

TRIBUTE TO “OSH”

9 July, 2010



Today, we pay tribute to our friend and fellow Spectre, “John Oelschlager” affectionately known by fellow Gunners as “Osh” or O+10.

On 31 January, 1991 during the Battle of Khafji, AC-130H Gunship tail number 69-6567, was firing on Iraqi forces and equipment located directly on the Kuwait/Saudi Arabia border post. Our friend, Technical Sergeant John Oelschlager was an Aerial Gunner working the 105mm gun during the strike. While engaging targets from an altitude of 9000 ft, the aircraft received a direct missile hit in the left wing.

The crew initiated emergency procedures, but within twelve seconds heavy damage caused catastrophic loss of two thirds of the left wing. Aircraft 6567 then spiraled out of control and crashed in the shallows of the Persian Gulf 600 yards off shore. The aircraft impacted the surface 85 degrees nose down, inverted, at over 300 miles per hour; there were no survivors.

It's been almost twenty years since the tragic loss of Osh and the crew of Spirit 03, but fellow Spectres still talk about Osh as if he was still with us...because as long as we remember him, he is.



“Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside us while we live.” (Norman Cousins)

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Old Glory and the Spectre flag flying over the “Hooch” during Operation Desert Storm. This photo was taken in late February, 1991 when smoke from the Kuwaiti oil well fires filled the sky. The search for the Spirit 03 crash site was ongoing at this time.

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Assemble

Opening remarks (Walter)

Presentation of letter (AFA) by Tommy Hull

Personal story by Dan Brown et.al

Personal story by Col Buckman

Offer to Mr. Oelschlager (to speak)

Closing remarks (Walter)