, National Museum USAF, 29 Oct 21

[Edward T "Ed" Rock](#), WW #185, A/C, F-105F/G, 5 Nov 21

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

Chili

Medical Report for the December *Word from Willie*

[Omicron Variant: What You Need to Know | CDC](#)

Phil (Quack Bear) Steeves

Wild Weasel Society Membership Drive

We are going to work on an aggressive membership drive focused on bringing previous members back to the Society. Starting just after Christmas we will be contacting our expired members through email to convince them that their return will start our new year off just right. Email example below:

"Fellow Weasels,

We want to reach out and ask you to becoming active once again in the Wild Weasel Society. I have enclosed our quarterly newsletter to catch you up and I am hoping it and the new virtual museum that we have built in the Society (with many inputs from Weasels past and present) bring you back to your history. In addition, we have moved our reunion (COVID concerns) to next April in Phoenix from 7-9 April. We will have a great flight suit part and General Chuck Horner is our featured speaker. There is great detail about the reunion on the Wild Weasel Society web page. I am asking you to consider updating your membership please contact the Board at Membership@WildWeasels.org. We miss you and desperately need new stories!!"

You can help by letting your contacts who are WW Society eligible know the benefits of membership and that we miss their stories! In addition, we are asking all members to scrub their Directories for accuracy and we recommend that you allow us to blast your email with announcements such as NOTAMs. Also please check with other Weasels to make sure they are getting reunion notices, Word from Willie and our NOTAMs and if not let's do a good scrub.

Cadet Squadron 35 Wild Weasel Room Dedication

The USAFA Cadet Sq 35 Wild Weasels Day Room dedication took place on 1 Dec and it was a great time. Brig Gen (ret) Curt Emery was our flight lead, and the cadets were outstanding from tours of Arnold Hall, watching the luncheon formation and parade through the dedication it was a memorable experience. The Wild Weasels were well represented by Frank Cantrell, Tim Burke, Richard McDowell, Chili Chelales and Bud Redmond as well as Maj Gen (ret) Kathy Chilton a long-time Academy Reserve Officer. Maj "Jack" Glojek, AOC for CS 35 gave us great insight into Academy curriculum and what the cadets were learning from academics through life lessons. As a student of history, he has embraced the CS WW heritage and his honorary membership will provide a common link back to the Academy for our Society. Probably our best time with the cadets was during lunch where each of us it at a table and we had lots of questions about flying, our experience and just bonding with these great future officers. Their passion and enthusiasm for the adventures they are about to have is inspiring.

We were able to present certificates of appreciation to both Cadet Mercer and Jackson who have received their pilot training slots and may be two future Wild Weasels in the next two years! Chili served as the presenter and both Cadets were exemplary in their connection back to our common history. They recognized both Andi Biancur who was instrumental in their early success and Stanry who has been their champion along with Curt since Andi's passing. In addition, Gen Emery gave a talk on leadership and ethos and why the early WW's set a culture of innovation and a heritage that has provided inspiration in war and peace over the last 56 years. Budman gave a presentation on the history and lineage of our Wild Weasels and took it through today. That briefing is available if you would like to see it. Budmanrocketsnow@gmail.com.

Interview with an Air Force Growler Aviator

Editor's Note: As part of our efforts to provide the latest in a series of articles on what's happening in Electronic Warfare we reached out to EA-18G aviators (and not the F-18G as I infamously called it in my emails and here is an interview with Captain Alex "Stifler" Schreffler, who is an EA-18G EWO and teaches at the Electronic Attack Warfare School.

Thanks Stifler from the Wild Weasel Society!!!!

1. Can you tell us a little bit about your background and experience?

Spent about a year at Pensacola NAS for Undergraduate Combat Systems Officer (CSO) training from 2012-2013. While there, the Air Force was teasing the idea of sending brand new CSOs from Pensacola to Whidbey and the 390th ECS to fly in the Growler, which is when and where I became fascinated with the idea of electronic warfare/attack (now "electromagnetic warfare/attack" per the Joint Pubs). However, the Air Force didn't start sending brand new aircrew to Whidbey until several years later and I was assigned to train as an Electronic Warfare Officer (EWO) onboard the RC135 V/W "Rivet Joint" at Offutt AFB, NE. Onboard the RJ, I was trained to identify and locate adversary radar in order to provide threat warning to friendly strikers.

After a few years flying the RJ and several deployments to CENTCOM and INDOPACOM, I was selected to attend USAF Weapons School at Nellis AFB in 2017 in order to not only become a SME in the RJ, but hone my skills as an instructor and learn how to integrate with the rest of the Combat Air Force (CAF) for emerging threats/mission sets. The syllabus' heavy concentration on EW provided me with experience working with EW assets in both the Air Force and the Navy, including EC-130 Compass Call and EA-18G Growlers. These experiences in Weapons School set me up for success downrange after graduating when it came to conducting electronic attack and information warfare against ISIS. Due to my background and previous experiences, I was fortunate enough to get an opportunity to cross-train into the EA-18G in 2019 and deploy with a Navy squadron (VAQ-131) to Misawa AB, Japan in 2020.

Rear Cockpit View of a Growler

2. What is the main mission for the EA-18G and what other missions do you accomplish?

The Growlers' primary mission is to support strike aircraft and ground forces by denying, degrading, and delaying the enemy's use of the electromagnetic spectrum (ie radar and communications). Secondary mission is to use our onboard sensors to obtain tactical electronic intelligence (ELINT).

3. Can you tell us what your operations tempo is because I know you are in high demand for operations, training, exercises etc.

Ops tempo is pretty high for Growlers. Of the 12 operational squadrons (plus 1 reserve squadron), there are typically at least 3 squadrons deployed at any given time, either to a carrier or as an "expeditionary squadron" to an air base (ie land-based). Then, there are typically another 3 squadrons in various stages of workups to prepare to replace the deployed squadrons, entailing participation in multiple exercises like Red Flag at Nellis AFB or Air Wing Fallon events (at Fallon NAS). The rest of the squadrons are typically recovering/returning from deployments and conducting maintenance to repeat the cycle. Regarding exercises – the Growler is in constant demand for Air Force exercises (Red Flag Nellis/Alaska, WSINT, Northern Edge, Northern Lightning) and Joint/Combined exercises (Cope North), which highlights not only its importance as a joint asset (and therefore why it is important for the Air Force to continue to send aircrew to learn how best to integrate the EA-18G into any and all strikes), but also speaks to importance as an electromagnetic attack asset. Squadrons are constantly being requested/tasked to support these exercises, not only to practice existing tactics, but also to fly as "red air" and challenge the rest of our combat aviators.

4. What is the best thing about flying the EA-18G?

The best thing about flying the Growler is the ability to jam and ruin the enemy's day and protect your striker bros. I've flown on both sides of the Growler's jamming and have seen first-hand how frustrating it is for SAM operators and enemy aircrew to lose SA (situational awareness) of the air picture when they know missiles and bombs are soon to be raining down on them. Additionally, flying fast and low through the Cascades is amazing!

5. Is there a training range that you enjoy the most and why?

The NTTR (Nellis for our members) is probably the best that I've experienced since it has more advanced/challenging scenarios and threats to replicate. That said, it could always be improved to and added to in order to accurately represent adversary advancements. As our adversaries continue to develop

their own air defense systems, the more advanced and realistic threat replicators aircrew can see, the better we as a joint fighting force will be at defeating them.

6. What did we miss that you would like to educate us on?

Despite being a Navy asset (owned and operated by), there is an Air Force squadron here (the 390th ECS "Wild Boars") to not only train Air Force aircrew about electromagnetic attack for follow-on assignments, but to also teach Naval aviators about the capabilities of the Air Force in order to improve integration across the joint force. There are about 25-30 Air Force aircrew (plus 5ish enlisted support staff) that fly daily with Navy squadrons. In the Growler community, there are 2 different types of operational squadrons: "boat" squadrons and "exped" squadrons. Boat squadrons, you guessed it, train to operate on the carrier and in conjunction with the carrier wing as a whole. Exped squadrons (short for "expeditionary") are an oddity in the Navy (the F-18E/F community does not have these), in that they are considered land-based and deploy similarly to Air Force squadrons, to air bases and Naval air stations abroad. As such, they typically get a lot of experience working with various Air Force squadrons (and are the squadrons that 390th members deploy with/fly with on a daily basis).

In general, the electromagnetic spectrum has quickly become a highly contested domain, with advanced radars, communications, and datalinks. As our adversaries continue to develop weapons that physically push us farther and farther away from striking, it is imperative that we as a joint force leverage every advantage in every domain that we can – be it the electromagnetic spectrum in the air, or from the sea, or from space, or whether we use the spectrum to enable kinetic effects or cyber effects. We cannot afford to fall behind tactically or technologically because our adversaries have proven determined to challenge us at every avenue.

7. What's next for you in your career?

I'll be returning to Offutt and the 55WG to incorporate my lessons learned with respect to electromagnetic attack into tactics used by the 55WG's electromagnetic warfare platforms: the RC-135 V/W "Rivet Joint" and the EC-130 "Compass Call." I'll also continue to advocate sending EWOs from those platforms to cross-train into the Growler in order to capitalize on their training and vast knowledge of the electromagnetic spectrum to support future tactics and operations.

We want to salute the EA-18G crewmembers both USN & USAF for what they do for America! Second. thanks to Capt Stifler and everyone who helped with the interview and great luck in your future! We want to compliment this with a

USN article next edition but right now the ops tempo for the USN Aviators was prohibitive.

US Navy Electronic Combat in Desert Storm

The USN Electronic Combat contribution to Desert Storm was instrumental in the success of the Campaign. Flying from both the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf as well as land bases like Bahrain the USN and USMC Aviators planned, flew and destroyed Air Defenses that threatened coalition forces. Packages of EA-6B jammers (and HARM shooters), F-18 HARM shooters, A-6 aircraft carrying Tactical Air Launched Decoys provided suppression, jamming and destruction across the Kari Command and Control network. As Admiral Author stated in his report, "The French shared what they knew about the KARI system, which was just about everything. As a result, we had very detailed understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the KARI system, and most importantly, how to exploit the weaknesses. The KARI was a very sophisticated system, better than what the Soviets exported around the world, but it could be saturated and overwhelmed with the right electronic warfare and jamming tactics."

Meanwhile an organization in Washington D.C., called SPEAR, was analyzing the same intelligence and wrestling with the implications. SPEAR had been established a couple years before the start of Desert Storm at the Navy Operational Intelligence Center in Suitland, Maryland, and was an outgrowth of lessons learned from previous operations. SPEAR recommended that strike packages fly above 20K to defeat the enormous amount of AAA the Iraqis had deployed. This was a seminal event in the development of tactics and led to success and less attrition throughout the campaign for Navy and Marine Aviators. Big AAA such as 57 through 100 MM could still reach out and be a threat but it was less dense except around Baghdad.

The US Navy's EP-3 and EKA-3B aircraft were strategically positioned to cover specific sectors of IADS coverage (along with other Coalition aircraft) when Allied aircraft, in the period preceding hostilities, feigned penetrations of Iraqi airspace. Reacting to Allied aircraft feints the aircraft would gather electronic intelligence and match that against known and sometimes unknown frequencies Elint platforms could earmark their positions and the identities of their radars, in turn betraying the composition of their batteries.

From the first USN/USAF Joint attack on Baghdad USN and USMC electronic aircraft helped turn the tide of the battle and their contributions saved many a Coalition aircraft and destroyed SAM sites and other Iraqis electronic combat assets. Sixty USN/USMC F/A-18s, A-7s and EA-6Bs fired AGM-88 HARM anti-radiation missiles into key air defense radar systems and strategically positioned SAM sites as part of a combined Joint strike during initial operations. The weight of the initial assault was overwhelming, with several hundred HARMs fired in the first few hours of the campaign. This weight of numbers would not have been achievable without the US Navy, which had wired its F/A-18s, A-6Es, A-7Es and EA-6Bs for HARM.

Links to USN Desert Shield/Storm articles and history:

[Desert Shield/Desert Storm \(navy.mil\)](http://www.navy.mil)

[Operation Desert Storm - The Electronic Battle Parts 1 - 3 \(ausairpower.net\)](http://www.ausairpower.net)

USAF CSAF & Electronic Warfare

General "CQ" Brown (WW #2797) became CSAF in August 2020 and immediately laid out priorities and what he hoped to accomplish during his tenure. One of the earliest course corrections was on Electronic Warfare when he stated in that the Air Force was going to roll out a new strategy and that "We can no longer solely depend on defensive capability and expect to be successful," Brown said. "Bottom line, we are not deterring our adversaries like we need to. ... Our advantage is eroding, and the competition is increasing, [so] we need to change now."

Using those thoughts as a catalyst in his first publication as CSAF, Accelerate Change or Lose in his first month as CSAF. In his preamble, General Brown advises "If we don't change – if we fail to adapt – we risk losing the certainty with which we have defended our national interests for decades. We risk losing a high-end fight. We risk losing quality Airmen, our credibility, and our ability to secure our future. We must move with a purpose – we must Accelerate Change or Lose (ACOL), and the ACOL paper is the result of my detailed assessment." General Brown uses this document to identify a future where change for success is valued and leaders both embody and seek innovators to

identify the way ahead. There is a belief that comes across in the paper throughout that if we use our Airmen's diversity they will succeed.

General Brown has driven the Air Force to a new look on the art of the possible in Electronic Warfare. From the establishment of the 350th Spectrum Warfare Wing whose mission is to "Deliver adaptive and cutting-edge electromagnetic spectrum capabilities that provide the warfighter a tactical and strategic competitive advantage and freedom to attack, maneuver, and defend." to reviews of future weapons and capabilities, General Brown has mandated that the Air Force initiatives in EW be form fitted in both a coalition and joint fighting domain so that the results are the most effective. Analyzing the electromagnetic spectrum for both offensive and non-kinetic effects are a big part of the new strategy. As he stated in Nov 2021 "A new form of non-kinetic airpower will prove decisive in future conflicts but will require a new level of interoperability between allied and partner air forces." General Brown has written extensively on the ability of control of the EW spectrum to provide cost-effective non-kinetic effects.

Finally, General Brown is running hard to prepare the Air Force for a winning force today and in 2030 and his speeches, writings and actions reflect his vision and his Wild Weasel background!

Thanks, from the Society of Wild Weasels to General "CQ" Brown and what he is building for the future!

Wild Weasel History Update

Your SoWW Historians, Frank and Larry, are following developments at the 35th Cadet Legacy Room and the Weasel portion of the River Rat Museum. As an addendum to our (Weasel) ROE, have the donors contact either Frank or me with description, background, and significance of proposed item(s). That way we can make an initial assessment as to whether the item would fill a niche in the exhibit. It is possible that the item might be a better fit for the AFA Cadet Squadron. This is modeled after the way NMUSAF brings things into their collection. It also precludes multiple mailings of an item as it searches for a home.

If any Weasels have items they wish to donate to museums or the SoWW, contact us (larlemieux@aol.com, fjalfter@gmail.com) as we can facilitate finding the best homes for donations.

Membership Update

New Regular Members

We welcome the following new life member:

Joe "JoeyD" Desiderato, WW #2841, EWO, F-4G

Chili

Surviving Family Members

Paula D Caldwell, WW #456

Wesley Caldwell, WW #456

Edward Rock Jr., WW #185

Once again, if you know of family members who qualify, have them contact us at membership@wildweasels.org.

Chili

Wild Weasel History

We are continuing to populate personal histories from Howard Plunkett's WW#2445 database. Check it out at [Personal Histories](#)

Note: you have to be a current, active member to view this page.

Keep your coin handy! ROE is in effect!

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.

Financial Report

We currently have have \$64,988.45 in our bank account.

Dave

Of Interest

Private SoWW Facebook Page;

If you want access, contact Stan Goldstein; stan.goldstein@gmail.com to be added to this list. Remember this will be as private/secret as you make it...

Cave Putorium,

Stan

LSDO

Upcoming Events

[2021-2 Wild Weasel Reunion](#)

Phoenix AZ 6-9 April 2022

Follow link for details

Uke

Warhawk Nation Reunion (has not been rescheduled as of this time)

POC Pete Zimowski reunion, (petezimo@me.com)

(Warhawk website: <http://greatwarhawknation.com/>)

What is in the next issue of A Word from Willie!

The F-35 and the SEAD Mission

Flying the Growler—a look at the F-18G from a Growler aviator

Growler from the US Navy perspective

Look at the 350th Spectrum Warfare Wing

We are open to any ideas you have—let us know if you want to see a special article!

Links of Interest (in this section we will periodically scan links for reading):

F-35

[2020 Annual Report \(osd.mil\)](#)

This is a comprehensive report by the OSD Director of Operational Test and Evaluation which covers ops testing of the F-35 and other systems.

[F-35 operational testing pushing boundaries and proving flexibility of fighter jet | Aerospace Testing International](#)

A well-designed article on what the Coalition F-35 test team is doing to ensure the aircraft meets the threat especially in its destruction of enemy air defenses.

Society of Wild Weasels, P.O. Box 877, Silver Spring, MD 20918

wild-weasels-board@googlegroups.com

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