

◆ POST - MONITOR ◆

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 1

Your Association • Serving Sages Since March 1985 •

2007 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
Center's Sages

Long-Range Detection
denotes and represents
all who served the
mission throughout its
inception and history

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





SAGE SALUTE

THE LONG RANGE DETECTION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
PROUDLY PRESENTS

**2006 ALUMNI OF THE YEAR
DEBORAH CARSON**



Association President Bob Wiley presents the traditional 'T'

Congratulations Deborah for this important recognition during SnowBall IX. The highlight of the annual event, the announcement recognizes the many contributions Deborah has made to supporting alumni and the association-especially in the areas of reviewing portions of this publication and her management of the annual SnowBalls.

Spotlighted in the September Post-Monitor last year, her alumni association peers selected her for this honor. Her many accomplishments are detailed in that issue. Thank you Deborah and we look forward to your continuing assistance.

Additionally, Deborah was recognized at the Center Annual Awards event. More on that, and a picture, in the 'Center Annual Awards' article that follows and in the 'Prez Sez' column.

ALUMNI ALERTS-WHAT'S COMIN' UP

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

CENTER ANNUAL PICNIC, MARCH 24TH

Full information and details on page three.

17TH ANNUAL FALL GOLF N'GETOGETHER

MAY 4TH, COCOA BEACH GOLF COURSE

Full information and details on page three.

WORLDWIDE REUNION, JUNE 7-11, 2007

The Colorado Chapter will host a 2007 World-Wide Reunion in Denver, see Dec issue, pages 15-18, or any of the alumni websites (addresses on page two, chapter listings), for info and registration forms. **Important Registration note, pg 12.**

ALUMNI EVENTS-WHAT'S GONE OFF

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

WE THREW A SNOWBALL, NUMBER NINE

DEBORAH CARSON- MAJOR ARRANGER, JUDY MILAM, EDITORS

Since 1999, it has become customary for the Alumni Association to arrange a 'Themed Ball' at the beginning of each year. (continued on pg three)

CENTER WINTER SOCIAL

BOB WILEY

The AFTAC Winter social at the Imperial Hotel is always a wonderful opportunity for the alumni to visit each other and (continued on pg three)

CENTER ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET, MARCH 1

BOB WILEY; EDITORS

This is always a grand event, and evening, with AFTAC's finest being recognized. Several Sages were present while the ceremony unfolded and were personally on hand to (continued on pg three)

ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

Honor Roll: Alumni Of The Year Recipients

Deborah Carson 2006

Mike Black 05-Joe Goldian 04-Pat Snyder 03-'Joe' Johnson 02
Jim Payne 01-Ben Vlassick 00 (deceased)-John Horsch 99
Frank Hall 98-Judy Milam 97-Carl Gailey 96-Clark Creery 95

Long Range Detection Alumni Honorarium

Several ongoing projects representing and honoring center people and its history exist: Two of these, 'Hall of Heritage' (data/artifacts) and the 'Wall of Honor' of alumni who served the center for 20+ years (and have mailed in their photos/bios), are housed at AFTAC Headquarters. Another is an AFTAC display at the Encampment, Wyoming, Museum.

ASSOCIATION HISTORY A group of retired and active duty AFTACer's, by invitation from then CC, Col **Clapper**, met at the Patrick AFB, FL, NCO Club on March 12, 1985 and formed the association with a charter in 1986. It intends to provide a forum for those wishing to maintain a relationship with the center and its people, active-duty and retired. Membership is open to past/present 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.

There are three chapters.

Florida (application on back page)-Dues, \$10/FY (1 Oct-30 Sep) payable in Oct/\$75 for life. Monthly meetings at 5:00pm on the second Monday of each month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC HQ's building (989) at Patrick AFB, FL. Contacts: Randy **Vlassick**, RVLASSICK@cfl.rr.com, Pat **Snyder**, 321-494-6867/patricia.snyder@patrick.af.mil.; mailing address is: **Long Range Detection Alumni Assn, PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892**. There is this quarterly newsletter, 'Post-Monitor' (staff data below) (namesake of a prior active-duty publication, 'Monitor'), and a Website, 'http://www.aftacalumni.org', with assn/alumni data, newsletters and photos-WebMaster-Mike **Black**; the 'Need to Know Now' section contains current event and 'Sages to remember' information. There are ~627 Members, ~560 lifetime.

Florida Chapter "PERENNIALS" (5+ years board service) Clark Creery-Newsletter, from start-84/89-95, Pres 94/95, Webpage, 01-07; Frank Hall, Pres/Vice 89-98/01; Judy Milam, Sec 89-00/05, Hospitality since 01 Pres 04; Eunice Harris, Hosp 89-00; Mary Welch, Mbrshp 91-99; Carl Gailey, Tres 91-99; Swede Swansen, Pub 93-06; John (Christel) Horsch, Newsletter since 96; Pat Snyder, 'Insider' since 96, VP 04, Sec 05; Mike Black, Webmaster since 96; Jim Payne, Mbrshp 99-04

2. Colorado-Formed in 1989, dues, **\$5 year**, payable in February; chapter publishes a newsletter, 'Echoes' and supports a website, 'www.aftacco.org.' They meet several times a year for information, Bill Schmied, (303) 367-0625. There are ~105 members.

3. West Coast (California)-Formed in 1999, **\$5 year/\$50 lifetime**; for information-email, TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com or AFTAC Alumni Assc, West Coast, PO Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974. They meet several times a year, publish a newsletter, 'Depot Fallout' and have a website, 'www.AFTACwest.org.' There are 161 members-125 lifetime.

Sage Communicators

Newsletter Editors: John & Christel Horsch

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

Executive Review: Frank Hall/Carl Gailey

Rovin' Photographers: Judy Milam/Bob Wiley

Rovin' Reporter: Clark Creery/Bob Wiley

Printing/Mailing: Editors/Carl Gailey/Jack Jackson

Web: Master, Mike Black, '**NTKN**' Link, Editors

"A TEAM"...OF HORSCHES

'58-'87



EDITORIALLY SPEAKING



Boos, Boobos and Bulletins: ePoMo transmission to chaspenn@starstream.net failed (hard-copy sent) please forward corrected email address.

We start with congratulations to Deborah **Carson** for her recognition as 'Alumni Of The Year, 2006.' A well deserved honor for someone who has labored long and hard for our Sages. Besides being extra critical to the success of this newsletter in her role as one of our important reviewers, she has also spearheaded the last several SnowBalls and, attends most monthly meetings. Thanks, Deborah, and your continuing support is important to our 'Sage Success!'

Next remember the upcoming 'WorldWide Reunion' in Denver, CO, June 7-11, 2007. We plan to attend and hope to see many other Sages and readers/writers there. Information on this event, with registration forms, are available in our Dec issue and at all chapter websites (addresses to the left of this column), or by calling any of the listed phone numbers. Because we plan to attend, and to provide the most current information, the 'June' newsletter will be postponed until we return; we'll shoot for late June, early July.

Mike **Black**, Webmaster, relocated this quarter, taking a new position in IL. The website was down while he made this move but he had it up and running in good time. Those who are used to finding the 'Happenings' link will be sad to learn that Clark **Creery** found it necessary to reallocate his time otherwise. We will certainly miss all the data and information Clark provided on a continuous basis at this site but appreciate he was able to do it for such a long period. In its place, we have added a 'Need To Know Now' (NTKN) link that will provide information we need to provide to you between newsletters, and in addition to the emails (e-alls) we send. Check the website, and, if needed, register your email address.

In this issue you will read AFTAC Superintendent, CMSgt Lloyd **French's**, 'farewell' article and be introduced to the newest CCS, CMSgt Steve **Herrick**. Chief French was very helpful to the alumni association during his tenure and supported the association as our 'Activities Chair.' We appreciate that support and the credibility it brings to us with the active-duty force. We have been in contact with Chief Herrick and look forward to that relationship continuing.

CENTER ANNUAL PICNIC, MARCH 24 (from pg one)

This annual event, always well attended by Sages and Active-Duty, occurs right around our publication and mailing dates. This newsletter will reach many of you too late for this event and we apologize.

It was posted earlier on the new website link, 'Need To Know, Now', and an email, 'e-all', was sent. If you did not receive that e-all, and have email, please register your email address at the alumni website, and check that new link often for any updates and other time-critical information.

As usual, it will be at 'Chevron Park,' the old survival area to some of us. Prices are always minimal for the time, food, and beverages, had by all. We expect to see many games being played by the small pre-sages, and the Sages looking for 'horseshoe bait' to challenge.

Also, if you really want to track down the old-timers, drift toward the BEvERage wagon; it is their annual tradition to man this mighty task!!!

17TH ANNUAL FALL GOLF N'GETOGETHER (from pg one)

'SAGE, ON
THE RANGE'



The Association's 17th Annual Spring Golf N' Getogether Tournament will get underway on 4 May 2007 at the Cocoa Beach Country Club.

As always, our corporate sponsors have come through with some excellent grand prizes as well as a great assortment of door prizes. The price for this afternoon of fun will be \$40.00 for association members and \$45.00 for non-members, which includes a great BBQ dinner by 'Smokin' Joe's' BBQ."

You may **signup** by calling:

Addison **Mitchell**

(work) 321-494-6267

(cell) 321-917-5937

Or Pat **Snyder**

494-6867

Deliver your payment to Addison

or Pat in person, or mail to:

Long Range Detection Alumni Assoc,
PO Box 254892

Patrick AFB, FI 32925-0892.

Checks should be received no later than 25 Apr 2007.

Check-in begins at 1130 and the shotgun start will be at 1300. There will be plenty of water and soda on the course, and a beverage cart will be available. The BBQ dinner will be served in the Clubhouse following the golf tournament. We will also award the prizes during/after dinner

This tournament fills up quickly, so sign up early to ensure a spot in the tourney. There will be a limit of 144 players. If you are not interested in golfing, but would like to attend the BBQ dinner, the cost for the meal is \$10.00 and reservations for dinner-only are requested

SNOWBALL (from pg one)

This year's event occurred on January 27th at the combined ranks club, 'Tides.' Eighty-six Sages, and mates (spouses, friends, etc) attended, our most ever, to include the current AF-TAC Commander, Col Mark **Westergren**, the Vice-Commander, Deborah **Asselanis**, AFTAC Chief Scientist, Dr **O'Brien**, and, Director of Materials, Chuck **McBrearty** (soon to be full-time Sage!), Logistics and Systems, Col Doris **Bruner** and the Superintendent, Chief Lloyd **French**. The previous CC, Col **Turner**, and several of the past Senior Enlisted Advisors/Superintendents, **Payne**, **Silhanek** and yours truly, and previous Directors, **Hall** and **Whitney**, were also there.

Deborah **Carson**, and those who assisted her, Judy **Milam**, Eileen **Best**, Pat **Snyder**, had truly outdone themselves with outstanding place settings and arrangements. The slide show was fabulous, giving us a small preview of life in Chaing Mai, Thailand and the military compound housing. We had Thai entertainment this year, with music and eloquent traditional dancers (Suree, Csaron, and Mantana). The most recent Detachment Chief, SMSgt Rich **Bohn**, talked about being stationed at Det 415 and gave us a flavor for 'being there.' Once again the club outdid themselves with an excellent abundance of authentic Thai food on the buffet. No one went home hungry.

Near the end of this great evening, Deborah drew names for the table centerpieces, live bamboo & silk orchids and the following guests were the lucky recipients: Kathy & Sam **Sorice**, Judy

Milam, Florence Jackson, Doris Bruner, Steve Cook, Don Whitney, Chuck & Linda McBrearty, Ed Hollingsworth, Chris Horsch, Moira Eddleman, Janice Warfield and Jim Payne.

Everyone agreed this was the best SnowBall yet. If you were not there this year, make plans for the next, 'SnowBall X.'

WINTER SOCIAL (from pg one)

get an update of what the active duty troops are up to through the informative slide show that's presented. It was also the first time some of us met the new Commander, Col Mark **Westergren**. His message to the attendees set the stage for a pleasant evening. The buffet was delicious and plentiful and, once again, the alumni were rewarded by being sent to the front of the serving line along with the commander's table. There was lots of socializing, dancing, and anticipation of the door prize drawings during the evening. Attendees included the **Dobrins, Loftis', Winchesters, Hammonds, O'Briens, Cooleys, Mir-das, Wileys**, and the **Dey** family. The **Sorices** joined us after dinner due to a conflicting company party. Patty Hammond and Judith Wiley were among the prize winners. If you haven't participated in the Winter Social lately, you are missing out on an enjoyable time with your fellow alumni. See you in December 2007.

CENTER ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET (from pg one) applaud our 'Alumni Of The Year, 2006' recipient, Deborah **Carson**. See more about this event at the President's Column, 'From the Top.'

Other well-deserving AFTAC personnel, both active-duty and civilian, were also honored on this evening of recognition for the 'Center's Best.'



AFTAC CC, Col Westergren, and CCS, CMSgt Herrick, present Deborah her award.



Personals ...

Wherein alumni let us know of events in their lives Sages should be aware of. Please send us deaths, births (children, grandchildren), weddings, retirements (military or otherwise), and other events.

In Memoriam



Donald C Larson
Beverly Stites Orr
Jerry Fuqua
Jane Dettmer
Arthur Donald Gash
Joseph Fitzgerald
Marianne Cabrin Wheeler
William Franklin Drake
William John Auth
Jon Boyd Secoy

Rest in Eternal Peace

Donald C Larson

ROBERT (BOB) PAULK-EMAIL, 12.20

I was assigned to Det 207 at Eielson from 1963 to 1965. A good friend of mine at Det 207 was Donald C. Larson who was a 99 type ("E" system at 207, I believe). Don retired from the Air Force while in AFTAC and passed away a few years later on August 27, 1991. Robert Jackson and I (both members of the Alumni Association) attended his funeral. Every time I see a listing of former AFTAC members who are now deceased, I think that I need to find out the date Don died and take action to get his name included in that list. A few days ago I asked for this info in a X-mas card I sent to his widow. She has replied and gave me the date. I am requesting that you take care of this matter. Pleased to do so, Bob.

Beverly Stites Orr

FLORIDA TODAY, 12.20

Beverly Stites Orr, 68, of Orlando passed away Monday, December 18, 2006. She was born in Charleston, WV, and grew up in Franklin, WV. She was a member of the Pioneer Chapter 99, Order of the Eastern Star, Winter Park, FL. She married Mr. Leo Orr of Michigan in 1962 and they

moved to Florida in the '70's.

Jerry Fuqua

FLORIDA TODAY, 12.22



MELBOURNE Jerry N. Fuqua went to his eternal rest on Wednesday December 20, 2006. He lived his life in a truly fulfilling way from his 30 year Air Force career to his quest to try every hobby, project or volunteer job he could handle while being a friend and go-to guy to all. He is survived by his best friend and wife of 40 years Janet; his wonderful son, Jerry II; the light of his life, grandson, Jordan; loving brother, Joe Louis (Audrey) and many other friends and relatives. A private burial At Florida National Cemetery is planned. The family requests that memorials be made to Melbourne Kidney Center or The Brevard Transplant Support Group. Brownlie-Maxwell Funeral Home in Melbourne is serving the family.

Jane Dettmer

BOB FITZGERALD-EMAIL, 01.01

I am very sad to report that I just received a call from our good friend Herb Dettmer informing me that his beloved wife Jane passed away yesterday. Check for Obituary in the Sacramento Bee www.sacbee.com.

Arthur Donald Gash

EXTRACTED OBITUARY FROM SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS, 01.08



CMSgt. Arthur Donald Gash, USAF, Retired, age 79, of Universal City passed away January 6, 2007. Mr. Gash was a World War II, Korean and Vietnam Veteran. He was also a member of The Kiwanis Club of the Greater Randolph Area, VFW Post 8315 in Schertz and Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church. He is survived

by his wife, Mary P. Gash. Interment was at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with full military honors.

Joseph E. Fitzgerald

ROBERT (BOB) STROCK-EMAIL, 01.24

(Teams 142 and 165 Jul 1956 - Mar 1960)

Bill **Schmied**, of Colorado, gave me your address as a place to forward information as to the passing of Joseph E. Fitzgerald 1935-2006 who served in the Air Force from 19 Mar 1956 to 18 Jun 1960. AFTAC from Jul 1957 to Jun 1960 with "B" Team 142 Encampment and the Analysis Team 165 Laramie. As a side note, Joe extended 3 months because his wife was expecting, then the baby came early so he would not have had to extend. Attached is a copy of his obituary. Marge Fitzgerald's e-mail address at the present time is

josefz@capital.net. Bob, thanks for thinking of us with this information. The obituary was published on 2001.01.01, extract follows:



SOUTH GLENS FALLS, NY Joseph E. Fitzgerald, 71, a resident of South Glens Falls, passed away Friday, Dec. 29, 2006, at Glens Falls Hospital. He was born on May 14, 1935, in Ogdensburg, N.Y. Mr. Fitzgerald married Marjory Vrbas on June 1, 1957, at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colo. He retired from General Electric in 1993 after 38 years.

Mr. Fitzgerald was a veteran of the United States Air Force as a special instrument specialist. Mr. Fitzgerald was also a member of St. Michael's Church, where he worked bingo, the Glens Falls council 194 Knights of Columbus and the South Glens Falls Fraternal Order of the Eagles, where he served as past president and auditor. Upon his retirement, he enjoyed traveling with his wife and cooking at the Eagles Club in South Glens Falls.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Marjory Fitzgerald of South Glens Falls. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 2, at St. Michaels Church. In lieu of flowers those who wish may send a remembrance in his name to the American Diabetes Association, Albany Office, 7 Washington Square, Albany, NY 12205.

Marianne Cabrin Wheeler

BRUCE WHEELER, EMAIL, 02.28, ALBUQUERQUE, NM

I regret to inform you that Marianne Wheeler, wife of Col. Bruce H. Wheeler, died in her home on 17 December 2006 from pulmonary failure. She was born January 6, 1930, in Helena MT and grew up on the family ranch in Wolf Creek MT. Marianne was a professional Registered Nurse/ Nurse Practitioner for more than 50 years. She loved Western history and delighted in wearing her period costumes at annual history meetings. I've never known any one like her. She was truly a free spirit !

Memorium, Dick Payne (last issue)

LES MILLER-EMAIL, 03.01

I think it is rather ironic that I had just sent you the clippings of happenings in Blenheim, when you sent notice that Dick Payne had passed on. I didn't see any mention of his Scuba Diving passion. While at 430 he and Maj. Bowles were both very active in the Blenheim SD club. As a matter of fact while all of us were still living in Mrs. Bing's Flats, Dick and Maj. Bowles rented a boat one Sunday and took me and my family along for

the afternoon on Marlborough Sound as they Dived for Lobster. When the day was over, they gave me 6 lobsters. So this was quite an experience for me and my wife as neither of us had ever cooked a lobster before, but I did know that you had to cook them alive in boiling water. Our kids were rather shocked that that is how you cooked lobster.

William Franklin Drake

JOE JOHNSON-EMAIL; 03.05 EXTRACTED OBITUARY FROM SACRAMENTO BEE FROM 3/4/2007 - 3/5/2007



DRAKE, William Franklin, passed away peacefully the 28th of February 2007 at home due to complications from Lymphoma. His wife Lori was, as she had been most of Bill's life, with him in his final moments. Bill was born in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on April 20, 1936. In 1954, he entered into the United States

Air Force and was posted at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento, CA with the 1155th Technical Operations Squadron. While on leave during the spring of 1960 in Sacramento, Bill met and fell in love with Loretta Towner. In April of 1961, they were wed. In 1964, Bill retired after 10 years of service from the U.S.A.F. with the rank Staff Sergeant Supervisor and began his 31-year career at Campbell Soup that culminated in his becoming Area Manager-Can Plant. Plans are pending for a Celebration of Life in April of 2007. For further information, please e-mail duckspndcelebrate@sbcglobal.net

William John Auth

JOE JOHNSON-EMAIL; 03.07 NOTIFIED OF THIS OBITUARY



William John Auth, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret) answered the Last Roll Call from his home in Citrus Heights on 3 March 2007. Left with loving

memories are the four children he raised after the death of his wife, Virginia Ellen Meyer Auth (25 March 1967).

Bill was born 15 August 1923 in Cleveland, Ohio. He was a four year honor student at Cathedral Latin, Silver Jubilee Class of 1941. He inter-

rupted college to join the Army Air Corps as a pilot cadet in February 1943. Bill earned his pilot wings and appointment as 2nd Lt. on 8 February 1944. As a B-17 pilot with the 8th AF, 91st Bomb Group (H), 324th Bomb Sq., he flew 22 combat missions from Basingbourn, England. His final mission, 25 April 1945, was over Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, pilot of the low squadron lead plane - No. 588. His "unbiased view of what was happening" provided research material to the author of "The Forgotten Final Mission" by L. Getz, Aviation History, Jan. 2003.

An AF Regular Officer and Command Pilot, he was Deputy Chief, MCL, 1155th Tech Ops Sq., McClellan AFB at the time of his retirement in 1968. Bill was an avid golfer, getting a Hole in One in 1972, still playing with golf buddies until recently. Private burial ceremony at Golden Gate National Cemetery. The family requests that memorial donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or the charity of your choice. Extracted obituary from the Sacramento Bee, 3/7 - 3/8/2007.

Jon Boyd Secoy

BRENT BRAUD-EMAIL; 03.09, EXTRACTED OBITUARY, FLORIDA TODAY, 03.09



Jon Boyd Secoy passed away at his home in Melbourne on March 8, 2007. Jon was born November 29, 1940 at Lancaster, Ohio. He served honorably in the U.S. Air Force, earning three Commendation medals and a Meritorious Service medal over a 20-year career, working mainly for the Atomic Energy Detection Commission. He retired in 1981 as a Senior Master Sergeant.

Following his Air Force service, Jon earned a BS degree from Rollins College in 1982, and joined McDonnell-Douglas as a Senior Quality Engineer in the Space Defense Systems division. In 1988, Jon was presented the "Silver Snoopy" award for professional excellence by NASA. He retired from the company in 1998. Jon is survived by his former wife, Phyllis Secoy of Melbourne. Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to the Vitas Hospice, 4450 W. Eau Gallie Blvd, Suite 280, Melbourne, FL 32934.

Hopes of Health for ...

Alumni share hopes for themselves or others

None Submitted

Also, Those Not Mentioned But In Our Thoughts



MAIL - CALL

Any requests for action should be sent to
Long Range Detection Alumni Association
PO Box 254892

Patrick AFB, FI 32925-0892

Missives requesting no action may be mailed/emailed to the editors, chrisjohn2@earthlink.net. They may be edited for clarity and space but not normally for punctuation, wording, etc; any opinions are those of the writer(s) and may not reflect Association belief or policy

Thanks' to all who write!! We publish all correspondence, unless otherwise requested, so your name, and the memories it invokes, may be recalled. Normally, we will not include personal information, e.g., address, phone number, etc, unless you ask or seemingly appropriate (e.g., follow-up).

LETTERS/EMAILS

Electronic Post-Monitor (ePoMo) Response Our First Sage Responder (FSR)

Clark Creery-email **2006.12.13**

You folks have done so good. This issue is to die for. What a wonderful issue and it has sparked me to write more to bore the folks. Since you folks took over, it has run smoothly and the content is way above the bar. Thank you folks for your dedication and efforts. If folks only knew what it takes to put together an issue and the logistics of getting it out to the members. That is our product and you keep us alive. Wow ... thanks Clark, and you would know since you have 'done it all.'

Frank Calenda-email **12.15**

Another great issue. I am really floored at the "explanation" of AFTAC and it's workings. Time was we would have been shot at sundown, or right after we divulged that info, whichever came first. Right on, Frank, and thanks for writing and the compliment.

John Reinders-email **2007.01.03**

(John's initial ePoMo failed because of 'permanent errors')

Thanks for your persistence, John. At my age, I can't afford any "permanent errors." Also, thanks for all the work you and Chris put in publishing the Post-Monitor. I know it's a labor of love; however, I'm also sure it can become a more-than-occasional hassle. You guys are the glue that keeps all us AFTAC pieces together.

I hope 2007 is a great year, bringing you good health, happiness and heaps of good fortune...

Thanks, John, and it is a joy because of the group we serve.

GENERAL MAIL

Jim Davis-email **12.12**

(Jim responds to an email letter we sent him)

You know John I miss the ole gang after all these years, what a super bunch of people we had to work with, and we got the job done, didn't we ? As you (I) look back we had a pretty important job didn't we and to a large degree we never thought too much about it, we just knew what was expected of us and never questioned some of the un-explained requirements or needs we just went ahead and done it.

I often wonder if today's men (and women) are about the same, but I'm sure they are far more advanced and educated than we were and I'm sure the equipment and requirements are far more sophisticated than they were 30 - 35 years ago. How we managed without formal training and university degrees is a mystery. The school we attended was focused on what we were going to do and the rest was OJT. That sometimes makes me wonder if all this formal training and university education is really necessary??????

My Best Wishes and Warm Regard To All of the ole gang you happen to come in contact with in that area.

Bob Paulks-email **12.20**

(Bob wrote of Don Larson's passing in Aug, 91, and added)

I was an administrative type and was reassigned from Det 207 to the Hqs arriving in January 1966. I worked in the Alert Control Center in the basement where all the incoming messages from the various dets and other locations came in. I remember you very well. I know you were a "B" man and worked along with Harvey **Shaw**, and **Smitty**. We were all SSgts at that time, I believe. I went to Det 5XX in Nov 69 and back to the Hqs in the IG Security Branch in Dec 70. I spent two years at Patrick and retired in Dec 1974.

I enjoyed my 11 plus years in AFTAC and really appreciate the work you and others have done in keeping the Alumni Association alive and healthy. I look forward to receiving each issue of the "Post - Monitor" and reading about both present and past events. Keep up the good work.

OUR REPLY (info to Clark Creery): Bob, Thank you so much for this contact and information, and the compliments. It is so memory stirring to be reminded of the days in the basement in VA-great days they were and you guys were an integral part of the whole mission. I remember so well walking the hall to your room to pick up messages from the detachments-did you guys call us or did we just go down every once in awhile? It's my memory you called us-sometimes when we were anxiously awaiting messages from locations to better fix an event location. You are 100% about this being our first notice of Larson ... Clark Creery maintains a database of

deceased 'Sages' and that database that would have carried Don's name, had we known. We are confident Clark will add Don's name to this listing and we will also publish this info in the March PoMo. That deceased listing is at the alumni website, www.aftacalumni.org, link, 'Need To Know, Now!! Thanks again for your interest in AFTAC alumni and your membership and readership.

Bob replied: Clark, I have viewed the posting you did on the Association webpage regarding Don Larson. You took care of the matter in typical AFTAC fashion that being with expedience and accuracy. I will email Don's widow and give her the web site where she can review the listing. Many thanks. John, In your email you asked if we called the section letting them know we had traffic for them. I don't believe we called in each instance but on the "hot" ones with the "Operation Immediate" precedence or in some instances "Flash" we certainly did. The comm center guy would come running down the hall with the message and hit it with the timer and then smile. He had completed his mission and we had to move fast like and notify the proper section. Seems like the events occurred mostly on the mid shift. You could sure come wide awake real quick when they happened. I know you know the feeling. Thanks again to you two guys and I hope to see both of you at the next reunion in Florida. Keep up the good work.

Ron Geleta-email

12.30

(Webmaster, Mike Black passed this on)

... on the membership application page, there were 2 questions at the bottom. One said do you want to receive the Alumni Directory via e-mail. I checked 'yes' (Ron went on) There are 2 persons living in the Florida area that were members of Det 154 [we were called 'Team' in our day] Tony **Carbone** living in Fort Pierce and Ray **Comazzi** living in Winter Park. Ray has become quite famous with his water color paintings. Another person was Jack **Holowitz** [from New Kensington, PA] who now lives in Springfield, MA, and has built himself a photography business and has also been nationally recognized for his work.. Guess developing all that film got him hooked. Jim **Nangle** [formerly from Danvers, MA] is another person that is still in our contact circle but he's been moving around quite a bit with his consulting business. Frank **D'Angelo** is a retired federal government employee living in Exeter, PA. I've been trying to get them all to register. Other names that were in Vermont with us that I see registered are: Frank **Phelps**, John **Adams**, Pat **Genzler**, Don **Mullins**... My uncle was a former president of the US Army Intelligence personnel

and said that their group had posted announcements in the VFW & American Legion magazines to get people out of the wood work and come to reunions. They meet annually in the Pocono's in Pennsylvania. Thanks for your membership and all the memory nuggets (names) and hope you bring them 'all aboard!!!!'

Ron Replied:

Yes... I did sign up for lifetime membership. Some of the people have been talking to have a reunion in Burlington, Vt, this summer. Most of us who joined the team when the original group moved down from Dow AFB, Bangor, ME, came from the northeast area of the US. We just haven't been able to locate everyone... When we broke up in Vermont, one group went to Turkey, one group went to Bremen, Germany, and some



Editors Note: Top picture is a 'Team' picture; below is 'The other picture is of our softball team that participated in the base league



stayed at Vermont. One of our officers however, did go up to Alaska. I've been trying to find my orders when we broke up in 1957 to get all the fellows names and addresses ... Because we had personnel for 3 teams, we spent a lot of time at North Beach on Lake Champlain.

Bill (Doc) Hart, Bossier City, LA 2007.01.08

(package mailed on 2006.12.15 and passed on at Jan meeting)

I served in AFTAC from 1954 thru 1967. School, F System, 1954 thru 1955, WFO, 1955, Team 407, 1955 thru 1960. Back to Lowry as instructor and maintenance in F System, 1960 thru 1963. MCL for laboratory training as "Airman Chemist.

Return to Det. 407, 1963 thru 1967. Upon return to ZI, was assigned to SAC as maintenance technician for 465L Command and Control System, 2nd AF Command Post, . Barksdale AFB, LA. Retired at Barksdale in 1974 and have remained in this area.

I have some of the original correspondence from 1982. It includes 'WFO Alumni Newsletter' Vol. 1, No.1, a personnel notes letter about Bart Bias, Mike Long, Roy Carlson and Al Carter and a copy of the original locator list. Vol. 1, No.2, with more names and addresses. Also Vol. 2, NO.2 with the schedule for the first reunion, June 1983. I served with the 4 who started the WFO Alumni Association while at 407. In fact, I helped train them while assigned at Lowry.

I have included these items. If they are of interest, please feel free to use them, if not, just throw them out. I also have 2 items I would like to donate to the Hall of History. A well used coffee cup and a lighter honoring the 15th Anniversary of Det. 407. Please let me know where and to whom to send them. Thank you for your membership and readership; it's always a pleasure to hear from the early Sages. We will pass on the items you sent to a California member at the reunion and be glad to receive the cup and lighter.

Eileen Best-email

01.10

You know how I like to make sure that you save as much money as possible for that steak dinner you owe me. Well, I heard something that might be of interest to you. Actually you may have already heard it, but you should check out www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm just in case. I have no idea how old you are, but according to my girlfriend if you don't take your 214 when you apply, you don't receive it. If you look at it and think it is of value, you may want to send it on to others who have retired and might not hear about it themselves. I think you are the only member of the AFTAC torture group--oops, I meant Alumni meeting group who's e-mail I have. Eileen steered Chris and I to our home builder some years ... ok, decades ago, and I promised her a steak dinner. She has been impatient for that payoff for sometime now. We pass on her info ... wonder if that will count as a steak dinner?

Robert (Bob) Strock-email

01.24

Attached is a picture of Team 165 Laramie, Wyoming. At the end of the text there is a date. The year would have been 1959. Bob, fellow Sage readers, this **picture is on the following page (10)**. We have reproduced it there in a size that is clearest for our readers, readers who will remember many of these gentlemen as they continued to serve over the years. We have asked Bob for his remembrances of his time at Laramie, a story that would be interesting for many of us 'seismic' type, and others. Bob also sent an obituary for Joseph Fitzgerald. Bob, thanks for this Sagacious Sage Service.

Bill Webster-OKC, OK

Undated Note

Membership Directory Change, Page 14-Ph: 405-787-5294, email: USAF292@cox.net.

Keep up the good work. Thanks for the comp and update.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL MAIL

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE OR LAST PAGE OF THE POST-MONITOR

'Serial Sages'

New Lifetime Memberships

Lawrence **Olson**-Cape Canaveral, FL; Ronald **Geleta**-Ballston Lake, NY

'Sustaining Sages'

Annual Dues Memberships, new and renewals

Wayne **Reece**-Carlton, OR; James **Young**-Harris GA (tech school, Lowry-1960; WFO 1961; Det 407-1961-64; Airborne); Stephen **Cary**-Idaho Falls, ID (USAF 58-66; SPINSTR 59-61, Det 3XX 61-63, 1155th TOS 63-66)

Scene Sages

Center Annual Awards Banquet



Wow, Deborah, what a trophy ...

(below) Sage Attendees, Judy Milam, Florence and Jack Jackson, Deborah, Bob (Prez) and Judith Wiley and Carol Snyder (Ex-Prez, Sage Shop)





A whole group of newcomers to Laramie are these airmen members of Air Force Tea, 165 assigned to a secret project in Laramie. Front row, left to right, are: Robert E. Strock of Wooster, Ohio; Joseph E. Fitzgerald of Canton, N.Y.; Leslie R. Lehmann of St. Paul, Minn.; Donald R. Washburn of Fergus Falls, Minn.; Robert R. Bell of Atlantic, Ia.; and Miles Brennan of East St. Louis, Ill. In the second row are William N. Alexander of Bridgewater, Va.; Larry P. Loudon of Glendale, Calif.; Richard R. Gillette of Pasadena, Calif.; John W. Johnson, of Baton Rouge, La.; Frank W. Desmond of Woodbridge, N.J., and the unit's commanding officer, Capt. Charles E. Woodford, South Sioux City, Neb. The unit has been working in Laramie since April 15.



More Scene Sages SnowBall IX

The picture on the left gives you an idea of the entertainment we enjoyed that evening as one of the Thai Traditional dancers performed.

The picture on the right is of John, Inez and Deborah. Note the traditional Thai clothing they wear, as did some of the other guests. This is a SnowBall custom encouraged for the location we are honoring that evening.



FROM THE TOP

Association President, Bob Wiley
If you missed the SnowBall this year, you missed seeing a lot of your fellow alumni. Attendance was an all time high with 86 people present. In addition to the camaraderie, we were treated to good food and traditional Thai dancing. Thanks to Deborah **Carson** and all who helped her plan and execute this party.

The real highlight, of course, was the announcement of Deborah **Carson's** selection as Alumni of the Year. Maybe next year we should try to fill-up the main dining room.

Deborah was given her award officially by Col. **Westergren** at the AFTAC Awards Banquet on 1 March again at The Tides. Helping her celebrate were fellow alumni Judy **Milam**, Carol **Snyder**, Jack and Florence **Jackson**, Dave and PJ **O'Brien**, Chuck and Linda **McBrearty**, Mitch **Mitchell**, Lloyd and Michelle **French**, and Bob and Judith **Wiley**. Chuck took advantage of the situation to give part of his "farewell" speech as he enters his second retirement from AFTAC. He stated that "AFTAC is the best organization in the USAF." (Hope I didn't misquote you, Chuck)

Mike **Black** has the website back up from his new location in Illinois. Good work, Mike. Hope your move went well and the new job is all you wanted it to be.

Don't forget our upcoming events – the AFTAC Spring picnic on March 24th (if its not too late by the time you read this; we have been carrying this info onsite at the 'Need To Know Now' link), and the Spring Golf on May 4 at the Cocoa Beach Country Club.

Also, remember the Colorado Reunion 7-11 June in Denver. Reservations are due NLT 15 Apr but the earlier the better. Remember you are all welcome at the regular meetings on the 2nd Mon of every month.



BOARD MEETINGS

Board Members

Elected

President-**Bob Wiley** Vice-**Addison Mitchell**
Secretary-**Judy Milam** Treasurer-**Joe Goldian**

Appointed

Activities-**CMSgt Steve Herrick** Hall of Heritage-**David Merker**
Hospitality-**Judy Milam** Internet-**Mike Black**
Membership-**Randy Vlassick**
Newsletter-**John and Christel Horsch**
Publicity-**Need a Volunteer** Sage Shop-**Pat/Carol Snyder**

#####

A Minute with the Minutes, Jan, Feb

Membership: Randy Vlassick reports membership is 627-560 lifetime. Additional efforts will be made to contact active-duty as they retire. Delinquent notices have been sent to some 40-Sages. However, for now, they have been dropped from the rolls.

Post-Monitor: The editors plan to attend the Colorado reunion and will publish the 'June' issue upon return, some 2-3 weeks later than normal.

Hall of Heritage: Progress being made.

LRD 50-Year Commemorative Coins: We continue this project of trying to associate our remainder of these coins with the space program, as was done with a previous set. These coins will be awarded to deserving alumni.

SnowBall, see 'Events' article on page one. SnowBall X has already been scheduled for 2008.02.03 at the Tides, mark your calendars!!

Golf: see 'Alerts' article on page one

WorldWide Reunion: see Dec, '06, PoMo insert or download information/registration/hotel forms at the alumni websites, FL Chapter, 'aftacalumni.org' or CO Chapter, 'aftacco.org'-sign up now!!

Publicity Chair: We are still in need of someone to fill this position. Please step forward if you'd like to help your association in an important area.



SagE-News

YOUR EDITORS

-Mike **Black**, our intrepid 'WebMaster,' found it necessary to take the site down several weeks as he moved to Illinois. The site, 'aftacalumni.org' is back up and running. Have a look.

We are sad to report the 'Happenings' section, which was a link from the home page, is no longer available. After diligently serving us at this site for several years, Clark **Creery** made the tough decision it had just become too much to continue. As you who visited his site recall, he had many items of alumni interest at that site. We have attempted to continue some of that information at a link entitled, 'Need To Know, Now.' There you will find current events and a listing of 'Sages to Remember.' While this is just a touch of what Clark provided, it will be a spot for us to post time-sensitive information. We hope you will check in often.

-At last count, we had 126 electronic subscribers; 116 to the Post-Monitor (ePoMo) and Florida Directory (eFLDir) and additional 10 for the directory only. These members receive the publications some two-weeks or more before the mailed copies, in color (where color is used), and have all the benefits of a 'Portable Data File' (pdf) file (smaller data size, formatting, searchable, printable, etc). This method also saves your association more than a buck a copy.

OTHER CHAPTERS

COLORADO NEWSLETTER EXTRACTS, 2007.01

ECHOES

President, Jack **Smith**-Vice President, Earl **Pierce**
Treasurer, Bill **Schmied**-Newsletter Editor, Bruce **Deffler**
Webmaster, Bill **Harris**
Website @ <http://www.aftacco.org/>

WORLDWIDE REUNION 2007

DENVER, COLORADO, 7—11 June,

Double Tree Hotel—3203 Quebec

NOTE: Type 'AFT' in the hotel online

'Group/Con' Code Line to receive special rate. The Colorado Chapter will host the reunion. Any and all personnel that have served with AFTAC, SWS, 1009th, AFMSW-t, AFOAT-I, 1035th FAG, WFO, Worldwide Dets, etc ... are invited and encouraged to attend. Guests are welcome. Questions, comments, plans of attending please contact: Jack Smith, e-mail coaftrmkt@aol.com or call 303-428-1812. REGISTRATION packets and

AGENDA INFORMATION are available at chapter websites and through contacts listed on page two of this newsletter under 'Assn Information.'

Members of Det-426, 1962-1967, will be attending the reunion. This group of veterans has formed an E-Det to share memories, stories, pictures, and renew friendships. E-Det 426 has over 20 active members, and is still looking for these Det 426 personnel: Harold Adams, Frank Barre, Art Davies, James Harris, George Kale, Ed McDaniel, John Nielson, Bill Thompson, John O 'Keefe and William Woodard. Contact Don Dike, e-mail msgdike@yahoo.com

Other Events, Plans and Schedules

RSVP, Jack Smith—phone, (303) 428-1812 or email COAFTRMKT@AOL.COM

General Membership Breakfast 22 Sep 0830
Aurora Hills Golf; Club Dinner/Dance 10 Nov
1730 Aurora Hills Golf Club.

See the CO Website for updates.

AFTAC, A SINGLE ENLISTMENT PERSPECTIVE

RICHARD A. HOPKINS; NOTE: ARTICLE REVISED DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS

I really enjoy reading the ECHOES and other AFTAC related articles I encounter periodically, but believe it or not, not everyone associated with AFTAC was career oriented or more affectionately known as a "lifer." Between 1964 and 1967 I was one of many single enlistment personnel who served at Det 18 and Det 415. I will try to present how it was from a single enlistment point of view. Some things are sketchy but I don't feel its necessary to thoroughly research any discrepancies or gray areas, (for) my perspective.

In 1964 I was working at Bell Labs in Holmdel, New Jersey, and attending evening school at the Newark College of Engineering (NCE), Newark New Jersey. Like so many at that time, I was already tired of the full Monday through Friday work and school schedule and being required to study on weekends – so I heard the calling. Actually I knew the Army was about to stop by, and I decided to enlist in the AF before they arrived.

Off to Lackland and the "Green Monster" with a stack of computer cards a half-inch thick offering a wide variety of AFSC's to choose from. I was sent to the back of the room to visit a Major who said "can't tell you much but if you like to travel here we are." So I said to myself "why not?" and after basic training I shipped out to Lowry AFB for Basic Electronics classes and "H" school. Electronics was a vacation as I already had most of the training between Bell Labs and NCE. I was

also older, over 21 by the time “SETs” school came around and I was determined to get the most of this enlistment. Would you believe that my EXEC officer at Lowry wasn’t even 21. Denver was a great city and Lowry was a great duty station especially since we were housed in the Navy Barracks – telephone and all. I think it was between basic electronics and “H” school that we had a break. I flew home and drove my car back to Lowry so now Red Rocks Amphitheater and ski trips were weekly events. Believe it or not Denver Bronco tickets couldn’t even have been given away. If only I had purchased season tickets then.

After Lowry came an 18-month tour in Ankara, Turkey, under the guidance of then TSGT Frank **Desmond** who oversaw “H” operations. Frank is the only one whose name appears with the Colorado Chapter that I recognize. This was my first real trip outside the US and to live in an apartment in Bahcelievler with 2 other guys was a jump-start to my life, especially when compounded with Class Six and NCO Club privileges. “Separate rats” living lasted about a year and then we were moved to Billets in Kavaklidere – still not regular barracks nor mess hall duty. Anyone familiar with the “H” technique’s operation is aware how time consuming and thought provoking it wasn’t. At that time there was a shortage of “B” system operators and so I cross-trained via OJT. Other than losing a “crypto-card” and virtually ripping up everything down to the tile floor looking for it – nothing extraordinary happened detachment wise. Comparing the USAF life with that of the Turkish soldiers guarding our compound was another eye opener. Everyone is now reading how valuable copper wire is and how it is being stolen. Well some local Turkish villagers were stealing our copper wire, but one trip by the Turkish Army to that village stopped the theft in a hurry. Recreation consisted of participating with other enlisted personnel beating Turkish nationals in baseball and football and then getting ourselves whipped playing soccer.

Joining up with the hospital team to play flag football turned out to be a blessing as I injured my knee and was shipped off in VIP style to the orthopedic clinic at Wheelus AFB, in Tripoli, Libya. As the knee had already been operated on from a high school football injury, I was referred to rehab to see if that would help. Amenities in-

cluded my own tray at each meal, since the hospital cook in Ankara also played flag football, and daily passes so that I could continue to fulfill the Major’s enticing statement.

A University of Maryland overseas campus was located in Ankara. I took conversational Turkish classes in addition to other basic college courses. Saturday morning would find me down at the Turkish market trying out my newly acquired language skills and drinking tea. I did not realize how many purchases I had made until it came time to pack up to ship out to my next duty station. It took several trips to the AFEX to get everything shipped to the States.

NOTE: we skip ahead to Det 415

It was another culture shock since Thailand is much different than either Turkey or the US. We lived in the Prince of Chiang Mai’s house for most of my 11-month tour and then we were moved to government billets (as with Turkey – still not the usual barracks). Skipping ahead again

... det continued to support my involvement with “B” systems along with the “H” operation duties under the guidance of SGT Frank **Mudd**. Here, as in Turkey, I was “designated shift generator starter” in case mopping the floor didn’t keep me busy while the others were attending to their system chores. Things went relatively quietly with the main excitement being walking guard duty with the rifle in one hand and the clip in another!

Note: Skipping to Richard’s important closing.

Why didn’t I become career oriented? The Major certainly was right about the traveling and I enjoyed the combination of “H” and “B” operations. Back in those days one almost always had to take a “POT” in order to make E4 in four years and then if you reenlisted you might make E5. Now I see more stripes on one sleeve than were combined on two sleeves in my time. I was again getting restless. On a trip to Bangkok I even stopped at the ARMY recruiting station and visited a SGT Westmoreland. He used almost the same phrase as the Major did – I just didn’t believe I could be lucky twice.

I could not understand why I was not selected for OCS or “boot-strap” educational opportunities even though I had high test scores. I recently was reviewing my old military personnel papers and noticed that due to my poor grades at NCE I was never going to be accepted. So I was mustered out via changing my AFSC so that AFTAC could maintain its 100% re-enlistment status.

CALIFORNIA NEWSLETTER EXTRACTS, 2007.01

DEPOT FALLOUT

Joe Johnson, President; **Dennis Nolan**, Vice President; **Bob Fitzgerald**, Chairman of the Board of Directors; **Orville Pritchard**, Asst. Chairman of the Board; **Ken Denbleyker**, Director At Large; **Charlie Penn**, Treasurer; **John (Butch) Kemna**, Asst. Treasurer; **Ken Breitwieser**, Secretary; **Bob Baker**, Asst. Secretary, **Dave Price**, Membership; Newsletter Editor-Dale Klug; Webmaster/Asst Editor-Bob Fitzgerald. Website @ <http://www.aftacwest.org/>

Events Calendar

Quarterly Membership meetings are held the 1st Tuesdays at the LionsGate restaurant on McClellan Park. **Next meetings are: 6 March, 5 June, 4 September & 4 December 2007**

(Call ahead to our President, to confirm time & place. Or check our 'Events' page at <www.AFTACwest.org>.)

Way Back When

by Dale Klug, Editor

The following is taken from a "Military Happenings" column of the Sacramento Bee newspaper circa 1984/5. *For hire: Very large, very quiet group of men and women with interesting past and unknown future. Willing to take risks.*

Congress has authorized its Office of Technology Assessment to study seismic-detection methods for verifying compliance with nuclear test bans. The Air Force's Technical Operations Division, which has been at McClellan AFB since 1948, has been going to great lengths, at no small expense in personnel and material, to sniff and hear nuclear tests.

Mail Call

Harm Aning Email 28 August 2006. Yea, we are still here and going strong. A lot has happen the past few years. Most of the family members we wanted to get back into this area to spend time with have now passed away. Only Donna's mom is still with us. Making the move here was the best decision as we got to share more time with them. The work is still very de-

manding but they sure pay better than Uncle Sam ever did. Hope to make it to the next reunion now that our lives have gotten back to normal. Hopefully we will see you there. Say hi to everybody. Thanks for checking us out. Harm and Donna Aning harm@prodigy.net
Tom Wentz Email: 14 October 2006. Hello All. Sorry we will not be able to make the 11 Nov social. We will be at Altus AFB visiting with our son and his family. They just had a new baby last month that we haven't seen yet. We will be there until after Thanksgiving. Some of you might remember Neil, he was the one that furnished the trumpet trio for our awards ceremonies. He is now a Lt. Col. and commander of the CE Sq. at Altus. Hope to see you all at the next social. Tom and Sue Wentz, tomwentz@sbcglobal.net

Jim Dorman Email: 18 October 2006. Fellow AFTAC Alumni, My email address has changed recently: it is now joshuafamily@adelphia.net . Thanks for continuing the "Depot Fallout"; I very much enjoy receiving it. I currently work as a Research Project Administrator/Manager at the US Air Force Academy Work Email: james.dorman.ctr@usafa.af.mil Work Phone: 719-333-4800 Warmest regards to the AFTAC Family.

Bette Henner, Elizabeth O'Dea Henner. Jun 16, 1918-Dec 23, 2006, passed away peacefully at home. She goes to be with her beloved husband Ernest who preceded her in death Oct 22, 2005. Survived by her sister Moira DeCesare. Bette was a loving and beloved mother to Michael Henner (Susie), Patricia Tedeschi, Kathleen Arndt (Craig) and Lisa Henner. Grandmother to Stacy Williams (Jim), Jeremy Henner (Cheryl), Kara Eckman (Nathan), Kelly Bettencourt (Paul), Katy Miller (Mike), Chelsea and Devon. Great-grandmother of Meaghan, Connor, Bailey, Kaitlyn and Jade. Elizabeth was greatly loved as a daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, and she will be missed by all who knew her. Donations may be made to Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary or Mercy Hospice. *Published in the Sacramento Bee*

Editor's Note: Bette Henner was the wife of Col Ernest Henner, (deceased) former 1155 TOS Director of Logistics.



(below) Don Jerry Jim Lonnie Dale Guy Ed Dennis Burt
Leeworthy Harper Zell Mouser Klug Long Arvin Wiest Feller

Robert Ed Al Don Ed Art Steve Gordon
Haase Chase Koscheski Wisely Watwood Thompson Dahlgren Zedney Ayers
Robert Summers

Seismic (B System), Hydroacoustic (O System) & Acoustic (I System) Engineering Section circa 1970/71, Submitted by Dale Klug **Editor's Note: Anyone knowing the missing names in above photo, please send me the information. Thanx.**

MONITOR *ing Active*

Duty Doing' from around the AFTAC world

Command Section



Col. Mark W
Westergren

Commander, 2006.08 Previously, Director of Joint Operations (J-3), National Security Agency/Central Security Service (NSA/CSS) Hawaii, Kunia City, HI. Education includes: 1984 B.S. in Chemical Engineering, cum laude; 1989 M.B.A. in Finance, Webster University; 1994, Masters in International Public Policy. His professional education includes Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, USAF Intelligence School, and Joint Forces Staff College. He is married to the former Haywon Kim and has two sons, Benjamin and Evan.



CMSgt Lloyd S.
French

Superintendent, 2003.01 AF/AFTAC since '77, trained in Gamma Spectroscopy and Special Equipment Operations--has attended Leadership School and the NCO and Senior NCO Academies receiving the Levitow and Commandant's Awards. He has also earned a BS in Business Administration. The Chief has served Airborne in many capacities at all command levels. He is married to the former Michelle Rostovsky of Satellite Beach, FL. and has three children, Lindsey, Nicholas, and Christina.



Final Farewell

CMSgt (Ret) Lloyd S French

The chief wrote of his upcoming retirement in the last issue; here, he bids 'farewell' to many, and welcomes the new CCS.

To the members of AFTAC and our 9S100s around the globe...farewell. On March 7, 1977, I entered the Air Force as a 99125...an Airman Basic. Effective 1 Apr 07, I retire at the congressionally mandated limit of service of 30 years (and 24 days!). The time went by quickly, leaving the passion, commitment, and need to contribute standing in vacant space where--once--the Airman stood.

As I look over my shoulder and in the rearview mirror, I see a vibrant mission, exponentially more talented people, and scores of well-trained replacements. My military job is done. I am relieved of duty by an extremely talented, experienced, and caring Chief--Steve **Herrick**--who, at great personal sacrifice, opted to extend his career and suspend his transition to civilian pursuits at the request of Colonel **Westergren**. I unquestionably support the selection and deeply respect Chief Herrick and his wife, Barbara, for the choice they made and know you will

support them in the time ahead.

You are in fantastically capable hands. Colonel Westergren is a caring leader, intelligent communicator, and has the energy of a 20-year old when it comes to any task. You can rely on his decisions to be weighed and tempered with wisdom, foresight, and concern for our mission and people. There's nothing in it for me to say this: it's a fact. Add the full support of his directors, officers, enlisted, and civilians, and you have boundless potential and a force to be reckoned with!

To the officer and enlisted community: Thank you for your sacrifice, hard work, initiative, and patriotism. Many of you went through September 11th and other calamities. Your bravery and determination placed the community's view of the military in an almost indescribably high regard. Knowing the contempt for military members I experienced right after the Vietnam War, I see a stark and beautiful contrast to our social acceptance today. You are ambassadors to our community and foreigners alike. Your example is the benchmark many judge others against and you've set the mark high. I am proud to have been a part of that.

To the civilian workforce: Some of you came to us from the military ranks...replacing your uniform with business apparel. Others came to us from college or other organizations. While your profession is hugely important, it is your own sacrifice, hard work, initiative, patriotism, and--ultimately--stability that brings a considerable contribution to our collective efforts. Please continue to be involved in AFTAC as a family member and embrace the synergy of teamwork. Thank you for your long-term commitment.

To the CMSgts--active and retired--of AFTAC: Live your creed. Be visible and valuable and know there are people out there who want to hear your stories and opinions.

To 9S100s and Alumni everywhere: I am a Life Member of the AFTAC Alumni...an honor I do not take lightly. Only through the continued interaction from sage "historians" can we deprive Fate by eliminating the repeating of bad experiences. Your interest and involvement is the truest testament to your commitment to the United States and stands in perpetuity in the rivers of change. The technical savvy and fortitude of 9S100s is legendary. Never let short-sighted bureaucrats dilute or remove your individuality, creativeness, and ingenuity. I will never, ever forget my roots and am proud to be part of your corps of Technical Applications Specialists.

How can I leave with a heavy heart? Perhaps it is the sadness to know some thought ill of me? Perhaps it was chagrin that I couldn't do more for you? Perhaps it is the knowledge that it's just OVER? Regardless of the many and varied contributions to the

feeling, suffice it to say I do not face it with relish. Yet for all the sorrow ahead of the transition, I am happy to have been a part of you. Michelle and I wish you Godspeed.



Editor's Note: As we bid farewell to Chief French, we heartily welcome Chief Herrick, the new 'AFTAC Superintendent.' We mentioned both in our editorial and will have much more on Chief Herrick in the next issue.

Four AFTAC Airmen medal in Sensor Olympics

MSGT PATRICK MURPHY, AFTAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS, EXTRACT FOLLOWS:

Four Air Force Technical Applications Center Airmen won medals in the 27th annual Sensor Olympics held at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Oct. 19. Tech. Sgt. Brian **Pariseau**, security office, won a silver medal in the Security Forces competition, Tech. Sgt. Michael **Perreault**, Detachment 452, won silver for Information Management and Staff Sgt. Ron **Courtney**, Logistics and Systems, won silver for Communications-Computer Systems Planning and Implementation. Also, Staff Sgt. Dan **Beckett**, Logistics and Systems, took bronze in the Technical Applications Specialist competition. "The Sensor Olympics award winners represent the most knowledgeable folks in their respective career fields," said Master Sgt. Richard **Marchand**, AFTAC's 9S100 career field advisor. "The tests these folks take are not created from career development courses but from actual material used across the field. A significant level of effort is put into making the test represent fair shares of everything accomplished by people working in all positions worldwide so that no one area has an advantage over another."

The program was started in 1979. While it has changed over the years to reflect mission and organizational changes, the selection process has remained the same. The competition begins at the unit level with more than 8,000 Airmen competing. After completing the comprehensive exams written by subject matter experts from each career field, 69 finalists from units all over the world, consisting of three from each specialty, are chosen to compete for gold. Sergeant Courtney, who's been in the Air Force just under six years, said the competition was unique. "I hadn't seen anything like it until I came to AFTAC," he said. "It's a very worthwhile program and a great TDY."

More than 300 people attend the banquet annu-

ally. In addition to recognizing their job knowledge, the Sensor Olympics awards banquet also motivates participants to continue to excel in their career fields by showing them first-hand the support of the leaders they are geographically separated from during the year.

(Staff Sgt. Kristine Dreyer contributed to this article)

Community service award

MASTER SGT. PATRICK MURPHY, AFTAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS, EXTRACT FOLLOWS:



The Cocoa Beach Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council recognized an AFTAC Airman Nov. 15 for volunteer service in the community. Senior Airman Elisha **Dunlap**, a member of the commander's support staff, was one of 13 to receive the chamber's Community Service Award

AFTAC information manager earns STEP up

MASTER SGT. PATRICK MURPHY, AFTAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS, EXTRACT FOLLOWS:



When Staff Sgt. **Ericka Gayle** of the Logistics and Systems Directorate started her day Dec. 6, her plan was to finish updating a continuity folder, to train a co-worker on creating forms, to help another one create a Web page and to do a little computer work as a client support administrator.

An e-mail message from the Logistics and Systems Directorate superintendent took her from her desk – away from her plan for the day – and to the Outback for a mandatory safety briefing. While the briefing was a ruse, Sergeant Gayle was unaware, even when AFTAC Commander Col. Mark **Westergren** called her forward. "I was wondering why," she said. The answer was quickly apparent as the commander announced her promotion to technical sergeant through the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program.

Booster's Club Update

2007 Officers: SrA **Moosman**, Pres; TSgt **Halliburton**, Vice; TSgt **Jones**, Sec; TSgt **Grace**, Treas; TSgt **Thur**, Hot Dog Sales; SrA **Lineberry**, Public Affairs; Ms. Pat **Snyder**, Clothing Sales.

NOTE: SOME 'FEATURE ARTICLES' DO NOT HAVE INPUTS. However, all are listed as a reminder of our dependence on you, our readers AND WRITERS!!

FEATURE ARTICLES, for the most part, ARE POSTED BY DATE OF RECEIPT

COMMANDER'S RECALL

Background: In light of the ongoing process that is the command, and a desire to record the impressions of this process "from the top," we ask previous commanders to give us a synopsis of their time with the command. We have received these impressions from many commanders to include Gen's **Hall** (deceased) (reCall from 1970 speech provided by George Waters), **Silliman** (deceased), **Gordon** (deceased), **Clapper**, **O'Lear**, **Bingham** and **Shaffer** and Col's **Meisenheimer**, **Wigington** and **Beatty**. We thank these gentlemen for taking the time and effort to share their enlightening remembrances.

We anxiously await inputs from the remaining commanders, continuing 'Distinguished Members' all: Jaynes, Jaeger, Dettmer, Horton, Bendorf and Turner

NOTE: *We are preparing a personal letter to each of these commanding Sages soliciting their 'reCall.' We feel confident they will write as they find the time and opportunity—in the meantime, we will 'stand-by' and be at the ready.*

WE LOOK FORWARD TO 'CC RECALL' INPUTS.

SAGE STARS

'Sage Success Stories'

... stories that exemplify the spirit of a striving sage going above and beyond the norm.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR 'SAGE STARS

THIS ISSUE WE PRESENT ... '



Recognize these 'Sage Stars?' Read on ...

Pair make room for holiday

COUPLE INVITES PUBLIC TO SEE EXTENSIVE HOME DISPLAY
JENNIFER TORRES, FLORIDA TODAY, DEC 8, AS NOTED BY YOUR EDITORS

Pat Bell hasn't seen her living room in four years. That's because the room is a year-round tribute to Christmas and a clear indication that someone in the house has an extreme passion for miniature Christmas village collectibles. Comprised of small, intricately designed homes, churches, shops, roads and trees, scattered tiny fallen leaves and a light dusting of snow, the former living room is a bustling city of miniatures in the midst of a holiday. As Christmas nears, more villages are popping up throughout the Bell home. There are trains, waterfalls, rivers, trolley cars, ice skaters, a working lighthouse, even a Christmastime Graceland.

You can "visit" the city or the countryside, it's all there. And that's just the start. It's much too much to keep to themselves, so Paul and Pat Bell open their home to the public each year so others can see the winter wonderland that lies within this unassuming Satellite Beach home. This year, the open house is from Dec. 16 to 22. They've been doing this since 1994, with about 2,300 people coming into their home each December. "It started with just our family and our neighbors and just grew from there," Paul Bell said. "We have people who come from across the county."

Their passion for village pieces started small. It all began with a gift -- "Bill's Gas Station" -- part of the Department 56 Snow Village Collection.

That Christmas, the first village piece sat alone on an end table. The next Christmas it was joined by another, and another and so on. "My mother and I went to the Christmas Cottage store and bought a few pieces," Pat Bell said. "Then I made the mistake of going back with my husband and it just steamrolled forward since then. I've always felt we should have bought stock in that store." The pieces, all part of the Department 56 Snow Village Collection, can be pricey. "They used to cost between \$15 and \$30. Now they run from \$40 to \$120 or more," said Paul Bell, who couldn't put a price on his collection. "We stopped collecting them about two years ago." But that doesn't stop Paul from adding even more-- he just completed a mountain range for one village scene. "Everyone who sees it really seems to enjoy it," Pat Bell said. "But sometimes I miss my living room."

I REMEMBER ...

LRD HISTORY BY THOSE WHO WERE THERE

PREPARED FROM READER INPUTS We solicit your

unclassified career memories (events, people, etc.).

Forward these to 'chrisjohn2@earthlink.net' or ATTN Remembrances column, to the Alumni Address (pg 2).

HONOR ROLL: Jack **Binkerd**, John **Horsch**, Jim **Payne**, Tom **Ciambrone** (deceased), Robert **Jones** (deceased), Mary **Miller**, Jim **Davis**, Rick **Holderman** (2 articles), Carl **Raines**, Dan **Burk**, Harry **Bedsworth**, Walter **Franks**, Bill **Braukman** (deceased), George **Kraus** (2), George **Waters** (2), Marvin **Ross**, Joe **Marshall**, Chuck **Conrad**, Joe **Johnson**, John **Bright**, Robert **Mason**, Curt **Smith** (3) Jim **Lillethun**, William **Koerschner**, Glenn **Kennedy**, Tom **Dunn**, Bob **Long**, John **Bright**, Vern **Mikkelsen**, Brian **Swan**, Bruce **Deffler**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR 'I REMEMBER ...'
THIS ISSUE WE PRESENT ...

BRUCE DEFFLER I read Brian **Swan's** article on Shemya and as a fellow alumni of the 'Rock' it brought back many memories. As I thought back on my arrival to Shemya that August of 1967 I was just shy of my 20th birthday and it occurred to me that I 'grew up on Shemya' at the time stepping off the plane I was sure I was in for the longest year of my life. Looking back over the 40 years that have passed, it was a remarkable year that set the stage for what was to come. The personnel at Det 205 consisted of Major Jim **Medley**, SSgt John **Ford**, and A1C Richard **Cassidy** along with a number of others that unfortunately have passed from my memory. Those three stand out because they were my mentors, transforming a young A2C into a viable technician and responsible adult. Richard Cassidy amazed me with his skill with Tektronics 545 Oscilloscope, swapping in the various pre-amps so we could align the Q-4 system. I still remember him showing me how to use the Z pre-amp to precisely set 3.16 volt calibration waveform along with the delayed sweep to zero in on the waveform peak. This, along with a slew of other calibrations that were done every 2 hours on the system for those 365 days, prepared me for an early career as a field engineer servicing any number of computer terminal and communication systems. My first job interview and resume was pretty shaky, because my work history consisted of 4 years of operating and maintaining 'electronic systems,' I couldn't go into any detail of what it did or how it did it, what landed me the job was the two pages of test equipment that I was able to list. I gained the reputation in our engineering lab as being a good

scope jockey and when the design guys needed help getting a test set up they came to me.

Shemya was my first tour after a year at Lowry. I had started out in the Navy Reserves; my father was in the Navy as was his father. At the urging of my four older brothers all who went in the Navy I joined the Navy Reserves while still a junior in high school. My plan was simple, do two years in the reserves, get electronic training while on active duty and get out becoming a TV repair man. TV's were all tube designs then and for me this modest ambition was the holy-grail. This was 1964-1965 the Vietnam war was ramping up and by 1966 the draft was in full swing and the Navy wasn't holding out much training for reservist. My active duty orders consisted of reporting aboard a WW II vintage destroyer and a future of two years of polishing brass, standing look-out watch and cleaning toilets. Fortunately I had time to investigate the other services and the Air Force said that if I did well on their test they could 'promise' me training in electronics. I was Navy E-3 when I arrived at Lackland AFB to begin my second stint in basic training. I lost my rank with the transfer and was probably the only Airman Basic drawing over 2 pay.

The year at Lowry was a transition point for me. Most of the airmen that were in AFTAC were in essence 'draft dodgers'; they had been in college majoring in electronics, chemistry, or physics but not maintaining a high enough grade point average to avoid that dreaded 'Uncle Sam Wants You' letter. As a result they had joined the Air Force to avoid the Army or Marines, figuring it was safer to do four years in the Air Force than a tour in Vietnam. This became apparent to me with my interview at Lackland; I had put the 99 selection on my dream sheet with the strategy that you never get your first choice. I had the test scores, but just out of high school none of the other prerequisites. We were told don't bother to apply if you don't have a degree in electronics or physics. When I was pulled out of formation and told to report to the other side of the base everybody in the squadron gave me that 'what did he do wrong' look as I left. As I made my way across base my misgivings included the Navy wants me back they're not going to discharge me. When I arrived along with a handful of others we were greeted by a Captain **Jackson** from Washington. His pitch was you have been selected for consideration into an elite group that I can't tell you any-

thing about. You could see suspicion on everyone's face - don't volunteer for anything in the military. Finally one of the 'older' airman asked if we volunteer what are our chances of going to Vietnam. His answer was if you were selected and successfully complete training and obtained your security clearance he could guarantee that you would not go to Vietnam or even be allowed to fly over a communist controlled country. With that ALL the hands in group went up to volunteer.

The year at Lowry proved to me that I could compete. I never had any hope of going to college and the service was to be my poor mans college. I was surrounded by some very sharp people that built stereo amplifiers from scratch in the barracks while I struggled to understand tube theory and ohms law. The most important lesson learned although I didn't realize it at the time was how to study and that if I applied the energy I could succeed. I was surrounded by what the Air Force considered the best-of-the-best intellectually but one of the strangest collections of people in the military. A guy name **Simmons** that could recite Pi to 30 places, **Ken** who took joy in trying to blow up Marantz amplifiers by shorting the speaker outputs. People that built fake out-houses in their lockers. On the island we had Ski Shemya and a ski slope paint scheme in one room (**Eastwood** was the name I remember), someone found a discarded runway light and turned it into a strobe light (it was the 60's). Wayne **Hill** and I were the first to get R&R to Attu, we flew over on Reeves Aleutian Airlines accompanied by bottles of liquor to be exchanged for Coast Guard steaks.

Lowry was ATC and as an airman 'spit and polish,' inspections, mess duty, and formations made up a good part of your life. My experience in the Navy was similar; Officers were just below God and Navy NCO's would pull rank on each other based on time-in-grade. I had no other experience to base my expectation of the Air Force or what my first duty station would bring. I hoped that I would get to Europe, Germany or the Mediterranean; my brothers had all managed to cruise the Med, visiting Italy, Greece, and France. All those exotic places that you see the rich and famous hanging out in or maybe the South Pacific that would have nice warm beaches, girls, parties then I received my orders for Shemya, where the hell is Shemya!

After 30 days leave to go home and visit family I

flew from the east coast to Chicago and on to Seattle. In Seattle there was a convergence of service men and women destined for tours in Alaska. You flew to Anchorage on commercial airlines and then went to Elmendorf AFB to be processed to various remote stations. My flight was loaded with a mix of Air Force, Army and Navy all going north to Alaska. I was seated by another A2C destined to some station on the DEW line. We made plans that when we reached Elmendorf we would hang together to process in. He was told to expect three or four days, to get your financial records, health records, and arctic gear taken care of. There were 100's of people going through Elmendorf daily and the lines looked like you were going to a rock concert.

We were greeted at the gate at the Anchorage airport by a couple of NCO's directing us to a line of blue Air Force buses. As I started to leave the gate area a TSgt made his way to me and told me he was there to pick me up. As we made our way to baggage claim he explained he was part of Detachment 207 at Elmendorf and that they always helped those in the organization get processed and settle in at the TDY barracks. While bus loads of officers, NCO's, and airmen grabbed their bags and jumped on the buses, we made our way outside and got into a staff car and left the airport. As we were leaving my seat partner on the airplane spotted me as he was boarding the bus and just gave me curious look - how did I rate? We arrived way before the buses and I was able to check-in to the TDY barracks before the crowd and get my choice of bunks. Upon departing my TSgt guide said he would be around in the morning to pick me up and start getting me processed in, things were looking up, maybe I could get this done in a day or so. I ran into my seat partner again later that evening and told him my plans had changed and that one of the NCO's was going to help me. Having just left ATC command I was sure impressed by the greeting and he was thinking, who is this person? The next morning while he was waiting for the bus we ran into each other again as we're talking a staff car pulled up and a Major got out, we came to attention and saluted - God had just arrived. The Major introduced himself to me and told me the sergeant had a conflict and he would be my guide. As we got into the car my seat partner just stared in disbelief, I couldn't believe I had a Major willing to help me and wondered what was in store for

me next. Was this the REAL Air Force or was this assignment so bad that you were the sacrificial lamb and they didn't want you getting away. With the Major leading the way we simply bypassed all the lines and whether it was his rank or the organizations standing on the base he was never questioned about bumping the lines. I was processed in less than a half day, had time to meet with Detachment 207 and get a little time in Anchorage before heading to Shemya. I had one final encounter with my seat partner he wanted to know if I was a Congressman's son. Just being asked the question was a rush.

Shemya changes you, for most it strengthens you giving you confidence that you can handle most anything, for a few the isolation and desolation are too much especially around the holidays. In the 60's Shemya was male only, the only time you might see a female was when Reeves was forced by weather to stay overnight, and a flight attendant made her way through the C building or a USO show made its way out. In either case the news circulated like wild fire, ah to catch a glimpse. The married and those that were planning on marriage when they got home seemed to have the hardest time, a few in other organizations were rumored to have 'lost it' when they received a Dear John letter or learned that there was a family member ill or one had died. It was hard to get off the 'rock' for any reason, an Air Policeman was on guard duty at the Space Track facility and in the middle of the night and for whatever reason was practicing fast-draw with his weapon when it discharge blowing his phone to bits. He was stranded not being able to leave his post and not able to get in touch with anyone until the morning shift change. I saw him in the chow line as a server, rather than get an Article 15 or worse he was made a cook and his only weapon was the food he served.

The happiest day for all that went to Shemya was the day their short timer calendar went to zero. I was driven to the flight line to meet a C 141 for my flight back to Anchorage. When I got on board the plane was filled with dependents women and children, I think coming back from Japan. What a sight I was going home returning to civilization - women, pizza, women, clubs, women, I would be 21 in another month, and my next duty station was McClellan AFB, CA, here I come!

We're celebrating 60 years of AFTAC, I met

some remarkable people during my tour, and they provided the foundation for my civilian career. Unfortunately most of my closest friends were in for four years, did their time and went back to college and on to civilian jobs. During our enlistment the organization did not officially exist we quietly did what was asked of us and upon return to civilian life was to told to forget what we did, how we did it, and never mention our mission. I suspect that many of the 'draftees' have put this time behind them and are not aware of the Alumni or the continuation of the organization. The names mentioned above have been lost to me over time, but maybe one will search the Internet, learn of the reunion and I will see an old friend swap some lies and remember on a hot August afternoon in 1966. "At ease men, I'm Captain **Jackson** from Washington, D.C. I'd like to talk to you about volunteering for a special and highly sensitive organization..."

A FAMILY AFFAIR

LRD FAMILIES ... OVER THE YEARS

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

Forward to us at 'chrisjohn2@earthlink.net' or ATTN

Family Affair column, to the Alumni Address

(see left column, page 2).

HONOR ROLL: These brave souls have stepped forth, Curt **Miller**, Tony **Calenda** (with a 'father's response' by Frank **Calenda**), and Mark **Smith** (with a response from dad, Curtis [Smitty] **Smith**). We hope to hear from the others we are aware of, Randy **Vlassick**, Curt **Stephens**, Nick **Kappel**. If you are aware of others, please let us know.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO 'A FAMILY AFFAIR' INPUTS.

BS TALES!

PREPARED FROM READER INPUTS. We solicit **unclassified humorous** tales about LRD events and people - recognizing these anecdotes may be 'Barely Substantiated' and/or 'Boldly Stated (BS).' Forward your BS to us at 'chrisjohn2@earthlink.net' 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.

HONOR ROLL: Jack **Binkerd** (1 story), John **Horsch** (6), Ben **Vlassick**, (deceased), Brian **Berenbach**, Mike **Gingrich** (2), Frank **Liberatori**, Bill **Taylor**, Frank **Calenda** (2), Ron **Cook** (2), Walter **Franks**, Ken **Oyer**, Bob **Chadwick**, Frank and Nedra **Szachta** (4), Chuck **Wallace**, Jon **Kempe**, George **Kraus** (2), Bud **Horrell**, Mike **Steskal**, Ray **Copeland** (4), Geno **Wagner**, Harold **Huhs**, Jack **Wagley**, Leroy **Jones**, Jack **Dorneden** (7), Clark **Creery** (2), Richard (Alkie) **Summers**, Les **Miller**, Jon **Richardson**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR 'BS' INPUTS

THIS ISSUE, WE HAVE THREE 'BOLDLY STATED' WRITERS, WE PRESENT JOE JOHNSON, CLENT BAI-LEY AND LES MILLER. ...

JOE WRITES I have noted a number of stories ??? concerning Lackland AFB and members experiences there. I have related the following to many of my friends in the past but some may find my experience interesting.

I enlisted in the Air Force on 12 September 1950. Of course I was sent to Lackland for basic training. I remember it was HOT, HOT, and HOT. One of the first days we were sent thru the dreaded "get your shots" clinic. Went thru in single file with both arms bare so that they were able to put a shot in each arm at the same time. Don't remember the total number of shots but it seemed like a bunch. After the shots the flight went out to a paved tennis court and started practicing close order drill. That didn't work out well. What with the heat and the after effects from the shots, flight members started to pass out on the pavement. We lost somewhere between a third and one half of the flight (passed out) before the drill was called off. Glad they called it off, as I wasn't feeling real well at that point.

Now the unique part of my Lackland experience. On the day my flight members were classified for future assignments, I had to go to the eye clinic to have new glasses fitted and I missed classification. Meanwhile, the Korean War was going gang-busters. My flight was shipped out on the seventh day after arriving at Lackland. I couldn't go since I missed classification. So, I spend five weeks in a casual status at Lackland while the system caught up with me. Then they shipped me to Keesler ABF for Airborne Radar Training.

Some months after arriving at Keesler, a message came down stating that all individuals that had less than six weeks basic training at Lackland AFB would now have to make up the missed basic training. My records showed six weeks at Lackland, so I sure as heck didn't volunteer that five on those six weeks were in a casual status rather than basic. By the way, that casual duty was right down my alley, work regular day hours. Spend all days running errands for the orderly room, picking up butts, or the like. After all was said and done, I completed 23 plus years of service with six days basic training.

Never missed it except on those rare days the

outfit somehow got roped into participating in a military marching formation. Never did get real good at right face, left face, dress right, by the right or left flank, or whatever. Outstanding story.. Joe; now I understand why you never ran any close order drill during your visits.

CLENT WRITES I'm writing this to provide you another bit of trivia regarding AFTAC history.

I was first assigned to AFTAC Hqs as a new captain fresh from my two years as commander of Detachment 141, Douglas, WY. You can imagine the shock I experienced upon first arriving in the Washington, DC, area. But that's another story.

When I arrived the Hqs was located in what I recall as Tempo T Building in NE Washington. I understand the site is now occupied by the Kennedy Center. Within about three months the Hqs moved into the new building on Telegraph Road. Shortly thereafter then Lt Col Jim **Hall**, Deputy Branch Chief, instructed me to proceed to Ft Belvoir army air strip where an Army helicopter complete with photographer would be waiting. It seems that the AFTAC commander, Gen **Rodenhauser**, wanted an aerial photo of the new building.

My job was to guide the helicopter pilot to the building location and to advise the photographer on the desired photos. Being totally new to the area, I had a bit of a problem locating from the air the intersection of Telegraph Road and Old Kings Highway. The helicopter pilot was also new to the area and had no clue as to where I wanted to go. So after consulting road maps and after flying over most of northern Virginia the pilot and I finally located the building. Hovering in front of the building with wind gust bouncing us around I told the photographer to take the shots. With such aerial movement I could not believe it possible to get a clear photo.

But it all worked out. In a few days the photos were delivered and Lt Col Hall congratulated me on a job well done. Gen Rodenhauser was well pleased with the results. So those of you who view the aerial view of the AFTAC Hqs. please keep in mind that a young captain sweated blood to provide you with that mark in AFTAC history.

LES WRITES Editors Note: The letter was in the last issue, we rerun here, with the pictures: Thought you might enjoy these pictures from a long time ago and of a Team that no longer exists. I took these in the

period of 1956-1958. Team 405 was closed in 1958. When 405 closed, **Alkie** (Richard **Summers**) and Jack **Turner**, the Admin clerk, were brought to EFO at Fuchu AS to await further orders. Alkie was waiting for orders to start "B" System school, Jack for reassignment to the Air Force. I always thought the sign was the great-



est, because of the contradiction it showed, Welcome---No Admittance. I don't know of any other Det having such a sign. The other picture is of the Team 405 compound that I climbed part way up the mountain to take. As far as I know, it was the only Team to have a contingent of Army MP's to guard the compound. I know in the winter it was a cold ride in the back of the Weapons Carrier that the Team used to pick me up when I went over for a visit. Lots of fond memories.



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ... 'LOOKING FOR'

The Alumni Website, 'www.aftacalumni.org' hosted by the WebMaster, Mike **Black**, contains a link, as above, whereby Sages attempt to locate each other. To help this search, and understanding some Sages read the PoMo and not the internet, we share here:
2007.01.20 Harry Williams? Last known, Denver, CO, B systems, operator, instructor, retired in early 90s wing-done@sbcglobal.net

2007.01.02. Address of Claude & Maydru Burgess's family. I think Maydru Burgess passed away. Claude died in an aircraft accident. I found pictures of the family and would like to mail to the children. Mac McGettigan, John@inkyts.com

2006.11.30. Looking for anyone who went to school with me at Lowry in 59-60 (99125Q), or served with me at detachments. Chuck Lineback (now Leinbach), 614 486 8833 or oleinbac@csulb.edu

11.21. Retired Lt. Col. Joe Ward. He used to head up the Airborne and Treaty Ops. devinsappington@mtctechnologies.com

11.10. Members of Teams I served with. 1955-57, and 1957-58-Ron Geleta Ballston Lake, NY, rgeleta@nycap.rr.com

09.11. Arthur D. Clark. Stationed in Hawaii in 64/66. If anyone knows of his location, please contact me. Thanks, Jim Mattingly, jmatt39@yahoo.com

TOM'S TREASURE OF TANTALIZING AFTAC TRIVIA

IN HONOR OF TOM CIAMBRONE (DECEASED)

The 'trivia' concept was suggested and initiated by Ex-CV (9/81-5/87), Col/CMSgt (Ret/Honorary) Tom Ciambro, who, in the '80's, knew the organization so well. He asked all Sages to send ideas for this series and to provide additions or corrections. We now hope those who remember Tom will provide **unclassified** content to continue what he began.

HONOR ROLL: Tom **Ciambro** (4 trivia), John **Horsch** (2); Dale **Klug**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO '...TRIVIA...' INPUTS
THIS ISSUE,

**Answer at bottom of the 'Sage Shop' page
Unless otherwise stated, trivia will be taken from
"A Fifty Year Commemorative History of LRD"**

Who was the organization's longest serving Commander?

SAGE SCHEDULE

**-Monthly HQ AFTAC WindDowns and
-Association Board/Membership Meetings**
All Alumni are heartily invited to all events.

VERIFY WITH PAT SNYDER (321) 494-6867,
patricia.snyder@patrick.af.mil **BEFORE COMING**

—WindDowns scheduled for first Fridays’
WHEN: 1530 (3:30 PM)

WHERE: Behind AFTAC HQ building
HOW: park behind the building-find the crowd

—Meetings scheduled for Second Mondays’
WHEN: 1700 (5:00PM)

WHERE: AFTAC HQ’s Building
HOW: come to rear entrance

April

6, 1530-WindDown at the Outback

9, 1700-Board/Membership

May

4, 1530-WindDown at the Outback

16, 1700-Board/Membership Meeting

June

1, 1530-WindDown at the Outback

11, 1700-Board/Membership Meeting

Scheduled Events, Current Quarter

EVENT CONTACT (UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED)

PAT SNYDER, (321) 494-6867

patricia.snyder@patrick.af.mil

-Mar 24th, Center Annual Picnic, see pg 1

-May 4th, Golf N’Getogether, see pg 1

-June 7-11, WorldWide Reunion, see pg 1

Traditional Annual Events

(for planning purposes)

January—March

-SnowBall X, Feb 3, Tides All Ranks Club

-Center Annual Awards Banquet

April—June

-Center Annual Picnic

-Assn 17th Annual Spring Golf n’Getogether

July—September

-Summertime, the livin’ is easy, but PAY YOUR DUES

October—December

-Assn 17th Annual Fall Golf n’Getogether

-Center Winter Social, December time frame

ANNUAL (FY07) DUES ARE PAST DUE (1 OCT)

WorldWide Alumni Reunions

(normally scheduled on a biannual basis)

The Colorado Sages have scheduled

WorldWide Reunion 2007, June 7-11 Timeframe

Details at ‘www.aftacalumni.org’ and in the December issue

SAGE SHOP

Mail orders, unless otherwise instructed, to: Long Range Detection Alumni Assoc, ATTN: Sage Sales, PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB FL, 32925-0892. **Add \$4.00 for shipping and handling plus \$1.00 for each additional item**
*No shipping and handling charged on logo pins

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE (as of 2007.03)

	MED	LG	XL	XXL
GOLF SHIRTS , with pocket and collar, \$14				
Sea Teal (aqua blue)	1	1	3	2
Jade (medium green)	3	7	3	2
Navy	2	2	2	0
Red	2	3	1	2
White	2	2	2	2
Royal Blue	3	4	2	2
Teal (dark aqua)	2	2	1	3
Maroon	3	4	0	1
Black	2	1	1	2
T-SHIRTS , no pocket - \$7.00				
Light Blue	2	3	3	3
Royal blue	2	2	2	2
Navy	2	2	3	1
Ash Gray	2	2	2	2
Purple	1	1	2	2
Red	2	2	3	2
Fuchsia	1	2	2	1
Stone Washed Green	1	0	1	0
Mint Green	1	2	1	2
Jade Green	2	3	2	1
Black	4	2	0	3
SWEATSHIRTS , Ash Gray, \$15	2	2	0	0
HATS - \$8.00 #				
Blue/Gray 12				
Red 4				
Red 4				
Royal Blue/White 36				
MISCELLANEOUS Cost/#				
-50th Commemorative Coin \$3.00/85				
-Logo Pin \$3.25/237				
-Alumni License Plate, \$7 Mbrs, \$10 Non-mbrs/4				
WorldWide Directory, \$25/2				

SPECIAL OFFER-AFTAC Top-3 Coin being sold by the Top-3 Association, \$6. Send a check (payable to Barton Randolph) to: AFTAC/TC ATTN: MSgt Randolph, 1030 S. Hwy A1A, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-3002

‘Tom’s Trivia’ Answer
AFTER READING the ‘trivia’ question
on the preceding page

MGEN Jermain P. Rodenhauer
August 1958—March 1966

This should have been easy for the really ‘old-timers’

