



SUNSETTER'S GAZETTE

Newsletter of the
Seventh Fighter Command Association
USAAF-World War II



NEWSLETTER

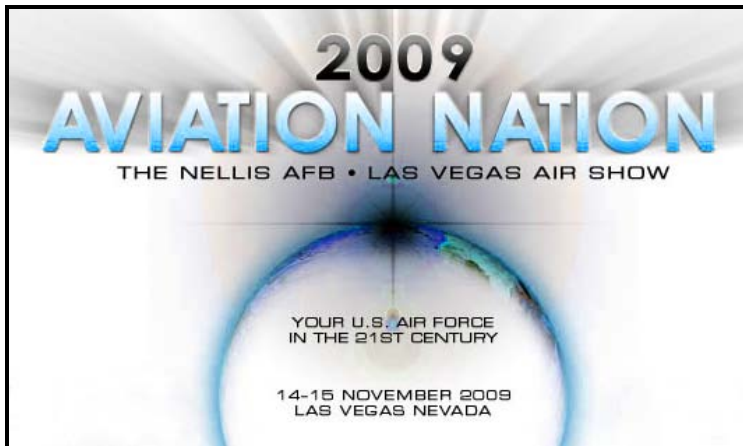
2009 Reunion Edition

VOLUME XXVII NUMBER 1

7th Fighter Command Association Reunion November 12th-16th, 2009 Las Vegas, Nevada

Please join us in Las Vegas, Nevada for a 7th FC Grand Reunion. This reunion is in conjunction with the 78th Fighter Squadron Reunion being held there.

This year's reunion will be held in conjunction with the Air Force's "Aviation Nation 2009" Air Show.



Presented by the U.S. Air Force and the men and women serving their country from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Aviation Nation 2009 will be a spectacular aerial event. Aviation Nation is one of the most diverse, entertaining and well run air shows in America. It is the premier air show of the Air Force and one of the largest aviation events in North America.

<http://aviationnation.org>

The 78th Reconnaissance Squadron will be providing a tour of their base as well as hosting us at the air show.

This reunion is a Grand Reunion for our WWII veterans and to celebrate this fact, the 7th Fighter Command Association is covering **all planned reunion event expenses for the first 75 7th FC WWII veterans plus one guest** to register*** (donations will be accepted by those who choose to do so).

All WWII 7th Fighter Command veterans and associated Support Units are being invited to join the 78th for this reunion.

We will be staying at the Texas Station Hotel and Casino in the North end of Las Vegas not too far from Nellis AFB, yet within a short ride of the Vegas Strip.

Young and old are all encouraged to come to this reunion, so if you can't attend, maybe a son or daughter or grandchild can attend in your honor and meet some of your comrades

Plan to arrive on Thursday evening, November 12th for registration and time to make new friends, enjoy each other's company, and retell many tall tales in our Hospitality room.

This year's Banquet Buffet will feature 3 Entrees:
Grilled Breast of Chicken with Tarragon Sauce
Penne Pasta with Tomato Vodka Sauce
Beef Stroganoff with Buttered Noodles

The tentative schedule of events are as follows:

November 12 (Thursday)

Arrive and register Hospitality Suite open

November 13 (Friday)

0730 – bus departs hotel for Creech AFB
0900 – muster in wing auditorium (building 1000) for mission briefings
0945 – flight line tour with Capt Alex Mirot (MQ-1) and LTC John "Oscar" Myers (MQ-9)
1130 – Lunch on base
1400 – Quick stop at Sim building on way to hotel
1500 – Bus departs Creech for Hotel
1600 – Bus arrives
– Dinner on own at Hotel or neighboring restaurants
– Hospitality Room Open

November 14 (Saturday)

0830 – Bus Departs for Aviation Nation
0900 – Arrive Aviation Nation
1600 – Bus leaves for Hotel
1630 – Arrive Hotel
1800 – Business Meeting
– Dinner on own at Hotel or neighboring restaurants
– Hospitality Room Open

November 15 (Sunday)

0830 – Bus Departs for Aviation Nation (Repeat)
0900 – Arrive Aviation Nation
1600 – Bus leaves for Hotel
1630 – Arrive Hotel
1800 – Closing Banquet
– Hospitality Room Open for those not attending air show
– Possible Video history recordings

November 16 (Monday)

– Free time/various entertainment activities or depart for home
– Possible Video history recordings
– Hospitality Room Open

Reunion Information

Texas Station

2101 Texas Star Lane

North Las Vegas, NV 89032 - reservations: **800-654-8888**

<http://www.texasstation.com/>

7th FC Room Rates: \$25 Weekday and \$65 Weekend plus applicable taxes per room per night.

RESERVATION METHOD: To reserve your room call reservations at **800-654-8888**

Ask for Group Code: TCI78FS -OR- 78THFIGHTER

If any issues arise, please feel free to call either Maria or Regina at 800-654-8804, ext. 8358

They are holding a block of 30 rooms for us until September 12th, so don't wait to make your reservation. Early arrivals and late departures will be confirmed on a space available basis. Individual room reservations may be cancelled up to forty-eight (48) hours prior to arrival without penalty.

Payment will be made at the reunion registration. No need to send funds in at this time, but it is imperative that we know who is coming in order to arrange for the buses.

Hotel Shuttle:

The hotel will be providing a Complimentary airport shuttle. At the time of this printing the times have not yet been established so please contact either Maria or Regina at 800-654-8804, ext. 8358 to obtain that information prior to booking your airline tickets.

Please fill out the following form and **bring it with you** when you arrive:

The following individual(s) are attending:

1) First _____ Last _____ WWII Vet ___ Unit ___ or Guest ___

2) First _____ Last _____ WWII Vet ___ Unit ___ or Guest ___

3) First _____ Last _____ WWII Vet ___ Unit ___ or Guest ___

4) First _____ Last _____ WWII Vet ___ Unit ___ or Guest ___

Additional persons _____

Planned Reunion Events Costs per person:

	Cost		# attending	Total
Hospitality Rm (including snacks and drinks) (Free to WWII Vets + 1 guest)	\$15 x		_____ =	\$ _____
Aviation Nation Air Show and Transportation	Free x		_____ =	\$0
Dinner Banquet (Free to WWII Vets + 1 guest)	\$36 x		_____ =	\$ _____
Donations to 7th Fighter Command Association (to help cover WWII Vet Costs)				\$ _____
	Total *			\$ _____

* (please make checks payable to the 78th Tactical Fighter Squadron Association)

*****Please** fill out the following mail in registration form and **mail it to:** (in the unlikely event we exceed 75 WWII veterans, we will either make special considerations or you will be notified that we have exceeded our available funds)

Mark Stevens
14629 SE 198th St
Renton, WA 98058

The following individual(s) will be attending:

- 1) First_____ Last_____ WWII Vet __ Unit ____ or Guest ____
2) First_____ Last_____ WWII Vet __ Unit ____ or Guest ____
3) First_____ Last_____ WWII Vet __ Unit ____ or Guest ____
4) First_____ Last_____ WWII Vet __ Unit ____ or Guest ____

Additional persons_____

Please let us know if you are coming and if you have any questions please contact:
Mark Stevens at 253-630-3199 home, 206-853-1197 cell, or via e-mail at stevensm@yahoo.com

P-51 Recovery Project Update

Many of you may be aware that I am in the process of trying to locate and recovery a 78th FS P-51 Mustang from a lake in Japan. I thought I would take this opportunity to give you an update. In June of 2008, I traveled to Japan and met with Kenichi Suzuki who with the generous support of Diet Councilman Mr. Fujita arranged for me to meet eye witnesses to Gordon's crash and recovery.

The interviews I conducted there reinforced everything that Gordon had recalled, plus more. I found witnesses to Gordon's air combat and witnesses to his ditching and capture at the lake. Based on the witnesses I interviewed, I am convinced that his P-51 may still be at the bottom of the lake.

My next step of a year ago, and still today, is to work towards raising enough funds to make a second trip to Japan to arrange to have a magnetic and radar scan done of the lake to confirm that the plane is still there. Since I do not possess the equipment and skills to do the search, Inner Space Exploration, a non-profit organization specializing in underwater search and recovery, has offered to donate all of their time and equipment to do the search. All I need to do is get the appropriate permits and get them and their equipment to Japan.

In order to raise some of those funds, Brian Bell had generously donated a painting to the effort and this past April I was able to have limited edition lithographs made of the painting. I then traveled to Colorado Springs where Gordon Scott signed each numbered print.

I will be bringing the lithographs of the painting with me to the reunion. Suggested Donation will be \$75 with all proceeds going towards the P-51 project.

If you can't attend the reunion, contact me at the address at the top of this page and I can mail a print out to you as well

See you in Las Vegas

Mark



SUNSETTER’S GAZETTE
Mark Stevens – Editor
14629 SE 198th St.
Renton, WA 98058-9405
mark@7thfighter.com
Address Correction Requested

Web Page <http://www.7thfighter.com>

Newsletter of the Seventh Fighter Command - World War II

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- President: Open
- V.P. 15th Fighter Group: Jim Tapp
- V.P. 21st Fighter Group: Bill Bradbury
- V.P. 318th Fighter Group: Open
- V.P. 414th Fighter Group: Open
- V.P. 506th Fighter Group: John Benbow
- V.P. Night Fighters Group: Bill Sill
- Secretary/Historian: Mark Stevens
- Treasurer: Jim Van Nada
- Adjutant General: Harve Phipps

If you can’t make the reunion and would like to donate, please remit your donations to “7th Fighter Command Association”

Name _____ Squadron _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Mail to: Jim Van Nada, 4095 Berrywood Drive, Eugene, OR 97404-4061