

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

And a Happy April to all of you!

In his long, dour poem, The Waste Land, T. S. Eliot wrote:

April is the cruelest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain...

(See the rest here: <http://www.bartleby.com/201/1.html>)

Maybe he was just thinking about having to pay taxes, but we find April to be not cruel, but something to which we look forward, like the blooming of our region's iconic cherry blossoms and the opening of baseball season. April gives us good cheer. An early spring on the East side of the country (unlike the unrelenting snow our friends on the Front Range, Central Plains, Great Lakes and North East have experienced!) has already enabled us to plant cool-weather crops in our garden pots---lettuce, chard, chives, cilantro, dill, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, and other salad greens---all doing quite nicely on our sunny porch.

The GSS/GSG reunion interest poll went out to everyone on my distribution lists in the March newsletter. So far, I have received only 43 replies. I'd like to *triple* that response so that it represents a fair sample of the 400+ of you receiving this newsletter. I am repeating the survey questionnaire in this newsletter in case you missed it last time or haven't completed it yet. The survey questionnaire is also available on our GSS/GSG website, but I need to get your responses by e-mail. **Remember: the deadline for replies is the end of this month, April 30th. Please respond, especially if you have never attended a reunion before!**

Take the Reunion Survey!

DIRECTIONS: The following eight-question survey is presented as a multiple-choice set of questions or statements. To respond, please press 'Reply,' make your choices and send the survey back to me as soon as possible by e-mail. As an alternative, you may also copy and paste the survey questions and your answers into a separate e-mail to me. IMPORTANT: Mark your selections by making them boldface, italicized, or change the color of the font---any method that let's me easily see your choice. Some questions also allow you to write in a choice, so please do not ignore those. I will publish the results in a future newsletter. The deadline for responses is April 30th!

1. Our GSS/GSG reunions have been taking place every three years since 2003. How often do you prefer to have GSS/GSG reunions?
 - a. Every year
 - b. Every two years
 - c. Keep it at every three years
 - d. Every four years

2. Previous discussions about alternate reunion locations cited places as geographically diverse as Orlando, San Antonio, DC, St. Louis, Branson, and Las Vegas. Please indicate your most favored location in the USA.
- a. Orlando
 - b. San Antonio
 - c. Cheyenne
 - d. Other (Please state where.) _____
3. In what season should we hold the reunion? (Consider the climate of your preferred reunion location.)
- a. Spring
 - b. Summer
 - c. Fall
 - d. Winter
4. Choose your favorite four months from your personal schedule to hold the reunion, with choice (a) representing your most favored month for the reunion and (d) your least favored. (Consider the climate of your preferred reunion location.)
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
5. How many days should the reunion last?
- a. A two-day weekend (Sat-Sun)
 - b. A three-day weekend (Fri-Sat-Sun)
 - c. A four-day weekend (Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon)
 - d. Other (Please specify.) _____
6. What social events would you like the reunion to include? (Select all that apply)
- a. Ice-breaker on first evening
 - b. Self guided site-seeing and/or organized tours on second day
 - c. Group dinner on second evening with DJ, live music or entertainer
 - d. Brunch on closing day
 - e. Other (Please specify.) _____
7. If we add an extra day to the reunion (four-day weekend), what would you most like to do during that time?
- a. Additional site-seeing tours
 - b. Shopping local markets
 - c. Golfing or attend game of local sports team
 - d. Other (Please specify) _____

8. What Squadron or Group logo paraphernalia would you most like to have available for sale before the reunion?
- Commemorative coins
 - Hats, t-shirts, totes, patches, etc.
 - Mugs
 - Other (Please specify)

Need Some Photo ID Assistance!

I recently received a message with two attached photos from the current folks at the NGA Geodetic Support Office at Vandenberg AFB, our old GSS/Detachment 1.

“While going through some old files, we came across some old pictures of the Det 1 GSS here at VAFB. One is from 1969 and the other is unlabeled, but I'm guessing is from about 1980. Neither one has the people identified. I was wondering if you could post these one the GSS website and see if any of the old timers can ID the people in the pictures.”

I asked Dick Winslow (Stellar Camera, FEW, 1966-70), our Webmaster, to post the two photos on our website, so if any of you, especially veterans of Det 1 from the 1969-80 era, can identify the folks in the photo, please advise! The black & white photo from 1969 is in high contrast and it's hard to make out the faces. The later color photo is more clear, but has a different crew.

Find the two photos at this link: <http://www.1381st-gss.freesevers.com/PhotoBeal.html> .

Another Photo Request

We received a request indirectly through Gordon Barnes (Acting Commander & Deputy for Operations, FEW, 1975-78) from CMSgt Forest Waters, a retired forward air controller, who is looking for photos of his late Dad, SMSgt John F. Waters. John was a veteran of both the 1370th Photomapping Wing and our Squadron. See edited e-mail string below.

Hi Garrett,

I got this message from the son of SMSgt. John F. Waters...and I need to answer him. John was my NCOIC in Plans and Reconnaissance with the 1370th PMW during my first Photomapping assignment after getting out of OSU [Ohio State University]...

It sounds like what Forest is looking for is pictures of his Dad...

Anyway, does his name mean anything to you? Any ideas on who may have pictures? Thanks for any help.

Gordon

From: Forest Waters

To: [Gordon Barnes](#)

Subject: SMSgt John F. Waters

Hello Sir!

I remember my dad mentioning your name over and over again in conversations when I was growing up. I almost feel as if I know you. I sort of followed in my dad's footsteps and had a 27 year Air Force career myself. The difference was that I actually used all those topographic maps that the DMA produced. I was an enlisted forward-air-controller working with all those Army units. Anyway, I finished with that about 2000, and I was just wondering if there are any old photos of my dad floating around. I found this site and I am suitably impressed that you guys are keeping the memory alive. Thanks for doing that. So, if you find time to look, I'll thank you ahead of time.

CMSgt Retired
Forest Waters

Regrettably, I don't have John Waters on any of my lists, including our deceased list, so he apparently never joined us via e-mail or sent us his contact information. I have asked Forest to send us his Dad's obituary so that we can add John to our roster of deceased veterans.

If you have any photos or personal recollections of serving with SMSgt John F. Waters, please contact me at garrettmoore@verizon.net .

More on Combat Skyspot

Speaking of Gordon Barnes, he sent me another request a few days ago for a follow-up on our recent history of Combat Skyspot-related activities of the 1370th Photomapping Wing, the Squadron's parent organization prior to DMA. As you may recall, in February we posted a history of the Wing's HIRAN survey for the secret site LS-85 in Laos and our own GSS activities supporting Skyspot at that site and at Mukdahan, Thailand. If you missed it, you can read it on our GSS website or the website of the AF Photomapping association at these URLs: <http://www.1381st-gss.freesevers.com/images/Moore/Photomapping_support_of_SkySpot.pdf> or <<http://www.1370th.org/sea/SKYSPOT/skyspot.html>>.

For a follow-up article in Photomapper, the newsletter of the Air Force Photomapping Association, Gordon would like the names of our GSS veterans who were also members of the 1st Combat Evaluation Group (1st CEG) and who were stationed at SkySpot locations during the Vietnam conflict. Here's his request in his own words:

"...Yes, I WOULD like the names of 1st CEG guys who worked on Skyspot in SEA. I will definitely name them in the article but probably in a different list. Please ask them to verify for me that they were [also] GSS members, in which country/countries they did their Skyspot work, and what functions they performed. I would particularly like to identify those guys who were reconning potential survey control stations in Laos when the helicopter they were using struck the mountain. This was before the ACGS was tasked to do the survey with HIRAN. Also ask them to contact me before 15 May..."

I know a few of you, like Bill Brewer, Connie Musha and Jim Siler, but would like to get a comprehensive list for Gordon. Please respond to both Gordon and me, including the details

he asked for above (where, when, what you did, etc.). Here are our e-mail addresses. glbjlb@charter.net and garrettmoore@verizon.net . Vietnam-era Skyspot activities are no longer classified, by the way, so feel free to talk about it.

New Members

We have two additions to our online roster of GSS veterans this month.

Josh Sermons (Satellite Triangulation, FEW, 1980-84; Survey, Det 1, 1984-92) has actually been on my e-mail list for a while, but just got around to sending us the rest of his contact information. His name has now been added to our online roster.

We also just recently heard from Steven M. Schwartz. Steve is one of a handful of GSS/GSG veterans who hail from the Army. (Hooo-aah!) Steve has done all right for himself since his Squadron days. He is now a licensed land surveyor and serves as a Cartographer/Land Surveyor/Geodesist at the Mapping and Boundary Branch, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Says he,

“My name is Steve Schwartz and as a member of the U.S. Army, I had the pleasure to serve the Geodetic Survey Squadron from 1981-1984 through the joint service at the Hydrographic Topographic Center within the Defense Mapping Agency. I worked in Data Acquisition with Bob Nelson, Jim Barton, Willie Lathrop, Dick Massetti, Pat Moran, Bill DeLorme, Gerald Groel, Frank "Gus" Guliuzza and lots others. Please add me to the list.”

Welcome to both Josh and Steve! Dick Winslow has already added Josh's name to our online roster, and he will add Steve's name soon.

This would be a good time for the 200+ of you who are also in the same status that Josh and Steve were in to send me your full contact info. See next paragraph.

Your Contact Information and Profile

Well over 400 of you receive this newsletter, because I have your e-mail addresses. However, only about 40% of you have sent me the rest of your contact information and a brief profile of your time with the Squadron or Group. That means over 200 of you are still holding out! You can check our online roster at <http://www.1381st-gss.freesevers.com/index.html>. If your name is not listed there and you are receiving this newsletter, you are among those who have not yet sent me your full contact info and profile. If you would like to have your name listed on our GSS/GSG website along side your former friends and colleagues, please close the gap by sending me the rest of 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 to the GSS/GSG)

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

ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENT: (i.e., where you worked: Admin, Astro, Computing, Data Reduction, Gravity, Inertial, 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 what you have been up to 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, 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.freesevers.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.

Think about your old friends, colleagues, barracks roommates or neighbors from your time with 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 rediscovered 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.

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! If you have forgotten your user name and/or password, contact Dick Winslow <diskwy@gmail.com> to remind you or to reset it for you

Final Notes:

I'm looking forward to receiving many more replies to the reunion survey. After the cutoff, I will compile the results and report them in May or June.

Although he is not a GSS veteran, many of you know Dalton "Boe" Borchardt as a fellow geodetic surveyor. Boe is finally back home after a 7-month long rehab from serious health problems. He's just as feisty as ever and has this to say about his status:

“The Good Lord gave me another banana peel to slide on for a while. I didn't see any light, but sure seen a lot of light poles.”

He also adds, “...my body is shot from neck on down, [but] sorry for you all, my brain is as sharp as ever.”

Send Boe a little love (and give Linda some relief!) by sending him an e-mail at boedal@suddenlink.net .

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

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