



Depot Fallout

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

From the Vice President

by Bob Fitzgerald

Our next event will be our annual **WCC Spring Picnic & BBQ**, to be held on **Armed Forces Day, May 18th**. Please put this on your calendar now to reserve the date. The details and the required sign-up form are in this issue of the Depot Fallout newsletter and will also be on our website "**Forms**" page. The deadline for receipt of your sign-up info is **12May2019**.

This is an "Election of WCC Officers" year with nominations to be opened at the Spring Picnic & BBQ. All of the WCC Offices you see in the panel to the left of this article are open for volunteers who will step up to run for one of these important jobs – none of which take a lot of time to perform. The actual election will be held at our Fall Social in November. The newly elected WCC Officers will be installed at our business meeting on 9Dec2019 for a two-year term: 12/2019-12/2021. *Note: Our quarterly meetings are always open to all members, so you would be most welcome to attend this one or any of them.*

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

Alumni Worldwide Reunion

13 - 16 June 2019

GOLF!

GOOD FOOD!

GREAT FELLOWSHIP!

"GOSH I DIDN'T KNOW THAT" STORIES!

GOIN' TO LOWRY MEMORIES!

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

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

President@aftacco.org Treasurer@aftacco.org

Dr. Glenn Sjoden, AFTAC Chief Scientist, Leaves AFTAC

by Frank Calenda' via AFTAC-LRD



To the Men, Women and Former Members of AFTAC: It has truly been an honor to serve these past 5 years as your Chief Scientist. When I arrived in 2014, I had a rather large agenda to accomplish in establishing and improving our technical capabilities at the Center. This included redefining the corporate/R&D process within AFTAC, enabling the "Roadmap-Blueprint" documents to clearly define our evolving goals and objectives for novel technical integration, solidifying added confidence in our capabilities for our Washington D.C. customer base, strengthening our position in NTNF for DOD up through the NSC, opening up new pathways for funding across the multi-agency, pushing the limits for new High Performance Computing (HPC) and HPC applications through DOD investment, and shoring up numerous architectures and infrastructure for present/future expanded capabilities, including HPC reach-back at our new COOP, the FIT CRADA, our AFIT Endowed Term Chairs, and numerous other milestones. Moreover, all of this has occurred while the Center has been challenged across every mission area, with often extreme situations pressing us from the world stage. Added to that, we reorganized last year, and grappled with aircraft modernization, an evolving sensor landscape, the dynamic

digital environment, and numerous other challenges. As your Chief Scientist, I have tried to lay a solid framework in all mission aspects-it was always challenging. I never, until holding this post, had to span so many technical issues continuously under so demanding a daily operational tempo. In addition to the divine grace of God helping me on a daily basis, it is only because of my immediate staff I was able to be as effective as possible over these past 5 years. This includes my secretary, Ms. Carol Snyder, and my direct report deputies, Dr. Bill Junek, and from Washington D.C., Dr. Kevin Muhs-you folks are true professionals, and always represented me superbly! I also wish to thank Mr. Pohl, my direct report supervisor, who always gave me highly valuable guidance and strong advocacy when I needed it-no one could ask for better. I also appreciate the strong support from all of my AFTAC Commanders and Vice Commanders.

Therefore, having fundamentally achieved what I set out to do as your AFTAC Chief Scientist, and given I'm getting "longer in the tooth", the time is right for me to return to an academic post in a senior Endowed Chair Professorship position to grow the nuclear engineering program at the University of Utah. In doing so, I'll be able to explore more "hands on" research, my passion for teaching nuclear reactor physics, and TRIGA reactor operations opportunities. My wife Patti is also extremely excited to be going to a mountain climate in Salt Lake City, and much closer to our grandchildren. As a result, my last duty day at AFTAC will be established soon in June 2019, and terminal leave thereafter. In the interim after my departure, until a new Chief Scientist takes the helm, my deputies, Dr. Bill Junek and Dr. Kevin Muhs, will serve as the technical bedrock under the AFTAC Office of the Chief Scientist. I have absolute trust and confidence in their sage judgment, and I believe our science is truly in good hands to support the Commander, Vice Commander, our senior leadership, and the very important mission we steward.

I can truly say I've given this job my very best effort, and I hope you deem it worthy of what you'd expect from your Chief Scientist. I thank you for the opportunity to work with each of you-I admire your professionalism, dedication, and your patriotism to carry out this very important mission for our national security. I know numerous challenges continue; many tasks ahead will be hard. You will be tested. I am sure you will be successful; in the words of Sir Winston Churchill, ".success is never final, and failure is never fatal; it's the courage to carry on that counts...". Thank you for all that you do for our country. I am humbled to have served in this capacity, and I truly wish each of you well.

Very Respectfully, Glenn Sjoden

IN MEMORIAM

(Refer to www.AFTACWCC.org "Departed" page for add'l photos, details, etc., and other entries.)

MARY LUELLA (Kellogg) LUBIN (1932 - 06Mar2019) Oakland, CA



Mary in 1977

Mary Lubin RN, MA, beloved wife of **Michael**, died on March 6, 2019 at age 86. Mary, daughter of Robert Harley Kellogg Jr. and Luella (Sampson) Kellogg, grew up in Glastonbury Connecticut, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, with a specialty in Public Health, from Simmons College in Boston. While in college Mary met her future husband, whom she wed in 1955. As an Air Force wife Mary lived in many communities, including two three-year tours in Japan. She worked in public health agencies of New Haven CT, Sacramento CA, and Brevard County, Florida; in Boston on the faculty of Boston College, and as a volunteer in DOD overseas schools.

While in Sacramento she earned an MA in Health Science from Sacramento State University. Mary was an important contributor to morale of military families, particularly when placed in the role of commander's wife. Upon her husband's retirement from the USAF in 1980, the couple settled in San Leandro CA where Mary resumed her professional career, specializing in Geriatric Nursing. She held positions as Staff Developer, Director of Nursing, and Administrator in Skilled Nursing Facilities in San Leandro, Alameda and Berkeley. Mary retired as an executive of a company operating Skilled Nursing Facilities. She then became a Legal Nurse Consultant, with clients in California and the Mid-West. Mary authored chapters in several compendia dealing with legal and management aspects of Nursing Homes. Post retirement in 2003 Mary and her husband served as volunteers at the San Leandro Boys and Girls Club and participated in local duplicate bridge tournaments. In 2015, the couple relocated from San Leandro to Piedmont Gardens, a Retirement Community in Oakland, California.

Mary is predeceased by her two siblings and survived by her husband, daughter Elizabeth Lubin Hughes, son James Lubin; grandchildren Joan and Samuel Lubin, Conor and Kevin Hughes; brother-in-law Frank Mastropasqua and five nephews and nieces. All miss Mary and cherish memories of her. Mary's cremains will remain with her husband, both eventually to be inurned in a military cemetery in California.
Note: There was a Celebration of Life service for Mary on Apr 6, 2019 from 2-4pm in the Sky Room, Piedmont Gardens, 110-41st St., Oakland, CA 94611. Col Michael Lubin said: "The Celebration was attended by about a hundred people who had known Mary during her life as an AF wife and her later career in Geriatric Nursing and its management."

(Note: There are two more photos, from 1979 & 1980, included in Mary's memorial our website "Departed" page.)



**MARY from
Celeb. of Life
Program**

VA Survivor and Burial Benefits Kit

by Dale Clug, WCC Stalwart

Planning Your Legacy:

The VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit is a great source of pre-need planning for Veterans and their families.

It includes information on end of life and survivors benefits, eligibility, and when and how to apply for them.

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/docs/VASurvivorsKit.pdf>

A1C with Ph.D. lands job at nuclear treaty monitoring center

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs / Published December 13, 2018



Airman 1st Class Cynthia A. Schroll, an Air Force E-3 with a doctorate in analytical chemistry at the Air Force Radiochemistry Laboratory, Patrick AFB, Fla., shows some of her work to Deputy Chief of Mission to International Organizations in Vienna Nicole Champagne (center) along with senior scientist Dr. Bill Johnson (left). *(U.S. Air Force photos by Susan A. Romano)*

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- It's not often you see those three-letter titles – A1C and Ph.D. – used to refer to the same person. As a matter of fact, only one-hundredth of one percent of the Air Force's enlisted force from E-1 through E-9 possess a doctor of philosophy degree – that's just 33 Airmen out of 259,190 currently on active duty. Yet one woman with a doctorate in chemistry found herself signing on the proverbial dotted line, completing basic training, and is now assigned to the Department of Defense's sole nuclear treaty monitoring center here.

Airman 1st Class Cynthia A. Schroll enlisted in the Air Force in December 2017, though her unique career journey began much earlier, soon after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"I was in my senior year of high school in 2001, and after 9/11 happened, I told my parents I wanted to enlist," Schroll said. "During the discussion, my mother said something that struck me, even using the word 'please' and asking me to do something for the first time in my life instead of telling me to. She said, 'Please don't enlist. I've been saving your whole life for you to go to college.' I knew how much it meant to her, and I respect my parents deeply, so I went to college."

Schroll attended Morehead State University in Kentucky and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 2006. She bypassed the traditional path after her undergraduate studies and went straight into the doctoral program at the University of Cincinnati.

"It's not uncommon for people looking into science degrees to forego a master's program and go straight into a doctoral studies," Schroll explained. "Most universities that offer a Ph.D. will let you obtain a master's degree if you find yourself struggling with the Ph.D. work load."

She joked, "Someone once told me that the difference between a Ph.D. and a master's degree is the Ph.D. project has to work in the end, while a master's student can write up all the ways the project didn't work!"

Upon completion of her doctorate in analytical chemistry with an emphasis in spectroelectrochemical detection of f-block elements (say that five times fast!), she went straight into the work force doing environmental sample preparation, product management and worked as a contract research assistant at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. She also taught general chemistry at the University of Cincinnati for two years. It was an enjoyable career per se, Schroll said, but military service was still on her mind.

"I had everything going for me – a great education, good job, supportive family, everything – yet I was still thinking about enlisting," she said. "But I had some significant hurdles to overcome. I was overweight and knew that was going to be a factor as to whether I'd qualify or not. I had pets. I had a house. And then in 2014 I lost my mother to multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer. It was devastating to my family and me. I took it quite hard and was lost without her influence." From that tragedy, however, came the realization that she still wanted to serve her country and thought it would be a lasting tribute to her beloved mother.

"I knew deep-down from the beginning she didn't want me to join the service, but through all the grief I was experiencing, I had to find a path that would bring me greater reward," she explained.

So after several months of careful thought, consideration and a solid work-out program, Schroll paid a visit to her local recruiter to change her title from 'Doctor' to 'Airman.'

"Before I left for basic, I had several lengthy conversations with my sister who served in the Army for almost 10 years and I spoke to several other female friends who had also gone through the experience," she said. "They all told me about the mind games I should expect from the military training instructors (MTIs) and some of the difficulties that arise when you put 40 women together in small quarters for several weeks at a time. Needless to say, I found basic training quite

entertaining!”

During basic, trainees are selected to fill certain jobs and responsibilities given to each flight: dorm chief, element leader, chow runner, and entry controller, just to name a few. Schroll volunteered to be the flight’s academic monitor. When the MTI asked what made her qualified for the job, she nonchalantly mentioned she had taught classes before. The MTI did some digging and learned that Schroll had a Ph.D.

“It all came out from there,” she said. “I tried to downplay it as much as I could, and I offered to help any of my flight mates with their study techniques, because we were all in this together. We had one trainee who had such bad test anxiety and we were all worried she was going to run out of the classroom before she finished the end-of-course exam. When our MTI started reading off our test scores, we collectively held our breath when hers were read and we cheered like mad when it was a passing score. A few of us even cried. By far my proudest moment as the academic monitor was the fact we all passed our exams the first time through.”

She graduated basic training in February 2018 and was sent to Goodfellow AFB, Texas, to undergo special instruments training. While there, she became friends with a large contingent of Air Force firefighters.

“Our tech school was housed with the Airmen who undergo firefighting training, and it was so much fun,” Schroll recalled. “I was selected to be a red rope, the person who oversees dorm activities, and they kept me so grounded. I had so much respect for them that on my last day I woke up at 3:30 a.m. to go to their daily formation so I could shake every single hand and say thanks. I love and respect them all so much.”

During her tenure at Goodfellow, she received a special visitor who requested to meet with her. She was quite surprised to learn it was a command chief master sergeant who made the trip to speak directly with her.

“I was pretty floored when I found out Chief Master Sgt. (Michael) Joseph came to the schoolhouse to discuss career options with me,” she said. “He introduced himself as the command chief for the Air Force Technical Applications Center, and said his commander was very interested in having me on his team at Patrick AFB. I can’t put my finger on it, but during my conversation with Chief Joseph, I realized this was my chance to live out my desire to serve, especially in the capacity of a scientist. I thought to myself, ‘These folks who have so much experience would know how best to use my skills,’ so I put my trust in them.”

Joseph was highly impressed when he met with Schroll.

“I heard about A1C Schroll as she was coming through the (academic training) pipeline since AFTAC has a majority of the 9S100 Airmen in the Air Force,” said Joseph. “Every Airman has a story, and I wanted to hear hers. Her background was impressive -- she had written two books and has a patent to her name, but it was her desire to serve that impressed me the most. With her chemistry background and our operational need for highly-skilled chemists, it seemed like a natural fit for her to come to AFTAC.”

Recruiting personnel who possess highly-technical scientific degrees and experience has been a challenge for the nuclear treaty monitoring center, but AFTAC’s senior enlisted advisor believes they’re seeking out ways to overcome that challenge.

“Sometimes the Air Force does not get the ‘talent management’ piece right and we need to do all we can to get our people to the right place at the right time,” Joseph said. “Airman Schroll has already made a positive impact in her squadron and is working to be the best Airman she can be. As leaders, I believe that is all we can really ask of our workforce.”

Schroll is assigned to AFTAC’s radiochemistry laboratory working as a radiochemistry technician. She is responsible for preparing reagent kits in the lab’s tech room as well as co-managing the precious metals program.

“I love the responsibility that comes from knowing our chemists are counting on me to prep their reagents properly and in a timely manner,” said Schroll. “If anything goes wrong with the chemistry, the first place that is looked at is the reagent, so I want them to have confidence when they see my initials on the label that they were prepared correctly.”

When asked if she was looking at becoming a commissioned officer someday, Schroll said it’s not out of the question, but it’s not her immediate focus.

“Right now, I’m still brand new to the Air Force, so I am learning as much about it as possible. I’m an airman first class, and with that comes the responsibility of being the best A1C I can be. My focus is on doing the job I am fortunate to have, and doing it as best I can. When I look to the future, I only see broad opportunities. But I’ve never been one to look too far ahead because all too often we make this grand dream or goal, only to forget to focus on the little steps to get there. I’m focusing on the little steps right now.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Our General Business Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of March, June, September & December at 7:00 PM at the Lionsgate Hotel restaurant in McClellan Park. The meetings usually last less than an hour. All AFTAC alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend. The date of our next meeting is **6/10**. Always check www.AFTACWCC.org website "Events" page to confirm the date, time & place.

UPCOMING 2019 SOCIAL EVENTS:

Saturday, 18 May 2019, 11:30am-2:30pm we will hold our annual "SPRING PICNIC BBQ". Sign-ups are required. (The details & form are in this issue of the newsletter.) At the picnic, we will open the floor for nominations for WCC Office for an election to be held at the Fall Social.

Saturday, 09 Nov 2019, 11:30am-2:00pm will be our "FALL SOCIAL" and an Election of Officers.

Details on this event will be published in upcoming Depot Fallout newsletters and on our website.

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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As of Apr 11, 2019

Total Active Members = 141 Life Members = 138.

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 2019 – 31 Mar 2019

Submitted 2 Apr-2019 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>
9,349	1/01-1/07 (928)	11,290	Photo** (443)	Departed (439)

Notes: * Does not include our 'Home' page, which is almost always the most popular page.
The 11/10/2018 Fall Social group photo enlargement was the most popular page during this quarter.

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.**

NEXT ISSUE

Photos from the Annual Picnic!

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - WEST COAST CHAPTER ANNUAL PICNIC

SATURDAY, 18 MAY 2019 – 11AM-2PM

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

ATTENTION TO ORDERS

Once again it is time for our annual Spring get together. We will be hosting our annual WCC picnic on **18 May 2019** at the same venue as last year's picnic. Good restroom facilities, ample parking, and a covered pavilion. We will be lighting the BBQs before 1100 hours and wrap things up by 1400 hours. Once again the West Coast Chapter (WCC) of our alumni association will supply the basics: hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, 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 (*including non-AFTAC alumni*) are cordially invited, but **please submit your sign up(s) 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 now! **YOUR SIGN UP IS NEEDED BY 12MAY2019.**



VITAL DETAILS:

When: **Saturday, 18 May 2019**

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 2019 Picnic 'Guru' is **Butch Kemna**, WCC Treasurer. (*Hopefully with BBQ Chef 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 12 MAY 2019 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 ___/___/19. 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 18 MAY 2019

(Please print)

NAMES (Firsts & Lasts): _____ 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:
AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
WEST COAST CHAPTER
P.O. Box 3974
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