

**This is a compilation of two guestbooks that were retired, one 8/13/2002 and recently. Please sign the new guestbook and share your own personal story of Flugtag 88. Some of the stories here will be added as a featured story submission on the website.**  
**Christina Trillo Landis**

[<< Back to Ramstein Memorial website](#)

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**Date: 07 Apr 2001-**

### **Comments**

I lived in Landstuhl from 78-82. Then lived in Miesenbach from 86-89. I'm a 1988 graduate of Ramstein High School. I lived in the housing on Landstuhl Post. Some of my friends lived in the High Rises. I recall hanging out there once in awhile and going to this awesome candy store just across the road from the High Rises.

I was also at the tragic Ramstein Flugtag in August of 1988. I'll never forget that day. Scared me big time. I was with friends sitting on top of some type of military vehicle about 150 yards from where the Italian Jet crashed into the crowd. I had no clue where my father was with my younger brother. They had went early that morning to get a front row spot along the flight line. Luckily they were at the opposite end.

Alan

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**Date: 22 Mar 2001-**

### **Comments**

I was station at Landstuhl AFB from Jan. 56 to Jan 61 and loved every minute of it. I meet my wife on a bus coming from Wiesbaden to Landstuhl in 1958. Our son was born there at Landstuhl Hospital. We hope to take our grandkids to Germany next year. We helped start a American - German flying club in 1956. I thank the base had a flying club in the 1960's, but we were the first. We go back to Germany almost every year. Thanks for a very beautiful site and bringing back many happy memories.

Thanks  
Ken Hollis

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**Date: 07 May 2002-**

### **Comments**

Just happened to run across your web site when I was surfing under "Landstuhl". My husband was stationed in several places around

Kaiserslautern from 1982 to 1993, and our family lived there from March 1983 to March 1993. Our first home was a flat in Homburg Saar right at the edge of town (near the beer factory). In 1988 we moved to a single family home in Schonenburg/Kubelburg where we lived until our transfer back to the States. It was the most wonderful ten years of our lives. Such a safe place to be raising a child -- we never had to worry about him. He attended Zweibrucken Elementary School from Kindergarten through part of 2nd grade. Then he went to Ramstein Elementary School, and Ramstein Jr. High School. I worked in the Emergency Room/Outpatient Clinic at the hospital for the whole ten years we were there. How nice to run across some! one, even through a web page, who enjoyed their European stay as much as we did. My name is Katrina Ray, my husband is SSG (now retired) Stephen Ray, and our son was Stephen Ray, Jr. (Scooter). Given the time frame you were there, it is possible that we either knew each other or had mutual acquaintances.

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**Date:** 2 May 2002

### Comments

Thanks for your pictures and memories you list on your page. My husband and I were in K-town from 1987 to 1989, we were at the Ramstein air show crash too. My kids remember more than I do as they were affected more by the site. I used to work at the K-town commissary. I have emailed you too. Thanks again for the site! Carol Bly and family

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**Date:** 14 Aug 2002-

### Comments

Was just visiting your sight. Ramstein was my first duty station. I arrived on August 16th 1988, as an Air Traffic Controller assigned to the Control Tower. That Sunday was a day off for me, and I was down enjoying the Air Show when the tragedy ocured. I remember it like it was yesterday, I had just completed my "buddy care" (first aid) training, and had the opportunity to put it use that day, as I helped out after the crash. I also remember having to help with a detail that cleaned up the debris from the crash. SSgt Scott Wakefield, USAF

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### Comments

Hello- I was just browsing around the net, having finished with my finals and was very surprised to see a site like yours. I was at the air show that day in 1988 and it has impacted my life greatly. A few of my friends lost their lives and were badly burned. It was a event I'll never forget and still dream about. My family was stationed in Landstuhl and I went to school there from the 1st to 4th grade. I had an amazing time, and wondered if maybe I might have gone to school with any of your children, a few of my friends lived in your area and I used to play there a lot. Anyway, I'd love you hear back from you. Take care.

Jennifer

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**Comment:**

I had been searching all week for genealogical and historical records of my ancestors Valentine Bickert who md. Margareta Kessler. Their son Valentine Bickert md Katharine Pfeffer and were parents of my gm Josephine Pauline Bickert who was born 1 July 1885 in Trenton, N.J. shortly after they arrived in the U.S. I mention this because Valentine was born in Landstuhl and Katharine, in Einsiedlerhof. I have been able to locate these places by successful translation from old German letters in Gothic script, which survived a house fire in Ala. around the turn of the century. When they raised their family in Ala., two of their sons, (who were named Admiral Dewey Bickert and William Bismarck Bickert) served in WW I in the U.S. Army , while their first cousins from the old country were in the Germany army. I have always wanted to see what their place of origin was like, and your pictures on your website were such a thrill for me to find just now. Thank you so much for sharing your photos and descriptions. Mary-Helen

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**Saturday 08/17/2002 4:55:48pm**

**Name: Marcelo Xavier Trillo**

**E-Mail: xaviertrillo@yahoo.com**

**City/Country: Kansas City. USA**

**Comments: Great site mom. When I read the story I remembered that I was the one that said that the plane crashed. I thought I was standing on the car.**

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**Sunday 09/22/2002 12:15:42am**

**Name: Maurice Smith**

**E-Mail: msmith3@spartintool.com**

**City/Country: San Diego, CA**

**Comments: Great site! I am glad you have an area of the internet for this remembrance. I was about 10 at the time but I have never forgotten this day. We too were at that same trailer with my mom getting drinks. We left before the end of the show because my mother had to go to work at the video store in Ramstein. Thank you for all the memories!**

**MS**

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Friday 09/06/2002 7:16:47pm

Name: christa

E-Mail: christamarie123@yahoo.com

City/Country: usa

Comments: it was great seeing pictures of germany!i have forgotten what it looked like, having lived there some 20 years ago as akid!! i still wonder if ramstein looks the way i remember it but sadly i haven't been able to find any pictures! i am sure it is due to security which i can understand!! keep up

the good work!

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Thursday 08/29/2002 6:25:46am

Name: Jack Clifford

City/Country: Boston, MA.

Comments: I was in Kaiserslautern 1951 & 1952. The air base at Landstuhl was being built. There were a lot of air force personel billeted at the Kleber Kaserne.

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Wednesday 08/28/2002 10:01:21am

Name: Mike R

City/Country: San Antonio, Texas

Comments: My family lived in the highrises from about 1986 to 1988. We left Landstuhl and moved to K-Town after that and stayed for two more years before returning to the states. We left the air show just before the crash. I always wondered about some of the people we saw there and if they were the ones that became victims. About the highrise, I remember the small park next to the buildings. We played Army there in the forest behind the park. I was about 10 at the time but remember it very well. I walked to a store around that street to buy kinder eggs and still have my collection of plastic toys that came from them. Thanks for bringing back some great memories! Go Landstuhl!! I miss this Germany!  
Mike Reynolds

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Saturday 08/24/2002 11:19:11pm

Name: Roger

E-Mail: rpl677@nospam.com

City/Country: Florida

Comments: Nice page, the only one I found on the Flugtag of 1988. My son enjoyed the links on his old school.

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Tuesday 01/28/2003 4:41:47pm

Name: Tom Moore

City/Country: Barrington, NH

Comments: I was there in the WSA tower and watched it happen. After, my flight helped to clean up, recover valueables,keep all non-fire / police/medics out and recover bodies. Contrain to popular belief, there were more than 70 dead. There were two morgues. one in the base gym, and one in Bravo area main hanger. The fact that no Americans or Canadains were among the dead, shows the cover-up to avoid the international problem we would have faced. And the fact that the Itialians were drunk and not presented for the investigation is another cover-up. My first-hand knowledge of Americans who died and a man from Canada is hard to hold back. To my judgement there were closer to 200 bodies that I helped to remove from the scene.

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Saturday 01/11/2003 10:56:09am

Name: Erika Knight

E-Mail: erika@rgbinternet.com

City/Country: Marco Island, FL United States

Comments: Thank you for your site. You have many lovely photos of my birthplace in 1957. We moved back to the states when I was a baby and I've never been back. Hope to go visit this beautiful place

someday!

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Thursday 12/05/2002 12:59:45am

Name: STEVE

City/Country: USA

Comments: I REMEMBER THE AIRSHOW VERY WELL. I WAS THERE AND REMEMBER EVERYTHING. MY WIFE USED TO WORK AT THE 86TH TFW, AND SHE CAN STILL REMEMBER THE SMELL, BUT MOSTLY I REMEMBER IS THE PEOPLE.

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Sunday 11/17/2002 7:17:31am

Name: patsy bridges

City/Country: colorado springs, co

Comments: This brought back great memories for myself and my daughters. I was a new bride in the military. I had a good time there after my initial homesickness went away. great webpage site!  
PB

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Wednesday 10/09/2002 9:12:58pm

Name: patrick grimes

City/Country: palm beach, fl

Comments: I remember the Pommes frits mit curry ketchup, they have that crunchy texture and flavor, and a little plastic spear for stabbing them. Can you tell I really do miss that? How are they fried to be that excellent? Also, cold bean salad, red cabbage salad, Brötchen, wurst of just about any kind, even Beck's bier, that apple tasting liquer, i think it sounds like applekorn.. and mosel wines. thanks for the memories! pg

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Thursday 03/20/2003 12:21:17am

Name: Carrie

E-Mail: carrifelt@hotmail.com

Comments: I hope someone reads this, I was linked to your page through a surf engine and was happy to find it. My family and I were stationed in Landstuhl in 1988 and my father was one of the American vicitms of the air show. I was very young at the time of his death, only 9, and am searching for any info that I can find about this accident. If you have any more info. please feel free to contact me. Thank You Carrie

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Tuesday 03/18/2003 7:39:54pm

Name: Christina Trillo Landis

Site Owner

City/Country: Missouri

Comments: Thank you Tom and I would like to publish some of those photos if you can send them. I know the men and women that serve our country are the finest and only follow orders of higher in command. Hopefully those in command know what they are doing. You can contact me here anytime or at this email. Thank you Tom!

Christina

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Tuesday 03/18/2003 4:57:55pm

Name: Tom Moore

City/Country: Barrington, NH

Comments: Christina, I have compiled a large amount of photos, and if you wish I will send them to you, that is when I get on line and don't have to use the college computers. Let me know if you want them. Don't get me wrong on my last entry, I have full faith in our military in that they did their job (I am most proud in how fast the fire department put out the fire) it is just the cover up is too hard to sell to others that were not there.

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Thursday 02/27/2003 5:13:00am

Name: Carri

E-Mail: brisenocat@ameritech.net

Comments: I graduated from Ramstein HS in 1989. I remember Flugtag every day, and the pictures brought back the feeling of helplessness and panic as I searched for my brother that day. The last time I had seen him was near that trailer. I did find him around dinner time that night, he had been treated for a superficial injury and was fine. Thank-you for sharing your memories not only of Flugtag but also of the wonderful experience of living in Germany.

Carri

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Sunday 02/02/2003 4:23:14pm

Name: Christina

Site Owner

City/Country: Kansas City, MO

Comments: To Tom,

I can understand your frustration. Those of us that were close to the tragedy have heard the same about the discrepancy in the number of dead and injured.

I was not involved in the actual clean up but know of those that were and most share the sentiments you have expressed in that the numbers are wrong.

I never hear anything of the accident nor am I aware of any articles about the accident anymore so I don't know of any investigation findings. I used to have the Base newspapers from each day following the crash but have since lost them. Thanks for your comments and feel free to email me personally.

Thank you,

Christina

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Saturday 08/09/2003 7:08:09pm

Name: Jimmy

Comments: Great Site. It's the only site that I've come across dedicated to that day. I was a medic at the 316th A.D. Clinic and was at the aid station on the flightline just 50 or so yards from the impact. Found your site while looking for photos of the crash. Hard to believe it's been 15 years. Anyway, great site.

Hope to check back often.

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Saturday 08/02/2003 10:13:49pm

Name: Maxie Peterson

City/Country: Colorado

Comments: Great site Christina! I was employed at the K-Town billeting. I went to the air show. I remember driving back in silence where normally my ex-husband and I would argue.

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Saturday 07/12/2003 3:28:28pm

Name: Mary & Dave Phillips

City/Country: New York, NY

Comments: Thank you for putting this on the web. We noticed no other like this memorial for those that survived or witnessed the crash.

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Friday 06/20/2003 2:43:39pm

Name: Lisa Niswonger

E-Mail: lniswonger@alston.com

City/Country: Atlanta, Georgia

Comments: I will never forget Flugtag in 1988. It was the day before I started my senior year at Ramstein. My mother was out of the country and my father let my brother and I go to the flugtag by ourselves. We were so excited to go especially by ourselves because we thought we were "grown." It has been years since I have thought about that horrific day.

I remember right before the Italian jets performed, my brother and I went into their tent where they had little souvenirs and you could meet the pilots. I will say this, I noticed a couple of the pilots drinking beer before they went up in the air. I thought nothing of it because they seemed pretty coherent. Boy, if I would

have known what was going to happen later I would have said something.

My brother and I were pretty close to the front line when the show started. If it wasn't for my brother saying that he needed something to drink, I don't know what might have happened to us. I had to go with him to find something to drink because he was still so young then. As we were walking down the hill, I kept looking

back to watch the performance of the Italian jets and ended up seeing two jets colliding in mid-air. Well you can imagine what happened next, a huge ball of flames bursted from the jets and one of the jets was heading straight for the crowd on the front line. People were screaming and running. At that point my brother and I

started running because everyone else was running. Needless to say I didn't look back until I was far away.

You can only imagine what came next. Endless numbers of firetrucks and ambulances flooded the base, I saw people riding in open back trucks with burns from their head to toe. I was so sad and scared. All I kept thinking to myself was how many of my high school friends might have been in the accident. I was really hesitant to go to school the next day in fear that we had lost some of our own. Lucky enough we didn't. 08/28/98 is one day I will never forget, I just thank God he was watching over me and my brother.

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Thursday 05/29/2003 4:31:36am

Name: Marcelo Trillo

E-Mail: mtrillo@kc.rr.com

City/Country: Kansas City, MO.

Comments: I have read a lot of the entries to try and find people that I might have known living in Lanstuhl. I played for the Landstuhl Lions. Ate food at the Grill Station. Played soccer and skate boarded at Ramstein and Landstuhl. went to the teen center to watch my brother play the drums in his band and watch MTV because they had satellite. The swimbad was kind of cool but we had to wear those funky looking caps, we used to get the elevators stuck in the high rises by yanking the doors. My name is Marcelo but a lot of people knew me as Marc-----if your a friend from the past send an email. Oh yeah

and Mom this site kicks!

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Wednesday 08/20/2003 11:26:00am

Name: Tony Westbrook

E-Mail: anthony.w@mindspring.com

City/Country: GA

Comments: I do not remember any talk of the number of those killed. I worked at the temporary morgue set up at the south gym. We had about 70 bodies and I only remember one american (a woman, I believe). I was also with the 316 AD clinic, bioenvironmental engineering.

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Wednesday 08/20/2003 11:17:53am

Name: Tony Westbrook

E-Mail: anthony.w@mindspring.com

City/Country: LaGrange, GA USA

Comments: Stumbled upon your site after thinking about the anniversary of Flugtag '88. I worked the show for emergency response, next to the Blackhawk across from the crowd. I heard the Blackhawk pilot died after we pulled him out. Anyway, great to a memorial for the tragedy.

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Friday 08/15/2003 10:38:02pm

Name: John Adam Thomas

E-Mail: Stootnine@aol.com

City/Country: Hagerstown/MD

Comments: Thanks for putting this site up. I was there, 10 years old at the time, and this is something that I will never forget.

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Friday 08/15/2003 0:03:35am

Name: Barbara Ann Santee

City/Country: Chicago, Ill

Comments: I lived accross the street from those highrise apartments. I played with the kids but went to the German school. My mother was German and my father is American soldier. He left my mother alone and returned to US. We saw the air show from the outer road to Ramstein. We did not know what happened and then

smoke came up over the hill. It was very scary for a young girl. I will always remember those days before my father left. I was 14 back then.

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Friday 08/29/2003 11:04:11am

Name: Mike & Joan Maher

E-Mail: mjmjcm@socket.net

City/Country: Sunrise Beach, MO [USA]

Comments: Great site... well done! We remember it well.

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Thursday 08/28/2003 11:31:34pm

Name: Christina

Site Owner

City/Country: Missouri

Comments: Casey thank you for your recollection of that day. We all seem to remember things so clearly for something that happened so long ago yet I can't tell you what I was doing last month on the 28th. Please visit us again.

Sincerely,  
Christina Landis  
Flugtag Memorial

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Thursday 08/28/2003 11:25:47am

Name: Casey Key

City/Country: Birmingham Alabama

Comments: I was there, I will never forget. I just arrived at Ramstein and was starting my 11th grade year - school started the day after. Me and my family were very close to the impact area, mb 300 feet. I wish I was much further away - the ground seemed to move and not stop for a long time, the flames kept moving across

the ground I didnt think it would end until we were all dead. That might sound silly but that was what I was thinking at the time. Tony you mentioned the blackhawk being hit. The next day at school I was in class and the teacher said one of the students whom was in my class, father was killed in the crash. He was one of the

pilots of that blackhawk hit - but was standing outside of the helicopter with his flight suit down around his waist (it was a hot day). He was caught in the fireball and burned from the waist up and he inhaled the flames. You said you pulled a guy out of the AC, mb they had more fatalities over there. I also know of one

American who was killed standing next to a photographer named "Manny", they were on top of a van near the hit. In one the videos they play on tv you can see Manny on top of the van next to the flight line. BTW those blackhawk guys were the flight medics on station incase there was an accident.

Anyhow I will stop, Thanks for a place to share our unique story.

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Thursday 08/28/2003 0:01:50am

Name: Christina Landis

Site Owner

City/Country: Missouri

Comments: Thank you for visiting. Can you believe it has been 15 years since that day in August when the planes crashed. I remember it well and will never forget. Please feel free to post your comments here and let us know how you came to find your way here. Thank you for your comments, suggestions and your stories. Take

care and Bless you all.

Christina

Flugtag 88 Memorial

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Tuesday 08/26/2003 5:40:35am

Name: Pauline Furlong

E-Mail: pmfurlong@aol.com

City/Country: Sterling Va

Comments: I was stationed there 86-89. I was a medic in the ER working that day. A day I will never forget.

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Monday 09/15/2003 6:21:18pm

Name: David Olson  
E-Mail: jetmech32@hotmail.com  
City/Country: Wichita  
Comments: I was there also. Burned but alive.  
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Thursday 09/04/2003 10:33:44pm  
Name: Daylene (Allan)  
City/Country: USA  
Comments: oh geesh, scratch that ... Summer After I graduated! The night before the show my Mom and I had gone to the O Club and all the pilots were there having a grand ole time. Still gives me goose bumps remembering how one night they were there and the next day gone.  
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Thursday 09/04/2003 10:24:58pm  
Name: Daylene (Allan)  
City/Country: USA  
Comments: It was the summer before my Senior year at Ramstein High School. I'll never forget it. Thanks for the wonderful site.  
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Saturday 08/30/2003 10:58:41am  
Name: Audrey Miller  
E-Mail: maudreyj@aol.com  
City/Country: Dayton, Ohio  
Comments: I can't believe that it has been 15 years since the accident. I was only 10 when it happened, but still to this day have not been able to go to another air show. For my friends that passed that day- you are always in our memories and our hearts. For my friends still with us today- may we never forget.  
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Friday 10/24/2003 8:49:03pm  
Name: David Olson  
E-Mail: jetmech32@hotmail.com  
City/Country: Wichita, KS  
Comments: I'm looking for any pictures or anything. I was there and burned, I think I better for the understanding I have of people going thru the same treatment I went thru. Please e-mail if you can send pictures ect...  
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Friday 10/17/2003 2:35:00pm  
Name: Kevin Furlong  
E-Mail: kevin.furlong@langley.af.mil  
Referred By: Friend  
City/Country: Hampton  
Comments:  
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Tuesday 10/14/2003 2:45:51pm  
Name: Amy  
City/Country: Omaha, NE  
Comments: Thanks for the site. It brought back many memories (good and bad). It was the day before I

started junior year at Ramstein HS. I went to Flugtag with my friend Heather. I still remember what I was wearing that day. We walked to the base from Heather's house near Ramstein Village. We had left the area near the crash only a few minutes before it happened. I remember walking back after the crash; a young boy we knew asked if we had seen his parents. The last time we saw them, they had been near the concession stand.

I wonder if I was the only one who got chills when seeing a commercial for the Red Bull energy drink's Flugtag they are having later this year? It's an entirely different event, but the name alone will always make me think of that day.

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Tuesday 10/07/2003 8:46:10pm

Name: Jeff Moore

E-Mail: JeffMoore@gbpackersfan.com

City/Country: Tama IA

Comments: I was there working as an air traffic controller. I welcome email from any one that was also there

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Tuesday 01/13/2004 7:51:17am

Name: Christina

Site Owner

Comments: Thank you Jeffery, I am glad there are still people that search for us. It means we won't soon forget. I hope we always find someone that understands. Thank you all for visiting.

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Monday 01/12/2004 6:38:19pm

Name: Jeffery Aubel

E-Mail: Jeffaubel@hotmail.com

City/Country: Los Angeles, Ca. USA

Comments: I was a crew chief with the 512th for four years. I unfortunately was there that day. I started to walk away with friends to go home because it was so hot that day. They announced the pierced heart maneuver and we all turned around to witness the horror. I will never forget it as long as I live. I am glad to see that the people who lost their lives that day will not be forgotten. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Aubel

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Sunday 12/07/2003 12:33:28am

Name: Aaron Alford

E-Mail: aralford@dreamscape.com

Comments: Still haunted by that day. God bless

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Thursday 11/06/2003 6:47:23pm

Name: Shari Laugerman

E-Mail: Pschye14@aol.com

City/Country: Laurel, Maryland

Comments:

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Tuesday 10/28/2003 0:35:00am

Name: Carrie Strader

City/Country: Orem, UT

Comments: I found this sight a while ago and posted a message, but did not really tell my story. We were stationed in Landstuhl at the time of the accident. My father was an American Blackhawk pilot that had his helicopter crushed by wreckage. He was pulled out but burned very badly, he lived about two and a half weeks after and died at a medical center in San Antonio, TX as a result of his burns. I was very young at the time of the accident so I remember very little. My family and I were not at the airshow, and so I appreciate all of your stories and memories of the accident. They help me piece together information on what happened. If anyone else has any more stories or information, I would love to hear them. I was the youngest of five children so people might know my older siblings. We lived on the base in Landstuhl and all went to school there also. That day changed our lives forever.

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Thursday 02/26/2004 9:28:40pm

Name: Charles Calhoun III

Comments: My prayers goes out to all the lifes that were lost and those of us who was spared.

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Saturday 02/21/2004 7:15:00pm

Name: Christina Trillo Landis

Site Owner

City/Country: Missouri

Comments: Jurigan,

I too am glad for my son who made me walk away from the flightline before the worst happened. Makes me appreciate some of the waiting in lines, interruptions, running late, may have caused me to miss something traumatic somewhere down the line. I tend to believe in my Angels. There were very many there that day.

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Saturday 02/21/2004 1:25:50pm

Name: george ray

Homepage:

E-Mail:

Referred By: Just Surfed In

City/Country:

Comments: I was reading the stories from the guest book. I was stationed at ramstien from 1984 to 1989. I worked in the 512th as a crew chief. we had just left the air show because of the heat, but could see it from the balcony of our housing. we saw the jets go down. as word spread about the crash, the call went out that

the hospital did not have enough blood supply so we went to landstuhl to donate. after I got home some time later my supervisor saw me getting out of my car. he told me that our squadron was having a recall and me and a friend, fellow crew dawg, needed to report to EZ hanger. this is the hanger one of your guest book writers is talking about. it was in the secure area of the 512th. well needless to say it was not a recall. I was promptly told that I needed to help tag and bag all of the bodies that had been brought in. I personally put 31 bodies in bags that night. therefore I know that at least this many people had died. these were the people that were obviously dead. I know many others died on the way to the hospital or after. I followed as many stories as I could from then on and my last count for the dead is

82. the last one passing several months later. If you know of anyone needing to talk about this they can e mail me at falconray123@hotmail.com

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Saturday 02/21/2004 12:31:27am  
Name: george ray  
E-Mail: falconray123@hotmail.com  
Referred By: Search Engine  
Comments:  
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Tuesday 02/03/2004 3:23:05am  
Name: Jurigen Braughton  
City/Country:  
Comments: I was very glad my uncle was with me that day. 3 of my best friends wanted to get a closer look at the show and wanted meto go with them, They never made it out and I thank god and my uncle for being there that day.

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Monday 03/22/2004 5:41:30pm  
Name: Christina - Flugtag Memorial  
Site Owner  
City/Country: Missouri  
Comments: Grace,  
You mention that no one heard at home, that's interesting. When it happened, my mother heard as she drove from one town to another, hoping we weren't there. She said they mentioned it but not in any sensational news item. Then my husband who was TDY at Andrews called her to ask if she heard anything from us since we were there. My mother was terrified and worried and prayed until we called her. After that, people remember seeing it on the news but it didn't really get all the coverage it did on base.

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Monday 03/22/2004 5:38:45pm  
Name: Christina - Flugtag Memorial  
Site Owner  
City/Country: Missouri  
Comments: Ted,  
I hope you get the page up and running. Let me know the URL or post it here to grab some that are looking for information. Good luck. Christina

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Monday 03/22/2004 1:29:02pm  
Name: chris bennett  
E-Mail: chrisgb00@yahoo.com  
City/Country: Austin, TX USA  
Comments: i was 5 years old when i was at the Flugtag and my sister almost got killed by the fireball but my other sister got her out of the way! they are both alive and well!! i can still remember it like it was yesterday!!  
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Thursday 03/11/2004 8:46:33pm

Name: Ted

Homepage: <http://Rocketjones.mu.nu>

E-Mail: [rtphipps@excite.com](mailto:rtphipps@excite.com)

City/Country: Virginia, USA

Comments: I mentioned Flugtag on my blog a while back and recieved email from two guys who were there. With their help, I'm building a site including some previously unpublished pictures from the cleanup.

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Wednesday 03/10/2004 8:54:26am

Name: Grace Jacobs

E-Mail: [randygrace@panola.com](mailto:randygrace@panola.com)

City/Country: Batesville, MS, USA

Comments: The most devastating part, at least to me, was that few if any heard of the disaster here in the states. My family had heard nothing on the news until we called home to assure our parents we were okay. Today, a solemn, dignified memorial stands on one of the walking paths just outside the base, between Ranstein and Landstuhl.

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Monday 03/22/2004 5:46:49pm

Name: Christina - Flugtag Memorial

Site Owner

City/Country: Missouri

Comments: Chris,

Too bad you were so young and can remember such things. I often wondered if the really small children would remember what they saw. Maybe it was the fear and expressions of the people around that made them understand that things were very bad or maybe it was the look of their parents that drove home the feelings that they were in some kind of tragedy. I am glad you all made it through fine.

Thanks for your comments.

Christina

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Wednesday 04/21/2004 4:52:43pm

Name: Jonathan Cabe

E-Mail: [Jon.Cabe@wnco.com](mailto:Jon.Cabe@wnco.com)

City/Country: Dallas, TX

Comments: I was there on 8/28/88 when i was ten years old. I can still remember the sound of the German sirens that i couldn't get out of my head that night.

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Wednesday 04/28/2004 6:01:35pm

Name: David L Campbell

E-Mail: [campbell9844@sbcglobal.net](mailto:campbell9844@sbcglobal.net)

City/Country: Simi Valley Ca

Comments: I was the on duty security police dispatcher during the disaster. Never will I forget.....

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Thursday 04/29/2004 7:21:15pm

Name: Christina - Flugtag Memorial

Site Owner

City/Country: Missouri

Comments:

I can relate to the memories of the noise from the helicopters coming and going. Not to mention the German and American sirens, sounding all at once. That is something I too will not soon forget. My children also remember that vividly. Thank you for your comments.

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Thursday 05/06/2004 3:34:32pm

Name: Vanessa Banks

E-Mail: vanbanks@hotmail.com

City/Country: Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Comments: I was there and I will never forget it. They turned the movie theater into a morgue. When the airshow started, they closed all the food vendors, so we all were stuck in the parking lot for hours without food or drinks. I'll never forget all the ambulances. It was horrible.

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Thursday 05/06/2004 3:37:39pm

Name: Vanessa Banks

City/Country: Atlanta, GA

Comments: I was also 10 when I was there. What I remember the most of all is the dead silence in the few seconds between when the twoplanes clipped wings and when they blew up. Thousands of people were all silent. I think we were all holding our breath. It was unreal.

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Tuesday 05/18/2004 11:52:27am

Name: Kelly Wathor

E-Mail: Countrywun@aol.com

City/Country: Collinsville, Oklahoma

Comments: I was stationed at the 10th Medical Laboratory, Medical Illustrations, from Apr 1986 - April 1989 as a Medical Photographer on Landstuhl. We were at home that day in housing outside of Landstuhl watching from the windows in my sons room when I saw the smoke rising. A few moments later, AFN came across

with an emergency alert for blood so I put on my uniform, went in and donated. The post was very busy working as a triage site. I remember at least 5 helicopters trying to land on the one helipad. When one unloaded, the others which were hovering about 3 feet off the ground would shuffle in to place and unload. This type of activity went on for several days. One of my troops was working in the ER, photographing as much as she could, (this was our job, not a morbid hobby) the amount of destruction to the human body was amazing. There were those who could not be saved, burned so badly all that could be done was to try and comfort them as best they could.

This tragedy followed many others I witnessed over their from the U.S.S. Stark to many training and vehicle accidents and murders. Still, to this day, some smells take me back to those days working in the morgue. I can say I also witnessed many wonderful things at Landstuhl as those Doctors and Staff were able to perform wonderful miracles on a daily basis. In addition, my son was born over there so I still have some great memories to look back upon. Thanks for this site, it is a wonderful extension of human compassion that is needed these days.

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Tuesday 05/18/2004 11:57:50pm  
Name: Christina - Flugtag Memorial  
Site Owner

Comments: Kelly, I think we all have the good memories as well. The country and people did not cause the tragedy, and I have many good memories of Germany. So many emotions keep us remembering that time, both good and bad. The Flugtag is only something we lived through and has made us stronger and more understanding of life. Thank you for visiting and taking time to leave your comments.  
Warm regards,  
Christina Landis  
Flugtag Memorial

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Friday 05/28/2004 6:31:54pm

Name: Tim Toomey

E-Mail: tdtoomey@msn.com

City/Country: Enterprise, AL US

Comments: A good friend, Kim Strader, died while providing MEDEVAC coverage for this airshow. I think of him and his lovely family often!

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Tuesday 06/08/2004 1:14:59pm

Name: JAMES MONSOUR

E-Mail: JMMONLY1JMM@NETSCAPE.NET

City/Country: RAMSTEIN GERMANY

Comments: I WAS THERE. I DONATED MY SHIRT AND PANTS TO THE MAN WALKING DOWN THE FLIGHT LINE BURNING. I WAS AROUND 12 YEARS OLD. THE WING CAME OVER THE TENT WE WERE AT. IT WAS HORRIBLE AS I RECALLED.

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Sunday 06/20/2004 5:12:22pm

Name: Charles Daughtrey

City/Country: Springfield, MO

Comments: I was there, I witnessed it, and I am still haunted today by the horror of that day. I can only hope and pray that the people I helped that day are alive and well now...somehow I doubt it for many of them.

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Friday 06/25/2004 6:51:11pm

Name: Rob Buchanan

E-Mail: robert\_christopher\_1967@yahoo.com

City/Country: Scottsdale, Az

Comments: Wish the families my prayers for their loss and know their loved ones are with our Lord.

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Wednesday 06/30/2004 10:44:14am

Name: Shelley Haymaker

E-Mail: angelgr1936@yahoo.com

City/Country: Boulder, CO

Comments: I was 13 years old at the time and remember standing on the flight line wondering what to do. My friend and I ran all the way back to base housing and waited, like so many others, for our loved ones to return home. We were lucky...they did.  
Thanks for remembering those who were lost.

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Friday 07/09/2004 6:20:11pm

Name: Ron Jffries

Homepage:

E-Mail: rkj22@verizon.net

Referred By: Just Surfing In

City/Country: Los Angeles

Comments:

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Monday 07/12/2004 5:05:23pm

Name: Sheri %22Smith%22 Hatcher

E-Mail: sherihatcher@yahoo.com

City/Country: Rutledge TN USA

Comments: I was in Ramstein with my ex husband 86-89...we lived in Ramstein housing bldg 1005 B-2, we had all our friends at our place for the week-end. It is still hard to look at some of these photos it brings back alot of memories.... But I honor all that were lost and hurt that day.

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Monday 07/12/2004 6:37:06pm

Name: Jereomy Taylor

E-Mail: sainttaylor97@hotmail.com

City/Country: oklahoma city oklahoma

Comments: i was sitting on the edge of the runway when my mother got a headache. we went to the top of the midway of the airshow. My mother said they were going to crash the whole time we were watching. it scared the s\$#t out of me when it actually happened.thank you for keeping this page opened it is kind of morbid to think that someone wants to see this type of thing but i was there. thank you

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Tuesday 07/13/2004 2:50:03pm

Name: Alan

E-Mail: alan.ditsworth@health.state.mn.us

City/Country: St. Paul, MN

Comments: I graduated from RAHS in 1988. I see a classmate of mine, Daylene, signed the guestbook. I was at the airshow with friends that day. Fortunately, we were several 100 feet away. I was rather panicky afterwards as my dad and brother had left early in the morning to get a front row seat on the flight line. Luckily they were at the opposite end. I worked as the store room clerk at the Military Clothing Sales Store on base. It was right across from the South End Gym. I know that the Gym was utilized as a morgue for the days to follow. I clearly recall family members coming and going for identifying their loved ones. Left me with a rather numbing feeling. Thanks for the site. My sympathy and regards to the family's that lost loved ones.

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Wednesday 07/28/2004 6:42:39pm

Name: Christina

Site Owner

City/Country: MO

Comments: The site is down presently for repairs, changes, and updates. I hope to have it back by at least August 21st. Please check back again! Thanks!

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Monday 08/16/2004 1:18:04am

Name: Christina

Site Owner

City/Country: MO

Comments: Sorry the site was down so long. I had to make some changes due to changing to a new browser. Mozilla's Firefox is being used so widely now and the old pages didn't appear very well. I hope you like the new layout, it should load a little faster. Please report any bugs or broken links. Thanks for your patience!

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Tuesday 08/24/2004 9:59:29am

Name: Christina Landis

Site owner

Comments: I just visited a site that has many photos and first hand accounts of the air show crash. Please visit if you want to know a little more about the crash itself. I also added it as a link in the Flugtag Yahoo groups Link section. [http://rocketjones.mu.nu/archives/cat\\_flugtag\\_88.html](http://rocketjones.mu.nu/archives/cat_flugtag_88.html)

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Friday 09/03/2004 11:39:02pm

Name: Christina

Site Owner

City/Country: Missouri

Comments: Check out the new submission by a visitor. It is the first one I placed. I will add others to the other stories section if they are submitted following the directions on the my story page. Please take time to read the story, it affected me because she too had a premonition that something was about to happen. I hear this through many stories that have come my way. Take care,  
Christina

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Friday 09/24/2004 8:50:23pm

Name: Larry Clark

E-Mail: [clark58@advantemail.net](mailto:clark58@advantemail.net)

City/Country: Wylie TX

Comments: I remember that day vividly. I was an USAF Staff Sergeant working in one of the many hotdog/hamburgers stands setup not far from the runway. I remember enjoying the show, while serving hotdogs to the crowd. I noticed the Italian team was making a heart shape maneuver in their small stunt jets. As I was handing a hotdog to a little boy, I heard what sounded like two swords clashing together and running down each other and then a BOOM. I turned toward the sound at the same time, I was yelling, "They can't break the sound barrier in town!" I thought I was hearing a sonic boom. I saw a plane tumbling end over end coming right towards the crowd. I couldn't have been more than a 100 yards away. I felt the heat front pass by me and people were running for their lives. Shortly after, a truck came by my stand and took all the ice I had. I know better than to head towards the impact site, many people were there, most of them standing in the way. I got on a bus with many others headed for the hospital in Landstuhl to give blood.

After the investigations had completed, I helped clean up the wreckage. I remember picking up these metal balls that had scattered all over the place. I was told they were to balance the plane. I thought it must have been like a shotgun when these things where flung out. My mother and father where worried sick, not hearing from me for so long. The phone lines where jammed for days. Finally the Air Force opened up special lines to call home on. Nope, I'll never forget that day.

SSgt Larry Clark  
Ramstein AB 1988-90

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Monday 09/27/2004 2:41:04pm

Name: roy rose

E-Mail: royrose@explosivepromotions.com

Comments: I was there with my girlfriend at the time who is now my wife. She saved our lives. We were standing in the exact location where the plane actually crashed into the crowd, not more than five minutes before the actual crash. We moved back about 50 yards because she told me she had an eerie feeling and didn't want to be there anymore. I must be honest, had she not asked me to move I would have stayed right were I was and ended up either dead or in the burn ward probably not wanting to survive. We actually ended up sitting right in front of the German camera crew that was filming the show. Everytime I see video footage of the crash I see myself on the bottom of the camera running off to my right. I will never forget that ball of fire coming right at me. Who knew where the plane would land if it carried another 25 yds it would have cleared the supply trucks and hit me square on. Instead it landed where I was standing and skidded into the supply truck.

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Wednesday 09/29/2004 8:18:08pm

Name: Sara Campbell

City/Country: Kansas

Comments: I was just thinking that August was the month of the Flugtag. I remembered that much and more. I searched and found your page! I am happy to find that we have not forgotten all that happened that day. I think of it often even though I was only 13. I can see everything. Knowing that I am not the only one is very helpful. My husband doesn't know of this time and when I tried to tell him he really didn't appear too interested. I needed to share it for some reason. It gives me some relief to hear the stories and come to grips with it. I hope my children never have to see such a thing happen. Thanks to you I have a place. Bless you all

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Tuesday 10/12/2004 7:52:47pm

Name: Tom

E-Mail: Enjoypizza2003@private.com

City/Country: Heidelberg Germany

Comments: I accidently saw your notice about the accident. I visited the Airshow Ramstein in 1986 and I stood in the same area as one jet of the FreceTricolore chrashed in two years later. I was shocked as I saw what happened and I knew it could had happened to me also two years before. Last week I picked up my brother in law and his wife at Ramstein Airbase and I saw the sign of the Memorial-place . No-one wanted that what happened-it was an accident. It's so hard I pray for the victims and their families!

Tom from Heidelberg/Germany

Thursday 11/04/2004 11:46:07am

Name: Willi & Mick

Homepage: <http://www.wimpel-willi.de>

E-Mail: [wimpel-willi@web.de](mailto:wimpel-willi@web.de)

City/Country: Sachsen

Comments: Wir sind absolute Luftfahrtfans!! Zu dem Zeitpunkt dieses Unfalls waren wir noch DDR Buerger, aber wir konnten es am Fernsehen verfolgen.

Einem Luftfahrtfan reiÃt es das Herz heraus , wenn er es im Fernsehen sieht. Wir waren schon 2x in Italien in Rimenie, wo die Uebrerreste der

Flugzeuge in einem ehrwuerdigem Denkmal fÃ¼r alle zu sehen sind. Wir verneigen uns vor allen Toten !! Aber wir wuerden auch wieder zu Luftfahrtshows gehen. Wir haben vor einigen Jahren die Bodenseeairshow gesehen - super!! Sicherheit geht vor!! Aber wir koennen nicht die Autos oder die Flugzeuge verbieten, nur

wiel sie einen Crash machen. Die Welt wird weiter sich drehen - und die Sicherheit muÃ sich aber erhoehen. In Ehrfurcht aller die dabei nicht Ã¼berlebten

Willi & Mick

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Wednesday 11/10/2004 4:25:17pm

Name: Christina Landis

Site Owner

City/Country: Missouri USA

Comments: If anyone can send me the words that are on the Memorial Brick at Ramstein I would be most appreciative and will post it on our site.

Thank you all

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Monday 02/28/2005 4:21:30am

Name: Adam Strader

Homepage:

E-Mail: [kstrader3699@msn.com](mailto:kstrader3699@msn.com)

Referred By: Friend

City/Country: Ogden Utah

Comments: My name is Adam Strader. I was not at the air show on the day of the accident. My father, Kim Strader, was the pilot who was burned in the UH-60 Black hawk MEDEVAC helicopter. He died several weeks after the accident as result of his injuries; many other burn victims also suffered this end. At the time of the accident I was only 13 years old. My family was at church when we heard there was an accident. One of the members of our church was a doctor and he was required to leave immediately. The only thought in my head was "boy I am glad my dad is there to help the people that are hurt". After getting home from church, I remember looking out our back window towards the hospital. Our apartment was on the third floor on a hill and overlooked the hospital at Landstuhl. Watching the helicopters hover like dragonflies on a pond, touch-and-go off the helipad was awesome. I was so proud of my father and his job as a pilot. It wasn't until later that night that we found out that he had been

injured. Much of my memories from that point are clouded and hard to recall. My father was burned very badly and was flown to Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio Texas. My mother flew over with him and the surgical teams. There were a few others that were burned that made the flight also. My 4 siblings and myself were left in Germany with members of our church and our "military family" to watch over us. For those who do not understand what a military family is, it is a collection of people who you adopt, while in the military, that is not blood related, but is closer than kin. Many members of our military family are still in contact today

(they even call my grandmother, "Grandma"). Somewhere in the next few days school started and, even though I don't remember much of it, I attended. Our military family took great care of us. Our piano teacher and her husband even moved in to look out for us. All meals were provided and every need was cared for. I only add this part to express my love to these people. There were so many people injured and killed in this accident. I know that many acts of kindness and compassion were shared with everyone. My family received letters and cards from around the world, from some people that we didn't even know, expressing prayers, love and sorrow. After a few days, my mother sent for all 5 of us children. Glen Driggs, a close family friend and on hell of a man, flew from Germany to Texas with us so we wouldn't have to fly alone. My brother was only 15 at the time and he was the oldest. Glen helped us settle into a house in Texas and stayed for a few days to make sure we were all right. Several congressmen from Utah and Arizona fought to get my father promoted to CPT while he was in the hospital. He had been accepted for promotion, but had never been officially promoted. The battle paid off and my brother was able to be the first to congratulate my dad on his new promotion. Even though his burns were extensive and he could not talk, he remained conscious a lot. My father died on September 17, 1988 at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. He was flown home to Delta, Utah and laid to rest in their tiny cemetery. Our family lived in Texas until 1990, when we moved to Utah to stay. Most of the family is still there. All of Kim's children are now married and many have kids of their own. We all in some way miss the father that was taken from us, but take comfort in the fact that we will see him again someday. I am in the United States Army Reserve; there are some things that are such a part of you that you cannot escape them. I am a father and a husband. I have two great children and a wonderful wife who will never fully understand how much I miss my dad. My life was forever changed because of an air show in 1988, but my father always taught me that you must grateful for what you got. I am grateful for everything I have. I am thankful for those people who keep this site and the memory of the people who were killed at Ramstein. You are blessed for your efforts. Many people who visit this site come to heal and remember. I would love to talk to anyone from the air show. I would especially love to talk to anyone who knew or worked with myfather. Learning more about this brings me closer to my dad. Feel free to drop me a line.

Adam Strader

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Thursday 03/03/2005 11:39:14am

Name: Roland Fuchs

E-Mail: rolandfuchs65@yahoo.de

City/Country: Germany

Comments: Hello

I'm Roland Fuchs.1988 I was in Ramstein with my family.My wife and my daughter was died. I was about one year in the hospital.Now I search for persons that also was in Ramstein,or someone who have lost anyone there.(Sorry for my english) It's important for me to speak with others.Sometimes I go to Ramstein to the memorial.Every year on 28.8.we remember on this day.We go to the memorial stone and to the runway.Always on the 28 August in the afternoon.We (our Group)bring 70 Roses and 70 Candles..... Now I hope that I meet others.

Roland

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Wednesday 03/09/2005 9:06:42pm

Name: Christina Trillo-Landis

Site Owner

Comments: Adam, and Roland,

I am glad you found this site. It has always been my intent that you and others have a place to come to

find answers or seek comfort with those that understand. I hope you have read through some of the comments left here by friends and visitors, they share many of the same feelings and a genuine regard for you that seek information. I know we will do all we can to help you.

I hope you know we all have such strong feelings around the events of that day. Most of us did not lose a loved one such as Mr. Fuches and yourself. We lost something else that day and we continually seek it, mostly answers, and possibly others that understand and can relate because they were there.

We have all wished you and your families well and have sent our prayers. For many of us, we think of you as family and it is possibly that connection that makes us curious of what became of our neighbor we sat next to, or the family we shared some shade with, or those we laughed with in the course of the day at the Flugtag. You have, just by writing, connected with many of us today. Thank you for writing. You and others like you are the reason for this site.

Sincerely,  
Christina Trillo-Landis

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Sunday 03/27/2005 9:19:13pm

Name: Eric

City/Country: Tucson

Comments: Wow, has this brought back some repressed memories. I was a brand new SP airman and was part of the emergency response team that day. We were in the theater when the accident happened and responded in minutes. The sights, sounds, and smells from that day have never left me. Almost 2 years to the date we had a C-5 crash on take off and I responded to that one as well. I have to agree that the number of dead was never reported correctly. We were known as the B-Flight Bad Boys. Go Bravo Flight!!

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Saturday 01/14/2006 6:59:07pm

Name: Steve Boudreaux

E-Mail: tlsab@hotmail.com

City/Country: Navarre Florida

Comments: I was a dental tech stationed at Ramstein from 1987-1990. I clearly remember that dreadful day. Since I was assigned to the 316 AD Medcial Clinic, I had volunteered to drive an ambulance on that day to respond to emergencies. As a matter of fact, John Williams who made the previous entry in this guestbook was one of the medics in the ambulance with me. Our duty for that day was to stand by at the E.R. in the medical clinic in case of an emergency. I never thought we would have responded to such a horrific incident. Once the planes crashed, we immediately responded to the flightline with lights on and sirens blasting. I had no idea what to expect, but knew it would be bad. As we were driving up to the scene in the ambulance, people were running away from the scene of the crash. I saw many people running down the road with their clothes burned off and skin hanging off of their bodies. Some were banging on the side of the ambulance to get in. My goal was to get closer to the scene of the accident. Eventually we did and I parked the ambulance and started unloading IV bags, bandages, etc. I remember small fires still burning and smoke in the air. The medics with me did their best to stablize several patients for transport to Landstuhl. We loaded as many people as we possibly could. Once we loaded the ambulance, I drove down the flight line to get to the West gate to head towards Landstuhl. When we were getting near the gate to exit the base we were blocked by parked cars and I could not get through with the ambulance. Finally 5 or 6 German guys lifted a small car and moved it out of our way so we could get by. Upon arriving at

landstuhl, we unloaded the patients and headed back for more. Landstuhl E.R. was overflowing with casualties. We headed back towards Ramstein to pick up more casualties. I made several more transports to the medical clinic on Ramstein. I saw many things that day that will stay with me for the rest of my life. Once all the patients were cleared from the flightline, I went back with personnel from the Flight Medicine Clinic to pick up bodies and flag body parts on/near the flightline. We walked in a line as we flagged the areas with body parts/pieces. I also remember one of the cockpits laying off the side of the runway and the Medevac chopper that was parked on side of the flightline. I will never forget the smell of burnt flesh. Needless to say, it was a long day. Since I was a dental tech, our clinic personnel had the unfortunate task of identifying bodies at the South Gym on Ramstein. We also brought several bodies into the dental clinic to take x-rays for identification puposes until we got the morgue set up with our portable x-ray machines. I hope everyone realizes that we did our best to save as many people we possibly could. I had only been in the AF for about 1 1/2 years when this happened. I am still currently in the AF as a SMSgt staioned at Hurlburt Field in Florida. I'll be retiring in Mar 07. My wife and I fully enjoyed our assignment to Ramstein, except for that tragic day on 28 August 1988. For those who lost loved ones in the accident, you can rest assured that you are in my prayers everytime I think of that dreadful day.

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Sunday 11/27/2005 3:41:44pm

Name: John Williams

E-Mail: johnlisa@gimail.af.mil

City/Country: Bloomington Indiana

Comments: I was stationed at Ramstein at the time of Flug Tag 88. I was working at the Clinic that day, and took care of many of the victims of this disaster to this day I still have nightmares and bad feeling stimming from that day. I am glad there is webs sites that remember that terrible day it should never be forgotten I won't.

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Monday 07/25/2005 12:06:22am

Name: Vanya (Petrowsky) Malmstead

Homepage:

E-Mail: domego@hawaii.rr.com

Referred By: Search Engine

City/Country: Honolulu, HI (for now)

Comments: I will remember that day as long as I live, as I thinkeveryone else who was there will also. It was the day before the school year began. I was a junior that year at RAHS. It dawned bright and early for us, as one of my brothers was in JROTC and we were volunteering at their concession fundraiser. I remember getting there very early before all the visitors to help set up the concession, but when we got there, the adults within the ROTC program were arguing with the adults in M WR. MWR had gotten there early and set their tent up where the ROTC tent was supposed to be. It was all luck of the draw in the locations and the ROTC program had gotten the best spot possible, right in the middle of all of the hub, guaranteeing good profits.The MWR people insisted since they were sponsoring the event they opted to 'pull rank' and take the best spot from the ROTC group. I guess the only reason we'll know why God chose that moment for them to pick the best site is because the plane went right through the MWR tent and not the ROTC tent it had been intended for had things stayed the same. At any given time throughout the day, there were anywhere from 15-20 kids around that tent. I still cringe at the very thought of it, as my youngest brother, mother and father were all in the tent at the time it happened. I was off with my middle brother and some friends of ours. We had been working all day and it was our turn for a break, so we all headed over to my parents' car to sit on the hood so we could get a better look.

Besides, we wouldn't have to crane our necks so much being further back. One friend and I were sitting on the hood and everyone else we were with were leaning against the car or sitting on the ground. We were chatting about everything, but foremost was the start of school the next day. I remember seeing the heart and then all of a sudden we saw this big fireball and started running. Then everyone started running back to the flightline yelling that it was all part of the show and then everyone was running away again after the second crash. It was horrible! And the crashes and booms were so very loud!

I remember we were scrambling to try to get to the ROTC tent as the plane went that general direction and we were terrified to find the truth but knew we had to. It was absolute mayhem, as anyone will tell you. People were screaming and yelling, but amazingly, no one was trampling anyone. Everyone was just trying to get away and get anyone else away they could help. We got back to the tent and checked in and from then on it was like we were all on auto-pilot or something. Just crazy. My Dad worked in COMM, so he had to go into work. I remember finally being able to leave in our car. As vendors we were able to park closer, so it took us longer to get out. As we were leaving, there was this man in his Army greens. In retrospect, I would guess him to be no more than 20. My Dad stopped the car and got out to help him in our backseat and give him a ride to wherever he needed to go. I think it was then, that the enormity of it all really hit me, as his uniform was covered in blood and he was zombie-like. Almost hypnotized - as one is apt to be when faced with death and tragedy so head on like that. I often wonder what became of him, but I don't even remember his name. I and the kids I was with were babysitters for hours for the kids of the parents who went to help. My Mom went to the Falcon Theater with some of the other spouses and helped with check-in. I couldn't go into the gyms for a long time after, as I knew they had been used for morgues.

I remember when we got home that night, very late, our neighbors came running out to meet us. They were frantic. They'd told us our phone had been ringing off the hook, but try as they might, they couldn't break into the house to answer it since we'd locked it. My oldest brother had moved back stateside with our grandparents and he and my grandfather had been watching the news when it came on. They were petrified because since all of the tapes were confiscated, there were all kinds of videos everywhere. The clip that they happened to see scared the hell out of them as it was my Dad yelling and screaming "My kids! Where are my kids! Vanya! Jimmy! Paul! Where are you?!" With a name like mine coupled with my brothers - my family back home was on pins and needles until we were finally able to get through hours later and let them know we were okay.

I remember the next day at school, nobody did anything. It was pretty much a 'check-in' thing for the first few days. There were so many kids not at school that we were all united and worrying that some of our classmates had been among the casualties. It was so difficult. I don't look through that yearbook so much, as there is the picture of the crash, seemingly bigger than life, right in color, right in the front in the headlines section. I get chills just thinking about it. I, like most, probably haven't flown well since. Pretty difficult since my husband is in the Air Force and we all know it is the preferred mode of transport for the government. I do wish they'd allow cruises.

I've never put these thoughts 'on paper' before. I hope it brings me a step closer to healing. I don't know if I will ever get over my fear of flying, but I do try. I have shared all of this extensively with my husband. Blessedly, he is very supportive any time we have to fly. To all those lives lost, injured and forever changed by that fateful Sunday afternoon, my thoughts and prayers for you all.

Very Respectfully,  
Vanya (Petrowsky) Malmstead  
RAHS C/O 90

domesgo@yahoo.com

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Thursday 05/19/2005 1:55:35pm  
Name: Cmd.CMSgt. Thom Lustik  
E-Mail: thomcmdchief@aol.com  
Referred By: Just Surfing In  
City/Country: South Bend  
Comments: I was the SEA at the 377th during Flugtag and its aftermath. Please feel free to drop me an email.

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Saturday 04/23/2005 8:28:33am  
Name: Tom Nelson  
E-Mail: EOD464@cox.net  
City/Country: Las Vegas, NV, USA  
Comments: I was stationed at Kapaun AS, right next to Ramstein AB, from 01/88 to 01/91. I worked in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)(USAF Bomb Squad). My job was, ironically, to respond to bomb threats and any aircraft mishaps or accidents. I had just finished my shift and I was sitting with friends watching the show. One of them was Jeff McCanch and his family (he was EOD too), he was the guy in the pictures seen going back in to the fire to get his injured baby boy. I left and decided to go and watch the rest of the show at our response truck, which was positioned with some fire trucks a couple of hundred yards away. My friends and I watched in awe and horror when we saw the MB339 cartwheel into the crowd. I remember looking at one of my friends and saying, "Holy s\*\*\*, that's right where the McCanch's and the Shaffer's were sitting. I thought to myself that they were probably gone. Immediately we realized we had to respond to the accident. We started to roll towards the smoke and fireball when we realized we should wait for the fire trucks--we couldn't do anything while everything was burning. So we stopped and waited about half way to ground zero. Right away, people began coming over to our truck looking for help. Our truck had flashing lights and resembled an ambulance I guess. We jumped out and began helping people in any way we could. Keep in mind that we had no medical training other than basic first aid, what the Air Force called self-aid, buddy care. An officer with medical insignia on his chest ran up and said, "You guys look like you know what you're doing. We'll make this a triage area". Wave after wave of injured people began coming over to our truck and we helped however we could. Severe burns, bleeding lacerations, broken bones, and any other kind of injury you could think of came to our truck. The worst of all forms was when I heard from behind me, "I got a pregnant woman, and she's open!" My friend and me looked at each other and turned to see what that meant. A woman who looked to be 6 to 8 months pregnant was cut from her armpit to her hip. It's a sight I'll never forget. I don't know what happened to her and her baby. I don't know what happened to any of the people we helped that day. We then began loading as many people into our truck as we could and drove to Landstuhl Hospital. But our job was just beginning. We were responsible for ensuring that all explosive and other hazardous aircraft components were made safe. There are explosives on all military aircraft besides bombs, missiles, and other obvious munitions. There are ejection seats, various explosive cartridges, high pressure bottles, and dozens of other hazardous items that can hurt someone if not secured and safed. By this time the fire was out and we could make our way down to the main impact area. We found the first ejection seat and realized we had to safe it immediately. We were standing ankle deep in jet fuel with body parts still laying all around us and we had to remove all the explosive components from the seat. We also realized that if any of the components were to fire, there was a good chance the jet fuel could reignite, while at the same time, NOT taking them out posed a risk of possible firing due to their exposure to fire and severe impact. Incidences like this continued for the next several hours and we had to work continuously until darkness fell and then again the next day.

There are many other stories to tell from that day, but this is more than enough. In the end, it turns out that Jeff McCanch and his family were okay--burned pretty badly, but ultimately okay. The other couple, the Shaffers, were okay too, although she suffered severe burns to her arms and legs and required longer hospitalization. I'm still in contact with my very good friends the Shaffers and we talk of this day on occasion. It felt good to get a lot of this stuff off my chest, but I'll never forget the things I saw, heard, smelled, and experienced. In some ways I hope I will forget it all, but I know deep down that I never will...

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