

◆ POST - MONITOR ◆

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 3 **Your Association • Serving Sages Since March 1985** **2007 SEPTEMBER**



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 SPOTLIGHT

THE LONG RANGE DETECTION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PROUDLY PRESENTS

FY2007 PRESIDENT ROBERT 'BOB' WILEY



Bob has been our elected president now for almost the entire FY2007. Normally, we would have told you more about him in the issue after his election, or the one following. However, our 'Alumni Of The Year' news was breaking and we now 'introduce' Bob to all our readers.

Bob has been a Lifetime member of the association since retiring from the AF, and AFTAC, in 1985. We have counted on him for numerous services since becoming editors in 1996. Bob has been our 'Digicam Man' and one of our 'rovin' reporters' (Clark Creery is the other) since that time. As such, he has been asked to 'cover' many events, both pictorially and with text: he has never let us down in these requests.

A history of his service to the AF, and AFTAC:
"USAF, Aug 64 – Apr 85, AFTAC, May 71 – Aug 77 (TD5, TFR, and TFE) and Aug 80 – Apr 85, retired USAF as Lt Col, Chief AFTAC/DOF, Space Operations Division. Continued to serve AFTAC as Program Manager for SAIC's support under the ATEAM contracts 89 – 99. After retirement, was appointed to, and still serves on AFTAC's Satellite Systems Review Panel. Still consult with SAIC on US Nudet Detection System support contracts for AFTAC and AFSPC."

Thank you Bob, for your service to your country, the AF, AFTAC, and now, the LRD Alumni Association. Since becoming president he has taken steps to highlight membership drives and internet communication improvements.

ALUMNI ALERTS-WHAT'S COMIN' UP

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

LONG RANGE DETECTION PROGRAM 60TH ANNIVERSARY, OCT 11-12TH

Sign-up by Sept 28th, additional details, page 3

17TH ANNUAL FALL GOLF N'GETOGETHER COCOA BEACH GOLF COURSE, OCT 12TH

Cocoa Beach Golf Course, See page 3 for more details. Held in conjunction with LRD 60th Anniversary recognition (see above).

SNOWBALL X-JAN 26 (SAT)-THEME, AUSTRALIA

Patrick AFB, FL, Tides Club

More details as the time draws nigh

ALUMNI EVENTS-WHAT'S GONE OFF

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

WORLDWIDE REUNION, JUNE 7-11, 2007

The Colorado Chapter hosted the 2007 World-Wide Reunion in Denver. Many Sages were in attendance and we look forward to receiving reports about this event in the CO chapter news.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FY 08 DUES NOTICE...ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

Here's how to know ... check your address label NOW!

The 'Name Line' indicates when dues are due. If it reads:
"FY Dues Due in Oct 08" it means you have not paid
your dues for FY 2008 (began 1 Oct 07).

If it reads "LT" (Lifetime), or the digits are greater than 08, it means your dues are current.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

Honor Roll: Alumni Of The Year Recipients

William 'Bill' Schmied, 2007-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 AFTACers, 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.

1. 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 over 650 Members, 565 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.' (website is down-being relocated). 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 152 members-127 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: An Important email address correction is needed for Jim **Champoux**. He is subscribed to the PoMo, Electronic edition, and his email address failed, Jim@Champoux.com. So, Jim, or anyone, please send us a corrected address. (when an email address fails we add the Sage back to the hard-copy mailing).

A self inflicted booboo in the last issue was not to mention the **Calenda** family among the Florida attendees at the reunion. We apologize and reckon it happened because we see them so often back here in Florida it did not occur to us we were seeing them in Colorado. Does that make sense?

In any case, they were there in full force and zest. Pictured below, and we apologize the picture is not more clear, are Frank and Edna (right and center); Tony and Val (both Sages) (right rear and far left); and Mike. Thanks for being there and adding to our good time and the overall gaiety.



As you know, we send our publications, the PoMo and membership directory, in two ways, USPS and Email, and have encouraged members to give the email delivery a try, if at all possible. Additional impetus happened with the mailing of the June issue. Our postage went from 18.5 cents an issue to 30/. We are going to trim this cost somewhat by having the issues 'folded'-but this will add to the burden of hard-copy mailing. Because of increased costs we ask you to consider the following email our webmaster, Mike **Black**, sent out to all registered (e-all) members:

"If you currently receive the Florida Chapter quarterly newsletter, 'Post-Monitor,' via snail mail please give consideration to receiving it electronically. We have been offering the 'PoMo' electronically for several years now and around 140 members currently choose this method. It costs us ~ \$7.00 per member per year to print and snail mail the newsletter and the costs are going up. I have talked with the California group, and they have the same problem with mailing costs. Both groups are asking members to receive the respective newsletter electronically. (see page 3)

LRD PROGRAM 60TH ANNIVERSARY, OCT 11/12

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

This two day event will begin on 11 Oct with an 'Open House' at the HQ's building from 1300 to 1600. Please contact Gloria **Jones**, 321-494-7684, for arranging to attend the open house and the banquet that evening (below). Sign up by Sept 28th; last day for changes, Oct 5th.

That evening (11 Oct) will be a banquet at the 'Imperials Hotel' with a cocktail period from 1800-1845 and dining at 1900. It will be a sit-down affair for \$30.00 .. the meal includes both chicken and beef; MGen **Dettmer**, ex-AFTAC CC, will deliver the keynote speech. Following this, we will be entertained by AFTAC's own 'house band,' **'Greenlight'**, who have played at many events.

To arrange lodging: Email: 'Imperialshotel.com' or call 1-800-554-5188; the hotel is being renovated and will probably be a 'Holiday Inn' by the time or the 60th-Standard (king/double) \$69 Suite \$89 When making reservations, tell them you're with the LRD 60th Anniversary.

The next day, on the 12th, there will be a golf n'getogether arranged by the alumni association. See details in the following article.

17TH ANNUAL FALL GOLF N'GETOGETHER COCOA BEACH GOLF COURSE, OCT 12TH

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

'SAGE, ON THE RANGE'



The Association's 17th Annual Fall Golf N' Getogether Tournament will get underway on 12 October 2007 at the Cocoa Beach Country Club. Addison "Mitch" **Mitchell** has stepped up to the plate once again to run this great event for us. Thanks for your leadership Mitch!

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:

Pat **Snyder** 494-6867

Or Carol **Snyder** 494-2822

Deliver your payment to 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 5 October 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.

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING (Continued from Page 1)

The Email option will get to you before a mailed copy (some two weeks sooner). Another advantage, the color photographs appear in color. It is much easier to recognize people you know in the color renditions. Also you can blow up both print and pictures on the email copy. You can help your association from the money end as well as reducing the workload involved with printing and mailing the newsletter. If you would like to try the email option, let me know at 'chrisjohn2@earthlink.net.' If you would like a one time trial, again, let me know and I will send you 1 newsletter for your examination. The 'one-time' offer is also made to those who served the LRD (AFTAC) mission but are not 'paid-up' members.'

We had over 60 positive answers to this query and added a lot of Sages to the ePoMo subscriber listing ... and, we received many inquiries from non-members, some who 'signed up.'

The response was so heavy we hope we did not make too many mistakes; if you asked for the newsletter via email, and did not receive it with this issue, please let us know. Now we ask you, our hard-copy reader, to consider the electronic option. Thank you.

Off the box and back to editing-this is a great issue. There is all kinds of 'news' to read with the LRD 60th coming up, info about a mission memorial most of us do not know about, lots of mail, with pictures, bonus picture pages, Chapter and Active-Duty news and, as usual, some great 'Feature' articles and some really different 'Trivia' we need someone to answer.

One more item concerning the PoMo. Last is-

sue, if you recall, we mentioned Pat **Snyder**, one of our HQ's building 'Insiders.' She makes distribution of the PoMo to the directorates within the building and to our active-duty wherever they serve, detachments, equipment locations, etc. Importantly, how does Pat get those issues to distribute, and how did your PoMo get to the mailers? Steps forward another Sage important to this newsletter getting to you, Jack **Jackson**. For some time now, Jack has been critical in our whole process after the issue is printed. He picks up the some 600 issues from the printers and delivers them to our commercial mailer, ACMS, and later, after the mailing process is complete, picks up the remaining issues to deliver to Pat and our membership chair, Randy **Vlassick** (Randy needs a few copies to respond to new members) (By the by, ACMS, our mailers mentioned above, is operated by Pat and Bob **Chadwick**, he a Sage who served the mission several years back.)

Thank you, Jack, for this service. We could not provide this newsletter as we do without you!!
NOW, READER, GO FORWARD AND ENJOY

Scene Sages, Golf N'Gettogether, 05.04

THANK YOU, BOB WILEY, FOR PASSING ON THES DIGIPICS BY JOE MARSHALL



Here, volunteers, Deborah Carson and Pat Snyder, two of our intrepid 'Insiders' try to decipher who's doing what



Here we have two players, Tom Dunn and Frank Hall, that have slipped by our insider's and have been allowed to 'play'



Here we have, standing, another 'Insider,' Carol Snyder, trying to determine how those two guys got into the tournament



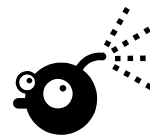
Gary Killian, AFTAC TT, shows off his prize while others look longingly on ... many more won as there were a ton of prizes, as usual

WorldWide Reunion, 06.7-11

ONE OF YOUR EDITORS, CHRIS HORSCH



We just can't get enough of Bill Schmied being selected as 'Alumni Of The Year, 2007'-here he and Sue 'hide' behind the 'Traditional T' that looks large enough to hold both of them at the same time!!





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.

Transitions

Someone who served AFTAC both as a military officer and as a civilian employee retired this past April. Those he served with sent us the following recognitions to be posted in the Post-Monitor.

In Memoriam

Edgar BeAbout

Pat Heckman (spouse of Charlie Heckman)

Richard Charles

Rest in Eternal Peace

Edgar BeAbout

EMAIL, JOE JOHNSON, OBITUARY EXTRACT FROM VAN ALSTYNE LEADER (TX), JUNE 21, 2007



Services for Edgar Guy BeAbout, 84, were held Wednesday, June 20, 2007, at the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery in Grand Prairie.

Born in Billings, Mont., in 1921, Mr. BeAbout was the youngest of five children. Growing up in Joliet, Ill., through the Great Depression he helped his widowed mother

maintain the household working odd jobs while attending school. Graduating from Joliet Township High School in 1938, he attended and graduated Joliet Junior College in 1940.

Edgar joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1940 and rose to the rank of 1st Lieutenant by the end of World War II in 1946. During his tour of duty, he was stationed in England with the 55th Fighter Group/38th Squadron doing radio operations. He was awarded several ribbons and medals for his gallantry during the war.

He took a short break from military life, then re-enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. His 18 years of military service lead him through many assignments and countries including Germany, Greenland, Norway, Turkey and Africa. He also attended the University of Michigan, graduating in 1958 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and retired from his military career as a lieutenant colonel stationed at the Air Force Tactical Air Command in Washington, D. C. Editors Note: perhaps this could read, 'AF Technical Applications Center.'

OTHER INFORMATION: Returning to civilian life, he worked for Texas Instruments in Dallas until 1972. After leaving TI, he obtained his Airframe and Power Plant license to further his dream of building, repairing and maintaining several different types of aircraft. He built and flew an aerobatic plane, known as a Pitts Special, with the call sign N7EB. He moved to his current residence, the "Double Bootjack," in 1983, starting his own airport for aircraft to fly into for repairs and maintenance. He was a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association and International Acrobatic Club. As a member of the IAC, he performed duties as judge for acrobatic competitions. He was also a HAM radio operator with membership in the Old, Old Timers Club for more than 50 years. His call sign license in Texas was W5QXM and previously to that, his signal was W9ABQ.

Mr. BeAbout was married twice and is survived by four children, Tye BeAbout of Dallas, Pepe BeAbout and his wife, Jan, of Sherman, Jaren BeAbout of Van Alstyne and Krystl Phil,yaw and her husband, Scott, of Rhome; his sister, Margarite Cherry of South Euclid, Ohio; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother Harold and sisters Florence and Clara Mae.

Roxie McCann-email, Nargoski's Daughter (Ski's notice was in the last issue), writes:

NOTE: George Waters asked us to send it to Roxie.

I printed the entire paper while I was at work this afternoon. I know you realize how special and wonderful it was to receive it. Thank you also George and Jenny.....It was a unexpected gift I will cherish forever.

He was a wonderful man who helped me in so many ways. My grown children and grand children have always called him "Grandpa" with such love and affection that he always showed them. Being a single Mom of 5 you can't imagine how special this was. My heart is very full tonight knowing how much you respected and loved him. God bless all of you, keep all the memories and laughter going, he would like that. Best regards always Roxie And Sean, Jim, Mike, Garth & Kelly (Jimmy, Jeremy, Jennifer, Chad, Joseph, Jessica, Tayler, Karleigh & Molly.....Coming in October Chad Jr.) Love to all It's so great to be editors! Thank you George for this idea and thank you Roxie-another 'Ski' memory-this time from you.



Pat Heckman

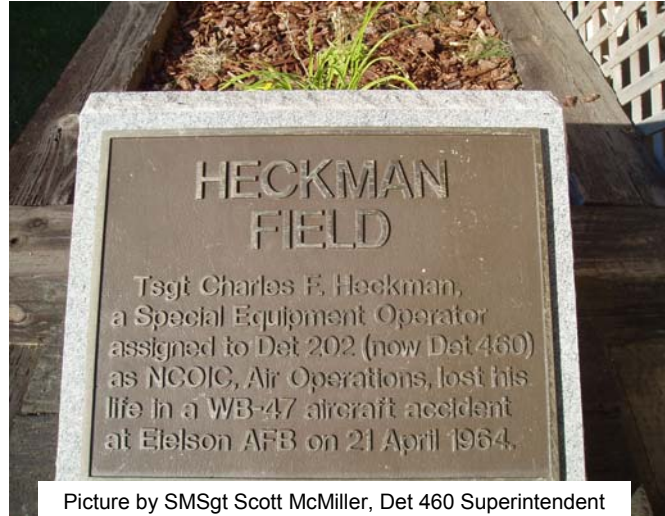
JERRY LABARRE EMAIL, 2007.08.20

I am sending you this notice that Charlie Heckman's widow Pat passed away in a nursing home in Oregon on Aug 4th. Pat had cancer but passed away peacefully according to her youngest daughter Terry. Terry notified us by phone and asked if we could notify as many friends of Pat and Charlie as possible. She would also like to have as many of your addresses as possible to mail you info on the funeral to be held at Arlington National Cemetery on 30 Aug. Pat is to be buried alongside of Charlie.

As many of you may recall Charlie was an SEO and NCOIC of a small 2 man "A" Det that supported routine air operations out of Eielson AFB. If my memory serves me right John **Shampnoi** was the only other permanent party SEO. Aircraft used to deploy from McClellan, RON, and fly a mission the next day. Mac **MacAllister** flew the WB-47 deployment from McClellan on Wednesday April 21st 1964 and Charlie scheduled himself to fly the next day's mission. He flew each Thursday. The accident report indicated the aircrew was not familiar with the Eielson runway which had a frost bump about mid runway. When the aircraft hit the bump the pilot attempted lift off and the aircraft broke a landing gear rolled over one wing and caught fire. Fire trucks had a difficult time getting to the aircraft because of deep snow. A local news helicopter was in the air at the time and took film of the accident which Pat saw on TV. I was assigned as Blue Bark escort for Pat and family. We deployed to Eielson on a WC-130 with an AWS crew. Then Pat and kids and I flew commercial to Sacramento. A service was held at the base chapel. Grandparents took the kids to Iowa and Pat and I went to bury Charlie at Arlington then I escorted her to Iowa and later to Sacramento. Mac flew escort for Charlie's remains from Alaska to Arlington.

My wife Terry and I will not be able to attend the funeral. Wish we could. Don't know how many of you know how close our family was with Charlie, Pat and their family. Or, that her daughter Terry was named after my wife Terry. We stayed in touch since the aircraft accident and I was fortunate enough to be asked by Col **Niquette** to give the dedication speech at the memorial in Charlie's honor at Det 460 (Det 202) Eielson AFB, Ak. I can't remember the year the memorial was placed, but, I know I was retired from the Air Force and working on the Alaska pipeline and liv-

ing in Alaska. The dedication was written up in the AFTAC paper.



Picture by SMSgt Scott McMiller, Det 460 Superintendent

Many of the SEOs who served TDY after the accident would talk about hearing footsteps in the hall and rooms, hear doors close, lights turned on and off, door to the roof being open, etc. It was believed Charlie's ghost roamed the building. Ron **Pobieglo**, assigned to the Det, later wrote a story of *Charlie's ghost*. (see following) that many may remember.. My wife Terry and I know the story well because we kept associating with the Det people while in Alaska. It really hits home when some time in the later years Det personnel advised us the Ghost was no longer present in the building. When comparing dates of his departure from the Det, my wife and I got to thinking that was about the time we started to hear noises in our house basement, find lights on, items moved, etc. Till the day we left Alaska we believed Charlie's ghost had moved to our house.

Terry's mailing address and telephone number follow if you want to be in touch, Teresa Usher, 921 Todd Road, BelAir, MD, 21014; 410-638-8345/443-752-1321. Or, if you'd rather send your mailing and telephone info to me (jerryterry@juno.com; 813-505-7442) and I will get it to Terry. Editors Note: The following was provided by Clark **Creery**, Chief Nederhoed, HQ's and SMSgt **McMiller**, Det 460 and first published in the 'Monitor,' an AFTAC active duty newsletter that was published for many years. As you might surmise, the 'Post-Monitor' name was inspired by that publication.

"This article by SMSgt Ron **Pobieglo**, then stationed at what is today Detachment 460, was first published in the 'Monitor,' November 1991. Even today, it is framed and hangs within Det 460."

Eielson AFB, Alaska - Charlie Heckman was a special equipment operator assigned to this detachment in the early

1960s. He was a hard working noncommissioned officer. No matter what time of day or night you came to the detachment, Charlie was there.

Late at night he could often be found fine-tuning the initial assay equipment in the laboratory, or typing a report on flying operations. He was always friendly, and had the knack of giving you a cheerful or encouraging word when you needed it the most. He loved his work and it showed.

We were flying daily 'ptarmigan' sampling tracks over the icecap during this period, using WB-47 aircraft. Thursday of every week was Charlie's flight. One week Charlie decided to fly on a Tuesday. His aircraft crashed on takeoff, and Charlie and two other crew members were killed.

About a year after the accident, people working in this building late at night began to take note of unusual happenings. Most notable were the sounds of doors opening and closing, and the sounds of footsteps in the hall. - and no one was ever there! Speculation said it was Charlie, but I didn't believe it.

One cold December night in 1966, I was working late in the Air Operations Office, now the supply area. I was alone in the building. The sound of a door closing at the far end of the hallway caught my attention.

"Aha", I said to myself, "maybe a heater fan came on, and the air pressure pushed the door closed".

As I sat quietly at my desk, the hair on the back of my neck began to stand up - I could clearly hear the sound of footsteps echoing down the hallway.

As I reluctantly got up from my desk to see who was there, the sound stopped. When I looked down the hallway - no one was there. I searched the whole building - all the doors were secured and I was the only one here.

Off and on, other people continued to report similar experiences. Over the years since then the people assigned here changed, but their stories didn't. Charlie became an unexplained, but accepted anomaly by the members of the detachment.

The frequency of strange happenings seems to have decreased over the years. People are often reluctant to discuss this sort of thing. But the reports never entirely disappeared.

You can draw your own conclusions from this story. I do not believe in this sort of thing as a rule. But I do know what happened there on a cold December night in 1966. Signed, Ron Pobieglo

The article went on to report:

"Heckman Field (Editor's Note: now Elmendorf) was dedicated July 18, 1991, to honor TSgt Charles F. Heckman who lost his life in an aircraft accident on April 21, 1964. Heckman was the noncommissioned officer in charge, Airborne Operations of Detachment 202, now Detachment 460. He'd been assigned to McClellan AFB, CA, and Team 407 prior to his assignment at Eielson.

During the ceremony Col. 'Tipp' Simpson, host installation commander, spoke of the long history of AFTAC and Eielson AFB and the close relationship between the detachment and the host base. Col. Tom **Niquette**, former Pacific Technical Operations Area commander, described the dedication and devotion to duty of Det. 460 in particular and AFTAC personnel in general that was symbolized by Heckman. The guests

of honor were Gerald R. **LaBarre** and his wife Terry. LaBarre retired as a senior master sergeant in 1975 after a 27-year career with the AFTAC Airborne Program. LaBarre spoke of his long friendship with Charlie, his wife Patricia, and their children. He told us that the day of the accident was not Charlie's day to fly but the mission was scheduled to be flown by a special equipment operator deployed from McClellan. That operator was not feeling well on that day, so Charlie volunteered to make the flight. LaBarre pointed out Charlie's diligence, enthusiasm for accomplishment of the mission, and his abilities as a leader to make subordinates feel at ease.

At the end of the ceremony LaBarre and Niquette unveiled a plaque dedicating Heckman Field. Seen earlier in this section. We have been informed the memorial was visited by Charlie's niece, Mrs. Belt, in June, 2006.

Richard Charles

JACK MCGETTIGAN EMAIL, 07.31

Robin, daughter of Richard Charles, called me yesterday to advise Rich (Nick), as we called him through the years, had passed away peacefully on August 30 at his home in North Highlands, CA. I know he has had a rough go for some time.

JOE JOHNSON FORWARDED OBITUARY, 09.03, FROM THE 'SACRAMENTO BEE.'

CHARLES, Sr., Richard J. "Rich"

Born in Wilkes-Barre, PA on March 18, 1928, Rich passed away peacefully at home on August 30, 2007. Rich was a graduate of GAR High School in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and attended the University of Connecticut where he was both a student and an Air Force ROTC Instructor. He also graduated from American River College in June 1977. Rich retired from the US Air Force after 22 years. He was employed at McClellan AFB where he retired in October 1988 after 20 years with the 2852nd Air Base Group

OTHER INFORMATION: He is survived by Jean, his devoted wife of 58 years, along with his children and their spouses Richard Jr. and Kate, Robin and Steve Hutcheson, and Dawn and Terry Klundt, along with his grandchildren Jennifer, Jaclyn, Peter, Matthew, Timothy and Mary, as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews. He also leaves a brother, John and sisters Jean Namey and Naida Abraham of PA.

Rich was a veteran of WWII, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. He was a Life Member of the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) Chapter 1322, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 4647 and the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 93. Rich served overseas in Greenland, Newfoundland, and Germany. He was also a dedicated volunteer for the Air Force Retiree Activities Office at McClellan AFB since 1992. Rich is best remembered as a devoted Husband, Father, and Grandfather. He was truly dedicated to the well being of his family with his wit, good nature, and kindness. Rich will be truly missed by those whose lives he touched. Interment at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery.



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)

First Sage to 'report in'

Jim Davis

2007.07.10

Hey John, guess what I got shortly after 11 o'clock today??????? You guessed it, the PoMo. Thank you very much. Now if I can figure out how to print it without getting the pages all mixed up I will be A OK. I didn't reply immediately with the feedback you requested until I had read all of the PoMo. Now that you know that I'm receiving it ok here in Canada keep the future PoMo's coming.

Sorry to see the passing of Col McMichael and "Ski", both good AFTACER'S... Best wishes to all my ole (old) friends there in Florida. We'll do it, Jim.

Frank Calenda-email

07.12

Another great issue, as usual. I still can't even imagine how the two of you get out all this information without complaining. I've known you for a good many years and never heard a single negative remark from either of you.

You are both certainly dedicated to this effort, and I'm sure it's appreciated by all who read it. To me, this is the lifeline of the Alumni Association and it always enters my mind, if you guys didn't do it, who would? The answer to that is definitely not apparent.

I hope you both see fit to continue this effort. When one really thinks about it, how would everybody stay in touch with the happenings, and each other in many cases, if it weren't for your efforts with this paper. Thanks so much for caring

and being there. It is well appreciated! Wow, thanks Frank. We do it for readers such as yourself that participate and congratulate. You, in particular, have participated by writing several articles ... thank you for that, and your appreciation.

Clark Wilberg

07.16

As always, I've enjoyed reading the latest issue of the Monitor. I was especially interested in seeing the cost savings that the electronic version allows; that's significant for an organization that doesn't have a constant stream of revenue. Hopefully others will see the advantage of freeing funds for other uses.

It was good to see Bill **Schmied** recognized as the Alumni of the Year. I had many great associations with Bill over the years as we (Airborne SEOs) went to the school house seeking recruits for the SEO force and training in the airborne equipment. Through that association and the knowledge of Det 057 that I acquired from Bill (and subsequently Ken **Brauchle**), I was able to gain some skills that allowed me to attempt to carry on in the fashion and approaching the standard that Bill had established. He was (and is) part of the institution that was Det 057!

Secondly, it's good to see Steve **Herrick** as the AFTAC Superintendent (I still think it should be a Command Chief Master Sergeant position). I remember Steve from the days when he provided support to the depot-level support to the airborne mission; seems as though he deployed with us a number of times with Pony Express operations. I found it interesting that he, too, has served as Superintendent at Det 301 and at 312th Training Flight. Those were two locations and assignments (albeit OL-Go when I was there) that I fondly remember. I'm sure Steve will lead by example and will serve with honor.

I was filled with some personal retrospective thoughts as I read of Chuck (Col, ret) **McBrearty's** retirement. I especially liked the poem and the memories it evoked. A great AFTACer!

Lastly, it was exciting to read Col **Westergren's** speech from the Colorado reunion. I had just read an article on line last Friday that addressed the Air Force Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency and the inclusion of AFTAC. These must be exciting times to be working within AFTAC. Wow ... what great compliments and what a complete read of the PoMo. You deserve a 'Sage Star' for readership!! We hope our other readers get even half the enjoyment you did. Those were great stories and as you wrote, you were so much a part of so many of them.

Clark added in a follow-up email on 7.17:

I just realized another couple tidbits of retro-

nostalgia as I was reading through the ePoMo once again. I recognized the name Bruce **Deffler** but couldn't place him immediately. He was a roommate with Glen **Carson** in Barracks 949 at McClellan AFB in 1968, if I'm not mistaken. I also reread the note from Gindy (James **Gindlesperger**). I haven't heard anything from him since shortly after his retirement. Gindy was the "red rope" in my barracks when I arrived at SPIN-STRATA from Lackland. He became an SEO in '74-75 with Paul **Dennis**, AJ **Saam**, Larry **Pollard**, Gene **Deurrieux** (sp), and Ken **Brauchle**. He also replaced me at Det 301 as Superintendent.

Let me add another comment regarding Chief **Schmied**: In his capacity as Chief, Det 057, Bill guided many of us through the Det Commander/Superintendent Course. In so doing, he--by extension--influenced the quality of the AFTAC product and the fulfillment of the mission objectives. He had/has a wealth of knowledge concerning detachment operations and has great interpersonal skills. He was a perfect mentor for teaching this SEO who had trouble spelling "B system" and wouldn't recognize a "p-wave" if it slapped him up beside the head. From the photos, it appears he has hardly aged a day since he retired. Thanks for all this nostalgia, Clark. And Bill has taken all the talents you mention into his work in the Colorado Chapter.

LETTERS/EMAIL

Bill Schmied

07.12

In reply to Clark Creery's Congratulatory email on Bill's 'Alumni Of The Year, 2007' selection at the WorldWide Reunion in June.

Thank you for the kind words and I think it's quite an honor to be selected for this award, but considering the list of prior selectees and their contributions to the association, I'm wondering how I could even have been nominated for it. John's announcement at the reunion banquet was an overwhelming surprise....shock is a better word....and still not fully recovered from it! Wish ya'll could have been here. ... **later Bill added:**

Every time I see a picture or think about this award a new word pops into my mind....the latest addition to the list is "dumbfounded" to go along with the surprise, shock, and of course the honor.

But I also know it would not be possible without the hard work of many of our chapter members.

PS Jack **Smith** and I attended the Det 45 Change of Command ceremony last week. It was good to see Col **Westergren** again and talk about my surprise.....Chief **Herrick** was with him. I remember when he was just a young airman. I guess I'm getting as old as you two...almost!

Clark Creery

07.24

Very interesting reading about an early Sage: <http://www.awra.us/gallery-feb07.html>

Later, in response to a Don **Mann** request for a patch, Clark provided this link, and graphic, and, even later, advised Don bought two of them: <http://www.paulspasstime.com/servlet/Detail?no=4422>



Good history about the 'early days' and many will recall this patch.

Ron Cook

07.26

Readers may recall that Ron has written on several occasions about one of his passions-correctly 'date timing.'

It is the belief of some of us that it would benefit our country if we all presented dates in a correct format. That would be the other half of the Date-Time-Group (DTG), mathematically defined as the sequence of fields: Year/Month/Day Hour:Minute:Second. We believe that by your watches and the rotation of this planet you all believe that every 24 hours is a day. That proves your implicit belief that the first three fields of the DTG, are correct as presented, and we therefore ask that you try to present the date correctly for its explicit benefit to this country which we all love, for better or for worse. We can help make it better this way. You can find more at <http://cowaro.com>. I believe we present all other units correctly and should do likewise with this most import measure.

In a similar vein, for your loved ones who depart, we would like to present some properly formatted stones for your consideration. A comparison can be found at: <http://cowaro.com/>

Genealogy/Image/Tombstone/TS_BSC75.jpg
http://cowaro.com/Genealogy/Image/Tombstone/TS_WSC74.jpg, and a nicer stone with a real Tree Swallow, http://cowaro.com/Genealogy/Image/Tombstone/2002Kathy&Tree_swallow.jpg. There may be circumstances under which you might not want to change to the better form. Your choice. Thank you for your passion about this matter.

'Pete' Wigington-email 07.30

(Several email went back and forth as we straightened out the 'Tale of Two Wigington's') Sorry I was not able to answer your mail sooner, but my Computer went down on 07/20/07 and I had to start Cancer Chemo treatment on 07/23/07 and am just now feeling like the living again.

From what I can tell, Col John Wigington has it all straight. In any case, William N. Wigington is the PETE· (SMSgt, Ret) My Grandfather gave me the nickname 'Pete' as a kid and it followed me all my life.

Thanks to you good people for all your time and effort, you are doing a great job and I really enjoy the PoMo. Wish you the best results with your health, and thanks for verifying the 'Wigington' info and the compliment.

John Wallace>Clark Creery-email 08.07

Forwarded item of interest: Military.com has two sites for aftac:, TOD-<http://unitpages.military.com/unitpages/unit.do?id=794646> and PAFB-<http://unitpages.military.com/unitpages/unit.do?id=800290>

Gary Deivert-email 08.07

My e-mail is changed to TRDDM@verizon.net .. I doubt that anyone is trying to get hold of me since I left this outfit in 1962. but I saw on the travel network the other night Shemya is still there. I was the commander there in 1961-1962. Thanks for sending me all this stuff. You betcha and thank you for your service-I have max respect for AFTAC CC's-and continuing 'Sage Support'—maybe someone will surprise you with an email and 'get hold' of you and write us a tale!!!

NOTE: Almost immediately, someone did 'get hold' of Gary.

Clark Creery-email reply to Gary

I just went in to the database to make sure things were ok and I see that you live in St. College, Pa. My old stomping grounds were in Ebensburg, Pa. and I now manage the rootsweb genealogy web page for Ebensburg. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~pacebens/> Additionally, I reenlisted at Shemya ten years after you were there. (see following pictures). Marty Bandy was the commander at that time.

Like John said, write us and tell us about some of your experiences. Mine were wonderful and I have added most of them to a book that I have

written about my service career. (Not yet approved for formal publication.)



Clark reenlists (see email); Det parking lot, circa '70's.

Clark, thanks for the quick 'hold of' and the pictures.

Jack Kimball-email 08.09

It seems we have had a minor problem with my name and my e-mail address - Here goes - My name is Earl Jack Kimball and no one should ever name a child EARL - so I always went by JACK. My e-mail address is - wa-jac@academicplanet.com - John were you in En-campment in the 50's? We were their in 54 thru March of 58 and then went to Denver. Hey U all have a good day - and Thanks. Earl, er, Jack, we have visited several times, mostly in association with the Summer's, Alk and Reet ... or have you managed to cast them from your memory?

Geno Wagner-email 08.27

Passes this along: Effective 25 July. U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) today praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law states that veterans and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL MAIL

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

'Serial Sages'

New Lifetime Memberships, Not Available

'Sustaining Sages'

Annual Memberships, new and renewals, Not Available

FROM THE TOP

Frank **Hall**, one of our great perennials, offered to 'Chair' board nominations for the upcoming FY2008 elections. These elections will take place at the Oct 12th 'General Meeting' immediately following the 17th Annual Fall Golf N'Gettogether.

All current board members have agreed to serve and that board composition can be seen to the right. We thank these members for continuing. They were just having too much fun to 'step down.' It is anticipated the current 'Appointed' members will also continue to serve. We will also ask for nominations from the floor (with the nominee's permission, of course) at the time of the meeting.

Please note we need a volunteer for Publicity.

Even if you don't play golf, come have BBQ dinner (\$10) and attend the meeting; reservations requested.

There's a lot going on in October so sit down and set up your social calendar now. Before I get into those things, I'd like to cover two items that deserve your attention. The first is that the mailing out of the last PoMo impressed upon the board the increased costs we incur with 'snail' mail hard copies. Appeals to you have been positive resulting in over 170 individuals switching to the email version. I have been one of the 'hold-outs' but I see the handwriting on the wall and ask all of you who have Internet connections to change to the electronic delivery of the PoMo. You get it earlier and some of the photos will be in color that we can't afford to print that way. I print my copy so I can read it at leisure.

We asked for your support of the "AFTAC Cares" project and you responded for the July packages that were delivered to the troops. "Thank you" notes came back and are included in the issue. Please continue to support this effort and a special "Thanks" to those who contributed the initial telephone cards. Remember this supports both AFTACers and AFTACers' family members who are serving in a deployed area.

We now have more info on the plans for celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Long Range Detection. Details begin on page one. There will be an Open House and a dinner on Thursday, 11 Oct. It would be nice to have a large turnout of the alumni. Following that, our fall golf tournament is Fri., the 12th. Please sign up early. There should be a full field because of the Anniversary activities. Paying ahead of time would also help.

Hope to see you at the Anniversary activities.

Bob Wiley

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**
'Off-Line' WorldWide Database-**Clark Creery**
Publicity-**Need a Volunteer** Sage Shop-**Pat/Carol Snyder**

#####

A Minute with the Minutes

Membership: Chair, Randy Vlassick reports membership is 659-566 lifetime.

Post-Monitor: Back on schedule. The September issue will be published in mid to late month.

Hall of Heritage: Chair, Dave Merker, reported the upgrades are progressing and changes will soon be noted. The front lobby is changing in appearance to reflect the worldwide mission. Plans are underway to approve space for a Hall of Heritage in the new building, if and when one is approved for AFTAC. The timeline of the mission will be reflected in the Hall of Heritage. Judy Milam mentioned that she has a number of photos she would be willing to donate to the Hall of Heritage. Dave also reported plans are underway to display a WB-50 at the USAF Museum at Dayton, OH. He will submit an article to go in the PoMo asking alumni members to submit any pictures, drawings, parts, etc, that could help reconstruct the sampler.

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: SnowBall X has been scheduled for 2008.01.26 at the Tides, mark your calendars! The theme for this 2008 event is Australia.

Golf: see 'Alerts' and 'Events' articles, page one

WorldWide Reunion, 2009: Traditionally the worldwide reunion rotates between the three alumni assn chapters on a biannual basis. CA hosted in 2005 and CO the recent festivities. We have started discussions for 'our turn' for 2009.

Activities: Chair, CMSgt, Steve Herrick (AFTAC Superintendent) reported AFTAC will celebrate the Long-Range Detection Program's 60th Anniversary this year and plans to have a dinner as

part of the celebration. AFTAC would like to have Alumni participation in the festivities. The celebration is advertised on the alumni web site and in the POST-MONITOR. See Pg 1.

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

Off-Line WorldWide Database

CLARK CREERY, MASTER MAINTAINER

Thanks everyone for checking the on-line site and making the corrections to the data presented there. New folks are starting to find the page and add their data. Since June we have had 36 updates to the database. Quite a few folks leave their addresses off the listing but I email them and get them to give me the data. Why you ask? Along the line if we have data that needs to be sent out to all former members of AFTAC who are on the list we need an address. Otherwise, I just ignore it.

The newsletter abounds with information about the group and others who served and joining is rather simple and inexpensive. We will send you a copy of the newsletter right to your email address and most folks really enjoy seeing what is happening in the AFTAC/LRD world today. Validate your information on: www.aftacalumni.org. Thanks very much. Thank you Clark, for this input and the hours you spend making sure it is up-to-date and valid.

'Need To Know Now' Link/E-All Information

YOUR EDITORS

We remind you of our new 'quick check' site, 'Need To Know, Now' at the alumni assn web-site, 'www.aftacalumni.org.' There you will find current events and a listing of 'Sages to Remember,' recent and past.

Also, as many of you know and have registered your email addresses, Mike **Black**, our webmaster, provides a most helpful service we refer to as 'e-all.' With this service we keep registered members up-to-date on time critical matters and notices of death. If you have access to the Internet, and would like to receive this type of information, as do 751 of your fellow Sages:

-go to 'www.aftacalumni.org,' click on 'Member Locator' link

-find yourself, or add yourself, as needed

-fill in the data concerning yourself, with an email address. That's all there is to it. Following that, you will be a recipient of every e-all.' There are approximately two or three of these each month.

OTHER CHAPTERS

COLORADO NEWSLETTER EXTRACTS, 2007.04

ECHOES

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

Events, Plans and Schedules

RSVP to Jack Smith 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.



Florida Editors NOTE: Recall we wrote that E-Det 426 planned a mini-reunion at the WorldWide. Don Dike sent this picture and asked us to publish same in this issue. (L>R) Marj and Austin Marshall, Don and Fran Dike, Margaret and Pete Peterson and Don Humphries.

Bruce **Deffler**, Echoes editor, advised us at press time, their newsletter was near completion. We look forward to their reporting on the '2007 WorldWide' reunion celebrated in June. We will pass on what they report, as appropriate; stay tuned.

We have also learned, Bill **Harris**, Colorado chapter Webmaster, is in the process of arranging for their website to get 'back on the air.' We look forward to this happening.



CALIFORNIA NEWSLETTER EXTRACTS, 2007.07

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

- Fall Social coming up in November. Watch for details on our website and in our next newsletter.
- Election of Chapter Officers, 4 December 2007 at our quarterly membership meeting.
- Quarterly Membership meetings are held the 1st Tuesdays at the Lions Gate restaurant on McClellan Park.

Next meeting: 4 December

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

AFTAC Reunion 2007 Denver Reunion A Huge Success

JOE JOHNSON, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Congratulations to the Colorado alumni for a great reunion. Over 170 people attended and I observed all having a great time. Your California chapter had a good number of attendees as follows: Patrick **Burke**, Bo and Deannie **Ferris**, Steve and Donna **Fritts**, Marge **Iske**, Joe and Gayle **Johnson**, Max and Nancy **Jones**, Dale and Rose **Klug**, John and Dorothy **Lanigan**, Al and Ann **Pavik**, Curt and Leona **Riggs**, Tom and Mary **Riley**, William and Denise **Robinson**, Dennis and Doris **Tasto**, George **Thompson**, Roy and Steve **Taylor**, George and Gennie **Waters**.

In addition to the mixer on Friday night and the dinner on Saturday night, a free bus tour of the former Lowry AFB and Rocky Mountain Arsenal was offered. Lowry is now mostly housing and retail development. The old Det 57/SPINSTRA schoolhouse is now a private academy. The Arsenal has been converted to a National Wildlife Refuge. During our bus tour there we observed deer, coyotes, bison, prairie dogs, lots of birds and wild flowers. It appears most of the 17,000 acres of the Refuge is open to the public except for some areas still being cleaned of the toxics left after the Arsenal closed.

During the Saturday evening banquet, and in a special and unexpected ceremony, the AFTAC 2007 'Alumni of the Year' (AOY) was announced and recognized. Congratulations to Bill **Schmied**

for this selection. The Colorado Chapter President, Jack **Smith**, noted Bill's accomplishments and Col **Westergren**, AFTAC CC, made the announcement and presented the traditional AOY 'T' (shirt).

As a final and much appreciated act, each alumnus in attendance was presented with a silver dollar size medallion commemorating the 60th anniversary of AFTAC.

Mail Call

Don't forget our E-mail address: TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com

Tom Wentz, Email: 8 April 2007; Hello to All: Just to let you know, we will be out of town on our way to Altus AFB for our granddaughter's high school graduation. Know you all will have a great time at the 19 May picnic. Best to all. Tom and Sue Wentz, tomwentz@sbcglobal.net

Clay Lemire, In person: 19 May 2007; Pass on my best wishes to Jim Lee & the "702 Gang" pictured in the April newsletter. Have fond memories of you guys playing on the 1155th sports teams I coached. Stop in and say "Hi" if you're ever in town. Clay Lemire, 7112 Thomas Drive, No Highlands CA, 95660, 916-332-0968

Way Back When

Editor's (Dale **Klug**) Note: This photo came from my "Way Back"



machine circa 1970. Pictured is Det 428 when it was still in the trailers out back of the NAVFAC compound on Ritidian Point, Guam. It was a hardship tour, especially since the Pacific Ocean beach was just about 20 yards to the left of that lone pine tree. It was a rough assignment, but we persevered for two whole years.

Membership News

By Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As of 6 July 2007: Active Members = 155
Life Members = 128 We have three new life members **Harm Aning**, **George McAlister** and **Stephen Cary**. We got renewals from **Arnie Celick** (5 yrs) and **Jackie Phelps**.

PoMo Editor's Note: The following page of pictures are 'cut and pasted' from the 2007.07 issue of the CA newsletter.



A California picture of Bill Schmied following the announcement of his selection as 'Alumni Of The Year, 2007' at the reunion. Here we see the Colorado Chapter President, Jack Smith, my nose, and the AFTAC Commander, Col Westergren, discussing how we will get Bill off the stage. Bill's wife, Sue, finally accomplished this by leading us in applause while Bill was in mid-sentence. Below, photos by Ken Breitweiser.

AFTAC Alumni Assoc. – West Coast Chapter – SPRING PICNIC 19 MAY 2007 at Foothill Farms Community Park



1023

The Picnic Crew: Ken Breitwieser, Butch Kemna, Dave Tarquino, Charlie Penn & Dennis Nolan



1021

Donna & Steve Fritts along with Gretchen & Russel Berquam and a portion of the other 61 in attendance



1016

George McAlister, Dale & Rose Klug, Bob Fitzgerald & Bob Baker



1022

Dot & John Lanigan, Rich Charles, Jim Lucas, Jean Charles & Orv Pritchard

MONITOR *ing Active* **Duty Doing's** 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 Steven
Herrick

Superintendent, 2006.12 AF: 1978-83/AFTAC: 1983 to current. Previously, Superintendent, Materials Technology Directorate, AFTAC, PAFB, FL. Education includes all NCO schools and academies, Distinguished Graduate each time; BS, University of Maryland. The Chief has served at numerous AFTAC locations and in many positions. He is, as he says, married to a 'military brat,' Barbara, and has twin girls.



CCS, An Invite to the 60th

As members of our Air Force prepare to celebrate 60 years of air power, we're busy at AFTAC preparing for that celebration and another 60 year anniversary: The Long Range Detection program is 60 years old this September 16! MSgt Thomas **Highsmith** is coordinating the 60 year LRD celebration planned for 11-12 Oct and reports that all of the preparations are on track and several facets of that event follow.

We are very excited about an ex-AFTAC CC, MGen **Dettmer**, lending his perspective as our keynote speaker. The ticket price of \$30 allows us to enjoy a glass of wine with dinner and permits us to cover the meal cost of our guest speaker as well as the band members' meals. Chief Steve **Revels** is heading up the artifact committee and reports that he'll have a variety of equipment and photos on display at the Imperial's Hotel dining room. Those displays should encourage lively banter and tall tales among the Sages and active-duty.

We're looking forward to the celebration and as the alumni from Det 426 have noted, "**The older we get the better we were.**"

signed CMSgt Steven Herrick



Update/Feedback follow-see program details at the alumni website, 'Need To Know Now' link, and 'show your share' with other Sages..

First an update, "Just wanted to let you know that we were able to send out 8 care packages in July -- 4 to AFTACers and 4 to family members. Thank you so much for providing the phone cards. I believe that they will really help."

Thank you again! **Haywon**

HAYWON PASSES ON THESE EMAIL OF APPRECIATION

Wow, thanks! I just received your care package today. It came just in time. My phone card and my toothpaste both ran out this afternoon. Now I have enough of each for the rest of my time here. Everything was great, the Qtips and toothbrush will come in especially handy.

Thanks again, **Jared**

First, thank you very much for sending care packages. Getting mail is the best! And if you would, please pass a personal thanks to Jack Jackson for supplying the calling card. Sometimes that is the only way to call out. We try to call nearby bases and ask to be connected, but that isn't always possible. Most care packages get shared among all the military and contractors working here. I've seen tables in some buildings where you search through stuff to see if there is anything you can use. It's a great process! If you're looking for something else to add, homemade cookies are very popular -- not always practical, but definitely popular! Thanks again! Lisa **Woffinden**

Hello, I just wanted to write a note to let you all know how grateful I am for the care package I received today. It has brightened my day and has lifted my spirits > which has not been very easy to do lately. Being away from friends and family is tough but with the support of caring people like yourselves I have been able to look forward to getting the job done and heading back home. Thanks for all you guys/gals do for us, it does not go unnoticed. Gratefully, James **Atkinson**

Booster's Club Update-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. In the past we have listed all categories, both here and on the 'Contents' page, and those who wrote, as a reminder of our dependence on you, our readers AND WRITERS!! However, this practice was probably not productive and used column space and increased printing and mailing costs. Below, we list most categories and explanations. All Writers will be included when there is an input.

Forward inputs to 'chrisjohn2@earthlink.net' or mail to the Alumni Address (see pg 2, left column).

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 LOOK FORWARD TO 'CC RECALL' INPUTS.

I REMEMBER ...

LRD HISTORY BY THOSE WHO WERE THERE

PREPARED FROM READER INPUTS We solicit your

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

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**, Les **Miller**, Clark **Wilberg**, Lloyd **French**, John **Bright**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO 'I REMEMBER ...' INPUTS.

THIS ISSUE WE PRESENT: JOHN BRIGHT

Red Tape 'Wonders'

I believe that in previous articles, I mentioned that I served a year in Saudi Arabia from Nov. 1950 until Nov. 1951. (This story is about how things worked out as I returned.) ... call it 'A word about Red Tape.'

I did not know at the time if I would ever cross the Atlantic again, so I decided that I should take 15 days of leave time and applied for a "Delay in Route" time in Italy, Switzerland, and France on the way home. When the orders finally arrived, I guess that people in HQ. must have wondered why a TS guy was going to Europe and who he might be meeting as the orders were signed by a Major I.H. **Fortenberry**, for Lt. Colonel Hugh M. **Galbraith**, BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL **KEIRN**. But in the text was this phrase "Auth for Iv: VOCS 25 Sep 51." which means that all the way up the chain of command, everyone was leery of authorizing this until it got

to Chief of Staff, Gen. **Vandenberg**.

So, I enjoyed time in Rome, Pisa, and Florence and moved onto France, for a meeting with a girl that I had corresponded with as I studied French. I arrived at Orly Field, Paris, France on the evening of the 14th day and checked in. I was told to appear at operations the next day and learn when my plane to the states would leave. This went on for 7 days. I had the rest of the day to spend in Paris (what a place to be stuck). Finally, on the 8th day, a Captain told me what the problem was; I had traveled to Italy on a Mediterranean Priority and now being in France I could not leave without a European Priority. He told me to come with all my luggage the next day and put me on a plane for Reinmein, Germany, and gave me a note to see a certain Colonel there.

This Colonel said it would take 5 days to get me new orders and told me to come back 5 days later with all my luggage. Both here and in France, I was sent to transit barracks. The end result is that I enjoyed 12 more days in Europe that did not come off my leave time. What a great story and we enjoy nothing more than hearing from the real 'Old-Timers.' Thanks for taking the time to share your adventure(s).

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.

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.

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' 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 **Gin-grich** (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** (3), Richard (Alkie) **Summers**, Les **Miller**, Jon **Richardson**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR 'BS' INPUTS.

THIS ISSUE: CLARK CREERY CHECKS IN WITH TWO OF HIS GREAT STORIES DONE IN HIS SUPERB WRITING

CLARK I-Subject, CMIRV Testing
1155th/LGEQ, 1973

We had a practice that the first person to work in the morning would make coffee. The coffee pot was one of those really large eighteen cup units and over time the bakelite connector had cracked and was loose. Engineering troops always fix things that need attention. In this case, the bakelite connector was permanently attached to the coffee pot by epoxy.

Filling the pot with the water was accomplished in the cleaning storage closet where we had a deep sink. That was the only location where you could set this down and properly fill it. One morning, I was first at work and I went to the closet to fill the pot. The filling went well; however, I neglected to think about the cord that was hanging down and swinging in the breeze. I hurriedly turned to go back to the office, the electric cord swinging back and forth. The cord wrapped itself around the door knob in the closet. Instantly, the coffee pot was jerked from my hands and all that water flew out into the hall.

Colonel Al **Pavik** was our Engineering Chief at the time and the back door to his office was located right beside the hall. Almost all of the water from the coffee pot found its way under his door and into his office. The good Colonel was not there at the time, but his secretary, Marge **Iske**, reported that the waves crested on their way into the office. Needless to say that I found a bucket and a mop and I cleaned all of that water up as quickly as I could. The eighteen cup unit certainly contained a fair amount of water.

Keeping this quiet was impossible! My supervisor presented me an Engineering Study of the testing of the Creery Multiple, Independently Targetable, Re-entry Vehicle (CMIRV). That report follows: Text and pictorial, Jim **Leach**

GENERAL. The testing of CMIRV has, to date, been restricted to one test firing from a mobile platform down a narrow corridor of space. Additional tests may be required as the vehicle systems become defined,

however, none are presently envisioned.

DISCUSSION. The CMIRV performed erratically, but the results proved the concept sound. Exceptions to satisfactory performance are outlined below.

The Stage 1 device had little control after launch. Its wingless construction caused severe attitude instability and a premature descent, as noted by "THUNK" in the corridor.

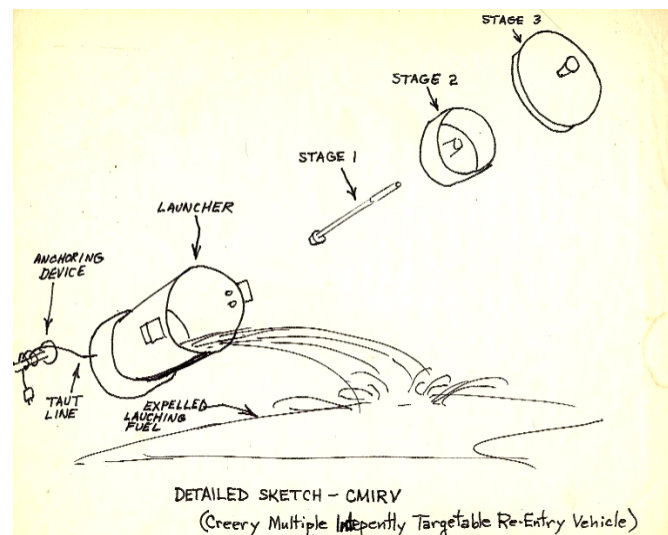
The Stage 2 device performed somewhat better, achieving the predicted orbit apogee at the door to the women's restroom. Some attention should be paid to the recovery method of the Stage 2 device inasmuch as it collided with the Stage 3 device.

The Stage 3 device, envisioned as the real "Knock-Out Punch", was ineffective due to its collision with the Stage 2 device. The problem was traced to improper staging at the launching device.

The anchor device and taut line functioned perfectly; the launcher and its stages were immediately removed from the mobile platform, the excess fuel removed, and the launcher returned to the base station. Some odd dangling of the launcher was observed, but this is of no consequence.

The expended fuel was troublesome during the Phase I test. While the concept employed predicted that the fuel would be expended down the corridor, only five percent actually arrived in the corridor, with the remainder arriving in an unplanned area. This required a special "mop-up" operation, but it was accomplished as a follow-up, by the mobile platform.

CONCLUSION. This test further proves that physical laws can be violated without great impact on the mission. Overall, this test was a flawless success! See CMIRV picture below.



CLARK II Coffee II

I have another one about coffee, but it happened at 3XX when nightshift was required to make cof-

fee for the day shift folks.

The bathroom there only had two stalls and there were 25 or 30 folks who would arrive in the mornings. We were allowed to wear shorts there so we had all cut off the legs from long pants. One night we rolled up some papers, stuck them into boots, placed the pant legs over the paper so it looked like the lower part of a leg. We then placed the boots at the bottom of the two toilets so when the door was closed it looked like someone was in the pot. We closed the doors, locked them and crawled over the top.

The commander ordered me back to the site to explain what was going on! There were no bushes there so we had folks eyeballing large rocks around the site. Hehehe. That WOULD 'slow down' a morning's duties!!

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 Ciambrone, who, in the '80's, knew the organization like no one else. 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 Ciambrone (4 trivia), John Horsch (2); Dale Klug, Bob Wiley, Don Moore

WE LOOK FORWARD TO '...TRIVIA...' INPUTS.

THIS ISSUE: DON MOORE

This picture is a piece of trivia on the master himself. Two years ago this month, Don sent us these pictures. As you can see, it is from a Christmas party some time ago. In the first picture (above) Don, Tom and Ron Kane, with wives, can be seen, before the cake got involved.



In the second picture (following) we can see what it looks like to be 'caked!' What year is this?

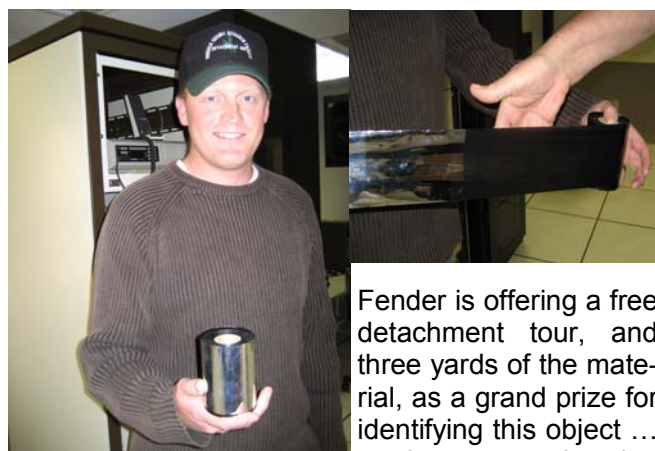


Answer at bottom of the 'Sage Shop' page

A 'TWIST' ON TOM'S TRIVIA

An Unknown Pictorial AFTAC Trivia

During our Colorado WorldWide and Statewide jaunt, we visited many people and places. Among those, as noted in the previous issue, was Pine-dale, WY, and Det 489. While enjoying the hospitality of the 'Charge de Arms' there, Fender Allison (he a Sage and an ex-99), he sought our 'Sage Wisdom' on an item he had found in his equipment supply stock. Below you see Fender's first holding the item and then demonstrating the item with the two layers peeled apart. As you can see from the pictures, it has a silver (tin foil appearance) layer and a black, slightly transparent layer.



Fender is offering a free detachment tour, and three yards of the material, as a grand prize for identifying this object ... road, room and ration

expenses not included. Second prize will be a 1-yard segment.

Send any thoughts you have on this to these editors; Fender will be the sole judge of the validity of any of your inputs. Thank you again, Fender, for your hospitality during our stay and your bringing this mystery substance to our attention. We are confident we can count on many Sages to provide multiple ideas for this material.

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

October

5, 1530-WindDown at the Outback
12, Annual General Membership Meeting and election
of officers, following golf n'getogether

November

2, 1530-WindDown at the Outback
5, 1700-Board/Membership Meeting

December

7, 1530-WindDown at the Outback
10, 1700-Board/Membership Meeting

Scheduled Events, Upcoming Quarter's

EVENT CONTACT (UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED)

PAT SNYDER, (321) 494-6867

patricia.snyder@patrick.af.mil

-Oct 11, LRD 60th Anniversary Events, HQ's
-Oct 12, Golf N'Getogether, Cocoa Beach Course
-Jan 26, SnowBall X, Tides Club, PAFB, FL

Traditional Annual Events

(some scheduled, as noted-others for planning only)

January—March

-SnowBall X, Jan 26, Tides All Ranks Club
-Center Annual Awards Banquet

April—June

-Center Annual Picnic
-Assn 18th 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, Oct 12th,
Cocoa Beach Course. Annual General Membership
Meeting/election of officers, following golf n'getogether

-Center Winter Social, December time frame

ANNUAL (FY08) DUES ARE PAST DUE (1 OCT)

WorldWide Alumni Reunions

(normally scheduled on a biannual basis)

The Florida Chapter plans a reunion for mid-2009.

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 \$5.00 for shipping and
handling plus \$1.50 for each additional item**
*No shipping and handling charged on logo pins

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE (as of 2007.08)

	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	0	1	1	2
Royal Blue	3	4	1	2
Teal (dark aqua)	2	2	1	3
Maroon	2	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	1
Fuchsia	1	2	2	1
Stone Washed Green	1	0	1	0
Mint Green	1	2	1	1
Jade Green	2	3	2	1
Black	4	2	0	3
SWEATSHIRTS , Ash Gray, \$15	1	2	0	0
HATS - \$8.00 #				
Blue/Gray 11				
Red 4				
Royal Blue/				
White 24				
MISCELLANEOUS Cost/#				
-50th Commemorative				
Coin \$3.00/83				
-Logo Pin \$3.25/236				
-Alumni License Plate, \$7 Mbrs,				
\$10 Non-mbrs/3				
-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 41A, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-3002

'Tom's Trivia' Answer

AFTER READING 'trivia' on preceding page

We, with our readers, await answers to the two perplexing trivia's presented on page 22 of this issue.

Trivia #1, maybe Don or Ron will see these pictures and tell us about the event ...

Trivia #2, maybe a Sage who served at Pinedale, or another location, will recognize this material and let us know what the heck it is!!!

Long Range Detection Alumni Assoc
P.O Box 254892
Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
MELBOURNE, FL
PERMIT 578

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



(<<<)This emblem used by the alumni assn was in active service from 1970 to 2000 (see active-duty pages). The association continues with this version because so many alumni served while it was 'on duty.'

ADDRESS CHANGES: Each incorrect mailing costs your assoc more than 75 cents. Send corrections via email to alumnidb@aftacalumni.org or, if this is not an option, mail to the association address at page 2, left column.

FY 08 DUES NOTICE...ARE YOUR DUES DUE? Here's how to know ...
check your address label BELOW! The 'Name Line' indicates when dues are due. If it reads: "FY Dues Due in Oct 08" it means you have not paid your dues for FY 2008 (began 1 Oct 07). If it reads "LT" (Lifetime), or the digits are greater than 08, it means your dues are current.

Page 1/2 Sage Recognition - Alumni Alerts-Events/Association Information - Editorial
Page 5/8/11 Alumni To Remember/Mail-Call/Chapter News
Page 15/16 Monitoring Active Duty/*Feature Articles: "Commanders reCall" (none); "I Remember" (one);
"A Family Affair" (none); "Sage Stars" (none); "BS Tales" (two); "Looking For" (none); "Tom's Trivia" (two)
Page 19/20 Calendar - Sage Shop—Trivia Answer/Contents, Application and Address-'Dues' Label

"Feature Articles 'Headings' are listed even when 'none' as a reminder to our readers/writers and to solicit inputs

Technical data: Hard-Copy, ~143MB; ePoMo (pdf) <3MB. Dell Desktop, MSPub2000 software; Commercial printer is **Indian River Printing** and mailer is **ACMS** (Bob and Pat Chadwick, owners and Sages). Preparation/input/proofing time by your editors is in the neighborhood of 100 enjoyable hours, a figure not including the unknown hours of preparation and typing/proofing/mailling by individual contributors/assistors.

June PoMo /ePoMo Stats-To Printers/ePoMo subscribers, 07.10; Hard-copies printed, 07.16, mailed, 07.17, USPS delivered, 07.27 (~2 weeks later).



SNFE Sez.: We solicit your unclassified organizational memories and tales - you've got a story fellow Sages would enjoy. **Send them by the 1st Monday in month of publication (Mar, Jun, Sep & Dec) Thanks!**

Membership Application

(complete and mail to ATTN: Membership Chair) (address/contact information on Page two, left panel)

FLORIDA Chapter dues (check one, enclose sum): ☐ \$10 annual dues ☐ \$75 lifetime

SPECIAL OFFER, For first time (new) members only, three years dues for \$20 ☐

NAME _____ (Spouse) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL/HOME PAGE (optional) _____

NOTICE: Membership information will be passed to other Alumni Chapters and members unless you state that this information is not to be released, and may be made available on the association website.

SELECT PUBLICATION DELIVERY MODE I choose to receive the annual membership directory and the quarterly newsletter, **Post-Monitor** via (X one) Electronic (Link/PDF attachment) ☐ USPS ☐ (hard-copy)

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