

Max R. Moore



LtCol Max R. Moore, USAF Retired, was assigned to the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (SRW) for over 23 years of his 27 year, 7 months, career. He was first assigned to Forbes AFB, KS (1960-67), and later at Offutt AFB, NE, for the last 16 years of active duty (1969-1985). He came in as a first lieutenant and left as a lieutenant colonel. He is 'Mr. 55th.'

Upon completion of advanced bomb/nav training in November 1959, 1Lt Moore chose his assignment to the 55th at Forbes. Effective 19 January 1960, he was assigned to the 338th SRS as a navigator in EB-47 aircraft flying long range weather reconnaissance. Thus began his long, dedicated and distinguished career as a crewmember and staff officer in the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth*.

Beginning in December 1960 in the 343rd SRS, for six years he flew strategic reconnaissance sorties in sensitive areas against communist nations around the globe. It should be noted that in the days before inertial, GPS and global satellite systems, navigators actually navigated. The challenges of flying over oceans and in the Arctic regions were met by using dead reckoning, aided by radar, celestial and polar grid methods. Sensitive area protocol was to maintain a ten mile

corridor and remain specific distances from hostile borders and coastlines. He was consistently recognized for his skills as a seasoned and proficient navigator. His flying often took him into harm's way in direct surveillance of Cold War hostile nations in Europe and Asia.

He transitioned into the RC-135 in 1967 and went to Yokota AB, Japan, and Kadena AB, Okinawa, for 28 months in the original cast of the 82nd SRS. There he flew 98 missions over the Gulf of Tonkin and Laos in support of the Vietnam war effort.

He returned to the 55th in October 1969, now located at Offutt. Then-Major Moore rapidly progressed to senior navigator on the lead RC-135 Standardization/Evaluation crew. He was again flying sensitive operational missions on numerous deployments to the UK, Okinawa, Hawaii, Alaska, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Greenland.

On one such mission flown from the UK on 17 November 1970 into the Pechora Sea north of Murmansk, his crew was intercepted by two Soviet MiG-17 fully armed fighters. The crew, disregarding hostile intimidation, remained in the sensitive area to complete the mission even after the fighters fired warning shots off the aircraft's nose. The crew was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for their exceptional valor, airmanship and valuable collection effort.

In February of 1978 he was assigned to the challenging position of Chief of the Mission Development Branch in the 55th Training Division, where he made his most positive impact and significant contributions to the Wing and Strategic Air Command. In February 1981, he became the Wing Executive Officer, and served four Wing commanders. This demanding job required constant contact with the various commanders, directors and division chiefs to ensure the dissemination and compliance of the Wing Commanders' policies and directives.

LtCol Moore retired from the Air Force 1 October 1985 as a Master Navigator, with over 8100 flying hours, of which over 1800 hours were combat and combat support hours; and over 330 operational missions. His

decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters (OLC); the Air Medal (16 OLC); the Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC); and the Air Force Commendation Medal (1 OLC).

Since his retirement, he has maintained liaison and rapport with the Wing. He has been a leader in the 55th Wing Association and its foundation and evolution. He has provided sage advice and leadership in the Association. He was instrumental in the planning, design, fundraising, and establishment of the 55th SRW Cold War Monument/Memorial; and creation of the 55th SRWA Award for Excellence; and with evolution of the 55th Wing Hall of Fame. Each year since 1999 he has worked closely with the 55th Wing Birthday Ball Committee as a special advisor. He also has been an engaged volunteer and contributor with the Wing Protocol Office, Historian's Office and Public Affairs for many years.

Videmus Omnia

55th STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER AUGUST 1998

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from a very torrid Bellevue, Nebraska. For those of you who were not at the reunion in May, you missed a great time and the splendor of Colorado and the Rockies in the springtime. Our sincere appreciation to Keith and Jody Smith, Phil and Joyce Carr, Chuck and Pat Holte, Jerry and Marcia Nolan, Rick and Joy Smith and Tom and Celia Reed for entertaining us in their backyard. It was a fantastic reunion and we can't thank you enough. There is an in-depth recap of the reunion in a following article for your perusal.

A video team from Raytheon E-Systems, led by Harry Charlton, video-taped some very interesting interviews with persons who were involved in historical significant reconnaissance activities during the Cold War. Robb Hoover conducted the interviews. He was joined by Cargill Hall of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) Svend Christensen of the



Danish government and the 55th Wing Historian, TSgt Craig Kibbe. These interviews are part of a continuing effort to document the significant contributions the 55th SRW made in winning the Cold War and securing the peace we now enjoy. A continuation of Robb's efforts will be a symposium at the magnificent new SAC Museum on Saturday, 12 September 1998, entitled "Cold War in Flames, the

Craig Kibbe. They will serve until another election is held at the next reunion. The Board then elected the following article. To the outgoing Board members, Keith Smith, Hank Dubay and Lloyd Navarro, my sincere appreciation for your hard work on the Board.

Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and to the Bylaws of the Association were proposed, voted upon and

Videmus Omnia

55th STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER JUNE 2004

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Midlands. Since our last newsletter, too many of our comrades-in-arms, or loving wives of our competitors, have taken their last flight (see TAPS, page 9). We shall miss their loyal patriotism, warm smiles and most of all, their treasured friendship. To the widows, we encourage you to continue your gratis membership as long as you so desire, and to attend our periodic social gatherings and reunions.

The year began with the whirlwind weekend of the Birthday Ball late in January. On Friday the 23rd the "Tales of the 55th", with Robb Hoover at the helm, drew record numbers listening to the tales and reviving old friendships. Saturday night, the Birthday Ball was attended by some 700 55thers, including many absentees returning to the fold. Your Association assisted many of the young troops to attend with our personal contribution of \$1000 to the Ball fund.

Max O'Kelley's RB-50 crew was inducted into the 55th Wing Hall of Fame and honored at the Ball. The Association presented attending family members with duplicate plaques to those now hanging in the Hall of Fame at the 55th Wing Headquarters Command Section. Additionally, LTCol Glen Colburn, the memorial and



for Excellence in absentia. Col. Gullikson is currently doing a "birthday tour" at the NATO War College in Italy.

In February your Board voted unanimously to donate \$1000 to the Air Force Memorial Foundation and the Association will be recognized on the Memorial for our gift.

We were happy to hear from Col Martin "Black" Miano, a former 55th SRW commander at Forbes, who was ill most of last year and is still on to our news. He sent a \$500 contribution for the memorial and becomes the latest of the Association's 160 members.

After the Ball was over, we essentially ended the sale of personalized bricks for the 55th SRW Cold War Memorial patio (although they can still be purchased but won't be installed in the patio until we have at least 20 new orders).

Concerning the Memorial, I hope you all have a chance to read the terrific article in the May edition of the VFW Magazine highlighting our Memorial (check the website). Additionally, all orders for personalized bricks received since 1 July 2003 have been ordered and engraved. Jack Keweenaw and Larry LaFaire earlier this year spent one entire day (in the 90 degree heat) at the Memorial checking and double-checking the bricks and engraved data with the order forms to ensure that any mistakes have been found and corrected. This week 7/11 says they will be the final proofing the last batch of bricks to make sure all the bricks are perfect

Videmus Omnia

55th WING ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2010

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from the Heartland. Time flies. Must be a symptom of "seniority". Where did the summer go? Sure went by quickly for me.


Seems like we just wrapped up the Reno reunion. The next one in McKinney, Texas, is just six months away. We have a large membership in Texas, and it was April 1985 at San Antonio when we last visited the Lone Star State.

Greg and Julia Smith will be our hosts, and the Holiday Inn staff in McKinney has stepped up to the plate to give us a good show. In our planning we will take into consideration transportation between the DFW Airport and McKinney.

One thing in my short exposure to 55th reunions that I have learned is that the reunion happens in the hospitality suite and at the banquet. It is the fellowship and memories of long time comrades and friends that make a reunion. All else is but frills on the package.

If your schedule permits, let's get together in McKinney in May 2011. And by the way, I have already heard of a number of 55th veterans planning on attending the Wing Birthday Ball in March 2011. The Ball is the anchor event of an action filled week of heritage events, including *Tales of the 55th* and other unit celebrations and memorials.

Great news! There will again be a private bar stocked with some high class hooch just for 55th veterans at the LaVista Embassy Suites. Just look for the corner room and the sign "Spook Eaty, No Guns Allowed". You will be welcomed.



EYES OF TEXAS REUNION

The next reunion will be 19-22 May 2011, at the Holiday Inn and Suites in McKinney, TX, just 30 miles north of Dallas, Greg Smith, chairman. Greg will be working to make this one more in a string of memorable reunions.

This is Alert Order 003 to mark your calendars for the gathering at the 55th North Texas Operating Location.

McKinney is home to one of Texas's largest historic districts, and has the scenic charm and comfortable pace quite different from that of the urban metropolis of Dallas-Ft Worth.

Hospitality suite and a grand banquet will be the center pieces of this reunion. One of the potential tours in the planning stage is a trip to the L-3 facility at Greenville where the 55th Wing's RC-135 fleet undergoes modifications and periodic updates.

For those of you gearing up with advanced planning, you can call 1-888-HOLIDAY to make your room reservations anytime. Until a reunion

ideas

veteran 55th EWO; and several former RB-47 crewmembers from the days at Forbes AFB, KS.

Family members from O'Kelley's RB-50 crew were in town for the Hall of Fame induction: Jean O'Kelley, Ben Tejada Bergmann, David Tejada, Gloria Sanderson Overboe, Bruce and Sue Sanderson, John Sanderson, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Beyer.

Another luminary attending was Russ Francis, former of the 55th—an urgent attendee so each year. It was far capacity-filled

er, who also lines of emcees, is the Big Birthday Ball try for 55th alumni, and active duty or learn of some "Fifty-Fifth" by the 55th SRW Root of the bed the weekend reunion to Breaux", to Mecca for all " is now part of ston's quote that is the soul of our some of the active positionist stands

was an eclectic of War, Viet Nam, Freedom. Among them of the 22nd operations. Nell Hickman Field on the 18th from the 55th RB-50 navigator on the 18th in 1954; Roger the first B-17 mission in 1943; Air Service Pilot

IDEAS

veteran 55th EWO; and several former RB-47 crewmembers from the days at Forbes AFB, KS.

Family members from O'Kelley's RB-50 crew were in town for the Hall of Fame induction: Jean O'Kelley, Ben Tejada Bergmann, David Tejada, Gloria Sanderson Overboe, Bruce and Sue Sanderson, John Sanderson, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Beyer.

Another luminary attending was Russ Francis, former of the 55th—an urgent attendee so each year. It was far capacity-filled

er, who also lines of emcees, is the Big Birthday Ball try for 55th alumni, and active duty or learn of some "Fifty-Fifth" by the 55th SRW Root of the bed the weekend reunion to Breaux", to Mecca for all " is now part of ston's quote that is the soul of our some of the active positionist stands

was an eclectic of War, Viet Nam, Freedom. Among them of the 22nd operations. Nell Hickman Field on the 18th from the 55th RB-50 navigator on the 18th in 1954; Roger the first B-17 mission in 1943; Air Service Pilot



Robb Hoover, respondent in WWII "inks and greens" to honor his uncle, and Russ Francis.

Association President Bill Ernst gave a plug for the 55th SRW Assn relating what the organization's purposes, activities, functions and accomplishments are; and told of its membership and encouraged the active duty troops to join.

Gen Craig Kowal, 55th Wing commander, opened the festivities with remarks encouraging the present day wing members to pay attention to the "tales" and learn from others what has been endured to protect the United States. "Listen to their stories, listen to what they have done," he said. He also suggested they pass along the history to others.

Wing and commander in chief more than 30 different aircraft; Harry Tull, a Tuskegee Airman and