

# “WILLIE” FLIGHT 82

## Order of Daedalians

P.O. Box 11261, Chandler, AZ  
85248

<http://www.willieflight.org>

Issue 2, November 2021

### FLIGHT CAPTAIN'S CORNER:



On 9 October 2021 Ken Swaithes pronounced (Sways) spoke on his C-12 (King Air -200) deployments to the Middle East in 2004 and 2008. He compared his tour to Vietnam in 1970 to these deployments.

They performed lots of missions carrying people all over the Region. Short notice meetings, investigations, payroll runs, small passenger loads too small for C-130” s. They made trips to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Qatar, Bahrain, UAE, Oman, and Germany by way of Italy. Ken spoke of intense heat in the summertime, with temperatures exceeding 125 degrees F. In addition, the dust and Haboobs were very profound. Having significant effects on people and aircraft. November 2004, they returned home.

In February 2005, the unit was tasked to deliver a C-12 to Wiesbaden, Germany and swap out ferry tanks and then return another aircraft home. With intense winter weather on the northern route over Canada, Greenland, and Iceland, it was decided to go to Bermuda, Lajes, Portugal, and Rota, Spain instead. With the longest leg being 8.5 hours flight time and almost 1900NM. With internal fuel tanks we had 10 hours’ worth of fuel. Crossing four time zones with takeoff before sunrise and landing after sunset. They got to Germany in early February and were able to take off 5 days later for the return trip. On the return trip, between Rota, Spain and Lajes at FL 290 the pilot’s windshield shattered causing them to depressurize and descend to below 10,000 Feet. The pilot in the right seat had to land due to nearly zero visibility from the left seat.



Kens last deployment was to Balad, Iraq from October 2008-Jun 2009. The mission was reconnaissance and flew only one airplane over 2500 Hours in that period. The unit chose to go over those holidays, Christmas, Thanksgiving, and New Year’s because they would rather miss those holidays

than go through another summer in the Middle East.

V.V. --- Ron Perkins

**NEXT MEETING:** Our next meeting will be on Saturday 13 November at *The Doubletree* by Hilton Phoenix Mesa. The address is 1011 West Holmes Ave. Mesa, AZ 85210.

**Speaker:** Bill Penny; biography on page 2).

**Topic:** DEA Operations.

**Time:** 1100 Social Hour, 1200 Meeting/Lunch.

**Dress:** Dressy Casual (slacks and collared shirt).

**Menu:** Chicken Picada (All served with vegetables, salad, rolls, dessert, and coffee.) **Price:** \$30.00 per person.

**Note:** Please pay with a check (raffle tickets are 6 for \$5).

**Reservations:** To make a reservation, please contact your Element Leader (page 2), by Sunday, 31 October. For questions, please call Tom Waldron (480-883-0853 or 602-743-3661).

**Cancellations:** If you have made reservations and you cannot attend, please contact Tom Waldron (480-883-0853 or 602-743-3661) as soon as possible, so he can notify the restaurant.

**Need a ride?** Art Stark for help; 480-277-4700.

### MEETING CALENDAR: Last of 2021 & start of 2022

11 Sep	General Meeting	13 Sep	Staff Meeting
9 Oct:	General Meeting	11 Oct	Staff Meeting
13 Nov	General Meeting	16 Nov	Staff Meeting
11 Dec	Christmas Meeting	14 Dec	Staff Meeting
8 Jan	General Meeting	11 Jan	Staff Meeting
12 Feb	General Meeting	15 Feb	Staff Meeting
12 Mar	General Meeting	15 Mar	Staff Meeting
9 Apr	General Meeting	9 Apr	Staff Meeting
14 May	General Meeting	17 May	Staff Meeting

### OFFICERS & STAFF:

#### *Elected Officers:*

Flight Captain: Ron Perkins, USAF 602-2953880

Vice Flight Captain: Art Stark, USAF 480-288-9301

Treasurer:	Caroline Evernham, USAF	478-973-20 93
Scholarships Chairman:	Gerry Homewood, USAF	480-496-98 79
Provost Marshal:	Bill Follette, USAF	602-619-54 45
<i>Appointed Staff:</i>		
Flight Adjutant:	Arlan Allen, USA	602-283-58 62
Elements Coordinator & Chaplain:	Tom Waldron, USAF	602-743-36 61
A-V Support:	Art Stark, USAF	480-288-93 01
Asst A-V Support:	Kurt Gearhart, USAF	480-329-19 36
Biographies:	Gary Klein, USMC	480-650-55 22
Asst Scholarship/ Awards:	Gary Zettl, USAF	480-415-68 54
Membership & Publicity:	Pat Dooley, USAF	480-802-99 14



**Our guest speaker, Bill Penny, as an active DEA Agent, shown with General Noriega's Lear Jet. Note: RPG hole through the fuselage to disable aircraft.**

Bill Penny age 68. Born and raised in Yuma, AZ. Graduated N.A.U in 1975. Earned my Private Pilot license in 1973. Joined the Yuma Police Department as a patrolman in August 1975. Reassigned to the narcotics unit in 1976. Worked the street as an investigator and also started flying the Cessna 172, which was assigned to the narcotics section. Earned my commercial rating in 1977 and accumulated approximately 2000 flying mainly surveillance missions. Resigned in December 1979 from the Police Department and was hired by DEA in Yuma then reassigned to the Miami, Florida office in June 1979. Worked as a ground agent in Miami until February 1985 when I was selected as a pilot for DEA in New Orleans. After 6 years, I was transferred to the Phoenix DEA office in 1991. I retired from DEA in Jan. 2005 and went to work for Blackwater in Afghanistan, flying the Casa 212, which I had previously flown for DEA in South America. After 2 years in Afghanistan, I transferred to contracts in Africa, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Entebbe, Uganda and Niamey, Niger during 2007 – 2016.

I, also, flew for Western Pilot Service during this period, flying an Air Tractor 802, dropping fire retardant for the Forest Service for and the BLM 2007-2009

I have flown in 2 movies and a Honda ATV commercial. The first movie was Outbreak, utilizing the C-123K. The 2<sup>nd</sup> was Dumbo Drop, also using the C-123K. The Honda commercial was dropping the 4-wheelers out the back of the C-123, utilizing parachutes. I flew C-130's for International Air Response during the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and various other contracts.

Currently, I am flying for Bighorn Airways on smoke jumper contracts in Alaska and the lower 48. I am flying a Casa 212, also. Just can't shake the Casa

Total time: Helicopter 1900 hours and fixed wing: 15,400. I hold an ATP in single and multi-engine land CFI, CFII and Multi engine instructor.

Type ratings: ATR42, ATR72, CA-212, CE500, CV-240, CV-340, CV440, CO-228, FA-C1232, HS-125, LR-60, LR-JET, N-B25. Commercial Helicopter and an Instrument Helicopter.

