

THE PROP & ROTOR



Written by Robert

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CURATOR'S CORNER

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2016 has been a very busy year for the Army Aviation Museum Staff, our Foundation, and our volunteers. In addition to the many accomplishments and improvements the Museum has seen, there has been a changing of the guard both on the museum side as well as within the Foundation.

The beginning of 2016 saw the retirement of the longtime Director, Robert "Steve" Maxham. Steve took over the job as Director in 1989 and was the driving force that has made this museum a first-rate facility. His creative talents and keen insight into all facets of exhibit and display

have been sorely missed.

Our Foundation and



Mr. Robert Mitchell, the Museum's Curator and

gift shop have seen an almost 100% turnover of personnel with Linda Gentzyel assuming duties as Gift Shop Manager and Leslie Edens in the role of Foundation Manager. Both are shaking it up and making things happen. In February Ms. Jessica Coffman started as the muse-

um's Registrar. She comes to us from the National Parks Service and brings a wealth of knowledge and skill that have produced results and benefited the overall welfare of the museum.

In short, 2016 was a very busy year for the museum and by the increasing opt-tempo 2017 looks like it will be even busier. We are currently working on funding for several more restorations and re-paintings. Hopefully we will be standing up our Army Values



RAH-66 COMANCHE will be in the museum for a few months. Visit us soon because you don't want to miss this

DIORAMAS



Igor Sikorsky with the S-300 helicopter model.

The museum has seen three major dioramas added to the main gallery. The Father of the Helicopter, Igor Sikorsky, is showcased with his model of the S-300 helicopter. The S-300 led to the development of the R-4, the

first U.S. production helicopter. Directly across from Mr. Sikorsky an actual R-4 can now be seen conducting the Burmese jungle rescue in 1944. Another large diorama depicts a mountaintop resupply by a Sikorsky H-19

during the Korean War. In addition to the large dioramas several exhibits will be enhanced with mannequins in period uniforms, including the Executive Flight Detachment display with President Eisenhower and LTC

“THE TSF WILL BE 135,000 SQ. FT. WHICH WILL HOUSE THE TECHNOLOGIES OF ARMY AVIATION.”

THE NEW TSF FOR 2020

For the past 18 months the Museum staff has worked alongside the Army Corp of Engineers, Ft. Rucker, and TRADOC to close the deal on the Army Aviation Training Support Facility (TSF). It was down and we are

thrilled to say it is on the 2019-2022 cycle. The TSF will be 135,000 sq. ft. facility which will house the technologies of Army Aviation. Visitors, to the museum, see examples of Army aircraft used in the inventory for

decades. What they don't see are the experimental examples that resulted in those great designs. The TSF will have the space to exhibit all the one-off crazy ideas of the past as well as separate collections of engines, drive systems, flight gear, and a host of

RESTORATIONS



The XH-40 UH-1 Prototype. The past year saw quite a lot of progress in regards to restoration and painting of the artifacts. Two major con-

tracts were awarded for the full restoration of six significant experimental aircraft currently in storage and the repainting of the outdoor exhibits. This is in addition to the recent completion of the XH-40 UH-1 prototype,

probably the most important helicopter in history. Thanks to the generous contributions by Bell Helicopter, the Army Aviation Museum Foundation, and the passion of Tom Meacham of Blastoff, Incorpo-

SPOTLIGHT ON HISTORY

Written by Robert Barlow



**MAJ
Charles S.
Kettles**

pick up the
pinned-down

There are many amazing artifacts in the Army Aviation Museum's collection, but perhaps none are as special and inspiring as this body armor plate.

The background:

On 15 May 1967, then-MAJ Charles S. Kettles performed the actions that eventually led to his being awarded the Medal of Honor on 18 June 2016. On that day, MAJ Kettles led a flight of 6 UH-1D Hueys on a mission to extract 44 soldiers from an ambush in the Song Tra Cau river valley. The flight reached the LZ and picked up the soldiers under very heavy enemy fire. While returning to base MAJ Kettles received word that eight soldiers remained in the LZ. They were pinned down by enemy fire and had been unable to reach the helicopters along with the other soldiers. Passing off flight lead to another aircraft, he returned to the LZ to

troops. Lacking any fire support, and becoming the sole target for all the enemy weapons in the area, MAJ Kettles successfully picked up the eight who remained Despite severe damage to his Huey from mortar and small arms fire, MAJ Kettles flew his passengers and crew to safety.

The artifact:

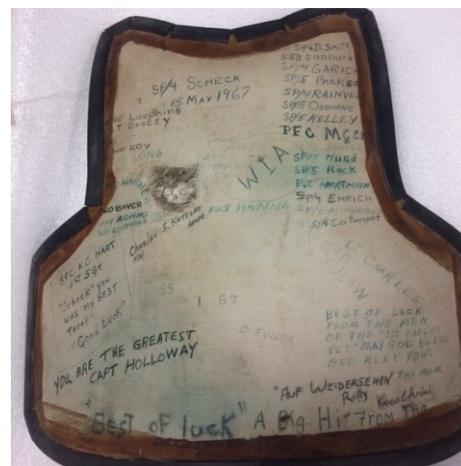
This body armor plate belonged to SP4 Scheck, who flew on this mission and was himself seriously wounded. His name appears at the upper left of the photo of the plate, along with the date of the mission, 15 May 1967. Just below the impact point, MAJ Kettles wrote his name. At the upper right the soldiers who were rescued that day wrote their names. Also to be seen are many messages to SP4 Scheck from members of his unit. All this alone would make it a remarkable and significant artifact. However,

there is one more name on this armor plate that makes it truly special, and quite poignant as well.

Just to the lower left of the impact point one will see written, in block letters, the name "CPT Adams". This man, who also flew on the mission that day, would almost exactly four years later write another page in the Book of Heroes. For you see, now MAJ William E. Adams was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions of 25 May 1971, while on a mission in the Kontum Province.

Fifty years ago, two Medal of Honor Army Aviators, and many other brave soldiers besides, wrote their names on this armor

"The flight reached the LZ and picked up the soldiers under very heavy enemy fire"



The signed armor plate from the Museum's collection

Mr.

VOLUNTEERS



Mr. Ed Gilmore at the front desk.

In 2016 our faithful volunteers logged a total of 1535 hours. This equates to having someone at the front desk for 30 hours of the 41 we are open each week. Our volunteers are the face of the museum, greeting visitors with a smile as they come through our doors each day. They gave over 50 tours for approximately 1500 people. Our tour guides not only know the history in the museum, they have lived it. They have all flown many of the

aircraft we have on display and served in wars that they are talking about as they guide the visitors through our, and their, Army Aviation past. Our volunteers also provide help beyond the front desk. MAJ Delvin Goode is our resident graphic artist and CW4 Chris Braund is our web designer.

Our registered volunteers include: Mr. Robert Barlow,

MAJ Delvin Goode and CW4 Christopher Braund.

At the Foundation's annual meeting the following were presented with the Presidents Volunteer Service Award: Silver award to, Mr. Robert Barlow, Mr. Ed Gilmore, and Mr. Thomas Franz. Bronze award to, Mr. George Baum and Mr. Jim kale.

A volunteer is worth more

Purchase a paver and renew your membership quickly and easily on line!

MEMBERSHIP

IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER, 10% to be exact. When you become a member of the AAMF one of the many benefits is 10% off in our gift shop, but more importantly, your tax exempt donation goes towards the restoration, enhancement

and upkeep of the museum's aircraft, artifacts and collections.

Membership is currently: 1 year-\$20.00. 3 year- \$35.00, 5 year-\$52.00 and a Life time at \$1,000. As of 1 April there will be new prices for membership and breakdowns for

lifetime memberships. Please go to our updated website www.armyaviationmuseum.org, click the Get Involved link and select Membership.

Becoming a member is

PAVERS

If you haven't seen our "dedication" pavers, in front of the museum and at Veterans Park, you are missing something special. Whether celebrating a graduation, in memory of a loved, or the marking of a promotion or career, a paver is always the

perfect and everlasting gift.

This past year we sold \$11,892 worth of pavers, to include miniatures, 4x8, and our new addition, an 8x8 paver array, which is a great space for units to highlight their members,

logos, and accomplishments. Paver donations are tax exempt so come



AAAA 2016



LTG Dan Petrosky with several of the industry presenters at the 2016 Army Aviation Mission Summit in Atlanta GA.

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

AAAA was an exciting time for everyone. With so many members of the aviation industry present at the Georgia International Convention Center in Atlanta there was never a dull moment. The Museum Gift Shop set up a store with a full range of aviation items. Three book signers added to the excitement, with Dr. James W. Williams with the History of Army Aviation., Dr. William Reeder Jr. with Through the Valley and Mr. Michael Putzel with the Price They Paid, Enduring Wounds of War.

We will be in Nashville this year at the Opryland Convention Center so be sure to stop by booth #777 for all your aviation needs.

For the Museum Foundation the highlight of the Summit is Scholarship and Museum Donation Luncheon. For 2016 the Foundation received \$58,362 from a variety of companies and organizations. Your contributions supported many projects at the museum to include painting of aircraft, restoration of the XH-40 Prototype Huey and the YOJ-3BR Brantley, enhancement of several dioramas and new signage for the Army Values Heritage Gallery.

Your generous contributions

allow the AAMF to preserve Army Aviation's past for the future.

Thank you to:

AAAA, AECOM, Airbus, AFS, BAE, Bell, Boeing, Brauer Aerospace, the City of Enterprise, City of Ozark, City of Daleville, Flight Safety, Piasecki, Raytheon,

Does your company participate in matching funds? If so, please consider the Foundation for your - and your company's - donation.

“THESE INCREDIBLE SKY SOLDIERS DROPPED 483 GOLF BALLS OUT OF A VINTAGE VIETNAM ERA HUEY, HOVERING AT ROUGHLY 50 FT.”

21ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT volun-

September 28, 2016 was a beautiful fall day and a perfect day for the AAMF golf tournament.

88 golfers, from various companies, came together at The Silver Wings Golf Course, on Ft. Rucker, for a day of friendship, networking, fun and great golf. In a nut shell, \$18,500 was raised. With 2 Platinum, 7 Gold, 6 Silver Sponsors

and 38 Hole sponsors. The funds raised were used to restore aircraft 446 to “Huey Hog” configuration!

Darrell Allman was the glue that held this new tournament director, Leslie Edens, together for organization, mentorship and hands on hard work. Mr. Stan Tanna, course manager, showed me the

ropes on how to run a successful golf tournament. Linda Gentzyel, my counterpart and co-manager, along with Angela McHugh, Deb Kennedy, Barbara Petrosky, and Ms. Betsy Marshall, and Ms. Daisy Payne, (from the Fairfield Inn & Suites), had everything under control for the 0600 registration and raffle ticket sales. And I cannot forget the

One of the major highlights was the Ball Drop, graciously performed by the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation, Wiregrass Chapter. These incredible sky soldiers dropped 483 golf balls out of a vintage Vietnam era Huey, hovering at roughly 50 feet. The winner, Matt Jordan, won the Tail Gate package, a \$950 value, which included

a Big Green Egg Mini Max, from Hughes Pools, and an Official NFL Football donated by Wilson Athletics. Countless other companies donated beautiful gifts for our door prizes, which were coveted by



all. Foundation Chairman of the Board, LTG(R) Dan Petrosky opened the tournament at 0800 and the museum Acting Director, Mr. Robert Mitchell was on hand to thank the foundation and golfers for their support of the Fort Rucker Army Aviation Museum. The

Hole-in-one car was not won this year but it could be you next year!

(Photo's courtesy of Ms. Jackie Blades)



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!!

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When you call the museum, as so many of you do, you reach either the gift shop, foundation or director side of the house. So you can put a name to each, here is who will be helping you.

GIFT SHOP	FOUNDATION	MUSEUM
334-598-9465	334-598-2508	334-255-1060
Vicky, Bob, Donna	Ms. Leslie Edens- foundation@armyaviationmuseum.org	Mr. Robert Mitchell- www.robert.d.mitchell3.civ@mail.mil
	Ms. Linda Gentzyl - shop@armyaviationmuseum.org	Acting Director & Curator



Army Aviation Museum
Foundation
P. O. Box 620610
Fort Rucker, AL 36362

Phone: 334-598-2508
Phone: 334-598-9645
www.armyaviationmuseum.org

Acting Director & Curator
Mr. Robert D. Mitchell
Phone: 334-255-1060

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