



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 "THE WOODLANDS POST" THE BUGLE



MARCH 2017

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 3

THINK NOT OF THE PRICE OF YOUR DUES; THINK OF THE PRICE YOU PAID TO BE ELIGIBLE

POST COMMANDER VICTORIA GLOVER



COMMANDER'S CORNER

March has made its way here. February was not as busy as prior months. We started out with the loss of our dear comrade **Dave Lips** on February 4th and with his Celebration of Life held on February 11th. Then, at our monthly meeting, the two Chaplains conducted the Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony.

During our Executive Committee meeting, we decided to hold a separate meeting on March 1st in regards to fundraising ideas; your ideas are welcome. We already do the rummages sales and Birdies for Charity. The rummage sales seem to be declining over the years in sales. Birdies is currently running through the last week of March. If you would like to participate please contact **Jim Bolin**.

We had an officer position open with **Pete Koch** stepping down as First Vice Commander. I have officially appointed **Jim Bolin** as my First Vice being he already stepped up to do the position. With this appointment, Second Vice is now vacant. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer for this position. I know that several of our members have held positions throughout the years in the Post. I know I am asking a lot when it comes to volunteering, but it would be nice to see our members become actively involved.

As several of you know, I have been in the process of moving. As I sift through all our stuff, memories of the past come flooding back. It brings back the vivid memories of the PCS moves (Permanent Change of Station). You never know how much you have collected until you must pack it all up and move. I remember when I left Guam, after my two-year assignment there, over to a ship in San Diego, I ended up having to ship most of my stuff home but had to sell quite a bit of items. Even though I was not in a house but in a barracks, I still built up a lot.

When we are young and just get started on our military career, we can fit our life in a duffel bag, but by the end of our journey we have several boxes to ship home along with footlockers, duffel bags and suit

cases. We store it in the attics and storage rooms as we move on in life. I know I came across some old photos that I forgot I had and there are several stories there waiting to be told. Culling through items to keep and throw out gets harder and harder as you build your memories. Moving time is always a busy time but you should never be too busy to stop and revisit your memories and friends. Strolling through memory lane is always fun and even better when you can share it with your friends and family.

Until next time, let us ever be reminded to never forget our fallen, POW/MIA's, veterans and active duty troops and their families. Keep them and our first responders in our prayers!

**Victoria Glover
Commander**

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (February 16, 2017)

Commander Victoria Glover called the meeting to order and conducted the usual opening ceremony, aided by **Chaplain Larry Reynolds** and **Sergeant-at-Arms Bruce Carter**. The first order of business was to pay respects to the late **David J. Lips**, who was a long-time Post member. He went to his Maker in February. The Post Charter was draped in his honor and memory.

The **Sergeant-at-Arms** stated to the **Commander** that a quorum was present (12 members) and that the Post was secure. The minutes of the two recent meetings had been distributed and read individually. By motions and voice vote both the minutes of the January 19th Membership meeting and the February 13th Executive Committee meeting were adopted.

Although no guests were present, a new Post member was: US Army veteran **Murray A. Marks. Marks** joined up at the January 21 Open House (along with five others).

Commander Glover called on **Finance Officer Emery Heuermann**, who had distributed copies of his summary report to those assembled. He described the more significant entries of January and stated the General Fund closed the month with \$8,788.07. The Investment Fund was then at \$31,744.12, giving a total liquid assets of \$40,532.19. Need for a correction on the Boys State line item was noted by **Everett Ison**. Given that, the report was adopted by motion and voice vote, subject to audit. **Emery** then turned to the matter of the Spring Rummage Sale, scheduled for April 21/22. Our net take last fall was poor, giving the Post around \$900. We suffer now from low quality and quantity of sale goods in the storage lockers. We need more attractive stock, bigger ticket items, better quality of donations, and, in general, more desirable stuff. We are overly blessed with such items as portable telephones, wrong seasonal items, CRT TV's, LP records, jelly glasses, T-shirts, handbags and Studebaker curb feelers!

Second Vice Commander Jim Bolin was next up, sitting in for the vacant First Vice position and giving the Membership Report, the status of dues payments in particular. He stated that within the 7th District, our Post is in third place in goal achievement, with 254 paid members or 78.9% of goal. (In December, we were at 6th place of the 17 Posts in the District.) He fervently hoped that our climb would continue apace, but, by experience, the last 30% is the most difficult to achieve.

Jim went on and made a pitch for donations to the 2017 "Birdies For Charity" fund drive. He had distributed pledge or donation forms whereon players enter their guess(es) of the total number of "birdies" to be made at the Shell Houston Open Golf Tournament. He emphasized that all pledge forms must reach him at or before the March 16th membership meeting. This is an important fundraiser for the Post and Unit, and it is a solid charity which helps our youth. The total amount donated returns to our coffers once the winner is known and all pledges fulfilled.

The **Adjutant** had nothing to report. **Chaplain Reynolds** cited Post member **Ray Parker**, who is in recovery but is walker-bound. **Judge Advocate Everett Ison** reminded members of The Woodlands Flea Market & Garage Sale on March 18th. If the Post or the Unit intends to be a vendor, it will need a ticket for a booth (at \$50). The location is The Woodlands Pavilion Parking Garage. **Service Officer Toby Carroll** reported on his attendance at the Department's Mid-Winter Conference, where he



THE BUGLE

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Monthly Meetings: The Post and Auxiliary meet at the South County Community Center in The Woodlands at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month, except in October*. The Center is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Lake Robbins Drive and Grogan's Mill Road, next to the library. Meetings are followed by a pot-luck supper provided by the Auxiliary.

*In October, a combined, short meeting precedes the Annual Picnic in Shadowbend Park.

connected with other Service Officers there. He cited Department reps in Waco and Houston who were most helpful. He tried to liberate more copies of VA's 2016 benefits booklet but only got two. He also cited several of the VA's benefit programs, like "VA's Emergency Assistance" and "VA Plus".

Historian Lacey Homan was absent, out of state, and the two At-Large Committeemen, **Dayton Denton** and **Art Eipper**, were also absent. **Commander Glover** reported on the January 21 Open House and described it as a success, although the attendance did not reach the 2014 numbers. Both the Post and the Auxiliary did snag a few new members – the Post signed up six; two new Legionnaires and four transfers from Post 345. The Auxiliary gained two new members. These increases were less than the 2014 affair realized, but eight is better than none.

Under "New Business", **Past Post and Past District Commander Kim Biggerstaff** stated she would be campaigning for election as the Department's Sergeant-at-Arms. She sought her Post's endorsement, and it was heartily given in the form of a resolution. (Kim is currently the Department's Ass't Sergeant-at-Arms.) The **Commander**, continuing, called attention to the Spring Convention of the 7th District, which will take place at Post 84 in Madisonville. Officers intending to attend need to be made delegates. In response to a question, she agreed that the Post would contribute a bottle of spirits to the "booze wagon", per tradition. At that, **Emery Heuermann** offered to donate

such gift from his vast cellar. That was accepted and thanks were given. The mail brought a request for donations to Klein Oak High School JROTC to help support the cadet's ball. No action was taken.

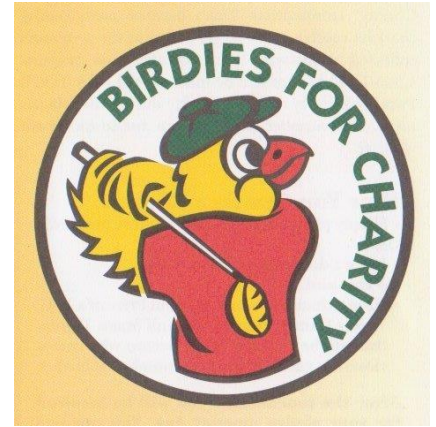
The **Commander** announced that a special meeting will be held at the SCCC on March 1st at 7:00 PM to brainstorm "fundraising". Any Post member who may have interest and ideas is welcome to attend and participate. There followed a short discussion of non-profit veteran charities, specifically "No One Left Behind" and "Wounded Warriors", the latter now clear of adverse criticism.

Lastly, **Commander Glover** appointed **Second Vice Commander Jim Bolin** to **First Vice Commander**, a position left vacant when **Pete Koch** resigned due to health issues. The **Commander** then called for any volunteer to take over the Second Vice slot, where the primary duties are Post Activities.

There being no other business to come before the membership, the **Commander** adjourned the meeting in the customary manner. She announced that the Post members would be joined by those of the Auxiliary to witness conduct of the "Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony". The Post and Unit Chaplains, **Larry Reynolds** and **Gerri Mulvihill**, are to conduct the service.

"BIRDIES FOR CHARITY" FUNDRAISING DRIVE

As noted in the highlights, **Jim Bolin** gave out copies of the Birdies Pledge Form and implored all members shake their piggy-banks and play the



game. However, only 30 members heard the plea and got the Pledge Forms. If you lack one or need instructions to submit a "birdies" guess or several, go to the Post website [alpost-305.org] where a form facsimile and directions are posted. Time is short, so hop to it and shake a leg!

UPDATE ON AMENDMENT OF THE POST CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

At the 2016 Department Convention, it was decreed that all Texas Posts shall revise their C&B/L's to revise the officership structure and elections. The Post's governing documents were revised under the eye of **Judge Advocate Everett Ison** and read to the membership at three meetings, as you may recall. However, when submitted to the Department for approval, the proposed revisions were denied on procedural grounds. The Post must resubmit but approval cannot occur before the 2017 Convention in September. Hence, the coming Post elections must conform to the current C&B/L's. Notices to all Post members of the C&B/L amendment and the election will be made in the same mailing to the membership.



VETERANS ADVOCATE

VA'S WOMENS' CENTER HOLDS ART EXHIBIT

The Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans has announced that ten VA Medical Centers will display female veteran artists' work throughout the month of March to celebrate Women's History Month. The Center for Women Veterans partnered with the Veteran Artist Program to select the ten artists who will be featured. Find the location nearest to you and read more about the exhibits.

SERVICE BRANCHES TO OPEN ONLINE EXCHANGE SHOPPING TO VETERANS

All honorably discharged veterans will be able to shop online on the websites offered by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Navy Exchange, the Marine Corps Exchange and the Coast Guard Exchange. Veteran associations have backed this proposal since it was first proposed in 2014, because it is a huge win for honorably discharged veterans. Given no objection from Congress by March, the new benefit for veterans will go into effect in November, according to an article published January 30th in Military Times, the new online shopping privilege will exclude from sale all uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products. The change does not apply to

brick-and-mortar PX stores, but only to online shoppers. Exchange officials expect that the expanded benefit will increase annual profit by \$18 to \$72 million and add about \$9 to \$36 million to base morale, welfare and recreation programs. The exchanges will use existing Defense Department data to determine eligibility. If a veteran's eligibility info is not at DoD, he needs to establish such via the VA.

TWO HOUSE BILLS PASS WHICH ARE MEANT TO ASSIST VETERANS

In February, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 512, legislation which will grant congressional offices greater access to records held by the VA when a veteran asks his/her member of Congress for help. The House also passed H.R. 974, which would allow the VA Secretary to grant preference to companies who employ veterans in full-time positions. Both of these bills now go to the Senate for consideration. Stay tuned for Senate approval or referral to committee.

Important Contact Numbers

Houston Regional VA Office:
1-713-383-7842

County Veterans Service Offices:
Montgomery 1-936-539-7842
(Ms. Kay L. Lee)

Harris 1-281-876-6600

Texas Veterans Commission:
1-800-252-8387

www.tvc.state.tx.us

State Legislators:

Dist. 4 – Tommy Williams
281-364-9426

Dist. 15 – Steve Toth
832-562-2883

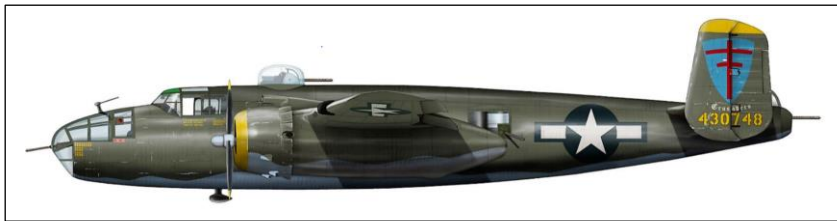
Dist. 16 – Brandon Creighton
936-539-0028

Dist. 126 – Patricia Harless
281-376-4114

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DOOLITTLE RAID ON JAPAN

The concept of retaliation for Pearl Harbor and boosting homeland morale, as well as giving Hirohito notice of what lay ahead, was proposed by USN Captain Francis Low on January 10, 1942 – a month after the Japanese attack. Low was then serving as one of Admiral Ernest J. King's Assistant Chief of Staff. Low thought that twin-engine Army bombers could be launched from an aircraft carrier, after observing several Naval Aviators practice carrier landings at NAS Norfolk, where the runway was painted with the outline of a carrier deck. The concept was advanced as to feasibility, and four USAAF medium bombers were evaluated for launching from a carrier -- Martin's B-26 "Marauder"; Douglas' B-19 "Bolo" and its B-23 "Dragon"; an North American's B-25 "Mitchell". Evaluation of capabilities, with added fuel tanks, narrowed the choice to the untested North American B-25, which had yet to see combat. The concept became a project and Lt. Colonel James "Jimmy" Doolittle was put in charge.

The aircraft requirements were for a plane with a cruising range of 2,400 nautical miles carrying a 2,000 lb. bomb load. The Mitchell's range was about 1,300 miles at the time, so the aircraft would have to be heavily modified to hold almost twice the normal fuel load. The raider aircraft would have to be stripped of its full complement of guns and other equipment to save weight on this one-way mission, and no fighter escort would be possible. During the planning phase, two B-25B's were loaded aboard the flight



deck of the USS Hornet (CV-8) at Norfolk, and, on February 3, were flown off the deck without difficulty.

The 17th Bomb Group (Medium) was chosen to provide the pool of crews from which volunteers would be recruited. The 17th was the first unit to receive B-25's and had four squadrons so equipped by September 1941. The Group was tasked with anti-submarine patrols operating out of Pendleton, OR. It was transferred to Lexington County Army Air Base in Columbia, SC, ostensibly to continue its maritime patrols, but actually to train for an unspecified, hazardous mission. On February 19th, the Group was detached from the Eighth Air Force and became the "III Bomber Command"

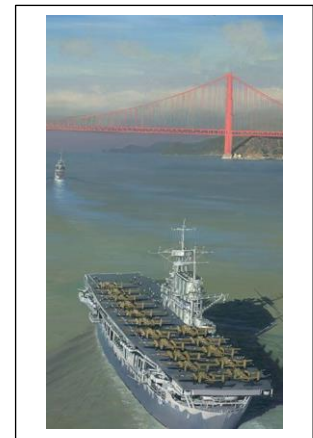
Doolittle originally offered a flight plan whereby the bombers would land in Vladivostok after leaving their Japanese targets, thus shortening the flight by 600 nautical miles compared to a China destination. The aircraft would go to the Soviets as a "lend-lease" transfer. But, the Soviets had signed a neutrality pact with Japan and would not risk violating it.

The operational plan was to fly the mission with 20 B-25's, so 24 aircraft were diverted to the Mid-Continent Airlines Modification Center in Minneapolis, MN, for mods needed for the mission – Installing collapsible neoprene fuel cells in the fuselage, increasing the fuel capacity from 646 gallons to 1,141; removal of one radio and

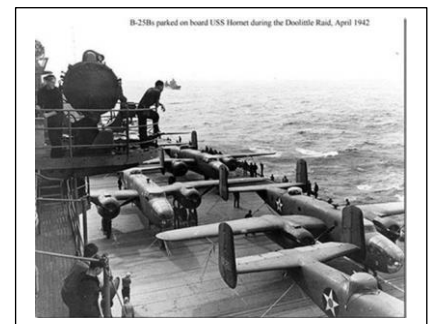
the lower gun turret; addition of de-icers and steel blast plates around the top turret; replacing the tail cone guns with dummy barrels; and replacing the Norden bombsight with a makeshift aiming sight.

Twenty-four five-man crews picked up the modified planes and flew them to a satellite field of Pensacola NAS (Eglin No. 1). There, under the supervision of USN flight instructor Lt. Henry L. Miller, the crews practiced take-offs of a loaded bomber over a limited length of simulated carrier deck. During this period, three bombers experienced damage or mechanical problems not repairable within the mission schedule. Thus, on March 25th, the 22 remaining B-25's left Eglin for Sacramento Air Depot for inspection and final modifications. On March 31, 16 B-25's were flown to Alameda NAS, CA, for transfer to the flight deck of the USS Hornet, captained by Captain Marc Mitscher.

The Hornet left Alameda with a total of 71 Army officers and 130 enlisted men – air crews and maintenance personnel – with 16 B-25's each armed with three 500-lb HE bombs plus one bundle of incendiaries. The aircraft armament had been reduced (to swap equipment for fuel) to twin .50-cal. machine guns in the top turret and one .30-cal. in the nose. The planes were closely clustered and tied down on the aft half of the flight deck. The Hornet's fighters were stored on the hangar deck below.



The Hornet rendezvoused with Bull Halsey's Task Force 16 a few days later north of Hawaii and picked up some escorts – the carrier USS Enterprise, three heavy cruisers, one light cruiser, eight destroyers and two fleet oilers. Radio silence prevailed. On April 17th, the slower oilers refueled the task force and withdrew along with the destroyers to the east, while the carriers and the cruisers dashed west at 20 knots toward the planned launch point.



On the morning of April 18th, a 70-ton Japanese picket boat on patrol sighted the task force and radioed an attack warning to Japan. The USS Nashville sank to patrol boat, and rescued five of its 11-man crew. But, the cat was out of the bag! Hornet Captain Mitscher and Doolittle agreed on the need to launch the raid immediately – 10 hours and 170 nautical miles more distant from the planned location. The bombers were re-spotted for engine starts and

warmup. Doolittle's plane, the first to take-off, had 467 feet of deck before it. None of the pilots, including Doolittle, had any experience of taking off from a carrier. But, all 16 bombers made it into the air safely, aided by a stiff wind before them and the Navy deck officer timing when to benefit from a rising carrier deck. It took an hour to launch all 16 B-25's.



The B-25's flew toward Japan in flights of two to four planes before flying singly at wave top level to avoid detection. Six hours after launch or about noon Tokyo time, they climbed to 1,500 feet and separated to seek their assigned targets. These were 10 military and industrial targets in Tokyo, two in Yokohama and one each in Yokosuka, Nagoya, Kobe and Osaka. Despite light anti-aircraft fire and a few enemy fighters, no B-25 was shot down. One plane received battle damage from AAA, and another jettisoned its bomb load when it came under attack by fighters after the top turret malfunctioned. Three Japanese fighters were shot down by two of the B-25's. Many military targets were strafed by the bombers' nose gunners. With empty bomb racks, it was time to scramble to mainland China. Fifteen planes proceeded southwest along the southeast coast of Japan, but one plane low on fuel diverted to the Soviet Union as opposed to

ditching in the middle of the East China Sea.

All 15 planes reached the China coast after 13 hours of flight. Then, with fuel tanks empty, the options were to bail out or to crash land along the Chinese coast. The plane which diverted to the Soviet Union landed at an airbase 40 miles beyond Vladivostok, where the B-25 was confiscated and the crew interned. They were transferred to a base near the Iranian border, where they bribed a smuggler to help them to cross into Iran. They located a British consulate and took refuge there. The crews of the other 15 planes did not fare as well.

Doolittle and his crew bailed out and received help from Chinese soldiers and civilians, including John Birch, an American missionary. In all, of the 75 crewmen to reach China, 69 escaped capture or death. Three were killed in action, two off the coast of China, one in China; two drowned when their plane ditched; eight were captured by the Japanese, becoming POW's, but were tried, found guilty of strafing Japanese civilians and sentenced to death. Three were executed, but the other five were held in captivity. One of those died in captivity.

Doolittle considered the raid a failure due to loss of all 16 bombers and the relatively minor damage to targets. He expected to be court-martialed upon his return to the United States. Instead, the raid bolstered American morale to such an extent Doolittle was promoted two grades to brigadier general on April 28th while still in China, skipping the rank of colonel. When he returned stateside in June,

President Roosevelt awarded him the Medal of Honor. Details of the raid remained secret, such that when asked "where did the bombers come from", Roosevelt replied "Shangri-La".

All 80 raiders were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Those wounded or KIA received the Purple Heart. Two crew members were awarded the Silver Star for helping wounded crew members evade Japanese troops in China. Twenty-eight of the crewmen remained in the CBI theatre, including the entire crews of three bombers.

The Japanese Imperial Navy took action on coastal China to prevent coastal provinces from being used again to aid a raid on Japan. All airfields within 20,000 square miles were torn up. Germ warfare was used and atrocities were committed. Persons found with American items were shot. The Japanese killed an estimated 10,000 Chinese civilians during their search for Doolittle's men.

The Imperial Japanese Navy bore a special responsibility for allowing an American aircraft carrier force to approach the Japanese homeland. The fact that land-based bombers carried out the attack confused the IJN high command. It demonstrated that Japan was no longer invulnerable to air attack, and created Admiral Yamamoto's resolve to capture Midway Island, which ended with a decisive Japanese defeat at the Battle of Midway.

The only remaining raider is Lt. Colonel Richard E. Cole, USAF (ret.), who was Doolittle's copilot.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>
Wed.	March 1	American Legion Birthday (1919)	
Wed.	March 1	Called Post Meeting On Fundraising	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Mon.	March 13	Executive Committees Meet	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	March 16	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	March 17	St. Patrick's Day	
Sun.	March 19	Iraq War Began (2003)	
Sat.	April 1	April Fools' Day	
Sun.	April 16	Easter Sunday	
Mon.	April 17	Executive Committees Meet	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	April 20	Membership Meetings (Slate)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	April 21	Rummage Sale Set-up Day	Robinson Road Community Center
Sat.	April 22	Spring Rummage Sale	Robinson Road Community Center
Sat.	April 22	District 7 Spring Convention	Post 84; Madisonville
Mon.	May 8	V-E Day (1945)	
Sun.	May 14	Mothers' Day	
Mon.	May 15	Executive Committees Meet	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	May 18	Membership Meetings (Elections)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM

POST & AUXILIARY UNIT CONTACT INFORMATION (2016-2017)

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEL. NO.</u>	<u>E-MAIL ADDRESS</u>
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COMMANDER	Victoria Glover	(832) 813-9415	ALPostcmdrvickie@gmail.com
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SECOND VICE CMDR.	(vacant)		
ADJUTANT	Pickens Jones	(281) 367-7631	pickensjones@usa.net
FINANCE OFFICER	Emery Heuermann	(281) 362-8431	emeryheuermann@charter.net
SERVICE OFFICER	Toby Carroll	(281) 323-4985	toby.carroll@sbcglobal.net
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Bruce Carter	(281) 844-0836	bruce4482@att.net
ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS	Carl Smith	(281) 367-4714	carl12024@yahoo.com
CHAPLAIN	Larry Reynolds	(254) 482-0003	lbr725@gmail.com
ASS'T CHAPLAIN	(vacant)		
JUDGE ADVOCATE	Everett Ison	(281) 298-9524	everett.ison@sprint.com
HISTORIAN	Lacey Homan	(832) 704-2732	lkhoman44@gmail.com
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POSITION TWO	Art Eipper	(832) 567-5806	artstarr99@yahoo.com
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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Annie Smith	(281) 757-3967	carl12024@yahoo.com
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POSITION THREE	Carol Dreesen		