



# Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter  
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**[www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)**

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Dave Tarquino, WCC President

Happy New Year and best wishes to all! We held our Fall Social on 8 November 2014 at the China Buffet and had a nice turnout. We shared stories, food and drink, and a good time was had by all. We elected Bob Fitzgerald to the Director at Large position, replacing departed member Steve Fritts. Bob Fitzgerald took photos of the event and filled in the names to go with the photos. As usual, he did a great job. Thanks Bob. Upcoming events for the year are our spring picnic on 16 May, the WWR in Florida on 29-31 May, and our fall social (TBD) in November.

Our business meetings and social events are open to the entire AFTAC family. Put the dates on your calendar and join us if you can. Our next business meeting is 9-March at 7:00 PM at the Lions Gate Hotel, at McClellan Park.

## INTO THE MUSHROOM CLOUD

Excerpted from an article By Mark Wolverton  
Air & Space Magazine

## OPERATION IVY

by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor

### CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE

The shock wave from Ivy Mike was conducted through Earth and picked up back in the U.S. by some seismometers. Edward Teller, co-creator of the bomb was one of the first to know. Back in America it was Halloween, but he had an extra reason to celebrate. Overjoyed, he sent a telegram to his colleagues. For security reasons it said only: "It's a boy." inaugurated the thermonuclear age with the first "true" thermonuclear test (code name Mike), which was considerably more powerful than all the high explosives used in two World Wars put together. Ivy also tested the highest yield pure fission weapon ever exploded.

When the world's first hydrogen weapon, in a test designated "Mike," wiped out the Marshallese island of Elugelab on November 1, 1952, four F-84G fighters carrying sample collection equipment on their wingtips were already in the air. Designated Red Flight and led by Lieutenant Colonel Virgil Meroney, the jets arrived in the area of the bomb cloud about an hour and a half after detonation. Under instructions from the Convair B-36 sampler control aircraft circling some distance away, Meroney and his wingman penetrated the mushroom cloud's stem at about 40,000 feet. (As predicted,

the main cloud, which began forming at about 55,000 feet, was too high for an aircraft to reach. Samples from the stem would have to do.) Immersed in the dull red glow of the cloud interior, Meroney watched all his radiation instruments peg to their maximum readings. After about five minutes inside, he and his wingman executed a 90-degree turn and escaped. Then came the rest of Red Flight: Red 3 with Captain Bob Hagan, and his wingman, Red 4, Captain Jimmy Robinson. Hagan calls the cloud "dark and boiling." Above, the mushroom cloud grew hungrily, pushing up 33km in 2 minutes and eventually spreading out to cover 7,500 square kilometres of sky. What had happened? The four jets would find out. Each was equipped with radioactive sampling boxes on their wing tips, they would scoop up any particles and then they would be sent back to the U.S. for testing. They were going to fly into the mushroom cloud. They arrived 90 minutes after detonation, dwarfed by the colossal stem of cloud 32km across. The umbrella of the mushroom loomed over them, beyond the reach of their engines and fuel. The stem beckoned, and the first 2 jets dove in, specks among the maelstrom. Bathed in nuclear radiation they hit their limits 5 minutes in, and turned 90 degrees to exit the cloud. They both successfully burst into light, and were bathed in the Sun's own thermonuclear glow.

The remaining 2 jets plunged in, and misfortune struck. One jet stalled during a turn and plummeted for 6km down the boiling shaft. The pilot managed to regain control and exit, but couldn't find either the fuel tanker or another craft. Eventually he located the radio beacon for Enewetak and headed for it. The island was in sight but the jet caught fire mid-air and he ran out of fuel. The jet went down over the water, and the pilot couldn't escape, his lead-lined vest made movement too difficult. Later searches couldn't find the sunken plane or the body of its pilot, Captain Jimmy Robinson.

Ivy Mike was a success in many ways. It proved the concepts, if not designs for the world of thermonuclear weaponry. Nuclear power is all around us though, ever-present. Every star in the sky is a thermonuclear powerhouse, giving light, heat, and life to their faithfully orbiting spheres. Nuclear fission provides 90% in the earth's core, keeping the continents moving and volcanoes erupting. Not everything was catching up with nature though, from the ash came new forms.

The 3 surviving jets brought back radioactive particles, when analysed they revealed two surprises. Elements, not found anywhere on Earth, had been created in the fiery heart of Mike. Einsteinium and Fermium, synthetic elements only found as the results of experiments, decaying slowly with time. They were the first synthetic elements ever created, later nuclear tests would reveal more unexplored elements.

Vaporizing an entire island was also quite impressive!

## **WEBSITE ACTIVITY REPORT**

**"www.AFTACWCC.org"**

### **Website Activity Report for the period 1 Oct 2014 – 31 Dec 2014**

*Submitted 09-Jan-2015 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster*

<u>Month</u>	<u>Unique Visits</u>	<u>Highest Visit Day(#Visits)</u>	<u>Mo. Average Visits/Day</u>	<u>Most Popular* Page (#Visits)</u>	<u>Next Most Popular* Page</u>
Oct 2014	<b>7,308</b>	10/09-(665)	236	Albums** (1,081)	Departed (361)
Nov 2014	<b>6,778</b>	11/26 (590)	226	Departed (978)	Albums** (265)
Dec 2014	<b>5,590</b>	12/01 (261)	180	Departed (124)	Links (104)

Notes: \* "Most Popular" page does not include our 'Home' page, which almost always is the most popular page.

\*\* The most popular page in Oct & Nov plus second most popular in Dec was the **May 2014 Spring Picnic photo page**.

I am pleased to see that you are consistently making good use of access to your favorite organizations via our "Links" page. **Would you like to see your favorite organization linked from that page?** If so, contact me with the URL. Your Webmaster, [Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org](mailto:Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org), is always open to suggestions for content, new page designs, & any help offered. Thanks, bf

## **WHO SAID THAT?**

*by Dale Klug, Editor Emeritus*

- >> Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.
- >> Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut and still think they are sexy.
- >> Many women like to marry a military man; he can cook, sew and make beds, plus they are usually in good health and condition. Of course, he's already used to taking orders.
- >> Archaeologists are the best husbands for a woman. The older she gets the more he's interested in her.
- >> A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man.
- >>> A youthful figure is what you get when you ask a woman her age.
- >>> What makes a marriage last is for a man and woman to continue to have things to argue about.
- >>> There are two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither one works.
- >>> A woman's dress should be like a barbed-wire fence; serving its purpose without obstructing the view.
- >>> One of the few articles of clothing a man won't try to remove from a woman is an apron.
- >>> A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday but never remembers her age.
- >>> Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

Do you think you know who the above quotes came from? Send your best guess to: [dkconsulting@juno.com](mailto:dkconsulting@juno.com)

**October 2014's** quotes were from Unknown, Bill Cosby, Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson & Erma Bombeck. I got responses from **Bob Baker, Bill Hinkel, Jim Giordano and Don King** with three different answers for the first quote, "Difficulty is a miracle in its first stage".

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

*by Dave Price, Membership Chairman*

**As of 6-Dec-2015**

**Total Active Members = 148    Life Members = 136**

**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.)

## **MEMORY TIME**

*. by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor*

For all of you 99ers and alphabet soup guys, we all found our way into AFTAC through a variety of paths that we usually had no hand in. For me, half way through basic in the summer of 1955, I volunteered to be a TI after bootcamp. Once I saw how high my scores were on the various tests, I changed my mind (much to the displeasure of the assignments NCO) and he graciously gave me electronics. My orders out of basic were to Atomic Weapons School at Lowry. WOW! Learning upon arrival that the class was cancelled, I spent three months of introspection (KP) until told to report to a thing called SPINSTRAS. So there I was at the Harry Potter door of USAF, only to reappear at unusual hours and days until, after two years as instructor, I calmly requested to leave the KP of ATC for the real world of WFO. Arriving to enter the exciting USAF and unbelievable camaraderie of the 1009<sup>th</sup> SWS and the total secrecy surrounding it, my Walter Mitty side emerged. Although this was an unusual path to get there, I treasure each and every memory, including the belching white exhaust smoke when they fired up 3 and 4 on the WB 50 with the hope that they would cease and not engulf the whole plane!

## **IN MEMORIAM**

*by Dale Klug, Editor Emeritus*



### **CHAMBERLAIN, Richard Eugene "Dick", LtCol USAF Retired**

Of Sacramento, died January 1, 2015, at 90 years of age. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Virginia; son Richard Jr. and his wife Cheryl, son Shawn, and daughter Rebecca and her husband John; four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, sister Evelyn, brother Jack, and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9th at Mount Vernon Memorial Park. The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the American Cancer Society or Cal Farley's Boys Ranch near Amarillo, Texas.

Dick was born in Norfolk, Nebraska, the third child of John Harold Chamberlain and Clara Belle Dobney. With the onset of the Great Depression, his family moved to a farm where he grew up during the dust bowl years.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942 and graduated from pilot training in Texas in 1945. He was transferred to Williams Field, Arizona, where he met Virginia Bowman who became his bride on November 16, 1945. One month prior to their marriage, he was released from active duty. He served in the Air Force Reserve until he was recalled to active duty in April 1953. Dick had assignments throughout Texas, Mississippi, Kansas and Massachusetts in addition to deployments to Korea, Turkey and Southeast Asia.

**LtCol Chamberlain worked with Col Lew Horne in Logistics at the 1155th TechOpsSq back in the 1970's. Dick was a LIFE member of the AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter.**

**He was a command pilot with over 8,000 hours of flying time, which included more than 700 hours of combat flying time.** He flew 23 different military aircraft and received numerous awards and decorations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal. He retired in 1974 after 31 1/2 years of military service.

He was a local volunteer in state and federal politics after his retirement. He liked traveling, playing golf, collecting clowns and model cars, vegetable gardening, and, most of all, spending time with family. Publication: The Sacramento Bee; Date: Jan 7, 2015; Section: Obituaries; Page: B4

## **RECENT DEATHS**

**Jerry LaBarre** died Jan 5th of complications from diabetes and pneumonia.

**Lt Col (Ret) Frank McGuire** died Sunday Jan 25 at 6:25 am in Sioux Falls SD. His wife Donna said Frank wanted to be buried in his uniform because, even after 40 years of retirement, he still wanted to be back with his old friends from AFTAC. Frank was an Airborne systems Officer with AFTACS F Systems as well as a bomb /navigator.

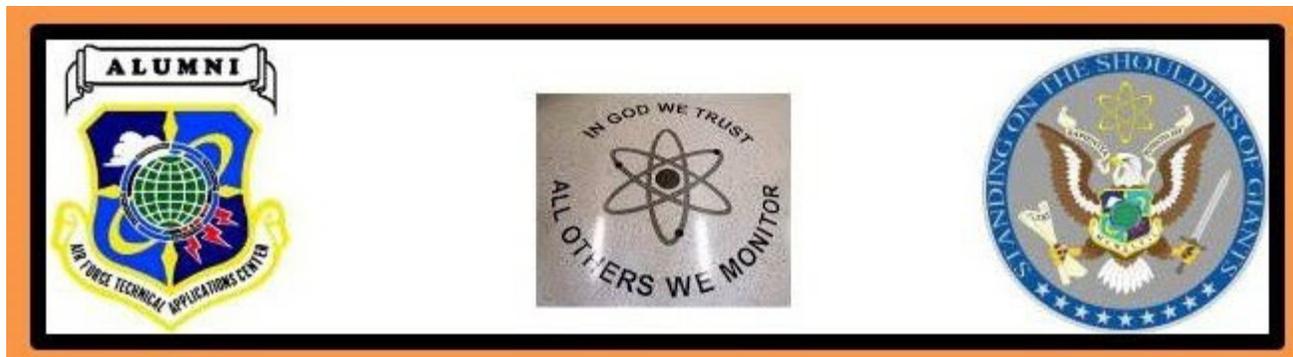
## EVENTS CALENDAR

Just a reminder that our business meetings are held the **2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) or call ahead to our President to confirm time & place.)*

## AFTAC 2015 WORLDWIDE REUNION

### **Standing on the Shoulders of Giants**



#### **Guest Speaker Dr. Glenn Sjoden, AFTAC Chief Scientist.**

Dr. Sjoden served as an AFTACer during his tour in the Air Force. His selection as guest speaker fits very well with our theme.

**The Florida Alumni Chapter is excited to host the 2015 AFTAC Worldwide Alumni Reunion, which we nicknamed the WWR 2015. You do not have to be an alumni chapter member to attend. Registration for the AFTAC 2015 World Wide Reunion**

is moving along very well. To date, 60% of the registrants are from out of state. The spaces for the Cape Canaveral tour are now over 65% filled. If you are interested in this venue, it's suggested that you sign up soon. Keep in mind that you have until April 25<sup>th</sup> of this year to change/cancel your reservation. Early registration also helps the committees to deal with the requirements of organizing this reunion.

Did you know that you can sign in to the web page and see who is registered to attend? It's simple to do, whether you are registered or not. Simply enter your email address into the sign-on page and click on "Attendees." A listing will pop up of all those who have registered to date. If your email address is not in our data base, a simple email from you will cause the data center to add your address, at which time you'll be notified that you're in the data base. You can then sign in. You will not have to register for the reunion to view the list.

The registration web page can be accessed by going to the AFTAC Alumni Association Web site. At the bottom of the reunion web site, you will find a link to the "On Line Registration" page. You can click on that or copy and paste the address in your address bar: <http://wwr2015.org/> to go to that page.

HOTEL INFO: The next Air Force Technical Applications Center's World Wide Alumni Reunion is scheduled for 29, 30, and 31 May 2015 (WWR 2015). The Florida Alumni Chapter has a dedicated team of members making sure all the details are coming together. So far, we selected and contracted with the DoubleTree by Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront, 2080 North Atlantic Avenue, Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931. The phone number is (321) 783-9222. When you contact the hotel to make your reservations please ask for AFTAC Alumni Reunion, Group Code AFT. This will ensure you are given the group rate of \$103.00 (plus applicable taxes) per night for a standard double room. Please be advised, it turns out that the hotel website will only give the discounted rate for the actual days of the reunion. Our contract does specify +/- 3 days of that time, but to get the discounted rates for dates outside the reunion requires a personal phone call to the hotel reservations desk. Therefore, please call 321-783-9222 during normal business hours (ET) and ask for Lauren Edwards or Morgan Childrey. Explain that you are with the AFTAC Alumni Reunion and what days you want to get the special rate outside the reunion dates. Hope this takes care of the problem. Direct web hotel reservations for the reunion dates can be made at this link: [RESERVATIONS](#)

For additional information contact: Deborah Carson, WWR 2015 Chairperson;  
[deborah@aftac2015wwr.com](mailto:deborah@aftac2015wwr.com), or Arlin Massey, WWR 2015 Co Chair;  
[amassey1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:amassey1@cfl.rr.com).



Peggy Armintrout, Alice & Cal Brown, Ann & Al Pavik, Mary Esping & Laura Horne



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



Corinne & John Miner, Richard DiMeola, Jr, and Dale Klug



Allan & Kathy Pentecost, Sue & Tom Wentz, Cathy & Ken Denbleyker, and John & Dorothy Lanigan



Jean Charles and Rose Lee Dunn



Bob Fitzgerald, Dave Price, George Thompson, Laurie & 'Butch' Kemna, Nancy Price, and Darlene Fitzgerald



Thirty-Four of Our AFTAC-WCC Family

The 2014 Fall Social Luncheon was arranged by **Dave Tarquino**, WCC President

Photos by **Bob Fitzgerald**

See these enlarged in a full-color online slideshow on our "Albums" page at [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)



# AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / ROSTER UPDATE

**Annual membership fee of \$10.<sup>00</sup> 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.<sup>00</sup>.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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*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](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) FOR THE LATEST WCC NEWS & PHOTOS



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