



PANTANELLA NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 1

Winter 2022

464TH BOMB GROUP

Special Interest Items

- Don't miss the 2021 Albuquerque highlights in this issue.
- Complete Group financial information now available.
- News Flash—the Group now has Non-Profit Status.
- Aircraft detail added to the Group website! Check It Out!

Inside this issue:

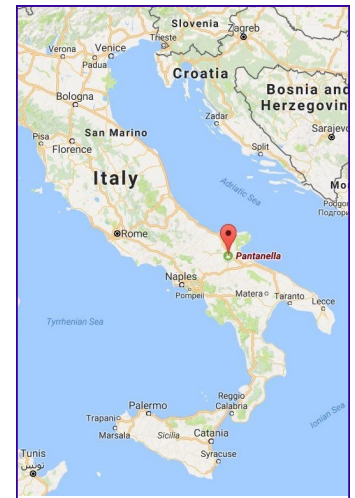
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Visit us on the Web:
www.the464th.org

WELCOME COMMENTS FROM YOUR BG PRESIDENT...

Two hundred and thirty five people gathered in Albuquerque, New Mexico for the 2021 Bomb Group reunion for yet another memorable event. Rescheduled from a year earlier due to the pandemic the reunion presented special challenges yet eighteen members from the 464th BG participated in our fourth combined group reunion. Unfortunately, two 464th BG veterans originally planning to attend were unable to make the reunion due to travel restrictions. The New Mexico Veterans Memorial served as the backdrop for the Friday morning Memorial Service conducted by Captain Gary Ortiz from the 512th Squadron at Kirtland Air Force base. In true military fashion veterans from all twelve bomb groups flying their last Sortie were honored as Fallen Heroes. After touring the Veterans Memorial and lunch the

group enjoyed an afternoon Albuquerque highlights tour. On Saturday the focus shifted to the 15th Army Air Force legacy with veterans, friends and historians all sharing their experiences and stories of life on the 'Hill' in Pantanella. The Saturday evening banquet was complete with a Bob Hope impersonator delivering a typical wartime show presented as if hosting the troops abroad. On Sunday reunion attendees visited the National Nuclear Museum before the farewell southwest style dinner. It was an honor continuing the legacy of those who answered the call and served so bravely in Europe affording the freedoms we all enjoy today. Thanks to the many veterans, family and friends for their ongoing support of both the reunion and our group. We invite everyone to consider attending the next reunion in Wichita, Kansas. Tom Will, President



European Theater of Operation, Pantanella Air Field Home of the 15th Air Force 464th & 465th Bomb Groups.

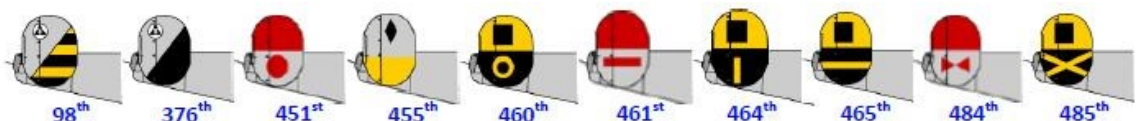


REUNION ROUND UP—ALBUQUERQUE SEPTEMBER 12th, 2021

Under a large banner of a B24 Liberator in flight, five of the nine proud veterans from across the twelve different Bomb Groups assembled for a group photograph during the Saturday presentation session at the 2021 Albuquerque reunion. Family and friends watched proudly as these men came together representing the 15th



AAF sharing their experiences in Army Air Corp service during WWII.



COMBINED BOMB GROUP 2021 ALBUQUERQUE REUNION PICTURE GALLERY



Eighteen members from the 464th Bomb Group attended the four-day combined group reunion at the Sheraton Uptown Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico September 10th thru September 13th, 2021. In all two hundred and thirty-five people attended the combined group banquet Saturday evening enjoying a Bob Hope impersonator presenting a typical World War II troop entertainment show enjoyed by all. Though no 464th BG veterans were able to attend there were nine veterans from across the other twelve groups.



The 464th BG hospitality and meeting room served as a welcoming setting for our group.



The Albuquerque 464th BG meeting room with several of the memorabilia display tables.



The 464th BG hospitality room readied for the Friday evening individual group dinner & meeting.



The 464th BG group picture after the Albuquerque reunion individual group dinner.



The 464th BG leadership team President, Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President.



One of the many displays in the 464th BG meeting room showing the history of the bomb group.



The New Mexico Veterans Memorial entrance with memorials to all major conflicts.



Three of the nine 15th Army Air Corp veterans attending Saturday presentations.



The National Museum of Nuclear Science and History tells the story of Los Alamos.



The Albuquerque Saturday evening Banquet guests enjoyed dinner and Bob Hope tribute.



Air Force Chaplain Captain Gary Ortiz visited 464th after Sunday church services.



Bob Chamberlain presentation of the story of his father-in-law Scott Millis's mission and capture.

Albuquerque NM Reunion September 11th, 2021 Business Meeting Minutes

The meeting began Friday September 10th after dinner with BG President Tom Will welcoming eighteen members and guests to the 464th Bomb Group Reunion at the Sheraton Uptown Hotel, Albuquerque, NM. For the fourth year, the 464th Bomb Group participated in the 15th AAF Combined Bomb Group Reunion along with twelve other Bomb Groups. Don Krynovich led the Pledge of Allegiance and Tom Will then read the list of Fallen Heroes conducting the Missing Man ceremony complete with a round table and all its elements. The Missing Man table tradition occupies a special place of dignity and honor at our reunions.

Attendance at the reunion was 235, including nine veterans from across the 12 Bomb Groups. Although there were no 464th veterans attending this year, Garrett Hass gave an update on his grandfather, Alton Perington, and Tom Will shared news of his father, Carl Will. Each guest then introduced him or herself and was given the opportunity to share a story, experience or memory of the veteran they represented. We enjoyed the compelling and emotional stories provided by both returning members and several new attendees including Charles and Frank Stanley, Nora Mazzotti, and Bob Chamberlain.

Jan Engle was nominated as secretary, graciously accepted the position

and elected. She was thanked for her work and dedication to continuing the legacy. Garrett Hass delivered the Treasurer's report and Bomb Group sponsors were acknowledged. Special mention was given to Sharon Goode and Paula Archazki for their ongoing efforts packing and sending all supplies to Don Krynovich to transport and set up at the reunion. The well decorated 464th BG hospitality room was full of displays, books, information and collections brought by members.

Hughes Glantzberg, webmaster for the 464th BG, was recognized for his ongoing work and outstanding contributions to the website. Hughes provided an update on the research of specific aircraft of the 464th that is now available on the Aircraft website tab at www.the464th.org under the specific Squadron.

Since many of our 464th BG veterans could not attend the reunion this year, a special outreach plan was created. Members agreed to contact each veteran and let them know that we were thinking of them, and that gift packets would be sent once contact information was confirmed. Twenty veterans were reached and received a special gift from the group.

Tom Will adjourned the meeting at 9:45 and reconvened at noon for lunch and meeting conclusion.

Veteran Presentations:

Ed & Pat Clendenin, 376th Bomb Group
Tour of European bombing sites including Vienna and Ploesti

Bob Hudron, B-52 Copilot
Shot down over Hanoi talked about his time as POW in the Hanoi Hilton
Harry Bridger, 484th Bomb Group
Recounted time as a Radio Operator

Lisa Taylor, WASP Museum Curator
Sweetwater, Texas

Contributions of Women's Air Corp

John Billings, Bomber Pilot
OSS Pilot for the Greenup Mission

Victor Yamata, Board Member of the Asian-American Association
Japanese American Internment Camp Confinement in Land of Enchantment

Katy Doran, 485th Bomb Group
Recycling in Italy after WWII

Member Presentation:

Robert Chamberlain, 464th Bomb Grp
Story of father-in-law Scott Millis, B17 Pilot being shot down and taken POW

Remember Their Sacrifice...

It is not out of heedlessness or cowardice that the Germans keep abandoning immense numbers of tanks and armored vehicles by the roadsides of France. These tanks and trucks are out of gasoline.

General H. M. Arnold, Oct 1944



464th BG Gift Presentation to Combined Group and Veterans

Ray Wadley, aviation artist, created two paintings to honor all the B-24 and B-17 Bombardment Groups in the 15th AAF. In separate paintings, the single B-24 & B-17 airplanes are depicted flying above their respective Bomb Group's tail codes. These beautiful photographs were presented to Hughes Glantzberg, President 461st BG and accepted on behalf of the Bomb Groups at the 2021 reunion in Albuquerque, NM. Scanned copies of portraits were handed out to all the veterans at the reunion and special gift packages including the images and a recognition letter prepared for mailing to all 464th BG veterans.

In Memoriam — Remembering Our Veterans Who Flew their Last Sortie

776th Squadron

Elton W. Ankney 11/10/2019
Ray Simpkins 03/02/2019

777th Squadron

John C. Baker 07/06/2017
Warren S. Geissing 11/2020
Alan Douglas Harper 8/15/2017
Wallace R. Roberts 6/29/2019
Leonard A. Vaughan

778th Squadron

James Corr 07/27/2019
Robert E. Ringel 01/10/2021
Merton L. Soule 09/02/2008
Earl Thompson
Fr. Robert F. Velten 06/10/2020

779th Squadron

Alfred W. Carey 09/17/2017
George R. Frazier 09/01/2021
Fred Gonroff 02/07/2020
Carl Henry
Daniel M. Jeffrey 06/05/2020
Norman D. Jones 12/15/2020
Marvin Nelson 01/31/2020
Thomas Peloso 09/10/2019
Robert Rigby 06/19/2017
David Shafer 11/12/2020
Robert H. Woodworth 08/23/1998

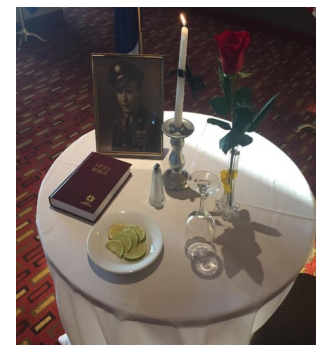
Headquarters

Daniel E. Colvin 11/11/2017
Chris Huber, Jr. 03/16/2019

*“Flying the Last
Sortie...
Missing from
our ranks but
never ever
forgotten”*



The Missing Man Table



Plan to join us in September for the 2022 Wichita, Kansas Bomb Group reunion to help us remember and pay tribute to these great men recently added to our Last Sortie List.

An Airman's Prayer by Chaplain John Eastwood

God guard and guide us as we fly through the great spaces of the sky; Be with us as we take to air in morning light and sunshine fair. Eternal Father, strong to save, Give us courage and make us brave; Protect us whereso'er we go, from shell and flak and fire and foe. Most loved member of our crew, ride with us up in the blue. Direct our bombs upon the foe but shelter those whom Thou dost know. Keep us together on our way, grant our work success today. Deliver us from hate and sin, and bring us safely down again. O God protect us as we fly through lonely ways across the sky.



Coming soon...remembering our Heroes

Charles Stanley longtime 464th Bomb Group member recounts the experiences of his father and so many other airmen after ditching their planes in Yugoslavia.

Charles E. Stanley Jr. is the author of the upcoming book, **'The Lost Airmen: US Bomber Crews Stranded Behind Enemy Lines in Yugoslavia during World War II.'** He

spent twenty years researching and writing the book, and has interviewed and collected original material on most of the 132 airmen involved. One of the Lost Airmen was Charles E. Stanley Sr., the author's father.

Be sure to visit his website and support his efforts to get the book published and released.

| <http://www.charlesstanleyjr.com/> |

A Business Update from Our Bomb Group Treasurer

We had another fun reunion in Albuquerque! Going to the New Mexico Veterans Memorial and the Nuclear Science Museum were my favorite events. The reunion went well and as planned we broke even on the registration, expense and meals. Shipping expenses were a bit higher this year due to the reunion location and handing off materials for our hospitality room. Also gifts of the B24 artist prints contributed to our costs but the gifts were deserving to our veterans. Cash on hand for the group is \$4,405.86 with a net balance of \$530.42 at year end. Financially we are doing a good job balancing our payments. A big thank you goes out to Sharon Goode and Paula

Archazki for doing such a wonderful job keeping track of our numbers. Donations support the newsletters, website, reunion registration mailings, lunches, dinners, supplies and miscellaneous expenses – donations are necessary and greatly appreciated. Currently we have collared shirts, mugs and the 15th Air Force wooden plaques for sale. Contact Tom Will, Sharon Goode or myself if you need one. Get ready for 2022 as we head to Wichita, Kansas, a city rich with aircraft history! Hope to see everyone there!

Garrett Hass
Grandson of SSgt. Alton Perington 779th



**BG Veterans are
United States of
America Patriots**

Albuquerque Reunion Financial Recap | Summary of Albuquerque Reunion Income & Expense

3,850.00	3,850.00	\$ 0.00		\$6,110.00	\$5,579.58	\$530.42
Reunion Expense	Reunion Income	Net Total		Group Income	Group Expense	2021 Net Balance

464th BG Financial Report | Profit & Loss January 2021 thru December 2021

Revenue		Expenses	
Direct Public Support	\$1,795.00	Business Website & Reunion Donation	\$1,000.00
Reunion Fees Collected	\$3,850.00	Reunion Registration & Lunch Expense	\$3,820.00
2021 Shirts, Plaques & Mugs	\$465.00	Promo Items Shirts, Plaques & Mugs	\$189.15
		Office Expense, Printing and Mailing	\$116.55
		Shipping, Luncheon & Misc. Expense	\$453.88
Total Income	\$6,110.00	Total Expense	\$5,579.58

**2021 Net Income
\$530.42
Cash On Hand
\$4,405.86
December 31, 2021**

Financial Notes: The reunion breaks even on registration fees, meal income and reunion expenses. Donations support newsletter, website, reunion registration mailings, reunion lunches, group dinner

*extras and group operating supplies. Donations are necessary and very much appreciated!
Wichita, Kansas 2022 Reunion...PLAN NOW!*

The Pantanella Airfield Legend Lives on Today in Italy...

Maria Teresa Pellegrino lives near Pantanella Italy—the area that once served as home to the 464th and 465th Bomb Groups. She owns part of the land and buildings used by the Army Air Corps during the war. After the war her father found aircraft pieces and a large quantity of the landing mats used on the airfield runways. After visiting our website, Maria Teresa contacted the group to learn more about the buildings and the role Pantanella played during the war. Nora Mazotti, daughter of veteran Didio Saavedra, visited Pantanella some fifteen years ago identifying the place with wall paintings as the mess hall or dining area for officers, and the big burned out building as the place for military briefings. Maria Teresa is working to verify the authenticity of the buildings and the role they played for the airfield. She plans to restore the buildings and give them historical identity commemorating their role in liberating her country. What an outstanding way to preserve the legacy of the 464th BG and the airmen that served so bravely during the war. Maria Teresa shared many pictures including two videos and promised to share more pictures and videos of the grassy valley that once served as dual runways for the two groups. Stay tuned for updates on how this exciting work develops!



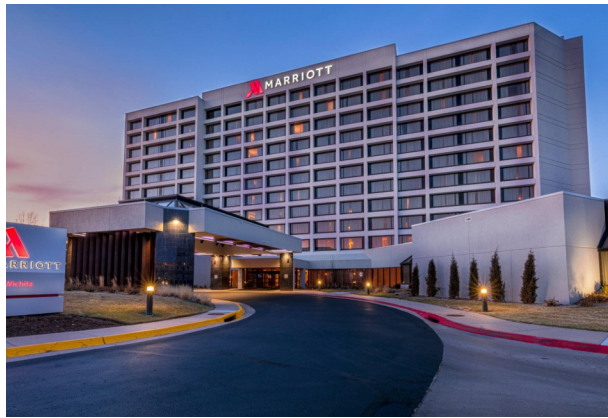
Dual Runways & Hard Stands on Hills



Old Chapel Converted into Headquarters

COMBINED BOMB GROUP 2022 WICHITA REUNION INFORMATION

WICHITA KANSAS REUNION September 15th—18th, 2022



Wichita Marriott

9100 Corporate Hills Drive, Wichita, Kansas 67207 USA

While reunion details are still being finalized, plan to make your hotel reservations early. All reservations must be made by August 26, 2022. **Watch the website for the registration form posting.** Invitations and registration forms will be mailed out to those on our mailing list and emailed to our wider electronic distribution list in the spring time frame. *Room rates will be \$102.00 per night, plus tax and will include a full, hot breakfast buffet. The hotel has been recently renovated and is spectacular offering free airport shuttle service. Wichita Kansas is a surprising gem of a city and has a very rich history in aviation.*

Host Hotel -Wichita Marriott | Phone: 316-651-0333
9100 Corporate Hills Drive
Wichita, Kansas 66207



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH — Arrival day and reunion check in (hospitality & registration rooms open as guests arrive)

✦ All Group Welcome Meeting at 7:00 pm convenes to review the upcoming schedule of events for the Wichita reunion.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH — Touring Local Sites and Individual Group Dinner

- ✦ After a leisurely breakfast depart mid-morning for a wonderful McConnell Air Force base tour.
- ✦ Following lunch visit the Kansas Aviation Museum housed in the former Wichita Airport terminal.
- ✦ 464th Bomb Group individual group dinner beginning with 5:30 pm Social Hour and Tail Insignia pictures following dinner.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH — Features a focus on our Veterans...

- ✦ Saturday morning begins at 9:00 AM with a 464th BG Business Meeting followed by a complimentary 464th luncheon at the hotel.
- ✦ As has been our custom Saturday afternoon features presentations by Veterans and stories about Army Air Corp in WWII Europe
- ✦ Saturday evening All Groups Banquet—Social Hour at 5:30 PM in the ball room with a cash bar, dinner and entertainment.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH— Morning Church Service

✦ Following morning church visit Veterans Memorial Park & Museum of World Treasures capped off with traditional Farewell Dinner.

You Spoke, We Listened...Survey Results Explained

The 464th BG survey is designed to let us know how we are doing maintaining the identity of our bomb group and to help shape future reunions. The 464th BG Albuquerque reunion survey includes individual responses, comments and analysis of results. Key takeaways from this year's survey include:

- ◆ Overall very nice reunion, all about the World War II Veterans
- ◆ Sheraton Hotel made everyone feel comfortable post-pandemic
- ◆ The Memorial Service and 464th individual dinner well received
- ◆ Hotel very accommodating – comfortable rooms/great service
- ◆ Excellent Saturday buffet luncheon also saved time and expense
- ◆ Appreciated tour operator coordinating hotel transfers & tours

SURVEY QUESTION	SCORE
✦ Reunion City Location	4.3
✦ Hotel Accomodations	4.4
✦ Meal Selections	4.4
✦ Reunion Cost	4.7
✦ Transportation	4.7
✦ Combined Grp Functions	4.7
✦ 464th Bomb Group Dinner	4.9
✦ Memorial Service	4.9
✦ Hospitality Room	4.8
✦ Registration Process	5.0
✦ Tour Selections	4.4
✦ Communications	4.7

Scores Based on a Five Point Scale with 5 Being Best

The Personal Story of B-24 (H) Liberator ‘Little Gismo II’ | Navigator 1st LT Robert Weinberg



The Air Battle over the Jindřichův Hradec, Czechoslovakia region resulted in the crash landing of four B-24(H) Liberators from the 15th AAF 464th Bomb Squadron – this is the story of one of the eight men that survived a Liberator crash near Cimer, Czechoslovakia.

The story as narrated by Robert Weinberg.

It started with the same routine as any other mission – up early for breakfast, then briefing, and take off and rendezvous for the mission. This would be a special one, a maximum effort, because of the target, a new synthetic oil refinery for the Axis powers, at Pardubice, Czechoslovakia.

At briefing we were informed there would be little or no flak over the target, but to expect heavy fighter opposition during the entire mission. We would be in the vicinity of Linz and Styer in Austria, which had many Luftwaffe fighter bases. Our P-51 fighters would cover us all the way to the target, with P-38s standing by to take off if the P-51s were engaged.

It was our B-24 group’s turn to be last over the target. Flak came up from Styer, so we took evasive action. We dropped our bombs on target at 12:20, and no flak was encountered, so it began to look like a milk run!

At 12:32, two ME-109s attacked our plane on our port side, which had a feathered engine. I looked out to see the P-51s in a tremendous dogfight above us. The tail gunner called over the intercom that FW-190s were coming in at us. I looked again, and as I did, they cut loose with everything they had. A second wave of planes came in and all hell broke loose.

The first burst of their guns got us. I felt a terrific explosion in the bomb bay and looked down the catwalk to see a roaring inferno. The intercom was dead. Then the alarm bell rang, and I got ready to bail out. I opened the door to the nose turret so the gunner could get out, and then made for the nose wheel door to jump. A 20mm burst in the turret, and out I went.

We were at about 19,000 feet, so I delayed opening the chute as long as possible, then pulled the rip cord. Of course, it came out in my hand, and I thought the chute had failed, but suddenly, I felt a terrific jolt and I was floating through the air. I saw seven other chutes and an FW-190 circling all of us. My watch said 12:41. I was heading for a small lake, so I spilled my chute to avoid it. The swaying on my harness scared me, but then I hit the ground hard.

A “reception committee” awaited me – a number of people, three of them armed with shotguns. I tried to get up and walk, but I had sprained my ankle badly in landing. I also had pieces of 20mm in my left leg. I was searched and everything was taken from me – escape kit, cigarettes, lighter and chocolate. They wanted my .45 revolver, but I was not wearing it. The soldiers marched me to a small town and held me there until mid-afternoon



A truck containing about 30 Hitler Youths with rifles came to pick me up. They had been searching for ‘luftgangsters.’ Eventually, I was put on a train, survived two air raids, taken to an interrogation center where I remained for 10 days, and finally ended up at Stalag Luft III.

Robert Weinberg would spend thirteen long months as a prisoner of war. His war-time experiences were captured on videotape when U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, interviewed him for the ongoing Veterans History Project. The videotape was sent to the Library of Congress and archived with other interviews with WWII veterans.

Robert Weinberg Flew His Last Sortie May 12, 2016



464TH BOMB GROUP

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The 464th BG wishes to recognize and thank Mr. Dave Blake, 461st BG for serving as our reunion committee chairperson for so many years. Dave does a wonderful job getting input from all the groups and coordinating the combined group reunions—Thank You Dave!



www.the464th.org



The mission of the 464th Bomb Group is to recognize and honor the service of the brave men who answered the call of duty during World War II and served their country so valiantly in the 15th Army Air Corp based in Pantanella, Italy. Bomb Group reunions were started in 1955 first by the 778th Squadron and then in 1968 expanded to include all four flight squadrons and Headquarters operations. To date nearly forty reunions have been held in cities from coast to coast and points north to south. Hosted by veteran families, reunions are always a fun gathering affording veterans the opportunity to share their stories and family and friends a chance to learn about war time experiences but most importantly to honor and thank our veterans. Bomb Group newsletters work to foster communications and connect with those not able to attend the reunions.

WICHITA, KS REUNION

September 15-18, 2022

Plan to make your hotel reservation for this year's reunion early—NO LATER THAN August 26th, 2022. Reunion notices and registration packets will be mailed in May to those on our BG roster and registration eMails will be sent to everyone on our eMail list. Also look for the registration form on the 464th BG's website—the registration form can be printed and mailed to the address shown at the left. Additional interest this year makes **early registrations a must!**



A Special Thanks to our Supporters...

The 464th Bomb Group does not have annual dues. Contributions from reunion attendees and members cover administrative costs and publishing newsletters. For those planning to join the group at this year's reunion in Wichita make sure to complete and submit the registration form. If your unable to attend the 2022 Wichita reunion consider making a contribution for continued group support.

Mail all registration forms and contributions to the group's primary mailing address shown in the banner to the left. We hope to see everyone in Wichita for another great reunion!

THANK YOU DONORS

...for your continued support of the 464th Bomb Group's mission honoring our Veterans and the legacy of the Greatest Generation!

Wm Chamberlain	Julian Metzger
Bob Chamberlain	Joe Osentoski
Jan Daley	Alton Perington
Jan Engle	Dennis Porter
Carolyn Espil	Robert Ray
Sharon Goode	Marie Roberts
Garrett Hass	Patricia Walker
Teresa Karazim	Dan Wilbur
Don Krynovich	Carl Will
Nora Mazotti	Tom Will



From the collection of John R. Gottschalk. Pictured L-R

Ed Note: We need your help! If your address changes or you know a someone who should be receiving newsletters please contact an officer. We strive to keep the 464th BG roster and mailing lists current. There are 235 names on our mailing list and 190 people on our email list. Sending BG newsletters electronically helps lower costs..

