



POST - MONITOR



VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1

Membership—667, Lifetime 491 (17 are Complimentary)

2002 MARCH



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
Command's Sages

Long-Range Detection
denotes and represents
all who served the
mission throughout it's
inception and history

Recognized for 50 years
of service to our country
in September 1997
1947 - 1997



A SUPER SAGE SALUTE

THE LONG-RANGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESENTS



CMSgt (Ret) James B. Payne Alumni of the Year, 2001

JOHN AND CHRIS HORSCH. PHOTO BY BOB WILEY

The highlight of our annual association Snow-Ball on February 18th was the announcement of the selection of Jim **Payne** as the '2001 Alumni of the Year.' He received a special coin that flew on the Shuttle Orbiter 'Atlantis' on the occasion of the Air Force, and AFTAC's, 50th anniversary (Sep-Oct '97). Jim will also be honored at the AF-TAC Command Award ceremony on April 24th at the PAFB NCO Club, come on out and show your support (info, page 19).

At the presentation, Joe **Marshall**, Association President, noted that Jim began his Air Force career in October, '52. He first served in Ground Radio at Japan, NJ, and MS. In May '62, he was assigned to AFTAC initially serving in the 'R'

Continued on page 5, top left column

ALUMNI ALERTS-WHAT'S COMIN' UP

WHERE, IN THE BEST MISSION ALERT TRADITION, WE ASK YOU TO 'REPORT IN'

"SPRING ALUMNI GOLF N'GETOGETHER"

THE EDITORS WITH INFORMATION FROM DON EMERY

The alumni association is proud to announce the date and details of their upcoming spring golf n'getogether tournament. These tournaments are always our most popular event and bring together alumni, friends and supporters for a day of fun, golf and great camaraderie, and it's a good deal besides with low prices, good food, drink and prizes galore.

This golf n'getogether will be on April 12th at the Manatee Cove Course on Patrick AFB. Folks need to be there by 1230 with tee off at 1300.

Continued on page 6, upper right column

ALUMNI EVENTS-WHAT'S GONE OFF

WHERE, AGAIN IN THE BEST MISSION TRADITION, WE REPORT 'EVENT DATA'

"WE THREW A SNOWBALL"

ASSOCIATION ALUMNI SNOW BALL IV

'Schnee Kugel Vier'

GEORGE WIRDA, LRD ALUMNI VICE PRESIDENT

Under the honored (and also retired) banners of the 1157th and HQ European Technical Operations Area, the Alumni's Fourth Annual Snowball kicked off at Sweetwater's Restaurant, in Melbourne, Florida. The biggest Snowball yet, with 63 guests, this year's 16th of February fest had a definitive German flare. With setup barely finished, guests started pouring it at the appointed 5 o'clock cocktail hour.

Continued on page 5, center left column

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

NONPROFIT
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MELBOURNE, FL
PERMIT 479

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The emblem used by the alumni association (below) was in active service from 1970 to 2000 (the replacement is a less detailed rendering). The association continues the use of this version because so many alumni served while it was 'on duty.' When in use, it symbolized the unit and, in color, contains the AF (blue and gold) as well as the national colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of AF operations; yellow, the sun and excellence of personnel. The globe indicates worldwide mission, locations and geophysical studies; the lightning and cloud depict study on natural phenomena and the compass points reflect the assigned tasks around the world. The rings around the globe symbolize electronic instrument readings and unity of purpose and display electronic measurements accomplished. The elliptical belt symbolizes the study of the atmosphere.



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

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SNAIL the snail sez, send us your tale(s) - inputs are due the 1st
Monday in the month of publication (March, June, September & December).

ASSOCIATION HONOR ROLL ALUMNI OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

JIM PAYNE 2001

**BEN VLASSICK '00-JOHN HORSCH '99-FRANK HALL '98
JUDY MILAM '97-CARL GAILLEY '96-CLARK CREERY- '95**

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

Florida chapter

Dues, \$10 per year based on FY, 1 Oct-30 Sep, payable in **Oct/\$75 for life**. You're encouraged to attend monthly meetings beginning at 5:30pm on the second Monday of each month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC HQ's building (989) at Patrick AFB, FL. For information: **Jim Payne**, (321) 777-4731/paynejb@juno.com, **Carl Gailey**, (321) 777-0569/gaileyc@juno.com, **Judy Milam**, (321) 254-8878/jem2415@worldnet.att.net, or **Pat Snyder**, (321) 494-6867/patricia.snyder@aftac.pafb.af.mil. Dues, membership applications, and queries/information should be mailed to:

Long-Range Detection Alumni Asc., PO Box 254892

Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892

Chapter publishes a quarterly (Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec) newsletter, 'Post-Monitor' (staff data below), (namesake of a prior active-duty publication, 'Monitor') & a Webpage, <http://www.csihq.com/aftacalumni/>, with association & alumni information, 'Post-Monitor' 'Samplers' and back-issues and photos - WebMasters are Dave **Johnson** and Mike **Black**, **Clark Creery** writes an 'Upcoming Events' section.

Florida Chapter Board "PERENNIALS" Alumni serving for five+ years. Frank Hall-President/Vice 89-9801, Judy Milam-Secretary 89-00, Eunice Harris-Hospitality 89-00, Mary Welch-Membership 91-99, Carl Gailey-Treasurer 91-99, Swede Swansen-Publicity since 93

Colorado chapter

Formed in 1989, **dues, \$5 per year, payable in February**; chapter publishes a newsletter, 'Echoes' and supports a website, <http://www.aftacco.org/>; Webmaster, **Bill Harris**. They meet several times a year-for information, **Bill Schmied**, (303) 367-0625. There are ~130 members.

West Coast (California) chapter

Formed in 1999, **dues, \$5 per year, \$50 for lifetime**; for information-Joe **Johnson**, (916) 783-8676, 'TOD.Alumni@bigfoot'-mailing address:AFTAC Alumni Assoc., West Coast Chapter, 161 Southcreek Circle, Folsom CA, 95630-1510. They hold periodic meetings and socials, host a webpage and publish a newsletter, 'Depot Fallout.'

Long-Range Detection Alumni Honorarium

Several permanent and ongoing projects representing and honoring our people and it's history exist: Two of these, the 'Hall of Heritage' (with information and artifacts) and the Photos/Biographies of Alumni who served the command for 20+ years, are housed at AFTAC Headquarters. Another is an AFTAC display at the Encampment Wyoming Museum.

Newsletter Editors: John & Chris Horsch

Information/Proofing: Judy Milam/Pat Snyder/Deborah Carson

Executive Review: Frank Hall/Carl Gailey

Rovin' Photographers: Judy Milam (film) and Bob Wiley (digital)

Rovin' Reporter: Clark Creery/Bob Wiley

Printing/Mailing: Carl Gailey/Swede Swansen

"A TEAM"...of Horsches'

'58-'87



EDITORIALLY SPEAKING



It's great to have so much stuff that we had to go to 20 pages for this issue:

First off, congratulations to our Sagemate, **Jim Payne**. He was the association's unanimous selection for 'Alumni of the Year, 2001' and we recognized him as such at our latest SnowBall (article begins on page 1) and will also be honored at the Command Awards Banquet on April 24th (we plan to cover this in next issue). We look forward to seeing many of you there to celebrate Jim's selection.

Next, prepare yourself for mucho BS ... we had 6 submissions this quarter and made a decision to publish them all (in the past we've always held at least one back in case we did not receive one for the next issue). So, we are counting on our readers to keep 'em coming—everybody's got a story, an 'I Remember' and a 'BS' tale...please take the time to send them in.

Our 'A Family Affair' Feature article is special this time and we'll let you get to that area to see why. Now, we ask all those mentioned to drop us their story as **Curt Miller** did last issue. We'd like to have one of these per issue.

Regarding our 'AFTAC, In The News' information last issue. As we go to press, the A1A closure has advanced to the stage of having four lanes open, except in front of the AFTAC building where there are two and there is no longer any restriction on vehicles. The barrier we mentioned is up and fills two lanes in front of the AFTAC building, and the building itself has had steel plating placed over the windows. The March 2nd Florida Today newspaper noted the "barrier likely will be taken down eventually."

We want to take the time here to again thank our members who support the Post-Monitor through it stages, from beginning to end. First there are the readers who take the time to send us inputs, e.g., memories, BS, and updates. Next we have our intrepid reviewers, **Frank**, **Carl** and **Judy**, they never fail to 'get it done right and get it done fast.' Then we have our printing and mailing honchos, **Carl** and **Swede**, **Carl** gets it to the printers, and **Swede** never fails to get a gang together for folding and labeling. Thank You All.

CALENDAR

Association Board/Membership Meetings Monthly HQ AFTAC WindDowns

Members and prospective members are encouraged to attend these events for fellowship and participation.

ALWAYS VERIFY PAT SNYDER, (321) 494-6867, BEFORE COMING

—**Board/membership meetings** are normally scheduled for the **second Monday** of each month (dates listed below):

WHEN: **1730 (5:30 PM)**

WHERE: **AFTAC HQ's Building**

HOW: come to rear entrance

—**WindDowns** are normally scheduled for the **first Friday** of each month (dates listed below):

WHEN: **1530 (3:30 PM)**

WHERE: Behind AFTAC HQ building (the **Outback**)

HOW: come to the back of the building-find the crowd

April

5, 1530 - WindDown at the Outback

8, 1730 - Board/Membership Meeting

May

3, 1530 - WindDown at the Outback

13, 1730 - Board/Membership Meeting

June

7, 1530 - WindDown at the Outback

10, 1730 - Board/Membership Meeting

Special Events

Picnic, Sat 13 April '02 (see page 16)
Wickham Park pavilion from 1100-1700

Tickets, Pat Snyder, 494-6867

Golf, Friday, April 12th (see page 1), Manatee Cove
Golf Course (Patrick AFB)

Tickets, Pat Snyder, 494-6867
Don Emery, 638-4801

AFTAC Command Award Banquet
24 April '02 at the PAFB NCO Club
Alumni of the Year Recognition (see page 1)
Tickets, Pat Snyder, 494-6867

ALUMNI SHOP

Mail orders to: Long Range Detection Alumni Assn

ATTN: Sales Staff, PO Box 254892

Patrick AFB FL, 32925-0892

Include additional \$3.00 for shipping and

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE (as of 2002/2)

PURCHASED WITH ALUMNI FUNDS-Multi-Color Logo

	MED	LG	XL	XXL
JACKETS - Unlined/Royal Blue - \$20	2	4	2	4
GOLF SHIRTS - with pocket - \$14				
Sea Teal (aqua blue)	2	4	4	3
Jade (medium green)	3	4	3	3
Navy	3	3	4	3
Red	2	3	2	2
White	2	1	1	3
Royal Blue	3	0	4	3
Teal (dark aqua)	2	3	3	4
Maroon	3	2	2	2
T-SHIRTS - without pocket - \$7.00				
Light Blue	2	3	3	3
Royal blue	1	3	4	2
Navy	3	2	3	1
Ash Gray	2	2	4	2
Purple	2	1	3	2
Red	2	2	3	2
Fuscsia	2	2	2	2
Mint Green	2	2	2	2
Jade Green	2	4	4	2

HATS - \$6.00 #	MISCELLANEOUS	#
Green 8	50th Commem. Coins (\$3)	~168
Gray 7	Logo Pin (\$3.25)	~21
Red 7	Logo Disk (\$5.50)	~36
Royal Blue 0	License Plate, \$7-members	\$10
Light Blue 9	-nonmembers	~7
Navy 2	TOD History Book, free,	
Blue/Gray 26	s/h, \$4.00	

PURCHASED BY THE BOOSTERS CLUB - most say ALUMNUS rather than ALUMNI

	LG	XL
JACKETS -		
Unlined/Royal Blue - white logo, \$20		3
GOLF SHIRTS -		
Med. Blue/with pocket/White logo, \$14	11	7

NOTE: **Sagey** and **Alex** are not here, as promised, because three members did not mention them in any manner. They will be back when three alumni 'miss' their passing, and Judy (**Milam**) and Ron (**Cook**) do not count as they have already said 'Hi' in the December '01 issue.

MAIL - CALL



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

Letters of a general nature, requesting no action, may be e-mailed to the editors, chrisjohn@juno.com
 Letters may be edited for clarity and space; any opinions are those of the writer(s) and may not reflect Association belief or policy

NEW/RENEWING SAGES

Here we welcome and thank new and returning members, mention their names for everyone's possible recall and add any 'notes' they send along. At the same time, we remind everyone to send us your unclassified memories, and barely substantiated (BS) tales of your 'AFTAC' adventures. Please email them to chrisjohn@juno.com or send them to the alumni mailbox (address at left column, page 2).

Columbus, MS 01.12.3

Here's my check for dues. Sorry that I overlooked sending them before now.

Bobby Richardson

Merritt Island, FL 01.12.06

Thanks for the reminder.

N. Curtis Anderholm

Del City, OK 01.12.06

Enclosed here's next year too. If it don't have a preaddressed envelope, forget it.

Charlie McGehee

Friendswood, TX 01.12.06

Everything here in Texas is super. Miss my friends back home

George McMonigle

Indialantic, FL 01.12.08

Thanks for the reminder. Time goes by so fast that a year is gone before you know it.

Jackie Might

Sheffield, AL 01.12.10

Yep, I forgot it! Thanks for the reminder.

Ken King

Rockledge, FL 01.12.12

Thanks for the reminder. We were in Ohio for most of Oct. I am finally going to retire next June.

Harvey Shaw sure, you just wanted us to spend some more on postage so you could boost your USPS retirement pay

Bridgeport, OH 01.12.17

I was certain I had mailed my dues so checked my cancelled checks. Sure enough I mailed the check in Sep and it cleared in Oct. I'm wondering now if it is being held somewhere in a mailbag due to the anthrax scare.

Phillip W. Elliott we understand our membership chair has figured this out and got back with you

Las Vegas, NV 01.12.17

Looking to find Patricia Murray and Steven Crouse. Please send info if you have any.

Cindy Miller did you try the member locator at the website?

Blue Springs, MS 01.12.21

Sorry about the late dues, but with a few ailments and other family affairs, let it slip my mind (such as it is at 72). In the 'Alumni Shop' the logo pin does not have a cost listed, please email.

W. N. (Pete) Wigington normally the prices of the 'Miscellaneous' items are listed in parans, i.e., this item is (\$3.25)

Melbourne, FL 01.12.24

I was in the 1009th SWS for four year, '51-'55, west of White House and Pennsylvania Ave. locations. Enclosed is my check for dues and small donation. We moved in June, '01, and things have been 'lost' every since.

Marvin T. Ross thanks for the donation and the memories, which we continue in the 'I Remember' column area

Carson, CO 01.12.31

Sorry about the late dues. For some reason I thought they were paid until next year. I will do better next year. Happy New Year to all.

John J Forys

Melbourne, FL, 02.1.22

A Sage 'thumbs up' to Ken Oyer for this note



Greetings,

Nope---- Didn't forget, just a bit late; but this won't happen again next year--here's two years dues!

Tks, Ken

Jacksonville, AR 02.1.22

Just got back from a Panama Canal Cruise and came thru FL. Things are about back to normal. Got a cold the day we got back.

Chuck Siegismund

Burleson, TX 02.1.25

Enclosed are dues for FY02 ... sorry I overlooked them. Enjoy reading about those 'good

Thirty-six of us were there. I want to specifically acknowledge and thank the **Niquettes'** for traveling in from the Coast and the **Ferris'** coming from Redding to join us for this special evening. Special thanks to Joe Johnson for planning and setting this up.

Words From The Prez'

SUBMITTED BY AL PAVIK

12/4, quarterly Business Meeting with a follow-on social with spouses. Again thanks to all the people who joined us for this evening.

We also want to wish Herb **Dettmer** the best in getting back to his active self.

Events Calendar for 2001/2002

Scheduled/Proposed, Dinner at Luau Gardens (February 9, 2002, make reservations by February 4th), Garden Party (at Paviks, April/May 2002). Details will be provided in the next newsletter, Golf Outing (tbd), Dinner at Rudy's, Sheepherder's, Cattleman's, etc etc (tbd)

Quarterly Business Meetings (McClellan Air Museum at 7:00 PM), March 5; June 4; September 3; December 3

Mail Call

Bryce Dunn's E-mail: Ben Vlassick passed away Christmas Day at 5:50 AM. We will miss him deeply. Contact Jack Smith, AFTAC Alumni Association of Colorado President for further info. He can be reached at 303-428-1812, or coaftrmkt@aol.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE: BEN HAS BEEN A LONGTIME FRIEND. THE WEST COAST CHAPTER EXPRESSES DEEPEST CONDOLENCES. OUR VICE PRESIDENT, JOE JOHNSON, LEFT ON VACATION EARLY TO ATTEND THE SERVICES.

Herb Dettmer's Telecon: Dewey N Weiford Jr, Col (retired) passed away. Col Weiford was well respected as Lab Director and then 1155th commander from 8/70-7/72. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family.

Frank Goodreau's E-mail: Hi all, Here is a book (that may) interest you - it's been around since 1995 - 'Spying without Spies: Origins of America's Secret Nuclear Surveillance System' by Charles A. Ziegler and David Jacobson. Praeger Publishers, 88 Post Road, Westport, Connecticut 06881, 1995, 242 pages. *Spying without Spies* deals with how the United States detected the first atomic explosion deep inside the Soviet Union in 1949—a subject that up until now has remained hidden from the American people. The *Manhattan Engineer District* ran the first rudimentary detection system on

Germany in 1944 using A-26s with xenon-detection equipment. Manhattan Engineer District was the cover name assigned to the Army organization that designed, built, and tested the first atomic bombs.

At the end of the war, no one was sure how or if the US could even detect atomic events deep inside the Soviet Union. This book tells how scientists, intelligence officials, Air Force officers, and commissioners of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) grappled with the problem. The book also provides an understanding of how national security decisions were made in the early post-war years.

COLORADO CHAPTER

ECHOES

Email: bdunn@gadas.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President, Jack **Smith**-Vice President, Earl Pierce-Treasurer, Bill **Schmied**-Newsletter Editor, Bryce **Dunn**

Ben Vlassick

BILL SCHMIED REPORTS AND REMEMBERS

Ben was taken on his final ride through the streets of Denver on Friday, 28 Dec 2001, to his final resting place at Ft Logan National Cemetery. It was a long procession filled with family and friends paying tribute to him and ended with a 21-gun salute and taps provided by the Buckley AFB Honor Guard.

Although he is no longer with us, this alumni is a living tribute to him. Ben started it with the first alumni national reunion in 1989. In Feb 1992 we had our first official alumni breakfast and started collecting dues. We followed that with the first picnic in the summer of 1991, and since we hosted another national reunion in '96 and a third in Jun 2001. The picnic has become an annual event and we have had a fall evening social since '98. We would not be a group of AFTAC alumni here without Ben's efforts over the last 12 years and in Nov '01 we recognized his contributions by presenting him a plaque. Now we continue without him, but he will not be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

Scheduled Events

Golf Tournament/Picnic—June 22

Gaming trip to Blackhawk—May 18 (tentative)

Dinner dance, Buckley Camana Club—Nov 9

old times,' you're doing a super job.

Jerry Brown thank you Jerry, great to be reminded of you. How about one of your stories about the 'good old times' - we'd sure like to read one of yours

Pittsburgh, PA 02.1.27

(website application) **Rex Stevens**

LETTERS

Colorado Springs, CO 01.12.02

I received your reminder recently on renewal of my 2002 dues to the (alumni) association. I sure have not been in sync ... blame it on age! Anyway accept my enclosed check and accept my good wishes for a great and happy new year.

We sure did enjoy the reunion we had at PAFB back a few years ago. We had carried away some fond memories when assigned under Dr. Carl **Romney** and Mr. Ben **Melton**, back in the early '60-'65 time frame, at the 1035th with Doyle **Northrup** and Major General **Rodenhauser**. My directed work included R&D on VELA UNIFORM projects, the NASA Deep Well Seismometer instrumentation and the Large Aperture Seismic Array (LASA effort in Montana, among others. Our best regards to any and all still around.

Robert A. Meek, Lt.Col, USAF (Ret)

Bountiful, UT 01.12.06

Every year I think, going to keep ahead, but drat it, I miss, as evidenced by this late check. It's nice of you people not to charge late charges. One of my problems is that I belong to 3 organizations. One is the AF Sgts Assn and the other is the 14th AF Assn (Flying Tigers). I spent almost 3 years in China during WWII. What a wild time, I was a SSgt for over 5 months and didn't know it. Reason, the enemy was between me and HQ's. I found out about the stripes after I was flown out.

I also follow the events in the north of Pakistan with interest. An item of interest I have learned is that all the people there bear the surname of Khan—that name means 'warrior.' This land is sometimes bleak and barren where all they can do is raise sheep and fight. In that country most everyone carries a rifle and/or a sword with a big curved blade—you know, typical GI souvenirs.

I look back on my career with a rosy patina because of age and distance. It's amazing to me that 60 years ago yesterday (12/5) I was inducted into the Army. Two days later and it was Pearl Harbor—began quite an odyssey for me. Looking back from my 80+ years it's been a great panorama. My grandchildren and great-grandchildren, bolster my ego by asking about all the countries I've been in. Now my travels are limited to the 7-

hour oxygen tank on my back. Oh how the mighty have fallen. I do have Hill AFB for my commissary and BX—it's just 20 minutes away. Nuff said, bye now.

Jack E Binkerd PS Isn't it nice my mother did not give me the middle name of Steven. Then I'd be known as Jack S—verbalize that to appreciate it.

Bridgeport, OH 02.1.9

I just received the December Post-Monitor today. By contrast, you mailed me the membership card I received today on 12/20 and I received it on 12/28. I have a sneaky suspicion that the USPS pigeon hole this sort of mail until they have a slack day and deliver it all at once.

Hope you are having better weather than we are. Just had 4 inches of snow and temperatures in the teens—having a heat wave today, supposed to get up to 40 degrees.

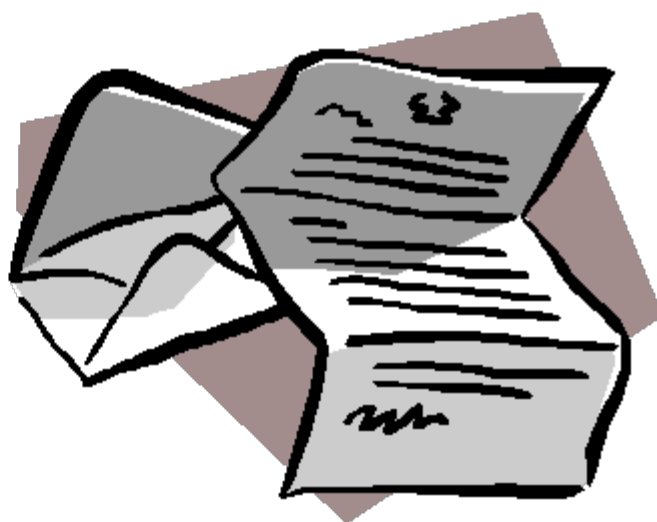
Phil Elliott

Aurora, CO 02.1.17

Thanks for the friendly reminder, I wouldn't want to miss any Post-Monitor issues. Chris, John and the Post-Monitor (contributors/reviewers) do a fantastic job.—I really enjoy reading each issue.

Our chapter in Colorado all deeply miss Ben **Vlassick** who recently passed away. Ben brought us all together with the '96 and '01 reunions and as president of the chapter. I invite email articles concerning Ben (bdunn@qadas.com) to be included in our 'ECHOS' newsletter.

Bryce Dunn Ben will be sorely missed and we look forward to sharing stories about his life and times



enough, mark your calendars and make an effort to attend.

Another fun function coming soon is the AFTAC Spring Picnic set for 13 April at Wickham Park. Put that date on your calendar too! Following our tradition, association members will assist in monitoring the beer wagon. John and Chris **Horsch** have already signed up for one time slot. Should you like to volunteer, please contact, **Carl Gailey**, at (321) 777-0569.

The financial status of the association remains strong. However, mailing costs are going up while the interest income from the association's CD's is down. There are a few members who have not paid their annual dues. Request dues be paid so we can continue to distribute the Post-Monitor as we have in the past.

The Spring Golf Tournament is in the works. **Don Emery** and his crew have volunteered to organize this event. They did an excellent job this past year. Without a doubt the Spring Tournament is bound to be a success. Date and course are to be announced soon. Hope to see you there. In the meantime keep hitting them straight and aim at the target

BOARD MEETINGS

Alumni Association Board Members
Elected President-**Joe Marshall** Vice-**George Mirda**
 Secretary-**Pete Towell** Treasurer-**Steve Cook**
Appointed Heritage Hall Committee
Frank Hall, Clark Creery and **Larry Silhanek**
 Activities-**CMSgt Steve Armitage** Hospitality-**Judy Milam**
 Internet-**Mike Black, Dave Johnson** and **Clark Creery**
 Membership-**Jim Payne** Newsletter-**John and Chris Horsch**
 Publicity-**Swede Swansen**
A Few Minutes from the Minutes
SUBMITTED BY OUR SECRETARY PETE TOWELL

December 2001/January 002

Worldwide Reunion Plans – **Joe Marshall** put an appeal in the newsletter for volunteers to assist with the Worldwide Reunion. Based on previous years' experience, we need to identify the planning team by late spring/early summer.

Heritage Display – The AFTAC Commander, Col Roy **Horton**, would like to work with the Alumni to maintain and update the Hall of Heritage displays. Deborah **Carson** will make sure volunteers get access to the facility

Don Emery volunteered to head the spring golf tournament.

February 2002

The membership rolls currently show 691 members. Of that number, 24 have not paid their 2002

dues (which were due in October 2001), so their membership will be deleted from the rolls, resulting in a current membership of 667. Of the 667 members, 491 are lifetime members.

Steve Armitage reported that the JAG office has given the Constitution package a quick review and could see no glaring problems. A letter need to be sent a letter to the Base Commander requesting a liability insurance waiver.

TSgt Jim **Gross** has volunteered to head the Hall of Heritage project. Nick **Kappel** volunteered to help.

Reunion 2003: Carl **Gailey** reported that he has an outline of the required tasks, and the next step is to get volunteers to head various committees. Jim **Payne** has volunteered to be in charge of the registration database. Additional volunteers are needed as follows: Hospitality room, Banquet and other party arrangements, Registration, Programs and nametags, and Golf tournament. A tentative date of 2-4 May 2003 has been selected for the reunion.

The AFTAC Picnic committee has asked for Alumni assistance once again for monitoring the beer wagon. Carl **Gailey** volunteered to coordinate a sign-up sheet to be sure all times are covered. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.

Other Chapter's News

WEST COAST CHAPTER

DEPOT FALLOUT

Email: TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Elected: Chairman of the Board, Rodney **Hinkle**
 President, Al **Pavik**-Vice, Joe **Johnson**
 Director At Large, Orv **Pritchard**
 Secretary, Marge **Iske**-Treasurer/Membership, Bart **Carter**
Appointed: Newsletter Editor, Dale **Klug**
 Assistant Treasurer, Frank **Goodreau**

Fall Social – A Big Success

SUBMITTED BY AL PAVIK

What a great evening we had at the Café Vienna on November 3rd for our Fall Social get-together. For dining there was a wide selection of German/Austrian entrees and desserts and during the evening, we had the privilege to listen to German music with dancing during the entire evening. It was truly great to get together, see, and visit with people from the active duty days.

Payne (continued from page 1)

technique. Jim worked at several detachments as well as at Denver, Germany and California. In 1981, Col. **'Meis'** selected him to the organization's highest enlisted post, 'Senior Enlisted Advisor,' and he served in this capacity until his retirement in '83.

Along the way, Jim earned a Master of Science degree in Management and was decorated with the Meritorious Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

He has been an active supporter and lifetime member of the Alumni Association since the first year of it's existence in 1985. In 1999, he accepted the Membership chair and has made notable contributions in that position.

Jim has implemented procedures and changed the membership data from a hardcopy status to a computer generated product, and at the same time linking the Worldwide Directory, Membership Directory and the individual data of 4000 records.

Jim has also established procedures to contact individuals who register on the web page and any member who 'overlooks' their dues. He makes them aware of the advantages of staying with, or joining, the alumni association in a very informal, friendly manner. Jim also handles all requests (letters, emails, packages), and ships any items ordered from the association's 'Shop.'

All in all, Jim does an outstanding service for your association. Thank you Jim, for your continuing service to the Air Force, AFTAC, and the Long-Range Detection Alumni Association.

Schnee Kugel (continued from page 1)

Perhaps Sweetwaters, still decked out in Valentine's décor, caused the outflow of hugging, kissing, and fellowship among the AFTAC old timers and their spouses. Tom **Niquette**, former 1157th/ETOA CC, AFTAC/DO, etc, etc, and his lovely wife, Judy, were surprise guests in from California. A photo from a former ETOA Commander's Conference circulated around and two of the youthful men in the photo, Tom **Eddleman** and Tom **Niquette**, looked like real "lean, mean, fighting machines!" Colonel Roy and Dr. Lendra **Horton**, the AFTAC Commander and his wife, were special invited guests. Chief Steve **Armitage**, the AFTAC Superintendent, was another super active-duty guest.

Just before the partaking of the exquisitely pre-

pared sauerbraten, schnitzel, wurst, and ribs, John **Caban** blessed the food and Alumni President, Joe **Marshall** announced the AFTAC Alumni of the Year. Jim **Payne**, former AFTAC Senior Enlisted Advisor, again earned his place in history. Joe's discourse on Jim's contributions was extensive, entertaining, and clearly captured virtues of what an 'Alumni of the Year' (ATOY) means to us all. As Jim's wife, Myrna, looked on, he was presented a beautiful plaque commemorating his achievements. He was pleased and promised to continue his work as the Alumni's Membership Chairman. Moments later, Clark **Creery** (former AOTY) gave more testament to Jim's exceptional contributions. Jim Payne, truly a deserving individual and alumni.

As dinner continued to a mixture of Strauss and Gasthaus favorites and Blacktower Spatlese wine, several door prizes including the beautiful table centerpieces, were given away in a drawing. An Alumni golf shirt was given to anyone who could produce a German mark. Clark Creery won when his wife, Ruth, found a 5-mark bill in her purse. Sweetwater's provided several \$10 gift certificates, as well.

The evening culminated over desserts of strudel, Black Forest cake, and coffee. Parting is such sweet sorrow especially when you're grabbing some grizzled old "99". Did anyone ever figure out what the "R" system was?

Special thanks go out to Deborah **Carson**, Judy **Milam**, Carol **Snyder**, and Pat **Snyder** who's spark, attention to detail, and creativity provided special nametags, centerpieces, theme decorations, and some delightful pretzel ring keepsakes.

So if you didn't come, you really missed an evening of fun and camaraderie. But there is always next year. Now the question is ... what will the theme be? I smell the Pacific Mafia contemplating how to play catch-up. Maybe a luau or, even better, a down-under Aussiefest???



accomplishments over the past few months, some of which are outlined below.

Back in October, 2001, Senior Airman, John **Bannister** graduated from Airman Leadership School (ALS) and garnered not only the prestigious John L. Levitow Award, but picked up the award for Outstanding Academic Achievement as well. The Det 452 delegation, was dwarfed by the larger contingents from units like Kunsan's 8th Fighter Wing and Osan's 51st. However, while they couldn't compete with them in the volume of cheers, they more than made up for it in pride. By the end of the evening everybody was asking, "Who and where is Det 452?" They are now definitely on the map!

People in this part of the world are familiar with the Chinese blessing or perhaps curse, "May you live in interesting times." Well, interesting times would certainly be descriptive of events in Wonju over the past several months. When Major **Levinson** arrived in early June, he was dropped literally into the middle of an oil spill. A local farmer with fields adjoining the Camp Long/Wonju Air Station complex found fuel seeping up from the ground. Unfortunately this wasn't the Black Gold or Texas Tea of Beverly Hillbillies fame, but rather what appeared to be a combination of JP-8 and Diesel fuel, possibly coming from the U.S. facility. Upon further investigation they discovered an uncapped return line between their generator and fuel tank, and that an undetermined amount of fuel had seeped into the ground and might be the source of the farmer's troubles. In the ensuing investigation, AFTAC personnel demonstrated that flexibility is indeed the key to airpower. They all learned about environmental remediation, gas chromatography, underground geological formations, ground water elevation, and a host of other esoteric areas of knowledge left out of the tech school training. Given that wizards are traditionally known for their mastery of arcane arts, this new expertise seems entirely appropriate. After all was said and done, and much money, time and effort was spent by the Army Corps of Engineers, USFK officials, and reps from the 51st CE squadron at Osan, as well as Det personnel, no conclusive link between the fuel in the farmer's field and the leakage from their tank could be made. But their troubles did not end there.

As it is everywhere, environmental concerns are high on the list of volatile political issues in Korea. As the fuel leak saga unfolded, attention from the local media and the local politicians began to increase. During one of the regular demonstrations at the Camp Long gate, demonstrators surrounded SrA Matt **Wohlford** (in a Det vehicle). Eventually, after rather heated discussions between the Camp

Long commander, local police officials, the demonstrators, SrA Wohlford returned safely to Camp Long unharmed. They later learned that the local police chief was fired as a result of his failure to allow the vehicle and personnel free passage. Eventually, the Army assumed responsibility for the fuel seepage and the matter appears to have been settled.
(continued in next issue)

Command Picnic

EMAIL, PAT SNYDER, 2/1/02

SMSGT Karen **Jacobs**, Picnic Chairman, asked that the following be included in the Post Monitor:

You are cordially invited to the AFTAC 2002 Spring Picnic. Date: Saturday - 13 April 2002 at Wickham Park, Melbourne FL from 1100-1700.

In the past, we have counted on the alumni's valuable assistance with the picnic and this year is no different. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact MSgt Burkhardt, chairman of the Refreshments committee at 494-3876 (editors note: or Carl **Gailey** at 777-0569 for 'beer-wagon' duty). Tickets can be reserved by calling Pat **Snyder**, 494-6867.

Chapter News

The FROM THE TOP Picn

This year is moving along like a car at the Daytona 500 for both AFTAC and the Alumni Association. You who are outside the local Headquarters area would be surprised to see the face of the building. Those who had offices with a beautiful view of the ocean can now look out the window and see the back of the steel shield that's been placed over the face of the building. The daily changes keep us surprised. What doesn't surprise me is the enthusiastic support your association board continues to provide to me and to you. The first local function of the year, the annual Snowball, broke the attendance record. Thanks to **George Mirda** and his wonderful team of ladies: **Pat Snyder**, **Deborah Carson**, and **Carol Snyder**. **Tom and Judy Niquette** traveled all the way from California and **Judy Milam** had guests (friends from the days of her AFTAC service on Telegraph Road) all the way from Virginia to attend the festivity. It was a great evening during which I was privileged to announce the Alumni of 2001, **Jim Payne**. Jim will be honored again at the AFTAC Awards Banquet tentatively set for 24 April. Jim, congratulation again for a superlative job. For those of you who live near

Golf n'Gettother (continued from page 1)

We will be playing a scramble or select shot, as many golfers know it. Recommend that you sign up as a team, but if you cannot find enough players please call in and sign up as single golfers. We will certainly find a team for you to play with.

We are looking at holding it to 144 players and it will be first come, first selected to play. The price for this afternoon of fun will be \$30 for association members and \$35 for nonmembers. Food will be served during the tournament.

If anyone would like to attend just for the camaraderie, food and awarding of prizes, the cost will be \$7 for members and \$8.00 for nonmembers. Prizes will be awarded immediately after golf.

Call **Pat Snyder at 494-6867**

Or **Don Emery at 638-4801**

To sign up and for any further information.

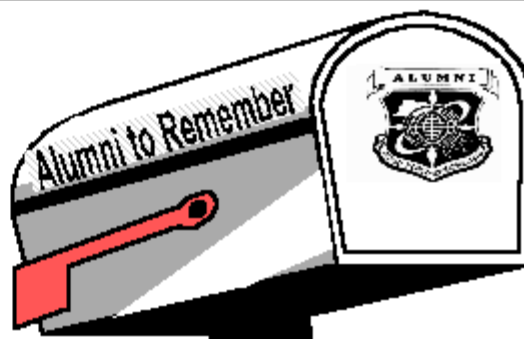


"OH...BY THE WAY"

YOUR EDITORS

Clark **Creery** has asked us to remind everyone that the alumni website is out there (www.csihq.com/aftacalumni) and he's anxious for you to take a look and tell him what you think. Clark writes the 'Upcoming Events' section and works hard on this project and it shows ... he has a lot of information there and a lot of pictures of past events.

Our thanks also go to the folks at CSI for giving us the space for this website ... without their contribution it would not exist—Mike **Black** is our guy at CSI who takes the time to post all the stuff we give him, makes it look very professional, and he does it all almost as quickly as we give it to him. Thanks to all these people for giving the Alumni Association one more way to reach everyone.



Personals . . .

Wherein alumni let us know of events in their lives they want to share. Please send us births (children, grandchildren), weddings, retirements (military or otherwise), and other events.

Hopes of Health for...

Wherein Alumni share hopes for themselves or others...
1/15, Arthur (Don) Gash



TAPS

In Memory of Those We Knew But Are Now Gone

Gen. Daniel Butterfield, 1862

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



All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh,
Thanks and praise for our days,

'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky,
As we go, this we know:
God is nigh.

In Memory Of

Wherein Alumni share names of those gone but never forgotten...

Ben Vlassick (see following)

Ann Clawson (see following)

Dewey N. Weiford, Jr (see following)

Remembering Claude Burgess (see following)

Rest in Eternal Peace

I should have my move completed before the next millennium. I hope that all your holiday's were swell!
Roger **Hornsby** email, 1/8/02

NOTE TO ALL: 4 those of u that don't know it, "GRAND HAVEN" is a SENIOR CITIZENS COMMUNITY with specific rules: 1. Only those with GRAY and BLUE hair are allowed past the gate guard (who is 87 yrs old and has coke bottles for glasses) ! 2. There will be ABSOLUTELY NO USE of turn signals within the community. 3. NO PARTIES after 4 pm! 4. Men who DO NOT wear bermuda shorts with black knee high socks will be considered a "native" and shot on sight! 5. PINK FLAMINGOS MUST BE DISPLAYED IN YOUR FRONT YARD! 6. NO SKATEBOARDING; ROLLER BLADES; MOPEDS; or TWO WHEELED BICYCLES!! (Three wheel and Battery Operated "Get Arounds are OK) 7. You MUST participate in BINGO; GIN RUMMY & SHUFFLE BOARD at the Community Center! 8. You MUST wear DEPENDS when using the Community Pool! 9. Cursing at Neighbors is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN (unless they are from Jersey) 10. Christmas decorations MUST be displayed all year. Hey Killer...Love ya Poondogger....when's the PARTY!?????....Rog
Richard D. **Smith** added, email 1/8/02

You forgot the Welcome package from the homeowners association:

1 - Free AARP membership for one year. 2 - Free parking at the Y. 3 - Preprinted notes to show to the cops which read "Yes, I am her grandfather". 4 - Special permission to park in the driveway after dark (exclusive to Ford Taurus) 5 - Permission slip to use when X members of the military park in the neighbors yard (car in pool exception for Roger)
Email, Danny **Holte**, 1/9/02

Roger, That was no gate guard; that was Kevin Senior himself. He got a little discount for the extra duty.

Tom **Niquette** email , 1/9/02

I have just read Smith's and Rogers's reply and feel that I am being singled out for my age. I want you to know that I am her grandfather and I can too stay up past 5:00 PM except on Saturday when I can stay up till 6:00 PM. Let the Games begin.

-Charles **Conrad** email, 1/10/02

Kevin, After the barrage of "house warming" e-mails, you may be thinking it wasn't a good idea to get a 'puter at home. Rest assured, it's not always like this...It can get much much worse...

HOPE YOU ENJOYED WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU LET FRIENDS KNOW YOU HAVE MOVED. NOW WE CATCH UP ON THE HUHS.

Harold and Denise Huhs

EMAIL, 1/25/02

We moved back to Alice Springs in August of this year. I actually was working for Honeywell and had

a couple of jobs to finish before retiring in November. Don **Anderson** (retired AFTACer) and I installed a seismic station at Marble Bar, Western Australia. We almost finished the installation. The host government agency didn't have commercial power or phone line installed as we thought they had, so we installed the equipment and ran it on a portable generator to make sure it worked like it should. I will be going back as a contractor to IRIS to finish up the job. Leave here on the 4th of Feb. Should finish in a week or so.

Not sure this retirement thing is for me yet. We bought a house in Alice Springs. Its close to the kids and grandkids so we get to be grandparents for real. Its good to be around them. The only AFTACers around here that I know is Ray **Baney** and his family. He works for the Joint Defense Facility Pine Gap and has for several years now. I think Troy **Cobb** is still in town, but I think he will be returning to the U.S if he hasn't already.

ing Active

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

Command Section



Col. Roy E.
Horton III

AFTAC Commander, 2001.02, previously AFTAC DO and before that, CC 91st Intelligence Sq and 694th Intelligence Group, Fort Meade, MD. He has a Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering, from the University of Southern California (79) and a Master's from Defense Intelligence College, Wash. DC (90). He is married to the former Dr. Lendra Persaud, they have a daughter, Denise, and a son, Brian.



CMSgt Steven J.
Armitage

AFTAC Superintendent, 2001.06, 20+-year AFTACer, enlisting 1980.02. Trained as a Scientific Measurements Technician and is a Distinguished Graduate from both the NCO and Senior NCO Academies and earned an MBA with honors. The Chief was selected the AFTAC Senior NCO of the Year in '92. He served at Dets 452, 423, 419 and in the HQs with the Subsurface Operations Branch and DO. His wife Sun Ah Yi is from Wonju, Korea. They have two children, Monica and Steven.

Det 452 Update

CMSGT STEVE ARMITAGE (EDITORS NOTE: THE CHIEF HAD SO MUCH GREAT INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE TO CARRY SOME OVER TO THE NEXT ISSUE)

It wasn't that long ago that the commander and I went to the change of command ceremony where Major Rob **Levinson** took over as Commander. But, like any one-year assignment, it's time to leave before you know it. Major **Levinson** and MSgt Greg **Kidd** made a super team and really pulled things together at 452. MSgt Kidd was replaced by MSgt Scott **McMiller** in Jan '02. Scott's another great SNCO who knows how to make things happen. The Det has had some huge challenges and significant

Ben Vlassick

EMAIL 01.12.26. BEN VLASSICK'S FAMILY

It is with regret that we inform you that Ben passed away on 25 December, 2001, at approximately 0550, following a long battle with cancer. He went quietly in his sleep. A viewing was held on 27 December and the service on the 28th. Both the viewing and service were held at Horan & McConaty Funeral Home. The full-military burial was at Fort Logan, Colorado.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to cancer or Alzheimer's research to: Hospice of Metro Denver, 425 S. Cherry St., Ste 70, Denver CO, 80246-9739.

Ginger Vlassick and Family

In Memory of Ben

JOHN AND CHRIS HORSCH

Ben is gone, he will be sorely missed. The alumni association, and in particular the Colorado chapter, had no greater friend. He was instrumental in its beginning and its upkeep.

We worked with Ben at headquarters and replaced him at the 1157th but we really got to know him and Ginger in our common work with the alumni association. He would go to any extent to help in any alumni endeavor and proved it over and over again.

Ben knew how to work, and he knew how to play—although in his later days it was almost work for him to play. Chris and I talked with him at the last reunion (Colorado, '01) - he poured his heart into that reunion and was so proud to have been selected as the 'Alumni of the Year 2000' and it meant so much to him that the AFTAC Commander personally presented him the award. Even then, we, and Bill Schmied had to reassure him he was not taking too much of the spotlight away from the other chapter members who had also worked very hard to make the reunion a success—that's the kind of guy he was. Uncomfortable being recognized but so appreciative of this honor.

We'll bet that right now Ben is snooping around his new locale, finding all the other AFTACer's he can, and trying to organize an '03 reunion that will be truly 'out of this world.'

Ann Clawson

OBITUARY ABSTRACT, FLORIDA TODAY

Ann Clawson (Wife of Thomas) died Monday December 31, 2001. She was born in Whitetownship, PA and lived in Brevard County since '72. She was employed at Patrick AFB as manager in the ticket and tour office.

Ann is survived by her husband of 40 years,

Tom, and two sons, Martin of Minot AFB, ND and Wayne of Palm Bay.

EXTRACTED FROM THE PATRICK AFB PAPER, THE MISSILLIER, LT COL GUS SCHALKHAM



The AF family at Patrick lost one of their own to cancer Dec 31-Ann Clawson. 'She was a person of the highest integrity and motivation to serve,' said John Detmer, community support flight chief.

If you ever visited the ticket and tour office you probably came in contact with the 'tireless and conscientious' Ann Clawson, office manager since '91, said former director, Jean Rigell. She was also a great baker and provided the cakes for birthdays and farewells for the Services squadron. In all, Ann worked over 22 years in various capacities at Patrick.

In Memory of Ann

JOHN HORSCH

When AFTAC first moved to Patrick ('72), Tom and Ann Clawson were our neighbors and it was Tom whom I first browbeat information about my promotion to MSgt out of. They were good neighbors over the years and eventually I worked with Ann on several occasions as AFTAC used the Comet Club for Christmas parties and other events, and of course she was always at the ticket center to advise on the latest 'best deals.'

An act of kindness from Ann that I was involved in was obtaining logo's for shirts we were providing AFTAC Alumni Association yearly selectees. We got word that Ann could make these patches if we could talk her into it. Well, not only did she do the first two we talked to her about, but she wound up doing one for every selectee going back to the first one in '95, and to top it off, she refused to take any money for doing this. AFTACers will miss her.

Dewey Weiford III

EMAIL 02.01.13. FROM THE SON, DEWEY WEIFORD III

Sorry that I didn't respond to your previous post, as my family and I just returned from D.C. last night. We were there to attend the interment (full military honors) at Arlington for my father, Col. Dewey N. Weiford, Jr. on January 10th.

My father passed away on Oct 17th, '01, following a brief illness related to diabetes. He had resided here in Modesto, CA, with my family and me since January, '98. He had lost his eyesight overnight following heart catheterization, and was unable to continue living on his own.

WHERE ARE YA?!!!

PREPARED FROM READER INPUTS. Where we attempt to get you to let us know "where ya are" and "what'cha been doin" - Forward these updates to us at 'chrisjohn@juno.com' or ATTN Updates column to the Alumni Address (see left column, page 2) - we will publish them in the next issue. Thanks for your help.

Rex Stevens, remembers and catch's up

EMAIL FROM JIM (PAYNE), 1/5/02

I am so glad that you wrote to me. Actually, I was rummaging through my old records last week and came across my military files. The certificate for Air Force Outstanding Unit Award popped up, and, of course, I began to think about how interesting had been my time in the service. So I began a web-research project to see if I could find some reference to the 1035th. I was delighted to discover AF-TAC's Alumni Association (webpage).

You ask about the rest of my service. I enlisted in April 1961, went to Lackland, of course, until June 1961. I then "did time" in PATS (Personnel Awaiting Tech School) at Lowry until my class started in late July 1961. Tech School for 99125Q was 42 weeks. I was then assigned to the Philippines in June 1962. Among my comrades I remember these: A2C Thomas **Heywood**, A2C Larry **McBride**, Lt. **Sheaffer** (C.O.), A2C Patrick **Walker**, A2C William **Fassbinder**, A1C Martin **Nimale**, etc. My service there was from June 22, 1962 to November 22, 1963, at which time I left on emergency leave because of the death of my twin brother in Kansas on the day of John Kennedy's assassination. Bad days.

Rather than extend my enlistment to stay in the 1035th, I was given the option to select any assignment I wanted literally anywhere in the states. I chose McCoy AFB, Florida and cross-trained as a Navigation Aids Repairman working on navigation equipment on B-52's and KC-135's assigned to the 306th Bombardment Wing of SAC. I was discharged in April 1965, went back to Kansas (Wichita), began working at Beech Aircraft Corporation and returned to Wichita State University to complete my Bachelors degree in Philosophy. I worked full-time evenings, raised a family, and went to school full-time days on the GI Bill.

I completed my BA in 1968, my MA in 1970 (GI Bill), and my Ph.D. in 1980. During those years I worked also at LearJet Corporation as an autopilot technician, when William Lear was CEO, and at Sperry Gyroscope Corp. at a radar repair and rebuilding facility in Wichita. I did my Ph.D. at Washington University - St. Louis on a University Fellowship, and began teaching Philosophy at Mercer University in Macon, GA in 1972 (continuing there to complete my dissertation). I began in Col-

lege administration in 1982 as an assistant to the President at Mercer, moved up to Provost, started a medical school, an engineering school, and in 1986, I started the Mercer University Engineering Research Center in Warner Robins, GA. I was Director of that for a year. It was wildly successful doing contract work for the Air Force in Electronic Warfare. It is still successful. (Everyone wondered how a Philosopher could manage an Engineering Research Center. Of course, it was my background and training in the 1035th and my work in the Air Force that made that possible.)

I left Mercer in 1988 to assume the Vice Presidency for Academic Affairs at Western New England College in Springfield, MA, where I stayed for 10 years until I moved to Pittsburgh to do the same job at Point Park College. Both have engineering schools. My success as a college administrator is due largely to my ability to communicate with faculty members in the full range of disciplines from the sciences to the humanities. My knowledge of such bizarre things as electro-spherics (and all that goes along with them), my understanding of electronics generally, timing mechanisms -- well you know what we did -- has given me the confidence and the ability to work with engineering faculty and students. I was once, actually, the Associate Dean of the Mercer University School of Engineering. How about that?

I was fortunate to have served with the finest enlisted minds in the Air Force. Probably the best who ever served in the military. I forgot one thing that would interest you. I enlisted in the Naval Reserve from 1978 to 1980 and served as an Intelligence Specialist with an Intelligence Unit at the Naval Reserve Unit at Dobbins AFB. This was, of course, during the Carter Administration. I did a lot of work during the Iranian Hostage crisis. Satellite imagery technology was an eye-opener, to be sure. I would liked to have continued, but my dissertation and academic career made that impossible.

Sincerely, and with greetings and best wishes to you and those who served.

Kevin Senior

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE IS ONLY PRESENTED TO ILLUSTRATE HOW EASY IT IS TO BE HARRASSED AS YOU TRY TO KEEP FELLOW ALUMNI UPDATED ON 'WHERE ARE YA?!!'

Hey Gang, this is my new HOME e-mail address (yes Kevin has finally bought a home computer and entered the new fangled age of technology). Oh yeah - I also built a new home. Anyway you can send ALL unofficial e-mail to this address and NOT to my Honeywell/AlliedSignal or "HoneySignal" account. (my digs are a part of the new "Grand Haven" community - the actual internal subdivision is called "Heritage Lakes.") I'm still living in boxes but

He thoroughly enjoyed receiving the AFTAC newsletter, and my daughter Kim and I would read it to him cover to cover. He kept up with the current affairs of the organization as best he could, and paid particular attention to the Taps information. He was absolutely amazed at the cooperation between Russia and the US on detection activities and expressed almost disbelief when I described the photos of the Russian Officers touring the Florida facilities in the History of The AFTAC book.

Following retirement in 1975, my father was active in politics and local civic organizations. He served at least one term as President of the Placer County (California) Chamber of Commerce in Auburn, CA. My mother, Dorothy, and he moved to Las Vegas in 1990, where my mother passed away in 1993. He continued to live in Las Vegas until his illness in 1997-8. In reviewing his military records following his death, it appears he was involved with AFTAC almost from it's inception. Although his last assignment (Commandant of the NATO School, Oberammergau, Germany) was outside the organization, to his dying day, he considered himself an "AFTACer."

True to his nature, his final words were "Very well..." Rest in Peace, Colonel.

Claude Burgess

EMAIL: 02.1.3, FROM JIM PAYNE ROM CARL RAINES

Many of our members remember the late Claude **Burgess**. Claude was an airborne operator and died in a plane crash in Japan in the late '50's. Claude's wife was Madru and they had two lovely children. At the time of Claude's death, a daughter, about 5 yrs. old Denise, and a son Tim about 3 yrs. old. My late wife, Betty & I were buddies with the Burgess' when we were assigned together WFO. I was transferred to Australia and Claude to Japan.

My wife corresponded with Madru on a few occasions but as time passed we lost contact. Upon receiving the Alumni Personnel roster, I wrote Madru a short letter to catch up on our lives, mainly to tell her that my wife (Betty) had died. A reply came shortly, but it was from Denise (Claude's daughter) informing me that her mother had died in March 1999. She told me of her life and that of Tim's. I was invited to stop and see them if ever in Gadsen, Alabama.

So, my wife & I stopped in on our way to Texas. Denise is a beautiful young lady, reminding me of her mother. She was a very gracious hostess,

making us feel welcome and preparing a delicious meal. She is happily married, has graduated from University of Alabama, and teaches in a Gadsen public school.

We met brother, Tim. He had been in a serious car accident some 12 years back and is severely handicapped. Tim lives on his own and works part-time, but can't drive. Denise and husband takes care of his many needs. Tim is a handsome young man and considering the degree of his injury has made a remarkable recovery.

I just thought those of you who knew Claude and Madru would like hearing about their family.



Beginnings—Transitions Retirement

Louis R. (Dick) Albani

PAT ALBANI, 2002.2.17

Louis R. (Dick) Albani is announcing his retirement from TRW on 1 April, 2002. Dick was in AFTAC in Australia, 1965-68 and at the 1156 TOS, Wheeler AFB, Hawaii, 1968-70.

He earned his BS from Sacramento State in 1972 through AECP and his MS from AFIT at WPAFB in Dayton in 1976. In 1982 he retired from the AF, as a Captain, after 22 1/2 years of service.

Dick worked for Control Data Corporation in Dayton OH from 1982-89 and accepted a position as VP Manufacturing Systems Integration with BDM in Albuquerque, NM in 1989. TRW acquired BDM in 1998. He is retiring from his position as VP and GM for Global Manufacturing Solutions Business Unit responsible for operations in Europe, Asia and North America.

He and his wife, Pat, intend to remain in Albuquerque, enjoy golfing and traveling and grandparenting.



All in the family

By Capt. Dave Thurston
Public Affairs

What do a postal worker in Tennessee, a federal manager in Colorado, and a maintenance supervisor in Ohio have in common with an electronics expert and a training specialist in Florida? They are all former AFTACers and fathers of current members of the command.

The current Air Force Technical Applications Center family includes at least six people with direct ties to the command's history, including one direct descendent of its first leader.

Capt. James D. Molleson, program manager for Airborne Optical Systems in the Directorate for Acquisition, is the grandson of Maj. Gen. A. F. Hegenberger, the center's first commander.

General Hegenberger was chief of the Air Force Special Weapons Group, AFTAC's predecessor, from December 1947 to September 1949. The general, now deceased, was inducted into the Air Force Hall of Fame in 1981, in part due to his work at AFTAC.

The Operations Directorate claims not less than five father-son teams.

Beginning in 1954, SMSgt. Benjamin Vlassick served the command in a variety of roles. He was superintendent of Detachment 57 at Lowry AFB, Colo., when he retired in 1980. Today, he works for the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Denver.

His son, SSgt. Randall R. Vlassick, is a quality assurance technician at Detachment 313 in Sonseca, Spain. According to Randy, AFTAC was so classified when he was growing up he didn't even know his father worked here. He first learned of the association in 1977, only two years before he became the second generation serving the command.

TSgt. Curtis R. Miller, a satellite systems specialist at Detachment 46, Falcon AFB, Colo., literally followed in his father's footsteps when he came to the center in 1976.

TSgt. Jack Miller, an airborne special equipment operator, retired in 1975 and now supervises maintenance for a chain of banks in Ohio.

A similar story is told by TSgt. Curtis W. Stephens, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Seismic Field Operations Section.

His father, SMSgt. Royce Stephens, was also a member of the 991XX career field who worked on a variety of systems. After retiring, he joined the postal service in Knoxville, Tenn.

Building on his father's legacy, Curt has more than 14 years service with the command.

The last two stories are unique because the senior members still maintain close ties to AFTAC.

SMSgt. Frank S. Calenda came to the center in 1965 and stayed 12 years as a satellite operations supervisor. He retired in 1978 but stays in touch with the command through the Alumni Association.

His son, SSgt. Anthony B. Calenda, a special electronics maintenance technician, is a recent promotee under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program.

Tony says his father's influence was a major factor in his joining the Air Force and coming to AFTAC in 1982.

The senior Calenda recently retired a second time from a local hospital where he practiced his skills on their high-tech X-ray equipment.

According to Tony, his father isn't ready to retire just yet and will continue to work in the field of linear accelerators.

A1C Mark C. Smith became the latest addition to this unique group when he joined AFTAC in August 1988. As an Atomic Energy Detection Center specialist, he works in the same area where his father was superintendent of the Seismic Data Terminal.

Mark's father, MSgt. Curt Smith retired in September 1982 after nearly 26 years service to the command. He was a member of the TRW team that recently completed installation of the new Global Subsurface System. "Smitty" will continue to work for TRW on the GSS training program.

As these stories illustrate, AFTAC is not only a unique and challenging place to work. For some, it's a family tradition.

FEATURE ARTICLES

Long-Range Detection Alumni Association, Patrick AFB FL

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COMMANDER'S RECALL

Background: In light of the ongoing process that is the command, a desire to record the impressions of this "from the top" and the notion we are entering a new millenium, we asked previous commanders to give us a synopsis of their time with the command. We received positive responses from almost every commander to include Gen's **Silliman, Gordon, Clapper, O'Lear, Bingham** and **Shaffer** and Col's **Meisenheimer**, and **Wigington**. We thank these gentlemen for taking the time and effort to share their enlightening remembrances.

*We have respectfully requested inputs from AFTAC's two most recent Commanders, Col's **Beatty** and **Dettmer**. We feel confident they will reply as they find the opportunity in their busy active-duty lives.*

We look forward to being able to pass on their 'Commander's reCall' ...

I REMEMBER...

LRD HISTORY BY THOSE WHO WERE THERE

PREPARED FROM READER INPUTS We solicit your **unclassified** memories of your career (events, people, etc.). Forward these to us at 'chrisjohn@juno.com' or ATTN Remembrances column, to the Alumni Address (see left column, page 2) - we will publish them as in the order received and as soon as we can. Thanks for your help.

Marvin T. Ross, 1009th SWS, '51—'55

Back in those years everything was so classified even the telephone book was classified, and if you went on a trip, you could not tell your wife where you were going or when you were coming back.

When I arrived (Washington DC) I was just returning from 15 months of the Korean War. The staff Civil Engineer had just been killed in an aircraft accident near San Francisco, and they said, Ross, you are now in charge of Civil Engineering - no prior experience. After 1½ years a REAL Civil Engineer, Jack **Huginin** was assigned and they said, Ross, you are now in charge of Procurement.

During my 29 years plus military service, I flew 51 missions in B-24 bombers out of Italy becoming a Flight Commander on my 10th mission and being promoted to Captain 13 months after graduation from Cadets - things slowed up after that.

I flew a C-47 (with 1600 gallons of fuel in the fuselage) from CA to Japan for the Korean War - flew C-47, C-46 and C-54 aircraft out of Tachikawa, Japan, for 15 months.

I worked my various types of Logistics jobs in the USAF and 17 years at Westinghouse near Baltimore after the war. I retired from the USAF as a Lt. Col. In Sep '68. Although I had over 5000

hours flying time, I never landed once at Patrick AFB!!

BS (BARELY SUBSTANTIATED) TALES!

PREPARED FROM READER INPUTS. We solicit **unclassified humorous** tales about LRD events and people - recognizing these anecdotes may be Barely Substantiated (BS). Forward your BS to us at 'chrisjohn@juno.com' or ATTN BS column, to the Alumni Address (see left column, page 2) - we will publish them in the order received and as soon as we can. Thanks for your help.

Boy do we have a plate-full this issue! A great number of our outstanding alumni (6) responded this quarter with their BS and we are going to publish everyone of them, counting on all of you to 'keep it coming' for future issues. So buckle up, and prepare for fun ... as alumni use their creative memories to recall past events ... in the order received:

Bud Horrell

EMAIL, 10/6/01

A small contribution that few know about but some might find interesting.

After the decision was made to install Det 452 in Korea, a number of us were rounded up from various places and sent there to get it done. Try as hard as I may, I had a very difficult time remembering names of those who were there with us. I remember Joe **Augustini** was sent in as the Det Commander and I went up from Det 423. Some others there were Steve **Fetrow** and Wayne **Pulliam**. I think Pete **Graham** was also there but cannot remember. In any event, we were having a very difficult time getting materials, construction help or any assistance from the Army who owned the camp adjacent to the site we were trying to install.

You know how much concrete it takes to install a vault and we were installing a number of them. Plus, we were installing data lines and none of us had any training in line construction other than the hour or so at RMA when we went through school. But, being good AFTACer's, we pulled up our socks, tightened our belts, honed our "midnight requisitioning" skills and went to work.

Two memorable incidents. First, the local Army engineers had a concrete mixer but would not allow us to move it to the site. So, we lined one of our pickup beds with a tarp, mixed the concrete at their base, and hauled it in the pickup truck to the vault construction site. Got 'em installed. However, the pickup truck was literally dragging it's tail when we were done. Guess it was not designed to haul wet concrete.

Second, a couple of us were at Osan trying to get construction materials (with no luck since we did not have 32 copies of what we needed plus notes from our moms). We noticed lots of stuff

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one bothered us much. We lived on the upper floor of the Army's NCO academy at Fort Wainwright. One day, Red let us barracks rats know that we could repaint our rooms, so long as it was done tastefully. The army had two colors in the barracks, light green and dark green. I was busy painting my room beige when the door opened and I hear a voice say, "What do you think you're doing?" I turned around on my ladder to see an Army Lt who was just a bit upset. I told him what I was doing and he says, "Who told you could use THAT color?" I told him Chief Davis. I think I let the Chief know we had a visitor, and he straightened out the Army for us. Come to think of it, the Army never did like us all that much. I don't know if "Red Davis" will even remember these happenings, but I sure do.

Just a short story of a good friend. Harold, great story, and thanks so much for taking the time to share it. Knowing Red's memories, and he shared many of them with us in our September '99 issue, a real collector's issue, he will remember this and maybe even add to the 'Tales of Old.'

George Kraus

EMAIL, 2/13/02

"Mumblin'" Mo Walsh

I met Maurice J. **Walsh** in January 1954 at Brookley AFB while we were waiting for our clearances to be completed. We called him Mo instead of Maury because I suspect that some drill Instructor in Texas decided that his name should be pronounced Mow-reece and not the Maw-reece that he grew up with. Mo spoke very softly and it was always very hard to understand him but we got along well.

We proceeded to Ft. Sill for our training and his speech during the training sessions remained soft and difficult to understand. I do, however, remember his loud and clear response to "Are you a member of the Turtle club" while having a beer or two at Marie's in Lawton.

We were both assigned to Team 421AA, Alice Springs, to establish operations. Mo was our lead maintenance tech and he was very capable in handling any problem that came up. However, he did have a problem (as did everyone else) with the ATP (American Time Products) timing system. The time marks were produced using a system of cams and levers that had to be aligned with precision. The drive motor (I believe) required a well regulated frequency and voltage power source.

Mo would spend hours getting it all lined up and in a short period of time, the unit would malfunction. Of course, we were operating out of a trailer

and using PE-95 generators for power sources which lacked a lot if frequency and voltage regulation were required. But Mo worked diligently at getting it to operate and he would take the unit apart and get in our way as there wasn't much room in the trailer to maintain operations and to have Mo with parts scattered all around.

Mo also had another trait that we all came to recognize. The more beer that he consumed, the louder and clearer his speech became. (Remember his clear speech in Marie's in Lawton.) Whenever we'd be sitting around enjoying a brew or two, Mo would start talking about how he could get that ATP fixed. As the evening wore on and Mo's speech became clearer and louder we knew what we had to do. We had to keep him from getting out to the site and tearing that darn ATP apart, scatter it all over the trailer, falling asleep and leave us to work around it until he woke up to put it back together again. Even today when the "Old Originals" get together, Mo will start talking about the ATP and if he gets loud enough and clear enough for us to readily understand him, we give his keys to Jan (his wife) and tell him that Jan will take him to the site. Great story George, now maybe we'll here Mo's side of this matter

A FAMILY AFFAIR

LRD FAMILIES ... OVER THE YEARS

Some families have served the mission over several generations. With this column we ask those families to share that history.

JOHN HORSCH

We have something we think is real special for the 'Family Affair' area of our feature articles. We asked Curt **Smith** if he and his son would write a column for us ... as a delaying tactic 'Smitty' remembered, and provided, an article from the 'old days.' The following page is an exact 'image' of a column previously printed in the now defunct active-duty publication, 'Monitor,' Dec '88.

Thinking of the 'Monitor' we are not sure of the dates it existed but do remember providing articles for it both when working in DO and as the Senior Enlisted Advisor. We have issues going back to January '84 and know that it continued long after we retired in '87 (maybe some reader can provide better dates). As has been noted before, this active-duty newsletter was one of the reasons for naming this alumni newsletter 'Post-Monitor.'

In any case, enjoy this earlier 'Family' story about the AFTAC generational connection.

just sitting around at various locations on the base (plywood, pipe, concrete, etc). So, we went back to camp and borrowed a five ton from the Army the next day. I think Steve and Wayne were the lucky guys selected to "pick up" the materials so conveniently left out for us at Osan. They gathered them up and all went well until they were leaving and the AP asked for evidence of their authorization to carry the items off the base. Needless to say, they had lost the authorization. I got a call, then called the 1158th and within hours the Base Commander at Osan had a note (contents probably should not be disclosed in this email) signed "RUSK". We not only got our materials off base without further authorization but over the next couple of weeks we had more help than we could use.

Perhaps others who were there could add (or more probably, correct) my version of the events. After all, that was about 35-40 years ago and hard to remember all the facts. So, I probably made some up. Bud, thanks so much, and we would like to hear more from you ... please ...

Mike Steskal

While complying with a fire drill at work I ran into another ex-AFTACer, Don **Tipple**, and since we had nothing better to do at the time we reminisced about some of the things we used to do while working for Lt. Col (Dr.) Joe **Angelo** in TX. One of the unclassified missions that TX got involved in, came to be known as the, "Smoking Hole of St. Kitts."

This adventure happened either in 1984 or 1985, Lt Col. Angelo when not taking TX into the future, taught at FIT on such graduate topics as, how the US should use outer space, things from outer space, space junk, etc. Now the Patrick base commander was either taking one of Joe's classes or had received one of his Air Force briefings that also covered these topics, but whichever it was, the information stuck with him. Because, on or about 28 June of that year the base commander received a message from Maj. **Collenda** the commander of the ETR's tracking station on Antigua Island, stating that a mysterious smoking hole had been reported on the island of St. Kitts.

Since initial investigation did not disclose how the hole was formed. The base commander thinking that it might be an impact crater from a meteorite or space debris, immediately called Lt. Col. Angelo to see if AFTAC could loan him out to the ETR to investigate this phenomenon. Lt.

Col. Angelo got the AFTAC/CC permission to go and took two young AFTAC Captains, Don **Tipple** and Joe **Nicholas**, plus Dr. Bill **Ginsberg** from EG&G along with him to investigate.

This investigation took place over the 4th of July weekend of that year. The team ran into the laid back culture of the Caribbean while trying to investigate, but eventually prevailed and returned to the states. I believe that initial investigation showed that a methane gas explosion formed the hole in the local sewer system.

The whole story was printed in the Patrick AFB, base paper. So if you can research those years you should be able to find a good story to go in the BS portion of the newsletter. Don's long term memories and mine are starting to get suspect so not everything above may be the total truth. Dave **Johnson** down at CSI, and Mike **McClellan** at Harris are also aware of this adventure and may be able to supply some more details. Mike, thank you for taking the time to BS, and maybe Dave and Mike will write ...

Ray Copeland

EMAIL, 12/6/01

A Pole-Line Maintenance Tale

Once upon a time in a land far away it became necessary for some people of the 99 tribe to perform maintenance on their data lines. This required the removal and replacement of numerous sections of spiral 4 cable. This is hard, tedious work and not a favorite task of 99 tribal members especially when weather conditions fall within the brass-monkey storm watch category.

For those of you who have never done it, this chore requires riding a hand powered cable dolly along the data line, removing and replacing a mega number of cradle clamps and quarter mile sections of cable. It has been said that if you want to find an easy way to do something that you should give the job to a lazy man. So, on this cold windy morning, three 99's went out and being less than enthused about this task they devised an "easy" method to propel the dolly along without having to pull yourself by hand. They tied a rope to the dolly and to the 4WD power wagon used as a maintenance truck. At the direction of the dolly rider, the truck driver would move forward slowly as needed for the rider to perform his work.

This worked fine as long as the tribal maintenance chief was there to give guidance to the two tribal maintenance warriors. However, it became necessary for him to return to the detachment supply teepee to get more cradle clamps and ca-

ble. As he returned, he witnessed a sight that would bring joy to the heart of the writers of the Three Stooges.

Since the weather was deteriorating, the driver was becoming quite chilled, had retreated to the cab of the truck for warmth. With the heater going, the engine running and the wind blowing, it was impossible for him to hear the dolly rider's instructions. When the maintenance chief came over the hill he saw the truck moving slowly forward. The dolly had hung up on a cradle clamp and was not moving. This caused the data line to assume a deep "V" profile which caused great concern (fear) in the heart of the rider causing him to scream curses at the driver who could not hear him. At the point when it seemed that either the tow rope or messenger cable on which the dolly was suspended would break, the dolly broke loose and started down the line toward a telephone pole at just under the launch speed of a Saturn Rocket. Seeing this pole rushing at him increased the level of concern in the dolly rider as he was strapped in the dolly and was about 40 feet off the ground.

However, 99 maintenance warriors are very talented and can work wonders especially when drowning in adrenaline. This one managed to get unstrapped just before the dolly hit the pole. He leaped and grabbed the pole and sort climbed/fell to the ground. He then immediately headed for the truck which was still moving slowly. The driver had found that the one English radio station in this foreign land was playing his favorite classical music (Country Western) and he was totally impervious to what was going on around him. The rider opened the truck door with the gentleness of Samson in the destruction of the temple. He briskly removed the driver and started to physically communicate with him.

The maintenance chief reached them just in time to preclude criminal assault charges. After discussion/examination, it was decided that no one was seriously hurt. That being the case the whole thing became funny. Members of the 99 tribe have a strange (warped) sense of humor. It was also decided that as punishment for his inattention, the truck driver would have to ride the dolly and take his chances. So ended a day in the life of some 99 maintenance troops in a land far away.

PS The guy on the dolly was Eugene **Roseth**, the driver was Will **Miles** and I was the Mainte-

nance Super. Super tale Ray, and your format was outstanding, now you've got the hang of it we'd like one-an-issue

Geno Wagner

EMAIL, 12/31/01

After 25 years in the computer business, never having a PC, I finally got on line. My e-mail is wchickendealer@aol.com (it's a long story - that wchickendealer thing).

One of the first things that I learned how to do was to look up people's addresses. When I returned from a detachment in 1966 I roomed with another alumnus of that det, Alfred (Skip) **Hallenbeck**. I moved on and lost track of Skip. He stayed in the Northern Virginia area. But I found him through the internet.

The tale goes: one night after having quite a few San Miguels Skip decided he would try a Balute. Anyone who was in the PI knows that a Balute is a ready to hatch egg. They are a delicacy, sold at bus stops, etc. You are supposed to just swallow it whole, right out of the shell. Skip chose to chew it (bones and all). It even made the locals sick. But that was Skip. Thanks Geno, now we want to hear about that wchickendealer thing.

Harold Huhs

EMAIL, 1/25/02

Have been going to send these stories for a while, but finally am getting around to doing it.

My first field assignment was to Det 204, Bender Mountain, Alaska. Chief Jimmy **Davis** was in charge of the "B" and "Q" operations. This was in 1963/64. During this time, we were always busy as we were supporting an operation at Murphy Dome and were somewhat involved in the upcoming move to what is now Det 460.

One day Chief Davis and a couple of the guys had to go off to Murphy Dome and while there they had to dig up one of the old JM seismometers. They picked up a driver from Murphy Dome and he ferried them out to the instrument site. Chief Davis quietly told one of the guys to just follow his lead. He very carefully located the instrument site and they began to dig into the soil. When the familiar "Clunk" of hitting the vault occurred, the Chief yelled "RUN" or some such thing, the guys took off, and you can believe the Murphy Dome driver did the same thing. They had to retrieve him so they could be driven back to the Dome. I will always remember "Red." He was fair, but firm as I can well attest. He did a very nice job letting me know where I stood and I appreciated that.

These were in the days when AFTAC was a mystery to the bases we were located on and no