

6918th RSM/SS

September 2011 Newsletter



Hello again to the 6918th RSM/SS gang. Back in September 2009, two years seemed like a “forever” before we could get together again, but here it is. This edition will be somewhat more condensed when compared to previous newsletters, so your read time should be shorter. Let's jump right in.

Dave Bethard has worked a deal for transportation to and from the hotel and airport for us and the following is what is available. The hotel does not have a shuttle and this SHOULD be less expensive than a taxi:

“As you know, I've been talking about the possibility of getting an Airport Shuttle service we could use, and perhaps a group discount rate.

A nice lady name Annette Torres of City Tours, Inc., and I have discussed our group and what they can do for us from a group point of view. Normal fares round trip to the downtown hotels is \$34. Our rate will be **\$28 round trip** to the airport/Holiday Inn

Riverwalk. To get the group rate, upon arrival at baggage claim, go to the Go Airport Shuttle booth, tell them you're part of the 6918th RSM or 6918th Security Squadron group, and give them your name. The return works the same way from the hotel end—make sure you give them the group name and your name to receive the discount.

Normally, there is no need to pre-schedule, however, that can be done—their number is 210-492-4144 and their web address is www.saaairportshuttle.com. The shuttles run between 4 am and 1:30 am daily. Dave B.”

Thanks Dave. The next is our activities schedule:

**Please note: Reunion organizers will arrive days before the 9/22 opening.
In case we aren't answering e-mail or home phones!**

**Activity Schedule
2011 6918th RSM / SS Reunion
September 22nd to 25th, 2011**

***NOTE: Items are subject to change without notice. Free keg beer begins at noon Thursday, and when it's gone, it's gone! The Lackland bus trip required prior registration and payment—no exceptions.**

Thursday 9/22/11

Fiesta Room (2nd level, elevator button R) 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 while it lasts** *Compliments of Budco--Budweiser beer distributor--coordinated/made possible by Gil Cadena*
 - ❖ 2-5 pm Complimentary finger food/snacks
Compliments of Able and Charlie flights
 - ❖ Raffles, drawings, prizes—Drawing(s) at 10 PM
- You're on your own for sightseeing, activities, lunch, dinner

Friday 9/23/11

(*Basic Training Graduation/Lackland AFB Tour & Museum/FTVA Picnic bus outing)
(0800-2:30) 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--Dave Bethard

Fiesta Room (2nd level, elevator button R) 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 while it lasts** *Compliments of Budco--Budweiser beer distributor--coordinated/made possible by Gil Cadena*
- ❖ **2-4 pm Complimentary finger food/snacks**
Compliments of Baker flight and Days

- ❖ ***5-8 pm Complimentary Mixer for 6918th Alumni and guests at VFW Post #76 (10th 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 minutes to the post). Check the map in your welcome bag. Conceived/coordinated by Gil Cadena.*
- ❖ **Raffles, drawings, prizes—Drawing(s) at 10 PM**
--You're on your own for sightseeing, activities, lunch, dinner

Saturday 9/24/11

(Biennial Business Meeting Today 1-3 pm—Contact Bill Mink)

Fiesta Room (2nd level, elevator button R) Hospitality suite open noon-4 pm

- ❖ **12-4 pm Complimentary finger foods/snacks**
- ❖ **Check-in/registration/badge pick-up/meet & greet**
- ❖ **Memorabilia tables, videos, photo slideshows, souvenirs**
- ❖ **Cash Bar Noon-4 pm**
- ❖ **1-3 pm '6918th Hakata Project' business meeting discussing future reunions, directors, incorporation, organizing staff, funding, tax exempt status, recommendations/suggestions, etc.** *Wives are welcome to attend, however, the meeting may be boring--so this could be a great shopping opportunity for you!*
- ❖ **3-4 PM Raffles, drawings, prizes—Drawing(s) at 3:30 PM**

Banquet Room (Tango Ballroom) opens at 5 PM

- ❖ **5-6 pm Happy Hour/FREE open bar** *Compliments of Dawg Flight*
- ❖ **6-11:45 pm Cash bar**
- ❖ **6-7:15 pm Banquet dinner served**

❖ **7:15-10:15 pm 2011 Reunion Program, featuring Keynote speaker Doug MacDonald, Flight coordinators, special guests**

❖ **10:15 pm Group Photos – Everyone is requested to PLEASE stay for the photos!**

❖ **11 pm-11:45 pm – group caucus/goodbyes/closing**

Sunday 9/25-- **No activities planned—hotel check-out and on your own departure—Thank You and Be Safe!**

Those are the plans on paper. Besides our own Able Flight Keynote Speaker, Doug MacDonald, we also have a surprise speaker who will have a few minutes at the microphone during the banquet. Since it is a surprise, you do not have the “need to know” who it will be, but you will be pleased and honored.

There will be a group of pictures displayed that will blow your socks off. Again, they are a surprise and fall into “need to know” category as to what they are photos of. They are rated G!

There will be reunion memorabilia and souvenir items in your “welcome sack” that you will receive when you check in at the hospitality suite. You will like these items, I promise.

There will be reunion shirts and baseball caps for sale, along with other reunion collectables, all with the Security Service and 6918th emblems proudly displayed on each.

There will be raffle tickets sold through out the weekend. The profits of the raffles are, of course, to help offset the cost of the reunion expenses and keep the cost per person lower. Most items being raffled are items that you probably will not see anywhere else. Some were made and purchased for this purpose, but many were graciously donated by fellow 6918th members to increase the size of the raffle pool give aways. I will not attempt to list all of them, but as an example, the Guerards have donated their English to Japanese study guides that they purchased during their 1967-1969 stay in Japan, and are, by now, probably collectors editions. Again, there are so many items, too numerous to mention, that will be on display and just fun to look at as well as have the chance to win in the drawings. We extend our many thanks to all who have donated items to this project to make it the success it will be.

Don't forget to bring your own memorabilia items to share. We will have a display tables with items for everyone to enjoy during the reunion. Then you'll take them home again when you depart. This is always a fun experience, and many of the items are one of a kind.

If you want to send us your cell phone number, we will compile a list so you will be able to find your buddy at the reunion.

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. If you cannot make this one, you will be missed. Should your ears have a ringing sensation on September 22, 23, 24 or 25, know that someone in San Antonio remembered you and exchanged a loving memory of you. Start planning for the next one. Early guesses would be, probably September, probably on the East Coast somewhere since we haven't been there yet. Whoa! Irene was just there. This may take a little more work at the Saturday afternoon business meeting in San Antonio.

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 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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