



Prosit!



Newsletter of the 601st-615th ACW Association - Vol 1 No 5 September 2010

A message from our president Francis X Gosselin



Many of you are wondering how we have become an association. To tell you the truth, we have traveled a long way. The journey has been long, but the rewards have been many. From a fragile group that we were, we have become a fast growing organization.

Back in the early 90, our founder, Shelton (Todd) Appleton, retired USAF, had an idea to get together with some of his old buddies stationed with him in Germany. He felt that his home and land were big enough for all of them for a social gathering.

At first he found some old friends and their families and met to have a good ole social time. The idea of the reunion grew, and over 700 names of military members were added to the database of names. He continued to keep on looking and the group kept on growing!

For years, Todd and some members tried to hold the organization together, but times were hard with little support. Additionally, health problems began to create other problems. But Todd never gave up and his dream today continues to be a reality with with the same fraternal goals. The organization meets annually in different areas of the United States to allow its members to renew their fraternal ties!

For several years the association stumbled along until we found Fay Dickey who was given the job of Organization Coordinator. She liked the thought of a friendly group of people getting together annually for a social gathering. Fay overcame the problems encountered with the reunion at Las Vegas, and Branson. As a result, some members praised Fay for a job well done as coordinator. The members also wished a change in the direction of the association and voted for a new group to redirect the future of the association.

It has taken several years and neuroses, changes of idea's, and procedures to get to the point we are at today. The board and management we have in today are pushing for excellence in everything we do. We need the membership help us to seek and achieve our strategic goals and to help us with our plans for the future path of our organization.

You could help us with suggestions of future meeting sites and with ideas of how to improve our operating procedures. You could join us at future reunions and also ask your friends to join us.

Remember that friendships would help to restore some of those best moments of the days gone by.

And let me close with these words: God bless us all

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Veterans more likely to avoid foreclosure with VA-backed loan

Release No. 08-10-10 Aug. 25, 2010

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- Mortgage loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs continue to have the lowest rate for serious delinquency and foreclosures in the industry.

"The continued high performance of VA loans is due to the dedication of VA's loan professionals, the support of our partners in the mortgage industry and most notably, the responsibility of our veterans and their desire to maintain home ownership," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "VA is making good on its promise to help veterans achieve the American dream of owning a home."

There are currently about 1.3 million active home loans that have been obtained using VA's

Home Loan Guaranty Program. The program makes home ownership more affordable for veterans, active-duty service members, and eligible surviving spouses by permitting low or no down-payment loans and by protecting lenders from loss if the borrower fails to repay the loan.

According to the Mortgage Bankers Association National Delinquency Survey, VA's foreclosure rate for the last eight quarters and serious delinquency rate for the last five consecutive quarters have been the lowest of all measured loan types, even prime loans.

Much of the program's strength stems from the efforts of VA employees and loan services nationwide, whose primary mission is to "ensure all veterans receive every possible opportunity to remain in their homes, avoid foreclosure, and protect their credit from the consequences of a foreclosure," added Secretary Shinseki.

Depending on the situation, VA's loan specialists can intervene on a veteran's behalf to help pursue home-retention options such as repayment plans, forbearances and loan modifications. When home retention is not an option, sometimes VA can help arrange a sale, or a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure, both of which are better options for veteran borrowers than foreclosure.

Since 1944, when home-loan guaranties were first offered under the original GI Bill, VA has guaranteed more than 18.8 million home loans worth \$1.06 trillion.

To obtain more information about the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program, veterans can call VA at 877-827-3702. Information can also be obtained at:

www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/veteran.asp.
(Courtesy of VA)

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George Biscoe, Photographer
William Hanson, Web Site Master
Wilfred Rodriguez, Newsletter Editor

Visit our web site

<http://www.601st-615th-acw.org/index.html>

You will find lots of information about the following topics.

Make sure you sign the Guestbook and leave us a message.

Rothwesten	Sembach
Kassel	Linderhofe
Detachment 3	Old Friends
The Neighborhood	Help locate someone
Wasserkuppe	Reunions <small>UPDATED</small>
St. Andreasberg	Beer Drinking Music
Celle	Links
Prüm	Keesler Graduating Classes
Gunpost	Memorabilia
Some 601st History	War Stories
Pforzheim	Miscellaneous Photos
Membership	Add to this web site
Missing Members	Comments? Questions?
Newsletters <small>UPDATED</small>	View/Sign the Guestbook



500-Lbs Bomb Uncovered in Kassel

Translated from HNA.de (a German Newspaper)

This WW II 500 pound bomb was uncovered in the city Kassel, Germany over the weekend. It was discovered during an excavation on the banks of the Fulda River. Although it might be considered a "dud", there appears to have been a minor bang. Most of the TNT was still live and very dangerous. Because the impact damaged the fuse, the bomb could not be defused by conventional methods. After several hours of very delicate work, the experts were able to render it safe.

No one knows how many more bombs are buried in and around the city. Some estimate the number to be thousands.

When Waldemar and Christa excavated their lot while building their home, many bomb fragments were discovered in the ground.

A Heritage Museum Opens

The U.S. Air Force recently reopened a newly named and renovated enlisted heritage museum at Lackland Air Force Base, Tex. In addition to spending \$730,000 to renovate a building that has housed the museum since 1956, the name was officially changed from the History and Traditions Museum to the USAF Airman Heritage Museum. The museum now has interactive technology, museum quality lighting, 31 exhibits and additional staff. The museum is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit the Museums.org or telephone 210-671-3055.

AAFES reimbursing shoppers locally for double charges

DALLAS (AFRNS) -- While the Army and Air Force Exchange Service continues to work around the clock to remedy erroneous credit and debit card charges created as a result of a processing error, shoppers who incurred overdraft fees are being reimbursed at their local facility.

"We promised to do the right thing for our customers that were affected by this unfortunate glitch and we are honoring that promise," said Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Helm, AAFES' senior enlisted adviser. "We regret any inconvenience this may have caused and want to reimburse them as quickly as possible."

Shoppers whose credit cards were double charged and, as a result, suffered overdraft fees, can simply bring documentation, such as an overdraft notice or online statement, to their nearest exchange for a full refund of the fees.

The processing error that produced duplicate charges affected AAFES locations worldwide.

Depending on the type of card used, corrective action could be visible to the customer anywhere from 24 hours to a couple of weeks. (Courtesy of AAFES)

For more retiree news and information, please visit www.retirees.af.mil.

Release No. 08-07-10

Aug. 16, 2010



Why some web servers begin with HTTP and others with HTTPS?

The main difference between http:// and https:// is how your data is kept secure!

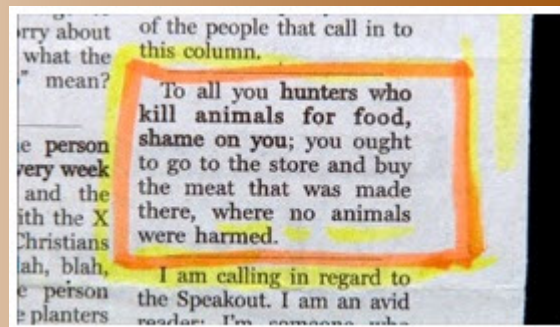
Http stands for Hypertext Transport Protocol, which is just a fancy way of passing your information back and forth between web servers and clients. The important thing is the letter S which makes the difference between http and https.

The S stands for "Secure". If you visit a web site or web page, and look at the address in the web browser, it will likely begin with http://. This means that the web site is talking to your browser using regular "unsecured" language. In other words, it is possible for someone to "eavesdrop" on your computer's conversation with the web site. If you fill out a form on the web site, someone might see the information you send to that site.

This is why you should never enter your credit card number in an http web site!

But if the web address begins with https://, that basically means that your computer is talking to the web site in a secure code that no one can eavesdrop on. Your data is saved!

You understand why this is so important, right? If a web site ever asks you to enter your credit card information, you should automatically look to see if the web address begins with <https://>. If it doesn't, there's no way to you are going to enter sensitive information like a credit card number. Right?



(As printed on one of San Francisco's daily news.)

Radar blips.....



Higher TRICARE Premiums on the horizon

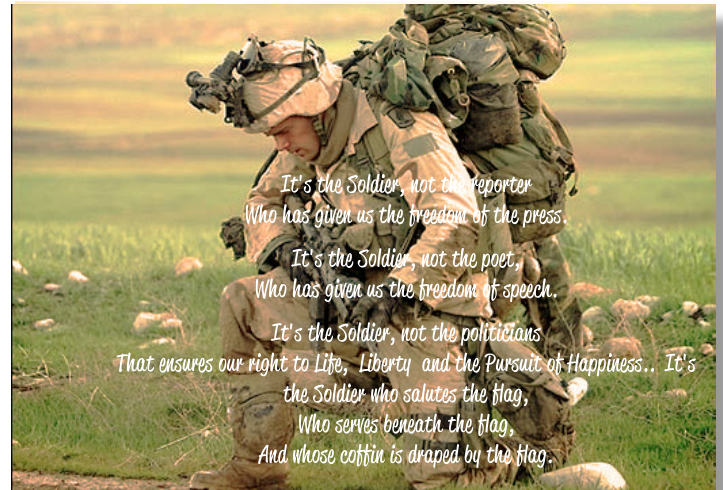
Defense Secretary Robert Gates has indicated that the department's fiscal 2012 budget request to be sent to Congress early next year will include some recommendations to raise **TRICARE** premiums for some beneficiaries.

If past proposals are a reliable guide, the target of higher fees is likely to be military retirees rather than active duty families.

Defense officials hope lawmakers, faced with mounting federal debt and tightening defense budgets, will be more receptive to the argument that TRICARE fees haven't been raised since they were set in 1995.

"Everybody knows that we're being eaten alive by health care. I believe there is a growing understanding on [Capitol] Hill about this. It

cost us \$19 billion in 2000 or 2001. It'll cost us over \$50 billion in FY '11, and will cost us about \$65 billion in FY '15. And particularly when the top line [of defense budgets] is only growing at a percent or thereabouts, it's unsustainable and therefore it has to be a part of our effort."



Francis & Marjorie Gosselin's 50th Wedding Anniversary was celebrated by their children and family on July 2nd, 2010. The attendees to the event were: Michael and Cindy Gosselin and their two girls Nicole and Lindsay; Marcia and Roland Marill and their two sons Jeremie and Nicolas; Eddie and his wife Jayne and their son Gregg; Melaine Gosselin and his son Dennis, wife Pat Gosselin. The entire family enjoyed a week at a hotel in Orlando and were giving a pig cookout at the SeaWorld Restaurant. They were treated to a very good cookout and a floor show. After the day at SeaWorld, they spent several days going to Disney and other sites in the Orlando area. The event turned out to be a complete family success. A day that the Gosselins will always remember!

You Would Never Have Guessed

Captain Kangaroo passed away on January 23, 2004 at age 76, which is odd, because he always looked to be 76. (DOB: 6/27/27) His death reminded me of the following story.

Some people have been a bit offended that the actor, Lee Marvin, is buried in a grave alongside 3 and 4-star generals at Arlington National Cemetery. His marker gives his name, rank (PVT) and service (USMC). Nothing else. Here's a guy who was only a famous movie star who served his time, why the heck does he rate burial with these guys? Well, following is the amazing answer:

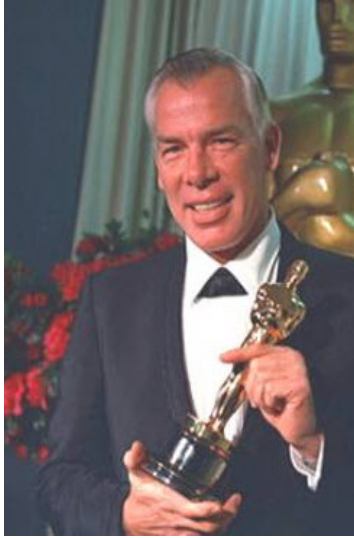
I always liked Lee Marvin, but didn't know the extent of his Corps experiences.

In a time when many Hollywood stars served their country in the armed forces often in rear echelon posts where they were carefully protected, only to be trotted out to perform for the cameras in war bond promotions, Lee Marvin was a genuine hero. He won the Navy Cross at Iwo Jima. There is only one higher Naval award... the Medal Of Honor!

If that is a surprising comment on the true character of the man, he credits his sergeant with an even greater show of bravery.

Dialog from "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson": His guest was Lee Marvin... Johnny said, "Lee, I'll bet a lot of people are unaware that you were a Marine in the initial landing at Iwo Jima...and that during the course of that action you earned the Navy Cross and were severely wounded."

"Yeah, yeah... I got shot square in the bottom and they gave me the Cross for securing a hot spot about halfway up Suribachi. Bad thing about getting shot up on a mountain is guys getting shot hauling you down. But, Johnny, at Iwo, I served under the bravest man I ever knew... We both got the Cross the same day, but what he did for his Cross



Kangaroo."



made mine look cheap in comparison. That dumb guy actually stood up on Red beach and directed his troops to move forward and get the hell off the beach.. Bullets flying by, with mortar rounds landing everywhere and he stood there as the main target of gunfire so that he could get his men to safety. He did this on more than one occasion because his men's safety was more important than his own life.

That Sergeant and I have been lifelong friends. When they brought me off Suribachi we passed the Sergeant and he lit a smoke and passed it to me, lying on my belly on the litter and said, "Where'd they get you Lee?" "Well Bob.... if you make it home before me, tell Mom to sell the outhouse!" Johnny, I'm not lying, Sergeant Keeshan was the bravest man I ever knew.

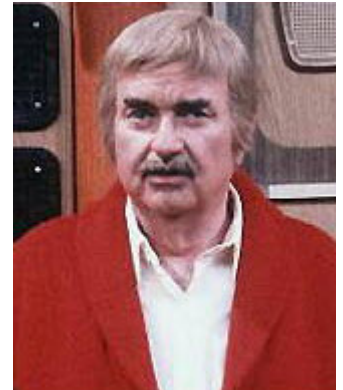
The Sergeant's name is Bob Keeshan. You and the world know him as Captain

On another note, there was this wimpy little man (who passed away) on PBS, gentle and quiet. Mr. Rogers is another of those you would least suspect of being anything but what he now portrays to our youth. But Mr. Rogers was a U.S. Navy Seal, combat-proven in Vietnam with over twenty-five confirmed kills to his name. He wore a long-sleeved sweater on TV, to cover the many tattoos on his forearm and biceps. He was a master in small arms and hand-to-hand combat, able to disarm or kill in a heartbeat

After the war Mr. Rogers became an ordained Presbyterian minister and therefore a pacifist. Vowing to never harm another human and also dedicating the rest of his life to trying to help lead children on the right path in life... He hid away the tattoos and his past life and won our hearts with his quiet wit and charm.

America's real heroes don't flaunt what they did; they quietly go about their day-to-day lives, doing what they do best. They earned our respect and the freedoms that we all enjoy.

Look around and see if you can find one of those heroes in your midst.



WEB BITS @ PIECES

By Bill (Willie)
Hanson

It was about the year 1990 that I started the web site for the 601st AC&W Squadron. Todd Appleton was president of the association and had asked for volunteers. I knew absolutely nothing about such things. In fact I was still fairly new at computers. A friend told me that she had some knowledge, experience and suggested that we both volunteer. We did. Then things took on a slightly different perspective. She meant that she and I would put some information together and she would send it off to someone else who could compile it and create a web site. I did not like this idea. The thought of not having complete control of things did not seem to be the best way. And I thought it would make a web site that was too impersonal. But now I had a dilemma. I had volunteered and things were expected of me. I checked around and got just enough information to make a start; or so I thought. Through trial and error, mostly error, and after many days of work, I was finally able to create a page. Then, more errors, and I eventually was able to put the page on the web. This was just the very beginning of a long period of learning that extends to this day. I did not want to create something using templates created by someone else. So I created my own. That includes my own buttons used for navigating around the site, my own background colors, etc. The pages are created



on my computer locally. Then I upload them to the net. I have always felt that pictures tell the best stories, so these have been the bulwark of the site. At first I posted some pictures I had from my time at Rothwesten. I let some of my email friends know about it and

soon I was getting some contributions. I created a guest book where visitors could sign in, tell something about their tour and this became a means for friends to find old friends. The site receives visitors daily by people using a search engine such as Google and others. Keywords such as: 601st, 615th, Rothwesten, Wasserkuppe, Pruem, and many more will find the site. At some point the 615th was incorporated into the association so now 615th material is welcome. I consider the web site as never-ending. As long as someone wants to contribute to the site, they can do that by going to the Menu Page of the site and click on "Add To This Site". I can be contacted there and we can discuss the best method of sending material for publication. I know there must be many more pictures out there that I personally would like to see.

I take precautions so that the material on the site is not of a nature so as to invite identity theft, spam, and such. There is no political, religious agenda involved. It is there for us to see and remember.

(Photo - Willie by his computer taking a web break!)

Silvia Heise Does Rothwesten

Silvia Heise has been a friend of our organization for many years. She lives down the hill from the former Rothwesten base at Simmershausen. It is not a very long way to Rothwesten, but it is a good outing.

She has a certain attachment to the base as her grandfather was there at the close of the war, as a prisoner. Her grandfather and several others were put to work as mechanics. He became good friends with the Americans, and later on he became the Assistant Manager of the bowling alley.

Silvia is a teacher of German (not for public schools) as a Foreign Language. She also free-lances in private language schools. For the past years, she has taught German to immigrants from all over the world.



On August 2010, she headed through the fields of between Fuldatal-Simmershausen and Rothwesten to the former Air Base. Thus, going up from the fields towards the Air Base. She found the front gate was closed, the theater still standing, but nothing much has changed. Although there are some sections are rented to business people, the area looked deserted.

On the way back, she walked parallel to the main street that goes from the Air Base back to Rothwesten. At some point on this way back, she had access to a section of the Air Base that leads to the field above the motor pool and hangars. To her excitement, there she saw a big field full of solar arrays where the old runway used to be!



"This is indeed a big field full of solar arrays (I tried to make pictures of it.. not sure if you recognize the solar array)", she stated.

The picture on the right is the solar array that Silvia found.

Silvia took 87 pictures that day. If you would like to see the entire collection, please let us know. Other photographs of her visits to Rothwesten were shown to the membership on one of the previous membership reunions.



Photos by Silvia Heise

Text by Wil Rodriguez

Selection of Future Reunion Sites



During the last reunion in New Mexico, the Board of Directors discussed the division of the map of the United States, equally, for the purpose of allowing the membership to select the sites of future reunions. Although the use of the Mississippi River as the dividing point was discussed, it is now felt that this is not a good rationale to use for this purpose.

To better define the division of Eastern and Western Areas, the states of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana will be considered to be the Eastern Area and the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas will be considered to be the Western Area.

As it now stands, the membership reunion scheduled for 2011 will be in the Eastern Area of the country.

Members can start deciding for the 2012 reunion where within the Western Area they go.

If you are planning to attend the 2011 reunion, please let Francis X. Gosselin or Fay Dickey know.

Looking for Old Military Buddies?

Do you wish you could find your old buddies stationed with you overseas, basic training, or find your old master sergeant?

Search for them now by aiming your web browser to:

http://www.military.com/buddy-finder/?ESRC=ad_insiders.nl

All 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia will hold general elections Nov. 2. To register or request an absentee ballot, use the Federal Post Card Application. Go to www.fvap.gov,



2010 Annual Meeting of the 601st&615th AC&W Sq Association

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Secretary Minutes 2010 Annual Meeting:

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the 601st & 615th AC&W Sq Association took place in the Hospitality Room of the "Courtyard by Marriott", Santa Fe, NM on April 29, 2010.

The meeting was called to order by President Francis Gosselin at 10:05

The Pledge of Allegiance was rendered by the members present under our newly acquired Flag.

President Gosselin requested a moment of silence and prayer for our deceased and ill members and our Troops in Iraq.

Secretary Report:

The 2009 Minutes were read by Secretary Fay Dickey, seconded and accepted.

Treasurer Report:

The Treasurer Report was presented by Treasurer Howard Dickey.

2009 the Treasury contained \$3500.00

2010 the Treasury contains \$3706.00

He also invited all the members to a FREE Breakfast at 8:30 A.M. Friday morning, paid by the treasury, as a token of appreciation.

The Treasury Report was seconded and accepted.

Old Business: Newsletter!

President Gosselin mentioned that the Newsletter needed more participation from the membership.

Items for the Newsletter could be birthdays and anniversaries.

Members share their trip experiences and other newsy items.

President Gosselin suggested to view the web site and to possibly converse with people who signed the guest book:

globalquest.com/gb/whansonguestbook.html

New Business:

Our software specialist is in the process to up-date the address roster and will send the completed software to President Gosselin.

Honorary Memberships will remain FREE Memberships (voted by the members).

Election of Board Executives:

President must be elected every year and Francis Gosselin remained in office. All other officers remained in office also.

Note: The Vice President and the Treasurer are in office until they resign. The Secretary/Events Coordinator is also in office until she resigns. However she requested an assistant.

Lo Ann Zentner volunteered for the Assistant Secretary position. She was nominated, seconded and accepted.

There were no volunteers to take over the Scrap Book.

Reunion Site for 2011:

The reunion site for 2011 was to be Colorado Springs, CO.

The membership felt, that that was too close to Santa Fe, NM and we needed to choose a different site. J.B. Vaughan spoke about Colorado Springs and the altitude which presented a problem. He thought a lower altitude would be better for most members.

The decision was made not to go to Colorado Springs in 2011, because the votes against it were equal to the votes in favor.

New reunion locations were voted on with received votes as indicated:

Biloxi, MS(15); Reno, NV (0); Branson, MO (0); Dayton, OH (0); Nashville, TN (8)

Biloxi was selected as the site for 2011. For 2012, Nashville a possible site but it will need to be re-voted.

Since Easter will be celebrated at the end of April, the 2011 Reunion will be held the week of week of May 1-6, 2011.

Additional Items:

Lucy Vaughan presented Fay Dickey with a quilt she created for Fay.

This was a present for all the hard work Fay does in regard for a successful reunion every year. The quilt is called, "Arkansas Cross Roads" and surely will be treasured by Fay and family.

Judy and Jerry Sharp were the winners for the Annual Drawing.

Francis Gosselin invited membership to join the Military Cruise, "The Carnival Freedom Ship", scheduled to depart from Fort Lauderdale, FL, on January 2011.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

The Minutes are submitted by:

Fay Dickey

Secretary/Events Coordinator

601st&615th AC&W Sq Association

Bad to the bone ... !



"..It is ok, old boy. Better days will come"



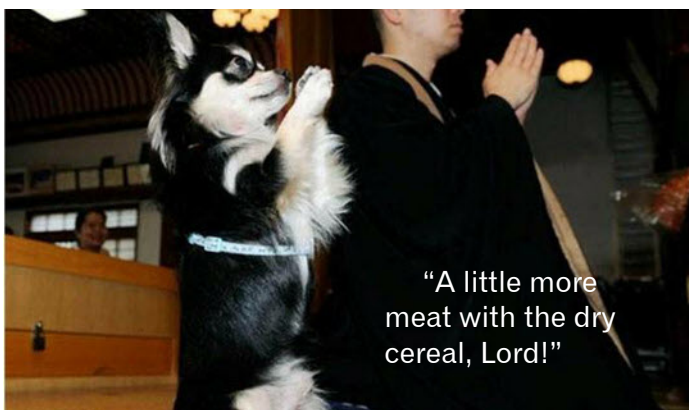
"I wonder.. Who invited him here?"



"I must have those brakes checked!"



Opening day in the Amazon.



"A little more meat with the dry cereal, Lord!"



"I know that the cat is the problem, but you must accept him as a member of the family!"

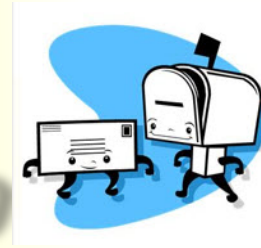


"I must remember to change the tire.. My feet are killing me!"



Amen!

Our Mailbag



20 August 2010

Mr. Howard Dickey

27382 - 450th Street

Leonard, MN 56752

This letter is a shot in the dark, in as much as I stumbled across your name and address while looking for information on Rothwesten, Kassel, etc. I presume that you are the editor of the 601st news letter. Thus you are my target receiver. If I have erred, please discard the letter and no harm done.

Like many others, I was an electronic student at Kessler AFB in the early 1950s. My assignment happened to be with the 3rd Sharon Beacon Squadron, which was a small tenant organization at Rothwesten when Col. Wolf was CO of the 601st. There is virtually no information on 3DBCRON, but some on the 601st.

The 3DBCRON operated a number of small mobile units (close supporting bombing) in northern Europe (West Germany, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, etc.) There were also some TDY assignments in Libya and Portugal, as well as some offshore excursions to Norway and Scotland.

About halfway through my tour, the HQ for 3DBCRON was transferred to Bremerhaven, although my group remained mobile until the middle of 1956 when I rotated home. I spent much time at Rothwesten, Winterberg, Kassel, Waldau, as well as the constant moving about in such places as Aschen, Ostend, Koln, Copenhagen, Berlin, Lubeck, Hameln, etc. For a few weeks before I rotated home, I did some surveying in the far north around Wilhemshaven, Bremen, Munster, Osnabruck, etc.

My mobile group was about 25 in number and we never stayed in one place very long. Thus, I made very few friendships at any of the places I touched in my travels. The only name I thought I recognized in your newsletter was George Biscoe, listed as a photographer, I presume he is the same George Biscoe who used to go on a 3-day pass to Frankfurt equipped with helmet and side-arm; he was concerned over the bahnhof bandits of the time. I never had any trouble myself, but my guys were always well armed.

Following my tour I rotated home via the S. S. America to NYC and then back home to resume what remained of my life. It has been an interesting life, and I have no regrets. I only know of two of the old 3DBCRON group, one of the eventually becoming a building engineer at the Pentagon. The other became a TV weather broadcaster in Boston. Of the few people I knew in Rothwesten the most memorable was the Chaplain, a Dutch Priest named Thoen. He had been a pastor at a parish in Kassel before the war, and returned thereafter, as well as assuming temporary duties as our Chaplain. Pater Thoen died in Holland some in the 1980s.

I understand that Rothwesten is now a civilian housing development and, possible some sort of hospital for critical patients. Who knows?

I won't prolong this note further. Suffice it to way your newsletter triggered a few old memories which I shall now entomb permanently. God bless and good luck to the old guard.

...an old antenna mangler

(Editor Note - Old antenna mangler, please email us your address. We would like to keep in touch with you. FYI, I drove for Pater Thoen to may locations.)