

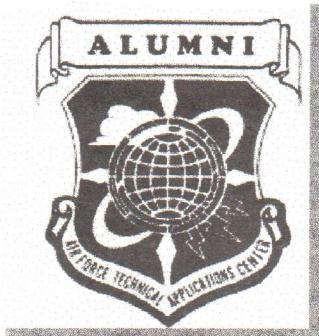


•POST-MONITOR•

Volume 6 Issue 2

Membership Stands at 655 (386 are Lifetime)

June 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



A Sage Salute - **Fred Van Dyck**

submitted by the editors



We salute Fred for the many positive events he "vice'd" in his two year tenure ('96/'97) as vice-president. He amply filled in for the president on several occasions and was instrumental in improving membership, sponsored events, revenue management, and, importantly, the alumni reunion at the 50th celebration.

Fred's VP service was a natural follow-on in his service to AFTAC. CMSgt. (Ret.) Van Dyck was on active duty from '52 to '79, spending 15+ years in AFTAC - beginning as an Airborne Special Equipment Operator assigned to McClellan AFB after training at Lowry. In '65, he was assigned to Japan and returned to McClellan three years later. '72 found Fred as NCOIC/1st Sgt. of the Det in American Samoa. He was assigned to Hqs in '73, progressed to Superintendent, Ops. Dir. and concluded his career as Chief of Manpower and Organization.

His civilian career involved jobs of increasing responsibility with aerospace service contractors at Cape Canaveral AFS and KSC. He remains active in the National Contract Management Ass. and was a former local chapter President and National Director. His last position at KSC was Div. Mgr. of Project Integration for the Base Operations Contract. Currently, Fred is working as a Principal Contract Administrator for the Air Force Joint STARS program in Melbourne, Fl. He continues to support Alumni activities. Thanks Fred, for serving AFTAC and the alumni in so many capacities and ways.

Attention...
All Here
Present,
Tonight
We Honor
A Few

High Five Honors Large Crowd Recognizes Association High Five

Submitted by our Rovin' Reporter and one of the honorees, Clark Creery - photos by Judy Milam begin on page 11

On 25 April 1998, Colonel John T. Wigington III (AFTAC Commander) presented five of our Alumni with AFTAC coins. The inscription read, "In recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the United States Air Force. The accompanying AFTAC coin was flown in space aboard the shuttle Atlantis, STS-86, 25 September 1997 through 6 October 1997, and is presented in appreciation for sustained contributions." - signed: Howell M. Estes III, General, Commander of the US Space Command.

The ceremony was held at the Patrick AFB Non-Commissioned Officer's club and there were nearly 50 attendees. Those receiving the recognition were: Frank Hall, Judy Milam, Clark Creery, Carl Gailey and Ben Vlassick. Ben was unable to attend, however, his son Randy (an active-duty AFTACer) performed honorably as a stand-in and accepted the award on his father's behalf.

(High Five continues on page 3, left column)



Association Golf & Get-Together

Submitted by Frank Hall, Clark Creery & Judy Milam (photos, page 11)
Following is a list of people who won prizes at the Tournament/1 May:

FIRST PLACE: Roger Hornsby, Ed Lindsey, Sam Foell, Norm Fish

SECOND PLACE: Lee Severence, Dave Sorter, Dave McMurphy, Danny Smith

THIRD PLACE: Rich Melchione, Doug Rogers, Ken Gestring, Shan Crosby

CLOSEST TO THE PIN, RIVER COURSE: Steve Scott, Joe Beatrice

CLOSEST TO THE PIN, DOLPHIN COURSE: Frank Hall, Dave Sorter, Don Caruso

(Golf and Get-Together continued on page 3, right column)

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-'96, current

Judy Milam - Secretary, '89 to current

Mary Welch - Membership, 91 to current

Carl Gailey - Treasurer, 92 to current

Swede Swansen - Publications, 93 to current

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Association was formed in March 1985 and chartered later that 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) 494-6867 (daytime) (407) 259-0629 (evenings) 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," (namesake of the AFTAC active-duty publication, "Monitor") (staff information below) and 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

Roving Reporter(s): Clark and Ruth Creery

Publications: Carl Gailey and Swede Swansen

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSCHES' MOUTH

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

What a time we had getting this issue out to you. Not only did we take a two week trip but we came home and proceeded to "break" our computer. And wouldn't you know it, it was on our "longish" golf article by our Rovin' Reporter, **Clark Creery**, that our hard drive took a dive. We tried to figure out a way we could blame Clark but he was unreasonable and insisted it was not his fault...but he was very good-humored about doing it all over (its even better the second time, Clark, we know our readers will read it twice now).

We hope you will enjoy the increased use of pictures in this issue. Our latest edition of MSPub (97) gives us (fairly) easy capability to put items out on the alumni webpage and we've been trying to take advantage of that..., and...when Post-Monitor space allows, run some of these in the newsletter (see album starting on page 11). We've also got pictures posted with the articles, when we have them available - so if you want, and can spare the picture, send it in...we'll run it with your item - we're sure that folks who know you want to see how you're looking as you grow up.

We have included an article on Taps we hope you will enjoy, and have used the words to this song to introduce our Memorium section ("Alumni to Remember"). Taps is something we were around as a military person, but if you're like us, you never really knew the story about it or had seen all its verses.

And, importantly, we've got details on the TOD closure plans, its going to be quite an event. We bring updates on some old friends, catch up with the recent golf match...another outstanding effort led by **Frank Hall** (everyone who shows up enjoys themselves, whether they play or not).

Last, but not least, "old-timers" will recognize the new title format (page one) is copied directly from the original style of "the Monitor."

(High Five continues from page one)

Behind the scenes the AFTAC Alumni Association functions as a well oiled machine, in large part



because of these "High Five." A partial rendering of their roles was remembered that night...Frank Hall was tasked with getting the Alumni restarted in 1989 and that he did! Starting with a handful of personnel and very little funding his leadership moved us forward and today we have over 700 members and a bank account that will support our association well into the future. We looked at what we were giving the membership, and realized we had to do more. Clark Creery took on the role of providing a newsletter that would be mailed out four times a year to keep our folks informed. That newsletter has grown from a small one page, rag-sheet to an impressive publication, the Post-Monitor, thanks to the efforts of John and Chris Horsch. Management of funds within an organization is difficult and Carl Gailey stepped to the plate and has kept his eye on your money throughout the years. Without his diligence, we would be unable to continue at current membership dues - you really do get a lot for your \$10.00 per year or \$75.00 lifetime. Judy Milam functions as the heart of the association. As an AFTAC "insider," she is able to keep us on the right track - she manages all of the thousands of administrative details and her efficiency rubs off. From the initial meetings of three or four folks, we now are pleased to announce that we have upwards of twelve folks who make the monthly meetings and assist in keeping our organization on-track. Ben Vlassick was remembered for his forming and keeping the Colorado Chapter active and all of the problems associated with keeping personnel organized.

We congratulate each of the recipients and thank them for their service and dedication to the AFTAC Alumni Association.

(see additional photos in the album later in this issue)

(Golf & Get-Together continued from page 1)

CLOSEST TO THE PIN, LAKE COURSE:**Fred Mills,**

Tom Barry

LONGEST DRIVE, **Scott Gray**

PRIZE(S) (DONATOR[S]): WINNER(S)

Cup/Balls (CTI): **Mark Jager, Jody Rogers, Carol Warfield, Bill Hilbun, Vince Chimelis, & Paul Bell**

Wilson Golf Hat (Golf Shop of Cocoa Beach): **Bill McCune**

Golf Shoes (Golf Shop of Cocoa Beach): **John Renard**

Umbrella (Golf Shop of Cocoa Beach): **Tom Livengood**

Sweater (SAIC): **John Taylor, Bobby Myers, and Lee Turnage**

Golf Shirt (SAIC): **John Renard, Shawn Mathis, Dale Holt, Tom Eddleman, Curtis Banter, Hal Baker, Brian Biehl, Rich Bohn, Greg Murray, Colleen Cox, Mitch Phillips, Fred Van Dyck, Gary Hendrickson, Doug Rogers, Bob Artz, and Jack Jackson**

Golf Bag (CTI): **David Taylor**

Mizuno Golf Driver (SAIC): **Roger Hornsby**

Mizuno Golf Driver (SAIC): **Jim Payne**

Mizuno Golf Driver (CTI): **Ron Couch**

Grand Prize, \$200 Gift Certificate to Golf Shop of Cocoa Beach (SAIC): **Chick Garcia**

Maxfli Balls (CTI): **Gary Moffett, Scott McEntyre, Doug Colbary, Joe Beatrice, Jack Warwick, and Chuck Thayer**

US Open Cap (CTI): **Andy Anderson, & Doug Colbary**

Round of Golf for 4 people: **Dennis Bald**

\$30 Gift Certificate for Cocoa Beach Country Club Pro Shop: **Scott Van Dusen, Don Caruso, Tom McCurdle, Tom Niquette, Jim Short, Rene Uzee, Vince Chimelis, Ed Marbry, Greg Murray, Sam Sorice, Ron Couch, Joyce Nichols, Mike Hoy, Walt Kiska, Steve Scott, Doug Colbary, Judy Milam, Bill McCune, Colleen Cox, Keith Adair, Ron Tyson, Tom Mahaney, Doug Snyder, Bill**

(Golf and Get-Together continued on page 4, left column)

(Golf & Get-Together continued from page 3)

Stringer, Scott Lynch, Scott Gray, Teresa Roberts, Emmy Sloan (2), Ed McMurphy, Al Moy, Interior Design Consult: Greg Bowman

now that we know all the fantastic prizes, the good people and companies that provided them, and the golfers who walked away with them, lets get a feel for the tournament from our Rovin' Reporter, **Clark Creery**, take it away, Clark

Another very successful Golf Tournament. and super thanks to **Frank Hall!!!** 193 golfers hit the links at the Cocoa Beach Golf Club and it was an awesome sight. There are three courses, each more interesting than the other.

The weather was a bit "iffy" in the morning, however, someone was on our side and it turned into perfect golf weather - so between 11AM and 1PM. folks started to arrive and get registered, buy mulligans, sip drinks, swap stories and get all psyched up for the tournament and good times that lie ahead. Feed-back tells us that everyone had a wonderful time and can hardly wait for the next one.

Our thanks to the Cocoa Beach County Club folks for their exceptional hospitality and for keepin' track of those darn scores, we usually have to do this mathematical feat and it's a pain - all we had to do this time is relax and update lies from the last time we told them.

The food was catered and was good and plentiful - we had lots of helpers and we thank them. **Carl Gailey, Judy Milam, Jim & Barbara Heinbaugh, Eunice & Curt Harris, John Horsch, Clark & Ruth Creery, Mary Welch, Swede Swansen, Mike Higgins, Frank Calenda, Joe Goldian and Ron Couch** were there to take up the slack.

Later that evening we were treated to over \$2,000 of prizes and an impromptu "auction.". Our tournaments are becoming better and better each time, and if you've not experienced one yet...come out the next time and give us a try. Guaranteed you'll like it and come back for more. October is being kicked around for the next one - we'll keep you informed as plans shape up, mark your calendar now so you'll be "ready to roll."

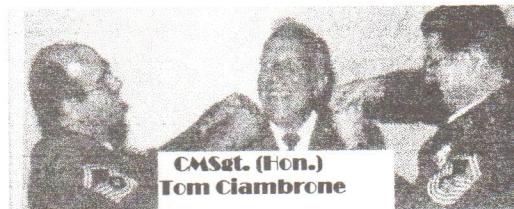
I REMEMBER

AFTAC HISTORY BY THOSE WHO WERE HERE...

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

Since we're asking you to step forward and share a highlight, we feel it is only fair that we share one of mine.

The year was 1987 and Col. **Tom Ciambrone** was nearing retirement. He was



**CMSgt. (Hon.)
Tom Ciambrone**

highly regarded by many enlisted people because

of his accessibility, willingness to listen, quickness to offer suggestions/help and he was just "darn fun" to be around.

As his retirement neared, there was a strong movement within the enlisted force to recognize Col. Ciambrone for all he had done for us over the many years he served with AFTAC. What better recognition could there be, from the enlisted, than to bestow upon him the honorary rank of Chief Master Sergeant.

The ceremony was solemn and meaningful, with AFTAC Chiefs present from around the globe, and each played an important role in the ceremony. Several Patrick AFB Chiefs were present as were two other Air Force officers who had received the honor, LtGen. Forrest S. McCartney, Director of the Kennedy Space Center and Col. Dominick R. Martinelli, Commander of the 6555th Aerospace Test Gp. Also honored during the ceremony was Mrs. Ciambrone, she was presented the title "Chief's Mate."



After the ceremony, we had a very well attended reception open to all AFTAC enlisted personnel. On display were the items that had

been presented to Col. and Mrs. Ciambrone during the bestowal, and he surprised us by presenting the AFTAC enlisted a statue of an eagle, representative of his rank.

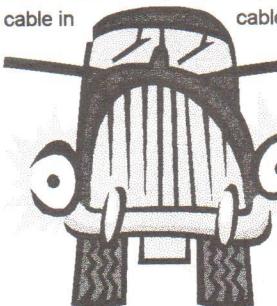
It was an evening to be proud of for many reasons. We had done something very meaningful for someone we really cared for - and we had done it in a first-class manner. It was a night these editors will never forget or be able to duplicate. Artifacts of this event (the Eagle, "Monitor" coverage, etc.) are in the "Hall of Heritage" (at the Hq's building).

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 we can. Thanks

Again, since we're asking you to give us your BS, we'll relate some of ours. This tale is truly "barely substantiated," only verified by the fact that I have heard it over the years. Maybe this is like one of those "myth" stories, you know, like the cheap cadillac... If anyone out there can lend credence or real facts to this BS please drop us a line.

It goes like this, and is usually told about a cold clime, such as Pinedale, Wy. - a place known to experience low temperatures. It seems a seismic data cable was malfunctioning and our intrepid maintenance personnel had tracked it down and were making repairs. They (always seems like there's two of them) are in the process of removing the bad cable, and then splicing the two ends together when they decide, in order to keep warm, to work within the heated maintenance vehicle - this is a good idea, up to a point, as you will see.

Well warm they kept, but when they had successfully completed their splice, there it cable in  cable out was, and I know you've got it, running right through the vehicle. Now, this might be alright, if there was never another need for the vehicle and it could be left right there in the

middle of the pasture as sort of an expensive "vault" for this splice, a monument to work well done no matter the obstacles.

But you know those narrow-minded Commanders and NCOIC's - leaving the "vehicled" cable, as done, was not considered an option. Too bad, or to this day this story could be easily verified rather than having to be treated as BS. Again, let us know if you are aware of additional facts in this mystery tale.

WHERE ARE YA?!!

by our Rovin' Reporter, Clark Creery - where, through this newsletter or through more direct contact, we attempt to get you, the reader, to let us know "where ya are" and "what'cha been doin" since last heard from -drop Clark a note at www.webpages/metrolink.net/~clark312 or www.metrolink.net - look for users homepages, Click on Clark312, snail mail is Clark E. Creery, 578 Ford Circle West, Melbourne, Florida 32935, email: clark312@metrolink.net or Clarkie123@aol.com, Electronics: 477-259-8140, Carrier Pigeon: look for the white roof and the squirrels

(replies continue from last issue - this is all we have, so far. If you've not responded please do so)

JOHN RICHARDSON

Received your message and didn't know I was lost. But anyway I'm right where I thought I was. I was one of AFTAC's lost souls who couldn't hold a job so I ended up being in 5 systems (B, F, Q, I, & MCL) I retired in Mar 82 and settled in FL for 7 1/2 years and got tired of sweating so Vi and I moved back to the old homestead in Northern Minnesota where we built a house on Rush Island Lake and we are totally retired and loving it. We are located about 60 miles south of the Canadian border and normally we have a fairly severe winter but this year El Nino has been very kind to us with only a few days of below zero weather and very little snow (only had to plow twice this year) and here it is Feb 24 and the snow is 95% gone and supposed to be 45 deg today. Yesterday it was raining, unheard of in Feb.

Really enjoyed the reunion and cruise, you guys did a great job and we look forward to the next one.

Till then, Jon & Vi Richardson, At the edge of the wilderness, just north of the stress zone, Deer River Minnesota

CHRIS VETTER

I am James "Chris" Vetter. I was at TOD as the Chief of Technical Support for the Lab and briefly as the Director of Lab Support until I retired. I have tossed aside that manager crap for a while and I am now in technical support as a process engineer with Lam Research Corp in Fremont, CA. Lam Research builds equipment for the semiconductor industry for etching silicon wafers which get turned into DRAM, logic, and other types of chips. I help our customers when they run into problems and do quite a bit of traveling to include Japan, Korea, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

GALEN POUND

I retired from AFTAC in 1981 and since then have been working for ENSCO INC. in the Florida area and still do some work for AFTAC in the "O" systems area or (hydroacoustic). I have been involved the instrumentation setup and data collection at both White Sands NM and at the Nevada Test Site. I have been involved in data collection and analysis using a Ground Probing Radar system for the last twelve years and have collected data worldwide. I still bowl in the AFTAC Wednesday nite league at Patrick AFB and get to see a number of old ex AFTAC personnel. I still love to play golf but don't get to play as much as I did while active duty. I hope to see everyone at the AFTAC picnic and at the alumni golf tournament.

LARRY SWEARINGEN

Larry Swearingen, Allied Signal Tech. Services Corp., 1419 Chaffee Dr., Suite #1, Titusville, FL 32780, (407) 264-9661 ext. 20, (407) 264-9771 fax

Been here since early Dec 1997 after retiring Nov 1 1997 after 24 years. Currently designing Computer Based Training for use by host nation personnel before/during/after International Seismic Arrays Installation at selected sites. Our part in the program is to install arrays in approx. 16 different countries.

CAREY DOBBINS

Your opening line was, "The AFTAC Alumni is alive and well."----Well so am I (some times). My tour with AFTAC was about 11 1/2 years. All at McClellan in the lab. Heck, I have been retired so long that only the people with S.S. would remember me. I retired 1 Oct. 72 and now live in Pensacola, FL. To keep busy I am still teaching a little art (oil painting). Please keep me informed as to what is new in the world of AFTAC.

GEORGE MIRDA

Ex Q troop, B troop. Living in Melbourne, working in AFTAC maintenance. Hey, not all of us alumni are out yet, just getting close. Nice to hear from you, Clark. Les Strawn, an ex B troop, instructor visited us recently. He's in Texas.

FRAN PAPINEAU

Fran Papineau, formerly HQ. Air Ops, and 1156th TOS. After retirement, we came to Sacramento (1977), worked for Wells Fargo Bank for 11 yrs and then retired again. Played a lot of golf at McClellan's course during those retirement years. Now living in Sun City Roseville, CA. That is just outside of Sacramento. Feel like I died and went to heaven. Please don't clutter up the Monitor with any of this.

JOHN CORMIER

My name is John Cormier. I went into the Air Force in 1983, my first assignment being HQ at Patrick AFB. I was a computer operator there for three and a half years, then went to Lowry and trained to become an SEO. I went to TOD at McClellan and stayed there until the end of my enlistment in 1989. I have many great memories of involvement with AFTAC.

I got out in 1989, and started taking classes at Louisiana State University to become a Chemical Engineer. Well, my wife and I got pregnant for our second child and we weren't financially able to keep me in school. So I got a job as a pest control guy, where one of my

customers introduced me to the idea of becoming an Air Traffic Controller like he was. So I eventually took the test, and in 1991, I became an Air Traffic Controller.

My family and I live in Albuquerque, New Mexico. My wife is from Tucson, so it's close to her home, but I miss Louisiana terribly. Oh well, you gotta go where the money is.

RICHARD DUVAL

Thanks for the note looking at life after AFTAC (and the USAF). My wife (Carol) & I who were married at the Base Chapel at PAFB in 1972, arrived at Det 412 (Q-troop as well) with Larry Silhanek as our sponsor in 1974. When the det closed down in 1975, I was transferred to the 2nd Aerospace Defense Sq, Buckley ANG, CO, where I separated in 1976. Since then we have lived in Melbourne, Aust., Sydney, Aust, Hong Kong, and Sunningdale, UK.

I am currently working with Hewlett-Packard Australia as an Business Alliance Manager, within the Computer Organization, based in Sydney Australia. We have been back in Australia 4 years now, after having spent 5 years in the UK where I was working for Motorola Information Systems Group as a Senior Account Manager, Financial Services.

Current hobbies include sailing, snow skiing, scuba & snorkeling and travelling Europe. We usually get back to Cocoa & Tampa, FL once every 2 years to visit my Family which live in the area.

Like many Q-troops I use the Internet to communicate with family and friends around the world. Best regards with your efforts to source information from alumni members.

JOHN KENNEY

John Kenney CMSgt, USAF (ret) Hq AFTAC/AD retired 1979.

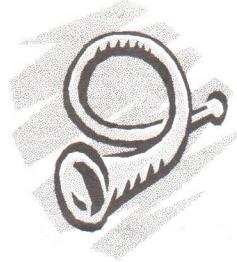
Currently Engineering Manager @ Northrop Grumman Baltimore, Maryland. Involved with Navy Sonar detection techniques past 13 years. Not Sosus!!!!

Live in Annapolis Maryland have a sail boat

and place one mile up the Severn River from the Naval Academy. Have a summer retirement home in Maryland mountains near Camp David. Looking for winter place in the Patrick ~ Suntree area, or looking for suggestions from AFTACers on patio home or something with no grass to maintain during summer months. Plan to return to Florida late 1998 or early 1999. Can't wait, keep up the good work ~ warm regards to all.

Clark has asked us to pass on his thanks to those who provided inputs for this fun and interesting series. We'd certainly like to keep it going but have no more respondents at this time - we know it's tough to sit down and drop a line, but what the hey, if you've enjoyed reading (some) of these about people in your past, there's someone out there wondering about you and would like to be caught up...come on, send it in.

...and now for a change of pace...the history of a tune we've heard many times...



Taps

A Melody With Two Tales

Submitted by the editors - inspired by a Florida Today story, and we've used it to introduce our memorium section later in this issue

This important military song has several stories about its origin. One, a touching story, presented in *The Encyclopedia of Amazing But True Facts*, published by Signet. In this version, a Union Army captain is said to have dragged a dying soldier to safety during the Civil War, only to discover it was his son who had enlisted in the Confederate Army.

For his son's burial, the captain was allowed one musician, who played a series of notes found in the son's pocket. The encyclopedia states "The music was the haunting bugle melody we know as taps, used at all military funerals." Although sentimental, the story is not true, according to a U.S. Army District of Washington fact sheet, which states:

The 24 note melancholy bugle call known as taps is thought to be a revision of a French

bugle signal, called "tattoo," that notified soldiers to cease an evening's drinking and return to their garrisons. It was sounded an hour before the final bugle call to end the day by extinguishing fires and lights. The last five measures of the "tattoo" resemble Taps.

The revision that gave us the present-day taps was made during America's Civil War by Union Gen. Daniel Adams Butterfield, who decided the regular "lights out" music was too formal. He recalled the tattoo, which he altered slightly, but kept the original melody. He ordered the new call to be played at the end of each day thereafter, instead of the regulation call.

This music was made the official Army bugle call after the war, but was not given the name taps until 1874.



AFTAC Annual Picnic

submitted by the head beer-meister/treasurer, Carl Gailey

The alumni did its usual outstanding job of monitoring the beer wagon again this year at the annual picnic. We made it through another year without incidence or injury!

I would like to thank everyone that helped. Frank Hall, Rick Manley, Bob Wiley, John Caban, Curt & Eunice Harris, Jerry Labarre, Hank Raymond, Tom Dunn, Swede Swansen, Clark Creey, John and Chris Horsch and Carl Gailey.

If I failed to recognize anybody it was due to memory loss caused by the aging process.

...AND NOW, JUST IN FROM THE
WEST COAST...

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! AFTAC TECHNICAL OPERATIONS DIVISION (TOD) TO CLOSE IN 1999

WFO-1155th-TOD Alumni and TOD
Coming Together to Celebrate a
Mission Accomplished
Technical Operations Division Closing
Ceremony, 9 April 1999.

submitted by Sue Spencer, TOD

McClellan AFB CA, June 1, 1998. After 49 years, the long and illustrious military mission of the 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 closing ceremony will take place on the morning of 9 April 1999, followed by an open house, and concluded with a banquet dinner-dance in memory of the unit and those who served proudly.

The Technical Operations Division will officially be deactivated 30 September 1999 with most of the "blue suiters" to leave McClellan AFB by 13 August 1999. The world-class McClellan Central Laboratory (MCL) component of TOD will be outsourced and the maintenance components will be moved to San Antonio, Texas. editors note - it is our understanding that everyone will be able to attend all events, we'll keep you informed as we know more

WFO-1155th-TOD Reunion, April 8-11, 1999

submitted by Bob Fitzgerald, MSgt Ret.

Sacramento, CA, June 1, 1998. The WFO-1155th-TOD Reunion is being scheduled to include the closing ceremonies for TOD. The HQ hotel for the reunion will be at the Sacramento Doubletree Hotel (same hotel, different name, as last time). The preliminary agenda for these activities is as follows:

- Wed, 04/07, 5pm - 9pm Pre-registration opens in HQ hotel lobby
- Thu, 04/08, 9am - 4:30pm REGISTRATION open at HQ hotel
- Thu, 04/08, 10am - 5pm Hospitality Suite at HQ hotel opens for "MINI-REUNIONS" (Dets, 92s, etc.)*.

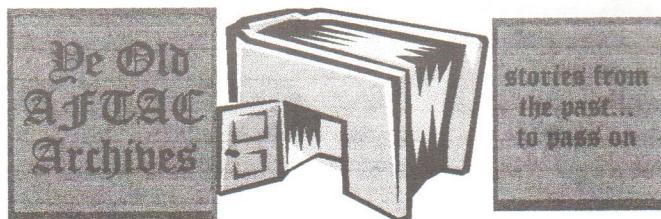
- Thu, 04/08, 12:30pm - 4:30pm GOLF MATCH at Lawrence Links
- Thu, 04/08, 6pm - 8pm COCKTAIL PARTY at HQ hotel
- Fri, 04/09, 9am CLOSING CEREMONIES AT TOD
- Fri, 04/09, ~10am - ? TOUR OF TOD
- Fri, 04/09, ~1pm - ? Tour of Air Museum at McClellan AFB
- Fri, 04/09, 6pm - midnight BANQUET DINNER/ DANCE at HQ hotel
- Sat, 04/10, 10am - 5pm Possible tour of Old Sacramento Shops and the world-renowned CA Railroad Museum*
- Sat, 4/10, 6pm - ? Hospitality Suite open for additional "MINI-Reunions" (Dets, 92s, etc.)*.
- Sun, 04/11, 10am - Noon FAREWELL BRUNCH at HQ hotel

*The tour of Old Sacramento Shops and the CA Railroad Museum will depend upon your interest and feedback. Also, the reunion committee is hoping to work out the details for use of the Hospitality Suite on Thursday morning/afternoon and Saturday evening for any "Mini-Reunions". Use of the suite may be on a "non-exclusive" but "coordinated" basis.

The WFO-1155th-TOD reunion committee is planning to do a mailing this September with more definitive details on the activities planned for the TOD closing and the reunion including registration forms and additional information. In the mean time, the committee needs YOUR feedback on what we have planned so far. Please send your comments to us via US Mail to:

WFO-1155th-TOD Reunion, PO Box 888, North Highlands, CA 95660 or via Email to either of the following: Bob Fitzgerald - Bob.Fitzgerald@teale.ca.gov or Jack Allison - mail to: Jack@moller.com.

thanks, sounds like it'll be fun, Bob (who forwarded all this on to us)



...now to the archives of AFTAC history for an article we know you will all relate to and enjoy...

AFTAC "Regulars" Seen Residents Outside PAFB

From the "Surfside Slant---The Islander", written in the early days of AFTAC knowing it was moving (1971) to Patrick. This paper is no longer published but this article takes us "back to the old days" and is quite interesting to read again, or for the first time

The Air Force Technical Applications Center, a 560 man headquarters unit, will permanently move to Patrick Air force base this summer.

The center, called AFTAC, is located outside Alexandria, VA. in a highly classified and sensitive area. AFTAC is considered by many in the Air force a "spook" outfit, namely, one engaged in super secret projects.

The move of the unit with another 1,500 men spread worldwide will give Brevard a \$6 million payroll plus an increased burden on schools and housing.

PAFB reports of its 460 officer quarters and 1219 for airmen that all but 50 are occupied. The breakdown of AFTAC indicates 144 officers, 353 airmen and 60 Civil Service. Many will be seeking off-base residence, one source indicated.

Not all men will transfer to PAFB, Maj. Donald Whalen, inspector general for AFTAC, told the Surfside Slant. Some who are here on 4-year tours, he said, are on the short side and may be retained in the Washington area.

Maj. Whalen guessed that because of the nature of the mission most of AFTAC people were senior in the Air Force and most of their children, impact-wise, would be in the junior high level.

AFTAC is commanded by Brig. Gen. William R. Goade who will be 50 next month. A native of St. Louis, Gen. Goade entered the National Guard in 1938 and in 1942 enlisted in the Army. He was commissioned a year later as a pilot, serving 62 missions in the European Theater. He holds the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross and has 6,000 hours in the air. He has been a general for 2 1/2 years. The Goades have five children.

The Air Force - with tongue in cheek - is guided by stringent guidelines when referring to AFTAC. Its proscribed mission is "exploration, measurement, and tabulation of

effects of national phenomena on the physical structure of the earth and its atmosphere and in the possible application of such events."

Asked if this meant investigating flying saucers, an Air Force spokesman was aghast at such a frivolous suggestion. He declined, however, to further clarify the mission.

Since AFTAC reports to the director of operations, Headquarters Air Force, it is presumed that its mission and worldwide keyhole operations possesses an expertise in matters related directly to weapons research and analysis.

The center will be housed in the Tech Lab on A1A. It will have full use of the wide variety of computers of the Eastern Test Range.

hope you all enjoyed finding out what was conjectured about AFTAC

...Continuing with the archives, this is something **Dave Johnson** sent us awhile back and we were hoping to have room in an issue to run it...

This is a response I received from an RSL (Returned Soldiers League) club In Australia when I went looking for that "Ode" they say every night in respect for their war dead...I thought you guys might like to see it. I always found it very powerful

Dear David,

Very pleased to hear from you and note your continued interest in the RSL movement. For your information "The Pledge" is known in the Club as "The Ode" and it is played at 6 O'clock every night as follows:

"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun and in the morning;
We will remember them

"Lest We Forget".

This is one verse from the poem "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon written in September 1914. Laurence (Robert) Binyon, 1869-1943), was a poet, art critic and orientalist; Assistance Keeper of Department of Prints and Drawings, British Museum 1909-

1913; Deputy Keeper in charge of Sub Department of Oriental Prints and Drawings 1913-1932. Keeper of Prints and Drawings 1932-1933.

...and later Dave provided the whole poem, reprinted here for your thought...

For the Fallen

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children
England mourns for her dead across the sea
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit or her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill, Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow,
They were staunch to the end against odds uncoun-
tered,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight
To the innermost heart of their own land they are
known
As the stars are known to the night.

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

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For further information about this Club you might like to visit our www site at <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~hrs1/>

With regards, BOB AYSCOUGH