

What was just simply supposed to be a friendly reminder to the Griffins for Life about the upcoming annual Squadron Christmas Party, turned out being a running stroll down memory lane for some, and a good history lesson for the current guys. And in typical fashion, the email degrades within a few short replies...

Original email from Siko: Dec 8, 8:41 am:

Griffins for Life,

You should have an e-invitation in your email inbox from Dirk "Diggler" Lough for the annual squadron Christmas party.

Siko

Reply from 2-Dogs: Dec 8, 8:43 am:

Got it & answered.

Thanks Siko,

'Dogs

Reply from Aileron: Dec 8, 8:47 am:

Hey Vic,

Thanks for the heads-up. Got the RSVP and both Carol and I will see you there. Really looking forward to meeting some of the "new" guys. Are there plans to maybe have the new Eagle drivers introduced to the room?

See you in Jan.
Best always,
Aileron

Reply from Sparky: Dec 8, 8:54 am:

Thanks Vic,
got it,
Sparky

Reply from B.O.B.: Dec 8, 9:37 am:

Got it. Thanks, Siko.

B.O.B.

Reply from AB: Dec 8, 9:44 am:

Thanks Siko,

Now that they are flying Eagles, would I have to bring a crew chief as a date????

Hope to see you all.

AB

Reply from B.O.B., Dec 8, 10:49 am:

Technically, it should be the following: Paul "Ranger" Carroll; Anthony "AB" Bourke; Mike "Broker" Budd; Steve "Groper" Ishmael; Roy "Yoda" Stuckey; Mike "Junior" Pofahl.

FYI, B/Gen Leslie Smith is a WWII ace who flew P-47s in Hub Zemke's 56th Fighter Group. After the war, he became a member of the 144th FW and served as 194th FS/CC (F-51 Mustangs) at Hayward, CA, and also as 144th FIW/CC (F-86L Sabres) after the unit moved to Fresno.

At least four Flag Officers survive: B/Gen Leslie Smith; M/Gen Michael Adams; B/Gen Paul Carroll; B/Gen Paul Gruver.

If anyone has a correction, personal call-sign, or additional info to add, please indicate.

B.O.B.

Reply from Maj Gen Adams: Dec 8, 11:17 am:

And, M/G Hall

Reply from Broker: Dec 8, 12:32 pm:

BG Moore

Reply from Siko: Dec 8, 1:06 pm:

And BG Flaughner

Reply from B.O.B., Dec 8, 3:34 pm:

Geez! Sorry, guys.

Thank you all for the corrections.

JM

Reply from 2-Dogs, Dec 8, 7:26 pm:

B.O.B.

I thought Paul Carroll's call sign was always "PC"

'Dogs

Reply from B.O.B., Dec 8, 7:31 pm:

Danny,

I can't remember for sure what PC used as a Tac Call Sign. I remember him being "Ranger", but he was called "PC" a lot.

Several people had multiple Call Signs. For example, before Doug Weskamp was "Spike", he was "Spooge".

Mike Budd hated being called "Buddly"... worse yet he hated "Buddly Wuddly".... and even worse was "Puddly Wuddly" (Meat called him the last two and Mike would about stroke out). Mike preferred "Broker".

Anyway, I can't remember exactly what Paul Carroll was for sure. I would say "PC" would be best. I do know that the ONLY person in the squadron who got away with calling Paul Carroll "Lasko" was Moto. Both Dave and Paul are very close friends and Moto is the only guy who can call Paul "Lasko" without a fist fight ensuing. I remember Mike Budd calling Paul by that name and I thought Paul was going to murder Mike. Mike never repeated that mistake again.

I even had two call signs... on the ground I was pretty much "B.O.B.", but I used "Arson" a lot when flying.

I hope this helped.

Take care,

B.O.B./Arson/Come Out Lt McNab We Know You're In There

Reply from B.O.B. to Stinky, Dec 10, 7:11 am:

Geez, I wonder where "Arson" came from. You earned that one. I am not sure what you are referring to (ha ha). However, "Arson" was tagged onto me after the 1st of my rental house burned down. Not many know where "Stinky" came from. You'd have to ask Howdy, because Ray Clack and Meat (I think) are gone.

I never knew why Moto called PC Losko, nor did I know Paul didn't like it. I believe Lasko is Paul's middle name, as in Paul L. Carroll. Yes, Moto is the ONLY person I know who gets away with calling PC "Lasko". Some names were acquired the old fashioned way; they earned it. (Sparky, Lead Foot, Snort, Link, Cal, Charging Buffalo, and nearly all the WSO's). Don't forget "Rodney".

Does anyone happen to remember Jan Pedersen's call sign?

Stinky B.O.B.

Reply from Pee Wee: Dec 10, 7:18 am:

other than Yonder, I seem to remember Jan being called "slewfoot" from time to time, though i have no knowledge of why.

Peewee

Reply from Broker: Dec 10, 8:07 am:

Don't forget "UT". I kinda like it now...

Broker

Reply from Stinky: Dec 10, 8:10 am:

Yonder was really appropriate: a play on his name and he was a dreamer. I remember Stilly coming up with "Spooge" for Doug Wescamp because Doug kicked his ass in ACM and Stilly got mad. I know Doug hated it and probably would have done anything to shake it, but as you know the harder you resist, the longer it sticks. I don't know where "Spike" came from, but it was more fitting.

Let's not forget to note "Grinder". Only his dentist knows the extent of physical damage caused by being in Stan Eval. Who can forget Bill Gore's perm? Hence "Curly".

I love these strolls down memory lane.

Stinky

Reply from Stinky: Dec 10, 8:14 am:

Hey Mike. Who was our flight commander that gave you that name? What a grouch. I remember him in a fit of anger saying you were un-trainable, hence UT.

Stinky

Reply from Broker: Dec 10, 8:16 am:

Zelhart? Don't really know but could have been him.

Reply from "The Doctor" Mork: Dec 10, 8:27 am:

Spike wanted out of spoooge so bad, he tore up the casual bar at Luke (I think) to get anything to stick, no matter what. It was a awesome effort, so we gave him Spike.

Dr.

Replies from [B.O.B.](#) and Stinky: Dec 8, 8:51 am:

[Yes, it's fun to hear tales I haven't given thought to in many years.](#)

[I think Curly's 'perm' lasted until a little after noon.](#)

[Didn't Mike Budd have a perm at one time, too????](#)

[JimBob](#)

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Let's not forget to note "Grinder". Only his dentist knows the extent of physical damage caused by being in Stan Eval. Who can forget Bill Gore's perm? Hence "Curly".

I love these strolls down memory lane.

Stinky

Replies from [B.O.B.](#) and Stinky: Dec 10, 8:53 am:

Hey Mike. Who was our flight commander that gave you that name? What a grouch. I remember him in a fit of anger saying you were un-trainable, hence UT. [Wasn't it Ward Zelhart?](#)

Stinky

Reply from [B.O.B.](#): Dec 10, 9:01 am:

Mork,

Was that the same time the Squadron was at Luke and we were in the casual bar playing Combat Crud when that the stupid ass LtCol IP got his feelings hurt and he was poking you in the chest with his index finger, so, you grabbed him by the finger, bent it waaaaaaay back and had him on his knees? I think you were a 1Lt. That was too much.

Reply from Stinky: Dec 10, 9:04 am:

Damn, I'd have loved to see that!

Reply from [B.O.B.](#) to Pee Wee: Dec 10, 9:14 am

other than Yonder, I seem to remember Jan being called "slewfoot" from time to time, though i have no knowledge of why. [As I recall, Jan had taken an airplane cross-country to go skiing someplace and bugged up his leg on the slopes. I remember he had to be flown back to Fresno in a private aircraft and somebody was flown in a T-33 to fetch the airplane Jan had taken to go skiing. After he recovered from the ski accident, Jan kinda had a limp and one foot was cocked out to the side a little. One day, after he was back flying, Jan was limping up the hallway towards OPS with that Million Dollar grin of his. Meat called him "Slewfoot" and it stuck for a while.](#)

peewee [B.O.B.](#)

Reply from Warf: Dec 10, 9:26 am:

awesome stuff men

Reply from [B.O.B.](#): Dec 10, 9:41 am:

Oh, man, it was beautiful. Some LtCol there at Luke was one of many playing Combat Crud that night. For some reason, he got his panties in a knot over something and was giving Mork some serious shit. He was in Mork's face hollering and wagging his finger at him. Then he made the mistake of poking his finger into Mork's chest. Mork reached up with one hand, wrapped his fingers around the guy's finger, then Mork slowly tilted it up. The guy suddenly got real polite and stopped yelling. Mork kept wrenching the guy's finger higher and higher. The guy went down to his knees. I think the guy had tears coming out of his eyes. Anyway, the event was OVER. That was quite a night!

Was that when we all went over to Luke in the Rock Crusher (C-131) for Tony Gaedicke's UPT graduation? Or was it when we went to Luke in several F-4s to fly against the F-15 RTU? On one of those trips, I remember Meat accidentally breaking the big plate glass window at the store next to the restaurant/bar we were at in downtown Phoenix? I seem to recall a side mirror on a rental car exploding while going down the road. :D

Reply from Mork: Dec 10, 9:41 am:

I only got away with it because Yoda was standing behind him and he gave me the green light to drop him...!

Reply from Stinky: Dec 10, 9:50 am:

Beautiful! Yoda....now there's a man's man. How can you not love that guy.

Reply from Nibes: Dec 10, 9:55 am:

Yoda and June were down here for Thanksgiving. A few of us got together for lunch to say hi. He and June are doing great and both are running 1/2 marathons. Doesn't look a day older than when he left town.

Nibes

Reply from Grinder: Dec 10, 10:04 am:

Jan also went by 'North by Northwest', due to post accident foot misalignment.

Jan turned that into a true asset when he took up snowboarding years later. Apparently, his 'slewfoot' was perfectly aligned for high performance snowboarding. He could carve perfect arcs at high speed all the way down the hill at China Peak, and was the envy of most of the other hard core

boarders there. It was awesome to watch him on a board. No shit.

grinder

Reply from Hymie: Dec 10, 10:29 am:

at least u guys had call signs to brag about. Hymie sucked but what can I say. Case in point ,during our F-4 deployment to Alaska and right after "Top Gun" was released as a bunch of us were leaving the O club following an afternoon of howling in our flight suits,a father and his 10 yr son approached and excitedly asked what MY call sign was. Shit, I couldn't tell him Hymie , so I blurted out "stinger" and boy was he excited.

(then John Jordan appeared and said he'd been chased by a Grizzly bear)

James MacKay

Reply from Howdy: Dec 10, 10:47 am:

Stinky came from "Stinky Plenum" from the plenum chamber. In jet engines. It was adopted because it just sounded nasty and it Belange' to a tee. Jon was Yonder

Reply from Howdy: Dec 10, 10:57 am:

Slew foot was assigned to Yonder after he broke his foot skiing and it healed a bit skewed to one side. He, therefore took up snowboarding and man was he an awesome snowboarder, carving beautiful giant turns.

Reply from 2-Dogs: Dec 10, 11:00 am:

Negative, Señor Howdy! Stinky Plenum was a follow on to the original Stinky. I remember the story quite well. Meat and Stinky were on Alert together when Stinky received a visitor. Meat, happened to over hear their amorous conversation. There after came the call sign of "Stinky". Names omitted to protect the not so innocent!

'Dogs

Reply from Swede: Dec 10, 11:02 am:

Don't forget Ray and Danny Clack, "R2D2"

Reply from Howdy: Dec 10, 11:07 am:

Yeah Buddy had a perm for about a day. A squadron pilot named Joe Gerardin (Sp?) had naturally curly hair that Lynn Budd liked. Mike was laughed out of the briefing room on Sunday drill

Reply from 2-Dogs: Dec 10, 11:15 am:

Howdy ~

Yes, that's very true on the Slew Foot name. He was also known as "Sid Vicious" (taken from the Rocker) because he could play the hell out of a guitar and actually paid his way thru Rice University playing in a band. When he passed he had 27 guitars in his possession.

Jamie ~ I must apologize. I believe I cursed you with Jaimie (Hymee), because it's the Spanish version of Jamie. We happened to be sharing some suds when I turned and called you Jaimie, B.O.B. thought that was hilarious because you didn't know what Jaimie was. Like Stinky says, the harder you fight it, the longer it stays.

'Dogs

Reply from Howdy: Dec 10, 11:16 am:

Forgot those details, Dogs

Reply from Howdy: Dec 10, 11:17 am:

Ward Zelhart, Zeeman. Mike pissed him off Saturday night at McChord oclub and he made Mike (hungover) fly close formation all the way home early Sunday morning

Reply from Stinky: Dec 10, 11:17 am:

You believed Meat?

Reply from Broker: Dec 10, 11:22 am:

Ouch!

Reply from Mork (about Jan): Dec 10, 11:23 am:

I remember " Sid" the most...

Reply from 2-Dogs: Dec 10, 11:27 am:

Of course I believed Meat! You never let the truth stand in the way of a "good story"!

Meat, just couldn't keep a secret. He once told me, "don't tell me not to tell anyone, because I'll only last :30 seconds!" That was the absolute truth!

Reply from Broker: Dec 10, 11:47 am:

Clack was "One Can Dan", couldn't drink. He and I had a Grumman AA5 at Sierra Sky Park, called it "Cludd Airlines". Great guy. Died in July 1979 running a stern intercept on Baggie in W283. He was flying F-106 #777.

Reply from White Ray: Dec 10, 12:49 am:

I'm reminded of the time me and Pete Moe were up skiing at Sierra Summit. Grinder and Howdy were somewhere on the mountain doing ski patrol, but we hadn't seen em yet. We were getting ready to get on the chair lift and I asked the sweet young dolly who was monitoring the lift if she'd seen our old pals Howdy or Bob. She said yes they'd been by and asked who she should say was looking for them. I told her it was Whitey and Homo. As we got on the chair and started up the hill I looked back over my shoulder and said "By the way, I'm Whitey. "

Reply from Mork: Dec 10, 2:11 pm:

awesome shit right there!

Reply from Nibes: Dec 11, 9:52 am:

You can't make up stuff like that.
Nibes

Reply from Hymie: Dec 10, 3:02 pm:

Ya, we sure had it rough flying all those Fighters!!!

James Mackay

Reply from Growler: Dec 10, 3:41 pm:

Holly shit Jamie! John Jordan..."JJ." There is a name that should be remembered, along with Wes Dean (Don't remember his call sign). Two great guys! I'll have to dig around, I think I might still have a VHS copy of the Squadron Xmas party themed around "Ricky Dale" and the giant "Pill." Wes was the camera-man filming the evening skits....you can barely hear the skits over Wes's steady diet of gut-yuck laughing! Great times!

Growler

Reply from Howdy: Dec 10, 3:44 pm:

One Can Dan got his CS in downtown Tacoma at an Irish pub on St. Patrick's Day. One beer and he was chasing after the Aroma from Tacoma...talk about go ugly early

Reply from B.O.B. (about Mork's finger torture): Dec 10, 4:22 pm:

It was a thing of beauty.

Reply from B.O.B. (to Warf's "awesome" comment), and a challenge to the young guys: Dec 10, 4:24 pm:

We would all love to hear from you "young pups" of tales of daring (and lunacy) that occurred in the Squadron after we passed the baton to you.

- *An old gray beard*

Reply from Hymie: Dec 10, 4:25 pm:

at least u guys had call signs to bragg about. Hymie sucked but what can I say. Case in point ,during our F-4 deployment to Alaska and right after "Top Gun" was released as a bunch of us were leaving the O club following an afternoon of howling in our flight suits,a father and his 10 yr son approached and excitedly asked what MY call sign was. Shit, I couldn't tell him Hymie , so I blurted out "stinger" and boy was he excited.

(then John Jordan appeared and said he'd been chased by a Grizzly bear)

James MacKay

Reply from B.O.B.: Dec 10, 4:25 pm:

OMG, that's a riot!!!! 'Stinger' sounds pretty cool.....

"Sting-ah flight, check! Heh heh heh"

Reply from Mork (to Growler): Dec 10, 4:53 pm:

That was epic! Ricky was pissed at me for years....

Reply from Growler: Dec 10, 5:07 pm:

Yeah Mork, "The Pill" Xmas party set a very high standard. However, you paid your dues at the "Mystery Fighter Pilot" Xmas party. Everyone's skin was pretty thick back then, which made for some extremely fun pranks and Xmas skits.

Growler

Reply from Sparky (about Jan): Dec 10, 5:14 pm:

Me too,
He was always "Sid" to the lieutenant mafia after the Christmas party skit!

Reply from Stinky: Dec 10, 5:14 pm:

[Re: Ya, we sure had it rough flying all those Fighters!!!
James MacKay](#)

For sure. I think it was Bill Neville, with a wry grin, who said "it's like being paid to be in a motorcycle gang".

Reply from Growler: Dec 10, 5:36 pm:

The Lieutenant Mafia covertly referred to as "The Dadildo's." I still have a few of Dadildo calling cards stashed in my desk.

Growler

Reply from Aileron: Dec 10, 6:06 pm:

During the winter... Monday after Drill Weekend... Everyone who was still in town headed up to China Peak for skiing. What a great way to burn a Standby Alert Day :) I ran into Yonder in the lift line and we rode up together. Jan asked if I'd like to ski with him for a while and I said, "Sounds like fun." We got to the top and made our exit - by the time I made the 180 and headed downhill Yonder was nowhere in sight. The man rode that snowboard like the proverbial "Bat." And under absolute control to boot.

Jan was an incredibly talented musician. I remember a number of times sitting on one of those old gray military office chairs in the rec. hanger down at the Det listening Yonder play his mandolin for an hour or so. That was an absolute joy! I always invited him to play with us at the Christmas Parties when we did all of those fun songs, but he never joined us. Guess he was happy to watch the rest of make fools of ourselves :)

I'm seriously enjoying all the memories here, you guys. Thanks!!!

Looking forward to seeing ya'll in January. The tales get even better after a few brews. :)
Aileron

Reply from Howdy: Dec 10, 8:44 pm:

"Oh mey gawd, it's a flippin T-bed"...Hymie, when he intercepted me at 43,000' on an active air scramble

Reply from Shredder: Dec 10, 9:36 pm:

Really enjoying the conversation guys! I'm not trying to change the tone, but thought you'd find the following interesting, I think it's spot on!

Where Have All The Fighter Pilots Gone?

This is a sad commentary on what political correctness has done. Beginning with McNamara the powers that be decided to run the US Air Force like an 8-to-5 business. Warrior leaders of General LeMay's stature were no longer to be found. The fundamental job of the military, "kill people and break their things," became seriously hampered by "rules of engagement" whose guiding logic is political, not successful, combat. I agree with the author. If and when the US military is defeated, it will be running the best Day Care centers in the world. We used to go to the Officers Club or NCO Club Stag Bar on Friday afternoons to drink, smoke and swap lies with our comrades. Think about this when you read the rest of the letter below. What happened to our Air Force/Marines/Army/Navy..... (or Military)?

Drinking then became frowned on. Smoking caused cancer and could "harm you." Stag bars became seen as 'sexist.' Gradually, our men quit patronizing their clubs because what happened in the club became fodder for a performance report. It was the same thing at the Airman's Club and the NCO and/or Top 3 clubs. Now we don't have separate clubs for the ranks. Instead we have something called "All Ranks Clubs" or "Community Clubs." They're open to men and women of all ranks....from airman basic to general officer. Still, no one is there. Gee, I wonder why. The latest brilliant thought out of Washington is that the operators ("pilots?") flying remote aircraft in combat areas from their plush desk at duty stations in Nevada or Arizona should draw the same combat pay as those real world pilots actually on board a plane in a hostile environment. More politically correct logic? They say that remote vehicle operators are subject to the same stress levels as the combat pilot actually flying in combat. REALLY...you're bull-shitting me!!!??? Now that I've primed you a little, read on.

Here is a rant from a retired fighter pilot that is worth reading: "It is

rumored that our current Secretary of Defense recently asked the question, "Where are all the dynamic leaders of the past?" I can only assume, if that is true, that he was referring to Robin Olds, Jimmy Doolittle, Patton, Ike, Boyington, Nimitz, etc.?

Well, I've got the answer: They were fired before they made Major! Our nation doesn't want those kinds of leaders anymore. Squadron commanders don't run squadrons and wing commanders don't run wings. They are managed by higher ranking dildos with other esoteric goals in mind. Can you imagine someone today looking for a LEADER to execute that Doolittle Raid and suggesting that it be given to a daredevil boozer -- his only attributes: he had the respect of his men, an awesome ability to fly, and the organizational skills to put it all together? If someone told me there was a chance in hell of selecting that man today, I would tell them they were either a liar or dumber than shit. I find it ironic that the Air Force put Brigadier General Robin Olds on the cover of the company rag last month. While it made me extremely proud to see his face, he wouldn't make it across any base in America (or overseas) without ten enlisted folks telling him to zip up his flight suit, get rid of the cigarette, and shave his mustache off.

I have a feeling that his response would be predictable and for that crime he would probably get a trip home and an Article 15. We have lost the war on rugged individualism and that, unfortunately, is what fighter pilots want to follow; not because they have to but because they respect leaders of that ilk. We've all run across that leader that made us proud to follow him because you wanted to be like him and make a difference. The individual who you would drag your testicles through glass for rather than disappoint him.

We better wake the hell up! We're asking our young men and women to go to really shitty places; some with unbearable climates, never have a drink, have little or no contact with the opposite sex, not look at magazines of a suggestive nature of any type, and adhere to ridiculous regs that require you to tuck your shirt into your PT uniform on the way to the porta-shitter at night, in a blinding dust storm, because it's a uniform.

These people we're sending to combat are some of the brightest I've met but they are looking for a little sanity, which they will only find on the outside if we don't get a friggin' clue. You can't continue asking people to live for months or years at a time acting like nuns and priests. Hell, even they get to have a beer.

Who are we afraid of offending? The guys that already hate us enough to strap C-4 to their own bodies and walk into a crowd of us? Think about it. I'm extremely proud of our young men and women who continue to serve.

I'm also very in tune with what they are considering for the future and I've got news for whoever sits in the White House, Congress, and our so-called military leaders. Much talent has and will continue to hemorrhage from our services, because wanna-be warriors are tired of fighting on two fronts - - one with our enemies, another against our lack of common sense. Take it or leave it....that's just the way it is, no if's and's or but's.....