



China Post 1

WINTER 2019



Generals Ward & Chennault & LT Helseth China Post 1 Poop Sheet

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Welcome from the Commander

By 騎龍魁 Ronald Burkett, Post Commander

The Year of the Dog was an excellent year for China Post 1. Our San Antonio reunion had almost twice the attendance we have enjoyed in recent years. Reunion 2019 will be on 19-22 September in Colorado Springs. There have been emails out on that. If you have not received one you can get details on our web page at www.chinapost1.org.

Our membership renewal rate so far is 94% for Fiscal Year 2019. For those of you waiting for one more reminder please go to www.legion.org/renewal and take care of that. The percentage of post-Vietnam era members continues to increase, and that is good for the survival and wellbeing of the post. It is also necessary that our current members continue to recruit qualified people. As I think about it, our percentage of WWII vets also just went up. Eleven of the fourteen surviving

members of Chennault’s Flying Tigers joined China Post over the holidays.

Sadly, this past year fifty-one of our members moved on to Post Everlasting. Among them was MacAlan Thompson, a longtime supporter of China Post 1 and the TLC (Thailand/Laos/Cambodia Brotherhood). TLC is a children’s support organization in that part of the world. We donated to them in MacAlan’s name.

Joe Gentile had arranged for several of us to make a centennial trip to Shanghai last month to rededicate our old Post Home, the American Club. We also planned to visit a museum featuring General Ward in Nanking. Two days prior to our departure, the U.S. State Department issued a travel advisory and we decided that discretion

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would be the better part of valor. We do plan to visit the Chennault Museum operated by his granddaughter in Monroe, Louisiana later this month. Scott Riebel will report on that later.

We have been on the lookout for a new adjutant, and Jeff Carson has volunteered to take on that responsibility pending elections next fall. I believe the post is in excellent shape. Our membership continues to increase and we are operating in the black. Thanks to all of you for your interest and enthusiasm. The year of the Pig is just around the corner; Marlys and I wish you all well.

China Post 1 2019 Reunion Plans

By 龍飛龍 Scott Riebel, Deputy Commander

China Post 1, Colorado Springs, CO, 19-22 September 2019.

This year's China Post 1 reunion will be held at the HOTEL ELEGANTE' CONFERENCE AND EVENT CENTER, 2886 SOUTH CIRCLE DRIVE, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO <https://www.hotelegante.com/> Our room rate is \$134.00 per night, and includes a free breakfast buffet for two, which will be served in our conference room each day. No resort fee, and free Wi-Fi. Rooms will be available at this rate for at least three days before and after the reunion, from 16-25 September 2019.

RESERVATION: To reserve your room at the negotiated rate, click on the following link:

<https://www.reseze.net/servlet/SendPage?hotelid=1410&skipfirstpage=true&page=2324053>, or call the Hotel at 800-981-4012 and use the code "American Legion China Post 1" or 2324053.

TRANSPORTATION: When you register, tell the hotel you are requesting transportation from the Colorado Springs airport to the hotel.

REGISTRATION FEE: The registration fee is to be determined.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Thursday, 20 September: Check into the hotel and register. The Hospitality Suite will be open from Thursday morning, through Sunday around noontime. China Post 1 Dragon Riders Ride! Email Tony Archer at tonyarcher@me.com for more information. There will be two rides scheduled: one on Thursday to Bishops Castle, and the other on Friday to Cripple Creek, Colorado.

Friday, 21 September: Sightseeing and touring local attractions. After you are at the hotel, everything downtown is easily accessible. The hotel offers a free shuttle downtown, or you can use yellow cab, Uber, or Lyft. Colorado Springs highlights awe-inspiring natural beauty, and a multitude of noteworthy tourist attractions. I have listed some of my favorite attractions below. I hope you will include them as part of your Colorado Springs visit!

- GARDEN OF THE GODS, 1805 N 30th St, Colorado Springs, CO 80904, (719) 634-6666;
- US OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER, 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909, (719) 866-4618;
- PIKES PEAK, Elevation: 14,114 feet (4,302 m), First ascent: 1820, Prominence: 5,509 feet (1,679 m);
- CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO, 4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80906, (719) 633-9925;

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- PRO RODEO HALL OF FAME, 101 Pro Rodeo Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80919, Phone: (719) 528-4764;
- UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY (USAFA). Located just north of the city, the USAFA is home to roughly 4,000 students. It is also one of the state's most famous tourist attractions, with a million visitors every year. Of course, there are also Historic Cripple Creek and Manitou Springs, Colorado. Hank Hoffman will be setting up a tour of the Air Force Academy, which will include access to restricted areas of the campus. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. For more information, contact Hank at hankthird@aol.com.

Saturday, 22 September: Meeting locations are to be announced:

- 09:00 Executive Committee Meeting.
- 10:30 General Membership Meeting, all members of the American Legion Family (China Post 1 members, Auxiliary members, and Sons of the American Legion) are invited.
- 13:30 The Auxiliary and the 40&8 meet concurrently; room assignments will be posted later.
- 18:00 Cocktails.
- 19:00 Banquet. Plated, double entrée (beef and chicken) with sides and dessert, \$42.00 a head including tax and gratuity.
- 21:00 Retire to the Hospitality Suite.

Please remember that this is a work in progress. I am trying to provide a heads up for planning purposes. There are many more things to do in Colorado Springs if you would like to extend your stay.

The History of China Post 1

By **龍飛龍** *Scott Riebel, Deputy Commander*

Over the past year I have been in regular contact with Ms. Anne Stone, the granddaughter of former China Post 1 Commander Frank D. Mortimer. Many of you already know the significant role that Commander Mortimer played in the formation, success, and preservation of the Post and its records. Besides being the Post Commander in 1936 and 37, dates that coincidentally overlap with the Japanese Occupation of China following the Marco Polo Bridge incident, as well as Captain Claire Chennault's arrival in China, he was responsible for the operation of the Post while interred in Pootung Civilian (prisoner of war) Camp following the attack on Pearl Harbor.



Because of his natural leadership skills and command presence, he was selected each year as the Camp Representative. His efforts included trying to ensure proper nutrition and medical treatment for the internees, objecting to random beatings, interrogations and torture, and attempting to ensure that the Red Cross packages intended for the internees were undisturbed, uninterrupted and distributed.

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Frank suffered physical, mental and emotional abuse during those years, but nothing could compare to the loss of his beloved wife Helen on November 28, 1942, less than a year after being imprisoned, as reported by the Swiss Counsel General.

Despite the obstacles Frank had to overcome, his dedication to the preservation of the Post remained a priority to him. With unparalleled clarity and focus he methodically chronicled his time in China, and preserved that time within his family in the form of writings, photographs and artifacts for what I can only speculate was that one day his granddaughter would uncover his connection to this pivotal time in history, and his connection to China Post 1.



Recently, Ms. Stone emailed me photographs of her grandfather's China Post 1 fore and aft cap and other memorabilia in her collection (which is extensive). A picture of his cap appears above with his Past Commander medal attached.

An engraving on the reverse side of the medal reads, "*Presented to F.D. Mortimer by the Frederick T. Ward Post, China 1936 & 37, Shanghai*".



In addition, I received a picture of this artifact. This matchbook dates from sometime between November 1949 and August 1957, after our exile from China, but prior to the loss of General Chennault.

Ms. Anne Stone is now a member of China Post 1 Auxiliary and will, with some luck, be able to attend the China Post 1 2019 Reunion.



China Post 1 Auxiliary

By Linda Cockrell, President

The China Post 1 Auxiliary is coming back to life! I am hoping to get 100% of dues paid in the next few weeks. Current active membership of the Auxiliary is 49, and 38 ladies have paid their 2019 dues! The remaining 11 have been contacted to get them on board. Great job, Ladies!

We are always looking for new members! We welcome new members Margaret Abbott, Pamela Cain, Dr. Kristine Clark, and R. Anne Stone. At this time, we have one, possibly two ladies, who are in the process of transferring membership to the China Post 1 Auxiliary.

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I will be communicating with **Auxiliary Secretary Patricia Bogdanowicz** and **Auxiliary Treasurer Lisa Ownby** to hand over the duties of their offices. During the process of restructuring the Auxiliary, the President had been executing the duties of Secretary and Treasurer.

A Note from Auxiliary Chaplain Arlys Gowen

As your Chaplain, I would like to touch base with each of you during the year. If you hear of a Sister we have lost, or someone needs a Get Well, Thinking of You, or Sympathy card, please contact me. If you never turned in your birthday date when you registered, you can email it to me. If your email address has changed, please email me the new one.

Auxiliary Activities

In November 2018, China Post 1 Commander Ron and Marlys Burkett visited Ruidoso, NM. During their stay, Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Commander Leroy Cockrell and **Auxiliary President Linda Cockrell** hosted a dinner for them. China Post 1 member “Wild” Bill Parrish and **China Post 1 Auxiliary member Lola Parrish** joined the fun. Everyone was well behaved!



HONOR FLIGHT Welcome

In October, **President Linda Cockrell** joined SAL Commander Leroy Cockrell in El Paso, TX to welcome the HONOR FLIGHT coming back from Washington, DC. On board was China Post 1 member “Wild” Bill Parrish. As Patriot Guard Riders, the Cockrells were in the flag line that welcomed the veterans as they left the plane. This HONOR FLIGHT was for WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans. Later Leroy and Linda took Bill to dinner.



China Post 1 Auxiliary standing in the flag line. SAL Commander Leroy Cockrell and China Post 1 member “Wild” Bill Parrish

China Post 1 Reunion, 19-22 September 2019

Plans are in progress for the 2019 China Post 1 reunion. The reunion will be held in Colorado Springs, CO at the Hotel Elegante’ Conference and Event Center. The Auxiliary is scheduled to meet at 1330, Saturday, 21 September. We hope to see everyone there!

President Linda Cockrell would like to remind the ladies of the Auxiliary to send her any newsworthy articles and pictures about the Auxiliary and its members. She hopes to build camaraderie among the members by getting to know one another. Send via email to: AUXPresident@ChinaPost1.email.

China Post 1 Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron

By Leroy Cockrell, Squadron Commander



We are off to the New Year with all kinds of challenges to become an *even better* SAL Squadron of our China Post 1...even better than we were when we had twice the membership! An anomaly in past years allowed inactive members to retain membership despite their negligence in paying dues. This irregularity has been corrected, and we now have a solid membership of active members numbering 44, which is at 90% renewal. Those few that have not renewed need to get their dues in ASAP before losing their “Continuous Years” of service notation.

- *And now, speaking of MEMBERSHIP*, we need to get our base back up to traditional numbers regardless of past circumstances! As was noted in the Fall Poop Sheet, our most likely prospects are within our own China Post 1 Legion ranks. Presently our Legion base consists of qualified, and in some cases, *very distinguished* individuals. This is most obvious at our yearly reunions, especially during special presentations such as the Annual Bullshippers Award. Who better to produce a fresh base of SAL members than the folks present at the Saturday night banquet than them? Come on, Legionnaires, point

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your eligible offspring our way, and help us broaden our base and better serve our Veterans and their Families! Contact me at Salcmdr@chinapost1.email for details and help with signing up your loved ones. By the way, we now take PayPal for dues payments!

- *A new Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Project* is in the process of beginning within the China Post 1 SAL Squadron. With members scattered all over the world, it is fundamentally impossible for us to get together for projects. However, there are still many activities that can be done on an individual basis for our Veterans and their families!

We are beginning here in January to log our hours and dollars spent on the various efforts that involve participating in good deeds for Vets and their relatives. These activities can and will be as varied as our membership. Everything from time spent at Veteran's homes and hospitals, to yard or home assistance for older vets, and certainly taking part in any activity at a veteran's burial or cemetery. The list goes on and we are *leaning on our membership* to come up with a very broad spectrum of activities that any veteran's organization would be proud to support. I will give an update in future Poop Sheets of our accomplishments. In addition, of course we will report them to the Department of France (DOF) and the National Headquarters at the year-end, and may qualify for various awards including the Rigsby Award.

- Two **new members** have joined the SAL Squadron during the fall quarter. They are Mr. William Maher of Treynor, IA and Commander Kent Winship of Dillingham, AK. Both are Dual Members and Kent is the Commander of Post 442 in Dillingham. We welcome them both and look forward to seeing them at the next China Post 1 Reunion.

TAPS: None reported during the Fall Quarter.

China Post 1 Dragon Riders

By 龍飛龍 *Scott Riebel, Deputy Commander*

Thanks to some unexpected contributions, the China Post 1 Dragon Riders have collected \$3,390 for the Legacy Fund this fiscal year. I just want to say THANK YOU for all of your efforts and for getting these dues in on time. We have blown through the \$2500 mark thanks to the GENEROUS donations of: Abe Goldfarb, Claire Sullivan and Mike Calhoon from American Legion Post 5 in Seward Alaska (a China Post 1 Watering Hole), and Janie Miller, China Post 1 Chaplain.

With a large contribution from China Post 1, we will be able to give the Legacy Fund a nice check at the National Convention.



Pictured left to right: Anthony "Stogey" Archer, Scott Riebel, Keith "A-Train" Francis, Al "Caboose" Salas, Cathy "Storm" Wheat

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The following 54 China Post 1 Legion Riders have answered the call to get their dues in. Thanks to: Ardison, Enloe, Rorech, Quijano, Cockrell, Pierre-Benoist, Muzzicato, Damewood, Schlechty, Robertson, Bayro, Clark, Reeder, Reeder, Hendershot, Worley, Obermiller, Salas, Waite, Britton, Geo.White, Hanke, Matheson, McCann, Minderhoud, Kilburn, Gower, Wunsch, Phillips, Britton, Spillman, Houts, Houts, Protzman, Protzman, Valdez, Cavallero, Kehrwald, Hoskinson, Riebel, Archer, Rivers, Babb, Anguiano, Newsome, Scott, Patty, Weedman, H Stockenberger, his son Mike, Biernacki, Judge, Mike Gibbs, Dave Lis, and Richard Call.

New Members

By Anna H. Lint, PhD

Month	Name
October, 2018	FRANK W KRONEN, BERNARD J LAWLESS, CHRISTOPHER T MATTHEWS, JAKIE W RICE, HARRY J SOILEAU (5)
November, 2018	ANDREW J ARNETT, WILLIAM A NOYCE, THOMAS L SANDS JR (3)
December, 2018	JOHN R BILLI, JOHN G DEZSO, RONALD A KIRCHOFF, CARLOS S RAMIREZ (4)
January, 2019	CLIFF LONG SR, WILLIAM MCINTYRE, JOSEPH D MORGAN III, PIERRE MUENTNICH, STEPHEN PIMPO (5)

Dragon Fund Donors

By Anna H. Lint, PhD

Month	Name
October, 2018	MICHAEL R CAGGIANO JR, BETTYJ ROTHENSTEIN (2)
November, 2018	ROBERT D PONGRAC (1)
December, 2018	RICHARD DARCY, DOUGLAS K ERWAY, CURTIS E KING, MICHAEL G LAMAR, WILLIAM A MAHER, RICHARD PRINCE, CARLOS S RAMIREZ, WILLIAM RORECH III, SAVERIO F TODARO, JOHN M WALLS (10)
January, 2019	JOSEPH D MORGAN III (1)

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Memorial Division News

Nevada Memorial Division

By 雄獅士 Jim Lint

China Post 1 Meeting Saturday 9 FEB NOON at the Leatherneck Club

We just got back from an InfraGard meeting in San Diego. I drove through the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD). Everyone there is much nicer to me these days, since Nov 1975. We stayed at the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), which was close to my InfraGard event.

Earlier in January, I attended CES, a small electronics show with over 180,000 attendees. I also saw Shot Show, and met China Post 1 members at both.

Good people are doing lots of good work protecting the USA.

See you next Saturday.

The Third Thanksgiving Empty Nester Event in Las Vegas

On 22 Nov 2018, the Nevada Memorial Division again enjoyed a uniquely China Post 1 event at a Chinese Buffet with 10 people in attendance: Jeff and Lily Carson, Bob and Linda Fite, David and Jenny Jensen (from Phoenix), Pete and Nicole Caimi, Jim and Anna Lint.



Northern Virginia Memorial Division

By Mike Evers, Memorial Division Adjutant

The 2019 Annual Luncheon is scheduled to be on April 28 at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge Number 2188 (this is the same location as last year).

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Quarterly Feature

By **龍飛龍 Scott Riebel, Deputy Commander**

This year the Generals Ward & Chennault and Lt. Helseth American Legion Post 1, Shanghai, China, is celebrating its 100th anniversary of the founding of the Post.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary, China Post 1 member Joe Gentile came up with the idea to commission artwork for several plaques to memorialize the rededication of the Old Post Home in Shanghai and for the Heavenly Kingdom Museum in Nanking, home of the General Frederick Townsend Ward exhibit.



Because of the generous donation of material, time, and money from **Dan Irvin** of **Midwest Steel**, Rogers, MN, **Brad Johnson** owner of **Topspeed CNC** in Lawrenceville GA, and Sons of the American Legion member **Joe Apel**, owner of **Team 1 Auto Experts**, Alpharetta GA, this enormous undertaking came to fruition.

As a direct result of those contributions, on December 14, 2019, Executive Committee members Deputy Commander Scott Riebel, Judge Advocate General Kerry Kilburn, and Joe Gentile traveled to Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, GA, the home of the Flying Tigers. They presented the 23rd Wing with a replica of the plaque for presentation to the People of Shanghai at the rededication of the

Old Post Home.

The historical ties of China Post 1 to the 23rd, and the Flying Tigers run long and deep. Among our members are Tex Hill, Robert Smith, and James B. “Earthquake McGoon” McGovern, whose remains were discovered in Laos in 2002. After identification by another China Post 1 member at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in 2006 and repatriation, they are now in the Arlington National Cemetery. Of the 15 surviving Flying Tigers, twelve of them are members of China Post 1.



General Chennault, aviator and soldier of fortune, is famous due to his leadership of the Flying Tigers, the China Air Task Force (CATF), Civil Air Transport (CAT), and CNRRA (Chinese National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) during and after World War II.

To this day, the Chinese revere General Chennault. Accordingly, the Shanghai Municipal Council has declared the Old Post Home a protected historic site.

On January 8, 2019, members of the Post leadership, including Commander Ronald Burkett, were to fly to Shanghai to rededicate the Post home at 209 Foochow Street and to present to the People of Shanghai a plaque celebrating 100 years of China Post 1 history.

Besides being the home of China Post 1, the American Club at 209 Foochow Street served at one time as General Chennault’s offices.

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The Post leadership had planned to present a second plaque to the Heavenly Kingdom Museum in Nanking, China, which has an entire wing of its facility dedicated to another China Post 1 namesake, General Frederick Townsend Ward.

The Post leadership had also expected to conduct a pilgrimage to the Ward obelisk, the site of General Ward's death in Ningbo, China. Unfortunately, only two days before our scheduled trip, the State Department contacted us and "encouraged/told" us to cancel our trip to China for the near future.

Two trips are currently scheduled for 2019, one in March and another in August with a backup of November 2019 should current tensions persist.

Fallen Comrades

James E. Parker, Jr.

On October 9, 2018 China Post 1 lost one of our most distinguished and respected members, James E. "Mule" Parker, Jr. Those who would like to know more about Mule's impressive career and accomplishments should be able to see his obituary at http://www.thepilot.com/obituaries/james-e-parker-jr/article_4cdecc42-d3e4-11e8-a0b7-674007cbb7b2.html . Mule served our nation with great distinction. RIP, Mule.

Jerome M. Kwiatkowski

Mike Evers has reported the sad news of the death on December 1, 2018 of a long time friend and China Post 1 member, Jerome M. "Jerry" Kwiatkowski.

Jerry's obituary is at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?pid=190959155>

MacAlan Thompson

As reported by Commander Burkett, MacAlan "Mac" Thompson moved on to Post Everlasting in Thailand on December 17, 2018. MacAlan's Bangkok Post obituary is at <https://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/1596494/refugee-hero-macalan-mac-thompson-dies-at-77>.

News from Our Members

Chris Spidle has shared some additional photos and background information about the former China Post 1 Headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona

Photo 1 shows a handmade silk (probably Chinese) aviator's scarf owned by Anthony Polacco, a member of U.S. Army Air Corps 426th Night Fighter Squadron "Flying Tigers", a successor to the original American Volunteer Group (AVG) "Flying Tigers", in China. His brother Corporal Augustine Polacco served as a waist gunner aboard a B-29, which crashed over Japan on June 29, 1945. His father Vincent Polacco became an American Volunteer and citizen in 1917, serving through the war's end in 1918.

Anthony was the stepfather of the present owner of our former Post Headquarters. She provided these items, sent to her by her mother, for me to photograph. The scarf bears a dragon similar to our current dragon symbol.



Photo 1 - Aviator's Scarf

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I find it extremely interesting, and possibly more than coincidental, that Anthony, a Flying Tiger, was often in the home, never knowing it had been our Post Headquarters, and the significant relationship of the Post to the Chinese assistance effort.

Photo 2 is of Anthony Polacco wearing the scarf while in service in the Flying Tigers.



Photo 2 - Anthony Polacco

Photo 3 depicts the present day garage of C. A. S. Helseth's former home, and our former Post Headquarters. Surprisingly, it has been maintained just as it was when the current owner bought the home. It seems unusual to me that they would not remodel it to represent their own needs. It is like a time capsule.

Photo 4 shows the street view of the home with emphasis on the unusually LARGE country style mailbox. They sent out a lot of correspondence for the Post, and received a lot of mail, hence the big mailbox preserved just as it was then.

I have many more photos of the interior and of news clippings, official documents regarding service assignment, etc.

I do hope leadership and membership will approve the installation of a commemorative plaque near the mailbox. The owners have offered to fund the budget for it, as they are proud to know who lived there. Owing to Commander Helseth's contribution keeping the post "alive" during difficult times, it would be fitting, I believe. Leadership or a small committee can approve the design. I am sure, knowing the owners are artists, that it will be tasteful.

Photo 3 – Garage Interior



Photo 4 – Mailbox



Poop Sheet Contributions Wanted

We welcome contributions to the Poop Sheet from all of our members, including links and photos that relate directly to our Post, its members, and their activities and accomplishments. However, please DO NOT send anything classified or sensitive including topics of a political, sexual or religious nature. Your contributions to

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the Poop Sheet should be sent to poopsheet@chinapost1.email with the Subject: Poop Sheet Article. **Please send all other notices, requests for information or support, and any other messages to the appropriate individual in the directory that follows.**

American Legion China Post 1 Directory

Officers

COMMANDER: Ronald Burkett Commander@ChinaPost1.email
 DEPUTY COMMANDER: Scott Riebel..... 1VC@ChinaPost1.email
 2nd VICE COMMANDER: Hans Stockenberger 2VC@ChinaPost1.email
 3rd VICE COMMANDER: Joe Hoofnagle 3VC@ChinaPost1.email
 ADJUTANT: Jeff Carson Adjutant@ChinaPost1.email
 TREASURER: Joe Hoofnagle Finance@ChinaPost1.email
 JUDGE ADVOCATE: Kerry Kilburn JAG@ChinaPost1.email
 HISTORIAN: Lewis Barger History@ChinaPost1.email
 CHAPLAIN: Janie Miller Chaplain@ChinaPost1.email
 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Alan Johnston SgtAtArms@ChinaPost1.email
 SERVICE OFFICER: Marlys Burkett SO@ChinaPost1.email
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American Legion Auxiliary

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Sons of The American Legion

SQUADRON COMMANDER: Leroy Cockrell SALCMDR@ChinaPost1.email

China Post 1 Dragon Riders

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