



Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter
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⇒ **JULY 2016 EDITION** ⇐

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LOOK US UP AT

www.AFTACWCC.org

ATTENTION WCC ALUMNI

2017 AFTAC Worldwide Reunion

15 June – 17 June 2017

It is time to make reservations for the 2017 AFTAC worldwide reunion that is being hosted by the West Coast Chapter of the AFTAC Alumni Association. **This will be the last reunion held by this chapter so let's go out with a whoop and a bang!**

The reunion will be again held at the Lions Gate Hotel (formerly the "O" Club) at McClellan Park in Sacramento. Those attending six years ago will recall this as a perfect and nostalgic site for our reunion.

The General's Quarters will serve as the focus for reunion activities. It is a four bedroom home with multiple areas for large and small conversations. The patio and lawn areas are expansive and well shaded. The hospitality suite will be located there as well as serving as the venue for the Friday night social and the Saturday banquet.

- Thursday, 15 June, 2017: Early sign-in and the hospitality suite activates at the General's Quarters.
- Friday, 16 June, 2017: Sign-in continues at the hospitality suite. Starting at 1700 there will be a no host reception on the patio at the General's house. Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres will be offered. **Casual dress is the preferred attire the entire weekend.** Men can forget the suit jackets and women can forget the heels and cocktail dresses.
- Saturday, 17 June 2017: Hospitality suite is open and registration sign-in continues. The Banquet (**casual dress**) starts at 1700 on the patio. The banquet will include a no host bar and plated dinner. Dinner entrees offered will be your choice of beef, chicken, fish or pasta. This may be your last opportunity to mingle with friends and attendees. After the dinner the hospitality suite will be open.
- Sunday, 18 June 2017: Time to say goodbye.

More information for the day's offerings will be provided as it is available.

Lions Gate Hotel offers registered guests complementary continental breakfast and will arrange transportation to and from the Sacramento International Airport for a modest fee. The rooms are \$109/night with upgrades available. **For reservations you must contact the hotel directly at 916-643-6222 and indicate that you are with the AFTAC reunion group.** Reservations can be made now and we must have all reservations conformed by 15 February, 2017. For a multitude of reasons we are limited to 200. Attached please find the list of those that have indicated a desire attend. Not all AFTAC alumni are in our database, so spread the word.

Hotel Information:

Lions Gate Hotel and Conference Center
3410 Westover Street
Sacramento (McClellan), California 95652
Phone: 916-643-6222
Website: <http://www.lionsgatehotel.com/>

****Be sure to mention you are attending the AFTAC Reunion****

ATTENDEES

Amerena, Joe	LaBarge, Randy
Aning, Harm	Land, Bob
Atkinson, Sheri	Lebermann, Art
Baker, Bob	Lindsay, Ed
Balentine, Tony	Loebach, Tom
Barone, Pam	Lubin, Mike
Bartosek, Charles	Massey, Arlin
Bilyeu, Jay	Messenbrink, Gary
Brown, Dave	Nolan, Dennis
Carson, Deborah	O'Connor, Jack
Cartwright, Art	Payne, Jim
Doll, Julie	Penn, Charlie
Doughty, Al	Phelps, Jim
Fitzgerald, Bob	Price, David
French, John	Richardson, Bobby
Gindlesperger, James	Riggs, Curt
Giordano, Jim	Rubertino, Tony
Hinkle, Rodney	Scheffler, Terrence
Horsch, John	Seits, Ed
Hursey, David	Siemiller, Walt
Johnson, Joe	Simonton, Ralph
Johnson, Robert	Tarquino, Dave
Kinbrough, Bill	Tassan, Bob
King, Donald	Ware, Tom
Klein, Darrel	Werner, Pat
	Welander, Jim
	Zahm, Wayne

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. It is also a great time for the kind of informal get-togethers that we had when we were on active duty at a site or on TDY somewhere, or when we are in the hospitality rooms during a reunion. The date of the next meeting is Mon Sep 12.

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

Website Activity Report for the period 1 Apr 2016 – 30 Jun 2016

Submitted 14-Jul-2016 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

<u>Visitors This Quarter</u>	<u>Highest Visit Week (#Visits)</u>	<u>Total Sessions</u>	<u>Most Popular* Page (#Sessions)</u>	<u>Next Most Popular* Page (#Sessions)</u>
2,313	05/16 (265)	2,427	Albums*** (1,340)	Fallout (196)

Notes: * Does not include our 'Home' page, which almost always is the most popular page.

** Our website hosting company no longer provides the detailed monthly statistics in a form we were accustomed to getting, hence this quarterly report. I.E.: now we are getting "Visitors" instead of "Unique Visits" as one of the statistics.

*** The 14May2016 Photo Album was the most popular this quarter.

Our "Links" page always does quite well. If you don't see your favorite organization linked from our website, contact me with the URL. Just email your Webmaster at, Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org. Also, I'm always open to suggestions for new content, page designs, & any assistance offered. Thank you, ... Bob

WHO SAID THAT??

by Dale Klug, Editor Emeritus

- >> It has always been easy to hate and destroy. To build and to cherish is much more difficult.
- >> Worry about the unintended consequences before you do something.
- >> If everything is equally important to you; nothing is important to you.
- >> One who gains strength by overcoming obstacles possesses the only strength which can overcome adversity.
- >> The only way any of us can change anything outside ourselves is to make changes inside.
- >> Challenge and purge your biases in all areas and value others who do the same.
- >> When I lost my rifle, the Army charged me \$85. That's why in the Navy, the captain goes down with the ship.
- >> America is the only country founded on a good idea.

April 2016's quotes were from Groucho Marx, Martin Luther King Jr, Plato, John Q Adams, William E Simon, Thomas Sowell and Robert Orben.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As of 21 Jul-2016

Total Active Members = 146 Life Members = 135

The lifetime membership dropped by one to 135 while the total remains at 146. Harry Monroe (SEO 58-60) joined 21 Jul and Robert McGee was deleted (deceased).

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.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEER FOR WCC PRESIDENT

We need a member to take on the responsibilities of WCC President. As you can see on the first page, there is a great supporting staff! Please let one of the officers know if you are interested.

MEMORIES

By Harry Monroe (SEO)

I was at Lowry from March, 1955 until October, 1955. I studied basic electronics from March until July and then nuclear from July until the first part of October. As I remember, the electronics was taught in an old building on Lowry 1 and the nuclear in a new building down the street from the entrance of Lowry 2. If I remember right, we were the first or second class after the school was transferred from Biloxi, MS. I was at Manzano AFB, Albuquerque, NM, from October 1955 until Feb, 1957 when I, along with Hank Hermes, Jim Seed, Bob Wille and Chuck Robb transferred to McClellan. Jim Seed and Hank Hermes were pulled off being SEO's because Jim was close to a degree in chemistry and Hank had a Masters Degree in mathematics. Chuck, Bob and I went to Team 202 the first of May, 1957. I left in June, 1958 and was discharged. Orville Pritchard, Bobby Jones and I were together at T-202. Capt. Coppage was OIC and Maj. Charles Hewitt was commander.

Bob Wille, whom I met when we were sworn in at Indianapolis and went through 5 different air force bases, had this amazing experience! Bob had never taken the controls of any type of aircraft. On a T-33 mission in 1957-1958, the pilot told him he was having trouble with his oxygen and told Bob to see if he could fly the plane while he worked on his equipment. Bob said he was terrified and didn't know what to do. He thought about bailing out but said he didn't know how. He is a pretty sharp guy and managed to keep it in the air by watching the turn and bank indicator, the altimeter, and the compass. Bob is the only guy I know who learned instruments before he soloed!

Most of the guys didn't like the T-33, but Orville Pritchard and I almost fought to go on these missions. Orville had been a pilot cadet and I had soloed when I was 16. The two of us flew most of them. I had over 55 hours in the T-33 during the year I was at Team 202. I also had 1100 hours of B-50 time.

There were five of us who transferred from nuclear technicians at Albuquerque to the 1009th in February of 1957. In addition to Bob and me, there were Chuck Robb, Jim Seed, and Hank Hermes.

Bob Wille got an EE degree and had a career as a radio station broadcaster. He constructed a station and became the General Manager when it went on the air. It was one of the first stereo stations.

Chuck Robb got a PHD in Finance and became the CFO of a Fortune 500 Company in Texas

Hank Hermes, who had a Masters Degree in mathematics by the time he arrived at the WFO, went on to get a PHD, and worked for NASA during the Apollo Program, I understand he was the one that advised the loop around the moon for the return of Apollo 13 rather than reversing mid-way. He retired as a Professor of Mathematics at the University of Boulder a few years back.

Jim Seed went on to get a PHD in Chemistry and a Masters in Business Administration. He was the Resident Chemist at Los Alamos and Rocky Flats. He was later appointed by President Nixon to be Director of Research and Development with the National Bureau of Standards. He was founder and President of Lancer Laboratories, a division of Sherwood and Dow Chemical in St. Louis. He founded his own medical laboratory after leaving Lancer and invented an instrument that could do 36 analyses from a blood sample using spectrum and micro technology. Sound familiar? Jim died 2 or 3 years ago.

I had a career in television broadcasting. I got a First Class Radiotelephone license by attending night school and worked in Louisville at WLKY TV 32. I was also the chief engineer at other stations which included Dayton-Richmond in Ohio, Indiana, Nashville TN, West Palm Beach and Miami FL, and WBNA-TV 21 in Louisville. While I was at channel 32 in Louisville I worked with Diane Sawyer, who was the weather girl before she moved up to being a reporter.

All of us only attained Airmen 1st Class in the Air Force. Jim and Hank were offered direct commissions but turned them down. My OIC offered me OCS if I would re-enlist, but I turned it down.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE WEIRD KIND

By Don King, Depot Fallout Editor

You just never know who you will run into in this walk through life. On a recent cruise, I spotted an elderly gentleman (older than I) with a veteran cap on for the army. I thanked him for his service and let him know that I was in the USAF. I asked him what he did and he responded with quite a story.

We AFTAC vets are well aware of the atomic bomb tests during the development of the bomb. We have all seen the films of the various tests and the ways that they were trying to evaluate the effectiveness of the bomb and its effects upon objects, atmosphere, the ground, and personnel. Remember the images of people behind bunkers putting on the special goggles? Remember the soldiers hunkering down in the open? Did you ever imagine what it was like to be one of them? Lo and behold, this gentleman was one of them!



IN MEMORIAM

by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

ROBERT D. "DOUG" McGEE

b. 1944; d. 07-Apr-2016 in Fayetteville, NC

Notified by John "Butch" Kemna on 6/7/2016. Obit found by Clark Creery as shown below.

Robert Douglas McGee, 72, of 54 Boykin Drive, Clinton, N.C., passed away Thursday, Apr 7, at his home. A graveside service was held at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Apr 12, in the Sandhills Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake, NC.

Robert was retired from the U. S. Army as a helicopter pilot and was a Vietnam Veteran. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club and the VFW. He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard Gordon McGee and Madeline Ruth Counts McGee; brother and sister, Billy Joe McGee and Marjorie Ann McGee. He is survived by his wife of forty-six years, **Sherylle McGee**; sons, Rodney Kyle McGee and Carol of Clinton and Travis Wayde McGee and Rosezatte of Fayetteville; brother, Richard Gordon McGee, Jr. of Tennessee; grandchildren, Kelsey Shannon McGee, Colin McGee, Jacob McGee, John Russell Olson, Noah Douglas McGee, Jessica Covington and Annie Jean McGee; great-grandchildren, Aiden Hall, Rodney McGee and Iris Naylor; and mother-in-law, Sharon Opperman.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Tims Gift at 108 Northeast Blvd., Clinton, NC 28328. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com. Arrangements are by Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, 118 Fayetteville St., Clinton, NC 28328.

Published in The Sampson Independent from Apr. 9 to Apr. 10, 2016

'Butch' contributed that "Doug" McGee "was an **SEO** and WCC Life Member. When stationed at 407 he was in a Go Cart wreck and was knocked out. The AF would not let him remain on flying status so he got out and joined the Army. "I am pretty sure he was in the Blackhawk program."

Clark mentioned that Robert McGee was stationed at Lowry in '61, 1155 in '62-'63, Ops Bongo Drum, Crazy Man Overseas Det '63-'67 airborne ops."

NEW COMMANDER TAKES OVER AT AFTAC

By Don King, Depot Fallout Editor

"Together we will continue the distinguished legacy of AFTAC."-Col Gorski



(Photo: U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew Jurgens)

Col. Steven Gorski assumed command of the Air Force Technical Application Center at Patrick AFB Florida on Monday, July 25, 2016.



(Photo: U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew Jurgens)

Maj. Gen. Bradford "BJ" Shwedo, commander of 25th Air Force, passes the unit guidon to Col. Steven M. Gorski (right) during an Assumption of Command ceremony of the Air Force Technical Applications Center. Also pictured are the ceremony's narrator Chief Master Sgt. Matthew Brown (left) and AFTAC's Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Joseph.

Before coming to AFTAC, Gorski served as commander of the Air and Cyberspace Intelligence Group for the National Air and Space Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.



Ken: "Holy Smokes, Denny", "What did you use for lighter?"



Dave Price to Ken Denbleyker, Ken Breitwieser & Dennis Nolan: "You see, guys, if you do it this way it'll turn out better. ... Trust me!"



Dennis: "25mm apart should work just fine for these dogs." Ken: "Yeah, sure! Whatever you say. I can hardly see the burgers."



The guys who make it happen: 'Butch' Kemna, Picnic Guru/Coordinator, Ken Breitwieser & Dennis Nolan, Super BBQ Chefs.

**AFTAC-WCC 14May2016
ANNUAL PICNIC**

29 Happy Alumni Attendees

1st Photo by *Eva Breitwieser*
All other photos by *Bob Fitzgerald*

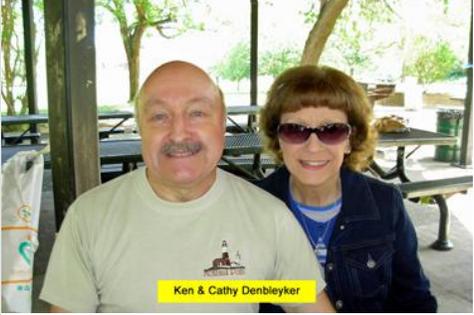
See enlargements of these and more on our www.AFTACWCC.org website "Albums" page.



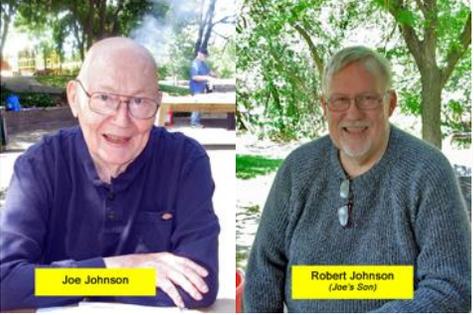
Alice & Cal Brown



Al & Ann Pavik



Ken & Cathy Denbleyker



Joe Johnson

Robert Johnson
(Joe's Son)



Tommie & Bob Baker



Chum & Dennis Nolan



Ken & Eva Breitwieser



Bob & Darlene "Leilan" Fitzgerald



Nancy & Dave Price



Clay Lemire

Dave Riddle



John & Corrine Miner



Virginia Chamberlain & Laura Home



Don Lemmon

Tony Carvelli, CMSgt USAF (Ret),
McClellan Retired Activities Office (RAO) Vol
(Guest of Bob & Darlene Fitzgerald)



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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