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27 January 1992

Dear Cowboys, Cowgirls and Friends of the Ranch:

October 1991 saw the largest gathering of the World's Wackiest Weed Wilters ever to assemble in a single corral. By any standard of measure, the 26th annual gathering was the best ever. The Ranch Hand Memorial was visited, as well as the U.S. Air Force Armament Museum. The Saturday night dinner in the Forum Room, high atop the Ramada, was ushered in by the U.S. Flag Ceremony performed by the drill team from Hurlburt Field. They provided a stirring visual review with narrative of the American flags in use throughout our great history.

One of the high points of the weekend was the presence of Lt/Gen. Alexander (Rusty) Sloan, the Air Force Surgeon General, and his lovely wife Carol. They enjoyed the festivities as much as we did meeting and talking with them. Our thanks to the General and his wife for taking time from their busy schedule to help the Ranch celebrate its 26th reunion.

Those attending were:

Bill Aldrich
Chuck Avery
Don & Pat Ayres
Paul Badders & Bonnie Jenkin
Jim & Maria Bassett
Ed & Maddy Blaufuss
Willis & Jeanette Bond
Jack Brennecke
Earle & Kate Briggs
Robert & Linda Cain
Paul & Barbara Cecil
Willy Clark
Roy & Lula Coats
Ed & Jeannie Dabbert & Ed, Jr.
Ralph & Dolly Dresser
Ralph & Imogene Evans
Rick Evans & Rick, Jr.
Ed & Ann Fitzpatrick
Jack & Bobbie Gentry & family
Charles & Roxanne Giaque
Millard & Carmen Gorman
Harvey & Donna Graumann
Dr. W. Russ Hall
Geech & Susan Hamilton
Lee & Bobbie Harrison
Charlie & Beth Hubbs
Bud & Doris Day
Cal Jeffries
David & Carol Jobe
Pearl Ketzell
Burt Kellogg
Bill & Shirley Knothe

Jack & Beverly Langhorne
Ray Lemaire
Carl & Sandy Marshall
Bill & Lynnette McCabe
Ed & Louise McGee
Joe Meadows & family
Roger Meekins
Mick & Debbie Mikolasy
George & Margaret Ann Miller
Paul Mitchell
Russ & Billie Mohney
Dave & Carol Motowidlak
James Murphy
Stan & Elizabeth Nelson
Al & Emily Nicolas
Paul & Sue Parham
Clyde & Tru Picht
Jim & Patricia Pochurek
Joe Potter and Phyllis
Art Reese
Drayton Robinette
Bud Robinson & Joann Hoover
Wilbur & Jeannine Robinson
Pappy & Moe Rothermel
Hugh & Jane Scott
Mike Shuppert
Lt/Gen. "Rusty" & Carol Sloan
Jack & Marilyn Spey & family
Pete & Kathy Spivey
Mike & Trudy Topolosky
Col. Bill Wolfe
Keith & Toni Yale
Howard Yates & brother Leon

Air Force Health Study Physical Examination - 1992/1993:

The fourth physical examination of Ranch Hand personnel and our comparison group will be conducted at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, La Jolla, California starting in early May of this year. Each of us will be contacted by the School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks AFB, Texas in the near future with all of the details. You may call the Ranch Hand Study Office at Brooks on their 1-800 number (1-800-531-7231) to request a particular time frame for your physical, if you want to get the "jump on the ball." See you in La Jolla!

Dear Jack:

As promised at October's reunion, enclosed please find a picture of the Ranch Hands of 1971. It was during my tour that we flew the last herbicide mission in Vietnam. I thought you might like to add this to the scrap book.

Ranch Hand, Phan Rang AB, RVN - 1971



Standing left to right:

Col. Blood, Commander 312 TAW
Capt. Obbie Atkinson
Capt. Bob Schaller
Lt. Jack Bowman
Lt. Bill Little
Lt. Joe Wolozyn
Maj. Ken Burton
Maj. T.O. Williams
Maj. R.C. Furr
Lt. Rich Galloway
Lt. Jim McCracken
Capt. Mike Parr
Lt. Nick Nicolai
Maj. Jim Kelly
Lt. Russ Hall
Caot. Steve Howell
Lt. Tom Kasych
Maj. Bob Markham

Kneeling left to right:

Sgt. Clyde Hanson (Deceased)
Sgt. Gary Crouse
LCOL. Dan Dolan, Commander Ranch Hands
MSgt. Don Dunn (Deceased)
Sgt. Charlie Sing
Sgt. Homer Haney

Not Present for picture:

LCOL. Dan Tate (Deceased)
Lt. Charlie Deas (Deceased)
Lt. Dick O'Keefe (Deceased)
Capt. Duane Fenn
Lt. Terry Herndon
Sgt. Roger Zirkle
Sgt. Don Donaldson
Sgt. Ron Hook

To the Ranch,

W. Russell Hall, D.C.
W. Russell Hall, D.C.

I wish to thank W. Russell Hall, DC, Russellville, AK for this picture and list of names.

U.S. Air Force Museum Foundation, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH:

The Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson is the home to many USAF aircraft, representing an impressive part of America's history in the air; and the C123 (Patches) on display at Wright-Pat is very famous in that capacity - in and of itself.

The Air Force Museum Foundation was created and exists to assist the A.F. Museum financially, and in other ways, when budget constraints require augmentation. Enclosed are applications to become a Friend of the U.S. Air Force Museum. Our participation will expedite the day when "Patches", C123 #362, can be restored and displayed in the manner in which she deserves.

News from Cowboys Around the World:

Lt/Gen Claudius (Bud) Wats, USAF(RET). Gen. Watts sends his best to all, along with regrets for being unable to join us at the reunion last October. His duties as president of The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, required him to be at the U.S. Army Military Academy, West Point. The cadets from the Citadel demonstrated the finer points of football to the aspiring officers at West Point. Thanks again Centurion.

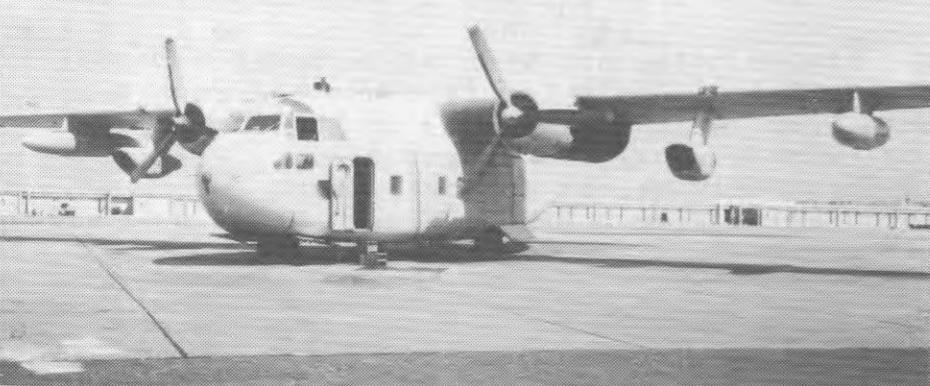
Ike Sowles, USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, CO. Ike works as a scuba instructor/technician for the "Aluminum U." He and Lilla are great supporters of "the Ranch." Col. John Parish, Niceville, FL. John sends his regards to all. James E. (Jim) Griffin, Jr., Bowie, MD. Jim, you are a Centurion! Jim still works in security at the U.S. Capitol in Washington. Thanks Centurion. Watson R. Jones, Wake Forest, NC. Watson is still working with AMTRAK in NC with a couple of more years yet to retire. Peter Kubler, Reston, VA. Pete needed to say hello and receive a Ranch Hand patch. Thanks Pete. Joe Potter, Ranch "66", E. Mansfield, MA. Joe says hello to all. He would have sent more money but his "EX got it all"! Join the club Joe!! Thanks Ranchero! Conrad L. Reddick, Pottsville, AR. Good to hear from you Conrad. Thanks a lot. William (Bill) Wildman, Colorado Springs, CO. Bill's a new Centurion and still owner and broker of his own real estate company. Thank you sir. Marv (Marvelous) Zeph, Troy NY. Marv says hello to all - and will be in FWB in '92. Thanks again Centurion. Lloyd West, Marysville, WA. More stamp money - thanks Lloyd! Al Jennings, Santa Fe, NM. Another new Centurion - thank you sir! Col. Art Ericson, USAF(retired 1 Nov '91). After 27 years and 3 months, Art has retired to a new job with the State of Delaware. Thanks for the news and financial aid Art. John Gaeth, Lima, OH. John is Director of Human Resources for Ohio State University at Lima, serving 4,000 students. Good to hear from you John. Jose C. Gonzales, Phoenix, AZ. Jose sends "Happy trails amigos", and see ya at La Jolla. Thanks Joe. Ed Ross, Wichita, KS - Ranch June 66-67. Ed is our newest Centurion. Thanks Ed. Ron Pinete, E. Falmouth, MA - Ranch 66-67. Thanks for the stamp money Ron. Orlando "Ditto" Smith, Johns Island, SC. Ditto is still recovering from Hurricane Hugo. He took a "good hit to house, cars, truck and boats." Ditto is Director of Engineering for the S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Dept. Thanks Centurion. Ken Sherwin, Ft. Worth, TX, RH Class of 68-69. Ken's "fastest year in [his] life" is recalled again and again when he sees his Punctured Provider Certificate and Magnet Ass Plaque. Ken is currently an F-16 instructor and training specialist with General Dynamics, Ft. Worth. Thanks Centurion. John Kostynick, Levittown, NY. John is a captain with the NYC Fire Department, helping to keep Brooklyn from burning. Keep up the good work John. Mike Hanson, Bath, PA. Mike was F.E. on Air Force One in the 707 days and is currently with the FAA. Thanks Mike. Don Sawyer, Burlington, VT. Don sends his best to all. (I hope you received your RH patches.) Paul Knese, St. Louis, MO. Paul added another silver star as Commander of Alfa Squadron. Thank you sir! Donn M. Catron, Anaheim, CA. Donn says hello to all! John Hunnicutt, Ruckersville, VA. John reports that he is "retired and living in poverty at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains near Charlottesville." And adds "we have plenty of beer and room in our cabins" for wandering Rancheros. Col. Emery J. Crane, Lindale, TX. Emery sent stamp money and best wishes to all. Ed Bury, Greenville, SC. Ed sends his best to all. Chuck Avery, O'Fallon, OH. Chuck and Doris are doing fine. He was with us at the 26th reunion. Thanks Centurion! Dale E. Pullium, Poland, OH. Dale was a '63 era nav, and is now a retired school teacher. Peter J. Clark, Alexandria, VA. Thanks Centurion! Pete, the answer in my opinion is - no. Stay in touch on this one, however. Capt. Paul D. Parham, USAF, Niceville, FL. Paul was a crew chief at Bien Hoa and Da Nang in 1969-1970. He "dropped Out" of the USAF for a short period to further his education, then returned to the USAF. He is currently in the Public Affairs Office at Eglin AFB. Great work Paul! (Ed. note: I predict that Paul will be the last Ranchero on active duty.) Art McConnell, San Juan Capistrano, CA. The 1991 reunion was just one or two that Art has missed during the last 15 years. He is manager of a senior softball team which is well up in national ranking, losing only to an Arizona team in the World Series of Senior Softball. Art also plays shortstop and second base. Championship play-offs conflicted with the Ranch Round Up. Thanks again Centurion! Maj/Gen John Stihl relocated from Camarillo, CA to Holmdel, NJ. Richard (Dick) Duckworth, Ft. Worth, TX. Dick's four grandchildren now have GI Joe outfits with Ranch Hand patches. Thanks Dick. Francis Griffin, Dublin, OH - RH '68-'69. Griff sends his best to all and a large contribution. Thanks Centurion. Andrus Kibodeaux, Lafayette, LA. Andy continues to fly for a flying service in Oil Patch, LA and always helps out with stamp money. Thanks Andy. Donald W. Rayment, Col/RET, RH 68-69. Don's law firm has two twin Beech Barrons and Don finds himself looking for "heat" spray runs in the foothills of the Smokies while flying once or twice a week. Thank you sir. Martin E. Richter, Biloxi, MS. Martin has successfully beaten a heart attack and received a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Southern Miss. Great work young man!

Edward Kraft, Lancaster, PA. If any Cowboy is going to jail, have your lawyer work to have you sent to the Lancaster County Prison in Lancaster, PA. Ed is still the Business Director at Lancaster, and they have just completed a \$25 million dollar building capable of holding all Rancheros. Ed promises preferential treatment! Thanks Ed. James Richard (Dick) Slay, Milbourne, FL. Dick sends his best to all. See you at La Jolla in '92 Dick. Benjamin R. King, Orlando, FL. Ben was unable to attend last year but the Ranch's first FE was here in spirit. We'll see him again! W. Russell Hall, Russellville, AK. Russ flew for Uncle Sam for 7 years then went back to college and became a Doctor of Chiropractic, and has been helping folks and raising a family in his hometown of Russellville ever since. He sends his best to Rick Galloway and Jim McCracken (both of whom we no longer have addresses for), Joe Wolozyn and Mike Parr. Doc joined the ranks as a Centurion as well. Thanks Doc! Michael T. Sexton, Elk Grove, CA. Mike & Cindy and children thoroughly enjoyed the 1990 reunion, but their newest son was born June 18, 1991 and with the responsibility of the new arrival, they couldn't make it last October. Congratulations you guys! Lee B. Inman, Orlando, FL. Lee couldn't make it to the Round-Up in Oct. '91, but will be with us in 1992, as well as the "poke and probe" at La Jolla. Many thanks to the Guru of Costa Rica! Vito Longo, Falls Church, VA. Since retirement from "the blue," Vito has been a "belt-way bandit" working on the Tomahawk Cruise Missile Project. One year ago, his efforts, and others, paid off handsomely as the Tomahawk helped to kick a.. in Iraq. Great job Vito! See ya soon Centurion! Michael J. Clarke, Southbury, CT - RH '65. Mike has worked in the airplane business ever since his retirement from the USAF. Initially with Northrop for 6 years in the YF-23 (ATF) program, he finally moved east with Sikorsky Corp. and has become a big player in the Comanche program for the U.S. Army. He and his wife have a 5-acre spread with no visible neighbor until fall, when nature defoliates the trees. Thanks Centurion! Stay in touch. James F. Marnell, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Jim writes: "I've been meaning to write for quite a while - seven or eight years." Eighteen years ago Jim retired as a "blue suiter", continued flying on and off and finally retired again. In the mid-'80's, ignoring heart problems, the Dr.'s stepped in and performed quad-bypass, and at 61 he's now Sierra Hotel --- and a Centurion. Thanks partner!

Bogata, Columbia, August '89



May 1990, Opalocka, FL



Carl M. Schelin, Lima, Peru - RH 69/70: In 1989 Carl provided the Association with the most recent pictures of an operational Punctured provider, ex-RH A/C, in Bogota, Columbia, and a photo of the remains of a Provider "done in" most probably by or for the Medellin Cartel. Carl, now in Lima, Peru recently sent these pictures of the old bird on its arrival back in the CONUS from Lima in May 1990. Carl is, without a doubt, the last remaining Cowboy still flying the C123 on behalf of U.S. interests. Thanks again Centurion, and stay safe!

No News, but Contributions from Cowboys Around the World: The Association thanks the following Cowboys for their contributions:

Thomas G. Kohut, Dalton, PA. (A new Centurion.) Calvin Bass, Tulsa, OK.
(New Centurion.) Harry Majko, Spring, TX. Jack Gilchrist, Little Rock, Ar.
(New Centurion.) John R. Thomas, St. Petersburg, FL. Floyd Heffner, Smyrna, GA.
Howard Bowles, Newtown, CT. (Old reliable.) Richard D. Higginbotham, Hilliard, FL.

Centurions:

When the Roman Empire in its heyday controlled the economy and politics of the then known world, the Emperor of Rome relied on the Centurions to protect the Empire. For the past 27 years, the Ranch Hand Association has relied on individual contributions, large and small, to fund the Ranch Hand Memorial, defray reunion expenses and keep our group informed and together. The Association has had many Centurions - those who have contributed \$100.00 or more in a single contribution.

As of 7 September 1991, "Alpha Squadron" acquired 100 good men and is commanded by Col. Paul Knese.

Alpha Squadron - Commander: Paul Knese

Steven A. Aigner	Robert Hanson	Dick Peshkin
Bill Aldrich	Lee Harrison	John Poast
Dick Alexander	Charlie Hubbs	James (Pooch) Pochurek
James Arthur	Carl D. Hughes	Don Rayment
Chuck Avery	Lee Inman	Eugene Riley
Jim Bassett	Burton M. Kellogg	Bud Robinson
Ed Blaufuss	James Kelly	Gary Runey
Joe C. Boyer	Ronald Kempfer	Phil Saldivar
John Brady	Jerome Klein	Donald Sawyer
Ken Bramble	Bill Knothe	Carl M. Schelin
Miles Burgenheim	Paul Lacey	Hugh L. Scott
Paul Cecil	Jack Langhorne	Louis Seminare
Howard (Howie) Clark	George Lathrop	Mike Shuppert
Peter J. Clark	Ray Lemaire	James Slay
Bryce Connor	Vito Longo	Pete Spivey
Gerald J. Cornell	Robert Marshall	Maj/Gen. John T. Stihl
Bob Cruts	R. E. (Gene) Marshall	Rex Stoner
Ed Dabbert	Gerald Martin	Neil G. Stroud
Robert Dennis	Donald J. Maxwell	James L. Tanner
Richard D. Duckworth	Charles Meadow	John R. Thomas
Jon Dudenhoeffer	Dick Meadow	William Tucker
Robert Dyer	Lawrence McCarthy	Hal Underhill
Rolf Eagleson	Art McConnell	Wayne Waller
Brad Eliot	Ed McGee	Lt/Gen Claudius E. Watts
Ted Encke	Mick Mikolasy	Fred Watts
Art Erickson	George M. Miller	Richard "Doc" Weaver
Warren (Bud) Fisher	Roger Meekins	Gary White
Leo J. Gagnon	Ed Mucho	Bill Wolfe
Jack Gentry	H. D. (Dill) Mullis	Jack Womack
Hank Good	Maj/Gen. Russ Mohney	Keith Yale
Francis Griffin	Stan Nelson	William Yoachim
James (Geech) Hamilton	Al Nicolas	Al Zambrano
James Hancock	David Nowlin	Marvin Zeph

"Bravo Squadron" is commanded by Chief Master Sergeant Burnie R. Dallas, Jr. Members of Bravo Squadron are:

Bravo Squadron - Commander: Burnie R. Dallas, Jr.

Donald Ayers	W. Russell Hall	Marshall (Pappy) Rothermel
Paul Badders	Allen L. Jennings	Ken J. Sherwin
Calvin C. Bass	Thomas G. Kohut	Orlando (Ditto) Smith
Michael J. Clarke	James F. Marnell	William Southerland
Ralph Evans	Drayton Robinette	Keith W. West
John R. (Jack) Gilchrist	Wilbur (Robby) Robinson	Wintrop (Bill) Wildman
James Griffin	Edwin Ross	



Photo by Willy Clark, Ranch Hand photographer

Anyone desiring an 8x10 color print of this picture, write Willy Clark, 4530 Lucerne Lane, Lilburn GA 30247. The total cost is \$10.00, which includes postage.

Association Funding:

The Association currently has \$2,640.21 in the bank before the cost of this newsletter. Postage money is always needed. Thanks guys!

The 1992 annual Ranch reunion will be held in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida on 9/10/11 October. Make plans now!

In May the fourth physical examination of Cowboys will begin. The vast majority of us Cowboys will "saddle up" and volunteer our time and ourselves in our continued participation in the Air Force Health Study. Unfortunately, ten percent of our group will decline to participate for a number of different reasons. To each of you in that category, I offer the following advantages to participation.

1. Each of us will receive a top-notch physical examination, unaffordable out of our own pockets, and subsequent notification of any unusual findings.

2. As a result of the data collected from you and me, the general health of the Ranch Hand group will be scrutinized again by the scientific community. The question of possible health hazards associated with the herbicide mission conducted in Southeast Asia will continue to be the focus of this study.

The only thing we sacrifice is "four days of our lives!" (Some Rancheros are alive today as a result of health problems discovered during previous examinations and action taken following those examinations.) Everyone gains if we agree to corral at La Jolla on that chosen or appointed day. Individually we gain, as a unit we gain, and all Americans benefit as a result of our participation in this unique scientific investigation -- examining man and possible health effects associated with his contact with dioxin. See you in La Jolla!

To the Ranch!

Jack Spey
Jack Spey, President

Ranch Hand Vietnam Association



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MSgt. Lee Harrison USAF (RET)
MSgt. Al Nicolas USAF (RET)
TSgt. Keith Yale USAF (RET)
Mr. Mike Shuppert

1 September 1992

Dear Cowboys and Friends,

Reunion 1992:

The 27th Annual Ranch Hand Reunion will be held on 9, 10, 11 October 1992 in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida at the Ramada Beach Resort on Okaloosa Island. Finalize your plans now and call Marilyn or Jack Spey at 904-243-5696 for reservations and special requests. The Ramada's telephone number for family/business needs while you are here is 904-243-9161. A schedule of events will be provided at the front desk upon your arrival on Friday, 9 October.

News from Cowboys Around the World:

Dick Kenny - Ft. Myers Beach, FL: Dick sent stamp money; says hello to all the Cowboys and advises that he will attend the Round-Up at LaJolla.

Tim Cafferty, St. Charles, MO: Tim saw some of the Cowboys at LaJolla and advises that "it's a great physical - I wouldn't miss it!" Thanks Tim.

Lee MacMurdo, Jr., Odessa, TX: Lee says hello to all and sent stamp money.

Howard (Old Reliable) Bowles, Newtown, CT: Thanks again Howard. Jed H. Klingensmith, St. Louis, MO ('67-'68): Jed retired from the USAF in 1987 after 30 years and went to work for Hughes Aircraft. Jed says, "had a tremendous career...If I had it to do all over again, wouldn't hesitate." Thanks Centurion!

Anonymous (Ranch Hand) Aviator, Texas, USA: Many thanks to this Centurion!

Leonard Bochicchio, Napa, Ca: Lenny, an O-6 with the USAF, commanded C-5's of the 312 MAS and flew on opening day in the war in the Sand Pile (Desert Storm), moving Patriot Missiles into Tel Aviv; and flew one of the first A/C to land at Kuwait with oil fire-fighting equipment. When the wars are won, he continues flying for UAL on the 747's and "loves it also." "...but after having been a Ranch Hand, it [Desert Storm] was certainly not as 'exciting'." Thanks Centurion! We hope to see Donna & Len in Oct. Rolf Eagleson, Sacramento, CA (RH 66/67): Rolf is looking forward to the physical at LaJolla this year. He is recovering from "a mild heart attack on 6 Oct. 91." He's feeling great and back at work again. His doctor reports, however, that his blood has an "orange" tint to it. How could that have happened? Thanks again Centurion! Gerald J. Cornell, Lake City, PA: No words - but thanks again Centurion! Wayne Moorefield, Richmond, VA (Bien Hoa 68/69): Wayne gave us his new address and wanted a Ranch patch to show his 10-year-old son. Wayne will join us all in LaJolla. Thanks Wayne. W. D. Claud, Midlothian, VA: No words - just lots of stamp money.

Thanks W.D.! Chris Doerr, Pendleton, IN: Chris sends his best to all along with stamp money. Thanks Ranchero! Ron Mead, Beavercreek, OH: Ron joined the ranks of the Centurions and plans to make the 27th annual reunion. Thanks Centurion! Mike Parr, Slidell, LA (RH 70/71): Mike Parr and Dr. Russ Hall are issuing a challenge to all the Rancheros pictured in the photo in the last newsletter (photo of Operation Ranch Hand, Phan Rang AB, RVN - 1971). They both wish to have a "Class of '71" photo taken of that same group at this year's reunion. (That's a super idea.) Come on down Cowboys! Hugh Scott, Ogden, UT: Hugh is still working for Thiokol Corp. in Ogden in spite of the reduced rocket business, and hopes to retire in the Ft. Walton Beach area in 1974. He and Jane plan to join us in October. Thanks again Centurion! Marvin Craig, Summerville, SC (RH 69-70): Marvin advises that he's ready "to put on my vest and helmet and start the pumps again." Marvin retired in '73 as a C5A F.E. and went to work for civil service in the engine overhaul facility at Charleston AFB, SC. In 1989 he and his wife Agnes toured Western North America in their motor home, including the California coast, the Al-Can highway to Alaska, and then to SC via Central Canada. Some trip! While their home is being remodeled, Marv went to work for the Citadel Military College there, and learned that his "Big Boss", Gen. Watts, the Citadel's president, is also a Cowboy. Thanks Marvin!

Centurions:

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Bravo Squadron - Commander: Burnie R. Dallas, Jr.

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Paul Badders	Allen L. Jennings	Marshall (Pappy) Rothermel
Calvin C. Bass	*Jed H. Klingensmith	Ken J. Sherwin
*Leonard Bochicchio	Thomas G. Kohut	Orlando (Ditto) Smith
Michael J. Clarke	James F. Marnell	William Southerland
Ralph Evans	*Ronald E. Mead	Keith W. West
John R. (Jack) Gilchrist	Drayton Robinette	Winthrop (Bill) Wildman
James Griffin	Wilbur (Robby) Robinson	*Anonymous Ranch Hand Aviator Texas, USA

(*asterisk: new Centurions)

The Last Rancheros:

During the ten year history of Operation Ranch Hand's distinguished service in Southeast Asia, approximately 1285 men served in Vietnam's most famous unit with great pride and dedication to help this nation achieve its military objectives during that conflict. Of those original airmen, fifteen are currently (September 1992) still serving our country. They are:

Colonel John M. Carney, Jr.	Lt/Colonel Robert L. Slaughter
Colonel Richard N. Galloway	Lt/Colonel Joseph R. Wolozyn
Colonel David V. Nowlin	Major John A. Stroup
Colonel Donald R. Ritter	Major Jimmy P. Thrush
Colonel Leonard S. Spitzer, Jr.	Chief Master Sergeant Arnold E. Hansen
Colonel Thomas A. Stevenson	Chief Master Sergeant James D. Neal
Colonel Richard D. Tebay	Master Sergeant Merrill W. Archambault
Colonel Woodrow Wilson, Jr.	

A special award will be presented to the "Last Ranchero."

Hurricane Andrew:

At 1100 hours on Sunday, 23 August 1992, Homestead Air Force Base personnel were directed to evacuate the base in advance of Hurricane Andrew. Over 5,000 Air Force personnel and their dependents hastily loaded their cars with personal belongings and joined the one million plus people fleeing south Florida in advance of the approaching storm.

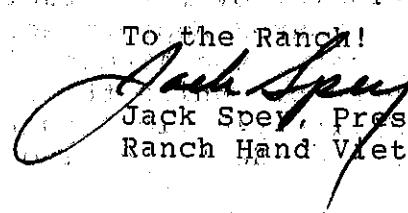
For Master Sergeant Gonzalez, wife, and two young children, the drive north to Orlando, FL took 12 hours (normally 4½ hrs). There were no motel rooms available in Orlando. Further north, Ocala motels were full, and Gainesville, FL as well. After arriving in Lake City, Sgt. Gonzalez turned west and found a motel room in Perry, FL, arriving at Hurlburt Field the next day where he joined 40 other Air Force refugee families from Homestead AFB. On Friday, 28 August, he returned to Homestead aboard a C-130 to inspect the damage to his on-base quarters and belongings they had left behind. Homestead Air Force Base no longer exists!

On Monday, 31 August, the Ranch Hand Vietnam Association made a direct donation of \$200.00 to Sgt. Gonzalez to help in a small way with his material losses resulting from the storm's devastation. The Association will also be making a contribution to the American Red Cross in the near future to aid others impacted by Hurricane Andrew.

Association Funding: The Ranch Hand Vietnam Association currently has \$2250.00 in the bank prior to the cost of this newsletter.

Send your letters and greetings to be shared at the Round-Up in October. Make plans to join us now! For reservations, call the Speys at 904-243-5696.

To the Ranch!


Jack Spey, President
Ranch Hand Vietnam Association