

## 45<sup>TH</sup> REUNION – USFA CLASS OF 1964

NOVEMBER 4-7, 2009

### 5<sup>TH</sup> SQUADRON INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONNAIRE

1. NAME: Donald Ray Spoon
2. ADDRESS: 14806 Blue Max, San Antonio, TX 78248
3. TELEPHONE NUMBERS:
  - a. HOME: (210) 493-7322
  - b. BUSINESS: N/A
  - c. CELL: N/A
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5. MARITAL STATUS: Still married to first wife
6. SPOUSE: Alice Harriet (Braswell) Spoon
7. CHILDREN AND DOB(S): Kelley Brian, 5 March 1975; Donia Rene Sievers, 5 October 1978; Thomas Lee:, 9 May 1981
8. GRADUATE S STUDIES & ADVANCED DEGREES: M.D., Washington University, 1978
9. PRESENT OCCUPATION: Retired (Dead Log Imitation/Modeling)
10. DATE OF SEPERATON: 1 June 1994
11. RANK AT SEPERATION: O-6 (Colonel)
12. AIR FORCE ASSIGNMENTS: Pilot Training, Vance AFB; Survival School, Stead AFB; F-4C Backseat checkout, Davis Monthan AFB; Sq Pilot, 92<sup>nd</sup> TFS, Bentwaters AB, UK; 480<sup>th</sup> TFS, Danang AB, Republic of Vietnam; POW 1966-1973, various camps, North Vietnam, Graduate School, Zoology, Colorado State University, 1973-1974 (didn't complete degree - entered med school); Medical School, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis MO; Family Practice Residency 1978-1981, Eglin AFB, FL; Squadron and Wing Flight Surgeon, 92<sup>nd</sup> TFS, 33<sup>rd</sup> TFW, Eglin AFB, FL; Various Biomedical R&D jobs at Brooks AFB and Wright Patterson AFB from 1984 until retirement in 1994. I will expand if anybody is really interested.
13. CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT: Biomedical Consultant after Retirement – KARTA, INC.

14. SUMMER SQUADRON DOOLIE YEAR (42<sup>ND</sup>, 43<sup>RD</sup>, ETC.): 42<sup>nd</sup> (I think)

15. THIRD CLASS FIELD TRIP:

- a. CRUISING ALTITUDE OF THE U-2: "Above 60,000 feet"
- b. TYPE SHIP FOR NAVY CRUISE: Submarine
  - i. NUMBER OF DAYS SEA SICK: None
- c. TIME FROM ARRIVAL IN SAN DIEGO TO ARRIVAL IN TIJUANA: Didn't go – At sea
- d. AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT FORT BENNING DURING VISIT: Hot! DAMN HOT!

16. SECOND CLASS FIELD TRIP(SOUTHERN EUROPE, NORTHERN EUROPE, CENTRAL EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA OR ASIA): ASIA

17. OPERATION THIRD LIEUTENANT BASE: Kingsley Field, OR (Don only charged me \$20 to go there)

18. DOOLIE YEAR:

- a. FAVORITE:
  - i. THIRD CLASSMAN: Mike Regnier
    - 1. MICHAEL J.C. ROTH'S MIDDLE NAMES: "Jesus Christ" ?
  - ii. SECOND CLASSMAN:?
  - iii. FIRST CLASSMAN:?
- b. WORST:
  - i. THIRD CLASSMAN ?
  - ii. SECOND CLASSMAN ?
  - iii. FIRST CLASSMAN ?

19. AOC(S)

- a. FOURTH CLASS YEAR Paul Zavitz
- b. THIRD CLASS YEAR Paul Zavits, Griggs (assistant)
- c. SECOND CLASS YEAR ?
- d. FIRST CLASS YEAR ?

20. VEHICLE – FIRST CLASS YEAR 1964 Pontiac Catalina @ Christmas.

21. RECORD TIME FROM DENVER W/O STOP IN CASTLE ROCK: Never Timed It. Better question is the record time back that made sign-in!
22. TIME SPENT DURING FIRST CLASS YEAR:
- a. NAVAJO HOGAN: 0
  - b. GUISEPPES: 0
  - c. ANTLERS: 0
  - d. LEMON TREE: 0
  - e. KATCHINA LOUNGE:0
23. FAVORITE WOMAN'S COLLEGE: Didn't didn't attend any!!
- a. COLORADO WOMANS COLLEGE:
  - b. LORETTO HEIGHTS
24. NUMBER OF WEEKENDS ON CONFINEMENT: 4 ?
25. NUMBER OF TOURS MARCHED: ? (some ... dunno how many)
26. AVERAGE DEMERITS PER SAMI: 5-7 (right below the limit ?) I walked a narrow line, and stepped over it one time... hence the confinements!
27. DATE OF FIRST DEAR JOHN LETTER: Never Got One!
28. REMARKS: I was too poor to get into much trouble at the Academy! The class of 1965 sponsored a series of Oral Interviews with some of us "Air Pirates" (ex – POWs). These have been transcribed and donated to the USAFA Library collection. The topics include my POW experiences and how the Academy influenced me. The remarks I made then are still "on-point". While I don't mind talking about my POW experiences, the memories are fading due to my aging. I refer the curious to these interviews, since it will be more accurate and stable over time than my memory is now. An additional benefit is that you can get a cross-section of viewpoints rather than my admittedly narrow view.
29. SPECIAL MEMORIES:
- a. CHUCK BOLIN: ?
  - b. LARRY MOORE: Quiet...
  - c. KEVIN MCMANUS: Kevin saved my bacon one time our First Class year when I wasn't in any condition to march on at a football game. He pulled a button off my overcoat and then declared that I was "out of uniform" in his capacity as a Group or Wing staff

member (can't remember which) and I couldn't march on! I told him about this years later (in 2003) in order to thank him again, but he didn't remember it. This is how I remember Kevin. He was always willing to help out, but didn't "charge" anything for it!

- d. Bob Clements hosted me on a very memorable T-37 cross country weekend during pilot training. Thanks Bob! That memory was put to good use during 1967 – 1973 to keep my focus on what was important...
- e. Pat Durick was another gracious host during my time at Davis Monthan in late 1966 and early 1967. I recall how the Tequila flowed freely, and the diving was great! I also recall a very nice dinner in St. Louis one night after my return on his nickel. As fine as these memories were, the one that always brings a smile to my face was the recollection of the time Pat removed his parka in the dining hall to reveal that he had forgot to put on his dress coat. I recall Pat standing there with his chin in, staring straight ahead, with his light blue shirt contrasting with the sea of darker blue blouses, and surrounded by shouting upperclassmen! Thanks for the memories, Pat!
- f. Mack Thies was originally a member of 5<sup>th</sup> Squadron before he was tapped to make up 6<sup>th</sup> Squadron when it was formed. He was a close friend at the Academy and continued to be one up until my shoot-down in January of 1967. I was deeply saddened to hear he had died.