Long-Range Detection denotes and represents all who served the mission throughout its inception and history.

Recognized for 70 years of service to our country

16 September 2012 – 1947 – 2017

A 70TH COIN WAS NOT MINTED

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*SAGE ALERTS-WHAT’S COMIN’ UP*

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Thursday, 15 June - Saturday, 17 June
AFTAC Worldwide Reunion

Friday, 12 May 2017
2017 AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA) Annual Spring Golf-n’Get-Together--XXX

See more on Page 3

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*ACTIVE-DUTY ALERTS*

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

ACTIVE DUTY SCHEDULE, SAGES WELCOMED

See ‘Active-Duty’ section for more information, if any. Sage Contact for tickets, and questions, Carol Snyder at carol.snyder@us.af.mil see calendar information below.

Saturday, 6 May (Date is Subject to Change)
AFTAC Annual Spring Picnic
Alumni Ticket Rep: Ms. Carol Snyder, 321-494-4402
POC: 2Lt Nathan Valeriano

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

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*SAGE/ACTIVE-DUTY EVENTS-WHAT’S GONE OFF*

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

NOTE: PoMo pictures (& more) are at our website (URL at banner above) on various pages/compiled on page 4. Also, check the Colorado & California websites for more pictures, reports and information, URL with chapter information on next page.
ASSOCIATION INFORMATION  
Deceased, (D)  
Honor Roll: Alumni Of The Year Recipients (22)  
Carol Snyder/2016-Frank Calandra/2015-Sean Ryan/14  
Lynne Gibbons/13-Gene & Dee Melchior/12  
Dale Klug/11Jack Smith (D)/10-Jack Jackson/09 (D)-Bob Wiley/08-Bill Schmied/07-Deborah Carson/06-Mike Black/05  
Joe Goldian/04-Pat Snyder/03-Joe Johnson/02-Jim Payne/01-Ben Vlassick (D)/2000-John & Christel (D)  

AFTAC/Long Range Detection (LRD) Alumni Honorarium  
Several ongoing projects represent and honor Center people and history. Two, ‘Hall of Heritage’ (data/artifacts), the ‘20-Year Wall of Service’ (alumni who served the Center for 20+ years and have mailed in their photos/bios) and the Wall of Honor, are housed at AFTAC Headquarters. Another is an AFTAC display at the Grand Encampment, WY, Museum.  

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

There is this Association and two Chapters  
1. Florida ‘AFTAC Alumni Association’: (application-back page)-Dues, $10/FY (1-Oct-30 Sep) payable in Oct/$75 for life. Most monthly meetings are at 1600, second Monday of a month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC HQ (Bldg 10989), or other venue, at Patrick AFB, FL-details, see ‘Sage Schedules’ at back of issue. Contacts: Clark Creery, creery@cfl.rr.com, mailing address is: PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892. The Association has several communication resources, this triannual newsletter, ‘Post-Monitor’ (namesake of prior active-duty publication, ‘Monitor’) & a multi-page Website, see banner on previous page, with assn/alumni news and photos-we provide a ‘Breaking News’ service at the website and thru instant notification, what we term, ‘eALLert’, for time sensitive data at http://groups.google.com/group/aftac-lrd.  

“PERENNIALS” (5+ years board service) Clark Creery-Newsletter, 85/89-95, Pres 94/95, Webpage/Mbrshp. 01/10-Current; Frank Hall, Pres/Vice 89-98/01; Judy Milam, Sec 89-06, Hospitality since 01 Pres 04; Eunice Harris, Hosp 89-00; Mary Welch (D), Mbrshp 91-99; Carl Gailey (D), Treas 91-99; Swede Swansen, Pub 93-06; John & Chris-tel (D) Horsch, Newsletter since 96, Pat Snyder, ‘Insider/Sage Shop 96-2010, VP 10-04, Sec 05; Mike Black, Webmaster since 96; Jim Payne, Mbrshp 99-04; Joe Goldian, Treas, since 2003; Randy Vlassick, Mbrshp 04-09; Sean Ryan-Sec, 09-15; Steve Revels, Sage Shop, 2010-2016 (Vacant)  


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,  

“FROM THE HORSCHES AFTAC PA;  
$75 for  
EDITORIALLY SPEAKING  

Here we are our third joint issue, Pete (Gilbert) and John (Horsch), sounds like a duet!! And in a way it is; it’s a definite ‘dual deal,’ I pass along the items and Pete organizes them for your reading enjoyment.  
We don’t hear much from you but believe you enjoy what you read … that’s our goal, information and enjoyment. Take a sec and let us know!!  
The first thing this duet has to say for this issue is congratulations to Carol Snyder, our ‘Alumni of the Year’ 2016 … it was so good to recognize what she has done over many years of taking care of the alumni from within the HQ’s, our long-time ‘Intrepid Insider!’ We have something at least several times a week she helps with.  
The second important congratulations is the our two new selectees to the ‘Wall of Honor’ … worthy warriors and pioneers indeed. You’ll see that article later in the issue by our great PA, Susan A Romano. I’ll keep the names a secret here. One of them sent us a letter about the event you will see in ‘Mail Call,’ and on another positive note, both are members of our Alumni Assn here in Florida.  
Moving along, it’s another great issue with many articles of interest to those keeping up with the alumni, and the active duty. From what has happened to what is going to happen we try to have it right here.  
And, another great resource has come to life late last year and is available to everyone, alumni member or not. It is our new website, https://www.aftacaa.us/, and what a beauty it is; Pete has managed to make a ‘must view on a regular basis’ Website … very professional … another grand role he plays for this assn, PoMo formatting and developing and maintaining this master website. Thank you, Pete, for letting me be a part of this duet, and enjoy what you have wrought on the internet.  

I’ve gone on long enough now … start reading and enjoying!!  

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

Sage Communicators-Post-Monitor Editor John Horsch, Formatting Pete Gilbert-Information/Proofing: Judy Henderson, Susan A Romano/GG12/AFTAC PA; Executive Review: Frank Hall; Rovin’ Cameras/Reporters: Judy Henderson, Bob Wiley, and Lou Seiler-Printing/Mailing Editors, Mike Steekal, Terry Hammond, Curt & Eunice Harris; Web/Media: Editor/Clark Creery
Thursday, 15 June - Saturday, 17 June
AFTAC Worldwide Reunion
Everything is now ready for you to register by 15 May for the 2017 reunion. Sponsored by the AFTAC Alumni Association -- West Coast Chapter
The bi-annual AFTAC Worldwide Reunion will be held here in Sacramento, CA, for the very last time. So, please don't miss this opportunity to see old friends and share some stories.
For up-to-date information go to the chapter website at: http://www.aftacwcc.org

Saturday, 6 May
(Date is Subject to Change)
AFTAC Annual Spring Picnic 1000 - 1500
Chevron Picnic Park Area, Patrick AFB. (Located off of Rescue Road / Previous Survival Area).
Ticket Cost: $5 each; $25 per family; $5 Beer Bands.
NOTE: Ticket prices go up to $8 each at gate, day of event.
Family rate would go up to $40 per family, day of event. Alumni Ticket Rep:
Ms. Carol Snyder, 321-494-4402 POC:
2Lt Nathan Valeriano

2017 AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)
Annual Spring Golf-n’Get-Together--XXX
Friday, 12 May 2017

Venue: Manatee Cove Golf Course, PAFB.
Check-in:1130; Shotgun Start: 1300.
Format: 4-Person Scramble
Cost: $40 (Alumni Members); $45 (Non-Alumni Members).
Fee includes: Golf, Cart, Range Balls, and 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 -- 321-610-548 (Unlisted)
Mr. Bruce Snelgrove --
robert.snelgrove@us.af.mil -- 321-494-6166 (Unlisted)

SnowBall 2017
The final statement from our AFTAC Alumni Association President the 2017 AFTAC Alumni Snowball was, "The Snowball has melted," and boy, did it ever. We had a total of 75 attendees, including a table full of VIP's who were enjoying the evening, every bit as much as all others, maybe even a bit more, isn't that right Colonel Rich Goodman? The evening started out with a very enjoyable social hour, where everyone mingled, networked and had the opportunity to speak to fellow Alumni and guests in attendance. Renewing old friendships and making new ones was the highlight of the night. Possibly even some new AFTAC operational systems were designed that night by our high-tech attendees....who knows? We had the best bartender, "Ryan," who kept everyone happy and didn't seem to mind adding a little "punch" to the drinks ordered. Slides of former Snowballs and golf events during the year were continuously shown, on a slide show organized and provided by Bob Wiley, and many people re-lived those good times in seeing it. Salads were served with yummy dressings and crisp lettuce and other little veggies. Then, a delicious and scrumptious dinner was served. All reports were that the Champagne Chicken was tender and juicy. The Pork Loin was just as tender and very flavorful. Veggies were cooked just right, and the dessert of creamy-smooth cheese cake drizzled with strawberry sauce made for an extremely enjoyable meal. The bell was rung and the evening proceedings were started.

Our National Anthem was beautifully sung by our perennial singer, Rebecca ("Becky") Lehnerz. Ed Lindsay, the AFTAC Alumni President,
did most of the speaking, adding humor to the evening. Sean Ryan provided some insight to the "POW/MIA" table and some words of what was to come that evening. A video ("SAGE Salute") review of AFTAC'ers who had passed during the year was shown. The inspirational invocation was given by Sean Ryan. After dinner and a brief break, the AFTAC Commander, Colonel Steve Gorski, provided us with a quite detailed briefing of our "AFTAC Today." It was very interesting with a few oohs and aahs from the audience along the way. The following, and most important highlight, which is the main reason for our annual Snowball, was the naming of our Alumni of the Year.

**2016 ALUMNI OF THE YEAR**
Carol Snyder
This year, Carol Snyder was selected. An honor, that was well earned, deserved, and awarded. Carol has served the Alumni for so many years, never expecting thanks or recognition, for her tireless efforts. She was our "AFTAC Intrepid Insider" for a time longer than many people can remember. Her efforts have always been appreciated. It had been an exciting evening so far, but was not yet to be finished. Suddenly, out popped a troupe of young ladies in Hawaiian costume. They proceeded to do the cutest Island dances that brought the house down. The applause lasted longer than the dance. This was followed by equally enjoyable dances from places around the Southern Pacific including Tahiti and New Zealand. Provided by the Brevard Hawaiian Dancers, it was all good ... no, it was truly, fabulous. What a night!! Although a number of people were instrumental in organizing this terrific event, Sean Ryan and his wife Michelle, deserve a big "THANK YOU" for their tireless efforts, which provided one of the best Snowballs yet. If you didn't make it, mark your

January 2018 calendars, to attend the next one. You won't be disappointed.
AFTAC Open House

A contingent of Alumni attended the recent AFTAC Headquarters Open House held on December 21, 2016. In attendance were Dr. Mike Young, Bill and Gail McCune, Frank and Edna Calenda, Joe Goldian, Gene and Dee Melchior, Arlin Massey and Sean Ryan. Looking over the “old” equipment in the Hall of Heritage set up by Dr. Young, brought back so many memories of day’s past. We were visited by many of the organizations active duty personnel and their families. Of course, being old timers, we couldn’t keep from spinning yarns of our past contributions to the mission. We were amazed that they all listened with rapt attention. They even asked questions. How about that? Following that, we dined on yummy food gathered by Sean Ryan and talked amongst ourselves about those same old times. Several escorts arrived and we were off for unclassified briefings in the various squadrons. All of us had that same feeling of knowing what everything was all about but then came to the realization that we really don’t know that much anymore. The visit to the Command Center brought us memories of our large data terminals of yesteryear and put us in awe that the same functions are being handled by one or two people now. Of great interest was the Innovation Laboratory. The displays of the “self-learning computer” and the 3D printer were quite fascinating. The Tesla coil that played Christmas music was of considerable interest. That was a big hit for the younger crowd. Actually, we liked it too. We could easily see the pride held by the AF-TAC’ers in all the work that they do. It was a great day and we look forward to the invitation for the next open house. If you didn’t attend, you should try to make the next one. You won’t be disappointed.

Personals …

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

In Memoriam

Rest in Peace

Thomas R. Keegan - 4/21/2017

Thomas R. Keegan of St Augustine passed away on March 21, 2017. Tom retired from the United States Air force after 20 years. He was preceded in death by his brother Michael Keegan, step father George Connolly. He is survived by his mother Eileen Connolly, father Thomas Keegan, sister Patricia (Richard) Pollaccio, brother Brian (Mary) Keegan, Richard Keegan, loving companion Lisa Schappell, nieces Christina (Scott) Treder, Ashley (Kenneth) Nelsen, Michaela Keegan, nephews Brian Keegan and Kevin Keegan, great nieces Caitlin and Skyler Treder.

Bob Miller - 3/15/2017

MSgt. (Ret.) Robert C. "Bob" Miller, 74, known to many friends as Bob or Postman Bob, and to his New York family as Bucky, passed away peacefully at home Thursday, March 16, 2017, after a three-year battle with cancer. A beloved father, brother, grandpa and friend to many, Bob was born in Schenectady, New York, on June 18, 1942, to Horace and Shirley Miller. He lived and traveled across the United States and in several countries around the world.
Bob enjoyed two careers. First in the U.S. Air Force, he served his country for more than 20 years, achieving the rank of master sergeant. During his military career, he traveled to Thailand, Korea, Vietnam and several U.S. states. After the military, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service, where he became "Postman Bob." He retired from the post office after 23 years. Bob’s many passions included antique automobiles, aviation, singing, dancing, travel, hunting, fishing, gardening, woodworking and collecting anything that could be collected. The saying, "He who dies with the most toys wins" is about Bob. Ever generous, Bob volunteered wherever he felt he would be needed. He was a 10-gallon donor with Blood Bank of Alaska, and during the 1980s, he volunteered with the Alaska Luge and Bobsled Club, where he helped build and maintain the luge track and taught his children to luge.

He was an active member for many years with the American Legion, the Moose Lodge, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and contributed regularly to the Disabled American Veterans Fund, the National Rifle Association, Moose Heart and the March of Dimes. He was also an active member and supporter of his church Zion Lutheran of Fairbanks.

In retirement, his passion for antique automobiles led him to volunteer as a docent for the Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum, where he loved meeting people and telling them about the cars and their history. He eventually owned two beautiful antique vehicles, a 1923 Model-T and a 1927 Chevrolet truck that he dedicated much time and love to restoring.

More than anything, Bob was a loyal friend and family man. His many travels across the North American Continent and beyond were to visit the host of friends and relatives he kept in close contact with. Bob is survived by his sister, Martha Ruhl; his brother, John Miller; his ex-wife, Joy Miller; his daughter and son, Kathleen Jorgensen and Robert Miller; two wonderful grandchildren, Kevin and Amanda; one great granddaughter, Sara; several cousins, and his uncle, George; as well as many friends and colleagues.

Services for Bob were held on April 1 at Zion Lutheran Church of Fairbanks. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the local blood bank or cancer research.

Please visit www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsminer to sign an online guest book.

Published in Daily News-Miner on Mar. 30, 2017

Joe Goldian

Joseph Michael Goldian, Jr., 67, of Melbourne, passed away on Feb. 21, 2017. He was born on Aug. 21, 1949 in Dunn, N.C. Joe served his country honorably in the USAF for over 20 years. He was a member of the AFTAC Alumni Association and a graduate of FIT. Joe was a Region B Commissioner for Florida Youth Soccer along with being a referee for Soccer/Lacrosse and Volleyball. He is survived by his wife, Susan Goldian, daughter; Heather (Albert) DiSanto, grandchildren; Jonathan, Lily, and Michael, siblings; Barbara (Don) Smith, and George (Lastenia) Goldian, 4 nieces, 1 nephew, and a grand dog, Roxy. Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Mary, and his son, Michael. A viewing and service were held at the South Patrick Chapel, 88 Harrier Ave. Satellite Beach, on Sunday, February 26, 2017. Joe will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Joe’s memory to the Alzheimer’s Association or the American Cancer Society.

George Mirda wrote to us of his submission of an obituary for inclusion into the next "Florida Tech Today", a FIT Newsletter.

JOSEPH MICHAEL GOLDIAN JR., 67 BS Comp Sci ’84, MS Sys Eng ’88 Joe proudly served with the Air Force Technical Applications Center at Patrick AFB for 23 years and as an elected officer with the AFTAC Alumni Association for more than 13 years . After retiring in 1991 as a Master Sergeant, Joe worked as a systems engineer and program manager with contractors SAIC and GSP. A celebrated Space Coast youth sports official, he also served as state registrar/district commissioner & VP, District B with Florida Youth Soccer Association for many years. Joe passed away Feb. 21, 2017 doing what he loved: refereeing a high school game and inspiring young people's sportsmanship.

Florida Tech Today

In Memoriam

NOTE: Joe was a good friend and compatriot, he served AFTAC, and the AFTACAA, a very very long time.

John Horsch

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Joe's family.

May he rest in peace with the Lord.

Pete Gilbert

and the AFTAC Alumni Association

Memoriam, Lloyd and Michelle French
Michelle and I are deeply impacted by Joe’s passing. He was a selfless, happy, and devoted AF-TACer who set an example for all of us. We will certainly attend any service planned and will send a note of sympathy.

I would like to write a comment on Joe Goldian. Some of you might know that our Alumni Association has been viable since the early 1980’s. Joe has been the volunteer and elected treasure for more year than I can remember. Keeping the books straight and insuring that bills were paid on time and keeping the board updated on our financial worthiness, among many other things, was not an easy job. It meant keeping track of checks, received for various reasons, bank trips, audits and just keeping good accounts in general. I just hope we can find a volunteer that will do the job the Joe did, unselfishly, for many years. I’ve read nothing but good things about Joe in the recent days and he will be very, very much missed.
Frank Calenda

Just wanted to let you know that Arlington contacted us and scheduled dad’s burial. It is June 12th at 3 pm, but they ask anyone attending to be at the administration building by 2:15. From there we will drive to the location.
Mom asked me to pass this on as I believe both of you asked for this information when we found out.
Heather

Rose Klug - 2/12/2017

Rose Another angel, Rose Klug, 67, Sacramento CA, got her wings on February 12, 2017, following a two year battle with cancer. At her side when she was beamed up to Heaven were husband Dale; their children Linda, Christopher & Jennifer; granddaughter Emily; sister Debbie; her godmom Emily and brother -in-law Peter. Rose was born in Oklahoma City to a beautiful young Hispanic girl, Beatrice Quintero and husband, Roger Warren. Rose & Dale were married in Sacramento, April 23, 1970. She loved working with children as a teacher’s aide and soccer coach in North Highlands, CA, Wheeler AFB, HI and Iraklion AS, Crete, Greece. She retired from the Golden 1 Credit Union in 1996 as a Member Services Supervisor. She is also survived by her brothers & sisters, Ronald, Benny, Debbie, Pauline, Michael, Letha & Nona, all in Texas & Oklahoma;

her stepmother, Tae of Sacramento and uncle, Charles Warren of Sioux Center IA. She’s also survived by many, many nieces, nephews, cousins and sisters & brothers-in-law throughout the US. The family thanks Roseville and Sacramento Sutter Medical Group Doctors Chellappah, Gonik, Spinnelli and their staffs for the excellent care they provided Rose in the past two years. A special “Thank You” to the Roseville Sutter Infusion Center’s outstanding nurses & staff and the Sutter Health Hospice team, especially nurses Peter and Beth, who went out of their way to provide Rose the most professional care during this trying time.

A Memorial & Celebration of Life will be 10:00 am, Thursday, June 15 at St Lawrence Church, North Highlands, CA. A reception will follow. Interment in Crucifixion Catholic Cemetery, LaCrescent, MN is pending.

My Rose went to Heaven yesterday, 12 Feb 2017. Another angel was just beamed up into His arms! Dale

Our hearts were deeply saddened to learn the news about Rose Klug, our prayers go to Dale and family. Heaven has gained a beautiful person and she will always be remembered by so many that loved her.
Al & Ann Pavik
Robie Roy Sailers - 2/11/2017

Contacted by Yvonne Sailers Robie Roy Sailers - Just wanted you to know my husband, Robie Roy Sailers, who served with AF-TAC for many years passed away Saturday Feb 11. He had been ill for about 3 months with a very aggressive type of cancer. Roy retired at Patrick in 1973. He served in Hawaii, McClellan AFB. He loved AF-TAC and all his many buddies. NOTE: More details as known. 03.08 Update, Obituary w/Link (picture/guest book) (from online research) Robie “Roy” Sailers July 11, 1932 - February 11, 2017, Robie “Roy” Sailers, 84, of Granbury, Texas, passed away on Saturday, February 11, 2017. A Memorial Service was held on Friday, February 24, 2017, at Acton United Methodist Church. Roy was born on July 11, 1932 to the late Robie F. Sailers and Genevieve Foster in Henry County, Indiana. He married Yvonne Stipe in December 1956. Roy spent most of his life in Oscoda, Michigan and attended Central Michigan University. After proudly serving his country for 20 years in the U.S. Air Force Roy retired in 1973. He then became an insurance adjuster for Allstate Insurance Company and worked for Allstate until 1994. Roy was a 32nd degree Mason and member of the Shriner’s. Roy was a long-time member of 23 years of the Pecan Plantation Breakfast Club. He also enjoyed volunteering for People Helping People and was an active member at the Acton United Methodist Church. Roy was preceded in death by his sister, Norma Anderson. Survivors: Wife, Yvonne Sailers; son Stephen Sailers and wife Melissa, granddaughters; Shelby and husband Travis Clarke; Haley and husband Chad Saxton; sisters Rosalie Peterson and Jackie White and numerous nieces and nephews. In lieu of Flowers, donations can be made to Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (www.tsrhc.org), American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org), American Lung Association (www.lung.org), or Action United Methodist Church, Granbury, TX.

John D. Griffiths – 1/30/2017

Dr. John David Griffiths died at the age of 84 on Jan. 31, 2017, in Midlothian, Va. Dr. Griffiths was born in Lansing, Mich. He attended Western Reserve Academy, Hudson, Ohio, and went on to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1954 with a degree in electrical engineering. He received his doctorate from Syracuse University. Dr. Griffiths served in the United States Air Force from 1955 to 1981, notably at the Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Rome, N.Y.; and as a professor at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo. Dr. Griffiths retired from the Air Force as a colonel. Following his military career, Dr. Griffiths worked in intelligence for the U.S. government. He was a man of many and varied interests. In his youth, Dr. Griffiths was an avid radio ham, which stood him in good stead in later years when he was active in the Midlothian chapter of the First Responder Volunteer Program. He was a passionate and accomplished photographer and a music lover. He also had a lifelong interest in sports cars and took part in many BMW events with his Z3. Dr. Griffiths will be greatly missed by his wife, Sonja; son, Bruce; granddaughter, Andrea; great grandchildren Josh and Samantha; stepson and stepdaughter Mark and Lisa; step grandchildren Evan, Hunter, and Bailey; and his many friends. Private cremation. Services will be held in the summer at Arlington National Cemetery.
Larry Lynn Holbrook - 1/30/2017

Larry Lynn Holbrook, loving son, brother, husband, father, and grandfather, passed away at home surrounded by his family on the morning of January 30, 2017.

Larry was born in Saylerville, KY, on February 13, 1942. He moved with his family to Detroit, MI, in 1949. In 1959, he graduated from Cass Technical High School then served in the U.S. Air Force from 1959-1963.

After his honorable discharge, he moved to California where he worked at Lawrence Livermore Labs. It was here he met and fell in love with Margaret Covell, who he married in 1965. Larry continued working at Lawrence Livermore Labs while he and Margaret attended Cal State Hayward. Larry graduated from Cal State Hayward in 1968 and worked for the Stanford Research Institute, then Safety Specialists, Inc., before starting at Hewlett Packard in Palo Alto, CA, in 1973. It was here he spent most of his career as a manager of corporate environmental health and safety, a position that allowed him to travel to Europe and Eastern Asia. He received his MBA from Santa Clara University in 1976.

In 1969, Larry and Margaret moved to San Jose, CA, where they raised their two daughters, Heather and Holly. Larry enjoyed coaching their soccer and softball teams, participating in YMCA Indian Princesses with them, and enduring many years of BINGO to support them in their high school marching band.

Larry was a fun and loving man who was admired by his family and friends. He enjoyed everything about cars, old and new, and loved taking his little car for drives through the foothills while listening to his 50's music. He liked to ride his bicycle down the neighborhood trails, and he loved traveling with his family to Disneyland, Yosemite, Lake Tahoe, Point Reyes, and many other places. He also enjoyed trips to Massachusetts and Michigan to visit Margaret's and his relatives.

In 2000, Larry retired from Hewlett Packard after 27 years. He and his wife Margaret continued to travel and enjoy cross country trips, cruises to Alaska, Australia, the British Isles, eastern Canada, and Hawaii, and trips to Southern California to visit his two daughters.

Larry and Margaret moved to Burbank, CA, in 2011 to be closer to their daughters and grandchildren. Larry was a wonderful grandpa who lit up every time his grandchildren were around. He enjoyed trips to Disneyland and his daily walks to the neighborhood Ralphs grocery store for his cup of coffee and conversation with neighbors.

Larry is survived by his wife Margaret, his two daughters, and his two granddaughters, and his siblings Pat Karagitz, Ron Holbrook, Greg Holbrook, Wendell Holbrook, and Linda McCarty.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Larry’s name be made to the following charities: Red Tail Squadron or the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America.

Geno Piccoli - 1/30/2017


Chief Piccoli was born on January 24, 1941, in New Britain, CT to Geno and Mary Piccoli. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1958 and served over 30 years before retiring in 1988. Spending a good portion of his active career as a First Sergeant, he epitomized the phrase “my job is people, everyone is my business.” Not slowing down, he spent 5 years in civil service and 10 more years as a volunteer at Luke Air Force Base. A longtime advocate and supporter of military families, Geno was an active member of the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) for over 40 years, serving as International President from 1988 through 1991. A huge contributor to AFSA services and charitable programs, Geno personally supported a wide range of charitable organizations including the Airmen Memorial Museum and Airmen Memorial Foundation.

Geno was a loving father, husband, brother and grandfather as well as a mentor and inspiration to the countless lives he touched. He is survived by his wife Carolyn Piccoli; daughter, Theresa Dearth (Anthony Dearth); sons, Anthony Piccoli (Paula Piccoli), Joseph Piccoli, Geno Forman (Gail Forman); sister, Theresa DeBisschop (James F. DeBisschop); 11 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

People often say that one person cannot make a difference in the world. However, anyone who knows Geno knows – one person who truly cares about people can make an incredible impact on us all.
William Carroll "Bill" Britz - 1/29/2017

William "Bill" Carroll Britz died January 29, 2017 of Alzheimer's at Inspired Living, Palm Bay, FL. at his side was his loving family.

Bill was born in Chicago, IL. on September 14, 1940 to Nicholas Britz and Viola Harmening. Due to the early deaths of his parents, Bill was raised by his aunt and uncle Emil and Edith Kuester, Roy and Helen Sarbecker of Black Earth, WI, and the Helmentsine family whom he treasured in his lifetime.

He met his wife, Shauna, in northern Michigan where he was stationed for 11 years. A radar navigator on a B52, Vietnam tours, 4 years at Barksdale, AFB, LA, PAFB Recruiting Squadron Commander for 6 yrs., and after 2 yrs. at AFTAC, Bill retired. He was owner of Beach One, a novelty gift store for many years, and enjoyed working with the Brevard Swimming Pool Association in his later years.

He is survived by his wife, Shauna McKay Britz of Satellite Beach, FL. His son Bradley William Britz of Melbourne, FL., his daughter Heather Britz of Plainfield, IL., and his daughter Kara Britz Barber (Scott Barber) Chicago, IL. The joy of his life his grandchildren, Taylor Elizabeth Oswald of Morris, IL, Daniel William Oswald of Satellite Beach and his great granddaughter, Violet Olivia Ellingwood of Morris, IL.

A memorial Mass was held at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church on Saturday, February 4th. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution, in Bill's name, to one of these charities: Alzheimer's Association of America, 322 English Ave., 7th FL , New York, New York or online Alzfdn.org or The Haven, Box 327, Melbourne, FL 32902.

Our family sends heartfelt gratitude to Michael and Sue Dunne who walked the Ahlzheimer's journey with us, to another big blessing, Mary Ellen Long, our CNA who lovingly helped care for Bill, Melvin and Aquanda Jordan and their family for always being there when needed, and our many friends who supported our special needs. James Brassard of Inspired Living who walked with Shauna until the journey ended, his exceptionally caring staff and in the final two days caring angels from Hospice.

Published in FLORIDA TODAY on Feb. 3, 2017

Randy Beaty - 1/1/2017

I just learned that Randy Beaty passed away Oct 28. He died of pneumonia brought on my complications from brain surgery that he had in 2007. The brain surgery did not go well and he was ill for quite awhile afterwards. I don’t think he ever fully recuperated from the surgery situation.

Randy always sent out a long and humorous letter at Christmas and since we had not received one by early last week, I even commented to Fumiko whether Randy might be back in the hospital or maybe even have died. Seems it was the latter. His daughter created a similar Christmas letter this year and included the notification of his death. I received it yesterday but didn’t read it until this morning.

John Horsch

Alice Brown - 12/24/2016

For those of you who have not be told yet, our friend Alice Brown passed away on Christmas eve. May she rest in peace. I was first notified by Dale Klug, then more recently by Rod & Betty Jo who were kind enough to give me their son, Tom Brown’s, phone number so I could find out any additional info or if and when an obituary would be published. Tom said it would be in Sunday's Sacramento Bee. Dave Price & Dale Klug: Tom Brown also told me that they would be moving Cal to the east coast so they can take better care of him. His new address as of January 7, 2017 will be: Cal Brown, 6924 Knotty Pine Dr., Chapel Hill, NC 27517.

Alice Louise Brown, Age 88, passed away peacefully Saturday night, December 24, 2016. She was the wife of Colonel (Retired) Calvin W. Brown and she spent 33 years traveling around the world with him before they retired at McClellan AFB. Married 69 years. She was once an avid bridge player, played golf regularly, assisted Calvin in uplifting morale of his military personnel, and was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She is survived by her husband (Calvin); three children - Tom (wife Cathy), Dick (wife Terry) and Bob; seven grandchildren - Rob (wife Bonnie), Del (wife Genevieve), Cindy (husband Dan), Nick (wife Santina), Christy (husband Kurt), Tony (wife Lauren), and Jeff; and 19 great-grandchildren. She was loved by her friends and her family and will be greatly missed. In lieu of services, contributions can be made
Harold "Hal" Baker - 12/29/2016

HAROLD "HAL" MATTHEWS BAKER , JR. CM/SGT, USAF, Ret., of Port St. John, FL passed away on December 29, 2016 from complications of Parkinson’s Disease. Hal was born on August 1, 1936 in Toledo, Ohio to Harold and Dorothy (Laskey) Baker. Graduating from Whitmer High School in 1954, he attended the University of Toledo, while serving in the Ohio National Guard. In January 1957, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, rising to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant and retired from the Air Force in December of 1986 after 33 years military service. After being transferred to Patrick AFB in 1972, Hal continued his education graduating from Rollins College, then going on to do graduate studies at the University of Central Florida. In 1987, when KSC began the Return to Space he went to work for McDonnell Douglas/Boeing at Kennedy Space Center, where he was a Manned Space Flight Honoree in 1994. He retired from Boeing in 2001. Hal was a 10 year cancer survivor and supported Relay for Life and Stand Up To Cancer. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity; Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society; 58th and 60th Fighter Interceptor Squadrons Reunion Group; Life Member - AFTAC Alumni Association; Armed Forces Top Enlisted Association; Air Force Sergeants’ Association. He was a life-long Methodist and a member of 1st United Methodist Church of Port St. John for over 26 years. During his years in the church he served in several different lay leader positions including Certified Lay Speaker, Finance Chairman, served on two Building Committees and was the Sound Technician Coordinator for several years until failing health forced him to step back. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed playing tennis in his younger years and golf in his later years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, James and Herbert. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Shirley (Dresch) and four children, James (Yvonne) Baker, Merritt Island, FL; Harold (Yong Mi) Baker III, Huntsville, AL; Stephen (Penny) Baker, daughter, Ann (John) Bolduc, Port St. Lucie, FL; 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren; and nephews Jeffrey Baker and Kevin Baker

A Celebration of Life service was held at 1st United Methodist Church of Port St. John on Saturday, January 7. Interment will be at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. The family especially would like to thank the staff of Hospice of St. Francis for the care they provided.

To honor Hal, donations may be made to the Sanctuary Roof Fund, 1st United Methodist Church of Port St. John; Stand Up To Cancer; Wounded Warriors or Hospice of St. Francis.

Memoriam

Shirley, my sincere condolences. We have all lost a good man that set an example we should follow. I served with Hal on several occasions, and TDY’s, he was a true friend and comrade. We talked on the phone several times about our various ills after we retired. I will miss that, seeing him, and just knowing he was there. John (Horsch)
Any requests for action should be sent to
AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)
PO Box 254892
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892

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

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

Jim Davis-email, 02.11 regarding his selection to the 'Wall of Honor'

WOW !!!!!!! What an incredibly exciting, humbling, and emotional experience!! As my friend John Horsch would say "what do you say when you don't know what to say," you say 'Thank You!'

As I look at this Wall of Honor, I see the names of those that I knew and served with at AFTAC in Alexandria, Va. Mr. Northrup, Dr. Romney, Dr. Pilotte, Dr. Leies, Mr. Singlevich, Charlie Butler and Delbe Solar...and I think of the thousands of people who have served in AFTAC since the beginning in 1947 to today and only 18 have been awarded the honor of having their name enshrined on this Wall of Honor...What an honor it is to be one of those that have been so recognized.

Recently, I received a personal letter from the Commander of AFTAC, Col. Gorski, who informed me that I had been selected to have my name added to the Wall of Honor...and to invite me to attend the induction ceremony on Feb. 7th 2017. What an honor !!!

I was and still am impressed with everything that AFTAC does. AFTAC is and always has been an elite unit of the U.S. Air Force...it's personnel are elite as well. I was impressed in the manner in which I, my son and my brother were treated and taken care of by the Protocol office. Ms. Terry Stegman and her staff made an outstanding effort in accommodating our needs. They were courteous, well organized and efficient in performing their duty...I want to thank her and her entire staff...What an honor !!!

The induction ceremony was un-believably impressive, well organized and the manner in which it was conducted was very impressive. I must have been a little emotional ...I forgot to salute when I was presented the medallion. I must have been a nervous wreck because I had very little recollection of what was being said...my head was spinning...What an Honor !!!!. The meeting with the inductees and their families provided an opportunity for Col Gorski to have a few words with the inductees and their guests.

The meeting with the inductees and their families provided an opportunity for Col Gorski to have a few words with the inductees and their guests.

After the Wall of Honor ceremony my son, my brother and I were invited to attend the AFTAC Annual Awards Ceremony. Even though I had not made reservations for this ceremony I was urged to attend. Through the efforts of John Horsch and Bob Wiley, arrangements were made for us to attend. I want to thank each of them for their efforts. This ceremony was un-believable, to see these young people receive their awards. What an energetic, enthusiastic and active group of young people...made me want to be young again and be a part of their responsibilities with AFTAC, the U.S. Air Force and to our country. What an Honor it was to attend, see and be a part of this
I want to thank Col. Gorski and all his staff that was responsible for making this a Very Special Day for me. It was such an honor. I want to especially thank John Horsch for nominating me and being my sponsor for this award, and I want to thank Bob Wiley for obtaining, putting together and submitting the information to the selecting committee, and Dr Mike Young for managing the selection process. These efforts were not easy and I thank everyone involved for their efforts in making this a very special day for me, and of course I want to thank the selection committee for selecting me for this award. What an Honor !!! I now know the significance of the Wall of Honor.

Another thing I was thinking is that it would be nice to have more information about some of the pages. For instance, what is the Wall of Honor all about? What are 20 Year Wall Honorees? Maybe if there was a blurb on the page that gave some history or gave the reader more background. Any way, you mentioned in the meeting that you wanted more feedback, so there's my two cents.

About the jacket, it's not mine.

Thanks,

Don

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**Email from Don Holland**

Hi Frank,

It was good for me to get a chance to meet everyone. I was looking at the website and I have a couple of questions.

We used to have a member look up feature years ago. I didn't see anything like that on our new website. Maybe I just missed it, or are we not going to have that anymore?

Another thing I was thinking is that it would be nice to have more information about some of the pages. For instance, what is the Wall of Honor all about?

What are 20 Year Wall Honorees? Maybe if there was a blurb on the page that gave some history or gave the reader more background.

Anyway, you mentioned in the meeting that you wanted more feedback, so there's my two cents.

About the jacket, it's not mine.

Thanks,

Don

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**Walt Black email memoriam to Alice Brown 1/6**

I was truly saddened to hear of Alice Browns passing. I served under Col. Calvin W. Brown in 1962 and 1963 and he was the best. He surely was a great influence on my life. I have thought of him many times over the years. One thing that stands out in my memory is the wonderful picnic he and Alice had for the detachment in the summer of 1963. It surely was a morale booster for me and everyone else in the detachment as we surely were far from home and in need of the love they both showed for us by this act of kindness. I wish all the best for Col. Brown as he continues on in his new location. May God bless you Col. Brown.

Walt Black
Hello again to all fellow Alumni members. It is hard for me to believe it has been only four months since I wrote my first shout out to ya’ll. The past four months has been packed with some wonderful achievements and gatherings. It also has been visited by some tragedy.

As you will have read (I hope) in this issue, there were some great events hosted or attended by Alumni members. In early Dec, AFTAC had their Winter social, with a Great Gatsby theme. It was nice to be included and see the current workers and family members of the Mothership let their hair down and have a good time. Later on in December, AFTAC held their Holiday Open House. Again they were gracious enough to invite the Alumni to join the festivities. About 11 members were treated to a nice gathering with the AFTAC Historian, Dr Mike Young, and a quick tour of the Heritage room and other work centers.

The big release was the new AFTAC Alumni Association Website. It had been a work in progress since mid-Summer of 2016. Frank Calenda and Pete Gilbert did a wonderful job reaching out to people to beta test the site. John Horsch and Clark Creery helped out in the task to mirror what was on the other website that had become hard to navigate. It was due for a January release, but through the extraordinary efforts of the developers, it went live right around Christmas. If you have not taken a gander at this website, it might be well worth your time. Since December, there have been even more enhancements, based on feedback from the membership. All available PoMos have been digitized, Obituaries have been found and updated, and most currently, there is once again a way to find other AFTAC members that you may have known and most currently, there is a way to find others that we have had the honor to serve beside, that are no longer with us. The board has decided to have Sean Ryan take over the reins of Treasurer for the remainder of this sitting board.

But life goes on for those of us still here and I think the group that remains has been provided with a special opportunity to reconnect or simply reinvigorate those special relationships we held and continue to hold with our fellow AFTACers, young and old. Before the next PoMo comes out, there will be some other times we can get together. The Spring Picnic and the Spring Golf’nGetTogether will be happening in May. In June, the group out in California are holding the World Wide reunion. I believe there is room for more friends at all of these events. So come join the fun, share some stories, and good times. I hope to see you out there.

ED LINDSAY

A Minute with the Minutes

AFTAC Cares: Sean Ryan said the next bi-monthly meeting is 4 May.

Comments by AFTAC CC/CV: Col. Sawyer spoke a few moments on unitization and an AFTAC Memorial.

Historian: Dr. Young discussed a number of items including putting out a pamphlet with AFTAC historical information, a link to the web page, the AFTAC Lecture Series, and the Heritage room.

Membership Report: Michael Steskal reported that he has synced up approximately 930 addresses in the database, including the California and Colorado Chapters, to the eAll. He has 445 addresses in the database to vet before this is complete. With the completion of the report, Sean Ryan made the motion that it be approved as presented. Bob Wiley seconded. Motion carried.

Website Committee Report: Pete Gilbert and Frank Calenda discussed securing our web site using SSL technology. Lou Seiler made the motion that SSL be approved and funded as presented. Frank Calenda seconded. Motion carried.

Post-Monitor: Pete Gilbert and John Horsch both said that, as a reminder, requests for inputs in April to the PoMo should be met in a timely manner with the release of the PoMo shortly thereafter.
FL Editor Note: Jerry Moxley (Moxi), ECHOES Editor, advises Sages can request a complimentary ‘electronic’ issue via email, mxo@wispertel.net, on a one time basis for review and consideration of joining the Denver Chapter.

Steve Clark is stepping down as Alumni Chapter President

—"I’ve served as your alumni president for 4 years, and hope I’ve been a good steward of the position. With careful consideration, I have decided to step down as your president. I plan to remain active with our wonderful alumni, just in other capacities."

AFTAC Operating Location GT Tour Summary

Bill Schmied, Colorado Membership & Treasurer

Along with Ken and Cyndie Behrens I visited AFTAC OL-GT at Cheyenne Mountain AFS outside of Colorado Springs where we were met at the visitor center by MSgt Mark Boris, the OL Superintendent, who arranged for us to get visitor badges and then escorted us and our vehicle to their facilities for a tour. This was truly a fantastic event for us to meet and greet with the OL personnel and get detailed briefings on their two labs, one of which is a short distance downhill from the mountain entrance and the other which is fairly deep inside the tunnel. After arriving at the downhill lab MSgt Boris briefed us on their research and development mission and the amazing inhouse work they accomplish here along with the all the sophisticated equipment used in this lab. After completing this part of the tour we drove to the tunnel entrance area where we were greeted by Mr. Jeff Moore, OL Chief, and Major Andria Martin, Lab Chief. After a seemingly endless walk thru the tunnel into the mountain we arrived at the lab building where we donned hats, face masks, jackets, and booties before entering the actual lab enclosure where the R&D experimentation takes place. After an outstanding scientific show and tell by a very young Senior Airman, we went back into the tunnel and thru the gigantic blast doors to enter a huge building where we had lunch at an AAFES sub shop. After lunch we walked back out of the tunnel and this walk seemed much shorter than the one entering which I think was due to literally being able to "see light at the end of the tunnel." MSgt Boris then escorted us and our vehicle back to the visitor center where we turned in our badges and departed the mountain. Again, this was truly a fantastic event, lasting approximately four and a half hours, for us and we really appreciate the tremendously professional courtesies and wonderful hospitality provided to us. We gratefully thank all the OL personnel for hosting us and especially MSgt Mark Boris and SSgt Andrew Taurianen who escorted us at all times and answered our questions. For more info regarding OL-GT tours, please attend our breakfast meeting on 25 Feb. NOTE: Lab pictures provided by the OL and outside pictures are from the CMAFS Fact Sheet.
DEPOT FALLOUT

California Newsletter, 2015.10 extracts

2014-15 Board: Dave Tarquino, President; Joe Johnson, Vice; Ken Denbleyker, Chairman of the Board of Directors (COB); George Thompson, Asst. COB; Bob Fitzgerald (D), Director At Large; John Butch Kemna, Treasurer; Dennis Nolan, Asst. Treasurer; Bob Baker, Secretary; Ken Breitwieser, Asst. Sec; Dave Price, Membership; Don King, Newsletter Editor; Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster - Website @ http://www.aftacwcc.org

Florida Editor’s Note: The 1st Page of this ‘Fallout’ is available at the website - full earlier issues are also available. This editor can personally attest to the value of reviewing CA’s posted issues. There are articles of high interest for Sages not available elsewhere, better yet, become a member.

Events Calendar

Just a reminder business meetings are the 2nd Monday of March, June, September and December at 7:00 PM at the Lionsgate Hotel on McClellan Park. The meetings last about an hour and all Alumni are welcome.

(Always check our ‘Events’ page, http://www.aftacwcc.org or call ahead to our President to confirm time & place.)

ATENTION WCC ALUMNI
2017 AFTAC Worldwide Reunion
15 June – 17 June 2017

By Dave Tarquino

This will be the last reunion hosted by the WCC, and will again be held at the Lions Gate Hotel (formerly the ‘O’ Club) at McClellan Park in Sacramento. Those attending six years ago will recall this as a perfect and nostalgic site for an AFTAC reunion. The General’s Quarters will serve as the focus for activities. It is a 4 bedroom home with multiple areas for large and small conversations. The patio and lawn areas are expansive and well shaded. The hospitality suite will be located there as well as serving as the venue for the Friday night social and the Saturday banquet. Don't miss this opportunity to visit friends at this last WCC reunion.

As of January 19th we have not met the minimum hotel reservations needed to make the reunion viable; there is a strong possibility the event will be canceled. If you plan to attend and will be staying at the Lions Gate Hotel, we urge you to make your reservations now so a ‘go/no go’ decision can be made regarding the reunion.

The meal menu and costs have not been finalized, but we expect the Friday night social to be about $25/per person, and the Saturday dinner about $50/ per person. Registration forms will be available once it is established that the reunion will take place.

Sacramento is changing and has many new attractions worth visiting. The Crocker Art Museum’s expansion more than tripled the Museum’s size. https://www.crockerart.org/about. The Aerospace Museum of California at McClellan right now also features a dramatic hands-on display of 40 full-size machine replicas made directly from Leonardo da Vinci’s innovative designs and drawings. https://aerospaceca.org/events/davinci-exhibit/. The new ‘Golden1 Center’ Sacramento Kings arena has revitalized the downtown Sacramento area hosting many events. http://www.golden1center.com/. A visit to Old Sacramento and the California State Railroad Museum is always rewarding. https://www.californiarailroad.museum/. Lions Gate Hotel offers registered guests complimentary continental breakfast and will arrange transportation to and from the Sacramento International Airport for a modest fee. The rooms are $109/night with upgrades available. For reservations please contact the hotel at 916-643-6222. Indicate you are with the AFTAC Reunion Group when making your reservation. Reservations can be made now and we must have all reservations confirmed by 15 February 2017.

Please visit the WCC website for information. http://www.aftacwcc.org/.

If you know of any alumni who may not belong to one of the three chapters, please forward this information to them.

Hotel Information:
Lions Gate Hotel and Conference Center
3410 Westover Street
Sacramento (McClellan), California 95652
Phone: 916-643-6222
Website: http://www.lionsgatehotel.com/
****Be sure to mention you are attending the AFTAC Reunion****
Recruiting Memories
by Ron Mangini and Charlie Penn

Ron:
Greetings and Happy New Year. I just recently became aware of the AFTAC Alumni Associations, with both its HQ Chapter in FL, and this WCC in CA. I wish that I had known about the declassification of the mission a very long time ago, as I would have liked to have told my parents before they passed away. They knew I could not discuss the matter and never once did they pressure me for information. The last word I had when I left AFTAC back in 1972, was that I was never to discuss anything about our mission, what I did or where I went, as our mission was classified Secret, and I held a Top Secret Security Clearance. I have since read numerous articles and books about AFTAC History which has been informative, but still would like to know what I can or can't talk about as there was a lot more to it all than what I have read.

One of the best things I did with my life was to be convinced by the AFTAC Recruiter that I would be joining the most elite unit in the AF, and receive the best training. I had to wait a few weeks to meet with him after completing Basic Training, while watching my fellow Training Flight Airmen receive their career assignments and go on their way! I still smile when I recall putting my USAF future in the hands of this Recruiter who, because of the Secret Classification of the Mission, could tell me nothing about what I would be doing for the next four years if I decided to join. That required a lot of trust on my part, a guy who just wanted to learn how to repair jet engines and to have that as a career when I get out. To this day I still remember that AFTAC Recruiter. His name was Captain Booten. I still have the card he gave me with his phone number to call him. Once I had thought about his offer, I gave him my decision the next time we met, if I recall correctly as it has been a long time! Great memories, great education and set my career and myself in the right direction. I am looking forward to my membership and learning more about AFTAC history. It is hard to believe that it was so long ago.

On a more humorous note, I did see the new logo by Ron Mangini and Charlie Penn

Ron: I was fortunate enough to be assigned to the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron at Team 103 in Hawaii. Four SSgt's and a Captain. I was one of the E-5's.

The article written by Harry Monroe caused me to write this missive. He was at Lowry a little after me. I started in November 1954 on Lowry I and finished in May 1955 on Lowry 2. I stoked the furnaces nightly to get out of KP. We started with seven in our class, and finished with five. John Griffiths, John Sroka, Jim Turk, Dave Conklin and I all graduated with our 2nd stripe.

All attended my wedding on the Sunday before graduation. I still have the cutlery they bought for our wedding. It outlasted my first wife! From Lowry we all went to WFO (Team 101) at McClellan AFB in the "A" Field. We drew hazardous duty pay at first—and flying those WB-29's and especially the WB-50's were indeed hazardous. No one minded flying the RB-36 except for some of those 27 hour missions. Our training platform was a C-47, tail #263. My one and only trip in a C-47, tail #263. My one and only trip in a T-33 was with Capt "Buck Copeland". Most A's went on to Team 407 in Japan. Because I was married, they kept me in California.

I did a lot of flying, mostly out of Eielson AFB, Alaska. I worked mainly for Capt "Buck" Copeland and Capt Martin. I flew with Capt Coppage, who was the only officer I ever knew who wore Crew Member Wings.

Col Griffin was CO of WFO. We had many fine officers and enlisted folks there. From the way I was selected to attend the schools at Lowry AFB, I have to believe they were and probably still are the cream of the crop!

Gary Moles, Bill Thompson and I all took the test for
OCS. We all passed and were accepted. Gary went on and had a successful career as a MATS/MAC pilot. I withdrew because I only had 3 stripes and the AF would not pay for transporting my family.

After making E-5 in March 1958, Buck Copeland was transferred to Team 103 in Hawaii to clean up a real mess. 1009th HQ basically gave him a blank check to do the job. He asked me to come over to fill one of the slots. I told him no because I would have to give up the $55.00 flying pay. Though I fell in love with Hawaii after TDYs there in '56 & '57, with a wife and two kids, I just couldn't do it. Surprisingly, about three weeks later, I received another call from Capt Copeland. Magically, there was a flying slot open over there and he wanted me to fill it. I jumped on it and in June 1958, accompanying by my family, I was airborne over the Pacific on my way to Paradise!

It wasn't too long before Capt Copeland pushed me to apply for OCS again. Seeing that all promotions to E-6 were frozen and would be for years, I decided this was my best choice. So, after 16 glorious months in Hawaii and almost six years in my beloved 1009th Special Weapons Squadron, I said Aloha and went to OCS. Thus, the flying slot in Hawaii was withdrawn making me the only individual to ever carry an A99125A AFSC in Hawaii. I would be the sole 1009th alumnus to attend OCS class 60C—continuing a string of at least one member of the 1009th, including Capt Coppage and Gary Moles, to attend and graduate from every OCS class. As far as I know, that string continued thru the final class in 1963. Quite an accomplishment and a tribute to the personnel of the 1009th SWS and AF-TAC! I requested and was assigned a slot in Navigator Training. Upon graduation at Harlingen AFB, TX, I was selected for Navigator-Bombardier training at Mather AFB. For the previous 4 years and 96 classes of everyone going to B-47's or B-52's my class came up and needed 15 out of 30 of us to go to Hawaii in MATS C-118's and C-124's. I was ranked high enough in the class to be able to choose C-118's in Hawaii. So, 28 months after leaving Hawaii as a SSgt SEO, I returned as a 1st LT Navigator. Buck Copeland was stationed at Wheeler AFB at that time, so our lifetime friendship continued for more years on Oahu.

On one of my early trips, I was the Navigator on a C-118 that took a contingent of Special Forces troops into the town of Ubon, Thailand, just across the fence from Vietnam. It had no runway so we landed on a grass field to deposit them. This was in late summer of 1962, and as far as I know, these were the first Special forces to be inserted into the Vietnam War. My last trip was in a C-130E to Hanoi—my 4th trip there—to bring out the first of our Heroes who died in captivity. A very emotional trip!! In between I made many trips into Vietnam in C-124's including one where all crewmen were awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device for action on a very exciting Halloween night. Those Viet Cong and North Vietnamese really know how to trick or treat!!

I retired as a Major in June 1978 while test flying C-130's, C-97's and B-57's at the Birmingham, AL, Airport and having been passed over for Lt Col, decided to retire.

After a total of over 15,000 flying hours, I still feel that my most important job was my efforts in those modified bombers flying for the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron! Lots of memories of my flying days for our great outfit!!

**Colorado November Dinner/Social**

*Here are some pictures:*
Gorski takes command of Nuclear Treaty Monitoring Center
By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.

Despite temperatures in the mid-90s and humidity at 80 percent, Airmen with the Air Force Technical Applications Center stood in early morning formation to render a welcoming salute to their new commander, Col. Steven M. Gorski. The nuclear treaty monitoring center held an assumption of command ceremony July 25 in front of the center’s state-of-the-art headquarters building, as Gorski accepted the unit’s guidon from 25th Air Force commander Maj. Gen. Bradford “BJ” Shwedo. Gorski, a career intelligence officer, graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1996 with a degree in physics. In 2002, he was selected to attend the Air Force Institute of Technology, where he earned a master’s degree in engineering physics. “AFTAC has an amazingly gifted team that continually ‘wows’ senior leadership all the way up to the president of the United States,” said Shwedo. “Col. Gorski is equally amazing and is up to the task to lead this center. I am confident you will be totally impressed with the Airmen here at AFTAC and the work ethic they display each and every day. Steve, and with everything that’s going on in the world right now, you definitely will be gainfully employed!” With nearly 300 people in attendance, Gorski greeted his new subordinates, thanked Shwedo for the opportunity to lead them, and briefly touched on his command philosophy. Full report is/will soon be at the 25th AF Website, http://www.25af.af.mil/News.aspx

Center undergoes multiple construction projects
By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.

Just because something is new doesn’t necessarily mean it can’t be improved upon.

In 2014, the Air Force Technical Applications Center moved to its new headquarters building, a $158 million military construction project that relocated the treaty monitoring center from its 1950s-era building along State Road A1A to a brand new state-of-the-art facility a few hundred yards west.

As AFTAC settled into its new location, there were two projects that had not been included in the original MILCON project. The first project is a retaining wall along the eastern side of the building parallel to Patrick AFB’s main thoroughfare. On any given month, approximately 30,000 vehicles travel past the four-story building. Because of the proximity of traffic and the need for an additional protective barrier adjacent to AFTAC’s headquarters, the 45th Civil Engineer Squadron here contracted Atlantic Icon Corporation to construct the wall.

The structure will serve as an additional anti-terrorism and force protection (better known as AT/
FP) measure. Each military installation has what’s called a barrier plan in the event of a catastrophe or significant contingency, like the events that unfolded Sept. 11, 2001. During an exercise or a real-world event, the installation commander directs the implementation of the barrier plan. If some critical buildings or structures do not have the required fortification to withstand potential attack, base personnel must manually install concrete jersey barriers around a facility, which is not only time consuming but also enormously labor-intensive.

The new barrier will be more than 600 feet in length and four feet in height, with a concrete footer that provides a solid, level foundation.

“The wall is made of material called Versa-Lok, blocks that are pre-formed and dovetail into each other for greater fortification while creating a permanent barrier of protection,” said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Peters, 45th CES project manager. “This project has been in the works since May 2016, but construction itself began in January. It’s broken up into two phases. The first phase is the Versa-Lok wall, which we anticipate being completed in April. Phase II will be a cable barrier system that will encircle the entire facility, and we expect that to be completed by mid-November.” AFTAC’s Security Office provided input to the plan, and made recommendations about other possible AT/FP measures that can be taken to fortify the building.

“We take force protection very seriously,” said Mike Manker, AFTAC’s alternate special security officer. “People may remember the actions we had to take right after 9/11 due to the proximity of our building to A1A. The road was closed to all traffic for five months while we installed fortified shields to the exterior of the facility that faced the Atlantic Ocean. The actions we’re currently taking, which includes the wall, will help provide a barrier of protection to our personnel and resources.”

The AT/FP project is estimated to cost $415K and should not interfere with daily operations or traffic flow at the treaty monitoring center, Peters said.

A second construction project is underway, one that will bring much needed shade and shelter to outdoor functions and ceremonies held at the center.

Nestled between AFTAC’s headquarters building and its Ciambrone Radiochemistry Lab is a courtyard that is fondly nicknamed “Stonehenge” because of the large concrete benches that encircle the grassy area of the courtyard. Since moving into the facility, the center has held a variety of military functions at Stonehenge, but each required a great deal of effort.

“When we scheduled an outdoor ceremony or something similar at the courtyard, we would have to set up several portable canopies to shield participants from the hot Florida sun,” said Terry Stegman, AFTAC’s protocol officer. “It also took a lot of manpower to not only set up the canopies, but also dozens of tables and chairs for each event. It consumed a lot of time.”

So AFTAC’s Plans and Programs Directorate contracted Melbourne-based Frazier Engineering, Inc., to erect a pavilion over Stonehenge’s grassy area. The 75-foot-by-46-foot structure will have electrical outlets, ceiling fans and exterior lighting, and will also provide shelter for ceremonies in the event of inclement weather.

“We anticipate the project to cost about $400K,” said Deb Ward, director of Plans & Programs. “Contractors broke ground in February, and we expect the project to be complete sometime in June.”

AFTAC employs nearly 1,000 personnel at its Florida headquarters and hosts more than 200 distinguished visitors annually. The center also conducts numerous monthly ceremonies and gatherings such as First Friday afternoon get-togethers, quarterly awards presentations, squadron barbecues, and booster club events.

“This will be a huge morale builder,” said Col. Steven M. Gorski, AFTAC commander. “Providing our Airmen with a place to gather for both professional as well as social reasons will definitely build camaraderie and I’m really looking forward to christening the new pavilion as soon as it’s completed.”

WC-135 Constant Phoenix visits Patrick AFB

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

One of the Air Force’s most intriguing aircraft was on display here Feb. 14 to give members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center a chance to get a glimpse of its inner-workings.

The WC-135 Constant Phoenix, AFTAC’s atmospheric sampling platform, flew from its home base, Offutt AFB, Neb., with its cockpit crew from the 45th Reconnaissance Squadron and its special equipment operators from AFTAC’s Detachment 1, also stationed at the Nebraska base.

While its operational mission falls under the center’s command, many of those assigned in Florida rarely get
a chance to see the aircraft in person, much less tour it.

More than 450 personnel funneled through the jet, which started with a close-up view of the cockpit, then moved through the body of the plane, where 9S100s (the Air Force specialty code that identifies special equipment operators) described how they collect debris during missions and prepare it to be processed for lab analysis.

Todd Leiss, AFTAC’s airborne operations technical advisor, and Tech. Sgt. Matthew Wilkens, a 9S100 and airborne operations section chief, coordinated the aircraft’s visit months in advance.

“The folks out at Offutt are charged with operating the only aircraft in the Air Force inventory that is solely responsible for conducting nuclear debris air sample collections,” said Leiss. “The WC-135’s crew is ready to deploy 24/7 anywhere in the world to conduct its nuclear treaty monitoring mission.”

Constant Phoenix flies in direct support of the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System, a global network of nuclear detection sensors that monitor underground, underwater, space-based or atmospheric events. As the sole agency in the Department of Defense tasked with this mission, AFTAC’s role in nuclear event detection is critical to senior decision makers in the U.S. government.

“Our aircraft is equipped with external flow devices that allow us to collect airborne particulate on filter paper and a compressor system for whole air samples,” said Wilkens. “The particulate samples are collected using a device that works like an old Wurlitzer jukebox. An arm grabs the paper from its slot and moves it to the exterior of the fuselage. After exposure, it is returned to the filter magazine where a new paper is selected for use. It’s a simple, yet very effective, concept.”

One of the visitors who toured the plane was David Campbell, a laboratory supply manager at AFTAC’s Ciambrone Radiochemistry Lab.

“I’ve been aboard a KC-135 before, and I wanted to see the differences for myself,” said Campbell. “I was really impressed with the important job the young Airmen have since they’re the ones directing the commissioned flight crew to where they need to fly when they’re on a mission. I also learned how tedious and time-consuming it is to load the air canisters on board and collect the samples for analysis. As a member of the lab that receives samples, it was definitely pretty cool to see where they come from.”

AFTAC mission reaches far beyond shores of Florida’s Space Coast

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

From the parching, arid deserts of Northwest Africa to the frigid, sub-zero temps of Antarctica, Airmen from the Air Force Technical Applications Center work in a multitude of austere environments to keep their no-fail mission going.

AFTAC is the Department of Defense’s sole nuclear treaty monitoring center tasked with 24/7/365 coverage of worldwide seismic activity. With its 17 detachments, six manned operating locations and more than 60 unmanned operating locations across the globe, AFTAC’s footprint is on every continent, ensuring the nation’s senior decision makers have the necessary scientific data and analysis to make informed decisions in the event of a potential nuclear detonation.

Recently, AFTAC Airmen traveled to Africa and Antarctica to perform annual routine maintenance on data collection and processing equipment. The teams also conducted full inventories at the sites and replaced solar batteries used to power the stations. The seismic equipment is used to detect activity caused by naturally-occurring events such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or lightning strikes, as well as man-made events...
such as mining activity or nuclear explosions. AFTAC’s long-range nuclear detection mission verifies compliance with established test ban treaties, primarily the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty and the 1974 Threshold Test Ban Treaty. The center is also the designated U.S. laboratory system that provides technical support to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Antarctica site, located 1,200 miles north of the South Pole in Vanda, supports the International Monitoring System as part of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization, and is one of thousands of sensors within AFTAC’s global network. In addition to providing seismic information to U.S. decision makers, the data from these sensors also help scientific and academic communities at large.

Senior Airman Dillon Gibbs, an AFTAC geophysical maintenance technician and team lead for the Antarctica trip, traveled for the second time to the South Pole region with three other AFTAC technicians, Staff Sgt. Michael Farrar, Tech. Sgt. Aaron Boyle and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Hannah.

“One of the primary things we wanted to accomplish on our trip was to perform preventive maintenance routines to ensure all the equipment was fully operational,” said Gibbs. “Antarctica is a very unforgiving location, and we can’t travel there as easily as we can to other sites, so we have to be extra careful to check and recheck our work to make sure the equipment fully capable to capture seismic data for our analysts back in the States.”

Travel to the earth’s southernmost point is not without its own set of challenges. The maintenance team flew via commercial air to New Zealand and from there flew on an Air Force C-17 to McMurdo Station, a U.S. research center on the tip of the continent. To get to their final destination, Gibbs and his fellow Airmen took a helicopter for the one-hour flight to Vanda.

Once the team completed four days of maintenance in Vanda’s Dry Valley, a helicopter transported the team to the top of nearby Mt. Newall for an additional four days before returning to McMurdo Station to wrap up required maintenance actions on AFTAC’s solar generators and wind turbines, better known as hybrid power stations.

As the four-man team at the South Pole battled bitter temperatures and ice-covered terrain, a three-person AFTAC team navigated zephyr winds and jungle heat at two North Africa seismic locations – Morocco and Côte D’Ivoire. In addition to annual preventive maintenance, the team replaced broadband instruments and repaired borehole components, as well as calibrated instruments and replaced a solar power source.

Staff Sgt. Jacob Caron served as the team lead for the Africa journey. Joining him were Staff Sgts. Steven Milliman and Kia Canady.

“One of the aspects of traveling to these sites I enjoy most is training host nation personnel who operate and maintain the equipment year-round,” said Caron, a geophysical maintenance supervisor. “While we’re there to conduct an annual review to ensure the hardware is operational and up-to-speed, the Moroccans and Ivorians are the ones who are around the equipment every day, so we spend a great deal of time listening to everything they have to say.”

The treaty monitoring center, headquartered at Patrick AFB, Fla., prides itself on being on the leading edge of technological research and verification technologies.

“The skill and level of expertise these Airmen possess are unparalleled, and they truly have their fingerprints all over our global sensor network,” said Col. Steven M. Gorski, commander of the center. “In addition to their incredible technical abilities, they also serve as representatives of our organization and the Air Force at large to our international partners. It fills me with great pride when I see them achieving such tremendous success while working closely with the host nation experts. Their dedication under austere conditions gives us the ability to provide our senior leaders in Washington with the data they need to make critical, informed decisions.”
Two generations of AFTACers reunite where it all began.

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

Senior Airman Chad Melone (center), poses with Col. Glen Shaffer, commander of the Air Force Technical Applications Center, and Melone's wife Beki at his staff sergeant pin-on ceremony circa 1994. In Beki's arms is their son, Dylan. (Courtesy photo)

Three members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center here are Larson Award medalists for 2016.

In September 1990, a young Airman fresh out of technical training arrived at the doorstep of the old Air Force Technical Applications Center on State Road A1A to begin his career as a satellite data operator.

said. "We just need to make sure that we're getting the background and knowing what's happening around the world and what changes are happening in the atmosphere."

News reports in Britain and several other European countries have claimed that the WC-135 crew was investigating secret Russian nuclear weapons in Novaya Zemlya in the Arctic, which would be a violation of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

"If a nuclear test were to take place that releases I-131, it would also be expected to release many other radioactive isotopes," the test ban organization said in a statement. "No other nuclear fission isotopes have been measured at elevated levels in conjunction with I-131 in Europe so far."

There are only two U.S. Air Force WC-135s in active service, out of 10 originally used by the Air Force. They have been conducting year-round air-sampling missions over international waters since 1965.

"These are just some absolute rock star professionals, and they are the best in the world at what we do," said VanNoord. "What they find in the air is a testament to their skill, professionalism and training.

Air Force clears the air around specialized 'nuke sniffer' plane deployment

One of the two WC-135 Constant Phoenix jets in the U.S. Air Force parked at RAF Mildenhall, England, Thursday, March 2, 2017. The planes are equipped to sniff out particles in the air such as iodine-131, which results from nuclear explosions.

WILLIAM HOWARD/STARS AND STRIPES

By WILLIAM HOWARD | STARS AND STRIPES Published: March 9, 2017

The arrival of the nuke sniffer coincided with reports that trace Iodine-131 had been detected at air-quality stations in Norway, Finland, Poland, Czech Republic, Germany, France and Spain. The radioisotope is a nuclear fission product.

"This particular mission we were working on last fall. We're currently looking at the missions for next summer and fall," Col. Jonathan VanNoord, operations director at the Air Force Technical Applications Center, told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday. "We do this routinely. Over the last four years these aircraft have averaged 157 days on the road."

AFTAC is the headquarters for the WC-135 Constant Phoenix mission and supports the 1963 Limited Nuclear Ban Treaty — which prohibits above-ground nuclear weapons testing — by detecting radioactive clouds after they're dispersed. The aircraft is a modified C-135B equipped with external flow-through devices that collect particles on filter paper and a compressor system for whole-air samples. Collected atmospheric samples are then brought to a lab for further testing.

Iodine-131, which can be used for medical treatment, was released during open-air atomic bomb testing in the 1950s and during the Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear power station disasters.

"This has been planned for a long time and we didn't go there to look for this iodine," VanNoord said. VanNoord said that the WC-135 crew isn't in Europe to track down a specific radioactive cloud. Instead, it is participating in a constant mission of monitoring nuclear debris all around the world from facilities such as nuclear power stations and hospitals.

"We need to get the background levels so if an event were to happen, we know where that baseline is," he
analytic. Little did he realize that more than 25 years later, his AFTAC roots would grow even deeper.

Lt. Col. Chad Melone, currently an acquisition program manager at Kirtland AFB, N.M., was that young enlisted troop in 1990. Since that time, he earned his bachelor’s degree, received his commission and worked as an engineer and political-military affairs strategist throughout his officer career.

But before all those career milestones occurred, as a member of AFTAC, Airman Melone was responsible for ground processing equipment to collect and analyze data from three constellations for the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System. He also worked as an instructor for Air Education and Training Command’s Operating Location at Headquarters, where he taught up-and-coming technical applications students at their mandatory three-month training course.

Ultimately, he became an Oracle database administrator and software tester for AFTAC’s Atmospheric and Space division’s satellite data analysis software baseline.

In 1993, Melone and his wife, Beki, welcomed their first of three children, Dylan, into their family. Dylan was born at Cape Canaveral Hospital in Cocoa Beach and spent the next four years growing up in the shadow of AFTAC as his father honed his technical skills at the Department of Defense’s sole nuclear treaty monitoring center.

Towards the end of Chad’s tenure at AFTAC, he was selected for the Airman Education and Commissioning Program, through which he earned his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from the University of Central Florida.

By the time young Dylan reached high school, he began yearning to do something important with his life. He asked his father what he thought about him joining the Air Force. Chad said, “I gave him the same advice my mentor, who is also my father, gave to me: it’s a great life; you won’t regret it!”

So on May 5, 2015, Dylan made his dream become a reality and enlisted in the United States Air Force. A few months after basic training, his Air Force Specialty Code became 9S100 – the same as his father. In March 2016, he arrived (again) at Patrick AFB and was assigned to AFTAC's clean room as a technician, where he works today.

“What are the odds of that, knowing that I’m a second generation AFTACer?” Dylan exclaimed. “I was pretty surprised when I was selected for this career field. I’ve really enjoyed it so far, but I’m not certain where I’ll be five years from now. I will be at a large fork in the road in my career, to include whether or not I will reenlist or pursue a commission. I plan on furthering my education and I really enjoy engineering (also like his dad), so maybe one of those things will be part of my future career path.”

If you ask his father, he’ll readily tell you where he thinks his son will be in five years.

“Dylan has always been interested in physically demanding jobs, but since he scored so well on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test (the required entrance exam for all military recruits) as well as the secondary exam all 9S100s must take to qualify for the career field, it seemed like a natural fit for him. I was glad I could give him a lot of insight into what the job entailed and the overall environment of the center’s inner workings. When I was a 9S100 – actually we were called 99s back then – the AFTAC culture was very supportive of education and personal development in general. From what Dylan tells me, it’s still the same way. I have no doubt Dylan will succeed on any path he selects.”

In addition to the work he puts in at the clean room, Airman 1st Class Melone also spends a great deal of time as a Base Honor Guardsman, something of which he is incredibly proud.

“My supervisor, Master Sgt. Eric Reda, recommended me for the program,” said Dylan. “I was fortunate enough to be selected based on my past performance and work ethic, and I really enjoy being a part of it. It is extremely humbling, especially when we are asked to participate in a fallen veteran’s funeral. Nothing puts things in better perspective than being a part of something that carries such weight and magnitude. It is a privilege to wear the Honor Guard aiguillette.”

In December, the family was reunited at Patrick AFB to enjoy some downtime together. Chad had the opportunity to see AFTAC’s new headquarters building where Dylan works and the two reminisced about the center’s former location, which is now a grassy field adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean. He also had nothing but praise for his eldest son.

“I am so incredibly proud of how Dylan works to continually improve himself and get involved in various activities,” said Chad. “He quickly completed all the requirements for his upgrade training, earned his Community College of the Air Force degree, won Airman of the Quarter accolades, and is very close to earning his associates degree from Eastern Florida State College. On top of all that, Dylan is just an all-around great wingman who would give you the shirt of his back if you needed it. Yeah, I’m definitely a very proud father.”
**AFTAC hosts inaugural Innovation Days Expo**

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs

**PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.**

The Air Force Technical Applications Center here conducted its inaugural Innovation Days Expo Jan. 24, where 17 highly technical vendors displayed their wares and met with personnel to learn more about the center’s nuclear treaty monitoring mission.

AFTAC’s scientists, engineers and technicians networked with various companies with equally various backgrounds to share ideas to facilitate the delivery of innovative capabilities that could potentially affect AFTAC’s mission areas.

Maj. Kelly Greiner, an AFTAC program manager, served as project officer for the event.

"About 18 months ago, I read an article that highlighted a similar type event hosted by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency," said Greiner. "Since AFTAC does business with a relatively low number of companies, my thought was to mirror NGA’s event to expand our industry base while creating competition and collaboration among different companies with innovative capabilities. So we got the ball rolling and developed an event to achieve those goals."

Rich Twogood, a business consultant with Dirac Solutions, Inc., traveled from Pleasanton, Calif., to showcase his company’s battery that uses radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology to provide secure wireless communication capability in hostile signal propagation environments.

After learning more about AFTAC’s mission and its claim to fame of being the U.S. Air Force’s largest sensor network, he knew his company needed to be a part of the expo.

"Our company brings a one-of-a-kind capability to our clients, especially those who operate in harsh environments," said Twogood. "Our stand-alone secure sensors enhance remote monitoring and are designed for rapid deployment. We’re pleased we could be a part of AFTAC’s Innovation Days and believe we have a superior capability that meshes well with AFTAC’s international monitoring mission."

In addition to the outdoor exhibits on display, vendors attended several briefings in AFTAC’s Doyle Northrup Auditorium to learn more about how the center executes its treaty monitoring role.

"I am truly amazed with what is happening here at AFTAC," said Harsh Govind, a strategic and business development associate with OGSystems based in Chantilly, Va. "You read news stories about how our government makes decisions using information taken from field operators, and today I got the chance to see how AFTAC directly contributes to our national security and how their data and analysis are used by those at the highest levels. It’s extremely impressive!"


"We also invited several of our mission partners – the Department of Homeland Security, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the National Nuclear Security Administration – who provided briefings to the attendees on how their missions relate to AFTAC’s. Overall, I think our inaugural Innovation Days was a success," said Greiner.

**AFTAC Boosters Club**

The Booster Club President is SrA Stinson, Thomas, the Treasurer is SrA Vera, Thomas, and the Secretary is SSgt Hicks, Kory. We’re going to attempt to have an election on April 7th for the Vice President, Fundraiser Representative, and Sergeant-In-Arms. The Booster club is about to do elections from folks in the building to fill positions in the Booster Club, as we currently have many vacancies.

For events we have coming up, the picnic was mentioned on the front page. Also, there is the Daytona Coke 400 on July 1st, we’re looking for volunteers to be Servers in the suites, Runners of food to suites, and bartenders. I’m the POC for that so far. This is a Saturday event, and a 12-16 hour work day for those who volunteer. All proceeds will go to the AFTAC Booster Club.

We have AFTAC Mugs for sale that are stainless steel, for $10. They have the AFTAC Symbol on them in black.

We have Colored Morale shirts from Small to Large in varied colors, made in a breathable "Underarmour" type fabric, selling for $15.

We have Koozies in all different colors that have the AFTAC symbol on them, they sell for $2, or if you buy a morale shirt, you get one for free. We are currently out of AFTAC Coins, we are expected to have them late third quarter, into early fourth quarter of the year, selling for $10 each.
1. **WindDowns**-(normally sponsored by the active-duty force) are scheduled for 1st Fridays at 1530 taking place to the west of the HQ building, fondly referred to as ‘Stonehenge.’ **(Temporarily suspended)**

2. **Alumni Assn Board/Membership Meetings-Normally-2nd Mondays** at 1600 just inside the HQ Building, #10989. Park across the street and the meeting will be in conference room just to the left as you enter the front entrance lobby.

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

**Active-Duty & Alumni are invited to all events.**

**BEFORE COMING VERIFY DATE/TIME/VENUE ONLINE AND/OR WITH YOUR EDITOR**

‘chrisjohn2@gmail.com’

**April**

1. 10, 1600 - 1700 HQ AFTAC, Lobby Conference Room

2. 8, 1600 - 1700 HQ AFTAC, Lobby Conference Room

3. 12, 1130-1300 AFTAC Alumni Association Quarterly Off-Site Luncheon Meeting Beef O’Brady’s

4. 8, 1600 - 1700 HQ AFTAC, Lobby Conference Room

**Event Plans and Timeframes**

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. 09 Sep, Annual Board, General Membership & Elections Meeting, ‘Sociable September X’ will be at Manatee Cove on a Friday at lunch to enhance the opportunity for, and encourage attendance of, members and all alumni & active-duty.
2. Alumni of the Year (AOY) Selection Committee (prior AOY’s) meet following this annual meeting
3. 30 SEP, XXIX Annual Association Fall Golf N’Getogether
4. Oct 1st, Alumni Assn ANNUAL FY DUES DUE
5. Dec TBD, (usually second Friday), Center Winter Social

**D. Worldwide (WW) Alumni Reunions**

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

The next reunion is scheduled to be hosted by the California Chapter, 6/15/2017

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**SAGE SHOP (SWAG)**

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

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

Pictures of these items can be perused here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0B4SBBaLHdXwc1BU1Y4T5E5Nekk

**ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE**

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

- Golf/Polo Shirt - 50/50 w/pocket - $20: Navy, White w/o pocket - $25: Navy, Red, Royal Blue, Teal, Maroon, Black
- Golf/Polo Shirt – Dri-Fit Fabric w/pocket - $20: Navy, White w/o pocket - $25: Navy, Royal Blue, Maroon
- 50/50 T’s – w/o pocket - $10: Light Blue, Royal Blue, Navy, Ash Gray, Purple, Red, Fuchsia, Stone Washed Green, Mint Green, Jade Green, Black
- Dri-Fit T’s – w/o pocket $15: Royal Blue, Navy, Red, Maroon, Tropic Blue

**SWEATSHIRTS/WINDBREAKERS/HATS**

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

Windbreakers - $25 Royal Blue, colored Alumni emblem

Hats – $8.00 Blue/White

**COINS/PINS**

- AFTAC Alumni Association Coin: $10
- AFTAC Alumni Association Pin: $3
- 50th LRD Commemorative Coin: $4 $2: purchase of 50th
- 60th LRD Commemorative Coin: $2 purchase of 50th

**NOTE**: Free 60th with 50th coin flaw: AF Date, Sep 12 vs. 18th.

- AFTAC ‘Traditional’ Coin: HQ-aircraft/motto/logo @ reverse $10
- AFTAC Top 3 Coin: $10
- AFTAC Logo Pin: $3

**CLEARANCE ITEMS** (while supplies last):

- Golf Shirt $5 - Blue, w/word ‘Alumnus’; 2-Large, 4-XL
- Nylon Jacket: $10 – Royal Blue, w/white emblem with ‘Alumnus’; 1-XL

**SAGE SHOP MERCHANDISE FROM OTHERS**

AFTAC SEO Airborne Coin - SrA TJ Benscoter - 402-232-1917/Theodore.benscoter@us.af.mil or SrA Chris Hayes 402-232-9182/Christopher.hayes.13@us.af.mil

Det 45 has minted a commemorative coin. Contact the CO Chapter Treasurer, ‘Bilschmied@aol.com,’ for info/purchase.
AFTAC Cares
Packages for Deployed

Details and needed items, at Alumni Assn website, ‘Need To Know Now’ link. https://sites.google.com/site/lrdalumniassnneedtoknownow/aftac-cares-program-support-our-deployed
‘Cares’ Contact: Carol Snyder, Carol.Snyder@us.af.mil, We currently have 2 AFTAC deployed, some have written ‘notes of appreciation,’ see following.

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

No “Thank You Mail” This Period.

History and Heritage: Similar, yet different
Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Michael Joseph, AFTAC Command Chief

I would venture to guess that many people use the word “history” and “heritage” interchangeably. I have to admit, I used to think they were synonymous and never gave much thought to the idea that not only are they two separate and distinct words, they are also two separate and distinct concepts.

Let me explain. The textbook definition of the word history is: the study of past events, particularly in human affairs. The definition of the word heritage is: a legacy, tradition or inheritance; something possessed as a result of one’s situation. Different words with different meanings, but inextricably intertwined.

AFTAC’s history is a robust one, filled with ‘firsts’ for our nation from our inception in 1947 until present day. The center’s history is a chronological account of what AFTAC has accomplished for the past 70 years and the compilation of events that define us as an Air Force organization.

Heritage, on the other hand, has a bit of emotion tied to it. It’s about identity and a sense of belonging. Heritage is the “war story” about the people – the faces of AFTAC. It’s the more intangible of the two words, since heritage deals more with the human landscape versus historic relics and artifacts.

Our proud history is reflected in our heritage, and much of that can be attributed to the AFTAC Alumni. Through your tireless efforts, the Alumni Association has gone to great lengths to preserve our past and keep our customs and traditions alive. I want to continue to foster this relationship between the AFTAC Alumni and our current active military and civilian workforce.

History is our past; heritage is a reminder of our past. Or as I like to say, history makes us smarter; heritage makes us prouder.

Everything will be OK in the end.

If it’s not OK It’s not the end.
### Membership Application

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**FLORIDA Alumni Association dues (check one, enclose sum):**
- $10 annual dues
- $75 lifetime

**SPECIAL OFFER**, for first time (new) members only, 3 year’s dues for $20

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### Address Information

**ADDRESS:**

_____________________________________________________________________________

**CITY/STATE/ZIP:**

_____________________________________________________________________________

**PHONE NUMBER:** ____________________  **EMAIL/HOME PAGE (optional)** ____________________

**NOTICE:** Membership information will be passed to Association and Chapter members, and may be made available on the website(s) unless stated this information is not to be released.

**SELECT PUBLICATION DELIVERY MODE:** I choose to receive the triannual newsletter, **Post-Monitor** via

- (X one) **(Same Day as ‘Printer’)**
- **Electronic (Link/PDF) __**
- **(Hard-Copy, Several Weeks Later) USPS __**

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### AFTAC Worldwide Reunion

15-18 Jun 2017

**Registration**

### Fri, 16 Jun Cocktail Party/Reception

- ___ people x $25.00 = $ ___.

### Sat, 16 Jun: Guided tour of Aerospace Museum

- ___ people (pay $10.00 at museum)

### Sat, 17 Jun: Banquet Dinner Menu Choices:

- Grilled Tri Tip w/ Rosemary Demi Sauce
  - ___ people
- Free Range Chicken Breast w/ Basil Salsa
  - ___ people
- Pistachio Crusted Salmon w/ Citrus Beurre Blanc
  - ___ people
- Wild Mushroom Ravioli w/ Sage Cream Sauce
  - ___ people

**Total Banquet**

- ___ people x $50.00 = $ ___.

**Grand Total = $ ___.

### Sun, 18 Jun: Farewell Brunch (Sunday 9:00am - ?)

[No host or agenda, Complimentary breakfast provided to hotel guests.]

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**PLEASE REGISTER EARLY – THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS 16 MAY 2017**

Make your check payable to “AFTAC-WCC” and mail it along with the top of this form to:

AFTAC-WCC
P.O. Box 3974
Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974

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**Note:** If you are staying at the Lion’s Gate hotel, be sure to register directly with the hotel and mention you are with the AFTAC reunion to receive special room rates. See the WCC Webpage for more information.