



The Freedom Committee of Orange County

Neighborhood Community Center

1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa, CA. 92627

Web Site <http://www.fc-oc.org>

Minutes of the Meeting of September 8, 2010

Pledge of Allegiance:

HM2/c James Pinnix, USN, 3 Purple Heart medals, Vietnam

Invocation:

Sgt. Frank Orzio, USMC (Ret.), 2 Purple Heart medals, Vietnam

Special Guests:

Dr. Jeffrey Hubbard, Superintendent, and Dr. Chuck Hinman, Assistant Superintendent, Newport-Mesa Unified School District, Honorable Wendy Leece, Mayor Pro Tem, Costa Mesa.

Guests Present: (24)

Betty Bell, Eugene Brakke, Frank Callahan, Jim Cooper, Eliza Delpizzo, Marty Flacks, Kay Felix, Ray Grissom, Frank Hagler, Shirley Hanson, Chris Harwood, Eric Harwood, Chuck Hinman, Jeffrey Hubbard, Wendy Leece, Dale Miller, Dianne Mitchell, Jonathan Pelanne, Dan Reider, Ray Stoddard, Barbara Yunger, Daniel Vigna, Linda Wallace, and Vince Weatherby

Members Present: (50)

Rally Bates, Howard Bender, George Ciamba, Bus Cornelius, Bob Cowley, Bobbie Cowley, Bob Dugan, Tom Egan, Eddie Felix, Francis Flacks, George Grupe, Herb Guinness, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, Arnold Hanson, Dale Hanson, Dick Higgins, Ramona Hill, William Holiday, Art Lambert, David Lester, Norm Loats, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, Robert Meyer, Charles Mitchell, Dick O'Brien, Don Oldis, Frank Orzio, Lou Possemato, Jim Pinnix, Harry Rawlins, Tim Richards, Larry Schnitzer, Terry Schnitzer, Harry Selling, Judy Selling, Martha Somers, Bob Sternfels, Bob Stoddard, Ted Tanner, Michael Trerotola, Phillip Vinci, Gene Wallace, Fred Whitaker, Paul Wilder, Scott Williams, Sid Yahn and Elizabeth Yee.

Special Presentation

Lt.Col. Hans H. "Lucky" Miller, USAF
AFMC, 419 FLTS/CC, Edwards Air Force Base
"Allied Force to Enduring Freedom and Beyond"

Combat from a modern bomber perspective and how we're testing for the future



The Freedom Committee of Orange County was treated to a very interesting presentation from a "today" bomber pilot. **Lt.Col Hans "Lucky" Miller** commands the 419th Flight Test Squadron which is part to the 412th Test Wing based at Edwards Air Force Base, CA. It is named in memory of U.S. Air Force test pilot **Glen Edwards**, who died, along with the crew of five, June 5, 1948 while testing the YB-49 Flying Wing.



B-49 Flying Wing bomber

The 419th FLTS performs flight testing on the B-1 Lancer and the B-52 Stratofortress bombers. The Air Force has decided on upgrading these bombers

instead of new bombers. The B-1 first flew 35 years ago and the B-52 program is over 50 old.

The B-1 received the official name "*Lancer*" on 15 March 1990. However, the bomber is more commonly called the "**Bone**" when a newspaper spelled the bomber name as "B-ONE" with the hyphen

inadvertently omitted.



B-1 with wings swept back for transonic speed

The B-1B Lancer bomber is a long range conventional bomber in service to the



B-1 with wings swept full forward for maneuvering.



Lt. Col. Miller recounted one bombing mission in March 1999 that he flew during the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia (code-name **Operation Allied Force**). Taking off from an Air Force Base in England, the four man crew flew southeast to the Adriatic Sea where they joined up with a “strike package” of fighters, aerial tankers, electronic warfare aircraft, and



other supporting aircraft including post-strike reconnaissance. The target was the heavily defended Serbian Obrva Airfield, defended by a robust array of SA-3 missile batteries and heavy caliber anti-aircraft artillery. Two previous strikes were turned back by the anti-aircraft fire. The Serbs were volley firing the missiles. As his B-1 bomber approached the airfield, the Serb acquisition radar warning sounded, then the tracking radar and finally the missile beam radar warning. He remembers looking out his cockpit and seeing a dark circle within a red ring; enemy missile heading directly for him. The radar suppression aircraft fired their anti-radiation missiles and the Serbs had to shut down their radar. The jamming blinded the missile and he continued the bombing mission. After releasing the bombs, he engaged the But the afterburners lit up the night sky for the anti-aircraft firing. Post strike analysis revealed direct hits on the with no collateral damage. And no planes lost. During that conflict, just seven B-1s dropped 20 percent of the bombs, pounds of munitions.



Bombs away

afterburners for speed. guns which began runways and hangers March–June 1999 over 2 1/2 million

In September 2001, **Lt. Col Miller** also flew combat missions in a B-52 bomber over Afghanistan during **Operation Enduring Freedom**. His squadron was based on the island of Diego Garcia, approximately 2700 miles from Afghanistan.



B-52 Bomber

He would fly his plane to Afghanistan and wait for a mission. His plane was armed with **Joint Defense Attack Munitions**, or JDAM (pronounced JAY-dam) is a kit, attached to a Global Positioning Satellite receiver that can turn nearly any gravity bomb into a smart bomb. The pilot punches in the geographic coordinates of the target; the bomb receives signals from GPS satellites, which guide it to those coordinates; it

explodes within 10 to 30 feet of the target. On one mission, his B-52 engaged 6 separated targets on one release using JDAMs. He described the accuracy as “Threading the Needle” or not just hitting the cave but hitting the entrance to the cave.



Dumb bomb with JDAM

Lt. Col. Miller’s current assignment at Edwards AFB is testing the modifications to the bombers. He explained a typical Test Procedure from the test plan to the lab test to the ground test and the flight test, followed by data analysis and the report. He has learned to “Expect the Unexpected.” On one test, Happy Face, a B-2 Spirit was scheduled to drop eighty 500 lb. bombs, individually targeted. Just before the drop, a recalculation revealed there wasn’t enough room at the range and the last 5 bombs were dropped in a group.

Lt. Col Miller read a poem that he authored, “*Combat Operations from the Cockpit.*”

During the question and answers, **Ted Tanner** asked about flying unmanned drones. **Lt. Col. Miller** replied that a mix of manned and unmanned planes was used during OAF with good results. About 50 drones were shot down and 2 manned planes were downed. (One F-111 and one F-15.)

Bob Sternfeld asked about the replacement of the KC 135 aerial tanker. **Lt. Col Miller** said it is a top priority because it is old and slow. **Syd Yahn** asked if the B-1 had the software to drop nuclear weapons. The Answer: No, and since 1995, each B-1 has a device on top that tells the Russians it is carrying no nuclear bombs.

Table Topics

As a special bonus, **Lt. Col Miller** has agreed to guide a tour of Edwards AFB in the near future.

The Freedom Committee of Orange County was honored by the attendance of **Mayor Pro Tem Wendy Weece** of Costa Mesa. She expressed the City's appreciation and respect for service of the veterans and recounted the exploits of her father's service during WWII. She suggested our members speak to students who are involved in our Juvenile system, in which she is a teacher.

Jack Hammett announced that the Freedom Committee will have a booth at "**Marching Through History**" on October 2nd & 3rd, 2010 at the Prado Dam Regional Park. Volunteers are needed to help set up. **Fred Whitaker** will be point man in making arrangements.

Fred Whitaker passed out speaker records for members to complete when they give a presentation.

The meeting then at 1:30 p.m. adjourned.

*Thanks to **Tom Egan** for his great pictures (See Website Photos- www.fc-oc.org).
(Minutes of the meeting prepared by **Tim Richards**)*

Respectfully submitted,

