

POST-MONITOR

VOL 30 – ISSUE 03

WEBSITE: AFTACAA.US

2022-12



The Alumni Anthem

Over the years and
at younger ages ...
'GS,' 'E' and 'O'
were our gauges

But now we've reached
the best of stages
Being one of the
Center's Sages

Long-Range Detection

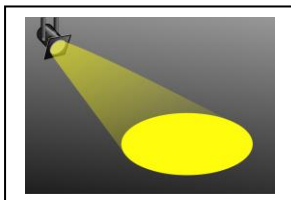
denotes and represents all
who served the mission
throughout its inception and
history. Recognized for 70
years of service to our
country September 16th

1947 – 2017

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



SPOTLIGHT



RICK MANLEY

**Vice President
AFTAC Alumni Association**

Rickey (Rick) was born and raised in eastern Tennessee. He attended Fall Branch School where he graduated with honors in 1971. While in school, he had a triple major of science, math and business. He was a member of the National Honor society, civics club and Spanish club. He participated in athletics - baseball, basketball and track and lettered in basketball and track. He attended East Tennessee State University for a short time then joined the USAF in Feb 1972. Rick attended Tech Training at Lowry AFB and afterwards was assigned to Det 202/460 at Chena River, Alaska. After his first tour he returned to Lowry AFB as an instructor where he taught for several years. He conducted several Station Processor training visits to both Canada and Alaska. He taught both Seismic (B) and Hydroacoustic (O) systems courses. After an assignment to Ascension Island, he returned to Lowry as an instructor until 1979 when he was selected to attend the first J Program factory training. He spent his next 8 years in the EMP systems, installing Det 422, working on improvements to the system in J Engineering at the McClellan Depot and then as Chief

(continued on pg 2 – EDITORIAL)

** Sage ALERTS –WHAT'S COMING UP **

ALUMNI MONTHLY MEETINGS

MONTHLY MEETINGS WILL BE ANNOUNCED VIA eALLerts to all who have signed up to receive messages. Also, watch the website aftacaa.us for announcements of time and location

Please check pages 3-5 for various Alumni Association events.

SAVE THE DATE

***2023 Florida AFTAC Alumni
Association (AFTACAA),
SnowBall***

***Saturday, 18 February 2023
Manatee Cove Golf Course (MCGC),
Patrick Space Force Base, Florida***

Social Hour: 5:30 - 6:30

Remembrance/Sage Salute/Invocation: 6:30.

Dinner: 7:00

Cost: TBD

Stay tuned to AFTACAA.US website, Calendar of Events (CoE), or eALLerts, for updates.

For additional information, contact Sean Ryan, oceanblueview@yahoo.com (*Unlisted*) or Cell 321-591-9053 (*Unlisted*). (continued on pg 3)

[Further details of coming events on page 3 and at the AFTACAA Web site aftacaa.us]

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

ASSOCIATION Information *Deceased, (D)*

Honor Roll: Alumni Of The Year Recipients (27)

Lou Seiler/2021-Ed Lindsay/2020-Bryce Dunn/2019-Pete Gilbert/2018-John Kemna/2017-Carol Snyder/2016-Frank Calenda/2015-Sean Ryan/2014-Lonnie Gibbons/2013-Gene & Dee Melchior/2012-Dale Klug/2011-Jack Smith (D)/2010-Jack Jackson (D)/2009-Bob Wiley/2008-Bill Schmied/2007-Deborah Carson/2006-Mike Black/2005-Joe Goldian(D)/2004-Pat Snyder/2003-Joe Johnson(D)/2002-Jim Payne (D)/2001 -Ben Vlassick (D)/2000-John & Christel (D) Horsch/1999-Frank Hall/1998-Judy Milam-Henderson/1997-Carl Gailey (D)/1996-Clark Creery (D)/1995

AFTAC/Long Range Detection (LRD) Alumni Honorarium

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

Association History A group of retired/active duty AFTACers, by invitation from then CC, Col **Clapper**, met at Patrick AFB, FL, on March 12, 1985, and formed the **AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)** (chartered, 1986); from 2001-2014, we were renamed 'Long Range Detection' (LRD). Website, <http://sites.google.com/site/lrdalumniassnneedtoknownow/> --The Association provides a forum for those wishing to maintain a relationship with the Center and its people, active-duty and retired. Membership is open to all who serve/served our mission in any organization associated with LRD (AFMSW-1, 1009th SWS, AFOAT-1, 1035th FAG, 1035th TOG, and AFTAC), and any field detachment. Of note, there are several Sages who recall an earlier effort to form an association in 1978.

There is this Association and two Chapters

1. Florida 'AFTAC Alumni Association': (application at the bottom of each page at aftacaa.us)-**Dues, \$10/FY** (dues due 15 September each year)/**\$75 for life**. Most monthly meetings are at 1600, 2nd Monday each month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC HQ (Bldg 10989), or other venue, at Patrick SFB, FL-details, see 'Sage Schedule' on page 24. Contact: Ed Lindsay, piston_horse@hotmail.com - mailing address is: **PO Box 254892, Patrick SFB, FL 32925-4892**. The Association has several communications resources, this triannual newsletter, 'Post-Monitor' (namesake of prior active-duty publication, 'Monitor') & a multi-page Website, see banner on previous page, with assn/alumni news and photos-we provide a 'Breaking News' service at the website and thru instant notification, what we term, 'eALLert,' for time sensitive data at <http://groups.google.com/group/aftac-lrd>.

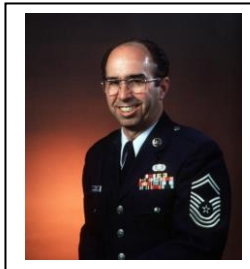
"PERENNIALS" *Deceased, (D)* (5+ years board service) Clark Creery (D)-Newsletter, 85/89-95, Pres 94/95, Webpage/Mbrshp, 01-10; Frank Hall, Pres/Vice 89-98/01; Judy Milam-Henderson, Sec 89-06, Pres 04; Eunice Harris (D), Hosp 89-00; Mary Welch (D), Mbrshp 91-99; Carl Gailey (D), Treas 91-99; Swede Swansen, Pub 93-06; John & Christel (D) Horsch, Newsletter since 96; Pat Snyder, 'Insider/Sage Shop' 96-2010, VP 04, Sec 05; Mike Black, Webmaster 96-15; Jim Payne (D), Mbrshp 99-04; Joe Goldian (D), Treas, 03-17; Randy Vlassick, Mbrshp 04-09; Sean Ryan, Sec, 06-15, Treas 17-current; Steve Revels, Sage Shop, 10-16; Pete Gilbert, Webmaster, since 15; Mike Steskal (D), Mbrshp, 16-22; Carol Snyder, 'Insider,' 10-20.

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

3. California Chapter: Formed 1999, \$10/year/\$75 lifetime.

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

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING



FROM THE HORSCH'S MOUTH

JOHN HORSCH

Best of the Season to all our readers who believe this is a special season of love

and renewal. I have asked one of AFTAC Sages, and was one of our finer 99's with a strong commitment to the mission in many ways, to use my Editorial Column to introduce himself. Rick has stood up now to support the alumni in the same way he served earlier; he is our new VP, and Rick, we congratulate and thank you. His intro continues below.

(continued from page 1 – **SPOTLIGHT – RICK MANLEY**)

at OL-EB and OL-EC. Rick activated the AFMS system at OL-EB after the J program was deactivated. Rick returned to the CONUS from OL-EC in 1991 to become the first 991 stationed at HQ/AFIC in San Antonio, Texas. During his assignment to HQ AFIC/LGMMJ, he worked various programs for AFTAC manpower as well as the Open Skies program. Rick was retired from active duty in 1993 at AFTAC HQ by Col Tom Ciambone ending a career spanning 21 years. He then spent 21 years at L3Harris working on programs for NASA, the USAF and Ballistic Missile Defense and various other programs before retiring in Feb 2020. The Vice President position is his first Board position with the AFTAC Alumni Association.



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



2023 Florida AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA), SnowBall

Saturday, 18 February 2023

Manatee Cove Golf Course (MCGC), Patrick Space Force Base, Florida

Since 1999, the Florida AFTAC Alumni Association 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 our new Alumni of the Year, 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 and superintendents that may be on Temporary Duty (TDY) here for a leadership conference.

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

SAVE THE DATE

Location: Manatee Cove Golf Course (MCGC), Patrick SFB, FL.

Social Hour: 5:30 - 6:30; Chimes/Introductions/National Anthem/POW-MIA Remembrance/Sage Salute/Invocation: 6:30. Dinner: 7:00. Break: 7:45. Program: 8:00. Theme: TBD. Entertainment: TBD.

Dress: Florida Casual. Menu: TBD.

Cost: TBD. (All inclusive dinner, with gratuity included). RSVP: TBD.

Florida AFTACAA POC: Sean Ryan, Florida AFTACAA Social Committee Chair.

oceanblueview@yahoo.com (Unlisted) or Cell 321-591-9053 (Unlisted).

AFTAC Building POC: TBD.

*Stay tuned to AFTACAA.US website, Calendar of Events (CoE),
or eALLerts, for updates.*

Thank you. Hope to see ya'll there!

* * * * *



TRICARE PHARMACIES INFORMATION

MILITARY.COM – by Rebecca Kheel – Reported on 23 September 2022 that “Nearly 15,000 Pharmacies Leaving TRICARE,” but the same source reported on 9 December 2022 that “Thousands of Pharmacies Will Return to TRICARE in January.”

The 23 September 2022 article is available at
<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/09/23/nearly-15000-pharmacies-leaving-tricare-next-month.html>

The 9 December 2022 article is available at
https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/12/09/thousands-of-pharmacies-will-return-tricare-january.html?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1VahGSbnLroIDPo2UL712xy_HwH7mwgf3lfnlPxBvb_Kxg_3f1PS8zKQ#Echobox=1670611279

NEW BOARD MEMBERS and LETTER FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Hello to our fellow world travelers, the Florida AFTACAA held their elections in September 2022 and the new Board members are as follows:

President Ed Lindsay
Vice Prez Rick Manley
Treasurer Sean Ryan
Secretary Doug Colbary

Our outgoing President, Phil Godfrey, wanted to share his thoughts with the masses.

Greetings fellow Alumni!



Doug Colbary, Sean Ryan, Rick Manley, and Ed Lindsay

It has been quite the experience serving as the President of our amazing Association. In fact, I consider it one of the highest honors of my life. There were certainly challenges we had to overcome, namely the pandemic. There were difficult financial decisions we had to navigate. Most importantly, there were goodbyes we had to say to some of our closest friends. But we had joyous times too. So much to celebrate!

The Reunion. The AOYs. The AFTAC Wall of Honor induction. The Snowball. The meetings and fellowship – that's the good stuff. That's what keeps us actively part of the AFTAC Alumni family. But for me, all good things must come to an end.

I made the difficult decision not to run again for the President board position early this year. It was time for us to emplace our trust into a (not so) new cadre of amazing leadership, and with me still working full time with Northrop Grumman, and pursuing a Masters in Engineering at the same time, it became evident that new leadership could devote much more time bringing our 2023 and beyond strategic ideas to fruition. I consider the change in leadership a key upgrade for Alumni far and Wide – we're getting four awesome leaders! For reasons similar to my own, our Vice President, Rob Christman, also was unable to continue in his current role, but we all owe him a big thanks to his contributions while part of the Elected Board.

We held the 2022/2023 Board Elections on September 16, 2022. Our Secretary and former President, Ed Lindsay (CMSgt, Ret) graciously agreed to retake the mantle of President. Rick Manley will serve as our Vice President, and Doug Colbary will step into the Secretary position, replacing Ed. Sean Ryan will continue in his role as Treasurer. This is a great team, and there's no doubt that the teamwork these leaders exude will usher in great new things in our future. These are four creative, passionate, and dedicated Alumni with servant hearts and warrior minds.

As for me, I'll remain active and begin helping our wonderful PoMo Team assemble articles and format the newsletter. We've long needed someone to help with this critical Association product so expertly managed by Judy Henderson and John Horsch. I will help them to whatever degree they ask of me and am very excited to do so! I will also continue to serve on the Board of the AFTAC Memorial Corporation as we see the AFTAC Memorial project come to fruition. We're so close to breaking ground – just a couple more hurdles.

So that's about all the bloviating I can think of, other than to say thank you for your support. Thanks to the leadership and sage wisdom from all those who guided me through these last three years as President of this wonderful Association. Let us all thank the new leadership team!

Sincerely, Phil Godfrey



Board Members (elected positions)

President-Ed Lindsay--Vice Rick Manley--Secretary Doug Colbary--Treasurer Sean Ryan
Appointed –

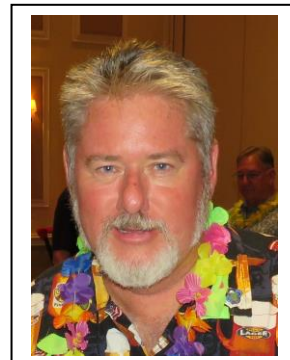
Activities-CCMS: CMSgt Jerome Wright, Hall of Heritage-(vacant), Membership/Master Data Base-**Ed Lindsay**, Post-Monitor Editor-**John Horsch**, Post Monitor Formatting & Information-**Judy Henderson**, Alumni of the Year Coordinator-**Frank Calenda**, Publicity/Social Functions-**Sean Ryan**, Sage Shop-**Ed Lindsay**,. Webmaster-**Pete Gilbert**, Website Chairman-**Ed Lindsay**, 20-Year Wall Coordinator-**Tony DeMarco**.



FROM THE TOP – MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ:

Surprise...it's me again. Like a bad penny, I keep showing up or like gum on your shoe, pretty hard to pry me off.

First thing I will do is give out a huge thank you to Phil Godfrey for leading this fine organization over the past 3 years, overcoming some real challenges. COVID isn't behind us, but Phil navigated some pretty turbid waters to keep us viable, meetings going, and even pulling off a WorldWide reunion over this summer (partnering with Sean Ryan). Thank you also to a long time acquaintance, Rob "X-Man" Christman for holding down the Vice President position and filling in when Phil was otherwise occupied. Great job guys...you deserve a standing "O" from the masses.



Well Mr. Ed is President again. It would have been nice to get some new blood to lead from the front, but I guess it will be up to me to push from behind. So here we go...Since the last Post Monitor, there have been some great happenings over here in Florida...and some not so great. Soon after our annual meeting, Florida took a huuuge pounding from hurricane Ian. There was destruction across the peninsula and our hearts go out to those still recovering from the effects of that deadly storm. Then when we figure we were in the clear, we get another storm pop outta nowhere at the end of the hurricane season. Nicole was aimed right at the Space Coast. It was a slowly forming Tropical storm that had us ready to head for higher ground (in Florida?). As things would have it, we were spared another huuuge hurricane, but it was enough to make us uncomfortable. The Mothership had to move the mission on both events, but as usual...their preparation and seasoned leadership ensured that the mission was never lost...just like they always have.

Talking about the Mothership keeping things going, on 17 September AFTAC celebrated 75 years as an Organization, with a Diamond Jubilee Birthday Ball. The Ballroom was full. Soon to retire, previous AFTAC Commander, Major General Aaron "Brain" Prupas was the guest speaker. See the article in another section of this PoMo.

In October we held our Fall Golf N'Get Together. It was a very good turnout and was a gorgeous day. See the details in the article in this PoMo.

AFTAC decided to have a chili cookoff. It took place on 16 November. Right after the winds from Hurricane Nicole had departed and we had honored our Veteran's on November 11th. This was to be a fund raiser for December's Open House. A few Alumni attended & I even threw together a P.O.C. (pot O chili) to help raise funds. There were some great chilis...Bison, Alligator, vegetarian, and some Atomic blend that would strip paint. AFTAC's Commander, Colonel Finlayson, Command Chief Wright, and other head-shed dignitaries were the judges. By some weird happenstance, our Alumni entry pulled off 2nd place. There are rumors that there is going to be another Chili cookoff in February...would be neat if some of our alumni that have been all over the world and probably had their share of Chili could join the Mothership or maybe even submit an awesome chili.

Finally, I give my deepest thanks to our new Vice President, Rick Manley and Secretary, Doug Colbary. These guys have a great history with AFTAC and have hit the ground running to engage with members new and old. Sean Ryan continues on as our Treasurer and our continuity guy. The volunteers that help keep the AFTACAA going are a special breed. Thank you so much to Judy Milam-Henderson for putting together the PoMo for longer than you signed up to do. Thank you especially to our webmaster, Pete Gilbert who keeps our membership informed by constantly updating our Website. Thank you Tony De Marco for getting people on the 20 year wall. As always, look to our website, www.aftacaa.us for more current information.

The best to all of you,
Ed Lindsay, President
Back in the Saddle again



AFTAC MEMORIAL CORPORATION (AFTACMC) **THE AFTAC MEMORIAL**

We're still accepting donations for the AFTAC Memorial for AFTACers who died while in service to AFTAC. See additional information at www.aftacaa.us and an article about progress on the Memorial in the April 2022 POST MONITOR. Information about making a donation is available on page 23 of this POST MONITOR.



AFTAC CELEBRATES 75 YEARS...THROWS A DIAMOND JUBILEE BIRTHDAY BALL

Submitted by Ed Lindsay

One day older than the Air Force...that's AFTAC's legacy. Well, at least one of many claims of how special the Air Force Technical Application Center is to the history of our country. As many of us know, what AFTAC did, as a whole, was cloaked in secrecy. If we told you what we did, we would have to kill you...or something like that. On 17 September 2022, AFTAC came out of the shadows for a night of revelry; a night to celebrate 75 years as an outstanding organization. I had the pleasure of getting to attend this fine event.

The guest speaker for the event was Major General Aaron "Brain" Prupas, the AFTAC Commander from June 2010 – May 2012.

It was a dark and rainy night. There was a large storm coming off the coast of Africa and it was heading towards the Caribbean. This didn't bother the Men and Women of AFTAC. They were gathering in the dry comforts of the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront. Attendees were dressed in Mess dress, Class A, luxurious dresses, tuxes, and other apparel. There were two bars open and the lines were long...a perfect opportunity for people to meet old/new friends and let their hair down. The check-in tables provided nice little mementos, wine stoppers and water bottles.



Major General Aaron "Brain" Prupas

A slide show was playing that showed previous AFTAC events. Nice representation of the many facets of AFTAC for this diamond jubilee.

I got to spend some time catching up with Major General Prupas. He was the Commander when I returned to Florida in July 2010 for my last tour at AFTAC. He was on terminal leave and looking forward to his retirement in Colorado. I also spoke briefly with Colonel Finlayson and Chief Wright. I presented each of them with the coaster that Tony De Marco had designed for the Alumni's 2022 WorldWide Reunion.



Dan Foster next to Airborne Sampling display

After about an hour of socializing, the attendees took their seats to prepare for the rest of the evening's events. I was seated next to Lt. Colonel Jarred Burley, the current Director of the Ciambone Radiochemistry Lab. On my other side was Dan Foster, an alumni member that had done time at TOD, HQ and a lot of Flying for AFTAC. Many stories were told. Also at the table was TSgt Jason Baron who had a big part in the planning of the Ball. He also works in the CRL.

Dinner was served and more conversation was had. After dinner, there was a cake cutting ceremony that had the Oldest and Youngest Airmen in the room join Colonel Finlayson and Chief Wright to cut the cake.

Then Major General Prupas took the podium. Colonel Finlayson introduced him. He relayed the history he had with MG Prupas in the beginning of his career. MG Prupas then gave a nice, brief presentation on what it meant to be associated with AFTAC.

He mentioned the AFTAC Alumni throughout his presentation. He emphasized many times how he had never encountered a military unit that was so oriented as a cohesive, family organization. He spoke to the Ethos of AFTAC members and their dedication to the mission that was assigned to them 75 years prior. After MG Prupas spoke. The music started playing and dancing and frivolity ensued. That is when I departed.

AFTAC CELEBRATES 75 YEARS...THROWS A DIAMOND JUBILEE BIRTHDAY BALL

(Continued from page 6)



Chief (retired) Ed Lindsay with Chief Adam Dunn



Coats came off and there were some colorful sleeves. Dr. Dan DeForest sports an orbital on his back



GOLF N'GET TOGETHER – FALL 2022

As told by Ed Lindsay

Your Alumni carried on a tradition that hails back to the 20th Century...the vaunted Golf N'Get Together. Through the ages, this gathering has taken on many shapes and forms. Utilizing the various golf courses that are scattered around the Space Coast, that we call home. There were events at such legendary venues as Baytree, Suntree, Cocoa Beach Country Club, Duran, and Patrick's own Manatee Cove Golf Course. Back in the glory days of AFTAC, when HQ's halls were full and there were Detachments strewn across the globe, we had a field with 20, 30, even 40 teams...that is 160 Alumni members and friends coming together for fellowship, story-telling, some drinking, and enjoying some good food. There were times when the other AFTAC Alumni members would join up after the tourney for an Alumni meeting and more camaraderie. All great memories in the annals of the AFTAC Alumni...this gathering was to be no exception.

Our previous get together was Fall 2021 after a dry spell due to COVID. There was going to be a small get together at the 2022 WorldWide Reunion, but it was called off due to predicted inclement weather (turned out it was a nice day). So the call went out and we gathered at the Manatee Cove Golf Course on Patrick Space Force Base (always sounds kinda strange).

The outlook for this get together was very bleak. The event was scheduled for 14 October. By October 10th, we only had 10 teams signed up. The Base and AFTAC had been granted a four day weekend in honor of some Italian guy that had done some sailing on behalf of some Spanish Monarchs. Well after the worker bees of AFTAC deciding to return to the hive, the calls started coming in to inquire if there was still space and time to join the event. I guess they figured they could get another afternoon off and we usually had a good time and good food...so after much changing of the food order with the Tides, the Base Club, we ended up having 16 Teams (64 players) participate.

Before I go into the short details of the tournament, I want to give a quick shout out to the real reason these events are always a success...the volunteers...our AFTAC Alumni Superstars. From the beginning, with Frank Calenda, Dave Money, Red Lindsay, Rick Manley, Dennis Kauffmann, and Danny Holte helping out to make quick work of the stuffing of the Goody Bags, Frank Hall pitched in where needed...Jan Lambert and Carol Snyder jumped in to help ensure the registration went smoothly. The photo team of Bob Wiley, Judy Milam-Henderson, Rick Manley, and Red Lindsay....made it a Super success. It was great to see our newest Vice President, Rick Manley and Secretary, Doug Colbary, join in the fun. There were a lot of conversations going on, which added to the fun. Of course, once the players hit the course, the huuuge task of counting up the money and taking care of the Door Prizes was executed flawlessly by Frank Calenda and his team. This takes a giant weight off of my mind and chest.

It was a beautiful day and good golf was played by many. But the important thing is that everyone had a good time. Everyone gets a Door prize, a free drink, and dinner afterwards. Imbedded in this article is an image of the scoreboard...it indicates that there were some low rounds shot. The award winners for the day's event were:

(continued on pg 8)

GOLF N'GET TOGETHER – FALL 2022

(continued from pg 7)

1st Place – 51 – Mark Lambert, Craig Lambert, Scott Wolverton, Billy Horseman

2nd Place -52- Rene Uzee, Jason Uzee, Kris Uzee, Greg Ramsey

3rd Place -54- Brian Grew, Andy Schwartz, Jimmy Missale, Rick Hall

Closest to the Pin – Rick Hall & Rene Uzee

Women's Long Drive – Andy McLaughlin

Men's Long Drive – Tony Calenda

Most Honest team (high Score) – Kegman team- Derrick Langley, Susie Glasgow, Trevor Patrick, Mike Kelsey



Getting set up – Bob Wiley, Frank Calenda, Rick Manley, Dennis Kauffmann, Danny Holte, Frank Hall



Judy Milam-Henderson takes Photos. Ed Lindsay welcomes all..Jim Denbow, Brett Mapston, Jon Vanoord

SCORE		
RENE UZEE	52	TONY C
JASON UZEE		VAL C
KRIS UZEE	2ND	LARRY
GREG RAMSEY		GARY
ANDY SCHWARTZ	54	JIM
RICK HALL		JIM
JIMMY MISSALE	3RD	JON V
BRIAN GREW		CHRIS
MIKE JOSEPH	68	JASON
LISA SHOEMAKER		DOUG
RON LIGHT		JOHN C
JOHN REEMAN		BRETT
LARRY OLSON	56	JUSTIN
CAREY McLAUGHLIN		JEFFREY
DICK QUINCY		XAVIER
SCOTT SHEPARD		MICHAEL
MARK LAMBERT	51	DAVID S
BILLY HORSEMAN		DON B
SCOTT WOLVERTON	1ST	SAMAR
CRAIG LAMBERT		

The Scoreboard....those are some LOW scores



1st – Wolverton, Horseman, & Lamberts



2nd – Greg Ramsey and the Uzees



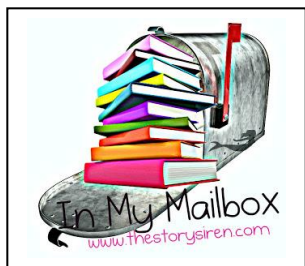
<<<< Tony Calenda takes the Men's Long Drive

The high score team gets the >>>> "most Honest Award"



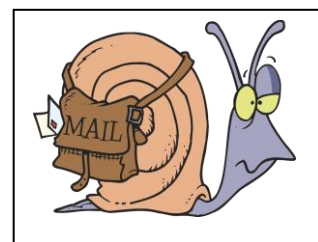


One of our Major Sponsors...Team Kegman. Alumni members Mike Joseph and Lisa Shoemaker



MAIL CALL

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



PLUS – FACEBOOK ALERTS and OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Missives requesting no action may be mailed/emailed 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.

MINUTEMAN MISSILE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

(Submitted by George Cronin, Content on AFTAC-Related Facebook Sites)

<https://www.nps.gov/mimi/what-is-so-special-about-this-place.htm>

<https://www.ctbto.org/specials/testing-times/25-july-1946test-baker-bikini-atoll/>

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VETERANS, GOLD STAR FAMILIES GET FREE LIFETIME PASS TO NATIONAL PARKS, WILDLIFE REFUGES, OTHER PUBLIC LANDS – VA NEWS

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/11-8-2022-lifetime-pass.htm#:~:text=WASHINGTON%20-%20Today%2C%20the%20Biden-Harris%20Administration%20announced%20that,lands%2C%20including%20national%20parks%2C%20wildlife%20refuges%2C%20and%20forests.>

The Biden-Harris Administration announced that starting on Veterans Day (Nov. 11), veterans of the U.S. Armed Services and Gold Star Families can obtain a free lifetime pass to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests.

VETERANS, GOLD STAR FAMILIES GET FREE LIFETIME PASS TO NATIONAL PARKS, WILDLIFE REFUGES, OTHER PUBLIC LANDS – VA NEWS

(continued from pg 9)

"We have a sacred obligation to America's veterans. This new lifetime pass is a small demonstration of our nation's gratitude and support for those who have selflessly served in the U.S. Armed Forces," said Secretary Deb Haaland, whose father served during the Vietnam War. "I'm proud the Department of the Interior can provide veterans and Gold Star Families opportunities for recreation, education and enjoyment from our country's treasured lands." Federal recreational land management agencies offer additional lifetime passes, including a Senior Pass for US citizens or permanent residents over age 62 and an Access Pass for US citizens or permanent residents with a permanent disability. More information is available on [NPS.gov](https://www.nps.gov).

The Interior Department and other federal land agencies also offer [fee-free entrance days](#) for everyone throughout the year to mark days of celebration and commemoration, including the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., National Public Lands Day, and Veterans Day.

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UNIVERSAL STUDIOS OFFERING AN ANNUAL PASS WITH UNLIMITED VISITS FOR LESS THAN \$200

The 2023 Military Freedom Pass Promotional Ticket is available for use through 12/24/2023. Blockout dates apply-- Dec. 26, 2022, through and including Jan. 1, 2023, Apr. 3, 2023, through and including Apr. 9, 2023.

Choose From 2-Park or 3-Park options. Eligible Service Members can purchase and activate up to six (6) promotional tickets. Must present valid U.S. military photo ID at any Universal Orlando theme park front gate ticket window in order to activate tickets. **Purchase exclusively at your Authorized Military Ticket & Travel Office. Price starting at \$199.99.**

See additional information at <https://www.universalorlando.com/web/en/us/tickets-packages/military-deals-specials>



A FEW MINUTES FROM THE MINUTES

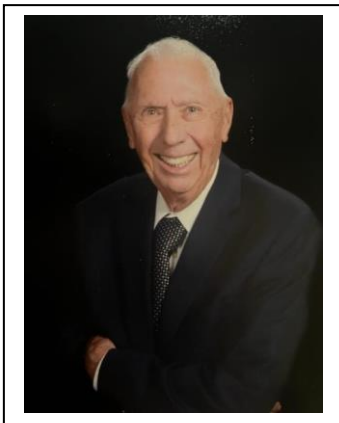
This column will help you stay up-to-date on issues that are not covered in other places in the POST MONITOR

Cost of Printing and Mailing the Post Monitor -- As you know, a paper copy of the POST MONITOR (PoMo) is mailed only to those members who pay an extra fee to receive a paper copy; everyone else receives it via Email. Currently, the fee is an additional \$10 per year (over the cost of dues), but the price is likely going up. Current costs for printing a color copy and mailing it comes to just short of \$5, meaning the cost each year is essentially \$15 for the three issues published each year. We're looking into the possibility of printing the PoMo in black-and-white to see what the cost would be so we can keep the cost at \$10 per year, but we may need to increase the price for a paper copy to \$15 per year.

At our December meeting each year, we offer an opportunity to participate in a Yankee Gift Exchange. This year, only five attendees chose to participate. Those five attendees are pictured here, ready for the gift exchange. The meeting was held at Beef O'Brady's in Satellite Beach, FL, and we had the pleasure of hearing from AFTAC Commander, Col James "Cobra" Finlayson, and AFTAC Command Chief, CMSgt Jerome Wright.

Pictured left to right – Wally Jones, Rick Manley, Sean Ryan, Ed Lindsay, and Doug Colbary





NORDIN CURTIS "CURT" ANDERHOLM

21 January 1937 – 21 October 2022

(Contacted by Lou Seiler)

Nordin Curtis (Curt) Anderholm, Merritt Island. Passed away peacefully surrounded by his family and the incredible caregivers from St Francis Reflections, and the nurses and staff at Solaris.

Curt will be remembered by his wife, Mary Lou, and his children, John Curtis (Beverly), Christopher Michael (Monica), and Mary Elizabeth Lucks (David). He was a beloved grandfather and great-grandfather.

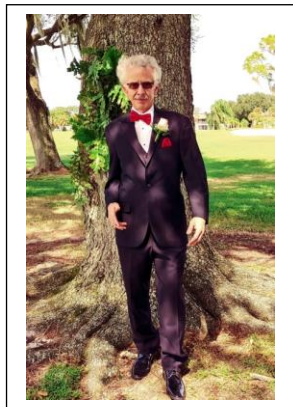
Curt was born and grew up in Duluth, MN, and attended college at the University of Minnesota Duluth. It was there that he met his bride Mary Louise Blomgren, who was attending the neighboring St Scholastica College. They were married on 9 August 1959. Upon graduation, Curt and Mary Lou moved to Evanston, IL, where Curt studied at Northwestern University and earned his Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics. After graduating, they moved their growing family to Albuquerque, NM, where Curt went to work for Sandia Laboratories. He was proud that his work at Sandia, led to two US Patents. His career took him and his family from New Mexico to Washington DC and finally to Patrick Air Force Base, FL, where Curt was assigned to the AFTAC Chief Scientist's office.

As a young man, Curt attained the rank of Eagle Scout. The lessons he learned in Scout's taught him to enjoy spending time in the outdoors. He enjoyed camping, hiking, fishing, and sailing. He passed along his love of the outdoors to his family. He was an avid Brevard Manatees baseball fan and liked nothing better than to spend the afternoon or evening at the ballpark with friends cheering on the home team.

Obituary available at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/merritt-island-fl/nordin-anderholm-10978045>

RICHARD M. BARONE

12 June 1945 – 7 November 2022



Richard Melvin Barone was born in Buffalo, NY, and grew up in a large Italian family. He had a passion for art and knowledge. He studied Philosophy, Biology, and earned his Master's degree in Library Science (1973). Richard was a Sergeant in the US Army in the Delta Company of the 25th Infantry Division; served in Vietnam during 1968 and 1969. He was wounded after he got his squad away from enemy fire, stayed with his squad until morning before being treated for his injuries. He earned a long deserved Purple Heart in 2002. Richard had worked as a Sky Marshal, and for most of his career for the federal government in every military branch, last being at AFTAC HQ as the Scientific and Technical Information Officer (STINFO), where he retired.

He is survived by his loving wife Jessica and daughter Michelle.

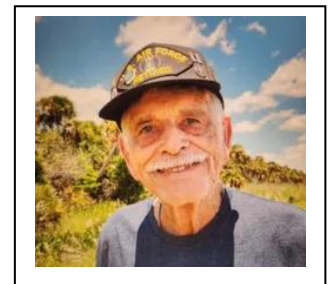
See full obituary at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/merritt-island-fl/richard-barone-11006561>



ROY J. KELCHNER

Died – 18 October 2022

(Contacted by Tom Eddleman)



Roy J. Kelchner, Lt. Col. USAF passed away peacefully in his home in Melbourne, FL. He is survived by his wife Lorraine and daughters Lorrie, Heidi, Kimberly, and Heather,

ROY J. KELCHNER

(continued from pg 11)

and by his late wife Nancy's children Sallie, Tom, Lynn, and Sue. Roy enjoyed cycling, kayaking, and shooting with lifelong friends. Roy loved the Air Force and served proudly. He received his Ph.D. from the Florida Institute of Technology, worked for Harris Corp., and worked at Cape Canaveral for many years. He was also an adjunct Biology and Oceanography professor at Brevard Community College.

Obituary available at: <https://www.floridatoday.com/obituaries/bft084898>

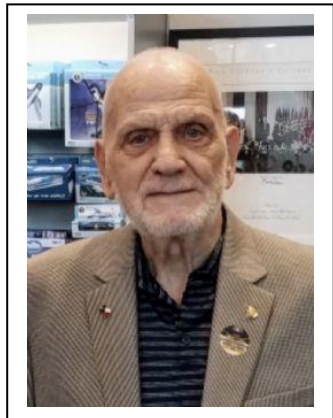
EARL "JACK" KIMBALL

13 December 1930 – 30 March 2022

Earl Jack Kimball, 91, of Greenville, Texas, passed away at his residence surrounded by his loving family. Jack was born in Grand Haven, Michigan. He married the love of his life, Wanda Parker, on July 20, 1950, in Shreveport, Louisiana. Jack was retired from the Air Force and from the Postal service.

Jack is survived by his sons Darrell Kimball and wife Brenda, Joe Kimball and wife Vickie, daughter Debby Maddox and husband Jim, and grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren and Special friend Eileen Jenkins.

[Notified by Ken Behrens Echoes Publisher/Editor, Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association, who reported that the September issue of *Echoes* was returned to me as "Deceased.")



Obituary available at: <https://friendleplace.com/earl-jack-kimball-91-greenville-december-13-1930-march-30-2022/>

DON McCARTER

17 December 1935 – 21 November 2022

(Contacted by Ed Lindsay passing along information from Don Whitney.)

Donald Eugene McCarter was born in Kings Mountain, NC, and graduated from Kings Mountain High School in 1954. He passed away at home in Winter Park, FL. He died of heart failure complicated by Parkinson's Disease. Don earned an associate of arts degree from Lees McRae Junior College, Banner Elk, NC, and attended the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA, before being selected to attend the United States Air Force Academy, where he graduated in 1961.



Don entered active duty at Reese Air Force Base, TX, where he completed pilot training. During his time at Reese AFB, he met the love of his life, Johnnie, on a blind date with mutual friends in Lubbock, TX. Though her parents were skeptical of Johnnie dating the 'fly-boy' from San Antonio, he earned their trust and her heart; they married in 1966.

Don's first assignment was with the USAF Logistics Command at Kelly AFB, TX, where he flew the C-124 Globemaster (aka 'Old Shaky'). In February 1968, he was assigned to the 608th Military Airlift Support Squadron at Cam Rhan Bay, Vietnam, where he volunteered to fly the C-47 'Skytrain' for low altitude support missions as an additional duty while serving with the Air Base Wing. Before leaving the cockpit to join the Air Staff in August 1973, Don also flew the C-54 'Skymaster' and C118 'Liftmaster' aircraft for the 1155th Technical Operation Squadron out of McClellan AFB, CA. After his flying days were done, he liked to say that he was 'flying a desk' when describing his later assignments at the US Pentagon, Naval Training Center, Orlando, FL, and AFTAC Commands at Patrick AFB, FL, and Lindsey Air Station in Wiesbaden, Germany. After more than 6,000 flight hours and 30 years of service, Don retired at the rank of Colonel from the USAF as the Director of Logistics, Headquarters, Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick AFB, FL, in 1991.

After retirement from the USAF, Don and Johnnie settled in Winter Park, FL. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Johnnie, his two daughters, Shannon Laegeler and Rachel Broome and son Ryan McCarter; sons-in-love Tom Laegeler and Bryan Broome, and daughter-in-love Robin McCarter, as well as grandchildren.

Obituary available at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/winter-park-fl/donald-mccarter-11031652>



LEWIS "LEW" MILLIGAN Jr.

May 1931 – 21 September 2022

Lewis Milligan Jr, SMSgt, USAF (Ret), died peacefully on 21 September 2022 in Roseville, CA, after a valiant battle with Alzheimer's. He was born in Coshocton, OH, and Graduated from Coshocton High School in 1949. Lewis married his high school sweetheart, Shirley Ann Latier on 2 July 1951; there were married for 69 years upon her death on 23 September 2020.

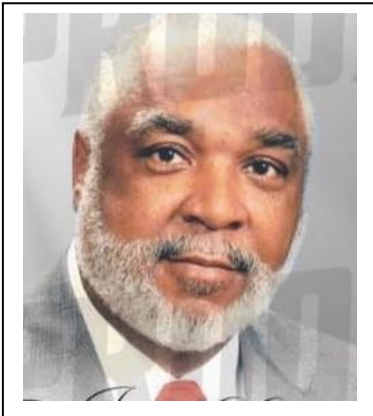


Lewis enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in October 1951. He was stationed at Charleston AFB, Bolling AFB, McClellan AFB, Allbrook AFB, and finally back to McClellan AFB. In 1972, he retired from the Air Force and continued working Civil Service until 1994. Lewis

loved softball. He pitched for many base teams. He could throw a mean fastball which earned him the nickname Hum Lew! Lewis is survived by his children, Stephanie (Jim), Kevin, and Michael, as well as grandchildren and great grandchildren.

[Dale Klug added: Lew was stationed at 1155th, EL360, and 1158th. After retirement from active duty he worked at McClellan AFB Personnel Office.

Bob Fitzgerald WCC Webmaster added: Although Lew was not a member of the AFTACAA West Coast Chapter, he was well known and respected by many of us "Old Timers" from the 1155th Tech Ops Sqdn and from his participation with me on the 1999 AFTAC Worldwide Reunion Committee, a well attended event which was held in Sacramento just prior to, and in conjunction with, the official deactivation of the "Tech Ops Division (TOD), which is what the organization was called by that time."]



JESSE LEROY PETERSON

5 October 1953 – 2 September 2022

(Posted by Anthony C. Bivins on Facebook (FB) Website, AFTAC DP'ers, Sep 16th, adding this note: 'It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of our beloved fellow Air Force service member, Leroy "Pete" Peterson. RIP "Pete."')

Jesse Leroy "Pete" Peterson was born in Brooks County, GA. He married Pinkie Jordan Peterson on 3 July 1971. Pete joined the Air Force after completing high school. After his service in the AF, Pete completed undergraduate education at Rollins College and later earned his MBA degree at Florida Tech. He enjoyed fishing, collecting antiques, and painting.

Pete leaves behind his wife, Pinkie and three sons, Lamar, Jarrett (Gina), and Erik (Maria), as well as seven grandchildren.

Obituary is available at <https://www.legacy.com/funeral-homes/obituaries/name/jesse-peterson-obituary?pid=202711025&v=batesville&view=guestbook>



DONNA LEE POUND

9 November 1941 – 7 November 2022

(Contacted by Tom Eddleman passing along this information)

Donna Lee Pound passed away 7 November. She was preceded by her husband of 52 years Galen W. Pound. Galen was assigned to AFTAC for many years, including an assignment at AFTAC HQ/TD-1 in Alexandria, VA.

DONNA LEE POUND

(continued from pg 13)

Donna is survived by her daughters Renay and Jeff Crouse, Colene Hewitt, and Tammy and Duane Bond. She has six grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Donna attended Pineda Presbyterian Church and enjoyed her many jobs over the years. Donna enjoyed crocheting, reading and cruising. She was so loved by family and friends and will be sadly missed.

Obituary: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/rockledge-fl/donna-pound-11005186>

RITA JEAN SHADER

7 June 1948 – 9 November 2022

Rita Jean Shader of Hendersonville, NC, died 9 November 2022. She was a native of Hoboken, NJ.

Having lived in Melbourne, FL, before moving to Hendersonville, she was a church secretary and a supervisor of elections analyst for Brevard County, FL. Rita was a member of Mills River Presbyterian and the Iona Community Scotland. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, reading, crocheting, volunteering, Scottish and Celtic culture, newsletter editor, and tap dancing. Rita is survived by her loving husband of 50 years, Richard Shader, two daughters, Jennifer Richard (Michael) of Wellford, SC, and Amy Slaven (Geoff) of Hendersonville, NC, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

(Notified by Tom and Moira Eddleman)

Obituary, <https://shulerfuneralhome.com/obituary/rita-jean-shader/>



EDWARD THOMAS

Died 14 August 2022 (age 90)

(Notified by Calvin Bacon with this information, "I have not seen a notice about Ed Thomas, so I think you may have not seen this. When I arrived at the 1155th in 1960 and after "graduating" from the Counting Room in the Lab, I worked for Ed in the Maintenance Shop. In civilian life, I worked for Ed at three different companies.)

Edward W. Thomas was born in Harrisonburg, PA, and passed away Graystone Manor, Altoona, PA. Ed is survived by his wife of 69 years, Doris E. (Claar); and son, Edward M. (Dawn) of Marysville. Ed graduated from Tyrone Area High School in 1950. Following graduation, he attended RCA Institute NYC, and then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, serving 8½ years where he did classified work in nuclear instrumentation.

Prior to his retirement in 1989 from AT&T Bell Labs as a member of the technical staff, Ed contributed to the design and development of radiation experiments for Telstar and Relay satellites. He also designed circuits and participated in the testing, calibration and integration of the experiments into the satellites. He participated in the design of an experiment for Project SERB (Study of the Enhanced Radiation Belt) and designed the electronics for this experiment, then participated in the launch of the project satellite, Explorer XV. He has conducted experiments to aid in a more precise understanding of the Telstar and Explorer XV results, as well as in the planning of experiments and instruments for future space radiation studies. Ed has been granted eleven U.S. patents and five French patents.

Obituary available at <https://www.altoonamirror.com/obituaries/2022/08/edward-w-thomas/>



GAIL WILLIAMSON

19 May 1937 – 16 October 1922

(Located, 2022.10.25, on Facebook Page, 'AFTAC Alumni ...' by Jon Richardson. Jon wrote: "Last Saturday I was made aware that Gail Williamson passed away peacefully at home with her husband Don holding her hand. Don was an old Q troop from back in 1964. His previous assignment was with the 551st AEW and C wing at Cape Cod Mass....")

Gail Marie Williamson of Wisconsin Rapids, WI, passed away at home, holding the hand of her husband of 66 years, Donald "Donnie" Williamson. At her bedside were the greatest joys of her life, her three children, Willie, Mike and Kelley.

A St. Mary's and Assumption alumna, Gail married her husband, Donnie, on 25 August 1956. The next 23 years of her life were spent as a USAF wife and mother. Gail and Donnie left Wisconsin Rapids for Cape Cod, MA, then moved on to Denver, CO, next to Fairbanks, AK, and then back to Denver, CO. Gail and the three children spent 1970-71 back on Cape Cod while Donnie spent a year-long solo tour of service in the Fiji Islands. They reunited in Sacramento, CA, from 1971-75, and then spent Donnie's last two years of service near Austin, TX. In 1977, Gail ended her career as an AF wife and mom when Donnie retired from the AF, and the family returned "home" to Wisconsin Rapids.

Over her adult life, Gail was a Red Cross nurse's assistant, a paper mill worker, a waitress, a cashier, and a den mother. She also knew how to play the "dad" role when Donnie was away serving our country, which happened often. She taught the boys to throw a baseball, made sure homework was done, and that curfews were obeyed. Gail was a woman of strong faith, and attended mass regularly at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church, where she and Donnie were married. Gail is survived by her husband, Donnie, and three sons, as well as grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

Obituary available at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/gail-williamson-obituary?id=36831615>



CHAPTER NEWS

DEPOT FALLOUT

Submitted by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

The West Coast Chapter of the AFTAC Alumni Association has updated their website. Check out www.AFTACWCC.org to see new photos of the WCC 2022 Fall Social event and other updates.

EVENTS: This page now has upcoming meetings from Dec '22 through Jun '23 and the Spring Picnic event on Armed Forces Day in May '23.

-- Quarterly Business Meetings - ON ZOOM ONLY! -- Monday, 13 Mar 2023, 7:00pm, and Monday, 12 Jun 2023, 7:00pm. Everyone: Contact the WCC Webmaster if interested in attending & watch here for updates.

-- Saturday, 20 May 2023, 11:00am-2:00pm WCC ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC & BBQ - "Armed Forces Day" -- Tempo Park, 13201 Fair Oaks Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610 <



<<< West Coast Chapter Fall Event Attendees:
(Standing) Bob Fitzgerald, Donna Fritts,
Charlie Penn, Butch Kemna, Bob Baker,
Allan Pentecost, Corrine & John Miner,
(Sitting) John Culbert, Tony Carvelle
(guest), Cathy Pentecost, and
Dale Klug

UPCOMING MEETING/EVENT:

Submitted by President Bryce Dunn - president@aftacco.org

Dear AFTAC & LRD Alumni, Active Duty, Civilians, Family and Friends

Our next gathering will probably be breakfast in **February or early March**. We look forward to seeing you there!

V/R, Bryce Dunn President, and Maureen Hampson, Treasurer,
Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association



MONITOR

ing Active Duty Doins' from around the AFTAC World

Command Section



Commander/CC/2022. Colonel James "Cobra" Finlayson

Colonel Finlayson assumed command of the Air Force Technical Applications Center on 2 June 2022. Colonel Finlayson received his commission in 1997 from the United States Air Force Academy. Prior to assuming command of AFTAC, Colonel Finlayson was the Vice Commander of the 17th Training Wing at Goodfellow AFB, Texas, serving as the principal assistant to the Wing Commander and overseeing two training groups, a mission support group, and a medical group. Additionally, Colonel Finlayson served as the Chief of Staff, J2 Directorate for Intelligence, U.S. Strategic Command, located at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. Previous leadership assignments include serving as the Commander of National Air and Space Intelligence Center's Regional Threats Analysis Squadron and as the Director of Operations for U.S. Strategic Command's Joint Intelligence Operations Center.

Command Section



Vice Commander/CV/2021. Colonel Richard R. Beckman

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

Command Section



Command Chief. Chief Master Sergeant Jerome S. Wright

CMSgt Wright is the Command Chief of AFTAC, Patrick Space Force Base, FL. Previous assignments include serving as the senior enlisted advisor of the cadet wing at the USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo. He was the principle enlisted advisor to the commandant on training, education, standards and personnel matters for 4,400 cadets and 236 total force permanent party members. Additionally, as the career field manager for the Academy Military Trainer (8B200) Developmental Special Duty, he was responsible for the training, development, utilization, and readiness of 107 academy military trainers. His background includes various duties in missile and space systems

Command Chief. (continued from pg 16)

electronic maintenance, electronic systems security assessment, operations intelligence, and geospatial intelligence targeting career fields. He has deployed in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, and Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR. Prior to serving at the USAF Academy, Chief Wright was the superintendent and chief enlisted manager of the 11th Special Operations Intelligence Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Okaloosa County, FL. CMSgt Wright's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resource Management and Organizational Development, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. (See article, below, by CMSgt Jerome Wright)



REPORTS FROM WITHIN THE HQ BUILDING

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

A FEW WORDS FROM THE CHIEF

By CMSgt Jerome Wright, AFTAC Command Chief

Hello from the 4th Floor of the AFTAC Headquarters Building here in Sunny Florida! It's great to have this opportunity to introduce myself to our amazing network of Alumni and give you a little bit of insight into who I am and where I came from.

First though, I want to tell you just how impressed I am with the level of involvement and support the cadre of AFTAC Alumni continue to provide to the current workforce. Since I arrived in July, I have had the chance to meet many of you at various functions and events, and even got to sample the award-winning chili made by AFTAC Alumni Association President, Chief (ret) Ed Lindsay at our Chili Cook Off fundraiser! Believe me when I say that I've never been part of an organization that had such a deep bench of former members ready and willing to assist and participate in the things that go on month to month.

Let me tell you a bit about me. I began my military career back in 2000 as missile maintainer on some of the Air Force's most sensitive assets, and I also spent a lot of time in the Info Ops, All Source Intel and Joint Targeting career fields. As a prior missile maintainer, I served on the Peacekeeper ICBM deactivation team as part of the START II Treaty. My career started in the missile fields of F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, so I am excited to be back in the business of ensuring treaty compliance.

My most recent assignment before coming to AFTAC was as the Senior Enlisted Leader of the Cadet Wing at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado, which ranks as one of my most professionally rewarding assignments.

But I am so pumped to be serving as AFTAC's Command Chief and working side-by-side with some of the most brilliant and talented minds in the Air Force. I learn something new every single day I come to work, and I am consistently amazed at the level of expertise each person who works for this organization displays on a daily basis.

As AFTAC's Command Chief, my role is to advise the commander on matters that affect our enlisted personnel and to monitor compliance with Air Force standards. Simply put, I serve as a liaison between our senior leaders and our enlisted force to help better communicate any problems or concerns that may impact unit morale.

On a personal note, my wife Jessica and I, as well as our three daughters, are excited to be back in this part of the country. It's a great change of pace (and scenery!) from the wintry peaks of Colorado to the sandy shores and blue waters of Central Florida, and we intend to take full advantage of all the wonderful activities the Sunshine State has to offer.

While most of our alumni (and even many of our currently serving members) spent most, if not all, of their career with AFTAC, my tenure is far shorter than that. But I have come to the realization that the AFTAC Alumni Association welcomes anyone who has been fortunate enough to call the treaty monitoring center "home" and through that connection, they become part of the long range detection family. It's a badge I proudly wear, and it's an honor to be in such good company.

To the Alumni who may not live near Patrick SFB, please accept my thanks for remaining active as an alum – and I extend my appreciation to you for your service to our great nation.

To those who call the Space Coast home, I hope to get to meet you in person at a future event or celebration. Please make a point of introducing yourself to me so I can show my gratitude.

Here's to having a very happy, healthy, and prosperous 2022. AFTAC – One Team, One Fight!



AFTAC PARTNERS WITH FLORIDA TECH FOR THIRD RESEARCH AGREEMENT

Published Dec. 6, 2022 – 16th AF

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs

MELBOURNE, Fla. -- The Air Force Technical Applications Center here renewed its cooperative research and development agreement with Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) Nov. 15 at a symbolic signing held at the university's Melbourne, FL, campus.

A Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) is a government contract that allows for R&D collaboration between federal laboratories and non-federal entities to provide quick, unique access to extensive government-funded research that can be leveraged by both parties to yield powerful, scientific results.

"A CRADA is an incredibly flexible way for federal labs to work with the public sector and vice versa," said Jonathan Holton, Deputy Branch Chief of R&D Relationships and Manager for Office of Research and Technology for AFTAC's agreement with Florida Tech. "It's also one of the most significant mechanisms for technology transfer and transition, or T3, and through this process a federal lab can commit resources such as equipment, intellectual property, facilities, or most important, human capital, to any interested non-federal entity."

The FIT-CRADA has evolved since its inception in 2016. Originally focused on cloud computing, it expanded in 2019 and now encompasses all of AFTAC's mission sets (geophysical, nuclear materials and detonations, prompt diagnostics, and atmosphere and space operations), along with cross-cutting areas of innovation and environmental science.

At the signing ceremony, Florida Tech's Executive Vice President, Provost and Chief Operating Officer, had nothing but praise for the alliance.

"This partnership is extremely important for us, extremely valuable for us, and we are proud to have this level of partnership in this area," said Marco Carvalho. "So, thank you for being colleagues, thank you for working with us and giving us the opportunity to be involved in important research that can benefit the country."

According to the agreement, it is estimated the Air Force will save more than \$500,000 from the collaborative efforts between the two organizations.

See the full article at <https://www.16af.af.mil/Newsroom/Article/3237346/aftac-partners-with-florida-tech-for-third-research-agreement/>



*The three signatories of the CRADA between AFTAC and FIT pose for a photo before signing the agreement at a symbolic ceremony at the university's Melbourne, FL, campus. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Daniel DeForest, AFTAC's Director of Strategic Integration; Col. James A. Finlayson, AFTAC Commander; and Dr. Marco Carvalho, Florida Tech's Executive Vice President, Provost, and Chief Operating Officer.
(FIT photo by Adam Lowenstein)*



SCOUTS EARN RARE BADGE WITH HELP FROM AFTAC

Published Nov. 7, 2022

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs

(USAF photos by Susan A. Romano)

PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, FL -- Boy Scouts from around Central Florida traveled to AFTAC on 22 October to earn one of the Boy Scouts of America's more rare badges, the Nuclear Science Merit Badge (formerly known as the Atomic Energy Badge). Just over 5,000 Scouts worldwide earn the NSMB each year, compared to more than 48,000 who earn the Camping Badge annually. The requirements include understanding the definition of words like atom, nucleus, isotopes, and ionization; being able to describe the hazards of radiation; building a cloud chamber; and constructing a 3-D model of an atomic element.

(continued on pg 19)

SCOUTS EARN RARE BADGE WITH HELP FROM AFTAC

(continued from pg 18)

Made up of 13 troops from six Florida counties, 62 Scouts –boys and girls alike – arrived at the base bright and early Saturday morning, excited to learn more about nuclear science from experts in the field. AFTAC is the Department of Defense's sole nuclear treaty monitoring agency, employing a diverse cross-section of scientists, engineers, analysts, technical applications specialists, data processors, and mathematicians.

The first portion of the day's agenda was held in the center's Northrup Auditorium, where the Scouts received briefings about particle accelerators, power plants and radioactivity.

In between the briefings, troops were broken up into smaller groups, where they were able to build cloud chambers using felt and petri dishes and create a 3-D model of a hydrogen atom and its isotopes using pretzel sticks, marshmallows and gum drops.

Each time a Scout asked a question of a subject matter expert, they were rewarded with candy. Many AFTAC Airmen were thoroughly impressed with the level of some of their questions.



Airman Zachary Maga, a scientific applications specialist at the USAF Radiochemistry Lab, demonstrate what happens when a carnation is placed into a container of liquid nitrogen, as Boy Scouts from around Central Florida observe the experiment. Maga and his co-worker, SSgt Albert Silvain Jr., (far left) volunteered their time to help the scouts earn the Nuclear Science Merit Badge at AFTAC.

<<< A group of 62 Boy Scouts and their Troop Leaders from across Central Florida pose with members of AFTAC, after earning the coveted Nuclear Science Merit Badge

Following the briefings and hands-on activities, the group was escorted to AFTAC's outdoor pavilion to enjoy pizza and chips. Special visits from the AFTAC commander, Col. James A. Finlayson, and 45th Security Forces Squadron Investigator Tech. Sgt. Melvin Underwood, rounded out the lunch break. Each made a point to circulate among the Scouts to talk to them about life in the Air Force.

Finlayson presented his military challenge coin to Liam Walders of Troop 323 – much to the young Scout's complete surprise – after learning the 10th grader posed some pretty challenging questions to the commander's subject matter experts.

"This is a great opportunity for me to recognize the future of America – Scouts like Liam, and all of you here today, who have put in many hours to earn badges like the Nuclear Science Merit Badge," said Finlayson. "I am a huge advocate of lifelong learning, and events like this are paramount to our nation's success. Liam, keep up the great work, and to all of you in attendance, thank you for being here today!"

See full article at <https://www.16af.af.mil/Newsroom/Article/3212138/scouts-earn-rare-badge-with-help-from-aftac/>



THE ART OF SIGN IN A SECURE ENVIRONMENT

Published Oct. 26, 2022

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs

PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, FL -- There is an old saying that goes, "Actions speak louder than words." For one employee at the Air Force Technical Applications Center, certain actions are executed at just the right volume.

Le Chen, a statistician with the 21st Surveillance Squadron here, was hired in August to work at the Department of Defense's sole nuclear treaty monitoring center. His role is to use mathematical formulas and techniques to analyze and interpret copious amounts of technical data the center receives on a daily basis.

Chen is also deaf and communicates almost exclusively using sign language.

So how does an employee in a secure facility whose mission is considered “no fail” with international-level implications, operate in an environment where few people are fluent signers?

“There are many ways for my co-workers to communicate with me,” Chen said. “Email and online chat functions are great ways for me to send and receive messages from my peers and supervisors, and I always have a white board or notepad next to me so we can write notes to each other.”

Chen also relies on body language, eye contact, facial expressions, posture, hand gestures, and even silence to understand the message being relayed.

“I am not a lip reader, but I have learned to interpret conversations in a variety of ways, and I always appreciate it when a colleague tries to learn a few words or phrases using sign language, even if they just use their fingers to count numbers!”

Chen grew up in the shadow of the nation’s capital and earned his bachelor’s degree in Mathematics from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., the only university in the world designed for deaf or hard of hearing students. From there, he went on to earn his master’s degree in Statistics from Georgia State University. According to the Maryland native, both had their own set of challenges.

“Signing has always been my primary form of communication,” he said. “English is my first language, so since I was in Kindergarten, I used what’s called SEE and PSE. SEE stands for ‘Signed Exact English’ and PSE stands for ‘Pidgin Signed English.’”

For clarity, SEE is an exact word-for-word translation of spoken English, using proper grammar as it would be written on paper. PSE, on the other hand, is a combination of SEE and American Sign Language (ASL). Many in the hearing-impaired community (as well as translators who are not deaf) use this fusion of both SEE and ASL.

ASL is the predominant language in deaf communities in the United States and portions of English-speaking Canadian provinces. It is a visual language that is expressed through hand- and facial-gestures. Much like any language, regions adopt certain dialects, fingerspelling, and patterns the same way areas of the U.S. have spoken accents. Signers from the South tend to have a slower, more easy-going flow, whereas Northeasterners have more quick, snappier gestures.

Chen prides himself on being skilled in all forms of sign communication.

Prior to joining AFTAC, the trained statistician was a bioinformatics specialist for the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., focusing on deafness and other communication disorders. He was excited when he found the opening for a data scientist at the treaty monitoring center.

“I was really happy to find a position where I could use my education and apply my past experience,” Chen said. “It’s not often you find statistician jobs at a pay grade I was looking for. But I wasn’t expecting that I’d be working for a military branch that would require a security clearance!”

To read the full article, see <https://www.16af.af.mil/Newsroom/Article/3200209/the-art-of-sign-in-a-secure-environment/>



Le Chen communicates with SMSgt. David M. Oldenhouse, 21st SURS Senior Enlisted Leader, using a white board and dry erase marker.
(U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew S. Jurgens.)



FIRST FRIDAYS ARE BACK ON THE SCHEDULE

AFTACs First Fridays are back on the schedule. The First Friday in December was held with the theme “Tailgating,” where attendees were free to wear their favorite Team Jersey. Watch for announcements of future First Friday gatherings where the alumni are invited to mingle with active duty members. First Fridays are generally held in the Outback pavilion next to the AFTAC Headquarters.

CALL ME WHEN YOU QUIT

Published Nov. 2, 2022

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs

PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, FL -- He's met queens and princes, presidents and movie stars. He's won multiple gold medals, carried the American Flag to center field during the opening ceremonies of Super Bowl LI, and has been in the company of some of the U.S. military's most senior officers.

And yet, he remains grounded, humble, and grateful for the opportunity to live another day, even without his left leg.

Tech. Sgt. August O'Niell, an Air Force pararescueman, visited AFTAC on 20 October to tell his story of resilience, courage, fortitude, and determination to a rapt crowd in the center's Northrup Auditorium.

Accompanied by his father, Danny, and stepmother, Toni Kinsch, O'Niell described the day that ultimately led to the amputation of his leg above the knee.

"We were on a rescue mission in Afghanistan when our helicopter came under fire from enemy insurgents," he said. "Several rounds pierced our helo and one of the rounds bounced off the door, came through my left knee, out the right side of it, down through my right calf, and then out again. Believe it or not, at first I wasn't sure if I was hit, but once I moved my leg into a different position, that's when the pain set in."

Once stabilized enough to be transported, O'Niell's lengthy medical evacuation took him from Helmand

Province in southwest Afghanistan to Bagram Air Base, 60 kilometers north of the capital city, Kabul. He ultimately landed at the military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, to get the initial medical attention needed to repair the significant damage he incurred before being airlifted back to the States to receive care at San Antonio Military Medical Center.

His brother was the first family member to be at his side through the ordeal. "My brother is my best friend," said O'Niell, "and we're also both extremely competitive. Since both of us hate to lose, it keeps our relationship interesting! He joined the Air Force before I did as a Combat Rescue Officer, and when I told him I was looking at becoming a PJ, he laughed and said, 'OK, call me when you quit.' That's all it took to solidify my choice to join the PJs!"

When an injured service member needs saving from a hostile or otherwise unreachable area, pararescuemen, or PJs as they are better known, jump into action to their aid. These highly trained experts are skilled parachutists, scuba divers, rock climbers, swimmers, runners, and medics. They conduct missions in some of the most extreme and hostile places on the planet, holding true to their motto: That Others May Live.

O'Niell certainly took that motto to heart, especially when he talks about his own life and the struggles he's faced.

Kevin Callan, AFTAC's Chief of Manpower and Organization Division, is a close family friend of the O'Niells, and was the catalyst in getting the Purple Heart recipient to visit the center for a second time – the first was in 2017. His presentation was so well received that he agreed to speak to the workforce again.

"I first met Sergeant O'Niell in 2001 when he was in high school," said Callan. "When I think back to when I saw him after one of his many surgeries before his amputation, those were some pretty dark days for him. He was feeling down, missed his teammates, and struggled to do simple things that he previously did without any difficulty. Then in the next breath, he said he was not done fighting and was not a quitter. This is just one example of the tenacity, dedication and untiring characteristics that makes Auggie Auggie. I consider him to be an American hero and an inspiration for others to follow and learn from. I can't thank him – and his parents – enough for taking the time to speak to us at AFTAC."

See full article at <https://www.16af.af.mil/Newsroom/Article/3207145/call-me-when-you-quit/>



*TSGT August O'Niell, an Air Force Pararescueman, speaks to a crowd of Airmen from AFTAC at Patrick Space Force Base FL. O'Niell described the ordeal he faced when his helicopter was attacked by insurgents in Afghanistan, leading to the amputation of his left leg.
(U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew S. Jurgens)*

CTBTO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY VISITS AFTAC

Published Oct. 27, 2022

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs

PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, FL -- The executive secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization visited AFTAC on 25 October to learn more about the intricate and important partnership the two agencies share. Dr. Robert Floyd took over as CTBTO's top leader in August 2021, and in that role he is responsible for promoting universal recognition of the CTBT, while simultaneously building up the verification regime to ensure no nuclear explosion can go undetected.

Accompanying the secretary were Sabine Bauer, Floyd's Special Assistant, and Megan Slinkard, Chief of Software Applications at the International Data Centre. The distinguished visitors were provided an in-depth overview of the center's treaty monitoring mission, as well as a briefing on current global operations.

Since 1996, AFTAC and CTBTO's Preparatory Commission have shared a long-term working relationship with the same vital goal in mind: global nuclear nonproliferation. The center has a long history as the United States' premier organization devoted to nuclear treaty monitoring using national technical means, while the commission is tasked with developing a global network to detect nuclear explosions in any environment worldwide.



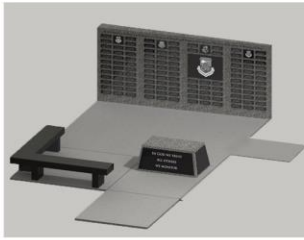
MSGT Steven Layton of AFTAC briefs Dr. Robert Floyd, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Executive Secretary, on seismic maintenance operations performed by the nuclear treaty monitoring center at Patrick Space Force Base, FL. Floyd visited the Department of Defense's only nuclear treaty monitoring center to get an overview on current global operations.

See the full article at <https://www.16af.af.mil/Newsroom/Article/3202142/ctbto-executive-secretary-visits-aftac/>



**WISHING EVERYONE
A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**





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Michael Steskal
Dedicated to those
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For additional information please email us at: aftacmem@gmail.com



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

MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED –
See the aftacaa.us web page for latest information.

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

2. Alumni Assn Board/Membership Meetings-normally-2nd
Mondays at 1600. .

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

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

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

Active-Duty & Alumni are invited to all events.

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

See page 1 for current list – check aftacaa.us

Calendar of Events (CoE) for latest updates

January 2023

Jan 2023 – Membership Meeting

[see aftacaa.us] – Teleconference –

February 2023

Date & Place TBD – Membership Meeting

[see CoE at aftacaa.us for more info] – Teleconference

18 Feb 2023 – SNOWBALL – See pages 1&3 for particulars.

March 2023

Date & Place TBD –Membership Mtg – Teleconference

[check CoE at aftacaa.us]

April 2023

Date & Place TBD – Membership Meeting–

[check CoE at aftacaa.us]

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

A. January-April (months may vary)

1. SnowBall -- Projected for February/Locale TBD

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

B. May-August (months may vary)

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

2. Annual Association Spring Golf N'Getogether

C. September-December (months may vary)

1. Friday in Sep, Annual Board, General Membership &
Elections Meeting; **Alumni of the Year (AOY) Selection**

Committee (prior AOYs) meet following the annual meeting.

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

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

--AFTAC WORLDWIDE REUNIONS: Normally scheduled every
other year. Hosting rotates between the association and the two
chapters. Last host – FL-2022.05, CO-2019.06; CA-2017.06

SAGE SHOP – OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Mail orders to:

AFTAC Alumni Assn, ATTN: Sage Shop

P.O. Box 254892,

Patrick Space Force Base, FL, 32925-4892

SAGE CONTACT: Ed Lindsay

Piston_horse@hotmail.com

321-507-7193

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

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

New DriFit Long-sleeve T-shirt (SPF 50 UV protection)
\$18- Royal Blue, Navy, Red

New DriFit Short-sleeve T-shirt (SPF 50 UV protection)
\$15- Royal Blue, Navy, Red

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

COINS & PINS

AFTAC Alumni Association Coin: \$10

AFTAC Alumni Association Pin: \$3

AFTAC Logo/ Shield Pin: \$3

60th LRD Commemorative Coin: \$5

75th ANNIVERSARY COASTERS (Black/Blue)

\$2 each or 12 for \$20

CLEARANCE ITEMS

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

Golf/Polo Shirts – Screen printed logo - Assorted Colors

\$10 - 50/50 (cotton/ polyester) moisture wicking w/
pocket - or - DriFit Fabric w/ or w/o pocket

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

FUTURE ITEMS

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

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

SAGE SHOP MERCHANDISE FROM OTHERS

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

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

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

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

