

COMMANDER'S RECALL

Background: In light of the ongoing process that is the command, a desire to record the impressions of this "from the top" and the notion we are entering a new millennium, we asked previous commanders to give us a synopsis of their time with the command. We received positive responses from almost every commander to include Gen's Silliman, Gordon, Clapper, O'Leary, Bingham and Shaffer and Col's Meisenheimer, and Wigington. We thank these gentlemen for taking the time and effort to share their enlightening remembrances.

We have respectfully requested inputs from AFTAC's two most recent Commanders, Col's Beatty and Dettmer. We feel confident they will reply as they find the opportunity in their busy active-duty lives.

We look forward to being able to pass on their 'Commander's reCall' ...

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) - we will publish them as in the order received and as soon as we can. Thanks for your help.

George Waters

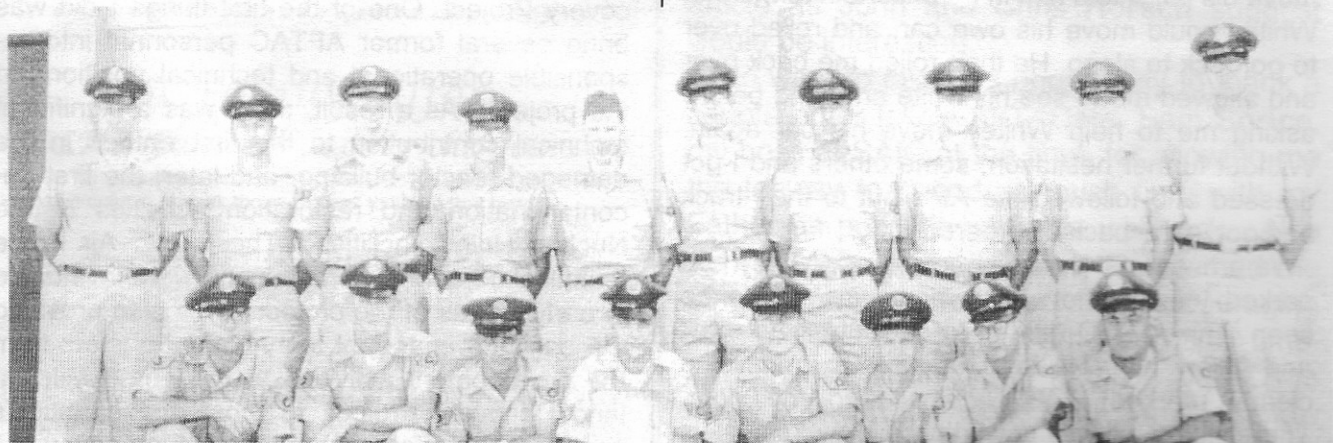
While going through some old photographs the other day I came upon what might be of historical significance to AFTAC and for possible inclusion into the 'Hall of Heritage.' Note: George, the items you sent have been turned over to 'Hall of Heritage' personnel

For many years to my recollection, AFTAC did not subscribe to the policy of designating an "Outstanding Airman of the Year." AFTAC's philosophy was that all its airmen were outstanding and to select one over the other would be inappropriate if not sacrilege.

None the less, around 1963, AFTAC implemented the program of selecting an 'Outstanding Airmen of the Year.' As the commander of Detachment 415 at the time I submitted the name of MSgt. Nargoski who was subsequently picked as the 'Group Outstanding Airmen of the Year.'

Following is the picture taken when I presented him with the award. Time and distance precluded any more formal recognition. MSgt. Nargoski was the first of many selected for this award but in my opinion none were more deserving than he.

Also enclosed is a group picture of the Detachment 415 complement taken around 1963. Many of those pictured were part of the original contingent that opened Detachment 415.



This picture depicts the Det 415 personnel present during the award of the 'Most Improved Detachment in the 1156TOS.' Top L-R: George Waters, CC, ... Bailey, Power Prod ... Gustafson, B Ops Larry Landy, B Ops Don Rust, B Ops (Dave) Olsen, B Ops Bill Markle, Radio Maint Don Morris, B Ops Unidentified, Bill Klein, Ops Officer—Back L-R: Eugene Kohler, Chief Analyst Don Ritchey, Maint Tech Ralph Mergen, Crypto Willy Bertle, Admin Guy Long, Supply Larry Novrosky, B Ops Unidentified Leon Nargoski, NCOIC This list represents the

Feature Article

A BS (Barely Substantiated) Tale!

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.

Charles H.(Chuck) Wallace, AFTAC 55-69 A Long Time Ago - Lowery AFB.

This is being submitted in the true spirit of a BS tale. I was sent to begin electronics' training and Tech school in Dec 1955, and actually began school in early 1956. One of my classmates was a fellow by the name of William Michael **White** or William Fletcher White, he never seemed clear on which to use, as his military ID said W.M.W, while his driver's license said W.F.W. Whitey was looking for a car to buy, but could not find one that he could afford.

After several weeks, Whitey came to class (we were on swing shift) all excited, he had found a car that he could afford. However, he had to act quickly as the owner was leaving the country. The next night Whitey was a little late to class, but he was in high spirits. He had his car, it was a Crosley "Hotshot" (for you youngsters, the Hotshot was a very tiny car built in the early 50's). He had parked it in the nearest parking lot to the base, because it was too late to register the car and get a base sticker. We finished class that night, and went back to the barracks to hit the sack.

About 2 am, somebody flashed a flashlight in my eyes and told me to get up to help Whitey move his car. I told him in no uncertain terms that Whitey could move his own car, and rolled over to go back to sleep. He then rolled me back over and allowed me to see his white armband before asking me to help Whitey move his car again. Without further hesitation, some others and I got dressed and followed the AP's out to their truck and got in the back as ordered.

We arrived at the parking lot where Whitey had parked the Hotshot, however it was not to be seen. The AP-OD told us to get out of the truck and follow him. He lead us over to a building clearly marked BOQ, and opened the door. There sitting halfway down the hallway in all of its red glory was Whitey's Crosley Hotshot.

We cracked up until the AP-OD told us to knock it off. The guy just had no sense of humor. He had Whitey get in the car, and the rest of us care-

fully pushed it out and down the steps, we had so little clearance through that doorway, it was unbelievable.

The first question the AP-OD asked Whitey was if he knew how his car had gotten into the BOQ. Whitey sealed his fate when he responded that some officers must have gotten drunk and carried it in there. The AP-OD told us to get into the back of the truck and told Whitey to follow him back to APHQ. As we pulled out, another AP truck passed us going the other way and Whitey pulled out and followed the wrong truck. The AP-OD turned us around and we chased down Whitey, with the AP-OD screaming all the way. The AP's dropped us off at the barracks and we went back to bed. The AP's had Whitey all night, with problems like his middle name being Michael or Fletcher, and there was a problem with the paperwork in that the paperwork was completed by the sellers Swedish maid, who spoke almost no English. In the morning, Whitey came home with a parking ticket. It was a night to remember.

Where are ya?!!!

PREPARED FROM READER INPUTS. Where we attempt to get you to let us know "where ya are" and "what'cha been doin" - Forward these updates to us at 'chrisjohn@juno.com' or ATTN Updates column to the Alumni Address (see left column, page 2) - we will publish them in the next issue. Thanks for your help.

Bob Mason

A 'Catch-up' and a Tribute

When I retired from AFTAC in 1980, I went to Bechtel's Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant 2 Recovery Project. One of the first things I did was bring several former AFTAC personnel into responsible operational and technical positions in the project. As a result, there was a significant technical contribution to the first entries in the damaged reactor building, and later, the first decontamination and restoration activities of the Nuclear Unit 2 facilities. The former Air Force technical personnel contributions were invaluable in early stages of the project. This also provided the basis for important technology transfers from the development activities at the Three Mile Island Recovery Project, to most of the nation's commercial nuclear power plants. One new piece of equipment, which I feel, was based on Air Force technology, found its way into major cancer research and treatment.

Feature Article

After my tour with Bechtel National, Inc., I went to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory as one of the major division directors. Again, I brought the advanced technology and knowledgeable personnel into some of the major national R&D activities. In addition, as with the Three Mile Island Project, these technically astute personnel played an important part in developing the strategy, criteria, procedures, and cost estimates for decontamination and decommissioning a large number of the highly contaminated old Manhattan Project nuclear facilities.

Looking back at the contributions by former AFTAC personnel on some of the important national technical projects, I see the outstanding results of the technical guidance and operating philosophy infused into our people by Doyle **Northrup**, Gerard **Leies**, Walt **Singlevich**, Gary **Baetz**, Tom **Ciambrone**, Phil **Crotwell**, Larry **Coe**, and Herb **Dettmer** - to name a few.

My fifteen years in AFTAC was extremely rewarding and it introduced me to some of the finest people in the USAF. It also provided the basis for another twenty years of related service to the government and the nuclear industry. My best wishes to all the current AFTAC members and those retired personnel with whom I had the privilege of working beside over the years. What a great 'catch-up' - and your tribute to those who 'led the way' is meaningful and informative

A Family Affair

LRD Families ... over the years

Some families have served the mission over several generations. With this column we ask those families to share that history.

Jack and Curtis Miller '62-'75 and '76-'96

SUBMITTED BY CURTIS MILLER

I received the Sept Post-Monitor yesterday and your entry titled "Oh...By the Way" prompted me to finally write. The fact that the Monitor came yesterday, on the second anniversary of my Father's passing was beyond coincidence. My Father, H. Jack **Miller**

passed away on 1 Oct 1999 after a 2 1/2-year battle with small cell cancer. In his true fashion, he fought it while at the same time making light of it. He went through numerous rounds of chemotherapy and even a round of radiation to the brain when the cancer worked its way there. Although he was retired the second time from National City Corporation, he continued to work the entire time at a local service station he ran. He even made my mom and sister take him to work the day before he passed so he could make payroll.

He was in AFTAC from 1962-1975. He started out at TOD, then to an overseas location, and then finished up at the HQ in FL, where he retired. He was a true AFTAC'er, in spirit and dedication. That's why I consider myself very fortunate to be a part of the AFTAC family. I was able to share in both his personal and professional passions.

So here we go, I profess that my Father and I are the FIRST second-generation set of AFTACers or siblings for that matter. He retired Oct 75, I started in AFTAC in 76. I know there are others (Ben and Randy **Vlassick**, Frank and Tony **Calenda**, Curt and Mark **Smith**) but I believe we were the first. I challenge and welcome anyone to step forward and prove me wrong. OK, I'm actually real interested in all the others that may have shared in this fortunate life opportunity. An article as John and Chris **Horsch** suggest would be interesting.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank a couple other fellow AFTACers. Sam **Sorice**, my boss at SAIC at the time, for allowing me the leeway to spend as much time with my Father as possible while he was sick. Also Tom **Ciambrone**, a man my Father had the utmost respect for, for his encouraging phone call during my Father's rough time. This meant a lot to my Father, AFTAC'ers once again doing what they can for fellow AFTACers.

-- Curtis Miller, 1976-1996 Satellite Technique
