

◆ POST - MONITOR ◆

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3 660 Members - 459 Lifetime (16 are Complimentary) 2000 SEPTEMBER



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

SAGE SPOTLIGHT

Our 2000

VICE - PRESIDENT

SAM SORICE

SUBMITTED BY THE EDITORS

We spotlight Sam this quarter as a new board member and our year 2000 Vice - President. Sam's service to his country began on 15 August 1966 and with AFTAC in July of 1985. He retired in December of 1987.

Sam's AF assignments include tours in the communications and electronics field at Cape Canaveral AFS, FL; Clark AB, PI; and Anderson AFB, Guam. He then cross trained into the space operations field and had assignments at Charleston AFS, ME; Shemya AFB, AK, Peterson AFB, CO, and the Pentagon. His AFTAC assignment was at Patrick AFB. During Sam's assignment in AFTAC, he was chief of the Space Operations division.

When asked why he took on the duty of being the Alumni Asc. Vice - President, Sam replied : "My tour with AFTAC was the highlight of my Air Force career. I truly enjoyed working with such an outstanding group of people, so it was easy to get involved with many of those same people in the alumni association." >>pg 5, 'Sage Spotlight'



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Alumni Alerts-What's Comin' Up

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

Golf n'Getogether, November 17th Manatee Cove (Patrick AFB)

SAM SORICE, VICE PREZ AND GOLF MAJOR ARRANGER

If you enjoyed our spring golf tournament, wait until you see what we have in store for you this fall!! >>pg 5, 'Golf n'getogether'

2001 Board Elections

MIKE SHILIKITUS, PRESIDENT

YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!

Our annual election of officers will be held at the general membership meeting to be conducted in association with the upcoming golf n'getogether on Nov 17th.>>pg 5, 'Elections'

AFTAC Alumni Reunion

Denver CO, 00.6.14 -16

Registration form, pg 17, Information, pg 18

Alumni Events-What's Gone Off

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

SEO REUNION, Report #1

SUBMITTED BY TONY VALENTINE SEO 20 - A REPORT HE SENT TO ALL ATTENDEES

First, my apologies for the tardy PROREP/Hot Wash/Alert Summary/etc. relating my account of our recent "Year 2000/Day 200" SEO reunion. I know it's been a week since we got back from Reno, but things to do had kind of piled up back here in the land of reality. I'll start with a disclaimer. My memory isn't what it once was, and it never was very good, so if I inadvertently omit a few names, I apologize. >>pg 5, 'SEO Reunion'

ATTENTION...DUES DUE? Here's how to know.

If you wish to remain a member and continue receiving this newsletter check your address NOW!

The first line on your address label indicates when your dues are due. If it reads:

"01<Due in Oct" it means you have not paid your dues for FY 2001 which begins 1 Oct 00.

If the first two digits on line one of your address label are other than 01 it means your dues are current.

Remember that the first two digits on the first line are the fiscal year your dues are due.

ATTENTION...DUES DUE? Here's how to know.

Association Honor Roll Alumni Of The Year Recipients

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

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/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.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**

Florida Chapter "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

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 & 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

"A TEAM" ...of Horsches'

'58-'87

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

We begin by thanking Judy **Milam** again for her fine work in getting the June PoMo published in a timely manner while we traveled. She did a great job, especially when you consider it was the first issue where the printer only used a 'Zip' disk file. Additionally, along those lines, in the transfer process some formatting changed and, in places, sentences were lost and extra spacing occurred. We will work with the printer to minimize these problems because the overall product was improved (pictures, print quality, etc.). Where important information was lost, we will advise you and provide what was lost, or if something is missing that you notice and we don't - let us know...it may be a test and you will win a magnificent prize.

We'd like to encourage those of you who live in this area to come to a couple of meetings (see page 19), see where you can help us and pitch in.

The upcoming elections are a good example of how much trouble we have when we 'need some help.' Our president, **Mike Shilkitus**, is having extreme difficulty getting enough people to volunteer to help on the board. Our goal was to have the full slate in this newsletter so you'd know who was running and make your decision about who you'd vote for. However, because it was not possible to get a full slate in time, we will have to wait and see who we have, or can nominate, at the meeting itself. As of this writing, the only nominee Mike has locked in is Steve **Cook** for treasurer...thanks Steve.

Here also we'd like to make a pitch for your inputs for the feature articles we try to have for each issue. Hopefully, you have noticed we try to have, along with the 'Commanders reCall' and the 'Where are Ya's,' some 'Remembrances' and 'BS' for each issue. Many of you have been kind enough to share your stories with us...however, there are a great many AFTAC storytellers out there who have not 'checked in.' So, the next time you remember some incident from your past, please sit down and email that story to us, or write it up and we'll publish it just as soon as we can.

Thanks for your continuing support and readership - we would not spend this amount of time and energy for any other audience...John and Chris

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

Anderson, IN 00.7.21

(sent a change of phone number)...our email
is zz0r0f@aol.com. After the z's those are
zeroes in the address.

Max H. Jone, SMSgt, USAF Retired...thanks Max

Highlands Ranch, CO 00.7.7

Enclosed is the check for the \$3.20 you re-
quested for the 'Commemorative History'
which I want to send to my friend, Thomas
Rose.

Tom was a T/Sgt with Ed Gardner and myself at NOL and Turkey from 1950 to 1952.
Please put my card with the book when you send it so he will know who sent it. Thank for all your trouble.

P.S. If you run across **Carl Raines** tell him hello for me as he came to Turkey prior to us coming back to the US and was also good friends. Another good friend was **Charles Butler** who has now passed away... Butler & I were close friends while we went thru NOL training 1949.

Bill Proctor...Jim has taken care of you and I'm sure Tom is going to like your surprise. We appreciate being reminded of Carl and Charlie and, anyone out there, say hi to Carl for Bill.

Welcome Back, or for the first time

To members responding to our Membership Chair, Jim Payne's, reminder cards or just 'signin' up' for the first time

Oklahoma City, OK 00.2.5

..Send next newsletter and sign me up for a

year.

Bill Webster Jim has taken care of you and thanks for 'signin' up

Alumni Webpage Applications

Satellite Beach, FL 00.7.17

Assigned to AFTAC from June '79 to Aug '82.
Worked in TA for Col. John Kershaw and LtCol. Bruce Stach in the GSS Project Office

Jerry M. Johnson Jerry, thanks for your membership and I remember working with you on the GSS in '81 and '82

Tobyhanna, PA 00.7.24

39 years with AFTAC working in the laboratory system. WFO, '55-'65; O'seas, '65-'67; AFTAC HQ, '67-'74; TOD, '75-'91; TOD, '95-'98

My wife, **Marcy**, 1155th Secretary, '75-'81

Donald L. Paisley Don and Marcy - it's so great to hear from those who served 'long ago' and for so long...thank you for joining us and for your service

Avon Park, FL 00.8.2

served in the 1009th, '54-'57

Donald B. Serdynski thanks Don

"Oh...By the Way"

Interesting or informative tidbits, some sent by alumni with letters, orders for merchandise, changes of address, etc., and others gleaned from reading material, hard-copy and web

Several months ago Clark Creery sent us several documents representing the beginning of the AFTAC Alumni Association and his writings of the newsletter. These documents, and newsletters, shed light on the association and its beginnings and restarts. As we have room we will share some of these with you. The alumni newsletter dated June 85 and numbered as '1' is excerpted below:

"March 12, 1985, was a special day in the annals of AFTAC. This was the day that the AFTAC Alumni Assoc. here in central Florida was formed. We know that some of you that attended the 1st meeting must be wondering just what has happened. Well, we are alive and well. Knee-deep in the paperwork of forming a constitution and by-laws but we have tried our best and present to you via this first newsletter our humble attempt."

Presenting the new AF Symbol

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About the new Symbol

FROM PATRICK AFB NEWSPAPER, MISSILEER, 00.8.18

The U.S. Air Force symbol is based on the original Hap Arnold wings and represents many different aspects of the service's proud heritage and service. The symbol has two main parts. In the upper half the stylized wings represent the stripes of our strength - the enlisted men and women of our force. They are drawn with great angularity to show our swiftness and power and they are divided into six sections which represent our core competencies - aerospace superiority; global attack, rapid global mobility; precision engagement, information superiority, and agile combat support.

In the lower half are a sphere, a star and three diamonds'. 'The sphere within the star represents the 'globe.' It reminds us of our obligation to secure America's freedom with global vigilance, reach and power. The globe reminds us of our challenge as an expeditionary force to respond rapidly to crisis and to provide decisive aerospace power worldwide.

The area surrounding the sphere takes the shape of a star. The star has many meanings. Its five points represent the components of our one force and family - our active duty, civilians, Guard Reserve and retirees. The star symbolizes space as the high ground of our nation's aerospace force. The rallying symbol in all our wars, the star also represents our officer corps, central to our combat leadership.

The star is framed with three diamonds,

which represent our core values - integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. The elements come together to form one symbol that presents two powerful images - at once it is an eagle, the emblem of our nation, and a medal, representing valor in service to country.

Of Interest...

BY LYNDA YEZZI VALENTINE, 45TH SPACE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As early as next year; the twin water towers on the main part of Patrick AFB will sport new paint, as well as a new look. Patrick is one of five bases worldwide participating in a Chief of Staff of the Air Force program authorizing a test of the new Air Force symbol on selected water towers and base gates. It was the only Air Force Space Command base chosen to test the symbol.

Freedom through Vigilance (FTVA) Association

JUDY MILAM PROVIDED AN FTVA FLYER

Members of the FTVA have been an integral part of preserving the heritage of the Air Intelligence Agency and its predecessor organizations.

Through programs such as 'Sensor Olympics' and 'Hall of Honor' (to mention two of several that you have read about in these pages), the FTVA has donated more than \$100,000. These programs recognize people who have demonstrated bravery, exceptional performance of duty and other acts of honor. It is private non-profit and provides a forum for social, educational and humanitarian services. They also provide directories, newsletters, social events and web sites.

FTVA membership is open to anyone who served, or is currently serving in, AIA or its predecessors; this would include AFTAC'ers who have served with AIA.

For more information contact them at 7323 Hwy, 90 West Suite 16, San Antonio, TX 78227 or email ftva@netexpress.com.

<<'Sage Spotlight' from page 1

Thanks Sam, for your service to the country, the US Air Force, AFTAC, and now the Alumni Association. Your efforts are truly appreciated, and your willingness to not only serve as our vice, but to 'jump into' the leadership on our golf matches is truly outstanding..



<<'Golf n'getogether' from page 1

We will play on the 17th of November, 2000, at the Manatee Cove Golf Course at Patrick AFB. **Registration** will begin at **11:00 AM** with a shotgun **start at 1200 noon** (so we can get our tournament completed by sunset). We will be playing a scramble, or select shot. You may sign up as a single golfer or a team of 2, 3, or 4.

We will be able to sign up 144 players and it will be first come, first selected to play. The cost will be **\$35.00 for AFTAC Alumni members** and **\$45.00 for non-members**. As usual, there will be many quality door prizes plus prizes for the top teams, along with prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive. Prizes will be awarded immediately after golf with a **BBQ dinner** to follow at the clubhouse.

We will also be having our annual general membership meeting, and **election** of officers, after the tournament, so you may elect to sign up for the **dinner, election and fellowship only at a cost of \$7.50** per person. To sign up, please call **Pat Snyder at 494-6867, Nancy Frey at 779-6046** or **Sam Sorice at 779-6041**. We look forward to seeing you there.

<<'Elections' from page 1

We are currently soliciting volunteers to run for election for the following positions: Pres, VP, Secretary, Treasurer (Steve Cook has volunteered). Contact Mike Shilkitus, HP 321-253-8707 WP 321-383-2812 by 1 November to volunteer.

<<'SEO Reunion' Reports from page 1

Delta Airlines almost did a good job for our trip out west. Our routing (SAT - DFW - SLC - RNO) made for a long day, but all the flights were on time, the snacks were no worse than expected, and the connection times were not excessively short or long. We arrived in Reno Saturday evening about 1900, as advertised. The only snag was that only part of our luggage made it all the way to Reno. Oh well, we got the rest of it the next

morning, delivered all the way out to John & Annette **Roberts'** place in Fallon. All in all, not bad.

Alyson & I headed straight out to John & Annette's, got there about 2045 or so, and found the reunion had already started! Quite a handful were there including Charlie **Penn**, Joe & Cathy **Borowski**, A.J. & Laura **Saam**, Butch & Laurie **Kemna**, Jim **Gindlesperger**, Ken **Brauchle**, Joe & Galen **Ford**, Lloyd & Michelle **French**, and others that escape me at this moment. In spite of our long "crew duty day," we stayed up late & had a great time reminiscing.

Next morning started early since several of us stayed the night at John's or local motels. We started with coffee & gradually went to beer over the course of the morning as the party began in earnest. John erected a canopy in the front yard, and between that, the front porch, and later in the day, the back patio, we mostly managed to dodge the bright desert sun. Hot dogs, guacamole, pasta & other savory munchies were present in abundant quantity and helped soak up the beer throughout the day. By the official noon starting time, there was quite a crowd, and people continued to trickle in until there were more than 30 altogether. Besides those I mentioned in the last paragraph, Kevin **Alig**, Mike **Marler** & fiancee, Van & Christina **Roberts**, Jim & Dina **Rickner**, Asa **Clark**, Kem **Musgrove**, Dave & Carla **Rucker** & son, Ben **Lazare** & wife, and I'm sure others that I've forgotten (blush). We had a wonderful time telling each other that we hadn't changed a bit (other than a few more pounds), a little less (or grayer hair), relating lots of "remember the time..." stories, and finding out what everyone is doing these days, in real life. Mike **Marler** brought a laptop with lots of photos loaded, as well as other memorabilia & trinkets from the old flying days. Late that evening, Raoul **Gonzales** finally showed up after being delayed somehow.

John & Annette finally got rid of the last of us late Monday morning. We drove into Reno and checked into the Silver Legacy Hotel. The Silver Legacy, along with Circus Circus, and the El Dorado make up a complex of hotels connected at the mezzanine level with a huge maze of restaurants, bars, and shops. Each hotel has their own casino on the street level. The three hotel(s) are like a city by themselves and we spent most of the afternoon just scouting out the complex. We had dinner that night with John & Annette Roberts and

Raoul & Joyce Gonzales at Adele's, a pleasant, upscale restaurant with very elegant fare. A really, really, nice evening!

Tuesday, "Day 200," was to be the big day! We checked out of the Silver Legacy, stowed the bags in the car, had breakfast, then tried to check into the El Dorado early. They checked us in, but couldn't give us a key until later. We found the meeting room, and milled around there for about an hour, meeting people, paying for lunch & so forth. The meeting spot was very nice, with round tables, plenty of space between them for mingling, and mingle we did, until the plentiful & tasty buffet was served. Towards the end of the eating time, the bar opened, and SEOs started making their way to the podium to tell stories. Orv **Pritchard** started it off, and although participation was slow at first, everyone soon got into the spirit of the occasion, and a steady stream of folks came up to tell stories.

Sometime during the afternoon festivities, we had a wedding ceremony. Joe & Galen **Ford** had recently married, but Galen wanted another ceremony, this time with Joe in a flight suit. I think the whole thing was a conspiracy cooked up by Jim **Rickner**, Asa **Clark**, and Galen Ford. I think Joe only found out about it right before it happened. How they got the flight suit so quick, I don't know. Jim Rickner & Asa Clark were the attendants, but I'm not sure which of them was the bridesmaid, and which was the best man. I was drafted to officiate, so using Mike Marler's SEO checklist as a sacred text, I pronounced them a real SEO couple. Charlie Penn caught the bouquet.

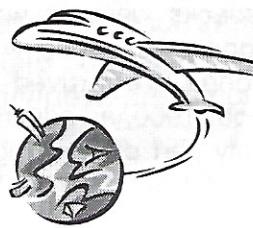
Stories continued, & eventually we adjourned, many of us to a brew pub within the hotel complex. It had been a complete success. Most of the SEOs that were at John & Annette's house on Sunday were there, as well as many others - over 50 people in all, including Tom **Osborne**, Tom **Bresnan**, George **Thompson**, Chris **Baxter**, Bob **Justman**, Tim **Casperson**, Steve **Laccinole**, Jack **Pitcher**, Jerry & Terry **LaBarre**, Col Jim & Mary **Esping**, Joe & Gayle **Johnson**, Frank & Irene **Goodreau**, Al **Khatoonian**, Bill **Scott** (Aviation Week writer & former SEO), "Bo" **Ferris**, Sam **Houston**, Steve & Donna **Fritts**, Bobby **Jones**, Paul & Mary **Dennis**, Raoul & Joyce **Gonzales**, Darin **Pfaff**, Carol & Orv **Pritchard**, and Bob **McCafferty** (Air & Space Writer). We expected Col (Ret.) Tom **Niquette**, but the airline demons conspired to keep him away.

Alyson & I spent Wednesday winding down, driving around Lake Tahoe and generally relaxing. We ran into Joe & Galen Ford that evening & had a few drinks & pleasant conversation with them to cap off a super week.

The trip home was befitting an old crew dog. We made it as far as Elko, Nevada, on Thursday. The pilot decided that the airplane needed a couple tires, and since there were no tires available, we ended up spending the night in Elko as guests of Delta Airlines. We found a nice little restaurant for dinner, played craps for awhile at the hotel and called it a day. Elko is not a very big town, so I'm not sure what we would have done if we had needed to stay another day, the same thing, I guess. We left early Friday, had a long layover in Salt Lake City, then a direct flight to San Antonio. We finally made it home about 2100 Friday night.

The reunion trip was wonderful in every way. The reunion itself turned out better than one could hope, considering that it was an impromptu event with only a couple months to put it all together. The "Day 200" meet really bridged the generations from the earliest SEOs to those still active. I hope we'll do it again before too long, and at the least have a SEO sub-reunion during the next AFTAC Alumni gathering. I hope others will send out notes to all of us with their stories of the week. I will forward those as necessary to the rest of the group.

THANKS - To John & Annette Roberts for the weekend festivities, they were great!! The Roberts' place was "SEO Central" from Saturday afternoon through Monday morning. **THANKS** - To Col Rick **Larson** for the beer. Wish you could have been there! **THANKS** - to Carol Pritchard for all the work with the hotel to set up rooms, meeting place, buffet, & bar. That ordeal was harder than most might think; it was a real "moving target." Carol, you were really the catalyst that made this whole thing happen! **THANKS** - To all the SEOs & wives, young & old, for coming to the reunion & sharing your tales. **THANKS AGAIN** - To all the SEOs and wives for supporting the important nuclear sampling mission over the years.



***** SEO REUNION, Report #2

SUBMITTED BY CAROL PRITCHARD

On July 18th a reunion of Special Equipment Operators was held at the El Dorado Hotel in Reno, Nevada, at high noon. The reason for the reunion was based on a "Pact" signed by 18 active duty SEO's stationed at McClellan AFB in 1992. There was a discussion among them as to whether or not their mission would be soon terminated or continue - the "Pact" wording, "On the 200th day of the year 2000 the SEO's below will meet in Lake Tahoe and eat, drink and be merry. If there are SEO's currently on active flying status performing duties similar to those performed in 1992 the people in the left column will buy dinner for those on the right. If the SEO's are no longer on active flying status then the people signing on the right buy for those on the left."

There were 18 signers of the "Pact," 6 of them were in attendance. They were **Tim Casperson**, **Mike Marler**, **Van Roberts**, **Joe Ford**, **Darin Pfaff** and **Kem Musgrove**.

Word of a "SEO Reunion on the 200th day of the year 2000" went out over the Internet and by phone. This included SEO's from day one (1955) to date. All were represented. **Bobby Jones** and **Bo Ferris** were two of the original SEO's recruited by Col. **Deets**. They were dropsonde operators in the 55th Weather Squadron.

Two members of the press also attended. Bob **McAfferty** writes for Air & Space. The magazine had done an extensive article on SEO's in their July issue and Bob was interested in doing a follow up article. Watch your news stands. Bill **Scott** is a former SEO and writes for Aviation Week. Bill and his tape recorder stayed very busy so keep an eye on that periodical also.

We had an "impromptu" wedding. Joe and Galen **Ford** had been married earlier this year but it was Galen's desire to be married on the "200th day, year 2000" as Joe was an original signer of the pact. It was later remarked that "All went well but the Matron of Honor was one of the ugliest I've ever seen. (Jim Rickner)." Just kidding Jim.

Mike **Marler** had a Midway deployment case with a strobe, LPU, EEBD, sea dye, solar still and a survey meter. He also brought his laptop containing a lot of photos from his SEO days. That brought back a lot of memories for many.

Of the 50 or so attendees about one third of them were wives. Through the years they have been a

close group. With husbands gone on long TDY's they supported each other and made sure all was well on the homefront.

John Roberts had commemorative T-shirts with a Special Equipment Operator patch on the back and an AFTAC patch on the left breast stating "SEO Reunion, Day 200, Year 2000, Reno, Nevada. They had been pre-ordered and some of them were worn that afternoon. He also had a banner made up anticipating a SEO Reunion II.

The reunion concluded at 7 p.m. with attendees drifting off to various watering holes to reminisce about days and friends past. Even though this was the first SEO reunion, I hope it will not be the last. Who is going to pick up the gauntlet for a "mini SEO reunion" within the next AFTAC reunion scheduled for June in Denver next year?

A complete list of attendees

Tom Osborne, Tom Bressan, George Thompson, Chris Baxter, Joe Borowski, Charlie Penn, Bob and Lenore Justman, Lloyd and Michelle French, Tim Casperson*, Kevin Alig, Steve Laccinole, Jack Pitcher, Jerry and Terry LaBarre, Jim and Mary Esping, Joe and Gayle Johnson, Frank and Irene Goodreau, John Kemna, Tony and Alyson Balentine, John and Sylvia Roberts, Al Khatoonian and brother Owen, Mike "Mooky" Marler*, Bill Scott and son, Cliff "Bo" Ferris, Steve and Donna Fritts, Bobby and Helen Jones, Van and Christina Roberts*, Jim and Dina Rickner, Paul and Mary Dennis, Asa Clark, Joe and Galen Ford*, Raoul and Joyce Gonzales, Darin R Pfaff*, Kem Musgrove*, Bob McCafferty, Carol and Orv Pritchard,

*denotes the signers of the pact - also notice that some attendees were "F Troopers". They were invited!!!

Correction-Gen O'Lear Commander's reCall

June Issue

As mentioned in our editorial, while the Zip Disk made overall improvements to the hardcopy of the newsletter, there were certain sections that did not get printed. Of particular concern were the two paragraphs at the bottom of page 8 of General O'Lear's article that were incomplete or missing. Rather than repeat the entire article, we've included the two paragraphs below:

" Another date that will long be remembered is 26 April 1986. AFTAC's role during the Chernobyl disaster was truly unique. From the first indications of the accident to the long-term monitoring of the debris pattern, AFTAC played a major role in advising key decision-makers in many governments and commercial companies on the spread of the debris and its environmental impact.

Despite all the issues, techniques, and events that shaped and influenced my time at AFTAC, the things I remember best are those that involved the world-class people of our small organization that was deployed in some 70 countries around the world."

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 were nearing the end of a millenium, we asked previous AFTAC commanders (for whom we had addresses) to give us a synopsis of their time with the command. In the process, LGen (Ret) Jim Clapper suggested a questionnaire, devised it & we sent that out as an option. So far we have the following responses: Gen's Silliman, Gordon, Clapper, O'Lear, Bingham and Shaffer and Col's Meisenheimer, Wigington and Beatty. 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 - reCalls in previous issues, Gen (Ret) Silliman, Gen (Ret) Gordon, Col (Ret) Meisenheimer, Gen (Ret) Clapper and Gen (Ret) O'Lear...at this time we feature...

BILLY J. BINGHAM, BGEN, USAF (RET) COMMANDER, SEP '86-FEB '88



SUBMITTED .00.9.5

My assignment at AFTAC can be easily characterized as the "BEST job in my 30 year Air Force career." Unfortunately, it was far too short because I would have liked to have the opportunity to spend more time with our outstanding officer, enlisted and civilian workforce.

I gained a tremendous respect for the many contributions AFTAC made to our nation's security. Without question, I had never before and never afterwards, had the pleasure to work with so many bright and highly motivated people. We had the expertise to tackle any problem associated with our mission, and knew the product would exceed all requirements. As I left the building each day, I would say to myself "I am glad this organization is on my side." It is unfortunate that we cannot share our many successes with family and friends.

As many of you recall, I attempted to "open" our doors as much as possible by introducing our annual "Open House." We received many favorable comments from those that attended the first session, as well as many cautions from those that did not want the "door" opened. However, we did this as a team, and all understood what we could and could not do. With a tenacious IG like Col Frank Hall, I did not dare make a mistake.

Speaking of Frank, who could possibly have been blessed with a more outstanding leadership team than I. Col Tom Ciabrone, MR. AFTAC, was the guiding light that allowed me to make the transition; Dr. Leies, technical capabilities that will

remain unmatched; Walt Singlevich, not a better person to be found on this earth nor a more qualified in his field; Dr. Frank Pilote, unmatched when it came to working seismic issues and working within the International Community; Col Tom Niquette, a world class leader for our airborne operations as well as our other operations; Col Jay Sherman, moving from Plans to become Tom Ciabrone's replacement, and become a close confidant and advisor; and John Horsch as our Senior Enlisted Advisor, who always gave me the most insightful advice a Commander could ever hope for.

My only regret is that I did not get to repay all of the debts of gratitude I owe to so many that cared for me while I was the Commander. I often wished that I could clone the organization in order to let others have the opportunity to work with such an outstanding cadre of people.

Even after retirement, I have the pleasure of following your successes, and also your temporary setbacks. My best to all of you that are currently serving and to all of those that contributed so much to our GREAT country and Air Force.

Very respectfully, Billy Bingham

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

Enclosed is a check to reestablish my membership. I was in AFTAC from 1967 through 1977. Assignments included Detachment 313 and Detachment 452 with six years at the headquarters in Operations sandwiched in between. I retired from active duty in 1992 with the last assignment overseas in Germany. I ended up with four overseas, two for AFTAC and two in my last five years of active duty. Since then I spent the last 6 and 1/2 years as an IRS contractor with an hour and a half commute each way in the Washington D.C. area. With that Dottie and I decided now was time to try retired retirement.

We make it to the Melbourne/Indialantic area often as our oldest daughter Stephanie, husband, and two children live in Melbourne. Resettling in Florida away from the Washington area suburban sprawl also has a lot of attraction.

Bill and Dottie Cushion

...thanks Bill, enjoyed talking to you and Dottie recently and reminiscing about the old 'B' days

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.

Old Fogey Reminiscences

SUBMITTED BY WALTER L. FRANKS, JR., 00.3.16

I was assigned to Armament System Maintenance Training Course, AFSC 32010, Lowery AFB, Colorado, on 11 August 1954. However, I never made it to Armaments Systems. A "siding salesman" interviewed me about "the assignment of a life-time" in which I would either be on flight status or be assigned to exotic foreign countries. He never mentioned a ground job in fatigues in buildings with no windows. With visions of airplanes and snappy dress dancing in my eyes, I signed up to "buy some siding for my 'small brick outbuilding'" and reported to 3418 STURON for training. To say that the training was interesting would be an understatement. Some of the textbooks had "US NAVY" stamped on them. I thoroughly enjoyed my brief stay at Lowery, both professionally and personally. I have never recovered from the sight of the mountains; the highest point in Louisiana is 535 feet. Another item of real historical significance occurred while at Lowery. We were moved out of our barracks so they could be renovated for use by the newly established USAF Academy and moved back into them upon completion of the renovations. As compared to what we lived in, they were palatial. A couple of the guys tried to apply for the Academy after we moved back in and saw what the cadets were to live in. But all things must end so with my 9 February 1955 assignment to 1009th SPWPNON, HEDCOM USAF, WASH. DC with PERDUSTA McClellan AFB, CALIF*****REPTNLT 7 Mar 55 to COL ROBERT E BELLVILLE, BLDG S-39 for DY, a new chapter in a young airman's life opened. Also on the order were A/3C (airman 3rd class, for the younger troops) Charles W Caner, A/3C Omer L Cleek, and A/3C Charles J Passini.

SOP, we were told to forget every thing we learned in Tech School, we would be taught the proper way to do things. We were introduced to, and oriented in, the Western Field Office way of doing things. We lived in Splinter City in cubicles.

By today's standards they were primitive, but after open-bay accommodations, we liked them. As for duty, I learned to love the "grave" shift because of the quiet, and to like "SOS," because we got to eat it hot at midnight chow. How the conditions at McClellan were really didn't matter because in June 1955, I got three weeks notice for an overseas assignment.

I enjoyed the assignment so much that I tried to extend my assignment until my enlistment was up, no soap! I worked in the Laboratory and Physical Measurements (L&PM) Section. The Commander was COL Jack Deets, the Section OIC was MAJ Thomas Buttery, the Section NCOIC was SSGT Hubert Dickerson, and the NCOIC, Physical Measurements was SSGT Herschel Zehr. It would take too much space to list all of the enlisted men (no ladies in those sexist old days) assigned there in Sept 1956.

With a few exceptions, the identities of the officer complement remain a mystery to me. I remember Lieutenants Johnson, Cirelli, Koonce, and Robert Ripley (I ran into him in a later life at Maxwell AFB when he attended Air Command and Staff College and I, Squadron Officers' School).

For most of the assignment, we were billeted in the Air Police Barracks, later we were moved to the upper floor of the Food Services Barracks which proved to be quite an improvement. The AP barracks was open-bay with the latrine across a breezeway which was OK during the summer months, but a real challenge during the winter after a nice hot shower. The cooks' barracks had one, two, and three-man rooms with the personal hygiene facilities down the hallway, completely indoors.

Three things occurred during my tour that were stamped upon my memory for as long as I will be able to remember things. I experienced the first of these again but one's first earthquake is a memorable occasion. One Sunday morning, Robbie Robertson and I were on duty in the PM Lab when the whole world went crazy. Things were falling throughout the building and we were staggering like we were drunk and doing a little falling ourselves. When it was over, we went out into the hallway and discovered a big crack running right down the center of the ceiling. Our equipment did not miss a count and we finished our shift. When we got to the barracks, we heard about the fun times there. People were spilled from their bunks, lockers fell over, the whole place was a mess. And

that, Troops, is how we got a brand new building farther down the flightline. We troops promptly named it "Fort Apache" because it was built like a fort... no windows and big steel doors.

The second event was even worse. Things were a little slow for a rare change so we had only one technician on duty at night for swing and grave shifts. I was working swing shift one evening when we discovered that one of the flights had not landed. One of our Airborne Equipment Operators was on board so when it did not show up on time we were a bit worried. It was a flight that returned to our location and was a sixteen-hour, over-water flight. Many things to go wrong were possible and sure enough one of them happened...the aircraft was on the CGA scope and then it wasn't...it had flown into the side of a mountain.

The operator and one other of the crew were the only survivors and the operator was not in very good shape. He was in a burn ward for a while and then was transferred to a stateside hospital. I heard later that he recovered and was medically retired.

The third memorable event was a blizzard one Easter morning. One could not make decent snowballs with Denver snow, but the wet snow at the overseas location was ideal. We had a blast in the snow. We were not valued Air Force technicians, we were a bunch of big kids! That was the most snow I saw in my life until later, in another life, I spent five winters at Wurtsmith AFB, MI.

Of course, upon completing my 24-month tour I was returned to the Western Field Office. I was flabbergasted when I checked back into WFO after my two-year hitch overseas. We were billeted in a stone dormitory (you certainly could not call it a barracks) with three-man rooms and real beds. After sleeping on GI cots for three years, it took a while to be comfortable sleeping in a genuine bed again. There was a small bunch of us Buck Sergeants (we were A1C's in those days) who had over three years in and were not going to re-enlist so they kicked us out of the Air Force.

As previously mentioned, I ran into LTC Robert Ripley at Maxwell in 1964. As I was outprocessing to move from Andrews AFB in 1966, I ran into my old NCOIC Hubert Dickerson, in the hospital where his wife was a patient. When forecasting for assignment back to the States I requested any base in the Continental US except McClellan AFB, CA, because I had already had two assignments at that base and I wanted to see more of the country than Sacramento, CA. I should have known better,

I spent the next four years at Mather AFB across town from McClellan. I made it over to McClellan often during those years, but had no contact with WFO. Frankly, I was apprehensive about contacting WFO to find if any one with whom I had served was in his WFO cycle of assignments. I remembered how we used to look upon strangers when I was assigned to the 1009.

When I was assigned to Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, I and my family spent our last night in Sacramento with my first cousin, Fred Franks, who had just been assigned to McClellan from a location in Turkey. While chatting with him, I asked him to what outfit he was assigned, since I had been stationed there back in the "Fifties"? You could have knocked me over with a feather when he replied, "Western Field Office" and that he had been assigned to the same unit since leaving Keesler AFB, MS, where he had been an instructor in the school for Special Weapons technicians. As previously stated, truth is stranger than fiction. We had both been assigned to the organization that preceded AFTAC at the same time, but in different functions and had not known it...back then your lips were sealed when it came to your assignment.

I finished out my career at Wurtsmith AFB, MI, retiring 20 years ago this month. I have since talked to Doug Wilson and Bill "Doc" Hart by telephone and had Fred Reese as a house guest when he was on Reserve duty at the local Air Base (it since was closed so that won't happen again)...Walter, thanks for your article and we appreciate your taking the time to give us the facts on your Air Force and AFTAC career. Your 'adventures' make for good reading and should bring back memories for others. We 'pulled' part of your story to use in our following feature.

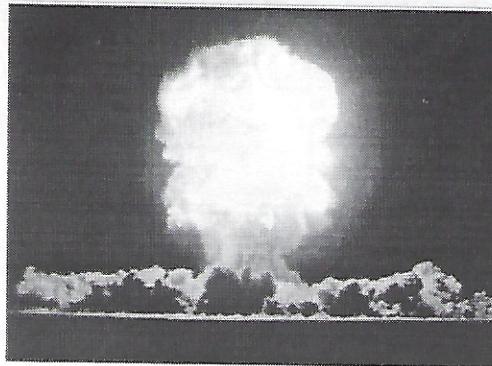
A Barely Substantiated (BS) Tale!

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.

We have extracted a part of Walter L. Frank's remembrances above to use as our BS column this month...enjoy...

All in all, I was assigned to the 1009th SWS from 7 March 1955 until 21 November 1957. That should have ended my AFTAC associations, but truth is stranger than fiction. I attended college on

the GI bill, majoring in Education. I had to take courses in Physical Education or AFROTC. To shorten this already too-long narrative, I took ROTC, was commissioned as a Personnel Officer, requested and received an assignment to HED-COM, the parent command of the 1009th SWS when I had been released from active duty four years before, but when I requested assignment to the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron, I was informed that no such unit existed in the Air Force inventory. Since I was a good little Second Lieutenant, I took the word of the Great white Father in Washington for gospel and gave up the chase. My first assignment was at Andrews AFB, one of the two HEADQUARTERS COMMAND bases at the time. I learned to be a good personnel officer and got on with my life. Lo and behold! When Bolling started scaling back and preparations were being made to transfer HQ AF personnel functions to the forthcoming Air Force Military Personnel Center at Randolph AFB, TX, the Andrews CBPO (Consolidated Base Personnel Office for the uninitiated) picked up some records from Bolling. As I was reviewing them for filing in our Records Section (I was OIC, Records Maintenance), one of the first records that I picked up from the stack was that of SMSgt Bobby **Jones** of some unit called AFTAC. Upon review, I discovered he was the same man I had known as TSgt Bobby Jones at WFO, and he was assigned to the unit that assumed the mission performed by the 1009th SWS. By this time in the "real Air Force" (MSgt "Boom Boom" Canon, my First Sergeant at the overseas location, threatened us when we got out of hand that he was going to send us back to the "real Air Force"), I no longer accepted the word of those guys at HQ AF Personnel as gospel. I made a little personal personnel visit to the Five-sided Puzzle Palace where I was informed that I had requested assignment to the 1009th SWS, not AFTAC. After 19 years as a Personnel Officer, I still do not understand the logic used at that echelon. I never did get assigned back to the outfit.



MONITORing Active-Duty Doings'

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

Command Section



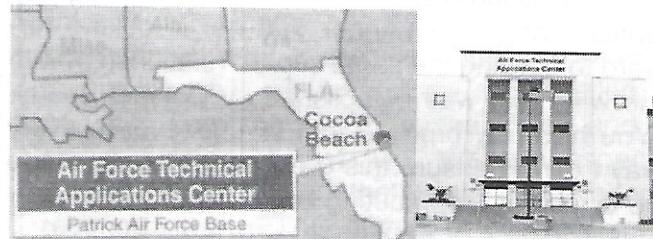
Col. Paul A
Dettmer

AFTAC Commander, 00.8, previously at the 607th Air Intelligence Group, 7th Air Force, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea - where he was the Commander of two multi-discipline intelligence squadrons. He has a Bachelor of Science from the AF Academy ('77) and a Master's Degree from the Naval Postgraduate School ('88). He is married to the former Cathy M. Brucia. They have a daughter, Alison, and a son, Andrew.



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. His wife Heather

CMSgt Kenneth Myers is from Melbourne, Florida. He has two children, Douglas and Melissa.



AFTAC GETS NEW COMMANDER

SMSGT FRED L. HAGANS, AFTAC

Calling it a "privilege and an honor," Col. Paul A. Dettmer accepted command of the Air Force Technical Application Center during a change of command ceremony here July 27. Brig. Gen. Carol C. Elliott, vice commander, Air Intelligence Agency, presided over the ceremony transferring command of AFTAC from Col. Harold J. Beatty to Colonel Dettmer.

Colonel Dettmer comes to AFTAC from the 607th Intelligence Group, Osan Air Base, Republic of South Korea. As commander of AFTAC, Colonel



Brig. Gen. Carol C. Elliot, vice commander, Air Intelligence Agency, presents the squadron flag to Colonel Paul A. Dettmer, officially transferring command of AFTAC from Colonel Harold J. Beatty. CMSgt. Kenneth Myers, AFTAC Senior Enlisted advisor looks on.

Dettmer is responsible for DOD's sole agency for nuclear treaty monitoring and nuclear event detection.

The 700 members assigned to AFTAC – including 525 at Patrick AFB – support the operation and maintenance of the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System. The USAEDS is a global network of nuclear event sensors that detect disturbances underground, underwater, in space or in the atmosphere. The nuclear event detection mission is directly linked to the nuclear treaty-monitoring mission that monitors signatory countries' compliance with several nuclear treaties.

In accepting command of AFTAC Colonel Dettmer assured Brig. Gen. Donald P. Pettit, 45th Space Wing Commander that he is looking forward to "forging the same superb relationship" with the wing that was established by Colonel Beatty. "You have my promise that I'll endeavor in every way I can to ensure this great center continues to be a vibrant, contributing organization on this installation."

Addressing the members of AFTAC, Colonel Dettmer thanked them for a vivid demonstration of commitment and support. He then outlined seven of his personal rules of engagements learned during his Air Force career.

"First and foremost, know what you're doing – if not, find out – don't fake it. *You'll find me asking a lot of questions because I know you represent this organization's expertise and experience, not me.* Second, take your people's loyalty for granted – it's the quickest way to win it. My third rule of engagement is simply put, 'choose your leaders wisely – you depend upon them'. Fourth, let your

senior leaders 'lead' – *they'll never know their limitations until they try to exceed them.* My fifth rule is an important one: Support your leaders – if they fail, blame yourself for not supporting them adequately. Sixth, the all-knowing commander is not the best – the all understanding commander is. Last, but certainly not least, in all situations, your people still have human needs. They need to know you care, and that you'll do your utmost to help them." Colonel Dettmer is joined on this assignment by his wife Cathy.

Following his two-year stint as commander of AFTAC Colonel Beatty moves on to Ft. Meade, Maryland, where he will stand-up the newly created 70th Intelligence Wing. The 70th IW is a new component of AIA's global mission and will leverage national intelligence systems for the Joint Force Commander and Joint Forces Air Component Commander....The Alumni bid Col. Beatty, and his wife, Diane, a fond farewell and Col. Dettmer and his wife, Cathy, a hearty welcome. Our Alumni Association President, Mike Shilkitus, expands on this theme in his article later in this issue.

AFTAC RECOGNITIONS

BY MSGT FRED HAGAN, AFTAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS, 00.6.15

CCAF Graduates

SSgt. Jeff Boggs, SrA. Brian Fedorko, MSgt. Tom Hamilton, TSgt. Greg Kidd, SrA. Brandon Ondrey, and SSgt. Darin Pfaff.

Promotions: Captain Selectees

Francisco Casanova, Patrick M. Fitzgerald, Timothy A. Frederick, Jr., Tammy KC Low, Kelley M. McCauley, Thomas A. Niday, Jeffery L. Roberts, Janine O. J. Wiggins

Awards

TSgt. Ken Holcomb, Joint Service Commendation Medal, 2NDOLC, 1Lt. Jeffery Roberts, Air Force Commendation Medal, SSgt. Kevin Thiessen, Air Force Commendation Medal

Congratulations to all for the recognition of your hard and honorable work...the alumni salute each and every one of you.

AFTAC BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

BY TSGT DAVE MONEY, ABC PRESIDENT

The ABC announces the annual Winter Social will be held Saturday 16 December, 2000, at the Airport Realtor Hilton. Mark your calendars, you won't want to miss this auspicious gala occasion. Frederick "The Entertainer" will provide the ice-breaker entertainment and music again this year. If you remember, at the last two socials, the dance floor was packed. We can only expect the same merriment this coming holiday season. Our Social Committee is forming and will have additional

information at a later date.

PCS assignments have and will continue to change the face of ABC leadership. The president and secretary positions have already become vacant and filled earlier this year. The president, vice-president, treasurer, and clothing sales positions will soon need to be filled due to upcoming PCS assignments. The normally conducted elections in November will be held in late September this year to fill the vacancies. The newly elected officials will take office in October 2000 for the 2001 calendar year. It has been a challenge serving the club for the better part of the last two years. I thank everyone who has participated in the ABC leadership, fund-raising, event committees, and sharing the fun. It has truly been a team effort. Best regards and wishes to all! I'm Thailand bound, your friend Dave Money writes.

AFTAC HOLDS CONFERENCE

MSGT FRED HAGANS, AFTAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS, 00.6.15

The Air Force Technical Applications Center recently held its annual United States Atomic Energy Detection System conference. The USAEDS is a global network of sensors designed to detect disturbances underground, underwater, in space, or in the atmosphere.

The conference brought together the Center's detachment commanders, and commanders and directors from associated units to discuss recent developments from the field, brief detachment commanders on current projects at AFTAC, and review new mission areas.

During the detachment briefings unit commanders briefed the significant accomplishments within their units during the past year along with the challenges they faced, resolutions, and lessons learned. Following two days of briefings and discussions the commanders visited specific areas of AFTAC to tackle issues germane to their units.

Maj. William Jackson, Commander, Detachment 460, Eielson AFB, Alaska, said the conference was a good opportunity for detachment commanders to see the bigger picture. "It provided a lot of insight into the problems other detachments face and how we can benefit from each other's experiences."



MIKE SHILKITUS - PRESIDENT
SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT

SAM SORICE - VICE PRESIDENT

As of this writing fall is coming to Patrick AFB and the surrounding Central Florida area. While others around the country are raking leaves, getting their sweaters out of mothballs, and thinking about snow tires, we lucky Floridians are checking the hurricane shutters, buying batteries, and trying to figure out where we'll go when the inevitable tropical depression turns an ugly eye towards us. It's all in the normal passing of the seasons, the natural passing of time.

Another event recently marked a passage for the local AFTAC community. After two short years, AFTAC Commander Col Harold **Beatty** and his lovely wife, Diane, left AFTAC for Ft Mead, Maryland, where by the time they are reading this edition they are probably dressed in warm sweaters, up to their ankles in crunchy leaves, and thinking about snow tires. Col Beatty was especially supportive of our association during his tour of duty. He gave willingly of his time and support for our association initiatives in many ways. He made resources available to our Heritage Committee so we could continue our work in preserving AFTAC's historical legacy. Alumni were and continue to be welcome and even recognized at the significant military and social events so essential to the life of a vibrant military organization like AFTAC. The annual Christmas Party and the spring picnic are just two. We are especially pleased and honored that we are privileged to recognize the AFTAC alumni of the year at AFTAC's annual awards banquet. Finally, the alums were especially honored with a front row section at the Change of Command ceremony. Harold and Diane were true supporters of our Alumni Association and for that we owe them a hearty thank you! We will miss them but know that its time for them to move on.

Just as we bid Godspeed and good tailwinds to the Beatty's, we look forward to meeting and working with Col and Mrs. Paul **Dettmer**. Remarks by a new Commander at his incoming change of command ceremony are the first real look the community gets at the new boss. In sizing up the

new CC, a short story comes to mind. I recalled the day I showed up at my first operational assignment in Southeast Asia - a shiny Lieutenant right out of nav school, I reported in to the grizzled, cigar smoking Major (yes, boys and girls, people actually smoked in the Air Force then) who was ancient, at least thirty five years old. After my best Air Training Command salute he looked up, a little irritated but with a puzzled look and said "My God, there's a never ending supply of you people isn't there?" I of course took that as a compliment. One of the great things about our Air Force and a tribute to its ability to develop and produce excellent leaders is that as great a Commander as we know Col Beatty was, Col Dettmer appears well up to the task of building on the work done before. As an association, we welcome the Dettmer's aboard and pledge our continued support.

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 OUR SECRETARY JUDY MILAM

- The new Constitution and By-Laws were for-

warded to the AFTAC Commander for processing through the base JAG office.

- Letters of appreciation for Alumni members who assisted with the AFTAC picnic were distributed.

- A nominating committee was appointed to locate people who would like to run for office for the coming year. [NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, FOLKS - WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW BLOOD ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD - NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.]

- We voted to approve a donation to the AFTAC command's Sensor Olympics, a program that honors enlisted members as best in their field.

- In addition to the Alumni of the Year award presented annually by AFTAC, they plan to add a category for a person who has made long-time, significant contributions to AFTAC. The Alumni Association will be providing suggested recipients. We suggested that the award be called the "Northrup" award, for Doyle Northrup who was the AFTAC Technical Director from the early 1950's until his retirement in 1973.

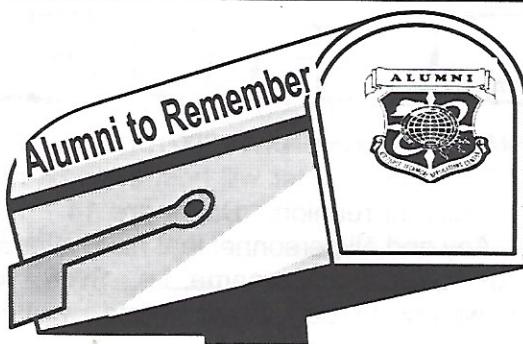
- The display cabinet donated to AFTAC by the Alumni Association has been installed. CTI is thanked for their generous gift that made this donation possible.

- Arrangements will be made to present honorary membership to Col Paul Dettmer, new AFTAC CC in accordance with our Constitution and By-Laws.



A new Florida Chapter membership directory has been mailed. Future updates will be published in the POST-MONITOR as below. If you didn't receive a copy of the new directory, let us know.

LAST	FIRST	I	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP		HOMEPH.
chg ADAMS	HARRY	N	7 HARDING WAY	PITTSBURG	PA	15215	2739	
chg brown (DECEASED)	george	b	15104 alaska rd (DECEASED)	woodbridge	va	22191	3640	7034946319
chg CARTWRIGHT	ARTHUR	D	307 W. VAN MATRE AVE, # 5000	EGLIN AFB	FL	32542	5483	
chg COFFEY	JOHN	F	PMB #205 3906 W. INA ROAD	TUCSON	AZ	85741	2295	5202416478
ADD CUSHION	CHARLES	W	12220 OXHILL RD	FAIRFAX	VA	22033		
chg DICKINSON JR	HUBERT	A	30 RAINBOW DR	LONDONBERRY	NH	03053	6118	6034250376
ADD JOHNSON	JERRY	M	533 AMHERST CIRCLE WEST	SAT. BEACH	FL	32937		3217773305
chg JONES	MRS ETHEL	H	5215 NW 35TH PLACE	GAINSVILLE	FL	32606	6900	9043769693
chg LAMB	THOMAS	E	8132 N. 18th PLACE	PHOENIX	AZ	85020	3939	
chg MACMANUS	ROBERT	A	P.O. BOX 614	CABOT	AR	72023	0614	0
chg MORRIS JR	HUBBARD	B	1311 BERWICK AVE NE	ATLANTA	GA	30306	3218	
chg NIEMELA	MARTIN	A	3737 230TH PL SE	SAMMAMISH	WA	98075	9270	2063926806
chg NEUMEISTER	JAMES	A	7108 JET RD NE	ALBUQUERQUE	NM	87113	2057	
chg NORVELL	RANDY	K	2209 S. MAJESTIC RD	FLAGSTAFF	AZ	86001		
ADD PAISLEY	DON/MARCY	L	550 CARLTON RD	TOBYHANNA	PA	18466		5706763765
chg PENN	CHARLES	I	5780 SPRINGVIEW DR #59	ROCKLIN	CA	95677		9166241067
chg SCHUSTER	CHARLES	E	110 ARROWPOINT CV	VALPARISO	FL	32580	1607	
ADD SERDYNSKI	DONALD	B	BOX 866	AVON PARK	FL	33826		8634534840
chg STEPHEN	MARK	D	3917 STOCKTON LOOP SE	ALBUQUERQUE	NM	87118		3217791685
chg WHITED	JOHN	M	2603 FAIRVIEW STREET	BELLEVUE	NE	68147	2478	4027336703



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

None Reported

Hopes of Health for...

Wherein Alumni share hopes for themselves or others...

. Arlin Massey

In Memory Of

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

Robert H. Jones, 00.7 (see item below)

George B. Brown, 00.7 (see item below)

Paul B. Miller, 00.7 (see item below)

Rose Carfora, 99.4 (see item below)

Rest in Eternal Peace

In Memoriam, Robert H. Jones

JOHN HORSCH REMEMBERS 'BOBBY JONES'

Bobby Jones was at least three very important things to me, a supervisor, a mentor, and most importantly, a friend. As a supervisor he had a way of making a point that stuck...and can you imagine, at one point he had to supervise Richard Summers (Alky) and myself at the same time and in the same place.

As a mentor, he always had the right idea for me at the right time - and as a friend, he was always there, helping us buy a car, checking how we were doing in our 'new' marriage, and even letting us babysit he and Ethel's children.

As an AFTACer, he was one of a select few that

made it what it was in the early times and passed it on to us to continue...he will be missed by many. The world was much better because of him.

In Memoriam, George B. Brown

LACY R. JONES, STEP-SON, WRITES

I want to get the word to the proper party of the passing of one of AFTAC's alumni, Lt. Col. George B. Brown, USAF (Ret.) on July 6, 2000 in Woodbridge, VA.

Col. Brown was with AFTAC back in the days of "tempo" buildings on Constitution Avenue, in Wash. DC, then a stint at McClellan and then back to Virginia, but this time into newer and fancier digs in Fairfax County. George retired in 1964 and became quite active in the civic side of Woodbridge, VA. His wife, Loraine, passed away last May and they are both now buried at the Quantico National Cemetery, VA. I'm sure some of your old timers will remember him.

In Memoriam, Paul B. Miller

MRS. EDNA MILLER, WIFE, WRITES

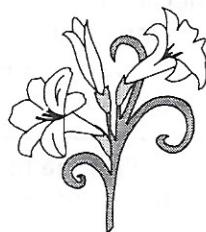
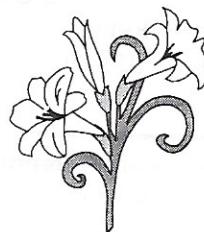
Paul B. Miller Jr (AFTAC lifetime member) age 70 of Dauphin Pa passed away on July 20th. He had a 6 year battle with COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) and a year and half with lung cancer. He retired from the Harrisburg Pa post office and was a retired Air Force Senior Master Sargeant. He was stationed with AFTAC in Alexandria, Va for many years. Paul was buried in Indiantown Gap NATIONAL CEMETERY with military honors.

In Memoriam, Rose Carfora

EDWARD CARFORA, HUSBAND, WRITES

My wife Rose passed away last year after 4 bouts of cancer dating back to 1991. She was one hell of a fighter with a strong will to live.

My e-mail address is Carforaed@aol.com and phone, 916-991-4959. Would like to hear from any of my old associates. telephone number is: 916-991-4959.



West Coast Chapter/California

SUBMITTED BY DALE KLUG, EDITOR/CHAPTER SECRETARY 005.16 AND 00.9

We had a super cruise on Clear Lake on Sat April 29th. Our group filled the second deck of the paddlewheeler and shared lots of old war stories and good camaraderie.

The FIRST annual West Coast Chapter picnic was held on June 25th in Orangevale Community Park. The weather was predicted to be 100 + degrees, but it only reached about 95. About a dozen local members showed up and a good time was had by all. Lesson learned.....(and you experienced alumni function planners have to give us rookies a break) we need to find a cooler day and location for our annual picnic and get more people to commit themselves before we schedule next year's. Next year we will be so well organized we will probably have people flying in from overseas just to have a cold beer at our picnic.

Mail-Call

John Weigelt says: Enclosed is a check for next year's dues. I wasn't even aware there was a West Coast chapter until I saw the article in the Florida newsletter. I've been a member of the Colorado chapter for several years, figuring that was the closest one to California. My experience with AFTAC was not all that extensive. A few years as an "I" person at the Australia location, and after we closed that place down I spent a year at Patrick on the "T" system. I finally realized that if promotion was to be my future, it wouldn't be as an AFTAC member. So I returned to my true love, aircraft avionics, and finished out a rewarding career, retiring in Dec 1992. Nevertheless, I occasionally run into old AFTAC's and still keep in touch with a couple of those I served with in Aussie land. John Weigelt, 1133 West Ave S-14, Palm-dale, CA 93551

Nick Pliketza says: A former neighbor of mine, George McKeel, at "Splinter City" trailer park at McClellan in the late 60's gave me your name & address. I would like to be informed of any reunion activities you may be aware of involving my old outfit, 1155 TOS. I ended my 4-year hitch at McClellan as a SSgt, working as a chemistry technician in the lab. Nick Pliketza, 5136 North Ave, Carmichael CA 95608, E-mail: PKETZA@JUNO.COM.

Follow me to the AFTAC Alumni Reunion, Registration form and information on the next landing, er, pages.

ECHOES Colorado

SUBMITTED BY BRYCE DUNN, ECHOES EDITOR

NATIONAL REUNION 2001, Denver CO

The Colorado Chapter will host the next national AFTAC Alumni reunion. Dates are 14 - 17 June 2001. Any and all personnel that have ever served with AFTAC under any name, i.e., SWS, 1009th, WFO, worldwide detachments, etc., are invited and encouraged to attend. Guests are welcome. Questions: Contact Ben Vlassick, 303-690-1239, or, "aftacco@aol.com".

The registration form has been prepared and is available at the back pages of this newsletter and on the alumni association's webpage.

Mail-Call

Memorandum for AFTAC Alumni Association of Colorado

From: Det45/CC

Subject: Appreciation, AFTAC Alumni Association

1. Please accept my thanks for the invitation to your general membership meeting on 18 March I enjoyed neeting your members and hearing tales of the AFTAC of the past. Today's AFTAC is a much smaller organization, but it is no less vital to the nation's interests. It makes me proud to be a part of the AFTAC family and to share in continuing the proud tradition begun by many of your members.

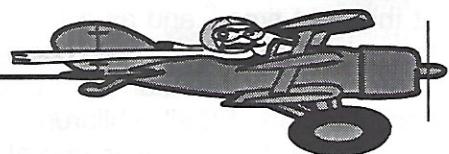
2. With today's changing roles and missions, it is important for our new AFTAC members to understand their heritage. Accordingly, I would like to offer Detachment 45's support as well as my own for your organization. Specifically, we would be proud to help with the AFTAC reunion in 2001. We will be happy to set up an open house at the Det; please let me know what else we can do.

3. Again, thanks for letting me be a part of your organization. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to call me.

Very respectfully,

Christopher S. Jarko, Capt, USAF

thank you Sir, we look forward to your open house and appreciate your support



REUNION 2001 REGISTRATION FORM

◆ AFTAC Alumni Association, Florida Chapter

17 ◆

(THIS FORM IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE AFTAC ALUMNI WEBPAGE, 'CSIHQ.COM/AFTACALUMNI')

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

(Please Print)

Name(s): Member: _____ Spouse: _____
Guests: _____
Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
Phone #: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

(Please include a head count for each activity, even when there is no associated cost).

***Registration will start Thursday, June 14, at 10 AM in the hotel lobby.**

Packets with information will be available at that time.**

1. Reunion Administrative Fee (Badges, etc.)@ \$ 5.00/person X ____ = \$ _____
2. Golf Tournament (Friday, June 15, 7:30 AM) (price includes green fees, carts & prizes). Shotgun start with a minimum of 40-people. An additional \$6.00 is required for the shotgun start. Transportation will be provided to the golf course if required. Guests are welcome # MEN = ____ # WOMEN = ____ \$ 40.00/person X ____ = \$ _____
3. Ice Breaker with Hors D'oeuvres/Cash Bar (Friday evening, June 15, 2001)@ \$ 20.00/person X ____ = \$ _____
4. Banquet Dinner and Dance/Cash Bar (Saturday evening, June 16, 2001).....TOTAL NEXT TWO LINES = \$ _____
 - a. Roasted Prime Rib with Creamy Horseradish and Au Jus.....\$ 32.50 X ____ = \$ _____
 - b. Chicken stuffed w/Rock Shrimp and Scallops w/Basil Cream Sauce...\$32.50 X ____ = \$ _____
5. Tour - Detachment 045, Buckley ANGB, (Saturday Day, June 16, 2001).....(no charge).....# people ____
Transportation will be required from the hotel: YES ____ NO ____ # people ____
6. Tour - Central City/Blackhawk (Sunday, June 17, 2001). Transportation will be provided from the hotel.
A fee is collected on the bus in exchange for tokens to be used in the casino.....# people _____
7. Brunch, Monday morning (June 18, 2001), hotel cafe (pay at the event).....# people _____
8. For the total of items 1, 2, 3, and 4 I have enclosed a check in the amount ofTOTAL \$ _____

This registration form must be received no later than **February 1, 2001**.

Mail your completed form and check to:

Bob Tomlinson, P.O. Box 471344., Aurora, CO, 80047.

Make checks payable to **Bill Schmied** and include your check with the registration form.

(Souvenir information will be announced in the next mailer)



HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

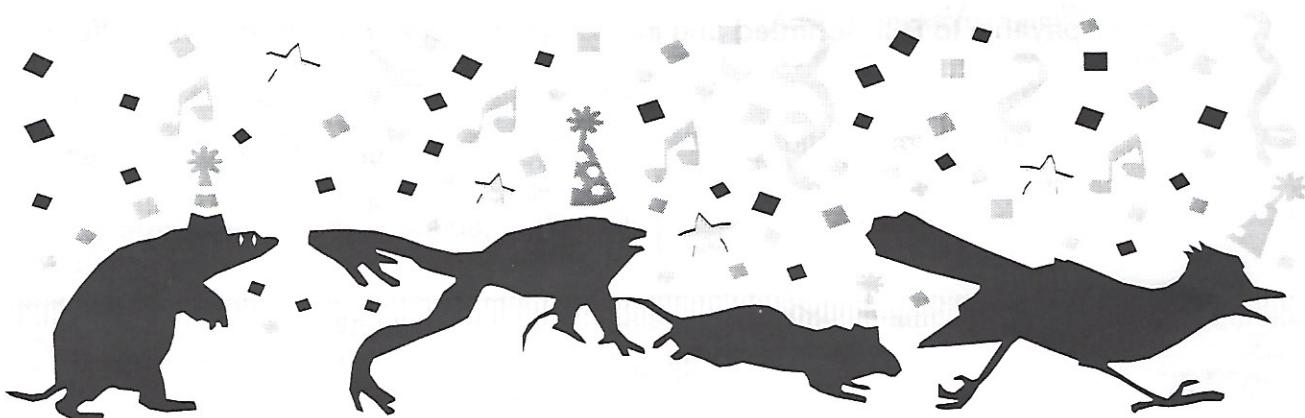
The reunion will be held at the **Doubletree Hotel**, 3203 Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80207. (The Doubletree was formerly the Red Lion where the 1996 reunion was held across street from Stapleton - old airport). A special room rate of \$ 78.35 (includes taxes) is available for the reunion. Toll free number: 1-800-222-TREE (8733) Local: 303-321-3333.

When you call the hotel for reservations, be prepared with a credit card and tell them you are participating in the AFTAC Reunion. Reservations must be made prior to May 25, 2001. Special rate may not be available after May 25. You will be given a confirmation number; record that number. Hotel reservations must be canceled 24-hours in advance if your reservation is to qualify for a refund. Contact the hotel directly if you need to cancel.

SHUTTLE: The hotel's shuttle service to and from DIA airport runs 7 days a week from 4:30 am to 12:30 am rotating every 30 minutes. At DIA, West Terminal pickup is Door 512; East Terminal pickup is at Door 505. The hotel also offers a shuttle service to Downtown Denver and the Cherry Creek Mall 7-days a week. Information is available at the Guest Service Desk. From DIA, you can call the hotel at local number 303-321-3333 (ten digits are required) for shuttle info if necessary.

Airline travelers that will be renting a car should compare fares to Colorado Springs airport. Often, a better fare is possible.

Enterprise Rent-a-Car has a booth in the hotel lobby. The only advantage in using the hotel booth at this mailing is a tax savings. A group rate cannot be negotiated at this time.



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Technical data - issue size, ~14+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. The completed issue is given to the printer, 'Indian River Printing Company' on a Zip-Disk. 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



SNAIL the Snail Sez, send us your tale(s) - inputs are due the 1st Monday in the month of publication (March, June, September & December).

ATTENTION...DUES DUE? Here's how to know...

If you wish to remain a member and continue receiving this newsletter check your address NOW!

The first line on your address label indicates when your dues are due. If it reads:

"01<Dues due in Oct" it means you have not paid your dues for FY 2001 which begins 1 Oct 00.

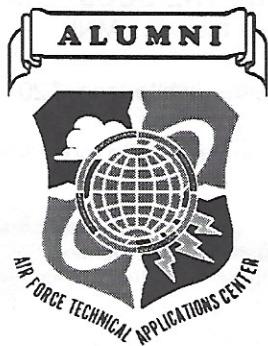
If the first two digits on line one of your address label are other than 01 it means your dues are current.

Remember that the first two digits on the first line are the fiscal year your dues are due.

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



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