



ECHOES

Volume 2009, Issue 3

October 2009

Colorado AFTAC
Alumni Association

Inside this issue:

2009 Golf Outimmg	2
August Breakfast	3 & 4
TriCare, Back to the Future, etc.	5
Buckley Phone Numbers & Least We Forget	6
Least We Forgett, Tri-Care , & Military News	7
Military News	8
November Dinner/Social Menu & Comments	9

Colorado AFTAC Alumni Events 2009 & 2010

Upcoming Events!

Dinner/Social All are invited. **14 Nov 17:00**
Special Guest of Honor: Social Hour Cash Bar
Col. Lisa Ann H. Onaga,
Commander, Air Force
1800 Hours Dinner
Technical Applications Center,
Aurora Hills Golf
Patrick Air Force Base, Florida
Course Club House
(Subject to Mission Availability)
Tin Cup Restaurant
50 S. Peoria St
Aurora, CO 80012

(Menu and Comments on Page 9)

General Membership Breakfast **TBD 2010** Aurora Hills Golf Course

Alumni, Wives, Guests and Active Duty are invited to participate

General Membership Breakfast ?? TBD 2010 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 TBD 2010. We will collect your money at the breakfast.

Special points of interest:

- * Check the last page for dues expiration date
- * Update, as necessary, your address & EMail

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 Bilschmied@aol.com. Please make checks payable to Bill Schmied.

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The Summer Golf Outing

Contributed by Lanny Fahlenkamp

AFTAC Alumni Golf Outing
Common Grounds Golf Course
6365 Yards (White Tees)
July 23rd, 2009

Thanks Pat for setting it all up. Jack assured a picture was taken, hope to get it to include in this “memo” of the memorable event – (the 19th hole was probably the best for most of us!).

We had 2 threesomes and 1 foursome. A couple of the guys couldn't make it at the last minute. The course was in great shape. The fairways wonderful, the rough – very rough, and the greens – well, the greens were hard, fast, and extremely undulating. I'm not sure there was really a flat spot on any of them.

Players included: Earl, Bill, Lanny, Lonnie, Kent & Mark (Lonnie's sons), Burt, Pat, Jack, Bob, and Bruce. Final scores ranged from 87 to 110 – who's the pro? The most common score was 100 – 3 of them.

Closest to the pin was achieved on only 3 of the 5 par 3's. Those were won by Jack, Bob, and Lonnie. I promised not to reveal one of the scores, but I will reveal the low round – 87 achieved by Bruce with a 47 on the front and a 40 on the back, well done Bruce.

The 19th hole is a bit small, but serves good beer, burgers, great fries, and other stuff (I didn't look at the menu). We had a great time talking about the golf and reminiscing a bit about the old days. Most (if not all) of the guys wanted to do this again. Lanny will set something up at Fitzsimons before the fall alumni meeting. Could be a good opportunity to bring a prospective new member!

I'm sure there are some really good tales to be told of this event. I just didn't collect any of them. Feel free to share if you wish – funniest moment, most memorable shot, whatever – Bill will claim we were rolling around on the grass laughing at a shot he attempted from deep grass on a very steep side hill laugh – but, really we weren't – really!



From Left to Right: Earl Pierce, Bob Sladek, Bill Burroughs, Pat Burke, Jack Smith, Lanny Fahlenkamp, Burt Cedarvall, Lonnie Gibbons, and Kent Gibbons,(down front right - Mark Gibbons).

The August Breakfast



Jack Smith , Colorado Chapter President Meeting and greeting. Forty One attended.



Det 46 Comander Major Bradley Graves.



Det 45 Comander Captain Paul Muller.





All were chatting and getting reacquainted.



Following breakfast, Lanny Fahlenkamp graciously provided a slide show of his time spent on Easter Island.



Here are but a few of the items he brought back with him following his tour there. He plans to contribute all of his items, slides, and films to a museum here in Denver.





This is a shouted **CALL** to all members, and those that read the ECHOES, to reach out to anyone that they have contact with, urging **you** to tell them about us and see if they would consider joining, and attending, our functions.

You would be surprised at what you might learn from each other.

TRICARE Starts Outpatient Payment System

Week of June 01, 2009

TRICARE implemented an Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) that began aligning TRICARE with current Medicare rates for hospital reimbursement on May 1, 2009. Under OPPS hospitals will know in advance how their claims are going to be processed. To provide hospitals with sufficient time to adjust and budget for potential revenue reductions, Temporary Transitional Payment Adjustments will be in place for network and non-network hospitals. Additional information about these adjustments is available on the TRICARE website in the updated [TRICARE Reimbursement Manual](#), Chapter 13, Section 3, paragraph III.D.5.g. A transitional adjustment information paper and more information on TRICARE OPPS is available on the [TRICARE website](#).

AF Retirees to get News by Telephone

Week of June 22, 2009

A toll-free telephone news line has been set up for those Air Force retirees and surviving spouses who do not have computer access. By calling (800) 558-1404, retirees and spouses can stay informed using this new easy-to-use menu-driven service. Callers can select from several different topics that are compiled from various electronic news sources. Topics include pay and annuity matters, medical and health care, and other benefits and entitlements.

Keep DEERS Information Up to Date

Week of September 07, 2009

It's important for families to keep their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) records up to date. To register family members in DEERS and receive an ID card, the family member and sponsor must bring documentation, such as a marriage or birth certificate, to a military ID card issuing facility. Locate ID card offices by ZIP code, city or state using the [ID card office locator](#). Update contact information online at the new [myDOD-benefits](#) website. Beneficiaries can also call the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office at 800-538-9552 (866-363-2883 TTY/TDD) to update addresses, e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Changes can also be faxed to 831-655-8317.



The place for pictures, stories about dets, TDY;s, etc., sent to us.

*** [Answer to LAST Issue: Det 422](#) ***

Seems **NO** one wished to astonish us with any then, and possibly now, photographs.

Mail Call

Let's hear from **any** of you out there!

Pictures and descriptions particularly well received.



I'M RETIRED
I was tired yesterday.
I'm tired again today.



BUCKLEY AFB



Air Force Aid	720-847-6708
American Red Cross	303-343-1294
Auto Registration <i>NO Longer Required</i>	
Base Exchange	720-847-9628
Casualty Assistance	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
Outdoor Recreation	720-847-6101
Pharmacy	720-847-7455
Retiree Activity	720-847-6693
Ticket/Tour Info	720-847-6853
TriCare for Life	888-363-5433
Veterans Admin	800-827-1000
Visitors Center	720-847-9381

Least We Forget

Chief Master Sgt. Paul W. Airey, 85 died March 11 in Panama City, Fla. He was the first Chief Master Sergeant of the United States Air Force. During World War II he flew as a B-24 radio operator and additional duty aerial gunner. On his 28th mission, then-Technical Sergeant Airey and his fellow crewmen were shot down over Vienna, Austria, captured, and held prisoner by the German air force from July 1944 to May 1945.

Colonel Karl E. Dankof, died in San Antonio, Texas on Wednesday, May 20th, 2009. He was 89 years old. In 1960 he was assigned to the 1155th Technical Operations Squadron at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento for 3 years. From 1964-1967, he was stationed at Wheeler Air Force Base, Hawaii, with the 1156th Technical Operations Squadron.

Clifford L. Ferris, 77,"Bo", died Thursday, June 18, 2009. A long time AFTAC Alumni Member who was an SEO at 1155th TOS and other locations (including Det 202) back in the 60's (& possibly the early 70's).

Bo turned 78 just before he died. Bo died from complications of surgery to repair an abdominal aortic aneurysm on June 18, 2009. His remains are interred at the Veterans' Cemetery in Igo,

CA. He was given full military honors and the service included a live bugler, a bagpiper. His family was accompanied by the Freedom Riders motorcycle group to the cemetery. Bo was an honorable man who served his country faithfully.

Tom Clampffer of Melbourne FL died May 12, 2009 after an extended illness. After 3 years as a US Marine, he enlisted in the Air Force in 1956. He graduated from OCS in 1959. Some of his assignments took him to Lowry AFB, CO, Seymour Johnson AFB NC, Mountain Home AFB ID, Offutt AFB NE, Thule, Greenland and Los Angeles CA. After his military retirement in 1974, Tom worked at Harris Corp in Melbourne FL until his second retirement in 1998. Tom is survived by his wife Jan and three children: Linda of Omaha NE, Kelly of Orlando FL, and Maj John Mortland of Ramstein AFB Germany, and 4 grandsons.

Bobby Jones age 77, passed away on Sunday, 2Aug2009 of a heart attack. Now two of the original three SEO's have passed away: Bobby & Bo Ferris. As far as we know, the 3rd original SEO, "Red" Davis, is still alive and living in Toronto, Canada, but no one has heard from him in a long while.

James W. Salus CMSGT USAF (Ret.) Passed on Thursday, August 13, 2009 of Fairfax VA. Those that served at Pinedale WY will remember him.

TRICARE Changes Impact 6M Beneficiaries

Week of July 20, 2009

In a surprise development, two of three current TRICARE contractors -- Health Net Federal Services and Humana Military Healthcare Services -- lost to rival firms in their bids to handle next-generation support contracts. The three contracts are worth a total of \$55.5 billion over five years. This means that nearly six million military health-care beneficiaries, those who live in TRICARE's North and South regions, will have new managed care support contractors and claim processors to deal with by April of next year.

Looming TRICARE Changes Cause Anxiety

Week of July 27, 2009

Service members and retirees are voicing their anxiety about whether they will continue to receive the same timely and efficient service they deserve from the new

TRICARE contractors. They also doubt TRICARE's ability to ensure a smooth transition with no loss in quality of care or services.

Week of August 17, 2009

The Defense Department is projected to reduce spending by \$1.67 billion on prescription medications sold in retail pharmacies in fiscal 2010, by providing discounts in the TRICARE retail pharmacy network. TRICARE beneficiaries who need a prescription filled right away and are unable to get to a military pharmacy, can visit one of the more than 54,000 civilian pharmacies that are part of the TRICARE retail pharmacy network. To locate a retail pharmacy in the network based on ZIP code, call the TRICARE retail pharmacy program at 866-363-8779.

Week of August 17, 2009

Transition to new managed-care support contractors for six million TRICARE beneficiaries across 30 states has been halted while the Government Accountability Office reviews protests filed by losing bidders. The protests, filed in late July, led to "stop work" orders on the two contracts until GAO rules on the protests. It does so routinely within 100 days. That delay, combined with the required 10-month transition, means new contracts for the north and south regions will not take effect before the fall of 2010. Until then, current contracts are being extended so beneficiaries should see no change to services or their provider networks. To learn more, read the full article on Military.com.

The Survivor Benefit Plan

Week of June 08, 2009

The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) has been described as a sort-of term life insurance program, with some differences. Unlike life insurance, SBP premiums stop after 30 years and age 70. Also, SBP is subject to Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) like your retirement pay. SBP premiums are tax-free and are backed and subsidized by the Federal Government, and protected against cost-of-living increases. You do not have to stay in the program after you sign-up at retirement, and you stop paying for SBP when you no longer have beneficiaries. If you lose your spouse and premiums stop, SBP will be there to protect your new spouse. For more information, visit the Military.com web-

Voluntary Allotments

RNA NEWS: July 2009

Are you paying your insurance premium through an allotment deduction from your Retired pay? If so, here are some points you may need to consider:

****If your insurance premium amount changes, please contact DFAS to change the amount of your allotment deduction by calling 1-800-321-1080. For Tricare (Dental, Prime, USFHP) and Long Term Care insurance allotments, the member must contact the provider so an automated input can be submitted.**

****If you've changed your address, remember to inform both DFAS and your insurance company of your new address.**

****Many allotment starts, stops and adjustments are possible nearly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via the automated system myPay. Please see <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx> for further details.**

****For those members who have policies with insurance companies other than Tricare (Dental, Prime, USFHP) and Long Term Care, please make certain that your insurer understands that they cannot stop, start, or change your allotment on your behalf. You can make changes to your account by calling 1-800-321-1080 after answering some validation questions.**

****Have you received a Retiree Account Statement indicating a net pay change? If so, it may be a sign that you need to contact your insurance company and have us adjust your allotment amount. If an allotment is sent to the insurance company that is greater than the amount due for your premium, the company will often send the overpayment back to DFAS. We, in turn, refund the overpayment to you in the same method that your Retired pay is received.**

****We will notify you of payment returns from the insurance company, but this will not reflect on your Retired pay statement.**

****Before you request an allotment, please be sure that you have enough Retired pay to fulfill the allotment amount. Avoiding this mistake will help prevent complications which could result in non-receipt of pay or in an underpayment to the allotment recipient.**

Changes in FITW

RNA NEWS: July 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-05), was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The Making Work Pay provision of the Act provides a refundable credit for working individuals. This refundable credit has been made available to individuals this year through a reduction in the amount

of income taxes withheld from salaries and wages each pay day, including Retired and Annuity pay. Thus, without any action on their part, recipients of Retired or Annuity pay who are working and otherwise qualify for the credit get the benefit of the credit in the form of a reduction in their Federal income tax withholding (FITW) rates. These new FITW rates were made effective just prior to April 1, 2009 for the payment of Retired or Annuity pay due on May 1, 2009. The new tax tables can be found at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/n1036.pdf> Since DFAS has implemented the new withholding tables, most military retirees have seen the actual Federal taxes withheld from their military retired pay reduced; for single retirees, \$400 for the year and for married retirees, \$800 for the year.

If this issue inconveniences you, there are several solutions, the easiest of which is via the myPay account online. If you have lost, do not remember, or have not received a PIN, click on the New PIN button on the myPay home page at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.

Option 1: Refer to your December 2008 Retiree Account Statement for your old FITW amount and either:

(a) Adjust your myPay account by withholding additional FITW that reflects the difference between "old" withholding and "new" withholding, or

(b) Submit a new W-4 to DFAS based on that number (retirees without a myPay account must submit a new W-4 to DFAS).

Option 2: Submit estimated tax payments on April 15th, June 15th, September 15th and January 15th (2010) with payments of \$200 each time (to make up the \$800 total withholding difference).

Option 3: Do nothing. If you are routinely receiving federal tax refunds of \$1,000 or more, this withholding change should not result in you owing any additional federal taxes on your 2009 return. The return will simply be \$400/\$800 lower than it usually is (depending on marital status).

Recipients of Retired or Annuity pay who are not working and do not otherwise qualify for the Making Work Pay credit may elect to submit a new W-4 to ensure that enough Federal tax is withheld to cover their overall income tax liability. The IRS has issued Publication 919 <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p919.pdf> to assist taxpayers in adjusting their FITW for 2009. If you wish to adjust your FITW, you must submit a new W-4. You may mail your completed W-4 to:

U.S. Military Retired Pay
P.O. Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7130

Or, you may FAX the new W-4 to 1-800-469-6559

NEW TRIAP Program

Week of October 12, 2009

The Web-based TRICARE Assistance Program (TRIAP) is now available online to servicemembers, veterans who returned from overseas, and their families. Beneficiaries with a computer, Webcam and the associated software can speak "face-to-face" with a licensed counselor over the Internet at any time of the day or night. Eligible beneficiaries can obtain more information about the program at their regional contractor's [TRIAP website](#). For more information about TRICARE and the Department of Defense's many existing behavioral health resources, download *A TRICARE Guide: Understanding Behavioral Health* at the [TRICARE website](#).

Least We Forget Continued

Charles W. Cushion { Col. Retired }- Fairfax, VA - Charles William "Bill" Cushion, 67, of Fairfax, VA, passed away Saturday, October 10, 2009. Colonel Cushion retired from the U.S.A.F. in 1992 after 26 years of service. He spent several with the Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick AFB in Cocoa Beach, FL. Bill was currently employed as an Administrative Officer with the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA).

November Dinner/Social

MENU: Choice of Prime Rib (12-14 oz) with potato, or Shrimp Scampi (Jumbo Shrimp) sauteed in olive oil and garlic-wine sauce and served over linguine with Italian roasted vegetables. All meals include garden salad, dinner rolls and dessert with unlimited iced tea and coffee. Cost is \$25 per person and tip is included.

Please notify Jack Smith of your menu choice (Prime Rib or Shrimp) **ASAP** but **NLT 10 Nov**. Phone 303-428-1812 or email coaftrmkt@aol.com . Make checks payable to and send to:

Bill Schmied,
2078 Kenton St, Aurora, CO 80010

to arrive by 10 Nov 2009.

All current and former AFTAC personnel, spouses and guests are invited to attend. Membership in the alumni association is not required to attend this event.

Spread the Word!

We would like to have door prize drawings again so we are inviting alumni association members to bring a gift donation as in the past. Please let Jack know if you are able to bring a gift.

**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



**FOR COLORADO DUES SUBMISSION
OR ADDRESS CHANGE**

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, ZIP: _____

Telephone No: _____

Email _____

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**