

JOHN, your  
NAME IS MENTIONED IN THE  
PROFILE OF BILL KORBEL & ALSO  
PAT HOWRIGAN - PLEASE ADVISE ANY  
CORRECTIONS, DELETIONS, ETC.  
ALSO INFO FORM ENCLOSED  
Jesse

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

By Jesse Walton

WILLIAM A. "The Counselor" and CONNIE KORBEL, AAM F/W pilot 1966-1973. Bill flew C-46, C-47, C-123K and Porter (PC-6) aircraft being stationed in Vientiane, Laos for one year and Saigon, Vietnam for 5 1/2 years. Bill saw his share of action both in Laos and Vietnam. While offloading 50 gallon drums of aviation gas from their C-123K aircraft at LS-20A (Long Chieng, Laos) Bill and JOHN C. McRAINEY experienced a heavy enemy mortar attack. In Vietnam Bill and other AAM pilots, including the late JOHN ZURLA, were pinned down by gunfire during the early dawn hours of the Tet Offensive outside Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Airport. Bill took machine gun hits while flying his PC-6 (Porter) aircraft during a steep, tight spiral descent into Hoi An. He was mortared on the ramp at Can Tho, Vietnam and while operating his Porter South of Can Tho a Customer suffered critical wounds from AK-47 ground fire. Bill flew often with the legendary ARTHUR "Shower Shoes" WILSON (AAM F/W pilot) whose deviations from the AAM uniform code was frequently noted by higher management. After such flights "Shower Shoes" and "The Counselor" would retire to Art's "hootch" in the silk stocking district of Vientiane (across from the Monument) to chat and put a dent in Art's inventory of beer. Bill was one of the members of the Far East Pilots Association team, and proudly so, that negotiated a comprehensive contract with the company. Weldon D. Bigony, Bruce B. Blevins, the late Harry Mulholland, John J. McCauley, and Gerald D. MacPherson were other members of the FEPA negotiating team that met with company officials at the Sano Military Hotel in Tokyo in the early months of 1970. James E. Meals was the FEPA professional negotiator who latter accepted employment to become a senior management officer of Air America, Inc. Improvements to what was considered inequitable company policy were negotiated during those days in Tokyo, Japan. Bill left AAM in 1973 to serve on the staff of Senator Gaylord Nelson until 1981. He was involved in various senatorial, congressional, and presidential campaigns. Bill and Connie spend the Summer months sailing their classic wooden sailboat. Winters are spent watching the snow fall while having a few "silver bullets". On occasion they sneak off South to warmer temperatures for a month or so. Bill and Connie are enthusiastic members of the AAM Association and attended the reunion in Orlando, FL in June of 1993.