Section Five

Continuing--the year that followed

The days run together, the details are a blur, news reports are incomplete at best but we go on living one day at a time, wondering everyday where this new path will lead us.

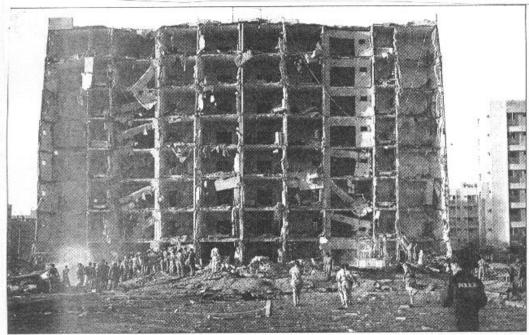
Not all bad things are all bad. Letters shown are just a selected few from the mountains of early mail that followed the attack. To this day, we correspond with many new friends, Mike's friends. Someone once said, to have a friend you must be a friend. Well, based on what we have seen and heard, Mike must have been a friend to many. He always talked about having friends all around the world. It was true.



WEDNESDAY

NATION

Tragic anniversary



Associated Press photo

On June 25, 1996, a truck bomb exploded outside the Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing 19 U.S. airmen.

Palm Coast family still mourning

By BOB FRANCE Staff Writer

PALM COAST — The parents of Master Sgt. Michael Heiser, one of 19 U.S. airmen killed in a June 25, 1996, terrorist bombing in Saudi Arabia, "still live this nightmare every single day," his father said Tuesday.

"It's something that never goes away," Gary Heiser of Palm Coast said of his son's death. "You should never outlive your children." Gary and Fran Heiser will attend reunions today and Thursday in Orlando for family members who lost loved ones in the bombing.

"We've walked in the same shoes," Heiser said, "but we haven't met a lot of the other survivors."

Heiser said he wanted to contact relatives of the other victims but the federal Privacy Act prevented government officials from releasing their names. Air Force personnel who knew the 19 victims also will attend the reunions.

Heiser's 35-year-old son served several tours of duty in Saudi Arabia, including a stint during the 1991 Per an Gulf War. Shortly before the bombing, he was transferred to Dhahran Air Force Base from Patrick Air Force Base in Cocoa Beach.

Heiser was a communications engineer and flew aboard F-15 and F-16 fighter-hombers. He moved to Palm



Heiser

The truck-bomb attack took place at the Khobar Towers housing compound for American servicemen.

While no one has been brought to justice for the bombing yet, a Saudi man was arrested in Canada last week and deported to the United States. Authorities plan to ask him about Saudi officials' claims that Iran was involved in the attack.

"I'm kind of glad they got this guy in Canada," Heiser said. "Our hope now is that eventually someone will be held accountable so this history never repeats itself."

The Heisers are critical of the way the U.S. government reacted after the bombing. "One can't help but wonder if the thinking would be different if one of those who so blatantly lied about 'taking full responsibility' had lost one of their own children or their only child," Fran Heiser said.

"All these 19 young people took an oath. They were willing to die for their country. They didn't. They died because of their country. When safety can't be provided by



ZACHARY and ELIZABETH M. FISHER ARMED SERVICES FOUNDATION

July 8, 1996

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heiser,

I would like to add my voice to those of all Americans in expressing my most sincere condolences to you and your family during this time of loss. Michael is very much in our prayers. We ask God's blessing for him and for you during this very difficult time.

My wife Elizabeth and I have over the years grown very close to that great family which is our nation's armed forces, and we feel a very deep sorrow during tragic times such as these. We know that there is no compensation great enough for the loss you have suffered, and that our prayers are probably the best help we can offer you. But we also realize that there are immediate financial needs which you may now have to face, and we do not want them to be a burden during this difficult time. Please accept this gift from Elizabeth and me as a small gesture of our concern for you, and as a token of gratitude toward Michael and all the men and women who have put their country and their fellow Americans first.

Again, please accept our deepest condolences, and know that we and all Americans are with you through this trying period.

Most sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Gary G. Heiser 10 Live Oak Lane Palm Coast, FL 32137

Offices at: INTREPID SEA AIR SPACE MUSEUM, 12th Avenue and West 46th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

The Fisher Foundation remembered all the families in a generous way



AIR COMBAT COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
LANGUEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA 23865-5555

1 July 1996

Mr. and Mrs. Gary G. Heiser 10 Live Oak Lane Palm Coast FL 32137

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heiser,

On behalf of the men and women of Air Combat Command, I offer our heartfelt sympathy on the death of your son. Michael's untimely death is a great loss to Air Combat Command and the entire Air Force.

Though words can do little to lighten the great burden of your grief, we want you to know our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult period.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. HAWLEY

General, USAF Commander

Acres .

400 North Ashley Street Suite 3050 Tampa, Florida 33602

July 2, 1996

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heiser,

I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences and tell you that I join you in your grief at the tragic loss of your son, Michael.

No words I can say will relieve your pain, but I want you to know you can be proud of your son's dedicated and selfless service to his country. Michael was both a heroic airman and a great American.

Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. I pray your grief will soon pass and your loving memories of Michael will be a source of warmth and strength now and in the years to come. May God bless you.

Sincerely

H. Norman Schwarzkopf General, U.S. Army, Retired



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS SET FIGHTER WING LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE VA

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER 156 SMEENEY BLVD SUITE 200 EAHOLEY AFE VA 23865-2391 1 0 JUL 1996

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Heiser 10 Live Oak Lane Polm Coast FL 32137

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heiser

As Commander of the 1st Wing, please accept my sincere condolences on the death of your son, Master Sergeant Mike Hoiser. I, along with all the members of our Wing, share in your loss and your grief.

Since joining this organization, Mike earned a place of teapest. As an Airborne Communications System Supervisor, he served brilliantly during DESERT STORM, and was instrumental in the enforcement of the no-fly zone in Southern Iraq.

Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. I am confident that our ideals of democracy will achieve greater heights because of the service rendered to our country by men such as Mike.

Sincerely

WILLIAMER, DORNEY III Brigadier General USAF

> COLDWELL BANKER D

ROBERT A. RIST

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL AFFILIATES, INC.
INTERNATIONAL READQUARTERS
27271 LAS RAMBLAS, SUITE 132
MISSION VIEJO, CA 92691

Global Power For America

July 2, 1996

Gary and Fran Heiser Coldwell Banker Heiser Realty 39 Old Kings Road, North Palm Coast, FL 32137

Dear Gary and Fran:

Please accept my most sincere sympathies for the loss of your son, Michael.

Having served in the U.S. Army, I am particularly sympathetic in this tragedy. However, I truly hope you realize that your son died a hero and all Americans are indebted to him.

May your proud and happy memories help you through this trying time.

Singerely.

Robert A. Rist

RAR:eh

c: J. Gillespie



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS 15T FIGHTER WING LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE VA

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER 150 SWEENLY BLYD SUITE 200 LANGLEY AFB VA 2365-2291 1 0 JUL 1996

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Heiser 10 Live Oak Lane Palm Coast FL 32137

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heiser

As Commander of the Lst Wing, please accept my sincere condolences on the death of your son, Master Sergeant Mike Heiser. I, along with all the members of our Wing, share in your loss and your grief.

Since joining this organization, Mike earned a place of respect. As an Airborne Communications System Supervisor, he served brilliantly during DESERT STORM, and was instrumental in the enforcement of the no-fly zone in Southern Iraq.

Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. I am confident that our ideals of democracy will achieve greater heights because of the service rendered to our country by men such as Mike.

Sincerely

WILLIAM R. DOONEY III Brigadier General USAF Commander Of course there were Many form letters

**

CHIEF OF STAFF UNITED STATES AIR FORCE WASHINGTON

15 JUL 1996

Slobal Power For America Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heiser

I was deeply saddened by the tragic loss of your son, Master Sergeant Michael G. Heiser, in the terrorist bombing of the military housing facilities at Dhahran Air Base, Saudi Arabia. Please accept my condolences along with those of his many friends and associates in the Air Force.

Your son's commitment and ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our ideals strengthens our resolve and furthers our hopes for peace. Although there is little that can be said to lessen your grief, I want you to know we appreciate Sergeant Heiser's contributions to the Air Force.

On behalf of a grateful nation and the men and women of the Air Force, please accept my deepest sympathy at this most difficult time.

RONALD H. FOGLEMAN General, SAF Chief of Staff

Mr. and Mrs. Gary G. Heiser 10 Live Oak Lane Palm Coast, Florida 32137

I receively read of nere's geath in gir force Teines. I can't tell you how sorry yam. When twere both stationed at the 10Accs, PAF Mildertall in the U.K. We were both stationed there in the late 1980's. I left active detty in august 1989 Jollowing the buth ofrry first child. my last job en the an force before & left active duty was that of flight Connerded for

To let you know that many thoughts are with you at this time.

Sincerely,

Victi January

Victi January

Victi January

Victi January

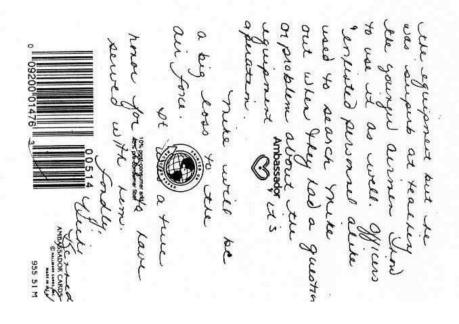
Was one of my best

(SOS - to was very,

smeet, extremely bright

+ very talented. He was

great at not only operating



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20516-0903

July 5, 1996

Mr. and Mrs. Gary G. Helser 10 Live Cak Lane Palm Coast, Florida 32137

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heiser:

My sincere condolences are extended to you in the death of your son, Michael. We are never prepared for the loss of a loved one, but the tragic nature of Michael's death makes it even more difficult to bear. I trust the love and support of family and friends will comfort you during this time of tremendous grief.

During these critically troubling times for our nation, the world, and especially for you, I wanted you to know that millions of Americans, and especially those in Florida, offer tribute to Michael and his fellow servicemen. They gave the ultimate in sacrifice for their country - their lives. These gallant Americans will be sorely missed by their families, friends and those who were privileged to serve with them.

Although there are no words to ease the pain you are now experiencing, please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

with kind regards,

Sincerely,

Cos Grata

United States Senator

ad/elm



FILLIE K, FOWLER
FOUNTS DISTRICT
FLORIDA

June 27, 1996

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Heiser 10 Live Oak Lane Palm Coast, FL 32137

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heiser;

I was so terribly sorry to learn of the death of your son Michael, and I wanted to express my deepest condolences to you and your family. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers — and those of many others — at this difficult time.

All Americans join with you in mourning the loss of your son and the other service members who died in this terrible incident. As a member of the House National Security Committee, I can assure you that everything possible is being done to apprehend those who are responsible for this tragedy.

I cannot even imagine how you are feeling right now, but I hope that you will be able to take comfort in the love and support of your family and friends and the knowledge that God is holding you in His hands. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Tillie K. Fowler Member of Congress

Will. For

I knew Mike while he was stationed here at Parnotein. Mike was quite the character, aways ready enjoy a laugh or poke fun of things that amused wm. In truth, sometimes he ended up laughing alone while the rest of us struggled to understand what was so funny. Still it was always fun to have him dround so that we could find out about all the people and places that he nad Visited. Oorta, our own official lour Guide. That and the fact he was always trying to sell someone a nouse ... Before he PCS'd out of Romotein we had a small gathering, swapped some Soutories, and sharted some laughes. Llever quite hove seen someone who enjoys and does the job that Mike did. Flyers, flyer they say. Hwas hard on most of us when the news finally came to light after the bombing. Mike is a rare type that we all could use more of. I don't know, lie just been thinking of him alot lately, and wanted you to know we core. HIGE.

SSGT MAYWELL

GYNTHIA A. PHILLIPS

8944 Vinewood Lane North Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369

September 13, 1996

The Honorable Paul J. Wellstone United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Senator Wellstone,

I am writing this letter to express my concern about the security of our military troops in overseas locations, as well as my pure outrage at the current publicity regarding the bombing at the U.S. military base in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, on June 25, 1996.

In June 1980, I enlisted in the United States Air Force and served honorably for twelve years. I continued to serve as a Guardsman in the Minnesota Air National Guard for four more years prior to my retirement. During the final years of my tenure on active duty, I had the privilege of serving as a U.S. Postmaster during Operations Desert Shield and Storm at Ramstein, Germany. For many years, I studied advanced security measures, terrorism, and military strategies as did all U.S. military personnel. In my opinion, the attack in Dhahran could have been predicted by the youngest airman. While serving at Ramstein Air Base during Operation Desert Storm, the base was considered a "high threat base" for terrorist attacks. For the duration of the operation, the base, well outside the area of operations, operated under a much heightened security posture which translated a terrorist attack was "probable." Not only was security appropriately tight on the base, perimeter guards were posted all the way around the base at 50 yard intervals. Were these actions taken because officials truly believed the base populace was at risk, or were they more concerned about the 16 General Officers the base housed? I question that logic only now because of the events in Dhahran. The security was shoddy at best; the security described was that established for a base unthreatened. Factions had made it perfectly clear only a month prior that Americans would pay for the execution of their fellow activists. This, in itself, should have created a greater sense of urgency among the military leaders. But that, as was evidenced, was not the case. And because of senior leadership's failure to react properly, in a manner any trained soldier or airman knows in his or her sleep, 19 of our dedicated men were killed in an action that was completely preventable. Clearly, the populace far outside the area of operations received much better security than our people serving in a country where the local people were hostile at best, and unwanting of our protection. I find the actions, or better the failure, of our senior leadership to act, reprehensible.

Today, as I sat and watched the evening news, I was told our senior leadership would not be singled out and held responsible for their actions or lack thereof. The Secretary of Defense has said he is responsible and senior military leaders should not be held liable. Does this make everything OK? I wonder if we polled the family and friends of the dead airman if they feel more

comforted now knowing that it wasn't senior leadership's fault for failing to provide proper security for their husbands, sons, fathers, or friends—it was the Defense Secretary's. I know as an experienced, seasoned airman, had I fallen asleep at my post or failed to execute the proper security I would have been court-maritaled for "what might have happened." Had something actually happened under my jurisdiction, I would be in Fort Leavenworth. The people responsible for failing to provide the proper security must be held responsible—it doesn't signify who that might be—I believe the Constitution which those 19 airman were selflessly defending states no one is above the law. Moreover, I have always known the installation commander to be responsible for the security of an installation, not the Defense Secretary. The American public deserves a better answer. The people who loved and depended on those 19 airman deserve a better answer. And quite frankly, those airman who unconditionally trusted their country and its leaders and made the ultimate sacrifice, deserve a better answer.

Senator, as one of your constituents, I find what happened in Dhahran to be an outrage. As I hear proclaimed over and over again during this election year, America is the greatest, most technologically advanced country in the world. If this is so, why can't we protect a simple military installation from terrorist attack? Over the past couple of months, I have watched numerous campaign commercials regarding your concern for children, the middle income citizen, and the elderly—in essence, for the innocent. Don't the men and women, who volunteer to protect this country and her interests abroad deserve the same concern? I implore you to demand resolution to the security issues wherever our men and women are serving. If we are going to send our dedicated people outside the U.S. to protect an unknown commodity (why, exactly, are we there?), they have the right to expect to be kept out of harms way of all known threats. When I signed my enlistment contract 4 consecutive times, it never crossed my mind that I might die because of the lack of action by my own people. Those responsible for the lack of proper security in Dhahran must be held accountable for their actions. Further, those responsible for the bombing itself must be actively sought out and punished.

As you may have surmised, a very good friend of mine, Master Sergeant Michael Heiser, was among those killed in Dhahran. How do I, an airman who truly believed in what she did for 16 years, comfort his family and explain why his life was so readily disposable? Why is no one responsible? The deaths of these men served no discernible purpose except to further the agendas of terrorists all over the world. And the unwillingness of U.S. officials to hold those in charge responsible for a clearly preventable act has seriously undermined any confidence in our government and its military leaders. The men who died so senselessly in Dhahran deserve to be honored--not with letters of condolence or the awarding of a flag from a grateful nation--but with the knowledge that there is justice for all.

Respectfully,

Cynthia A. Phillips
Master Sergeant, USAF (Retired)

Cindi never received a reply to the above, not even a form letter of acknowledgement. And, Washington wonders why we have an attitude!



SENATOR W. G. "DILL" BANKHEAD

June 27, 1996

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Heiser 10 Live Oak Lane Palm Coast, Florida 32137

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Heiser,

It is with deep sorrow that I read of your son's death in the Dhahran, Saudi Arabia bombing. Please know that your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

How fortunate we Americans are to have young people such as your son Michael who put their lives on the line to defend freedom and justice.

Your son served our country with honor, and I know his home community of Palm Coast should be especially proud of his dedication.

The Bankhead family wishes to extend our deepest sympathy to your family. I hope you will find comfort in your faith and in the knowledge that your son enriched the lives of all who knew him.

Cordially.

W. G. "Bill" Bankhead

WGB/cs



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
11st RESCUE SQUADRON (AGC)
369 RESCUE ROAD
PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE FL 32925-3434

30 June 1996

71st Rescue Squadron 969 Rescue Road Patrick Air Force Base, Florida 32925

Mr. and Mrs. Gary G. Heiser 10 Live Oak Lane Palm Coast, Florida 32137

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heiser,

Please accept my heartfelt condolence on the death of your son, Master Sergeant Michael G. Heiser. Mike was highly respected by every member of the 71st Rescue Squadron for his professional abilities as an American soldier, and as an individual who was considered a friend to all of the 71st Rescue Squadron.

Mike was deployed with members of our unit to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH enforcing United Nations resolutions which cover the southern no-fly-zone in Iraq. On Tuesday, 25 June 1996, at 2144 local Saudi Arabia time (1444 local Eastern Time) a fuct truck exploded outside a dornitory building, number 131. This building housed Mike and all other members of the 71st Rescue Squadron deployed with Mike in Saudi Arabia. At the time of the explosion, Mike was in his suite with Airman Paul Blais relaxing. Assistance to our soldiers in the building was almost immediate following the explosion. It was determined that Mike died instantly from injuries sustained from the fuel truck explosion.

I am proud to have been associated with Mike, and I join with the rest of the squadron in expressing our deepest sorrow at his loss. Be assured that I stand ready to help you in any way I can during this time of sorrow.

DONALD R. JOZAYT Lieutenant Colonel, USAF

Commander

GENERAL CHARLES G. BOYD

July 8, 1996

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heiser,

I am terribly saddened to learn of Mike's death. He flew with me many times when I was in Europe between 92 - 95. I cannot express what I know you must feel, but I do think I understand. You have my deepest condolences.

Regards,

Charles G. Boyd

General, USAF (Ret.)

I first wanted to let you know I just wanted to let you know to hear wo sorry lown is 40 were to hear the tragic news.

It tragic news.

It ke this one of my oldest 4 lest friend and we will always iss him.

He came so for since we were enagers and has accomplished so eith fraging to take pride A. It is in honor to call him my friend.

Our thoughts of fraging are ith you.

Please can if there is anything to can do...

To express

sincere symbathy

in your sorrow.

Sincerely,

Kerin' 4 (hance

(mareza K)



TERRORISM HITS HOME

Complete coverage, 7-10A

- Melbourne man relieved to learn his son survived, 8A.
- Local Islamic Americans react, 9A.
- Editorial, 14A; other articles, 12C.



WILLIAM SINE of Melbourne wipes tears of relief from his eyes.

These men from Patrick Air Force Base were killed in the bombing in Saudi Arabia:



Capt. Christopher J. Adams, 30 Massapequa Park, N.Y. Engaged 8-year veteran



Capt. Leland T. Haun, 33 Fresno, Calif. Married, 2 step-children 10-year veteran



Master Sgt. Michael Heiser, 35 Palm Coast, Fla. Single 17-year veteran



Staff Sgt. Kevin J. Johnson, 36 Shreveport, La. Married, 3 children 15-year veteran



Airman First Class Justin R. Wood, 20 Modesto, Calif. Single Less than 2 years

PATRICK MOURNS 5

In seconds, faraway blast changed lives forever

BOB DOLE

901 ISTH STREET, N.W. SUITE 410 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

June 2, 1999

Dear Frances and Gary,

I was sorry to learn that your son, Sgt. Heiser, was killed in the terrorist bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Mike was a good soldier who served his country with pride and honor.

Elizabeth joins me in sending our best wishes.

Sincerely,
BOB DOLE

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Heiser 10 Live Oak Lane Palm Coast, FL 32137-8003

Washington, D.C. 20005



Mr. and Mrs. Gary Heiser

Dear Gary and Fran,

I was surprised to actually get a phone call from you the other day. Mike has been so heavily on mind lately, that I needed that boost that I got from your call.

Things have been so hectic that I am behind with Christmas stuff. I hope that this card and letter get to you in time for the holidays. However, if it didn't, please know that we are thinking about you. I have taken to getting my cards ready during my lunch hours at work.

at night and it is willing to work around my schedule. Right now there is no place for me to go when I do finish my degree. But not sure what it is that I want to be. I have almost gotten my CPA. I have 3 of the 4 sections passed and am waiting to hear about the 4th one.

I did watch the program on MSNBC the other night. I almost cried when I saw Mike's picture. He was straight with me all the time. I miss the conversations that I had with him as he never pulled his punches and I always knew where I stood. He made such a difference in my life at a very difficult time. I am glad to know that you are not letting his murderers get away with just being swept under the rug.

P.S. Loven said that he is still having trouble downloading stuff from our e-mail.

Well, my lunch hour is up so I need to close.

Once again, know that we are thinking about you.

oven & Kathy

Dear Mr. + Mrs Heiser,

I was saddened to learn that Mike was killed in Dharahn. I was in the 58 mas stationed in Germany with Mike we flew together, worked in adjacent offices, and rode bikes together. In fact, I met you folks when you came up to Panama City to visit.

Fatrick AFB-a base I just left. I sent him a note just to say hi and tell him a bout my with being pregnant. He wrote back from Little Roch, AR and mentioned that he was frying to finish up there the also mentioned that he was going to Saudi For a 60 day rotation. I gues held only been in Saudi for a bout a cuech before the kombing.

Mike was agreet guy and a good friend. It's been a white since we were in Germany together so the news from Dhuraha to a white to sink in. I'm sure you know this, but I wanted to tell you - Mike Dequenty spoke highly of the both of you the was very proud of your accomplish ments as I'm sure you're proud of his. I will miss him dearly.

If there is any thing I can do for you. Tolks, please don't he sitche to call, I am no longer in the military, but my parents still live in St. augustine

Take care,

Dec. 10, 1996

Charles Grodin

Dear mis. Heiser, In terribly sorry for your loss.

Dagree with eventhing your soid. I have been talking about the criminal carelesoness of our government. Who has really been suinished for this except the boys who lost their lives and the families their lives and the families their lives and the families who bear this like yours who bear this unspeakable tragedy.

Unspeakable tragedy.

your letters spurs me to continue to speak out and hopefully other young people will be spared the consequences of our governments carelesoness of our governments, charles crodin

Families Gather in Grief



Still no answers in bombing of barracks

By Soraya Sarhaddl Nelson

Rissimmes, Fig. - At the Hyatt Hotel,

A year inter, her eidest son's deant han't ensier to bear, said Catherine Adams, mother of Air Force Capt. Christopher Adams of Massapeque Park, an HC-130 pilot who flew cargo planes on search-and-

rescue missions,
"I look back on the thirty years that I knew him,

grow up." said Adams, her eyes welling with tears. The weeks after her return from a January trip to see Khobar Towars proved the toughest time yet, she

Recomment Fig. — At the Hyart Hetal, and scores of Disary World enthesizate here for the March Kingdom's 25th burble here are an inversary — a bombing two continents are an inversary — a bombing two continents. They came from places as far apart as Long Island and Spokane, Wash, to share memories, bears and Senthans. They came from places as far apart as Long Island and Spokane, Wash, to share memories, bears and a Empering Grustration with a government they say still falls short in its rollorist to peofest American troops stationed in Sential Arabica memory and the still th aren't safe because the Saudi portion of the relocated joint military base continues on be easily accessed. Adams saud she saw that problem firsthand in

on, adams out one saw that pressent arstnance in damary.

"Chris didn't die in wartime. Chris died in peace time," she said. "They [government officials] can spend thousands of dollars on screws and boits and tei-

Please see REUNION on Page A35

was tenner. Chris died in piener time. "Sho sidd." They I government officially of an apond themsands of dollates on errows and balls and folicit souls. It was a transfer of the dollates on errows and balls and folicit souls. In the ball to them ball the ball the

On the first anniversary, a day none of us ever thought we would live to see, the families were united for the first time. We met for 3 days and shared memories and grief and knew we were in good company, the only people who really could say they understand how we feel. It was during that time we met with the leaders from Eglin and Patrick air bases and several of the troops who made it home after Khobar was attacked. Everyone had a story and it was good for all of us. Darci Sims was there for us and gave the emotional support from a professional stand point. It was also during this time we shared information about memorial services, which will lead into Section 7 as we try to show some of them in a picture story. Some are elaborate, some are simple, all are meaningful.



After making noise about the lack of a memorial at Patrick and the lack of answers in the investigation and in general, a lack of interest, we were invited to visit the Pentagon. We had the opportunity to sit in on a very informative briefing as to how they have beefed up Force Protection since the bombing of Khobar Towers.

This briefing was conducted by Lt General Vesely at the Pentagon. Maj Chris Valle was included while the General and his staff discussed increased awareness and Force Protection. That was supposed to make us feel better. After the main briefing we discussed the attitude of Gen Starbuck at Patrick and how our men were forgotten by their home base. This was the beginning of a three year roller coaster ride with many briefings and meetings at Patrick AFB and in Washington. The end result is pictured in Section (7) that captures some of the Memorials.

Hopefully some of the issues addressed regarding protection of our troops will help someone else in their time of need. We still feel strongly if others won't or can't protect our troops abroad then we don't belong there. Pack up our toys and come home. America First!

We also had an opportunity to meet with Mr Togo West who was Secretary of the Veterans Affairs







We gave Senator Dole a copy of a photo of him with Mike on the airplane. He smiled and said he remembered him well. Very nice man.

In a mother's own words

In her own words, From Heiser tells her thoughts and hopes for our enlisted men and

on Americans in Dhabran, Saudi Arabia.

People ask how we feel on this anniversary!! The answer is, no differently, we will live this nightmare every single day of our lives. The ceremonial remembrances celebrated around the world are just a wake up call for Americal Take heed! Wake tip!

Gary and I feel extremely fortunate to have so many of Mike's friends commune to keep us 'in the loop. When we meet, we are able to briefly turn back the clock and live, leve and length about the good times. It

love and lough about the good times. It helps to know they are thus and care. This tragedy shocked and rocked the mation. Our hope now is that evanually someone will be held accountable so this history never repeats itself. The problem is, as long as people are allowed to get accop-with morder, a tragedy of this nature could easily happen again. In fact, it has There

This tragedy could easily happen again

were Embassy bombings in Kenya and were landausy authorized in color and fantation has tear. The soverment is no different in their thinking than small children. If there as no pursuitment for wrong doing there is no reason may to push the limits. There are social immunities

given to special people and special nations but all the special immunities allow them to think they are being held above the late. I are sure, the intent was honorable when this system was initiated but Khobar Towers in

proof that change is needed. Novel
I know I can't single handedly change the
way things are done but someday, someone just might listers. One can't help but wonder if the thinking would be different if one of those who so blatantly lied about taking full

Someday, someone might listen

responsibility had lost one of their own children, or their only child,

It's easy to feel for someone you can't reach. If these people actually experienced losing their link to their future, the argency in the investigations might be on a different

We need to homestize this and put it in a

Not many understand the magnitude of such a tragic loss. Nineteen young men gone forever.

say, "only 19 died," doesn't cut it. To say you lost your only child and future has a

Not many understand the magnitude of such a tragic loss fortunately. Nineteen young own are gone forever and those 19 extend to spouses, parents, children.



Gary and Fran Heiser with Former Sen. Robert Dole

Protect our troops so they can be there to protect us

grandparents, aumis, uncousins, nieces, nephrws and lots of friends Many lives are affected and purtially rulned because of negligence.

Think about how many men and women make up our combined military services now and how many lives can be affected by any unfortunate incident. This number can extend into the millions of people. That is why we ask for change in the way the government offers our service people to be the nation's Boy Scouts. When safety cur't he provided by a host nation, we don't

belong there, not during peace time answay. not even as peace forcers. They are transit and ready, willing and shit to serve and protect. The USA should be our first Priority!

All these 19 young people took an outh, they were willing to die for their country. They didn't. They died because of their

We know people care about people but don't do it sitestly. Speak our. Proxect our troops so they can be there to proxect us. That's how it is supposed to work. Respectfully submitted,

Fran Heiser

MEMORIAL DAY AT ARLINGTON PRESIDENT CLINTON PRESIDES CHRIS & MARY VALLE ATTEND



INFORMAL MEETING WITH GENERAL SHALI AT TAPS 98

Quite an impressive display, don't you think? This is what earned the title of one of the Most Decorated Enlisted men in the Air Force.

