
MAIL

Dear Ben,

I have enclosed a photo of the 1009th SWS, BUSTER JANGLE reunion at Las Vegas, NV, May 2-5. We were some of the original group that served during the A-Tests at Frenchman Flats-Yucca Flats, NV, Oct-Nov, 1951. Presently we know the locations of 39 alive and 7 deceased members.

A few of the men went on to distinguished careers in civilian life, while others had great careers in the Air Force. I thought this would be of interest to some of the newly retired members of AFTAC. Keep in touch, because your AF friends are the best.

A "Four and Outer"
Leo J. Cotter



1st Row: Left to Right

Don Vernon-Bob Boster-Bill Sullivan-Lou Orsatti-Charlie Soucia

2nd Row:

Norm Negrete-Leo Cotter-Bill Johnson-Norm Derkovits-Ed Carty-
Jim Lyon

3rd Row:

Jerry-Collins-Bill Braukman-Lee Barbour-Henry Koons-Ray Hild-
Bob Allender-Joe Johnson

Ed: Thanks for the letter and picture, Leo.

From Bill Schmied:

We need to acknowledge a gift from Herb & Verny Pabst in Sun City, AZ.

In October he sent me a check for \$30 along with a note saying that they "would love to be there for the dinner dance.....since we can't make it, please accept this check."

Yes Herb, we graciously accept your check and also wish you and Verny could have joined us for the dinner social. Everyone had a great time while inside the Camana Club, but the single digit temperature outside along with the snow and ice did make travel a little

challenging. We hope you and Verny were enjoying yourselves in SUN CITY that evening and we definitely look forward to seeing you at the reunion in June."

Here is an article that Bill Braukman submitted to the Florida Chapter Post Monitor in the "I Remember" Column on the Buster Jangle reunion:

Fond memories; Fifty years ago some six hundred young basics entered electronics training at Keesler AFB, MS. Nine months later the top 10% were selected to become part of a new organization known as the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron. We were sent to Washington DC. and then to the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, Silver Spring MD, for training in the construction of "soup can" seismometers and the operation of "wind-up" clocks (Ulysses Narden Chronometers \$600.00 ea.), Perkin-Elmer DC amplifiers and Esterline Angus Paper recorders.

After about three months of living in tents and eating Marine Corp. leftovers we were loaded on a couple of C46 transports and flown to San Bernadino, CA. There we were issued a W.W.II weapons carrier, a tent, radio, transmitter, and either one vertical or three "soup cans," vertical and two horizontal home made seismometers.

Generators, gas cans, water jugs etc. implied that we were not going to Hollywood. Since most of the Top Secret clearances had been approved on an interim basis we were briefed that we were on our way to the Nevada Test Site. Some 40 sites had been picked to locate our instruments on a north-south line from Kingman, AZ, to Reno, NV.

The test series was code named Buster Jangle. Only the news media, Life magazine and the rest of the world were privy to these "secret tests." We were told not to write home about our adventures. The series was seven atmospheric blasts, 5 airdrops and two tower shots.

Recently we decided to have a mini reunion and return to what is now known as Camp Mercury, Nevada Test Site. operated by the Department of Energy. Thanks to the efforts of several members, plans were completed and in spite of the "red tape" imposed by the government, an all day tour was ranged for attendees and wives. The Nevada Test Site consists of over 1,000 square miles. No firearms, cameras, binoculars or recording equipment were allowed on the tour. In 1951, during the actual tests, we could take all the pictures we wanted! Today the site is being maintained "just in case" we decide to resume testing (?) and probably more than a thousand people still work there and it obviously involves mega-bucks today. All in all an outstanding time was had by all.