

USAF

Combat Camera



e-Blast

September 2017

From the President and Board of Officers

The Board of Officers had a teleconference on 08/15. Topics discussed were all related to our Springs reunion. Registration numbers have not moved since our last conference. There are still around 20 registered and paid with 6 others indicating intent to attend. I encourage all who plan on coming to register as soon as possible so we may finalize the reunion activities and banquet specifics.

Clarence Brown gave us an update on the Active duty shoot off. Looks like we will have similar participation to last year in Charleston.

The good folks who have been handling the hospitality and entertainment coordination are recruiting volunteers to work those tasks at next years reunion

Board of Officers next teleconference 9/05. Any issues from the general membership may be addressed to me at gppjk.8@gmail.com

Thanks to all
Pat Knowles
President

From the Highland Community News: Combat Camera: U.S. Air Force documented through the decades

Posted: Thursday, August 31, 2017



Ken "The Godfather" Hackman

Retired Chief Photojournalist of the USAF (retired) Ken Hackman shares his history with the USAF Combat Camera when based at Norton Air Force Base during the Norton AFB Museum's Evening at the Museum, Aug. 23.

"Being an Air Force photographer puts you where the action is," said Chief Photojournalist of the USAF (retired) Ken Hackman as he presented the experiences and photographs taken by himself and those who worked with him at the USAF Combat Camera headquartered at Norton Air Force Base from Vietnam War to Desert Storm. It was a packed house for the museum's ninth "Evening at the Museum" Wednesday, Aug. 23.

Hackman, 79, was nicknamed "the Godfather" for his success in mentoring and shaping of young photojournalists throughout his 40-year career in military visual information. It's a career that took him all over the world to photograph monumental and historical events from military actions of Vietnam to the test detonations of nuclear bombs through the digital age and to the burning of oil fields following Desert Storm.

Hackman began his career at the age of 17 when he joined the Air Force in 1955 and was assigned to a 45-person unit in Japan. Following his first enlistment, Hackman left the service and became an Air Force civil service photographer for the Aerospace Audiovisual Service and then Air Combat Camera.

"If there's one thing the military loves to do it's reorganize," Hackman said.

When the Audio Visual Service was reorganized as Combat Camera in 1968, its headquarters was consolidated at Norton Air Force Base, in a large building that still stands just south of Third Street.

"That roof leaked from day one to the day we moved out," Hackman said.

From that building, photographers were sent out to document the Air Force's actions worldwide, and Hackman shared many of the photos taken in his slide show presentation.

The photos showed B-52s in Thailand, flyovers of the Ho Chi Minh Trail, C-47 gunships on night missions, Agent Orange air drops and the pick up and return of American POWs in Operation Homecoming.

The slide show also featured several familiar faces including Bob Hope. Hackman's crew flew with Hope's team during a portion of one of his many tours to entertain the troops. There were also photos of Brig. Gen. Jimmy Stewart. A World War II veteran, Stewart helped narrate training videos and served in the USAF Reserves through Vietnam War.

Purposes for the photographs ranged from documenting historical events, training purposes, mapping and planning, documenting weapons exercises, news reels, and public relations.

Not all of Hackman's work and experiences dealt with photographing wartime events. Hackman also had the opportunity attend several Olympic Games in order to photograph Air Force athletes. Combat Camera also documented the Air Force's winter airdrop missions resupplying scientists stationed in

Antarctica.

Hackman also took several of the official photos of Air Force One, including flyovers of Mt. Rushmore.

When discussing his photographing America's final atmospheric atomic bomb testing in 1962, Hackman said, "My only thought after seeing quite a few detonations is you don't want to go there."

Hackman said he especially enjoyed getting to fly in the backseat of fighter jets and photographing the U-2 spyplane.

The 2017 USAF Combat Camera Reunion

**Registration:
\$175.00 per person**

(Includes Icebreaker, Hospitality Room & Banquet)

Registration for our 2017 reunion is \$175.00 per person for the full event.

This fee pays for the food and drinks for the hospitality room, the Thursday night "meet and greet" reception, the Saturday night banquet and other reunion expenses. Click on the Registration button above to pay via PayPal (you don't have to have a PayPal account). There are several other options available, listed below.

You can also MAIL a check or money order made out to **USAF Combat Camera Association** (Please **DO NOT** make them out to Pat). If you want immediate acknowledgment of receipt of your payment, include a valid email address or give it a week and then check with Pat by e-Mail at usafcca.treasurer@gmail.com (Please use this e-Mail address for all non-personal, Association-related matters only).

Pat Nugent
1006 Pin Oak Lane
Allen, TX 75002

2017 Reunion

by: Joe Coleman

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.

Individual Reservation: Each individual guest can make their own reservation by calling (800) 981-4012 by Monday September 11, 2017. They must identify themselves as members of the Combat Camera Reunion or refer to Group #1643557. All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card.

Or click on the button to register via their website:

Hotel Reservations

<https://www.reseze.net/servlet/SendPage?hotelid=1410&skipfirstpage=true&page=1643557>

Joe Coleman is setting an awesome agenda for the Colorado Springs Reunion.

Tentative schedule for Friday:

Garden of the Gods
The Academy Tour
Possible lunch with the cadets
Olympic Training Center
Photo in front of the Chapel

On Saturday we are looking for Volunteers.

Those who are driving to the Reunion and are willing to drive fellow attendees on an informal tour, after the 9 AM Annual Meeting, to the Pete Field Museum and WWII Museum. If you want to Volunteer please e-Mail Barb Eagan at:

barb@mycactusproperties.com



Carl Steven "Steve" McGill Multimedia Management Specialist, Riverside

Retired U.S. Air Force Photojournalist Carl Steven McGill will make a dynamic in depth presentation for "**Project Outreach**" at this years Combat Camera Reunion.

Project Outreach initiated by the Defense Imagery Management Operations Center (DIMOC) to recover media from individuals and organizations throughout the Department of Defense (DoD) Visual Information (VI) community.

Thousands of historical photographs, films and videos, have been rescued thanks to DIMOC's efforts.

They ensure its mission to receive, manage, digitize, preserve; and transfer this media to the National Archive and Records Administration (NARA); the nation's record keeper.

McGill born in Nashville, TN. and moved to Birmingham, AL. after his 2nd birthday. He graduated from E.B. Erwin High School in 1972 and enlisted into the U.S. Air Force where he became a Still Photographic Specialist.

In 1981 he was selected as one of six Air Force still photographers to attend a year long graduate course at Syracuse University's S.I Newhouse School of Modern Communication.

He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1993.

McGill's 20 years of military training brought him considerable knowledge and expertise in the multimedia field, including still photo editing, slide show presentations, photographic displays and graphic layout and design.

He currently holds the position of Multimedia Management Specialist for the Defense Information Management Operations Center, Riverside, CA. and has accumulated 43 years practical knowledge in the visual information field.

by: Pat Nugent

The Veterans Choice Program

1. Am I eligible for the Veterans Choice Program?

To be eligible for the program, you must be enrolled in VA health care and must also meet at least one of the following criteria:

- You are told by your local VA medical facility that you will need to wait more than 30 days for an appointment.
- Your residence is more than a 40 mile driving distance from the closest VA medical facility with a full time primary care physician.
- You need to travel by air, boat, or ferry to the VA medical facility closest to your house.
- You face an unusual or excessive burden in traveling to the closest VA medical facility based on a geographic challenge, environmental factor, medical condition, or other specific clinical decisions. Staff at your local VA medical facility will work with you to determine if you are eligible for any of these reasons.
- You reside in a State or a United States Territory without a full-service VA medical facility that provides hospital care, emergency services and surgical care, and reside more than 20 miles from such a VA medical facility. Note: This criterion applies to Veterans residing in Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Also note that some Veterans in New Hampshire reside within 20 miles of White River Junction VAMC and are therefore not eligible for the Veterans Choice Program.

2. What if I think I am eligible?

- Call the VCP Call Center at 866-606-8198 or visit the Veterans Choice Program website to verify eligibility and set up an appointment [here](#).

3. Can I call my non-VA doctor to make an appointment?

- No, please call the VCP call center at 866-606-8198 to verify eligibility and set up an appointment.

4. How is the 40 mile calculation determined?

- This calculation is based on the driving distance from your permanent residence (or active temporary address) to the closest VA facility, including Community-Based Outpatient Clinics and VA Medical Centers. You are eligible if you live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility that has a full-time primary care physician.

5. If I am eligible for the Veterans Choice Program, can I receive Beneficiary Travel for travel to appointments with a VCP provider?

- Yes, the Choice Act does provide funding to pay for travel to VCP providers for Veterans who are eligible for Beneficiary Travel. However, it did not provide any new Beneficiary Travel eligibility.

6. If I didn't get my Choice Card or I lost my Choice Card, what do I do?

- You do not need your Choice Card to access the VCP. If you didn't receive a Choice Card or lost your Choice Card, simply call 866-606-8198 to find out if you are eligible and to make an appointment.

7. How do I get my prescription filled if I use the Veterans Choice Program?

- The community provider you see through the VCP can issue a prescription for up to a 14 day supply of a national formulary drug. You may have the 14 day supply filled at any non-VA pharmacy of your choosing.
- Prescriptions can be reimbursed through the Business Office/Non-VA Care Coordination Office at VA facilities. This reimbursement may take 30-45 days to process, and requires a copy of the prescription and the original receipt. Veterans cannot be reimbursed at the VA Pharmacy.
- For prescriptions needed past 14 days, please follow standard procedures to fill a prescription at the VA pharmacy.

8. If I use the Veterans Choice Program, does that affect my VA health care?

- No, not at all. You do not have to choose between the two. The VCP is here to make it easier to access the care you need. VA is building a high-

performing integrated health care network to deliver the best of VA and the community. This integrated network will give Veterans more choices to access care and ensure care is delivered where and when you need it.

9. What is my responsibility for co-payments to my other insurance?

- Nothing. VA is now the primary coordinator of benefits for VCP, so you are only responsible for your VA copayment.
- Your VA copayment will be determined by VA after the care is provided. VA copayments will be billed by VA after the appointment.

10. How does the new VCP extension law affect me?

- Public Law 115-26, enacted April 19, 2017, made three key changes to help improve the VCP. The law removed the expiration date for the program, made VA primary coordinator of benefits for services provided to you, and it removed barriers with sharing necessary health information with community providers.

Providers interested in participating must establish a contract with one of the contractors, Health Net Federal, or TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

Eblast submission #2

veteransaffairs@public.govdelivery.com

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Last Flight

Bob Zinke passed away on July 25, 2017.

Sterling Robert Labe, 77, of Yucaipa, passed away on July 1, 2017.

Sterling was born Aug. 1, 1939 in Richland, Penn., to Clarence and Kathryn Labeand.

He worked as a civilian at Norton Air Force Base.

Gene Jillson passed on April 18, 2017

For the PJs out there:



Prof Fred Demarest ca 1980

by: Ken Hackman

Former Newhouse **Professor Fred Demarest** passed away peacefully on August 15, 2017 at age 92.

Fred Demarest began teaching photography at Syracuse University before the beginning of the Newhouse School. At Newhouse, Fred designed the photojournalism and photo illustration undergraduate majors and our master's degree in communications photography. He brought those programs to national prominence. In 1962, Fred responded to a request from the Chief of Naval Information to create a photojournalism program for Navy photographers.

Our first military class graduated in 1963 and the program has since grown to include members from all our military services. The military photojournalism program continues at Newhouse to this very day.

Fred Demarest positively influenced the lives of so many of his students and colleagues over his long career at Newhouse. His wisdom, kindness and extraordinary sense of humor will be missed.

Services were held on Friday, August 25 at the Campbell Dean Funeral Home, 260 Main Street, Oneida, NY at 10:30am.

BTW Pass this e-Blast on to fellow Combat Camera members who do not use computers.