

# POST-MONITOR

VOL 27 – ISSUE 02

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.AFTACAA.US](https://www.aftacaa.us)

2019-08



## The Alumni Anthem

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

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

## Long-Range Detection

denotes and represents all  
who served the mission  
throughout its inception and  
history. Recognized for 70  
years of service to our  
country **1947 – 2017**

A 70TH COIN WAS ONLY AVAILABLE TO  
ATTENDEES AT THE DINING OUT HELD IN  
2017.



## SAGE SALUTE ALUMNI OF THE YEAR (AOY)

### BRYCE DUNN – Colorado Chapter

At the reunion dinner banquet on Friday evening, it was announced that Bryce Dunn, the Colorado Alumni Chapter President, had been selected as the AFTAC Alumni of the Year 2019. Ed Lindsay, the Florida chapter President and emcee for this event in Colorado, made the announcement, and the award was presented to Bryce by the AFTAC Commander, Colonel Chad Hartman, and Command Chief Michael Joseph. After the presentation, Bryce was joined at the stage by five former Alumni of the Year as shown in the photos (see additional photo on page 3).



Col Hartman,  
Bryce Dunn,  
Chief Mike  
Joseph, and  
Ed Lindsay

This reunion had a total of 123 people in attendance and you missed a really good time if you were not one of them. Now we anxiously await the next reunion in Florida. The Florida Alumni Reunion will be held sometime in early 2021. You'd better start planning now. Watch the Alumni website for notifications.

(continued on page 3)

## \*\* Sage ALERTS –WHAT'S COMING UP \*\*

**2019 Florida AFTACAA Sociable  
September XXII/Annual Off-Site/Board/  
FY20 Elections Luncheon/Meeting/  
FRIDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**TIME: 1130 – 1230  
Manatee Golf Course**

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**AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)  
Fall Golf-n'GetTogether XXXV**

**FRIDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2019**

**Venue: Manatee Cove Golf Course,  
Patrick AFB - Check-in: 1130**

(see additional information on pages 5 & 6)

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**MONTHLY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
MEETINGS: 15 October 2019\***

**12 November 2019\***

**9 December 2019**

(Meetings are generally at the AFTAC building at 4 PM (1600) the second Monday of the month, however, the Mar, Jun, Sep, and Dec meetings are off-site at 11:30 AM. The 9 Dec meeting will be held at Beef O'Brady's in Satellite Beach. \*When the meeting date falls on a Government Holiday, the meeting slips to Tuesday of the same week.)  
(See pages 5, 6, & 24 for more on scheduled activities)

**NOTE:** PoMo pictures (& more) are at our **website** (URL at banner above) on various pages. Also, check the **Colorado and California websites** for more pictures, reports, and information. **URL** with chapter information on next page.

ASSOCIATION Information *Deceased, (D)*

**Honor Roll: Alumni Of The Year Recipients (25)**

Bryce Dunn/2019-Pete Gilbert/2018-John Kemna/2017-Carol Snyder/2016-Frank Calenda/2015-Sean Ryan/2014-Lonnie Gibbons/2013-Gene & Dee Melchior/2012-Dale Klug/2011-Jack Smith (D)/2010-Jack Jackson (D)/2009-Bob Wiley/2008-Bill Schmied/2007-Deborah Carson/2006-Mike Black/2005-Joe Goldian(D)/2004-Pat Snyder/2003-Joe Johnson/2002-Jim Payne/2001-Ben Vlassick (D)/2000-John & Christel (D) Horsch/1999-Frank Hall/1998-Judy Milam-Henderson/1997-Carl Gailey (D)/1996-Clark Creery/1995

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

Several ongoing projects represent and honor Center people and history. Three, 'Hall of Heritage' (data/artifacts), the '20-Year Wall of Service' (alumni who served the Center for 20+ years and have mailed in their photos/bios) and the **Wall of Honor**, are housed at AFTAC Headquarters. Another is an **AFTAC display at the Grand Encampment, WY, Museum. Association History** A group of retired/active duty AFTACers, by invitation from then CC, Col **Clapper**, met at Patrick AFB, FL, on March 12, 1985, and formed the **AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)** (chartered, 1986); (from 2001-2014, we were renamed 'Long Range Detection' (LRD).

--The Association provides a forum for those wishing to maintain a relationship with the Center and its people, active-duty and retired. Membership is open to all who serve/served our mission in any organization associated with LRD (AFMSW-1, 1009th SWS, AFOAT-1, 1035th FAG, and AFTAC), and any field detachment. Of note, there are several Sages who recall an earlier effort to form an association in 1978.

**There is this Association and two Chapters**

**1. Florida 'AFTAC Alumni Association':** (application at the bottom of each page at [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us) )-**Dues, \$10/FY** (1 Oct-30 Sep) payable in Oct/**\$75 for life**. Most monthly meetings are at 1600, second Monday each month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC HQ (Bldg 10989), or other venue, at Patrick AFB, FL-details, see 'Sage Schedule' on page 22. Contact: Mike **Steskal**, [steskal mike@gmail.com](mailto:steskal mike@gmail.com), mailing address is: **PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892**. The Association has several communications resources, this triannual newsletter, '**Post-Monitor**' (namesake of prior active-duty publication, 'Monitor') & a multi-page Website, see banner on previous page, with assn/alumni news and photos-we provide a '**Breaking News**' service at the website and thru instant notification, what we term, '**eALLert**,' for time sensitive data at <http://groups.google.com/group/aftac-lrd>.'

"**PERENNIALS**" (5+ years board service) Clark Creery-Newsletter, 85/89-95, Pres 94/95, Webpage/Mbrshp, 01/10-Current; Frank Hall, Pres/Vice 89-98/01; Judy Milam, Sec 89-06, Hospitality since 01 Pres 04; Eunice Harris, Hosp 89-00; Mary Welch (D), Mbrshp 91-99; Carl Gailey (D), Treas 91-99; Swede Swansen, Pub 93-06; John & Christel (D) Horsch, Newsletter since 96; Pat Snyder, 'Insider/Sage Shop' 96-2010, VP 04, Sec 05; Mike Black, Webmaster 96-16; Jim Payne, Mbrshp 99-04; Joe Goldian (D), Treas, 03-17; Randy Vlassick, Mbrshp 04-09; Sean Ryan-Sec, 09-15; Steve Revels, Sage Shop, 2010- 2016.

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

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

## EDITORIALY SPEAKING

### FROM THE HORSCH'S MOUTH



**[Background:** As one reads this PoMo you cannot help but notice we are losing a very important partner in our AFTACAA Endeavors. You will read Frank Calenda's resignation letter from being the Website Manager in our Assn/Chapter Section. His letter details the development of the 'New' Website taking the place of the 'Original' Website

and the improvements that came in doing so. Frank's letter got me to thinking about those involved over many years in getting an Alumni Association Website up and running. This information is as I have researched previous PoMo's and other correspondence and is as I recall and understand. I will take corrections from anyone who has better information.]

The first 'Informal' Web presence of the Florida Assn was started in the late 1990's by three alumni assn members, Mike Black, Dave Johnson, and Clark Creery ... several of these gentlemen worked for CSI who provided the platform for this fledgling webpage. At that time, Mike became our first Webmaster. This first site's content was a list of alumni that Mary Welsh (D) created and maintained over her many years in AFTAC.

This changed somewhat as Mike Black, Clark Creery, and I began to have thoughts for this to become a more meaningful vehicle for our membership and more information of interest was added to the website. Over time more and more items of interest were added and the time came for this to become an official media outlet for the Florida Alumni Assn.

This arrangement more or less continued until Mike moved to the Midwest and tried to continue the website from a computer in his closet. In Dec 2002, we announced a new website, <http://sites.google.com/site/lrdalumniassnneedtoknow/>. This site enabled us to remove the load of management from our Webmeister, Mike Black, and eliminate the cost of an independent site. It also permitted Clark and I to update information that eliminated the time difference of having you wait for the information until the next newsletter. [As a side note, in 2009 the Electronic PoMo (ePoMo) was born and sent to a cadre of 'ePioneers,' Donald Bartram, Terry Hammond, Clark Creery, Dale Klug, (continued on page 4)

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

## **SAGE SALUTE – ALUMNI OF THE YEAR (AOY) -- BRYCE DUNN – Colorado Chapter**

(continued from page 1)

The 2019 AOY selection was accomplished in Colorado this year so the selectee could be recognized at the AFTAC Alumni Association Worldwide Reunion being held here. The selectee will still be recognized in Florida at the annual Alumni Snow Ball. Our selectee has been a dues paying member of the Colorado alumni association since December 1992 when he was still on active duty and he is a lifetime member of the AFTAC Alumni Association in Florida.

During his 27 years of membership our selectee has been consistently active in many ways which have greatly contributed to building the association and keeping it going for the benefit of the members. In early years he was involved with making arrangements to have association dinner socials with the Camana Club on then Buckley Air National Guard Base and also setting up annual association picnics on the base. Not only setting up picnics but also being the lead cook and even providing the grill for the cooking and then leading with the cleanup afterwards. This has continued for many years and he still does it today at the new much improved picnic site he discovered and arranged for our use in Castle Rock.



*Left to Right: Frank Hall-1998, Lonnie Gibbons-2013, Bryce Dunn-2019, Pete Gilbert-the 2018, Bill Schmied-2007, and Joe Johnson-2002*

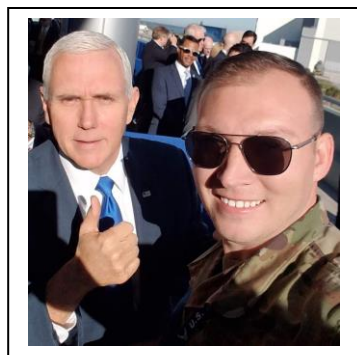
Also in the early years of his membership he volunteered to prepare and distribute our association Echoes newsletter several times per year. This was no easy task at that time without the computer hardware and software that we use today. After receiving inputs he had to edit and format them and then they had to be typed, copied, individually assembled, stapled, folded, supplied with individual mailing labels, and delivered to the post office. His efforts to provide the newsletters no doubt greatly contributed to the building of our Colorado association resulting in where we are today some six Colorado reunions later. Regarding reunions, our selectee has been there, too, always volunteering his assistance when and where needed, and he is now also working as our Echoes newsletter editor again due to the unexpected retirement of our most recent long-time editor. Additionally, our long standing program to recognize the Colorado AFTAC detachment NCO and Airman of the Year selectees is a product of his suggestion.

After many years of valued service to our association, our 2019 Alumni of the Year selectee accepted a challenge at our semiannual breakfast meeting in February 2017. By unanimous vote, Wallace Bryce Dunn was elected to be the new President of our Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association, and after serving two very successful years leading our organization, he again accepted the challenge and continued serving as president where he has been a driving force getting this 2019 reunion organized and keeping things on track while arranging activities and obtaining inside and outside support including the guest of honor speakers and our emcee for this event. Bryce is highly deserving of this selection and we thank him for his many years of service to our AFTAC Alumni Association.

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## **SAGE “SPOTLIGHT” -- Current SAGE SHOP MANAGER**

### **Donald “Cole” Moon, SSgt, USAF**



Cole writes:

I am one of the 9Ss that joined the Air Force late, at 27 years old. I was a sixteen-year-old senior in Texas when 9/11 changed the world. I instantly tried to join the military that summer after my graduation/birthday, but at the time I could not get a waiver without both parent's signatures and my mother would not even consider it.

Fast-forward ten years, after a successful career in the civilian world, I re-engaged my military dream. Not wanting to live with the regret, my wife Cecilia and I had “the talk.” We decided together with our two girls, that I would enlist; we would try 4 years, and if it was not for us then we could return to our “old life.” The rest of the story, as they say, is history.

I was first assigned to AFTAC in April of 2012 and Patrick AFB is still my one and only duty location. Originally, I served as an NDC&A Airborne Ops Technician for three years and then made the smooth transition into the Traveling Wibury's Shop.

(continued)

While Patrick has been my only assignment for the last seven plus years, I have definitely done my fair share of travel, spending almost half of my assignment on deployments or TDY. I have recently taken my first non-traveling job at AFTAC and enjoy getting to spend more time with my family. We now have three girls who are unique in their own ways, which definitely keeps me on my toes.

It is now a family goal to make the Air Force a career and enjoy the challenges life throws at us. At this point in my journey, I would love the chance to give to the maintenance community by going back to Goodfellow as an instructor. It would be a privilege to teach the future of this amazing career field and eventually settle down back home in Texas.

**INFORMATION ABOUT PICTURE:** Cole reports - This picture was taken at the Cape when VP, SECAF and a few others came to announce the formation of the US Space Force. Less than 100 military between Patrick and the Cape were chosen to participate and from what I understand, only 4 of us were coined by VP Mike Pence. Yes, I was one of them.

[Thank you, Cole, for taking on the responsibility of Sage Shop Manager. For items available for sale, see page 24.  
Judy]

### **EDITORIALLY SPEAKING – FROM THE HORSCH'S MOUTH** (continued from page 2).

Gayle Joseph, John Coffey, Clifford York, Clark Wilberg, Jerry Sandage, Tony DeMarco, John Schroff, Delbert Leiter, and Bob Fitzgerald--those first 12 have grown to over 300 eSubscribers].

Over the years this 'Original' Website became cumbersome to manage and maintain, Clark Creery liked to say it was like one of our 'Technical Instructions!!' As you will read in Frank's letter it occurred to him and Pete Gilbert, while preparing for the reunion, that they could improve the website to be more professional in appearance, and more attractive and easier to read.

And that's what we have today, a product of excellence, entertaining and up-to-date, and importantly, archives on a permanent basis the historical products (PoMo's, Obituaries, etc) the Association develops.

John

### **RESIGNATION LETTER FROM FRANK CALEDA** – AFTAC ALUMNI Website Chairman, 2016 – 2019:

[**Editor's Note**, as noted in our editorial, we are losing a long time alumni assn supporter who has served in various positions and more recently as our Website Chairman, **Frank Caleda**. Frank's resignation notice to the Alumni Assn Board follows.]

I am writing this to let you know that I have resigned from this position [Website Chairman], effective July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

The idea of a comprehensive Alumni Website began in mid-2014 when Pete Gilbert, a 4 year AFTAC'er, and I designed, published and administered the 2015 Florida Alumni World-wide reunion website. Following that, we presented, to our Board, the idea of forming the Florida AFTAC Alumni Website that many of you read today.

The Board accepted and I volunteered to Chair the project and Pete offered to do the programming. This was done, not as a benefit to me, to Pete or to the Board. It was done to provide a comprehensive medium for our Alumni peers and our active duty counterparts.

Our website officially went on-line on January 1, 2016. During that time my sole premise was to provide our readers with current, beneficial and up-to-date information. The readers were always foremost in my mind in what I presented. With the help of some individuals, I could gather information, formulate it and present it for your use. Many of these articles were informational with subjects that would be beneficial to your way of life.

One of several of my backers was Chief John Horsch, who has been totally involved in the Alumni Association since its inception. His knowledge was invaluable to me. Another is CMSgt Ed Lindsay, our current President who has continually offered, sometimes difficult, but always welcomed, advice. SMSgt Tony DeMarco has been our chief critic and has offered help that was invaluable to the currency and accuracy of the site. My outstanding thoughts of Mr. Pete Gilbert are too numerous to write here. My sincere thanks to all of them for their valuable help.

It's time for me to step down and get some new blood to control the site. Pete will continue as the Webmaster, and a great job he does.

The new Chair will need everyone's help to keep the website alive. Inputs from various places, to include our Board of Directors, our Alumni members, and the active Headquarters personnel, will always be accepted and full support from you in forming these projects will be needed to bring them to fruition.

(continued)



Finally, thanks to you all who read the Website. I will honestly miss my association with you and in sending the eAllerts.

I also wish my replacement, Mr Terry Hammond, the best of luck.

Kind regards to all and a final thanks to many of you for your constructive support and your kind words of encouragement.

Frank Calenda,  
Florida AFTAC Alumni Website Chairman

**[In Appreciation from the Editor:**

Frank, you must feel very good about the deserved numbers of accolade eMail, and Facebook, replies/entries to your resignation letter as the AFTACAA Website Chairman. I do not believe I've seen that many ever before. As a matter of fact there were over 40-replies and numerous FaceBook entries, one of the first eMails from Col Worley. These were all most deserved because of your efforts to further the causes of most every AFTAC Active-Duty and Alumni in that Website; no one could have done more. I have included some of those you helped, or otherwise would be interested, in this congratulatory eMail. And I know Edna played a role in these endeavors, helping you in every way she could. Thanks again for being on our side and enjoy your next few months in New Zealand. Your friend, John]



**WHAT'S COMING UP** (continued from page 1)

**SOCIAL SEPTEMBER – AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Big meeting next month – AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**13 September, 11:30, at the Manatee Golf Course**

It is where we review our current Constitution and By-Laws and elect our Board for 2019-2020

Attendance is always up for this important meeting; if there is one meeting you need to attend, it is this one. It would be great to see many of you who are in the area at this important meeting on **13 September!**

**NOMINEES:** Our most previous past-president, Lou Seiler, and the nominating team have come up with a few names for consideration:

**President, Phil Godfrey**

**Vice-President, Rob Christman**

**Secretary, Arlin Massey** (continuing in his current position)

**Treasurer, Sean Ryan** (continuing in his current position)

**In addition, nomination of willing individuals will be taken from the floor during the elections.**

Lunch (pay as you go, optional). (Note: Lunch Service Hours for Fairway Snack bar are 1030 - 1400, for your dining pleasure, before and after meeting) Hope to see you there...**Ed Lindsay, AFTACAA President**



**Friday, 11 October 2019**

**AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)  
Annual Fall Golf-n'GetTogether XXXV**

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

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

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

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

## Annual Fall Golf-n'GetTogether XXXV

*Mulligan's pkgs will be on sale: \$5 gets you: 1 Red Bomb, 1 Nolan, & 1 Mulligan*

*Team Mulligan ball: available for \$10*

*POCs: Mr. Ed Lindsay -- [piston\\_horse@hotmail.com](mailto:piston_horse@hotmail.com) -- 321-610-7548 (Unlisted)*

*Mr. Bruce Snelgrove -- [robert.snelgrove@us.af.mil](mailto:robert.snelgrove@us.af.mil) -- 321-494-6166 (Unlisted)*



### ADDITIONAL FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

#### **SPRING GOLF N'GET TOGETHER – 7 June 2019 – Manatee Cove Golf Club, Patrick AFB:**

**Frank Calenda** writes:

If you missed the Florida Alumni Spring Golf N'GetTogether, you missed a wonderful event. The Rain came down hard about 4 holes into the tourney. After 15 minutes of downpour, we were back at it and were able to get in another 4 holes before the Phase 2 Lightning Warning was broadcast and we all had to head back to the clubhouse. There was no rain, but the Warning required us to seek shelter. Thirty minutes later the ALL CLEAR was shouted and the 77 golfers were back out to finish their last 10 holes. They got them in and life was great.

**Ed Lindsay** writes:

The main reason for this [article] is to thank the great volunteers from the Alumni who came out to help make this event run smoothly. First to help out were Frank and Edna Calenda who got to the clubhouse as soon as the doors opened (or shortly after). Frank Hall joined them and soon Ed Lindsay showed up with all the goods for the tourney. Frank squared and Edna proceeded to put bananas, water, slim jims, wethers, and other good stuff into the goodie bags. Dennis Kauffmann showed up and pitched in, too. Shortly after that Arlin Massey, Dave Money, and Rich Bohn showed up to help set up stuff, prepare signs, and offer general assistance. Our Sage Shop Chairman, SSgt Donald "Cole" Moon showed up with some brand new inventory that was just acquired to be made available at the Worldwide Reunion which takes place a week from now Hosted by the Colorado Chapter in Denver. The new merchandise was laid out and sales started. Carol Snyder and Eileen Best arrived to round out the team to prepare the registration table for the golfers who were soon to come. With the team in place, we were ready to make it happen.

Once the golfers headed out to hit the links, Frank Calenda and his team counted up the money, drew the tickets for the door prizes, affixed said tickets to the prizes, and secured the cash. This was very effective, as the golfers had to come in about 2 hours into their round (see above) and they were able pick up their door prizes. Dave Money and Rich Bohn joined the golfers out on the course to take plenty of photos.

First ones in and the last volunteers to leave were Frank and Edna Calenda. I forgot to thank the Alumni volunteers in front of the golfers during my closing at the end of the event...**so I take this opportunity to say "we couldn't have done it without you" and this is so true for all the events we hold and assist with...**I know the group out in Denver has their hands full, but I know it will be worth it in the end. Thank you everyone for being part of the AFTAC family at some time and all you did for this great nation.

Cheers, Ed Lindsay, Golf Tourney Chairperson

#### **Team Winners:**



1st Place -- Joe Hauser, Sonny Ziegler, Bob Callahan, & Steve Parlefsky



2nd Place -- Dennis Kauffmann, Patrick Murphy, Pete Sherman, & Ed Lindsay



3rd Place -- Howard Buckley, Scottwood Ivers, Frank Shrader, & Marty Dougherty

### **Additional Winners and Pictures:**

Women's Long Drive - **Becky Lehnerz**; Men's Long Drive - **Devin Dean**

Closest to the Pin-CTTP - **Patrick Murphy, Pete Sherman, Bill Anderson, & George Goodwin**



Becky Lehnerz & Bill Anderson



Lisa Shoemaker & Devin Dean



Pete Sherman & Ed Lindsay



The Dream Team



Cole Moon & the Sage Shop



Sponsor Kegman Team

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### **Annual AFTAC Wall of Honor Ceremony**

By Ed Lindsay -- President, AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)



LtoR: Col Chad Hartman, AFTAC Commander; Col (Ret) Frank Hall; Donna Jean Rothe representing Dr. George Rothe; and Doris Bruner, representing Lt Col Michael MacInnes (Ret)

The AFTAC Wall of Honor was established back in 2014, with 12 individuals initially being inducted. Every year since, AFTAC has selected 3 individuals to be inducted. This year one of the honorees was Col (retired) Frank Hall. It brought a great feeling to my heart seeing this individual who has done so much for the AFTAC Alumni Association finally being honored for his contributions to AFTAC.

Early in my 30 year career, I was blessed to have met Col Hall while stationed at my first overseas assignment in Korea. He was in Hawaii at the time. And I have had the pleasure of working with him while part of the AFTACAA.

The other two honorees were Dr. George Rothe and Lt Col (Retired) Michael MacInnes. Both of these individuals well deserving of this honor.

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The attendance was a little sparse (in my opinion). I counted 12 people in uniform. There were maybe another 30 people who work in the building who weren't part of the ceremony.

It was a GREAT turnout by the AFTAC Alumni Association members! A monumental effort and constant professionalism was executed by Dr. Mike Young, the AFTAC Historian. In my opinion, without Mike, this would not be the success it has been the past 5 years.

Some of the Alumni members I saw in attendance, that don't still work in the building, were Mike Hoy, Tony DeMarco, Don and Jan Whitney, Arlin Massey, Frank and Edna Calenda, Gene and Dee Melchoir, Lou Seiler, Bob Wiley, John Horsch, Judy Henderson, and Rick Manley, and I am sure there were others I may have missed.

We had great representation from our Alumni members still fighting the good fight like, Mitch Addison, Bruce Snelgrove, Carol Snyder, Kevin Callan, George Mirda, CMSgt Chad Madore, CMSgt Jason Gainor, Dr. Glenn Sjoden, Mike Young, Doris Bruner, and others I probably missed.

It was great to see the support for those who came before us and the recognition for their contributions.

Team AFTAC – One Team, One Fight!

[For additional information about the award and the recipients, see <https://www.25af.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1891784/three-inducted-into-aftac-wall-of-honor/>]

\* \* \* \* \*

## **2019 WorldWide Reunion**

Hosted by the Colorado Chapter  
As seen through the mind of Ed Lindsay

Love me some mountains and fresh, cool air. Throw in some nice food, cold drinks, and good people and it don't get much better than that. This one did not disappoint. I was looking forward to this trip out West. Lowry Air Force Base was my first assignment in 1983, again when cross training in 1987, and it was the first assignment with my new bride in 1991. So many great memories and I was anxious to add more to those.

Following the Colorado chapter's updates and corresponding with Bryce Dunn and Bill Schmied, I knew this was going to be enjoyable. We arrived a day early, so that we could head up to the Rockies and visit a childhood friend that had taken care of me during my three assignments at Lowry. The next day we headed back down the mountain and let the festivities begin. Late Friday afternoon I headed over to the Hospitality suite and met up with the crew that had convened. Al Doughty was tending bar and others were catching up with stories of the distant and not so distant past. I had brought Sage Shop merchandise from Florida, so put that out for display...now that was a mistake, it was a free for all and I almost lost some digits in the melee. Thank goodness that Margo Doughty was there to assist (actual accomplish), the folding and display of the materials. I met George Cronin for the first time and boy does he have tons of stories to tell. Good to meet him. Also saw one of my first Tech school instructors, Michael Sparks...nice to catch up with him. After a little bit of time it was time to close up the Hospitality room and head down to the ice breaker. Sat with some of the Florida folks--Arlin and Carolyn Massey & Pete and Shirley Gilbert. Got to meet some of the active duty individuals assigned to the Colorado dets and Cheyenne Mountain. A nice presentation was provided by Jeff Moore from the Harkins Lab and the Commanders of Dets 45 and 46. Always interesting to hear what the current AFTACers are doing to keep the mission going. After some nice briefings, the night was adjourned and we headed back to the Hospitality suite and continued to talk story. Needless to say, the suite stayed open a little bit longer than the advertised time..thank you AL D. for being such a good bartender.

Saturday morning was a nice Breakfast at the Doubletree dining area. Good turnout and we were able to catch up with some more people. Saw Don King, who I had met for the first time at the West Coast Chapter Reunion in 2017. Also had a nice chat with David Hursey. There were others that I had crossed paths with during my Active duty times. After breakfast, we decided to go check out what had become of the area that was Lowry AFB. That was a chilling journey. Spending 4 years total there, I saw some recognizable structures, but many places were leveled. The old schoolhouse still stood, but it was kinda hidden and if you blinked, you would miss it. We then headed out to see some more of Denver. Quite a change from when we had left there in 1993. So we headed back to the comfort of our hotel. It was now time to get ready for the big night.

Back to the hospitality room and more stories, new and old, met David Bagby, caught up with Chuck Nye, met Lonnie Gibbons and Ginny...wonderful people. Sold some more merchandise and packed up for the evening's activities. A pleasant gathering and the dining area was full. I got to sit with Tom and Judy Niquette and meet their fine grandson, Daniel, who they had picked up from Boulder to join them. Also got to sit with Frank Hall. (continued)



A nice evening was planned. Bryce Dunn, Bill Schmied, and the rest of the Colorado crew put on an enjoyable event. The current AFTAC Commander, Col Chad Hartman was the guest Speaker, the current Command Chief, CMSgt Michael Joseph, introduced him and they both provided a comprehensive picture of the current state of AFTAC and where it is moving toward. The highlight of the evening was when I had the pleasure of surprising Bryce Dunn with the Alumni of the Year award for 2019. He was very shocked and was very deserving. Back to the Hospitality room and this time there were stories until wee hours of the next day...at least past midnight.

My wife and I had a wonderful time and I was very appreciative to those of the Colorado chapter who decided to have the reunion and do such a fine job making it so successful. Thank you...Ed Lindsay

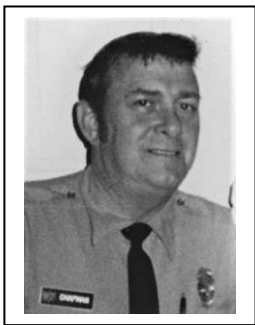
P.S. There is a nice write up, many photos, and the attendee list...located in the Hot Topics of the AFTAC website at [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us)

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**OBITUARIES**

For additional information, see our Web site – <https://www.aftacaa.us>

**WILLIAM “BILL” J. CAHILL**

Bill Cahill, 73, passed away Saturday, May 18, 2019. Bill is survived by his wife, Suzanne, who worked for AFTAC many years prior to her retirement. Obituary information is available at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/floridatoday/obituary.aspx?n=william-j-cahill&pid=192953359>  
[Information provided by Ed Lindsay]



**CONRAD F. “BUTCH” CHAPMAN**

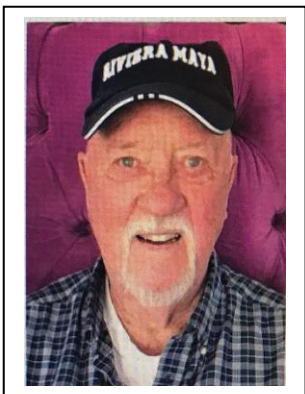
Died 23 May 2019

Butch Chapman, 79, of Pittsfield, NH, passed away at the Hospice House in Concord, NH, after an extended illness. Born in Laconia, NH, Butch proudly served in the USAF for 21 years. After retirement from the military, Butch worked as a corrections officer for the NH State Prison, where he was instrumental in the creation of the first Hobby Craft Shop. He was later promoted to personnel director and also worked in that capacity for the Florida Department of Corrections. Butch retired from state service while working as a [police officer](#) for the NH State Hospital.

Butch was an enthusiastic outdoorsman, hunting and fishing well into his later years. He fished in many places in the world, including Greenland and England, and won a fishing derby while stationed in Pinedale, Wyoming.

Butch is survived by his wife of 40 years, Idora Rose, daughters Catherine Bergeron (Patrick), Clare Persson (Michael), Tracy Saltmarsh (Randy), and Sandra Cantwell; sons Christopher Chapman (Jill) and Scott Myrick; and step-daughter, Karen Walker, as well as many grandchildren.

[Contacted by Frank Calenda, FL AFTACAA, who also wrote, "Butch was stationed in Japan with Edna and me. He was an old friend." Full Obituary available at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/concordmonitor/obituary.aspx?n=conrad-g-chapman&pid=193019055&fhid=21748>]



**ROBERT “BOB” GEORGE DEAN**

6 July 1936 – 16 May 2019

Bob joined the military on his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. After serving for 9 years with the US Marine Corps and 12 years with the US Air Force, he retired from active duty in 1974. In 1978 Robert accepted a position as Chief of Security at R-Ranch. He went on to work for the Yreka, CA, Police Department for 6 years as a dispatcher and reserve police officer, and retired from the US Postal Service in Yreka in 1996. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Anna, and children Deborah (Robert), Robert II (Anne), Clarissa, Christina (Raymond), and Charlana (Fred), and several grandchildren.

(Contacted by Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster, CA Chapter, <http://www.aftacwcc.org/index.htm>). Bob Dean was an SEO and good friends with Clifford “Bo” Ferris, other SEO’s and many other members of our units in the 1960’s. I have good memories of Bob at the 1155th and also at Det 202 in Alaska when, as my fading memory recalls, he and Bo (and possibly others?) paneled Col. Franz Dettmer’s office as a surprise for him. (They did a good job too!) Col Dettmer was the Det Commander when I got there in 1967.) Full obituary at <https://www.siskiyoudaily.com/news/20190613/robert-dean>

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## Henry "Tommy" Hilton

Died 28 March 2018

Tommy Hilton graduated 1962, from Winnfield Senior High School; Oregon Police Academy, Benton Community College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, with a Major in Law Enforcement and the Louisiana Police Academy.

Tommy proudly served our country from September 1962 to November 1985 in the US Air Force. Master Sergeant E7, Classified Electronics Tech, Top Secret Department Clearance, served in Viet Nam; Japan; Philippines; Thailand; Alaska and too many other states to list. Following his AF career, Tommy also proudly served his communities in Benton County Sheriff's Office in Corvallis, OR, and other law enforcement positions. Tommy is survived by children, step-children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

[Additional information provided by Tony DeMarco: ... It appears Tom's time in the new "J" Technique was in the late 70s and early 80s, and that he was a cross-trainee who went through the "Q" School at Lowry circa 69/70. He was assigned to Det 205, circa 70/71, Det 412, circa 74, until it closed the following year. Tom was selected to attend the first "J" Factory School down here at Harris in 79. Tom then took an assignment to the new Det 422 when the "J" Det was installed in early 80.]

Full obituary information is available at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/thetowntalk/obituary.aspx?n=henry-hilton-tommy&pid=188547477&fhid=11989>

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## KAREN MARIE JACOBS

2 February 1964 - 10 July 2019

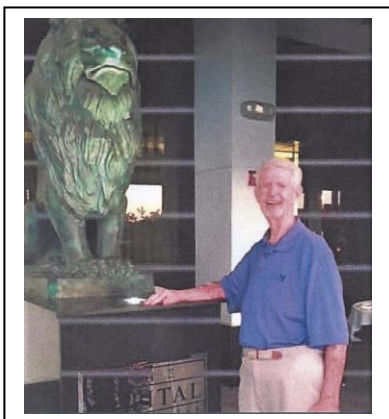
Karen Jacobs entered USAF in June 1984, and retired as a Chief Master Sergeant March 1, 2004. During her time in the AF, she served in Iceland, Japan, Texas, Florida, and Colorado. She deployed to Qatar as the superintendent of Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Division Systems in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom in 2003-2004. Her final position was the superintendent of the 10th Communications Squadron, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo. Following her retirement, she returned to Melbourne, FL, and accepted a position with SAIC/Leidos working several contracts for AFTAC at Patrick AFB. Most recently, she served as the deputy program manager of a mission-critical system.

Karen is survived by her sister Lori Flannery, brothers Larry, Dean, and Brad Purcell. Interment service will be held at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery on Aug 26, 2019 at 9 a.m. [For more details, see the full obituary at [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us)]



[Notified by Col Chad Hartman, AFTAC Commander – "It is with a great degree of sadness that I inform you of the passing of a former AFTAC active duty member and current AFTAC contractor, CMSgt (ret) Karen Jacobs. Chief Jacobs lost her fierce battle with cancer on 10 July 2019. Many of you may recall her days as the Superintendent of AFTAC's LS Directorate or through her work here as a LEIDOS contractor."

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## JOHN ALVIN MOHR

January 4, 1944 - June 11, 2019

(Contacted by Terry Hammond, AFTACAA Website Chairman, passing along info from Tom Clawson and Karen Duff, John's Mohr's step-daughter)

[Tom Clawson writes -- I recently received news of John's passing from Karen Duff. The best I can remember John joined us in the headquarters in Virginia in 1968 when he returned from Germany. He moved to Patrick AFB with us in the unit move during 1972 and worked with me in the Quality Force Section of the Personnel Directorate. He was an outstanding Personnel Technician who retired from active duty as a Master Sergeant in December 1982. John subsequently moved to the Sarasota area and worked and played at the Misty Creek Country Club.]

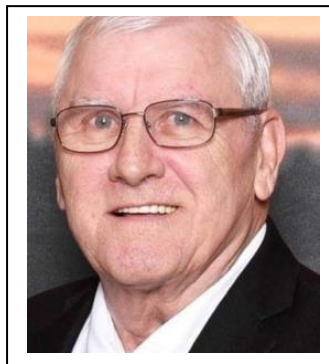
(continued)

John was born in Bloomington, IL. He graduated from Normal Community High School in 1962 and entered the USAF. retiring on 1 Jan 1983 after 20-plus years of service. He was the starter/ranger at Misty Creek Country Club in Sarasota, FL, from 1999 to 2019.

John was preceded in death by his wife, Linda, and is survived by daughters Karen Duff (Fred) and Georgene Gallaher, all of Louisville, KY.

The full obituary is available at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/heraldtribune/obituary.aspx?n=john-mohr&pid=193515791&fhid=8477>

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### **TERRY LEE QUERRY**

May 29, 1948 – May 22, 2019

[Terry's wife, Kathie, worked at AFTAC for many years on active duty and continues as a civil servant (and softball organizer extraordinaire) for our organization. – reported by George Mirda]

Terry retired from the USAF after 24 years of Honorable Service as a Combat Communications Controller. Terry was an avid softball player, swinging for the fences for 22 years. Terry's softball accomplishments include playing, and later coaching teams, for the Pacific Air Forces, Strategic Air Command, the United States Air Force, and representing the armed services several times on the playing and coaching the All-Armed Services Team. His retirement from softball included the honor of coaching the winning USAF Men's Softball tournament right here at Patrick AFB in 1992.

In addition to his wife, Kathie, Terry is survived by his children, Eric Querry, Aundria Wurzbacher (Daryl), and Jacquelynn Schuler (Timothy), and 3 grandchildren.

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### **DUSTIN ROBERT VERHINES**

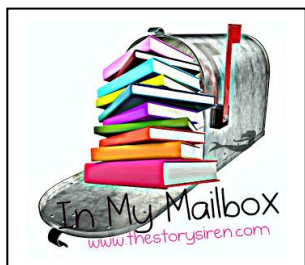
October 10, 1981 – July 21, 2019

Dustin Robert Verhines, age 37 of Rockledge, FL, passed away on Sunday, July 21 2019. Dustin was born in Stockton, California. He is survived by his loving wife, Althea Verhines and sons, TJ and Richard.

[Notified by George Mirda (AFTACAA member). Ed Lindsay, President AFTACAA, added "Dustin was in Systems Control when I was the Maintenance Supt]

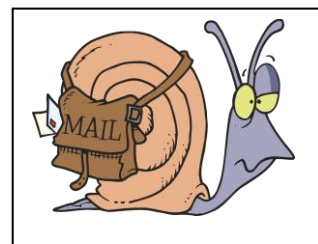
[Full Obituary: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/.../r.../dustin-verhines-8786424>]

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## **MAIL CALL**

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



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



[Received from Warren Stern:]

## **Pearl Harbor: After the Tourists have left for the day:**

This is what takes place after the tourists have gone for the day.

<[https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fembed%2FMgE2KiPd3xg%3Ffeature%3Dplayer\\_detailpage&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cb19ec9f79e444e052f4308d6216a290d%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636733137164015103&sdata=SQOW3Em53oxrj6Xm2wyCA68i86XgvaTVFB%2Bqj3e2njc%3D&reserved=0](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fembed%2FMgE2KiPd3xg%3Ffeature%3Dplayer_detailpage&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cb19ec9f79e444e052f4308d6216a290d%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636733137164015103&sdata=SQOW3Em53oxrj6Xm2wyCA68i86XgvaTVFB%2Bqj3e2njc%3D&reserved=0)>

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## **REQUEST FROM: William Lower -- [wlower@att.net](mailto:wlower@att.net) Subject: Chernobyl crew**

I'm retired major Bill Lower, and I flew with the 55WRS at McClellan from 1983 through 1987. I was the co-pilot on the very first WC-135 to arrive in Europe to begin sampling the air after the Chernobyl disaster. The aircraft commander was then Captain Kevin Calt. Our navigator was Doug Greenheck. I can't remember the names of the flight engineer and 2 AFTAC technicians.

My daughter is now married to SSgt Cody Register, who is an AFTAC technician stationed at Buckley Field. He once asked me who the technicians were on my Chernobyl crew. I think I would like to know. Those Chernobyl missions may have been the most important flights of my career, and it would be nice to know who shared that experience with me.

So my question is, would anybody in your group know who they were? For background, we were in Asia when the disaster hit the news. The next day we flew to Eielson AFB, and the day after that we flew to Mildenhall. Inbound to Mildenhall we picked up radiation and sampled for as long as we could before landing. We flew several missions out of Mildenhall before eventually returning to Asia.

Any help you can give me would be greatly appreciated. Best regards, Bill Lower

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[FROM George Cronin -- FACEBOOK entry:]

**Upshot-Knothole Grable** was a nuclear weapons test conducted by the United States as part of Operation Upshot-Knothole. Detonation of the associated nuclear weapon occurred 19 seconds after its deployment at 8:30am PDT (1530 UTC) on May 25, 1953, in Area 5 of the Nevada Test Site. The codename *Grable* was chosen because the letter *Grable* is phonetic for G, as in "gun", since the warhead was a gun-type fission weapon. As a shell, or artillery-fired atomic projectile (AFAP), the device was the first of its kind. The test remains the only nuclear artillery shell ever actually fired in the U.S. nuclear weapons test program.

The full article is available at [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upshot-Knothole\\_Grable](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upshot-Knothole_Grable)

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[Reported on Facebook, '99 ...' Website - Clark Wilberg]

## **Mysterious Radiation Cloud Over Europe Traced to Secret Russian Nuclear Accident**

A vast cloud of nuclear radiation that spread over continental Europe in 2017 has been traced to an unacknowledged nuclear accident in southern Russia, according to an international team of scientists.

The experts say the cloud of radiation [detected over Europe in late September 2017](#) could only have been caused by a nuclear fuel-reprocessing accident at the Mayak Production Association, a nuclear facility in the Chelyabinsk region of the Ural Mountains in Russia, sometime between noon on Sept. 26 and noon on Sept. 27. Russia [confirmed that a cloud of nuclear radiation](#) was detected over the Urals at the time, but the country never acknowledged any responsibility for a radiation leak, nor has it ever admitted that a nuclear accident took place at Mayak in 2017. [[Top 10 Greatest Explosions Ever](#)]

[See Web site for full article: <https://www.livescience.com/66050-radiation-cloud-secret-russian-nuclear-accident.html> ]

From Geno Wagner to AFTAC Alumni of the world unite!

I'm sure everyone knows that at one time our mission was classified and we were told to 'turn in' anyone who seemed extreme in knowing what our mission was. My mom guessed closely - she thought I worked in the lab. I denied it 'cause I didn't. When I returned to duty I told the commander about it. His reaction was 'YOU'RE TURNING IN YOUR MOTHER???'



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**ANSWER REGARDING THE AFTAC ALUMNI COMMITTEE INQUIRY ABOUT HOW OFTEN MEMBERS USE THE WEB PAGE. The following notes were passed:**

COL CHRIS WORLEY: "Always"

FRANK CALEND: "Thank you sir and it's great to get your reply. You might not believe it but you're still discussed quite often. You really did leave an empty space when you deserted us.☺"

"I would like to inquire how you're doing so that I can pass on the words to others. Really hope you and the family are doing well and hope to see you if you're in the area.

"Kind regards, Frank"

COL CHRIS WORLEY: "Frank - So great hearing from you, and thank you for your kind words. AFTAC was the best assignment in my military career, and I do miss the amazing men and women I met and worked with while a part of the team.

"As for us, Julie, I and our kids are doing well now we've settled into our house and new careers in Northern Virginia. I work for Raytheon focusing on advanced technologies with emphasis on Artificial Intelligence. Julie now works with MITRE and remains intertwined in the Intelligence Community.

"Please pass along my very best to everyone, and I do hope to get back now and then and would love to see everyone and catch up

"Take care, Chris"

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**REACH OUT TO SAY HELLO - TO CURT "SMITTY" SMITH:**

[Received from Shawn Smith, Curt "Smitty" Smith's daughter, reporting on Smitty's health. Shawn previously reported that Smitty was in the LifeCare Rehab Center. Following is an update and information, if you would like to reach out to say hello to Smitty.]

"Daddy moved from LifeCare Center in Melbourne August 7th to Viera Health & Rehabilitation Center. He is in Room 222. Facility address is 8050 Spyglass Hill Road, Viera, FL 32940. Daddy's cell phone number is 321-704-2788. Mail may also be sent to the facility address as long as including his name and room number on the mail.

Please note that I monitor his eMail for Daddy and any text messages he receives on his cell phone as he finds it difficult to type on his phone or a tablet. To reach him, it is best to call him directly on his cell phone, and if he does not answer please be sure to leave a voice mail as he does not return missed calls if he does not have the contact already in his cell phone. He will return voice mail calls.

Please note we deactivated his FaceBook account in June 2019, as it had been hacked and he rarely looked at it due to the difficulty he has with typing. This eMail address ([ccurtsy@hotmail.com](mailto:ccurtsy@hotmail.com)) may be used to write to Daddy, but any response will be from me after I share the eMail with Daddy and he tells me what to write for his reply. ☺

Daddy is doing well ... and would love any phone calls, mail, or visits from his friends!

My cell number is 321-246-2782; and my brother Mark's cell number is 321-759-9568, and his work number at AFTAC is 321-494-1030. Also, Mom's (Ellen Smith) cell number



is 321-720-1180. If anyone has difficulty reaching Daddy and wants to contact someone in the family they may contact anyone of us at one of the above numbers.

Warm Regards, Shawn Eileen Smith - 321-246-2782

[From Frank Calenda]

**Military Discount:** The Brevard Maxwell C. King Center For-The-Performing-Arts in Melbourne, FL, offers many high quality and interesting shows. Cost is sometimes a factor in our ability to attend; however, they offer the military, active duty and retired, and DOD Civilians a chance to see them at half-price or a reduced cost. These offers are sold the-day-of-the-event and you will be notified by eMail. All you have to do is to print the form (see [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us)), fill it out and mail it in. It's a chance to see some of these spectacular shows at a greatly reduced rate.

[From Sean Ryan]

**Military Discount – Universal Studios:**

[https://www.military.com/discounts/universal-orlando-has-new-2019-military-discount.html?utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2P8YbBqcfEPXo7Ox\\_je1F90QtpWbdlrCQmTwczoTlzO8rgGXJuSLul2M#Echobox=1565196335](https://www.military.com/discounts/universal-orlando-has-new-2019-military-discount.html?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2P8YbBqcfEPXo7Ox_je1F90QtpWbdlrCQmTwczoTlzO8rgGXJuSLul2M#Echobox=1565196335)

[From Frank Calenda]

**Service Record Request:** Did you know that you can request your service records on the new [VA.gov](http://VA.gov) website? Records include DD 214s, DD 215s, reports of separation, and other release papers. You can also find orders and endorsements, performance reports, awards and decorations (commendatory items), qualifications, licenses, certificates, and security clearances.

[From Richard Carr, AFTAC 'Alumni of the World' FaceBook site]

**THE DAY THE SKY FLASHED TWICE...** Here's a little blast from the past. Just thought I'd share this as I'm sure many will remember this. The Vela Incident,  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3asnLWPBoKY&fbclid=IwAR3DMzNpnVO1mScVF6cjeEFb9gAUIXZuOebgnplQ\\_0zO6geulpTnOP7VFO4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3asnLWPBoKY&fbclid=IwAR3DMzNpnVO1mScVF6cjeEFb9gAUIXZuOebgnplQ_0zO6geulpTnOP7VFO4)

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**FROM THE TOP**  
– by Ed Lindsay

I hope this issue of your Post Monitor finds you in good spirits and able to reflect on good times. Your AFTAC brethren, family, and friends on the East Coast are doing well. It has been a hot few months since I last reached out to you wonderful people and now the summer afternoon/evening rain showers have come to visit us once again. I hope that wherever you call home is calm and life is enjoyable. Some big things have happened the past 4 months, so let's get on with it.

May was pretty quite, but June came on like a freight train. We held our Spring Golf n'GetTogether on June 8<sup>th</sup>. We had a good turnout, some torrential downpour for about 10 minutes, after we had played for an hour, then another Lightning warning which brought all the golfers in to the clubhouse for about 30 minutes. After that, we all got to finish our rounds...read about it and enjoy the photos in another part of this PoMo. Our Sage Shop chairman, SSgt Donald "Cole" Moon had acquired an abundance of new merchandise and it was a popular item during the registration.

Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of June we gathered for our monthly meeting. This was also to be our last prep for our travels to Colorado for the WorldWide reunion. It was a small meeting, but some valuable information was passed on from the AFTAC Historian, Dr. Mike Young, our website Chairman, Frank Calenda, and the AFTAC memorial committee. This is info that would be provided at the reunion. First is an entry form that is being designed for the website that will allow AFTACers, new and old, to provide brief Biographical information that the AFTAC Historian can utilize to fill in some holes about the histories of the people who served in AFTAC; more info on this in the upcoming months. We have also been providing teasers about a Non-Profit organization that was being established to honor those that had fallen while

(continued)



serving with AFTAC. The final touches are being made to the design of the memorial and a Facebook page has been created, named AFTAC Memorial Corporation. This is not associated with your Alumni Association, but it was created as an avenue to make this memorial become a reality. The plan is to have it ready for an unveiling at the 2021 Reunion.

Speaking of reunions, WOWZA, the Colorado team put on an AWESOME event; from the hotel accommodations, to the breakfasts, the presentations, the weather, and a great bunch of people. This was my third reunion and it was a wonderful time. Please read more about the reunion in my story, located somewhere else in this PoMo.

I always am thankful for the team that keeps the Alumni running. One of our most ardent supporters, Carol Snyder, retired in July. WE wish her all the best. Our longtime (since the beginning) Website Chairman, Frank Calenda, decided to hang up his spurs and whip and provide the reins to another ~~sucker~~ fine alumnus, our past-President, Terry Hammond. Thank you Frank and Pete, for taking what John Horsch had been supporting for many years and bringing it to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Speaking of the website, our webmaster, Pete Gilbert, has put together some new formatting that should be implemented before you read this. Terry also helps Judy Milam Henderson get all the volumes of info submitted, into a usable format to put in this PoMo. Thank you both and also your fine editors, Frank Hall and John Horsch. Sean Ryan keeps us up-to-date weekly with his Calendar of Events and keeping the books as our Treasurer. Our other major helpers, Mike Steskal, Jim Whidden, and Arlin Massey keep the membership registered and informed. With that said, our General membership meeting will be in Sept. This is where we elect our board members for the 2019/2020 term. I will not be running; time for some new blood. It has been my honor to be part of this Association as one of the leaders and thank you for your support during my tenure. And thank you all for the service you provided to AFTAC and our nation.

Hope to see many of you sometime in the near future or maybe at the reunion in 2021,  
Ed Lindsay  
The Prez for now

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**Board Members** (elected positions)

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

**Appointed –**

Activities-**CMSgt Amy Long**, CCMS, Hall of Heritage-**Mike Young**/CC HO, **Bob Wiley**/  
Hospitality-**Judy Henderson**, Membership/Master Data Base-**Mike Steskel** Post-Monitor  
Editor **John Horsch**, Post Monitor Formatting & Information-**Judy Henderson & Terry Hammond**, Alumni of the Year Coordinator-**Bob Wiley**, Publicity-**Sean Ryan**, Sage Shop-  
**SSgt Donald “Cole” Moon**,. Website Chairman-**Terry Hammond**



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## **A FEW MINUTES FROM THE MINUTES**

This column will help you stay up-to-date on issues that are not covered in other places in the PoMo.

Frank Calenda announced the start of a new “Did you know” eALLs to help keep members informed on a variety of matters. Frank also mentioned that we need to be looking for a volunteer to take over the Website Committee in the near future – UPDATE – Terry Hammond has accepted the position of Website Chairman.

Cole Moon reported that the Sage Shop merchandise was nearly depleted, so we voted to fund the purchase of additional merchandise. Cole is exploring the idea to add hats and other items to our inventory. Many items were sold at the Spring Golf n’GetTogether and at the Colorado Reunion.

Lou Seiler reported that the first design submitted by the contractor for the AFTAC Memorial Wall was too costly, so the contractor is looking at other designs. Once the design is complete, the formal fundraising will begin.

Tony DeMarco will continue to review qualifications for potential additions to the 20-year wall.

SSgt Carter from the AFTAC picnic committee discussed the Fall Picnic and confirmed that the alumni would volunteer to serve beer and that these servers would go through the training with the base to do so. This training needs to be completed before the picnic and is good for a year. She said the **Fall Picnic is tentatively scheduled for Oct 25th**.

Mike Young discussed upcoming activities and said that all alumni will be invited to the December open house as well as a dining out in December which will be held again at the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum in Titusville. Mike Young also talked about his book; the book is going through the security review and once cleared, it will go to the Air University  
(continued)

Press for printing and sale. He said the Heritage room expansion is ready to start and they are awaiting base approval with a hopeful start date of mid-August for a project completion for the open house. He also discussed the status of a touch screen computer kiosk and a standalone monitor for each the Heritage Room (AFTAC history, etc.) and the Wall of Honor (selectee Bio's). Mike also reported that it's time to start the Wall of Honor selection process.

Sean Ryan reminded everyone that it's time to start planning for the next Snowball, i.e. theme, cost. location, etc.



**DEPOT FALLOUT** ~ Excerpts from the AFTAC Alumni West Coast Chapter newsletter  
For more information, visit their Web site at [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)

### **From the Vice President**

*by Bob Fitzgerald*

We had a nice turnout for our Spring Picnic & BBQ held on Saturday, May 18th, Armed Forces Day! There were dire predictions for a bad storm for that day, which scared away some of those who had signed up, but 3 that weren't signed up came so we ended up with **29** Alumni in attendance. The good news is that the weather held off until after we were all done and everyone enjoyed a good BBQ, lots of good pot-luck food, good discussions with friends and an all-around good time

Additional photos from the Spring Picnic are available at [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)



**Our next event will be our annual WCC FALL SOCIAL, to be held on Saturday, November 9th.** Please put this on your calendar now to reserve the date. The details and the required sign-up form are ... on our website "**Forms**" page now. The deadline for receipt of your reservation/sign-up info is **4 Nov 2019.**

### **Alumni Worldwide Reunion RECAP**

As is usually the case, the reunion exceeded expectations! Although there weren't any special trips or tours, everyone made up for that with the many small huddles to talk over old times and get up-to-date with their old and new friends. The same stories take on new details and appear to become more intricate, humorous and more enjoyable to eavesdrop on! The briefings were the best that I have heard. The Mt. Cheyenne one was very illuminating and almost understandable to this SEO! **CMSgt Michael S. Joseph, AFTAC Command Chief**, presented a good overview of the general operations of AFTAC as they currently are. **Col Chad J. Hartman, AFTAC Commander**, gave us a good look at where the organization is headed in the near future. For us old timers, it is truly amazing how AFTAC has been and will continue to be dynamically leading in the world!

### **Oh, You're One Of Those!**

*By Don King, Depot Fallout Editor*

A tale from one of the reunion attendees should strike home with a lot of you. TDY or attached to non-USAF installations frequently led to facing unique practices different from ours. One of our guys was attached to an Army post. He was waiting along a street next to a soldier. An officer's car passed by them and then stopped abruptly. The officer hollered out, "Private!" Our guy figured that he must be hollering at the soldier since he wasn't a private. The officer came over to our guy and asked him why he didn't salute his car. Our guy responded that we were only required to salute General Officer's cars when their flags were mounted on the car. He asked what unit he was assigned to, and our guy responded with the detachment number. The officer shook his head and said, "Oh, You're one of those," and headed back to his car. That again showed how unique and well-known we were!

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**2019 AFTAC Alumni Worldwide Reunion**

[From Bill Schmied – see lots of pictures from the Reunion]

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5ha45sn2uem6lke/AABdVRAG4m\\_ZzdLZkyKUFb9ka?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5ha45sn2uem6lke/AABdVRAG4m_ZzdLZkyKUFb9ka?dl=0)

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# **MONITOR**

**ing Active Duty Doins' from around  
the AFTAC World**

**Command Section**



**Commander/CC/2018. Col Chad J. Hartman** earned his commission through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Program at the University of Missouri in 1994. He has led intelligence operations across multiple theaters and echelons, to include an F-117 fighter squadron, Air Operations Centers in Pacific and Central Air Forces, the US Air Force Distribution Common Ground System, and US Special Operations Command.  
[Full Bio at <https://www.25af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC.aspx> ]

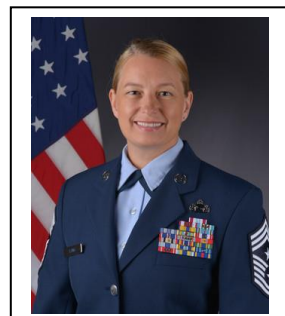
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**Vice Commander/CV/2018. Col Ralph E. Bordner, III**  
Col Bordner received his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Central Florida in 1996 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. His career includes multiple space-centric positions, to include crew-certified space operator, space and missile control engineer, chief of ballistic missile subsystems, and research and development engineer.  
[Full Bio at <https://www.25af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC.aspx> ]

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As you may already know, **CMSgt Michael S. Joseph** has retired from the USAF making way for a new **Command CMS**. Meet the new **Command CMS**:



**Chief Master Sergeant Amy L. Long** is the **Command Chief** for AFTAC, Patrick AFB, FL, where she advises the AFTAC wing commander on matters concerning the readiness, utilization, training, morale and welfare of the 1,000-member center and its 14 detachments around the globe who support AFTAC's international treaty monitoring activities. AFTAC operates and maintains the US Atomic Energy Detection System to monitor foreign compliance with various treaties limiting nuclear testing. AFTAC is also the designated US laboratory system that provides technical support to the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency.

Long entered the AF in Sep 1994. She graduated from the Defense Language Institute as an Arabic Cryptologic Linguist in Mar 1996. Her background includes various duties in intelligence operations, joint service and training. Throughout her career, she has served in myriad positions including National Security Agency Functional Manager, Counterterrorism Senior Enlisted Representative, as well as Squadron and Group Superintendent. She has deployed in support of Operation New Dawn and completed overseas tours in Korea and Hawaii.

[Full bio at <https://www.25af.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/1916755/chief-master-sergeant-amy-l-long> ]

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## **REPORTS FROM WITHIN THE HQ BUILDING**

(Most of the following extracts can be read in their entirety at AFTAC Alumni Website: [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us) )

### **UPDATE TO -- APRIL PoMo Article Titled “A1C with Ph.D. lands job at nuclear treaty monitoring center”**



In December 2018, the Air Force published a story about an airman first class with a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry. The article went somewhat viral within Air Force circles, with many social media users questioning why someone with a doctoral degree would choose to enlist rather than earn a commission. The simplest answer to those viral questions can be summed up in one word: timing.

Coupled with timing, the Doctor-Airman also found herself in the proverbial “right place at the right time” with one particular mentor who helped propel and facilitate her acceptance to AF Officer Training School.

Airman 1st Class Cynthia A. Schroll traded in her stripes for gold bars May 30 after completing the required eight-week training program at Maxwell AFB, Ala. On hand to pin on her bars were her father Stephen, her brother Brandon, and Brandon's girlfriend Traci.



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### **AFTAC Exhibit Ranked ‘Best’ at American Chemical Society Expo**

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs, Patrick AFB, FL/Published May20, 2019

Four members of AFTAC were recognized for their interactive booth at the American Chemical Society's National Spring Meeting and Expo recently at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando.

Rose Day, Diana Velosa, Michael Ball and Melissa Holder made up the recruiting team that traveled from the Space Coast to Central Florida to seek out potential job candidates for critical positions at the DOD's sole nuclear treaty monitoring center.

AFTAC's booth focused on recruiting chemists for the AF Radio-chemistry Laboratory (also known as the Ciambone Lab) and marketing the AF Palace Acquire and SMART Intern programs that help fund advanced degrees and offer guaranteed employment upon graduation.

The AFTAC team members were noted for their “enthusiasm, fantastic energy, attendee engagement, and being on their A-game.”

[See the full article at [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us)]



Pictured left to right: Michael Ball, Melissa Holder, Prof. Molenium, Diana Velosa, Prof Meg A. Mole, & Rose Day. (USAF Photo)

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### **TWO DISTINGUISHED EXECUTIVES RECEIVE PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARDS**

By Susan A Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs, Patrick AFB, FL/Published 11 July 2019

Two AFTAC senior executives recognized with Presidential Rank Awards at a ceremony June 20 held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Glenn E. Sjoden (left picture), AFTAC's Chief Scientist, and Mr. David C. Merker (right picture), AFTAC's Director of Systems Development and the U.S. National Data Center, were presented with the award by Acting Secretary of the Air Force Matthew P. Donovan (pictured left in both pictures) for their sustained extraordinary service to the US Department of Defense. (continued)



The meritorious executive rank award is the second highest recognition a career senior professional can receive and is given to no more than five percent of all senior executives in any given year.

As the principal adviser to the commander on all scientific and technical matters, Sjoden successfully established consequential research and development priorities that enabled a dramatic shift in Defense Department high performance computing capabilities while leading scientific evaluations in nuclear forensics that were reported directly to the White House. Additionally, he cleared significant roadblocks to solve unique technical challenges within the nation's nuclear detection arsenal and inaugurated the Air Force's sole radiochemistry laboratory.

Merker was recognized for his keen oversight of the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System and its more than 3,600 sensors located in 22 countries, on every continent, and in space. He transitioned the aging 70-year-old national nuclear monitoring mission area into an agile, proactive, modernized detection and real-time operational capability while delivering critical nuclear treaty monitoring products and services to joint warfighters, senior defense officials and national policymakers.

The selection process is a rigorous one. Once the nominee's package is written and approved by his or her own organization, it undergoes stringent evaluation by a board of private citizens and ultimately must gain approval from the President of the United States.

"This recognition is profoundly prestigious, and limited to pinnacle leaders who have made extraordinary and long-lasting contributions to the federal government," said Col. Chad Hartman, AFTAC commander. "Not only does this organization have one recipient in our midst, we have two. And that is an absolute testament to the deep bench of talent and leadership we have here at AFTAC. I am enormously proud of Dr. Sjoden and Mr. Merker for bringing home these admirable and well-earned titles."

To see the full article, see [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us)

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## **TO THE MEN, WOMEN AND FORMER MEMBERS OF AFTAC:**



*Dr Glenn Sjoden*

It has truly been an honor to serve these past 5 years as your Chief Scientist. When I arrived in 2014, I had a rather large agenda to accomplish in establishing and improving our technical capabilities at the Center. This included redefining the corporate/R&D process within AFTAC, enabling the "Roadmap-Blueprint" documents to clearly define our evolving goals and objectives for novel technical integration, solidifying added confidence in our capabilities for our Washington D.C. customer base, strengthening our position in NTNF for DOD up through the NSC, opening up new pathways for funding across the multi-agency, pushing the limits for new High Performance Computing (HPC) and HPC applications through DOD investment, and shoring up numerous architectures and infrastructure for present/future expanded capabilities, including HPC reach-back at our new COOP, the FIT CRADA, our AFIT Endowed Term Chairs, and numerous other milestones.

Moreover, all of this has occurred while the Center has been challenged across every mission area, with often extreme situations pressing us from the world stage. Added to that, we reorganized last year, and grappled with aircraft modernization, an evolving sensor landscape, the dynamic digital environment, and numerous other challenges. As your Chief Scientist, I have tried to lay a solid framework in all mission aspects-it was always challenging. I never, until holding this post, had to span so many technical issues continuously under so demanding a daily operational tempo. In addition to the divine grace of God helping me on a daily basis, it is only because of my immediate staff I was able to be as effective as possible over these past 5 years. This includes my secretary, Ms. Carol Snyder, and my direct report deputies, Dr. Bill Junek, and from Washington D.C., Dr. Kevin Muhs-you folks are true professionals, and always represented me superbly! I also wish to thank Mr. Pohl, my direct report supervisor, who always gave me highly valuable guidance and strong advocacy when I needed it-no one could ask for better. I also appreciate the strong support from all of my AFTAC Commanders and Vice Commanders.

Therefore, having fundamentally achieved what I set out to do as your AFTAC Chief Scientist, and given I'm getting "longer in the tooth," the time is right for me to return to an academic post in a senior Endowed Chair Professorship

(continued)

position to grow the nuclear engineering program at the University of Utah. In doing so, I'll be able to explore more "hands on" research, my passion for teaching nuclear reactor physics, and TRIGA reactor operations opportunities. My wife Patti is also extremely excited to be going to a mountain climate in Salt Lake City, and much closer to our grandchildren. As a result, my last duty day at AFTAC will be established soon in June 2019, and terminal leave thereafter. In the interim after my departure, until a new Chief Scientist takes the helm, my deputies, Dr. Bill Junek and Dr. Kevin Muhs, will serve as the technical bedrock under the AFTAC Office of the Chief Scientist. I have absolute trust and confidence in their sage judgment, and I believe our science is truly in good hands to support the Commander, Vice Commander, our senior leadership, and the very important mission we steward.

I can truly say I've given this job my very best effort, and I hope you deem it worthy of what you'd expect from your Chief Scientist. I thank you for the opportunity to work with each of you-I admire your professionalism, dedication, and your patriotism to carry out this very important mission for our national security. I know numerous challenges continue; many tasks ahead will be hard. You will be tested. I am sure you will be successful; in the words of Sir Winston Churchill, "success is never final, and failure is never fatal; it's the courage to carry on that counts...." Thank you for all that you do for our country. I am humbled to have served in this capacity, and I truly wish each of you well.

Very Respectfully, Glenn Sjoden

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### **International, technical partnership continues to flourish**

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs, Patrick AFB, FL/ Published July 31, 2019



[CTBTO Preparatory Commission Executive Secretary Dr. Lassina Zerbo (right) meets with AFTAC Commander Col. Chad Hartman at Patrick AFB, FL, to discuss the collaborative partnership the two organizations have been able to capitalize on by employing emerging technologies and breakthroughs in nuclear monitoring innovations. (USAF photo by Matthew S. Jurgens)]

Since 1996, AFTAC and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Preparatory Commission in Vienna have shared a long-term working relationship with the same vital goal in mind: global nuclear nonproliferation.

It is through that collaborative partnership that the two organizations have been able to capitalize on employing emerging technologies and breakthroughs in nuclear monitoring innovations to help them execute their respective missions.

CTBTO Preparatory Commission Executive Secretary Dr. Lassina Zerbo traveled from his headquarters in Vienna to meet with AFTAC Commander Col. Chad Hartman in Florida July 25 to discuss modernization of the National Data Center and how AFTAC's support to the International Data Center is fundamental to their re-engineering efforts.

The full article is available at [https://www.25af.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1921594/international-technical-partnership-continues-to-flourish/fbclid/IwAR3PyuGJnjPCd57joLGEa5QpwLvb6\\_ILcYIZqs0M2xtcXLI9w1pn2ba0rQ/](https://www.25af.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1921594/international-technical-partnership-continues-to-flourish/fbclid/IwAR3PyuGJnjPCd57joLGEa5QpwLvb6_ILcYIZqs0M2xtcXLI9w1pn2ba0rQ/)

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### **AFTAC HOCKEY**

By Judy Henderson

The first AFTAC hockey event of the year (AFTAC versus AFTAC) was held at the Space Coast Iceplex in Rockledge, FL, on 13 July 2019. Admission was free, and many hockey fans came out to cheer the teams on. The game featured the temporary hail of our own SMSgt Aaron Trudel's return to the ice. He is competing on an Air Force team in Germany and was here for this game only. The exciting game ended in a 5-5 tie. Watch the Alumni Web site [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us) - Calendar of Events - for the schedule of upcoming games.



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## **FOR THE FIRST TIME, GIRLS JOIN BOYS TO EARN NUKE SCIENCE MERIT BADGE AT AFTAC** [By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs, Patrick AFB, FL/Published May 22, 2019]



For the sixth time in as many years, Boy Scouts from around Central Florida descended on AFTAC, Patrick AFB, FL, to earn Scouting's Nuclear Science Merit Badge. What made this AFTAC-sponsored event different from the past half-decade was for the first time, girls were invited to participate with the boys to earn the uncommon badge. In February, the Boy Scouts of America began accepting girls from 5th grade through high school into the newly-named program called Scouts BSA, which affords girls the same opportunities as boys.

On a picture-perfect Saturday morning, scientists and engineers from the nuclear treaty monitoring center volunteered their off-duty time to teach the scouts how to construct 3-D

models of elements and isotopes, create cloud chambers, and illustrate the nuclear fission process. The group of 93 inquisitive boys and girls also learned about ALARA – as low as reasonably achievable. The acronym is a safety principle used by radiation professionals to ensure they take every reasonable step to minimize exposure when working around radiological material.

Ranging in age from 11 to 17, scouts represented 22 troops in the region, making this year's event the most diverse compared to past years that AFTAC hosted.

After the model building exercises, the group convened at AFTAC's outdoor pavilion for lunch and to network with some of the center's scientists and engineers. Once the pizza and soft drinks were devoured by the burgeoning scientists, the scouts were divided up into six groups to tour the Air Force Radiochemistry Lab.

Ryan Malave, an 8th grader at Osceola School of the Arts, has been a scout since 1st grade and has his sights set on becoming an Eagle Scout, the pinnacle of achievement for a Boy Scout. "I really love science and when I heard our troop had a chance to come here and earn this badge, I jumped at the opportunity," he said. "I want to be an aeronautical engineer someday, and participating in things like this really interest me. I've learned a lot about atoms – it's been great!"

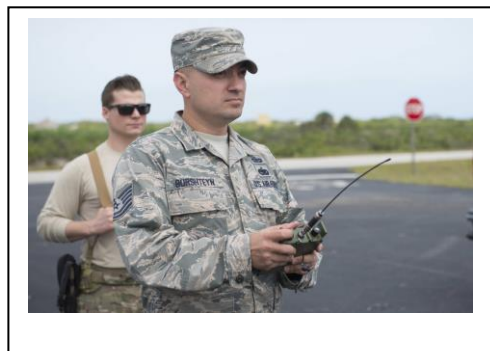


*Capt Pamela Zhang, a chemist with AFTAC, Patrick AFB, FL, helps Emmanuel Lyttle, a Boy Scout with Troop #9 in Osceola, FL, build a model cloud chamber April 13, 2019. Lyttle was one of 93 scouts – boys and girls – to visit the Department of Defense's sole nuclear treaty monitoring Center to earn scouting's nuclear science merit badge. Zhang was one of the several AFTAC Airmen who Volunteered their time to the event. (USAF Photo by Susan A. Romano)*

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## **FROM UZBEKISTAN TO AMERICA: ONE AIRMAN'S TALE**

*By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs/Published June 27, 2019*



Bukhara is a centuries-old, culturally-rich city in the Asian country of Uzbekistan. Located on the historic Silk Road (a network of ancient trade routes that connected the East to the West), it has long been an epicenter of exports, scholarship, language and religion. (continued)

*[TSgt Dmitry Burshteyn, a field test team NCOIC with AFTAC, uses a remote firing device to detonate explosives while field testing new infrasound equipment at Cape Canaveral AF Station, Fla. (U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew S. Jurgens)]*

For one U.S. Air Force Airman assigned to the AFTAC, Patrick AFB, FL, it's the city he lists as his place of birth. Born in 1988, TSgt Dmitriy Burshteyn is the son of a Russian AF major who worked as a logistics officer for the Soviet military. Like most military brats, Burshteyn and his family moved frequently. When Dmitriy was 4 years old, his father received orders to Minsk, Belarus, where the Burshteyns lived for a few years before relocating to Tashkent, the capital city in then-Soviet Uzbekistan. After the collapse of the USSR, those remaining in countries without delineated Russian borders were left to integrate to the respective host nation's military. Unfortunately for Major Burshteyn, many of those countries wanted were left to rid themselves of all Soviet influences.

Since Dmitriy's father was considered a product of the Soviet regime, he was told he'd be working for a lieutenant of Uzbek descent – an insult for a major to work for a junior ranking officer. "It didn't help that my father was Jewish in a Muslim state," Dmitriy said, "so my family made the decision to immigrate to the United States and seek asylum." It wasn't an easy process, though.

"I remember making lots of trips to the consulate in Moscow in order to get all the paperwork accomplished," Dmitriy said. "I think it took an entire year to get everything finalized, and we finally moved to Oakland, Calif. To this day, we still consider Dec. 5, 1997, a family holiday."

When the Burshteyn clan arrived in the U.S., they lived in a one-bedroom apartment for about a year. "My grandparents joined us, so there were six of us living in very close quarters," he explained. "After about a year, my grandfather was able to find an apartment they could afford. My father worked two to three different jobs at a time and went to night school for computer sciences, which ultimately led to him becoming a quality assurance engineer." They eventually settled in Walnut Creek, Calif., where Dmitriy graduated from Ygnacio Valley High School. A solid B-student, he played soccer and held down a part-time job from the age of 16.

In December 2006, Dmitriy, a naturalized American citizen, left California for AF Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, Texas. Unsure of what his future held but confident about what was on the horizon, he embraced the challenges that came with joining the military.

Burshteyn began his Air Force career as a vehicle maintainer, but now works as a field test team noncommissioned officer for AFTAC since his arrival at the nuclear treaty monitoring center in November 2017. He is responsible for operating AFTAC's mobile laboratories and collecting sensor data that's used by the center and its multiple interagency partners for research and development purposes.

"I really enjoy being a 9S100," he said. "The best part of my job, aside from the extensive travel, is I get to learn something new almost daily from people who have been doing this job and mission for many years. Some have been involved in treaty monitoring for longer than I have been alive, so I consider it a privilege to sit down with them and just listen to them talk about their experiences. It's really an incredible wealth of knowledge here."

Burshteyn hopes for orders to one of AFTAC's detachments someday.

[To learn more about TSgt Burshteyn, read the full article at [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us)]

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### **The AFTAC "Wall of Honor" Program** **Wall of Honor Nomination Process**

Criteria for Nomination and Selection:

1. Former uniformed or civilian members of AFTAC (i.e. no longer actively participating or involved in the AFTAC mission) are eligible.
2. The nominee must have achieved an outstanding record of accomplishment by making significant, distinctive and extraordinary contributions to mission success; demonstrated great character; and served as a role model for those around him or her.

Nomination and Selection Procedures:

1. The AFTAC Heritage Committee, chaired by the Vice Commander (or in the CV's absence, the Director of Staff), will oversee the nomination and selection process.
2. Each directorate/group delegate serving on the AFTAC Heritage Committee, as well as the AFTAC Alumni Association, will nominate a single individual. The AFTAC historian will represent the AFTAC Alumni Association during the selection process.
3. The directorate delegates of the Heritage Committee will present their nominees at the October meetings for screening and discussion.

(continued)

4. During the November meetings, the Heritage Committee will conduct a second review of the nominees and finalize the recommended selectees. The vice commander (or the DS) will then present the committee's recommended selectees to the commander for final approval.
5. The commander will announce the honorees at the annual AFTAC awards ceremony or at the Alumni Association SnowBall.
6. The commander will present each inductee or family member with a personal medallion. The commander will speak to the honoree's accomplishments (HO to provide photo and text). The Heritage Committee will add the honoree's name to the Wall of Honor at the AFTAC headquarters.
7. AFTAC will recognize no more than 3 selectees each year.

AFTAC Wall of Heritage Nomination Packet:

The nomination packets typically range from two to five pages in length. Packets must contain a photograph (past or present). Nominations are largely biographical in content with special emphasis placed on specific deeds that merit nomination. In the past, such deeds highlighted innovations, scientific or technical contributions, and/or inspiring leadership to younger airmen. Key questions to ask when drafting a nomination is: "Why is this nominee the "best of the best." What discriminates?

The AFTAC historian, Dr. Mike Young, is the caretaker of all nomination packets. Contact: [Mike Young](mailto:james.young53@us.af.mil) – eMail to [james.young53@us.af.mil](mailto:james.young53@us.af.mil) or mail to AFTAC/HO, ATTN: Dr. Mike Young, Bldg 10989, S. Patrick Dr, Patrick AFB FL 32925.

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### **ADDITIONAL ARTICLES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST:**

Most are available at [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us) – "NEWS TO KNOW" – for the following articles posted on the Alumni Web Site:

#### **-- Secret Lab at Patrick AFB Watches for Nuclear Explosions Worldwide, Protecting the US**

#### **-- Cannon Shot Nuclear Test**

[Read about a May 1953 nuclear weapon test at the Nevada Test Site.]

#### **-- US to boost nuke sniffing with modified C-130s**

#### **-- Divisional wins lead to state competition for AFTAC mentors**

[Odyssey of the Mind competition includes two AFTAC teams at University of Central Florida]

#### **-- Using dynamite and TNT to enhance nuclear mission**

See report at <https://www.25af.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1809922/using-dynamite-and-tnt-to-enhance-nuclear-mission/>

#### **-- New technology at Cape Canaveral aims to prevent nuclear war**

See the WESH 2 report and video at <https://www.wesh.com/article/new-technology-at-cape-canaveral-aims-to-prevent-nuclear-war/27211597>



Dr. Mike Young is compiling a biographical database of people who served with AFTAC. He is asking for your help and welcomes any information you wish to provide. At a minimum, please provide: name, rank, dates served, assignments, locations (by Det # or base), AFSC/RI, and a photo of your choice (past or present). It would also be great to include any short stories or anecdotes that you wish to share. His email address is: [james.young.53@us.af.mil](mailto:james.young.53@us.af.mil).

### **THERE'S STILL TIME TO SEND YOUR INFORMATION TO THE HISTORIAN**

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE EMAIL AND WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT SOMETHING, FEEL FREE TO SEND IT BY MAIL TO AFTAC/HO, ATTN: DR. MIKE YOUNG, BUILDING 10989, S. PATRICK DRIVE, PATRICK AFB, FL 32925.

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

**1. WindDowns**-(normally sponsored by the active-duty force) are scheduled for **1<sup>st</sup> Fridays** at 1530 taking place to the west of the HQ building.

**2. Alumni Assn Board/Membership Meetings-normally-2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays at 1600** just inside the HQ Building, #10989. Park across the street and the meeting will be in conference room just to the left as you enter the front entrance lobby.

a. If a **Federal Holiday**, the meeting will be the next day.  
b. **Quarterly-meetings**during the last month of a quarter (Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec) may be a luncheon, or a dinner, and at the venues noted below. **NOTE:** Sites/Times will be determined at the prededing meeting and announced via eALLert and posted at the association website. Other Patrick dining venues (Tides, Golf Clubhouse, Marina, Dining Facility) and off-base sites may be considered for any meeting.

**Active-Duty & Alumni are invited to all events.**  
**Before coming verify date/time/venue online and/or with your editor 'chrisjohn2@gmail.com'**

**September**

06, 1530 Wind Down – Stonehenge Pavilion  
**13, 1130—Annual General Membership Meeting – Sociable September – See details on page 5**

**October**

04, 1530 Wind Down – Stonehenge Pavilion  
**15 (Tuesday), 1600—Membership Meeting, HQ AFTAC Bldg**  
**11, 11:30—Golf-n'Get Together, Manatee Cove Golf Course, Patrick AFB, FL – See details on page 5**  
25, Center Annual Picnic – details will follow via eAll

**November**

01, 1530 Wind Down – Stonehenge Pavilion  
**12 (Tuesday), 1600 – Membership Meeting, HQ AFTAC Bldg**

**December**

06, 1530 Wind Down – Stonehenge Pavilion  
**09, 1130 – Membership Meeting, Beef O'Bradys – Satel Bch**  
Event Plans and Timeframes—for planning only—dates and months may vary

**A. January-April** (months may vary)

1. SnowBall
2. Center Annual Awards Banquet

**B. May-August** (months may vary)

1. Nominating Board (ex-prez+2) selects slate for publication
2. Annual Association Spring Golf N'Gettogether

**C. September-December** (months may vary)

1. Friday in Sep (**13 Sep 19**), Annual Board, General Membership & Elections Meeting, '**Social September XXIII**' will be at Manatee Cove on a **Friday at lunch** to enhance the opportunity for, and encourage attendance of, members and all alumni and active-duty.
2. Center Annual Picnic

**--Alumni of the Year (AOY) Selection Committee** (prior AOYs) meet following the annual meeting.

2. **Oct or Nov**, Annual Association Fall Golf N-Gettogether
3. Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, **Alumni Assn ANNUAL FY DUES Due**

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

**--AFTAC WORLDWIDE REUNIONS:** Normally scheduled every other year. Hosting rotates between the association and the two chapters. Last host – CO-2019.06; CA-2017.06, FL-2015.05.

**Next Reunion** is scheduled to be hosted by the Florida Chapter, 2021.

**SAGE SHOP – OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

Mail orders to:

AFTAC Alumni Assn,  
ATTN: Sage Shop – Donald Moon  
PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB FL, 32925-0892

Online order request or any other questions concerning this shop should be addressed to D. Cole Moon at:

[Donald.Moon@us.af.mil](mailto:Donald.Moon@us.af.mil), [Dcolemoon@gmail.com](mailto:Dcolemoon@gmail.com) or 321-494-4051

**NEW ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE**

Embroidered DriFit Polo (*no pocket*) \$25 Available in Royal Blue, Black, Red – M, L, XL, XXL  
New DriFit Long-sleeve t-shirt (SPF 50 UV protection) \$18- Royal Blue, Navy, Red – M, L, XL  
New DriFit Short-sleeve t-shirt (SPF 50 UV protection) \$15- Royal Blue, Navy, Red – M, L, XL  
[Note: New DriFit t-shirts use a modern thermal transfer process, producing high quality images that are proven to last, and be washed/ dried with your other laundry.]

**COINS & PINS**

AFTAC Alumni Association Coin: \$10  
AFTAC Alumni Association Pin: \$3  
AFTAC Logo/ Shield Pin: \$3  
60th LRD Commemorative Coin: \$5

**CLEARANCE ITEMS**

T-SHIRTS-50/50 blend -Assorted Colors, M or XXL –\$5  
WINDBREAKERS-w/ stowable hood -Royal Blue – \$20  
Screen printed Logo, Golf/Polo Shirts - Assorted Colors \$15 - Available in 50/50 (cotton/ polyester) moisture wicking w/ pocket - or - DriFit Fabric w/ or w/o pocket  
**Contact Sage Shop to verify inventory prior to ordering ANY clearance Items**

**FUTURE ITEMS**

**We are currently exploring new merchandise options (Hats, Sweaters, Jackets, etc...) If you have a personal preference or recommendation, please contact D. Cole Moon [Dcolemoon@gmail.com](mailto:Dcolemoon@gmail.com)**

**SHIPPING:** Add \$8.00 for shipping/handling of 1 Item & \$2 for each additional. (**no shipping cost for Logo pins**). A link to additional information and photos of these items is available at <https://www.aftacaa.us> — enter the Sage Shop

**SAGE SHOP MERCHANDISE FROM OTHERS**

**AC SEO Airborne Coin** - SrA TJ Benscoter - 402-232-1917/[Theodore.benscoter@us.af.mil](mailto:Theodore.benscoter@us.af.mil) or SrA Chris Hayes, 402-232-9182/[Christopher.hayes.13@us.af.mil](mailto:Christopher.hayes.13@us.af.mil)

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

