

Section 7

The Memorials

The first memorial to honor all 19 young men who died at the hands of terrorists at Khobar Towers was dedicated by the McQuire AFB, Senior NCO Academy 96-6 Class. They did a full ceremony complete

with taps and a flyover and then dedicated a monument engraved with the 19 names. Their message is 'FREEDOM IS NOT FREE'.



September 27, 1996 © Airtides

Homage to Heroes

NCO academy class pays tribute airmen killed in Dhahran bombing

By Staff Sgt. Mary McHale
305th AMW Public Affairs

Chad in desert fatigues, they each clutched a white candle as, one by one, they approached the slate-gray replica tombstone memorial etched with 19 names. Silent and somber, they paused briefly to light their candles in the flickering flame at the stone's base.

This happened 19 times — once for each airman killed in the July bombing at Khobar Towers in Dhahran.

The candle lighting was part of a memorial tribute to the deceased airmen given by the members of McQuire's Noncommissioned Officers Academy Class 96-6 Sept. 10 at the base flagpole. Along with the representatives of the airmen who made the ultimate sacrifice, other students in the tribute served as sabre beaters, 21-gun salute team members, narrators, honor guard representatives or as members of one of two formations. There was also a student bugler, who sounded the sad, slow notes of taps to close the tribute.

For many of the students, the ceremony not only honored the fallen airmen, but put the sometimes harsh reality of being a military member into perspective.

"The bomb blast was a brutal reminder that this is in fact our job — you can lose your life at any time," said Tech. Sgt. Mark Cortez, a Vietnamese linguist from Fort Meade, Md. who served as a narrator during the tribute. For Cortez, the ceremony evoked memories of friends since gone — killed while serving their country. "The ceremony reminded us of what we do, we fight and die."

Other students echoed his views.

"I felt proud to be a part of it because I've never had to experience that kind of situation — it really faced us with what we do," said Tech. Sgt. Robin Blanchard, an air traffic controller from Pope AFB, N.C. who served as one of two honor guard sentries at the tombstone. "All those innocent lives lost, it could have been any of us over there."

Tech. Sgt. Veronica Morgan, from the 1st Component Repair Squadron at Langley AFB, Va., who opened the

tribute with her rendition of the national anthem felt that "Each one in some way or other touched our lives and it was important for us as a class to recognize these individuals and recognize their sacrifice," Morgan said.

Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Zoll, an academy instructor and ceremony advisor, said while each class is required to participate in a ceremony, details are left up to class members and faculty guidance is deliberately kept to a minimum.

"I try to challenge each class to come up with something creative, something memorable that can be a legacy, an inspiration, to the next class," Zoll said. "The whole purpose of the ceremony is to help students realize why we do what we do on a daily basis. I want the ceremony to hit them in such a way that they take away a renewed sense of purpose."

For the graduates of Class 96-6, this ceremony did provide a renewed sense of purpose — a sense renewed by the 19 airmen whose sacrifice was the ultimate expression of "Service Before Self."

During the ceremony, Tech. Sgt. Summers II of Seymour Johnson A clutches a candle as he walks to memorial.





Flagler County Association of Realtors dedicated this special monument at the base of their flag pole. December 23 is Fran's birthday.

Another early memorial to be dedicated was at the All Veterans Memorial Park, Eglin AFB Florida



A Memorial Ceremony in honor of the Warriors Who Died in the Defense of Freedom in Saudi Arabia on 25 June 1996.

The memorial bricks representing the twelve airmen from the 33rd Fighter Wing, who lost their lives at the Khobar Towers, were dedicated on 30 September 1996 at the All Veterans Memorial Park



Colonel Gary Dylewski addressing the families during the dedication of the memorial bricks

Following this almost immediate recognition of the loss of their own, on the First Anniversary, June 25,1997 a very special ceremony was performed to unveil a truly awesome memorial, also at Eglin AFB. These memorials keep our men remembered in many hearts forever.

33rd Fighter Wing Memorial, Eglin AFB

The First Anniversary

This memorial was dedicated on June 25, 1997 to the twelve airmen from the 33rd Fighter Wing who lost their lives at the Khobar Towers, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia as a result of the terrorist bombing on June 25, 1996.



THIS MONUMENT
IS DEDICATED
TO THE BRAVE WARRIORS
WHO WERE KILLED BY
A TERRORIST BOMB
AT KHOBAR TOWERS,
SAUDI ARABIA,
ON 25 JUNE 1996.
THEY MADE THE ULTIMATE
SACRIFICE AS GUARDIANS
OF THIS GRATEFUL NATION
WE WILL NEVER FORGET THEM.

It was on June 25, 1997 the families gathered together for a few days of caring and sharing. The group from Eglin proudly displayed the photos of their memorial that had been dedicated earlier that day. Makes one proud! The others were not so fortunate. The 2 others have small remembrances at their respective bases and the Squadron from Patrick AFB transferred to Moody, AFB in Georgia. Therefore, Patrick didn't feel a need to commemorate this first anniversary. This was the beginning of some heavy negotiations between the families and the base until on the 4th anniversary, the rest were honored appropriately at their home base in Florida.



The lighting of the Eternal Flame by Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Cochran



A1C Joshua E. Woody

On June 25th, 2000, the seven other airmen killed at Khobar Towers were added at the base of the Eternal Flame, Eglin AFB.



Capt. Christopher J. Adams
SSgt Kevin J. Johnson

Capt. Leland T. Haun
SSgt Ronald L. King
A1C Justin Wood

MSgt Michael G. Heiser
A1C Christopher Lester.

At the family gathering on the night of the First Anniversary, the men from Moody made a formal presentation of the plaque below. It has the five names from Patrick AFB and includes a Purple Heart by each name and hangs in the hallway at Moody AFB. Very meaningful remembrance.

June 25, 1997



Below are close ups of 3 of the additional 7 markers at the base of the Eternal Flame at Eglin AFB.



MSGT Michael G. Heiser



SSGT Kevin J. Johnson

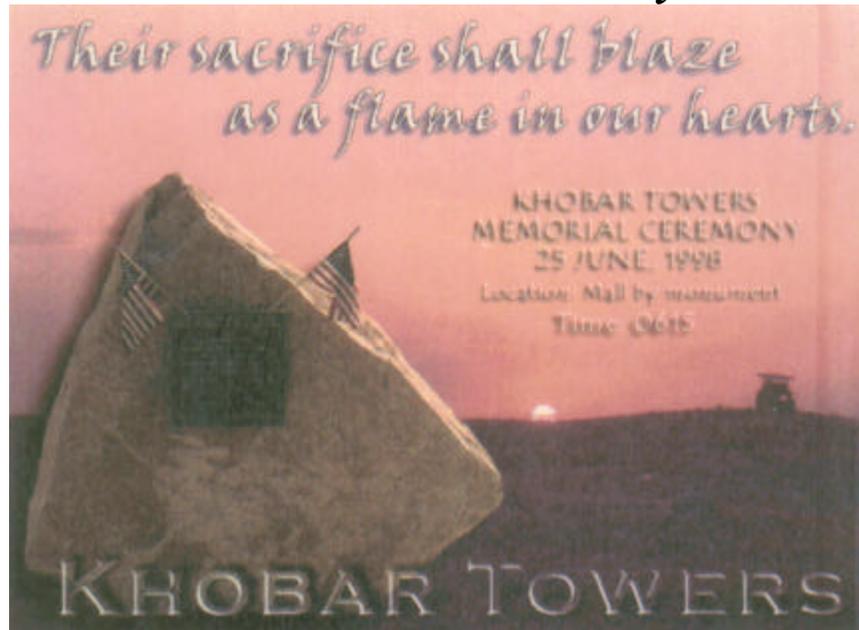


Prince Sultan Air Base Memorial

Saudi Arabia

Dedicated June 25, 1998

The Second Anniversary



The Men stationed in Saudi will never forget





Photos provided by our traveling photographer, Mr F Whitten Peters, thoughtfully taken while on tour of the desert



FRAN AND GARY HEISER
39 OLD KINGS ROAD NORTH
PALM COAST, FLORIDA 32137
904-445-2254

April 15, 1999

Dear Khobar Towers Family Members,

heiser2@juno.com

Today I received the attached petition from Cathy Adams who is the mother of Capt Chris Adams who was murdered at Khobar Towers. We are all aware of the pain and loss we've experienced these last months and years.

The Adams family is asking our help and we ALL need to work on this together as a unit in order to hope to be heard in Washington. If we have enough signatures, we might be able to have the clout to get the Saudi assets frozen in this country. Hitting them in their pocketbooks is probably the only way to get their attention.

I, personally, have done a lot of research in hopes of finding answers and the information that I have found is not pleasant. One of the main questions that no one wants to answer is, Why does our country continue to grant Sovereign Immunity to a country that killed our men and refuses to cooperate in the investigation.? By continuing this travesty, we are granting them a licence to kill, to literally *get away with murder!*

With our combined efforts we might be heard, we might freeze their assets, and we might make a difference. We need to, in the memory of our loved ones. They didn't go to Dhahran to be murdered. They went there to protect and serve. The internet provides more information than we can absorb but the things that keep coming to the forefront are names like Bush and Bandar. Apparently, Prince Bandar has an annual budget of \$70 million that is used to entertain and "buy Washington". The whole Bush connection isn't clear other than the family has tremendous investments in Saudi oil and it has even been implied the Gulf War was started to protect these family investments. You read the internet and form your own opinions please. Because until such time something as big as this can be proved and exposed, it will mean nothing. We could even end up like some of the Clintonites, the Vince Fosters of this country.

I only mention this to keep you in the loop and for you all to have a handle on some of the background on why I work so diligently to uncover the truth, and also in case sometime someone "quiets" me, you can continue. Mike was our only child and our future and I can't let his and the others deaths be for nothing. It has to have meaning and a page in the history books. We need this petition to start the ball rolling and we need it now! Please actively get signatures and make additional copies as needed, then submit them to Mrs Adams at POB 331, Long Beach, NY 11561.

One more thing on a little lighter note. There is an outside possibility I will be contacting you about a dedication on the 3rd anniversary. The Heritage Hall at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, AL has been creating a huge display to honor our men at Khobar Towers. It is almost complete and I've been told it is a very moving experience to visit this. It is on the grounds of the NCO Academy and approximately 600 people visit this tribute weekly. IF they have a dedication ceremony, we should all make an honest attempt to attend. IF they do this, we will be sent invitations in enough time but I'm giving you a heads up now so you can keep the date open.

*Good luck with the petition -
Hope to see y'all soon (in Alabama)
Fran*



Air Force Enlisted Heritage Hall

JUNE 25, 1999

The Third Anniversary

The Enlisted Heritage Hall is the only place of its kind in the Air Force. This unique facility reveals the story of our enlisted force's contribution to the development of military aviation in America. The Enlisted Heritage Hall is located in Montgomery, AL at Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex.

The Khobar Towers Exhibit and Memorial at the Air Force Museum





*LIFELIKE
DISPLAY
INCLUDES 3
MANEQUINS
THE LIKENESS
OF MIKE IS
WEARING HIS
FLIGHT SUIT
AND
EYEGASSES.
BACKGROUND
IS ENLARGED
PHOTO OF*

*KHOBAR TOWERS AFTER THE ATTACK. IN FRONT ARE
RELATED ARTICLES AND ARTIFACTS.*



profiles from flagler - up close and personal

Museum gives honor to Flagler son and fellow servicemen

On June 25, 1999, a special dedication will take place in Montgomery, Alabama honoring all those that died and were injured during a terrorist attack on Americans in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

By
**KATHLEEN
BISHOP**
EDITOR

This ceremony, at Montgomery Air Force Base, will be attended by Palm Coast residents Fran and Gray Heiser who lost their only son,

Michael, that night in the bombing. To be dedicated is a new display in the Enlisted Heritage Hall Museum that will feature life-sized mannequins dressed in real uniforms in front of a 34-foot backdrop of the bombed building that housed the men.

The museum is unique and serves to honor to men and women from the enlisted ranks of the US Army Aeronautical Division, Air Service, Air Corp, and Air Force. Housed in the museum is a collection of artifacts, art collections, pictures, aircraft and gun

parts, written documents that date from World War I to the present era.

According to Fran Heiser, the ceremony and ribbon cutting will be attended by many dignitaries from the Department of Justice and Air Force and will include military representation from Patrick AFB and Eglin AFB. Many of the surviving family members will attend.

The Heisers have taken on a quest for better legislation to protect the nation's troops. "We don't believe our troops should be sent to countries that won't agree to protect them. If a foreign country asks Americans to protect their oil interests the very least the host nation

could do is protect our troops. If this cannot be done, we do not belong there.

In Washington this year, the Heisers attended



The museum and research institute are located in Montgomery, Alabama



several successful meetings and have written a draft of a proposed amendment for troop protection. Some of the meetings included a dinner with former US Senator Robert Dole, lunch with Togo West, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, a private luncheon with Whit Peters, the acting secretary of the Air Force, and different members of the Department of Justice.

On Memorial Day, the Heisers were also guests at the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery where President Bill Clinton and Bill Cohen addressed the nation and laid a wreath.

On a local level, the Heisers have established in Michael's memory, an ROTC scholarship at Flagler Palm Coast High School that will assist two qualified graduates again this year.

Secretary Peters looks on as wreath is placed in front of display by Mr Bill (COY) Chivalette, Museum Curator



Memorial Day

Life experiences give new meaning to Memorial Day

Released: 25 May 2000 by Tech. Sgt. Selena P. Zuhoski

Air Force Legal Services Agency, BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. (AFPN)

The meaning of Memorial Day has changed for me as my experiences in life have changed me. This is what I believe Memorial Day means -- recognizing the sacrifices others have made for our country. It is a day to thank them; respect them; appreciate them; celebrate them; be grateful for them; but above all else -- remember them. I was raised in Tampa, Fla. One Memorial Day, when I was 8 years old, my dad took me fishing. We stopped at the store for ice. There, sitting outside the store was an old gentleman wearing a military flight cap and a red vest covered with patches and pins. My dad bought a little plastic red, white, and blue flower from the man.

It was the way my dad said "thank you" for that little flower that left an indelible impression in my mind. It was as though that man had just sold my dad the most valuable thing on Earth. He was so serious, so respectful. I remember thinking "but it was only a little plastic flower." Later, my dad explained. He told me that he had thanked the man for being a war veteran and the flower was a reminder, on this day at least, to thank and respect all who have served in wars for America. It was a quiet and peaceful day on the water fishing with my dad.

That was the first Memorial Day I was aware that the day was reserved for a specific purpose ... to give solemn thanks and respect to those who fought for our country. At 17, I spent Memorial Day with my friends in Key West, Fla. We sailed all morning; dove for conch and lobster along the coral heads all day; and then built a bonfire on the beach of a little island and roasted our catch. At that time, current events in the world were full of promise for the future.

Hostages had been freed; Germany unified; and Americans were involved in civil rights movements all over the world.. The purpose of the day became less solemn and more celebratory. I gave thanks, but I also celebrated that I lived in the greatest nation on Earth.

At 34, I was deployed to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. I was assigned as the law office manager of the 4404th Wing (Provisional), Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, located in Khobar Towers. I spent that Memorial Day at "The Oasis," which consisted of a huge "L" shaped swimming pool, barbecue pit and driving range.

It was 118 degrees that day and the pool was packed. Songs with lyrics about freedom and America blared over the loud speakers. By that time I had learned a little bit about the culture of the country I was living in. I had been stationed at Zaragoza Air Base, Spain, and Incirlik AB, Turkey, and had seen how those cultures were very different from ours. The differences in Saudi Arabia far exceeded anything I had experienced before.

That Memorial Day I felt deep gratitude for being born an American and for the opportunity to contribute, however minutely, to preserving my country's way of life. On June 25, 1996, I played volleyball with my squadron and then went to the rec. center. Around 10:00 p.m. the lights in the building flickered, there was a deep boom, and then glass and concrete were blown in on us. Furniture, along with people, was thrown across the room. When I got out of the building I saw a huge gray-orange mushroom-shaped cloud in the sky. I smelled sulfur in the air. I ran over to one of the two buildings closest to the blast. The door was blocked with debris. I could hear people screaming inside. I helped to clear an opening so people could get out. We then started searching inside for those who might be trapped.

When we got to the fourth floor we found a young man lying in blood. He was wearing only shorts. He had a deep gash on the left side of his lower chest, someone covered with the palm of their hand. The room next to us was on fire. We found a door blown off its hinges and used it as a gurney and carried the injured man down the four flights of stairs. When we got outside we laid him on top of a wooden picnic table. I stayed with him, and took over applying pressure to his injury. I covered it as tight as I could to keep the blood inside with my right hand. I held his left hand with my left hand. He was in shock. I told him to hang on. He said "Oh God ...Oh, God." He was so brave. He died within a few minutes just as medical personnel started arriving. I watched them carry his body away and put it on a blue military bus.

When I turned back another bleeding man had been placed on the picnic table. He had a deep cut along the right side of his face and eye. He also had two deep cuts above his waist. Medical personnel were handing out first-aid kits and we were able to bandage his wounds fairly quickly. He was placed on a different bus.

The chief of Security Police told us to pass the word that everyone should gather at the Desert Rose, which was our dining facility, and try to find our unit. At the Desert Rose, there were hundreds of injured men and women.

The dining facility was transformed into a make shift hospital. Those of us who were not injured worked through the night sweeping glass, clearing debris, and making sleeping areas for those whose quarters were destroyed.

The next morning I learned that 19 American airmen were killed. More than 400 others were injured. I later learned that five of the airmen who died were from my home base -- Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

This year will be the fourth Memorial Day since the bombing of Khobar Towers. Not a day has passed that I haven't thought about that one young man and the other 18 men who died that night. And that is how it should be. They paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country ... for our country.

Patrick pays tribute to its own



Tim Shortt, FLORIDA TODAY

BILLIE J. SMITH of Merritt Island, left, and Elwood "Pappy" Neener of Indian Harbour Beach, look Thursday at the plaque listing USAF Medal of Honor recipients at the new Memorial Plaza at Patrick Air Force Base. Both men were in the Army Air Corps and stationed at Pearl Harbor's Hickam Field when the Japanese attacked Dec. 7, 1941.

Memorial Plaza dedicated

By Frank Oliveri
FLORIDA TODAY

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE — Four T-38 jets screamed overhead Thursday, with one peeling off in the traditional missing man formation, to honor those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Hundreds of Patrick airmen, family members, civilians and veterans attended the dedication of the new Memorial Plaza at Patrick Air Force Base.

Dozens of flags flapped in the humid breeze, a little more than a stone's throw from the Atlantic Ocean.

Tributes were given to veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, and those men who earned the Congressional Medal of Honor, this nation's highest military honor.

Guest speaker Air Force Chief Master Sgt. (retired) Cole Panning, a highly decorated Vietnam veteran who saved 60 lives during the war as a rescue

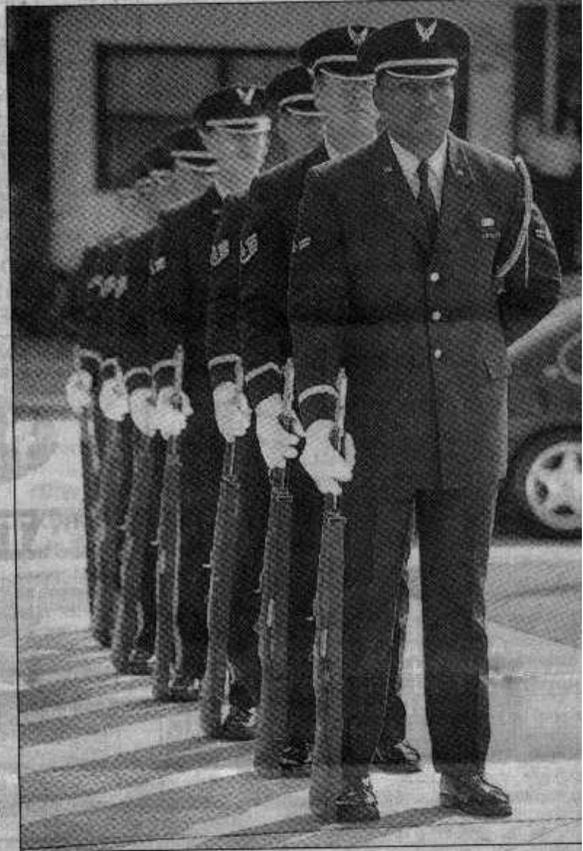
airman, remembered "those who put a higher price on integrity and honor than on their own comfort, well-being or even their life."

Col. Ronald Larivee, vice commander of the 45th Space Wing, said the Memorial Plaza eventually will include three memorials. One will be for the victims of last year's Khobar Towers bombing in which five Patrick airmen died. Another will be the Airman's Memorial, and a third will be for an H-3 helicopter crew that crashed on a mission.

"It is the warrior to whom this Memorial Plaza is dedicated," he said. "America wouldn't be what it is today — the greatest nation on Earth — without our veterans past and present."

A large tablet at the east portion of the plaza lists all Air Force Medal of Honor recipients.

The plaza is dominated by a grassy central area, surrounded by a walkway and posts with two



Tim Shortt, FLORIDA TODAY

HONOR GUARD members from Patrick Air Force Base stand at attention before the start of a 21-gun salute. Hundreds of Patrick airmen, family members, civilians and veterans attended Thursday's dedication of the new Memorial Plaza at the base.

state flags on each. The western portion is a podium area for speakers and VIPs.

The ceremony closed with the firing of a 21-gun salute, followed by Taps played on a trumpet.

"It was very emotional and very stirring," said Doratheia

Pease, a former Lieutenant Colonel in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, who served in World War II.

"We all had tears in our eyes."

■ Families left out, 1A.

Bomb victims' families feel left out

By Frank Oliveri
FLORIDA TODAY

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE — Shyri Johnson was angered she and other family members of the Patrick airmen killed last year weren't invited to Thursday's dedication of a Memorial Plaza at the base.

Johnson's husband, Air Force Staff Sgt. Kevin Johnson, was one of five Patrick airmen killed June 25, 1996, by a terrorist bomb at the Khobar Towers housing complex in Saudi Arabia.

"I can't believe we weren't invited," Johnson said of the ceremony, which included a remembrance of military personnel who died in service to their country.

"I'm angry. I wanted to go, but I didn't get an invitation."

Staff Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller, a Patrick spokeswoman, said Thursday's ceremony was to recognize the Air Force's 50th anniversary and military personnel who had received the Medal of Honor, had died while in the service, or were POW/MIAs. She said a ceremony would be held next year for those airmen killed in Saudi Arabia.

"When the Khobar Towers memorial portion is complete, then there'll be a ceremony befitting its significance and specifically for their families, where they will be the center stage," she said.

Jenny Haun, whose husband Capt. Leland Haun also died in the

bomb blast, attended Thursday's ceremony. She said the affair was moving and beautiful, but she also felt slighted.

"I know I'm not an active military wife, but I am the survivor of someone who died," Haun said. "The more I think about this, the more mad I get."

Patrick officials said the Memorial Plaza was planned well before the bombing occurred.

Fran Heiser of Palm Coast, whose son Master Sgt. Michael Heiser was killed in Saudi Arabia, said:

"I guess they just forgot. . . The men shouldn't be forgotten. Neither should their families."

■ More coverage, 7A, 1B.



Tim Shortt, FLORIDA TODAY

SATELLITE HIGH SCHOOL Junior ROTC Cadet Maj. Susan Schilling and Cadet 2nd Lt. Joseph Penosky participate in the "Massing of the Colors" portion of the ceremony.

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FLORIDA TODAY
10/19/97

Heisers bid for memorial to fallen son

By BOB FRANCE
Staff Writer

PALM COAST —The last time he was home in Palm Coast, Master Sgt. Michael Heiser told his mother something she will live with the rest of her life.

"Terrorism is real, he warned her. It's here. Don't think it's only across the world. It's in your own back yard."

Fran Heiser, an only child who had an only child, was suddenly apprehensive. Her own husband, Gary, had spent 21 years in the military and now her 35-year-old son, on a military peace-keeping mission to a foreign land, was talking about sinister extremists with mercurial minds and dark, political motives.

On April 19, 1995, the worst mass murder in the nation's history took place in Oklahoma City. "Don't think it's only across the world. It's in your own back yard."

Fourteen months later, on June 25, 1996, Michael Heiser was relaxing with 18 other airmen in their rooms at the Khobar Towers barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. A huge tanker truck with 5,000 pounds of explosives pulled up out front.

In the twinkling of an eye, in one blinding flash, Michael Heiser fell victim to his own prophesy.

This morning, after more than a year of demanding accountability from the government, Gary and Fran Heiser will fly to Washington, D.C., to attend briefings on the terrorist attack that killed their son.

They were invited by Secretary of Defense William Cohen, who has cited several security failures at the barracks, no effective alarm system and no evacuation plans of training for the airmen.

The Heisers have been critical of the way the bombing was handled by the U.S. government. "I call it murder," Fran Heiser said. "Negligence has been proved, the men will never come home and the families are devastated."

The heavily-decorated Heiser, who had been on several tours of duty in Saudi Arabia during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, had been recently assigned to Dhahran Air Force Base from Patrick Air Force Base in Brevard County. He was a communications engineer and flew aboard F-15 and F-16 fighter-bombers. He moved to Palm Coast with his family in 1978.

September 3, 1997 FLAGLER/PALM COAST NEWS-TRIBUNE — 3A

From 1A

□ Heiser

CONTINUED FROM 1A

I feel this (meeting) is in part a response to our efforts, Fran Heiser said before leaving for Washington. I was shocked to see it's gotten this reaction. But let's forget what's politically correct. Let's build this wall.

For more than a year, Fran Heiser has railed for a memorial wall to be built at Patrick Air Force Base. The base seems oblivious to everything outside the gate and they need a wakeup call, she said.

The men took an oath to die for their country. It turned out they died because of their country.

Especially galling to the Heisers is the fact that Eglin Air Force Base in the Panhandle dedicated, on the first anniversary of the bombing, a \$200,000 memorial, one for each of the Eglin airmen killed in the attack. The money was raised from donations.

Eglin Air Force Base lost 12 members of the Nomads and that community and the base went all out and created a memorial to the 12, complete with an eternal flame, Heiser said. Patrick Air Force Base lost five members of the 71st Search and Rescue Squadron and did nothing.

Patrick base officials have said three new memorials will be combined into a new Memorial Plaza. One will be dedicated to the five airmen who died in a 1984 helicopter crash off the coast, another will have a bronze plaque commemorating Medal of Honor winners and the third will remember the airmen who died at Khobar Towers. Its design has not been approved yet, but a chunk of the wall from the barracks may be included. Construction is expected to start early in 1998.

Lt. Col. Brian Kuhlmann said an Airman's Memorial near the main gate will be moved to the plaza. It will occupy open space and feature rolling hills and walkways, granite flagpoles and posts to display 50 state flags.

But Heiser said the park was planned before the Khobar Towers bombing and that the base will add on an area of remembrance to the five fallen comrades.

This really isn't acceptable, she said. They deserve more. She said Patrick Air Force Base should be

embarrassed.

I don't like my son's memory being considered an afterthought, or an add-on, Heiser said.

Heiser said the new memorial park at Patrick Air Force Base was planned to recognize the Medal of Honor recipients, and that is should be entirely separate, as it was designed.

They also talk about sharing this add on with the memory of five men killed in the helicopter crash. Did they forget them for 13 years? Heiser asked.

Terrorism is a special concern and needs to be treated as such.

The families of the five airmen from Patrick are asking for a memorial wall to be modeled after the one at Eglin, with five individual panels for the airmen and one to list the 12 names from Eglin plus the two others.

They are asking for one more panel on the Eglin wall listing the other seven names. And they want a Memorial Wall dedicated to the 19 airmen and all other victims of terrorism to be built in Washington, D.C.

They were all part of the same Air Force and are just as damn dead, Fran Heiser said.

For more than a year the families demanded accountability and it finally was confirmed that these men died needlessly. No one could predict a terrorist act but precautions could have been taken.

The motto of the 71st Search and Rescue is, 'So others may live.' Isn't that ironic? Heiser's mother asked.

The squadron transferred to Moody, Ga., and they dedicated a plaque that is hanging at their new location. This is not enough! she said.

No one could predict a terrorist act, Fran Heiser said. But precautions could have been taken to protect the troops in the event of such an event.

On the anniversary of his son's death, Gary Heiser said, One can't help but wonder if the thinking would be different if one of those who so blatantly lied about 'taking full responsibility' had lost one of their own children or their only child.

You should never outlive your children. We still live this nightmare every single day of our lives. It's something that never goes away.

SEE HEISER/ 3A

MEETING NOTES FOR BG STARBUCK--7 October 1997

SUMMARY

In remembrance to our fallen heroes. These men gave their lives "**so others may live**". On June 25, 1996, a Terrorist bomb blew up the military housing known as Khobar Towers and killed 19 airmen. Five were from Patrick AFB.

On the first anniversary of this tragedy there were memorials worldwide, media replays and commemorative events. At Eglin AFB, 12 of the 19 were remembered at the dedication of an awesome memorial wall. On the same day, after the dedication, the families of the Eglin victims traveled to Orlando and met with the other survivors. It was an emotional weekend of caring and sharing, but very disturbing for the families of the other 7. The 71st came to Orlando and presented a plaque that was on display for all to see and then moved it to their new home at Moody. **Patrick AFB did nothing!**

GROUND WORK IS DONE

Almost immediately after viewing the photos and videos from family members it struck the rest of the people that the bases should have gotten together and planned their memorials. Since this was not done, I contacted Eglin and to capsulize the past 3 months activities in this area, Eglin has agreed to sharing their plans, drawings, names of subcontractors, and whatever else is needed for a replica wall to be erected at Patrick. Eglin has also agreed to add an additional "generic" panel to their wall to list the other 7 names. Funding for the new panel will come from their donated monies. A lot of time and work was donated to complete this effort, there were fundraising events organized by the base and community. Total hard cost was estimated at only \$200,000.

COST FACTOR

Estimated costs should be just over \$100,000 of which some funds should come from the Air Force, drawings and preliminary work will be donated, and the retired community surrounding the local area should be willing to do some minor fundraising. I'm sure if we have the land to carry out the plan, the money should follow. PAFB should have some funds to contribute as I think I read \$30,000 was set aside for the "add on" memorial. City Gas Company will donate a line for an Eternal Flame.

REQUEST

This meeting is intended for us to ask for the parcel of land in front of the hospital to use to erect a replica of the Memorial Wall at Eglin on a smaller scale. Ideally, a 6 panel wall would fill the bill, one panel devoted to each murdered airman from Patrick and the 6th to list the other 14 names. Our reason behind this special request is the special circumstances. No, we do not plan to build a memorial to every airman who dies as it was put to us by one of your men. *Terrorism is a threat to all mankind, it is real and it happens at home. Special recognition is needed and will be seen by so many if placed on the well traveled road to the hospital, commissary and bx. This is needed as a Wake Up call to all!*

You can become the hero by understanding why the chosen site for the Memorial Wall is needed and then getting behind the effort to make this plan become a reality.

One page of several notes that were delivered to General Starbuck and Florida Today Newspaper. The request was followed by local TV and then a meeting in Washington. The 4 years of relentless persistence paid off and the memorial is meaningful. We never did get the prime location we asked for. Early promises turned into later excuses.

REASONS TO JUSTIFY THE MEMORIAL WALL AT PATRICK AFB

The "alternative plan" as it has been referred to by high ranking officers, has merit. This plan is for PAFB to redeem itself with the military community, it is to recognize 5 men from this base who died in a senseless act of terrorism, and it is to serve as a Wake Up Call for everyone who drives by this high traffic location. **TERRORISM IS REAL!**

Very recent construction of rebuilding the South Gate to include the renovation of the existing guard house to serve as a new Visitor's Center. Cost of this project is \$345,000.

Picture this---drive through South Gate by new Visitor's Center on way to Hospital, BX and Commissary, *pass the Memorial Wall and reflect on life.* This wall will serve as a reminder to all just how precious life is and how quickly things can change. The parking lot is already in place at the hospital for visitors who wish to walk up to visit the wall.

The Memorial Plaza that is in place and was planned for a specific purpose. This is primarily for use by the military for the military and not for public viewing and was approved for Air Force wide recognition of Medal of Honor recipients. To "add on" to their park would dilute the reason for its being and not pay homage to the victims of terrorism. To "add on" a piece of Khobar Towers is a nice but simple gesture to fulfill an obligation but it would not serve the purpose, which is to be a daily reminder that tragedy can strike home. Of course this can be done in addition to the wall.

PAFB has received a lot of negative press lately and it is because of a lack of understanding. This is an opportunity for PAFB to serve the entire community, military and retired, for many years to come. Plans and some funding should be in place. We can discuss this in detail once a decision about the land/location is determined.

We have been a military family forever and have a great respect and understanding of the system. That is the reason for today's meeting, to convey the feelings of the victims families to the commander of the base. *There is nothing worse than a sudden death in the military.* It is tragic and high profile and especially difficult when it is known it could have been avoided. To ask for a remembrance equal to what has been done for 12 of the 19 is not an unreasonable request, it is a request to build what should have been completed last summer and dedicated on the anniversary date, as in the case of the sister base.

Show the community you care. Let the world never forget those who died for their country. This is not about families taking center stage, it is about caring and remembering for years to come. Enclosed are a sampling of articles that apply to Khobar Towers special recognition. Aside from the fanfare at Eglin, have you seen the memorial at McQuire AFB? This was in place a year ago, inscribed with 19 names and a full blown dedication ceremony was held to honor these heroes, NONE of which was from that base.

Recognition has been world wide, another reason for the negative press locally. The base that housed 5 of the 19, overlooked the anniversary and wants to consolidate additional remembrances as an "add on" to the Medal of Honor memorial park. We aren't asking for any more than what should have already been done.

Thank you for considering this request, on behalf of the survivors, I remain,

Sincerely,
Dan and Gary Heiser

Families rail for airmen tribute

Patrick efforts not enough to quell Saudi attack losses

By Frank Oliveri
FLORIDA TODAY

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE — Patrick's slow efforts to memorialize five of its airmen killed in the June 25, 1996, terrorist bombing in Saudi Arabia have caused some hard feelings among family members of the dead.

Those feelings were further tweaked when Eglin Air Force Base — on the first anniversary of the bombing — dedicated a 12-panel, \$200,000 memorial, one for each of their airmen killed in the attack. The money was raised from donations.

Family members of the Saudi victims said Patrick's plans for a memorial next year are an afterthought, unbefitting the sacrifices made by their loved ones.

"It's been over a year and the anniversary came and went, and there were commemorative things all over the country and Patrick didn't do anything," said Fran Heiser of Palm Coast, whose son, Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Heiser, was killed in the blast.

"They said they already had plans under way for a memorial park, and they were going to add on an area. It doesn't seem right. One base does something so large and one does nothing, and an add-on isn't acceptable."

Patrick officials said a memorial to the airmen who died in the Khobar Towers bombing will be included in the new Memorial Plaza.

In addition, an Airman's Memorial near the main gate will be moved to the plaza, and another memorial will be dedicated to five airmen lost in an April 1984 crash of an H-3 helicopter that was supporting a missile test launch off the coast. Those efforts will cost the government \$30,000, Patrick officials said.

"The location of the current plaza was decided after considerable thought," said Lt. Col. Brian Kuhlmann, civil engineering commander at Patrick.

See TRIBUTE, Next Page



MASTER SGT. Michael W. Goff places flowers at a \$200,000 Eglin memorial dedicated to 12 of the 19 airmen killed June 25, 1996, at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. Survivors of the five Patrick Air Force Base victims at Eglin has not constructed a similar monument to their loved ones.

Dedication ceremony

The dedication of the Memorial Plaza will take place today at Patrick Air Force Base, beginning at 3:30 p.m. It is not open to the public, but those with normal access to the base may attend. The affair concludes at 4:45 p.m.

Memorial dedication at PAFB set

By Frank Oliveri
FLORIDA TODAY

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE — Shirley Sheerer, 43, of Palm Bay often gets strange looks when she tells people she was a Women's Army Corps veteran.

WACs were best known for their service during World War II and their portrayals in numerous Bob Hope wartime movies.

"Whenever I said I was in Vietnam, people don't treat me as they do other WACs," Sheerer said. "They think a WAC is a World War II veteran."

Sheerer and numerous other veterans will carry colors in a parade as a part of Patrick Air Force Base's Memorial Plaza dedication today. Numerous veterans' organizations will take part. Members of the 45th Space Wing also will attend.

"As WACs, we feel we owe it to other military people to show our appreciation that they gave their lives," Sheerer said. "And sometimes we get very upset that our country forgets."

The event will serve many purposes, Patrick officials said.

It will highlight those who gave their lives in war, recognition of POW/MIA Day on Friday and the Air Force's 50th anniversary, which will be celebrated Saturday.

The memorial also will honor the five Patrick airmen killed last year in the bombing of an American installation in Saudi Arabia.

"The Women's Army Corps and a host of other veteran groups will participate in the ceremony," said Lt. Ken Hoffman, Patrick spokesman. "The Women's Army Corps will be here to represent all women"

With hindsight being such a wonderful tool, you can only wonder if more attention had been paid to the early warnings if maybe some of the later events might have been prevented. Honoring the dead is one way of paying attention. It's just an awareness thing.

Michael J. Coleman publisher
Judy Pace Christie executive editor
Melinda Meers managing editor
Pam Platt editorial page editor



"Our goal is to help you preserve the best traditions of this historic Birthplace of the Space Age and to help you ensure that all Brevard County will realize the full potential for its bright tomorrow."

-Allen H. Neuharth, Florida Today Founder, March 21, 1966

OUR VIEWS

Community needs to contribute to fund for fallen Patrick airmen

Christopher J. Adams, captain, son.
Tim Heun, captain, husband, father.
Michael Heiser, master sergeant, son.
Kevin Johnson, staff sergeant, husband, father.
Justin Wood, airman first class, son.
Names, military ranks and human relationships only begin to describe the five men from Patrick Air Force Base who were killed almost two years ago when their living quarters at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia became their death chambers after a terrorist attack. A truck laden with explosives detonated outside the towers, killing 19 airmen — 12 from Eglin Air Force Base, five from Patrick and two others from air bases in Nebraska — and wounding hundreds of others.

To contribute

A community drive for the memorial at Patrick Air Force Base for the five airmen who were killed in a terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia has been initiated by the Air Force Association/Cape Canaveral Chapter. The group also will

Base, five from Patrick and two others from air bases in Nebraska — and wounding hundreds of others. The shock waves from that blast are felt still. Anniversaries come and go for family members. Other milestones are observed and filed away. Always, there is a space, a hurtful space, where the men used to be. Fran Heiser, who lives in

Since the five airmen from Patrick were killed, an effort to memorialize them at Patrick Air Force Base has suffered fits, starts and full stops. The latest roadblock: An obscure law prevents government money from being used for memorials. The \$90,000 earmarked by the Air Force for the Patrick memorial — which was to have been dedicated in just a few weeks — has not and will not come through. Work on the memorial remains at a standstill.

Until now. Enter Chris Bailey, president of the 1,600-member Air Force Association/Cape Canaveral Chapter, a nonprofit organization whose membership includes active-duty and retired military members, and civilian supporters of the Air Force like Bailey, a business executive.

After exhausting other avenues of inquiry into getting the funds, Bailey and the AFA have initiated the Khobar Towers Memorial Fund and opened a bank account to accept tax-deductible donations from the public for building the memorial. The goal for the fund is \$90,000. The timetable for construction depends on us.

Bailey says the design for the memorial is complete. It takes four months to custom order and quarry the granite for the memorial, and two months to build it. But, Bailey says, none of this can happen until \$90,000 is in the bank.

Enter all of us. The men who died in Saudi Arabia lived in our community. Patrick Air Force Base is an important member of our community. All of us, as American citizens, have benefited from the anonymous bravery of our armed forces.

Only now it's not anonymous. We know the five names of five men who lived here and died far away. As Bailey says, "They went there for all of us, not just for the guys in the green suits." That is why in the coming days and weeks, the AFA will be contacting more than just veterans groups to become involved in this community drive to honor the Patrick airmen. And that is why the community — not just the military community — needs to respond, generously, during the approximately two to three months of the fund drive.

The families are grateful for what is being undertaken.

This letter was a joke

DAVE WELDON
15TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA
COMMITTEES:
SCIENCE
VICE CHAIRMAN, SPACE SUBCOMMITTEE
BANKING
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT SUBCOMMITTEE
DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

Congre

May 18 1998

Mr. & Mrs. Fran & Gary Heiser
39 Old Kings Road North
Palm Coast, FL 32137

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Heiser:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding the Khobar Towers Memorial at Patrick AFB. Although I would appreciate this opportunity to assist you with your request, your address indicates that you are a constituent of Representative Tillie Fowler. Since I am prohibited by the rules of the House of Representatives from serving the constituents of other districts, I must respect her privilege to respond and assist you. I am referring your request to her, and I am sure she will be in contact with you shortly.

Again, thank you for contacting me. With my regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

Dave Weldon
Member of Congress

DW/dkt

cc: Representative Tillie Fowler
140 S. Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, FL 32176

If Congressman Weldon had even read the request he would have known Mike was his constituent and PAFB is in his area of concern

January 19, 1999

Mrs. Fran Heiser
39 Old Kings Road North
Palm Coast, FL 32137

Dear Mrs. Heiser:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Khobar Towers Memorial at Patrick Air Force Base. We have been actively working with General Starbuck and his staff at the 45th Space Wing to build the memorial. His staff have dedicated many long hours to find associations willing to undertake raising funds and to find creative and efficient ways of putting those limited dollars to best use. Patrick has a design that does honor to your son and the other airmen from the 71st Search & Rescue Squadron.

The 45th Space Wing Civil Engineer Squadron at Patrick AFB designed the memorial and set aside its allowable funds (\$25,000) to prepare the site and landscape once the memorial is completed. The local chapter of the Air Force Association raised approximately \$22,000 and the Civilian-Military Community Relations Council has stepped forward to continue the fundraiser through the end of February 1999. Memorial organizers project an additional \$13,000 worth of donations are required to start construction.

The Air Force and the 45th Space Wing men and women stand ready to execute this project once sufficient funds are obtained. I am sure that your personal efforts and enthusiasm, coupled with those of the memorial organizers will make the memorial a reality very soon.

Sincerely,

F. Whitten Peters
F. Whitten Peters
Acting Secretary of the Air Force

Daytone News Journal 1/19/99

Memorial honoring 5 dead servicemen hits funding snafu

Staff and wire report
PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE — Construction of a memorial to five airmen killed during a 1996 terrorist bombing in Saudi Arabia is on hold. Base officials set aside \$90,000 in taxpayer money for the project, but the Air Force General Counsel's Office says tax money cannot be used unless memorials have congressional approval.

The Air Force Space Command was unaware of the ruling when it reserved the money for the memorial, said base spokesman Ken Warren.

Preliminary site preparation work was under way when the project was halted. A horseshoe-shaped monument with the names of the men killed in the Khobar Towers bombing was planned.

"We have our legal people and our engineering people looking at various options, but it is too early to speculate on what might happen," Warren said Thursday. "We're disappointed that it did not come to fruition."

The suspension of the project came as a blow to the families of the five men from Patrick who were killed in the bombing.

"You'd think they would have been aware of this ruling before they started the project," said Gary Heiser of Palm Coast, who lost his son, Master Sgt. Michael Heiser.

The problem over the Patrick AFB memorial didn't come to light until the funding was questioned by officials at Eglin. They had been told they could not use taxpayer funds to build a memorial to 12 Eglin-based airmen killed in the same bombing.

One of those was Brian McVeigh, an F-15 crew chief whose mother, Sandra Wetmore, lives in DeBary.

"While I am disappointed we cannot continue on the path laid out last year, I am optimistic this community has the wherewithal to see this important endeavor to its conclusion," said Brig. Gen. Randy Starbuck, the commanding officer of Patrick's 45th Space Wing.

4A FLORIDA TODAY, Sunday, June 14, 1988

Michael J. Coleman publisher
Judy Pace Christie executive editor
Melinda Meers managing editor
Pam Platt editorial page editor

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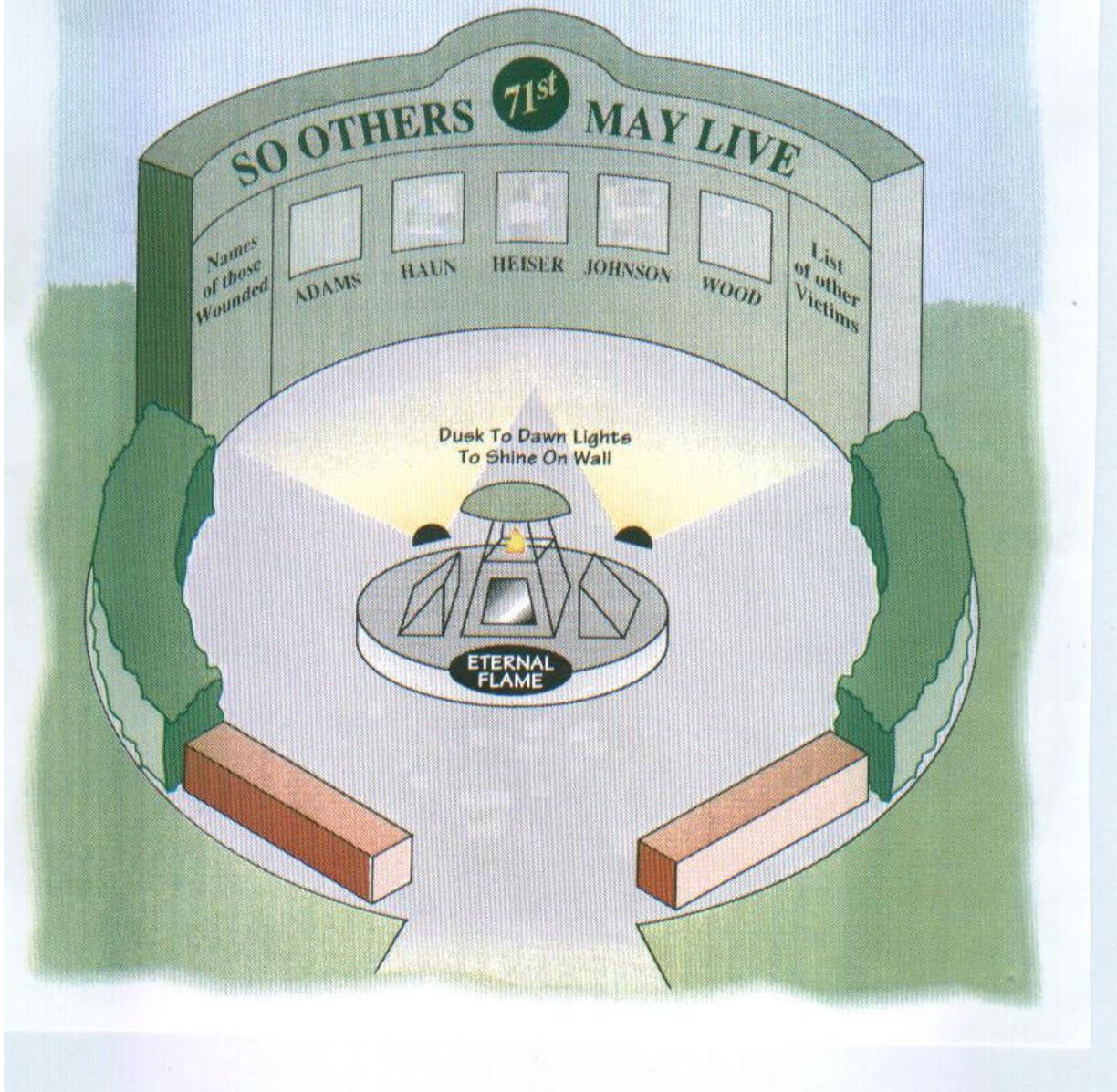
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The families are grateful for what is being undertaken.

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE Khobar Towers Victims MEMORIAL



The original draft presented to base commander from Heiser and families



6 Jul 98

Mr. and Mrs. Gary G. Heiser
39 Old Kings Road North, Suite 4
Palm Coast FL 32137

Dear Gary and Fran

Once again, it was very nice seeing you in my office last month. As I mentioned to you, the Khobar Towers Memorial is very important to me and to us as an Air Force family. I wanted to make sure you had a copy of the attached newspaper.

Sincerely

F. Randall Starbuck
F. RANDALL STARBUCK
Brigadier General, USAF
Commander, 45th Space Wing

6/27/98
Sayfara news journal
Memorial for Saudi bomb victims in debt

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE (AP) — Two years after a truck bomb killed 19 American airmen in Saudi Arabia, their families and comrades are frustrated that no one has been brought to justice. Flags were at half-staff Thursday and fresh flowers decorated a gray granite monument to 12 Egin airmen who died in the June 25, 1986 bombing.

"Whoever did it: You can run, but you can't hide because on that final day of judgment it will be revealed by God," said Staff Sgt. Patricia Broils of Salina, Kan., as she visited the memorial.

Doctors are still treating some of about 500 military personnel who were wounded. Also, a group that built the memorial at this Florida Panhandle base is deeply in debt and some of the victims' comrades are preparing to return to the Persian Gulf region.

Saudi investigators say they have evidence suggesting Saudi dissidents aided by Iran were responsible and several suspects have been arrested. U.S. officials, however, say the Saudi evidence is inconclusive and would not hold up in an American court.

"Not only don't we know anything, we are very frustrated," said Joe Assante of Hicksville, N.Y., whose cousin died in the bombing. "The word 'closure' is not in our vocabulary."

Assante's cousin was Capt. Christopher J. Adams of Massapequa, N.Y., one of five airmen from Patrick Air Force Base, on Florida's east coast, who died. A New York Times report last week that the FBI was dropping out of the investigation has added to the frustration, Assante said.

"The FBI has denied it, although not in public or to the press," Assante said. "They've denied it just to the families."

Some families also are perplexed that the Air Force has taken no disciplinary action for security lapses at the Khobar Towers housing complex.

"We still think people ought to be held accountable as to why it happened, why it wasn't prevented," Assante said. "Someone, somewhere has to be accountable."

There was no ceremony at the Egin memorial as there had been a year ago when it was dedicated to the dozen "Nomads" — members of the 33rd Fighter Wing — who perished.

044820

FRAN HEISER
39 OLD KINGS ROAD NORTH
PALM COAST, FLORIDA 32137
904-445-2254

The White House
Attn: President & Mrs Clinton

1 October 1998

Re: Request for compassionate assistance

Re: Khobar Towers Memorial

Dear Mr and Mrs Clinton,

After seeing the news this morning, titled, From Deficit to Surplus, it inspired me to ask for your help. I'm involved in an ongoing frustrating situation that needs divine intervention, or presidential approval and approximately \$100,000.

You probably remember some of our letters and requests regarding Khobar Towers. My only child was murdered that evening in an unprovoked terrorist attack. I'm sure you remember when I handed you a photo at the memorial service. On the first anniversary of this tragedy, Eglin AFB unveiled a most awesome memorial for their 12 fallen comrades. Later that day, all 19 families joined in some caring and sharing in a prearranged meeting in Orlando, FL. The Eglin group was so proud and anxious to show what their base had done for them. Then the kicker, the key question, "what did your base do for you?" The sad answer, Nothing, they forgot!

A long second year later, Patrick AFB agreed to erect a memorial for the 5 airmen from the 71st Search & Rescue who were killed at Khobar Towers. The families had requested the memorial be modeled after the one at Eglin AFB but the base prefers a smaller and simpler design. It's nice but not as impressive, and funds are a main concern. Patrick AFB finally awarded a contract for what they wanted to do for us and the AF said it can't be done with appropriated funds!. Here we are back to square one! The squadron motto is, "so others may live", I hope others will care and continue to care about those who protect and serve. That's why we asked for a nice memorial to be placed in a high traffic area on the base, where people can see it, and it can serve as a reminder that our freedom is not free.. When we heard your money management success has produced a \$70 Billion surplus, I decided to ask for your help.

That's the problem in a nutshell. After more than 2 years, fundraising is difficult. The Air Force Association stepped in to help but when so much time lapses, people tend to forget and concentrate on more current news. \$70 Billion should be exciting current news.

end of page 1



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
45TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

28 May 99

Brigadier General F. Randall Starbuck
Commander, 45th Space Wing
1201 Edward H. White II Street
Patrick AFB FL 32925-3299

Mr. and Mrs. Gary G. Heiser
39 Old Kings Road North, Suite 4
Palm Coast, FL 32137

Dear Gary and Fran



I've just returned from our annual Memorial Day ceremony here at Patrick Air Force Base. The highlight of the ceremony was breaking ground for our Khobar Towers Memorial. As you know, our memorial pays tribute to the 19 airmen who were killed on that tragic day 3 years ago. An artist's concept of the memorial is attached, and I'm pleased to let you know that we've ordered the granite.

Although the memorial will not be complete until next Spring, we've already begun planning to dedicate the memorial on Tuesday, 30 May 2000. We would very much appreciate it if you could join us for the ceremony, and look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely

F. Randall Starbuck
F. RANDALL STARBUCK
Brigadier General, USAF

Attachment:
Artist's Concept of
Khobar Towers Memorial

GUARDIANS OF THE HIGH FRONTIER



PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE

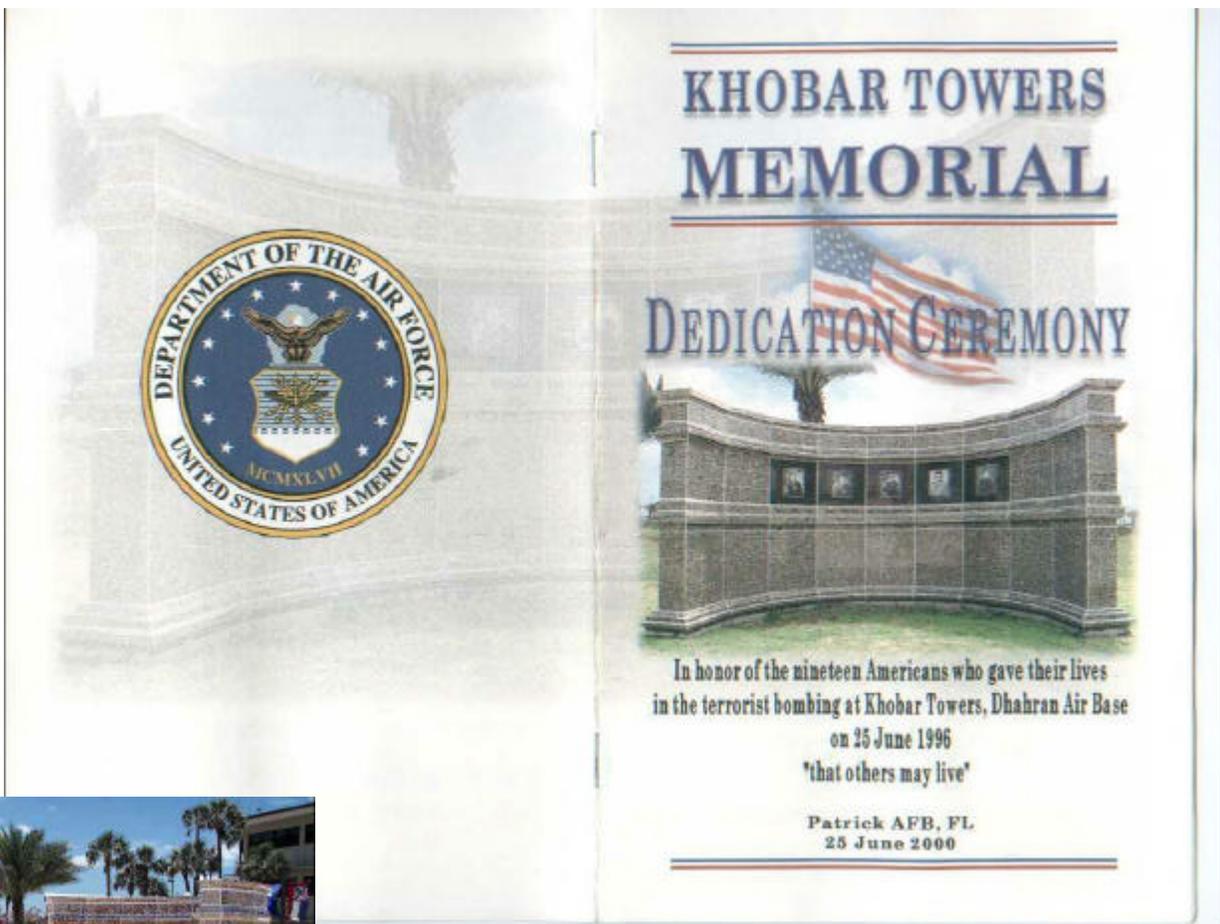
4th Anniversary

JUNE 25, 2000

Khobar Towers

Victims

Remembered



Air Force Secretary F. Whitten Peters dedicated this Memorial, at Patrick AFB on June 25, 2000.

Such a beautiful day for such a beautiful ceremony



*Families are escorted
General Pettit and Secretary
Peters salute wreath
Then, photos ops*



Khoobar Towers Memorial Dedication Ceremony



U.S. AIR FORCE

Presiding:
F. Whitten Peters
Secretary of the Air Force
&
Brig Gen Donald P. Pettit
Commander, 45th Space Wing

Narrator:
Col Thomas R. Friers

Memorial Service:
Chaplain, Lt Col James R. Gable

Music by:
The Band of the United States Air Force Reserve
&
The Patrick AFB Chapel Choir

Sequence of Events

Welcome
Entrance of the Families and Honor Party
Honors
National Anthem
HC-130 Fly-By
71st Rescue Squadron, Moody AFB, GA

Memorial Service

Scripture Reading / Remarks
"Lord, Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly"
"Amazing Grace"
Scripture Reading
"High Flight"
Closing Prayer

Dedication Ceremony

Remarks by
Brig Gen Donald P. Pettit
Remarks by
F. Whitten Peters
Laying of the Wreath
Floral Tribute
"Taps"
F-15 Missing Man Fly-By
2nd Fighter Squadron, Tyndall AFB, FL
Departure of the Families and Honor Party
"The Air Force Song"



Several friends attended from the local area as well as from Washington, Maryland and Utah. The FBI sent representatives and there were Air Force personnel everywhere as well as local political representatives.





Bottom Tracy and Rob Witt with Fran

**Group photo of special people. Left to Right
Rob and Tracy Witt, Michele and Tom Heiser, Tabitha Wallace,
Gary and Fran
Paige Wallace and Vicki Helland**

Dedicated to those
who made the ultimate sacrifice
so that others may live in freedom.

SSgt Steve Blyler

1st Lt Gregory DeLancey

SSgt Mark Collins

1st Lt Mike Henderson

Fran,
Here's the coins I promised for you and Tabitha. Hope you and Tabitha like them. I'm also enclosing a key chain with the same logo.
I've also enclosed 2 copies of a digital reproduction of the painting we have here at the school.
I have made it my mission to ensure that every individual that comes through the course here at Keesler takes a long hard look at the painting. I explain, in detail, why we have 2 aircraft, and try to say something of the events that caused the names to be added to the plaque. Of the 4 names, I taught 2 of them, and knew one other (Mike).
The plaque with the 4 names is mounted to the left of the painting. We tried to take a picture of it, but it just wouldn't turn out. I've enclosed an etching I tried to do today. It didn't turn out very good, sorry.
Take care.



A remembrance at Keesler AFB. Sent by someone who knew Mike and his friends. The plaque is to remember all who died after having attended classes at this base.

