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Frank Goodreau (CA) forwards this Obituary, thru Jim Payne, to the Alumni Association. Jim Payne remembers Merrill Seaman as the school house Principal replacement for Loyd Sittler when he was there in early 60's.

#### QUOTE

Obituary, Lt. Col.(Ret) Merrill Hicks Seaman as published in THE UNION, Grass Valley-Nevada, CA - 00.4.27 edition

Private graveside services for Lt. Col.(Ret) Merrill Hicks Seaman were conducted today at Penn Valley Cemetery. Lt. Col. Seaman died Monday, April 24, after a lengthy illness. He was 81. He was born July 3, 1918, in Superior, Wis. He served for 30 years in the U.S. Army Air Corps and U.S. Air Force in World War II and the Korean War. He retired with honors in 1971. He had lived in Lake Wildwood for 22 years. Lt. Col. Seaman is survived by his wife of 55 years, Betty; sons Col (Ret) John Seaman of Gig Harbor, WA., Capt. (Ret) Edward Seaman of Panama City, FL., Col (Ret) Frank Seaman of Colorado Springs, CO., and Robert Seaman of Silverthorne, CO., daughter Marilyn Seaman of Auburn; 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister, Kay Noonan; and brother, Bentley Seaman. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

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Editor's note: I am reminded of the words of the officers at the RSL club at Alice every evening - as we gazed out the glass to the lighted memorial on ANZAC Hill - Ladies and Gentlemen, it is 7 O'Clock. They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old, age shall not weary them, nor the the years condemn. With the going down of the sun and in the morning, we shall remember them. Least we forget.

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#### SEO REUNION

After hearing a couple of rumors of a desired reunion of Special Equipment Operators, a question was sent to the AFTAC Alumni web site and a positive response was received. Since there is not enough time to organize a formal reunion for the desired date, we have put an impromptu reunion together and hope as many as possible can attend.

"200th day (18 July, Tuesday), year 2000, main lobby of the El Dorado Hotel, Reno, NV., high noon. Wear your wings, name badge and bring your war stories. Be there or be square."

Reno was chosen because it is centrally located as is the El Dorado Hotel. It is co-joined with Circus Circus and the Silver Legacy with enclosed walkways. Phone numbers are: El Dorado, 1-800-648-5966, Circus Circus, 1-800-648-5010, Silver

Legacy, 1-800-687-7733, for reservations. Ask for discounts and room and show packages, if interested. For other accomodations in the area call: Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority at 1-800-FOR-RENO.

We have also been requested to invite all "F Troopers" to join us. Would love to have them. Since we are not sure of who all you SEO's and F Troops are, we would like you to get the word out to those you know. Any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,  
Carol & Orv Pritchard,  
("Pritch", SEOXXVI, '56 - ' 70)  
caporv@aol.com  
George Thompson, (SEOXVII, '56 - ' 68)  
(707) 994-4143

Ed: Received this via email. Even though it has passed, thought it was worth sharing.

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Borrowed from the Florida Chapter's "Commander's Call", a synopsis of Lt General Clapper's time with AFTAC. The Florida "Post Monitor" will have articles from other previous commanders featured in their publication. (Hope they don't mind - its a great article)

**James R. Clapper, Jr.**

**L/Gen, USAF, Ret.**

**Commander, June'84-May'85**

submitted 99/2127,

reviewed 00/1

It seems now that an awful lot went on during my all-too-short tenure as Commander. I was tremendously impressed with the Command and its people. My time was probably a turning point, since I represented the first non-scientific career officer to be commander, a trend that has continued since. A tradition of sorts was started, where colonels went to AFTAC, and were promoted to brigadier general while there. That wa obviously a good thing for them as individuals, and for the stature of the command as well.

For me, I saw a lot of similarities between AFTAC, and where I had grown up, USAFSS. The basic missions in both commands was performed by the premier enlisted people in the Air Force. Both were self-contained, somewhat cloistered activities, spread all over the earth. And, there was a tremendous dedication to the mission, even if the many exploits performed in pursuit of it were often necessarily unsung. I guess some Of my most vivid memories were during my overseas trips to visit the units. Some marvelous people doing great things, in some pretty tough environments. (as Gen Clapper went on he chose to use the questionairre format, a format he himself devised)

1. *How would I characterize AFTAC as an institutions Its people? Its contribution?*