

Seasons Greetings

from the entire Arnold Family

We know many people think these Christmas, or holiday, letters are a bore or worse. To those of you an apology seems unnecessary as you no doubt won't read this far. While we cannot seem to make the time to write to each of you all we should, we manage to make time this once a year to at least let our friends know we are still here, still alive and no doubt kicking.

This has been another busy year for all of us. Hap is still flying F-4E's with the California Air National Guard's 163rd TFG at March ANGB. The Guard lost a couple of jets this summer, both crews got out relatively okay; one of birds hit the mobile truck, though. We lost one of our personnel people in the truck and the mobileer, Mark Gable, almost had his right leg ripped off. Mark has been a real inspiration since July. He has gone from he might make it, to he will never walk, to he will be in ICU until the end of the year, to walking with a cane. A long hard road behind with more ahead. You really have to hand it to him, one heck of a fine young lad.

With the two incidents and an a conversion to Wart Hogs, since cancelled, and an upcoming conversion to an unnamed aircraft Hap has not had much opportunity to get those most desired cross countries to see some of you. Hap did make it to Korea for Team Spirit, we all have everything we own embroidered now. Team Spirit was great, the flying wonderful, the local products better, and the indigenous locals were super people. Contrary to the image in the paper, we never met anyone who did not seem to be happy we were there. Hap says you haven't lived until you wake up the morning with a room full of kimchee. Also all bridgee look same when cleared by Korean FAC, cleared hot...

The flying sweet potato, the Apache, has a new instrument panel, lots of new seals and is doing great. If anyone knows of a spare Janitrol heater, please give us a call. Hap has been all over the west coast in it, maybe Colorado Springs for the OFA Convention next October.

Dru stays busy working at San Antonio Hospital, near Ontario, California, flying for the Air Force Reserves and trying to clean up after the gang at home. Dru got real lucky on her annual tour with the Reserves, Hickham, in Hawaii, in the spring. Next year, she will be even luckier, Anchorage, Alaska in January.

William, Hap, Dru, Dru's mom Virginia and friend Margaret went to Disneyworld for a week in December. What a great time! We saw almost everything in Mouse World, Epcot Center, MGM-Disney Studios, the Space Center and Cypress Gardens. It was really wonderful to get some time away with them all. One of the real high points of the year was in January when we got two baby rats, the "BR"'s, Marie and Zeke. They have been great.

William mostly goes by "Rodo" at home these days, a shortened version of *Rodentosaurus Rex* and can actually read and spell almost anything, not just rat and its various derivatives and forms. As in previous years, he is "into" Rats, Phantoms, Dinosaurs and anything that moves fast or roars. He far prefers guns to cameras and can actually shoot by himself now. He is still playing soccer, he still doesn't really care if they won or lost. His team did quite well once again, finishing somewhere around first or maybe last place .

We are all healthy and very happy. We are extremely conscious of just how lucky we are. At this time of year, our thoughts turn to our friends. We wish we could spend time with each of you this year, share our year past and our thoughts of the future. That cannot be and so we must rely on this letter to get our thoughts to each of you.

We wish each of you a very happy and joyous holiday season. To each of you, may your God be with you as ours is with us.

Best wishes and Love,

Dru, Hap, William, Rat, Zaxxon, Rex, Marie, Zeke, Roy and Sabie