

# FOX FAX

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Journal of the 199<sup>th</sup> Recon Airplane Company RVN 1967-70 Vol. 12, Issue 3 Mar 2015

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## *Stake Holders*

Swamp Fox coordinator 2012-15	Norm Wood Fox 11
Swamp Fox coordinator 2010-11	Ray "Doc" Jennings Fox 032A
Swamp Fox Coordinator 2007-9	Woody Barnes Fox 35
Swamp Fox Coordinator 2004-6	Bob Woolley - Fox 26
Treasurer	Dan Aldridge - Fox 56
Unit Historian	Charley Baker - Fox 46
Patch and Shirt Project	Gary Simon - Fox 16
Web Master / Commo Chief	Ray "Doc" Jennings - Fox 032A
IBDA Liaison	Sam Givhan Fox 31
Quad-A Liaison	Curt Herrick Fox 26

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**WEB SITE** [www.199thAvnCo.net](http://www.199thAvnCo.net)

For security reasons please direct inquiries to the Web Master

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*Goals:*

*To find as many of our old friends as possible **and get them talking to each other again.***

*To build as complete a history of the unit as possible and make it available to all the members.*

*To perpetrate reunions.*



**We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;  
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me  
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,  
This day shall gentle his condition;  
And gentlemen now a-bed  
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,  
And hold their manhoods cheap while any speaks  
That fought with us upon St. Crispin's Day.**

\*

*Henry V* is a [history play](#) by [William Shakespeare](#), believed to be written in approximately 1599.

The *St. Crispin's Day Speech* is a famous [motivational](#) speech from the play, delivered by Henry V before the battle ([act IV scene iii](#)). It is so called because 25 October is the feast day of [Saints Crispin and Crispinian](#). The speech itself names the day *Crispin Crispian*, in the passage

## Army Snubs Beretta Again on M9A3 Proposal (GOOD! ed)

by [Matthew Cox](#) on March 2, 2015 (Military.com)

Beretta USA said the U.S. [Army](#) has rejected the gun-maker's request that the service reconsider its M9A3 pistol as an alternative to the Modular Handgun System (MHS) program.

Beretta officials sent the Jan. 30 request in response to the Army's formal rejection of the M9A3 Engineering Change Proposal to the current [M9](#) contract.

"Needless to say, we are disappointed," Gabriele de Plano, vice president of Beretta Defense Technologies (BDT) Marketing Operations, said in March 2 email.

Beretta submitted the M9A3 to the Army in early December. The improved M9 features new sights, a rail for mounting lights and accessories, better ergonomics and improved reliability, according to Beretta USA officials.

Military.com ran a [Jan. 9 article](#) reporting that the service's Configuration Control Board decided in December to deny Beretta's M9A3 ECP proposal as an alternative to MHS.

Then the Army unexpectedly delayed the start of its MHS competition Jan. 12, postponing the release of the formal Request for Proposals that was scheduled for January.

Beretta would not comment on the Army's Jan. 29 letter, but a source familiar with the document said Army officials rejected the M9A3 because it goes beyond what a traditional ECP is supposed to do. As a result, Army officials said they could not alter the original M9 contract and the M9A3 would have to be submitted as a brand new pistol, the source said.

Army officials made the decision without asking a single question about the M9A3, nor did they request any samples for a closer inspection, according to Beretta.

"Of course we are disappointed by this decision, but will continue to promote these improvements as a cost-effective solution," de Plano said. "Paired with the 9mm high-performance ammunition being developed ... we believe the M9A3 pistol/ammunition system can provide the warfighter with a very accurate and lethal combination at a fraction of the cost of a new start program. Based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the market, we also look forward to releasing the M9A3 to our commercial and law enforcement customers later this year."

The U.S. military adopted the M9 in 1985. The MHS effort to replace the 9mm pistol with a more powerful handgun could result in the Defense Department buying 500,000 new pistols during a period of significant defense-spending reductions.

MHS is set to cost at least \$350 million and potentially millions more if it results in the selection of a more powerful pistol caliber, sources said.

The Army began working with the small arms industry on MHS in early 2013, but the joint effort has been in the works for more than five years.

Current plans call for the Army to purchase more than 280,000 handguns from a single vendor, with delivery of the first new handgun systems scheduled for 2017, according to Program Executive Office Soldier officials. The Army also plans to buy approximately 7,000 sub-compact versions of the handgun.

The other military services participating in the MHS program may order an additional 212,000 systems above the Army quantity.

Read more: <http://kitup.military.com/2015/03/army-snubs-beretta-m9a3-proposal.html#ixzz3TjEo8kpb>

Kit Up!

*From the rumor mill*

## **Re: Why S&W lost US Military pistol contract in 1985 ?**

[/quote]

“Ever wonder how, in 1986 we suddenly had unfettered use of Aviano Airbase in Northern Italy? Not ten minutes flying time from the Fulda-Pass?[/quote]

DaveWW.

You are correct on the use of the Italian Air base in exchange for Beretta winning the contract. The Fulda Gap was not the prime target at the time. Some land based aircraft used to attack Libya were fueled and launched from Aviano and it was home for some on the return flight. I also believe US Air Force aircraft were granted overflight of Italian airspace. F-111's launched from England. The air raid over Libya was a very composite mission.

Some Navy/USMC aircraft squadrons do their pre-deployment desert warfare training on the local training ranges. I was here then and sometimes you hear things. Loose lips sink ships.

Bill@Yuma” (unsubstantiated, but I have heard this many times from various sources. Ed)

Congress forced the change to 9mm by stopping military production of 45ACP. Nobody wanted the 9mm and they certainly didn't want the, prone to failure, Beretta. A lot of Police Departments adopted the Beretta after the military did. They soon found out what we already knew. The 9mm Luger (1902), **9×19mm Parabellum** is a .38. 1911 Colt 45ACP



replaced .38 because .38 failed as a man stopper in the Philippines. In fact 45 Colt revolvers that the .38 replaced were sent to the Philippines because of the complaints. I believe the Glock 17, 9mm is still the most popular US civilian hand gun, but Glock 40 cal is catching up fast. I would not be surprised if the military switches to .40 or even back to 45ACP. I am sure there those of you who know more about this than I do. Just my opinion for what it is worth. (ed)

### **Colt CQBP - Close Quarters Battle Pistol**

More than 100 years ago, the Colt 1911 was chosen as the official sidearm for America's Armed Forces. Today, a Colt 1911 is once again proudly serving at the side of our country's military. After a rigorous selection process, the United States Marine Corps selected the Colt Rail Gun as their Close Quarters Battle Pistol (CQBP). This marks the first time since the end of World War II that a Colt 1911 is being shipped to the United States Government.

<http://www.colt.com/Catalog/Pistols/CQBPCloseQuarterBattlePistol.aspx>

### **Afghan Military to Receive Its First A-29s in December**



By [Richard Sisk](#) | Friday, March 6th, 2015

The Afghan military will be without its own fixed-wing close air support for another fighting season this summer against the Taliban, with the first of 20 A-29 Super Tucano turboprops expected to begin arriving in December.

The [U.S. Air Force](#)'s \$427 million program to provide A-29s to the Afghan military has been caught up in long-running contract disputes and delays in the training of Afghan Air Force air and ground crews, leaving the Afghan military overly reliant on the U.S. for close air support in combat. The aircraft is made by the Brazilian aerospace company Embraer S.A.

<http://www.dodbuzz.com/2015/03/06/afghan-military-to-receive-its-first-a-29s-in-december/>

### **Letters to the Editor**

**From: Brian Kinderman**

"Vietnam... remembered by those who should forget, forgotten by those who should remember"

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades... Such good men."

Author unknown

**From: Rich Burns**

Hi Doc,

I was cleaning (yes-cleaning) out and found a couple of patches I wore. I know I supported the ARVN 7th division, but could you ask if anyone has a history on these?

Best regards,

Rich

OK, reply to me and I will fwd to Rich Burns.



## Reunion News

In this website you will  
find information about the -  
***2015 All Birddog Military Combat Unit Reunion***  
(October 8-11, 2015)  
***U.S. Army Birddog Unit Memorial***  
(Friday October 9, 2015 Dedication Ft. Rucker,  
Alabama)  
<http://www.119birddog.com/>

In this website you will find information about the **2015 All Birddog Military Combat Unit Reunion** to be held on the Florida Panhandle and the **U.S. Army Birddog Unit Memorial** to be dedicated at Ft. Rucker, Alabama.

<http://www.L19birddog.com/>

## ***2015 DELTA BIRDDOG REUNION***

St. Lewis, Mo.

**Sept 10-13 2015**

This will be an informal reunion of the 199th RAC and 221<sup>st</sup> RAC still in the planning stage. More information as I receive it. (Doc)  
Reunion coordinator Bob McKenzie (221<sup>st</sup>)

[http://www.199thavnco.net/Page%20files/reunion\\_2015.htm](http://www.199thavnco.net/Page%20files/reunion_2015.htm)

The Crowne Plaza Hotel (where we will be staying) is located directly across from the majestic Gateway Arch.

More than 200 years ago, Lewis and Clark set out on their great journey. Today, the Gateway Arch stands as the iconic monument symbolizing the westward expansion of the United States. If you've never seen the grandeur of this architectural wonder or the breathtaking views of St. Louis from 630 feet in the air, now is your chance.

Your journey begins with a step back in time as you walk through exhibits depicting the history of St. Louis and the Gateway Arch. Next, a short tram ride will transport you 630 feet up where an awe-inspiring view awaits.

Witness the breathtaking construction of the Arch in the award-winning documentary, "Monument to the Dream at the Tucker Theatre. Or, view a high-adventure on a four-story screen, complete with THX sound at the Odyssey Theatre.

Various shops offer a wide selection of souvenirs, period-authentic snacks, and apparel and educational gifts.

This year will be the 50th anniversary of the vision of renowned architect Eero Saarinen. We'll be there as the city celebrates.....join us.

*Bob*

Shotgun 36

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Several of our comrades-in-arms have reserved their rooms for our reunion . . . consider making yours as well, it costs nothing to do and should circumstances dictate there is no charge to cancel if done 48 hours prior to your arrival date.

\*\*\*\*\*

Reunion notes that you may have overlooked:

1. With your room reservation you get a free breakfast and free indoor parking.
2. So that we can remain as a unit without the need to

## Other RACs

21<sup>st</sup> RAC      Web Site No Longer Available  
73<sup>rd</sup> AVN      [www.73rdaviationcompany.org](http://www.73rdaviationcompany.org) (Airplane  
Surveillance)(Light)  
74<sup>th</sup> RAC      [www.aloft74th.org](http://www.aloft74th.org)  
119<sup>th</sup> RAC      [www.219headhunters.com](http://www.219headhunters.com)  
183<sup>rd</sup> RAC      [www.183seahorse.org](http://www.183seahorse.org)  
184<sup>th</sup> RAC      [www.184rac.com](http://www.184rac.com)  
  
185<sup>th</sup> RAC      [www.angelfire.com/tx4/Pteradactyl185/index.html](http://www.angelfire.com/tx4/Pteradactyl185/index.html)  
  
199<sup>th</sup> RAC      [www.199thAvnCo.net](http://www.199thAvnCo.net)  
203<sup>rd</sup> RAC      [www.203rdhawkeyes.net](http://www.203rdhawkeyes.net)  
220<sup>th</sup> RAC      [www.catkillers.org](http://www.catkillers.org)  
221<sup>st</sup> RAC      [www.221st.org](http://www.221st.org)



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## WEB SITE OF INTEREST

### **Vinh Long Hardcover – 1970 (from \$9.48)**

by [Harvey Meyerson](#)

Gets five stars from me. \*\*\*\*\*

Harvey Meyerson gets it right during the Swamp Fox time frame. It is not just about Vinh Long, but the war in the Delta and Vietnam as a whole. Well done.

<http://www.amazon.com/Vinh-Long-Harvey-Meyerson/dp/B0006C04JY>

### **Sgt. Alvin C. York State Park, Tennessee**

<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/sgt-alvin-c-york>

Sergeant Alvin C. York Historic Park is located nine miles north of Jamestown and pays tribute to Sgt. Alvin C. York, one of the most decorated soldiers of World War I. The park contains the farm and gristmill once owned by York who lived in the Pall Mall area for most of his life. Along with the millhouse and milldam, the park includes York's two-story house, York's general store and post office, the Wolf River Cemetery, the Wolf River Methodist Church, the York Bible Institute, an M247 Sergeant York tank and various picnic facilities.

### **Outstanding Peshmerga Offensive in Mosul**

Posted Jan 26, 2015 by [vlogger](#)

Footage posted on January 22, 2015, shows Kurdish forces engaging ISIS terrorists near Mosul, Iraq.

<http://www.military.com/video/operations-and-strategy/terrorism/outstanding-peshmerga-offensive-mosul/4013246846001/>

Sargent Bilko

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldtn6uqWbYI>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yf8kl8\\_RCvg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yf8kl8_RCvg)



“A group of Internet aviation fans once debated the subject of the worst fighter of World War II. Their hands-down favorite: the Brewster Buffalo”.

<http://www.warbirdforum.com/saga.htm>

[http://military.wikia.com/wiki/Brewster\\_F2A\\_Buffalo](http://military.wikia.com/wiki/Brewster_F2A_Buffalo)

### [EAA calendar](#)

<http://www.eaa.org/events>

<http://www.eaa.org/airventure/> OSHKOSH

The IBDA Bark is attached. **Everybody gets the Bark. If you belong to IBDA you get an extra one for free.**

IBDA Store

<http://www.ibdaweb.com/shop-ibda.html>

### Swamp Fox IBDA members

Charley Baker  
Woody Barnes  
Brian Bowling  
Rick Bozeman

Rich Burns  
Sam Givhan  
Larry French  
Curt Herrick  
Ray Jennings  
Jim McKee  
Kevin Kirby (new)  
Don Nicholson  
Dan Oates  
Cline Preble  
Rick Shoup  
Gary Simon  
Norm Wood  
Bobby Woolley

Let me know if you are a member and I will add you to the list.

[www.ibdaweb.com](http://www.ibdaweb.com)

IBDA has been very supportive of Birddog Unit Reunions and deserves our thanks. We can show it by joining up. It's only a few bucks (\$30). Well worth it

### Web Site News

Fox Fax newsletter will again be posted on the web site.

### SWAMP FOX NETWORK

Welcome Home

Status quo

**call sign Fox ?? Means I don't have your call sign.  
Drop me an e-mail and I will fix that.**

**If you have a change of phone number, address or especially e-mail address.  
Let me know so we don't lose touch with you,**

**Thanks, editor**

**NOTICE If you have not sent us your mailing address and phone number please do so.**

**If your e-mail address quits working we have no way to get in touch.  
We do not give this information out to anyone outside the Swamp Fox group.**

Note that the Fox Fax can be viewed in pdf format on the Swamp Fox web site. Adobe reader is required.  
See the Fox Fax page.

Adobe Reader is available as a free down load from Adobe.  
<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

### **THE FOX FAX WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS.**

**I try to keep it interesting. After ten years of the Fox Fax Bird Dog related articles are getting a little skinny.  
If you have something to add to the Fox Fax, I need it before the fifth of the month.  
I try to publish the weekend following the fifth. Sometimes I am even on time.**

**Cheers Y'all**

*Ray "Doc" Jennings*



[WebMaster](#)  
**(EOM)**