



# Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter  
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## OCTOBER, 2021 EDITION

### A WORD FROM THE PREZ

*by , WCC President Allan Pentecost*

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It is my pleasure to extend a hardy welcome to our newest member Michael Clark. Along with all of the other officers and members, I welcome you to the West Coast Chapter of the AFTAC Alumni Association. Unfortunately, I missed the Picnic in September because I was out of town. I missed seeing everyone, but I understand you all had a great time. However, the Fall Social is coming up, and I am looking forward to seeing you all there! We tried to get a reservation at Olive Garden again, but they could not reserve the room for us. So, after some checking around, we found that we could reserve a room at Sam's Hof Brau for that date. This is also an election year, and we will be holding the Officer Elections at that time also. So, don't miss the **Fall Social and Election of Officers on Saturday, 13 November from 11:30am – 2:30pm at Sam's Hof Brau, 2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento.** It is located in the Country Club Bowling Lanes area near El Camino. Make sure to make your reservation by either sending in the form in this newsletter, or by visiting our website "Forms" page, and follow the instructions for the Reservation. I hope to see you all at Sam's Hof Brau!

### **HALL OF HONOR INDUCTEES**

**PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, Fla.** -- In keeping with its annual tradition, the commander of the Air Force Technical Applications Center inducted three former members of the nuclear treaty monitoring center onto its famed "Wall of Honor" May 26.

Col. Katharine G. Barber recognized retired Senior Master Sergeants **Mike Clark** and **Tony DeMarco** and **Ms. Eunice Harris** at a ceremony held in the Doyle M. Northrup Auditorium here as dozens of current, former and retired members of AFTAC witnessed the induction.

Barber and her command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Amy Long, presented each inductee with an engraved medallion that depicts an American Bald Eagle clutching a scroll in one talon and a sword in the other. The scroll symbolizes the Limited Test Ban Treaty and the sword illustrates military strength and might. Above the eagle are the words, "Sapientia Potentia Est," Latin for "Wisdom is Power."

In addition to the medallion, the honorees' names were engraved on plaques that now hang on the Wall of Honor in the center's main lobby.

# STEEL STORM: A PIVOTAL BATTLE KEPT SECRET FOR 53 YEARS

## CHAPTER 3 OF 3

*A young US Marine Corps corporal directs modern history's largest Naval bombardment in support of ground forces, wiping out an entire Viet Cong battalion augmented by Red Chinese regular soldiers.\**

This is one story of fifteen that will shortly appear in his newest book;

Contrails

William B. Scott

Records of the battle are sketchy and don't always agree, but Lippard's research found that 443 shells were fired by the Craig and Stoddard in response to his Mayday calls the night of 28-29 July 1965. Another 33 were delivered during post-battle mop-up operations. Ship logs have ambiguous accounts, including numbers that don't match other records: the USS John R. Craig—under the command of Navy Commander James Kenneth Jobe and supported by Lt. Jeremy Michael Boorda, the Weapons Officer—fired 348 rounds, while “conducting a night firing mission.” How many the USS Stoddard delivered under the command of U.S. Navy Commander Charles Presgrove is believed to be 95 rounds in the early morning hours of 29 July, and another 174 in “after-action” operations, according to a Naval War Gunfire Support Record.

A personal log written by Henry Lehtola, an enlisted sailor-turned-historian who chronicled the Craig's role in the 28-29 July 1965 battle for the Ca De Bridge, backs Lippard's account: “Anchored Da Nang. ...preparing to open fire. The VC must have been raising hell earlier. You could hear small arms fire on the beach and see tracers flying. Flares and star shells lit up the whole sky.”

The U.S. Marine Corps War Journal's cursory documentation for 28 July notes, “USS Craig commenced firing on designated targets. 340 five-inch rounds expended—57 illumination; 22 white phosphorous, and 261 high explosive. At 0146 hr., Craig joined by USS Stoddard (DD-566) in support.”

Although exhausted, Corporal Karl Lippard jotted down a few notes about the night's battle and had his knee wound dressed. Later, he snapped several color

The USS Craig's scorched 5-inch gun barrels and expended brass.

photos, then waited, fully expecting a thorough debriefing by his commanders. It didn't happen. Nobody at headquarters ever asked for Lippard's account, verbal or written.

Senior Marine commanders definitely knew the intense Ca De River bridge battle had occurred. In fact, the USS Craig and Stoddard destroyers would not have steamed into Da Nang Bay in response to Lippard's Mayday call, unless ordered by the Commanding General of Naval Forces, Maj. Gen. Walt. However, 3rd Marine headquarters apparently never reported the engagement's stark truth: A single USMC Raider, aided by an ARVN Ranger, directed naval gun fire on a battalion-size unit of enemy soldiers caught in the open. After about five hours of intense bombardment, the Viet Cong 7th Battalion ceased to exist. No enemy soldiers captured. No wounded recovered. No sign that any of the unit's approximately 600 Viet Cong and Red Chinese combatants had escaped. The VC 7th simply vanished, never to reappear in subsequent reports.

Incredibly, not a single Marine or ARVN soldier was killed. “No Marine or ARVN losses,” Lippard confirmed.

“The end result of this battle was total destruction of the 7th Viet Cong Battalion, by U.S. Marines in defense of the bridge complex,” Lippard recapped. “The Marine Corps acted with speed and force—brought in Marine Air Wing strikes and quickly moved Navy ships into position to provide full gun support within minutes of my call. ...This is believed to be one of the finest examples of combined Navy and Marine assets...in support of a small unit, during the Vietnam War.”

Although U.S. commanders may have ignored or forgotten the Ca De River bridge battle, senior South Vietnamese military and political leaders deeply appreciated what Lippard and his fellow Marines had done. Lippard was quickly summoned to an ARVN headquarters and awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm insignia, the first of three he earned. Later, Vietnam's then-Premier, Nguyen Cao Ky, recognized Lippard for his distinguished actions in defending the bridge.

Why top U.S. officers never acknowledged Corporal Lippard's role in the Ca De River bridge battle and decimation of a large enemy force in late July 1965 remains a glaring unknown. Theories abound, and there are probably bits of truth in each. Marine commanders, at that time, were convinced their communication links had been compromised. Reporting through regular channels that a major headquarters and the vital Da Nang airbase came within a whisker of being overrun and wiped out by a Viet Cong force augmented by Communist (dubbed “Red” by Marines) Chinese soldiers might have alerted North Vietnamese interceptors that U.S. and ARVN forces were spread dangerously thin south of the Ca De River.

Such knowledge certainly would have emboldened VC commanders to try taking the bridge again. As it was, a few days later, on 5 August, Viet Cong troops managed to blow up fuel tanks containing about 2,000,000 gallons of jet fuel near Da Nang.

Or maybe acknowledging that a solitary U.S. Marine was outside the allowed operating area—north of the bridge, in ARVN territory—and calling in U.S. Navy gunfire to wipe out a large enemy force was considered too sensitive for political palates. At the time, South Vietnamese military leaders were suspicious of U.S. intentions and quick to call foul.

Had the VC 7th Battalion broken through and destroyed critical strike aircraft and helicopters on the Da Nang air base flightline in late July, a key Marine attack at Chu Lai, planned for mid-August, might have been scrubbed. Nobody in the U.S. chain of command dared admit that the Marine Corps came very close to suffering one of its worst defeats in history, just as that major offensive was in the offing. Especially at a politically sensitive time, when the White House and Pentagon desperately needed a victory to establish U.S. credibility in Vietnam.

Ironically, 614 Viet Cong were killed and nine taken prisoner in the subsequent Chu Lai battle—about the same as North Vietnam lost in one night at the Ca De River bridge. And forty-five Marines were killed and 120 wounded in the week-long battle at Chu Lai. In contrast, none were lost, during a furious, five-hour shootout north of the Ca De River that night of 28-29 July.

For whatever reason, the 18-24 August 1965 battle at Chu Lai is hailed as the U.S.'s "decisive first victory" by historians, while a deadly storm of fire and steel that erased an entire Viet Cong battalion almost one month earlier is never mentioned in official and scholarly accounts of the Vietnam War. At least none have surfaced. Was it buried in official secrecy born of near-miss embarrassment? Or intentionally "overlooked" and conveniently forgotten?

For his extraordinary, central role in holding a crucial river crossing, Lippard never received a blip of public acknowledgment, word of high-rank congratulations or simple "thanks"—let alone a medal—from his own country. Not even a purple heart for a wound received in heavy combat that

## **BECOMING A '99**

An autobiographical sketch of the mystique of beginning a '99125' career.

By Michael P. Clark, AFTACer: active duty 1969 – 1994, and '99 forever (Once a '99, always a '99).

- From "B-technique, the early days", Original author unknown:

In the beginning

They created the Seismic Technique

And They said, "Let there be motion!"

And there was motion

And They said, "Let there be phases!"

And there appeared a multitude of phases

And They saw amongst the multitude

Peep, Emerge, Shear, Bounce, Reflect, Score, Prism, Rebound, Transform, Love and Rayb

And They said, "Let there be airmen dedicated to monitor Heaven and Earth for nuclear tests!"

And there appeared technical giants dispersed throughout the good Earth installing, maintaining and operating equipment and analyzing the motion and phase data 24 / 7, immediately reporting anomalies to Them

And They saw that the giants were '99s

And They were pleased

In 1969, I was a sophomore at SUNY College of Forestry, Syracuse N.Y., studying chemistry. World events of the late '60s weighed heavily on my mind, and I chose to fulfill my military obligation by enlisting in the Air Force, with the idea of coming back to school after 4 years of serving the country. I talked to the recruiters, took the battery of tests, and found I placed near the highest percentile of scores. I didn't have a specific goal for career field at that time, but the recruiter told me that I could qualify for virtually any I might choose. There were 4 categories of career fields in those days, Administrative, Mechanical, Electronics and General. I was most interested in Electronics as I perceived that to be the most 'science-based' category. I asked for missile electronics but was open to any of the electronics fields.

I enlisted via the Delayed Enlistment Program in April 1969 and was called to report to Basic training at Lackland AFB in mid-May.

As my brother Bob was previously enlisted in the Air force, his career field was munitions, he gave me the low-down on what to expect at Basic training, what the MTIs would look for, what to avoid doing, and how to succeed. His overview was spot-on. 6 weeks of basic went by rapidly, starting with the first morning 04:30 AM '30-gallon steel-trash-can-and-lid-crashing-down-the-middle-of-the-bay', and the wake-up call of our Military Training Instructor SSgt Rabalais screaming 'G'DAMIT!! GET UP!! Our entire basic flight instantly got the message and bailed out of the bunks, hitting the floor at our best guess of 'Attention!'

The normal basic training scenario followed, from the end of the 'rainbow' status with uniforms and buzzcuts, to immunizations, to learning marching and all the sundry military things that Basic teaches.

Sometime near the third or fourth week our flight #775, plus what seemed to be several other flights, was marched to an auditorium seating about 200 of us for a career briefing. Each of us was handed our copy of the security paperwork we had filled out prior to arriving at Basic. The instructor at the front of the stage walked everyone through the forms and drilled into us that each item had to be filled out precisely, or we could remain in Basic for the rest of our lives because we either would never get a security clearance to qualify for tech school or be relegated to some 'weeds and seeds' direct duty assignment. At the top of each airman's form was a 3-digit number printed in magic marker that the instructor told us was the Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) for the job tech school for which we were being considered. The instructor read a list from his sheaf of papers, telling the code number, then what the job was. "207, Intelligence specialist. 304, electronic equipment repair. 461, munitions handler. 702, Administrator. 732, Personnel specialist. 811, Security Police." And so forth, and so forth. When he reached the end of his list, he asked "Does any one have a code that I didn't list?" I looked down at my form, and saw '991', which he hadn't listed. Another airman in the front of the auditorium raised his hand and asked, "Sir! What about '991'?"

The instructor stood frozen and silent for a good 20 seconds, which focused the entire room's attention and silence. Was he stumped by some Airman Basic?

He slowly said, "How many of you have '991' on the form?" About 4 of us in the full auditorium raised our hands. "99125 is a Reporting Identifier, not an AFSC. All we can tell you about '99125' is that it is a very specialized career field called 'Special Electronics Technician'. You are specially selected for it by Air Force. Other than that, all I can tell you is that if you are selected for '99125', when you graduate Basic training, we put you on an airplane to Denver Colorado and Lowry AFB, and we never see you again".

I could feel all the eyes in the room looking around to see who had this '991' on their form, as if witnessing the condemned being sentenced to disappear from the face of the Earth. I could feel what little hair I had on the back of my neck trying to stand up. What did I get myself into? Then I remembered the instructor had said, 'Special Electronics Technician' and thought "This could be interesting!" I apparently had somehow qualified for and was selected by Air Force for something rare. It was apparently an electronics job, which is just what I was looking for.

Near the end of Basic training, assignments were posted for each of us for our follow-on tech schools or direct duty assignments. A few of us were relegated to 'AFI', or 'Awaiting Further Instructions'. I was told that I would be interviewed within the next couple of weeks for this '991' job. In the interim I would be assigned to general purpose Lackland AFB details and duties following Basic graduation until the interview and final selection or non-selection for the job. After about a week and a half, I was notified that I was to report to my interview with a captain Booton. After six weeks plus of basic training, plus a week and a half of AFI, I was very surprised and a little intimidated to be reporting directly to a captain. After all, we had been put through all kinds of stress during Basic with the most senior ranks being at the MSgt NCO level, with virtually no direct interaction with the officer corps.

At the appropriate time and place, after I had done several rehearsals to hone my crispest and most military reporting technique, I reported in to my interview with Captain Booton. Saluting, "Airman Clark reports as ordered sir!". He immediately offered a smile and handshake, and said, 'Hello Mike, how are you doing? I'm Harley Booton from Detachment 57, Lowry AFB Colorado. Please have a seat, relax, and let me tell you a little about the job for which you are a candidate".

He then gave me a short briefing, stating that the job was electronics and science based, highly classified, and heavily overseas imbalanced. The tech school was at Lowry in Denver, Colorado, and lasted up to 48 weeks. The first several weeks were electronics fundamentals, followed by the actual classified technique school and final assignment. After an overseas assignment, I would be rotated back to the 'States, possibly to the Washington DC area, or California. I was being considered for 'U' technique training, one of many operational techniques. Some of the overseas locations were remote, and I would be operating and maintaining the equipment, and analyzing data to report immediately to

higher headquarters for a mission of great national importance.

The job often involved shift work, and evening and midnight shifts were sometimes single-manned, so a great deal of responsibility was placed on the operator. "And, just to put your mind at ease, we have no stations in Vietnam, but most of the stations' locations are classified". He mentioned that my records had been carefully screened and he considered me an excellent candidate. He said that if I felt the job's not right for me, that's OK. I could pick one of the other electronics jobs he had on a list, and I would be on my way shortly to another tech school where he said he was sure I would do very well. In closing, he asked, "Would you consider accepting the job?"

I was still pleasantly surprised that an officer was interacting with me like a person instead of just another low-life single-stripe Airman and was asking my permission to be assigned to this special electronics technician job. My head was reeling a bit from all the information, but from what the captain had just told me, it sounded like the dream job for me! I told captain Booton that I appreciated his briefing and was willing to accept the job offer. He said "Great! We will get some orders cut, and you will be on your way to Lowry shortly. Thank you, Airman Clark". He again shook my hand, told me that we were finished. I saluted, did a snappy about-face, and left the office.

A few days later, I was notified that I was to attend an out briefing for PCS. I was given my set of orders and blue-bussed to the San Antonio airport with a contingent of other airmen heading to Lowry.

Our flight was diverted to Colorado Springs due to a strong thunderstorm near Denver, causing a few hours' delay in our arrival. During the short bus ride from Denver's Stapleton airport to Lowry, an airman with a yellow 'rope' on his fatigue uniform shoulder (a student airman leader as we later learned) started haranguing us about how although we were no longer in Basic, we would still be under his total control no different than a basic trainee at Lackland. We were all heading to the Personnel Awaiting Training Squadron (PATS) where we would be waiting for several weeks before our technical training squadron would notify us of our class start date. One of the other 991s on the bus spoke up and said we had orders to start school on July 16, about one week away. The 'rope' just laughed and said that those dates were only estimates. He was the one in charge here! The outspoken wise guy that questioned him was now on his bad side and was going to get the worst details. We were just dirt since we were not yet in tech school, and we would be doing every dirty base detail he could find for weeks until the school called to let us in. He seemed to enjoy doing his best imitation of a hard-ass MTI, but he still only had one stripe like all the rest of us.

Upon arrival at Lowry, we were herded into an auditorium where a SSgt called out names and told us where to report for our barracks that evening. After almost all the other airmen had been called, there were still about 5 of us left. "Who are you guys?" the SSgt asked. He asked to see copies of our orders and saw that we were supposed to be going across base to the 3420 school squadron. He called the squadron orderly room, but as it was after duty hours, no one was there to receive us. "OK you guys, you will be staying in PATS overnight, then tomorrow morning someone from your squadron will come to get you".

Naturally, we all got assigned to the hard-ass rope's barracks for our overnight stay. He tried his best to make us fear his every whim but, as it was getting late, and lights-out was imminent, we were mostly left alone with a promise that tomorrow morning we would be in trouble. Virtually all the other barracks residents seemed completely intimidated by this guy. The next morning, we 5 were ordered to wipe down and polish the barracks center aisle with our towels and make the floor shine, ready for inspection. A few minutes after we started, the SSgt from the evening before called us out to the parking lot, told us to get our stuff, and get on the blue bus to go to our squadron. The 'rope' saw us return to the barracks and immediately asked us where the hell we thought we were going. We replied that we were assigned to the 20<sup>th</sup> squadron. He then visibly paled and backed off, only saying, "Oh... then get your s#%t and get out of here now!". As we found out later, there were two 20<sup>th</sup> squadrons on base, 3420 (ours) and 3320. Almost no one on base knew anything of the low profile 3420 school squadron. The more well-known 3320 squadron was the holding squadron for airmen in trouble, those about to be jailed or discharged for various forms of misconduct, such as fraud, assault, murder or other unsavory activities. The 'rope' apparently believed that our group of five 991s were axe murderers or some such being jailed and sent on to Leavenworth. He was probably thanking his lucky stars that he survived the previous night unscathed, wanting no part of us any longer! Of course, as we left his barracks, we scuffed our way down the freshly polished center aisle, dragging our duffel bags on the way out. Nary a peep out of the 'rope'.

We got on the bus and saw another yellow 'rope' already on board. Great. Another junior MTI-wannabe Hitler. As the bus pulled away, he introduced himself and immediately radiated collegial friendship. He told us we were going across base to the best squadron on Lowry, that we would be treated like permanent party, and that that our First Shirt, SMSgt Southard was a great guy. We told him about the young Hitler we just endured, and he rolled his eyes and said that was

par for the course in PATS. They apparently told the 'ropes in PATS, and they believed it, that yellow ropes were the equivalent of staff sergeants, and red ropes were the equivalent of second lieutenants. That didn't happen in our squadron. Ropes were just ordinary students selected primarily to help manage the classes and flights as we marched to and from school.

We were in briefed by SMSgt Southard, SSgt Davenport the squadron MTI, and the Admin staff. We were told that our squadron had a certain independence from the rest of the base and kept a low profile. Only a few senior people on the base knew what we did for a living and the base knew to leave us alone. We were not to talk about or repeat anything to anyone we might hear regarding our mission. We would first be attending electronics fundamentals and other classes organized and taught by other 991s, not the base instructor pool. Our barracks were exclusively the 20<sup>th</sup> squadron, unlike other dorms on base, and everyone in our barracks was a '991' trainee.

Our class consisted of myself, Bill Buckingham, Tom Lloyd, Charlie Lamb, Ralph Porter, Larry Porter, Sam 'Snuffy' Smith, Van Hodgkin, Paul Stack, and Bill Jones. Our 'Fundies' instructor was Sgt Joe Kirk, a "Q" technique veteran, who treated us like college students not chattel. Fundies consisted of blocks of basic electronics, DC and AC circuits, resistors, capacitors, inductors, transistors, vacuum tubes, etc. The last block of instruction was the practical exercise of each of us building our own oscilloscope from a box of parts and a schematic. After our o'scope was built and tested, Sgt Kirk and some other instructors would escort us out of the training room, and then put 'bugs' into our creations that we had to find and fix. It was a fun exercise, and a great practical learning experience! We all passed. At the completion of 'Fundies', we were given 2-weeks of leave as a break, then to return for our mission briefing and start the 'U' system 'Sets' training.

Our classified mission briefing day was filled with anticipation of finally finding out what our job was to be. We had seen the detectors outside the training building #359, which we later knew to be 'Z2' tubs and 'Q' antenna dome igloos but had no idea of their purpose. Unfortunately, 'Snuffy' Smith's final clearance was delayed by about a week, so he couldn't join our class. He was picked up on the next class, which happened to be a 'Q' technique class.

To me, the (now declassified) global nuclear explosion monitoring job was totally fascinating. They briefed us on not only the science and mission, but the station locations, and what all the other techniques did ('A' through Z2) and how they all worked together to provide the nation's leadership critical and timely data. 'U' was the very low frequency phase anomaly technique.

Our class instructors were SSgts Carl Pacic and Pat Berner, both experienced 'U' troops. We went through all the technique theory and equipment in fine detail, also covering troubleshooting techniques. In addition to the analog VLF receivers, loop and whip antennas, cardioid units, strip chart recorders and sulzer oscillators, we were taught the 'Type-2 U', a new high sample rate digital equipment suite, and the DRFUD, Digital Recorder For U Data, referred to, of course, as 'Doctor FUD'. Near the end of our 'U' sets portion, we were introduced to both 'Z2', atmospheric fluorescence, and 'H', magneto-telluric techniques, which, along with 'U', monitored the ionosphere worldwide for high-altitude nuclear testing. All three techniques were being grouped into a technique designated 'K'.

The last block of instruction was a 'field station' exercise at a mockup of a station on Lowry in bldg. 1308. Our 'U' class operated the site together with a 'Z2' class, and actually worked the station in 8-hour shifts 24 / 7 for 4 weeks. We operated the station as though we were an overseas detachment, complete with mockup comm center and test exercises provided by the field station instructors.

Near the end of our tech school training, our class was notified of our assignments. The tradition of the school was to issue a 'block' of assignment locations to the class, and final class academic rank order determined who got which assignment choice. The highest cumulative score got first pick, second got second, etc. I placed right in the middle at 5<sup>th</sup> place of 9, and I chose Ascension Island, a remote assignment in the South Atlantic Ocean.

At our class graduation, we were given our training completion certificates, and our orders to our next assignments. We were also officially granted the Reporting Identifier and shred-out of 'Special Electronics Technician, 99125 U'. We were now officially '3-level' '99s, ready for assignment and upgrade training to '5-level' when we got to our assignments. I believe I speak for our whole class in saying it was a very proud moment for all of us. We had come a long way since that day in Basic when we were told by that instructor that 'we would never be seen again'!

Michael Clark

## AFTACAA – WEST COAST CHAPTER BBQ PICNIC & POTLUCK September 18, 2021



John 'Butch' Kemna & Charlie Penn  
Picnic Hosts & BBQ Chefs



Far to the left: John & Corinne Miner  
& Denise Pothier;  
Far right: guest Tony Carvelli



John Culbert, Bob Baker, Cathy & Ken  
Denbleyker and Tom & Tae Ja Hickey



Don & Pattye Lemmon, & Donna Fritts  
Note Flags: **HAPPY 74<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY** to USAF



L-R: Tony Carvelli, Bob Fitzgerald, Corinne Miner; Butch Kemna, John Culbert,  
John Miner, Denise Pothier, Donna Fritts, Charlie Penn, Don & Pattye  
Lemmon, Bob Baker, Tom & Tae Ja Hickey, Cathy & Ken Denbleyker

## FIRST SPACE AIR FORCE VICE COMMANDER FOR AFTAC

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs / Published August 30, 2021

**PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, Fla.** -- For the first time in its history, the Air Force Technical Applications Center has a Space Force colonel as the vice commander.

Col. Richard R. Beckman took the oath of office Aug. 20, officially swearing him into the U.S. Space Force at a ceremony held at the nuclear treaty monitoring center here.

The colonel arrived at Patrick SFB in July and waited until August to transfer from one branch to another after receiving full Senate confirmation to do so.

His decision to become a Space Force Guardian wasn't made in a vacuum. After conferring with his professional mentors and his wife and children, he applied for transfer on the very last day of eligibility. "It was not a decision I took lightly, and I wanted to make sure my wife and children were comfortable that this was the right move for our family."

As the organization's vice commander, Beckman is responsible for supporting the wing commander's vision and priorities, and ensuring the workforce has the training and tools needed to safely and successfully accomplish their global mission. Additionally, the vice assists with leading, managing and developing AFTAC's 1,000+ team of active duty Airmen, civilian personnel and defense contractors.

AFTAC's newest Guardian has made a career of making sure grass doesn't grow under his feet. In addition to being professionally published more than a dozen times, Beckman also holds two U.S. patents – one for an underwater vessel positioning system and another for localizing of submerged tow vehicles.

"I've had an incredible career to date, and this latest chapter allows me to align my future goals with my 22 years of experience so I can help mentor, develop and grow the force as we begin to treat space as a warfighting domain," Beckman said. "I hope I can bring a unique perspective to AFTAC and open the door for new partnerships and opportunities to enhance our mission capabilities for the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Space Force."

He added, "I am honored to have been selected to help lead the immensely talented and skilled workforce here at AFTAC and I look forward to being part of this team over the next two years."

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

Website Quarterly Activity Report for the period 1 Jul 2021 – 30 Sep 2021  
Submitted 01-Oct-2021 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>
4,634	07/12-07/18 (447)	4,989	Departed (547)	Links (168)

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.**

## EVENTS CALENDAR

(By Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster)

### QUARTERLY MEETINGS:

Our quarterly WCC General Business Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of March, June, September & December now returning to 7:00pm PT. Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> and is expected to be held **IN PERSON** at the Lions Gate Restaurant at McClellan Field. All WCC members are welcome to join us. Always check our [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) website "Events" page before coming to confirm the location/format and time in case of last minute changes.

### UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS:

**Saturday, Nov 13, 2021, 11:30am-2:30pm: "FALL SOCIAL & ELECTION OF OFFICERS".**

This will be held at **Sam's Hof Brau, 2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento, 95821**. Signup required by 11/07/21.  
(Look for the registration form with the Election info in this issue.)

*[Please check our website "Events" page for up-to-date plans.]*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Dave Price, Membership Chairman

### AS OF SEP 13, 2021

**Total Active Members = 141 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.)

## TIMELESS QUOTE

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

**John Adams**

# WCC 2021 FALL SOCIAL & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**Saturday, 13 Nov 2021 – 11:30am-2:30pm**

**at SAM'S HOF BRAU RESTAURANT**

**2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento 95821**

*(In the Country Club Bowling Lanes area near El Camino Ave.)*

Note: Each person/family will need to get in line to order & pick up your custom meal, salad, dessert & drink, then pay the cashier – **be sure to tell them you are a veteran to get their discount.**

Then bring\* your meal to the party room in the back near the restrooms.

*(\*If handicapped, ask the cashier for someone to carry your meal back to the room for you.)*

## FALL SOCIAL REGISTRATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Add'l Guest Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

### A WCC ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL ALSO BE HELD AT THIS SOCIAL:

You may volunteer yourself and/or nominate another WCC member for these offices now:

CHMN OF THE BD \_\_\_\_\_

ASST CHMN OTB \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTOR AT LGE \_\_\_\_\_

PRESIDENT \_\_\_\_\_

VICE PRESIDENT \_\_\_\_\_

TREASURER \_\_\_\_\_

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_

ASST TREASURER \_\_\_\_\_

ASST SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_

**Email your registration data, and your Election Nomination/Volunteer data, to:**

[FallSocial@AFTACWCC.org](mailto:FallSocial@AFTACWCC.org)

*The deadline for receipt of this data is **Sunday, 7 Nov 2021***

*Note: Ballot forms will be available for each Primary WCC Member on our Roster who attends.*

**All Federal, State, County and Local COVID restrictions will apply so please be prepared.**

*Form created: 10/07/21 by WCC Webmaster*

*[from the Depot Fallout]*

## TIMELESS DEFINITION

### **SERVICE:**

1954 – I was notified that I was required to register for Selective Service. All that I thought of at the time was that I was eligible for the draft. It meant that the government had claim to three years of my life when they would choose to exercise it.

A little over a year later, I left work and walked several hundred feet to the USAF recruiting station. I said that I wanted to join up, and thus started a five-year journey that I couldn't have envisioned.

**SERVICE:** It didn't really dawn on me until a few days later I arrived at boot camp. I had dedicated a portion of my life to serving my country in whatever way that they needed. This wasn't a shock to me. It was what I had heard at church many times that I was called to emulate Christ as a servant. Not only my family, friends and my whole country, but specifically the guys in my barracks in whatever we might face. This wasn't just another job. This was a calling without reservations. I have striven to continue doing that through these last 66 years. It has been a joy in every possible way.

Thank you all for your support of my efforts as editor of the Fallout. Unfortunately, I must step down from that role due to other demands. I treasure our friendships and fellow service. I am so proud of all of you. God bless you all!



# Depot Fallout



AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter  
AFTACAA-WCC, c/o 6605 Sweet Gum Ct., Citrus Heights, CA 95610  
Email: [TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org](mailto:TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org)

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 E-mail Address*

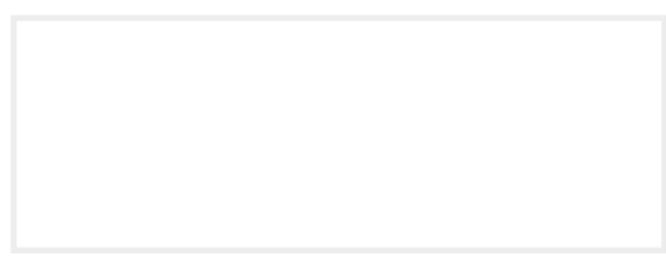
Active Duty: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*(updated 9/24/2020 ..bf)*



To:

== FIRST CLASS MAIL ==



AFTACAA-WCC  
c/o 6605 Sweet Gum Ct.  
Citrus Heights, CA 95610  
*RETURN ADDRESS:*