



Extended Reunion Edition



Volume 1 issue 2

Summer 2015 Extended Reunion Edition

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The SAFESIDE Reunion!

A reunion is a gathering of family, Safeside is no different. We just recently had a very successful reunion. For those who made it thank you for coming, for those who did not make it we missed you dearly. Many events took place during the reunion to include the renewing of wedding vows, memorials for fallen comrades, award ceremonies, executive and business meetings and demonstrations of the current 820th BDG tactics.

Larry Rupp (822nd) and his lovely wife Sue Bailey renewed their vows and chose to share this moment with all their Safeside family. The short ceremony which was conducted by Rick Parsons was both touching and full of love. Mrs. Rupp was

also given the ceremonial something old, new, borrowed and blue.

Many exceptional individuals also were recognized for their great achievements at the Safeside award ceremony. The first ever Gen Coleman award made its debut in the Safeside association. Gen Coleman as well as were the first recipients of this award. The rest of the awards are highlighted on page 3 of this newsletter.

The memorial that took place for fallen comrades Leebernard Chavis and T.J Labraico was striking. The event started at the Holiday Inn where all Safesiders attending were met by the patriot guard and the Valdosta Police



VPD and Patriot Guard escorting Safeside to the memorial.

Department. Both the patriot guard and the VPD escorted the Safeside Association to the memorial (shown above) Through the course of the memorial not only were the Safesiders in attendance but also 820 COS, the 823 and 824 BDS. The 822 BDS was deployed and therefore was with us at heart.

Note from the Editor

Safeside has been in the 820th Base Defense Group since 1997. Many have profited from this organization and will continue to. Please contact the association for more information. Or visit our new and improved website featuring PAYPAL! All members are welcome to share within this newsletter. Please share past, present and future stories! Contact AIC Ameera McCray at : Ameera.mccray@us.af.mil





"The troops that we had the opportunity to meet were impressive"

The Prez Sez...



My Safeside Brothers and Sisters:
I would like to express my appreciation to Col Ross and his Reunion Committee for hosting the 2015 Safeside Reunion. It is the largest reunion held to date, and the number of 1041st Security Police Squadron (T) Rangers attending is the largest also.

The troops that we had the opportunity to meet were impressive. They are dedicated, motivated and eager to take the fight to the enemy. That was quite evident with the number of Safesiders that were recognized for their outstanding performance in the face of the enemy. They all continue to carry the legacy and tradition forward in great fashion. I am very proud of them!

This was our opportunity to introduce the BGen Richard A. Coleman Award, to recognize a wonderful individual who, as a TSgt, decided to become an officer; and what an officer he became! The 820th Base Defense Squadron is the result of his efforts, with the assistance of his staff back then, and General Fogelman.

The first General Coleman Award will be displayed at the Safeside Heritage Hall within the 820th Base Defense Group

Headquarters Bldg. There is a photo of him as a TSgt and, another, as the Director of USAF Security Police.

It was an honor for all of us to pay tribute to our fallen comrades, A1C Leebernard Chavis and SSgt T. J. Labraico. The ceremony was somber and all that played a role, either singing, reading poems, the laying of the wreaths, the Firing Detail, Chaplain, and finally TAPS did it with emotion and feeling. Well done!

We are looking forward to the next reunion in 2017 as the 820 will be celebrating its 20th anniversary. Hopefully all the squadrons will be in garrison so that all can enjoy the festivities. We wish the Jesters God speed, and the Scorpions a warm Welcome Home!

Until then, be safe and keep our troops in your prayers!

"It was an honor for all of us to pay tribute to our fallen comrades.."



Award Winners Highlight

Among the many events that took place during the reunion many awards were also given out.

The Above and Beyond Award is given to those who do just that, go above and beyond. The winners of this award are Col. Mike Ross for his outstanding leadership and support to both the 820 BDG but also to Safeside. TSgt Donald R. Williams received this award for his leadership while deployed in support of Operation Enduring

Freedom as a Close Precisions Engagement team leader. Michael Glines received the award for his representation of the 1041 SPS-T and Safeside. As well as the preservation of this working dog handler heritage and history. SrA Sean M. Stevens received the award for his mass knowledge as well as his regard for life and life saving procedures. MSgt Aaron B. Fredrick received the Above and Beyond award for his leadership during deployment in support of Op SPARTAN SHIELD. Last but

not least, Anthony Rodriguez received this award for his leadership of the 821 CSPPS on the executive board and his dedication to Safeside.

The Legacy Award is given to those who uphold the Safeside legacy to the fullest ensuring that the proud heritage continues. This year the Legacy award was given to Roger Nelson for his dedication to the association and its members. (Continued on pg 9)

“ Legacy Award is given to those who uphold the Safeside legacy to the fullest...”

Words from Rick Adams.

I would like to start by giving Gary Jones and Roger Nelson a big thank you for their efforts to get PayPal working on the website and getting me in the loop for both the PayPal Safeside website. This allowed me to get the information I needed. It has helped membership grow as I never thought it could.

Since the Reunion and the introduction of PayPal we have increased membership by 16 troops, old and young, most are life memberships. Many are from top officers and senior NCO's. Everyone from the 1041st(T) to the 820 BDG's many branches. It would seem PayPal wins our over checks and money orders. Thanks to all for supporting your associations.

We still have some glitches. It

seems joins requires two actions. Use the PayPal button to pay, then fill out the application/information sheet and send it. I need information from both actions to complete my sending your membership packet and keeping the roster up to date.

Speaking of the roster, even if you do not join, fill out the information sheet so I can add you to the Safeside roster. This will allow you fellow troops to locate you in the future, Just remember to keep your information current when you change your contact information.

This will matter in about 20 or 30 years. This association is going to belong to the 820th Base Defense Group's warriors in the future so stay in touch by using the roster as a contact

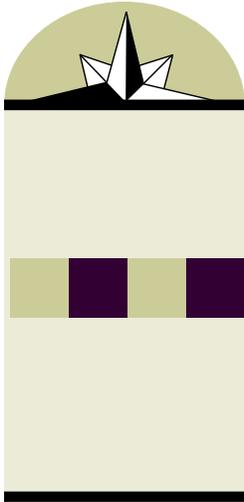
If you have paid for membership and have not received your membership packet, please, contact me at sgtrick823@centurylink.net or 352-341-2640. If there is anything pertaining to membership I can help you with please contact me. It is an honor to serve you and help the association grow.

Thank you



- Rick Adams

Congratulations to Lt Col Sean Rowsey (Commander of the 824 BDS) On his promotion!



“ Old memories flooded back, we couldn't stop talking”

“ We had not seen each other for 45 years”



Left to right: Bill “Hurk” Hurlhey, Eddie Montgomery, Danny Goodell

The answering machine was beeping as I came in from shoveling snow for what I was hoping to be the last snow of the year. After all I do live in Chardon Ohio, what's called the snow capital of Ohio on the shores of Lake Erie. It was three weeks before I was to make the journey to Moody AFB for the Safeside reunion. Some 45 years ago I had left a perfectly good Air Force Base named Vandenberg in California for the adventure of my life. I volunteered with 20 others for a rather vague assignment that was certain to take me to Vietnam, right where I wanted to be. That day in March of 1968 I left with a group of determined guys ready to do whatever it was going to take. We came from different flights working different shifts so we needed to get acquainted. Four of us were close friends already from working together which included Glen Hopson, Eddie Montgomery and John Flynn... and then there was a guy everyone simply called Hurk. With his grisly Boston accent and rambunctious personality, he was a hit with everyone. He was the guy everyone liked to kid with. While in country my other Vandenberg buddies and I were all separated and deployed to different locations, Hurk and I stayed together throughout all training phases and

Story from the past.

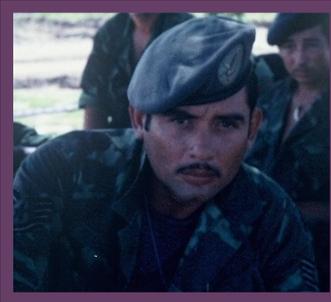
deployments. All good things came to an abrupt end when we came back from our second deployment to Vietnam and we were disbanded. Hurk and I parted ways processing off Forbes AFB, Kansas to return to mundane security work, finishing out our enlistments in 1971.

Back to that flashing light on my phone answering machine. With great difficulty trying to interpret a strong Boston accent, it was some one that called himself "Bill Herlihy" who mumbled something about Safeside. Wow, who was this Bill? So I hesitantly dialed the number a little afraid that whoever it was I was not going to remember. I think he realized I was not figuring out who this "Bill" was. Within short order with his booming Boston voice he announced it was Hurk. I was beyond belief, but Hurk was working so we didn't get to talk long. Even though time was short to make reservations for the upcoming reunion he was determined and with a call back a few days later reservations were made.

There standing in Atlanta airport where I had met up with Eddie Montgomery along came Hurk bounding up to the gate. What a rush it was to see him after all those years. It was Hurk, not changed a bit...maybe a little grayer though. We boarded the plane quickly for the short flight to Valdosta. As luck would have it we had aisle seat next to each other. Old memories flooded back, we couldn't stop talking even above the aircraft noise. We were just starting to catch up on our present lives and memories of bunkers in Vietnam

when we landed. I got up to get my carry-on out from the above compartment and I felt this tug on my shoulder. I was told in no uncertain terms by a woman that I was too loud and she couldn't sleep on the 45 minute flight. I have to admit I was embarrassed and apologized profusely, being the gentleman I thought I was. Well, I guess I was a little loud. I was feeling pretty guilty as Hurk and I walked down the concourse. I had been thinking about it and my feelings were turning to a little anger. It took me back to 1969 to San Francisco Airport and the abuse that was being dished out to returning Airmen. I was flashing back to the airport men's restrooms where uniforms were piled high and stuffed into trash containers as GI's were trying get into civies as fast as they could. There as I walked down the Valdosta concourse my embarrassment was certainly turning to anger. Again I felt this tug on my shoulder and looked to find this same woman. Now I felt like saying something, anything to let this arrogant woman know what she had done, how she had made me feel. That we were foxhole buddies from a war long ago that no one appreciated and we had not seen each other for 45 years. But how could I ever get all that across to her and did she even care? Did she even deserve an explanation? Well, to my astonishment she apologized. she had made me feel. That we were foxhole buddies from a war long ago that no one appreciated and we had not seen each other for 45 years. But how could I ever get all that across to her and did she even care? Did she even deserve an explanation? Well, to my astonishment she apologized. I was shocked, I couldn't believe it.

VP Pete's Column — by Pete Villarreal



VP (TSgt) Pete Villarreal

Thursday, April 9th you could find us playing golf with the troops of the 820 BDG. MSgt Epley organized a fantastic tournament. We had a great turn out. Fun was had by all. The current 820 BDG Commander, the Deputy Commander, several prior 820 BDG commanders and lots of young troops played.

We were having lunch at the clubhouse after the tourney and who walks in? Gen Coleman! Everyone stopped by to pay their respect. The General really enjoys chatting with the young troops. Jeremy Epley suggested that for our next reunion we consider playing off base on hole course on an 18 hole course. Moody's course is a 9 hole golf course. My team consisting of Jerry Nelson, Matt Howard, Capt Lubber, (820 BDG Executive Officer) and I won third place. We got lucky!

At 1800 we welcomed all the Safesiders attending and guests from Moody AFB to the 2015 Reunion Reception Dinner. We had roughly 130 folks for the celebration. Jerry welcomed everyone and after the Pledge of Allegiance everyone remained

MSgt (Ret) Matt Howard 820 BDG, and I read the names of The Fallen, our brothers that have passed on these past two years. We read The Falcon's Rest and another prayer to honor these warriors. Jerry then introduced General Coleman who then introduced prior 820 BDG Commanders. We were honored to have five prior commanders in attendance. Special guest CMSgt (Ret) JJ Adkinson was one of the work horses behind the 820 BDG becoming a reality. More introductions followed and Rick Parsons, CMSgt (Ret), Deputy Commander of the 820 BDG gave the Invocation. Finally we got to eat. Roger Nelson, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Glines, John Hartman and Bobby LeFever were recognized for their service as Board Members. A "surprise wedding" took place as Larry Rupp, 822 CSP had requested to repeat his wedding vows with his wife, Sue Bailey. It was a complete and pleasant surprise for Sue. Rick Parsons did the honor. All were briefed on the changes to the agenda and everyone retired to the bar.

The Board of Directors met at 0900 at Moody AFB, 820 BDG Hqts for the Board Meeting. The minutes will be provided by our Secretary. Afterwards we proceeded to the location of the Memorial Service to practice for Saturday's event to honor two fallen Safesiders. Bill McGraw, our Veteran's Service Officer held the VSO meeting at the Hotel while we were at Moody. He had a great turnout, and his report is in this Newsletter. Also being held at the hotel was the Spouses' brunch. Ladies came from Moody AFB and visited with our wives. This has been an annual event. The ladies were briefed on PTSD by a qualified female that came from Moody AFB.

The wives always come away with fond memories, and establish friendships. At 1300 we opened the Business Meeting at the Hotel. Those minutes will be posted by our Secretary, which include the results of the election. New Board members are David Pierson (821 CSP), Bill Revell (1041 SPS), and Ray Silhavy (Treasurer). MSgt (Ret) Matt Howard was appointed as the 820 BDG rep. All other 820 BDG reps are active duty and appointed by leadership. At 1630 we departed for Moody AFB for the Combat Dining Out. What a riot! Photos posted by Rick Adams on Safeside Facebook page can illustrate the excitement of the troops.

On Saturday at 0845 we boarded the two buses and were escorted by the Patriot Guard and several law enforcement cruisers to Moody AFB to hold the Memorial Service for Leebernard Chavis, 824th BDS and T.J. Lobraico, 105th ANG/BDS deployed with the 823 BDS. The service included singing of the National Anthem, reading of poems, 21 gun salute, prayer by Chaplain and Taps. Both the 823 and the 824 Base Defense Squadrons were in attendance. Wreaths were laid by CMSgt (Ret) Lyle Brakob, 823 CSP and an airman from the 823 BDS to Airman Lobraico; and by MSgt (Ret) Bill Revell, 1041 SPS and an airman from the 824 BDS to Airman Chavis. TSgt Michael Rice, 820 BDG did an outstanding job organizing this memorial! Afterwards we visited with the troops at the several displays of weapons, airborne operations, vehicles, etc., and held our BBQ and Awards Ceremony. Thank you Capt Jeremy Berger for your untiring efforts as the Reunion Committee Chairman. Well Done!



Words From the 820th BDG Commander

JOINED TO FIGHT! I am STILL soaked from the Dining Out! If you all enjoyed it as much as Mandy and I did, then it was a huge success. Thank you all for keeping the General dry. Good times, definitely want to repeat that. Ok, down to business...

As many of you saw during the Safeside Reunion, the men and women of the Base Defense Group are as engaged and as hard at work as when you all were in the fight. Recently, the 822 BDS completed their validation Mission Readiness Exercise (MRX) down at Avon Park, FL, where they spent two weeks qualifying on heavy weapons systems and enduring rigorous scenarios built to test their skills. Col Locke, the 93 AGOW commander (my boss), made a visit to the site where he got to witness firsthand some of the Air Force's only TRUE all-weather fighters in action. To no surprise, the Double Deuce surpassed expectations and received their validation, putting them on "On-Call" status, where they now stand ready to deploy to anywhere on the planet at a moments notice. Target down, next target...

Now that the 822 is "On Call," the 824 will focus their training time on the mission ahead of them. The

Ghostwalkers will prepare to deploy in October, where they will RIP/TOA (relieve in place/transfer of authority) with the 823 at an undisclosed location. Once the 823 Jesters return, we will have completed an entire cycle at that location in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. While deployed, each squadron has continued to raise the bar and solidify not only the defense forces on the ground, but also the relations with the host nation. As it stands now, the 823 is scheduled to return home sometime in October. If you are interested in coming to participate in their homecoming, please get in contact with the Group at 229-257-2562.

The mid-target now is the Global Eagle Exercise, where we host the Regiment and French Air Commandoes (RAF) in a three week exchange event at the end of October. We have been working with the RAF for many years, and now look forward to starting a relationship with the French Air Commandoes. HERE IS A QUESTION: Anybody out there ever worked with the French in this capacity? Shoot me a note if you have. These partnerships enhance our relationship with coalition forces and get all of us ready for the next coalition fight. Nobody likes going alone. During this exercise, we will conduct com-

bined tactics scenarios, share procedures on how to operate in the same battle space, and perform jump operations. Nothing but goodness comes out of these engagements. The Brits play as hard as they work! More good times.

As we are sighting in on Global Eagle, the Moody Air show is low crawling up right up behind. November 6th-8th, Moody AFB has an air show planned to showcase the base's capabilities. My intent is to jump in and take the field, loud noises, smoke, and pointy parts. As you know, however, plans only last about 8 seconds after first contact. So, at the least, the BDG will have static displays in place, along with a tent set up for the Safeside Association. It would be an honor and a pleasure if you could come join us as we demonstrate our forces, and honor our heritage.

SAFESIDE, you know I am proud to be a part of this great thing. Thank you all for keeping us connected to our roots, and we all need to keep the fight going. We had too much fun in April to only do that once a year. You know where we live, come on by. HUAH, Col Ross.



Demo Jump with the BDG airmen during the reunion.



Demo participants from each squadron. From right to left: SSgt Phelan, TSgt Green, SrA Stogden, SSgt Eckert, SrA Galvin, SSgt Cancel, TSgt Raue.

“Story from the past” (Continued from pg. 4)

...I was shocked, I couldn't believe it. restrooms where uniforms were piled high and stuffed into trash containers as GI's were trying get into civies as fast as they could. There as I walked down the Valdosta concourse my embarrassment was certainly turning to anger. Again I felt this tug on my shoulder and looked to find this same woman. Now I felt like saying something, anything to let this arrogant woman know what she had done, how If she had actually heard every word we said then how dare she... no, Hurk wasn't going to let it go. I guess in a way that has been my problem for 45 some years, I have buried my feelings. Let me tell you, time does not necessarily heal

all wounds. In some very small way by Hurk standing up unbeknown for me and that woman's apology has been made me feel good, real good. God bless old friends and the bound of brotherhood. There is very little in life that is as fun as reacquainting with old military friends, remembering the good and the not so good rough times. Friends that still stand up for each other. It is sure refreshing to know how the guys went on and led good lives after all that chaos. No one deserves it more than Safesiders.

Safeside - Joined to Fight
 Danny Goodell 821 CSPS



Sergeant Major Robert “Bob” Frink was a hero of his day. During his tour of duty in Germany he was a captive of the Germans and suffered a gun shot wound the head. Miraculously he trekked miles in a German uniform to inform his unit of the German's plans and save his fellow POW. The actions of Frink make a great example of what the 820th BDG wanted to be, was and still is.

The Robert C. Frink award was given to CMSgt (Ret) Gary Jones for the example he continues to set for not only his peers but those who now carry on the 820th Safeside legacy. Gary Jones is not only the secretary of the Safeside executive counsel as well as the webmaster but he does many other things to help those in need. He has been known to help those with VA disability assistance, the adoption program for those who are deployed as well as technical advice to whomever needs it. Safeside applauds Gary Jones by giving him the Sergeant Major Robert C. Frink Award.



January 16, 1931 - February 5, 2013

SSgt Joseph M. Crotty also received the Sergeant Major Robert C. Frink Award. SSgt Crotty has made a stunning example of and NCO. Crotty has attended the Royal Air Force sniper course, was a team lead in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as well as received flight level NCO of the year.

Robert Frink to the left. CMSgt (Ret) Gary Jones and SSgt Crotty to the right



The Mission

Our mission is to promote camaraderie between Air Force units of the Vietnam and Iraq/Afghanistan wars: to promote and preserve the legacy of the Air Force's only self-sustaining ground combat units.

Our Association brings current and former members of Operation Safeside, Operation Desert Safeside and other Safeside units together, with our common bond.

Join our Association today. To become a member, go to www.safesideassociation.org/members or contact



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NEW WEBSITE

April wasn't just all about the Safeside Reunion. It also marked the debut of the new Safeside Association web site.

Our need for a new web site was generated during the 2013 Safeside Executive Council/Board of Directors meeting at Moody AFB. During the meeting, a lengthy discussion was held on how to best recruit new members, especially from the 820th Base Defense Group and its Squadrons. During these discussions, SSgt Sandy DeLaCruz, SSgt Shandi Pritchett and SrA Melissa Gonzalez mentioned that we lose a lot of potential members because the membership process is too cumbersome and outdated. DeLaCruz, Pritchett and Gonzalez all mentioned that our site required potential members to download and print an application and then mail a check. They went on to say that they believed membership would increase if people could complete the Application and pay on-line. The Council approved the idea unanimously and tasked CMSgt (Ret) Gary Jones, Secretary and Webmaster for the Association, to explore the possibility.



After several starts and setbacks, we finally had to find a new web developer and web host. The new site launched on April 10th during the Reunion. Like any new site, ours

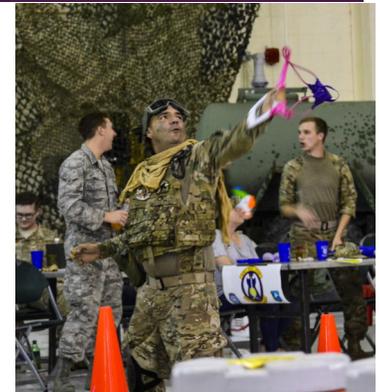
has had a few growing pains but we are fixing things as we find them. Our new site allows potential new Members to submit their application and pay by PayPal or credit card. Old members may also pay their renewal dues online. Our BX also accepts PayPay and credit cards for most items. We are still working with our apparel vendor on a process to allow payment for hats, shirts and jackets with credit card and PayPal. Hopefully, we will have that capability soon. Everything begins at the Menu icon in the top left of the screen. There are some "place holders" that are there until new content replaces them. You can also connect to the Safeside Association Facebook page, directly from the Facebook icon at the bottom of the page. Visit the new site at www.safesideassociation.org. There is a "CONTACT" item on the Menu selection, to submit any questions about the Association. HOOAH!

PHOTOS!



Safeside and the troops mingling at the dining out.

Water balloon war zone!



More photos!



Award Winners Highlight (Cont. From pg. 3)

Roger Nelson served as the treasurer of the board and provided great insight during his time. SMSgt (Ret) Bobby LaFever also received the Legacy Award. Bobby has recently been named the second VP for the board and has provided several years of guidance and commitment to the Safeside family; from arranging events to preserving our heritage.

The last award that will be highlighted is the Brigadier General Richard A. Coleman Award, which debuted at this year's Safeside Reunion. Brigadier General Coleman served in the Air Force 1956-2000 and played a role in several different capacities. Gen Coleman worked as a Military Training Instructor, Small Arms Instructor, Operations Officer, a five time squadron commander, a group commander, director of SF at the Security Forces Center as well Commander of the Security Forces Center. General Coleman was also the backing behind many things still utilized and loved in the Security Forces career field. While

working directly for the Joint Chief Staff of he facilitated many things to include, but not limited to, Bassards, Horse Patrols, Combat Airman Initiative ("every airman a warrior") as well as incorporating Combat Arms Training and Maintenance into the career field. General Coleman truly did wonderful things for many people and the Security Forces career field as a whole. For his contributions to Safeside, Security Forces and the Air Force this Award is and always will be named after him. General Coleman was also the first to receive this award. MSgt Michael D. Murphy of the 820 Combat Operations Squadron was one of three, to include the awards namesake, to receive this award. MSgt Murphy has shown his outstanding service both deployed and in garrison. MSgt Murphy led one of the largest Air Force OSI detachments while deployed to Bagram resulting in the capture of the wing's #1, 4, and 8 high value target list. MSgt Murphy had a key role in the surrender of the Hezbollah Islamic Group leader and the 820 COS

neutralization of the groups top financier. Lastly Michael D. Murphy won Flight SNCO of the year for the 820 BDG.

Our very own Vice President SMSgt (Ret) Pete Villarreal also received one of the first three Brigadier General Richard A. Coleman Awards. Pete is an outstanding person and does many things to distinguish himself. Pete was one of the coordinators for this award as well as the CMSgt Robert Frink Award while serving as the Safeside VP. He is deeply committed to the heritage of the Vietnam security police serving as the liaison between Safeside and the Vietnam Security Police Association. Pete plays a key role in the heritage museum of Safeside kept on Moody AFB as well as each and every reunion he can. On behalf of Safeside, congratulations to all of the award winners!

The Brigadier General Richard A. Coleman award made its debut.



Above is Brigadier General (Ret) Richard A. Coleman receiving the first ever Coleman Award. Next to him is the 820 BDG Commander Col Ross.