



Number 003

December 25, 2015

# Welcome to the EC-47 History Site Newsletter

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### A Last Resort to Avoid Capture

Joe Martin recalls that in 1970-1971, certain preflight briefings contained instructions for what to do if, after departing the aircraft in hostile territory, one found himself about to be taken by enemy forces. In anticipation of such circumstance, the briefer gave a "word of the day," let's say "sawdust." Along with mission callsign, the word was typically written on the back of the hand with a ballpoint pen.



friend and foe alike. Unspecified good guys would drop in, step over the undesirables, pick up the presumably KO'd airman, and exit the area before the bad guys regained their senses.

Joe remembers this sort of briefing applying to the Barrel Roll and/or Steel Tiger areas, or perhaps just certain segments thereof. He is almost 100% certain he heard these briefings while TDY to NKP, although they might have applied to "across the fence" missions from Phu Cat. Can any of our readers shed light on this "knockout gas" tidbit? If so, please contact us at:

[www.ec47.com/contact](http://www.ec47.com/contact)

By the way, Joe indicates that he has never come across anything to suggest that this tactic was ever actually used.



### Calling Willard Music

The NKP *Action Crew* AMS says that circa 1970-1971, certain missions out of NKP into the Barrel Roll area of Laos carried an extra KY-8 encryption paddle (KY-7) keyed for UHF secure communications with a ground direct support unit (DSU) using fixed callsign **Willard Music**. We are doing further research on this DSU, including a FOIA request submitted to CIA on October 16, 2015. Please share what you know about **Willard Music** via email - [info@ec47.com](mailto:info@ec47.com) or:

[www.ec47.com/contact](http://www.ec47.com/contact)

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If the worst case survival scenario played out, the surrounded airman (provided he was in radio contact with a SAR force) would say something to the effect of "drop the sawdust!" The SAR escort would authenticate "sawdust" then drop some sort of gas which would temporarily incapacitate



The EC-47 History Site Vietnam War Commemorative Partner committee has done a wonderful job of seeking out and honoring Vietnam War-era veterans and their families, with a special interest in EC-47 veterans. We have hosted and helped plan nine organization-level ceremonies as well as a number of individual presentations at the Angelo State University West Texas Collections Library, Goodfellow AFB, and a local nursing home. Number totals: Attendees: 775; Veterans attending: 200+; Veteran family members attending: 200+; Total lapel pins presented: 150.

FMI: [www.ec47.com/commemorative-partner-program](http://www.ec47.com/commemorative-partner-program)



Concurrent with our work with the ARDF History Exhibit project at Goodfellow AFB, the faculty, staff, and students in the Angelo State University (ASU) History & Library departments were involving community military veterans in a Vietnam: Through the Lens Display and a National Endowment for the Humanities "War Stories" project. Our mutual interests matured into the need for further research into the history of the EC-47 aircraft, its ARDF mission and people, and unit credited contributions to the war operations in Southeast Asia. On October 5, 2015, ASU history professors Lamberson and Wongsrichanalai submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to 25th Air Force for copies of all the 6994th Security Squadron (and detachments) histories for the period 1966-1974. On December 7, 2015, 25AF/FOIA advised that the requested products were copied to disks and were ready for mailing. All of us are sure interested in these declassified history documents. . .but Joe Martin is plain chomping at the bit to get copies in order to continue his own "connecting the dots" history papers. We will put a notice on the website when these products have been made available to us for review and posting.



## The EC-47 Aircraft & ARDF History Exhibit Virtual Tour

[www.ec47.com/ardf-history-exhibit-virtual-tour-2](http://www.ec47.com/ardf-history-exhibit-virtual-tour-2)



The website counter was activated on March 30, 2015. As of December 20th, there have been 15,635 sessions, 9,600 users, and 69,300 page reviews. There are 300+ subscribers to this newsletter.

## Welcome to the new EC-47 History Site Newsletter



**Bottom row l-r:** Etta Diehl, Johanna Hardesty, Dee Hazle, Eleanor Allione, Carolyn Crane, Tootsie Anderson, Carolyn Wrobel. **Second row l-r:** Ed Diehl, Dave Hardesty, Ronnie Hazle, Joe Allione, Bob Crane, Andy Anderson, Ray Wrobel, Tammie Ogg. **Third row l-r:** Pat King, Tiffany Hazle, Shayleigh Hazle, Georganne Graham, Carol Self, Rebecca Brinkman, Kris Topham, Mary Jones, Paula Fisher. **Fourth row l-r:** Roger King, Scott Hazle, Dick Graham, Mike Self, Dennis Brinkman, Jim Davis, Lynn Topham, Mike Addison, Johnny Jones, Elliot Fisher. **Fifth row l-r:** Shirley Inman, Rhonda Danielson, Karen Kutz, Julianne Allison, Donna Auld. **Top row l-r:** John Inman, Butch Strickland, Paul Danielson, Lee Croissant, Charlie Capshew, Clint Capshew, Jim Nixon, Richard Pare', Glenn Auld. **Not pictured:** Russ Terry, Jim Andem, Linda Andem



### 362nd TEWS

Ed Diehl reported a total of 51 attendees at their reunion in Branson this past October. They had a great time and are definitely looking forward to their 10th reunion in Branson scheduled for October 4-6, 2016. Contact Ed at this email, or check their website.

[edetdiehl@node1internet.com](mailto:edetdiehl@node1internet.com)  
[www.362ndtews.com/events.html](http://www.362ndtews.com/events.html)

### 6994th SS

The 6994th Security Squadron held its 2015 reunion in Gettysburg, PA from August 13 thru 16. This was by far the most successful reunion the squadron has had, with 79 returning veterans among a total of 169 attendees.

The 2016 reunion is scheduled for September 21-23 in San Angelo, TX. This will mark the 50th Anniversary of the activation of the squadron at Tan Son Nhut and planning is underway to make this a very special event. One highlight of the reunion will be a detailed tour of the USAF Heritage Award winning ARDF History Exhibit in the Norma Brown headquarters building. For more info, link to:

[http://6994th.com/?page\\_id=2355](http://6994th.com/?page_id=2355)



### 6994th Security Squadron

**Front l-r:** Rick Yeh, Ellery Preece, Jerry Jackson, Ray Corse, Dave Seidl, Leon Heying, Barry Moore, Paul Grisham, Richard Ice.  
**Row 2:** Carl Ramey, Lars Ritola, John Fitzpatrick, Archie McDonald, Bob Hull, Mitch Cooper, Charlie Phippin, Ed Bendinelli, Bob Profit, George Montague, Ted Dietz, Bill Francis, Al Budington, John Craig. **Row 3:** Ken Versele, Herb Francis, Dale Short, Ron Aungst, Benny Spear, Jim Lane, Tom Glass, GG Gore, Ron Hendrix, Mark Schaefer, JJ Pitzeruse, Richard Brewer, Ron Shelby, Tom Sheridan. **Row 4:** Frank Falkowski, Gary Schmit, Joe Giammichele, John Lauser, Rich Miklaucic, Dale Carruth, Tracy Rogers, Tom Pedersen, John Leierzaph, Roger Sigworth, Larry Leard, Butch Maybury, Owen Costello, Lee Jewett.  
**Back Row:** John Pferdehirt, Jery Cook, Pat McCafferty, Dave Shigley, Doug Campbell, Dan Loomis, Bob Pakenas, Wayne Klemme, Rich Renkas, Bob Thomas, Tom Hutchings, Bill Sommer, Ray Payne, Rich Krejsa, Dave Abel, Andy Valdez, Rick Valdez, Rick Sinka, Dusty Mosier, Steve Underdahl, John Hannan, George Brune, Jack Armstrong, Al Forbes.  
**Missing from photo:** Joe Martin, Jim Trozzo, Michael Homcha, John Ritner, Ben Stewart