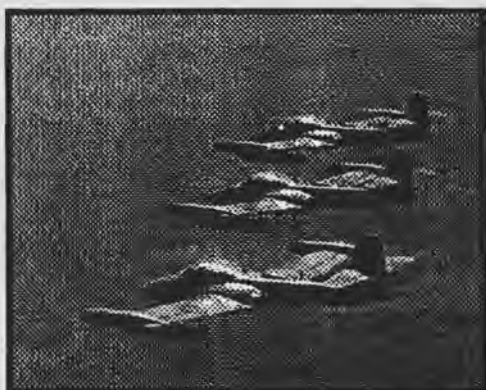


The A-37 Association



**If you had any connections with
(or admiration) for this
"Great Little Fighter"
and would like to join us or
just learn more about
the A-37 Association . . .
Come see us . . .**

An A-37 Association Reunion is being held at the Palace Station Hotel & Casino. Please check lobby or desk for Hospitality Room number.

The A-37 Association offers:

- Newsletters
- Booklets of stories*
- Reunions
- Camaraderie

*The books are about moments shared with this aircraft and the men who flew it, maintained it, loaded it, worked with it, or partied together.

If you can't drop by and visit, but would like more information or to join us, please fill out the attached form and mail to the address shown.

Thanks!



The A-37 Association...

"What are we, who are we?"

by Ollie

What are we?

The A-37 Association is a loosely knit group of people who enjoy communicating with other people who also had the pleasure of either flying the A-37, working on the A-37, working with the A-37 (or it's members), or just have a keen interest in the great little fighter. This communication takes place through the form of newsletters, letters, telephone calls, the web net, and face to face contact at reunions and other occasions.

Who are we?

We are former officers, enlisted members, wives, widows, civilians, friends, etc. from this nation and other nations. We are mostly older folk... '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s. Old enough to realize that such camaraderie is what makes life worth living... regardless of your state in life.

How did we began?

Our group basically started when one of the original A-37 "Combat Dragon" pilots, George Shannon (the only person I know of who bailed out of an A-37 so low that his chute never even came out of the pack and survived to lead a very productive life), mentioned to me during one of our contacts that it was almost 25 years since our test group went to Vietnam. Might we get something going for the occasion? This was about 1990.

Through the Air Force Locator Service, letters were sent to all the members listed on some old sets of orders. A number of them responded—and thus plans were started to have a reunion.

(Two of the members who had been close friends to each other and me in Vietnam now lived within a few blocks of each other and had for almost 20 years—but didn't know it until our mailing list came out. They also lived only about 30 miles from me. Others lived within 50 miles of us.)

Since George and I lived over 1,000 miles apart, a local committee was formed in the area I lived (central Texas) to help make decisions, spread out the work, and 'get the ball rolling.'

The first reunion was held at Wright-Patterson AFB. This was both because the Air Force Museum there had an A-37 on display and because it was relatively convenient for George to get to and coordinate efforts from that end.

Continued on back

Form to request more information or to join the A-37 Association.

When complete, please print, then cut off and mail to the address shown below.

- ☐ I am interested in the A-37 Association and would like more information on it including a recent newsletter or two.
- ☐ I am more than interested, please include the membership form when you send me a newsletter or two.

The A-37 Association offers:

- Newsletters
- Reunion every 2-3 years
- A-37 Publications
- List of other members
- Memorabilia of A-37 Reunions
- Fellowships

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Home ☐ or Work ☐

☐ I was involved with the A-37 as a _____ in 19____ to 19____

☐ I was not directly involved with the A-37 but worked with/partied with them as _____

(example: FAC, tower operator, doctor on same base, etc.) in 19____ to 19____

☐ I was not involved (directly or indirectly) with the A-37 but have a great interest in it or admiration for it.

Cut off and Mail to:

The A-37 Association

% Oliver Maier

306 Village West

San Marcos, Texas 78666

(continued from inside)



In an attempt to increase interest in the reunion, the "RAP Reunion Report" was started. It was a monthly newsletter featuring not only news about the progress of the reunion efforts but also contained a 'war story' and a "Since 'Nam" story submitted by various members. These stories, and others, were then put together in a booklet containing 47 such stories for the reunion.

Now...

Because of the success of that reunion, the 70 or so attendees immediately voted to have another in 1995. The place chosen was San Antonio. Because we had experienced 'the more, the merrier' to be true, we decided to try to get more than just the 'Raps' and 'Combat Dragon' people.

We published reunion notices for anyone who "flew, worked on, worked with, or admired" the little A-37 Dragonfly at any time or place to join us. The newsletters continued quarterly and another booklet was compiled.

The San Antonio reunion was also great. Some of the people who had hesitated in joining us at first, because they were not part of the original group, could not believe how they were welcomed and how well they fit in.

About this time, the Air Force Association announced it was having a celebration in Las Vegas in 1997 and invited other military reunion groups to join in. Again realizing 'the more, the merrier' the members attending the San Antonio reunion voted to take advantage of this opportunity . . . which brings us to this current reunion.