



ECHOES

May 2004

Summer Picnic

The annual AFTAC Alumni Association of Colorado picnic will be held on 19 June at the Buckley Recreational Complex. The complex is located just inside the 6th avenue gate next to the ballfields. The complex includes a covered pavilion, two horseshoe pits, volleyball area, and two ball fields (available by first come, first served). For \$2.50 per person (no charge for active duty and children 13 and under), you can select burgers, brats, hot dogs and varieties of salads, chips, and drink. Det 45 has volunteered to cook this year to give Bryce and Rick a break. This year we are asking that you pay when you arrive. Donations accepted. Please rsvp to Jack Smith, coafrmtkt@aol.com or 303-428-1812.

Alumni Breakfast/Meeting

Our semiannual alumni breakfast was held on May 1st at the Country Buffet located at Mississippi and Sable. It was a good turnout with approximately 35 people including the Det 45 Commander, Major Jack Merchant, Superintendent Darrel Kline, and some of the Detachment active duty members. It was good to see the young NCOs & Airmen mixing with the "old timers." After some good stories and round-the-room introductions, we held a membership meeting. Bill Schmied, treasurer, stated that the chapter is in good financial status. The members decided to donate \$125 total to the new Air Force Memorial (see related article in this newsletter). Bryce Dunn announced that he would like someone else to pick up the Newsletter Editor's job and Bruce Deffler agreed to pick it up in August. It was suggested that the newsletter be emailed to members with email addresses, or by special request. The group voted on it and decided to keep the current method of mailing the newsletters.

Yearly Membership dues

Are only \$5 per year. If you have not paid your dues, please send it in. MAIL TO: BILL SCHMIED, 2078 Kenton St., Aurora, CO 80010. Membership questions may be directed to Bill Schmied at (303) 367-0625 or email Bilschmied@aol.com. Please make checks payable to Bill.

Fall Dinner

Earl Pierce, our Vice President, requested any assistance/ideas for our annual November dinner. Last year's dinner was held at Breckenridge Brewing in Denver. The previous years were held at the now closed Buckley CAMANA club. The planning date for the event is November 13. If you would like to help plan this event, please contact Earl at emxanadu@comcast.net or 303-343-4665.

National Airman Memorial

The three alumni organizations associated with AFTAC: Florida, Colorado, and California chapters plan to make contributions to the new National Airman Memorial. The AF Memorial Fund has been working for years to build a memorial for AF members. They are very close, but still need help to complete the project. Here is an email from John Horsch:

Fellow Air Force Sages,

At a recent Alumni Association monthly meeting of the Patrick Chapter we discussed making a contribution to the Air Force Memorial building effort. The ground breaking is drawing nigh (currently scheduled for Sept '04 with completion two years later), and contributions are important as this project moves forward. It was also the considered opinion that this type of contribution was allowable under the association constitution and charter.

We also considered that this donation be made in the name of the 'AFTAC-Long Range Detection Alumni Association' as a whole, i.e., the three chapters making a unified contribution from their treasuries. We have contacted the other chapters previously and are now notifying membership via this email and an article in the Patrick's Chapter June newsletter, 'Post-Monitor.'

As we discussed this, several people also wanted to make personal contributions to this donation in the name of the association. While it was not an original intent to seek individual contributions, it is gratifying that some of you feel that way.

The Florida Chapter is considering a donation of \$200 to a unified contribution, plus whatever individuals send in as

donations. Colorado has indicated they would make a donation to the unified contribution, and a separate donation in their own name. The California chapter has not yet met to discuss this idea.

Any donation from the chapters, and individuals, will be appreciated, combined and sent forth. When donating to the unified contribution, please send to the Florida Chapter address as follows: AFTAC-LRD Alumni Assc, ATTN: AF Memorial Donation, PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892. If sending a check, please pay to LRD Alumni Assc., we will then deposit that to our treasury and write a matching amount into the unified contribution.

We'd like to come to conclusion on this by 1 August, 2004; please send donations by that date.

Sincerely,
The AFTAC-LRD Alumni Association, Florida Chapter

PS: the website for the memorial is: <http://www.airforcememorial.org/> and, as you will read, with this contribution we will be listed on the Memorial's 'Charter Sponsor Registry.'

At the Colorado chapter breakfast/meeting, the members decided to contribute \$25 towards the joint donation from the three chapters, and a separate \$100 donation directly from the Colorado chapter to the memorial fund.
The current donations status:

1. Joint Alumni Association Donation in the neighborhood of \$200 in the name of:

AFTAC (Air Force Technical Application Center)-LRD (Long Range Detection)

Alumni Association
Florida Chapter, Colorado Chapter, California Chapter

2. Individual Colorado Chapter donation of \$100 in the name of:

AFTAC (Air Force Technical Application Center Alumni Association) - Colorado Chapter

3. California Chapter is in the process of making a determination.

AFTAC World-wide Reunion

The next reunion will be hosted by the California Chapter May 12 - 14, 2005. It is not too early to start planning for this event. The three chapters alternate hosting this event every two years (the Colorado chapter is planning to host the event in 2007). The California chapter has signed a contract with the Holiday Inn, Northeast, Sacramento. They have 50 rooms reserved each night with checkout on Sunday, the 15th; all rooms are "Kings" with possible switch to or addition of doubles, triples and double/doubles. All rooms are \$89 per night plus 12% tax. The cut-off date for individuals to make their reservation is 4/21/05. Additional details can be found on their website: www.AFTACwest.org or contact Dale Klug at 916-338-0303.

For your convenience, here are some contact numbers at Buckley AFB:

Buckley Pharmacy: 303-677-7455.

Buckley ID and DEERS: 303-677-9159 (Jack Smith suggests you call before you go over there, their computer may be down and you could waste a trip).

Federal Credit Union: 303-360-8200

Buckley Air Force Aid Society: 303-677-6718

Base Exchange: 303-340-1100

Buckley Barber Shop: 720-859-0933

CAMANA Club: 303-677-9840

Casualty Assistance: 303-677-6123

Chaplain Services: 303-677-6411

Commissary: 303-677-7100

Pass and Vehicle Registration: 303-677-9381

Outdoor Recreation: 303-677-6101

Retiree Affairs Office: 303-677-6693

TRICARE Service Center: 303-676-3400

Buckley Operator: 303-677-9011

Colorado Chapter Breakfast Attendees - 1 May '04

Ed McKenna, Ron Zoratti, Earl Pierce, Bill Harris, Larry Johnston, Mike Minamoto, Chris Boustead, Bryce Dunn, Robert Motthe (sp?), William Aussenhofer, Anthony Covert, Cyrus Freeman, Christopher Leech, Douglas Thomas-Schepeler, Bruce Deffler, Bill Milnor, Rick Phillips, Bob Sladek, Cliff York, Chuck Toner, Earnie Long, James Neely, Darrel Kline, Delmar McCartee, Mike Frichette, Thomas R. Ware, Hugo Redlin, Glen Feakes, Jack Merchant, Lanny Fahlenkamp, Joe Dulick, Bill Schmied, and Jack Smith.

Congratulations to the Det 45 2004 First Quarter Award Winners!

Congratulations to Tsgt Doug Thomas-Schepeler, NCO of the Quarter and A1C Robert Connell, Amn of the Quarter. Both winners received a gift certificate from the Outback Steakhouse, donated by Colorado Alumni members. Keep up the good work!

On the Web (Bill Harris)

The Colorado Alumni Group Web site is alive and well at www.aftacco.org. You'll find pictures of alumni activities, useful information about facilities in the area for active and retired folks and a new addition. With the assistance of fellow alums, your Webmaster has posted a number of previous printed newsletters for your reading pleasure. If you don't see the ones you are looking for, drop a line to Bill Harris at bharris4@ix.netcom.com and I'll find it for you.

I have accepted a position with a group of eight radio stations in Albuquerque. Of the 8, the most 'legendary' is an AM station now called KKOB, formerly KOB. There are 5 FM and 3 AM stations, and a 230 watt nighttime only 'booster' transmitter for KKOB in Santa Fe!

Lest we Forget

Jane Ward
Barbara Shipps
Warren Francis Milstead
William R. Goade
Lawrence N. Gordon
James A. Fruit

General Lawrence N. Gordon

Brigadier General Lawrence N. Gordon was commander, 1035th Technical Operations Group, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., with additional duties as commander, Air Force Technical Applications Center.

General Gordon was born in 1924, in Madison, Ind. He attended Hanover College, Ind., for one year and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in June 1946 with a Bachelor of Science degree, a commission as a second lieutenant, and a pilot rating.

He attended B-25 aircraft training at Enid, Okla., and was assigned to the 97th Bombardment Group, Smokey Hill Air Force Base, Kan., in September 1946 flying B-29 bombers. In January 1948, he was transferred to Castle Air Force Base, Calif., and served with the 93d Bombardment Group. He became a student in aeronautical engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, in September 1948.

Upon graduation from AFIT in October 1950, he became an aircraft maintenance officer with the 1502d Support Squadron, Kwajalein Island. General Gordon returned to the United States in February 1952, and served at the Air Force Cambridge Research Center, Hanscom Field, Mass.

He was transferred to England in June 1955, and assigned as operations officer, 84th Bombardment Squadron, 47th Bomb Wing. In December 1957, he became the first commander of the 47th Periodic Maintenance Squadron of the 47th wing.

General Gordon was assigned to Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., in July 1958, and served as a program officer at the Air Force Technical Applications Center. From September 1962 to September 1963, he attended the University of Connecticut under the Air Force Institute of Technology program, where he became an honor graduate and received a master's degree in engineering management.

He was assigned to Air Force Systems Command, Andrews Air Force Base, Md., in September 1963 and served as a research and development officer in the Office of the Assistant for Bioastronautics. In August 1964, he became a staff development engineer in the Directorate of Bioastronautics, Deputy Chief of Staff, Science and Technology.

General Gordon was an honor graduate from the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., in June 1967. He then was assigned to Headquarters Military Airlift Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., where he served as deputy director and then director of operational requirements.

In July 1970, he became commander, 39th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Wing, Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Mo. He and his unit moved to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., in June 1971.

General Gordon assumed duties as commander of the 1035th Technical Operations Group at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., with additional duties as commander, Air Force Technical Applications Center, in June 1973.

His military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit,

Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with oak leaf cluster. He is a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and Beta Gamma Sigma honorary fraternity. He is a command pilot with more than 4,500 flying hours.

General Gordon's hometown is Madison, Ind.

He was promoted to the grade of brigadier general effective Aug. 1, 1972, with date of rank July 29, 1972.

Lt Col James A. Fruit

Received a letter from Robert W. Fruit, son of Lt. Col (ret) James A Fruit, a lifetime member since 9/7/'93 and he lived in Fredericksburg, VA the son wrote: " Sir, it is with deep regret I am writing to inform you of the passing of my father, Lt Col James A. Fruit USAF, retired, Dad died on February 29th following a stroke at his home in Fredericksburg Virginia. In 1939 Dad joined the United States Army as a private, and was eventually selected for flying school. He graduated in class 42-G at Kelly field. He was one of the few flying sergeants in the Air Corp, was commissioned and flew with Troop Carrier Command in the ETO. Dad was recalled to active duty in the Air Force during the Korean War and was a forward air controller flying T-6's in the

Famous "Mosquito" group. Following Korea he chose to stay on active duty and was assigned to the Air Force Special Weapons center. In 1959 he was transferred to the Alaskan Air Command and in 1963 joined AFTAC in Alexandria Virginia. He always felt his tour with AFTAC was the best and most important assignment in his Air Force career. Dad retired in 1975 after a tour at HQ TAC, two tours in Viet Nam and a tour at HQ USAFE. My mother Dorothea passed away in 1991 and dad was buried with her at Quantico National Cemetery.

Beside myself Dad is survived by my sister Cathy Farrar of Dayton Ohio, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Signed/ Robert W Fruit
Manassas VA 20111

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

Jim Hall
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FEBRUARY 19, 2004

DEAR BRYCE:

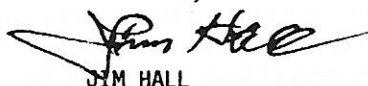
DON'T THINK WE HAVE EVER MET BUT I AM AN OLD 1009th/AFTACer AND NOW A MEMBER OF YOUR CHAPTER OF THE OLD OUTFIT. AM RESPONDING TO YOUR NOTE IN THE LATEST "ECHOES" NEWSLETTER REQUESTING INPUTS FOR SAME. I AM TOO OLD TO REMEMBER MANY NAMES NOW BUT HAVE A SHORT INCIDENT ABOUT THE PINEDALE DETACHMENT, ERA 1973.

BACKGROUND: I WAS IN 1009th/AFTAC FROM JULY 1958-OCTOBER 1968 SERVING IN THE WASHINGTON D.C./ALEXANDRIA, VA HEADQUARTERS, THE WIESBADEN, GER-MANY FIELD OFFICE AND THE SACRAMENTO FIELD OFFICE BEFORE IT BECAME "TOD", TRAVELING EXTENSIVELY ON STAFF VISITS TO MANY OF OUR WORLDWIDE DETACHMENTS AND MAKING MANY FRIENDS, I RECOGNIZE A FEW ON YOUR CURRENT ROSTER, BUT THERE ARE MANY, MANY NEW ONES WHO NEVER HEARD OF ME.

INCIDENT: IN 1973 I WAS THE BASE COMMANDER AT HILL AFB, UTAH WHEN MY COMMISSARY OFFICER CALLED ME AND SAID THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE FROM SOME AIR FORCE DETACHMENT IN PINEDALE WANTING TO LOAD UP A LARGE TRUCK WITH GROCERIES AND OTHER SUPPLIES. WHAT SHOULD HE DO? I DON'T REMEMBER WHO THE PINEDALE REPRESENTATIVE WAS NOW, BUT ON THE PHONE HE EXPLAINED TO ME WHO HE WAS, THAT THE DETACHMENT WAS PART OF AFTAC AND HILL WAS THE NEAREST BASE WHERE THEY COULD GET COMMISSARY ITEMS. AS YOU CAN IMAGINE I WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR FROM AN AFTAC DETACHMENT, TOLD MY COMMISSARY OFFICER TO "LOAD THEM UP" AND WENT TO MEET THE TRUCK CREW. IT WAS A DELIGHT TO MEET PEOPLE FROM MY PAST DUTIES IN AFTAC AND ASSURED THEM OF CONTINUED SUPPLY IN THE FUTURE. SEVERAL YEARS LATER MY WIFE AND I WERE TRAVELING THROUGH THE NORTHWEST AND STOPPED IN AT THE PINEDALE DETACHMENT AND VISITED THE DET COMMANDER AND WIFE IN THEIR HOME (DON'T RECALL NAMES NOW--MIGHT HAVE BEEN BILL BRAUKMAN, I HAD VISITED HIM AT HIS DETACHMENT IN THE MID-EAST WHEN I WAS STATIONED IN WIESBADEN AND KNEW HIM LATER). OTHER THAN MY ASSIGNMENT AT HILL, AFTAC WAS THE BEST, MOST INTERESTING ASSIGNMENT I HAD IN MY CAREER--SURROUNDED BY ABSOLUTELY THE BEST PROFESSIONALS I HAVE EVER SERVED WITH.

MIGHT NOT BE WORTH PRINTING, BUT HERE IT IS ANYWAY. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK YOU GUYS ARE DOING. AM GETTING TOO OLD TO TRAVEL EXTENSIVELY BUT MADE ONE OF YOUR REUNIONS "WAY BACK", A COUPLE OF FLORIDA REUNIONS AND TWO OR THREE AT SACRAMENTO. GREAT OUTFITS.

TALLY HO,



JIM HALL



Alumni Breakfast – 1 May