

THUNDERROLLS

2016 Volume 23 No. 4



Dale Cooke (Slot 1980–81) stands next to the aircraft he flew on the Thunderbirds from 1979–1982. No longer painted in its Thunderbirds legacy colors, aircraft #177 fulfills a different role as an air-to-air aggressor for F-22 Raptor student pilots at Tyndall AFB, Fla. For more on this reunion, see the story and photos on Page 3. (USAF Photo by Tech. Sgt. Javier Cruz)

Nominations sought for TBAA Board of Directors

It is not too early to start thinking about how alumni can step up and devote some of their time, energy and talents to the success of the Thunderbirds Alumni Association by serving on the Board of Directors.

On Jan. 1, 2018, turnover of the TBAA Board will include Chairman Jeff Remington (Solo 1988–89), Secretary Shellie Vaught (Personnel Specialist 1998–2000), Treasurer Brian Plauche (Crew Chief #7,#1, #8 2000–05) and Director (Nominations/Elections Chairman) Frank Howe (PA Administrator 1995–98). Additionally, someone will be elected to fill the vacancy created when Director Kati Grabham (Media Relations 2002–07) resigned.

For individuals thinking about running or even voting for those nominated for the board, there are a few things to know.

First, only alumni can run for the board and vote. Second, alumni must be current in TBAA dues (annual dues paid by March 31, 2017) or a lifetime member to be a nominee as well as to vote in

the election. Third, individuals desiring to run for these positions can be nominated by a fellow Thunderbird, or they may self-nominate. Lastly, the deadline for nominations is April 1, 2017.

All nominations should include full name and contact information for both the nominee and person making the nomination.

Nominations can be emailed to Frank Howe at: Tbirds1995@gmail.com.

For those nominated, the board will then confirm their desire to serve. Then they require the submission of a short biography which includes years and positions held while on the Team, a statement of reasons for wanting to serve on the board and an electronic head and shoulders photo (jpg).

A ballot will appear in the second quarter 2017 issue of ThunderRolls (distributed in the April–June time frame).

From the Chairman



After several months of discussion amongst ourselves and with current Commander/Leader, Lt. Col. “Reggie” Hammond, the Thunderbirds Alumni Association Board of Directors have chosen Nov. 9–11 as the dates for next year’s Thunderbirds alumni reunion. It will be held downtown at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino the same weekend as Nellis’ open house, Aviation Nation.

A number of factors played into the decision for the dates and location. Boss Hammond informed the Board that getting airspace over Nellis for a demonstration was not nearly as easy and as often as it once was because of the significant growth of traffic into and out of McCarran International Airport. Simply put, it was highly unlikely the team would get approval for a demonstration the week after Aviation Nation.

As we have done in past reunion years, we booked the South Point Hotel and Casino following the 2015 reunion for the weekend after Aviation Nation in 2017. When we tried to move the reunion forward a week we were informed the South Point was already booked and we would need to find a different location. Luckily, we were able to land the Golden Nugget! We are very excited about the opportunity to be closer to Nellis and enjoy the downtown atmosphere of Las Vegas.

What impact this change will have regarding current team participation in the reunion activities is still unknown. They will be busy with Aviation Nation duties including flying demonstrations. At least this will guarantee the alumni get to see a demonstration providing nothing more happens with funding from DC.

Deposits which TBAA will have to pay in advance for the hotel will be higher. However, cost-savings measures taken by the Board, as well as tax deductible donations by TBAA members, will help offset these expenses. Expect only very slight raises in the costs associated with moving the reunion to the Golden Nugget.

At the 2017 reunion, The Board will also be requesting the membership present to approve a bylaws change involving the Association’s investment account. Reunion planning is well underway. Look for more details in the first issue of ThunderRolls in 2017. We plan to open reunion registrations online in mid-June, as we did in 2015.

Next year is also an election year for the TBAA Board of Directors. I encourage you to think about how you can step up and devote some time, energy and talent to the success of the TBAA by serving on the Board. Details regarding nominations and positions opening are in the story on Page 1.

We all know it takes successful funding to run a successful organization and reunion. We can use your help in donations and/or identifying sponsors. If you would like to donate to the TBAA, please contact us. We have had many alumni step up to the plate to help. Also, if you have ideas for potential sponsors outside the TBAA, please let any board member know who those potential sponsors are and we’ll take it from there.



Jeff Remington
Solo (1988–89)
Chairman (2014–2017)

From the Boss



Thunderbirds,

Unfortunately, this will be my last commentary in ThunderRolls as a current Team member. I look forward to joining the alumni ranks and continuing to watch this incredible Team inspire tomorrow’s Airmen. It’s been a while since my last installment and much has happened; I think AI left us alone for the third quarter edition given the events of June.

First I would like to address the elephant in the room. On June 2nd, Thunderbird 6, Maj. Alex Turner, abandoned his aircraft during the landing sequence following the USAF Academy graduation flyby and demonstration. He remained with the aircraft to steer away from populated areas before ejecting. There have been many rumors and speculation associated with the events of that day. Unfortunately, the accident investigation board results have not been released yet, so I am unable to dispel rumors about our fuel state or other outside factors being causal. We expect the report to be made public in the very near future.

In light of the events of June, we greatly appreciate the support from the alumni association. There was incredible outreach from previous

Team members, former demo pilots and Commander/Leaders who offered lessons learned from their similar experiences in Thunderbirds history. Disappointingly, there were many who complicated and second-guessed our position through rumor propagation and speculation. I would recommend they attend a Thunderbirds airshow in the near future to become re-blued and see what an incredibly professional and capable Team we have right now.

Following the incident, we followed standard protocol and stood down for several days. We canceled both the Kirtland AFB, NM and North Kingston, RI airshows. However, we were able to return to the road three weeks later at Ocean City, MD as a 5-ship. Maj. Turner rejoined the demonstration several weeks later after we received initial results of the safety investigation board. Since then, the Team has achieved new heights in outreach and in the demonstration, as we are determined to not let the mishap characterize the 2016 show season. Furthermore, we received a replacement jet, which was actually being acquired prior to the accident. It will be modified by Feb 2017 and flying in the demonstration for the 2017 show season. Until then, aircraft availability will be a struggle we will continue to overcome.

I would also like to provide an update to the museum renovation. We were initially slated to reopen in August. However, Lockheed Martin graciously provided plans for an incredible modernization of the Thunderbirds museum. With funding still at a premium, we were able

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No longer painted in its Thunderbird legacy colors of red, white and blue, aircraft #177, painted gloss black fulfills a different role as an air-to-air aggressor for fifth generation F-22 Raptor student pilots at Tyndall AFB, Fla.

Under the black and gold: Former Thunderbird pilot reunites with former Thunderbird T-38 at Tyndall AFB

**Photos/story by Tech. Sgt. Javier Cruz
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office**

Standing in the shadow of America's premier 5th generation fighter aircraft would make any other aircraft pale in comparison, but one T-38 Talon at Tyndall Air Force Base hides a historical legacy.

Dale Cooke (Slot 1980–81) traveled to Tyndall Air Force Base to reunite with the aircraft that served with him as a Thunderbird over three decades earlier.

"The last time I saw this plane was 34 years ago when I flew it near Nellis Air Force Base in 1982," Cooke said.

Cooke accumulated more than 800 flight hours while traveling the country, logging over 200 performances during the regular show season from 1979–1981.

"It was one of the best times of my life," Cooke said. "The pure joy of flying and being around other people who were striving for excellence, it was wonderful and I have lifelong friends from that experience."

No longer painted in its Thunderbird legacy colors of red, white and blue, aircraft #177 fulfills a different role within the 2nd Fighter

Training Squadron as a world class air-to-air aggressor for F-22 Raptor student pilots. Repainted gloss black, the T-38 remains a versatile training tool for today's 5th generation fighter aircraft.

From 1974–1982, the Thunderbird T-38s soared over millions of spectators nationwide and inspired generations of future pilots and service members.



An original Thunderbirds patch from the T-38 era marks the legacy of aircraft #177.

"It flies against the Raptor every day, that's a testament to the aircraft. It's a strong little plane," Cooke said.

Other than the new paint job, aircraft #177 is the only remaining unmodified T-38A model still in its original Thunderbirds configuration.

The 2nd Fighter Training Squadron maintains the legacy of the aircraft as an original Thunderbirds decal is proudly displayed near the student pilot seat.

"They're keeping the history; they know what they've got," Cooke said. "Seeing that plane today in the great condition that it is in makes me very happy. Many times I've met people who told me they wanted to be in the Air Force because they saw the Thunderbirds fly."

Aircraft #177 currently continues to provide reliable air-to-air challenges for new F-22 Raptor student pilots at Tyndall.

"When the time comes for this aircraft to retire, we would like to see it preserved for history and future generations of Americans in its original Thunderbirds colors," Cooke said. "It's only a small part of Thunderbird history but each one should have its place."

Alumnus fulfills desire for a career in law enforcement

A desire to serve in a federal law enforcement position led one former Thunderbird into a career with the U.S. Secret Service.

Frank Howe (Public Affairs administrator 1995–98) left the Air Force after 10 years and was first hired by the U.S. Marshal Service in Las Vegas, Nev. He was then offered a position with the U.S. Secret Service in May 2000.

“The Special Agent in Charge of the Denver office was a big fan of the team, said Howe. “Having my time on the team on my application helped grab his eye.”

Secret Service agents must qualify for a Top Secret clearance and are placed in sensitive positions relating to national security. All candidates undergo an extensive background check that can take anywhere from six to nine months.

Successful candidates must complete a 10-week training program followed by a 17-week special agent basic training course.

The initial 10-week program, which is designed to provide prospective agents with a foundation in investigation techniques and criminal law, takes place at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Ga.

Upon successful completion of the program, candidates begin a more specialized, 18-week Special Agent Training program at the Secret Service Training Academy outside Washington DC. Trainees are provided with basic knowledge and advanced application training in combating counterfeiting, access device fraud and other financial criminal activity, protective intelligence investigations, physical protection techniques, protective advances and emergency medicine. The core curriculum is augmented with extensive training in marksmanship, control tactics, water survival skills and physical fitness.

Candidates must pass both training programs on their first attempt.

A typical special agent career path begins with the first six to eight years on the job assigned to a field office. Newly-appointed agents may be assigned to field offices anywhere in the United States.

Howe is currently assigned to the Denver, Colorado field office.

“We support any protection visits to Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Idaho,”



U.S. Secret Service agent Frank Howe (Public Affairs Administrator 1995–98) has served on several protection details, including one for Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI).

Howe said. “Protection can include the President, Vice President, cabinet officials and foreign leaders.” When not assigned to a protection assignment, his duties include financial investigations and firearms instructor.

Howe has supported various National Security Events throughout the U.S., The United Nations Assembly in New York City every September, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders Meeting in Honolulu where he drove the President of China, and the 2008 Democratic Convention in Denver.

He has also served on former President Bill Clinton’s Secret Service detail as well as that of Dr. Ben Carson when he was running for the Republican nomination in the 2016 presidential election.

Howe was on duty when President Barack Obama spoke at the U.S. Air Force Academy graduation earlier this year.

When Thunderbird #6 had to abort, a Denver-based colleague of Howe’s was the first to render medical aid.

The office counterpart was on-board a Colorado Air National Guard helicopter which landed in the field near the downed jet. After a quick rapid trauma assessment, they transported the pilot to Peterson AFB.

Howe recently flew to Rome, Italy on-board an Air Force’s C-17 aircraft. The trip was to transport the personnel and equipment for a Vice Presidential protection mission. “It reminded me of our weekly star trips while on the team. Howe added, “the trip was an awesome opportunity to relive our Thunderbird days while on the team.”

Howe continues to serve former Thunderbirds as well as a member of the Thunderbirds Alumni Association Board of Directors. He will finish his term next year as the chairman of the Nominations/Elections committee.

ACC announces 2017 Thunderbirds officer selections

The commander of Air Combat Command named the five officers who will be joining the Thunderbirds for the 2017 demonstration season.

In a June 21 announcement, Gen. Herbert Carlisle, ACC commander, named **Lt. Col. Jason Heard** the squadron's Commander/Leader. He is director of operations for the 492nd Fighter Squadron at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom. Heard will replace **Lt. Col. Christopher Hammond**.

"We're looking forward to joining the team and performing the Thunderbird mission," Heard said.

Maj. Nathaniel Hofmann will become the team's Right Wing pilot (Thunderbird #3). He is the chief of training and an F-16 pilot with the 55th Fighter Squadron at Shaw AFB, S.C. Hofmann will replace **Maj. Alexander Goldfein**.

Capt. Whit Collins will become the team's Opposing Solo pilot (Thunderbird #6). He is flight commander, chief of training and an F-16 pilot with the 85th Test and Evaluation Squadron at currently stationed Eglin AFB, Fla. **Maj. Alex Turner**, the current opposing solo pilot, will transition to the Lead Solo position (Thunderbird #5) in 2017, replacing **Capt. Nicholas Eberling**.



Lt. Col. Jason Heard, director of operations for the 492nd Fighter Squadron, with his family at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom. He has been named to replace Lt. Col. Christopher Hammond as Thunderbirds Commander/Leader for the 2017 and 2018 demonstration seasons.

Capt. Erik Gonsalves will become the team's Advance Pilot and Narrator (Thunderbird No. 8). He is flight commander and an A-10 pilot with the 75th Fighter Squadron Moody AFB, Ga. Gonsalves will replace **Maj. Scott Petz**.

Capt. (Dr.) William Goncharow will become the team's Flight Surgeon (Thunderbird #9). He is a flight surgeon with the 59th Medical Wing at Lackland AFB, Texas. Goncharow will replace **Maj. (Dr.) Christopher Scheibler**.

"The talent pool for our finalists was very impressive making the selection of our new Team members very difficult," Hammond said. "The five individuals who were selected are incredible professionals and will represent the Air Force well. There is no doubt the Thunderbirds will be in good hands for the 2017 show season."

Remaining for the 2017 season are **Capt. Ryan Bodenheimer**, the Left Wing Pilot (Thunderbird #2); **Maj. Nick Krajicek**, the Slot Pilot (Thunderbird #4); **Maj. Kevin Walsh**, the Operations Officer (Thunderbird #7); **Capt. Angelina Urbina**, the Executive Officer (Thunderbird #10); **Maj. Warren Smith**, the Maintenance Officer (Thunderbird #11); and **Capt. Sara Harper**, the Public Affairs Officer (Thunderbird #12).

70 demonstrations at 37 locations highlight 2017 schedule

The Thunderbirds have scheduled two flyovers and 70 demonstrations at 37 locations in 2017.

2017 Show Season

Feb. 19: Daytona 500, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Flyover)

March 5: Las Vegas Motor Speedway (Flyover)

March 7: Creech AFB, Nev.

March 11-12: Titusville, Fla.

March 18-19: Waco, Texas

March 25-26: Lancaster, Calif.

April 1-2: Melbourne, Fla.

April 8: Maxwell AFB, Ala.

April 22-23: Tyndall AFB, Fla.

April 29-30: Lake Charles, La.

May 6-7: Travis AFB, Calif.

May 13-14: Pittsburgh, Pa.

May 20-21: Tinker ADB, Okla.

May 2-28: Wantagh (Jones Beach), N.Y.

June 1: USAF Academy, Colo.

June 3-4: Grand Junction, Colo.

June 10-11: Rockford, Ill.



The team offers a limited number of airshow passes to alumni at show sites listed on their schedule to active (dues paying) TBAA members. Tickets go quickly so plan ahead. Requests must be received NLT two weeks prior to the demonstration. If interested in Thunderbirds airshow tickets, contact Maureen Walker at: maureen.walker@us.af.mil

June 17-18: Youngstown ARB, Ohio

June 24-25: Dayton, Ohio

July 1-2: Traverse City, Mich.

July 8-9: Gary, Ind.

July 15-16: Open Date

July 22-23: Great Falls, Mont.

July 26: Cheyenne, Wyo.

July 29-30: Fairchild AFB, Wash.

Aug 12-13: Westfield (Barnes Air National Guard Base), Mass.

Aug 19-20: Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.

Aug 23: Atlantic City, N.J.

Aug 26-27: Dover AFB, Del.

Sept 2-4: Cleveland, Ohio

Sept 9-10: Altus AFB, Okla.

Sept 16-17: Joint Base Andrews, Md.

Sept 23-24: Colorado Springs, Colo.

Sept. 30-Oct. 1: Grand Junction, Colo.

Oct. 7-8: Minden, Nev.

Oct 14-15: Phoenix (Speedway), Ariz.

Oct 21-22: Houston, Texas

Oct 28-29: Moody AFB, Ga.

Nov 4-5: JB San Antonio Lackland-Kelly, Texas

Nov 11-12: Nellis AFB, Nev.

Benchstock



Congratulations to **Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy** (Honorary Thunderbird 2011), who was promoted to his current grade and became Commander, Pacific Air Forces; Air Component Commander for

United States Pacific Command; and Executive Director, Pacific Air Combat Operations Staff, Hickam AFB, Hawaii. O'Shaughnessy previously served as the Deputy Commander, United Nations Command Korea; Deputy Commander, U.S. Forces Korea; Commander, Air Component Command, Republic of Korea/U.S. Combined Forces Command; and Commander, 7th Air Force, Pacific Air Forces, Osan Air Base, South Korea. He was also the U.S. representative to the joint committee for the Status of Forces agreement between the two countries.



Congratulations to **Col. Rick "Chase" Boutwell** (Left Wing/Slot 2000-02), who is now Executive Assistant to the Commander of NORAD and US NORTHCOM. He previously served as Commander, 99th Air Base Wing

at Nellis AFB, Nev.



More than 60 Thunderbirds alumni, spouses and friend gathered in Destin, Fla., in September for ThunderFun 2016. Alumni who attended the three-day event served on the team ranging from 1962 to 2015. (Courtesy photo by Paul Bowman)

Congratulations to **Col. Samantha "Combo" Weeks**, who assumed command of the 57th Adversary Tactics Group at Nellis AFB, Nev. Her previous assignments as a Lorenz Fellow where she worked on her PhD dissertation in leadership. Prior to that year she was the Executive Assistant to the Commander, NORAD/US NORTHCOM.



Congratulations to **Col. DeDe Halfhill** (Public Affairs Officer 2001-03), who assumed command of the 2nd Mission Support Group at Barksdale AFB, La. She previously served as Director of Public Affairs for Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.



Congratulations to **Keith DeBerry** (Maintenance Superintendent 1992-94) was recently named Deputy Director of the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The FAA Academy provides technical and managerial training and development for their workforce and the aviation community.



Reed Lutz (Avionics Specialist 1969-74) and Boss "Reggie" Hammond (Commander/Leader 2015-16) during a get together in Colorado Springs. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office SWAT team and members of the Colorado Springs Police Department Tactical Enforcement Unit were special guests at a gathering of current and former members of the Air Force Thunderbirds.

Those people with an Android mobile device (phone or tablet) might want to download and check out TBAA's new APP in the Google Play store (<https://play.google.com/store>). It bridges a software gap between personal computers and mobile devices. With this APP

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TBAA offers challenge coin

The Thunderbirds Alumni Association is now offering a new challenge coin. This dog tag-shaped bottle opener salutes both the current Thunderbirds team and Thunderbirds alumni who came before them.

The Dog Tag Bottle Opener features the Thunderbirds Patch on one side, and the Thunderbirds Alumni Patch on the other side. It is 1 3/8 inch x 2 1/2 inch (35mm x 63mm) and 3 mm thick. The cost is \$15 each.

To purchase go to the TBAA website (www.tbaa.org), click on General Sales under the Merchandise tab on the Home page, then click on Challenge Coin Bottle Opener. Follow directions from there.



Gone But Not Forgotten

NOTE: There may be some time between an individual's death and when we print an obituary. They are printed after the Thunderbirds Alumni Association receives them. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family members and friends of these cherished members of the Thunderbirds family.

Dr. Duncan Theodore "Ted" Baer (Flight Surgeon 1958–61), 85, passed away July 4 after a years-long struggle with Alzheimer's-type dementia. He is survived by his wife Marilyn; his five children Ted (Anne), Tim (Lisa), Pam (Peter), Kim (Todd) and Tom (Lynn); 15 grandchildren; and one great grandchild. A Funeral Mass was held at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Tacoma, Wash., on July 11.

Retired Tech. Sgt. Glen H. Beard (Quality Assurance/Logistics/Aircraft Flight Chief 1984–88) passed away Aug. 15. A memorial service was held Aug. 20. He is survived by his wife, Celia; daughter, Zoanna; his son and daughter-in-law Robert and Andrea; four grandchildren; two brothers; and a sister.

Marcia Eberlein, wife of Donald Eberlein (Aerospace Ground Equipment 1968–71) for 34 years passed away on July 3. She is survived by husband Don, a brother Richard Veleke and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Retired Senior Master Sgt. Gerald L. King (Avionics Superintendent 1972–74) passed away March 19. Survivors include his wife Amy.

Cyndy Schreihofner, 75, wife of retired Lt. Col. Alan Schreihofner (Information Officer 1963–66) passed away suddenly Oct. 15, 2015, shortly after she and her husband arrived in England on the first leg of a vacation to visit old haunts there and in Spain. Survivors include her husband, children Derek and Marisa, their spouses, four grandchildren and a sister.

Retired Master Sgt. David L. Wells (Crew Chief #4 1968–1970) passed away Aug. 3 at home in Surprise, Ariz. from a long battle with heart failure. A Celebration of Life was held Oct. 1 at the First United Methodist Church in Glendale, Ariz. He is survived by his wife Pam, three daughters and three grandchildren.

Retired Col. Gary Younglove (Administrative Officer 1970–72) passed away July 22 after a battle with leukemia. After retiring from the Air Force, he became involved in the community of Fair Oak Ranch, Texas and was part of the incorporation of Fair Oaks as it became a city in 1988. He served as an alderman for 16 years. He was preceded in death by his Father and Mother, a sister and granddaughter. Survivors include his wife Donna; sons Geof and Greg Younglove; daughter-in-law Belinda Younglove; and two granddaughters.

THUNDERROLLS

This is the last issue of ThunderRolls to be printed in 2016 for members of the Thunderbirds Alumni Association. The next issue will be Quarter 1 (January–March) 2017. Submissions (including high resolution photos in jpeg format) may be emailed to: al.eakle@gmail.com. Submission does not guarantee publication and editorial staff may edit for style and content. Change of address should be submitted to Al Eakle at al.eakle@gmail.com.

TBAA Board of Directors

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Secretary

Shellie Vaught (1998–2000)

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Brian Plauche (2000–05)

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Director (Nominations/Elections Chairman)

Frank Howe (1995–98)

Director (2017 Reunion Chairman)

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Director

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Director

Mark Thome (1987–91)

Director

Constantine "Chachi" Tzavaras (1998–99)

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The Thunderbirds Alumni Association would like to thank Lockheed Martin for its continued support of *ThunderRolls* and the TBAA.

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Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
Fort Worth, Texas

LOOK FOR:

Official TBAA website
www.thunderbirdsalumni.org

Facebook Page: Thunderbird Alumni
(TBAA emblem on opening)

From the Boss

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to miraculously acquire \$280,000 to pursue the design. A contract has been awarded, and the museum is now projected to be completed by Christmas 2016. The new design provides an impressively modern presentation of Thunderbirds history and memorabilia we can all be proud of for decades to come. The museum will now offer electronic displays of the Team and individual pictures. All of our pictures have been digitized enabling you to find your smiling faces and respective Team with the swipe of a finger across a touchscreen mounted on the walls. Also, videos will highlight the demonstration maneuvers and memorable Thunderbirds moments. Bottom line, the museum will open soon, will be something worth visiting, will complete just in time for the change of command and will make us all proud.

That brings me to the next subject I would like to cover. Two years goes by too fast, and it is now time for me to hand over the Thunderbird 1 position to Lt. Col. Jason "Shifty" Heard. Lt. Col. Heard recently arrived to Nellis from Lakenheath AB, UK. He was a previous F-15E Weapon Systems Officer before becoming an F-15E pilot. He too hails from the great state of Texas. The change of command will be held the morning of Friday, 6 Jan 2017, and I would like to extend an invitation to all of

our alumni to come out to the ceremony and meet not only Lt Col Heard but the 2017 Team as well.

The 2016 show season end is almost upon us. Thankfully, we will be able to conclude our season over the Thunderbirds hangar at Nellis AFB with our last show being Aviation Nation. I hope you can join us there. The end of any show season is bittersweet as we finish up what we have put so much effort into to begin anew in the training season. We all look forward to rejoining with our families and enjoying some quality time at home. I am confident the 2016 Team is second to none, and we will do all we can to make sure the 2017 Team will achieve unparalleled success in the next show season. We have overcome, persevered and showcased the Air Force impeccably. Thank you for your continued support of the USAF Thunderbirds. I look forward to joining you soon at the Thunderbirds tent as the Thunderbirds' #1 fan!



Lt. Col. Christopher B. "Reggie" Hammond
USAFADS Commander/Leader (2015-2016)

Benchstock

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downloaded the functions individuals can see and use on their PC are now available on their mobile smartphone or tablet. An Apple version of the APP is under development for iPhones and iPads and should be available in Nov.

New 3/4-inch metal Thunderbirds Alumni Association lapel pins are available. Cost is \$10 per pin (including postage). Pins may be ordered by sending a request and check to: Thunderbirds Alumni Association, 7812 Deerfield Lane, Callaway, FL 32404



Alumni have asked about a challenge coin sold by the team. The cost is \$12 per coin. Individuals interested in purchasing one should make checks payable to the Thunderbirds Enlisted Fund and mail them to: USAFADS/CCS, 4445 Tyndall Ave., Nellis AFB, NV 89191-6079.

As a reminder, the new year starts Jan. 1 for those who pay annual dues.

Payments are due no later than March 31 to remain a current member. Dues can be renewed online with a credit card payment made through the TBAA website (www.tbaa.org). Online, annual dues are \$32 or \$310 for a lifetime membership (payable at one time or in \$53 monthly

increments throughout the calendar year). For those who wish to pay with a paper check, annual dues are \$30 or \$300 for a lifetime membership (payable at one time or in six \$50

monthly increments. Paper checks should be made out to TBAA and mailed to: TBAA, 7812 Deerfield Lane, Callaway, FL 32404.

A Las Vegas-area group of Thunderbirds alumni invite all present and former Thunderbirds to join them for lunch the first Wednesday of each month at Boulder Station. The meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. For more details, email Jerry Jones (Ground Radio Communications Technician 1965-69) at tbird13@cox.net

THE USAF THUNDERBIRDS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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