



# “Ready for contact”

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## Refueling Squadron breaks a "record"

By SSGT, JIM SIZEMORE

At 9 p.m., last Saturday night, 1Lt. James (Percy) Longtine, of Sawyer's 46th Air Refueling Squadron, jumped from his seat with a screech. He had broken one of Sawyer's most important, least publicized, trivia records.

He had remained seated, in the same chair, for 31 consecutive hours while on alert duty. This broke the previous record, held by Capt Carl Schoen, by one hour.

When interviewed, Percy, er... Lieutenant Longtine had just begun his quest for the title, and Capt. Steve Coleman was taking his blood pressure. When asked if the base medical authorities had recommended monitoring Longtine's vital signs, Coleman said he really didn't know, because when he called the hospital to check all he got from the other end was laughter. They all decided to be safe and attempt to monitor on an hourly basis. By the way, Longtine's blood pressure jumped to 150 over 100 when he saw the photographer, so he was alive.

Lieutenant Longtine said, "Life isn't all excitement for a Sawyer 'Crew Dog' (a term fondly used by alert crew members when referring to themselves). I've been in training for this for two alert tours."

There were breaks for Longtine, he could leave his chair for five minutes each hour. He said this would be especially handy in case of natural emergencies.

Longtine was so excited by the prospects of holding a record, I wished then I had brought one along. You could tell he was excited by the way he was throwing names around, saying, "Col Heinrich (the wing deputy commander for operations) almost stopped by to wish me luck."

The contestant really had a lot of "support", he said, "The other 'Crew Dogs' are really behind me. They bring me my meals, and this really is a group effort"

At the end of his ordeal, a relieved Lieutenant Longtine said, "Well, it was a hard fought battle. I did get a little sore in places, but when it was over all I wanted to do was relax; so I just got another cup of coffee and sat down to watch some more television."

The 46th isn't finished yet; there is a report that another "Crew Dog" is going to attempt 120 hours in bed. Maybe he can begin that one around the 25th of December with, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good-night."

Longtine is right, life isn't all ex-citement for a "Crew Dog".



Photo and text from a news clipping contained in the 46th ARS History Book. The date of the issue of the "Northern Light" is unknown.

## From the DeFacto Editor:

The snow is gone from the UP and the flowers are beginning to bloom. Trout season is open and soon the tourists will begin showing up here in the UP.

Our Association President Mike Vairo has made the arrangements for our next reunion. The dates are April 3-5, 2014 and it will be held in San Diego. We hope that this will make it easier for those of you west of the Mississippi to attend. I know that there will be a group of us from the East coming. Mike will have a list of those that we have information on in the West and we will be trying to contact you to urge you to come and join us.

If you are a Facebook addict there are several groups that might interest you; NKAWTG...N!!!, I Survived K.I. Sawyer, Boom Operators, 644th Bomb Squadron, 46th Air Refueling Squadron and 307th Air Refueling Squadron.

*John Stevens*

## 46th AREFS wins Evans trophy

The 46th Air Refueling Squadron's Boom Operator Section was recently awarded the SMSgt. Albert L. Evans Memorial Trophy for being named the best boom operator section in the Strategic Air Command for 1981.

The trophy is named after SMSgt. Albert L. Evans, who was fatally injured in a KC-135 accident at Castle AFB, Calif. Sergeant Evans was stationed at Sawyer in the early seventies, where he served as a boom operator instructor for the 46 AREFS.

The 410th Bombardment Wing Commander mentioned in a written endorsement that the 46th AREFS, "through its diverse experience, professional competence, and sustained super performance in worldwide air refueling operations, amassed an unparalleled service record for 1981." A committee at Headquarters SAC agreed, and determined that the 46th AREFS had the best record for 1981.

During 1981, the 46th AREFS logged 4401.8 flying hours during 1109 sorties. Along the way, boom opera-

tors refueled 671 non-SAC receivers and 400 SAC bombers, tankers, reconnaissance\* and command/control aircraft.

During the September 1981 First Combat Evaluation Group inspection, all boom operators that were tested, earned perfect scores. All in-flight evaluations were also given high marks. Similarly, 24 KC-135 crews from the 46th AREFS were given the highest possible rating for mission effectiveness during the three week Global Shield worldwide readiness exercise in February 1981. And in the March 1981 Operational Readiness Inspection, all 16 crews that flew qualified for 8th Air Force Blue Ribbons.

Crews from the 46th AREFS also participated in the Red Flag Tanker Task Force at March AFB, Calif., during October and November 1981. Sawyer boom operators flew 83 sorties, refueling 600 Tactical Air Command aircraft, offloading 4 million pounds of fuel during the six week exercise. Lt. Col. Jerry Reese, tanker task force coordinator at March said, "The 46 AREFS did the finest job of any refueling squadron we have had to date. They kept a low profile, handled their own problems, and performed in a superbly professional manner."

Commenting on the success of the 46th AREFS this past year, Lt Col. Ronald B. Childers, 46th AREFS commander said, "I have had the opportunity to pass through a unit with many dedicated professionals. It has been especially gratifying to me to have been the commander of the 46th AREFS during 1981.

Besides recognition for flying and inspection performances, the boom operator section also accomplished activities while on the ground.

Six boom operators completed a Professional Military Education course during 1981. And more than 25 percent of the boom operators received college credits during 1981.

Colonel Childers also mentioned that all seven first term airmen, as well as all career airmen who came up for reenlistment, did reenlist. Colonel Childers also added that five airmen on base cross trained into the boom operator field in 1981.

Boom operators also helped sponsor Cub Scout Packs 352 and 356, as well as supporting Boy Scout Troop 356. Their help insured a high quality scouting program.

In conclusion, the Wing Commander's endorsement said that "the extraordinary professionalism, a trademark of the 46th AREFS boom operators, coupled with the impressive record of achievements, unequivocally justifies the presentation of the SMSgt. Albert L. Evans Memorial Trophy for 1981 to the 46th AREFS Boom Operator Section," Colonel Childers echoed that thought by saying that "the boom operator section of the 46th AREFS is a true group of dedicated, hard working, mission oriented individuals, who truly deserve the recognition they received via the SMSgt. Albert L. Evans Memorial Trophy."

From a news clipping from the "Northern Light", May 20, 1982, contained in the 46th History Book.

## In Memory

Ernst Wilhelm Krubsack  
12-8-12

## **OK, Here's your advance notice!**

Set aside **April 3 – 5, 2014** for the next 46<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron Association Reunion.

The site will be the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego, CA. Room rates are \$105 per night and the rates are good for 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion. Plan a little extra time to enjoy the attractions and hopefully good weather of the San Diego region.

The Crowne Plaza is including in our costs: Free Internet, Free Parking, Free shuttle bus to the San Diego Zoo, Sea World, Fashion Valley (shopping) and Old Town. Complementary hospitality suite and complementary banquet room ( we need to meet a \$2000 level in food and beverages for the banquet room). You also will get a 20% discount when using the Islands restaurant.

As in our previous reunions we will have an informal get together the first and second nights and our banquet on Saturday night. Dress is always informal for our functions. We will also have our typical short business meeting on Saturday morning.

The banquet menu will be a choice of Beef, Chicken, Salmon or Vegetarian Ravioli. Tossed green salad, oven roasted potatoes, fresh seasonal vegetables, rolls/butter, coffee, tea and iced tea. Dessert will be Black Forest Cake. Cost will be \$39 per person to include tip and tax.

There are many attractions in the San Diego area: Golf at the Riverwalk Golf Club, San Diego Zoo, Sea World, Gas Lamp District, Old Town, Hotel Del Coronado, USS Midway, San Diego Air and Space Museum, Harbor Cruises and many more attractions. Some of these do give military discounts. The San Diego Hop-on, Hop-off trolley has 11 stops and the all day pass is \$39.95.

There will be a registration form in the next couple of newsletters and on the website.

**Crowne Plaza Hotel, San Diego, CA**

***Reservation Instructions for the 2014 Reunion, 3-5 April 2014***

Phone: 1-888-233-9527

Internet: <https://resweb.passkey.com/46thAirRefuelingSquadron>

Hotel contact: Ashley Silvas, 619-297-1101 ext 3009

## 46th ARS Commanders

|                       |                   |                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Donald A. Broaddus**  | Martin D. Klana   | Ronald B. Childers  |
| Winfred H. Meibohm    | Frank Elliott**   | Dale R. Liesch      |
| C. Hunter Smith**     | Alvin W. Langford | William G. Manire   |
| Laurence Maher, Jr**  | Donald D.         | Richard W. Salsbury |
| Ronald L. Brumbaugh** | Luenenberg**      | William E. Rutter   |
| Wilson W. Howard**    | Richard E. Ring   | Brian W. Horst      |
| Samuel E. Dyke**      | Donald S. Croston | Russell Deming      |
| Bertram G. Brunner**  | Richard L. Trail  | James Nakauchi      |
| Edward G. Palm**      | Robert L. Hohman  | ** Deceased         |

## 307th ARS Commanders

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| John Horesek | Lynn Guenther   |
| John Irwin   | Raymond Amtmann |

## K.I. Heritage Air Museum

[www.kishmuseum.org](http://www.kishmuseum.org)

**Mailing Address:**

**KISHAM, 500 S. 3rd St., Marquette, MI 49855**

## 46th ARS Boom Section NCOICs

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Florian Spiczka**     | Duwayne Benson   |
| Ed Caldwell**         | Richard Stephens |
| Ken Courtright        | Carl Criscillis  |
| Bob Labo              | Craig Blessing   |
| Steve Lonergan**      | Dave McNeil**    |
| Scott Harris          | Kermit Gunther   |
| Brad Arnsparger       | Jim Hank         |
| Edward Christopherson |                  |

We need more names here. If you were a Boom Section NCOIC or know of one we do not have on the list please send the info to: [46thars@sbcglobal.net](mailto:46thars@sbcglobal.net)

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## 46th ARS Website

<http://46thars.tripod.com/index.html>

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