

THE LOADER

Volume 16 Issue 3 November 2013

Friendship Through Airlift



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CABIN REPORT

Ron Pierce - PLA President: Cabin Report November 2013

Happy Holidays to all, Kris and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

As this year comes to a close and we start looking forward to 2014, the Association has a Gathering of Loads and Election of Executive Committee positions. This cabin report will cover a reflection on the last US Air Force C-17 to be delivered, brief comments on 1st Special Operations Squadron visit, GOL 2014 and PLA elections. Seeing news releases on the final Air Force C-17's arrival at Charleston AFB, SC caused me to reflect on my time at Charleston and with the C-17. I was at Charleston the day the first C-17 arrived with Bob Morris as one of the loadmasters. Kris and I met Bob and his brother at a restaurant on base, when he asked if I was interested in going to Edwards for C-17 Flight Test, I promptly said no thanks. A short while later we were off to Edwards AFB, CA for our next assignment, C-17 Operational Test and Evaluation. Neat to see Bob's son Mike was one of the loadmasters on the final delivery, carrying on the family tradition. During a recent overseas business trip I visited loadmasters with 1st SOS, Kadena AB, Okinawa. As an integral part of the 353rd Special Operations Group, the 1st SOS operates the MC-130H Combat Talon II aircraft in support of joint and allied special operations forces. This aircraft is capable of delivering troops and equipment into denied areas during adverse weather conditions at night by airdrop or landing. Its aircrews are specially trained in night low-level flying, using night vision goggles. The 353rd Special Operations Group is the focal point for all U.S. Air Force special operations activities throughout the USPACOM theater. I always enjoy visiting loadmasters when I am traveling around and getting educated on different missions, special thanks to the loads of the 1st SOS. Less than a year out to the next Gathering of Loads, hosted by Gateway Chapter, St Louis, Missouri, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 10-14 Sep 2014; and this GOL will introduce the new PLA Officers that you are going to be electing. Those members with a desire to serve the association please let your chapter presidents know so they can pass information along to the committee. National PLA President, Vice Presidents (Three), Secretary, Treasure and Public Relations all need to be voted on. Current executive committee members willing to accept a nomination and continue the associations work are welcome, we just need to vote to stay with the By-Laws. We need a chapter president to be the chairperson for a nominating committee. Here is what the proposed By-Laws state on elections; I will be contacting Chapter Presidents to see who wants to take on this task. If you are interested in being on the committee, please let me know so I can pass your information along. Three different chapters at a minimum are needed to be represented.

SECTION 2. Elections.

The President will appoint a Chapter President as a nominating committee chairperson. The appointed chairperson will form a committee of a least three (3) non-serving PLA members to obtain nominations for all PLA Executive Committee positions to be elected for the current election term. The members of the nominating committee should be selected from a least three (3) different PLA Chapters.

B. The nominating committee shall obtain a signed verification form from each of the nominees in good standing that they will run for the elective office, and if elected will accept the position of the elected office.

C. The nominating committee will also be responsible for getting a ballot out to all the PLA members in good standing, by sending the ballot to the Editor of "The Loader" newsletter to be published in the March issue of the newsletter of the election year.

D. The ballot system is designed for the benefit of the PLA membership to allow each member to have a clear voice and choice in the election of the PLA Executive Committee. Ballots will remain in the custody of the PLA Secretary for a period of four (4) years.

E. Ballots must be returned to the nominating committee chairperson, or by notifying him via E-mail of member's choice on the ballot. All ballots must be signed, dated, and returned no later than 30 days of receiving the ballot or the date indicated on the ballot. The deadline date will be further announced to Chapter Presidents who will disseminate the date to all members of the respective Chapter.

F. Ballots will be counted and verified by the chairperson and then sent on to the National PLA Secretary along with any E-mail votes that were received.

(1) The PLA members receiving the majority vote and subsequently elected will be announced at the Biennial "Gathering of Loads" Convention. The President will preside over the opening of the General Membership Meeting and announce the results of the election positions. The President will declare official election results. When the election is for the position of President, the incoming PLA President will take the oath of office and preside over the remainder of the convention.

The term of office will be four (4) years for all PLA Executive Committee members. The Editor and the Webmaster will be the only positions on the PLA Executive Committee that will be appointed by the PLA Executive Committee. The President, the Regional Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Relations Director elections shall be staggered by two (2) years, thus allowing for approximately one-half of the PLA Executive Committee to be elected while still maintaining continuity with the other PLA Executive Committee members. The election to the four-year term will coincide with the biennial PLA "Gathering of the Loads" Convention, and the installation of all elected officers will be announced during the General Membership Meeting.

Additional information is on the PLA website. Please step up and help your association along.

Load Clear, Ron

PLA Treasurer

Greetings from the PLA Treasurer, Chris Dockery - Life in the financial world of the PLA has been pretty busy over the last few months. We recently completed the filing of taxes for each of our 14 chapters and the PLA National organization. I keep all of the receipts for the filing, but if you are a Chapter President or Treasurer and want a copy for your records, just let me know. Another item that was recently completed was an IRS Compliance check. This is a requirement from the IRS where we revalidate our organization as 501(c) (10) compliant. Under the rules of the IRS that govern 501(c) (10) organizations, contributions for charitable purposes are tax deductible "but only if such contribution or gift is to be used exclusively for...charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes...". So, a good example is if you make a donation to the PLA and clearly mark it "Scholarship fund", then it is considered a tax deductible donation. Speaking of scholarships, we recently mailed out all of the checks for our 2013 winners. Congrats to the following PLA family members who are our 2013 recipients:

John Levitow Scholarship for \$1000.00 presented to Kristin M. Masur

Major: Aviation Flight/Hospitality with Music Minor at Southern Illinois University - Carbondale
John F. Masur is her father and a lifetime PLA Member.

Ronald R. Haak Scholarship for \$500.00 presented to Jarrod B. Drury

Major: Electrical Engineering at Missouri Western State University
MSgt Gregg Drury is his father and a lifetime PLA Member.

Tally Talamantes Scholarship for \$500.00 presented to Kyle O'Leary

Major: Accounting with a Sports Management Minor at Linfield College
Walt Baade is his grandfather. Walt is a former PLA National Secretary and lifetime PLA Member.

Don Eagle Scholarship for \$500.00 presented to AnaLisa Megill

Major: Pre-Nursing at Texas State University
MSgt Bennie R. Lopez, Sr is her grandfather and a PLA Member.

The thank you letters that we receive from these grateful young students are always a great reminder of how a small donation can go a long way in helping fund the educational dreams of our next generation. Donations can be made to PLA Headquarters, P.O. Box 4351, Tacoma, WA 98438. Make sure to write "Scholarship fund" on the check to get that tax deduction! As always, thanks for your continued support of our organization. Should you ever have any questions regarding our financial status or tax deductions or whatever, please feel free to contact me.

Load Clear!



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Scholarship Chairman	Jim Engelker	(303) 585-1212	engelkerj@gmail.com
Webmaster	Tom Morawek	(253) 862-7564	tmorawek@tandbtec.com

The Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) was formed in the State of Washington as an active membership organization for an exclusive group of professionals recognized as, loadmasters. The PLA is organized and governed by a duly-elected Executive Committee of past and present loadmasters. In March 1997, the State of Washington issued a Certificate of Incorporation declaring the Professional Loadmaster Association a nonprofit organization. PLA membership is comprised of and limited to current and former military and civilian loadmasters who have flown as an aircraft loadmaster performing aircrew duties on transport aircraft. The Association's principal reason for being is for the benefit of all loadmasters and their families. The core values of the association are the flag of the United States, Our self-confidence, and our empathy for each other. Its basic mission is to guide the membership in solidarity, facilitate trust and mutual respect for one another, and inspire personal growth and the pursuit of a purposeful sense of vision for the future of the PLA. The association shall establish scholarship and grant programs to benefit Loadmasters and their family members. Reunions and meetings shall be scheduled and arranged so as to provide maximum participation and productive feedback to as many members as practical. A newsletter titled "THE LOADER" shall be published three times a year to inform membership of loadmaster participation within the airlift community and the association's current & future business activities.

LINKS OF INTEREST

www.c-130hercules.net
www.c141flyingsquadrons.com
www.c141heaven.com
www.facebook.com
 - USAF Enlisted Aviators/Aircrew-Past and Present
 - Denali - PLA
 - PLA - Gateway Chapter
 - Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA): Parker - Aguillon - Payne Chapter
 - PLA "The Rock" Chapter
 - Southwest PLA
 - PLA Trailblazer Chapter

Front Cover Photograph: U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Kayla Russell, a C-5M Super Galaxy loadmaster with the 436th Airlift Wing at Dover AFB, Del., guides a cargo handler carrying a large container at Camp Marmal in Northern Afghanistan Jan. 27, 2013. The aircraft is assigned to support the scheduled rotation of two U.S. Army aviation task forces. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Parker Gyokeres)

Rear Cover Photograph: Senior Airman Dan Stearns, 1st Special Operations Squadron loadmaster, salutes the crash site of Stray 59 over Subic Bay, Philippines, Feb 26, 2013. Stray 59 was a 1st Special Operations Squadron U.S. Air Force MC-130E Combat Talon I special operations aircraft that went down in 1981 over Subic Bay, Philippines, during a training mission. (U. S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Kristine Dreyer)

PLA SECRETARY - John Moore

When you receive a renewal notice, please respond if you desire to remain an active member and continue receiving "THE LOADER." There are only two ways to join or renew membership and that is by mail to the P.O. Box or online thru PayPal. We are still plagued with receiving online, new and renewal applications with no way to confirm payments. Print and save the PayPal receipt to confirm your payment. We are making multiple attempts to contact individuals thru the listed phone numbers or e-mail addresses and they are no longer good or we do not get a return response. **INACTIVE MEMBERS:** Each month we continue to add more members going inactive, 21 members since the July newsletter. **RETURNED MAIL:** When a mailed "THE LOADER" is returned due to a bad address this costs the association postage both ways. The stateside return costs are \$1.12 for the March and July issues and \$1.72 for the November issue. When a renewal letter or "THE LOADER" is forwarded, we are notified of the new address and are charged \$.55 for the notification. The overseas "THE LOADER" return costs can be as much as triple depending on the country it is mailed to. **ELECTRONIC "THE LOADER":** If you are willing to electronically receive "THE LOADER" please contact me. The electronic procedure will save your association a considerable amount of money in printing and mailing costs. The postage savings for 13 overseas members alone, receiving the July issue electronically was \$41.55. **CHAPTER OFFICER CHANGES:** Chapter Presidents, please keep us advised of any changes in your chapter officer listing or email address. Please ensure that your officers are in fact current members of the PLA.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION UPDATE: When the PLA member application was filled out some areas were left blank, or over the years the information has changed or been lost. The listed telephone number and e-mail address is VERY IMPORTANT. When "THE LOADER" or renewal letter is returned we have no way to contact you for a correct mailing address, that is how you become a LOST LOAD. Another important area is type aircraft flown. A case in point, the latter part of September we received a request, for C-124 crewmember memories or stories, from an author in England who is writing a book on the aircraft. I searched the database and any member, active or inactive, that listed the C-124 and had a good e-mail address listed, was forwarded the authors message to participate or not. See the article on page 11. I would appreciate it, if every member would complete the information update form and send it to me.

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 "THE LOADER" newsletter to you or make contact if we don't know where you are. Send an e-mail to Secretary@Loadmaster.com or John Moore at buildsm@netins.net or buildsmall2@mac.com 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!

PAY PAL SITE:

www.loadmasters.com/payhere.htm

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

PLA MEMBERSHIP AS OF: October 19, 2013

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP:	2177	
ACTIVE MEMBERS:	1022	(11 Lost Loads)
IN-ACTIVE:	1030	
DECEASED:	114	

26 NEW MEMBERS since the July issue (*Denotes Life Member)

JULY

Michael G. Cowart - Summerville, SC
 Benjamine Evans - Pingree, ID
 Corey Haun - Charleston, SC
 Jonathan Lange - Sherwood, AR
 Nicholas Marro - Charlotte, NC
 Joshua Nelson - Summerville, SC
***Patrick D. Ratzlaff - Olympia, WA**
 Michael Seaton - Ladson, SC
 Brian Student - Cabot, AR
 Michael W. Wood - Summerville, SC

AUGUST

Michael Anderson - Altus, OK
 Shane Clayton - Cherry Hill, NJ
 Tracey Crozier - Chattanooga, TN
 Ryan Crumrine - Abilene, TX
 David Hoffer - ABILENE, TX
 Ronald Strayhorne, Jr. - Fairfield, CA
 Michael Vo - Ontario, CA

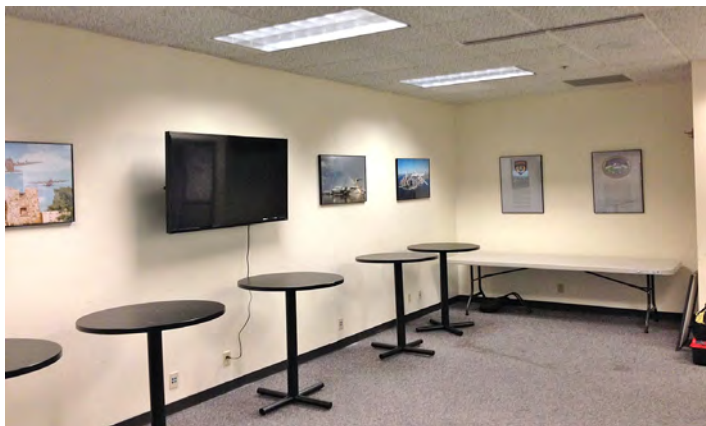
SEPTEMBER

Thomas Baker - Abilene, TX
 Kevin M. Keane - Warrington, PA
 Stephan Lamb - Clovis, NM
 Jeffery J. Van Landingham - Altus, OK
 Michael McArty - Jacksonville, AR
 John J. Metzger - Altus, OK
***Brandon Nontelle - Altus, OK**
***Lonnie D. Richardson - Brandenburg, KY**
 Gerald Wilson - Fairfield, CA

LOST LOADS: When you move, PLEASE notify us of your new address, e-mail, and phone number and you will not end up on the list. If you know any of the Lost Loads please have them contact us with their current contact information. We need contact information for the following eleven (11) members (*Denotes Life Member):

*John L Branski - Tacoma, WA
 *Jesse L. Burdette - Cabot, AR
 *Robert B. Burnett - Dulles, VA
 *Christopher S. Clay - Arlington, VA
 *Daniel Downey - Abilene, TX
 *Craig Kelleher - Dana Point, CA
 *Bruce A Lund - Anchorage, AK
 Scott W. Mesaros - Crestview, FL
 *Jason Morgan - Pemberton, NJ
 *Dewhitt Sizemore - Bonita Springs, FL
 *Tony E. Strader - APO AE

CHAPTER REPORTS

The Alamo Chapter

Enlisted Aircrew Student Breakroom at CEA/CoE, 344th Training Squadron, Lackland AFB TX



Eddie Dunn and Andy Vaquera installing a flat panel TV at the Enlisted Aircrew Student Breakroom at CEA/CoE, 344th Training Squadron, Lackland AFB TX

Bill Weeper, 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. We have changed our breakfast location to Nicha's Comida Mexicana Restaurant, 3119 Roosevelt Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78214, (210) 922-3330. Following breakfast at 11:00 am there will be a chapter meeting at the Texas Air Museum – Stinson Field Location. It is located on the Stinson Airport at 1234 99th Street, San Antonio Texas 78214, <http://www.texasairmuseum.org>, (210) 977-9885. The Alamo Chapter has been 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 (BLM). The breakroom is pretty much finished

since the Alamo Chapter purchased and Andy Vaquera, Hector Leyva, Bill Weeper and Eddie Dunn installed a 55-inch flat panel television on the main wall of the breakroom. Bill Weeper provided over 1125 airlift aircraft, Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) convention, PLA Monument Dedication and Loadmaster photographs on a flash drive and they play on the television for students to look at during their breaks. As time goes by the other enlisted aircrew career fields will have their photographs displayed. Four large 20 by 30 inch airlift related photographs were put on both sides of the wall next to the television. Two additional 20 X 30 inch photographs representing the Professional Loadmaster Association and the Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Association are the first two association displays to go up in the breakroom and the Inflight Refueling Association may be added in the very near future. The Alamo Chapter also has distributed surplus copies of "The Loader" newsletters for students to view in the breakroom. For the BLM classroom we already have three 20 X 30 photographs featuring the PLA to put up on the walls. If you would like to help the Alamo Chapter with these rooms financially or materially, please contact Andy Vaquera at (210) 679-8674, andyvaquera@sbcglobal.net or Hector Leyva at (210) 632-3257, Hectorl45@msn.com. Chapters or individuals that are interested in sponsoring a classroom at the CEA/CoE and/or the Basic Loadmaster Course can contact CMSgt Eric Rigby, Commandant (and a Flight Engineer), Career Enlisted Aviator CoE, 344th Training Squadron, Commercial: (210) 671-5945, eric.rigby@us.af.mil. CMSgt Sharon Hollaway (a Loadmaster and Alamo chapter member) who had been the Commandant until recently has moved on to HQ AETC/A3RA, as the Career Enlisted Aviator Force Manager. The Alamo Chapter would like to pass on our thanks to CMSgt Hollaway for all the help she has given to the chapter over the past few years while she was the Commandant of the CEA/CoE. Hector Leyva and his team have been busy working on the PLA by-laws rewrite. The by-laws were posted on the PLA website for the association to review and send comments back to Hector. Some adjustments were made and the by-laws will be reposted for further review. The Alamo Chapter would also like to welcome our newest member Manuel Pena and say goodbye to Robert Stockford who recently passed away. Robert was an active member of the Alamo Chapter until his health prevented him from attending our meetings. The Alamo Chapter is planning another fundraiser at the CEA/CoE possibly in the beginning of next year and to have a chapter meeting at the 68th Airlift Squadron Kelly AFB in the near future.

Aloha Chapter

Bob Callahan, Aloha Chapter President - Our chapter officers are; President-Bob Callahan, Vice President-Scott Stueven, Treasurer-Chris Baker, Secretary-Ryan Lockhart, and Sgt at Arms-Keith Roscoe. Chapter meetings are on the third Friday of the month @ 1330 with the location TBA.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Big Country Chapter

August 2013 Big Country Chapter Meeting

Big Country Chapter, Bennie R Lopez - The Big Country Chapter met in August at which time we added 8 new active duty members from Dyess AFB, TX to our chapter. We will be entering an entry for Veterans Day celebrated in Abilene, Texas on November 9, 2013. Thank you and have a great day. Our Chapter Officers are: President Michael P Lutzko, 325-829-4026, mlutzko@rhinowimax.com; Vice President, Juan Levario, 325-670-0411; Secretary, Gary Van Cleave, (325) 854-1926; Treasurer, Robert Staples, (325) 673-1249, staf1134@aol.com; Chaplain, Robert Leet, (325) 698-7057, nursebob1@sbcglobal.net; and Historian, Bennie R. Lopez, (972) 345-5066, ybL40@sbcglobal.net.

Denali Chapter

JD Bartlemus, Denali Chapter President - I have tried to reinvigorate interest in the Denali Chapter. I have had a lukewarm response so far to re-starting the chapter but I am pressing forward as best as I can. I am hoping to have a better response now that winter is soon upon us and prospective members may want to meet after our valuable summer is over. With that said I started a Denali PLA Facebook page and have some minor interest due to it. I am looking for some help from all the flying units here. If you are a Loadmaster who lives in the Anchorage area or in Alaska and are interested in joining the Denali Chapter please contact: JD Bartlemus, jdbartlemus@gmail.com, (907) 552-8204.

First State Chapter

Lori Tascione, First State Chapter President - Hello from The First State Chapter! We hope this issue of "The Loader" finds you all well and enjoying the fall weather. Members of the First State Chapter are ready for the holidays and looking forward to the cooler weather. It was a fun summer though and many members got to do some good flying to interesting locations all over the world. Over the past few months the 3rd Airlift Squadron kept busy supporting the ongoing mission in Afghanistan and the drawdown of coalition forces from theater. Throughout the rest of the year, we're expecting surge operations to continue and loadmasters at the 3rd are up to



First State Chapter Meeting

the task. The 3rd Airlift Squadron has also participated in several presidential support operations including missions to multiple locations in East Asia, Africa, and Europe, helping our government secure diplomatic relationships and economic partnerships. The C-5Ms of the 9th Airlift Squadron have been working hard as well. They operated a stage out of Rota over the summer, flying 518 hours and moving 3.1 million pounds of cargo in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. We're all happy to be out there getting the job done and are always looking forward to the next challenging load. We had a small fundraising event for the Wounded Warrior Project in conjunction with Dover's AFSA chapter for POW/MIA day. We raised \$545.00. It was just a small event but we were able to come together and give back! We hope that everybody has a great holiday season and we can't wait to see all of you again at next year's Gathering of the Loads. The First State Chapter welcomes all PLA members and future members to attend our meetings on the third Wednesday of each month, 11:30 at the 3rd Airlift Squadron. Officers: President - MSgt Lori Tascione; Vice President - MSgt Donny Maheux; Treasurer - TSgt Anthony Little; Secretary - MSgt Rob McGriffin; Public Relations - SrA Oliver Vizitei.

Gateway Chapter

Kevin Butler, Gateway Chapter President - In November of 2011 the Gateway Chapter commissioned a commemorative bench for the Air Park at the Shilo gate of Scott AFB. This past month the members of the chapter were able to see the efforts of their time and patience; their bench was installed in front of one of the Air Force's greatest work horses, the C-141B Starlifter. With the 2014 Gathering of the Loads quickly approaching, 10 months away, the Gateway Chapter's planning committee is in full swing. We have negotiated a contract with Reunion Brat to set up and run the event allowing the planning committee to focus on our fellow Loadmasters' professional development and entertainment. We have reserved the Crowne Plaza in downtown St. Louis. The hotel offers standard business services, on and off site health and fitness center, roof top pool, and internet to name a few the amenities.

Gateway Chapter Report continued on page 7

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Gateway Chapter Report, Cont. from page 6

The hotel will also be giving us a suite where we can relax and mingle after the day's activities. This location will be the perfect venue for the seminars as well as entertainment. We will have plenty of room for our vendors, seminars and banquet. The location is centrally located downtown, near shopping, sporting events, historic sites, excellent local cuisine, and casinos; if they aren't what you're looking for, the metro is just a few blocks away. We are currently working with vendors from around the nation to ensure we have current products and information on civilian technologies. We are also working with our vendors to ensure we have proper prizes and freebies during the event. With the date and location locked in, we have a solid foundation for the event. We will continue planning events to help develop you as airmen and aircrew members as well as ensure you are properly entertained while in our beautiful city. Information and the links to sign up for the GOL will be posted on our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/pages/PLA-Gateway-Chapter/528559157235735?skip_nax_wizard=true.



Gateway Chapter Members Seated L - R: SMSgt Ron Murphy (Ret), Chief Bob Antoline (Ret) - Middle row: MSgt Ricardo Montiel-Torres, SMSgt Jesus Huerta, SMSgt Eric Wilkins, MSgt Bill Paradis (Ret) - Back row: MSgt Kevin Butler, MSgt Sid Sedlacek (Ret)

Golden West Chapter

Steve Clark, Golden West Chapter President - Greetings from the Golden West Chapter. We are in the process of planning a C-17 factory tour at the Boeing Long Beach facility. Loadmasters in the Southern California area who are interested in attending please contact me at steve.clark38@yahoo.com. I hope to submit a head count to the DCMA office by November 1st. As you know the Air Force has accepted its final delivery of the C17 Globemaster to Charleston AFB SC. We are still in the process of locating lost loads and increasing our membership in the Golden West Chapter. We meet the second Saturday of each month, at the Pepper Steak Diner, 26589 Highland Ave, Highland CA. In the near future we will be touring various aviation museums in the Southern California area. Our aim is to view historic airlifters and memorabilia. I will post our visits in upcoming issues of the Loader. Also the Norton AFB Museum is up and running successfully. It's a MAC place to visit and more.



Golden West Chapter Members Seated L-R Cecil Clark, Steve Collins, Ernie Vasquez, Steve Clark, Walt Byrns, Kevin Perdue and Paul Pfeifer

Liberty Chapter

Michael Kent, Liberty Chapter President - Hello from Exit 7, Greetings from the Liberty Chapter! We center around Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey. We hold our meetings the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Garden State Diner in Wrightstown NJ. We meet for breakfast at 0900 and have our meeting at 1000. The Diner is located about 2 miles from the main gate of the base. The officers for the chapter consist of me, as President, Shem Miller as Secretary and Kent Brown as Treasurer. Kent is also the East Coast Vice President. We all have held numerous posts within the chapter over the years. We held a picnic on September 7th at Willow Pond on Ft Dix. We had the main course catered by Local Smoke Barbecue. Side dishes and desserts were provided by members. We had a great time and the weather could not have been better. We had some door prizes and we raffled off a C-141 Starlifter picture. It was a Reserve UTA weekend and we had about 20 Loadmasters from the 732 AS come out for lunch. We will be heading to Dover AFB DE on the 9th of Nov for the dedication of the new C-5 at the AMC museum. We are working with the museum on setting up their loadmaster display. Chapter members have already donated items to the museum and we are still collecting items. They do not have a firm date as to when the display will be ready. I am in touch with the museum staff and will put out more information as I find out. They are also looking for Airlift/Tanker pictures from the Viet Nam era for their display on that war. If you can help them out please contact Deborah Sellers at the museum. Her phone number is (302) 677-5993 and her e-mail address is Deborah.sellers.ctr@us.af.mil. We will have a holiday party in Dec. We usually have this at JP Salisbury's house. We are still working on a firm date for the event. The chapter provides the main course and the members each bring a side or dessert. We collect toys at the party and donate them to Operation Santa Clause. This is a local charity that gives gifts to needy children. We have also recently collected and donated old uniforms to the Museum of American Military Uniforms in Princeton Junction NJ. Some chapter members also took a tour of the museum. We plan to revisit on a future date. The chapter is looking for ways to help out in the community. We

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Liberty Chapter Report, Cont. from page 7

are looking for ways to volunteer and help with worthy causes. We plan to volunteer and help out with Operation Santa Clause when they gear up for the holiday season.



Liberty Chapter picnic at Willow Pond on Ft. Dix September 7, 2013

Mid Atlantic Chapter



Pope AFB C-130

Alex Walter, Mid Atlantic Chapter President - The Mid Atlantic Chapter has had a busy summer and fall. Lots of crews on the road supporting all types of missions. Deployed efforts continue and personnel growth for the looming C-130J transition. Most of the training missions had been done off station in conjunction with other missions due to Pope's tower controllers being involved with the first furlough. The Army has plopped down its first 3 C-27Js here at Pope AAF, although not a lot of flying for them yet. Scheduled monthly meetings have begun again after the summer break...they occur on the last Friday of each month at McKellar's Lodge at 1100.

Northwest Chapter



Northwest Chapter - Memorial Grove Ceremony For Fallen PLA Loadmasters

Victor Fredlund, Northwest Chapter President - The Northwest enjoyed a very warm dry summer, a novelty for Washington state. The Chapter sponsored a memorial to fallen Loadmasters of the PLA. It was a great success, attended by over 50 people, including family members from out of state and as far away as San Diego California. At the Memorial Grove, twelve memorial bricks were installed in remembrance of each of the following Loadmasters; Percy Bradley, Lewis E. Hawkins, Robert Hollister, Don Jensen, Ron C. Jones, Ron L. Jones, Ralph Kenney, Mike Rudner, Fred Stark, Robert Vanderwall, Donald Wingart, and Charles G. Wilton. Chapter President Victor Fredlund conducted the service which included an open mike for family members and friends to reflect on their Heroes, and included live Taps played by a McChord Honor Guard bugler. A Reception with finger foods and refreshments followed at the McChord NCO Club. The annual Chapter picnic was held on September 14 at the Overlook Park and Museum on McChord Field. Attendance was sparse, probably from inclement weather, and apathy of the younger PLA members who are very busy these days with airlift to all parts of the world, which limits their free time. In November we are planning a field trip to Everett Washington to attend Paul Allen's Warbirds Flying Heritage Collection. A Christmas holiday dinner is planned for December 7 to be held at a local restaurant, trusting the change of venue will help motivate attendance. Please read and comment on the Open Letter included in this issue of The Loader.

Open Letter To PLA Members, CMSgt Victor Fredlund USAF-retired, President, Northwest Chapter - The time has come for the Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) to make some radical changes to the functioning of those Chapters that are rapidly fading and, in some cases, have become inactive due to lack of interest by the newer Loadmasters. The current situation here in the Northwest Chapter reflects the trend I speak about. Meetings are held once a month on a Saturday at the Base golf course clubhouse, and are attended by mostly Old Timers, who will not be around much longer.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Northwest Chapter Report, Cont. from page 8

Let's face it, we are the dying breed who have originated and managed the Chapter since its inception. The only exception here, were two terms of Presidency by active duty leadership that resulted in conflict in schedules, since these individuals were involved in the war efforts in Asia. There must be some changes in order for the PLA to continue as a viable organization. My suggestions would be for the active duty members to set the ground rules to coincide with their schedules; ie. locate the meeting venue at the Squadrons on dates that meet their needs rather than the needs of the Old Timers who have been, for the most part, running the show. We older members need to conform to the time frame and needs of the younger and active duty folks. I challenge all current active duty Loadmasters to step up and take over the leadership of the Chapters, in an effort to continue in the proud heritage of the Loadmaster career field, and programs that the PLA has originated to perpetuate comradeship and futures for our youth through scholarship programs and mentoring. We need your help sooner than later! Sincerely; Victor Fredlund.

Northwest Chapter member graduates: Warren Riches, a Vietnam Veteran and member of Northwest Chapter PLA, recently graduated from Rainier Therapeutic Riding, a horsemanship program for Veterans designed to help wounds of war. The program is assisted by Warren's granddaughter Rebekah McGinnis, who is a lead instructor at the facility, located near Joint Base Lewis McChord, in the town of Yelm. Many Veterans of the conflicts in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan have attended this remarkable training, with great enthusiasm and wonderful results. Please check out the following website to peruse the entire program: heroshorsesandhope.org



Northwest Chapter member Warren Riches

Parker-Aguillon-Payne Chapter

Bob Cosgrove, Trevor Fechner and Mark Raymond

Mark E. Raymond, Parker-Aguillon-Payne Chapter President - Our annual SMSgt Irv Mahler Scholarship award has been presented to Trevor Fechner. Trevor is the grandson of Bob Cosgrove and is well deserving of the scholarship. Trevor is a member of the AFROTC DET 035 at Fresno State University. He is currently a Cadet 1st Lieutenant in the AAS Robin Olds Squadron. His goals include being a pilot in the United State Air Force and flying the F-22. His involvement within his AFROTC squadron reflects his outstanding commitment and desire to make his unit the best it can be. This year's scholarship was increased to \$1,000.00. The SMSgt Irv Mahler name that we use for our annual scholarship represents all our chapter members that have passed. We have scheduled our annual Christmas party for Friday, 13 December 2013 at the Travis Heritage Center formally known as the Travis Air Museum. We will again have it catered and the cost will be \$15.00 for adults and children up to 16 will be free. I will be sending our emails and flyers in November. 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.

The Rock Chapter

Michael Oliver, The Rock Chapter - Since the last issue, the Rock Chapter membership has been very volatile. During the high PCS tempo season and the bulk of our Little Rock C-130J cadre in the re-deployment/deployment stage, the overall Loadmaster population is anything but stagnant. The drawdown of the C-130H has caused wide dispersion among our members and we are working to reinvigorate this Chapter. Please join our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/therockpla. Stay tuned for information on future gatherings.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Southeast Chapter

Mike Morris, Southeast Chapter President - It has been an interesting first few months bringing the Southeast Chapter back to life. The participation level here at Charleston has been amazing. The first two meetings had an attendance of approximately 30 people each time, but we know we are much bigger than that. With us just starting this chapter back up we can use all the input we can get. So, if you are out there in the Charleston area or willing to come to the Charleston area please come out to a meeting. This last month has been an exciting month here in Charleston. We received the last US Air Force C-17 on the 12th of September. It was an honor to actually be on the aircraft with SMSgt Dean Carter who was an initial cadre C-17 loadmaster for the Reserves here in Charleston. Boeing Long Beach provided an amazing sendoff and Charleston pulled out all the stops when the aircraft arrived home. This was a very special event for me to take part in. My father, Retired CMSgt Bob Morris, delivered the first C-17 to Charleston just over 20 years ago and for me to deliver the final one was an awesome experience. This month our Chapter is sponsoring a C-17 Loadmaster Heritage Event in which we will travel down the C-17 timeline with many loadmasters from the Test and Development stages to the beginning of the SOLL II program here in Charleston. We have at least one loadmaster from all time periods discussing challenges of these specific points in time and sharing some interesting stories. Many other events are underway, but we need your help to get this Chapter up and running. If you are interested or looking for information on how to join us, please contact me at philly2304@gmail.com.

Trailblazers Chapter

Michael Anderson, Trailblazer Chapter - The Trailblazer Chapter has recently elected new officers. We welcome our new President – SSgt Jay Van Landingham; Vice President – TSgt John Jack Metzger; Secretary – SSgt Michael Anderson; Treasurer – SSgt Donnie McCorkle; and Ways and Means – SSgt Collin Cenci. The Trailblazer Chapter would like to thank the officers replaced for all they have done and will continue to do to support us. This chapter has also been involved with a couple of fundraising/community events as well. Two of the most notable were helping to raise over \$2000 for the Sheridan Sunshine Foundation which is a not for profit organization to fund children's cancer research. We also had our pit beef sandwich concession set up at the Great Plains Stampede Rodeo which turned out to be a huge hit among the local population. We recently put on our annual camping trip/river float at Sparrow Hawk Camp in Tahlequah, OK. The turnout was great with nearly 30 in attendance. Next up on the agenda is the first gun raffle of the year. We are raffling off a DPMS .308/7.62 NATO LRS-308B. We would also like to congratulate MSgt Kim Carter on her retirement and wish her luck on her future endeavors.



BLINDBAT REUNION - C-130A FLAREBIRDS: May 19 – 21, 2014 - Las Vegas, NV. Contact: Dennis Miller, 8424 Desert Quail Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89128. Phone: (702) 363-4231, E-mail: dmillerrr@embarqmail.com

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 whatever you wish engraved in it.

Also available are the PLA PIN (below center) and PATCH (below 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 obtaining some, please contact us at: secretary@loadmasters.com





A salute from Portugal! José Pereira, MSGT, June 18, 2011 - Searching around thru Google, I was able to take knowledge of Professional Loadmaster Association – PLA and was glad to see that a great number of members are well organized, reinforcing friendship and sharing experiences of their professional lives. Rapidly, I decided to ask permission to join the PLA and was very glad with the positive answer to my request. Thank you! At the moment I'm assigned to 502 Squadron, at Montijo Air Base, near Lisbon, a Squadron with 56 years of history full of great services to our Nation, and since 2009 we are operating the new EADS/CASA C-295M. Portugal bought twelve new aircrafts to replace the old but faithful CASA C-212 fleet, and we are gradually replacing their missions with a necessary fast, but safe, learning curve, accomplishing the reconversion program with great success and reaching almost 6000 hours flown up to present date. We also have two permanent detachments at Lajes Airfield, Azores and Porto Santo Island, Madeira taking medical evacuation and SAR missions, and a third over the Mediterranean Sea, the Frontex European agency making vigilance for the European external frontiers. With the new C-295M, arrived a new crew function to the Squadron. We are called Cabin Operators (the equivalent to Loadmasters) and we have flight crew and also ground maintenance functions, at organizational and intermediate level. Our flight crew instruction is made at our squadron for the different missions assigned as passenger, cargo and vehicles transportation, paratrooper and cargo airdrop, medical evacuation, SAR missions, maritime vigilance and photographic reconnaissance. The PLA members who in the future will fly to Montijo Air Base, Portugal, will be welcome to go to the 502 Squadron to have a drink and chat with Portuguese Cabin

Operators! Photos in attachment were taken after the delivery of the two first C-295M ceremony. Photo composition by Carlos Martins, MSGT.

Bob Archer, near RAF Mildenhall, England - I am working on a wonderful project on the C-124 Globemaster. I would like to make contact with personnel who flew and maintained this iconic aircraft. My project is to gather stories, memories and anecdotes from personnel. I hope to compile this into a book. This will give information on the various Services and Commands that operated C-124, as well as the units that flew them. But, the most important part is to relate stories through the words of people who enjoyed and endured the C-124 for its 25 years of service. Is there any way I can make contact with C-124 personnel through your organization? Many thanks and best wishes. PLA Secretary Note: ATTENTION ALL LOADS WITH C-124 TIME - Late in September the association received an e-mail request for assistance with a proposed book on the C-124 Globemaster. An author near RAF Mildenhall, England has requested stories, memories and anecdotes from personnel that flew and maintained the aircraft. Included is the original message we received. We had 40 members, active and inactive that were listed as flying the C-124. 18 out of 29 active members and 8 out of 11 inactive members listed an e-mail address. Those with a GOOD ADDRESS (20) received this request notice. Any crewmember or maintainer who was involved with the C-124 and is interested in supplying information for the book, please contact Bob Archer, Carlscoop@aol.com. I'm sure that we have many more crewmembers that have flown the C-124. By actual count we have 1,138 members that have zero type aircraft information listed on their membership application.



Parnell Fisher earned the Silver Star for gallantry in action when he jettisoned a flare that exploded prematurely aboard an AC-47 gunship Dec. 18, 1966. The Jacksonville Museum of Military History, in Arkansas, houses a small collection of Fisher's medals and citations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Russ Scalf)

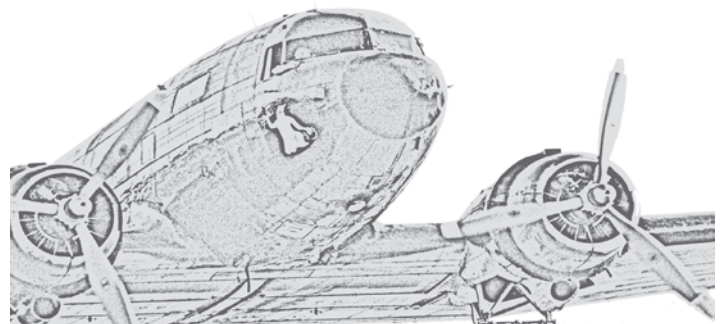
80-year-old Silver Star recipient still serves on the Rock, Posted 3/14/2013, Updated 3/15/2013, by Staff Sgt. Jacob Barreiro, 19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs, 3/14/2013 - LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. - While "old folks," as he calls them, are known to reminisce, there's no tongue clicking or sighing when **Parnell Fisher** tells his stories. People throughout Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., know him as a fixture at the Auto Hobby Shop on base. However, many of them may not know that they're having their tires or oil changed by a war hero. One morning he sits in a folding chair in his office, folded hands resting on top of a folding table, as he reminisces and shares the story of his life. The room, an "office" in title, is little more than a boiler room with a few cabinets, a sink and a coffee pot in the corner. Every 10 minutes a heating unit outside discharges its energy, but the noise doesn't bother him, and he continues talking in the same steady, reflective manner. Occasionally he stops to collect his thoughts, but the interruptions are brief and he quickly resumes his narrative, recapping a history that spans eight decades. Even though he's a decorated war veteran, he doesn't boast about himself like someone with a life full of laudations and accomplishments. After all, Fisher, a retired Air Force loadmaster, said he only recently started to get attention for the Silver Star he was awarded for gallant actions aboard an AC-47 on Dec. 18, 1966, in Vung Tau, Vietnam. On that mission Fisher saved his life, the life of the crew and the aircraft he was working on by managing to toss out a prematurely exploded flare from the aircraft. He was awarded the Silver Star in Japan shortly after the event, but Fisher said it was never noticed at any other base he went to. "I never said anything after I got this award in Japan,"

said Fisher. "I went to all these other bases, and I don't think anybody ever looked at my records or noticed." The lack of attention was just as well for Fisher, who said he prefers not to brag about himself. "If you come into a squadron and say 'Look, I'm a Silver Star recipient,' that won't go over well," he said. It wasn't until a loadmaster here noticed his name in the Professional Development Guide that Fisher's story began to get attention on base. "I was working (at the Auto Hobby Shop), and a loadmaster asked me what my name was... I told him, and he came back the next day, pulled out (the PDG) and asked me 'Is this you?'" said Fisher. "Pretty soon my story started to filter out." Master Sgt. Joseph Stuart, now a C-130H/J evaluator loadmaster for Air Education and Training Command, said he's probably the loadmaster Fisher is talking about. Stuart remembers thinking the name "Parnell Fisher" sounded familiar and looked him up in the PDG after he met him. Even though Stuart hasn't been stationed here since October 2012, he still makes time to talk to Fisher every time he stops on base for a mission. "Parnell is a great guy, and he is very humble," said Stuart. "I always tell people about his story and take other people in to speak to him and listen to his stories." While he is described as humble, Fisher admits that Silver Stars aren't just doled out like candy on Halloween and said, "There wouldn't be any story for me to tell today if I didn't get those lines (on the flare's parachute) cut." Recalling the event, Fisher said it was "Fast and furious... There's nothing in the book that covers a flare hanging up or getting knocked over inside an aircraft. You

Parnell Fisher - Cont. from page 12

know what'll happen if you don't do something, and you do it. I credit my training and instinct... and some oversight from the good Lord." Visualizing his memories of the event, Fisher said he pictures a small and crowded aircraft, packed with an interpreter, two munitions men, a loadmaster and flight engineer in the back, along with a pilot and co-pilot in the front. The crew was flying in "blackout" mode because of heavy anti-aircraft fire in the area, the only light on the entire aircraft was from a rotating beacon on a vertical stabilizer. When the incident occurred, Fisher and the flight engineer were handling the 22-pound flares, set to go off on a timer, and launching them out of the plane. "When it happened, (the engineer) picked the flare up and it went off," said Fisher. "The cap came out, and the chute went out with it. It knocked him back and unconscious." Nobody else on the plane was aware of what was happening by the time Fisher, in darkness sans the small rotating beacon light, was scrambling on his hands and knees trying to grab the live flare, said Fisher. "I'm pulling the chute, and I finally get the flare when I go to the doorway and throw the dang thing out," he said. Thinking he had averted disaster, Fisher was distressed to see the flare's chute hanging onto the edge of the plane's cargo door. Still, his Silver Star citation says he didn't hesitate, but quickly reacted to the new problem. "I had to get my knife out and started cutting those lines off," he said. "All I kept thinking was 'am I going to be quick enough?'" Hanging halfway out of the plane's cargo door, with survival vest, parachute on "dressed like the guys who went looking for the predator," Fisher said he remembers feeling the cool wind swathing his body. He feverishly cut at the attached cords, fighting to snip the tightly wound strings stubbornly clutching to the cargo door and threatening the lives of him and the crew, he said. He was able to cut the flare's chute loose just in time, severing the lines and looking on as the flare mercifully exploded outside seconds later, sparing his life. Afterwards, Fisher said he sat down, with shaking knees, when a crewmate put a cigarette in his mouth. "I was sitting on a metal seat of the (aircraft), and the engineer brought a cigarette and put it in my mouth," he said. "I'm trying to figure out how he recovered from the blow he took. I took a long drag off that cigarette, and it was the best drag of cigarette I ever had. I don't smoke anymore, but I've never had another one like it." Even more than 46 years after the event, Fisher said he still remember how desperate he felt cutting at the parachute cords with his knife. "That knife, I knew it was sharp, but it didn't seem like it was sharp enough then." After 22 years of service, Fisher retired as a Master Sergeant in 1977. He first served 1950-1954, and after earning a Bachelor's degree in the ensuing years, enlisted again in the Air Force from 1959-1977. Stuart said he values the legacy of loadmasters like Fisher, and he never misses a chance to tell people about it. "Parnell's life story is amazing, and I tell as many people as I can," he said. "Being a Loadmaster as well, I want his legacy and story to be told." Fisher himself said he's sometimes amazed when looking back at his life's story. He recently turned 80-years-old and just celebrated his 52nd wedding anniversary with his wife, Vermont. "I'm proud of those 52 years," he said with a broad smile. "Ain't that cool? That's a long time." Yet Fisher, who has two living children, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren, said what he is most proud about is having a chance to be a part of civil rights history during his life and Air

Force career. "When I came into the Air Force, President Truman had just integrated all of the forces in 1948," he said. "Being black in an all white dominated society, it was a real adventure and an awakening for me." Growing up in Benton, Ark., Fisher said he experienced the effects of a segregated society first hand for all of his formative years. "My Jr. High and High School were down in Little Rock, and I was bused there back and forth daily," he said. Having faced segregation and social prejudice because of his race his whole life, Fisher said coming into the Air Force was a revelation. "When we were at the recruiting station, ready to take that trip by train down to Lackland, all of the white guys had their last meal out in the front of the restaurant," he said. "While all of us black guys had to eat in a place prepared for us in the kitchen." Joking that eating in the kitchen had some advantages, like having access to the freshest food, Fisher said he remembers how it all changed once they entered the Air Force. "When we got to the station down here, they had Pullman cars to take us to Lackland," he said. "We went in just by alphabetical order then, whether black or white. That was kind of a new thing for everybody. From that point on we were just like one," he said, noting that integration didn't always go smoothly. For instance, at his training school in Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, Fisher said his First Sergeant told him explicitly "I don't like black folks, so don't do anything stupid while you're here." Yet he said he never lost his composure and passed the course with superior grades. "I kept my cool, went through the class, put my best foot forward and got selected for flight engineer school," he said. "We've gone away from this segregation thing. We now see that these people, all people, have talent just like everybody else, given the training and opportunity." "Seeing some of these things, the end of segregation, that's been the highlight of my career," he said. "That's been the highlight of my life." While current loadmasters like Stuart encourage people to stop by and hear Fisher's stories, and Fisher himself said he enjoys chatting about the highlights of his life, he also recommends staying active and adventurous, something he credits his long and healthy life to. "I've always told myself there has to be some better things out there for me," he said. "I stay active, stay working. My advice is when you retire, don't just sit around on your porch or deck. Stay active, get out there, have a purpose for almost every day." After he's finished, Fisher unfolds his hands and briskly rises from his folding chair. Done reminiscing, he laments there's not enough time to hear all the stories people have to tell ... "How much time do you have left in your enlistment?" he asks. Going back to work he welcomes visitors to come back any time "Stop on over, maybe we'll have a cup of coffee and talk," he said.





Senior Master Sgt. Terry Philon (pictured above), the 313th Airlift Squadron chief loadmaster out of McChord Field, Wash., entered the military in 1972. During his 41 years of service, he has supported contingencies such as the evacuation of the American hostages in Iran in 1981, Operations Just Cause, Provide Hope, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, Enduring Freedom, and Deep Freeze. He is set to retire from the Air Force Reserve in December, right before his 60th birthday. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Jake Chappelle)

Reserve loadmaster completes career with 40 years of service, Posted 3/21/2013, Updated 3/21/2013 by Master Sgt. Jake Chappelle, 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs, 3/21/2013 - MCCHORD FIELD, Wash. - Like any other year, 1972 had originality. Bobby Fischer became the World Chess Champion. The last U.S. ground troops were withdrawn from Vietnam. Disco lights and lava lamps sold for just under \$27. "The Godfather" and "Dirty Harry" were released in movie theaters. John Lennon, David Bowie, and Led Zeppelin rocked the house ... and 18-year-old **Terry Philon** arrived at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas for basic training, and pledged himself to the Air Force. Little did Philon know that he would end up volunteering dang near 70 percent of his life to the Air Force and Air Force Reserve. Now, a senior master sergeant and chief loadmaster with the 313th Airlift Squadron here, he has spent the last 41 years as a dedicated Reservist and Airman. "In my 25-plus years in the Air Force, Terry Philon is one of, if not, the finest individual I have had the honor of serving with," said Col. Rick Grayson, 446th Airlift Wing vice commander, and former 313th AS commander. "In my mind, he is the consummate senior NCO, and there is no one who has served with more honor and integrity than Terry. He is truly one of the best people, and best Airmen, I know." Philon said, he's grateful for his extensive military career. "It doesn't seem like 41 years," Philon, a Graham, Wash. resident, said. "As the old saying goes, 'time flies when you're having fun.'" If he had listened to his parents, the four decades of fun might not have happened. Philon said, carrying books and sitting in lecture halls is where his parents envisioned him in the early '70s. But instead, he came down with a case of "blue fever." "My parents wanted me to go to college," he said. "I preferred the college funds be spent on my little sister. But I wanted to do something different." Different indeed. Philon spent his first four years on active duty as a life support specialist at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. But he wanted to travel more, so he pursued other options. "A friend of mine talked to me about the loadmaster field," he said. "After some investigating, I decided

that was the job for me. I crosstrained in 1976." Becoming a loadmaster meant moving from the Midwest to the northwest, so he could fly on the C-141A Starlifter aircraft at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. Once he found his way around western Washington, he called it his new home. "I love this state," Philon, an Ohio native, said. "I had invested 10 years of my life to the military after I came to the Reserve. At that point, I decided to go for the next 10." With the next 10 years turning into the next 30, Philon said it didn't all come easy. He even considered getting discharged at one point. "Earlier in my Reserve career, there was a time when everything was stagnant," he said. "Slow promotions, low morale, but one of my mentors convinced me to give it a little more time, so I decided to stay in. It was the best decision of my life." That decision would lead to accolades, such as being the wing Senior NCO of the Quarter two times over and receiving excellent scores on exercises, such as operational readiness inspections. Philon's decision also led to several trials of will and strength. "I think the most difficult time in my career was waking up in Germany the morning of 9/11 and having to fly missions in country a few days later," he said. "We are given a multi-million dollar aircraft to take out on a mission and return it home safely," he said. "We are constantly faced with situations where we have to rely on our training, knowledge, and judgment to safely accomplish the mission. This really becomes evident around the 16th hour of a 24-hour day. As a crew, we make sure everyone is capable of completing the mission." As the chief of the Standardization unit in the 313th AS, Philon is also responsible in ensuring the other loadmasters are up to par with their training. If one of them messes up, then all fingers point back at him. "I have to be sure of my decisions on whether an Airman is capable of taking an aircraft out, completing the mission, and bringing that aircraft home safely," he said. More than 9,200 flying hours after becoming a loadmaster, Philon has not only travelled to many countries and supported numerous missions, but he has supported many various contingencies, from the evacuation of the American hostages in Iran to Operation Enduring Freedom. But he said, the hardest part of his job is dropping troops off in the area of responsibility. However, the best part of his job is bringing them home. "It's never easy to drop off troops in a war zone," Philon said. "The looks on those youngsters' faces of not knowing the outcome is very moving. But, when you pick them up from the war zone, and drop them off on U.S. soil, the look in their eyes is indescribable." Even though Philon's retirement clock is ticking, he shows no signs of slowing down. He has "excellent" fitness assessment scores and mud on his mountain bike tires to prove it; however, the grandfather of three plans on devoting more time to his family and community. "That's my plan," Philon said. "I will probably do a lot of volunteer work. I would like to find something where I can use my experience to mentor others." Seeing his children, who are now grown, make milestone accomplishments put things in perspective for the near 60-year-old. "When my son retired after 20 years of active duty Air Force, I said, 'it's time for me to go.'" In retrospect of his four-decade career, Philon admitted he was content with the way his life and career turned out. "I wouldn't change a thing." Philon is set to retire from the Air Force Reserve in December ... right before his 60th birthday.



Tech. Sgt. Mike Morris, 437th Airlift Wing Operations Group standards and evaluations loadmaster, enjoys a stroll on the flight line with his father, ret. Chief Master Sgt. Bob Morris, C-17 Training Systems Charleston lead loadmaster, Sept. 17, 2013 at Joint Base Charleston – Air Base, S.C. Bob is a retired loadmaster and was on the plane for the arrival of the first C-17 delivered to the Air Force in June 1993.

Loadmaster delivers last C-17, father delivered first - Posted 9/19/2013, Updated 9/25/2013, by Senior Airman Tom Brading, Joint Base Charleston Public Affairs, 9/19/2013 - JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. - For one family, the term “like father, like son” has never been more true. Any father would be proud to watch their son be a part of the arrival of the last C-17 Globemaster III to Joint Base Charleston. However, for retired Chief Master Sgt. Bob Morris, felt more than pride knowing his son, Tech. Sgt. Mike Morris, 437th Airlift Wing Operations Group standards and evaluations loadmaster, was in the aircraft, he also felt nostalgic. Bob was an active duty loadmaster on the first C-17 that flew into the Charleston Air Force Base. And, more than 20 years after that historic flight, Bob stood among a crowd of onlookers as the Air Force’s final C-17 landed on the flightline of JB Charleston - Air Base, S.C. and completed the fleet. For Mike, he was just finishing the job his dad started. “Growing up, I always wanted to be like my dad,” said Mike. “I was fascinated with planes and to see him come home from missions all over the world was like seeing my hero return. But, unlike most kids, I didn’t want to be a superhero or professional athlete ... I wanted to be like my dad.” And, also unlike most of us, Mike lived out his boyhood dream. As a young boy, Mike didn’t know the technical aspects of his dad’s job. All he knew was his dad got to see the world from a bird’s eye view. However, Bob was doing much more than looking at clouds in the sky. He was handpicked to be the chief of testing the new aircraft, as well as hand picking his team of loadmasters. Bob was charged with the task of signing off on every aspect of the C-17 from the loadmaster’s perspective. Bob, and his team, laid the foundation for the safety and mission capabilities for loadmasters in the

generations that followed. “I’d ask myself ‘would you put your child in this aircraft?’ and if my answer wasn’t a confident yes, I wouldn’t sign off on it,” said Bob. Bob hung up the flight suit in 1996, but didn’t walk away from the loadmaster career field. Since retiring from active duty until today, Bob has worked as a C-17 training systems legal administrator at JB Charleston - Air Base, and has taught and mentored young loadmasters for more than 17 years. But nobody has learned from Bob’s mentorship more than his son, Mike. “When I enlisted, there was only one career for me and that’s loadmaster,” said Mike, looking back on his career. “My dad set a high standard, but it’s just motivated me from day one to be better than the previous day.” After the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Mike was one of the first Airmen to step up and request to leave on missions into Southeast Asia. In the years that followed, he continued to take on any mission, no matter what the challenge. In the more than 12 years that followed the attacks, as Mike evolved as an Airman, the C-17 evolved as an aircraft. Today, the C-17 has been through so many updates and modifications; it’s barely recognizable on the inside to the first model. However, the first C-17 that Bob brought in is still operational today and will continue the airlift mission along with the last one brought in more than twenty years later by Mike. I am very proud of the Airman that Mike has become,” said Bob. “He’s my hero.”



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International, Cont. from page 11

Stu Bailey - Past Chairman and Life Vice President of the "Limey" Loadmaster association and Past President of the Britannia association. I received my copy of the Professional Loadmaster Association magazine safe and sound, thank you. My background was that I served for thirty seven years in the Royal Air force; ten years as ground crew and twenty seven years as a loadmaster. The period was from 1951 to 1988. Your mention of tales of world route flying has brought to mind an incident in Darwin Australia. It would have been in the sixties and after landing we as usual were checked by the Australian customs officer on entry to Oz! He had no sense of humor. Our Navigator had been a prisoner of war of the Japanese held in captivity in Japan with many Australian P.O.W.'s so Jack spoke perfect Oz! We were paraded under the open air customs shed placing our bags on the zinc covered table. He then asked every crew member if we had read the list! He then proceeded to ask each individual all the questions on the list. As we had had a twenty odd hour flying day we were not too impressed! The questions were something like, did we have any flick knives, did we have any fresh fruit, did we have any currency hidden etc and the classic, did we have any pornographic literature? When he got to Jack our Nav when asked if he had any pornographic literature; Jack's reply was a classic "not only have I not got any, I can't play it!!!" In his Australian accent, which the customs officer took exception to by replying "Open your bags and pulled all our clothes every where and even opening the toothpaste and squeezing it all over!!! Four hours later we got to the hotel. Jack had to buy a beer or two. Australians don't have a sense of humor!!! Long may your members have happy landings. Take Care

Josh Stewart, dr.j.stewart1881@gmail.com – member of the Royal Air Force Air Loadmasters Association. I have sent an email on to the Royal Air Force Air Loadmasters Association, of which I am a member, asking for articles for the Loader Magazine. Hopefully, we will be able to offer several pieces for publication. Best wishes

Polish help USAFE with JPADS drop



A C-130J Super Hercules prepares for takeoff during the first-ever Joint Precision Air Drop System (JPADS) delivery in the U.S. European Command region during the bilateral theater security cooperation event, Aviation Detachment Rotation Oct. 23, 2013. (U.S. Air Force photo/Bartosz Bera)

POWIDZ AIR BASE, Poland (AFNS) - Airmen successfully completed the first Joint Precision Air Drop System, or JPADS,

delivery in the U.S. European Command region during the bilateral theater security cooperation event, Aviation Detachment Rotation 14-1, Oct. 14-25. U.S. forces were based at Powidz AB, home to the Polish Air Force's 33rd Air Transport Base, for the event. JPADS, a precision-guided airdrop system, provides rapid, precise high-altitude delivery capabilities that do not rely on ground transportation. "JPADS is vital to operations during both humanitarian and combat missions," said Maj. Matthew Spears, the commander of the U.S. Av-Det in Poland. "It ensures accurate delivery while providing aircraft with increased survivability." The overall success of this first JPADS delivery in Europe is due to Poland's commitment to the Av-Det training rotations, and their understanding of the rotation training's importance to both air forces, Spears said. During the precision airdrop, both U.S. and Polish forces combined their efforts to achieve mission success. The Polish land forces helped clear and secure the range for the drop, and U.S. personnel on the ground provided drop zone control and clearance and recovered the bundle. Polish air force C-130E aircrew were onboard the U.S. Air Force C-130J Hercules to observe the delivery. The bundle, dropped on the Drawsko Pomorskie Range in northwestern Poland, landed within 25 meters of the desired point of impact. "Because of range restrictions and lack of availability in other European locations, this is the first JPADS delivery in Europe," Spears said. "It's through training events like this that U.S. and Poland continue to build partnership capacity." Commander of the Polish air force's C-130 squadron, Lt. Col. Krzysztof Szymaniec, marked the drop as an excellent demonstration of the partnership between the U.S. and Polish air forces. "I am very proud that Poland is the first to offer this capability to the U.S.," Szymaniec said. U.S. members from the Av-Det, which falls under the 52nd Operations Group, 52nd Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, along with the 37th Airlift Squadron, of the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein AB, Germany, combined for several other training events during the two-week period, to include take-offs and landings on unimproved runways and air drops of equipment and supplies. Additionally, the combined units practiced air drops of equipment, supplies, and personnel which included both U.S. Army and Polish Land Force paratroopers. "It's great being able to work with our Polish counterparts because they deal with some of the same issues we do," said Capt. Scott Vander Ploeg, the 37th AS Av-Det Rotation 14-1 mission commander. "It is nice to be able to help each other out with those issues." "The rotations offer both air forces a unique opportunity," Szymaniec said. "It provides our aircrew an opportunity to plan and fly missions together, even if our aircraft are different." "The Av-Det, in close coordination with the Polish air force, is making a concerted effort to continue improving the combined training opportunities available to our air forces, be it increased partner capacity or added complexity in the training scenarios," Spears said. "The cooperation of the Polish armed forces and the airmanship and professionalism of the aircrew involved in the training greatly enhance these efforts." Two more JPADS drops are planned during the final week of the aircraft rotation. Four times a year, U.S. aircraft, service members and civilian contractors will rotate to the Av Det to foster bilateral defense ties, enhance regional security and increase interoperability as NATO allies through combined training exercises.

In Memoriam

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

***Steven R. Randall**, 67, died on April 8th, 2013 at Cottage in the Meadows, in Yakima, WA. Steve was born June 18, 1945 to Steven Willard Pustay and Lora Mildred Bowman of Ohio. He spent most of his life living the Pacific Northwest including the last 36 years in Yakima. Steve was the supervisor of the Biomedical Engineering department at Memorial Hospital for 30 years retiring in 2011. He joined the Air Force in 1965 and spent 10 years on active duty and 10 years in the Air Force Reserves as a Loadmaster flying on C-130s and C-141s. He enjoyed an exciting military career flying worldwide. He obtained the Loadmaster positions of Instructor and Flight Examiner. He served in Vietnam in 67-68 and flew over 300 combat missions in Vietnam, North Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and was awarded 7 Air Medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He once said he had been shot at so many thousands of times that he viewed each day after that tour as a life bonus. Steve transferred to the Army Reserves in 1985 and held many supervisory positions in the Biomedical Equipment Repair field. He retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 in 1998. Steve was in his element when he had a project to do at home or for his family and friends. He would often say "A day without Lowes is like a day without sunshine!" He was a meticulous builder with a creative, fun eye. One of his favorite creations was "the shack" and "the outhouse". Many enjoyable days with family and friends were spent there enjoying the wonderful Yakima weather and a brew. Steve will always be remembered for his engaging smile, great sense of humor, vast knowledge and deep love for family and friends. He is survived by his loving wife of 36 years Milda, daughter Shauna Pusztai, stepson Eric Weydahl (wife Margie), stepdaughter, Jennifer Bright (husband Dan Rauch), grandsons Steven Nemer, Jacob Bright, Ethan Weydahl, granddaughter Elizabeth Howard and great granddaughter Riley. In addition to family, Steve had many wonderful close friends who meant the world to him. He will be truly missed but his indomitable spirit and kindness will live on through his family and friends. God's speed flyboy. Steve's family would like to thank the staff of Cottage in the Meadow for the care they provided him during his time there. Their dedication and support were invaluable during Steve's illness. There will be a celebration of Steve's life on Saturday, April 20th, at 1pm at Keith & Keith Funeral home located at: 902 W. Yakima, Ave. A reception will follow at the VFW. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the American Cancer Society.

Michael A. Sheets, of Ypsilanti, MI, died suddenly April 29, 2013 in the 747-400 aircraft crash at Bagram AB, Afghanistan. He was born January 10, 1977, in Camp Pendleton, CA, the son of Darryl B. and Margaret R. (Madigan) Sheets. Mike was currently employed as a Loadmaster with National Air Cargo for four years. He had a tremendous love for his family and left a joyful presence with everyone he met. Mike loved the game of soccer, working with remote control cars, camping, playing disc golf and had a real talent for woodworking. Surviving include his parents, his fiancée Anna Love and her children, Jordan and Morgan Watson; two brothers: James Stubbs and John Stubbs; grandmother, Dorothea Madigan; Uncle, John Madigan and extended Madigan Family; Aunts and Uncles: Debra and Tim Slone and Doug and Sharon Sheets; host of nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Harold and Lucille Sheets and James Madigan. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, May 13, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Ypsilanti, MI. Interment will take place in Washtenong Memorial Park, Ann Arbor, MI. Contributions in his memory may be made to a charity of your choice.

***Gregory G. Klutts**, longtime Westampton resident passed away Saturday, August 3, 2013 at Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point. He was 63. Born July 16th, 1950 in Newbern, TN he was a retired and decorated Chief Master Sergeant in the US Air Force. As an aircraft loadmaster he flew combat missions in the Republic of Vietnam, Panama, and Operation Desert Storm Area of Operation Saudi Arabia. During his service, Chief Klutts provided leadership to many and continued that role upon retirement from the Air Force as a teacher for Easthampton Schools and finally, C-17 Flight Simulator Loadmaster Instructor for L3 Com and Eagle Systems at McGuire AFB. A proud and active veteran, Gregory was a member of American Legion Post #1000, a Life Member of VFW Post # 6590, the Liberty Chapter of the Professional Loadmasters Assoc., the Masonic Lodge, and the Strathmere Environmental and Fishing Club. Greg loved the outdoors including hunting, fishing, riding his Harley, and ultimately building his dream home with the help of his brother and son. Greg also enjoyed the role of founding father of the Philadelphia Eagles tailgating crew. Of all other things, his one true love was taking care of his family and the time spent with them. Son of the late Hazel Klutts, son-in-law of the late Russell and Catherine Girton; brother-in-law of the late Patrick Girton, he is survived by his wife and best friend, Kathleen Klutts (nee Girton); two daughters, Christine Gilbert Klutts, Kathy Reed and her husband Dennis, Sr. "the son he always wanted"; a loving grandson Jake Reed who gave him a reason to smile for the last two years; his father, Phonzo P. Klutts; his twin sister and lifelong friend, Gloria Campbell and her husband JR "his brother"; his lifelong buddies Paddy and Riley, his sisters and brothers-in-law Harriett and Jim Jenkins, Bud and Elaine Girton, Marie Rutola; many loving nieces, nephews, and friends. Funeral service will held 12 pm Saturday at the Perinchief Chapels, 438 High St, Mount Holly. Interment will be private. Friends and relatives may visit with the family Friday from 3 to 5 pm and again Saturday from 10 am until time of service. Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to the Fox Chase Cancer Center, Office of Institutional Advancement, 333 Cottman Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19111 or the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

In Memorium, Cont. from page 46

Joe Castaneda The family of Joe Castaneda is requesting a gathering of Engineers, Loadmasters, and friends to remember Joe who passed away recently on June 30, 2013. The funeral will be at Mt View Cemetery in Lakewood Washington on Friday 5 July, 2013 at 11:30 AM. There will be a Memorial Reception later in the summer. (Not a Celebration of Life). Joe Castaneda was 69 years old and was born in London England. He was married to Carolyn for 42 years. Joe was a fine Loadmaster with the 8th MAS at MCChord AFB. He was very active with the Professional Loadmaster Association. A brick will be laid at McChord’s Memorial Grove in remembrance of Joe in the near future.

Charles Nicky Knight, January 16, 1939 - July 24, 2013, LANCASTER, SC. Mr. Charles Nicky Knight, age 74, died Wednesday, July 24, 2013 at Palmetto Richland Hospital in Columbia. He was born January 16, 1939 in Lancaster County, the son of the late Charles F. “Zeb” Knight and Mary Caston Knight and was the husband of Jean Privette Knight. Mr. Knight was a Mason with Antioch Lodge 399 and has served as Past Master and Secretary. He retired from the United States Air Force as Master Sergeant after 20 years of service and later retired from Springs Industries. Mr. Knight enjoyed bluegrass music, traveling and camping and was a member of Crestview Baptist Church. Mr. Knight is survived by his wife, Jean Privette Knight of the home and a sister, Libby K. Oliver and her husband Wade of Lancaster. The Celebration of Life Funeral Service for Mr. Knight will be 2:00 pm, Saturday, July 27, 2013 at Crestview Baptist Church by Rev. Scott Robinson, Dr. Darrell Thompson and Rev. Ron Avant. Burial with full military honors will follow at Lancaster Memorial Park. The Family of Mr. Knight will receive friends prior to the service, from 12:30 – 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall and suggest memorial contributions be made to Crestview Baptist Church Building Fund, 2228 Douglas Road, Lancaster, SC 29720. Charles was an instructor on the C-124C at Robins AFB GA.

Donald Lee Stricker passed away September 11, 2013. Loving Husband, father and devoted man of God. Donald was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Stricker and Margaret McClaren. He is survived by his wife, Anita Stricker, his daughters Kimberly Ann and husband Kevin McClure (Dover DE.). Sheri Lynn and husband Bob Healy (Dover DE.), step daughter Joni Cay and husband Tony Thomas (Spangdahlem AFB, Germany), and step son Johnny C. Hamilton III (San Antonio, TX). Grandchildren: Jacob Copio, Olivia Healy, McKenna Healy, Lexy Thomas, and Taegan Thomas. Donald Lee Stricker was employed by Flight Safety Service Corp-Lockheed Martin from 01/04/1988 to 09/10/2013, Loadmaster Instructor in C-5 Air Crew Training System. He taught Air Force students to become loadmasters, instructors, and flight examiners on the C-5A Galaxy cargo transport aircraft. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2013, 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church 6110 N.W. Loop 410 San Antonio, TX 78237, located on the access road of Loop 410 between Bandera Rd and Ingram Rd.

Mr. Robert R. Stockford passed from this life Saturday October 19, 2013 at the age of 84. He is survived by his son, Robert Stockford (Mitzi); daughter, Barbara Stockford; grandchildren, Jessica Stockford, Michael Stockford, Edwin De Jesus, and Diana De Jesus. He is preceded in death by his wife Marion Stockford. Robert was a B-29 and B-36 Aerial Gunner, a Radio Operator on SA-16 and C-124, and a Loadmaster on C-124 and C-141. Robert was a member of the Alamo Chapter of the Professional Loadmaster Association. He was an active member of the chapter until his health kept him from attending meetings. There will be a service at the Puente Funeral Home (Northeast), 14315 Judson Road, San Antonio TX (210) 653-6536 on Friday October 25, 2013 at 12:30pm. There will be a service and burial at the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, 1520 Harry Wurzbach, San Antonio, TX on Friday October 25, 2013 at 1:45pm. Any questions concerning Robert’s arrangements please call his daughter Barbara at 210-392-1066 or 210-657-2006.

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 and click on scholarships. Applications may be applied for through Jim Engelker at 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
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engelkerj@gmail.com

THE LOADER

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Parting Shot, Butch Lesley post on Facebook: When I look back on the things I got to do as a Loadmaster and the people I got to do them with, all I can say is, I am a blessed man.

In This Issue.... Cabin Report, Chapter Reports, International Section, Parnell Fisher - Silver Star Recipient, Terry Philon Retires, Bob & Mike Morris - Final C-17 Delivery, PLA Roster and In-Memoriam

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