



Depot Fallout

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



⇒ **OCTOBER 2015 EDITION** ⇐

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LOOK US UP AT
www.AFTACWCC.org

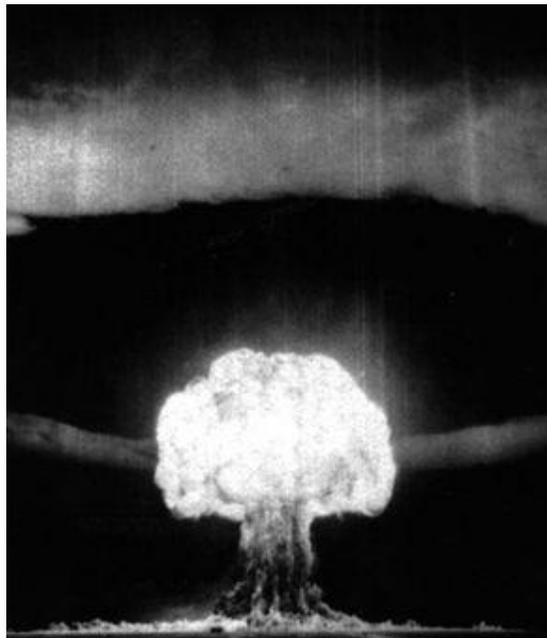
A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Dave Tarquino, WCC President

Our Fall Social is quickly approaching. Mark 14 November on your calendars. We're looking forward to trying a new venue this year... Sam's Hof Brau. It has been a favorite spot for AFTACer's for decades and the cuisine hasn't changed much in all those years. Please join us for some great comfort food and most certainly great camaraderie. Our elections are upon us and we will be voting for a slate of officers at the Fall Social. Ken Denbleyker and his team have put together a slate of candidates for us to vote on. Have a safe and merry Holiday season.

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. Our next business meeting is 14-December at 7:00 PM at the Lions Gate Hotel, at McClellan Park.

JOE-4



The Soviet Union detonates a **400 kiloton** thermonuclear weapon at the Semipalatinsk Test Site, Kazakhstan, in August 1953. Dubbed Joe-4 by the west, the bomb was significant because **it was a deliverable thermonuclear device** — a milestone the U.S. would not reach until May 1956. (Photo courtesy of the Nuclear Weapons Archive)

CALL FOR ACTION

Please consider volunteering to serve the WCC in whatever way that you are moved to contribute by filling in the following form.

NOMINATIONS/VOLUNTEER for WCC OFFICE POSITIONS for the term Dec 2015 thru Nov 2017

ELECTED OFFICIALS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:	NOMINATION	or	VOLUNTEER
COB <i>Chmn of Board Of Directors:</i>	[] _____	[] _____	_____
Asst COB:	[] _____	[] _____	_____
Director At Large:	[] _____	[] _____	_____
WCC President:	[] _____	[] _____	_____
OFFICERS:	NOMINATION	or	VOLUNTEER
Vice President:	[] _____	[] _____	_____
Treasurer:	[] _____	[] _____	_____
Asst Treasurer:	[] _____	[] _____	_____
Secretary:	[] _____	[] _____	_____
Asst Secretary:	[] _____	[] _____	_____

APPOINTED-VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

These positions may be added to, changed and/or filled by the newly elected Board Of Directors

POSITION	INCUMBENT	or	NOMINATION/VOLUNTEER
Membership Chmn	[] Dave Price	[] _____	_____
Asst Mbrshp Chmn	(vacant)	[] _____	_____
Newsletter Editor	[] Don King	[] _____	_____
Asst NL Editor	(vacant)	[] _____	_____
Pub/Distribution Chmn	[] (vacant)	[] _____	_____
Website Administrator	[] Dave Tarquino	[] _____	_____
Webmaster/Asst Admin	[] Bob Fitzgerald	[] _____	_____
Asst Webmaster	(vacant)	[] _____	_____

The names you submit will be included in the election which will be held at the WCC Fall Social in November 2015. Thank you! Fill out and mail this form to:

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

Please be sure your name & address is legible on the outside of the envelope.

MEMORY TIME

by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor

What is the most amusing thing that you can recall from your time in AFTAC? Who do you remember as a special AFTAC person? How would you compare AFTAC to other assignments that you have had? Did you meet your spouse while at AFTAC and, if so, how? Are there any AFTACers from the same family? Who was your favorite commander and why? What were some of the humanitarian things that you did while with AFTAC

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.)

WEBSITE ACTIVITY REPORT

["www.AFTACWCC.org"](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)

Website Activity Report for the period 1 Jul 2015 – 30 Sep 2015

Submitted 04-Oct-2015 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

<u>Month</u>	<u>Unique Visits</u>	<u>Highest Visit Day(#Visits)</u>	<u>Mo. Average Visits/Day</u>	<u>Most Popular* Page (#Visits)</u>	<u>Next Most Popular* Page</u>
Jul 2015	5,878	07/02 (525)	190	Albums** (904)	Albums*** (678)
Aug 2015	6,678	08/15 (308)	215	Albums** (203)	Apr'15 Fallout (158)
Sep 2015	5,855	09/26 (366)	195	Albums ^X (352)	Albums ** (161)

Notes: * Does not include our 'Home' page, which almost always is the most popular page.

The "16May2015 Picnic Albums" (**Fitzgerald & ***Denbleyker, respectively) were by far the most popular for July, with the picnic album by Fitzgerald the most popular page again in August and second most in Sep.

^XThe "17May2014 Picnic Album" was the most popular again in Sep. Our "Links" page still gets a lot of visits.

. Don't see your favorite organization linked from our website? If so, contact me with the URL. Just email your Webmaster at, Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org. I'm always open to suggestions for new content, page designs, & any help offered. Thanks, Bob

WHO SAID THAT?

by Dale Klug, Editor Emeritus

- >> Every journey begins with a single hop.
- >> Always love the one who's looking at you in the mirror.
- >> Never go bog snorkeling immediately after eating. Not only do you get cramps, but your stomach makes these distracting sounds that sound just like mud sharks in heat.
- >> The most important thing in life is to have a good friend who believes in you and laughs at your jokes, even when they are not funny. The second most important thing in life is to get better jokes.
- >> Life can be a party, but you should never go dressed as a piñata, it hurts a lot. And always leave just before it's time to clean up.
- >> *Faarnll gernickee de boodle-doo un der fluupin zing der fnark dee tuuffiee der smacken, youbetcha!* (TRANSLATION: When the going gets tough, get tenderizer!).

Do you think you know who the above quotes came from? Send your best guess to: dkconsulting@juno.com
July 2015's quotes were from Bob Monkhouse, Mark Helprin, Aldus Huxley, Anonymous, Elbert Hubbard, Joseph Addison, the Dalai Lama and Josh Billings. I received responses from **Bob Baker & Jim Giordano** who got them all correct.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As of 10 Sep-2015

Total Active Members = 149 Life Members = 137

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.)

Big Ivan, The Tsar Bomba ("King of Bombs")

The World's Largest Nuclear Weapon

The Soviet Political Bomb

. by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor

The Time: 11:32 AM 30 October 1961 (Moscow Time)

The Place: Mityushikha Bay test range, test field D-2, Novaya Zemlya Island (located above the arctic circle in the Arctic Sea).

The Method: Parachute retarded airburst, 4000 m altitude



Like the entire Soviet 1961 test series in which it was conducted, the creation of the Tsar Bomba was the result of political calculation by the Soviet leadership, especially of Premier Nikita Khrushchev. A de facto moratorium had existed between the U.S., USSR and UK since the conclusion of the last U.S. and Soviet test series in 1958, and two years of discussion had been conducted regarding formal limitations on nuclear testing. But the Cold War continued at high pitch, with the occasional reductions in tension being only partial and transitory phenomena. Many high-stakes cards remained to be played by the Soviets - the erection of the Berlin Wall and the deployment of missiles to Cuba being notable examples. The decision to break the moratorium with a "testing spectacular" that coincided with the Twenty Second Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was a move cast in the same mold.

Khrushchev called a meeting with the "atomic scientists" - the leaders of the weapons program - on 10 July 1961. There was no discussion of whether more tests were necessary or desirable. Khrushchev simply began the meeting with a speech declaring that tests would resume in the fall to 'show the imperialists what we could do', a decision that came as a surprise to the scientists present. Khrushchev specifically cited as the primary motivation a political rather than a technical justification. Since preparation of the 100 megaton bomb only began after the 10 July meeting at which Khrushchev ordered the test series be held, no more than 112 days elapsed from initial concept to detonation - exactly 16 weeks. By the mid-August review, held after 13 August (after the Berlin Wall had been built) and thus after about 4 weeks of work, they had decided to test a reduced yield "clean" version of the device with a yield of 50 megatons. At this review Khrushchev said that he had already disclosed the planned test of this device to visiting dignitaries from the U.S. Khrushchev went public regarding the planned superbomb test with the announcement of the new test series issued simultaneously with the first shot fired on 1 September 1961

In preparing its estimate of the bomb's yield the U.S. had data about the test that was collected surprisingly close at hand. With the advance notice of Khrushchev's announcement, and the other tests in the series, a crash program code-named *Speedlight* was organized at the behest of Hebert Scoville (Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee chairman) and Gerald Johnson (assistant to the Secretary of Defense for atomic energy). A KC-135 Stratotanker was modified to carry broadband electromagnetic and special optical equipment (which would have included a high-speed photometer called a "bhangmeter"). The modification was carried out under the supervision of Doyle Northrup by an Air Force unit headquartered at Wright-Patterson AFB called "Big Safari." The plane was ready for overseas deployment to its staging base by 27 October. Crossing over the Arctic Ocean, *Speedlight* was able to get quite close to the detonation point; close enough that the fuselage suffered scorching (suggesting it was closer than the 45 km separation of the Tu-95 drop aircraft).

The Results:

The 50-Mt bomb tested on 30 October 1961 was never a weapon. This was a one-of-a-kind device, whose design allowed it to achieve a yield of up to 100 megatons when fully loaded with nuclear fuel.

The tested 50 Mt clean version would have been a plausible weapon though, since it could be delivered by Tu-95 in Europe, and the reduced yield and the relative lack of fallout would have made it much easier to find targets in Europe where it could be used without devastating effects on the Warsaw Pact itself.

A well known phenomenon in atmospheric explosions is the "double flash": an initial rapid peak in brightness that quickly drops, followed by a much slower rise to a second peak in luminosity that lasts much longer. The two peaks are similar to total luminosity, but as the second peak lasts 100 times as long, it accounts for 99% of the emitted light and thermal radiation.

Another interesting feature is the effect of the shock wave reflected from the ground striking the bottom of the fireball. Simply from fireball radius scaling laws, one would expect the fireball to reach down and engulf the ground around the hypocenter ("ground zero"). In fact, the shock wave reaches the ground before the fireball expansion can, and bounces upward, striking the bottom of the fireball, flattening it and driving it upward, thus preventing actual contact with the ground

Despite the very substantial burst height of 4,000 m (13,000 ft) the vast fireball reached down to the Earth, and swelled upward to nearly the height of the release plane. The blast pressure below the burst point was 300 PSI, six times the peak pressure experienced at Hiroshima. The flash of light was so bright that it was visible at a distance of 1,000 kilometers, despite cloudy skies. One participant in the test saw a bright flash through dark goggles and felt the effects of a thermal pulse even at a distance of 270 km

A shock wave in air was observed at Dickson settlement at 700 km; windowpanes were partially broken to distances of 900 km. All buildings in Severny (both wooden and brick), at a distance of 55 km, were completely destroyed. In districts hundreds of kilometers from ground zero, wooden houses were destroyed, and stone ones lost their roofs, windows and doors; and radio communications were interrupted for almost one hour. The atmospheric disturbance generated by the explosion orbited the earth three times. A gigantic mushroom cloud rose as high as 64 kilometers (210,000 ft).

Despite being exploded in the atmosphere, it generated substantial seismic signals. According to a bulletin of the U.S. Geological Survey it had seismic magnitude $m_b = 5.0$ to 5.25. The blast wave was detected circling the world.

Food For Thought

A 100 Mt weapon can level urban areas in a zone 60 km wide, cause heavy damage in a zone 100 km across, cause 3rd degree burns in a region 170 km across (only a bit smaller than the width of West Germany) and eye damage to 220 km. Such a weapon can only be used as a means of destroying an entire urban region. This scale of destruction is much larger than any discrete urban area in Western Europe. With its dense settlement, use of such a weapon in Europe is equivalent to an attack on a major portion of an entire nation and its population. Fallout from a low altitude or surface burst in central England could produce lethal exposures extending into East European nations.

AFTAC CHANGE OF COMMAND



Maj. Gen. John N.T. Shanahan (left), commander of 25th Air Force, congratulates **Col. Jennifer P. Sovada** on her assumption of command of the Air Force Technical Applications Center June 19, 2015. Sovada is taking the reins from outgoing AFTAC commander, Col. Christopher A. Worley, after his three-year tour was completed at Patrick AFB, Fla. (U.S. Air Force photo by Susan A. Romano)



Col. Christopher A. Worley delivers his final remarks as commander of the Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick AFB, Fla., during his change of command ceremony June 19, 2015. Worley relinquished command to Col. Jennifer P. Sovada, after he completed a three-year tour as the nuclear treaty monitoring center's top officer. (U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew Jurgens)



Col. Jennifer P. Sovada, delivers her remarks after assuming command of the Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick AFB, Fla., June 19, 2015. She succeeds Col. Christopher A. Worley as the top officer of the Department of Defense's sole nuclear treaty monitoring center. (U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew Jurgens)

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOC. – WEST COAST CHAPTER

2015 Fall Social

Saturday, 14 November 2015 – 11:30 - ~ 1:30PM

at Sam's Hof Brau

2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento, Ca 95821 (916) 482-2175

COST: You pay them after you go through the food line.

Sam's has a lot of good food and a full bar. Refer to <http://www.thehofbrau.com/menu> for menu items and prices. Dress is casual. Join us for lunch and the election of officers on November 14th and bring your Election Nomination Form with you if you haven't already submitted it.

Space is limited to 40 so please fill out the form below, or the one from our www.AFTACWCC.org website "Forms" page, and your reminder portion, and then mail the form to us by November 7th.

Questions? Email Dave Tarquino, President@AFTACWCC.org, or call 916-723-7634.

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

Names: _____

I mailed the registration form on ___/___/2015 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 by 7 November 2015.)

AFTAC Alumni Assoc. - West Coast Chapter
2015 Fall Social Registration Sign-up Form
for Saturday, 14 November 2015 - 11:30 - ~ 1:30pm
at Sam's Hof Brau
2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento, CA 95821

(Please Print Clearly)

Name(s): _____

Total # attending: ___

Mail this registration form by 7 Nov 2015 to:

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



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 ==



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