



The Unofficial SF-88 Volunteers Newsletter News and Happenings at SF-88 - Nov 2023



Al Blank and Dick Huey Sept 28 2023

Goodbye to Ranger Al Blank, SF-88 2013 – 2023

**A Great Story Teller, Viet Nam Veteran
and Leader of SF-88.**

Happy Retirement from NPS. You will be missed.

We have had many good times during the last decade. 4th of July Picnics, many special tours, and changes to the site. Ranger Al was a people person and always kept morale at a high level.

We welcome, Vassar Terry, who has been with us for some time, and our new Ranger Yea Vang, who came to us from Joshua Tree Nat'l Monument, along with their Supervisor, Ranger James Grof.

We also have a new Nike Veteran Volunteer, Al Beerbaum, who hails from Walnut Creek. Here is his Nike Background.

I served from 1971 to 1974. After 22 weeks training for MOS 24U (Nike Hercules Electronic Maintenance) I was held over as an instructor in the warhead section for 1 1/2 years. I spent the final year as a maintenance man on site in Dexheim, Germany. I was able to attain the spectacular height of rank Spec 4.

We Welcome Al to our Nike Volunteer Family!

Other Happenings.....

Dave Kreutzinger recently gave a special tour to Stanford University.

Ed Thelen, although home bound, is still with us in spirit and on his Nike website Ed-Thelen.org Here is a pic of Ed....



On the Maintenance side, Alec Gyorfi and myself come out on Wednesday to do maintenance work on the site.

Al Kellogg also mows the lawn and has done much work on the dog kennels. Duane Fey comes on Saturday and is welding the pieces for the Nike Ajax display.

Our current project is replacement of the A pit sump pump.

Enclosed is a picture of the housing that was painted before installing the motor.



This is just one of the many projects on our “To Do” list.

Here is a pic of Volunteer Duane Fey welding the launcher rails for the Ajax display in A pit.



And a note of thanks to our Museum Curator, Amanda Williford. We appreciate the help she gives us with our Nike System Technical Manuals and our Nike Museum Items.

Visitors from all over the world come to see SF-88.

One recent visitor was the Mayor of Folgaria Italy. Mr. Michael Rech.

In his district is another Nike Missile Museum. Base Tuono
<https://www.basetuono.it/en/>

This was a NATO Nike Missile Site for the Italian Air Force.
The Nike Air Defense System was active in Italy until 2009.

He was so impressed with our SF-88 Museum that he wrote a letter and hoped we would become sister sites.

This request has been forwarded to NPS Management.

This Un-Official Newsletter will be published as a means to communicate the news of the site.

Many of us show up on different days and often do not see each other.

Please let me know any news or upcoming events at SF-88, Question or comments, or if something needs repair.

Together, we all help to tell the story of our nation's First-Generation missile defense system.

Greg Brown NPS-SF-88 Volunteer

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Ranger Al Blank at the 4th of July Picnic which he hosted.

