

Jepot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974 Email: TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org



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APRIL 2020 EDITION

A Word From The President

By Allan Pentecost

I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe during the Covid 19 Nationwide shutdown, and the Stay-At-Home order. My wife and I have been doing just that, staying at home. We have had 4 grocery deliveries and even a prescription delivery. I hope things will be starting to improve by the time this newsletter is sent out.

We needed to reschedule this year's **WCC Spring Picnic** due to the Covid 19 pandemic. **Butch Kemna** worked with the park district, and was able to reschedule the picnic for **September 12th**, at the same location, **Tempo Park**, 13125 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Citrus Heights, from **11:30am to 2:30pm**. So, mark you calendars for that date. If any additional changes need to be made to that date or time, we will let you know.

The WCC officers agreed to order an engraved 8x8 brick to support the AFTAC Memorial project. This project is explained later in this newsletter. There was limited space on the brick, so this is what we ordered for the engraving:

"AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOC. WEST COAST CHAPTER – In memory of all the men and women who died while serving in the AFTAC organization."

Again, stay safe during these difficult times. And I look forward to when we can get together again.

AFTAC Memorial

John Horsch, Fla Web

The AFTAC organization has wanted to develop a memorial to those of our comrades that died while serving with the organization. The Memorial design consists of a path leading to a sculpture, a memorial monolith and a bench. The path, comprised of bricks inlaid with the names or messages from contributors, heads West, passing our nation's Flag and chasing the sun, for the sun never sets on the AFTAC Mission, leading to the memorial monolith. Across the top of the monolith is inscribed:

"This memorial is dedicated to all those who have given their lives in support of the Long Range Detection mission, and the Air Force Technical Applications Center. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten." Since regulations would not allow an active duty component to do this, they requested help from the Alumni Association. We accepted the challenge and Maj (Ret) Lou Seiler took on the project.

A corporation had to be formed and after many, many months of dedicated work by Lou, it has become a reality. This has not been an easy task considering the dealings that were needed, not only with the various government agencies, but also finding a contractor that would provide us this service. It's unimaginable how complicated and time consuming this project has been.

Now, all preliminaries have been completed and we're in the process of getting subscribers to this memorial and either brick purchases or donations are needed to continue with this project. An eAllert was sent a while back and a posting of the Memorial was put on our website and the AFTAC Facebook clubs. If you haven't already done so, consider either as an individual or as a group to support this in one of the two ways starting by taking a look at <u>www.aftacaa.us</u> and select the Memorial Banner on the Main Page.

IN MEMORIAM

VIRGINIA N. CHAMBERLAIN d. 25-Feb-2020 in Sacramento, CA

(Received by Email from daughter, Rebecca & son-in-law, John, by Bob Fitzgerald.)



Virginia Nann (*Bowman*) **Chamberlain** passed away Feb. 25 at the age of 94 years. Mrs. Chamberlain was predeceased by two sisters, Barbara and Nelda, and her husband of 69 years, **Lt. Col. Richard E. Chamberlain***. She is survived by her three children; Richard Jr. and his wife Cheryl, Rebecca and her husband John, and Shawn; four grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and a multitude of friends.

The long-time Sacramento resident always remembered her Texas roots with pride. She enjoyed a life-long love of animals, a wide-ranging curiosity about her world, and

was quick to strike up a conversation with anyone she met. Her restless spirit flowed through creative hands into a variety of crafts, including sewing, crocheting, knitting, beadwork and baking, which she shared generously. While raising a family throughout the migratory life of an Air Force wife, she found time to volunteer with the Officers Wives Club, as a room mother in her children's schools, PTA president and Red Cross hospital Gray Lady.

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 13, at Mount Vernon Memorial Park's Church of the Valley. The family requests donations to Sacramento SPCA in lieu of flowers.

Here is a link to the above obituary published on 3/11/2020 in the Sacramento Bee newspaper: <u>https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sacbee/obituary.aspx?n=virginia-nann-</u> <u>chamberlain&pid=195662243</u>

UPDATE on Peggy J. Rheault Celebration

The April 25th Celebration Of Life for Peggy Rheault has been postponed. Watch for a rescheduled date on our <u>www.AFTACWCC.org</u> website,

AFTAC inducts 3 into famed Wall of Honor

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs / Published March 16, 2020



U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew S. Jurgens

Three former members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center at Patrick AFB, Fla., were inducted into AFTAC's Wall of Honor March 11, 2020 during a ceremony held in their honor. Pictured from left to right: **Retired Col. Donald Whitney, retired Chief Master Sgt. John T. Horsch, and retired Chief Master Sgt. Larry D. Silhanek**.

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. --

In keeping with its annual tradition, the Air Force Technical Applications Center here inducted three members onto its Wall of Honor March 11, 2020, memorializing their work that propelled the nuclear treaty monitoring center well into the 21st century.

Hosted by Col. Chad Hartman, AFTAC commander, the ceremony was held in the center's Northrup Auditorium, which is named after a 2014 charter member of the Wall of Honor, Doyle Northrup.

This year's inductees include retired Col. Donald Whitney, retired Chief Master Sgt. Larry D. Silhanek, and retired Chief Master Sgt. John T. Horsch.

Whitney began his career as an Air Force meteorologist and weather officer before becoming a pilot in the RC-130 in Vietnam. Upon his return to the U.S., he was assigned to the 9th Weather Reconnaissance Wing at McClellan AFB, Calif., which marked his first exposure to the AFTAC mission.

Throughout his career, he was well-immersed into the operational and airborne sides of the center's global responsibilities, which culminated in his direct involvement with AFTAC's role in monitoring the Threshold Test Ban Treaty, prohibiting tests that produced yields greater than 150 kilotons.

On one of Whitney's officer performance reports, his superior officer wrote, "Fostered by his leadership, Don knew the importance of the mission. He is a premier O-6 who excels in a most-demanding job."

"I worked with the best people in the Air Force," Whitney said. "The mission was important, but the people were more important. I especially loved my time spent at the center's headquarters because I was able to see all the pieces of our work around the world come together."

Silhanek's 30-year active duty career was spent exclusively as an AFTAC technician in various roles worldwide. Starting out as an electromagnetic pulse technician, he graduated at the top of his class and spent his first assignment in the South Pacific, first in Fiji, then in American Samoa. He was AFTAC's first logistics manager for the J-technique – AFTAC's system that collected and analyzed electromagnetic pulses – and had the rare opportunity to be selected as a detachment chief as a master sergeant – a role historically held by senior personnel.

Upon his retirement from the Air Force, for the next 19 years he continued to employ his vast knowledge of seismic and hydro-acoustic systems as a government contractor, greatly enhancing AFTAC's partnership with the International Monitoring System.

"As I sat and took in the magnitude of the ceremony, I found myself reflecting on my career and all the amazing officers and NCOs of all ranks I was lucky enough to work with," said Silhanek. "Seeing my name on the wall alongside my 'elders' who came before me is an incredibly humbling feeling. Thanks to everyone who made this possible."

Horsch enlisted in the Air Force in 1958 and was immediately selected to work as a special instrument technician, specializing in seismic analysis. According to his supervisors, he had an uncanny ability to recognize potential trouble areas and act accordingly to provide the most reliable data to his superiors, and he was instrumental in the development and implementation of all processing techniques.

As he achieved success in his work, he also progressed as a leader. He made rank quickly, and was rapidly put in management positions. He was AFTAC's Inspector General, Logistics Directorate superintendent, chief of an Operations Branch, and ultimately the center's Senior Enlisted Advisor. One general officer remarked on his performance report, "Chief Horsch is the pacesetter for all other noncommissioned officers in AFTAC—he's truly one of the Air Force's finest!

Horsch was overwhelmed by the outpouring of accolades. "I feel so undeserving of this honor," the retired chief master sergeant said. "I spent my whole career with AFTAC and they are as much a part of me as members of my own family. I want to thank everyone who supported me throughout my time on active duty and beyond. I couldn't be more pleased."

Addison Mitchell, AFTAC's mission software program manager, delivered the ceremony's invocation and highlighted the contributions of the inductees.

"These men have singularly and collectively played a major role in the advancement of our technologies to detect, locate, identify and report nuclear detonations around the world," Mitchell said. "We thank them for providing us with breakthroughs that can only be accomplished by personifying the Air Force core values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do."

ABOUT THE WALL

The wall was established in 2015, shortly after AFTAC's headquarters personnel moved into their new \$158 million facility, to recognize individuals who profoundly contributed to AFTAC's global mission.

"When you think about the rich heritage of this organization, you're looking into the eyes of the Airmen whose work makes us who we are today," Hartman said during the ceremony. "The complexity of the work they performed – which was cutting edge at the time – and the new and emerging technologies they oversaw illustrate the innovative culture that is deeply ingrained in AFTAC. We are honored to recognize their immeasurable contributions our global mission."

Selection to the Wall of Honor is no easy feat; AFTAC's Heritage Committee meticulously reviews dozens of nomination packages of former scientists, analysts, engineers and technicians, while only three per year are considered for induction. The committee looks for nominees who demonstrated great character and whose actions truly discriminated them from thousands of other center employees, both military and civilian.

"The AFTAC Wall of Honor not only recognizes the tremendous contributions of our former members who played such a vital role in our historic mission, but it gives our more junior personnel an opportunity to see the giants upon whose shoulders we stand today," said Dr. Mike Young, AFTAC Historian. "In the seven decades of our long range detection mission of monitoring foreign nuclear tests and arms control treaties, many of our Airmen and civilians have pioneered remarkable technologies that have enabled AFTAC to be so successful. This ceremony formally acknowledges their tremendous contributions and leadership."

Pandemic can't stop AFTAC's innovative Airmen

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs / Published April 09, 2020

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- As cleaning and disinfecting supplies rapidly disappeared from store shelves and warehouse stockrooms, demand far outweighed the availability of these products to protect against COVID-19.

The Air Force Technical Applications Center at Patrick AFB, Fla., was no different. As the nuclear treaty monitoring agency prepared to sanitize the center to protect the health and well-being of its workforce against the growing pandemic, supply technicians realized the amount of standard cleaning products in their inventory was at a minimum. So what does the organization that's charged with conducting vital 'round-the-clock operations do to ensure its Airmen are safe? One word: **Innovate**.

AFTAC is home to the Ciambrone Radiochemistry Laboratory, a one-of-a-kind Air Force facility that identifies radiologic or nuclear debris in support of the U.S. Nuclear Debris Collection and Analysis Program. To perform its mission, the laboratory must be able to precisely isolate and purify specific radionuclides from a variety of environmental samples. Scientists who work at the radiochemistry lab frequently rely on ethanol as a reagent to assist in this process.

To adhere to guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and by direction of the AFTAC commander, members of AFTAC's Safety Office and techs from Ciambrone teamed up to develop a solution using existing chemicals the lab already had it its inventory.

"One of the most commonly used reagents in almost any chemistry lab is ethanol," said Senior Airman John Mullaney, sample control technician. "So Senior Airman (Ethan) Rumble and I took the 100 percent ethanol liquid we use for lab operations and diluted it down to a 70-percent solution using deionized water. Once we had the right concentration, we filled spray bottles with the diluted ethanol and provided them to the assigned cleaning crews."

AFTAC Airmen then used the solution to wipe down door handles, computer keyboards, telephone handsets, elevator buttons, tables, break room countertops, and other commonly touched areas within the center to reduce the risk of contamination.

"The ethanol solution was allowed to naturally evaporate and the vapors to dissipate before the next team of workers were allowed in that area," said Maj. Hershel Lackey, lab director of operations. "While we waited for the surfaces to dry, the team documented the precise amount of solution that was used in a specific area and senior leaders were notified that the area was fully disinfected."

The team took their ingenuity one step further. They realized the lab supplies could also be used to disinfect the rest rooms and floors throughout the headquarters building as well as in the lab, which allowed for uninterrupted mission flow without putting Airmen in harm's way or inadvertently furthering the spread of the virus by having a contracted crew to come into the facility for general purpose cleaning.

"When faced with adversity, you will not find a smarter, more innovative group of men and women than you will here at the Air Force Technical Applications Center," said Col. Andy Steffen, commander of the 709th Surveillance and Analysis Group. "AFTAC was in a hard place with limited cleaning supplies, and we knew it would be weeks – possibly months – before the supply chain would catch up to the demand. I am always amazed at the resourcefulness of the folks who work here. They got the job done and they did it exceedingly well, and I'm incredibly proud of them and their efforts."

Lackey praised the AFTAC Safety team for their invaluable oversight as well.

"Joy Morris and Sara Kroll were instrumental in ensuring we followed all required OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) guidelines," the major said. "This was truly a team effort across the board, and we definitely demonstrated one way to 'flatten the curve' while fighting the virus."

Our Fellow 16th Air Force Units

by Don King, Newsletter Editor

The <u>9th Reconnaissance Wing</u> provides strategic and tactical high-altitude imagery, signals, and ground moving target indicator collection to the highest levels of national leadership. The wing comprises four groups at Beale and multiple overseas operating locations supporting seven combatant commands, while operating and maintaining the Air Force's fleet of U-2 and RQ-4 aircraft across the globe. The 9th RW mission is to train, deploy, and employ 9th RW Airmen and assets to deliver globally integrated high altitude reconnaissance in support of national objectives.

The <u>55th Wing</u> conducts a global flying mission providing worldwide reconnaissance, treaty verification, and agile combat support to national leadership and warfighters across the spectrum of conflict. The wing comprises five groups, 31 squadrons, and two detachments to execute missions from home base and operating locations around the world. Additionally, the wing partners with NSA, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the Royal Air Force to provide dominant ISR, employ attack capabilities, deliver secure and survivable command and control, enable national treaty verification activities, and provide global presidential support. The 55th WG mission is to provide global information and electronic warfare dominance... any time, any place.

The <u>67th Cyberspace Wing</u>, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, is aligned under Sixteenth Air Force, Air Combat Command. The wing is the Air Force's newest combat wing, serving as Sixteenth Air Force/Air Forces Cyber's execution arm for generating, projecting, and sustaining combat power with the employment of the Cyberspace Vulnerability Assessment/Hunter weapon system.

The <u>70th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing</u> at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, conducts global ISR in air, space, and cyberspace. The wing comprises six groups, 21 squadrons, and six detachments across 36 operating locations. Additionally, wing Airmen predominantly work alongside National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command professionals in support of national intelligence needs; and build partnerships across the intelligence community in support of Air Force requirements. The 70 ISRW mission is to execute global signals, cyber, and space ISR for national decision makers and combatant commanders.

The <u>319th Reconnaissance Wing</u> delivers air, space, and cyberspace capabilities to combatant commands. The wing comprises two groups and nine squadrons operating globally. Additionally, the wing supports the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Office of Air and Marine–North Dakota Air Branch and its National Air Security Operations Center. The CBP operates MQ-9 Predator B aircraft out of Grand Forks and provides high-quality streaming video to first responders. The 319th Communication Squadron operates the High Frequency Global Communications System, providing operational support of senior leader communications for all DoD agencies, including the President of the United States. The 319th RW is responsible for providing the infrastructure and operational support to the 69th Reconnaissance Group's RQ-4 Global Hawk mission

The <u>363d Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing</u> at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, conducts lethal, resilient, and ready operations in four core missions areas: analysis for air, space, and cyber operations; full-spectrum targeting; special operations ISR; and ISR testing, tactics development, and advanced training. The wing comprises three groups and two detachments with a footprint spanning 15 states, England, and Japan. The 363d ISRW produces tailored geospatial and comprehensive threat analysis products to Air Force units employing air power. The wing's mission is to deliver integrated content-dominant analytical expertise, precision targeting, production, and special operations ISR support to the operational and tactical warfighter enabling combat power in air, space, and cyberspace.

The 480th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, provides a comprehensive set of ISR capabilities for the Air Force Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS), as well as the national cryptologic, information technology, cyber ISR, tactical analysis, Combined Forces Air Component Commander (CFACC)-support, and national-to-tactical signals intelligence integration. The wing comprises six groups, 23 squadrons, and three detachments operating in four locations. The 480th ISRW is functionally aligned to span the full spectrum of ISR operations, from humanitarian assistance to major theater conflict, leveraging federated mission partners to synchronize timely, relevant intelligence regionally aligned to support combatant command operations.

The <u>557th Weather Wing</u>, headquartered at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, is the Air Force's only weather wing. Comprised of 1,450 personnel and spanning 19 globally dispersed locations, the mission of the 557th Weather Wing is to exploit timely, accurate, and relevant weather information anytime and everywhere on the globe. This is accomplished through around-the-clock authoritative terrestrial and space-environmental data, analyses, forecasts, threat-warning and threat-mitigation products and services for the Department of Defense, the National Intelligence Community, White House Situation Room, interagency, and allied and coalition partners around the world. The 557th empowers decision makers to "Choose the weather for battle" and achieve our nation's objectives.

The 688th Cyberspace Wing, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, is aligned under Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber), Air Combat Command. The wing is the Air Force's premier cyberspace warfighting organization dedicated to delivering actionable intelligence and tactics, techniques, and procedures, deployable warfighter communications, engineering and installation capabilities, defensive cyber operations, and network security operations across the Air Force Information Network enterprise. **Mission:** Engineer, build, operate, secure, defend and extend the Air Force cyberspace domain to enable and assure Air Force core missions and the Joint fight. **Vision:** High performance team

committed to each other, mission assurance and cyberspace dominance!

EVENTS CALENDAR

(By Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster)

Our General Business Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of March, June, September & December at 7:00 PM at the Lionsgate Restaurant in McClellan Park. The meetings usually last an hour or less. All AFTAC alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend. The date of our next meeting is currently scheduled for <u>June 8th</u> but always check our <u>www.AFTACWCC.org</u> website "Events" page to confirm the date, time & location in case of last minute changes, especially during this time of the COVID-19 virus epidemic.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS:

<u>Saturday, 16 May 2020, 11:30am-2:30pm</u>. Our annual "Armed Forces Day WCC SPRING PICNIC & BBQ" is <u>RESCHEDULED</u> for Saturday, September 12th due to the COVID-19 virus epidemic. Optimistically, we have rescheduled the picnic for this new date in hopes that the virus "stay-at-home" orders will have passed by then so that we can gather together again. Watch for the required signup form in the July issue of this newsletter and on our website "Events" page for the same form plus any changes and updated details.

Saturday, 14 Nov 2020, 11:30am-2:00pm will be our "FALL SOCIAL" luncheon event. Details regarding this will be published later in upcoming Depot Fallout newsletters and on our website. Having this event will also depend on the status of the virus & the "stay-at-home" orders. Stay in, stay well, and keep the faith. The Lord willing, this too will pass!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Dave Price, Membership Chairman

<u>As of MAR 8, 2020</u>

Total Active Members = 142 Life Members = 139. Welcome to Scheffler, Terrence N. SMSGT Retd as a new Life Member. AFTAC Jul 66 - May 72 Aug 74 - Mar 78

Annual membership fee of \$10 is due by <u>01 Jan</u> 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.

"www.AFTACWCC.org"

Website Quarterly Activity Report for the period 1 Jan 2020 – 31 Mar 2020 Submitted 2-Apr-2020 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

Visitors	Highest	Total	Most Popular*	Next Most Popular*
<u>This Quarter</u>	Visitors Week	<u>Sessions</u>	Page (# <mark>Sessions</mark>)	Page (# <mark>Sessions</mark>)
2,828	3/09-3/15 (345)	3,106	Albums** (353)	Departed (343)

Notes: * Does not include our 'Home' page, which almost always is the most popular page.
** The 19May2018 Picnic Photo Slideshow was the most popular this quarter with the Departed page not far behind. The "Links" page was also popular this quarter at 306 sessions.

Visitors: This evaluation shows how many visitors accessed our website. Visitors are uniquely identified on the basis of the IP address and the browser ID. If a visitor goes to our website more than once a day, only one visitor is counted.

Sessions: This evaluation shows the number of sessions. A session starts when a visitor accesses our website and ends when he or she leaves it. A session ends automatically after 30 minutes without activity. **If a visitor goes to our website more than once a day, multiple sessions are counted**.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / ROSTER UPDATE

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

TECH OPS DIV

