

♦ AFTAC ALUMNI ♦

Volume 2 Issue 3

June 1994

♦ 50 YEARS!

The Air Force Technical Applications Center will celebrate the '50'th anniversary of the Long Range Detection (LRD)/U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System (USAEDS) on 16 September 1997.

Initial discussions have started on "how" to recognize and celebrate the historical accomplishments of this system since 1947. The past years have documented numerous memorable events, and we hope to touch on many of them during the resulting celebration in 1997.

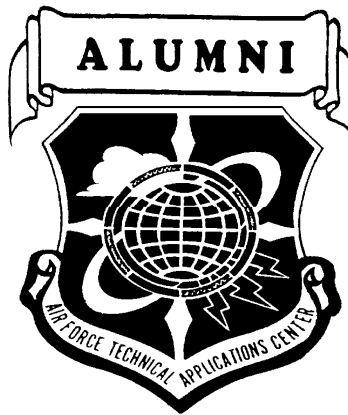
Alumni - let us hear from you! Each and everyone of you contributed to the success of this system. The Florida Chapter would like to have your recommendations and suggestions on the type of events and activities you think would be appropriate for this 50th Anniversary!

REUNION

WELCOME

Welcome to the Third Sacramento reunion of the AFTAC, Western Field Office, 1155th Technical Operations Squadron, and the Technical Operations Division. Our reunion goal was to bring together again a group of dedicated and outstanding men and women who over many years have contributed their time and talents to accomplishing an important service to the United States Air Force and to our country.

It has been a truly fine experience working with your reunion



committee. None of the old hands have lost their enthusiasm or drive to excel in every task they undertook. The active duty representatives were most cooperative and helpful in putting together what I believe is an outstanding and informative program for the reunion.

We sincerely hope that all of you have found time during your visit to renew old friendships and to remember the good and not so good times that we have shared. We hope that you have enjoyed your stay in Sacramento and that you will take away many new and happy memories.

LEWIS C. HORNE
Chairman, Reunion '94

Welcome, AFTAC Alumni, spouses and friends, to the 1994 reunion. We at the Technical Operations Division are proud to be involved with this event and offer whatever support we can to make it a most memorable occasion.

We hope that the Tech Ops Division open house affords you a chance to revisit old haunts and see how our facility has changed over the years. I think you will also enjoy the program your reunion committee has arranged to show how AFTAC has evolved and what the future holds for our organization.

Tech Ops Division is in the midst of adjusting to some momentous changes. Restructuring airborne operations, supporting International Atomic Energy Agency activities, and planning for contracted logistics support are just a few areas where we are rethinking our role in AFTAC's missions. AFTAC itself is at the center of increased US involvement in new nuclear treaties and international scientific programs to cooperatively monitor treaty compliance. These are, in fact exciting times.

There couldn't be a better time to strengthen the ties with our past. The insights our alumni provide about mission operations in their day can surely help us get a fresh perspective on the new challenges we face today. Not to mention the great stories about the "good ole days!" Enjoy this time of comradery and thank you for the legacy which fostered AFTAC's current success.

DANIEL G. KNIOLA
Colonel, USAF
Commander, TOD (AFTAC)

President's Corner

I do believe somewhere along the line I told you all about the rewards of being the Alumni President. This past March was no exception. One evening while I was sitting at the computer and the phone rang. Eunice Harris, told me about a member who was visiting our nearby Orlando and wanted to see me. Naturally, I backed away, because I had been working the latest version of my personal taxes and I was afraid that the IRS might just be serious about my return that normally is filled out in crayon.

No, it was not that at all! On 7 March 1994 I had the privilege of visiting with the National Director/Treasurer of the Great Plains Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. None other than our own Jerry Sandage now located in Omaha, Nebraska, with his wife Mary. Jerry and I go way back to a small detachment that was staffed by personnel like Max Tompkinson, Dale Woods, Harm Anning, Layton (Eric) Williams and a host of others. Jerry was diagnosed with MS while he was serving at the detachment, he transferred to the Hq in Florida and things did not improve. He was medically retired in 1976 and he returned to Nebraska. As a true AFTAC'er, he did not lay down and worry about things, Jerry took steps and worked to improve the local chapter and currently works on a host of projects. His wife Mary is an aspiring artist and is in a local college working hard and trying to put up with him. On this night in March I learned a very valuable lesson - Give em hell and the old AFTAC try....Thanks Jerry, the pleasure was all mine.

Clark

PICNIC

I do believe that the AFTAC Spring Picnic on 9 April 94 was a smashing success! It is reported that the ambulance attendants allowed the children to climb up in the ambulance and 'check out' everything. There were a few scratches and bruises to be treated, and one accelerated heart rate caused by an intensive tug-o-war. Because there was the potential for a transport to the hospital, a backup ambulance was called, but the person recuperated and was not transported to the hospital. The attendants said this was the best picnic they've even attended.

The alumni ran the beer truck, but not everyone showed up for their shifts, but with diligent effort, they doubled up and covered all the time periods.....I knew we had it in us! A special thanks to the following Alumni:

Ron Ellingsworth Rick Manley
Frank Hall 'Swede' Swansen
Terry Hammond Tony DeMarco
Galen Pound Howard Dibble
Carl Gailey Frank Calenda
Bill McClelland Don Trombley

Of Note: "I'd like to thank the AFTAC Alumni Association for the tremendous support given to this year's AFTAC Spring Picnic. Year in and year out the alumni make the picnic bigger and better, not to mention livelier. Donating money for the ambulance service and guarding the beer wagon downright shows that you care about everyone's safety just as much as everyone's fun. I appreciate everything you and the association do to make AFTAC a great organization. Thank you again.

Sincerely

James A. Jaeger, Brig Gen,
USAF, Commander 5/18/1994

CRUISE?

HOW ABOUT A CRUISE?

Tired of Golf Tournaments and Reunions? Days of sparkling ocean vistas, nights of thrilling entertainment, tropical ports of call, tempting cuisine, pampering service, and an endless variety of activities!

Our activities group is soliciting opinions from our membership. We would like to plan a cruise for sometime in late April or early May 1995, after Easter.

There are various options available to us and here is a short run-down of those options.

5 Night Cruise to Yucatan, Mexico, from Tampa, Florida, aboard the Regent Rainbow. It departs on a Sunday at 5pm and includes visits to varied ports and returns to Tampa at 8am on Friday. The approximate stateroom rates are \$425 inside and range to \$775 for a suite. Port charges are \$57 plus a \$5 customs fee. Air fares run from \$100 to \$350 depending on the city.

3-4 Night Cruise to the Bahamas aboard the Premier Cruise line or the Carnival Cruise line which departs from Port Canaveral, Florida. These lines depart on Thursdays or Friday and return on Sunday or Monday after a few ports of call. Approximate rates for staterooms are \$450 inside to \$1000 for a suite. Port charges are \$68 plus a \$3 passenger tax. Air fares run as noted above.

Anybody interested?

We would appreciate it if you would fill out our survey questionnaire located on page 9 and return it to us for evaluation. If no interest is shown by August 94 we will drop the idea. Thanks all.....

Your Activities Committee!

DET 407 GONE

This article appeared in the AFTAC Monitor in March 1993 and we just thought those who missed it might really like to read what Steve Ellingson of the Technical Operations Division wrote.

Det 407 is gone. This "friend" of more than 35 years has been a place of work and play and provided shelter, but most of all, many lasting friendships formed over the years.

Last November SSgt. Charles McMullen, Sergeants Kenneth Johnson, Douglas Williams and Jeff Rekoske, SrA. Brian Prella and I departed McClellan AFB, Ca., to remove and return the 407th's laboratory equipment and support assets. We joined forces with Capt. Ken Grier, Technical Sergeants Vince Tapaoan, Lloyd French and Mike Geggus, Staff Sergeants George Cruz, Terry Grisby, Kirk Thorngren and John McCauley, and went on a walk-through tour to familiarize ourselves with what we would be doing.

Crates were assembled, account listings reviewed, the High Level Assay system was disassembled and many small items were prepared for removal.

The last sampling mission was flown Dec. 1 by Lt.Col Gary Hongo, MSgt. Gene Couch, Staff Sergeants Van Roberts and William Potter, and SrA. Kevin Alig. Later the plane was downloaded by SSgt. Patrick Sharp and SrA. Craig Emerson. Spheres and papers were processed and final sample measurements were started.

The next day, data from the last flight was completed and the last gas sample was readied for return to the historical files. Grier gave the last rights to our "friend" and the closing or "death" occurred at

1:30 p.m. after he removed the main AC power. The team proceeded to disassemble, package and crate the remaining laboratory assets. Many systems were cannibalized to support another remote laboratory. Arrangements were then made for the return of our "friend's remains," which were valued at about \$2 million and weighed more than 60,000 pounds, to the depot for final disposition.

Det. 407 was "born" in 1956 in a hanger. This "friend" provided a home for a wet chemistry laboratory, air operations, "F" troops and many electronic systems. It also housed large supply and maintenance sections. During these early years, the number of personnel our "friend" supported started at about 70 and raised to 160 in 1962. During 1962, there were 47 atmospheric alerts processed at the same time. By last year, the mission had only scaled-back operations with eight personnel assigned.

"Our friend," after a name change, was "reincarnated" and will now support other personnel and equipment. The assets for these missions were relocated on site in order to be easily accessible for future use.

Over the past 28 years, I've visited our "friend" many times on temporary duty assignments. I watched the "death" and disassembly and after the removal of the "remains," looked at the bare walls. My memories drifted back into my previous experiences. The folks at Det. 407 have always made me and other TDY people feel like we were a part of their team. Taking us into their homes for the holidays, treating us as family, and showing true care for our well being - have left lasting good memories with hundreds of people over the years. **See Pg 8.**

A PROUD SEO

This past January (1993), while in the AFTAC Headquarters building checking one of their elevators, my eyes just happened to catch sight of an old edition of the MONITOR with a picture of one of our WC-135 planes on the cover. There was a sign over the rack saying "please help yourself".

Naturally, since I had been a SEO quite a longtime ago, I was eager to check out what was going on these days.

With great amazement, I saw the story about the renaming of Eielson AFB to Heckman Field. As it was, I was up there that fateful day of April 21, 1964 when TSgt Charlie Heckman gave his life for his country. As a matter of fact, I was the SEO who usually flew the Tuesday "ptarmigan" mission, and Charlie usually flew the Wednesday or Thursday mission.

At the time of the accident, I was up at Det 202 (Now called Det 460) on an extended TDY. Eleven months later I went up there PCS for three years.

My 1963 class of SEO operators had the dubious honor of coming on line when the Air Weather Service was phasing out the WB-50, and were taking delivery of the hand-me-down B-47's from SAC.

To my knowledge, I had the second highest amount of SEO flight time on the 'torches' as we lovingly called them. I managed to log around 640 hours, of which most of that was on 'Ptarmigan' flights out of Eielson AFB.

I have many memories of those eight hour 'excursions' up toward the North Pole. I could write a book about the thrills and chills of WB-47E flying! You new guys wouldn't appreciate flying the WC-135B's until flying a few WB-47E missions. Our flight station was a rinky-dink seat put in the crawlway just behind and to the left of the navigator, and was next to that 'black' can you used when nature called. The little glass 12 x 12 windows up front to peek out had long since been removed. The only outside view you had was a good view of the navigator's big radar scope. If you were claustrophobic - you didn't fly on the B-47!

The most excitement you had, except aborted takeoffs, was when the pilot kicked your helmet with his big jump boot and asked you to pass up his flight lunch. That reminds me about eating a Lt. Colonel's flight lunch while flying a special mission to Hickam AFB. He wasn't very happy about that, but then, that's another long story.

Then there's the story about Sergeant Ptarmigan (TSgt Wilbur McAllister) getting his flight helmet jammed between the lowering autopilot arm and the side of the fuselage, (with his head still in the helmet!). Fortunately there were no injuries inflicted, and no harm to the autopilot arm.

Launching a WB-47E on a flight when it was 40 degrees below zero was not a very enjoyable task, but you put up with the piercing cold and drank lots of hot liquids to keep you going.

With the advent of the WC-135B, we were able to walk around and stretch our legs. When someone else was operating the equipment, I would go forward and shoot some three star fixes for the navigator. Back in the middle sixties the birds didn't have all the fancy equipment they have now.

We relied on celestial navigation, which was almost nonexistent during the fall and spring. The LORAN system was poor, at best, in the polar regions. What a far cry this was from flying around the Sacramento Valley in the old C-47 we had when going to SEO school!

I am very proud to have been a SEO operator and will remember my tour for as long as I live!

Keep up the good work Gang!

Ronald 'Rocky' Rockwood

(Was in AFTAC from late 62 until April 69 and now works for the Miami Elevator Company getting his flight hours going up and down.)

RETIREE PROGRAM

Here is an interesting note that Carl Gailey managed to find. The Retired Officers Association, Cape Canaveral Chapter, and the 45th Space Wing Commander's Retiree Committee have joined hands to provide assistance to survivors of deceased military retirees of all branches of the Armed Forces throughout Brevard County. The TROACC Personal Affairs Committee has been providing this service to retired officers of Brevard County for many years. It's Chairman also serves as the 45 SPW CRC Casualty Assistance Advisor and will manage this expanded program which covers all military retirees.

The Chief Master Sergeant Program Assistant Chairman is seeking retired NCOs to augment each area team for assisting survivors of enlisted retirees, meanwhile, TROACC members are assisting as needed. Tom Sullivan, Dick O'Brien, Ken Oyer, and Hal Baker could use some help. Let us know and we will forward the information.

AFTAC Alumni Association
P.O. Box 4892
Patrick AFB, Florida
32925-0892

HISTORY

Thanks to Don Clemens and Bill Koerschner, we've been able to 'fine tune' some of our history data! Both of these alumni corresponded with us on our 'Historical Summary', published in our March Newsletter. Their valuable input identified one of the AFOAT-1 locations on 14th and Constitution Ave, known as 'TEMP T' or 'TEMPO T'. The archive histories of the organization contained no reference to these so we really appreciate the inputs from Don and Bill.

We are busily researching historical documents to prepare a corrective notation to our history - one of our new members, Gerald Reinders, sent us a photo of the front entrance to AFOAT-1, when it was located on Oklahoma Ave. - We did not have that location either. Apparently, we moved a great deal during the early years. Look for an update/correction to our HQ locations soon and thank you for your help.

REUNION '94 COMMITTEE

Our congrats to those who worked so hard to make the California '94 reunion such a great success!

Lew Horne, Chairman
Jack Allison, Facilities
Cal Brown, Golf Tournament
Bart Carter, Publicity
Rich Charles, Publicity
Kelly Driscoll, Registration
Bob Fitzgerald, Registration and Newsletter Editor.
Frank Goodreau, Secretary and Hospitality.
Sam Houston, Data Processing
Joe Johnson, Hospitality
Jack McGettigan, Registration and Souvenirs.
Lew Milligan, Postal Liaison and Souvenirs
Dennis Nolan, TOD Representative
Bob Smith, Golf Tournament

STUFF

SOUVENIRS

This is what we offer:

CARRIERS:

Black fabric, w/handle and shoulder strap. Full color AFTAC logo embroidered on the side. Zippered compartments, light weight, durable nylon.

Briefcase.....17.00

Large Gym Bag.....12.00

Small Gym Bag..... 8.00

SHIRTS & JACKETS:

Golf Shirt w/pocket - blue 14.00
 (large and X-large - sm logo, not in color.)

Windbreaker; blue only (large and X-large) limited no. 18.00

MISCELLANEOUS:

Ball Cap (blue or white) ... 5.00

Beer Mug (plastic w/logo). 2.00

Coffee Cup (ceramic w/logo)
 4.00

AFTAC Logo Pin 3.25

Wooden Nickel (w/AFTAC Logo)
 1.00

Note: Add \$3.00 for each order for shipping and handling, except for single orders of the following:

Logo Pin - No charge

Wooden Nickel - No charge

Beer Mug - \$1.50 each

Payment to:

**AFTAC Alumni Association
 P.O. Box 4892
 Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892**

HISTORIAN

Contrary to popular belief, Mary Welch is really not the AFTAC historian. She laughingly says that information sent to her will find its way into the proper hands, but she really is not the official person to assimilate historical data. This editor promised her I would put a lil blurb in one of these to let ya'll know, so I have kept my word.

GOLF TOURNEY

We have set a date for the General Membership Meeting attached to a Golf Tournament. We have set **14 October** as our date, so write this down and plan on attending, helping, and/or playing. Joe Goldian was nice enough to run over to the club and get us on the schedule, thanks Joe. Now we need some of you to volunteer to make this work. Please let us know if you are available, a successful Alumni event never runs itself, it takes dedicated folks to pull it off.

Thanks to all.....see you there!

ALUMNI of the QUARTER

These two folks who reside in Ashland, Oregon, have amassed a total of 32 years service to AFTAC. Their resumes are most impressive: John served in these locations:

Hq - Virginia 1950-1955
Det 158 1955-1958
Delta Field Ofc 1958
Hq - Virginia 1958-1960
1155th TCHOS 1960-1963
Det 212 1963-1966
Hq - Virginia 1966-1970
1158th TCHOS 1970-1971

Georgia served at the 1155th for 11 years 1952-1963. During this period it was also known as Team 101 and the 1009th SWS Western Field Office. Georgia worked as a secretary in the Material Supply, Comptroller, Tech Services, and MCL command sections. **John and Georgia Magness** we salute you.....Thanks for a job well done!



TOD

The Technical Operations Division (AFTAC) dates to the period immediately following World War II, when national leaders perceived the requirement to monitor nuclear activities. The initial cadre was named the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron, which eventually grew into the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC). The Technical Operations Division has been an integral part of the operations almost from the very start.

In the years 1948 to 1950, the 1009th sent personnel TDY to McClellan to work with the 55th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron in flying sampling missions with WB-29 and WB-50 aircraft. This marked the beginning of a long, productive relationship with the 55th and its parent wing for the operation of the WC-135 used for worldwide aerial sampling.

In 1950, a permanent extension of the 1009th named the Western Field Office was created at McClellan. It was housed in a facility in the vicinity of what is now the base cafeteria. In the spring of 1953, the unit moved into what is now the Base Photo Lab, and by 1958, the unit had occupied the initial wing of building 628. In the early 1960's, the growing worldwide mission of the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron, by then renamed the 1035th USAF Field Activities Group, had brought the consolidation of maintenance and supply functions here at the Western Field Office, resulting in the renovation and occupation of the large facility in Bldg. 626, just to the south of Bldg. 628.

The signing of the limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963 triggered an enormous expansion of workload, and the Western Field Office, which had been renamed the 1155th Technical Operations Squadron in 1960, reached its

manpower peak at over 1,500 people. By the early 1970's, new technology had allowed redundant systems to be phased out, and manpower was reduced to 500.

At the same time, the mission became much more diverse and sophisticated, and modernization programs were begun which continue today. On February 1984, the 1155th Technical Operations Squadron was redesignated the Technical Operations Division, Air Force Technical Applications Center, and was assigned the command-level designation of Intermediate Command. In 1988, the Russell Building, Bldg. 1080, was designated as the new facility to house the McClellan Central Laboratory, Director of Operations, Directorate of Computer, Communications Systems, Directorate of Logistics, Directorate of Executive Support, and Command Section.

Today, the unit continues to provide logistics support for unique systems around the world, laboratory analysis for a multitude of special missions, and sampling support for two types of aircraft.

With a new name reflecting expanded responsibilities and increased status in the scientific community, the Technical Operations Division, AFTAC, continues to build on a long, unbroken heritage of accomplishments that began in 1947.

The organization has received eight Outstanding Unit Awards, the last being awarded for the period October 1980 to September 1982. The Air Force Organizational Excellence Award has been presented to AFTAC three times, the most recent was presented for the period 1 August 1990 to 31 July 1991.

Ed Note: We Alumni salute the dedicated professionals who continue TOD in this day and age!

LETTERS

Dear Sir:

A committee has been formed to hold a 25 year reunion in Alice Springs. The reunion is planned to be held in 1997. We would like to solicit your help in contacting the dependents of employees who went to the Alice Springs High School during the years 1970-1972. We are preparing a 3 year time period due to the time it will take us to locate persons, both nationally and internationally, and for the same persons to respond. This should also allow as many former students as possible to plan for what could be, for some, a very expensive occasion.

Anyone wishing to contact us to support our committee or to find out more about the reunion may write to the following:

Within Australia:

Mrs. Desiree Mahomet Norman
P.O. Box 3020
Alice Springs, N.T. 0871

Outside Australia:

Mrs. Mary Pens Carr
World Way Center
P.O. Box 90555
Los Angeles, Ca 90009-0555

Dear Friends,

I am very pleased to have received the membership information on so many long 'misplaced' AFTAC friends. It contains data that I have sought separately on a number of individuals, most of whom will soon be receiving a note from me. Thank you again for all the pleasure your information has brought. Keep up the good work!

Rex R. Hollis, Alexandria, VA

Dear Person:

I was assigned to AFTAC during the period 1963-1974. Was trained as a 'B' technician at Lowry 1963-1964. Was then stationed at Det 421, Alice Springs - 1964-1966. At Headquarters in the ziproom from 1966-1969. I then went to Ascension Island as an 'O' technician from 1969-1970. From Ascension Island, I went to Eielson at Det 201/460 until 1974. From Det 460, I retrained into AFOSI and was stationed at Mather and Elmendorf AFBs until I retired in 1983. I then worked 10 years for the Alaska railroad and have again retired. Over the years I've lost contact with many of my former friends and coworkers in AFTAC. I hope you can forward a directory so I can recontact many of my old friends.

Thank you:

Duane Bracken

Jim Reed and his wife Colleen wrote and we found out that they are located at the Kwajalein Missile Range in the Marshall Islands. Their time is 17 hours ahead of Eastern Std Time. Ed Note: Thanks Jim and Colleen, sounds like you folks are way out there?

Dear Mary,

Please find enclosed our check for \$50.00 for a lifetime membership in the Aftac Alumni Association.

I know you have generously bestowed a complimentary lifetime membership to me as a former commander, but I'm impressed by your efforts to make the Alumni Association a first class operation. So please use the money to help your cause.

I hope once we get settled that we will be able to participate more.

Best of Luck!

Gen Rich O'Lear
Sterling, VA

Dear Historian -

One small correction - AFOAT-1 moved in 1952 (could have been early 1953!) to a temporary bldg on Constitution Ave - believe it was called TEMP-T and remained there until the move to Guam Hall.

Incidentally, I spent almost half of my military career, 14 years, with AFTAC. I enjoyed every minute of those interesting and productive years. Always in operations except 66-70 as COMDR, 1157th in Wiesbaden. I was assigned as follows:

50-53 Hqs
54-58 WFO
61-66 Hqs
66-70 Germany

Can't believe I've been retired almost 24 years! See you at the reunion.....
Bill Koerschner

Staff,

Reading the latest newsletter has stirred memories of almost 40 years ago. The article about 'Our History' was most informative but lacking in some respects. I was assigned to Hq - 1009th SWS from Nov 54 to May 58. To the best of my knowledge the Hq was in 'TEMPO-T' building at 14th and Constitution Ave during that entire time. I was on the Ops side at various times during that period and we had Colonels Faekler, Gill and Collett. Maj. Royal and Leone, Capt. Hoffman, Heironimus and Monday and Sergeants Bloomer, Taylor, Ferndandes, Thomas and Myself. Oops - forgot one of the best - Major Donald Pollack. I also have an 8x10 glossy of the squadron YC-121 that crashed near McClellan in March 1961. Maj. Pollack and Maj. Davidson were killed in the crash and I will donate the picture at my earliest convenience if you would like it.

Sincerely
Donald G. Clemens, Stuart, FI

407 CONT'D

For these reasons, Det. 407 is not "dead." It is and will always be a source of happy memories for all the people associated with this "friend" over the years.

If our "friend" could speak now, the words would probably be, "Past is past, and future is future, I have changed with the times and so must you. Work together as a team, help and care for each other as brothers and sisters, communicate and share your problems and dreams with others and keep my spirit to make your organization thrive for years to come."

I extend to this organization my thanks for letting this old timer sit back and reminisce about the past. I am very proud of being a small part of a team that laid our "friend" to rest. I have been on many deployments, worked with hundreds of super people in my days, but the people that accomplished this project did it with great professionalism and perfection. The dignity given to our "friend," by this team, in its final days will be hard to achieve again.

1949 - Team 407 was activated under Air Weather Service and commanded by Capt. George M. Williams.

1950 - Lab Operations began.

1956 -Det 407 born into AFTAC.

1962 - 160 personnel assigned. They had a wet chemistry lab, active air ops, 'F' troops, and all kinds of electronics.

1992 - Dec 1 - the final sampling mission was flown. At 0430 GMT on 2 Dec all activities ceased.

1994 - January, the last member TSgt Michael Geggus departed.

JOBS

George Cronin reports that his company in Ames, Iowa, is looking for a really good hands-on electronic technical type to take George's position. George got promoted!

Get Well Wishes

Jack Bond

IN MEMORY OF

In Memory of:

Paul Lemois - Colorado Chapter

May each and everyone of them
Rest in Eternal Peace!



July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

11th Alumni Meeting

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

8th Alumni Meeting
Pick officer's for election slate

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

12th Alumni Meeting - Set up Gen Membership Meeting for October.
Newsletter mailed.

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

10th Alumni Meeting

General Membership Meeting

ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT AT PATRICK AFB

AFTAC Alumni Cruise Proposal

_____ YES, I am interested in a cruise in this time period.

If yes, then please indicate your preference in the following listing:

_____ 3-Night cruise to the Bahamas (Premier)

_____ 3-Night cruise to the Bahamas (Oceanic)

_____ 4-Night cruise to the Bahamas (Premier)

_____ 4-Night cruise to the Bahamas (Oceanic)

_____ 5-Night cruise to the Yucatan Peninsula from Tampa

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail to: AFTAC Alumni Assn, Attn: Activities, P.O. Box 4892, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892

A VIEW FROM THE PAST

BOWLING

MORE LETTERS

Dear AFTAC Alumnus,

During the first week of March '94 I had the pleasure of dining and visiting with Curt and Eunice Harris while I was at the Board of Directors meeting of the Paralyzed Veterans of America in Orlando, Florida. I had not seen Curt or Eunice in several years. Not to worry, the memories and stories were still intact. A most joyous occasion. I inquired where in the world our Chapter president was? The next day Clark E. traveled all the way up to Orlando to see me. It may sound strange, but I had not seen Clark since our last meeting in a cold, damp & dark four meter whip antenna dome more than 21 years ago. Wow! As Clark said, "almost a career."

If some, if not all, of you had your ears mysteriously burning, I would not be surprised. This reunion was absolutely fantastic. Like it all happened just yesterday. Crystal clear, and all that. Unbelievable. We were able to bring back experiences and recall people from all over this world. I was amazed at the clarity of the recollections and remarked to Clark that the mystique of AFTAC, and the personnel involved, was similar to placing ball bearings in a vat of mercury. The bearings, AFTAC'ers, always manage to come to the top, and be just a cut above the rest! For my years with AFTAC, 1968-1976, I can say they were the best, most varied, most difficult and most enjoyable of my short 12 years in the Air Force. I can only say "Thank You, one and all, for this marvelous journey!!!"

Maybe somewhere later in this newsletter, or the next one, is my resurrection of the last transmission (Continued)

to come down the data lines the day the plug was pulled on the Q-4. The author, or authors, I am not totally sure of, but can guess. The numbers of people to see the words as they came across the teletype are a scant few. Actually, they (the words) are what being an AFTAC'er is all about!!

I am sorry I will not be able to get to California in June. I am positive this will be one great time.

Thank you and God Bless,

Jerry W. Sandage

Ed Note: Thank you for the kind words Jerry, we really do not deserve them. The pleasure was definitely all ours.

That last transmission that Jerry talks about follows in the form it printed out on the teletype machine at the detachment.

SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE
BE FORGOT AND NEVER
BROUGHT TO MIND?

SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE
BE FORGOT AND AULD LANG
SYNE?

FOR AULD LANG SYNE, MY DE
FOR AULD LANG SYNE.

WE'LL TALK A CUP O'KINDNESS
YET FOR AULD LANG SYNE.

WE TWO HAE RUN ABOUT THE
BRAES, AND POU'D THE GOWANS
FINE; BUT WE'VE WANDER'D
MONEY A WEARY FITT, SIN' AULD
LANG SYNE.

WE TWA HE PAIDL'F IN THE
BURN FRAE MORNING SUN TILL
DINE: BUT SEAS BETWEEN US
BRAID HAE ROAR'D SIN' AULD
LANG SYNE.

AND THERE'S A HAND, MY
TRUSTY FIERE! ANK GIE'S A
HAND O'THINE! AND WE'LL TAK
A RIGHT GUDE-WILLIE WAUGHT
FOR AULD LANG SYNE.

- AND MATEY HERE IT IS IN
PLAIN ENGLISH

SHOULD WE FORGET OUR
FORMER FRIENDS BY WHOM WE
SET GREAT STORE?
SHOULD WE FORGET THE
FRIENDS WE'VE MET
AND THE BRAVE DAYS OF
YORE?

THE DAYS OF YORE, MY DEAR
THE DAYS OF YORE.
WE'LL TILT THE JUG AND DRAIN
THE MUG TO THE BRAVE DAYS
OF YORE.

I FANCY YOU COULD SINK A
PINT AND I'LL TAKE RATHER
MORE AND WELL BOTH GET
TIGHT WITH ALL OUR MIGHT
FOR THE BRAVE DAYS OF YORE.

WE TWO HAVE WANDERED ON
THE HILLS AND DAISIES PULLED
GALORE.
BUT WE'VE TIRED OUR FEET ON
MANY A STREET SINCE THE
BRAVE DAYS OF YORE.

WE TWO HAVE PADDLED IN THE
BROOK FROM NOON TO HALF-
PAST FOUR.
BUT SEAS HAVE LAIN BETWIXT
US TWAIN SINCE THE BRAVE
DAYS OF YORE.

SO LET US GRASP EACH OTHER'S
HANDS AND, AS I SAID BEFORE
OUR HEARTS WE'LL CHEER WITH
HONEST BEER FOR THE BRAVE
DAYS OF YORE.

AND C U L MATEY.

End of transmission from the
detachment and many many
memories forever. Thanks Jerry!