



Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter
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www.AFTACWCC.org

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Dave Tarquino, WCC President

WCC FALL SOCIAL

By Dave Tarquino

We held our Fall Social at Sam's Hof Brau on 14 November. It's an old favorite featuring comfort food but a different venue for our get together and it was a big hit. Thirty-four members (photos attached) attended to kick off the Holiday Season. Thanks to Bob Fitzgerald for taking the photos.

ATTENTION WCC ALUMNI **2017 AFTAC WORLDWIDE REUNION** **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

By Dave Tarquino

It's time to put a reunion committee together. A committee chairperson plus at least six members are necessary to get the job done right. **All seven committee members must be identified by the 14 March Board meeting.** The board will make a go/no go decision to host a reunion at that meeting based on sufficient volunteers coming forward. Our "Departed" page tells the story. Many of our members that could have been counted on for support have passed away. The rest of us aren't getting any younger. So come on folks..... Squeeze out one last bash. Let's give 'er one last **HOORAH.** **There will not be a reunion unless at least seven volunteers come forward.** Please contact Vice President Joe Johnson to volunteer.

WHAT McCLELLAN MEANS TO US

by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor

(McClellan Field, Pacific Air Depot, Sacramento Air Depot, Coast Guard Air Station Sacramento)

McClellan AFB has far more meaning to the men and women of AFTAC than to anyone else in the entire history of that installation. Many remarkable events took place there, but none were as shrouded in secrecy or of greater importance than our mission.

“The US Army McClellan Field was 10 miles northeast of Sacramento. In 1935, at the time it was established, it was known as Pacific Air Depot and was one of only four such air depots in the country. In 1938 the base was renamed Sacramento Air Depot and underwent a major expansion as a repair and overhaul facility for P-38 and P-39 fighter planes. The planes were serviced on an assembly line basis. In 1940 an assembly line was added to overhaul P-40 fighters. In December 1941, soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor, P40s, B-26s and B-17s began arriving at the field to be armed and prepared for immediate shipment overseas. Some B-17s came direct to McClellan from the factories. During this time most of the Army Air Forces planes that went to the Pacific Theater were prepared at McClellan”. Source: www.militarymuseum.org

The Doolittle Raid Preparation

On 26 March 1942, Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle's B-25s flew from Florida to McClellan for arming in preparation for their famous Tokyo raid. On 31 March 1942 they flew to [NAS, Alameda](#) to be loaded aboard the aircraft carrier "Hornet".

1009th SWS

On 3 February 1948 McClellan Field became McClellan AFB.

On 28 Aug., 1948, the 51st Air Force Base Unit was redesignated the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron. The 1009th SWS was assigned to Headquarters Command, U.S. Air Force. Located at the far northwest corner on the base, you passed through a security station prior to driving on a loop road around the end of the runway. Just prior to arriving at the base entrance at that location, you turned left into the parking lot and there was this simple two-story building with a single story wing to the right of the building entrance. You passed through the mailroom and turned left for the A lab and right for the C operations. You could also go upstairs to the office area, which included a large conference room with windows. This was back when you literally went to paycall to get your cash and not a check! We didn't have any kind of a fence to enclose it and no sign on it, so it seemed like just another of the Depot maintenance buildings. Secrecy was uppermost in our minds.

The enlisted barracks was on the third floor of one of the new barracks at the entrance. The 55th AWS was on the two floors below us. After spending years in ATC at Lowry in open bays and sleeping on the standard Spanish-American War steel cot with the two inch thick “mattress”, it was great to be in a two or three man room with real beds! We had closets that closed and a multi-drawer dresser rather than a foot locker in which we could keep our stuff. The chow hall was a short walk away and we didn't pull KP! I mean, it didn't get any better than that!

The walk to the Chapel and the theater led past the officer's housing including the base and wing commanders as well as headquarters.. Since all that still exists, it is great to relive those feelings when we have the reunions there every six years.

For the SEO's, the many hours spent on the flight line doing maintenance in hot and cold weather on B-50's, the squadron C-47 and the legendary YC-121 Super Connie are filled with the smell of exhaust and literally hours of sweat! We went out to TDY sites many times, but it always felt good to be back on our home turf. Playing sports, sports car racing, fibreglassing the hull of our cabin cruiser, and picnics to be remembered are just a few of the memories.

So there we have it. We were the 1009th except for the remote detachments. Each day dawned without knowing what might occur. We went about our normal business with a spirit of camaraderie that was the exception in the USAF rather than the rule. And here we are, 60 years and more later, still imbued with that feeling of comradeship and pride in being part of a global mission. We treasure our memories and friendships. We all know that we would do it all again and answer to the call of duty that it was our honor to serve.

WEBSITE ACTIVITY REPORT

“www.AFTACWCC.org”

Website Activity Report for the period 1 Oct 2015 – 31 Dec 2015

Submitted 02-Jan-2016 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>
Oct 2015	6,634	10/02 (828)	214	Albums** (597)	Albums** (409)
Nov 2015	6,618	11/16 (588)	221	Albums*** (234)	Links (140)
Dec 2015	5,473	12/10 (249)	177	Departed (309)	Links (157)

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

In Oct, the **16May2015 Picnic Album by Fitzgerald was the most popular & the one by Denbleyker the 2nd most.

***In Nov, the **14Nov2014 Fall Social Album** by Fitzgerald was the most popular. Our 'Links' page does well every month.

Our "Links" page always does quite well. If you don't see your favorite organization linked from our website, contact me with the URL. Just email your Webmaster at, Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org. Also, I'm always open to suggestions for new content, page designs, & any assistance offered. Thanks, Bob



WHO SAID THAT?

(In the spirit of the New Year)

by Dale Klug, Editor Emeritus

- >> If human beings were meant to start diets on New Year's Day, there wouldn't be a Rose Bowl game.
- >> With kids, the days are long, but the years are short.
- >> People often overestimate what will happen in the next two years and then underestimate what will happen in ten.
- >> In my many years I have come to the conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress.
- >> Years wrinkle the skin, but lack of enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.
- >> Health is the thing that makes you feel that now is the best time of the year.
- >> I haven't taught people in 50 years what my father taught me by example in one week.
- >> A year from now, you'll wish you had started today.

October 2015's quotes were from Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, The Great Gonzo, Fozzie Bear, Pepe the King Prawn, and The Swedish Chef. I received a response **Jim Giordano** who got them all correct.

Do you think you know who the above quotes came from? Send your best guess to: dkconsulting@juno.com.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As of 12-Dec-2015

Total Active Members = 150 Life Members = 137

The lifetime membership remains @ 137. The Total increased by one (to 150) with the addition of Terrence Scheffler. **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.)

MEMORY TIME

. by Don King, WCC Newsletter Editor

Who are all of these kids and what were they up to?



L-R back row: Joe Johnson, Jack Allison, Cal Brown, Jim Esping, Bart Carter, Dale Klug, Bob Fitzgerald
Front row: Nick Charles, Susan Spencer, Harm Anning, George Thompson, Lew Milligan Jr., Orv Pritchard

Isn't it amazing how no one changes over a mere 17 years? What was going on in the lives of these individuals that made them interested, no, dedicated to making that reunion a truly memorable event? Could it be the fact that the mission was still alive and being served by young men and women of a totally new generation? Men and women who had not grown up under the daily thought of what the Soviet Union might be up to on any particular day? Could it also be the lifelong friendships that had developed amid a wide variety of circumstances? The yearning to ask "What are you doing these days?" "How did it feel back then?" "Do you remember when ...?" "How about the time that ...!" And except for the departed comrades, they are still going about making the next reunion the best ever! There are very few opportunities to grasp an essence like this in our mortal lives. Once, every six years, we get to emulate them. Those are all smiles in the photo. Well done thy good and faithful servants.

FLORIDA CHAPTER POSTINGS

10.31 Posting. Scouts from three Florida counties converge at AFTAC to earn nuke badge

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla

For the fourth time in as many years, members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center hosted a workshop for area Boy Scouts Oct. 24 in an effort to help them earn the Nuclear Science Merit Badge. Forty-four scouts from Orange, Indian River and Brevard counties – 11 troops in all – traveled to Patrick AFB to learn about the Department of Defense's sole nuclear treaty monitoring center and listen to center volunteers talk about nuclear science. The boys began the morning in a classroom setting, where they received a welcome briefing from Lt. Col. Suzanna McNabb, deputy of AFTAC's nuclear sciences division, and an introduction to what a nuclear treaty monitoring center actually does. After the briefing and a question-and-answer session, the boys began constructing 3-D models of elements and isotopes using gummy bears; learning the nuclear fission process; and creating cloud chambers out of petri dishes. Throughout the day, each scout was required to make written entries in their handbooks, which included observations, notes from each presentation, and what they learned during the hands-on practicals. Their materials were reviewed for thoroughness and accuracy, and if all criteria were met, they received their signed merit badge cards, officially awarding them their Nuclear Science Merit Badge.

10.22 Posting. Block by block, AFTAC's former 'home' is demolished

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla

Florida's scenic eastern shoreline thoroughfare – Highway A1A – is replete with highly recognizable structures stretching from Jacksonville to Miami. Cocoa Beach, home to Patrick AFB, is not alone in that recognition. But one structure that has graced the roadway since the mid-1950s will soon be no more. The Air Force Technical Applications Center's former headquarters building, which sat 90 yards from the Atlantic Ocean along the coastal highway, has been undergoing demolition since August, nearly 18 months after AFTAC personnel relocated to their new, \$158 million facility just west of its former location. Hensel Phelps, the project's main contractor, is responsible for the demolition, a process that includes the tear down itself, hauling away the debris, and ultimately grading the real estate, making it esthetically-appealing and congruous to other on-base surroundings.

10.17 Posting. Nuclear Treaty Monitoring Center activates five new squadrons

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.

The Air Force Technical Applications Center here activated five newly-designated squadrons this week as the center takes steps to reorganize after becoming a wing equivalent in August 2014. The ceremonies were historic events for the center as well as the Air Force. AFTAC was first organized in 1959 as the 1035th U.S. Air Force Field Activities Group. For the next several years, five technical operations squadrons carried out specific portions of the nuclear treaty monitoring mission. In 1980, the 1035th was renamed the Air Force Technical Applications Center and became a direct reporting unit to Headquarters Air Force. The squadrons were deactivated at that time. Now that AFTAC falls under Air Combat Command (major command) and 25th Air Force (numbered Air Force), leadership reasoned that as a wing equivalent, the squadron structure should be revived and returned to AFTAC's unit composition. A squadron is the Air Force's most basic unit, responsible for critical, day-to-day operations – it's where the job gets done. Each new squadron held an activation and assumption of command ceremony, with an Air Force field grade officer respectively taking command.

CALL FOR STORIES

. 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?

TOD FINALE



**Capt Samantha Franceschi Lt Col Ken Denbleyker MSgt Richard Perez
Sheathing the TOD Guidon for the last time**

The Technical Operations Division (TOD) was first named on 1 July 1960 as the 1155th Technical Operations Squadron and then renamed the TOD. The change from the 1035th U.S. Air Force Field Activities Group in 1959 from the 1009th was a recognition of the unique performance of A/1C Donald King who arrived at the 1009th in April 1958 and was discharged on 29 June 1960. TOD further reflected the nature of his service and endured until 30 September 1999. In other words, the unit kept trying to distance itself from Airman King by renaming itself whenever possible, perhaps because of his conduct at the Valhalle in Wiesbaden, Germany on TDY with Connie, or was it with the Connie? Ah well, that story probably best remains shrouded in the mists of time. The photo below shows the satisfaction of 39 years without King!



Lt Col Ken Denbleyker and MSgt Richard Perez

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. It is a also great time for the kind of informal get togethers that we had when we were on active duty at a site or on TDY somewhere, or when we are in the hospitality rooms during a reunion.

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

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSN – WCC 2015 ANNUAL FALL SOCIAL At Sam's Hof Brau in Sacramento, CA - 14 Nov 2015



Bob & Tommie Baker,
Dorothy & John Lanigan .



Pattye & Don Lemmon, 'Butch', Donna, →
Ginny Chamberlain, Laurie Kemna



Al Pavik, Donna Fritts, 'Butch' Kemna,
Laura Horne, Ann Pavik



Nancy & Dave Price,
Chum & Dennis Nolan



Peggy Armintrout, Carol Morrison,
Denbleyker's, Alice & Cal Brown →



Suki Tarquino, Cathy & Ken Denbleyker,
Joe Johnson & Son Bob, Dave Tarquino



Bob & Darlene Fitzgerald



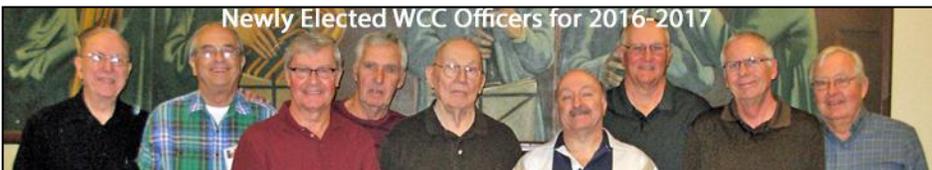
John & Corrine Miner



Raymond Yee, Ken Breitwieser,
and Denise Dermenjian



Thirty-four AFTAC Alumni + one guest attended the Fall Social Luncheon & Election



Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster; **Bob Baker**, Secretary; **Ken Breitwieser**, Asst Scty; **Butch Kemna**, Treasurer; **Joe Johnson**, V.P.; **Ken Denbleyker**, Chmn of the Bd; **Dave Tarquino**, Asst. CoB; **Dennis Nolan**, Dir At Large; **Dave Price**, Membership Chmn.
(Note: WCC President & Asst. Treasurer positions are vacant.)

The 2015
Fall Social Luncheon
was arranged by
Dave Tarquino,
WCC President 3/2012-12/2015

(An Election of WCC Officers for the 2-year
term
2016-2017 was also held at the Fall Social.)

Photos by
Bob Fitzgerald

See these enlarged in a
full-color online slideshow
on our "Albums" page at

www.AFTACWCC.org



AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

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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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