



# Depot Fallout



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

⇒ **JANUARY 2017 EDITION** ←

## WCC OFFICERS 2016-2017

(**Vacant**), President

President@AFTACWCC.org

**Joe Johnson**, Vice President

916-483-5938

VicePres@AFTACWCC.org

**Ken Denbleyker**, Chmn of the Bd

916-987-1754

ChmnOfTheBd@AFTACwcc.org

**Dave Tarquino**, Asst. COB

917-723-7634

AsstBdChmn@AFTACwcc.org

**Dennis Nolan**, Director At Large

916-726-4830

DirectorAtLarge@AFTACwcc.org

**John "Butch" Kemna**, Treasurer

916-722-8509

Treasurer@AFTACWCC.org

(**Vacant**), Asst Treasurer

AsstTreasurer@AFTACWCC.org

**Bob Baker**, Secretary

916-944-8070

Secretary@AFTACWCC.org

**Ken Breitwieser**, Asst Secretary

916-722-1280

AsstSecretary@AFTACWCC.org

**Dave Price**, Membership Chmn

916-354-9740

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](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)**

## **2017 AFTAC**

### **Worldwide Reunion**

hosted by the

### **West Coast Alumni Chapter (WCC)**

**JUNE 15-17, 2017**

at McClellan Park, Sacramento

This will be the last reunion hosted by the WCC, and will again be 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 an AFTAC reunion. The General's Quarters will serve as the focus for activities. It is a 4 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. Don't miss this opportunity to visit friends at this last WCC reunion.

As of January 19th we have not met the minimum hotel reservations needed to make the reunion viable; there is a strong possibility the event will be canceled. If you plan to attend and will be staying at the Lions Gate Hotel, we urge you to make your reservations now so a 'go/no go' decision can be made regarding the reunion.

The meal menu and costs have not been finalized, but we expect the Friday night social to be about \$25/per person, and the Saturday dinner about \$50/ per person. Registration forms will be available once it is established that the reunion will take place.

Sacramento is changing and has many new attractions worth visiting. The **Crocker Art Museum's** expansion more than tripled the Museum's size. <https://www.crockerart.org/about>. The **Aerospace Museum of California** at McClellan right now also features a dramatic hands-on display of 40 full-size machine replicas made directly from Leonardo da Vinci's innovative designs and drawings. <https://aerospaceca.org/events/davinci-exhibit/>. The new '**Golden1 Center**' Sacramento Kings arena has revitalized the downtown Sacramento area hosting many events. <http://www.golden1center.com/>. A visit to Old Sacramento and the **California State Railroad Museum** is always rewarding. <https://www.californiarailroad.museum/>.

**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 please contact the hotel at 916-643-6222. Indicate you are with the AFTAC Reunion Group when making your reservation.** Reservations can be made now and **we must have all reservations confirmed by 15 February 2017.**

Please visit the WCC website for information. <http://www.aftacwcc.org/>.

If you know of any alumni who may not belong to one of the three chapters, please forward this information to them.

## 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. 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 Mar 13**. Always check our 'Events' page at [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) or call ahead to our Vice President to confirm time & place

**“www.AFTACWCC.org”**

*by Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster*

**Website Quarterly Activity Report for the period 1 Oct 2016 –31 Dec 2016**

**Submitted 2-Jan-2017 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster**

<b>Visitors This Quarter</b>	<b>Highest Visitors Week</b>	<b>Total Sessions</b>	<b>Most Popular* Page (#Sessions)</b>	<b>Next Most Popular* Page (#Sessions)</b>
<b>2,574</b>	<b>12/26-01/01 (344)</b>	<b>2,684</b>	<b>Albums** (522)</b>	<b>Fallout (435)</b>

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

\*\* The 14May2016 Spring Picnic Album was the most popular this quarter with the 'Fallout' page 2<sup>nd</sup> most.

**Visitors:** This evaluation shows how many visitors accessed our website. Visitors are uniquely identified on the basis of the IP address and the browser ID. **If a visitor goes to our website more than once a day, only one visitor is counted.**

**Sessions:** This evaluation shows the number of sessions. A session starts when a visitor accesses our website and ends when he or she leaves it. A session ends automatically after 30 minutes without activity. **If a visitor goes to our website more than once a day, multiple sessions are counted.**

## WHO SAID THAT??

*by Dale Klug, Editor Emeritus*

- >> Sincerity and competence is a strong combination. In politics, it's everything.
- >> I pray each day that I may be strong enough not to hurt anybody.
- >> There is nothing so powerful as truth – and often nothing so strong.
- >> It isn't a mistake to have strong views. The mistake is to have nothing else.
- >> A man who builds his own pedestal had better use strong cement.
- >> Strong convictions precede great actions.
- >> Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the US was too strong.
- >> Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough.
- >> You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have.

October 2016's quotes were from **Jimmy Carter, Patrick Dorinson, Harry Truman, Harry Truman, Tom Sullivan, Dwight Eisenhower, John F Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln.**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*by Dave Price, Membership Chairman*

**As of 12-Dec-2016**

**Total Active Members = 146 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.

# **RECRUITING MEMORIES**

*by Ron Mangini and Charlie Penn*

## **Ron:**

Greetings and Happy New Year. I just recently became aware of the AFTAC Alumni Associations, with both its HQ Chapter in FL, and this WCC in CA. I wish that I had known about the declassification of the mission a very long time ago, as I would have liked to have told my parents before they passed away. They knew I could not discuss the matter and never once did they pressure me for information. The last word I had when I left AFTAC back in 1972, was that I was never to discuss anything about our mission, what I did or where I went, as our mission was classified Secret, and I held a Top Secret Security Clearance. I have since read numerous articles and books about AFTAC History which has been informative, but still would like to know what I can or can't talk about as there was a lot more to it all than what I have read.

One of the best things I did with my life was to be convinced by the AFTAC Recruiter that I would be joining the most elite unit in the AF, and receive the best training. I had to wait a few weeks to meet with him after completing Basic Training, while watching my fellow Training Flight Airmen receive their career assignments and go on their way! I still smile when I recall putting my USAF future in the hands of this Recruiter who, because of the Secret Classification of the Mission. could tell me nothing about what I would be doing for the next four years if I decided to join. That required a lot of trust on my part, a guy who just wanted to learn how to repair jet engines and to have that as a career when I get out. To this day I still remember that AFTAC Recruiter. His name was Captain Booten. I still have the card he gave me with his phone number to call him. Once I had thought about his offer, I gave him my decision the next time we met, if I recall correctly as it has been a long time! Great memories, great education and set my career and myself in the right direction. I am looking forward to my membership and learning more about AFTAC history. It is hard to believe that it was so long ago.

On a more humorous note, I did see the new logo about "In God We Trust, All others We Monitor." Back in my day we didn't have a formal Mission Statement like that for our Logo, but in our Training Building at Lowry AFB there was a large Photo that I will never forget. It was of a lizard that, because of its physical features, could literally walk/run across water. That lizard became our Mission Mascot, and under that photo was the statement about who we were and were trained to be; "We Walk On Water." And that's who we were back then, and trained to be as a part of that special outfit. We new recruits were quite a bunch back then, definitely not typical, and definitely quite "cocky!" That's enough. I've run on far too much! It's just I get excited when think about the past.

## **Charlie:**

Much like Ron (but later) I trusted the AFTAC recruiter at Lackland (a major) and fell into the hype. The interview lasted a total of ten minutes and as I remembered the interview he just said everything was classified but I would be flying. Sounded OK to me, so I said yes. The next thing I knew I was at Lowry. This was in 1961 and apparently the "A" class prior to mine had experienced a tragedy with 4 of the new students perishing in a car accident on their way to McClellan AFB. I arrived at KMCC in February of 1962 and graduated from "'A" school April 15<sup>th</sup>1962. Stayed in for twenty years doing the same job and loved every minute of it (including an aircraft incident on a WC-135B where the nose wheel collapsed during a landing after a takeoff with a jammed elevator. Retired in 1981 (E-7) and never regretted my tenure as an Special Equipment Operator. Served as the president of the West Coast AFTAC Alumni Association for many years and often reminisce my flying escapades. My list of aircraft were the C-47, C-118, C-130B,E, and H, B-52F, G, and H, WB- 50D, B-47E, and the WC135B. Accumulated around 6,500 hours flying for AFTAC; loved every minute.



# QUIZ TIME

By Don King, Fallout Editor



These planes were on a flight line in the mid 50's. There are nine aircraft and 6 different types. Don't try to determine the exact version of the aircraft, such as B-52 D. Stick with the basic type, such as B-52. Extra credit if you can give the name also. Submit answers to [retldking6158@gmail.com](mailto:retldking6158@gmail.com).

What do you think this one is?





**AFTAC Alumni Assoc – WCC Fall Social, Dec 12, 2016 at Sam’s Hof Brau**



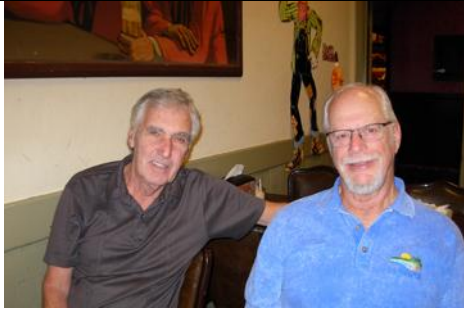
**Dale & Rose Klug**



**Dennis Nolan & Dave Tarquino**



**Robert (son of Joe) & Joe Johnson**



**John "Butch" Kemna & Don Lemmon**



**Cathy & Ken Denblyker**



**Nancy & Dave Price**



**Darlene & Bob Fitzgerald**



**Corrine & John Miner**



**John & Dorothy Lanigan**



**Ken Breitwieser & Donna Fritts**



**Tommie & Bob Baker**

This event was arranged by **Dave Tarquino** with Photos by **Bob Fitzgerald**  
 -----  
 See our "Albums" page at [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) for full-color enlargements



**Twenty-One AFTAC Alumni + one guest attended the WCC 2016 Fall Social (Missing from group pic: Dale & Rose Klug + Robert Johnson)**

# ALUMNI MEMORIES

*Contributed by John Horsch*

## **Jack Oconnor**

I was fortunate enough to be assigned to the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron at Team 103 in Hawaii. Four SSgt's and a Captain. I was one of the E-5's.

The article written by Harry Monroe caused me to write this missive. He was at Lowry a little after me. I started in November 1954 on Lowry 1 and finished in May 1955 on Lowry 2. I stoked the furnaces nightly to get out of KP. We started with seven in our class, and finished with five. John Griffiths, John Sroka, Jim Turk, Dave Conklin and I all graduated with our 2nd stripe. All attended my wedding on the Sunday before graduation. I still have the cutlery they bought for our wedding. It outlasted my first wife!! From Lowry we all went to WFO (Team 101) at McClellan AFB in the "A" Field. We drew hazardous duty pay at first---and flying those WB-29's and especially the WB-50's were indeed hazardous. No one minded flying the RB-36 except for some of those 27 hour missions. Our training platform was a C-47, tail #263. My one and only trip in a T-33 was with Capt "Buck Copeland". Most A's went on to Team 407 in Japan. Because I was married, they kept me in California.

I did a lot of flying, mostly out of Eielson AFB, Alaska. I worked mainly for Capt "Buck" Copeland and Capt Martin. I flew with Capt Coppage, who was the only officer I ever knew who wore Crew Member Wings. Col Griffin was CO of WFO. We had many fine officers and enlisted folks there. From the way I was selected to attend the schools at Lowry AFB, I have to believe they were and probably still are the cream of the crop!

Gary Moles, Bill Thompson and I all took the test for OCS. We all passed and were accepted. Gary went on and had a successful career as a MATS/MAC pilot. I withdrew because I only had 3 stripes and the AF would not pay for transporting my family.

After making E-5 in March 1958, Buck Copeland was transferred to Team 103 in Hawaii to clean up a real mess. 1009th HQ basically gave him a blank check to do the job. He asked me to come over to fill one of the slots. I told him no because I would have to give up the \$55.00 flying pay. Though I fell in love with Hawaii after TDYs there in '56 & '57, with a wife and two kids, I just couldn't do it. Surprisingly, about three weeks later, I received another call from Capt Copeland.

Magically, there was a flying slot open over there and he wanted me to fill it. I jumped on it and in June 1958, accompanying by my family, I was airborne over the Pacific on my way to Paradise!

It wasn't too long before Capt Copeland pushed me to apply for OCS again. Seeing that all promotions to E-6 were frozen and would be for years, I decided this was my best choice. So, after 16 glorious months in Hawaii and almost six years in my beloved 1009th Special Weapons Squadron. I said Aloha and went to OCS. Thus, the flying slot in Hawaii was withdrawn making me the only individual to ever carry an A99125A AFSC in Hawaii. I would be the sole 1009th alumnus to attend OCS class 60C---continuing a string of at least one member of the 1009th, including Capt Coppage and Gary Moles, to attend and graduate from every OCS class. As far as I know, that string continued thru the final class in 1963. Quite an accomplishment and a tribute to the personnel of the 1009th SWS and AFTAC! I requested and was assigned a slot in Navigator Training. Upon graduation at Harlingen AFB, TX, I was selected for Navigator-Bombardier training at Mather AFB. For the previous 4 years and 96 classes of everyone going to B-47's or B-52's my class came up and needed 15 out of 30 of us to go to Hawaii in MATS C-118's and C-124's. I was ranked high enough in the class to be able to choose C-118's in Hawaii. So, 28 months after leaving Hawaii as a SSgt SEO, I returned as a 1st LT Navigator. Buck Copeland was stationed at Wheeler AFB at that time, so our lifetime friendship continued for more years on Oahu.

On one of my early trips, I was the Navigator on a C-118 that took a contingent of Special Forces troops into the town of Ubon, Thailand, just across the fence from Vietnam. It had no runway so we landed on a grass field to deposit them. This was in late summer of 1962, and as far as I know, these were the first Special forces to be inserted into the Vietnam War. My last trip was in a C-130E to Hanoi---my 4th trip there---to bring out the first of our Heroes who died in captivity. A very emotional trip!! In between I made many trips into Vietnam in C-124's including one where all crewmen were awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device for action on a very exciting Halloween night. Those Viet Cong and North Vietnamese really know how to trick or treat!!

I retired as a Major in June 1978 while test flying C-130's, C-97's and B-57's at the Birmingham, AL Airport and having been passed over for Lt Col, decided to retire.

After a total of over 15,000 flying hours, I still feel that my most important job was my efforts in those modified bombers flying for the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron! Lots of memories of my flying days for our great outfit!!





# AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974  
Email: [TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org](mailto:TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org)



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
*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*

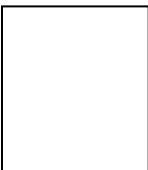
AFTAC Dates: \_\_\_\_\_  
*From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy*

**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](http://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