

# ECHOES

Volume 2009, Issue 1

January 2009

## Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association

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Editor: J. Moxley

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Mail Call

WORLDWIDE REUN-

ION REGISTRATION

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## Colorado AFTAC Alumni Events 2009

General Membership Breakfast Alumni, Wives, Guests and Active Duty are invited to participate	14 Feb 08:30 Aurora Hills Golf Course
Picnic — All are invited	13 Jun 11:00 Buckley AFB, Aurora, Co
General Membership Breakfast Alumni, Wives, Guests and Active Duty are invited to participate	12 Sep 08:30 Aurora Hills Golf Course
Dinner/Dance All are invited	14 Nov 17:30 Aurora Hills Golf Course
Golf outing at the redesigned Golf Course (Lowr	y AFB). Planning underway. Contact Jack Smith.
Florida Reunion	May 1-2 How many of you are making plans to attend? Let us know.

General Membership Breakfast 14 Feb 2009 08:30 cost \$12.00 — Buffet Breakfast. Eggs, potatoes, meats, toast, chili, etc., juice and coffee. Please RSVP to Jack Smith 303-428-1812 or email coaftrmkt@aol.com on or before 06 Feb 2009. We will collect your money at the breakfast. The Alumni will recognize and present gift certificates to Det. 045 Airman and NCO of the Year. See page 3 for a special treat!

## Special points of interest:

- \* Check the last page for dues expiration date
- \* Visit the Alumni Web Sites if you can

## Yearly Membership dues

Are only \$5 per year. Please check your expiration date on your mail label. 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 <u>Bilschmied@aol.com</u>. Please make checks payable to Bill Schmied.

## The September Breakfast

The breakfast went very well with 22 of the older warriors attending, along with 11 somewhat younger folks from Det 45. It was very productive with quite a few topics covered. The slide show, which was a collection of pictures from years past went over very well. The photographs produced a lot of reminiscing.



## Fall is Coming!

## The November Dinner/Dance

Everyone that attended had a wonderful time. War stories abounded.

## Two photographs below.

Additional photographs are available. Contact Jack Smith concerning them.

## Fall in the Rockies





Page 3 Echoes

## **Five Must Know GI Bill Facts**

#### BY TERRY HOWELL

FIRST-TIME USERS OF THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL CAN FIND THE PROCESS CONFUSING AND OFTEN FRUSTRATING. IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO USE YOUR GI BILL BENEFIT, THERE ARE 5 FACTS YOU MUST KNOW TO HELP MAKE THE PROCESS EASIER.

### TIP

#### APPLY EARLY!

IT CAN TAKE OVER EIGHT WEEKS TO PROCESS YOUR GI BILL ELI-GIBLITY APPLICATION. THE SOONER YOU APPLY FOR YOUR GI BILL ELIGIBLITY THE SHORTER THE DELAY IN GETTING YOUR PAYMENTS.

### **FACT #1.**

YOU HAVE 10 YEARS TO USE YOUR MONTGOMERY GI BILL BENEFITS.

### **FACT #2.**

THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL (MGIB) IS NOT FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID.

#### **FACT #3.**

YOU CAN STOP AND START USING THE MGIB AS NEEDED.

### **FACT #4.**

A "MONTH" OF BENEFITS DOES-N'T ALWAYS MEAN A MONTH.

FOR VETERANS: EVERY TIME YOU USE THE CURRENT MAXI-MUM "PAYMENT RATE" (\$1,321) OF MGIB BENEFITS YOU USE A MONTH OF YOUR 36 MONTHS OF BENEFITS. IN THIS EXAMPLE A "MONTH" DOESN'T REALLY MEAN A MONTH.

#### **FACT #5.**

THE GI BILL PAYS ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF CREDITS YOU TAKE

THE GI BILL PAYMENT RATES ARE BASED ON SEVERAL FACTORS, THE BIGGEST BEING YOUR CREDIT LOAD. FOR EXAMPLE A FULL-TIME STUDENT WILL GET UP TO \$1,321 A MONTH WHILE A HALF-TIME STUDENT WILL ONLY GET HALF THAT AMOUNT.

IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT THE MGIB PAYMENT RATES INCREASE EVERY YEAR.

(REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF: WWW.MILITARY.COM)

### February 14th Breakfast

Lanny Fahlenkamp will give a brief description of his tour of duty at Det xxx, Easter Island. Lanny was on Easter Island from June 1 of 1968 through June 16 of 1969. Lanny will be brining some snapshots and movies of the island. He will also be bringing many of the statues and gifts of art he received and traded for while on the island.

## A RETIREE'S THOUGHT...

Wife said, "Whatcha doin' today?"

I said, "Nothing."

She said, "You did that yesterday."

I said, "I wasn't finished."

## And They Ask me Why I Like Retirement !!!

Question: How many days in a week? Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime? Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees to

change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take

all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

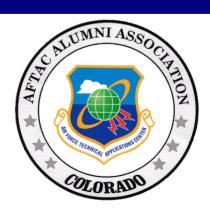
Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind

being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10%

discount.



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Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?
Answer: Tied shoes.

Question: Why do retirees count pennies?

Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and

refuses to retire? Answer: NUTS!

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?

Answer: Normal .

Question: What is the best way to describe retirement?

Answer: The never ending Coffee

Break.

Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

Question: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with? Answer: He is too polite to tell the whole

QUESTION: What do you do all week? Answer: Monday through Friday, NOTHING..... Saturday & Sunday, I

## Changes to Retiree ID Renewal Rules

Homeland Security Directive 12 now requires retirees and family members seeking to renew or replace a military identification card to provide two types of ID, one of which must include a photo. A list of acceptable documents can be found in PDF format on page No. 4 of the Form I-9. Before visiting a military ID card issuing facility, you may want to call first to determine what specific documents may be required, and to verify the process to renew or replace an ID card.

#### Official AFTAC.gov Website

About three years ago, the Air Force decided to standardize all of its Web Sites. All Air Force Web Sites are supposed to look the same.

When Air Force ISR Agency was

formed, they took on the task of ensuring all of its subordinate units were represented on its Web Site. That's how we came to be represented there. The <a href="www.AFTAC.gov">www.AFTAC.gov</a> site redirects users to the AFTAC section. Within the few months, the AFTAC.gov site will cease to exist.

While the link you provided can get you to the AFTAC site, <a href="www.afisr.af.mil/units/aftac.asp">www.afisr.af.mil/units/aftac.asp</a> will take you directly to the AFTAC section. Not only is it acceptable for the chapter Web Sites to link to this site, it is highly encouraged. Everything there is releasable and has gone through AFTAC's security and policy review process.

## Now and Then

Send us some pictures of what it was like then, and what it is like now. We'll put them in the Echoes. Or, just send a description.

See Mail Call on pages 8 and 9.

## **Top Seven Tax Deductions for Seniors and Retirees**

## Here's a list of the top tax deductions for those over 50.

Your golden years may prove to be more golden if you understand and take advantage of the deductions available to reduce your income taxes each year. Here's some of the most important deductions.

Medical and dental expenses.
 Medical expenses are often one of the largest expenses for retired

people. Fortunately, some medical expenses are deductible. These include health insurance premiums (including Medicare premiums), long-term care insurance premiums, prescription drugs, nursing home care, and most other out-of-pocket heath care expenses. If you itemize your deductions, medical expenses are deductible from your income taxes

on Schedule A of your tax return. However, they are subject to a special limit: They are deductible only to the extent they exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). For example, if your AGI was \$100,000 in 2006, only your medical expenses above \$7,500 (7.5% x \$100,000 = \$7,500) would be deductible. If you had \$10,000 in medical expenses in

## Top Seven Tax Deductions for Seniors and Retirees (Cont.)

2006, you could deduct only \$2,500.

2. Selling your house. Retired people often sell their homes to move into smaller places or retirement communities. If you've lived in your home for a long time, you probably have substantial equity and will earn a large profit on the sale. Fortunately, you may not have to pay any tax on your profit. As long as you live in your home for at least two out of the five years before you sell your house, the profit you make on the sale -- up to \$250,000 for single taxpayers and \$500,000 for married taxpayers filing jointly -- is not taxable.

(For more on this, see Tax Breaks for Selling Your Home: Read the Fine Print.)

3. Retirement plan contributions. Just because you are retired or semiretired doesn't mean that you can't make tax-deductible contributions to retirement plans such as IRAs. Those over 50 have higher contribution limits for traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs, and 401(k)s. For example, a married couple over 50 can contribute as much as \$9,000 to an IRA (for the 2005 tax year) and deduct the amount from their income tax.

Or, you may prefer to contribute to a Roth IRA. You'll pay taxes on the income you contribute now, but the withdrawals upon retirement are taxfree. This means no tax need be paid on all the interest or other income earned by your Roth IRA investments.

Retirees with their own businesses may also establish SEP-IRAs, Simple IRAs, Keogh plans, and solo 401(k) plans that have higher contribution limits for those over 55.

**4. Investment expenses.** The best way to earn money when you retire is in the form of interest, dividends, and capital gains from investments. Dividends and capital gains are taxed at just 15% (5% for taxpayers in the low-

est income tax bracket). Unlike income from a job or business, these types of income are not subject to Social Security or Medicare taxes.

- In addition, fees you incur for investment advice or accounting services are deductible to the extent they, along with your other itemized personal deductions, exceed 2% of your adjusted gross income. Examples include:attorney and accounting fees
- safe deposit box fees
- subscriptions to investment newsletters
- fees for online services
- home computers used for investment purposes
- fees to financial planners, and
- fees you pay to a broker, bank, trustee, or similar agent to collect investment income, such as your taxable bond or mortgage interest, or your dividends on shares of stock.

However, you cannot deduct fees you pay to a broker to acquire investment property, such as stocks or bonds. You must add the fee to the cost of the property and recoup your expenses when you sell.

5. Business expenses. Many retirees continue to run their own businesses or start new ones. For example, some retired employees work part-time as a consultant for their former employers and other clients. Having a business (whether full- or part-time) is a great way to get tax deductions. You may deduct all the necessary expenses you incur to do business, so long as they are reasonable in amount. This includes business travel, the cost of business equipment such as computers, and outside or home offices.

**6.** Charitable contributions. Retirement is a time many people think about giving back to their community by making charitable contributions. Such contributions are deductible as itemized deductions; however, they are subject to special limitations. Cash contributions of up to 50% of your adjusted gross income are deductible each year as an itemized deduction.

If you donate property other than cash to a qualified organization, you may generally deduct the fair market value of the property. If the property has appreciated in value, however, you may have to make some adjustments. However, if you donate a car, boat, or airplane, your deduction generally is limited to the gross proceeds from its sale by the charitable organization. This rule applies if the claimed value of the donated vehicle is more than \$500.

7. Standard deduction. This applies if you don't itemize your deductions (many older folks don't if they are no longer paying mortgage interest). Folks who are 65 and older by December 31 of the tax year are entitled to a higher standard deduction. Technically, you are considered 65 on the day before your 65th birthday. For example, for the tax year 2007, you can take the higher standard deduction if you were born before January 2, 1943.

You get an additional \$1,250 if you are single and an extra \$1,000 (for each spouse older than 65) if you are married. You can also claim the higher deduction if only your spouse is older than 65 and you file a joint return.

## Notes

**AFTAC Worldwide Reunion** 

May 1 - 2, 2009

See Page 21

from LRDAA's Post Monitor, Bob-Wiley, Reunion Coordinator The Florida Chapter will host this biannual event at 'Radisson Resort at the Port.'

## Least We Forget

Mayme GAILEY, wife of Carl Gailey, passed away early Sunday Morning, Oct 5th, at Holmes Regional Medical Center FL.

**Carol Ann PRITCHARD,** wife of Orville Pritchard, Passed away at her home in North Highlands on August 6, 2008.

**Leo J. COTTER**, passed away 12/12/07, just two days short of his 79th birthday. Leo was a member of the Colorado chapter for 15 years.

Marion D. Haines, Jr., 59, died Friday, October 31, 2008. He served 20 years in the Air Force Tacti cal Applications Center.

CMS Bob Barkhaus, retired from AFTAC in 1996, passed away on Veterans Day 2008.

Lt Col Raymond R. Keys, 79, of

Satellite Beach, passed away on October 15, 2008. He was the deputy to the Technical Director, Mr.

Northrup, when we moved to FL in 1972, and was later moved to the Plans and Programs Directorate.

William Lee Tucker, 67, died suddenly on Sept. 24 in Melbourne, FL. He was a Systems Manager with AFTAC at McClellan AFB, CA. Then a Program Manager at AFTAC HQ Patrick AFB, FL, retired 1986.

Wes Efurd died suddenly Sunday, November 9th. Wes worked at the McClellan Lab in the 70s, then Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Richard William (Dick) Reid Lt. Colonel Ret. Knoxville TN, passed away suddenly Thursday, November 20, 2008 of a heart attack.

**Dr. Gerard M. Leies**, 90, passed away peacefully at his home in Cocoa Beach, Florida on Tuesday, December 2, 2008. a long-time Technical Director of the Air Force Technical Applications Center at Patrick Air Force Base. Gerry was a World

War II veteran and retired after 20 years of service in the Air Force as a Colonel.

Ron Couch, age 69 of Melbourne, Fl. passed away Friday, November 21, 2008 at Holmes Regional Medical Center. He was born in Dillon, Montana and had moved to Melbourne in 1979 from Alice Springs, Australia. He retired as a Lt. Col. in the United States Air Force with 23 years of service and had worked as quality engineer for Boeing space program for 13 vears. Survivors: wife. Marlene M. Couch, Melbourne Son, Craig Couch, Melbourne, Daughter, Savanna Lombardi, Hickory, NC, Sister, Karen, Walker, Beaverton, Oregon, Grandsons. Anthony and Christian Lombardi. Graveside services were held on November 25, 2008 in Forest Hill Cemetery, Haines City, Florida. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the college funds of Grandchildren, "Anthony & Christian Lombardi"-John Hancock Free-



THE STATE OF THE S	
Air Force Aid	720-847-6708
<b>American Red Cross</b>	303-343-1294
Auto Registration NO	Longer Required
Base Exchange	720-847-9628
<b>Casualty Assistance</b>	720-847-6123
Chapel	720-847-6411
Commissary	720-847-7100
ID Cards/Deers	720-847-9159



Legal Office	720-847-6144
Operator	720-847-9011
<b>Outdoor Recreation</b>	720-847-6101
Pharmacy	720-847-7455
Retiree Activity	720-847-6693
Ticket/Tour Info	720-847-6853
<b>TriCare for Life</b>	888-363-5433
Veterans Admin	800-827-1000
Visitors Center	720-847-9381

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

# Purloined from the Long Range Detection Alumni Association, Patrick AFB FL POST— MONITOR Post— MONITOR

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 re-designated 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.

## **Long-Range Detection**

## **Long-Range Detection**

denotes and represents
all who served the mission
throughout its
inception and history
Recognized for 60 years
of service to our country
16 September 2007
1947 – 2007



## Mail Call

W. Patrick Burke <wpburke@hoaloha.us> Saturday, November 15, 2008 3:11 PM I hope your event goes well and I am sure missing seeing you folks. I had my knee replaced a month ago and it went very well, in fact I'm already walking two miles a day on it and it's almost completely healed. That's the good news. Unfortunately, I became nauseous a couple of days after I got out of the hospital and they haven't been able to figure out why yet. Ergo, why I'm not at the event tonight. Of course, every problem has a silver lining. I came out of the hospital at 208 lbs and now I weight only 186 lbs. That what happens when you can't eat.

I saw in the CGA minutes the other day that they are opening the new course at Lowery next year. Are you guys thinking about a tournament over there? I'm going to Hawaii this winter to try and get my game back in order. Good luck.

Well, hope you had a good time.

#### Pat

### tsmccarty6@aol.com

Wed, 14 Jan 2009 4:00 pm

#### "Detachment xxx Revisited"

"Detachment xxx has changed. A new building houses an exercise room (with showers, etc.), vehicle repair bay (& tool room), and a large entertainment area with a full kitchen. Just outside of that is the barbeque area. There are only five on the staff so the housing facility that housed up to 10 when I was there is very lightly used.

The staff was great to meet and talk to. Their obvious attention to their mission was so reassuring that current staff take the same can-do attitude that I saw back when I was there.

I took lots of photos both in Alice Springs and the other areas I visited. In the Alice I walked a lot with at least daily trips up ANZAC hill

which overlooks the town and detachment."

Mac



Hi Jack, [Obviously NOT at the airport-ED.]

Thumbnails of the Alice Springs photographs submitted by

## Not many write to us anymore!

T.S. McCarty

Come on gang, let us hear from you. What's been going on in and around your life.









## "HAILING OUR FUTURE ... HONORING OUR PAST"

## WORLDWIDE REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

LONG-RANGE DETECTION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION (1 MAY-3 MAY 2009)
P.O. BOX 254892 PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE,FLORIDA 32925-0892
REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH PAYMENT

TO ADDRESS ABOVE NLT 17 APRIL 2009

### PLEASE PRINT

NAME: LAST, FIRST, MI	
NAME OF SPOUSE/GUEST	
STREET ADDRESS/PO BOX	
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	
E-MAIL ADDRESS	
PHONE NUMBER (INCLUDE AREA CODE)	
EVENT COST # ATTENDING AMOUNT OF MONEY	
REGISTRATION FEE \$15.00 PER PERSON	
ICE BREAKER (FRI,1 MAY 08) \$25.00 PER PERSON	
OPEN HOUSE (SAT, 2 MAY 09) NONE	
AFTAC PICNIC (SAT, 2 MAY 09)	
(expected to be about \$5 to be paid there)	
BANQUET (SAT, 2 MAY 09) \$35.00 PER PERSON	
(combination plate – grilled filet mignon+	
chicken breast stuffed with mushrooms & cheese)	
BREAKFAST (SUN,1 JUN 09) PAY cashier	
TOTAL AMOUNT SENT: \$	
PLEASE NOTE: MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:	
LRD ALUMNI ASSOC AND MAIL TO:	
PO BOX 254892	
PATRICK AFB FL 32925-0892	

### NO REFUNDS MADE FOR CANCELLATIONS/CHANGES AFTER 24 APRIL 2008

RESERVATION COMMITTEE CONTACTS

BOB WILEY(321-773-4613) rwiley1@cfl.rr.com LLOYD FRENCH(321-777-2504) cmsgtlloydfrench@cfl.rr.com PAT SNYDER (321-494-6867) patricia.snyder@patrick.af.mil

## Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association

AFTAC ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO
c/o Jurell Moxley
4721 S. Queen St.
Littleton, CO 80127

We're **ALL** on the Web!

Colorado Chapter:

http://www.aftacco.org/

Florida Chapter:

http://www.aftacalumni.org/

West Coast Chapter:

http://www.aftacwcc.org

Official AFTAC Web Site:

www.afisr.af.mil/units/aftac.asp

Dues Expire: «expires»

«FirstName» «LastName»

«Address»

«City», «State»

«zip»







### MAIL FLORIDA DUES (\$10 PER YEAR or \$75 Lifetime)

TO: Long Range Detection Alumni Association

P.O. Box 254892

Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892

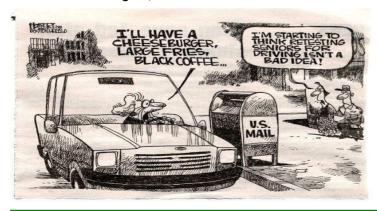
### MAIL WEST COAST DUES (\$10 PER YEAR or \$75 Lifetime)

TO: AFTAC Alumni Association

**West Coast Chapter** 

P.O. Box 3974

Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974



## FOR COLORADO DUES SUBMISSION OR ADDRESS CHANGE

Name:
Spouse Name:
Address:
City:
State, ZIP:
Felephone No:
Email

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