



Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association West Coast Chapter
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www.AFTACWEST.ORG

by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

I am pleased to report that we have had a lot of visits to our new web site since it was first put on-line on 06 October 2003. There were a total of **685 visits** to our web site during the 25 days of October that it was available for all to access. That's really good for a new web site of an organization as small as ours. I expect the number of visits per month for our site will be much lower on an ongoing basis now that the "new" has worn off. However, I was very surprised and am pleased to report that we had **246 visits** to our web site during the month of November, and we are approaching that number again for December as of Dec 22nd.

To encourage folks to want to visit our site regularly, we need to keep it interesting, useful and dynamic. That means frequently adding new and/or changed content. But to do that requires your help in the form of input and feedback. So, if you have content or an idea for a new web page or something that you think would be of interest to others, please E-mail it to [<NMMaster@pacbell.net>](mailto:NMMaster@pacbell.net) or mail it to 4437 Wyman Dr., Sacramento, CA 95821. I won't guarantee publication on our web site, but I will guarantee that your input will be appreciated and seriously considered. If you want anything you mail me returned please enclose a SASE.

Almost as soon as I published our initial web site on 06 October 2003, I began working with a good friend of mine, **Dane Wilson**, to create a new look and feel for our web site that would have a real professional look and feel of which we could all be proud. Dane created a wonderful new design for our web site, which I used and implemented on 21 October. I haven't submitted it for any 'official' awards yet..., but (*and I'm probably a bit partial*) I do think it's an award winning design in use of color, graphics, navigation and content. What do you think of it? If you haven't visited our web site yet, you are missing a lot of good information, photos, advance notice on coming events, etc. Take a look by pointing your Internet browser at [<http://www.AFTACwest.org>](http://www.AFTACwest.org). And do come back to it often. With your help, we'll give you new things to read, look at and think about.

FALL SOCIAL – GREAT TURNOUT

by Dale Klug

Our Fall Social held at the Shepherd Inn was a big success. More than fifty alumni and friends enjoyed a delicious dinner and refreshments. Pictures of attendees are on the next couple pages.

WAY BACK WHEN – DETACHMENT 460

by Joe Johnson

I have a few recollections of Det 460 that go a long way back. Some may find them of interest. My first overseas duty assignment was at Det 204 located off what is now Fort Wainwright at Fairbanks, Alaska. Det 204 was the predecessor of Det 460 and Det 204 was overseas at that time (1955) as Alaska was not yet a state. After the Detachment was moved to its present location, I spent many months of temporary duty there while stationed at McClellan with the 1155TOS Operations Branch. In fact, I am sure I probably more than wore out my welcome with many of the people stationed at Det 460. Any time I, or a number of us from 1155 TOS visited, it was either to modify, add to, or in some way tear up the Detachment. Ben Vlassick, myself and 3 others (don't remember those names) made the initial equipment installation on Attu island. Over the years since, I expect there are many troops that wish we had never done that. Ken McCormick made the installations at Beaver Creek, Indian Mountain, and one other location that I don't recall the name of. All four of these sites I believe are still in operation. How would you like to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of remote sites that are located from 100s of miles to 1000s of miles from your home station? My hat is off to the people whoever they may be that keep Det 460 up and running.

WEB SITE NOMINATED FOR AWARD

by Joe Johnson

I noted in the newspaper that there is an award given for Web Sites. The Dottie award is given for various categories of sites including non-profit. I nominated www.aftacwest.org. Now we need to get Bob some new data to put on the site. All of you have experiences while in AFTAC that others would like to read about. Why don't you write about same and send on to Bob for publication on the web site? Yes, I already have done so. Happy New Year. **Editor's Note: We received the following e-mail from "THE DOTTIES".** Congratulations! Your Web site, <http://www.aftacwest.org> has been nominated for the 2004 Dotties Awards, honoring Northern California's top Web sites.

Nominations will be accepted through December 31, 2003. The most magnificent, spectacular, and amazing sites will be featured at the coolest show on earth, The Dottie Awards, on March 11, 2004. Web sites will be judged on visual allure, daring creativity, spellbinding feats of innovation and user-friendliness too. Judging will be conducted by members of AMA (American Marketing Association) and Tech Coire. For complete details regarding eligibility, judging and ceremony information, go to www.thedotties.com.

WORDS FROM THE PREZ'

by Rod Hinkle

"Happy New Year" to all of you and hopefully, a prosperous 2004. Thanks to all who attended our Fall Social at the Sheepherder Inn in Rancho Cordova in October. It's always nice to see and visit with AFTAC family. Many thanks to Joe Johnson and Al Pavik for handling most of the reservations and arrangements. Also, thanks to Bob Fitzgerald for taking all those photos at the social and the great work in developing our AFTAC Alumni, West Coast Chapter, web site.

This will be a busy year for our Chapter since we will be responsible for hosting the AFTAC Reunion, 2005 in Sacramento. As many of you know, Al Pavik and Jack Allison have volunteered to organize the planning for event and will need support from many of us. In addition, we want to hold several social activities throughout the year and in that regard we welcome any suggestions for "fun" events. Send or call any ideas you may have to me or any of the Chapter officers. My new e-mail address is rodhinkle@earthlink.net and phone, 916-684-2359. Hope to see you at our next Social!

EVENTS CALENDAR

- Quarterly Business meetings: 2 Mar 2004, 1 Jun 2004, 7 Sep 2004, 6 Dec 2004. (Call Joe at, 916-684-2359, to confirm time & place. **Or check** www.AFTACwest.org for updates.)
- Spring 2005, AFTAC World-Wide Reunion in Sacramento. Keep an eye on our web site for updates.

“WAY BACK WHEN” – NEW SERIES OF ARTICLES

By Dale Klug, Editor

We're starting a new series of articles for the newsletter called "WAY BACK WHEN". This will be patterned after the Florida Chapter's series in the Post Monitor called "B.S. (Barely Substantiated) TALES" We're inviting everyone to submit articles with stories from days gone by at Detachments, Depot, Squadrons, Headquarters or TDYs. A super example is the article written by Joe Johnson about Detachment 460, in this issue. Remember to keep all the inputs unclassified. E-mail all proposed articles to me at: FalloutEditor@AFTACwest.org

Mail Call

Don't forget our E-mail address: TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com

Jim Lee E-mail: Hello, I had contacted Dale Klug last year informing him that several of the 1155th members met in Las Vegas for our 1st Annual reunion. We have just returned from Sarasota, FL and our 2nd reunion. Those in attendance were: Michael A. Gilbert, Carmen F. Valenti, Richard F. Duda, Robert T. Ross, John J. Hanley, Robert L. Teiken, and James F. Lee. Others in our 1155th group were: Paul E. Jezek, William A. Jones, James A. Hanson, Richard F. Houchens, Vincent J. Landry, Harold Woodard (deceased) and Kent M. Robbins (deceased). Next year we are planning a Caribbean cruise in June. I will be contacting Dale to get more alumni stuff. Take care. Jim Lee (1970-1973) jflee46@aol.com **Editor's Note: I e-mailed Jim about our web site and 2005 Reunion and received the following answer from him.** Thanks for the note. I mentioned the 2005 reunion, and everyone seems interested. We meet next July in Washington DC, and we'll discuss it further. Several of us guys are meeting in Hilton Head, SC Jan 16-18 to play golf. Thanks again for the update. Jim

Clark Wilberg E-mail: Thanks for the info regarding the west Coast web site. Sent a note requesting date(s) of the reunion summer of '05. We're planning to be in the west for vacation that year, and we'd like to plan to attend. As soon as things get firmed up, post the information and send emails. I'd love to see all the folks again. Stay in touch, Clark .

Joe Johnson E-mail: I just finished a phone conversation with **Bart Carter**. He has had a bad month. I gather he has been in the hospital 3 different times. He says nothing life-threatening. Also says he is up, but not around yet. He is staying with his daughter here in Roseville till he can go back home. I now have the daughter's phone number for future reference. I was sure glad to hear from him, as I feared for his well being. His mail is picked up and delivered to him, if anyone wishes to contact him. Meanwhile, have a happy holiday season and prosperous New Year to each of you. Joe

Bill Harris E-mail: Hello and welcome to Cyberspace! Your site looks real interesting and I intend to check it out further. May we place a link on our site to yours? Thanks for linking to ours. Best regards, Bill Harris, Webmaster, Colorado aftacco.org

Al & Joyce Koscheski E-mail: Hi, everybody. 'Sorry for the inconvenience but we've changed our e-address to: aljkosch@sbcglobal.net . We'll keep AOL for another week or so, but please send future messages and update your address books to the sbcglobal account. Thanks so much! Al & Joyce K.

Editor's Note: The Koscheski's son, Mike, is a fighter pilot stationed in U.K. and here's an excerpt from one of his e-mails. Things are interesting here. Just watch the news. The Army is tired of losing guys so they directed us to hammer some people last night. We had a good hit with a laser-guided bomb and the rest of the guys scattered like roaches. I have never seen guys run so fast. I have the utmost respect for the guys on the ground. They are truly heroes and great Americans. It is my privilege to be able to support them. The Army said they feel comfortable when we are roaring around overhead because they never get shot at when we are there. I hope you have a good Thanksgiving. We are going to "cook some turkeys" here. Take care, Mike