

# 6918<sup>th</sup> RSM/SS

## September 2013 Newsletter



Hello again to the 6918<sup>th</sup> RSM/SS gang. Back in September 2011, two years seemed like “forever” before we could get together again. A lot has happened in the past two years and it seems to have happened very quickly. This edition will be somewhat more condensed when compared to previous newsletters, so your read time should be shorter. Let’s jump right in.

Transportation to and from the airport will not be provided by Holiday Inn Riverwalk. Two people or more will find a taxi to be the best value, approximately \$30. There is a shuttle service, Go Airport Shuttle, available at a \$2 discounted rate if you identify yourself as a 6918<sup>th</sup> or 6924<sup>th</sup> member. Shuttle is \$17.50 per person.

Give some thought to who and what you would like to say to your buddies who are not at the reunion. (See the Live Video Streaming information below.) After the banquet meal and during the program breaks, you’ll have a chance to ‘go live’, around the world via the Web, in live streaming HD video, to tell your friends hi or (short version please!) what you would have said to them if they were present. They will see and hear you (if

they've logged in as instructed below) but will not be able to respond to you on the spot. This may be a once in a lifetime chance so consider it carefully.

**-Arrive: 9/26/13 (Thursday) & Depart 9/30/13 (Mon)**

**-Lodging: Holiday Inn Riverwalk**

**San Antonio, Texas 78205**

**-Room Reservations---Call 1 888 615 0726**

**-ID yourself as "6918th RSM / SS Reunion"**

**-Check in time 4:00 PM / Check out time 12:00 PM**

**- Deadline for blocked rooms has passed, but do it anyway!**

**-\$100.00 registration per person**

Here's the reunion schedule:

**\*NOTE: Items are subject to change without notice.**

**The Lackland AFB bus trip requires prior registration and payment—no exceptions.**

Thursday 9/26/13

**(our bonus day this year)**

**Skyline Atrium (7th floor) Hospitality suite open noon--Midnight**

- ❖ **Check-in/registration/badge pick-up/meet & greet (wait here until your hotel room is ready!)**
- ❖ **Memorabilia tables, videos, photo slideshows, souvenirs**
- ❖ **Cash Bar Noon --11:45 pm\*****FREE Keg Beer starts at noon, until it's gone**  
*Compliments of Silver Eagle Distributing Company and The 6918<sup>th</sup> Corporation*
- ❖ **2--5 pm Complimentary finger food/snacks (while they last)**
- ❖ **6-7 pm Combined 6924<sup>th</sup> / 6918<sup>th</sup> Welcome Reception (Tango Ballroom)**  
*Cash bar/FREE chips and salsa—compliments of the Holiday Inn Riverwalk* **NOTE:**  
Be sure to wear your reunion badges for identification!
- ❖ **7--8 pm Hospitality Suite show and talk by 'BJ' Jones and Gabe Marshall (USAFSS History Office) titled 'History of the AFISR Agency' or 'USAFSS and Beyond'.**  
(6924<sup>th</sup> attendees are invited to participate — please wear your reunion badges for ID)
- ❖ **Raffles, prizes—Drawing(s) at 10 PM**  
--You're on your own for sightseeing, activities, lunch, dinner

If you have friends in the 6924<sup>th</sup>, Fred Sepelak is their coordinator and his phone numbers are: Home 248-641-8408 or Cell 248-388-8706. Sorry, but his number was incorrect in the July Newsletter. OOPS!

If you care to, please forward your cell # to Carol [updates6918th@yahoo.com](mailto:updates6918th@yahoo.com) before the reunion. She has agreed to compile the list that will be available at the conference room check-in table. We've found that a list of attendee's numbers is handy if we become separated or want to get together other than in the hospitality room. For privacy, we will ask that we ALL destroy this list at the end of the reunion.

### **Friday 9/27/13**

**(\*Basic Training Graduation/Lackland AFB Museum tour, Remembrance Celebration, FTVA Picnic via chartered bus)**

**(0700--2:30 pm) Bus leaves promptly as scheduled—prior registration/payment required.**

**NOTE: Be sure to wear your reunion badge AND to bring your drivers license/ID**      **Contact: Stan Freymuth**

#### **Skyline Atrium (7<sup>th</sup> floor) Hospitality suite open noon--Midnight**

- ❖ **Check-in/registration/badge pick-up/meet & greet (wait here until your hotel room is ready!)**
- ❖ **Memorabilia tables, videos, photo slideshows, souvenirs**
- ❖ **Cash Bar Noon -- 11:45 pm**
- ❖ **2--4 pm Complimentary finger food/snacks (while they last)**
- ❖ **3 PM VA Healthcare discussion – Edna Barnes**

Edna Barnes (wife of our own Fred Barnes) retired in 1993 as the Director of Veterans Services, Solano County, CA, after 22 years service. She is very active, and the Service Officer Emeritus for the American Legion, 5th District of California. She volunteered for this Q & A session, after our attempts to get a local VA service officer were (apparently) unsuccessful—please thank her! *(This is your chance to ask about VA benefits available to you for hearing loss, tinnitus, etc.)*

- ❖ **5--8 pm Complimentary Mixer for 6918<sup>th</sup> and 6924<sup>th</sup> Alumni and guests at VFW Post #76 (10<sup>th</sup> and Broadway).** Includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres with cash bar.      **NOTE: Be sure to wear your reunion badges for identification.**

*(\*take a 30 minute water taxi ride OR walk to the NORTH—1 mile, about 20-30 minutes to the post OR split a cab fare with friends also heading there.) Check the map in your welcome bag.*

- ❖ **Raffles, prizes—Drawing(s) at 10 PM**  
--You're on your own for sightseeing, activities, lunch, dinner

Bus tour participants, meet in hotel lobby at 0700 for 0715 departure. **Don't be late!** We will return at approximately 1430. There is still room on the bus for a few more, but pre-registration time has almost run out—so do it NOW. I need your background check information so I can turn it into the Air Force by **September 12<sup>th</sup>**. On the tour, be sure to wear your reunion nametag and have a photo ID on your person. Remember to take your camera. If you have not paid your \$10 per person fee, please do it now as Bill has to pay the bus company by September 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Saturday 9/28/13 (Biennial Business Meeting 1--2:30 pm—Contacts: Bill Mink/Dave Bethard)**

**Skyline Atrium (7th floor) Hospitality suite open noon--Midnight**

- ❖ **12--4 pm Complimentary finger foods/snacks** (while they last)
  - ❖ **Check-in/registration/badge pick-up/meet & greet**
  - ❖ **Memorabilia tables, videos, photo slideshows, souvenirs**
  - ❖ **\*Cash Bar Noon to 11:45 pm** *\*Note: Since Able Ft. Alumni Mike Tazik is unable to attend this year, he's donated the first \$170 of today's bar charges—Thanks Mike! Enjoy!*
  - ❖ **1--2:30 pm 'The 6918<sup>th</sup> Corporation' business meeting** discussing future reunions, directors, incorporation, organizing staff, funding, tax exempt status, recommendations/suggestions, etc. *Wives and guests are welcome to attend, however, the meeting may be a bit dry...so this could be a great nap, swim or shopping opportunity for you—but come back at 2:30 for the raffles!!*
  - ❖ **2:30 to 3 PM Raffles, prizes—Drawings throughout**
  - ❖ **3:30 PM Guest Speaker Dennis Rassmussen will talk about the FTVA, activities and membership** *(Rass is a San Antonio FTVA & Charlie Flight 67-69 alumni)*
- You're on your own for sightseeing, activities, lunch, dinner

All members are asked to be at the business meeting as critical decisions need to be ironed out concerning future reunions. This is your group. Your input is very important!

Sunday 9/29/13—

Skyline Atrium (7th floor) Hospitality suite open 12 noon--4 PM

- ❖ 12--4 pm Complimentary finger foods (while they last)
- ❖ Check-in/registration/badge pick-up/meet & greet
- ❖ Memorabilia tables, videos, photo slideshows, souvenirs
- ❖ Cash Bar Noon to 3:45 pm
- ❖ 3--4 PM Raffles, prizes—Drawings throughout
- ❖ Hospitality suite closes down for 2013 **promptly at 4 PM**

Banquet Room (Tango Ballroom 7<sup>th</sup> floor) opens at 5 PM

**\*\*The entire Banquet event will be streamed LIVE on WebEx.com\*\***

- ❖ 5--6 pm Happy Hour/**FREE open bar** *Compliments of the 6918<sup>th</sup> Corporation*
- ❖ 6--11:45 pm Cash bar
- ❖ 6--7:15 pm Banquet dinner served
- ❖ 7:15--10:15 pm 2013 Reunion Program
- ❖ **Special Dual Keynote speakers:** (Ret) Lt. Colonel David T Kuntz, and (Ret) Brigadier General James E Miller will share some of their best USAFSS and Brady/Hakata experiences and memories with you
- ❖ Also featuring messages from your individual Flight Coordinators, special guests, notable announcements and grand prize/final raffle drawings
- ❖ **10:15 pm Group Photos – Everyone is requested to PLEASE stay for the photos!**
- ❖ 11 pm-11:45 pm -- group caucus/Sayonara/closing

\*\*\*In the last Newsletter we mentioned that **Live Web Streaming** was in the planning stage for the Sunday banquet program. We have finalized it. We know many of you are not able to attend this year and here is your chance to witness part of what happens at these reunions. Watch for messages from your buddies who are at the reunion.

Members not attending the reunion can watch on [www.Webex.com](http://www.Webex.com) :

Go to Webex.com and click on 'attend a meeting' in the upper right corner  
Type in meeting number: **190 522 974**  
Enter your name and email address and click 'join meeting'.

It's that simple!! We are scheduled to give meeting attendees access starting at **6:30PM Central Time.**

Dress code thoughts: With the exception of the Sunday banquet meal and program, casual attire is encouraged. San Antonio and the River Walk can be hot, and the hospitality suite is air conditioned, so shorts, T's, comfortable shirts/blouses, jeans, pants, and casual clothing are encouraged. Anyone who feels the need, or wants to 'dress up', the Sunday banquet program is the perfect venue for you to do that—but it is not mandatory. Casual or vacation clothing is certainly acceptable then too. In the past, we have had jeans, shorts, dresses and coats and ties, all sitting at the same tables! So, dress how you feel—be comfortable and enjoy all the activities!

There will be raffle tickets sold throughout the event. The profits of the raffles are, of course, to help offset the cost of reunion expenses, for this and future reunions, and to keep the cost per person low. Some items being raffled are items that you probably will not see anywhere else, graciously donated by fellow 6918<sup>th</sup> members to increase the size of the raffle pool give-away. While on the donation train of thought, and not wanting to embarrass them, we send out a special thanks to Bob (Tex) Summerlin, Bill Lohmuller, Mike Tazik and all others who have made cash donations to the reunion fund. We would certainly rather have you guys all attend, but also appreciate your generosity. Thank you!

**You still have time to send in your donated item for the raffle—contact Stan now!**

In reunion organizing, as in life, organizing expenses can stretch the income. A large percent of conventional business expense is normally labor costs. We are blessed to have a core group of folks who are paid only by the gratification of keeping the 6918<sup>th</sup> brotherhood alive, by receiving and sharing the heart-felt emails, and by the looks in the eyes of friends who meet at the reunions after as much as 50 years of separation. If you are not able to attend the reunions but agree that this is a worthwhile endeavor, don't be hesitant to send a check to Bill. I'm passing on this thought--risking sounding a bit like our priest just before passing the basket during the Sunday morning service!

All checks for donations, fees, merchandise, registrations etc. should be made and mailed to:

**The 6918th Corporation.**

**Mail to: BILL MINK**

**10 CROSS TREES ROAD**

**BRICK, NJ 08723**

I started by saying that this would be a short edition. I better begin to wrap down or it will not be. If you are coming to this gathering, we can't wait to see all of you. [Bring your Japan photo albums and memorabilia to share.](#) If you cannot make this one, you will be missed. Should your ears have a ringing sensation on September 26, 27, 28 or 29, know that someone in San Antonio remembered you and exchanged a loving memory of you. Start planning for the next one. Early 2015 location guesses would be, probably September, probably Minneapolis. Really early 2017 location guesses would be, probably somewhere on the East Coast, because we haven't been there yet. Your feedback, ideas and support are requested!

In sadness, within the last two weeks, we've added John Baranoski and Gene Rachels names to our Taps Roster. Both had attended the 2011 reunion, and both had planned to attend this one. Does this put urgency on getting together with our friends while we can? If you wanted to come to this reunion and procrastinated on making arrangements, and would now like to attend, call one of us. I cannot promise, but my fellow co-organizers have been known to practically work miracles. They are a fine band of fellows (and ladies!) who spend countless hours to make this work. So, see you in less than three weeks. I am proud to have served with you. God bless America.

Stan

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(better use mobile numbers beginning on 9/24 for all of us)