

POST-MONITOR

VOL 31 – ISSUE 01

WEBSITE: AFTACAA.US

2023-04



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

DOUG COLBARY

Secretary, AFTACAA

Doug was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. When he was 4 years old his family immigrated to the US, settling in southern California near his grandparents who had immigrated several years earlier. Doug's family later moved to North Carolina and then settled in Titusville, Florida, in 1969. After graduating from high school in 1970 and a year at what is now Eastern Florida State College, Doug joined the USAF in December 1971 as a Ground Radio Technician. After bouncing around from Keesler AFB, to Sheppard AFB, back to Keesler, to Elgin AFB, then to Izmir, Turkey, in his first 8 years, he was ready for a change. He read about openings in the 99105, Scientific Measurements Technician field. "Headquarters at Patrick AFB, computer related, 6 months training at Lowry," -- "anything more we'd have to kill you." Accepted. From Izmir to Lowry AFB in June 1979 then off to Patrick AFB in January 1980. He was assigned to the Software Branch until December 1981 when there was a requirement for 99105 with basic Seismic knowledge and software experience to be assigned to the Acquisition Branch during the development of the Global Subsurface System (GSS). After GSS was deployed he stayed in the Acquisition Branch supporting follow-on AFTAC Distributed Subsurface Network (ADSN) programs. Between TDYs he completed his Bachelor's Degree at Rollins and Master's Degree at Florida Tech. He retired on 29 February 1992 after spending 12 years at AFTAC HQ. Post AFTAC, Doug worked for McDonnell Douglas/Boeing at the Kennedy Space Center providing Configuration Management support for the International Space Station Program from first U.S. launch to final assembly.



** 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.

Monthly meetings are generally on the second Monday of the month. Location may be at the AFTAC building or at a local restaurant.

Contact Ed Lindsay to receive meeting announcements which will provide date, time, and location, and for Teleconference connection. Ed can be contacted at

piston_horse@hotmail.com

321-507-7193 (Unlisted)



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, 12 May 2023

**AFTAC Alumni Association
(AFTACAA)
Annual Spring Golf-n'Get-
Together XXXVIII**

[Further details of the Golf Tournament 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.

Honor Roll: Alumni Of The Year Recipients (27)

Mike Young/2022-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 (D)/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).

--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.'

"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, 15-23; Mike Steskal (D), Mbrshp, 16-22; Carol Snyder, 'Insider,' 10-20.

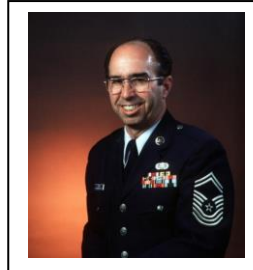
2. Colorado Chapter: Formed Nov 1986, \$5/year, they publish a newsletter, 'Echoes', have several meetings and social events a year. See website at <http://www.aftacco.org> for additional information and email contacts.

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



It's time again that we recognize the work Judy Henderson does for the Association. Every four months she puts together the PoMo for that period and seemingly, to me, each one is better than the previous. A short history here, Clark Creery (D) did the Alumni Newsletter basically from the beginning, 1985 until 1996, or so. We had one issue put together by the Printer with guidance from our President at the time, Tom Niquette. Having a non-AFTACer involved 'shamed' Chris (D) and me into volunteering.

We had this work of trust and honor for many years, and at a particular time I asked that I be relieved of the duties of putting it together. Pete Gilbert, the Webmaster, came forward from PM2016.08 to PM2018.08 and we worked as a team thru that period ... Pete, and I, came to realize this additional duty was just too much, what with also running a first-class, state-of-the-art, Website and PoMo. That's when Judy came forward and has been doing formatting for about five years now.

Judy and I have made several overtures for help and or replacement to no avail. Unlike me, Judy has a busy life with her family and church and would be relieved if someone else could step forward. I believe it takes someone with a combination of knowing AFTAC well at several levels and wanting to help the association in a big way.

So, if you've got the time, and inclination, to learn from Judy with the goal of taking over the formatting, please let us know and we can begin the process.

PS – by Judy

You do not need a special computer program to format the PoMo; I use WORD, which is saved out upon completion as a .pdf document that can be Emailed to the membership. Because of space, we cannot include all articles and pictures submitted in their entirety; the formatter must decide how to edit the articles while providing enough information.

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, & Michelle Ryan; **Printing/Mailing:** Ed Lindsay, Sean Ryan; **Website Chairman/Media:** Ed Lindsay; **Webmaster:** Al Moy



SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT – “SIGN UP NOW”

Friday, 12 May 2023

AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA) Annual Spring Golf-n'Get-Together XXXVIII

Venue: Manatee Cove Golf Course, PSFB. **Check-in:** 1130

Shotgun Start: 1300. (**Format:** 4-Person Scramble).

Cost: \$45 (Alumni Members); \$50 (Non-Alumni Members).

Fee includes: Golf, Cart, Range Balls, & BBQ from Tides Club served for Dinner

Open to: AD Military, Retirees, Civilians, and Contractors

Mulligan's pkgs will be on sale: \$5 for 1 mulligan, Red Bomb, & Nolan

Team Mulligan ball: available for \$10

POCs: Mr. Ed Lindsay -- piston_horse@hotmail.com -- 321-507-7193 (Unlisted)

Mr. Bruce Snelgrove -- robert.snelgrove@us.af.mil-- 321-494-6166 (Unlisted)

Thank you. Hope to see ya'll there!



2022 AFTAC ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

SAGE SALUTE

DR. JAMES MICHAEL “MIKE” YOUNG

Dr. James Michael (Mike) Young was the Command Historian, Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick Space Force Base, FL. AFTAC operates and maintains the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System to monitor foreign compliance with various treaties limiting nuclear testing. The focus of AFTAC's more than 1,000 professionals is to detect special events in the atmosphere, underwater, underground and in space, to determine if they are nuclear and to report them to national command authorities.

Prior to joining Federal Civil Service in May 2011, Dr. Young served as the Chief Information Officer at Ohio Dominican University. He received his commission in 1983 as a distinguished military graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the Ohio State University and retired as a lieutenant colonel from the Army in July 2005. His career encompasses a broad range of assignments in Intelligence and as a Foreign Area Officer at the battalion, brigade, division, and major command levels. He served as a commander at the company, detachment, and battalion levels. Prior to his retirement, Lieutenant Colonel Young was deployed for 16 months to Joint Task Force Guantanamo where he served as the Deputy Commander of the Joint Detention Operations Group.



A LETTER TO THE ALUMNI – FROM THE RECENTLY RETIRED HISTORIAN

Dear Alumni

As the AFTAC historian for the last 11 years, it has been a true honor to often tell your story. For a Cold War historian, coming to AFTAC was like winning the lottery. Though frequently shrouded in far too much secrecy, previous historians should have narrated your story—especially the early years of the 1950s and 1960s—a long, long time ago. It was a privilege for me to do so. Over the years, I learned three important things from you all.

First, while you operated at the strategic level and largely in secret, you were on the front lines of the Cold War. Just as much as us Army grunts operating at the tactical level were in Germany's Fulda Gap. I believe you were the nation's premiere strategic reconnaissance unit. Eyes, and especially ears, monitoring the activities of our greatest adversary. I believe you were an important safeguard in helping to prevent a nuclear war during the nuclear arms race.

A LETTER TO THE ALUMNI – FROM THE RECENTLY RETIRED HISTORIAN (continued from page 3)

Second, that difficult mission over the last seven decades was only successful because of the superbly talented people who joined AFTAC's ranks. Highly skilled and highly motivated, AFTAC's airmen taught the rest of the Air Force what real innovation looks like. Creating and improving the Atomic Energy Detection System (AEDS) required an unprecedented level of "thinking outside the box." Later, when the digital era began, you quickly mastered a whole new realm of unique digital technologies that greatly advanced the fidelity of the AEDS. Only the most creative people in the Air Force could have achieved such a high record of performance in a short period of time.

Third, AFTACers have formed a brotherhood/sisterhood unlike almost any I have ever seen. You truly care for one another. You also care about our younger airmen who are carrying on your impressive legacy. The Alumni Association's close relationship and activities with AFTAC today has been, and remains, much appreciated by AFTAC commanders and command chiefs. While some have been more engaged with you than others, I can promise you that our current commander, Colonel James "Cobra" Finlayson, recognizes the importance of the association. As a historian, he understands that your past informs the present mission. He gets it. He recognizes that your history is a force multiplier today.

In closing, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for being named the 2022 Alumnus of the Year. There are not enough words to show how grateful I am of the honor. Thank you for inviting me into your family.

I wish you all the best in your current and future endeavors. And thank you for your strong embrace of our collective heritage and history.

Respectfully, Mike Young

[NOTE – See additional pictures with the SNOWBALL report – page 5]



Ed Lindsay & Mike Young at the formal AFTAC Awards Ceremony

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2023 FLORIDA AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SNOWBALL XXIV

By Sean P. "Radar" Ryan

Since 1999, The Florida AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA), has thrown a themed event called a SnowBall. This festive and social get-together is highlighted with a social hour, a sit-down dinner, entertainment, Commander's Brief, and the recognition of honoring our previous year's Alumni of the Year (AOY). This year's event was held on 18 February 2023, at the Manatee Cove Golf Course, Patrick Space Force Base, Florida.

The evening's events kicked off with a festive Social Hour where guests enjoyed mingling, chatting, and reminiscing about AFTAC and catching up and socializing with old friendships and sharing fond memories of their time in the unit thru the years, in assignments around-the-world, or in the headquarters building at Patrick SFB. Guests were also entertained by the Ana & Gary Duo Live entertainment. The yearly slide show, organized and developed by Bob Wiley (AOY 2008), with photos by him from Ed Lindsay (AOY 2020), and Judy Henderson (AOY 1997), among others, of previous years SnowBalls, Spring Picnic, Golf Tournaments, and other events thru the year, since 2020, were rolled on the screen for the guests.

This year's theme was "Germany," which joined previous themes honoring Hawaii, Germany, Florida, Wyoming, Thailand, Australia, Korea, Nebraska, and Colorado ... locations, where AFTAC had or has a presence, among other locales, worldwide.

Following the Social Hour, Opening Remarks by the AFTACAA President Ed Lindsay, Introductions of Key Staff, our National Anthem beautifully performed by our very own AFTAC members and guests, Sage Salute provided by Lou Seiler (AOY 2021), and POW/MIA Recognition and Invocation by Sean Ryan (AOY 2014), a very delicious and appealing dinner was served by the Tides Club staff. With a to die for dessert of scrumptious Key Lime Pie.

After a brief break following dinner, the AFTAC Commander, Colonel James "Cobra" Finlayson, provided an outstanding "pocket slide brief" of the Status of Command (SOC), and an overview of AFTAC's current activities and status. His SOC brief was truly "spot-on" and brought the AFTACAA "in tune and current" with the mission they once served in, and what is on the horizon for AFTAC down the road.

(continued on page 5)

2023 FLORIDA AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SNOWBALL XXIV

(continued from page 4)

The evening ended with the announcement of the 2022 AFTAC AOY. Dr. James "Mike" Young, former Historian for AFTAC, was selected as the recipient. The AFTACAA officially announced his name to welcome him into the previous honored recipients of the prestigious AOY ranks and honorees through the years. After his recognition, the donated door prizes were drawn which were a big hit to the night's ending.

Personal items from Dr. Young's tours in GE in displays were graciously supplied and arranged for the night. Michelle Ryan, and Elka Jones (guest of the Ryan's), arranged U.S./GE flags as centerpieces, colored placemats, and tea lights, in the GE colors, to decorate the tables "that were a very nice touch and compliment to the table displays." Gene and Dee Melchior, kindly volunteered to man the check-in table. Judy Henderson and Michelle Ryan captured the night, in impressive photos.

A special and heartfelt thank you, to all Team AFTAC Alumni Members and Spouses who volunteered to help and assist, and to provide for an outstanding evening by all in attendance once again, in the distinct items, tasks, and support required to provide for a very enjoyable evening for all.

We look forward to the 2024 SnowBall XXV, in February 2024, when the AFTACAA will gather once again, to mingle, socialize, and reflect of the times when we were in, and the current AFTAC of today, and recognize the 2023 AOY. Hope you can join us for another grand event and evening, with fellow Alumni and others in attendance next year.



Picture of current and former AOYs who attended the SnowBall:

Ed Lindsay (2022), Frank Hall (1998), Judy (Milam) Henderson(1997), Lou Seiler (2021), Bob Wiley (2008), Mike Young (2022), Dee & Gene Melchior (2012), and Sean Ryan (2014).



Michelle and Sean Ryan



Jerome Wright, Cobra Finlayson, Ed Lindsay, & Bob Wiley – Preparing to The Alumnus of the Year (AOY)



Mike Young, Terry Hammond, & Adam Dunn



Ed Lindsay & James "Cobra" Finlayson



James "Cobra" and Kristin Finlayson



Larry Silhanek and George Mirda

[See additional pictures of SNOWBALL XXIV at www.aftacaa.us]

FROM THE TOP – MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ:

By Ed Lindsay

Here we are in 2023 and things are going pretty good here on the Space Coast. Rockets launching from Cape Canaveral almost once a week....sometimes even more often. Along with that, your Alumni Association is flying along too.

Since the last PoMo, quite a lot has happened. On 16 December, HQ AFTAC held an Open House. They invited the Alumni and we had over 20 alumni and family attend. Family members and some of our old timers got some nice small group tours and some saw the inside of the “new” HQ for the 1st time. There were photos with Santa and the Grinch. Some cookies were provided and the local USO helped out. Wonderful event and it was nice to be included.



Rick Manley and Family



Tony De Marco and family



Wally Jones and family

We were finally able to hold our SnowBall for the first time since 2020. After much discussion, we decided to have Germany as our Theme. It was appropriate as we had 8 locations there over the years. Also, our guest speaker was AFTAC's Commander, Colonel James “Cobra” Finlayson, who started his life in Heidelberg, GE. It was a wonderful event held at the Patrick Space Force Base Golf Course Clubhouse on 18 February and there was a bonus briefing by Dr. James “Mike” Young, who also was announced as the Alumni of the Year for 2022 – see page 3. A very wonderful accolade. Read all about it in this issue, in an article provided by the super coordinator of the event, our very own Sean Ryan. – see page 4.

Soon after that, AFTAC held their Annual Awards. It took place at the Cocoa Beach Country Club Clubhouse (I am seeing a golf theme developing). It was an event that saw Dr. Mike Young be honored as the AOY. He wore his Cavalry uniform and was the sharpest looking person in attendance – see page 4. I had the honor of being able to talk about the significance of the AOY and the tradition of being included in the AFTAC Annual awards since 1997.

A huge shout out to Pete Gilbert. Even though Pete only spent 4 years with AFTAC on active duty, he has been helping with some of the heavy lifting in the Alumni since 2014. Initially setting up a database and process to have people register for the 2015 World Wide Reunion & setting up a way to track events they signed up to attend. After that he worked with Frank Calenda to develop our new website. He got it released and has been working fervently to keep it up and running for the past 6 years. Pete will be pulling away from being the primary person maintaining the website, since Al Moy agreed to be the Man. **Thank you so much to Pete for the super job you did for so many years.** I know you will still be involved with the Alumni. We all appreciate you. Thank you also Al for stepping up.

AFTAC decided to hold their Spring Picnic and Toilet bowl on the same day, March 31st. These events also hadn't been held since 2020. They reached out to the Alumni to once again be the pourers of golden nectar and the tellers of tall tales. Well, we did not disappoint. There were about 14 Alumni who joined in the festivities and we had Jack O'Connor join us. Jack told tales and even provided signed copies of his book, “They touched our Heroes for the Last Time.” It was a good gathering and I heard from many that had experienced the past Spring picnics, “that was like the Old AFTAC parties...” so we got that going for us. [See pictures on page 7.]

Thank you again to all the people who keep this Alumni Association running. It takes a lot of effort and we are all volunteers. If there are others out there who would like to step up or get involved again, we all would be glad to see you as part of the Alumni family. As always, look to our website, www.aftacaa.us for more current information. Please take the time to enjoy the rest of your Post Monitor, put together by Judy Henderson and others, for your enjoyment.

Best wishes to all of you, *Mr. Ed*

(continued on page 7)



Jack O'Connor



John Loftis, Ed Lindsay, and Frank Calenda



Greg Eppler



99125 SPECIAL ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN O'SCOPE STORY; 99125 Q-4 SPECIAL ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN SCHOOL 66 - 67

By Tony De Marco

My O'Scope story.

Background.... I worked for an electronics company up on Long Island, New York, for two years prior to enlisting. Now the story... Part of our 99125 training included working on and troubleshooting bugs placed in a O'Scope Kit. Being a SAI from NY, I told our instructor he could not come up with bugs in the Scope Kit that I couldn't find. As I remember, after two bug attempts which I found straight away,



he had everyone take a break while he came up with another special bug just for me. So, when we came back in, my Scope was dead in its normal operating position. However, if you turned the Scope on any of its sides, back or front, the Scope worked fine. Obviously, this made troubleshooting almost impossible. I finally had to give up and surrender in defeat. So, what was the bug you ask... Well, the instructor had a special metal can capacitor which he had gutted and inside he had installed a series of mercury switches so that the Scope would work in all positions except the normal one. It has now been over 56 years, the memory cells are fading, but this is one true 99125 story that is worth sharing on the 75th Anniversary of AFTAC's LRD Mission.



3428th Orderly Room

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-**Al Moy**, Website Chairman-**Ed Lindsay**, 20-Year Wall Coordinator-**Tony De Marco**.

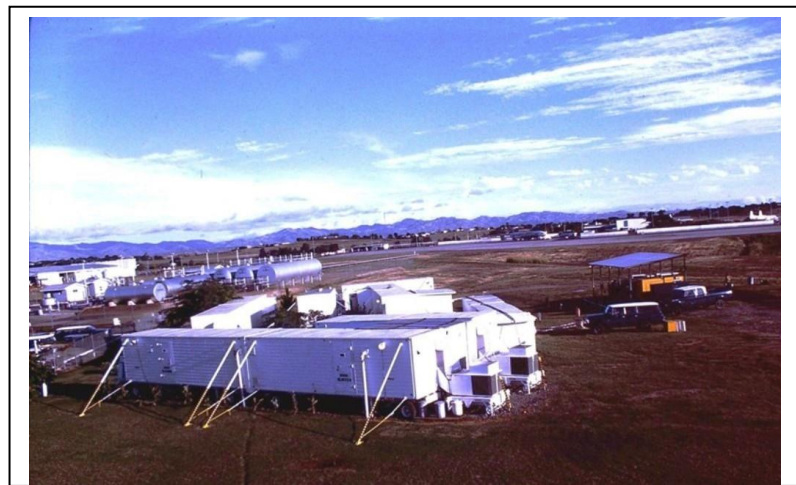


AFTAC DET 441 NADI FIJI

By Tony De Marco

Since we recently celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the USAF and the 75th Anniversary of AFTAC's Long Range Detection (LRD) Mission last year, I thought it also might be fitting to mention the close out of Det 441 which occurred 51 Years ago back in Dec 1971.

AFTAC Det 441 was located at the Nadi International Airport (Note: Nadi is pronounced Nandi), on the main Fiji Island of Viti Levu. In the Det 441 photo you can see the main Nadi Airport Facilities in the background.



First a little history of our Det 441 from both my files, conversations with other Det Alumni, and my memory. The "Q-4" Technique was originally deployed to Fiji circa late Nov 66 but with just a single "Q-4" Channel Trailer. At the time, I believe our equipment was co-located with an ASA SRU location already installed on the Island. By the time I made my PCS down to the Det in early 71, the "Q-4" configuration had been expanded to the full two Channel "Q-4" configuration, and the SRU "I" Technique had been taken over by AFTAC 99125s.

DET 441 Compound and Trailers

Det 441 was one of the more unique Dets that supported AFTAC's LRD Mission. The Det location on Fiji was designated as a "Remote" Assignment and so all Det Team Members were unaccompanied. It was also designated as a "Civilian Clothing" Assignment with all the Enlisted Team Members living in a local hotel called the Hibiscus, and the Det Officers staying at a different hotel. The following photo was taken at the Hibiscus Hotel in 2004 during my visit back down to Fiji to visit my wife's family.



Hibiscus Hotel Circa 2004

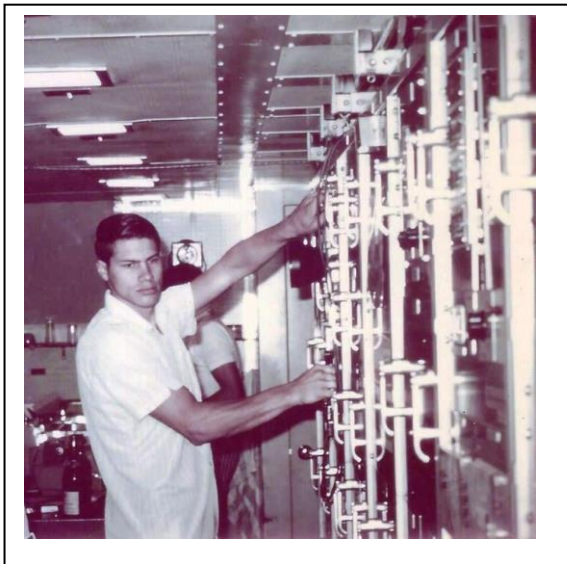
One of the more interesting and kind of funny local news items I have in my files is an article from the Pacific Island Monthly Magazine. It was quite long but I want to pass on a short part of the article that said.....
"Despite their civilian disguise, the Americans at Nadi, never numbering more than 40, behaved as US servicemen abroad usually do. They successfully muscled in on all the available girls, monopolized the local bars, and moaned about the time they had to suffer in Fiji before getting home to the good USA."
Pretty funny uh!

Operating and maintaining the "Q-4" Equipment in the tight environment of the Det trailers was definitely a challenge especially when it came to performing PMIs and installing system upgrades and equipment modifications via TCTI actions. I do remember some chatter in the summer of 71 of a possible relocation of the Det equipment into a more traditional Central

Recording Building (CRB) but that never came to pass as the Det was notified that operations were to be terminated later in the year.

So, in the late summer early fall, Det operations were wrapped up and the task of getting all the Det hardware and assets relocated began. A HQ decision had been made to move the "Q-4" Equipment over to American Samoa and establish a new Det 433 on Pago Pago (Note: Pronounced Pango Pango). All the remaining Det 441 assets were to be returned to the 1156th and/or Depot for final disposition.

The following photos show Tim putting on the Cals of the final "Q-4" film run for Det 441. The next photo shows most of the Det 441 "Q-4" Team. I only wish I had some decent photos of some of the "I" Technique closeout activities to share but for this write-up I don't have any.



From the Memory Bucket.....Hard to believe that it is now 51 years ago this past year that we were wrapping up the close out of Det 441. In fact, on 28 Nov 71, I completed my PCS off the Island with my new family and headed off to my next assignment at our Depot in CA. One of the big advantages to being assigned at Det 441 was that we controlled all the out bound aircraft load outs containing all the Det technique hardware, support items, and Det vehicles. As this was a "Remote" location, four of us that married local ladies were not Command Sponsored and therefore not eligible for our dependents to get free transport back to CONUS. By creative scheduling of vehicles and Hazmat cargo on alternate flights, four of us were able to get free rides on Non-Hazmat configured Flights back as far as Hickam AFB. So, on 28 Nov 71, two couples being myself and Tim Vogel, left the Island on a C-141 flying in USAF Business Class. Couldn't beat that... excellent AC cooling, white noise for music, a super box lunch for the long trip, and well-padded jump seats. At Hickam, the two of us went through the routine of clearing customs with our new families and from there, the two of us were able to con our way onto another C-141 cargo bird "Space A" and off we headed to Travis AFB. From there it was just a short rental car ride up to McClellan and signing in at the 1155th. What a trip..... Finally, two items in closing...

I'd like to recognize and give a shout out to all the personnel that I served with at Det 441 and who contributed to making Det 441 the highly successful AFTAC Organization that it was. This includes not only the "Q-4" and "I" Technique 99125s but also the Admin, Supply, Personnel, Comm, and Ground Power Specialists that worked with us at our Det. A final comment on just how successful our Det 441 "Q-4" Data Objectives were. During the last summer of our operations there were five events of interest that were generated. Det 441 recorded all five successfully and I personally have seen all five of the waveform events recorded on our "Q-4" EMP equipment.

TIME TO GO OVERSEAS

Written in February 2010 by Bob Chadwick

After a couple years at Andrews, it became obvious that I was going somewhere, and probably soon. I spent the first year or so trying to apply "from inside" for the Aviation Cadet Program. Eventually, a letter came down saying, in effect, that I had no chance and to withdraw my application. I had had some sort of assignment hold on while the application was in; that went away, of course, so I was up for anything.

There were a couple of interesting opportunities that came past in that period. I recall one, in particular. They wanted E-3 or E-4 30452's to volunteer for an assignment that involved a TDY to Fort Benning for jump school, followed by an

TIME TO GO OVERSEAS

(continued from page 9)

unspecified (classified) radio school at an unspecified place, followed by an overseas assignment.

This was in mid-1961, with the US military running many "military assistance" operations in Southeast Asia. Pretty obvious where we'd be going. This did not register big back then; when you're 19 or 20 and single, nothing can hurt you. Looking back, I am sure glad that my application got ignored. These assignments were an assortment of things like Pathfinders, or Forward Air Controllers, or Support for FACs -- people who got shot at regularly.

Then one day I get a call from the orderly room. "Come up and look at this assignment request we got. You might be interested"

I went. It was from Hq USAF, some office symbol alphabet soup with mostly X's in it. They wanted an E3 or E4, 30452, with a Secret Clearance with Special Background Investigation, Overseas eligible, willing to go to a 6-week course at Edgerton, Germeshausen and Grier, Inc, 730 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA, for 6 weeks of training as a "Z System Operator/Technician," followed by a 3-year overseas tour at a classified location.

"What the hell is a Z System?" "Hell, I dunno, I'm a personnel guy." "What's this Edgerton, Germeshausen and Grier, Inc?" "Why you asking me that, boy? I got no idea. Do you want this one, or what?" "Well, it's a 3-year tour. Gotta be England or France or Germany. That can't be bad." "Yeah. But you don't know that. Wanna take the chance?"

I thought. Hell, 6 weeks school (Get that? SCHOOL) in Boston. Hey, that's 70 miles from home. And civilian... Living in a hotel and drawing per diem, the princely (in 1962, anyways) sum of \$12.00 a day. And the possibility of a European assignment? Sounds pretty good. "OK. Put me in for it. Let's see what happens."

They did. Pretty quickly I get orders to Boston. Not a clue as to what the assignment will be, though. I start getting strange notes from Ma at home about people who have been coming around asking questions about me. I tell her not to worry, it's just a security clearance for the new assignment. I'd told her and Dad about it; in fact, Ma had volunteered to crochet me a black parachute if I needed one...

Christmas 1961 comes. I go home for the holidays, with plans to go straight from home to EG&G on the Monday following New Years. People asking me about what this was all about; everyone's curious, but, "hell, I dunno nothin' either."

Monday Morning I front up at 730 Commonwealth. And discover that I still ain't gonna find out anything. Looking around the front office, trying to get a clue as to what this outfit is, I notice that they have offices in Boston (Hq), Las Vegas, NV, and Santa Barbara, CA. There are pictures that indicate that there is something to do with testing bombs, but it's pretty nonspecific. The lady behind the reception desk only knows that there are about a dozen Air Force people checking in; most of them are at the Sherry Biltmore Hotel (razed in about 1968 when they put the Mass Pike into Boston) getting checked in.

"In fact, that guy over there's one of them" That guy walks over. "Hi. I'm Paul Kollas. Want to share a room at the hotel?" "Blahhh... Blahhhhh..... Well.. I guess so. I dunno. What is this all about?" "You're from the school at Lowry, aren't you?" "No. Andrews. School? What school?"

Turns out that most of the guys in the class were students at a place called the Department of Special Instruments Training at Lowry AFB. They'd been transferred from their "old" jobs to this "new" system and were here for the class. They had no idea that the AF had also decided to retrain a few of us Ground Radio Guys.

So, Paul and I head for the Biltmore, where we meet up with the rest of the class. I still know nothing about what a Z system is or where we are going. I just keep my mouth shut and try to act like I know something... Discover that "Paul" is in fact a First Lieutenant (in fact, he later became our commander), and that the other guys were mostly classmates.

At any rate, the next day we get briefed on what the Z System was (I'll tell you someday). We get told that we'll find out in the next couple weeks where we are going.

Fast Forward a week or two. A guy from Headquarters comes into the classroom. "I've got the assignments." We need 2 guys to go to (a place in the Middle East), 2 guys for McClellan AFB, CA, and the rest of you are going to Perth, Australia."

"I am thinking to myself...." Cripes. What's in Perth, Australia? Where is Perth? What happened to Europe? Or worse... What if I get (that Middle East one)?" Turns out there were a couple guys who were way riper for remote assignments than I; they got (the Middle East). The rest of us.... Perth.

(continued on page 11)

That weekend, I go home, as usual. I had been working Saturday mornings at Evans Radio, mostly for the company and something to do, and the guys were familiar with my impending assignment. Most of the guys in the back room that I was working with were in their late 30's or early 40's... All WW2 vets.

"Hey, Bob, you find out yet where you're going?" This from Bill, the guy on the next bench. "Yeah. They just told us. I'm going to Perth, Australia. Whadda ya think of that? Who ever heard of such a thing?"

I glance over at him. He gets this sorta goofy grin and his eyes glaze over for a minute... "Geez. Perth? You're going to Perth? Hey. I was there during the war. Great place." and he goes on and on about his recollections of Perth. I am thinking, this is quite a coincidence. How about that?

A few minutes later, in walks a regular local customer. Bill looks up at him... "Hey, George, Bob here's got his assignment. He's going to Perth!" George gets the faraway expression. "Hey, we were there during the war, weren't we? Boy, he's lucky. What you gonna be doing there? Stronger coincidence, I am thinking. Two guys, in the same room, were in Perth during the war. Later in the morning, in walks another fellow. "Bob's going to Perth!" says Bill. "Perth? Boy, how'd you swing that? Beautiful place". And proceeds to give me a list of things I can't miss seeing.

By now, I am bewildered. "Cripes, guys, how is it I get assigned to the butt end of the world, where as far as I know there are no Americans, and when I go home to little old NH and tell people, the first three people I tell were all there?"

Well, it turns out that what happened was, that, in 1942, they mobilized the NH National Guard and put the whole lot of them on a troopship and sent 'em to Fremantle Harbor, where they spent the entire war except for a couple deployments. Heck, after the word got out, I had several guys that wanted to give me the names and addresses of their old girlfriends, knowing that by now they'd have daughters my age. Like a fool I added this to my vast list of missed opportunities.

MY YEAR ON ASCENSION ISLAND

By Rick Manley

As all war stories start, now this ain't no crap! So begins a story of my 1 year on Ascension Island in 1977-78. A lot of things happened to this "buck" sergeant in his assignment to "the rock." I arrived early in the morning off the C-141 Starlifter we all rode back and forth to the island. That evening we said goodbye to a couple of our fellow det guys who were finishing up their one-year stint on the island. MSgt (CMSgt) Harold Baker, "Hal" to all of us, had greeted me and briefed me in to the det earlier in the day along with Capt. Dudley Townsley, the Detachment 372 commander and my supervisor TSgt Dale Klug. The evening ended with me whipping up on a bunch of crabs down at Turtleshell beach to feed the blackfish.

Being one of the first 99104s assigned and my first assignment as an "O" troop, I was anxious to get started and knowing everything there was to know about "O" since I had been at the tech school for several years, I wanted to impress Dale. He informed me they had been having time jumps in the timing system and they had not figured it out yet. This is after I'd been there a couple of weeks and I decided to troubleshoot the timing system one morning and pulled out an oscilloscope from the maintenance area and was about to hook it up to the 19000 timing system and Dale walked out and asked me what I was doing. I explained that I was going to take a look at some of the timing signals in the clock. In a very deliberate but calm voice, he told me to close the timing drawer and put the scope away and that this was not "tech school" and we didn't troubleshoot it if it wasn't broken hard. Being very conscientious, I carefully closed the drawer and put the scope back in the maintenance area, assumed my position behind my desk and grabbed a tech instruction and started reading all about the 19000 timer. Never did get around to fixing that thing.

Some of the fun times we had revolved around comradery and a few practical jokes. One of the stories going around the island was that the Det was a donut factory. How did this get started? Seems the detachment commander would pick up a few donuts from the chow hall and then make coffee and invite local contract managers (Pan Am, Bendix, Raytheon) and the English village mayor and others to stop by for coffee and donuts. Well, Jeff Bartow, Dave Olsen and myself decided to make a donut out of an old abandoned truck inner tube we "found" at the motor pool. We painted it with brown paint, then some white paint and rolled it in beach sand to make the "sugar" coating. The photo attached has Dave Olsen, Jeff Bartow (middle) and myself (right) wearing our little assistant chef hats while the master chef himself is sporting the full-on chef's hat. Mark Brady is also in the photo to the top left. That donut made the rounds for a while!



In the Donut – Dave Olsen, Jeff Bartow, and Rick Manley; standing in back is Mark Brady
(continued on page 12)



Another prank we pulled on the detachment was to find an old microwave dish in the dump, along with a work light stand that had been thrown away. Being the ingenious little rascal I was, I dragged it up behind the detachment (we were located in a nice lava flow area) and had a nice berm of it beside and behind the site. I was able to paint the old antenna white, install red lenses in place around it and then I painted the det number on it and placed it right in front of the detachment. It really looked better than the white rocks spelling out "Detachment 372"!

Whenever we went back to the states on leave, we always expected the rest of the guys to prank us. On one trip I came back to find my name on

three different rooms in the barracks. The guys had laced a rope through every piece of clothing in my closet, shirts to pants, etc. etc. Not being quite enough they went over to the weather station and got two weather balloons and inflated them in my room. When I opened the door, I couldn't even get to my closet or the bed... oh, they moved my bed into another room as well.

Jeff Bartow went back to Patrick for leave and when he came back and turned on his fan, we had taped a matchbox behind the center medallion of his room fan and filled it with teletype punches... it made for a nice snowstorm when he turned it on!

I don't remember who had the Estes rocket there but we launched a few of those from the front of the detachment. Not satisfied with that type of rocket, we made one from pipe and had a nosecone machined for it and added some fins. Power was thanks to about a zillion match heads we put inside the pipe. I'm not sure why the Russian trawler that prowled around the island all the time decided to jump in the way of the rocket but hey, he was inside the 5-mile limit anyway!

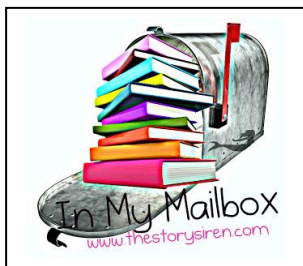


*Rick Manley
staying active*

There were so many things to do on Ascension Island, darts on Wednesday, skittle bowling weekly, movies at the det theater (Jeff, Mark and I built a projection room in one of the closets in the day room) and one of the local British ladies sewed us a nice big white sheet projection screen. We wired the sound from the projector up to the stereo in the dayroom and had a great setup for movies and we frequently asked other folks into the barracks to view movies. The locals loved visiting our "theater" as the base theater had an outdoor screen and hard concrete seats!

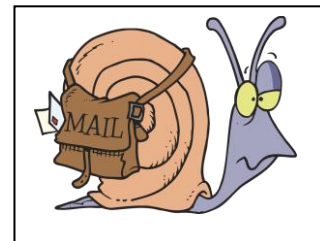
I added a new member to my family while I was on the island, my son was born on Jan 1, 1978, and I'll never forget Mark Brady calling me at the dorm and telling me "you got a football player." We all did a lot of hiking, bike riding, tennis, softball, and volleyball on the island and we were all in pretty good shape. We had one memorable Halloween at the mountain residence of the RCA communications supervisor. We had put together a few costumes to wear; mine was "the Tin Man" from the Wizard of Oz. One of the RCA guys whose dad was a big wig back up at the Cape decided to commandeer my funnel hat and decided to use it to try to fill up on booze. He ended up taking the base commander's car and going back to base. He made it about halfway down the mountain before he ran the base commander's car off the road messing up the transmission pan...did I forget to mention his car had been in the shop for almost 5 months waiting on a transmission pan? Needless to say, the young man was off the island on the next rotator headed back to Patrick!

Long hikes to "The Letterbox", Crystal Bay, Pillar Bay, Green Mountain Bamboo Forest, Cricket Valley, the "Pine Forest", Obsidian Run, and a bunch of other places I can't begin to remember were the weekend norms. A very easy year but some challenges at work too. Weekly, monthly, and six-month preventive maintenance routines took up some of our time. I think we had two actual equipment failures during my year as maintenance technician. Our teletype paper tape reader malfunctioned and we had tried to fix it for several months. Dan Gilb and I finally traced the problem to a spring that had popped off one of the reader pins (after we exhausted the entire supply of Depot paper tapes for the FASOP program!). The other problem we had was an electronics failure in one of the input amplifiers (IPA) down in the MILS building. That was a tricky problem as it took two of us to troubleshoot it having one person in the detachment building and the other in the MILS building throwing switches. I remember leaving the island twice during my one-year visit to see my new son and to attend my sister's graduation from college. I got stuck at Patrick for an extra week due to us not being allowed to fly on the C-141 with hazardous cargo (weather rockets) and the wife came down to visit. We hit Disney and a few other places while she was there before I had to get on the 141 and head back to "the Rock" one last time. It was a great year and I learned a lot from Dale and Dan and Hal Baker as well. It was a year to remember!



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.

TOGETHER WE SERVED

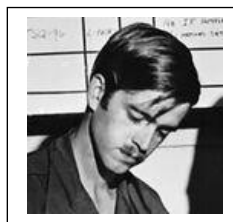
By Jim Closs

[Referred to the Alumni Association by Wes Tracy]

Wes Tracy sent the following: "I don't know if you're familiar with the website, "togetherweserved.com", but Jim Closs, former AFTACer, has an interesting article there. It's quite long but mentions quite a few other AFTACers. Maybe you could share the link in the next Post Monitor."

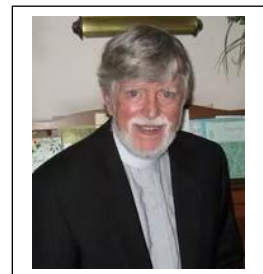
Jim Closs posted his Air Force story on "Together We Served" --

https://airforce.togetherweserved.com/usaf/voices/2023/258/Closs_voices.html



*Jim Closs
Early Years*

If you take the time to read this interesting article about Jim's Air Force career, you will not be disappointed, including his report that, "Every single one of my assignments had far more positives than negatives; however, I would say my assignments as a Forward Area Technician for the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) were by far my favorite. I was afforded the opportunity to travel much of the world and experience many different cultures. During that period of my career, I was in 65 countries, on 6 Continents, and in all five oceans...."



Jim Closs

DO I NEED A NEW ID CARD?

News sent from Dale Klug, 13 Feb 2023

By Kevin Lilley FEB 07, 2023 (MOAA News)

DoD officials have yet to set a specific date for the complete changeover to a new, more secure type of ID card in the coming years, but retirees with "indefinite" cards of the old variety can have them replaced at their convenience.

The transition to the Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification Card began in July 2020, replacing paper-based cards with plastic ones boasting updated security features. It's set for completion in 2026. Those with indefinite ("INDEF") expiration dates on their older cards were asked to wait until 2021 to begin the changeover, and office closures and other COVID-related protocols made a sometimes-challenging process even worse.

Unsure which card you have, or need? Samples and guidance are available at this DoD website.

Military.com first reported on the 2026 deadline in mid-2022. No further details beyond that year have been set, such as whether the deadline would come at the beginning or end of the calendar, according to the Defense Manpower and Data Center's response to MOAA's queries. Full details on the changeover and the renewal/replacement process are available at moaa.org/IDcards

NEW NUKE-SNIFFING JET FLIES OFF SOUTH AMERICA ON FIRST INTERNATIONAL MISSION

The Air Force's first WC-135R Constant Phoenix collected air samples off South America's eastern coast to establish baseline atmospheric radiation conditions.

By Joseph Trevithick, Published Jan 18, 2023



South America was the first time it has conducted an air-sampling sortie outside of the Continental United States. Constant Phoenix aircraft regularly conduct missions to gather data that can be used to help keep watch for unusual spikes in atmospheric radiation. The planes can also be used to help gather data after nuclear weapon tests or other radiological incidents and track the spread of potentially dangerous radioactive material.

The WC-135R, which has the serial number 64-14836, conducted this flight in coordination with U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) on January 16, staging from Luis Muñoz Marín

International Airport in Puerto Rico. The aircraft followed a route that took it west out of the Caribbean Sea and into the southern end of the Atlantic Ocean. It then followed a path off the coasts of Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, and Brazil, before turning around and returning to Puerto Rico.

[See the entire article at

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/new-nuke-sniffing-jet-flies-off-south-america-on-first-international-mission>]

WHEELUS AFB

<https://www.google.com/search?xsrf=ALiCzsaJJ0n9yZ489a7yp0bKLci55VFfsMA:1663797401694&q=wheelus+afb.+%22aftac%22&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwikr-yo8Kb6AhXUsYQIHV3DDPkQ5t4CegQIABAH>

16th AIR FORCE – HISTORY – Legacy 2021

[https://www.16af.af.mil/Portals/80/16%20AF%20Legacy%202021%20\(V20210607\).pdf?ver=5v8vICX5WM3PjV_4Pdsr3Q%3D%3D](https://www.16af.af.mil/Portals/80/16%20AF%20Legacy%202021%20(V20210607).pdf?ver=5v8vICX5WM3PjV_4Pdsr3Q%3D%3D)

FACEBOOK POST – TO DELBE SOLARI FAMILY – Merry Christmas

Also posted on the 99/9S page, but felt it was appropriate to share on both pages, since Delbe reached across AFTAC as well as 9S's across the globe... "Merry Christmas to the Solari Family this year, even if they may never see this..." By his own hand, you'll never know what he meant to our AFTAC family, and our Nation. He was a Legend, without telling you. He didn't want to be known as a legend, but he WAS. We learned many things from Delbe... He never made any of us feel less, if we didn't remember "that one" from 1963 or 1969, but he knew what file cabinet to get it from. He never made you feel "less" because you didn't see what he saw... He always tried to teach, when you didn't know what he did, and always made ALL of us better, because when he taught ONE of us to be better, we ALL got better. Delbe lives because we remember... NO one will be better. The world is a darker, and less safe, place because he is gone. Rest Easy, Delbe... we ALL remember.

[Sorry – I couldn't find the source of this post. If you would like to let me know who posted this, I'll send it to Delbe's family – I have contact with them. – Judy – jem2415@earthlink.net]



OBITUARIES

DENNIS BACK

Died 12 September 2022

(Contacted by Frank Calenda passing along information from Mary Miller.)

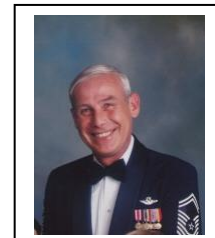
An internet search found an Obituary at <https://www.floridatoday.com/obituaries/bft084190>. There is not much information except the funeral was handled by Beckman Williamson in Melbourne, FL.



ROBERT A. BALENTINE III

Died 5 January 2023

Contacted by Chuck Conrad with the following information. "Alton Balentine just told me Tony passed away this afternoon, 5 Jan 2023. He fought lung cancer courageously for the past 7 years or so."



John Horsch added: "Tony, SEO 20, served AFTAC at many levels of responsibility and was, to my observation, AFTAC to the Soul. He served with many of us. I have this information in his alumni database: 1965-1971 & 1973-1982: Of the several locations he served 415,419, TOD and PACTOA are included."

CMSgt Tony Balentine, USAF Retired, passed away in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife Alyson, son Alton, and brother Jim by his side. Born in Fort Worth, Texas, he grew up in a military family, spending his early years in Fort Worth, Texas; Tampa, Florida; Paris, France; Montgomery Alabama; and graduating from Yamato High School in Tachikawa, Japan. Music was always an important part of his life, and he played guitar, sang with folk groups in school, played trombone, and attended NTSU (now UNT) as a music major in the early 60s. He played the trombone professionally in Austin before deciding to make the Air Force his career.

His 30-year career in the AF, most of those years with AFTAC, included an early assignment to Blenheim, New Zealand, where he met and married his wife, Alyson Heather Cameron. Referring to himself often as a "tumbleweed," living wherever the wind took him, his assignments included Sacramento, CA; Chiang Mai, Thailand; Yokota, Japan; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Kelly AFB in San Antonio, Texas, where he retired in 1995. His many TDYs throughout his career took him literally around the world several times.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Alyson Cameron Balentine; a son, Alton Cameron Balentine.

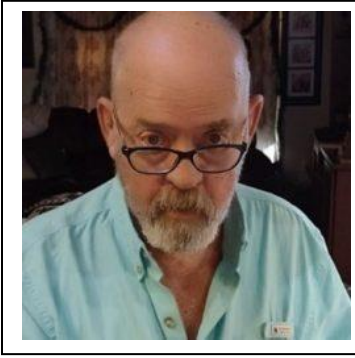
Full obituaries available at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/robert-balentine-obituary?id=38643336> and <https://www.porterloring.com/obituaries/Robert-A-Balentine-III?obId=27003601>

RICHARD J BOHN

16 September 1963 – 12 April 2023

(Notified by Roger Hornsby and Van Roberts)

Rich Bohn was found deceased at his home at Patrick Space Force Base, FL, on 12 April 2023. Additional details will be published in future PoMos, as information becomes available.



JAMES T. (Tom) CAMERON, JR

12 August 1954 – 25 February 2023

Notified by son, Ben Cameron--posted the following on Facebook: "It is with a heavy heart that I sit here this morning and write this post. Many of my friends and family know what is going on with me and some knew of my dad's battle. Dad battled brain cancer and sadly the disease claimed him today. My dad passed last night. He was surrounded by loved ones and is now at peace. He no longer suffers from the worst disease that claims so many. I miss him already, but I know he is better now. I ask that you please give me and my family time to grieve."

James "Tom" Thomas Cameron Jr., age 68, passed away on February 25 after battling brain cancer. We rejoice that Tom has gone home to be with the Lord. His battle, while brief, was a fierce one and Tom made every attempt to fight but sadly succumb to the illness. Tom is survived by his wife Debra Cameron, Brother Rev. Keith Cameron, sons: Mark, Dennis, and Ben Cameron, daughter in laws; Christina and Megan Cameron. He is also survived by his grandchildren. two bonus daughters. Tom was an avid bass fisherman with the local Patrick Bass Club. While he will be missed by his entire family, he will never be forgotten.

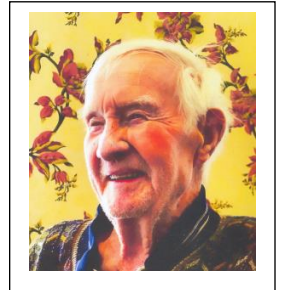
Full obituary at <https://islandcremations.com/obituaries/james-t-cameron-jr/7454/>



JAMES CARL (Carl, Jimp, Jim, Firehead) DAVIS

2 September 1927 – 16 March 2023

Jim passed away peacefully in his 96th year. Jim was born in Dillard, Georgia, in the Great Smoky Mountains on September 2, 1927, where he grew up working on farms, trapping animals, and getting into mischief. He was the adoring husband of his loving wife Joyce of Fonthill, Ontario, who passed away in 2022, and the loving father of John Davis and his wife Marty and JoAnne Davis.



After graduating from high school, Jim attended the University of North Georgia before entering the USAF in 1946. He served in the USAF weather service around continental America, in Japan, and in Bermuda, where he met Joyce, a Canadian who was working as a nurse. From 1953 until his retirement in 1973, Jim worked in the USAF's nuclear detection agency, the Air Force Technical Applications Center.

Shortly after being reassigned to the 55th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron at McClellan AFB, Jim transferred to the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron to train as a Special Equipment Operator (SEO). Because there were no formal training courses at that time, he immediately went to work, learning on the job. Once he became proficient as an SEO, Jim was assigned to Team 407 at Yokota Air Base, Japan, to serve as the NCOIC of the airborne sampling unit there. The 1009th then leveraged his experience by assigning him to the Long Range Detection (LRD) School at Lowry AFB, Denver, Colorado, to help develop and teach the curriculum of the airborne sampling technique.

Following his instructor time at Lowry, Davis retrained into seismic systems and returned to the 1009th's Western Field Office at McClellan AFB. Over the next several years, Davis joined the experimental LRD teams that participated in US nuclear tests in Nevada and supervised key installations of the long-period seismic equipment at several locations as part of the growing Atomic Energy Detection System (AEDS). As the AEDS greatly expanded in the early 1960s, Davis played a leading role in fielding several new operational detection techniques. He then transferred to Detachment 204 in Fairbanks, Alaska, to serve as the superintendent over the seismic and hydroacoustic systems. For his follow-on assignment, Davis joined the staff at AFTAC headquarters in Washington D.C. area to supervise four new techniques that were entering the AEDS. Leaving HQ for an overseas tour of duty in 1967, Davis became the station chief for Detachment 517 on Easter Island where AFTAC operated the Earth Current, Hydroacoustic, and Atmospheric Fluorescence Detection systems. In 1968, AFTAC closed Detachment 517 and summoned Davis back to Washington, where they assigned him to the Prompt Data Analysis section, and later as NCOIC of the Operations Evaluation Unit. When AFTAC moved to Patrick AFB, in 1972, Davis remained in the Washington DC area to work for Dr. Carl Romney at the Vela Seismological Center in Alexandria, Virginia, until his retirement in May 1973.

Condolences may be shared at www.pelhamfuneralhome.ca

(continued on page 17)

[From Buford James Clendenen (an old 99125b trooper): Sorry to hear of Chief Davis's passing. I worked for him in 1970-71 on Telegraph Road (Alexandria, VA). He will be missed. We got along well until I washed out his coffee mug one night while working the mids shift. I expected praise for my work - but about five minutes after he arrived the next morning there was a gentle explosion from his office. He proceeded to give me a really good chewing out. It seems he didn't like his coffee cup washed. I'm not sure it ever had been washed. I think he mentioned it to me every time he saw me - sometimes with a smile.]



CAREY LEON DOBBINS

1 October 1930 – 17 August 2022

(Contacted by Frank Calenda passing along an email from Mrs. Carey Dobbins, " Please remove Carey Dobbins from your mailing list. He passed away Aug 17, 2022, and we are taking care of any correspondence.")

Carey Leon Dobbins peacefully went to be with the Lord on August 17, 2022. Born Bemis, Tennessee, Carey was a celebrated USAF MSGT with 21 years of dedicated service. He was stationed at Rhein-Main, Germany, McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento, California, and Craig Air Force Base in Selma, Alabama. From 1951-1954 he was a B-25 flight engineer, with one thousand hours of flying time. In addition to serving his country, Carey was a man of many interests and accomplishments. Before joining the Air Force, he was a minor league pitcher for the Owensboro Oilers from 1949-1950. After retiring, he owned a real estate business with his former wife, Mary, in Hermitage, Tennessee, and in 1990, Carey even studied art under famous painter Bob Ross, eventually becoming a certified instructor himself. For the last 31 years he both worshiped and served at the Naval Aviation Memorial Chapel in Pensacola, Florida. Throughout his life, he was an avid golfer, as well as an accomplished home chef who would prepare an incredible seven-course meal each year for his wife, Olena. Carey is preceded in death by his former wife, Mary Helen Dobbins.

He is survived by his wife, Olena L. Dobbins; his three daughters, Pamela Granata, Debra Dobbins, and Wendy Sweeney; 6 grandchildren and great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild. You may express condolences online at www.fcfhs.com.

Full obituary available at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/carey-dobbins-obituary?id=36269092>

DAVID HAMIL

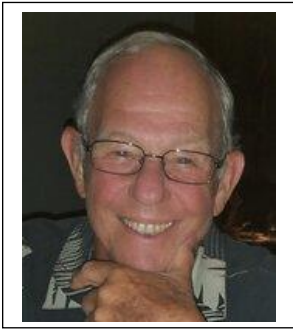
Died – 9 March 2023

Notified by Chuck Conrad, with the note: Last time I saw Dave he had been retired from the AF for a few years and returned to Alice Springs to play in the Masters Games. I recall he competed successfully in quite a few events but, the one I watched was baseball. It is sad to see a lively guy like Dave leave us so soon. Deepest condolences to his family as they seek comfort.

David "Sarge" Hamil, 63, of Duluth, MN, passed away on March 9, 2023, after a brief fight against cancer. He served in the US Air Force for 24 years, retiring as MSgt in 2005. His last duty was with AFTAC as Detachment Chief in Alice Springs Australia.

In 1984 he married Sharon Madsen with whom he had 3 children. Later he met Angela Veech Johnson whom he married in 2021 and gained 2 more sons. After retiring he was a mailman, then became part owner of the DISC in Duluth MN. He was very active as a national volleyball referee and coached volleyball through Minnesota North Volleyball Club. He was an avid softball player and also active in local dart leagues and win or lose he was a faithful Vikings fan.

Full obituary at: <https://cremationsocietyofmn.com/tribute/details/69062/David-Hamil/obituary.html>



MARTIN "MARTY" L. KATER

29 September 1942 – 11 April 2023

Martin "Marty" L. Kater, was born in Binghamton, NY, and passed away peacefully at his home in Melbourne (Suntree), Florida. Marty spent his early years in Germany where his father worked for the U.S. Government on post-war issues. The Kater family moved back to the U.S. and resided in Washington D.C. Marty was a paperboy, diligently rising and delivering papers early in the morning. He was an Eagle Scout and traveled with his troop across the US, visiting many historical sites. Marty graduated from George Washington High School in 1960 and entered college at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Georgia. He was Captain of the Georgia Tech Swim Team and spent summers lifeguarding at various locations. Marty graduated in 1964 and entered the U.S. Air Force.

Marty's Air Force career spanned 27 years when he rose to Full Colonel. During this time, he gained his Master's Degree from Golden Gate University, San Francisco, CA. He was assigned to AFTAC, Patrick AFB, FL (Dir, Comm, and Computer Sys). Marty retired from the AF in 1991. He completed his working career at Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

Marty is survived by his beloved wife, Valarie J Kater (nee Bodnar), sons Geoffrey (Cheryl) and James (Mai), as well as 1 grandchildren.

Full obituary available at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/martin-kater-obituary?id=51671971>



ROBERT "BOB" MICHAEL KRIDLE

3 April 1930 — 31 July 2022

Robert "Bob" Kridle passed away on 31 July 2022. Bob was born in Greensboro, PA. earned a Bachelor of Science in Business from University of Maryland College Park. He enjoyed a 20-year career as an Industrial Arts Teacher (Electronics) at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia, and served 22 years in the USAF where he retired as a Major.

Robert "Bob" Kridle passed away on 31 July 2022. Bob was born in Greensboro, PA. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Business from University of Maryland College Park. He enjoyed a 20-year career as an Industrial Arts Teacher (Electronics) at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia, and served 22 years in the USAF where he retired as a Major.

Referred to lovingly as *The Mighty Oak*, Bob spent his life in service to others, most notably his dedication to his first wife Jean, in both the good and challenging times. He was also instrumental and devoted in caring for his daughter, Barbara Ann, during her end-of-life journey. He was a creative craftsman and enjoyed spending time in his well-equipped workshop, recreating treasures which will carry on family traditions for generations to come. Always observant of everyday life, he used his creativity and 'engineering based' mindset to make countless items in order to make life at home easier and safer for his loved ones.

Bob is preceded in death by his first wife of 60 years, Jean Fountain Kridle and daughter, Barbara Kridle Maynard. He is survived by wife, Patricia Modenbach Kridle; daughters, Mary (Ross Sr.) Harding, Jeanne (Thomas Jr.) O'Connor, Caroline (Stephen) Korte, and Linda (Charles) Bubeck; son-in-law, Riley Maynard; and his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

See full obituary at [Robert "Bob" Michael Kridle Obituary 2022 - Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Homes \(bradfordokeefe.com\)](https://www.bradfordokeefe.com/robert-bob-michael-kridle-obituary-2022)

TANNIE H. LANDRY

Died 8 April 2023 (age 78) – in Melbourne, FL

Col Tannie Landry served at AFTAC as LG Director 93-96.

Announcement at [Tannie H. Landry Obituary - Florida Today](https://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/obituary/2023/04/08/tannie-h-landry-obituary-florida-today/). No further details available, at this time.

ED MASON

Died 20 February 2023

Team, It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of longtime AFTAC member, Mr. Ed Mason (SD) after a long battle with cancer. Ed joined AFTAC as a civil servant after serving as an enlisted 99 (9S100) for nearly 23 years achieving the rank of Senior Master Sergeant.

Ed will be buried in his hometown of Vermont. The family will not be holding a local service prior to his interment at this time, but may hold a "Celebration of Life" later down the road. Once we get that information, we will share it with AFTAC ALL. (SEE UPDATE BELOW)

Ed served on active duty in AFTAC from July 1977 - July 2001. After retirement, he spent a short time at ZELTEC then returned to the AFTAC building as a GS until his passing. Please keep his wife Rosanne and the rest of the Mason family in your thoughts as they navigate through this very sad chapter.

V/r

JAMES "COBRA" FINLAYSON, Colonel, USAF, Commander, AFTAC, Patrick Space Force Base, FL

UPDATE by Roger Hornsby:

Ed Mason Celebration of Life will be on **Saturday 20 May**. Wickham Park Pavillion #1 (from Parkway entrance take right past Ranger station...1st big pavillion on left next to bathrooms). **For those that can attend please contact me via text 321 514 5045 or acehornsby@cfl.rr.com** so we can get a head count for BBQ caterer. It is BYOB. Please RSVP NLT 10 May.

See obituary at [Edward Mason Obituary \(1959 - 2023\) - Melbourne, VT - Bennington Banner \(legacy.com\)](#)



EARL CARROLL PIERCE

2 November 1932 – 29 December 2022

Earl Carroll Pierce passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by family. Earl was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and friend. He was also a 20-year veteran of the USAF, athlete, coach, sports fan, traveler, volunteer, outdoorsman and dog lover.

Earl was born in Farmville, NC. His mother passed away when Earl was 7. His father could not take care of the children by himself so he decided to send Earl and four of his siblings to the Methodist Home for Children in Raleigh, NC. Earl said that was the best thing his dad ever did for him and his brother and sisters. Earl loved the Children's Home, where he excelled at every sport in which he participated. Earl was offered a partial basketball scholarship to Louisburg Junior College in North Carolina. After a year at college, Earl decided to enlist in the newly formed Air Force. While in the Air Force, Earl attained a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Maryland.

Earl was deployed to Bremerhaven, Germany, where he met the love of his life, Marianne (Riel). The young couple married on July 6, 1956. Earl and Marianne were sent stateside to Youngstown, Ohio. From there, they were sent to Tachikawa Air Force Base in Japan, where they added son David and daughter Brenda to their young family. Earl received orders to teach Special Instruments at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, CO. In 1967, Earl and family transferred to Alice Springs, Australia, where the small detachment "listened" to the Soviet Union testing atomic bombs. His job was classified, so he told his children that alligators guarded the entrance to his building. The family transferred back to Lowry AFB in 1969. Earl retired from the Air Force in 1972 as a Tech Sargent after "20 years and two days."

(Contacted by Bryce Dunn, President, CO Chapter of the AFTAC Alumni Association, first with this notice, and later with the obituary. Bryce reported "Received notification from Marianne Pierce that Earl passed away at home the morning of 29 December with family members present. Earl will be sorely missed; he was a good friend and very active with the Colorado Alumni chapter....")

Full obituary at [Obituary for Earl Carroll Pierce | Horan & McConaty \(horancares.com\)](#)



THOMAS "Tom" POTTS

18 May 1941 – 24 December 2020

Thomas Potts died of pneumonia, with secondary complications due to COVID-19, in his hometown, Hagerstown, MD. Tom graduated from South Hagerstown High School in 1959 and joined the Air Force, serving at AFTAC, an elite unit based in Alexandria, Virginia, where he met first wife Carol (Beale) Potts. He served in the Air Force 7 years, leaving to attend Southeastern University in Washington, D.C., on the GI Bill, with the hope of becoming a stockbroker. Upon graduation in 1973 he started as an entry-level analyst for the Federal Government's General Services Administration (GSA). Over the

next twenty years Tom rose steadily and quickly in GSA to a GS-15 position.

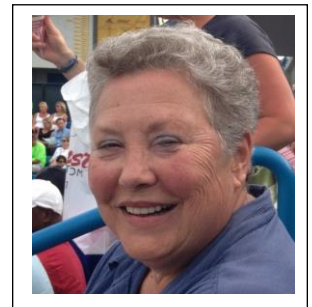
He was an active member of Bethany Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Alexandria, serving as congregational treasurer, singing in the choir, and playing first base on the church softball team. After his divorce from Carol, Tom moved back to Hagerstown, and shortly thereafter took early retirement, marrying second wife Linda (Chapman) Potts in 1997.

Tom is survived by his wife of 23 years, Linda Potts; daughters Julie (David) Grindle and Sharon (Joseph) Apricena and step-daughter Kim (Rick) Murray, as well as grandchildren.

(Reported by Judy Milam-Henderson: "I recently saw on my High School (Groveton HS, Alexandria, VA) Facebook page that Tom's first wife, Carol Beale Potts, had recently died. Carol was a year ahead of me in HS. Looking at Carol's obituary, I saw that her first husband was Tom, and it reported that Tom had worked at AFTAC. I remember that Tom was stationed at HQ AFTAC in Alexandria, VA, in the 1960s, but I don't know which office he was assigned to. Anyone out there remember Tom?")

Tom's full obituary available at [Thomas Potts Obituary \(tributearchive.com\)](https://www.tributearchive.com/Thomas-Potts-Obituary)

Carol's obituary available at [Carol Potts Obituary - Alexandria, VA \(dignitymemorial.com\)](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/Carol-Potts-Obituary-Alexandria-VA)





WILLIAM "BILL" CHARLES SCHMIED JR

6 January 1944 – 25 February 2023

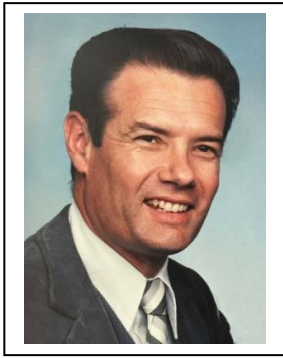
(Contacted by the Colorado Chapter--see page 22--and many others.)

William "Bill" Charles Schmied Jr., passed away in Aurora, Colorado. Bill was born in Richmond, Virginia. Bill is preceded in death by the love of his life, Sue Ellen Schmied, who died February 22, 2021.

Bill joined the military and landed in Lakeside, MT, as an airman in the AF and was stationed at an air defense radar site. Not far from Lakeside, Bill stayed in the small town of Kalispell where he met Sue at the Conrad Bank where she worked. Being the young, handsome airman he was, he swept Sue off her feet and they were married in Bigfork in 1966. Their adventure began as a military couple and over the years they were stationed in the Philippines, Japan (twice), North Carolina and South Carolina, before landing permanently at Lowry Air Force base in Denver, CO, in 1983 where they continued to raise their two children.

Bill spent 30 years of service with the United States Air Force and retired as CMSGT in October 1991. Bill enjoyed retirement for almost 2 years, which included some traveling as well as not shaving and growing a face full of hair! Not being able to sit still for too long, Bill found a new home in civilian employment and continued to work until 2009, when he retired for the second time from Newark Services in Aurora, CO. Bill was forever a military man at heart and remained closely connected to his love of the Air Force. He was Treasurer of the Colorado Chapter of AFTAC Alumni Association for years and was honored as the AFTAC Alumni of the year in Florida in 2007. Bill is survived by his two children, Jeb Schmied and Stacia Johnston, 5 grandchildren, and 1 great-granddaughter.

Full obituary at <https://www.horancares.com/obituary/WilliamBill-SchmiedJr>



MATTHEW ODIS WHITE

26 October 1946 – 17 February 2023

(Contacted by Ken Behrens Echoes Publisher/Editor, Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association, who was notified by Bill Duncan.)

Matthew Odis White, Sr., died at home after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in La Junta, CO. Matt worked at Det 204 and joined the Colorado AFTAC Alumni Chapter.

Growing up in Colorado, Matt participated in Boy Scouts, earning their two most prestigious awards: the God and Country Award and the Eagle Scout Award. He graduated from La Junta High School in 1964 and immediately enlisted in the Air Force. He served from 1964 to 1968. In 1969 he moved to Greeley. He married Kay Kelso on June 26, 1971, in Denver and they made their home in Greeley.

In 1973 Matt joined the Colorado State Patrol. His first duty station was Byers, CO, where their three children were born. He retired from the State Patrol in 2000 after 27 years. He then worked for Allnutt Funeral Service for 10 years followed by 5 years working for CTS, a Commercial Defensive Driving School teaching defensive driving all over the United States. He retired at the end of 2014. He received his private pilot license in 1995 and purchased a Cessna airplane for a lot of family fun. He and his family always enjoyed camping, fishing, travelling, and he and Kay also enjoyed cruising.

He was proud of his Native American heritage maintaining his membership in the Oklahoma Cherokee tribe. He is survived by his wife, Kay; daughters Shelley (Scott) Welch, Melissa Winter and a son, Matthew "Matt" White, Jr. and 8 grandchildren.

Full obituary at <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/27334236/matthew-odis-white-sr>.



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

We're looking at the impact of the increased cost of printing and mailing hard copies of the POST MONITOR (PoMo). Currently, anyone who wants a paper copy of the PoMo must pay \$10 per year. With the rising costs, an increase may be needed next fiscal year.

Ed Lindsay reported that Al Moy is off and running on the website. Al stated he is making upgrades to make it easier to provide support. These will not impact the look or feel of the website, but it should make the screen refresh faster. Changes will eliminate redundant (copy and paste) data loading. If you discover areas that need to be fixed, send suggestions to Al at amoy@cfl.r.com. The AFTACAA (aftacaa.us) website is very important to have a tool allowing sharing of information between members.

Tony DeMarco reported that there are probably alumni members who have not contacted him to include their names on the 20-Year Wall. If you served 20 years or more at AFTAC – military and/or civilian, contact Tony at yntba@aol.com.



CHAPTER NEWS

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

UPCOMING MEETING/EVENT:

Submitted by President Bryce Dunn - president@aftacco.org

News Flash **Lifetime Membership** now available for the Colorado Chapter: At the September 2022 Breakfast, paid members voted to offer a lifetime membership (identical to the Florida and West Coast Chapters) for \$75. Paid membership includes advance distribution of Newsletters and voting rights at the meetings. Dues and donations are the

only income for the Chapter – we use our treasury money to subsidize meals to keep the prices lower, to support the annual picnic, printing and website domain costs, and depending on the health of the treasury, provide donations to support the AFTAC Det 142 seismic display at the Grand Encampment Museum in Wyoming and other noteworthy causes (i.e., the AFTAC Memorial).

New Charles Toner Book coming out soon. At our September breakfast, Sage nonagenarian Charles (Chuck) Toner announced that he is working on his fourth book. His last book was published on 22 January 2022: ***If You Don't Know Where You're From, You Won't Know Where You Are Going*** and is available on Amazon (ASBIN: B09RG64D8D). Stories and history can only be preserved by those from generations before us who take the time to recollect and share the moments that shaped their life. ***If You Don't Know Where You're From, You Won't Know Where You're Going*** is a memoir from a small town, midwestern-raised boy who enlisted in the Korean War, and his extensive military career that led to experiences around the world.

We need a new Vice President.

Congratulations to the Detachment 45 annual award winners!

At our Colorado Chapter Breakfast on 11 March 2023, the AFTAC Alumni Association of Colorado had the privilege to formally recognize the Detachment 45 NCO and Airman for 2022: SSgt Albert Howard and SrA Michael Hernandez. The certificates, gift cards to the Outback and coins were received by Major Nathaniel Anderson, Detachment 45 Commander, and MSgt Logan Multer-White, Detachment 45 Senior Enlisted Leader on behalf of the award winners.

SrA Michael Hernandez and SSgt Albert Howard



Chief Bill Schmied



Sadly, our organization lost a stalwart sage on February 23rd. Bill, our long-time Alumni treasurer, consultant and friend, was always there to help out with our breakfasts, dinners, picnics, active-duty events, and world-wide reunions. He will be sorely missed. His brother, Monsignor Michael Schmied, provided a memorable funeral mass for Bill and his family on March 16th at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Aurora. Fort Logan and the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard displayed the honor and respect that Bill deserved at the interment. Bill is now happily reunited with his life-time partner, Sue.

DEPOT FALLOUT

Dale Klug sent a little humor for the PoMo

"No sir, the seismic signals will NOT jump out if we leave the cover open too long"

Matt, I'll swear that's what you said! I was there!
Dale Klug

Det 452



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

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)



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

Published March 29, 2023

Since 1947, the mission of long range detection has been the responsibility of what is now known as the Air Force Technical Applications Center, and over the course of those 75 years, 81 Airmen – civilian and military alike – have died while in active government service.

AFTAC's former Historian, Dr. James "Mike" Young, decided it was time to find a solution to the situation. He worked closely with AFTAC alumni to see what could be done to appropriately recognize the fallen members of the Department of Defense's sole nuclear treaty monitoring organization. Through a series of meetings, years of research, and the drive to honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, the AFTAC Memorial Corporation was founded.

The corporation, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, became an official entity in January 2018. Five former AFTAC employees formed the initial cadre of officers: Lou Seiler, president; Jim Whidden, director; Young, director; David Charitat, secretary; and Arlin Massey, treasurer. Shortly after their initial meetings, another former AFTAC alum, Mark Bitter, joined the board.

The memorial consists of a 15-foot square concrete pad to hold two granite wall segments that will display the names of the fallen, along with a granite pedestal and two stone benches. The bricked walkway will lead from AFTAC's flagpole to the pad.



"In a perfect world, and if additional funding becomes available, we hope to install a lithium ion sculpture made of brushed steel that we will mount to the granite pedestal," said Seiler. "But for now, we're very pleased with how the memorial is coming along."

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Some of the Alumni members in attendance at the Ground-Breaking Ceremony.

[See the full article at <https://www.16af.af.mil/units/aftac> - click on NEWS and see page 26 for AFTAC MEMORIAL CORPORATION Donation Information]

AIR FORCE SECRETARY IMMERSSES INTO NUKE TREATY MONITORING CENTER MISSION

Published Jan. 19, 2023

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs, Patrick Space Force Base, FL

For the first time since assuming his position in July 2021, Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall visited the Department of Defense's sole nuclear treaty monitoring center here Jan. 18 to learn more about how the organization performs its global mission.

Kendall, accompanied by Honorable Kristyn Jones, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller, spent time with Airmen and Guardians of the Air Force Technical Applications Center to learn how they detect technical data from foreign nuclear explosions and report it to national decision makers.

"One of the best parts of my job is getting out to visit our Airmen, and today was no exception," Kendall said. "AFTAC is a unique organization filled with skilled technical experts, and I am inspired to see the level of commitment they have. But we need to make sure you're able to sustain your capabilities, and that you have the support needed to succeed."

He continued, "I had a lot of fun, met a lot of great people, and my message to AFTAC is a simple one: keep up the great work." In addition to receiving a variety of mission briefings, the secretary also presented his coin to select members of the workforce to commend them on a job well done.

[Full article available at <https://www.16af.af.mil/units/aftac> - click on NEWS]

AFTAC Briefs Member of Congress on Nuclear Mission

Published Feb. 23, 2023

By Susan A. Roman, AFTAC Public Affairs, Patrick Space Force Base

Rep. Bill Posey, who represents Florida's 8th District, visited the Air Force Technical Applications Center Feb. 22 to receive a mission update on current world events that affect the nuclear treaty monitoring center.

Topics of discussion included classified briefings involving AFTAC's current operations in the European theater; directed energy weapons technology; advancements to the U.S. Nuclear Detection System; and an update on data analysis being conducted by AFTAC's subject matter experts.

"I always appreciate meeting with the scientists and engineers at AFTAC who are the best in their field," said Posey. "It's important for me to hear more about the current operations being executed by the Airmen at Patrick, especially when they play such an important role in our national security."

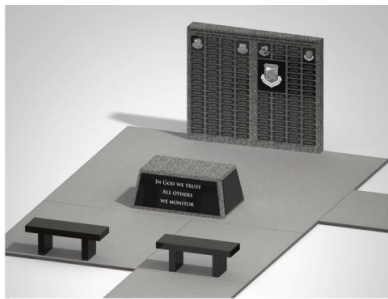
PHOTO: Rep. Bill Posey (right), U.S. Congressman from Florida's 8th District, poses for a photo with the commander of the Air Force Technical Applications Center, Col. James A. Finlayson, during Posey's visit to the Department of Defense's sole nuclear treaty monitoring center Feb. 22, 2023. Accompanying Posey on the visit were two of his Congressional staffers: Rob Medina, Director of Community and Military Relations (left), and Patrick Gavin, District Director. (U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew S. Jurgens)

[See full article at <https://www.16af.af.mil/units/aftac> - click on NEWS]



Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall (center) smiles as Lt. Col. Sarah Summers, commander of the 709th Technical Maintenance Squadron PSFB, FL, shares a humorous mission anecdote with the service's top civilian. Kendall visited AFTAC on Jan. 18, 2023, to discuss current and future operations with Col. James A. Finlayson (U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew S. Jurgens)





AFTAC

MEMORIAL CORPORATION



The Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) Memorial is a project managed by the AFTAC Memorial Corporation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The mission of the organization is to design, construct and maintain a memorial on the AFTAC HQ campus located at Patrick AFB, FL. This memorial will be dedicated to all those who lost their lives in service of the AFTAC mission since its inception in 1947, and will provide a solemn location to honor and remember these patriots.

The Memorial consists of a path leading to a sculpture, a memorial monolith and a bench. The path, comprised of bricks inlaid with the names and messages from contributors, heads west, passing our nation's Flag and chasing the sun, for the sun never sets on the AFTAC mission, leading to the memorial monolith. Across the top of the monolith is inscribed: "This memorial is dedicated to all those who have given their lives in support of the Long Range Detection mission, and the Air Force Technical Applications Center. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten."

Below this will be inscribed the names of those who have passed while supporting the mission. The monument imbues the solemn dignity by which all AFTAC members, past and present, honor their sacrifices.

The AFTAC Memorial Corporation is a Florida not for profit, 501(3)c corporation. It is not part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and has no governmental status.

Colonel Frank Hall
Hq PACTOA
Jul 1982 - Jul 1985

☐ \$150 - 4x8 Brick ☐ \$50 - Mini Replica

3 lines of text, 20 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)

*Replicas may only be ordered with purchase of full-size brick.

Michael Steskal
Dedicated to those
who have passed
in service to the
AFTAC mission
since 1947

☐ \$300 - 8x8 Brick ☐ \$50 - Mini Replica

6 lines of text, 20 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)

*Replicas may only be ordered with purchase of full-size brick.

Your Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail form and payment to:

AFTAC Memorial Corporation
2822 Englewood Dr.
Melbourne, FL 32940

Please make checks payable to:

AFTAC Memorial Corporation

On Line donations: <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/aftacmc>





AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (AFTACAA)

MAIL TO:

AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)
P.O. Box 254892
ATTN: Acting Membership Chair
Patrick Space Force Base, FL 32925-4892

1. **LIFETIME DUES:** ** \$75.
2. **ANNUAL DUES:** ** \$10 PER YEAR -- 1 OCTOBER - 30 SEPTEMBER. (**PAYMENT DUE by 15 SEPTEMBER.**)

** INCLUDES ACCESS TO POST MONITOR (PoMo) ON THE WEBSITE, www.aftacaa.us, AT NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE.

3. **ADDITIONAL ANNUAL COST FOR PoMo PRINTED COPY: \$10 PER YEAR - 1 OCTOBER - 30 SEPTEMBER. (**PAYMENT DUE BY: 15 SEPTEMBER.**)**

NAME: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
HOME ADDRESS: _____
TELEPHONE: _____ **CELL PHONE:** _____
CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIPCODE:** _____

HISTORY WITH AFTAC OR ANY ASSOCIATED ENTITIES (DETS, HQ, SQUADRONS, OTHER). (**UNCLAS**)

OTHER INFORMATION YOU MIGHT THINK IS RELEVANT: (**UNCLAS**)

3. **Note:** Please **do not** include anything classified, or Privacy Act Material. **Do not** send a copy of your DD Form 214.
4. **Note:** Information provided is protected and will not be divulged; However, we may publish your name, city and state, in our on-line data, so friends can or may, contact us for additional information. Right now, all they can access is "Name." For further information, users are instructed to please contact us for further assistance.

Active Duty, Retired Civilian. ALL ARE WELCOME!

If you have any questions, please email, **Acting Membership Chair:** Ed Lindsay, piston_horse@hotmail.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**; dates, times and places to be determined.

2. Alumni Assn Board/Membership Meetings-normally-**2nd Mondays at 1500 – if at AFTAC HQ building.**

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

aftacaa.us

May 2023

8 May 2023 – Membership Meeting – AFTAC HQ Bldg - Patrick SFB, 1500 - [see aftacaa.us] – Teleconference

12 May 2023 – AFTAC Alumni Golf Tournament – see page 3 for full details and to see how to make a reservation

June 2023

Date & Place TBD – Membership Meeting

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

July 2023

Date & Place TBD –Membership Mtg – Teleconference

[check CoE at aftacaa.us]

August 2023

Date & Place TBD – Membership Meeting–

Nomination Board selects slate of officers

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'Gettogether

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-Gettogether

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.

