## The EC-47 History Site - After Event Report #1 - June 1 2015

From: info@ec47.com

Sent: Mon, Jun 1, 2015 at 9:42 am To: cpp\_vnwar50th@wso.whs.mil

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Commemoration Event Report #1.pdf (9.7 MB)

Good morning. Please note the attached After Event Report.

This is a consolidated report that chronicles the major events put together through the unity and cooperative efforts of registered CPP Committee members over time to thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War and their families. We are very proud to be active with the Tom Green County and City of San Angelo, Texas, community leaders and volunteers.

Ours is a very cohesive and pro-military community. This fact was highlighted once again with the Air Force Air Education and Training Command presentation of the 2015 Altus Award to the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce. The Altus award is a coveted recognition between the Air Force and their home communities. Like the old cliché, that is a 'whole nother' story.

We are so proud of our community and look forward to continuing our work towards meeting all of the Vietnam War Commemoration Objectives. Please review, document, and broadcast our report activities throughout the Corporate Partners Program network.

Please acknowledge receipt of this report.

Sincerely,

Tom Nurre
The EC-47 History Site
CPP Committee Chairperson
info@ec47.com
325 450-4476

### VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION AFTER-ACTION REPORT

OMB No. 0704-0499 OMB approval expires Jul 31, 2016

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Executive Services Directorate, Directives Division, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22350-3100 (0704-0499). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ORGANIZATION. RETURN COMPLETED FORM AS DIRECTED IN THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Please file an After-Action Report no later than 30 days after your event is complete. Your information will help other organizations in their planning of commemorative events. We encourage you to share your photos and articles of the events on the Commemorative Partner Portal on our Commemoration website to show other Vietnam veterans from around the United States how you recognized their service to our country. Submit reports using one of the following four preferred methods:

- 1. Through the Commemorative Partner Portal online: <a href="http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/partners/login">http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/partners/login</a> (preferred)
- 2. Email to: WHS.VNWar50th CPP EVENTS@mail.mil
- 3. Fax to: 703-692-4691
- 4. U.S. Mail to: The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

Attn: Events Team Chief 1101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 810 Arlington, VA 22209

FOR EACH EVENT, PLEASE SUPPLY THE FOLLOWING:								
1. NAME OF ORGANIZATION:			2. NAME OF EVENT:					
Registered CPP: The EC-47 History Site			The Vietnam War: EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit					
3. ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION:								
a. STREET ADDRESS:		b. 0	b. CITY:		c. STATE:	d. ZIP CODE:		
4213 Green Meadow Drive		Sai	San Angelo		Texas	76904		
4. LOCATION OF EVENT (Site name; e.g., The Pentagon)		(	5. START DATE OF EVENT (DDMMYYYY):		6. END DATE OF EVENT (DDMMYYYY):			
Goodfellow Air Force Base & Angelo State University		28	8102005		11112015			
7. ACTUAL ATTENDANCE	PRESENT?		9. HOW MANY VIETNAM VETERAN FAMILY MEMBERS WERE PRESENT?					
500	70 including 24 EC 47 Aircraw Mambars		25					

10. SUMMARY: (Include the following information and anything else you would want other Commemorative Partners to know, such as: Was your event a success? How were your objectives fulfilled? Were there any issues that came up? Any media coverage? List any helpful suggestions or changes for future and lessons learned. Attach additional pages as necessary.)

This report is in four sections:

Section I:

An EC-47 replica aircraft static display was set up in front of the Norma Brown Building on Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo, Texas, on October 28, 2005. This display represents the intensive airborne radio direction finding (ARDF) mission training conducted on the air base...and commemorates the more than 1,000 Vietnam veterans who trained for and flew these electronic combat missions from South Vietnam and Thailand during the Vietnam War from 1966-1974.

Section II:

On July 25, 2014, an EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit that complements the aircraft display was added inside the headquarters building. This nearly 20-foot-long-by 8-foot-tall exhibit chronicles the EC-47 ARDF program and commemorates the roles, responsibilities, and dedicated service of all Vietnam-era ARDF veterans. The Angelo State University West Texas Collection library personnel also supported this ribbon cutting and welcoming ceremony as part of their soon to open "Vietnam: Through the Lens" display at the university.

Section III:

The West Texas Collection display, Vietnam: Through the Lens, opened on November 17, 2014, to a crowd of over 300 with a panel discussion and reception hosted by the Friends of the Porter Henderson Library and the Daughters of the American Revolution. The display, honoring the service of Vietnam veterans in West Texas, was the culmination of over a year of preparation. Three ARDF veterans featured in Section I and II above were interviewed and are featured in the university display, which remains open until July 31, 2015.

On May 1, 2015, assistant professors in the Department of History at Angelo State University interviewed Paul and Nita Clever about their successful efforts to locate and return the remains of Paul's father, Louis Clever. Louis Clever trained at Goodfellow Air Force Base in the EC-47 program prior to being shot down over Laos in 1969. The Clevers' taped interviews were, at least in part, prompted by their being awarded the Commander's Public Service Award during a ceremony at Goodfellow AFB on April 30, 2015. EC-47 aircraft wreckage fragments brought back from Laos by the Clevers are featured in the ARDF History Exhibit reported in Section II above.

11. MATERIALS ACTUALLY USED: (For each category of materials below, subtract the amount remaining from what was sent to you.)						
(1) ITEM NOMENCLATURE	(2) QUANTITY	(1) ITEM NOMENCLATURE	(2) QUANTITY			
Brochures	0	Stickers: Eagle	0			
Tin Pin: Eagle	0	Stickers: Seal	0			
Tin Pin: Seal	0	Stickers: Flag	0			
Tin Pin: Vietnam Veterans	0	Presidential Proclamations	0			
Bumper Stickers	0	Other:				

## **SECTION I**

# The EC-47Q ARDF Aircraft Display

The Heritage Chapter of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) and 17<sup>th</sup> Training Wing military leaders set up an EC-47 replica aircraft static display in front of the Norma Brown Building on Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo, Texas, on October 28, 2005. This display represents the intensive airborne radio direction finding (ARDF) mission training conducted on the air base...and commemorates the more than 1,000 Vietnam veterans who trained here for electronic combat missions conducted from air bases in South Vietnam and Thailand during the Vietnam War. Nearly 175 visitors, including 34 EC-47 veterans and 20 family members, 38 airmen in formation, and an estimated 80 guests from the base and downtown community, attended this event. Lt. Gen. (R) Clapper, a prior commander of Detachment 3, 6994<sup>th</sup> Security Squadron, an EC-47 ARDF unit during the Vietnam War, welcomed and praised all the Vietnam veterans, especially those with whom he had served. General Clapper extended a warm and heartfelt *Thank You* to all the family members for their loyalty and unwavering, dedicated service. This event was very successful, well attended, and met the Vietnam War Commemoration Objectives, "To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War...," and "To highlight the advances in technology. . .," represented by the many electronics and airborne radio direction finding equipments developed for the EC-47 missions.

## **USAF HERITAGE AWARD WINNER - 2015**



Figure 1: EC-47 ARDF Aircraft Static Display, Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo, Texas. Dedicated on October 28, 2005



Figure 2: Display Dedication Monument

Figure 3: All services Color Guard presents Colors to open dedication ceremony



Figure 4: Front Left –Lt. Gen. (R) James Clapper, Jr., leads VIP guests

Figure 5: Vietnam Veterans & guests attending dedication

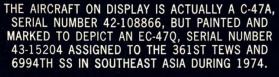


Figure 6: Ceremony officials and Vietnam Veterans & guests

Figure 7: EC-47 ARDF Vietnam Veterans and family members



On October 28, 2005, EC-47 crewmembers stand under the newly dedicated aircraft for a group photo.





DEDICATED TO THE SILENT WARRIORS WHO TRAINED AT GOODFELLOW AFB AND PARTICIPATED IN EC-47 ARDF OPERATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA 1966 - 1974.

"ALONE ~ UNARMED ~ UNAFRAID"

THIS AIRCRAFT IS ON LOAN FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## **AIRCRAFT & CREW LOCATIONS:**

TAN SON NHUT AB, VIETNAM

NHA TRANG AB, VIETNAM

PHU CAT AB, VIETNAM

PLEIKU AB, VIETNAM

DANANG AB, VIETNAM

NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, THAILAND

UBON RTAFB, THAILAND

MEMORIAL PLAQUES DONATED BY THE FREEDOM THROUGH
VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION. 28 OCTOBER 2005

# **SECTION II**

# **EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit**

On July 25, 2014, the Heritage Chapter of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) and 17<sup>th</sup> Training Wing leaders opened an EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit inside the headquarters building that complements the aircraft exhibit. This nearly 20-foot-long by 8–foot-tall exhibit chronicles the EC-47 ARDF program and commemorates the roles, responsibilities, and dedicated service of all Vietnam-era ARDF veterans. While the exhibit content is heavily weighted toward the USAF Security Service training at Goodfellow AFB and the 6994<sup>th</sup> Security Squadron roles and responsibilities in the war zone, the exhibit also clearly acknowledges the personnel of the 360<sup>th</sup> Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadrons who owned and flew the aircraft, as well as the pilots, navigators, flight engineers, supply, security, and all support personnel. The four interactive media displays show continuous slideshows depicting life and activities throughout the Vietnam War area of operations. This exhibit continues and expands the recognition and special attention to the EC-47 ARDF veterans that began with the original aircraft static display dedicated in 2005.



Figure 1: Goodfellow AFB wing commander, Colonel Joos, ARDF Veteran CMSgt (R) Tom Nurre and his brother, Mike Nurre, cut the ribbon for the ARDF History Exhibit grand opening, July 25, 2014

Nearly 50 Goodfellow AFB and San Angelo community personnel attended this ceremony commemorating the display in honor of the ARDF veterans, including six EC-47 ARDF veterans, three sons of ARDF veterans, and 10 immediate family members. The Heritage Chapter hosted a reception for these Vietnam veterans and their families at the base Events Center following this ceremony. The exhibit virtual slideshow is viewable online at <a href="http://www.ec47.com/-2">http://www.ec47.com/-2</a>. The slideshow includes photographs and documents of Vietnam veterans as they prepared for and served their tours of duty in the Vietnam War zones. There is also an official Air Force video of the ribbon cutting ceremony that features the dedication and Vietnam War Commemorative comments offered by the presiding officer, Colonel Kimberlee Joos.



Figure 2: The ARDF History Exhibit features the CAP-72 wreckage fragments in the center showcase and four multimedia monitors with sixteen individual slideshows containing hundreds of photographs, documents and certificates provided by Vietnam ARDF veterans.



Figure 3: Vietnam ARDF veterans and their families enjoy a reception hosted by the Heritage Chapter, Freedom Through Vigilance Association – July 25, 2014



Figure 4: ARDF History Exhibit coordinator, Tom Nurre, presents EC-47 ARDF veteran and exhibit research analyst Joe Martin a model replica of the EC-47 aircraft that both men served on during the Vietnam War – July 25, 2014





Opening Ceremony July 25, 2014

17th Training Wing
Norma Brown Headquarters Building

Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo, Texas

This ARDF Exhibit made possible by the generous support from these groups and individuals:

#### "TO HONOR THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US"

Mr. Danny Russell, ARDF Operator, Concept
CMSgt (R) Tom Nurre, ARDF Operator, Coordinator
Mr. Joe Martin, ARDF Operator, Research & Graphics
Mr. Rick Yeh, ARDF Operator, Photographs/Graphics
Mr. Tom Nurre, Jr., Angelo State University, Editor
CMSgt (R) Bill Francis, ARDF Operator, Awards & Decorations
6994th Security Squadron Alumni, Guidon & Streamers, www.6994th.com
Mr. J.C. Wheeler, EC-47 Flight Engineer, www.EC47.com
Lt Col (R) Ed Marek, ARDF Command Section, www.talkingproud.us
SMSgt (R) Larry Tart, USAFSS History, Writer, www.larrytart.com
Mr. Paul Clever, Son of TSgt Louis Clever (KIA CAP-72)
CMSgt (R) J.J. Graham, President, Heritage Chapter, FTVA, www.ftva.org
CMSgt (R) Ed Bendinelli, ARDF Operator, Memorials, Heritage Chapter, FTVA
Dr. John V. Garrett, 17 TRW/HO

The principal funding for this exhibit provided by:
The Eugene F. Nurre Family
(Gene, Marianne, Tom, Denny, Larry, Jeanette, Clete, Marty & Bob)

Mr. Harold P. Myers, AFISRA/HO

Mr. Gabriel G. Marshall, AFISRA/HO



## **SECTION III**

# The West Texas Collection – Vietnam War Commemoration Vietnam: Through the Lens Display

#### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS; our nation is observing the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, we pause to reflect on

the valor and sacrifice of the over 3 million men and women of every background and branch of service, especially our local veterans, who answered our country's call to arms

between 1965-1975; and

WHEREAS; for more than a decade these Americans served honorably upholding the highest

traditions of our armed forces—whether on land, in the air or at sea; and

WHEREAS; this brave generation of heroes, who suffered wounds both visible and invisible in the

fight to protect the ideals of this nation has gone largely unrecognized, we, the citizens of the City of San Angelo, stand committed to honor and give thanks to the veterans who

answered our country's call to service; and

WHEREAS; the names of over 58,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice are eternally

memorialized in the black granite of the Vietnam War Memorial—The Wall—in Washington, D.C., in the 3,417 dog tags that are entombed in the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Austin, and in the names of the 48 fallen soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen that remain under the constant guard of the Huey at San Angelo's Vietnam Veterans Memorial near Mathis Field, we declare that they did not die in vain nor will

their sacrifice ever be forgotten; and

WHEREAS; students from the Angelo State University Honors Program represent a new generation of

Americans committed to ensuring that the stories of sacrifice, bravery and the day to day experiences of our veterans are recorded and handed down through time by conducting

oral histories with 38 Vietnam veterans; and

WHEREAS; we extend a special thank you to those 52 veterans and their families who have entrusted

their stories, photographs and ephemera to the West Texas Collection at Angelo State

University to remain as a monument to all who answered the call of duty.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dwain Morrison, Mayor of the City of San Angelo, do hereby proclaim

November 17, 2014 through November 11, 2015 as

"The Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War throughout the City of San Angelo"

and offer our enduring gratitude to our Vietnam veterans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, 1 have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed this 4th day of November 2014.

THE CUTY OF SAN ANGELO

Dwain Morrison, Mayor





## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ref: 11-07-14

Contact: Tom Nurre

# A Patriotic Evening for Vietnam Vets

In commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War, Angelo State University will host a patriotic evening to honor Concho Valley Vietnam veterans on Monday, Nov. 17, in the Houston Harte University Center, 1910 Rosemont Drive.

Activities will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the University Center's C.J. Davidson Conference Center and are open free to the public. The ASU Friends of the Porter Henderson Library and West Texas Collection are sponsoring the evening, which includes a reception hosted by the Pocahontas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

The highlight of the evening will be a panel of local Vietnam veterans relating their personal stories and remembrances. The panel will include Linda Knightstep, who served as a first lieutenant registered nurse in the Army Nurse Corps; Dr. Robert Grant, who served as a lieutenant colonel and surgeon in the Army Medical Corps; retired Army Cpl. Domingo Luna Jr., who served as an infantry rifleman; and retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Edward Bendinelli, who served as an airborne radio direction finding operator. Dr. Charles Endress, ASU distinguished professor of history emeritus, will be the moderator, and there will be a question-and-answer session following the panel discussion.

Other activities will include the opening of a new exhibit, "Vietnam: Through the Lens," in the West Texas Collection on the second floor of the University Center. The exhibit will remain open free to the public through July of 2015.

Cadets from the Arnold Air Society of ASU's Air Force ROTC Detachment 847 and the Ram Guard color guard will also participate in the evening's activities, and students from the ASU music program will provide special musical entertainment. The reception hosted by DAR will wrap up the evening.

On a related note: In collaboration with the West Texas Collection, ASU Honors Program students have been compiling video interviews of local Vietnam veterans that will be housed in the West Texas Collection, along with digital photocopies of their memorabilia from the Vietnam War era. Any additional Vietnam veterans interested in contributing to the interview project can contact Shannon Sturm in the West Texas Collection at 325-942-2164.



Figure 2: West Texas Collection staff preparing the display for the November 17 opening of "Vietnam: Through the Lens".

The West Texas Collection (WTC) display, Vietnam: Through the Lens, opened on November 17, 2014, to a crowd of over 300 with a panel discussion and reception hosted by the Friends of the Porter Henderson Library and the Daughters of the American Revolution. The display commemorates, thanks and honors Vietnam veterans in West Texas. It was the culmination of over a year of preparation and is open free to the public through the end of July. During the time leading up to the opening, the WTC staff worked with the San Angelo City Council and obtained the Mayor's Vietnam War Commemoration proclamation shown above. As of May 26, they have also collected stories, photographs, and other ephemera from over 60 veterans. Angelo State's Honors Program students arranged and recorded oral history stories from 37 Vietnam veterans. All the display materials have been added to the West Texas Collection's permanent holdings and will be available for researchers and for future generations to learn about the Vietnam War from those who lived it. The Angelo State University (ASU) Office of Communications and Marketing, as well as the West Texas Collection staff, were also directly involved in designing and dedicating the EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit recently opened at Goodfellow AFB. Honors Program students interviewed three of the EC-47 ARDF veterans and included their stories and Vietnam War photographs and materials in the ASU display. The ASU Vietnam: Through the Lens display and Goodfellow AFB EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit are both free and open to the public Monday through Friday during normal working hours.



Figure 3: Discussion Panel with Vietnam Veterans: (I to r) Dr. Charles Endress (moderator) and panelists Dr. Robert Grant, Edward Bendinelli, Linda Knightstep and Domingo Luna. Bendinelli is an EC-47 ARDF veteran with two tours in Vietnam.



Figure 4: Vietnam veterans, family members and guests watch a display slideshow as a preface to the discussion panel. Joe Martin, an ARDF veteran with over 270 EC-47 electronic combat missions, is featured in this slideshow photograph.

## **SECTION IV**

# **Angelo State University History Department – War Stories**

"War Stories: West Texans and the Experience of War, World War I to the Present" is a three-year-long project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The project seeks to collect, digitize, preserve, showcase, and analyze stories of veterans and their loved ones with a connection to West Texas going back to the start of the twentieth century. The project seeks letters, diaries, photographs, artifacts, and oral testimony from both service members and their loved ones. On April 30, 2015, ten members of The EC-47 History Site, Heritage Chapter – FTVA, and Angelo State University hosted Nita and Paul Clever at a dinner featuring Thai and Lao dining selections. On May 1, 2015, project directors Christine Lamberson and Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, both assistant professors in the Department of History at Angelo State University, interviewed the Clevers about their successful efforts to locate and return the remains of Paul's father, Louis Clever, and other members of his crew. Louis Clever trained at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas, prior to being shot down over Laos in 1969. Paul and Nita Clever's story fit nicely within the project's parameters as it describes how one family coped and sacrificed to bring home an American service member. Aircraft wreckage fragments that the Clevers recovered are displayed in the main showcase of the EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit at Goodfellow AFB.

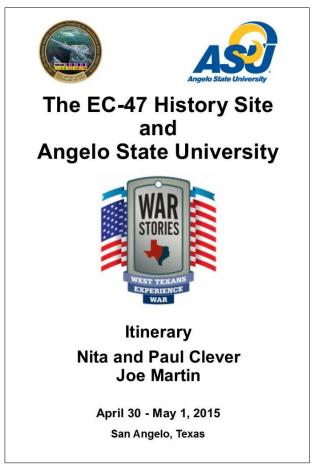






Figure 2: Event program back cover



Nita Nusairam Clever received the 17th Training Wing Commander's Public Service Award in recognition of her unselfish and dedicated leadership and hard work before, during, and after locating and excavating human remains and artifacts at the crash site of a United States Air Force (USAF) EC-47 airbome radio direction finding aircraft (callsign CAP-72) that was shot down in southern Laos on February 5, 1969. At the site, Nita spent two days on her hands and knees meticulously searching an embankment for artifacts. She used various tools to dig, sift, and measure areas of interest, making sure to record the location (mapping) of all items found. She patiently, and quite successfully, did the slow and tedious work using a ¼-inch mesh screen to separate wanted items from the dirt and de-

bris. By the time she had to leave the site, Nita had recovered more than 30 bone fragments that were eventually used for positive DNA identification of three of the crewmembers – most notably her own father-in-law.

Paul Clever received the 17th Training Wing Commander's Public Service Award for his work with the Maximum Recovery in Southeast Asia (MRSEA) search and recovery (SAR) effort in Laos. The (SAR) mission began in Ubon Ratchantani, Thailand, on Dec. 1, 2012, and proceeded to Pakse, Laos, and on to Ban Phone and the entrance to the Ho Chi Minh Trail. After days of hacking through the dense jungle, the poor conditions on the trail, inaccurate coordinates, stifling heat, and his inability to locate the crash site be-



gan to dim Paul's hope for a successful mission. But on Dec. 6, Paul positively identified the CAP-72 crash area and set up camp. Over the next two days, he recovered 13 bone fragments and an estimated 50 items of broken glass, fuselage and equipment debris, probable parachute harness fragments, .38 caliber bullets, and wrench sockets. He tagged and cataloged all of these artifacts and brought them back during the return trip on Dec. 8, 2012. He donated the crash site debris artifacts that are now displayed in the ARDF History Exhibit at Goodfellow AFB, Texas.



In late 1969, while stationed at the 6981st Security Group, Elmendorf AFB, AK, Joe Martin received orders for the 6994th Security Squadron, based at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut air base. He arrived at TSN on 15 February, 1970, after attending two courses at Goodfellow AFB, TX, and survival schools in Washington State and the Philippines. Over the next 22 months, SSgt Martin flew approximately 270 missions aboard the EC-47, mostly over Cambodia but also a number in both the BARREL ROLL and STEEL TIGER areas of Laos while on temporary duty to our detachments at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, and Phu Cat, Vietnam. For the last 6-8 months of his tour, Joe served as an instructor to our Vietnamese counterparts who eventually took over the EC-47 mission. He left Vietnam on 10 December 1971.

Figure 3: Event program inside information



Figure 4: USAF Commander's Public Service Award - medal & ribbon presentation set presented by Colonel Joos to Nita and Paul Clever



Figure 5: Nita Clever addresses the award ceremony attendees and offers thanks for recognizing her work in recovering remains of TSgt Louis Clever from the 1969 EC-47 wreckage site in Laos. The award ceremony setting (photo background) is the EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit aircraft static display, Goodfellow AFB, TX – April 30, 2015



Figure 6: L-R - Nita Clever is presented the Commander's Public Service Award certificate by the 17th Training Wing commander, Colonel Kimberlee Joos - April 30, 2015



Figure 7: L-R: Paul Clever is presented the Commander's Public Service Award certificate by the 17<sup>th</sup> Training Wing commander, Colonel Kimberlee Joos – April 30, 2015