

# ♦ POST - MONITOR ♦

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2

Membership—676, Lifetime 521 (16 Distinguished)

2004 JUNE

Sep



The Alumni Anthem  
Over the years and at  
younger ages ...  
'Gs,' 'E' and 'O' were our  
gauges

But now we've reached the  
best of stages  
Being one of the  
Center's Sages

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

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



## SAGE SPOTLIGHT

THE LONG RANGE DETECTION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PROUDLY PRESENTS



**RANDY VLASSICK**  
LRD ALUMNI ASSOC.  
MEMBERSHIP



Recently the alumni board contacted Randy and asked that he assist with membership duties. He immediately stepped forward and is quickly learning the tasks and tricks of this trade. Herewith we turn the 'Sage Spotlight' on Randy.

Born in '58, he joined the AF in '79 and retired in 2003. He served in AFTAC the entire period.

Randy's assignments include Det 421, Alice Springs, Australia, 1979-1981; Det 313, Sonseca, Spain, 1981-1985; HQ AFTAC, "O" and "J" terminals, 1985-1987; Det 313, Sonseca, Spain, 1987-1994; HQ AFTAC, Subsurface Data Terminal, TTS, and XPR, 1994-2000; Det 452, Wonju, Korea (Superintendent), 2000-2001; HQ AFTAC Watch, 2001-2002. His final assignment was at HQ AFTAC, Directorate of Nuclear Treaty Monitoring, Data Management Division, 2002-2003. He is now working at HQ AFTAC as a government civilian in the Directorate of Nuclear Treaty Monitoring.

Randy is a 'Second-Generation Sage' (Ben Vlassick, deceased) and we look forward to his continuing contributions to AFTAC and its alumni.

## SAGE SPECIAL NOTICE

Alumni Association Chapters are preparing a unified contribution to the Air Force Memorial Foundation that will honor Air Force personnel. Please see details at page six.

## ALUMNI ALERTS-WHAT'S COMIN' UP

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

### OCTOBER 15, GOLF N'GETOGETHER

Patrick AFB Course, details in next issue  
See page 19 for scheduled/projected events

### WORLDWIDE REUNION, 12-15 MAY, 2005

California Chapter Hosting, Sacramento, CA.  
Stay tuned for details as they are available.

*See Pg 10 for current schedule info*

## ALUMNI EVENTS-WHAT'S GONE OFF

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

### CENTER ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC

EDITORS, 10 APRIL-PATRICK AFB SURVIVAL AREA,-PICS ON WEBSITE  
On a beautiful spring day Sages, pre-Sages, and their families, got together for a little tale swappin' and friendship. It was great to be back at the survival area, and the active-duty had done a superb job setting everything up. There was plenty to do for the youngun's and the olduns' and all those in between. Entertainment, food, and liquid refreshments were aplenty and the day beckoned all. (continued on page 5, left center)

### LRDAA SPRING GOLF N'GETOGETHER

FRANK HALL/JUDY MILAM/EDITORS-7 MAY-COCOA BEACH COURSE  
A sunny day beckoned as golf forces gathered to wreck havoc on another fine course. This mighty field of 130 Sages and friends arrived for duty starting at 1130; the volunteers setting things up and checking them in a little earlier (pics @ website).

At 1300 sharp they began their attack on the course—later, after the sand had settled and all were accounted for and were feasting, the results of their efforts were presented. (cont. right ctr page 5)

**ASSOCIATION HONOR ROLL****Alumni Of The Year Recipients**

**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

**Florida Chapter "PERENNIALS"**

(board members serving for five+ years)

Clark Creery-NNewsletter 81-84/89-95, 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, Mike Black, ,Webmaster since 97, Jim Payne, Mbshp 99-04

**ASSOCIATION HISTORY**

The Association formed on March 12, 1985, and was chartered in 1986. It was created to provide a forum for those who wish to maintain an ongoing connection with the organization and its people, both active-duty and retired. Membership is open to current and former 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.

**Florida chapter (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, rvlass@aol.com or 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 a quarterly (Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec) newsletter, 'Post-Monitor' (staff data below), (namesake of a prior active-duty publication, 'Monitor') & a Webpage, '<http://www.csi-inc.com/aftac>', with assc/alumni data, 'Post-Monitor' 'Samplers' and back-issues and photos-WebMaster is Mike **Black**; Clark **Creery** writes an 'Upcoming Events' ('What's Happening') section and posts photos.

**Colorado chapter**

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

**West Coast (California) chapter**

Formed in 1999, **dues, \$5 per year, \$50 for lifetime**; for information-Joe Johnson, (916) 783-8676-address:AFTAC Alumni Assc, 161 Southcreek Circle, Folsom CA, 95630-1510. They meet several times a year and publish a newsletter, 'Depot Fallout' and have a website, '[www.AFTACwest.org](http://www.AFTACwest.org)'. There are 154 members.

**Long Range Detection Alumni Honorarium**

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

**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/Bob Wiley

**Printing/Mailing:** Carl Gailey

**"A TEAM" ...OF HORSCHE'S**

'58-'87

**EDITORIALLY SPEAKING**

Boy, what a jam-packed issue. We had to 'adjust' to keep it to 20-pages-we may need to consider more pages, when needed, and if the board approves.

Along those lines, you may have noticed your last several issues have arrived flat and not folded. This happened when we changed 'mailers' - this mailer also prints/attaches the address labels. This meant the 'LAF' (label and fold) party was no longer necessary; kinda sad, but it really is nice not to have to perform the 'LAF' duties, and your issue is ready to read when you receive it.

Some of our 'adjustments' meant we had to delay publishing 'Smitty's' next installment and break General Hall's 'Commanders reCall' and Jack Dornedan's BS into two parts; font sizes were also decreased in some cases. But we think it is a fine pickle to be receiving so much from our readers—keep it up! We are ever so grateful for Sage's inputs, and even more so when it is not someone we have hounded 'to write.'

Normally, we don't mention non-Sage sale items. However, we make a 'one-time' exception for a '99 Coin' now available. Conceived and designed by



99's, it is excellent and there are some great rules (see below). Any 99 is eligible to buy these 'collector' quality coins. Contact:

email TSgt Jerry Rice, [jerryrice@patrick.af.mil](mailto:jerryrice@patrick.af.mil), or call (321) 494-8751 or Tony Calenda @ [acalenda@cfl.rr.com](mailto:acalenda@cfl.rr.com); \$7 each or 5 for \$25, plus shipping if required. An extract of the 'backside':

**Rules of the 99 Coin**

1. All **99s** present must participate during a challenge
2. A challenge is made by deploying the **Coin** in the presence of other **99 Coin** holders.
3. Deployment must be made on a hard surface and heard by all present.
4. Losing control in any situation, i.e. dropping, will also initiate a challenge.
5. A response to the challenge is made by deploying a **99 Coin** within 15 seconds.
6. Unsuccessful responses obligate the responder to buy the challenger a drink of their choice.
7. Successful responses obligate the challenger to buy the respondent a drink of their choice.
8. Combat rules apply when a group of three or more is present. Combat obligates the challenger, or those unable to respond, to buy the entire group a drink of their choice.
9. Challenges may be made at any time and any place.
10. The **99 Coin TRUMPS** all other coins in a challenge!

# MAIL - CALL



Any requests for action should be sent to  
**Long Range Detection Alumni Association**

**PO Box 254892**

*on email Patrick AFB, FL 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

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

## LETTERS/EMAIL

**John Allred-Richmond, VA 2004.02.14**

Alumni may be interested in logging on to [www.airforcememorial.org](http://www.airforcememorial.org) and reviewing the status of this memorial to air force members. We too have found this site interesting and encourage our readers to take a look.

**Frank Calenda-email 2004.03.19**

WOW - a full 20 pages. John and Chris, you never cease to amaze me. This is a difficult task that is really under-appreciated...and you still keep at it. Can I make a comment? Why is John's picture in black and white and Chris is in glorious living color? Nice product this month, not meaning to belittle previous newsletters. Please keep up the good work. Respectfully Thanks, and appreciate your readership, membership and comments ... and the inputs you have provided over the years-they have always been entertaining and enlightening. It's a real bonus for us that you and Tony participated as you did in the 'Son/Dad' articles ... we now have the same with 'Smitty' replying to his son is this issue.  
 PS Chris is in color when you view the page on the website ... besides, that is a color picture of me, I am just not feeling good.

**Bob Post-email 2004.04.05**

The photo in the Monitor shows how 99 & 51 programmers have been neglected by AFTAC! They were part of the AFTAC mission and deserve a lot of credit in their accomplishments!

I emailed the answer to the photo to Bob Fitzgerald (CA website webmaster), earlier with these names (more to follow):

Bob, your photo is the "EDP" (depot) section (99 programmers, new officer programmers, & computer operators) softball team in about 1975.

#1 is Bob Post (99 programmer), #2 is Bud Toole (ncoic of computer operations), #3 is Dick Harper (admin), #4 still

thinking, could be EDP CO, Major ??, #5 still thinking, #6 is Lt ?? (AF programmer, to replace 99 programmers, made Capt, moved to HQ about '76), #7 is SMSGT (AF programmer), #8 still thinking (could be Ron Kline computer operator, if so, he died), #9 is Red Aldridge (99 programmer, died at 47), #10 is Lt ?? (playboy) (AF programmer, to replace 99 programmers), #11 is Lt Wagonner (AF programmer, to replace 99 programmers), #12 still thinking, #13 is Capt. ?? (CO of computer operations), #14 is Lee Beusing (sp?) (AF programmer), #15 is Stan Yobi (computer operator), #16 is T.O. Fowler (computer operator), #17 is Arnie Barnett (computer operator), #18 is Don ?? (99 programmer worked for me), left AF after 4 yrs to work in train operations in TN, had math degree)

You know these guys, I will come up with the other names from old AF papers, just a quick note to let you know how this is related to the 1155th! Where are you? Others, Pat Burke (99 & AF programmer, Buddy Taylor (computer operator), PS We probably won as we had the very best team!! Our reply-Thank you for being an association member, and dropping us a line. We very much agree with your statement that 99 & 51 programmers deserve a lot of credit in their accomplishments! I was at the headquarters, as you know, and worked with the programming section many times and in many ways. Also, in my opportunities to travel in my various assignments, I also know the roles that programmers played at every part and level of the command. They were absolutely critical as we progressed from 'work by hand' to 'work with computers.'

It would be great, Bob, if you could give us an unclassified article or two concerning your programmer adventures, from the hilarious times (BS) to the serious (I Remember).

**Bob Fitz's reply-email**

**2004.04.07**

I sent Bob a response and told him that he has won my award of \$10 towards his West Coast Chapter membership fee. Thank you also for your comments about our web site. I don't get to spend as much time working on it as I'd like to, but I do enjoy doing it when I can. I too look forward to seeing you at the 2005 reunion.

**Brian Swan-email**

**2004.04.08**

Just got the March Monitor. Read every word. Sorry to see the passing of Gen's Goade and Gordon. Were they the only two Generals AFTAC ever had? I always enjoy 'The Command I Knew' section and felt inspired to submit a set of small stories for your consideration.

The most entertaining section, to me, of the Post Monitor is The Command I Knew section. I eagerly read the stories submitted and probably totally frustrate my wife by pointing out the people and places I know or recognize as I read each article. All are a part of a unique history that will never be widely publicized or glorified by the country that all of us served, but are, never-the-less, the slices of life that enrich our past. I would like to share a few moments from my time with the best unknown organization in the Air Force.

(please see the 'I Remember' articles) Thanks so much, and thanks for the kind of support that makes what we do so worthwhile. We never tire of reading what 'our friends' write, and it appears you feel the same. I know this is at least your second submission, which puts you two ahead of most people; but we are ever so thankful that enough do write that we get to fill a 20-page issue almost every

quarter. No one writes better, or 'says' it better than you do Brian. Send 'em as often as you can.

Regarding the Generals-the '50 year Commemorative History,' page 11, lists Generals from the beginning - 7 MGen's from Dec '47 to Mar '66, 4 BGen from Aug '66 to Jun '78 (Goade and Gordon were the last two of that group). Following this we have all Col's who come into the position, but many of them made BGen before shortly after leaving for another assignment: Clapper, O'Lear, Birmingham, Jaeger, Shaffer. Since the History Book was written, I believe Dettmer (2 CC's back also made Gen).

**Clark Creery-email****2004.04.15**

Good plane pictures:

<http://www.bruenjes.org/airshows/edwards2003/>

**Joe Johnson-email****2004.04.24**

Really enjoyed the latest Post Monitor. Thanks to Juan Nieto for his update of my Det 460 tale. My recollection of the Attu story doesn't match his but his is the better story. He absolutely nailed the names and the bit about Tatalina mountain.

Curtis Smiths (**Smitty**) "The Command I Knew" is just great. The bit about the team site being named Benders mountain matches what I was told when I was assigned there in 1955. I note Smitty promoted me to CMSgt. Wish it was true.

Smitty's recollection of the calibration of the big Bennies is right on the mark. There was a reason that he and other supply and administrative people got roped into that operation. The complete calibration required four people in the field plus at least one in the CRB. I remember the normal number of operator personnel assigned at that time was 8. What with 24 hour shifts, it was near impossible to get a minimum of 5 operator types on site at one time. It follows anyone working day shift (calibration time) was bait for pulling calibration weights.

I believe Capt **Young** was the Commander at T 204 when I rotated in Dec 1956. Then we have Frank **Galiney** (deceased). Smitty has him right on the money. I am not sure that the Attu installation would ever have been completed when it was had it not been for Frank pushing anyone that could help or hinder.

Frank never saw a job the AFTAC people couldn't complete particularly if those people worked directly for him. I worked for Frank for a number of years in the early 60s and have good reasons to agree with Smitty. But as they say, that is another story.

The SNOBALL (SnowBall) name thing was news to me. We had a pet dog at 204 named Snoball and I thought maybe the name started there. I am sure that Smitty's story brought back many memories for a bunch of really old grey beards.

Keep up the good work. Thanks so much for your positive comments and compliments. We feel so lucky that we get to work for the 'best batch of the best bunch.' Thanks to guys like you three, Chris and I have no trouble filling a quarterly 20-pg newsletter.

**Bob Fitzgerald-email****2004.05.05**

Kudos! Once again, a very nice job on the Florida Chapter Alumni Newsletter. Just a minor correction on your "Editorially Speaking" column. My last name is "Fitzgerald," not "Fitzpatrick". I am the Webmaster for the California Chapter and I appreciate your comments about our web site. We didn't win a "Dottie" award, but have received a lot of positive comments and it was an honor to be nominated. (Not for publication, but just FYI.. we've been receiving in the high 300's and over 400 hits on our web site each month, with April totaling 444 hits, the highest since October 2003 our first month on-line when we had 709 hits. Not bad for our rather small organization.)

My "Mystery Photo" which you 'glommed' from our web site has now been mostly identified. The winner of a two-year membership in the West Coast Chapter was a long-lost old friend, Bob **Post**, who is identified as #1 in the photo. Bob says this photo wasn't from the 1968-69 Det 202 Softball team after all. According to Post, the picture was taken in about 1975 of the 1155<sup>th</sup> Tech Ops Sqdn, MCL EDP Section softball team. Bob was able to put names to most of the men in the photo but we still have a few that are iffy and some that we don't have a name for at all. I'm sure someone in the Alumni organization will recognize themselves or someone else in the photo and I'm hoping they contact me. I'll keep the link to it for a while to come on our web site at <http://www.AFTACwest.org/> from our 'Albums' page.

Thank you for all you do for us. We do appreciate all the work that goes into the Newsletter.

**our reply email, 2004.05.03**

We knew it was going to be trouble when we met new friends by the name of 'Kirkpatrick,' and finally remembered it was 'Kirk ...' and not 'Fitz ...' now we are calling everyone with 'Irish' in their last name by theirs.

We apologize and will publish your letter in the next PoMo. We remember you well because you helped so much with the depot closure articles. Forgive us and we will call the real Kirkpatrick's (Don and Trudy) 'Kirkgerald' at least once.

And appreciate the compliments, and believe you should have won the 'Dottie,' and your info on the 'glommed' picture and contest. Our readers will enjoy knowing the result.

**NEW/RENEWING SAGES****R Richardson-Columbus, MS 2004.01.24**

Sorry that I'm late-I always seem to forget!  
Thanks for the reminder. You bet.

**Jerry Brown-Ft Worth, TX 2004.01.26**

Sorry for being late with my annual dues again,

attribute it to that disease called lack of memory.  
Will pay for an extra year, so I don't forget next year.

You all are doing a great job. Thanks Jerry.

**George Kraus-Garland, TX 2004.03.06**  
Sorry to be so late with my dues but I was waiting for confirmation from some of the other 'Old Originals' at Team 421AA, Alice Springs, NT, Australia, concerning the origination of the 4th of July bash. Thank you George for your renewal, and an even bigger thanks for your 'story' and photos that we have placed in our infamous 'BS' section. Readers, you are in for a real treat.

**Michael Hughes-Olanta, SC 2004.03.10**  
(online) Doxx, 1981-'91; Det 452 Superintendent, '92; TX Superintendent, '93-'95; Currently, Asst. Professor of Finance at Francis Marion University in South Carolina.

**J Champoux-Newburyport, MA 2004.03.12**  
(online) 99125B, 3454th 8/76-7/77, 1155TOS '77-'79.

**'CHECK/NOTE' ONLY MAIL** (renewal, unless noted)  
Leo Deville, address change (LA to TX), Daniel Burk, Michael McCarty, William Malloy, Tim Majoch, Randy LaBarge, Kelly O'Connor, James Lucas, Rebecca Pobieglo, Ernest Rutz, Jr, James Chesney (address change), W. Farris, Jr, George McMonigle, Robert Dobek, Allan Coates, Alfred Stucki, Elias Schwartz, Douglas Snyder

**ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC** (continued from page 1)  
The alumni 'BeerMeisters' were in place and 'doing their duty,' critical as it is.



Sandy Sherman, Tony DeMarco, Dr. O'Brien  
Howard Dibble Terry Hammond Jeff Stefoneck  
(See photo pulled but not shown, John Horsch, Frank Calenda, Joe Marshall  
ropic against Cmsay (Rita)

Later in the day, when hunger and weakness were setting in, and thirsts were well on their way to being quenched, two Sages, John's Coffey and Horsch, challenged the field to a battle of shoes (horse, that is). This challenge was met by several brave teams and avoided by others-Tom Eddleman was a 'no show'-Frank Calenda and

the Center Super came up with 'other commitments.' 'SuperShoers,' Tony DeMarco and Howard Dibble, did step forward to eliminate the showoffs. Unbelievably, the Johns' survived; and then by 'avoidance actions' and shoe skills not seen before, survived. Tony later emailed, '...enjoyed the shoes ... should of kicked your butt but Howard has been slipping lately.'

Later, in a private ceremony not seen by many, but pictured here, they accepted the honor of 'The Golden Shoe' and 'The Bud Cup' (which hence must be used at Sage events until wrested away).

So, as the sun, shoes, and picnickers disappeared, and clean up began, another day of memories (and championships) ended.

#### SPRING GOLF N'GETOGETHER (continued from page 1)



#### PRIZE LIST



1<sup>st</sup> Place Team (\$40 each), Bruce Snelgrove, Don Gilbert, Dennis Kauffmann, Dave Money,

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team (\$30 each), Scott Harris, John Howorth, Norm Fish, John Bernhardt

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team (\$25 each), Danny and Matthew LeFor, Jack Jackson, Wally Brown

Closest to the Pin, Lake Course, dozen balls, Sam Sorice III

Closest to the Pin, Dolphin Crse, dozen balls, Gaylen Drape'

Longest Drive, Lake Course, dozen balls, Evans

Longest Drive, Dolphin Course, dozen balls, Jim Scott

Corporate Sponsors who donated prizes and money are:

**SAIC, CTI, ENSCO, MULTIMAX, QTSI, ZELTEC**

#### PRIZES DONATED BY SAIC:

Business/Computer Bag, John Muzzy

-Dura Flex Umbrellas, 1 ea to: Glenn Burgess, Walt Kiska, Gavin McDaniel, Ray Rodgers, Lisa Bradshaw,

-Golf Ball and Tees Sets, 1 each to: Vindell Hsu, Sam Sorice III, Marv Crumpton, Jason Roberson, Boyd Lease

-SAIC Hat - Glenn Burgess

-SAIC Golf Shirt - Bud Andree

-SAIC T-Shirt - Terry Hammond

-SAIC Tote Bag - Frank Gutcher

#### PRIZES DONATED BY ZELTECH:

Golf Shirts, 1 ea to: Gaylen Drape', Wally Murray

**PRIZES DONATED BY DAVE CORMACK:**

-Tiger Woods Bobblehead Dolls, 1 ea to: Mark Gordon, Fred Bowman, Scott Wierschke, Alex Carazo, Roger Hornsby, Dennis Kauffmann, Gary Killian, Walt Kiska,

**OTHER PRIZES:**

**GRAND PRIZE:** Cobra 400 Driver – Frank Hall

Odyssey 2-Ball Putter – Joe Goldian

Ping 60-degree Wedge – Howard Mansfield

Golf Bag – Winston Chan

-Ball Retriever – Brandon Harrison

-Straw Hat – Tony DeMarco

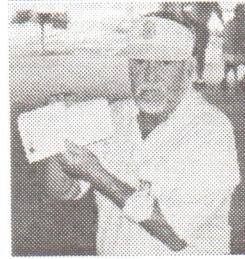
-Golf Bag Travel Cover with Wheels – Phil Adair

-Sleeve of Golf Balls, 1 ea to – Craig Bendorf, Chip Brogan, Bob Brown, Steve Hoffman, Judy Milam, Bob Furlong

-\$25 Gift Certificates, Cocoa Beach Golf Course Pro Shop: John Howorth,(2), Tom Lehnerz, Jim Scott, Gary Lehmann, Scott Evans, Brandon Harrison, Walt Kiska, Tom McArdle, Wally Murray, Winston Chan, Frank Hall, Gloria Uzee, Bill Campbell, Fred Bowman, Jim Perry, Curt Smith, Jim Madigan, Dennis Detsch, Mike Hoy (2), Boyd Lease, Judy Milam, Jerry Antonich, Brad Neihart, R. Merz

People who helped with the Golf Tournament: Frank and Bev Hall, Sam Sorice, Pat Snyder, Carl Gailey, Judy Milam, Joe Goldian, John and Rae Ann Coffey, John and Chris Horsch, Eileen Best

3 go-getters (gg) and 1 go-doer, Chris Horsch, Judy Milam, RaeAnn Coffey, Frank Hall. There were other gg's but they were bashful



and one reportable accident/incident. A branch struck Jack Jackson's left arm a mighty blow (his story) when he attempted use of an unauthorized bathroom area. He 'bandaged' it himself and we were glad he won a prize making him temporarily forget his misfortune. We never did learn if he accomplished his mission

Pictures are by Judy Milam and Clark Creery has posted them for all to see on his webpage 'Upcoming Events' on the alumni website, <http://www.csi-inc.com/aftac/>, courtesy of CSI and Mike Black.

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PLANS UNIFIED CONTRIBUTION TO AF MEMORIAL FUND**

At a monthly Alumni Association meeting of the Patrick Chapter we discussed making a contribution to the Air Force Memorial fund. The ground breaking is drawing nigh (currently scheduled for Sept '04 with completion two years later), and con-

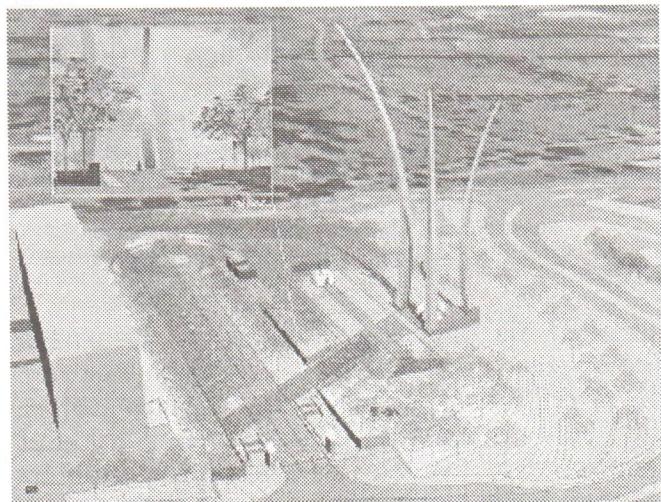
tributions are important as this project moves forward. It was also the considered opinion that this type of contribution was allowable under the association constitution and charter.

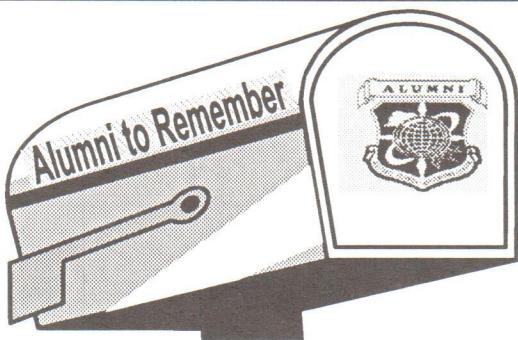
We also considered that this donation be made in the name of the 'AFTAC-LRD (Air Force Technical Applications Center-Long Range Detection) Alumni Association' as a whole, i.e., the three chapters making a unified contribution from their treasuries. The chapters have agreed by sending donations for this unified approach, and are also making donations in their own chapter's name. At the same time we emailed the chapters, we also notified those alumni on our 'e-all' list (email addresses are registered at the alumni website).

As this transpired, several people also wanted to make personal contributions to this donation in the name of the association. While it was not an original intent to seek individual contributions, it is gratifying that some of you feel that way.

All donations are very much appreciated and will be combined and sent forth. When donating to the unified contribution, please send to the Florida Chapter address as follows: AFTAC-LRD Alumni Assc, ATTN: AF Memorial Donation, PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892. If sending a check, please pay to LRD Alumni Assoc., we will then deposit that to our treasury and write a matching amount into the unified contribution. We will come to conclusion on this by 1 August, 2004; please send donations before that date.

The website for the memorial is: <http://www.airforcememorial.org/> and, as you will read, with this contribution we will be listed on the Memorial's 'Charter Sponsor Registry.' Below is one of the depictions of this memorial when it is completed.





### **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**

We look forward to transition inputs.

### **Hopes of Health for ...**

*Alumni share hopes for themselves or others*

Wally Funk  
Myrna Payne  
Rita Summers  
Harvey Shaw

### **And Others In Our Thoughts**

#### **In Memoriam**

Frederick W. Robitschek, Jr. (see below)  
Edward Carfora Sr (see below)

#### **Rest in Eternal Peace**

#### **Memoriam, Gen's Goade and Gordon**

Obituaries, last issue

SANDY SILVERMAN, CMSGT (RETIRED), 1158TH TECH OPS SQ & HQ  
(1967 - 1973) > EMAILED ON 2004.03.30



I thought this picture might be of interest to you. It is a photo from June 1973 of the change of command ceremony of BG Goade on the left and

BG Gordon on the right. That is me in the rear. I am not sure what my function was, but I am sure it was important.

JOHN HORSCH, REMEMBERS

I remember these gentlemen well, having served through both their tenures. Gen Goade was in command as we made our move from Alexandria, VA, to Patrick AFB, FL ('71-'72 time frame), and Gen Gordon took it from there.

My wife and I thought this was a great move, going from one outstanding place to another in one swell swoop. While my rank was such that I never personally had many associations with either man, I knew their presence, that they were in charge, and trusted that they had our best interests at heart and in mind. It is sad to lose such men in such quick order and reminds us old-timers of our immortality.

#### **Frederick W. Robitschek, Jr.**

Frederick W. Robitschek, Jr. Lt. Col., USAF, Ret., age 60, died April 26, 2004, at home.

Born in St. Petersburg, Florida, he served his country proudly as an intelligence officer, and was an early advocate of replacing the strategy of strategic nuclear deterrence with a defensive doctrine and capability. As a strong writer and author of Sandspur Escapes, a children's story set in Satellite Beach, Fred strove to protect Florida's natural treasures against political and economic predators. Fred played an important role in the development of Samsons Island Park, tried to help Brevard's abused children by serving as a Guardian ad Litem, and developed the Neighbor Helping Neighbor program in Satellite Beach.

Fred, a member of Trinity Presbyterian, served as a deacon for the church's Helping Hands Ministry. His family was his joy and reward. He is survived by his beloved wife Carol who encouraged him to be his best and two wonderful boys of good character, Marc and Jon. Marc is a computer technician at Harris Corp. Jon is an Air Force Flight Surgeon at MacDill AFB. He is also survived by his brother, Robert of Seminole; sister, Christine Mecham of St. Petersburg; foster dad, Ernie Nicks, of Vero Beach; foster mother, Janet Izzo of St Petersburg; and his world-class mother-in-law Katherine Thomas, who resides in the family residence.

Fred's cremated remains will be interred at the Bay Pines National Cemetery in St. Petersburg with his fellow veterans.

Always one to enjoy having the last word, there

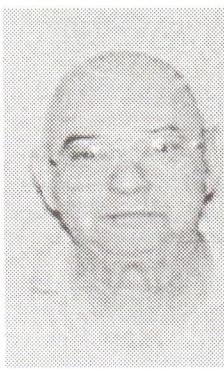
will not be a memorial service. Instead, he has requested that people take the time during the coming weeks to do something kind for someone else who might not be expecting it, in the spirit of James 2:18 (But someone may say, You have faith; I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.)

**JOHN HORSCH REMEMBERS**

Fred was a neighbor in Satellite Beach. I would run into him from time to time, and his fervor for people and the environment was always with him. I will miss those times now.

**CARFORA Sr., Edward R.**

JOE JOHNSON, EMAIL,2004.05.16



Longtime Sacramento resident, went home to be with Jesus on May 7, 2004. He is survived by his wife, Wanda Carfora; daughter Janet Brady and her partner Jon Gipson and son Alex; son Edward Carfora Jr.; grandson Shawn Brady and his wife Gina; and grandson Mark Brady. Edward was a dedicated and loving husband, father and grandfather, and he will be

greatly missed by those who knew and loved him.

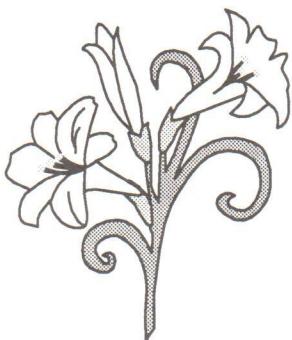
Published in the Sacramento Bee on 5/13/2004. Joe Johnson recalls Ed came to depot from the Air Force, and was at the 1155 TOS in the early '60s.

**ORVILLE PRITCHARD REMEMBERS**

Ed had been battling cancer for quite some time. It had gone into remission but came back. He was still working this spring at H and R Block doing executive taxes. After Rose died he did remarry. He did our taxes for a couple of years so we did keep in touch.

**RICK MANLEY REMEMBERS**

I remember well when Ed was our senior NCOIC at Det 460 in the 1973-74 timeframe. I ran into him at McClellan when I was there in the 80s. He was doing taxes at H & R at that time. We talked over old times and it was a joy. I mourn his loss.



## Chapter News

### FROM THE TOP

JUDY MILAM, 2004.05.25

Springtime is short in Florida, and temperatures rise to the upper 80's before we would really like, but we've enjoyed two outdoor activities this quarter under clear skies that help us remember why this is called the "sunshine state." The annual AFTAC picnic and the Alumni spring golf tournament were both held under beautiful blue skies. The Alumni Association traditionally mans the beer wagon at the AFTAC picnic, ensuring that no underage attendees are allowed access. That means that the gathering place for us "old Sages" is around the beer wagon. There was a good showing of alumni members again this year, but it's still disappointing that we don't see more of our local members. The golf tournament was a roaring success, led by our expert organizing team, Frank Hall, Sam Sorice, and Pat Snyder. The usual volunteers showed up to ensure a smooth check-in before the tournament, selection of prizewinners, etc. For a full report and list of volunteers and prizewinners, see the golf tournament article. Be sure to visit the web site – [www.csi-inc.com/aftac](http://www.csi-inc.com/aftac) -- to view pictures.

Speaking about the web site, Clark Creery is our behind-the-scenes member who posts the pictures to the web site and keeps current events up-to-date. Mike Black is our web-master who oversees the entire web site and sends 'e-all' messages to those who have provided their email address. If you haven't provided your email address, or if you've changed your email address since providing it, you can visit the web site to update your information so you can get important updates in a timely manner. If you have any problems, send me a message – [jem2415@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jem2415@worldnet.att.net) -- and I'll be sure your information is updated. Changes to your snail-mail address are also important to us, so be sure to let us know if you move.

We're still hoping to get more members to attend our monthly meetings. Meet at the Outback, behind the HQ building, at 5:25 PM on the second Monday of each month, to be escorted into the building by active duty members. If you can't attend a meeting, think about sending us something for the POST MONITOR. Let us know

what you're doing now or tell us about your experiences while at AFTAC. We would love to hear from you. Have a great summer, and if your vacation includes traveling by car, please drive carefully.

## BOARD MEETINGS

**Board Members  
Elected**

President-Judy Milam Vice-Pat Snyder  
Secretary-Al Moy 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  
#####

### A Few Minutes of the Minutes

2004.03.11, 04.12, 05.11

**Constitution and By-Laws**-The Constitution and By-Laws have been signed and will be sent to the Base for a routine review.

**Spring Golf Tournament**-Frank Hall reported the 7 May tournament was a big success. He is in the process of planning an Oct 15 'Golf n'Get-together,' with election of officers, at the Manatee Golf Course on Patrick AFB.

**AF Memorial Unified Donation**-A consolidated donation is planned for the AF Memorial in Washington. DC. See page 6 for details

**Sage Sales Mailings**: Carol Snyder volunteered to package/mail memorabilia items. After reviewing the cost of mailing clothing items it was decided to charge \$4 for shipping and handling for the first item, and \$1 for each additional item.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Stand Down Jack Jackson** reported the Brevard Veterans Council had their annual 'Stand Down' to benefit homeless veterans on 27 March at the Joe Lee Recreation Center in Cocoa

**Vietnam Memorial Wall**-Jack mentioned that the Vietnam Veterans had their annual reunion at the movable Vietnam Memorial Wall at Wickham Park in April.

**.99 Coin**-A .99 coin has been designed by active duty personnel. See this issue's editorial for ordering information.



Sagey sez, 'See what's next if you really want to read more about some of your fellow Sages.'

### Sage Sport Report Special

ROVIN' REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER, BOB WILEY

Besides golf and horseshoes, which you can read about in other parts of this issue, there are Sages who participate in another well-known sport that they, and pre-Sages, excel at, Bowling.

This is the time of year that the longer 'season' draws to a close. Knowing this, we asked one of our very helpful 'Rovin' Reporters,' who is a bowler himself, Bob Wiley, to provide our membership a special report on the finals.

Bob reports: Here's how the crime went down (Story was obviously written by one of the losers). Just the facts, editor, just the facts.

**Date:** 28 April, 1800 hours, **Place:** Patrick Bowling Lanes, **Occasion:** AFTAC and Friends League Awards Night

#### The Cast of Characters:

**1st Place:** Team Thirteen, Repeat offenders: Marge and Dennis Detsch, Curt Smith, Jon Barrett, Chip Reed, Mark Smith, Craig Sloan (almost the same gang as last year. How did Randy Rush escape?)



(front) Terry/Patty Hammond Rick Manley Bob Wiley  
Jeff Stephaneck Tony DeMarco John Caban

Editor's note: Bob just happens to have a picture of this team!! Where's Howard?

**2nd Place (above):** Awesome Alumni, Howard Dibble and accomplices: Tony DeMarco, John Caban, Jeff Stephaneck, Rick Manley, Bob Wiley, and Patty and Terry Hammond (they are the same as last year)

**3rd Place:** Old Timers, And they thought they had a chance to steal 2nd but the Awesome Alumni had a bankload of pins stashed away for just this occasion: Carl Gailey, Stephanie and Larry Fisher, Donna and Galen Pound, Bruce Varnum, Joe Marshall, Scott Bergan, and Teresa Osterloh

Various other felonious "charges" (or was it prizes?) that the alumni "stole" from the league competitors (there were no witnesses that swore they deserved them and Lord knows the computers in the lanes can't be trusted as the secre-

tary will testify to anyone that asks her, but those charges will be adjudicated another day in another court). Coming in 'High' were:

**Scratch and Handicap Series**, Tony DeMarco and Curt Smith, **Scratch Game**: Dennis Detsch

**Men's Average**, Tony DeMarco

**Women's Average**: Marge Detsch

**Team Handicap and Scratch Series**—Team Thirteen and the Awesome Alumni

(With apologies to all the active duty members of the league who participated and shared in the prizes. After all, this is an Alumni publication.)

## OTHER CHAPTER'S NEWS

COLORADO CHAPTER, NEWSLETTER

# ECHOES

President, Jack Smith-Vice President, Earl Pierce

Treasurer, Bill Schmied-Network Editor, Bryce Dunn

Webmaster, Bill Harris

Website @ <http://www.aftacco.org/>

### Planning Committee Announces 2004 Events!

FROM THE WEBSITE AND FEB NEWSLETTER

Fall Social, 11/13, tentative date, check for update.

**Det 45**: 2004 1st Qtr Award Winners, TSgt Doug Thomas-Schepeler NCO of the Quarter, and A1C Robert Connell, Airman of the Quarter.

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

# DEPOT FALLOUT

President-Rod Hinkle; Vice-Joe Johnson; Board Director-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 Asst-Webmaster-Bob Fitzgerald.

Website @ <http://www.aftacwest.org/>

### WorldWide Reunion 2005 Update

JACK ALLISON

We signed a contract with the Holiday Inn, Northeast, Sacramento. We have 50 rooms reserved each night; May 12, 13, & 14, 2005 with checkout on Sunday the 15th; all rooms are "Kings" with possible switch to or addition of doubles, triples and double/doubles. All rooms are \$89/night plus 12% tax. Check-in: 4:00PM; Checkout: 12:00 noon.

#### Tentative Schedule:

-Thu. 5/12/05, 5:00pm - 7:00pm, Registration, Welcome Reception (McClellan Suite)

-Fri. 5/13/05, 3:00pm - 11:00pm, Hospitality (McClellan Suite)

—6:00pm - 9:00pm, Cocktail Reception for 250-300 people

-Sat. 5/14/05, 3:00pm - 11:00pm, Hospitality (McClellan Suite)

—6:00pm - 12:00am, Reception/Dinner/Dance for 250 people

-Sun. 5/15/05, Time TBD, Breakfast Buffet (No Host) Aces Restaurant

The cut-off date for individuals to make their reservations is 4/21/05. Keep watching our website and this newsletter for further developments.

### "WAY BACK WHEN" – NEW SERIES

DALE KLUG, EDITOR

We're starting a new series called "WAY BACK WHEN." This will be patterned after the Florida Chapter's series in the Post-Monitor called "B.S. (Barely Substantiated) TALES". So crank up your "WAYBACK machines" and send us an article. Remember to keep inputs unclassified. E-mail articles to me at: [FalloutEditor@AFTACwest.org](mailto:FalloutEditor@AFTACwest.org).

### Way Back When—West Coast Chapter History

[MIKELONG@MINDSPRING.COM](mailto:MIKELONG@MINDSPRING.COM)

I wrote the original newsletter and started the ball rolling for the first reunion. However, the people in Sacramento did most of the work, Al Pavik comes to mind. I simply gathered the names and addresses and mailed out the newsletter. I used the mainframe computer at the company I was working for in Oakland, CA. No PCs back then.

Once it became clear there was enough interest in having a reunion, the Sacramento folks took over. Bart Bias opened the bank account at the bank he worked at to put the dues into. At some point in time the postage was getting too much for me so I asked for dues to cover my overhead. After the first reunion we turned what was left in it over to the people in Sacramento.

There was also a second reunion later in Sacramento that I was not able to attend. I had nothing to do with that, having turned my mailing lists over to the Sacramento people. Al Pavik is the only name I can recall but there were others. Bart Bias had nothing to do with the newsletter. The idea of a reunion was mine and I alone gathered the names and addresses and wrote, printed and mailed out the newsletter. If you have copies of these early newsletters I'd sure like to see them. My files were on a computer that I am sure by now is part of some landfill someplace in California. George Thompson said that he was going to start a local chapter in this area but I never heard from him again. We served together at Team 4XX, '58 to '62.

# **MONITOR** ing Active

## **-Duty Doings' from around the AFTAC World**

### **Command Section**



**Commander**, 2002.12 previously AFTAC CV and before that, Chief, Global Attack Area Team, Directorate of Requirements, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, VA. He has a Bachelor of Science, Astronautical Engineering from the AF Academy and a Master's from Ohio State and is a graduate of the USAF Test Pilot School. Col. Bendorf has served in SAC, Space Command, Systems Command, Air Combat Command and the Joint Staff. He is a command pilot with 3200+ flight hours.



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 Center Change of Command**

EMAIL, CHIEF FRENCH, 2004.05.12

Colonel **Bendorf** will pass the command baton on July 15 to Colonel **Turner**. More information and biography to follow in the next issue.

#### **'AFTAC Family'**

TSGT LINDER, AFTAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS, APRIL 2004 ISSUE-POSTED, IN FULL, AT PATRICK ALUMNI CHAPTER WEBSITE

#### **Chief Urges Volunteerism**

CHIEF MASTER SGT. LLOYD FRENCH, AFTAC SUPERINTENDENT

Several weeks ago I observed an interesting operation—a group of bus passengers piled off of their stalled bus and took up positions along side and proceeded to push (and jump-start) the bus. They then ran along side of the bus and methodically jumped back aboard and proceeded down the road (while the bus was still moving I might add). The metaphor came to me afterwards—when the bus breaks down or is running poorly, we need everybody on the bus to help push. When the bus is running fine, it's okay to ride and enjoy the scenery. Volunteerism within an organization is like that



#### **AFTAC Awards**

**Airman of the Year**, SRA Lettsome

**NCO of the Year**, TSgt Pineda

**SNCO of the Year**, MSgt Woodard

**CGO of the Year**, Capt. Bogstie

**Junior level civilian of the year**, Ms. Lopez

**Mid level civilian of the year**, Mr. Baumstark

**Senior level civilian of the year**, Mr. Sloan

#### **AFTAC NCOs help honor Tuskegee Airmen**

TECH. SGT. BILL LINDNER

The Air Force honored one of its pioneers with the dedication of the Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Conference Center Feb. 9 at MacDill AFB, Florida. The late General Davis was the first African American to graduate from West Point, and during WWII commanded the 332nd Fighter Group, also known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Many distinguished visitors attended the dedication including Secretary of the Air Force James Roche; Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper; and The Honorable L. Scott Melville, nephew of General Davis. In addition, 18 of the original Tuskegee Airmen traveled to MacDill AFB for the event.

Two senior NCOs assigned to the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) at Patrick AFB, Master Sergeants Rose Wilson and Sheila Daniels, assisted with the overall planning for the event and served as escorts for the remaining original members of the Tuskegee Airmen in attendance.

We end with a picture of Chief French after he donated his body to the annual center picnic 'dunking' booth. Shown with the Chief is Carol Warfield, the Center Commander's secretary. note the animal's name on the Chief's shirt.



## COMMANDER'S RECALL

**Background:** In light of the ongoing process that is the command, and a desire to record the impressions of this process "from the top," we ask previous commanders to give us a synopsis of their time with the command. We have received these impressions from many commanders to include Gen's Hall (deceased, 1999) (reCall from 1970 speech provided by George Waters), Silliman, Gordon, Clapper, O'Lear, Bingham and Shaffer and Col's Meisenheimer, Wigington and Beatty. We thank these gentlemen for taking the time and effort to share their enlightening remembrances.

*We anxiously await inputs from the remaining commanders, continuing 'Distinguished Association' members all: Jaynes, Jaeger, Dettmer and Horton.*

*We feel confident they will write as they find the time and opportunity—in the meantime, we will 'stand-by' and be at the ready.*

### WE LOOK FORWARD TO 'COMMANDER'S RECALL' INPUTS.

**NOTE: Gen (Ret) Jaeger attended 'Reunion 2003' and agreed to file his recall. We have corresponded with him and we look forward to his 'reCall' for the near future.**

In January, George Waters sent us a very interesting package. It contained a hard to read copy of a document from long ago. The document was hard to read because it was a copy several times removed from the typewritten original, and there were many hand written changes. George also wrote:

"I am pleased that you will use Gen Hall's address. I think many of his remarks are relevant today. I worked for him at the HQ in Va. and found him to be fair and forthright. I spent a month on a trip through the South Pacific with him as a member of his staff on "Ole Bullet," the AFTAC airplane. I could tell you some stories regarding his penchant for being on time. I'm not sure how I came about having a copy of his speech, but I'm glad I did. He was in all respects an officer and a gentleman."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is a most interesting and informative speech when taken in the context of its time and place. It reminds us of times past, the way things were, and even, the way some things still are. This is over 30 years ago and recalls a time in the command that many of our alumni were a part of. We apologize for the picture, but it is the best we could do.

We made the editorial decision, because of the type of 'memento' it is, that it should be a 'Commander's reCall' feature. Also, because of its length, and our wish to preserve the speech 'as it was,' it will be presented in two parts, so here we proudly present:

#### General Linscott A. Hall (Deceased 1999)

The Command's Eighth Commander  
ENLISTED DINING-IN, 1970.04.07, PART I OF II

I am most appreciative of the opportunity to talk to you on the occasion of your first "dining in." I am also appreciative of the very kind introduction - I could listen to such comments all night - in fact, for a few moments there I thought I was!

As you know, at the end of this month I shall retire after nearly thirty-three years in the military service. That, in itself, is no great



GENERAL LINSCOTT A. HALL  
April 1970

accomplishment, but it is still a good chunk of the life of such a young man as I. Of course when I look around this evening, I feel much older than when I'm with my own contemporaries or some of my old friends. I am sure many of you are aware that the best way to feel young is to go around with a group from the local 'old folks' rest home; but some of my 'olde acquaintances' "Just Can't Keep Up With Changes Any More."

For example: Everything seems to be farther than it used to be. The golf course is twice as long as it used to be and they have added several fair-sized hills that I never noticed before, they seem to be building the staircases steeper nowadays. The steps are higher and there are more of them. This may be because it's further between floors. You can hardly make two steps at a time any more. In fact, it's even hard to make one step at a time.

Another thing I've noticed lately is the small print they are using. The newspapers are getting farther and farther away when I read them and I have to squint to make them out. A person of my age should need glasses, but the only other way I can learn the news is to have someone read aloud to me, and that isn't so good as people speak in such a low voice these days I can't hear them very well.

A lot of other things are different lately. All my suits nowadays have a tendency to shrink especially around the waist and in the seat of the pants. And the laces in shoes nowadays are much harder to reach. Even the weather has changed. It's much colder in winter and the summers are hotter than they used to be. I would go away, if it wasn't so far.

People are changing too. They are younger than they were when I was their age. I went back recently to an alumni reunion and I was shocked to see the mere babies they send to college these days. The average could not have been more than 10 or 12. But they are much more polite than in my time. Several undergraduates called me "Sir" and two of them asked if they could help me across the street.

On the other hand, people of my own age are much older than I am. I realize that my generation is now in middle age - that is, between 30 and 110. But there is no excuse for them to be tottering around in a state of advanced senility. Take George for instance. I ran into George at the bar the other day, and he had changed so much he hardly recognized me, "You've put on a little weight, George," "It's this modern food," George said, "It seems to be more fattening." "How about a Martini?" I said. "Have you noticed how much weaker they are these days?" "The booze isn't as good as it used to be." "My hangovers are much worse." "How is your sex life these days, George?" "Pretty good," George said, "I can do it twice now." "The hell you say - how the devil do you do it?" "Oh, once in the spring and once in the fall. How about another Martini?" I said. "Have you noticed the Martinis aren't

nearly as strong as they used to be?" "Yes," said George. "You said that before." "Oh, did I ... ?

I got to thinking about poor old George while I was shaving this morning. I stopped for a moment and studied my own reflection in the mirror. You know, they don't seem to be using the same kind of glass in the mirrors any more.

But to get back to my own active and vastly stimulating life. I feel that I have been lucky. The years I have been in the service have certainly been the most important years in American History - at least to me. It is strange but I guess everyone feels that way. Some of the experiences I've had and the observations I've made should be interesting and perhaps even useful, although I learned a long time ago that few people profit from other's experience. In most cases you have to experience something for it to have a real impact. General Lemnitzer, the former Commander-in-Chief of SHAPE, said that experience is a wonderful thing; it enables you to recognize a mistake the second time you make it.

I really feel I should begin by "Once upon a time" or by calling my remarks "Hall's Farewell to his Troops," but the name Hall doesn't seem to have the same melodious ring as WASHINGTON, although I have noticed there are a lot of buildings named for members of my family."

I will simplify it by saying I began my military service between two great World Wars each of which was fought to end wars and to make the world safe for democracy. In this country, we had just barely survived a severe financial crisis, jobs and money were short, so were ladies' hair and skirts, students were in revolt over moral and social customs; and fraternity houses, beach cottages, and tourist courts were frequently the scene for wild weekend parties; 'sex clubs' were becoming popular around the nation, protest marches were frequently held in Washington, DC, New York, Boston, and other cities, Ford was coming out with a new and cheaper model, our ships at sea and our embassies abroad were frequently subjected to harassment, Central and Latin American governments changed monthly or more often, ships were being scrapped or put into mothballs, joining the American Communist Party or the German-American Bund was the thing to do, huge rallies for such parties were held in New York, Chicago, and St. Louis; Congress and various newspapers were screaming to reduce the military budget and bring our boys home from the Philippines and Panama, where they were being exposed to tropical diseases, snakes, and other living things that wiggled in the grass. Oh yes, the unemployed and vocal members of the nation's youth were also clamoring for the 18-year old vote, free love and free education, and an end to prohibition and "American Imperialism."

Does all of that sound familiar? Oh yes, particularly the part about the youth of the nation. The fact that

today's youth are so much better educated than the youth of yesterday, who are today's establishment, entitles them, they think, to play a more dominant role in education government, religion, customs and morals, the press, movies and plays, art, in fact everything but law and order. There is also no doubt in my mind that the youth of today are much better informed. Why buy dirty postcards when all you have to do is go to the local movie and see it all in color. Also, I was over forty before I knew how to break a man's neck with my bare hands or how to make an effective Molotov cocktail. If it hadn't been for the excellent TV coverage of the Democratic National Convention, I might never have known how to set a police car on fire. TV has also helped me tell young men from young women - women usually carry purses. Of course, the modern young woman's purse has in addition to the normal assortment, such essential items as birth control pills, mace fountain pens, and a booklet on Mao's sayings. I don't mean to sound prejudiced but I'm sure some people would think my favorite TV program is "Beat the Press."

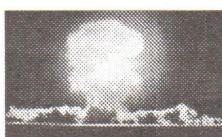
I'm happy to report, however, that I am talking about a vociferous and photogenic minority. In fact, I would like to read to you a paragraph I recently extracted from a report by the Airman of the Quarter Board:

"The Board members were particularly impressed with the outstanding quality of men which met the Airman of the Quarter Board for this period. Their outstanding appearance, attitude, and knowledge reflect credit upon themselves, this organization and the United States Air Force. With the controversial attitudes of today's younger generation, it is refreshing to note that somehow our organization still manages to obtain such outstanding young men with favorable and positive attitudes."

But to return to more mundane things like why did I enter the service. The answer was relatively simple, I like to eat! I would probably much preferred to have been a geologist or an archeologist or even a school teacher, but the only way any of them really survived in the early -thirties was by working as a hod carrier, bricklayer, or carpenter during the summer. I was also vaguely aware that simply muddying the waters further, or creating confusion, really didn't help solve the nation's ills, and I didn't trust that funny looking black-haired German with the little moustache, called Hitler, or that big-chinned loud-mouthed Italian Fascist, Mussolini.

I also found out that as a second lieutenant, I could lead a relatively quiet life, get free medical care, adequate quarters, which were more often a tent, be outdoors a lot, and on \$140 a month I could even afford a horse or a wife, but not both.

(to be continued in the next issue)



## 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).

**Author HONOR ROLL:** Jack Binkerd, John Horsch, Jim Payne, Tom Ciambrone, Robert "Bobby" 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, and this issue, Ed Schwartz and Brian Swan

### WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR 'I REMEMBER' INPUTS

#### Elias (Ed) Schwartz and Brian Swan Remember

It continues to impress us that folks such as Ed, who spent just several years in AFTAC, follow it over the years. It is very heartwarming to us who spent a lifetime there to know that the organization meant that much to someone who has so many other 'AF' experiences, and they chose to 'stay in touch' thru the association.

#### Ed Schwartz

##### 'My tour with AFTAC'

In 1957, I was a Tactical Instructor at Lowry AFB in the PAT squadron. (Personnel awaiting training). I had been transplanted here from Sampson AFB, due to its closing as the basic training camp. I had decided to stay in the Air Force, so I requested retraining into something other than instructor. I was called into the orderly room soon after and was interviewed for a new career. The interviewer would not tell me what it was, but said I would like it. He said it entailed going through an Air Force electronic school and then later assigned to an operational organization. While in school I would be processed for a Top Secret clearance. I agreed to go and soon started the school at Lowry. I believe the school was seven months and in the 5th month, we were told what AFTAC was all about and I was assigned to airborne system training. I graduated in Dec 1957 as an A/1C and was reassigned to McClellan AFB. Other members of this class were, SSgt Rivenbark, SSgt Thomkins, A/2c Sundstrom, A/3c Wormley, A/3c Ruha, and A/3c Warner.

At McClellan AFB, the organization was super secret and only referred to as Western Field Office, (WFO). Our NCOIC was MSgt James Langley, and our OIC was Major Don Pollock. There was also a Major Davidson that flew our aircraft on training missions. There was a TSgt Donald Clemens in the airborne section with whom my wife and I became good friends



1956, (below) 2003, with wife, Margaret (Marge)



with him and his wife Mary. Incidentally, Sgt Langley was one of the first people to get promoted to the newly developed SMSgt and a year later to CMSgt.

We began training in operating the B-1 Airborne system, sometimes called the Bug catcher, and on the squadron modified C-47. This bug catcher had specially treated filter paper to collect debris from the air stream. Later on we obtained one of the three YC-121's modified with turbo prop engines in the inventory. This aircraft allowed us to train at higher altitudes and longer missions. Once trained, we were assigned to fly with the 55th WRS at McClellan on their WB-50 aircraft, modified to carry the B-1 airborne system. We flew many missions out of McClellan sometimes recovering in Alaska and then flying missions over the Arctic, called the Ptarmigan route. We would go on a two week TDY and stay 2 months.

In 1958, we began training in the B-52 modified to carry the newly developed U-1 airborne sampler. We flew missions out of Travis AFB, Ca. and Fairchild AFB, Wa. Most of these missions were 20 to 25 hours long. Our control console was mounted in the ECM crewmember position in the aircraft so when we were operating the equipment the ECM operator had to vacate his position and sit in the crew bunk. We were not very popular on these missions.

In 1959, I was promoted to SSgt. One day as we were relaxing in the dayroom, several of us decided to enhance our careers and take the Officer Candidate exam that was being given on base. I passed the exam and after several interviews and physicals I was accepted to attend OCS. In Sep 1959 I left WFO and went to Lackland AFB, TX. I graduated in Mar 1960, and tried to get back into WFO. I was informed that it was not proper for a person to return to their former organization after becoming an officer. I was disappointed but still happy for the time with AFTAC.

#### Brian Swan 'Some Memories'

Shemya Alaska 1972-73, and I'm working swing shift with John Wallace (I believe). An alert comes in and we recall all the appropriate people to work the alert. We develop the film, pull the data points, compose the incredibly long message, and prepare to head "up the hill" to the Comm Center to transmit. Well, being that it is Shemya, a killer snow storm is raging – total white out. Horizontal snow at 70 knots. But, we have an obligation to duty so we just jump in the '67 Dodge pick up for the drive. As usual, the Det Dog, Sniffy, gleefully runs ahead of us in front of the truck all the way, barking like he really knows this is a mission-essential trip.

We get to the Comm Center and submit the message text and return to the truck for the ride back. By now the storm has made huge snow drifts everywhere, which we do not know of. On the ride back old Sniffy is again ahead of the truck, barking out his

lungs. Suddenly in the headlights we see a drift as high as the truck. Sniffy sees it about the same time and puts on the brakes. We try to stop just as fast, and physics being what it is we virtually plow right over old Sniffy. Seconds pass and we all think "Oh God, I think we just killed the Det mascot." So we back up, and out of the snow comes old Snif. He somehow has the intelligence to stay out of the way while we ram the snow drift repeatedly until we break through. And then he follows us back to the Det. We didn't kill him but he was one limp puppy for several days afterward.

Skip ahead to an overseas location in 1978. I'm driving a Mini Cooper (original) owned by Susan King (our admin) driving Mike Jezzard and his wife Judy to their apartment downtown. Mike worked for me as an operator, and Mike, Judy and I were all NCO club employees. Now, you have to know that just about anyone that was a "99" could have a job at the NCO club because of the reputation we had as honest, reliable workers with unquestionable integrity. If you submitted an employment application to the club you immediately bypassed the two hundred people ahead of you and began work the next day.

So, after a night of casual entertainment and music at the club, I offered to give Mike and Judy a ride home just so they wouldn't use the local expensive taxi service. As we approached the gate, which was manned by the local Police Force, I gladly watched the gate guard wave me through. What I didn't know was that there was an local patrol car behind me trying to get me to stop. Needless to say, I was summarily pulled over and ordered to return to the guard shack where the police officer who waved me through proceeded to interrogate me at length about why I "ran away" from the patrol car (local logic – don't try to understand it).

After an eternity of in-your-face questioning, which included the local Breathalyzer Test – basically exhaling as hard as you could on the officer's nose – we were released. And they didn't let us go until after we told them that we worked for Det 3XX, which they didn't understand. But when we told them we were the "special people" who lived in the old fire house, they turned us loose.

So, as I drop off Mike and Judy at their apartment, Judy tells me that we were really lucky because she has a potato-one single American Spud-in her purse, purchased at the Commissary that day. If the police had found that, all of us would have been arrested for smuggling illegal contraband off base. I don't recall ever driving off base again in my whole tour.

Skip ahead again to Falcon (now Schreiver) AFB in Colorado. I'm the DO, and I have a skeleton crew of operators as we await the arrival of our real data processing hardware to support GPS/NDS Block I. In the mean time, I run a single person, three-shift-per-day crew with a minimal system called the Integrated Data

Terminal. It's Halloween and being the social fly I am I host a costume party at my house. I'm dressed as a nurse and I look pretty good. About 10:30 I get a call from my only swing shift operator to tell me the IDT is down. So, I change clothes, grab John Adkins, my analyst, and we head out to base in the truck.

I thought the gate guard at Falcon gave me a weird look when we entered the base, but I didn't think too much of it at the time. We went up to Ops, determined how to solve the problem, put the IDT back on line, and left. It was only on the ride back to my house that John decided to tell me that I forgot to remove one part of my Halloween costume – my perfect blue eye shadow and long eye lashes. I will never forgive him for not telling me that, but I do respect his incredible self-control for not bursting out in laughter every time anyone else I met stood aghast at what they thought was my weekend attire and unspeakable lifestyle.

There's certainly a lot more that happened in my career that could be of interest to others, not just the spin-offs from the real mission. Like the time one of my operators locked himself out of the alert safe during an alert and tried to break in with a pair of vice grips. And broke the lock. On New Year's Eve. In a foreign country. And we couldn't find a locksmith. Or the time my operator was found by the security patrol on the roof of the ops trailer, just staring at the stars, and they thought he was on drugs. He was just amazed at the beauty of the night sky.

I think there are a lot of stories out there that we would all enjoy to hear. Not just the real jobs we did so well, but the things that happened in parallel to those real jobs. And maybe we can all hear them some day, in person. Until then, share your stories with all of us here in the Post Monitor."

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

### LRD FAMILIES ... OVER THE YEARS

PREPARED FROM READER INPUTS. Some families have served the mission over several generations. With this column we ask those families to share that history. Forward to us at [chrisjohn@juno.com](mailto:chrisjohn@juno.com) or ATTN Family Affair column, to the Alumni Address (see left column, page 2). These brave souls have stepped forth, Curt Miller, Tony Calenda (Dad, Frank responded) and Mark Smith (Dad, Smitty responded). We hope to hear from the others we are aware of, Randy Vlassick, Curt Stephens and Nicolas Kappel,. If you are aware of others, please let us know.

### WE LOOK FORWARD TO 'A FAMILY AFFAIR' INPUTS.

#### Mark Smith, 'A Father's Reply'

CURT SMITH (SMITTY)

In answering my son's article, which was in the last Post-Monitor, I will try to be as factual as I can. But, here and there, I might just have to embellish the truth--just a little bit--to make this a little more entertaining. By now you have probably guessed that I am that "grizzled old Master Sergeant", Curtis E. Smith,

commonly referred to as "Smitty" that he mentioned. Some people have called me other things that wouldn't be appropriate to mention in this article, especially when I was active duty, and supervising one of AFTAC's dets or data terminals. Mark was wrong about my tenure in AFTAC. It was just under 26 years by a couple of months, not over 26 years. The 99 part was correct. And yes, I was one of the "slingers", I prefer "chunkers", on the fast pitch softball team. We did win our fair share of the games. In fact, I think we (AFTAC) retired the commander's trophy two or three times, maybe more and you had to win it three years in a row to do that. I remember Dick Gullet and I combined to throw quite a few no hitters. Dick threw a softball in excess of ninety miles an hour, while I was in the low to mid eighties. But, I threw more "junk" than he did and you can imagine what trouble a batter had adjusting his timing when we replaced each other. Mark didn't finish the chant our fans (AFTACers) sang which was, "Everywhere we go people want to know who we are, we are AFTAC, Mighty, Mighty AFTAC". AND WE WERE!! Yes, Mark was born in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, but, according to what an old MSgt by the name of Norm Harris, bless his heart whether he is "up there or down below", said when he roasted me at my retirement luncheon; Shawn and Mark were the "Immaculate Conception" because I was incapable of such a feat as fathering two fine kids like them. Oh, well!

The first thing I knew about Mark going into the Air Force was when I saw his papers laying on the bar when I came home from work at the base bowling center one night. During the time I was active duty and even after I went to work for TRW, he never showed any interest about going into the military. I admit I had tried to talk him into going into the military for a couple years, but finally gave up. I was primarily concerned about him not finding a good paying job, which had a good medical program, especially after he lost his military ID card. I asked him if he wanted me to talk to some people about getting him into AFTAC the day after I saw his papers on the bar. He said no, that since he already had a reservation for an AF job, he would go with that. I told him he would probably freeze his butt off in some hole in Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, or the Dakotas. But, he wanted to do it his way so I kept quiet.

In 1986, I started working for TRW on the new GSS system, which was to replace the existing seismic data terminal. Boy, what a mistake that was!! Not the job, but the system replacement. My opinion. That's just for you, **Delbe**!! It was an easy job and the pay was outstanding, plus I thought what I did might make a difference in the type of system that AFTAC finally got. I think it was in January 1988 that I got a phone call from Bob **Anderson** and Ed **Walden** that they wanted to see me. Had no idea what it was about, but when I went to see them they told me they had heard

that my son was in basic training and wanted to know if I wanted them to go get him for AFTAC. Friends like they were are hard to come by. I said "Whoa! Time Out! I'm not going to make that decision for him". So, Ed asked me to pass his phone number and their contact's name on to Mark and if he wanted to get into AFTAC to go see this TSGT and tell him he wanted to be a 99 and if he had any questions to call Ed or Bob. Imagine my son, slick sleeve and all, walking into this TSgt's office on Lackland AFB and saying, "Hi! My name is Airman Smith and I want to be a 99 and if you have any questions, call this number". With brass like that you know he had to turn out to be an outstanding 99. Folks if I had been that TSgt, I would have jumped up and yelled, "Boy, get out of my office and don't ever come back"! I'm glad he didn't, plus I bet there are a lot of people in AFTAC who Mark has worked for who are also glad that he wound up as a 99.

In the spring of 1988, the AFTAC commander Col. **Jaynes**, Col. **Niquette**, and Col. **Hall** came to the GSS terminal accompanied by a two star General from D.C. for a briefing. The two workstations at the front of the room faced the rest of the workstations and were always used for briefings and to control the programs that ran the GSS. I was standing up at my workstation, which was just past the entrance to the terminal. Col. Niquette saw me and came back to say hello. A few minutes after he went back to the front, Col. Hall came back to say hi. After the briefing was over, they started to leave, or so I thought. Imagine my surprise, when they came to my work station and Col. Jaynes said, "Sir, this is Mr. Smith and what is unique about him is that he spent his entire career in AFTAC and now his son is going through our tech school at Lowry AFB to be a 99. His son will be the sixth person in AFTAC who is "second generation." The General talked to me for a couple of minutes and then they left. I thought nothing about the incident until the next day when one of the guys from TRW's Cocoa Beach office stopped by the terminal and told me a lot of eyebrows were raised and a lot of the TRW people were wondering just who I knew and what my contacts were. I thought it was funny because the assistant project manager was in the terminal and I think she was ticked off because she hadn't been introduced to the general.

When Mark got to tech school at Lowry AFB, he was selected to be a "Rope." For the uninitiated, being a "Rope" on a training base is almost equal to being a CMSgt. CMSgts, as most military people will tell you, are just about as powerful as God. The only difference is that God doesn't have to pay income taxes. During a phone conservation one-day, he told me that if he kept the "Rope" his grade average in school would suffer because he could not do justice to both jobs at the same time. I was appalled!! A true 99 giving up! Never!! But, I'm glad he gave the "Rope" up and concentrated on maintaining his average which was in the

high 90s because if he hadn't he might not have become a 99. Apparently, they had too many students in the class and some of the school people wanted to eliminate the ones whose last names started with high letters in the alphabet to correct the problem. At this point, MSgt Walt **Hartley** stood up and said, "One of those students is Smitty's son and he is not going to be eliminated that way!" Thanks, Walt! You are a true friend. Gosh, I've got a lot of them! So, they used the lowest grade averages and Mark avoided being eliminated because he was at the top of his class. Also, while he was at tech school, Mark was selected as Airman of the Month for his squadron, which was comprised of 1,000 people. Pretty good, huh? That's my son, folks and, "Yes, I'm darn proud of him! And by the way folks, I'm darn proud of my daughter too, even though she isn't in the military. I don't think AFTAC is even good enough to handle both of them at the same time!!!

I will have to say that it was pretty interesting working in that "mysterious" and "famous" building, as Mark put it, as a civilian and seeing my son in uniform. I'm just glad that Col Niquette made such an impression on him. I think from that time forward, Mark wanted to excel, not just to impress me, but also to show Col. Niquette that he was made of the right stuff. In many talks with Col. Niquette in the ensuing years, I got the impression that he considered Mark as one of his "sons" so to speak. Thanks Col., I owe you! While Mark was at AFTAC, he was selected as "Performer of the Quarter for the Operations Division, Airman of the quarter for AFTAC, and submitted for Airman of the Quarter for the base, and he made his third stripe "below the zone." Heck, my son got more recognition in his first year in AFTAC than I did in twenty-six years!! Just kidding, folks! At this point I must point out that CMSgt Nick **Lewis** informed me, as we were entering the NCO Club to see if Mark got selected for base Airman of the Quarter that he got where he was by his own achievements, not because he was my kid. During the years I worked for TRW, I retained my job at the base bowling center. Col. Jaynes, Col. Niquette, and Col. Hall and wives bowled on the Sunday night officers mixed league. During the league season, I used to get weekly reports about how well my son was doing. Yep, that's right folks, believe it or not! I remember the first night they told me how well he was doing ... I looked at them in amazement and said, "Sir, with all due respect, I think you got the wrong person, because that ain't the same guy that grew up in my house!" Col. Jaynes just laughed and said, "Now, father." But, inside I was secretly smiling because I was really proud of the impression my son was making.

I do vaguely remember something about AFTAC getting in touch with me to find out if I knew why Mark hadn't shown up at the Det in Korea. I think I probably muttered something like, "He might have stopped in

California or Hawaii to go surfing, for all I know." Imagine that!! AFTAC losing my son after having him for only a year!!! While he was at Det 452, the Sq commander, Col. Niquette, visited the Det and Mark asked him if he would do the honors when he came up for reenlistment. Col. Niquette said he would be glad to and would bring Mark to Hawaii to reenlist him. Col., I gotta tell you that it was SMSgt Bob **Tomlinson**, who told me he laughed when the request came into Hqs and said it was nothing but a boondoggle trip and was never going to happen. Too bad, I know Mark would have loved the trip and you would have enjoyed having him there for reenlistment.

During the years Mark was in Colorado and Texas, I visited him a couple of times. Usually, someone from the "Schoolhouse" would tell me what a fantastic job he was doing as an instructor and they would be sorry to see him leave. I know he liked being an instructor from some of the comments he made when we got to talking about his job in Texas. My family and I went to his wedding in Colorado and I thought he was taking everything in stride until I found out he upchucked a couple of times while waiting for the ceremony to begin. Tough guy, huh? During these years, we went to three National Bowling Tournaments; Salt Lake, Reno, and Huntsville. He did have to buy dinner a couple times, too, because "I whupped up on him." Don't do that too frequently, now, because I have to admit that he is currently carrying a higher average in the AFTAC league than I am (bought him a ball in 1998 that knocks the pins down better), but mine will be higher than his at the end of the season, and you can bank on that.

Don't know too much about Mark's four years in Germany. I know he really enjoyed having to travel to different countries to do his job because we would sometimes receive a post card from him and he would facetiously comment that he was there to see some famous soccer team play or he had gone there to get in some snow skiing!! I will admit that there were times when I was afraid he might get hurt or worse by some terrorist act during his travels. But, as he said, "Precautions were taken to prevent something like that from happening," and apparently they worked because he is now in the "safe and friendly" confines of the AFTAC Hqs. Shortly after he got to Hqs, he was notified that he had made MSgt. First time eligible! Not bad!! Seven years quicker than I made it!! Reminds me of how fast the "fly boys" used to get promoted. Maybe you should have become a 106, Mark! You'd probably be putting CMSgt on by now. Just kidding, all you "airheads." In closing this out, I would like to say that I will always be proud to be known as "the father" of a great son like MSgt (selectee) Mark C. Smith and I truly believe that he will probably be known as a greater asset to AFTAC than I was. Just kidding folks, because, "I was the GREATEST"! Ok, I give up. Can I say I was one of the "Greatest"?

**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 (2), Chuck Wallace, Jon Kempe, George Kraus (3), Bud Horrell, Mike Steskal, Ray Copeland (4), Geno Wagner, Harold Huhs, Jack Wagley, Leroy Jones, Jack Dorneden (6)

Three outstanding input from three we've heard from before ...

**The Fourth of July, 'Down Under'**

GEORGE (PORKY) KRAUS ADDS TO HIS LEGEND OF THE 'OLD ORIGINALS.' HE SENT US A LETTER (SEE 'MAIL-CALL') WITH THIS STORY, AND PICTURES, INCLUDED.

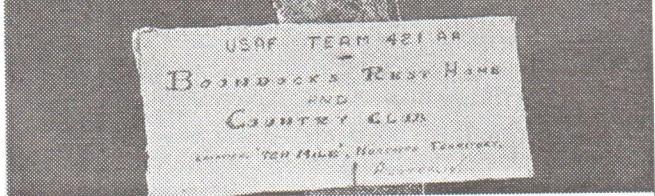
As I remember it, the idea (for a 4th of July bash) came from us field troops and most likely from Mo Walsh as he was the oldest and unofficial leader of the worker bees.

We met with the people at the Alice Springs Memorial Club and found out what the general cost for the beer at a Friday night dance was. With that figure in mind, we said that we would buy the beer for the Friday dance that fell closest to the 4th of July and not to tell the patrons before the time. I'm not sure if the Team furnished any funds, but I know that we donated funds to pay for the beer. The next year, we decorated the club and furnished some entertainment as well as provided the beer.

Mo, we need your take on this story!

I've sent two pictures of the luxurious suite that we had in the field before we started operations. George, outstanding, and thanks so much for taking the time to send this story and the pictures. Now we will hope Mo jumps in.

May, 1955-Before the trailers arrived



Sign reads: USAF TEAM 421 AA, Boondocks Rest Home AND Country Club, Location: 'TEN MILE,' Northern Territory, Australia.

**Frank Szachta**

MAJ (USAF RET), 3RD PILOT ON PACIFIC UNITS TRIP,

Here is a small BS Tale (with more to follow) concerning the typical misunderstandings when junior officers and NCOs hear their Commander (in this case, our one-Star) utter comments that his subordinates misunderstand.

As most AFTAC members recall, our Commander made annual visits to the many Operating Locations and Detachments under his Command. In our situation in the mid-sixties, that meant some very long flights in the unit's C-118 (DC-6 to civilians), although this plane was well equipped for long flights (as our Pacific trip required), it's slow (by today's standards) 240 knot cruise speed made for some very long and time consuming trips.

Our Commander was overheard to say, "It would be nice to hear some music, while we waited for our trip to start, during the slow loading, boarding and beginnings of our trips." We took this to be "a request," and on by the next trip, we had a tape recorder with music tapes installed. As our Chief came aboard the plane at McClellan AFB, CA, for the start of our long Pacific trip, the music was softly wafting through the cabin aisles. The General asked the Aircraft Commander what that noise was, and he was told it was the new tape player with music to fill the air, as we waited to finish loading and depart on our trip. The General then said "I'm hard of hearing, and I would like that noise shut off." Needless to say, the tape player was turned off, and never played again.

**Thoughts While Maintaining a Remote System****Seismic and/or Microbarograph**

JACK DORNEDEN (AKA "OIL", "ITY BIT", "LITTLE JACK", AND OTHER NAMES I'D RATHER NOT REMEMBER)

**PART ONE OF TWO**

-Never put off until tomorrow what can be ignored completely.

-The three basic rules of electronic maintenance:

1. Plug it in.
2. Turn it on.
3. If it starts to smoke, turn it off.

-The very very last rule of electronic maintenance:

Read the manual.

-At some point in life you will encounter someone with the innate ability to screw up a stainless-steel ball with a chamois. If you don't, then chances are that you are that person.

-Avoid flying into granite clouds.

-When in a remote location in a foreign country and you are really enjoying a meal, don't ask what it is.

-Doing it right the first time is always faster than doing it over.

(to be continued in the next issue)

## 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 (5:30 PM)**

WHERE: **AFTAC HQ's Building**

HOW: come to rear entrance

### July

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

### August

**6, 1530** - WindDown at the Outback  
**9, 1730** - Board/Membership Meeting

### September

**3, 1530** - WindDown at the Outback  
**13, 1730** - Board/Membership Meeting

### Scheduled Events

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

12-15 May 2005

-Alumni Worldwide Reunion in Sacramento, CA  
 Keep an eye here and on the CA web site for updates.

### Projected Events (for planning purposes only)

October-December, 2004

-Alumni Assoc Fall Golf n'Getogether, Oct time frame  
 -Center Winter Social, Dec time frame

January—March 2005

-Assoc SnowBall VII, Feb time frame  
 -Center Annual Awards Banquet, Mar time frame

April—June 2005

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

## 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 2004.02)

PURCHASED WITH ALUMNI FUNDS-Multi-Color Logo

	MED	LG	XL	XXL
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**JACKETS**, Unlined/Royal Blue, \$20    2    1    2    4

### GOLF SHIRTS, with pocket, \$14

Sea Teal (aqua blue)	2	2	3	2
Jade (medium green)	2	6	3	2
Navy	2	2	3	1
Red	2	3	2	2
White	2	5	2	2
Royal Blue	3	4	2	2
Teal (dark aqua)	2	2	2	3
Maroon	3	4	1	1
Black	2	2	2	2

### T-SHIRTS, without pocket - \$7.00

Light Blue	2	3	3	3
Royal blue	2	2	2	2
Navy	2	2	3	1
Ash Gray	2	2	2	2
Purple	1	1	2	2
Red	2	2	3	2
Fuchsia	2	2	2	1
Mint Green	2	2	1	2
Jade Green	2	3	5	2
Black	4	2	4	3
<b>SWEATSHIRTS</b> , Ash Gray, \$15	2	2	3	0

### HATS - \$6.00 # MISCELLANEOUS

Green	3	-50th Commem. Coins, \$3	128
Gray	0	-Logo Pin, \$3.25	252
Red	7	-Logo Disk, \$5.50	7
Royal Blue	0	-Alumni License Plate, \$7-members	
Light Blue	1	\$10-nonmembers	4
Navy	0		
Blue/			
Gray	16		

### PURCHASED BY THE BOOSTERS CLUB - most say ALUMNUS rather than ALUMNI

	LG	XL
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### JACKETS -

Unlined/Royal Blue - white logo, \$20                      3

### GOLF SHIRTS-

Med. Blue/with pocket/White logo, \$14    11              7

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◆ 20 ◆

Long Range Detection Alumni Association, Patrick AFB FL

- NOTE: the web-like pound sign (#) identifies articles that are also featured on the association webpage, "csi-inc.com/aftac"
- Page 1 #Sage Spotlight - Sage Special Notice—#Alumni Alerts—Alumni Events  
Page 2 #Association/Chapter Information - #Editorial  
Page 3/7 Mail-Call/#Alumni To Remember  
Page 8/11 Florida and Other Chapter News/Monitoring Active Duty Doins'  
Page 12 Feature Articles, "Commanders reCall"(one) - "I Remember" (two)  
"A Family Affair" (one) - "Barely Substantiated (BS) Tales" (three)  
**Page 19/20 #Calendar - #Alumni Shop/#Contents, Application and Address Label**

Technical data - issue size, ~40MB, using a Dell 2350 (1.8GH/256/60G/DVD/CD-RW/CIS30 Canon Scanner) with MSPub2000 software; the commercial printer is 'Indian River Printing Company.' Preparation/input/proofing time by the editors is in the neighborhood of 100 enjoyable hours, a figure not including the unknown hours of preparation and typing/proofing mailing by individual contributors/assistors



**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.

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

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<<< The 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.'

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