

# THE LOADER

Volume 16 Issue 1 March 2013



FRIENDSHIP THROUGH AIRLIFT



Professional Loadmaster Association, P. O. Box 4351, Tacoma WA 98438  
1-800-239-4524 [www.Loadmasters.com](http://www.Loadmasters.com)



## CABIN REPORT

Bring on summer, Hope all is well with you and your families.

I would like to thank Bill Weeper for stepping up and taking over as editor for The LOADER. This is a large task and can be time consuming. Thanks Bill

This summer McChord is hosting Airlift Rodeo and it appears to of made it through the budget cuts. Look forward to seeing many of our members during that time. Here are the latest dates: (It has been a great event in the past.):

Internationals arrive on the 22nd of July,  
American Teams arrive on the 27th.  
Opening Ceremonies the 29<sup>th</sup>,  
Vendor's setup 30th  
Closing ceremonies 2nd of Aug.

National is in the process of changing our banking establishment. The association started with a credit union that was bought out by a bank. The bank rules for non-profits have been a large pain to change signers on the accounts. Each time we thought we had all the new rules met they seemed to change them. The bank employee, who opened the account for Bill and Marion Cannon when it was a credit union, suggested we look for a credit union again. We have done just that, and are working with a credit union with a branch on Joint Base Lewis McChord to make it simple for the person checking the mail to make deposits. This is also a process and will take a little time because signature cards have to be notarized and sent along to each signer. Good news it is getting done.

Scholarship applications are due by March 2013. Be sure to get them into Jim Engelker soon. The application and information is on the PLA web site at loadmasters.com and the application is also reprinted on page 5 of this issue.

Good news, Southeast Chapter in Charleston, SC is getting headed up by Mike Morris and Erin Manley. Thanks for your efforts to revitalize this chapter.

I had a chance this period to stop in at Channel Island National Guard Station, CA and visit the C-130J unit. The 115<sup>th</sup> AS was preparing for an ASEV, and that reminded me I like being retired. I was glad to see a PLA brochure on the bulletin board in the loads office.

Have a safe spring - Load Clear

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Ronald Pierce	(253) 843-0642	<a href="mailto:rpierce@bohenviroental.com">rpierce@bohenviroental.com</a>
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### CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Alamo	Andy Vaquera	(210) 679-8674	<a href="mailto:andy_vaquera@sbcglobal.net">andy_vaquera@sbcglobal.net</a>
Aloha	Bob Callahan	(808) 428-2957	<a href="mailto:offshorehunter63@gmail.com">offshorehunter63@gmail.com</a>
Big Country	Michael Lutzko	(325) 829-4026	<a href="mailto:mulutzko@zanado.net">mulutzko@zanado.net</a>
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Golden West	Steve Clark	(760) 596-0488	<a href="mailto:steve.clark38@yahoo.com">steve.clark38@yahoo.com</a>
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The First State	Lori Tascione	(302) 677-3617	<a href="mailto:c17loadmistress@gmail.com">c17loadmistress@gmail.com</a>
The Rock	Brent Richburg	(609) 575-3366	<a href="mailto:brent_richburg@yahoo.com">brent_richburg@yahoo.com</a>
Trailblazers	Josh Wilberg	(843) 906-6149	<a href="mailto:jwilberg00@aol.com">jwilberg00@aol.com</a>

### PLA ADVISORS

President Emeritus	Bill Cannon	(253) 509-0205	<a href="mailto:bcloader@comcast.net">bcloader@comcast.net</a>
Scholarship Chairman	Jim Engelker	(970) 463-8831	<a href="mailto:engelkerj@gmail.com">engelkerj@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Tom Morawek	(253) 862-7564	<a href="mailto:tomcmor@msn.com">tomcmor@msn.com</a>

### LINKS OF INTEREST

[www.c-130hercules.net](http://www.c-130hercules.net)

[www.c141flyingsquadrons.com](http://www.c141flyingsquadrons.com)

[www.c141heaven.com](http://www.c141heaven.com)

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) USAF Enlisted Aviators/Aircrew-Past and Present

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/loadmaster>

**(Cover Photo)** Airman 1st Class Patrick Russ, 8th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, marshals a truck out of a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, Nov. 5, 2012, in support of Hurricane Sandy relief efforts at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. For Russ and the rest of the C-17 crew from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., this was their third mission in the last 5 days flying across the country in support of the relief efforts. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Sean Tobin)

**PLA SECRETARY****Moving?**

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO MOVE OR TRANSFER, PLEASE SEND US YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND NEW CONTACT INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. We cannot get your newsletter to you or make contact if we don't know where you are. Send an e-mail to John Moore at buildsmall2@mac.com or buildsm@netins.net or leave a free 2 minute message at 1 (800) 239-4524. Remember to speak slowly and distinctly, so we can copy your information down. Thank you!

**LOST MEMBERS**

We need addresses for the following:

\*Denotes Life Member

*John L. Branski	*Thomas L. Gustafson
*Jessie L. Burdette	*Peter Hall
*Robert B. Burnett	Shawn D. Joy
James A. Carden	*Michael Lambrecht
*Karen Cary	Christopher Leonard
David Christopherson	*Jason Morgan
*Christopher S. Clay	*Rodney W. Nuckoles
*Daniel Downey	*Miles Penor
John J. Egan Jr.	*Michael L. Piasecki
*Brad Franken	Mathew Skvarna
	*Tony E. Strader

**New Members ( \* Life Member )****NOVEMBER**

Stephen Banks	Richard Barrett
Jerry Ryder	Keith Burton
Denis Jules	Danielle Kremer
Christopher Patton	John L Pearl
Michael Mason	

**DECEMBER**

Eric Bratton	Michael Poolaw
Timothy Ledford	*Melvin Hamill

**FEBRUARY**

Nicole Corace  
Samuel Gilbert  
Ryan Martin

We appear to be getting more and more members going inactive. When you receive a renewal notice please respond, to continue receiving The LOADER. We are still receiving on line new and renewal applications with no way to confirm payments. Too many attempts to contact the individuals thru the listed phone number/e-mail address do not get a return response. When you move, if you notify us of your new address you will not end up on the Lost Loads list. If you

know any of the Lost Loads please forward a current address or have them contact us with their information.

ALL MEMBERS, please check your contact information and forward any changes/corrections. At the 2012 Gathering of Loads a discussion was held to offer The Loader on the internet, for those who select that option. No changes have been made as yet, mailings will continue. This procedure would save your association a considerable amount of money in printing and mailing costs.

Attention all members with a .mil e-mail address. Most Executive Board members will not be able to respond to your messages if you're using a .mil e-mail address. Air Force retired members, and veterans do not have access to the .mil system.

Chapter Presidents please keep us advised of any changes in your chapter officer Listing.

PLA MEMBERSHIP AS OF: February 25, 2013

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP:	2,117	
ACTIVE MEMBERS:	1,035	(22 Lost Loads)
IN-ACTIVE:	977	
DECEASED:	105	

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PAY PAL SITE:

<http://www.loadmasters.com/payhere.htm>

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This is the only address you can use to join online, renew your membership, or order merchandise.

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**“The Loader” - Editor**

“The Loader” Editor – Bill Weeper - Coinforce has been a continuous sponsor of “The Loader” and we appreciate their patronage. We have room for at least one other full page sponsor advertisement. If you know of any company that would like to sponsor “The Loader” please let myself or Ron Pierce know. This issue of the “The Loader” has a story (page 11) about the new Navy C-40A which Loadmasters are part of the crew complement. Yes, the Navy has Loadmasters and so does the Marine Corps and Coast Guard. There are also Loadmasters on commercial airlines. If there are any Loadmasters out there from the other services or civilian airlines that would like to share their stories and photographs please send them to me. If any of our senior Loadmasters have any stories of yesteryear please send them to me along with any photographs so we can share them with everyone. I put a reduced size, one page copy of the Scholarship Application on page 5 so that you would have access to a printed copy. Hopefully this will encourage some of you to put in an application for yourself or a family member. For more information on our scholarships go to [www.loadmaster.com](http://www.loadmaster.com) and click on scholarships.

### Scholarship Information

The PLA offers four scholarships annually for college and/or vocational/technical school after high school graduation. We have one scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 named in honor of John L. Levitow, (this is a permanent scholarship) and up to three additional \$500.00 scholarships each named for a different deceased Loadmaster each year. Candidates for the selection process must be from PLA members in good standing and their family members (sons, daughters or grand children) and are limited to one scholarship per applicant. If exceptional circumstances should arrive, the Executive Committee will handle them accordingly. For more information on scholarships go to [www.loadmasters.com](http://www.loadmasters.com) and click on scholarships. Applications may be applied for through Jim Engelker at [engelkerj@gmail.com](mailto:engelkerj@gmail.com).

#### Timeline for Scholarships

Selection of names to be honored for upcoming scholarships shall be provided by December of the year before scholarship announcement. Submission of application to the selection committee shall be no later than March of the year before scholarship announcement. Announcement of the scholarship award to the individual participant shall be no later than the middle of May of the year before scholarship announcement. Announcement of scholarships awarded shall be published each year in the July issue of THE LOADER newsletter. Remember our scholarship fund will be used to support one scholarship of \$1000 and three \$500.00 scholarships a year to PLA members and their family members.

Donations can be made to our PLA Headquarters:  
P.O. Box 4351 Tacoma, WA 98438  
Write "Scholarship Fund" on checks, remember every little bit counts toward keeping this program ongoing.

**Scholarship Manager**  
Jim Engelker  
10925 Cnty Rd 29  
Ovid, CO 80744  
[engelkerj@gmail.com](mailto:engelkerj@gmail.com)

**Scholarship Application Update, February 27, 2013: Scholarship Application is reprinted on Page 5.** Scholarship applications are still being accepted until mid-April 2013. So far, only five applications have been submitted for this year. The selection committee would like to encourage every chapter to talk to their members about the scholarships and encourage them to take advantage of this rare opportunity for our loadmasters and their family members—past, present, and future—to further their education with a scholarship that honors our fallen loadmasters. While the application is time-consuming, the selection committee needs the information from the application to make an appropriate selection. Specifically, the committee is looking for information about the applicant and his or her commitment towards the work required to complete a collegiate degree. There are a lot of Loadmasters with children who are considering college, and there are numerous scholarships from which to choose. But the PLA scholarship is specifically and uniquely designed to support our own.

#### PLA Gear - PLA COINS (see below)

The new coins have both Friendship Through Airlift and Yesterday – Today-Tomorrow around the circle on the back and now it's in full color! The US Flag is in color and unchanged. The box below the flag is empty so you may have what ever you wish engraved in it.

PLA PIN (right) and PATCH (right bottom)

PLA Coins, Pins and Patches are available through the National Headquarters. The PLA Coins are \$10.00, Pins are \$7.00 and the Patches are \$10.00 each, including mailing. If Chapters are interested in having some, please contact us. E-mail: [secretary@loadmasters.com](mailto:secretary@loadmasters.com)



PROFESSIONAL LOADMASTER ASSOCIATION  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION Rev: November 2012

Please limit your application to only those items requested on the form below.

NOTE: If additional space is required to complete the application, please continue on a separate piece of paper, and make sure you reference the item you are continuing.

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

High School Students:

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Size: \_\_\_\_\_ ACT/SAT: \_\_\_\_\_

College(s), University(ies), and Vocational/Technical School(s) you have made application to:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

College Students:

College/University, Vocational/Technical School GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

College/University, Vocational/Technical School you are or will be attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

All Students:

Proposed Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you choose this field of study? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Scholarships/Financial Aid you have received (include amounts):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Scholarships/Financial Aid you have applied for and still pending:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your connection with the Professional Loadmaster Association? Please provide the name of the PLA member and his/her relationship to you. \_\_\_\_\_

Membership # and expiration date of PLA membership: \_\_\_\_\_

(i.e., I am a member, my father/mother/grandparents are members, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever received a PLA scholarship in the past? If so, you are not eligible for additional PLA scholarships.

If at all possible, complete application and email to [engelkerj@gmail.com](mailto:engelkerj@gmail.com).

Please attach the following items:

1. List of activities (high school or college or military or all) to include positions/offices held in athletics and/or organizations.
2. List of community activities to include positions/offices held.
3. A typed written paragraph of your educational goals and your dreams for what you will be in five years.
4. Explain why financially you should receive this scholarship.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## CHAPTER REPORTS

**The Alamo Chapter**

Buenos Dias from San Antonio and the Alamo Chapter. The Alamo Chapter has breakfast on the first Saturday of every month at 10:00 am at the Stinson Airfield café "Bernard's Cajun Kitchen" (located in the historic Stinson Airport Tower building) at 8535 Mission Road San Antonio, TX 78214, (210) 923-5969. Following breakfast at 11:00 am there will be a chapter meeting at the Texas Air Museum – Stinson Field Chapter. It is located on the Stinson Airport at 1234 99th Street, San Antonio Texas 78214, <http://www.texasairmuseum.org>, (210) 977-9885.



68th Airlift Squadron 2012 Reunion

The Alamo Chapter sponsored the 68<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron 2012 reunion. Members of the 26<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron also attended. The chapter raised \$236.00 during the reunion on October 13, 2012. The Alamo Chapter had a Christmas fund raiser at the Texas Land & Cattle Steak House – Dine & Donate on December 11, 2012 at 201 North Saint Mary's in San Antonio Texas. 15% of the total cost from the dinner receipt went to the Alamo Chapter for every person who went to the event. The chapter cleared \$94.00. David Scandalito (who has been instrumental in putting together our chapters golf tournament fund raisers) continues to contribute his time and energy to help the plight of a local school and teachers of underprivileged children. This past Christmas he purchased (through personal contribution) numerous Christmas gifts for the children. If you wish to help David by contributing to these teachers and children, you can contact him at: David Scandalito, 891 Hiden Oaks, Bulverde TX 78163, [dls891@aol.com](mailto:dls891@aol.com), (830) 980-4416. The Alamo Chapter is sponsoring a breakroom at the Career Enlisted Aviator Center of Excellence (CEA/CoE) on Lackland AFB Texas for all enlisted aircrew students and a classroom for the Basic Loadmaster Course. Representatives from the chapter met with CMSgt Sharon Holloway the Commandant of CEA/CoE to discuss and plan what photographs and memorabilia the Alamo Chapter would provide for these rooms. The two rooms were painted mid December. The

Alamo Chapter is having a barbeque fundraiser on the afternoon of April 5, 2013 at the CEA/CoE to raise funds for the breakroom and classroom project. Any individual or chapter that is interested in sponsoring a classroom at the Basic Loadmaster Course can contact CMSgt Sharon Holloway, Commandant, CEA/CoE, 344th Training Squadron, DSN: 473-8300 or Commercial: 210-671-8300, [sharon.holloway@us.af.mil](mailto:sharon.holloway@us.af.mil). If you would like to help the Alamo Chapter with these rooms financially or materially, please contact Andy Vaquera at (210) 559-7487, [andyvaquera@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andyvaquera@sbcglobal.net) or Hector Leyva at (210) 632-3257, [Hector145@msn.com](mailto:Hector145@msn.com).

**Aloha Chapter**

Aloha - The last quarter of 2012 we had an election of new officers and the results are as follows: Scott Stueven as Vice President, Chris Baker as Treasurer, Ryan Lockhart as Secretary, Keith Roscoe as Sgt at Arms and Bob Callahan as President. The Chapter has been very busy over the last several months with lots of fund raising activities and events. One of our events is the auctioning off of several of our numbered coins which include some of the C-17 squadrons and airframes, i.e. 5, 17, 141, 130, 14, 10 and about a dozen others. Please check out the site and feel free to bid on the coins [Http://alohachapter.ekupon.com](http://alohachapter.ekupon.com). We are currently raising money for our annual Danny Hollister Scholarship Fund. There will be more events in Danny's name to celebrate his life with all of those he touched as we approach the anniversary of his passing. Here are some of the members enjoying a BBQ after our monthly meeting. The Chapter had some great news this month as it was revealed that we had several members win annual awards at the group level. SNCO of the Year, MSgt Tim Ledford and AMN of the Year, SrA Ryan Lockhart. Good luck to them as they move on to the Wing level. President: Bob Callahan, [Offshorehunter63@gmail.com](mailto:Offshorehunter63@gmail.com), Vice President: Scott Stueven, [Online-1999-2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Online-1999-2000@yahoo.com), Treasurer: Chris Baker, [Christopher.baker.12@us.af.mil](mailto:Christopher.baker.12@us.af.mil). Mahalo



## CHAPTER REPORTS

## First State Chapter

SrA Oliver Vizitei - Hello from Dover. I hope this issue of The Loader finds you all well and starting to get a taste of warmer weather. I know we're looking forward to it here. At the last meeting, on February 21, we discussed reelections due to recent PCS's, a possible "open-enrollment" gathering to encourage new membership, and came up with several great fundraiser ideas for the future. Operationally, it's been a busy year for us so far. The C-5Ms of the 9<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron have been working a stage in Rota, transporting helicopters and equipment from the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Calvary Brigade to replace the 12<sup>th</sup> Combat Air Brigade in Afghanistan. Starting in January, the French and African forces in Mali began battling Islamist rebels in an effort to halt their advances. Dover C-17s assisted in these efforts, providing crucial airlift capabilities to the French forces. We took part in a stage that consisted of 18 aircraft flying 102 sorties and moving 909 passengers and 1,169 short tons of cargo. A Dover C-17 from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Squadron flew the very first sortie into Mali, delivering French personnel and more than 40 tons of equipment and supplies. These missions were non-standard and provided loadmaster the opportunity to do what they do best, adapt and overcome. The reserve loadmasters have been busy as well. The 30 loadmasters in the 326<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron are working hard in the squadron in addition to their civilian jobs. The unit is flying at least 4 AMC missions and 2-3 Reserve missions each month to include Presidential Support, counter-drug, contingency and humanitarian. As you can see, we're all having fun and working hard and we'll continue to do so. I hope everybody has a great spring, enjoy the weather! The First State Chapter welcomes all PLA members and anybody interested in becoming a member to attend our meeting on the third Wednesday of each month, 11:30 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Squadron. Please contact MSgt Lori Tascione email [lori.tascione@us.af.mil](mailto:lori.tascione@us.af.mil) or [c17loadmistress@gmail.com](mailto:c17loadmistress@gmail.com) Cell is 609-234-0910 for questions and updates.

## Gateway Chapter

Hello to all from Scott AFB IL. We have been busy here planning the next Gathering Of Loads for 2014. We are looking at downtown St Louis for the event so there will be plenty to do and see. As we progress with our planning you can expect to see some updates. Due to Scott being a three year tour we have had some turnover in our chapter and our new officers are quickly getting up to speed. I would like to thank those who have assumed new positions and are willing to undertake the GOL. I also need to thank Kent Brown of the Liberty Chapter, he provided us with his lessons learned book and some much needed transparency on his chapter's efforts with last year's GOL. On another note, we have purchased a Granite Bench that is going to be installed in front of the C-141 in the Scott Airpark at the Main Gate. The bench reads:

PROF LM ASSOC  
EVER VIGILANT  
PROVIDING HOPE  
WORLDWIDE

Our chapter also had coins and shirts made, the coins are very functional as you can see. If you would like one please send me an email. Coins- \$10.00. Shirts- \$11.00. Dave Noel, Gateway Chapter President, [david.noel.1@us.af.mil](mailto:david.noel.1@us.af.mil)



Artwork Filed As  
Darin Sedlacek



Gateway Chapter Officers: President-Dave Noel, [daivd.noel.1@us.af.mil](mailto:daivd.noel.1@us.af.mil), O:618-229-2084 C:215-410-8898, Vice President (Active Duty)-Kevin Letz, [kevin.letz@us.af.mil](mailto:kevin.letz@us.af.mil) O:618-229-3181, Vice President (Retired)-Bill Paradis, [william.paradis@disa.mil](mailto:william.paradis@disa.mil), O:618-229-9289, Treasurer-Darin Sedlacek, [darin.sedlacek.1@us.af.mil](mailto:darin.sedlacek.1@us.af.mil), O:618-229-4408, Secretary-John Porter, [john.porter.7@us.af.mil](mailto:john.porter.7@us.af.mil), O:618-229-2862. Gateway Chapter meets the first Wednesday of the month at the Scott Club @ 1130.

## CHAPTER REPORTS

### Golden West Chapter

Greetings from the Golden West Chapter. Our recent chapter election has resulted in placing the following officers in the current leadership roles President: Steve Clark, Vice President: Steve Collins and Treasurer: Cecil Clark. Our agenda for the New Year is to increase our membership; we will be contacting Loadmaster's living in the Southern California area and ask them to join the Professional Loadmaster Association and Golden West chapter. Our meetings are on the second Saturday of the month at the Pepper Steak Diner in Highland California. Contact for information: [steve.clark38@yahoo.com](mailto:steve.clark38@yahoo.com). Also calling on all former members of the 63rd MAW/445th MAW at Norton Air Force Base California. The new Norton Air Force Base Museum will open in March 2013 as a former NCO club site. We will appreciate donations of memorabilia from your tour at Norton. Contact information: [www.nafbmuseum.org](http://www.nafbmuseum.org) or (909) 382-7307. Steve Clark - Chapter President

**Norton AFB Museum, Members & Friends** - As most, if not all of you are aware, the Norton AFB Museum (NAFBM), will very soon open its doors to the public. The Grand Opening is now scheduled for Wednesday, March 13th, at 2:00 PM. Several of you have donated your time and effort by working at the Museum to ensure it is ready and the Grand Opening will be a memorable occasion for our visiting guests. To all of you who have contributed your time, "thank-you". Now we are almost ready for the next step. That step is staffing the Museum with volunteers to greet the public and explain the various displays we will have as well as receive any new contributions the visitors would like to share with the Museum. Story telling is optional, but always interesting. Our hours of operation will change a bit, based on the interest expressed by the public. We plan to keep each Thursday, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, open as we have had for some time now. Also we would like to expand our hours of operation to include Saturday's, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The reason for this addition is to facilitate the interested parents who are working and children are in school on Thursday. Being open on Saturday will give the parents and school aged children an opportunity to come and enjoy the Museum and learn from the displays the Museum offers. Thursdays we envision the retired guests will be able to enjoy the reading materials on display at their leisure, and be able to thoroughly inspect the other displays being offered and/or just reflect on days gone by when we were in uniform. Additionally, there is a new bench just installed outside near the Memorial for those who enjoy a smoke, or would like to just sit, and take in the panorama view of the Memorial and the majestic San Bernardino Mountains while noting those who have been remembered on the bricks that surround the Memorial. What the Museum now needs are volunteers and docents (teacher/guide), willing to give of their time one or two days a month. We would like

to see at least two (2) individuals "on-duty" during the hours the Museum is open. If you are interested in greeting and welcoming the Museum visitors, please contact myself @ (909) 936-8484, or Ms. Catherine (CAT) Pritchett @ (909) 382-4100 ext 134, or the Museum @ (909) 382-7307, and leave your name and contact number. We will be in-touch with you at our earliest. Should you have any questions, we will also be happy to provide answers. We hope to have a great representation from the NVG at the Museum. With your help and assistance, the Norton AFB Museum will quickly become one of the best attractions in the greater Inland Empire, and it is totally free too. Many thanks Robert M. Edwards (Bob) President, Board of Directors, Norton AFB Museum, Vice President, Norton Veterans Group.

### Liberty Chapter

Hello from Exit 7- Liberty Chapter - Hi to all, at our last meeting, January, we elected new officers. SMSgt Mike Kent is our new president, Shem Miller is still the Secretary and I am the new treasurer. I wish Mike success in leading the chapter in the way he sees fit. Mike is the training manager in the 732<sup>nd</sup> squadron here at McGuire; he will see lots of folks and can spread the word about the PLA. I will still be a big part of the chapter and help Mike in any way I can. We went to the AMC Museum at Dover AFB, DE. on January 30th to deliver the items we had collected for the loadmaster display at the museum. The director and collections manager thought we had some unique items to display and are looking forward to getting it all organized. I want to thank all those who contributed items and we can still add items, what have you got, let me know. We will have pictures later when the display is completed. In February of every year the Delaware chapter of the Special Olympics holds a Polar Bear Plunge to raise funds, in the past we have donated to Col. (Ret) Don Sloan a former C-141 pilot. This year we also donated to members of his team, one of which is Mike Leister, retired maintenance troop, and AMC Museum Director. We also donated to Don's significant other. This year we also donated to Jeff Leonard, a Liberty Chapter member, as he participated in the New Jersey Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge in February. If you would like to make a personal donation please contact me and I will put you in touch with each organization. The holiday party at JP & Barb's was great as usual, it was a small turnout but we still had fun, and those that attended got a PLA flashlight and pen that I had made. You never know when gifts will be handed out, so be sure and come next time. I think that the display at the AMC museum will be up in the next couple of months, so when it is we will plan a trip there instead of a meeting to view it and the many planes and exhibits; many things have been added since we last



## CHAPTER REPORTS

### Liberty Chapter, Cont. from page 8

visited. If we give them advance notice I bet we can get several planes open, more than just the C-141B which is always open. This would still be a great place to hold a GOL, how about it First State, 2018. Our usual meeting place is the Garden State Diner in Wrightstown. We meet the second Saturday of the month, with breakfast at 0900 with a business meeting at 1000. Our February meeting was delayed a week by the snow storm we had 6 inches in Browns Mills, not so much in other places. If you ever have any questions about meetings or anything else give me a call, 609-893-1833 or e-mail me, kabrown9@comcast.net , Kent Brown-Treasurer. Liberty Chapter Officers - SMSgt Mike Kent, michael.kent.2@us.af.mil & michael\_knt@yahoo.com,

### Northwest Chapter

Greetings from the Great Northwest Chapter of the PLA, where our temperature is mild and comfortable all year long. Except this past December, when just before Christmas we were treated to a rare snowfall of up to 30 inches in the area surrounding Tacoma WA. On December 8<sup>th</sup> our chapter held our annual Christmas Dinner at the McChord Field Club. Twenty-six members and spouses attended the event. Our guest speaker, CMsgt Ronald Campeau Jr., of the 313<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, gave a presentation of the C-17 Globemaster III's supporting role in Operation Deep Freeze. Operation Deep Freeze is unlike any other US military operation. It is one of the military's most difficult peacetime missions, due to the harsh Antarctic environment. The 62<sup>nd</sup> and 446<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wings have trained and supported the Deep Freeze mission for over 50 years. The Northwest Chapter is looking forward to supporting this year's Air Mobility Rodeo later in July. We also have begun planning for our annual Chapter summer picnic. We welcome all Loadmasters to our monthly breakfast meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at Habanero's Grill located at the McChord Golf Clubhouse at 9 am. Northwest Chapter Officers: Victor Fredlund, President, Harold Edvalds, Vice President, Bill Birney, Secretary/Treasurer.



Bill Birney, Vic Fredlund



Warren Riches, Delbert Kefauver, Ron Pierce

### Parker-Aguillon-Payne Chapter

Our annual Christmas party was held at Travis Museum again this year and had it catered by the Travis conference center. The service was great and the food was outstanding. We had a great turn out and appreciate the help setting up from Carlos Clements and Billy Banks from the CRG and Bill Bostock for greeting those as they arrived at the party. We really appreciate the support the Active Duty has given us during our Christmas party and would also thank Jeff Kiba who continues to promote our chapter to the active duty side of the house. We are planning another chapter social event on March 19, at the Creekside Restaurant in Vacaville. They moved to the old Post Office from their previous location next to the river walk. Our support of the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, is well under way. Joe Brown has again stepped up and is our Team Captain, supported by Al Horwedel, the "King of the Relay". We hope to continue to be either the number 1 or 2 fund raiser team again. We have been having our monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month at Delta Breeze Club (NCO Club), on Travis AFB for just about the entire fourteen years we have been a chapter. Thanks again to all the great members who continue to support our chapter and the Professional Loadmaster Association. If you have any question, please contact Mark E. Raymond at mark.raymond@att.net or mark.raymond@kc10ats.com. Mark E. Raymond - Chapter President

### Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Mid Atlantic Chapter Officers as of August 10, 2012:  
 Alex Walter - President  
 Sheldon Cary - Vice President  
 Kasumi Bailey - Secretary  
 Leigh Hambleton - Treasurer  
 Kyle Anderson - Public Affairs  
 Bill Buron - Webmaster

Chapter Reports, Cont. from page 9

## Trailblazers Chapter

Jeff Harmon-Chapter Secretary - This last quarter here at the Trailblazers we managed to get a lot done. We are continuing to hand out the free 1-year memberships to any PLA chapter on successful completion of students' evaluations. This has been met with seemingly great interest from these new loadmasters. We also held numerous fundraisers this last quarter such as our gun raffle, a poker tournament & and have taken up a permanent volunteer opportunity at the local VFW on one of their bingo nights. We came together as a chapter and hosted our bi-annual turkey shoot at the Otter Creek Ranch just to have some fun, greet new members and loads new to Altus. We are also about half way done with our new smoker and will be using it at the Rock & Rumble Car Show in May. Fundraising has begun towards our 2016 Gathering of the Loads and is off to a great start.



YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Tech. Sgt. Pablo Herrera, 36th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, speaks to enlisted Japan Air Self-Defense Force 401st Squadron aircrew members about the inspection checklists for C-130 Hercules at Yokota Air Base, Japan, Jan. 9, 2013. Though the sister squadrons often have cultural exchange activities, this was the first time the two squadrons came together for an operational exchange. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Andrea Salazar)

### Aircrews build partnership understanding at Yokota

Posted 2/1/2013 Updated 2/1/2013  
by Airman 1st Class Desiree Economides  
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

2/1/2013 - YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A Japan Air Self-Defense Force aircrew from Komaki Air Base, Japan, visited various squadrons in the 374th Airlift Wing to share their experiences with Airmen and learn from one another. During the visit, the JASDF aircrew tagged alongside their U.S. aircrew counterparts from the 36th Airlift Squadron for their pre-flight briefings and inspections, comparing operational practices and professional airlift strategies with their own at

Yokota Air Base, Japan. Though the sister squadrons often have cultural exchange activities, this was the first time the two squadrons came together for an operational exchange. "It was nice having them here," said Tech. Sgt. Robert Dela Caza, a 36 AS flight engineer. "The JASDF engineer was able to follow me as I performed my pre-flight. We got a chance to compare notes and discuss differences and similarities in our practice." Chief Master Sgt. Akiharu Tanabe, a JASDF 401st Squadron flight engineer, echoed Dela Caza's experience, "A lot of the electronics are the same between our (U.S. and JASDF) C-130 Hercules, but the avionics are different." In addition to sharing practices amongst aircrews, the JASDF aircrew also toured the Air Control Tower and learned about the airfield management flight and radar approach control missions at Yokota. "It would be great to fly with our JASDF counterparts, either as part of a formation or to have them as guests on our aircraft," Dela Caza said. "I think it would be a lot of fun, and it would further strengthen our partnership."



(Editors Note: Though the photograph is not of a Loadmaster, it is important to see the test radio frequency identification trackers attached to 463L pallets) Airman 1st Class Sanna Shabbir, 60th Aerial Port Squadron cargo processing specialist, at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., installs a Radio Frequency Identification tracker onto a 463L pallet Nov. 28, 2012. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. Patrick Harrower)

### Electronic beacons track pallets

by Staff Sgt. Patrick Harrower, 60th Air Mobility Public Affairs  
Posted 12/3/2012 Updated 12/3/2012

12/3/2012 - TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — They can be seen everywhere a service member travels. They can have a month's worth of water stored on them in Afghanistan or form the walls of a shack in Haiti. They have been used to transport thousands of vehicles in the Department of Defense or just reutilized as makeshift flooring for a tent on a forward-operating base. They are the 463L cargo pallet and up until recently, there was no way to track them. There are only 124,000 of these pallets in the Department of Defense, costing approximately \$1,200 each. The pallets are not being produced anymore, so it has become critical to take care of the ones in the inventory and track them as they move around

**Electronic beacons track pallets continued on page 11**



## NAVY TAKES DELIVERY OF ITS NEWEST C-40A CLIPPER AIRCRAFT

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ron Kuzlik, Commander Fleet Logistics Support Wing Public Affairs, Story Number: NNS111027-28 Release Date: 10/27/2011 8:12:00 PM

WICHITA, Kansas (NNS) — The Navy took delivery of the 12th C-40A Clipper transport aircraft from Boeing in a ceremony Oct. 21. Rear Adm. Bryan Cutchen, deputy chief of Navy Reserve and Capt. Pat Barrett, commodore, Commander Fleet Logistics Support Wing (CFLSW) received the ceremonial keys from Steve Wade, general manager of Boeing Global Transport and Executive Systems. “The C-40A combines Boeing Commercial Airplanes’ best-selling 737 with Boeing Defense, Space & Security’s modification expertise,” Wade said. “This aircraft increases the Navy’s capability for rapid response worldwide, and we’re looking forward to continuing to enhance the fleet with as many aircraft as the Navy requires.” The C-40A is a military derivative of the 737-700 commercial airliner with a main-deck cargo door that was modified at Boeing’s Wichita facility for troop and cargo transport missions. Since the first delivery to the Navy in April 2001, the C-40A continues to be phased in to replace the Navy’s aging fleet of C-9B Skytrains. “The global reach and persistent presence of forward-stationed and rotational naval forces are made possible by Navy Unique Fleet Essential Airlift (NUFEA) and the fuel-efficient C-40A delivers this important capability reliably and at a lower cost,” Cutchen said. “This new aircraft will help the Navy meet our current challenges today and helps us build a relevant and capable future force.” A crew from the “Conquistadors” of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 57 (VR-57) flew the inaugural flight of aircraft 166696. Aircraft commander Lt. Cmdr. Todd Shipman, co-pilot and prospective VR-57 executive officer Cmdr. Garrett Edmonds, crew chief Chief Naval Air Crewman (NAC/AW) Rick Galpal, **loadmaster Naval Air Crewman 2nd Class (NAC/AW) Shawn Halbritter, and 2nd Loadmaster Naval Aircrewman 2nd Class (NAC/AW) Marcus Dantono** flew the three hour flight from the Boeing facility in Wichita to Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island, San Diego, Calif. “The flight crew was very professional and knowledgeable in dealing with Boeing,” said Halbritter. “Maintenance triple-

checked every piece and accounted for the aircraft and credited Boeing for the amazing job they did turning the airplane over to the Navy.” Currently, the “Conquistadors” of VR-57, the “Sunseekers” of VR-58 at NAS Jacksonville, Fla., and the “Lonestar Express” of VR-59 at NAS Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, operate four Clippers each. The Clipper flies the Navy unique fleet essential airlift (NUFEA) mission, providing high-priority cargo and passenger airlift for the U.S. Navy fleet worldwide. The C-40A is certified to operate in three configurations: all passenger configuration of 121 passengers, all cargo configuration (up to eight pallets), or a combination configuration of 70 passengers and up to three pallets. “As this aircraft is put into service, it enables the Navy Reserve to continue to provide on-time, efficient worldwide fleet support operations,” said Capt. John Gorman, deputy commodore, Commander Fleet Logistics Support Wing. “We fully expect this asset to pay for itself through direct cost avoidance, all the while maintaining reliable, efficient operations that truly embody the Navy Reserve Force motto of “Ready now. Anytime. Anywhere.” Fleet Logistics Support Wing has no counterpart in the active force. Its mission represents 100 percent of the Navy’s intra-theater air logistics capability. The VR mission extends around the globe to Europe, the Western Pacific, Southwest Asia, South America, the Mediterranean, and Africa. Fleet Logistics Support Wing continues to play an active and vital role in making the Navy an effective and mobile arm in support of the nation’s defense.

### Electronic beacons track pallets, Cont. from page 10

the world. The Airmen from 60th Aerial Port Squadron cargo net and pallet section spent the last week attaching radio frequency identification trackers to 3,000 pallets. Travis is the second test base for the RFIDs and will track them throughout Air Mobility Command and Pacific Air Forces. “We will test the trackers for nine months and, if everything goes good, we will install them on pallets across the entire DoD,” said Tech. Sgt. Creighton King, AMC. “The goal is to find wherever a pallet was last seen so we can recover it. The RFIDs will allow us to maintain tracking and inventory control of our pallet supply.” The trackers don’t even have to be individually scanned, said Airman 1st Class Daniel Hall, 60th APS cargo net and pallet section technician. Due to the radio frequency they transmit, their tracking number can be located up to 300 yards away with their computer systems. “There is even an automatic scanner that picks them up when they arrive on base via truck,” Hall said. “Then we know exactly where every pallet is as we send them out to places like Guam, Hickam and PACAF.” Because the pallets travel so much and are frequently moved between aircraft and hangars via forklifts, they had to be installed to be tough, Hall said. The Airmen removed a small portion of paint on each pallet before applying a primer. They then applied an epoxy to the tracker and used tape in between. The trackers can withstand 3,000 pounds of force with this technique. “We want to be able to track a pallet no matter where it goes,” King said. “A pallet can go to the (Area of Responsibility), a FOB or to (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and we will know exactly where it is.”



Senior Airman Dan Simonsen, Senior Master Sgt. Steve Martin and Senior Airman Marcus Wright, loadmasters with the 772nd Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, perform a Low Cost, Low Altitude airdrop from the back of a C-130J in southwest Afghanistan Nov. 15, 2012. The Airmen are deployed from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. (U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Tristan Hinderliter)

### **New day, new job for expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Kandahar Airfield**

by Capt. Tristan Hinderliter, 451st Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs 12/4/2012 - KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan (AFNS) - On one sortie they may be airdropping food, ammo and fuel to Special Operations troops at a remote forward operating base. On the next, they might transport troops to or from an austere location, move prisoners to a secure facility, provide airlift to Afghan National Army allies, perform aeromedical evacuation, or transport distinguished visitors - completing many of these tasks on the same day. For aircrews with the 772nd Expeditionary Airlift Squadron here, every day brings a unique and challenging mission. "Not only do our aircrews have to be good pilots and loadmasters, they have to do logistics planning, personnel work, perform security detail on flights, and even serve as a command and control node for those different folks that are flying on the plane with them," said Maj. Sean Callahan, director of operations for the 772nd EAS. Callahan and approximately 150 other Airmen in the squadron are deployed here from Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas. In addition to operators and the maintainers that keep the C-130J Super Hercules flying, the 772nd EAS also has aviation resource management personnel, intelligence analysts, tacticians, aircrew flight equipment technicians and medical professionals. The squadron averages 50 sorties a day, shared between seven crews. And tremendous behind-the-scenes coordination is required to execute their missions. Known informally as the "Gun Runners," the 772nd EAS performs the large majority of airdrop missions in theater, averaging about two airdrop missions per day. The C-130 crews fly in diverse operating environments, from high-altitude airdrops in an unpressurized airplane at 20,000 feet to flying passengers to Kyrgyzstan, the United Arab Emirates, or Pakistan, or landing on a small dirt airstrip in the middle of the desert. Most airdrop missions utilize the conventional Container Delivery System, which can deliver more than 30,000 pounds of supplies to troops on the ground. Another method used less frequently is the Low-Cost, Low-Altitude system which provides a very precise and inexpensive method for resupply. One mission in November

brought a fresh set of challenges to one C-130J crew. The crew was made up of Capt. Russell Neice, pilot and aircraft commander; 1st Lt. Rob Consiglio, copilot; and the loadmasters, Senior Airmen Dan Simonsen and Marcus Wright. On this mission, the crew would perform two airdrops, one conventional and one at low altitude. The latter can be especially challenging for the crew, as they approach the drop zone flying at 300 feet above the ground over uneven terrain. In the back of the plane, the loadmasters donned their harnesses and secured the straps that hooked up to the floor of the aircraft. As they opened the ramp, the sound of the wind rushed in and the brown desert and low, jagged mountains of southwest Afghanistan appeared below. After the pilots gave a countdown, the loadmasters gave a shove to the 600-lb bundles, which slid out the back with their parachutes opening up, catching the wind with a great "whoosh." "I think the most rewarding missions we do are airdrop," Callahan said. "We fly airdrop missions because Soldiers on the ground need critical supplies that can't be delivered using more conventional methods. Airdrop missions require a combination of precision flying, solid teamwork between the pilots and the loadmasters, good communication between the ground party and the aircrew, and properly rigged parachutes and bundles — and often performed in situations where the bad guys are trying to shoot us." This was the second LCLA airdrop for Neice, who is on his second deployment to Kandahar and his first as an aircraft commander. "Flying here as an aircraft commander is a lot different than flying as a copilot," he said. "There are more things you have to take into consideration. Every time we land in a new place, there could be a change in the mission." One of the most memorable experiences for him was having the chance to take one of his friends from Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, to Manas, Kyrgyzstan, for redeployment, he said. Camaraderie that's the best thing about the deployment, the crewmembers said. With the wide variety of missions flown across the entire theater, tactical airlift missions provide a very intimate perspective of the overall campaign. "The things we do touch everybody in a personal way on every single sortie," Callahan said. "It's very rewarding to know our efforts make such a difference."



# COINFORCE.COM SALUTES LOADMASTERS!





U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Martin Herмосillo, 524th Special Operations Squadron loadmaster, poses during a photo shoot at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., Jan. 9, 2013. Herмосillo was recently recognized as a Diamond Sharp Award winner for January and was highlighted for his hard work and achievements. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Eboni Reece)

### Diamond Sharp Airmen: Admirable Aviator

Posted 1/16/2013 by Airman 1st Class Eboni Reece, 27th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs 1/16/2013

CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. — This feature is the eleventh in a series of Air Commando spotlights at Cannon. The Airmen being highlighted are recent Diamond Sharp award winners. Diamond Sharp is a monthly program where Airmen are recognized by wing leadership and first sergeants for their hard work and achievements. Whether carrying passengers or cargo, loadmasters with the 524th Special Operations Squadron have the responsibility to make sure the aircraft they load and escort arrive safely. “Loadmasters complete the weight and balance of the aircraft, do pre-flight checks, perform scans on cargo to detect problems and have the opportunity to travel all over the world,” stated Airman 1st Class Martin Herмосillo, 524th SOS loadmaster. Setting the precedent in his family by being the first to join the military, the Brownsville, Texas native, was originally assigned to be a cyber transport systems specialist. “After waiting for nearly a year in the Delayed Enlistment Program, I still had three months until I was scheduled to head to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas for Basic Military Training,” stated Herмосillo. “Instead, I got offered the job as a loadmaster and left in two weeks.” Loadmasters are responsible for supervising the loading and unloading of cargo, vehicles and people on the aircraft. As a loadmaster, Herмосillo plays a key role in the Air Force’s only C-146A squadron. Herмосillo was also selected by name to represent the 524 SOS at an aircraft static display at Duke Field, Fla. He briefed the squadron’s mission, liabilities, assets as well as the specific capabilities of the C-146A to Lt. Gen. Eric Fiel, Air Force Special Operations Command commander. “I have only been mission-qualified for three months and I have already gotten to do things and meet people that young Airmen would not ordinarily be exposed to,” said Herмосillo. Motivated by his desire to be a role model to his siblings, Herмосillo consistently excels in his daily obligations. “My family definitely

motivates me, especially my younger brother and sister,” explained Herмосillo. “Of course, I want them to be proud of me. I would never want to let them down.” Herмосillo was one of the Diamond Sharp award recipients for the month of January. His achievements both on and off duty earned him this recognition. “In everything, I always try to lead by example,” said Herмосillo. “That is definitely a piece of advice I would pass on to other Airmen striving to do well in their careers.”



Airlift delivers critical supplies - 1/22/2013 - U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Russell Johnson, 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron loadmaster, guides a 10 K-Loader to the cargo area of a C-17 Globemaster III at a deployed location in Southwest Asia, Jan. 10. The loadmaster performs the calculations and plans cargo and passenger placement to keep the aircraft within permissible center of gravity limits throughout the flight. Johnson is deployed from the 14th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Charleston, S.C. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Dennis J. Henry Jr.)



CRW Support Army - Camp Marmal, Afghanistan – U. S. Force Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kayla Russell, a C-5M Super Galaxy loadmaster with the 436<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Dover AFB, Del., inspects an aircraft load plan here Jan. 27, 2013. The 621<sup>st</sup> sent a contingency response team to Mazar-e-sharif Afghanistan to provide en-route command and control and communications support in support of a U.S. transportation command intermodal movement of two U.S. Army Combat Aviation Brigades. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Parker Gyokeres)



## In Memoriam

**Underlined name denotes a PLA Member, \* Denotes PLA Life Member**

Percy D. Bradley, Operation Babylift Survivor, Passes Away

\* Percy D. Bradley, U.S. Air Force Veteran and longtime resident of Fairfield, passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday, September 29, 2012. He leaves to cherish his memory a loving daughter, Mrs. Louise Bradley of Fairfield. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Bryan-Braker Funeral Home. Services are scheduled for Sunday, October 7, 2012. Funeral service will be held on Monday, October 8, 2012, at 11 a.m., Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Fairfield. For further information please contact Bryan-Braker Funeral Home, Fairfield. Percy D. Bradley was a survivor of the crash of the first flight of Operation Babylift. Percy was a loadmaster in the United States Air Force and was aboard the C-5 Galaxy that was transporting hundreds of orphans out of Vietnam to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. Of the twenty nine crewmen on the C-5 that day, eleven were killed and the rest would go on to live their lives haunted with the images of the aftermath of the crash that also took the lives of 78 orphans. The crash of the massive C-5 the Air Force had employed for Operation Babylift was the result of one failed connector on the hatch/ramp at the rear of the airplane. When Captain Dennis "Bud" Traynor had gotten the airplane to altitude, the air pressure inside blew out the rear door thousands of feet over the South China Sea. Unable to wrestle the airplane back to Saigon, the crew opted to attempt a crash landing in the rice paddies outside of the city. When one wing clipped some trees in the field, the plane hit a burm, bounced up uncontrollably and came down hard. Most of the children, crew, and volunteers in the cargo compartment at the bottom of the plane perished instantly. This tragedy did not end or even delay Operation Babylift. Though terrible, the failure of the initial C-5 did not deter the mission, and by the end of April 1975, thousands of orphaned children in Southeast Asia were flown to adoptive families across the world. Let us never forget the heroes who served during Operation Babylift, the military men and women, and volunteers from the Vietnamese orphanages and civilian agencies who literally risked everything to give the orphans of Southeast Asia a chance at life and liberty. Book two of "The Heroes of the Vietnam War: Books for Children" is about Operation Babylift and is titled "Saving the Vietnamese Orphans." Let us not forget the heroes like Percy D. Bradley, even as they pass from this life. Their contributions during the Vietnam War and Operation Babylift must be remembered for generations to come as singular acts of compassion, love, and sacrifice.

Charles Lowell Collins Sr, 77 of Hadley, passed away Tuesday, September 18, 2012. Born in Wellsville, Missouri, April 14, 1935, he was the son of the late Woodrow and Marie McCaslin. He served in the US Air Force in Alaska and Massachusetts. He left the Air Force in 1957 and moved to Schenectady, NY. Charles joined the NY Air National Guard where he was a loadmaster flying all over the world. He retired from the Air National Guard in 1994 as Senior Master Sergeant and received the Meritorious Service Award. He and his wife Ellie were avid volunteers at various state and national parks throughout the United States. Charles was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and High Priest in the Church. He served as a Temple Ordinance Worker in the St Louis Temple and Orlando Temple. Charles enjoyed the outdoors and loved to fly. Charles is survived by his wife, Eleanor Ann Bennett Collins, his children, Charles Collins Jr (Doreen) of Middle Grove, Sherrie Collins of Corinth, and Erin Lowery (Paul) of Schenectady, stepchildren; Stephen B. Tinney (Wanda) of South Carolina, Matthew B. Tinney of Mayfield, Wendy Ann B. Tinney of Saratoga Springs and Mark B. Tinney of Columbus, GA; brother, James D. McCaslin of Buffalo, Missouri, step brothers, Edward P. Bennett (Lorraine) of Ballston Lake and Robert A. Bennett (Cheryl) of Northville. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held 11:30am Saturday, September 22, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Glenmore Avenue, Saratoga Springs. A calling hour will precede the service from 10:30-11:30am at the church. Burial with military honors will follow in the Batchellerville Cemetery in Edinburg. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Humanitarian Services of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, c/o Bishop Garth M. Nelson, 2 Huntington Parkway, Ballston Lake, NY 12019; Community Hospice of Saratoga, 179 Lawrence Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, or the charity of your choice.

James L. Smith, Past Commander of VFW Post 421, 2004-2005, reported to Post Everlasting on 3 Dec 2012. Jim was a proud 23 year Legionnaire with most of them at Post 421. He worked well with Rob Davis, Chuck Archambeau (both also passed on ) and others, to build the canteen bar and work on many other renovation projects at the Post. Jim was also proud of his 20-plus years U.S. Air Force career, as a loadmaster (C-123 at Nha-Trang, C-141), crew scheduler (15th MAS) , and especially of his time with the 63rd Wing Aerial Delivery shop. Services are scheduled for Thursday, 3 January 2013, with details to be announced shortly.

The PLA Secretary is seeking information on the following deceased member, Benedetto Renzi. We need to get permission to name a scholarship after them, but don't have any information on next of kin. If anyone knows information on them please contact John Moore at buildsmall2@mac.com or buildsm@netins.net.

The Loader is published for members of the Professional Loadmaster Association, a nonprofit tax exempt organization sanctioned by Washington Secretary of State and the Internal Revenue Service. The Loader is published three (3) times a year. In the event of voluntary dissolution of said association, after all debts and obligations have been met, the remaining assets will be distributed to a nonprofit fund or organization which is operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious and or scientific purposes and which has been established tax exempt status under section 501C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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Parting thought from an old flying buddy..... Once the wings go on, they never come off whether they can be seen or not. It fuses to the soul through adversity, fear and adrenaline and no one who has ever worn them with pride, integrity and guts can ever sleep through the "call of the wild" that wafts through the bedroom windows in the deep of the night. When a good aircrewman leaves the "job" and retires, many are jealous, some are pleased and yet others, who may have already retired, wonder. We wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know. We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times. We know in the world of flying, there is a fellowship which lasts long after the flight suits are hung up in the back of the closet. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of a man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is. Because we flew, we envy no man on earth.

[In This Issue....](#)

## **CABIN REPORT - SECRETARY REPORT - CHAPTER REPORTS AIR FORCE & NAVY LOADMASTER NEWS - IN MEMORIAM**

### **Professional Loadmaster Association Registration Card/Personal Data Change**

(Please Print)

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: WORK \_\_\_\_\_ HOME \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPANY/BASE/UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ JOB TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
AIRCRAFT FLOWN \_\_\_\_\_ SPONSORED BY (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
ACTIVE \_\_\_ RETIRED \_\_\_ RESERVE \_\_\_ ANG \_\_\_ OTHER (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP: ONE YEAR - \$20.00, THREE YEARS - \$50.00, LIFETIME - \$250.00**

Please enclose Check or Money Order. Send to:

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You should receive your welcome package in 2-3 weeks. Thank you for your membership and Welcome to your organization

**Web Address: [www.Loadmasters.com](http://www.Loadmasters.com)**