

# ♦ AFTAC ALUMNI ♦

Volume 2 Issue 2

MARCH 1994

## ♦ ACTIVITIES

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

30 March 1994 - AFTAC Golf Tournament at the PAFB Course. 1300 hours - Shotgun Start, 4 man teams, for prices and sign up information - call Pat Murphy at 494-4515 or Patty Murray at 494-4770.

19 March 1994 - AFTAC Car Wash at Vic's Chevron - So. Patrick and Jackson Streets. 0800-till everyone gets tired. If you want to help, call those listed above. (Pat Murphy or Patty Murray at the numbers listed).

6 April 1994 - AFTAC Bowl-a-Thon. PAFB Lanes at 1300 hours. 5 man teams. For information or sign-up call those listed above.

### AFTAC SPRING PICNIC

9 April 1994, 1000-1700 hrs  
Wickam Park in the Main Pavillion

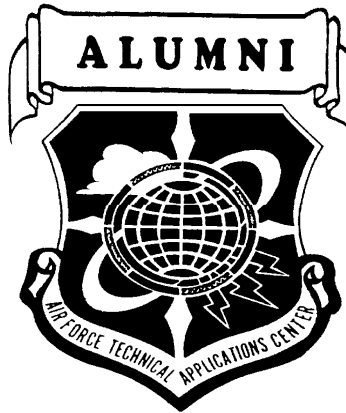
Cost: \$5.00 per adult - 13 yrs +  
(Kids under 12 are free)

Food - Catered by Charlie and Jake's BBQ (Pulled pork & Chicken), baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, ice tea.....kids 12 and under - hotdogs/hamburgers.

Sports/Games:  
Tricycle Race      Volleyball  
Tug-o-War      Horseshoes  
Lip Sync      Golf Chipping

**Horseshoes** - call Al Smith at 494-5028

**Golf Chipping** - call Don Caruso at 494-7988



## June 10 - 12, 1994

We got the information from California and it is very well done!

**TOD Tour:** Dennis Nolan is arranging for an openhouse and tour of the new Tech Ops Division facility at McClellan from Noon to 4PM for those of us who want to find out what's new (and what old things are still being done) at the old Laboratory and Squadron.

**Banquet:** We're expecting about 400 and what a party it will be! We'll start with cocktails at 6PM. Dinner will be at 7PM.

**Program:** At 8PM, Jack Allison will be the Master of Ceremonies for a program which will feature Brig. General James A. Jaeger, AFTAC Commander, as our Guest Speaker.

**Big Band Dance:** The program will be followed at 9PM by a fantastic dance. The John Skinner Big Band is well known in the Sacramento area for their extensive repertoire and the superior quality of their music. (14 piece orchestra.)

**Sunday:** Brunch at 10AM till noon. This will be a good time for a last minute chat with old friends.

## ♦ 1994 IN CA

**Thursday, June 9, 1994**

Registration opens at 1800 hours.

**Friday, June 10, 1994**

Golf Tournament - Cal Brown and Bob Smith are planning a challenging match at Lawrence Links in North Highlands. You must be at the Links by 11:30AM for the tournament shotgun start at 12:30PM.

Cocktail Party - The committee is planning a party with snacks, hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar beginning at 6PM at the Red Lion Hotel. This will be a great time to meet old friends, catch up on what's been happening in the last 9 years, listen to and tell a few "old war stories".

**Saturday, June 11, 1994**

Events as shown in this publication to the left under June 10-12, 1994.

**Sunday, June 12, 1994**

Brunch from 10AM to Noon.

**Registration Cutoff is 1 May 1994**

For Info:

**AFTAC/WFO/1155th/TOD  
Reunion**

P.O. Box 454  
North Highlands  
California, 95660-0454

## President's Corner

1994 has swooped down upon us like an eagle. Your board is stronger this year and we are all busy trying to make our service to you better. I want to personally thank all those who have taken the time to write us letters and in most cases, we pass those on to our membership.

Mary is working on the membership roles and she has done a special job in that position. I salute her for a job more than well done.....She spends most of her personal time researching, answering, and creating the things that you see here.

We are looking forward to the California Reunion this year. I do not believe that I will be able to attend but my support and prayers are with everyone.

This year, our plans are to make the Alumni group here self sustaining. In simple terms, we are in the mode of cross training each other so that we can ensure that our service to you is never interrupted.

Colorado (AAAC) is going strong and it is a pleasure to read their newsletter and I will ensure that items of great interest will be included here to keep you informed. Ben and the troops out there in the 'High Country' have done one fantastic job.

A little bird told me that the operational organization here in Patrick has picked up some new stuff and they are going strong. That is sweet news to these old ears. The general and his staff are to be congratulated and they really make us proud to be associated with such a service.

Thanks again gang, see you in 4 months..... Clark Creery

## SACRAMENTO

The Red Lion Hotel is located directly across from one of Sacramento's shopping centers, the Arden Fair Mall, which is within three blocks walking distance from the Hotel. This two story mall features major department stores such as Nordstroms, Weinstocks and Sears along with a multitude of smaller shops such as The Gap, Banana Republic, The Limited, and many specialty shops and boutiques. There are many restaurants within the mall as well as in the Arden Fair Shopping Center itself and directly across Arden Way. The Red Lion Hotel guaranteed special room rates for the "McClellan TOD Reunion" are:

\$66 single, \$81 Double, \$96 triple, and \$111 quad.

The Red Lion Hotel provides a free shuttle between the Sacramento Metro Airport and the hotel. The shuttles depart from in front of the airport host restaurant (between terminals) at half-past the hour until 4:30 PM then every half-hour until the last shuttle departs the airport at 10:30PM. There are special hotel hot-line phones in both terminals in case of questions.

## GET TOGETHER

Any unit wishing to coordinate and arrange a mini-reunion during the main reunion are welcome to do so. There will be a spot in the Hospitality Suite, which will be open Thursday and Friday evenings, for you to post your notice. All we ask is that you write a letter to the reunion committee in advance telling us about your plans.....

**California Staff** - do not forget to take good notes and get them off to the Florida Chapter so we can include your activities in our Newsletter.....

## OUR HISTORY

Over the past 47 years, the agency now known as the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) has physically relocated its headquarters and changed its name a number of times, and on one occasion remained at a location for less than two weeks. The trail of the headquarters from Washington DC to Florida has been interesting, to say the least, and frequently frustrating. The name changes have been just as complex, and for many years the association of one AFTAC name (designation) with another AFTAC name was classified. A significant number of the restrictions surrounding this organization have been relaxed, and a recap of the headquarters lineage, names, and locations is now appropriate. Let's start at the beginning!

On 30 July 1947, the Long Range Detection (LRD) Division was activated within the structure of the Air Force Material, Special Weapons - One (AFMSW-1), in Washington DC. Major General Albert F. Hegenberger assumed command of this newly activated division on 14 December 1947.

On 19 January 1948, a requisition was submitted by AFMSW-1 for 16,218 square feet of office space in Building T-7 at Gravelly Point, Virginia, to support the mission and manning requirements of the LRD Division of AFMSW-1. Due to difficulties in relocating the agency occupying that space, it was necessary to requisition temporary office space in the Pentagon. Consequently, on 13 February 1948, a requisition was submitted for 6,640 square feet in the Pentagon, and on 17 February 1948, the LRD Division moved to the Pentagon.

(Continued on Page 4 )

## MORE CALIF

**DET 202 Alumni:** Herb Dettmer is planning a Det 202 Alumni mini-reunion brunch on Saturday morning. Register by calling Herb at 206-337-6392 prior to 1 May, and check the Hospitality Suite when you arrive for any last minute details and/or changes.

### AFTAC PICNIC:

Reminder from page 1 - do not miss the AFTAC Spring Picnic. The retirees will be there in full force.....We always have a wonderful time and maybe can show the kids a thing or two!

This year the First Aid and Medical services for the picnic will be provided by the Harbor City Volunteer Ambulance Squad - We, the ALUMNI (Florida Chapter) paid for this service. So, when you are at the picnic and see or need the Ambulance you will know that you are in good hands.....sort of like AllSkate or something.



## JOIN US!

**TRIVIA** - Who said: "Bill Clinton knows less about national security than I do about spelling"?

Dan Quayle!

## DISNEY NEWS

Join the Army and see the Magic Kingdom. The Army's going to be running its own hotel at Disney World in Florida, although some local hoteliers think it's a Mickey Mouse idea.

The Army has contracted with Walt Disney for a 99-year lease to operate a 288-room hotel, which is a short walk from the monorail that will transport active, reserve, and retired service members, and civilian defense workers, into Disney.

The hotel, to be renamed "The Shades of Green on Walt Disney World Resort" when it opens Feb 1, has a swimming pool and tennis courts and is next to two golf courses.

"It's like a quaint country inn, very cozy and comfortable," Walt Disney spokeswoman, Michelle Fisher said. "It's a great property."

The Army runs similar inexpensive vacation hotels in Germany, Hawaii and South Korea, but this will be its first "Armed Forces Recreation Center" in the continental United States.

Peter Isaacs, director of hospitality for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, said the U.S. hotel is part of post-Cold War plans to station more troops in the United States, and Florida was the natural choice.

Army figures show that 1 million active, retired and reserve service members live within 900 miles of the Orlando area.

Isaacs said polls of military personnel found Orlando was the vacation spot most wanted to visit, "but there was the general perception that the Orlando experience

was beyond their means."

He said the hotel will be totally paid for with customer revenues, with "absolutely not one cent of the taxpayer dollars used."

Room prices will range from \$49 a night for junior enlisted men and women to \$92 for officers.

"It will provide the most advantage to young service members and their families who might otherwise not be able to enjoy such a quality vacation," said Maj. Bill Buckner, an Army spokesman.

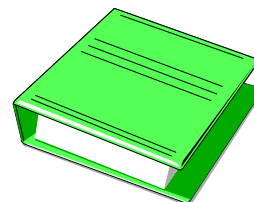
But Robert Hazard Jr., chairman and chief executive of Choice Hotels International, said in a letter to President Clinton this month that of the more than 80,000 commercial rooms in Orlando, half are priced at less than the government's lowest rate of \$49.

"Does it make sense for our government to compete with small business owners in Orlando, and then charge above-market room rates to government personnel?" he asked.

Isaacs countered that Shades of Green still is a bargain because all the rooms are oversized, capable of holding a family of five.

Article submitted by Carl Galey and it is from the Florida Today, Saturday, December 25, 1993.

**Ed Note:** How about an AFTAC hotel with rates at \$20. Heck, in an oversized room the dets have had parties for hundreds of folks, not to mention just a family of five.



## Letters Too

Reference December 1993 Newsletter. I am a lot like Jack Binkard, a little younger. I only recognize a couple of names on the August 1993 Florida Chapter roster of Alumni.

I joined 1009th while they were at 14th and Constitution Ave NW. We then moved to Oklahoma Ave NE, then to 6801 Telegraph Road in Alexandria.

I was assigned to 1009th Special Weapons Sq in mid 1958 and retired from the AF at AFTAC in 1968. I was the NCOIC of the operations center from 1958 till about 1960. Then the 1st Sgt/Sgt Major from about 1960/61 till about April 1963 when I went to the CFO (1157th) in Germany. Stayed there till June of 1967. Then back to Telegraph Road and again NCOIC of the operations center. I retired in September 1968.

Charles A. McGawan  
Woodbridge, Va

Hi everybody! I miss my regular association with the Association. Had planned to attend the Sacramento, CA reunion in June 1994, but upcoming PCS may impact summer plans (again!). The family and I will be leaving Edwards AFB and the 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron for Washington DC and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Thanks for your assistance, and keep up the good work!

Mouse Neumeister  
Edwards, Ca

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

Greetings from Australia. I want to thank you for sending me the 25 November 1993 issue of the Aftac Alumni Association listing and the December 93 newsletter. It was a real trip down memory lane to browse through the pages and see several articles and names that brought back a great variety of memories of places and people I worked with all over the world. I read about the retirement of the WC-135s with a heart heavy. It brought back vivid memories of Airborne School at McClellan, Survival Schools in Washington and Florida, and receiving my wings. It was sad to learn that this chapter of AFTAC's history has come to a close.

I would like to pass on the following name jof one jof my good friends living here in Australia. Jerry Nordine was with AFTAC for most (if not all) of his 20+ years in the AF. He served with AFTAC in DC until the move in '72, when he retired and moved (with his wife Pat) to Australia. Prior to that he had served in Denver, Alice Springs, McClellan, etc.

Cliff York  
Alice Springs, Australia

## WHOOOPS

As usual, I forgot to recognize a very important member of the Golf Tournament that we reported in our December 1993 newsletter.

I hope Curt Harris will forgive me, I am sure that he will not repair my toaster, or my washing machine without charging me an arm or a leg. Curt, I am very sorry, my excuse is that I got caught up in the deadline required to get the newsletter to our dedicated readers. Find it in your heart to forgive us and do volunteer next time, your service was much appreciated. Clark

Our History - Continued from Pg 2

Plans to relocate the LRD Division offices from the temporary quarters in the Pentagon to Gravelly Point were completed in early June 1948, when the organization was notified that a portion of the requested office space would be available on or about 15 June 1948. On 17 June 1948, the move was accomplished.

On 1 July 1948, AFMSW-1 became Air Force Operations, Office of Atomic Energy (AFOAT). Shortly thereafter, it was indicated to AFOAT that the Air Force agencies occupying offices at Gravelly Point would be required to vacate those offices due to a reallocation of space within the Military District of Washington. This was somewhat distressing to the LRD Division of AFOAT, since it had been located at Gravelly Point less than two weeks.

On 22 July 1948, AFOAT established LRD Division operations on the 8th and 9th floors of the Selective Service Building in Washington DC, and on 28 August 1948, the LRD Division was redesignated as AFOAT-1, or more commonly referred to as the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron.

AFLOAT-1 operations apparently remained in the Selective Service Building until 18 May 1958, when the organization was temporarily moved to Guam Hall, Washington DC. A contract had been awarded for construction of a new AFOAT-1 building in Alexandria, VA, and work began on 9 June 1958.

During September 1959, the headquarters moved into the newly constructed building at 6801 Telegraph Road (also known as the Hybla Valley Federal Building), Alexandria, VA.

Continued on Page 5 --->

## MEMORIAL

Steve Ellingson passed away this past year of cancer. He was a former active duty enlisted member who continued his service as a civilian assigned to the gas analysis laboratory at the MCL. He was always known as someone who made things happen - whether designing unique systems, adapting existing equipment or orchestrating the placement of the equipment on line at the operating locations, either at the MCL or out at the detachments. He will be impossible to replace and is sorely missed.

The Technical Operations Division is taking donations for a memorial to Steve and the work he did for AFTAC. They plan to place a large oak tree, a marble plaque, and a wrought iron bench near the Russel Building. Donations can be sent to Denise Pothier at 3744 Bolivar Avenue, North Highlands, California, 95660. Denise's work number is (916) 643-6916. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated by all who knew/loved/tolerated the "Big Guy".

## CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS

We have just completed the process with the base legal office concerning our updates to the Constitution and By-Laws of the association. Our next newsletter will feature these changes and we think we now have a very solid platform for our continued success. Thanks for your patience and if anyone would like a copy of this document, contact Judy Milam at our PO Box address.

## STUFF

### SOUVENIRS

**This is what we offer:  
CARRIERS:**

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

**Briefcase.....17.00**

**Large Gym Bag.....12.00**

**Small Gym Bag..... 8.00**

### SHIRTS & JACKETS:

**We currently our out of stock.**

### MISCELLANEOUS:

**Ball Cap (blue or white) ... 5.00**

**Beer Mug (plastic w/logo). 2.00**

**Coffee Cup (ceramic w/logo)  
..... 4.00**

**AFTAC Logo Pin ..... 3.25**

**Wooden Nickel (w/AFTAC Logo)  
..... 1.00**

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

**Logo Pin - No charge**

**Wooden Nickel - No charge**

**Beer Mug - \$1.50 each**

**Payment to:**

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

## Membership Notes

**The membership in the Florida Chapter currently stands at 533 and continues to grow.**

**Of these 533, 144 are Lifetime Members and an additional 13 have been recognized with complimentary Lifetime Membership. We value each and every one and hope each member benefits for their association with the Florida Chapter...We thank you!**

### History - continued from page 4

On 7 July 1959, AFOAT-1/1009th SWS was redesignated as the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC)/ 1035th USAF Field Activities Group (FAG).

On 26 June 1972, the headquarters was redesignated as AFTAC/1035th Technical Operations Group (TOG). It was during this period that preparations began to relocate the headquarters operations out of the Washington DC area. At 0600Z, 24 August 1972, AFTAC officially commenced operations in Building 989, Patrick AFB, FL, where it remains today.

Because of internal restructuring within the Pentagon, and the discontinuance of HQ Command USAF, a dual-hatted designation for the organization was no longer required. On 1 October 1980, the 1035th Technical Operations Group name was dropped, and the organization was solely and singularly known as the Air Force Technical Applications Center. (AFTAC)

Ed Note: Wow!

# FLACK

I now understand the frustrations of real editors. We have taken quite a bit of flack concerning the note on the last page of your December Newsletter. That was an example of how your mailing label looks and it was not intended to show when dues are due for everyone. It was placed there just to show you where to look on **YOUR** mailing label. We have had all sorts of comments from people thinking that this example was really their dues status. Not So - your status is shown on your personal stick on label...sorry for the confusion. hehehe (really!)

## ALUMNI of the QUARTER

Did you ever try to balance a checkbook for over 500 Alumni Members and ride side saddle on an organization that continues to grow by leaps and bounds?

That is exactly what Carl Gailey does for us. He is to be commended for the exceptional manner in which he discharges his duties as your Treasurer.

Carl's records are meticulous and he can be counted on, in a moments notice, to produce reports on mailings, costs associated with cards, stamps, newsletter printing and a host of other things we ask him to do.

Carl, it is refreshing to have a professional keeping track of our finances. You do one heck of a nice job.



# LETTERS

As an old AFTAC'er (1967 - 1973) I read each issue of the AFTAC Alumni with interest and occasionally recognize a name from the past. I noted in the latest issue an article about job hunting. I would like to mention one job that often goes overlooked - teaching Air Force Junior ROTC in our nation's high schools.

AFJROTC offers many job opportunities all over the world for both officers and enlisted. Now, more than ever, the youth of our nation need strong role models, and who can better provide that than our military. I have been teaching in an AFJROTC program since my retirement in 1987 and have found it very rewarding. Make no mistake - it is not a soft "retirement job". You must continue to meet all Air Force standards, comply with state, county, and school policies, and work in a civilian environment with people who do not always speak Air Force. Enlisted people do not have to have a degree, but it helps since there is a lot of competition for most jobs.

If you are interested, there are several schools in the Patrick area (Satellite Beach, Eau Gallie, Melbourne, and Florida Air Academy) that you should be able to visit if you call ahead. California also has many schools with units. The person to talk to at the headquarters at Maxwell AFB is John Edwards at 1-800-522-0033, ext. 7741.

The bad news is you are not eligible if you have been retired over 5 years and can't be considered for a formal job interview until you have a confirmed retirement date.

I enjoyed my years in AFTAC and have fond memories of my time as a 702 with the 1158th Technical

Operations Squadron in Panama and the Satellite Diagnostics Branch in Virginia. I am also proud to have been a part of the original cadre that helped set up the Headquarters Squadron Section at Patrick - along with LtCol Shifflett (Hq Sq Sec CC), Chief Fuller (First Sgt), John Coffee (Security Police), and Don Trombley (Supply).

I hope this information proves helpful to those looking for a challenging and rewarding second career.

Sanford (Sandy) Silverman  
Lake Worth, Florida

## Get Well Wishes

Charles 'Ray' Rheault  
1281 Pleasant Valley Rd. #9  
Diamond Springs, Calif 95619

Kelly Driscoll  
8128 Capitola Ave  
Fair Oaks, Calif 95628

Annie 'Ruth' Lucas  
6512 Thomas Dr.  
North Highlands, Calif 95660

Hubert 'Rusty' Ridens (The Ripper)  
185 Deauville Av NE  
Palm Bay, Florida 32905

## IN MEMORY OF

### *In Memory of:*

Dorthey Weiford (Wife of Dewey N. Weiford)

Charles D. Blanchard

May each and everyone of them  
**Rest in Eternal Peace!**

# LETTERS

Greetings from Missouri. Woke up this morning with sleet and mixed snow and having to go to work. You know the Post Office we deliver whether the weather is favorable or not. I'm Postmaster in Dexter, MO with plans for retirement the end of March 1994. We already have our RV packed and ready for that trip to Sacramento in June. Really looking forward to seeing several people we haven't seen since our days at WFO/1155th. Must say our trip to Patrick for the last Worldwide Reunion was exciting and brought back many memories.

Your Newsletter of December was chocked full of great and exciting news. I'm grateful for such a dedicated group of people and certainly know a lot of hard work goes into getting it to press. I'm anxious to get a copy of the Worldwide Alumni Directory as it will enable me to get in touch with so many old friends. Please put the front entry shot of the HQ Building in Alexandria, VA on my copy.

Hoping to see each and all in Sacramento in June. Till then, keep up the good work and a happy and prosperous New Year to all.

Dee E. Griffin

**Ed Note:** Thanks for the kudo's Dee, and enjoy that retirement for the second time. You double dipper you. Hope to see you in Sacramento in June, lord willing.

Best Wishes for the Holidays and New Year! Hope to see you at the Sacto Reunion.....

Mary and Mike Lubin  
San Leandro, CA

Dear Mary,

Here are my 1994 dues. Thank you for the great job you and the others are doing. I was the original organizer of the first WFO Reunion in Sacramento. I gathered the names and addresses of over 200 ex-MCL people and mailed out a newsletter every few months all by myself. When it became clear that many people were willing to travel great distances to attend a reunion, Jack Allison and Lew Horne stepped in and handled the local arrangements. They also convinced the Commander of MCL to hold an Open House and arranged a golf tournament. Without their help at this crucial stage, my dream of a WFO reunion would not have happened.

There was a second WFO reunion about two years later that I was unable to attend. Since then I had lost contact with the WFO people. Allison Carter, whom I served with at Team 407 in Japan from 1958 1960, subscribed me to this newsletter as a gift. I have enjoyed receiving it very much and would like to remain on your list. Thank you again.

Michael Long  
San Jose, CA

A wonderful Christmas card that we received:

May the peace and beauty of Christmas be yours throughout the New Year.

To all present and former AFTAC employees - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.....

Charlie Byrd  
Biloxi, MS

**Ed Note:** Thanks Charlie, and the same to you there in the southland.

Staff,

As a Weather Observer Technician with AFTAC from Dec 69 - Sep 77, my involvement began way back in Apr 56 through Apr 58 at Eielson AFB, AK.

Here was Det 5, 7th Wea Grp, Postal Det and the hush hush HQ USAF Team 202, Wash DC all crammed in one wing of a 250 man third floor barracks. Team 202 were the guys that had their own operations building on the south side of the base in a very restricted area.

I recall on numerous occasions Team 202 would have flying TDY Airmen come in from McClellan AFB to fly special missions on the WB29's and later the WB50's assigned to the 58th WRS stationed at Eielson, to who knows what part of the earth. One thing for sure, when they were on board the Loon Echo or Ptarmigan standard tracks and levels, by no means were they standard. Later in 1957, Team 202 moved their living quarters to an old wooden barracks, to the south side of the base. I assume the living conditions were overcrowded in one wing of the 250 man barracks.

With my assignment to AFTAC, Alexandria, VA in Dec 69. Then did I finally realize what these Team 202 guys did for a living besides playing pinochle.

Enclosed are my 1994 dues. Don't forget the Comm people!

Zachary R. Palicia  
Stoneboro, PA

**Ed Note:** Thanks Zac and they also played a pretty good game of hearts too!

What 17th century Dutchman painted nearly 100 self-portraits?  
Note: It was not an AFTAC'er!

Hint: Rem something or other!



# LETTERS

Editor -

This will be a short dissertation on the ubiquitous PSM-6. The ol' possum six, (Some users had a different vowel for the 'o') It went through many modifications in its distinguished career, one being a mechanical circuit breaker to keep the needle of the meter movement from bending itself around the limiting pin at the upper end of the scale. This was okay, except there was no indication that this feature had been invoked by an unskilled technician who measured a higher voltage, or current than the range scale selected. This feature was later removed, partly because of an incident that happened at 1155th Maintenance. There was an 'R' system installed behind building 628, and one day there was an accident, whether caused by the PSM-6 (with the mechanical breaker) or not, we will never know. The 'R' tech was immediately electrocuted when he attempted to measure a lethal voltage in the rear of the 'Final Amplifier'. (Approximately 19,000 volts - Yes, Nineteen Thousand!)

I had been trained in 'R' System and could see that no mistakes could be made. At this time, I was in charge of the test equipment shop and the good ol' PSM-6 was handed to me to see if the instrument in any way was responsible. The thing that first struck me was that there was a greasy hand-print along the left side of the meter, four finger marks along the left bottom edge, and one thumb print on the top of the meter. These were not greasy hand prints, but burned on skin and flesh from the young airman's hand that held the meter. The mechanical circuit breaker had been tripped, but was it before, or after the accident? We will never know! So let's put the PSM-6

to rest OK?

On a lighter vein, I retired from AFTAC in 1967, worked for an air cargo airlines for a year, then to work in Sacramento for the Earthquake Engineering Office, State of California. Twenty Two (22) years later, I was called to be closer to the last of my family here in Kansas. Then, like the fool I have always been, I accepted the job of Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Ellsworth County.

Please find enclosed a check for Lifetime Membership, and please keep up the good work.

Ross W. Stevens  
Ellsworth, KS

Hi....

Just received the December 93 Newsletter and am enclosing a check for \$5.00 for next year. Have made reservations for the June 94 get-together at Sacramento. Am hoping nothing prevents me from attending this one.

Enjoyed the correspondence from Sgt Jack Binkerd. Maybe he will remember me? We served together at the Technical School at Lowry, AFB and again with the 1155th Squadron at McClellan AFB. You can tell him to run fast to catch me - I passed my 76th birthday this month.

Seasons Greetings from us,

George and Harriette Antonio  
Warner Robins, GA

**Ed Note:** Happy Birthday Tony and maybe you can help Jack chase all those women now?

# JOBS

See Sandy Silverman's article in this newsletter.....he has some good advice that we forgot about. ROTC can be a wonderful career!

Remember, this space is reserved for any of you who would like to assist AFTAC'ers that might need gainful employment. Just write to our post office box and we will do the rest.

Hi AFTAC Alumni!

Thanks for placing me on your mailing list. It is good to have some contact with this special unit and to enjoy a feeling of pride in it's continued success.

I entered AFTAC with the 'R' system at Point Barrow, AK in 1961. I retired out from the 'I' System at Eielson AFB, AK in 1974.

In between these two assignments, I was at HQ in VA for 7 years and was in the C, U, V, and W systems at various times during my 13 years.

Thanks Again,

Bill Strader

**Ed Note:** Sure nuff Bill, you ever remember Doctor Fudd, that wonderful endless tape machine in the 'U' system? Or that bottle full of 'Steel Wool' in the I System?



**DETCO**





## March

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

14th Alumni Meeting  
Newsletter mail out.....  
Golf Tournament on the 30th

## April

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

11th Alumni Meeting  
AFTAC Bowl-a-Thon  
Spring Picnic at Wickam Park

## May

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

9th Alumni Meeting  
Golf Tournament - TBD  
AFTAC Picnic - TBD

## June

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

13th Alumni Meeting  
California Reunion 10-11-12

## July

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

11th Alumni Meeting

## August

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

8th Alumni Meeting  
Pick officer's for election slate  
Newsletter mailed.

## September

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

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

## October

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

10th Alumni Meeting - 14th Gen Members

# June 10-11-12 California TOD Reunion

## AFTAC Spring Picnic - April 9th - Wickam Park

**AFTAC Alumni Newsletter** - Ron Ellingsworth reminded us that our calendar did not show an additional newsletter mailing date so let's try to clarify that here in this small space. We have a goal to provide 4 newsletters per year. (This is based upon an analysis of our mailing fees, printing, letters received and a host of other criteria.) We hope you enjoy this publication and our plans are to provide a December Issue (That follows the general membership meeting.); A March Issue (That contains the planning for the Spring Picnic); A June Issue (That reports on the picnic); and a Late August/Early September Issue (That informs you of the General Membership meeting that we hold in October of each year.) This is our plan, but we continue to remain flexible!

## WORLDWIDE DIRECTORY

Worldwide Directory - Ever wondered what happened to that friend or co-worker you were assigned with years ago at one of our exotic sites?

Well, that was the lead in article in this space in the December 1993 newsletter.

Here is the update:

Subscribers/purchases of our Worldwide Directroy have been greater than we anticipated - 36 sold to date.

Feed back comments from the members who purchased a directory have been extremely valuable and we appreciate your inputs.

The following subscribers have provided missing addresses; additional names and addresses; updated addresses; Special Orders from 1949 to 1955 and beyond; and personal listings from previous assignments.

Bob Billington  
James Truit  
Bill Braukman (significant input)  
James Roe  
Mrs. Arthur Hall  
Ken and Karen Hillis  
Cliff York

The contributions of the above members, plus personnel listings sent to us from Jack Binkerd, Milburn Buckminister, and Deanna Melchior have enabled us to start on our first Worldwide Directory update.

We plan to have page changes ready for mailing by the end of March - The update will include an additional 350+ names and/or addresses.

**Thanks folks - keep em coming!**

### White Vinyl, 3-Ring binder (Color photo on front and back)

If you wish to become a subscriber, just send a check or money order for \$13.00 and do not forget to specify which color photo you want added to the rear cover.

Mail to:

AFTAC Alumni Association  
Box 4892  
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892

### NOTE

This directory DOES NOT replace the Florida Chapter directory currently provided to DUES PAYING chapter members, free of charge.

Please note that the listing of names and addresses in this directory falls under the copyright laws and they are not to be used for personal gain nor sales to any individual/function other than that intended.

### **We just love this note that was written on a 3.5 x 3.5 inch piece of notepaper.**

Mary,

Sorry about the dues oversight. Thanks for the reminder. Newsletter is great, keep up the good work. Will send check for worldwide directory.

Tell Carl and the rest of the group hello for me.

Thanks  
Lindsay Miller

P.S. Please Mary do me a favor, Mr. makes me feel older than I really am. Lindsay, Please!

**Ed Note:** Well Mr. Miller, welcome to the world with the rest of us older AFTAC'ers...hehe

## BOWLING

We have several local retirees bowling in the AFTAC Wednesday night bowling league at Patrick AFB.

One of the teams, the Awsome Alumni presently in first place is made up of the following:

Bob Wiley  
Howard Dibble  
Tom Clawson  
Rick Manley  
Terry Hammond  
Colonel Nickel (Tom Ciambrone)  
Tony DeMarco (yes capital M)

Another team, the Old Timers, and in second place, consists of the following:

Galen Pound  
Carl Gailey  
Curtis Smith  
Bruce Varnum  
Ron Ellingsworth

Bowling on other teams in the league are:

Lloyd Hume  
Bill McClelland  
Chip Reed  
Mike Mitchell  
Richard Darlow  
Richard (Swede) Swansen

Something about the Old Timers when its time to bowl against the Awsome Alumni, they seem to forget how to bowl, or is it that they, the Awsome Alumni get very lucky on those nights?

A Few Stats:

High Series Scratch:

Curt Smith 666  
Tony DeMarco 642  
Terry Hammond 627  
Cynthia Harriel 596  
Nancy Darlow 534  
Lisa Matthew 528

## MORE LETTERS

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$13.00 to cover the cost and mailing of one copy of the Worldwide Directory. I would like the photo of the AFTAC building, 6801 Telegraph Road in Alexandria, VA, as that is where I served my entire tour with AFTAC.

My tour there began in 1968 when the then commander BG Linscott Hall and the executive officer LtCol James M. Lee were there. LtCol Lee was my immediate supervisor when I was stationed with HQ US European Command at Camp des Loges, France and BG Hall was S1 at the same headquarters. When it came time for my rotation back to the US in 1968 from the headquarters which was then in Patch Barracks just outside Stuttgart, Germany, LtCol Lee decided I would be a good replacement for the departing AFTAC Sergeant Major. Over my objections, he had my stateside orders changed and had me assigned to AFTAC and the 1035th Field Activities Group (Later changed to the 1035th Technical Operations Group). I reported for duty at AFTAC on 22 July 1968 and was assigned as AFTAC Sergeant Major and 1035th First Sergeant. I am pleased to say that in spite of my objections I had a very pleasant and satisfying assignment during my four years and three months at AFTAC. During that time we had three commanders, BG Hall, BG James Silliman, and BG William Goade, three executive officers, LtCol Lee, LtCol Vernon Bone, and LtCol Milton Shifflett. My direct supervisor was the then Captain Daniel C. Diebler.

I stayed in Alexandria, VA when the organization departed for Florida and helped close up the building at 6801 Telegraph Road. I was reassigned to Griffiss AFB, New York on a humanitarian

reassignment and served as Base Sergeant of Griffiss AFB from November 7, 1973 to July 1, 1974 when I retired from the Air Force.

I spent the next twelve years teaching in the high school Junior ROTC program at Stebbins High School in Mad River Township, a suburb of Dayton, OH. I retired from that position on 1 July 1986 when I reached the age of 65.

Of all my assignments during my 28 years of active duty I believe my tour with AFTAC was the most interesting and one I will always cherish.

Joseph A. Florentine  
Huber Heights, OH

**Ed Note:** Joe, we could not have said it any better!

To AFTAC Friends.....

A brief recap of our Fall 93 Newsnote follows:

Frank and three friends re-formed the Gateway Flying Club and fly a Cessna 172, N2787L. Our senior member was a former full owner of a plane, Art Lange, 87 years young and still flies everytime I call him. Frank's hospice work continues (volunteer) and Nedra joined to design and sew improved hospital gowns. Frank helped several nearby (1-2 miles) neighbors sandbagging during our bad, fall floods of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. We appreciated the calls of concern from several friends and relatives. Our home is high and dry!

Frank took a sabbatical from Deacon training so we could travel a bit and test the 'really retired' waters. As part of this 'freedom' we visited a mobile home park near Bradenton, Florida and what we found was a Shangrila.....

Most friendly place one could ever imagine. Frank can swim laps with 5 heated pools including one of olympic size. Nedra can fish, we can bike ride, 4 recreation halls, lovely sunny weather, fruit trees in yards (pick and eat), tons of beaches - 15 minutes to the west, reasonable lessees for 'snow birds', and more. We found a great buyers market and almost did so. Instead, we plan to lesse for Jan, Feb, and March.

Love and hugs,

Frank and Nedra Szachta  
St Louis, MO

**Ed Note:** Frank and Nedra asked for some information on the California Reunion and Mary has sent them all the information that we have. Enjoy folks....We know how Florida is, we love it too!

Dear Mary:

Thank you for the reminder of the AFTAC Alumni Association (Florida Chapter) dues. Enclosed please find a check for \$50 for a lifetime membership. I always look forward to the newsletters and particularly the pamphlet with the names and addresses of all AFTAC Alumni.

I appreciate the opportunity to hear news about AFTAC Alumni and I hope to be able to participate in some of the upcoming reunions. Thank you again for the reminder and I look forward to future newsletters and activities.

Sincerely,

Normand W. Lafontaine  
New Hampshire