

## **RAFINCO HISTORY FACT SHEET**

**(By Dan South and John Medley)**

- Contacted by RAFINO Officers in the spring of 1994 offering to help the finance NCOs set up an association of retired Finance NCOs. The offer included financial support.
- Obtained a listing of retired finance NCOs from St Louis that was needed for our first mailing. There were over 2400 NCOs listed, about 400 of them with out-dated addresses.
- In mid-1994 several NCOs met in Indianapolis to select officers to serve until we built our membership and could hold a regular membership meeting. The first meeting was held at the 1996 Reunion in Nashville.
- Able to make our first mailing of applications in November 1994 with the help of COL Louis A. (Chic) Cecchini and COL Hank Neill. Chic went out of his way to help us with our growing pains.
- Membership applications started coming in right away and within a few months we had almost 400 members. Most of the feedback was positive, but some had the overall theme "Why do we want to associate with Officers?"
- NCOs that were involved at the start knew that the Officers wanted to associate with us. We all knew that we would rub some of our members (both NCO and Officer) the wrong way but it worked out in the long run. Dan South and Chic talked many times about how and when the two organizations could merge. The time is now and it is up to the membership how.