



VILLAGER SELECTED TO JOIN AIR COMMANDO HALL OF FAME by Jessica Shumaker, Daily Sun

August 18, 2010 - The Villages, Florida — Earlier this week, Village of Largo resident Gene Adcock received some pulse-quickening news.

He was told he had been selected to join a national hall of fame dedicated to air-commando veterans.

Although he had known he was nominated for the honor, it was confirmed Monday when he received official notice.

“I knew it was a possibility,” he said, “but your little heart goes to fluttering when you get the news.”

When asked how he felt, Adcock said he was joining a group of people he knows well.



Villages resident Gene Adcock, who served in the United States Air Force from 1955 to 1977 reflected in his medals shadowbox Aug. 10.

Photos by Mark DiOrio, Daily Sun



Adcock, second from left, is presented with an Air Medal for Vietnam combat operations in the fall of 1965, at Tachikawa Air Base, Japan.

“I’ve been involved with this community and the Air Commandos Association Hall of Fame for 50 years,” he said. “They’re just a bunch of friends. Of course, it’s an honor to be nominated, but these are all friends.”

When he says friends, he means it. Out of the group of 10 inductees who will join the hall of fame in October, three names listed next to his were men who served in his unit.

The hall of fame includes 140 names, including 94 officers and 46 enlisted personnel. It’s based in Fort Walton Beach, at the Air Commando Association’s headquarters.

NOTE: This online-only information was added to the CCT history after publication of The Eye of the Storm – A history of Combat Control Teams.

CCT @ The Eye of the Storm

“For us, that’s kind of our mecca,” Adcock said with a laugh. “It’s always been the home to the Air Commandos.”

In his 22-year career in the Air Force, Adcock got his start as a ground radio maintainer and was sent to Japan. When he returned to the U.S., he first encountered command controller team (also known as CCT) at the former Sewart Air Force Base in Tennessee. He said he immediately wanted to join.

“Cause they looked cool,” he said. “When you’re an 18-, 19-year-old kid, you go to things that look cool.”

On a more serious note, he said he was attracted to the position because of the personalities of the men in the CCT positions.

“They were the sharpest guys on the base,” he said.

He became one of them. He served in Japan, Vietnam and Laos and retired in 1977, always keeping in touch with fellow air commandos.

Simply put, he said, his role was to act as air-traffic controller and coordinate multiple operations to ensure the safety of all of the parties involved.

“Our responsibility is to be there on the ground anytime something falls out of an Air Force airplane,” he said.

Adcock was nominated by Bob Patterson, retired Air Force major general. Patterson said he’s known Adcock for about 40 years. He said he can’t quite place where he first met Adcock.

“I served 33 years in the Air Force, and in 33 years, I’ve lived in 24 different houses,” he said. “I’m sure it was in a drop zone somewhere. It could have been back in the war in Southeast Asia.”

He said he nominated Adcock because of his dedication to keeping in touch with CCT troops from the past and currently serving, as well as his patriotism and allegiance to his country.

“He’s been surrounded with really fine people, and he continues to have his dedication and allegiance and loyalty,” he said. “I could go on and on about Gene.”

Jessica Shumaker is a reporter with the Daily Sun. She can be reached at 753-1119, ext. 9089, or jessica.shumaker@thevillagesmedia.com.