

POST - MONITOR

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 3 Membership 645 Lifetime 546 (16 Distinguished) 2005 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

SAGE SALUTE

THE LONG RANGE DETECTION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PROUDLY PRESENTS



Our Florida Chapter Perennials



As we continue to recognize the 20-Years of your alumni association's formal existence, your editors think it important we take a few minutes to really consider the people who have been the backbone of this association for so long.

We recognize these important people in every single issue in the 'boilerplate' section on page two, left column. However, they deserve highlighting every once in awhile. As listed, but in larger font, they are:

Florida Chapter "PERENNIALS"

(board members serving for five+ years)

Clark **Creery**-Newsletter 81-84/89-95, Pres 94/95, Web-page-since 01; Frank **Hall**-Pres/Vice 89-98/01; Judy **Milam**-Sec 89-00/Hosp since 01; Pres 04, Eunice **Harris**-Hosp 89-00; Mary **Welch**-Mbrshp 91-99; Carl **Gailey**-Tres 91-99; Swede **Swansen**-Pub since 93; John (Christel) **Horsch**, Newsletter since 96; Pat **Snyder**, 'Insider' since 96, VP 04, Sec 05; Mike **Black**, Webmaster since 97; Jim **Payne**, Mbshp 99-04

These are people who have sustained this association so much, and so well, over the years. Most are still very involved in the continuance of the association and what it does, the website, the newsletter, the Golf N'Gettogether, and the combined events with the active-duty, socials, picnics, etc. **Thank ye mightily folken!!!**

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



ALUMNI ALERTS-WHAT'S COMIN' UP

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

FALL GOLF N'GETOGETHER COCOA BEACH COUNTRY CLUB

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/ELECTIONS

CAPT. NEW, MAJOR ARRANGER

The Assn Fall Golf N'Gettogether Tournament will soon be underway. This event is scheduled for **September 30** at the **Cocoa Beach Country Club**. As always, our corporate sponsors have come through with some excellent grand prizes

(Golf continued on page 5, right column)

CENTER WINTER SOCIAL, DECEMBER 9TH

PAT SNYDER, EMAIL, 8/10

This annual event for active duty and alumni will be held at the Imperial Hotel on I-95/Wickham. Pat's phone/email address is: 321-494-6867/patricia.snyder@patrick.af.mi.

ALUMNI EVENTS-WHAT'S GONE OFF

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

WORLDWIDE REUNION, 12-15 MAY, 2005

LOTS OF ALUMNI HAD LOTS OF FUN

DALE KLUG, EDITOR, CHARLIE PENN & BOB FITZGERALD

WOW! 270 were in attendance at the various functions of **AFTAC Reunion 2005**. Thursday night started off with a crowd at the McClellan Suite Hospitality Room that didn't subside (except for the cocktail party & banquet) until late Saturday night. Never saw so much handshaking and BS flying in years. Several people provided photo albums for all to enjoy.

(Reunion continued on page 5)

ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

Honor Roll: Alumni Of The Year Recipients

Joe Goldian 2004-Pat Snyder 2003-Joseph 'Joe' Johnson 2002
Jim Payne 2001-Ben Vlassick '00 (deceased)-John Horsch '99
Frank Hall '98-Judy Milam '97-Carl Gailey '96-Clark Creery '95

Long Range Detection Alumni Honorarium

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

ASSOCIATION HISTORY A group of retired and active duty AFTACer's, by invitation from then CC, Col **Clapper**, met at the Patrick AFB, FL, NCO Club on March 12, 1985 and formed the association; it was later chartered 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 5:30pm on the second Monday of each month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC HQ's building (989) at Patrick AFB, FL. Information: Randy **Vlassick**, rvlass1@aol.com/Pat **Snyder**, 321-494-6867/patricia.snyder@patrick.af.mil.; mailing address is: **Long Range Detection Alumni Assc, 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, 'Post-Monitor' 'Samplers' and back-issues and photos-WebMaster-Mike **Black**; Clark **Creery** writes a 'Happenings & Upcoming Events' section posting photos/information.

Florida Chapter "PERENNIALS"

(board members serving for five+ years)

Clark Creery-Newsletter- from start--84/89-95, Pres 94/95, Webpage- since 01; Frank Hall-Pres/Vice 89-98/01; Judy Milam-Sec 89-00/Hosp since 01, Pres 04; Eunice Harris-Hosp 89-00; Mary Welch-Mbrshp 91-99; Carl Gailey-Tres 91-99; Swede Swansen-Pub since 93; John (Christel) Horsch, Newsletter since 96; Pat Snyder, 'Insider' since 96, VP 04, Sec 05; Mike Black, Webmaster since 97; Jim Payne, Mbrshp 99-04

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

3. West Coast (California)-Formed in 1999, **\$5 year/\$50 lifetime**; for information-email, TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com or AFTAC Alumni Assc, West Coast, PO Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974. They meet several times a year, publish a newsletter, 'Depot Fallout' and have a website, 'www.AFTACwest.org'; email, TODalumni@bigfoot.com. There are 155 members, 108 are 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 (film) and Bob Wiley (digital)

Rovin' Reporter: Clark Creery and Bob Wiley

Printing/Mailing: Carl Gailey

WebMasters: Mike Black, Website-Clark Creery, 'Happenings'

"A TEAM"...OF HORSCHES'

'58-'87



EDITORIALLY SPEAKING



Boos, BooBoos and BooHoos: none known or noted

After our monthly board meeting in August we were sitting around discussing how we can get more people to come to the meetings and become involved in the association. We have tried various tacks, i.e., mentioning this in the PoMo, bringing it up at the meetings occurring after the golf'ngetogethers, sending 'e-all' reminders, etc. We've even coerced people into holding office at various times, and for whatever the reason, as soon as their term of office expires so does their interest and attendance at the meetings.

None of this has made any real difference; it's the same few great people there every time. For the most part, these are people whose names start with Frank, Carl, Judy, Pat, Carol, Joe, Randy, Jack, Eileen, and John and Chris. Many of these are people who were mentioned in the 'Salute,' perennials-people who have done more than their share of the alumni association duties long ago and keep coming back for more.

We'd really appreciate some new blood and new faces—if any of you out there have any ideas how we can entice more interest please let us know. Also, take a few moments to consider if you might have some time to come out to a meeting or help with the golf, picnics, etc.

Now, to jump off the old soapbox, we have a great issue here with tons of reading for you, a 24-pager. WOW, this is only the second time we've had to go to this many pages.

We have the commander's speech from the recent reunion, and a great description of events from several of the OPR's for that event; Glenn Kennedy continues his series about a '99's life' and we finish our personal tribute article to this associations first 20 years ... and, we've got BS and 'Toms Trivia.' We've had a good response about the trivia and appreciate that.

Just as we went to press we learned of Col (Ret) CMSgt (Honorary) Tom **Ciambrone's** death (9/8 at 230PM). He served with many of us and you could not serve with Tom without learning how much he cared about the command and, especially, its people. We have received numerous heartfelt emails. There will be these and more on this gentlemen in the next issue.

MAIL - CALL

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

Patrick AFB, FI 32925-0892

*Letters of a general nature, requesting no action, may
 be e-mailed to the editors, chrisjohn@juno.com*

Letters may be edited for clarity and space; any
 opinions are those of the writer(s) and may not
 reflect Association belief or policy

Thanks' to all who write; **Welcome**,
 or **Welcome Back**, to new and returning alumni.
 We recognize all correspondence so your name, and
 the memories it invokes, may be recalled.

LETTERS/EMAIL

Clark Wilberg-email, 6/18

Once again, I'm pleased with the electronic version of the PoMo. The addition of color really adds to the impact of the newsletter. I was particularly impressed with the photo (mushroom cloud pic) at the bottom of page 13. Any possibility of getting additional similar photos and publishing them; might even make them available on a CD for distribution or sale? Speaking of items for sale-has any one given consideration to an AFTAC Alumni coin commemorating the 20th year of the association. I'm good for a couple if there's enough interest.

I've also decided I should put some materials together for the "AFTAC 20+ Years of Service Wall". What exactly is required? Who do I submit information/materials to?

I enjoyed the letter from Bryce Dunn's son. I'll have to look him up in the Army's "white pages" and send him an email. It will be interesting to get his perspective of the "Blue Force Tracker" and digitized command & control equipment we've been fielding. Thanks for your positives, inputs like this make our jobs even better. Regarding the photo, we dinged the AFTAC historian and he does not have a source and I searched the internet without any real satisfaction. Maybe our readers can help with this, and your idea of an alumni coin is certainly worth considering, we'd like feedback from readers on that also. '20+ Year Wall' materials would be a photo of yourself (and mate, if desired) and a chronology of your AFTAC career submitted to the association address (see page two, left column), ATTN: Pat Snyder.

Gary Warfield-email, 7/5

(We sent Gary a draft of the history article appearing later in this issue for proofing since he is mentioned, he replied) **Very inter-**

esting reading. I departed AFTAC on the Change of Command Ceremony between **Meisenheimer** and **Clapper** (in fact I departed the FL area immediately after the Change of Command-same day), on my way to Panama. I did not know of the early version of the Alumni. I got involved when I retired Jul 1, 88, and soon became a life member. I believe my involvement was on the Social Planning committee or something like that.

I Remember Frank **Hall's** leadership during those days which was instrumental in keeping the Alumni moving in the right direction. Also, Mary **Welch** was 100% involved in providing any support the Alumni needed. Of course the **Horsch's**, **Creery**, Mr. Carl **Gailey**, and a few others were key to the success of the organization. The active alumni do a stellar job in keeping the Alumni strong and all alumnus informed.
 Thanks Gary

Ron Cook-email 7/9 A tidbit that reminded him of Wally Funk ('In Memoriam' last issue). By the way, some time ago I received an email from Hungary and it implies that is the country of origin for Wally's surname. No wonder he was such a great guy. Message From: <funk.gabor@hunetkft.hu>

Bob Fitzgerald-email, 7/9

... please continue to email the ePoMo to my (checked) address. You do a fantastic job on the newsletter and I appreciate getting it via email. And here's hopes that you stay out of the path of Dennis the Menace! Thanks Bob, so far so good on all of us staying out of the path.

Mike Ginginch-email, 7/14

The evidence presented by my recent receipt of a mailed hardcopy of the newsletter makes me believe that I neglected to elect PDF delivery through email. I am unable to find the notification/request procedures in the current newsletter, so if you could forward this to the proper place, I will be indebted.

Still pretty busy here in Beavercreek, Ohio, editing and publishing the newsletter for the 307th Bomb Wing Association, and maintaining their website (www.307bwassoc.org). Add to that strong involvement with the Society of Daedalians and frequent sorties across town to the Air Force Museum, which gets better every day. Air Force folks are the best!

NOTE: The following condensed email correspondence exemplifies the cooperation and respect that exists between alumni and active duty, and the care both have for AFTAC and its mission. This email kicked things off:

Mike Gingrich, 7/25

Below is some information worthy of being placed in the newsletter and on the web site. I will probably also contact my old friend Dave O'Brien to see what he might say. From the *AF Museum's Friends Journal*:

'The National Museum of the United States Air Force is seeking the following items for restoration and future exhibits: Memorabilia, photographs, and printed materials relating to WB-50 "Sniffer" operations and equipment (MA-1, I-2B, and F-50 Systems) Contact: Mr Terry Aitken, Senior Curator, National Museum of the United States Air Force, 1100 Spaatz Street Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433-7102 Email: terrill.aitken@wpafb.af.mil.'

The following is a personal communication from Mr Aitken that explains their objective and their problem: 'As it appears that original units simply don't exist(?), our best bet will be a fabrication for the external 'sniffer' to be mounted on the a/c. We know that our a/c was specifically involved in these missions during its operational history. Our big problem is that we don't have enough information to either fabricate the appearance of the unit nor exactly where it was mounted. Also, as the 'sniffer' mission will be foremost in the exhibit, additional information/photo's for the exhibit is always appreciated. Hence, the 'want-list' item.' We forwarded Mike's email to our headquarters 'go to,' Pat Snyder (Alumni Secretary and long-time 'Insider'); several email flowed and the end result was this great response from the headquarters' OPR: TSgt Darin R. Pfaff, NCOIC, AFTAC Airborne Stan/Eval, AFTAC/DOZ, emailed:

An update from the Airborne Ops perspective...

WPAFB contacted AFTAC/DOZ a couple years ago requesting info for restoration of their WB-50D aircraft back to full sampling configuration. Via discussions with Dr. O'Brien, it was agreed to give them everything we had on the old system, save for the filter paper construction specifics. (OPSEC concerns)

Unfortunately, the high ops tempo in Airborne since February of 2003 has precluded us from spending the time and effort we wanted to assist the Air Museum with their restoration. My last point of contact seems to have disappeared from the email at their end, too. That bothers me, because I had an excellent dialogue running with those who were working to make the WB-50D exhibit happen in Dayton, and looked forward to assisting them. As Pat knows, I'm trying to archive ALL of the Airborne Sampling mission paraphernalia before I retire in Feb 2006, to include pictures and artifacts. Whatever documentation and pieces the maintainers at CPSG do not want for potential re-use, I wish to bequeath

to Wright-Paterson after scanning into digital archive format here at AFTAC.

The timeline: Beginning this fall, AFTAC/DOZ will be in the process of temporarily locating the new flight simulator and archives to a new classroom and simulator room, as well as moving forward with relocation of the SEO's to Offutt AFB in the next fiscal year. We're back up to two dedicated WC-135 sampling aircraft, the new Advanced ARE (AARE), and an increase in SEO manning. As we dismantle the old ARE simulator and classroom, it would make an opportune time to complete scanning of the older airborne platform images and documents, and forward them to Wright-Paterson for final safekeeping and perhaps display near the WB-50D. (With the exclusion of flight/sortie data, per the recent directives that dictate indefinite retention of those documents)

Mike, Chief Horsch, Pat (Snyder), Deborah (Carson), I've taken the liberty to include Mr. Aitken in the email recipients above. I'd like to continue the dialogue, and proceed with getting the Air Museum the items they need, before the last two McClellan-era SEO's (myself and MSgt Scott Stanley) walk out the door for good.

And we expressed our gratitude to TSgt Pfaff for the work she had done, and plans to do, to insure this important aspect of AFTAC's past is given a place of honor in this museum. And also, her attention to a concern voiced by one of AFTAC's Alumni and bringing us up to date on this project important to so many Sages.

Les Miller-email, 8/7

A little bit of AFTAC history you might be interested in. You have mentioned the move to Telegraph Rd. Prior to Telegraph Rd, the Hqs was at the Old Guam Hall at 23rd & Okla. Ave. in NE Wash. The move to Telegraph Rd was accomplished over the Labor Day weekend in 1959. This was a rather amazing fete considering the distance involved and getting GSA to work on the weekend.

Another question: Did Richard (Alkie Summers) ever tell you how he acquired the name 'Alkie?'

So again, keep up the good work, the best 13 years of my AF career were spent in the AFTAC. Les, thanks for your very thoughtful email ... and your appreciation of the PoMo and the mission. We did know of the 'older' location but had not heard anything about the move itself. Thanks for that; on to 'Alkie.' We will have to get the ball rolling on that one and see what turns up. (see BS in this issue to see what the old ball rolled over).



(Reunion continued from page 1)

The fun continued at 10 AM on Friday for 36 golfers at Diamond Oaks Golf Course in Roseville. The expertly run tournament co-directors were **Charlie Penn** and **Butch Kemna**. The participants were reunion attendees and friends; the game was a foursome scramble; the winning group shot a net 63. Lots of laughs, seeing old friends, and a few good golf shots made for a memorable time and the 19th hole helped loosen things up for the cocktail party that followed. Here are the results. First Place Team: Frank Hall, Bill Hynes, Tom Niquette & Al Pavik; Men's Longest Drive: Dave Tarquino; Women's Longest Drive: Kimberly Davis; Closest to the Pin #3: Bob Tassan; Closest to the Pin #12: Butch Kemna.

Friday night's Cocktail Party Reception in the Holiday Inn's Aviator Room had a tremendous turnout, with over 200 people meeting, greeting and reminiscing with each other. Some getting reacquainted with old friends and team mates they had not seen in 30 to 40 years. But that's what a reunion is all about. The food was excellent and the bartenders were kept busy.

Everyone on the trip to the Thunder Valley Casino near Lincoln on Saturday had a good time on the bus and at the casino. We spent four hours at the casino where we gambled a bit and ate some really good food. We needed a minimum of 40 passengers to break even yet only 31 folks signed up. **Bob and Darlene Fitzgerald**, who set up the trip, made arrangements in advance with nine friends to be on standby. So with those nine and a few last minute reunion additions to make up for last minute cancellations, we still ended up with the 40 minimum. We left the hotel at 10AM and were back around 3PM. Some of our folks won a bit, some of us lost a little bit, but we all enjoyed the trip.

The Grand Ballroom of the Holiday Inn was full for the banquet with 237 alumni & guests enjoying the delicious food and lots of camaraderie with friends old and new. The **Travis AFB Honor Guard** presented the colors and the national anthem was sung by alumni member **Warren Wascher**. The master of ceremonies for the event, **Al Pavik**, introduced the guest speaker, AFTAC Commander, **Col Guy D Turner**, who provided a very informative update on what is happening in the world of AFTAC today. Col Turner was presented two special bottles of Cali-

fornia's Napa valley wine. The Country Club Aires chorus and band presented quite a program of nostalgic and patriotic music for our listening pleasure. The evening concluded with dancing and continued camaraderie.

A big "Thank You" to reunion co-chairmen

Al Pavik and Jack Allison

NOTE: More 'reunion' at 'Chapter News.' Also, see CA Website (<http://www.aftacwest.org/>) for pictures and additional information.

**'SAGE,
ON THE RANGE'**



(Golf continued from page 1)

as well as a great assortment of door prizes.

The price for this afternoon of fun will be \$35.00 for association members and \$40.00 for non-members, which includes a great BBQ dinner after golf. You may sign up by calling:

Carol Snyder at 494-6867

Capt Jon New at 494-1779.

Deliver your payment to Carol, or mail to:

Long Range Detection Alumni Assoc, PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892. Checks should be received no later than September 26.

Check-in begins at 1100 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. A BBQ dinner by 'Smoking Joe's' Barbeque will be served in the clubhouse following the golf tournament. We will also award the prizes during/after dinner.

We will then move into the 'General Membership Meeting and Association Board Elections.'

Running for office we have:

President: Carol **Snyder** (currently vice)

Vice-President: Open for volunteers/nominations from the floor

Secretary: Open for volunteers/nominations from the floor

Treasurer: Joe **Goldian** (treasurer since Feb, '03)

This tournament fills up quickly, so sign up early to ensure a spot in the tourney. If you are not interested in golfing but would like to attend the BBQ dinner and/or general membership and election meeting, the cost for the meal is \$10.00. Reservations for dinner are requested. There's no fee for the meeting only.



Personals ...

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

Transitions ... none received

Hopes of Health for ...

Alumni share hopes for themselves or others

Carol Warfield

Kelly O'Connor

Also For Those Not Mentioned But In Our Thoughts

In Memoriam

Jim Chesney

Bobby Eugene Norman (below)

Michael Sepelyak (below)

Tom Ciambrone (below)

B.R.Kuntz (page 15, right column)

Rest in Eternal Peace

Bobby Eugene Norman

PAT SNYDER EMAIL, 7/25, 'DET 421'S WEEKLY UPDATE'

"On a sad note: TSgt **Kane**, SSgt **LeBleu** and SSgt **Killion** attended the memorial service and funeral for an ex-Det member Bobby Eugene Norman, who was a retired member of the USAF. Bobby was stationed at the Det during 1963-1964. He was born 8 July 1936 and died 6 July 2005. The funeral was held at the Centre Funeral Chapel in Alice Springs on 14 July 2005. Bobby is survived by his wife and two children, also living in Alice Springs now. Bobby's daughter Vicki asked us to be present for the funeral. We attended in service dress and acted as pall bearers and stood watch as he was lowered into the ground. After the funeral, Vicki presented the Det with a plaque in appreciation for our attendance and actions. PS We were also asked by ex-AFTACer CMSgt (Ret) Harold **Hughes** if Bobby's funeral would be put in the next Monitor.

Michael Sepelyak

FLORID TODAY PAPER, OBITUARY

Michael R. Sepelyak, a resident of Valkaria, died Saturday, July 30, 2005 in Greenville, NC, after un-

dergoing heart surgery. Mike was born September 9th, 1936 in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, to Helen and Michel Sepelyak. He is survived by two brothers, Robert and Jack of Pennsylvania; a son, Mark and wife Tina of California; two daughters, Bettina of Palm Bay and Kimberly Allen and husband Steve of Valkaria; and seven grandchildren, Rachelle Sepelyak, Andre Sepelyak, Jamie Ebert, Aaron Symonette, Tanner Sepelyak, Zak and Jake Allen.

Mike was a retired Master Sergeant having served 20 years in the United States Air Force. After his military career Mike received his Bachelors degree from Barry University. He moved to Florida in 1979 where he worked and then retired from a second career with Harris Corporation as manager of ESS Field Operations. Mike was a devoted grand father, father, avid fisherman liar, golfer and a member of Dotties Breakfast Club in Palm Bay. Mike spent his last retirement years traveling between California and Florida to be with his grandchildren Mike is buried at Arlington National Cemetery on August 23rd.

Tom Ciambrone

FLORIDA TODAY WEBSITE, 2005.09.11-MERRITT ISLAND

Col Thomas William Ciambrone passed away Thursday, September 8, 2005 at Holmes Regional Medical Center. Col Ciambrone was born August 17th, 1934 and raised in Niagara Falls, New York. He had resided in Brevard County since 1981. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Theresa Elizabeth (Lemieux); two children, a daughter, Mary Anne Lynne Olson and a son, Thomas William, Jr.; two loving grand children, Amber Lea Olson and Nicholas Sean Olson; and several cousins in New York. Colonel Ciambrone graduated from High School in Niagara Falls, N.Y., received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Rochester, and his Masters degree from the University of Southern California. He entered the United States Air Force in 1957 and retired in 1987. He then worked at Scientific Application International Corporation until his retirement. He was a member of Ascension Catholic Church, a lifetime member of Sigma Chi Fraternity, the Air Force Association, the Patrick Officers Club, the American Legion, and had been inducted by the AFTAC Chiefs/enlisted as an honorary Chief Master Sergeant. He was an avid train collector, enjoyed his sports and truly enjoyed his many friends from all walks of life. He was buried at Florida Memorial Gardens, Rockledge.



Chapter News

FROM THE TOP

Jack **Jackson**, Alumni Association President

FIRST AND FOREMOST I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EVERYONE WHO ASSISTED ME IN MY TENURE AS PRESIDENT. I LEARNED A GREAT DEAL FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS AND PEERS ALIKE. IT HAS BEEN AN EXPERIENCE I WILL CHERISH FOREVER. I WISH EVERYONE WHO LEAVES AFTAC WOULD BECOME A ALUMNI MEMBER.

AS I PASS THE GAVEL TO THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT, I PROMISE I WILL BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER AND CAN BE CALLED UPON TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY I CAN. GOING BACK TO MY ACTIVE DUTY DAYS IN AFTAC I THANK EVERYONE FOR GIVING ME THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE THAT IS REFLECTIVE OF A GREAT COMMAND.

ONE SPECIAL PERSON I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE IS MY LAST SUPERVISOR WITH THE SECURITY POLICE, JOHN **COFFEY**. I CAN SAY WITH ALL HONESTY HE WAS THE VERY BEST SUPERVISOR I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO WORK WITH. HIS DEDICATION TO DUTY, LEADERSHIP AND ESPECIALLY A FAMILY MAN, HAS GIVEN ME THE STRENGTH TO CARRY ON AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING PRESIDENT OF ONE OF THE GREATEST ORGANIZATIONS I HAVE EVER BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH. AGAIN, THANK YOU ALL.

BOARD MEETINGS

Board Members

Elected

President-**Jack Jackson** Vice-**Carol Snyder**
Secretary-**Pat Snyder** Treasurer-**Joe Goldian**

Appointed

Activities-**CMSgt Lloyd French** Heritage Hall Committee, **TBD**
Hospitality-**Judy Milam** Internet-**Mike Black - Clark Creery**
Membership-**Randy Vlassick** Newsletter-**John and Christel Horsch**
Publicity-**Swede Swansen** Sage Shop Dispatch-**Carol Snyder**

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A Minute with the Minutes

Jun 13, Jul, Aug 22

-**Annual** Review of financial records in progress

-**ePoMo** Subscribers are up to 45

-**Refurbishment** of the 20+ Years of Service Wall continues to be a work in progress

-**Tax** exempt certificate received. New expiration date is 04/30/2010.

-**Spring Golf Tournament:** Rescheduled tournament took place 10 June at the Cocoa Beach Country Club. Frank **Hall** reported we had 108 players. See last issue.

-**CA Reunion**--Frank **Hall** reported reunion was really well done. Col Turner, the current AFT AC Commander, gave a nice speech (in this issue), and the Hospitality Room was 'gangbusters'.

-**Mission Memorabilia** Carol **Snyder** is scanning memorabilia as time allows. These will be presented in the Po-Mo and on the website.

-**New Address** Alumni website is <http://www.aftacalumni.org>. Thanks to Mike **Black**, our Web-Master for setting this up.

-**Fall Golf N'Gettogether** Capt Chris **New** has volunteered to be the 'Major Arranger' for this Sept 30th, 2005, semiannual event, occurring at the Cocoa Beach Country club. More cooperation between the Active-Duty and the Alumni. Thank you, Capt new. Details are available in this issue beginning at page one.

Update-Project 'PoMo Sooner' ... In Color?

EDITORS

Our ePoMo subscribers continue to grow and almost 50 Sages have had this issue in their hands, on average, for two weeks. As you read in our 'Mail-Call,' from a sampling of these subscribers, there are several reasons to consider receiving your annual PoMo via email/pdf.

And, as we have noted before, a nice 'side' benefit to the alumni association is that we can send you the *Post-Monitor* electronically at virtually no additional cost, versus the one dollar plus we spend to print and mail the hard copy.

So, read what the current 'ePoMoer's' have to say, give it some thought and consideration, and send us your name to add to the list ... give it a try and see what you think.

WebMaster's Speak

CLARK CREEY WRITES/MAINTAINS THE 'WHAT'S HAPPENING ...' SITE

Mike (**Black**) has done it again! The server he has set up functions just as designed and we certainly hope that a few folks take time to check out www.aftacalumni.org.

We just put a link to the California site that has

lots to say about the 2005 reunion. The 1155th Chapter has outdone themselves. They claim that at times they had over 270 folks there in California. Talk about a close nit group of persons over all these years. We just completed the celebration (60 years) of why we do what we do. The History Channel has done us good, if you read betwixt the lines.

With the elections on the horizon and me looking at the California site, maybe they have the right idea. Elections every two years vice the yearly elections that our chapter here in Florida does. Why? A year is so short and there is so much to accomplish, maybe that two year stint is a better way? Some food for thought from this old 'rovin reporter'.

Ron **Couch** has retired from The Boeing Company and as I hear - he is taking quite a bit of money from Col (Ret) **Hall** out there on the links. Congrats Ron, we miss you but enjoy that time and keep giving Frank those headaches.....for now, that is the Rovin Reporter and his trivia.



OTHER CHAPTER'S NEWS

COLORADO CHAPTER, NEWSLETTER, 2005 JUNE

ECHOES

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

SEPT 1, 2005 ISSUE

Events: 17 September - 08:30-10:30 General Members/Guest Breakfast, Country Buffet in Aurora

12 November—Dinner Aurora Hills Golf Course



Col Guy Turner, AFTAC CC, MSgt Kline, Captain Robertson

Det 45 Change of Command-2005.07.14

Captain (Major Selectee) **Robertson** was kind enough to invite some of the members of the Alumni organization to attend the Assumption of Command Ceremony. Colonel Guy D. **Turner** Commander of the Air Force Technical Application Center, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. Presided over the ceremony. Personnel from Det 46 joined the ceremony which gave the Alumni a chance to meet some of their people.

EXCERPT FROM DETACHMENT 45 HISTORY

Detachment 45 (Det 45) was activated October 1985 at Buckley Air National Guard Base, Colorado. Det 45 is the primary ground site for providing nuclear detonation detection data and analysis to the Air Force Technical Application Center (AFTAC) and Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) in support of the Nuclear Treaty Monitoring and Integrated Tactical Warning and Attack Assessment missions.

And, Lt. **Dunn** (see 'ECHOES' last issue) was given a large full page size banner welcoming him home from Iraq.

DEPOT FALLOUT

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

President-Rod **Hinkle**; Vice-Joe **Johnson**; Board Chairman-Ken **Denbleyker**; Asst.-Dave **Tarquino**; Dir at Large-Orv **Pritchard**; Treasurer Bart **Carter**; Asst.-Charlie **Penn**; Membership-Danny **Beach**; Secretary Marge **Iske**; Asst-Ken **Breitwieser**; Newsletter Editor-Dale **Klug**; and Webmaster/Asst Editor-Bob **Fitzgerald**.

NOTE: We started the issue with a general report on the reunion. Here, a major organizer, thanks those involved.
JULY ISSUE

Special "Thank You"

JOE JOHNSON

Thank you to all the Reunion committee members who assisted me in the hospitality room during the recent reunion. Special thanks to those non-committee members who took time from other activities to help out.. Those are **George and Jan McKeel**, **Tom Niquette** and **George Thompson** (Bartenders deluxe); and **Rose Klug**, **Eva Stokes & Nancy Jones** for working on the registration desk. If I missed someone, I will blame it on my poor memory and apologize now.

Letters

Frederic (Skip) Lemmer E-mail: Dale, Your call last July was sure a pleasant surprise. Thanks for the history. I finished college after my discharge in July 67. I went to work for Honeywell as a

chemical engineer and was able to work on the last vestiges of the APOLLO program and the first parts of the space shuttle program. They shifted me into ordnance work and I spent a lot of time building fusing, then the emphasis shifted to ammunition and we built the 40mm GAU-8 rounds for the A-10 aircraft. This ammo used depleted uranium armor penetrators and guess who got stuck as radiological safety officer along with the production responsibilities. Then a friend asked if I wanted to work with Sandia National Labs making and designing some of their widgets, so I spent the last 10 years there working with Sandia until, like you, I got caught in the 1991 no more nukes cutbacks. Then I took a series of fun jobs for very little pay but enjoyable workdays. I ran a garden center; worked for a sports company making and refining outboard motor lifts, and worked for K-TEL mostly goofing off. Unfortunately I have developed heart problems so I'm down to 12 hours a week sending out laminate samples for countertops. I haven't heard from Rollie Danielson in years. We used to see one another at the yearly Honeywell engineering day festivities. I'll check further into his whereabouts.

Dennis Ramey E-mail: I'm living in Southern Maryland down where the Potomac River flows into the Chesapeake Bay. We're about 70 miles south of Washington, DC. I'm remarried. Vicki is from Detroit and we have twin 13-year-old boys. Maurya still lives in Denver and has two kids (girl and boy) and Greg lives in Wyoming and has two girls and a boy. Both are doing fine and have turned into very good adults. I don't see them nearly enough. Ruth Ann is remarried and she and Bill live in Alaska. Their home is inside Denali National Park and they work for the park. I am a consultant working for the Navy and the contractors that service the Naval Air Command at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. Actually I've had some very enjoyable jobs over the past several years. I did a contract with the National Archives and one with the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, those kinds of jobs are located up in DC and the commute is terrible so I tend to stay down here and work the Navy jobs. I doubt if I'll make it out for the AFTAC reunion as much as I'd like to. I don't correspond with many of the guys any more. Graham and Karen **Breck** live out there in Sacramento. We worked together for a while back here in Maryland and trade Christmas Cards. I talk to Ray **Copeland** via e-mail occasionally. He and Ann are down in Texas. At one time, I was a Program Manager for a company that was headquartered in Melbourne, FL, so I got with some of the people down there but I haven't even been there for five or six years.

Joe Martinez E-mail: Thanks Dale. Nice hearing from ya. I'll let folks I know on this end know. I'll send info to Danny **Jamison**, Marty **Pavlovich**, and Bill **Newcomb**.

Al Koscheski E-mail: Thanks for forwarding message about Frank, Dale. Also about reunion. We're kinda tied up right now taking care of my mom...just brought her from Okla. to our home last week...unsure of our schedule for the next few months. We'll try to keep in touch. Thanks.

IN OUR POSITION AS EDITORS OF THE FLORIDA NEWSLETTER WE OFTEN RECEIVE EMAIL THAT IS JUST TOO GOOD TO DELETE ... THIS WE CALL

Chapter 'Must seEmail'

JOHN NELSON, EMAIL, 2004.07.01, **HAPPY 4TH OF JULY**

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward. Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr, noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. They gave you and me a free and independent America.

Remember: Freedom is never free!

MONITOR *ing Active* *Duty Doing' from around the AFTAC World*

Command Section



Col. Guy D.
Turner

Commander, 2004.07 previously Deputy PM, SIGINT Support to IO, NSA, Fort Meade, MD. He attended the AF Academy graduating in '80 (BS in Civil Engineering) and in '85 received an MBA. His professional education includes Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, Air War College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He is a command senior navigator with over 1800 flight hours. He is married to the former Sara Ann Davis. They have three children: Adam, Rebecca, and Benjamin.



CMSgt Lloyd S.
French

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



AFTAC COMMANDER'S SPEECH AT CALIFORNIA REUNION, MAY 5TH

Good evening. For those of you who I have not had the opportunity to meet, my name is **Guy Turner**, and I have the great fortune of being the current AFTAC commander. I would like to welcome all of the alumni present here.

First of all, thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I am certainly honored to be here with so many who are an integral part of AFTAC's great history. Reunions offer two opportunities, first a chance to hear great stories of the "old days" and also to catch up on what is happening now. I look forward to spending time with you later to hear those stories and in return I will spend the next few minutes and try and update on what has been happening at AFTAC.

Actually, when I was invited by **Al Pavik**, and I told the security folks that I was coming to talk to you, they were scared to death about what I might say. So I turned to my right hand man, **Dr Dave O'Brien**, who is currently the AFTAC chief scientist, and asked him for help. So what I will start with tonight is a bit of compare and contrast

of the old AFTAC and where we are as the current. Sadly, I will probably stick somewhat to my script, to keep myself out of trouble, as this has been reviewed by the security folks.

As you know, AFTAC was formed in 1947 to detect nuclear explosions any where in the world. We still have that mission today, but we have grown and adapted over time to the changes in the world environment. Lets start with manpower. In 1968 we reached our peak strength with 3059 people. Today we have 723 assigned. To break out that 723, we have about 125 Officer, 400 enlisted, and 200 civilian. However, this number does not include the nearly 200 contractors inside the HQs at Patrick as well as the technicians we employ as part of the network of analytical laboratories.

This manpower reduction has been a result of the closure of McClellan AFB as well as a result of technology as we have automated data analysis and remoted the ability to monitor the health and operating status of our worldwide systems. These changes have allowed us to pull operators and analysts out of the field and reduce the number of maintainers at the detachments. So 723 people vs 3059.

We have also experienced significant change in the number of aircraft that we could call upon to perform our airborne collection mission. Obviously, a reduced aircraft fleet lowered the manpower numbers assigned to AFTAC to support them. I'm sure some of you were assigned to work on many of those aircraft. After doing some research, I was amazed to discover the many different types of aircraft that were used to make collections in the past starting with the RB-29 and progressing to today's WC-135. Along the way we used the RB-50, WC-130, and even the F-84 to name just a few. Over 15 different types in all. In AFTAC's heyday, there were 84 total aircraft we could call on to do debris sampling. Today we have two WC-135s, one primary and one backup. However, based on the changed environment, that number is probably sufficient, since the major nuclear powers have declared a moratorium on testing for now. However, if they change their minds, we will certainly take another look at whether two aircraft will be sufficient. One notable change to the aircraft relates to the on-board collection equipment better know as Atmospheric Research Equipment (or ARE). Last year the ARE underwent a major upgrade and

we pulled off all of the 40 year old 1960's technology and replaced it with modern computer controlled equipment. Functionally it's the same, but operationally it's a significant improvement - one that was long overdue. And while we are on the subject of the airborne systems, the name of constant Phoenix is a very appropriate name for the collection mission for as I learned during my short time at AFTAC that the aircraft was actually decommissioned in 98, and the collection system removed and being transported by tractor trailer truck to storage when India and Pakistan performed their rival nuclear tests. Well, the truck was located, turned around, and the aircraft reconfigured. So I am proud to report, that the very soul of AFTAC, that airborne collection mission still exists today.

Continuing with the aircraft, today the two WC-135s are operated by the 55th Reconnaissance Wing located at Offutt AFB, Omaha, Nebraska. Interestingly, the special equipment operators of the ARE are still located at Patrick, and the equipment maintainers Cryptologic Systems Group located at Lackland AFB, Texas, as part of the Air Force Material Command's and both groups have to report to Offutt to join up with the aircraft and aircrew. So today, even as I speak, the HQs is undertaking a study to determine if we need to instead create a detachment at Offutt for the equipment operators and maintainers. And believe it or not, the SEOs are in favor of this - and my main question is, are you sure you want to live at Omaha v Cocoa Beach?

The last few years have produced improvements to several other AFTAC systems as well. In particular, these upgrades have brought about continued improvement to our ability to detect nuclear explosions.

First a look at our overhead systems. BTW, how many of you have On-star as an option in your car, or you have a GPS system to help you navigate when you travel. Well did you know that the US includes optical, x-ray and EMP (electro-magnetic pulse) sensors on every GPS satellite that gets launched. With 24 satellites on orbit, this has provided us with a worldwide capability to detect explosions in the atmosphere. Little do people realize the dual role of GPS satellites.

With respect to the seismic sensors, as you are aware, for the past 25 years AFTAC's worldwide monitoring for underground nuclear explosions

was performed at seismic sites principally located in Alaska, Texas, Canada, Spain, Turkey, Thailand, Australia, and Korea - places at which I'm sure some of you are more familiar with and were probably stationed. More recently, in the early 90's, we added four sites each in South America and Africa and one even in Antarctica. After 1990, with the great changes that occurred in the world, we worked to establish several new cooperative relationships that have allowed us to open more seismic sites. As a result, today we have additional sites in Romania, and Kazakhstan and we're looking to establish even more sites in other countries. As a side note, I might be traveling to Russia in a few weeks to start negotiations for seismic sites there, too. Who would have thought it? It is indeed a brave new world. On a personal note, as the AFTAC commander, I have had the great fortune to visit most of the current sites and I have ridden elephants in Thailand, drunk beer in Australia, eaten fresh Salmon and picked wild blueberries in Alaska.

In monitoring the oceans we have traditionally relied on data from the Navy's Sound Surveillance System better known as the SOSUS system. These hydrophones, along with others deployed at Ascension Island provided our total hydroacoustic capability for many years. We have always had an additional goal of adding a site in the Indian Ocean, but for many years we never seemed to be able to get the funds. That changed at the turn of the century when we finally constructed a hydroacoustic capability around the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. We now truly have all the world's oceans covered.

And as a side note, when people are briefed on our mission, and our seismic and hydroacoustic capabilities, I am routinely asked, "Did we see the big earthquake that caused the giant Tsunami?" Well as many of you can appreciate, when asked a question to which the answer is a resounding yes, you are often tempted to reply with a somewhat flippant response. Let's just leave it with, I am proud to report to each of you, the answer is yes (and here CC displayed a printout of the data).

In terms of our RESEARCH and DEVELOPMENT efforts, there has been significant growth in AFTAC's capabilities the last several years, and we continue to look for even more improve-

ments. AFTAC still has a vigorous research and development program focused on several mission areas. We are finding that with emerging new technologies, some of the concepts we discarded in the past are now offering some attractive options. Some of the R&D areas that we are currently working in include radio frequency, acoustics, seismic, infrasound, electromagnetics, laser vibrometry, electro-optics and infrared.

Over the years, our mission successes, many of which you produced, have established AFTAC as a one-of-a-kind organization with unique experience and expertise in numerous fields of science and technology. Drawing on this unique experience and expertise, AFTAC has most recently begun providing technical support and assistance to the US Government in evaluating verification methods for the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention. As a result, if you were to visit AFTAC today, you would not only find the physicists and nuclear engineers who have been a part of AFTAC for quite a while, but you now would also find microbiologists, biochemists and chemical engineers.

AFTAC's expertise has not only been recognized and acknowledged on a national level but on an international level as well. The International Atomic Energy Agency (or IAEA) is the organization established by the United Nations to monitor the provisions of the Nuclear Nonproliferation treaty. To accomplish this task, the IAEA conducts periodic inspections of member states' declared nuclear facilities, taking wipe samples from different locations within the facilities. These samples are then sent to one of their Network of Analytical Laboratories for analysis to ensure that the states are involved only in peaceful nuclear activities allowed by the treaty. In the later part of the 90's, AFTAC was invited to have our Nuclear Debris Analysis Laboratories participate as members of the IAEA Network of Analytical Laboratories. Because on a day-to-day basis, our contractor laboratories had excess analytical capacity, we accepted their offer and soon thereafter began receiving samples. To the IAEA's surprise, but certainly not ours, the AFTAC analytical results far surpassed those they were receiving from any of their other labs. As a consequence of this, today we are the first lab, or a better choice of words, the laboratory that you developed, it is the first place the IAEA calls on to process all their highest priority samples.

So this leads us to the question of what happened to all the functions of the Technical Operations Division after McClellan AFB was BRACed after September 1999. This was a big loss to AFTAC and difficult to recover from. However, after several years of transition, we finally have been able to reestablish most of the activities that were carried out for many years at TOD. The bottom line is the functions are now carried out at several different locations.

Radiochemistry analyses supporting the Nuclear Debris Collection and Analysis program is now being carried out at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The particle analysis work was contracted to the Schaffer Valicetos Laboratory in Pleasanton, California. This was the former GE Valicetos Lab which was bought out by the Schaffer Corporation. In order to take on the MCL workload, they actually had to establish a totally separate 2nd analysis lab. As a matter of fact, I visited this lab just yesterday as part of my trip.

And for the gas analysis, we have again contracted the effort, this time to Teledyne -Brown in Knoxville, Tennessee. These labs that I just mentioned are but a portion of the total labs, but none of these analysis capabilities was reestablished overnight. In each case, including at Los Alamos National laboratory, it took over a year of developing a learning curve before we felt comfortable with their capabilities and were able to declare them as operational.

So up to this point I have provided a contrast of prior and current AFTAC – to recap, we now have 723 government versus 3000. We operate 2 aircraft, from a max available of 84, we maintain 5 primary seismic dets, 2 hydroacoustic stations, work with 7 different laboratories for Nuclear debris and gas analysis. We now support the UN and the IAEA with this same sample analysis, and we are performing R&D as we attempt to migrate the great capability we have developed for monitoring Nuclear and focusing it on the chemical and biological threats.

So that is the technical aspect of AFTAC, but that is not what AFTAC is really all about. AFTAC is about the people. AFTAC is about family. Even in the few short months that I have been a part of this organization, I have learned this. And as I speak to this august audience, I say to you, you are the people who made the history and established the past that we, the generation today,

take such pride in being a part of. And I say to you, thank you for the mentoring and grooming of that generation of people that replaced you, that group of people that I am privileged to lead today, for I have never experienced a finer group of scientists, and enlisted professionals than what we have at AFTAC today. AFTAC truly is a family, and organizations like the AFTAC alumni association and events like this AFTAC reunion re-instill that family atmosphere.

If I might, I would like to read from a letter that was passed to me before I left.

Sir – While I know you are new to AFTAC's family, I wanted you to know that I envy your presence at the 2005 Worldwide Reunion. As I scan down the pages of attendees, I recognize names of people who—by the grace of God—found some shred of hope in me and provided the leadership, dedication, and principles of quality that led me, and so many others, to where we are today. If it weren't for their foresight (and sometime forgiveness!), AFTAC would not have remained the vibrant organization it is.

To Tony and Alyson Balentine: You taught me that it's a husband and wife team—especially in foreign lands—that makes the seasoned and novice traveler alike feel welcome. That a beer strategically placed is more valuable than any amount of regulation savvy. I really am sorry I climbed that perimeter fence 25 years ago, but the gate closed too early! Tony is an awesome Chief and led me far; Alyson is the wind beneath his wings.

To Joe and Cathy Borowski: You taught me that precision and teamwork is strength and that we are all "Ambassadors" when we visit foreign lands. You helped me to understand that pretty good *isn't good enough* and that "the best" is an endless journey.

To Jerry Freeman: You saw the private lives (if there was such a thing) of young airmen in the dorms. You tolerated our antics and late nights and went on to be a real leader among us.

To Steve and Donna Fritts: Steve, you taught me not just how to be an SEO, you taught me how to be a *crewmember*—to care about more than just the console. You taught me to immerse myself in the culture and geography of foreign and new places, because someday, an airman will ask me what it was *really* like—a question you can't possibly answer if you sit in the "Q" eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and

watching TV. Donna—what a rock—you let Steve come back to hard work even after you almost lost him. That is devotion of the highest order.

To Raoul Gonzales: You took a group of SEOs and held their feet to the fire—you demanded the best. You left us for greater achievements; but know in your heart of hearts that you set a standard that is still enforced today.

To Colonel Frank and Beverly Hall: Frank, you may have worn the hat with the big "IG" on it, but you sacrificed much to standardize operations and make sure both mission and people were cared for in the right fashion. You and Beverly are still foundations of our East-Coast Alumni Association. Your volunteerism is the truest show of commitment and caring for our organization. You taught me that there really are ugly babies out there and that a bonnet won't cover it up. Thanks for your deep concern for AFTAC.

To Bob and Jeanne Haslett: What a team! You were the technical foundation of TOD and are still up to your elbows in our mission. You proved that an Air Force couple could balance it all and achieve great things.

To Colonel Mike Lubin: I hope you weren't too insulted when as an Airman basic, I asked you at the 1977 1155 Tech Ops Sqdn Christmas Party if you waxed your mustache. That handlebar was one of the most perfect ones I had ever seen. You were my first real indication that officers *had* a sense of humor about *anything*—especially bald heads! Thanks for helping bridge the gap. (HMMM – I meant to edit that bald head remark)

To Jim Lucas: You were everywhere and quietly went about the business of reporting national defense information. You taught us that perseverance will prevail over time crunches and that there's a real difference between 99.5% and 99.9%. Your work ethic was truly an example.

To John and Corinne Minor: You raised Karl right! He's an involved AFTACer and a real leader. John, thanks for not throwing me in the brig while I was stationed with you at Enewetok ... after all, it was only *once* when I got the suburban up to 60MPH on that 1.2-mile dirt road. You were tolerant and forgiving and could tell the difference between a behavior problem and a character problem.

To Brian Morrison: What an outstanding (and *understanding*) supervisor. You rescued me from the "assembly line" of sample analysis and

challenged me to take on the next higher level of the mission. You trusted me to get the job done in your absence and, you too, forgave several transgressions that could have left me in hot water. You taught me that the duty day goes well beyond 8 hours sometimes and that you need to choose when to work late—not wait for your boss to tell you to.

To Ken Musgrove: Charlie Penn and Joe Borowski might argue, but you were a poster-child SEO ... everybody wished they could look as good as you did in a flight suit. Your shoe-shine was the stuff of legends. I'll let *you* tell everyone how you ended up with the nickname "one-nut," but suffice it to say you gave half your all while in the service to your country.

To Colonel Tom and Judy Niquette: For the previously mentioned and those that follow, please don't be insulted, but I learned more about being an NCO (and a SNCO) from Colonel (and yes, I know you want me to call you Tom) Niquette than any other officer. You taught me (and many others) not to tell you why something *couldn't* be done, but to go as far as you possibly can before you ask the colonel for help! You taught me that the telephone has no memory and that you need to get important information out in writing. You taught us to stand our ground when we were right, and never to let a lab guy plan your flight track! You taught me how to be brave, resourceful, and resilient—and that underneath a hard outer crust, there still needs to be a heart. Judy—wow, Judy!—My wife and I learned that our home has no doors when it comes to welcoming the AFTAC family. You are Tom's pillar of strength and we will always thank you for helping us understand that concept.

To Colonels Pavik and Paquette: I'm really sorry for bringing in that C-21 full of samples for you from Bermuda. I didn't realize Colonel Niquette had made me so convincing to the folks who were supposed to get them. It was pretty cool getting towed into a hangar onto a sheet of plastic though. After all, I was *just* a courier! Ah, but what the heck, it all worked out in the end.

To Charlie Penn: Charlie would sometimes just look at people and shake his head. I got that look a lot! Charlie taught me (and I'm sure countless others) that multi-tasking and delegation was not just a skill it was an art. He'd see the stupid things that people (like me) would do and, short of a cuff in the back of the head, make you

feel like a bug. He taught me confidence in my abilities, diplomacy in my relations, and how to embrace the war stories of others to tell those who follow about the richness of our mission and heritage. I know you're (and so is everyone else by now) shaking your head saying, "Who's writing this stuff?" Thank for keeping Joe Borowski from killing me in Yokota—I'm not sure I could have outrun him!

To Wayne and Cathy Zahm: Thanks for being a legend for Charlie and Joe (and others) to talk about. The many stories you "created" helped me appreciate the need for humor, adventure, adversity, and occasional triumphs in our careers.

To all who have been the history and foundation of Long Range Detection since 1947 I want to say thank you on behalf of those who currently serve. Your legacy is important to all of us and lives on in the Hall of Heritage and the memories of those you influenced over the years—Godspeed to all of you.

.Respectfully, CMSgt Lloyd S. French AFTAC Superintendent -

That ladies and gentlemen is what I am talking about. The personal connection that transcends time, that is carried into retirement and remains vibrant even today because of occasions like this. This unique mission that AFTAC performs has created a very close knit society, proud of its heritage, steeped in tradition, and populated with talent found no where else in the Air Force, or the US government for that matter.

My hat is off to each of you who served during the early years, and paved the way, those who served in silence because you could not talk about the mission. Those who did their job, yet remained nameless. When the United States became a part of the nuclear treaty monitoring, we were forced to declassify elements of our mission. It is some of these elements that I have tried to give you some insight into tonight. But still, as it was in the beginning, there is much that remains hidden from the eyes and ears of would be opponents. Much that still remains cloak and dagger. I want to thank you for the opportunity to talk with you, and allowing me to enter into the AFTAC family, Good night.

NOTE: WE HAVE PUBLISHED THIS INFORMATION BEFORE BUT WERE REMINDED BY AN ARTICLE IN THE CA NEWSLETTER.

AFTAC Top-3 Coin Available

MSGT JEFFERY STANLEY, PRESIDENT AFTAC TOP 3 ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the enlisted men and women of

AFTAC, I would like to thank you for your interest in our AFTAC Top 3 Association coin. We designed this coin almost a year ago as a way to recognize AFTAC Top 3 members (both current and alumni). You'll even notice the front of the coin has both the old and new chevrons, our way of remembering our enlisted tradition and heritage as well as acknowledging our AFTAC Senior NCO leadership who laid the foundation for us to follow. These coins are numbered and are only offered to AFTAC SNCOs and AFTAC SNCO alumni.

The AFTAC Top 3 Association is a non-profit, private organization assigned to Patrick AFB, FL. Our organization has two goals. The first is to provide a forum for SNCO professional growth. We accomplish this by providing crossfeed on leadership, promotions, assignments, performance reports, feedback, counselling, dress and appearance, and various other AF subjects. Our second goal is to improve AFTAC junior enlisted morale through incentives, mentoring, proper training, and recognition programs. We sponsor many programs including quarterly awards, annual awards, sharp troop program, airman leadership school graduation dinners, the spring picnic, and provide six \$100 educational assistance grants each year. Our income is derived from fundraisers, member dues, and coin sales. Our coins cost \$6.00 each (includes shipping costs). If you would like to order one, please send a check (payable to Jeffrey Stanley) to the following address: AFTAC/LSCR (Attn: MSgt Stanley), 1030 S. Highway A1A, Patrick AFB FL 32925

If you have any questions about the AFTAC Top 3 Association or our coins, please call me at 321-494-2648 or send me an email jeffrey.stanley@patrick.af.mil.



AFTAC Honors

MR. GARY NULL, AFTAC HISTORIAN, PREPARED THIS LISTING AT OUR REQUEST. HE WAS UNABLE TO GO BACK ANY FURTHER THAN '61, SO WE'D APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT YOU SAGES CAN PROVIDE. WE CAME INTO THE ORGANIZATION IS '58 (SCHOOL) AND KNOW THERE WERE SEVERAL MORE IN THOSE EARLY DAYS.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award:

- 1 Sep 1961 to 25 Dec 1962 (Dept of the AF SO G-150, 31 Oct 63)
- 1 Feb 1964 to 1 Feb 1965 (Dept of the AF SO GB-260, 15 Sep 65)
- 1 Apr 1967 to 30 Sep 1968 (Dept of the AF SO G-169, 2 Apr 69)
- 1 Oct 1968 to 30 Sep 1970 (Dept of the AF SO G-119, 26 Feb 71)
- 1 Oct 1970 to 30 Sep 72 (Dept of the AF SO GB-487, 11 Jul 73)
- 1 Jul 1973 to 30 Jun 1975 (Dept of the AF SO GB-283, 27 Apr 76)
- 1 Jan 1976 to 31 Dec 1977 (Dept of the AF SO GB-666, 15 Sep 78)
- 1 Oct 1980 to 30 Sep 1982 (Dept of the AF SO GB-383, 26 May 83; Dept of the AF SO GB-481, 27 Jun 83 [corrects date on original order])

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award:

- 1 Jan 1984 to 31 Dec 1985 (Dept of the AF SO GB-079, 6 Nov 86)
- 28 Apr 1986 to 20 May 1986 (Dept of the AF SO GB-424, 20 Apr 87)
- 1 Aug 1990 to 31 Jul 1991 (Dept of the AF SO GB-286, 1 Apr 92)
- 1 Aug 1993 to 31 Jul 1994 (AIA SO GF-02, 23 Mar 95)
- 1 Oct 1995 to 30 Sep 1997 (AIA SO GF-01, 7 Jan 98)
- 1 Oct 1998 to 30 Sep 2000 (HQ AIA SO GF-01, 15 Dec 00)
- 1 Jun 2001 to 31 May 2003 (ACC SO GA-111, 13 Aug 03)

Winter Social

PAT SNYDER

The Winter Social will be Dec 9th at the Imperial Hotel on I-95/Wickham.

('In Memoriam' continued from page 6)

B.R.Kuntz

LEWIS C. HORNE, COL., USAF (RET), EMAIL 9/11

Col Kuntz was former Director of Personnel of AFTAC and Commander of the 1155th Technical Operations Squadron and the 1156th TOS. He commanded the 1156th Technical Operations Squadron during the buildup of the AFTAC force in the Pacific to accomplish the AFTAC mission through the period of 1961-1965. He retired in 1965 and resided with his wife Edith in La Mesa and San Diego, California. Colonel Kuntz's funeral was held at Roscrans National Cemetery, Point Loma, California on Thursday the 15th of September 2005

FEATURE ARTICLES

'SPECIAL SAGE SALUTE'**20 YEARS OF YOUR ALUMNI ASSN!**

As noted in the last issue, your current Alumni Association, as best we can determine (and we are open to documented persuasion), officially turned 20 last March 12th. To honor and recognize this, starting with the last issue and completed here, we have gathered together the early documents and information we could. Some of this information has been published previously, in particular in the *Post-Monitor* for September, 1997, but, to our knowledge, this is the first time so much of it has been combined in one article. If anyone can add to, or correct any part of this history, please let us know. Your editors: John and Chris Horsch

Please recall the 'hard to read' letter we ran in this feature article area last issue. Clark **Creery** (maintainer of the alumni website, 'Happening's ... ') sent us an even earlier letter; he also sent the letter we published in a much easier to read format and that follows the earlier letter below. One might say, these letters, and the 'Sage Spirit' of shared pride and fellowship, initiated the formal alumni association we have and enjoy today (a special thanks to Clark **Creery** for having 'Sage Saved' these letters and sharing):

The Initiator:'

26 Dec 1984

In the short time I have been associated with this command; I have had the opportunity to meet many former AFTAC members during various social, professional and athletic events. I couldn't help noticing the camaraderie that was so readily exhibited between the active duty "Blue Suiters" and you, our former associates.

I am aware that the Electronic Security Command (ESC) recently established an Alumni Association to nurture just such a concept, "Staying in touch". With that in mind, I am willing to endorse an "AFTAC Alumni Association". However, before it can become a reality, I need to know if you would be interested in such an association? The basic philosophy would be to create an association organized and governed by you and your associates. The aim of the organization would be to facilitate staying in contact with each other. We could provide limited administrative support but the association would have to make it "go". We will obtain copies of the ESC Alumni Association constitution, by-laws and newsletter to assist in creation of the organization, if sufficient interest is generated.

Please indicate your interest by completing the attached questionnaire. Your response by 31 January 1985 would be appreciated.

Warm Regards

James R. Clapper Jr., Colonel, USAF
Commander

The response to this letter resulted in a follow up letter prepared by SMSgt Richard D. **Gordon**:

The Beginning:

4 March 1985

The response to Colonel Clapper's 26 Dec 1984 letter pertaining to the establishment of an AFTAC Alumni Association was overwhelmingly positive. The Commander found it very gratifying to discover that so many of you and your associates shared his philosophy. It is obvious that creation of an association is feasible and desirable.

A meeting to elect Alumni Association Officers will be convened in the Party Room of the Patrick AFB NCO Open Mess at 1830 hours, Tuesday, 12 Mar 85. The attached agenda is furnished for you (sic - believe to be your) information.

To facilitate the election process, a short resume on the individuals who have already indicated an interest in running for office is attached. This does not preclude nominations from the floor during the meeting.

If you are unable to attend the meeting and you desire to run for office, please contact me at 494-6251/6252. If a telephone call is not convenient, a short note in the mail stating your availability would suffice.

We look forward to seeing you at the gathering!

Sincerely

James R. Clapper Jr., Colonel, USAF
Commander

Clark, again thankfully, recalls events from that March, 12, 1985, meeting:

"The meeting was called to order by SMSgt Richard D. **Gordon**. Those in attendance were: Col James R. **Clapper** Jr. (Commander), Col Thomas W. **Ciambrone** (vice), Alumni Assn Project Officer - SMSgt Richard Gordon, Advisory council - TSgt Willie D. **Raulerson**, Liaison - TSgt Thelma **Bankey**, and a few others (one of your editors, John, was lucky enough to be there, by coincidence; I was back here to 'learn the ropes' of becoming the Center's next Senior Enlisted Advisor).

Elections were held at this meeting with the following results: President: H. **Dibble**, Vice: J. **Teter**, Treasurer: T. **Smith**, Other officers were selected: J. **Bernat**, C. **Creery**, C. **Harris**, E. **Pickel**, J. **Heinbaugh**, Mr. **Benton**, and Mr. **Holbrook**." (Editors note: many of these people are association members to this day)

We also have a follow up letter (provided by 'Sage Saver,' Carl **Gailey**), announcing a meeting for the following year, March 21, 1986, at the Patrick AFB NCO club, to elect officers. Volunteering were Bob **Meisenheimer** for President, Bob **Jones** (now deceased) for Vice, and these

others for standing committees: Carl **Gaily**, Norm **Harris** (deceased), Ron **Kane**, Charlie **Butler** (deceased), Ed **Pickle** (deceased) and Jim **Madigan**.

The association started well and sponsored a first ever Florida reunion in 1987 (the California AFTAC retirees had held earlier reunions; see reunion article that follows). The 1987 reunion activity was an impetus to action for the members; however, when the reunion activity was completed the Florida Chapter ceased to be active. In 1989 the then Commander, Col. **Jaynes**, asked Frank **Hall**, a retired Colonel and interested in having an alumni association, to 'rejuvenate' the association.

The Renewal:

Frank did so with vigor and your editors consider him the 'Godfather' of the association. At that time the association had 8 members and \$4.00 in the treasury. This has now grown to almost 700 members and several thousands of dollars in the treasury. Clark **Creery** was an active member of this cadre and began publishing the alumni association newsletter on an 'as needed' basis (this would be the foundation of the very newsletter you are now reading). Also included in that early group were Gary **Warfield**, Carl **Gailey**, T.J. **Bankey** and one of your editors, John **Horsch**.

Around this time of 'regrouping' and 'rejuvenation,' in 1990, Gary suggested a golf tournament which was unanimously accepted, and he went on to arrange the first ever *AFTAC Alumni Association, Patrick Chapter*, sponsored golf tournament. As you know, this has turned into a fall and spring event now where over 140 golfers will regularly tee-up (see Gary's letter at 'Mail Call').

The association has never looked back from Frank's rejuvenation and goes forward to this day. A complete list of the Florida Chapters Presidents follows along with other association background and history.

Patrick Chapter Leadership:

Recall, 'Association Years' are based on a 'Fiscal Year' basis (i.e., Oct-Sept)

Howard Dibble-1985, Unknown-86/87/88, Frank Hall-89/90/91, Bill Burk-92, Jimmy Heinbaugh-93, Clark Creery-94/95, Tom Niquette-96/97, Frank Hall-98, Clark Creery-99, Mike Shilkitus-00, Sam Sorice-01, Joe Marshall-02, John Caban-03, Judy Milam-04, Jack Jackson-05.

Other 'leadership'; tidbits: Frank **Hall** served as 'Vice' from 91-96 and again in 01. Several 'Vices' went on to become presidents and three have served multiple 'Presidential tours,' Frank **Hall**, Clark **Creery** and Tom **Niquette**.

Additional Chapters Form:

A Colorado Chapter was formed in 1989 and there are over 100 Sages in this chapter. They publish a newsletter, 'ECHOES,' meet periodically and support a website (see following article). Their first president was Ben **Vlassick**, (deceased) who served until 2001; Jack **Smith** has served since that time.

The California Chapter was formed in 1999 at the time of the TOD deactivation; it has over 140 members. They also publish a newsletter 'Depot Fallout,' and have a website (see following article). Presidents have been Al **Pavik** with Ron **Hinkle** currently serving.

WorldWide Reunions:

As noted earlier, reunions have been important to the alumni for some time, and the tradition of, more or less, biannual reunions started even before the alumni association existed. We published a chronological list of these reunions in June, 2003; since that time we have learned of one additional reunion. This evidence was provided by Carl **Gailey**, another 'Sage Saver,' from a folder he has had for a long time. An edited extract from that file follows:

" In 1982 four ex-WFOer's (for youngsters, at that time the California Laboratory and Maintenance Operations was the *Western Field Office*), Bart **Bias**, Al **Carter**, Roy **Carlson** and Mike **Long**, sat around and decided they would like to see everyone that would like to see them. They began work on this idea and it mushroomed into a full blown reunion. While primarily a reunion for ex-WFOer's, anyone who knew an ex-WFOer was also invited to attend; and since WFOer's got around it just about included everyone in the organization. The reunion was held in June, 1983, and there was good attendance."

Their second reunion, June 1985 was all inclusive and over 300 people showed up. Complete listings follow, first in chronological order, and then by the chapter hosting the reunion: CA-83/85, FL-87, CO-89, FL-92, CA-94, CO-96, FL-97, CA-99, CO-01, FL-03, CA-05, which summarizes, by chapter, as follows: California-83, 85, 94, 99 (TOD deactivation), and the recent 2005 reunion; Colorado-89, 96, 01; Florida-87, 92, 97 (AF/AFTAC 50th) and 03. As we go to press, we learn the Colorado Sage plan 'Reunion 2007.'

WebSites:

Our memory of the alumni association really entering the web arena dates to the year 1996. In that year, three members, Mike **Black**, (still our website webmaster), Clark **Creery** (webmaster, 'Happenings ...' section on the website); reach them at mike@aftacalumni.org and clark312@earthlink.net, and Dave **Johnson**, took the bold and forward looking step of publishing the 'Worldwide Directory' of AFTAC alumni that had been put together over many years by Mary **Welch**. This site was supported by a local major company, **CSI** (now **Essex**), which Mike and Dave worked for at the time.

Following that, the alumni association voted to support this website and now there are numerous newsletters, photos, and other information about alumni and past and upcoming ('Happenings' mentioned earlier) events. Just recently, due to technical changes within the corporation, Mike created the alumni's 'personal' website, <http://www.aftacalumni.org/>, and operates and maintains this from his home. In due time the Colorado Chapter added a website, <http://www.aftacco.org/>, Bob **Fitzgerald**, Webmaster and shortly thereafter, the California Chapter added theirs, <http://www.aftacwest.org/>, Bill **Harris**, Webmaster. With all these sites up and running, the reach of the alumni association is, literally and virtually, unlimited.

Alumni may go to the Florida Chapter site, click 'Member Locator ...' and register. This registration, unless you note otherwise, will also make you eligible to receive 'e-alls' (email to all registered members, with email, concerning deaths and other information of a time sensitive nature).

Honorarium (*accounts have been reported on and can be found in the September, 1997, Post-Monitor*) (see *Florida Website > Newsletters*):

There are several ongoing projects representing and honoring center people and its history. Two of these, 'Hall of Heritage' and '20+ Year Wall of Honor' are in the headquarters' building on Patrick AFB, FL. The other is an AFTAC display at the Encampment, Wyoming, Museum.

The 'Hall of Heritage' is a rotating display of mission data, pictures and artifacts. This hall is maintained both by alumni and active-duty personnel and is very dependent for support from the center command section. The '20+ Year Wall' contains pictures and histories of those who served the center for 20 or more years. It is main-

tained by members of the alumni association. If eligible, contact our 'insider,' Pat Snyder, 321-494-6867 or patsnyder@patrick.af.mil for material parameters to be posted on this wall. The display at Encampment, WY, contains equipment that was used at the seismic location in that town, and a Worldwide directory.

We end with recognition coming from the floor of the United States Senate (provided by Clark **Creery**):

"RECOGNIZING THE AIR FORCE TECHNICAL APPLICATION CENTER (Senate - April 30, 1992)

[Page: S5919]

Mr. **WARNER**. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself, and Senator **Danforth**, to recognize the Air Force Technical Application Center, headquartered at Patrick Air Force Base, FL, on the occasion of its 1992 reunion. For more than 40 years, the men and women of AFTAC and its predecessor organizations have vigilantly provided our Nation's policymakers with reliable, sophisticated and scientific information concerning the proliferation of nuclear arms.

Soon after World War II, it became apparent to military and civilian leaders that other nations would eventually gain the awesome power of nuclear weapons. Recognizing that it was in the best national interest to monitor that growth, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower directed the Army Air Force to develop a program with the ability to 'detect atomic explosions anywhere in the world,' in 1947.

In 1949, sensors aboard an RB-29 flying between Alaska and Japan detected debris from the first Russian atomic test. Since then, AFTAC has evolved into a unique national resource that monitors compliance with nuclear treaties, supports our Nation's space program, and provides critical public safety information during emergencies involving nuclear materials.

Over the years, AFTAC has made significant contributions to the deterrence of nuclear aggression. At its heart is the U.S. atomic energy detection system, a worldwide system of sensors capable of detecting nuclear weapons or explosions underground, underwater, in the atmosphere, or in space. To accomplish its mission, AFTAC has a network of 14 manned detachments and more than 70 unmanned equipment locations.

AFTAC has also used its unique capabilities to support other national programs. The U.S. manned space flight program utilizes AFTAC's expertise to provide warning of potential radiation exposure to astronauts. AFTAC tracked debris from the 1986 nuclear reactor accident at Chernobyl, and worked closely with the Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Aviation

Administration, and other agencies to document the radiological health hazards overseas and in the United States. Today, AFTAC continues to explore ways to employ its unique technological capabilities in other specialized mission areas.

The men and women of AFTAC throughout the last 40 years have helped protect this Nation--and indeed the world--from nuclear disaster by providing hard, highly reliable scientific information to our Nation's leaders. Among the many other benefits of this program, it has, first and foremost, helped to bring world nuclear powers to the negotiating table, resulting in landmark nuclear arms treaties, and reducing the threat of nuclear war."

The Future:

While very dependent on every Sage's support, the actual survival of the association, and its chapters, usually revolve around a small cadre of people willing to take the time and effort to perform the day-to-day functions of maintaining that chapter and the association. This maintenance entails arranging events (golf, picnics, socials, etc) with other alumni, association members and non-members, AND with active duty personnel.

The active duty element, where present near the chapter, cannot be overemphasized. Their presence and involvement lends credibility to the chapter's reaching out efforts and 'shared experience' between the 'then and now,' provides very important, necessary support not available otherwise, and they are the very foundation of the association for the future.

In addition to events the chapter must provide communication capabilities (newsletters, internet, etc) and support means of honoring those who serve (Alumni of the Year, 20+ Year Wall of Honor, exceptional active duty performance, etc) and maintain listings of both association members and other alumni.

In closing, we would ask every Sage who is able, to stay in touch with your fellow alumni through the association activities and, if possible, take an active role in it continuance and growth.

SAGE ON!!

I REMEMBER ...

LRD HISTORY BY THOSE WHO WERE THERE

PREPARED FROM READER INPUTS We solicit your **unclassified** memories of your career (events, people, etc.). Forward these to us at 'chrisjohn@juno.com' or ATTN Remembrances column, to the Alumni Address (see left column, page 2).

HONOR ROLL: Jack Binkerd, John Horsch, Jim Payne, Tom Ciambone (deceased), Robert Jones (deceased), Mary Miller, Jim Davis, Rick Holderman (2 articles), Carl

Raines, Dan Burk, Harry Bedsworth, Walter Franks, Bill Braukman, 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 (2)

Glenn Kennedy

"Z2 Forever☺! - Stories from a 99125er"

What better way to follow the Assn's formation and history than with a story that exemplifies the feelings of it's members toward the mission and it's people.

Glenn Kennedy email, 8/9/05, begins with this note:

I want to "Thank" all of you for the energy and time you devote to the alumni group. It has been a tremendous source of fun for me since I found all of you, and it is much appreciated. Please ask if there are ways any of you think I can give back to the association.

On a humorous note, I recently found at least a mailing address for Capt **Sanborn** (our Det 207 Commander) in our alumni database and I can't wait to send him a full copy. He'll probably come out of retirement solely to beat me to death :) :)

I have also been in phone contact with Capt **Dearborn** who lead our Burnt Mountain survey, and I think I've found Sgt **LeBlanc's** address in our database. I'm putting together some copies of my old fitness reports they all signed, just to point out their historically bad judgement :) :) :). Now I just need to find **Skeeter** and Mike **Carver** and we can reconstruct either a Mission Impossible Team or the Keystone Cops depending on your viewpoint :). Thank you Glenn, and your editors (and our readers) truly appreciate that you took so much time and effort to share your AFTAC history. We can hope you will inspire others. You and 'Smitty' (also in the March issue) do a great job of reminding us all what a great organization we were/are a part of.

NOTE: Recall the 2005 March issue. There Glenn began his story of his adventures during his ATAC career. He gave us very complete Chapters 1 and 2 and abbreviations of the others. In this issue we continue with Chapters 3 and 4 and will present additional chapters in subsequent issues. You will find Glenn has 'total recall' and is a great story teller.

Chapter 3 – Detachment 207



DET 207 was cool ☺! I was told it used to be a "White Alice" site that was part of the early DEW line Early Warning System. I don't know if that is literally true,

but it was obviously a major communications facility at one point in time. There was a huge Rhombic antenna just north of the building, and it had two diesel generators for independent operation of the site, and substantial motor pool and operational areas.

To get to the DET, you had to drive from town out to Eielson AFB and then head out Transmit-

ter Road onto the Army Arctic Training Center. I don't remember the exact distance, but I think it took us 20 minutes or so to drive from the base out to the site. The road was gravel, but in pretty good shape, and even better in the winter with a little snow to cover the washboard of summer gravel.



About a mile from the site, you came to an intersection with a phone. Non-DET people were supposed to stop and phone in before approaching the site. It all sounded very official and secure. The real purpose was to give us enough time to go find Black Dog and lock him up before he tried to eat any new strangers. ☺ More on him later.

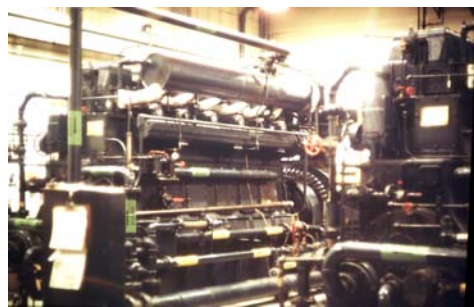
The building was "up" on a gravel fill base that kept it dry and out of the tundra. Our Z2 "bath tubs" were on roof of the building, the B sensors were all over the boonies ☺ To get to these sensors, there was a fairly massive hunk of cables running



from the building out to the sensors. It didn't take very long to figure out that every rodent in Alaska loved to chew on these cables (go figure). So, my first adventure was having one of the old hands teach all of us newbies how to scale a telephone pole and hang data cables from the poles. I don't mind heights, but those first pole climbs were hair raising ☺, turned out our instructor was good, and it was all safe. ☺ I later was teasing my Dad about what a stud I was for climbing the poles, and he looked over his glasses at me and said "When you've climbed a 90 footer you've climbed the same as me, and when you've gaffed out of a 90 footer, you've fallen as far as me". ☺ I had kind of forgotten that he had to string comm systems during the Korean War, and I guess the mountainous terrain meant they had to use some pretty big poles ... Oh Well,



another young wanna-be shot down by experience. ☺



In the spirit of being fascinated by whatever you don't understand, I was in love with the power gen-

erators. I think we even had them named, but it's been too long to remember. ☺. Once a month, we had to (got to) fire them up to keep them oiled and keep us trained. They were air start, and you ran in the door and pushed a big lever that dumped an air receiver into them. Then with a slow, lumber they came up to speed. When they were warmed up and running smoothly, you had to watch the "sync" of the generators to be sure they were in sync with the existing power from the base. The meter had a big light bulb that dimmed as they came in sync and then you threw the switch putting them "online." Then every time we could get away with it, we would bring up the throttle, which moved the load onto the generators and off of the ones at the base. This of course made the base power people crazy, and they would immediately be on the phone yelling at us. ☺ Great Fun!

Chapter 4 – Black Dog

I'm spoiled when it comes to dogs. There'll never be a dog as great as "Black Dog," our detachment mascot. BD was some combo of wolf and husky and when he stood on his hind legs he was my height. The story I got was that he had lost one of his front legs in a bear trap, but no one I met ever knew the truth, or how he originally got adopted by the DET ... that story, plus more of his life after I left would be a great addition to AF-TAC archives.



BD was the smartest, fiercest and most loyal dog I have ever encountered. On your first day at the DET, they had to chain him up, because he was busy trying to eat you. It took all of the first day, and a couple of snarls the second day be-

fore he figured out you were part of his "Pack" ... subsequently you could do no wrong, and were "his" to protect.

The "real" purpose of the phone I mentioned earlier was to give us warning that base maintenance personnel or visitors were headed inbound to the DET. As some of us covered the gear, most of us walked outside and "called" for BD. Of course, between his brain and his hearing, he knew what was up and that began a tug-o-war between instincts and obedience. BD would jump over the berm of the gravel and try to circle the DET and get in position to pounce on the visitors. I'm sure he never realized he was big enough his ears stuck up enough we could see him trying the maneuver. We would get out there and "order" him to heel. His ears would go down, lips curl back and start a ferocious snarl that would scare any normal person to death. When you got tough with him, he would reluctantly obey and come to chain, but he sure as hell wasn't happy about it.

On the lighter side, his intelligence was always at work in the kitchen. His hearing could detect the sound of the gedunk machine even better than the sounds of visitors. The split second anyone touched the machine he would appear out of the mist and sit patiently looking at you until you "tithed" part of your candy bar out to the edge of the table ... I think it was his form of a protection racket. He would remain frozen until you said "O. K." and then what remained of your Butterfinger disappeared.

And, then there was this issue of facility security. DET 207 had an outer and inner perimeter. The outer doors gave access to areas like: lobby, kitchen, motor pool garage and power plants, then there was a cipher lock between there and the operations area. Only, there was this huge "doggy door" through the inner door big enough I could struggle and get through it (then, not now), but the theory was the very nastiest thing that could happen would be a bad guy caught half way through the door by BD ... I would have paid good money to see that one. Even the auditors bought off on that story ... they were afraid we'd let BD loose during the audit!

There was a story circulating at the DET when I first got there about the previous summer when BD had "captured" a porcupine. I guess it was a nightmare that involved a lot of people at Eielson. The story goes that BD came into the DET with-

out a whimper but with a huge quiver of quills stuck all over his face. The DET crew threw him in the station wagon and headed for the base hospital. Meanwhile other crew started phoning the base and pre-warning them what was coming. I guess it took quite a team to get BD in the OR, and hold him down while the Doc's extracted all the quills. Of course BD was trying to eat the hands that were helping, but the story I heard was that all survived without any serious fang marks ... but it was still talked about years later on the base.



BD never failed to greet your arrival or send you on your way at shift change. Us young guys always came and went in the DET station wagon, and for the 18 months of my tour, BD never missed being at the head of the road and race (with 3 legs) along side the car all the way to the DET, and at shift end run us all the way back to the intersection. I miss him, and hope he's happy in Klingon Heaven ... just be damn sure to phone in before you arrive.

Great stories and great writing, what more can we ask for ... oh

BS (BARELY SUBSTANTIATED) TALES!

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

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

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR 'BS' INPUTS; THIS ISSUE WE HAVE: RICHARD (ALKIE) SUMMER WITH ASSIST FROM LES MILLER

Reference this issue's 'Mail-Call' and Les Miller's question about Richard earning this moniker that followed him throughout his AFTAC life and on into his days as a Sage. When our readers ask, we go right to the source. Alkie replied (email, 8/9):

It can now be revealed for the first time the magnitude of my contribution to the 1009 Special Weapons Squadron. While serving in SAC I received a classified assignment to assist in the research and development of new systems and pro-

cedures. After receiving extensive training in Florida I proceed to the old EFO in Japan where I then proceed to Korea to start operation "Barf Barrel".

What people saw was a cleverly disguised test, they thought they were watching a drunk losing his cookies in a 55 gallon fire water barrel when in reality it was an underwater sound transmission test that would later develop into the O technique. I was required to repeatedly submerge my head into the water and shout Aaaarrrrr ggggghhhhh. Sensitive measuring devices recorded this activity, these devices were the very first O technique transducers and should receive a place of honor in the AFTAC museum.

What really happened was the growing up of a 20 year old kid who was out on his own for the first time in his life. I will always give thanks to Don **Winchel** and the rest of the guys who watched out for me.

P.S. Winchel didn't believe the underwater test story and made me empty that whole barrel and refill it with fresh water - emptying and filling was made in many trips using a five gallon bucket and very hung over.

So, Don coined the name ... Les added his view point:

My version is the same, except he left one important part out. When I arrived at Tm 405 from EFO for a Supply visit, there Alky was with a name tag on his fatigues that read: Al K. Holic instead of Richard Summers. As you know, he is one of the best AFTAC'ers there is. If you served with him, you probably have a lot of good memories of that time. If I remember correctly, when Tm 405 was closed down, we brought Alky and the admin clerk, Jack **Turner**, to EFO awaiting further orders. I think Alky had applied to go to "B" school. I don't remember what happened to Turner.

Yes, his is an outstanding story. I particularly liked the lead in to the real story. But then, this is Richard. I'll bet if you asked him, he would have a picture of himself with the fatigue name tag on it. Over the years I've lost most of my pictures of that time. About the only one I can find is the sign over the gate into the compound that read "Welcome to Team 405, a picture of the dragon they had for their icon, and then at the bottom of the sign, a big, Restricted Area, Keep Out or something to that effect.

So keep up the good work on the PM. Does anyone know what happened to Don Winchel. The last I knew he was at WFO in 1966. On my way to Det 430 Winchel had me and my family stay with him before we reported to Travis for our flight.

We ended the email series with this reply to both:

Outstanding ... Les's 'extra' bit pushes this story into true greatness. Richard (Alky) and I served together several times and he was/is one of the great ones. He and I were the best of friends then and remain so to this day.

He was a true/blue 'B' man and was in ops for several years; he made a lot of rules there I bet they still follow today. Now, Richard-how about that pic of you and that name tag ... that would really round out this story.

NOTE: Tom wrote his column several issues ahead. When he died, we asked his wife, Terry, if we could use the remainder of what he had provided. She replied, 'Yes,' that she thought that is what Tom would have wanted.

TOM'S TREASURE OF TANTALIZING AFTAC TRIVIA

TOM CIAMBRONE (DECEASED)

This idea was suggested 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.

Outstandingly, we have feedback from two of our Sages this issue, Alex **DiSanto** and Tom **Crooks**, Jr. We had checked with Tom on this information and he agreed. 'Alex writes:

I have been a silent member of the Alumni Association for quite some time, just sitting back and enjoying the great work you and your predecessors have been doing. I am writing now to add to or maybe correct one answer to the Trivia question presented in the June '05 issue. The 1158th TOS headquarters during my assignment as Commander from Oct 69 to May 71 was located in the PAD area upstairs in a hangar at Albrook AFB, Panama. I am not saying that at one time during its early days that it may not have been at Howard AB. I am sure that Tom has done his homework and that he knows whereof he speaks. I just wanted to make sure that all answers to the Trivia question were complete. The 1158th was deactivated in early 71 when the bulk of its detachments were deactivated for political reasons. Remaining detachments not affected were transferred to the 1159th TOS. Thanks for listening to me and keep up the good work. Thanks for the kind words and taking the time to write and make this helpful addition.

Then we heard from Tom Crooks:

Just got around to reading the June 2005 issue and note one correction for the record to the Trivia question: 1158TOS was located on Albrook AFB [not Howard] in the Panama Canal Zone. I was assigned there when the unit was deactivated in the Spring of 1971. Thanks for taking the time to set the record straight. Are you the 'Crooks' we served with in Turkey? **AND NOW, this issue's trivia, "Can you identify 15 different types of aircraft that have been involved with AFTAC Airborne Missions?"** (answer-pg 23, bottom right)

CALENDAR

Monthly HQ AFTAC WindDowns
Association Board/Membership Meetings
All Alumni are heartily invited to these events.

VERIFY WITH PAT SNYDER (321) 494-6867,

patricia.snyder@patrick.af.mil **BEFORE COMING**

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

WHEN: 1530 (3:30 PM)

WHERE: Behind AFTAC HQ building

HOW: park behind the building-find the crowd

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

WHEN: 1730 (5:30PM)

WHERE: AFTAC HQ's Building

HOW: come to rear entrance

October

7, 1530 WindDown at the Outback
 Meeting/Elections held after golf, 9/30

November

4, 1530 - WindDown at the Outback
14, 1730 - Board/Membership Meeting

December

2, 1530 - WindDown at the Outback
12, 1730 - Board/Membership Meeting

Scheduled Events

EVENT CONTACT—PAT SNYDER, (321) 494-6867
 patricia.snyder@patrick.af.mil

September 30, 2005

Golf N'Getogether, Cocoa Beach Golf Course
 Sign-in, Tee-Off,
 See Page One for more information

Traditional Annual Events,
(for planning purposes only, and where dates are shown, they may be tentative)

January—March

-Assoc SnowBall VIII, **January 28, 2006**
 -Center Annual Awards Banquet, March time frame

April—June

-Center Annual Picnic, April time frame
 -Assoc Spring Golf n'Getogether, May time frame

July—September

Summer time and the livin' is easy

October—December

-Alumni Assoc Fall Golf n'Getogether, **Sept 30, 2005,**
 Cocoa Beach County Club, see page one
 -Center Winter Social, **Dec 9,** see page one

Biannual WorldWide Alumni Reunions; The Colorado Sages are currently planning **WorldWide Reunion 2007**-details as they are available

SAGE SHOP

Mail orders to: Long Range Detection Alumni Assoc, ATTN: Sage Sales, PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB FL, 32925-0892

\$4.00 for shipping and handling plus \$1.00 for each additional item

*No shipping and handling charged on logo pins

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE (as of 2005.02.28)

PURCHASED WITH ALUMNI FUNDS—Multi-Color Logo

	MED	LG	XL	XXL
JACKETS , Unlined/Royal Blue, \$20	2	0	0	4

GOLF SHIRTS, with pocket and collar, \$14

Sea Teal (aqua blue)	1	1	3	2
Jade (medium green)	2	6	3	2
Navy	2	2	2	0
Red	2	3	1	2
White	2	4	2	2
Royal Blue	3	4	2	2
Teal (dark aqua)	2	2	1	3
Maroon	3	4	0	1
Black	2	1	2	2

T-SHIRTS, no pocket - \$7.00

Light Blue	2	3	3	3
Royal blue	2	2	2	2
Navy	2	2	1	
Ash Gray	2	2	2	2
Purple	1	2	2	
Red	2	2	3	2
Fuchsia	1	2	2	1
Stone Washed Green	1	0	1	0
Mint Green	1	2	1	2
Jade Green	2	2	4	2
Black	4	2	3	0

SWEATSHIRTS, Ash Gray, \$15

	2	2	1	0
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HATS - \$6.00 #	MISCELLANEOUS #
Green 2	-50th Commemorative Coin, \$3 95
Gray 0	-Logo Pin, \$3.25 240
Red 7	-Logo Disk, \$5.50 3
Royal Blue 0	-Alumni License Plate, \$7-members
Light Blue 0	\$10-nonmembers 4
Navy 0	-WorldWide Directory, \$25 2
Blue/Gray 15	

'Tom's Trivia' Answer

(page 22, bottom right)

1-WC135; 2-U2R; 3-WC130; 4-HC130 (water);
 5-B57F; 6-B57C; 7-WB50; 8-WB29; 9-C47;
 10-C54; 11-C118; 12-C121; (Super Connie);
 13-T33; 14-F4; 15-F15; 16-P3;

How about that, an extra one.

Can you name others?

Page 1	Sage Spotlight - Alumni Alerts—Alumni Events
Page 2	Association/Chapter Information - Editorial
Page 3/6	Mail-Call/Alumni To Remember
Page 7/10	Florida and Other Chapter News/Monitoring Active Duty Doins'
Page 16	*Feature Articles, "Commanders recall" (none) - "Special Sage Salute to The Assn's Twenty Years" - "I Remember" (one) - "Sage Stars" (none) - "Where Are Ya?!!!" (none) - "Barely Substantiated/Boldly Stated" (BS) Tales" (one) - "Tom's Treasure of Tantalizing Trivia"
Page 23/24	Calendar - Sage Shop/Contents, Application and Address Label

* Feature Articles "Headings" are listed even when 'None' as a reminder to our readers and to solicit inputs

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SNFE the Snail Sez, keep us up-to-date on your life and forward unclassified organizational adventures and tales - inputs are due the 1st Monday in the month of publication (March, June, September & December).

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(s): _____ 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 NEWSLETTER DELIVERY MODE

I choose to receive the quarterly newsletter, **Post-Monitor** via (X one) Electronic _____ (pdf) USPS _____ (hard-copy)

Long Range Detection Alumni Assoc

P.O Box 254892

Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



(<<<)This emblem used by the alumni association was in active service from 1970 to 2000 (the replacement is a less detailed rendering). The association continues the use of this version because so many alumni served while it was 'on duty.'

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

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