

# ◆ POST - MONITOR ◆

VOL 25-ISSUE 02

WEBSITE: [HTTP://AFTACAA.US](http://AFTACAA.US)

2017.08



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

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

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

Recognized for 70 years  
of service to our country  
16 September 2012  
**1947 – 2017**

A 70TH COIN WAS NOT MINTED



## \* ALUMNI OF THE YEAR \*

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PROUDLY PRESENTS



Salute To John Kemna  
2017 Alumni of Year



John "Butch" Kemna was named "AFTAC's 2017 Alumni of the Year" at the AFTAC worldwide reunion banquet held 17 June 2017 at McClellan Park, Ca. Joe Johnson, West Coast Alumni Chapter Vice President is shown presenting Butch with the traditional AOV polo shirt.

I spent 20 years in the Air Force, May 60 – May 80, was assigned to AFTAC the whole time. I was asked at Lackland to volunteer for a Special Weapons Career Field, which turned out to be Q-System [99125] in AFTAC. One year later I found out what the job was. I spent time at McClellan and an assignment overseas in Q-System. When I came back to McClellan I cross trained into A-System. I spent 17 unbelievable years, amassing over 7,500 hours of flight time supporting airborne sampling program all over the world. The friends I made, the places I went and the things we did I would not give up for anything.

AFTAC Alumni Assoc XX Sociable September  
Annual General Membership Mtg & Elections

2017 AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)  
Annual Fall Golf-n-'Get-Together---XXXI

20 January 2018  
Annual Snowball Dinner

[See details on Page 3](#)

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\* ACTIVE-DUTY ALERTS \*  
IN TRUE ALERT TRADITION, WE ASK ACTIVE-DUTY AND SAGES TO 'REPORT IN'

## ACTIVE DUTY SCHEDULE, SAGES WELCOMED

◆ See 'Active-Duty' section for more information.  
Sage Contact for tickets, and questions, Carol  
Snyder at [carol.snyder@us.af.mil](mailto:carol.snyder@us.af.mil) see calendar information below.

**AFTAC Wing Dining Out**  
**(70th Birthday of the USAF and 70th Anniversary of AFTAC)**

**AFTAC Winter Social**  
[See more details on Pages 3 and 30](#)

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NOTE: Alert updates are posted at our website: URL above, has a listing of alumni/active-duty events. You can also 'Auto-Receive' 'eALLerts' (deaths, breaking news, etc) editors, [chrisjohn2@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjohn2@gmail.com)

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**\*SAGE/ACTIVE-DUTY EVENTS-WHAT'S GONE OFF\***  
IN TRUE ALERT TRADITION, WE REPORT 'EVENT DATA'

**'WCC Reunion was a rousing success Cont—Page 3**

**ASSOCIATION INFORMATION *Deceased. (D)*****Honor Roll: Alumni Of The Year Recipients (22)**

John Kemna/2017

Carol Snyder/2016-Frank Calenda/2015-Sean Ryan/14  
 Lonnie Gibbons/13-Gene & Dee Melchior/12-  
 Dale Klug/11-Jack Smith (D)/10-Jack Jackson/09 (D)-Bob  
 Wiley/08-Bill Schmied/07-Deborah Carson/06-Mike Black/05  
 Joe Goldian(D)/04-Pat Snyder/03-Joe Johnson/02-Jim  
 Payne/01-Ben Vlassick (D)/2000-John & Christel (D)  
 Horsch/99-Frank Hall/98-Judy Milam-Henderson/97-Carl  
 Gailey (D)/96-Clark Creery/1995

**AFTAC/Long Range Detection (LRD) Alumni Honorarium**

Several ongoing projects represent and honor Center people and history. Two, 'Hall of Heritage' (data/artifacts), the '20-Year Wall of Service' (alumni who served the Center for 20+ years and have mailed in their photos/bios) and the **Wall of Honor**, are housed at AFTAC Headquarters. Another is an **AFTAC display at the Grand Encampment, WY, Museum.**

**Association History** A group of retired/active duty AFTACers, by invitation from then CC, Col **Clapper**, met at Patrick AFB, FL, on March 12, 1985, and formed the **AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)** (chartered, 1986). (from 2001-2014, we were renamed 'Long Range Detection' (LRD). --The Association provides a forum for those wishing to maintain a relationship with the Center and its people, active-duty and retired. Membership is open to all who serve/served our mission in any organization associated with LRD (AFMSW-1, 1009th SWS, AFOAT-1, 1035th FAG, and AFTAC), and any field detachment. Of note, there are several Sages who recall an earlier effort to form an association in 1978.

**There is this Association and two Chapters**

**1. Florida 'AFTAC Alumni Association':** (application-back page)-**Dues, \$10/FY** (1 Oct-30 Sep) payable in Oct/**\$75 for life**. Most monthly meetings are at 1600, second Monday of a month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC HQ (Bldg 10989), or other venue, at Patrick AFB, FL-details, see 'Sage Schedule' at back of issue. Contacts: Clark Creery, ccreery@cfl.rr.com, mailing address is: **PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892**. The Association has several communications resources, this triannual newsletter, '**Post-Monitor**' (namesake of prior active-duty publication, 'Monitor') & a multi-page Website, see banner on previous page, with assn/alumni news and photos-we provide a '**Breaking News**' service at the website and thru instant notification, what we term, '**eALLert**', for time sensitive data at <http://groups.google.com/group/aftac-lrd>.

**"PERENNIALS"** (5+ years board service) Clark Creery-Newsletter, 85/89-95, Pres 94/95, Webpage/Mbrshp, 01/10-Current; Frank Hall, Pres/Vice 89-98/01; Judy Milam, Sec 89-06, Hospitality since 01 Pres 04; Eunice Harris, Hosp 89-00; Mary Welch (D), Mbrshp 91-99; Carl Gailey (D), Treas 91-99; Swede Swansen, Pub 93-06; John & Christel (D) Horsch, Newsletter since 96; Pat Snyder, 'Insider/Sage Shop' 96-2010, VP 04, Sec 05; Mike Black, Webmaster since 96; Jim Payne, Mbrshp 99-04; Joe Goldian, Treas, since 2003; Randy Vlassick, Mbrship 04-09; Sean Ryan-Sec, 09-15; Steve Revels, Sage Shop, 2010-2016 (Vacant)

**2. Colorado Chapter:** Formed Nov 1986, **\$5/year**, they publish a newsletter, 'Echoes', have several meetings and social events a year. See website at <http://www.aftacco.org> for additional information and email contacts.

**3. California Chapter:** Formed 1999, **\$10/year/\$75 lifetime**. For more, email, [TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org](mailto:TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org)-mail, Alumni Assn, PO Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974. The Chapter meets several times a year, publishes a newsletter,



**"FROM THE HORSCHES MOUTH"**



**EDITORIALLY SPEAKING**



1985 BYLINE BY COL CIAMBRONE (D). LEFT AND RIGHT, AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COIN, DEVELOPED BY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND SMSGT TAGUBA. 2015..

Here we are our fourth joint issue, Pete (Gilbert) and John (Horsch), sounds like a duet!! And in a way it is; it's a definite 'dual deal,' I pass along the items and Pete organizes them for your reading enjoyment.

I basically wrote the same in the last issue. Come to think about it, Pete is 85% of this 'dual deal' tho, and I appreciate that beyond words, Pete ... I don't know how you do it. We had many late inputs but Pete was up to the task, as always and here you are.

We don't hear much from you but believe you enjoy what you read ... that's our goal, information and enjoyment. Take a sec and let us know!!

There's a lot going on so don't miss a page or you might miss an important event. I just hope we have them all here for you.

I must mention the Prime Website while it's on mind, find that at '[www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us)'. Guess who does most of the work there also, that's right, none other than Pete!! Unbelievable. Frank Calenda is there also guiding the effort and keeping a straight path.

Moving along, it's another great issue with many articles of interest to those keeping up with the alumni, and the active duty. From what has happened to what is going to happen we try to have it right here.

Finally, I am considering the value of these editorial now that we've gone so far from where we started. Most things in the PoMo are available on the website, and sooner. Most former and current AFTACer's are telling those tales you used to see here on Facebook, and there again, available on a day to day basis.

So, it's become more and more difficult to say something new here ... we'll see how it goes.

I've gone on long enough now ... start reading and enjoying!!

John Horsch



Sage Communicators-Post-Monitor Editor John Horsch, Formating Pete Gilbert-Information/Proofing: Judy Henderson, Susan A Romano/GG12/AFTAC PA; Executive Review: Frank Hall; Rovin' Cameras/Reporters: Judy Henderson, Bob Wiley, and Lou Seiler-Printing/Mailing: Editors, Mike Steskal, Terry Hammond, Curt &Eunice Harris; Web/Media: Editor/Clark Creery

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**\*ALERTS-WHAT'S COMIN' UP\*** <<< Pg 1

**Friday, 8 September**

**AFTAC Alumni Assoc XX Sociable September,  
Annual Off-Site Luncheon/Board/FY18  
Election Slate (Page 32)**

Elections Meeting Location: Manatee Cove Golf Course (MCGC),(Putter Room).  
Meeting: 1130 - 1230

Pay-as-You-Go Lunch available from Fairways Snack Bar, before meeting.

For your early dining pleasure, lunch, may be ordered, at 1030.

**Wednesday, 30 August**

**Manatee Golf Course PAFB  
AFTAC Boosters Club Golf Tournament**

**Friday, 22 September**

**AFTAC Wing Dining Out  
(70th Birthday of USAF, and 70th Anniversary of  
AFTAC)**

**Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum Hangar**

(See Page 30 for additional details and watch the Alumni Web Site for more details and updates)

**Friday, 6 October 2017**

**2017 AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)  
Annual Fall Golf-n'Get-Together---XXXI**

Venue: Manatee Cove Golf Course, PAFB. Check-in:1130; Shotgun Start: 1300. (Format: 4-Person Scramble).

Cost: \$40 (Alumni Members); \$45 (Non-Alumni Members).

Fee includes: Golf, Cart, Range Balls, and BBQ from Tides Club served for Dinner

Open to: AD Military, Retirees, Civilians, and Contractors

Mulligan's pkgs will be on sale: \$5 for 1 mulligan, Red Bomb, & Nolan

Team Mulligan ball: available for \$10  
POCs: Mr. Ed Lindsay --

piston\_horse@hotmail.com -- 321-610-7548  
(Unlisted)

Mr. Bruce Snelgrove --  
robert.snelgrove@us.af.mil -- 321-494-6166  
(Unlisted)

**Saturday, 20 January 2018**

**AFTAC Alumni Association  
Annual Snowball Dinner**

(more details coming in December PoMo)

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**\*EVENTS-WHAT'S GONE OFF\*** <<< Pg 1

**2017 West Coast Chapter Reunion Recap**

*by Dave Price, Membership Chairman*



*Reunion Committee: (L-R)  
Bob Fitzgerald + Joe Johnson-  
Chairman & Nancy & Dave Price  
-Primary Members*

17 states were present, the longest travels being from Alaska and Maine.

The McClellan House was ideal as the hospitality suite. The house had been officer's quarters which provided a casual and relaxed environment for conversations in multiple areas of the house. Casual and relaxed was the theme for the weekend.

The reunion kicked off with a Friday evening reception of a no-host bar and hors d'oeuvres. The group enjoyed reminiscing about the great time they had as AFTACers and stayed after the time allotted and then spilled into the hospitality suite.

On Saturday a tour was offered for a hands-on special event of inventions by da Vinci at the Aerospace Museum of California which attracted 42 reunion attendees. The museum also has a large number of aircraft on display.

Saturday evening was a plated dinner. Our speaker was Dr. Daniel DeForest. Dr. DeForest provided insight into the present function at Patrick Air Force Base and projected future of the mission. He was generous with his time, knowledge and elicited insight from the alumni about their experiences. The alumni of the year was awarded to John 'Butch' Kemna, a faithful, dependable board member of the California Chapter.

Good byes were shared at the well attended farewell breakfast Sunday morning.

This was the final worldwide reunion to be hosted by the AFTAC West Coast Chapter. The reunion committee and the WCC board members are thankful they could offer the opportunity for AFTAC Alumni to enjoy each other's company and visit old haunts.



## AFTACAA Website

As many of you might know by now, a new and informative AFTAC Alumni Website has been developed and in full operation since January of this year. It's packed full of information that features on the front page, "Hot Topics" about items of interest to every member and former member of AFTAC. For example, did you know that the Tricare Dental Program has changed?

You can read all about that in the link provided. You want to know about current happenings? We list these, also on the front page, under "Upcoming Events".

These usually involve our readers who live close by but recently we advertised the very successful California World-wide reunion by providing a link to their information. The menu on the first page will give you access to so many things. Do you want to look up an old buddy? Our "AFTAC Friends Search" will give you access to the most current data-base which lists nearly 5000 current and former members of the organization.

As time goes by, we have members that pass away. If we've been notified of their loss, we post that under "Obituaries," many with a full eulogy. Want to take a look at information on recent happenings? Take a look at "Activities." This will give you photos, videos and information of such venues as the recent golf tournaments and happenings at our sister chapters.

For those of you who might still be in the job hunting process, check out our "Job Listing" for current job offers related to our AFTAC training.

Those of you who are interested in AFTAC history and the happenings of past years can read these things in the "Histories" menu item and one fantastic feature of this new website "Post Monitors" gives you access to the Post Monitors all the way back to the first issue produced by Clark Creery. Only paid up members will have secure access to the two most current PoMo's, but everyone can read all of the past PoMo's dating back to 1985.

### **Take a look, there just might be an article about you.**

Just reading some of these bring back memories that have made AFTAC a fond part of our lives. Take a look and cruise through the menu items. There are quite a few more provided just for you, our AFTAC members. At the bottom of the menu list is a link to our webmaster and website chairman. We always like to hear from you with inputs, changes and revisions. Go to: [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us) and give us a try. More importantly, please spread the word to some old friends that might like to know. Thanks.....Your AFTAC Website Committee, Frank Calenda, Chair.

## Wall of Honor Selection Process Begins In August

By Dr. Mike Young, AFTAC Historian

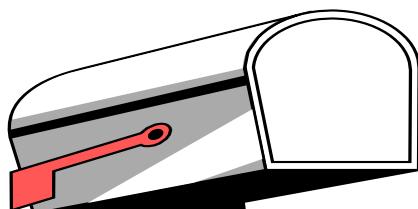
On 16 August, The AFTAC Heritage Committee will begin the five-month process of selecting the next inductees into the AFTAC Wall of Honor. Each year, the committee selects three exceptional AFTAC veterans for this honor. The committee members, delegates from each of the directorates, work within their respective organizations to nominate candidates. Each directorate may nominate three people. The Heritage Committee, chaired by the vice commander, reviews the nomination packets throughout the fall time frame and votes in early December. After the commander approves the results, AFTAC holds a formal ceremony in late January or early February. Bob Wiley represents the AFTAC Alumni Association on the committee. Please contact Bob with any questions you may have (see below)

## Wall of Honor Nomination Time

The Heritage Committee is getting set to begin the selection process for the next selections for the Wall of Honor. The AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA) has been fortunate with the selection of our nominations as winners. I am the AFTACAA member of the Heritage Committee and it will be my job to present and support the selection of our nominee(s) during the selection process. Each of you probably has a 'special' person that meant a lot to your career and I need to 'hear' who those people are and why they should be selected for the honor. Please submit your suggestions to me at [riley1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:riley1@cfl.rr.com). Include name, rank, dates of service (if known), and a short description of why his/her contribution to AFTAC's history deserves this outstanding recognition. For right now, it's the sooner your submission, the better. Please be careful to not send me classified info because I don't want my personal computer confiscated and 'cleaned'. Please consider all ranks and career fields in your recollections. We want to cover the entire 'AFTAC' experience in our consideration. I will work with the AFTACAA board in choosing who we will sponsor in the full competition.

We will want to nominate our quota of three nominees. Of course we'll have to collect more info on the people we choose and spend some effort writing up good supporting material. You'll hear more as the effort progresses, but for right now, just get busy submitting your best recommendations.

Bob Wiley  
AFTACAA Heritage Committee representative



**Personals ...**

Wherein alumni report major events or turning points in their lives that are of interest to fellow Sages. Please send information about awards, births (children, grandchildren), weddings, retirements, illness, deaths and other events (military or otherwise).

**In Memoriam**  
**Rest in Peace**



**John Joseph Anderson - 6/1/2017**



CMSgt (Ret) John Joseph Anderson, USAF, 88, of Carlisle, passed away on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at home. He was born on March 8, 1929 in Bradford, and was a son of the late Otto R. and Margaret (Fullerton) Anderson.

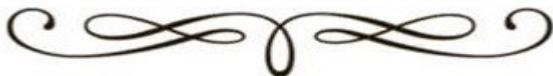
John was a 1947 graduate of St. Bernard's Parish School in Bradford. He retired in 1975 from the US Air Force

with the rank of Chief Master Sergeant with more than 25 years of service. He served during the Korean War and Vietnam War and was awarded several honors and medals. John was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, Carlisle, Toastmaster's International, St. Patrick's Parish Council, Knights of Columbus Council 4057 Assembly 2708 and the Air Force Association.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Evelyn H. (McDonald) Anderson, three sons; James M. (Mary) Anderson of Gaithersburg, MD, John T. (Lisa) Anderson of Statesville, NC, and Robert C. Anderson of Satellite Beach, FL, two daughters; Lee F. (Mike) Bethel of

Carlisle and Christy M. (Mike) Van Zant of Prescott, AZ, 6 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by one daughter, Lisa M. Anderson.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 in the St. Patrick Catholic Church, 85 Marsh Dr., Carlisle, with Rev. William C. Forrey officiating. Burial followed in the St. Patrick's New Catholic Cemetery, Carlisle, with military honors by Cumberland County Honor Guard. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Council 4057 Foundation, P.O. Box 281, Carlisle, PA 17013. Ewing Brothers Funeral Home, Carlisle, is in charge of the arrangements.



**Bobbie Futrell - 5/13/2017**

From Bill Schmied:

Received notification from RT Bennett that Bobbie Futrell passed away Saturday morning at her home in Centennial, CO, where she has been getting 24-7 in-home care. Bobbie had her 93rd birthday last month. She was a lifetime member of our Colorado alumni chapter and spent over twenty years of her life working in Det 057 and SPINSTRA on Lowry AFB. She was a secretary in the training department of Det 057 as early as 1963 when it was located in Bldg 358 next to the SPINSTRA schoolhouse in Bldg 359. She continued working in Det 057 after it was downsized and relocated to Bldg 359 until her retirement from civil service in 1986. She was the "go-to" person if anyone had a question about AFTAC. It is our understanding that there will not be any funeral services or an obituary; however, we will provide any additional info we might receive. The above info provided by RT Bennett and Lonnie Gibbons.



## William E. Ivan - 4/28/2017



On Tue, May 2, 2017, at 04:15 Michael P Ivan wrote:  
To Whom It May Concern.  
My Father, William E. Ivan, passed away on 28 April 2017. He was a Member of your Organization and 20 year Veteran of USAF, retired as a MSgt. I would like to submit a link to his Obituary for posting in your Newsletter and website.

Please note, if possible, if you can use his obituary posting as is, he wrote it before his death.

I am quite impressed and proud of the work my Dad.

If you have any questions, please contact me either via email or phone: 330-364-1942

Thank you to all that served in AFTAC.

Michael P. Ivan, his Son  
michaelpivan@outlook.com

### Obituary

William E. Ivan, Master Sgt., USAF, Ret., 80, of New Philadelphia, died Friday, April 28, 2017, while in the care of Community Hospice's Truman House.

Bill was born in his parent's home in Port Vue, Pennsylvania on June 30, 1936. He was the third child of the late Mary (Moseh) and Michael John Ivan.

After graduation from Glassport High School, Bill dropped out of Duquesne University after one semester because: "He was tired of being educated." He joined the United States Air Force and spent the next 20 some years attending technical schools and courses in residence and by correspondence. He was able to attend many off duty university courses offered at his base of assignment, and finally graduated from Kent State University in 1977, a year after his retirement from the United States Air Force.

While stationed near Columbus, Ohio, Bill met a nurse named Connie Mroczkowski and was able to convince her to marry him on October 5, 1963, his parents 36th wedding anniversary. Connie made homes for Mary Jo, Mike and Bill wherever they were stationed.

Throughout his tenure with the United States Air Force, Bill earned his Senior Air Crew Member wings and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal twice and the Air Medal. He also picked up many "I was there and did that" awards and decorations. However, he often noted when he received his Discharge paper-

work, Connie's Separation Certificate was larger and emphasized how important a good wife is.

Bill and Connie bought a home in Roswell and enjoyed civilian life. Bill served as the Town Marshall, served on Town Council and laid the foundation for the funds that have evolved into the Roswell Community Center and Park. They moved to New Philadelphia and Bill joined the staff of the Child Support Enforcement Agency where he worked as an investigator for almost 20 years, retiring in 2002. Bill enjoyed golfing, bowling, reading, crossword puzzles, and rooting for the 6 time Super Bowl Champion Pittsburgh Steelers.

He is survived by a daughter Mary Jo Ivan of Ashville, Ohio; his son, Michael P. Ivan of the home; a granddaughter, Caitlin Brown of Ashville; a brother, Donald (Mary Lou) Ivan of Glassport, Pennsylvania; a father-in-law, Peter Mroczkowski; a brother-in-law, Gerry (Ann) Mroczkowski; a sister-in-law, Marlene Mattevi and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and their families.

In keeping with Bill's wishes there were no public calling hours or services and cremation care will be handled through the Linn-Hert-Geib Funeral Home & Crematory at New Philadelphia. An inurnment will take place at a later date.

In addition to his parents, Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Connie; a sister Mary Ann; his mother-in-law, Mary Mroczkowski and son-in-law, Jerry Brown.



## Richard E. O'Brien - 4/13/2017



A veteran of 32 years in The Air Force.  
A team member of Mercury, Saturn and Apollo projects early in his career  
A prolific pool player, golfer, bridge player and table tennis aficionado. A true sportsman.  
A New York, New Yorker where everything should have happened yesterday.

Survived by his wife of 58 years Ursula, sons Michael (Kathy), previously deceased Mark (Terry), Chris (Camila) and 6 beautiful grandchildren Austin, Alex, Kyle, Joshua, Eric, and Brian. Plus Rich

**"Jack" Gerald L. Johnson - 4/11/2017**

SMSgt "Jack" Gerald L. Johnson, USAF (RET) born Jan 5, 1931, and passed away on April 11, 2017. A memorial service was held on April 21, 2017 at Corinth Christian Church: 1635 Hwy. 81, Loganville, GA 30052. Minister Don Har-dison officiated. Jack, of Lawrenceville, GA, was

86 years old when he died after a 16 month battle against esophageal cancer, then a feeding tube site infection. He was born in the Walnut Grove area of Walton County, retired from the U.S. Air Force after 28 years of service and retired again after 18 years as a U.S. civil servant. He loved spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren, much of which was traveling and camping in many of the National and State parks across the U.S. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Peggy Still Johnson; son: Michael (Karen) Johnson; sister: Juanita (Bud) Pearson; daughters-in-law: Maureen Dailey & Susan O'Neill; 11 grandchildren; 6 great grandchildren and many other family con-

a few. As a decorated Master Sergeant and 22 years of service, Shawn was honorably discharged in 2003.

Education was a priority to Shawn and after retirement he obtained his Bachelors of Science from Wayland Baptist University. He then went on to obtain his Masters of Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix. He began working his ideal job at American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program as a Director of Client Services. He enjoyed working with veterans and helping to make their lives better. His drive and dedication in this position placed thousands of veterans and their families in homes.

After saving each veteran, one home at a time, he would then release his stress on the golf course. On any given weekend you could find him, Smitty, Larry, Rudy and Clarence talking trash and planning for the next tee time. Shawn's other passions included cars, Apple gadgets and the Cleveland Cavaliers. But his biggest love was his family. There wasn't a day he didn't live for his children. Rather it be coaching or cheering from the sidelines he was their biggest supporter. Dropping words of wisdom along the way to guide them in their lives. Shawn's charisma and charm could light up a room. His laugh will forever be in our memories.

He was preceded in death by his father, John M. Rouse, Sr.; step-father, Eddie L. Rines; brother, John M. Rouse, Jr.

He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife, Claudia Rouse; Son, Shaden M. Rouse, Daughter, Shanae M. Rouse; Sons, Shawn M. Rouse, II, and Johnathan M. Rouse; loving mother, Betty Rines; Grandchildren, Shaniya and Sekoe; Sisters, Sheila Bolden and Edwina (Carwein) Hardnett; Brothers, Donnell and Terry Rouse; Step-brother, Michael Peacock; Special Aunt, Bobbie Love; Lifetime friends, Rueben Furr, Lawrence Darrington, and Special friend, Leon "Smitty" Smith.

Throughout childhood Shawn grew up with his cousins and they are like siblings; Linda (Brian) Watts, Cynthia (Kevin) Martin, Angela (Larry) Hall-Buck, Veronica Gibson, James and Paul Gibson.

**Shawn M. Rouse - 3/28/2017**

Shawn Miguel Rouse, I, 54, of San Antonio, TX, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 with his wife Claudia Rouse by his side. He was born December 23, 1962 in Toledo, Ohio to the union of John and Betty Rouse.

Shawn was a 1981 graduate of Robert S. Rogers High School. After graduation, he enlisted in active duty in the United States Air Force. He began his military career where he traveled the globe and blazed trails along the way. In 1993 Shawn was named Military Drill and Ceremonies Noncommissioned Officer, Instructor of the Year for the 331st Training Squadron and was awarded his Master Military Training Instructor (Blue Rope). In July of 2000, Shawn was selected for First Sergeant Duty. He received numerous awards and decorations throughout his career, The National Defense Service Medal and The Meritorious Service Medal with 2 clusters to name

**William A. "Bill" Hart - 11/7/2015**

Services celebrating the life of William A. "Bill" Hart, 80, were held November 10, 2015, at Hill Crest Memorial Chapel. Interment with military honors following at Hill Crest Memorial Park.

Bill was born in Mineola, New York, to Augustus and Lillian Hart. He served his country in the Air Force for 20 years. After retirement, he worked for the City of



Bossier where he retired as superintendent. He was a member of Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society and Bossier Stamp Club.

He was preceded in death by his parents; Augustus and Lillian Hart, his wife; Michiyo Hart, sons; William Hart and James Hart.

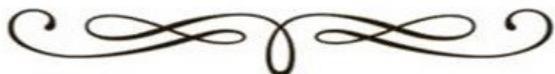
Bill was survived by his daughter; Theresa Platt and husband William, grandson; Mitchell Platt, sister; Margaret Tomasicchio as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

The family extends their deepest gratitude to the compassionate and caring staff at the NW Louisiana War Vets Home and The Oaks of Louisiana.



### **Thomas Rohrs - 11/1/2014**

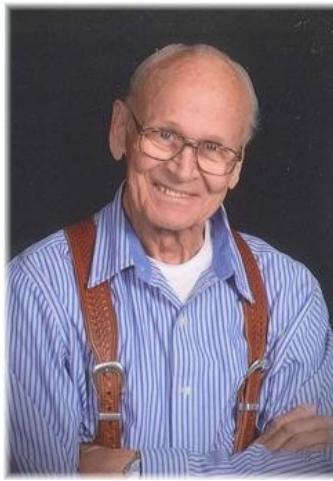
I am Thomas Rohrs widow. Tom passed Nov 1, 2014. I would love to hear from any or all who worked with him at AFTAC, ALEXANDRIA VA. Tom and I married Oct. 1970, in Alexandria. Thank you for your time. Sincerely Lind Rohrs, lbrohrs@outlook.com



### **Richard Lawson Gillenwaters - 12/7/2004**

Mr. Gillenwaters was born January 25, 1953, in Jacksonville, Fla., and passed away December 7, 2004, in Montgomery County, Texas. He graduated from Mission Viejo High School in 1971, and from Baylor University with a MBA in December 1976. He entered the Air Force for Undergraduate Pilot Training at Craig Air Force Base in Selma, Ala., in January 1977. During his military career he flew the T-38, AT-38, F-15, and F-5. He retired at Laughlin Air Force Base in October 1998. Mr. Gillenwaters was most recently employed at Continental Airlines, and trained and flew with Texas Air Aces and Crew Pilot Training. He was preceded in death, July 2003, by his father, John D. Gillenwaters. He is survived by his wife, Lindy Gillenwaters; daughter, Erin Gillenwaters; mother, Marie Gillenwaters; brother, David Gillenwaters; nephew, Ryan Gillenwaters; parents- in-law, Zane and Maurine Jones; brother-in-law, Zane Jones and daughters, Sarah and Katie Jones; brother-in-law, Blair Jones and wife Patti and children, Cami, Alli, and Caleb Jones, all residents of Texas. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Angel Flight, Inc. 1515 E. 71st Street, Ste. 312, Tulsa, OK 74136, 918-749-8992.

### **Danny Edwin "Dan" Fadness - 9/6/2016**



Dan Fadness, 77 years of age, of Carmen, Idaho, passed away on Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Memorial services were held on Saturday, September 17, 2016, at the Saint Charles Catholic Church with Father Dat Vu officiating. Military Honors and Masonic Rites were held at the Salmon Cemetery following services, and a reception in his honor followed at the Church reception hall.

Danny Edwin Fadness was born on April 15, 1939, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the son of Clarence and Zeffie May (Aye) Fadness. Dan grew up in Marion, Iowa, where he attended school and participated in track. He graduated from high school in 1957, and went to work for International Harvester assembling silos.

Dan joined the Air Force and was sent to basic training in San Antonio, Texas. He chose to study electronics, and completed schooling in Biloxi, Mississippi where he was assigned to radio-radar systems as a technician in the Strategic Air Command Air Force Base in Topeka, Kansas. He then moved to College Park, Maryland, to attend the University of Maryland, where he met Roberta Kost in 1961 while she was visiting Washington D.C. As the military goes, he was quickly moved to Stanford Research Institute in Palo Alto, California, and then to his final station at Adak, Alaska, at the satellite tracking station. Dan was honorably discharged in March of 1964, and married his bride on April 25 in Swissvale, Pennsylvania. One daughter, Rebecca, was born to this union.

The couple remained in Pennsylvania for a year where Dan worked at Westinghouse Research & Development Center. They moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he was employed at Collins Radio. A recruiter there for RCA convinced him to move to Fairbanks, Alaska. The family lived in Alaska for the next ten years while Dan worked at a satellite tracking station in electronics. He owned a taxidermy business and hunted big game on the side.

They later moved to Laredo, Missouri, where Dan opened his own taxidermy shop. Dan also loved dogs. He raised, trained, and showed hunting hounds, having up to 28 dogs at one time. After their stay in Missouri, the family decided to pack up their belongings and travel. In 1978 their vehicles broke down on Lost Trail Pass bringing them to Salmon, Idaho, where they fell in love with the countryside. Dan began his work here with

Baldree Electric, then with Wheeler Electric, which led him to an opportunity to work at the INEL. Dan traveled to find work for the next several years. While working construction building the new state penitentiary in 1990, the State of Idaho contacted him and he was asked to be the local electrical inspector for the Salmon area. He remained in this employment until he retired in 2005.

Dan loved to train horses, mules, oxen and raise all kinds of animals from raccoons to dogs. He was also passionate for covered wagons and making animal figures and bowls out of local lumber. Dan was a meticulous person and took pride in the fact that he could read a book and give most anything a good try. He pursued each endeavor with enthusiasm and succeeded at most.

Dan was a member of the American Legion Lloyd Shaw Post #67, and Past Master of Lemhi Lodge #11 AF & AM.

Dan is survived by his wife, Roberta of Carmen; daughter, Becky Fadness of Kuna, Idaho; granddaughter, Courtney Robinson of Boise; great-grandson, Talen Jones of Boise, Idaho; brother, Charles A. (Arlene) Fadness of Carmen; and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Zeffie May Fadness; and brother, Robert (Bob) Fadness.



## Spring 2017 Golf N Gettogether

The Spring Golf N'GetTogether turned out to be a great day for all. On May 12th, 2017, a fine group of current AFTACers, Alumni, and friends gathered to enjoy each other's company, some nice sunshine, and some cool beverages and food.

84 men and women gathered at Manatee Cove Golf Course on Patrick AFB. We had a plethora of hearty Alumni show up to pack some goody bags and sign up the days golfers. Dee and Gene Melchior showed up to prepare the bags for the golfers. Frank Hall also showed up to provide guidance. We got the bags filled with bananas, some snacks, and plenty of water...it was gonna be a hot one. The second shift of Arlin Massey, Carol Snyder, Eileen Best, Judy Milam-Henderson, and Bob Wiley showed up to get the registration table started up. The team prepared the table to accept the flood of golfers that was soon to show up. The volunteers got the people signed up and gave them some opportunities to spend some more of their hard earned cash by purchasing individual and team mulligan packages. The golfers got themselves some food and headed to the driving range & putting

green to fine tune their skills for the challenge ahead. Ed Lindsay gathered the myriad of golfers around the clubhouse stairs to give them their marching orders for the day's events. Colonel Gorski, the AFTAC Commander, provided some opening remarks and wished everyone to have a great day and a safe weekend. With all the formalities completed, the golfers started their engines and roared off in a cloud of dust to their respective holes.

They group played out their battles, and shouts joy and elation could be heard resonating around the course. There were also quite a few shouts of disappointment as the day rolled on, since many had depleted their many mulligans and some scores started to climb. This roving reporter did not witness any flung clubs, so all must have accepted their fates as a given. The rounds started to finish up and the teams rolled on back to the clubhouse to turn in their scorecards and talk about how good the day went. Everyone straggled into the clubhouse to pick up their door prizes and partake in some yummy Bar-B-Que buffet provided by the kitchen staff. After all the scorecards were gathered up and the closest to the pin and long drive markers had been collected, the tale of the tape was ready to be revealed. A record score was turned in by the 1st place team and this is how the awards played out.

1st place: Larry Olson, Pete LaJoie, Lin Stones, Dick Quinby---46

2nd place: Dave Melton, Norm Fish, John Howorth, Joe Bowers--48

3rd place: Joe Hauser, Bob Callahan, Steve Parlefsky, Donnie Coffield--52

Closest to the pins: Pete LaJoie, Chad Madore, Frank Woodard, Chevis Stanley

Long Drive: Women: Val Calenda Men: Jim Whidden

And of course we couldn't have had such a successful event without all of our sponsors. Thank you to Moon Golf, Fiesta Azteca, Beef O'Brady's, & Charlie and Jake's.

We also acknowledge our sole \$100 sponsor: Space Coast Intelligent Solutions

We look forward to having many of you join us for our Fall Tourney, to take place this October.

Ed Lindsay,  
AFTACAA President/Golf Major Arranger

## It was a truly moving day.

I first met Joe Goldian when I was an Airman First Class working in the old "Zip Room". Joe was one of the senior analysts, if not in rank then certainly in knowledge. I learned so much from him about how to use the data to get accurate results. And I learned that if I asked Joe a question, I was going to get a straight, accurate answer.

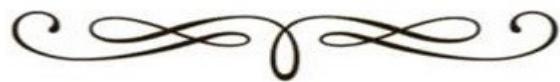
As life in the military would have it, we lost touch. I probably saw him once or twice as I did TDYs at Patrick. But thanks to the magic of the Internet, and the Alumni Association, I was able to see photos and know of the work he was doing.

When Joe passed and I learned that he was to be interred at Arlington National Cemetery, I felt it the least I could do to go and pay my respects. Later I learned Sean Ryan would be flying up to represent the Alumni Association. I hoped we could show Joe's family that Joe had affected people far and wide, and we appreciate his influence; only they can say whether that objective was achieved.

I met Sean at the airport and, after lunch and a few brain farts on my end (I lost my car in the parking garage) we made our way to Arlington. It was the hottest day of the year so far, with temperatures in the mid-90s and not a cloud in the sky. This was the first time I remember meeting Sue, and definitely the first to meet Heather. I cannot even imagine how difficult the last three months have been for them.

The service was held near the grave site, which is Section 55, Grave 3472. Oddly enough, though Arlington Cemetery lies on the flight path to Reagan National Airport, there were no planes flying overhead to mar the sounds. Arlington accepted him silently, punctuated only by the crack of rifles and the lament of Taps. The USAF Honor Guard provided stellar honors, and a representative of the Arlington ladies presented a card from the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. I plan to return once the headstone is installed, and will send photos to Sue.

Tess Ailshire



The services were provided by the United States Air Force Honor Guard, based at, and assigned to, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C.

From over 17 years in Honor Guard duty, across my career, from colors, to funerals, to events...they were "truly THE best" in services provided. A SrA as NCOIC of flight, a SrA as NCOIC of Firing Party, and a SMSgt in playing taps. Pristine, spot on, and on target...best-of-the-best! The chaplain was exceptional in words spoken! A very young Captain. Not a recorded, repeated, canned, or standard speech, by any means. Personally written in Joe's honor. ...Moving, inspirational, and true, in not the words, in reality check of Joe!! He highlighted Joe like no other to honor. Thank you.

v/r  
Sean

# MAIL - CALL



Any requests for action should be sent to  
**AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)**  
PO Box 254892  
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892

Missives requesting no action may be mailed/mailed to the editor, '[chrisjohn2@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjohn2@gmail.com)'. Those may be edited for clarity and space but not normally for punctuation, wording, etc; opinions are those of the writer(s) and may not reflect Association belief or policy.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thanks to all who contact us!** We publish all correspondence, unless otherwise requested, so your name, and the memories it invokes, may be recalled.

Normally, we will not include personal information, e.g., address, phone number, etc, unless you ask or seemingly appropriate (e.g., follow-up).



**"Bill Schmied, email-06.12**

If Pete Gilbert is at the meeting, please tell him for me and others here in Colorado that we think he's done an absolutely fantastic job with the new website, and that we really appreciate what must have been a tremendous time consuming effort on his part. You guys should buy him lunch and a tall drink if he is there. If he comes to our next reunion we'll certainly recognize and reward him for his contributions to the alumni.

Bill

**Rickey Manly Email 7/25/2017**

Pete,

I can't thank you enough for assisting Tony in getting my information on the 20 yr. wall. It means an awful lot to me to be included with those who have dedicated a large portion of our lives to AFTAC and our country.

Thanks again for all the effort you have put forth in the creation and maintenance of the site. Many accolades your way sir!

RJM



*It's not often the 45th Reconnaissance Squadron's flying missions -- Cobra Ball, Combat Sent, Constant Phoenix and Open Skies -- are all in one place, but we got lucky today.*

Email from **Sean Ryan**

Thank you for posting Pete. Appreciated, as always. One unique photo for sure...remember them well, from my time at Offutt AFB x 7 years. WE loved Offutt AFB! (Then off to DIA in D.C. Paid big dividends for sure. One, of being a GFO Enlisted Aide to 4, and working for the SEA (Equivalent of Command Chief, in Joint World)). Loved my time at Wing and on HQ SAC staff. It is not often they do this, and have them all together, in one day. Took, one or two of them twice, to the PI, and another arena, plus other tankers, for a training and refueling flight... as an Incentive Flight, for winning Quarterly, Annual, and IM Awards, for Wing assigned. Took another down to Barksdale AFB, with fellow unit members, one day, for a NCOA graduation, that nite, on a training mission. Beat, 12-hours direct, to drive to Barksdale thru the Ozarks. Ain't nothing like flying in "Mess Dress", (back)(BDU's down), with no time to change, at the pilot's and commander's direction, to rock and roll, right after event. I swear, ...we were airborne in 30 minutes. LOL. CMSAF Pfingston (whom I met as a 1-striper at Hurbie) was the guest speaker (...another story. :) There is nothing like seeing a "refueling live" from the Boom Operator's position! 2 operators on-board...one instance, one female TSgt and a male SSgt...truly, awesome, professional, and fellow Wingman! Another, "hop" flight from Ramstein AB to Mildenhall AB...coming back from Iraq, after 14 months, on leave in GE and UK. Only 2 of us...he was a retiree. The stories he told, WOW! ...Boom "view," was awesome, for training mission. GE and UK by nite, from the cockpit...++! Just some memories...from aircraft views and travels. Excuse the long wind...

**PREZ** **Ed FROM Lindsay** **THE TOP** **SEZ**

Hey there fellow AFTACAA members and other fellow humans that may get access to the always informative Post Monitor. So happy that you are here to look over the events we have participated in these past 4 months. There are also many other events coming up in the next few months that will honor the great organization that is AFTAC. Before I get ahead of myself, let me review the most recent happenings.

Last issue I mentioned our loss of longtime friend and board member, Joe Goldian. He was finally recognized with an interment at Arlington National cemetery on June 12th. Read about those that attended his memorial in this issue. At the end of that week, the West Coast Chapter was the host of the semi-annual AFTAC Alumni Worldwide reunion. Myself and some other Florida Chapter members had the opportunity to join our West Coast friends for a great weekend at what once was McClellan AFB. It had been over 10 years since I had been out to Sacramento and I was very surprised at how many facilities were still standing. Dave and Nancy Price, Joe Johnson, Bob Fitzgerald and the rest of the gang put on a nice event. I had the pleasure of sitting next to Colonel Al Pavik, former Tech Ops Division Commander and one of this year's 3 Wall of Honor recipients. I also sat next to Special Equipment Operator #2, Charlie Penn. Met many AFTACers for the first time and got to reconnect with old friends. Congratulations again to Butch Kemna for being recognized as the 2017 Alumnus of the Year. Can't wait to head West again for the reunion in 2019. Another event was our gathering in mid-May for our Spring Golf n'GetTogether, but you probably already read about that.

Speaking of golf tourneys, there are two more happening in the next few months. Our Fall tourney is scheduled to happen the first week of October. The other tourney will be held by the active duty of AFTAC the 30th of this month. This tourney will be a fund raiser for the big event to be held in September, the 70th anniversary of the beginnings of AFTAC. That is sure to be a huge event. In fact they will be holding a Dining Out and have made sure that the Alumni can participate. It will be held on 22 Sept at the Tico Warbird Museum, a huge hanger in Titusville. See the website for more details. Alumni members will also be participating in the annual softball tourney/picnic, the Toilet Bowl in November. Be sure to visit the AFTAC alumni website at [aftacaa.us](http://aftacaa.us) for all the details of other upcoming events.

We have some people doing wonderful things to keep our members informed. The website is constantly being updated with the awesome efforts of Pete Gilbert.

Frank Calenda keeps providing the direction. Mike Steskal, Travis Goll, Sean Ryan, and John Horsch are constant contributors and a wonderful sounding board to ensure we are getting the info out. Thank you so much to all of you and so many others for the things that you do to keep this association going. Our Association is full of people with so much to contribute and we are constantly reaching out to reconnect with our members and bring others to be part of the gang. We have our annual elections coming up this September and I would encourage you to either run for a board position or at least attend the meeting on 8 September. We are also finishing up our review of our Constitution and By-Laws. Go out to the website and look them over. If you have any comments/recommendations for our consideration, feel free to send them to me at; [piston\\_horse@hotmail.com](mailto:piston_horse@hotmail.com)

Well that is all for now. I would like to thank our entire membership for your time being part of AFTAC, your service, and decision to continue your association with the Alumni group. I hope to see you at some of our or AFTACs events or drop me a line. Take care all and many wishes for a blessed life.

ED LINDSAY

**Board Members (elected positions)**

President- <b>Ed Lindsay</b>	Vice-CMSgt <b>John Howorth</b>
Secretary & Publicity- <b>Arlin Massey</b>	Acting Treasurer- <b>Sean Ryan</b>
<b>Appointed</b>	
Activities-CMSgt <b>Joseph</b> , CCMS, Hall of Heritage- <b>Mike Young/CC HO/Bob Wiley</b> , Hospitality- <b>Judy Henderson</b> , Membership/Master Data Base- <b>Mike Steskal</b> Post-Monitor Editor/Alumni of the Year Coordinator- <b>John Horsch</b> , Post Monitor Formatting- <b>Pete Gilbert</b> , Publicity- <b>Sean Ryan</b> , Sage Shop- <b>MSgt John Goll</b> . Website Manager <b>Frank Calenda</b>	

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**Minute With the Minutes**

Over the years, those of us who worked in the old AFTAC HQ building 989 all saw a plaque in the lobby identifying those lost in the line of duty. In keeping with the honor and memories of these AFTAC'ers, an effort is underway to design and install a memorial on the grounds of the new AFTAC building in honor of their memory. It's too early for details, but as this effort goes forward, updates will be forthcoming .

**Membership Report -**  
**M. Steskal, Chairman**

FL Members – 601 (LT – 552, Year to Year- 49)

Brevard County: 187

Receive eALLs- 1159

New Life Members -1

Will be sending out e-mails and letters to those that owe dues for 2018, have 43 members in this status,



## COLORADO NEWSLETTER EXTRACTS ECHOES

President, Steve Clark-Vice, Darrel Kline-Treasurer, Bill Schmed-Newsletter Editor, Jerry Moxley/Publisher, Ken Behrens-Webmaster, Bill Harris-Website @ <http://www.aftacco.org/>. Membership: 87



**FL Editor Note:** Jerry Moxley (Moxi), ECHOES Editor, advises Sages can request a complimentary 'electronic' issue via email, [mox@wispertel.net](mailto:mox@wispertel.net), on a one time basis for review and consideration of joining the Denver Chapter.

### Events Calendar

FL EDITORS:: CHECK WEB SITE, URL ABOVE, FOR EVENTS. THE COLORADO CHAPTER HAS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BREAKFASTS, PICNICS AND SOCIALS, THAT CAN SCHEDULED AT A DATE WHEN THE POMO PUBLICATION SCHEDULE CANNOT PUBLISH THE INFORMATION. ALL AFTACERS, OLD AND NEW, ARE INVITED.

## Greet the New Colorado Chapter Alumni Prez



Bryce Dunn studied engineering at Mars Hill College near Ashville, NC, from 1968 through 1971. He worked for Westinghouse Elevators installing elevators in Norfolk and Portsmouth, VA, and at the Wachovia Bank building in Winston Salem, N.C. He also worked as an electrician, plumber and an HVAC specialist with a Mechanical Contractor in Harrisonburg, VA. He studied electronics

at Blue Ridge Community College where he acquired his deep interest in electronics. Bryce signed up with the Delayed Enlistment Program for the Air Force in October, 1973. He was active duty in the Air Force from February 1974 through February 1994 when he retired as a MSgt. His entire time was spent within AFTAC organizations including the Lowry School Squadron, Detachment 423 1974 – 1975, Detachment 421 1975 - 1977, OL AO 1977 – 1985 (NCOIC operations), HQ AFTAC 1985 – 1990 (Chief, SOC) and finally Superintendent of Detachment 45, Buckley ANGB, CO. At Det 421 he helped operations to recover from the aftermath when a flood took out the entire LP and helped to fight the bush fire in 1977. In the fall of 1985 Bryce worked with AFTAC Operations, the Technical Direc-

torate and Space Command to stand up Detachment 45. After the Air Force he signed up with Antarctic Support Associates as a technical writer for the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Program where he created technical documentation to support operations and maintenance of communications systems for the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Program. Technical documentation included microwave links, INMARSAT, Intelsat, GOES, LES-9, and other satellite equipment links, HF and FM radio systems, pager systems, data acquisition systems including data loggers, hybrid power stations (solar, wind and diesel generators), and shipboard information systems. He created the Network Operations Center (NOC) Guide for McMurdo Station, Antarctica. On 1 August 1996 he received the Antarctic Service Medal from the US Department of the Navy. In 1995 Bryce graduated from Columbia College with a Bachelor's of Science in Computer Information Systems, Cum Laude. In November 1996 he hired on to Lockheed Martin Astronautics as a Software Quality Engineer for the Titan booster program. There, he tested and verified launch software for the Titan II, Titan IVA and Titan IVB boosters. He was a member of the launch team and had to verify correct software versions on multiple systems prior to launch. One of his memorable launches was the Cassini Spacecraft, launched on the first Titan IVB booster with a payload that contained two RTGs. After Titan, Bryce was a Quality Engineer Senior Staff for multiple ground systems, including the Lead QA at the SBIRS MCS at Buckley AFB. Bryce maintained the ISO 9001 and AS9100 quality management systems at various Lockheed programs. He retired from Lockheed Martin in March 2011, and then worked as the Quality Manager for two small aerospace businesses over two years to help them achieve AS9100 and ISO 9001 certifications. In November 2012, he retired from full time work to part time performing ISO 9001 certification audits for a National Certification Body in the lower 48. In January 2016, he hung up his auditing hat and is now spending more time with family, community, hunting, fishing and his jeep project. Bryce was a Committee chair, Scoutmaster and District Commissioner for the Boy Scouts of America and supported the USO at Denver International Airport during the heaviest fighting of OEF. During this time he received two Presidential Volunteer Service Awards. Bryce is a 32° Scottish Rite mason of the Denver Consistory and a member of the National Sojourners. Bryce and his wife, Sue, raised three sons: Daniel, David and Collin. Daniel was an Army Infantry Officer and spent two tours in Iraq, David is a Master Sergeant currently stationed at Ramstein, GE. Collin is enjoying life and working in the Denver area. Bryce & Sue have been married for 38 years, have four grandchildren and currently reside in Aurora, Colorado.

### From the new Prez

Fellow alumni, Thank you for electing me as your new president. First, I would like to sincerely thank MSgt Steve Clark (Retired) for his years of leadership of the

Colorado Chapter following MSgt Jack Smith (deceased). Also thanks to the officers: Darrel Cline, Vice-President; Bill Schmied, Treasurer; Jerry Moxley (Mox), Editor; Ken Behrens, Publisher; and Bill Harris, webmaster; and Rick Phillips for all of his work in the past as co-cook for picnics and co-editor of the Echos after Ben Vlassick. Also thanks to the Detachment Commanders and other Colorado units for all of their support that they have provided through the years. I think we all enjoy the synergy between the 'now' and 'back then'.

Sue and I consider AFTAC as our second family – we have made many good friends during the years. I hope to continue the traditions of the Colorado Chapter and help to provide great venues for us all to get together, communicate and have fun. The first venue will be a picnic in Castle Rock on June 17th at Matney park pavilion. This is a new area for us but more convenient for those of us that have difficulty getting around and a more central location for Colorado Springs and Denver. It is a beautiful park and the 17th was the best date I could get. Yes, they have two horseshoe tracks among other amenities. For those that are planning to go to the World-wide Reunion in California on the same date, I apologize, but we can catch up at the breakfast in September or the Veteran's dinner in November.

Please do not hesitate to call or email myself or the officers if you have any questions or suggestions. We love to hear from you and may use your input in the Echos Newsletter. We all share a common theme which is as important today as it was 'back then'.

Sincerely,  
Bryce Dunn

**Piece of History  
1009TH SWS CONTRAILS  
By  
Jack O'Connor**



It was September 1955 and I had just completed our roughly three months of training in Tail # 263---our beloved C-47 "Goony Bird"--- and WB-29's, which had been modified to conduct training and operations for our specialty. I had just been certified to operate solo as a Special Equipment Operator. I was stationed at my first permanent duty assignment: Western Field Office of the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron, McClellan AFB, CA. WB-29's were also stationed at McClellan AFB, but as the 57th Air Weather Squadron. The SEO would be the

eleventh man on the crew. We had no crew position available, so we sat on the floor in the rear compartment with our back against the bomb bay bulkhead between the two scanners. After takeoff, the SEO would take over the right scanner position where our equipment had been pre-positioned and tied down. Looking back upon it, we were the only thing not tied down. We didn't know any better and we had



a job to do on that aircraft, so we didn't worry about it.

In the WB-29's, we only had a "honey bucket" which was situated directly behind the left scanner position. All human excretions went into that bucket. You can imagine, though you may not want to, just how bad that thing was smelling after we all had been drinking coffee for awhile in briefings and preflight duties without being able to avail ourselves of the scant facilities in the hangar. The beloved honey bucket was used soon and often. More later about that! It is not germane to this story. Directly behind that was the place where we put the box containing all of our lunches---two per crewmember. Twenty two box lunches. We had no heated lunches back in those days. We didn't have a means to heat them.

**Back SACTO:**

I was lying there next to my new bride dreaming of a wonderful something or other. We were startled out of our slumber with the shrill ring of our telephone.

"This is Capt. Copeland. Airman O'Connor, a staff car will be in front of your apartment in 30 minutes to pick you up for transport to San Francisco Int'l Airport. I can't tell you where you are going from there, but be packed and ready for 30 days. We will keep your wife informed on your progress. Others are going with you."

And, thanks to the originator of our concern and the time difference, our alert always seemed to come at about the same time: 3:00AM, PST. The big problem with this is that we never knew what day it might happen or who and how many SEO's would be called to go. It varied with each occasion, so we always had a bag packed ready to go.

So started my first TDY. We always had a First Class Ticket in our pocket because there was almost always room back there, even if the rest of the plane was sold out. (The Pan American Clipper had a great lounge down a circular stairway where, if we were first to get there, we could stretch out on the sofas. There was no bar service at 5:00 AM). We always just had to get to our destination ASAP. Positioning was of prime importance. Our own Weather Man from 1009th SWS

HQ at Langley AFB was on his way to provide expertise in where we should be flying. We had to hit the ground running and be airborne in a WB-29 within 12 hours. Most times one of us would be airborne within three hours of our arrival at Eielson AFB, AK, if we had a good idea of where we needed to be.

There was no such thing as "Crew Duty Time." We flew as needed. We learned real fast, that this was the routine method of initiating a TDY for anyone in the Cloud Chasing Business ((or: our type of business)). Capt Buck Copeland and A/1c Guy Davis flew alternating days for over a month. On their "day off," they manned the desk---monitoring and reporting up the line what was happening in the aircraft. Obviously, neither had any crew rest. They both were burned out by the time the operation concluded.

That was the beginning of six great years with the 1009th SWS and flying as an enlisted Aircrew Member. Initially, we were considered additional Non-Crew Member, which paid us \$50.00 per month for "hazardous duty pay." Most of us just wanted to be able to wear enlisted crewmember wings, but a raise in pay to \$55.00 per month would be a welcome increase in our meager pay---as would the designation of flight pay. It was minimal compensation for being separated from wife and baby girl for sudden, and frequent separations from the family. It was especially hard on my wife who did not know what we were doing, let alone where we were going or why.

The Aircraft Commanders (AC's) always were a little curious if we hadn't flown with him before, because the flying time we logged was "z" time, listed as 'other.' That was an unusual crewmember designation. He stayed suspicious until we found what we were looking for. Then, I think, he understood.

One of the most amazing aspects to me, and probably



most of us, was the ability of an A/2C to tell a Lt Col where to take his modified bomber and tell him when to turn and when to orbit. It was a little scary the first few

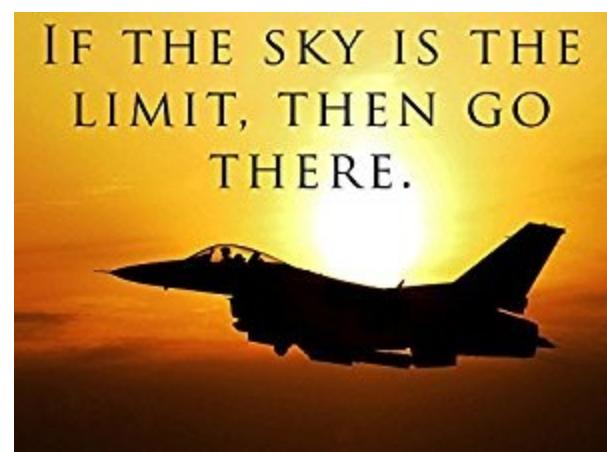
times, but they had been briefed and I only had one flight when the Aircraft Commander did not follow my instructions and what flight profile I wanted.

It was during a roughly twenty seven hour RB-36 mission and we were headed back to Travis AFB without any success. Exhausted, I thought I'd take a nap, and though we had 2 engines shut down, we still had 8 engines working so I told the AC to maintain 35,000 ft as long as possible and then make a steep approach

to Travis AFB. I went to sleep which was understandable (In addition, RB-36 pre-flight took about 3 hours, so I had been at or in the plane for over 27 hours already). The Aircraft Commander decided to make a long shallow approach to Travis so we lost about 3 hours off of the high altitude profile I had requested. During my "nap time," I had the radio operator monitor my equipment in the event anything happened.

Upon landing, I gave a long sigh of relief, knowing crew rest and a loving wife was awaiting me at McClellan. Instead, Immediately after engine shutdown, I had a big surprise awaiting my arrival. As I disembarked, I was surprised, shaken and not a little frightened to see our Field Office Commander, Col Griffin, waiting for me along with his secretary. Under the wing of the giant ten engine RB-36, at an improvised desk and chair, the secretary typed as I explained what happened. Two days later, the Aircraft Commander was a Co-Pilot. This was in General Curtis Lemay's Strategic Air Command. It was amazing how much clout a little airman had in this organization. Of course, this was when the Squadron had a two star General for a commander and we had the number one priority in the Air Force. There were four Full Colonels just in the Western Field Office at McClellan AFB, CA.

Though we had nothing to show for our long flight but flight time logged, it was still a successful mission. Just like hunting or fishing, there would be better results on the next time out!



## WEST COAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER EXTRACTS

**DEPOT FALLOUT**

2014-15 Board: Dave Tarquino, President; Joe Johnson, Vice; Ken Denbleyker, Chairman of the Board of Directors (COB); George Thompson, Asst. COB; Bob Fitzgerald (D), Director At Large; John 'Butch' Kemna, Treasurer; Dennis Nolan, Asst. Treasurer; Bob Baker, Secretary; Ken Breitwieser, Asst. Sec; Dave Price, Membership; Don King, Newsletter Editor; Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster - Website @ <http://www.aftacwcc.org>. **Florida Editor's Note:** The 1st Page of this 'Fallout' is available at the website - full earlier issues are also available. This editor can personally attest to the value of reviewing CA's posted issues. There are articles of high interest for Sages not available elsewhere, better yet, become a member..



**WCC Election of Officers**  
By Bob Fitzgerald  
**We Need You**

Our chapter is in dire need for all our members to step up and volunteer to fill an office of the WCC. We especially need someone to fill the Officer positions of President and Vice President and the volunteer position of Publications & Distribution Chairman. We have been without an elected President since December 2015. Our current Vice President, Joe Johnson, has been ably fulfilling the duties of President since that time but Joe retired from his VP position after the reunion. So, please volunteer for the office of President or Vice President.

The WCC also has an immediate need for a volunteer for Publications & Distribution Chairman. These and all the other WCC Officer positions are open for the election, but these are the most important and most in immediate need of someone to fill each of them now.

The following current WCC Officers have graciously consented to continue in their positions if elected for the new term:

Chairman of the Board of Directors – Ken Denbleyker;  
Assistant Chairman of the Board – Dave Tarquino;  
Director At Large – Dennis Nolan;  
Treasurer – John "Butch" Kemna;  
Secretary – Bob Baker;  
Assistant Secretary – Ken Breitwieser.

Also consenting to continue are these volunteers:

Membership Chairman – Dave Price;

Newsletter Editor – Don King;

Website Administrator – Dave Tarquino;

Webmaster – Bob Fitzgerald.

Note: All of the aforementioned Officers will be happy to assist those elected/appointed for the new term.

The election of officers for the West Coast Chapter of the AFTAC Alumni Association will be held at our Fall Social on Sunday, 12 November 2017. The term of office for those elected will be from December 2017 – through November 2019.

Nominations & volunteers for all the offices you see on this first page of the Depot Fallout newsletter are now open so please consider volunteering by notifying the Elections Chairman, Ken Denbleyker + Ken Breitwieser & Bob Fitzgerald by Email at Election-Committee@AFTACWCC.org.

Thank you.



**WCC Spring Picnic, 20 May 2017 at Tempo Park, C.H.**

This event was arranged by  
**John "Butch" Kemna**

Photos by Bob Fitzgerald

See our "Albums" page at  
[www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)  
for more & larger color photos



Picnic Crew: Butch Kemna, Bob Fitzgerald,  
Ken Breitwieser & Dennis Nolan



Twenty-Seven wonderful AFTAC Alumni who enjoyed the 2017 WCC Spring Picnic



At the Hospitality Suite on Thursday:  
**Bob Fitzgerald**, Reunion Photographer  
**Don King**, WCC "Depot Fallout" Editor

## AFTAC WORLDWIDE REUNION June 15-18, 2017

Friday RECEPTION,  
Sat. AEROSPACE MUSEUM Tour,  
and Sunday FAREWELL BRUNCH  
(Banquet photos are on photo page 2)

Captions w/names for these & all of the photos  
& videos taken at the reunion will be available  
soon on our [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) website

Photos by **Bob Fitzgerald**, except for 1, \*below



Reception Hors d'oeuvres – Friday eve



Reception on the "McClellan Mall" lawn



\*This photo provided by Denise (2<sup>nd</sup> fm left)



Aerospace Museum Tour - Saturday



Farewell Brunch at the Red Lion Hotel



on Sunday morning



Aerospace Museum Tour - Saturday



Farewell Brunch at the Red Lion Hotel



on Sunday morning



**Reunion Committee:** (L-R)  
Bob Fitzgerald + Joe Johnson-Chairman  
& Nancy & Dave Price-Primary Members

## AFTAC WORLDWIDE REUNION June 15-18, 2017

### SATURDAY BANQUET PHOTOS

Captions for these photos and many more, including individual/couple photos and videos, taken at the reunion are available at [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)

Photos by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster  
(From a total 114 photos & 11 videos taken there)



At the Banquet Happy Hour



Table #1



Table #2



Table #3



Table #4



Table #5



Table #6



Table #7



Table #8



Table #9



Table #10



Table #11



Table #12

# **MONITOR** ing Active

## Duty Doing' from around the AFTAC world

### **Command Section**



Col. Steven M. Gorski

**Commander/CC/2016.** Colonel Gorski graduated from the USAF Academy in 1996. His operational experience includes assignments as the Intelligence Flight Commander for the 23rd Fighter Group; the Chief of Target Development for the 607th Intelligence Squadron; and the Chief of the Joint Exploitation Cell for the Joint Special Operations Command.

Bio: <http://www.25af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC.aspx>



CMS Michael S. Joseph

**Command CMS/CCMS/2016.** Enlisted in the Air Force in October 1989 where he initially served as an aircrew life support technician. Before assuming his current duties he served as the Superintendent of the 6th Mission Support Group, MacDill AFB, Fl. The Chief has had multiple combat and contingency deployments.

Bio: <http://www.25af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC.aspx>

### **AFTAC, University of Texas to partner on nuclear forensics research**

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. Sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security's, Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, the Nuclear Forensics Research



Award establishes a team of researchers including faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, as well as a national or defense laboratory to conduct advanced nuclear forensics research. AFTAC's Ciambrone Radiochemistry Lab was chosen by DHS' Na-

tional Technical Nuclear Forensics Center to collaborate with two graduate students from UTA on short-lived radionuclide analysis.

AFTAC, the Department of Defense's sole organization responsible for nuclear treaty monitoring, is also on the forefront of protecting the homeland as part of the NTNF program. Through an established array of sensors across the United States, AFTAC assists the Federal Bureau of Investigation with nuclear forensic collection and analysis after a nuclear detonation.

Technically speaking, AFTAC and UTA will focus on analyzing short-lived radionuclides using gamma coincidence spectroscopy with multiple high-purity germanium detectors. The two organizations will use fission-spectrum neutron sources in conjunction with rapid sample retrieval systems to produce relevant

fission-product forensic samples.

In layman's terms, the students, faculty and scientists collaborate to develop methods and techniques to improve nuclear forensics timelines after a nuclear explosion in order to provide data rapidly to senior decision makers.

"AFTAC's efforts and involvement with the NTNF program are making the DoD's vision to protect U.S. personnel and interests from the threat of a weapon of mass destruction a reality," said Dr. Bill Johnson, Ciambrone Radiochemistry Lab senior scientist.

"Nuclear forensics is a keystone of AFTAC's responsibility of assisting the U.S. government in its commitment to hold perpetrators accountable, and also counters the smuggling of nuclear material by helping to identify those responsible. Our lab performs that analysis, and having this partnership with the University of Texas will bolster our analytical capabilities, while helping the students gain invaluable hands-on experience in an operational radiochemistry lab."

The Ciambrone Radiochemistry Lab, the only lab of its type in the Air Force and one of many in AFTAC's own network of analytical labs across the United States, is used to identify radiologic or nuclear debris in support of AFTAC's Nuclear Debris Collection and Analysis Program. The lab analyzes samples to assess signature compliance to established nuclear weapons testing treaties in support of the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System.

"The award helps ensure a robust nuclear forensics operational capability," said Dr. Mark Suriano, DNDI assistant director who leads the NTNF Center at DHS. "This award is key to bringing students into the nuclear forensic workforce and to supporting the United States government's capability to counter nuclear terrorism."

Dr. Glenn Sjoden, AFTAC's chief scientist, emphasized the importance of partnerships like this.

"Nuclear deterrence is critical to the overarching role this center plays in our national strategy," he said. "When we're able to introduce new minds to our unique 70-year history of monitoring nuclear activity across the globe, it allows us to stress the vital importance and necessity of deterring other nation-states or even non-state actors from waging war with nuclear weapons. As long as the threat exists, however, AFTAC stands ready to support our leaders in their decision-making. I look forward to working with the students from UTA."

## Six continents, 14 locations and 9 time zones don't stop this squadron from mission accomplishment

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.

In 1966, author Geoffrey Blainey coined the phrase "tyranny of distance," metaphorically referring to how distance and isolation shaped the history of one of earth's most intriguing continents, Australia.



Today, members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center here are subjected to the tyranny of distance, but thanks to innovative Airmen, modern technology and state-of-the-art communications platforms, they are able to adapt and overcome the so-called tyranny to accomplish their nuclear treaty monitoring mission.

AFTAC's Technical Support Squadron, commanded by Lt. Col. Dennis Uyechi, leads the way by providing a broad range of world-class operations support to the center's various mission areas. His squadron of 145 active duty Airmen and 11 civilians operates and maintains the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System, or USAEDS, to monitor foreign compliance with various international treaties limiting nuclear testing. His team of highly-skilled experts assists with detecting special events in the atmosphere, underwater, underground and in space to determine if the event is nuclear in nature.

The majority of TSUS detachments and operating locations are positioned overseas, with a handful scattered throughout the continental United States. Each location serves a specific purpose ranging in scope from airborne collection and satellite operations to special equipment maintenance and logistics support.

"TSUS supports six different AFTAC mission sets at our nine detachments and four operating locations," said Uyechi. "That support is a mixture of operations and maintenance to AFTAC's global network of sensors, the largest in the U.S. Air Force. If a suspected nuclear explosion occurs somewhere around the world, our Airmen get to work determining if the event has nuclear characteristics. Once further analysis is conducted, the information is reported to U.S. decision-makers at the highest levels of our government."

To help them accomplish that mission, the squadron maintains a variety of partnerships ranging from support agreements with other Department of Defense components to international agreements with host na-

tions, to leases and agreements with local civilian land owners.

"TSUS Airmen not only must be excellent technicians in their primary job; they are also ambassadors of AFTAC and are expected to positively represent the command and our mission around the world," said Uyechi. "Specific activities the Airmen are involved in include maintaining and repairing special instruments, performing station upkeep like ground clearing and road access maintenance, and evaluating scientific data for both quality and content."

Uyechi, a 1997 U.S. Air Force Academy graduate with a degree in Electrical Engineering, took command of TSUS in October 2015, the first officer to do so when the squadron was activated after AFTAC reorganized as a wing equivalent. He has visited all of his geographically separated detachments across the globe, and is particularly proud of how his squadron responded to two recent North Korean declared nuclear tests.

"The Airmen within our global network worked around the clock to provide headquarters with everything it needed to properly evaluate and analyze the situation as it unfolded," said Uyechi. "My maintainers' herculean efforts keep system data availability over 99 percent, which ensured the equipment was operational and ready to detect any event. My satellite operators jumped into gear, evaluating the situation with space-borne sensors. The WC-135 special equipment operators and technicians immediately began preparing flight plans and finalizing logistics to perform their airborne collection mission. All of these elements were synchronized in an impressively complex process, with their sole focus on getting data from the field back to AFTAC and the center's network of national labs for further scientific analysis."

While Uyechi and his leadership staff face typical work-related hurdles that any organization deals with on a daily basis, geographical separation seems to pose the greatest challenge.

"We operate in nine different time zones and have to diplomatically consider various cultural nuances with our international partners," he said. "Those factors sometimes make it difficult to complete the simplest tasks such as conducting a staff meeting or responding to a last-minute request for information from higher headquarters. Email is great for one-way communication and distributing general information, but it's not the best facilitator of real-time, multi-party conversations about emerging events. But my Airmen in my squad-

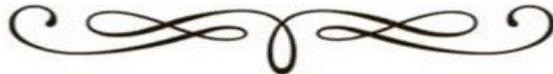


ron never fail to generate smart and innovative ways to overcome these challenges."

Beyond the distance, geographical challenges, maintenance issues and cultural differences, Uyechi boasted about one common denominator that brings his squadron together: the Airmen.

"These scientific applications specialists, better known as 9S100s, are enlisted Airmen who are enormously intelligent and highly skilled," he said. "They can diagnose complex problems and improvise workable solutions, which is critically valuable in situations where access to sites and equipment may be either limited or prohibitively expensive. It is a great privilege for me to be a part of AFTAC's unique mission, and I am constantly impressed with the quality of my Airmen and their unwavering dedication to getting the mission done."

"Our Airmen are the heart and soul of this mission," said Col. Steven M. Gorski, AFTAC commander. "In addition to the great work they perform for the center, they are veritable ambassadors for the Air Force and represent our government as a whole by virtue of the work they perform in various countries around the world, sometimes under austere conditions. Their professionalism and technical knowledge are absolutely second to none."



### **Through tragedy, loss and amputation, Airman learns 'new norm'**

Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.



"My leg looked like a boomerang." Those were the words of Staff Sgt. August O'Niell, an Air Force pararescueman, to members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center

when the combat warrior visited the base to discuss resiliency during the center's Combat Airman Fitness Day.

AFTAC commander Col. Steven M. Gorski invited the Purple Heart recipient to speak after learning of a connection between O'Niell and another member of the treaty monitoring center, Kevin Callan. Callan has known Auggy (as he's fondly known by his inner circle) since 2001, and thought he'd be a perfect candidate to inspire AFTAC personnel during their quarterly CAF

Day events. Once Gorski learned of O'Niell's amazing story of courage, he told Callan to do what he could to have him come speak.

In July 2011, O'Niell was on a rescue mission in Afghanistan when his helicopter came under fire from enemy insurgents. Several rounds pierced the chopper, with one tearing through O'Niell's lower limbs. His left leg was severely wounded, and after nearly two dozen surgeries, immeasurable pain and a desire to stay on active duty, he opted to have his left leg amputated above the knee.

"The non-stop, excruciating pain was just too unbearable," he told the standing room only crowd. "After talking with the doctors and surgeons and various specialists, I made the decision to have the leg amputated. Once that decision was made, there was no looking back. And to this day I don't have any regrets about it."

The PJ's message resounded with the packed house in AFTAC's Northrup Auditorium May 22, 2017. He went into detail about that fateful July day that changed his life forever, and talked about how he's learned to deal with what he calls the "new normal."

"When I look back at everything I've gone through, believe it or not I'd have to say my darkest day was when my ex-wife asked for a divorce," he said. "It was on a Sunday. I know that because two days before, I called my case manager and told her that I had hit rock-bottom and needed some help. Her response was she'd get me seen by a mental health specialist first thing Monday morning. I was already in a very bad place – physically, mentally, emotionally – and then my wife sprung that news on me. I don't think I ever felt more alone than I did at that moment."

He continued, "I've never been suicidal, but I remember going out on a motorcycle ride and I thought to myself, 'Man, if I take this turn too hard or I wipe out or something, that might not be a bad thing.' But then Kai (his service dog) came into my mind and I realized he might be left alone for days before someone found me or realized I was gone. I just couldn't do that to him."

Kai has been a part of O'Niell's life since shortly after his accident.

"I told my case manager I was lonely and needed a companion to help me cope with everything," he said. "She said it could take up to two years for me to get a service dog, and I told her, 'Two years? But I'm depressed today!' That's when I reached out to K9 Soldiers for help."

K9 Soldiers is a non-profit charity dedicated to improving the lives of military servicemen and women by providing them with fully-trained dogs to assist with

everyday challenges.

Kai was at O'Niell's side throughout his visit to AFTAC – a first for the center. The audience laughed when Auggy warned them about how Kai reacts to applause.

"I just want to let you know he has his own way of clapping along when he hears others doing it!" And O'Niell wasn't joking – when the crowd erupted in applause after his presentation, Kai popped up on all fours and began to howl and bark.



"That was pretty cool to witness," said Master Sgt. Tamicka Cogdell, AFTAC's superintendent of program management. "As much as I loved seeing Kai at his side, listening to his story was so compelling, humbling and heartfelt. Sergeant O'Niell is a hero in my eyes, and it was an honor to listen to what he's been through, and what he's overcome. He was truly inspiring!"

After nearly two dozen surgeries, countless hours of rehab, and a drive to return to active duty to rejoin his PJ brethren, O'Niell began the process to requalify and recertify as a pararescueman. His decision to amputate his leg not only helped alleviate his pain, but cleared the way for him to meet a medical board for consideration to return to the job he loves.

"I am a very competitive person," he said. "I love to win – so much so that if you beat me once, I won't let you beat me again."

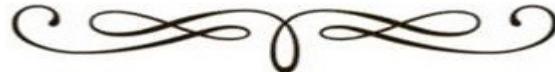
His competitive spirit was evident during his participation at the Invictus Games in 2016. He rappelled from a helicopter during the games' opening ceremonies in front of 10,000 spectators and television viewers around the world, with Kai anxiously waiting for him at the center of Champion Stadium in Orlando, Fla. He competed in swimming, and earned a Gold Medal in sitting volleyball. He's also a give-time Warrior Games gold medalist.

"Sergeant O'Niell's description of 'little victories every day' really resonated with me," said Gorski. "He talked about how he wakes up each day and sets a

small goal for himself, whatever it may be. He tells himself that he just needs to accomplish that one small thing, and when he does, he counts it as a success. This is an Airman who loves his job so much, loves the Air Force so much, and loves being a part of our nation's fighting force. I hope the AFTAC workforce walked away with a greater sense of understanding of what Auggy went through, and how he's risen above an enormous amount of adversity to continue to serve his nation. I challenge everyone here to keep his story in mind when they're facing hurdles that seem tough to overcome."

During his presentation, O'Niell quoted the pararescue motto during his presentation, 'These things I do, so others may live.' Gorski agreed there is no greater sacrifice than someone willing to lay down his life to protect others. "He is a testament to every aspect of the Air Force Core Values, and it was a privilege to have him visit the center," he said.

O'Niell is the only pararescue amputee serving in the Air Force.



## Tech Ops Squadron is heartbeat of nuke treaty monitoring from air, sea, space

*By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.*

When the Department of Defense needs bombs on target or fighters in the air, they reach out to any number of flying wings within the Air Force to task their squadrons to accomplish that mission. Yet when they need near-real time data of potential nuclear detonations, to include ballistic missile detection, radioactive plume debris collection, seismic activity or gamma ray emissions, there is only one wing within DoD that can meet that need.



The Air Force Technical Applications Center is the sole organization in the Defense Department whose mission is to detect and report technical data from foreign nuclear explosions. One of the ways that mission is accomplished is through the efforts of Airmen assigned to AFTAC's Technical Operations Squadron.

TOPS, under the command of Lt. Col. Donald W. Wittemberg, is responsible for conducting worldwide surveillance and reconnaissance missions using its maritime and airborne assets in order to provide national

authorities with quality technical measurements that may involve nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

"My squadron of 11 officers, 14 enlisted and nine civilians directs and coordinates nuclear treaty monitoring efforts through the employment of the WC-135 Constant Phoenix aircraft as well as our two ship-borne radar platforms, Gray Star and Cobra King valued at more than \$2.2 billion," said Wittenberg. "These assets allow us to accurately monitor space, missile or weapons tests that may pose potential threats or hazards to our nation or our allies."

Cobra King and Gray Star are state-of-the-art mobile radar systems that consist of S- and X-band radars that AFTAC relies on to provide global, high resolution, multi-wavelength radar data to the Missile Defense Agency and DoD's strategic community.

"Essentially, each ship's main job is to monitor any tests of rockets using her S-band and X-band radars. The S-band sensor sweeps vast expanses of sky for possible missiles in flight, while the X-band radar zeroes in to closely track a target," Wittenberg explained.

According to the TOPS commander, both are capable of collecting radar data on orbiting satellites and tactical ballistic missiles. Each vessel consists of two radar systems and numerous support systems including automatic data processing equipment, navigation and a full communications suite.

"Their mobile instrumentation platforms are one-of-a-kind systems with extremely critical performance characteristics," Wittenberg said. "The radar systems aboard USNS Invincible (Gray Star) and USNS Howard O. Lorenzen (Cobra King) allow us to execute our treaty monitoring responsibilities. But what makes it unique is the mission commander aboard these U.S. Navy ships is an Air Force company grade officer – an Airman assigned right here in TOPS. Traditionally, the MCs are captains from the space and missile career field and the combination of those skill sets really complement each other and enhance the understanding of foreign tests and capabilities."

Typically, MCs will be at sea for 60 to 90 days at a time, with most officers going out to sea twice a year. During the last 12 months, TOPS has included nuclear missile officers with a 13N Air Force Specialty Code into the mix for leadership opportunities.

The mission commander's ultimate responsibility is to ensure the platform team members are able to successfully collect mission data. In addition to daily mission taskings, the MC works closely with experts from Military Sealift Command to schedule port visits and develop a prioritized listing of necessary ship-related maintenance whenever the vessel is in port or at the shipyard.

From sea to air, Wittenberg's Airmen are involved in nearly all aspects of AFTAC's treaty monitoring responsibilities. The center's airborne platform is an integral part of TOPS' mission execution.

Commonly referred to by the media as a 'sniffer plane,' the WC-135 has been in the Air Force inventory since 1965 and currently supports the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963, which prohibits any nation from testing nuclear weapons above ground. The Constant Phoenix is the only aircraft in the USAF that conducts air sampling operations. The cockpit crews are from the 45th Reconnaissance Squadron at Offutt AFB, Neb., while the special equipment operators are from AFTAC's Detachment 1, also at Offutt.



"The WC-135 flies in direct support of the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System and maintains the most advanced atmospheric research equipment in the Air Force," said Wittenberg. "The

SEOs are highly proficient and well-trained to perform this complex mission. While we don't discuss specific ongoing operational taskings as a matter of policy, my team has averaged more than 160 days of temporary duty or deployment over the past year flying background sorties to establish baseline levels of atmospheric debris. These Airmen are incredibly motivated to get the job done, no matter where in the world that job may be."

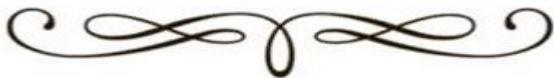
He added, "We conduct these airborne sampling missions to help us understand what already exists in the atmosphere. We typically fly over the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Bay of Bengal, the Polar Regions, the Far East, and off the coasts of South America and Africa to ensure signatories are adhering to established nuclear treaties. It's a busy mission, and an incredibly invaluable one as well."

TOPS is one of five squadrons within AFTAC's wing structure, and the center's commander had nothing but the highest of praise for Wittenberg and his Airmen.

"The Airmen of TOPS are truly just that – the tops at what they do," said Col. Steven M. Gorski, AFTAC commander. "They are responsible for a critical link of information that has the potential to be up-channelled as high as the desk of the President of the United States, and that is a huge responsibility. They continuously demonstrate their expertise, sometimes under austere and exhausting conditions, and I couldn't be more proud of them."

Wittenberg matched his commander's accolades.

"I am humbled to be a part of such a tight-knit team that takes pride in performing the mission," he said. "From the youngest Airmen to the most senior civilian, I see an organization that cares for each other and epitomizes the Wingman ideals. Their professionalism and teamwork inspire me every day!"



## 2 Chinese Military Jets Buzz US Radiation-sniffing Plane

U.S. officials say two Chinese fighter jets intercepted the American aircraft in international airspace over the East China Sea. The U.S. military is calling the actions of the Chinese as "unprofessional."

"The issue is being addressed with China through appropriate diplomatic and military channels," said Air Force spokeswoman Lieutenant Colonel Lori Hodge.

Hodge said the U.S. characterization of the incident was based on initial reports from the U.S. aircrew aboard the WC-135 Constant Phoenix aircraft "due to the maneuvers by the Chinese pilot, as well as the speeds and proximity of both aircraft."

"Distances always have a bearing on how we characterize interactions," Hodge said, adding a U.S. military investigation into the intercept was underway.

She said the WC-135 was carrying out a routine mission at the time and was operating in accordance with international law. The aircraft is a "sniffer-plane" and its mission is to look for signs of nuclear activity in the atmosphere.

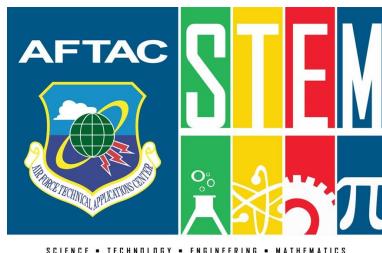
Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying declined to comment on the specific incident and referred questions to the defense ministry which has yet to comment.

"For a long time U.S. ships and aircraft have been carrying out close up surveillance of China which can really easily cause misunderstandings or misjudgments or cause unexpected incidents at sea or in the air," she said. "We hope that the U.S. side can respect China's reasonable security concerns."

Reuters copy/ TRUNews contribution

## AFTAC Airmen haul in annual STEM hardware

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.



Six Airmen from the Air Force Technical Applications Center here earned Air Combat Command accolades for their accomplishments in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

The winners, all of whom are assigned to AFTAC's Technology Coordination Office (TC), learned of their selection from AFTAC's commander, Col. Steven M. Gorski, after ACC's 4-star general made the final selections.

The awards were broken up into two distinct groups: one for Science and Technology, and one for Acquisitions. Within the groups were specific categories and recipients were required to submit a lengthy nomination package for each award.

Three of the six awards are named after luminaries associated with the respective award. Capt. Jeffrey B. Archer, chief of TC's Aerospace Systems Branch, won the Harold Brown Award, the highest award given by the Air Force to a scientist or engineer who applies scientific research to solve a problem critical to the needs of the Air Force. It is named after Dr. Harold Brown, the eighth Secretary of the Air Force and 14th Secretary of Defense.

Capt. Kimberlee S. Pottinger, chief of TC's Sensors, Surveillance and Development Branch, won the Air Force Science and Engineering Award/Research and Development category for her work on global persistent surveillance and characterization of high value assets within the Department of Defense.

Maj. Ernesto F. Curiel, TC's deputy director, earned the Air Force Science and Engineering Award/Research Management category. Curiel was instrumental in the advancement of unique communications and identification technologies to meet critical mission requirements.

Maj. Michael Butler, who serves as the chief of TC's Space Situational Awareness Sensors Branch, was selected for the Air Force Science and Engineering Award/Advanced Technology Development after he led a 62-member team from 15 national organizations to develop a space situational awareness characterization technique. This is Butler's third consecutive win (same group, different categories), and the past two years he went on to win at the Air Force level as well.

Curiel collared a second award from the acquisitions group—the Gen. Lester L. Lyles Developmental Engineer of the Year award. Lyles was the commander of Air Force Materiel Command who received degrees in mechanical and nuclear engineering.

The sixth winner was Capt. Joshua J. Ford, a TC systems engineer, who was presented with the Dr. Paul G. Kaminski Most Promising Systems Engineer Award for his work on a \$2.5 billion geosynchronous earth orbit missile warning spacecraft. Kaminski is best known for his role in the development of stealth aircraft.

"AFTAC Airmen absolutely overshadowed the competition and came away with impressive hardware," said Lt. Col. David Laird, director of TC. "These awards are a true testament to the caliber of our workforce here, and the recognition our Airmen continue to receive around the Air Force is well deserved. I am honored to serve with them, and I am confident their hard work will continue as it always has."



### **Member of Congress briefed on center's nuke role**

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.

U.S. Representative Bill Posey paid a visit to the Air Force Technical Applications Center on April 11 to receive an update on the center's nuclear treaty monitoring role and its involvement in recent global events.



*Dr. Bill Johnson (left), Ciambrone Radiochemistry Laboratory senior scientist, explains the science of trace-level analysis of environmental samples to U.S. Rep. Bill Posey from Florida's 8th Congressional District as Posey's District Director Patrick Gavin looks on. The samples are analyzed using radiochemistry and mass spectrometry for low levels of nuclear materials. Posey and members of his staff visited the Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick AFB, Fla., for a mission update April 11, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo by Susan A. Romano)*

Posey, accompanied by his District Director Patrick Gavin and Director of Community Relations Rob Medina, met with Col. Steven M. Gorski, AFTAC's commander and members of his staff for an in-depth mission briefing and to bring the congressman up to speed on AFTAC's capabilities regarding past and potential worldwide nuclear detonations. The congressman was briefed on AFTAC's scientific contributions to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as well as underground disturbances the center detected in the vicinity of North Korea in January and September 2016.

"It is always a pleasure to visit AFTAC," said Posey. "This is the first time I've been able to tour the new building since it opened (in 2014), and I enjoy the opportunity to speak to the Airmen who perform this vital mission. Everyone should be very proud of the work they're undertaking for our nation. It's invaluable."

After the briefings, the congressional delegation toured the center, which included stops at AFTAC's Innovation Lab, Operations Floor and Ciambrone Radiochemistry Laboratory.

"AFTAC shares an incredible rapport with our elected officials," said Col. Steven M. Gorski, AFTAC commander. "Their support is invaluable to us as we execute our global nuclear deterrence mission. AFTAC Airmen and their family members are integral parts of the Space Coast community, as well as Rep. Posey's constituents. His visit gave us the opportunity to showcase our mission and illustrate our involvement with the local community. It is a great partnership, and we appreciate the time the congressman and his staff took out of their schedules to meet with us."



## AFTAC routs civil engineers, takes base soccer championship

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.

Team AFTAC handily defeated rival 45th Civil Engineer Squadron in a one-game-take-all matchup for the base soccer championship April 18.

The teams went head-to-head on a breezy Florida evening at the base's athletic complex along the Banana River. The first half saw end-to-end action, which resulted in a close 1-0 score in AFTAC's favor.

During halftime, AFTAC team captains Pete Oliveri and Jonathan Powers pumped up their teammates with words of encouragement and friendly 'smack-talk' about their opponents.

"We got this, guys," said one. "Keep shooting and we'll score more goals in the second half," said another. "We have to keep the pressure on, and we can put this away in a few minutes. They don't stand a chance now!"

The encouragement must have worked because the second half was as lopsided as a two-legged stool. Nearly all the action took place in CE's half of the field, where AFTAC scored four more goals – three in the first four minutes of the half – to CE's zero.

Powers, the team's goalie, earned a shut out for his squad and made some stellar saves as he adeptly kept the ball out of his net.

"This was one of our best games," said forward Andrew Belk. "It was a total team effort – that's been the case all season. We've got 13 players on this roster, and each person contributed throughout the 12-game season."

Defenseman Ehren Carl added, "We come out here to have fun and get some exercise, but it sure does make it sweeter when you walk away as base champions. Definitely a great feeling!"

At the conclusion of the game, Jeffrey Howell, sports program manager from the Base Fitness Center, presented Team AFTAC with the championship trophy, which was quickly hoisted over the heads of the winners.

"I'm really proud of this group of guys," said midfielder J.T. Thomas. "I'm one of the more senior guys out here, and I'm always amazed at the skill level of some of the junior Airmen. They really have some talent!"

AFTAC finished the year with a perfect 12-0 record and the team is already looking forward to next year season.

## Persistent surveillance gives squadron its global purpose



*By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.*

Deep within the walls of a four story structure along Florida's Space Coast sits a squadron of Airmen whose number one mission is to detect, identify and locate nuclear explosions anywhere in the world.

The Technical Surveillance Squadron, a subordinate unit to the Air Force Technical Applications Center, operates 24/7/365 and provides persistent and collaborative surveillance in direct support of AFTAC's nuclear treaty monitoring mission.

Lt. Col. Ehren Carl, commander of TESS, oversees the daily operations and his squadron's 60+ personnel.

"The Technical Surveillance Squadron conducts multi-domain ops in land, sea, air, space and under-water," said Carl. "The Airmen who execute this mission are the gatekeepers of all the near-real-time operational data we receive in the AFTAC Operations Center."

AFTAC maintains a global network of nuclear event detection sensors called the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System – the largest sensor network in the U.S. Air Force. In the event of a possible nuclear explosion, USAEDS sensors that are positioned worldwide and in space detect the explosion, and that data are transmitted to Carl's Airmen in the AOC.

"Our analysts review the incoming data to determine what kind of explosion may have occurred," he said. "We use precision equipment to establish if the explosion was a naturally-occurring event such as a lightning strike, an earthquake or a volcanic eruption, or a man-made event such as an explosion. If an analyst determines the event may be nuclear in nature, we conduct further analysis and our seismic PhDs get involved in the process. The information

our Airmen handle during events like this has the potential to – and actually has – reach the desk of the president of the United States. That's how critical our mission is."

TESS is a relatively new squadron at AFTAC. Activated in October 2015, it was part of a five-squadron stand up as the center took steps to reorganize after becoming a wing equivalent in August 2014. Carl is first to take command of the surveillance squadron.

"Forging a new identity in the midst of other major organizational changes was a hurdle that was tough to overcome," said Carl. "But TESS Airmen – and all the members of AFTAC, quite frankly – are incredibly resilient and innovative. They find ways to come together to achieve the established goals while taking care of each other regardless of the circumstances. We are a pretty tight-knit family here."

A squadron is considered to be the Air Force's most basic unit, responsible for vital, day-to-day operations. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein recently called squadrons "the beating heart of the Air Force." He further referred to them as "the engines of innovation and esprit de corps," where standards are set, excellence is fostered and healthy work environments are cultivated.

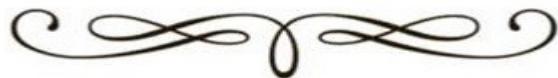
"It's where the job gets done," said Carl. "My Airmen take great pride in our mission and their role in our nation's security. As a leader, I'm tasked with establishing the vision, providing the resources and setting the conditions to enable the men and women of TESS to execute their daily responsibilities. When they're given the responsibility as well as the authority to execute their taskings, they will exceed your expectations every time."

Exceed they have. In 2016 along, TESS Airmen reacted quickly to two separate North Korean-declared nuclear tests, setting in motion full AFTAC alert team responses that ultimately provided information to the White House and the National Security Council.

"In January and September 2016, our sensors detected underground disturbances in the vicinity of North Korea's reported nuclear tests," said Carl. "Our initial findings were based on seismic activity, which we quickly analyzed, packaged and elevated to our national decision makers. Our information makes it all the way to the top. We have E3s and E4s who directly impact the U.S. response to these events. It's an incredible amount of responsibility and our Airmen manage it brilliantly."

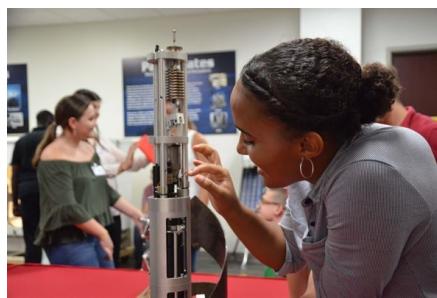
He added, "2016 was an important year for us. It's been a very long time since AFTAC has had to respond to two nuclear tests in a single year. It's critical that we're constantly poised and ready to act; our nation relies on it. We were ready for the last two and we'll be ready for the next one, should that ever happen."

Col. Steven M. Gorski, AFTAC's commander, realizes his organization has the indispensable responsibility as the Department of Defense's sole organization whose mission is to detect and report technical data from foreign nuclear explosions. He also understands how his squadrons are the crucial element in executing that mission.



## Melbourne High School Junior ROTC visits AFTAC

*By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.*



The goal of the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps is to instill values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment. One of the ways it achieves that goal is when a detachment schedules a field trip to a military base.

Florida Junior ROTC Detachment FL-011 accomplished just that when a group of 127 students from Melbourne High School made a trip to Patrick AFB April 28. One of the stops on their tour was to the Air Force Technical Applications Center, the Department of Defense's sole organization responsible for monitoring nuclear treaties.

Escorted by retired Lt. Col. Robin Athey and retired Master Sgt. David Greene, Mel High students were greeted by the center's command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Michael Joseph, and other members



of Joseph's staff. After posing for a quick group photo in front of AFTAC's historical lobby mural, the cadets received the AFTAC mission briefing delivered by Capt. Reggie Luper, a space operations officer and member of the Commander's Action Group. From there, the students were escorted to the center's Heritage Room, a showcase of AFTAC's 70 year history of long range detection, where AFTAC's legal advisor, David Charitat, gave a brief overview of AFTAC's storied legacy.



Stephanie Salonen, a 12th grader and a 4-year Jr. ROTC participant, was quite impressed with the tour. "A few years ago we came to Patrick for a summer camp program, but we didn't get to visit AFTAC," she said. "So coming here today was a brand new learning experience, and I'm realizing how cool it is to work here. I want to join the Air Force after college to become a flight nurse, so opportunities like this are really exciting for me. I'm having a great time!"

Donna Crews, Stephanie's mom, accompanied the group on the trip. "I am beyond proud of Stephanie's accomplishments and the things she's worked so hard at," she said. "Her twin sister Samantha is also here today, and the two of them have spent the last four years excelling in everything they do. While I believe their dad and I have raised them in a structured environment at home, the Jr. ROTC program has put it into perspective for them, and when they get to visit places like AFTAC, it gives the cadets the chance to see that it's all not fun and games – this is real world stuff."

She added, "Colonel Athey and Sergeant Greene are an incredible leadership team, and we can't thank them enough for making this trip happen for the kids. AFTAC is an amazing place!"

This is the third Jr. ROTC visit AFTAC has hosted this year, with a fourth one on the horizon in June. Joseph, who has pushed hard to have cadets visit the treaty monitoring center, believes the program offers an invaluable glimpse into what the Air Force – and more specifically – what AFTAC can offer a graduating high school senior.

"What I try to impart on the students who come to AFTAC is pretty simple: you don't have to be an active duty Airman to be a part of the Air Force," the command chief said. "Our unit is made up of both military and civilian personnel – about a 60-40 split – and we are always looking for bright, motivated, intelligent and dedicated citizens to become part of our unique or-



## Airmen learn self-defense shooting tactics from local sheriff's office

*By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.*

Air Force Airmen undergo extensive training on the proper use of firearms, especially when they're preparing to deploy downrange. The training program is aptly called Combat Arms Training and Maintenance, and it focuses on the specific characteristics of each weapon, how to effectively operate it, and basic marksmanship.

For the most part, military CATM is geared toward battlefield operations.

But for an Airman who may face a more domestic-type of firearm situation, battlefield training may not necessarily fit the bill.



*Jim Ordway (right) a member of the Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick AFB, Fla., fires off a round as Agent Reggie Hammond, a deputy with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, observes. Ordway was one of 25 AFTAC members who attended BCSO's Self Defense Through Tactical Shooting and Decision Making course March 25, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo by Susan A. Romano)*

Col. Steven M. Gorski, commander of the Air Force Technical Applications Center here, wanted to know more about self-defense tactics with his personal handgun. He knew enough about how to operate his own .9mm semi-automatic, but felt there was more to learn. So he reached out to the Brevard County Sheriff's Office to inquire about a class the county offers its citizens.

Called Self Defense Through Tactical Shooting and Decision Making, the course is designed to give civilians the opportunity to learn safe gun handling skills as well as the legal aspects of gun ownership. It also gives attendees the opportunity to undergo "shoot-don't shoot" simulator scenarios, where split-second decisions must be made in a self-defense domestic situation that involves a handgun. Additionally, those

enrolled expend 100 live rounds under the close supervision of range deputies.

Gorski encouraged members of his staff to join him, and on Saturday, March 25, more than two dozen AFTACers met at the BSCO training range in Cocoa, Fla., for the 8-hour course.



Corporal Larry Plotkin, master lead instructor, welcomed the group and gave opening remarks

during the classroom portion of the course. He was followed by Corporal Jessie Holton, who spoke about the importance of mental preparedness and the tactics of firearms self-defense.

"There has been a huge uptick of personal firearms purchases over the past several years by people who want to protect their families and their homes, but many gun owners don't know how to operate their weapons," said Holton. "Most gun encounters occur within five feet or less – you will probably be touching your adversary. So when it comes to surviving a real threat, and if you really want to protect yourself, you need to know what your capabilities are, what the capabilities of your handgun are, and if you're physically and psychologically prepared to defend yourself. It's critical to staying alive."

After Holton's presentation, the group received an in-depth briefing from Jason Arthur, assistant state attorney for Florida's 18th Judicial Circuit.



Arthur discussed specific state laws that pertain to gun ownership, impacts of the Second Amendment, definitions of deadly force, and Florida's Stand Your Ground law. He addressed the Castle Doctrine, a lesser known legal theory that gives a homeowner the right to protect his or her home using deadly force, and he also fielded a battery of questions from the inquisitive audience.

The group broke for a quick lunch, then split up into two groups: one group went to the MILO Simulator, and the other group headed to the live fire range.

"The simulator is a law enforcement-specific learning tool, but we give the scenarios to the SDTTS classes so they can experience the interactivity of the program," said Plotkin. "It's much more than a kid's video game; it's a realistic, versatile training product that exercises a

shooter's tactical judgment under duress. It also gives civilians the chance to see just how fast a situation can go bad for a cop."

Once on the range, shooters were placed in three different positions: lock out, compressed ready and hip shooting, and fired multiple rounds from each position.

"Lock out is when the shooter draws their weapon and pushes it straight out towards the target," said Plotkin.



"It's employed when there is some distance between a perpetrator and the shooter. Compressed ready is when a perp is too close for a shooter to execute the lock-out position. You simply tuck your arms

into your body and fire multiple rounds into the target. We have shooters fire three feet from the target and force them to pivot while firing at three separate targets. Hip shooting is taught in the event the perp has tackled you or if you're unable to execute the other two positions. We train shooters to place their gun on their hip sideways to prevent the slide from hitting their body which could cause a deadly malfunction."

He added, "We want to train gun owners to realize they don't necessarily have to be looking straight at a target to execute an effective shot. When you're comfortable with various positions at close range, your chances of survival are greatly improved."

The groups switched places from simulator to range and vice versa, giving everyone the opportunity to experience all aspects of the course.

After each person fired off 100 rounds and ran through the simulator, they gathered for closing comments and to receive their certificates for a concealed carry permit application. Based on the chatter that could be overheard in the classroom, the course was a resounding success.

Corporal Brian Adams, one of the course instructors, was quite impressed with the AFTAC class. "This group was very engaged and it was obvious they came here to learn," said Adams. "They picked things up very quickly, even those who seemed a bit hesitant at the start. The whole purpose of the class is to build confidence and make the shooter feel comfortable under pressure. They were among the best classes we've ever had take the course. That speaks volumes about their capabilities."

The sheriff himself was unable to make it to AFTAC's class due to emerging events, but he did take the time to relay his thoughts about the importance of the training.

"Self Defense Through Tactical Shooting and Decision Making is an amazing course that teaches our citizens how to respond to a violent attack or active shooter scenario," said Sheriff Wayne Ivey. "While the best law enforcement agencies in the country have response times in minutes, a violent criminal can take our lives in seconds if we are not truly prepared to be the first line of defense for ourselves, our families and those around us when evil comes knocking on the door."

Angela Schuler, wife of Chief Master Sgt. Wes Schuler, AFTAC's superintendent of operations, seemed to thoroughly enjoy the training. "This was an incredibly informative course," she said. "The speakers were great and they distilled the information down to make it very understandable, including all the legal jargon. I would highly recommend it to anyone, whether they're new to shooting or an experienced marksman."

"When I heard about this course, I thought it would be a great way for me to meet the requirements for my concealed weapons permit," said Capt. Reggie Luper, a member of Gorski's team. "That was my primary motivation. But after going through the entire training, I can't even begin to describe how much I learned about self-defense and how to use my gun in a close-quarters self-defense situation. It was a superb learning experience!"

Gorski echoed the sentiments of his fellow AFTACers.

"I walked away with an even greater respect of what the men and women of law enforcement face on a daily basis, and appreciate the dedication it takes to put their lives on the line each and every day," said Gorski. "I value my Air Force CATM training for deployment scenarios, and now I equally value the SDTTS training as well. This was an extraordinary experience and I can't thank Sheriff Ivey and his deputies enough for offering this invaluable course."



## Booster Club News

**AFTAC Booster Club has elected its new board!**



President: TSgt Joseph Atherton (XP)  
 Vice President: Lt Morgan Norton (TL)  
 Treasurer: SSgt Jessica Roberts (CC)  
 Secretary/Public Affairs - Ms. Nicole Muenchow (DO)  
 Sergeant At Arms: TSgt Trent Adams (MS)

## Other News

AFTAC Booster Club is hosting a Golf Tournament on 30 Aug at Manatee Cove Golf Course, Patrick AFB.

Do you remember the old AFTAC building that was the icon of PAFB since mid-1950s? It stood for nearly 70 years before being demolished in 2015. Lucky for us we kept some mementos. The name of AFTAC can never be demolished, literally. AFTAC Booster Club currently has 28 of the original 35 letters spelling out "Air Force Technical Applications Center". These metal letters braved many storms and tribulations and are now available to purchase. Proceeds from the fund-raiser will be used to benefit the AFTAC airmen and their families serving today. Visit the AFTAC Alumni Website for more information! (I didn't get the photos of the letters yet but I confirmed that we have 28 out of 35 letters)

AFTAC's Toilet Bowl is planned for 9 November 2017. Last year's losers, the Directorate of Operations (DO) will organize this year's event.

AFTAC's Winter Social will be held at the Brevard Zoo on 12 January 2018. For more information visit the AFTAC Alumni Homepage! (by moving winter social to January we are opening up space for squadrons/units to hold their own winter parties and events)

## Active Duty News

**Friday, 22 September @ 1800  
 AFTAC Wing Dining Out**

(70th Birthday of USAF and 70th Anniversary of AFTAC)

Formal event @ "Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum" (6600 Tico Rd, Titusville, FL 32780)... yes it's in a hanger!

Former AFTAC Commander, Ret. General Clapper will be our guest of honor/keynote speaker

## \*\*\*\*\*SAGE SCHEDULE\*\*\*\*\*

1. **WindDowns**-(normally sponsored by the active-duty force) are scheduled for **1st Fridays** at 1530 taking place to the west of the HQ building, fondly referred to as 'Stonehenge.' (**Temporarily suspended**)
2. **Alumni Assn Board/Membership Meetings-Normally 2nd Mondays** at 1600 just inside the HQ Building, #10989. Park across the street and the meeting will be in conference room just to the left as you enter the front entrance lobby.  
 a. If a **Federal Holiday**, the meeting will be the next day.  
 b. **Quarterly**-meetings during the last month of a quarter (Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec) may be a luncheon, or a dinner, and at the venues noted below. **NOTE:** Sites/Times will be determined at the preceding meeting and announced via eALLert and posted at the association website. Other Patrick dining venues (Tides, Golf Clubhouse, Marina, Dining Facility), and off-base sites, may be considered for any meeting.

**Active-Duty & Alumni are invited to all events.**

**BEFORE COMING VERIFY DATE/TIME/VENUE ONLINE AND/OR WITH YOUR EDITOR chrisjohn2@gmail.com**

**September**

**8, 1130-1230** AFTAC Alumni Association Annual General Membership Luncheon Meeting and Election of Officers  
Manatee Golf Course, Patrick AFB

**October**

**6, 1300, AFTACAA Golf-n'Get Together—XXXI**  
**10, 1600 - 1700** HQ AFTAC, Lobby Conference Room  
Date changed because of Columbus Day

**November**

**13, 1600 - 1700** HQ AFTAC, Lobby Conference Room

**December**

**11, 1130-1300** AFTAC Alumni Association Quarterly Off-Site Luncheon Meeting Beef O'Brady's

**Event Plans and Timeframes**

(**Bold Dates** may be tentative-others for planning only)

**A. January-April, four events** (months may vary)

1. SnowBall XIX
2. Center Annual Awards Banquet
3. Center Annual Picnic
4. May XXXI Annual Association Spring Golf N'Getogether

**B. May-August, one event** (months may vary)

Nominating Board (ex-prez+2) selects slate for publication

**C. September-December, 4 events** (months may vary)

1. **Sep**, Annual General Membership & Elections Meeting, 'Sociable September' will be at Manatee Cove on a **Friday at lunch** to enhance the opportunity for, and encourage attendance of, members and all alumni & active-duty.

--**Alumni of the Year (AOY) Selection Committee** (prior AOY's) meet following this annual meeting

2. **Oct**, Annual Association Fall Golf N'Getogether

3. **Oct 1st, Alumni Assn ANNUAL FY DUES DUE**

4. **TBD**, (usually second Friday in Dec), Center Winter Social

**D. WorldWide (WW) Alumni Reunions**

Normally scheduled 'every other year.' Hosting rotates between the Association and the two chapters. Last host, WCC-2017.06, FL-2015.05, CO-2013.06 and CA-2011.05.

The next reunion is scheduled to be hosted by the  
**Colorado Chapter Mid 2019**

## \*\*\*\*\*SAGE SHOP (SWAG)\*\*\*\*\*

Orders, unless otherwise instructed, to: AFTAC Alumni Assn, ATTN: Sage Shop, **MSgt John Goll** Box 254892, Patrick AFB FL, 32925-0892. Also reach John, by phone: 321-494-9489 /email: john.goll@us.af.mil

**SHIPPING:** Add \$5.00 for shipping/handling of 1 item & \$1.50 for each additional. (no shipping cost for Logo pins)

Pictures of these items can be perused here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0B4SBbaLHtdXwcIBUNIY4TE5Nekk>

**ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE**

**SHIRTS NOTE:** Most shirts are available in any size/color, including women's sizes. The AFTAC alumni patch can be either appliquéd (pocket remains) or embroidered (not on pockets). Colors listed are on-hand; if items are not on-hand, they will be ordered. Call/email to verify availability.

**Golf/Polo Shirt - 50/50 w/pocket; \$20:** Sea Teal (aqua blue), Jade (medium green), Forest Green, Navy, Red, White, Royal Blue, Teal, Maroon, Black

**Golf/Polo Shirt – Dri-Fit Fabric w/pocket - \$20:** Navy, White w/o pocket - \$25: Navy, Red, Royal Blue, Maroon

**50/50 T's – w/o pocket - \$10:** Light Blue, Royal blue, Navy, Ash Gray, Purple, Red, Fuchsia, Stone Washed Green, Mint Green, Jade Green, Black

**Dri-Fit T's – w/o pocket \$15:** Royal Blue, Navy, Red, Maroon, Tropic Blue

**SWEATSHIRTS/WINDBREAKERS/HATS**

**Long sleeve fleece sweatshirt - \$20** (most sizes/colors)

**Windbreakers - \$25** Royal Blue, colored Alumni emblem  
Hats – \$8.00 Blue/White

**COINS/PINS**

**AFTAC Alumni Association Coin: \$10**

**AFTAC Alumni Association Pin: \$3**

**50th LRD Commemorative Coin: \$4** NOTE: Free 60th with

**60th LRD Commemorative Coin: \$2 purchase of 50th**

(NOTE: 60th coin flaw: AF Date, Sep 12 vs. 18th

**99/9S Coin: \$10**

**AFTAC 'Traditional' Coin:** HQ-aircraft/motto/logo @ reverse \$10

**AFTAC Top 3 Coin: \$10**

**AFTAC Logo Pin: \$3**

**CLEARANCE ITEMS (while supplies last):**

**Golf Shirt \$5** - Blue, w/word 'Alumnus'; 2-Large, 4-XL

**Nylon Jacket: \$10** – Royal Blue, w/white emblem with 'Alumnus'; 1-XL

**SAGE SHOP MERCHANDISE FROM OTHERS**

**AFTAC SEO Airborne Coin** - SrA TJ Benscoter - 402-232-1917/Theodore.benscoter@us.af.mil or SrA Chris Hayes 402-232-9182/Christopher.hayes.13@us.af.mil

**Det 45 has minted a commemorative coin.** Contact the CO Chapter Treasurer, 'Bilschmied@aol.com,' for info/purchase.





## AFTAC Cares

Packages for Deployed

Details and needed items, at Alumni Assn website, 'Need To Know Now' link.  
<https://sites.google.com/site/lrdalumniassnneedtoknownow/aftac-cares-program-support-our-deployed>

'Cares' Contact: **Carol Snyder**, Carol.Snyder@us.af.mil, We currently have 2 AFTAC deployed, some have written 'notes of appreciation,' see following.

**NOTE:** Carol forwards these notes and we post them at the association' website (URL above), and, as possible, in the PoMo. Often, these 'Thanks' make very good reading and provide insight into what our deployed experience. 'Thank You('s) follow:

No "Thank You Mail" This Period.

**Everything will be OK  
in the end.**

**If it's not OK  
It's not the end.**



## Slate of Officers for September Meeting

It is once again time for the annual election of officers. The newly elected officers will assume their respective offices on 1 Oct 2017 and serve a term of 1 year. The election will take place at the annual meeting of the association to be held on 8 September, at the Manatee Cove Golf Course (Putter Room), 1130—1230. See additional details on page 3 in this issue of the PoMo.

The election process will begin with the formal nomination of the slate of recommended persons as determined by the nomination committee as provided for in the association by-laws. Nominations from the floor are then opened with the only stipulation that those so nominated from the floor must be present to acknowledge and accept/decline the nomination. After nominations are closed, if there are multiple nominations for any position, a secret ballot will be held with the ballots counted by members of the nomination committee. The winners are then announced to those assembled.

The nomination committee recommends the following slate as the officers for the 2017-2018 period.

President:	Ed Lindsay
Vice-President:	Jim Whidden
Secretary:	Arlin Massey
Treasurer:	Sean Ryan

Lou Seiler - Nominating Committee Chair

### Membership Application

(complete and mail to ATTN: Membership Chair) (address/contact information on Page two, left panel)

**FLORIDA** Alumni Association dues (check one, enclose sum): \$10 annual dues \$75 lifetime

**SPECIAL OFFER**, for first time (new) members only, 3 year's dues for \$20

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL/HOME PAGE (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE: Membership information will be passed to Association and Chapter members, and may be made available on the website(s) unless stated this information is not to be released.

**SELECT PUBLICATION DELIVERY MODE:** I choose to receive the triannual newsletter, **Post-Monitor** via  
 (X one) (Same Day as 'Printer') Electronic (Link/PDF)  (Hard-Copy, Several Weeks Later) USPS