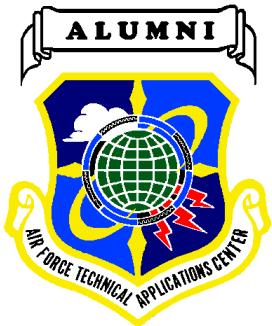


◆ POST - MONITOR ◆

VOL 25-ISSUE 03

WEBSITE: [HTTP://AFTACAA.US](http://AFTACAA.US)

2017.12



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
16 September 2012
1947 – 2017

A 70TH COIN WAS NOT MINTED



Election Results

President Ed Lindsay
Vice President Jim Whidden
Secretary Arlin Massey
Treasurer Sean Ryan



In the Spotlight



Jim Whidden, our newly elected Vice President

Season's Greetings! My name is Jim Whidden and I am honored to serve as the new AFTAC Alumni Association Vice President. I have been a Life Member of this great organization for more than a decade and look forward to complementing Ed Lindsay's leadership. Ed and I have known each other for many years, dating back to our time on active duty, and I am certain I

[See more on Page 3](#)

2018 AFTAC Alumni Association Snowball XX

Saturday, 20 January
(Save the Date/Further Details Forthcoming)
1730 - 2300

[See more on Page 4](#)

ACTIVE-DUTY ALERTS

IN TRUE ALERT TRADITION, WE ASK ACTIVE-DUTY AND SAGES TO 'REPORT IN'

ACTIVE DUTY SCHEDULE, SAGES WELCOMED

- ◆ See 'Active-Duty' section for more information, if any. [Sage Contact for tickets, and questions, Carol Snyder at carol.snyder@us.af.mil](#) see calendar information below.

2017 AFTAC Holiday Social/Open House

[See more on Page 5](#)

2017 AFTAC Winter Social

12 January 2018

[See more on Pages 5 and 29](#)

NOTE: Alert updates are posted at our website: URL above, Pg 5, 'Calendar,' has a listing of alumni/active-duty events. You can also 'Auto-Receive' 'eALLerts' (deaths, breaking news, etc) editors, chrisjohn2@gmail.com

SAGE/ACTIVE-DUTY EVENTS-WHAT'S GONE OFF

IN TRUE ALERT TRADITION, WE REPORT 'EVENT DATA'

'Event' reports, if any, follow 'Alert' reports later in this issue.

ASSOCIATION INFORMATION *Deceased. (D)***Honor Roll: Alumni Of The Year Recipients (23)**

John Kemna/2017-Carol Snyder/2016-

Frank Calenda/2015-Sean Ryan/14-

Lonnie Gibbons/13-Gene & Dee Melchior/12-

Dale Klug/11-Jack Smith (D)/10-Jack Jackson/09 (D)-Bob Wiley/08-Bill Schmied/07-Deborah Carson/06-Mike Black/05

Joe Goldian(D)/04-Pat Snyder/03-Joe Johnson/02-Jim

Payne/01-Ben Vlassick (D)/2000-John & Christel (D)

Horsch/99-Frank Hall/98-Judy Milam-Henderson/97-Carl Gailey (D)/96-Clark Creery/1995

AFTAC/Long Range Detection (LRD) Alumni Honorarium

Several ongoing projects represent and honor Center people and history. Two, '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). --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, 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-back page)-**Dues, \$10/FY** (1 Oct-30 Sep) payable in Oct/**\$75 for life**. Most monthly meetings are at 1600, second Monday of a month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC HQ (Bldg 10989), or other venue, at Patrick AFB, FL-details, see 'Sage Schedule' at back of issue. Contacts: Clark Creery, ccreery@cfl.rr.com, mailing address is: **PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892**. 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" (5+ years board service) Clark Creery-Newsletter, 85/89-95, Pres 94/95, Webpage/Mbrshp, 01/10-Current; Frank Hall, Pres/Vice 89-98/01; Judy Milam, Sec 89-06, Hospitality since 01 Pres 04; Eunice Harris, 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 since 96; Jim Payne, Mbrshp 99-04; Joe Goldian, Treas, since 2003; Randy Vlassick, Mbrship 04-09; Sean Ryan-Sec, 09-15; Steve Revels, Sage Shop, 2010-2016 (Vacant)

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/>

"FROM THE HORSCHE'S MOUTH"

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING



1985 BYLINE BY COL CIAMBRONE (D). LEFT AND RIGHT, AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COIN, DEVELOPED BY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND SMSGT TAGUBA. 2015..

First off, Best of the Season to all, and Pete, the 'Magic Man' has inserted the same feelings in various places within this issue.

I say 'Magic Man' about Pete because he indeed is that to all of us that deal with the PoMo and the 'Prime' Website; without Pete they'd not be anywhere near what they are. Pete took the 'Original' Website to the stratosphere and showed us what could be done, and formats each and every issue of the PoMo. No one, and I mean no one, works as hard for this association on a daily basis than this man ... and his wife Shirley is nice enough to loan him to us for the 23-hours a day he spends on these tasks!!! I/We cannot thank Pete enough, and I hope we do not drive him into the ground too quickly.

As you peruse this PoMo enjoy what Pete has wrought, thank him for his efforts, and take a long gander at the 'Prime Website,' www.aftacaa.us. Most of the items you can find in this PoMo have been posted there for some time; and, a whole lot more is there awaiting your discovery.

You will find this issue interesting in several ways, not the least of which is the Active-Duty section. Col Gorski, CC, and Chief Joseph, CCMS, have definitely been doing what they can so everyone recognizes AFTAC for what it is, and what it can do for our national security ... thank you. And, Susan A Romano, PA, does a superb job of getting the word out to the alumni, and every other avenue there is for that process, thank you, Susan.

Enjoy, and again, Happy Holidays!!!



Sage Communicators-Post-Monitor Editor John Horsch, Formating Pete Gilbert-Information/Proofing: Judy Henderson, Susan A Romano/GG12/AFTAC PA; Executive Review: Frank Hall; Rovin' Cameras/Reporters: Judy Henderson, Bob Wiley, and Lou Seiler-Printing/Mailing: Editors, Mike Steskal, Terry Hammond, Curt &Eunice Harris; Web/Media: Editor/Clark Creery

In the Spotlight Continued

can help implement his vision for the future of the Alumni.

For those I have not had an opportunity to meet, let me provide a brief background on my time with the center. My first assignment with AFTAC began in December 1982. My office symbol was AFTAC/TNT, my boss was Walt Menzies, my Division Chief was Mike MacInnes, and my Director was Walt Singlevich – not bad company, I'd say! I was an evaluator in a program called PONY EXPRESS and during my tenure in TNT (December 1982 – May 1985) other members of the office included Marc Kniedler and Doris (Kirby) Bruner. In 1985, the AFTAC Vice Commander at the time, Col Tom Ciambrone, called me to his office one day (I thought I was in trouble for something) and asked if I was interested in becoming AFTAC's liaison to the Air Staff. Col Ciambrone allowed me to talk with my wife Diane, and the next day I told him I would be happy to serve wherever AFTAC needed me. This was a little bit of a white lie because the last thing on the planet I wanted to do was go to the Pentagon. Needless to say, I served as AFTAC's liaison to the Air Staff from May 1985 to May 1987. In July 1991, I returned to AFTAC as the Executive Officer to the Commander and worked for then Col Jim Jaeger until July 1993.

The Air Force had different plans for the remainder of my career and in July 1993 I became an Intelligence Officer and served in locations like the Republic of Korea (7 AF/A2), Langley AFB, VA (ACC/A2), the Pentagon (AF Legislative Liaison & Joint Staff), and Lackland AFB, TX (what is now 25 AF/A3). I retired from active duty in May 2008 and was hired for my current position as the AFTAC Director of Staff in October of 2008. In all of these positions I leveraged my time and experience with AFTAC.

Well, enough about me...if you want to know more it will have to be over a cold beverage at the Snowball, Golf-N-Get-Together or any other event where AFTACers gather.

Diane and I hope each of you can spend some quality time with family and friends over the holiday season.

Jim



Christmas Message

It's that time of year again when Christmas comes around and we all think of gift giving and the spirit of the season. Sometimes it's hard to determine what to give and what to do for those we care about. And then I think of the AFTAC alumni association and those few members who take on the responsibilities of the organization for all its members. One wonders why, with all the local alumni members available, only a few give of their time. Why not make a New Years resolution that this will be the year that we all get actively involved in giving of our time to make our organization more beneficial for all the alumni and active duty AFTAC'ers.

Arlin Massey
Secretary



**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy and Healthy New Year**

**to all the members of AFTAC
and its Alumni**

From the Post-Monitor Team

**John Horsch
Judy Henderson
Frank Hall
And
Pete Gilbert**

**2018 AFTAC Alumni Association
Snowball XX
Saturday, 20 January 2018
Holiday Inn Viera-Melbourne, 8298 North
Wickham Road, Melbourne, FL
(I-95, Exit #191)**

Since 1999, the AFTAC Alumni Association, Florida Chapter, has 'thrown a themed Snowball' at the start of the new year. We like to have this event when our 'Sage Snowbirds' are in town. We also believe it is a grand way to introduce the newly elected and appointed board members, recognize Alumni and Alumni accomplishments, hold a festive get-together and social, and wish old friends a great beginning to a new year.

It is also tradition, where we welcome the AFTAC Commander, Vice Commander, Chief Scientist, Director of Staff, Command Chief, Directors, Group and Squadron Commanders, all active-duty military and civilian, and the outlying area commanders, that may be Temporary Duty (TDY) here for a leadership conference.

This year's theme will be "AFTAC's Boats", joining previous themes honoring Hawaii, Germany, Florida, Wyoming, Thailand, Australia, Korea, Nebraska and Colorado ... locations where AFTAC had or has a presence, among others worldwide.

[See pages 23 and 27 to see info on AFTAC' S Boats](#)

Note: TBD items above, will be updated in a forthcoming E-ALL and on AFTACAA website, once relayed, by hotel staff and POC's. Former POC has retired, and new staff are on-board to work with me soon.

Social Hour (Pay-as-you go, Cash Bar)/Check-In: 5:30 - 6:30; Chimes/Introductions/National Anthem/POW-MIA Remembrance/Sage Salute Video/Invocation: 6:35; Dinner: 7:00, in the ballroom; Break/Dessert: 8:00; Program: 8:15.

To make reservations: RSVP/Reservations will begin Thursday, 14 December - Until Noon, Friday, 12 January 2018. We have a cut-off date for RSVP's, NLT: 1200 PM, Friday, 12 January 2018 to hotel staff. Note: No refunds after 12 January 2018, unless valid reason(s) apply; member(s) pay(s), or other(s) request(s) it.

Contact Information: Please call/send an email to: POC for 2018 Snowball XX (Email Preferred Method), Sean Ryan, AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA), Florida Chapter, Social Function Chairman, @Cell: 321-591-9053 (Unlisted) or @Email: Oceanblueview@yahoo.com (Unlisted), for any questions on event. AFTAC Building POC: Ms. Carol Snyder, carol.snyder@us.af.mil, 321-494-4402. Cash or check only, please. Thank you.

Saturday, 20 January

2018 AFTAC Alumni Association Snowball XX
Location: Holiday Inn Melbourne-Viera
Conference Center
(8298 North Wickham Road, Melbourne), (I-95, Exit 191).
**Social Hour: 5:30 - 6:30; Chimes/Introductions/
National Anthem/POW-MIA Remembrance/Sage
Salute/Invocation: 6:35.**
Dinner: 7:00. Break: 8:00. Program: 8:15.
Theme: "Mobile Sensors." Dress: Florida Casual.
Cost: TBD (Check or Cash only). Menu: TBD.
Hotel Room Cost: TBD
**RSVP: NLT Friday, 12 January -- 1200
(No Refunds, after 12 January;
Exception(s)/Member(s) Pay(s).)**
**POC: Sean Ryan, Social Committee Chair,
oceanblueview@yahoo.com
(Save the Date/Further Details Forthcoming)**



***ALERTS-WHAT'S COMIN' UP* <<< Pg 1**

2017 AFTAC Holiday Social/Open House

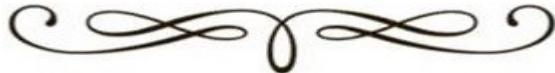
Wednesday, 22 December
 Lobby Entrance Showtime: 1030
 Open House: 1100-1430
 Please RSVP no later than
 Friday, December 15 @ 1200
 Menu: TBD
 Cost: TBD
 POC: Mr. Sean Ryan
oceanblueview@yahoo.com

2017 AFTAC Winter Social

12 January 2018
 1730 - 0000
 BREVARD ZOO
 8225 North Wickham Road
 Melbourne, FL 32940
 (Save the date/Further Details Forthcoming).

2018 AFTAC Alumni Association Snowball XX

Saturday, 20 January
 (Save the Date/Further Details Forthcoming)
 1730 - 2300
 Holiday Inn Viera-Melbourne, Melbourne, FL.



***EVENTS-WHAT'S GONE OFF* <<< Pg 1**

70th Anniversary of AFTAC
By Judy (Milam) Henderson

It seemed like a strange place to hold the 70th AFTAC Anniversary Dining Out, but nothing about this anniversary was routine. The location of the Dining Out seemed slightly strange – in an airplane hangar at the Warbirds Aviation Museum in Titusville, FL – but this proved to be an ideal location, with a static display of airplanes related to the AFTAC mission. When you work for AFTAC, you expect things to be planned and carried out with the utmost efficiency, but it seemed like this might not be the case with the Dining Out, through no fault of the organizers. Originally scheduled to be held in September, Hurricane Irma left many Brevard County FL residents with-



out power for several days to more than a week, resulting in the delay of the activities until the third week of October. The Honorable James R. Clapper was scheduled to be the speaker, but

he had to cancel at the last minute for personal reasons, so the AFTAC Historian, Dr. Mike Young, stepped in and gave a briefing about the 70-year history. With all the setbacks, and the need to plan the Dining Out twice because of Hurricane Irma, the venue was appropriate, the evening was entertaining, the food was wonderful, and the speaker was knowledgeable and interesting. Kudos go to the 70th Anniversary committee.

The Dining Out began with a wonderful selection of hors d'oeuvres



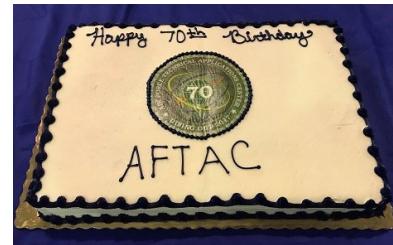
served to the guests as they viewed the displays and listened to the music. When the dinner chimes sounded, attendees proceeded to their seats and the formal program began, followed by the delicious dinner, and then the speaker's presentation, interspersed by visits to the Grog Bowl.



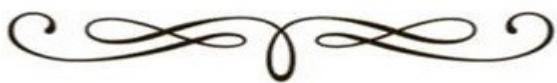
If you've never attended a Dining Out, you may not know that the Grog Bowl is a focal point of the evening. Many members were required to visit the Grog Bowl to atone for infractions of the rules, including

the Commander, Col Steven Gorski and his wife, Trisha. The Grog bowl is filled with a variety of libations that one would not normally mix together and drink. Fortunately, there were several designated drivers, in case someone made too many trips to the Grog Bowl.

Toward the end of the program, the cake cutting ceremony took place using sabers before the "Closing of the



Mess," at which time the music and dancing began. It was a wonderful evening of military regimen mixed with laughter and an opportunity to get to know some of the active-duty members.



The Winddown is Back By Bob Wiley

On Friday, November 3, the alumni association hosted the monthly wind down for the AFTAC Active Duty personnel. We have done this on an annual basis in the past, but it seems to me its been awhile since we did this. Sean Ryan honcho-ed getting the 'cold' beer and Ed Lindsay brought lots of pizzas that were shared in the newly dedicated pavilion located in the "Stonehenge" area. Boosters club members helped with the set-up and distribution of the 'goodies'. Both Ed and the Boosters Club president made opening remarks. Ed also made a short speech reminding everyone what the alumni do to support the active duty events and reminded all that the Alumni always welcome new members to enhance our ability to support. Col Gorski attended , but declined to make a statement. Many of the alumni in attendance are in the photos, but unfortunately we weren't organized enough to take a group photo or make a list of attendees. Makes you think we were only there for the beer and pizza, doesn't it?



AFTAC Ladies Christmas Luncheon By Judy Henderson



Following a long tradition (which started when AFTAC was located in Virginia) of having an AFTAC Ladies Christmas Luncheon, a handful of AFTAC ladies (active and retired) gathered at Beef O'Brady's in Satellite Beach, FL, on 6 December.

As usual, there was a lot of chatter among the attendees to catch up on news of what everyone is doing these days and to see pictures of a new grandbaby and to talk about everyone's family and health.

Part of our tradition for the last several years is to bring a donation for TOYS FOR TOTS, and we had a great collection to donate to the cause this year.

Ladies, if you're interested in attending next year, watch the AFTAC Alumni Web site or Email Judy Henderson at jem2415@earthlink.net to be placed on the list of those who receive a direct invitation.



AFTAC Toilet Bowl 2017 by George Mirda



are 80F, beer and softball tournaments.

Friday began at 0900 with spirited play and challenge rounds. Event lead, SMSgt Steve "Carp" Carpenter from DO, organized committees and set up a fantastic venue for hundreds of attendees with all the trimmings (barbeque pork a la TSgt Chevis Stanley) dogs, burgers, even an Italian Ice truck. Alumni hosted and managed 4 kegs of beer and a tasty cider to help cool down the players. John Horsch, Frank Calenda, Ed Lindsey

December 1st in the North means football, snow and below zero temperatures, but at the Viera Regional Sports Complex and to AFTAC active duty, civilians, contractors and alumni the temps



assured tradition and 99 culture were maintained.

The tournament was superbly honchoed by Kathie Querry who made sure rigid compliance with rules complimented the fun atmosphere. After many games, including a loser's bracket ultimate loser (DO # 2 team ... toilet bowl, number 2, get it?).

The loser becomes next year's Toilet Bowl organizer. The final game between Mission Support and the Directorate of Operations was hard fought, but in an exciting and razor-close finish, MS triumphed 8 runs to 7.

Prior to the big game, a home run derby was held for a field of nearly 20. Despite huge, powerful Casey's stepping up to bat, an everyman-sized nuclear engineer from TM, Capt Taylor Yousley, who played college baseball, knocked the most balls out of the park and took home bragging rights and the envied slugger trophy.



Highlights of the day were, for the first time in a long time, a lack of major injuries, some terrific cornhole mini-tournaments, long chow lines, but satisfactorily more than enough food and drink for all to savor till the very end. Col Gorski

threw out the first pitch and flipped the ceremonial coin to determine the final game's to the field or at-bat. Later, he and Command Chief Joseph presented the latrine-themed awards.

The Toilet Bowl harkens back to its annual namesake softball tournament 4 decades ago at AFTAC's depot/laboratory on McClellan AFB, California. My observation is that deadly cigarettes have been replaced with much more healthy cellphones. Soft drinks have taken a backseat to bottled water. Yet what hasn't changed is the competitive spirit and camaraderie that sports brings out in everyone whether player, official or spectator. Plus the USAF's finest organization and best people made it a day to remember for years to come.

AFTAC Alumni Golf N'GetTogether XXXI — Fall 2017 By Ed Lindsay

It was October and Florida had been subjected to another monster Hurricane named Irma.

With much adjusting, cleaning of debris, and putting the call out to the masses...a gathering ensued at the Manatee Cove Golf Course, on wonderful Patrick AFB, FL, Friday, 27 October. Ready for a 1300 start.

It was sure to be a gorgeous day and 86 players shuffled in to register for what ended up as 22 golf teams.

There was a lot of catching up with old friends. Mike Hoy had come out of the shadows to join us. Larry Silhanek could be seen talking story. With only Ed Lindsay, Carol Snyder, and Mike Steskal manning the registration table, things were getting crazy. But these 3 Alumni mastered the task and got everyone their mulligans, instructions, drink ticket, and helped separate them from as much moolah as possible.

Announcements were made by Rene Uzee, Manatee Cove Turney Director and ex-AFTACer. Ed Lindsay spoke and some quick comments by Colonel Gorski got us fired up to play. Off the masses went to hit and cuss out the little spherical object. Throughout the afternoon, cries of exultation could be heard echoing around the course. Joyful noises and some not so joyous expletives could also be heard. The beverage cart made its rounds and needed to be resupplied. Chad Brotherton made the rounds taking happy snaps of the happy groups and some local, scaly inhabitants.

The teams turned in their scorecards, returned their clubs to the parking lot, talked about the one that almost went in, and proceeded to the Pro shop for some well deserved BBQ provided by the Tides. All players received a door prize, from \$10 and \$25 gift cards at local restaurants to golf balls, hats, and rounds of golf. More conversation ensued about how well the day went and how it was good to see old friends and make new ones.

It was then time to announce those that rose to the top of heap in this day's event. There were some very close team scores. Also a few multiple names on the Closest to the Pin placards. When the smoke cleared, here are the valiant warriors that set the target for the next Spring's event:

1st place: Frank Hall, Steve Davidson, John Baker, Mike Hoy---53

2nd place: John Howorth, Dennis Kauffmann, Pat Murphy, Ed Lindsay—55

3rd place: Curtis Childers, Dustin Dees, Ely Traver--55
Closest to the pins: Paul Bertrand, Mike Hoy, Frank Hall, Kurt Malmstrom

Long Drive: Women: Ely Traver Men: Jim Whidden

The event couldn't have been such a success without help. Sean and Michelle Ryan put all the goodie bags

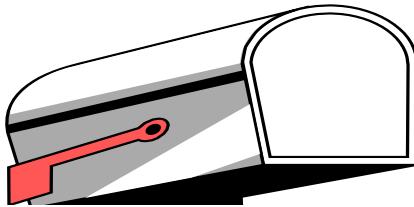
together the night before, which saved a ton of time Friday morning. Carol Snyder helped register up everyone, count up the money and draw the door prizes. Mike Steskal was very helpful in putting final touches on the goodie bags, selling mulligans, and drawing door prizes. Then Chad B. got some great photos.

We had some great sponsors. Thank you to Moon Golf, US 1 Golf Center, Fiesta Azteca-Suntree, Beef O'Brady's-Satellite Beach, & Charlie and Jake's-Suntree/Viera. Susie Glasgow and Kegman Inc. were our big Sponsor, with a \$250 donation....AWESOME!

We also acknowledge our sole \$100 sponsor: Space Coast Intelligent Solutions (SCIS)

This was a wonderful event and we hope you can join us in May for our Spring event.





Personals ...

Wherein alumni report major events or turning points in their lives that are of interest to fellow Sages. Please send information about awards, births (children, grandchildren), weddings, retirements, illness, deaths and other events (military or otherwise).

In Memoriam Rest in Peace



Oscar E. "Oz" Nunn, Jr

Contacted by Rob West to Mike Steskal Pensacola, Monday, August 7, 2017, HARPER-MORRIS MEMORIAL CHAPEL. Published in Pensacola News Journal on Aug. 11, 2017. He is survived by his spouse Earline and 2 children. Rob West added: "He was stationed with the 1009th @ 14th and Constitution 1952-1956."



Bobbie Futrell

Bobbie Jean Futrell, of Centennial, CO, age 92, passed away on May 13, 2017, in her home. Bobbie died of complications from lung disease. She is survived by her only daughter Barbee Futrell-Riehl, her son in law Daniel Riehl, and her granddaughter Shelbee Riehl. Bobbie retired after 30 years in 1986 from Civil Service at Lowry Air Force Base where she worked in various administrative and training roles. There was a celebration of life for Bobbie, her friends and family at her daughter's home June 25th. In lieu of flowers, Bobbie's daughter has requested that donations be made to the American Lung Association - LUNG FORCE.

Published in Denver Post from May 25 to May 27, 2017

Joseph Amerena, MSgt USAF Retired



Information received from Tina, Joe's Daughter, in an Email she sent to John Miner, which John then sent to Dale Klug.

"Joe has passed away...I am so sad to say. He went in the hospital Thursday, (Ed: 8/10), with a very bad infection. He was not able to beat it. I miss him already. Please inform his friends. You were so very important to him. Thank you for your valued friendship, Tina"

Dale Klug added: "I called Tina this morning, (Ed: 8/17).. She said Joe along with his wife, Jane, will be buried with full military honors in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (informally known as Punchbowl Cemetery) at Punchbowl Crater in Honolulu, Hawaii."

"Joe also was a US Marine Corps veteran who firmly believed "Once a Marine, Always a Marine" and ended his emails with "Semper Fi"."



John Joseph Anderson

CMSgt (Ret) John Joseph Anderson, USAF, 88, of Carlisle, passed away on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at home. He was born on March 8, 1929 in Bradford, and was a son of the late Otto R. and Margaret (Fullerton) Anderson.

John was a 1947 graduate of St. Bernard's Parish School in Bradford. He retired in 1975 from the US Air Force with the rank of Chief Master Sergeant with more than 25 years of service. He served during the Korean War and Vietnam War and was awarded several honors and medals. John was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, Carlisle, Toastmaster's International, St. Patrick's Parish Council, Knights of Columbus Council 4057 Assembly 2708 and the Air Force Association.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Evelyn H. (McDonald) Anderson, three sons; James M. (Mary) Anderson of Gaithersburg, MD, John T. (Lisa) Anderson of Statesville, NC and Robert C. Anderson of Satellite Beach, FL, two daughters; Lee F. (Mike) Bethel of Carlisle and Christy M. (Mike) Van Zant of Prescott, AZ, 6 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by one daughter, Lisa M. Anderson.

MAIL - CALL



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

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.

Thanks to all who contact us! We publish all correspondence, unless otherwise requested, so your name, and the memories it invokes, may be recalled.
 Normally, we will not include personal information, e.g., address, phone number, etc, unless you ask or seemingly appropriate (e.g., follow-up).



Stephen Carpenter, SMSgt, 12/06

Thanks to the entire AFTAC Alumni Association for your help with the Toilet Bowl. The event was a huge success and wouldn't have been possible without alumni support.

Tom Dunn on the Web Page 11/30

Kudos on the last 70 year slide show. I really enjoyed it. Outstanding presentation.

Tom Dunn

Mike Harkins 11/29

After a couple days of contending with an abscess tooth (and joyous root canal) I have checked out the posting on the website and it is exactly as I had hoped it would be presented. During my time with AFTAC I had the support of hundreds of people and you have made it possible that many might read my words of gratitude (and hopefully will pass them on to others they are still in contact with through social media). So, to every one of you, thank you so very much for doing this for me,

Mike

John Horsch 11/16

For months following the acceptance of our 'New,' and as I call it for differentiation, 'Prime' Website, I maintained the 'Original' as I had for years past. As we have, over these months, fine tuned/added features to this outstanding Website the 'Original' was becoming more and more obsolete and I'm sure pretty close to zero readership (which is a good thing and I had encouraged on the old site).

I have left the site index/pages intact but removed most entries that were obsolete except for a few pages that are still pertinent, 'Front Page' and the listing of Chapters; Page One PoMo info; Page Three, AFTAC Cares Program; Page 4 has pictures and information last inputted by Clark. Some, or all, of these pictures may have been moved to the new website, and finally, Page Eight.

--on all pages I have made reference to our 'Prime' Website with a link to the site

Thanks to everyone for their support and readership over the many years, and the mucho time and effort I know Clark put into our work. However, it was certainly time we had the professional site we do now and which Clark had wanted for the years he and I kept the old site up and running- Frank and Pete, and I'm sure anyone who has checked it out, have our everlasting gratitude for bringing it to fruition.

Sincerely, John

PS If the need arose, the old site could be brought back to life with what I would see as, more or less, a cut and paste of the appropriate sections of the new site.
 --let's hope there's never a need for that!!!

Frank Calenda 11/16

John, thanks so much for keeping the "Original" Website going in the early days of uncertainty for the "New" website. It was comforting to know that a back-up existed should we have had a catastrophic loss. When you responded to my request for you to do this, you replied without a complaint, that you would be happy to do it. You've done an admirable job mostly unknown by anyone as to your efforts. Referring to the New site in your original one I'm sure has helped to get the readership we enjoy now.

Thanks for your persistence and for your continuing help with website functions. A big thanks goes to Clark too for his foresightedness in seeing that a website was the way to "spread the word" and service our Alumni.

Kind regards,
 Frank and the entire website committee

PREZ **Ed FROM Lindsay**
THE TOP **SEZ**

Happy Holidays to all of our Alumni members around the world. Interesting that we are spread out across all regions of the globe, from England to Australia to Alaska to Turkey and all throughout the US. Kinda like how we were spread around the globe while supporting the various AFTAC missions.

Since my last meanderings to y'all, there have been many happenings at your Florida headquarters, with Alumni and those still working in the building. Big tumult was being visited by Hurricane Irma in early September. The majority of us weathered this storm better than last year's Hurricane Matthew. The worst part of Irma was many people out here in Florida were without power for a few weeks. Some events that were planned for early Fall had to be adjusted, but like always, flexibility was the key to Air Power and everyone pulled through.

The first big event was the 70th Anniversary of the organization now known as AFTAC. They planned for a Dining Out. AFTAC ensured that the Alumni were invited. The date of the event had to be moved a few times and could not be held close to the 17 Sept AFTAC inception date. The Dining Out was held on 20 October at the TICO Warbird facility in Titusville. It took place in an old airplane hangar and they had brought in a few airframes that were representative of aircraft used in many of AFTAC's early missions. There were 16 Alumni that attended and everyone looked very suave. They even invited me, as the President of the Alumni Association, to sit at the head table. I sat next the Commander, Colonel Steven Gorski, and was even given control of the Mess while Col Gorski and his wife were called up to the Grog Bowl. It was quite an honor to be there and represent all of you.

The week after the Dining Out, we held our Fall Golf Tourney. An event that allows those new and old to Get Together to catch up, make new friends, and have some friendly competition. 86 brave souls came out to partake in the beautiful Florida sunshine, bash a little innocent ball around, enjoy some cold beverages, and have a nice, tasty BBQ buffet. Everyone said they enjoyed the outing...so we will have another one in May. Hope some of you can join us at that event. Read about how everyone fared at the tourney in this issue.

Hard to believe that AFTAC has been in their new building a little over 3½ years. Many of you have probably seen some of the videos and articles of the old building on A1A being torn down. AFTAC needed another covered facility like the Outback of the old building. Work began on a structure late in the summer. Weather delayed the progress, but the new outback was finally

dedicated and opened the first week of October. The Alumni were honored to host the first official Wind Down at the new facility on 3 November. We provided pizzas for all, some bag of chips, and a metal container of Barley pop. We had about a dozen Alumni attend who do not still work in the building and there were plenty of others at the event who still are part of AFTAC. That was 3 Fridays in a row that the Alumni was rubbing elbows and getting the lowdown with those who are currently performing the mission. I guess we really made up for lost time from the storms...but that is what we do, cuz "we love AFTAC."

The latest time with our AFTAC brethren was their annual softball tournament and picnic, the Toilet Bowl, which was held the 1st of December. Alumni members again leaned forward and were happy to pour adult beverages, mingle with the current AFTACers, and even have one of our members on the winning team. What a day!

It is quite amazing the things that we get to do to stay involved with the Mothership. They are always welcoming to us and our newest Vice President, Jim Whidden, is the current Director of Staff. Did I mention, "We Love AFTAC?"

There are many more activities planned for the upcoming months. A Holiday gathering just before Christmas, the Snowball and AFTAC Winter Social coming up in January. Big news, a new opportunity to honor those of our brethren that gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving with AFTAC...more to come on that later.

The Alumni are still going strong. I thank those individuals who continue to keep this Association growing and fun. People like Frank Calenda, Pete Gilbert, Sean Ryan, John Horsch, Bob Wiley, Judy Henderson, Carol Snyder, and so many more who are putting forth huge efforts to get the word out to the masses and keep our Association alive.

With that, I sign off and hope you enjoy this issue of the Post Monitor. If you haven't visited the website lately, it is always full of nuggets that will keep you informed of your Alumni and AFTAC happenings. I hope that all of you and yours have a blessed holiday season and best of health for the remainder of this year and many to come. Hope to see some of you soon or at least in 2018.

Cheers,
 Ed Lindsay

Board Members (elected positions)

President-**Ed Lindsay** Vice-CMSgt **Jim Whidden**
 Secretary & Publicity-**Arlin Massey** Acting Treasurer-**Sean Ryan
Appointed**
 Activities-CMSgt **Joseph**, CCMS, Hall of Heritage-Mike Young/CC
 HO/Bob Wiley, Hospitality-Judy Henderson, Membership/Master
 Data Base-Mike Steskal Post-Monitor Editor/Alumni of the Year
 Coordinator-John Horsch, Post Monitor Formatting-Pete Gilbert,
 Publicity-**Sean Ryan**, Sage Shop-**M Sgt John Goll**. Website Manager-
 Frank Calenda
 #####

A Minute with the Minutes

Historian: In Dr. Mike Young absence, a discussion of the "Air Force Technical Application Center, Dining Out" pamphlet, that was passed out at the recent dining out and posted on our web site, took place. It was decided to leave the pamphlet on the web site. It was agreed that if any changes to the pamphlet are required, they should be communicated to Dr. Young.

Membership Report:

In his absence, an E-mail from Mike Steskal reported there are 619 Florida Alumni Members of which 557 are life time members. Of these, 257 live in Florida and 183 live in Brevard county. He reported that 21 members have paid their 2018 dues. Second notices were sent out Nov 15 with a third and final notice going out on Nov 16th. He also noted that eALLs are received by 1145.

Website Committee Report: Frank Calenda discussed the requirement that all submissions must go through him prior to inclusion on the web site to avoid possible incorrect data. Also discussed were website statistics and the need for POCs annotated on all events.

Post-Monitor: John Horsch discussed inputs for the next PoMo which are due Dec 4th.

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"IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE WILL BE GETTING WHAT THEY WANT THIS YEAR...SOMEBODY POSTED MY CREDIT CARD NUMBER ON THE INTERNET!"

**COLORADO NEWSLETTER EXTRACTS****ECHOES**

President, Steve Clark-Vice, Darrel Kline-Treasurer, Bill Schmied-Newsletter Editor, Jerry Moxley/Publisher, Ken Behrens-Webmaster, Bill Harris-Website @ <http://www.aftacco.org/>. Membership: 87



FL Editor Note: Jerry Moxley (Moxi), ECHOES Editor, advises Sages can request a complimentary 'electronic' issue via email, mox@wispertel.net, on a one time basis for review and consideration of joining the Denver Chapter.

Events Calendar

FL EDITORS:: CHECK WEB SITE, URL ABOVE, FOR EVENTS. THE COLORADO CHAPTER HAS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BREAKFASTS, PICNICS AND SOCIALS, THAT CAN SCHEDULED AT A DATE WHEN THE POMO PUBLICATION SCHEDULE CANNOT PUBLISH THE INFORMATION. ALL AFTACERS, OLD AND NEW, ARE INVITED.

Summer 2017 Picnic

Our annual picnic was held in June at Matney Park in Castle Rock. About 25 Alumni and guests enjoyed burgers, brats, watermelon and home-made ice cream along with an excellent view of Pikes Peak.



Bill Schmied's bean bag toss was a big hit. The Det 46 Commander, Major Will Dalton, introduced his replacement, Major Ernesto Curiel, and praised the Alumni for all that they have done for the mission.

We wish him best of luck in his next endeavor and welcome Major Curiel and Det 46 to our Alumni Organization and any of our activities.

Maj Fulton, the outgoing Det 45 Commander is now the Chief, NORAD J36, in Colorado Springs.

WEST COAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER EXTRACTS

DEPOT FALLOUT

2014-15 Board: Dave **Tarquino**, President; Joe **Johnson**, Vice; Ken **Denbleyker**, Chairman of the Board of Directors (COB); George **Thompson**, Asst. COB; Bob **Fitzgerald** (D), Director At Large; John 'Butch' **Kemna**, Treasurer; Dennis **Nolan**, Asst. Treasurer; Bob **Baker**, Secretary; Ken **Breitwieser**, Asst. Sec; Dave **Price**, Membership; Don **King**, Newsletter Editor; Bob **Fitzgerald**, Webmaster - Website @ <http://www.aftacwcc.org>. **Florida Editor's Note:** The 1st Page of this 'Fallout' is available at the website - full earlier issues are also available. This editor can personally attest to the value of reviewing CA's posted issues. There are articles of high interest for Sages not available elsewhere, better yet, become a member.



A TRIBUTE TO JOE JOHNSON by Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster & WCC Interim Vice President

Joe Johnson has retired ... again! Joe finally called it quits after the 2017 reunion was completed. Joe was 'arm twisted' into continuing in the job of WCC Vice President when the WCC did not have anyone to fill the office of President after December 2015, and no one else wanted to run for and take his place as VP. He only agreed to do stay in that job in order to insure that we actually put on a reunion in 2017. Continuing as Vice President, Joe essentially did the duties of the President this past year and a half, as well as taking on the job of Chairman of the 2017 reunion committee. The West Coast Chapter won't be the same without Joe's consistent help. By consistent, here's what I mean:

- AFTAC World Wide Reunion Chairman Apr-1999; (the year of the deactivation of TOD)
- A signer in 2/1999 of a "Declaration of Intent" to form an AFTAC Alumni Chapter in Sacramento, California. (Joe, Dale Klug & myself are the only members left of the 15 who signed that document. See our website "Fallout" page, near the bottom, to see it.)
- Joe helped write the Articles of Association to form the WCC in April 1999;
- First WCC President: April 1999-September 2001;
- WCC Vice President: Oct 2001-Nov 2005; (two terms)

- Named AFTAC Alumni Of The Year (AOY): Feb 2003;
- WCC President: Dec 2005-Nov 2007;
- WCC Vice President: Dec 2011-July 2017; (two & 3/4 terms)
- ◆ AFTAC World Wide Reunion Chairman June 2017

There are very few others who have worked as hard and as consistently as Joe has for the wellbeing of our West Coast Chapter and all our members. So, in closing I'd like to say on behalf of all our WCC members:

Many thanks Joe for all you have done for us over these years.
May God Bless You!

CONTRAILS FROM THE 1009th SWS PROPS FROM THE 50'S By Jack O'Connor, SEO Our Airborne Home - The rear compartment of a WB-29/WB-50.

For takeoff and landing, my official station was on the floor with my back against the rear bomb bay bulkhead without anything but the floor to hang onto. A few feet farther aft, on either side of the aircraft, were the scanner positions, which were originally the waist gunner positions. They now were crew positions with seatbelts and sunk below the floor level a few feet with



a huge plastic blister for a window. Now the blisters were used primarily to observe engine start and wheel retraction and extension and positioning of the flaps and report their observations to the

forward flight crew. They gave a great view of the entire aircraft from the wing aft. Reporting the flap position was a very important element if you wanted to get safely into the air and back on the ground! Often, the scanners were the first to see a problem with the engines, flaps and often, the ailerons: it wasn't just a sit-and-watch position. The left scanner was also the dropsonde* operator. The right scanner was astute in the mechanical area. Their input was vital to the mission. As soon as the SEO deemed it necessary, or advisable, or whenever he felt like it, the SEO took over the right scanner position, which had been modified to enable the mounting of the B-199 detection equipment. I normally let the scanner keep his position until level off at 10,000 feet. On routine missions, the two scanners and SEO kind of rotated the two positions. We monitored the Esterline Angus ink chart recorder (which just sat on the floor) and the dials of

the B-199, the main piece of equipment for detection. If I saw a problem with the aircraft while in the right scanner position, I scurried out of the seat and got the right scanner to take over immediately. It happened more often than I liked!

Routine missions were normally a boring 15-hour trip of just boring holes in the sky in the WB-29. When the WB-50 came along, they became an even more boring 17-18 hours. Of course, attitudes throughout the aircraft crew changed if I noticed something different in my readings. I would advise the AC and NAV so that they would be ready for any request from me. In the events that followed we would sometimes see really interesting things outside the bubble, such as when we witnessed about eight sunrises and sunsets! The weird and strange phenomenon of all those risings and settings was an unusual happening. Not something you

see every day---or night!
Back to the aircraft: Behind the left scanner position was the dropsonde* position followed by the Honey Bucket, then an open space about 4x4.



• A dropsonde is an elongated package that was shot down a chute by release of the pressure inside the aircraft. This package shed its outer skin after it was ejected and deployed a small parachute, sized to keep it airborne for about 15 minutes. It supported instruments that measured temperature, pressure and humidity.

This information was transmitted back to our aircraft and received by the Radio Operator. He would work like a madman to get this vital info to a ground station in the US. To do that, we had an antenna that reeled out of the tail of the aircraft. It would send our dropsonde information and any other info to a 17-19 hour even more boring RC-121 flight, in racetrack configuration, far off the California coast over the Pacific Ocean.

This plane would be gathering and imparting weather information, but its main mission was as part of the "picket system"---being alert for a Russian invasion by aircraft or ships. That is why the "R" for Reconnaissance designation instead of the Weather Service "W". One of these RC-121's were "on station" at all times. This was all the improved information the meteorologists, forecasting for the lower 48, had to work with for developing their forecasts. This amount of information was more copious and much more reliable than just a few years earlier. Remember, this was the 50's---long before most of us ever thought of satellites or how the weather was forecast.

BTW: I have often referenced the word "boring." Military flying in those days was described as: "Hours and hours of boredom punctuated by moments of stark terror." Had enough of those!

In the WB-29, aft of the left scanner there were the dropsonde, honey bucket, open space with 22 lunches, racks of spare parts and sets of various equipment and other paraphernalia, including the parachutes for the aft crewmembers. Behind the right scanner position was a narrow bulkhead and then the radio Operator position. Aft of that was the unpressurized exit hatch and tail gunner position.

The aircraft had no weapons, so this position was, as I remember, empty. I was disappointed when I saw it like that. I had wanted to sit in the tail gunner's position.

In the WB-50, the radio operator had been moved to the flight deck up forward, and the tail gunner position was designed out. We hung our front-pack chutes just behind us. The APU was still in the rear, but it still made for a lot of space to get our work done.

TIMES WERE A-CHANGING by Don King, Fallout Editor

There was a time when change was pretty darned slow. It seemed forever between pre-telephone days and television. We didn't have a telephone in our home until 1947, and it didn't have a dial. It was a party line with four other families hooked together. You cranked it a certain way to get someone or an operator. By the time we got a TV in 1952, we could actually dial someone up and talk to him or her directly! Radio and TV were loaded with vacuum tubes to make their magic work. The first point-contact transistor was demonstrated in 1947, but it took another 10 years before it became a simple device that could replace some of the simple vacuum tubes. It had many advantages that would soon lead to its widespread use in electronics. However, for all of the alphabet soup people in the early days of AFTAC, we had to rely on tube equipment, mechanical chart recorders, rudimentary GM tubes, simple lab paraphernalia, and learn-as-we-went strategies. We were still confident that we could do our mission with a high degree of success and results confirmed it. Then, one day an SEO went up to do his job. After the usual hours of routine results, an apparent positive indication of something different appeared. Following the standard procedures that were called for by our state-of-the-art equipment, he checked to determine whether it was a significant indication calling for him to initiate appropriate actions. After running the prescribed tests, he determined that nothing indicated a need to change from the routine work. Upon returning to base, he turned over the materials to the C guy. As the C guy had done with countless prior routine

deliveries, he opened the materials and followed the usual procedures with no indications of anything other than mostly normal results. He did see a little change is some of it, so that was sent off with the report of findings to the east coast for further analysis.

Communications was much better than a few years before as was evidenced by the reply back from the east coast. Excitement was way too soft a word to describe the conversation. Removing possibly

objectionable quaint colloquial expressions along with sensitive references, "This is way over the top of what we had hoped for!!!! You have (Deleted for security reasons.)." Needless to say, the level of activity everywhere went to 7/24!

What had happened? Have you ever had a problem with your computer when certain software doesn't work right anymore? Those clever developers had made little changes to make it work with newer operating systems but not with your older one. The old technologies of A and C were not capable of analyzing this totally new level of results. It also was an unwelcome surprise to the A and C guys when they realized that they had handled the material as if it had been just an omelet.

DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY

By Don King, Fallout Editor

Excerpts from the speech that General Douglas MacArthur gave at West Point on 12 May 1962

Duty, Honor, Country: -- the code of conduct and chivalry of those who guard this beloved land of culture and ancient descent. For all eyes and for all time, it is an expression of the ethics of the American soldier.

Duty, Honor, Country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying points: to build courage when courage seems to fail; to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith; to create hope when hope becomes forlorn.

Duty, Honor, Country: The unbelievers will say they are but words, but a slogan, but a flamboyant phrase. But these are some of the things they do: They build your basic character. They mold you for your future roles as the custodians of the nation's defense. They make you strong enough to know when you are weak, and brave enough to face yourself when you are afraid. They teach you to be proud and unbending in honest failure, but humble and gentle in success; not to substitute words for actions, not to seek the path of comfort, but to face the stress and spur of difficulty and challenge; to learn to stand up in the storm but to have compassion on those who fall; to master yourself before you seek to master others; to have a heart that is clean, a goal that is high; to learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; to reach into the future yet never neglect the past; to be serious yet never to take yourself too seriously; to be modest so that you will

remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength. They give you a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions, a freshness of the deep springs of life, a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity, of an appetite for adventure over love of ease. They create in your heart the sense of wonder, the unfailing hope of what next, and the joy and inspiration of life.

Duty, Honor, Country: The code which those words perpetuate embraces the highest moral laws and will stand the test of any ethics or philosophies ever promulgated for the uplift of mankind. Its requirements are for the things that are right, and its restraints are from the things that are wrong.

The soldier, above all other men, is required to practice the greatest act of religious training -- sacrifice. In battle and in the face of danger and death, he discloses those divine attributes which his Maker gave when he created man in his own image. No physical courage and no brute instinct can take the place of the Divine help which alone can sustain him. However horrible the incidents of war may be, the soldier who is called upon to offer and to give his life for his country is the noblest development of mankind. And through all this welter of change and development, your mission remains fixed, determined, inviolable: it is to win our wars. Everything else in your professional career is but corollary to this vital dedication. All other public purposes, all other public projects, all other public needs, great or small, will find others for their accomplishment. But you are the ones who are trained to fight. Yours is the profession of arms, the will to win, the sure knowledge that in war there is no substitute for victory; that if you lose, the nation will be destroyed; that the very obsession of your public service must be: **Duty, Honor, Country.**

You are the leaven which binds together the entire fabric of our national system of defense. This does not mean that you are warmongers. On the contrary, the soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war. But always in our ears ring the ominous words of Plato, that wisest of all philosophers: "Only the dead have seen the end of war." The shadows are lengthening for me. The twilight is here. Always there echoes and reechoes: **Duty, Honor, Country.**

He was speaking to the Army ground troops in this message, but this applies to all of my fellow AFTAC airmen as well who have fought and are fighting a silent war that has enormous impact on the very future of this great nation. You should be proud that we have helped to avert wars. We exemplify those words that he said; **Duty, Honor, Country.**

MONITOR ing Active

Duty Doing' from around the AFTAC world

Command Section



Commander/CC/2016. Colonel Gorski graduated from the USAF Academy in 1996. His operational experience includes assignments as the Intelligence Flight Commander for the 23rd Fighter Group; the Chief of Target Development for the 607th Intelligence Squadron; and the Chief of the Joint Exploitation Cell for the Joint Special Operations Command.

Bio: <http://www.25af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC.aspx>



Command CMS/CCMS/2016. Enlisted in the Air Force in October 1989 where he initially served as an aircrew life support technician. Before assuming his current duties he served as the Superintendent of the 6th Mission Support Group, MacDill AFB, Fl. The Chief has had multiple combat and contingency deployments.

Bio: <http://www.25af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC.aspx>

From the Commander

It is an honor to recognize the Air Force Technical Applications Center's recent achievement of the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award from 1 Jun 15 - 31 May 17.

Over the past two years, AFTAC has done a tremendous job maintaining mission focus and supporting the fight around the globe. National Agencies, Combatant Commands, and Staffs constantly rely on our hard work and expertise to enforce our national deterrence strategy and shape our national policies. As Commander, I have reiterated many times that AFTAC's actions are constantly being noticed by those outside this building - today is no different.

Congratulations AFTAC, on achieving another Air Force Organizational Excellence Award! We were 1 of 10 organizations within Air Combat Command chosen to receive this honor, and it is no doubt due solely to our professional workforce's commitment to the mission and dedication in service to our Nation.

AFTAC civilian, Army Reservist selected for promotion to brigadier general



A member of the Air Force Technical Applications Center here was recently promoted Nov. 1 to brigadier general in the U.S. Army.

Brig. Gen. Donald B. Absher, a civilian physical scientist for AFTAC's Materials Technology Directorate, was selected for promotion in the Army Reserve, where he has served for almost 30 years. Absher graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1988 after earning a

bachelor's degree in cell biology from California State University, and over the course of his three decades in uniform, he divided his time between active duty, the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve.

As a civilian physical scientist for the Department of Defense's sole nuclear treaty monitoring center, Absher is responsible for leading an interdisciplinary scientific technical team that coordinates the materials collection, analysis and data reporting functions supporting the National Technical Nuclear Forensics program.

The newly-minted general officer has held a number of prestigious titles throughout his military career, including operations officer for the Defense Intelligence Agency's Chemical and Biological Intelligence Support Team, U.S. Transportation Command's chief of deployment and distribution operations center, and most recently as deputy commander of the 143rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command – the largest sustainment command in the U.S. Army.

A Bronze Star recipient, Absher has deployed numerous times to Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. During Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, he served as a platoon leader during for the 24th Infantry Division. From 2007 to 2008, he deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait as the 595th Transportation Brigade's chief resource management officer. And in 2011, he was the commander of the 1182nd Deployment and Distribution Battalion in Southwest Asia.

With the promotion comes a change of title and increased responsibility. The 1-star is now the vice commander of the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command under U.S. Transportation Command located in Norfolk, Va. JECC is responsible for providing decisive joint communications, planning and public affairs support to joint forces to meet the emerging requirements of Combatant Commands and Joint Task Force-capable headquarters.

The Santa Rosa, Calif., native joined AFTAC in 1994 and has deftly balanced his busy civilian occupation with his demanding military career.

"With family being my first priority, I believe it's a unique and continuous challenge for many Reserve personnel to appropriately balance civilian career responsibilities with their military obligations," Absher said. "I've been extremely fortunate to have very supportive management here at AFTAC, and that has significantly lowered the associated stresses on my family and myself throughout multiple overseas deployments and extended exercises."

While he's humbled at the amount of faith his Army leadership has placed in him as evidenced by his promotion selection, his pride comes tumbling to the forefront when he talks about the military success of his children.

"My son is an Air Force F-16 pilot, and my daughter is married to a Navy nuclear reactor operator," said Absher. "Taylor is a first lieutenant in Japan and has already participated in several Pacific Air Force-led exercises, including Red Flag in Alaska this past summer. Elizabeth lives in San Diego, and her husband is assigned to the USS Pasadena, a nuclear submarine. She juggles her full time 'mom' responsibilities with two young children while she serves as the Family Readiness Coordinator for the USS Pasadena families. Understandably, these responsibilities are both compounded when her husband is out to sea."

Lt. Col. Ty Miller, chief of AFTAC's Verification Science Division, is Absher's civilian supervisor and had nothing but praise for his leadership capabilities.

"It comes as no surprise to me that Don was selected to serve in the general officer ranks," said Miller. "He is a supremely gifted leader and an extremely dedicated employee. His leadership skills come shining through with every project he works on, and I oftentimes look to him for mentorship on situations that arise in our division."

Miller joked, "I don't know many Air Force lieutenant colonels who have the privilege of having an Army brigadier general in their unit, so I'm going to milk that as much as I can."

AFTAC civilian returns to duty after Hurricane Maria relief efforts

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.

"They have no power, no running water, limited transportation, little food, and the damage is unimaginable."

Those are the words of Claudette Wells, an acquisition program manager for the Air Force Technical Applications Center here, speaking about the citizens of St. Croix, a U.S. territory. Wells recently returned from the island nation after volunteering to help with Hurricane Maria disaster relief efforts and spent six weeks on the

Federal Emergency Management Agency's Surge Capacity Force.

Shortly after the Category 5 storm barreled through the Caribbean, Greater and Lesser Antilles, the Department of Homeland Security sent a message to all civilian federal employees seeking volunteers to help those affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. Wells jumped at the chance to assist in any way she could.

"I was lucky enough to have an employer who was willing to let me go for 45 days, a desire to help those in need, and a wife who knows what I find rewarding," said Wells. "After seeing the devastation in Houston after Hurricane Harvey, I knew I had to do something to contribute to the relief efforts that hit so close to home here in Florida."

Once Wells got the go-ahead from her local chain of command, she flew to Anniston, Ala., where she received what's called "just-in-time" emergency response training – a condensed course that provided basic information on how to handle the needs of those affected by the catastrophe. She was also issued a laptop and cell phone she would need for the duration of her temporary duty.

From Anniston, Wells flew to St. Croix and landed at Henry E. Rohlsen Airport in Frederiksted on the western tip of the island, where she was met by other FEMA disaster relief personnel. Once on the ground, she was initially tasked with conducting Disability Integration operations – work that involved following up on referrals for citizens with functional disabilities or unmet needs.

"I worked with folks who had vision, hearing, mobility or cognitive disabilities," she said. "We helped connect them with local agencies that provide a specialized service to those with a particular disability, and we helped identify and distribute the durable medical equipment they needed like canes, walker and wheelchairs."

After several days of work on the DI team, Wells was transferred to the Individual Assistance group. There, she worked with a small cadre of surge personnel and made more than 1,000 calls to victims who had already filed paperwork with FEMA and needed additional medical assistance. "We usually had to make multiple calls to the same number because of the poor cellular network, and some we just were never able to reach," she lamented.

Wells also spent time with the Disaster Support Assistance team, which was responsible for canvassing certain geographical areas to make contact with those most impacted by the storm.

"We'd go door-to-door – always in the buddy system –

to determine if residents had registered for assistance or not," she explained. "If they hadn't, we'd offer to register them right there on the spot. That is, if we had connectivity. If cell service was down, we'd fill out a form and upload it to FEMA's database when we returned to the ship."

The ship to which Wells referred was an aging Carnival Cruise Liner, the Fascination. Carnival docked the 2,056 passenger ship in St. Croix after receiving a partnership request from FEMA, and the vessel's certified crew members provided housing and meals to relief workers.

"It was a bit surreal to spend my days under extremely austere conditions, witnessing the abject conditions the people of St. Croix had to endure, then turn around and return to a luxury cruise liner with great food, air conditioning, running water and electricity. It was very humbling and made me realize just how fortunate I am,"



Claudette Wells, an acquisition program manager for the Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick AFB, Fla., stands near the dock at Frederiksted, St. Croix as she prepares to head out to work as a Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster relief volunteer. Wells was part of FEMA's Surge Capacity Force that helped those affected by Hurricane Maria, a Category 5 storm that barreled through the Caribbean in September 2017. (Courtesy photo)

Wells stated.

Wells, a retired U.S. Navy officer who has been with AFTAC since 2003, rates this event as one she will never forget.

"What struck me the most about this entire experience

was the patience of the disaster survivors," she said. "When I arrived at St. Croix, they had already been without power for more than three weeks. Things like clean drinking water and fuel were scarce, but they weren't out there looting or complaining or rioting. They seemed genuinely grateful for the presence of FEMA and its volunteers, and just about everyone I came in contact with thanked us for being there."

She added, "I was just a small cog helping a very large machine help people in need. And if my wife Helen hadn't been willing to make the sacrifice to maintain our household by herself, I'm not sure I would have been able to make the trip. She was totally supportive from the start, and I'm glad I was able to be a part of the effort."

According to the National Hurricane Center, Maria was the 10th most intense Atlantic hurricane on record and caused catastrophic damage to the islands of Dominica, Guadeloupe, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and recovery efforts are still ongoing.



Fallen power lines and uprooted trees litter the streets of St. Croix where Claudette Wells, an acquisition program manager for the Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick AFB, Fla., volunteered to serve as a disaster relief worker for the Federal Emergency Management Agency after Hurricane Maria impacted the island. "The damage was unimaginable," said Wells. (U.S. Air Force photo by M. Claudette Wells)

AFTAC names lab after 'giant' of nuclear forensics

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.

The Air Force Technical Applications Center dedicated its research laboratory in Colorado after a pioneer of gas analysis techniques at a ceremony held Oct. 24, 2017.

Formerly known as Operating Location GT, the



Col. Steven M. Gorski (right), commander of the Air Force Technical Applications Center, and Chief Master Sgt. Michael Joseph, AFTAC's command chief, pose next to the plaque that officially dedicates the center's research laboratory after former AFTAC senior scientist, Michael Harkins, at a ceremony at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo. Harkins' official portrait is on the right. (U.S. Air Force photo by Susan A. Romano)

Harkins Laboratory Complex was officially named after Michael Harkins, a nuclear engineer who served as the senior scientist of AFTAC's Technical Operations Division, Gas Analysis Laboratory, from April 1975 to July 1999.

Harkins pioneered lab methods and technologies that were critical to AFTAC's global nuclear treaty monitoring mission. Over the course of his distinguished career, he developed groundbreaking approaches to gas analysis and oversaw the design of advanced

lab equipment that exponentially increased the lab's analysis capabilities.

"Mr. Harkins was a giant in the field of nuclear forensics," said Jeff Moore, director of the Harkins Lab Complex. "I first met him when I was assigned to AFTAC's gas analysis laboratory in 1989. Mike was the sole civilian in the lab, and over the course of the next six years he taught me so much about gas analysis and AFTAC's reactor products program. The knowledge he shared with me and the guidance he provided became the foundation for my future, and has had a continued influence to this day."

The complex operates two research lab facilities to conduct research and development in ultra-low background radiological analysis methods. The nuclear measurements facility is located deep underground in the famed Cheyenne Mountain AFS complex, also home to NORAD and U.S. Northern Command's hardened alternate command center.

AFTAC scientists capitalize on the 2,000 feet of mountainous granite that provides natural shielding from cosmic radiation, which enables lab personnel to house and operate unique lab equipment and perform low-level radiation detection research that cannot be duplicated at any other lab in the world.

Col. Steven M. Gorski, AFTAC commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Michael Joseph, AFTAC command chief, officiated the ceremony at Cheyenne Mountain. Harkins was unable to attend the dedication, but sent a statement to Moore to share with those in attendance.

"Words hardly seem adequate to express my deep gratitude for this honor," his letter read. "All I can do is sincerely thank all the people who made this recognition of my service possible. I am very appreciative for this honor, and by association I hope so many others realize they can share in this with me as I have never lacked for support."

After receiving Air Force approval to name the facility after Harkins, Gorski and his leadership team got the ball rolling to turn the concept into reality.

"Mike Harkins had an incredible impact on how AFTAC conducts business to this day," said Gorski. "Countries across the globe attempt to avoid or circumvent estab-



Mr. Jeff Moore, director of the Harkins Laboratory Complex at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo., reads remarks from Michael Harkins after the research lab was named after Harkins Oct. 24, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo by Susan A. Romano)

lished international treaties and it's our job to capitalize on the critical capability of nuclear debris analysis. The Airmen at the Harkins lab do just that, and much of that capability is due to the foundation established by Mike Harkins. It's a testament to him that is well deserved."

Moore added, "Mike's legacy to nuclear science continues today. I was honored to work for him, and I can't think of anyone more deserving of this prestigious

Renaming Ceremony Acceptance Remarks For Michael Harkins In Absentia Oct 24, 2017

Words hardly seem adequate to express my deep gratitude for this honor. All I can do is sincerely thank Colonel Gorski, his staff, and all of the people who made this recognition of my service possible including the much appreciated efforts of Jeff Moore. Given my unavoidable absence I asked for this opportunity to acknowledge those to whom I owe so much. I suppose I should start with the U. S. Air Force as it was their policies that allowed me to acquire the two degrees which, when combined with my initial degree, gave me the tools to accomplish the milestones for which I am being honored. Of course, my contributions would not have been possible without the mentoring I received from such pioneers as Dr. Tony Turkevich, Bob and Helen Bench, Wes Nicholson, and especially Carl Schubauer who was always so generous with his assistance. As both a fellow scientist and a valued friend Carl was always there for me as I nurtured our West Coast facility to technical maturity. I would also like to acknowledge the many bosses I have had (much too many to name) who for the most part kept me free of administrative concerns so that I could apply my full attention to the science; and then trusted my judgement when I pressed for changes in laboratory procedures or equipment design. While they gave me the freedom to do what I thought was necessary, none of our advancements would have happened without a great crew of lab personnel. And for that I must give tribute to the personnel system that provided me with some outstanding young troops and talented cross-trainees whose tireless hours produced the highest quality data which in time became the hallmark of our facility. Some came and went in short measure while others like my dearly departed colleague Steve Ellingson had AFTAC in their blood to the very end. Even after my Air Force retirement in 1999 I had the greatest challenge of all when the TBE lab was established from scratch thanks to the dedicated work of a few handpicked lab techs under the leadership of my old lab leadership team of Mike Howard and Brian Kelly. I think that covers just about everyone and yet there were so many more on the fringes who were invaluable to my efforts. In closing let me state once again how very appreciative I am for this honor, and by association I hope so many others realize they can share in this with me as I have never lacked for support. Thank you so much.

AFTAC Airman honored with Valor Award for life-saving



By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.

An act of courage and bravery led to an Airman from the Air Force Technical Applications Center here earning the 2017 Valor Award and Life Saving Medal from the Melbourne Regional Chamber of East Central Florida.

Senior Airman Jennifer Engblom, a nuclear debris collection and analysis ground systems technician with AFTAC's Technical Surveillance Squadron, received the award for her actions in November 2016 when she responded to an automobile accident that involved three vehicles and five severely injured occupants.

Engblom and a co-worker were traveling on the Florida Turnpike on a Sunday evening last fall when they came upon the multi-car wreck. Engblom saw one of the vehicles had caught fire, yet she didn't see any first responders on scene, so she urged her co-worker to pull over so they could render assistance.

Acting quickly, Engblom took charge of the scene. She treated one occupant for shock while guiding other bystanders in emergency lifesaving procedures. She calmed and reassured the victims and examined each injured person to ensure their immediate medical needs were being met.

As one vehicle became engulfed in raging flames, Engblom realized the injured passengers as well as those rendering assistance were in grave danger of a potential explosion. With a clear head, she directed a bystander to move her SUV between an immobile victim and the flaming car, creating a blast shield between the fiery automobile and the injured passenger on the ground.

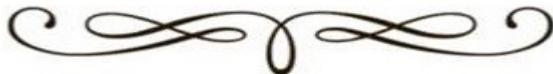
After about 30 minutes, paramedics arrived, but Engblom wasn't done rendering aid. She assisted the medics with placing the injured on stretchers and provided as much vital information as possible to help the EMTs with their initial response efforts.

"I had the honor of representing Jennifer at the

Melbourne Chamber's award ceremony," said Lt. Col. Edward G. Ferguson, TESS commander. "I sat among some amazing people at this event – firemen, police officers, emergency medical technicians – people who perform life-saving measures nearly every day. And while I was in awe of their actions, I realized Jen was the only person being recognized who was not a fully certified and trained first responder. That spoke volumes to me."

Every year, the chamber presents three categories of valor awards to eligible Brevard County citizens: a medal of valor, a life-saving medal, and an award of merit. Each is presented for some form of extraordinary or unprecedented behavior or action.

Ferguson said, "The evening was a memorable tribute to members of our community whose selfless acts set them apart. I know Jen would have liked to attend, but her wedding plans needed attention. When I spoke to her before the event, she considered her feat of heroism as 'no big deal' and said it was something anyone else would have done under the circumstances. It was a great evening, and I'm incredibly proud to have Airmen like Jen in my squadron."



Nuclear Treaty Monitoring unit cleans up after Hurricane Irma

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.
In the wake of a confirmed nuclear test in North Korea Sept. 3, members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center balanced the requirement for its 24/7 no-fail nuclear detection mission to continue with the need to evacuate as Hurricane Irma barreled up Florida's peninsula.



Four days before the massive Category 3 storm made landfall in south Florida Sept. 10, AFTAC leadership made the decision to relocate its critical operations to its alternate location. Once Airmen were in place and all systems were set up to accept the mission, the headquarters here took the necessary steps to evacuate more than 385 Airmen and nearly 2,000 family members from the area.

Travel experts secured scarce airline tickets for a team of 50+ personnel to make the trip from Orlando to Texas Sept. 6, and the relocation team had AFTAC's mon-

itoring system up-and-running within hours.

"The most challenging part of contingency management operations is maintaining the mission with no end in sight," said Senior Master Sgt. David Maurice, superintendent of AFTAC's **Continuity of Operations**. "On most deployments, you know how long you have to perform the mission. Here, we started with uncertainty and have to keep going until they stay stop. But as challenging as it is to transfer the mission from one location to another, it's even more taxing when we have to leave our families behind to deal with a major hurricane."

That obstacle was something AFTAC's commander took very seriously.

"My number one concern is the safety and well-being of AFTAC Airmen and their families," said Col. Steven M. Gorski. "While our national decision-makers rely on us to provide uninterrupted access to nuclear event detection data, we also must ensure our personnel have all the resources and assistance they need to weather a major storm or evacuate the area. It's doubly hard on those Airmen who have to relocate prior to the storm – their focus is on the mission, but their hearts are back at home. Thankfully we've got an incredible network of people here who consistently look out for each other and come together, even under the most austere and challenging of circumstances."

One of those Airmen is Senior Airman David Richardson, a defensive cyber operations technician who deployed to Texas, but had to leave his wife Elizabeth behind.

"My wife hunkered down with my co-worker Staff Sgt. (Jonathan) North's wife in their home, along with two other AFTAC NCOs who didn't fall under the mandatory evacuation order," said Richardson. "So with four adults, five dogs and a lot of prayers, everyone came together and combined their resources to include fuel, water and an assortment of canned foods to make it through the storm. Late Sunday they lost power, but luckily they had a generator to keep the refrigerators going so all the food would not spoil."

Once Irma whipped through Central Florida and the base commander granted permission for first responders to make their initial rounds across the installation, members of AFTAC's reconstitution team reported to the \$158 million facility to assess any damage and determine when additional personnel could return to get the center's critical networks and systems running again.

Tech. Sgt. Desiree Penn, AFTAC's hurricane recovery team lead, was one of the first people to ar-

rive at the center to report the status of the building to Gorski.

"The first thing the HRT does is look for any extensive damage that may have occurred," said Penn. "Once we do a full walk-around of the entire facility, we report any safety hazards or significant problems like downed power lines or major flooding. We also make sure the overall security of the building hasn't been degraded. I was very relieved that most of the damage we incurred was minor since several tornadoes touched down in the area, and that we had very little water damage considering how close we are to the Atlantic Ocean."

When the majority of AFTAC personnel returned to work, they had full internet and email connectivity, cooled offices and an undamaged interior work center.



"Returning to a highly-technical, fully-functional facility does not happen by accident," said Gorski. "It happens as a result of an extremely dedicated work force that goes above and beyond what's asked of them."

He added, "We lost a few trees, experienced some damage to our outdoor pavilion and had an HVAC system ripped from

one of our warehouses, but overall I'd say the storm had a modest impact on our headquarters building. Through it all, our Airmen continued to analyze the recent North Korea nuclear test while juggling a major weather event. Their performance in the face of the toughest challenges speaks to their professionalism and dedication to the mission. They personify the definition of resilience."

Gorski took family members into high consideration as storm preparations were underway. He and his command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Michael Joseph, conducted a Facebook Live session for spouses to relay pertinent details to AFTAC families and take questions from viewers who may have had concerns about what plans they should make or actions they should take to prepare for an inbound hurricane.

"From what I understand, this was the first time AFTAC has ever done something like this," said Louise Goodwin, an AFTAC Key Spouse and wife of Lt. Col. Jeremy Goodwin. "I was so pleased when Colonel Gorski asked me to be a part of it, and I've received great feedback from so many spouses about how incredible the communication has been. We have some families who have never been through a hurricane before, so having access to the commander and the command chief was so valued and appreciated."

Col. Jonathan VanNoord, AFTAC's Director of Operations and officer-in-charge of the relocation team, stressed the importance of wingmanship and how teamwork played a significant role in transferring the mission.

"In the past year alone, we have twice exercised our ability to move our treaty monitoring mission from our main location to our alternate location," he said.

"Both times, we have been fully successful. That is a testament to the skills and abilities of the Airmen assigned to the center. If North Korea decided to set off another nuclear detonation in the middle of a hurricane coming toward the United States, especially one aimed at Florida, we'd be ready to detect and analyze it. That's how good this team of experts really is. I couldn't be more proud of the men and women of AFTAC – they truly made it look easy and seamless."



Air Force team monitors North Korean nuclear threat

USA TODAY NETWORK James Dean, Florida Today Published 9:13 p.m. ET Sept. 6, 2017 | Updated 9:13 p.m. ET Sept. 6, 2017

A seismic jolt on the other side of the planet had a team of experts huddled at Patrick Air Force Base before dawn Sunday, alerting U.S. and international leaders of their alarming findings.



A global network of 3,600 sensors monitored around the clock by the Air Force Technical Applications Center, headquartered at Patrick, had picked up North

Korea's underground test of a nuclear bomb.

The center helped confirm that the blast registering 6.3 on the Richter scale was 10 times more powerful than North Korea's previous nuclear test a year ago, and one of the most powerful nuclear tests detected since a ban took effect more than 20 years ago, Air Force officials told Florida Today.

"It lit up the international network, for sure," said Glenn Sjoden, the center's chief scientist. "There's no mistaking the fact that there was a very large event in North Korea at their nuclear test site."

As Hurricane Irma approaches Florida, AFTAC, as the center is known, continues to analyze last weekend's test while watching out for any new activity.

A team may soon be dispatched to Texas — to a location unaffected by Hurricane Harvey — to take over the surveillance if Irma forces local personnel to ride out the storm with reduced staffing.

"It doesn't matter if the hurricane hits us or not, we will have that 24-7 coverage," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Joseph. "Wherever we go, we will make sure the mission's getting done."

Patrick AFB is best known for the 45th Space Wing, which on Thursday will support SpaceX's attempt to launch a rocket from Kennedy Space Center. Patrick's 920th Rescue Wing recently helped rescue more than 230 Harvey victims in Houston.

AFTAC is perhaps a less visible tenant at the base, but its electronic eyes on the ground, under water, in the air and in space play a critical role in reporting nuclear explosions to the Department of Defense and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization.

The team often detects seismic events that don't rate as national security concerns, such as earthquakes and mine explosions. One exception was the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor meltdown in Japan, which prompted a major response.

But after Saturday night's blast in a mountainous region of northeastern North Korea, an AFTAC team briefed leaders on preliminary findings by 2:15 a.m. ET Sunday at Patrick.

"It's safe to say that we knew very quickly and could characterize that signal very rapidly in order to have a very good idea of what likely occurred," said Col. Steven Gorski, the AFTAC commander.

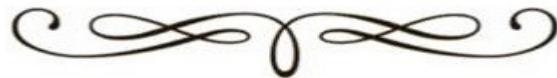
Analysis of the test continues, with a WC-135 aircraft sampling international airspace for any radioactive debris released.

The test by itself doesn't prove an ability to weaponize such a bomb. But it came on the heels of missile tests that have heightened fears that North Korean missiles might now be able to reach the U.S.

"Everybody should be concerned about North Korea and the threat that they pose to their neighbors and to the United States," Gorski said.

Now AFTAC, like the rest of the Florida coast, must also contend with a major hurricane's potential arrival in the coming days.

"A hurricane and a North Korean nuclear test in the same week is a significant test, and they're doing extremely well," Gorski said of his team.



Sixth generation Sailor, first generation Airman

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.



U.S. Navy Capt. Anthony Aversano (center), renders his final salute on active duty at his retirement from the U.S. Navy. Aversano is the father of U.S. Air Force Capt. Lee Aversano, a certified mission commander aboard the USNS Invincible, a radar system platform operated by the Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick AFB, Fla. (Courtesy photo)

World-renowned oceanographer Jacques Cousteau once said, "The sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever."

For the members of one family in particular, there are no truer words.

Capt. Lee Aversano, an Air Force missile operator

assigned to the Air Force Technical Applications Center here, comes from a long line of seafarers. Three generations of great grandfathers before him were 19th Century mariners on the Tyrrhenian Sea. His grandfather, Liberato Aversano, was a commercial fisherman who began his maritime career on the small fishing island of Ponza off Italy's west coast. Liberato immigrated to the United States and worked as a coal miner until he could save enough money to move his family from Italy to California. It was there where Grandpa Aversano bought a fishing vessel and forged a prominent longshoreman presence in San Pedro Harbor, which still exists today.



Official photo of U.S. Air Force Capt. Lee Aversano. Aversano is a certified mission commander aboard the USNS Invincible, a radar system platform operated by the Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick AFB, Fla. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Aversano's father, Anthony Aversano, spent many years working on his father's fishing boats and fell in love with the sea. His father instilled a powerful love of country and appreciation for all America had offered his family, which ultimately propelled Tony to a 23-year career in the U.S. Navy. And when Tony had a son of his own, it seemed like a foregone conclusion that young Lee would ultimately follow in his paternal lineage's footsteps.

Alas, Lee chose a different route. He applied to the Air Force Officer Training School and earned his commission in 2010. Yet despite the words "U.S. Air Force" emblazoned on his uniform, Lee is, in fact, a naval commander on the high seas.

As a certified mission commander aboard the USNS Invincible and USNS Howard O. Lorenzen, Capt. Aversano is responsible for the overall operation

and maintenance of the ship and its radar systems. The MC interacts with the crew to ensure they have the tools and resources available to accomplish their assigned tasks, which may include equipment calibration tests, safety drills, and contingency planning scenarios. The MC must also be keenly aware of his crew's morale, as it is a big part of the mission's success.

The USNS Invincible hosts the \$400 million Gray Star radar system; the Lorenzen hosts the \$1.7 billion Cobra King radar platform. Aversano commands a crew of 80 operators, technicians and engineers from various backgrounds and skill levels who are charged with delivering quality technical data to national decision makers.

"Most people don't know the Air Force operates two naval ships equipped with radar system platforms that conduct ballistic missile surveillance operations," said Lee. "Right now I'm immersed in mission commander dual certification training so I'll have a full toolkit to be able to coordinate with Unified Commands, U.S. Naval Fleets, and other external agencies to ensure our operators, engineers and technicians are fulfilling our collection tasks."

The ships fall under the direction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Olympic Titan mission, the Defense Department's mobile maritime platform foreign missile and space activity operation. The vessels conduct surveillance missions using state-of-the-art radar systems that provide technical measurements to national decision makers.

"When I joined the Air Force, I pictured myself waking up to the smell of jet fuel in the morning," Lee joked. "My primary career field hasn't offered me much interaction with airplanes at this point, so when I learned I was selected to broaden my career as a mission commander, I was very intrigued and knew it was definitely a path I'd fully enjoy, given my family history. Now I'll be waking up to the smell of ocean air every day!"

That family history seems to keep Lee grounded as well as filled with pride.

"My grandfather was a tremendously hard worker," he said. "He had hands that were so calloused from working the seas, he couldn't completely make them into a fist. But he had the kindest, most loving nature. Before he began his longshoreman career, he was conscripted into World War I and served as an infantryman. Although my grandpa passed away before I was born, he and I have a lot in common and I feel a connection to him, especially when out to sea."

He continued, "My father began his naval career on submarines. He actually had the honor of serving

aboard the very first Los Angeles class fast-attack submarine to ever be deployed. Throughout his 23-plus years of service, he held a number of exciting roles and positions: nuclear safety engineer, captain of a submarine tender, even a judge advocate general. He was a steely-eyed Cold War warrior and he loved the Navy with all his heart. In many ways, I take after him, and if I can have half the success in my career as he did in his, then I'll be in great shape."

The youngest Aversano sailor hopes to make the Air Force a career, but according to him, that goal is not without its own set of challenges.

"I was a bit older than most when I received my commission, and I'll be in my mid-50s when I reach the 20-year mark," Lee reflected, "but I'm still young at heart! Fitness demands, stress management and bolstered resilience from adversity continue to serve me well, so as of right now, I hope to make it to full retirement. My squadron commander, Lt. Col. Don Wittenberg, said it best: 'If you love what you do, why do something else?' I think that's a great perspective."

AFTAC's newest mission commander also has the responsibility of balancing his demanding work schedule with his family schedule.

"On average, we deploy about 120 days a year on 60-day rotations," Lee explained. "I have an amazing support network at the center, and we've built relationships that make me hopeful that when I go out to sea, my family is in a good place – happy and safe. I have a very strong wife and two resilient children who do a great job of handling the household in my absence. If life gets too overwhelming for them, I know I've got my AFTAC brothers and sisters I can rely upon to check on them when I'm at sea."



USNS Invincible

Cyberspace domain critical to Nuclear Treaty Monitoring

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.

The Air Force Technical Applications Center here is charged with ensuring each and every nation across the globe complies with the ban on nuclear weapons testing, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Members of AFTAC answer that call without fail – monitoring nuclear treaty compliance is their business.



Logan Keith, a storage administrator with the Cyber Capabilities Squadron, Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick AFB, Fla., verifies the inventory of tapes and replenishes the tape silo as needed to conduct the center's nuclear treaty monitoring mission. (U.S. Air Force photo by Susan A. Romano)



Hector Velez, a Linux systems administrator with the Cyber Capabilities Squadron, Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick AFB, Fla., troubleshoots a lost connection to a server that keeps AFTAC's nuclear treaty monitoring mission going strong. (U.S. Air Force photo by Susan A. Romano)

To accomplish this herculean task, the center uses a network of 3,600 worldwide sensors across multiple domains to collect a variety of data critical to revealing magnitude, yield and location of nuclear explosions. Regardless of what corner of the earth the data comes from or how the data are collected, the information must be transmitted back to the United States so analysts can transform the information into usable data that our national decision makers can rely on.

While Airmen performing the data analysis are the best in the business, they could not execute their job without the skill and expertise of members of AFTAC's Cyber Capabilities Squadron. The primary mission of CYCS is to generate, project and sustain cyberspace capabilities by providing mission assurance for AFTAC's global enterprise. In other words, AFTAC's treaty monitoring mission cannot be effectively accomplished without unfettered access to cyberspace.

"My squadron supports all information technology

services that AFTAC needs to achieve operational success," said Maj. Nathan Loyd, CYCS commander. "We support the mission through our oversight and sustainment of our servers, long haul communications systems, databases, and hardware/software. AFTAC is responsible for the largest sensor network in the Air Force, and we take that responsibility very seriously."

Loyd is a career cyberspace operations officer who took command of CYCS in July. Prior to joining the AFTAC team, he was assigned to various roles in the fields of cyber, electronic warfare, information systems and automations. His leadership philosophy is based on the foundation of trust.

"Trust is the single most important key to effective leadership-followership," Loyd said. "Our cyber mission is too large for any one person to handle alone, so I believe in trusting and empowering our Airmen down to the lowest possible level. That allows for more flexibility across the board."

In August 2016, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein outlined his number one focus area – squadron revitalization. He informed personnel Air Force wide that he considers squadrons to be the basic building block of the force and our most essential team, and squadron commanders have the most profound and lasting impact on Airmen and families. It's a charge Loyd has taken to heart.

"The Air Force is focusing heavily on reinvigorating the role of squadrons based on feedback received from various climate surveys and strategic planning meetings," said Loyd. "The Chief of Staff wants to empower squadrons to have more authority to make decisions at the lowest possible level. As a relatively new member of the AFTAC team, my goal is to take General Goldfein's vision and incorporate it into every decision I make and every action I take."

A majority of CYCS's efforts is tied to the DOD Information Network (DoDIN) to ensure data confidentiality, integrity and availability. Loyd's 150-person squadron is made up of a cross-section of talent – officers, enlisted, civilians and contractors – each filling critical roles as system and network administrators, help desk technicians, project managers and troubleshooters.

"Like many organizations throughout the Air Force, our people-to-mission ratio is not quite right," he said. "I'm working with my officers, civilian and senior enlisted leaders within the squadron to define where our limitations are, figure out what we can do to eliminate extraneous workloads, and determine how we can operate more efficiently with scarce resources."

Today's cyber landscape is ever-evolving and one that sees increasing threats from those who want to disrupt it, whether that disruption comes from simple non-malicious, attention-seeking hackers or from com-

bative nation-states with the purposeful intent to interfere with military operations and their IT systems. Government entities, to include Air Force organizations, are wholly dependent on computer networks and systems, and rely on those information systems to successfully execute their global missions.

As with any complex IT operation, however, the systems are vulnerable, and Loyd's team addresses this concern every day.

"Our biggest obstacle is balancing cybersecurity postures with the needs of a high operations tempo," he explained. "AFTAC is a high-speed, enormously innovative organization that uses technology in its drive for change and evolution. So to balance that demand, it's critical we ensure our CYCS Airmen are trained and certified to continually be on the cutting edge of technology."

He added, "Here in CYCS, we are working towards standardizing our enterprise to increase efficiencies in system maintenance. Additionally, we are posturing the squadron to establish a Mission Defense Team, focusing on cyberspace defensive operations to our mission critical systems. This pathfinder initiative takes aim at protecting the mission's crown jewels. It is an important shift in posture to ensure AFTAC is able to execute its treaty monitoring mission across air, sea, space and cyberspace."

Col. Steven M. Gorski, commander of AFTAC, emphasized Loyd's comment on the need to focus on cyberspace defense.

"In today's world, cyber threats pose serious challenges to AFTAC," he said. "Here at AFTAC, access to networks play a powerful role in our daily responsibilities. Lack of access can significantly impact the effectiveness of our organization, and that's why having the best people on board – leaders like Major Loyd and his incredibly talented Airmen who form his cyber team – is crucial to our worldwide mission. Countering cyber threats is all about risk management, and Major Loyd's squadron fully understands that threat and takes every step possible to keep our systems and networks safe."

When asked what he sees as the Cyber Capabilities Squadron's strongest asset, Loyd said, "Our squadron has done tremendous work in providing continuous, secure communications for AFTAC. CYCS's shining moments are defined each time mission data is available on demand for our customers and delivered securely and without degradation. That's the bottom line."

Tech Ops Squadron is heartbeat of nuke treaty monitoring from air, sea, space

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.

When the Department of Defense needs bombs on target or fighters in the air, they reach out to any number of flying wings within the Air Force to task their squadrons to accomplish that mission. Yet when they need near-real time data of potential nuclear detonations, to include ballistic missile detection, radioactive plume debris collection, seismic activity or gamma ray emissions, there is only one wing within DoD that can meet that need.



Military Sealift Command missile range instrumentation ship USNS Invincible makes way during sea trials following a regularly scheduled yard period. The platform is designed to augment the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense sensor network by providing target discrimination information to U.S. Strategic Command. (U.S. Navy photo by Tommy Chia)

The Air Force Technical Applications Center is the sole organization in the Defense Department whose mission is to detect and report technical data from foreign nuclear explosions. One of the ways that mission is accomplished is through the efforts of Airmen assigned to AFTAC's Technical Operations Squadron.

TOPS, under the command of Lt. Col. Donald W. Wittenberg, is responsible for conducting worldwide surveillance and reconnaissance missions using its maritime and airborne assets in order to provide national authorities with quality technical measurements that may involve nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

"My squadron of 11 officers, 14 enlisted and nine civilians directs and coordinates nuclear treaty monitoring efforts through the employment of the WC-135 Constant Phoenix aircraft as well as our two ship-borne radar platforms, Gray Star and Cobra King valued at more than \$2.2 billion," said Wittenberg. "These assets allow us to accurately monitor space, missile or weapons tests that may pose potential threats or hazards to our nation or our allies."

Cobra King and Gray Star are state-of-the-art mobile radar systems that consists of S- and X-band radars that AFTAC relies on to provide global, high resolution, multi-wavelength radar data to the Missile Defense Agency and DoD's strategic community.

"Essentially, each ship's main job is to monitor any tests of rockets using her S-band and X-band radars. The S-band sensor sweeps vast expanses of sky for possible missiles in flight, while the X-band radar zeroes in to closely track a target," Wittenberg explained.

According to the TOPS commander, both are capable of collecting radar data on orbiting satellites and tactical ballistic missiles. Each vessel consists of two radar systems and numerous support systems including automatic data processing equipment, navigation and a full communications suite.



The USNS Howard O. Lorenzen (T-AGM-25) passes Astoria, Ore., as it departs the Columbia River into the Pacific Ocean, May 16, 2014. The USNS Howard O. Lorenzen is named for the late Naval Research Laboratory electrical engineer who was instrumental in the creation of the electronic intelligence capabilities of the United States. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class David Mosley)

"Their mobile instrumentation platforms are one-of-a-kind systems with extremely critical performance characteristics," Wittenberg said. "The radar systems aboard USNS Invincible (Gray Star) and USNS Howard O. Lorenzen (Cobra King) allow us to execute our treaty monitoring responsibilities. But what makes it unique is the mission commander aboard these U.S. Navy ships is an Air Force company grade officer – an Airman assigned right here in TOPS. Traditionally, the MCs are captains from the space and missile career field and the combination of those skill sets really complement each other and enhance the understanding of foreign tests and capabilities."

Typically, MCs will be at sea for 60 to 90 days at a time, with most officers going out to sea twice a year. During the last 12 months, TOPS has included nuclear missile officers with a 13N Air Force Specialty Code into the mix for leadership opportunities.

The mission commander's ultimate responsibility is to ensure the platform team members are able to successfully collect mission data. In addition to daily mission taskings, the MC works closely with experts from



The WC-135 Constant Phoenix sits on the runway at Patrick AFB, Fla., during a visit to the base where its main mission headquarters, the Air Force Technical Applications Center, is located. The specially-configured aircraft is equipped with external flow devices that allow special equipment operators to collect airborne particulates in support of the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System in the event of a nuclear detonation. (U.S. Air Force photo by Susan A. Romano)

Military Sealift Command to schedule port visits and develop a prioritized listing of necessary ship-related maintenance whenever the vessel is in port or at the shipyard.

From sea to air, Wittenberg's Airmen are involved in nearly all aspects of AFTAC's treaty monitoring responsibilities. The center's airborne platform is an integral part of TOPS' mission execution.

Commonly referred to by the media as a 'sniffer plane,' the WC-135 has been in the Air Force inventory since 1965 and currently supports the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963, which prohibits any nation from testing nuclear weapons above ground. The Constant Phoenix is the only aircraft in the USAF that conducts air sampling operations. The cockpit crews are from the 45th Reconnaissance Squadron at Offutt AFB, Neb., while the special equipment operators are from AFTAC's Detachment 1, also at Offutt.

"The WC-135 flies in direct support of the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System and maintains the most advanced atmospheric research equipment in the Air Force," said Wittenberg. "The SEOs are highly proficient and well-trained to perform this complex mission. While we don't discuss specific ongoing operational taskings as a matter of policy, my team has averaged more than 160 days of temporary duty or deployment over the past year flying background sorties to establish baseline levels of atmospheric debris. These Airmen are incredibly motivated to get the job done, no matter where in the world that job may be."

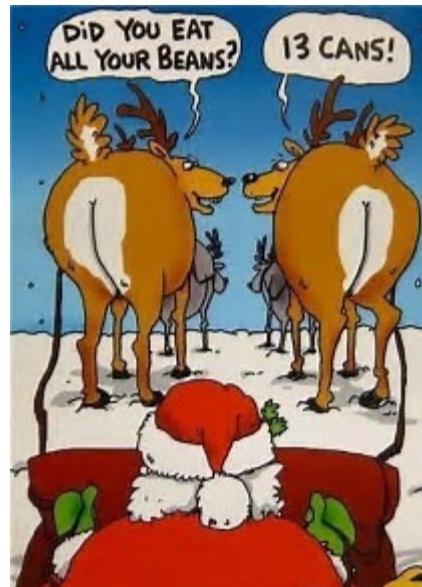
He added, "We conduct these airborne sampling missions to help us understand what already exists in the atmosphere. We typically fly over the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Bay of Bengal, the Polar Regions, the Far East, and off the coasts of South America and Africa to ensure signatories are adhering to established nuclear treaties. It's a busy mission, and an incredibly invaluable one as well."

TOPS is one of five squadrons within AFTAC's wing structure, and the center's commander had nothing but the highest of praise for Wittenberg and his Airmen.

"The Airmen of TOPS are truly just that – the tops at what they do," said Col. Steven M. Gorski, AFTAC commander. "They are responsible for a critical link of information that has the potential to be up-channelled as high as the desk of the President of the United States, and that is a huge responsibility. They continuously demonstrate their expertise, sometimes under austere and exhausting conditions, and I couldn't be more proud of them."

Wittenberg matched his commander's accolades.

"I am humbled to be a part of such a tight-knit team that takes pride in performing the mission," he said. "From the youngest Airmen to the most senior civilian, I see an organization that cares for each other and epitomizes the Wingman ideals. Their professionalism and teamwork inspire me every day!"





The AFTAC Family
cordially invites you to the
AFTAC WINTER SOCIAL
'SAFARI NIGHT'
Friday, the twelfth of January
two thousand eighteen
social begins at six o'clock in the evening, dinner at
seven o'clock
Nyami Nyami River Lodge
at
Brevard Zoo
8225 North Wickham Road
Melbourne, Florida 32940

Buffet Menu Includes
~ Hors d Oeuvres ~
Mini Chicken Empanadas
Shrimp wrapped in Bacon
~ Dinner ~
Fresh Rolls and Butter
Garden Salad

**London Broil
Chicken Scampi
Rice Pilaf
Vegetable Medley
Coffee and Sweet Tea Station
Dessert**

~ Cost ~

E1-E4 / GG 1-4	\$10.00 per person
E5-E6 / GG 5-8	\$20.00 per person
E7-E9 / O1-O3 / GG 9-12	\$30.00 per person
O4+ / GG 13+	\$40.00 per person

~ Directorate POCs ~

CC - SrA Schultz
DO - A1C Ward, Capt Jones
MS - A1C Deavens
TC - MSgt Garrison
TM - 2Lt Norton
TL - A1C Kirkpatrick
TT - TSgt Freeman
Alumni - Ms. Snyder
All Others - Lt Zhang

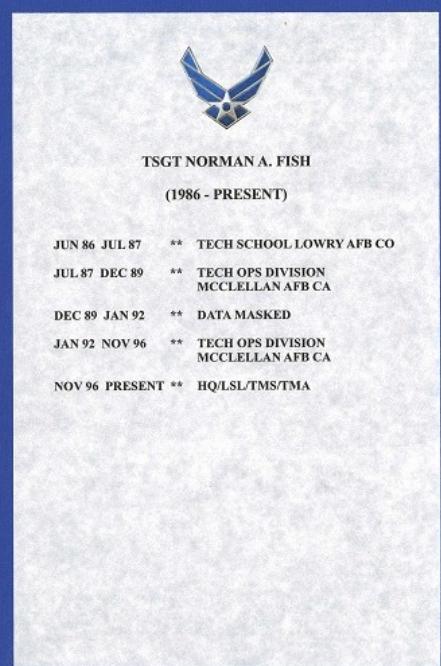
The Brevard Zoo offers Adventurous Night Hikes
for children 5 to 12 years old. Cost is \$10 per child
for pizza and a fun, nighttime trek.

[https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?
i=373652&k=0166410F7E55](https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=373652&k=0166410F7E55)

To see invitation on Line

20 Year Wall of Honor

#34-36 of our presentations of the 50 plus "Rangers" on the "Hall of Heritage" in HQ




MSGT GEORGE A. GONZALES

(1981 - PRESENT)

APR 81	AUG 81	**	LOWRY AFB CO STUDENT
AUG 81	JUL 98	**	TECH OPS DIV
AUG 98	AUG 03	**	HQ/TA
SEP 03	PRESENT	**	HQ/TM


CMSGT HAROLD L. HUHS

(1962 - 1991)

MAY 62	FEB 63	**	SPINSTRA
MAR 63	SEP 64	**	DETACHMENT 204
OCT 64	JUN 66	**	DETACHMENT 412
JUL 66	JUL 68	**	DETACHMENT 313
AUG 68	JAN 70	**	HQ (VIRGINIA)
JAN 70	JUN 73	**	DETACHMENTS 207, 202 & 460
JUL 73	JUL 74	**	HQ (FLORIDA)
JUL 74	OCT 75	**	DETACHMENT 301
OCT 75	JAN 77	**	HQ (FLORIDA)
JAN 77	DEC 79	**	DETACHMENT 421
JAN 80	JAN 83	**	HQ (FLORIDA)
JAN 83	MAY 86	**	DETACHMENT 313
JUN 86	JUN 89	**	DETACHMENT 421
JUL 89	OCT 91	**	TECH OPS DIV

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

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, fondly referred to as 'Stonehenge.'
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.
- 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 ONLINE

AND/OR WITH YOUR EDITOR

'chrisjohn2@gmail.com'

January

05, 1530—Wind Down

08, 1600 - *Membership Meeting*

February

02, 1530—Wind Down

12, 1600 - *Membership Meeting*

March

02, 1530—Wind Down

12, 1130 - *Quarterly Membership Meeting*

April

8, 1600 - 1700 HQ AFTAC, Lobby Conference Room

Event Plans and Timeframes

(Bold Dates may be tentative-others for planning only)

A. January-April, four events (months may vary)

1. SnowBall XIX
2. Center Annual Awards Banquet
3. Center Annual Picnic
4. May XXXII Annual Association Spring Golf N'Getogether

B. May-August, one event (months may vary)

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

C. September-December, 4 events (months may vary)

1. **09 Sep**, Annual Board, General Membership & Elections Meeting, '**Sociable September X**' will be at Manatee Cove on a **Friday at lunch** to enhance the opportunity for, and encourage attendance of, members and all alumni & active-duty.
- Alumni of the Year (AOY) Selection Committee** (prior AOY's) meet following this annual meeting
2. **Oct**, XXXII Annual Association Fall Golf N'Getogether
3. **Oct 1st, Alumni Assn ANNUAL FY DUES DUE**
4. **Dec TBD**, (usually second Friday), Center Winter Social

D. WorldWide (WW) Alumni Reunions

Normally scheduled 'every other year.' Hosting rotates Normally scheduled 'every other year.' Hosting rotates between the Association and the two chapters. Last host, WCC-2017.06, FL-2015.05, CO-2013.06 and CA-2011.05.

The next reunion is scheduled to be hosted by the Colorado Chapter Mid 2019

*****SAGE SHOP (SWAG)*****

Orders, unless otherwise instructed, to: AFTAC Alumni Assn, ATTN: Sage Shop, **MSgt John Goll** Box 254892, Patrick AFB FL, 32925-0892. Also reach Aaron, by phone:phone 321-494-9489 /email: john.goll@us.af.mil

SHIPPING: Add \$5.00 for shipping/handling of 1 item & \$1.50 for each additional. (no shipping cost for Logo pins)

Pictures of these items can be perused here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0B4SBaLHtdXwcIBUNIY4TE5Nekk>

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

SHIRTS **NOTE:** Most shirts are available in any size/color, including women's sizes. The AFTAC alumni patch can be either appliquéd (pocket remains) or embroidered (not on pockets). Colors listed are on-hand; if items are not on-hand, they will be ordered. Call/email to verify availability.

Golf/Polo Shirt - 50/50 w/pocket; **\$20:** Sea Teal (aqua blue), Jade (medium green), Forest Green, Navy, Red, White, Royal Blue, Teal, Maroon, Black

Golf/Polo Shirt - Dri-Fit Fabric w/pocket - \$20: Navy, White w/o pocket - **\$25:** Navy, Red, Royal Blue, Maroon

50/50 T's - w/o pocket - \$10: Light Blue, Royal blue, Navy, Ash Gray, Purple, Red, Fuchsia, Stone Washed Green, Mint Green, Jade Green, Black

Dri-Fit T's - w/o pocket \$15: Royal Blue, Navy, Red, Maroon, Tropic Blue

SWEATSHIRTS/WINDBREAKERS/HATS

Long sleeve fleece sweatshirt - \$20 (most sizes/colors)

Windbreakers - \$25 Royal Blue, colored Alumni emblem Hats - **\$8.00** Blue/White

COINS/PINS

AFTAC Alumni Association Coin: \$10

AFTAC Alumni Association Pin: \$3

50th LRD Commemorative Coin: \$4 NOTE: Free 60th with

60th LRD Commemorative Coin: \$2 purchase of 50th

(NOTE: 60th coin flaw: AF Date, Sep 12 vs. 18th

99/9S Coin: \$10

AFTAC 'Traditional' Coin: HQ-aircraft/motto/logo @ reverse **\$10**

AFTAC Top 3 Coin: \$10

AFTAC Logo Pin: \$3

CLEARANCE ITEMS (while supplies last):

Golf Shirt \$5 - Blue, w/word 'Alumnus'; 2-Large, 4-XL

Nylon Jacket: \$10 – Royal Blue, w/white emblem with 'Alumnus'; 1-XL

SAGE SHOP MERCHANDISE FROM OTHERS

AFTAC 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.



AFTAC Cares

Packages for Deployed



Details and needed items, at Alumni Assn website, 'Need To Know Now' link. <https://sites.google.com/site/ldalumniassnneedtoknownow/aftac-cares-program-support-our-deployed>

'Cares' Contact: Carol Snyder, Carol.Snyder@us.af.mil, We currently have 2 AFTAC deployed, some have written 'notes of appreciation,' see following.

NOTE: Carol forwards these notes and we post them at the association' website (URL above), and, as possible, in the PoMo. Often, these 'Thanks' make very good reading and provide insight into what our deployed experience. 'Thank You('s') follow:

No "Thank You Mail" This Period.

hurricane for instance.

This is not a "contest" as such, but a way to obtain multiple ideas from as many sources as possible from the people that have made and continue to make AFTAC what it is today.

Submissions can be in the form of verbal (written) descriptions but an accompanying diagram/drawing would be most helpful. The BoD will consider all inputs along with a design contractor to come up with one or more Complete designs.

Submissions may be sent by email or US postal service to the addresses below.

All inputs are requested by 31 January 2018.

E-Mail: Iseilerjr@att.net

Mail Address: Lou Seiler
2822 Englewood Dr
Melbourne, FL
32940

Thank you from the Board of Directors:

Louis Seiler James Whidden
Arlin Massey David Charitat
James Young

AFTAC Memorial Corporation

1 December 2017

From: AFTAC Memorial Corporation Board of Directors
To: All AFTAC members both current and past,
The Board of Directors of the recently formed AFTAC Memorial Corporation would like to request your assistance.

The AFTAC Memorial Corporation was formed to provide a memorial to all members of AFTAC, current, past, military and civilian who have supported the AFTAC mission and having this memorial dedicated to those that have passed from this life during their active service.

Your assistance is requested to provide concept ideas for the physical memorial, which will be installed within the confines of the current AFTAC "campus", most likely around the newly completed pavilion near "stonehenge".

Below are images of some similar memorials that have been built for various other purposes and are provided for some initial starting points, but are by no means meant to be the choices.

A few guidelines are to be considered:

- The memorial should have references to the AFTAC Mission and its major components such as Laboratory, air Sampling, Seismic, and Satellite.
- The design will initially memorialize 70 names and must be designed such that additional names may be included.
- The area around the physical memorial will be paved with memorial bricks.
- Any material design should consider durability. By this as an example, models of an airplane or satellite should not be subject to damage or destruction by a



**Everything will be OK
in the end.**

**If it's not OK
It's not the end.**