



the

DUSTOFFer

MAY, 1989

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S



Our reunion is over for another year, and we can all look forward to the next "Decade of Dustoff." It is truly an honor for me to serve as your president for the upcoming year, and I am thankful to Roy Hancock and the officers from last year for all the guidance they have provided.

As you all know, the **DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION** was formed just ten years ago. However, our traditions go back much further, and our name was gained during the Vietnam Conflict. One of the purposes of our association is to promote those **DUSTOFF** traditions, and to project those traditions into the present and future role of Army aeromedical evacuation. In order to do that, our association must continue to grow. To accomplish this growth, we need the help of our present members. Pass the word to friends and associates who are eligible to become **DUSTOFFers**. Encourage them to become a part of this historic and worthwhile organization. Pass on the membership application that is a part of this newsletter.

The increase of our membership is one of my goals during this upcoming year. Another goal is to consolidate and collect

all records, equipment and memorabilia connected with our association. At the present time, a lot of this history of our association is scattered among past officers. Much of it has been put up in closets and quite possibly forgotten. Don Conkright has graciously accepted the appointment as **DUSTOFF** Historian. It will be his job to gather together all materials necessary to compile a complete history of our association. This is an open-ended appointment, as I am quite sure that he will need more than one year to complete this task. He will need the assistance of us all. If you know of any material that might be of use to the association, please contact us.

I am looking forward to the challenge of the coming year, but mainly of seeing all of you at the 1990 Reunion.

GLEN A. MELTON
President



Newsletter Update

Take a moment and check your name and address on the mailing label of this newsletter. If there are any errors or changes needed please fill out the change of address form found elsewhere in this newsletter.

We need your suggestions and letters!! News items of general interest to DUSTOFFers are welcomed. The next newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in late August. The deadline for letters or items to be placed in the August newsletter is July 31st. Please mail your information to the Dustoff Association, ATTN: Newsletter editor.

I WANT TO BE A



When asked to write an essay on what he wanted to be when he grew up, a Fifth Grader submitted the following:

"I want to be a pilot when I grow up because it's fun and easy to do. Pilots don't need much school. They just have to learn numbers so they can read instruments. I guess they should be able to read maps so they can find their way if they get lost. Pilots should be brave so they won't get scared if it's foggy and they can't see or if a wing or motor falls off they should stay calm so they'll know what to do. Pilots have to have good eyes so they can see through clouds and they can't be afraid of lightening or thunder because they are closer to them than we are.

The salary pilots make is another thing I like. They make more money than they can spend. This is because most people think airplane flying is dangerous except pilots don't because they know how easy

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it is. There isn't much I don't like, except girls like pilots and all the stewardesses want to marry them and they always have to chase them away so they won't bother them. I hope I don't get airsick because if I do I couldn't be a pilot and would have to go to work.



1989 REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

It's hard to believe that our association is ten years old! However, the 1989 Reunion, "A Decade of Dustoff," brought this fact home to us in a big way. Our tenth reunion, held at the historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio, was another in a long line of successful reunions. The Friday afternoon registration was the first opportunity to meet and greet old friends and new acquaintances. One of these years, the registration will go smoothly with no problems. But some last minute name-tags had to be made, and other minor problems handled. Analou Eisner handled them all, with her usual calm demeanor, and an occasional "WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW!!"

The cold weather held off just long enough to complete the Chuck Mateer Memorial Golf Classic held at the Ft. Sam Houston links on Friday afternoon. Walt Skeistaitis once again took charge of the usual bunch of sandbaggers and ringers to insure a successful tournament.

The Friday evening social was the time to wander around and renew old

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REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

friendships, swap stories, and meet the new members. Many a "And there I was....." was overheard during the evening. A Decade of Dustoff brought out a lot of Dustoff memorabilia, and quite possibly the most amazing thing viewed during the entire evening, was that Roy Hancock can still fit into his Vietnam party flight suit!!

The professional meeting on Saturday morning was attended by a number of bleary-eyed members who had stayed too long in the hospitality suite on Friday night, and was highlighted by an update on civilian aeromedical evacuation given by Mr. Craig Honaman from Florida. In addition, LTC Ortha Miles provided us with an AMEDD Aviation Update. An aviation industry update was provided by Mr. John Soehnlein from Sikorsky and Mr. Art Sifuentes from Boeing.



The weather did not cooperate for the wife's luncheon on Saturday, as a blue-norther blew in, and the open trolley ride to the Mexican Market became a real experience. But the hot-sauce at Mi Tierra's, along with the excellent margaritas, got the blood pumping again, and a good time was had by all.

Membership was one of the major topics at the business meeting held Saturday afternoon, with many suggestions being made for increasing our membership rolls. Methods of publicizing the association to reach eligible potential members were discussed. Once again, the site of our reunion was discussed, with a downtown site preferred, if available. Depending upon availability and price, this will be pursued. Thanks to the efforts of Jerry Nolan, the Dustoff Association is

now a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. The results of the election of new officers for 1989 are as follows:

President	Glen A. Melton
Vice-President	MAJ Gerald Nolan
Treasurer	LTC Howard McClelland
Secretary	MAJ Don Berry
Members at Large	COL (Ret) Ray Salmon COL John Colvin

A veritable feast was prepared for our banquet on Saturday night, with a buffet laden with salads, beef, fish, vegetables and desserts. The Menger may have learned their lesson, however, as a number of members, led by Dick Scott, Don Alexander, and Ed Haswell, were seen making return trips to the buffet table. MG Spurgeon Neel provided us with insights into the problems and satisfaction of providing the HUEY as the medevac vehicle for the Vietnam experience. His anecdotes regarding the HUEY were especially welcome, as we will all always have a special place in our hearts for the HUEY.



Then it was back to the hospitality suite for the final war stories of the weekend. Once again, our hats are off to the personnel of the 507th Medical Company for their usual excellent job in keeping all the DUSTOFFers with a drink in their hand.

The memorial service on Sunday morning was especially meaningful, as we remembered Kim Schroeder, recently killed while providing medevac coverage at the Air show in Germany, where two Italian jets collided. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, presented to his widow by MG John Major, Commander, Health Services Command. The memorial meditation provided by Chaplain Ken Ruppert was most meaningful to all pilots in attendance.

Then it was time to pack up and head for home. Once again, it was a memorable reunion, and I know that all of us are looking forward to the eleventh reunion in 1990.

(Continued in Column 2)

FOR LADIES ONLY



Ladies, we need your help. We want the 1990 Reunion to be the biggest and best one yet. Most of the guys are happy to show up as long as the meetings are kept short and the hospitality suite is kept open and does not run out of liquid refreshments. We know, however, that there is a lot more to making our reunion a roaring success. So, we want ideas from the ladies. What type of luncheon activities would you really like to have on Saturday? What about the banquet? Should we have entertainment, and if so, what type? And how about a Theme? An exciting theme can really add to the fun.

So ladies, put those thinking caps on and give us some ideas. Please send your ideas and suggestions for the theme and associated activities to:

Jana D. Melton
8706 Phoenix Avenue
Universal City, TX 78148

The winning theme suggestion will be awarded two free nights at the hotel where the reunion will be held. The decision of the judges will be final, and in case of ties, a drawing will be conducted to select the winner. Suggestions must be postmarked No Later Than 15 July 1989.



WELCOME!

We would like to welcome the newest members of the DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION. The following "Newbies" have joined since our last reunion: Frederick Becker, R. Diego, Felicia French (Lifetime Member), Francis Kerwin, George Matassarini, and Mark Thurstin. Welcome, and we will look forward to seeing you at the 1990 Reunion.

LEST WE FORGET...



MAJ Jerry Nolan is in charge of researching prospective names for addition to our memorial board. If you know of someone who might be eligible to be placed on the board, please contact Jerry. To make his job much easier, please provide him with as much information as possible regarding the prospective addition. Name, rank, unit, date of incident or death, and the location of incident are among the information required. Please address your information to:

MAJ Gerald Nolan
DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 8091, Wainwright Station
San Antonio, Texas 78208



THE VIETNAM WAR NEWSLETTER AND VIETNAM BOOKSTORE

For you Vietnam vets, or just those interested in that tumultuous period of our history, you might be interested in receiving the Vietnam Newsletter. Thomas Hebert, the publisher/Editor of the publication, informs me that he has been doing the newsletter for 10 years, and the bookstore is the largest Vietnam specialty bookstore in the world. Plans are in the works to do a comprehensive write-up on the DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

For more information, write to the organization at:



Or phone toll free:

1-800-4DANANG

OTHER REUNIONS OF INTEREST

Eagle Dust-Off, 326th Med. Bn., 101st Airborne Div.; 50th Med. Bn., (Helicopter Ambulance); Phu Bai Dust-Off, 571st; Quang Tri Dust-Off; ALL PERSONNEL! Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 9-13 August. Contact: Fred Behrens, 2525 Maidens Road, Powhatan, Virginia 23139. (804) 598-2868.

The Ken Rakentine Memorial Post #53, Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc., are holding their 4th annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion August 18th and 19th in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. Open to all vets and families. For more info contact: V.V.N.W. Post #53, Post Office Box 721, Waynesboro, Pa. 17268 (717) 762-3565

SHOW THE COLORS

Did you get all the DUSTOFF T-Shirts you needed during our reunion? How about other items? If not, or if you were unable to attend this year, certain items are available by mail. Immediately available are T-Shirts with the HUEY on the back (\$10.00 ea.), ceramic DUSTOFF coffee mugs (\$2.00 ea.), and the popular KOOZIE Cups, the insulated beverage holders, complete with the thermos insert and travel lid, with the DUSTOFF logo (\$2.00 ea.). Use the order blank below for ordering.

WAIT 'TILL NEXT YEAR!

The date and place for the 1990 Reunion have been set, so be sure and mark your calendars and make plans for being in attendance. We are hoping for the biggest and best reunion ever. The dates will be February 23, 24, and 25, and it's back to the River. The Holiday Inn Riverwalk will be the site of this year's reunion. Situated on the scenic banks of the San Antonio River, the Holiday Inn Riverwalk hotel offers everything we need for our reunion.

This impressive 23 story hotel offers 313 elegantly-appointed guest rooms, most with private balconies, overlooking either the river or the downtown skyline. A heated outdoor pool and an exercise room with whirlpool are available to all guests.

Watch for the next newsletter for more detailed information on the hotel and specific room costs.

Holiday Inn

Riverwalk

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

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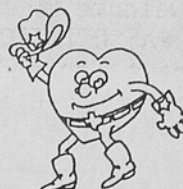
SHIPPING & HANDLING

Add \$2.50 for first item and .50 for each additional item. Make checks payable to HEART OF TEXAS ENTERPRISES and mail to:

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ATTN: Dustoff Sales
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San Antonio, Texas 78218

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

APPLICATION: ☐

ADDRESS CHANGE: ☐

NAME

SPOUSE'S NAME

STREET ADDRESS

HOME PHONE and AREA CODE

CITY, STATE, and ZIP CODE

MILITARY ADDRESS (If Applicable)

RANK and AUTOVON NUMBER

I wish to join the DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION as indicated:

Initial membership plus first year's dues - \$20.00

Yearly renewal (sustaining) - \$10.00

Lifetime membership - \$100.00

NOTE: Members electing to renew membership annually will have their membership automatically converted to lifetime after 15 CONSECUTIVE years.
Membership renewals are based on the Calendar Year and are due NLT one January each year. Please make all checks payable to: DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION and mail to:

DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION
Post Office Box 8091, Wainwright Station
San Antonio, Texas 78208

DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION

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