



## *Alumni Association News Letter*

May 08

# The Installer

**\*\* EST. PAY DATE:\*\* AS SOON AS YOU TURN 60!**

**\*\*Dates are subject to change\*\* so quit whining**

Upcoming UTA's for 2008

3 – 4 May 2008

7 – 8 June 2008

**216<sup>TH</sup> ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

10110 Scotch Pine Rd

Klamath Falls, OR 97603

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

<http://216thalumni.org/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/216eisaa>

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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## Alumni Association Notes

This is the second installment of the 216 EIS Alumni Newsletter. The monthly bulletins are now posted on the alumni web site. Just click "Installer" on the left and then click the link on the month you want to see.

We still need input from alumni members for the bulletin. If you have any pictures or articles that you would like for us to include in the bulletin, please send them to us.



Phil Long contributed the picture above. This is a picture from SIPT School in 1983. Marcus Niderost is second from the right in the back row and Aldo Giordano is fourth from the right in the back row. Thanks Phil!

Please keep in touch!

Jack Davis, CMSGT (retired soon)  
216<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association

**Re-designation Ceremony for the  
216<sup>th</sup> Engineering Installation Squadron  
to the  
216<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron**



216EIS

TO



216OSS

06 April 2008 was the date of the re-designation ceremony of the 216<sup>th</sup> Engineering Installation Squadron to the 216<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron held at Vandenberg AFB, CA. While the ceremony was short the significance of the historic event was profound. The 216<sup>th</sup> has moved forward to support a new mission in space. The 216OSS joins six other Air National Guard space units who support Joint Forces Component Command Space within the United States Strategic Command.



216OSS Guidon un-ferruled and 216EIS Guidon encased  
(CMS Sandbothe, CMS Niedrost, Col Beck, LTC Nelson, Commander)

The hospitality extended by the 216OSS to the 216EIS Alumni Association was great. They even went so far as to have reserved seating for the Alumni Association. Individuals from the 216OSS expressed their appreciation for our attendance as well as the legacy we have given them.

These are the members of the 216EIS Alumni Association who attended the event.



(MSgt Vavrock, CMS Sandbothe, LTC Finnefrock, SMS, Quen, Capt Dahl, CMS Niedrost, CMS White, SSgt Bennett, and LTC Danehy)

Note: LTC Strauch made within 20 mile of Vandenberg AFB. However, he spent much of his time at the Hospital with his wife Romy who severely broke her wrist at the Hotel. As a result they were unable to attend.

Here are a few pictures of the barbeque that followed.



# What are they doing today?

## Former 216EIS members are Flying High!!

As part of the continued training for Klamath County Search and Rescue, former 216EIS members SMS Benjamin Quen (retired) and MSgt Bill Foster, 173MOF/MXOT were recently certified in Short Haul Rescue.

Short haul is an emergency rescue tool meant to quickly get an individual out of a dangerous situation and place them in a safe location. Short haul involves a rescuer being lowered on a rope from a hovering helicopter, to a victim below. After the rescuer rigs a harness to the victim, or if injuries warrant, places the victim in a stokes litter basket, the helicopter lifts both to safety a short distance away.



These are picture of SMS Benjamin Quen during the training. Unfortunately there were no pictures of MSgt Foster available. Both SMS Quen and MSgt Foster have continued building their expertise in Search and Rescue (SAR). MSgt Foster and his dog Harley are going through the training of becoming a Certified Search Dog and Handler. SMS Quen is a Team Leader, Planning Chief, and Training Manager for SAR. In addition SMS Quen continues his training in Man Tracking.

Both Ben and Bill have found Search and Rescue to be truly a fulfilling experience. While not all search missions have a positive outcome, there is always some satisfaction that we can at least bring the individual home to their loved ones.



# UNIT HISTORY PROJECT

This month we continued filing documents and records from projects so we can sort them out when we start writing. I'm finding that I have a lot of rosters from different time periods that should help us compile the list of everyone that served in the 216 EIS. I know there will be lots of holes so if you have any old rosters lying around please send them to us.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! All of you have something tucked away, a photograph, details on a particular project, verbal history or details on a significant unit event. Please send them to Ben or myself. We will return any hard copies that you send us. Everyone that contributes to the published document will be given credit in the "Sources" section of the document.

## THE BIRTH OF THE AIR FORCE

This is from an article in Air Force Magazine. This memorandum established the first aeronautical division in the War Department. The Air Force started out with just three people assigned!

WAR DEPARTMENT  
Office of the Chief Signal Officer  
Washington  
August 1, 1907

### OFFICE MEMORANDUM NO. 6

An Aeronautical Division of this office is hereby established, to take effect this date. This division will have charge of all matters pertaining to military ballooning, air machines, and all kindred subjects. All data on hand will be carefully classified and plans perfected for future tests and experiments. The operations of this division are strictly confidential, and no information will be given out by any party except through the Chief Signal Officer of the Army or his authorized representative. Captain Charles DeF. Chandler, Signal Corps, is detailed in charge of this division and Corporal Edward Ward and First class Private Joseph E. Barrett will report to Captain Chandler for duty in this division under his immediate direction.

J. ALLEN  
Brigadier General,  
Chief Signal Officer of the Army

# UPCOMING EVENTS

*We will use this section to keep you abreast on events that the Alumni Association will attend or sponsor*

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## *First Annual Reunion*

Start thinking about where you would like to have a reunion. Someone suggested that we have it in Las Vegas. Please let us know what you think. We would like to schedule the first one in August or September 2009.

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## *Retirement Celebration*

*CMSGT Jack Davis*

*CMSGT Marcus Niderost*

Where: Moose Lodge, Castro Valley

When: 23 August 2008

Invitations and more details will be sent as the event gets closer

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## Military Humor



### Latest Weapon against Terrorist

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Flashlights are tubular metal containers kept in a flight bag for the purpose of storing dead batteries!

Advice given to RAF pilots during WWII: When a crash seems inevitable, endeavor to strike the softest, cheapest object in the vicinity as slow and gently as possible.

The three most common expressions (or famous last words) in aviation are: "Why is it doing that?", "Where are we?" and "Oh S--t!!!!"

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### **CONTRIBUTED BY**

**John Congistre**

One day 3 US service men, a Navy chief, an Army sergeant, and a 216th Msgt was given a job to measure the height of a big flag pole for the base commander. So, the Navy chief said he can get a big crane and go up to the top and measure it that way, but it would take a day. The Army sergeant said he could get a cherry picker and measure it, but it would take 2 days. So, the 216th Msgt took out his trusty tool box and unscrewed the pole, laid it on the ground, and easily measured it quickly.

The Army sergeant said, " Isn't the like a dumb ANG Msgt, we were asked to measure the height of the pole and he measured the length!!