

"hailing our future ... honoring our past"  
worldwide reunion, May 1-3, 2009

BOB WILEY, COORDINATOR

The Florida Chapter hosts this edition of the biannual WorldWide Reunion. This year we will highlight the conjunction of two important events-'New Beginnings' and '50-Years of AFTAC.' '**Radisson Resort at the Port**' is 'the place' and May 1-3 is 'the when.'

Some of you may know that designs are being drawn up for a new AFTAC building here at Patrick. AFTAC is also planning to celebrate its "official" 50<sup>th</sup> birthday July 2009. All of us Long Range Detection Alumni believe we have already passed this milestone, but we are combining the two events in selecting the theme for this reunion,

### ***Hailing our Future....Honoring our Past.***

Due to conflicts which deter active duty participation in the golf tournament on Friday, the day we had scheduled it, it is being delayed until a later date. However, we have been invited to join them at the AFTAC Spring Picnic on Saturday after the Open House at the Headquarters building. You now have a free afternoon to visit with friends or go out on one of the afternoon gambling ship cruises. There are two cruise lines available ([www.suncruzasino.com/portcanaveral.asp](http://www.suncruzasino.com/portcanaveral.asp) or [www.lasvegascruiselines.com](http://www.lasvegascruiselines.com)).

When you arrive at the Radisson Resort at the Port, there will be a registration desk for you to pick up your material and a hospitality room where you can socialize. Our organized activities will start with the Ice Breaker at 6 pm.

The Saturday Open House starts at AFTAC at 9 am and should be complete by 11 am. One of our own, Dr. Dave **O'Brien**, Chief Scientist, has agreed to give us an orientation briefing after which we will split into groups for short tours. The AFTAC Picnic begins at 11 am at Wickham Park. We are invited to have lunch with them and stay for the afternoon activities. We are trying to get the active duty to put together some horseshoe teams to give the alumni some competition.

Our banquet is Saturday evening, 6 pm, again at the Radisson. The guest speaker is Maj Gen (Ret) Jack **Leide** (former J2; Director of Intelligence under General Norman Swartzcoff in Desert Storm I). Dinner will feature a combination plate of chicken breast stuffed with mushrooms and cheese and grilled filet mignon. Dessert will be chocolate mousse.

The 'Registration Form' is on the next page. Make room reservations directly with the Radisson at 888201-1718 ([www.radisson.com/hotels/flcocoa](http://www.radisson.com/hotels/flcocoa)) no later than 1 April 2009. Rates are \$109 double or \$149 king suite (plus 11% tax) and are good for three days before and after our reunion. All rooms were remodeled this year and are in outstanding condition. Registration forms with all information and a check should be sent to arrive at the PO Box NLT than 17 April 2009.

Any additions, or changes, will be passed on via emails (eALLerts) and posted on the alumni assn website ([www.aftacalumni.org](http://www.aftacalumni.org)). Please have your information at the LRDA website up-to-date as that will be used to contact you. We also intend to provide information, and the registration form, at the website. Internet posted items will either be available at the 'Home Page' or at the 'Need To Know Now' link.

To properly place the 'AFTAC 50th' in perspective, we asked Jim **Moyers**, AFTAC Historian, if he would put together an article concerning this event. Thank you, Jim, for the following enlightening and informative rendering, it is one for the 'Sages Ages.'

### **AFTAC's 50th Anniversary**

JIM MOYERS, AFTAC HISTORIAN

On July 7, 2009, the organization that is today designated Headquarters Air Force Technical Applications Center will celebrate its 50th anniversary. While the long range detection function AFTAC carries on is more than 60 years old, tracing its roots to 1947, the process under which official Air Force organizational lineage is computed does not recognize 1947 as the beginning of today's AFTAC. In fact, it was not until the 1990s that the keepers of Air Force lineage recognized July 7, 1959, as the beginning of AFTAC, having insisted for many years that the organization's lineage began in 1960.

In the spring of 1959, an Air Staff study, that at least in part had its impetus in Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force General Curtis E. LeMay's direction to look at decentralizing Air Staff functions, concluded that the best way to move forward organizationally with the long range detection function was essentially to start fresh—create a new organization. On July 2, 1959, Air Force Headquarters Command issued General Order 39 organizing the 1035th United States Air Force Field Activities Group effective July 7, 1959.

At the same time the 1035th was activated, the named activity the Air Force Technical Applications Center was formed. In essence, a single group staffed two entities. AFTAC was the name of the extension of the Air Staff charged with formulating policy, providing guidance, and the like for the long range detection function. The 1035th USAF Field Activities Group was the operational unit. While distinct in their roles, the AFTAC staff and the 1035th "headquarters" staff [although General Order 39 failed to designate the 1035th as a headquarters organization] were the same individuals. Hence, Major General Jermain P. Rodenhauser, first commander of the 1035th was dual-hatted as chief of AFTAC.

This duality of Air Staff extension and operating command continued through several changes in status of the command. Effective May 1, 1960, the organization was designated Headquarters, 1035th USAF Field Activities Group. On June 26, 1972, the command became known as Headquarters, 1035th Technical Operations Group. The 1035th moved its headquarters in August 1972 from the national capitol region to Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. Following the inactivation of the Air Force Headquarters Command, the 1035th was attached to Air Force Systems Command on July 1, 1976.

The attachment to Air Force Systems Command prompted in 1979 another study of the 1035th and its alignment within

the Air Force. After much debate, Chief of Staff of the Air Force General Lew Allen, Jr., concluded the 1035th should be a Direct Reporting Unit to Headquarters United States Air Force. Thus, the 1035th was redesignated Headquarters Air Force Technical Applications Center on October 1, 1980, and in so doing became a single entity.

AFTAC has continued to undergo changes in status since 1980, including in February 1991 becoming a Field Operating Agency of the United States Air Force and, most recently, on April 1, 2008, changing to a subordinate unit of the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency. Throughout these numerous changes the official organizational lineage begun in 1959 remains intact and on July 7, 2009, AFTAC will reach its golden anniversary—50 years of invaluable service to the Air Force and the United States of America.