



ECHOES

Volume 13 Issue 3

October 2003

Alumni Winter Social – Sign up now!

For the past eight years or so, we have held our annual winter Dinner/Dance close to Veterans day at the Buckley CAMANA (Colorado Air National Guard, Marines, Air Force, & Navy, All-ranks club). However, the CAMANA club is currently shut down (the Base Commander was going to tear it down, was requested to restore it instead, so it is currently in limbo).

This year we will hold our winter social on November 8th, from 6-11PM at the Breckenridge Brewery & BAR-B-QUE at 471 S. Kalamath in Denver. All alumni, active duty, wives, husbands and friends are welcome to attend. Dress is casual. The menu is a buffet which includes pulled smoked pork shoulder roast, sliced brisket of beef, St Louis-style pork spareribs, sliced smoked turkey breast, famous baked beans with spicy sausage, garlic mashers and gravy, Kosher dill pickle spears and fresh rolls with butter. This will be a cash bar (Micro-brew @ \$3 per pint). Free parking on Kalamath street. Price is \$15 per person (includes tax and gratuity). Please mail your check to our treasurer, Bill Schmied (2078 Kenton St., Aurora, CO, 80010), no later than 29 October. Make checks payable to Bill Schmied. Hope you can attend. If you have any questions, contact Jack Smith (303-428-1812, or COAFTRMKT@aol.com).

AAACO General Membership Breakfast

The semi-annual AFTAC Alumni Association of Colorado breakfast was held on 20 September at the Plainsman III. About 20 members showed up to swap stories and talk about the future of the Colorado chapter. There was some discussion about getting a group together (not during the winter-possibly next year) to visit the AFTAC museum at Encampment Wyoming. (ed: I reran Bill Braukman's article on the museum in this newsletter).

Ken Behrens provided some information on a new Veterans Memorial at Fitzsimons (see info in this newsletter). Jack Smith informed the group that a few members had lunch with a few Det 45 active duty members in early September. Charles Toner said that

his wife, Jerri, is on the road to recovery (our best wishes are with you Jerri). Bruce Deffler donated four discounted United Air Tickets for door prizes at the Winter Social.

Annual Alumni Picnic

The 13th annual AFTAC Alumni Association of Colorado (AAACO) picnic was held on 21 June at the Pavilion recreation facility on Buckley AFB. Due to an inadvertent double booking by recreational services, we moved this year's picnic from the lake to the main recreation area, which included a large gazebo-like pavilion, two horseshoe pits, volleyball area, and two ball fields. Rec Services threw in free use of a bar-b-que cooker designed for half a cow, opened up the building for indoor restrooms and an air conditioned room with couches and pool tables. We don't have any pictures this year, but shots of Bill Schmied shagging softball fly balls and Dick Platt pitching one of his ringers would certainly be there if we had brought a camera. The group liked the site so well that we are considering holding next year's picnic there.

On the Web

Your Alumni Web Site Awaits You!

Have you been to www.aftacco.org lately? There's a photo "Quick Tour of the Wings Over The Rockies museum located on the former Lowry AFB grounds. If you didn't receive your 'Echoes' newsletter like this one in the past, we've begun an archive of previous issues you can review whenever you like.

Stay in touch and be informed. Visit www.aftacco.org anytime!

NEW! FAMILY NEWSLETTER

AFTAC is now publishing an AFTAC Family Newsletter which we will be posting on the Alumni website:

<http://www.csi-inc.com/aftac/aftacfamily/>

We will send out updates when new newsletters appear.

Good Health Wishes

Godspeed to Chuck and Jerri Toner and family, we share the joy of your recovery.

From the Florida Post-Monitor

Commander's Recall – Col (Ret) Beatty provided this article to the Post-Monitor

AFTAC The Most Rewarding Part of My Air Force Career

Previously when I was asked, "What was your best assignment," I would say it all depended on the type of mission you were referring to. This was not an easy question to answer given that my Air Force career covered more than 35 years (13 enlisted and 22 officer), 19 permanent changes of stations, and five overseas tours (including two remote tours). But, in the reflection that only comes with retirement, I now know that AFTAC was without a doubt my favorite assignment.

You often hear the statement, "AFTAC is like no other military unit," This is true, but many people don't know the history about why. Because the early nuclear testing monitoring mission was so unique (and highly classified) it didn't fit into the Air Force's organizational structure. Therefore, the original AFTAC organization was allowed to develop its own command, personnel management, assignment, logistics, training, and operations structure. This created one of the most powerful, but least known units and missions in the history of the Air Force. In fact, many of the "old AFTACers" will tell you "war stories" about what it was like being part of an operation that enjoyed one of the highest priorities in the U.S. Government. This led to many of the unique aspects of AFTAC. This includes, special equipment operators, close-looped assignments, enlisted detachment commanders, relationships with the national laboratories, close interface with and oversight by U.S. government agencies, and involvement with foreign countries and international treaty monitoring organizations.

I took command of AFTAC in the summer of 2000, not long after the Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests. This was a watershed event because it served to link the organization with its historical core mission (nuclear test monitoring) while AFTAC struggled to remain relevant in a changed strategic and military environment. One of my first tasks was to visit many of our units, both in the U.S. and overseas. These visits taught me my most important lesson - the people of AFTAC are our most valuable asset. This was confirmed

everyday of my assignment. This was high-lighted during my first visit to our former main AFTAC laboratory, the Technical Operations Division (TOD). I still remember walking into one room with five electron microscopes manned by airmen and junior NCOs. This is work and equipment I'd associated with a major research university or laboratory, not a military unit.

I was extremely impressed by the professionalism and technical ability of the AFTAC personnel. Even more impressive was the extraordinary level of responsibility given to our personnel, especially our enlisted members. I know of very few organizations that would put a detachment of NCOs and airmen in a foreign country where they are the operational, social, cultural, and civic representative of not only AFTAC, but of the United States. For many of these units they were the "face of America" for the foreign communities where they worked and lived. I was also amazed by the tireless dedication and resourcefulness of our detachment personnel who worked under very challenging circumstances. Where else can you find a detachment commander who rents a farmer's horse to carry equipment through a Turkish snowstorm to repair a seismic monitoring sensor. For me, detachment operations represented the best of the AFTAC "can do" spirit and the "point of the spear" of the AFTAC mission. Our overseas operations were also an important component of AFTAC's relationship with our foreign partners and the emerging international treaty monitoring system. This was especially true for our relationship with the International Monitoring System (IMS) organizations as they began to build their Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) monitoring capability. The CTBT would ban all testing of nuclear weapons and have the capability to monitor compliance. AFTAC was the lead U.S. organization for the monitoring portion of the treaty. Since AFTAC already had a worldwide monitoring capability and a fifty year history in this mission, we were the logical choice as the model for the IMS monitoring net work. I found the IMS personnel very technically competent and willing to learn from AFTAC's extensive experience. Working with the IMS professionals toward our common CTBT goals was one of the most rewarding parts of my command.

One of my duties as the AFTAC commander was to host many of our U.S. and foreign partners. Since many of our operations depended on their support and cooperation, this was a critical part of maintaining these relationships. While this required time on my part, it is my wife, Diane, who deserves the credit for making this a success. I can't even begin to recount how many hours she spent

preparing and hosting dinners and attending social functions. She also worked very hard to spend time with the other AFTAC wives and the local alumni wives. She was more than willing to open our home to anyone associated with the AFTAC family. She was a tremendous asset to me and AFTAC. I wouldn't have succeeded without her, and I owe her a great debt of gratitude. I know this is true of many other AFTAC wives (and husbands) who have played a critical role in the success of AFTAC. We can't thank them enough for their continued support.

The time at AFTAC is something that stays with most of us for the rest of our lives, especially for those who spent most of their career with AFTAC. This was very evident at the recent Long Range Detection (AFTAC) Reunion. Although the attendees spanned over fifty years of AFTAC experience and history, there was a shared bond that could only be understood by fellow alumni. Although many of us came from different backgrounds, worked with different "techniques," or were assigned to different locations, we all knew that we had been (or still were) part of something very special. That is why the AFTAC Alumni Association is so important, especially as it strives to expand the alumni membership by attracting younger members. It is only through the memories of its alumni that the AFTAC legacy is assured of continuing. For me, my time at AFTAC was the most rewarding part of my Air Force career.

AFTAC Display, Encampment WY, Museum

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY BILL BRAUKMAN

Another command 'sight to see,' if you are out west, is a small museum in southern Wyoming near the Colorado border. It is located in a town that has gone through several metamorphosis, having been a coal town of 80,000, to being nearly a ghost town of about 50 year round residents, to what it is today - a logging town of 600 people with a museum well worth visiting. Therein you will find the work of Bill Braukman and the Colorado alumni - they have saved a piece of AFTAC in this small town.

They began working on this when Bill visited (he had been stationed there in '51-'53) in April '90 and saw the town's small museum. Through good horse trading, some twisting of arms and contributions from Teledyne and former detachment personnel, he was able to come up with an original 'big' Benioff (400 lbs), an equipment rack, a helicorder, amplifiers, develocorder, etc., to place in this museum. An AFTAC Worldwide Directory is also maintained and well used by visiting alumni. Dedication ceremonies were in the spring of '91 and attracted ranchers, town folks and former AFTACers.

Be sure to pay the museum and the AFTAC exhibit a visit if you're ever in the area, and enjoy what Bill Braukman and the others have assembled here.

From the West Coast Chapter – The Depot Fallout

Attention AFTAC Alumni Everywhere!

The West Coast Chapter has now entered Cyberspace with our very own web site. Check it out at: www.AFTACWest.org

New West Coast Officers/Chairpersons

By Dale Klug

Congratulations to our new West Coast leadership team who took office at our Sept 2nd general membership meeting. Team members are: President Rod Hinkle; Vice President Joe Johnson; Board Director Ken Denblyker; Asst. Board Director Dave Tarquino; Director at Large Orv Pritchard; Treasurer Bart Carter; Asst. Treasurer Charlie Penn; Membership Chairman Danny Beach; Secretary Marge Iske; Asst. Secretary Ken Breitwieser; Newsletter Editor Dale Klug; and Asst. Newsletter Editor/Webmaster Bob Fitzgerald.

All these people are ready for a productive two years in office and you can expect to hear from us.

AFTAC Reunion, 2005

By Al Pavik

The AFTAC 2005 reunion will be hosted by the West Coast Chapter. Jack Allison and I have volunteered to work this get together. We will be contacting people to support this function. Currently we are doing tentative planning and have identified either early May or September 2005 as tentative time frames. We will be putting together sub-committees (Facilities, Publications, Funds, Golf, Registration, Commemorative etc etc) to support this effort. We will be asking for your support and inputs for this effort. We will be providing more information in the future, however if any of you have recommendations/inputs please let Jack (916-331-3891) or myself (916-797-1472) know.

Veterans Day Salute – Buckley AFB

Buckley AFB will host a Veterans Salute from 0930 to 1330 November 6th in Hanger 909. Aurora Mayor Paul Tauer and KEZW Radio Station Manager Rick Crandall will host this special occasion featuring a patriotic tribute to veterans, our Armed Forces, and our Country. Lunch will be provided by Carrabba's Italian Grill. Guests that do not have normal access to Buckley will be transported to the event via a courtesy shuttle from the Aurora Senior Center, 30 Del Mar Circle, beginning at 0930. Cost of this special event is \$10 for veterans and \$12 for non-veteran guests. To register, call 303-739-7950.

Least We Forget

Vern Mikkelsen provides the following information:

I thought alumni members would want to know that our friend Jimmy Mays has passed away. Information that I received is that he was experiencing back pains, about 7 to 10 days ago and he went to the doctor's office and was put on pain pills. Pills didn't seem to do the job so he went back to the doctor. They performed tests on him and discovered infection in his back and within a couple of days it had spread to the point that he became paralyzed from the neck down so he was put on life-support. He could talk and move one finger. He told his wife, Lynn, that he didn't want to live that way and had the life-support removed. Info that I received is that it was just a matter of a couple of hours that he left us. Further info is that he died of a staph infection of the back/spine. Jimmy was taken back to Arkansas for burial.

Lynn's e-mail address is: (at least as far as I know)
JimmyMays@MSN.com.

Lynn Mays address is: 7016 Cantell Drive, No.
Highlands, CA, 95660.

SMSgt (Ret) Ernest R Medley passed away June 17, 2003 after a long illness due to Fabry disease. This was from his wife, Angela Medley. Ernie was a life-time member; he had assignments within the organization from '71 thru '83. Their address is: 8016 WEST 78TH WAY, Arvada, CO 80005.

Note sent by wife, Barbara, on 4 August '03:

TSgt (Ret) Richard W. Frontera, Sr passed away July 14, 2003. Barbara has requested we list Richard in the next Post-Monitor as it would do her heart good as Richard read it from cover-to-cover.

Richard was an annual dues paying member since November 16, 1997; he was assigned to AFOAT-1/1009/CFO/56-58

Don Haas, a USAF/AFTAC veteran and Systems Test Engineer Senior Manager, Program Integration, Titan Programs, Lockheed/Martin, died quietly, as he lived, at home on Monday, August 18, 2003.

His battle with brain cancer was long and difficult but he endured with grace and dignity. He is survived by wife Gail, children and grandchildren, and other relatives.

The family also requests in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to any organization that supports all branches of our armed services here and abroad.

Extracted from Florida Today paper, 8/21/03, Obituary section.

We received a note from Ronna D. Gary that her husband, LCol (Ret) Roger O. Gary Jr. passed away Feb 19, 2003. He was a lifetime member of the Long-Range Detection (LRD) Alumni Association, joining in November, 1993.

Our online alumni directory lists his LRD service as 'AFTAC HQ 1969-1973' - a separate database shows he was in HQ/ODM in 1970.

VIERA -- Kelly C. Chaney, 43, a 45th Space Wing Career Assistance Advisor in the U.S. Air Force, passed away Tuesday, September 23, 2003, at Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne, Fla. S/M Sgt. Chaney was born in South Hampton, United Kingdom. He came to Brevard County in 1965. He was a member of the NCO Club, the Space Wing Top 3 Association, and the Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 557. S/M Sgt. Chaney is survived by his wife of 11 years, Leann Chaney of Viera; daughter, Jamie Lynn of Viera; sisters, Sarah Lou Jenia Glenn of Melbourne and Joetta Tibbits of Tennessee; and his father, Clinton Chaney of Melbourne. Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, September 27th, at the Patrick Air Force Base South Chapel. Burial will follow at Florida Memorial Gardens in Rockledge. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to International Myeloma Foundation, 12650 Riversie Driver, Suite 206, North Hollywood, CA 91607. Florida Memorial Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements.

ROSEMARIE BANNISTER (Spouse of Alumni, Carl Bannister)

MELBOURNE -- Rosemarie Lina Bannister, 61, was born in Kordel (Trier), West Germany and passed away Monday, September 22, 2003 at Tandem Healthcare of Melbourne, Fla. Rosemarie was a beautiful, loving wife who unselfishly accompanied her husband during his United States Air Force career, arriving at Patrick AFB in early October 1974. Her love of animals, especially cats, was well known to family and friends. Her home was adorned with numerous collector plates and figurines of all type cats. Rosemarie was a true daughter to her native Germany, even though she was naturalized American in October 1981. She traveled to Germany each year to visit her parents and family, fulfilling her husband's promise to the father when they wed. Rosemarie possessed an uncanny ability to cause strangers to reveal personal information to her that even their own family and friends didn't know. She was a true fighter for 21 years against the cancer that eventually claimed her life. Rosemarie is survived by her husband of 36 years, Carl Bannister of Melbourne; brother and sister-in-law, Siegfried and Elisabeth Schneider of Trier, Germany; sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Chuck Krech of Franklin, Tenn.; nephew, Frank Schneider of Trier, Germany; and niece, Gaby (Schneider) Schild of Schweich (Trier) Germany. Rosemarie was an active member of Ascension Catholic Church in Melbourne. Donations can be made to the American Cancer Society, 4356-B Fortune Place, West Melbourne, FL 32904 or to the American Diabetes Association, 1101 N. Lake Destiny Road, Suite 415, Maitland, FL 32750-7105. A Funeral Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Ascension Catholic Church on September 27, 2003.

AFTAC Alumni Association of Colorado is a non-profit organization.

President: Jack Smith, email COAFTRMKT@aol.com

Vice President: Earl Pierce, email emxanadu@msn.com

Treasurer: Bill Schmied, email bilschmied@aol.com

Webmaster: Bill Harris, email bharris4@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter: Bryce Dunn, email bdunn@qadas.com

From Ken Behrens on the new Veterans Memorial to be constructed at the old Fitzsimmons site. Here is an opportunity to preserve the recognition of our veterans. For more info call Ken at 303-755-0903 or email www.MicroBlueSoftware.com

We are always looking for something of interest to include in the newsletter. Please send stories, messages, pictures, etc. via email to Bryce Dunn, bdunn@qadas.com. See the return address on this newsletter for snailmail. Thanks.

AURORA VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Remembering **DESERT STORM** **VIETNAM**

Our Vets **KOREA WWII WWI**

"ONE BRICK AT A TIME"

CALL TOLLFREE TO 1-866-ONE-BRICK-AT-A-TIME (1-866-663-2742)

Visit our website at www.fitzsimonsveteransmemorial.com

AURORA VETERANS' MEMORIAL AT FITZSIMONS-"NATIONAL DEBT"

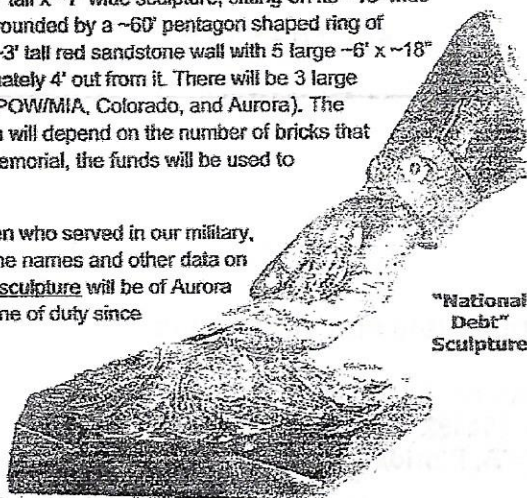
On October 7, 2002, the Aurora City Council approved the A.V.A.C. - National Debt, a memorial concept to pay tribute to the many living and fallen veterans' from our City. The memorial will be located inside Fitzsimons Generals' Park, near the corner of East Colfax and Peoria Street close to the new University of Colorado Health and Science Center facilities.

Artist and U.S. Marine veteran, Gene Martin, will bring his vision to reality with this gripping sculpture entitled "National Debt". From bronze and stainless steel, the ~15' tall x ~7' wide sculpture, sitting on its ~18' wide pentagon shaped absolute black granite base, will be surrounded by a ~60' pentagon shaped ring of commemorative paver/donor bricks, with an ~18" thick x ~3' tall red sandstone wall with 5 large ~6' x ~18" wide corner benches, each facing the sculpture, approximately 4' out from it. There will be 3 large beautiful flagpoles, each with oversized flags (American, POW/MIA, Colorado, and Aurora). The actual size and dimensions of the overall memorial design will depend on the number of bricks that are purchased. If sufficient funds are not raised for the memorial, the funds will be used to support Aurora veterans' programs.

This memorial symbolizes and honors the men and women who served in our military, some paying the ultimate price to protect our freedom. The names and other data on the dog tags, as well as 4 of the 5 base panels under the sculpture will be of Aurora veterans who died as a result of the hostile action in the line of duty since 1891, when Aurora became a city.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can be a part of this important project simply by purchasing one or more engraved commemorative bricks. Your tax deductible 501 (c)(3) purchase will be a lasting memorial to our veterans whether at war or peace, stateside or overseas.



"National Debt" Sculpture

You may wish to honor a family member or friend with this lasting legacy, while at the same time, provide the much needed funding to create this impressive history making memorial.

COMMEMORATIVE BRICK PRICING

4"x8" inscribed with 1 to 3 lines (20 characters/spaces per line)
 8"x8" inscribed with 1 to 6 lines (20 characters/spaces per line)
 8"x8" non-commercial inscribed with logo and text
 8"x8" commercial message with or without logo and text

AT THE MEMORIAL PAVER/DONOR	FOR YOUR HOME REPLICA
\$100	\$50
\$250	\$125
\$350	\$175
\$500	\$250

See
back
for
order form

The 1st 400 8"x8" paver/donor bricks purchased will also include a FREE replica brick.

Gift certificate suggestions: Birthdays, Christmas, Anniversaries, Reunions, Memorials, Veterans Day.

CALL TOLLFREE TO 1-866-ONE-BRICK-AT-A-TIME (1-866-663-2742)

TO LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THIS PROJECT, CONTACT THE LOCAL AREA DIRECTOR, JERRY STAPLES
 Cell/office: 303.340.0557 FAX: 303.340.0551 email: fitzsimonsveteransmemorial@att.net

All funds collected, as well as donations given to this memorial, will be totally processed through the "Spirit of Aurora" 501 (c)(3) tax deductible account. 100% of the time and energy expended by any and all volunteers on behalf of this memorial, including the director of the project, is gladly donated freely, AND THE VOLUNTEERS ARE NOT FINANCIALLY COMPENSATED.