



Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter
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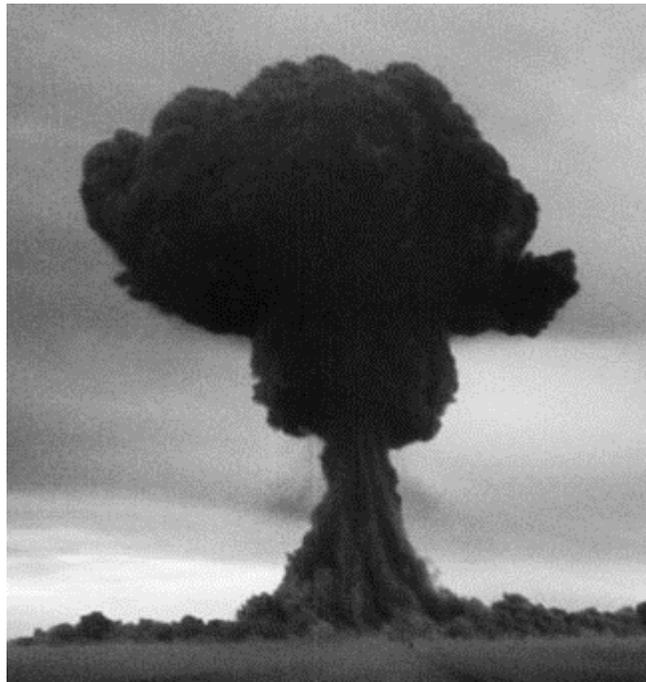
A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Dave Tarquino, WCC President

We will hold our bi-annual election of officers this year at our Fall Social, November 14th. The Nominating/Volunteering ballot is included in this newsletter. Ken Denbleyker, Chairman of the Board, will be beating the bushes looking for Alumni to fill positions and all positions are available. More to come from Ken in the near future. The location of the Fall Social is to be determined. We have been going to the China Buffet for the past few years but we might try something different. We will let you know in the October newsletter.

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 14-September at 7:00 PM at the Lions Gate Hotel, at McClellan Park.

JOE-1



LRD TO AFMSW-1 TO AFOAT-1 AND ON!
OUR SPECTACULAR BEGINNING

by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor

YOU'RE BUSTED NIKITA!

15 December, 1947

CIA Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

Senator Hickenlooper: "The earliest that the Soviets can have an atomic bomb is most likely 1953, 1951 at the earliest."

DCI, USAF: "It is difficult for me to appreciate the philosophy which permits an optimistic finding that inevitably will tend to lull those affected by it into a feeling of false security which certainly will be no incentive to action."

1 July, 1949

Interdepartmental Joint Nuclear Energy Intelligence Committee: New information on one method used by the Soviets "suggests that their first atomic bomb cannot be completed before mid-1951."

29 August, 1949 at 0100 GMT

Semipalatinsk, Soviet Union

20 Kiloton nuclear event

There is a lot of vodka toasting and kissing going on in the Kremlin! Nikita Khrushchev has no information that the west has any way to detect a nuclear event. He is exuberant at having put one over on the free world!

But, we were not asleep! For 2 years, the Army Air Force, and then the newly created USAF, had been developing ways to not only detect a nuclear event but also to sample the by-products to determine the exact time, location, size and composition of the device. Keep in mind that this was a world that, for the most part, knew very little of what the atomic age was all about.

16 September, 1947

General Dwight D. Eisenhower directs General Carl A. Spaatz, commanding general of the Army Air Force, to assume responsibility for detecting atomic explosions anywhere in the world. Major General W. E. Kepner, chief of the USAF Special Weapons Group, is assigned responsibility for **Long Range Detection**.

December, 1947

AFMSW-1, Air Force Materiel Special Weapons-1, is formed under Major General Hegenberger.

August, 1948

AFOAT-1, Air Force Office of Atomic Energy, begins interim surveillance.

March, 1949

The US research and development board (RDB) feels that LRD should be limited to air sampling and limited seismic studies. Not to be deterred, Admiral Strauss secures left over funds from the Manhattan Project and other places to keep other LRD activities going. Rain collecting and WB-29 air sampling continues on a routine basis. (So much for short-sighted bureaucrats!) Tracerlab analyzes every filter paper and ground sample. 111 alerts were sampled and tested into **August, 1949**. There were no findings indicating other than normal phenomena such as volcanos.

And then, routine is over!

3 September, 1949

Alert 112

A report arrives at AFOAT-1 Data Analysis Center in Washington, D.C. that a filter paper exposed for 3 hours at 18,000 feet has a reading of 85 counts per minute, and a companion one has a reading of 135 cpm. The latter is sent to the lab for further analysis.

5 September, 1949

A report arrives that a paper flown at 10,000 feet east of Japan has a reading of 1,000 counts per minute!!!! It is immediately sent to Tracerlab in California.

7 September, 1949

Lab results show numerous findings consistent with debris from an atomic explosion!

19 September, 1949

After more than 500 sampling flights and subsequent lab analysis and airborne sample contact locations, it is determined by a panel led by Dr. Vannevar Bush at AFOAT-1 headquarters that the origin of the fission products was the explosion of an atomic bomb between the 26th and the 29th of August at some point between the 35th meridian and the 170th meridian over the Asiatic land mass.

20 September, 1949

These conclusions are reported to President Truman.

21 September, 1949

Records of weak signals at two acoustic stations reveal the exact location, time and size of Joe-1.

23 September, 1949

President Truman announces to the world that the Soviets have detonated an atomic bomb!

In the Kremlin, glasses fall to the floor, hugging stops, arrogance turns to shock, and bewilderment sets the tone. "How did they find this out?" Ah, Nikita, you can't even guess!

17 October 1949

Dr. Bush sent a letter on behalf of the Panel to General Hoyt S. Vandenberg

"I was much impressed not only with the foresight exhibited by AFOAT-1...but I was impressed also with the thoroughness and skill exemplified in the entire study...I hence take great pleasure on behalf of the Panel in commending those involved for remarkable and effective performance...It now has tasks which are altered, but in my opinion not lessened in importance, and I trust its importance in the future will conform to the high standards which it has already set,"

Sources: Declassified documents: "Detection of the First Soviet Nuclear Test on August 29, 1949" by Dr. Doyle L. Northrup; "The detection of Joe 1" by Doyle L. Northrup and Donald H. Rock

CALL FOR ACTION

Please consider volunteering to serve the WCC in whatever way that you are moved to contribute by filling in the following form.

NOMINIATIONS/VOLUNTEER for WCC OFFICE POSITIONS for the term Dec 2015 thru Nov 2017

ELECTED OFFICIALS			
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:	NOMINATION	or	VOLUNTEER
COB <i>Chmn of Board Of Directors:</i>	[] _____	[] _____	_____
Asst COB:	[] _____	[] _____	_____
Director At Large:	[] _____	[] _____	_____
WCC President:	[] _____	[] _____	_____
OFFICERS:	NOMINATION	or	VOLUNTEER
Vice President:	[] _____	[] _____	_____
Treasurer:	[] _____	[] _____	_____
Asst Treasurer:	[] _____	[] _____	_____
Secretary:	[] _____	[] _____	_____
Asst Secretary:	[] _____	[] _____	_____

APPOINTED-VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

These positions may be added to, changed and/or filled by the newly elected Board Of Directors

POSITION	INCUMBENT	or	NOMINATION/VOLUNTEER
Membership Chmn	[] Dave Price	[] _____	_____
Asst Mbrshp Chmn	(vacant)	[] _____	_____
Newsletter Editor	[] Don King	[] _____	_____
Asst NL Editor	(vacant)	[] _____	_____
Pub/Distribution Chmn	[] Dale Klug	[] _____	_____
Website Administrator	[] Dave Tarquino	[] _____	_____
Webmaster/Asst Admin	[] Bob Fitzgerald	[] _____	_____
Asst Webmaster	(vacant)	[] _____	_____

The names you submit will be included in the election which will be held at the WCC Fall Social in November 2015. Thank you! Fill out and mail this form to:

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

Please be sure your name & address is legible on the outside of the envelope.

WEBSITE ACTIVITY REPORT

["www.AFTACWCC.org"](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)

Website Activity Report for the period 1 Apr 2015 – 30 Jun 2015

Submitted 05-July-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>
Apr 2015	5,427	04/29 (353)	181	Albums** (407)	Links (165)
May 2015	6,156	05/27 (511)	199	Albums** (205)	Links (170)
Jun 2015	4,891	06/26 (338)	163	Links (186)	Departed (151)

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

** The most popular page in Apr & May was the **May 2014 Spring Picnic** photo album again.

I am always pleased to see that you are consistently making good use of access to your favorite organizations via our "Links" page. **Don't see your favorite organization linked from our website?** If so, contact me with the URL. Just email your Webmaster at, Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org. I'm always open to suggestions for new content, page designs, & any help offered. Thanks, Bob

WHO SAID THAT?

by Dale Klug, Editor Emeritus

- >> Silence is not only golden, it is seldom misquoted.
- >> Well-timed silence is the most commanding expression.
- >> Lively silence is as full of potential wisdom as the unhewn marble of great sculpture.
- >> Silence: what would follow if the average politician spoke his mind.
- >> He who does not understand your silence will probably not understand your words.
- >> Silence never shows itself to so great advantage as when it is made to reply to calumny and defamation.
- >> Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
- >> Silence is one of the hardest arguments to refute.

Do you think you know who the above quotes came from? Send your best guess to:

dkconsulting@juno.com April 2015's quotes were from Paul Harris, Kevin Durant, Babe Ruth, Henry Ford, and Jim Rohn. I received a response from **Bob Baker** who got them all correct once again.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As of 10 May-2015

Total Active Members = 147 Life Members = 137

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

The following article was submitted by MSgt Clark Creery's (USAF, Retired)

.In 1972 it is written that a young inexperienced, and vulnerable new AFTAC Administrative Officer's initiation came when assigned to one of its remote frontier posts.

The senior officer and sergeant at the detachment were at odds over solutions to the dismal financial performance of the Club at the Staff House. Following a social affair they were considering closing the Club completely, but HQ refused, demanding instead that the men exhibit superior innovation in problem solving. The solution? They decided to produce wine for sale by the club. That luckily failed thus avoiding a Court Martial offense. The Admin officer was summoned and instructed to see to the production of a quantity of Vodka. Vats, tubs, crocks, copper tubing, Bunsen burners, along with 200

kilos of Potatoes and twenty-four gallons of the best water available were secured. The potato mash was distilled six times, bottled, labeled and inventoried. The product was superb!

Several days later a HQ message was received and it ordered the unapproved project abandoned. An unnamed associate suggested that the officer ship the product home as household goods. He did, but that shipment was inexplicably held up in Italy. 28 years later the officer learned that all but one box of the shipment were disposed of in Italy. Only one box containing eleven bottles of Vodka remain with the original shipment.

To avoid recriminations, the remaining Vodka was given as a gift to those who served with distinction at the detachment in the last century. He presented me with one bottle which I cherish beyond belief.

What is the most amusing thing that you can recall from your time in AFTAC? Who do you remember as a special AFTAC person? How would you compare AFTAC to other assignments that you have had? Did you meet your spouse while at AFTAC and, if so, how? Are there any AFTACers from the same family? Who was your favorite commander and why? What were some of the humanitarian things that you did while with AFTAC?

BOB MILLER

ANOTHER AFTAC AUTHOR

by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor

Bob Miller was born in the United States and educated in Europe and the Middle East, Bob is the only American to graduate from an Iraqi University in Baghdad, Iraq. Commissioned in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War, he served for a decade as an intelligence officer before joining General Dynamics to run its Mideast/Africa region. Based in Greece, he spent over half his time traveling the region from Pakistan to Algeria. Seven years later he joined a Banking conglomerate on the Island of Cyprus, as its Director of Operations, overseeing its worldwide operations in petroleum, trading, manufacturing, construction, publishing and banking. Bob returned to the United States during the 1991 Gulf War and became a senior intelligence officer at Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington D.C., overseeing America's operations in the Mideast through 1994. He has published numerous professional papers and written six books. Conversant in several languages, for these past years he has devoted himself in Humanitarian endeavors. His main tie to AFTAC was Det 333, so all of you other 333ers must have some interesting stories about him or about other humorous events. Next issue will have a story related to 333.

SOME BOOKS BY BOB MILLER



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.)

IN MEMORIAM

Herbert J. Pabst
October 28, 1921 - July 18, 2015

Herbert John Pabst, 93, died July 18, 2015 at home in Denver. Herb was born October 28, 1921 in Lincoln, Nebraska to the late Henry and Katherine Pabst. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1939 and attended the University of Nebraska. He was drafted into military service in 1942 and ended up serving in the Army Air Corp as a radio operator for the B-29s based in Guam until 1946 when he was discharged at Fort Logan in Denver. He was married to Vernetta L. Prosch September 1, 1946 in Bloomfield, Nebraska. He worked as a Civilian Training Specialist for AFTAC at Lowry AFB for 30 years. After retirement, he and Vernetta moved to Sun City, Arizona for nearly 18 years and returned to Denver 4 years ago.

For those who did not know Herb, for many years he was the ATC Supervisory Training Specialist (GS-12) assigned to SPINSTRAS which evolved over the years to be the 3454th Technical Training Squadron when he retired in 1980. Herb had a key role in the development, implementation, and scheduling of the officer and enlisted training courses to support AFTAC requirements. He was a great asset to AFTAC as well as to ATC, and he has been a member of our Colorado chapter since 1991 including his time living in Arizona. We will definitely miss Herb at our alumni gatherings.

Herb was an avid golfer and played regularly through his 90th birthday. He loved to dance, was a dedicated family man with nearly 69 years of marriage to Verny, and was active in the Lutheran Church in Denver and Sun City. He was preceded in death by his parents, 1 brother and 3 sisters.

He is survived by his wife, Verny, sons Randy (Susan) and Ken (Vicki), and four granddaughters, Katie Pabst, Joanna Moore, Krysta Pabst, and Keri Pabst.

AFTAC WCC SPRING PICNIC



Rose & Dale Klug BF
Jean Charles & Rose Dunn BF



Peggy Armintrout & friend, Kristi Colney BF



Ken Breitwieser, Ann Pavik, Jane & Dain Leadmon BF
Al Pavik & Eva Breitwieser BF



Clay Lemire, Dave Riddle, Joe Johnson BF
Richard DiMeola Jr. BF



Marian Jordan (nee Chambers) with BF
Son-in-law Wade Wayland BF



Dennis & Chum Nolan BF
Cathy & Ken Denbleyker BF



Alice & Cal Brown BF
Tommie & Bob Baker BF



Bob & Darlene Fitzgerald BF
Laurie & Butch Kemna BF



Rod & Betty Jo Hinkle BF
Dain & Jane Leadmon BF



Don & Peggye Lemmon BF
John & Corrine Miner BF



Dave & Suki Tarquino BF



Butch & Laurie Kemna; Dain Leadmon, BF
Donna Fritts; Don & Peggye Lemmon BF



Jane Leadmon talking to Cal & Alice Brown KD



Rose & Dale Klug, Jean Charles, & Rose Dunn, KD
with John & Corrine Miner KD



Alice Brown, Betty Jo & Rod Hinkle across KD
from Peggy Armintrout KD



WCC President Dave Tarquino getting a last piece BF
of a goody from the potluck table BF



Dave Tarquino; BBQ Chef Dennis Nolan; BF
Picnic Honcho, Butch Kemna; BF
BBQ Chef Ken BreitwieserBF

We had 40 in attendance at our Spring Picnic, which was arranged & coordinated by **BUTCH KEMNA**, WCC Treasurer.

These photos were taken by:
BF=Bob Fitzgerald
KD=Ken Denbleyker

There are 2 albums of picnic photos in full color available on the "Albums" page of our www.AFTACWCC.org web site.

This photo page by Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster



AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

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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

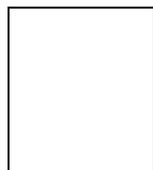
AFTAC Dates: _____
From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

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 ==



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