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SPECIAL ISSUE—WORLDWIDE REUNION 2003

◆ Long-Range Detection Alumni Association, Patrick AFB FL

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WELCOME TO AFTAC'S NEW CC, COL BENDORF AND CCS, CMS LLOYD FRENCH

♦ POST - MONITOR ♦

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1

Membership—659, Lifetime 503 (18 Distinguished)

2003 MARCH



The Alumni Anthem
Over the years and at
younger ages ...
'Gs,' 'E' and 'O' were our
gauges

But now we've reached the
best of stages
Being one of the
Command's Sages

Long-Range Detection
denotes and represents
all who served the
mission throughout its
inception and history

Recognized for 50 years
of service to our country
in September 1997
1947 – 1997



Col Craig V Bendorf, CC Col Mark E Benoit, CV CMS Lloyd S French, CCS

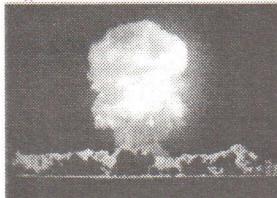
ALUMNI, WELCOME TO THE REUNION

We in the command section welcome you and the opportunity to participate in 'Worldwide Reunion 2003.' We who serve now will show you where we are and where we hope to go, ever mindful that the high level of service and standards we strive for today were first set by you.

On behalf of AFTAC members worldwide, we welcome the people who formed the roots of our organization and are pleased to sponsor several of the events. We look forward to being an integral part of your celebrations as you catch up on "the good old times" with friends and colleagues.

AFTAC continues to both sustain and advance its value to the nation and is ever mindful of the responsibility you left with us when you departed our active-duty ranks. We are committed to doing our part to make this reunion a success and hope it renews and invigorates the camaraderie of a valued part of the AFTAC family.

Craig V Bendorf Mark E Benoit Lloyd S French



('Joe' Johnson continued on page 4)

ALUMNI ALERTS—WHAT'S COMIN' UP

WHERE, IN THE BEST MISSION ALERT TRADITION, WE ASK YOU TO 'REPORT IN'

BIG STORY

WORLDWIDE REUNION, 2003

May 30th–June 1st, AFTAC Headquarters, Patrick AFB, Florida, details start on page 16, 'must-things' to see, page 15.

ALUMNI EVENTS—WHAT'S GONE OFF

WHERE, AGAIN IN THE BEST MISSION TRADITION, WE REPORT 'EVENT DATA'

AFTAC WINTER SOCIAL

ROVIN' REPORTER, BOB WILEY, PICTURES ON THE WEBSITE

Well, it was Friday the 13th, so you expected anything to happen, but the party organizers and

(Winter Social continued on page 4)

SNOWBALL V

EDITORS

What a great time we had. A list of guests follow and how can you not have fun with a group like that.

(SnowBall continued on page 5)

ASSOCIATION HONOR ROLL

ALUMNI OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

JOSEPH 'JOE' JOHNSON 2002-JIM PAYNE 2001

**BEN VLASSICK '00-JOHN HORSCH '99-FRANK HALL '98
JUDY MILAM '97-CARL GALEY '96-CLARK CREEERY '95**

The Association formed on March 12, 1985, and was chartered in 1986. It was created to provide a forum for those who wish to maintain an ongoing connection with the organization and its people, both active-duty and retired. Membership is open to current and former employees of all organizations associated with Long-Range Detection (LRD) (AFMSW-1, 1009th SWS, AFOAT-1, 1035th FAG, and AFTAC), and any subordinate field detachment.

Florida chapter (application on back page)

Dues, \$10 per year based on FY, 1 Oct-30 Sep, payable in Oct/\$75 for life. You're encouraged to attend monthly meetings beginning at 5:30pm on the second Monday of each month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC HQ's building (989) at Patrick AFB, FL. For information: Jim Payne, (321) 777-4731/paynejb@juno.com, Carl Gailey, (321)777-0569/gaileyc@juno.com, Judy Milam, (321)254-8878/jem2415@worldnet.att.net, or Pat Snyder, (321)494-6867/patricia.snyder@aftac.patrick.af.mil. Dues, membership applications, and queries/information should be mailed to:

**Long-Range Detection Alumni Asc., PO Box 254892
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892**

The Chapter publishes a quarterly (Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec) newsletter, 'Post-Monitor' (staff data below), (namesake of a prior active-duty publication, 'Monitor') & a Webpage, <http://www.csi-inc.com/aftac>, with asc & alumni information, 'Post-Monitor' 'Samplers' and back-issues and photos. WebMaster is Mike Black—Clark Creery writes an 'Upcoming Events' ('What's Happening') section.

Florida Chapter Board "PERENNIALS"-Alumni serving for five+ years. Frank Hall-President/Vice 89-98/01, Judy Milam-Secretary 89-00, Eunice Harris-Hospitality 89-00; Mary Welch-Membership 91-99; Carl Gailey-Treasurer 91-99, Swede Swansen-Publicity since 93

Colorado chapter

Formed in 1989, dues, \$5 per year, payable in February; chapter publishes a newsletter, 'Echoes' and supports a website, '<http://www.aftacco.org>'; Webmaster, Bill Harris. They meet several times a year-for information, Bill Schmied, (303) 367-0625. There are ~130 members.

West Coast (California) chapter

Formed in 1999, dues, \$5 per year, \$50 for lifetime; for information-Joe Johnson, (916) 783-8676, 'TOD.Alumni@bigfoot'-mailing address:AFTAC Alumni Assoc., West Coast Chapter, 161 Southcreek Circle, Folsom CA, 95630-1510. They hold periodic meetings and socials, host a webpage and publish a newsletter, 'Depot Fallout.'

Long-Range Detection Alumni Honorarium

Several permanent and ongoing projects representing and honoring our people and it's history exist: Two of these, the 'Hall of Heritage' (with information and artifacts) and the Photos/Biographies of Alumni who served the command for 20+ years, are housed at AFTAC Headquarters. Another is an AFTAC display at the Encampment Wyoming Museum.

Newsletter Editors: John & Christel Horsch

Information/Proofing: Judy Milam/Pat Snyder/Deborah Carson

Executive Review: Frank Hall/Carl Gailey

Rovin' Photographers: Judy Milam (film) and Bob Wiley (digital)

Rovin' Reporter: Clark Creery/Bob Wiley

Printing/Mailing: Carl Gailey/Swede Swansen

"A TEAM"...of Horsches'

'58-'87

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING



First off, Happy New Year and congratulations to 'Joe' Johnson for his selection as 'Alumni Of The Year, 2002.' We have known Joe for years, and have even been embarrassed by some of his operational requests when he visited our detachment (see our BS article in remembrance of our first meeting with Joe).

As you see from our cover, we start 2003 with a new Commander and Superintendent. Later you will read about them and, hopefully, get a chance to meet and greet them if you attend 'Reunion 2003' - also you have noted their welcome article to the reunion. Not only do they welcome us, but they are going to open the headquarters doors and bring us up to date on command matters.

We would like to recognize, and thank, their predecessors, Col. Horton and CMS Armitage. They were unwavering in their support of the association—attending meetings when they could, and giving us any help we ever requested. We wish them Godspeed as they go on in their lives and careers, Col. Horton has moved on to command the 17th Training Group (AETC), Goodfellow AFB TX, and Steve to a civilian job in the building.

We have also learned that Col Dettmer, former AFTAC Commander (just prior to Col Horton), is on the Brig General list. Congratulations Sir.

Moving on to this issue, and the reunion, if you cannot attend the reunion in person, we trust you will join us in spirit. We have articles about the many facets of, and things to see while, reunions, and hope to cover events as they unfold for the next issue.

Finally, as we look forward to the reunion and 'Command Pride' here's a picture to make you proud of bein' a part of the blue ...



'SeeMail'

Mail to Share
Thanks, John Coffey, for passing this on. It shows a never before seen formation of USAF jets passing over the "Taj Mahal" (HQ building), Randolph AFB, San Antonio, TX.

MAIL - CALL



Any requests for action should be sent to
Long-Range Detection Alumni Association
PO Box 254892

Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892

Letters of a general nature, requesting no action, may be e-mailed to the editors, chrisjohn@juno.com
 Letters may be edited for clarity and space; any opinions are those of the writer(s) and may not reflect Association belief or policy

'Welcome' new and returning alumni and those who drop us a line. We recognize all correspondence so your name, and the memories, may be recalled.

NEW/RENEWING SAGES

Bountiful, UT

2002.12.01

Last year I promised myself I wouldn't do this. See what happens when you start aging. Anyway my apologies. For your holiday cheer, one blender, milk, frog=frogmog. **Jack Binkerd**

Madison, AL

2002.12.02

Sorry, I thought FY03 meant Oct 03--should let Jim take care of this. **Jerrye Smith**

Palm Bay, FL

2002.12.19

I never seem to get the annual dues paid on time. Could you convert me to a Life Member and that will be one less thing I have to keep track of.
Grady S. Evans

Potomac Falls, VA

2003.01.20

Some time ago I missed a renewal, I would like to catch-up. **Terry L. Jordan**

LETTERS/EMAIL

Biloxi, MS

2002.12.06

Here is my sad story. The check was in the mail. Who knows where it ended up. My checkbook shows that I wrote you a check on 10 Oct. I hope I mailed it. Chances are it ended in Alaska or somewhere like that.

We received a Christmas card that was sent from Richmond, VA, to Fairfax, VA (we're in MS). So anything can happen if the U.S. Post Office is concerned. Anyway here is another check for my dues. If the other one ever shows up, credit it to the 2004 dues. You folks do a great job, keep it up. **Bob Kridle**

Sheffield, AL

2002.12.20

A friend recently sent me the following email: I have recently been diagnosed with AAADD, Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder. This is how it works: I decide to wash my car; I start toward the garage and notice the mail on the table. OK, I'm going to wash the car. But first I'm going to go through the mail. I lay the car keys down on the desk, discard the junk mail and I notice the trashcan is full. OK, I'll just put the bills on my desk and take the trashcan out, but since I'm going to be near the mailbox anyway, I'll pay these few bills first. Now, where is my checkbook? Oops, there's only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk. Oh, there's the coke I was drinking. I'm going to look for those checks, but first I need to put my coke further away for the computer, or maybe I'll pop it into the fridge to keep it cold for awhile. I head towards the kitchen and my flowers catch my eye, they need some water.

I set the coke on the counter and uh oh! There are my glasses. I was looking for them all morning! I'd better put them away first. I fill a container with water and head for the flowerpots-Aaaaaagh! Some one left the TV remote in the kitchen. We will never think to look in the kitchen tonight when we want to watch television so I'd better put it back in the family room where it belongs.

I splash some water into the pots and onto the floor, I throw the remote onto a soft cushion on the sofa and I head back down the hall trying to figure out what was I going to do?

End of the Day: The car isn't washed, the bills are unpaid, the coke is sitting on the kitchen counter, the flowers are half watered, the checkbook still only has one check in it and I can't seem to find my car keys!

When I try to figure out how come nothing got done today, I'm baffled because I KNOW I WAS BUSY ALL DAY LONG!!

Well, this is EXACTLY how my days normally go so I am sure I have fallen victim to the same disorder. I'm also sure this is why I can't seem to get my Alumni Associations dues paid on time! Now let's see, what was it I was going to do next.....Oh yes, write a check. Where did I put the checkbook.....

Kenneth King
Front Royal, VA
 (address change)
Clifford H. Free

2003.01.18

(Letters continued on page 5)

('Joe' Johnson continued from page 1)



He is a vital member of the alumni association, especially the West Coast Chapter, to include being a charter member and past President. Joe was critical to the formation of the chapter in '99, and was 'Committee Chair' for the worldwide reunion that year held in conjunction with the TOD Inactivation Ceremony in April. Joe has continued from that point to serve the alumni, both at the local level and at the worldwide level. He can be counted on to support events and never fails to 'lend a hand.'

Joe's selection was announced at the Florida Chapter's annual SnowBall (Feb 8th). He was honored there and at the Command Awards Banquet on February 27th; he will also be recognized at the '2003 Worldwide Reunion' occurring in late May '03.

Joe's service to his country began in Sept 1950 and to AFTAC in May 1951, being first assigned to the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron. He retired as a Senior Master Sergeant May 1974 being assigned to the 1155th TOS as Superintendent Seismic Systems Engineering. Joe's only 'AF' assignment was his initial training, all subsequent assignments were within AFTAC.

His AFTAC assignments and duties included: '51-'52, 1009th SWS Seismology Training, installed and operated 1 of 50 seismic stations monitoring atomic tests at the Nevada Test Site; '52-'54 Det 142 Equipment operations, met and married wife Gayle; '55-'56 Det 204 Operator/Maint., son Robert born; '57-'60 Hq 1035th, established/operated first real time recording system for Technical Director, daughter Carol born; '60-'61 1155th Depot Maintenance; '61-'62 Det 423 Operator/Maintenance established new Det from the ground up; '62-'66 1155th Operations made initial seismic installations on Attu & Murphy Dome AFS, Alaska; '66-'67 1159th Operations Established new Tech Ops Sq; '67-'70 1156th Operations performed technical surveys for Det 452; '70-'74 1155th Eng Superintendent directed support for the worldwide Seismic System; retired May 1974.

Thanks Joe, for your service to the country, the US Air Force, AFTAC and now, the Alumni Association. Your ongoing dedication is appreciated.

(Winter Social continued from page 1)

Imperial Hotel staff kept the Annual AFTAC Winter Social enjoyable and "surprise" free. "Bad" surprises that is. They did have a few "good" surprises in store for the crowd, like deciding the order in which the tables got to go through the buffet line. There were a variety of trivia questions, scavenger hunt challenges, foot races to the DJ desk, pleading, bribing, begging, and just plain old good spirited cheating that eventually got all the tables served. The final table got a prize for its patience.

Upon arrival, the Alumni learned that rumors of being split between two rooms were untrue. By sacrificing one bar and doing a little crowding, the hotel placed everyone in the ballroom. Alumni were seated at two tables where the bar would have been. Of course, the Alumni who still work as civil service sat with their respective offices so our numbers far exceeded the two allocated tables. The DJ announced that this AFTAC party was the largest that has been accommodated by the hotel to date.

There was the usual difficulty in getting a group of AFTACer's to organize and sit down so the new Commander, Col **Bendorf** could welcome us. After the invocation, the games to select the first tables to eat began. Somehow, one alumni table, which will remain unnamed, decided that their "age" gave them the privilege of breaking the rules and marched off to the buffet tables without the benefit of permission. After several unsuccessful efforts to 'win' a position in line, the other alumni table 'squealed' and was rewarded by being sent to the serving line as well.

After dinner the DJ started the dance music which quickly filled the floor. During a short intermission, door prizes were awarded. When dancing resumed, your reporter decided to retire for the evening so the final stories and photos will be told by the disposable cameras that were provided on each table to record the festivities as the inspiration struck the revelers. In the past these photos have been posted in the building until a sufficient level of embarrassment has been reached. Perhaps some can then make the transition to the Alumni Webpage.

Attendees included: John **Caban**, Alumni President, and Karla, Joe/Gail **Marshall**, John/Debbie **Carson**, Dr. Dave/PJ **O'Brien**, Larry/Susan **Silhanek**, Mike/Debbie **Winchester**, Frank **Hall**, Don/Jan **Whitney**, Don **Emery**, Joe/Susan **Goldian**, Terry/Patti **Hammond**, Dan (perhaps the newest alumni)/Monica **Rivera**, Russ **Fortenberry**, and Bob/Judith **Wiley**.

(SnowBall V continued from page 1)

Kathy and Al Moy (the SnowBall's major arranger), greeted us and happily took our meal payment. From there we took a look at the 'Alumni of The Year' plaque, whose name would be announced tonight (see article, page one).

Here we pause a moment to remind everyone of the honor it is to receive this selection. Starting in 1995, then commander, Col. Glen D. Shaffer, began a tradition that continues to this day—he asked the Alumni Association to select an alumni to be recognized at the Command Annual Awards Banquet (usually held in the Feb/Mar timeframe). Since that time retired 'Long-Range Detectors' have been selected from around the alumni world (previous selectees are listed at top left of page two). While recognized at the command ceremony, the selectee is announced at the Florida Alumni Association's annual SnowBall held earlier in the year. Along with the announcement, the honoree receives an AFTAC coin that was flown on the shuttle Atlantis (STS-86) on its September 25th-October 6th, 1997, flight honoring the 50th anniversary of the United States Air Force.

Now, back to SnowBall V. It was a lively evening with good friends and food. We had a short social time before the meal and got a chance to roam the floor saying 'hi' to as many as possible.

As we gathered to eat, John Caban, Patrick Chapter President, announced the 'Alumni of The Year' selection, Joe Johnson (from the West Coast Chapter). Joe could not be there but will attend the Worldwide reunion to receive his honors, from this and the command ceremony. John then brought attendees up-to-date on alumni events and changes. Following that, we paused a moment to reflect on those not with us and our active-duty in harm's way.

The meal was excellent, even though some tables did embarrass themselves with their meal time activities, some that can be mentioned and some that cannot, e.g., vying for the servings with larger portions, hiding rolls and butter and trying to take advantage in whatever way possible. While there were several verbal exchanges, no physical contacts came to pass and the evening joins other great alumni memories.

Also there: John/Chris Horsch, Terry/Patty Hammond, Frank/Edna Calenda, Pat/Duke Snyder, Deborah/John Carson, Frank/Bev Hall, Tom/Moira Eddleman, Don/Trudy Kirkpatrick, Steve/Joanne Cook, Karla Caban, Don Whitney, Jay Sherman, Joe/Gail Marshall, Dave/PJ O'Brien, Bob/Judy Wiley, Sam/Kathy Sorice, Paul Gutman, Renee Walker, Tom/Mayra Lavelle, Bill/Liz Cronan, Curt/Eunice Harris, Joe/Sue Goldian, Clark/Ruth Creery, Bobbie Cobb

(Letters continued from page 1)

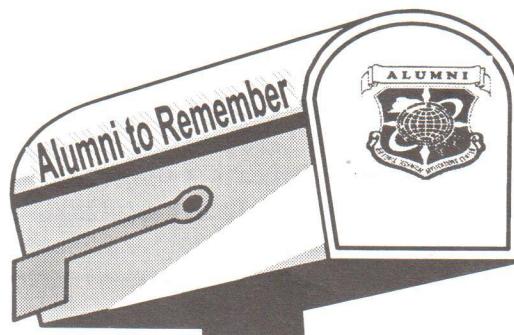
Bridgeton, NJ**2003.01.24**

Sorry I'm so late with my dues but I moved from Florida to New Jersey on 27 June 02 and my things are still in storage, so I'm glad your final notice reached me.

Judy told me in her Christmas card that the next reunion is in May in Florida. I'd like to know more about it from someone (Note: Jim Payne has replied).

I'm living with my sister till I buy something—should've stayed in Florida. Thank you.

Jackie Might see you at the reunion Jackie



Personals...

Wherein alumni let us know of events in their lives they want to share. Please send us births (children, grandchildren), weddings, retirements (military or otherwise), and other events.

Transition(s)

Mike Dobrin retired after 40 years service.

Hopes of Health for...

Wherein Alumni share hopes for themselves or others...

Mayme Gailey, Frank Hall and Eunice Harris



TAPS
In Memory of
Those We
Knew Who
Have gone
Before us

Gen. Daniel Butterfield, 1862



Day is done; gone the sun,
From the lakes, from the hills,
From the sky.
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh,

Thanks and praise for our days,
'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky;
As we go, this we know:
God is' nigh.

In Memory Of

Wherein Alumni share names of those gone but never forgotten...

Gene E. Shipps (see below)

Edward E. Pickel (see below)

Andrew 'Andy' Quisenberry (see below)

Francis C. Cobb (see below)

Rest in Eternal Peace

Gene E. Shipps

EMAIL, 2/14/03, BILL SCHMIED NOTE: GENE DIED IN '99 BUT THIS IS THE FIRST LISTING OF HIS PASSING IN A POST-MONITOR

We have just learned of the death of Gene E. Shipps. He was born on Dec. 24, 1929, in Exeter, Neb, and died June 29, 1999, at his home in Fairfield, CA. Mr. Shipps served in the Air Force for 26 years after enlisting in the Air National Guard. He retired in 1976 as a major. He was a lifetime member of the American Legion and Moose Lodge No. 861. He graduated from officers' candidate school in 1956 and served in Vietnam.

Mr. Shipps is survived by his wife, Barbara, of Fairfield; daughters and sons-in-law, Katie and Charlie Schuerman of Colville, Wash., and Judy and Paul Fein of Dublin; son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Cecelia of Vacaville; grandchildren, Jason and Jon Fein of San Diego and Laura, Brian and Kenny of Vacaville; and many nieces and nephews.

Edward E. Pickel

USA TODAY, 2003.1.5, PASSED ON BY CARL GAILEY

Colonel Edward E. Pickel (lifetime member of the LRD alumni) USAF retired, passed away Sunday, Jan 5 2003. He retired after 33 years of service and was last stationed at Patrick AFB. His first wife (Evelyn) of 42 years preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife Mary.

Funeral Services were held on January 7, 2003. Bordwine Funeral Home located in Etowah Tennessee handled the service and burial was in the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell FL. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Andrew 'Andy' Quisenberry

EMAIL, 2002.02.07, BY MSGT USAF (RET) RICH "NICK" CHARLES,

For the information of all concerned MSGT USAF (Ret) Andrew 'Andy' Quisenberry passed away on 6 February 2003 in Vallejo, California. Andy was assigned to the Budget Branch, Headquarters 1009th Special Weapons Squadron,

Washington DC, and other parts of AFTAC during his many years with the organization. A memorial service was held on 13 February in Vallejo, California. Andy was an avid bowler and can best be remembered as an outstanding bowler and Budget Analyst. Donations can be made to Parkinson's Disease Research or to a charity of choice. Cards of condolence can be sent to Mrs Karen Quisenberry, 720 Jennings Ave, Vallejo, California 94590. Home Phone: (707) 553-6406

Rich and Jean Charles

Francis Carter Cobb

EXTRACTED FROM FLORIDA TODAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2003

Colonel Francis Carter Cobb, USAF Retired, died February 18, 2003 concluding a 23-year battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's disease.

Following his graduation from the US Military Academy at West Point, Col. Cobb served 26 years with the US Air Force as a jet pilot, nuclear physicist, and researcher and was AFTAC's Vice-Commander at the time of his retirement, Sept. '80. During his service, he earned his masters degree from NC State. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Air Force Commendation Medal and the Legion of Merit. Medically retired in 1980, Col. Cobb continued his service and research for the AF, testing early computerized and infrared communication devices.

Col. Cobb is survived by his wife of 49 years, Barbara Gray Cobb; his children, Anne Etoile Cobb, Lawrence Gregory Cobb, Andrew Carter Cobb, and Kirsten Gray Bojanowski; four grandchildren, Courtney Gaither, Carter, Travis and Texas Cobb; his brother, Col. James Cobb; and his nieces and nephews.

Entombment was at Florida Memorial Gardens in Rockledge, with full military honors. Donations may be made to the ALS Association, 2700 Agoura Road, Suite 150, Calabasas Hills, CA 91301.

Col Cobb donated his body to ALSA for ongoing research. Despite death, his quest for answers continues.



FEATURE ARTICLES**COMMANDER'S RECALL**

Background: In light of the ongoing process that is the command, and a desire to record the impressions of this process "from the top," we ask previous commanders to give us a synopsis of their time with the command. We have received these impressions from many commanders to include Gen's Silliman, Gordon, Clapper, O'Lear, Bingham and Shaffer and Col's Meisenheimer and Wigington. We thank these gentlemen for taking the time and effort to share their enlightening remembrances.

We anxiously await inputs from the remaining commanders, continuing 'Distinguished Association' members all: Jaynes, Jaegar, Beatty, Dettmer and Horton.

We feel confident they will write as they find the time and opportunity—in the meantime, we will 'stand-by' and be at the ready to pass on their 'Commander's ReCall'

We look forward to your 'Commander's reCall'

I REMEMBER...**LRD HISTORY BY THOSE WHO WERE THERE**

PREPARED FROM READER INPUTS We solicit your unclassified memories of your career (events, people, etc.). Forward these to us at 'chrisjohn@juno.com' or ATTN Remembrances column, to the Alumni Address (see left column, page 2) - we will publish them as in the order received and as soon as we can. Thanks for your help.

We look forward to your memory

A FAMILY AFFAIR**LRD FAMILIES ... OVER THE YEARS**

PREPARED FROM READER INPUTS. Some families have served the mission over several generations. With this column we ask those families to share that history. Forward to us at 'chrisjohn@juno.com' or ATTN Family Affair column, to the Alumni Address (see left column, page 2) - we will publish them in the order received and as soon as we can. Thanks for your help.

A Father Responds, Frank Calenda

After publishing Tony's article in the last Post-Monitor, we asked his dad, Frank, to share his reactions.

I waited breathlessly at the mailbox last December, eagerly awaiting my latest issue of the "Post-Monitor". It finally came and I rushed home with thoughts of reading about old friends, old stories and just a lot of old stuff in general.

Can one imagine my surprise when I opened to page 8 of that issue and saw the name Tony Calenda. Hey! I know that guy. He's the one that traveled all over the world with Edna and me while we were dutifully caring for our AFTAC assigned duties. He's the one that played golf while I had to answer ZYA calls on the teletype. This is the kid that worried more about his bike and surf board than where good ole dad might be at any given time. The same kid that always was trying to find out what I did when I went to work.

Whut thu guldarn heck is he doing writing an ar-

ticile in the Post-Monitor? Being an AFTAC trained killer, I read the entire article. Fully reading everything that was put in front of you back then was one of the prerequisites of belonging to the outfit. I don't think they have to do that anymore. Oh well, times do change.

I was really surprised that he would even hint of the fact that I pulled strings to get him into the outfit. Even his wife Val is convinced of that. Well, I'm here to go on record to say I never, I repeat, never pulled a single string. Hell, on the contrary, it cost me lots of money to get it done. It was worth it though, because it got him out of the house and under somebody else's care and concern. Finally for once in my career, Edna and I enjoyed a semblance of peace and tranquility... and he thought I was doing it for him.

Well, actually my initial conversation was with Mr. Otto, that good ole guy up in training. Our conversation that day I called him went something like this. "Hi Mr. Otto, this is Frank Calenda, how's it going?" He said, "Oh hi Frank, what do you want?" I told him I was looking to do a favor for AFTAC and he might be able to help. "I'd like to know what it would take to get my son, Tony into the outfit". He kind of snickered and said, "Oh, you're trying to get rid of him like Vlassick and Miner are doing with their boys, right?" Actually, that's a downright manifestation of my imagination (sometimes called a lie). What Mr. Otto did say was that he would have him interviewed at basic training. IF he "fit the mold" and IF he could pass the necessary tests that would be required, and IF he showed a positive interest in it, the organization would do what it could to get him on-board.

It all worked out, and Tony was headed to Denver for school. Being out of sequence with the course schedule for AFTAC, Tony was informed that he would have to undergo the dreaded self-study/self-help electronics course and get a significant passing grade to continue on to the AFTAC courses. This, my dear readers, was not a "gimmie" experience. Tony worked hard and long getting himself up to speed and made the grade with honors, an accomplishment that made his mother and I proud beyond even what he realizes to this day.

After his schooling he, like the other 2nd generation troops, had to put up with the, "Hey, aren't you Frank Calenda's son?" questions. Actually, while Tony was going through school, I had sent

FEATURE ARTICLE

an 'all det/headquarters' message telling people to ask him this question. Didn't want him to think we forgot about him.

I take no responsibility for his treatment by my former subordinates. We all have our crosses to bear. And that remark about me retiring because of an upcoming remote and Chief McClellan having to take it needs to be cleared up once and for all. I couldn't have thought of a better man for it to happen to. Actually, when I signed the papers, I didn't even know that assignment was in the works. Of course, I KNOW everybody believes that, so what am I gonna do?

Although AFTAC has its share of up's and down's, there is one thing that Tony said that I fully agree with. "The people, the closeness, and the camaraderie of the AFTAC family" was an unforgettable experience. I joined the AFTAC family in June 1965 and, to this day, retain many of the friends that were made in my career. Edna and I are the better for that and always will be.

As for Tony...when he and his brother were young and I would come home from a long days hard work (at AFTAC?), they would jump on my knee and say, "Daddy, what do you do at work?" I would always reply, "Come on boys, you know I can't tell you."

Just the other day, I asked Tony, "What new and exciting projects is the outfit starting?" I'll leave it up to you to guess what he replied...guess what goes around comes around.

Thanks Tony for a heart warming story in that issue of the Post-Monitor. It brought back a wealth of fond memories. Ones that we'll never forget, Dad outstanding to the both of you...thanks again Tony for your story, and Frank, thanks for 'bein' a sport' and giving us the 'Father's' side.

WHERE ARE YA???

PREPARED FROM READER INPUTS. Where we attempt to get you to let us know "where ya are" and "what'cha been doin" - Forward these updates to us at 'chrisjohn@juno.com' or ATTN Updates column to the Alumni Address (see left column, page 2) - we will publish them in the next issue. Thanks for your help

We look forward to your update!!

BS (BARELY SUBSTANTIATED) TALES!

PREPARED FROM READER INPUTS. We solicit unclassified humorous tales about LRD events and people - recognizing these anecdotes may be Barely Substantiated (BS). Forward your BS to us at 'chrisjohn@juno.com' or ATTN BS column, to the Alumni Address (see left column, page 2) - we will publish them in the order received and as soon as we can. Thanks for your help.

Jack Wagley

Our first BS is from someone who has written before.

Thank you, Jack, for taking the time to write us about another event in your command experiences. Jack also sent along a newspaper clipping about prescriptions and the waiting time at VA facilities, and writes 'You would be of great assistance to us old retirees if you would write your Congress Person and tell them how much they are hurting morale, enlistments and other phases of the military by their actions. Don't let anyone tell you that you are not supposed to write your legislator, you have the right to write as any civilian or government employee.'

'Assignments'

Since it was so long ago when I was in the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron, some of you may not remember me. In fact some of you who do remember me, may wish you didn't.

I was only with the unit for 4 years, although it took me over 6 months for my background check and classified clearance. My father-in-law had visited Ellis Island at the age of 4 and didn't even know he was not an American Citizen until he came to the Detroit area to look for a job in the war plants (WWII). I had not seen my biological father since I was 18 months old (depression) and I thought he was deceased, so I was so proud when I could go to tempo Tat 13th and Constitution in D.C. and go inside without an escort. My chest was puffed up like the big red rooster that used to chase me around my step-grandfather's house. He would always give me a nickel to go outside and run around the house 3 times. On the second time around the house, I would holler, "Have the door open the next time around."

Anyway I lost my chance to stay in the unit when I could not speak the language of the country where I was to be assigned. I did not feel too bad after I found how hot and humid the weather was there (where I thought I wanted to be assigned.) When I was asked where I wanted to go overseas, my new first preference was Germany, but assignments seemed to stall much, much too long. I decided to go across the river to the Pentagon and see if I could find out anything. I was waiting in the outer office to see the Chief of Assignments. I think he was a 2 star but I do not remember. I heard his voice loud and clear, "see if you can get Sgt Wagley on the phone, I think I finally got an assignment for him." I was amazed and answered before anyone in the office got a chance. "I'm here, sir, no one needs to phone." (There were times also when I was to be cheated and mistreated on assignments and other matters-to be continued in future issues)

John Horsch

As we say in our editorial, we have at least one BS story to tell about Joe **Johnson**, and since we honor him this issue, we just had to tell this one ... before we start, consider this, on this earth, 'B finds, the others, verify.'

'Joe-ShowTime'

Again, go back in time, back to a time of 'car batteries' for backup power and no UPS in sight. Best I can recall, it was around mid-1959 and Joe was making one of his 'helpful' visits from wherever he was to our detachment outside Pinedale, WY. While he was there 'helping' us he thought he might as well have some unsuspecting 'young' shift operator show him their talents at checking said batteries.

Let me digress here—in those days we had a room just for storing the batteries that kept a few important things running while we ran to start the generator. The generator 'auto-start' was the lowest ranking 99 running amok through the building to find the key to the building that housed the generator, then opening said door and trying to remember how on earth you started the thing and smoothly made the power transfer.

So, as you can see from these procedures, the batteries were highly critical while this lowly panicked 99 deciphered, and/or remembered, all the things that had to be done in this time of 'no power' and the whole human race counting on them for survival—so Joe's request was not really unreasonable.

As you have probably figured out, I was the lucky one. Joe caught me as I came out of hiding to make a half-hour check (or get in trouble for not doing that). He sauntered up to me like he was a regular 'good guy' and not someone getting ready to embarrass me. 'Airmen Horsch,' he says, 'how often do you need to check the backup batteries?' 'Well,' I said, referring to my PMR listing, 'we do that on a regular schedule, and it was just recently done,' trying to hold off what I knew was coming next. 'Oh, is that right-well, let me see you go through that check.' 'OK,' I replied, and knowing this had to be done by the book, I began looking for the safety apron, gloves and goggles we 'always' wore when we went into that room.

Well, wouldn't you know it, and you've guessed it, these were not to be found without causing a suspicious delay or searching the building while Joe followed me around. I decided the best course of action was to try and talk my way through it rather than do it ... maybe this would

work on this day. So I started, 'First one dons the safety equipment ...' Joe stopped me there and asked, 'and where might those be.' Luckily, about that time, our outstanding NCOIC, **Bobby Jones** (God rest his soul) saw what was happening and intervened. 'John,' he says, 'we've just recently moved the safety equipment so it will be easier to locate, you'll find it on the back of the door to the battery room now.' I thought to myself, 'thanks Sergeant Jones,' and headed for the safety equipment and performed a sparkling PMR, by the book, on those batteries.

Now Joe may remember this differently than I do ... I'll have to ask him at the reunion.

Leroy Jones

Our December issue carried Kim **Deets** notice that her father, Jack, had died in October, 2002. Kim also asked for any special memories that alumni had of her father. Leroy Jones replied, and sent us a copy to use in the BS section.

He also noted, 'I rarely see the name of anyone I know (I retired in '65) but was surprised to read about Jack **Deets** and Tim **Burns** in the same issue (Members to Remember). Keep up the good work.

'A Deets Deed'

I knew Col Deets quite well and like to believe I was numbered among his friends. My first contact with him was as a newly assigned Officer to the organization who had the duty of surveying possible oversea's sites for locations of a new 'Q' station. I arrived at Col Deet's office with five Airmen and a load of technical equipment. He assured me of his support in my assignment. My first survey was to be at a small base on the 'South end of an island.' He sent me to the local military Air Base for a flight to my destination. After waiting most of the day, my crew and equipment was loaded on to a C-119. But before take-off the pilot informed me that the plane was not going to the 'South end of the island,' but to his 'home base,' where I could transfer. I asked why he couldn't go to there and was told that the plane was due for inspection, and could only go to 'home base.'

I made a quick run to a telephone and called Col Deets. He said to go ahead and board and to not worry. About two hours into the flight, a flustered pilot came back to us and said 'We are being diverted to the 'South end of the island.' I didn't know you were from Hq's USAF, but a Col Deets from Washington DC had the aircraft diverted.' So we were dropped off at midnight at the 'South end of the island' and while we were being unloaded, a very apologetic pilot bought me a cup of coffee. I could see no reason to tell

him that Col Deets was not in Washington DC.

Later, after I retired to live in Oregon, and he in California, we met in the McClellan Base Exchange. I had purchased a large landing net for Salmon, approximately 2 1/2 feet in diameter. He asked what I was going to do with it and I replied that I was going to use it to catch OREGON MINNOWS to use for bait to catch OREGON FISH. It became a standing joke between us whenever we met.

I am sure I am not the only one who is saddened by the passing of so many of the 'good old boys' of the 1009th.

Chapter News

Prez FROM THE TOP Sez

JOHN CABAN, PICTURE BY BOB WILEY

A Time for Reflection

The impending war in Iraq and the recent Columbia Shuttle disaster have created an environment of uncertainty within our nation, and particularly here on the Space Coast. Consequently, money might become tight within DoD and government agencies as priorities are reviewed and reset. Therefore, there may be layoffs of friends, relatives and neighbors, fueling recession within our economy--and perhaps we begin to wonder about the future.

All these things were hot topics ten to twenty years ago as well. The Challenger disaster, the '87 Recession, and the Gulf War all occurred during 1986-91. What an eerie coincidence—but since that time, our Country has never been stronger in many ways—politically, militarily, and economically. Seems as if we have come full circle, and perhaps we have. My point is that life does have cyclical characteristics, and we experience happy, good things even in times of sadness and uncertainty.

One such happy moment—the Annual Alumni Snowball—was held at the Patrick NCO Club on Saturday, 8 February. Approximately fifty people enjoyed drinks and a good meal with old friends and spouses (pictures available at the website).

Another happy occasion, the recent AFTAC Annual Awards Banquet, was celebrated at the NCO Club on Thursday, 27 February. It was great to see outstanding talent and tradition—hallmarks of AFTAC—live on in the bright, shiny talent parading before us that night. It was also



John Caban accepts, on behalf of Joseph 'Joe' Johnson, the 2002 'Alumnus of The Year' award from Col. Bendorf, AFTAC CC, as the Command Superintendent, CMS French assists.

special to hear Joe **Johnson** announced as AFTAC Alumnus of the Year—congratulations Joe!

Yet, what stands out as one of the really good, poignant things I experienced recently was at the funeral mass this past week of former AFTAC Vice-Commander, Colonel Carter **Cobb**, who died February 18th of Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS). Colonel Cobb lived for 23 years in a wheel chair due to heroic efforts of his wife, Bobbie, his children, and through the tender care and diligence of nurses and caretakers. It was an emotional, uplifting experience. Although I did not have the privilege of knowing Col Cobb personally, through the testimonials of his children and friends—one a Letter of Eulogy written by renowned author Tom **Clancy**—I left Capehart Chapel knowing we honored and prayed for the soul of a great human being.

As Americans and AFTACer's approaching the solemn seasons of Lent and Passover—against a backdrop of world uncertainty and injustice—I hope we can all reflect on the positive things that make our Country great and the AFTAC mission noble. GOD BLESS AMERICA!



BOARD MEETINGS

Alumni Association Board Members

Elected President-John Caban Vice-Joe Marshall
Secretary-Al Moy Treasurer-Joe Goldian

Activities-CMSgt Lloyd *Appointed* Heritage Hall Committee, TBD
Hospitality-Judy Milam Internet-Mike Black, and Clark Creery
Membership-Jim Payne Newsletter-John and Chris Horsch
Publicity-Swede Swansen

A Few Minutes from the Minutes

AL MOY, SECRETARY

December 2002-February 2003

-Work continues on the '2003 WorldWide' reunion with **Carl Gailey** leading the charge:

—Banquet presentations, entertainment and the golf tournament were discussed. Table Centerpieces, decorations, the registration package, inclusion of The Flags of Freedom ceremony, and honorees were also considered.

—Swede **Swansen** is working on the roster for coverage of the Hospitality Room.

—John **Caban** is working the keynote speaker issue

—Access to the base may be an issue with some people attending the reunion. If members do not have a military ID card, they must ride with someone who has access to the base

—Dennis **Gilroy** checked with the Honor Guard, and they'll be able to do the POW-MIA program at the reunion dinner.

—Carl presented the nametag buttons, which will have a colored ring around the outside indicating attendance at the Friday night event, the Saturday night event, or both.

—Jim **Payne** will send confirmation postcards to those who register so they'll know their registration was received.

—While the dust hasn't settled on everything, significant progress has been made on all fronts to ensure a spectacular reunion.

—Two \$100 donations were approved. One for the Chechon Children's Home in Korea (Det 452) and one to assist the Air Intelligence Agency in their annual awards presentation.

—CMSgt Lloyd **French** was introduced as AFTAC's new Superintendent, pledging his support and participation.

—John **Caban** has met with Col **Bendorf**, the new AFTAC Commander and presented the Commander's lifetime Alumni Association membership card.

—George **Mirda** requested relief from the treasury position for the remainder of his term—he is

very busy with other pressing matters. Thank you George for your help last year as our vice and this year as our treasurer. Joe **Goldian** has been appointed to assume the treasurer duties.

Other Chapter's News

WEST COAST CHAPTER

DEPOT FALLOUT

Email: TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Elected: Chairman of the Board, Rodney **Hinkle**
Director & President, Al **Pavik**-Vice, Joe **Johnson**
Director At Large, Orv **Pritchard**-Secretary, Marge **Iske**-
Treasurer/Membership, Bart **Carter**

Appointed: Newsletter Editor, Dale **Klug**
Assistant Treasurer, Frank **Goodreau**

Winter Social – Overflow Attendance!

Our Winter Social held at the "Sheepherder Inn" on Saturday the 16th of November, was a huge success. The dining room seated 70 people and we had 77 in attendance. Quite a few alumni we hadn't seen in a long time joined our chapter members and families to make this a get-together to remember. Heavy fog and an early next-morning commitment kept Jim and Evelyn **Gillmore** from driving up from Concord, but we're looking forward to seeing them at our next event. "Thank You" to all who attended. A special "Thanks" goes out to Al and Ann **Pavik**, who made all the arrangements. Thanks also to Bob **Fitzgerald** for the pictures (note: please see website)

Words From The Prez' by Al Pavik

> The November get-together at Sheepherder's was truly a GREAT event. Thank You to all the people for participating. We will plan on having another later this year.

> We still plan to have a golf outing in the April time frame. I'm working with Rod Hinkle on this. It would be an event for both golfers and families.

> Congratulations to Herb and Jayne on their 60th wedding anniversary.

> We're looking for inputs from members on what they would like to do for future social events.

> On December 12th, we had our quarterly Business Meeting. Thanks to all attendees.

Events for 2003, Scheduled/Proposed

>April, Golf outing/social get-together. **TBD**.

>30 May – 1 June: Worldwide Reunion

>2 Sept, Election of Officers/business meeting.

**Quarterly Business Meetings
McClellan Air Museum at 7:00 PM
Call ahead, 797-1472, to confirm time & place
4 Mar, 3 Jun, 2 Sept, 2 Dec, 2003**

Mail Call

Don't forget our E-mail address: TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com
Samuel Band E-mail: I am a former member of the 1155th (1968-1971) and got your details from another former member, John French. Where can I get general information regarding former 1155th members? I currently live in Sydney, Australia, and have run into a former member of the 1156th who has retired here, Larry Marang. Thanks for your help. Sam, S L Band, Director, JustIT-Business Technical Support (Div. Just IT Recruitment Pty Ltd) (02) 9630 8633 slband@just-it.sydney.net

EDITOR'S NOTE: SENT SAM AN E-MAIL WITH INFO ON OUR CHAPTER AND HOW TO ACCESS THE ALUMNI WEBSITE.

Dave Riddle E-mail: Just to bring you up to date on Ed & Kitty Slover. Here's an email I received from Kitty. WE HAVE SOLD OUR HOME IN ALBANY MUCH SOONER THAN EXPECTED. ED & I ARE REMAINING IN ALBANY AND MOVING INTO AN APT. WE HAVE BOUGHT OUR RETIREMENT HOME IN MOBILE, AND MARIAM, MY SISTER IS GOING TO LIVE THERE UNTIL ED RETIRES IN MAY. OUR ADDRESS IN ALBANY UNTIL SOMETIME IN MAY: PO BOX 43235, ALBANY, GA 31704 Phone: 229-420-6162. WE WILL HAVE THE SAME E MAIL ADDRESS: edskitty@bellsouth.net THE MOBILE ADDRESS: 7438 MEADOW GROVE COURT, MOBILE, AL 36619, Phone: 251-6632-2095 MARIAM WILL BE AT THIS ADDRESS STARTING FEB 17TH.

Julie Doll E-mail : Our email should work now as thegrypps@acsalaska.net Happy New Year to all! Julie Doll, SMSgt, Superintendent, Det 460/CCS

COLORADO CHAPTER

ECHOES

Email: bdunn@qadas.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President, Jack Smith-Vice President, Earl Pierce
 Treasurer, Bill Schmied-Newsletter Editor, Bryce Dunn
 Webmaster, Bill Harris

On The Web

The Colorado Alumni Association Web site is alive and well at www.aftacco.org. You'll find pic-

tures of alumni activities, useful information about facilities in the area for active and retired folks and a new addition. With the assistance of fellow alums, your webmaster has posted a number of previous printed newsletters for your reading pleasure. If you don't see the ones you are looking for drop a line to Bill Harris at bharris4@ix.netcom.com and I'll find it for you. Thanks, Bill

Good Health Wishes

Good health wishes to Jerri Toner, Bill Braukman, Alberta Dalton, and George Plunkard.

Last Minute Colorado Update

EMAIL, BRYCE DUNN, 2/25

We are making plans for the annual picnic on June 21st, at Lake Williams on Buckley AFB. For more info, go to www.aftacco.org/contact Bryce Dunn at 303-693-4150 (email bdunn@qadas.com)/Rick Phillips at 303-364-6929.

'Picture This'

Florida's SnowBall V, February 8th, 2003

FROM CLARK CREEERY'S FLORIDA ALUMNI WEBPAGE, 'UPCOMING EVENTS' - DIGIPICS BY BOB WILEY



John Caban, President presides, Kathy/Sam Sorice Joe Marshall



Attendees milling, can you name them?



Gail Marshall, Judith Wiley, Carla Caban, PJ O'Brien, Patty Hammond

MONITORing Active-

→ **Duty Doing**, from your inputs sent in from around the AFTAC World

Command Section



Col. Craig V.
Bendorf

Commander, 2002.12 previously AFTAC CV and before that, Chief, Global Attack Area Team, Directorate of Requirements, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, VA. He has a Bachelor of Science, Astronautical Engineering from the AF Academy and a Master's from Ohio State and is a graduate of the USAF Test Pilot School. Col. Bendorf has served in SAC, Space Command, Systems Command, Air Combat Command and the Joint Staff. He is a command pilot with 3200+ flight hours.



CMSgt Lloyd S.
French

Superintendent, 2003.01 AF/AFTAC since '77, trained in Gamma Spectroscopy and Special Equipment Operations-has attended Leadership School and the NCO and Senior NCO Academies receiving the Levitow and Commandant's Awards. He has also earned a BS in Business Administration. The Chief has served Airborne in many capacities at all command levels. He is married to the former Michelle Rostosky of Satellite Beach, FL. and has three children, Lindsey, Nicholas, and Christina.



COL BENDORF TAKES REINS OF AFTAC

AFTAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS, FRED HAGANS

Col. Craig V. **Bendorf** assumed command of the Air Force Technical Applications Center during a Change-of-Command ceremony at the center Tuesday, December 10th.

Colonel Bendorf takes over from Col. Roy E. Horton III, who commanded AFTAC since Feb. 8, 2001. Colonel Horton has been tabbed to command the 17th Training Group (AETC), Goodfellow AFB Tex.

Colonel Bendorf had served as vice commander of AFTAC since his arrival here in December 2001. As commander, he will oversee the world-wide mission of operating the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System. The USAEDS is a global network of nuclear event detection sensors that record disturbances underground, underwater, in space, or in the atmosphere. The nuclear event detection mission is directly linked to the nuclear treaty monitoring mission which monitors signatory countries' compliance with several nuclear treaties.

Colonel Bendorf is a resident graduate of the Air War College and the Armed Forces Staff College, and a graduate of the USAF Test Pilot School, Edwards AFB, Calif. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Astronautical Engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy, and holds a Master's of Science Degree in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering from the Ohio State University.

Brig. Gen. Erika C. **Stueterman**, mobilization assistant to the commander of Air Intelligence Agency, Lackland AFB, Tex., presided over the ceremony. AIA provides administrative support to AFTAC.

CMS FRENCH, Command Superintendent

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Chief French has replaced Chief **Armitage** as the Command's Superintendent (CCS). He was born in July 1955 in Stambaugh, Michigan. He attended Newburyport High School and Beverly High School in Massachusetts, graduating in 1973. He then attended North Shore Community College, graduating with honors in 1975 with an Associate in Arts degree.

He entered the Air Force in March of 1977 and made Chief in October 2001.

EDUCATION: '82, AF Supervisors Course, '85, NCO Leadership School, '91, NCO Academy, '99, Senior NCO Academy, '00, BS, Business Administration

ASSIGNMENTS: Chief French has served AFTAC at many levels and at numerous locations, mostly in the Airborne arena, ranging from technician to NCOIC to Superintendent. Most recently, he was the Superintendent, Directorate of Operations, Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC), Patrick Air Force Base, FL.

Chief French responded to our congratulatory note with the following reply:

1/17/03—Thank you for the kind words. As a dyed-in-the-wool AFTACer and 99 (9S) rest assured you can depend on my support for the alumni. You are our leaders (yes, still) and hold vast volumes of history and experience. I feel it would be a horrible wound to somehow allow that to lose its impetus and importance to us as an organization.

You never really feel the path until you've walked it in another person's shoes. Having traversed some of yours is a real reward and eye-opener. I look forward to sharing thoughts and experiences with the alumni at every opportunity. Warm Regards, Lloyd (and Michelle!)

CALENDAR

Association Board/Membership Meetings

Monthly HQ AFTAC WindDowns

Members and prospective members are encouraged to attend these events for fellowship and participation.

ALWAY VERIFY WITH PAT SNYDER, (321) 494-6867, BEFORE COMING

—Board/membership meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month (dates listed below):

WHEN: 1730 (5:30 PM)

WHERE: AFTAC HQ's Building

HOW: come to rear entrance

—WindDowns are scheduled for the first Friday of each month (dates listed below):

WHEN: 1530 (3:30 PM)

WHERE: Behind AFTAC HQ building (the Outback)

HOW: come to the back of the building-find the crowd

2003

April

4, 1530 - WindDown at the Outback

14, 1730 - Board/Membership Meeting

May

2, 1530 - WindDown at the Outback

12, 1730 - Board/Membership Meeting

June

6, 1530 - WindDown at the Outback

9, 1730 - Board/Membership Meeting

Special Events

2003

National Reunion,
AFTAC Hq's, Patrick AFB, FL
May 30th– June 1st

Fall Golf n'Getogether
Probable, October Time Frame
Watch your website and PoMo for details

ALUMNI SHOP

Mail orders to: Long-Range Detection Alumni Assn
ATTN: Sales Staff, PO Box 254892
Patrick AFB FL, 32925-0892

Include additional \$3.00 for shipping and handling*

*No shipping and handling charged on logo pins

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE (as of 2003.02)

PURCHASED WITH ALUMNI FUNDS-Multi-Color Logo
MED LG XL XXL

JACKETS, Unlined/Royal Blue, \$20 2 2 2 4

GOLF SHIRTS, with pocket, \$14

Sea Teal (aqua blue)	2	2	4	3
Jade (medium green)	3	4	3	2
Navy	3	2	3	3
Red	2	3	2	2
White	2	0	0	2
Royal Blue	3	0	4	3
Teal (dark aqua)	2	1	3	4
Maroon	3	1	2	2

T-SHIRTS, without pocket - \$7.00

Light Blue	2	3	3	3
Royal blue	1	3	3	1
Navy	3	2	1	0
Ash Gray	2	2	4	1
Purple	2	1	3	2
Red	2	2	3	2
Fuscsia	2	2	2	2
Mint Green	2	2	2	2
Jade Green	2	4	4	2

HATS - \$6.00 # MISCELLANEOUS

Green	7	50th Commem. Coins (\$3)	146
Gray	3	Logo Pin (\$3.25)	290
Red	7	Logo Disk (\$5.50)	12
Royal Blue	0	Alumni License Plate, \$7-members	
Light Blue	8	/\$10-nonmembers	6
Navy	0		
Blue/Gray	25	TOD History Book, free, s/h, \$4.00	

PURCHASED BY THE BOOSTERS CLUB - most say ALUMNUS rather than ALUMNI LG XL

JACKETS -

Unlined/Royal Blue - white logo, \$20

GOLF SHIRTS-

Med. Blue/with pocket/White logo, \$14 11 7

NOTE: As promised, **Sagey** and **Alex** are not here because three members did not mention them in any manner. They will be back when three alumni write to us of their passing—Judy (**Milam**) and Ron (**Cook**) do not count as they have already noticed in the December '01 issue.

REUNION 'MUST-DO'S'

SUBMITTED BY FRANK HALL AND YOUR EDITORS. THE FOLLOWING 'MUST-DO'S' WILL GIVE YOU A GOOD BLEND OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF THE COMMAND

Building Tours

It would be a good idea to see the headquarters building both inside and outside. Outside, you will be able to see the "Outback," where lunch can be purchased—inside, you will be offered the opportunity to have a guided tour of the building to include the operations centers. Some of the highlights are as follows:

There will be unclassified briefings which will bring you up-to-date on the Command. Then you will have the opportunity for a grand tour of the building. Hopefully, you will be able to see the latest equipment and note the changes that have occurred in AFTAC over the years. Our escorts for the day will be active duty personnel. It will be interesting to see how you feel the current active force measures up to the "old timers."

If you have not seen the AFTAC building for an extended period of time, you will be quite surprised. From the front of the building, there are no longer windows. They have been covered over for security reasons. Inside, there have been significant changes which have greatly enhanced the overall appearance of the facility.

Remember, cameras are not permitted in the building. There will be a camera check station where you can check your camera.

Hall of Heritage

The 'Hall of Heritage' is a showpiece within the AFTAC building. The Hall of Heritage was originally the brainchild of one of our Commanders, Colonel **Meisenheimer** and it has been improved throughout the years. He recognized that the Hall would be a great place to honor AFTAC's locations, people and events that are vital to a great command. The idea began around the 1985/86 time frame. Major Dudley **Townsley** was assigned as the OPR to obtain pictures, artifacts and anything else that would be interesting from an AFTAC perspective. As a result, the idea came to fruition with the arrival and storage of AFTAC memorabilia. The AFTAC reunion of 1987 was the first time that we were afforded the opportunity to see some of the items that are still on display today. This was a solid beginning and you will be pleasantly surprised with the array of items that are on display.

The Hall of Heritage is a tribute to those individuals who have made AFTAC what it is today.

There are photographs of past and present Commanders, Technical Directors and Senior Enlisted Advisors in hallways throughout the building. The first floor is 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 merits a place of honor.

Wall of Honor

The Wall of Honor was the idea of a past Commander, Brig. General **Shaffer**. If you served in AFTAC for 20 or more years you may send a picture, and a short biography to be placed on this 'Wall.' You will see that numerous personnel have already done that.

It is a nice place to spend a few minutes looking at friends and coworkers that you knew over the years in AFTAC. If you are eligible, please consider adding your picture and biography to the collection by contacting the Alumni Association for further information.

AFTAC Display, Encampment WY, Museum

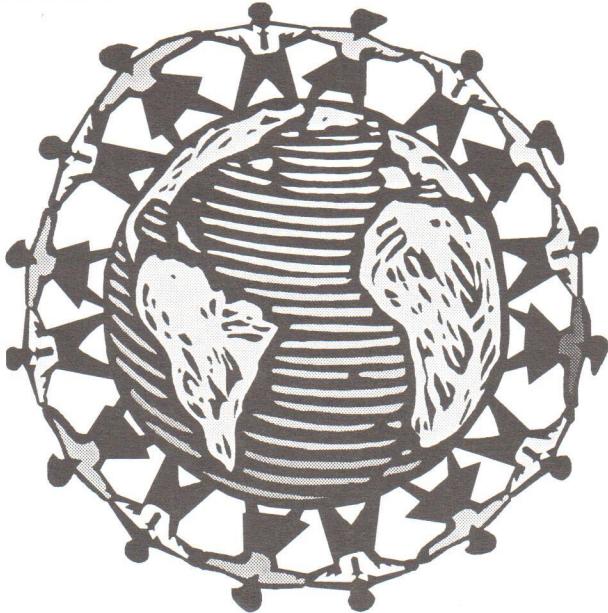
INFORMATION PROVIDED BY BILL BRAUKMAN

Another command 'sight to see,' if you are out west, is a small museum in southern Wyoming near the Colorado border. It is located in a town that has gone through several metamorphosis, having been a coal town of 80,000, to being nearly a ghost town of about 50 year round residents, to what it is today - a logging town of 600 people with a museum well worth visiting. Therein you will find the work of Bill **Braukman** and the Colorado alumni - they have saved a piece of AFTAC in this small town.

They began working on this when Bill visited (he had been stationed there in '51-'53) in April '90 and saw the town's small museum. Through good horse trading, some twisting of arms and contributions from Teledyne and former detachment personnel, he was able to come up with an original 'big' Benioff (400 lbs), an equipment rack, a helicorder, amplifiers, developorder, etc., to place in this museum. An AFTAC Worldwide Directory is also maintained and well used by visiting alumni. Dedication ceremonies were in the spring of '91 and attracted ranchers, town folks and former AFTACers.

Be sure to pay the museum and the AFTAC exhibit a visit if you're ever in the area, and enjoy what Bill Braukman and the others have assembled here.

WORLDWIDE REUNION 2003



Long-Range Detection Alumni Reunion—History and Overview

JUDY MILAM

Everybody loves a reunion – time to get together with old friends, make new friends, and see what everyone has been up to in recent years. As most of you already know, for a number of years, we've tried to hold a reunion about every two years, alternating between California, Colorado, and Florida. In 1998, the reunion was held in California and coincided with the closing of Tech Ops Division (a great weekend with a somewhat sad ending). In 2001, the reunion was in Colorado (another great weekend). In 2003, the Florida Chapter of the Alumni Association will host another reunion, and we're ready to start taking reservations. Included with this issue of the POST-MONITOR are the AGENDA (page 17-18) and REGISTRATION FORM (page 19). The agenda and registration form will also be included in the Colorado and California alumni chapter newsletters and can be found on the Florida Chapter Alumni Long-Range Detection (LRD) home page (www.csi-inc.com/aftacalumni). Be sure to pass the word along to other LRD (AFTAC, AFMSW-1, 1009th SWS, AFOAT-1, and 1035th FAG) alumni who might not be members of one of the chapters of the Alumni Association.

Now is the time to pull out your pen(cil), your 2003 calendar, and your checkbook. Next, you need to write in "LRD ALUMNI WORLDWIDE REUNION" on the dates 30 May – 1 June on your calendar. Last, but not least, you need to fill in the following REGISTRATION FORM, write a check for the appropriate amount, and RETURN YOUR REGISTRATION PACKAGE TO US. If everyone will do that, it will make our job a lot easier. Early registration will make the planning simple. Remember that some functions are limited by the size of the facility, and even though we don't anticipate filling up, you can assure your spot by getting your registration in early (while doing us a big favor).

We have a terrific Reunion Committee, headed by **CARL GAILEY**, but we can always use more help. If you would like to volunteer to work on the committee, please notify Carl via telephone at (321) 777-0569 or email at gaileyc@juno.com. If you would like to volunteer to work in the Hospitality Room during the reunion, please contact **Swede Swanson** by phone at (321) 773-8297 or email swanenr@earthlink.net. If you would like to volunteer to help at the Registration Table during the reunion, please contact **Pat Snyder** by phone at (321) 494-6867 or email at patricia.snyder@aftac.patrick.af.mil. To summarize what we need from you:

- Register early for the 30 May – 1 June 2003 LRD Alumni Association Reunion by completing the enclosed registration form, and returning it with your check
- Volunteer for the Reunion Committee, the Hospitality Room, and/or the Registration Table.
- Attend the Reunion and have a great weekend.
- Pass the word along to other alumni and encourage them to attend the reunion

Four-Page Reunion Packet

◆ Long-Range Detection Alumni Association, Patrick AFB FL ◆

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LONG-RANGE DETECTION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION AGENDA

30 MAY 2003 (FRIDAY)

WORLDWIDE GOLF TOURNAMENT

***1100AM Signup/Lunch** We will kickoff the Worldwide Reunion festivities with a golf tournament at the Manatee Cove golf course on Patrick AFB—play will start at 1230/1300 hours. Lunch will be served prior to the beginning of the tournament and for about two hours as each foursome comes by the clubhouse. With this approach, people attending the icebreaker will have adequate time. We will have a short program awarding prizes immediately following play.

Cost is \$35.00 for dues paying 'Alumni Association' members of any chapter (CA/CO/FL) and \$40.00 for nonmembers. This fee will cover the cost of golf, carts, food and prizes. The format will be Select Shot (Scramble) with handicapping by teams. If you do not have a team, that is not a problem. You can sign up as a single player and be placed on an open team. In fact, we will like to have lots of single players, as this will give us the opportunity to meet and greet our friends from the past.

We will be limited to 144 players. We believe that we will have more than 144 players so please get your reservations in early. Reservations can be made by completing the registration form in this issue, or by contacting Frank Hall (major arranger of this tournament) @ 321-773-2430/bevcol@aol.com or Pat Snyder, 321-494-6867/patricia.snyder@aftac.patrick.af.mil. See you on 30 May 2003.

***NOTE: This is a revised time FEES MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.**

30 MAY 2003 (FRIDAY)

CRUISE TO NO WHERE

930AM-4:30PM A free cruise on the Sterling Casino Line is being offered for those who are not golfers. Free hors d'oeuvres are served during the cruise. Free cocktails are served to all **gaming participants**. On board entertainment is provided by 'Legends in Concert.' Free transportation may be provided depending upon response. Must have at least 50 people sign up to qualify.

Photo ID is required to board cruise.

30 MAY 2003 (FRIDAY)

ICEBREAKER (casual dress)

6-10PM At the Radisson Resorts Convention Center, 8701 Astronaut Blvd, Cape Canaveral FL 32920. (Phone 321-784-0000) Informal mixer—heavy hors d'oeuvres—cash bar

31 MAY 2003 (SATURDAY)

FAMILY DAY

8AM-3PM Tour of the AFTAC building to include, Hall of Heritage and an unclassified briefing. Shuttle bus transportation will be provided from the Radisson to the AFTAC building and back. **THERE MAY BE A \$1.00 CHARGE FOR A NAME BADGE IF THIS IS THE ONLY EVENT YOU ARE ATTENDING—YOU MAY NEED TO REGISTER TO HAVE YOUR NAME LISTED FOR ENTRY**

11 AM-2 PM The AFTAC boosters club will be serving hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks for a nominal fee at the outback area behind the AFTAC building.

31 MAY 2003 (SATURDAY)

BANQUET (coat and tie preferred; service uniform for active-duty)

6-7PM Social at the Radisson Resorts Convention Center, Cocktails (cash bar) followed by

7-9 PM Sit down dinner with a choice of prime rib or Florida lemon grouper baked and topped with citrus sauce. Dinners include salad, seasonal vegetables and potato or rice, dessert and coffee or tea.

9-? Program, guest speaker and dancing.

1 JUNE 2003 (SUNDAY)

BREAKFAST BUFFET (\$7 per person)

6-1030 AM At the Radisson Resorts Convention Center: A chance to wish all a final farewell and a safe trip home. If you wish to attend, pay cashier and make food selection and proceed to the Jamaica room where tables will be set up for our use.

Four-Page Reunion Packet

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Long-Range Detection Alumni Association, Patrick AFB FL

NOTES:

--HOTEL RESERVATIONS: The reunion will be held at the Radisson Resort at the Port, 8701 Astronaut Blvd, Cape Canaveral FL 32920. A block of rooms have been reserved at the rate of \$85.00 per night. Be sure and ask for the AFTAC reunion rate. The toll free number for reservations is 1-800-333-3333, local number is 321-784-0000. Reservations must be made prior to 30 April 2003 to receive this rate. The hotel **does not** have shuttle service from the airport. Avis car rental has an office at the hotel. Call 1-800-331-1600 and give them the AWD number K825442 to check their rates.

--REGISTRATION PACKAGE: Registration will be set up in the Convention Center lobby 29-30 May 2003. If you cannot pick up your package on the 29 or 30 May, your package will be available in the Convention Center lobby prior to the banquet. Nametags will be issued in the packages and your name tag will be your entry to paid activities. **Please wear your nametag to all activities.**

--HOSPITALITY ROOM: Is located in the Bonaire room located off the Convention Center lobby. Operating hours will be posted

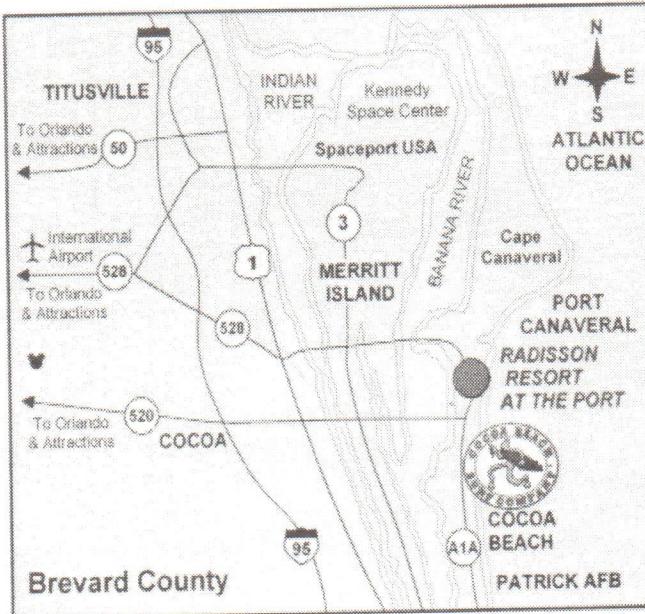
--BANQUET SEATING: To ensure attendees will be seated with friends, a display showing table arrangements will be located in the Convention Center lobby at the Radisson 29-30 May 2003. Each table will seat 10 people.

--CANCELLATIONS: Please call or write immediately if you must cancel. Because of contractual commitments, no refunds will be made after 1 May 2003 unless we have someone waiting to sign up. To cancel contact: James Payne (321-777-4731) paynejb@juno.com or Carl Gailey (321-777-0569) gaileyc@juno.com or mail to LRD Alumni Association, PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB FL, 32925-0892



Come, Join Us ...

RADISSON RESORT
AT THE PORT
8701 Astronaut Blvd.
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920
Telephone: 321-784-0000
Fax: 321-784-3737
www.radisson.com/capecanaveralfl



We Want You There ...



Four-Page Reunion Packet

◆ Long-Range Detection Alumni Association, Patrick AFB FL

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REGISTRATION FORM-

LONG-RANGE DETECTION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION (30 MAY-1 JUNE 2003)

P.O. BOX 254892 PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 32925-0892

REIGATION FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH PAYMENT
TO ADDRESS ABOVE NLT 25 APRIL 2003

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: LAST, FIRST, MI _____

NAME OF SPOUSE/GUEST _____

STREET ADDRESS/PO BOX _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER (INCLUDE AREA CODE) _____

EVENT	COST	NUMBER ATTENDING	AMOUNT OF MONEY
REGISTRATION FEE (REQUIRED)	\$5.00 PER PERSON	_____	\$ _____
ICE BREAKER (FRI, 30 MAY 03)	\$20.00 PER PERSON	_____	\$ _____
FAMILY DAY (SAT, 31 MAY 03)	NONE	_____	
BANQUET (SAT, 31 MAY 03)	\$30.00 PER PERSON	_____	\$ _____
BANQUET FOOD SELECTION	PRIME RIB _____ OR BAKED GROUper _____		
GOLF TOURNAMENT (FRI, 30 MAY 03)	**** PER PERSON **** Dues paying alumni members (\$35.00), all others (\$40.00)	_____	\$ _____
BREAKFAST BUFFET (SUN, 1 JUN 03)	\$7.00 PAY cashier	_____	
CRUISE TO NOWHERE	NONE	_____	
TOTAL AMOUNT SENT: \$ _____			

PLEASE NOTE: MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
LRD ALUMNI ASSOC AND MAIL TO:
PO BOX 254892
PATRICK AFB FL 32925-0892

NO REFUNDS MADE FOR CANCELLATIONS/CHANGES AFTER 1 MAY 2003

RESERVATION COMMITTEE CONTACTS

JAMES PAYNE (321-777-4731) paynejb@juno.com

CARL GAILEY (321-777-0569) gaileyc@juno.com

PAT SNYDER (321-494-6867) patricia.snyder@aftac.patrick.af.mil

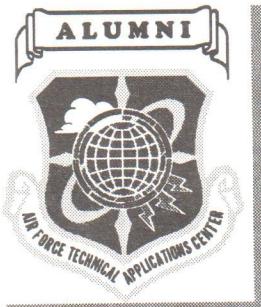
AFTAC Alumni Assn

P.O Box 254892

Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The emblem used by the alumni association (below) was in active service from 1970 to 2000 (the replacement is a less detailed rendering). The association continues the use of this version because so many alumni served while it was 'on duty.' When in use, it symbolized the unit and, in color, contains the AF (blue and gold) as well as the national colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of AF operations; yellow, the sun and excellence of personnel. The globe indicates worldwide mission, locations and geophysical studies; the lightning and cloud depict study on natural phenomena and the compass points reflect the assigned tasks around the world. The rings around the globe symbolize electronic instrument readings and unity of purpose and display electronic measurements accomplished. The elliptical belt symbolizes the study of the atmosphere.



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IN GOD WE still TRUST - ALL OTHERS, WE used to MONITOR!

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NOTE: the web-like pound sign (#) identifies articles that are also featured on the association webpage, "csi-inc.com/aftac"

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- Page 2 #Association/Chapter Information - #Editorial
- Page 3/6 Mail-Call/#Alumni To Remember
- Page 7 Feature Articles, "Commanders ReCall" (none this issue) - "I Remember" (one this issue)
"Where Are Ya?!!!"(none this issue) - "A Family Affair" (one this issue)
"A Barely Substantiated (BS) Tale" (two this issue)
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SNFE the Snail Sez, keep us up-to-date on your life and forward unclassified organizational adventures and tales - inputs are due the 1st Monday in the month of publication (March, June, September & December).

Membership Application

(for your use or pass on-complete/mail to ATTN: Membership Chair) (address/contact information on Page two, left panel)

**FLORIDA Chapter dues (check one, enclose sum): \$10 annual dues \$75 lifetime
SPECIAL OFFER, For first time (new) members only, three years dues for \$20**

NAME (Spouse)

ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

PHONE NUMBER(s): EMAIL/HOME PAGE (optional)

NOTICE: Membership information will be passed to other AFTAC Alumni Chapters and members unless you state that this information is not to be released.