

**From:** Garrett Moore garrettmoore@verizon.net  
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**To:** Garrett Moore garrettmoore@verizon.net



***Greetings, Fellow Veterans of the Geodetic Survey Squadron and Geodetic Survey Group!***

And Happy Veterans' Day! My personal salute to all of you for your service to your country. It was an honor and a privilege to serve with you.

GSS Veteran, **Bob Tyzka** (Survey, FEW, 1983-86; NGA Support Team, Edwards AFB, 1992- present) passed on this good news. *Applebee's* is saying thanks to all active duty and veteran military members by offering a free meal on Veterans' Day. See more details at <http://www.applebees.com/veteransDayMenu> and here's another link from Bob for additional special offers from numerous other vendors, who thank you for your service! <http://www.legion.org/veteransday/230356/make-day-veterans-day-discounts-also-here>:  
<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Former-Officers/Veterans-Day-Discounts.aspx>

There was no newsletter during October. Bonnie and I have extended ourselves quite liberally this fall, flitting here and there to visit kin, taking care of family matters and enjoying occasional short getaways for R & R. We had cut short our ambitious plans for a wide-ranging, cross-country motor trip following the reunion in August. After the reunion, we rushed back to Virginia to take care of an urgent need to move Bonnie's 93-year-old mother into assisted living and all the emotional and logistical baggage involved with that unwelcome milestone---locating a suitable place for her mom, packing, moving, getting rid of the excess furniture and belongings and dealing with the sadness of the many losses, large and small, that age inevitably inflicts upon us all.

If you are just catching up, our fifth triennial reunion in Cheyenne in late July went off very well. Thanks to a great volunteer effort, especially by **Merilou Miller** (Ops, FEW, 1969-77; Admin, FEW, 1980-88), **Liz Starr** (Budget, FEW, 1980-93) and **Anita Rakestraw** (Orderly Room & Personnel Office, FEW, 1978-87), we had nearly 100 veterans and their family members share memories, war stories and conviviality with their colleagues and old friends. Some of you asked for the list of our 2015 reunion attendees, so **Dick Winslow** (Stellar Camera, FEW, 1966-70), our GSGS/GSG Webmaster, has placed that list on our website. You may also view photos of the reunion both on our website and at the special *Shutterfly* page set up by **Rick Eckhardt** (Data Reduction, FEW, 1981-82) and fellow GSS veteran and wife, **Kathy Eckhardt** (Survey, FEW, 1979-89), both of whom graciously acted as our official photographers for the reunion. To see the 2015 reunion photos that have already been uploaded, click here <[Shutterfly](#)> to access the reunion photos. The link is also provided on the GSS/GSG website homepage.

***NOTE: If you took digital photos at the reunion and want to share them with fellow veterans on our GSS/GSG Website or on Shutterfly, please select your best ones and send them to Dick Winslow (diskwy@gmail.com) or Rick Eckhardt (scouter.eckhardt@gmail.com) to load them for you.***

***Attention Stellar Camera/Sat Tri Veterans of Eniwitok and Pitcairn***

As mentioned in several previous newsletters, author **David Stumpf** is working on a third book in his series on the history of Cold-War-era guided missiles. This one will give the history of the development of the Minuteman. He wants to be sure to include the role the Squadron (and others) played in making the trajectory of the Minuteman as accurate as possible, given the various geophysical and payload error-budget considerations for hitting a target over 8,000 miles away from the launch site.

A related topic has come up, for which we seek information, especially from the Stellar Camera/Sat Tri veterans. It has to do with possible GSS surveys near Pitcairn and other island groups in the South Pacific for the purpose of assessing the accuracy of Minuteman tests. The Minuteman went through periodic tests to check how well it could place a dummy warhead on a specified target. **Gordon Barnes** (Acting Commander and Deputy for Ops, FEW, 1975-78) requests this information as input for David's book. Specifically, we are trying to determine how the target coordinates at the various missile test terminal areas were established. At least one Minuteman shot used Oeno Island (also known as Holiday Island) in the Pitcairn Island Group as the terminal area. This shot was in May of 1978. We are aware that the Squadron did work on Pitcairn in the late 1960s and early 1970s, so it would seem logical that they also could have positioned Oeno at the same time, as it lies only about 90 miles to the Northwest of Pitcairn. One article that Gordon found on the Internet states that the U.S. Air Force used Oeno as a satellite observation station in 1969 and 1970. This may

states that the U.S. Air Force used Gero as a satellite observation station in 1969 and 1970. This may possibly refer to GSS personnel or, if it was other Air Force personnel, that GSS positioned their observation site.

If there are any GSS veterans of the Stellar Camera/Satellite Triangulation Branch who can shed light on the surveys accomplished in the South Pacific during the late 1960s-early 1970s, Gordon would like to know the timeframes and instrumentation used to do the positioning; i.e., Stellar Cameras, Geocivers or both. We have already heard from **Mike DaRonco** (Stellar Camera, FEW, 1967-70), **James Cerar** (Stellar Camera, FEW, 1966-70), and **Doug Young** (Stellar Camera, FEW 1967-71).

***We welcome additional input from any of you who participated in surveys at Kwajalin, Eniwetok, Pitcairn or any other South Pacific islands used to test Minuteman accuracy. We'd especially like to hear from Leroy Everitt, Fred Vassau, Larry Adkins, Sig Soli and Loron Hansen. Please reply directly to me ([garrettmoore@verizon.net](mailto:garrettmoore@verizon.net)) and to Gordon Barnes ([glbjlb@charter.net](mailto:glbjlb@charter.net)).***

### **Another Request from Gordon**

Here's an opportunity for all you GSS veterans who also served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Evaluation Group (1<sup>st</sup> CEvG), especially those of you who supported Skyspot operations in Vietnam. Gordon Barnes also requested information on geodetic control that was provided to support a HIRAN photomapping survey to control Skyspot locations. Here is his request, edited for brevity:

"Hi Guys,

As you both know, and as Julian [Higgins] recently brought to my attention, a lot has been written about Lima Site 85 on Phou Pha Thi Mountain in Laos and the role it played in supporting B-52 operations in SEA under the nickname Combat Skyspot. But nowhere, to my knowledge, has the role of the Photomappers been told. I would like to correct that omission by getting something written and into our archives...I have written on the subject and it now resides on the Photomapper Website under the "Photomapping in S.E.A" button, and then clicking on ACGS Accomplishments. There, among a lot of other things, it will show under project Combat Sky Spot we accomplished six trilateration lines, one astronomic position and one astronomic azimuth. [See <http://1370th.org/sea/acgs.html>] My only other involvement with this site was when I used the then classified TACAN station located there as a navigation aid when flying AirBorne Command, Control and Communications missions out of Thailand in the 1967-1969 timeframe. I was not involved with Photomapping at that time.

I would be willing to write the article, if I could get inputs...Thanks in advance for any help on this. We really should get something factual and with enough details to be interesting into our history."

So, Gordon is looking for input from any of you who were on the ground at a Skyspot site during the 1960s, either as GSS or 1<sup>st</sup> CEvG staff, and can recall the who-where-why and when with regard to providing the survey control for this HIRAN survey. ***Please reply directly to me ([garrettmoore@verizon.net](mailto:garrettmoore@verizon.net)) and to Gordon Barnes ([glbjlb@charter.net](mailto:glbjlb@charter.net)).***

### **Deceased Members Update**

The July issue of *The Photomapper*, the newsletter of the *Air Force Photo Mapping Association*, reported the death of one of our mutual veterans, **Ron Knaus** (Orlando, Personnel & Transportation, 1959-62). Ron was one of our senior veterans and one of the early members of the original Orlando crew, serving from 1959-61. He was among the handful of flying officers who used to fly our surveyors to their TDY destinations on C-47 "Gooney Birds" and he also served in our higher headquarters, the Air Photographic and Charting Service (APCS). He apparently passed away last May at age 83. I don't have an obituary, but here's his profile from an earlier e-mail conversation I had with him:

"I was assigned as Admin and Personnel Officer and Transportation Officer. I would fly the crews around in an old DC-3 (C-47) over all of USA and much of South America. I was in Photo Mapping for about 7 or 8 years. Spent 3 years in Spain, Some time in Portugal, and several months in Italy. Then I was transferred to APCS then reassigned to the 1381<sup>st</sup>. Stayed there in Orlando for the rest of the time. Then to Korea, Wash DC, and Fort Worth, TX; then I went to work for American Airlines as

a pilot. Worked there for about 30 years. Lived in Long Beach, CA for 25 years, then came to Dallas to retire. I retired in July 1992. Since then, I have lived in Abilene, TX. I operate a ranch, a hunting ranch, and operate a rock quarry, where we break up rocks and make caliche for pavement. I do not live on the ranch, as my wife is a town girl, but we have a nice place on the Fairway Oaks Golf course. And, that's about all of the excitement I can think of."

May he rest in peace...

Dick Winslow, our Webmaster, will place Ron's name on our list of deceased veterans.

### **New Members**

We have no new members to add this month.

Think about your old friends, colleagues and barracks roommates from the Squadron and check our online roster to see if their names are listed. If not, send me their names, and we'll try to track them down and add them to our growing list of found GSS/GSG veterans. If you have orders with exact names, serial numbers or can recall any other details, please share those too. That will help us narrow down our search.

### **Your Contact Information and Profile**

Even though you may be receiving this newsletter because I have your e-mail address, I need the rest of your contact information and a brief profile of your time with the Squadron or Group. To get your name listed on our GSS/GSG Veterans website, please close the gap by sending me your contact information (or updates to your existing profile) using the format below. In 10 easy lines---just hit 'Reply' to this newsletter or send me a separate e-mail with your:

NAME:

ADDRESS: (Include street or mailbox #, city, state and zip code)

PHONE:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

MILITARY or CIVILIAN: (Answer "both" if you served the unit in both capacities)

HIGHEST RANK or POSITION in GSS/GSG:

START/END DATES OF SERVICE IN GSS/GSG: (List multiple entries, if you had more than one assignment)

BASE ASSIGNED TO: (Orlando, FEW, or Detachment location and dates)

ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENT: (i.e., where you worked: Admin, Astro, Computing, Data Reduction, Gravity, IPS, Logistics, Operations, Orderly Room, Sat Tri, Stellar Camera, Survey, etc.)

OTHER: (Whatever else you want to share here about your time in the Squadron/Group or since then.)

You will receive a user name and password to protect your private information, so only other Squadron veterans with user names and passwords will be able to see it. **Dick Winslow** (Stellar Camera, FEW, 1966-70), our Webmaster, will contact you with your user name and password when he loads your info onto our GSS/GSG website.

Meanwhile, check us out at <http://www.1381st-gss.freeservers.com/index.html>.

The homepage tells you what's new, what's coming, the list of all who have sent us their contact information, and links to the list of our deceased veterans, photos submitted by our members and lots of other useful information, including links to "kindred organizations," such as the *AF Photomapping Association*, the *Defense Mapping School Faculty/Staff Alumni*, and the *NGA Alumni Associations, East and West*. There's also an archive of old newsletters in case you missed any.

**If your name is already on our online roster, please log in to check your own profile and see if it's still current. If not, please send me your updates!**

### **Next Reunion**

As noted previously, we want to do something different for our next reunion, because there has been a growing interest to move the reunion to a different location to provide an alternate choice to our veterans, who can't make it to Cheyenne. I'm designing a questionnaire to put out early next year to solicit suggestions and to poll our newsletter audience to vote on the next reunion site. We also want to confirm whether we want to continue the three-year cycle or make our reunions more frequent or less frequent. Those of you who have held off coming to Cheyenne for the previous five reunions will now have a renewed voice in choosing a future reunion site more to your liking. We will also consider hiring a professional reunion planner to do the

heavy lifting and make all the arrangements for hotels and related package deals, and then pass those options and their pricing on to you. ***Please hold off sending me your ideas until I request them early next year.***

***Final Notes:***

You are welcome to look for me on LinkedIn and Facebook. We also have a Facebook page for the Squadron/Group at <https://www.facebook.com/1381GeodeticSurveySquadron?fref=ts> .

***Take it easy as we begin to mark the transition to the holiday season, beginning soon with Thanksgiving, and the end of another great year!***

Garrett  
Field Survey & Astro  
GSS/Cheyenne  
April 1967 - May 1970 and January - December 1972

*Nothing makes the Earth seem so spacious as to have friends at a distance—they make the latitudes and longitudes. – Henry David Thoreau, Surveyor and Philosopher*