



The Mystic Lamp

The unofficially reborn newsletter of
the Peshawar Air Station Alumni
Association (PASAA) Vol 1 Nr 1

FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

HIGH 98° F (3 p.m.)

LOW 84° F (2 a.m.)

WEATHER FORECAST

Courtesy US Army:

Warm and partially cloudy; and
the humidity (noon) was at 30%.

Info for Aug 1, 1968, PAS Pakistan

Why *The Mystic Lamp*?

(Comments by webmaster of the site
6937TH.50MEGS.COM - edited)

Original by Gary Rutledge

The base publication *The Mystic Lamp* was the authorized news bulletin published each duty day by the Office of Information, 6937th Comm Group, Peshawar Air Station, Pakistan.

From 1965 through 1969 the editor on *The Mystic Lamp* staff was a young Pakistani civilian named Saleem Razzaq. Saleem was born and raised in Peshawar. Shortly before the base began to close down in 1969, he moved to Canada and attended college.

Saleem later moved on to the Detroit area, where he completed his college degree (Wayne State University).

Gary says, "Our chance meeting occurred some seven years ago - as I was in the

process of being hired by the company where Sal had been employed for 25 years.

"Noting that I was a veteran, he asked about it. Doubting anyone would know Peshawar, I replied 'Alaska and some remote spot in Pakistan'.

"Sal (said), 'You were in the 6937th Communications Group in Peshawar, weren't you?' We were both amazed and emotionally moved - knowing that our paths had crossed 30 years earlier (at) Peshawar Air Station.

Quickly Saleem Razzaq and Gary Rutledge became colleagues in business and friends bonded by the experiences and memories of the 6937th Comm Group.

Sal (65-69) is co-editor of the reborn publication, along with Hugh Sloan (61-63) of Oxford MS.



An 'Oxcart' (the mule is confused)

Arrivals

- *by Hugh Sloan*

Most of us looked out the PIA airplane window at what seemed a different and desolate land as we flew toward Peshawar Airport. We were glad to be almost done with flying!

Many had been in the air it seemed forever - Charleston - Bermuda - Azores - Madrid - Cairo - Dhahran - Karachi on a MATS "Connie" or C-121, then onward and upward to Lahore and

Rawalpindi and Peshawar on the PIA "Friendship" F-27.

Some of the new folks came from Europe or Asia and were serving follow-on 'short tours,' but many of us were fresh from the 'Land of the Big BX' a term we came to appreciate, and we were 'seriously away from home' for the first time.

In the early 60's we waited for one of the bi-weekly PIA flights to Peshawar at the secluded and cozy Deshaheen Jala (Eagles Nest), an Air Force bed and breakfast far out in the Karachi suburbs. Some arrived in Karachi after that era and never saw 'The Nest,' (though I may have the *name* mixed up with the Peshawar downtown facility). It was there!

After we landed at Peshawar and found our luggage, a blue AF bus pulled up and picked us up at the airport, and then bounced and jarred us down the road to our new home at PAS.

Many were way too tired to be puzzled, intrigued, alarmed or excited by the sights while riding out to PAS; a few airmen went into immediate wide-eyed culture shock; however, most just dozed.

We got our barrack rooms (and our roommates) and our 'trick' assignments as one big package. Welcome to the USAF! In fact we *were welcome* because very soon after *we* arrived *someone* was heading home!

The first day or two we thought we were at the ends of the earth. The briefings about this wild, far off Northwest Frontier Province were filled with caution after caution. Every post-arrival day seemed like forever - and after a few days we started singing some early near-version of 'We Gotta Get Out of This Place,' in our

heads, whether the song had been written yet or not.

This attitude was most often the result of the strangeness and almost always some short-timer roommate who ***could just not resist telling us how sorry he was for us!***

I remember on young three-striper suddenly screaming at the pool, "I'm so short I can't reach the doorknobs!"

Many 'newbies' were pretty sure they would be killed by the chow hall food, choke on the windborne dust, be knifed by one of the Pakistani workers just for looking at the 'Pak grave' wrong, be murdered by bandits along the road, or maybe in town just for 'looking at a woman,' or just die in our tracks – just wither up and blow away – because there was not a 'real date' for 500 miles.

Yes, our brand new friends had many hugely exaggerated stories to terrorize us 'jeeps' and they usually worked!

But we settled in, and we typed up our 'short sheets,' and did our jobs, and swam, and partied, and played cards, and played sports, and traveled, and sometimes cried in the night, and laughed very often, and read our letters, and *The Mystic Lamp*, and the few USAFSS pubs; in the end we simply performed a mission of such value that it well justified our presence; it seemed to go on forever, but suddenly it was over.

Most now remember PAS and Pakistan and NWF as a fantastic, grand adventure; some do not. We all now know it was clearly ***one of the defining periods in our lives***, one way or another.

Well, you cannot get back to PAS today in any way real, ***but that old magic and The Mystic Lamp have arrived.***

The Mystic Lamp will be a quarterly publication though we hope the stories you send us will require more than four issues a year. It is the publication of the *new association* we have formed for our (hopefully many) PAS reunions and reminiscences.

We look for your submissions of stories you want to tell. We want bios and ***we want to know where you are today. We want to know how to contact you.***

We will tell anyone's stories that capture that time and place (or at least those that won't get us in trouble with the USPO or our ISP)! ***I know a few that would!***

You all know that some of the stories will be of immense interest to everyone and, very truly, most will be of interest to many.

There are likely more great PAS stories than there are urban myths, and our stories are better! We want to tell them all, if we can.

Time is passing, folks. Just remember that someone 19 years old in 1970 (PAS closure) is 55 years old today; a bunch were older than that, were there even earlier, and are pushing 70, or some, more.

Folks have asked, "Why should we go to so much trouble if what you say is true, that we are aging out? How long can a newsletter last, and of what use is it?"

Well, we know that had such a time constraint been imposed on other short eras, it would not have mattered so much, since we have their diaries and letters and books.

But we have entered an era of digital magic, and for better or worse, folks have ***stopped writing the enduring way*** and contact each

other now in less historically useful ways of e-mail and telephone calls.

If we do not do this, some stories will be lost forever, and that just should not happen.

All of you, airman or others, had very unique experiences there, and we ***need to capture them and share them.*** In our own way, we are a small and true *band of brothers (and a very few sisters)* and ***we must never forget, nor let others forget – where we served, what we did.***

For some airmen it was a brief encounter with the USAFSS, for some, their lives. So many people deserve mention, and contact, and renewal of old friendships. Some others especially deserve to be remembered – those who cannot speak today.

The Peshawar Air Station



Alumni Association

The PASAA or **Peshawar Air Station Alumni Association** was formally organized September 25, 2004 at the First Annual Reunion of the 6937th Comm Group, Peshawar Air Station that was held in St. Louis, MO. We decided then and there that **all** PAS folks were our alumni, not just the 6937th. Approximately 60 PAS veterans and their spouses and family members were in attendance.

Then our latest 2005 PASAA Alumni Reunion was held in Dayton, OH – the home of the

National Museum of the USAF
–at Wright-Patterson AFB Sept.
22 - 25.

Our 2006 reunion will be held coincident with FTVA in San Antonio 28-30 September! See the attached material at the end of this newsletter (or as an e-attachment) for more info on both the USAFSS/FTVA and our reunions.

The current PASAA board of directors is Milt Fulghum, Daun Yeagley, Hugh Sloan and Gary Rutledge. Wayne Matthews, treasurer, resigned for personal reasons but we are happy to say will remain active as a member of PASAA.

We sure hope these names will change over time as interest spreads.

The **Peshawar Air Station Alumni Association** is to be in the long term an informal, non-profit association that provides membership services – news about social events, city and regional meetings, directories, this newsletter, most anything else of possible interest, and pictures like this:



The R-390 Receiver – the “Queen of the Mission Tools” that many recall

We will endeavor to properly recognize our new association members, and everyone of you who contributed so much to the mission and support of ‘our’

The Mystic Lamp

Peshawar Air Station, and those who now ***must*** contribute to the documentation of that legacy.

But most of all, we have been successful in bringing together old friends so that they can relive great times, tell outrageous stories, renew great friendships, and make new ones.

In a ‘final analysis’ it is about the people: ***Who they are, where they are, how they are, so that we can again connect those threads of friendship from so long ago.***

Possibly equal in importance, our Association is an added formal activity that can and will insure that those treasured attributes of USAFSS and its important parts, and even its successor agencies, all of which earned their places in the legacy of INT through many years, are not forgotten.

Without our Association’s help in parallel with the several others, one special part of that special time, the heritage, the camaraderie and esprit, and indeed the earlier names and claims to fame in PAS and even the deeds of the (now) Air Intelligence Agency (AIA) could easily fade.

We are totally dedicated to the challenge of Remembrance.

The Challenge

When the last PASAA 2005 Alumni Reunion was held in Dayton, Ohio, attendance at the reunion was down to about 30. That is just not acceptable.

During this reunion the board of directors decided to resurrect the *Mystic Lamp* newsletter that was published at PAS.

Hugh Sloan volunteered to be the editor, with Saleem Razzaq serving as the editorial assistant. The goal was to publish the first issue during the first quarter of

2006. It has dragged a bit as more and more has been added to the inaugural copy, but we hope for quarterly publication. Every PAS member (then and now) is urgently and strongly encouraged to submit materials.

It has always been ***intended*** to be solely ***your*** Association! And PASAA clearly ***should be*** your organization. And just as clearly, ***YOU*** should be a member!

It must be noted as well that we need not just the alumni but the support of the Active Force to perpetuate the continued growth of the Association, so JOIN US!

By joining the Peshawar Air Station Alumni Association, your name will be added to the distribution list, so you can be kept advised of our 2006 (and years after) reunion plans and other association news.

Please spread the word about PASAA. Encourage colleagues no matter where they served or serve today, and especially any fellow alumni of PAS, to join.

Membership applications can be obtained from the 6937th org website. ***The affordable PASAA membership fee is only \$10 per year. As of March 2006 the PASAA membership list totals 35 card-carrying members.***

The PAS Roster posted on the website has over 2800 names, so it is very clear that the PASAA membership potential is high.

By joining the Peshawar Air Station Alumni Association, your name will be added to the distribution list. Then you can be advised of 2006 (and beyond) reunion plans and all the other PASAA news. Please spread all of the reunion news to others and encourage your fellow alumni of PAS to join PASAA.

The PASAA Motto:

“Uniting the Past with the Present through Goodwill And Friendship”

Remember: **Peshawar Air Station** is in the name of the organization and it is about ALL who served there – all of you from that American-Pakistan alliance decade are ‘our alums.’

To refresh memories, the units serving there were the:

6937th Comm Group
2008th Comm Squadron
7219th USAF Dispensary
23rd US Army Special Operations (USASOU 23)
Det 1 of 7025 Air Postal Group
Det 600 of 7122nd AFRTS Sq
1037th Auditor General
7480th Supply Group.

You know who you are! **Join today!**



Our ‘favorite’ vehicle – The Tonga

Biography Column *Who, where, when*

We hear from **Gary Lacke (61-62) today living in Naples FL.** “I left Pakistan in April 1962 and married Sharon the following month — the next assignment: USAFSS HQ in San Antonio. Son Tony was born at Lackland AFB Mar 63. Discharged Jun 63 and I went back to Wisconsin and worked

for my father in the lumber business until Fall 64. I then attended X-Ray technologist school in Janesville WI for two years. Our daughter Kathy was born Nov 64. I worked as X-Ray tech at hospital in Fort Atkinson WI from 1966 to 1978. Then in Jan 79 came here to Naples to run a small furniture store for a friend from Fort Atkinson. I remained in the furniture and floor covering business until summer of 91. Then I went back into the medical field as a tech/medical assistant at a local clinic until April of 2003 at which time I decided to hang it up.

About then (January, to be precise) my wife, Sharon (same one after 39 years) had been working for Marsh-McLennan for over twenty years. Marsh decided to close their office here in Naples and she was offered a number of options, one of which was a rather substantial severance package which she accepted.

We took a long look at our financial situation and decided we could give retirement a try. We both have marketable skills which we could fall back on if the need arises.

Our kids (now in their late 30's) are both married and each has two children--a boy and a girl each. Our son, Tony, graduated from Cornell and subsequently received his MBA in Health Care Administration from Boston U. He now lives in Wrentham, MA and is the administrator of a large nursing home in Walpole. Their kids are Kevin, 10, and Marie, 7 1/2. Kevin started kindergarten this year. Unfortunately, we don't get to see them but once a year or so.

Daughter Kathy lives here in Naples! Her husband operates a

very successful commercial lawn maintenance/landscaping firm. Their kids are Kristen, 8 1/2 and Jack, 6. We have frequent contact with the grandkids here and they are the absolute delight of our lives.

This is a totally different relationship from the one we had with our own kids (I guess we were growing up with them). So, that's about it. We don't do too much for excitement – putter around the yard, do odd jobs around the house.

We get up to Mississippi three or four times a year on junkets – usually to Tunica or Gulfport/Biloxi. We also try to get to Vegas and Foxwoods (CT) once a year or so. Can't say we always come back winners, but we keep it within reason.

Our home: 1245 Lake Shore Drive, Naples FL, 34103. E-mail is glacke@comcast.net.”



A Wonderfully Painted Pakistani Bus

We also hear from another PAS alumnus, **Bill Munsil, now of Mesa AZ:** (parts edited):

“After basic training at Lackland AFB, during which time I became a man, because I went in at age 20 and came out at age 21 (probably the oldest one). I went by a totally full USAF bus along with two more full busses to Keesler AFB for a year to

learn how to be a radio relay maintenance man, a 304x0 (or something like that).

At the end of the school I was given a choice of Pakistan or the Philippines. I had heard that the communist rebels were active in the Philippines, so knowing absolutely nothing about Pakistan, I chose it.

While at Keesler I ran across an NCO that had been stationed there and he invited me and a buddy - also from Phoenix AZ - over for dinner and a slide show. During which he mentioned that Peshawar was a listening post, IIRC. He said he guessed that it was okay to tell me that since Peshawar had been written up in a Life (or Look?) magazine.

Apparently it wasn't okay because after I mentioned it in public at Keesler I was called in to the SP's and my orders were redlined. I've wondered since if that NCO got into trouble.

Eventually I got on the embassy flight - along with two or three other guys bound for Peshawar (including the one from Phoenix) and headed out to Pakistan by way of Saudi Arabia and Torrejon, Spain. I recall a one-star general (or perhaps admiral?) was also on that flight.

One of my buddies went downtown in Spain - whatever city we were in - and while riding in a taxi found out that he spoke Spanish with a German accent. Me? I went to bed.

At Peshawar Air Station I was in the comm squadron (2008th). Every day when I went across the highway to the comm center I said - "Look at

all those antennas that aren't there!"

The only name (from Comm) I remember (in full) is Waymeth L. Starkey (and who wouldn't?).

I paid 10 bucks recently to get an address for a man with that name. I sent him a letter about Peshawar. I haven't heard back from him yet.

(Editorial insert: any information for Bill about Waymeth?)

More later if anyone wants any. Maybe I should write a book! I'm **K1ATV**. I believe that 'hams' should be seen as well as heard." - Bill Munsil wmunsil@cox.net

Thanks Gary and Bill! There is plenty of room here and so many stories. **We want to tell them all!** Possible Future Bios':

Rich Rochelle
Milton Fulghum
Don Barbee
Gary Rutledge
Larry Spice
Dick Oliver
...And YOURS, and YOURS....

And Late-Breaking News

From: DoD Advisories
Monday, May 08, 2006 1:56 PM
To: DODADVISORIES-L@DTIC.MIL
Subject: U.S.- Pakistan Hold
Bilateral Defense Discussions

**No. 039-06 Monday May, 08,
2006 U.S.- Pakistan Hold Bilateral
Defense Discussions**

U.S. and Pakistan officials concluded 5 days of consultation May 5 in Washington, D.C., highlighting the strong and enduring ties between the two nations. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Eric S. Edelman and Secretary Defense Lt. Gen. Tariq Waseem Ghazi (Ret.) led the delegations that exchanged ideas

and coordinated defense policy discussions.

This was the 17th annual meeting of the U.S.- Pakistan Defense Consultative Group. The DCG discussions focused on ways to enhance the long-term strategic relationship between the two nations. Working groups met for three days and discussed improving the U.S.-Pakistan military relationship, including military to military exercises and training activities, procurement of U.S. military equipment and services under the foreign military sales program, and counterterrorism efforts.

The complete text of the joint statement issued by the DCG can be found at:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/May2006/d20060508dgcg.pdf>
[<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/May2006/d20060508dgcg.pdf>]

Final Word

Please contact a board member or the editors with information, or comments, or maybe just to say Hello!

Milt Fulghum, fulghumml@yahoo.com
Gary Rutledge, grutledge@comcast.net
Sal Razzaq, srazzaq@fcsind.com
Hugh Sloan, h_sloan@bellsouth.net
Daun Yeagley, daun@yeagley.net

Again the PAS address:

Peshawar Air Station Association
c/o Milton Fulghum
780 River Glen Drive
O'Fallon, MO 63368-9645



Peshawar Air Station Association

c/o Milton Fulghum
780 River Glen Drive
O'Fallon, MO 63368-9645

Date: 14 April 2006, Rev A

To: Alumni of Peshawar Air Station

RE: Third Annual Peshawar Air Station Alumni Association Reunion

The third annual reunion of the Peshawar Air Station Alumni Association will be held in San Antonio, Texas.

Where: **San Antonio, TX**

Location: **RED ROOF INN - SAN ANTONIO DOWNTOWN**
1011 E. Houston Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205

When:

Check in: **Thursday, 28 September 2006**
Check out: **Sunday, 01 October 2006**

To reserve your room, make sure that you state you are with the “**Peshawar Air Station Group, Group Code: B248PASA09**”. Hotel reservation telephone number is **1-800-REDROOF or 800-874-9000**. Cost for the room is **\$65 for single/double or \$70 for deluxe king** plus tax. The hotel’s location is on the River Walk trolley route. Unlimited trolley trips can be had for 80 cents per day. The hotel has not given us a rate extension before or after the above reunion dates. You should ask for a rate extension, if desired, when you make your reservations. Please advise us of your arrival and departure plans so we can possibly schedule additional activities, if needed. This hotel rate includes a continental breakfast for each guest. We have a block of 30 rooms until the cut-off date of **01 September**. We can get additional rooms before the above cut-off date if available. **Please make your reservations as soon as possible, so more rooms can be allocated if needed. Reservations must be guaranteed by an individual's credit card, an advance first night 's deposit, or an existing account that is approved. Any Hotel Rooms NOT cancelled before 4pm on arrival date will forfeit First Nights Room and Tax.**

There is a **\$15** fee for the Hospitality Suite for each Association member (the non-member fee is **\$20**) and a **\$5** fee for each spouse or other guest. This fee covers the cost of Hospitality Suite beverages, snacks, etc.

A banquet will be held on Saturday evening. The Banquet fee is **\$25** per person. Hospitality and Banquet fees must be paid by **08 September**. These funds are needed to pay for the Banquet and Hospitality Suite items prior to the reunion. **PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED REGISTRATION FORM. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO “Milton Fulghum” AND MAIL TO:**

PAS Alumni Association
c/o: Milton Fulghum
780 River Glen Drive
O'Fallon, MO 63368-9645

Note that the registration form includes the option of including your 2006 association membership fee with your reunion registration. Please take advantage of this option if you have not paid your 2006 dues and complete the attached membership application form if you have not already joined the association.



The following is the tentative schedule for this reunion.

Day (Date)	PASAA Activity	FTVA Activity
Thursday (28 September)	3:00 PM – Check-in begins 3:00 PM to 11:30 PM - Welcome Reception 3:00 PM to 11:30 PM – Hospitality Suite will be open for signing in, nametag pick-up, and gatherings of attendees.	Golf Tournament, Alsation course in Castroville.
Friday (29 September)	9:00 AM – Check-in continues; Hospitality Suite will be open all day for signing in, nametag pick-up, and gatherings of attendees. 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM – PAS Board of Directors Meeting 8:00 PM to 11:30 PM – “Glad to See You” Reception	10:30 AM – Remembrance Ceremony 12:00 to 3:00 PM - Picnic
Saturday (30 September)	The morning and most of the afternoon are free time for smaller gatherings or tours. 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM – General Meeting of PAS Alumni Assoc. Membership. (Please submit any topics for discussion in writing by 21 September.) 6:00 PM – Banquet at TBD River Walk Restaurant, Casual (Ride the trolley to the restaurant.) Hospitality Suite opens after Banquet 11:30 PM - Hospitality Suite closes	9:00 AM – Hall of Honor Induction 7:00 PM - Dinner/Dance, Gateway Club
Sunday (01 October)	GOOD-BYE Breakfast CHECKOUT BY 12:00 NOON.	NOTE: The FTVA schedule above is still tentative.

Please send any updates to your contact info to me at the follow addresses:

Milton Fulghum
780 River Glen Drive
O’Fallon, MO 63368-9645

Telephone: (636) 329-8039
E-mail: fulghumml@yahoo.com

For the latest reunion details please visit the 6937th web site at: www.6937th.org

The PAS Board of Directors is looking forward to this year’s reunion. We picked San Antonio and the above dates specifically to coincide our reunion with that of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association and a number of other unit reunions in the area. Note the FTVA activities in the tentative schedule above. We have been in touch with many of you over the last few years and look forward to meeting you or seeing you again. If you are in contact with former 6937th Communications Group members or anyone who was ever assigned to Peshawar Air Station, please give them our contact information and send this information to them. Please bring along any PAS memorabilia you have for the Hospitality Suite. Any questions about the reunion can be addressed to me at one of the above addresses.

Regards,

Milton Fulghum
President, PAS Alumni Association



Peshawar Air Station Association
 c/o Milton Fulghum
 780 River Glen Drive
 O'Fallon, MO 63368-9645

Peshawar Air Station Alumni Association Reunion 2006 Registration Form			
NAME:			
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	
PAS TOUR DATES:	START (MM/YY):		END (MM/YY)
E-MAIL ADDRESS:			
NUMBER IN PARTY:			
GUEST NAMES			
REUNION FEES			
		FEE	FEE SENT
REUNION FEE FOR PAS ALUMNI ASSOC. MEMBERS:		\$15	
REUNION FEE IF NOT A MEMBER:		\$20	
REUNION GUEST FEE:	COUNT:	\$5 Ea.	
BANQUET FEE:	COUNT:	\$25 Ea.	
PAS ALUMNI ASSOC. MEMBERSHIP FEE:		\$10	
PAS UNIT PATCH:	COUNT:	\$5 Ea.	
TOTAL CHECK AMOUNT:			

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "Milton Fulghum" AND MAIL TO:

PAS Alumni Association
c/o: Milton Fulghum
780 River Glen Drive
O'Fallon, MO 63368-9645



Peshawar Air Station
Alumni Association
Membership Application Form

Last Name	First Name	MI	Nickname
Street Address			Apt. Number
City	State	Postal Code	
Phone Number	FAX Number		Spouse Name
E-mail Address			
PAS Tour Information			
Hometown	Home State	Rank at PAS	AFSC
Tour Start Date (MM/YY)	Tour End Date (MM/YY)	Duty Section (Ops Flight, Finance, HQ, etc.)	
NOTES:			
<p>Annual Membership Fee: \$10.00 Make checks payable to: "Milton Fulghum" Send completed form and fee to: Milton Fulghum 780 River Glen Drive O'Fallon, MO 63368-9645</p>			