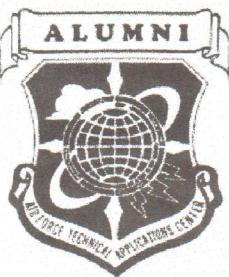


POST-MONITOR

Volume 5 Issue 4

Special Commemorative Issue for 50th Celebration December 1997



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 AFTAC's
SAGES

A Sage Spotlight on The New Board

submitted by the editors

Elected at the General Meeting on 10 Oct., 1997, the following board members will serve you for the coming year. Most of these names are familiar having served in previous years (as noted). We do welcome aboard one brave new soul as our Vice.

Frank Hall, PRESIDENT - returning after having "retired" from the post two years ago (during which **Tom Niquette** served so well). Frank previously served as President in '89 & '90 and as Vice all but one year from '91 - '96; a "perennial" as we like to call our board members serving over five years.

Welcome back Frank

Dave Johnson, VICE-PRESIDENT. Dave has taken on additional responsibilities with the association as he also serves as our co-webmeister and Post-Monitor technical advisor.

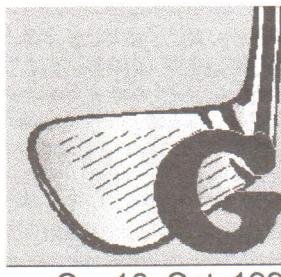
Welcome Aboard, Dave, go for "perennial"

Judy Milam, SECRETARY. Judy has been with the association since '89, and its secretary since that time. She is almost a "double perennial." She is also, what we call, an "insider" (i.e., still on active duty and in the AFTAC building on a daily basis).

Carl Gailey, TREASURER. Carl has served in this position since he learned that it had a checkbook, 1992. He is the newest "perennial."

Board members accepting appointments were **Mary Welch, MEMBERSHIP**, "insider" and "perennial," serving since '91; **CMSgt Ken Myers, ACTIVITIES**, our first active-duty enlisted-board member and our newest "insider"; and, last but not least, **Swede Swansen, PUBLICITY** (who's working on becoming a "perennial").

THANK YOU ALL FOR ALL YOU DO



**Alumni, and supporters,
"Rode the Range" again**
(submitted by Frank Hall)

GOLF.

On 10 Oct 1997, at 1300 hours the bell was sounded and 144 avid golfer made their way to their respective holes to kick off the Fall golf classic which is held in conjunction with the Annual Membership Meeting. It was a super day to hit the white ball all over the course and when it was over everyone was still with us. Not a soul was lost on the course or in the woods. Additionally, no snakes were spotted. However, a few people ventured into the brush looking for lost balls.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the day, and the membership meeting that followed the nice meal that the Baytree course catered for all attendees. Everyone was a winner in this tournament. However, prizes were garnered by the following people.

1st Place: Kevin Parrish, Charles Banta, Dewey Strickland, and Frank Macchio

2nd Place: Matt Audo, Steve Scott, John Francey, and Luis Padilla

3rd Place: Scott Kenter, Jody Rogers, Pete Martinez, and Danny Smith

Closest to the Pin: (Golf Shirts) #2, Alan Holcombe; #4, Jim Owen; #12, Kevin Pease and #17, Tom Crawford

Longest Drive: #5, Angie Rodriguez, (Gift Certificate at Airport Hilton) and #16, Walt Stampley, (Golf Shirt)

Hole-in-one: No winner

MULLIGAN PRIZES/DONATORS/WINNERS:

Umbrella, CTI - George Spaeth

Putter, Chris Niquette - Tim Baxter

CTI Mug/Golf Balls - John Caban (pg. 3)

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Association was formed in March 1985 and chartered later that year. It was created to provide a forum for those who wish to maintain an ongoing connection with the organization and its people, both active-duty and retired. Membership is open to current and former employees of all organizations associated with Long Range Detection (LRD) (AFMSW-1, 1009th SWS, AFOAT-1, 1035th FAG, and AFTAC), and any subordinate field detachment.

Florida chapter

Membership dues are \$10 per year (based on FY, 1 Oct.-30 Sep.), payable in October, or \$75 for a lifetime membership. You're encouraged to attend the regularly scheduled monthly meetings beginning at 5:30pm on the second Monday of each month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC headquarters building (#989) at Patrick AFB., FL. For verification and information about the association, its meetings or membership, contact **Mary Welch** at (407) 494-6867 (daytime) (407) 259-0629 (evenings) or **Judy Milam** at (407) 494-3871 (daytime). Dues, membership applications, and other queries/information may be mailed to:

AFTAC Alumni Association
PO Box 254892
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892

The association publishes a quarterly (Mar., Jun., Sep., Dec.) newsletter, the "Post-Monitor," (taking its name from the AFTAC active-duty publication, the "Monitor") (staff information below) and has a Webpage with association and alumni information - "<http://www.csihq.com/aftacalumni>". Webmeisters are **Dave Johnson** and **Mike Black**

Colorado chapter

Membership dues are \$5 per year, payable in February; this chapter also publishes a newsletter, "Echoes," and meets several times a year. For additional information contact Bill Schmied, (303) 367-0625.

AFTAC and Alumni Honorarium

There are several permanent and ongoing projects representing and honoring AFTAC people and history. Two of these, the "Hall of Heritage" (with information and artifacts) and the Photos/Biographies of Alumni who served AFTAC for 20 or more years, are housed in the AFTAC Headquarters building; another is an AFTAC display at the Encampment Wyoming Museum.

FLORIDA MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

SPECIAL OFFER - Available to All Alumni - limited edition 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coins, \$3 (no shipping charges), Organizational designations and dates on one side with a mushroom cloud and current designation on the other side - get 'em while we got 'em!!!! See shopping center (page 19) to order - first come, first served

Dues Due? - check your address label - annual dues are paid in Oct. - if your membership is on a year-to-year basis, dues were due Oct first. We need you - RENEW

Your Newsletter Staff

Newsletter Editor(s): John and Chris Horsch
Information/Research/Proofing: Judy Milam and Mary Welch
Executive Review: Frank Hall
Technical Assistance: Dave Johnson
Roving Reporter(s): Clark and Ruth Creery
Publications: Carl Gailey and Swede Swansen

Straight from the Horsches' Mouth

"58-87

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

We begin this column by recognizing what a great event the anniversary/reunion celebration was - the active duty, sponsors of all events except the Alumni Mixer, and the alumni association, making sure "you" were represented, can be truly proud of "what they wrought." Thank you.

Second, we publically apologize (we have already done so personally) to LtGen. (Ret.) Clapper for listing him as MGen. (Ret.) in our last issue when we discussed the "Hall of Heritage"...we really did know better, especially since this was the commander who appointed "us" to the Senior Enlisted Advisor position in June 1985.

We begin this issue recognizing our "old/new" board (our "Spotlight" item) and a story covering the recent golf match. We then move on to "Reflections On a Reunion" with inputs from our "Rovin' Reporter," **Clark Creery**, and our perennial president (reelected again this year, congratulations), **Frank Hall**, to give their impressions of these events (and of course we had to write a few lines also). We keep our promise of last issue to run a complete article on the AFTAC display at the Encampment museum and an outstanding piece, "A Brief History of the Air Force" is also here - space prevented its inclusion last issue.

We also encourage you to order several "Commemorative Coins" - they are noted in our "Reminders," "Contents," and "Shopping Center" - we did and they look great. It's a notable way to mark, and remember, this event, whether you were able to attend any of the events or not. They sold well during the celebration and are a limited edition selling out quickly at this time.

And one of our Webmeisters, **Mike Black**, passes on that "Aviation Week & Space Technology" had AFTAC as a recent cover story and that "...they give a pretty good history of the organization and quotes from some of the oldtimers." We have since seen this and recommend it highly. The magazine (contains two additional AFTAC stories) can be ordered for \$5 by calling 212/512-2886 - ask for the 3 Nov. '97 issue.

We end wishing all of you the
BEST OF HOLIDAYS from the PO-MO Staff
and don't let this be your last issue - RENEW

continues from pg. 1

GOLF

Hogan Hat, **SAIC - Hal Baker**
Durango Certificate, Zeltek - Fred VanDyke
CTI Mug/Golf Balls - Ron Ducharme
Top Flight Golf Balls, Zeltek - Don Gilbert
CTI Mug/Golf Balls - Keith Lewis
Durango Gift Certificate, CTI - Steve Murray
CTI Mug/Golf Balls - Pappy Frakes
Golf Lesson, CTI - Barbara Heinbaugh
CTI Mug/Golf Balls - Bill Stringer
Golf Shirt, CTI - Mike Dgien
Hilton Gift Certificate, SAIC - Matt Audo
Hilton Certificate, SAIC - Jason Archambeau
CTI Mug/Golf Balls - Mike Cauldwell
Golf Shirt donated by CTI - Al Holcombe
Golf Shirt donated by SAIC - Gary Warfield
Outback Gift Certificate, SAIC - Guy Burns
Golf Shirt, CTI - Don Nelson
Hilton Gift Certificate, CTI - Tom Otteson
Outback Gift Certificate, SAIC - Sam Foell
Hilton Gift Certificate, CTI - Steve Hoffman
Outback Gift Certificate, SAIC - Gary Killian
Golf Bag, Boeing - Al Moy

GRAND PRIZE, CTI, \$200 GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM THE GOLF SHOP OF COCOA BEACH, WON BY SCOTT McENTYRE.

20 rounds of golf were donated by Baytree Golf Links. These were won by - **Paul Bell, Al Speice, Cole Panning, Joe Marshall, Bob Wiley, Erick Hildreth, Don Nelson, Jack Jackson, Ron Couch, and Rick Black**

A special thanks to **CTI** and **SAIC** for the donation of the golf balls that were used for the Mulligan tickets.

A golf tournament of this magnitude requires the help of many people to pull it off. **Carl Gailey, Tom Niquette, Jack Bond, Barbara Heinbaugh, Jimmie Heinbaugh, Beverly Hall, Ron Couch, Mary Welch, Judy Milam, and John Horsch** were the key players that made it happen. If anyone was not mentioned it was an oversight and I asked forgiveness. Thanks for a job well done!

Looking forward to another Golf event in the April/May timeframe. See you there!

Reflections on a Reunion

submitted by the editors

Why do we do this? What of us makes some of us want to get together periodically to reacquaint/remind ourselves of our past-where we've been? Is it to relive/embellish previous glories? to see if we've aged better than some? or is it just to get together with some people we used to work with, laugh with, cry with and grow with-and see how they've gotten along without us? Is it because our past was a map for where we are now, and if we are appreciative of where we are some appreciation is due to what was?

I suspect it's all of these in various amounts with a heavy dose of the latter. It was great that there was an event that would result in so many great people having a reason to come together and say howdy to each other, and get caught up on each other's lives, lives that were, at one time, so intertwined and interdependent as we "did our duty" for a great country with a great organization.

We've asked a couple of those people, our rovin' reporter, **Clark Creery** and our major-arranger, **Frank Hall**, to provide a couple of words about the various events. But, before we hear from them, we thought it fitting to start these reflections with the following item -

Old Airmen's Request and Challenge

submitted by CMSgt Larry Silhanek, Superintendent, AFTAC

During our 50th Anniversary Celebration, a small meeting occurred between two Airman of the Year (AOY)--one from 1964 and one from 1997. CMSgt (Ret) **Leon (Ski) Nargoski** won AOY back in 1964 and received a \$100 saving bond. He has never cashed it in; presently he estimates that it is probably worth about \$600. He plans to cash it in 2004 (40 year maturity), at which time he will pay the taxes.

His wish was to present half the value of the bond to the present AFTAC AOY during the 50th Anniversary/97 Reunion. The 1997 AOY is SrA **Eric Raymond**, a Component Maintenance Technician, RI9S200 at Technical Operations Division, McClellan AFB, CA. We

specially invited SrA Raymond to attend the 50th Anniversary and following the ceremony on 15 Sep, the two AOY met at the Enlisted Beach Club at Patrick AFB along with AFTAC's Superintendent, CMSgt Larry D. Silhanek. There Ski presented Eric with \$300. The only stipulation - that Eric in 30 years pass on this tradition to the 2027 AOY. They shook hands and enjoyed a long conversation, probably covering what had changed over the last 30 plus years.

Also, CMSgt Ski Nargoski challenges other retired Chiefs' and Senior NCOs' to pass on similar contributions to our young airmen. He states that we need today's young force--their vigilance and service are necessary to safeguard our country and they don't get the recognition they deserve.

A BIG "Sage Shake" to SKI NARGOSKI an Alumni Accomplisher



We'll now turn the pen over to **Frank and Clark**, we'll start chronologically with Clark's input on the hospitality room and mixer (on Sunday, Sept. 14th, 1997):

50 years...

What a time to remember!

600 months, who knows how many days and the microseconds can be calculated.

I had the good fortune to be asked to host the 'Hospitality Room' on Saturday at our LRDS reunion. I knew that Carl Gailey had things under control, but I arrived early anyhow. After all, registration had to be finalized. I found a parking spot at the *Radisson at the Cape* (not an easy task with all of the attendees taking the good spots). A sign in the main lobby pointed to the USAF registration

for the Reunion. I followed the signs....sort of reminded me of the days in the Corps....follow the signs, stand in line, and say 'yes sir' or 'yes ma'm. In my case, it was a very welcomed "yes ma'm" - Bev Hall was in charge of A through C and she readily found my package. I must say, I was overly surprised at the contents. Those of you who will receive a copy of "The Creation, Development, and Operation of the United States Atomic Energy Detection System" I'm sure will agree! My T-shirt even fit. editors note - association members are being mailed a copy, see separate story this issue ("Membership Reports")

For those behind the scenes that worked so hard to make this an event to remember, I thank you. I know first hand just how much work it takes to make it a success. I must report that everyone was more than impressed. Thank you folks, both Active and Retired!

At my age, I usually do not skip, but I asked where in god's name was the Nassau Room and the fellow at the desk informed me that it was located directly behind the bar (likely AFTAC location). No luck, the only thing I could find behind the bar was the Men's Room! Another skip back to the registration room where Carl had appeared and immediately proceeded to chew me out for being 45 minutes early. He led me by the hand to the Nassau Room. Here I believed that I would be tasked with carrying ice, setting tables, moving chairs, folding napkins, and bagging trash cans (my most adept talent). Not on your life, he had prepared the room and all I had to do was follow the directions. Here is the ice, here is the beer, here are the setups, only let out a few peanuts, keep' em served, call me if you have problems.....That is Carl! I consider him my mentor and one of these days, I will learn just how to do this stuff.

Room was empty - "Was I at the right reunion?" Soon, the door sprung open and in waltzed four guys from the California contingent. I certainly hope that they appreciated the service, because Carl had located the Bud at the bottom of the cooler.....Those four gents started the trek of AFTAC folks into the

room. At one point, I asked when the dancing girls were going to arrive and four of the ladies announced: "We are here!" I do not remember much of the rest of my tour, because I was busy popping tops, opening cans, and making sure that our Alumni were treated with the best service. We designated the room, Detachment 003! My relief was a welcome sight.

That evening at the mixer was much better. We arrived right on the stroke of 1900 - (for those of you who have been retired for eons, that is 7 PM). **Chief Silhanek** was in great spirits and it was good to see he and his lovely wife. Larry and I go back to '79 at the 1155th when we were assigned to LGEQ. We drifted to the Convention Center where the 'Bar Lines' were long, but jovial.

Inside, the Radisson staff had prepared a center aisle for food and several outlying areas for beef and ham. We got in line and chit chatted with all of the folks waiting for service (not long at all), and renewed some very good friendships. I then realized that I should have taken a camera and a notepad.

Here are just a few of the folks that I managed to talk to during the night: **George Cronin, Brian Swan (Steven Spielberg's double), Ken Oyer, Chief O'Brien, Col. Meisenheimer, Dale Klug, Joe Johnson, Don Whatley, Col. Jaynes, Tom Dunn, Frank Hall, Don Thompson, Ski Nargoski, John Horsch, Swede Swansen, Rick Manley, Ben Vlassick, Tony DeMarco, Ron ("Red") Ward and Tom Maltsby.**

Lots and lots of others were in the area and I am sorry I did not get to speak to each and every one of them. "Red" Ward got out of AFTAC in 1953 and the discussions I had with him are precious. They were telling a story about a jeep that was 'blue' and god only knows what that was all about. We certainly were glad to see him at the affair. I only got to have a quick conversation with Tony (DeMarco) and his wife Lou - I do believe they flew in from Germany! Sorry I did not get to the affair the night before, Tony!

I was really graced with the presence of Tom Maltsby....had not seen him in years! We discussed old times on the J-Survey and

talked about places we'd been and folks we we'd seen. Very interesting discussion Tom.....!

Outside, I managed to hook up with Brian Swan and we swapped war stories about She-mya. He never forgot the 'yellow submarine' nor the 'launch of the UFO' that we managed to pull out on that lonely island back in the '70's.

We departed somewhere around 10pm - work the next day was calling. I can only say that I had a very good time and it was all my pleasure meeting all of the folks.

Thanks AFTAC for a very nice Reunion!
editors-Clark, we appreciate your reminiscences, just like "being there"

SPECIAL OFFER 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coins, only \$3 NO shipping and handling, Organizational designations/dates on one side - mushroom cloud and current designation on other side - see "Shopping Center" for ordering (pg 19) - get 'em while they last - limited edition minted for the 50th

and now we hear from **Frank Hall**

50th Anniversary Golf Tournament

On 16 September 1997, AFTAC active duty/alumni golfers and duffers kicked off the 50th Anniversary Golf Tournament at the Baytree Golf Links in Melbourne, Florida. The "select shot" four-person format started at 0800 hours with 140 people participating. The weather was great and everyone seemed to enjoy the outing. A superb day of golf when old friendships were renewed.

The tournament was handicapped resulting in people over 55 hitting from the blue tees with other players driving from the gold tees. This handicap system evened up the odds. After a five-hour round of golf, everyone made their way to the 50th Anniversary picnic at Wickham Park pavilion where prizes were distributed. The First Place team consisted of **Mark Durgan, Keith Lewis, Phil Linstead and John Pitkethy**. Second Place winners were **Lee Severance, Dave Sorter, Mitch Phillips and Danny Smith**. The Third Place winners were **Frank Hall, Bill Hynes, Jay Jaynes and Jay Sherman**. (A real alumni team!)

Thanks to the AFTAC active duty person-

nel for putting on the golf tournament. We had a ball!

50th Anniversary Banquet

On 15 September 1997, the AFTAC'ers and friends attended the 50th Anniversary Banquet at the Radisson Resort at the Cape in Cape Canaveral, Florida. The sequence of events commenced with the posting of the colors, followed by the national anthem and the invocation. Immediately following was the welcoming remarks by Colonel **Wigington**, AFTAC Commander.

Tom Niquette, President of the Alumni Association, presented the Alumnus of the Year award to **Carl Gailey** for his dedication to the Alumni Association and specifically for his management of Alumni financial matters. Through Carl's expertise, the Alumni Association is finally sound. The good news is that he has agreed to continue on as treasurer for another year.

After dinner and intermission, Dr. **Ralph W. Alewine**, Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Nuclear Treaty programs was the guest speaker. Following the speech, the Band of the Air Force Reserve, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, provided a musical variety show. Their performance was outstanding with "God Bless the USA" as the featured song during the show. The band added a special touch for an outstanding celebration.

The evening ended with closing remarks by Col. Wigington and the Air Force song. The banquet was a highlight of our festivities and enjoyed by all. It was a time to renew friendships and to brag about our accomplishments. A special thank you to Col. Wigington and his committee for planning the banquet. A job well done!

and we have letters concerning the reunion from those who could attend, and some who couldn't...please read on as we continue

Loomis, CA Cybernote, 10/12/97

I hear from Rich Charles that someone at the reunion, he couldn't remember who, had

the impression that I was dead. Just wanted to clear this up because rumors that persist have a way of becoming true. I am not dead, and so far as I know, I never have been. This word comes from the "here" and not the "hereafter." Some would say, "If John missed a party, he must be dead." I had planned to attend the reunion and say hello to all my friends, but had to cancel at the last minute because of my wife, Dottie, being ill. Her illness is not life-threatening but very painful and we are getting it fixed. Fifty years ago, who would ever have thought to reassure anyone that an illness was not life-threatening. Sign of the times, I guess!

I especially wanted to attend this 50th reunion because I go way back in the outfit. In July, 1948 I was inducted, accepted, drafted or whatever, and was sent to (then) Fairfield-Suisan Airfield to attend the first class in the GFU, the Berkeley 64 Scaler and the lead pig. There were, I think, 50 of us and the class was a month long. In keeping with the security measures of the time; following the class, we were all sent back to the base weather stations from which we had been selected. Mine was Tinker Field Oklahoma. We were then reassigned to another Weather Wing, (Mine was in Tokyo) and reassigned once more to our duty base weather station. Mine was (then) North Field, Guam.

I served a tour at Guam, tours at two sensitive/classified locations and a tour in the Philippines. I even spent a tour at Spinstra. I often thought that should have been considered overseas. Of course, in between, I had short assignments at Team 101, WFO and 1155th TOS. Starting out in the GFU business, it wasn't long before I was working in the laboratory. Later I got into the airborne area as a Special Equipment Operator and from thereto the "Q" System. I think someone was trying to find something that I could do well.

In those early days with classified equipment, compartmentalization (just had to use that word.), double sealed and blind addressed correspondence; we in the field used

to wonder if there really was a Headquarters and if anyone was there. In 1965 I was reassured when I was actually assigned to Headquarters on Telegraph Road and retired from there in September 1967. I still hadn't had enough, and went to work as a civilian at 1155thTOS as a Technical Writer on the "Q" System. Seven years later, when the "Q" System left, so did I.

In my 27 years the common thread was the high quality of people that were there wherever I went. It must have been a positive influence on me, and I surely needed it.

I apologize for the length of my letter when all I wanted to say was that I was still alive. I read your editing disclaimer concerning clarity and space and readily agree to your taking a chop at this letter. Please don't take out the part about me being still here and reasonably healthy.

John Lanigan editors-thanks for writing John, and correcting the story of your demise, plan now for the next reunion

Mesquite, TX 5/21/97

Sadly, I will not be able to attend the 50th Anniversary Celebration in September. I just can't break away from my business at that particular time.

The name on the logo does bring a question to my mind. I was a member of AFTAC with two tours in Washington DC and two tours in Hawaii at the 1156th Technical Operations Squadron from approximately 1960 to 1974.

Is there a document you can provide me that would clarify the status of the AFTAC mission during that period?

I hope that the 50th Anniversary Celebration is a complete success!!

Sincerely, Chuck Lehr editors: we missed you at the anniversary, Mary advises she has mailed you a fact sheet

Hillsboro, OR 6/1/97

I was assigned to the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron in Washington D.C. from 1948 through December 1949. Is that unit the same 1009th Sws that is mentioned in the Air Force Times item as an element of the Tech-

nical Applications Center? I was also assigned to Team 407, 1958-1960. This unit was associated with the 1009th.

If the September Reunion does include the foregoing units please send me information on the Technical Applications Alumni Association and the Reunion Program. I would be particularly interested in the roster of members to determine whether any of my friends and co-workers would be in attendance at the 50th Anniversary.

Milton J. Golart editors: we understand that Mary has provided the requested info.

Cybernote

10/26/97

editors: Clark Creery emailed us the following. He was moved to these words when he read the AFTAC Commander's (Col. John Wigington, III) introduction in the "Welcome Brochure" for the reunion. The Col., in part, wrote, "...Long-range detection of nuclear weapons has come a long way since 1947 when Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower directed the Army Air Corps to - 'detect atomic explosions anywhere in the world.'..."

What were some of the "ways" as we've traveled through time to "come a long way" in following General Eisenhower's directions?

Troops, of a command with various titles and throughout the world, overcame - treks through frozen tundra to replace defective amplifiers, braving desert heat to perform equipment calibrations, facing locals in countries all over this world who really did not want us there, living in homes without heat, becoming sick from local food (some retaining that sickness to this day), working late nights and long days, little thanks.

A belief in what they were doing was the 'name of the game.' Not one asked for anything from our American Citizens. What they gave was a dedication of themselves for those folks who could enjoy a McDonalds, go to K-Mart, attend a local church.

The many and varied locations that AFTAC maintained the world over were not the garden spots thought of by those who just did not know. What I saw during the reunion was a look of pride in each and every eye. Nobody will ever understand the sacrifices given by all of those who call themselves Alumni-only the Alumni know-deep inside! A feeling of a job well done by all for this great country we call

ours. My personal thanks to each and every one of you who really know how difficult it was.
Clark Creery

Tucson, AZ **10/97**

We had a terrific time at the reunion - we're already looking forward to the next one.
John Coffey

North Highlands, CA **10/2/97**

First of all, I thank the Association for putting on a wonderful reunion. My wife and I had a great time. We renewed some old relationships and made some new ones.

Marvin G. Hopkins

Ashland, OR **9/30/97**

Sorry we missed the 1997 reunion, and understand it was a fine affair.
John H. Magness

Clearlake, CA **10/31/97**

Thanks to everyone who made the 50th Anniversary Reunion a success. I had a wonderful time - I'm already looking forward to the next one.
George Thompson

Wis. Rapids, WI **9/9/97**

Sorry the wife and I missed the big reunion. Our friends **Jon and Vic Richardson** sent us several post cards from the reunion and cruise, and said we missed out on a wonderful time.

We plan on visiting Florida this winter, and will try and plan a visit to the Hq. building, and look up some of the old AFTACers.

Don "Willie" Williamson

Phoenix, AZ **9/18/97**

We thank everyone who worked so hard to make the 50th celebration a huge success. It was great to see so many old friends and receive news about those who could not attend. The memories we came home with will remain with us for many years.

Al and Ann Pavik

Denver CO.

9/18/97

I would like to thank you and your entire AFTAC Alumni group for the outstanding 1997 reunion. Having been personally involved in many similar affairs I can appreciate the effort put forth by the many people involved.

In this day and age I don't know how you and the Alumni group managed the mixer, banquet and picnic for only \$70 per person. I thoroughly enjoyed every event on all three days. I'm more sedentary (stamp collector) so I skipped the golf. Accommodations at the Radisson were excellent.

Please express my appreciation to everyone involved - Thank you for a great time!

W.E. Braukman (editors: thank you Bill, and your words help)

Cybernote

10/14/97

The pictures on the web page are really good. The anniversary committee really did a super fantastic job on this one. I don't think we, or anyone else, will be able to top all of the very nice and first class touches that were evident everywhere at the reunion and anniversary ceremonies.

From the laminated programs, to the commitment and participation by the 'blue suiters' - I was especially impressed by the latter. It was great to see the active duty staff involved in everything from the ceremony, to the KSC tour, to the banquet and the picnic. That was very nice and appreciated. A very 'well done' and THANK YOU! to everyone involved. I know it took a lot of planning and work to put it on.

Hope to see everyone again in 1999 or 2000 out here in Sacramento. Best wishes

Bob & Darlene Fitzgerald (editors: thank you)

The following letters were received as we were ready to go to press...they start here and continue on page 18 to ease formatting problems...

Robbinsville, NC

10/13/97

(to the commander) I recently attended the 50th AFTAC Commemorative Celebration at Patrick AFB. I was a member of the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron from 1951 through 1953. I was a part of Buster Jangles in 1951 and was a member of Team G-406 that built and operated Det 405 during 1952-1953. Until recently I was

AFTAC Display, Grand Encampment Museum, Encampment Wyoming

submitted by W. E. Braukman

In early April 1990 my daughter **Mary** and I were returning from a brief mini-vacation in the Utah badlands and encountered a typical Wyoming storm near Rawlins. Rather than press on to our home in Denver, I suggested that we detour to Encampment and revisit where I was assigned nearly forty years earlier.

The atomic era necessitated entire new approaches to information collection. After the 1951 atomic tests in Nevada utilizing seismic detectors, a small oil prospecting company, Beers and Heroy was awarded a contract to establish a tripartite of three seismic stations in Wyoming to pinpoint locations of nuclear blasts. Three Wyoming locations were selected, Pole Mountain (west of Cheyenne), Douglas, and Encampment.

Encampment was once a city of 80,000 because of the copper mining industry, but in 1951 was nearly a ghost town of about 50 year-around residents. The operating site was located just below the continental divide, 10 miles southwest of town. The USAF sent one officer (**Lt. Glen R. Harry**) and 8 enlisted personnel to operate the site. The station consisted of a small prefab Central Recording Station, a combination bunk house and generator building and 4 seismic vaults located high in the national forest.

Film records were changed 3 times a day and mailed to the Laramie Analysis Center for analysis. The winter of 1951-52 proved too dangerous and a Central Recording Station was built in Encampment and the data from the Benioff seismometers was transmitted to town via spiral-4 cable. Preliminary analysis was then done by the operators and relayed to Laramie via coded teletype. Later the data was sent by "Zipagram," - THE FIRST MODEM TRANSMISSION EVER AUTHORIZED.

The highly classified secret "Weather Station" operated for over 20 years. Technical advances made it obsolete and unnecessary and it was closed by Hq 1035th USAF Field

Activities Group (Hq Command USAF) Special Order G-8, 15 May 72 but the 200 or more Air Force personnel made a significant impact on Encampment over the years.

Mary and I arrived late in the afternoon, the old CRS had been turned over to the U.S. Forest Service and the town's population had grown to almost 600 because of the local logging industry. The townspeople had developed a nice park and local museum.

We peered in the museum windows (it was closed for the winter) and were greeted by an elderly lady (**Vera Oldman**) working inside. She invited us in when I mentioned that I was retired AF and had very much enjoyed my tour in 1951-53. She remarked that the townspeople had always wondered about the "Weather Station" since they knew that we never had a clue about the weather!

When I told Vera that it had been largely declassified now, she expressed an interest in having additional information for the historical impact on Encampment. I told her that I would see what I could do. The next day on our way back to Denver, my daughter Mary made me promise to help out.

I wrote a two page summary and sent it to the museum. They immediately acknowledged it and indicated that they would welcome more. I contacted several local AFTAC retirees and attempted to get additional memorabilia; however, not much was available. I then wrote AFTAC at Patrick and was finally put in contact with **CMS Burton**, Command Historian. Later on the telephone, he bluntly told me not to bother: the information no longer existed - it was ancient history! They had no idea of who or when personnel might have been assigned there.

I have had a continuing interest in seismology and know **Dr. Waverly Pearson**, director of the National Earthquake center in Golden, Colorado. We met and he introduced me to **Dr. Thomas Boyd**, Head of the Department of Geophysics, Colorado School of Mines. He was getting ready to clean out his storage room in the basement and, if I would help, he would give me some of his outdated surplus. I

got 3 "small" Benioff seismometers, a helicorder and other miscellaneous pieces. I really wanted an original "big" Benioff (400 lbs.) so he suggested that I contact **Dr. Charles R. Hutt**, Chief Albuquerque Seismological Laboratory (Department of Interior Depot).

He had just the vertical I was looking for and we arranged "to trade" my three little Benioff's for his one. My wife and I drove down to Albuquerque and made the swap. I had contacted old friends in Garland, Texas. Beers & Heroy had been renamed Geotechnical Corp and then sold to Teledyne, now part of Allegheny/Teledyne. An old friend, **Jack Hamilton**, a vice president of Teledyne arranged a \$1000.00 grant to the museum building fund and provided me with a microampmeter to display the seismometer output. Now we had a start. A number of former detachment personnel made additional contributions to the museum ranging from \$25.00 to \$150.00. Further contact with CMS Burton and the threat of asking our Congress members to assist, CMS Burton did provide a little, very limited, help.

Finally in the spring of 1991 we were ready to set up a minor display at the museum. On May 18, 1991 we installed the seismometer and limited exhibit. Word got out and the entire museum board showed up for the dedication along with ranchers, town folks and former AFTACers. Now they wanted more, so I contacted former associates in Sacramento and was put in touch with WFO.

At first they were hesitant, but later I was able to obtain additional items and later when the school closed at Lowry AFB, we raided the "dumpsters" for more. Now we had a rack, helicorder, amplifiers, developorder etc. With the help of Colorado alumni we cleaned, repaired, assembled and installed additional items.

Through the kind and thoughtful efforts of **Mary Welch**, AFTAC Headquarters Patrick AFB, Florida, and the AFTAC Alumni Association (Florida), the museum is provided a copy of AFTAC's directory listing the names and address of all known former AFTAC members

worldwide. This directory represents a great deal of hard work. Mary sends me each revision and on each of my visits, the up-dates are posted. The curators tell me of the many returning veterans and how they pour over the directory each summer. They enjoy seeing the technical aspects but are pleased to note the personal ones. Many of the 'old timers' are surprised to learn that yesterday's secrets are now unclassified.

A Brief History of the United States Air Force

Lawrence R. Benson Office of the Air Force Historian

On September 18, 1997, the United States Air Force (USAF) celebrates its 50th birthday. One half century earlier, the National Security Act of 1947 created the USAF as a separate armed service. Appropriately enough, President Harry Truman had signed the legislation for this while aboard his "Sacred Cow," the C-54 presidential aircraft that served as the "Air Force One" of its day.

The official lineage of today's USAF began four decades earlier. On August 1, 1907, the U.S. Army Signal Corps formed an Aeronautical Division. This action came only three years after the Wright Brothers flew the world's first powered airplane at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. At first, however, the Aeronautical Division was mainly interested in balloons and dirigibles instead of heavier-than-air flying machines. The Army had already used manned balloons for aerial observation during the Civil War and Spanish American War in the 19th Century. The Aeronautical Division accepted delivery of its first airplane from the Wright Brothers in 1909. Under the leadership of brave pioneers such as Capt. Benjamin D. Foulois, a small band of early Army airmen experimented with various aircraft and formed an operational unit, the 1st Aero Squadron, in December 1913.

On July 18, 1914, as a result of Congressional legislation, the Army established the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps to improve its fledgling flying capabilities. Just a few weeks later, Europe plunged into the mas-

sive military struggle that became known as World War I. The Central powers (primarily Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the Ottoman Empire) fought the Allied Powers (led by Britain, France, Italy, and Russia). By April 1917, when the United States entered the war on the side of the Allied Powers, each of the major combatants had developed aircraft industries far superior to that in the United States.

Despite optimistic plans and ample funding, the United States proved unable to catch up to the European nations in aviation technology. Responding to criticism of the American aircraft effort, President Woodrow Wilson created the Army Air Service and placed it directly under the War Department on May 24, 1918. By the time of the armistice in November 1918, the Air Service had grown to more than 19,000 officers and 178,000 enlisted men, while American industry had turned out 11,754 aircraft (mostly trainers like the JN-4 Jenny). The Air Service soon lost most of these people and planes in a rapid demobilization right after the war.

Although failing to deploy competitive combat aircraft, the United States had sent many fine airmen to Europe. Flying mostly French-built planes, they distinguished themselves both in allied units and as part of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) led by Gen. John J. Pershing. By the time Germany surrendered, Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell had honed many of the AEF's aero squadrons and groups into a formidable striking force. While the outcome of the Great War was decided primarily by horrible attrition on the ground and a strangling maritime blockade of Germany, air power had shown its potential for autonomous offensive operations as well as providing valuable support to surface forces. The United Kingdom had recognized the importance of air power by creating the Royal Air Force, independent of the British Army and Royal Navy, in April 1918.

Notwithstanding a bitter struggle by visionaries such as Billy Mitchell, the United States

did not follow the British lead and create a separate air force. The Army Reorganization Act of 1920 made the Air Service a combatant arm of the Army, and the Air Corps Act of 1926 changed its name to the Air Corps on July 2 of that year. On March 1, 1935, General Headquarters Air Force (GHQ AF) assumed command of US-based Air Corps tactical units, which previously had been parceled out to regional Army corps commands. Yet even after Germany, Japan, and Italy began to build up their armed forces, the Air Corps (as well as the rest of the Army) remained a small, peacetime establishment with only limited funds for growth or modernization.

Mobilizing to Fight World War II

After September 1939, when Adolf Hitler launched World War II by invading Poland, the Air Corps began a steady growth from 26,000 personnel and fewer than 2,000 planes. On June 20, 1941, the Department of War created the Army Air Forces (AAF) as its aviation element and shortly thereafter made it co-equal to the Army Ground Forces. The Air Corps remained as one of the Army's combat arms, like the Infantry.

Expansion of the AAF accelerated after the surprise Japanese attack on Hawaii in December 1941 propelled the United States into the war. Under the leadership of Gen. Henry H. (Hap) Arnold, the Army Air Forces oversaw mobilization of the nation's aviation industry and deployment of the largest air armada of all time. The AAF's inventory encompassed a wide range of training, transport, pursuit, attack, reconnaissance, and bomber aircraft. These included the ubiquitous C-47 Skytrain, the splendid P-51 Mustang, the rugged B-17 Flying Fortress, and the awesome B-29 Superfortress. Drawing upon American industrial prowess and human resources, the AAF reached a peak strength of 80,000 aircraft and 2.4 million personnel organized into major commands, numbered air forces, air divisions, groups, and squadrons. AAF units conducted a wide range of air operations over every theater of battle -- from the jungle-clad islands

of the Southwest Pacific to the sun-baked deserts of North Africa, from the icy waters of the North Atlantic to the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas.

By the last year of the war, the quantity and quality of AAF aircraft and airmen dominated the skies over both Germany and Japan, all but paralyzing their war economies. Air power did not win the war by itself but did make possible the Allies' total victory over the Axis powers -- punctuated in August 1945 when two B-29s dropped atomic bombs on Japan.

Much as it did a quarter century before, the United States immediately demobilized its armed forces after World War II. Based on the AAF's wartime achievements and future potential, however, the United States Air Force won its independence as a full partner with the Army and the Navy on September 18, 1947. Stuart Symington became the first Secretary of the Air Force, and Gen. Carl A. Spaatz its first Chief of Staff. Within a month, on October 14, 1947, test pilot Chuck Yeager flew the Bell XS-1 past the speed of sound, launching the Air Force into the supersonic era.

Countering the Soviet Threat

The threat posed by the Soviet Union and communism soon convinced American leaders to strengthen US military forces -- especially air power. The role of the new USAF in breaking the Soviet blockade of Berlin in 1948 demonstrated the value of air capabilities in this new "Cold War." The USSR's detonation of an atomic bomb in 1949 accentuated the importance of long-range bombers, such as the Air Force's giant B-36 Peacemaker, and modern air defenses. The Air Force expanded its efforts to foster science and technology with an ambitious research and development (R&D) program.

The Soviet-backed invasion of South Korea by communist North Korea in June 1950 drew the USAF into a brutal three-year conflict. The Air Force soon used new jet fighters, such as the deadly F-86 Sabre, to establish air superiority over the Korean peninsula. In

concert with Navy and Marine aviation, the USAF helped protect United Nations ground forces with close air support and the interdiction of enemy reinforcements and supplies. The war ended in 1953 after an armistice with China and North Korea, but the Air Force kept a large number of units stationed in the Pacific to help contain communism. It also began a massive buildup of the forward-based U.S. Air Forces in Europe, from England to Turkey. USAF units provided the cornerstone of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) capabilities against the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact for the next four decades.

Invention of the powerful hydrogen bomb and the promise of long-range rockets accelerated the arms race between the superpowers in the 1950s. Under the bold leadership of Gen. Curtis E. LeMay, the Air Force's Strategic Air Command (SAC) became the preeminent instrument of American defense strategy. Standing continuous alert for the rest of the Cold War, SAC's arsenal of bombers, such as the long-range B-52 Stratofortress, was joined in the 1960s by intercontinental ballistic missiles, such as the Titan and Minuteman. Together with the Navy's missile-launching submarines, these powerful weapons comprised America's nuclear deterrent "triad." With the development of launch vehicles and orbital satellites, the Air Force mission also expanded into space.

Possession of strong strategic forces helped the United States prevail in crises provoked by Soviet probes in Berlin and Cuba during the early 1960s. Yet, Communist expansion in Southeast Asia posed new and difficult challenges. In 1964 the United States began full-scale military operations on the side of South Vietnam, and in 1965 launched Operation Rolling Thunder against targets in North Vietnam. With the use of air power constrained for political reasons, both Air Force and Naval aviation had to support a protracted and unpopular counter-insurgency effort against a determined and elusive foe. Tactical aircraft, such as the versatile F-4

Phantom II, performed in a wide variety of roles from aerial combat to close air support, the F-105 Thunderchief specialized in bombing raids against North Vietnam, while SAC B-52s "carpet bombed" remote jungle strongholds. Not until the Linebacker operations of 1972 was air power brought fully to bear against North Vietnamese forces and facilities. Although American air power compelled the enemy to sign a peace treaty in January 1973, US forces were no longer available in 1975 when North Vietnam launched a successful invasion of the South.

A Modern, Combat-Ready Force

In the 1970s the USAF invested as much of its reduced budgets as possible in modernizing its aircraft and missiles while continuing to expand its role in space. The Air Force developed new weapon systems, for example, the A-10 Thunderbolt II, F-15 Eagle, F-16 Fighting Falcon, E-3 Sentry, and M-X Peacekeeper. It also made great progress on satellite-based communications, reconnaissance, warning, weather, and navigation systems. But the Air Force did not receive adequate resources to maintain full readiness of its existing conventional forces. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union continued to develop and produce new and improved weapons at an even faster pace while building up its combat forces in Europe and the Far East to alarming levels.

The military balance began to shift back in America's favor after 1979. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the humiliation of the American hostages in Iran confirmed the need to improve US military capabilities. The ensuing American defense buildup of the 1980s allowed the Air Force to expand its force structure, enhance its training and readiness, and deploy a wide range of advanced new weapons and other systems, chief of which was the revolutionary Lockheed F-117A stealth fighter which entered operational service in late 1983. Air Force units engaged in several contingency operations, including the seizure of Grenada in 1983 (Urgent Fury), the

raid on Libya in 1986 (El Dorado Canyon), and the invasion of Panama in 1989 (Just Cause). These operations demonstrated steadily improving capabilities of the Air Force and its sister services to conduct joint operations.

At the time, the progress the United States was making in new technologies -- such as "stealthy" airframes, sophisticated information networks, and space-based systems -- helped convince the Soviet leadership that their inefficient economy could no longer afford to compete in the Cold War. The tearing down of the Berlin Wall in 1989 marked the final days of the Warsaw Pact and presaged the breakup of the USSR itself a few years later.

The Era of Global Reach, Global Power

Ending the Cold War did not mean completion of the USAF's mission. In the new era, the service no longer had to keep nuclear forces on constant alert against a Soviet first strike or to base large forces overseas ready to fight World War III. Instead, the USAF's focus on speed, range, precision, lethality, and flexibility gave America what Secretary of the Air Force Donald B. Rice called "global reach, global power."

The Air Force's well-trained personnel and sophisticated weapons lived up to this vision during Operation Desert Storm in early 1991. Deploying halfway around the world in Operation Desert Shield after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in August 1990, they helped win one of the most lop-sided battlefield victories in military history. Advanced aircraft, such as the unstoppable F-117 Nighthawk, delivered an arsenal of precision guided munitions with the help of sophisticated information and navigation systems, including those on space satellites. Under the control of Lt. Gen. Charles A. Horner, the intensive six-week air campaign neutralized Iraq's air defenses, decapitated Iraq's command structure, and demoralized its once feared army. Air power allowed Coalition ground forces to liberate Kuwait and quickly drive into Iraq -- with fewer casualties than those suffered by the United

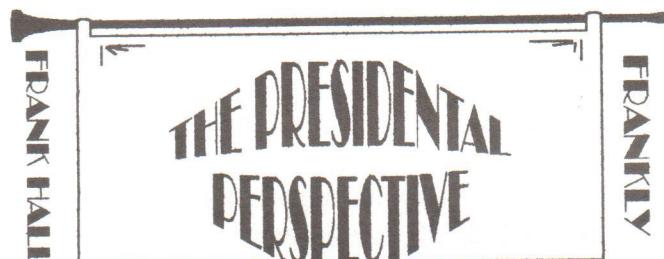
States in a typical week of the Vietnam War.

Without the Soviet threat, the United States no longer needed the large force structure that stood guard during the Cold War. Recognizing the need for streamlining, the Air Force in the early 1990s underwent the most-complete reorganization since its establishment. The USAF consolidated thirteen major commands into eight (for example, replacing the Strategic and Tactical Air Commands with a single Air Combat Command) and did away with various lower echelon headquarters. The Air Force also inactivated many proud wings and squadrons, closed once valuable bases, and downsized from more than 600,000 military personnel in the late 1980s to under 388,000 in 1996.

Although smaller in size, the post-Cold War Air Force has been called upon for increased participation in contingency operations. In addition to maintaining units in the Persian Gulf area (Southern Watch) and Turkey (Provide Comfort) to deter Saddam Hussein from threatening his neighbors, the Air Force has supported humanitarian and peacekeeping operations in places like Somalia (Restore Hope), Rwanda (Support Hope), Haiti (Uphold Democracy), and the Balkans (Provide Promise and Deny Flight). To help stop a barbaric civil war in Bosnia, USAF aircraft made precision strikes against Serb targets in Operation Deliberate Force during late 1995. After this first air campaign ever conducted by NATO, the USAF then supported implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords through Operations Decisive and Joint Endeavor. On the volatile Korean Peninsula, the Air Force continued to keep units combat ready for action at any time.

Today the pace of technological change moves ever faster, while America's role in fostering democracy and stability in the world is more complex than ever. With these challenges in mind, the Air Force commemorates its 50th anniversary looking eagerly to the future while remembering the lessons and achievements of the past. Above all, we honor

the memory, sacrifices, and contributions of those who succeeded -- often in the face of skepticism -- in building what is now the only true global air force.



In 1989, at the insistence of **Colonel Jay Jaynes**, the AFTAC Commander, I took over as President of the AFTAC Alumni Association. **Clark Creery** assumed the Vice-President responsibilities, and **John Tetter** became the Treasurer. We started out with a few dollars in the coffer and we rapidly learned that getting the Association into a position to become effective was quite an undertaking. With only eight (8) members on the roll, it was apparent that we needed to get a newsletter on the street quickly to get some interest in the Association. Clark Creery undertook this task and soon we were getting news to the AFTAC retired, civilian and active duty force.

In 1997, the situation is quite different. **Col. (Ret.) Tom Niquette** and **Chief (Ret.) Van Dyke** discharged their duties as the President and Vice-President in a superb manner. Today, I assume the Presidents chair again but with a far different view of the financial and membership situation that occurred in 1989. Today, we have 733 members in the Association and the treasury is in sound condition with a few thousand dollars in the bank. During the past year, the Association under the tutelage of Tom Niquette and Fred Van Dyke, sponsored two golf tournaments, supported the AFTAC Picnic, and provided a significant amount of support to the 50th Anniversary activities held in the Patrick AFB area. Outstanding leadership provided superior results in 1997.

We are looking to you, the membership of the AFTAC Association, for suggestions on what

we can do to make improvements. We are brainstorming ideas on ways to make the Association more meaningful to all of the membership. Your suggestions will be greatly appreciated, discussed and acted upon at our monthly meetings held in the AFTAC Singlevich conference room. The monthly meetings are held on the second Monday night of each month and you and guests are invited to attend.

I look forward to a rewarding 1998 and with your help we can make the Association even better.



BOARD MEETINGS

Alumni Association Board Members

PRESIDENT-Frank Hall **VICE-PRESIDENT-Dave Johnson**
SECRETARY-Judy Milam **TREASURER-Carl Gailey**
MEMBERSHIP-Mary Welch **ACTIVITIES-CMSgt Ken Myers**
PUBLICITY-Swede Swansen

A Few Minutes from the Minutes

submitted by Judy Milam

AUGUST: Plans were made for the 50th activities. A schedule of people & projected hours of operation was prepared for the hospitality room & registration desk. Volunteers were also being lined up to help with clothing sales. Golf tournament plans were reviewed. The October Alumni golf tournament and annual general membership meeting were discussed. We decided to buy a scanner to be used with the POST-MONITOR.

SEPTEMBER: Final plans were made for 50th anniversary activities; Alumni volunteers were solicited to man the beer wagon at the picnic. Final Alumni Social menu was approved. The agenda for the Annual General Membership meeting was discussed.

OCTOBER: The Annual General Membership meeting was held after the Alumni golf tournament. Election of Officers was held; officers for 1997-98 are: Frank Hall, President; Dave Johnson, Vice President; Judy Milam, Secretary; and Carl Gailey, Treasurer. The annual financial status was discussed. A membership report was presented. Alumni members were thanked for helping to make the 50th Anniversary activities a big success.

NOVEMBER: Alumni Association membership now stands at 733, with 366 lifetime members. The Chapter and Worldwide Directories will be reissued soon with many new addresses. The 10 October Alumni golf tournament was a big success. We're looking at early May for the next tournament, and we'll look at possibly moving to a different location. The previous board and Alumni members were thanked for their work during the last year, especially Joe Goldian who served as 50th Chairperson. It was pointed out that additional volunteers are needed for future reunions, as a few people did most of the work. Ken Myers volunteered to be Activities Chairperson for the coming year. We're looking into the possibility of ordering AFTAC Alumni front license plates for sale. The 13 December AFTAC Winter Social was discussed; flyers will be sent to members in the local area. Copies of the 50-Year History of Long Range Detection will be mailed to Alumni members. About 200 pictures of the 50th Anniversary have been posted on the Alumni Internet homepage. Also posted is a story about AFTAC published in AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY. editors: Judy also emailed us this note:

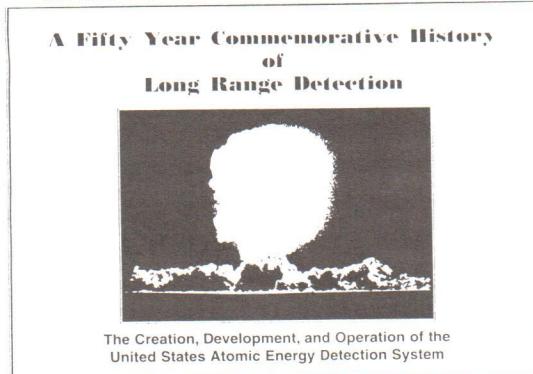
COPIES OF THE FIFTY YEAR COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY OF LONG RANGE DETECTION (SEE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP REPORT) ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), as follows: Order No: AD A329715, Cost:\$41 plus \$4 shipping & handling.

Call: 1-800-553-6847 and/or

Mail order to: NTIS, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161

Membership Reports

submitted by Mary Welch

50TH COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY

Attendees to the 50th anniversary Celebration of the Long Range Detection System received a copy of the booklet titled: **A FIFTY YEAR COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY OF LONG RANGE DETECTION**. Since the celebration, the Alumni Association has acquired a number of these booklets for distribution to our DUES PAYING members in the Florida and Colorado Chapters that were not able to attend the September activities in Florida.

The Membership Chairman is in the process of mailing out these booklets, along with a copy of the published Commemorative Issue of the **AFTAC MONITOR**. Since we have more than 550 members between the two Chapters that did not attend the September functions, the mailing project will take some time. If you have not yet received your copy, do not be concerned, it probably will take until the end of December 1997 to complete the mailing.

The distribution of this booklet was established as one copy per dues paying member, and we are required to record the name and address of the recipient. Since there was a limited number of the booklets published and made available to the Alumni, additional copies per member cannot be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Welch at 407-494-6867 (work) or 407-259-0629 (home), or through our mailing address: AFTAC Alumni Association; Box 254892; Patrick AFB FL 32925-0892.

WORLDWIDE DIRECTORY
Update of the AFTAC ALUMNI WORLD-

WIDE DIRECTORY (subscription publication) is nearing completion. Publication and distribution of the 1997 update/change should start during the first week of December.

If you have ordered a copy of the DIRECTORY within the last two to four months, but have not yet received it, we apologize for the delay. The project officer for the DIRECTORY wanted to correlate the address listing with those Alumni responding to and attending the 50th Anniversary activities.

Watch for your copy in the mail. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Welch at the Association address: Box 254892; Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892

**Hopes of Health for...**

Chuck Vesely - Don Humphries
Vince Bauman - John Magness
Ben Vlassick

**In Memory Of**

Bill Bickerstaff, July
Michi Hart, October (see letter following)
Randall "Randy" Thompson, April (see letter following)

May They Rest In Eternal Peace

The Mail Room

Any requests for action should be sent to **AFTAC Alumni Association, PO Box 254892-Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892**

Letters of a general nature, requesting no action, may be e-mailed to the editors, chrisjohn@juno.com

Letters may be edited for clarity and space; any opinions are those of the writer(s) and may not reflect Association belief or policy

Bossier City, LA **10/97**

We had intended to attend the reunion in August but due to my wife's illness, we were unable to do so. Michi died at 1:00AM, Oct. 17, '97 at Bossier Medical Center of liver disease. We had been married for 38 years. She accompanied me from Team 407 to SPINSTRA, Lowry AFB, CO then to WFO, McClellan AFB and back to Det 407. Upon our release from AFTAC, she accompanied me to Barksdale AFB, LA where we retired.

Please publish this in the next "Post-Monitor." Thank you very much.
William A. Hart, MSgt (Ret.), AFTAC May '55 to May '67 (editors: thank you for sharing)

Christiansburg, VA **9/22/97**

I am writing to let you know that my husband, CMSgt (Ret) Randall "Randy" Thompson, died suddenly of a massive heart attack on 2 Apr 97. He was 58.

Randy talked about his tour with AFTAC all the time. He enjoyed that time more than any other in his nearly 30 years. He was in personnel in Washington, DC, between 1968 and 1970 I think, I know he went to Vietnam from there in 1970. Randy had a lot of friends there of which I've heard stories about for the last 22 years. Randy retired in 1985 and followed me around until I could retire in 1994. We moved to Virginia then which was where he was from. He had planned to travel up to DC this summer to look up some of his old buddies but waited to long.

Randy was buried here in Christiansburg, VA, with full military honors. I hope to continue his membership in the AFTAC Alumni Assoc. Maybe I will see some of the people who

remember Randy at a future function.

Linda Thompson (editors: thank you for sharing)

Cybernote

11/2/97

All about my time in the Air Force

While in the USAF, I was lucky enough to work with, and for, some incredible people at the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC). Initially, my job consisted of evaluating satellite sensor response, and state of health information. Specifically, the analysis of telemetry from Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites. These satellites were part of a constellation of satellites which carry Nuclear Detonation (NUDET) Detection System (NDS) payloads in support of AFTAC's primary mission - that of monitoring Nuclear test ban treaties.

Later, I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to perform similar, but yet more demanding, functions for similar sensor packages on other satellite, until such time as I was selected for a special support staff position. Within this position, as a satellite (sensor) engineering specialist, I was really able to mature and learn many interesting things; all thanks to the positive role models surrounding me at that time.

The time I spent within AFTAC was perhaps the most challenging, and rewarding, time of my life. Truly, I was luck enough to be given great responsibility, and to be motivated to strive to be my best. Additionally, I must say that I was working with some of the most dedicated, caring people that I have ever met in my life.

Unfortunately, this experience was not to last, because there came a dark day for those of us involved in my field of work; the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. In the wake of the shuttle disaster, and the days spent languishing between yet another interesting assignment, I made a very difficult choice. This choice, to separate from the Air Force in order to more aggressively pursue a college education, is something that I think about a lot. Overall, I think that it was a wise choice, but I

ften miss those days, and the quality people at AFTAC.

Laurence T. O'Toole ltotoole@engin.umich.edu
 editors: Clark (Creery) came across this on the internet and passed it on for all to read

NeKosa, WI **10/97**

Enclosed are my dues. Next June I will have retired from AFTAC and The Air Force for thirty years. I guess I fit into the "old timers" category.

Just a note to say hello to everyone who might remember me.

C.J. Havlik (editors: thank you for continuing to be a member)

Warner Robins, GA **9/18/97**

Just paying dues for another year. Keep up the good work.

George Antonio (editors: thanks for your membership, and your kind helpful words)

Merritt Island, FL **9/13/97**

Here's my dues for next year. I enjoy the Post-Monitor, keep up the good work.

I enjoy learning of activities at AFTAC and getting news on friends.

Curt Anderholm (editors: thanks for staying on board and the praise)

Ft. Worth, TX **8/1/97**

Don't mind telling you how I look forward to each issue of the "Post Monitor." It is very informative and presented in a most professional manner. Your format is great.

Keep up the good work. Regards to all.

Chet Harris (editors: really appreciate the fine words, Chet - it comments like this that REALLY makes it all worthwhile, now we feel the pressure of continuing)

Baldwin City, KS **10/97**

I really enjoy the Post Monitor and the Directory of Members. Several names brought back memories. Enclosed are '98 dues.

Delbert Eberhart (editors: thanks for "reenlisting" and writing those kind words)

(editors: ...and now we continue the letters from the "Reflections on a Reunion" section, pg. 8...)

unaware that this operation still existed, and was not aware of the declassification status.

I want to compliment you on the excellence of

your organization. All of your people that I talked to maintained the highest degree of professionalism and expertise. They also possessed a characteristic that is rare among young people of today, and that is human compassion. You have two CMSgts that portrayed this trait vividly, they are CMSgt Ken Myers and CMSgt Ron Noel. If it were not for these two gentlemen I would not have been able to attend the commemorative ceremony nor tour the AFTAC Headquarters Building.

I believe that the AFTAC Operation is one of the most important military operations that this country maintains. I am proud to have been a part of the Organization in its infancy and am proud to have been a part of The U.S. AIR FORCE. I want to thank you again for maintaining the highest degree of expertise and integrity.

Felix (Red) B. Ward

Blue Springs, MS **11/23/97**

(to CMSgt Key Myers, one of the celebration organizers) Sorry I have waited so long in dropping this note of thanks for the good time we had at the AFTAC 50th. My most dreaded duty as a supervisor was writing proficiency reports, trying to find those words to give an objective description without writing a book. Well, I find myself with the same dilemma in finding a word or phrase that would be adequate for you and your part in the celebration. It would have to be "MR HOSPITALITY."

What I am trying to do is say "Thank You" for the most well organized, warm and friendly event we have ever attended. As you may recall, our daughter Terry joined us on Sept 13 (two days earlier than expected). During the AM of the 14th, I asked you if we could get her included in all the three day events. Very apologetically, you said you would try and was able to get her included in the Alumni Mixer. Some how, about half way through the Alumni Mixer, you located us to tell us you were able to get Terry included in all events. This was the first time we had been with Terry since Christmas of '96, so you can imagine our appreciation for your extra effort.

The results of this celebration were outstanding in every way. Please convey our thanks to all those responsible. This was the first event we have been able to attend since my retirement in '69. It was great, and we look forward to meeting you again in the near future.

W.N. (Pete) Wigington

Important Dates

Association Board/Membership Meetings

All members and prospective members are encouraged to attend. Meetings are scheduled (verify before coming) for the second Monday of each month (dates listed below):

WHEN: 1730 (5:30 PM)

WHERE: AFTAC HQ building

HOW: come to the lobby and a Board Member will meet, greet and escort

CALENDAR

January 1998

12th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730

February 1998

9th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730

March 1998

9th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730

End of Month - Newsletter mailing

April 1998

13th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730

May 1998 - Golf Tournament; watch for it

11th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730

June 1998

8th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730

July 1998

13th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730

End of Month - Newsletter mailing

August 1998

10th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730

September 1998

14th - Board/Membership Meeting, 1730

October 1998 12th Board/Annual Membership (elections) meeting

End of Month - Newsletter mailing

"Thanks for your readership and continuing support, may the sun shine on all your endeavors - see you next issue"



Sagey sez

Shopping Center

Mail orders to: AFTAC Alumni Asc., ATTN: Sales Staff - PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB FL, 32925-0892
Include additional \$3.00 for shipping and handling*

*no shipping and handling charged on logo pins

Thanks for your support!!

prepared by the editors from association minutes - also on webpage

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE (at publication) ALUMNI PURCHASED

SPECIAL OFFER - 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coins, only \$3 NO shipping and handling organizational designations and dates on one side with a mushroom cloud and current designation on other side

NOTE: logos are multi-colored

	Med	Lg	XL	XXL
--	-----	----	----	-----

JACKETS (windbreakers), \$20

- Unlined/Royal Blue (1 XL has white logo) 2 2

GOLF SHIRTS, with pocket, \$14

- Teal, sea	3	4	
- Royal Blue		1	1
- Navy	1	1	3
- Red	1	2	1
- Maroon		1	
- Jade	2	3	1
- White	2	1	2

T-Shirts, without pocket, \$7

- Light Blue	1	2	1
- Royal Blue	1	1	3
- Navy	3	4	1
- Ash Gray	1	1	2
- Purple		1	
- Red	1	1	1
- Fuchsia	1	2	2

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

HATS - \$6	#	Ceramic Mugs - \$7	3
- Green	8	Bronze Coins - \$4	45
- Gray	3	Logo Pins - \$3.25	~235
- Red	5	Logo Discs - \$5.50	~65
- Royal Blue	8	Worldwide Directory	
- Light Blue	8	(choice of cover photo) - \$25	
- Navy	5	50th Commemorative	
		Coins - \$3 (no s/h)	~480

The following items were purchased by the Boosters Club and are also available-most say ALUMNUS (vs ALUMNI)

Sm	Lg	XL
----	----	----

JACKETS, unlined/medium blue - \$20

2

GOLF SHIRTS, Med. Blue/with pocket/white logo - \$14

17 13

GOLF SHIRTS, White/no pocket/multi-color logo - \$18

2

HATS, cotton - \$5, Medium blue, 2



U.S. AIR FORCE



Happy CONTENTS Holidays

ATTENTION - ATTENTION-ATTENTION-ATTENTION

We interrupt this newsletter for the following bulletin - Don't let this be your
LAST ISSUE



Check your address label now-top line indicates when dues are due:

SAMPLE:> October! Dues Due: FY: [98]<-- <<SAMPLE

(annual dues are based on a fiscal year [Oct-Sep] basis, therefore, annual dues are due each October 1st)

Reference sample above — the numeric digits in parentheses indicate the fiscal year for which your dues are due. If your address label has a '98' in the parentheses that means your dues were due 1 October '97 (calendar year) and this will be the last newsletter you will receive until dues are paid; lifetime members address labels indicate 'LT' in parentheses.

editors note: see how simple that is ... now, back to the newsletter.

NOTE: the web-like pound sign (#) identifies articles that are also featured on the association webpage - "csihq.com/aftacalumni"

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Page 1 | - Sage Spotlight (#) Golf Tournament |
| Page 2 | - Alumni Information (#) Editorial |
| Page 3 | - Reflections on a Reunion |
| Page 9 | - Encampment, WY AFTAC Display History |
| Page 10 | - A Brief History of the Air Force |
| Page 14 | - The Executive Board Writes |
| Page 16 | - Alumni to Remember Letters |
| Page 19 | - Important Dates/Calendar (#)/Shopping Center (#) |
| Page 20 | - Contents - Address Label/Dues Due Notice |

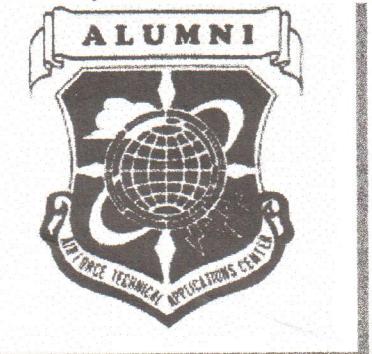
SPECIAL OFFER 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coins, only \$3 NO shipping and handling organizational designations/dates on one side - mushroom cloud and current designation on other side - see "Shopping Center" for ordering (pg 19) - get 'em while they last - limited edition minted for the 50th

Technical data - issue size, ~ 1.4mb, prepared on a Packard Bell 401CD (75MHz/40 & 850mb/14.4k/2xCD-ROM) pentium using MSPub95 software complimented by a Zip Drive and Mustek 600IIIEP Scanner-printed on a Hewlett Packard DeskJet 682C; preparation/input/proofing time by the editors was ~ 55 enjoyable hours, a figure that does not include the unknown hours of preparation and proofing by individual contributors and assistors.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The AFTAC Emblem symbolizes the unit and, when in color, contains the AF (blue and gold) as well as the national colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of AF operations; yellow, the sun and excellence of personnel. The globe indicates worldwide mission, locations and geophysical studies; the lightning and cloud depict study on natural phenomena and the compass points reflect the assigned tasks around the world. The rings around the globe symbolize electronic instrument readings and unity of purpose and display electronic measurements accomplished. The elliptical belt symbolizes the study of the atmosphere.



October! Dues Due: FY: [LT]<----
JOHN T HORSCH
515 TEMPLE STREET
SATELLITE BEACH FL
32937 -

IN GOD WE still TRUST - ALL OTHERS, WE used to MONITOR!