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GM

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

And a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!

I will keep this one short and sweet, as I know many of you are busy with holiday plans and visitors, as is the Moore household. We are pleased to have our three sons, their lovely ladies and our 16-month-old grandson all together under our roof for the first time in several years, It hardly seems possible, but another year is nearly gone. I hope it was a good one for you.

Repeat Request from Gordon Barnes

This is a repeat request from the previous newsletter---an opportunity for all you GSS veterans who also served in the 1st Combat Evaluation Group (1st CEG), especially those of you who supported Skyspot operations in Vietnam. **Gordon Barnes** () requested information on geodetic control that was provided to support a HIRAN photomapping survey to control the Skyspot location of the fabled and doomed Lima Site 85 on Phou Pha Thi Mountain in Laos. Here is what we know so far:

“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 Skyspot we accomplished six trilateration lines, one astronomic position and one astronomic azimuth. [See <http://1370th.org/sea/acgs.html>]

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.”

What we need some clarification on is who did the ground survey and astronomic observations at the site---was it a team of surveyors from 1st CEG or a team from GSS? Maj Julian Higgins believes it was a crew from GSS. For this HIRAN survey, Higgins recovered two control points in Thailand and the third point of the triangle was LS-85 itself. An azimuth-distance tie from the survey point at LS-85 to the Skyspot location was likely made, so the configuration of the HIRAN triangulation was a single triangle with two recovered control points in Thailand, a third point on Phou Pha Thi Mountain, possibly a TACAN location, and an azimuth-distance “tail” off this third point on LS-85 to the Skyspot. It appears that an astro position was also observed on LS-85. If any of you recall that survey and who did it, it would greatly improve the details of the story Gordon is writing.

So, Gordon is looking for input from anyone who was on the ground connected to the installation of LS-85 during the late 1967 - early 1968 timeframe, either as GSS or 1st CEG staff, and for anyone who can recall the who-what-where-why and when with regard to who performed the ground control and astro observations for this HIRAN survey. ***We would especially like to hear from Bill Brewer, Boe Borchardt and Bob Ackley on this, even if negative. Please reply directly to me (garrettmoore@verizon.net) and to Gordon Barnes (gjbjlb@charter.net).***

Deceased Members Update

Earlier this month I received this e-mail from Ernest J. Parkin, Jr.:

“Dear Mr Moore, Could your please add my father to the list of deceased members of the 1381st. He was Ernest J. Parkin, and worked there in Orlando from 1956 to 1964. He died December 16th, 1989.

Because we lived in Winter Park and I went to school in Orlando, I used to ride to work at Orlando AFB with him and get a city bus to downtown Orlando. In the afternoon I would drop in again and ride home with him.

I remember the salt tablet dispenser and the coldest water fountain in Florida in the hall near his office. The only name I recognized on your list was Pete Peterson, who I believe was a colonel and a figure of awe to me.

Just for contrast, I live in England now. How I miss that Orange County sunshine!

Regards, Ernest Parkin Jr.”

May Ernie rest in peace...

Dick Winslow, our Webmaster, has already added Ernest's name to 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 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.

Your Contact Information and Profile

Many of you receive this newsletter because I have your e-mail address, but I also 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 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, 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.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.

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!

Final Notes:

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

Wishing you all the best of the holiday season and another great new 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 longi