
Geodetic Survey Squadron/Group, Newsletter #73, 27 May 2018, Distribution 8

1 message

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To: garrettmoore@verizon.net

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

Let us remember on this Memorial Day weekend all of our comrades-in-arms who have gone before us, especially those who died in combat and in service to our country...

Here's my personal salute to each of you, my colleagues both living and dead, with whom I have served in the Geodetic Survey Squadron/Group. It has been an honor and a privilege...

Reunion News:

We are only about two months out from our next triennial reunion in Cheyenne! We remain locked in for the weekend of August 3, 4 & 5, 2018, with the Radisson Hotel (the former Holiday Inn) and we expect to have the same events as the previous several reunions at that location. Those will include

- A Friday evening social
- Saturday noon lunch buffet
- Sunday morning brunch buffet

We are looking into a repeat of the Saturday evening wine & cheese social as well and possibly some other surprises.

The hotel has reserved a block of rooms at a special conference rate for our veterans: \$91 per night, only \$3 more than the rate in 2015.

If you plan to attend, I highly recommend making your reservations now!

To make reservations call:

Radisson Hotel Cheyenne

[204 West Fox Farm Rd](#)

[Cheyenne WY 82007](#)

Hotel phone: 307-638-4466

IMPORTANT: When making reservations, be sure to refer to: "GEODETTIC" or "Event #1006" to obtain the special conference rate!

In the June newsletter I will share all details and the planned main events, as they become firm, and will provide directions on how to order and pay for the events that you plan to attend.

Update on the GSS/GSG Commemorative Coins:

I have great news on the commemorative coins!

After several edits to the artwork, the design for each coin has been finalized and the molds or dies are being cut as I write. I anticipate the minting of the coins to begin in early June and they should be ready for sale a few weeks later. In

the June newsletter I will provide details on the cost of each coin and information on how to order yours. As you may recall, there will be four new designs offered, one for each of the remaining four designations held by our unit throughout its brief history. The original designation---1381st Geodetic Survey Squadron (Missile), 1959-64---was minted and sold out before the 2015 reunion. The remaining four designations are:

- 1381st Geodetic Survey Squadron, 1964-68
- 1st Geodetic Survey Squadron, 1968-72
- Geodetic Survey Squadron, 1972-89
- Geodetic Survey Group, 1989-93

For this initial run, there will be only 45 of each design minted and five additional of each design equipped with a fused bezel and hanging loop for use as a pendant or key fob.

In a few days I will send the final graphics depicting each design in full color to **Dick Winslow**, our Webmaster, to post on our GSS/GSG Veterans homepage at <http://geodeticsurvey.mysite.com>.

Please review the four designs at our website to make your selection. Some of you may want all four designs and others may only want the one from their time of service with the unit. If there is sufficient demand beyond the 45 coins or five pendants, I can reorder more, **including the original sold-out design offered in 2015**, but reorders will have to wait until after the reunion.

Update on GSS/GSG History Projects:

You may recall that we had several history projects going on simultaneously some months ago. One of those---the multi-year project surveying the photo calibration sites in the desert southwest and other locations, that started while the Squadron was still in Orlando and ending in 1967--- has moved off my plate and to the backburner of **Myke Dodge Weiskopf** of radio station KCRW in Santa Monica.

Myke stumbled on one of these calibration pads deteriorating in the Mojave and noted the 1381st GSS brass disk embedded in the concrete. He traced it back to our website and eventually to me. Myke eventually wants to do a story on it for his radio audience. Before I left for Australia in March, I gathered all the stories, personal recollection and available photos from the surviving participants in the survey and sent them all to Myke. When Myke has a gap in his current projects, he hopes to interview our guys and do the radio story.

The survey participants included **Bob Millians** (Survey & Det 1 Commander; Orlando, FEW, Det 1; 1963-83), who was OIC of the project, **Pat McDonough** (Survey, Orlando & FEW, 1962-66), **Joe Noel** (Survey, Orlando & FEW, 1964-67), **Ed Fincke** (Survey, Orlando, 1963-67), **Herb Guenther** (Survey, Orlando & FEW, 1964-67), **Jerome K. Jerome** (Survey, Advanced Technology, Program Management, Detachment; 1965-67 & 1979-82), **Bob Proett** (Survey, Orlando & FEW, 1962-66) and **Mike Hamilton**.

Other participants in this survey, known to be deceased, included:

Bobby O. Bishop, Howard Bowers, C. W. Long, Tom Perrott and Ed Rosser.

Mike Hamilton is not on any of our rosters and his status is currently unknown.

Meanwhile, I have asked **Dick Winslow** to post the document that I sent Myke to the "Memento Documents" section of our website, where you can all read their interesting "war stories."

Gordon Barnes (Acting Commander/Deputy for Operations, FEW, 1975-78) was also very helpful in providing a great deal of technical background, now declassified, on these photo calibration pads.

There still remains one other history project to wrap up---the one on the evolution of our unit's computing power over the course of its history. I have received some fine input, but could use more. If you haven't sent me anything yet, especially those of you who were with GSS/GSG in Data Reduction or Computing for a long time, this will be your final chance.

News from the Field:

Here's yet another history project idea...

Brodie Thompson (Survey, FEW, 1991-93), currently working with NGA in St Louis, has asked if we have a list of all the GSS/GSG commanders. I regret to admit that I don't have such a list, and we *should* have one on our website. I

can think of some of them, like **Harry “Pete” Peterson**, the first commander in Orlando, **Russel Greenlees**, **Martin Selenfreund**, **Orlando Holway III**, **Larry Beers**, **Keith Heiniger**, **Gordon Barnes** (acting), **Lyn Sheldon**, **Joe Kinnan**, and **Fritz Frieauf**, but I’m probably leaving some out. It would also be good to have a list of all the detachment commanders over the years and all the First Sergeants---and photos of each as well

ACTION ITEM: I’m appealing for help, especially from any civilian or military veterans of the Squadron/Group, who had a long history working in the orderly room or who managed the Squadron’s scrap book, to come forward with a list of commanders, and if possible, their dates of service as commander. As an extra, a list of GSS/GSG Det Commanders and First Sergeants would also be nice to have for the record. And their photos!

Bob Tyszka (Survey, FEW, 1983-86; NGA Support team, Edwards Range, 1992-2017) also requested help from the newsletter audience for information on a GSS survey mark labeled TATUM 1970. Says Bob:

“Garrett, A friend of mine from Cheyenne now lives in Hoquiam, WA. We were in the Cheyenne Camera Club together. I got an email from him today, he is working on updating info on some slides in his collection. He was asking about a USAF Geodetic Survey Mark TATUM 1970. All of the old records were moved to St. Louis and lost, along with the Arc of the Covenant.;-).

Does anyone remember that station and can give a brief location or find it in Google Earth?

Thanks; Bob T.”

Speaking of **Bob Tyszka**, he has graciously sent us a two DVDs of photos from the 1980s GSS. Each photo has the meta data of where the photo was taken and names people that he recognized. There is also a PowerPoint with photos and people tagged with their names. The photos are also grouped by location. **Dick Winslow**, our Webmaster, is getting those photos onto our website so you can all see them.

Dick is also loading some additional history to our website furnished by **Allan Walcker**. Allan is not a veteran of our Squadron, but was with the 1370th Photo-Mapping Wing in one of our sister units, the 1371st Photo Mapping Squadron, West Palm Beach, FL. Allan served with some of our early predecessors in the late 1940s and 1950s. You may recall that Allan was a guest speaker at our last reunion in 2015. In his e-mail to Dick, he says

“In 1944 General LeMay wanted photos of the before-and-after bomb runs in Germany. That was the start of [aerial] survey work.

In 1949, I joined the 7th Geodetic Squadron at Mountain Home, Idaho. The Squadron had moved to Topeka, KS. It was later that year that it became known as the 338th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. The Squadron moved to Barksdale AFB, LA and then to Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico.

I was stationed in Alaska from May to August of 1950, 1951 and 1952. During that time about 25000 miles of photos were taken. Each Photo had an 80% overlap. The photos were taken out of each side of the plane plus one looking straight down.

In 1952, the Navy started to use this equipment to do survey of the ocean bottom from Florida all the way to South America. At this time, I was shown Navy Maps of the Caribbean that were made by the British and they were dated 1787. I also heard that some of the maps of Southern Asia were dated about that time in use by Navy during WWII.

In 1954, the Squadron was renamed the 1371st Photo Mapping Squadron, West Palm Beach, FL. I left the outfit in June 1955.”

Thanks for your contribution to our heritage, Allan!

NGA Alumni Association News:

If you ever wondered how the Apollo astronauts learned the topography of the moon to prepare for their lunar landings, the Army Map Service (AMS) and the Air Force’s Air Charting and Information Center (ACIC) played an important role. These agencies were the predecessors of DMA Topographic Center in Bethesda, MD, and the DMA Aerospace Center in St. Louis, MO.

Al Anderson, former DMA Deputy Director, sent this interesting historic podcast, in which he plays a part. The link is now on the NGAA-East and West web sites. It includes an interview with Al, starting around 13:25 and ending around 25, but the entire podcast is fascinating and gives much insight into the focused effort that went into preparing for the

lunar landings. The blog is at this link: https://soundcloud.com/nga_geoint/lunar-mapping/s-FBr8Z

Successful May Reunion for Defense Mapping School:

A joint reunion of veterans of both the US Army Engineer School's Department of Topography and Defense Mapping School took place at the Ft Belvoir Officers' Club on Friday, May 11th. About seventy former faculty and staff veterans and their spouses attended, including seven former directors. I know that a number of you, like me, served both GSS and DMS. Jack Batt, longtime Army and civilian veteran of DMS deserves lots of credit for the success of this event. Among the veterans I was pleased to see again after many years were Jim Harnden, now 87, who came in with his daughter Miki from Arizona, and Wil Freeze, now 86, who was one of my astronomy instructors when I first learned how to be a surveyor in 1964! Jim and I were instructors of the Advanced Geodetic Survey Course, which included about eight weeks of intensive astro-positioning with the Wild T4 theodolite and astro-azimuth training with the Wild T3 theodolite. Wil later worked for me as a civilian course writer, when I became head of the Survey Division. May 11th marked the 100th anniversary of the arrival to Ft. Belvoir of the Corps of Engineers. The Defense Mapping School is now the National Geospatial-Intelligence College located inside the secure facilities of NGA Campus East on Ft. Belvoir's North Post near Springfield, VA. Catch up with your old DMS colleagues at <http://belvoirdms.org/index.html>

Off-Year 2019 Reunion in Orlando:

So far, 24 of you have responded favorably to **Werner Koslowski's** idea for an off-schedule reunion in Orlando, FL, in 2019. Next year will mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the original 1381st GSS (Missile) on 1 July 1959 at the now deactivated Orlando AFB, FL. Werner has proposed some ambitious plans:

"Hello, I thought we may consider the 2019 event be held in Orlando, since it would be 60 years since GSS was established in 1959 at Orlando AFB, please kick this around with our many folks,,warm regards

Hello again: I'm thinking of contacting my US Congressman, Bill Posey, for a possible political angle to the 60th reunion here in FL, to see what he thinks of the idea AND a potential event having President Trump as a speaker at the 60th. Just a thought, that may, could, spark some interest among our vets! The pres would certainly be interested in 2019 since FL is critical in elections. Let's talk later,, Werner K"

Please note that the majority of those who have responded positively to this Orlando reunion strongly disagreed with turning that reunion into a political event by inviting politicians from either party

ACTION ITEM: Let me know about your interest in having an off-year reunion in 2019 in Orlando to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Squadron. Exact date and events remain to be determined. This will be my last solicitation for this proposed event until early next year, so please make your intentions known now so that Werner can decide whether to pursue it!

Your Contact Information:

I haven't bothered you with this request for the last several newsletters, but here's another reminder. If you have not done so yet, ***please send me your contact information or your updates***, including a brief profile of your time with the Squadron or Group; i.e., what office or detachment you worked in and what you did. That's the only price of admission to what I call our GSS/GSG online Hall of Fame.

How do you know whether or not you have or have sent me *all* of your contact information? Please click this link <http://geodeticsurvey.mysite.com> and check the roster on our homepage. The home page has the alphabetical list of everyone who has sent his or her contact information.

If your name is not listed there, but you are reading this newsletter, then you are among those who have not yet sent me your **full** contact info and profile; i.e., all I have is your e-mail address. Please close the gap by sending me the rest of your contact information (or updates to your existing profile) using the format below. Just 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 all dates, 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.)

Dick Winslow, our Webmaster, will contact you with your user name and password when he loads your info onto our GSS/GSG website. Only other Squadron veterans with user names and passwords will be able to see your profile or contact information, and you will be able to read theirs, when you log in with your user name and password.

In addition to the roster of all who have sent us their contact information, the homepage tells you what's new, what's coming, and has links to the list of our deceased veterans, photos and documents submitted by our members and lots of other interesting 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. Please also send us your own photos of your time in the Squadron/Group, like **Bob Tyszka**, **Bill Carter** and **Allan Walcker** did recently. Send us your best, preferably in digitized form, annotated with the names of anyone in the photo and where the photo was taken.

There are, no doubt, *many more* GSS/GSG veterans out there who remain to be discovered. Recall your old friends, colleagues, roommates or office mates from your time with the Squadron or Group and check our online roster to see if their names are listed. (Be sure to include the list of deceased veterans, also on our website.) If you don't see their names there, please 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 old orders with complete names and serial numbers or can recall any other details, like hometown, 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 our Webmaster Dick Winslow <diskwy@gmail.com> to remind you or to reset it for you.

Final Notes:

That's all for this newsletter.

Please remember all our deceased veterans this coming Memorial Day, especially those who gave what Lincoln called their "last full measure of devotion" in combat.

If you have a chance, be sure to watch the National Memorial Day Concert on your local PBS station co-hosted once again by actors Joe Mantegna and Gary Sinese, with an all-star cast, the military service bands and the National Symphony. The concert took place tonight in Washington, in the rain, on the West Lawn of the Capitol, but may repeat later tonight and Monday on your local PBS station. Check your local PBS listings. This is always a wonderfully patriotic show and serves the purpose of this holiday well.

If you are on Facebook, I invite you to "friend" me there. Find me at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009342009837>

There is also a Facebook page for the Squadron/Group at <https://www.facebook.com/1381GeodeticSurveySquadron/>

Garrett

Field Survey Branch & Astronomic Positioning Branch

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