



The Totah News



January 29, 2003

Volume 2003, Issue 2

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Special points of interest:

- The monthly General Membership meeting will be held at the San Juan Country Club at 7:00 P.M. (Cocktails at 6:30) on February 21, 2003.

Those Black Sheep #@!* &#%@!! by Terry Fredericks

This is a short article about my experience in Marine Air Group 11 Fighter Squadron 214, The "Black Sheep".

Over the many years much fact and fiction (mostly fiction) has been written as well as characterized by a TV series about Boyington's "Black Sheep" Squadron much to the disapproval of former Squadron members whose characters were besmirched by the fiction and characterization.

At this time I will not elaborate on the fiction, but will relate the facts about the formation of the squadron and how I became a member of one of the many MAG units which was operating in the Solomon Island group with the Army Air Corps as well as those with the New Zealand Air Group.

Normally a Marine fighter squadron was formed in the States given organizational and operational training as a unit, and then shipped overseas intact. A Marine fighter squadron VMF 214, had just completed a

combat tour during which it's commanding officer had been killed, and it's pilots were to be scattered to other assignments, for that reason the squadron number was available. Major General James Moore, Assistant Commanding General of the First Marine Air Wing made the decision to reactivate

the vacant number with replacements from the pilot pool as well as those fresh from the States.

After serving one combat tour with the Cactus Air Force at Guadalcanal, due to the attrition of aircraft and the availability of pilots, I was assigned to the pilot pool. Major Gregory Boyington was selected by Major General Moore to be squadron commander and

pilots were first selected from the pilot pool based on aerial combat experience, others were fresh, green and eager.

These then were the Black Sheep squadron,

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USMC Pilot Terry Fredericks

Salvation Army Speaks by Jack Lee

The guest speaker for the evening was Jonathan Harvey, the Director of the San Juan Salvation Army.

Mr. Harvey, originally from England, described the Salvation Army's role in helping others. Specifically, the San Juan Unit provides community outreach programs such as The Roof. The Roof is a shelter for inebriants who would otherwise sleep on the streets. They also provide many other services including crisis and debt management counseling as well as running the Thrift Store. Mr. Harvey is working to estab-

lish off hours youth programs and Teen Center.

In closing, Mr. Harvey ask the membership to do what ever we can to support the Salvation Army and other community programs.



Jonathan Harvey
Salvation Army Director

Schedule of Events

- **Feb 1**—National Freedom Day.
- **Feb 1**—NM Council of Chapters Meeting at Albuquerque
- **Feb 1**—Farmington HS JROTC Drill Meet at FMS.
- **Feb 14**—Happy Valentine's Day!
- **Feb 17**—Have a safe President's Day Holiday!
- **Feb 21**—General Membership meeting at the SJCC, 7 P.M.

February 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 NM COC Meeting
2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 President's Day	18	19	20	21 Membership Meeting	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

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Legislative Update

Excerpt from the MOAA Legislative Update e-newsletter

This is MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, January 24, 2003.

Over the past few months, we've heard various administration officials - some in the Pentagon and some in the Office of Management and Budget - complain that personnel costs take up too much of the defense budget.

They've used that lame rationale as justification to oppose fair compensation for disabled retirees, resist military manpower increases needed to ease the strain on servicemembers and families overstressed by manpower cuts and mission increases, and even propose to cap future military pay raises for the troops we're now sending to war. As we reported in last week's update, at least the President stepped in and put the kibosh on that last one.

But all these claims that the country can't afford the cost of fair and reasonable manpower and compensation programs led us to check a few statistics. And the data show that those claims are unadulterated hogwash.

In FY2002, personnel costs made up 25% of the DoD budget. The only time that number has been lower in the last 25 years was the "hollow force/erosion of benefits" era of 1979-81 (21-23%). But that doesn't tell the real story either. There are more things than personnel costs that affect that statistic...such as how much is spent on procurement. What happens when Defense takes a "procurement holiday" as has happened over the last decade? The personnel share of the budget goes up, that's what. If procurement had continued at the pace that virtually everyone in government now recognizes was actually needed, the personnel share of the defense budget would have been much lower.

Personnel costs comprised 30.8% of the Defense-minus-procurement budget in FY2002 - vs. 37% in 1991, 47.6% in 1986, and 34% in 1976. Today's figure, by that measure, isn't far from 1981's 28.6% low.

Rather than bemoaning the current figures, Defense budget hawks should consider that

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Black Sheep (Con't)

(Continued from page 1)

28 pilots, a Flight Surgeon, and an Air Intelligence Officer. When asked by General Moore what name he had picked for the squadron Boyington said "Well, General, they come from all over so I'm gonna call them just what they are, bastards. Boyington's Bastards." A name that we kept until our combat totals started being noticed and a new name change was mandated by Marine Corps PR because the press would not be able to print such an offensive name for the people back home to read without being offended.



Black Sheep Squadron F4U-1, Corsair

We often sang the Yale drinking song, which in turn was taken from Rudyard Kipling's "Gentlemen Rankers" and it became our own "Black Sheep Song" and consequently we became known as The Black Sheep Squadron.

Our first tour of combat was from 12 September to 24 October 1943 our second tour was from 27 November 1943 to 8 January 1944. WE flew 1,776 combat missions and logged a total of 4,195 aerial combat hours. They called us "Heroes." WE were NOT! The real **Heroes** never made it home. They gave their all!

Legislative Update (Con't)

(Continued from page 2)

personnel accounts would have to be raised another \$6 billion to restore the 1990's ratios. And that's before you even consider the size of the Defense budget itself, which has plummeted as a percentage of the Gross National Product - the best measure of the nation's economic capability.

In 1976, the Defense Budget stood at 5.4 percent of the GNP. That figure rose in the 1980's, but began to decline towards the end of the Cold War. The Defense budget now stands at 3.2 percent of the GNP -- barely half the 1986 figure, and still far below the 5% of 1979's military doldrums.

See more data at www.moaa.org/Legislative/BudgetRatios.asp. We say again: with a force that's 30% smaller than it was 15 years ago, it's not personnel costs that are the problem.

It's the failure to recognize that the cost of needed people program upgrades, long-delayed modernization, and ever-increasing operations with a much-reduced force can't be balanced on the backs of active, Guard, Reserve, and retired members and their families and survivors without long-term retention and readiness consequences.



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The Totah Chapter Newsletter

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Membership Application Form



- Enroll me as a REGULAR MEMBER \$16.00 for one year.
 Enroll me as an AUXILIARY MEMBER (as the surviving spouse of a deceased officer) \$10.00 for one year.

First name Middle Initial Last Name Rank Service Spouse's Name

Street Apt. City State Zip+4

Home Phone Work Phone FAX Email Address

Status: Active Duty Retired Frmr Off Regular Reserve NG Serving Spouse
GENDER: Male Female **Make check payable to The Totah Chapter and send to:**

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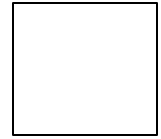


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Officers Association of
America

We're on the Web at
www.totah-troa.org

Membership Eligibility

Commissioned officers and Warrant Officers of uniformed services or their Surviving Spouses:

- Army
- Air Force
- Navy
- Marine Corps
- Coast Guard
- Public Health Service
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- Regular, Reserve, National Guard
- Active Duty & Retired
- Former Officers

President's Page

By Al Garcia

I hope all of you had a chance to listen to the President's State of The Union Speech on 28 January 2003. My wife and I listened intensely to our Commander-in-Chief as he addressed the nation and the whole world. We were impressed with everything he said.

In my opinion, he saved the best for the last 10 minutes of his speech where he addressed the issue of the "War on Terror". I know that the membership of this Chapter has deep sentiments about this subject. The majority of us have been there, war that is. I was impressed with the words he addressed to the men and women in uniform. As I watched the man, I noted that his facial expressions convey the spirit of his honest concern for his awesome responsibilities of his office.

Whatever your sentiments, I hope we all support our fellow service personnel as they face the future, come what may. We know their fears, apprehensions, and determined courage to face and defeat the enemy. What can we do? We can keep them in our prayers, as others kept us in their prayers when we were serving our country.

None of us can predict what will happen in the days that follow. If we go to war with Iraq, old warriors (like us) will have to take the back seat and settle for "arm chair quarterbacking". I am sure we will re-experience feelings encountered during the awesome and terrifying moments of engaging the enemy. But we will also remember the sweetness of victory, and knowing that our soldiers have accomplished their mission. Our verbal and non-verbal support of our soldiers **is** our responsibility as we remain here at home. Keep that in mind.

The New Mexico Council of Chapters meets on Saturday, February 1, in Albuquerque. Heidi and I will attend that meeting freeing every other member of the chapter to attend the JROTC Drill Meet at the Farmington High School campus.

I hope many of you get to see what these young high school students have accomplished. We are proud of what little support we can give these units as they prepare young folks to understand and live by the code of "Duty to Country."