



# Depot Fallout



AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter  
P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974  
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**LOOK US UP AT**  
**[www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)**

## **A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*by Dave Tarquino, WCC President*

I'm introducing a new article in this newsletter and I'm going to call it "What Are They Doin' Today?" for lack of a better title. I hope to complement the "Way Back When" articles submitted from time to time. Many members of the AFTAC family find interesting or noteworthy things to do after retiring that would be of interest to our Alumni. It might be a hobby, vocation, activity, or just spending time with the grandchildren. Let us know what you're up to these days.

Fall Social Saturday 9 Nov 2013 11:30 – 2:30 pm

*By Dave Tarquino*

**Our Fall Social will be at the China Buffet, 5623 Sunrise Blvd., Citrus Heights, Ca. Cost will be \$13.00 per person and includes the buffet with coffee, tea or soda. Beer and wine is available if you wish to purchase separately. Dress is casual. Join us for lunch on November 13<sup>th</sup> and bring your stories and a friend to kick off the Holiday Season. Please fill out the form included in this newsletter or on our website and your reminder portion, and then mail the form and your check to us before Wednesday, Nov. 6th. Questions? Email Dave Tarquino, [dtarquino@surewest.net](mailto:dtarquino@surewest.net) or call him at 916-723-7634.**

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](mailto: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](http://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.

**11 May - 9 Nov 2013 NOMINATION & ELECTION OF WCC OFFICERS**

Nominations are now open for WCC Officers for Dec 2013 - Nov 2015.

**Volunteer yourself and/or make nominations.**

See our '[Forms](#)' page for details.

**The Election will be held at our 'Fall Social' on 09 Nov 2013.**

## 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 ACTIVITY REPORT

*by Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster*

I'm happy to report that our [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) web site is doing very well. Judging by the number of hits (*unique visits*) each month our web site is a place where a number of you go to keep abreast of what is going on out here on the West coast. I've noticed that a lot of you also are enjoying the ability to one-click on one of the links to other sites of mutual interest that we have conveniently put on our "Links" page.

How do you first go to our web site each time? Do you click on a link to it from an email message you've received? Do you go to your Internet browser's 'Favorites' or 'Bookmarks' to find the link to our site that you saved there? Do you type the address (*URL*) to our site into your browser's address bar? If you find yourself doing one or more of the above somewhat often, maybe you could consider going to your browser's "Tools/Internet Options" menu and type "<http://www.AFTACWCC.org>" in as your default 'Home' page. Then every time you launch your browser, you would automatically start with our web site and can go from there to wherever else you want.

Remember: If you have a suggestion for improvements to our web site, and/or If you have a favorite web site that may be of mutual interest to our alumni but it's not on our "Links" page, please email me your suggestions or the web site's URL and details as to why you think it would be interest to our alumni. Thank you! My Email is: [Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org](mailto:Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org).

## WHO SAID THAT?

*by Dale Klug, Editor Emeritus*

- >> To teach, to guide, to explain, to help, to nurture ... these are life's noblest attainments.
- >> Success is often just an idea away.
- >> Opportunity's favorite disguise is trouble.
- >> In times of trouble, no words - no matter how magnificent -can match a helping hand.
- >> The difference between running a business and ruining a business is i.

**Do you think you know who the above quotes came from? Send your best guess to: [dkconsulting@juno.com](mailto:dkconsulting@juno.com)**  
July 2013's quotes were from Mark Twain, Richard Friedman, Anonymous, J. Paul Getty and Dr Phil McGraw. **Bob Baker's** was the only submission I received. He gave Anonymous credit for the fifth quote. I'm betting that Dr Phil plagiarized from Mr. Anonymous, so I'll accept Bob's answers.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*by Dave Price, Membership Chairman*

**As of 7 Sep, 2013:**

**Total Active Members = 152   Life Members = 136**  
**We welcome John Taylor as life member.**

**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.)

## **WHAT IS THIS?**

*by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor*



## **DO YOU KNOW?**

*by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor*

**What nuclear event occurred on September 3, 1949?**

**What nuclear event occurred on October 31, 1961?**

**What nuclear event occurred on October 9, 2006?**

**What nuclear event occurred on July 16, 1945?**

**What nuclear event occurred on August 29, 1949?**

**What nuclear event occurred on July 1, 1946?**

**What nuclear event occurred on March 1, 1954?**

**Email your responses to [retdking6158@gmail.com](mailto:retdking6158@gmail.com). Recognition will be given for most correct and time/date received.**

## WHAT ARE THEY DOIN' TODAY?

*By Dave Tarquino*

Dennis Nolan took up bicycle riding about 6 years ago and talked me into riding about a year later. We ride primarily with the Sacramento BikeHikers club three to five days a week in search of someplace to have coffee and a pastry or breakfast (there is always food involved). Our rides are typically 35 to 45 miles long on various routes throughout the Sacramento region. Dennis already has a couple of century (100 mile) rides under his belt; I'll do my first century ride in mid October. Bicycle riding has helped us keep our bodies "slim & trim"...just in case we're ever called upon to serve. Now if I could just remember where I put my bike....



### ***Editors Note***

Isn't it amazing what Photoshop can do? Now if we really had a picture of these two underway, THAT would be news. We will have some from the October ride to put in the Fallout, right Dave?

All of you other fanatics need to send in what you are doing to show everyone that we weren't just into saving the world. Did I ever tell you about the Valhalla Night Club in Wiesbaden after our flight over from McClellan?

## ONE OF OUR OWN

### **TALK ABOUT OJT!**

*Submitted by Joe Johnson*

It was August 1949 and Russia detonated its first atomic explosion. In September 1949 President Truman directed the United States Army Air Force to establish an Atomic Energy Detection System (AEDS). As result, a series of atomic testing (Buster Jangle) was conducted in the fall of 1951 at the Nevada testing site (NTS). One method of detecting atomic explosions that was to be investigated was Seismology.

Someone determined that about 50 seismic stations would be needed to gather the data needed for further evaluation. The Air Force just didn't have a bunch of seismologists in the ranks. So about 60 one and two stripers about the graduate from airborne radar repair school were selected for seismology training. Since the military had no training facility for seismologists, a training site was established at the Naval Observatory Laboratory outside Washington DC. We received about a 6-week crash course in seismology.

After training, we flew to Norton AFB California. Waiting for us were about 75 weapons carriers to be used for onward transport. About 50 of the vehicles, each loaded with all the equipment needed to set up one seismic monitoring station. Since all the pre-selected seismic monitoring sites were located in very rough terrain and miles from a real road, the weapons carriers were the only logical means of transport. The plan was for the entire group to drive to Nevada and once there to split up and travel to where ever your monitoring site was located. Good plan, but a number of the men didn't have driver's permits and didn't know how to drive. Those people got a **CRASH** course on driving and a driver license!

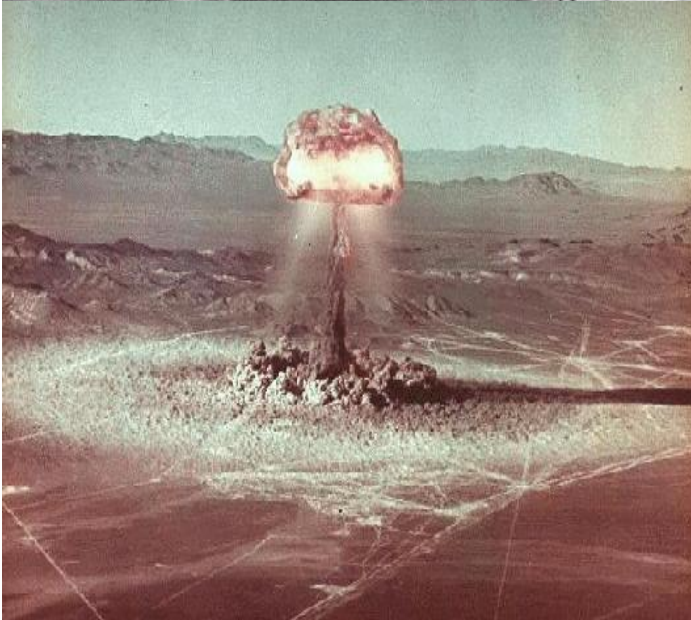
Speeding to Nevada at up to 40 MPH with the most distant site about 475 miles from Norton, it took 3 days for that man to get to his site. My site was located near Hawthorne, NV. Now it was time for each individual to assemble and test his site! Each one had a tent that enclosed the seismometer, recording device, small table and radio transmitter/receiver unit. a gas powered, air-cooled, auxiliary power unit plus an extensive tool kit. The radio transmitter/receiver and APU were designed for use in an aircraft. After all sites were operational we waited for the first of the 5 Buster Jangle detonations. There was a lot of waiting throughout the test series as the 5 tests were spread over 2 months.

Many used the down times to explore the surrounding countryside using the weapons carrier for transport. All men were supplied with a handful of credit cards to buy gas, oil., tires and any vehicle maintenance required. I don't recall any vehicle being destroyed, although some had bodywork damage. One of the officers ran off the road and hit a tree. Another driver attempted to run over one of the many treelike cactus plants that seemed to be everywhere. Bad plan! The vehicle high centered and it took a lot of work with an ax to free it.

I recall a few happenings during and after the test series ended. The seismometer/recording devices were none to stable, and the recording pen would drift off scale. One clever type found that throwing a little snow inside the seismometer enclosure would solve his drift problem. You do what you have to do when you are winging it!

After the series was complete, recording sites were marked with a large red cloth staked to the ground. Then we climbed what seemed like every mountain in the area to find bench markers that had a known location and marked them. Then the whole area was aerially photographed so each recording site could be accurately located. A group of about five of us had spent a day climbing mountains and were heading to wherever we were going to sleep that night. Suddenly there was a large explosion about 2 blocks behind the vehicle! We found out later that we had been bombed! The area we were in was a part of the bombing range in Nevada! Some plane had trouble and had to dump a bomb. Anyone wanting technical data on the Buster Jangle test series can Google it and find reams of data.

**PHOTOS FROM THE PAST**  
**Buster Jangle Tests 1949**



## EVENTS CALENDAR

Just a reminder that our business meetings are held the **2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) or call ahead to our President to confirm time & place.)

### **AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOC. – WEST COAST CHAPTER**

## **Fall Social & Election of Officers**

**Saturday, 9 November 2013 – 11:30 - ~ 2:30PM**

**at the China Buffet in the Banquet Room**

**5623 Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights, Ca 95610 (916) 961-6888**

**COST: \$13.00/person**

Our Fall Social will be at the China Buffet, 5623 Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights, Ca (between Marie Calendars and El Torito). Cost will be **\$13.00** per person and includes the buffet with coffee, tea or soda. Beer & wine is available if you wish to purchase separately. Dress is casual. Join us for lunch and the election on November 9<sup>th</sup> and bring your stories and a friend to kick off the Holiday Season. Please fill out the form **below, or the one from our website "Forms" page**, and your reminder portion, then mail the form and your check to us by **November 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Questions? Email Dave Tarquino, [President@AFTACWCC.org](mailto:President@AFTACWCC.org) or call 916-723-7634.

*Keep this part as your reminder of what was on your registration form:*

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

My Check # \_\_\_\_\_ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. was made out to "AFTAC-WCC"

and I mailed the registration form on \_\_\_/\_\_\_/2013 to:

**AFTAC Alumni Assoc.-WCC, P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974**



[Save the above for your file]

**(Cut off here, fill out & mail the following form with your check by 3 November 2013.)**

**AFTAC Alumni Assoc. - West Coast Chapter**

**Fall Social Registration Sign-up Form**

**Saturday, 9 November 2013 - 11:30 - ~ 2:30pm**

**China Buffet Restaurant Banquet Room**

**5623 Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610**

**(Please Print Clearly)**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Total # Meals: \_\_\_\_ x \$13.00 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Make your check payable to "AFTAC-WCC" and mail it before **3 Nov 2013** along with this form to:

**AFTAC-WCC, P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974**



# AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / ROSTER UPDATE

Annual membership fee of \$10.<sup>00</sup> 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.<sup>00</sup>.

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*

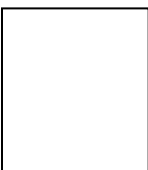
AFTAC Dates: \_\_\_\_\_  
*From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy*

**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](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) FOR THE LATEST WCC NEWS & PHOTOS



== FIRST CLASS MAIL ==



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