

On October 7, 2011 50+ former (from the 1960s) England Air Force Base supply troops gathered in Alexandria, Louisiana for another memorable reunion. They traveled from all over the United States to meet and share stories and adventures of those great years at England Air Force Base (EAFB). A quarter (25%) of the group, after completing their years of service returned to the area and established careers and raised families. EAFB & Louisiana was too hot, too humid, too much rain, too many insects and a place we thought we wanted to leave; now it brings us back with great, exciting memories.

One of the weekend activities was a tour of the old base, as we toured the EAFB, we noticed some buildings remain:

The Movie theatre, where we attended a movie for 25 cents and if your buddy worked there, a free popcorn and drink.

The Community Center, a place we could gather for donuts, coffee and reading The Town Talk & the famous Tiger Talk on Sunday morning.

The Chapel, seems unlikely that this place would be remembered but it became home away from home and many of the group remember their wedding in this building.

The Supply Barracks, even though the years have aged the building, many fond memories remain as lifetime friends were established in that building.

The Chow Hall, a place that should have supplied 3 meals a day but was the supplier of 4 solid meals (and some were good) for most of us. You had to beat the Air Force System to get that 4th meal but we kept a uniform ready for mid-night chow.

Some buildings are gone as they were caught in the transition from England Air Base to England Airpark.

Base Supply – once a big metal structure that was behind the supply barracks and offered work space for most of us. Our boss, Major Pianowski was the USAF Supply Officer of the Year in 1964 because of our accurate, creative accounting. His prior instructions with a “butt chewing”, when a dozen pair of sunglasses were missing, was that the records always had to match the inventory count. We now understood Air Force accounting and proper procedures in requisitioning all supplies.

The Airmen’s Pool, a place we entertained each other and any female that would have the bravery of John Wayne and the looks of Sandra Dee.

The Bowling Alley, which proudly stood near the base theatre and had great hot dogs and activities for a group of guys just looking for fun. Also, if your buddy worked at the bowling alley, there was always special pricing on food. The current bowling alley that operates at England Airpark was built in 1975 and replaced the old bowling alley.

As we walked through the base and shared stories, we commented on how some of the buildings had aged but agreed that some of us had done the same. Time moves forward and

things change but the friendships developed at good ole' EAFB have maintained and are as strong today. Those years at EAFB were a very formative time for a group of young men trying to define their identity in a structured Air Force engaged and active in the Viet Nam War. We had to stay together and pull together and that's what we did, even until this day.

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