



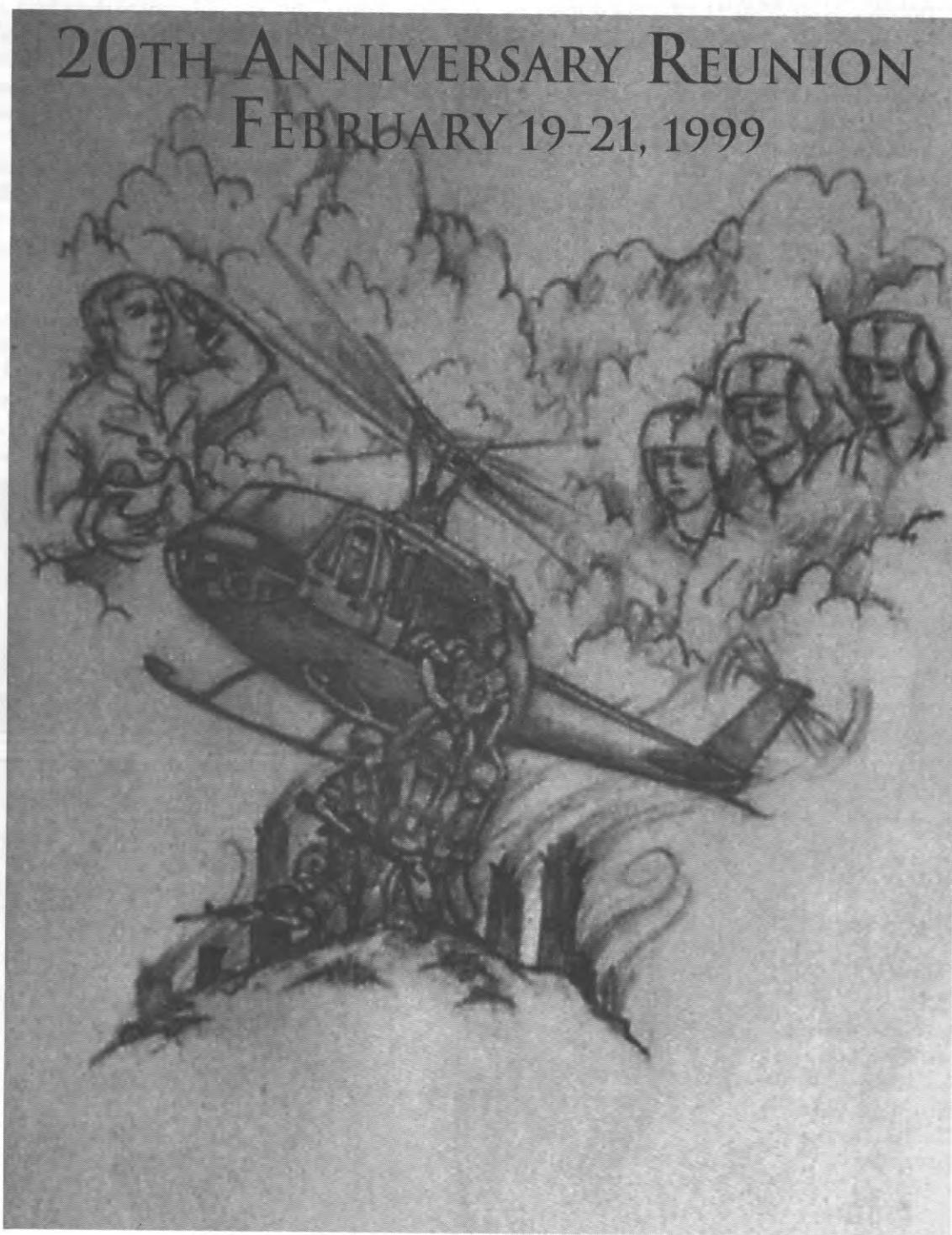
# THE DUSTOFFER



DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 1998

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION FEBRUARY 19-21, 1999



Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

—Hebrews 12:1—

# President's Message

IT'S HARD to believe we are only four months away from our 20th Anniversary Reunion. So much has happened since last February. In the last newsletter I reported that we had already begun planning the reunion and the location would be the same as it's been the past couple of years. Well, scratch that. The renovations to the Holiday Inn will not be completed, so we had to find another venue. It's back to downtown San Antonio, as many of you had suggested. The Radisson Hotel Market Square will host the 20th Anniversary gala. It's a really nice place, and their management, anxious to have our business, guarantees we will be more than satisfied with the accommodations, food and service.

The DUSTOFF Memorial Plaza project is on course. With any luck at all (and a government contractor who stays on schedule), the Plaza will be completed in time for us to dedicate it during the reunion. The helicopter has already been removed from the pad for safekeeping, and Dan Gower has been coordinating with the engineers from Ft. Sam and the contractor. In a few months the pad that is now strangely bare will be transformed into a beautiful memorial, thanks to the generous contributions of DUSTOFF Association members. We also owe our gratitude to MG Jim Peake and COL Frank Novier for their support of the project. Last, but certainly not

least, we are indebted to Dan Gower for all the time and effort he has put into making the memorial a lasting tribute to DUSTOFF.

This year's winners of the Rescue of the Year and Crewmember of the Year have been selected and are announced in this newsletter. My congratulations to those folks, as well as the others who were nominated. The DUSTOFF legacy lives on in the skill and bravery of the crews and the dedication and professional excellence of our crewmembers. We appreciate the efforts of the commanders who nominated their crews and crewmembers.

February is just around the corner, so make your travel arrangements and hotel reservations now. We appreciate your completing and returning the reunion registration form on page 13 as soon as you can. We hope to see each of you for our 20th Anniversary Reunion.

## DUSTOFF!

*Herb Coley*

20th Anniversary Reunion  
— Register Early —  
Send in your form today!  
For Registration  
Information see page 13

## DUSTOFF Association

### Past Presidents

Chuck Mateer	Roy Hancock
John Hosley	Glen Melton
Byron Howlett	Jerry Nolan
Ed Taylor	Jim Truscott
Tom Scofield	Roger Opio
Joe Madrano	Ed Bradshaw
Jim Ritchie	Robert Romines
Don Conkright	Dan Gower
	Charlie Webb

### Founder

Tom "Igor" Johnson

### Members at Large

Jeff S. Mankoff  
Benjamin M. Knisely  
e-mail: INSPGFLA@aol.com  
John Soehnlein  
e-mail: jsoehnlein@zoomit.sikorsky.com  
William H. Thresher  
Ronald E. Wilson

Newsletter Editor, Layout & Design  
Susan Gower

Printing  
Ink, Spot, Ink Printing & Publishing

## DUSTOFF Association Executive Council

**President:** COL Herbert A. Coley, USA (Ret.)  
E-mail: [coleyhs@intx.net](mailto:coleyhs@intx.net)

**Vice President:** COL Merle J. Snyder, USA (Ret.)  
e-mail: [merle\\_snyder\\_at\\_usagnet5\\_ftdetrck@smtplink.medcom.amedd.army.mil](mailto:merle_snyder_at_usagnet5_ftdetrck@smtplink.medcom.amedd.army.mil)

**Treasurer:** COL Daniel W. Gower, USA (Ret.)  
e-mail: [gowerd@vritnet.com](mailto:gowerd@vritnet.com)

**Secretary:** MAJ Timothy J. Moore  
e-mail: [dustoff23@aol.com](mailto:dustoff23@aol.com)

**Web Site:** LTC Ronald Huether, USA (Ret.)  
<http://www.fbg.net/dustoff>  
e-mail: [rhueth@fbg.net](mailto:rhueth@fbg.net)

# 247TH REPEATS FORSCOM AWARD WIN

The following article, by Sgt. James Core, editor, was submitted by LTC Bryant H. Aldstadt, MS, and is reprinted from the *Tiefort Telegraph*, Fort Irwin, California, May 1, 1998.

**T**HE 247TH Medical Detachment, National Training Center Corps Support Battalion, was presented a prestigious safety award April 21, 1998, by Brig. Gen. Dean W. Cash, commander, the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, at the Post Helipad.

This marks the second consecutive year the unit has captured the Forces Command Commander's Trophy for excellence in aircraft accident prevention. They also won the award in 1990 and 1996.

Cash thanked the unit for all they do for Fort Irwin and the High Desert communities.

"The unprecedented accomplishment of winning this award for a second consecutive year attests to the professionalism, safety focus and keen sense of flight discipline present in the 247th Medical Detachment," LTC Bryant H. Aldstadt, commander, 247th MEDD, said. "I am extremely proud of the soldiers in the unit. This achievement is especially noteworthy, in that we operate every day in one of the harshest environments in Army Aviation."

According to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Darrin Goodwin, the detachment safety officer, everybody in the unit is safety conscious. "All our day-to-day activities are done using risk management procedures," Goodwin said.

Two examples of their approach are the crew endurance policy and the readiness level progression requirements. In FY 97 the unit flew 191 aeromedical evacuation missions, transporting 236 patients. The unit "has a proactive aircraft

accident prevention program that includes frequent briefings, situational training exercises and implementation of prudent safety control measures," according to the nomination memorandum.

"There is a price to pay for safety," Aldstadt said. "It isn't something that just happens. The chain of command, especially the NTC Corps Support Battalion Commander, LTC Billy Pratt, has been very supportive in maintaining our flying-hour program and flight simulator training. These programs are critical components of my training program that sustain our high level of proficiency."

"We also owe a debt of gratitude to Lockheed Martin for their outstanding maintenance support," Aldstadt said.

Nearly one-third of their missions were flown with night vision goggles, many times under very low illumination conditions. Two joint training exercises were conducted. A week-long joint search and rescue exercise with the Navy incorporated UH-60, SH-60 and F/A-18 aircraft, downed aircrews and an aggressive opposing force to provide a realistic training experience. A joint training exercise with the U.S. Air Force involved over-water live-hoist extractions, a C-17 loadout and a mass casualty exercise.

Additionally, the unit participated in three NASA training missions as an integral member of the Space Shuttle Recovery Team.

"Let no soldier cry, 'I was not properly trained,'" Sgt. 1st Class Freddie Edwards, first sergeant, 247th MEDD, said.

"The award is a great recognition for what we have accomplished," Aldstadt said, "but accident prevention is obviously an ongoing, never-ending effort. We'll strive to continue our safety focus and hope to be in contention for the 1998 award."



Sgt. 1st Class Freddie Edwards, first sergeant, 247th MEDD, and LTC Bryant H. Aldstadt, commander, 247th MEDD, kneel with the FORSCOM Commander's Trophy as some members of the unit stand on the flight line of the Post Helipad.

# DUSTOFFer Receives Award

From a press release provided by Trent Angers, Acadian House Publishing, Hugh Thompson's biographer.

**V**IETNAM WAR hero, Hugh Thompson of Lafayette, Louisiana, received the Courage of Conscience Award, the same one given to Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa and other world-renowned figures who have worked for peace, particularly on behalf of the poor and powerless.

The award, presented recently at the Peace Abbey in Sherborn, Massachusetts, is an elegant marble sculpture of a peace dove emerging from outstretched hands.



Hugh C. Thompson with his Courage of Conscience Award

Thompson, who was a scout helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War, is credited with putting a stop to the My Lai Massacre, in which 504 Vietnamese civilians were killed at the hands of U.S. soldiers in March 1968. Thompson has come to be known as the "forgotten hero of My Lai."

"This award is presented to individuals and organizations whose commitment to peace has served to bring about life-affirming social change," explained Lewis Randa of the Peace Abbey. (The Peace Abbey is affiliated with Harvard Divinity School and Wellesley College in Massachusetts.)

During the ceremony, Randa pointed out that Thompson's actions took great courage and integrity and that he risked his life to defend those who could not defend themselves.

"What you did puts you in a class all by yourself," Randa said. "To be placed in hostile territory as you were and act as you did makes you the most fitting recipient of this award."

Earlier in the day, before receiving the award, Thompson

addressed high school and middle school students in Wellesley, urging them to make their own decisions and "not to just go along with the crowd."

"Don't give in to peer pressures," he told the students. "Think for yourself. You young people will be making these decisions some day, and I hope you learn from this. I hope you can stop war for a long time—forever, if it's possible."

The award recognizes not only Thompson, but also the two men who were on the helicopter and under his command that day in Vietnam, Larry Colburn of Woodstock, Georgia, and the late Glenn Andreotta of St. Louis, Missouri, who was killed in action three weeks after the My Lai Massacre.

The story of Thompson's heroism has inspired poems, essays, a flood of congratulatory letters, a 1960s-style song, a symphony, a dozen inquiries by movie producers, extensive newspaper and television coverage and a book, scheduled for publication in the fall of 1998.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to thank you for the coverage you gave the story of the Soldier's Medal awarded to me, Larry Colburn and Glenn Andreotta. Since receiving the medal in March, Larry and I have been in a whirlwind of activity. First, we went back to Vietnam with CBS News for the thirtieth anniversary of the My Lai Massacre. We were reunited with two of the Vietnamese civilians we rescued from a sure death in March 1968. In September Larry and I received honorary doctorate degrees from Connecticut College. Also, we were invited by the Norwegian Government to tell our story in Norway in October.

There are two other items you may like to know about. For one thing, I received the Courage of Conscience Award from Wellesley University. The last person to receive it was Mother Teresa. Also, if all goes according to plan, a book will be published in spring 1999 that will tell my life story. The tentative title is *The Forgotten Hero of My Lai: the Hugh Thompson Story*.

That's all the news I have for now. Mostly I just wanted to say thanks for the coverage and thanks to my fellow DUSTOFFers for your support. I really appreciate it. I'm doing everything I can to attend the DUSTOFF Convention in February. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.



Sincerely yours,  
Hugh Thompson  
Life Member, DUSTOFF Assn.

# THE DUSTOFF LEGEND

Maj. Gen. Spurgeon Neel, US Army Ret.

by COL Dan Gower, US Army Retired

**T**HIS YEAR is our 20th Anniversary Reunion. The Executive Council has decided to dedicate this reunion in honor of MG Spurgeon Neel. On Sunday, February 21, 1999, we will dedicate the Dustoff Memorial Plaza at the AMEDD Center and School and Fort Sam Houston to "all Dustoff Crewmembers—past, present, and future," in the name of MG Neel. As of the writing of this article, the money is in place, the contractor has been chosen, and ground breaking for the "brick and mortar" phase of the memorial upgrade will start soon. It is fitting that we dedicate this memorial plaza in MG Neel's name, to honor our Dustoff Crewmembers who carry on the tradition of so many heroes. Since MG Neel retired in October 1977, many of our current members probably don't know much about who this man is and what his legacy means to us.

Spurgeon Neel was born September 24, 1919, in Memphis, Tennessee, and educated there, finishing his premed work at Memphis State University in 1939. That year he married Alice G. Tortl. He received his medical degree at the University of Tennessee in 1942. In October 1942 he was a student at the Medical Field Service School. At the end of World War II, he was in command of a medical company in the European Theater of Operations. He served in a variety of assignments in Europe and then Fort Benning, Georgia, before leaving active duty in 1948 for a short time, returning to active duty in April 1949.

In the succeeding years MG Neel became involved in all phases of field and aviation medicine and achieved full qualification in these fields by training with the Army and the Air Force. He graduated from the Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. When he retired, he was the most decorated medical officer on active duty.

This is only the "tip of the iceberg" of what MG Neel did while on active duty. The list of contributions, papers, actions he supervised, championed and organized could be that of ten average officers. The list is too long for this brief article. In 1949 MG Neel stressed to the chief of the Army Field Forces in a written report the feasibility and desirability of using helicopters for medical evacuation. In 1951 he wrote some of the first medevac doctrine based on the successful use of helicopters in the Korean War. In 1955 he served as the medical member of an Army board that selected the new Army Utility Helicopter. We know that helicopter today as the UH-1 "Huey." The aircraft chosen was specifically based on its use as an air ambulance. That is the last time we medics had the sole say-so on how aircraft were to be built for Army use.

MG Neel served on the board that led to the establishment of the 1st Cavalry Division with its organic medevac platoon. During that same period (1961–64), while serving as the Commander U.S. Army Hospital at the Army Aviation Center, Ft Rucker, Alabama, he established the Aeromedical Research Laboratory and the first Directorate of Aeromedical Education and Training and the Aviation Medicine Residency Program.

Neel developed the residency program and was the first to be awarded the designator of MOS 3160, Flight Surgeon. Developing the flight status for Aviation Medical Officers came next, and he was the first to be placed on flight status, in September 1955. He designed the flight wings for Aviation Medical Officers and was again the first to be awarded them, on 28 May 1957.

Neel commanded the 44th Medical Brigade in Vietnam in 1968 and was the Surgeon of the U.S. Military Assistance Command in Vietnam in 1969. In April 1968 his article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, titled "Army Aeronautical Evacuation Procedures in Vietnam: Implications for Rural America," was a major impetus for the Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic (MAST) Program, which still exists.

These highlights are only the most outstanding in this Dustoff hero's career. His legacy and his contributions made possible all those other heroes we honor by our Association. MG Neel was a true visionary leader who laid the framework and foundation upon which the Charles Kellys, the Pat Bradys, the Chuck Novosels, the Byron Howletts, the John Temperillis, and countless crewmembers who flew with them, built the legacy that is DUSTOFF.

It is with pride, respect and honor that we dedicate the Dustoff Memorial Plaza in the name of MG Spurgeon Neel, "The Father of DUSTOFF."



# Thanks to DUSTOFF Memorial Contributors

John Hosely

Byron & Billie Howlett, Jr., USA, Ret.

Kenyon & Joan Forrest, USA, Ret.

James & Karen Hill, USA, Ret.

Edna Brassard

David & Jeanne Thomas, USA, Ret.

Ralph & Julie McBride, USA, Ret.

Kenneth & Jean Armstrong, USA, Ret.

David C. & Danny Jackson, USA, Ret.

Timothy Jackman, USA, Ret.

Harvey & Pat Hueter, USA, Ret.

Shepard & Marlene Stone

Quinn & Gladys Becker, USA, Ret.

Jerry & Patricia Rhodes

Dr. Stuart & Letitia Roberts

John & Judy Seebeth

Robert Bernstein, USA, Ret.

Thomas & Barbara Casey, USA, Ret.

Gail & Rebecca Bowen, USA, Ret.

Armond & Lydia Simmons, USA, Ret.

James Walker, USA, Ret.

Dan & Susan Gower, USA, Ret.

Michael & Karen Toennis, USA, Ret.

Olen & Catherine Watts, USA, Ret.

Ken Fischer, Jr.

Don & Jane Hull, USA, Ret.

Gary & Judith Calhoun

Martgin Walls, USA, Ret.

Nick & Jo-Linn Johnson, USA, Ret.

Thomas & Marilyn Harrison

William & Patricia Miklosey

Charles Rush

Edward & Roswitha Taylor, USA, Ret.

James & Ann Nichols, USA, Ret.

Daniel & Barbara Voss

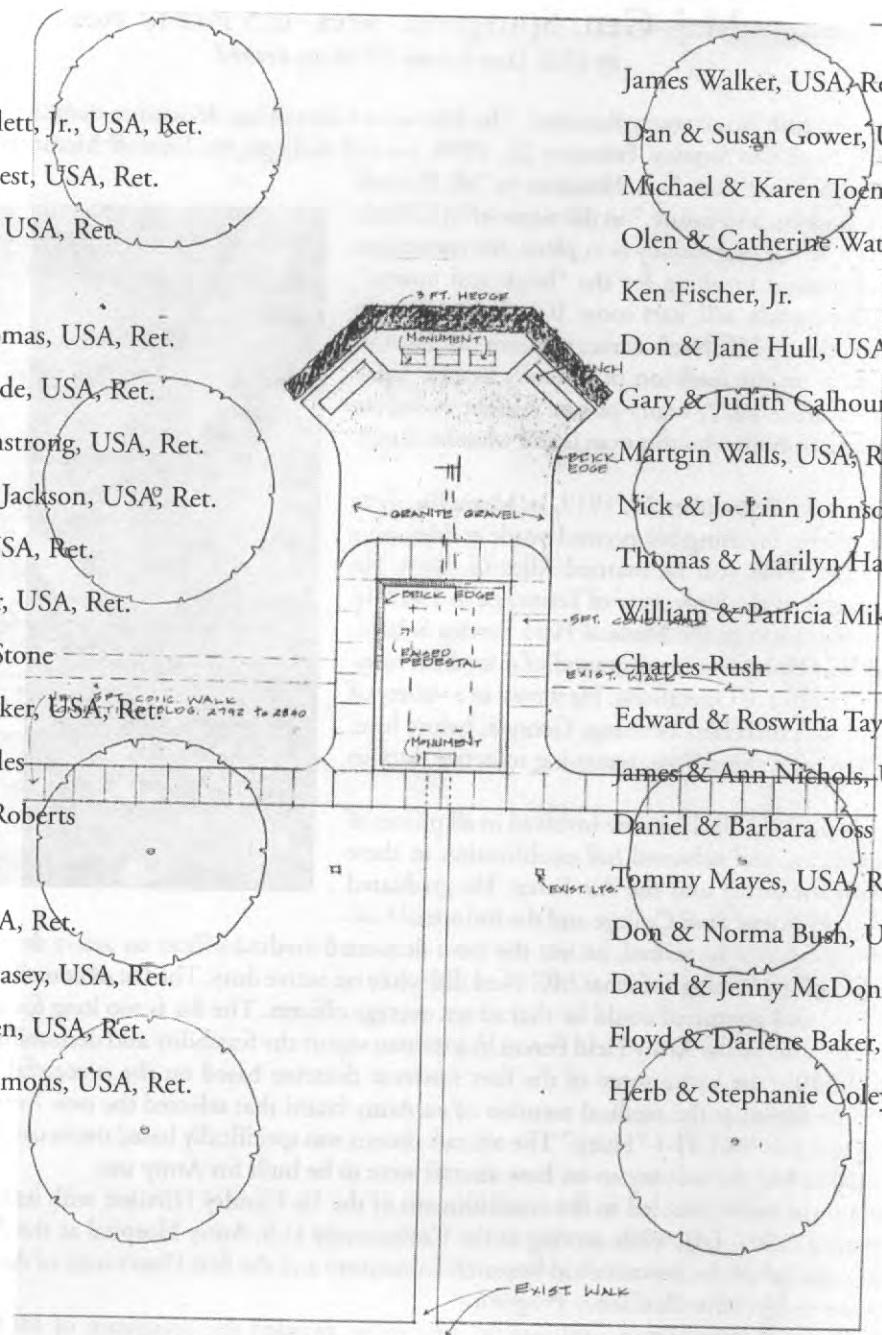
Tommy Mayes, USA, Ret.

Don & Norma Bush, USA, Ret.

David & Jenny McDonald

Floyd & Darlene Baker, USA, Ret.

Herb & Stephanie Coley, USA, Ret.



## DUSTOFF on the World Wide Web

The DUSTOFF Association Web site, at <http://www.fbg.net/dustoff>, is just over two years old and already has received over 15,000 visitors. The Web site has a daily average of over 50 visitors and a monthly average of 700 visitors, with Friday being the most popular day for visits. North America provides 95% of the visitors, while Europe sends 2%, and other places such as Australia, Asia, and South America provide the other 3%. We've had visitors from Hungary, Japan, France, Norway, Argentina, and a number of other exotic locations. If you haven't visited the DUSTOFF Association Web site yet, you're missing out on seeing friends in the Scrapbook, posting comments on the Message Board, and finding old friends in the E-mail Address page. Don't delay any longer. Visit the DUSTOFF Association Web site at <http://www.fbg.net/dustoff> today.

# DUSTOFF Association Announces 1998 Award Winners

by COL Dan Gower, US Army Retired

Each year the DUSTOFF Association, in partnership with Sikorsky Aircraft and Breeze Eastern, recognizes the Outstanding Crewmember of the Year and the Outstanding Rescue of the Year. Sikorsky Aircraft is the corporate sponsor of the Rescue of the Year Award, and Breeze Eastern sponsors the Outstanding Crewmember of the Year Award. This year your Association Executive Council had a tough challenge making the selection for these awards. It is easy to see why DUSTOFF units are some of the most respected units in the Army. While other units must wait for some deployment or hostilities to break out, DUSTOFF crewmembers and units go about their wartime missions on a daily basis, risking life and limb to save life and limb.

This year we are pleased to announce the following winners of the 1998 Rescue of the Year and the 1998 Crewmember of the Year. The Rescue of the Year belongs to the crew from the 54th Medical Company, Ft. Lewis, Washington, CW2 Dave Odekirk, CPT Bryan Heartsfield, SGT Benjamin Plummer, and SGT Terry Eldridge. The Outstanding Crewmember of the Year is SSG Baldwin Fajardo from the 50th Medical Company, Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.

All of those nominated for these awards are deserving of recognition. Even though only one in each category will receive a trophy, all nominees can stand proud knowing they are among the best of the best in today's Army. The presentation of the awards will be made at the Saturday Night Banquet during our Annual Reunion (20 February 1999). Here are excerpts from the nominations. The full text of the winners will be featured in the next issue of *The DUSTOFFer*.

## Crewmember of the Year Nominees

(in alphabetical order)

- SSG(P) Michael Bowie, who serves as a Medic and Evac Platoon Sergeant with the 45th Medical Company. He is also cited for his work as the Nonrated Crewmember Flight Standardization Instructor, being a member of the SFT Morales Club, and receiving the Fifth Corps Distinguished Leader Award.
- SSG Baldwin Fajardo, who serves as a Medic with the 50th Medical Company. He also serves as the Enlisted Standards NCOIC. He was instrumental in the successful completion of the UH-60Q operational test. He is also active in community activities.
- SGT Jeffery James, who serves as a Medic with the 172nd Medical Company. He has served with distinction in training other crewmembers and assisted with the unit's transition to an air ambulance company from another type of aviation unit in the conversion of National Guard units.

- SGT Joseph Sands, who serves as a Medic with the 54th Medical Company. He is the unit Enlisted Standardization Instructor and is responsible for numerous life-saving missions. He is also cited for his excellent instructor duties.

## Rescue of the Year Nominees

(in unit numerical order)

- CW3 Douglas Brown, 1LT Mark Morris, CW2 Stephen Clower, CW2 Wesley Tofte, SGT Chad Stuart, SPC David Brown, SPC Justin Baudoux, SPC Jason Langlois, 45th Medical Company—Germany, who were called to evacuate severely injured British Soldiers while in support of Operation Bright Star in Egypt.
- CW2 Dave Odekirk, CPT Bryan Heartsfield, SGT Benjamin Plummer, SGT Terry Eldridge—54th Medical Company, Fort Lewis, Washington, for the rescue of multiple drowning victims and then proceeding to the hoist rescue of a fallen hiker in the Cascade Mountains. The rescue of the hiker was accomplished at 4000 feet MSL under NVGs in a small area at the face of a waterfall.
- CW2 Thomas Schultz, CW2 Brian Wilkins, SGT Timothy Phillips, SPC Brian Blanton—498th Medical Company, Ft Benning, Georgia, for the rescue and life-saving treatment of a woman who had suffered a severe heart attack while driving her automobile. Her indwelling pacemaker with defibrillator was discharging an inappropriate electrical current to correct the arrhythmia she was experiencing.
- CW3 Brian Wilson, CW2 Thomas Shaffer, SSG Anthony Campos, SPC Xavier Alameda—498th Medical Company, Ft Benning, Georgia, for the rescue and treatment of a 16-year-old female whose small car crashed into a jackknifed logging truck. The mission was accomplished from the field during an FTX.
- CPT Benjamin Blackwell, CW2 Daniel Painter, SSG Robert Pearce, Jr., SPC James Barnes, SPC James Wolfe—542nd Medical Company, Korea, for the rescue of a soldier within four miles of the DMZ from rugged terrain after he fell into a ravine, injuring his spine and suffering head injuries. NVGs were used, as was the rescue hoist.
- 2LT Aldrich, CW2 Jones, SGT Williams, SSG Hudson—571st Medical Company, Ft Carson, Colorado, for the rescue and evacuation of the crew of a downed UH-60L in Leadville, Colorado. The accident site was in rugged terrain at 12,000 feet MSL, and the

crew treated and evacuated six casualties in subzero weather and high winds. Use of NVGs was involved.

- CW2 Paul Waskowsky, CW2 David Anstett, SPC Steven Holguin, SSG David Mussack—571st Medical Company, Ft Carson, Colorado, for the rescue of the occupants of a hot air balloon that had crashed on the side a steep cliff. The elevation was near 13,000 feet



1998 Outstanding Rescue of the Year nominees, 1159th Med. Co. AA, Concord, New Hampshire. PIC, MAJ Frank Leith; CDR, CW4 Bruce Gokey, Medic, MSG David Patch; Crewchief, SGT Jeffrey Lacy.

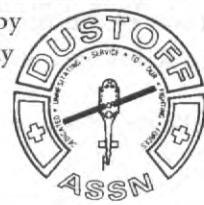
## NEW ENTRIES ON THE FLIGHT MANIFEST

James Adams — APO AE  
SGT Tom Anglin — Everett, WA  
CW2 Paul Barnes — Hummelstown, PA  
CWO Steven Bartkowski — Lynnwood, WA  
MAJ Mathew Brady — Portland, OR  
SSG Charles Calvert — Temple, TX  
SFC John Goodwin — San Antonio, TX  
MAJ David Greenwood — Mount Angel, OR  
SFC Kenneth Hamilton — Toms River, NJ  
SGT Darrell Hardy — Woodland, CA  
SPC Charlie Hatchett — Ft. Riley, KS  
CW2 Kevin Jordan — Redstone Arsenal, AL  
Stephen Lane — Arlington Heights, IL  
Tim Lickness — Sugar Land, TX  
SGT Benjamin Maxim — Columbus, OH  
SGT Emory Messersmith — Charlotte, NC  
E-4 Herbert Simpson — Quincy, MA  
SP5 Richard Thorson — Robbinsdale, MN  
David Tousignant — Malvern, PA  
LTC Jack Washburne, Jr. — Northport, AL  
SGT Barry Wilson — Fremont, NE  
LTC Jeffry Wolfe — Boring, OR  
1LT Shawn Zumwalt — Dundee, OR

MSL and involved the use of the rescue hoist of all five patients.

- CW2 Crist D. Beseler, CPT Joseph G. Eckert, SPC Steven R. Holguin, SGT Scott K. Foster—571st Medical Company, Ft Carson, Colorado, for the rescue of an injured snowboarder from the northern side of Pike's Peak Mountain in an extremely treacherous area known as Little Italy. The rescue was from a 300-foot rock cliff at approximately 12,500 feet MSL on a 70-degree slope. This was a rescue hoist mission.
- CW4 Lois Christensen, CW3 Dan Goddard, SGT Charles Heausler, SSG William Carmack—812th Medical Company, New Orleans, Louisiana, who, during a hospital transfer, encountered several engine malfunctions and loss of rotor RPM and yaw control. The crew executed a very difficult forced landing to a parking lot with numerous unmarked wires, which they avoided at the last moment. Good candidate for a "Broken Wing Award," too.
- MAJ Frank Keith, CW4 Bruce Gokey, MSG David Patch, SGT Jeffrey Lacy—1159th Medical Company, Concord, New Hampshire, for the rescue of a fallen and injured veteran rock climber from a perilous location on the southern end of the Franconia Notch. The rescue was made in high winds from rocky terrain. (See picture provided by the unit).

As you can see, the Executive Council had some hard decisions to make in choosing the best of the best. It is really too bad we can't recognize all of these outstanding DUSTOFFers for their daily devotion to duty and excellence in performance. Come to the reunion and celebrate with us these outstanding accomplishments by our crewmembers who daily stand ready to save lives.



## Closing Out the Flight Plan

CWO William T. "Bill" Dillard passed away on 31 March 1998. He is survived by his wife, Wanda, and two daughters, Stephanie Curtiss and Barbara Jean Dillard, and grandson, Chase Curtis. Bill served with the 50th Medical Detachment and Eagle Dustoff during 1968 and 1969. He was at the 1998 Reunion in a wheelchair and spent a good amount of time resting. He really had a great time at the reunion and enjoyed seeing many of his old buddies from the 50th and Eagle Dustoff. His wife said that during the reunion she saw a sparkle in his eyes she hadn't seen in a long time. He was a heck of a pilot and a life-long friend to many. We will miss you, "Wild Bill," and we will never forget you.

# From the Wiregrass

by COL Johnny L. West

Hello to all from LA. The latest and greatest is happening way down here in Lower Alabama. First, LTC Mike Deets retired recently. He and his family moved back to Illinois, and he is reportedly doing very well. He is looking (sometimes) for a job, says he is enjoying playing golf, letting his hair grow and finally getting to spend quality time with his family. His departure has been felt in many ways. He was the most experienced MS we had on the UH60Q and its program. Mike, if you're out there, here is a sincere thank-you for all you did for the AMEDD and the United States Army.

UH60Q: LTC Gene Pfeiffer has done a tremendous job at AMCOM, ensuring the UH60Q receives the necessary priority. Recently (Aug-Sep 1998) the UH60Q successfully completed the Operational Test at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In Oct (21-22) the UH60Q was presented to the Army and Congressional leadership during a viewing ceremony at the Pentagon. The viewing ceremony was a combined effort from Blackhawk PM, the Army Surgeon General's Office and Office of Congressional Legislative Liaison Office. We have not heard from all those involved, but an initial report says it was very successful.

New Director, Medical Evacuation Propriety: Since my arrival as the Director, Medical Evacuation Propriety, the majority of my efforts and time have been spent working with the UH60Q program and getting to meet everyone with whom I work. There is a new commander of the Army Aviation School and Center. He is Brigadier General Anthony Jones. We do not have a feel yet of his views on MEDEVAC and MS aviators. I can assure you that few days pass here at beautiful Fort Rucker without the aviation leadership accosting both LTC Ron Wilson and myself, inferring that we will soon be part of the Aviation Branch.

Aviation Consultant: COL Randy Sexton moved on to USAARL and turned over the controls of the Aviation Consultant to me in September. If there are questions or areas you have concerns about, please do not hesitate to call, write, email or fax me, and I will answer them ASAP. As most of you know by now the AMEC for 1999 has been cancelled, mostly due to budget cuts. It is envisioned that the AMEC will become a biannual event. We will certainly keep the field informed about AMEC 2000. We are still working many of the issues that were brought up during the last AMEC and hope to have resolution on them in the near future.

A recent article in the *Army Times* about MS Aviators not having the best opportunity for advancement and the AMEDD leadership not informing the MS aviators on the possibility of non selection in competitive year groups, was totally bogus. The young major who wrote the article was not informed about how well the 67Js have fared on previous promotion and other selection boards. The 67Js continue to excel in promotions and school selections. A senior

Aviator once told me that someday you are going to have to do something else other than fly. Today I offer that bit of logic to all of you majors, captains and lieutenants. Gone are the days and years when you could just fly, get promoted and fly again and again. Each of you must look at the future, decide what else within the AMEDD (or outside the branch) interests you. Pursue that field after you have successfully reached your flying gates. The consultants and the personnel assignment officers try to manage your assignment. Sometimes they may even appear to over-manage, or under-manage, depending on your viewpoint. But the best personnel career manager is you. You have to decide what is the best career field and devote 100% of your efforts and talents to that field. Many of us out there have been successful by staying in flying positions, getting promoted and returning to flying positions. But we are a dying breed. The Army and AMEDD are continuing to downsize, and you must adjust if you want to survive. The AMEDD and the 67Js (DUSTOFF pilots) are a great career choice. DUSTOFF is full of great people who have sacrificed the supreme price for this nation's freedom. I'm proud to be a DUSTOFF pilot, and I urge you to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

## DUSTOFF!

COL Johnny L. West, Director  
Medical Evacuation Propriety Directorate  
Bldg. 514, L. Street  
Fort Rucker, AL 36362  
(334)255-1166/70/79 (DSN-558)



Ed Bradshaw dons traditional Saudi garb in an attempt to become a "prince."

# Financial Statement

**SUBJECT:** Financial Status—Fiscal Year 1998–99

**SUBMITTED BY:** COL Daniel Gower, USA (Ret.)

1. Following are the figures for the DUSTOFF Association for Fiscal Year 1998–99, as of 15 October 1998.

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	\$14,368.49
<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations to Memorial Fund	4,950.00
Dues	925.00
Interest	142.04
Sales	421.20
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$6,620.24</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Newsletter	1,465.86
Operating Expenses	314.05
Sales Expenses	622.28
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,402.19</b>
Checkbook Balance	18,664.04*
CD	11,055.77

\*Checkbook balance less Memorial Fund set aside (\$5,640.00) = \$13,024.04

## Mountain Post Team MVP

Reprinted from the *Mountaineer*, Fort Carson, Colorado, May 29, 1998. Each week this feature spotlights a soldier, Department of the Army civilian, retiree, family member or volunteer for an outstanding act or performance.

### 571st Medical Company

This week's Mountain Post Team MVPs are Chief Warrant Officer Crist Beseler, Capt. Joe Eckert, Sgt. Scott Foster and Spc. Steve Holguin of the 571st Medical Company.

Beseler, Eckert, Foster and Holguin made up the crew that assisted in the search and rescue mission of an injured snowboarder near the 12,000-foot level of Pike's Peak above Glen Cove May 3.

The crew determined that with the altitude and the wind, they needed to burn off fuel to perform the mission safely. Several attempts were made to extricate the patient, while keeping the safety of the mission in mind. After dropping off equipment and burning off fuel, mission weight was attained and the patient was successfully extricated.

"The medical crew did an exemplary job of patient care," said Nancy G. Thornton, flight nurse, Flight for Life. "Your entire aviation and medical crew performed with the utmost safety, confidence and professionalism. I applaud their judgment."

## How to Contribute Articles to *The DUSTOFFer*

*The DUSTOFFer* would like to publish your article. If you have a recollection of a particular DUSTOFF or MAST mission, please share it with our members. If your unit has been involved in an outstanding rescue mission or worthwhile program, please submit your essay about it to *The DUSTOFFer*. Send photographs with your article or attach them electronically to your e-mail.

Send typed, double-spaced hard copy to the address below or e-mail your article to Dustoff 23@aol.com.

Please send your contributions to:

*The DUSTOFFer*  
P. O. Box 8091  
San Antonio, TX 78208

# DUSTOFF Reunion Golfers

## Take Notice

Don Conkright invites all interested golfers to join him for a Saturday afternoon round of golf (after the business meeting) at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort. The special greens fee rate is \$60 (regularly \$100). Call Don ASAP if you'd like to join him: (210) 521-1723. Prizes for this mini-tournament will be awarded.

This tournament does not replace the Chuck Mateer Golf Classic. To sign up for the Chuck Mateer Golf Classic, see Registration Form on page 13.

### The DUSTOFF Store

Item	Price	Size	Quantity	Total
Ball cap — Maroon	\$10		_____	\$_____
Ball cap — White	\$10		_____	\$_____
Golf shirt — Maroon (sm, med, lg, xl, xxl)	\$20	_____	_____	\$_____
T-shirt — Maroon (sm, med, lg, xl)	\$13	_____	_____	\$_____
To mail shirts and caps, add \$5 per order				\$_____
DUSTOFF Directory	\$3		_____	\$_____
DUSTOFF Coin	\$5		_____	\$_____
Koozie	\$2		_____	\$_____
Pocketknife	\$4		_____	\$_____
To mail coins, koozies, knives and directories, add \$3 per order				\$_____
			TOTAL ORDER	\$_____

Send check or money order, payable to DUSTOFF Assn., to:

DUSTOFF Association  
P. O. Box 8091  
San Antonio, TX 78208

(Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.)

Visit DUSTOFF on-line at  
<http://www.fbg.net/dustoff>

# WANTED!



**WHO: The DOL Maintenance Gang**

**REWARD: Minimal**

**CRIME: Theft of a Helicopter**

**Early on the morning of September 26, 1998, this motley crew, headed by the infamous Jerry Rogers, quietly removed the DUSTOFF bird from its tethered pad in front of Aabel Hall. They were last seen towing the aircraft down Stanley Road.**

**HIDEOUT: This outlaw gang is believed to be holed up in the DOL Maintenance Facility on Ft. Sam Houston.**

# 20th Annual DUSTOFF Association Reunion

## February 19-21 — Registration Form

Member's name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

Military address \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite DUSTOFF Unit/Year \_\_\_\_\_

### DUES:

		<b>TOTALS</b>
New Member Dues	\$15 + \$10 initial fee	\$ _____
Annual Dues	\$15	\$ _____
Past Dues (Catch up)	\$15 per year owed as back dues	\$ _____
Life Member Dues	\$100 (one-time payment)	\$ _____

### REUNION REGISTRATION:

Member/Spouse	\$15/person	_____ persons	\$ _____
Non-member/Guest	\$20/person	_____ persons	\$ _____
20th Anniversary Reunion t-shirt	\$10	_____ shirts	\$ _____
Number each size: _____ small    _____ medium    _____ large    _____ X-large    _____ XX-large			

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Call Radisson Hotel Market Square at (210) 224-7155 or (800) 333-333 to reserve your room at \$75.00/night.

Please mention you are with the Dusroff Reunion.

### CHUCK MATEER GOLF CLASSIC:

Ft. Sam Houston Club Member	\$18/person	_____ persons	\$ _____
Non-member Military	\$25/person	_____ persons	\$ _____
Non-member Civilian	\$31/person	_____ persons	\$ _____

### FRIDAY NIGHT:

Fiesta DUSTOFF Mexican Buffet	\$20/person	_____ persons	\$ _____
-------------------------------	-------------	---------------	----------

SPOUSES' LUNCHEON:	\$16/person	_____ persons	\$ _____
--------------------	-------------	---------------	----------

### SATURDAY NIGHT REUNION:

London Broil	\$24/person	_____ persons	\$ _____
Chicken Marsala	\$22/person	_____ persons	\$ _____

### DUSTOFF STORE:

Ball cap — White or Maroon (choice)	\$10	_____ caps	\$ _____
Maroon Golf Shirt	\$20	_____ shirts	\$ _____
Number each size: _____ small    _____ medium    _____ large    _____ X-large    _____ XX-large			

• Add \$5 per order postage for caps and shirts

DUSTOFF Coin	\$5	_____ coins	\$ _____
--------------	-----	-------------	----------

Koozie	\$2	_____ koozies	\$ _____
--------	-----	---------------	----------

Pocketknife	\$4	_____ knives	\$ _____
-------------	-----	--------------	----------

• Add \$3 per order postage for coins, koozies, knives.

Check here if you want to pick up your DUSTOFF Store items at the reunion during registration.

• Please allow 4-6 weeks per order for mail-order delivery.

**TOTAL REUNION CHARGES:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration deadline is February 10, 1999.** Please send registration form and check to:

DUSTOFF Association, P.O. Box 8091, Wainwright Station, San Antonio, TX 78208.

DUSTOFF Association  
P. O. Box 8091  
San Antonio, TX 78208

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 3017  
SAN ANTONIO, TX

Address correction requested  
Forwarding and return postage guaranteed

DUSTOFF Association  
Membership Application/Change of Address

- I want to join the Association as a Member      **\$10 Initial fee  
\$15 Annual fee  
\$25 Total**
- I want to join the Association as a Life Member      **\$100 One-time fee**
- Check here if change of address

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone-DSN \_\_\_\_\_

Send check or money order, payable  
to DUSTOFF Association, to:

DUSTOFF Association  
P. O. Box 8091  
San Antonio, TX 78208