



Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter
P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974
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⇒ **APRIL 2013 EDITION** ⇐

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LOOK US UP AT
www.AFTACWCC.org

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Dave Tarquino, WCC President

Spring is here and the weather is great....must be time for a picnic!! Join us on 11 May at Tempo Park in Fair Oaks for free hot dogs, hamburgers, and many delicious side dishes and desserts. Bring your stories and tales and...don't be shy... reach out and bring another AFTAC'er with you. We're not getting any younger. Let's see those smiley faces and hear those stories of days gone by.

At last count there are at least 10 WCC folks attending the AFTAC Reunion in Denver on June 14-15 this year. I haven't been to Denver in 25 years so I'm looking forward to the tours and sites around the area in addition to the reunion festivities.

Bob Fitzgerald has done a fantastic job putting our website together and keeping our web updated since its inception. Bob is on the mend, so he prefers to continue as our Webmaster, but he would like to have someone to assist him. We are looking for an Assistant Webmaster with HTML and FTP coding expertise within the AFTAC family and there is no requirement to live in the Sacramento area. The Website can be maintained from just about anywhere in the world. If you or someone you know would be interested in giving Bob a hand contact Bob or me.

Bob Fitzgerald has also volunteered to chair our nominating committee for the election of officers. WCC Election Of Officers for the two-year term of 2014-2015 will be held at our Fall Social in November 2013. Nominations are now being accepted via email to "ElectionCommittee@AFTACWCC.org", via mail to: **AFTAC-WCC Attn: Election Committee, PO Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974**; or online from our website www.AFTACWCC.org "Forms" page. You will hear more from Bob and his committee in the future.

Our business meetings and social events are open to the entire AFTAC family. Put the dates on your calendar and join us if you can.

NUCLEAR BLASTS CAN'T HIDE FROM RADIO TELESCOPES

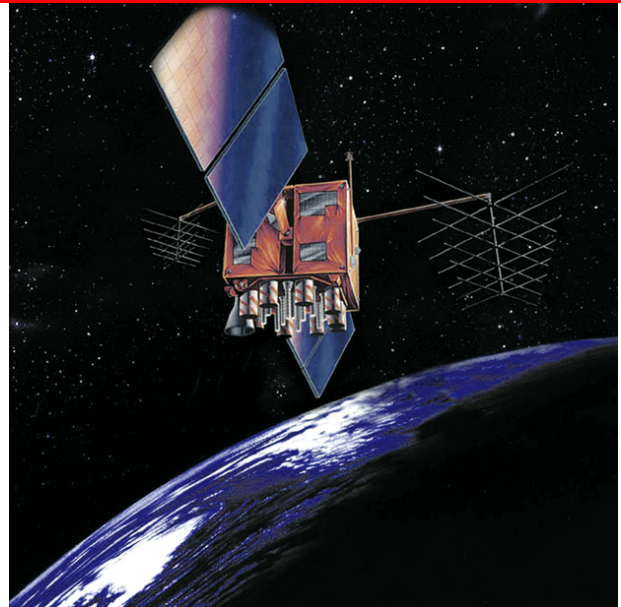
*Submitted by Bill Scott, Colorado Chapter
Credit to:*

[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.



Credit: US Government

[CAN YOU FIND THE ORIGINAL SPINSTRAS CLASSROOM AREA BELOW?](#)

by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor



LOWRY AFB – 1950'S courtesy of Rex Ricks

NEWS REQUEST

by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor

I need "One OF Our Own" features to give interesting info about one of our talented members (all of you). Please feel free to submit neat things that you do. Remember that we are a fraternity! Also, there must be a lot of untold stories out there. They need not be humorous, just something interesting for AFTAC insiders. Don't be paranoid about the classified issues. I will sanitize it based upon advice from knowledgeable advisors.

WEBSITE REPORT FROM BOB FITZGERALD

"Forms" page: The **Spring Picnic** item has been updated and now includes a link that will allow the user to submit their Spring Picnic sign-up form instantly on-line. **TRY IT OUT WHEN YOU ARE READY TO SIGN UP YOURSELF.** FYI: The form gets submitted directly to the PicnicGurus@AFTACWCC.org (*Butch Kemna and Charlie Penn*) with a "Cc:" to the Webmaster for QC.

I believe this is the first time we've actually had a form for our members to use and submit directly on-line. I tested one from my own development web site last Nov for the Fall Social but I don't think I used it for that event. Since the picnic doesn't require any monies to be submitted, this is the perfect time to get it working right. PLEASE TRY IT and then let me know what you think about using it and about your confirmation both online and via email.

Remember: Comments, suggestions, even kind criticisms about our website are all gratefully accepted and appreciated.

WHO SAID THAT?

by Dale Klug, Editor Emeritus

- >> If you can give your son or daughter only one gift, let it be enthusiasm.
- >> Years wrinkle the skin, but lack of enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.
- >> Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm.
- >> Enthusiasm is a poor substitute for expertise.

Do you think you know who the above quotes came from? Send your best guess to: dkconsulting@juno.com
Second WCC member to send in the correct answers gets two genuine AFTAC commemorative beer mugs.

January 2013's quotes were from Henry Ward Beecher, James Gordon Bennett, Edmund Burke and Kermit the Frog. **Jim Giordano** was the first submitted with all four correct answers; **Bob Baker** was second & winner of two AFTAC beer mugs; **Doug McGee** was third with one correct; and **Bill Hinkel** was fourth with all four correct. I have two AFTAC beer mugs left for the second correct submittal this time.

You all have to get your answers and email sending strategies fine tuned if you hope to beat out Bob Baker. Remember Bob not only is a whiz at chess, he was also the head cheerleader for the Engineering Branch at the Toilet Bowl baseball games. His famous cheer "Rah, Rah, Ree! Kick 'em in the knee; Rah, Rah, Rass! Kick 'em in the other knee" will probably live forever in Toilet Bowl history.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As of 11 March, 2013:

Total Active Members = 153 Life Members = 136

Annual membership fee of \$10 is due by 01 Jan each year. Check your mailing label, or check the "WCC Roster" from our website "Forms" page. Life memberships are available for \$75. You can use the "Membership Application/Roster Update" form on the last page of this newsletter or the one from our web site "Forms" page to send with your dues. Don't let your membership lapse. **Those alumni who are not current with their membership dues will be dropped from the "active" roster along with our newsletter distribution & email notification lists.** (See our web site "Forms" page, "WCC Roster" link to check your status.)

IN MEMORY OF

DAVIS, Robert M, Colonel, USAF (Ret)



July 11, 1922 - 2 Feb. 2013 Passed away peacefully in Roseville, CA after 90 long and joyous years, with Joan, his beloved wife of 67 years, and daughters Deborah and Leslie at his side. He was the father of four children, Bob Jr, Deborah, Douglas, and Leslie, all of whom adored and revered their father for his love of life, devotion to his wife, intellect, wit, ethics, courage and best of all, friendship and support.

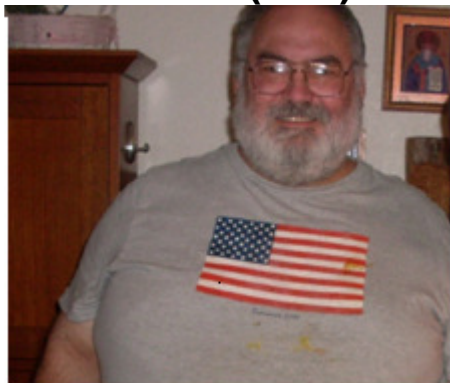
He will be fondly remembered by his family and friends made over the course of his 35-year Air Force career, golfer and other pastimes.

He preferred that there not be a public service. His extended family plans a private gathering to celebrate his life.

Published in The Sacramento Bee February 15th to 16th, 2013

Note: Col Davis was Chief, Personnel & Administration at the 1155th Technical Operations Squadron in the mid 1960s.

Glen Allan Whitcomb, MSgt, USAF (Ret)



Glen was born August 16, 1955, in Key West, FL. He grew up in the south suburbs of Chicago with his parents, Les and Nancy. Upon graduating from Bremen High School in 1973, Glen spent a short time in College at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL, where he met his future bride, Lisa Moran. After that, he joined the US Air Force in 1974, where his tours of duty took him to places as far flung as Germany. Germany was where he also took his beloved bride after they were married on St. Patrick's Day in 1979. **In 1980, Glen was stationed at the Tech Ops Division of McClellan Air Force Base near Sacramento, CA, and he would be stationed there for the rest of his career, living in the area and raising**

his family. Soon after they moved, they would join a small community of Christian believers and seekers who would eventually join the Antiochian Orthodox Church under the patronage of St. Athanasius. Glen was ordained Deacon Polycarp in February of 1987, soon after he and his family were inducted into the Orthodox faith. After 20 years of service in the US Air Force, Glen retired with the rank of Master Sergeant in 1994. His family stayed in the Sacramento area to continue to serve St. Athanasius Antiochian Orthodox Church and to preserve the loving bonds they had built in the area.

Glen was a faithful and loving father and grandfather, taking a keen interest in his children's lives. He supported their hobbies and ambitions, and was well known in the Elk Grove School District for being an active and concerned parent while his children went to Florin High School. He had a great love of Boy Scouts, joining the troop his sons joined as an Adult Leader, holding many offices up to the district level, serving as a mentor and merit badge counselor to many Scouts, and becoming a Vigil member of Order of the Arrow. He also received The Silver Beaver for his work with the local district, the Founder's Award for his work with the Order of the Arrow, and the Prophet Elias award for Orthodox Christians in scouting. He was a faithful servant of the Church community, serving as a Deacon for many years, often the first to arrive at church before service, and the last to leave, only after making sure the church was left clean and

secure until the next set of services. He had a hand in many church ministries and traditions, from youth education programs to church potlucks and barbecues. In addition, he was active in church leadership and ministry, both at the Deanery and Archdiocese levels, helping to organize meetings, retreats, and conferences. He also played a pivotal role in the organization and completion of the Orthodox Study Bible, an orthodox-faith focused bible which has become an essential tool for the preaching and spreading of the faith in the English speaking word, serving as a coordinator and assistant to Fr. Jack Sparks of blessed memory. In 2007, he was ordained to the Priesthood as Father Polycarp by the order of his grace, Bishop Joseph. He stayed at St. Athanasius, but was often called upon to serve the needs of the many small mission parishes in the area. He would take over as head pastor of St. Athanasius after the death of the previous pastor, Fr. Richard Ballew of blessed memory. As head pastor, he redoubled his efforts to serve the community, and continued as a minister and councilor to many. He ministered to

the sick and infirm of the community and headed many studies and youth groups for the edification of his flock. One of the greatest pleasures of his last few years was the birth of his first grandson, Liam. Glen always had a special affinity for children, and to see his grandson begin to grow, to share with him many favorite toys and movies and games, kept him excited and young at heart right up to his last days.

Glen Allan Whitcomb was a loving husband and father, and in the Orthodox Church Community, the Boy Scout Community, and every other circle he moved in, he was known as a kind and loving man, with a ready laugh and a sympathetic shoulder, and a tireless worker who was always ready to serve his fellow human. As he goes to his eternal reward, he leaves behind countless spiritual children and friends. He is survived by his wife, Lisa, his Children, Reader Daniel, Joshua, Subdeacon Stephen, and Monica, his Daughter-in-law Jillian, Grandson Liam, Mother Nancy, and Brothers Jim and Tom.

SOME OF OUR OWN

AFTAC AIRMEN PARTICIPATE IN TOUGH MUDDER MARCH 2, 2013

U.S. Air Force photo by Kevin Callan

Courtesy of AF ISR website

by *Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor*



EVENTS CALENDAR

Just a reminder that our business meetings are held the **2nd Monday** of March, June, September, and December at 7:00 PM at the Lionsgate Hotel on McClellan Park. The meetings last about an hour and all Alumni are welcome.

(Always check our **'Events'** page at www.AFTACWCC.org or call ahead to our President to confirm time & place.)

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - WEST COAST CHAPTER ANNUAL PICNIC – 11 MAY 2013

Tempo Park, 13201 Fair Oaks Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

ATTENTION TO ORDERS

Yes, folks, it's time for the aroma of burnt meat. We will be hosting the annual WCC picnic on 11 May 2013 at the same venue as Sep 2012's picnic. Good restroom facilities, ample parking, and a covered pavilion. We will be lighting the BBQs at 1100 hours and wind things up around 1500 hours. Once again the West Coast Chapter (WCC) of our alumni association will supply the basics: hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks & water. We ask that you bring a salad, side dish, dessert, or chips to help out. **Please remember that due to current county regulations there is no alcohol consumption allowed at this facility.** All members and their guests are cordially invited, but please sign up early so the logistics can be tweaked. Don't forget to bring your stories, goodies & appetite to the picnic. Please fill out the sign-up form & send it to us. **SIGN UPS REQUIRED BY 6 MAY 2013.**



VITAL DETAILS:

When: **Saturday, 11 May 2013**

Where: **Tempo Park**

Address: **13201 Fair Oaks Blvd, Citrus Heights, 95610**

Hours: **1100 Hrs -1500 Hrs (11:00 am – 3:00 pm)**

Cost: **Nada**

(However, If you would like to help defray the cost of this event there will be a container at the picnic for your donation.)



DIRECTIONS

From I-80: Go East on Greenback, turn left (North) on Fair Oaks Blvd, the park will be on the left side.

From Hwy 50: Go North on Sunrise Blvd, turn right (East) on Greenback and left (North) on Fair Oaks Blvd.

The 2013 Picnic is being arranged by **Butch Kemna**, WCC Treasurer, and **Charlie Penn**. If you have any questions, call Butch, **(916) 722-8509** or Email them: "PicnicGurus@AFTACWCC.org".

PLEASE FILL IN & MAIL, or SCAN & EMAIL, YOUR SIGN-UP FORM BY 6 MAY 2013 to:
AFTAC-WCC, P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974

I [] mailed / [] Emailed my form on __/__/13. There will be __ of us coming & we'll bring _____ for potluck.

(The upper part is for your records, so keep it as a reminder)

(cut here & mail or scan the form & e-mail it to: "PicnicGurus@AFTACWCC.org")

Picnic Sign-up Form

ANNUAL WCC PICNIC – 11 MAY 2013

(Please print)

NAME: _____ SPOUSE/GUEST: _____

Add'l Guest(s): _____ Total Number Attending [____]

I/We will bring for the potluck:

Salad [] Side Dish [] Dessert [] Other _____

Your Ph#: (____) _____-_____ Email Addr: _____

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 2009 and again in California in 2011, 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 the cost includes 18 holes with golf cart and that rental clubs at the golf course are very limited.

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 cash bar and mixed hors d'oeuvres buffet, including Teriyaki beef and pulled pork skewers, coffee and tea. 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 CALEDA (321-773-2046) fcalenda@aol.com



AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974
Email: TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / ROSTER UPDATE

Annual membership fee of \$10.⁰⁰ is due by 01 January each year. Check your mailing label for expiration date. *Your last newsletter will be the one following your expiration date.* Life memberships are available for \$75.⁰⁰.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____
Last, First MI Last Rank Held Nickname Name of Spouse

Addr: _____
Street, Apt #, etc. City State Zip Code

() - _____
Home Phone Work Phone Email Addr

Active Duty: _____
Branch of Service From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy Branch of Service From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

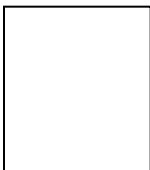
AFTAC Dates: _____
From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

Support Your West Coast Chapter: Please pass a copy of this form to your AFTAC Alumni friends. *[From the Depot Fallout]*

CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT www.AFTACWCC.org FOR THE LATEST WCC NEWS & PHOTOS



== FIRST CLASS MAIL ==



RETURN ADDRESS:
AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
WEST COAST CHAPTER
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Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974