

# RED EAGLES NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 25, 2016

VOLUME 30

## FELLOW RED EAGLES: MERRY CHRISTMAS

### Red Eagles Reunion Wrap UP

The following article is a reprint of an earlier email that was sent out right after the reunion. It is being reprinted here for those who may have misplaced or did not receive the original.

It's been several months since our Reunion 2016 in Dayton, Ohio.

1. I hope everyone had a good time and had the opportunity to see the Museum and many of the attractions on the Aviation Trail.

2. From my point of view, everything seemed to go pretty well. One thing I'd do differently would be to not have that private viewing in the IMAX Theater after the dinner Saturday evening. First,



because it was not the movie I expected, and second, because it was just too much in too little time. If I had it to do over again (which I don't and I



won't), I'd skip the movie, take more time getting pictures at the end and then just "socialize" until they ran us out of the Museum.

3. Neil Henderson has set up a "DropBox" to gather everyone's photos into one place. Below are his instructions on how to both upload and download photos so if you have some good pictures you'd like to share with the group, please read Neil's instructions and upload them to our DropBox for everyone to see. Make sure you bookmark (or otherwise record) that link.

Any questions or problems, email Neil Henderson at [neil.henderson@gmail.com](mailto:neil.henderson@gmail.com). Here is a link to the DropBox "Getting Started Guide". It's short and easy to read. <https://www.dropbox.com/home?preview=Getting+Started.pdf>

4. Videos may be available later. We'll let you know.



### Editor's Christmas Column:

These are my guidelines for Christmas:

- Peace on earth starts with your family. Put aside hard feeling and disagreements on this one special day.
- Spend this day with family and friends and let them know how much they mean to you. Say "I love you" to those special people in your life. Make that phone call on Christmas day.
- Treat each gift you receive as if it cost the giver a fortune. It doesn't matter so much about the gift as the thought behind it.
- Think of your past Christmases and try to make this one the best. This is a time for giving, not just gifts but of yourself.
- You can submit your stories or roster updates by emailing them to: [4477redeagles@gmail.com](mailto:4477redeagles@gmail.com)
- Or, mail to:  
Ben Galloway  
3732 Bar 10 Road  
Calhan, CO 80808

To Upload Pictures to the DropBox:

Preferred method:

1) Go to this link

<https://www.cloudwok.com/u/VKm5>

- Agree to the terms

2) Click on the link that says +Add Files or you can drag your files onto the area that says “Drop files here.”

3) Navigate to where your photos are stored and select the photos you would like to share with the group. You can select multiple photos.

4) Attach a message: Your email address, your first name, your last name and your message. This is REQUIRED to proceed.

5) Click on the link that says “Start Upload & Attach Message”.

That should do it. The files will upload depending on your internet speed and appear in our central DropBox in a few minutes.

Secondary method:

Email your photos to [neil.henderson@gmail.com](mailto:neil.henderson@gmail.com)

Fallback method:

Burn your photos to a CD and mail them to:

Neil Henderson

3459 French Daisy St.

Las Vegas, NV 89135

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Below are instructions for downloading photos from the 2016 Red Eagle Reunion:

1) Go to this link

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8ur8f7uuvmyd57h/AAB4qMx\\_TrBeSHC4aUH7\\_h3Ma?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8ur8f7uuvmyd57h/AAB4qMx_TrBeSHC4aUH7_h3Ma?dl=0)

You will see some photos that reunion attendees have uploaded plus several folders which contain subject specific photos. Click on the folders to view their contents.

Thanks,

*Ted Drake*

## **REAA Meeting at the Reunion**

The Reunion schedule included a meeting of the Red Eagle Alumni Association on Saturday, 10 September. The meeting was called to order at 1500 and adjourned at 1615. Approximately 25 members were in attendance. For the first order of business, Rob ‘Z’Man’ Zettel led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the subsequent items of business follows.

As of the meeting, our treasury balance – not including reunion money – was approximately \$15600. After accommodating the discount offered to REAA Members, the costs and expenses of the reunion will be a wash. We expect our 31 Dec ’17 balance to be approximately \$18,000. Bottom-line – we are in good shape.

Ben Galloway, our store operator, provided a brief rundown. The store is located in Ben’s house; but, the available items are advertised on our website – [www.4477reaa.com](http://www.4477reaa.com). The primary purpose of the store is to offer Red Eagle items to our members at a reasonable price – it is not intended to be a big money maker, but, it does operate at a small profit. Inventory is purposely kept relatively small to ensure we don’t create a need for an ‘inventory blow-out sale’. But, we will take orders and source items if needed. Additionally, new ideas for enhancing our stock are always welcome.

Communication is accomplished using three methods. Immediate requirements (reunion info, for example) are disseminated via a shotgun blast utilizing all members’ last known email addresses. The second method, The Newsletter, again uses email addresses, but is only a periodic publication that contains general information. The third method, [www.4477reaa.com](http://www.4477reaa.com), is ongoing. It contains a boatload of REAA information – past Newsletters, roster, store items and unit history - these are but a few of its’ offerings.

Progress is being made towards making the Red Eagles a part of the National Museum of the United States Air Force. John ‘Flash’ Mann has agreed to coordinate our efforts. A space in the museum has been identified and, after certain logistical details/problems have been solved, we expect further movement. We envision the display to be both physical and website based. The physical requires help from all Red Eagles. So, open your storage boxes, get out your Red Eagle stuff and either fill out the donation form found on our website, or get-in-touch with John Mann or me, Mike Scott, for further advice. Note: A paradox is that whereas there was a time one could get in big trouble for absconding with something from our Red Eagle days – classified or not – today, folks will be grate-

ful you did as most remnants of the program no longer exist. Your stuff may be a part of history that only you can provide for the future folks that will study/view our program!

Recent unfavorable publicity associated with the Wounded Warriors program, led some members to request we revisit the decision we made at our last meeting that designated Wounded Warriors as our Memorial charity. Rob Zettel presented research on five alternative choices – Fischer House, Air Force Aid Society, VFW, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, American Legion Charities – and Mike Scott suggested the Nellis Honor Guard. After some discussion, the Membership voted to allocate \$300 towards supporting the Nellis Honor Guard’s annual appreciation luncheon. The money will be provided at year’s end and will be given in the name of Red Eagles that passed away during the year. Currently, the 2016 memorial will recognize Chico Noriega and Melody Galloway.

Two By-Law changes were approved. The first provides the rewording that accommodates Bob Breault’s resignation as a permanent Board Member and co-editor. The second, accommodates the decision to change from an ‘every two years’ election requirement to one that aligns future Board elections, and corresponding term lengths, with reunion meetings. This simplifies administration of the election and, more importantly, provides a better voter participation rate.

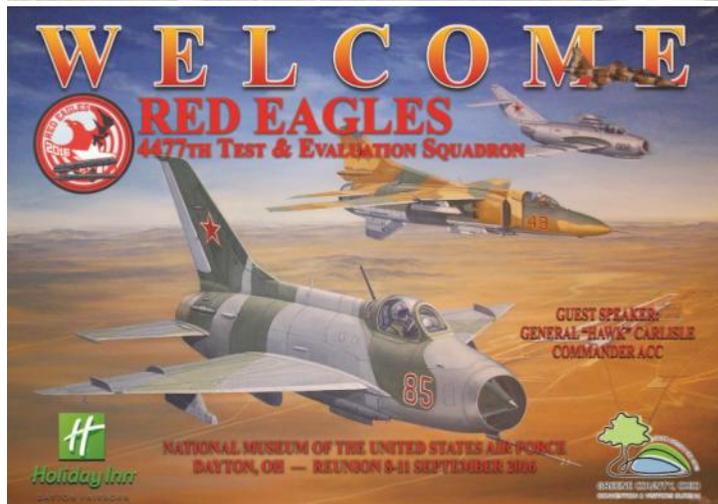
Larry Mason, Mike Scott and Rob Zettel were re-elected, by voice vote, to the Board.

The next reunion will occur in 2018 and will be held in Las Vegas. Specific location and date will be decided by the reunion committee --- to which no one has yet volunteered! Volunteers – please contact Scotty, [mikebonscott@gmail.com](mailto:mikebonscott@gmail.com) ! Non-volunteers – you might want to be wary of answering your phone if the caller ID starts with (702)!!

The last item of business was a freewill collection of funds to help offset the transportation costs of two

wonderful pieces of art created and donated by Joe Mike Pyle.

*Mike Scott*



Aviation author Steve Davies and General Hawk Carlisle at the 2016 Red Eagles Reunion.

## “Capt. Carlisle” unveiled: MiG-23 dedicated to ACC Commander



Gen. “Hawk” Carlisle, commander of Air Combat Command gives a speech during a dedication ceremony at the Threat Training Facility on Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Oct. 17. During the ceremony, a MiG-23 was dedicated to honor his role in the CONSTANT PEG program. The mission of CONSTANT PEG was to train U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps combat fighter aircrews on the best ways to fight and win when encountering MiG built aircraft in aerial combat. Carlisle was the chief of weapons and tactics as well as flight commander for the 4477th Test and Evaluation Squadron from 1986 to 1988.

CONSTANT PEG was a program named after Maj. Gen. Hoyt S. “Sandy” Vandenberg, whose call sign was “CONSTANT” and “PEG”, the wife of Maj. Gailard Peck, who initiated the program while working for Vandenberg at the Pentagon.

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After Col Weeks’ introductory speech the official dedication portion of the ceremony followed with the unveiling of the nicknamed “Captain Carlisle” MiG-23. Carlisle then took to the podium for brief remarks praising the legacy of CONSTANT PEG.

“We’re approaching 44 years where we have not lost an airplane, thanks to the tough lessons we learned,” said Carlisle. “Since 1972, the Air Force has not lost an airplane in air-to-air combat. Oh and by the way, April 15, 1953 was the last time a sol-

dier had to worry about an enemy airplane dropping a bomb on them.”

Carlisle went on to add, “It’s amazing to think about what our Air Force has done. Those lessons we learned coming out of Vietnam were difficult lessons, but the key point in that statement is we learned the lessons. So, I guess the bottom line to that whole thing is, if you’re in a country that’s an enemy of the United States and you fly for that country the short answer is, it sucks to be you.”

The mach-2 capable MiG-23 Flogger was one of the most-produced and capable Soviet aircraft of the Cold War. It was the first Soviet aircraft to feature variable sweep wings and paved the way for the equally-capable MiG-27 Flogger ground strike variant.

Carlisle ended his remarks with praise for the young Airmen in attendance.

“Our successors should be better than us if we’re going to maintain being the best Air Force in the entire world. There is no doubt in my mind that all the folks that are here today, the people that they train, are going to be better than them and that’s the way it has to be. So my hat is off to all the young men and women that raised their right hands to defend the Constitution and defend us, it means more to us than you can imagine.”



An Airman reveals the nickname of a MiG-23 during a dedication ceremony at the Threat Training Facility on Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Oct. 17. The MiG-23 was dedicated to Gen. “Hawk” Carlisle, commander of Air Combat Command, in recognition of his time as the Chief of Weapons and Tactics and Flight Commander for the 4477th Test and Evaluation Squadron from 1986 to 1988.

## Nellis Threat Training Facility (TTF) MiG-23 Dedication

This is the first of two pictures from the 17 October 2016 MiG-23 dedication at the threat training facility. Hawk Carlisle came in for the ceremony and gave a very complimentary speech about the Red Eagles. The Nellis photo lab filmed his speech and many stills were taken. We have been promised copies and intend to post them on the Red Eagle web site when received. We also put Gen Carlisle's name on the MiG-23 along with 28 the jet he flew on the last mission. The General stressed that while honored it was for ALL Red Eagles.

*Earl "Obiwan" Henderson*



With Gen Hawk Carlisle is Col Samantha "Combo" Weeks, the Adversary Training Group commander. We owe thanks to Combo and LTC Catherine "Snapper" Gambold, the 547 IS commander for making it all happen.



The people in this photo are left to right: Doug Melson, Chuck Holden, Tom Boma, Don Lyon, Mike Scott, Earl Henderson, Hawk Carlisle, Gail Peck, Rich Samanich. Kneeling is Dave Stringer.



### Gail Peck added:

In addition to the dedication and naming of the Flogger, 17 Oct 16 was also the public unveiling of the CONSTANT PEG RED EAGLE display at the Nellis AFB Threat Training Facility.



The people left to right are: Chuck Holden, Doug Melson, Tom Boma, Mike Scott, Earl Henderson, Gail Peck, Hawk Carlisle, Rich Samanich, Don

The beautiful painting done by Joe Mike Pyle along with the large RED EAGLE patch symbol, also done by Joe Mike, are the center pieces of the display. While these items were first shown at the RED EAGLE reunion at the National Museum of the Air Force they didn't fit into the Museum's criteria for display so the Nellis community rose to the occasion and the very capable personnel from the 547th Intel Squadron (which "owns" the TTF) put together the beginning of a splendid CONSTANT PEG display which is currently open to the

MiG-23 Flogger.

## Red Eagles Alumni Dues for 2017

public that has access to Nellis, either as guests escorted on base or military members. A special word of thanks to the RED EAGLE Alumni Association for financing the shipping of the art work first from Joe Mike's studio in Booneville AR to the Reunion site in Dayton and then to Nellis.

The artwork in the display is supplemented by memorabilia that has been given (or loaned) to the TTF. This is a work in progress. We hope to obtain a display case for smaller items and will consider including any and all items offered up by RED EAGLES. Your donations don't have to be permanent and can be earmarked for temporary display pending ultimate display at the National Museum of the Air Force (or elsewhere) as Flash Mann and the head of the Museum, Lt Gen (ret) Jack Hudson continue to work on that project. For now I am happy to serve as the conduit for donations to the TTF. Call me at 702 461-1998 to discuss the logistics of anything you have to donate to the display.

The next item in the works for the CONSTANT PEG display in the TTF is a memorial plaque with the names and other appropriate material of the men we lost at Tonopah during the project (Hugh Brown, Mark Postai and Rey Hernandez). Thanks to Darth Drabant for that important suggestion.

Finally, the wheels are definitely in motion to name the TTF "The Glenn Frick Threat Training Facility." The timeline is not yet certain, but the "man at the top" is on board and I am confident it will finally happen. Moody Suter was the idea man behind the TTF but Glenn Frick and his team at Nellis are the ones that made the TTF happen. We owe Obie Henderson, Chuck Holden and Gen Carlisle's CAG a word of thanks for keeping the pressure on for this initiative.

All of this really makes me proud. And, what a job Joe Mike did for us! Thanks Joe Mike for all you have done and find time to continue to do.

*Gail Peck*

Video link: <http://www.nellis.af.mil/News/Video.aspx?videoid=488391&videotag=undefined&videopage=1&ccenabled=false>

News article link: <http://www.nellis.af.mil/News/tabid/6431/Article/987504/capt-carlisle-unveiled-mig-23-dedicated-to-acc-commander.aspx>

Red Eagle Alumni Association (REAA) dues are due the first part of January each year. Just a friendly reminder that this will be the start of a new year and it's time to pay your dues. For those of you paying annually, the cost is \$25 per year.

Lifetime membership can be broken up into five payments of \$50 over five years and are also due the first part of January as well. Or if you prefer, you can make a onetime payment of \$250.

If you have not joined or paid your dues yet, please send your checks or money orders made out to "REAA" (Red Eagles Alumni Association) and send to my new address:

**John Nelson**  
**2258 E. Pasture Drive**  
**St. George, UT 84790**

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

*John "Admiral" Nelson*

## Thoughts from the Editor

One of the neat things about being the editor is that you can sometimes go off script and get away with it. Having said that, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize "The man, the myth, the legend", Ted Drake. Ted did an outstanding job of planning and executing the Red Eagles 2016 reunion in Dayton, Ohio. I was duly impressed by his organizational skills, attention to details, and the execution of an unforgettable reunion. So Ted, my hats off to you on a job well done!

This year's reunion is certainly one that I'll not forget. Since I was flying solo, I made myself available to help Ted in any capacity for which he might need me. Everything went quite well and I was glad to see old friends as well as make some new ones. There were so many highlights to the events that took place that it's hard for me to pick a favorite. Some of the best memories I have are competing for first place. And those are; my flight in the Wright "B" Flyer, touring the National Museum of the United States Air Force, finally getting to meet Steve Davies face-to-face and spend time chatting with him, and introduc-

ing myself at the dining out to Gen. Hawk Carlisle. On that last note when I introduced myself to Hawk, he looked at me and smiled and said "I'll be talking about you in my speech tonight." I must of had a concerned look on my face because Hawk smiled and said "Don't worry, it's all good" and laughed. I had no idea that he would be talking about the cat poo in the heater duct of the NDI and Tire Shop incident up at the site. Well, I'm truly flattered that I was remembered for something. LOL.

*Ben Galloway*



Ted "Gabby" Drake, planner and executioner of the Red Eagles 2016 Reunion extraordinaire.





