

# ♦ AFTAC ALUMNI ♦

Volume 3 Issue 4

December 1995



## ELECTIONS COMPLETE

October 20th 1995, following a wonderful Golf Tournament at Patrick AFB the General Membership took on the task of selecting the staff for the coming year.

President: Tom Niquette  
Vice: Fred VanDyck  
Secretary: Judy Milam  
Treasurer: Carl Gailey

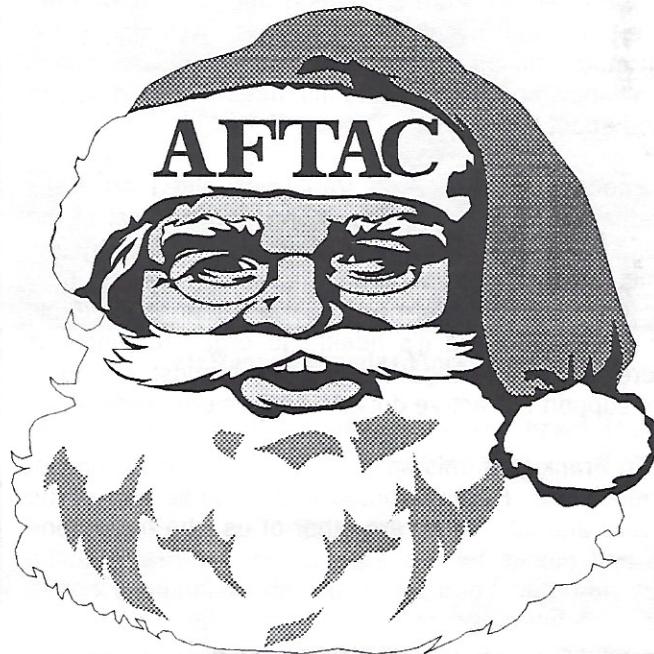
The Tournament that preceded the General Membership meeting was won by:

First: Larry Silhanek  
Renee Vzee  
Bob Mancheno  
Jim Rickner

Second: Joe Goldian  
Terry Hammond  
Bob Wiley  
Jan Sessions

Third: Scott Lynch  
Dave LeBrun  
John Vanderburgh  
John Brooks

Congratulations all and we hope everyone had a wonderful time?



On behalf of all of the AFTAC members, both active and retired may we all wish each and every one of you a very special Christmas and New Year Season. AFTAC has been and it continues to be one solid family and during this season it is that warmth and friendship that is important to each and every one of the members. Have a wonderful 1996, remember the reunion in Colorado and plan on a very special 1997 with the festivities being planned for Florida. Thanks to all who have taken time to write to us, and thanks to all who became lifetime members, as well as those of you who remember to pay your dues. Each and every one of you make our days special and we can never thank you enough for your dedication.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
the ALUMNI Staff

LATE NOTE: Denver reunion sign-up  
has been extended to 15 Jan. They  
need 15 more couples to commit.  
Contact them immediately.....!  
\*\*\* 1996 REUNION IN COLORADO \*\*\*

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, here I am sitting here in Florida, just now realizing that I have been elected as your new association president. I think how I got the job was that I missed an alumni meeting and since I was not there to defend myself, I was elected. Actually, Frank Hall made me an offer that I could not refuse.....and we all know about Frank and his meek and mild way of going about business!

Enough of that. Fred Van Dyck and I are back together again to serve you, along with the rest of the dedicated people like Judy Milam, Mary Welch, and Carl Gailey. We are here for several reasons, they are: To keep you informed about anything that affects our association and it's health, to organize functions where we can get together to enjoy friendship, and to help support the active duty AFTAC where possible.

To Frank Hall, this association owes a large part of its existence. He has worked well in the service of the AFTAC alumni. There are other of us who have done bits and pieces for the association, but Frank, Judy, Mary and Carl keep us on a path of financial health and association expansion. We are still growing and that is a good sign for our future.

Speaking of the future, we here in Florida are planning another golf outing in the spring and are starting to work hard (along with the active duty AFTAC'ers) on the 50th Birthday of the LRDS. I know that the Colorado Chapter is having a reunion in June and we wish them well. Also, I hope that the west coast group will form a chapter and start growing.

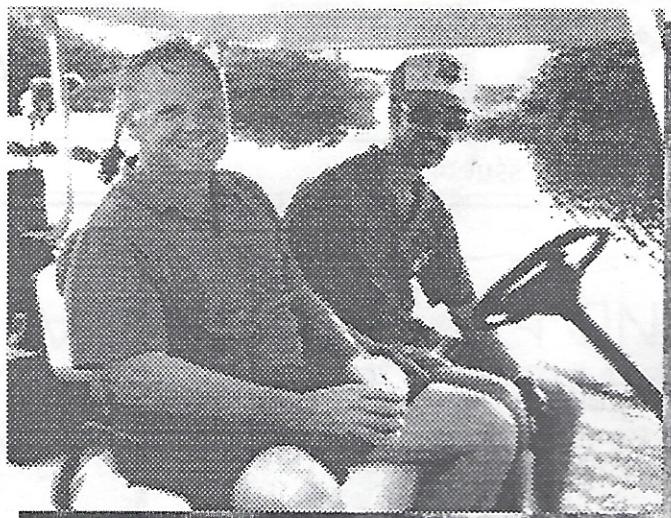
Remember, this is your association. Let me hear from you. This is a super group of people and I am very proud to be a part of it.

May all of us on the board and those in the background wish you and yours a very special Christmas season this year and our hopes and aspirations for a very Happy New Year as we go forth to 1996.

Keep those cards and letters coming and keep us informed of your activities. It makes our job so much easier and it helps keep all of the Alumni informed and aware of the happenings of long lost friends.

Sincerely,

Tom Niquette  
President



Terry Hammond and Joe Goldian on the links.  
Designated Driver Joe?

## MEMBERSHIP

The new year (membership type) started 1 October 1995 and we have had a very nice campaign so far. This newsletter represents the last letter that those of you whom have not renewed your dues will receive.

We have had a few that did not realize that our dues were now \$10.00 and we have gone back to those and reminded them that they were still behind.

Remember - Dues are \$10.00 per year and our year runs from 1 October to 30 September of each year. The reason for the increase last year revolves around our mailing expenses. Carl has managed to assist us in obtaining the best printing and mailing costs but we have to plan for the future and cover the costs of today.

We also include a statement on each of our newsletters that shows the post office that we want a return address on those newsletters that are not delivered. That can be very expensive! I noticed a few that cost 82 cents for them to send us your correct address. So please let us know when you move, it saves our money. As of 30 Nov we have the following statistics:

Fla Membership = 486  
Lifers in that number = 285  
Complementary = 13

**AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. Box 254892**  
**Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892**

# GOLF OCTOBER '95



The First Place Team

Larry Silhanek, Bob Manchero, Jim Rickner, Rene Vzee

Nice going guys.....who cheated anyhow? A 52?

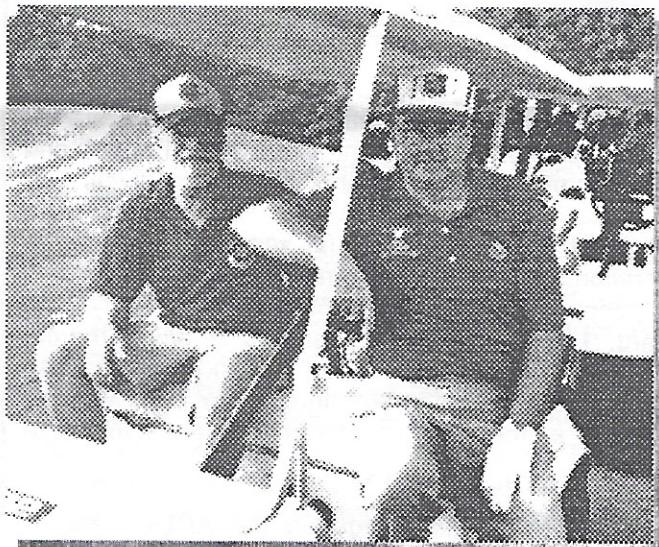


John Panik, ?????, Randy Rush, Joe Hauser



McDonnell Douglas Finest!!

Scott Dieffenderfer, Ron Couch, Mike Hoy, Frank Hall  
Now there is a 4 some for ya!



Tom Dunn and Dick O'Brien

Taken just after the Chief told Tom to get a new  
razor and a haircut.....35-10 you know!



## Your Newsletter Staff

Editor: To Be Announced  
Secretary: Judy Milam  
Publications: Carl Gailey  
Swede Swansen  
Advisor:

# LETTERS

## SPOKANE, WA

Hi Everyone,

The years just keep slipping away. For that reason I have decided to become a lifer. Enclosed find my payment. Enjoy receiving the newsletter and reading comments from former AFTAC'ers. It was good seeing Jerry Wampole is in contact. Received a surprise phone call from him one evening awhile back and we spent a good hour rehashing the past. The last time we were in contact was 1973 while stationed at Det 324. It's hard to believe 22 years have slipped by since my last AFTAC assignment.

Thanks for all the hard work that goes into keeping all AFTAC'ers in touch.

Ed Koschalk  
Spokane, WA

## SANTA ROSA, CA

Dear Staff,

Enclosed is a check for a lifetime membership in the AFTAC Alumni Association. Although we are on the other side of the continent, Coleen and I will try and make one of the AFTAC events in the coming year.

I spent seven very eventful years in the Airborne Operations side of AFTAC and hold those years and the people that we knew within AFTAC in very high regard. I would appreciate hearing from any of the old AFTAC'ers that might recognize Jim and Colleen Reed from the 1962 through 1969 time frame. We are kind of retired in the wine country of California in Santa Rosa.

Always enjoy the goings on the AFTAC Alumni Newsletter. Keep up the good work!

Jim Reed  
Santa Rosa, CA

## BOUNTIFUL, UT

Somebody took me to task about not paying a bill - I told him - "Each month I put my bills in a bucket - pull some out and pay them". I told him "Get hinkey with me and next month you don't get in the bucket". Needless to say, I apologize for being late. I have excuses (or reasons whatever the frame of reference) better late than never and other cliches....

Jack Binkerd

## PLACERVILLE, CA

Enclosed are my dues for 1996. Thoroughly enjoy your newsletters. As an AFTAC member - 1964-1980 with assignments to Det 424, Maui, HI, HQ (Alexandria, VA) and tours at 1155 and 1156 squadrons I am fortunate to having been a part of the organization.

Al Spicci  
Placerville, CA

## AUBURN, WA

Somehow, I always seem to be late sending in dues, writing, etc. "Stuff" always seems to stack up by the computer, and then get read later than it should. To wit, the September newsletter, and particularly, "Chief" and Evelyn Anderson's letter. One old manpower type just has to keep an eye on another, even from the great northwest.

Even though I was also a "short-timer" on Telegraph Road (1968-1971), I always enjoy your good editorial efforts, and particularly those occasional "familiar faces" that show up in your writings. The Chief is right - keep up the good work and thanks for the effort.

George Howard  
Auburn, WA

## LIVE OAK, CA

Please renew my membership in the AFTAC Alumni Association. I was a member up until last year when I inadvertently let my dues slip by.

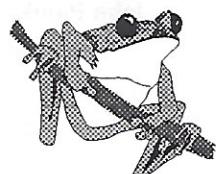
Bill Bridges  
Live Oak, CA



## ALUMNI OF THE QUARTER

A thanks to our editor who has spent a few hours putting this newsletter together over the years. Circa 1981 - 1995 with short breaks to rest his typing fingers. Thanks much for your assistance over the years Clark Creery, we appreciated your efforts and wish you well.

The Staff



**Hannawa Falls, NY**

Dear Friends,

A few years ago, my wife and I were taking a driving vacation through some of my old stomping grounds in the Southeast. During the course of the trip, I came to find out that some aspect of every assignment I had had during my eight years in the Air Force no longer existed. The tech school building in Biloxi had been overrun by a housing development. The radar site south of Miami was gone and the new zoo was nearby (this was pre-Andrew), AFTAC had pulled out my old detachment, and AFCS no longer existed.

I learned these latter two facts during a sunny weekend afternoon as we were driving up the coastal highway by Patrick AFB and I spotted the AFTAC Headquarters building right there on the highway. I couldn't resist the temptation to do a U-turn to see if anyone I knew was around, for that matter, if I could even get through the front door. The security was considerably less than what I had once been accustomed to, but the sergeant in the lobby made a call and we were greeted by a friendly young fellow in civvies who introduced himself simply as Jay Jaynes. I told him my story and during the course of our conversation, he escorted us to a corridor which contained various memorabilia and a gallery of past commanders. Lo and behold, I recognized the rightmost of the photos to depict the gentleman with whom we had been speaking. I had been out of the Air Force for so long that I was unaccustomed to the reality that most of the senior officers and supergrade NCOs nowadays are younger than I!

Anyway, Colonel Jaynes told me about your group, which I immediately joined. I have been watching the newsletter closely ever since for familiar names and I have spotted several. Unfortunately, the only one who I knew well has been Cliff York. We were in a small detachment (360) that, with the exception of the two who came accompanied, all rotated at about the same time. I moved on to the Pacific Theatre, where I decided that the headquarters way just wasn't for me, so I left the Air Force for an academic career. I recently retired from teaching to pursue writing and to help Rose with her business. My life has been an interesting one thus far, but I do want to share one fact with you: The best job I've ever had was my year with you folks. If any of you - Bob, Cliff, Dean, Bill, Steve, Mike, Doug, Roc, or Mike - see this, please drop me a line. I would love to hear from all of you!

Regards,

Gene Martin

**Bainbridge, GA**

Each issue of the Newsletter reminds me of persons and times that I cherish the memories of. I spent almost 15 years in service to the cause, beginning in the B business at Ft Sill in early 1954. I concluded by pursuing AFTAC business within the Air Staff in 68 and 69. I retired with 29 years in late 74, again in AF/IN at the Pentagon.

Meantime, I was twice a unit commander (Team 140 - B and Det 412 - Q and U) and twice assigned to Hq, once in Materiel and once in Ops. I also had 4 years at WFO in the late 50's in Materiel in the Q business, mostly getting Q3 build in the Depot and writing the basic book on it.

I've only been to one reunion, the first one in Sacramento ten years or so ago. Things have conspired to prevent my going to any others, but I do hope to make the next one, wherever it is.

A few issues back I noticed an error in history in the Newsletter. It was NOT the YC-121 that crashed. That bird and its sister-ship belonging to the local command at McClellan were retired from service in mid-1959. They were delicate creatures: Had to be cut way back on power and slowed about 1/3 from normal cruise at the least turbulence and were great maintenance headaches. Still a cruise of 320 to 330 knots in those days was something!

The Connie that crashed with my friends Fred Davidson as AC and Don Pollock as co-pilot was an ex-EC-121C that was stripped of its radar gear for us at Lockheed as a one-of-a-kind re-conversion and called C-121M, as I recall. It was so peculiar that it had its own series of Tech Orders. The EC-121C was an early version of the AEW Connie and had no tip-tanks. There were only about 10 of them, half at McClellan and half at Otis AFB, mostly used for crew training because of limited range. Nearly all AEW Connies were EC-121D's, recognizable from afar by their tip-tanks. The Navy had a version of this bird, too.

Our Connie crashed in early 1960 as a result of a long-known but never properly written-up and dealt-with inherent fault in the auto-pilot. The case resulted in a big article in Flying Safety Magazine about a year later. When the trouble happened to Davidson and Pollock on that post-maintenance test-hoip, it was a "full down" signal to the elevators, more violent than had ever been noted before. From 3000 feet there wasn't time for the crew to diagnose the problem and recover from it.

Continued on the next page.....

# LETTERS

**Continued.....**

The C-118 that we got in late 1960 to replace the crashed Connie, was not built as a C-118 but as an R5D for the Navy. We got it after the Navy dropped out of MAC flight operations. It was excess to the Navy and un-wanted by any of the regular AF operators of C-118s. It was not high on flying time, but it was, even so, a very tired old bird and it took a lot of money and time at Hayes Aircraft in Birmingham to bring the airplane up to standard. Even then, it was probably unique in the USAF inventory. Walt Addis at Hq saw to the acquisition and up-dating of the airplane, the best one then available.

The C-118 did honorable, yeoman service with AFTAC for years and years, flown by "Rex" Riley, among others. I rode the airplane for many thousands of miles in the mid and late 60's.

Jim Lillethun

## Laurence, KS

I, too, was a draft dodger. In 1948 in my hometown (Oklahoma), no one was hiring those eligible for or likely to be drafted. I went to the recruiter, an Air Force Master Sergeant, the highest enlisted grade at the time. I told him I would like to join the Air Force, but apparently his Air Force quota was full (Both services were recruiting for each other). The AF recruiter told me I should enlist in the Field Artillery, that I could probably spend my full four year enlistment at Fort Sill, OK. Immediately after I enlisted (FA), I was sent straight to Fort Jackson, SC for basic and advanced training as K.P. pusher and Duty NCO. From SC, we were sent to First Infantry Division in Germany without a day's leave. I never saw Fort Sill until at least 35 years later. So much for nostalgia until next time.

Jack D. Wagley

P.S. To staff only. You do not have to print these stories if you are short of space, or if you think the other members might not enjoy. Everyone is a true story. I might exaggerate just a little, but not that much. Also feel free to edit them. I have thought of trying to get them printed in Reader's Digest, but I would probably need an editor for sure then!

**Ed Note:** Jack, we appreciate your stories, we reserve edit rights, and go for the gusto with Reader's Digest - let them pay for the editor. Keep em coming!

## Albuquerque, NM

Dear Friends,

Thanks for keeping the newsletter coming even though I know I'm way behind in my dues. Enclosed is my check which should cover my lifetime dues, a copy of the Worldwide Directory with the aerial shot of the HQ Building at 1030 S. Highway A1A, and the rest will pay for postage, the inconvenience to you for not paying on time, etc. It was June of 1978 when I left AFTAC headquarters for the USAF First Sergeant world over the next 10 years. I have now been retired for over sevenyears and am working in the Family Support Center at Kirtland AFB. If you're in the area, come by the center or give me a call. I look forward to hearing from you and thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,

Geno Piccoli

## Carlisle, Pa.

To all Alumni.....

Greetings from the great state of Pennsylvania. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a New Year that is filled with happiness and good health.....

Sincerely,

John and Evelyn Anderson

# MEETINGS

Our meetings are held monthly at the AFTAC headquarters building. These meetings are held the second Monday of each month and they start at 5:30 PM and each of you is invited to attend. During our last meeting we welcomed the new officers, looked at the association finances for the coming year, reestablished a T-shirt outlet (our last source went out of business and the set-up screens disappeared), we established a 90-day CD to protect dues funds, looked for a new membership chairperson as well as someone to accomplish our newsletter, discussed an automated Worldwide listing diskette, and made sure that the By-Laws get updated for the coming year. You can see that we discuss, argue, and vote on a myriad of issues that affect you. And - you are more than welcome to attend and become a part of our growth.

See you there?

## Waco, Tx

I continue to enjoy the Alumni Newsletters and want to become a lifetime member. Enclosed is my check. It looks like we will be in Florida the first part of June and I hope to see some AFTAC'ers. We will be visiting family in Orlando and Deland, but will make it to Satellite Beach to check up on our home.

I'm still teaching at Baylor - loving it, and Pam is teaching Montessori and will graduate with her masters in May. Our three girls are doing fine. Kristen is a 2nd Lt in acquisitions at Hanscom AFB, MA. Laura is in her last year of pre-med but is going to Germany with her husband in December, so she hopes to start med school upon their return in the summer of 98. Erin is a senior in high school and plans to attend Baylor next fall.

How is Carter Cobb and family? I always think of him when I think of AFTAC. We hope everything is going well for you. We hope to see you all in June.

Regards,

Don and Pam Schreiber

**Ed Note:** Carter Cobb? Oh, you mean our Chairman of the Board? He is holding his own and he sends his thanks for your thinking of him and his family. Every once in awhile we are blessed with a visit from him and if we do not toe the mark, we know when he is not happy.

## San Diego, Ca.

This is easier than E-Mail if you can read through the scratches.

During my Florida days in the early 1970's, AFTAC had a killer fast pitch softball team. I think we won the base championships 6 or 7 years in a row plus several commercial softball tournaments. Our secret weapon was a guy named Dick Gullett, I think! He had a rising fastball that was unbelievable. There is a Richard Gullett in the Directory. Is this the same guy? (Ed Note: Sure is Harry...) I wonder if he went on to some professional league after his AFTAC days? Speaking of sports, we also had a left handed bowler who was quite good. Don't remember his name but he was good enough to turn professional. He was averaging in the 230's or 240's, I think.

Which reminds me - The Alumni newspaper should carry information on what the Active Duty forces are doing in sports. When I was there, it ----contd. ->

always made me feel a little bit prouder when AFTAC dominated whatever sport they competed in. Of course, now that I see we were the largest tenant on Patrick then, it was no competition. By sheer numbers, we have to win everything so winning the base championship wouldn't be any big deal. I withdraw the suggestion.....

Bazooka arm, Terry Hammond would remember our pitcher's name. We was the center fielder and could throw that softball from center to home no more than three feet off the ground. Our team was awesome!

Regards,

Harry Masters

## THE 'HALL'

A place of honor. The 'Hall of Heritage' is a tribute to those individuals who have made AFTAC what it is today. Located in the AFTAC Headquarters building on Patrick AFB, Florida, the "Hall" currently encompasses the front entrance lobby and both hallways north and south of the lobby area.

Photographs of past and present Commanders, Technical Directors, and Senior Enlisted Advisors are displayed in the hallway outside the Command Section. The first floor hallways are lined with picture collages, plaques, and scrapbooks of many of AFTAC's detachments and field units, denoting significant historical events. Trophy cases in the front lobby display a variety of models, exhibits, original equipment, and other memorabilia from the past which contributed to our history and merit a place of honor.

Any photos, exhibits, displays, models, or significant memorabilia from the past that you would like to donate to the 'Hall', can be sent to the AFTAC Alumni Association. Personal photographs will be copied, and the originals returned to the donor.



# KUDO'S

Ron Kane was honored for being the "Volunteer of the Year" here at Patrick. Our hat is off to you Ron! It takes that special breed of cat to spend all those hours and return care to the community. Ron typifies AFTAC'ers all over the globe. Our best to you and thanks for being the volunteer that you are.

We have been advised that we now have some new Chief Master Sergeants in the outfit. Our special praise goes to the following:

Martin Dempsey  
Donald Gilbert  
Steve Hollenbeck

Ed Walden

**Ed Note:** I think everyone in the group remembers Ed and Kathy and they are at the personnel center in Texas. Ed, you deserve the Chief status and we are all elated for you!

# TRIVIA

Beer is the oldest form of alcoholic beverage. Babylonian clay tablets, more than 6,000 years old, depict the brewing of beer and give detailed recipes.

Egyptians made beer from barley; Babylonians made it from wheat; Incans made it from corn.

Thomas Jefferson made beer at Monticello.

George Washington had his own brew house on the grounds of Mount Vernon and his handwritten recipe for beer - dated 1757 - is on display at the New York Public Library.

An entry from 1620 in a journal kept by one of the passengers on the Mayflower stated that they landed at Plymouth because "we could not now take time for further search or consideration, our victuals being much spent, especially our beere....."

An AFTAC journal kept circa 1979 mentions 423 and 452 and a bottle of 'San Magoooooo'.

# EVENTS

## DECEMBER 1995

11 December 1995 - 17:30 - AFTAC HQ - Meeting

12 December 1995 - Newsletter Mailing

16 December 1995 - Winter Social at PAFB

## JANUARY 1996

8 January 1996 - 17:30 - AFTAC HQ - Meeting

## FEBRUARY 1996

12 February 1996 - 17:30 - AFTAC HQ - Meeting

## MARCH 1996

11 March 1996 - 17:30 - AFTAC HQ - Meeting

12 March 1996 - Newsletter Mailing

## APRIL 1996

8 April 1996 - 17:30 - AFTAC HQ - Meeting

## MAY 1996

13 May 1996 - 17:30 - AFTAC HQ - Meeting

## JUNE 1996

10 June 1996 - 17:30 - AFTAC HQ - Meeting

14 June 1996 - DENVER REUNION

25 June 1996 - Newsletter Mailing

## JULY 1996

8 July 1996 - Meeting

## AUGUST 1996

12 August 1996 - Meeting

## SEPTEMBER 1996

9 September 1996 - Meeting

# SHOPPING CENTER

## JACKETS

- Unlined Windbreakers \* \$20.00

Royal Blue - Large and X Large

## GOLF SHIRTS

- Jersey with pocket \$14.00

Blue/Teal - Large and X Large

Royal Blue - Large and XX Large

Navy - Medium and Large

Red - Medium, Large, and X Large

- Cotton without pocket \$14.00

White - X Large

- Cotton with pocket \$18.00

Medium Blue - Large and X Large

T-SHIRTS \$ 7.00

Mint Green, Light Blue, Royal Blue, Navy, Purple, and Fuschia - Large and X Large

Medium Green, Ash Grey, and Red - X Large

## HATS

- Mesh: \$ 6.00

Green, Grey, Red, Navy, Royal Blue, and Light Blue

- Cotton: \$ 5.00

White and Medium Blue\*

\* These items have white logo; others have multi-colored logo.

- Coffee Cup - Ceramic \$ 6.00

- Beer Mug - Plastic \$ 2.00

- Logo Pin \$ 3.25

- Logo Coin, Bronze (Members Only) \$ 4.00

- Logo Disk - 2 inches (round): \$ 5.50

- Wooden Nickel: \$ 1.00

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Worldwide Directory (Printed) \$ 25.00  
Choice of Cover Photo

- Worldwide Directory (Software) \$ 15.00  
PC Compatible Version

## Ordering and Shipping Information

Please include \$3.00 to cover shipping and handling.  
Logo Pins, Wooden Nickels, and Beer Mugs have no charge for shipping and handling.

Mail your orders to: AFTAC Alumni Association  
Attn: Sales Staff  
P.O. Box 254892  
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892

# Get Well Wishes

**Jeanie Bowden**  
Cocoa Beach, Florida



**Tom Andler and Galen Pound**

Talk about a nice set of knees!!!!

# OUR PAST

## TECHNICAL DIRECTORS

Dr. Ellis A. Johnson	1947 - 1948
Mr. Doyle Northrup	1949 - 1973
Dr. Gerard M. Leies	1974 - 1988

## CHIEF SCIENTIST

Dr. David F. O'Brien	1988 - Present
----------------------	----------------

The AFTAC Technical Director/Chief Scientist is the principal assistant and advisor to the Commander on scientific and technical matters relating to all aspects of AFTAC's mission. The TD/CS provides the Commander with independent evaluations and recommendations concerning scientific and technical objectives, concepts, and requirements for each of AFTAC's scientific mission areas.

## SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISORS

CMSgt Richard E. O'Brien	1978 - 1981
CMSgt James B. Payne	1981 - 1983
CMSgt Donald V. Tate	1984 - 1985
CMSgt John T. Horsch	1985 - 1987
CMSgt Dennis D. Corbiser	1987 - 1990
CMSgt Nicholas L. Lewis	1990 - 1995

The Senior Enlisted Advisor assists the Commander and staff on matters of health, welfare, and morale affecting enlisted personnel assigned to AFTAC. The SEA maintains liaison between the Command and the enlisted force, ensures the Commander's policies are known and understood, and advises the Commander on the management and training of enlisted personnel.

The Senior Enlisted Advisor position was deleted as an authorized manpower billet the latter part of 1995.

Our thanks to each and everyone of these individuals for their contributions to the history of AFTAC and the leadership that they have provided.

# COMMAND

## COMMANDERS

MGen A. F. Hergenberger	1947 - 1949
MGen Morris R. Nelson	1949 - 1950
MGen Raymond C. Maude	1951 - 1951
MGen Donald J. Keirn	1951 - 1952
MGen Wm. M. Canterbury	1952 - 1954
MGen Daniel E. Hooks	1954 - 1958
MGen Jermain F. Rodenhauser	1958 - 1966
BGen Linscott A. Hall	1966 - 1970
BGen James G. Silliman	1970 - 1971
BGen William R. Goade	1971 - 1973
BGen Lawrence N. Gordon	1973 - 1978
Col Robert A. Meisenheimer	1978 - 1984
BGen James R. Clapper, Jr.	1984 - 1985
Col Richard J. O'Lear	1985 - 1986
Col Billy J. Bingham	1986 - 1988
Col Jay J. Jaynes	1988 - 1991
BGen James A. Jaeger	1991 - 1994
Col Glen D. Shaffer	1994 - Present



# Don't Retreat

The following article caught my eye a few years ago and I forgot that I placed it in a secret location to share with you. However, at my age, those locations go undetected for years and while cleaning out some things, I happened to find it. Well here goes....This was borrowed from the AFTAC Monitor issue of June/July 1990.

How many times during your career do you think you've been asked the question "What is the purpose of retreat?"

I know that during my short career I've heard the question at least a dozen times. I can honestly say that I and probably 99 percent of all Air Force members can answer the question without hesitation. For the one percent that don't know the answer, it is "To signal the end of the duty day and serves as a ceremony for paying respect to the flag."

If part of the reason for retreat is to pay respect to the U.S. flag, then why is it that the "elite, professional, top-notch" folks assigned to the Air Force Technical Applications Center have to be detailed to perform the base retreat ceremony twice a year.

I have proudly volunteered for many retreat ceremonies and I am embarrassed that during the last retreat ceremony, half of the flight was standing tall and proud only because their detail card was pulled.

The ceremony lasted all of 20 minutes and I venture to say that at least 95 percent of those participating were home 20 minutes early that day. Is that such a burden on your daily schedule? I can't believe that approximately 400 enlisted members of one unit are so irreplaceable that they can't be spared for 20 minutes.

How many of you would step up if the announcement was "volunteers needed for retreat ceremony, refreshments to follow." Don't run to the orderly room to volunteer now. This is just an example. The next retreat ceremony won't be for a couple of months.

My intent here is to make people realize that our actions do reflect on the Air Force and especially on AFTAC. You all know we are under constant scrutiny from the other units on base and personally, I wouldn't want them to know that the unit with the largest turnout at practically every sporting event has to detail people to perform retreat.

We owe it to ourselves and to the command to show our dedication, pride and professionalism as well as to live up to our responsibilities as members of the U.S. Air Force.

Don't retreat from retreat.

Anonymous

**Ed Note:** The anonymous person who penned the previous note which was placed into the Monitor had a vision greater than I would ever expect. The bottom line applied in military life and so well washes into the civilian sector that we retiree's have come to know and love so well. Service, volunteering, and understanding the reason for those terms comes from within. Not everyone can be counted on to rush to the front of the line to volunteer. Most find time to 'hit the green's' every Saturday, but they are always too busy to pitch in when the chips are down. We of the AFTAC Alumni Staff call on each of you to have your detail cards pulled. Give us a story, give us some history, tell us what has been going on in your lives. This publication is interesting and alive, not because someone is a good editor or super writer. Look at all of your back issues, those are your words, those are your stories, this is your newsletter. It flourishes only because you did not 'retreat from retreat' and you took the time to drop us a line and tell us what you thought.

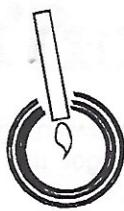
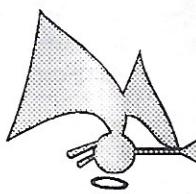
Your President has a very difficult job this year and the staff that takes the helm next year will have an even more difficult time when they will be faced with the 50th Reunion of the Long Range Detection System that will be held here at Patrick AFB, Florida. Support your president, support your staff! Take a few minutes, lets say ten per year, and don't let those memories drift into oblivion. Hmmmmmm.....ten minutes times over 600 members equates to something like 6000 minutes or 100 hours on a collective scale. That is over 4 days of stuff to pass on to each and every member. That 4 days would equate to a years worth of very interesting newsletters and a ton of laughs.

I told you that I do not beg, but what I neglected to say was that I do 'grovel' when I believe strongly in such an organization as this.

Thanks for your patience and understanding throughout my tenure as Editor of this Publication. I salute you and thank you.

Clark E. Creery  
Melbourne, Florida

MAY EACH AND EVERY AFTAC FAMILY HAVE  
A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON 1995  
AND A VERY SPECIAL NEW YEAR 1996.....



AFTAC Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 254892  
Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892

NONPROFIT  
ORG.



**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

Retro \*

✓



EDWIN JACHIM  
218 S. NORTON ST  
NEW BUFFALO MI  
49117 1445

**IN GOD WE TRUST - ALL OTHERS, WE MONITOR!**