

ECHOES

Past — Present —
and Future

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<i>(Includes Det 418 Mini-Reunion on 13 June)</i>	
<i>Aurora, Colorado</i>	

Special points of interest:

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

Editor: J. Moxley

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General Membership Breakfast 14 Sep 2013

08:30 cost \$12.00 — Buffet Breakfast. Eggs, potatoes, meats, toast, chili, etc., juice and coffee. Please **RSVP** to **Steve Clark** 720-596-4147 or email president@aftacco.org on or before **7 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.

Hear ye



Hear ye



AFTAC Alumni - Long Range Detection Alumni Association Worldwide Reunion and Detachment 418 Mini-Reunion, 13 - 15 June 2013, Aurora, Colorado, DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton Denver-Aurora. See details and registration form on pages 8, 9 & 10, and at the Colorado Alumni web site: www.aftacco.org

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**.



Fred VanDyck, 77, of Melbourne Florida passed away Monday, February 4th. He concluded a distinguished Air Force career in 1979 and transitioned to executive management positions with aerospace contractors at the Kennedy Space Center/Cape Canaveral Air Station until his retirement in 2000. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, and best friend Shizuko (Cisco); two sons. She asked me to pass on this personal story. "Just before Fred died a KC-135, a plane she recalled Fred had over 10,000 hours in, flew over the hospital and made a turn. Cisco was very struck by this coincidence."

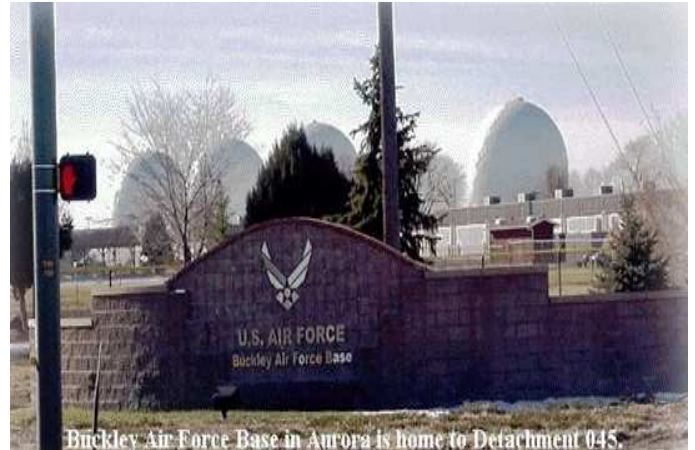
JOHNSON, Willis Return, (Bill) MSgt, USAF, Retired. July 28, 1927 - November 19, 2012. Retired United States Air Force Master Sergeant Willis (Bill) Return Johnson slipped peacefully away into the arms of the Angels. His departure to his next mission occurred at 8:15 am., Monday November 19, 2012 at Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo, California. He was surrounded by family members at the time of his passing.

Ronald Allen Pobieglo 68, passed peacefully on Saturday, February 9 in Springfield MA. He retired from the Air Force after 23 years, having served many years in AFTAC as an airborne technique SEO on various aircraft prior to his final AFTAC assignment as a detachment chief in Anchorage, Alaska.

Wayne Edward Brown, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 10th, after a long battle with cancer. He entered the Air Force via the military draft where he remained for over 20 years. His numerous duty assignments included bases in Texas, Japan, California, Nebraska, Thailand, Massachusetts and finally Florida, where he retired in December 1983. His numerous duty assignments included bases in Texas, Japan, California, Nebraska, Thailand, Massachusetts and finally Florida, where he retired in December 1983. Wayne also served his country during the [Vietnam War](#) in 1971-1972.

Thomas D'Arcy Sullivan, 80, of West Melbourne; Buena Vida Estates, passed away on Feb. 11, 2013. Thomas served his country honorably in the USAF, where he retired in 1986.

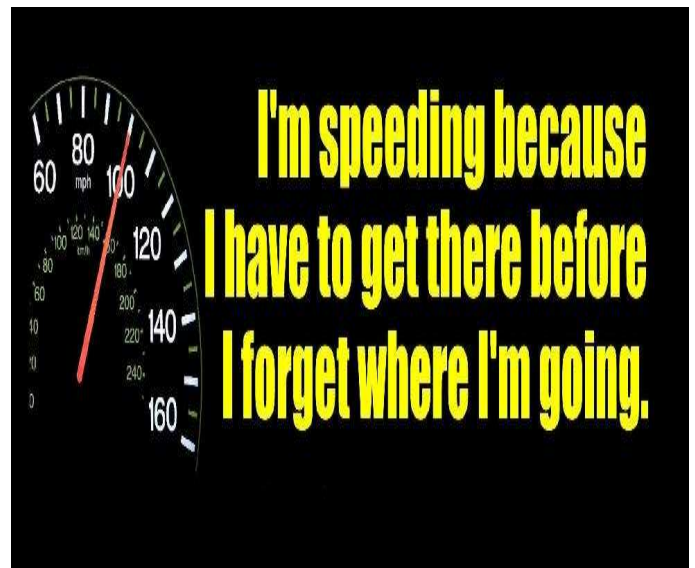
DAVIS, Col. Robert M. USAF (Ret.) July 11, 1922 - 2 Feb. 2013, 90. Passed away peacefully in Roseville, CA. Col Davis was Chief, Personnel & Administration Branch, 1155 Technical Operations Squadron in the mid 1960s



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

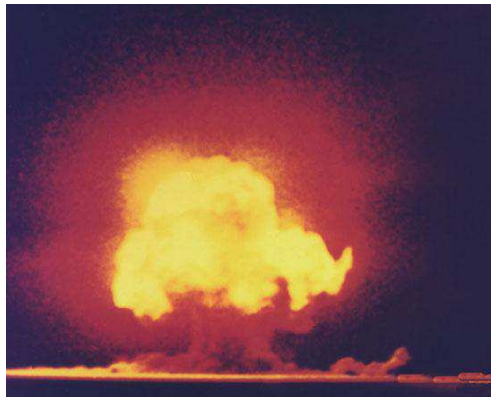
Air Force Aid	720-847-6708
American Red Cross	303-343-1294
Base Exchange	720-847-9628
Casualty Assistance	720-847-6123
Chapel	720-847-6411
Commissary	720-847-7100
ID Cards/Deers	720-847-9159
Legal Office	720-847-6144
Operator	720-847-9011
Outdoor Recreation	720-847-6101
Pharmacy	720-847-7455
Retiree 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

Senior Moment



FIRST BOMB TESTS

by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor



The first atomic bomb test, near Alamogordo, N.M., July 16, 1945.

Credit: Jack Abbey/Los Alamos National Laboratory



The first thermonuclear weapon (hydrogen bomb) , code-named Mike, was detonated at Enewetak atoll in the Marshall Islands, Nov. 1, 1952

Credit: U.S. Air Force photograph

As all of us know, these are the start of the reason our unit was formed. The hydrogen bomb photo was taken at a distance of 50 miles from the detonation site! All past, present and future members of our unit should take very seriously and proudly our outstanding contributions to the fact that since 1945, none of these devastating weapons have ever been used in a conflict. Regardless of the specialty area of each person, we performed, and continue to perform, in an incredible example of teamwork and dedication to accomplish our missions. It is exemplary to recognize the degree of commitment that every one who has been part of our fraternity has shown to guarding the security of our very existence for decades. The many families who could only stare at us when we would leave without being able to tell them where, for how long, and what we would be doing pressed hard upon us to give them some assurance that all was ok. 2:00 AM incoming calls to leave immediately put many strains on relationships. Preparing for that call with regard to all the other

things that revolved around our daily lives was second nature. “Why are you doing that?” could only be met with an assuring smile and usually a request for them to take care of some task that we usually accomplished. We disappeared in much the same way that many fictional characters in novels and movies of the Cold War era did. And this wasn’t about only those with long terms of service. We were all the way from 18 year olds who were barely out of the fun of high school through men who had fought in WW II and Korea, some of who had seen the enemy up close with a bayonet pointed into their gut. Yet this was, and is, a mission that none took lightly. We knew that it was not a game. The lives of millions of people all over the earth unknowingly placed themselves and their future in our hands. And today there are millions who are going through daily life because of our commitment. God bless all of those in the past, present, and future carrying on this mission.

IN GOD WE TRUST, ALL OTHERS WE MONITOR

February Breakfast Photographs



Steve Clark (& daughter Camille). Newly elected (at Feb meeting) President of the Colorado Chapter of the Long

Range Detection Program, formerly known as the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC). Steve graduated from the 99105 Scientific Measurements Technician Course at Lowry AFB in 1989 and ended his active duty career in Dec 2011 as the Superintendent at Det 45, Buckley AFB, CO. His other assignments include several years at HQ AF-TAC as a data analyst, satellite shift chief at Det 46, Schriever AFB; seismic maintenance tech at Det 421, Alice Springs; and 9S100 instructor supervisor at Goodfellow AFB.



Darrel Kline (& wife Wasana) . Newly elected (at Feb meeting) Vice-

President of the Colorado Chapter of the Long Range Detection Program, formerly known as the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC). Darrel graduated from the 99104 Systems Repair Technician Course at Lowry AFB in 1990 and ended his active duty career in Dec 2011 as the Detachment Chief at Det 402, Yakota AB, Japan. His other assignments include subsurface engineering at the Technical Operations Division, McClellan AFB; NCOIC of the field site facility at Det 421, Alice Springs; student in the Space Systems Analyst Course at Goodfellow AFB; NCOIC of Stan Eval at Det 46, Schriever AFB; special assignment at Hurlburt Field; Superintendent at Det 45, Buckley AFB; and Detachment Chief at Det 421, Alice Springs.



Earl Pierce presenting a check to the Det 45 Airman of the Year 2012, SrA Brian Ebling



Earl Pierce presenting a check to the Det 46 NCO of the Year 2012, TSgt Mark LeDoux



Not shown SSgt Nicholas Bailey,
Det 45 NCO of the Year 2012,



and A1C John Strickland, Det 46
Airman of the Year 2012, who were
unable to attend.





Herb & Verna Pabst return to Denver to be with family after living in Arizona for many years.

Herb remembers

Building 359 at Lowry AFB in Denver. Initially termed Detachment 057 . This training task was transferred to the Special Instruments Section at Goodfellow AFB in Texas. The school starts with airmen and NCOs who achieve the highest scores on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Test. After spending 9 weeks learning electronics principles, they are taught a core of essential knowledge including nuclear physics, mathematics, computer fundamentals, and system administration.



Wow—we did learn something starting at this facility with all the techniques and the evening ‘hearts’ matches during breaks across the street at the headquarters building.

OVERVIEW

AFTAC – Long Range Detection Alumni Worldwide Reunion

13 – 16 June 2013

Aurora, Colorado

Yes, reunion time again: It's time once again to get together with old friends, make new friends, and see what everyone has been up to in recent times. As you know, the alumni chapters have been holding worldwide reunions every two years, alternating from Florida to California to Colorado. Having held highly successful reunions in Florida in 2007 and again in California in 2009, it's now time to come to Colorado in 2013 and we are ready to start taking reservations. Included with this issue of the newsletter is this overview, hotel information, and registration form.

What we need from you: mark your calendars now for 13 – 16 June 2013, register early by completing the reunion registration form and returning it along with your check, reserve your hotel room by calling the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Aurora, or by going to the hotel website (see the hotel information sheet for details). And, please pass the word along to other alumni who might not be members of any of the alumni chapters. Membership in an alumni chapter is not required to attend the reunion. Early registration will allow better planning by the reunion committee and some planned activities are tentative depending on the responses we get on the registration forms. If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee members listed at the bottom of this page.

Hospitality Room: We will have a hospitality room in the DoubleTree Hotel open daily beginning Thursday afternoon, 13 June. This is where you sign in and pick up your welcome package if not available in the hotel lobby. Look for the alumni welcome table in the hotel lobby and for information on the electronic sign board as to the hospitality room location. Name tags will be provided in the welcome package so please list names on the registration form as you want them to appear on the tags.

Det 418 Mini-Reunion Thursday afternoon/evening, 13 June: There will be a mini-reunion for Det 418 alumni in conjunction with the main reunion. People attending this mini-reunion must return the registration form the same as those attending the main reunion. Additional information on this event is being provided by Frank Calenda. See bottom of page for contact information.

Golf Outing, Friday morning, 14 June: This is a tentative item depending on the number of people signing up for it, and if held will be at the Heather Ridge Country Club, now a public course, just a few blocks from the DoubleTree hotel. It will be arranged by Lonnie Gibbons with shuttle bus transportation available from the hotel. Cost is listed at \$40 each on the registration form and refunds will be made if the actual cost is less or the event is cancelled due to lack of interest. Please note that rental clubs at the golf course are very limited. ***NOTE: Golf cost includes 18 holes "with golf cart."***

Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Friday morning/afternoon, 14 June: This is also a tentative item depending on the number of people signing up for it. The museum is located in one of the large hangars on the former Lowry AFB just a few blocks from the former Det 57 and SPINSTRAS schoolhouse, Bldgs 358 & 359. We will attempt to arrange hotel shuttle bus transportation but this is subject to availability. Museum admission cost is \$9.00 for seniors (65+), veterans, and active duty to be paid at the museum. www.wingsmuseum.com

Det 45 Operations Tour, Buckley AFB, Saturday morning, 15 June: The detachment will provide tour escorts and a show and tell of their satellite operations area. This is inside a restricted area, so additional personal information will be required to obtain visitor clearance. Transportation will be provided from the hotel for those who need it.

Reception Icebreaker, Friday evening, 14 June: DoubleTree Hotel, AFTAC Ballroom, informal mixer with mixed hors d'oeuvres buffet, including Teriyaki beef and pulled pork skewers, and cash bar. Dress is casual.

Reunion Banquet, Saturday evening, 15 June: DoubleTree Hotel, AFTAC Ballroom, social with cash bar followed by sit-down dinner with choice of Prime Rib, French Cut Chicken Florentine, or Atlantic Salmon entrees. Guest speaker to be announced.

Breakfast Buffet, Sunday morning, 16 June: DoubleTree Hotel restaurant off the lobby, hotel guests attending the reunion eat free, bid farewells.

REUNION COMMITTEE CONTACTS

BILL SCHMIED (303-367-0625) bilschmied@aol.com

CHUCK TONER (303-344-2758) tonertime@comcast.net

LONNIE GIBBONS (303-750-9635) lgib14893@comcast.net

Det 418 Mini-Reunion Only: Frank Calenda (321-773-2046) fcalenda@aol.com

Hotel Information

AFTAC – Long Range Detection Alumni Worldwide Reunion 13 - 16 June 2013

(Includes Det 418 Mini-Reunion on 13 June)

Aurora, Colorado

The reunion is being held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Aurora, 13696 E. Iliff Place, Aurora, CO 80014-1319. The hotel web site is www.doubletreeedenveraurorahotel.com and the telephone number is **303-337-2800**. The toll free number is **800-445-8667**. You can make reservations using any of these three avenues. Check-In time is 3 PM. Should you arrive early, an early check-in is possible as rooms become available. The hotel has a secure room for your luggage should you arrive early. Check-out time is 12 Noon.

A special group room rate of \$89.00 (total including tax is \$99.99) per night is available for reunion attendees. The hotel has provided a block of rooms, including three ADA accessible rooms on the first floor, at this rate for the period 11 to 18 June which allows reunion attendees to check in and check out on any dates during this period. Each room has either one king size or two full size beds, and the special group rate includes single or double occupancy. Triple occupancy is an additional \$5.00 and quad is \$10.00. **Included with this special group rate is a complimentary full breakfast buffet each morning in the hotel dining room and in-room high-speed internet access (HSIA) .**

Reservations must be confirmed by 24 May to get the special rate, **or until the block of rooms is sold out**. Therefore, please make your reservations as early as possible so we can monitor our contractual obligations with the hotel and obtain additional room blocks as needed. When contacting the hotel for reservations, **be sure to request the special group rate code "TAC "** which is the special \$89.00 rate for AFTAC reunion attendees (including Det 418 mini-reunion attendees). If using the internet to make reservations, go to the hotel web site and on the home page left side enter the arrival, departure, and room information then click on the **Add Special Rate Codes** and then enter **TAC** in the **Group Code Block**, then click on **Check Availability**. This will take you to the next page which will show the three types of rooms at the special \$89.00 group rate. The complimentary breakfast and in-room HSIA are not shown as included with this rate, but these are in fact included and if making reservations by telephone, the agent can confirm this. However, please note that if you book your room using any other special rate or group code, e.g., AARP, Senior, Govt, etc., you will not get the free breakfast buffet or HSIA. Also, please note that the hotel will add a customary early departure fee if you check out of the hotel prior to your reserved check-out date unless you advise the hotel at or before check-in of any change in your planned length of stay. The hotel should also inform you of the potential charge at your time of check-in.

The hotel provides daily shuttle service to and from Denver International Airport (DIA). The pickup point is on the baggage level of the **East Terminal outside Door 511 at Island #3** at the hotel pickup signs. Call the hotel front desk at their local number 303-337-2800 to inform guest services/driver that you are at the airport and get an estimated shuttle arrival time. **Please be sure to board the white van with the large DoubleTree by Hilton Cookie on the side and marked DoubleTree Denver-Aurora**. Space is limited on the airport shuttle, so you should also schedule your departure time with the front desk for return to DIA when you check in to the hotel. The hotel also offers limited local shuttle service within a five mile radius of the hotel based upon availability. This can include the University of Colorado Medical Center on the Fitzsimons campus, the Aurora Town Center and Mall, and the RTD light rail station at Parker Road and I-225 amongst other attractions. Additional information on the shuttle service is available at the hotel front desk, and information on other hotel amenities and many local area attractions is available at the hotel and on the hotel web site.

**REGISTRATION FORM
AFTAC - LONG RANGE DETECTION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
WORLDWIDE REUNION 13 - 16 JUNE 2013
(Including Det 418 Mini-Reunion)
AURORA, COLORADO**

NOTE: THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH PAYMENT NLT 15 APRIL 2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME OF ALUMNI / ATTENDEE _____

NAME OF SPOUSE / GUEST _____

STREET ADDRESS / P.O. BOX _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBERS INCLUDING AREA CODE _____

REGISTRATION FEE WW REUNION (REQUIRED FOR EACH ATTENDEE) @ \$10.00 PER PERSON _____ X _____ = \$ _____

REGISTRATION FEE DET 418 ALUMNI ONLY MINI-REUNION, THURSDAY AFTERNOONEVENING, 13 JUNE
HOSPITALITY ROOM (REQUIRED ONLY FOR EACH418 ATTENDEE) @ \$ 5.00 PER PERSON _____ X _____ = \$ _____

GOLF OUTING FRIDAY MORNING, 14 JUNE, HEATHER RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB @ \$ 40.00 PER PERSON _____ X _____ = \$ _____
INDICATE NUMBER PLAYING GOLF: MEN _____ WOMEN _____

ICEBREAKER BUFFET FRIDAY EVENING, 14 JUNE, DOUBLETREE HOTEL @ \$ 30.00 PER PERSON _____ X _____ = \$ _____

BANQUET DINNER, SATURDAY EVENING, 15 JUNE, DOUBLETREE HOTEL @ \$ 40.00 PER PERSON _____ X _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED—\$ _____

BANQUET ENTRÉE SELECTION (INDICATE NUMBER FOR EACH ENTRÉE):
10 OZ SLOW ROASTED PRIME RIB WITH AUS JUS & HORSERADISH CREAM, SERVED WITH ROSEMARY MASHED POTATOES
AND SEASONAL VEGETABLES: _____

ATLANTIC KING GRILLED FILET OF SALMON, SERVED OVER ORZO WITH SUNDRIED TOMATOES, WILD MUSHROOMS AND
SEASONAL VEGETABLES: _____

FRENCH CUT SAUTEED CHICKEN BREAST FLORENTINE WITH FRESH HERBS, SPINACH & ROASTED GARLIC TOPPED WITH
LEMON CAPER CREAM SAUCE, SERVED WITH WILD RICE AND SEASONAL VEGETABLES: _____

NOTE: ALL ENTREES ARE SERVED WITH MIXED GREENS SALAD & SELECTION OF BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE & RANCH
DRESSINGS, FRESHLY BAKED ROLLS & BUTTER. DESSERT CONSISTING OF CHOCOLATE CARAMEL CAKE WITH KAHLUA
CREAM, AND COFFEE, BIGELOW HOT TEAS, ICED TEA & WATER.

WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES MUSEUM (TENTATIVE) ON THE FORMER LOWRY AFB. ADMISSION COST IS \$9.00 FOR SENIORS, VETERANS,
AND ACTIVE DUTY TO BE PAID AT THE MUSEUM.

NUMBER ATTENDING: _____ TRANSPORTATION REQUIRED FROM HOTEL: (PLEASE CIRCLE) YES or NO

DETACHMENT 45 OPERATIONS ORIENTATION AT BUCKLEY AFB, SATURDAY MORNING, 15 JUNE. NOTE THAT THIS TOUR REQUIRES
ACCESS TO A RESTRICTED AREA & ADDITIONAL PERSONAL INFORMATION WILL BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO GRANTING ACCESS.

NUMBER ATTENDING: _____ TRANSPORTATION REQUIRED FROM HOTEL: (PLEASE CIRCLE) YES or NO

IMPORTANT NOTE: MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ALONG WITH THIS FORM TO:

BILL SCHMIED
2078 KENTON ST
AURORA, CO 80010-1310

**PLEASE REGISTER EARLY - YOUR EARLY REGISTRATION IS NEEDED TO MONITOR OUR
CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS WITH THE HOTEL AND SECURE ADDITIONAL ROOM BLOCKS IF NEEDED FOR ATTENDEES
AND PLAN FOR THE NUMBER OF ATTENDEES AT THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS. PLEASE INDICATE HERE IF YOU
ARE MAKING ROOM RESERVATIONS AT THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL. PLEASE CIRCLE: YES NO**

REUNION COMMITTEE CONTACTS

BILL SCHMIED (Colorado Treasurer), 303-387-0625, bilschmied@aol.com

CHUCK TONER, 303-344-2758, tonertime@comcast.net

LONNIE GIBBONS, 303-750-9635, lgib14893@comcast.net

DET 418 MINI-REUNION ONLY: FRANK CALEDA, 321-773-2048, fcalenda@aol.com

**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/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