



Depot Fallout



AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter
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LOOK US UP AT

www.AFTACWCC.org

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Dave Tarquino, WCC President

Please join us at our Fall Social which is just a few weeks away. It's on November 10th, 11:30, at the China Buffet. All AFTACers, family and friends are welcome. Invite them to join you. Just a reminder that our business meetings are held 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.

Are any WCC Alumni planning to attend the 2013 AFTAC reunion? So far I know Dennis Nolan and I will be attending. I was just curious if anyone else was planning to attend the reunion.

THE WB-47E

by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor
7 at McClellan AFB



ONE OF OUR OWN SEO WILLIAM MORAN

By Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor

WB-29 Longest Flights

Flying in WB-29s back in the early 1950s was an adventure in many ways. Many of us of us flew hundreds if not thousands of hours as non-crewmembers in the back end of unarmed, war-weary WB-29s. These aircraft had a history of in-flight engine fires, oil leaks and other mechanical problems. Aborted missions for mechanical problems were not unheard of. Two missions in particular come to mind.

We were flying when, near the end of the track, smoke started pouring out of one of the starboard engines. The pilot feathered the engine and debated whether to try and make it back to base or to the alternate. Since the latter tended to be fogged in a lot that time of the year, the pilot chose instead to turn back to base. Half way back, a second engine had to be feathered. And a third was shut down as we touched down. The remarkable thing was not that the near-crippled plane could fly the better part of a 13-hour mission with fewer engines than called for in its design. Also, there was no panic amongst the crew, no discernible fear, no second guessing. In fact, despite the critical engine problems, the recall looking across as the portside scanner sitting stoically on his bench, seemingly oblivious to what was happening around him, deeply engrossed in what he had been reading at the time - The Book of Mormon.

As fate would have it, I flew with that very same kid from Utah a year or so later. It was during the winter of 1955. The temperature was 50 degrees below zero when we took off from Eielson Air Force Base on a routine weather recon flight into the Artic Circle. Several hours into the flight, the intercom was filled with front-end chatter about having lost navigation and radio communications. The fact is we were lost at 18,000 feet over a vast and seemingly endless white carpet of frozen tundra with no beacon to guide us home. What happened next proved the truth of the old adage, "When in doubt, do the right thing." The pilot followed a hunch and turned the plane in the direction he hoped would take us back to Fairbanks, Alaska. The flight engineer did the right thing, too. He bought us time and distance by reducing engine power to the absolute minimum needed to keep the plane in the air. The tradeoff, of course, was that we would gradually lose altitude. Hours later, with the tundra looming up at us from 1,200 feet below - I glanced out the starboard scanner's blister and quickly pinched the throat mike. "Pilot, this is scanner. I can see two American jets approaching on our starboard side." None of us cheered out loud, but we sure smiled a lot until we touched down with 10 minutes fuel remaining. It was said that we flew 18 hours and 10 minutes on 15 hours fuel. It was also said it was the longest flight in WB-29 history.

And by the way, that scanner who I had flown with in Japan when three engines had to be feathered – he was there across from me in his seat next to the portside blister, his head back against the bulkhead, with his eyes closed and hands clasped across his lap - beneath an open copy of The Book of Mormon.

NEWS REQUEST

by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor

As you can see, I have added a "One OF Our Own" features to give interesting info about one of our talented members (all of you). Please feel free to submit neat things that you do. Remember that we are a fraternity! Also, there must be a lot of untold stories out there. They need not be humorous, just something interesting for AFTAC insiders. Don't be paranoid about the classified issues. I will sanitize it based upon advice from knowledgeable advisors.

Who Said That??

by Dale Klug, Editor Emeritus

- >> Do not worry about avoiding temptation, as you grow older it will avoid you.
- >> Food, Love, Career and Mothers: The four major guilt groups.
- >> Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them?
- >> Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.

**Do you think you know who the above quotes came from? Send your best guess to: dkconsulting@juno.com
Second WCC member to send in all four correct answers gets two genuine AFTAC commemorative beer mugs.**

July 2012's quotes were from Winston Churchill, Garrison Keillor, Mary Bly and Ann Landers. The coveted "Attaboy", once again goes to Bob Baker. I'm going to change the reward program for sending in the correct answers. For one thing I truly believe Bob is not reporting his winnings to the IRS and I do not want to get in trouble with them or even worse, end up sharing a cell with Bob at Ft Leavenworth. Also, the WCC management is not reimbursing me for all those attaboys I have been handing out and that's been severely cutting into my beer & cigarette money.

IN MEMORY OF

By Wayne Zahm – AFTAC Alumnus

Obituary for Marvin Gibson



Marvin R. Gibson, Jr. 75, was born on June 30, 1937, in Louisville, KY. He graduated from Louisville Male High School in 1955, after which he entered the Air Force in July 1955. Marvin proudly served in the Air Force for the next 25 years with duty stations throughout the world including Illinois, Greenland, Azores, Georgia, Washington, D.C. California, Japan and Florida. Marvin separated from the Air Force in April 1959. He then reenlisted in the Air Force in May 1959, and was assigned to Robbins AFB, GA. He was subsequently assigned to Maxwell AFB, AL where he met and married Sue Ezell in February 1961.

In **May 1961**, Marvin was assigned to the **Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC)** in Alexandria, VA. He spent his remaining years in the Air Force serving within the AFTAC organization. **In 1963 Marvin was transferred to McClellan AFB, CA for training into the Airborne Data Collection System. Over the next years, assignments within AFTAC included an overseas base, McClellan AFB, CA and Patrick AFB, FL. Marvin accumulated over 5000 hours of flight time as a Special Equipment Operator.** While serving overseas, he graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. **Marvin later served with distinction as an Instructor in the Airborne Special Equipment Operators School at McClellan.** During his assignment at McClellan, **Marvin was awarded the Airman's Medal for the rescue of three small children from the Sacramento River.** Marvin retired in June 1980, at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, after 25 years of Honorable service to his country. Following his retirement from the Air Force, Marvin worked for Martin Marietta in Orlando, FL as Configuration Data Manager and McDonald Douglas in Titusville, FL as Configuration Manager for the Tomahawk Cruise Missile Program. He worked at McDonald Douglas until he retired in November 1993. Marvin subsequently relocated to Robins AFB, GA and took employment with ARINC, LLC as the Configuration Manager for the Joint Stars Program. He once again took early retirement in 2005. Upon retirement from ARINC, Marvin and Sue relocated to Loveland, CO to be closer to their son and family.

In addition to the above achievements, Marvin was an active member of the Free and Accepted Mason's including membership in the following bodies: Blue Lodge, Kokusai 15; Longs Peak Lodge 197, Scottish Rite of Free Masonry, S.J., USA; Valley of Denver Orient of Colorado and Asiya Shriners of San Mateo, CA from 1973 until his death. Marvin served in various positions as an officer within the different bodies. Marvin is survived by his loving wife Sue, son Sean, grandchildren Barrett and Dylan Gibson plus other family members and good friends. Marvin is preceded in death by his parents Marvin R. and Mary L. Gibson, infant daughter and son John Jeffrey Gibson.

Memorial contributions can be made to Shriners' Children's Hospital or charity of choice in care of Resthaven Funeral Home, 8426 S Hwy 287, Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Michael E. Lauger March 26, 1940 – Oct. 1, 2012, Notified by Michael Stiewig, 10.12 (parans are PoMo Editor changes, clarifications)
Posted: (Sublette, WY, Examiner, 10.02 issue.) Monday, Oct 1st, 2012 Michael E. Lauger was born March 26, 1940, in Iron Mountain, Mich., to Earl and Anne Lauger. He was the oldest of four children. His family moved from Iron Mountain to Appleton, Wis., when he was 11 where they ran the Butte Des Morts golf course. Mike graduated from Neenah High School and shortly thereafter joined the U.S. Air Force. Mike married his high school sweetheart Barbara Olson on April 15, 1961. They had three children – Matt, Donna and Chris.

He attended college at Lake Superior College in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. His 20 years in the Air Force included two remote assignments of one year each. He spent a year on Easter Island and a year in Thailand. His last assignment was to Detachment 459 in Boulder, Wyo., in 1976. He and his family found their home when they arrived in the Pinedale area. Mike made a sign for the back of his vehicle that read, "I am not a native but I got here as quick as I could." Before coming to Pinedale, he was stationed at Chanute AFB, Illinois; Kincheloe AFB, Michigan; Lowry AFB, Colorado; McClellan AFB California; Quintera Detachment in Chile near Vina del Mar and Wheeler AFB, Hawaii.

After retiring from the Air Force, Mike leased the Boulder Store & Pub for five years. He then had Sunburst Satellites. In 1989 he was hired to run the Rendezvous Meadows Golf Course, which he and Barbara ran for 17 years, retiring at the end of the 2005 season. Mike also got his private pilot's license and enjoyed flying for several years. His other interests included snowmachining, fishing and hunting. In his retirement Mike fished, did woodworking, rock hunting and tree planting. He loved to cook and fixed a family dinner once a week for his children and grandchildren, and he was a lifetime member of the VFW.

Mike always had a great sense of humor; two of his favorite sayings were: "Anybody could do it that way" and "never pass up the opportunity to shut up."

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As of 15 October 2012:

Total Active Members = 154 Life Members = 135

Annual membership fee of \$10 is due by 01 Jan each year. Check your mailing label, or check the "WCC Roster" from our website "Forms" page. Life memberships are available for \$75. You can use the "Membership Application/Roster Update" form on the last page of this newsletter or the one from our web site "Forms" page to send with your dues. Don't let your membership lapse. **Those alumni who are not current with their membership dues will be dropped from the "active" roster along with our newsletter distribution & email notification lists.** (See our web site "Forms" page, "WCC Roster" link to check your status.)

EVENTS CALENDAR

- Business/Member meetings are now the **2nd Mondays** quarterly at the Lions Gate Restaurant, McClellan. (Always check our 'Events' page at www.AFTACWCC.org or call ahead to our President to confirm time & place.)
Next Meeting - 10 Dec 2012

WORLDWIDE AFTAC ALUMNI REUNION IN COLORADO ON JUNE 14 & 15, 2013

The AFTAC Alumni of Colorado will host the 2013 Worldwide AFTAC-Long Range Detection Alumni Association Reunion at the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton Denver-Aurora, which is located at the southwest corner of I-225 and Iliff Avenue in Aurora. (The actual address is: 13696 East Iliff Place, Aurora, CO 80014.) The reunion reception will be held on Friday evening, 14 June, Flag Day, and the reunion banquet will be Saturday evening, 15 June. Other possibilities include a golf tournament on Friday and a tour of Detachment 45 at Buckley AFB on Saturday. Also being planned is a Detachment 418 alumni reunion event possibly on Thursday, 13 June, in conjunction with the worldwide reunion on Friday and Saturday.

More info available on the Colorado Chapter website.

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - WEST COAST CHAPTER
Fall Social
Saturday, 10 November 2012 – 11:30 - ~ 2:30PM

Our Fall Social will be at the China Buffet, 5623 Sunrise Blvd., Citrus Heights, Ca
(between Marie Calendars and El Torito).

Cost will be \$13.00 per person and includes the buffet with coffee, tea or soda.
Beer and wine is available if you wish to purchase separately.

Dress is casual.

Join us for lunch on November 10th and bring
your stories and a friend to kick off the Holiday Season.

Please fill out the form **included in this newsletter or
on our website** and your reminder portion, then mail the form and your check to us
before **Wednesday, Nov. 7th.**

Questions? Email Dave Tarquino, dtarquino@surewest.net
or call him at 916-723-7634.

Keep this part as your reminder of what was on your reservation form:

Names: _____

My Check # _____ for \$ _____ was made out to "AFTAC-WCC"
and I mailed the reservation form on ___/___/2012 to:

[Save the above] *(Cut off here, fill out and mail the following form with your check before 7 November 2012)*

AFTAC Alumni Assoc. - West Coast Chapter
Fall Social Reservation Sign-up Form
Saturday, 10 November 2012 - 11:30 - ~ 2:30pm
China Buffet Restaurant Banquet Room
5623 Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

(Please Print Clearly)

Name(s): _____

Total # Meals: ___ x \$13.00 each = \$____.

Make your check payable to "**AFTAC-WCC**" and mail it before **7 Nov 2012** along with this form
to:

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



AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974
Email: TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / ROSTER UPDATE

Annual membership fee of \$10.⁰⁰ is due by 01 January each year. Check your mailing label for expiration date. *Your last newsletter will be the one following your expiration date.* Life memberships are available for \$75.⁰⁰.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____
Last, First MI Last Rank Held Nickname Name of Spouse

Addr: _____
Street, Apt #, etc. City State Zip Code

() - _____
Home Phone Work Phone Email Addr

Active Duty: _____
Branch of Service From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy Branch of Service From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

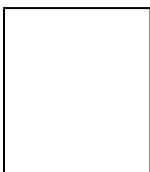
AFTAC Dates: _____
From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

Support Your West Coast Chapter: Please pass a copy of this form to your AFTAC Alumni friends. *[From the Depot Fallout]*

CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT www.AFTACWCC.org FOR THE LATEST WCC NEWS & PHOTOS



== FIRST CLASS MAIL ==



RETURN ADDRESS:
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