

# Stealth Fighter Association Newsletter



# Nighthawks

## President's Corner

Merry Christmas, joyous Hanukkah, festive Kwanzaa, happy New Year, and Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays to anyone I might have missed.

2012 – here we are, ready to start another new year and it is a big one for the Stealth Fighter Association. It is reunion time and the Board of Directors and I have been busy preparing the way for the big event. Think back to 2007 and the great time we all had at the 25 Year Reunion. If you are aging like I am, a picture is worth a thousand struggles with the memory bank, so go to [http://f117reunion.org/25th\\_highlights/2007\\_reunion.htm](http://f117reunion.org/25th_highlights/2007_reunion.htm) and

take a look through the archives of photographs taken at the Green Valley Ranch Resort in Las Vegas. I said many times "Oh wow, there is old what's-his-name. I hope they will be there in June." Then I wondered if I was the only one who grayed out a little more. Ha, gray what?

We are planning a Luau cocktail party on Friday evening (June 23, 2012), a membership meeting Saturday morning so you can elect new board members, and a dinner Saturday evening (June 24, 2012). The Crown Plaza San Diego promises to be a great venue for enjoying San Diego's ideal weather and offering plenty of extracurricular activities for those



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### SFA Board of Directors 2007-2012

Bill Lake, President  
Scott Ogden, Vice President  
Mary Burris, Secretary/Treasurer  
John Zink, Board Member  
Doug Robinson, Board Member

### Nighthawk Newsletter Team

Editor: Greg Meland  
Web Site: Greg Meland  
Graphics: Dave Walker  
**Newsletter: [editor@f117reunion.org](mailto:editor@f117reunion.org)**  
**Contact us**  
F-117 Stealth Fighter Association  
PO Box 151196  
Ft Worth, TX 76108-1196  
**Web: [www.f117reunion.org](http://www.f117reunion.org)**  
**Info: [info@f117reunion.org](mailto:info@f117reunion.org)**

*President's Corner Continued:*

who are interested.

The registration website will be up and running next month and we encourage you to not delay. Our block of rooms is likely to go fast and the rates are very reasonable. You can also enjoy that rate a few days before and after if you want to extend your stay. We also need you to renew your membership for the next five years and it is only ten dollars a year. A bargain these days and our primary source of capital to run the organization for the next five years.

We truly desire to not miss anyone interested in the reunion, so please spread the word to those you are in contact with. The SFA website contains a link to update contact information, so please go to [http://www.f117reunion.org/update\\_contact\\_info.htm](http://www.f117reunion.org/update_contact_info.htm) and update your data and encourage others to do the same. As with any reunion, the more the merrier. Many thanks and I hope to see you in June.

Bill Lake  
President, SFA



## 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion Winter Update

**By John W. Zink, SFA Board Member  
Bandit 214**

The 30<sup>th</sup> SFA Reunion will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego, CA June 22-24, 2012. We are striving to have the reunion website fully operational during January 2012. This will include up to date data from a January 2012 on-site inspection. The web site will contain information regarding the reunion to include online registration, dining details, special optional group events and links to such items as online merchandise for purchase.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion will kick off Friday, June 22 with a great, informal venue to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. What better way to say "Aloha" than at a Hawaiian luau? The dress will be luau attire.

Saturday, June 23 at 10 AM will be the ever important members' meeting. SFA updates, financial status, future reunions and board members' elections will be part of the agenda.

That evening join your Stealth friends for a fantastic banquet dinner. Attire will be coat and tie for the gents and equivalent dress for the ladies. A reliable source confirms FUBAR productions will have another spectacular presentation.

This is the first reunion utilizing a professional planner, Military Reunion Planners. They have coordinated a great list of special optional group events Thursday through Saturday. This is your chance to see some of the many sights of sunny San Diego.

A final reminder, talk up the reunion! Make sure your Stealth friends are aware of the reunion. While we have many Email addresses and mailing addresses, some folks have stealthily slipped off the radar. Mahalo and see you in San Diego.

# F-117 News Archives

- Oct 1, 1979 — Construction of FSD-1 (Full Scale Development #1), aircraft 79-780 began.
- Oct 15, 1979 — The 4450th Tactical Group was activated at Tonopah Test Range and assigned to HQ Tactical Air Command with Col Robert A. Jackson as the commander.
- Oct 15, 1982 — Maj Alton C. Whitley became the first Tactical Air Command pilot to fly the F-117A in aircraft 80-0786.
- Oct 17, 1982 — The first F-117A (aircraft 80-0786 arrived at Tonopah Test Range.
- Oct 23, 1983 - The 4450th Tactical Group achieved limited IOC with 10 aircraft on hand in the 4450th Test Squadron.
- Oct 5, 1989 - The 4450th Tactical Group and all associated units were inactivated. The 37th Tactical Fighter Wing was moved from George AFB, CA to Tonopah Test Range without personnel or equipment and assumed the 4450th's mission, personnel and equipment.
- Oct 5, 1989 - The 415th and 416th Tactical Fighter Squadrons and the 417th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron were activated at Tonopah Test Range. They assumed the missions of the 4450th Test Squadron, 4453rd Test and Evaluation Squadron, and the 4451st Test Squadron respectively.
- Oct 3, 1990 - At a static display at Ellsworth AFB, SD Gen Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, showed the F-117A to Gen Mikhail Moiseyev, First Deputy Minister of Defense and Chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Union.
- Nov 16, 1978 - Lockheed signed the contract with the US Air Force to build five Full Scale Development stealth fighter aircraft.
- Nov 10, 1988 - The Pentagon announced the existence of the F-117A and released the first unclassified photo.
- Nov 29, 1990 - The 416th Tactical Fighter Squadron deployed 18 aircraft to support Operation Desert Shield.
- Dec 1, 1977 - Have Blue # 1001 made it's first flight with Lockheed chief test pilot Bill Park at the controls.
- Dec 18, 1981 - Aircraft 79-782 made it's first flight.
- Dec 14, 1988 - Squadron Leader Graham Wardell (RAF) became Bandit # 282 and the first operational RAF F-117A pilot.
- Dec 20, 1989 - Six F-117A aircraft deployed to support Operation Just Cause. This was the first combat use of the F-117.

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## Reunion Update

**June 22-24, 2012**

30th Reunion to be held at the Crown Plaza San Diego



# Join The Stealth Fighter Association

For those folks reading this Newsletter who are not current members of the SFA, membership is open to all personnel currently or previously associated with the F-117 Stealth Fighter Aircraft program.

Additional info is available on the SFA web site, and hard copies of this newsletter are available for mailing to interested folks. Please ask a member or drop a line to:

**Stealth Fighter Association**  
**PO Box 151196**

**Ft Worth, TX 76108-1196**

The F-117 Stealth Fighter Association was chartered as a non-profit corporation in the state of Nevada, to organize and coordinate periodic reunions celebrating key events in the history of the F-117 aircraft, by those individuals involved in the creation and operation of the F-117 Stealth Fighter aircraft.

**Stealth Fighter Association Mission Statement**  
The Stealth Fighter Association is an affiliation of individuals brought together by the common bond of association with the world's first stealth fighter, the



Lockheed Martin F-117, produced by the Lockheed Martin Skunk Works for the United States Air Force. Our mission is to preserve the memory of our struggles to attain a stealth combat capability second to none, maintain the legacy of the F-117 "Nighthawk," maintain the bonds of brother and sisterhood between those who contributed to make the awesome combat capability of stealth a reality, and act as a governing board to oversee the planning and execution of periodic reunions at either five or ten year cycles.

## Web Site Info

**SFA News** tells you at a glance what changes have been made recently. Please remember to email us with your current address info in the **Membership Update** section, so that we may keep in touch.

<http://www.f117reunion.org>