

WHO IS COLONEL ROBERT S. COPE??

Guest Speaker for the 2009 AMTA Reunion

This is a brief synopsis, resume, biography of Retired Colonel Robert S. Cope the good friend of many AMTs that has said he would be honored to be the guest speaker for the 2009 AMTA Reunion. Based on the information Bob has given us I am sure we will look forward to hearing him speak in September.

- Bob started his airborne career as a 1Lt at the 6990th as it activated in Sept 1967. Taylor Greene was in charge of all the wirebenders who worked miracles on the "new" RC-135M's.
- He was the first OIC of OL-2, 6990SS, (as they assumed the C-130 mission in South Vietnam from the 6988th) on 1 Jan 1968 at Danang and later, Cam Rahn Bay, RVN.
- He said he was lucky to have Bill Wilson and Del Jolly to keep him out of jail and teach him how to read 67-1!
- Bob went to MOM (Mid-Ocean Management) at PacSctyRgn, where Billy Daniels kept him in tow. Worked the RC-135s and C-130s, but got some EC-47 and EC-121 missions in too.
- He later went to the 6908th at NKP, Thailand, for a year as the DO and worked the U-2R, C-130s (all the QU-22s had already fallen out of the sky....), and the remote ground systems...Chuck Vigdor kept popping up but he couldn't keep the SAC dummies from painting the U-2s' downlink antennas!
- Bob later on did four years on the Air Staff--3 working something called RIVET JOINT Modernization and one sneaking screen rooms into Embassies, where some amazing guys, like Morgan Eddie Smith, put Tab A into Slot B millions of times!
- Then he did a year at Ft Leavenworth for his sins and then spent 2 years on the Air Force IG Team, traveling the world as an Intelligence Inspector.
- Bob was the 6916th Commander from 1981-83, where Denny Sullivan, Meron Wilson, and a host of wirebenders-turned-electron-chasers like John Brown, and yes, Charlie Vigdor again, made the work he put in at the funny five-sided building pay off -- with no spares!
- Gen Larson sent him to command the 6949th (he obviously didn't get it right in Athens...) and make sure the 55th gave us the time we needed to keep hangar queens away from the overseas locations! "Ben" Bennett and his Log Team had the problem well in hand and told Bob when he was needed to go stand on the 55th CC's desk!

- He went from the 6949th to 4 years of hardship duty at Hickam as the Vice Commander, trying to keep Ed Tillmes single, and was the "Short Time" Skivvy-Nine Commander in the summer of 1987.
- He ended up with three years at the HQ (Gen Martin agreed that he'd get him in too much trouble at NSA...) as Chief of Current Ops and the Asst DCS Ops, when he punched out in 1992.
- Bob then worked for a year in the Black World and then became a Financial Planner to give something back to the guys and gals who made him a Colonel.
- Bob retired in 2005. He says he has been fortunate enough over the years to share 781's or staff work with Steve Bland, Mike Gehri, Dan Greer, Whitey Gross, NoeC Guerra, Randy Holt, George Honsaker, Don Jackson, Larry Meade, Tom Muggeo, Phil Olson, Tom Petersen, Rick Sluder, Vern Stump, Bob White, Jim Worrell and even Ed Zynda...and others whom he says his Old-timer's Disease fades from memory right now.
- Bob's final words here: Looking forward to "meeting you again" and buying a round in September!