

# ♦AFTAC ALUMNI♦

Volume 3 Issue 2

July 1995



24 PT

## SPRING PICNIC

The picnic was a smashing success.....We of the Alumni provided funding for the Harbor City Ambulance squad for the day and thank god they did not have to do much of anything. Our special thanks go out to the following folks who volunteered to assist with the festivities:

AERIAL  
10 PT

Carl Gailey  
 Swede Swansen  
 Terry Hammond  
 Curt Harris  
 Hank Raymond  
 Gene & Donna Melchior  
 Larry Burton  
 Jack Bond  
 Rick Manley  
 John & Chris Horsch  
 Wally Huffaker  
 Jerry Ace  
 Tony DeMarco  
 Howard Dibble  
 Tom Ciambrone  
 Frank Hall

Scuttlebutt has it that the horseshoes went very well and that everyone really enjoyed themselves. Another hats off to the active duty personnel for putting together such a nice event.....Thanks Folks!

We all cannot wait until next year to have another one, but for those of you who just like a good time, be sure to sign up for the Alumni Golf Tournament that is mentioned in this issue. New place this time.....Baytree golf course in the Suntree area.

## GOLF AT BAYTREE

Time for a change of pace.....we are taking a gamble that you folks might like this for a change? Just something old with a new twist.....

**Who:** All active duty, retiree, and civilian personnel and friends; if we don't get enough people to sign up, we'll open it to others (including our enemies)!

**What:** Golf Tournament

**When:** 1300 hrs start on 14 July 1995

**Where:** Baytree Golf Course in Vierra

**Cost:** \$31 - that's right!!! - Only \$31 to play at Baytree!!!! This includes golf, the cart, food after the tournament, and driving range balls for practice. Beverages will be placed round the course because they do not permit us to run the beer patrol.

**Hitch:** Payment is due NOT LATER THAN 5 July 1995.

L BOLD

Checks may be made to AFTAC Alumni Association and given to Judy Milam/Room BN-136 or mailed to AFTAC Alumni Association, P.O. Box 254892, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892

Now before you forget - do not open this newsletter until you write a check and get your name in the line-up. Do it now, this newsletter will wait for a few moments anyhow!!!!

**Rules:** Typical Frank Hall rules; Mulligans will be available. Shotgun start. 4-person select shot teams! Individuals may sign up with a team or individually!!!!

Reservations/Questions: Area Code [407]

Call Judy Milam at Patrick - 494-4587 — SPT  
 Frank Hall (evenings only) 773-2420  
 Judy Milam (evenings) 254-8878  
 Jim Heinbaugh - 259-7622

**P.S.** If Judy or Frank already has your name on the sign-up sheet, you don't need to call again - we just need your payment by 5 July 1995. This way should make for a much smoother tournament. !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Here it is summer again - Where does the time actually go? This year has been a year of ups and downs, however, that is to be expected. We have good news and we have bad news! The good news always comes last, but why follow the norm? Tom Sullivan has volunteered (with very little arm twisting) to head up our activities in 1997. A point of interest being that you must understand that this is not the AFTAC 50th, but rather the 50th celebration of the Long Range Detection System.....I guess that is politically correct, but no matter what they call it, it is the recognition that a lot of folks deserve for a job very well done over these years. We have all pledged to Tom our undying support and we just wanted someone whom we could lean on for support. Tom, the whole Alumni group thanks you for the mess you got yourself into!

More good news falls in the area of financial affairs. Carl Gailey was tasked with trying to improve our financial status and look to our out years to do some serious planning. Carl has managed to invest quite a sum of money (our collected lifetime dues) into a five year CD at 6.1 percent interest. Even better, he managed to find a way to ensure that if we need our money, we can withdraw it without a penalty. Additionally he took the bull by the horns and got us tax exempt status with the State of Florida which was one of the steps to lower our postal rates. The documentation required and the time invested in this project was out-of-sight and we can all thank him for his efforts. Actually, it was a team effort, because our Secretary, Judy, was deeply involved as well.

Mary informs me that she is working on a Worldwide Directory update and doing rather well at it. On the downside, Mary has turned over all of the membership accounting to me as I go on this ghostly trek to find someone to volunteer to accept this appointment. The end of the century is approaching, our membership is expanding, and it is time to become fully automated. My goal for us in the short term is to convince all that a master listing is the only way to keep track of all of our members. We will attempt to put all of the records into a single source, letting chapters draw on the master listing for their membership, billing, etc. while we become more efficient in the methods we use to keep track of you vagabonds!

In the area of activities, we still require assistance, however, since the year is about over - we will focus our attention on the new year that is rapidly approaching.

In this, my next to last newsletter, I wish you all well and thank you for your support. Clark Creery



## ALUMNI OF THE QUARTER

It did not take looking very far to pick a few of our alumni for recognition in this issue. This is a bit of a detraction from the recognition of one individual, but deserving, none the less. The Alumni of this Quarter is your staff!

**Carl Gailey** - Carl has been paramount in the investment of the Alumni funds. His attention to detail is very much appreciated and his prompt action on anything that is asked is noteworthy. Carl has managed to cut the mailing costs, process the necessary documentation for our recognition by the Federal Tax and State of Florida Tax personnel and this has resulted in a more fluid and efficient organization.

**Judy Milam** - Judy is one of those folks that everyone wants on their staff. Her service as the Secretary for our group has resulted in formal records, on time, and very professionally accomplished. Judy has been responsible for the generation of sympathy letters for our members who have departed us. She has seen to it that cards are mailed when they are supposed to be mailed, and she has worked very hard on keeping our Constitution and By-Laws in the correct format.

**Swede Swansen** - Swede can be counted on for anything. Currently we have him in charge of getting your newsletters ready for mailing and I personally have him tapped to help work on this newsletter. Swede never misses a meeting and without his guidance some of our planning would not have become a reality.

**Frank Hall** - Frank is tireless! His leadership has resulted in our going forward and not in immediate reverse. His experience and can-do attitude support each and everyone of us and without his help, the Alumni Association would be non-existent.

**Mary Welch** - Mary has spent countless hours with the Worldwide Directory and she has been able to dig up names, places, and dates from who knows where. Without this assistance, our records would be in shambles.

Last but not least, a special mention to Joe Goldian, John Horsch, Tom Sullivan, and a host of others that have stopped by our meetings to add a vote of confidence. We also invite you to become an active part of your alumni association.....Thank You Folks!

# ACTIVE DUTY

## Out-dated system retired

Article from the Monitor written by SrA Amy Webb:

The steady hum in the Atomic Energy Detection Center quieted January 5th as the dinosaur paper plot and tape machines were shut down and a new system came on-line. The deactivation of the Hydroacoustic Recording and Processing (HRP) marked an end of an era, giving way to the new UNIX-based workstation technology of computers.

"The old hydroacoustic system was based on analog communications and a lot of out-dated equipment," said TSgt David LeBrun, NCOIC, Subsurface Systems Software Maintenance. "We started the project four years ago to develop and install this new system. We began at the hydrophones in the ocean and replaced everything from there to this end."

LeBrun and his crew faced challenges that were sometimes frustrating while developing the system hardware and software from scratch.

SSgt Jon Williams, senior systems analyst with Subsurface Systems Software Maintenance said developing a system with nothing to compare it with was very difficult.

"Requirements were constantly changing with technology. We faced a lot of learning curves while trying to get all the bugs worked out," said Williams, who is the only member of the shop left who has been with the project from the start.

Working with everyone from analysts to directors, LeBrun and Williams along with TSgt Nate Bolden and SrA John Brooks tried to make the system into one that would work best for everyone.

"The biggest thing was getting everyone to work together," said LeBrun. "We had to work with each directorate to get this designed. We had a lot of cooperation."

After four years of devoting all their time to developing and installing the new system, the shop says they have to broaden their horizons now that the project is complete.

"Our job now is to keep the new system fixed and we will be maintaining the AFTAC Distributed Seismic Network," LeBrun said. "We had a lot of support from TOD as far as installing the equipment and working with detachments. Everything else was done here with all the directorates working together."

Now that the new system is up and running, the benefits are becoming clear.

"I don't know who was happier to get rid of the old system - us or maintenance control," LeBrun laughed. "There were no parts available for the old system - they were obsolete. We had to borrow off the four tape drives we had, just to keep operational. Eventually we got down to one working tape drive."

Also, the old system only had data on line for two hours. Now it's on for at least three days guaranteed."

SrA Robert Bzieff, an analyst and technician with the AEDC agrees that the new system is a great improvement.

"Now we have full period data," said Bzieff, referring to the data that used to be lost because communications lines would go out.

"Full period data refers to the values of the analog data," said LeBrun. "Previously, the HRP selected and displayed only the highest 20 data points within a 200-sample second. This produced what is called Peak Envelope Function data, which was only the positive values. The new system displays all data points (up to 3848 samples per second, currently set to 120 sps) within a second's worth of data. Data loss due to communications outages will be vastly reduced."

The units at the detachments will buffer the data during communications outages, and attempt to send them only after the lines are back to operational status."

Among its assets, Bzieff says the new system is faster and working with the data is easier.

"We can apply filters and variables to the data now and we can single out a specific event. This is much easier to work with and we won't be as bogged down now."

## Town honors detachment members

Detachment 421 in Alice Springs, Australia, will be honored by the town of Alice Springs in June.

The Detachment will be offered the Freedom of the Town - similar to receiving keys to a city in America. Top ranking U.S. and Australian officials will attend the ceremony, according to Alice Springs mayor, Andy McNeill. The ceremony will mark the 40th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force's involvement in the town and will also fit in with the Australian Remembers Commemoration Celebration.

"It is a recognition of the role played by the service people of Alice Springs," McNeill said.

For the ceremony, the detachment members are expected to walk into the town in dress uniform where they will be stopped by the police and town council and then given the freedom of the town.

Det 421 was recently selected for the 1994 Verne Orr Award after competing against 19 other units in the Pacific theatre.

**Ed Note:** Freedom of the town? Wow, look out!



### Your Newsletter Staff

**Editor:** Clark E. Creery

**Secretary:** Judy Milam

**Publications:** Carl Gailey

Swede Swansen

**Advisor:** Frank Hall

# LETTERS

## Fort Worth, Texas

Enclosed are my 1996 and out years dues. Glad to see the detailed dues information in your March issue of Aftac Alumni. Excellent Issue!

I noted one error in the "History" column. The California group organized and hosted the first Alumni Reunion in June 1983. The second was in 1985, I have attended two of the Cal reunions (Including '83), one Colorado and one Florida. Great outfit to have been in and glad so many are still so involved to keep us in touch with one another.

Per your request about a '96 reunion in Colorado and a '97 reunion in Florida, Minnie Mae and I will attend both, health permitting, and that doesn't appear to be a factor now, but at our age, who knows?

Keep up the good work!

Jim Hall

## Corpus Christi, Texas

Thanks for the dues reminder. Wish I had known what lifetime dues were - I do believe I would have joined him up for life!

Jim is wading around in the floodwaters of N. California. He is in Santa Rosa doing his Disaster Assistance work for the Small Business Admin. I just returned from there and it was a bad scene in some areas and a new storm was on my heels as I left. So - it's not getting better.

Jim can swim but those rubber boots do hinder one! Cool, damp weather is not his cup of tea. He likes the hot South Texas type where it seldom 'rains out' any event. Gotta go - Our best to all - Thanks again for the reminder. See you in '96?

Dean McMurtry

P.S. Calif reunion was great - but my jaws were tired from talking and laughing. But, Happy Tired!!!!

**Ed Note:** See how these AFTAC'ers keep involved in all the community help. It never fails to make me proud of the things that our Alumni get involved with. Thanks Dean and oil up them Jaws, 96/97 is going to be great.

## Blowing Rock, North Carolina

Staff,

At age 75 I'm not sure 'Lifetime Anything' is a good deal, but being an eternal optimist, here's my \$50.00 check. Enjoyed your publication a lot.

Bill Koerschner

P.S. I'm in favor of a Florida Reunion in '97.

**Ed Note:** Bill, don't remind me of the 'Lifetime Anthing', but it is a good deal. Where else could you get hastled so much and find out about all the good stuff that is going on all over the world? As for '97, we cannot wait either.

## Deer River, Mn

Greetings from the edge of the wilderness, just North of the stress zone.

I just received the Mar Newsletter and as always I enjoyed everyword of it. There were several things that prompted me to write this letter.

First of all, the photo of Base Ops at Shemya certainly brings back memories, not neccesarily fond but memorable. That building was the first thing you saw when you got off the aircraft and the last thing you saw getting back on at the end of your tour. The things I remember most were beating Capt Bandy and Kelly O'Connor at liars dice, also Gus Costa on occasion. The winter storms, summer fog, the clear days when the Russian Bear Recon aircraft would overfly the island. On those occasions, anybody who was outside would look up and wave with the third finger of each hand; made for great Recon photos. SNFE was indeed a character, I was there Jun '71 to Jun '72 and he was one of four dogs on the island as I remember. SNFE couldn't shake the habit of chasing the base bus as it went by the Det. He was hit twice while I was there. The 2nd time he had a chunk of meat tore out of his chest the size of my fist. We called the base Dr who came down to see if they could do anything for him. SNFE was usually very friendly, but he would smell medics the minute they came to the Det door. He would growl and become very disagreeable. It took Gus Costa and I to hold him down with a towel wrapped around his snout. As it turned out, all they could do was trim the hair and clean it up a little. SNFE healed up fine and was back chasing the bus in no time. If you need a photo of SNFE I think I have one I can send.

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# CORRECTION

In the last newsletter we reported that the Enlisted Wind-downs were held at the Patrick Air Force Base Enlisted Club.....you guessed it! NOT - They are held at the Outback, directly behind the AFTAC building. Sorry for the incorrect information, we just missed it big time! Editor

# POSTAGE

If you were really paying attention during the evolution of our newsletter you may have noticed several additions. We added the date and codes for your dues and we also added a postal department statement that says, 'Return Address Correction Requested.' That statement keeps newsletters from ending up in a dead letter file. If you move and forget to give us your forwarding address, the postal department returns that newsletter to us with any information you have provided. There is one catch - we are now paying .50 cents for every returned newsletter.

Naturally we want to be as cost effective as we can for you and your newsletter, so we are asking that when you relocate, please let us know in advance. This will keep our roles current and it will also let us avoid this charge. So, help us out and keep us in mind at all times. Remember, "In God we trust, all others we require address corrections."

# ON-LINE

We have had some interesting exchanges with those of you who own computers and have managed to find us on-line. There was one change that I apologize for, but for those who are inquisitive by nature, we were still locatable. Last newsletter we reported that the Florida Chapter was at America On-Line as the name AFTACFL - Well as digital troubles would have it, we added a number 1 to the end of that 'handle'. You can find us as AFTACFL1 and you can find Colorado as we reported - AFTACCO. Send us a note, we are more than happy to respond. Sorry for the confusion.

If you are planning on the golf tournament at Baytree on the 14th of July there are several things that we would like you to do to help us out. We are requesting payment by 5 July 1995. I know this sounds off-the-wall, but it is required by the course and it should eliminate all the hassle that we normally have trying to sign up everyone on the day of the tournament. So, please, stop now and take care of this lil detail and we will really appreciate it very very much.....thank you!!

# OF-NOTE

At our last meeting we were faced with a typical management dilemma. The basic question discussed was, "When a member passes away, what do we do if they are a Lifetime member, or have paid their dues for several years?"

We decided that it would be appropriate for the President to send a letter to the survivor that explains the situation and give them the opportunity to remain on the mailing list for whatever time the member had remaining. We know just how much the AFTAC Family sticks together and we do not want to just terminate contact or news items because a member has been assigned to their final detachment. We certainly hope you will concur.

# FORMAT

At our monthly meetings we like to have a "Topic" for discussion. One of our topics covered the format of this newsletter. After much gnashing of teeth, rolling on the floor, and deep arguments - we all decided that a two (2) column edition would be much better than the past three (3) column newsletter. So, in this newsletter you will notice we are now in our new format and hope that you will agree that it makes a slightly more professional publication. We want to be dynamic and we continue to attempt to provide you with the best information that we have available. Your comments are welcomed just like your checks.

# 1997

Colonel Shaffer has appointed a chairperson within the headquarters to handle the planning for the Formal festivities that will happen on 15 - 16 September 1997. We have gone forward with a call to our membership for a volunteer to act in the same capacity. We will keep you informed as to the planning, and the activities as they become available. At this printing, all we know is that things are in-the-works and we are going to be a big part of everything. Keep your eyes open for more information here in your newsletter.

# GOLF AT BAYTREE 14 JULY 1995

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Continued from Page 6.....

As long as I'm writing. I would like to issue a challenge to all you Alumni. I came into AFTAC from the 551st AEW&CON WG at Otis AFB, Mass, along with many others. I went to Lowry in Sept 1964 and attended B school and then went to the 1155th. I was a B troop till July 1965 and was transferred to F system, where I stayed till June of '71 when I became a Q troop at Shemya till June '72 when I went to Det 412 in Bangkok and became an I troop. When I system closed in July '74 I was released from AFTAC and went to Cheyenne Mt as NCOIC, Closed Ckt TV. In July '75, I went to Det 1, Lamar, Colo (HF Radio) as Det Commander and in July '77 I was off to Karatas, Turkey, as NCOIC of a Tropo Radio site. While there I was called by AFTAC and asked if I wanted to come back and I accepted.

They said they had a slot at HQs and that sounded good to me. Of course when the orders came they were for the 1155th, but that looked good to me after a year of sitting in a Turkish cotton field. At the 1155th, I replaced SMSgt Kick Osborne as Superintendent of MCL. I was assigned to 5 AFTAC systems all together. Has anybody spent time in more systems than 5? It will be interesting to see what results from this challenge.

As far as Vi and I go we are still working on the house we started 4 years ago. We have built it from the ground up. It has been a very satisfying experience but we both agree on one thing. NEVER, NEVER again. We have a few acres on Rush Is Lake in Northern Minn, about 60 miles south of the Canadian border. It is very wild up here and we have had both wolves and bears in the yard as well as a great deal of other wildlife. It is also very peaceful and quiet, especially in the winter when its about 40 below outside. Great time to catch up on all those little projects you accumulate all summer. The house is about 85% complete and we hope to finish it this summer.

To all our fellow AFTAC'ers, Vi and I wish you well.

Till the next reunion.

Jon and Vi Richardson  
B,F,Q,I and MCL

### San Antonio, Texas

Yes, I recognize the picture at Shemya in the March newsletter. It brings back good memories of my time at AFTAC. I enjoy reading the newsletter, Keep up the good work!

Brig. Gen. William R. Goad

### Cleveland, Ok

Thank you for the "AFTAC Alumni." I hope that everyone enjoys it as much as I do? It is interesting to read what my fellow AFTAC Alumni are up to these days. Your efforts are appreciated.

I have enclosed a \$20.00 check for a copy of the AFTAC Worldwide Directory. Any excess change can be applied to your postage fund or whatever. I would like my directory to have the front entrance view of the Telegraph Road AFTAC Headquarters building on the cover.

My wife and I sure enjoyed the 1994 California reunion and are looking forward to renewing old friendships in Colorado next year.

Regards,

R.C. "Dick" Black  
"F" Troop

P.S. I have not forgotten about the circa 1965-1969 photographs (prints and slides) that I promised you during the Sacramento reunion last year. I'm just getting slower in my old age.

Ed Note: We are all getting slow, Dick, but that is the fun of it. Plus your letter says Westport, OK and the envelope says Cleveland, OK. You are not slow - just confused!

### Ridgeville, Ontario

I would like a copy of the Worldwide Directory. My choice for the cover, Front Entrance to our building at 6801 Telegraph Road, Alexandria on the front of the directory - overhead shot of same building for the back, if available. If not, use your choice for the back cover.

Looking forward to attending the Worldwide Reunion in Florida in 1997 and seeing and renewing friendships with a lot of ole (old) buddies. Thanks a lot and keep up the good work, and regards to all.

Best Wishes

Jim Davis

### Raleigh, NC

Thank you so much for the reminder about my dues. The last roster of members brought me a phone call from one of the first individuals that I met upon becoming a member (Continued on page 10)

## CMSgt Charles A. Butler

The Air Force, AFTAC, and its members recently lost a great advocate, supporter and the conclusive 'old timer', CMSgt Charles A. Butler. Charlie (as we called him until he made Chief.) was an associate, and a friend, for many years.....so, I am happy to comply with the Alumni's request for an input to this newsletter.

I knew Charlie as a coworker and as a supervisor; in many ways, he helped - "bring me up!" He was the ultimate professional and the ultimate AFTAC'er. Charlie refused shortcuts, always going to great lengths 'to do it right.' The Chief would listen, consider, and then do it 'his way.'

Charlie definitely knew how to work hard, but he also knew the time and place for a good time. I spent TDY time with him both in holes in the ground and holes-in-the-wall. He was a true "B" (seismic) man, but he had a big place in his heart for all of the people. Some of us will always think of Charlie first when we remember AFTAC's beginnings; he set a great course for the rest of us to follow.

Additionally, I thought there was no way to really know what CMSgt Charlie A. Butler meant to AFTAC, and its history, without reading about his beginnings and the many ways/places he served. I turned to the one who knew him best - his wife of many years, Doris. Charlie could not have contributed as he did without her thoughtfulness and support. AFTAC owes her a debt of gratitude. She was kind enough to give us the following brief of their AFTAC career.

The above Tribute provided by John T. Horsch (CMSgt, Retired 1958-1987).

### Charlie's Career 23 Nov 1948 to 30 April 1978

Charles began his Air Force career in San Antonio, Texas. For a Connecticut boy to go there was so completely different from anywhere he had ever known. After basic training, his first duty station was at the Naval Ordnance Laboratories in White Oak, Maryland. He lived there in the Marine barracks, wearing the olive drab Army uniform, but he was in the Air Force and this ultimately was the first group for AFTAC. While there he went TDY to California, somewhere near Merced.

I met Charles in July 1949 and we were married on October 24, 1950. At that time, we had to have a clearance to even get married. After two months of marriage, the TDY's began. He first went to California

and then to Wyoming and then was assigned to a permanent duty station in Fairbanks, Alaska, at a place known as Bender's Mountain. At that time, hours were long and security was very tight.

I went from the Washington DC, area, paying my own way and I arrived in Fairbanks on July 1. Three days later, Charles went TDY to Anchorage for two weeks.

In 1953, Charles was transferred to Fort Sill in Oklahoma. Within a day Charles put in for a transfer because Oklahoma just wasn't for him, even though I was from Tulsa!

In 1954 he went to Ankara, Turkey, where Charles got to see different countries on TDY's that were never divulged to me. In 1956 we went to Duluth, Minnesota where we stayed until 1958 when he was transferred to Flin Flon, Manitoba, Canada. Schooling followed in 1960 for six months in Denver, Colorado, after which he was transferred to the Western Field Office in California (known later as the 1155th Technical Operations Squadron). The three and one-half years spent in California placed him on worldwide survey teams most of the time. At that time, he spent more time away, than home.

After California, we transferred to Pinedale, Wyoming, which we all enjoyed. He still had a few TDY trips and the long hours at work but all personnel have had that at one time or another.

In 1968 we left Pinedale, Wyoming and were stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany, where the TDY trips continued. We did enjoy our stay and were able to see many old friends as well as meeting new ones.

In 1973, Charles was sent to Patrick AFB in Florida where he later retired when he was going to be sent on an isolated assignment after 28 years of service. He retired with 29 years, 6 months, and 7 days in 1978.

Charles never shared his work with the family. Right after we were married, I asked him, and his reply was "I will tell you, but then I will probably spend the rest of our married life in Leavenworth." I never asked him again, and he never told me.

Charles was a true AFTAC person and always considered his personnel his family. He always took pride in his work and sometimes I would become jealous because I had to share him with people all over the world. I would never have wanted him to be any different. He was my friend and husband.

Doris T. Butler

# ACTIVITIES '94-95

## JULY 1995

MEMBERSHIP MTG.  
AFTAC HQ 5:30 PM - 10 JUL 95

GOLF TOURNAMENT - 14 JULY 1995  
BAYTREE GOLF CLUB

APPOINT ELECTION STAFF - 10 JUL 95



## AUGUST 1995

MEMBERSHIP MTG.  
AFTAC HQ 5:30 PM - 14 AUG 95

Slate of Officers 95/96 due - 14 AUG 95

## SEPTEMBER 1995

MEMBERSHIP MTG.  
AFTAC HQ 5:30 PM - 11 SEP 95

NEWSLETTER MAILED - 20 SEP 95

## OCTOBER 1995

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG.

20 OCTOBER 1995 This function will include a Golf Tournament as it has in past years. More info later in the year.

### Did you know?

Did you know that you may come to the Alumni Membership meeting? The dates are posted above with the location and the times. We would really feel proud if you would drop in to watch us in action and see just what goes on with the running of your organization. Contrary to popular belief, showing up does not place you on some off-the-wall committee with tons of work to be done! We can always use help, but we do not run your organization in that manner. Everyone always seems too busy to remember - what if your Executive Committee was too busy? Psssst - We are, but we do it anyhow!!!!!!

### CLOTHING ITEMS LISTED IN THE CROSS COLUMN:

**Add:** \$3.00 to cover shipping and handling. Logo Pins, wooden nickels, and Beer Mugs have no charge for shipping and handling.

**MAIL ORDERS TO:** AFTAC Alumni Association  
ATTN: Sales Staff  
P.O. Box 254892  
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892

# SHOPPING CENTER

## JACKETS

- Unlined Windbreakers \* \$20.00

Royal Blue - Large and X Large

## GOLF SHIRTS

- Jersey with pocket \$14.00

Blue/Teal - Large and X Large

Royal Blue - Large and XX Large

Navy - Medium and Large

Red - Medium, Large, and X Large

- Cotton without pocket \$14.00

White - X Large

- Cotton with pocket \$18.00

Medium Blue - Large and X Large

## T-SHIRTS \$ 7.00

Mint Green, Light Blue, Royal Blue, Navy, Purple, and Fuschia - Large and X Large

Medium Green, Ash Grey, and Red - X Large

## HATS

- Mesh: \$ 6.00

Green, Grey, Red, Navy, Royal Blue, and Light Blue

- Cotton: \$ 5.00

White and Medium Blue\*

\* These items have white logo; others have multi-colored logo.

- Coffee Cup - Ceramic \$ 6.00

- Beer Mug - Plastic \$ 2.00

- Logo Pin \$ 3.25

- Logo Disk - 2 inches (round): \$ 5.50

- Wooden Nickel: \$ 1.00

Continued from page 7...Raleigh, Nc

of the 1009th SWS in Washington, DC. Pete Snipes who now lives in Georgia but originally hailed from North Carolina had occasion to visit his son in Greenville and called me to arrange a meeting. Needless to say, it was a joyous event for all concerned. Pete told me of a planned meeting in Denver next year, I believe. Would like to hear more on the plans as they progress.

As events occur, the receipt of the roster brought back many names from the past. I will be in DC about the time you receive this letter, and plan to make a few telephone calls to old friends there.

I missed the reunion in California because I was running for Commander, Disabled American Veterans, Department of North Carolina at the time. I was elected to the position last June and will relinquish the job in June 95. I hope to be able to spend more time visiting old friends after that time.

My wife, Mary Ann enjoys reading your Newsletters and knowing that old friends are still with us.

Sincerely,

Darrell D. Yates

**Ed Note:** Darrell, by the time you get this your stint as the Commander will be gone. We salute you for your service to a very fine organization and look forward to meeting you when you come to Florida in 1997.

### Maysville, Nc

After reading and enjoying issues of your newsletter, I wanted to write to tell you about my husband, Eli Trott. Last year on March 24th, Eli had surgery to clamp a cerebral aneurysm. The surgery was difficult and he suffered several complications, including a severe stroke. He spent 70 days in the Neuro Intensive Care unit and was unresponsive for 5 weeks. During those difficult days, we had many times when we feared that Eli would not survive.

It has been a long process, but today Eli has made significant progress towards recovery. The stroke caused damage to the area of the brain which stores new memories. Although he is unable to remember new things and has trouble with time frames of past events, he enjoys each moment as it occurs. The memory problem causes him to be confused at times. Can you imagine not remembering anything that happens to you? In spite of this, he manages to delight us constantly and has retained the same wit and knowledge he always had. (Continued ->>

And just like always, he loves a good joke. At this point, he is able to walk around unassisted and is looking forward to getting back out in his garden this spring. Our family has been very blessed and we have faith that his recovery will continue in the next several months and years.

Eli retired from the Air Force in 1975 while stationed at Patrick Air Force Base in Satellite Beach, Florida. Our family moved to North Carolina and we are still living here in the little town of Belgrade. Just after our arrival, Eli opened a television repair business. He closed the business when he became employed at New River Air Station, in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Eli loved his job on the base and has been missed by his co-workers since he retired with 15 years service.

Eli and I have been married now for 38 years and we have been blessed with three children and six grandchildren!

He loves to receive cards and letters, and will read them over and over. I have enclosed our mailing address. If anyone of his former co-workers remembers him, he would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Betty Rose Trott

**Ed Note:** Thanks Betty and as you know, it is very hard to keep an AFTAC'er down. Folks, lets flood him with some good wishes?

Eli Alton Trott  
P.O. Box 157  
Maysville, NC 28555

### Sacramento, Ca

Enclosed is a check for \$20.00 - this should pay for the dues for 1995 and 1996.

Sorry I am so late in getting it off. I will try to do better in the future. Regards to all of the folks there at Patrick AFB.

Sincerely,

James S. Lucas

**14 July 1995  
Golf at Baytree**

**Beavercreek, Oh**

After perusing the Worldwide Directory, I think I can provide you a little additional information.

Russell B. Ives (Capt): I used to work for him in TD-3 at HQ in Alexandria. He was promoted to Major in 1966. I saw his obituary in the AF Times some years ago...perhaps as long as ten years ago.

Several names I looked for were missing?

Maj Kenneth D. Caughron: Was my liaison officer at University of Ill, AFIT in 1964, and he had been at Hq in the early 1960's.

1/Lt Randall C. Stevens: Was in TD-3 in 1967-69 era, and later became a lawyer in Washington, DC. No longer remember the name of the law firm.

Capt Dwight Motte: Worked for Maj Jim Waite in Hq contracts shop, 1966-68 time period.

I've enjoyed the directory, and hope someday to write to a bunch of people. Through it I found that my neighbor 4 doors away was an AFTAC'er!!!!

A useful tool, I've found for tracking down people is any one of the several computer CD-ROM phone disks. I keep the address list for the 307th Bomb Wing Association (SAC), also do the newsletter, and am the stuckee to plan their 1996 reunion in Dayton, so the phone disk is really indispensable.

About two years ago, I was at AFTAC several times as I was managing the contracted Crew Blue Platform Study done for AFTAC. I enjoyed seeing my old friend Dave O'Brien, but didn't spot anyone else I knew. Could be that there were other old friends there, but they didn't recognize me either. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Charles E. "Mike" Gingrich

**Ed Note:** Mike, how about moving to Florida and taking on this newsletter thing to give us a break. Plus, you can help with anything you want to volunteer for. No sweat on the not recognizing anyone.....Just pop out your wooden nickel and you can have any job you want.

**Lawrence, Kansas**

Nostalgia II,

Can you remember when they changed the time -->

for our lunch breaks in the Guam Building? Because they wanted it to look as if we were coming out of the building to greet some foreign dignitaries coming up Constitution Avenue in Limo's.

More Nostalgia:

How many remember when the Big Brass decided that too many military uniforms were evident in the D.C. area? Civilian clothes were made optional wear for all military on duty. That was until someone realized that it would be necessary to pay all the enlisted personnel a civilian clothing allowance!

Sincerely,

Jack D. Wagley

**Dingmans Ferry, Pa.**

I was pleasantly surprised to receive the March 95 edition of the newsletter as I had no idea such an organization existed. That is not particularly surprising as my association with the 1009th SWS ended in 1957 when I was transferred to Headquarters Foreign Technology Division at Wright-Patterson AFB.

I was stationed at the U.S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory in San Francisco in late 1953 when I received orders to report to Bldg. T-39 at McClellan AFB. At that time the Central Laboratory was headed by Major Irving Russel, and other personnel undergoing training included Capt's Orville Kvamme, Fred Ford, Obadiah Dugan, and George Williams and Lt's Danny Cirelli, Jim Koonce, Dick Wingerson, and Dick Numbers. In January 1954 I was posted to Team 202 and after an eventful drive from Sacramento to Alaska in February, arrived at Eielson AFB. Team Commander Capt Bill Diefenderfer, Fred Ford, Lee Towle, and I processed the 'take' from the 'Ptarmigan' and 'Loon Echo' flights for the next two years and I then returned to the Central Lab at McClellan for an additional year before going to Wright-Patt. During my four years with the 1009th SWS I met many wonderful, talented people and still correspond with several of them.

I am enclosing a membership application for the Florida Chapter along with a check for dues and the Worldwide Directory. I am also enclosing a special order number 85, dtd 26 Apr 1956, which lists all officers and enlisted personnel stationed at the Operating Location (OL) McClellan on that date in the hope that it may be of historical interest to the association staff. Keep up the good work!

Herman 'Lou' Wentzler

**Orlando, Fl**

I just received your latest Florida Chapter directory and was pleased to see my name as a lifetime member. Also Bernick's! As for the Harry Adams of the world.....Harry sounds familiar. Do you happen to know if he has (or has had ) a Korean wife?

**Brian Cory:** I may have mispelled his last name to you. Could possibly be Corey. The correct Harry Adams would know. They were pretty good buddies at 'Wonju Air Station'. We were known around camp and town as the "Wizards of W.A.S.!!" (Pronounced 'was')

Surprized you couldn't find Jeff Weiner - Everybody knew him! And I really goofed on Mr. Hinshaw! Yes, his name was (and I must assume still is) - Ralph. Musta got him mixed up with the Trout (George).....

**Albert E. Martell, Jr.** rings a bell, as long as he once claimed either Wisconsin or Minnesota as his home of record. We at 401 received a letter from them while enroute there by car when they PCS'd some time in 1972. Seems their brand new car had been the victim of a bowling ball someone dropped from an overpass along their route! Right through the windshield!!!!

Donald should be Ronald T. McCoy. And he was not only a DETCO (Lt Col) but a pilot. He and Maj Sauerbrei (Not sure of the spelling) approved my application for Operation Bootstrap.

Later,

Leo Orr

**Melbourne, Fl**

To each of you a special "Thank You" for all of the telephone calls and the cards you sent in our time of loss. We thank you.

Family of CMsqt (Retired) Charles A. Butler  
Doris, Charles Jr., and Geary

**COLORADO REUNION?**

Colorado reports that having a reunion there in 1996 is still not a dead issue. Ben V. and group have been going bonkers trying to decide what to do. So, if you think that a Colorado shindig is a good idea and you can support it, call Ben at (303) 690-1239 or Bill Schmied at (303) 367-0625. They need to know soon!

**WHERE IS BAYTREE?**

Baytree is located in the Suntree area of Melbourne, Florida. For those of you who are using Interstate 95 exit at the Wickham Road Exit. (The Cracker Barrel Restauraunt and the Comfort Inn.) Baytree is located on the right hand side between the Brevard Zoo and the Suntree Housing location. There is a very large sign out front and you cannot miss it. If you do! There are plenty of places to stop and ask directions.

**ADVANCE PAYMENT**

Just as a reminder.....we have asked you to provide your sign up monies for the Golf Tournament in advance of the date of the actual event. We need your payment no later than:

**5 July 1995**

**Send your Checks to the following:**

**AFTAC Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 254892  
Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892**

**\$31.00**

This includes golf, cart, food after the tournament, and driving range balls for practice.

**DIRECTORY**

Our staff reports that the latest Worldwide Directory should be in the mail in the next few weeks. It has over 6000 names and you must be patient with us. Some have asked why we have not provided the updates immediately, but we find that if we wait until we have the next release, you get a better directory. So, if you are one of those who are curious as to our plan, that is just why it sometimes takes awhile for you to get your copy. M. Welch has done a nice job on this revision and it takes quite a bit of work to get it all organized.

## SPINSTRA ROCKS

The following article was removed from the Goodfellow Monitor and was written by SrA Frank Kane of the 312th Training Squadron:

As the only operational mission Air Education and Training Command supports, the Southern United States Station became a joint venture between AETC and the Air Force Technical Applications Center when the 95XOO training school moved to Goodfellow AFB in January 1994.

SUSS provides seismic inputs to the United States Atomic Energy Detection System through AFTAC for the monitoring and verification of nuclear treaties.

Recently, SUSS underwent a major modification in the form of an improved grounding system. This grounding upgrade was needed to improve system data reliability and also to attempt to negate possible communication line spiking seen on the data channels.

Although most AFTAC seismic sites were to receive the new grounding equipment, SUSS presented some special problems and concerns.

First should be noted the large amount of coordination involved in performing this task. Headed by SSgt Jerry McFadden, the composite modification team consisted of TSgt Mike Fisher, Sgt McFadden and SSgt Mark Robertson as well as Civil Engineer crew from Kelly AFB, Texas.

The team members managed to get all required personnel and equipment to the right place at the right time, including the CE crew getting the back hoe through the mesquite lined trains that lead to the sites.

According to Sergeant McFadden, the team pulled 'man-sized boulders from the earth,' eventually completing the grounding installation even earlier than expected.

SUSS is an operational site, currently maintained by TSgt Dan Jamison, Sgt McFadden, SrA Chris Hammond, SRA Frank Kane and SrA Jimmy Pendleton, members of the 312th Training Squadron.'

However, with a great maintenance team, as well as exceptional support and a new grounding system, SUSS has become one of the most reliable seismic sites in the world.

**Ed Note:** And we retiree's thought things would go to heck in a handbasket when we left...sounds like they have things under control and we can go back to fishing.

## North Highlands, CA

Please let me explain my late response to your letter. I was in Hawaii in February for the NFL Pro Bowl and was awaiting a Space 'A' hop back to the mainland when I broke my ankle. I was admitted to Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu and spent a few weeks in the hospital as their 'guest'. Upon my return home, in the condition I was in (no walking, foot elevation, etc.) I was in a down mood. Still am!! I'm due to have my Bionic Rig removed surgically on 9 June and I'll be in a full cast for another two to four months, then therapy, etc. Doctors said the breaks were the worst they have seen (both the Tib and Fib bones were broken). Recuperation is slow, very slow. My wife, Jean, has been doing everything for me. Don't know what I would have done without her?

Enough of my tale of woe...just wanted you to know why the delay on my dues. Take care and we hope to see you folks one of these days. keep me informed about the 50th. And say Hi to all for me.....

Many Thanks

Rich 'nick' Charles

**Ed Note:** Hey NICK, hang in there, the 50th for the Long Range Detection System will have a special dance for you folks. Thanks for sending us the cash, and believe you me, we understand. Take care, get well, and plan on attending the festivities in Florida in 1997.

## LONG RANGE DETECTION 50th ANNIVERSARY

This is a bit of an advance notice, but we intend to keep all of you super informed. The Headquarters has been working on the planning for the LRDS celebration and the dates have been picked:

15 - 16 September 1997

We will be running articles about this in our future issues of the newsletter, however, we just want you to put this event on your planning schedules.

15 Sept 97 - Ceremony at the HQ which will include fly-by's by various aircraft. Tours of the AFTAC facility and you will be impressed with the Hall of Heritage. The banquet will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Port Canaveral, Florida. Seating for 650 folks, so it may become a first come, first served. We of the Alumni will also plan on a special event to tag-along with the formal USAF activities. Watch for more on this as it becomes available.....Plan on joining us for fun!

# RETIRED

Thirty years of active duty in the Air Force will soon be a memory of past experiences and events which are the basis of my military career. Retirement always seemed to be that inevitable fact of life that would, in time, have to be confronted. However, the urgency of bringing it to the focus of my attention was never important - until now. With the inevitable close at hand, I'm prompted to inventory my memories and pass along a few observations.

I entered the Air Force with no forethought of a military career. A four-year commitment seemed reasonable to satisfy a self-imposed obligation to serve my nation. Additionally, I would have the opportunity to develop a marketable skill and gain the practical experiences needed for subsequent employment after discharge.

The years of my first enlistment were consumed quickly with technical training, skill-level advancement, promotion, and PCS assignments, both CONUS and overseas. The decision to reenlist occurred at a time when I felt satisfied with my progress to adapt to the 'military way' of life.

For the most part, I was meeting the expectations of my coworkers and chain of command. More importantly, I had developed a sense of pride in the team spirit I witnessed - Air Force men and women unified in purpose and commitment. This alone would prove to be the primary motivation for my decision to proceed with a military career. Regardless of duty assignment or mission tasking, I was thoroughly impressed by my coworkers' ability to meet any challenge head on with but one objective in mind - success. "Keep 'em flying" was the goal that occupied 13 years of my career as an avionics maintenance technician. Time and time again, co-workers were called upon to work long hours during inclement conditions in order to generate mission-ready aircraft in war and peace time. For each crisis that threatened to impede progress, there was an opportunity for me to observe ingenuity, self-sacrifice, and team spirit aimed at exceptional performance.

My 17-year association with AFTAC proved to be no exception. Team spirit consistently prevailed whenever the demand for a professional, dedicated work force was needed to "accomplish the impossible." Chernobyl, worldwide deployments, downsizing, restructuring - successfully accommodating these events and countless others sustained the pride within me that evolved from my earlier experiences in avionics maintenance. I am confident that this same spirit.....

# Get Well Wishes

**Curt Harris**  
Satellite Beach, Florida

**Don Humphries**  
Stafford, Va

**Mike Milam**  
Melbourne, Florida

of cooperation and unification to achieve a common objective will be the source of continued success for AFTAC and the Air Force - without my presence.

And so, as I prepare to depart, I do so with a profound sense of satisfaction and gratitude for having had the opportunity to play a small part in sustaining the pride that is the heritage of men and women in the United States Air Force.

This article was taken from the March/April 1995 Monitor and is written by CMSgt George F. Ducatt. Words of wisdom from an AFTAC'er who served us well. We wish George the best of the best in his new career as an Alumni!!!!!!

## WestPort, Ok

Thank you for the 'AFTAC Alumni.' I hope that everyone enjoys it as much as I do? It is interesting to read what my fellow AFTAC Alumni are up to these days. Please keep up the excellent work. Your efforts are appreciated.

I have enclosed a check for a copy of the Worldwide Directory. Any excess can be applied to your postage fund or whatever. I would like my directory to have the front entrance view of the Telegraph Road AFTAC Headquarters building on the cover.

My wife and I sure enjoyed the 1994 California reunion and are looking forward to renewing old friendships in Colorado next year.

Regards,

R.C. "Dick" Black  
"F" Troop

## KENNETH HILLIS

We asked for Karen Hillis to provide the following:

Kenneth Wayne (Ken) Hillis passed away in April 1995. He was age 47, after a three-year courageous battle with colon cancer. Born in Sikeston, Mo., to Reedie O. & the late, Juanita L. Hillis, from the beginning he had a wonderful dry wit & positive attitude. Traveling with his Air Force parents, he went to high school in Bedford, MA. where he met and soon after high school, married Karen (Nee Wanta), his wife of 28 years. His favorite and only child, Katherine Elleyne, was born in 1968. He joined the Air Force in 1966 and was assigned to the Air Force Technical Applications Center earning him the AF Commendation Medal. During their travels across the US and other parts of the world, he made friends. In 1980, he left the Air Force and went to work for E-Systems in Garland, TX as a Systems Analyst, again making friends with his positive attitude and wonderful wit. He was a member of the American Radio Relay League, becoming interested in Ham Radio as a teenager and he played the guitar beautifully. The favorite day of his life came two years ago - he walked his daughter down the aisle during her wedding to David Carver. Let it be said of him: he knew how to laugh, how to encourage, how to love, and how to live and die with dignity. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Especially those of us in AFTAC who knew and respected Ken.

## 10 YEARS

As I was working this newsletter, I dug through the piles of paperwork that show just how organized I am and I stumbled upon a newsletter (Alumni) dated June 1985.

"March 12, 1985 was a special day in the annals of AFTAC. This was the day that the AFTAC Alumni Association here in Central Florida was formed. We know that some of you that attended the first meeting must be wondering just what happened. Well, we are alive and well. Knee deep in the paperwork of forming a constitution and the associated by-laws. But we have tried our best and present to you via this first newsletter our humble attempts. We on the board hope that you will be patient and help us by giving constructive assistance.

Coming together is a beginning;  
Keeping together is progress;  
Working together is success!

Our first item of business -----> continued

## IN MEMORY OF

### *In Memory of:*

**Charles A. Butler**  
Melbourne, Florida  
(April 1995)

**Ken Hillis**  
Rowlett, Texas  
(April 1995)

**Thomas R. Hollingsworth**  
Sacramento, California  
(April 1995)

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

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

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

I just cannot believe that this month marks ten years since we printed that article. We have come a long way, it has not been easy, but I just thought you would take pride in an organization that has continued to grow with the help of each and everyone of you.

Now that we have printed this....I want all of you to make it a point to remind me when June 2005 rolls around so I am sure that I will not miss a milestone.

Enjoy your summer and do let us hear from you....our postal box needs dusted from time to time. C. Creery

Golf At Baytree  
July 14th

Please check inside for the details of an upcoming event for the Alumni Association. We would like to make this the best event yet! Pray for good weather....

We ask that you pay in advance: 5 July 1995

AFTAC Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 254892  
Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**



**IN GOD WE TRUST - ALL OTHERS, WE MONITOR!**