

USAF

Combat Camera



e-Blast

November 2016

Charleston Combat Camera Reunion Recap

by Zimm

USAF Combat Camera's 2016 Annual Reunion is now in the history books! This year's reunion was another outstanding event hosted by Renée Tyron and the 1st Combat Camera Squadron. Of the more than 100 past and present Combat Camera veterans and guests who attended the various events, nearly 50 were first-time reunion attendees. As an added twist, the reunion this year was held in conjunction with the 1 CTCS's first "Combat Camera Shoot-off" workshop.

Thanks to Hurricane Matthew, the workshop got off to a slow and rocky start but also provided the shoot-off participants with a real-world event to capture in the Charleston Low Country. 1 CTCS' resident photojournalist (and former Navy Combat Camera), Clarence Brown, mentored four young and talented teams of photojournalists and broadcasters from the 1st Combat Camera Squadron, 1 Special Operations Wing and the 27 Special Operations Wing. More about the workshop later!

The 2016 reunion kicked off on Thursday, Oct 13th with an amazing ice breaker reception at the Embassy Suites in Charleston with a Baron of Beef, Old Bay seasoned shrimp, smoked fish, grilled harvest vegetables, assorted cheeses and bread, and a fruit display with chocolate sauce. There were lots of handshakes and hugs, joy and laughter as old friends met after many years. If walls could talk, they would have revealed many a tall tale!

On Friday, the 1 CTCS Booster Club hosted a "Captain's Choice" Golf tournament again mixing many current and former COMCAM members in

teams at the Wrenwood's Golf Course on Joint Base Charleston. Mitch Jenkins, former 601 Photo Flight, AAVS and Det 7, 1361 AVS mopic photographer and current 1 CTCS, Chief of Logistics and his team Ed Gadson, JJ Jones and Bo Harris (all Det 7 alumni) won the tournament. We're told Mitch is a frequent winner during squadron tournaments!

After the golf tournament, reunion attendees gathered at the 1st Combat Camera Squadron where their commander, Lt Col Chris Anderson and his team welcomed us for a fantastic barbeque and a tour of the squadron. The squadron tour was exceptional! Chris Anderson gave an awesome mission overview of what Combat Camera is like today complete with incredible images and videos of recent accomplishments. We witnessed a demonstration of their hand-to-hand combat training, which is similar to krav maga (a self-defense system developed for the Israeli Defense Forces), as well as a close quarters battle demo where the team showcased their ability to clear and secure a hot "shoothouse" target. The squadron also has an integrated simulated weapons range inside the building, and with a little just-in-time instruction, we were able to shoot targets with simulator modified M4s and M9s. Very Cool!

Lastly, the 1st recently organized an array of legacy items they've been collecting or inherited over the years and now have it on display in their newly inaugurated Squadron Heritage Room. We definitely envied their shiny display cases filled with relics from our past. (BTW, we are still collecting for our future museum displays!) After our tour, we took our annual group photo in front of the C-141 at the Joint Base Charleston Air Park, followed by an evening in the hospitality suite filled with tales of past escapades and adventures which grow more fantastic every year.

On Saturday, a small group of us traveled to the Charleston waterfront and embarked on a Harbor tour and visit to Ft Sumter, site of America's Civil War beginnings. As an unexpected treat, we arrived just in time to participate in the changing of the Post Flag to the Storm Flag. Our members helped to lower and fold the massive Post Flag, and then unfurl and raise the smaller (although still quite large) Storm Flag. It was a very moving ceremony and process—Renée must have ordered up the perfect weather to make sure Pat Nugent could produce more award winning images! Make sure you check out the images at usacombatcamera.org or on our Facebook page.

Change of Officers

Late Saturday afternoon, we held our annual association meeting. At the meeting, Cris Hamilton stepped down as President after his 2-year term and Pat Knowles was elected the new President. Additionally, Pat Nugent was installed as the new treasurer and Renée Tyron and “Zimm” Eagan were elected as new members-at-large. Thanks goes out to Cris Hamilton and Mike Daniels (former treasurer) for their support to the Association the last two years. Another important change during this year's meeting was the increase to the annual Reunion Registration fee from \$150 to \$175. With rising costs on everything from our two formal gatherings to transportation for excursions, the members agreed it was time to increase the fee by \$25.

Next Reunion

The membership also confirmed the venue for next year's reunion in Colorado Springs at the Hotel Elegante from 12-15 Oct. Additionally, through much discussion, we debated the 2018 reunion location between Ventura and San Diego, CA and ultimately selected San Diego with DJ Diomedes again taking the reins for our west coast gathering.

For our newest reunion attendees, we want to apologize for not making it clear ALL attendees are always welcome to attend and participate in our annual meeting. We need your ideas and input to help us grow. New members Jeremy Zier and Jeff Allen have taken the pledge to recruit more COMCAM veterans to attend and participate in future reunions.

Last Flight

The 2016 USAF Combat Camera Banquet and Shoot-off Awards ceremony was capstone event of the reunion. Before dinner, we bowed our heads in silent tribute to those we lost since our last reunion:

Raymond Paul Santini, Mansie Booker, Richard Spainhour, Kim L. Luoma, Timothy Monk, Sr., George Howe, Col Richard Schuyler George, Bill Stephenson, James D. Berry, Don Hook, CMSgt Steven Nemerow, CMSgt Raul R. Duran, and lastly, former AAVS commander, Col Tom Diamond.

The Shoot-Off

We enjoyed a true Low Country style buffet complete with shrimp and grits, pulled pork, collards, mac & cheese and Chicken Calabash attended by over 90 past and present Combat Camera veterans and their guests. Emcee'd by Combat Camera flight commander, Natassia Cherne, we were treated to a showing of all the shoot-off team's projects. The entries, *Animal Shelter Homecoming*, *Edisto Island Aftermath*, *Red Cross Making a Difference*, and *Meals on Wheels after Matthew* showcased local Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts in the Charleston area. The four Shoot-off teams competed for best team, best photographer and best video editor.

Team 1, (SSgt Michael Battles, SrA Alexandra Minor, SrA Xavier Navarro and A1C Maygan Straight) with their presentation *Animal Shelter Homecoming* won the prize for Best Team.

SrA Ryan Conroy won the Best Photographer Category for his image *Edisto Island Aftermath* (see page 4) and A1C Kyle Hagan won the Best Video Editor title for *Red Cross Delivers*.

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to judges SMSgt Jeremy Zier, MSgt (Ret), Steve Faulisi, TSgt Joanne Makinano and Ken Hackman.

Thanks also goes out to our workshop donors who made it possible for participants to attend the banquet, and to Nikon for providing the Team prizes. We're already working plans with AF Space Command PA to hold a workshop at next year's reunion in Colorado Springs.

With heavy hearts, we said goodbye to friends and comrades with promises to meet again next year in Colorado Springs. Renée Tyron has turned over the torch to Joe Coleman who is already working hard behind the scenes.

Our legacy, your legacy will prevail...

2017 Reunion

The 2017 reunion dates are 12-15 Oct 2017. It will be at the Hotel Elegante Conference and Event Center in Colorado Springs. The room rates are \$149 a night for both a king size bed and 2 queen double beds. Breakfast will be included in the room

rate. Joe Coleman has a list of proposed tour locations as follows:

Pikes Peak Cog Railway

Royal Gorge Bridge and Park

Garden of the Gods

Air Force Academy

Olympic Training Center

Peterson AFB Air and Space Museum

WW II vintage aircraft Museum

In the upcoming e-Blasts we'll provide more details

Still Calling for images

by: Jose Lopez

Still need images of "Old Timers" in action! "Old Timers" in this case is anyone who shot Film; film and video tape for you mopicers.

Check out what we've done so far with the images we've received at this link:

<http://www.usafcombatcamera.org/3822-2/>

Scan or get the images scanned full frame (Slides, Prints, or Negs) at 150 dpi JPeg (jpg); save at max quality (12) and Baseline ("Standard").

By the way, we need both Horizontal and Vertical Images.

Please provide the 5Ws and, where possible, who shot it.

Send via Dropbox or e-mail them to me at josepj@earthlink.net or make a CD and send it to P.O. Box 2872, Crestline, CA 92325-2872.

Combat Camera Display at Norton and March Museums; and future museum displays

We have received some wonderful items to include in our museum exhibits at the March Air Museum and the Norton Museum.

BUT!!! We still need more! We need more "tools of our trade" that accurately depict the variety and diversity of our mission and prepare to display in Texas and possibly other locations.

If you have items, and your not sure they are something we would want, send an email to Ken Hackman, kenhackman@att.net and he will let you know if your item/s is something we can use. Send items to Ken Hackman, 3940 Sunswept Drive, Studio City, CA 91604 who will catalog the donations and then get them to Jose Lopez who is our museum curator.

We still need mopic cameras used during Korea and Vietnam and into the late 90s.

We need video cameras, the type use in service, to represent the video shooters.

We also need medium format cameras to represent the move between 4x5 and 35mm. Specifically looking for a Graflex XL w/rangefinder and a Rapid Omega 200. We got some backs and lenses for these cameras; and they were actually used by Combat Camera.

Does anyone know what are they using now: both Still and Video?

This Might be of interest to all our members

by: Pat Nugent



3:30 PM BOWL FOR THE BRAVE 12.23.16
AMON G. CARTER STADIUM | FORT WORTH, TX



The Project Continues

Two years ago we launched our Wall of Heroes project, with the goal of collecting photos of our armed forces members to be honored at our game. We have seen fantastic success and are launching the project for 2016!

We are asking our fans to help by submitting a photo of your hero. This hero can be any family member, friend or acquaintance that wore the cloth of our nation. Click on the link below and upload your photo to be included.

We will be adding the photos we receive this year to those submitted previously, in an ongoing effort to honor to expand our wall with as may heroes as possible. The Wall of Heroes Project will be on display at our game on December 23, inside the Tailgate Outpost in Lot 3 of Amon G. Carter Stadium. Join us to see the mosaic of American heroes that creates the United States Armed Forces.

[Submit a Photo of Your Hero By Clicking Here](#)

Winning Image



South Carolina Army National Guard soldiers walk down the recently-cleared streets of Edisto Beach, South Carolina, Oct. 12, 2016. The soldiers cleared five-foot sand drifts from the road following the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. USAF Photo by SrA Ryan Conroy

For those not there, here are some images of the Reunion:





Thanks to:
James Pearson and Pat Nugent
for these images

For more images go to usafcombatcamera.org