

•POST-MONITOR•

Volume 4 Issue 3

The "On-Ramp" for the Alumni

Sep. 1996



Over the years
and at younger
ages ...
GS, E and O
were our gauges

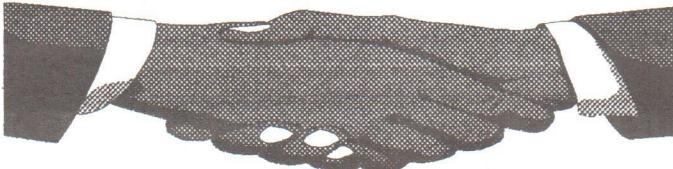
But now we've
reached the
best of stages ...
Being one of
AFTAC's
SAGES



submitted by the editors

Ben Vlassick

Ben, a long-time involved member of AFTAC, both active duty ('54 - '80) and alumni, is president of the Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association (and thus an honorary member of the Patrick group). He highly deserves the Sage Salute this quarter on several fronts. First, he is the #1 reason there is even a Colorado Association ... he started it, publishes their newsletter and in general keeps the whole thing organized and in existence. Secondly, he was the driving force behind the recent excellent Colorado Alumni Reunion. Ben had to be in one-hundred places on more than one-hundred occasions to make this fine event work ... he did that and more! He, and his staff of excellent assistants, could not have provided for finer arrangements or a finer time. Thank you Ben, it's members like you that let us continue enjoying being a part of the "best there is" (and not just the "best there was")!!

**Time again to "Ride the Range"****Alumni Sponsored Golf at Baytree,
October 18th - Everyone invited**

submitted by Frank Hall and Judy Milam (with flourishes by the editors)

The alumni, led by the famous tournament maker, **Frank Hall**, with help by the Baytree insider, **Tom Niquette**, does it again. Baytree will open its doors once more to AFTACers old and new, and everyone else that can be talked into it. The tournaments at this location have been extremely well received and rightly so - it's a first class operation put on by a first class organization. So get your name in now; we are limited to only 144 players ... particulars:

DATE: 18 October 1996**TIME: 1300 hours (1:00PM)****FEE: \$40 (includes green fees, cart, practice balls, food, drink and prizes)****FORMAT: Four person select shot (scramble); minimum team handicap, 60**

For reservations call (first come, first served):

FRANK Hall, 773-2430**Judy Milam, 494-3760/3758****Meet'ya on the Green**

Straight from
The Horsch's Mouth

"58-87"

Editorially Speaking

WOW, WHAT AN ISSUE

You are in for a real treat ... there are some tremendous articles (and some minor tweaking) in this issue. First to the minor ... we've moved the editorial to the front of the newsletter because a central purpose of an editorial, we believe, is to excite you about what you're going to read and to explain any items that require elaboration. We also moved the "Important Events/Calendar" to the front so it would be an item catching your attention before you got involved in the articles ... and this issue is a few more pages than usual; but we hope you will agree it is worth it because of the articles/information contained herein.

We start with a history of AFTAC, and does it look like a winner. It will be in subsequent issues and scheduled to complete just before the Anniversary celebration (Sep '97). These issues will be "keepers" and should set us up for one heck of a 'large reminisce' when we get together.

Other articles - discuss missing names and asks for your help - welcomes aboard the new, and bids farewell to the previous, AFTAC Commander - recognizes the efforts of one of our detachments - plus our regular features on Board Meetings, our farewell to fallen comrades, your letters and the chance to own some AFTAC Alumni memorabilia ... so dive in and enjoy yourself.

In closing, We would like to thank those who support us so much and so well here at the home front ... and you who have told us what you think of the newsletter, both praiseworthy and with ideas for improvement. Above all else, we see this as your letter and will never fail to listen and respond. We strive to meet your expectations and to make each issue as interesting and helpful as possible.

IMPORTANT DATES

Please mark your calendar before you forget

AFTAC Board/Alumni Membership Meetings

All members and prospective members are encouraged to attend. Meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month (dates listed below); other pertinent information :

WHAT TIME: 1730 (5:30 PM)

WHERE: AFTAC HQ building

HOW: meet in lobby and a Board Member will meet , greet and escort

CALENDAR

October 1996

7th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730
18th - Golf tournament at Baytree followed by General membership meeting and Election of Officers

November 1996

18th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730

December 1996

9th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730
 16th - Newsletter mailing
20th - Headquarters Christmas Social

January 1997

12th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730

February 1997

10th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730

March 1997

10th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730
 17th - Newsletter mailing

April 1997

14th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730

May 1997

12th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730

June 1997

9th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730
 16th - Newsletter mailing

and don't forget, mark your calendar NOW -

"50 Years of Long Range Detection"

AFTAC Anniversary Celebration at the HQ

15-16 September 1997

FROM THE BEGINNING

submitted by Mary Welch - This article is the first in a series that will run quarterly until the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the beginning of the Long Range Detection mission (9/15-16 '97). The information has been extracted and sanitized from historical and archive records.

Although the plan to establish a Long Range Detection mechanism was devised during the early part of March 1947, the decision to assign the responsibility to the Army Air Forces was not implemented until 16 September 1947 in a memorandum to General Carl A. Spaatz (Commanding General, Army Air Forces) from General Dwight D. Eisenhower (Chief of Staff, Army).

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C.

16 September 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES:
SUBJECT: Long Range Detection of Atomic Explosions

The Commanding General, Army Air Forces, is hereby charged with the over-all responsibility for detecting atomic explosions anywhere in the world. This responsibility is to include the collection and analysis of the required scientific data and appropriate dissemination of the resulting information.

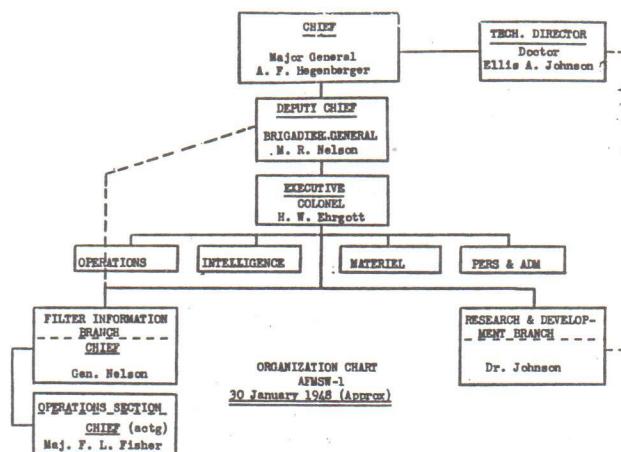
In carrying out this responsibility, the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, will utilize to the maximum existing personnel and facilities, both within and without the War Department, will establish appropriate arrangements with other interested agencies for necessary assistance and will effect and maintain liaison with all participating organizations.

/s/ Dwight D. Eisenhower

Declassified version
of original document.

Due partly (we believe) to the formalization of the Air Force as a separate service on 18 September 1947, and the separation of the Air Force duties and responsibilities from the Army, little activity occurred for several months to specifically define and acquire manpower for the Long Range Detection tasking. But, near the end of 1947, a small number of personnel had been identified for assignment to an office within the Air Force Material, Special Weapons (AFMSW) agency, and under the supervisory control of Major General W. E. Kepner.

On 14 December 1947, Major General Albert F. Hegenberger was designated head of the Long Range Detection Division, Special Weapons Group, and on 16 January 1948, the function was given the office symbol AFMSW-1. On approximately 30 January 1948, the Division alignment looked something like the following, with a few of the personnel dual-hatted:



According to some of the documentation, during this period the division was located in the North Interior Building, at 18th & F Street, NW, Washington DC. By February 1948, the Division had been moved to temporary quarters in the Pentagon, while additional office space was acquired at Gravelly Point to house the expanding Long Range Detection mission. The exact manpower strength of the Division at this time is unknown, but appears to have been about 10 personnel.

Some of our records indicate that by 1 March 1948, the Division's manpower strength had reached about 16 permanently assigned personnel -- 7 officers, 7 civilians, and 2 airmen. Our first official History covers the period 1947 - 1953, and the personnel assignments are intertwined and intermingled throughout those years, but we think the assigned personnel were as follows.

OFFICERS:

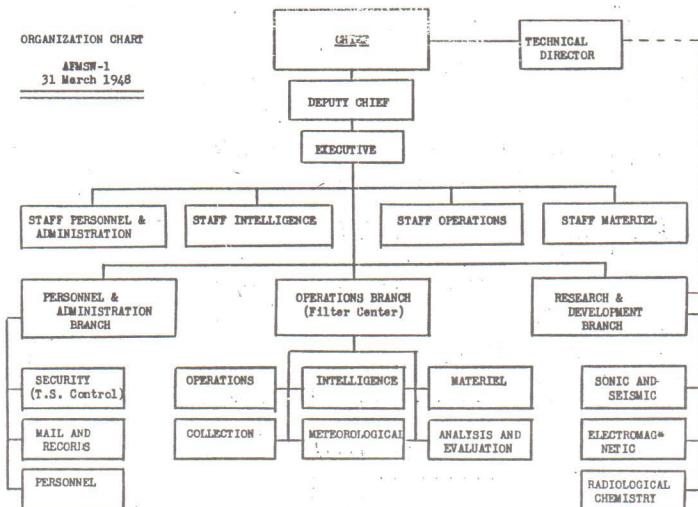
Major General Albert F. Hegenberger - Chief, AFMSW - 1
 Brig. General Morris R. Nelson-Dep Ch., AFMSW - 1; Ch,
 Fltr Info Br
 Colonel Herbert W. Ehrogott - Executive Officer
 Lt Colonel Sam P. Triffy - Operations Officer
 Lt Colonel Ray W. McDuffee - Intelligence Officer
 Major Franklin L. Fisher - Staff Operations Officer
 Lt Julius H. Schmidt - Operations Officer

CIVILIANS:

Dr. Ellis A. Johnson - Technical Director; Ch, Resch & Devel Branch
 Mr. Doyle L. Northrup - Deputy to the Technical Director
 Dr. William D. Urry - Assistant to the Technical Director
 Mr. J. Allen Crocker - Assistant to the Technical Director
 Miss Helen Steingesser - Chief Clerk
 Miss Betty Lou Head - Secretary to the Technical Director
 The 7th civilian was not identified in the historical document.

ENLISTED: There were 2 airmen assigned, but their names were not found in the historical documents.

By the end of March 1948, the authorized strength of the Division had been expanded to 131 -- 23 officers, 45 civilians, and 63 airmen. Recruiting efforts to fill these additional slots escalated, and by April 1948, 56 personnel (9 officers, 13 civilians and 34 airmen) were on board in the Division. The box structure of the organization looked like the following:



During March 1948, it was evident that AFMSW-1 was becoming too large and its functions too wide spread. Thus effective 1 April 1948, the 51st Air

Force Base Unit (AFBU) was organized. While officially known as the 51st AFBU, the organization retained the office symbol AFMSW-1. With that activation, General Hegenberger immediately organized Squadrons "A" and "B" for the administration of officers and airmen, respectively.

By the first part of June 1948, the additional office space at Gravelly Point (Building T-7) was ready for occupancy. The Division started the physical transition and moved in on 17 June. The relocation was very short-lived, however, and the Division was moved to the 7th, 8th, and 9th floors of the Selective Service Building, at 1712 "G" Street, NW, on 22 July 1948.

During the Division's short stint at Gravelly Point, the Air Force Material, Special Weapons (AFMSW) office was redesignated as the Air Force Office for Atomic Energy (AFOAT). Similarly, on 28 August 1948, AFMSW-1 and the 51st AFBU were redesignated AFOAT-1 and the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron, respectively.

By mid-July 1948, the total strength of the Long Range Detection Division had grown to 100. But, some major personnel exchanges had occurred. Dr. Ellis A. Johnson (Technical Director and Chief of the Research and Development Branch) resigned, effective 4 August 1948. Dr. George H. Shortly was appointed as the Acting Chief, but left the organization soon after his appointment.

July and August 1948 were busy months for other personnel changes, too. Lt Colonel Sam P. Triffy (Operations Officer) was temporarily replaced by Major Franklin L. Fisher; Major Robert A. Whitmore (Chief of the Personnel & Administrative Branches) was replaced by WAC Major Gwendolyn J. Watson (we think she was the organization's first female officer); and Captain Reuben R. Belongia (Chief of the Meteorological Section) was replaced by Lt William J. Malloy.

By the end of August 1948, some of the key position alignments were as follows:

- Colonel Stanley R. Stewart (Executive Officer and Special Assistant to the Chief)
- Dr. Oliver H. Gish (Consultant)
- Major General Morris R. Nelson (Deputy Chief, AFOAT-1 and Chief of the Operations Division)

- Lt Colonel William R. Fitzgerald (Chief of the Admin & Services Division)
- Dr. George H. Shortly (Technical Director and Chief of the Science Division [previously known as the Research and Development Branch])
- Mr. Doyle L. Northrup (Assistant Chief of the Science Division and Chief of the Acoustic Branch)
- Dr. J. Allen Crocker (Chief of the Seismic Branch)
- Dr. William D. Urry (Chief of the Nuclear Branch)
- Dr. Donald H. Rock (Chief of the Technical Analysis Branch)
- Mr. Arthur Schneider (Fiscal Liaison Officer)
- Lt Colonel Ray W. McDuffee (Chief of the Intelligence Branch)
- Lt Colonel William H. Worley (Chief of the Operations Branch)
- Major John A. Mathews (Chief of the Material Branch)

In late September 1948, Mr. Doyle L. Northrup was appointed Acting Technical Director and Chief of the Science Division. Mr. Northrup permanently assumed these positions shortly thereafter.

By October 1948, the authorized strength of the organization was 171. Although some positions remained vacant, by the first of November 1948, the assigned strength was 118. During November, Dr. George R. Wait replaced Dr. Gish as Consultant; Mr. George B. Olmsted was assigned as Chief of the Acoustic Branch; Mr. James T. Gaghan was hired as Chief of the Security Branch; and Mr. John Lewkovich came on board as the Assistant to the Fiscal Liaison Officer.

With the majority of the scientific and technical expertise in place, the Long Range Detection Division was ready to tackle the original taskings assigned more than a year before.

(Part 2 will be published in the next Newsletter)

HISTORY BUFFS - HELP!

submitted by Mary Welch and CMSgt John R. Burton (Historian)

Attention all you history buffs!!! We need your help. During our preparation/compilation of information for our 50th Anniversary book publication, we have noticed an absence of pertinent data in the area of past Vice Commanders.

The following listing was compiled by the AFTAC Historian from historical records and G-Series orders, but as you will note, a few question marks appear. We've been unable to confirm the accuracy of the information. Additionally, during a couple of periods it appears the position was vacant.

PAST LONG RANGE DETECTION VICE COMMANDERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Deputy Chief, AFOAT-1/Deputy Commander 1009th Special Weapons Squadron	
Brig Gen Morris R. Nelson	1947-Aug 1949
	? Sep 1949-July 1951
Col William B. Reed	2 Aug 1951-7 Aug 1952*
Col Blaine B. Campbell	8 Aug-July/Aug 1953*
Col Jack A. Gibbs	Jul/Aug 1953-6 Mar 1956
Col Elliott H. Reed	7 Mar-31 Oct 1956
Col Lester L. Woodward	1 Nov 1956-6 July 1959

AIR FORCE TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS CENTER VICE COMMANDERS

Col Lester L. Woodward	7 Jul 1959- 1961
Col Frank J. Griffith	1961-10 Sep 1962
Brig Gen William G. Lee, Jr.	10 Sep 1962-27 May 1963
Col Frank J. Griffith	27 May 1963-31 Mar 1966
Col James R. Dowless	1 Apr 1966-30 June 1967
Col Harry O. Patteson	1 Jul 1967-7 Jan 1969
Col William L. Walker	8 Jan 1969- Jul 1974
VACANT??	Jul 1974- Mar 1975?
Col Raymond F. Koestner	Apr 1975-26 Aug 1976?
Col Robert A. Meisenheimer	27 Aug 1976-1 Jun 1978
VACANT?	1 Jun 1978-31 Dec 1978?
Col Francis C. Cobb	1 Jan 1979-8 Sep 1980
Col William B. Meharg	8 Sep 1980-30 Sep 1981
Col Thomas W. Ciambrone	30 Sep 1981-28 May 1987
Col Jay D. Sherman	29 May 1987-21 Mar 1991
Col Richard A. Krebs	22 Mar 1991-30 Oct 1992
Col Kenneth L. Stanford	31 Oct 1992-8 Jun 1995
Col Eric Y. Larson	17 Jul 1995-PRESENT

* From 9 May-22 Aug 1952 position title was Deputy Commanding General, 1009th Special Weapons Squadron/Deputy Chief, AFOAT-1

If any of you can confirm or fill in the blanks at

the questioned areas, or provide names of the Vice Commander during the VACANT periods, it would be a great help to us. Send to:

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

PHOTOS NEEDED FOR ALUMNI WITH 20 YEARS WITH AFTAC

editors: this is a revised repeat of an article from the last newsletter; there have been questions about picture size and location designation that are clarified in this revision ... original co-submission, Judy Milam/Mary Welch AFTAC's Commander, Col Glen D. Shaffer (BG Selectee), recently initiated a project to collect individual photos of personnel who served 20 years or more in the Long Range Detection 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 photos will be framed and hung within the AFTAC headquarters, as space allows, and will include a brief summary of when and where the individual served (mission areas, HQs directorate, detachment or squadron).

We need your help to make this happen. If you worked in the Long Range Detection mission for 20 or more years, we need:

- your picture, color or black and white, of any size (pictures will be resized at the headquarters, as necessary)

- summary of when and where you worked, preferably using numbers, and acronyms. Examples -

June 1958-June 1962, Det. 459/B Analyst and B20-5 Maintenance Technician

June 1962-June 1963, Det. 301/B Chief Analyst, then Chief Operator, B Systems

June 1968-June 1971, HQ/DOSB (Alex. Va.), B Operations Technician

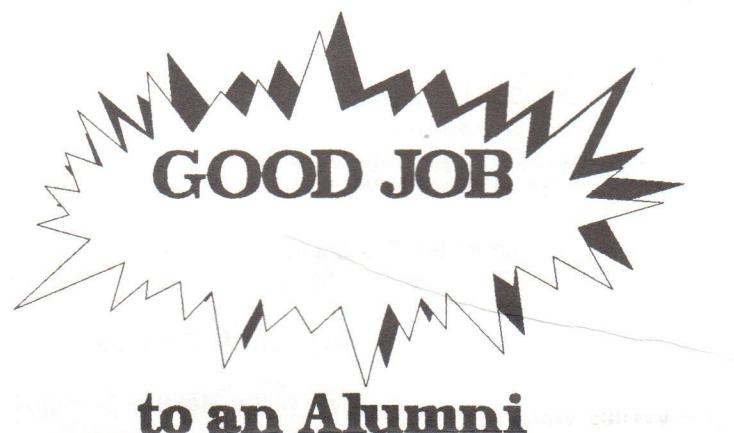
June 1971-June 1972, HQ/DOSQ (PAFB, FL), Q Chief Operator

NOTE: these are examples only and what you send will be formatted in a standardized manner, what is important is to get the picture

and information completed and mailed to:

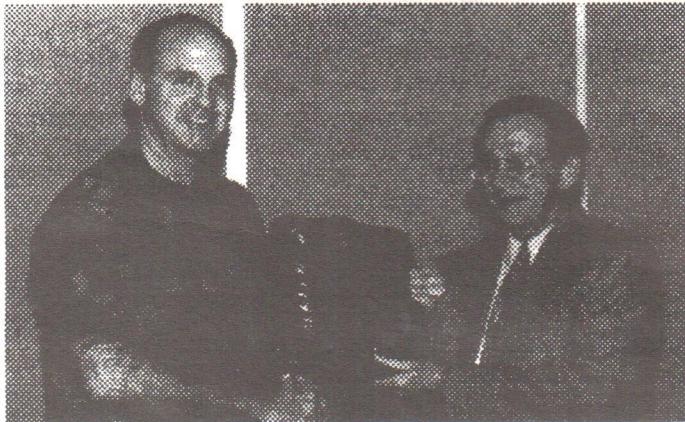
AFTAC Alumni Association
PO Box 254892
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892

To allow preparation of the display prior to the 50th Anniversary of Long Range Detection (September 1997), request that inputs be submitted ASAP. Questions about this project may be addressed to Judy Milam, 407-494-3760, E-Mail, judym@aftac.gov.



ALUMNI OF THE YEAR - '95

submitted by the editors, picture taken at May '96 board meeting



As reported previously, **Clark Creery** was our first Alumni of the Year recipient. This photo shows Clark receiving the award from the AFTAC Commander Col (BG Select) Shaffer.

and to the Active-Duty

See following Detachment 415 story ...

AF Chief of Staff visits Det. 415

submitted by Mary Welch, (from the March/April/May issue of our namesake, the AFTAC Monitor)



L-R:SSgt. Curtis Chaiyes, MSgt Bill Monahan, Gen. Ronald Fogelman, MSgt Dennis Kauffmann and SSgt Edward Lindsay give a thumbs up during Fogelman's recent visit to Det 415.

Air Force Chief of Staff, General Ronald R. Fogelman, recently paid a visit to the Kingdom of Thailand.

While visiting a Royal Thai AFB in Chiang Mai he took time to visit AFTAC's Det. 415 and the Royal Thai Navy Seismic Research Station on Doi Suthep mountain.

Fogelman was in Thailand as a guest of Thailand's Defense Attaché, Group Captain Veerayuth Didyasarin, who is assigned to the Thai Embassy in Washington D.C. and is also the royal consort of Her Royal Highness, Princess Chulaphorn. "The RTN displayed an event of interest, on the Joint Analysis Workstations, which was said to be the last French Test and a large Chinese earthquake which had just happened three days prior," Master Sgt. Dennis Kauffman, the Detachment commander said. "There were also some very high ranking members of the Royal Thai and U.S. Air Forces escorting the general. The RTN and Det 415 were ready to shine."

The general was shown the seismic signals and Staff Sgt. Ed Lindsay described how to discern manmade from natural events.

Lindsey displayed a map showing a layout of the long period and short period arrays and explained how technicians can determine direction and distance. He also demonstrated how data is sent to the headquarters to be used for real-time analysis.

"The general asked some very good questions about the Chinese earthquake and aftershocks that he read were still occurring," Kauffmann said.

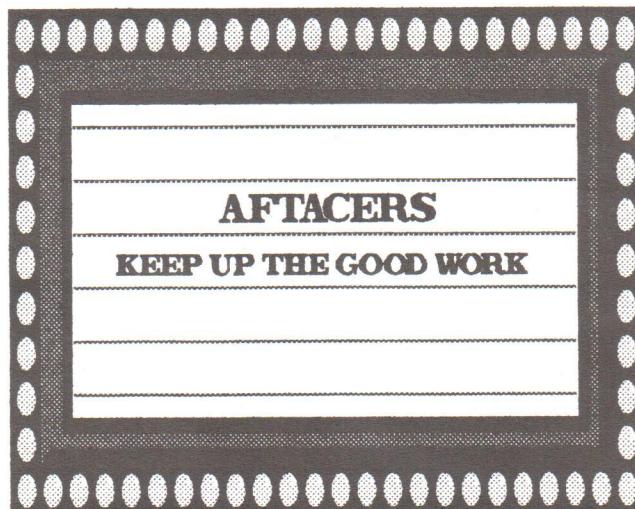
After the Ops Room, the group was taken on a tour of the facilities.

The general gave a bonus to the newest det. member, Staff Sgt. Curtis Chaiyes, by presenting him an Achievement Medal from his previous assignment.

The general said he was happy he had the opportunity to present the medal since, as chief of staff, he doesn't get to participate in these occasions often.

After the presentation the general presented each det.member with a Chief of Staff of the Air Force coin.

Chaiyes, a Thai-American, gave the det.'s regards in Thai to Group Captain Veerayuth Didyasarin.



Colorado Reunion

June 14-16, 1996

submitted by the editors, with assist from Ben Vlassick

What a time it was ... all those AFTAC Alumni from previous years, and yes, even eras, coming together for a time of fun and reminiscing. Ben Vlassick, and the Denver Chapter, did a great job of finding the perfect spot for the get-together, and organizing places to go and see. There were two "socials," one informal and one a tad bit more so ... and we can't forget the hospitality suite - there the action never stopped (nor did the stories).

It was outstanding to see some people we had not seen for years - to greet "legends of AFTAC" we'd heard of, but never had a chance to meet - and to run into our local chapter members we never have time to talk to (unless we're out of town like we were on this occasion).

It was great to hear the AFTAC Commander, Col Glen Shaffer, and Superintendent, CMSgt Larry Silhanek, address the group - reminding them of their importance to AFTAC as examples and mentors, and as those who had "led the way" and "set the standards" ...and to hear of the technology that is everchanging the face of AFTAC - and it was sad to say goodbye, even for a little while, or until the next reunion - which we can hardly wait for. See ya' in September '97 at the AFTAC Headquarters for the BIG Anniversary Celebration.

Several folks requested the names of attendees be included in this newsletter as a matter of interest, and so those who didn't come could see who they'd missed - those names follow:

Herb & Verny Pabst

Roy & Thereas Argenbright

Lew Horne

Gene & Barbara Shipps

Bill & Marge Braukman

Frank & Enola Desmond

Albert & Margaret Doughty

Ernest & Betty Freeman

Arizona

Willis & Midge Johnson

California

Joe & Gayle Johnson

Ernest & Angela Medley

George Thompson

Colorado

Milo & Garnet Colton

Bryce & Sue Dunn

Glen & Joncee Feakes

Bobbie Futrell

Robert & Jackie Gagne
Wayne & Holly Garrett
Leonard & Donna Greene
Wilbur & Lois McAllister
Ed & Ima Jean McKenna
Tom & Monique Miller
Lindsay and Mary Miller
Dick & Gayla Platt
William & Delores Osteen
Earl & Marianne Pierce
George & Violet Plunkard
Jim & Betty Shoemaker
Bob & Claudia Sladek
Charles & Jerri Toner

Carl & Mayme Gailey
Curtis & Unice Harris
Robert & Ethel Jones
CMSgt Larry Silhanek
Mary Welch

Ed Gardiner
Lonnie & Ginny Gibbons
Gerald & Mattie Lachner
Linda Lemois
John Macaluso
Norm Metcalf
Mike & Shirley Minamoto
Tom & Barbara Ware
Bill & Zola Proctor
Peter Romanchuk
Richard Rudolph
Bill & Sue Schmied
Jack & Helen Smith
Ben & Ginger Vlassick

Florida

John & Jean Hamlett
John & Chris Horsch
Col Glen Shaffer
Geno & Sandra Wagner

Georgia

Pete & Betty Snipes
Iowa

Ken & Deanna McCormick

Louisiana

Bill & Michi Hart

Michigan

Frank & Monai Winter

Minnesota

Floyd & Caroline Sutton

Mississippi

Ted & Joyce Sykes

Missouri

Dee & Lois Griffin

Don & Verna Mosley

Nebraska

Edward Waldow

New Mexico

Cleantis Bailey

New York

Warren & Beth Stern

North Carolina

Oliver & Frankie Powell

Oklahoma

Richard & Sharon Black

Oregon

Jack & Georgia Magness

Pennsylvania

Leon (Ski) Nargoski

Texas

William & Jean Brownlow

Jack & Wanda Kimball

Jim Pritchard

Utah

Pete & Sherrie Ellsworth

Virginia

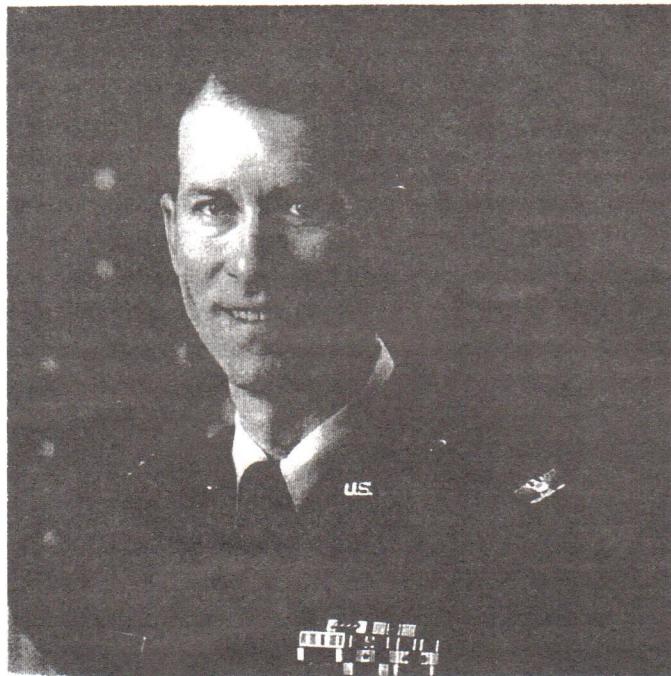
Charles & Lorraine Cook

Washington

Russ Lillevold



AN ALUMNI WELCOME TO THE NEW COMMANDER



from the official biography

Col. John T. Wigington III is the incoming Air Force Technical Applications Center commander. He was previously the Joint Intelligence Center Pacific commander. Col. Wigington was born Aug. 13, 1951 in Gainesville, Ga., and he graduated from Gainesville High School in 1969. He earned a bachelor of science degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Co., in 1973 and a master of arts degree in international relations from the University of Pittsburgh through the Air Force Institute of Technology program in 1974.

Col. Wigington was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Force upon graduation from the Air Force Academy. After completing his master's degree, he attended the Signals Intelligence Officer Course at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, graduating in January 1975.

He was then assigned to the 6917th Security Squadron, San Vito dei Normanni Air Station, Italy, as a flight commander. Colonel Wigington transferred to Torrejon Air Base, Spain, in July 1976, where he served as special security officer for the 16th Air Force.

In September 1979, Colonel Wigington was assigned as an Air Staff Training officer in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence,

Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. He was transferred to Bergstrom Air Force, Base, Texas, in July 1980, where he served as aide to the commander of the 12th Air Force. In July 1982, Colonel Wigington was assigned as Operations Officer of the 6906th Electronic Security Squadron, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

He attended Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Va., from January to June 1984 and was subsequently assigned as operations officer at Marienfelde for the 6912th Electronic Security Group, West Berlin. In August 1987, Colonel Wigington became commander of the 6922nd Electronic Security Squadron, Clark Air Force Base, Philippines. In August 1989, he assumed duties as command executive officer, Headquarters Electronic Security Command, Kelly Air Force Base, Texas. He attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. from August 1991 to June 1992. From July 1992 to February 1993, Colonel Wigington headed the Counterdrug and Collection Management Policy Division, Intelligence Directorate of Headquarters, USCINCPAC. He commanded the Joint Intelligence Center Pacific from February from 1994 to July 1996.

Colonel Wigington's military awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster and the Air Force Organization Excellence Award.

Colonel Wigington was promoted to his current rank on Dec. 1, 1992. He is married to the former Susan E. Ebersole of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

An Alumni Farewell To The Departing Commander

submitted by the editors, BG Shaffer has been assigned to the National Security Agency (NSA), Fort Meade, Md

Brigadier General Shaffer, first, congratulations on your promotion, secondly, thank you for the support and recognition you gave us and the several new programs you introduced that directly affect the alumni (the 20-year photo gallery, the alumni of the year, etc.) ... thirdly, we wish you the very best as you move forward in your military career.

Niquette's

Notes

PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATIONS

Yes, Harry, it was me that asked Mary Welch to send you those Monitors! (And for any of you that would like a specific issue of the Monitor, just write to Mary at our address).

Next question Harry. What happened to the 99125, 99104, 99105 and 99106 program? Well the answer is that they are all 9S100 or 9S200. Does that answer your question? No? So, if I can find it, we will put the historical trail on how this happened, in the next newsletter.

Friday, the 30th of August, AFTAC held the formal change of command ceremonies at the old U-2 hangar and ramp, behind the HQ building. The ceremonies consisted of the awarding of the Legion of Merit to the outgoing commander, Col Glen D. Shaffer followed by the change of command, with Col John T. Wigington III being the new commander, followed by the promotion to Brigadier General of Glen D. Shaffer. The outgoing and incoming commanders reviewed the formation of about 200 troops. I want to tell you all that I have viewed and participated in about twenty of these functions and this was one of the best. Everything went off on time and without a hitch. Those of you retired folks could feel really proud of the present active duty AFTACER!

There was a good turnout from our friends outside of AFTAC as well as AFTAC Alumni. Even Major General O'Lear (Ret), former AFTAC commander, attended. All in all it made me feel very good to be there.

You may think it is strange that I started this column off by answering a question of a guy named Harry. Well, he is the only one who wrote and asked me anything. I am still waiting to hear from you all about what you think of our 50th birthday reunion in Sept 97! So, ask questions or make statements, but please let me hear from you!



THE BOARD MEETS

Alumni Board Members: President-Tom Niquette
 Vice-Fred Van Dyke Secretary-Judy Milam
 Treasurer-Carl Gailey Membership-Mary Welch
 Activities-vacant Publicity-Swede Swansen

submitted by Judy Milam

A FEW MINUTES FROM THE MINUTES

JUNE MEETING: There was discussion about our October 1996 golf tournament and general membership meeting; 2 locations are being considered for 18 October. A new membership campaign will begin in August to contact people who have not previously been contacted for membership. Five books of pictures were compiled and will be taken to the Denver reunion, along with Fact Sheets about AFTAC. The death of lifetime member William Thomas was reported. A report was made on the recent Standdown Brevard benefit for homeless veterans of Brevard County, FL. The event was a big success. AFTAC's Vice Commander (and Alumni member) Eric Larson talked about the 50th Anniversary function which is planned for September 1997. AFTAC is counting on help from the Alumni Association and expects the Alumni to be an integral part of the activities. The FL Chapter of the AF Association will recognize Dr Frank Pilote in a ceremony in Daytona Beach.

JULY MEETING: Funds and the need to ensure money is available to sustain service to lifetime members was discussed. The golf tournament will be held on 18 October at Baytree National Golf Links. A nominating committee was formed to come up with a slate of officers for next year. Title for the person who publishes the newsletter was discussed. A committee was established to work on the 50th Anniversary.

AUGUST MEETING: The October 18 golf tournament to be held at Baytree will cost \$40. Minimum team handicap is 60. The annual general membership meeting & election of officers will be held immediately after the tournament & presentation of prizes. The nominating committee could identify no new people to run for office for the coming year. All current officers have agreed to run again; nominations will be taken at the meeting. The term "Newsletter Editor" was approved for the person(s) in charge of newsletter publishing. Membership now stands at 634 (FL chapter) with 304 paid lifetime members. George Mirda addressed the group and gave a run-down on AFTAC's TOP-3 TRUST activities. Alumni members are invited and encouraged to attend picnics, wind-downs, golf tournaments, etc. Members discussed a letter about release of information in the newsletter and established that everything published in the newsletter has been reviewed for releasability and is not sensitive information.

Membership Report

submitted by Mary Welch, Chair, Membership

Our current Florida Chapter membership is 639. This number includes 307 paid Lifetime and 14 Complimentary Lifetime member.

Thanks to contributions from several members, we've been able to contact over 200 past AFTAC'ers this quarter:

John Poe mailed us two organizational publications from the 1960's. The HQ Telephone Directory of August '60 proved most valuable in assembling personnel names not previously known. The 1158th Tech Ops Sq Commander's Conference pamphlet was very informative also. AFTAC Key Personnel from around the world attended the Conference and were listed in the pamphlet. We were able to align personnel with field units for this specific time period.

Harold Martin provided us with his personal records file that contained a variety of documents, orders, etc., covering his entire 26-year AFTAC career ('60-'86). His file included a number of special certificates and awards for his participation in special AFTAC activities and programs.

Bob Jones sent us a number of Special Orders covering '52-73. Personnel listings from the early years have been the most difficult to locate, so the orders provided by Chief Jones were especially informative and helpful.

Jack Jackson has called with a couple of names and addresses of former AFTAC'ers in our local area that he had run into.

Frank Hall, Tom Niquette, and Judy Milam have all recruited new members this quarter.

A number of former AFTAC'ers contacted us during the Colorado reunion and passed on names and addresses - and **Carl Gailey** took a copy of our Worldwide Directory out to the Reunion and collected many address changes, status updates, and additional names.

I am forwarding information/application packages to all these newly found personnel. Hopefully many will contact either the Florida or Colorado Chapter for membership. Our goal is to find as many former AFTAC'ers as possible before the 50th Anniversary celebration.

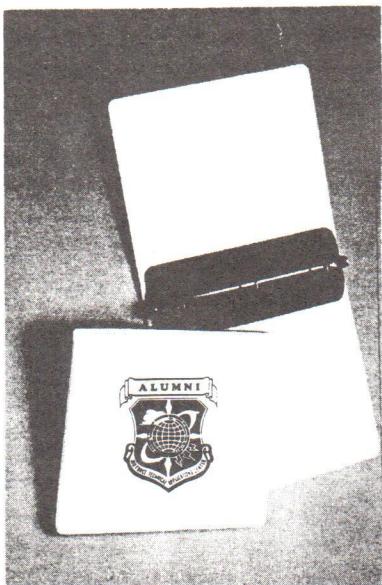
A sincere THANK YOU to all who continue to help us locate our former compatriots.

WORLDWIDE DIRECTORY UPDATE

FOR DIRECTORY SUBSCRIBERS: Mailings of Changes 4, 5 and 6 started the end of August. If you don't receive your copy of these changes by the end of September, please drop us a note.

GENERAL INFORMATION: The Worldwide Directory is an indexed compilation of personnel

names and/or addresses, formerly or currently assigned to the AFMSW-1; 1009th SWS; AFOAT-1; 1035th FAG; and AFTAC.



The Directory is printed on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper (front and back) and comes in a white vinyl 3-ring binder. It contains more than 6200 names and/or addresses, and continues to expand as we locate more former AFTAC employees. A color print of the AFTAC Alumni Logo is inserted in the clear, front panel of the binder. The back panel will contain your choice of a color photo of one of the following:

-- AERIAL SHOT OF THE HQ BUILDING AT 6801 TELEGRAPH ROAD, ALEXANDRIA, VA.

-- FRONT ENTRY SHOT OF THE HQ BUILDING AT 6801 TELEGRAPH ROAD, WITH THE TULIPS IN BLOOM.

-- AERIAL SHOT OF THE HQ BUILDING AT 1030 S. HIGHWAY A1A, PATRICK AFB, FL

-- AERIAL SHOT OF THE RUSSELL BUILDING AT McCLELLAN AFB, CA. (The building currently houses the majority of the Technical Operations Division - formerly known as the 1155th TCHOG or 1155th TOS.)

The Directory subscription cost is \$25.00, and updates are free. If you would like to subscribe, write our P.O. Box listed elsewhere in this publication. Computer Disk copies of this Directory ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE.

IN MEMORY OF

TSgt (Ret) Eli A. Trott, 10/95

TSgt Stephen B. Shaw, 7/96

William Thomas

May They
Rest in Eternal Peace!

LETTERS

Letters requiring any type of action should be sent to AFTAC Alumni Asc., PO Box 254892-Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892

Items of general interest, requesting no action, may be e-mailed to the editors, chrisjohn@juno.com

editors note: This letter was received in response to an alumni note; proof-reading and content review delayed publication until this time.

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL

Your note said you were looking for the Robert D. Huffman assigned to 1009th SWS in 1956. You have found him. I did not know that there was an AFTAC alumni organization so was pleasantly surprised.

As a 1st Lt I was selected from the Atomic Weaponeer School at Keesler then trained at Wright Patterson to be a Detachment Commander of one of the original Project B-20 Teams. My team was stationed at Albrook Air Base, Panama Canal Zone starting operations in June 1950; eventually the B-20 system grew to 22 teams worldwide.

In August 1952 I was transferred to Headquarters in Building "tempo T" at the Southeast corner of 14th and Constitution Streets. My job there was to be the Project B-20 Manager within the Operations Division. There were similar managers for the other systems within the Operations Division and we had our counterparts in other divisions. At the time I was assigned there Major Paul Skartvedt was brought in from the team in Alaska to be the Project B-20 Manager in the Logistics Division. Later I also was made the Ops Division Manager for the Balloon Program.

My 4 year tour in Washington (4 yr limit then) ended in August 1956 and I moved on to Purdue for a Graduate Degree. I was then a Captain. I have always considered my duty with Project B-20 and the 1009th as the most important of my Air Force career. It was a thrill

to me to have such an important job as a low ranking officer and where I had the feeling that I was having a direct input into the defense of our country.

After Purdue I was involved in the F-105 Project Office and then research and development then back to the cockpit in the C-130 as a pilot in Vietnam and as the 315th Air Division Detachment Commander concerned with the C-130 transportation out of Clark AFB in the Philippines ending my career with another tour in the Systems Command at Andrews dealing with special weapons for use in Vietnam.

Put me on your mailing list; tell me how to get the world directory. Thank you for looking for me.

Sincerely,

Bob Huffman

LLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL

SAN DIEGO, CA

Dear John,

Possible feature for the Post-Monitor:

Remember back in July/August 1971 there was this huge mystery among the central Florida folks as to who was this AFTAC organization moving on to Patrick AFB. The Melbourne newspaper printed a classic story that "we" had something to do with flying saucers. It was really amusing how far off they were. I saved that article but it's lost somewhere in my stuff. If that newspaper is still around and you can locate the article it would make interesting reading in the PM, especially since the AFTAC mission is unclassified now.

Harry Masters

(editors note: Harry, great idea; our crack research staff of Judy Milam and Mary Welch immediately went into action and their findings follow: *There were many articles published about AFTAC when we moved here and are in the scrapbooks in the lobby (the Hall of Heritage). We looked, and sure enough, the article in question is there. It was published in the 27 January 1972 issue of SURFSIDE SLANT--THE ISLANDER (probably one of those neighborhood papers that they published throughout the area in the 1970s and 1980s). To quote*

the SURFSIDE SLANT article:

"The Air Force--with tongue in cheek--is guided by stringent guidelines when referring to AFTAC. Its proscribed mission is 'exploration, measurement, tabulation of effects of national phenomena on the physical structure of the earth and its atmosphere and in the possible application of such events.'

"Asked if this meant investigating flying saucers, an Air Force spokesman was aghast at such a frivolous suggestion. He declined, however, to further clarify the mission." Thanks for reminding us Harry, giving everyone a chance to "remember" the early Patrick days.

LLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Sirs,

I was with AFTAC in the middle 60's stationed at what was Det 207 at Eielson AFB, and I am interested in joining your group. I would like some information however ... nothing in particular, just who you are and what you do, that type of thing. I would be particularly interested to know if there are any in the association from that same era and possibly any who were stationed at Eielson in about '67-'68.

J.S. Armbruster

(editors note: application package mailed 16 July '96)

LLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL

DALTON, PA

Dear Friends,

Enclosed is my check for a lifetime membership in the AFTAC Alumni Association and a copy of the World-Wide Directory with a photo of the front entrance of the HQ's on Telegraph Rd. Use the remainder to help defray mailing costs.

I have really enjoyed the newsletter and wish to congratulate the past and present staff for a job well done. I was an AFTACer (B System) from 1955 to 1973. Each copy I receive brings back fond memories,

Sincerely,

Don Flagg

(editors note: thanks for the kind words, Don)

MELBOURNE, FL

Dear Staff,

As Materials Manager at Advanced Quick Circuits in Melbourne, one of my areas is Purchasing. We employ 550 people at four facilities, have world-wide customers, and have a large vendor base. Last fall a Tampa rep stopped by my office to introduce a business associate from Pratta Materials in New Hampshire. I was introduced to S.B. Miller and as he gave an overview of his company, I interrupted and asked where he was in 1967. He said he was in the Air Force and thought he was stationed in the Midwest. I stated he must be mistaken because he ('Skip') was stationed on Attu Island with me for six months. We had not seen or heard from each other for 29 years since he departed AFTAC after that tour. He did remember me since we only had six airmen on site (with 30 coasties). --small world department ---

Brent Braud

(editors note: great story Brent ... life is amazing)

LL

MELBOURNE, FL

Sorry it's taken so long to send anything to the newsletter and association besides my annual dues. One of the proudest parts of my USAF career was that I was able to spend it all as an AFTACer. The variety of overseas assignments and the "family" atmosphere of the organization were the best. It's a shame progress and technology took overseas assignments away from the operations-types like me. I'm glad I was a part of AFTAC during the wide-open, multi-system years.

Paul Stack

P.S. Please come up with any name for the newsletter other than Post-Monitor. It makes it sound like we're all in the intensive-care ward somewhere! "The Artery of the Alumni"?

Please bury it!

editors note: Paul, thank you for reading the newsletter so closely and for taking the time to express your

opinion. We too were AFTAC lifers ('58-'87) and totally agree with your praise of "our" organization. Along those lines, here are our thoughts on the terms "Post" and "Artery" in our newsletter: Post -

- represents a bridge between the publications of the active-duty AFTACERS and the Florida Alumni Chapter [noted in the editorial of the previous newsletter]

- applies the dictionary definition of "post" as "after" or "behind", i.e., "after" the role of the "Monitor" in our "active-duty" time, so does the "PM" now serve us in our retired status; and though retired, want a link with the organization and its people, both retired and active-duty. Additionally, we see "post" in the sense of it being mail (i.e., postal) - as to "artery," we are using it here in its meaning of "a main channel or highway," which is a role we see for the PM in keeping members "connected" - we also never visualized this as an unchangeable statement, rather we had hoped we would receive suggestions from the readership to consider for future issues (please note, again one of our ideas, the statement for this month).

LL

SILVER SPRINGS, FL

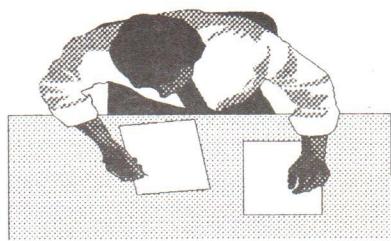
Dear AFTAC Alumni Staff,

Howdy from Silver Springs. I am forwarding you my change of address.

In November of last year I started working for Ferrellgas. Ferrellgas is the second largest Liquid Propane Gas Company in the United States. My position with Ferrellgas is Florida Area Operations Manager. We have 17 districts in Florida and I am responsible for the safe and sound operations of the 17 locations.

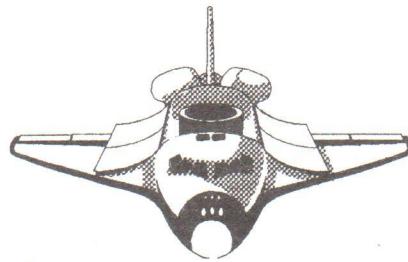
I would like to tip my hat to the Alumni Staff, Past and Present, for doing a stellar job. We Alumni have been kept informed and entertained due to your tireless efforts. Sharon and I were fortunate to have a table at the Winter Social with the Gailey's, Horsch's, Huffaker's and Eddleman's. Although our table was in the broom closet, it was great being with old friends (even though some were 99s-just kidding). The Spring Picnic was another opportunity to be with some of the Air Forces' elite, the AFTAC Alumni and Active Duty. Again, thanks for a job well done.

Hope to see all of you soon. Keep up the good work and I know you will be stepping out



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Merry Meandering



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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



October! Dues Due: FY: [LT]K----
JOHN T HORSCH
515 TEMPLE STREET
SATELLITE BEACH FL 32937-

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