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**Subject:** Geodetic Survey Squadron/Group, Newsletter #51, 20 March 2016, Distribution 8  
**Date:** March 20, 2016 at 9:51 PM  
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### ***Greetings, Fellow Veterans of the Geodetic Survey Squadron and Geodetic Survey Group!***

And Happy Spring to all of you in the Northern Hemisphere! The March Equinox took place last night at 12:30 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time or 4:30 March 20th UT/GMT and marked the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. This annual event is the moment when the Sun crosses the equator heading north. Each day from now until the June solstice, the sun will inch its way a little bit further north, bringing its welcome warmth with it. In the Southern Hemisphere it's the beginning of fall. But, just to show you how contrarian the weather can be, we are expecting some wet snow in the DC area tonight, only one-half to three inches, but it won't be the first time there has been snow or ice on the cherry blossoms! This too shall pass...

This newsletter will be short and to the point. This is the long-promised survey to help us decide on some necessary details for the next GSS/GSG reunion---how soon, how often and where the next one should be, etc. According to prior agreement, the next reunion is currently planned to take place in 2018, but we can make that sooner or later, depending on survey results.

There are approximately 500 of you receiving this newsletter, so I'm hoping for a **BIG** response, especially from those of you who have never been to one of our reunions before. All five of the previous reunions have been in Cheyenne, the headquarters of our unit from 1965 to 1993. This will be your opportunity to speak up to hold the reunion in an alternate locale, hopefully, one that appeals to the majority of our veterans. Or conversely, you can use the survey to reaffirm that Cheyenne is still the *best* location for our reunions. The bigger the response, the more likely it will be that it represents the majority opinion of our veterans, who live all over the country with a few even living overseas. I'm already receiving solicitations from professional reunion planners, who want to plan and host our next reunion.

Think about a place that you have always wanted to visit (or re-visit) and that has appropriate amenities for fun, entertainment and sight-seeing. One new possible place to consider---the recently upgraded National Museum of the United States Air Force, which will open a fourth hangar this summer to house the Presidential Gallery, the Research & Development Gallery and the Space Shuttle exhibit. This Museum is located in Dayton, not far from Wright-Patterson AFB. See this link for a virtual tour: <http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil> > Bonnie and I stopped at this Museum and spent most of a day there on our way to Cheyenne for last summer's reunion. It was well worth the stay!

Orlando and San Antonio have also been frequently mentioned in the past. Orlando is where the Squadron got its start and certainly does not lack for fun amenities. We have quite a few of our veterans living in Florida. However, we may not want to go there in July or August, the months that our Cheyenne reunions have typically taken place, but the most hot and humid months in Florida. <http://www.visitorlando.com>

San Antonio is where most of our Air Force veterans began their military service, and it likewise has great food, sightseeing and activities. However, it also may be too hot in July-August. On the plus side, quite a few of our veterans call San Antonio and other places in Texas home. <http://visitsanantonio.com>

St. Louis, MO, and the Ft. Belvoir-Washington, D.C. region are homes to the two main campuses of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), which took over the functions of DMA, our Squadron/Group and many other important activities. Both locations have wonderful tourist options, and we might get an update on what's happening in the geospatial intelligence arena, if we choose DC or St Louis. Whatever your preferences, just get them into the survey! See <http://explorestlouis.com> and <http://www.northernva.com/visitor.html> .

Another possibility---the Tucson, AZ, area. A number of our veterans live in the Southwest, and Tucson has the Titan Missile Museum, where GSS veteran **Rick Rogers** is a docent. See <http://www.titanmissilemuseum.org> and [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g60950-Tucson\\_Arizona-Vacations.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g60950-Tucson_Arizona-Vacations.html)

***Take the Reunion Survey***

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***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 30<sup>th</sup>!***

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.
  - 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?
- a. Commemorative coins
  - b. Hats, t-shirts, totes, patches, etc.
  - c. Mugs
  - d. Other (Please specify)

Thanks, everyone!

Garrett  
Field Survey & Astro  
Hq 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*