



ECHOES

February 2004

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST

Saturday 28 Feb 2004 0830

New Location: Country Buffet, 1026 S. Sable Blvd, Aurora, Co. Take I-225 to Mississippi, east approximately one mile to Sable Blvd, north on Sable Blvd approximately one block. Country Buffet is on the east side of Sable. Price \$6.09/\$6.59 Buffet and Drinks. Pay at the entrance. We have a Private Room Reserved (AFTAC).

Looking forward to having many Alumni and Active Duty attend.

Please call or E-mail for a head count:
Jack 303-428-1812 (coafrmtkt@aol.com)
or Bill Schmied @ bilschmied@aol.com.

MEMBER DIRECTORY

From our Treasurer, Bill Schmied

We have included our Colorado chapter member directory in this newsletter. It is patterned after the Florida membership directory that they mail to their members every year. Ours is current as of the first part of January 2004. If you have sent in dues or other informational changes since the first of the year, they may not be reflected in this directory. Our directory also lists the membership expiration month and year. This is the month and year your membership dues need to be paid again. This date is also

included on your newsletter-mailing label in this new format, which spells out the three-letter month abbreviation and the full four-digit year. As always, you may pay your dues at any time you wish and your expiration date will be extended for the additional time. Please contact Bill Schmied to make any changes to this directory. (Since he still works full time during the day, please call during the evening or use email if you have that option.)

REQUEST FOR NEWSLETTER INPUTS

ED: I received this email from Bill Schmied:

Bryce, I've talked to Jack about soliciting inputs for the newsletter from our members. As you know, Florida does this and it really adds a lot of meaning to their newsletter. I think most members like to hear from other members in the form of old stories, new stories, pictures, and whatever.

Bill, I think this is a great idea. This newsletter belongs to our organization and we will welcome any inputs that members would like to share with other members.

Send stories, pictures, or whatever to:
Bryce Dunn, 3562 S. Jasper Way, Aurora,
CO 80013, or email to bdunn@qadas.com.
Pictures will be returned upon request.

2004 COLORADO CHAPTER EVENTS

On 17 January, nine chapter officers and planners met to discuss the 2004 events. Attendees were: Jack Smith, President, Earl Pierce, Vice President, Bill Schmied, Treasurer, Rick Phillips and Bryce Dunn, Newsletter, Bill Harris, webmaster, Darrel Kline, Det 45, Hugo Redlin and Chuck Toner.

The general membership meeting will be held on 28 February.

The annual picnic is scheduled for 19 June. MSgt Kline has already reserved the Pavilion area at Buckley AFB (the same place we held the picnic in 2003) for that date.

The annual Winter Social is tentatively scheduled for 13 November. Earl Pierce agreed to chair this event. If you have any ideas or would like to help with this event, please contact Earl.

Bill Schmied's treasurer report informs us that the chapter is "healthy" financially.

Any other events to be held this year (i.e., trip to the Encampment Museum, Black Hawk trip, golf) will be discussed at the general membership meeting on 28 February.

Medicare Part B Special Enrollment Period

Note: During the Alumni planning breakfast in January, Chuck Toner advised the group of the information that follows. We asked him to please provide the info in the newsletter to share with the rest of our members. Thanks Chuck.

President Bush recently signed a bill that introduces an outpatient prescription drug benefit. This does not

affect uniformed services beneficiaries, as their Tricare pharmacy benefits will continue as a separate program. However, the bill also makes three very important changes relating to enrollment in Medicare Part B. (the supplementary medical insurance program). The first two changes affect persons not enrolled, or paying surcharges because they enrolled after they were initially eligible for Part B. The third affects income of seniors. First, uniformed services beneficiaries who would be eligible for Tricare for Life, but are not enrolled in Medicare Part B May now enroll without penalty during a special enrollment period starting on a date yet to be determined through December 31, 2004. This special enrollment period will be announced on the Tricare Website. Second, uniformed services beneficiaries who did enroll in Medicare Part B in 2001, 2002, 2003 or 2004 and are subject to a premium surcharge for late enrollment in Part B can get those surcharges eliminated by demonstrating that they are covered under Tricare. The elimination of surcharges is effective January 1, 2004, but the procedures still have to be worked out and will be announced on the Tricare Website. Third, all seniors, not just uniformed services beneficiaries are affected by this change. The Part B premium will be tied to income, beginning in 2007. Individuals with incomes above \$80,000 will pay more, and couples with incomes above \$160,000 will pay more. The Tricare Website is: www.tricare.osd.mil

Sincerely,
Chuck Toner

Good Health Wishes

To **Mike Minamoto** on your successful heart surgery

Wanda Barnett
Don and Mary Gash
John Caban Tom Ciambrone

On the Web

Bill Harris, our Webmaster maintains The AAACO website at: www.aftacco.org. Check it out and give Bill your feedback.

The West Coast Chapter

Check out the West Coast Web page at: <http://www.aftacwest.org> including information on the May 2005 Reunion.

The Florida Chapter

Check out their web page at <http://www.csi-inc.com/aftac/>

Mail Call

Email to Jack Smith:

Sir,
I am the new Commander of AFTAC Detachment 046 at Schriever AFB CO. I was excited to see such an active alumni chapter in the area. I will pass the info about the chapter onto the Detachment members. If there is special information you would like to see disseminated I can ensure it gets out to the Det.

Capt Richard E. Goodman II
Commander
AFTAC Detachment 46

"Honor above Self"

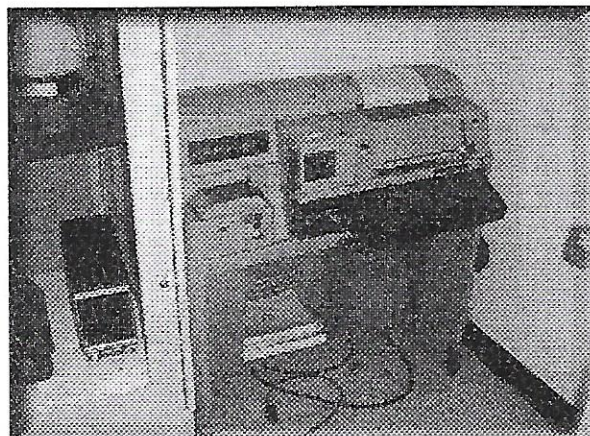
Jack,

Just got the recent newsletter in the mail and realized that in the rush to move to Alaska, forgot to contact you all. Bill (Chief) Schmied's prediction of me making Senior came true, so that's why I'm up here. I really enjoyed the few times I was able to get together with you all. I wish I could have convinced some more of the junior troops to partake as well. I was already given a list of former AFTACers up here in the Fairbanks area; maybe we can start a "Top of the world" chapter of the AFTAC alumni. Please tell everyone I said Hi, God Bless, and Happy Holidays.

John E Nederhoed, SMSgt, USAF
Superintendent Detachment 460

Lest we Forget

George Burnham Brown
Roger O. Gary, Jr.
Robert O. Blau
Rosemarie Bannister
Kelly C. Chaney



Recognize this? (photo by Bill Harris)

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