

◆ POST - MONITOR ◆

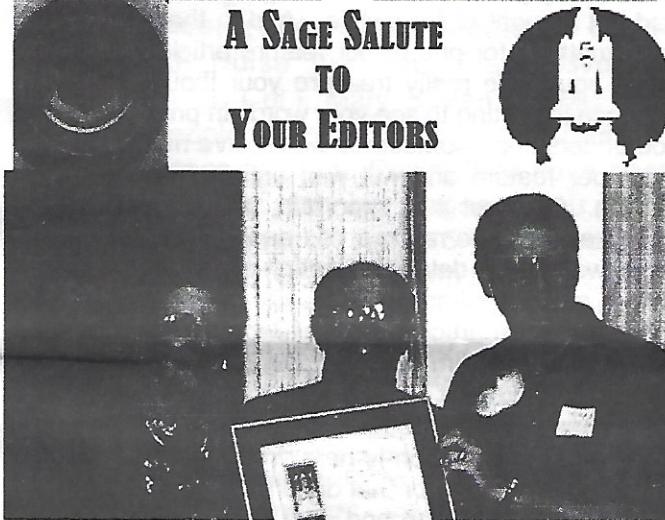
Volume 8 Issue 1 665 Members - 455 Lifetime (15 are Complimentary) 2000 March



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 AFTAC's
SAGES

A SAGE SALUTE TO YOUR EDITORS



Chris and John Horsch with Asc. President, Mike Shilkitus, 00.1.29

SUBMITTED BY ONE OF THE ASSOCIATION'S PAST PRESIDENTS, FRANK HALL

At the annual SnowBall event, it has become customary to announce and recognize our "Alumni of the Year." Two special people were chosen this year, John and Chris Horsch. For four years they have been authoring the Post-Monitor. They have performed superbly in representing the association to the membership. With the far flung nature of the association, the newsletter is many member's only real attachment to the alumni. John and Chris toil many hours to create the quarterly Post-Monitor and we are brought closer together because of it.



Alumni Alerts-What's Comin' Up

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

"STAND DOWN 2000"

Brevard County

SUBMITTED BY JACK JACKSON

In time of war, exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover are sometimes removed from the field of battle to a place of relative safety and security. The military term, Stand Down, is used to describe this action.

Background

What is a Stand Down? Hundreds of homeless veterans are provided with a broad range of necessities (food, clothing, medicals, showers, legal and mental health assistance, job counseling and referrals) but most importantly, companionship and camaraderie. It is a time for the community to connect with homeless veterans and address this problem that affects every town, city and state in this great country of ours.

Who organizes and delivers these services? Hundreds of caring volunteers and professionals, veterans service organizations, National Guard and Reserve units, homeless shelter programs, health care providers, U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs and Labor officials, veterans-helping veterans programs and concerned citizens from around the country.

Where are Stand Downs held? The majority of Stand Downs are held in facilities that are donated by the community and best suited for such an endeavor, i.e., Reserve and National Guard armories are well suited.

How do you stage a Stand Down? No set formula. Each community adds its own uniqueness - from basic services to entertainment and cultural activities. Some Stand Downs are re-created to follow a regimented military style program which is familiar and comforting to the veterans.

Stand Down 2000 will assist the Veterans of Brevard County Florida for the 5th consecutive year on April 15, 2000, from 8 am to 4 pm. The community and volunteers will once again come together at the National Guard Armory at 308 N. Fiske Blvd, Cocoa, to aid and assist homeless veterans and veterans in need. In his 5th year as director, Walter (Jack) Jackson, AFTAC Alumni, and his executive board consisting of retirees, active duty and sponsors will provide the opportunity of Stand Down for the veterans of Brevard. Stand Down takes months of planning and the rewards are knowing that we are helping someone. Some of the specific services provided are legal assistance, clothing, haircuts, food, medical, hearing, and dental exams. The veterans leave Stand Down with the feeling that someone cares

picnic, golf, and other stories follow (Continued on page 3)

Association Honor Roll Alumni Of The Year Recipients

John Horsch-1999
Frank Hall 1998 - Judy Milam-1997
Carl Gailey, 1996 - Clark Creery-1995
"PERENNIALS"

Alumni who served the Florida Chapter board five or more years
 Frank Hall, President/Vice, '89-'98 Judy Milam, Secretary since '89
 Mary Welch, Membership, '91-'99 Carl Gailey - Treasurer '91-'99
 Swede Swansen, publicity, since '93

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Association was formed in March 1985 and chartered later the next year. 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

Membership dues, \$10 per year (based on FY, 1 Oct.-30 Sep.), payable in Oct., or \$75 for a life. You're encouraged to attend scheduled monthly meetings beginning at 5:30pm on the second Monday of each month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC headquarters building (#989) at Patrick AFB., FL. For information, meetings or membership, contact **Jim Payne**, (321)777-4731/jbpayne@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.pafb.af.mil. Dues, membership applications, and queries/information should be mailed to:

**AFTAC Alumni Association, PO Box 254892
 Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892**

The chapter provides a quarterly (Mar., Jun., Sep., Dec.) newsletter, "Post-Monitor" (staff data below), namesake of a previous AFTAC active-duty publication, "Monitor," & a Web-page, "<http://www.csihq.com/aftacalumni>", with association/alumni information, a "Post-Monitor" Sampler, and photos - Webmeisters are Dave Johnson and Mike Black

Colorado chapter

Membership dues are \$5 per year, payable in February; chapter publishes a newsletter, "Echoes," and meets several times a year-for information, Bill Schmied, (303) 367-0625

West Coast (California) chapter

Formed in 1999, dues are \$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 plan to hold meetings and socials, host a webpage and publish a periodic newsletter.

AFTAC and Alumni Honorarium

There are several permanent and ongoing projects representing and honoring AFTAC people and history. Two of these, the "Hall of Heritage" (with information and artifacts) and the Photos/Biographies of Alumni who served AFTAC for 20 plus years, are housed at AFTAC Headquarters. Another is an AFTAC display at the Encampment Wyoming Museum.

Newsletter Editors: John and Chris Horsch
Information/Proofing: Judy Milam, Pat Snyder and Deborah Carson
Executive Review: Frank Hall
Rovin' Photographers: Judy Milam (film) and Bob Wiley (digital)
Rovin' Reporter: Clark Creery
Printing/Mailing: Carl Gailey and Swede Swansen

"A TEAM"...of Horsches'

'58-'87

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

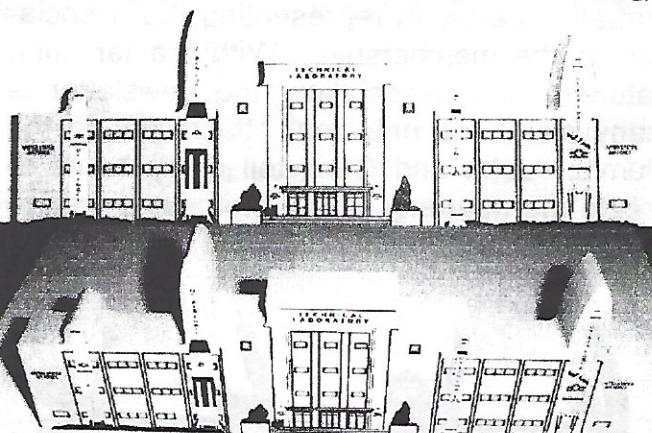
Wow...we have to start with a 'Thank You' to all for the 'Alumni of the Year' honor...it's great to be recognized for something we love to do. Thanks to Frank Hall for the nomination and to the other board members for their vote of confidence. We will continue to do our best to maintain 'old friends' and a connection to an organization we served so long.

Next, we want to thank those of you who 'take the time to drop a line' - your inputs are so important to the 'feel' of the PoMo and we know there are very few things our readers enjoy as much as hearing from someone they had not thought of for awhile. And to those who send us something for one of our feature articles...a double thank you. We really treasure your inputs, and your patience in waiting to see your words in print. We hope you understand - sometimes we receive more than one input per feature and will wait until a future issue to publish. We feel it is important, if at all possible, to have each feature represented each issue, and sometimes we need to delay publication of something you've sent to make this happen.

These feature articles are well-represented this issue with inputs from **Jim Clapper**, **Daniel Burk**, and **Frank Calenda** - and wait till you read the article and poem **Brian Swan** gives us to remind us of what's important.

Your draft constitution is here...read that and drop us any ideas you have for that document. We've got a lot of events we report on and a lot of events coming up. Come on out to some of these...better yet, see how much fun it is to give us a hand with doing them.

We end keeping a promise. We told you last issue we'd get pictures of the replicas of the hqs building being sold by **Southern Traditions** (who donate a portion of sales to our Boosters Club), well wouldn't you know it, **Bob Wiley**, our digital pics guy, does it. So, we've shrunk our editorial font to make room-here they are-front/top (backside contains history of the building):



(Alumni Alerts...Stand Down 2000 *Continued from page 1*)
and are willing to help them.

Many valuable volunteers and sponsors come together for Stand Down. Just to name a few, Wuestoff Hospital, Vision Works, County Service Officers, Veterans Administration, React, Pointman Ministry, and Patrick AFB. Brevard County is 72 miles long, stretching from Scottsmoor to Sebastian. Coastal Health Systems provides transportation to Stand Down for those who need it. The Vietnam Veterans of Brevard and The Brevard Veterans Council are the local co-sponsors. Members of the Executive Board are; Bob Holloway (retired USAF AFTAC), Charlie McClain (retired USAF Lt. Col.), Grace Harter (USA WW II, Korea), Evin Snyder (retired USA Chaplain), Beverly Sangeleer (USN Nurse Vietnam), Jackie Knoll (USAF Nurse Vietnam), Frank Alverson (retired USA Lt. Col.), Mary Bevan (USMC WW II). These people have dedicated a lot of time to make a success of Stand Down; they have been there from the first planning stages. If you would like to help this year on April 15 please contact Jack at (321) 956-1025 M-F 8 am to 5 pm.

Memorial Day - 2000 (5/29)

...and now let's spend a little more time thinking of those who gave so much, and sometimes everything they had - on this upcoming important day of remembrance, we have a very thought provoking recall, special to the Post-Monitor and done by one of our fellow alumni...enjoy as he reminds us to remember in letter and verse

An Alumni Remembers - Special to this Post-Monitor

SUBMITTED BY BRIAN SWAN

Ever since becoming a member I have enjoyed the arrival of every newsletter, and I have always wanted to have the opportunity to contribute to the paper, but have never found anything I thought worthy, until now. I would like to submit a poem about Memorial Day, and I would be honored to have you publish it in the appropriate issue of the newsletter.

I wrote this poem over two years ago. I was sitting in my cubicle, supporting my "military customer" for the company, and it was near Memorial Day amid the newer generation of people that constitute our current military force. I realized from the local conversation that this day was nothing more than just another Government holiday to the majority of these young men and women. It angered me a little, but it also made me think back to my recollection of the day when we honored the men and women who gave their lives for the preservation of this country's freedom.

I come from a small town in Maine - the population has always hovered around 2000 to 2500 people - with a budget that can hardly finance anything of major importance. Yet, Memorial Day has always been an occasion to codify the township with a respectable demonstration of dignity. My earliest memories of this day were when I was in the Cub Scouts. Being told that we would march in the parade meant almost nothing to me. I did not understand the significance of the event, and I thought it was very odd to simply march the single mile from "downtown" to the cemetery with a collection of old men in even older uniforms, and the rest of the Scout groups, and any other social gathering that chose to walk with us. The ceremony itself was also confusing to me. One of the local ministers would speak on a subject that could not hold my interest, and eventually three or five of the "old soldiers" would fire their rifles into the sky. After that, some of the people would walk through the cemetery, some would just go home. Many seemed sad.

As I grew older, and eventually came of age to learn of the Vietnam War, and the possibility of my future involvement in the military in some fashion, I began to understand the significance of Memorial Day. But, nothing hit home any harder than the day my home town lost their only young son to that conflict.

His name was Bruce Harold Tibbets. He was a year ahead of me in school, he was a handsome man, well respected, and a star hockey player for my Father, who coached the team. He was drafted into the Army after high school, went off to the war, and came home in a closed coffin three months after deployment. I often wonder if his death was as much an impact on my understanding of the significance of Memorial Day as it must have been to everyone else in my home town from the losses of prior wars. I think it must.

My Father is a very head-strong individual. He never cried at his Father's or his Mother's funeral, because he knew he needed to demonstrate strength to others who needed to have the strength to get through the loss. But, I saw him cry the day we found out that Bruce had died. And I think it was, in part, for the loss of someone who he enjoyed guiding through a part of life - someone who was a beloved son of a humble family - someone from our town who had given their life for this country, and someone who was not much different than me - just on the verge of

eligibility for military service. I think that is the day I learned the meaning of patriotism, and the day I knew I would be honored to serve my country.

So, twenty-seven years later, and after a twenty-year career in AFTAC, I was taken back to the days when Memorial Day was the most honorable day in my home town. I spent that afternoon writing this poem. I did nothing with it for a year. The next year I sent it to some local ex-military friends. One of them forwarded it to his friend, who used it in his Memorial Day ceremony at an Army base in Maryland. I have had it published on an Internet site for Vietnam veterans. And now, I'm ready to share it with the active and retired members of my former military organization. Although I wrote this and re-wrote it numerous times, and have read it even more, it still makes me cry. To read it again reminds me of the humble pride all military members must hold in their heart, the pride to have simply served, much less have offered their life, or to have actually given it in battle. For what it is worth, here is –

"The Last Formation"

When Dandelions rise to weave a carpet,
widely spread
'round every gravestone, late in May, we
honor our brave dead.

The soldiers and the sailors, once so scattered by each war,
now stand Their last formation, undivided evermore.

Each daughter, now forever gone, each lost and missing son,
thought not to fear Their dire end, would never turn to run.

For every fallen soldier that once bravely took a stand,
did so, with pride and for a cause. This people and This land.

We rise at dawn, with purpose, all to make this somber day
one filled with tiny, waving flags. We march. We cry. We pray.

Old soldiers and young children walk together side by side.

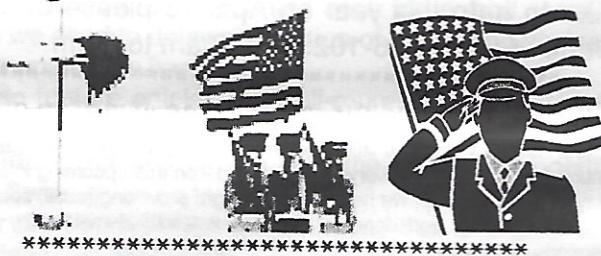
Each footstep drums out Freedom's song.
Each teardrop sings out Pride.

As carbines ring out shots above, symbolic of Their fall,
each volley's lofty flight will touch the heart within us all.

The Lilacs fall to slowly form a sea of purple waves
that gently travel to and fro between Their valiant graves.

Defiant headstones, standing fast,
unswayed by Springtime's breeze,
Shout "Honor all these silent souls who cannot stand At Ease".

thank you so much for sharing these thoughts with your fellow alumni...



Spring Picnic

SUBMITTED BY THE EDITORS

This years Spring Picnic will be held Saturday, the 6th of May, at the BCC Wickham Park Pavilion – alumni have always been a major attendant and contributor to this event. As a matter of fact, we will again be the 'beer tenders.' Contact Carl Gailey, (321) 777-0569, gailyc@juno.com, if you'd like to be a part of this critical team. We need enough people to cover from about 11am to around 6pm, an hour per volunteer. Picnic tickets can be arranged by contacting Pat Snyder, (321) 494-6867, Patricia.Snyder@aftac.pafb.af.mil. More on the spring picnic, and other Boosters Club activities, can be found at our active-duty column.

Spring Golf-n'-Getogether

SUBMITTED BY THE EDITORS

Did you enjoy the last golf tournament that we held in October? Well, if you did, we have another one on-tap. We will play on May 12th at the

Cocoa Beach Golf Course, swinging out at 1300 - show-time is noon. Cost, \$35 for asc. members -\$40 for nonmembers - contact Dave Money, now, 494-9887. Please send your entry fees (no cash please) to 'AFTAC Alumni Asc., PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB, FL, 32925-0892.

We will be playing a scramble, or select shot as it is also known - shotgun start. Recommend you sign up as a team, but if you cannot, call in and sign up as single golfers. We will find a team for you to play with. We are trying to hold at 144 players - first come, first selected - anyone wanting to attend just for the camaraderie, food and awarding of prizes, you are welcome.

Sonny's Barbecue will be serving a feast, cost to nongolfers, \$8, (mailed to address above). Prizes will be awarded immediately after golf and during dinner.

UPDATE, TOD History Book...now available to all alumni - first come, first served

SUBMITTED BY KEN MYERS

Thanks to the efforts of TOD personnel before deactivation, they assembled a 112 page, glossy history of the Technical Operations Division. It details, with numerous photos, the inception of the Western Field Office in the '50s to the missions of the '90s. Initial distribution of this history was made during their closing ceremonies (9 Apr '99).

The Alumni Association now offers these to all interested alumni. Please contact CMSgt Ken Myers, 1030 S. Highway A1A, Patrick AFB FL 32925 or e-mail at kenneth.myers@pafb.af.mil, if you are interested in a copy. There is no charge for this history, but \$3.20 is required for shipping. I know you'll enjoy it. get em before they're gone...

Alumni Events-What's Gone Down

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

Snow Ball2, Aloha Alumni!

SUBMITTED BY "ACTIVITIES," KEN MYERS

SnowBall2 is in the history books and I'm happy to report 43 people from around the Association enjoyed the evening. The setting was the Patrick NCO Club Ocean Lounge with a Hawaiian Luau theme. Many got into the spirit and dressed for the occasion, for those that didn't, one excuse I heard was "I threw all my Hawaiian stuff out years ago." Another interesting story from our current alumni president, who shall remain nameless, was he was watching the senior skins golf match being

played in Hawaii that afternoon and he wore his plain brown golf shirt in their honor. Very weak, but original.

After an hour of socializing and a few drinks, it was time for our Hawaiian buffet. The NCO club prepared a great feast and if anyone went away hungry, it was their own fault. After dinner, our President (mentioned above), Mike Shilkitus, took the floor for a few comments. The highlight was recognizing John and Chris Horsch as Alumni Members of the Year. The work they both do on this Post-Monitor is Herculean and they both deserve this recognition. They were presented a framed certificate and an AFTAC coin flown on the Space Shuttle Atlantis.

To cap off the evening, one lucky person at each table received their pineapple centerpieces. Three \$25 gift certificates to Durangos were also given out by random drawing. The Sorice's, Whitney's, and Creery's were the lucky winners. All in all, it was a great gathering of AFTACers, a lot of catching up was done, and a great time was had by all. Hope to see even more people at next years SnowBall3. **Aloha**

Aftac Winter Social, 1999

SUBMITTED BY FRANK CALENDAR

'Where the heck were all you retirees Are there any out there that still like to party?'

The editors knew Edna and I had attended this event and ask us to give them a few words...and that's what first occurred to me...now here's the skinny.

It was held at the Hilton in Melbourne and was a complete success. Although a little lacking in the presence of Alumni, it was still a major effort to find space on the dance floor. It has been said that tickets sold out just about the same time as they went on sale. Other alumni in attendance, to the best of my remembering, were Carl and Mayme Gailey, Curt and Eunice Harris, Terry and Patty Hammond, Bob and Judith Wiley, Joe and Sue Goldian, Don and Jan Whitney, Cary and Olena Dobbins (from Pensacola) (lab type), and possible others of a later generation (and earlier) than ours.

This must have been a major effort in planning. A BIG Sage thanks to all who were involved. There was plenty of good food, lots of laughs, and an overwhelming amount of camaraderie. Us AFTAC'ers did it again!

COMMANDER'S RECALL

Background: In light of the ongoing process that is AFTAC, a desire to record the impressions of this "from the top" and the notion we are nearing the end of a millennium, we asked previous AFTAC commanders (for whom we had an address) to give us a synopsis of their time with the command. In the process, L/Gen (Ret) Jim Clapper suggested a questionnaire, devised it & we sent that out as an option. So far we have the following responses (or promises to respond): Retired Gen's. Silliman, Gordon, Clapper and Bingham and Col. Meisenheimer - BGen. Shaffer and Col. Wigington have also agreed to participate. We thank these gentlemen for agreeing and hope that others will see this level of participation and also "reCall" and "jump on-board."

We feature replies (one-an issue) in the chronological order of their time of command - we began this series with Gen (Ret) Silliman followed by Gen (Ret) Gordon and Col (Ret) Meisenheimer - next month we will feature Gen Shaffer...for this issue we hear from...



James R. Clapper, Jr.
L/Gen, USAF, Ret.

Commander, June '84-May '85

submitted 99/2/27, reviewed 00/1

It seems now that an awful lot went on during my all-too-short tenure as Commander. I was tremendously impressed with the Command and its people. My time was probably a turning point, since I represented the first non-scientific career officer to be commander, a trend that has continued since. A tradition of sorts was started, where colonels went to AFTAC, and were promoted to brigadier general while there. That was obviously a good thing for them as individuals, and for the stature of the command as well.

For me, I saw a lot of similarities between AFTAC, and where I had grown up, USAFSS. The basic missions in both commands was performed by the premier enlisted people in the Air Force. Both were self-contained, somewhat cloistered activities, spread all over the earth. And, there was a tremendous dedication to the mission, even if the many exploits performed in pursuit of it were often necessarily unsung. I guess some of my most vivid memories were during my overseas trips to visit the units. Some marvelous people doing great things, in some pretty tough environments. (as Gen Clapper went on he chose to use the questionnaire format, a format he himself devised)

1. How would I characterize AFTAC as an institution? Its people? Its contribution?

-AFTAC represents a unique NATIONAL asset; it performs critical missions for the nation that transcend its size and budget. It has been composed of a relatively small group of people--officer, enlisted, and civilian--who have contributed in a manner far disproportionate to their numbers. It is truly remarkable that it has carried out such com-

plex, sensitive missions, on a world-wide basis, and done so with great distinction. Its people are magnificent. AFTAC seemed to attract and keep a higher percentage of high caliber people than just about any other military organization with whom I was associated.

2. How did I feel about the job when I assumed command?

-A combination of tremendous pride, exhilaration, and expectation. For whatever reason, I felt a special desire to do well, since I was the first non-scientific career officer to be assigned as commander. I was honored and humbled, but really didn't appreciate what a great job it was until I got into it.

3. How did I feel about the job when I passed the flag to my successor?

-I had mixed emotions; I was the commander not quite a year, so I felt as though I had so many more things I wanted to try to accomplish--but, at the same time, the reason I had been re-assigned was selection for promotion; even so, I wasn't too wild about going to Korea and "joining the Army" for two years (even though, that, too turned out to be an extremely rewarding assignment). On the other hand, I felt extremely good about passing the flag to Rich O'Lear, my closest friend, whom I had great faith would make AFTAC even better. So, a mix of feelings.

4. What were the greatest sources of satisfaction to me as Commander? Your greatest frustrations?

-We made a lot of changes--organizational, procedural, philosophical--during my time, and seeing the reaction of people in the command to these changes was very satisfying. I always got a tremendous sense of pride when I would visit field units, and see, time after time, the great job that our small bands of folks were doing in some pretty God-forsaken places--and in a completely positive, cheerful, can-do fashion. I suppose my greatest frustrations were (1) running out of time, and (2) the Command not getting the recognition it deserved from the Base. (These are apart, of course, from the standard complaints of not enough funding, not enough people to take on other projects.)

5. Do I recall any vignettes that occurred during my tenure as Commander that particularly stand out in my mind now--good or bad?

-I remember visiting the Det at Sonseca, and then trying to set up a "school house" after I got back from the trip--scrounging up school supplies for our children there who were home taught.

-I remember a trip Frank Hall and I took to the Far East, and our belated realization that we were flying over Vietnam on the leg from Bangkok to

Manila (not sure why that stands out, but it does; maybe it was just that traveling anywhere with Frank Hall was a memorable experience).

I remember Tom Ciambrone cost me a small fortune when he got my son Andy into model trains. I remember the struggle to get the flag pole installed in front of the headquarters building. I really don't recall any "bad" vignettes--at least none that I'd feel comfortable including here!

I REMEMBER...

AFTAC HISTORY BY THOSE WHO WERE THERE

PREPARED FROM YOUR INPUTS We solicit your unclassified remembrances of highlights in your AFTAC career (events, people, etc.). Forward these memories to us at 'chrisjohn@juno.com' or ATTN Remembrances column to the Alumni Address (see left column, page 2) - we will publish them as soon as we can. Thanks for your interest in helping us. Dan Burk shares with us this issue, and we have Harry Bedsworth with another Det 421 memory for next issue...thanks for the support, now send us yours...

'88 FLOOD, ONE FOND MEMORY FOR CENTRE'S YANKEE

Published in the Alice Springs News, 1 December Issue

SUBMITTED BY DANIEL BURK - HASLETT, MICHIGAN, AFTAC ALUMNUS

The two and a half years that I lived in the Alice represent some of the most exciting and enjoyable years of my life. I have many fond memories of the friends, food, and sites that I left behind when I returned to the United States. I was assigned to Detachment 421, known locally as "The Det," back in October of 1987. I flew into town with virtually no information about Alice Springs. Sure, I had read all about this cattle town in the middle of the outback and seen the pictures, but the materials that I was reading dated back to 1977 and 1967, respectively!

Since I had just spent the last eight months on US Air Force installations in the States, the idea of being transferred to a remote detachment seemed exciting and full of mystery. The assignment description said that I would have to "live off the local economy" and buy and cook my own food, and I relished the opportunity. Would I have to buy myself a washer? Rent an apartment? Every picture seemed to show a bright red, dirt road: based on this information, I sold my Chevy Camaro, thinking that everyone in the Alice must surely use four-wheel drive!

When I got off the airplane at the Alice Springs Airport, I was met by most of the detachment: Colonel David Ebersole, Harold Hughes, Dan Thompson, and Ray Baney, just to name a few. Detachment 421, located just across the street

from the RSL club, is also known amongst the Australian government as the Joint Geological and Geophysical Research Station.

This seismic station is a joint venture between the United States and Australia, and the data from the seismic array located just northeast of Alice Springs is sent real-time via satellite to Cocoa Beach, Florida. The primary mission was the detection of underground nuclear explosions. Countries like Pakistan and India, France, and Russia all were either testing actively, or of having the capability for testing. The Australian Bureau of Mineral Resources (BMR) had a small office that used their seismic stations for the detection of underground nuclear tests, as did the Americans. The US government assigned the mission of detecting these explosions to the US Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC). AFTAC has the charge of monitoring safeguard "D" of the 1963 limited test ban treaty. Countries like the USA, USSR, France, UK, and others all signed this treaty that basically states that they will never detonate a nuclear test in space, under water, or in the air. AFTAC monitors the planet to watch for any nuclear explosions in order to see if any of the cooperating countries violate the treaty. Australia did the same thing through the BMR, through its own seismic stations as well as JGGRS in Alice Springs.

In the early days of the detachment, US personnel assigned there were always encouraged to take a positive and active role in the community. My job was that of station operator. I was one of the team members that actually studied the seismographic data. I analyzed the data and catalogued the earthquakes. Alice Springs sits atop a large, rocky plate that is very stable. As such, it is a nice place to put a seismic station for the purposes of studying regional seismic events. The station can pick up earthquakes from all over the world. About once every 15 minutes or so, a small earthquake would emanate from the Fiji island area. Well over 99 per cent of all small earthquakes occur deep enough in the earth that no one ever feels them. Yet, sometimes these earthquakes occur near the surface, and people feel them.

Back in early 1988, an earthquake occurred about 25 km southwest of Tennant Creek. We were sitting around the Det when it hit. A low, swaying sensation went through the building and our sensors went mad. Seismometers are de-

signed to pick up minute ground motion generated by earthquakes from the other side of the world, not by earthquakes that are essentially in your back yard. It is somewhat akin to shouting into your doctor's stethoscope! Thus, our station was absolutely swamped by the seismic waves. Most of us were in the back of the recreational center, and as soon as we realized that an earthquake had passed through, we headed to the office. When you are logging an earthquake series, you become very busy indeed. Later on in the month, I took a trip with the pastor of the Alice Springs Lutheran Church to Tennant Creek. Pastor Peter Thamm had a parish that spread across most of the Territory. Since I was then attending the Lutheran Church, I tagged along and met some of his parishioners.

We stopped by the seismic fault line on the way back and saw where the quake had kinked up a high-pressure natural gas line. It's a wonder and a credit to the welders and engineers that the line did not explode! Gas workers dug up the line, and painstakingly placed it on sand bags so that any subsequent aftershocks wouldn't cause additional damage.

Then, there was that flood. I've only seen rain like that once before: eight or nine inches in 24 hours. Nearly an entire season's worth of rain for the Alice. When I looked out my window in the morning, I could see the Charles River cresting the banks and creeping onto the detachment grounds. When the water reached our staff house a couple of hours later, I decided it was time to move the motorcycle and the car. Well, I put the car, a white 1970 Ford Fairlane, up behind the RSL: since I didn't want to inconvenience anyone, I moved it off the bitumen and onto the dirt. That was a mistake. That red dirt had turned to quicksand, and the car sunk practically to the floorboards! Oh well. At least it would stay put that way.

The Charles and Todd rivers became a raging torrent and they crested at the same time. Our detachment was at ground zero, where the two rivers meet. The river carried away anything that was not lashed down. It destroyed the fence, and deposited half a meter of sand on top of the lawn in places. It was quite an adventure, I must say. Our staff house was filled with water, but the overall damage was minimal. When the flood was finished, there were many people a lot worse off than us.

Something that I really cherished about Alice Springs was the sense of freedom: I used to lash a blanket and a bottle of water to the motorcycle, and just drive out of town, usually at night. We'd drive 15, 20 miles or so, turn left, and drive out into the bush. We'd lay down the blanket, and look up at the stars. One of my most favorite places to go at night were the rock carvings south of town. There was this claypan to the north of the rock carvings, and late at night, the moon would shine off the dried clay as if it were covered with water. You could listen for hours and not hear, nor see, any other sign of human activity. It was like being in your own private world. The 10,000 year old carvings added a sense of mystery to the site, and the stars above gave you a sense of space.

I'd lay the blanket either on the claypan surface, or at the base of the rock. I would lay on the blanket, wide awake at 2am, and stare at the stars. The stars in the southern hemisphere are most striking. There is nothing that parallels it in the northern hemisphere, except maybe the northern lights. Once in a while you could even see a satellite go whizzing by. That would be about the only sign of mankind I would see when out there. It was very peaceful, and I have never experienced anything like it since. These are just some of my memories of the Alice. I hope some day that I can return with my family and share these experiences with them. and thank you for sharing these stories with us

A BARELY SUBSTANTIATED (BS) TALE!

PREPARED FROM YOUR INPUTS. We solicit unclassified humorous stories about AFTAC events and people - recognizing these anecdotes may be Barely Substantiated (BS). Forward your stories to us at "chrisjohn@juno.com" or ATTN: BS column to the Alumni Address (see left column, page 2) - we will publish as soon as we can. Thanks, Frank Calenda has a great 'true' story for this issue, and next up will be Ron Cook, we REALLY appreciate inputs for these articles.



Cold Winter's Night

Frank S. Calenda, SMSgt, Ret.

It was such a cold night that long winter past. It was 1973 at an overseas location. We had just gone through what seemed like the hundredth, "white-out" of the winter. For those of you that have never had the (mis)fortune of experiencing one of these, you can do the following. Bring the temperature in a small room down to about 0

Feature Article

degrees. Place very strong fans in various corners of the room and turn them on. Open a 40-pound bag of flour and fling it in the air all at once. What you're seeing, or should I say not seeing, is a replica of a whiteout, only a real one uses snow.

Now, picture this. Our house was one of those thin-walled, off base civilian structures that was totally heated by the trusty pot-bellied stove situated in what we so loosely called, the living room. It's 3AM and the wind is making that lonely, howling sound. Frost covered the inside of the bedroom walls like crystals of salt that form when salt-water dries. Ma in her long footed jammies, her sweater and her bathrobe and myself likewise dressed, were nestled under 4 layers of military issue blankets dreaming of swaying palm trees and rum punches.

Suddenly, my good time indicator (2-way radio) voiced an appeal for me to wake up and respond to its demands. "Mobile 2 this is hilltop, come in". Since telephones were not readily available at the location, us important types had a 24 hour electronic chaperone. Sleepily, I mumbled, "Hilltop thejhs isf Mobbffqql 2". "Huh? Is this Mobile 2?" came back the reply. I responded again hoping that my fingers weren't permanently frozen to the radio. Hilltop said, "We need you up here right away. We've lost all the main line data coming from one of our antenna fields!" I asked if they had called the commander, knowing full well that he would just tell them to call me. "Come on Sarge," they replied, "you know we can't call the commander. Besides, he turns his radio off at

5 PM." Let's see, - what other excuse could I give to delay the inevitable. "Has headquarters called for the data?" I knew, of course, that we had no hot line to headquarters with this system. This kind of conversation went on for several more minutes. It allowed me a little more sleep while they pondered the answers. I really knew I had to go.

Once dressed, I headed for the det in my little mini-Honda. The little wheels fit nicely in the grooves made by other cars when the slush froze for the night. I arrived at the det at about 4AM and found that, indeed, there was no data coming in from our East antenna field. Asking all the pertinent questions about troubleshooting, it quickly became apparent that the spiral-4 lines were bad and the only way to find the break was to, "WALK THE LINES". Oh no, not that!

With the snow a full 3 feet deep, and more in places, this was a job for Super-Sarge. Looking at their eyes, I knew who that would be for this particular problem. Of course, our maintenance tech was snow-bound at home and, "I'll get there as soon as possible". Ha! One poor soul, whom I can't now remember the name of, volunteered to accompany me. I hope in his future he made full general and won the powerball lotto.

It was dark when we started and the going was slow. We had to shine the flashlight along the lines and since light doesn't travel as fast when it's cold, it was tough. Sometime near daybreak, my AFTAC trained eyes spotted what looked like a small frayed spot on the main cable. My able assistant shouted, "Look Sarge, what's that on the ground (snow)?" A few giant giraffe steps through the snow put us at the spot. There, I bent over and picked up one-each, expended, Super-X, 12 gage shotgun casing. Hmmmmmmmm. Super Sarge thinks he has this figured out. Someone, took a shotgun and ammo, dressed up in super-warm clothes, trudged out at about a mile from the main base at 3AM in the dead of winter, and took a shot at our cable. Makes sense to me!!!

After that, it was all-downhill. "Hilltop, this is Mobile 2". "Hey Sarge where are ya?", came back the reply. "Never mind, call security police, the det commander (if his radio is on yet), the base commander, the local line maintenance crew, the rod and gun club and anyone else that will listen." "What should we tell them Sarge?" "Just tell them we've been shot down". The expected reply was, "Huh?"

This is a true story. They never found out who did this dastardly deed. If any of you ever wants to verify this incident, take a stroll down the Hall of Heritage. At my going-away party, the members of the det presented me a gift. It is a replica made from the chart paper rods from the system. It sits atop a clear lucite base. Imbedded in the base is the damaged section of cable, the shotgun shell and the beebees. They should have put that stupid radio in there with it. thanks Frank, this almost has to be a true story - no one would make up something like this, and the photo is very convincing. Work well done, the night of, and now as you share, your tale

feature articles cont.,
pg 12



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

◆ 10 ◆

AFTAC Alumni Association, Florida Chapter ◆

This is your copy of the draft constitution and bylaws. They are presented here for review and comments. Following this it will be finalized and signed. Thank you for your interest.

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 254892
Patrick AFB FL 32925-3002

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1

NAME AND PURPOSE

The name of this organization is AFTAC Alumni Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association. It shall be a private, non-profit organization, pursuant to the provisions of AF policy directives. The Association as defined shall include all organizational titles since its inception.

The purposes of the Association are to foster continued awareness of the mission and accomplishments of the United States Air Force, in general, and of the Air Force Technical Applications Center, in particular; and to provide its membership a forum for desirable social, educational, and humanitarian services.

ARTICLE 2 GENERAL PROVISIONS

I. AFTAC Alumni Association operates on Patrick Air Force Base only with the consent of the installation commander. Operation is contingent on compliance with the requirements and conditions of all applicable Air Force regulations.

II. The principle location of the Association will be Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, and its environs. Other locations to serve as chapter focal points may be authorized at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The AFTAC Commander shall provide appropriate Board meeting space, if required.

III. The membership shall be liable under the laws of the State of Florida for organizational debts in the event the organization assets are insufficient to discharge liabilities.

ARTICLE 3 OFFICERS AND GOVERNING BODY

The governing body of the Association will be the Board of Directors. The Board will be comprised of four elected executive officers and committee chairpersons as appointed by the Board.

ARTICLE 4 MEMBERSHIP OR PATRONAGE

I. All members will be members of the DOD family. The regular membership of the Association will be open to all current and former military and civilian members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center and its associated subordinate units. Other membership categories may be established.

II. Associate membership will include widows and widow-

ers.

III. Distinguished Members - Former Commanders of AFTAC will be identified as Distinguished Members.

IV. Honorary Members - All other military or civilian personnel, not otherwise eligible for membership into the Association, but whose contribution to the USAF or to AFTAC is so significant as to warrant special consideration and recognition by the Association. The Board of Directors will identify honorary Members and membership will be offered at the discretion of the Board.

ARTICLE 5 METHOD OF FINANCING

The source of financing the Association will be entirely membership dues, fund raising, and voluntary contributions.

ARTICLE 6 ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Association shall be such as to provide the membership a forum for desired social, educational, and humanitarian service.

ARTICLE 7 MEETINGS AND QUORUM

I. The Association shall meet annually. A "membership year" (fiscal year) shall run from 1 October through 30 September. During the first meeting of the membership year, the election of the executive officers shall be conducted. Special meetings will be called as required by the Board of Directors.

II. At any meeting, a quorum shall consist of the majority of the regular members in attendance. Dates, times, and places of meetings will be published in the newsletter and all Association members may attend.

ARTICLE 8 ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

I. This constitution and its attendant by-laws will be adopted by a simple majority of the regular members present and voting at the first meeting of the fiscal year and subject to the review of the installation commander.

II. The constitution and its attendant by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at a scheduled general membership meeting, providing a notice of said amendment has been provided to the membership at least 30 days in advance of the said scheduled general membership meeting.

ARTICLE 9 DISSOLUTION

The Association can be dissolved by a vote of a majority of the paid membership. Upon dissolution of the Association, all funds and properties, in excess of liabilities and expenses of dissolution, will be distributed as recommended by a quorum at a regular membership meeting.

ARTICLE 10 INSURANCE

The association will be an extremely low-exposure organization for liability. Insurance will not be required by virtue of waiver from the installation commander.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

◆ AFTAC Alumni Association, Florida Chapter

11 ◆

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

I. The executive officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. All shall be members of the Board of Directors, elected by the membership. Eligibility for election to the executive officer positions will be limited to current and former military or civilian personnel who are otherwise eligible for membership into the Association.

II. The President will preside at all meetings of the members and at all meetings of the Board. The President shall perform those duties as customarily pertain to the office of the President, or as may be directed to perform by resolution of the Board. The President will vote on issues before the Board only in event of a tie. The President is the Executive Officer of the Association and will attend to the day-to-day operation of the Association with the assistance of the Board.

III. The Vice-President shall have and exercise all the powers, authority, and duties of the President during the absence of the latter.

IV. The Treasurer shall manage all Association funds and control their disbursement subject to the controls, limitations, and delegations of the Board.

V. The Secretary shall prepare and maintain full records of all meetings of the members and the Board.

ARTICLE 2

ELECTION AND VOTING

I. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the outgoing President in July. The Committee will:

a. Be composed of no more than five members; a quorum shall consist of three members.

b. Be chaired by the immediate past President who will serve as elections chairman.

c. Review the total membership to identify candidates for the executive officer positions.

d. Notify the general membership of the proposed slate of executive officers in September.

II. The elections will take place at the first meeting of the membership year. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. An open ballot will be used with a simple majority required for election.

III. The new executive officers will assume their responsibilities during the first Board meeting after election. The first order of business will be to appoint the committee chairpersons.

IV. The term of service for all officers will be one (1) year or as decided by the general membership.

V. Should one of the Executive Officers resign or become unable to perform their duties during the election year, the Board will appoint another to carry out the duties until elections are held.

ARTICLE 3

DUES OR FEES

Dues for regular and associate members of the Association will be Ten Dollars (\$10) each membership year. Lifetime

memberships shall be seventy-five Dollars (\$75). Distinguished and honorary members are exempt from paying dues. Adjustment of dues shall be by a majority vote of the general membership.

ARTICLE 4

STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing committees shall be as established by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 5

FINANCES AND TAXES

I. The Association is organized and operated exclusively for pleasure, recreation, and other non-profitable purposes, and no part of its earnings shall inure to the benefit of any members.

II. The Association will be financially self-sustaining. There will be no financial assistance from a non-appropriated fund instrumentality (NAFI) in the form of contributions, dividends, or donations of money or other assets.

ARTICLE 6

INSURANCE COVERAGE

The Association is envisioned to have extremely low liability exposure. The installation commander granted the AFTAC Association a waiver of the requirement for such insurance.

ARTICLE 7

AWARDS AND GIFTS

The Board of Directors may elect to purchase gifts or awards to recognize Association members. The Board of Directors will determine special gifts for dignitaries and funds will be obtained from the Association treasury. (The Board shall determine the dollar amount used for gifts and/or awards that will be distributed in the name of the Association.)

ARTICLE 8

ACTIVE DUTY LIAISON

It is understood that AFTAC agrees to provide an active duty liaison representative to assist the Board of Directors in coordinating and supporting the Association activities.

ARTICLE 9

WEB PAGE

The Web Page is authorized to keep the membership informed; however, it will not be linked to the -- AFTAC -- site. Data to be posted on the Web Page will be monitored by the Board, and decisions will be made during normal meetings to determine the validity of such information. The Internet Communications chair shall report to the Board on a regular basis.

DRAFT

MICHAEL A. SHILKITUS

President

AFTAC Alumni Association.

WHERE ARE YA?!!!

PREPARED FROM YOUR INPUTS. Where, through this newsletter or through more direct contact, we attempt to get you, the alumni reader, to let us know "where ya are" and "what'cha been doin' - contact info, page two

**Where are ya
WOODY IVANDICK**

It was nice talking to you (Judy Milam) last night. Please enroll me in the AFTAC Alumni Asc. My AFTAC assignments were, AFTAC/AQ, '90-'92 - Commander, Det 421. '92-'94. I recently retired and now work for TASC supporting AFTAC. Email @ddress is: toteatthebeach@spacey.net'

JOHN AND RAEANN COFFEY

Well, we finally did it...not only did we retire from the USAF in June 1980, but we retired from Hughes Aircraft/GM/Raytheon in October 1999. We then sold the house and hit the RV trail.

Since we retired, we've been to Maui, Las Vegas, Lake Havasu, San Antonio, and currently we are at a Naval Air Station (right on the beach) in Corpus Christi, TX. This Base is the second best secret in the military (Patrick AFB is the first).

When we were in San Antonio we visited with Colonel Shiflett and his wife Annette. They gave us the royal tour. We saw the Alamo, the river-walk, some stores and some restaurants. We spent two days with them. They made our visit to SA real special.... they are special people.

We plan to "slowly" work our way around the Gulf of Mexico until we arrive in Florida; and, eventually Melbourne, (sometime in mid-March). This type of travel doesn't allow us to get on the Internet as often as we would like, so please don't get upset with us if we are slow answering your eMails. We look forward to seeing you and get a chance to swap some stories. Bye for now.

JOHN BRADFORD AND FAMILY

Dec. 1980-August 1994 (J, O, B, and T techniques)

My family and I are doing well. Cassandra will graduate from High School this June and Jennifer next year. I finally graduated from the University of West Florida in December 1999 with a BS in Computer Science. I have just been hired by a small company named EnterComp. It looks like a good opportunity to grow with the company.

My thoughts often go back to my time in AFTAC and my extended family. Please use the extra \$25 for postage and other expenses.

...thanks for the updates, and to the Bradfords, for the extra \$25, you can rest assured it will be used for Association business.

MONITORing Active-Duty Doing's

prepared by the editors from your inputs sent in from around the AFTAC World

Command Section



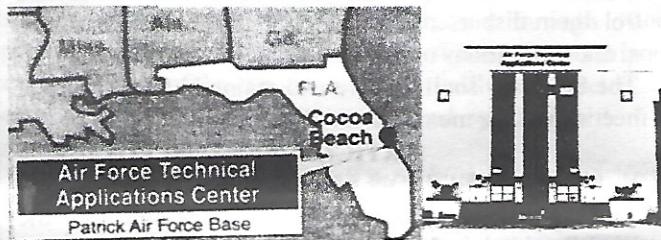
Col. Harold J. Beatty

AFTAC Commander, 98/7, previously at Shaw AFB where he was the Chief of Intelligence for the US Central Command Air Forces and commander of the 609th Air Intelligence Group, received commission upon graduation from Officers Training School (distinguished graduate) in 1980. He is a native of Bonny Blue, VA. His wife Diane is from Quebec, Canada. They have two children Matthew and Melanie.



CMSgt Kenneth Myers

AFTAC Superintendent, 98/11, a 20-year AFTACer, he enlisted 3/79, trained as a scientific measurements technician and is a Distinguished Graduate from all three AF NCO Leadership schools. He has been the AF Command Senior NCO of the Year twice, '91 and '93. He served at Dets 301, 415, 421, and in the HQs with DO, CC, TT, TA, LS. Chief Myers is from Doylestown, PA. He has two children, Douglas and Melissa and is engaged to Ms. Heather Miller from Melbourne, Florida



AFTAC Opens National Data Center

BY MSGT FRED HAGANS, AFTAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A national milestone was reached last month with the opening of the US National Data Center - a monitoring and analysis center that supports the U.S monitoring and verification capabilities for the detection/reporting of worldwide nuclear events

Located within the Air Force Technical Applications Center, the US NDC significantly expands and enhances AFTAC's mission of nuclear event detection and treaty monitoring by providing a greater capability to collect, process, analyze, and report data pertinent to worldwide monitoring of nuclear explosions.

As the premier nuclear test monitoring organization, AFTAC is responsible for monitoring adherence to several nuclear test ban treaties. "This is a very important acquisition to AFTAC's mission. It will help us achieve any mission that we undertake," said Col. Harold J. Beatty, AFTAC commander. "It's also a milestone because it represents the transformation from a system that had been the backbone of how we analyzed and processed nuclear events."

The US NDC will utilize new technologies in processing data without compromising the quality of the analysis. Among the features successfully integrated into the NDC are interactive processing, computational methodologies, knowledge-based processing, and relational database management. The US is one of nine countries that will operate an NDC which serve as gateways between the host countries and the International Data Center in Vienna, Austria, for the exchange of seismic and other data. The US NDC will also be the focal point for monitoring the highly publicized Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

In addition to its mission support, the US NDC also provides academic communities and other authorized scientific organizations with readily accessible, high quality data with which to conduct basic research and applied research.

AFTAC Booster Club News

SUBMITTED BY TSGT DAVE MCMURPHY

The AFTAC Boosters Club will be upholding the long tradition of Spring Picnics again this year. This years **Spring Picnic** will be held Saturday, the 6th of May, at the BCC Wickham Park Pavilion. This year's committee Chairperson is TSgt Doug Billups, a freshman in AFTAC, but an energetic one. His phone number is 494-3875 if you would like to volunteer to assist or have any questions. Alumni are a big part of this event and we look forward to 'swappin' tales at this, and the other events that follow. see pg 4 for alumni info on the picnic

The Booster Club is sponsoring a "Deck Party" at a Florida Marlins Spring Training Game. On 27 Mar 00, they will be hosting the Cleveland Indians, game time of 1305. And if the weather is good, you'll see many AFTACers plus family and friends enjoying themselves on the "Deck" in left field. Cost is \$15 a person, and includes a game ticket and all the food you can eat through the 7th inning. Children 2 and under are free. This happens to also be a giveaway day, the first 1000 kids will receive a Florida Marlins mini-baseball bat. This event is not a booster club fundraiser. POC is TSgt Dave McMurphy/AFTAC Booster Club President, 494-3866. (this is open to all, no limit. A minimum of 50 people required signed up by 13 March or the event will be cancelled.)

Hot dog sales are still in effect every Thursday at 1130-1230. A new menu item, submarine sandwiches, will be purchased to see if interest is high enough to make that a regular part of the lunch. Anyone hungry is invited to stop by for a bite.

AFTAC Winter Social, Post Report

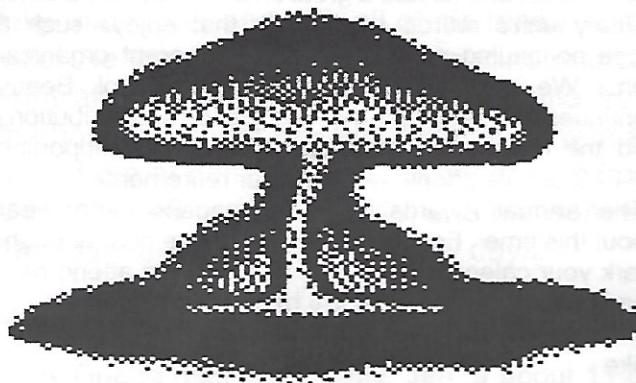
SUBMITTED BY DAVE MONEY, 12/27/99

Does AFTAC know how to throw a party or what! Once again we pulled off another winner of a Winter Social. It's amazing how some folks clean up! From the moment everyone began arriving until 1 o'clock in the morning there was a holiday buzz in the air. The festivities began with the Social Hour when we visited and greeted one another. Many of us put the photographer to work and had our annual Social picture taken. Around 7 o'clock there was a call to dinner and by half past everyone was in their seat.

Frederick the Entertainer helped us break the ice at our table with the pass the napkin routine. Although it took awhile to get all 380 of us through the buffet lines, the dinner was delightful. The hotel didn't have enough wine glasses so we sipped our vino from plastic cups, Yuk! (we'll have to fix this for next year!!)

After coffee you could tell that everyone was ready to hit the dance floor. At most events it's hard to get anyone out to dance, but not here. From the first note folks were out on the dance floor cutting the rug. We even broke the dance floor and had to have it repaired! (you had to be there to understand)

Well after the stroke of midnight the dance floor was packed and AFTACers were still visiting with one another around the tables. You know, some things never change, AFTACers always seem to have a great time. There is, however, a downside. We missed seeing a lot of folks, maybe it was because they were out of town, maybe they couldn't get a ticket, and maybe they hadn't planned to attend the Social this year. For whatever reason, we missed you and we hope to see you next year. "Thank You" to the special few who pulled this all together, you've done well! Best wishes to all as we step into a new millennium, may you enjoy, Health, Wealth, and Love!



OPEN

FROM THE TOP

MIKE

"KERNELS OF WISDOM"

MIKE SHILKUTUS - PRESIDENT

SAM SORICE - VICE PRESIDENT

Several of us privileged to live near AFTAC Headquarters in our retirements were honored to attend the Annual AFTAC Awards Banquet last week. Our own John Horsch was honored with the AFTAC Alumni of the Year award. He and his wife Chris were originally recognized at our Annual SnowBall event in January. However we can't say enough, "Thanks for all you do for this association!!!!"

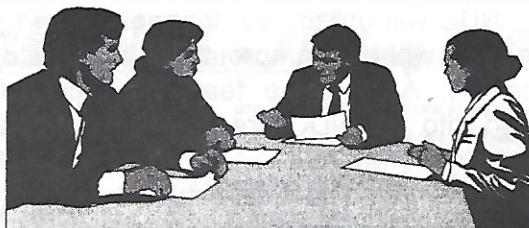
What I'd like to offer in this column are a few observations about the banquet, mostly because I think our alumni would have been proud to be there if they could. The night was obviously meticulously planned and flawlessly executed. Col. Beatty was crisp and eloquent as always. He promised the event could be done on schedule without sacrificing quality and he delivered. CMSgt David Hill, Command Chief Master Sergeant of Air Intelligence Agency gave an excellent speech and helped Col. Beatty distribute the awards. Most impressive however were the twenty-six young men and women (We'll count John and Chris as honorary young folk) who received awards that night. AFTAC is still an elite organization so you can imagine the quality of those who won awards. Although all the higher headquarters awards have not been announced yet, many of the AFTAC awardees have won at Air Intelligence Agency and are competing for Air Force level honors. As one who lived through the post Vietnam war trauma in the services, it was gratifying and comforting to see that the current generation of Air Force and AFTAC people are such bright and shining examples of everything the Air Force represents.

Also of note were the twelve AFTACers who serve on the base honor guard. These young men and women give of their time and effort to represent the Air Force at events throughout the state and they do it splendidly.

Our association was well represented in numbers at the banquet and all had a great time. I know of no other military unit's retiree association that enjoys such a close continuing relationship with its parent organization. We are specially honored in that Col. Beatty continues to recognize the association's contributions and the roles we can continue to play in supporting AFTAC and its people well past our retirements.

The Annual Awards Banquet happens every year about this time. For those of you who live near enough, mark your calendars and make an effort to attend next year's event. Trust me, you'll be glad you did!

Mike



BOARD MEETINGS

Alumni Association Board Members

Elected

President-Mike Shilkitus

Vice-Sam Sorice

Secretary-Judy Milam

Treasurer-Frank Calenda

Appointed

Heritage Hall Committee

Frank Hall, Clark Creery and Larry Silhanek

Activities-Ken Myers

Hospitality-Eunice Harris

Internet Communications-Mike Black and Dave Johnson

Membership-Jim Payne

Newsletter-John and Chris Horsch

Publicity-Swede Swansen

A Few Minutes from the Minutes

SUBMITTED BY JUDY MILAM

1999, December - 2000, February

- Further work was done on the AFTAC Hall of Heritage. Committee members met and cataloged many items received from Tech Ops Division.
- We voted to issue a pen and ink change to the Worldwide Directory.
- Additional copies of the Tech Ops Division History are available for distribution. The only charge is the cost for shipping them (\$3.20).
- Planning is underway for the May golf tournament to be held at the Cocoa Beach Country Club on 19 May.
- The AFTAC Spring Picnic will be held 6 May 2000 at the Wickham Park Pavilion. The Alumni will once again take responsibility for monitoring the beer wagon. Volunteers are needed.
- Expected expenditures for the near future were reviewed. A committee was established to determine the most economical way to publish a new chapter directory.

A Reminder

SUBMITTED BY KEN MYERS

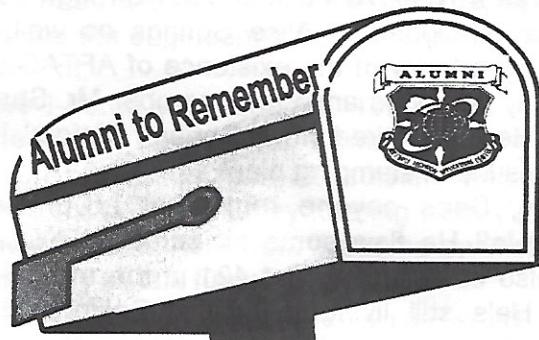
For the past 4 years, the Association has been running a special recognition project at the Headquarters to collect individual photographs of personnel who served 20 or more years in AFTAC or the Long Range Detection (LRD) mission. Time served can include military or civilian service, or a combination of both, with AFTAC or its predecessor organizations (including HQ and field locations). Individuals may be currently on active duty, retired, or deceased.

The photographs are displayed within the AF-

TAC Headquarters. Here's what we need:

1. Your picture—color or black and white—preferably a 5x7, but any size will work. It can be in military uniform or civilian clothes
2. Summary of when and where you worked, preferably using numbers and acronyms, i.e., Jun 71-Jun 74, Det 415.
3. Full name and grade at the time of departure from AFTAC or the LRD mission.

Send information and photos to-CMSgt Ken Myers, AFTAC/CCS, 1030 S. Highway A1A, Patrick AFB FL 32925-3002. Phone or email questions, (321) 494-2505 or kenneth.myers@patrick.af.mil



PERSONALS...

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

Beginnings.....Transitions

Retirements/Ceremony: MSgt Johnson (TM)/4/13
Col Bohn (DO)/5/22 - Lt Col Harmon (LS)/5/26 -
MSgt McClain (LS)/4/7

HOPES OF HEALTH FOR...

Wherein Alumni share these hopes for themselves or others...

Curt and Eunice Harris

Woody Ivandick

IN MEMORY OF

Wherein Alumni share the names of those gone but not ever forgotten...

Art Pridemore (see below) - Tony Ortega (see below)

William Walker (see below) - Sandra Burk (spouse, William Burk - exAFTAC officer/Asc. Pres) - Gene Shipps (see below)

REST IN ETERNAL PEACE

In Memoriam, Art Pridemore

ED MASEK (10 year AFTACER) **REMEMBERS**

Ed sent this to the webmeisters on 99/12/8

Arthur Lee Pridemore, 63, died Dec 2 1999 at Inova Fairfax Hospital. For those wanting to send

a card: Mrs Bernice Pridemore, 13704 Bluefin Drive, Woodbridge VA 22193-2341. In lieu of flowers, donation may be made to: American Heart Association, 7203 Poplar St, Annandale VA 22003-3000 Ed followed with this letter

It is with sadness that I send you this obituary. Art spent so many years with AFTAC and I know he had countless friends. I'm sure many would want to remember him in their own special way. Thanks for remembering him in the Post-Monitor.

LESTER W. MILLER, JR. REMEMBERS

I am enclosing the Obituary for Art Pridemore for use in the Post-Monitor. Bill Nichols brought Art's death to my attention. Bill was in the Personnel Division at HQ's – Art replaced Bill when Bill went to South Carolina in '65.

EXTRACTED FROM A VIRGINIA NEWSPAPER

Arthur Pridemore

Arthur Lee Pridemore, 63, of Woodbridge died Thursday, Dec. 2, 1999, at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

He was a member of the National Capitol Region Chiefs Group, the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command, and the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. He was a military personnel supervisor and had a Masters from Pepperdine University.

He is survived by his wife, Bernice, one daughter, Pamela Kay Wilson of Lake Ridge; one son, Arthur Lee Pridemore of Lake Ridge; one sister, Alice Fay Boggs, of Dale City; and two brothers, Ernest Pridemore and Clarence Pridemore, both of Evarts, Ky.

In Memoriam, Gene Shipps

BARBARA SHIPPS

As many of you may already be aware, Gene passed away on June 29th of this year.. I had not shared this news with you previously, please forgive me. These past few months have been very difficult, and while I had good intentions and planned to personally notify everyone, I just could not do it.

Let me say that Gene left this world peacefully, pain free, and with all of his family at his side. He was diagnosed with terminal cancer right after Father's day and came home from the hospital, under hospice care, to be with all of us here at home. As you might expect from Gene, he left us with a smile, and his wonderful laugh, even up to his last few days.

Tony Ortega

EMAILED TO THE ALUMNI WEBMEISTERS BY PETER STRAWN — HE WAS INFORMED BY TONY'S WIFE, THERESE, 1/12/00

Tony Ortega died on Sunday, Jan. 9 about 11:00

p.m. after battling brain cancer for the last several years. He had been in a coma for about 3 weeks before he passed. His family members are terribly saddened by his loss but also realize he could not continue with them and that he is finally relieved of his pain.

Tony completed the 99106 tech school at Lowry AFB in early 1982, reporting to the McClellan Central Laboratory in March. He was assigned to DLP where he was a thermal ionization mass spectrometry technician. Tony was always a very positive, up-beat person who gave 100 percent of himself in everything he did. Tony is survived by his wife Therese, son Martin, and daughter Claire.

William Walker

MRS. WALKER REPLIES TO ASC. CORRESPONDENCE

Thanks for your nice letter – I would like to stay on the alumni list and receive the Post-Monitor. Let me know who to pay dues to please and I appreciate your support. I've heard from so many people Bill worked with and flew with. I sure miss him, we were married 58 years. Happy Holidays.

Louise Walker thank you Mrs. Walker...we are happy you have decided to continue an association membership and a Post-Monitor reader. Your continuance will be complimentary since Bill was a lifetime member and we look forward to hearing from you now and then.

MAIL - CALL

Any requests for action should be sent to AFTAC 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

Deltona, FL

99.9

I was fortunate enough to find your Website with a listing of things that are available from the store. My father, Lt. Col. George B. Brown, was a member of the organization from way back in the 1009th days in DC. He came down here to Florida for a reunion a number of years ago and while here, he bought himself some golf shirts. He has practically worn the color off them, so for his Christmas this year, I want to get him some more AFTAC stuff. (and then the order)

Lacy R. Jones...and thank you for your order – we did not run this in the last issue so as not to let George in on your secret - let us know what George thought about his 'surprises'

Cyberspace

99.12.28

I wrote a small letter (well, not small it turns out) to the Alice Springs News about living at Det 421, and they published it in the December 1st issue of their newspaper. It took the entire page 2 to print! They even got a photo from the Det of the rec center under water in the flood of 1988. It made great reading and I thought you might like to see the text. It's on-line and about two articles down at:<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~asnews/0644.html> (and for those who would rather read it in hard copy Dan's memory is this issue's 'I Remember' column). In addition, I ran into a fellow, quite by chance, named Patrick Shanahan who was a RI99125 back in 1961 through 1963! He was stationed in Alice Springs as well. He didn't even know of the existence of AFTAC as it currently is. Does anyone remember Mr. Shanahan? He just retired from General Motors' Indianapolis Metal stamping plant.

Lastly, Does anyone remember LtCol David Ebersole? He flew some air sampling missions and also commanded Det 421 in the mid to late 80's. He's still living in Chico, California, but doesn't keep up with AFTAC people much.

By the way, once I find that checkbook, I'll send in a \$10 for a membership.

Daniel Burk if you've not seen it, Dan's letter (article) is the 'I Remember' this issue, and can anyone help him with Mr. Shanahan?

Bountiful, UT

00.1.11

Oops, missed dues call. I hope you will accept my humble apology. I don't have an excuse but I do have reasons. It could be summed up in two words, "BAD YEAR." That does require some explanation, I hope you will bear with me on my litany of setbacks, obstacles, and woes.

My wife died Christmas '98 eve. She was buried the last week of December. The first week of January I went to the hospital for a thorocademy, wat's dat? Well it is doctorese for 'we took a part of your lung now pay up.' That is a blast, I've never smoked in my life (other than cedar bark as a kid) and I wind up with lung cancer. Just taint fair. That takes a lot of your vim, vigor, and vitality. Then a couple of months after that I wind up with pneumonia, then in Oct/Nov pneumonia again. Is that enough of a reason to be taken off the 'dead-beat' (non-dues payer) listing? It's been a long year and I am still trying to recover. Getting old is not for sissies. I look at the calendar and am appalled to realize that I'll be 80 in May.

I have had wonderful support from my children. One of them is my GOSH. You don't know

GOSH? Grown Offspring Still Home! I really feel ancient when I look at some of the kids in the Post-Monitor. Once in a while I see a name I think I recognize.

I was in AFTAC for a total of 7 years. I spent 2 years as the fundamentals honcho, than to Det 329, Q systems. I came back to Lowry and went to B school. I almost washed out of the school and it wasn't until I went to McClellan that I found my problem. That insidious enemy age had caught up with me, I needed bifocals. I remained at that station until I retired; it was a real challenging job. I pioneered the Tech writing section that then turned the operation over to a civilian and went into the engineering section until time for my retirement.

Have I bored you enough? I've a million tales. Some Tiger Tales from China too (3 years). Heaven protect us from old soldiers with a perchance for talking? Enjoy hearing from y'all. My grandkids came here from Alabama and told me, 'Grandpa y'all talk funny'.

Jack Binkerd we always like to hear from you Jack, and we sympathize with your losses and illnesses – thanks for the updates

Cyberspace 00.1.2

I enjoy the Post Monitor very much and appreciate the effort you put into it. It is very informative. I also appreciate the 2000 Calendar and hope to attend some of the scheduled events and enjoy some great company. Keep up the good work.

Thanks, Willis "Bill" Roark

Cyberspace 99.11.9

Enclosed is a check for the 3 coins and pin that I've requested. Thank you very much for all your help and swift response.

If you get any new coins in or further association information please contact me.

Capt. Diane C. Dee Capt. Dee, please see pg. 2, left column for asc. info. and visit our webpage.

"Oh...By the Way"

TIDBITS SENT WITH ORDERS FOR MERCHANDISE, CHANGES OF ADDRESS, ETC. - PRESENTED TO REMIND US OF OLD FRIENDS WE MAY HAVE SERVED WITH

OOPs 1, Brigham City, UT 00.1.18

Here are my dues. I am an alumni of the 1009th. I had forgotten the exact address until reminded by Sgt Snipes in his article in the last Post-Monitor. Keep up the good work

Alfred B. (Pete) Stuck thanks Pete, and your name will probably also jog a memory vein

OOPs 2, Philadelphia, PA 00.1

Sorry I'm a bit late – never late when I was with

TD-2, Judy remembers. and Judy says she does

Bob Dobek

OOPs 3, Grand Jct, CO 00.1.20

I am sorry I overlooked the AFTAC Alumni dues. You know how it is when you get a little older—so here is \$20 for 2 years. **Wilbur (Mac) McAllister**

OOPs 4, North Highlands, CA 00.1.18

Enclosed is my check for \$20 – to cover 2 years dues. Sorry to have missed the October date—but it seems that old age creeps up on all of us, sooner or later. Wish good health and happiness to all the members from me. **James S. Lucas**

OOPs 5, Niceville, FL 00.1.21

Well once again I am late with my dues. I have decided to send dues for a lifetime membership so I will not be late again. I am sorry.

OOPs 6, Orangevale, CA 00.1.22

Thanks for the reminder, Jim. I looked at the 2000 and thought I was ahead of the game. Didn't notice the FY!! Now that our time in the spotlight is over, we're waiting for the next group to do their thing. Best wishes to all.

Frank Goodreau--AFTAC West Coast

OOPs 7, San Angelo, TX 00.1.17

I decided to end once and for all my dues payment problem, so here is \$75 for a lifetime membership. All of the elected, appointed, and volunteers of the AFTAC Alumni Association are doing an excellent job. Keep up the good work.

William (Willie) R. Osteen thanks for your kind words

Oops 8, Burleson, TX 00.2.2

Sorry for being late, here's two years of dues...

Jerry Brown OK, and I have many memories of 'our time' at 452..

Oops 9, North Highlands, CA 00.2.7

Thanks for the reminder **Marjorie Hopkins**

Oops 10, Omaha NE 00.2.8

Thanks for the reminder **Jim Cade**

Oops 11, Oklahoma City, OK 00.2.5

Sending next newsletter dues for 1 year.

Bill Webster thanks Bill, we keep tellin' these guys to give us that dues money...glad you designated yours to the editors

Richland, WA 00.1.6

Please send Alumni clothing as indicated.

Linda Robinson

WELCOME

We welcome **Daniel R. Burk, David E. Janes, Alan B. Cramlet and Grady S. Evans** as new association members. We received the applications that you printed from the Alumni Association webpage. Glad you joined us.

ECHOES

Colorado

SUBMITTED BY BRYCE DUNN, ECHOES EDITOR

Note: Ben and Ginger Vlassick, previous editors of the ECHOES newsletter recently asked Bryce to take over that duty.

We had what Ben calls our 'core' membership breakfast on 2/26 at the Plainsman III. Discussions centered on Colorado 2000 activities. We plan to have a general membership breakfast on March 18 at the Plainsman III. We expect about 30 members.

The Colorado chapter has about 120 members on the mailing list. One of the topics for the breakfast will be whether or not we can host a 2001 AFTAC Reunion. The last one we hosted was at the former Red Lion hotel at Stapleton. Also we are planning for our summer picnic on June 10th and a Dinner/Dance on Veterans day, Nov 11 - both at Buckley.

Dick Platt attended an E-9 meeting (which meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at Buckingham Mall) where he learned that the Buckley commissary is scheduled to be ready in spring 2001. Buckley is being converted to an Air Force Base from an Air National Guard Base.

We have a request that people include their email address with their home address when they send in dues. Guess that is about it. Best wishes to all.

West Coast Chapter/California

SUBMITTED BY DALE KLUG, EDITOR/CHAPTER SECRETARY, MARCH NEWS

SPRING GET-TOGETHER:

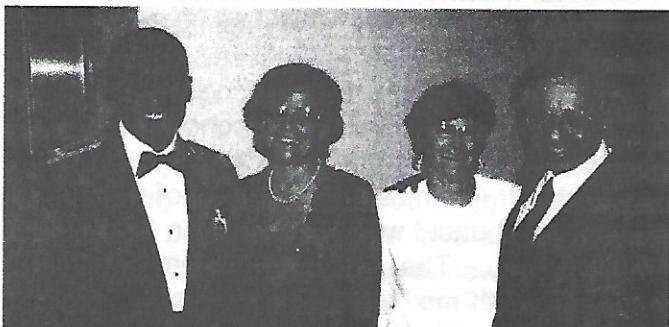
We're having a luncheon cruise, April 29th, on Clear Lake, the largest natural lake in California, with 127 miles of shoreline surrounded by beautiful mountains. The Clear Lake Queen is a triple deck paddlewheel with window view luncheon seating for 96. This 3-hour cruise with the Skipper, Gilligan, Maryann, (no.... that's another cruise) costs \$25/person includes lunch, tax & tip. If you come in from Florida or Colorado, the first drink is on Joe Johnson. Show time is 10:30am, boat leaves the pier in Nice, CA. at 11am & returns at 2pm. If you'd like to spend the night, there are quite a few motels, resorts, RV parks and an Indian gaming casino within 5 min. drive. RESERVATIONS DEADLINE = Apr 10th. Mail check payable to "Clear Lake Queen" to: George Thompson (Chap Vice-Pres.), PO Box 5025, Clearlake CA, 95422 OR call George 707-994-4143 and pay by cash, check or VISA/MasterCard at the boat.

OTHER HAPPENINGS:

Eighteen alumni attended Chief Sue Spencer's retirement ceremony on Nov 23rd. Best wishes Sue! Our second newsletter goes to press and will be mailed to all West Coast Chapter members by March 15th.

Alumni Album, SnowBall II

PRESENTED BY THE EDITORS MORE ON THE WEB PHOTOS BY BOB WILEY/JUDY MILAM



(above) Col. Beatty (AFTAC CC) and Diane - Dr. O'Brien and PJ - stopped by to kick things off on their way to the Patrick AFB Civilian-Military Dinner (AFTAC co-sponsored)



(left) The folks who had all the ideas and did all the work, Ken Myers and his fiancée, Heather Miller.



(above, right)...some traveled to be there, Bob and Ethel Jones drove in from Gainesville, FL



(above) Kathy Sorice, Terry/Patty Hammond, PJ O'Brien and Sam Sorice

CALENDAR

Association Board/Membership Meetings

Monthly HQ AFTAC WindDowns

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

ALWAYS VERIFY (PAT SYNDER, (321) 494-6867, BEFORE COMING)

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

WHEN: 1730 (5:30 PM)

WHERE: Lobby, AFTAC HQ building

HOW: come to lobby, you will be met and escorted

—WindDowns are normally 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

April

7th, 1530 - WindDown at the Outback

10th, 1730 - Board/Membership Meeting

May

5th, 1530 - WindDown at the Outback

8th, 1730 - Board/Membership Meeting

June

2nd, 1530 - WindDown at the Outback

12th, 1730 - Board/Membership Meeting

End of Month - Post Monitor mailing

July

7th, 1530 - WindDown at the Outback

10th, 1730 - Board/Membership Meeting

Special Events

Stand Down 2000, April 15, 8 - 4, (pg 1) to help, call Jack Jackson, (321) 956-1025, M-F, 8-5.

Buster-Jangle Reunion, May 2-5, Las Vegas, contact, Jerry Collins, jjc8hearth@aol.com

AFTAC Spring Picnic, May 6th, BCC Wickham Park Pavilion, (pg 4), contact Carl Gailey, (321) 777-0569, gaileyc@juno.com, to help with the beer and Pat Snyder, (321) 494-6867, Patri-cia.Snyder@aftac.pafb.af.mil for tickets

Spring Golf-n'getogether, May 12th, Cocoa Beach Golf Course, (pg 4)

Important Holiday Reminder

Memorial Day, May 29th (see pg 3 for a special tribute)

ALUMNI SHOP

Mail orders to: AFTAC Alumni Asc., 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 00.3.13)

PURCHASED WITH ALUMNI FUNDS-Multi Color Logo

	MED	LG	XL	XXL
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JACKETS - Unlined/Royal Blue - \$20 2 4 5 4

GOLF SHIRTS - with pocket - \$14

Sea Teal (aqua blue)	3	4	4	3
Jade (medium green)	3	4	4	3
Navy	3	4	5	4
Red	2	3	4	2
White	2	4	4	4
Royal Blue	3	3	5	3
Teal (dark aqua)	3	4	5	4
Maroon	3	4	3	3

T-SHIRTS - without pocket - \$7.00

Light Blue	2	4	3	3
Royal blue	2	3	4	3
Navy	4	4	4	3
Ash Gray	2	3	4	3
Purple	2	2	3	2
Red	2	2	3	2
Fuscia	2	2	2	2
Mint Green	2	3	3	2
Jade Green	2	4	4	2

HATS - \$6.00 - # MISCELLANEOUS

Green	11	Ceramic Mugs (\$7)	13
Gray	9	50th Commem. Coins (\$3)	~233
Red	10	Logo Pins (\$3.25)	~99
Royal Blue	6	Logo Disks (\$5.50)	~52
Light Blue	12	Alumni License Plate, \$7-members	
Navy	7	\$/10-nonmembers	10
		TOD History Book, free, s/h, \$3.20	

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

JACKETS -

Unlined/Royal Blue - white logo, \$20 3

GOLF SHIRTS -

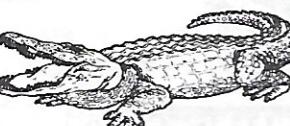
Med. Blue/with pocket/White logo, \$14 11 7

HATS - Cotton - \$5.00 Medium Blue: 1

~~~~~

**Sagey**

"Holy Alligators Alex - they have a lot going on, hope we see you at some of these events



"yea, I'll be there to do my bite...uh...bit"

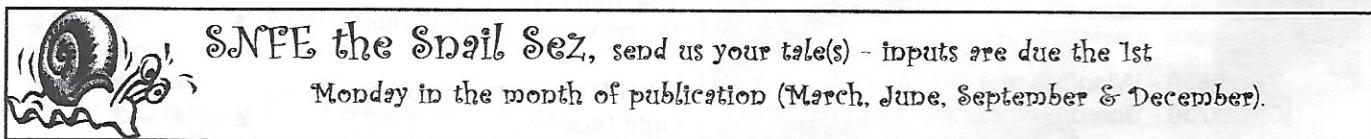


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NOTE: the web-like pound sign (#) identifies articles that are also featured on the association webpage "cshq.com/aftacalumni"

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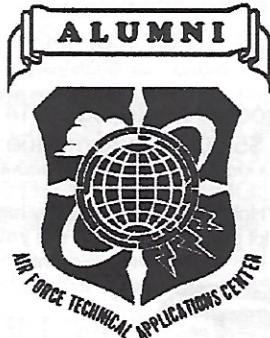
Technical data - issue size, ~20+mb, prepared on an IBM Aptiva E56 (266MHz/48MB & 4GB/56Khz/24xCD-ROM) with a Zip 100 parallel drive using MSPub97 software; scanning done on a Mustek 600 IIIEP, printed on a Hewlett Packard DeskJet 812C; preparation/input/proofing time by the editors is in the neighborhood of 100 enjoyable hours, a figure that does not include the unknown hours of preparation and typing/proofing/folding/labeling/mailing by individual contributors/assistors on their articles/inputs and delivery



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

## **ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

The AFTAC Emblem symbolizes the unit and, when 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!**