



Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter
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LOOK US UP AT
www.AFTACWCC.org

SPRING PICNIC BBQ & POTLUCK

by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster & Vice President

The West Coast Chapter will hold our annual SPRING PICNIC BBQ & POTLUCK once again on ARMED FORCES DAY, **Saturday, 19 May 2018**. Please note that all AFTAC'ers (*Military, Civilian, Spouses, Kids, & Grandkids*), and even your non-AFTAC friends are welcome to attend this FREE event. John "Butch" Kemna our chief Picnic Guru, myself and our BBQ Chefs promise you will have a lot of good food, a really good time and possibly even good weather - which we've ordered for this event. 😊 Full details and the required sign-up form can be found in this issue as well as on our website.

ANNUAL FALL SOCIAL COMING IN NOVEMBER

by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster & Vice President

On Saturday, November 11th the West Coast Chapter will have our annual Fall Social at the **Olive Garden** restaurant in Citrus Heights from 11:30am-2:30pm. This restaurant will allow us each to order from their full menu and will bill us separately for our meals & drinks. More details and the required sign-up form will be available on our website soon and published by our July or September issue. **Please put this event on your calendar now so you won't forget!** 😊

[Note: We had reported last issue that we were planning to have this event at the Spaghetti Factory in Roseville, but it turns out that their requirements do not fit our needs regarding restricted menu selections, one group billing, etc.]

IN MEMORIAM

by Dale Klug

Arnold Herman (Skip) Wunder

May 11, 1933 - April 10, 2018

o Nebraska

According to Bill Hinkel, Skip was an SEO from 1963 to 1966.

THE LEGEND OF THE “LADY OF THE LAKE”

By Senior Airman Cassie Whitman, Eielson Air Force Base, 354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs / Published March 27, 2018



EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska -- The "Lady of the Lake" is the last WB-29 Superfortress left at Eielson AFB which was dropped from the Air Force inventory in 1955 because of a ground accident. The aircraft was taken to the pond it currently rests in and was used for open water extracation training until it became too dangerous. The aircraft was abandoned where it lays. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt Joshua Strang)

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska --

Since moving to Eielson in July 2013, I have heard numerous tales about the mysterious “Lady of the Lake.” I always assumed it was some ghost legend of a woman who drowned in a lake and haunts people who look for her, but boy was I wrong.

Recently, I began to look into the real history of the Lady of the Lake, as I enjoy ghost tales and wanted to learn more. To my surprise, it had nothing to do with a woman at all. No, it is actually about a WB-29 Bomber aircraft that has been abandoned for ages in its watery final resting place.

She is a World War II era bomber that partially sticks out of the water, and just a few short summers ago, her true history was unearthed.

A team of divers began an expedition and found that when the bomber, whose tail number is 44-62214, was operational she flew between Alaska and Japan, detecting evidence of Soviet nuclear testing in 1949. The divers also found a table with grease pencil writing that depicted the names of the crewmembers on the mission and confirmed the tail number of the bomber.

This was a fascinating and educational discovery for me, but the more I read, the more I began to wonder just how the bomber ended up in the lake to begin with.

According to Jack Waid, the former Historian for Eielson, there is no record of how the plane ended up in the lake, only hearsay and legends to go off of. Sometime before 1964, the aircraft ended up in the lake, whether it was considered an eyesore, moved because of damage, or put there specifically for training purposes.

The diving crews did find evidence that would support the theory of having the plane put in the lake intentionally for egress training. This evidence included an A-frame apparatus that would have been used for water rescue training.

This just goes to show you that speculation of any event can lead to misinformation and unfounded rumors. Where I thought a ghost story existed was actually a historical story of **the first B-29 Bomber to detect Soviet nuclear testing**. It still leaves me to wonder how she mysteriously ended up in the bottom of an unforgettable lake.

DETACHMENT 460

Eielson AFB Published October 11, 2017

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Detachment 460 is to monitor and record natural and man-made seismic disturbances in the earth in conjunction with the Air Force Technical Applications Center's nuclear treaty monitoring mission.

BACKGROUND

The Air Force Technical Applications Center's Detachment 460, located at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, conducts nuclear treaty monitoring through seismic and atmospheric data collection. Findings from this data is reported to national decision makers through AFTAC's headquarters at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. Detachment 460 is a tenant organization of the 354th Fighter Wing at Eielson AFB. It is the largest and most varied detachment of its type of AFTAC's numerous worldwide detachments.

Det 460 operates and maintains the most comprehensive seismic network in the United States Atomic Energy Detection System (USAEDS). Up until 2016, the detachment managed seven seismic arrays, many of them north of the Arctic Circle. Today, the detachment manages five after the 2016 decommissioning of Attu Island and Alaska Long Period Arrays. The current 35 seismic instruments are spread across these five arrays employing different electronics packages in geologically advantageous sites. The five seismic sites include the local array located at Eielson AFB; the Burnt Mountain array (north of Fort Yukon on the edge of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge); the Indian Mountain array; the Tatalina array; and the Beaver Creek array located on the Alaska-Canada Border south of the Alaskan town of Tok. This gives Det 460 a comprehensive view of the dynamics of the earth worldwide.

The Det also operates and maintains a network of gaseous and particulate air sampling units to detect airborne signatures of nuclear events. The atmospheric systems are located on Eareckson AFB (Shemya Island), Point Barrow and at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. These five specialized instruments at three different locations round out Det 460's broad support to a nationally vital mission. Stretching from far above the Arctic Circle to the Canadian border and out to the Aleutian Island Chain, Det 460's area of responsibility comprises a vast and unique set of geographic, climatic and cultural challenges. From stifling heat and bugs in the summer to the extreme rigors of the remote Arctic in the winter, detachment personnel routinely overcome significant obstacles to provide a 24/7 vigilant watch for America and its allies.

HISTORY

Detachment 460 has a long and distinguished history in the service of the United States Atomic Energy Detection System. Its roots are actually derived from several AFTAC detachments scattered across the "Last Frontier" in the late 1950s. During this era, there were six detachments and approximately 200 AFTAC personnel in Alaska.

Eielson AFB was activated June 14, 1944. It was known as Mile 26 Airfield, and was an auxiliary field for Ladd field, presently called Ft. Wainwright. Air sampling operations conducted from Alaska in the late 1940s provided the first evidence that confirmed that Russia had exploded an Atomic bomb. Daily surveillance sampling flights were flown from Eielson AFB for the next 25 years.

Editor's note: There must be interesting stories from all of you who served in Alaska at one time or another that would interest our readers. Det 460 has been around for a long time and, knowing how "different" you "B" guys are, send me some stories of your experiences.

This also applies to everyone else in the alphabet. Don't let the tales disappear!

PHONE SCAMS

by Don King, Depot Fallout Editor

Are you puzzled by those phone calls that ring only once and hang up?
They are just one of the many ways that scam deviants are trying to get your personal information.
So what should you do?

DO NOT CALL THE DISPLAYED NUMBER!!!!

These crooks use software that allows them to display fake numbers that are hard to resist. Criminals sometimes program auto-dialers to make repeated calls to you, each disconnecting after just one ring. They know this might spur you into calling back the displayed number out of curiosity, since it usually has a local area code, or you want to complain. There's double trouble if you call area codes such as 268, 664 and 876. These are for Caribbean countries and other places that have high per-minute phone charges. One scam involves getting you to call one of those numbers, then getting you to hold through transfers that rack up your bill until a scammer gets on the line and starts a fraudulent pitch.

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

FELLOW ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

We have started the preliminary work on hosting another

Alumni Worldwide reunion next year, 13 - 16 June 2019

Informal social icebreaker on Friday evening, 14 June, and the formal dinner on Saturday, 15 June. We have met with the folks at the Hilton DoubleTree in Aurora and they will give us a special room rate of \$119.00 per night (plus tax) which includes a full breakfast buffet each morning.

This is the same hotel where we hosted our 2013 reunion - it is significantly remodeled (scheduled to be finished this May).

Before we sign a contract with the hotel, we would like to get an idea of how many people will be attending the two evening events and also how many rooms will be booked at the hotel (this will help us to lock down the hospitality room).

Please let us know if you are:

1. Definitely interested and will be attending
2. Definitely interested but may not be able to attend
3. Just interested and it's really iffy

We would also like to hear any feedback you might provide from our previous 2013 reunion and any suggestions you may have for the upcoming 2019 reunion.

Please send ONE email, stating 1, 2 or 3 as above and include both of these addressees:

President@aftacco.org; Treasurer@aftacco.org;
Best regards, AFTAC Alumni Association of Colorado

MANAGE YOUR RETIREMENT PAY: EDUCATE YOUR BENEFICIARIES

By Dale Klug

For the past five years the McClellan Retiree Activities Office (RAO) has been processing death notifications and helping widows & widowers apply for benefits at the rate of at least one per week.

We find about two-thirds of the people we help are not prepared with enough up-to-date information to complete the notification and application processes.

The reason is that the military retirees did not keep their beneficiaries informed as to what to do or where their records and pertinent information is kept.

The following website has the latest Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) information that will help you.

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

If you cannot access this website, just come into our office and we can get you the help you need.

We can complete all the necessary paperwork and submit it to DFAS when the need arises. We also have a detailed Retiree Casualty Assistance checklist available to help you with the preplanning you need to do.

Every military base has a Casualty Assistance Office that will fill out all the necessary paperwork for you and most have a Retiree Activities Office to help also should you need it.

You can call DFAS directly, however you may wait several minutes to a couple hours to talk to someone.

Enjoy Retirement, Dale Klug



*Casualty Assistance for
Retired Military*



Dale Klug

Retiree Activities Office

Wednesdays 1200 to 1500

Bldg 949 Rm 114 Phone: 916-640-8446

McClellan Park, CA

e-mail: dkconsulting@juno.com

HEALTH & WELFARE REPORT(s)

by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC VP

GREAT NEWS!

DENNIS NOLAN: As some of our members may be aware, **Dennis Nolan, WCC Director At Large**, had a hemorrhagic stroke (*bleeding on the brain*) on 4 November 2017 and was in the hospital for some time but finally was sent home to recover with therapy. Dennis says, "I am doing very well. I have completed my rehabilitation therapy and am back on my bicycle doing 100 miles a week. I have some minor residual issues that will take a few months longer to resolve. But I would say that I am functional. Glad to be alive. Thanks to all who sent prayers and good wishes."

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 in 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 Jun 11th**.

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

UPCOMING 2018 SOCIAL EVENTS:

- . **19 May 2018 11:30am-2:30pm Annual BBQ Picnic & Potluck.** **Sign-up form due by 13May.** See details this issue.
- . **11 Nov 2018 11:30am-2:30pm Fall Social.** Details this issue. Sign-up form on website soon & in an upcoming issue.

(Note: Updated schedules of all meetings & social activities are always available our www.AFTACWCC.org website "Events" page.)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As of Mar 12, 2018

Total Active Members = 146 Life Members = 140.

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.)

"www.AFTACWCC.org"

Website Quarterly Activity Report for the period 1 Jan 2018 –31 Mar 2018
Submitted 1-Apr-2018 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

<u>Visitors</u> <u>This Quarter</u>	<u>Highest</u> <u>Visitors Week</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Sessions</u>	<u>Most Popular*</u> <u>Page (#Sessions)</u>	<u>Next Most Popular*</u> <u>Page (#Sessions)</u>
3,439	02/05-02/11 (316)	3,731	Departed (329)	History (302)

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

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.**

NCO SUPER GRADES

by Don King, Depot Fallout Editor

When was the first super grade NCO rank established? Who in our AFTAC membership has the earliest date of rank for each of the super grades? Send your DOR's to retdking6158@gmail.com and I will publish the results.

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - WEST COAST CHAPTER ANNUAL PICNIC

SATURDAY, 19 MAY 2018 – 11AM-2PM

Tempo Park, 13201 Fair Oaks Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

ATTENTION TO ORDERS

Once again it's time for our annual Spring get together. We will be hosting our annual WCC picnic on **19 May 2018** at the same venue as last year's picnic. Good restroom facilities, ample parking, and a covered pavilion. We will be lighting the BBQs at 1100 hours and wrap things up by 1400 hours this year. Once again the West Coast Chapter (WCC) of our alumni association will supply the basics: hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks/water, utensils & paper products. We ask that you bring a salad, side dish, dessert, or chips. **Please remember that due to current county regulations there is no alcohol consumption allowed at this facility.** All members and their guests are cordially invited, but **please sign up early** so the logistics can be tweaked. Don't forget to bring your stories, goodies & appetite to the picnic. Please fill out the sign-up form & send it to us. **YOUR SIGN UP IS NEEDED BY 13 MAY 2018.** **You are welcome to invite a Non-AFTAC friend to attend with you!**



VITAL DETAILS:

When: **Saturday, 19 May 2018**

Where: **Tempo Park**

Address: **13201 Fair Oaks Blvd, Citrus Heights, 95610**

Hours: **1100 Hrs -1400 Hrs (11:00 am – 2:00 pm)**

Cost: **Nada***

*(*However, if you would like to help defray the cost of this event there will be a container at the picnic for your donation.)*



DIRECTIONS

From I-80: Go East on Greenback, turn left (North) on Fair Oaks Blvd. The park will be on the left side.
From Hwy 50: Go North on Sunrise Blvd, turn right (East) on Greenback and left (North) on Fair Oaks Blvd.

Our 2018 Picnic 'Guru' once again is **Butch Kemna**, WCC Treasurer. (Hopefully with help from some friends.) If you have any questions, call Butch, **(916) 722-8509** or Email: "PicnicGurus@AFTACWCC.org".

PLEASE FILL IN & MAIL, or EMAIL, THE SIGN-UP FORM BELOW BY 13 MAY 2018 to:

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

(You may scan or copy & Email the completed form information to <PicnicGurus@AFTACWCC.org>.)

I [] mailed / [] Emailed my form on ___/___/18. There will be ___ of us coming & we'll bring _____ for potluck.

(The upper part is for your records, so keep it as a reminder)

(cut here & mail or scan the form & e-mail it to: "PicnicGurus@AFTACWCC.org")

Picnic Sign-up Form

ANNUAL WCC PICNIC – SATURDAY 19 MAY 2018

(Please print)

NAME: _____ SPOUSE/GUEST: _____

Add'l Guest(s): _____ Total Number Attending [___]

I/We will bring for the potluck:

Salad [] Side Dish [] Dessert [] Other _____

Your Ph#: (____) _____ - _____ Email Addr: _____



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

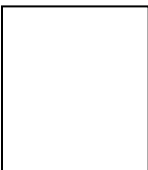
AFTAC Dates: _____
From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

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:
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