

TALES OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH 2008

This year's edition, (the eighth) of the *Tales* was held on **Friday, 4 April**, in the Offutt Airmen's Leadership School (ALS) **CMSAF James M. McCoy Building**. President Thomas, chairman and emcee of the event, opened the festivities before a standing room crowd of over 200.



He introduced Cold War veterans **Robb Hoover**, **Harry Tull**, plus BGen Jim Jones, the 55th Wing Commander, to ring the ceremonial bell to begin the event.



Reg Urschler was the first speaker representing the WWII by relating an episode from that unit's adventures. As he took the stage in front of the giant American flag, he did his best, brief imitation of Gen George Patton, by saying "I don't want you SOBs dieing for your country. Make the other SOBs die for their country!!!"



King Hawes followed detailing the loss of RC-135 Rivet Amber from Shemya AFB, AK, in 1969.



Next up, **Tony Belford**, a former 38th RS aircraft commander gave his account of his RC crew's determined effort to abet the rescue of a downed F-16 pilot in Serbia during Operation Allied Force.



Colonel Jim Harvey, commander of the 25th Intel Sqd, a 55th unit at Hurlburt AFB, FL, told of one of his unit's member's valor under fire on a downed MH-53 in Afghanistan.

The event closed with the speakers joining BGen Jones and the entire crowd in toasting all the deployed 55th troops serving around the globe in the War on Terrorism.



L to R: Thomas, BGen Jones, Hawes, Belford, Harvey, Urschler, and LtCol Chris Cohoes.



The Tales was again sponsored by the [Association](#), the Strategic Roost of the Association of Old Crows, and the LeMay Chapter of the Order of Daedalians.