

ECHOES

Past — Present —
and Future

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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 14 Sep 2013 09:00 cost \$12.00 — Buffet Breakfast. Eggs, potatoes, meats, toast, chili, etc., juice and coffee. Please **RSVP** to Darrel Kline vicepres@aftacco.org or 720-439-9939 **NLT 8 Sep 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 Breakfast 14 Sep 2013 09:00

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 treasurer@aftacco.org. Please make checks payable to **Bill Schmied**.



Dr. Frank F. Pilotte, 89, died March 27, 2013 in Vero Beach. Mr. Pilotte received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics in 1946 and his Master of Science in Mathematics in 1948 from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio. He then completed his Doctorate in Geophysics at St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri. He served in WWII with the US Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1945 in the Middle East Command as a meteorologist and operations officer. After the war he returned to the academic world, teaching in the fields of meteorology and seismology while completing work on his doctorate. He was later engaged in a private business in Miami, Florida, before returning to military service in the Air Force. While assigned to the Air Force Technical Applications Center in Alexandria, Virginia, Dr. Pilotte served as chief of the Systems Development Branch in the VELA Seismological Center. He continued in that position as a civilian after 1965 and became director of the VELA Seismological Center. In 1974 he moved with AFTAC to Patrick Air Force Base as assistant technical director for Geophysics, a position he held until 1985 when he became director of Geophysics; that position was redesignated director of Nuclear Treaty Monitoring in 1987

Wanda Kimball, 82, Notified by Husband, Jack (retired from AFTAC, 1970) - Jack wrote, 'Wanda passed away Friday 5 Apr 2013 in Greenville Tx. We were married for 63 years and she spent the 17 yrs I was in AFTAC with me. She knew many Air Force folks and she Loved them all and will be missed very much'

Robert 'Duane' Bracken, 1940-2013. Duane was a life member of the Air Force Technical Application Center Alumni. Duane joined the USAF and for several years during the heart of the cold war he worked with the Air Force Technical Application Center supporting its mission to detect nuclear detonations. He then trained to be a Special Agent for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. in 1983. Duane then immediately went to work as a Special Agent for the Alaska Railroad. In 1986, shortly after the State of Alaska purchased the railroad from the federal government, Duane was promoted to Chief Special Agent and held that position until his second retirement in 1992.

Gayle Johnson, Notified by Joe Johnson that his dear wife, Gayle, passed away on July 11th.

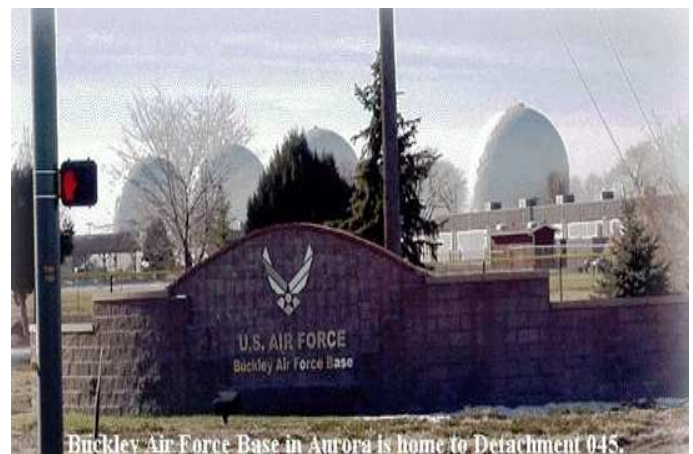
Milton Deckard. Milton was a member of the 1155TH/MCL as an enlisted airman 1964-1967. A smart man who applied for OTS and was accepted.

Gayle Lee Johnson, passed away suddenly on 11 July 2013. Born 22 August 1934 in Powell, Nebraska. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Joseph Johnson,

Nedra Szachta, wife of Frank Szachta (ret) of 61 years of marriage, died in her sleep on June 22, 2013. Frank served in AFTAC at McClellan AFB, CA from 1965-1967, and at McChord AFB, WA., from 1967 -1970.

Galen Pound W., 72, of Melbourne, died Sunday, July 28, 2013.

Billy T. Benton, passed away August 21, 2013. Billy T. served 28 years in the USAF, then 29 years at Health First Hospital.



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



LOWRY AFB – 1950'S courtesy of Rex Ricks

Can you find the original SPINSTR A Buildings area IN THE PICTURE ON THE LEFT?



The picture at the right is a better one of SPINSTR A. The building, which is second from left, housed the basic electronics classrooms. The top portion of the "U" to the right is the commander's office and "A" Systems. The right hand end of the "U" is the break area and command desks. The nearest part of the "U" is "B" Systems. Across the street is the weapons mechanics school.



NUCLEAR BLASTS CAN'T HIDE FROM RADIO TELESCOPES

Submitted by Bill Scott, Colorado Chapter

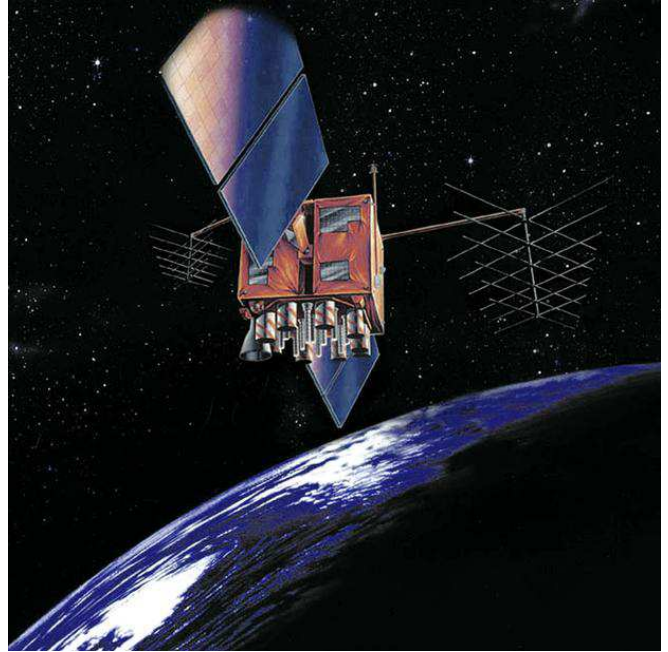
Credit to:

Aviation Week & Space Technology – Defense Technology Edition Mar25, 2013 , p. 22

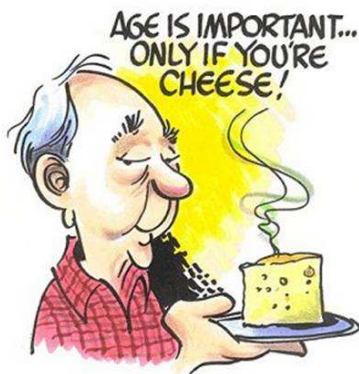
Pat Toensmeier

In the future , if a rogue nation is caught secretly testing a nuclear weapon , and is confronted with credible evidence about blast size, location, date and time of detonation, satellites and radio telescopes may get the credit.

Researchers at Ohio State University and astronomers at the U.S. **Naval Research Laboratory** have discovered that GPS and GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) satellites, along with the Very Large Array (VLA) of 27 radio telescopes in New Mexico, can detect atmospheric disturbances caused by nuclear blasts. This is because the VLA and orbiting GPS and GNSS birds continually monitor the ionosphere for radio waves, which can cause errors in tracking capabilities that need to be corrected. The concept has to be further developed, but according to a recent account in **NASA Tech Briefs**, a 5-kiloton North Korean nuclear blast in 2009 emitted a wave of atmospheric disturbance that was recorded by 11 regional GPS stations via satellite . The VLA , meanwhile, recorded disturbances from a pair of 20-kiloton U.S. tests in 1992. Comparing data from both tests could refine the detection process.



Senior Moment



2013 World-Wide LRD Alumni Reunion Denver, Colorado



Lonnie Gibbons announced as 'Alumni of the Year, 2013' at WorldWide Reunion. In a highlight of this reunion hosted by the Colorado Alumni Assn Chapter, AFTAC Vice Commander, Col **Parker**, made the announcement and presented the 'Space Coin' plaque to Lonnie, and John **Horsch** the 'Traditional T,' at the close of the banquet on 06.15. Lonnie had been selected by fellow 'Alumni of the Year' at this Chapter and the others, California and Florida. Lonnie, and his wife, **Ginny**, have literally supported every event of the Colorado Chapter from its inception in 1989, and have been instrumental in several of the ctivities of this chapter.



2013 World-Wide LRD Alumni Reunion Continued



Some of the California Chapter Attendees
Joe Johnson, Mary King, Don King, Dennis Nolan, Rose Klug, Dave Tarquino, Dale Klug



2013 World-Wide LRD Alumni Reunion Continued



2013 Det 418 Reunion within The World-Wide LRD Reunion

Jun 14-16, Long range detection Worldwide reunion

June 13, Det 418 Mini-Reunion, see report following.

THE COLORADO CHAPTER HOSTED BOTH EVENTS. MAJOR ARRANGERS, WORLDWIDE, BILL SCHMIED-DET 418, FRANK CALEDA

We asked 'Alumni of the Year-2012,' and fellow reunion attendees, Gene & Dee **Mechior**, to report on the WorldWide, Dee replied:

"Wanted to share with everyone that Gene and I had a great time in Denver. We offer our thanks to the Colorado folks for their great hospitality. Bill **Schmied** and his committee did a super job coordinating the affair. The hotel staff was great and I tip my hat to those responsible for the great breakfast buffet provided. Lonnie **Gibbons** and Al Al **Doughty** did a great job in preparing and tending bar in the hospitality room. Everyone enjoyed the scheduled trips to Det 045, the Wing Over the Rockies Museum and the golf tournament, as well as "The Reunion within the Reunion" for those who share such good memories of their time at DET 418. Frank and Edna **Calenda** should take a bow for bringing so many of those folks together. Gene and I spent quite a bit of time in the hospitality room, and enjoyed visiting with old friends (and making new ones), while selling Alumni shirts, jackets, hats and etc. A highlight of the banquet on Saturday night was the idea there might be an announcement of 'Alumni of the Year (AOY)-2013.' As a recent selectee for the 2012 honor I anticipated this event and wondered who it might be. At a point in the evening our Florida Chapter Newsletter Editor/Publisher, John **Horsch**, was called to the podium and I wondered if it was time. It seemed more likely when he called, and introduced, previous AOY's in attendance to join him in front of the podium. John also mentioned those who had deceased, his wife, Christel, Jack **Smith**-2010, Ben **Vlassick**-2000 and Carl **Gailey**-96. I listened as John read the multitude of reasons for selection of 'Alumni of the Year-2013' and asked at several times, "HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT WHO YOU ARE??" I remember thinking " It has to be Lonnie!" And sure enough, it was, Lonnie **Gibbons** was named 'Alumni of the year 2013!' Please do not forget I had not met Lonnie until 2 nights previously.



Above: the Det 418 Attendees pose in the hotel hallway for this shot.

Synopsis of the 2013 LRD World-Wide Reunion By :Bill Schmied, CO Treasurer.

“On Saturday evening after the dinner, the first speaker was Col John **Parker**, the AFTAC Vice Commander. Next was and Space Intelligence Center (NAISC) which is located at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. Prior to his current assignment there, Col Prupas was the AFTAC Commander from Jun 2010 to May 2012. A third colonel was Col James **Denbow**, the AFTAC Director of Atmospheric and Space (AFTAC/TH). Col Denbow did not give a speech but did assist Col Parker with Q & A about AFTAC.

On Friday evening, we had several briefings. TSgt Steve **Schermerhorn** from Detachment 45 located at Buckley AFB in Aurora and TSgt Mark **LeDoux** from Detachment 46 located at Schriever AFB east of Colorado Springs gave a joint briefing about their detachment missions and how the two detachments interact. Mr. Jeff **Moore**, the Operating Location Chief at OL-GT located at Cheyenne Mountain AFS just west of Colorado Springs gave a briefing about their research and development laboratory mission. Mr. Moore is a

former 99106 laboratory technician. We also had a briefing by MSgt (Sel) Chris **Sutor** from the 566th Intelligence Squadron located at Buckley AFB. TSgt Sutor is one of many 9S100's (99's) who are assigned to non-AFTAC units.

Regarding the Detachment 45 tour on Saturday, SSgt Aaron **Smith** was the primary NCO conducting the tours. He was assisted by several other active duty detachment members who drove the two vans and who set up the refreshments and briefings at the Leadership and Development Center staging area. (Editors Note: As a part of this briefing, Sgt Smith presented a video of interest to attendees that readers would also enjoy,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6TbIw2Ahl8&list=PLKWJsHM1ld0ZsJ1rqTNfLBAatEDv> and

mentioned several others,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zJ5ik5Na60&list=PLEFFE6316B694B346> and,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6TbIw2Ahl8>.

SSgt Smith also led the detachment members in the Presentation of Colors at the Saturday dinner.” There was also a golf outing and a ‘Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum Tour’ offered.

The speakers, across the board, were excellent and informative. At one point Col Parker asked Col’s Prupas and Denbow to join him in a question and answer

period with those attending the banquet. It was very enlightening to be present at such an open exchange between those serving the mission now and those of us who had served.

Jun 14-16, Long range detection Worldwide reunion **June 13, Det 418 Mini-Reunion**, WORLDWIDE, BILL SCHMIED-DET 418, FRANK CALEND A

By the night of the banquet, having watched him as he tirelessly tended bar, and helped wherever possible, I had decided this was someone who "GAVE TO HIS GROUP." It was "Great" to hear he had been selected by his AOY Peers. Ginny, his wife and mate, not only had shared in many accomplishments, and stood with Lonnie as the artifacts of this honor, were presented. I hope to see everyone we saw in Colorado, and more, at our 2015 Florida reunion. There is something "kin" to a sense of family in the AFTAC group. These reunions leave me "looking forward" to the next one.

June 13, Det 418 Mini-Reunion

FRANK CALEND A REPORTS:

The Detachment 418 mini-reunion was held in conjunction with the Denver Chapter World Wide reunion on the 14th and 15th. This detachment was located at John Hay Air Base in the Philippines from 1961 to 1975, at which time it was deactivated. Thirty-seven former members and their wives, from around the country, attended the get-together. The event was a rousing success with many stories of good times, a lot of laughter and even a few tears. This get-together was testimony to the camaraderie and lasting friendships that are typical of our organization.

YOUNG AT HEART
Slightly older
in other places.

Det 45 Commemorative Coin

The Black and yellow triangles form the radiation symbol, aspects of which are what we monitor for. The arrow over the globe with the circle around it indicates the use of satellites to perform our mission. The stars represent the two satellite constellations we use. The holes in the coin it serves to show us that despite what the mission looks like on the surface, its instrumental in preventing the depiction on the back of the coin.



The Mushroom cloud on the back is used because it most viscerally reminds us of the mission we perform. The mountains and cityscape are the Denver skyline, with the Wells Fargo Center in the center of the coin and the Rockies in the background to represent where we are. And Detection Deterrence Defense (The writing on the outside of the coin) most aptly sums up our mission.

Captions for Page 11

- 1: Col Worley, AFTAC/CC, speaks at the Det 46 CoC ceremony on 24 June at Schriever AFB
- 2: Col Worley struggles to take the Det 46 guidon from outgoing Detco, Lt Col McLaughlin
- 3: Incoming Detco, Maj Miller, anxiously grasps Det 46 guidon from Col Worley
- 4: Maj Croker reluctantly surrenders the Det 45 guidon to Col Worley
- 5: Capt Landreth, incoming Detco, receives the Det 45 guidon from Col Worley
- 6: Col Worley meets Colorado chapter VP, Darrel Kline, and Prez, Steve Clark, after the Det 45 CoC

Change of Command Det 45 and 46

In June both of AFTAC's Colorado units had a change of leadership. On 24 June 2013, Major Jason M. Miller assumed command of Detachment 46, Schriever Air Force Base, from Lieutenant Colonel Robert N. McLaughlin. The following day, 25 June 2013, Captain Dex Y. Landreth assumed command of Detachment 45, Buckley Air Force Base, from Major Barry A. Croker. The AFTAC commander, Colonel Christopher A. Worley, presided over both events.



**Colorado AFTAC/
LRD Alumni**

AFTAC/LRD ALUMNI ASSO-
CIATION OF COLORADO

c/o Jurell Moxley
4721 S. Queen St.
Littleton, CO 80127

We're **AW** on the Web!
Colorado Chap-
ter:<http://www.aftacco.org/>
Florida Chapter Loca-
tion:<http://sites.google.com/site/irdalumniassnneedtoknownow>
West Coast Chap-
ter:<http://www.aftacwcc.org>
Official AFTAC Web Site:
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: treasurer@aftacco.org