AFTAC Alumni Association, Patrick AFB, FL

Electronic Post-Monitor (ePoMo) Volume 14 - Issue 3

POST-MONITOR

VOL 26 – ISSUE 03
WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.AFTACAA.US

The Alumni Anthem
Over the years and at younger ages ... 'GS,' 'E' and 'O' were our gauges
But now we've reached the best of stages
Being one of the Center’s Sages

Long-Range Detection
denotes and represents all who served the mission throughout its inception and history. Recognized for 70 years of service to our country 1947 – 2017
A 70TH COIN WAS ONLY AVAILABLE TO ATTENDEES AT THE DINING OUT HELD IN 2017.

** Sage ALERTS –WHAT’ COMING UP **
[For a complete list of upcoming events, see page 22]

2019 AFTACAA SNOWBALL XXI
Saturday, 2 February 2019
Location: Holiday Inn Melbourne-Viera Conf Ctr
8298 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne FL (I-95 Exit 191)
Theme: AFTAC Sports  Dress: Florida Casual
Social Hour/Check-in:  5:30 – 6:30 PM
Chimes/Introduction/National Anthem/POW-MIA Remembrance/Sage Salute/Invocation:  6:35 PM
Dinner:  7 PM
Break/Dessert:  8 PM
Program:  8:15 PM
Menu:  Chicken Marsala w/sautéed mushrooms in a Marsala Sauce w/starch & vegetable, OR
       Flat Iron Steak, w/starch & vegetable, OR
       Portobello Mushroom Napoleon w/fresh vegetables & red pepper sauce
       Include House Salad, Rolls, Ice Tea, Coffee, & Dessert (Key Lime Pie)
Entertainment: TBD – watch the Web page
Cost:  $40 per person (dinner & tip included)
RSVP:  NLT Friday, 25 January – 12 Noon
       [No refunds after 25 January without valid reason]

NOTE:  PoMo pictures (& more) are at our website (URL at banner above) on various pages.  Also, check the Colorado and California websites for more pictures, reports, and information.  URL with chapter information on next page.
AFTAC/Long Range Detection (LRD) Alumni Honorarium
Several ongoing projects represent and honor Center people and history. Three, ‘Hall of Heritage’ (data/artifacts), the ‘20-Year Wall of Service’ (alumni who served the Center for 20+ years and have mailed in their photos/bios) and the Wall of Honor, are housed at AFTAC Headquarters. Another is an AFTAC display at the Grand Encampment, WY, Museum. Association History A group of retired/active duty AFTACers, by invitation from then CC, Col Clapper, met at Patrick AFB, FL, on March 12, 1985, and formed the AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA) (chartered, 1986); (from 2001-2014, we were renamed ‘Long Range Detection’ (LRD). The Association provides a forum for those wishing to maintain a relationship with this 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 at the bottom of each page at www.aftacaa.org )-Dues, $10/FY (1 Oct-30 Sep) payable in Oct/$75 for life. Most monthly meetings are at 1600, second Monday each month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC HQ (Bldg 10989), or other venue, at Patrick AFB, FL-details, see ‘Sage Schedule’ on page 22. Contact: Mike Steskal, steskalmike@gmail.com, mailing address is: PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892. The Association has several communications resources, this triannual newsletter, ‘Post-Monitor’ (namesake of prior active-duty publication, ‘Monitor’) & a multi-page Website, see banner on previous page, with asmn/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 Harrison, Hosp 89-00; Mary Welch (D), Mbrshp 91-99; Carl Gailey (D), Treas 91-99; Swede Swansen, Pub 93-06; John & Christel (D) Horsch/1999-Frank Hall/1996- Judy Milam-Henderson/1997-Carl Gailey (D)/1996- Clark Creery/1995

Frank Calenda, Website Manager, sent the following as a notice of our meeting of 12.10. I thought it so appropriate I asked for permission to use in my editorial ... he agreed, thank you, Frank.

“AFTAC Alumni eAllert – Did-ja Ever Wonder What Goes On?”

This is one of my looonnngggg alerts – Get a cuppa coffee or something.

I was sitting at the Marina one Friday night enjoying a cool beer. It’s the only night my wife lets me drink. A former AFTAC’er sitting next to me asked, “What do you guys do at those Alumni meetings? They gotta be boring. What do you guys ever do anyway?”

He was obviously a very infrequent reader of our website and our Post Monitors.

I told him that at the last meeting, we had 16 bored people attend. It would have been more but the commander and several board members were out of town.

I continued to tell him that during that meeting, Ed Lindsay, our President, discussed the financial health of the Association, Mike Steskal updated our membership totals, which might surprise you. John Horsch discussed the upcoming Post Monitor and asked for inputs from many people. I discussed the website and the new updates being made. MSgt Goll reviewed the Sage Shop.

Dr Mike Young talked about the Heritage Room and the continuing plans for it, Lou Seiler gave updates on the Memorial For Line of Duty Deceased which is shaping up to be a fine project (We’ll give everyone more information on that as it develops) ....and Arlin Massy, our Secretary sat there and took the minutes. All this chatter was intermingled with some jokes and laughter…we really aren’t old fuddy-duuds.

Then everyone piped in on old business: Our upcoming annual SnowBall get-together, the Denver

(continued on page 4)
UPCOMING AFTACAA SCHEDULED EVENTS

2019 AFTACAA SNOWBALL XXI – 2 FEBRUARY 2019 (continued from page 1)

AFTACAA POC: Sean Ryan, AFTACAA Social Committee Chair (oceanblueview@yahoo.com) (unlisted) or Cell 321-591-9053 (unlisted); HQ AFTAC Building POC: Ms Carol Snyder (carol.snyder@us.af.mil) – 321-494-4402

Registration Form Available on Page 21 and also at Website: www.aftacaa.us

Friday, 3 May 2019
AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)
Annual Spring Golf-n’GetTogether XXXIV

Venue: Manatee Cove Golf Course, PAFB. Check-in: 11:30; 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 -- 321-610-7548 (Unlisted)
Mr. Bruce Snelgrove -- robert.snelgrove @ us.af.mil -- 321-494-6166 (Unlisted)

SEE PAGE 22 FOR COMPLETE LIST OF ON-GOING ACTIVITIES AND MEETING DATES

SPOTLIGHT
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
ELECTION RESULTS

In addition to the Elected Officers, a group of individuals are dedicated to making the Alumni Association function properly.

Some of these individuals include, but are not limited to:
- The people who are primarily responsible for publication of the PoMo are listed at the bottom of page 2 – right column – but John Horsch is the driving force of the group.
- In addition to the Treasurer position, Sean Ryan also covers Publicity and is our Major Arranger for the Annual Snowball dinners.
- Judy Henderson covers Hospitality
- Ed Lindsay and his helpers organize the Golf Tournaments
- Carol Snyder serves as our In-House (AFTAC) contact
- Bob Wiley is our primary Photographer
- Lou Seiler is spearheading the creation of a Memorial Wall for AFTACers who die while serving at AFTAC
- Pete Gilbert and Frank Calenda are the Web/Electronic Media managers
- Mike Steskal is the Membership Chair
- Dr Mike Young is the Hall of Heritage chairperson
- Travis Goll is in charge of the Sage Shop
- CMSgt Joseph is in charge of Activities
The list goes on. It takes a lot of dedicated individuals to make an organization work, and it would be difficult to do the job without those listed above and the other members who show up regularly at the monthly meetings, to help at Golf Tournaments, etc. WON’T YOU CONSIDER HELPING, TOO????

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING (continued from page 2)

Chapter WorldWide Reunion, the success of our recent Golf Tournament, the Commanders invitation for the Alumni to attend the AFTAC Open House and Tony DeMarco told us that he added 15 of our Alumni to our 20-Year Wall page on the website and there’ll be more to come.

When I finished telling these things to the bar fly sitting next to me he said “Wow, you guys really do a lot” No…he didn’t say that, he just ordered another beer.

I’ve told you all this to say that you should join us for our next meeting, see the Sage Schedule in this PoMo for dates. Also, have a look at www.aftaca.us. Enter the main page. Scroll down on the menu box to Calendar of Events and click on that. You’ll see all kinds of events upcoming.

Come join us….don’t be an Alumni stick-in-the-mud.

Happy Holidays from your “bored” Alumni guys.

FEATURED ARTICLES

XXXIII AFTAC Alumni Golf N’GetTogether—Fall 2018
submitted by Ed Lindsay

Another grand gathering of AFTAC Alumni, current AFTACers, and their friends occurred the afternoon of 12 October. It was shaping up to be a fine day and promised to be a fun event. The skies were clear, the air was crisp, and we had an event of epic proportions to put on…maybe I am exaggerating a wee bit.

After our huge turnout of participants at our Spring tourney, this one had many less. In fact we only had 47 golfers for a total of 12 teams. This did not diminish the amount of fun that was had by the participants.

Our volunteers were at the course bright and early to get the venue prepared. Only one problem…there were no supplies to get setup and the tournament coordinator was missing. Frank Calenda did his due diligence and contacted Mr. Ed. He was on his way. But there was another hiccup and he was further delayed. Ed eventually arrived and Frank Hall, Dee and Gene Melchior, and Frank Calenda helped unload the car. The team began to assemble the goodie bags.

The group was now ready to start accepting names and money from our participants. Frank, Dee, Frank, and Gene manned the tables and made the players as comfortable as possible, while relieving them of their hard earned cash to have the honor of playing in this event. They even sold mulligans to help the players achieve a more ridiculous score. Drink tickets were provided and also information on the day’s proceedings. John Horsch soon arrived to take Frank Hall’s spot at the registration table. The golfers were signed up and were getting their practice on at the driving range and the putting green.

Just before 1 pm, the Manatee Golf Tourney Director, Rene Uzee (AFTAC Alumnus), called the masses to the forefront to get their marching orders. The new Commander, Colonel Hartman, also said some inspirational words and thanked the Alumni. Prior to heading out to our respective holes, Bob Wiley, our roving photographer, got all the golfers together for the first ever group photo.

Everyone departed for their assigned holes and played 18 holes of golf…that is the extent of what I observed. I did hear a lot of yelling though. Shouts of triumph and tragedy. Yelps of joy and jubilation, interspersed with cries of disappointment. And that was just from the team I was on. The course was in good shape…we were not.

The golf round came to an end and it was time to head back to the clubhouse, turn in the scorecards, and anxiously await
that is a twist that you don’t see every day. So everyone picked up their door prizes (everyone gets one) and a plate or two of some delicious BBQ pulled pork, BBQ chicken, savory corn, baked beans, and pasta salad. Nice job Aramark/Tides Club catering team. Those that remained for the presentations were treated to some background music. There was a good mix of lies on the scorecards and some accomplishments stood out more than others. When it was all tallied up, here were the results of the day’s battles:

1st place: Larry Olsen, Jonas DeWitte, Pete LaJoie, Lin Stones—51
2nd place: Devin Dean, Troy Lawson, Kurt Malmstrom, Robert McLaughlin—55
3rd place: Bruce Snelgrove, Fred Ward, Don Gilbert, Brad Neihart—57

Closest to the pins: Troy Lawson, Pete LaJoie, Jim Whidden, Devin Dean

Long Drive: Women: Danielle Turlington    Men: Jonas DeWitte

Thanks to Fiesta Azteca-Suntree, Beef O’Brady’s-Satellite Beach, & Charlie and Jake’s-Suntree/Viera.

Susie Glasgow from Kegman Inc. provided our sole $250 donation...AWESOME!!

We also acknowledge our sole $100 sponsor: Hippo Roofing

We had a gracious group of Alumni volunteers come out to help the event go off without a hitch (helped saved my sanity)...Thanks to Gee and Dee Melchoir, Frank Hall, Frank Calenda, Bob Wiley, John Horsch and Rene Uzee at the Manatee golf course and finally the great Aramark team of Rich, Tina, and Sherrie.

All in all a great team effort & looking forward to more of you joining us in May for our Spring event!!!

2018 AFTAC Alumni Golf
12 Oct 2018

Registration-Frank C, Dee M, John H, Gene M

Colonel Hartman talks to the golfers
Woodard, Crumpton, Stubbendeck, McHone

Dennis Kauffmann tries body english

1st place-DeWitte, Olsen, Stones, & LaJoie

2nd place-Dean, Malstrom

3rd place-Gilbert, Ward, Neihart, Snelgrove

Closest to the Pin-Devin Dean

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OBITUARIES

For additional information, see our Web site – https://www.aftacaa.us

TOMMIE BAKER – Reported by the West Coast Chapter

Tommie Kazue Baker, age 91, passed away on 1 November 2018. Born in Tokyo, Japan, Tommie met her husband in Sacramento, CA, and after their marriage moved with him to a number of USAF bases where he was stationed. Tommie volunteered at the Officers’ Wives Club thrift shop at McClellan AFB. Tommie is survived by her husband, Bob E. Baker of Carmichael, CA.
COL (RET) CALVIN WOODROW BROWN

Colonel (Ret) Calvin Woodrow Brown, Age 93, passed away peacefully September 25, 2018. He was pre-deceased by his wife of 69 years, Alice, who passed away in 2016. Calvin was born in Newburyport, MA. After graduating from Newburyport High School, Calvin was inducted into the Army Air Corps in May 1943, trained as a pilot, advanced pilot, and instructor pilot, and then trained new pilots for the WWII effort. During this two and one half year timeframe, Lieutenant Calvin Brown flew a total of about 1000 flying hours in the Fairchild PT-19, the BT-13 "Vultee Vibrator," and the AT-6 "Texan." He was discharged in late November 1945 after graduating a new class of pilots, 2 months after WWII ended. For the next 2 years, he attended Bates College in Maine, married Alice, and then accepted an invitation from the newly formed U.S. Air Force to re-enter military service. Calvin entered the Communications-Electronics field of the USAF in February 1947. During his tour of duty in Germany from 1949-1951, he flew in support of the Berlin Airlift, flying primarily the C-47 "Skytrain;" also the C-54 "Skymaster." In 1952, under Operation Bootstrap, Calvin graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.S. degree and later in his career earned 66 credit hours in Electrical Engineering. From 1954-1956, Calvin was assigned to the Electronic Defense Systems Division and assisted in the deployment of the SAGE System which became the backbone of the North American Air Defense response to a Soviet air attack; SAGE operated in this role from the 1950s into the 1980s. From 1956-1958, Calvin was Chief, Flight Test Officer at HQ Rome Air Force Depot, Griffiss AFB, NY where he flew a variety of aircraft including the C-47 "Skytrain," C-45 "Expeditor," T-33 "T-Bird," T-6 "Texan," F-80 "Shooting Star," and the B-26 "Invader." From May 1960 July 1976 (when he retired), Calvin was assigned to AFTAC. Calvin and Alice were noted for their contributions to the morale of his units' personnel. Calvin is survived by his three children Tom (wife Cathy), Dick (wife Terry) and Bob; seven grandchildren.

Published in The Sacramento Bee on Sept. 29, 2018. NOTE: This info, and much more, to be found on the AFTACAA Website, www.aftacaa.us, and the CA Chapter Website (link at AFTACAA Site).

JERRY BROWN

Jerry Brown died unexpectedly on 30 October 2018 at the age of 80. Jerry served a total of 21 years in the USAF before retiring in 1980. Jerry was an avid sports fan and made stained glass pieces as a hobby. He was an expert do-it-yourself person who could fix anything and did it to perfection. He lived his life for his Lord and Savior and then his wife of 57 years, Billie. Jerry is also survived by his children, Theresa (Bill) Young, James (Amy) Brown, and Thomas Brown.

HUBERT "DICK" DICKINSON - 7 September 1929 – 26 May 2014

Hubert "Dick" Dickinson, 84, of Indian Harbour Beach, passed away peacefully at his home on Memorial Day, May 26, 2014. Dick was born in Memphis, TN, on September 7, 1929. He proudly served 30 years in the US Air Force, including time during the Korean War and also in Vietnam, and retired as a Chief Master Sergeant in 1981. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans since 1991. Dick spent over 20 years of his life in O'Fallon, IL, and was a resident of Indian Harbour Beach since 2004. He is survived by his devoted wife of 59 years, Teru; sons, Andrew (Toni) of NH and John of FL.

Contacted by Marv Owen; Obituary Link, https://www.davisseawinds.com/obituary/dickinson-hubert

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PATRICIA LEE (ROSE) JOSEPH
1 April 1940 – 7 October 2018

Patricia Lee (Rose) Joseph of Jarrell, TX, passed away peacefully on 7 October 2018. Patricia grew up in the Hamlin-Abilene area and married Harry Joseph, Jr., on 4 June 1960. Harry was in the AF and they travelled all over the world. Patricia was a secretary in Civil Service during this time. She graduated with honors with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Wayland Baptist University.

Patricia is survived by Harry, her husband of 58 years, and sons, Gerry Joseph and Jeffrey Joseph (and wife Stephanie).

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ROGER W LUEDKE

Gloria Luedke Email: 'Just want you all to know Roger W Luedke passed away Friday 23 November 2018. He is in the arms of Jesus. No more cancer no more pain.'

NOTE: Notified by FB (99... Site) entry by Geno Wagner on 25 November, and later Frank Calenda passed along Gloria Luedke's email. Geno wrote in his FB entry, “Roger Luedke was a 'U' troop (serving overseas in 1965). He passed away (23 Nov) today in San Diego.” [Check www.aftaca.us for any updated information.]

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FRANK PETERS
2 April 1934 – 15 November 2018

Reported by his daughter, Laura Peters
Frank Peters, died on 15 November 2018. His most memorable service was in this squadron [the 1155th Tech Ops Squadron]. We are having a memorial service for him, hopefully with military honors.

Frank E. Peters died peacefully on 15 November 2018 at the age of 84. He was born in Detroit, Michigan. Frank graduated from Detroit's Cass Tech High School and then joined the Air Force. During his first assignment in South Texas he met Opal (Jean) Scott, his wife of 59 years. While in the AF he obtained his degree in accounting from Sacramento State. After his AF retirement, he went to work for the State of California until his second retirement in 1992. Frank is survived by his daughters Kathryne (Mike) Louritt, Laura (Michael) Peters Ross, and Brenda Freeman [Published in The Sacramento Bee on Dec. 2, 2018]

Forwarded by Bob Fitzgerald, CA Chapter Vice-President and Webmaster, http://www.aftacwcc.org/index.htm. Bob added, "I remember Frank well as he and I served in the 1155th Tech Ops Squadron in different parts of the McClellan Central Laboratory at the same time."

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OLGA “JEAN” POULIN
- 21 October 1934 to 18 November 2018

Olga “Jean” Poulin died on 18 November 2018. “Jean” married Galen Poulin of Cleveland on April 7, 1956. She accompanied her husband around the globe throughout his military career eventually settling in Brevard County in 1975. Olga worked as a federal civil servant for 40 years, the majority of her time as a respected and honored member of AFTAC. She received a Meritorious Civilian Service Medal for her outstanding support and dedication to the Department of the Air Force. She is survived by her husband 62 years, Galen, and her daughters Lynne (Bill), Frances (Butch), Juliana (Mike), Margaret (Gerald), and Marian.

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HELEN SMITH

Helen Smith, 82, of Westminster passed away on September 30, 2018. Helen was the wife of Jack (second president of the Colorado AFTAC Alumni Chapter and AFTAC-LRD Alumni of the Year 2010; Jack passed away in September 2012) and mother of Patrick (Catherine) Smith and Catie (Nate) Davis. [Information provided by Darrell Kline]
BRIGADIER GENERAL (Ret) RAY SHULSTAD

After a long battle with MDS anemia Ray Shulstad passed away on November 21, 2018. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Vicki, his three children Donna, Cathy and Ray. Ray had a long distinguished career in the Air Force retiring in 1994 as a brigadier general. In his civilian career, Ray managed several engineering organizations retiring from the Mitre Corporation in 2006 and established his own consulting company, Shulstad Consulting. He is the author of numerous articles and has published three books: Peace is my Profession, Golden Nuggets: a Practitioner’s Reflections on Leadership, Management and Life, and most recently his wife’s biography, The Quilt of Her Life. He and Vicki live at University Village, a retirement center in Tampa, where he served on the leadership team by chairing the Finance Committee.

[Contacted by Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster, CA Chapter (www.AFTACWCC.org): I remember the general very well from the days when he was a Captain in the 1155th Tech Ops Squadron, McClellan Central Laboratory where we both were assigned for a number of years.]

MAIL CALL

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

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

PETER J. OLIVERI, MSgt, USAF, Executive Assistant to the Command Chief, AFTAC reported:

The Annual AFTAC Awards Ceremony will be tentatively held the 3rd week of February from the 18th to the 22nd.

55th Wing Commander

Information forwarded by George Cronin, 16 Oct 2018

Great day for flying! Today, I had a chance to learn even more about the awesome WC-135 Constant Phoenix. A couple things to point out in the photo - 1) amazing operators from the Wildcats of the 45th Reconnaissance Squadron; 2) three members of the crew are part of AFTAC, Detachment 1 - these folks are part of 25th AF with us and amazing mission partners; 3) MSgt Fitzpatrick is in the photo because he flew on the sortie. MSgt Fitzpatrick is the 45th RS First Sergeant and a career Civil Engineer Electrician. As a 1st Sgt, he wanted to understand the mission and challenges of his 45th RS team. Awesome teamwork, professionalism, and dedication! Warhawks (and AFTAC) lead the fight!

For more information and photos, visit https://www.25af.af.mil/

FRANK CALENDA, 24 August 2018

Judy, I think that you did a great job on the current PoMo. I know it takes time to do this and your dedicated efforts are well appreciated. Kind regards,
[Thanks, Frank, --- Judy]

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FRANK CALENDAR, eALLert, 11.27

Just a very brief note about the holidays. There are so many activities happening during these festive days that it’s difficult to keep the eAllerts at a minimum. You will probably see more of these alerts for the next month so please bear with us. All we want to do is keep our readers informed.

Wishing You Many Happy Holidays – Your Florida AFTAC Alumni Association

DON HOLLAND replied, I wish you happy holidays too!
I’m currently in Afghanistan supporting the US Army. I’ve been here since March and I won’t be home until February. So, I’ll be spending the holidays here in Bagram. Cheers!

MARK WILLIAMS replied
Thanks for the “warning.” All of your efforts to keep us informed are appreciated. I read every email you send. Have a safe and Merry Christmas


JANET KARIKA NAMED CHIEF OF STAFF AT NASA – …Ms. Janet Karika will begin serving as … [the NASA] Chief of Staff on Monday, Nov. 26. Ms. Karika is a recognized subject matter expert on space policy, space transportation, and non-proliferation

JEFF ANTHONY, 09.07-Facebook, 99 ...

Site, “Here’s the SEIS Website for the InSight Mission …, https://www.seis-insight.eu/en/
John H - Thanks you, Jeff, for calling our attention to this interesting mission.

STEVE LACCINORE - email, 08.30

Writing from the perspective of being a former SEO (Class of June, 1968) I would like to know if any alumni – especially former SEO’s – know where the patches shown might be obtainable 50 years later. I have the two patches shown, one taken from my flight jacket when I was discharged in December of 1970 and one obtained at the Las Vegas reunion of 2008. The former was issued at the former Det 202 when an SEO had flown 50 missions over 90⁰ north, usually on Lark Alpha missions, and the latter was not used by SEO’s during the time of my service but was adopted later. If you know how or where they might be obtainable, would you please advise? Thank you! SEO, 68-70, 206-255-0855, selaccinole@selpeco.com

TUCKALEECEE CAVENS HELP TRACK NORTH KOREA NUCLEAR TESTS

The sounds and vibrations in the bedrock of a Tennessee cave provide ideal conditions for seismic experts who monitor nuclear activity across the globe. Author: Jim Matheny. Published: April 13, 2018

The stunning visuals at Tuckaleechee Caverns attract tourists to these illuminated caves near Townsend, Tennessee. Yet, it is the sounds and vibrations in the bedrock that attracts the U.S. military to the site to monitor nuclear testing around the world. “Say hello to the Department of Defense,” said Benjamin Vananda as he pointed to a ceiling-mounted surveillance camera inside the main entrance at Tuckaleechee Caverns. “They are watching us watching it [the camera] right now. Their primary interest is watching North Korea and Iran.”

For additional information, see the article forwarded by John Galvin, ‘Facebook 99... Website,’ Tuckaleechee Caverns help track North Korea nuclear tests, https://www.wbir.com/article/news/local/tuckaleechee-caverns-help-track-north-korea-nuclear-tests/51-538096147
JACK O’CONNOR, 11.28, Y’all are doing a great job. I am most grateful.

NUCLEARFallback DETECTED IN AUSTRALIAN SHEEP IN 1979 ATTRIBUTED TO A COVERT NUCLEAR TEST - Information provided by Scott Gordon

A Radioactive dust cloud swept over Western and South Australia. It wasn’t the British, nor the US or French. A new study says it was probably a covert test by Israel.

In 1979, a strange ‘double flash’ was observed by a satellite as coming from between South Africa and Antarctica. It was a telltale cue. That kind of flash was usually a nuclear explosion.

Almost 39 years later, there appears to be fresh evidence that’s exactly what it was. For additional info, see https://www.news.com.au/technology/innovation/military/nuclear-fallout-detected-in-australian-sheep-in-1979-has-been-attributed-to-a-covert-nuclear-test/news-story/56296e02ca51ffdb74f5e55514439e86

FROM THE TOP – by Ed Lindsay

Guten Tag, Hola, Aloha, Sawadee Krap, Ahn Yang Ha Say Yo, Howdy, Howzit and many other greetings to the fine audience of our well-traveled AFTAC Alumni members. The year is coming to a close and that means it is time for another short message from Mr. Ed…the current President (will this guy ever get replaced?) and Special Ed to those who know him well (there I go talking in the third person again). Enough of the pleasantries, on to the more salient ramblings.

We had our Annual Membership meeting in September. A very good turnout and we did not have to call people in at the last minute due to not having a quorum. The even better bonus was that even though many of our regular attendees were out of town, the venerable AFTAC Bowling team showed up in force and some other members decided to attend to give us a quorum. Voting for next year’s Board was conducted. The current Board members had agreed to continue in their positions if needed, we did not have any nominations from the floor, and no one threw their hat in the ring…so the four grand PooBahs will hold the seats for 2019. After the meeting, Bob Wiley convened the Alumni of the Year committee and the previous AOY cadre performed their Wizardry. I am assuming they came up with a most deserving individual to bestow this honor upon. I guess we will find out at the Snowball next year.

Speaking of the Snowball, we were looking for a theme and Judy Milam-Henderson recommended a Sports and Fitness theme. Many thought this was a great idea. HQ AFTAC, TOD, the Dets, and other entities of AFTAC have always had a proud tradition of doing very well in intramural sports. So we are asking for Alumni that may have some AFTAC sporting memorabilia (jerseys, hats, trophies..etc), to display at our Snowball on 2 Feb, 2019. AFTAC even has a Hockey team. While maybe some of us are not as fit as we used to be, I feel this will be a great evening. Further details available and to follow in this PoMo, on the website, and via eALLerts.

The next big event (or not so big), was the Fall Golf-n’GetTogether. It was held on 12 October at the Manatee Golf Course. Read more about it in this edition.

As I mentioned in the August PoMo, the Mothership has changed to Groups and Squadrons. This has changed the dynamic of how events and the Boosters Club are conducted. Some traditional events that would take place have been moved or canceled for the interim. The Toilet Bowl Softball tourney will now be held in the Spring; the Winter Social was not held this year, allowing instead for the smaller unit to conduct a more focused event, and the Holiday Open House gathering will not be having their Potlucks in the working spaces. They are having a big Open House that will showcase the changes in the Org and what is business as usual. They have invited the Alumni and over 60 alumni and their family/friends have signed up to attend.

It has been four months since our last post Monitor. Please take the time to read all the articles, letters, upcoming events, obituaries and information from the Colorado and West Coast chapters. Of course as you know, between publications of your PoMo, you can always go to the website at www.aftacaa.us to get breaking news and updates on events.

As always, I appreciate so much the great team that is the AFTAC Alumni Association. They have a deep passion for the AFTAC Organization and the friends they have made through the years. It is always good to hear from the membership
and I look forward to many more great tales and adventures from the people of AFTAC. Thank you all for being part of this organization and sharing your experiences with AFTAC and each other. Have a very blessed Christmas and I wish all of you a better 2019 than 2018 and only increasing happiness throughout your lives.

Cheers, Ed Lindsay

Board Members (elected positions)
President-Ed Lindsay-Vice Jim Whidden-Secretary & Publicity-Arlin Massey-
Treasurer-Sean Ryan

Appointed –
Activities-CMSgt Joseph, CCMS, Hall of Heritage-Mike Young/CC HO/Bob Wiley,
Hospitality-Judy Henderson, Membership/Member Data Base Mike Steskal Post-Monitor
Editor John Horsch, Post Monitor Formatting-Judy Henderson, Alumni of the Year
Coordinator-Bob Wiley, Publicity-Sean Ryan, Sage Shop-MSgt John Goll, Website
Manager-Frank Calenda

Bob Wiley led the Alumni of Year selection process after the Annual General Membership Meeting in September – results will be announced at the Snowball Dinner on 2 February 2019.

A FEW MINUTES FROM THE MINUTES
This column will help you stay up-to-date on issues that are not covered in other places in the PoMo.

Memorial for Line of Duty Deceased AFTAC’ers: Lou Seiler reported that the 501(c) (3) application has been submitted and we’re waiting on IRS action before progressing. Also, he is working to finalize the memorials initial design so that formal quotes can be solicited.

Constitution/By-Laws review: Members reviewed the current documents and voted at the September 2018 Annual General Membership Meeting to keep the documents as written.

Membership Report: Mike Steskal reported we have 562 Life Time members with 33 year-to-year members. Florida members are down to 595 with 2 members passing and 1 duplicate record and eAlls are at 1117. He sent an e-mail, second notice, to those who haven’t paid their dues for 2019 (17 members remaining).

Website Committee: Frank Calenda started by saying thank you to Tony DeMarco for all his hard work on the 20-year wall. He discussed Web site development and Beta testing on changes/updates to our Web site and the possible adding of the California and Denver members to the Web data base.

AFTAC Historian: Dr Mike Young said the new commander is very interested in ideas on displaying AFTAC history in the Heritage Room and looking for suggestions and inputs.

DEPOT Fallout ~ Excerpts from the AFTAC Alumni West Coast Chapter newsletter
For more information, visit their Web site at www.AFTACWCC.org

From the Vice President ~ by Bob Fitzgerald

As most of you know our organization, The West Coast Chapter of the AFTAC Alumni Association, is getting on in age and in danger of not being able to continue for too long into the future unless we have more members who live in the greater Sacramento region willing to step up and volunteer to help us keep the WCC alive and well. If you have just an hour or so once a month or quarterly and are willing to assist, please contact us: TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org, or better yet, attend a quarterly business meeting.

First WB-47 Flight: Positive Contact! – By SEO Bill Scott

EXCERPTS FROM ARTICLE IN OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER: Shortly before our Special Equipment Operator (SEO) class graduated in the spring of 1969, instructors at AFTAC’s Airborne schoolhouse in McClellan AFB’s “Splinter City” decided there was no need to tag along students’ initial WB-47 training flights. After all, these kids were almost fully qualified SEOs. Why should an NCO instructor rattle around in the belly of a Forty-Seven for three boring hours, watching a student monitor a Rustrak recorder and change filter papers on-schedule?

I happened to be our class’s first almost-an-SEO to “solo” on the WB-47.
Then-Staff Sgt. Roger Krautkremer and I drove to the MCC flight line, where he re-briefed the emergency-egress procedures, then introduced me to the mission pilot, copilot and navigator. The pilot, a senior major, growled, “If I yell ‘Bailout!’ and you say ‘What?’ you’ll be aircraft commander, because we’ll be gone.”

The training mission called for flying a triangular route over the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii. Our crew settled into what would be a long, boring flight, each man absorbed in his own tasks. The tap-tap-tap of my Rustrak recorder’s pen was hypnotic as it inscribed a horizontal trace on a pressure-sensitive paper tape. Well into the flight, I noted a distinctive rise in that trace. My heart rate matched the increase, as I switched from Level Two, then Level Three. The line continued to angle upward.

Holy bat-****! A positive! But something didn’t add up. The slope of that Rustrak trace kept climbing at a steady rate as the aircraft droned along at 400+ knots. Should I call a “positive hit” and tell Old Grumpy [the Pilot] to start orbiting over the ocean? If I were wrong, he’d rip my young tail to shreds. And I’d be the laughing stock of the 1155th Tech Ops Squadron, if the lab found nothing on my filter papers. Better do some checking….

Sweating more than a little, I started checking everything associated with our equipment. On the back of a box, I found a loose fuse, still in its socket, but rattling around. I pushed and turned, locking the fuse back into place. Immediately, the Rustrak trace reversed direction, tap-tapping downhill, then leveling off in the normal range. No way that would happen…. I logged the incident and breathed sighs of relief, profusely thanking the God who watched over green SEOs for helping me discover that jittery loose fuse. Luckily, I hadn’t called for an orbit, which would have guaranteed an outburst …. That was my first and last flight on a WB-47. The “weather bomber” was retired soon thereafter, and the B-52 Stratofortress became AFTAC’s sole long-range sampling platform. A few months later, I was assigned to what is now California State University-Sacramento under the USAF Airman’s Education and Commissioning Program. Throughout the next 2.5 years of brutal electrical engineering school, I never forgot a hard-won electronics lesson: Never trust a fuse.

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**ECHOES** – News from the AFTAC Alumni Colorado Chapter

**2019 AFTAC Alumni Worldwide Reunion**

13, 14, & 15 June 2019

DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton located at 13696 East Iliff Place, Aurora, Colorado 80014

The Reunion Invitation and Registration Form are included as pages 23 and 24 of this newsletter.

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**ENCAMPMENT LIVING HISTORY DAYS AND MOUNTAIN MAN RENDEZVOUS** – by Ken Behrens

**EXCERPTS FROM THE ARTICLE:**

Cyndie Wozniak-Behrens and Ken Behrens traveled to Encampment, Wyoming, for the Mountain Man Rendezvous on July 20th staying in Saratoga because lodging in Encampment had been sold out for almost a year. We returned home on the 22nd by way of US 30 stopping in Medicine Bow to see the historic Virginian Hotel.

We had an absolutely great time in Encampment spending all day Saturday taking in the activities going on at the Ren-dezvous. The residents of the town made us feel very welcome and treated us almost as if we were natives! Cyndie and I proudly wore our AFTAC Alumni shirts and I wore an Alumni cap which were recognized by a number of people as the organization that the detachment reported to. Tim Nicklas, director of the Grand Encampment Museum, invited me to speak to visitors about the detachment, the mission and to describe the various equipment on display.

At the end of the day as we were leaving, Mark Dunning, Museum President, said that the AFTAC exhibit had the most visitors of any displays in the museum and that he and the staff had been told that my presentation was extremely informative and interesting. Mark asked if I would consider doing a guest lecture
about AFTAC and the detachment in greater detail at the Opera House when they set up their next lecture schedule. I said that I would be honored to do a presentation. Mark and Tim thanked Cyndie and me for taking the time to volunteer and to visit Encampment, inviting us to return next year for more of the same.

ECHOES Editor’s note: Ken Behrens was in AFTAC for all 6 years of his enlistment from 1963-1969 in B Systems (99125B) achieving the rank of SSgt. He was stationed at Det 204, Alaska and Det 162 Wyoming. He was the Det 162 Chief Analyst 1968-1969.

BECOMING A 99 — by Michael Clark

[Editor’s Note – Michael Clark wrote an extremely interesting and detailed article about his enlistment and selection as a ‘99 and eventual service to AFTAC, but it’s too lengthy to include in the POST MONITOR. Here’s a short introduction to his article.]

An autobiographical sketch of the mystique of beginning a ‘99125’ career.


In the beginning:

He created the Seismic Technique
And He said, “Let there be motion!”
And there was motion
And He said, “Let there be phases!”
And there appeared a multitude of phases
And He saw amongst the multitude
Peep, Shear, Bounce, Reflect, Score, Prism, Rebound, Love and Rayb
And He saw that the giants were ‘99s
And He was pleased
From “B-system, the early days”,

Original author unknown, and subject’s identity only speculated.

Editor’s Note: Michael is a retired SMSgt and his assignments include (in order): Det 515/215 (operator), Det 415 (operator/shift chief), Det 421 (operator/shift chief), 3454 School SQ (ABR 99105 B instructor), Det 421 (Ops Supr), HQ AFTAC Field Operations Branch (DOSB), Det 301 (BSRS – Det Superintendent), Det 415 (Det Chief), and HQ AFTAC Data Evaluations branch and Satellite division superintendent (DONX & DOF). After retirement Michael supported the standup of the Prototype International Data Centre (PIDC) in Arlington, VA, then moved his family to Vienna, Austria, as the Lead Analyst and Analyst Unit Head for the International Data Centre (IDC) in support of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization.

If you have any questions or comments please send an email to: President@aftacco.org and Treasurer@aftacco.org

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from around the AFTAC World

Command Section

Commander/CC/2018. Col Chad J. Hartman earned his commission through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Program at the University of Missouri in 1994. He has led intelligence operations across multiple theaters and echelons, to include an F-117 fighter squadron, Air Operations Centers in Pacific and Central Air Forces, the US Air Force Distribution Common Ground System, and US Special Operations Command. [Full Bio at https://www.25af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC/]

Vice Commander/CV/2018. Col Ralph E. Bordner, III

Col Bordner received his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Central Florida in 1996 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. His career includes multiple space-centric positions, to include crew-certified space operator, space and missile control engineer, chief of ballistic missile subsystems, and research and development engineer. [Full Bio at https://www.25af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC/]

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REPORTS FROM WITHIN THE HQ BUILDING
(Most of the following extracts can be read in their entirety at AFTAC Alumni Website: www.aftacaau.s)

AFTAC Hockey Club 2018-2019 Season *
02 Feb 2019  @ Lynn University Boca Raton, FL
13 Feb 2019  @ University of Miami Pembroke Pines, FL
03 Mar 2019  vs University of Florida Rockledge, FL
30 Mar 2019  vs Florida Institute of Technology Rockledge, FL
20 Apr 2019  vs Brevard Rockets Rockledge, FL
* Dates subject to change

COMMENTARY: Our Cardboard Christmas Tree
By Senior Master Sgt. Eric V. Reynolds, AFTAC, Patrick AFB, FL - Release 18-11-27/001, 27 Nov 2018

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – Holidays are tough for me. I used to love Thanksgiving and Christmas, but some difficult times fell upon my family and I found myself separated from the joy I once knew. Maybe you find this season difficult as well, or maybe you are a sucker for Hallmark-esque Christmas tearjerkers like me my wife. Either way, I’d like to share a little story about how my hardened heart found some healing after great tragedy.

Christmastime was always a very special time for me, with many fond memories of decorating with my mother. She would always make cocoa and we would put up the tree together and sing our favorite songs. I tried my best to keep that tradition alive after getting married and hoped to pass it on to my kids. But the Christmas of 2016 was very different.

Six months earlier my infant son, Marshall, passed away. We saw our children as our most precious gifts, so the thought of celebrating without one of them was hard to bear. In our grief we kept putting off decorating, even though our other children were super excited about what they knew was supposed to be coming.

It started with a cardboard tree. He cut out a six foot tall tree from an old cardboard box, then colored the entire thing with green crayon. He even made a yellow paper star for the top. The other kids joined in and created paper ornaments to put on the tree. But that’s wasn’t enough for him, so he went to the next level.

It was now sometime around the middle of December, well past when we traditionally decorated. I left for work very early one morning but had to run back to the house to retrieve something I had left behind. As I quietly snuck back inside careful not to awaken anyone, I was confronted by a strange scene. My 7-year-old son was struggling to put together our seven foot tall artificial Christmas tree while my wife and the other kids were still sleeping.

Once he noticed I was there he looked at me like I imagine a burglar would look at a cop. He was shocked and a little scared, not knowing how I would react to his endeavor.

In that moment, my brittle heart shattered. I was reminded of the joy and hopeful expectation we often have in our youthful innocence. I was reminded of the most precious gift I ever received – the love and acceptance of my holy father, through his son Jesus Christ. I was reminded of my responsibility to live and to love. I was reminded to give. So I told my son it was okay and I would help him finish setting up the tree when I came home after work, even though I really didn’t want to. I resolved to not let the joy of the season escape from my kids’ lives just because of my own grief.

I still grieve, and probably always will a little bit. But holidays have gotten easier since I made a transition. Now, instead of trying to recreate the memories of my youth so I could relive those joyous moments, I am trying to get better every day at giving back to my family and others. My hope is that they would have some memories worth cherishing and looking back on when their tough times come. I know I’ve certainly needed them.

If you find yourself down this time of year, try doing something different. Don’t worry if you can’t get home for the holidays, or if you don’t have someone special to celebrate with. Make this year about giving to others. There are so
many lonely, hurting and over-stressed people out there just trying to make ends meet, keep their family together or even make it to the next day, let alone to the New Year. So give, serve, pray, or do whatever you can do to help bring a smile to someone else’s face this time of year, whether they choose to celebrate Christmas or any other holiday. You’ll be surprised how soon the smile comes back to your own face when you know you had a part in bringing joy to others.

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Downrange ‘MacGyvers’ creatively get the job done
By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs - Release 18-10-03/001 – 3 October 2018 – Patrick AFB FL

For six successive years starting in 1986, faithful viewers tuned in every evening before Monday Night Football to see what kind of clever solutions Secret Agent Angus MacGyver would concoct to solve cases for the fictional Department of External Services. The rise of MacGyver’s popularity largely stemmed from his innovative and resourceful use of common items to repair things in an improvised way. His ability to use everyday objects to solve seemingly impossible crimes quickly morphed into a verb (to MacGyver something) to describe when someone uses items on hand to make a quick repair.

Today, members of AFTAC sometimes find themselves applying a few MacGyver tactics as a last resort when they travel to one of the center’s many overseas detachments to conduct periodic maintenance on vital seismic equipment. Despite the austerity, Airmen assigned to the 709th Technical Maintenance Squadron at AFTAC must perform periodic maintenance at these sites to ensure uninterrupted access to critical seismic data. From the frozen mountain peaks above the Arctic Circle to the windswept deserts of the Australian Outback to the sub-zero temperatures in the Antarctic, the maintainers trek to some of the most remote corners of the world. And while they travel with a large amount of supplies to repair and maintain their precision equipment, they sometimes find themselves in situations that require MacGyver-like problem-solving skills.

Pictured here are seismic technicians from AFTAC, Patrick AFB, Fla., who traveled to Vanda, Antarctica, to conduct routine annual maintenance on seismic equipment that contributes to the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System. USAF photo

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Musical Tesla Coil, 3-D printer draws crowd at Science Bowl
By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs - Release 18-10-02/001, Oct. 2, 2018

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – With the help of members of AFTAC, children and adults alike were drawn to synchronized music emanating from a Tesla coil on display at the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers annual conference Sept. 17-18 in Orlando.

The conference is NOBCChE’s premier event where visiting students can interact with corporate, academic, non-profit and government professionals in the fields of chemistry, chemical engineering, and other STEM-related fields. Each year, the organization hosts a Science Bowl for students in grades 4 to 12, with questions that focus heavily on well-known scientists and inventors of color throughout history.

In addition to the interactive STEM display, AFTAC’s chief of recruiting, Rose Day, managed a booth in the exhibition hall to encourage students to consider employment with the Department of Defense’s sole nuclear treaty monitoring center. For more information about AFTAC’s STEM outreach program or to learn more about a career at AFTAC, send an email to AFTAC.Jobs@us.af.mil – to see the entire article about the Musical Tesla Coil, see www.aftacaa.us

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Hoop coaches, life mentors: AFTAC Airmen engage with community youth
By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs, Patrick AFB, FL, Release 18-11-15/001. 15 November 2018

When a local recreational basketball league was looking for volunteers to coach youth athletes, two brothers assigned to AFTAC stepped up to the challenge. SSgts Jarrod and Jordan Peterson, despite having no children of their own, submitted their names for consideration to the Viera Regional Community Center, a multipurpose athletic facility near the base that’s home to fall and spring basketball leagues. After a face-to-face interview and required background check, the
pair was initially assigned to coach 11-12 year-old age groups of eager boys and girls. Realizing the rec center needed more volunteers, the brothers reached out to some of their co-workers and encouraged them to get involved. They convinced several Airmen to join them as assistant coaches.

The fraternal twins, who work as web developers for AFTAC’s 709th Cyberspace Squadron, share a passion for basketball, and now after coaching local youth, also share a special place in their hearts for the players who have made such an impact on them.

Airmen from AFTAC pose for a photo in the base fitness center. The Airmen volunteered their off-duty time to serve as youth basketball coaches for a local recreational league. Pictured from left to right: SSgt Jordan Peterson, SSgt Dustin Elliott, SSgt Floridamae Mones, A1C Willie Robinson and A1C Canaan Kennedy
(USAF photo by Phillip C. Sunkel IV)

eFAILution Wall: Failure + Learning = Successful Evolution
By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs, Patrick AFB FL, Release 18-09-17/001, 17 Sep 2018

Henry Ford, founder of the Ford Motor Company and captain of industry once said, “Failure is the only opportunity to begin again, only this time more wisely.” One AF organization is taking Ford’s words to heart. AFTAC is emphasizing to its workforce the importance of learning through failure. In 2013, AFTAC formed an Innovation Lab to find ways to improve and accomplish their mission by developing concepts and technologies faster and cheaper. But the number one reason for establishing the lab was to enable innovators within the center to take calculated risks and evolve from failure to achieve success. From that concept grew the center’s “eFAILution” wall – a prominent centerpiece of projects displayed on the wall that didn’t quite make the grade. It’s what lab personnel describe as “…a lineage of success born of failure…” and their central message is simple: continue to learn and evolve from your mistakes.

"AFTAC has some of the most incredibly talented people in the Air Force," said Col. Chad Hartman, AFTAC commander, “but our most powerful attribute is this organization’s long-standing culture of continuous learning. We are not simply ‘celebrating failure’ at AFTAC; what we are celebrating is a willingness to take risks and fail forward in order to learn.”

The Innovation Lab has grown exponentially since its inception and has been benchmarked by other organizations throughout the Air Force. The team of AFTAC Airmen who make up the Innovation Lab possess a diverse set of skills: electrical, chemical and mechanical engineers; computer scientists and programmers; technical applications specialists; and machinists, just to name a few. Each Airman has demonstrated a persistent desire to excel while applying their vast knowledge and abilities.

Today, AF leadership at the highest levels have challenged its officers and senior enlisted advisors to create a culture where Airmen can and should put innovation at the forefront of their daily actions and encourage them to step outside their comfort zone to kick-start innovation while trying out new ideas. AFTAC has proven it’s an organization that’s capitalizing on that challenge.

Members of AFTAC’s Innovation Lab pose in the nuclear treaty monitoring center’s machine shop. Pictured (l to r starting in front row): LtCol Christopher Hall, SSgt Josh Van Horne, SrA James Rensehhouse, MSgt Nathan Shaw, 1stLt Drew Belk, TSgt Collin Pesicka, TSgt Riley Mills, Capt Barron Stone, and SrA Matthew Goodrich.
(USAF photo by Susan A. Romano)

Creative prototype leads to fielded implementation
By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs, Patrick AFB, FL, Release 18-09-19/001. 19 Sep 2018

When members of the only agency in the Department of Defense charged with monitoring nuclear treaties discovered shipped equipment was not being accurately accounted for at forward supply points, they took to the drawing board to devise a solution. Airmen from AFTAC were determined to solve negative inventory trends, so they sketched out a conceptual prototype the old-fashioned way – with pen and paper.
One aspect of the nuclear treaty monitoring center’s global mission is to gather seismic data to detect underground nuclear activity. The center uses seismometers positioned throughout the world to accomplish that mission. In order to perform routine maintenance on these precision equipment, AFTAC Airmen rely on what’s called a winch mast assembly that is used to install, troubleshoot, remove and replace seismometers that sit in boreholes up to 500 feet below the earth’s surface. When the assembly, with its multiple parts and pieces, is hoisted out of the borehole, it’s either placed in storage, shipped back to Florida for maintenance, or repaired on site.

Over time, many of the parts were being separated from the main assembly, which ultimately caused inventory, shipping and maintenance issues. So a team of AFTAC logisticians got together to figure out how to solve the problem. Tom Lehnerz, chief materiel manager and a supply expert with the 709th Support Group’s logistics flight, spearheaded the effort. Once he and his team had a viable concept, they built a prototype, modified it a few times based on inputs from depot and field technicians, and came up with a workable solution.

Pictured here is TSgt Timothy Kavanagh, NCOIC of product support for AFTAC, as he explains to CMSgt Frank Batten, command chief of Air Combat Command, how he designed a crate to better ship, house and store AFTAC’s precision seismic equipment that is used to monitor worldwide nuclear activity.  

Photo by Susan A. Romano

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COP FOR A DAY: AFTAC Airmen learn role of base Security Forces
By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs, Patrick AFB, FL, Release 18-08-20/001, 20 August 2018

Members of AFTAC spent a day with Airmen of the 45th Security Forces Squadron at Patrick AFB to learn more about the law enforcement officers who patrol and protect the installation and its most critical resource: the people.

Eighteen military and civilian personnel of AFTAC’s 21st Surveillance Squadron teamed up with cops July 30 to get an up-close-and-personal look into how base law enforcement trains in shoot/no-shoot scenarios and to experience what it feels like to be stunned by a Taser. Staff Sgt. Adam Edwards, NCOIC of deployed analysis system (DAS) logistics, suggested to his squadron commander that pairing up with the 45th SFS would be a great way to spend their Comprehensive Airman Fitness Day. His commander concurred, and Edwards coordinated the visit with the unit scheduler at the 45th SFS.

Once the coordination efforts were complete, the team of AFTAC scientists, engineers, technicians and analysts made the trip to the base defense operations center where they were met by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Angelini, noncommissioned officer in charge of training, and Senior Airman Steven Morales, unit schedule and training specialist. The group was led into a large room that houses the SFS’ VirTra System, a state-of-the-art training simulator security forces experts use to train for the most difficult real-world situations. “VirTra is a 300-degree wrap-around simulator that’s configured to employ an M4 (rifle) and an M9 (handgun) with realistic visual scenarios to give our guys an understanding of what it looks like downrange under extremely stressful situations,” said Angelini. “We’ve been using the system for about two years now, and it’s been extremely beneficial. We’re able to train using dozens of scenarios, like an active shooter, a suicidal ideation, use of force, or even urban combat conditions. It’s an incredibly realistic system.”

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Air Force Chief Scientist pays visit to treaty monitoring center
By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs, Patrick AFB FL, Release 18-10-22/001, 22 October 2018

The Chief Scientist of the Air Force paid a visit to DOD’s sole nuclear treaty monitoring center recently to meet with senior leaders and attend the center’s annual Research and Development Roadmap Forum. Dr. Richard Joseph was one of 169 mission partners and community stakeholders who attended AFTAC’s annual forum, which was designed to focus on AFTAC’s multi-faceted, global mission.

“The purpose of the R&D Roadmap is to codify pathways to meet forthcoming challenges of our treaty monitoring and nuclear forensics mission,” said Dr. William Junek, AFTAC senior scientist. “We were fortunate enough to have Dr. Joseph join us this year, and his contributions during our breakout sessions were invaluable.” Prior to the start of the forum, the Air Force Chief Scientist had the opportunity to tour AFTAC’s radiochemistry lab, Innovation Lab, and 24/7 operations center.

Joseph, a former commissioned officer in the AF, has more than 40 years of experience as a physicist, directed energy researcher, senior program manager, national security advisor, and government executive. In his role as the AF’s senior scientist, he advises the AF Chief of Staff and Secretary of the AF by providing assessments on a wide range of scientific issues. He is responsible for identifying and analyzing technical issues to bring them to the attention of other senior AF and
governmental leaders. “I’m extremely proud of the team who navigated all the moving parts to make a program like this such a success,” said Dr. Glenn E. Sjoden, AFTAC Chief Scientist. “Until you actually put together an event of this magnitude, you truly can’t appreciate how much work is actually involved. It takes a remarkable team comprised of members working across multiple directorates to make a forum of this complexity successful.” Sjoden added, “I hope Dr. Joseph and the rest of our stakeholders walked away with a greater understanding of AFTAC’s global mission, and I hope they will return next year with even bigger and better ideas to discuss.”

Chemist at AFTAC earns award from national Hispanic organization

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs, Patrick AFB, FL, Release 18-09-19/001, 19 September 2018

A scientist at the Air Force Radiochemistry Laboratory here was selected to receive the Meritorious Service Award from National Image, Inc. Diana Velosa, a chemist in AFTAC’s Ciambrone Radiochemistry Lab, earned the award for “fostering an innovative and harmonious environment between the military and the Hispanic-American civilian community.”

As one of two lead technicians in AFTAC’s world-class clean room, Velosa safely processed nuclear samples for the International Atomic Energy Agency in an effort to combat nuclear weapons proliferation. She is responsible for analyzing and identifying radiological and nuclear debris from foreign nuclear explosions in support of national security requirements. In addition to her role at the DOD’s sole nuclear treaty monitoring center, Velosa spent countless hours mentoring students and participating in regional community events to help bring science-related demonstrations and exhibits to local schools.

Breaking the STEM mold, one woman at a time

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs, Patrick AFB, FL, Release 18-08-24/001, 24 August 2018

In 1976, esteemed historian and author Laurel Thatcher Ulrich wrote a book entitled, “Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History.” The premise of her work was to shine a light on famous women throughout history who challenged the way things were done. While the title may seem to be a modern-day rallying cry for women to go out and break the rules through misbehavior, that was not the premise of her message. Ulrich’s emphasis was to encourage women to do more – to break with convention, make a mark on history and prove that ordinary people, including women, can have a lasting impact on the world by doing the unexpected. Today, women from all walks of life are taking Ulrich’s words to heart and finding ways to break those proverbial molds as they seek out careers in positions traditionally held by men.

Women make up half the current U.S. workforce, but only 26 percent of them are in STEM – science, technology, engineering and math. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 61 percent of women in STEM are in the social sciences (communication, education, public health, etc.). Only 13 percent of women are in a hard science field such as engineering. From an Air Force perspective, 64,367 of the nearly 321,000 Airmen currently on active duty are women. Of that 20 percent, even less are in STEM-related fields. Air Force leadership is trying to break that cycle.

One of the ways AFTAC is looking to increase the number of female employees in technically-skilled roles is hosting its annual Women in Science and Engineering Symposium. For the past four years, AFTAC has invited the best speakers from various industries – academia, defense, corporate and commercial – to share best practices on how to recruit, engage, employ and encourage women into hard science career paths.

This year, America celebrates the 38th anniversary of the establishment of National Women’s Equality Day on 26 August. The commemoration stemmed out of the National Women’s History Project as a way to promote and educate the role of women throughout history. In honor of National Women’s Equality Day, here are a few of AFTAC’s “mold-breakers.”
AFTAC molecular biologist represents Air Force at SWE18 conference
By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs, Patrick AFB FL, Release 18-11-06/001, 6 November 2018

A molecular biologist assigned to AFTAC represented the AF at the Society of Women Engineers’ annual conference Oct. 18-20, 2018 in Minneapolis. Julia Ignacek, deputy director of AFTAC’s Strategic Integration Directorate, was invited to serve as a panelist during a session entitled, “Leading Innovation in the Public Sector: Perspectives from NASA, the Army and the Air Force.”

A panel of experts deliver their remarks and take questions from the audience attending the 2018 Society of Women Engineers Annual Conference in Minneapolis Oct. 20, 2018. AFTAC molecular biologist Julia Ignacek (second from right) represented the Air Force at the event to discuss innovation in the public sector. Pictured with Ignacek are Dr. Alexis McKittrick, research staff member for the Science and Technology Policy Institute and panel moderator; Roslin Hicks, deputy director for NASA’s Michoud Assembly Facility; and Col. Michelle Link, assistant program officer for U.S. Army Logistics.

Key Spouses dedicated to helping Airmen, families feel connected
By Richard Salomon, Air Force’s Personnel Center / Published October 22, 2018, JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS)

As service-minded volunteers, Air Force Key Spouses play an important role in building strong and resilient units, especially at the squadron level. Key Spouses and Key Spouse Mentors serve as part of the Air Force Key Spouse Program and are selected and appointed in writing by unit commanders to act as official unit representatives. The Key Spouse Program is an official Air Force unit family readiness element designed to enhance readiness, strengthen personal and family resilience and help foster a sense of community among Airmen and families.

For more information about the Key Spouse Program, visit https://www.afpc.af.mil/Benefits-and-Entitlements/Key-Spouse-Program/.

Additional Articles available on the AFTAC Alumni Website: www.aftaca.us include:
- Contractor with treaty monitoring center puts lifesaving skills to the test
- AFTAC upgrades phone system to enhance security
- Center exercises capability to relocate treaty monitoring mission
- COMMENTARY: Leadership in a Selfie Culture
2019 AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA) SnowBall XXI
Saturday, 2 February 2019
Holiday Inn Viera-Hotel, 8298 North Wickham Road, Melbourne, FL (I-95, Exit #191)

Social Hour/Check-In: 5:30 – 6:30; Dinner: 7:00; Break: 8:00; Program: 8:15

** Please print a copy of RSVP, make your selections, and return the information below, with payment to:

AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)
ATTN: 2019 AFTACAA SnowBall XXI
P.O. Box 254892
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892

(Note: Cash may be used for local guests), by: 25 January 2019, NLT 1200. (No Refunds after 25 January 2019, unless a valid reason submitted, that Elected Board, may approve.)

Number attending: _______. Amount enclosed @: $40.00 per person. Total Enclosed: $________.

NAME: ____________________________________________________________

Any other information: ________________________________________________

NAME: ____________________________________________________________

Please list additional names on back of form. How may we contact you if necessary?
_____________________________________________________________________

MENU CHOICES:

_____ Chicken Marsala w/Sauteed Mushrooms in a Marsala Sauce, w/Starch and Vegetable. OR
_____ Flat Iron Steak, w/Starch and Vegetable. OR
_____ * Portobello Mushroom Napoleon w/Fresh Vegetable and Red Pepper Sauce.
(*Will be offered only as a Special Order Vegetarian Meal.)

Includes: House Salad w/Dressing, Dinner Rolls/Butter, Iced Tea, Water, Coffee, and Dessert (Key Lime Pie).

If you have any questions about this event, or the Association, please feel free to contact:
POC: 2019 AFTACAA SnowBall XXI, and Florida AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA), Social Function Chairman, Sean Ryan – Cell: 321-591-9053 (Unlisted) or Email: Oceanblueview@Yahoo.com (Unlisted). (Email preferred). Thank you.
1. WindDowns—(normally sponsored by the active-duty force) are scheduled for 1st Fridays at 1530 taking place to the west of the HQ building.

2. Alumni Assn Board/Membership Meetings—normally 2nd Mondays at 1600 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/Sept/Dec) may be a luncheon, or a dinner, and at the venues noted below. NOTE: Sites/Times will be determined at the preceding meeting and announced via eALLert and posted at the association website. Other Patrick dining venues (Tides, Golf Clubhouse, Marina, Dining Facility) and off-base sites may be considered for any meeting.

Active-Duty & Alumni are invited to all events.

Before coming verify date/time/venue online and/or with your editor ‘chrisjohn2@gmail.com’

January
02, 1730—AFTACAA Snowball Dinner, Holiday Inn, I-95 at Wickham Road (reservation required, see pg 21)
04, 1530 Wind Down – Stonehenge Pavilion
14, 1600—Membership Meeting, HQ AFTAC Bldg
February
01, 1530 Wind Down – Stonehenge Pavilion
11, 1600—Membership Meeting, HQ AFTAC Bldg
March
01, 1530 Wind Down – Stonehenge Pavilion
11, 1130—Membership Meeting, Beef O’Brady’s, Satellite Bch
April
05, 1530 Wind Down – Stonehenge Pavilion
08, 1600—Membership Meeting, HQ AFTAC Bldg

Event Plans and Timeframes—for planning only—dates and months may vary

A. January-April (months may vary)
   1. SnowBall
   2. Center Annual Awards Banquet
   3. Center Annual Picnic
B. May-August (months may vary)
   1. Nominating Board (ex-prez+2) selects slate for publication
   2. Annual Association Spring Golf N’Getogether
C. September-December (months may vary)
   1. First Friday of Sep (6 Sep 19), Annual Board, General Membership & Elections Meeting, ‘Social September XXIII’ will be at Manatee Cove on a Friday at lunch to enhance the opportunity for, and encourage attendance of, members and all alumni and active-duty.
   --Alumni of the Year (AOY) Selection Committee (prior AOYs) meet following the annual meeting.
   2. Oct or Nov, Annual Association Fall Golf N’Getogether
   3. Oct 1st, Alumni Assn ANNUAL FY DUES Due
   4. Dec TBD (usually second Friday), Center Winter Social

--AFTAC WORLDWIDE REUNIONS: Normally scheduled every other year. Hosting rotates between the association and the two chapters. Last host – CA-2017.06, FL-2015.05, CO-2013.06, and CA-2011.05. Next Reunion is scheduled to be hosted by the Colorado Chapter, 13-15 June 2019 (see pgs 23-24)
This reunion is sponsored by the Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association and is taking place at the Denver-Aurora DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton located at 13696 East Iliff Place, Aurora, Colorado 80014. The reunion is open to all current and former members, family members and guests of AFTAC, its predecessor organizations, subordinate units and associated units. A block of rooms has been reserved for the nights of 13, 14, & 15 June 2019 at a special rate of $119.00 (plus tax) per night and includes a full breakfast buffet (limit two per room). This special room rate is available using group code AFT and will be available until 24 May 2019 or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first.

Additional room nights for 11 & 12 and/or 16 & 17 June may be booked at the same rate on a space available basis. Our room block consists of the standard 1-King Bed, a few of the 1-King Bed Larger Mobility Access with Tub, and a few 2-Queen Bed rooms which may be booked at the AFTAC rate on a space available basis. If you want to book a room to include any of the additional nights at our AFTAC rate, you must call the hotel Sales Coordinator, Tina Le, at 303-337-2800 ext. 157 or Direct 303-614-0788. We very strongly recommend making reservations early so we can request increases to the room block before additional rooms become unavailable. If your reservation does not include any nights outside the three room block dates, booking a reservation is a simple process using the AFTAC Alumni Web Page provided by the DoubleTree, the public DoubleTree website, or telephone:


or www.doubletree3.hilton.com

or call the Denver-Aurora DoubleTree desk at 303-337-2800

There will be a golf tournament (cost is $40 each) on Friday morning, 14 June, and a charter bus trip to Black Hawk on Saturday morning, 15 June, spending up to four hours at the casinos. The cost for the charter bus trip is $25 each and requires a minimum of 50 people with a maximum of 56. The informal meet and greet icebreaker with Hors D’Oeuvres and cocktails (cash bar), along with briefings by local AFTAC unit personnel, is Friday evening. The formal dinner banquet and ceremony is Saturday evening, 15 June, along with special guest speakers. Our hospitality suite in the hotel will be open starting at noon on Thursday, 13 June. It will be closed during the Friday icebreaker and Saturday dinner. An informal Sunday morning farewell breakfast at the hotel may also be added if there is sufficient interest. Again, please make your room reservations early because June is a very popular time for visitors in Colorado.

Please go to the www.aftaca.org website for current reunion updates and registration form. If you have any questions or need more info, send an email to: President@aftacco.org and Treasurer@aftacco.org
REGISTRATION FORM
AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
WORLDWIDE REUNION 13 – 16 JUNE 2019
AURORA, COLORADO

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH PAYMENT NLT 15 April 2019 – SEE BELOW NOTE
(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME OF ALUMNI / ATTENDEE_________________________________________________________________________________

NAME OF SPOUSE / GUEST_____________________________________________________________________________________  

STREET ADDRESS / P.O. BOX _________________________________________________________________________________

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____________________________________ __________________________________________

E-MAIL ADDRESS ____________________________________________________________________________________________

TELEPHONE NUMBERS INCLUDING AREA CODE ____________________________________________________________

REGISTRATION FEE WW REUNION (REQUIRED FOR EACH ATTENDEE) -------@ $15.00 PER PERSON – X _____ = $ __________

GOLF OUTING FRIDAY MORNING, 14 JUNE, HEATHER RIDGE ------------@ $ 40.00 PER PERSON ----- X _____ = $ __________

INDICATE NUMBER PLAYING GOLF: MEN ________________ WOMEN ________________

ICEBREAKER SOCIAL FRIDAY EVENING, 14 JUNÉ, DOUBLETREE---------@ $ 35.00 PER PERSON ----- X _____ = $ __________

BANQUET DINNER, SATURDAY EVENING, 15 JUNE, DOUBLETREE---------@ $ 45.00 PER PERSON ----- X _____ = $ __________

CASINO BUS DAY TRIP TO BLACK HAWK, SATURDAY MORNING---------@ $ 25.00 PER PERSON ----- X _____ = $ __________

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TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED----$ __________

PLATED DINNER ENTRÉE SELECTION (INDICATE NUMBER FOR EACH ENTRÉE):

PRIME RIB WITH AU JUS & HORSERADISH CREAM SAUCE ON THE SIDE: __________

HONEY GLAZED SALMON: __________

ROSEMARY CHICKEN WITH A SHERRY DEMI: __________

NOTE: ENTREES ARE SERVED WITH MIXED GREENS SALAD, YUKON GOLD BROWN BUTTER WHIPPED POTATOES (WILD RICE PILAF IS SERVED WITH THE SALMON), SEASONAL VEGETABLES, ROLLS & BUTTER, FRESH BREWED TEA OR COFFEE AND WATER, AND SALTED CARAMEL CHEESECAKE FOR DESSERT.

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OPTIONAL SATURDAY CASINO BUS TRIP TO BLACK HAWK:

FUN DAY TRIP VIA CHARTER BUS DEPARTING SATURDAY MORNING, 15 JUNE, FROM THE DOUBLETREE AND SPENDING UP TO 4 HOURS AT THE CASINOS THEN RETURNING TO THE DOUBLETREE. THE COST IS $25 EACH FOR THE CHARTER BUS AND WE MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 50 PEOPLE SIGN UP (MAX CAPACITY IS 56 PEOPLE). PASSENGERS WILL RECEIVE A CASINO REDEMPTION STUB VALID AT ANY ONE CASINO. IF WE DO NOT MEET THE MINIMUM OF 50 PEOPLE, YOUR PREPAYMENT WILL BE REFUNDED IN FULL AT THE REUNION.

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IMPORTANT NOTE: ALL CHECKS MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ALONG WITH THIS FORM TO:

WILLIAM SCHMIED
2078 KENTON ST
AURORA, CO 80010-1310

PLEASE RETURN THIS REGISTRATION FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE – YOUR EARLY REGISTRATION IS NEEDED TO MONITOR OUR CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS WITH THE HOTEL AND SECURE ADDITIONAL ROOM BLOCKS IF NEEDED AND PLAN FOR THE NUMBER OF ATTENDEES AT THE EVENTS. ALSO, JUNE IS A BUSY MONTH FOR HOTEL BOOKINGS, SO YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE INDICATE HERE IF YOU WILL BE STAYING AT THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL. CIRCLE: YES NO

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REUNION COMMITTEE CONTACTS
BILL SCHMIED (Colorado Treasurer), 303-367-0625, bilschmied@aol.com
CHUCK TONER, 303-344-2758, tonertime@comcast.net
LONNIE GIBBONS, 303-750-9635, lgib14893@comcast.net