

POST-MONITOR

VOL 29 – ISSUE 03

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.AFTACAA.US](https://www.aftacaa.us)

2021-12



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 70
years of service to our
country September 16th

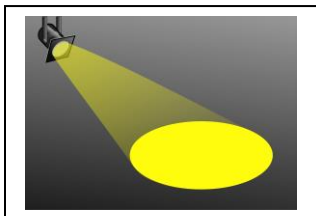
1947 – 2017

A 70TH COIN WAS ONLY AVAILABLE
TO ATTENDEES AT THE DINING OUT
HELD IN 2017



SPOTLIGHT

YOUR ELECTED OFFICERS



Phil Godfrey has stepped up to
serve as President for another
year. See Phil's FROM THE
TOP column on page 3.
Thanks, Phil, for serving during
these unusual times with
Teleconference meetings, etc.



Rob Christman has also agreed
to serve another year in his
current position – Vice
President. During this time
when it's difficult to get members
to attend meetings, it's especially
important to have continuity with
officers. Thanks, Rob for continuing as Vice President.



A familiar face in the
Association, Ed Lindsay has
stepped up to serve as
Secretary. As you probably
already know, Ed is a past-
President and is our number
one golf-arranger. Thanks,
Ed, for volunteering again.

(continued on page 3)

**** Sage ALERTS –WHAT'S COMING UP ****

MONTHLY MEETINGS -- NEW DATES

Generally on a **Friday at 11:30 am***. Most meetings
are currently being conducted as Tele-Conference
Meetings; if you would like to participate, please
contact AFTACAA President Phil Godfrey at
afsophil@gmail.com or call Phil at 321-446-8775.

Schedule of upcoming meetings* – place TBD.

21 January 2022 at Beef O'Brady – Wickham Rd

18 February 2022

18 March 2022

11 April 2022 *subject to change – see pg 3

2022 SNOWBALL – TENTATIVE PLANS

Plans are not yet complete, but tentatively it will be
held on **12 February at the Holiday Inn Hotel at**
Wickham Rd & I-95. Watch for updates on the Web
Site (www.aftacaa.us). If you have questions or
plan to attend, contact Sean Ryan at
oceanblueview@yahoo.com or 321-591-9053.

WORLDWIDE REUNION

SAVE THE DATES

18 – 22 MAY 2022

Plans are underway to hold the reunion at the
RADISSON RESORT AT THE PORT, CAPE
CANAVERAL, FL. More details will be shared on
the AFTACAA Web site (www.aftacaa.us) as plans
are finalized. To sign up for the latest information
alerts, contact Sean Ryan. See contact
information on page 3 under **"What's Coming Up."**

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NOTE: PoMo pictures, obituaries (& much more) are on the **website** at near real time (URL at banner above). Also, check the **Colorado and California websites** for more pictures, reports, and information. **URL** information shown on page 2.

ASSOCIATION Information *Deceased, (D)*

Honor Roll: Alumni Of The Year Recipients (25)

Ed Lindsay/2020-Bryce Dunn/2019-Pete Gilbert/2018-John Kemna/
2017-Carol Snyder/2016-Frank Calenda/2015-Sean Ryan/2014
Lonnie Gibbons/2013-Gene & Dee Melchior/2012-
Dale Klug/2011-Jack Smith (D)/2010-Jack Jackson (D)/2009-
Bob Wiley/2008-Bill Schmied/2007-Deborah Carson/2006-
Mike Black/2005-Joe Goldian(D)/2004-Pat Snyder/2003-
Joe Johnson/2002-Jim Payne (D)/2001 -Ben Vlassick (D)/2000-
John & Christel (D) Horsch/1999-Frank Hall/1998-
Judy Milam-Henderson/1997-Carl Gailey (D)/1996-
Clark Creery (D)/1995

AFTAC/Long Range Detection (LRD) Alumni Honorarium

Several ongoing projects represent and honor Center people and history. Three, 'Hall of Heritage' (data/artifacts), the '20-Year Wall of Service' (alumni who served the Center for 20+ years and have Mailed in their photos/bios) and the **Wall of Honor**, are housed at AFTAC Headquarters. Another is an **AFTAC display at the Grand Encampment, WY, Museum**.

Association History A group of retired/active duty AFTACers, by invitation from then CC, Col **Clapper**, met at Patrick AFB, FL, on March 12, 1985, and formed the **AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)** (chartered, 1986); from 2001-2014, we were renamed 'Long Range Detection' (LRD). Website, <http://sites.google.com/site/lrdalumniassnneedtoknownow/>

--The Association provides a forum for those wishing to maintain a relationship with the Center and its people, active-duty and retired. Membership is open to all who serve/served our mission in any organization associated with LRD (AFMSW-1, 1009th SWS, AFOAT-1, 1035th FAG, 1035th TOG, and AFTAC), and any field detachment. Of note, there are several Sages who recall an earlier effort to form an association in 1978.

There is this Association and two Chapters

1. Florida 'AFTAC Alumni Association': (application at the bottom of each page at www.aftacaa.us)-**Dues, \$10/FY** (dues due 15 September each year)/**\$75 for life**. Most monthly meetings are at 1600, 2nd Monday each month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC HQ (Bldg 10989), or other venue, at Patrick SFB, FL-details, see 'Sage Schedule' on page 22. Contact: Mike **Steskal**, steskal mike@gmail.com, mailing address is: **PO Box 254892, Patrick SFB, FL 32925-4892**. The Association has several communications resources, this triannual newsletter, '**Post-Monitor**' (namesake of prior active-duty publication, 'Monitor') & a multi-page Website, see banner on previous page, with assn/alumni news and photos-we provide a '**Breaking News**' service at the website and thru instant notification, what we term, '**eALLert**,' for time sensitive data at <http://groups.google.com/group/aftac-lrd>.

"PERENNIALS" *Deceased, (D)* (5+ years board service) Clark Creery (D)-Newsletter, 85/89-95, Pres 94/95, Webpage/Mbrshp, 01-10; Frank Hall, Pres/Vice 89-98/01; Judy Milam-Henderson, Sec 89-06, Pres 04; Eunice Harris (D), Hosp 89-00; Mary Welch (D), Mbrshp 91-99; Carl Gailey (D), Treas 91-99; Swede Swansen, Pub 93-06; John & Christel (D) Horsch, Newsletter since 96; Pat Snyder, 'Insider/Sage Shop' 96-2010, VP 04, Sec 05; Mike Black, Webmaster 96-15; Jim Payne (D), Mbrshp 99-04; Joe Goldian (D), Treas, 03-17; Randy Vlassick, Mbrshp 04-09; Sean Ryan, Sec, 06-15, Sec-17-current, Treas; Steve Revels, Sage Shop, 10-16; Pete Gilbert, Webmaster, since 15; Mike Steskal, Mbrshp, 16-Current; Carol Snyder, 'Insider,' 10-20.

2. Colorado Chapter: Formed Nov 1986, **\$5/year**, they publish a newsletter, 'Echoes', have several meetings and social events a year. See website at <http://www.aftacco.org> for additional information and email contacts.

3. California Chapter: Formed 1999, **\$10/year/\$75 lifetime**. For more, email, TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org-mail, Alumni Assn, PO Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974. The Chapter meets several times a year, publishes a newsletter, '**Depot Fallout**' and has a website, <http://www.aftacwcc.org/>

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

FROM THE HORSCH'S MOUTH



I've got to start, as I do so often, thanking Judy (Henderson) for continuing to be a partner as we 'do the PoMo!' Actually, I just stay out of her way. Many of you know I'm very good at that from Active-Duty Days!! I

ask for inputs, send a few ideas along, and the heavy lifting is the formatting. Judy relieved me of that duty a couple of years back ... she was going to format one issue and someone was magically going to come forward to carry this AFTACAA Resource forward. WE ARE STILL WAITING!!

--and worth mentioning, Judy is very active in her church and has had health challenges for the last several issues finding it challenging to keep up

--and myself not able to be near as active as before with my health challenges, COPD, and have moved some distance from the real AFTACAA Action

--Judy's super effort in keeping PoMo alive through it all inspires me to keep on helping

We'd really like someone with a foot in the past and the other foot in the near past. I have two people in mind. They are active on the Facebook pages, love AFTAC, and did much for AFTAC on Active-Duty ... and are very supportive of the Association. It helps if spouses also loved your duty and AFTAC to lend a hand. BTW, even better, they'd be a Dynamic Duo together, with one living in the area to keep the current pulse and the other very good at any technical requirements. The two of them could relieve both Judy and me with very little help.

We've got some fine articles that came in from our readers, Active-Duty articles thanks to Susan A. Romano, AFTAC/PA, and we find a lot on the several Facebook Webpages our great folks from the past are managing, articles too numerous to publish or even mention.

I want to thank the elected officers for continuing duties or for stepping forward to serve wherever

(continued – page 3)

Sage Communicators-Post-Monitor Editor John Horsch, **Formatting** Judy Henderson; **Information/Proofing:** Judy Henderson, Susan A Romano/GG12/AFTAC PA; **Executive Review:** Frank Hall; '**Rovin**' **Cameras/Reporters:** Judy Henderson, Bob Wiley, & Lou Seiler; **Printing/Mailing:** Mike Steskal, Sean Ryan, & Phil Godfrey; **Website Chairman/Media:** Ed Lindsay; **Webmaster:** Pete Gilbert

SPOTLIGHT – YOUR ELECTED OFFICERS (continued from Pg 1)



Sean Ryan has agreed to serve as Treasurer for another year, a position he has already held for many years. Thanks, Sean, for continuing in this position, especially this year when you are already so busy with the Worldwide Reunion coming up in May 2022.

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

– Elected at the September 2021 General Membership Meeting:

PHIL GODFREY
ROB CHRISTMAN
SECRETARY
TREASURER

– President
– Vice President
– Ed Lindsay
– Sean Ryan



APPOINTED POSITIONS:

Activities-**CMSgt Amy Long**, CCMS, Hall of Heritage-**Mike Young/CC HO**, **Bob Wiley/** Membership/Master Data Base-**Mike Steskel**
Post-Monitor Editor-**John Horsch**, Post Monitor Formatting & Information-**Judy Henderson**, Alumni of the Year Coordinator-**Bob Wiley**, Publicity/Social Functions-**Sean Ryan**, Sage Shop-**Ed Lindsay**,. Webmaster-**Pete Gilbert**, Website Chairman-**Ed Lindsay**, 20-Year Wall Coordinator-**Tony DeMarco**



EDITORIALLY SPEAKING – FROM THE HORSCH'ES MOUTH (continued from Pg 2)

needed. Ed (Lindsay) deserves special mention here as he is filling several gaps as we await others to volunteer ... as a past president he has continued to help; his primary duty is as Secretary but he's also handling the Sage Shop, Website Manager, and our semi-annual golfing. Thank you, Ed, I know you would also appreciate some relief from these duties.

I'll end on a positive note of praying you had a great celebration of whatever this time of year means to you and will have a very good 2022.



WHAT'S COMING UP (continued from Page 1 – right column)

MONTHLY MEETINGS – NEW DATES: As you can see, we are currently holding our monthly meetings on Fridays at 11:30 AM. Locations and dates may vary. It's suggested that you sign up to receive notifications of the meetings, check the Web site (www.aftacaa.us), or contact Phil Godfrey at afsophil@gmail.com or 321-446-8775 (cell) for the latest date and location.

WORLDWIDE REUNION **SAVE THE DATE NOTICE!**

2022 AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA) Worldwide Reunion (2022 WWR)
18 to 22 May 2022

Reunion Headquarters: Radisson Resort at the Port
8701 Astronaut Boulevard, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

FL AFTACAA Chair/POC: Sean P. Ryan

Email: oceanblueview@yahoo.com, Cell: 321-591-9053 (Unlisted).

FL AFTACAA Co-Chair/POC: Phil Godfrey

Email: afsophil@gmail.com, Cell: 321-446-8775 (Unlisted).

WATCH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



FROM THE TOP – MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ:

Greetings Fellow Alumni!

What a year! Pandemic going away, then back again, then going away, then coming back – I'm downright dizzy. Maybe it's because of the mask. Wait, I'm vaccinated – mask not required? Shucks, I don't know anymore. I'll put my mask on as I write this just to be safe. My wife says I should wear it all the time. Coal is going in her stocking this year!



Yes, 2021 was a doozy, but here's hoping 2022 will be much better. I sure can't wait to get back to the good ol' days of normalcy. This year's been really hard on Ed Lindsay – see, he's a big hugger. Just drives him crazy he can't hug whoever's in reach of his paws. Poor fella – we better give him something to do. And that's just what we did!

Ed Lindsay, our world-famous fellow Alumni graciously volunteered to be our new Alumni Association Secretary. And a big thanks and congratulations goes out to him. He's replacing another fine fella, Mr. Arlin Massey. Arlin was a wonderful Secretary and is an even better friend – he leaves big shoes to fill for Ed. Arlin plans to remain an active participant in the Association, and we will certainly need his sage advice and counsel.

This year has been tough on the AFTAC HQ as well, but the spirit of “get er’ done” was unabated. They have created a superb Heritage Room inside the building, replete with artifacts and displays from many of our longstanding missions. One may even be able to locate a frosty beer in the new bar and lounge area. The Heritage Room was designed to give AFTAC'ers a place to unwind after a long duty day while being immersed in the history of the AFTAC mission. It truly is a neat place, and us Alumni can visit when the HQ has special events such as Open Houses or other functions. Stay tuned to the Alumni website for your next opportunity.

Speaking of staying tuned, as we move into next year, we'll be gearing up for our 2022 Worldwide Reunion. We've been planning this for a while now, and our lead (Mr. Sean Ryan) is very busy creating an event you'll not want to miss! Stay tuned to the eALLs and the website for details, and we can't wait to see you there this Spring.

The AFTAC Memorial Corp. is still actively raising funds and is getting closer to the goal of having enough funds to actually break ground. However, they are not quite there yet. If you'd like to make a donation and help see this Memorial standing firm to honor our fallen AFTACers, you can find out more on the website. Please don't forget to check it out!

Finally, I want to wish you and your families a wonderful Holiday season. I say Merry Christmas and send warm salutations and best wishes to you as you celebrate. We made it. We're together, stronger and wiser. Maybe just a little older. But we remember those we lost this year, and we share the bonds of our time in a truly unique and special mission. The AFTAC mission.

Sincerely, Your Friend, Phil Godfrey



AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

2021 AFTAC OPEN HOUSE

By Ed Lindsay

On 3 December, HQ AFTAC held an Open House. They invited family members and Alumni to participate in the event. The theme was, “The Grinch stole AFTAC.” The Alumni had about 26 people who signed up to attend.

The day started off with a bonus. The highly anticipated opening of the Heritage Hall was conducted at 10am. Dr Mike Young has been working to make this facility a premier location to reflect the great history of AFTAC. It captures much of the atmosphere that many of us experienced at the multitude of Detachments around the world. It even is set up with a kitchen and a bar. The plaque from the old Kudu club from Det 423 is a part of the décor. It was a “by invite” only event and the Alumni were well represented. Past AFTAC Superintendents Larry Silhanek and Lloyd French were there, as were previous Alumni Presidents Bob Wiley, Frank Hall, Lou Seiler, and Ed Lindsay. Vice Commander, Richard Beckman, performed the ribbon cutting. There were refreshments. Some amazing relics were also highlighted in this wonderful area for AFTAC's history.

Another bonus was that the Chief select list had been released that morning. Chief selects Rachel Hammer and Jason Whisennand were honored.



AFTAC Vice Commander Colonel Richard Beckman - Opens the Heritage Hall



Left to right: Chiefs Manchee, Adam Dunn (9S), select Hammer, select Whisenand, Chad Madore (9S), Jordan Lloyd (9S), Ed Lindsay, Lloyd French, and Larry Silhanek

The unit had tours that were limited to 50 people, due to COVID protocol. Every 30 minutes a group was taken into the HQs to visit the Heritage Hall and the Operations floor. It was a short tour, but it was good to see how AFTAC is keeping the mission going.

While we waited for the tours, there were food trucks and the USO provided pizza, cake, and cookie decorating. There were also photos with Santa and the Grinch. There were some bounce houses for the kids and some games to play.

It was good to get back in the building and talk to those that are now executing the mission. We hope to be able to again visit the building and the Heritage Hall next May during the 2022 WorldWide Reunion.

AFTAC 91 YEARS OF PROUD 99 SERVICE

By Tony De Marco - 30 September 2021

With the end of September 2021 and with Test Ban Treaty both falling on the same day today, I figured now might be a good time to put up a little AFTAC unique 99 Career History. The four 99s captured in the 99 Career Summary below had a combined 91 Years of Proud 99 Career Service with AFTAC supporting its many critical Mission Areas. This combined AFTAC Service included 26 Det/OL Assignments, 6 Depot Assignments, 8 HQ AFTAC Assignments, 1 AFIC Assignment, and over 230+ TDYs supporting the Command over their four unique Careers. The TDYs would range from 1 – 2 Days to multiple weeks, and included new Technique Installations, Site Training, critical MDATs dealing with SOC & SNFE conditions (Mostly OCONUS), MMTRs, Det 057 Training Conferences, FOL Site visits, and several special factory schools. The most challenging trips were without question the Special Collection TDYs where they had to deal with various Site Hosts and Antenna Systems. Personally, I have known Larry now for some 50 Years since our time stationed down in Fiji, George for some 43 Years when we first met over at Trip 3 when I was TDY, and Rick for some 42 Years when we first met at the “J” Technique Class #1 down here in Palm Bay in 1979. Following AFTAC Retirement, Larry went on to work as a Contractor in the AFTAC HQ, George headed out to Iowa and worked for local electronics companies, and Rick and I went on to work together at Harris Corp on several Programs for many more years before final Retirement. For me personally, it was a most rewarding AFTAC Career getting to serve with, work with, travel with, and finally to be able to tip a few cool ones with, these three Outstanding SNCOs. One final comment and then I will sign off.... It is also very important in my mind to recognize all of our spouses and families for their total support over all these years especially during our many TDYs, when we were separated and sometimes out of contact for long periods of time. Without our families support, we would not have had the AFTAC Careers we had.....Enough said.... See the following:



AFTAC - 91 Years of Proud 99 Service

(continued on pg 7)

AFTAC 91 YEARS OF PROUD 99 SERVICE											
	AFTAC CAREER YEARS	AFTAC TECHNIQUE TRAINING (FORMAL & OJT)	AFTAC DET CHIEF TRAINING	AFTAC DET/OL CHIEF ASSIGNMENTS	AFTAC DET ASSIGNMENTS	AFTAC DEPOT ASSIGNMENTS	AFTAC HQ ASSIGNMENTS	AFTAC HQ COMMAND SUPER	AFTAC HQ WOH INDUCTEE	HQ AFIC ASSIGNMENTS	AFTAC & AFIC COMMAND TDYS
CMSgt Larry Silhanek	26	"Q"; "U"; "I"; "J"; "CsDs"; "AFMS"	JUL 84	Det 401 Det 415	Det 441 Det 433 Det 412 Det 401 Det 452	DEPOT/LGEQ DEPOT/LGEJ DEPOT/LGMMB	HQ/TX HQ/LGM HQ/CCS	1996 - 1999	2020	N/A	90+
SMSgt Tony De Marco	23	"Q"; "U"; "I"; "J"; "CsDs"; "AFMS"; "ASDS"	APR 86	N/A	DET 412 DET 441 DET 377	DEPOT/LGEQ DEPOT/LGQ	HQ/TXO	N/A	2021	N/A	65 +
SMSgt George Cronin	21	"I"; "H"; "Q"; "B"; "J"; "CsDs"; "AFMS"; "ASDS"; "MIDAS"	APR 86	DET 370 OL EB	DET 220 DET 125 DET 359 DET 370 (Q) DET 333 DET 315 DET 370 (J)	N/A	HQ/TGP HQ/LGL HQ/TAO HQ/TXR	N/A	N/A	N/A	61
SMSgt Rick Manley	21	"B"; "O"; "J"; "CsDs"; "AFMS"	JUL 86	OL EA OL EC	DET 202/460 DET 372 DET 422 DET 315	DEPOT/LGEJ	N/A	N/A	N/A	HQ AFIC/LGM	18

FALL 2021 GOLF N'GET TOGETHER

By Ed Lindsay

After 2 Looooong years, we were finally able to have our highly popular AFTAC Alumni golf tourney. The event was held on 15 October, with a 1300hrs Shotgun start. It was looking to be a beautiful day and we had a large field of 26 teams that had signed up to join in the festivities. The day started early with the packing of the goody bags with some yummy snacks and water. Frank and Edna Calenda, Dennis Kauffmann, and Lt. Cynthia Schroll quickly completed the task and it was time to wait for the teams to show up. Frank Hall, Eileen Best, and Jan Lambert joined in to help with the registration. Bob Wiley took great photos



Jan Lambert, Dennis Kauffman, Edna Calenda, Frank Hall



Retired Vice Commander Ralph Bordner signs up

There were 2 teams that withdrew the day before and two teams didn't show up at all. Two of the other teams only had 2 players each, so with some creative manipulation, Ed Lindsay realigned the players to make a field of 21 teams and 85 players. The horn sounded and players headed to their holes. Hits were made and curses were uttered. Good times.

It was a fun day and there were some great shots made and I am sure many tasty shots taken. Everyone got a door prize and there was a nice BBQ Buffet awaiting our golfers. Then the awards were given. Results were:

1st Place...Score of 50..Robert McLaughlin, Andy McLaughlin, Cristobal Del Solar , Brian Hoyback

2nd Place..Score of 52..Rene Uzee, Chris Uzee, Greg Ramsey, Jason Uzee

3rd Place...Score of 55..Larry Olson, Kirk Hosler, Lin Stones, Carey McLaughlin,

Women's Long Drive...Andy McLaughlin

Men's Long Drive...Tony Calenda

(continued on pg 8)

Closest to the Pin...Kirk Hosler, Kim Melton, Chris Uzee, Greg Ramsey

Sponsors were KEGMAN INC, SCIS, Cornerstone Financial, Fiesta Azteca in Suntree, Beef O'Brady's on Lake Washington and Suntree/Viera, and Charlie & Jake in Suntree.

Thank you to all that helped and participated. It is always good to get together with longtime friends and make some new ones. Next get together will most likely be an abbreviated event at the 2022 WorldWide Reunion.



1st Place McLaughlin, McLaughlin, Del Solar, Hoyback



2nd Place Uzee, Uzee, Ramsey



3rd Place Stones, Olson, McLaughlin, Hosler



Closest to the Pin Kim Melton



Men's Long Drive Tony Calenda



Women's Long Drive Andy McLaughlin

[Editors note: Don't you just love how Ed jumps into all the pictures. 😊]

GUEST COLUMNIST – FLORIDA TODAY

Bob Chadwick, one of our Alumni members, was the Guest Columnist in the FLORIDA TODAY newspaper on Veterans Day, with his article **WAR CEMETERIES ATTEST TO LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES**

It's Veterans Day morning, a time for a few reflections on the day and the events around it. Here is one of mine, for what it's worth.

In 1993 I was sent to Germany by Harris Corporation (my employer at that time) to work on some equipment one of our customers had deployed there. I was fortunate enough to be sent to a small town on the French border, in early summer. It was a very pleasant place, full of friendly people, very much like my hometown in New Hampshire. The countryside was physically much like home, too.

There was still a lot of daylight left after dinner, and the TV was all in German (I am not a German speaker beyond 'guten tag,' 'bitte' and 'danke schön'), so I fell into the habit of walking and driving around the countryside after dinner. There were many small villages nestled in the hills.

I noticed that each village had a small cemetery and most had small war memorials. Once again, this was very much like what I remembered from my hometown, and many other towns in the USA that I'd visited. Occasionally I would stop and look inside the cemeteries. Very frequently I would see a gravestone with a legend something like this: Born 5 June 1923, Died 3 Dec 1943, Russia. Or looking at a village war memorial, I'd see a set of five or six men's names, all the same last names, obviously a father and sons, or brothers.

After taking note of this, I got to thinking, 'Here I am in a town very much like my hometown, populated by people very much like my relatives. And in the same war that my uncles and many of my parents' friends were fighting, these men, the same sort of people, young men with plans, hopes and dreams the same as ours, were fighting and dying in the same manner.' The only difference was, these guys were on the 'other side.'

There is no difference between these two groups of young men on opposite sides of the war whose names are now on gravestones and war memorials. They all were young men with wives, kids, girlfriends, and mothers. They all had dreams and plans. They were all fighting to further a cause that they were told was just and fair and worth their lives. The correctness of what they were told is subject for more debate and emotion. I will not get into that here; a private soldier in anyone's army has a limited set of options, but he sure as hell is going to get his blood spilled in support of his nation's beliefs. Those German lads were fighting and dying ugly deaths in defense of the beliefs of their country in the same manner as our American uncles, fathers and grandfathers were fighting for theirs. It is the world's good fortune that the Germans lost, but that does not lessen the heartbreaking loss of the lives of young men on both sides.

That's my story for this Veterans Day.

I will add one further thought, something that has sat in the back of my mind ever since I first had it brought to my attention -- Have you ever noticed that the old men that decree that we must fight wars, and who direct action that gets us painted into that corner, and who order our young men to their deaths, are never the ones who have children who are going into harm's way?

Bob Chadwick is a retired USAF senior non-commissioned officer and retired Harris engineer. He has been a resident of Palm Bay for the past 34 years.

SPACE COAST HONOR FLIGHT

As reported in FLORIDA TODAY newspaper

As Space Coast Honor Flight recently prepared to begin their journey to take veterans to Washington DC to tour the WWII, Korean, Vietnam Memorials, the AF Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and other locations, they took time to have a moment of silence in memory of John Nederhoed, CMSgt USAF (Ret) who was the Director of Programs for Honor Flight. John's Obituary was posted in the April 2021 POST MONITOR.



INACTIVATION CEREMONY OF USNS INVINCIBLE

Reported in FLORIDA TODAY Newspaper

The Air Force Technical Applications Center, in conjunction with Military Sealift Command, held an inactivation ceremony of USNS Invincible on Wednesday at the U.S. Army Transportation Wharf at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.



Christopher Thayer, director of maritime operations with Military Sealift Command, was one of two keynote speakers.



Col. Katharine Branson, commander of the Air Force Technical Applications Center, was one of two keynote speakers.



FACEBOOK ALERTS and OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

UNLESS YOUR MILITARY ID HAS EXPIRED, YOU DON'T NEED A NEW CARD -- Pentagon Officials Say

[Posted by Susan A Romano, AFTAC PA, on the AFTAC Alumni of the World Unite Facebook page]

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/10/14/unless-your-military-id-has-expired-you-dont-need-new-card-pentagon-officials-say.html?fbclid=IwAR3puKnQGfJIWweegbNoyMMY7xXnwphs6YMaYFcQwFJq7qIFp6KvRTeLbo4>

WEB SITES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST:

VETERANS AND MILITARY SPOUSES HAVE ACCESS TO FREE TECH TRAINING

(continued on pg 11)

https://start.amu.apus.edu/military-degrees/veterans?gclid=EAlaIqObChMI2Ybu8aSK9QIVRxTUAR3wVwQMEAAAYASAAEgLITPD_BwE

AFTAC WALL OF HONOR INDUCTION CEREMONY – May 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DeKHHi4yMc>

VA BENEFITS GUIDE

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/bulletins/2f74ad3>

VETERANS DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND

https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/?utm_source=VRfeature&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources

AFTAC MISSION BRIEFING

From John Horsch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6v-KCnRfC8>

ENCAMPMENT WYOMING – DET 142

[Link provided by Bill Schmied]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzmAZr5gfjE>

16th AIR FORCE – AFTAC

<https://www.16af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC/>

DISABILITY CLAIMS:

VA began processing disability claims on August 2 for **asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis** on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas – if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

VA conducted the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA's evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence. The process concluded that particulate matter pollution is associated with chronic asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning August 2, 1990, to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning September 19, 2001, to the present. VA's review also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to presume that these Veterans have been exposed to particulate matter.

To see the full article on this issue, go to: <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/92772/va-to-start-processing-disability-claims-for-certain-conditions-related-to-particulate-matter/>

US SPY PLANES OVER SOUTH CHINA SEA LIKELY SURVEYED NUCLEAR FALLOUT OF SUB COLLISION, observers say

[Reported on Facebook by George Cronin on 2 November 2021]

The WC-135 Constant Phoenix, which detects radioactive debris, was among five US reconnaissance planes in the South China Sea, satellite photos show. The flyovers came weeks after the USS Connecticut nuclear attack submarine was involved in an underwater collision in the area. US special-purpose aircraft the Constant Phoenix may have been in the South China Sea region to examine radioactive material, military experts said, after a Beijing-based think tank cited satellite images to report five American reconnaissance planes operating in the area at the weekend.

(continued on pg 12)

This comes a month after a US Navy nuclear submarine hit an unidentified object while submerged in international waters in the South China Sea, prompting China to express serious concerns about a “nuclear leak.”

The primary mission for the Boeing WC-135 Constant Phoenix, nicknamed “nuke sniffer,” is collecting atmospheric samples to detect and identify radioactive debris from nuclear explosions.

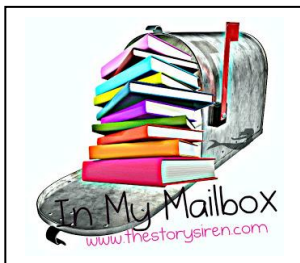
See article at: https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3154476/us-spy-planes-over-south-china-sea-likely-surveyed-nuclear?fbclid=IwAR11GuvE9FDD5JOI0RVxXxtn5ooqeyxzBnhnUTW_Qekyob5V_NPqbLwWU

BIKINI ATOLL -- Celebrating "Operation Crossroads"



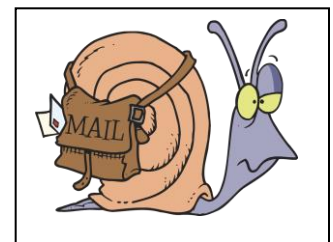
This photograph features United States Navy Admiral William Henry Purnell Blandy, Admiral Blandy's wife, and Rear Admiral George M. Lowry celebrating "Operation Crossroads", a series of tests for the atomic bomb that took place at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean during 1946. On the back of the photo is written: 3264. Associated Press Photo from Washington. Caution: Use Credit. "Admiral Cuts 'Atomic' Cake. Vice. Adm. W. H. P. Blandy (left), commander of the Bikini Atom Bomb Tests, cuts an angel food cake in the mushroom shape of an atomic explosion at a reception at the Officer's Club of the Army War College, Washington, D.C., Nov. 5. With him are Mrs. Blandy and Rear Adm. F. J. Lowry. The Rev. A. Powell Davies, Washington pastor, called the pictured "utterly loathsome" in his sermon for Nov. 10.

Historical Note: The Rev. A. Powell Davies and others, including reporters in the Soviet Union, used this image to support their argument that the United States had a callous and flippant attitude toward use of nuclear weapons after World War II. In the summer of 1946, after World War II had ended, a Joint Army Navy task force conducted the largest American nuclear weapon tests at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Known as Operation Crossroads, the purpose of these tests was to determine how effective nuclear bombs would be against navy ships. Two tests, known as ABLE and BAKER were conducted. Navy Vice Admiral William H.P. Blandy led the operation. Ninety-five decommissioned ships were present and live animals were placed on these ships to determine how the bombs would impact living creatures. They were the first tests publicly announced and observed by an audience, which included a large press contingent. Operations Crossroads ended on August 10, 1946, due to concerns about radiation. However, the United States would go on to test nuclear weapons in the Marshall Islands until 1958.



MAIL CALL

Any requests for action should be sent to
AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)
P.O. Box 254892
Patrick Space Force Base, FL 32925-4892



Missives requesting no action may be mailed/mailed to the editor, 'chrisjohn2@gmail.com .' Those may be edited for clarity and space but not normally for punctuation, wording, etc; opinions are those of the writer(s) and may not reflect Association belief or policy.

CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM AFTACAA MEMBER FRANK SZACHTA:

Following is a portion of a letter received from Frank Szachta, providing his new address, with an additional note by his children:

(continued on pg 13)

I pray you are all peaceful, & Happy this lovely Christmas 2021 Season....

Love to all,
Frank Szachta

NEW Address:
5408 S Broadway St
Suite: 567 C
St Louis MO 63111

*Love to all
Frank Szachta*

From Franks children:

We are all very pleased and happy to have Frank: our dad, our hero, close to home again. Frank is quite spry and active as he continues his path at 91 years (so far!) from the Midwest!

We all want to thank all those who have kept Frank in your prayers, and those friends: Jeanette & Bill Jenkins, and Bill Halls: who have been God sent Angels that have watched over him these past few years. We are all so grateful for your continued friendship and look forward to seeing you all again soon!

We all hope this letter finds you and your families well.

If you are able, please send a card to Frank – even if its after the holiday – he loves hanging his cards through out his home. It will also allow us to update the address book to include those contact that are still correct! Many thanks!

Happy Holidays to all!

AIR FORCE VET GEREMY SATCHER PUTTING IN THE WORK TO FULFILL NFL DREAMS

[Susan A. Romano posted on the AFTAC Alumni of the World Unite page. 'Great feature about one of AFTAC's current members!']

See the Full Article at: <https://www.muscleandfitness.com/athletes-celebrities/interviews/air-force-veteran-geremy-satcher-path-to-the-nfl-page-sep-sitename/>

His road to one day being a pro running back has been anything but conventional.

By Chris Cason

MUSCLE AND FITNESS



The NFL is filled with unique stories on how each player reached the plateau of competing on the biggest stage in the sport. For many, those stories usually follow the traditional transition of Pop Warner, high school, D-1 college before they are drafted, but for Air Force Staff Sgt. Geremy Satcher, his story is one of those that would be unlike any other. Today, as a U.S. Air Force veteran, Satcher is a meteorologist and data analyst at the Air Force Technical Applications Center. But growing up in Blanchard, LA, his passion was sports, all types, but football especially.

Through the service's WEAR (We Are All Recruits Program), which Satcher describes as a blessing, he was allowed to go train and get up to speed with his technique and conditioning. In working as his own agent, he has already

gotten on the radar of a few NFL teams this year. In his own words, he explains what led him to pursue this unconventional journey and how it's only a matter of when and not if he achieves his goal.

Of interest was this additional remark by a previous AFTACer, Rob Wilkins (see article about Rob in the August POST MONITOR), "As the Senior Military Editor for Muscle & Fitness and having served at AFTAC for nearly 12 years, it's my pleasure to feature Geremy on www.muscleandfitness.com! Good luck pursuing your NFL dream, G! I'm proud to have served in AFTAC with such amazing people...some still there! 😊"

CHANGES COMING TO TRICARE'S PHARMACY NETWORK

[Reported by Sean Ryan, 22 October 2021]

Sharing the word. Changes to TRICARE prescriptions process. Walmart is out, CVS is back in, MTF always in. If one clicks on the TRICARE link, an abundance of information appears.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/10/20/walmart-out-cvs-changes-coming-tricare-pharmacy-network.html?fbclid=IwAR3pVX16Oq1Nt9xbtaeDp3zzQmvA6l9vdEZf29XqTph1s2hxZ8cWaEbxP9w>



OBITUARIES



BRIAN KEITH BROWN

22 August 1963 – 25 November 2021



Brian "The Dawg" Brown of Las Vegas, NV, passed away. Brian was born in Warren, Ohio. In May of 1971 he moved to Seminole, Florida, and graduated Seminole High School in 1981, while working at Kash-N-Karry where he met Cindy.

In September of 1982 Brian started his lifelong career in the USAF. Brian and Cindy wed in August of 1983 and moved to England AFB in Alexandria, Louisiana. Shortly thereafter, Brian was stationed at Lindsey AFB in Wiesbaden, Germany. In 1987 they moved back to Florida. Several years later the USAF moved Brian and his family to Las Vegas, Nevada, where he resided for the remainder of his life. Over the course of Brian's career in the USAF he was deployed to Germany (1983-1987), Saudi Arabia (1993 & 1999), South Korea (1995-1996) and Djibouti (2006). After 24 years of service, Brian retired from the United States Air Force as a Master Sergeant, however he continued serving as a civil servant in the USAF.

Brian is survived by his wife Cindy Brown, his two children, Heather and Robert (Danielle) Brown, his mother, Wanda Watson, his three brothers, Tim (Christine) Watson, Todd Watson and Mike (Leela) Watson, and nieces and nephews.

Full Obituary at <https://everloved.com/life-of/brian-keith-brown/obituary/>

YUKO OYAIU CARSON

Died – 1 August 2021

(Contacted by Bob Fitzgerald, CA Member, and Webmaster -- passing along an email from Glen Carson.)

"My wife Yuko Oyaizu Carson died on August 1st, 2021. Glen and Yuko were married 51 years. Yuko died of Interstitial lung disease, peacefully in her sleep. She was 77 years old."

DAVID OLIVER GULLIVER

September 17, 1970 – September 12, 2021

It is with profound sadness and a heavy heart that I share with you the news that [David Gulliver](#), former AFTAC'er of Tech Ops Division, passed away today (09.12) after battling illness in Orlando, FL. He is survived by his wife, Kirsten Gulliver.

[Posted on 99105 Facebook Messenger by D. Pfaff]



MONROE CLAYTON "HARV" HARVEY

October 26, 1937 - November 27, 2021

Monroe Clayton "Harv" Harvey of Lander, Wyoming, died at Wyoming Medical Center in Casper, Wyoming, following a valiant battle against cancer.

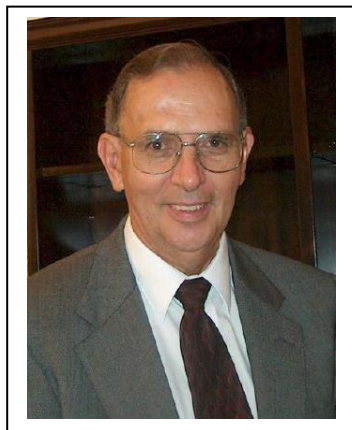
Harv was born in Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, and resided there through his childhood years. He spent many hours with his grandfather learning auto mechanics and discussing good citizenship, honest living and doing a good day's work.

After high school he enlisted in the US Air Force and had several tours overseas. While stationed in Douglas, Wyoming, he met his wife Kay (Leeper) Harvey. After a short courtship eloped and spent the next 63 years together. After serving our country for twelve years, he attained his Bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming and started his career as a mathematics teacher at Starret Jr. High in Lander, Wyoming. During the summer months he worked for the United States Postal Service (USPS) and later decided to stop teaching and work for the USPS full time.

He is survived by his wife Kay Harvey, daughter Colleen Krause (Perry Bell) of CO, a grandson, and great grandchildren.

Full Obituary at https://www.hudsonsfuneralhome.com/obituary/monroe-harvey?fbclid=IwAR30NvBqraS45xxwoNBBUUVODb-q0b0EeeH-2k3wYlaEpM5ngWeLQbDt_1A

[Posted on 'AFTAC Alumni ...' FB Page by Stephanie Solari Spurlock, with a note: "Delbë & Mickie Solari's dear friend Monroe Clayton "Harv" Harvey passed away on Saturday, November 27, 2021. He was an AFTACer in the late 1950s into the 1960s and spent time in Wyoming, Korea, the Philippines, and Virginia. His widow, Kay Leeper Harvey, asked that I share the news on this page."]



JOE DONALD MARSHALL

March 2, 1938 – October 16, 2021

Joe Donald Marshall was born in Bokchito, Oklahoma, and moved to Texas at the age of 6 months, and considered himself a Texan. He died in Merritt Island, Florida. Joe is survived by his wife of 62 years, Gail Crump Marshall, children Annette Green (Richard), Daniel Marshall (Chris), Suzanna Hargraves (Richard) and grandchildren.

Joe graduated from Austin College and received his master's degree from the Florida State University. After working for General Dynamics and Radiation Research Associates in Fort Worth, Texas, he began a 27-year Civil Service career with the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) at Patrick Air

Force Base. He completed his AFTAC career as the Chief of the Atmospheric and Space Division and as Chief Space Scientist.

Full Obituary at: <https://www.beckman-williamson.com/obituary/Joe-Marshall>

GAYLA PLATT

Died June 2021

Gayla Platt passed away in June 2021. Gayla was the spouse of Richard "Dick" Platt whose obituary was posted in the POST MONITOR in August 2020.

[Posted on Facebook 99105 page by Geno Wagner, passing along information received from Ginny Gibbons (wife of Lonnie Gibbons)]

BARRY SEAGRAVES

(Obituary posted in August 2021 POST MONITOR

- Follow-Up from Linda Seegraves

George Cronin passed along some personal information provided by John Vaught who was the point man talking to Barry's wife as they are good friends since Det 315.

Linda added, with permission to share,

"We both caught COVID but after a week he was way worse and went in the hospital on 7 August. I'm over COVID now. He seemed to be getting a little better but then just plummeted on Tues & Wed. I got to spend the last 14 hours by his side but he was only lucid and able to talk to me for the first few hours. But it was precious to be with him and hold his hand, pray over him, talk to him, sing to him. He was a most precious husband and although I know I will be okay I will miss him with all my heart."



TARYN DOROTHY BROWN SILLS

Age 62

Taryn Dorothy Brown Sills went home to our Lord Jesus on Friday, September 10, 2021, in Melbourne, Florida. Although Terri suffered from the effects of Multiple Sclerosis for nearly 42 of those years, its physically disabling effects never crushed her spirit. Through countless cycles of relapses, hospitalizations, and partial recoveries, Terri lived her life with uncommon courage and boundless love for God, her family, friends, and especially young children. Terri's brave

determination to overcome her disability was an inspiration to everyone, whether they knew her well or only briefly.

From the mid-1990's, Terri devoted much of her time and energy to the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) program, which became her life's work. Countless children and families have been blessed through these programs, both directly and indirectly by Terri's faithfulness to God's call. Terri remained actively involved in Ascension Catholic Church's CGS program even after she became bedridden at home. Terri is survived by her husband Larry, daughter Andrea Martin (Craig), son Tyler Anderson (Megan), and three granddaughters.

[NOTE: Sean Ryan added a personal note -- Terri and I used to chat on Facebook often, and at many events while working in the old building, AFTAC Picnics, or Winter Socials. I/We had some good laughs and attended some great events thru the years with Michelle and Colonel Sills. Colonel Sills and Terri, along with other directorate members, were there 24/7 for Michelle, when I deployed to Iraq for 14 months also. May Terri RIP.]

Full Obituary at: <https://beachfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/227876/Taryn-Sills/obituary.html#tribute-start>

BECKY JEANNE STACK

Died August 31, 2021 – Age 68

Passed along, with permission, from Facebook Posting by Robert Stake.

"Beck Jeanne passed today (31 August) at 1400. Thanks to all for the loving thoughts and prayers for my lady!"



MICHAEL HENRY WONNER

June 12, 1942 – August 24, 2021

Michael H. Wonner was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He grew up in North Olmsted, Ohio, and graduated from Bowling Green State University, Ohio, in 1964. He was then commissioned into the USAF as a 2nd Lt. He served in many states and countries during his 26½ years of service, retiring as a Colonel in 1991, to Bluewater Bay, FL. He moved to Green Valley, AZ, in 2007.

God, country, and family and friends were most important to him. Mike was always his happiest when he could make
(continued on pg 17)

someone smile or laugh with him. He will long be remembered and forever loved. He is survived by his beloved wife, Virginia L. Wonner, his two daughters, Tracy L. Lane (Mark) and Renee M. Castro (Mike); four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

[Eric Young Larson shared information on the AFTAC Alumni Facebook post: Col Michael H. Wonner was the commander at The Technical Operations Division, McClellan Air Force Base, CA, during the construction and move to the new TOD building among other milestones. Some will remember the Dining Out video shown after the building dedication with tributes to TOD by Bob Hope, Paul Harvey, and Lee Greenwood among others.]

Full Obituary available at https://www.evergreenmortuary-cemetery.com/obituaries/Michael-Wonner/?fbclid=IwAR24vATAyp83-OxKsgG61FRuO11q04VyBaOkAEx4JPjJyr7Tadpw9vZx_RA#/Obituary



RICHARD LEE "Rick" WOODCOCK, JR.

September 10, 1942 – December 2, 2021

Alerted by Jim Robbins posting on 'AFTAC Alumni ... ' Facebook page,' 11.09: Received word that Rick Woodcock passed away December 2. He was 79 years old. Rick was a 99125B/Z in the 1960's. Trained at Lowry and served at an overseas detachment in the mid-60's. He finished his service in 1967 after completing a tour at AFTAC, Alexandria. Thought some of you may remember Rick. He was a good friend and a good guy.

Richard Lee "Rick" Woodcock Jr., age 79, of Southport, North Carolina, passed away on Thursday, December 2, 2021. After serving in the USAF from 1960 to 1967, he began his civilian career in information technology with IBM, retiring from Oracle as a Vice President of Global Networking in 1999. Survivors include his wife, Judi Woodcock; four children, Alan Woodcock and wife Lesley, Deborah Pedigo and husband Kenny, Jill Weinberg and husband Steve, and Susanne Cox and husband Gary; seven grandchildren; two step-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Full Obituary at: richard-woodcock-southport-nc-obituary.jpg

For additional information, see our Web site – <https://www.aftacaa.us>



A FEW MINUTES FROM THE MINUTES

This column will help you stay up-to-date on issues that are not covered in other places in the POST MONITOR

Membership Chair, Mike Steskal reported that there are 578 Florida chapter members. He also reported that there are 143 West Coast and 84 Colorado chapter members; some of those may be members of multiple chapters.

AFTAC Memorial Corporation (AFTACMC) Memorial for Line of Duty Deceased AFTAC'ers has a new 100% complete design with a new contractor that can build the memorial at more reasonable cost. AFTACMC is preparing presentations for the AFTAC/CC and Base entities. Again, no commitments have been made, nor could they be until such time they have all necessary funds. AFTACMC currently has approximately \$50,000 in donations. Phone calls are forthcoming to further get the word out. To date AFTACMC has only sold 30 4x4 bricks and 10 8x8 bricks.

Tony DeMarco has continued to update and refine the careers and other details on some of those individuals who are on the 20 Year Wall. If you know of someone who qualifies, and is not on the wall, let Tony know so he can follow up with them.

Judy Henderson reported that she was still looking for someone to take over POST MONITOR duties.



CHAPTER NEWS

DEPOT FALLOUT

~ The www.AFTACWCC.org website has been updated to close out the just completed FALL SOCIAL & ELECTION event, to announce the results of the ELECTION OF OFFICERS, to publish two photos, and to update our Email distribution lists.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 14 March 2022, 7:00 pm Quarterly Business Mtg
At the Lion's Gate Restaurant (Officers Club) at McClellan Park
Non-Officers: Contact WCC Webmaster if interested in attending & watch here for updates.
- 21 May 2022, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm – Sign up by early April 2022
WCC SPRING PICNIC & BBQ “Armed Forces Day” – Tempo Park, 13201 Fair Oaks Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA
- 13 June 2022, 7 pm – Quarterly Business Meeting
At the Lion's Gate Restaurant (Officers Club) at McClellan Park
Non-Officers: Contact WCC Webmaster if interested in attending & watch here for updates.

2021 – 2023 WCC Officers & Appointees:

Chairman Of The Board of Directors: Charlie Penn
President: Allan Pentecost
Vice President: Bob Fitzgerald
Treasurer: John “Butch” Kemna
Secretary: Bob Baker
Assistant Secretary: Ken Breitwieser

Membership Chair: Allan Pentecost
Assistant Membership Chair: Dale Klug
Depot Fallout Editor: *(Vacant)*
Webmaster: Bob Fitzgerald
Publications & Distribution: Allan Pentecost



WCC Fall Social
13 November 2021

ECHOES

– News from the AFTAC Alumni Colorado Chapter – www.aftacco.org

New Officers Needed! President Bryce Dunn and Vice President Darrel Kline have served the Colorado Chapter for many years. They are ready to pass the torch to new leaders. Please consider volunteering to take these offices. You may contact any of the Staff listed to the left of this request to accept the challenge. We will have the election at the February 2022 breakfast.

UPCOMING EVENTS -- **Colorado Alumni Breakfast - 19 February 2022**

All AFTAC & LRD Alumni, Active Duty, Civilians, Family and Friends, are invited to attend our General Membership Breakfast on Saturday, 19 February 2022. Breakfast will be served at 0900.

Location: Aurora Hills Golf Course, Tin Cup Banquet Room, 50 S. Peoria St. Aurora, CO 80012

The menu is the Tin Cup buffet which includes: eggs, potatoes, bacon, sausage, biscuits & gravy, toast, green chili, fruit, juice and coffee.

We need RSVPs to our Hostess by 10 February to ensure we have enough food.

- Reply to this original email (from EchoesPublisher@aftacco.org)
- Call our new Treasurer, Maureen Hampson, at 303-695-0477 (leave a message)
- or Email maureen.hampson@comcast.net

Cost is \$20, Active Duty Military \$15 and Children age 10 and under Free.

(continued on pg 19)

Payment will be collected at the breakfast – please make checks out to Maureen Hampson.
We are looking for nominations for President, Vice-President and Secretary for paid members to vote on after the breakfast. Looking forward to seeing you there.



MONITOR

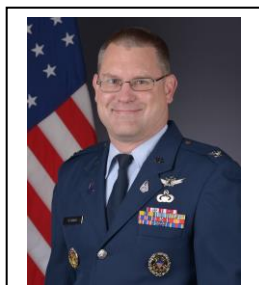
ing Active Duty Doins' from around the AFTAC World
Command Section



Commander/CC/2020. Col Katharine Branson

Col Branson assumed command of the Air Force Technical Applications Center on 30 June 2020. Col Branson, a career intelligence officer, comes to AFTAC after serving as commander of the National Air and Space Intelligence Center's Space, Missiles and Forces Intelligence Group at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. She served as Senior Duty Officer in the White House Situation Room from July 2011 to June 2013.

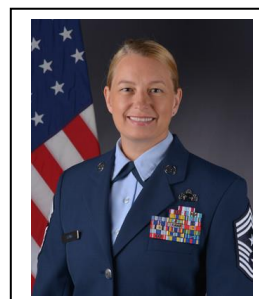
[Full Bio available at <https://www.16af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC/>]



Vice Commander/CV/2021. Col Richard R Beckman

Col Beckman is the Vice Commander of AFTAC, Patrick Space Force Base, FL. His career includes multiple assignments spanning the full intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance acquisition life cycle from research and development to sustainment. Colonel Beckman transferred from the U.S. Air Force and was sworn into the U.S. Space Force as AFTAC's first Guardian vice commander in the center's history.

[Full Bio at <https://www.16af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC/>]



Chief Master Sergeant Amy L. Long is the **Command Chief** for AFTAC, Patrick SFB, FL, where she advises the AFTAC wing commander on matters concerning the readiness, utilization, training, morale and welfare of the 1,000-member center and its 14 detachments around the globe who support AFTAC's international treaty monitoring activities. AFTAC operates and maintains the US Atomic Energy Detection System to monitor foreign compliance with various treaties limiting nuclear testing. AFTAC is also the designated US labor system that provides technical support to the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency.

Long entered the AF in Sep 1994. She graduated from the Defense Language Institute as an Arabic Cryptologic Linguist in Mar 1996. Her background includes various duties in intelligence operations, joint service and training. Throughout her career, she has served in myriad positions including National Security Agency Functional Manager, Counterterrorism Senior Enlisted Representative, as well as Squadron and Group Superintendent. She has deployed in support of Operation New Dawn and completed overseas tours in Korea and Hawaii.

[Full bio at <https://www.16af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC/>]



REPORTS FROM WITHIN THE HQ BUILDING

(Most of the following extracts can be read in their entirety at AFTAC Alumni Website: www.aftacaa.us)

AFTAC GETS FIRST-EVER SPACE FORCE VICE COMMANDER

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs / Published August 30, 2021



Col. Katharine G. Barber (left), commander of the Air Force Technical Applications Center at Patrick Space Force Base, Fla., administers the oath of office to Col. Richard R. Beckman to induct him into the U.S. Space Force. Beckman is AFTAC's first vice commander to serve as a member of the newest branch of the Department of Defense. (U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew S. Jurgens)*

**Now Branson*

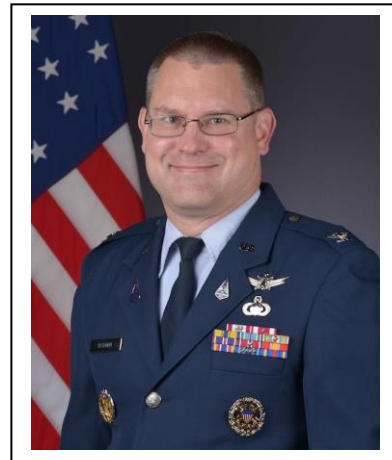
PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, Fla. -- For the first time in its history, AFTAC has a Space Force colonel as the vice commander.

Col. Richard R. Beckman took the oath of office Aug. 20, officially swearing him into the U.S. Space Force at a ceremony held at the nuclear treaty monitoring center here.

The colonel arrived at Patrick SFB in July and waited until August to transfer from one branch to another after receiving full Senate confirmation to do so.

His decision to become a Space Force Guardian wasn't made in a vacuum. After conferring with his professional mentors and his wife and children, he applied for transfer on the very last day of eligibility. "It was not a decision I took lightly, and I wanted to make sure my wife and children were comfortable that this was the right move for our family."

At first, his wife was puzzled by the process. "Melanie couldn't understand why I would resign my Air Force commission at 20-plus years to join a new branch of the military, but upon further reflection and conversation, she agreed that this opportunity was merely an extension of what I have been doing for the Air Force for the majority of my career."



Col. Richard R. Beckman

Beckman received his commission in 1999 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Tulane University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. Immediately after graduation, he was accepted into the Air Force Institute of Technology's Distance Learning Program (also at Tulane) to continue his education. Within two years, he completed his master's and doctorate degrees in Electrical Engineering, with an emphasis on positioning, navigation and timing systems for autonomous underwater surveillance systems.

In 2001, he entered active duty as a Navigation Warfare Technology program manager at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Ohio. For the next several years, he served in multiple assignments spanning the full intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance acquisition life cycle from research and development to sustainment. He has been a research and lead test engineer, branch chief, program manager, element monitor, and materiel leader. This is his first command position.

As the organization's vice commander, Beckman is responsible for supporting the wing commander's vision and priorities, and ensuring the workforce has the training and tools needed to safely and successfully accomplish their global mission. Additionally, the vice assists with leading, managing and developing AFTAC's 1,000+ team of active duty Airmen, civilian personnel and defense contractors.

AFTAC's newest Guardian has made a career of making sure grass doesn't grow under his feet. In addition to being professionally published more than a dozen times, Beckman also holds two U.S. patents – one for an underwater vessel positioning system and another for localizing of submerged tow vehicles.

"I've had an incredible career to date, and this latest chapter allows me to align my future goals with my 22 years of experience so I can help mentor, develop and grow the force as we begin to treat space as a warfighting domain," Beckman said. "I hope I can bring a unique perspective to AFTAC and open the door for new partnerships and opportunities to enhance our mission capabilities for the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Space Force."

He added, "I am honored to have been selected to help lead the immensely talented and skilled workforce here at AFTAC and I look forward to being part of this team over the next two years."

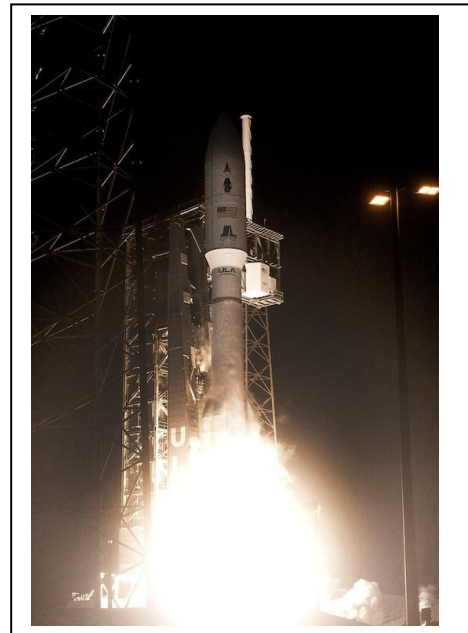
FLORIDA NUKE EXPERTS WITNESS PAYLOAD LAUNCH INTO ORBIT

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs / Published December 08, 2021

CAPE CANAVERAL SPACE FORCE STATION, Fla. -- Scientists and engineers from the Air Force Technical Applications Center had the rare opportunity to see the realization of their work aboard the Department of Defense's Space Test Program Satellite 6, or STPSat-6, and witness the fruits of their labor hurtle into the atmosphere from Space Launch Complex-41 at 5:19 a.m., Dec. 7 aboard an Atlas V rocket.

The spacecraft will deploy two U.S. Space Force technology demonstration satellites into a geosynchronous orbit more than 22,000 miles above the earth that will be used to advance warfighting capabilities in the areas of nuclear detonation detection, space domain awareness, and communication.

Several weeks before the rocket blasted off from Cape Canaveral on a foggy Florida morning, select members of the nuclear treaty monitoring center were invited to tour Astrotech's Titusville, Fla., facilities as the final tests and evaluations were performed on the \$1 billion multi-use satellite. The lead contractor, Northrup Grumman, has been working on this project for the past six years in partnership with Astrotech and the U.S. Space Force's Space Systems Command.



As this multi-organizational team worked toward mission accomplishment, each had a specific role to play. Astrotech provided launch preparations facilities and related services for the spacecraft prior to launch. Northrup Grumman's space systems and strategic deterrence expertise enabled the development and acquisition of the satellite. SSC was responsible for on-orbit check out and testing, as well as early sustainment and maintenance of STPSat-6.

The satellite first arrived at Astrotech's Central Florida facility May 6 after being safely transported by Northrop Grumman from their space headquarters in Dulles, Va., where the vehicle was built and tested prior to the final steps in spacecraft processing: functional testing, fueling and integration with the launch vehicle.

Once the functional testing was completed, the payload slowly lumbered its way via flatbed from Astrotech's facility to the vehicle inspection facility at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. This stage of the process marked the start of final spacecraft processing, which included launch site functional testing, fueling, and integrating the Long Duration Propulsive ESPA-1 (Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle Secondary Payload Adapter) rideshare spacecraft with the powerful Atlas V launch vehicle.

AFTAC is the premier customer for STPSat-6. The primary operational payload is the Space and Atmospheric Burst Reporting System, better known as SABRS, which is designed to complement nuclear detonation detectors aboard GPS spacecraft.

In support of the U.S. Nuclear Detection System, the space-based payload will help AFTAC and its mission partners monitor global nuclear detonations from more than 20,000 miles above the earth. AFTAC, in partnership with Los Alamos National Laboratory, uses data from the on-board technology to detect nuclear explosions in the atmosphere and in space.

"Essentially, STPSat-6 will advance our warfighting capabilities by delivering operational nuclear detonation detection capabilities in the space domain," said Dave Merker, director of AFTAC's Systems Development Directorate. "This launch is significant for AFTAC as we continually look for ways to expand our space access to deliver critical 'nudet' data to our national decision makers."

(continued on pg 22)

During AFTAC's visit to the Titusville facility, Brian Gore, senior program manager for Northrup Grumman and systems lead on STPSat-6, explained why this satellite is so important.

"This is historic – not just for one reason, but for nine reasons," he said. "There are nine different payloads with nine unique missions on the satellite from a cross-section of U.S. government stakeholders: the Air Force, the Navy, NASA, LANL, National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Energy, just to name a few. It's also historic because this is the largest spacecraft we can fit into our chamber here, which gives everyone involved a sense of pride knowing they're part of something so monumental."

The satellite and its host technologies weigh in at about 6,000 pounds – relatively light for having several payloads aboard – but much of the technology being deployed is compact and lightweight, which makes it even more advantageous to house multiple missions on a single satellite.

Parveen Kapoor, flight chief of Atmosphere and Space Operations at AFTAC's 23rd Analysis Squadron, has been heavily involved with STPSat-6 since as early as 2016.

"For the past five years, I've worked to secure advocacy and funding from senior policy makers and took every opportunity to stress the importance of the program," she said. "Whenever key leaders visited AFTAC, I would seize every opportunity to explain how vital this program is to national security. It's been a long road, and I wasn't sure I'd ever get to witness it being deployed into orbit, but what a sigh of relief it was to see it launch!"

She added, "It's almost like watching your child grow from infancy to adulthood, and seeing them finally graduate! I wasn't the only 'parent' of this child, however; there was an entire team who made it possible, and I know each of them had a lot of emotions going on as the rocket lifted off – lots of joy, immense pride, and a huge sense of satisfaction knowing we were part of something so important to the defense of our nation. I'm so grateful to have played a role in it."

For full article and additional pictures, see:

<https://www.16af.af.mil/News/Article/2865437/florida-nuke-experts-witness-payload-launch-into-orbit/>

AFTAC BOOSTERS CLUB NEWS:

Contact info - David Olsen, MSgt, USAF, AFTAC, TMXS/MXN, Flight Chief, 321-494-1412 - david.olsen.5@us.af.mil

- Events (preliminary) -- Spring Picnic: No date has been set but it will be at Viera Regional Park. Date: (March/April TBD)

- Fundraisers -- Daytona 500: This normally is the biggest fundraiser of the year as long as we get the volunteers to support it and the funds go to the spring picnic. (Feb)

- AFTAC Swag: The Boosters Club has AFTAC Coins (\$10), Patches (\$5) and Polo's (\$30). Polo's are in very limited quantities with Large being the biggest size currently available. We are looking to make a new coin purchase relatively soon. We have discussed buying more polo's, selling T-Shirts, or adding other items like Mugs, Baseball caps and the like but no decisions have been made yet.

- AFTAC LETTERS FROM THE OLD BUILDING: Do you remember the old AFTAC building that was the icon of PAFB since mid-1950s? It stood for nearly 70 years before being demolished in 2015. Lucky for us we kept some momentos. The name of AFTAC can never be demolished, literally. AFTAC Booster Club currently has 28 of the original 35 letters spelling out "Air Force Technical Applications Center". These metal letters braved many storms and tribulations and are now available to purchase. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to benefit the AFTAC airmen and their families serving today. Visit the AFTAC Alumni Website for more information!" (I didn't get the photos of the letters yet but I confirmed that we have 28 out of 35 letters).



RETIREE & DEPENDENTS ID CARDS EXPIRING 31 JANUARY 2022

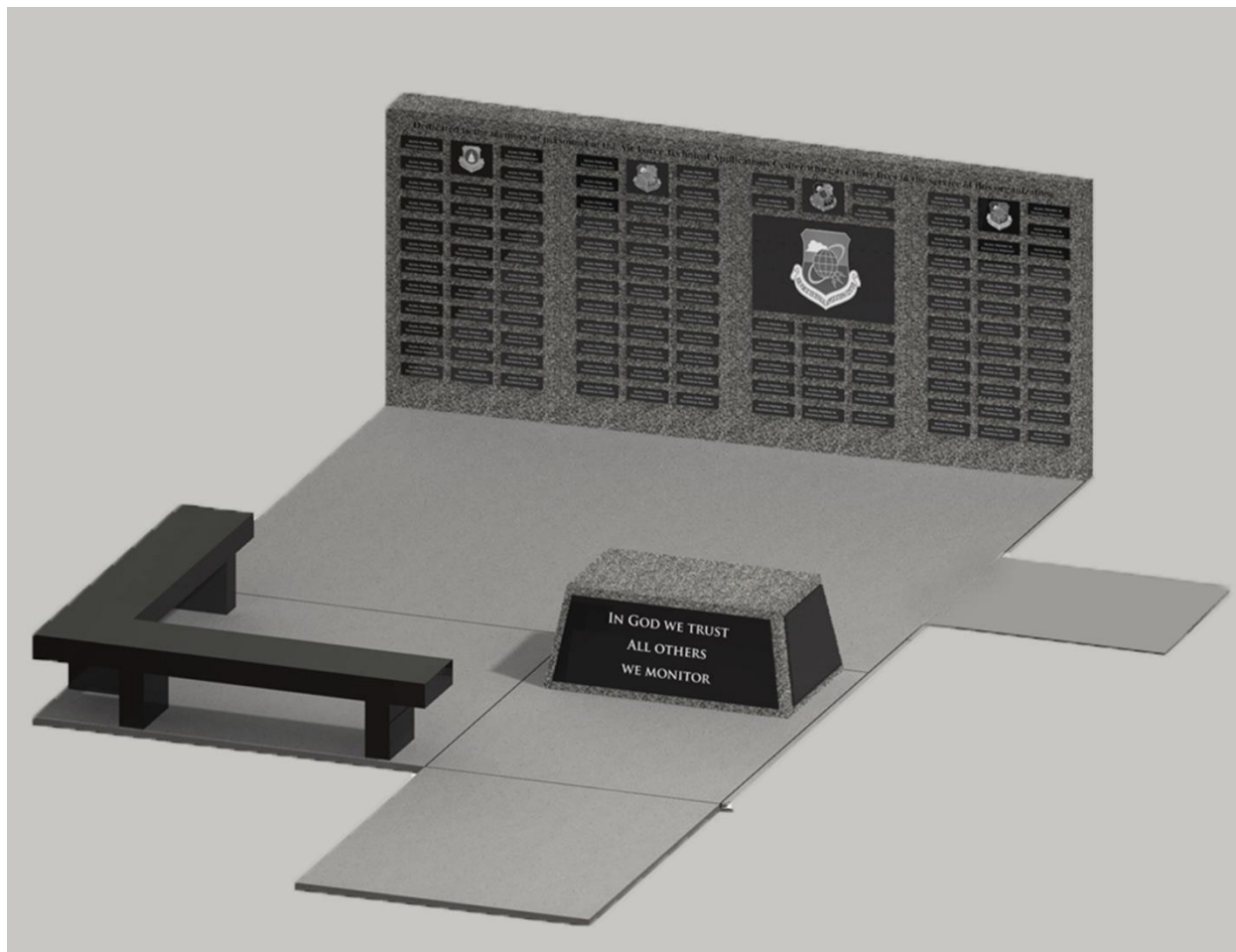
Posted on Facebook by Susan Romano, AFTAC/PA

The Patrick SFB ID Card Office will offer a walk-in service to provide ID renewals that are affected during the following timeframe. In response to COVID 19, the DoD has extended retiree and dependent ID cards expired during the timeframe of (1 Jan 20 to 31 Jul 21) to 31 Jan 22. The walk-in service is for 19 Jan, 25, 26, & 27 Jan 2022, during the hours of 0800-1400. Your Sponsor must be present during the appointment, and all renewals must bring two original valid identification.



AFTAC MEMORIAL

"This memorial is dedicated to all those who have given their lives in support of the Long Range Detection mission, and the Air Force Technical Applications Center. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten."



With all cost estimates in for the construction and installation of the memorial, we are currently more than half way there with \$53,000 in the building fund, but we need a final \$40,000 more to be able to sign contracts for completion of the project. Once the contracts are signed, the memorial is scheduled to be completed within 6 months of contract sign.

For all of those who have contributed to date, a hearty thank you! For those yet to contribute, please consider how you can help to honor your comrades who have passed while serving the AFTAC mission.

You can make a straight donation of cash or purchase a brick for the walkway. Every donation helps, no matter the size. A little amount by a large number can get us there. Thanks for your consideration.

A direct donation by check made out to "AFTAC Memorial Corporation," and mailed to:

**AFTAC Memorial Corporation
P.O. Box 372012
Satellite Beach, FL 32937**

A brick may be ordered through the web site: <https://brickmarkersusa.com/donors/aftacmc.html>



*******SAGE SCHEDULE*******

MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED –

See the www.aftacaa.us web page for latest information.

1. WindDowns-(normally sponsored by the active-duty force) are scheduled for **1st Fridays** at 1530 taking place to the west of the HQ building. **MOST ACTIVITIES ARE ON HOLD**

2. Alumni Assn Board/Membership Meetings-normally-2nd Mondays at 1600 just inside the HQ Building, #10989.

Park across the street and the meeting will be in conference room just to the left as you enter the front entrance lobby.

Currently, most of these meetings are Tele-Conference meetings. See Page 1 for information to participate. ????

a. If a **Federal Holiday**, the meeting will be the next day.

b. **Quarterly**-meetings during the last month of a quarter (Mar/ Jun/Sep/Dec) may be a luncheon, or a dinner, and at the venues noted below. **NOTE:** Sites/Times will be determined at the preceding meeting and announced via eALLert and posted at the association website. Other Patrick dining venues (Tides, Golf Clubhouse, Marina, Dining Facility) and off-base sites may be considered for any meeting.

Active-Duty & Alumni are invited to all events.

Before coming verify date/time/venue at the Website and/or with Sean Ryan at oceanblueview@yahoo.com

See page 1 for current list – check

www.aftacaa.us for latest updates

January 2022

Friday, 21th, 1600 – Membership Mtg - Teleconference

[check Calendar of Events at www.aftacaa.us]

February 2022

Friday, 18th, 1600 –Membership Meeting – Teleconference

LATE February – Snowball – Date and Place TBD

[check Calendar of Events at www.aftacaa.us]

March 2022

Friday, 18th, 1130 – Luncheon Membership Mtg - TBD

[check Calendar of Events at www.aftacaa.us]

April 2022

Friday, 18th, 1600 – Membership Meeting

[check Calendar of Events at www.aftacaa.us]

Event Plans and Timeframes—for planning only—dates may vary – many events on hold because of the Pandemic

A. January-April (months may vary)

1. SnowBall -- Projected for February/Locale TBD

2. Center Annual Awards Banquet – no plans at this time

B. May-August (months may vary)

1. Nominating Board (ex-prez+2) selects slate for publication

2. Annual Association Spring Golf N'Getogether

C. September-December (months may vary)

1. Friday in Sep, Annual Board, General Membership & Elections Meeting; **Alumni of the Year (AOY) Selection Committee** (prior AOYs) meet following the annual meeting.

2. **Oct or Nov**, Annual Association Fall Golf N-Getogether

3. 15 Sep, **Alumni Assn ANNUAL FY DUES Due and \$10 fee for paper copy of PoMo Due**

--AFTAC WORLDWIDE REUNIONS: Normally scheduled every other year. Hosting rotates between the association and the two chapters. Last host – CO-2019.06; CA-2017.06, FL-2015.05.

Next Reunion The 2022 Reunion will be hosted by the Florida Association – **18-22 May – watch for further information**

SAGE SHOP – OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Mail orders to:

AFTAC Alumni Assn, ATTN: Sage Shop

P.O. Box 254892,

Patrick Space Force Base, FL, 32925-0892

SAGE CONTACT: Ed Lindsay

Piston_horse@hotmail.com

321-507-7193

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Embroidered DriFit Polo (*no pocket*) \$25; Available in Royal Blue, Black, Red

New DriFit Long-sleeve T-shirt (SPF 50 UV protection)

\$18- Royal Blue, Navy, Red

New DriFit Short-sleeve T-shirt (SPF 50 UV protection)

\$15- Royal Blue, Navy, Red

[Note: New DriFit t-shirts use a modern thermal transfer process, producing high quality images that are proven to last, and be washed/ dried with your other laundry.]

COINS & PINS

AFTAC Alumni Association Coin: \$10

AFTAC Alumni Association Pin: \$3

AFTAC Logo/ Shield Pin: \$3

60th LRD Commemorative Coin: \$5

CLEARANCE ITEMS

T-SHIRTS-50/50 blend -Assorted Colors, –\$5

WINDBREAKERS-w/ stowable hood -Royal Blue – \$10

Golf/Polo Shirts – Screen printed logo - Assorted Colors

\$10 - 50/50 (cotton/ polyester) moisture wicking w/

pocket - or - DriFit Fabric w/ or w/o pocket

Contact Sage Shop to verify inventory prior to ordering ANY clearance Items

FUTURE ITEMS

We are currently exploring new merchandise options (Hats, Sweaters, Jackets, etc...)

SHIPPING: Add \$8.00 for shipping/handling of 1 Item & \$2 for each additional. (**no shipping cost for Logo pins**). A link to additional information and photos of these items is available at <https://www.aftacaa.us> — enter the Sage Shop

SAGE SHOP MERCHANDISE FROM OTHERS

AC SEO Airborne Coin - SrA TJ Benscoter - 402-232-

1917/Theodore.benscoter@us.af.mil or SrA Chris Hayes,

402-232-9182/Christopher.hayes.13@us.af.mil

Det 45 has minted a commemorative coin. Contact the CO Chapter Treasurer, 'Bilschmied@aol.com,' for info/purchase.

