

AFTAC Alumni Association



Newsletter

No. 1
Jun 85

March 12, 1985 was a special day in the annals of AFTAC. This was the day that the AFTAC Alumni Association here in Central Florida was formed.

We know that some of you that attended the first meeting must be wondering just what has happened. Well, we are alive and well. Knee deep in the paperwork of forming a constitution and the associated by-laws. But we have tried our best and present to you via this first newsletter our humble attempts. We on the board hope that you will be patient and help us by giving constructive assistance.

COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING;

KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS;

WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS.

Our first item of business was to inform Chief Dibble that he had been elected President in abstentia. After his initial grumbles.....he took the ball and ran with it! He started formulating the Constitution under which we are required to operate as a Non-profit organization. Following the Constitution, naturally came the By-laws. Presented as a part of this newsletter, we present the draft for your review.

June 20th we will have a general membership meeting and social at the NCO Club. Time is 7PM. Please come! At this meeting, we will have a very short business meeting to present the Constitution and By-laws for adoption. Then we plan on getting down to some serious socializing.....Some of the best ideas for the Association will come from the general interface of members and board members at this meeting. Where we plan to go and how we plan to arrive there! Plus it is rather nice to see familiar faces and renew old acquaintances and times.

We also plan on the installation of the Honorary Members at this meeting. As such, our special thanks go to the new General Clapper for his assistance and drive to form this organization. He has provided exceptional support to the Board and we really appreciate it.

It is doubtful that this newsletter will reach you before the AFTAC picnic on June 8th but if logistics of publication should go favorably here are the facts>>>>

>>>>>AFTAC PICNIC

>>>>>>>>> JUNE 8--1985

>>>>>>>>> BASE SURVIVAL AREA

>>>>>>>>> Serving starting at 12 NOON

>>>> Games and entertainment.....food and drink.....all for \$2.00 per adult.....children under 12 free. Tickets available thru AFTAC or on sale at the picnic.....Plus the Association will help man the soft-drink stand.....They are pretty smart...They wouldn't let us manage the beer....!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Well that is about it for the latest news and views from the Board....Next issue we may have more info on what is going on and actually come up with a more professional format for the newsletter. Any items of interest in the meantime may be jotted down or a phone call made to:

Clark Creery
578 Ford Circle West
Melbourne, Florida 32935
259-8140

Plans are in the wind to publish a short directory of each member of the Association and a who is who and where they are.....

AFTAC also has plans to establish a historical memorabilia area with items of interest from days gone past. Any items that you think would be nice or worthy of addition you can loan to AFTAC for copying. More on that later.....

I do think it appropriate to provide as a first newsletter item a short rendition of how AFTAC formed. It is rather interesting and informative....Here goes!!!!

AIR FORCE TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS CENTER

The principal United States capability for monitoring the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty is vested in the Atomic Energy Detection System (AEDS). The actual operation of the AEDS is the task of the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC). The following is a brief history outline of the development of the AEDS and AFTAC.

World War II ended with the United States being the sole possessor of a nuclear capability. However, US government officials and military leaders felt this monopoly would not last long and steps had to be taken to "keep an eye" on the fledgling nuclear programs in other countries, especially the Soviet Union.

Setting up a nuclear detection apparatus immediately after World War II was simply not feasible. America's foremost nuclear scientists, the very people needed if an AEDS was to be established, were all involved in the Manhattan Project. Most of them, particularly the scientific and technical people, were anxious to return to their former pursuits. The nuclear establishment in the US remained unorganized until July 1946 when President Harry S. Truman signed the necessary legislation to establish the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to replace the Manhattan Engineering District. The AEC did not take over its responsibilities until 1 January 1947.

In October 1946, Lieutenant General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, the Director of the Central Intelligence Group, asked Major General Leslie R. Groves, head of the Manhattan Project, to recommend a program to gather information concerning the USSR's possible possession of an atomic bomb. This request occurred right in the middle of the transition from the Manhattan Project to the AEC and no reply was made. Shortly after the AEC assumed responsibility for atomic energy matters, its new Commissioner Admiral Lewis L. Strauss, addressed the following memo to the AEC:

It would be interesting to know whether the Manhattan District made any provisions in the past for continuous monitoring of radioactivity in the upper atmosphere. This would be perhaps the only means that we would have for discovering that a test of an atomic weapon had been made by any other nation. It is to be presumed that any other nation going into large scale manufacture of atomic weapons would be under the necessity of conducting at least one test to 'prove' the weapon. If the Central Intelligence Group has no such monitoring system in effect, it is perhaps incumbent upon us to bring to their attention the desirability of such an immediate step and, in default of their action, to initiate it ourselves at once.

Admiral Strauss followed up this memo with conferences with General Vandenberg urging the appointment of an interservice committee for immediate study of the problem. On 14 March 1947, General Vandenberg addressed identical letters to the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, the Chairman of the AEC, and the Chairman of the Joint Research and Development Board. He recommended that each of these agencies furnish representatives to make up a long range detection committee. After soliciting various viewpoints and studying the recommendations on the proposed program, the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, assigned the overall responsibility for nuclear detection to the Army Air Forces.

General Eisenhower's 16 September 1947 directive to the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces, General Carl A. Spaatz, was broad and inclusive. General Eisenhower stated:

The Commanding General, Army Air Forces, is hereby charged with the responsibility for detecting atomic explosions anywhere in the world. This responsibility is to include the collection, analysis, and evaluation of the required scientific data and the appropriate dissemination of the resulting information. In carrying out this responsibility, the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, will utilize to the maximum existing personnel and facilities, both within and without the War Department, will establish appropriate arrangements with other interested agencies for necessary assistance, and will effect and maintain liaison with all participating organizations.

On 14 November 1947, the responsibility for a long range detection (LRD) program was assigned to the Special Weapons Group, Deputy Chief of Staff, Materiel. From then until 7 July 1959, the organization that would evolve into AFTAC went through numerous redesignations and reassessments.

On 7 July 1959, the direct antecedent of AFTAC, the 1035th USAF Field Activities Group (FAG) (a miscellaneous unit) was formed at Guan Hall, Washington. The new 1035th USAF FAG assimilated the preceding units and its mission. On 18 September 1959, the 1035th moved to Alexandria, Virginia. It remained there until 1 July 1972 when it moved to Patrick AFB, Florida. The 1035th was redesignated Headquarters, 1035th USAF Field Activities Group (a headquarters unit) on 1 May 1960. This date, 1 May 1960, was the official beginning of AFTAC as a military entity.

On 1 July 1963, the 1035th was assigned to Headquarters Command, USAF and on 26 June 1972 was redesignated as the 1035th Technical Operations Group. On 1 July 1976, the 1035th was assigned to the Air Force Systems Command for administrative purposes. On 1 October 1980, the 1035th Technical Operations Group was redesignated as the Air Force Technical Applications Center and became a Direct Reporting Unit of Headquarters, USAF.

Currently, AFTAC has a Technical Operations Division at McClellan AFB, California, and two geographically separated operations areas at Wheeler AFB, Hawaii, and Lindsay AS Germany, 17 detachments, five operating locations and 67 equipment locations.

Hope you enjoyed it.....Remain in Touch.....See you on June 20th at the NCO Club.....Stay Cool !!!!

Clark

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization is AFTAC Alumni Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association. It shall be a private, non-profit organization, pursuant to the provisions of AFR 34-4 dated 20 January 1983. The Association as defined shall include all organizational titles since the inception.

ARTICLE II

GENERAL PROVISIONS

I. AFTAC Alumni Association operates on Patrick Air Force Base only with the consent of the installation commander. Operation is contingent on compliance with the requirements and conditions of all applicable Air Force Regulations.

II. The principle location of the Association will be Patrick Air Force Base, Florida and the surrounding environs. Other locations to serve as chapter focal points may be authorized at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The AFTAC command shall provide appropriate board meeting space if required.

III. The membership (is) (is not) liable under the laws of the State of Florida for organizational debts in the event the organization assets are insufficient to discharge liabilities.

ARTICLE III

OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the Association are to foster continued awareness of the mission and accomplishments of the United States Air Force, in general, and of the Air Force Technical Applications Center, in particular; and to provide its membership a forum for desirable social, educational, and humanitarian services.

ARTICLE IV

GOVERNING BODY

The governing body of the Association will be the Board of Directors. The board will be comprised of four elected executive officers and eight appointed members. The eight appointed members will also serve as committee chairpersons and will chair the following standing committees: Membership, Administration, Social, Sports, Activities, Publicity, Newsletter, and Historian.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

The regular membership of the Association will be open to all former military and civilian members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center and its associated subordinate units. Other membership categories may be established.

ARTICLE VI

ADOPTION

The constitution and its attendant by-laws will be adopted by a majority of the members present and voting at a scheduled General Membership meeting and upon the approval of the Patrick Air Force Base Installation Commander.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENT

The constitution and its attendant by-laws may be amended by a majority of the members present and voting at a scheduled General Membership meeting, providing a notice of said amendment has been provided to the membership at least 30 days in advance of the said scheduled General Membership meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION

I. This Association is organized and operated exclusively for pleasure, recreation, and other non-profitable purposes, and no part of its earnings shall inure to the benefit of any member.

II. In case of dissolution of the organization whatever funds are contained in the treasury at the time will be used to satisfy any outstanding debts, liabilities, or obligations. The balance of these assets will be disposed of as determined by the General Membership.

BY LAWS

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

a. Regular Members - All former military personnel and all former civilian employees who served in or were employed by AFTAC.

b. Associate Membership - Associate membership shall be open and determined on a case by case basis and as approved by the board of directors. This would

include such cases as widows/widowers, AFTAC active duty personnel, etc. Associate members shall have no voting rights within the Association.

c. Application for Membership - An application to join the Association must be submitted by each prospective regular member. Upon verification that the applicant meets the requirements for membership, the applicant is considered a member in the Association effective the date of the application and dues are received.

d. Distinguished Members - Former Commanders of AFTAC will be identified as Distinguished Members.

e. Honorary Members - All other military or civilian personnel, not otherwise eligible for membership into the Association, but whose contribution to the USAF or to AFTAC are so significant as to warrant special consideration and recognition by the Association. Honorary members will be identified by the board of directors and membership will be offered at the discretion of the board.

f. Voting Right - Each regular member and distinguished member will be entitled to one vote on all matters pertaining to the Association at each regular or special meeting.

g. Proxy Vote - No voting member is entitled to exercise a vote for a member not present at a meeting unless otherwise specified by the board pursuant to special conditions.

ARTICLE II

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

a. The executive officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. All shall be members of the Board of Directors, elected by the membership. Eligibility for election to the Executive Officer positions will be limited to former military or civilian personnel not currently employed by the Department of Defense who are otherwise eligible for membership into the Association.

b. The President will preside at all meetings of the members and at all meetings of the board. The President shall perform those duties as customarily pertain to the office of the President, or as may be directed to perform by resolution of the board. The President will vote on issues before the board only in event of a tie. The President is the Executive Officer of the Association and will attend to the day-to-day operation of the Association with the assistance of the board.

c. The Vice-President shall have and exercise all the powers, authority, and duties of the President during the absence of the latter.

d. The Treasurer shall manage all Association funds and control their disbursement subject to the controls, limitations and delegations of the board.

e. The Secretary shall prepare and maintain full records of all meetings of the members and the board.

ARTICLE III

DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall consist of not more than twelve members composed of the four executive officers and eight other directors. The four executive officers shall be elected by the membership. The executive officers will appoint the eight other directors who serve at the pleasure of the executive officers. Director candidates will be representative of officer, enlisted and civilian components of the Association membership.

ARTICLE IV

SPECIAL OFFICERS

The Board of Directors may appoint, employ or designate an individual(s) to perform in the following capacity(ies): Administrative assistant, auditor, legal counsel, chaplain, parliamentarian or any other position that may be required. Compensation and specific responsibilities of the special officers will be determined by the board.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

The meetings of the Association consist of quarterly meetings and special meetings. Quarterly meetings will be held during March, June, September and December each year. During the Quarterly meeting in March of each year the election of the four Executive Officers will be held. Special meetings will be called as required by the board.

ARTICLE VI

DUES

Dues for regular members of the Association will be \$10.00 annually, payable within 30 days of the anniversary of joining the Association. Distinguished and Honorary members are exempt from paying dues. Dues for Associate members will be 50% of the established dues for regular members. Adjustment of dues shall be by majority vote of the general membership present at a Quarterly meeting.

ARTICLE VII

ELECTIONS

1. Nominating Committee:

a. Shall be appointed by the outgoing President, a minimum of ninety days before the March meeting.

b. Will be composed of no more than five members, a quorum shall consist of three members.

c. Will be chaired by the Immediate Past President who will serve as elections chairman.

d. Will review the total membership to identify candidates for the Executive Officer positions.

e. Will notify the general membership of the proposed slate of Executive Officers at least thirty days before the March meeting via the Association Newsletter.

2. The elections will take place at the March meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. An open ballot will be used with a simple majority required for election. The Association Newsletter will provide a ballot to permit members to vote who will be unable to attend the regular meeting.

3. The new Executive Officers will assume their responsibilities during the first board meeting after the March meeting. The first order of business will be to appoint the eight other Directors, if required. (Due to the nature of the functional duties of the eight other Directors as chairpersons, it is not required to replace them annually.)

ARTICLE VIII

COMMITTEES

Committees will be established by the Executive Officers and the board.

ARTICLE IX

ACTIVE DUTY LIAISON

It is understood that AFTAC agrees to provide an active duty liaison representative to assist the Board of Directors in the coordination and support of the Alumni Association activities.

ARTICLE X

DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution or disbandment of this Association, all funds and properties, in excess of liabilities and expenses of dissolution, will be distributed as recommended by a majority of the membership at a Quarterly meeting.

ARTICLE XI

CHAPTERS

The Board of Directors may authorize or include Association Chapters outside the Brevard County, Florida area. Chapters may be represented by their Chapter President on the Association Board of Directors. The Chapter President's title will be Chapter Representative. As such, he/she will have the same voting privileges, benefits and responsibilities as a member of the Association Board of Directors. He/she will be consulted regarding any non-routine voting issue that comes before the board.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

State.....ZIP.....

Telephone

Number.....

Rank.....

Dates Served with AFTAC.....

Other information as appropriate.....

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.....

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Dues \$10.00.....

Signature.....