



# MARLER

# CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



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## "Frohe Weihnachten" from Deutschland



In case you were wondering in German "Frohe Weihnachten" means "Merry Christmas" and Deutschland is Germany. Well our first European edition is hot off the presses and just full of neat stuff.

Since we had to print last year's newsletter prior to December 1994, that seems the best place to start. I finished flight school. The DAY BEFORE graduation, I went to the field for a week and almost cut my finger off. (What a numbskull. Luckily, no permanent damage to my favorite finger Ha Ha.)

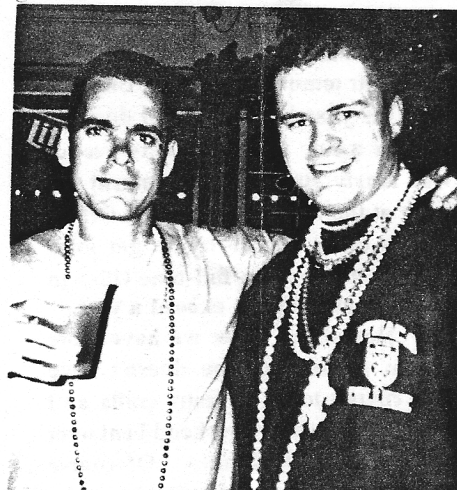
Kristy had been busy all month getting ready for the Graduation Ball. At the Ball I pinned Kristy with a small set of gold aviator wings for putting up with me through flight school. Kristy was also given a Certificate of Appreciation from the Army for her work as Social Coordinator. The next day Kristy pinned my wings on at the graduation ceremony.



But instead of leaving, like most of my classmates, we would stay at Ft. Rucker through Christmas and New Years waiting for my transition.

January was mostly a blur. Trying to learn everything, and I do mean EVERYTHING, about the Blackhawk was not fun. They call it the "Firehose Method". Like taking a firehose sticking it in your mouth and trying to keep from drowning. I was very "waterlogged" by the end of February, but didn't drown. Kristy was getting ready for our North America tour and this is where it got busy.

First off to Mardi Gras in New Orleans. If you know about Mardi Gras, enough said. If you don't, I won't tell. Wouldn't want you to think any less of Kristy and I, but we had our fair share of beads, if you know what I mean. We stayed with a flight school classmate of mine (Hi Pat) who was a great tour guide.



Next off to Colorado to the mile high city. Kerri, Jonathan, and Molly (Basset Hound) jumped for joy when they saw us (Rhesus Monkey, Bud). They took us gambling up at, get this, Blackhawk, Colorado. We ate like kings and left poor as peasants, but had a great time. We also stopped by Ft Carson, Colorado to see what it was like in case we get stationed there. So much for February.

Next on to Oklahoma. We met our new sister-in-law Tracie and saw how much our nephews, Garrett and Nicholas had grown. We visited quite a few of my relatives and then back to Alabama to

pack. We had four different shipments to sort out and keep the movers from destroying

Back in the car again (I was really getting tired of driving) to head for Kristy's parent's house. We stopped at Ft Bragg, North Carolina to see what it was like and stayed the night. Next day Maryland. This was the first time we had seen their house since they moved from Hawaii. They took us on the Washington D.C. tour. Talk about a lot of stuff to see. The White House, Smithsonian, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, etc. We threw a surprise 50th Birthday Party for Mom. She was totally surprised. Kristy stayed at her parents for three more weeks after I left for Germany at the end of March.

I got to Germany jet lagged and hungry. I had an apartment within three days but not much to sit on. It is a two bedroom on the third floor. My unit went to the field for three weeks, but left me behind to pick up Kristy when she arrived. In the mean time Kristy dropped off our car for shipment, returned to Ft Rucker to pick up the dogs, clear housing, and ship the last of our stuff. She stayed with another friend of ours (Hi Missy!) before she flew out of Alabama.

April 16: Easter. Kristy's birthday and the day she arrived in Germany. I met them (Kristy and the 2 dogs) in Frankfurt in my BMW junker. She was overwhelmed. Two blocks from the airport and we were on the German Autobahn (Indy 500 with a lot more cars, plus the fact that Germans LOVE beer). While my unit was in the field I got to orient Kristy with our new home and the surrounding countryside.



# Marler's European Vacation (Continued)

Kristy's first impression of being in Germany: "I thought it was beautiful and very confusing. I didn't know the language or money or what the menus say. What! No Wal-Mart!!!"

May was very busy. Our car and household goods arrived. We enrolled in a six week German language course. Now I know enough to barely get by on the economy. I did not start flying for awhile. In fact in the first three months I only flew 6 hours.

Since I wasn't flying I went on an 100 mile march in Nijmegen, Holland in July. It was very interesting. Marchers from other European militaries were there. A lot of fun, except for the marching, that is. I didn't finish and swore I wouldn't do it again, but now I think I have to go back to finish. (What a moron.)

Kristy and I also celebrated our seventh wedding anniversary by taking a cruise on the Rhine River. Castles, wine vineyards every turn of the river. Very scenic and relaxing.

But July wasn't all good. My Grandmother Perry died in my hometown, but I wasn't able to make it home in time for the funeral. Luckily, we spent time with her in March while we were in Oklahoma.

Now you may be wondering what Kristy was doing all this time. Hobbies of course! Unfortunately she picked up a new one to add to her list. Wood figures. So we spent a lot of weekends at the wood shop cutting enough wood to keep her busy during the upcoming week. But she would immediately launch into a marathon craft session as soon as we got home. So all the wood was painted by Monday and she had nothing left to paint for the week. (Not a pretty sight let me tell you. I would just slide meals under the door and hose her off when the smell got too much for the neighbors. Oh and keep your hands out of the way or you might paint something on them. JUST KIDDING HONEY.) So from Tuesday on she would look for a government job at one of the local bases.

September and off to France. We went with our neighbor to Paris and Euro Disney. Although smaller than Disneyland and Disney World, Euro Disney is what you would expect, except Mickey Mouse spoke French. (They had some of the best French Fries I have ever had. Ha Ha)



Boy, Paris has got way more stuff than Washington D.C. had. Kristy was able to use a little of her French to help us around. We went to a lot of famous landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower, which we went to the top of. We also went to the newly opened Planet Hollywood. And best of all, no bombs!

Then two weeks later I went back to France for a field exercise. Lots of flying, but no Mickey.

October was a great month. We also had our annual Halloween/Birthday Party. This year I was a hound dog and Kristy was a cat. And, probably best of all was Kristy started a government job working at the Civilian Personnel Office. She helps other people try to get jobs. Ironical isn't it? She is a full-time GS-5 in a temporary slot, not to exceed a year.

November: Now we have more money to spend and she doesn't have enough energy to do as many crafts, so I don't spend my entire weekend bent over a handsaw like Quasimoto. Of course because of the government shutdown she has been put on furlough, which means I may be bent over this weekend (You know what I mean).

She may accept a job at the transportation office this week. It is a permanent GS-5 job with raises and other benefits. We will tell you next year if she takes the new job. What a cliffhanger! Will she take the transportation job? Will she stay at the CPO? Tune in next year. Same Bat Time. Same Bat Channel.

We don't have any definite plans for Thanksgiving yet. We do know we will overeat and take a nap. Plans are



also unknown for Christmas, especially with this Bosnia thing hanging over our heads. My unit may or may not be involved. It changes every day.

Well it was great "talking" to you again. I'll just tell you in advance that we really loved the card, present, money, etc you sent. You really shouldn't have.

Auf Wiedersehen! (Good Bye!)

Your favorite friends, favorite relatives, etc,

Jeff & Kristy Marler (Dakota and Cheyenne too)

(Jeff takes full credit, blame, etc for the writing, spelling, punctuation, etc in this letter. All comments, suggestions, Nobel Prizes for literature, etc should be sent to me as Kristy is too nice, embarrassed, etc to be a part of the last couple of smart aleck, cocky, cutesy, etc paragraphs. Including this one.)



## Reindeer Crew Chiefs

### FAMILY MATTERS

LAPPIN - Jim & Mary Mary has been busy exploring on her new computer and volunteering at the hospital as an Emergency Room Patient Liaison. When not playing golf Jim is busy at work and recently had a report published.

HINKLE - Jonathan & Kerri Kerri is substituting at the local elementary schools and is tutoring at Sylvan's in the evenings. Jonathan received a raise and promotion at his company.

MARLER - Lucille Became a grandma for the third time. She is enjoying her first granddaughter.

MARLER - Kelly, Natalie, Nicholas, Garrett, & Payton Kelly has added new stores to the KFC empire. Natalie gave birth to their third child, a baby girl. Nicholas and Garrett are excited about being big brothers to Payton Lane.

MARLER - Randy & Tracie Had moved to Texas to manage a new KFC store earlier in the year. Recently moved back to Clinton, OK to manage that KFC. Tracie will continue college there.