

*Missions for America
Semper vigilans!
Semper volans!*



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CURRENT EVENT

The A-29C Super Tucano has been added to the inventory of the USAF Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB. It will not only be used for pilot training by also as a testing aircraft for weapons, sensors and mission systems. The aircraft is a product of Embraer, a Brazilian aircraft manufacturer and built under license by the Sierra Nevada Corporation.

*(Iredit: USAF/Jennifer
Healy)*



WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Lieutenant Colonel Erik Nelson



Former TRCS Cadet Commander Erik Nelson is bound for Whiteman AFB. He is currently on temporary duty at Sheppard AFB attending a maintenance course for operational commanders, and will assume command of the 509th Maintenance Squadron at Whiteman AFB, Missouri on July 23rd, 2025 until January 2026.



*Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall
congratulates Erik on his promotion to
lieutenant colonel*

The 509th Maintenance Squadron provides logistics and maintenance support capabilities for B-2 bomber mission operations. This squadron also performs on/off aircraft maintenance on B-2 systems and components.



Embry-Riddle Diamond DA 42-VI used for multi-engine training

He spent November and December re-qualifying to fly the T-38A, then started B-2A initial qualification training (IQT) in January and graduated IQT in June.

In May, Noah attended the National Intercollegiate Flying Association National Competition representing Embry Riddle and competed in the Simulated Navigation, Crew Resource Management, and Traditional Navigation events. He won first place in the Traditional Navigation event and the team placed 6th overall.



Erik is married to Alexis and they have a daughter, Emma Paige.



Bosse with award certificate and mustachio

Noah Bosse

Noah Bosse, former TRCS Cadet Commander is studying at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Florida.

He has earned his multi-engine rating and working on the flight instructor credentials. He also works as a ground instructor.

Art Dammers

Lt Col Art Dammers has retired after 15 years in the CTWG and five in the NCWG.

While at CTWG, he worked as the Internal AEO for the Director of Aerospace Activity and provided invaluable support to our aerospace activities such as the Annual Commanders Cup Rocket contests and field trips to Washington, D.C., the USS Intrepid Sea, Air and Space museum, and Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Charlie Ration Cook Book

or

No Food is to Good for the Man Upfront

About 20 years back, Shawn Carpenter and I were cruising around North America on one of our eccentric meanderings visiting air museums, natural wonders and obscure historic sites. Both of us were teachers and we combined our wanderings with our annual participation in the National Rifle Matches at Camp Perry Ohio.

Shawn had done little traveling and it was a pleasure to, using an old phrase, “see the elephant” and observe his wonder when he first glimpsed a glacier, the Hoover Dam or the goose necks of the San Juan.

Anyway, we had a invitation to visit Avery Island, Louisiana, the home of Tabasco Sauce. The invitation was tendered by the company historian. My brother had written a biography of Brig. Gen. Walter Stauffer McIlhenny, the company president which focused on his marksmanship abilities, a phase of his life not part of the company's records.



Upon arriving at the company plant on Avery Island, we were given a royal tour: the production facilities, his command car, the salt mine, his skeet field and a visit with the company chemist.. We

were also allowed to pay our respects at his place of burial.

McIlhenny held a reserve commission in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve. During World War II, he fought under Lt. Col Merritt (Red Mike) Edson, 1st Raider Battalion at the Battle of Edson's Ridge, a successful defense of Guadalcanal's Henderson Field. Edson was awarded the Medal of Honor to go with his two Navy Crosses.

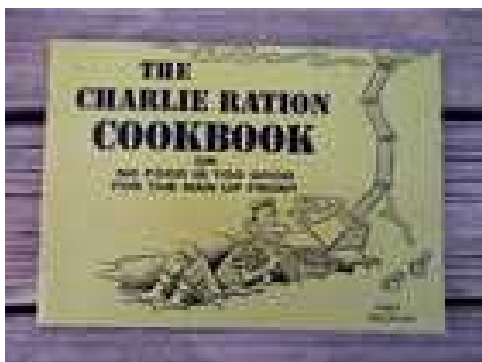


Red Mike Edson

McIlhenny, known as Tabasco Mac, was a captain on “the Canal” and he earned a Navy Cross and a Silver Star. As a competitive rifleman, he held the Distinguished Marksman badge, participated on the USMC team and won five major events at the National Rifle Championships.



During the Vietnam unpleasantness, a number of appeals from troops led to the writing and publication for recipes which would make the C ration more palatable. The book, *The Charlie Ration Cookbook* subtitled *No Food is too Good for the Man Up Front* as printed with a camouflaged cover, and profusely illustrated with cartoon.



The pamphlets were wrapped around two ounce Tabasco bottles and shipped to the troops. Each addition contained around 20 recipes such as “Foxhole Dinner for Two”, “Combat Burgoo” and “Cease Fire Casserole.” The reader can access the full list at:

<https://cherrieswriter.com/2018/01/09/vietnam-c-ration-cook-book/>

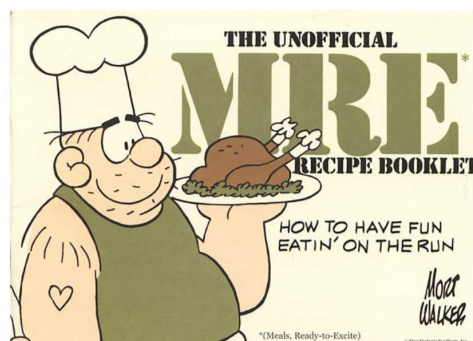
The Author's personal experiences eating decades old “Cs” purchased from military surplus stores has been distasteful. I recall a canned pound cake that had been reduced to a crumbly mass of flakes with no taste whatsoever. The best I found were the malted milk tablets. The coffee met sub-minimal standards and the snipes in the engine room of a destroyer might drink it although the coffee they brewed using engine steam was dense enough to float an anchor. The most valuable acquisition from the C ration packets was a P-38 can opener (officially: Opener, Can, Hand, Folding, Type I) which I lost in the Andes Mountains a long time ago.



During the 1980s, Tabasco produced *Meals Ready-to-Excite* (MRE) shipped with a complementary two ounce of Tabasco.



Cartoonist Mort Walker illustrated the publication with Beetle Bailey characters. Many MREs used to come with a plastic bottle of Tabasco but now a packet has replaced the bottle.

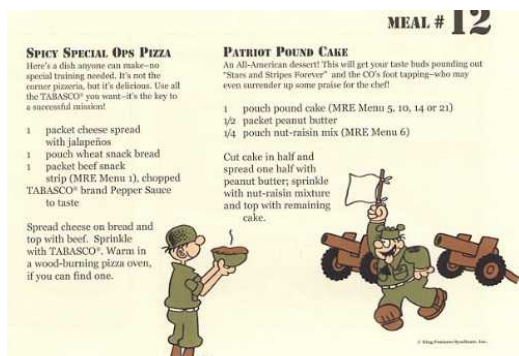


The reader can find a copy of this publication at:

https://720mpreunion.org/history/index_assets/mre/MRE%20Unofficial%20Recipe%20Booklet.pdf

There are two dozen delicacies listed with names

such as “Paratrooper Pot Luck Pie,” “Checkpoint Chicken Chow Mein” and “Oh-Say-Can-You-See Tea.”



There is a warning that the kevlar helmet is an unsuitable replacement for the old tin pot formerly used to heat the C rations.



Any way, if you sit down in most military mess hall today, I can guarantee the you will find a bottle of Tabasco sauce or one or two of its imitators standing in ranks like soldiers on parade ready to add gustatory pleasure to the incredible offerings or chow served up by the staff.

Reader Comments on SPAM and C Rats

Yes, I do like SPAM!! Staple food when I was a youngster.

Lynn Gurchilk

I loved the SPAM article. I don't think I ever had the Ham and Lima Beans C-ration. Beanie Weenies was cherished and my personal favorite was the green eggs and ham.

Dr. Phil Kohanski

CAP'S NATIONAL ARTIST

Maj Ron Finger of the MNWing is producing a series of paintings depicted aircraft used by CAP. Here are four multi-engine CAP planes.



CAP TIMELINE FLIGHT

Cessna 310E N5243G

©1985 CAP NFG, Maxwell AFB, Alabama © 2021 Ron Finger, ronfinger.com

The 310F was a military version of the 310F later the U-3B (Blue Canoe). Thirty-six were built.



CAP TIMELINE FLIGHT

Beechcraft C-45H Expeditor N9154R

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The C-45 design was based upon the Beech Model 18. The C-45H was an AT-7s (Navigator) or AT-11s (Kansan) of which 432 aircraft were built.



CAP TIMELINE FLIGHT

Grumman G-44A Widgeon NC28671

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The Widgeon G-44 was designate JRF by the Navy and OA-10 by the the USAAC and the USCG..317 left the Grumman Bethpage and the French Société de Constructions Aéro Navale (SCAN)