

GOMER QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



THE VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Welcome to the Spring 2021 Newsletter from your Aggressor Association. It seems every newsletter we're one step closer to enjoying life as "normal" and we certainly are getting closer to our big bash 50th reunion in the Fall of 2022 when we'll look back on this with a Whiskey and recall the days of wearing masks and social-distancing (ok, we'll have better stories and memories than those to ponder, for sure).

This edition offers more great "there-I-was" war-stories, an article or two about current happenings in the Gomer world, and a breakout of the current org structure for those that are curious about the ever-changing Aggressor entities in today's Air Force.

As always, we're interested in what you'd like to see in this Newsletter and we more than welcome your inputs, recollections and war-stories (only 10% truth required) in the hopes that this newsletter is both informative and fun too.

This is YOUR Newsletter, so please partake or you're going to hear the same stories from the same board-members every month (until we run out which could take awhile).

Buy swag and tell your Gomer friends (see below). This helps with Reunion and Association funds as well so go shopping.

Reunion updates will be a regular happening since the Vegas plan will be here before you know it and we're ALL looking forward to that raucous gathering in Fall 2022.

Know, Teach, Replicate and Be Humble—

The World's Greatest 1v1v1 In Their Own Words

Backdrop:

The 414th of the 1975-era included Aggressors destined for AF leadership, largely due to their flying prowess as conveyed by "Nuts" Sromek and John Jumper in the accompanying recollection of the glory days (*editorial note: at the generous average declination-of-accuracy rate of 1% per year, this story is at least 45% true....but we'll leave that to your clouded judgment and you can make a "point of order" at the upcoming reunion over a whiskey*).

As mentioned, the 414th of the day included General (then Major and ADO) Dick Meyers, General (then Capt and A/A Flt/CC) John Jumper and General (A/G IP Capt) Ron Keys (*editorial note: who ever said Aggressors couldn't advance in their careers, right?*). They were all instrumental in the formation of the Aggressor program.

STORY:

Nuts: A favorite story involving Jumper..... we flew a 1v1v1 cut throat IP continuation training mission for the F-4 FWIC. They were looking at it for an IP upgrade ride, or a syllabus sortie. Capt Jumper briefed/led. A TopGun TA-4 was #2, I was #3 in an F-5. Visual setups, guns only.

We didn't know it at the time, but 414th/CC Larry Keith was in the pit of the A-4. The first to immediately die was Jumper. Then a 'no tally' segment with me and the A-4 went on for a minute or so, until I found him trapped at my 6. A prolonged fight ended with me gunning him.

The debrief was short and ruthless, and run by the 'pit boss' Larry Keith.
1st comment: "Jumper, you're my A/A flight commander. Can you even fly a jet?"

2nd comment: "Sromek, you're an egotistical asshole. You wasted gas for at least 2 more engagements just to gun me. Both of you wasted my time."
(*Editors' Observation: It should be noted here that the Aggressor F-5 was the Lone Survivor of the 1v1v1 Cut Throat set-up with a FWS F-4, and a Top Gun TA-4.....just saying*)

End of debrief. Yo Bubba, did we feel like POS's or what?

Jumper: There is more to the story and some buffoonery involved (*editorial note: how do all good fighter pilot stories start.....?*). The A4, under instruction from Keith, didn't separate as briefed but trailed me, unnoticed, to my set-up point. At "fights on" he was parked in gun range and ready to pull the

trigger. This was Keith's revenge for the infamous fake "Fuck, Fight, or Go For Your Gun" cover of the Fighter Weapons Review that we had tricked him on (another great story). But he got me back good.

I was pisssssssed. We used the "close trail to the set-up point" trick in several weapons school classes after being invented by Keith. He was a great commander.

Maple Flag Memories.... and pink, fluffy, furry pillows. "by Tazz Routt"



Arriving for my first Maple Flag 2004--great arrival party already three sheets to the wind, so my mental faculties were a bit dull, but we were off duty and I was just along for the ride with the old head Ops O".

We drove to a restaurant and B&B (I'm a fighter pilot....what the crud is a B&B?) on the lake and were talking with the owners of the establishment. I assumed we were there to have a quick bean and catch up with friends. This was not the case as it was to be our home over the next six weeks while in Cold Lake. Now my mental faculties were really assaulted as I stepped into said establishment, found my room and was deluged with pink fluffy furry pillows, lace pink curtains, pink down sheets and all manner of pink feminine accoutrements.

Oh yeah, this is going to be one hell of a TDY!
I'm still a bit fuzzy on what a B&B is anyway. Oh well, when in Rome.....

I remember going to the 25 (I forget the name of club? 236?) Club on base in Cold Lake, one Friday night. The Club had a full-scale snowmobile hung upside down from the ceiling. Late into the night one Gomer (who will go unnamed because he is still active and is a GO) decided to make his mark...not by merely putting a zap on that vehicle...no that's not enough, he decided that he wanted to ride that snowmobile on the ceiling, all upside down; well, he did and it was a magnificent feat of stamina, balance and strength. However, the manager of this particular club was not as impressed as the bros were and we summarily all got kicked out of that club.

I remember one year when said 64th Aggressor Squadron commander decided to not fly one day of the exercise to work on his SERE requirements--in the wilderness on a random lake in the middle of northern Alberta. He appropriately took a survival radio to communicate with the Aggressor CSAR forces (Gomer CSAR forces...WTFO?) well, coordinates were passed, routes plotted and timed and when our Gomer forces arrived overhead, we found our fearless leader not in the woods but rather in an aluminum boat already 10 trophy Northern Pike in the boat -- Now that's SERE training.

I remember going 500+ Indicated running an intercept on a Mirage 2000D over Primrose Lake. The fight was VID so we had to get close. The Tally Ho was illusive and I almost gave up...but then I noticed a streak of white against blue

and picked-up the Mirage doing about the same speed but at about 15' over the lake making a rooster tail of water. The Aim-9 wouldn't cage against the jet so I missed the damn shot. Europeans know low!

Quick 1-Liners. (Do you remember?)

- Going from Tower freq straight to Baron (no cleared in/out or center or approach garbage...straight from cleared for takeoff to fight)?
- Drinking in the Mess saluting the Queen, wait, what's a Commonwealth?
- The World Championship of Crud?
- All the Food?
- Canadian Beer?
- Local Loonie tossing with employees shipped in from Edmonton?
- Jumping from one merge to the next never knowing what type of jets until the turn circle?
- Coasting in on fumes over Cold Lake direct to Initial?
- Wake, gym, food, brief, fight, debrief (short), eat, Drink...rinse, repeat for 4-6 weeks in a row?
- Fishing in Cold Lake catching so many Northern Pike (Jack) that it became routine but never dull?
- Moose Milk party?
- The 10 pen block?
- GREAT Flying, Incredible Friendships, awesome being Gomer Fighter Pilots!!

More.....Maple Flag One-Liners by "Biff" Huffman

- Fine China at the Mess
- Free T-shirt with every case of Molson XXX (10% alc)
- Canopy Beds at the Harbor House (with step stools)
- The Coffee Bar at the HH
- The world's thinnest towels at the Airway motel
- Club Kaos (which is still there btw)
- The world's largest mosquitos (big enough to carry lawn furniture)
- The 1950s décor at the Airway
- Timmy Horton's double-double
- Fishing at Trophy Lakes on range
- Fly-by's on said fishing lakes
- The first lure to hit the water after melt-off
- ...and the lunker dinosaur Northern Pike hitting the lure
- Renting the Beaver Boat on-base
- Skit nights (as recalled by Dula in previous newsletter)
- Brief, fly, debrief, gym, eat, drink, crud, drink, movies, drink, pizza, sleep (repeat x30 days each summer)
- Road-trips to EDMONTON
- The world's largest Mushroom and Pierogi (enroute to EDM)
- Drawing the first 12 v 40 merge on the whiteboard with pens between every finger
- Weather briefs – "patchy moist in the upper trop"
- T-33 weather ship reports
- The Aggressor semi-trailer
- Replacing the wood floors for the MF RMO

- The “mass briefing room” trailer
- Singing in the mess bar downstairs on the tables
- Club 41 cookouts
- Waking up in the middle of the night to swat mosquitos the maid let in at the Airway
- Flowing visual merge to visual merge to visual merge
- Split wars at 50k feet and skimming over the Lake low
- Attempts at ACMI (that’s about when we stopped going)
- A bright idea of Night Maple Flag (quickly canx)
- Israeli “security” personnel
- ILS weather recoveries (yikes)
- Crud welts that turn every color of the rainbow
- Uncontrolled Airspace....chaff....flares (all of it)
- Incentive rides
- The El Lobo, Lakeland Inn, Clark’s General Store, The Marina
- Blue air planning, planning, planning....swirling derbish...lies about who killed who.....go the bar....mission complete.

.....and a few thousand more.....please send in your one-liner additions so we can capture the full extent of this illustrious history spanning decades.....



The World's Largest Mushrooms



What's a B&B?



Group Photo

Aggressors at Maple Flag - Vol 1, 414 CTS/AT, Chapter 1 - ADVON 2002 Edmonton to Cold Lake as told by "Stymie" Franklin



Gomer FNGs are treated just like any other squadron's FNGs, so there really wasn't any surprise when our names didn't show up in the "MiG" or "Ivan" column on the master deployment board in the 414 CTS/AT scheduling shop.

Oh wait, there we are....in the "ADVON" column.

Following a week of standard deployment prep, it was time to throw our LS gear in a bag, leave the desert, lizard, and flanker blue vipers on the ramp for others to fly, and hop Air Canada from McCarran to Edmonton. The plan was simple: After an afternoon of rental-car procurement, a quiet evening meal, and a rack at "The Delta", Baron will whisk us away on the quick jaunt up to Cold Lake. The following account from May 2002 was likely duplicated each of the 25 years prior and certainly for at least 6-10 years after.

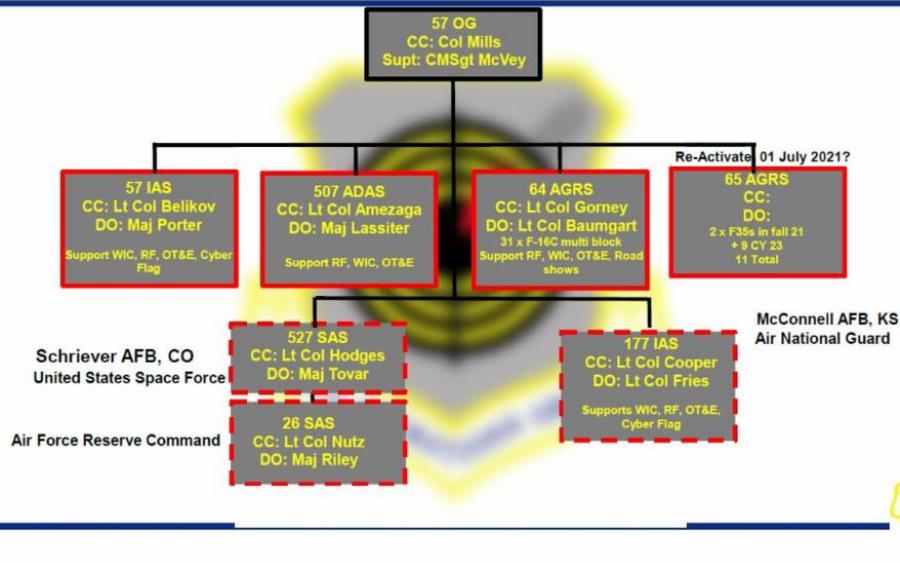
Friday, 17 May 2002 - 2-ship Baron/FNG IPs (Gomer MF ADVON)
 - 0800L Depart the Delta Hotel Edmonton in a 4-door Chevy Impala with three other ADVON Gomers and an identical Impala in trail with 4 more unlucky souls. All eight humble, steely-eyed killers' gaze was carefully fixed on the non-descript horizon, as our pores seeped the remnants of the previous night's imbibements. Thanks for the point-out Baron, Earl's was THE spot to anchor. Regret creeps in as the Impala's inadequate suspension provides an extended sea-faring experience at 120 KPH on the frost-heaved asphalt. 2 hours in - regret realized as Impala 2-ship hastily exits the travel lanes - Code 3 (Physiological Incident). Thanks again Baron.

- 1300L Arrive CFB Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada, after a harrowing 5-hour journey (would've been 6 hours if Frog & Gumby weren't driving). Viper MX big-rig already on-station after multi-day overland trip with most of our gear. After schlepping all of our ops and life support equipment from the barely road-worthy 50's era transport, into hastily-partitioned, minimally secure, construction site trailers touted as suitable deployed operations facilities, we were finally cleared for the quick trip off base to check in at our luxury home away from home for the next 6 weeks - The Airway Motel - an Aggressor tradition.

-1700L Arrive Airway Motel. Participate in 25 years of Aggressor tradition in accommodations that would cause tanker crews to file IG complaints.
Next...Vol 2, Josie and the 12 Pens



Aggressor Org Chart



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IN REQUIEM



Fellow Gomers.

As you may remember our good friend, comrade and initial cadre Aggressor, Earl “Obi-Wan” Henderson, passed away over a year ago. Due to COVID, his family decided to wait until friends and family could gather to honor this great man. That day is set for Friday, Sept 17, 2021 at the Southern Nevada Veteran’s Cemetery in Boulder City, NV.

The service will start at 1240 with a 30 minute Chapel Service followed by the appropriate Military Honors. There will then be a Celebration of Life at the Boulder Creek Golf Course, just a short drive away. The Henderson family wants you to know that all of our Aggressor family is welcome to help celebrate Earl’s life.

For logistical reasons, Andy Henderson has asked for RSVPs for the Chapel Service and the Celebration of Life. If you would like to attend one or both events, please email Andy at andyfitzh@aol.com with your name and guest.

Hope to see you there.

Aggressor Association
Board of Directors

Earlier this year we announced that LtCol (ret) Tom “Boomer” Boma passed away.

Boma was a member of the 447th Red Eagles and 65th AS from 1985 to 1988. His Celebration of Life will be held at the Boulder Creek Golf Course in Boulder City, NV on Friday, May 21, 2021, 1500-1700. Barb and family have invited our Aggressor family to participate in this Celebration.

For additional information or to RSVP your



attendance, please RSVP to Kelly Richardson at gvgal98@aol.com

Aggressor Association Board

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