

ECHOES

Past — Present —
and Future

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Buckley Phone Num's</i>	2
<i>Alumni Emblem</i>	2
<i>In Remembrance</i>	2
<i>Sep 15th Breakfast</i>	3 & 4
<i>Jack Smith Remem-</i>	5
<i>Alumni Picnic</i>	6
<i>9/22/12</i>	
<i>AIRFORCE TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS</i>	7 & 8
<i>Seeking Assistance & Sage Shop</i>	9
<hr/>	
<i>Alumni History & Nov Dinner 2012 Photo's</i>	10 & 11

Special points of interest:

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

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General Membership Breakfast 02 Feb 2013
08:30 cost \$12.00 — Buffet Breakfast. Eggs, potatoes, meats, toast, chili, etc., juice and coffee. Please **RSVP** to Earl Pierce 303-343-4665 or email emxanadu@comcast.net on or before **27 Jan 2013**. We will collect your money at the breakfast.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

ALL CURRENT AND FORMER AFTAC PERSONNEL, SPOUSES AND GUESTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. MEMBERSHIP IN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND THESE EVENTS.

General Membership 02 February 2013

0830 Hours

Aurora Hills

Golf Course Club House



AFTAC Alumni - Long Range Detection Alumni Association Worldwide Reunion, 14 & 15 June 2013, Aurora, Colorado, DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton Denver-Aurora. See details at the Colorado web site: www.aftacco.org

***** NOTE *****

At the General Membership meeting on 02 February 2013 we will honor the Detachment 45 & 46 Airman and NCO of Year award winners and elect a new president of our Colorado alumni chapter.

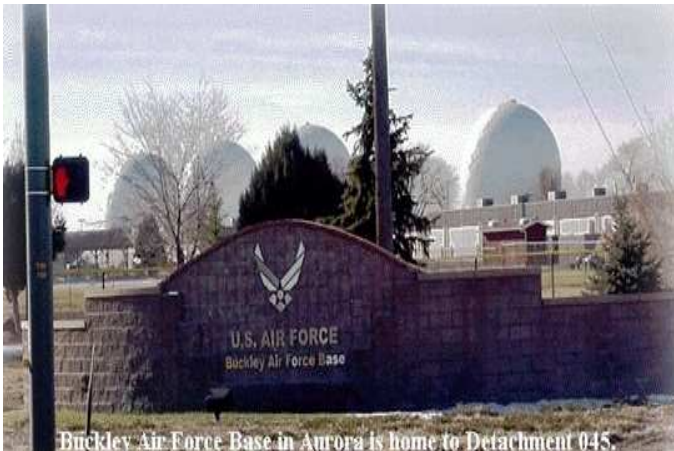
Yearly Membership Dues

are **ONLY \$5.00** per year. **PLEASE** check your dues expiration date in the text of the ECHOES transmittal email or above your postal mailing address whichever applies. 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 Biischmied@AOL.com. Please make checks payable to Bill Schmied.



George Henry Rothe III, 63, died Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012, at his residence. He was employed by the **Air Force Technical Application Center (AFTAC)** as a geophysical research scientist for more than 26 years.

Jack F. Smith, 74 of Westminster Colorado. President of the Colorado Chapter of the LRD Alumni Association passed away on 18 September 2012. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him and his work.



Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora is home to Detachment 045.

Air Force Aid	720-847-6708
American Red Cross	303-343-1294
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

Marvin R Gibson, Jr, 75. He entered the Air Force in July 1955. In May 1961, Marvin was assigned to the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) in Alexandria, VA. He spent his remaining years in the Air Force serving within the AFTAC organization. In 1963 Marvin was transferred to McClellan AFB, CA for training into the Airborne Data Collection System. Over the next years, assignments within AFTAC included Det 407, McClellan AFB, CA, and Patrick AFB, FL.

Joe Clein Notified by Geno Wagner, passed Sunday 02 October. Joe and his wife Maile, were at Det 418, arriving there around early 1966. 1963–1967:SCHOOL, 418, and 1155.

Michael E. Lauger March 26, 1940 – Oct. 1, 2012 His 20 years in the Air Force included two remote assignments of one year each. He spent a year on Easter Island and a year in Thailand. His last assignment was to Detachment 459 in Boulder, Wyo., in 1976. He and his family found their home when they arrived in the Pinedale area. Mike made a sign for the back of his vehicle that read, "I am not a native but I got here as quick as I could." Before coming to Pinedale, he was stationed at Chanutte AFB, Illinois; Kincheloe AFB, Michigan; Lowry AFB, Colorado; McClellan AFB California; Quintera Detachment in Chile near Vina del Mar and Wheeler AGB, Hawaii. Mike always had a great sense of humor; two of his favorite sayings were: "Anybody could do it that way" and "never pass up the opportunity to shut up."

Bobbie Cobb passed away at 3:30 p.m. today (10.25) in Orlando at M. D, Anderson Cancer Center. Some of the AFTAC retirees will remember her husband, Col. **Carter Cobb**, who was vice-commander of AFTAC and died from Lou Gherig's disease.

Christel Rose Horsch 14 Sep 1941 – 15 Nov 2012 **Post Monitor Co-Editor**. Chris was taken to the Viera, Florida Hospital Emergency Room on 11.09 due to extreme breathing difficulties. On 11.12 she was placed on a ventilator and she did not improve over the days and on 11.15 the doctor advised the family that it would be best to let Chris go in peace. She passed at 15:45 and was surrounded by family and friends as she completed earth's final stay and she has found the serenity she so richly deserved.

Saturday September 15, 2012 Breakfast



New Members - Beth & Bob Hood



Our Bookie — Oops — Treasurer, Bill Schmied, collecting Dues and Breakfast costs.



I owe HOW MUCH?



View Of attendees



Jack Smith conversing with new member, Harold Morris.



View Of attendees





Dear AFTAC Friends,

I am writing to thank everyone for attending the Saturday, September 22, 2012 summer picnic. It was held at a very special place and Ken & Sue Kurdziel were great hosts and a huge thank you goes to them. Jack Smith would have been very honored and proud as AFTAC community camaraderie, was always very important to him.

I know this because in talking with him at our last AFTAC breakfast – this was the story that he shared with me.

During most AFTAC breakfasts, Jack would have typically asked each AFTAC member to introduce themselves, introduce their wives and then, share a little of their AFTAC history. However, at this breakfast - he personally introduced each person to the group! People in attendance could only admire and be amazed at his ability to remember and name, each and every person. When talking with him at the end of our breakfast and during the time of fellowship – I complimented him on this skill and talent. He then smiled with his glorious smile and shared . . .

“This was important to me as each and everyone here needs to know that they are an important part of this AFTAC Community and by recognizing each person and knowing their name – it values how important they are and indeed will know, that by my knowing their names, they become and are part of my family & the AFTAC Family!”

He then went on to tell how important it was to “get the younger AFTAC’ers interested in attending the AFTAC activities – as this was a place where learning is valued and each of us can learn and grow from one another, young and old!”

Jack Smith was an exceptional man and leader to us all. May he find peace and always know that his AFTAC Family and Community loved and honored him.

**May He Rest In Peace!
Always, JF (Joncee Feakes)**

Saturday September 22, 2012 Picnic

The picnic location this year was quite a departure from our customary sites. Ken and Susan Kurdziel most graciously hosted the picnic at their home near Castle Rock providing the liquid refreshments and Det 46 provided the tables, great food, grills and grillers. We were also honored to have the new AFTAC commander, Col Christopher Worley, join us since he was already in the area on an official visit.





AIR FORCE TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS CENTER

Office of Public Affairs ** 1030 South Highway A1A

Patrick Air Force Base, Florida 32925

(321) 494-7688 * DSN 854-7688 * aftac.pa@patrick.af.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release 12-11-05/001

Nov. 5, 2012

Nuclear treaty monitoring aircraft visits Patrick AFB

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – Special equipment operators from the Air Force Technical Applications Center’s Detachment 1 visited Oct. 25 and invited base personnel to tour the detachment’s flying workhorse, the WC-135 Constant Phoenix.

The detachment, which is located at Offutt AFB, Neb., is responsible for operating and maintaining the advanced atmospheric research equipment aboard the specially-configured WC-135 aircraft in support of the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System.



USAEDS is a global network of nuclear detection sensors that monitor underground, underwater spaced based or atmospheric events. AFTAC is the sole Department of Defense agency tasked with operating the USAEDS for nuclear event detection, which is directly linked to the center’s nuclear treaty monitoring mission.

The Air Force has two specially-configured WC-135s in its inventory. Interestingly, the jet that visited Patrick AFB, #667, was also the aircraft that was tasked to assist during Operation Tomodachi, the DoD’s response to the earthquake and tsunami relief efforts in Japan in March 2011.

During the very early stages of the nuclear meltdown of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant on the Pacific coast of Japan, the WC-135 flew nine missions and analyzed 660 samples, which were forwarded to national laboratories for further examination and analysis. Fukushima was the largest nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in 1986, where the WC-135 also played a major role in tracking radioactive debris from that plant’s disaster.

“One of the great success stories for Det. 1 was the fact that AFTAC’s analysis of e Tomodachi airborne samples enabled our scientists to develop plume models that pro-

vided scientific evidence for senior leaders to make critical decisions regarding the evacuation of Americans in Japan,” said Lt. Col. John Baycura, detachment commander. “We were able to collect, analyze and disseminate data that was considered the best in the nation – and was provided to the highest levels of our government.”

Their efforts paid off: AFTAC’s Tomodachi team was nominated for the prestigious Samuel J. Heyman Service to America medal, a national level award that recognizes significant contributions by those in federal service.

As people made their way through and around the aircraft on Patrick’s flightline, crewmembers briefed visitors on the features and capabilities of the atmospheric collection suite, which allows the mission crew to detect radioactive „clouds” in real time.

“Our aircraft is equipped with external flow devices that allow us to collect airborne particulate on filter paper and a compressor system for whole air samples,” said Staff Sgt. Matt Wilkens, Det. 1 noncommissioned officer in charge of current operations. “The particulate samples are collected using a device that



works like an old Wurlitzer jukebox. An arm grabs the paper from its slot and moves it to the exterior of the fuselage. After exposure, it is returned to the filter magazine where a new paper is selected for use. It’s a simple, yet effective, concept.”

The WC-135 has been in the Air Force inventory since 1965 and currently supports the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963, which prohibits any nation from testing nuclear weapons above ground. The Constant Phoenix is the only aircraft in the USAF that conducts air sampling operations. The cockpit crews are from the 45th Reconnaissance Squadron at Offutt AFB. “I was really impressed and really glad I had a chance to see the plane in person,” said Yamilka Camacho, AFTAC Human Resources assistant. “I’ve been working at AFTAC for three years and knew what the Constant Phoenix” mission was, but getting to see it up close and listen to the crew talk about the equipment really put it all in perspective for me.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: *The Air Force Technical Applications Center located at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., provides national authorities quality technical measurements to monitor nuclear treaty compliance and develops advanced proliferation monitoring technologies to preserve our nation’s security.*



Seeking Assistance

On behalf of Dr. O'Brien: For those of you who know Joan Singlevich, wife of Walt Singlevich, we have confirmed that she is fine and is living with her daughter. However, her home was totally destroyed in the Waldo Canyon fire in Colorado Springs, and she lost everything. She is now seeking any pictures that Walt's friends and coworkers may have that can be sent to her. If you have any picy-ures, electronic or actual photos, please forward them to Dr O'Brien who will get them to Joan. Dr O'Brien will scan any real photos and return them to the owner, so please include your name on the back. Send to: david.obrien@us.af.mil

Concerning Joe Clien. Notified by Geno Wagner. The family is interested in any pictures of Joe or (especially) Joe and Maile and any stories that anyone wants to share. If you will send them to me, I'll see that they get presented on the storyboard and if I get swamped that's great---I'm looking forward to it. I've been a good friend for over 40 years and I want to be there for him now." LWNNWOOD, WA,1967:SCHOOL, 418,1155' Email: chris-john2@gmail.com



SHOP



Mail orders, unless otherwise instructed, to: Long Range Detection Alumni Assn, ATTN: Sage Shop, Steve Revels/IIG, PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB FL, 32925-0892. Add \$5.00 for shipping and handling plus \$1.50 for each additional item. No s/h charged on logo pins

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE (as of 2011.07.12)

	MED	LG	XL	XXL
GOLF SHIRTS , with pocket and collar, \$14				
Sea Teal (aqua blue)	1	0	0	1
Jade (medium green)	2	5	2	2
Navy	1	1	0	0
Red	2	1	0	2
White	1	0	0	2
Royal Blue	1	0	0	0
Blue, w/word 'Alumnus'	0	7	7	0
Teal (dark aqua)	2	1	0	3
Maroon	2	2	0	0
Black	1	1	0	1
T-SHIRTS , no pocket - \$7.00				
Light Blue	1	1	3	3
Royal blue	2	0	2	1
Navy	2	0	2	1
Ash Gray	2	0	2	2
Purple	1	1	2	2
Red	2	1	3	2
Fuchsia	1	1	2	0
Stone Washed Green	1	0	0	0
Mint Green	1	2	1	2
Jade Green	2	1	1	1
Black	4	0	0	3
SWEATSHIRTS , Ash Gray, \$15	1	0	0	0
NYLON JACKET , Blue, \$20, colored emblem with 'AFTAC Alumni,'	0	0	0	3
White emblem with 'Alumnus'	0	0	1	0
HATS - \$8.00 #				
Blue/White 18				
Blue/Grey 4				
Red/White 2				
MISCELLANEOUS				Cost/#
-50th Commem Coin				\$3.00/53
-60th AF/LRD Com Coin:				\$4/126
—60th flaw: AF Date, Sep 12 vs. 18th				
-Logo Pin:				\$3.25/213
AFTAC Top-3 Coin made available by Top-3 Assn				\$7
*Traditional Coin (HQ w/aircraft/motto/'logo' on reverse)				\$8.00
*99/9S Coin - presented in the 2011.04 PoMo. Cost				\$8.00
**'New Building' Groundbreaking Commemorative Coin - presented in 2011.08 PoMo. Cost is \$10				
<u>*Asterisked Coins available to us from AFTAC Booster's Club</u>				
AFTAC SEO Airborne Coin To order, contact SSgt Suberlak, david.suberlak@offutt.af.mil/402-232-9184 or SSgt Wilkens, matthew.wilkens@offutt.af.mil/402-232-9146.\$7 each. Shipping is \$1 a coin, up to \$5, then on an as needed basis for more than 15-20 coins.				

The AFTAC Alumni Association was initially formed in 1985 at Patrick AFB, Florida as a result of interest expressed by the AFTAC commander. This was his letter:

26 Dec 1984

In the short time I have been associated with this command; I have had the opportunity to meet many former AFTAC members during various social, professional and athletic events. I couldn't help noticing the camaraderie that was so readily exhibited between the active duty "Blue Suiters" and you, our former associates.

I am aware that the Electronic Security Command (ESC) recently established an Alumni Association to nurture just such a concept, "Staying in touch". With that in mind, I am willing to endorse an "AFTAC Alumni Association". However, before it can become a reality, I need to know if you would be interested in such an association? The basic philosophy would be to create an association organized and governed by you and your associates. The aim of the organization would be to facilitate staying in contact with each other. We could provide limited administrative support but the association would have to make it "go". We will obtain copies of the ESC Alumni Association constitution, by-laws and newsletter to assist in creation of the organization, if sufficient interest is generated. Please indicate your interest by completing the attached questionnaire. Your response by 31 January 1985 would be appreciated.

Warm Regards

James R. Clapper Jr., Colonel, USAF
Commander

The Colorado Chapter of the AFTAC Alumni Association was formed in 1989 and since that time we have had two chapter presidents. Our first was Ben Vlassick who presided over the chapter from 1989 until shortly before his passing in December 2001, and our second was Jack Smith who led us from 2001 until his recent passing in September 2012. Tonight at this annual Veteran's Day dinner social we salute these two very special individuals who gave so much to this alumni association during their tenures. Here they are pictured together in December 2001.



November, 2012 Dinner/Social



OL-GT Chief Jeff Moore and New Alumni Bill & Rhonda Kay Kimbrough



An Active Duty Group Table



An Alumni Group Table



A Few Former Det 45 Superintendents from the Last Three Decades



Guest Speaker, Col James Roberts, AFTAC Director of Operations



Earl Pierce with Jack Smith's Daughter, Catey Davis, Drawing for Door Prizes

**Colorado AFTAC
Alumni**

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

We're **on** the Web!
Colorado Chap-
ter:<http://www.aftacco.org/>
Florida Chapter Loca-
tion:[http://sites.google.com/sit
e/irdalumniassnneedtoknow
ow](http://sites.google.com/site/irdalumniassnneedtoknownow)
West Coast Chap-
ter:<http://www.aftacwcc.org>
Official AFTAC Web Site:
[www.afisr.af.mil/units/aftac.as
p](http://www.afisr.af.mil/units/aftac.asp)



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: _____
Telephone No: _____
Email: _____

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

DUES ARE \$5.00 PER 12 MONTH PERIOD PAYABLE DURING THE EXPIRATION MONTH. (PLEASE check your dues expiration date below.)

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "Bill Schmied".
MAIL TO: Bill SCHMIED, 2078 Kenton St.,
Aurora, CO 80010.**

Membership questions may be directed to
Bill Schmied at
Email Address: Bilschmied@aol.com