

COMBAT AIR MUSEUM

Plane Talk



The Official Newsletter of the Combat Air Museum

February / March 2004 • Vol. 20, No. 2



Chaplain Colonel
(Retired) Ronald Cobb

Speaker shares his experiences as a US Army Chaplain in Bosnia

US Army Chaplain Colonel (Retired) **Ronald Cobb** was the guest speaker at the December Membership Luncheon. He had recently completed a year of duty in Bosnia as Command Chaplain for US forces of Task Force Eagle in the region. As part of his presentation, Chaplain Cobb wore a ball cap with the flags of all the nations with peacekeeping/stabilization forces in Bosnia. And under his jacket and dress shirt, which he removed, he wore a T-shirt with a map of Bosnia on its back with the logos of NATO and the 35th Infantry Division (National Guard) on it.

Chaplain Cobb gave some background on the US involvement in Bosnia and spoke of his experiences and observations. He was both candid and sincere. He spoke of centuries old hostilities and hatred among the religious and ethnic groups in Bosnia. These include the Serbs of Orthodox and Serbian Orthodox faiths; the Croats, who are primarily Catholic; Bosnians, who are primarily Islamic; and Romas or Gypsies. The largest conflicts have been between Islamics and Orthodox. He talked of the killing and ethnic cleansing by Serbia and how NATO had no power over the Serbs until the US sent in forces. At one point Chaplain Cobb said the actions of the Serbs reminded him of the Nazis during WWII. He said the

presence of US forces provided backing for NATO. If the Serbs were told not to move men, material or equipment and they did, US forces blew it up.

Chaplain Cobb said that peace is coming in Bosnia and the country is stabilizing, but US forces will continue to be in the region for the near future. The 34th Division relieved the 35th. If things continue as they are, the number of US forces will reduce each year. During his year in the region, some of the positive change he noticed included repairing and rebuilding the country's buildings.

Knowing the Koran and having taught it, Chaplain Cobb used this knowledge with the Eagle Base troops. He used the Koran for some of his daily

Bosnia, con't. on page 2

Inside This Issue

<i>Visitors</i>	2
<i>Celebrations of 100 years of powered flight</i>	2
<i>Price family provides CAM billboard</i>	3
<i>February / March Calendar of Events</i>	3
<i>New CAM clothing at Gift Shop</i>	4
<i>Biscuits & gravy fund raiser</i>	4
<i>CAM Benefit auction March 6th</i>	4
<i>2004 Calendar</i>	4
<i>Letters and mission logs from Korea</i>	5
<i>New and Renewing Supporters</i>	5
<i>Improvements in the works for Hangar 604</i>	6

Combat Air Museum

Forbes Field • Hangars 602 & 604
 P.O. Box 19142
 Topeka, KS 66619-0142
 Telephone (785) 862-3303
 FAX (785) 862-3304
 www.combatairmuseum.org
 Provided by
 Rossini Management Systems, Inc.
 E-mail: CAMTopeka@aol.com

Museum Curator

Danny San Romani
Office Manager
 Tina Lannan

Board of Directors

Dick Trupp - *Wing Commander*
 Gene Howarter - *Vice Wing Commander*
 Kenneth C. Holleman - *Secretary*
 Don Dawson
 Darrel Dougan
 Stu Entz
 Stephen Wanamaker

**Newsletter Editing
& Design**

Toni Dixon
 Dixon Communications
 785-235-1605

Museum Hours

Monday - Saturday
 9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
 Last Admission 3:30 P.M.
 Sunday 10 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
 Last Admission 3:30 P.M.

Plane Talk, the official newsletter
 of Combat Air Museum
 of Topeka, Kansas,
 is published bi monthly.
 Your questions and comments
 are welcomed.

Any information for **Plane Talk**
 should be submitted to CAM office.

Bosnia, con't. from page 1

meditations. He talked to the soldiers about it to help them get to know the people and so they would not make mistakes in their dealings with them. He found that US troops did not know much about the Koran. He said the Islamic people loved the US soldiers, and the Serbs hated them. Soldiers at Eagle Base were under death threats by Serbs, but they were not under hostile fire like US troops in Afghanistan or Iraq.

During his tour in Bosnia, Chaplain Cobb attended a mosque dedication at Kortosko. He was a command representative. There were some concerns about how the US delegation would be received, but their presence was considered important for furthering better US relations. Chaplain Cobb said that plum brandy is a big drink in Bosnia, and if the plum brandy did not come out in the first 15 minutes of a meeting, then it was a bad visit. Fortunately, the plum brandy was not long

in coming out at the mosque dedication, and all went well. Back at Eagle Base, Chaplain Cobb was talking about the dedication with his superiors, and they were commenting on the activities. He was curious how they knew about some of the details. That is when he learned there had been at least one armed assault helicopter in high orbit over the dedication ready to go in if things went sour.

Chaplain Cobb also commented on the number of land mines in Bosnia, over one million, and that the location of only about 1/3 to 1/2 of these is known. Injuries and deaths among the region's population are very high because of the mines. He also said that US forces uncovered many arms caches.

The year in Bosnia and his dealings with its peoples left a deep impression with Chaplain Cobb. He is writing a book, *Memories of Bosnia*, which should be out soon, and is planning a return trip, this time as a civilian, with his wife, to continue some of the activities set up during his tour. We wish him the best in serving his mission. ➔

**February Membership Luncheon
 speakers will tell of celebrations of
 100th anniversary of powered flight**

The speakers for our February Membership Luncheon will be **Dick Trupp** and **Stu Entz**. In December, they traveled to Washington, D.C. and Kitty Hawk, North Carolina to attend celebrations of the 100th anniversary of powered flight. They will talk about their trip. ➔

Visitors

During **November '03**
 the Museum had
693 visitors
 from **32** states
 and
 Canada
 Germany
 Russia

During **December '03**
 we had
360 visitors
 from **24** states
 and
 Canada
 Colombia
 Malta
 Singapore

➔ ➔ ➔

Price Family makes CAM billboard available on I-70

Thanks to a very generous donation to CAM from the family of **Harlan Price**, a new highway billboard sign along eastbound Interstate 70 will be funded for some 17 months. This sign is near mile maker 325, a few miles west of the intersection of Kansas Highway 99 and I-70. It is a 10-foot by 40-foot billboard produced by the Lamar Companies. It shows the Museum's F11F-1 Blue Angel Tiger in a flying attitude. Exit and route information to the Museum and CAM's location at Forbes Field are also on the billboard. The colors in the billboard are vibrant, and it is really well done.

Harlan Price was always a strong advocate of highway signage for the Museum and not without cause. Over the past few years we have tracked on our visitor sign-in sheets how visitors have learned about the Museum. And each of those years, highway signs have been the number one reason, always by a wide margin. For 2003, signs led the next most given reason by over 350 tallies.

Prior to the new billboard, CAM was advertised on Kansas Department of Highway Signage, Kansas Turnpike Association Signage, and one donated sign between Lawrence and Topeka. At one time there had been another billboard sign, but monthly rental costs eventually caused the Museum to have it removed. And Harlan felt we had always suffered lost visitors because of that.

Late last summer, a local representative from Lamar Companies contacted **Dick Trupp** about the availability of the billboard space along I-70 and offered a 36-month package to the Museum. This was approved and the billboard was up by September.

About the same time that Lamar contacted Dick, but separately, Harlan talked with Dick and curator **Danny San Romani** that after his death, he felt that his family would support making a contribution to the Museum for putting up a billboard. Harlan never got to see the I-70 billboard, but he and his wife **Lucy** did get to see an artist's rendering of the proposed billboard before Harlan died.

We lost Harlan in October. In December, Dick wrote a letter to **Craig Price**, Harlan's son, regarding Harlan's comments about the billboard, and Lucy, on behalf of the Price family, presented Dick with a contribution earmarked to support the I-70 billboard.

We are greatly indebted to the Prices, not only for this contribution, but for so much of Harlan's time spent supporting and being an integral part of this museum. →

Noller Dealerships of Topeka

Laird Noller Ford
23rd & Topeka 785-235-9211
www.nollerford.com

Noller Lincoln-Mercury-Mazda
2946 S. Kansas 785-267-2800
www.nollersales.com

Noller Automotive on the Mall
West Ridge Mall 785-228-0812

February/March Calendar of Events

February

Monday, February 9
Membership Luncheon
Jean Wanner Education
Conference Center (JWECC)
11:30 a.m.

This will be a
potluck luncheon.
Our guest speakers
will be

Dick Trupp and **Stu Entz**,
who will talk about the
100th Anniversary
Celebrations of Flight

March

Saturday, March 6
**1st Annual Combat Air
Museum
Benefit Auction**
Old Mill Auction Center
1401 Winfield Avenue
Topeka, Kansas
6 p.m.

There is no Membership
Luncheon in March.
The next luncheon is
Monday, April 12th.
It will be a potluck
luncheon.

**Monday, March 22-
Thursday, March 25**
Aviation Education Class
JWECC
9 - 11:30 a.m.

→ → →



New CAM clothing available in the Gift Shop

We currently carry some clothing items in the Gift Shop that sport the CAM logo, and they look pretty sharp. One is a light gray sweatshirt with Combat Air Museum across the top in navy blue, with the gold CAM wings logo underneath, and Forbes Field Topeka, Kansas below the wings in navy blue. The material is 50% cotton / 50% polyester. Adult size XXL costs \$22.95. Adults S through XL cost \$20.00, and Child sizes cost \$17.50.

The second clothing item is a knit polyester stocking cap. It is navy blue. It has Combat Air Museum in white with the CAM wings in gold and white below that, and Forbes Field, Topeka in white below the wings. The stocking caps cost \$10.00.

These are just a few of the many great, unique items you'll find in our Gift Shop.

Come out to look at the new goods. For our distant members, we can certainly do a mail order shipment. Remember, members receive a 10% discount off the purchase price of these items. →

Biscuits & gravy fund raiser hampered by weather

The biscuits and gravy fund raiser event held on Saturday, December 13, netted about \$175.00 for the Museum. Our morning was met with cold weather and snow that cut down on folks coming out to eat and see the F-14 Tomcat. We collected 52 tickets from the four-hour feed. Besides comments on the weather, we received a lot of comments on how

good the biscuits and gravy were. **Gene Howerter** and **Larry McCormick** already have plans in the works to hold another biscuits and gravy feed during the May 27-30 weekend of the National Hot Rod Association Summer Nationals held at Heartland Park Topeka. As that time approaches, we will be seeking volunteers to help with this event. →

2004 Calendar

Events subject to change

March

6 – 1st Annual Combat Air Museum Benefit Auction
22-25 – Aviation Education Class

April

10 – Model Contest
24 – Celebrity Pancake Feed

May

30 – Biscuits and Gravy Feed

June

7-10 – Aviation Education Class
21-30 – Fireworks Stand

July

1-5 – Fireworks Stand
5-8 – Aviation Education Class

August

2-5 – Aviation Education Class

October

16 – Model Contest

December

Christmas Break – Aviation Education Class

→ → →

CAM Benefit Auction set for March 6th

The 1st Annual **Combat Air Museum Benefit Auction** will be held Saturday, March 6th at 6 p.m. at the Old Mill Auction Center, 1401 Winfield Avenue, Topeka. This is in the Oakland area of Topeka, several blocks north and east of Phillip Billard airport. The auction house is a two-story red brick building originally known as the Woolen Mill, built in 1894, once used by Albin K. Longren to build his New Longren airplanes, beginning in 1920.

This auction is an opportunity to start a viable annual fund raiser for CAM. We've been collecting items since the end of the year and can still take contributions up to the beginning of March for the first auction. If you have items for the auction, please bring them to Hangar 604 or call the Museum if you are unable to deliver them. The auction house has an area for us to store donated items.

We want good, usable, "used but like new" items donated for the auction, not garage sale items. No clothing will be accepted.

For more information about donations or the auction, please call the Museum at 862-3303. →

Letters and mission logs from Korea

This is our third installment of letters and combat mission logs written from South Korea in 1952 by John Walker Hatcher, then a USMC Second Lieutenant flying Corsair fighter-bombers. Times are based on a 24-hour, military clock. K-6 was a Marine airfield about 40 miles south of the South Korean capital city of Seoul. We reproduce them here from the original text.

Letter No. 3 [K-6] Wed eve, 30 Apr.

Dear Mom,

Just an addition to this morning's mail. I received 3 letters from you today; 2 letters and 1 Easter Card, that is. Thank you.

As you can see, it takes about 7 days for mail to get here, and vice versa. Your last one was mailed on the 23rd.

I mentioned earlier that I might go onto the carrier, and join VMF-212 [a Marine fighter squadron]. That is still uncertain, or rather I'm still debating it. When you're on the carrier, you work 10 days, then have 10 days liberty. That is really nice, huh? 10 days out of 20 in Japan. I would be able to see the whole group of islands, almost. Here, we work 4 weeks, then get one week off for R&R. We heard VMF-115 is going to get our AUs [an attack version of the F4U Corsair], so if that's true I'm definitely going to 312. Well, see you later (write, that is).

Love, Johnny

Mission #2 [K-6] 1 May

Rail-Cut north of Haeju (YC-3733)

Armament 2-1000# bombs, 85" HVAR [high velocity aircraft rocket]

TO [take-off]-1645 BL [bomb line]-1710 Land-1805

I was leader's wingman. We dropped 1 1000# 1st run, and 1 1000# 2nd run. Then made 4 rocket runs, firing pairs each run. Strafing on the last run. Total of 6 runs. No apparent flak. We all had good hits with

both rockets and bombs. No outstanding incidents.

Mission #3 [K-6] 2 May

Close Air Support (near Holy Land) - BT9618

Armament 2 1000# bombs, 8 5" ATAR's [anti tank aircraft rocket]

TO-1245 BL-1310 Land-1650

I was 2nd division leader's wingman. We were controlled by Oxwood 50-1, and our target was 10 bunkers near a river. Dropped 1 1000# 1st run, and 1 1000# last run (manual release). Made 4 rocket runs, firing pairs. Strafing on last 2 runs. Total of 7 runs. Got 90% coverage, 75% off. Good hits, 2 secondary explosions. Encountered my first flak this mission - 37mm, while orbiting near target. Flak was right on in hdg. & alt. [heading and altitude]; very close.

Mission #4 [K-6] 5 May

Flak Suppression (near Huichon) BV-6341

Armament 1 1000# VT bomb, 4 100# bombs

TO-0800 BL-0830 Land-1030

I was second section 1st division wingman. Target was 490mm [guns] near RR [railroad]. Hit right on. Light flak. One run. No outstanding incidents.

Mission #5 [K-6] 5 May

Rail-Cut (near Huichon) BV-6645

Armament-1 1000# BOMB, 85" HVAR
TO-1245 BL-1310 Land-1505

I was 2nd section 1st division wingman. Dropped 1000#er on run, fired 2 rockets. Fired other 6 rockets at a town & camp in a valley near there. 1 run, no flak. My hit missed the RR, but hit on the hill above it, and caused a land-slide that covered the RR. No outstanding incidents.

to be continued in the next issue of Plane Talk

New Supporters

Guy Homoly
Rev. Larry Thomas

Renewing Supporters

Mercedes Anno
Michael Arnett
Mary Beems
Tim Behrens
Art Buchanan
Ron & Linda Coash
Charles Cutler
Don & Peggy Dawson
Eldon Geffert
Ruth & Blanton Hartness
L. C. Hinthner
Dave & Ruth Houser
Mac & Bonnie Kreuter
Roger & Lois Miller
Bill & Irene Mohny
Edward Navone
Bill & Mary Naylor
The Naylor Family
Gary, Susan, Desiree,
Patricia, & Rachel
Nick & Melvina Nickerson
Egideo "Bud" & Laura
San Romani
The Sliter Family
Gerald, Jane, Kurt, & Stefan
Lloyd Thomas
Art Toomay
Chuck & Marlene Urban
The Webber Family
Dr. Rees, Kathy, Karsen, Luke
& Morgan

→ → →

**Join the
Combat Air
Museum!**



The new paneling and sloped cap are going up in Hangar 604.

Improvements are in the works for Hangar 604

Now that there is not much grass mowing going on, **Martin Moyer** and **Amos Page**, with some assistance from **Don Dawson**, **Bob Crapser**,

Gene Howerter, and **Dick Trupp**, are working on a major hangar improvement in 604. There have been a lot of measuring, sawing, drilling and hammering going on in

the hangar the past few weeks. This project will greatly improve the hangar appearance as an exhibit space. Materials for the project are funded by donations from one of our members.

Starting in the northeast corner of the hangar and working around the north and west interior walls to the workshop, Martin and Amos are installing studs and eight foot wall panels. A sloped cap is also being installed on top of the studs and panels. As the work moves along, Don extends existing power outlets out to the surface of the new paneling. Part of this procedure involved some rewiring to bring power back to a few formerly non-working outlets. Other outlets proved to have poor grounds, and this problem has been fixed, too.

Once the panel and cap installation is complete, and the weather warms enough, the panels and caps will be painted a semi-gloss white. This will greatly brighten the hangar areas along the walls, and the semi-gloss will be easier to clean. But even in its present, unpainted condition, these installed panels and caps have greatly enhanced the appearance of 604. This hangar has traditionally been known as the storage-restoration hangar. While that still remains true, it is also our second show hangar. This work is the beginning of improvements to better 604's showmanship. ➔

CASA

Authentic Mexican Food
Topeka's Finest Margaritas

Domestic & Imported Beers * Wines & Mixed Drinks
Mexican & American Appetizers
Fine American Foods * Children's Menu
Fajitas...Our Specialty

266-4503 3320 S. Topeka Blvd.
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Major Credit Cards & Personal Checks Accepted



Combat Air Museum
P.O. Box 19142
Topeka, KS 66619-0142

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Topeka, KS 66603
Permit #181