

♦ POST - MONITOR ♦

Volume 6 Issue 4

Membership Stands at 696 (419 are Lifetime)

Dec 1998

**The Alumni Anthem**

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

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

The Sage Spotlight The 1999 Board

SUBMITTED BY THE EDITORS

Elected at the General Meeting on 30 Oct., 1998, the following board members will serve you for the coming year. Most of these names are familiar having served in previous years (as noted). We again, as last year, welcome aboard one intrepid new soul as our Vice.

Clark Creery, PRESIDENT. A returnee, as so many are, to this duty. Clark has an "all-around" history with the association-original newsletter editor, '81-'84/'89-'95 ("rovin' reporter" since)-President '94/'95-membership rosters in '94.

Joe Goldian, VICE-PRESIDENT. Joe has been active in the association since his retirement, '91. He helped at many events and organized several golf tournaments, and most challengingly, represented the alumni on the AFTAC 50th Anniversary Celebration Board last year.

Judy Milam, SECRETARY. Judy has been with the association since '89 and its secretary most of that time. She is still on active-duty and an

(continued on left panel, page 3)

Back By Popular Demand

SUBMITTED BY CMSGT KEN MYERS

Another night has been set aside to socialize and have dinner with your Alumni friends and coworkers. Saturday, 23 Jan.'99 has been reserved at the Patrick NCO Club to host this festive evening. Last April the Association hosted its first social and dinner to honor its "High Five." With almost 50 people attending the event, we're ready for even a bigger turnout this time.

No agenda this time except we know many of you out-of-towners, ("Snowbirds") (editors note: thus we dub this planned annual event "SnowBall") are always looking for any excuse to come to Florida in the winter time. It's a great way to have a nice evening out in your "Florida casual" attire and stay in touch with "old" friends. Sorry about the use of the word "old" there, but as one of the youngest lifetime members, I can get away with that until someone younger joins. See page 15 for price, menu and reservation information

See you there.

GOLF & Get-Together

SUBMITTED BY FRANK HALL AND JUDY MILAM

Our second Golf Tournament of the year held on 30 October at the Patrick AFB Manatee Cove Golf Course turned out to be a most enjoyable event. At 1230, we had 138 golfers make their way to their respective holes and the match was underway. The weather was absolutely fantastic. Probably, the best weather that we had for any tournament in the past four years. It was cool and the humidity was low. Not a bad combination. The scores certainly showed that we had solid golfers as a net 54 won first prize, (continued on page 3, left middle)

submitted by Carl Gailey, Treasurer **ATTENTION Dues Due?** If you wish to remain a member and continue receiving this newsletter **check your address** now. The first line on your address label indicates when your Dues are due. If it reads "99<FY Dues due in Oct" it means our records show you have not paid your dues for FY 99, which began 1 Oct 98. This will be the **last newsletter** you will receive until your dues have been paid. If the first two digits on line one of your address label is other than 99 it means your dues are current. Just remember, the first two digits on the first line is the fiscal year your dues are due. **Don't be "out"-check this "out"**

Association Honor Roll

Alumni Of The Year Recipients

Judy Milam, 1997

Carl Gailey, 1996 - Clark Creery, 1995

"PERENNIALS"

Members who have served on the association board for five or more years

Frank Hall - President/Vice, '89-'98

Judy Milam - Secretary, '89 to current

Mary Welch - Membership, 91 to current

Carl Gailey - Treasurer, 91 to current

Swede Swansen - Publicity, 93 to current

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

Florida chapter

Membership dues, \$10 per year (based on FY, 1 Oct.-30 Sep.), **payable in Oct.**, or **\$75 for a life membership**. You're encouraged to attend regularly scheduled monthly meetings beginning at 5:30pm on the second Monday of each month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC headquarters building (#989) at Patrick AFB., FL. For verification and information about the association, its meetings or membership, contact **Mary Welch** at (407) 259-0629 or **Judy Milam** at (407) 494-3871 (daytime). Dues, membership applications, and other queries/information may be mailed to:

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

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

Colorado chapter

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

AFTAC and Alumni Honorarium

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

Your Newsletter Staff

Newsletter Editor(s): John and Chris Horsch

Information/Research/Proofing: Judy Milam and Mary Welch

Executive Review: Frank Hall and Carl Gailey

Technical Assistance: Dave Johnson and Mike Black

Rovin' Reporter(s): Clark and Ruth Creery

Publications: Carl Gailey and Swede Swansen

"A TEAM" ...of Horsches'

'58-'87

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING



Another great mag...and we've got coast to coast coverage in this one. From articles about the Florida alumni we dip into what has been happening in the Rockies by checking in on **Ben Vlassick's** Colorado newsletter, "Echoes" - and then we move clear out to California and take a look at an extract of the reunion activities we ran in detail last issue.

A major (actually Colonel) "memory" person is featured this quarter and we are sure you will enjoy what he's going to remind you of - and our BS column takes us all "back a ways" to our days in Virginia...

Active-Duty wise we've got an expansion on the change of command story we noted last issue with additional information about the command - and Chief Silhanek weighs in with how AFTAC did at the recent "Sensor Olympics," and how the associations contribution was used - and we'd like to take this opportunity to throw out a challenge to the dets - theoretically you are reading our words - we challenge either Pinedale or Ankara (we pick these two because we've been stationed there) to drop us a line letting us know how things are going - enough for a single column will be sufficient - we'll print it and have some sharing of thoughts between previous (alumni) and current active-duty, come on, sit down and drop a note!!

We have the results of some of the issues we brought up last time, and have even published ALL the mail we received about them.

You've probably already read the article about the upcoming "SnowBall," we hope to see you there - the more the merrier.

We'll close thanking those that help us through the year by their contributions and assistance. We often seek opinions, **Frank Hall, Carl Gailey, Judy Milam and Mary Welch**, have always stood by to assist - **Clark Creery**, who has always written a story on whatever we asked of him, and **Swede Swansen and Curt and Eunice Harris**, all you gotta do is call these folks and "they'll be there", and **Mayme Gailey**, she's folded and put labels on with the best of them, and of course, **you readers**...you're what its all about...to all of you, good days and holidays all year long.

(Spotlight continued from page 1, left panel)
 "insider" (working in the HQ's building), which is immeasurably helpful.

Carl Gailey, TREASURER. Carl has served in this position since '91 and helps the association with mailing the newsletter and in innumerable other tasks-early at events to setup and late to leave to cleanup

Board members accepting appointments were **Mary Welch, MEMBERSHIP**, has served since '91, retired from AFTAC this year; **CMSgt Ken Myers, ACTIVITIES**, our first and only active-duty board member and an "insider"; and **Swede Swansen, PUBLICITY**, our newest perennial, going over 5 years this past year who also helps with mailing the newsletter.

(Golf, continued from page 1, right panel)
 58 and 60 in second and third place, respectively.

The team of **Lee Turnage, Pappy Frakes, Greg Bowman, and Ken Gerry** took the top honors. Second place went to **Kevin Parrish, Frank Macchio, Dewey Strickland, and Curt Banter**. Third place winners were **Joe Hauser, Jim Short, Steve Parlasfy, and Doug Divers**. Well done for some superb golfing!!

Putting on any event of this magnitude requires lots of resources and people to pull it off. Thanks to **Enesco, Boeing, CTI, SAIC**, and to the **Golf Shop of Cocoa Beach** for their donations. Through their assistance over \$2000 of prizes were given out at the end of the tournament.

Help in planning and making it happen required the help of many - thanks to the following people for being there and working so hard so that everyone could have an enjoyable time: **Judy Milam, Eunice and Curt Harris, Carl Gailey** (who almost cut off his finger), **Jerry LeBarre, Mary Welch, Joe Goldian, Don Gilbert, Ed Lindsey, Beverly Hall, and Clark and Ruth Ann Creery**. Through your efforts, you made it easy for me.

Complete prize list follows listing

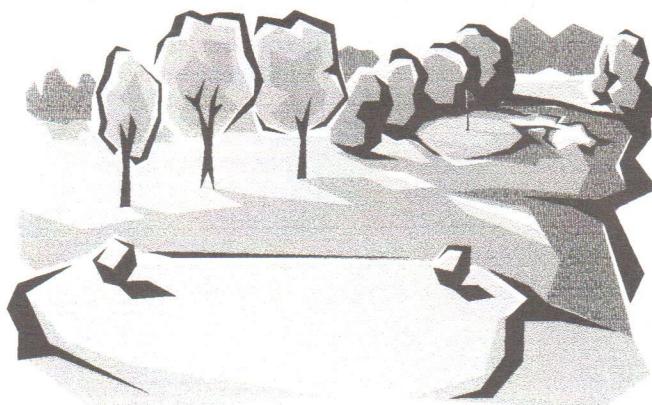
Prize/Donator/Winner

- \$25 Certificate, Pineda Inn/ZELTECH/Frank Macchio
 - \$25 Certificate, Fins Restaurant/ENSCO/Don Emery
 - \$25 Certificate, Fins /Suntree/Mark Bedolla
 - \$25 Certificate to Fins /CTI/Ron Couch and Wally Huffaker
 - Shirts/ENSCO/Scott McEntyre, Gary Killian, Frank Szynaka, Darrell Sherrod, Janet Wiesehan, Terry Hammond, John Holshey, Clay Wilcoxen, John Rohr
 - Shirts/CTI/ Bill Stringer, Gary Warfield, Jeff Burrell, Mark Ross, Doug Colbary, Joe Goldian
 - Hat/Cocoa Beach Golf Shop/Sam Foell
 - Hat/Bill McCune/Bob Wiley
 - Putter/Chris Niquette/Paul Guttman
 - Mazuno driver/ENSCO/Don Kirkpatrick, Brad Neihart, Wally Brown
 - Golf Shoes/Golf Shop of Cocoa Beach/Gary White
 - Golf Balls, 1 dozen each/SAIC, Joe Hauser, Paul Bell, James Jefferson, Jim Payne
 - \$100 Certificate, Cocoa Beach Golf Shop/Boeing/Mark Durgin
 - \$100 Certificate/CTI/Winner Unknown
 - Golf Balls, 1 sleeve each/Boeing, ENSCO, SAIC & CTI/Greg Bowman, John Pitkethly, Gary Hendrickson, Dennis Bald, Wally Brown, Mark Bedolla, Bob Wiley, Rich Bohn, Peter Buridge, Curtis Brown, Ed Lindsey, Bill Covington, Carl Ritter
 - Ping Bag/ENSCO/Bob Rush
 - \$25 Gift Certificates, Closest to the Pin
 - #3, Pappy Frakes,- #5, Greg Bowman,
 - #14, Ed Lindsey, - #16, Hal Baker
 - Longest drive, Hole #8, Mark Durgin (Dozen Slazenger Balls/CTI), Hole #15, Curt Banter (Dozen Slazenger Balls/ENSCO)
 - Third Place Team (\$20 each): Joe Hauser, Jim Short, Doug Divers, Steve Parlasfy
 - Second Place Team (\$25 each): Kevin Parrish, Frank Macchio, Dewey Strickland, Curt Banter
 - First Place Team (\$35 each): Greg Bowman, Pappy Frakes, Lee Turnage, Ken Gerry
- ...and...every golfer who bought mulligans received golf balls compliments of **ENSCO, CTI, and SAIC** and also **SAIC** provided a sports towel to each player at checkin.
- AND NOW OUR ROVIN' REPORTERS GIVE US THE INSIDE SCOOP**
- SUBMITTED BY CLARK AND RUTH CREEERY
- What a golf tournament we had in October!!!! My task was to monitor cheating on the 14th hole. I refused to go out there with the birds and snakes and ali-ma-gators until Frank told me that there was also a Keg at

that location.

Out on the course really gives you an insight into this group. One foursome hit one ball five times and then declared that it was just practice. I watched another cart make a high speed pass at a golf ball without even stopping. I was amazed that they are able to scoop up those balls going at that speed. Jim and Hal were out there as an invisible two-some. They each hit twice for players who were missing. They claim that Joyce and Jack Nichols were supposed to be there...those guys played 72 holes for the price of 36. Bob Churnell yelled out as he passed me: "We have mulligans!" I am really surprised that they saw me, because being down at the hole watching for the closest to the pin makes you realize that your friends are actually aiming at YOU. I was behind one of those palm trees located on the 14th. ESPN would have died.

My Ruth was the only one who felt sorry for me, because she kept sending drinks out with the carts. Next time I get stuck out there, I will have a camera, and I will have a chair. Actually, I would only need a tape recorder or a VCR. You folks would not believe the excuses that are made for some of the shots that I noticed. Wrong club, wrong ball, my back hurts, the sun was in my eyes, it must have hit a passing bird - just to name a few. The 14th hole during an AFTAC Alumni golf tournament is a sight to behold. I do think, however, that everyone had a bang up time and they cannot wait until our next tournament.



"A Way - To Say"

Wherein we ask for your inputs on issues your association has going at a particular time, send replies to "chrisjohn@juno.com" or the Asc. address found on page two, mark items as "A Way - To Say" and we'll tally results and even publish some of the opinions expressed.

Last issue we asked for your opinions on the following -

1. Scholarship program idea
 2. An award for active-duty at AFTAC annual award ceremony proposal
 3. A trial membership, or free Post-Monitors, good idea or bad
 4. The Sensor Olympics, worthwhile or not
- Drop us an email at, chrisjohn@juno.com, or a postcard to the association address (see page 2), mark it for the "Way to Say" column with your "yea" or "nay", with or without comments. We'll tally and let you know the outcome.
-

Tallying was easy this time...only two people took the time to let us know what they think, so we'll go further than just tallying, we'll publish what they sent...thanks so much to you guys for your inputs...and you'll see the outcome of these items later in the "...Minutes."

Clark N Wilberg, 14 Oct 1998

You had asked for some input regarding the various proposals; I'm assuming that the Association is sufficiently solvent to defray the expenses.

- >1. Scholarship-Great idea; allows a continual mentoring process we all participated in
- >2. Alumni-Award to Active Duty-Again, a great idea! As alumni would/should be encouraging those same traits and leadership skills that made AFTAC great while we were on active duty.
- >3. Trial Membership/Free P-M-I have mixed emotions about the trial membership, but I believe the free introductory issues would be beneficial in promoting full membership.
- >4. Sensor Olympics-Fully support! I am confused whether the \$100 was per person selected or to be split among the AFTACers; I'm in favor of the former, budget permitting.

Clark, see Chief Silhanek article in "Active -Duty Doins"

George Cronin, 10/14/98:

1. Scholarship. yea.
 2. Active duty Award, yea.
 3. Trial membership, NO!
 4. Sensor Olympics, yea.
- CUL, on my way to Thailand for 3 - 4 weeks to perform 2 pcb modifications on 175 pcb's

. Thanks so much, Clark and George...we know we can always count on George to respond (as he has done so often in the past) - we truly appreciate and value your readership and input...thank you for taking the time and effort to give us an input. You can read the resolution of these matters in columns further into this issue.

I REMEMBER

AFTAC HISTORY BY THOSE WHO WERE THERE...

prepared by the editors from your inputs. We solicit your **unclassified** remembrances of highlights in your AFTAC career (events, people, etc.). Forward these significant memories to us at "chrisjohn@juno.com" or ATTN: Remembrance column to the Alumni Address (see left column, page 2) - we will publish them as soon as we can. Thanks

This month we are lucky enough to hear from someone who really knew AFTAC, and more importantly, AFTACers. **Tom Ciambrone**, in his various positions in AFTAC, culminating in being the Vice-Commander, never forgot what really made a command tick, the people. Time and again he demonstrated his commitment to the people of AFTAC by supporting them in every way he could - I always considered myself lucky for sharing in some of his memories. Herewith he reminds us all of some of the AFTAC milestones he remembers and was involved with - some important to us all...and some personal.

SUBMISSION BY TOM CIAMBRONE

I have been associated with AFTAC since February 1961. The instant I stepped into MCL at WFO I knew that there was something very special about this organization. This special feeling proved to be the people, our AFTAC family, the importance of the mission and the impact of our successes upon the security of the United States.

As I retired in 1987 the enlisted force of this command elected to bestow upon me and my wife, Terry, the highest recognition I believe possible - the honorary rank of Chief Master Sergeant. This wonderful memory was surprisingly revived by **John and Chris Horsch** in their "I Remember" column in the June '98 Post-Monitor. I thank them for the publication of this article - the staff of the Post-Monitor works diligently to make each edition better and they are doing a remarkable job - another AFTAC trait!

Every day my thoughts revert to AFTAC, its people and the importance of their efforts. As I relive these moments I think of where these AFTACers and their families are and frequently contact some of them (or are contacted by them) and enjoy an update and

rehash of the past. As I dip into today's memory bank, please join me for a few thoughts and, as we enter the new year, contact a few AFTACers around the world and relive the moments. Also, you can make up your own list as I have done here and invite others on a beautiful trip down memory lane with random AFTAC recollections. Today, I remember:

- My first day in AFTAC in Feb. 1961
- CHIC-1
- The orphans in Korea and Mindanao
- The four times AFTAC enlisted people were selected among the Air Forces 12 Outstanding
- Pony Express
- The day the USSR broke the atmospheric test moratorium
- Chernobyl
- VELA
- Alert-747
- The 50th reunion of the USAEDS
- Those AFTACers who gave their lives in the service of the organization
- Challenger
- Garlic Salt
- Desert Storm
- The letters of the alphabet and their significance in AFTAC as system designators
- Morning Light
- The Russell Building
- Worldwide deployments
- 1155th, 1156th, 1157th, 1158th, 1159th
- The day John Horsch and I retired from AFTAC, 1 June 1987

Try playing this memory game. It's fun, informative, heart-warming and, hopefully, will allow you to rekindle your friendships with some of the thousands of AFTACers that have been so instrumental in making this nation secure. The Air Force still owns one of the greatest commands in its history - our command.

A BARELY SUBSTANTIATED (BS) TALE!

prepared by the editors from your inputs. We solicit your **unclassified humorous** stories about AFTAC events and people - recognizing these anecdotes may be Barely Substantiated (BS). Forward your stories to us at "chrisjohn@juno.com" or ATTN: BS column to the Alumni Address (see left column, page 2) - we will publish as soon as we can. Thanks **Charles E "Mike" Gingrich** (AFTAC HQ 1965-1969) checks in with this issue, and has been kind enough,

and ambitious enough, to send two items. Hoping to be able to provide one per issue, he was also kind thrice and allows us to hold the other for the following issue. He recalls his times,

**"some ancient Headquarters humor from
the Telegraph Road days"**

If you're late, you gotta explain

It was mid-December 1965 at Headquarters on Telegraph Road. The Division Sergeant made his way into the TD-3 Phenomenology Office, looked at me, and said "I need a reason why you were late to work yesterday." I pointed at Dan Matuska, sitting at a desk on the opposite side of the room, and responded "I was riding with him. Ask him."

It seems that the Commander had a thing about people arriving late for work. As the duty day started at eight AM, sometime weeks previously he had decreed that anyone arriving after eight thirty would be placed on a "Late List," with the reason for the individuals lateness to be explained by the Division Chief at the weekly staff meeting. To obtain entry to Headquarters at that time, a badge exchange process was used. One merely gave his wallet sized plastic AFTAC ID card to the security police who would exchange it for the individual's clip-on building pass. Thus by looking at the neatly arrayed rack of building passes every day at eight thirty, the security force could immediately determine who was not in the building. The list of such persons was then forwarded to the division offices for explanation.

At that time, Dan Matuska and I resided in the same apartment complex across the river in Oxon Hill, Maryland. On days when one of our wives needed the family car, Dan and I would ride share. On the morning in question, it was a nippy twenty-five degrees. Dan and I climbed into his nifty rear engined Corvair, and took off up the Indian Head Highway toward the Beltway, and the Wilson Bridge. We turned on the heater, and hoped that the Wilson Bridge drawbridge would not be raised and thus impede our commute to AFTAC. Several hundred yards up Indian Head, the

engine snapped, cracked, popped, and quit. Immediately upon opening the engine cover in the rear, we saw what the problem was. The air-conditioner drive belt, which ran continuously, had broken. It had then whip-lashed and guillotined all the sparkplug wires running from the distributor to the plugs. Clearly a new belt and plug wires were called for. We then walked back to the apartment, called for a tow for Dan's car, and we hopped into my car, arriving at Headquarters sometime after nine AM.

The Sergeant approached Dan, clipboard at the ready, to write down Dan's reason for lateness. "It's simple," Dan said, "the car air-conditioner broke." This was duly recorded by the Sergeant, as a look of puzzlement slowly spread across his face. "What were you doing running the air-conditioner in twenty-five degree weather?" he asked incredulously. By this time the other four or five persons desked in our bullpen were listening intently. Dan patiently explained the complete process of breakdown, while the Sergeant carefully took complete notes. Finally the Sergeant wiped his forehead in frustration, and said, "The General will never believe that," which resulted in great guffaws from the listeners in the room. The Sergeant pondered for a moment, took pencil in hand, and crossed out his notes and then neatly printed "FLAT TIRE." You can always count on a good Sergeant to take care of the sticky things!

WHERE ARE YA?!!!

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

Cyberspace

12/11/98

Just a quick note to let you know I've finally seen the light. Retired from TRW today after a little more than 13 years. I've been working, since 1991, as their systems engineering and integration manager on the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Program contract. Our job, since we chose to accept it back in 1991, is to permanently dispose of all the

country's spent nuclear fuel and high level waste. It's been a challenging but also very frustrating job. But today was my last day and from now on I'll call South Carolina home. We moved to Hilton Head a few months ago (I've been commuting to Virginia) and are building a house there, hoping to move in April or May.

My thoughts have always been with you and the great people who have made AFTAC the premier assignment in the Air Force. Please give my best to everyone. I'll be writing more later, - unless my goal of relearning how to play golf starts interfering with good intentions. I'll send my new internet address when I finalize it, mailing address, 22 Doubloon Dr., Hilton Head, SC 29928. Cheers!

Bob Meisenheimer thanks for the kind words and we pass them to everyone as you requested - we congratulate you on your new retirement and look forward to hearing from you as you have time
NOTE: Col. Mies., as we would say in our active duty days, is a previous AFTAC Commander and Alumni Association President

Burkburnett, TX

10/31/98

We moved from New Mexico to Texas this year, and spent our summer getting a new house built in Burkburnett, which is located north of Wichita Falls and Sheppard AFB. We left Albuquerque the first of April and moved into our new home the middle of August and now enjoy living in a small town. Our new address, 1417 Sioux Lane, 76354-28547

Peter D. Tompkins thanks for the update Pete

Aurora, CO

11/1/98

I really enjoy reading the Post-Monitor and keeping up with the AFTACers. I have been meaning to get a picture to you of myself as a twenty-year AFTACer, from '74 to '94. I was in B (Dets 423 and 421) from '74 to '77, then I switched to T. I retired from Det 45 in '94 where I was Detachment Superintendent. The picture is of myself at the South Pole.



I was there in January and November 95, when I was working for the National Science Foundation as a tech writer for their communications systems. I am not sure if any other AFTACers have been to the South Pole or not, but now you can say that

they have (made it to the bottom of the world).

Space has been very good to me. Currently, I am working for Lockheed as a Software Quality Engineer for Space Launch Systems.

I have nothing but kudos for Ben Vlassick for keeping the Colorado Chapter going. We had a great summer picnic and are planning a winter social at the Buckley Club in November. I am really glad Ben was a recipient for one of the AFTAC coins that flew in the Shuttle, it couldn't have gone to a better person. Thanks for maintaining the AFTAC tradition and keep up the quality work.

Bryce Dunn thanks for the kind words, Bryce, and you look cold here...appreciate the pix

Cyberspace

10/14/98

Enjoyed your editorial in the P-M; like the idea of the P-M going out to the dets so they can see what lies in store for them.

I feel like I've fallen completely out of touch with AFTACers. I'm working as an independent contractor providing financial services to the guys in green here at Ft Hood. I've had to draw on my knowledge and experience from the Army Sergeant Majors Academy many times in the past two and a half years. Occasionally I even get to work with some guys wearing the blue suit (although here they all wear BDUs.)

Joyce and I love the Central Texas area- close enough to the cities of Austin, San Antonio, Dallas and Ft Worth to make shopping easy; far enough away to avoid all the nasty traffic, high-cost of living, and general rat-race of urban blight. We were sorry to miss the 50th Anniversary Gala last year; we had a company function that unfortunately had to take precedence; thankfully the P-M gave a great summary of the activities. We would have loved to rub shoulders once again with old-friends; we'll be there at one of the future events. Must go. Give our regards to all!!

Clark and Joyce Wilberg thanks Clark and Joyce, we've put the "vote" part of your email under the "A Way to Say" column

Gray, NY

9/25/98

Dues enclosed. Every issue of the Post-Monitor seems to bring back fond memories of my ten years with AFTAC. I had forgotten that

I was one of the original "F" Troops. What ever happened to Col. Frank Dungan?

August 1st I decided to retire from my Radio Shack franchise business and almost immediately I realized how much time is wasted going to work. My number one aim in life is to stay healthy. Maureen and I will now concentrate on some of our travel dreams...to China, India, Australia and South America. Summer of '99 will be a holiday in Scotland for starters.

Here is wishing all of my old friends all the best in the coming year...keep up the good work with the Monitor.

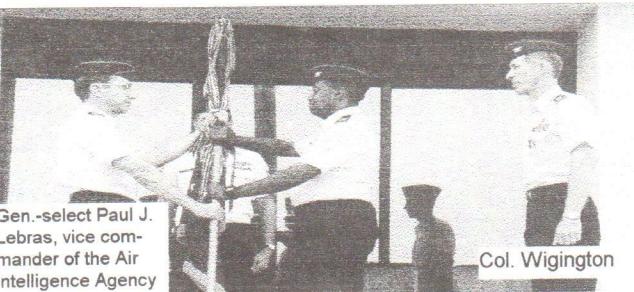
Bert R. Miller thanks Bert, maybe your travels can include the California reunion...and we'll hope someone can help you with Frank Dungan...did you try the alumni webpage? How about some columns for our "BS" or "I Remember" sections, I know "F" troops can "spin tales" stories to print...we got the space and the will, let 'em come...

MONITORing Active-

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



AFTAC Commander, 15 July 1998, previously at Shaw AFB where he was the Chief of Intelligence for the US Central Command Air Forces and commander of the 609th Air Intelligence Group, received commission upon graduation from Officers Training School (distinguished graduate) in 1980. He is a native of Bonny Blue, VA, his wife Diane is from Quebec, Canada - they have two children Matthew and Melanie.



Gen.-select Paul J. Lebras, vice commander of the Air Intelligence Agency

Col. Wigington

passed on by **Clark Creery** - editors note - while we ran the story on the AFTAC change of command in the last issue, we thought you'd also be interested in this picture of the event, and extract of a story by Master Sgt. Ron Hyink, AFTAC Public Affairs. It contains information about AFTAC and the previous Commander, Col. Wigington.

AFTAC is the sole agency within the Department of Defense operating and maintaining a global network of nuclear event detection sensors. This network is known as the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System. The USAEDS consists of a laboratory and logistics division at McClellan AFB, Calif.; 14

detachments and operating locations; and approximately 50 unmanned equipment locations worldwide. "It doesn't take long to realize that AFTAC is not only an Air Force asset due to its unique mission, but it is truly a national asset as well because there are things done here that are done nowhere else in the world," said Beatty.

Col. John T. Wigington III, who headed AFTAC for the past two years, was reassigned as director of the Missile and Space Intelligence Center, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Ala. His name was the latest entry in AFTAC's Fifty Year Commemorative History of Long Range Detection, which chronicles the USAEDS. "I believe when they write the next chapter in the AFTAC 50-year commemorative, Colonel Wigington will stand out in the continuing line of outstanding commanders," said Beatty. "He took AFTAC to new heights of success."

and speaking of success, lets look at the next article which speaks of an event we also mentioned in the last issue...thanks for the story, Chief...

SENSOR OLYMPICS

SUBMITTED BY CHIEF LARRY SILHANEK, AFTAC SUPERINTENDENT

SENSOR OLYMPICS is an annual enlisted skills competition for Air Intelligence Agency (AIA) and AIA-supported units (AFTAC is an administratively supported AIA unit). Major General Doyle E. Larson, former commander of the Electronic Security Command, initiated this competition in 1979. Annually since then, every unit conducts preliminary testing or alternate selection methods to determine who will qualify for Agency-level testing. Throughout the world, some 700 people in 21 specialties compete at the Agency level. Only 63 of them, the top three of each competing career field, achieve the coveted title of "Finalist." This program only tests how well individuals know and perform their job.

The SENSOR OLYMPICS finalists are invited to HQ AIA at Kelly AFB, TX, for a week of being honored as best in their specialty. This year we had 10 AFTAC personnel from our center at Patrick AFB, Tech Ops Division at McClellan AFB, and our detachments that

received medals at the banquet on 20 October. They were:

2SOX1-Inventory Management Craftsman

Gold - TSgt Suzanne K. Wolf, Det 319, Germany

Bronze - SSgt Darrell Sherrod, AFTAC/LS

3A0X1-Information Management Craftsman

Bronze - TSgt Karen E. Wilkerson, Det 460,
Alaska

3S0X1- Personnel Craftsman

Gold - SSgt John B. Viray, Det 301, Turkey

9S100- Applied Geophysics Technician

Gold - TSgt Gregory E. Kidd, AFTAC/DO

Silver - TSgt Scott McMiller AETAC/DO

Bronzo, SrA John T. Holmes AETAC/TI

86300 Applied Science Technician

93200- Applied Science Technician
Cpl. SSgt Matthew W. Brown AETAC/LS

Gold - SSGT Matthew W. Brown,
Silver - TSgt Brian D. Blue, T-OD

Silver - TSgt Brian B. Blue, TCB
Bronze - TSgt Randall B. Horn, TCB

Bronze - 1Sgt Randall R. Horn, TOS
The AFTAC Alumni Association made a \$100 donation to the AIA special recognition office this year to assist the funding of this SENSOR OLYMPIC week. At the banquet there was a sign identifying all the organizations that contributed and at the end of the banquet they announced the organizations that contributed. The AFTAC Alumni Association was on the sign and announced; our AFTAC enlisted personnel receiving medals knew that the AFTAC Alumni Association contributed to their week of being honored as "best of best" for 1998.

...and we Sages sincerely congratulate these important people, we understand 20 AFTAC members participated and 10 received awards - we will boast of each and every one of you - you carry on a mission, and a tradition, we are proud to pass on...

Dave Johnson, a regular contributor, recently sent us a tribute (on veterans day) we believe is very fitting to remember as we contemplate what these AFTACers have accomplished.

by Father Denis Edward O'Brien, USMC

"IT IS THE SOLDIER, NOT THE REPORTER,
WHO HAS GIVEN US FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

IT IS THE SOLDIER, NOT THE POET,
WHO HAS GIVEN US FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

IT IS THE SOLDIER, NOT THE CAMPUS

ORGANIZER.

WHO HAS GIVEN US THE FREEDOM TO DEMONSTRATE.
IT IS THE SOLDIER, WHO SALUTES THE FLAG,
WHO SERVES BENEATH THE FLAG,
AND WHOSE COFFIN IS DRAPED BY THE FLAG,
WHO ALLOWS THE PROTESTOR TO BURN THE FLAG."



SUBMITTED BY MSGT RON HYINK AETAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CMSgt Larry Silhanek (left) retired after 30 years of service at a ceremony held Nov. 30. Silhanek entered the AF Feb. 26, '69, and trained as a special electronics technician to operate/maintain nuclear treaty monitoring equipment. He spent 26 of his 30 years with AFTAC and was selected as the first superintendent, chief enlisted advisor, in Feb. '96.

CMSgt Kenneth Myers is the new AFTAC superintendent. A 20-year AFTACer, he has been assigned to Dets 301, 415, 421, and in the Headquarters with DO, CC, TT, TA, LS, and now back to CC.

ALUMNI APPRECIATION

SUBMITTED BY THE EDITORS

WE THANK THE CHIEF FOR HIS SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS...HE OFTEN ATTENDED REUNIONS, ALUMNI EVENTS AND MEETINGS, AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING US COMMUNICATE, AND SPONSOR EVENTS OF INTEREST, WITH OUR ACTIVE DUTY COHORTS. WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST SAGE AND LOOK FORWARD TO HIS CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES.

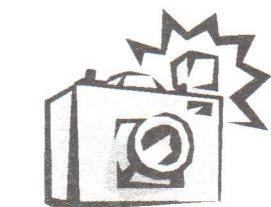
We also welcome AFTAC's newest Command Superintendent and look forward to his continued alumni involvement - at the time he was selected he was our "Chief" of "Activities" and arranging the January "SnowBall" event (see page one). Chief, we hope you can still give us a hand now and then.

❖ POST-MONITOR Alumni Album ❖

Album Two

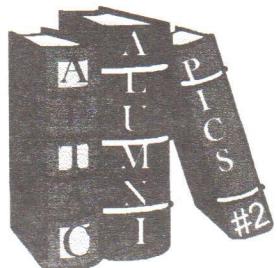
Photos, Alumni Association Sponsored Events

October 1998



What You
Been Doin'!!

We See



Photos provided by our Secretary, Judy Milam

Sages gathered for a golf and get-together on 10/30/98. Herewith we provide some "up-close and personal" experiences with the event and the participants. Whether you view these on the website or in the Post-Monitor, enjoy!!!

your editors, John and Chris Horsch



"Smile Bev, maybe I will win a tournament if I just keep organizing them!! and change a few rules...look I already won a pair of shoes"

Our intrepid leader, Frank, the "Golf-Match Meister" who happens to be married to one of our Super golf volunteers, Beverly Hall...Thanks for all you do

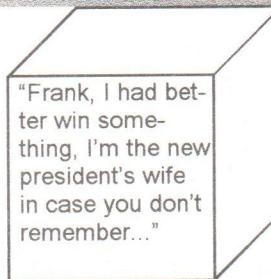
...and if elected I I promise a birdie on every hole and un-limited mulligans!!"

Clark Creery, in the uncomfortable role of speaking...he handled it pretty well and was later elected our new Asc. Pres...next (upper left) we see that Ruth Creery has been able to get Frank Hall to wrest the microphone away from Clark



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

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



And, as usual, Clark and Ruth were among the excellent volunteers for this event..and here we have additional volunteers checking in, Curt and Eunice Harris,

under the able guidance of Carl Gailey...Carl managed to injure a finger setting up for this event allowing him to be a little bossier than usual. Below, helping out after Carl hurt himself, Jerry and Terry LaBarre...volunteers who hid from the camera include Mary Welch and Judy Milam. We deeply thank all of them for making this event possible, it could not be done without them, they "throw an excellent party"...and we were glad to see Col. Kane (on the left) come by and do a little socializing at the event.



note finger bandage

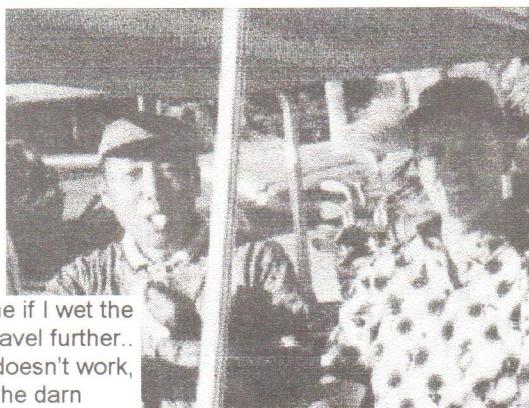
...and now some of the players, and the first place winners were (and not necessarily in this order), Lee Turnage, Pappy Frakes, Greg Bowman and Ken Gerry



...and sitting below are Joe Goldian, who later launched his career as the Alumni Association's Vice, next to him is Bob "the hat" Wiley, and there's Tony DeMarco, who won't take his hat off for any reason.



Croy and Helen Goins...they came by to eat and socialize and attend the meeting...he with his newly retired face having all that hair...and below we have Vindell Hsu and Joe Marshall...Vindell is heard to say...



"Joe tells me if I wet the ball it will travel further.. and if that doesn't work, I'll just eat the darn thing"



and here's a couple of guys just wondering where they are...Phil Lindstedt and Jim Valenti



and our smiles of the day (and with lots of prizes too)..
Mark Durgin and Rene Uzee...below, Bill McCune wonders why Mike Hoy is hugging him while Mike Steiwig just wonders and Frank Martinez is just glad someone will play golf with him



...below, Edna Calenda escorts Moira and Tom Eddleman, and he is seen showing off the club he used today and wondering if next time he would do better using two clubs



and we end with this group...who probably should have just stayed home....

"Chris, here he is, sitting with some lady"



Cathy Huffaker John Horsch Eunice "snitch" Harris

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER OF THE
COLORADO CHAPTER,
EDITORS ARE BEN
AND GINGER
VLISSICK**



ECHOES

**THANKS FOR LETTING
US REPRINT GENERAL
INFORMATION AND
LETTERS FROM
VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3,
OCTOBER 1998**

MEMBERSHIP: Our membership continues to remain at the 125 mark. We lose some due to forgetfulness but we gain a few new members which keeps the total within plus or minus five each time we send out a Newsletter. While on the subject, check the address label. The date on the label is an expiration date. If it is earlier than today's date, mail it to Bill Schmied today. You'd be surprised at the number of people that say something like, "Rats - I just flat forgot".

SNAIL MAIL:

-Bill - Do not know if I'll attend (the picnic) but want to send money for two adults and one child -- you'll have fun. If I don't see u, I'll be thinking of u. Couldn't mail sooner because I didn't get it (the picnic info) until after July 9. What's going on ??? Need a new Sec/Recorder? Sorry! My (working) days are over!!!! Just kidding -----Talk to u. Later.

Bobbi Futtrell, Denver, CO.

-Dear Bill - As discussed in our phone conversation, enclosed is a \$5.00 check to cover membership dues in the AFTAC alumni organization. I was a member of the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron from 1951 to 1954, and during that time I was stationed at the Douglas, Wyoming facility. I must have enjoyed my tour of duty in Douglas, because I decided to live here when I retired. **Norm & Jan Negrete, Douglas, WY.** e-mail: dojan24t@coffey.com

Dear Bill - Hope this letter finds all the folks in Colorado doing fine. We here in The Dallas Area are finding it very HOT and with NO rain. This has been a extremely Hot summer. Wanda & I do miss that wonderful Colorado Weather.

Enclosed please find my dues for next year and our NEW MAILING ADDRESS. We do

hope Ben Vlassick is doing well. When you see him give him and Ginger our best regards.

Hope to see everyone at the next get together, when ever and where ever that may be. May the Good Lord watch over each one - until next time - let Love rule. Sincerely, **Jack & Wanda Kimball, Greenville, TX**

Dear Bill - Sorry to be late with my dues!

Thank everyone who worked on and published the "A Fifty Year Commemorative History of Long Range Detection"! A superb job by the Florida people, Mary Welch, etc. I wish you to know that I am in the process of editing it down to read on cassette tape. Have become aware that some of our AFTAC'ers have serious eye problems or too ill to read themselves. If anyone is interested in receiving tapes (could be several tapes before I finish) please let me know. There will be no charge to them. If there is any problems with my doing this, please let me know about that too!! Not sure if I need permission or not - would appreciate your help with this part. Am not setting a date - may take me most of the winter to get it done.

Have a great time at the picnic!!

Sincerely, **Marian Chambers-Jordan, Box 1222, Kings Beach, CA 96143, (530) 546-3086**

Ben, I'm tickled to death to get back to the old outfit. I was at Lowry (wasn't everyone?) and then McClellan then Ankara, then Det. 333 (original survey team in 62) then Encampment, Wy, then out of 1035th to SAC...Thanks for the info, I have enough contact to stay in touch now. By the by, I think one of the old commanders at Encampment, Ernest Relac, is in Colorado Spring. I will spread the word. I have web searched quite a few people that aren't aware of the association - they will be

now!! Cheers! **McCartyde@ aol.com** (Ed note: Will look for Maj Relac in the Springs area).

Hi Bill - Mike Steskal here. I work as an engineer for Raytheon in Alice Springs, Australia. Chuck Conrad is the Det Chief here. It is hard to believe that 18 years ago Chuck and I were airman nobodies working for you at Det 422. The Florida Chapter has asked me to start an alumni chapter in Australia when I have the time.

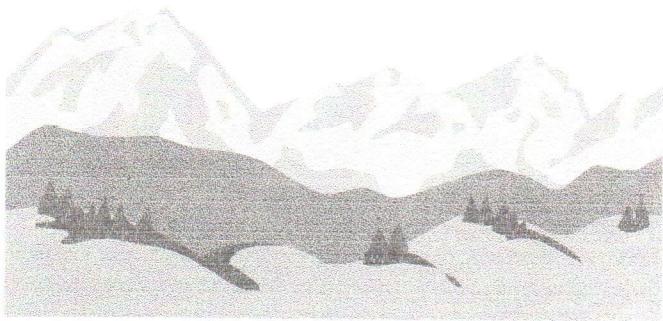
Hope things are going well with you. Send an e-mail when you get a chance. **Michael Steskal, Alice Springs, Australia; e-mail: steskalm@octa4.net.au.** (Ed note: Good luck on a new chapter, Mike)

Hey Ben - I just received the latest issue of the Alumni newspaper and noted the 1155th shutdown. I travel frequently to California and thought I would do my damndest to make the event for at least a day. Will you be going? Would hate to go and not know anyone.

JoAnne and I are still living in Florida and I am working in several of our offices in either LA, Dallas or Toronto. The travel has been very burdensome over the past 10 years or so but am finally acclimated. Children are great as are the grandchildren (4- each 14 down to 5). Have kept up with you through the articles in the alumni newspaper. **Bud Horrell, Coral Springs, FL: e-mail: gatabud@aol.com.**

(Ed note: Bud - I definitely plan to be in California for the April reunion)

Thank you **Ben and Ginger**, and readers we hope you enjoyed this "taste" of "Echoes"...for additional information on joining this chapter also (many belong to both), please see page 2 of this newsletter, "**Colorado Chapter.**"



A PROUD ERA ENDS

After 49 years, the illustrious unit, first known as the **Western Field Office** (WFO), then the **1155th Technical Operations Squadron**, and finally, the **Technical Operations Division**



is coming to a close. The commemorative inactivation ceremony will take place on the morning of 9 April 1999, followed by an open house, and concluded with a banquet dinner-dance. The theme for the scheduled events will be "A Heritage Remembered" and will focus on the history of the unit and those who served proudly. The Technical Operations Division will officially be inactivated 30 September 1999 with most of the unit members to leave McClellan AFB by 13 August 1999. The world-class McClellan Central Laboratory (MCL) component of TOD will be outsourced and the depot maintenance, supply, and technical services will be moved to San Antonio, Texas. *by CMSgt Sue Spencer, TOD*

A TIME FOR REMEMBERING

WFO-1155th-TOD alumni are planning a reunion for everyone, active duty and retired, who has ever served anywhere under the 1009th Special Weapons Sqdn., 1035th FAG, AFOAT-1, AFTAC or any of the Squadrons or Field Units. Put April 8-11, 1999, on your calendar.

The reunion committee is working hard to make this a truly memorable event worthy of the ending of a historic era, which many of us will never forget. The committee is making plans in such a way as to allow time for everyone to really enjoy their short time together here in Sacramento.

I urge all to come and see the current TOD operation. Those that are only familiar with the operations at Building 628 will be impressed by the current facilities in the Irving J. Russell building.

A last thought: none of us is getting any younger. Come visit with old friends now, lest St. Peter be your host.

by Joe Johnson, Committee Chairperson

Wed, 4/7/99, Registration opens in hotel lobby *pg 1
Thu, 4/8/99, Golf Tournament pg 2

Thu, 4/8/99, Cocktail Buffet Party	pg 2
Fri, 4/9/99, TOD Closing Ceremony and Reception	pg 2
Fri, 4/9/99, Tour of McClellan Air Museum	pg 2
Fri, 4/9/99, Banquet Dinner/Dance	pg 2
Sat, 4/10/99, Tour of Old Sacramento	pg 3
Sun, 4/11/99, Farewell Buffet.....	pg 3

*PAGE NUMBERS REFER TO LAST ISSUES INSERT

A FIRST CLASS REUNION

The reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn Northeast. This hotel is currently going through major renovations which are scheduled to be completed this November.

Major events will include a golf tournament, a cocktail party (including a full buffet meal), the TOD closing ceremonies, a tour of the McClellan Air Museum, a banquet dinner/dance, and a final farewell Sunday buffet.

The committee has been holding the line on costs while at the same time planning a "first class" celebration. Estimated cost per person for the cocktail party and banquet dinner/dance should be approximately \$50-\$55.

Reunion registration will open on Wednesday evening, April 7th, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the hotel lobby area and open at 9am on Thursday, April 8th, in the hospitality suite. Registration forms, along with complete details of all the activities and prices, will be included in a special mailing in early December to the 3,800+ the reunion committee has in their database.

The facilities will be first class, the food and drink will be first class, the dance band will be first class, the banquet program will be first class, the golf tournament and souvenirs will be first class, and the company will, of course, be first class.

by Bob Fitzgerald



YOUR REUNION COMMITTEE

Back: Lew Horne, Frank Goodreau, Rich Charles, Orville Pritchard, Jack Allison, Harm Aning, and George Thompson **Front:** Bob Fitzgerald, Cal Brown, Joe Johnson, Bart Carter, CMSgt Sue Spencer, and Jim Lucas

(Not pictured: Dale Klug, Lew Milligan and Jim Esping)	
Chairman	Joe Johnson (Bob Fitzgerald, Vice Chair)
Secretary	Frank Goodreau
Treasurer.....	Jim Lucas
TOD Liaison.....	CMSgt Sue Sencer
Database	Bob Fitzgerald, Harm Aning
Newsletter Editor.....	Bob Fitzgerald
Facilities.....	Jack Allison, Bart Carter
Publicity.....	Rich Charles & Bart Carter
Banquet Program.....	CMSgt Sue Spencer
Hospitality	Lew Horne, George Thompson, "
Registrations	Frank Goodreau, Lew Milligan "
Golf Tournament.....	Bob Fitzgerald, Jim Lucas, Frank Goodreau, Dale Klug, Harm Aning
Postal Liaisons.....	Cal Brown, Jim Esping
Souvenirs	Orville Pritchard
McClellan Air Museum Tour.....	CMSgt Sue Spencer, Orville Pritchard Orville Pritchard

Note: Old photos of WFO, 1155th, TOD and MCL wanted. Send them to Joe Johnson at AFTAC/WFO-1155th-TOD Reunion, P.O. Box 888, North Highlands, CA 95660-0888.

Comments or questions can be sent to the address shown above or via email to<TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com>

(Back By Popular Demand...continued from page one) details follow on the upcoming "SnowBall"

Date, 23 January 1999

Where, at the NCO Club

Cocktails, 6PM

Dinner, 7PM

Dinner Selections

Chicken Cordon Bleu, lightly breaded chicken breast filled with ham and cheese, baked and laced with a creamy cheese sauce served with tossed green salad with house dressing, rice pilaf, vegetable medley, rolls and butter, coffee or tea and dessert

Shrimp and Pasta, sauteed shrimp in garlic butter and married with linguini pasta served with garlic bread and a tossed salad, coffee or tea and dessert

We also plan to have a carafe of wine for every eight people

Total cost \$16 per person

Notify Judy Milam by January 15th

...AND HEY, WE'VE GOT A LAST MINUTE ADDITION ABOUT A WINDDOWN...THIS WILL BE THE SECOND ONE THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HAS SPONSORED... READ ALL ABOUT IT...

Winddown Scheduled for February 5th...what's a Winddown, you ask...monthly, active duty get together at the "outback" (a barbecue/sheltered area behind the HQ's building) and have a time of reflection, refreshment and renewal. To further increase alumni/active duty interaction the alumni association will again sponsor this event. The Winddown will begin at 3:30pm and last several hours.

The Assn. will be providing refreshments - liquid and solid - all alumni are invited - come on out and see some old friends and make some new ones. The active duty are interested in what and who came before them, so, bring your expertise and tell 'em how "tough it was and how you were tougher."

CLARK'S

	PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATIONS	REMARKS
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1999, the year leading to a brand new millenium! I want to thank each and everyone of you for your support and electing me president of this fine association once again. Following in the footsteps of Frank Hall is a huge task, I only hope that I am up to it and do not let you down. Where are we? We are solid, we are strong, and we have a path into the future.

Our newsletter, done by John and Chris is one of the finest ever published. Carl Gailey works with a very difficult financial program and he monitors our finances to the penny. Judy Milam keeps my English on the straight and narrow and how she does what she does, astounds me. Joe Goldian, our Vice is always there and his contributions are many and very

much appreciated. That is the executive staff, however, that is not what makes the Alumni function. It is those behind the scenes folks that are called upon to contribute countless hours to you, our membership. Mary Welch, who claims she is leaving us this year for Wyoming, I cannot say enough about. She handles the membership roles with the finesse of a professional. Swede Swansen is always there, just ask and he delivers. Curt and Eunice Harris, real unsung hero's of this alumni contribute more than anyone will ever know. I know, and I appreciate it! Folks like Dave Johnson and Mike Black who make our web site functional, all those who assist at our golf tournaments, and oodles of others just too numerous to mention form the backbone of this alumni association.

Where are we going? Forward is all that I can say. California will host the reunion this coming year and see the closure of TOD. The good news to come from that area of the country is that they are forming the West Coast Chapter. Can you believe it? We will now have three solid chapters? That is exactly where we are going.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you and to wish all of you a very Happy Holiday and a 1999 that will be remembered for years. All of the staff forward their warmest to each of you. Thanks for being MEMBERS! Clark...





BOARD MEETINGS

Alumni Association Board Members

Elected

President-Clark Creery
Secretary-Judy Milam

Vice-Joe Goldian
Treasurer-Carl Gailey

Appointed

Membership-Mary Welch
Activities-Ken Myers

Publicity-Swede Swansen

September - November 1998

- We're looking at the possibility of presenting an award at the Annual AFTAC Awards Banquet; we're still working on criteria for the award.
- The "Active Duty" section will be continued in the POST MONITOR (PM) to keep members in touch with what's happening in AFTAC today - additional encouragement will be made to solicit active duty input.
- A brochure is being developed to hand out to personnel leaving AFTAC. The brochure provides information about the Alumni Association and includes a membership application. Included in the brochure is information about a newly approved special introductory price of 3 years membership for \$20 for first-time members.
- We're looking at the possibility of dispatching the PM electronically to those who would prefer electronic copy over paper copy.
- We voted to sponsor another AFTAC Wind-Down in February. This is a get-together of active duty & alumni at the "outback" (behind the AFTAC building) at the end of the workday (3:30 PM) -- first Friday of each month. The Alumni will provide refreshments. Hope to see you all there.
- The Alumni "Snowbird" Social banquet is scheduled for Saturday, 23 January 1999, at the NCO Club. Hopefully, some of our Alumni members who "winter" in FL will be able to attend.
- The 30 October golf tournament was a big success -- 138 players, lots of nice prizes, and

beautiful weather. Our thanks go to Frank Hall and the volunteers who helped make the activity a huge success.

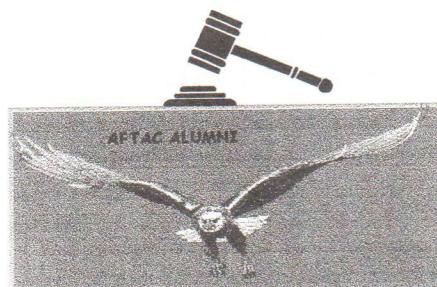
- Membership currently stands at 686, including 415 lifetime members. About 100 members haven't renewed their dues for the New Year. [NOTE: If you're one of the 100, this is the last newsletter you'll receive, unless you get your dues in the mail. Membership year runs 1 October - 30 September!]

- In case you haven't heard, Mary Welch retired from AFTAC on 3 October, and she plans to move out of the area soon, so we're looking for a new membership chair. Anyone interested?

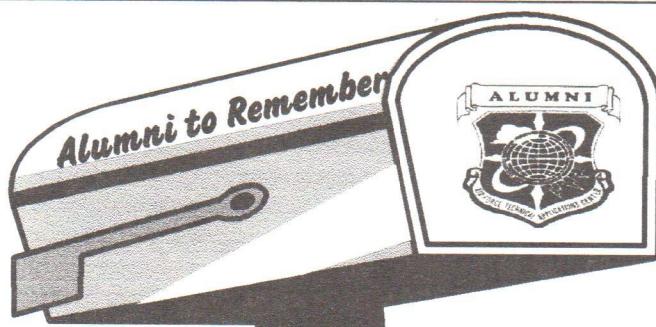
- The AFTAC Boosters Club modified its charter this year to allow Alumni members to be associate members of the Boosters Club. One benefit is that we get reduced-price (subsidized) AFTAC Winter Social tickets -- another good reason to be an Alumni Association member.

- We voted to pay the cost of printing a new Chapter Directory. Watch for your copy after the first of the year.

- We held the Annual General Membership meeting following the golf tournament on 30 October. Attendance was disappointing; we hope to do better next year. Clark Creery was elected President for the upcoming year, and Joe Goldian was elected Vice President. Judy Milam will continue to serve as Secretary, and Carl Gailey will serve again as Treasurer. We reviewed upcoming events, membership, and the treasurer's report, and reminded everyone to watch the Alumni homepage for the latest information about the Association.



the finest...
becoming finer

**HOPES OF HEALTH FOR...**

No Inputs Received this Quarter

**TAPS**

**In Memory of Those We
Knew But Are Now Gone**
(1862) by Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Day Is done; gone the sun,
From the lakes, from the hills,
from the sky.

All is well, safely rest;
God is nigh.

Fading light dims the sight,
And a star lights the sky, gleaming bright;
From afar, drawing nigh,
Falls the night.

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

IN MEMORY OF

James E (Jay) Foley, Sep 17th
North Lakeridge Tr, Boulder, CO 80320
Crawford Alex (Chuck) Chunn, Jr.
see picture and memorial extract below
Airman Marcus A. Zaharko
(see following article)
Gerry Sanchez
(see following article)
Ellis Cozine, early 98
Robert Gagne

REST IN ETERNAL PEACE



Bossier City, LA - Services for Mr. Chunn, 63, were held at 10 a.m. on Sept. 21st, 1998. Officiating was Chaplain Keener of Barksdale AFB. He served honorably in the

US Air Force for 22 years, and had been a resident of Bossier City for the past 26 years. He was employed as Traffic Engineering superintendent for the past 20 years.

He leaves to cherish his memories, wife Margaret; two sons, Eric and Douglas and wife Monica. Memorials may be made to the Willis-Knighton Hospice.

PATRICK AFB AIRMAN DIES IN RANGE BLAST

From FLORIDA TODAY wires

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M.

An explosion at this Army weapons range killed a 19-year-old airman, military spokesmen said. Airman **Marcus A. Zaharko**, of Helena, Mont., died in the explosion Monday, 28 Sept., 1998.

Zaharko had been a seismic analyst with the Air Force Technical Applications Center at Patrick Air Force Base, near Cape Canaveral. Zaharko was part of a group preparing for field tests at the New Mexico missile range when some unexploded ammunition detonated Monday afternoon. No one else was injured.

White Sands emergency crews took Zaharko to a hospital in Socorro, N.M., where he died from his injuries, the military said.

It was not clear Tuesday what kind of tests Zaharko was involved with at the range. The explosion is under investigation.

Gerry Sanchez

From the recent issue of the Colorado Alumni ECHOES

...passes away Monday, September 28, '98. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in June. His wife Dee Dee, and the rest of the family were with him when he peacefully went away. The Sanchez address is 18944 Gregory Street, Bloomington, CA 92316



The Mail Room

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

Letters of a general nature, requesting no action, may be e-mailed to the editors, chrisjohn@juno.com

Letters may be edited for clarity and space; any opinions are those of the writer(s) and may not reflect Association belief or policy

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

10/13/98

I enjoy the newsletter, and check out the website quite often. Clark is doing a great job with it. Thanks for showing me around when I visited Patrick AFB last winter. I enjoyed the tour. Keep up the good work.

"Willie," Donald N. Williamson thanks Don, and our website is outstanding thanks to Mike Black & Dave Johnson, our webmeisters, and the updates Clark Creery posts there...

Keeseville, NY

9/14/98

I am enclosing \$10 for my '99 dues. Apparently not only the 1155th but the entire McClellan AFB is due to be closed. I was stationed there in '60 and, at that time, McClellan was a part of Air Material Command and, like other AMC bases, seemed to be mostly civilians. Other than the 1155th it seemed like we saw very few uniforms—even the gate guards were civilians. If that's still the case, it will be quite a blow to the local economy.

I was assigned to the Q system but many of us had an opportunity to tour the lab which then had probably the latest technology. Undoubtedly everything we worked with in the 60's is now obsolete. I see the Q system was discontinued some time ago.

Times certainly change - our mission when I was in AFTAC (1959-'69) was to detect those who insisted they had no nuclear weapons and no testing going on. Today as in the case of India and Pakistan, not only do they not try to conceal their weapons, they brag about them on Worldwide TV.

Charles Wright thanks Charles, for your thoughts and info

Garland, TX

10/11/98

I have enclosed my check for \$10 for '98-'99 dues. Reference the "Ragged Old Flag" by Johnny Cash - the sentiments are correct, but

some of the history is wrong.

The US Flag never flew at the Alamo - and perhaps Grant, Sherman and Sheridan should have been referenced. Remember, Lee, Beauregard, and Bragg fought against our "Ragged Old Flag."



George Kraus thanks George, and we enjoyed the old plane on your note so much, we've included it here. Appreciate your debate on the words in the song and we'd like to hear others. We took the song to be referencing our "flag" (of free states) in general and the names of "Lee, et al" mentioned because the song notes "...the south wind blew hard..."

Iowa Park, TX

10/9/98

Enjoyed the latest copy of Post-Monitor. Remembering people from days at HQ - 1156 - 1155 & Dets 206 & 057 brings back good times & good people.

Enjoying my two retirements, USAF and W. R. Grace and finding lots to do. Keep up the good work!

Vern Mikkelson thanks Vern, and we enjoy "getting" those stories to print...we got the space and the will, let 'em come...

Stuart, FL

10/9/98

Keep up the good work

Don Clemens thanks Don, we'll try because of "good readers"

Freemont, MI

unk

Enjoy the Newsletters

D. T. Leiter thanks DT

Evansville, IN

10/13/98

Really enjoy the newsletters and stories from yesteryear - keep up the good work!

Marv Weber, AFTAC '63-'72, Det 203 (Shemya), HQ's Alexandria, Det 207 (Eielson AFB) thanks Marv, and we enjoy doing "good work" - and as you see in this issue, we have several inputs from readers for your "yesteryear" stories - can you send us one?

Sacramento, CA

10/29/98

I enjoy reading the Post-Monitor and wish I could tee up the golf ball at your tournaments..maybe next spring.

Hi to Frank Hall and the rest of the oldtimers.

Bill Hynes

Merritt Island, FL

10/31/98

Keep up the good work! I really enjoy the Post-Monitor.

Curt Anderholm Bill and Curt, thanks, your words make it all worthwhile and keep us goin'

Important Dates

Association Board/Membership Meetings

All members and prospective members are encouraged to attend. Meetings are scheduled (verify before coming) for the second Monday of each month (dates listed below):

WHEN: 1730 (5:30 PM)

WHERE: AFTAC HQ building

HOW: come to the lobby and a

Board Member will meet , greet and escort

CALENDAR, 1999

January 11th

Board/Membership Meetings, 1730



Major Event!!!

January 23rd - Alumni Association Social,
see page one of this issue

Major Event!!!

February 5th - Winddown, see page 15

February 8th

Board/Membership Meetings, 1730



March 8th

Board/Membership Meetings, 1730



End of March - Post Monitor mailing

Major Event!!!

April 7 - 11 WFO-1155th-TOD Reunion, see
insert in the June issue, pages 7-11 and the
synopsis ;here, page 10

April 12th

Board/Membership Meetings, 1730



Two Major Events!!!

May 1st, tentative date of AFTAC Annual
Picnic, typically held at Wickpark park (BCC)
pavilion, nominal cost - Sage participation and
assistance encoured (beer-meisters, games,
etc.) mark this on your calendar.

May (to be determined) Alumni association
golf tournament at Cocoa Beach,

May 10th, June 14th

Board/Membership Meetings, 1730



End of June - Post Monitor mailing

Shopping Center

Mail orders to: AFTAC Alumni Asc., ATTN: Sales Staff,
PO Box 254892. Patrick AFB FI, 32925-0892

Include additional \$3.00 for shipping and handling*

*no shipping and handling charged on logo pins

Thanks for your support!!

Items available for sale as of 20 November 1998:

ALUMNI items ~ Multi Color Logo:

	MED	LG	XL	XXL
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JACKETS - Unlined/Royal Blue - \$20:

2	2	0	1
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GOLF SHIRTS - with pocket - \$14

- Sea Teal (aqua blue)	1	5	3	2
------------------------	---	---	---	---

- Jade (medium green)	2	3	2	2
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- Navy	2	2	2	5
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- Red	2	2	1	2
-------	---	---	---	---

- White	1	1	2	2
---------	---	---	---	---

- Royal Blue	2	2	2	2
--------------	---	---	---	---

- Teal (dark aqua)	2	0	0	2
--------------------	---	---	---	---

- Maroon	1	2	4	2
----------	---	---	---	---

T-SHIRTS - without pocket - \$7

- Light Blue	1	0	2	1
--------------	---	---	---	---

- Royal Blue	1	2	3	4
--------------	---	---	---	---

- Navy	3	3	3	0
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- Ash Gray	1	1	0	2
------------	---	---	---	---

- Purple	1	2	1	1
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- Red	2	2	2	2
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- Fuchsia	2	2	2	2
-----------	---	---	---	---

- Mint Green	2	2	2	2
--------------	---	---	---	---

- Jade Green	1	2	3	2
--------------	---	---	---	---

HATS:

(\$6)

Green

11

Ceramic Mugs (\$7):

4

Gray

12

50th Commemorative Coins (\$3):

-365

Red

11

Logo Pins (\$3.25):

-120

Royal Blue

10

Logo Discs (\$5.50):

17

Light Blue

13

Alumni License Plates

Navy

10

(\$7-members/\$10-nonmembers)

13

BOOSTERS CLUB purchases - most say ALUMNUS rather than ALUMNI:

LG	XL
----	----

Jackets - Unlined/Royal Blue - \$20

3

GOLF SHIRTS - Med. Blue/with pocket/White Logo - \$14

14	10
----	----

GOLF SHIRT - White/no pocket/multi-color logo - \$14

1

HATS - Cotton - \$5 - Medium Blue: 2

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

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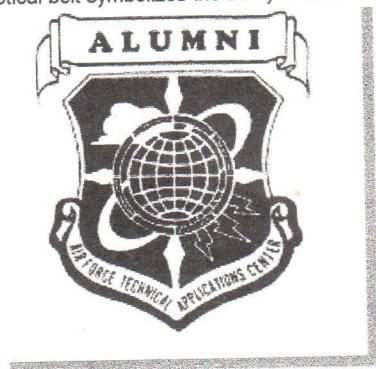
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submitted by Carl Gailey, Treasurer **ATTENTION Dues Due?** If you wish to remain a member and continue receiving this newsletter **check your address** now. The first line on your address label indicates when your Dues are due. If it reads "**99<FY Dues due in Oct**" it means our records show you have not paid your dues for FY 99, which began 1 Oct 98. This will be the **last newsletter** you will receive until your dues have been paid. If the first two digits on line one of your address label is other than 99 it means your dues are current. Just remember, the first two digits on the first line is the fiscal year your dues are due. **Don't be "out"-check this "out"**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The AFTAC Emblem symbolizes the unit and, when in color, contains the AF (blue and gold) as well as the national colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of AF operations; yellow, the sun and excellence of personnel. The globe indicates worldwide mission, locations and geophysical studies; the lightning and cloud depict study on natural phenomena and the compass points reflect the assigned tasks around the world. The rings around the globe symbolize electronic instrument readings and unity of purpose and display electronic measurements accomplished. The elliptical belt symbolizes the study of the atmosphere.



NONPROFIT
ORG.



LT <- FY Dues Due in Oct!
JOHN T HORSCH
515 TEMPLE STREET
SATELLITE BEACH FL 32937 3324

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