



**Fall 2004**

*Rick Oborn, Hugh Burns, Doug Kennett and Art Forester plot strategy during the 27th Annual SAF/PA Golf Tournament Sept. 16. They were among the 55 golfers in 14 teams who competed in the annual event. For more on the tourney, see the story on Page 5. (Photo by Dr. Steve Everett)*



**See online website at [www.afpaaa.org](http://www.afpaaa.org)**

## **12th annual meet set for June 16-18 in Tacoma**

The 2005 AFPAAA Annual meeting will be held at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel in Tacoma, Washington, June 16 through 18, with visits to McChord AFB and the Museum of Flight near Seattle.

The meeting theme, “Power Pro-

jection and Homeland Protection”, will highlight the dual missions of Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units in the Puget Sound area.

The Sheraton Tacoma, which will have just completed a major renovation, is located in the heart of a newly revitalized downtown, within walking distance of a free trolley ride of state of the art museums, specialty shopping and restaurants.

Members and guests will also be able to take advantage of other significant events scheduled for the weekend, including the Olympic Flight Museum “Gathering of Warbirds” in Olympia, a short distance to the south, or use the visit as a reason to visit the numerous other attractions in the Pacific Northwest.

The group rate for the hotel is

\$99 plus tax, or approximately \$113.00 per day.

Reservations can be made online through the AFPAAA web site, or by phone at 253-572-3200. The Group Code is 51FC8 (Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Assn).

Reservation correspondence can be faxed to (253) 591-4105, or addressed to Sheraton Tacoma Hotel, 1320 Broadway Plaza, Tacoma, WA 98402.

McChord AFB will be hosting a major event, the Air Mobility Command Airlift Rodeo, at the same time as the Annual Meeting and hotel space in the area will be very much in demand.

The cut-off date for reservations is **May 26, 2005**, after which rooms will be sold on a space-available basis.



**Tacoma**  
**June 16-18, 2005**

# Viet Cong attack on Tan Son Nhut

## Information officers live through a night when all hell broke loose

*Editor's Note: Chuck Lucas, who's column, The Link, regularly features excerpts from the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association's oral history program, took this quarter off. Look for Chuck's column to return with the Winter 2003 issue.*

*The following was submitted by the author to run in it's place. Contributions such as this are welcome from the membership.*

by Col. (Ret.) John D. Williams

In mid-April 1966, the 7th Air Force Director of Information, Col. Bill McGinty, gathered all Air Force Information Officers serving in the Republic of Vietnam for a special meeting. He wanted to tell us to work harder to get public recognition for the great contribution of the U.S. Air Force in Southeast Asia.

Following the Apr. 12 meeting in McGinty's office at Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon, Capt. Stan Jensen from the Nha Trang-based Air Commando Wing and I, then the IO for the 12<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing at Cam Ranh Bay, accepted the offer of a night's lodging at the three-bedroom rental of Maj. Gerry Hickman and Lt. Ron Marljar, both assigned to McGinty's staff.

Shortly after a late dinner that evening, Hickman went to bed because he had the early morning duty at the IO directorate.

The rest of us, Jensen, Marljar and I, went out to the front porch to enjoy the cool night air and to "watch the war." North of Saigon, we could see Army helicopters and C-47 gunships hosing down Viet Cong positions with 20-millimeter cannon fire. In the darkness we could see neither the airships nor their targets, but we could see the red ropes of tracer rounds headed for the targets on the ground.



*A portion of the Viet Cong AK-47 assault rifles, RPG-7 launchers, and a flag captured by 7th Air Force explosives ordnance disposal personnel during an attack on the Tan Son Nhut Air Base.*

Suddenly, around midnight, from the direction of Tan Son Nhut some four miles away, we heard the start of a continuous loud barrage of mortar fire. We all knew instantly that the mortars were Viet Cong and Tan Son Nhut Air Base, for the first time in the war, was under attack.

Within three or four minutes of hearing the first mortar rounds, we had grabbed our caps and side arms and were racing to the base in the IO shop's vehicle – a decrepit old 2 1/2-ton truck with no windshield or cab. Marljar, who knew the vehicle and the route, was our driver.

We had gotten within 600 yards of the main gate when the Air Force Air Police and/or their Vietnamese colleagues opened fire on us. We screeched to a stop, hid behind the truck and began yelling at the top of our lungs, "Americans! Americans!

Americans!"

After a very tense 20 or 30 seconds, an air policeman shouted out "if you are Americans, come on in very slowly."

We entered the base without further incident and proceeded directly to the Office of Information. On the way we saw a lot of armed ground forces scurrying around very excitedly and heard more mortar barrage explosions. It was later determined that the VC had hit us with 81/82 mm mortars set up at three firing sites.

We could see fire burning down on the flight line – a flight line where over 150 USAF and VNAF planes were parked.

At the office, we telephoned Marljar's boss, Maj. George Weiss, and told him about the VC attack. He told us to do our best to find out what had happened and be prepared to brief newsmen when they came on base.

As soon as the telecon with Weiss was concluded, we heard a loud and frantic pounding on the office door. It was an aggressive young Associated Press reporter, Peter Arnett.

When the attack started, Arnett also had rushed to the base. He had slipped through a hole in the fence and immediately had run into a hair-triggered Army Vietnam (ARVN) patrol. He had talked his way out of arrest and raced for the protection of the Office of Information.

We told Arnett that we were going down to the flight line to see what was happening and would brief him when we returned. We advised him to stay put.

As we drove onto the flight line, we saw several fire trucks racing about, mortar rounds continued to come in

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## Largest fire was direct hit on a huge fuel tank

Continued from Page 2

and several fires were blazing. The largest fire was at a huge fuel tank that had taken a direct hit.

As we drove slowly down the flight line, a Vietnamese flight line worker in orange coveralls ran up to our truck. He frantically pointed to a nearby C-47 aircraft that had been hit and was on fire in its cockpit area. He shouted at us “Willy Peter, Willy Peter.”

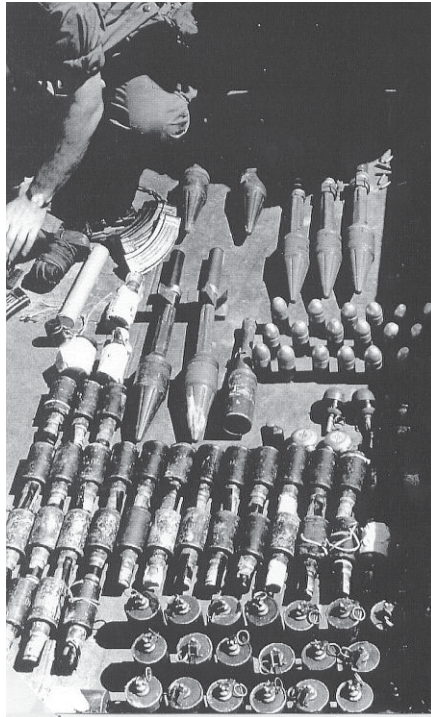
We ran over to the burning aircraft and looked through the open door in the cargo bay. The man in the orange coveralls was right. There appeared to be about 20 crates of “Willy Peter” (white phosphorus) rockets inside.

“Let’s get ‘em out,” someone said. Jensen ran to get a dolly to load the rockets onto. Marlar and I climbed into the cargo bay, after observing that the fire in the cockpit was not expanding rapidly, and began taking the rocket boxes out onto the tarmac. As we emptied the aircraft, Jensen and the Vietnamese man loaded the rockets on their dolly and moved them to a safe place.

As the barrage died down, we drove over to the U.S. dispensary. About 180 airmen and ARVN soldiers were there stripped to their shorts so the medics could locate and treat their wounds from the flying mortar shrapnel. We were told there had been nine fatalities.

Next, we raced up to the 7th Air Force command post to try to get a report on casualties, damage and any other firefights with the VC attackers. It turned out that we knew more than the command post and suddenly we became “information briefers” for the staff.

Throughout the rest of the night, there were several false alarms regard-



*A portion of the explosives removed by explosives ordnance disposal personnel from dead, wounded or captured Viet Cong during an attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base. Include are Rocket Propelled Grenades, U.S. 40mm projectiles, and numerous home-made hand grenades.*

ing the sighting of the VC attackers. Because we were thought to have a good knowledge of the base periphery, Jensen, Marlar and I were “drafted” to accompany several patrols. All without results.

At daybreak, order and security had been restored and all the fires were under control.

Gen. William C. Westmoreland and his staff arrived for a tour of the heavily damaged flight line. We were told to stand by in case the general wanted to talk with us. We were relieved that he did not.

Gerry Hickman was with Westmoreland’s party. He had heard about the “Willy Peter” incident and very quickly arranged for ABC’s Peter Jennings to interview us in front of the

now burned up C-47.

Our big adventure was over. We were tired, grungy, and more than ready for a shower and a bed.

The boldness of this VC attack, so close to Saigon, and the devastation they achieved clearly signaled that this war would be long, brutal and costly.

A few days after my return to the 12<sup>th</sup> Tactical Wing at Cam Ranh Bay, Hickman telephoned me. He questioned me very closely about the events of the Tan Son Nhut attack, especially the unloading of the “Willy Peter” rockets.

A week or so later, McGinty telephoned Col. Levy Chase, the 12<sup>th</sup> TFW commander, to tell him that I was to receive the Bronze Star with “V” device for heroism. He also said the Vietnamese Air Force wished to award me their Hazardous Valor Medal.

Ron Marlar was to receive the same awards. Sadly, and unfairly, Stan Jensen, likely because he had not entered the C-47, was not so honored. He had been with us throughout the adventure and, in my view, was equally deserving.

When the medals were presented to me, the citation read: “His quick actions and disregard for his own safety prevented an explosion, which could have taken lives, and destroyed or damaged a far greater number of aircraft. By his heroic actions and unselfish dedication to duty, Capt. Williams has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.”

Ron Marlar’s citations were identical.

I believe the medals presented to Marlar and me might have been the only awards for heroism given to Information Officers during the Southeast Asia conflict.

## From the Director of Air Force Public Affairs

by Brig. Gen. Fred Roggero  
Director, Air Force Public Affairs

Greetings from the Pentagon!

One of the best benefits of my job as SAF/PA Director is the opportunity to work daily with our communication superstars and partners - true professionals who are dedicated to the craft of communicating on behalf of our Air Force.

I feel especially fortunate when the opportunity presents itself to highlight some of the amazing feats our people accomplish - too often, their Herculean efforts are done behind the scenes with little or no recognition, and as we all know, sometimes it's the work we DON'T see that defines success for us.

I'm continually amazed by what the members of our career field accomplish - usually by going over, under, through and around obstacles such as impossible deadlines and manpower crunches. As PA's, we tend to spend a good deal of time shining the spotlight of recognition in the direction of others, and rightly so - usually at our own expense.

When the opportunity presents itself to honor one of our own, as when the members of the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association come together to present the Maj. Gen. Arno Luehman Scholarship, I jump at it, and look forward to attending those events.

And so it was with great regret that I was unable to attend this year's annual SAF/PA Alumni luncheon, which I'm told by many people was a resounding success.

I was truly looking forward to attending this event, and anticipating the opportunity to speak with each of you personally to thank you for your tremendous support of our career field. We had 60 people in attendance, representing the past, present and future of our career field.

Certainly one of the present members with a very bright future is **TSgt Jeff Capenos**, winner of the Luehman Scholarship Award. Many of us know Jeff from his work at Phoenix Readiness and Eagle Flag at Ft Dix, N.J. What was really impressive about the luncheon, I'm told, was



*Chris Geisel, Fred Roggero, Darla Ernst and Mark Rosenker were among those who participated in the 27th Annual SAF/PA Golf Tourney. (Photo by Dr. Steve Everett)*

the number of people in attendance who thanked Jeff for helping to train and prepare them for deployments in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

Special thanks go out to **Sherry Medders, Lt. Col. Tom Gilroy, Capts. Dave Malakoff and John Hutcheson, Cynthia Weston** (co-starring as "The Money Lady") and the other members of the Readiness and Resources Division who helped make the luncheon a great success.

Speaking of Sherry Medders, I had the honor last month of presenting her with a pin commemorating her promotion to the rank of GS-15. Sherry has been leading and mentoring many officers, enlisted members and civilians in our career field for some time, and as Chief of the Resources and Readiness Division here at SAF/PA, Sherry brings exactly the right mix of leadership, education, and experience to help shape the future of our field. I know she'll do a great job.

As our career field progresses and transforms, we need bold, visionary leadership to take us into the future. As such, we've had several recent moves amongst our most senior personnel.

First, I recently asked **Col. Chris Geisel** to move to the front office and take on the role of assistant director of Public Affairs. In this capacity, Chris maintains complete oversight of our integrated marketing division, but also partners with **Col. Jay DeFrank**, Deputy Director of Public Affairs, in tackling the numerous day-to-day duties inherent with running our career field. The dedication and selfless service of Jay and Chris make it possible for me to complete my duties as acting director of Air Force Communications, and I thank them both for their unyielding and dedicated support.

And we've had other important moves as well.

I asked **Col. Bob Potter**, who was leading Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs, to take on the task of leading our Public Affairs Center of Excellence at the College of Aerospace Doctrine, Research and Education (CADRE) at Maxwell AFB, Ala., with **Col. Alvina Mitchell** advancing to lead AETC/PA. Newly-pinned **Col. Dewey Ford** has stepped up as the new Chief of Air Force Media Operations, and **CMSgt.**

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**Andrew Cleaver, Mike Piersol, Jeff Gaylord and Luke Wedge, a team from the Air Force Band, shot a 12 under par round of 60 to win the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual SAF/PA Golf Tournament Sept. 16. Pictured with them are Hugh Burns, AFPAAA event organizer, and Brig. Gen. Fred Roggero, director of Air Force Public Affairs. (Photo by Dr. Steve Everett)**



**55 golfers in 14 teams play in annual event**

## Air Force Band dominates SAF/PA golf tourney

After three years reigning as tournament champs Alumni teams give up the mantle.

Rain threatened all week, but beautiful blue skies were the order of the day as 55 golfers in 14 teams came out Sept. 16 for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual SAF/PA Golf Tournament.

This year's outing was played in memory of **John Gulick**, in honor of his steadfast and energetic support of past tournaments.

After three years of dominating the field, alumni veterans gave up the mantle as tourney champs to a strong team made up of U.S. Air Force Band members.

The winning team of band mates—**Andrew Cleaver, Mike Piersol, Jeff Gaylord and Luke Wedge**—shot a 12 under par round of 60. Their names will live in infamy adorning the SAF/PA Golf Tournament trophy permanently ensclosed in the director's conference room.

Each year the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association members play key roles in organizing the annual tourney.

They are also major players in so-

liciting prizes and giveaways from our industry partners.

This year was no exception as alumni members convinced a host of companies to pony up a ton of giveaways and raffle prizes. Due to the tireless efforts of alumni members everyone who played in the tournament or attended the cookout walked away with something.

"Special thanks to **Hugh Burns** and the other AFPAAA members who helped organize the event," said SAF/PA director **Brig. Gen. Fred Roggero**. "Hugh partnered with **MSgt. Jim Varhegyi** and his team at Detachment 16 to put together a day of great golf, food and camaraderie for past and present PAs.

"The golf tournament is just one example of the continued support members of the AFPAAA give to the Public Affairs family."

In addition to organizing and soliciting prizes, AFPAAA members, specifically general officers, also contributed money to subsidize active duty participation, trophies and prizes.

Thanks to **Dick Abel, Jay Kelley, Jim Hart, Jerry Dalton, Ron Rand,**

"The golf tournament is just one example of the continued support members of the AFPAAA give to the Public Affairs family."

**Brig. Gen. Fred Roggero**  
Director, Air Force Public Affairs

**Mark Rosenker, Denny Schulstad, Ed Robertson, Woody Hogel, Tim White, Ed Tonini, Ron Sconyers and Mike McRaney** for helping to make this event a success.

This year's tourney raised over \$1000.00 to help replenish the SAF/PA morale fund coffers. The money will be used to offset the costs of moral—building events throughout the upcoming year.

Photos of this year's tourney highlights can be found at <http://www.sierra-echo.com>.

Keep an eye out for next year's SAF/PA golf tournament, and plan to put together a team. It's a great time for a great cause.

## Candidates sought to serve on alumni board

Candidates are being sought to run for election to serve on the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Members of the 11-person board serve staggered two-year terms. Five seats on the board will be up for grabs with terms starting July 1, 2005.

Four of the incumbents, **Linda Arnold, Al Eakle, Mike Gannon** and

**C.B. Kelly**, have indicated they will run for reelection. David Smith has indicated he will not run for reelection, however, as a former chairman of the board he is an ex officio member of the board of directors.

Any full member of the association who has a strong desire to serve and lead the AFPAAA can serve on the alumni association's board of directors.

**Charley Powers** will head the nominating committee. Nominations (including a brief biography) should be sent to Charley by Jan. 1 in care of:

AFPAAA

PO Box 540

Fairfax VA 22038-0540

Results of the elections will be announced at the annual meeting in June.

## Lord guide and protect.....

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Obituaries are published in the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association newsletter when they are received. Members who know of the death of an Air Force public affairs, broadcasting or bandsman professional are asked to forward obituaries to the newsletter editor at: aeakle@msn.com*

### Lt. Col. Don Atwater

Retired **Lt. Col. Don Atwater** died March 23, 2003, in Lincoln, Nebraska. He was buried in Ft. McPherson National Cemetery in Maxwell, Neb.

### Col. Al Audick

Retired **Col. Albert E. Audick**, 81, former commander of Armed Forces Radio and Television Services) in Hollywood, died June 25 while vacationing in Kauai, Hawaii.

Al's three decade military career began in World War II. His service included 35 missions in Vietnam. He served as Director of Information for NORAD in Colorado and for the Fifth Air Force in Japan.

After his Air Force career, Al worked for the Sony Corporation in Washington D.C.

In 1990, he retired to Los Angeles where he had been an active member of the Pacific Pioneers of broadcasting and several military veteran groups.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, he and his wife Stella Joanne Audick raised ten children.

His wife Stella and two sons, preceded him in death.

Interment was at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills.

### Lt. Col. Al Cochrane

Retired **Lt. Col. Albert C. Cochrane**, 74, of Bigfork passed away Monday, July 19, 2004 surrounded by his wife and sons after a

long and valiant battle with progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP).

Born Jan. 26, 1930, Al grew up and attended schools in Massachusetts and Michigan before the family moved to Billings in 1946. Al graduated from Billings Senior High School in 1947 and went on to attend the University of Montana Journalism School. He graduated in 1951 with a BA degree and a commission from the ROTC program as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

He married his college sweetheart, Garene Webber of Great Falls in 1951 and together they started a family ultimately producing four sons, Mike, Jeff, John and Tim.

Al began his Air Force career as a squadron navigator flying 4,000 hours with the Tactical Air Command and Military Air Transport Service on special troop carrier missions in the C-124 Globemaster.

He entered the public information field in 1959 serving as a Public Information Officer at assignments in Illinois, Washington D.C., New Mexico, Vietnam, Belgium, Colorado and Montana.

He retired from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel in 1979 and moved to Bigfork, Montana.

Once retired, Al plunged into civic and community service in Bigfork serving on the Montana Aeronautics Board, the Bigfork School Board as a member and Chairman, as Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 13, member of Flathead Lake Cherry Growers and volunteer ski instructor at Big Mountain.

He was involved in the Episcopal Church as a parishioner of St. Patrick's (Ferndale) and St. Andrew's (Polson) and served on the Commission on Ministries and as member of the volunteer Prison Ministry.

Al was also active in affairs of the Uni-

versity of Montana serving as an Alumni Association delegate, member of Sigma Chi fraternity and as a fan at Griz football games.

Al is survived by his wife of 53 years and four sons, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bigfork HS Athletic Field Development Fund, Box 188, Bigfork, MT 59911; St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 110 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. East, Polson, MT 59860; or the Don Anderson J-School Building Fund, University of Montana School of Journalism, Missoula, MT 59812-0648.

Committal with military honors took place July 23 at Lake View Cemetery in Polson.

### SMSgt. Dick Walters

Retired Senior Master Sgt. Charles R. "Dick" Walters, 57, passed away Aug. 31.

Dick was born on March 28, 1947 in Dunedin, Fla., to Curtis J. and Anna Ruth Walters.

He served his country proudly for 26 years in the United States Air Force and 13 years in civil service before retiring and spending time with his family.

Dick was also a Licensed Minister for the Church of God.

Dick is survived by his wife of 35 years, Barbara Walters of San Antonio; four children, Rodney B. Walters and his wife Melody of Ft. Worth, D. Ruth Nelson of San Antonio, Robin D. Alexander and her husband Tim of Omaha, NE, Rhonda D. Ortiz and her husband David of Sandia, TX.

He is survived by 13 grandchildren; former daughter-in-law, LeeAnn Chaplin of Dripping Springs, TX and one sister, Kathy Branks and her husband David of Hansford, CA.

# The President's Pen

I am deeply honored and humbled with my election to represent my colleagues as President of AFPAAA. It's hard for any PA person to be humbled. However your vote re-energizes my commitment to our association and to all of you.

A strong financial foundation, and ultimately financial independence for the association is my primary objective. A growing AFPAAA Endowment Fund is critical for the long-term security of our group. Anything you can afford to contribute, whether it's \$10 or \$10,000 will make a difference. A dedicated annual contribution can become a tax-deductible habit, benefiting the association and reducing your tax bite.

However, save some money for next June. Our colleagues in Tacoma are arranging what appears will be a terrific 2005 annual meeting. I made the mistake of not attending our annual meetings until Long Beach. Hopefully, I'll never miss one again because they cement old relationships and are a lot of fun. Attendance in Florida was down this year compared to Las Vegas, but once everyone has details from the Tacoma host



**Charley Powers**

committee I expect attendance will zoom up. We have some assurance that it won't rain during our meeting.

There has been discussion of the venue for the 2006 annual meeting since no potential host committee has stepped forward as yet. One possibility would be to hold the meeting in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. If you're interested in hosting the 2006 meeting please contact the board and we can discuss what is involved.

I also want to regularly hear from you. In addition to the endowment, your involvement makes our association succeed. I'm available by email at [cpowers@porternovelli.com](mailto:cpowers@porternovelli.com). Feel free to tap in a message sharing your thoughts and ideas.

Finally, I salute all the past AFPAAA presidents and board members. Their dedication and hard work has brought our group to where it is today.

*Sincerely*

*Charley*

The Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association newsletter is published quarterly for members of the Association. Online subscriptions are available at [www.afpaaa.org](http://www.afpaaa.org)

#### **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:**

Individuals who have ever served, or are currently serving, in Air Force Public Affairs, an Air Force Band, or as an Air Force Broadcaster, military or civilian, on active duty, or in the Guard or Reserve.

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:** Full members- former Air Force Public Affairs, Broadcasters, or Bandsmen, military or civilian, retired or separated. Associate members- current or former Air Force Public Affairs, Broadcasters, or Bandsmen, military or civilian, still in service. Adjunct members- spouses, widows or widowers of those eligible to be Full or Associate members. Affiliate members- a limited number of persons not eligible for membership under any of the above categories may become a member upon favorable recommendation by the Membership Committee and approval by the Board of Directors (U.S. Citizens only).

**CHANGING CATEGORIES:** Members may change categories at any time as circumstances permit. They must notify the Membership Committee of their new status.

#### **MEMBERSHIP RATES:**

\$300 for life membership (payable in four monthly \$75 installments). \$25 for one-year membership (full, adjunct and affiliate). \$50 for three-year membership (full, adjunct and affiliate). \$10 for one-year membership (associate). \$20 for three-year membership (associate).

#### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:**

Available at [www.afpaaa.org](http://www.afpaaa.org)  
Completed forms and check or money order should be sent to: **Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association, P.O. Box 540, Fairfax, VA 22038-0540.**

#### **OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(\* denotes Board Members)

**Chairman of the Board:** Mike Gannon

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**Vice President:** Linda Arnold

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**Treasurer:** Jim Hart\*

**Board Members:** Al Eakle, C.B. Kelly, Jim McGuire, Joe Purka, Pete Peterson, Ron Rand

**Ex Officio Board Members:** Mike McRaney, Jim Hart, John Gura, Joe Purka, David Smith

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Annual Meeting** - Linda Arnold

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**Newsletter Editor** - Al Eakle

**Development** - Joe Purka

**Finance** - Jim Hart

**Membership** - Neil Buttimer

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**Oral History** - John Gura

**PA Memorial** - Ed Johnson

**Special Events** - Jim McGuire

**Web Site** - John Gura



## From the Director of Air Force Public Affairs

Continued from Page 4

**Darla Ernst** has replaced **Chief Dale Warman**, who retired to Portugal this past summer.

In thanking these folks for their selfless service, I'm reminded of yet another group who does so much for our career field - you! The Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association rose up yet again to sponsor our annual golf outing, and what a day it was!

Each year, Air Force

Public Affairs Alumni Association members like yourself play key roles in organizing the golf outing, and I wanted to thank each of you for your tireless efforts on this behalf.

I also wanted to pass special thanks to **Hugh Burns** and the other AFPAAA members who helped organize the event — Hugh partnered with **MSgt. Jim Varhegyi** and his team at AFNEWS Detachment 16 to put together a day of great golf, food and camaraderie for past and present

PAs.

I know because I was there - just please don't ask my score for that day!

Lastly, I want to let you know that the men and women in the PA Career Field today continue to walk in your footsteps and follow the excellent examples you set during your time of service to our PA family. They are tireless, dedicated, and committed to communicating and informing our Airmen, leaders, and communities about what is happening in

today's Air Force, and they do it in a superb manner.

I encourage you to stop by and visit your local PA offices, and to stay engaged in Air Force and community activities.

I'm confident that you'll continue to be impressed - just as I am every day - by the amazing men and women who carry on the PA legacy that you all helped to establish during your time of service.

Thanks for all you do!

## Cruise to Alaska available June 19-26

AFPAAA member John Gura has arranged for an optional cruise to Alaska aboard the *Serenade of the Seas* following the annual meeting.

Arrangements are being made for the cruise group to depart the Tacoma hotel June 19 for the Port of Vancouver and return to the SeaTac Airport on June 26.

Per person rates (in U.S. dollars) based on double occupancy, including port charges, are:

Inside cabins from \$1049;

Oceanview window cabins from \$1274;

Oceanview balcony cabins from \$1559;

Oceanview balcony premium/larger cabins from \$1649;

Taxes & fees, add \$27.55.

"This is a popular cruise and space is filling up fast," said John. "The important thing is to reserve your stateroom early."

A refundable deposit of \$500.00 will hold space. Arrangements are being handled by AlaskaCruiseExperts.com.

Contact John Gura for any Group-related questions. For all questions about the cruise, contact Matthew Vaughan, toll-free 800-565-2784 (ext 11)

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