

# Ding HAO

Monthly Meeting

3RD PURSUIT  
FRIENDS  
SQUADRON  
Upland, Ca.

June 2011

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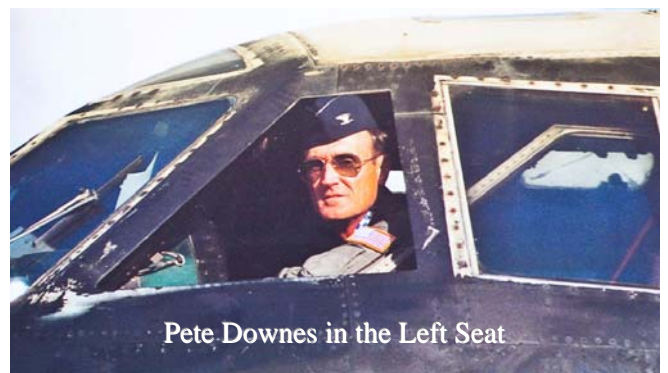
## 3rd Pursuit June Meeting Special Presentation



### Third Pursuit was Fortunate to Learn About “BUFF” at the June Meeting!

Inland Empire Wing member Pete Downes gave us a great presentation on the history, past function and the future of the B-52, known affectionately as BUFF. Pete flew B-52s out of U-Tapao airbase in Thailand during the Vietnam conflict from an 11,500 foot runway along with U-2s {that were not there!?!} The aircraft were on loan from the 8th Air Force. They were assisted and pro-

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Pete Downes in the Left Seat



(Continued from page 1)

ected by the EB-66 electronic countermeasure aircraft that were used to detect and jam North Vietnamese radar. On takeoff, they flew over the Gulf of Siam, making it a “little noisy” in the restaurant at the end of the runway.

The history of the B-52 began in 1945 when the requirements were set out. One of the first aircraft to attempt to fill the requirements was the Boeing 462, a straight wing bomber with turboprop engines. Through the years, the requirements and capabilities of the aircraft changed, the program was nearly cancelled but went on to produce the current B-52H model that Pete flew over the years. At the same time the B-47 was being developed but eventually lost out to the B-52. Changes such as swept wings with tip tanks, a side-by-side cockpit instead of the original tandem cockpit and the first eight-jet aircraft took place gradually.

There was a specially designed B-52 that set the record for the longest flight of over 12,000 miles that was only overtaken by Dick Rutan in Voyager in his round-the-world unrefueled flight.



U Tapao Airbase is shown in red. Clearly the route to Viet Nam involve overflying Cambodia and/or Laos.

Some of the interesting information on the BUFF is the fact that the ejection seats send 4 of the crew upward while two are sent downward. Better not eject close to the ground unless you are one of the four! The wings lift 18 feet when flying compared to their position on the ground. It is capable of carrying two of the huge B53 nuclear bombs that were in the several megaton explosive range. The guns are radar as well as optically controlled. In Viet Nam, one was shot down by MIGs and

there was a single midair collision. It took 150 man-hours of preparation for each hour of flight time to keep them flying. Their airfoil surfaces have many vortex generators. The B-52H model was upgraded to turbofan engines and can be recognized by the nacelle shape.



**B-52 The 'Big Stick' of Freedom For 55 Years**



**YB-52**



Bombs were released 20-30 miles before the targets were reached and would fly the distance from altitude to the targets. Some of the flights were also protected by the F-105s that attacked and took out the SAM sites.



As you can see, they even associated with the Navy for the benefit of all our Navy & Marine retirees!



We thank Pete for the great presentation and all the information that most of us never knew. Most of all for his service in keeping things safe for those of us who were on the ground. Perhaps the most fascinating part of the whole thing is that the government is planning to keep the B-52s in service through 2044.

***That means that it will be 100 hundred years old when {or if} it finally retires!!!!***



B-52 with the B-1 Lancer and the B-2 Spirit Bombers



# The Meeting

Although several of our regulars were missing, we had a good turnout and a fun meeting. Marian ran the meeting while Dennis served the refreshments.



The meal was excellent as usual and served with flowers on the serving table. We had our good friends doing the catering and fun was had by all.



Of course, no meeting would be complete without

***"A FEW WORDS FROM LOUD PIPES!!"***



We were truly pleased to hear from Bud.

Some of the coming events that Bud told us about are:

**Fontana Airshow on July 4**

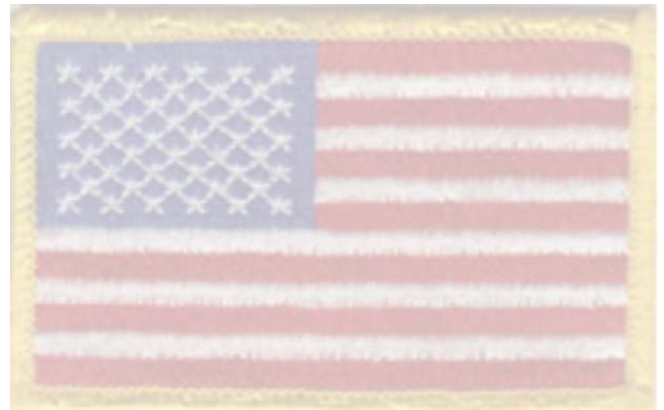
**El Toro Airshow on July 8**

**Midland Raiders July 16  
at 3rd Pursuit meeting**

**Riverside Airshow July 23**

**Big Bear Airshow August 6**

**Midland flight October 4**



**Friends of The 3rd Pursuit Squadron**

1749 W. 13th St.  
Upland, CA 91786

**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING**

**JULY 16**

**Regular 3rd Pursuit Meeting!!!**

**Midland Raiders**

**Meeting Saturday  
7-16-2011  
Please Note:  
Details to follow**

**Next General Meeting July 16th at 5:30 PM.  
Location: the 3rd Pursuit building on the air-  
port entrance street next to the Quonset hut.**

***DINNER MENU***

***TO BE ANNOUNCED***