



ECHOES

Volume 10 Issue 1

March 2000

General Membership Meeting: Everyone is invited to the annual general membership meeting on March 18 at 8:30 AM at the Plainsman III (on Smith road just East of Chambers). Among the discussions, we need to decide if we can support an AFTAC reunion here in Denver in 2001. We rotate the reunions between Florida, California, and Denver, and it is our turn. The last reunion we hosted was a great success due to the efforts of many Colorado Alumni. Bring your ideas and stories to the breakfast for some good old camaraderie and stories with the rest of the AFTAC Alumni.

PICNIC 2000: The eighth annual picnic is **June 10** at Lake Williams at Buckley ANG Base. A reservation form is provided in this newsletter. All current AAAC members and families are invited to attend for food and fun. We invite any previous or current AFTAC, 1009th, 1035th, 1155th, plus any field location within the world, retired or active duty to join us. Festivities will commence at 10 AM and food will be served around noon. Lonnie Gibbons is planning a horseshoe tournament. Also, the Air Force plans to rejuvenate the lake with an aerator and fish. Fill out the form on the back of this newsletter and send it in. At \$2.50 per adult and \$1.00 per child, you can't go wrong. We are hoping for a flyby again this year. Bring a friend.

VETERAN'S DAY EVENING FUNCTION will be held at the CAMANA club on November 11th. Also a full moon that night! We will start with cocktails at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM. Mark your calendars!

MAIL

Dear Bill,

Enclosed is my dues for the next two years. I don't know what happened. After reading the newsletter, I stuck it in my file, without noticing that you highlighted my "DUE DATE." Lucky for

me, I was just checking my AFTAC file and noticed I was a little overdue. Please forgive me. I just had to mention, that at the last reunion, I found out that I was classified as a "four and outer", by the career people. But I do want to say that the "four and outers" that I was with in the old 1009th were a great bunch of guys. At the last reunion in California, we had 14 in attendance, out of the original 60 from 1951-54. There are 20 of us on the Internet and we keep in touch. We know 6 are deceased and are still trying to locate 19 of our "lost" comrades. However, we feel that at the next reunion, we will increase our presence above 14, Take care and Happy Holidays to all..

Leo Cotter
Gainesville, Georgia
lcotter@mindspring.com

[editor's note: I planned to be a "four and outer" but things happen]

Dear Bill,

I just received the September Echoes and realized its time for **alumni** dues. As it turns out, my son is showing some interest in enlisting in the Air Force and because we were on Colorado Boulevard and 6th Avenue, I decided to take a little side trip to Lowry. Although I've lived in Denver since 1971, this is the first time I've visited the base. To my surprise the Det 57 building and the systems training building were still there. The system training building is now a day care facility. Gone are the VLF loop antennas and the fencing, now replaced with children's equipment. I doubt if any of the current inhabitants realize the legacy of the buildings and meaning they have for a lot people. For me the training received at Lowry and experience gained in the Air Force laid the foundation for a civilian career in electronics and computers.

Our visit to Lowry triggered a trip down memory lane and after listening to the recruiters with my son, its apparent that the times have changed.

Today college credit is given for tech schools. I suspect an equivalent 'Q' school today would get you well on your way to an Associates Degree; basic electronics, film processing, test equipment, trouble-shooting skills, frequency standards, and basic life skills. It wasn't a bad curriculum for someone just starting out in the '60's.

In retrospect, AFTAC was a life altering experience for me, and one that provided valuable lessons over the course of my life. I can only hope that if the Air Force is in my son's future, the he benefits from the experience as much as I did.

[Editor's note: Bill Schmied informed me that the former systems training building on Lowry is now an "upscale private school" not a "day care facility" - Bill says: "I think its neat that at least it's still a school."]

Bruce Deffler
Parker, Colorado

Dear Bill,

It was nice talking to you last nite-thanks for calling back. I would like to join the Colorado chapter of the AFTAC alumnus. Enclosed is a check for the membership dues of \$5.

I was in the 1009th from 11/51-3/55. I was stationed at McClellan AFB on two occasions for a total of about 14 months but spent 24 months at Yokota AFB with Team 407. In addition, I was Tdy at Eielson AFB at Fairbanks, Anderson AFB in Guam, and Larson AFB at Moses Lake, Washington at various times. I was a special equipment operator onboard B29s during much of the U.S. and Russian testing in the early 1950s and collected quite a number of hot samples for later analysis. This was a responsible job for a young guy and I enjoyed it a lot. (Incidentally, during my stay in the AF I logged 10.5 hours of 3-engine time and 45 minutes of 2-engine time in B29s).

I look forward to receiving the Newsletter next February and to some possible gatherings in Denver or elsewhere. Thanks again for your prompt call.

Sincerely,
Carroll Frenzel
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Thanks for the letters and please keep them coming. Ben Vlassick asked for volunteers at our core breakfast on 26 February to take over the newsletter. I violated the sacred rule and volunteered. Ben has been doing the newsletter since the beginning, and has done a magnificent job. He is the reason I joined the Colorado chapter in the first place. I volunteered to do the newsletter because I spent 20 years with AFTAC and think that we all made a big difference in the world we live in today. I also enjoyed the companionship of the finest Airmen in the force. So please, if you have any comments good or bad, let me know at my email: bdunn@qadas.com or snailmail:

Thanks Ben,

and I will do my best...

Bryce Dunn

BUCKLEY COMMISSARY: Richard Platt reports that at an E9 meeting in Aurora, they announced that the Buckley Commissary will be ready by Spring of 2001. Buckley ANG Base is changing over to an active duty Air Force Base. The E-9 meetings occur on the fourth Thursday of the month at Buckingham Square. Dick also reported that the local Air Force Sergeants Association adopted a section of Tower Road, south of Buckley to keep it clean. Call Dick if you are interested in socializing and participating in scavenger hunts.

HAIL: Last but not least, we would like to welcome our 1999 new members: Bill Burroughs, Mike Frichette, Bill Overley, and John Tetrick all from Aurora; CMSgt Bob Tomilson from Buckley ANGB; Dick Brence from Westminster; Charles Walter from Lakewood; Carrol Frenzel from Colorado Springs; William DeRycke from Douglas; Leonard Jones from Casper, WY; Frank Funa from Poway, California; and Phil Korzilius from Franklin, MA. So far in 2000 we have added Ray Copeland who now hails from Tyler, TX.

PICNIC 2000

June 10, 2000, starting at 10 AM, we will gather at Buckley ANG Base, Lake William's recreation center for our eighth annual picnic.

There will be Brautwurst, Hamburgers, and Hot Dogs along with coleslaw, potato salad and beans served at noon. Drinks will be provided along with door prizes. There will be a horseshoe tournament, volleyball and camaraderie. Price is \$2.50 for Adults and \$1.00 for children.

Mail the following reservation to Bill Schmied, 2078 Kenton St., Aurora, CO 80010 by 2 June, 2000. Any questions, call Bill at 303-367-0625 or Ben at 303-690-1239.

Yes, Count on me to attend the June 10, 2000, picnic, starting at 10:00, at Lake Williams at Buckley ANGB and to join the fun. Enclosed is my check payable to Bill Schmied to cover the people in my party. I understand that the money will not be refundable after the food has been purchased.

NAME: _____ SPOUSE NAME: _____

ATTENDEES: _____ ADULTS (\$2.50 each) _____ CHILDREN (\$1.00 each)

Total Amount: \$ _____

MAIL FLORIDA DUES (\$10.00 PER YEAR)
TO: AFTAC Alumni Association
P.O. Box 254892
Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892

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FOR COLORADO DUES SUBMISSION
OR ADDRESS CHANGE

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, ZIP: _____

Telephone No: _____

Unless advised to the contrary, personal information listed
above is releasable to other AFTAC members.

DUES ARE \$5.00 PER 12-MONTH PERIOD PAYABLE
DURING EXPIRATION MONTH. (SEE ADDRESS LABEL
FOR INDIVIDUAL EXPIRATION MONTH).

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BILL SCHMIED.

MAIL TO: BILL SCHMIED, 2078 Kenton St., Aurora, CO
80010. Membership questions may be directed to Bill
Schmied at (303) 367-0625

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AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF CO
c/o Ben Vlassick
18207 E. Loyola Dr.
Aurora, CO 80013-3314

