



Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter
P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974
Email: TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org



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WCC OFFICERS 2012-2013

Dave Tarquino, President
916-723-7634
President@AFTACWCC.org

Joe Johnson, Vice President
916-483-5938
VicePres@AFTACWCC.org

Ken Denbleyker, Chmn of the Bd
916-987-1754
(No Email. Call, or send to AsstBdChmn or Pres.)

George Thompson, Asst. COB
707-994-4143
AsstBdChmn@AFTACwcc.org

Steve Fritts, Director At Large
916-726-3177
DirectorAtLarge@AFTACwcc.org

John "Butch" Kemna, Treasurer
916-722-8509
Treasurer@AFTACWCC.org

Dennis Nolan, Asst Treasurer
916-726-4830
AsstTreasurer@AFTACWCC.org

Bob Baker, Secretary
916-944-8070
Secretary@AFTACWCC.org

Ken Breitwieser, Asst Secty
916-722-1280
AsstSecretary@AFTACWCC.org

Dave Price, Membership Chmn
916-988-4556
MembershipChair@AFTACWCC.org

Don King, Newsletter Editor
602-448-4195
FalloutEditor@AFTACWCC.org

Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster,
916-485-8816
Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org

LOOK US UP AT
www.AFTACWCC.org

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Dave Tarquino, WCC President

Happy New Year and Best Wishes to all for a safe, healthy, and prosperous year. I hope to see you at the AFTAC Reunion in Denver on June 14-15 this year. The details of the reunion and registration forms are available on the Colorado Chapter website. Give them a visit and check out the planned activities.

The West Coast Chapter is looking for someone interested in becoming our Webmaster. Bob Fitzgerald has done a fantastic job putting our website together and keeping it updated since its inception. For health reasons, Bob can no longer perform the Webmaster duties. We are looking for a Webmaster with HTML and FTP coding expertise within the AFTAC family and there is no requirement to live in the Sacramento area. The Website can be maintained from just about anywhere in the world. If you or someone you know would be interested in being our Webmaster, contact me at 916-723-7634, or dtarquino@surewest.net.

We had a nice turnout at our Fall Social on November 10th, at the China Buffet. 42 folks showed up to share some food and drink, share stories and kick off the Holiday Season. A big Thank You to Bob Fitzgerald for taking photo's.

Stay tuned for more info on our 2013 events: Spring Picnic (mid-May), election of Officers (September), and our Fall Social (mid November).

FIRST BOMB TESTS

by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor

JULY 16, 1945



The first atomic bomb test, near Alamogordo, N.M., July 16, 1945.

Credit: Jack Abbey/Los Alamos National Laboratory

The first thermonuclear weapon (hydrogen bomb) , code-named Mike, was detonated at Enewetak atoll in the Marshall Islands, Nov. 1, 1952



Credit: U.S. Air Force photograph

As all of us know, these are the start of the reason our unit was formed. The hydrogen bomb photo was taken at a distance of 50 miles from the detonation site! All past, present and future members of our unit should take very seriously and proudly our outstanding contributions to the fact that since 1945, none of these devastating weapons have ever been used in a conflict. Regardless of the specialty area of each person, we performed, and continue to perform, in an incredible example of teamwork and dedication to accomplish our missions. It is exemplary to recognize the degree of commitment that every one who has been part of our fraternity has shown to guarding the security of our very existence for decades. The many families who could only stare at us when we would leave without being able to tell them where, for how long, and what we would be doing pressed hard upon us to give them some assurance that all was ok. 2:00 AM incoming calls to leave immediately put many strains on relationships. Preparing for that call with regard to all the other things that revolved around our daily lives was second nature. "Why are you doing that?" could only be met with an assuring smile and usually a request for them to take care of some task that we usually accomplished. We disappeared in much the same way that many fictional characters in novels and movies of the Cold War era did. And this wasn't about only those with long terms of service. We were all the way from 18 year olds who were barely out of the fun of high school through men who had fought in WW II and Korea, some of who had seen the enemy up close with a bayonet pointed into their gut. Yet this was, and is, a mission that none took lightly. We knew that it was not a game. The lives of millions of people all over the earth unknowingly placed themselves and their future in our hands. And today there are millions who are going through daily life because of our commitment. God bless all of those in the past, present, and future carrying on this mission.

IN GOD WE TRUST, ALL OTHERS WE MONITOR



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.

www.AFTACWCC.org”

Website Activity Report for Calendar Year 2012 by Quarter

Submitted 23-Jan-2013 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

<u>For The Quarter</u>	<u>Unique Visits</u>	<u>Highest #Visits Week (#Visits)</u>	<u>Average Visits/Week</u>	<u>Most Popular Page* (#Visits)</u>	<u>Next Most Popular Page*</u>
1: Jan-Mar	8,881	03/18-03/24 (849)	683	Departed (504)	Links (397)
2: Apr-Jun	8,300	05/27-06/02 (751)	638	Departed (605)	Links (465)
3: Jul-Sep	9,788	09/23-09/29 (1,174)	699	Links (715)	Departed (557)
4: Oct-Dec	9,951	10/21-10/27 (905)	711	Departed (608)	Links (484)

Notes: * *Most popular page does not include our ‘Home’ page, which as the entry point is always the most popular page.*

Who Said That??

by Dale Klug, Editor Emeritus

- >> Flowers are the sweetest things God ever made and forgot to put a soul into.
- >> I have made mistakes but I've never made the mistake of claiming I've never made one.
- >> He that wrestles with us strengthens our nerves & sharpens our skill. Our antagonist is our helper.
- >> Time's fun when you're having flies.

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 the correct answers gets two genuine AFTAC commemorative beer mugs.

October 2012's quotes were from Joey Adams, Cathy Guisewite, Abraham Lincoln and Robert F Kennedy. There was no second WCC member who sent in the correct answers, so I'm offering the same AFTAC beer mugs again this time.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As of 15 January, 2013:

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.)

SOME OF OUR OWN AFTAC'S TIES TO KOREAN ORPHANS SPAN DECADES PATRICK-BASED UNIT GOT INVOLVED IN EARLY 1960S

Written by R. Norman Moody FLORIDA TODAY



When the time came to collect toys for children at an orphanage in South Korea or making repairs at the children's home, the men and women of the Air Force Technical Applications Center responded with enthusiasm. "We'd go out and spend time with the kids," said **Chief Master Sgt. Edward Lindsay**, who was stationed as part of AFTAC's Detachment 452 in Wonju, South Korea, three times since 1984.... "We'd do things like repair washer and dryers. It was a constant interaction." ...It continues to be a great opportunity for the seven airmen who comprise the detachment to be involved with the community near their station. "It was a family atmosphere," Lindsay said. "It was a heartfelt thing to do that."

IN MEMORY OF

By Wayne Zahm – AFTAC Alumnus



JOHNSON, Willis Return, (Bill) MSgt, USAF, Retired July 28, 1927 - November 19, 2012.

Retired United States Air Force Master Sergeant Willis (Bill) Return Johnson slipped peacefully away into the arms of the Angels. His departure to his next mission occurred at 8:15 am., Monday November 19, 2012 at Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo, California. He was surrounded by family members at the time of his passing.

Bill was born to Willis Milton Johnson and Henrietta Victoria CAREY Johnson of Cheswold Delaware. Bill was the oldest of six children, having been preceded in death by his sister Calanthia Johnson, brother Charles Johnson and sister Ardella "Dell" JOHNSON Durham (Clinton Durham Sr. of Cheswold, Delaware). He is survived by his sister Dolores JOHNSON Carney Rivera of Kingman, Arizona; and brother Stanley Johnson (Patricia Johnson) of Felton Delaware. He also is survived by six nephews: Pete Carney (of Arizona), Clinton Jr., Steve, and Keith Durham, (of Delaware) Michael, and Jason Johnson (of Delaware); as well as numerous grand nieces and nephews.

Bill was a full blooded Native American from the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware as was also of a member of the tribe. His Native name is "Thunder One."

He is survived by an ex-wife, two daughters who are, Paula Wimmer (her husband Chris) and their three children Christian, Rebekah, and Naomi of Pinole, California. He is also survived by Brenda Odle, her daughters Dena Walls (her husband Fred) and Michelle Roseman-Yeo (her husband Mark) both of El Cerrito, California. Bill had the pleasure of 4 great-grandchildren - Antonio and Julian Walls and Charles and Juliet Sutherland. His grandchildren all know him as "Grandpa Dude/Gramps" and his Great-Grandchildren know him as "Pop Pop."

Bill was a World War II veteran. His military service took him to Germany, North Africa, Turkey, and various other United States Air Forces Bases. Upon entry into the service, his training took him into the field of weather service of the Army Air Corps. He provided weather analysis and reporting for air traffic. **After a few years of this service, he was transferred to a secret mission where he provided analysis on the use of Special Weapons. To his departing day, his special weapons work was never spoke of. He had the highest degree of integrity and never divulged this top secret clearance work.**

After retirement from the Service, he lived in numerous locations that included, Las Vegas, Nevada, Lake Havasu and Topock Arizona, Anacortes, Washington, Sacramento, Larkspur, and West Sacramento, California. He loved to travel as well as attend jazz festivals, bluegrass and western swing events, car races, Baseball games as well as Spring training. Bill was very outgoing and he never met a stranger.

Bill was a person that lived life to its fullest. If there was something that needed to be done, it was done. He will be missed dearly. As his family says, NO words could describe him; you had to "experience him."

The family wishes that in lieu of any flowers, that donations be made in his honor to the American Cancer Society. Gravesite services are pending. **From 25 Sept 2012 Sacramento Bee**

EVENTS CALENDAR

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.

(Always check our 'Events' page at www.AFTACWCC.org or call ahead to our President to confirm time & place.)

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSN – WCC 2012 ANNUAL FALL SOCIAL At China Garden Restaurant in Citrus Heights, CA - 10 Nov 2012



Laura Horne, Irene Goodreau, Mary Esping,
Cal & Alice Brown and Peggy Armintrout



Nancy & Dave Price, Laurie Kemna,
Donna & Steve Fritts



Dennis & Chum Nolan, Tommie & Bob Baker,
Suki Tarquino, Ken Breitwieser and
Dave Tarquino



Rose Klug, Corrine Miner, John Taylor,
Joe Johnson, John Miner and Dale Klug



Al & Ann Pavik, Ken & Cathleen Denbleyker,
Tom Wentz, Bill Sassman (Chaplain, guest)
and Rod & Betty Jo Hinkle



Rose Lee Dunn, Lillian Bridges, Bob Fitzgerald,
Butch Kemna, George Thompson, Bill Bridges
and Darlene Fitzgerald



Thirty-eight Alumni + one guest, all of whom enjoyed this gathering & luncheon

The Fall Social Luncheon
was arranged by
Dave Tarquino

*Photos by
Bob Fitzgerald*

See these enlarged in
full color online from
our “Albums” page at
www.AFTACWCC.org

OVERVIEW

AFTAC – Long Range Detection Alumni Worldwide Reunion 13 – 16 June 2013 Aurora, Colorado

Yes, reunion time again: It's time once again to get together with old friends, make new friends, and see what everyone has been up to in recent times. As you know, the alumni chapters have been holding worldwide reunions every two years, alternating from Florida to California to Colorado. Having held highly successful reunions in Florida in 2009 and again in California in 2011, it's now time to come to Colorado in 2013 and we are ready to start taking reservations. Included with this issue of the newsletter is this overview, hotel information, and registration form.

What we need from you: mark your calendars now for 13 – 16 June 2013, register early by completing the reunion registration form and returning it along with your check, reserve your hotel room by calling the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Aurora, or by going to the hotel website (see the hotel information sheet for details). And, please pass the word along to other alumni who might not be members of any of the alumni chapters. Membership in an alumni chapter is not required to attend the reunion. Early registration will allow better planning by the reunion committee and some planned activities are tentative depending on the responses we get on the registration forms. If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee members listed at the bottom of this page.

Hospitality Room: We will have a hospitality room in the DoubleTree Hotel open daily beginning Thursday afternoon, 13 June. This is where you sign in and pick up your welcome package if not available in the hotel lobby. Look for the alumni welcome table in the hotel lobby and for information on the electronic sign board as to the hospitality room location. Name tags will be provided in the welcome package so please list names on the registration form as you want them to appear on the tags.

Det 418 Mini-Reunion Thursday afternoon/evening, 13 June: There will be a mini-reunion for Det 418 alumni in conjunction with the main reunion. People attending this mini-reunion must return the registration form the same as those attending the main reunion. Additional information on this event is being provided by Frank Calenda. See bottom of page for contact information.

Golf Outing, Friday morning, 14 June: This is a tentative item depending on the number of people signing up for it, and if held will be at the Heather Ridge Country Club, now a public course, just a few blocks from the DoubleTree hotel. It will be arranged by Lonnie Gibbons with shuttle bus transportation available from the hotel. Cost is listed at \$40 each on the registration form and refunds will be made if the actual cost is less or the event is cancelled due to lack of interest. Please note that the cost includes 18 holes with golf cart and that rental clubs at the golf course are very limited.

Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Friday morning/afternoon, 14 June: This is also a tentative item depending on the number of people signing up for it. The museum is located in one of the large hangars on the former Lowry AFB just a few blocks from the former Det 57 and SPINSTRAS schoolhouse, Bldgs 358 & 359. We will attempt to arrange hotel shuttle bus transportation but this is subject to availability. Museum admission cost is \$9.00 for seniors (65+), veterans, and active duty to be paid at the museum. www.wingsmuseum.com

Det 45 Operations Tour, Buckley AFB, Saturday morning, 15 June: The detachment will provide tour escorts and a show and tell of their satellite operations area. This is inside a restricted area, so additional personal information will be required to obtain visitor clearance. Transportation will be provided from the hotel for those who need it.

Reception Icebreaker, Friday evening, 14 June: DoubleTree Hotel, AFTAC Ballroom, informal mixer with cash bar and mixed hors d'oeuvres buffet, including Teriyaki beef and pulled pork skewers, coffee and tea. Dress is casual.

Reunion Banquet, Saturday evening, 15 June: DoubleTree Hotel, AFTAC Ballroom, social with cash bar followed by sit-down dinner with choice of Prime Rib, French Cut Chicken Florentine, or Atlantic Salmon entrees. Guest speaker to be announced.

Breakfast Buffet, Sunday morning, 16 June: DoubleTree Hotel restaurant off the lobby, hotel guests attending the reunion eat free, bid farewells.

REUNION COMMITTEE CONTACTS

BILL SCHMIED (303-367-0625) bilschmied@aol.com

CHUCK TONER (303-344-2758) tonertime@comcast.net

LONNIE GIBBONS (303-750-9635) lgib14893@comcast.net

Det 418 Mini-Reunion Only: FRANK CALEDA (321-773-2046) fcalenda@aol.com



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

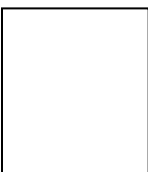
AFTAC Dates: _____
From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

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:
AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
WEST COAST CHAPTER
P.O. Box 3974
Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974