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Subject: Geodetic Survey Squadron/Group, Newsletter #78, 11 November 2018, Distribution 8
Date: November 11, 2018 at 9:51 PM
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Greetings, Fellow Veterans of the Geodetic Survey Squadron and Geodetic Survey Group!

And Happy Veterans Day!

Let me just offer here a snappy salute to all of my former Squadron/Group colleagues in uniform on the occasion of Veterans Day. It was an honor and a privilege to have served with you in what was arguably one of the most unique and accomplished units in the entire Air Force, and later, the Defense Mapping Agency. Make no mistake---the things we did enabled our country to stay safe for at least a generation. You can be proud of your service---and all the fun and adventure we had at the same time, for those of us who were frequently in the field.

Bonnie and I have just returned from a month-long sojourn in California, where we volunteered to babysit our two grandkids, while their Dad was on international business travel, Mom was getting her ballet students ready for the annual Nutcracker performance and their usual daycare provider was on a two-week break. It was such a delight to see our grandkids both growing so fast and becoming cuter every day. Spending four weeks with the grandkids made me wish I still had the energy of a four-year-old boy who doesn't know what downtime is and a year-and-a-half old girl, who has just learned how to run!

We are now back to a Virginia that is showing definite signs of advancing autumn, much more so than California. We expect to stay put for the remainder of the year.

This will be a short newsletter, but I hope to have a postscript to it around Thanksgiving time...

GSS/GSG Commemorative Coins and Pendants:

First off, I have a number of requests for coins and fobs for which I have run out of stock. Much to my surprise, the one that ran out first was coin design C.

There are still plenty of coins of design A, B and D available, but the only pendants left are for coin D. I am completely out of coins and pendants for version C.

To refresh your memory on the various designations and their dates, here are the details:

- **Coin A = 1381st Geodetic Survey Squadron, 1964-68**
- **Coin B = 1st Geodetic Survey Squadron, 1968-72**
- **Coin C = Geodetic Survey Squadron, 1972-89**
- **Coin D = Geodetic Survey Group, 1989-93**

Thanks to **Dick Winslow**, our Webmaster, you may see what each design looks like at our GSS/GSG website:
<http://www.geodeticsurvey.mysite.com/PhotoPages/2018Coins.html> .

In 2015 we offered another coin and pendant for the original Squadron designation---1381st Geodetic Survey Squadron (Missile), 1959-64---ahead of the 2015 reunion, but it sold out quickly.

After the holiday tomorrow, I will contact the agent from whom I ordered the coins and see how quickly I can reorder and if there are any minimum numbers required. I will pass that info on to you later this month. Meanwhile, if you are still interested in obtaining a coin or pendant, I'm asking you to hold off ordering until I find out about resupplying my stock of coin C and all fobs except D._

Final Notes:

No major updates, gains or losses to report this time. However, **Brodie Thompson**, GSG civilian veteran, 1991-93, and still with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), is still hoping one of you has information on a source of Wild T0 ("Tee Zero") magnetic theodolites. (Swiss instrument makers, Wild and Kern, are no longer in business.)

Contact me or Brodie directly if you know a source or have any suggestions: brodiethompson@sbcglobal.net

We switched back to standard time last weekend, so the reduced hours of daylight and greater hours of darkness are more apparent now as planet Earth prepares to bed down for winter in the Northern Hemisphere. Around here, the shadows now get long around 3 pm. The trees are also losing their leaves in many locations, and some of our friends have already had more than a taste of snow and cold weather. The holiday season will soon be upon us and then another new year. Let's all enjoy and be thankful for what we have left of 2018!

If you are on Facebook, I invite you to "friend" me there. Find me at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10000934200983>

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

