

Ducimus Heritage

SPECIAL ISSUE

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Editor's Note:

The 189 AW recently had a very special visitor. Special thanks go out to Senior Master Sgt J.D. Crawford for organizing and escorting Brigadier General Jim Thomey (ret.) around our campus a few weeks ago. Gen. Thomey's 42 year career culminated in his appointment as the Assistant Adjutant General Air in the Arkansas National Guard. Prior to his visit last month, Gen. Thomey expressed interest in writing an open letter to our Guard of today, and we share that with you here, unedited, in this Special Issue of *Ducimus*.

Gen. Thomey began his career as an aircraft mechanic in February 1954. By 1963, then Technical Sargent Thomey made the transition to Second Lieutenant and worked the next six years as a maintenance officer and a supply officer. By 1973, Major Thomey was the Mission Support Flight commander. After a short stint as 189 AREFG (Chief of Supply), Lt. Col. Thomey spent eight years as the 189 Resource Management Squadron commander. As the soon to be Colonel Thomey finished a tour as the 189 TAG Deputy Commander of Resources, he stepped into the Director of Resources position from 1990-1993. From then until 1996, Brigadier General Thomey served as the Assistant Adjutant General Air.



Jim Thomey (right) in front of an RF-84F.

An Open Letter From Brigadier General Thomey (ret.)

“As I sit here reflecting on the Air National Guard of yesterday compared with the Air National Guard of today, I guess I would attribute this to the difference of the people. I believe they are the reasons for the greatness and the traditions of any organization. People like Frank Bailey, Jim Shea, Slick Joland, General Ling and enlisted people like Dick Red, Otis Taylor, Lawrence Weaver, Bill Benton, Charley Brown, Dutch Schulty, Ronald Hilton, Jimmy Schultz, Harold Rounds, the Baldriches, Charley Hicks, Kenny Wilson, Lonnie Williams, Curtis Watson and others too numerous to mention.



Allen, Yant, Whiz, and Thomey.

As a young officer I was told that if you were not a pilot you would never be rated as high as a rated person. But if you are not provided with appropriate clothing, transportation and pay, plus gas and parts for the airplanes, then bombs will never get on target.

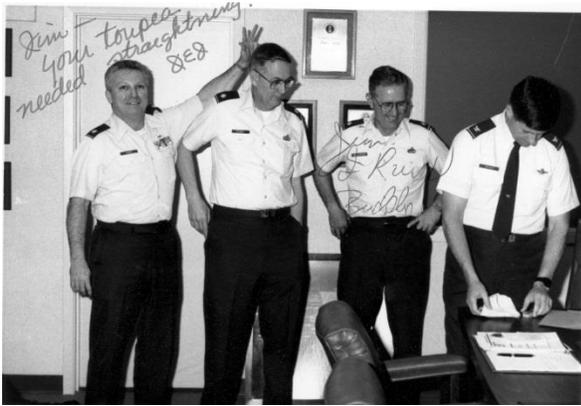
Guardsmen who are devoted to the Air National Guard and really love and appreciate this family oriented military organization tend to stay in the Air National Guard until forced to retire due to age or medical matter. Quality people in the Air Force who get out and then join the Air National Guard also have a tendency to stay until forced to retire are good

“Just as a snake sheds its skin, we must shed our past over and over again.”

Gautama Buddha

examples. This also applies to Guardsmen who leave the Guard and later retire.

As time goes by experience is gained in leadership and job knowledge. A good example is the rank of Crew Chief of an assigned aircraft. The Air National Guard Crew Chief is a TSgt or a MSgt. While down the road the Crew Chief of an Air Force plan is a Three Striper (perhaps a little more). So, stay and wait until you can move into that position and then you provide Leadership and Knowledge.



Jim Jones, Jim Thomey, Buddy MacAllister, and Galin Bryant.

In the past when people thought of the Arkansas Air National Guard they seemed to think only of the Guard unit at Little Rock Air Force Base and perhaps forgot about the Guard units at Fort Smith and Hot Springs. However, these units generated individuals with outstanding leadership and job knowledge. Individuals like General Harris and Colonel Schneider, Barber, Norman Stark, Bud Ducker and others whose names and faces I can no longer remember. Even our current Adjutant General is a product of the Fort Smith Air National Guard unit.

Personally, I started in Admin of the Aircraft Maintenance Section and eventually became a mechanic and later went on to Supply. I worked on the P51, T33, RF80, B57 and RF101 aircraft.

The Air National Guard has flown the latest aircraft assigned to the Air Force with noted skill and ability. The Air Force and the Army both have realized they cannot go to war without the Guardsmen and Reserves.

As previously stated, people are responsible for the heritage of an organization. So, the 'Old' Guard is responsible for the status of the Air National Guard. I encourage all young members of the Guard (male and female) to reflect upon this heritage and do their best to uphold the high quality of this outstanding military organization. I also invite these youngsters to meet many of the retired 'Old' Guard members and strive to keep the Air National Guard what it is today. A good place to meet them is 'Breakfast' at the Golden Coral, North Little Rock, at 0745 on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month.

The Guard of today continues to provide outstanding leadership and exhibits professional job knowledge. So, there is no change in the Guard of today compared with the Guard of yesterday. Just new faces."

Best Wishes,

Brigadier General Thomey (ret.)



Lt Col Thomey swearing in his son, Dean Thomey (currently the 188 LRS/CC), into the ANG.

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