



the DUSTOFFer

DECEMBER, 1989

The DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 8091, Wainwright Station San Antonio, Texas 78208

From The President's



This is certainly the busiest time of the year for all of us, but particularly for those of us who are involved in the planning of our annual Reunion. Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years, and all of the activities that surround the Holiday Season could very easily take up most of our time. But this is also the most hectic time for the reunion planners. All of the major decisions and plans have been formulated, but between now and February 23rd, there will be a myriad of details to iron out. But, it's all worth it, as we try to make the 11th Reunion the most memorable.

You will notice a small "splash" of color with this edition of your newsletter. The registration forms for the 1990 Reunion are included with this newsletter, rather than using a separate mailing for them. The yellow form is for those desiring to stay at the Reunion hotel, the Holiday Inn Riverwalk. To guarantee a room at the special convention rate, fill out the form and mail it to the Holiday Inn by January 23, 1990. Forms received after that date will be on a space available basis only, and the prevailing rate will apply, not the special convention rate. The pink form is the Registration form for the Reunion itself, and all of the activities connected with the Reunion. The deadline for the receipt of the Reunion Registration forms and appropriate fees, in our offices, is February 5th, 1990.

As if this time of the year wasn't busy enough, your president was also jetting half-way around the world. In October, I received an invitation from the Commander of 7th Medical Command in Germany, to be a guest speaker at the annual Aviation and Aviation Medicine Conference, held December 4-8, 1989, in Sonthofen, West Germany. This seemed like a great opportunity to spread the Gospel of the DUSTOFF Association, so I threw a few clothes in a suitcase, packed a large supply of DUSTOFF Association application forms, and flew to Germany. Hopefully, the trip was informative and lucrative. We should be able to determine that if we see an increase in the number of members within the next few months. Needless to say, it was a pleasure for me to return to Germany and visit with a lot of old friends, and meet a lot of our younger aviators.

This will be my final column "From the President's Desk." It's been a lot of fun the past year putting this newsletter together, and I hope you have enjoyed my feeble efforts, and have been informed along the way. I hope to see all of you at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk on February 23rd.

GLEN A. MELTON
President

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the biggest problem with health foods
is that they taste like they look.

DUSTOFFers to celebrate a ROCK & ROLL REUNION



Reliable sources report that the Holiday Inn Riverwalk in downtown San Antonio, Texas, will be a swinging place on February 23rd, as the DUSTOFF folks hit town for their 11th annual reunion and meetings. It is rumored that the opening mixer on Friday night will be the Rockin' place to be, as all DUSTOFFers will be

FLYING BACK TO THE FABULOUS 50's

It has been discovered that the DUSTOFF ladies are rummaging through the closets and attics in search of "poodle" skirts and bobby sox, as they have learned that prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. More than one pair of saddle shoes have been located, and the gals are trying to remember how to get their hair back into the ponytail.

The guys are having a little more of a problem, however, as they have been able to find the butch-wax to spruce up the flat-top and slick back the D.A., but they are having a little more of a problem finding enough hair to work with. But true to the spirit of DUSTOFFers, old high-school letter sweaters and black leather jackets with all the chains and the eagle painted on the back have been miraculously found, and are now having the moth ball smell aired out.

Music will be provided by a live disc-jockey, who will be spinning the platters of the era. So, brush up on those steps, because a twist contest will definitely be in order. Flight surgeons have consented to stand by to treat all the backs that will probably be thrown out.

The program for this year's ROCK & ROLL REUNION will follow closely from past years:

FRIDAY, February 23rd:

- 1200-1800 - Registration
- 1300-1800 - Chuck Mateer Memorial Golf Classic
- 1900-2200 - "Flying Back To The Fabulous 50's" Mixer, with hors d' oeuvre buffet. (Appropriate attire from the era is recommended, encouraged, and desirable.)
- 2200- ??? - Hospitality Suite

SATURDAY, February 24th:

- 0830-1200 - Professional meeting
- 1030-1430 - Spouses' luncheon and activities
- 1330-1600 - Business Meeting
- 1830-2000 - Pre-banquet cocktail party
- 2000-2200 - Banquet
- 2200- ??? - Revenge of the Hospitality Suite

SUNDAY, February 25th:

- 0900-1000 - Memorial Service
- 1000-1100 - Executive Council Meeting

So, make plans to Hover down Memory Lane with all of us, as we Rock back to the Fabulous 50's !!!

AND THE WINNER IS.....

Melissa Conkright, who submitted the winning entry to determine the theme for this years reunion. She will win two nights stay at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk, this years convention hotel, during the DUSTOFF Reunion.

Thanks to all who submitted entries this year. So, now it is time to begin thinking about next year's theme!!!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

One of the more popular sites for the spouse's luncheon will again be the location for the 1990 luncheon. A very special day is planned for the ladies this year, with The Gazebo at Los Patios as the destination. Los Patios, a dining and shopping complex, is located on the



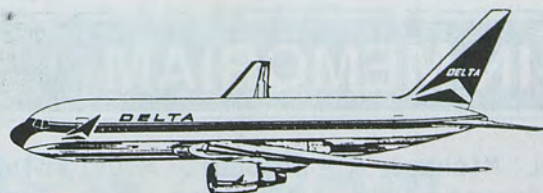
banks of the historic Salado Creek, and surrounded by acres of lovely live oak trees and landscaping. During lunch, an informal style show will be conducted, featuring fashions from the numerous shops in the Los Patios Complex. And, of course, after lunch, ample time will be given for shopping at Los Patios, or just strolling the beautiful grounds.

Transportation to the luncheon will be by Olde English double-decker bus. The bright red bus will leave from the Holiday Inn Riverwalk, and prior to arriving at Los Patios, will make one stop at Ft. Sam Houston, for a guided tour of the new Army Medical Department Museum. This is an excellent museum,



which has been heavily supported by the DUSTOFF Association, as well as many DUSTOFFers on an individual basis.

The cost of the luncheon includes transportation, and the complete luncheon, to include dessert (low-caloric and entirely non-fattening, of course). So, ladies, make sure to include these activities when the Registration Form is completed. A very special time is anticipated.



HAVE YOU made those airline reservations yet??? For those of you planning on flying to San Antonio for the 1990 Reunion, don't forget that by booking your flights early, you can save money. In the last newsletter we told you that arrangements have been made with DELTA AIR LINES for discounted airfares to the reunion. Remember, the earlier you make your reservations and get your tickets, the greater your chances of getting the lowest fares.

To make your reservations and travel arrangements, you may contact your local travel agent, or call DELTA AIR LINES direct at:

1-800-221-1212

Inform the reservationist that you will be attending the DUSTOFF Association Reunion, and the booking file number is H11322. Do it now, before you forget!!

DELTA
We Love To Fly And It Shows.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

It has been learned that there has been a date change for the A.M.E.C. conference for 1990. The new dates for the conference are February 26th through March 2nd, 1990. This change in dates now has the A.M.E.C. immediately following the DUSTOFF Reunion.

Those of you planning to attend the A.M.E.C. Conference, amend your plans, and make sure to arrive in San Antonio a little bit early, in order to attend the reunion.

IN MEMORIAM

COL Michael R. Antopol, M.D., died on 8 August 1989 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, following an acute myocardial infarction and coronary artery bypass grafting. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

COL Antopol, a proud member of the DUSTOFF Association, and a 26 year veteran of the Army, received his B.A. degree from Johns Hopkins University, a M.S. degree from New York University, and his medical degree from New York Medical College. He was originally commissioned as an officer in the Medical Service Corps in 1963.

From 1970 to 1971, COL Antopol served with the 1st Cavalry Division as the division flight surgeon, and then as a surgeon for the 11th Combat Aviation Group in the Republic of Vietnam.

COL Antopol is survived by his wife, LTC Beverly Antopol, Army Nurse Corps, currently residing in Kensington, Maryland, and a brother, Stephen Antopol, M.D., of Woodbridge, Connecticut.

A memorial fund has been established for the late COL Antopol at the Army Medical Department Museum Foundation, Ft. Sam Houston, for those wishing to contribute.

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MEMORIAL BOARD UPDATE

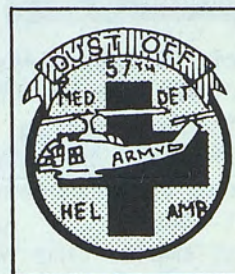
Jerry Nolan is continuing in his quest of locating names for our DUSTOFF Memorial Board. Skip Geiger, through his contacts at the Ft. Rucker Safety Center, is assisting Jerry in his search.

Any members who may know of a crew member who might have escaped their research is encouraged to forward any information you might have to Jerry Nolan at the offices of the DUSTOFF Association. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

after action report by don conkright



In my last report, I referred to SFC Egor Johnson's unit, the 57th Med. Det., as the "Original DUSTOFF." I began to think that there might be an interesting story behind that nickname, and so there was. The following account is derived from three sources: the actual quarterly historical reports, from the book by John L. Cook titled "DUSTOFF," and from the commander who took the unit to Vietnam, then CPT John Temperilli, Jr.



The Insignia of
the 57th Medical
Detachment

FT. MEADE, MARYLAND: Early December 1961

The 57th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance) was in the midst of a rigorous training program, preparing for an upcoming exercise in the Phillipines called "Great Shelf." Suddenly, the commander, CPT John Temperilli, was advised that the 57th would not be going to the Phillipines, that another unit would be taking their place. While that was all that came out of Washington, it seemed that even the laundryman knew that the 57th Med. Det. was going to some little-known country called Vietnam, somewhere in the far east.

There was nothing official until early February of 1962, when CPT Temperilli was notified that he was to take the unit to USARPAC. The Hq. of USARPAC was in Hawaii, but there seemed to be no question of where the unit was really headed. Eventually, CPT Temperilli was given the following guidance: you are going to Vietnam as advisors; wear your uniforms only during the performance of your

(Continued on P. 5)

11th Annual Convention/Reunion

FEBRUARY 23-25, 1990



REGISTRATION FORM

* NAME _____ * NAME OF SPOUSE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

MILITARY ADDRESS _____
(if applicable)

AUTOVON _____

*print names as you wish them
to appear on your reunion badge

FUNCTION	NUMBER ATTENDING	AMOUNT
REGISTRATION	DUSTOFF Member (Couples @\$10.00/Singles @\$5.00) Non-Member (Couples @\$15.00/Singles @\$7.50)	\$ _____ \$ _____
CHUCK MATEER MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC	Ft. Sam Golf Club Member # _____ @ \$5.00 (Handicap _____) Non-Member @ \$11.00 (Handicap _____)	\$ _____ \$ _____
FLYING BACK TO THE FABULOUS 50's MIXER (Cash Bar)	@\$8.00 ea (Heavy Hors de' oeuvre buffet. Don't forget proper attire from the era!!)	\$ _____
DUSTOFF SPOUSE'S LUNCHEON	@ \$14.00 ea	\$ _____
THE "PRE-FLIGHT" PRE BANQUET COCTAIL PARTY	(Cash Bar)	
1990 REUNION BANQUET	@ \$20.00 ea	\$ _____
	TOTAL FEES	\$ _____

Please enclose your check made payable to the DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION, and marked "11th Annual Reunion." Payments received after 5 February 1990 will be handled on a space-available basis. REFUNDS: Fees will be refunded if cancellations are received prior to 5 February 1990. Golf Fees will be refunded in the event inclement weather precludes play.

NOTE: Reservations for rooms at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk should be made according to the instructions on the accompanying Hotel Reservation Sheet.

COMPLETE LOWER HALF OF THIS FORM AND MAIL TO:



RIVERWALK
217 North St. Mary's
San Antonio, Texas 78205-2303

Attn: Reservations Department

LOCATION

Located on the famous Riverwalk in the heart of downtown San Antonio. Within walking distance to the Alamo, Convention Center, HemisFair Plaza, La Villita, central business district and all major downtown attractions

AIRPORT & TRANSPORTATION

Just 15 minutes from San Antonio International Airport. Transportation available through VIA Limousine Service.

RESERVATIONS ARE HELD UNTIL 6:00 PM ONLY ON THE DAY OF ARRIVAL UNLESS WE HAVE...

...A deposit for the first night's lodging

or

...A credit card number - We accept American Express, Diners Club, Carte Blanche, Visa, Master Charge, and Holiday Inn Preferred Corporate Traveler Credit Card.

A GUARANTEED PAYMENT ON YOUR ROOM ASSURES THAT A ROOM WILL BE HELD FOR YOUR DAY OF ARRIVAL ONLY. SHOULD YOU NOT ARRIVE, THE ROOM WILL BECOME AVAILABLE FOR RESALE AT 6:00 AM THE FOLLOWING MORNING. IT ALSO MEANS THAT YOU WILL BE BILLED FOR THE FIRST NIGHT'S ROOM REVENUE IF THE RESERVATION IS NOT CANCELLED.

ALSO, SHOULD YOU BE MAKING YOUR RESERVATIONS WITHOUT THIS FORM, IT IS NECESSARY THAT YOU MENTION THE NAME OF THE GROUP IN ORDER TO SECURE THE RATES THAT APPLY AND A ROOM BEING HELD WITHIN THE BLOCK FOR THE GROUP. CONFIRMATION OF RESERVATIONS WILL BE MAILED UPON RECEIPT OF THIS FORM.

If you like you may call direct - (512) 224-2500

PLEASE NOTE: RESERVATIONS MADE AFTER JAN. 23, 1990 WILL BE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND WILL BE RESERVED AT THE REGULAR HOTEL ROOM RATES.

ALL ROOMS SUBJECT TO STATE AND LOCAL TAXES. 'GUARANTEED' RESERVATIONS DO NOT ARRANGE DIRECT BILLING.

DETACH HERE - KEEP THIS CARD FOR YOUR INFORMATION

-Please Type or Print-		(The dates for the group are listed below - any variation is subject to availability)	
NAME OF GROUP THE DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION		Arrival: February 23, 1990	
		Departure: February 25, 1990	
Last Name	First	Middle	Arrival Month
Phone	(work)	(home)	Departure Month
Company Name			Day
Street			Time
City	State	Zip	Credit Card Information
Sharing With			Credit Card Name
Last Name	First	Middle	Expires
If two persons are sharing a room send only one card indicating both names			Number
			Signature
\$62.00 Sg1 - \$69.00 Db1 Please Indicate number of rooms desired of each type below			
Rate		# Rooms	
Rate		# Rooms	
1 Person (2 Double Beds)		1 Person (1 King Bed)	
2 Persons (2 Double Beds)		2 Persons (1 King Bed)	
1 Person (1 Queen Bed)		One Bedroom Suite	
2 Persons (1 Queen Bed)		Two Bedroom Suite	
Extra Person Charge - \$10.00			
Check in Time - 3:00 PM			
Check out Time - 12:00 Noon			

duties, otherwise wear civilian clothes; you will be on a one ydar, unaccompanied tour; you will fly single pilot with the crew chief in the co-pilot's seat.

CPT Temperilli would have only two months to prepare his unit for deployment overseas, and there were many questions which could not be answered. Where were they going? Who would support them logistically? Who would be their chain of command? Was there actual terrain identified for placement of their unit? Since his unit was not authorized cooks, where would he get mess support? With the arrival of the 57th in Vietnam, history would note the first medevac unit deployed there as well as the very first UH-1 "Hueys" to be employed there. Where would the 57th get parts for their aircraft? The answers to these questions and perhaps hundreds more would be answered only after they arrived in Vietnam.

After six anxious days on an Air Force DC6, with layovers in California, Hawaii, Wake Island, and the Philippines, the 57th finally arrived in Nha Trang, Vietnam on 20 Apr 62. The unit's aircraft maintenance officer, then CPT Donald Naylor, and five enlisted men had departed Ft. Meade on 3 March 62 with five UH-1A Hueys enroute to Mobile, Alabama. There, the aircraft were processed for overseas movement and all arrived in Saigon on 20 April 1962, six days prior to the main body.

No one was prepared for what was to happen when CPT Temperilli arrived with his unit in Vietnam. No one knew that the 57th was coming!! The two medical teams which accompanied the 57th on the DC6 were both met at the airplane with welcoming parties and much fanfare. CPT Temperilli was met, figuritively, with the question, "So, what do you want from me? I didn't know you were coming!"



After considerable effort, the Commander of the 8th Field Hospital at Nha Trang agreed to allow the 57th to set up on some of their concrete slabs. COL (Ret) Temperilli recalls that they set up in 3 GP medium tents - 2 for the enlisted, and 1 for the officers. There would not be a maintenance tent for aircraft for several months. Real estate for parking of aircraft was impossible

(Continued next column)

to acquire, so CPT Temperilli instructed his officers to park them along side the runway, and then refused to move them. Since these were the first Hueys in country, no one else could move them!

A few days after arriving in country, CPT Temperilli was briefed by the Medical Staff Advisor in Saigon, as to how he was to support the 8,000 U.S. soldiers in Vietnam. He was not prepared for what he was about to be told - "Deploy your 5 aircraft in 4 separate locations." Temperilli objected strongly, and eventually gained an audience with COL Merchant of the Support Command. A compromise was worked out after much discussion, and the 57th would send 2 aircraft to Qui Nhon and leave 3 at Nha Trang.

There are hundreds of stories to be heard regarding those first few months in Vietnam...extraordinary stories such as the time when the 57th was directed to remove all red crosses from the aircraft and fly all missions, not only medevac, but troop deployment, etc. Or the story when Brigadier General Joseph Stilwell, Commander of the Army Support Group Vietnam, approved the removal of all the 57th's aircraft starter generators so that other, non-medical, helicopter units could fly. How about the time when two 55-gallon drums of JP4 were carried on each of two aircraft flying from Saigon to Nha Trang, so that each aircraft could refuel itself midway, since there were no refueling sites enroute?

If you get the chance, grab one or more of the following Vietnam DUSTOFF pioneers (and members of the DUSTOFF Association) and get them to tell you some stories. My two hours with John Temperilli held me spellbound. Experience it yourself!!

COL (Ret) John Temperilli
COL (Ret) Bob McWilliam
COL (Ret) Don Naylor
COL (Ret) Tom Jackson
Msg (Ret) Alvin Cooper

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

A gentleman is a man who can play the accordion, but doesn't.

FORE!



John Colvin kept telling me that he was a "scratch" golfer, so I went to watch him play one day. On the first hole, he sliced his drive into the woods, then stood there and scratched his head. This was repeated for 18 holes, so he really wasn't lying to me - he is a "scratch" golfer!!

Remember, you don't have to be a Pro to enter the Chuck Mateer Memorial Golf Tournament, held in conjunction with the DUSTOFF Reunion. In fact, it's probably a lot more fun if you are not!! The purpose of the tournament is really an excuse to get together in friendly competition and have a good time. It is a handicap tournament, so it is designed to eliminate lop-sided scores. Of course, that doesn't help when some people lie about their handicap, and then sand-bag the rest of the field. I won't

mention any names, but his initials are Walt Skeistaitis!!

Seriously, the tournament is for fun, and the more participants, the more fun it will be. So, if you are planning on being in San Antonio on Friday afternoon, February 23rd, check the Golf Tournament on the pink registration form. Let's make the afternoon a truly memorable one with the largest turn-out yet.

High Flight

*Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and
swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there.
I've chased the shouting wing along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, nor eagle flew.
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untresspassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.
--John Gillespie Magee, Jr.*

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DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 8091 WAINWRIGHT STATION
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78208

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"When I Have Your Wounded"

