

# COMBAT AIR MUSEUM

## → → → Plane Talk → → →

The Official Newsletter of the Combat Air Museum

Forbes Field Topeka, Kansas

October / November 2010 • Vol. 26, No. 5

### New records are set at the Sixth Annual CAM Winged Foot-Fast 5K Run/Walk



Threepeat winners in the run,  
repeat winners in the walk



Above: Stephanie Ramos, left, starts the race.  
Left: Thad Powell, men's winner  
Right: Michelle Andrew, women's winner

Thad Powell and Michelle Andrew were threepeat overall winners in CAM's Sixth Annual Winged Foot Fun Run and Walk. Powell covered the 5 kilometer course in 18:00.4 and Andrew went under 20 minutes with a 19:22.9 clocking at the finish. Michelle was also the third finisher overall. Her time set a new course record and age group record in the ladies' division. Six other age group running records fell on Saturday, two in the men's run, four in the ladies'.

Kathy and Greg Johnson repeated as first overall walkers, knocking some 50 seconds off their winning times of last year. Kathy finished the 5K in 36:35 and Greg in 36:36.3. Both times are new records overall and in their age groups. This year, we started tracking age group records for the walkers.

It was a beautiful day for the 5K, and 73 participants finished the course. There were 56 runners and 17 walkers. While most came from the Topeka area, we also had participants from North Carolina, Illinois, and Texas. CAM members

Marlene Urban, Bob Kelly, Jim Leighton, Corey, Tricia, and Katie Dehn, and Danny San Romani participated in the race.

Early on, Gene Howerter rounded up members to help get sponsors for the event. Gene and our members brought in 56 corporate and private sponsors this year at \$100 each. The run raised over \$6,750 net for the Museum.

See "Winged  
Foot" con't. on pg. 6

Stephanie Ramos  
and Katie Dehn



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**Combat Air Museum**

Forbes Field • Hangars 602 &amp; 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.

Email: combatairmuseum@aol.com

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**Museum Hours**

January 2 - February 28/29

Mon. - Sun. Noon - 4:30 P.M.

Last Entry Every Day is 3:30 P.M.

March 1 - December 31

Mon. - Sat. 9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Last Entry Every Day is 3:30 P.M.

Closed New Year's Day, Easter,

Thanksgiving, Christmas Day

**Newsletter****Editing & Design**

Toni Dixon

785-865-4221

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

**October Luncheon  
Speaker**

Our scheduled speaker for the October Membership Luncheon is **Mr. Dick Sparks**, who donated the replica *Taube* hanging in Hangar 602. He will be talking about Mr. Robert Blasee, the builder and donor of the replica *Pfizer*, also hanging in 602, and about Blasee's business, Airdrome Aeroplanes. Blasee and his company built two replica aircraft for the 2009 cinema release *Amelia*, and also built replicas for the 2006 World War I movie *Flyboys*.

Dick Sparks is a previous luncheon speaker, and you should find his presentation very enjoyable. The luncheon is Monday, October 11 in the Jean Wanner Education Conference Room. It begins at 11:30 a.m.

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**October  
Calendar of Events****Monday October 11**

Membership Luncheon

Jean Wanner Education

Conference Room

11:30 a.m.

Our speaker will be

Mr. Dick Sparks

There is no Membership  
Luncheon in November.

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**Visitors**

During **July**  
the Museum had  
**2,010 visitors**  
from **37 states**,  
Washington, D.C.,  
and  
Australia  
Brazil  
Canada  
Great Britain  
Israel  
Italy  
Mexico  
Netherlands  
New Zealand

During **August**  
we had  
**1,040 visitors**  
from **38 states**,  
and  
Canada  
Great Britain  
Hungary  
Italy  
Japan  
Mexico  
Netherlands  
Philippines  
Romania

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**Join the  
Combat Air Museum!**

Your membership and  
support are  
important to us.

**F-111 Descape  
capsule for sale**

The F-111D escape capsule on exhibit in Hangar 602 is currently for sale. Its owner, Custom Simulation LLC, posted the sale on the Internet at [http://customsimulation.com/F-111\\_Restorations.html](http://customsimulation.com/F-111_Restorations.html). The site says to contact Custom Simulation for more details.

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## CAM remembers former Executive Director, Jerry Holley

Jerry Holley, a former executive director of Combat Air Museum, died August 30, 2010, from injuries suffered in a fall. He was 71 years old. Jerry was executive director from April 1997 to January 1999. He first joined CAM in June 1988 and after a period of inactivity rejoined in October 2007.

Jerry became executive director as the finishing touches were being made to the new educational conference center built in Hangar 602. He was instrumental in getting the addition named the Jean Wanner Educational Conference Center nineteen months later. Other capital improvements made to the Museum during Jerry's tenure included milling the apron in front of Hangar 602, resurfacing the asphalt between Hangars 602 and 604 and the drive along the south side of 602, the donated acquisition of the concrete fence along the south side of visitor's parking lot, the volunteer-built carpenter shop in Hangar 604, and installation of a new telephone system in both hangars.

Working with Kurt Bossert, Jerry helped establish the first Oktoberfest beer tasting festival held in 1997 in Hangar 602. The festival had an eventual five year run. In the spring of 1998 Jerry secured a \$12,000 grant from the Stauffer Communication Foundation that was spread over a four year period for use in restoring museum aircraft and artifacts. By the end of 1998, the Museum retired the debt on a long term loan, something that pleased Jerry greatly.

Jerry also had the pleasure of being executive director when CAM acquired its first loan acquisitions from the National Museum of Naval Aviation. In June 1997 he signed the loan agreement for a Pratt & Whitney TF30-P-414A engine, the first type used in the Grumman F-14 Tomcat. He also made the trip to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma to retrieve the engine. About three months later, he signed the loan agreement for acquisition of the Sikorsky NCH-53A Sea Stallion helicopter, but it would be another 22 months before we finally got the large, heavy lift helicopter from Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, New Jersey, to Topeka.

On a local basis, Jerry worked with the late George Erickson in the latter months of 1997 to acquire items from Topeka's US Naval Reserve Center as that command approached its decommissioning in March 1998. Many workshop items were brought to CAM as well as a number of exhibit artifacts. The bridge exhibit outside the Gift Shop came from the Reserve Center. It was dedicated in April 1998. Other artifacts of note acquired or placed on exhibit during Jerry's time included an instrument trainer from Altus AFB, Oklahoma, the completion of the restoration to the 1952 Willys "Follow Me" jeep, the engine run ups and restoration work on the SNB-5, and the opening of the art gallery atop the Conference Center.

Drawing on his long broadcast career, Jerry did much in the way of public relations and exposure for the Museum. From January - December 1998, he hosted a twice monthly early morning show about CAM on KSTB (now KSNT) TV, Channel 27, in Topeka with then-meteorologist Jim Phillips. The Museum's first website was established in March 1998 after Jerry met with Joe and Brenda Rossini and listened to their proposal for creating the site. One of his personal memorable times was in July 1998 when he and members Tom Gorrell and Stu Entz attended a function at the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, and met with the late Brigadier General Paul Tibbets, Jr. A photo of that meeting hangs with an exhibit in the Gift Shop about Tibbets, the *Enola Gay*, and the August 6, 1945, mission to Hiroshima, Japan. Jerry presented General Tibbets with a lifetime membership to the Museum.

Jerry was active in many civic organizations before, during, and after his retirement as CAM's executive director. His long time hobby as an historical diorama builder eventually outgrew the basement of his home, and Jerry established the Holley Museum of Military History at the downtown Ramada Inn. He started with three galleries in April 2006 that grew to its



July 1998, Left to Right: Jerry Holley, General Paul Tibbets, Tom Gorrell, Stu Entz

current five galleries in June 2008. Some 4,000 items make up the collection, including his dioramas, other models, and artifacts Jerry collected during his lifetime. He kept in touch with CAM, calling periodically to check on details about an artifact, or double checking about an historical time line.

Jerry had broken a foot about mid-August, and that placed him on crutches. He was trying to climb a flight of stairs, fell, and sustained fatal head injuries. Survivors include his wife Jane of Topeka, his mother Beulah Holley of Pleasant Hill, Missouri, a daughter Pamela (Holley) Heinonen and family, and a son Commander Mark Holley, USN, and his family.

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### New Supporters

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Victor, Julie, Edmund, and Ella Tyler  
Roger, Brenda, Carter, & Janice Wilch  
John & Debbi Winter  
Conrad Youngbloom

→ → →

## Two officers from Command and General Staff College share their thoughts and experiences about Afghanistan and the Middle East

Major Aaron Kohler, US Army, and Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Jason Morton, US Navy, were our guest speakers at the August membership luncheon. Both are currently attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Major Kohler is an Army aviator, specializing in the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. He is a native of Northport, Michigan, and a 1996 West Point graduate. Assignments after receiving his commission included Fort Rucker, Alabama; Fort Hood, Texas; Republic of Korea; Boston College, where he earned an MBA; instructor at West Point; then a tour in Iraq prior to the Command and Staff College.

He told us his tour in Iraq was non-flying. He was a military transition team leader and ground advisor training Iraqi forces during 2008-2009. Major Kohler said his next assignment will be to Fort Hood, Texas, with the First Cavalry Division, and he will eventually deploy to Afghanistan.

Major Kohler said the role of helicopters in today's Army is to enhance and empower the ground commander. They provide reconnaissance, security, movement of forces, attack, and air assault. The helicopters are formed in a Combat Aviation Brigade. He showed a breakdown of such a brigade, and it included a headquarters and headquarters company and five battalions. The battalions are further broken down into companies and platoons.

Helicopters currently flown in a brigade include the OH-58D Kiowa with one pilot and two crew. It is used in reconnaissance and attack. The AH-64D Apache Longbow has two pilots, sitting in tandem, one of whom is the gunner. It is the primary attack helicopter and also conducts reconnaissance. The UH-60L Blackhawk carries two pilots and a crew chief. Its roles include utility, medium lift, and air assault, including medical evacuation. The CH-47 Chinook is the heavy lift and cargo helicopter. It is the main mover of material and can carry 26,000 pounds in a sling load. It can also carry 31 troops.

Major Kohler said the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), including remotely piloted aircraft (RPAs) is part of an aviation brigade. He also said their increased usage is making airspace very congested. Each ground commander wants one. An audience member asked if the Army will get the A-10s. (US Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft, commonly known as the Warthog.) Major Kohler replied probably not, but it was a good idea. He went on to say keeping the A-10s in the Air Force makes the inter service joint relationship work better.

Another question was about a proposed COIN (counter insurgency) aircraft. Would the Army get the air frame or just the Air Force? Major Kohler responded that the program had been killed. In answer to a question about helicopters operating in the desert, he said that the environment is tough on both machines and pilots. The wear on the helicopters is higher and flying conditions, particularly visibility, are challenging. He also said that in Afghanistan, there are drastic changes in altitude in a relatively small space.

Major Kohler told us that the Warrant Officer corps is the brain trust and corporate knowledge of Army aviation. Their experience level has become quite high since Iraq, and the experience level in Afghanistan has skyrocketed. He pointed out that Warrant Officers basically fly every year where commissioned officers go back and forth with aviation assignments.

Due to time restraints, Major Kohler initially did not talk about his tour with the Transitional Training Team in Iraq.

LCDR Morton, an F/A-18 Hornet pilot, told us that he is not a typical Navy aviator. During his 15 years of service, he has been deployed only twice aboard an aircraft carrier. A native of Oklahoma, he graduated from Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida, in 1996. His first flying assignment, but not as a pilot, was in the TACAMO E-6 Mercury strategic communications aircraft. This aircraft is a much modified and altered Boeing 707 air frame, and most E-6s are based at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

After the E-6 tour, LCDR Morton attended flight school and trained in the T-45 Goshawk. His first assignment with the F/A-18 Hornet was at Naval Air Station Lemoore, California. He was assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-97, the Warhawks, when they deployed with a US Marine air wing to Iwakuni, Japan. There, the squadron operated from the Marine Corps Air Station. From VFA-97, LCDR Morton attended the Marine Corps Fighter School at Yuma, Arizona.

His next assignment was with Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-25, *Fist of the Fleet*, and he made two deployments aboard the nuclear aircraft carrier USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN-76) before attending Command and Staff College.



Major Aaron Kohler,  
US Army



LCDR Morton showed a 20 minute DVD that was produced for the 2009 "Hornet Ball," a meeting of West Coast and Japan F/A-18 *Hornet* squadrons. The DVD included some parodies of Hollywood films but mostly showed air-to-air footage of Hornets, aerial refueling, catapult launches and carrier landings, as well as combat footage showing use of bombs, missiles, and guns. LCDR Morton said the combat footage had been taken in Afghanistan within a couple of years of the making of the DVD.

LCDR Morton said the carrier was parked about 100 miles off the coast of Pakistan and was responsible for the southern provinces of Afghanistan. He said there is a NATO airfield in Kandahar Province in southeast Afghanistan, and the Air Force operates out of Bagram Air Base in the northeast of the country. They are responsible for the northern portion of Afghanistan. Aircraft flying from Qatar and Oman have to fly around Iran and over Pakistan to get to Afghanistan.

A question came up from the audience asking the two officers if they could comment about the recent internet leaks about Afghanistan (Wikileaks). They replied they get only open source information, and they could comment on that. Both felt that information that may be relevant and possibly damaging were acronyms and coordinates. There is also a chance someone could learn something of our intelligence collection methods and capabilities. Relations with Pakistan could also be affected. Some things said about that country were true, but they would not normally be said politically.

They felt that because things change so often that most information was not very useful. Both officers felt none of the leaked information was timely. Both also felt the disgruntled employee who leaked the documents was not really a spy, just someone who wanted payback for a personal situation. They expected that person will be put away for a long time.

Major Kohler was able to talk a bit about his tour in Iraq. One of the things he told us was that Humvees are now seldom used outside the safety zone. The vehicle of choice and use now are MRAPs (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) armored vehicles. Major Kohler said that when you go to combat, you go in an MRAP. The Humvees are now more of a pickup truck.

He said his tour in Iraq was part of the US exit strategy, training Iraqi forces to take over. Major Kohler worked with a battalion of Iraqi National Police, training them in counterinsurgency. He said their goals were to raise the level of proficiency, confidence and competence in the battalion. He also said it was a very frustrating proposition. Trying to instill American values, traditions, and culture to Iraqis was tough. Major Kohler said they were not better or worse, but they were certainly different. He said the US will continue to be there as advisors as there will be a mix of chaos and progress as the Iraqis take over.

In response to a question about the Kurds, Major Kohler felt there was no sectarian aspect. The Kurds are not fighting for sectarian reasons. The Shiite and Sunni do have sectarian tension and sectarian factions.

The two officers were asked their views of Iran - Israel



**Lieutenant Commander Jason Morton, US Navy**

tensions. Both did not think Iran would use nuclear weapons against Israel, although they would threaten to do so. They did feel there is much greater concern of terrorist actions against Israel.

Another question went back to the documents leak and its potential harm. Major Kohler said that names of people friendly to the allies have been published, and that is a big problem. Those friends may well be at risk. They may also be reluctant or unwilling to provide information in the future, and it will be difficult to recruit people to aide the allies. Both officers were concerned with winning the people over from insurgency and said this has been a problem from the beginning. Having names of friendlies leaked with the documents will make winning the people over that much harder.

A question about Rules of Engagement (ROE) came up, and LCDR Morton took it. In regards to Afghanistan, he said he had three sets of ROE he could use, including one he carried in the plane. He said the ROE had to answer four questions before he could deploy weapons. LCDR Morton said it makes things complicated and tough, but also said it was a good thing. He said it may make us less safe, but again, in the long run, it was a good thing. He cited an example where an insurgent fuel truck was disabled and an effort was launched by the allies to destroy the truck. However, when the response took place, which was bombing the truck, locals had gathered around to collect what fuel they could and were killed and injured in the blast. By eliminating what was seen as an immediate threat, the allies alienated an entire village. LCDR Morton said that restraint matters, that restraint helps when you are trying to win over the people.

This ended the questions, and Major Kohler and LCDR Morton thanked us for inviting them. They also thanked us for our questions and commented that they were informed questions.

→ → →

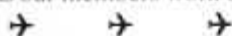
## "Fun Run," con't. from page 1

Topeka's **Sunflower Striders** provided three people to run the timing and computer results. **Air Force Junior ROTC cadets from Highland Park High School** were stationed around the course as monitors and called off times at the 1, 2, and 3 mile marks. They also conducted a flag raising ceremony 15 minutes before the race. **Jim Leighton** brought a PA sound system used for the opening ceremony, general announcements, and the awards ceremony.

A number of CAM volunteers also manned the course. Before the race, Gene marked the spots for the mile markers and the turnaround point at the south end of the course. **Chuck Urban** and **Dick Trupp** placed the mile markers and water table the morning of the race. Our members also ran the event. **Pat Casey, Marlene Urban, Mary Ann Kelly, and Russ Wiedle** ran the registration table the morning of the race. **Chuck and Connie Bradshaw** manned the water table. **Don Dawson** was at the turnaround point. **Dave Murray, Chuck Urban, Peggy Dawson, Tad Pritchett, Ted Nolde, Dick Trupp, and Les Carlson** set up the finish chute after the race began, then photographed and filmed finishers, and monitored times, bib numbers, and place finishes as runners and walkers came across the finish line.

**Stephanie Ramos**, news anchor for WIBW channel 13 television was our honorary sponsor this year. She is also a Captain in the US Army Reserve and returned early this year from a tour in Iraq. Stephanie announced numbers in the post race raffle and presented trophies and medals to race participants. A film crew from WIBW was also present during the finish and filmed a number of the runners and interviewed a few of them as well as Gene Howerter.

Many of you know the drill, but here it is anyway. The seventh annual CAM Winged Foot Fast 5K Run/Walk will be held the last Saturday of September, 2011 at 8 a.m. That is Saturday, September 24, 2011. Mark your calendar, now, and please keep the date open for this event. If friends or relatives come in, enter them in the race or just bring them out for the morning to watch the event. This major fundraiser for CAM is only as good as our members work to make it so.



## And the winners are...

### Men's Runners

- 14 and under — 1. Noah Powell 22:23; 2. Ethan Powell 25:55; 3. Ryan Rivera 43:21  
 15-19 — 1. Brandon Childers 21:06  
 20-24 — 1. Elton Towne 20:53  
 25-29 — 1. Rudy Chavez 19:40; 2. Kyle Johnson 22:07; 3. Kevin Sabata 25:54 (new record)  
 30-34 — 1. Juvenal Espinosa 18:48; 2. Tim Lang 19:33; 3. Kevin Rake 22:21  
 35-39 — 1. Evan Murray 23:30; 2. Keith Carlson 27:54; 3. Brian Loy 28:17  
 40-44 — 1. Rob Downing, Jr 21:58; 2. Eric Johnson 22:25; 3. Steve Wathke 23:02  
 45-49 — 1. Ron Childers 23:59; 2. Jeff DeBusk 24:11  
 50-54 — 1. Karl Gunnerson 21:11; 2. Neal Farron 21:51; 3. Mitchell Ummel 23:34  
 55-59 — 1. Terry Hoffsommer 26:31  
 60-64 — 1. John Stambaugh 25:03  
 65-69 — 1. Jim Leighton 30:51  
 70-74 — 1. Clay Lang 26:45; 2. Russ Willis 42:15 (new record)

### Ladies' Runners

- 14 and under — 1. Katy Trupp 27:28; 2. Katie Dehn 35:21  
 15-19 — 1. Taylor Trupp 25:41  
 25-29 — 1. Tina Rees 20:21 (new record)  
 30-34 — 1. Stephanie Burrows 24:35; 2. Tara Griffith 27:59; 3. Tricia Dehn 29:34 (new record)  
 40-44 — 1. Kim Jones 35:46  
 45-49 — 1. Susan Gunnerson 27:15  
 50-54 — 1. Anna DeBusk 25:45; 2. Becky Kincaid 25:46; 3. Melody Hoffsommer 33:34 (new record)  
 55-59 — 1. Debbie Simecka 27:20; 2. Ethel Edwards 35:59 (new record)

### Men's Walkers

- 40-44 — 1. Ed Popkess 40:44; 2. John Spurgeon 53:59 (new record)  
 50-54 — 1. Walt Frederick 45:43 (new record)  
 55-59 — 1. John Hewitt 43:27  
 60-64 — 1. Danny San Romani 37:05 (new record)  
 65-69 — 1. Maurice Towne 42:26; 2. Dan Weaver 45:45 (new record)  
 75-79 — 1. Bob Kelly 54:23

### Ladies' Walkers

- 40-44 — 1. Melissa Schumacher 43:19; 2. Susan Frederick 43:27 (new record)  
 45-49 — 1. Thui Miller 42:55 (new record)  
 50-54 — 1. Kate Miller-Smith 42:30; 2. Terri Joens 43:20 (new record)  
 55-59 — 1. Lynn Weaver 45:46 (new record)  
 70-74 — 1. Marlene Urban 46:19 (new record)



Stephanie Ramos and Gene Howerter



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the following sponsors who support our mission.**

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**Learn more about the  
Combat Air Museum at  
[www.combatairmuseum.org](http://www.combatairmuseum.org)**



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**The Combat Air Museum's  
6th Annual Winged Foot Fast 5K Run/Walk  
has threepeat winners and sets new records.**

Read the whole story, beginning on the front page.

*Left: Runner Evan Murray and children await the Awards Ceremony  
Center: Thad Powell, men's winner  
Right: Michelle Andrew, women's winner*