



“Cleared Hot”

by Lon Holtz

Well, here we are in a brand-new year filled with all sorts of unknowns. A new government, the pandemic, a monster winter season, and our proposed reunion. I’ve watched more pro football games (sometimes three a day), and I think, after all these years, I’m finally beginning to understand the game. I’ve even gone to wearing either a Cowboys, Packers, or Raiders sweatshirt and think I’m supporting the team while watching them. Then, it’s either the house or workshop or vice versa, but I’m trying to keep sane and altogether. Aw well, we have faced worse conditions in our times together, and we can weather this one too.

With regard to the 2021 reunion in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, we’ve waited as long as we can to determine if the deciding factor of the pandemic will improve. And since the darn thing can’t make up its mind, here is what we have decided.

The pandemic, which is the primary factor that would affect the 2021 reunion this spring, has only about a twenty percent chance of improving at best, so we are going to cancel that event.

The suggestion of delaying that reunion until the fall of 2021 is not much better, as the predicted forecast for hurricanes in that locale is going to be greater than last

(Continued on p. 3)

Inside:	Page
Member Update/Emails	2
War Stories/Articles	3
Memorabilia Page	4
Memorabilia Order Form	Insert

The April 2021 reunion is postponed until

Spring 2022. Lon laid out the reasoning in his column, but Judy Grahn is working with the Holiday Inn at Fort Walton Beach to secure dates in late April or early May that will not conflict with Easter (April 17) or spring break. The hotel has acknowledged our cancellation and is retaining our deposit toward next year. One hurdle crossed already.

Now let’s negotiate our way through this virus mess and get back to “normal”...whatever that is.

In this newsletter, we’ve included two articles of interest, both on page 3. Since a great majority of us were exposed in some respects to Agent Orange, the first article outlines the eligibility requirements to apply for a health exam by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Won’t hurt to inquire.

The second article, provided by Pete Vilkin, is drawn from *Airpressman*, a website dedicated to Latin American aviation. The A-37B is approaching its useful life as an operational system, but it’s still being used in some Latin American countries.

Coronavirus throat spray



The memorabilia page depicts items for sale (not exactly flying off the shelf), but some are in low supply.

Occasionally, we get a request for *Dragonfly: A-37s Over Vietnam*. Have a copy available? Let me know and I can hook you up with the requestor...Jerry Sailors

“The A-37 Association is for those who flew, worked on/with, were saved by, or have high admiration for the great little fighter.”



...the smallest fighter... the fastest gun

A-37 Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President Lon Holtz
 Vice President Eric Jackson
 Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Sailors
 Lou Gonzalez
 Vic Grahn
 Hank Hill
 John Lamb
 Tom McCallum
 John Serlet
 President Emeritus/ Ollie Maier
 Founder

Membership: Jerry Sailors 334-328-7575
 dragonfly369@charter.net

Newsletter: Jerry Sailors 334-328-7575
 dragonfly369@charter.net
 Barbara Holtz 702-804-4232
 amscom@embarqmail.com

Website: Tom McCallum
 a37dragonfly@comcast.net

The Dragonfly is a publication of the A-37 Association published quarterly (except when within two months of a reunion, then monthly), as a service to the membership, new contacts, and other interested parties.

The views expressed herein are those of the editors/authors and do not necessarily reflect any official position of the A-37 Association. The editors reserve the right to print any article/letter/email/photo deemed to be of interest to members.

We also reserve the right to edit any article to fit space available and to reject any material considered inappropriate. We invite and encourage members/contacts to submit articles/letters/emails/photos.

Visit our website: www.a37.org

Emails

(From John Davis, 12/18/2020)

I wanted to inquire about the availability of the book, *Dragonfly: A-37s over Vietnam*. I am trying to locate a copy and not having much luck. Reading some of the reviews seems like it would give some good insight.

I am the son of an A-37 pilot who was in Vietnam starting in 1967 and wanted to understand what it was like for my father over there. He did like to talk much about his experience.

My father was Major Joe Davis. He passed back in 2010 and is buried in Arlington. Thanks for any information you might have.

(Reply from Jerry Sailors, 12/26/2020)

John, we have sold out of the A-37 Association's book *Dragonfly: A-37s over Vietnam*. Every once in a while, we receive a request for the book, which we then advertise in the Association's quarterly newsletter "The Dragonfly" in case a reader may have one to make available. We maintain a waiting list of people who have requested a book. Currently there are two other people on the list ahead of you, but I will add your name.

I remember your dad, but didn't know him well as he and I were in different flights and with different flight schedules most of the time. As I remember him, he was (at least to me) a tall, lanky fellow with a friendly demeanor. I will put your email into the January 2021 newsletter and perhaps we can get some feedback for you.

To provide you some information about activities of the 604 ACS, I maintain a file on Dropbox that are copies of the 604's history from August 1967 through March 1968. I think your dad rotated out of the squadron in March of '68. You'll be receiving an email from Dropbox notifying you when those files are available.

Hope this helps and that you had a good Christmas holiday. Here's to cheers for a better year in 2021.

(From Pete Vilkin, 1/10/2021)

I thought you guys might enjoy this article on current ops with our favorite a/c! *(See article on page 3.)*

Member Update

Address/telephone updates:

Ed Norris - 18 Guernsey Way, Fountain Inn, SC, 29644
ednorris1605@gmail.com

Vic & Judy Grahn - 850-830-1486 (Vic)
 850-830-3750 (Judy)

New Members:

Andrew Bissinger - Fall River, MA, Weapons Shop,
 1967- 68, woodstiks@yahoo.com

Henry Gerken - Meridian, ID, Weapons Shop, 1967- 69,
hfg412ep@yahoo.com

Request: Have a copy of *Dragonfly: A-37s Over Vietnam* for sale? Contact us at dragonfly369@charter.net.



...the smallest fighter... the fastest gun



“Cleared Hot”

(Continued from p. 1)

year, and, since we don't know what direction the pandemic will go, the probabilities of holding it at that time don't improve.

The third option of holding the reunion in the spring of 2022 seems to be the best answer for planning purposes, so that is the direction we are going with. Both the planning board and I are very disappointed in making this decision, but we want to have a reunion that is safe and better than the ones before.

So, unpack your bags, cancel any reservations you may have made, pour four fingers of your favorite drink in a glass, fall back in your favorite recliner, and watch Super Bowl LV or whatever puts a smile on your face.

War Stories

Eligibility for Agent Orange Health Exam

(Source: US Department of Veterans Affairs:
www.publichealth.va.gov)

Veterans eligible for Agent Orange Registry health exam:

Vietnam

- Veterans who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975, regardless of length of time.
- Veterans who served aboard smaller river patrol and swift boats that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam (also known as “Brown Water Veterans”).
- “Blue Water Navy” Veterans who served on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in Public Law 116-23.

Korea

- Veterans who served in a unit in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) anytime between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971.

Thailand (service anytime between 28 February 1961 and 7 May 1975)

- U.S. Air Force Veterans who served on Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) bases near U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom, Udorn, Takhli, Korat, and Don Muang, near the air base perimeter.
- U.S. Army Veterans who provided perimeter security on RTAF bases in Thailand.
- U.S. Army Veterans who were stationed on some small Army installations in Thailand. However, the Army Veteran must have been a member of a military police (MP) unit or was assigned a military occupational specialty whose duty placed him or her at or near the base perimeter.

C-123 Airplanes

Veterans (including some Reservists) who flew on or worked on a C-123 aircraft between 1969 and 1986.

Other potential Agent Orange exposures

Veterans who may have been exposed to herbicides during a military operation or as a result of testing, transporting, or spraying herbicides for military purposes. Learn more about herbicide and storage outside Vietnam on the VA website: [Agent Orange Registry Health Exam for Veterans - Public Health \(va.gov\)](http://Agent Orange Registry Health Exam for Veterans - Public Health (va.gov)).

The A-37B Still Active in Latin America

(Source: Online Journal *Airpressman*, May 2020)

The A-37B's role in Latin American air forces is diminishing as age and lack of spare parts are taking their toll. However, Uruguay still maintains a small fleet of the Dragonfly as described in a May 2020 article from the online journal *Airpressman*: [A-37B ROAD DEPLOYMENT: "Highwaymen" - Airpressman](http://A-37B ROAD DEPLOYMENT:).

The article describes an Uruguay Air Force (FAU) evaluation flying the Dragonfly off a 6,500-foot runway outlined on a national highway to test its capability to operate from remote locations, a five-day test which took place in November 2017. Two aircraft flying three one-hour missions a day simulated close air support (controlled by a FAC on the ground), combat air interception, and search and rescue.

While the A-37B provides combat support, Uruguay's primary air threat comes from illicit flights crossing the country to and from its neighbors, Brazil and Argentina, so the Air Force's main role is one of aerial police. The aging Dragonfly fleet of eight aircraft is stretched to its limits for this kind of mission. The FAU is also equipped with the Pucará (a type aircraft often tasked with intercepting low-performance illicit aircraft) but is investigating more up-to-date aircraft for both its combat support and policing roles.

In March 2020, a new government came into office and determined the nation's combat capability must be improved to meet its national security interests. A strategic plan calls for possibly obtaining 8 to 12 Lead-In Fighter Trainer type aircraft to form a single attack/fighter unit. The FAU's high command has insisted new aircraft should have a look-down radar to assist in target interception.



A-37B on short final. Note highway sign just prior to turn of roadway.



A-37 Association Memorabilia Items



T-shirt (M, L, XL, XXL) \$20
(includes shipping)



License Plate Frames
\$10 ea plus \$8 shipping



Koozie
\$2 (includes shipping)



A-37 Lapel Pin 1" sq \$8
(includes shipping)



50th Anniversary Patch \$6
(includes shipping)



2.25-inch SEA Decal
\$5 (includes shipping)

The memorabilia order form is enclosed.

Memorabilia Order Form

(Please fill out completely)

(Except for plate holders, all prices include shipping.)

50 th Anniversary Patch	How many? ___ @ \$6	
SEA Decal	How many? ___ @ \$5	
Koozie	How many? ___ @ \$2	
Lapel Pin	How many? ___ @ \$8	
T-shirt	How many? M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ @ \$20 ea	
Total		= \$ _____

License Plate Holder		
"Combat Pilot"	How many? ___ @ \$10	
"Combat Veteran"	How many? ___ @ \$10	
Total for License Plate Holders		= \$ _____
\$6 shipping (regardless of number ordered)		= \$ _____

Total Amount Due: = \$ _____

Clear Form

Shipping Address:

Name: _____

Street or PO Box: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ Email _____

Method of Payment:

Check:

1. Make payable to "The A-37 Association."
2. Write "Memorabilia" in the Memo space.
3. Mail check and completed form to: The A-37 Association
142 Arrowhead Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117

Paypal:

1. Complete form and "Save As" to hard drive, renaming file: "(your name)_Memorabilia_Order."
2. Send saved form by email to dragonfly369@charter.net.
3. Go to www.paypal.com and send payment to dragonfly369@charter.net.

Once payment is received, order will be processed.

Questions? Email dragonfly369@charter.net or call (334) 328-7575.

All proceeds go to the A-37 Association.