



# Depot Fallout



AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter  
P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974  
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## OCTOBER 2019 EDITION

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LOOK US UP AT  
[www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)

## From the Vice President

by Bob Fitzgerald

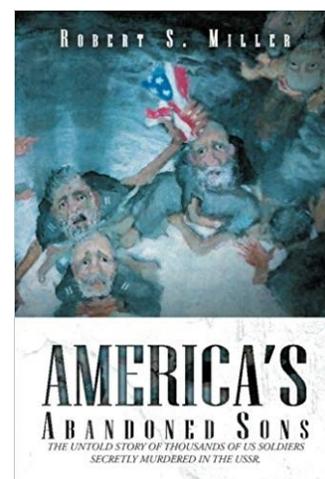
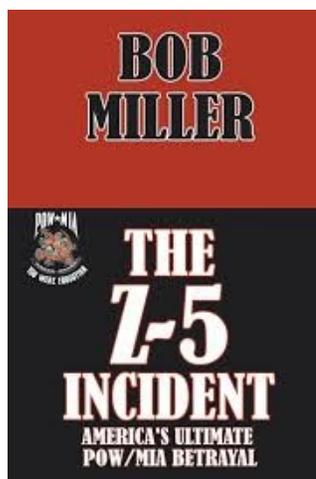
Our next event will be our annual **WCC FALL SOCIAL and Election Of Officers\*** event to be held on **Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**. The details and the required sign-up form are in this issue of the Depot Fallout newsletter. That document is also on our website "**Forms**" page now. The deadline for receipt of your reservation/sign-up info is **4Nov2019**.

*Please don't wait until the deadline to submit your reservations!*

\*This is an "**Election of WCC Officers**" year with nominations to be accepted up to the Fall Social event itself. All of the offices you see on the panel to the left of this article are open for volunteers who will step up and run for one of these important jobs – *none of which take a lot of time to perform*. The election itself will be held at our Fall Social on November 9th. The newly elected WCC Officers will be installed at our meeting on 9Dec2019 for a two-year term: 12/2019-12/2021. Please don't let the West Coast Chapter (WCC) of the AFTAC Alumni Association close down because no one wanted to spend a few minutes each quarter to help keep it running! (Refer to the "**Nomination/Volunteer**" form elsewhere in this newsletter and also on our website "**Forms**" page.)

## Two Must-Read Books by Bob Miller

By Don King, Depot Fallout Editor



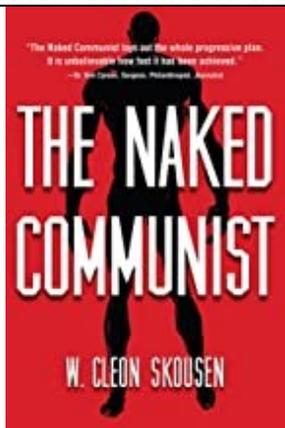
Anyone who has been attending our reunions has had the rare opportunity to meet this truly extraordinary man. I always look to an author's credentials to see if this type of book is impartially researched and sufficient reliable data is found to support the topic. You will find this is true in both of these books, and the subject matter in each case is vitally important to be a well-informed human being. Bob has not taken little topics and explored them. These are serious topics which will richly enlighten you in areas that we usually pass over because the press has almost totally ignored them.

**The Z-5 incident** takes us back to the final weeks of WWII in Europe. Allied POW's in Eastern Europe were expecting that the approaching end of the war would free them to return to their homelands. Instead, the Soviets hauled them off to the Gulag camps and their story was never heard. This is an incredible cover up by our government until a rare escape by one of the prisoners returned home to tell his story of those accountable for his betrayal. "Uncle Joe" proved to be more barbaric than anyone could imagine, and we did nothing, even though we had the lists of the prisoners and what POW camp Germany had placed them in. You must remember that the Germans were meticulous in keeping records for their 1000year Reich! Don't let Bob's efforts slide by the wayside and be forgotten. You must read this book!

**America's Abandoned Sons** could not have a better title. The quote from the cover, "THE UNTOLD STORY OF THOUSANDS OF US SOLDIERS SECRETLY MURDERED IN THE USSR", is enough to get the ire up in any veteran. We all risked our lives for what we believed were causes worth the risk. These soldiers went into battle the same way we started out. Only they were up against a stacked deck out of "diplomatic" and "strategic" decisions naively made. Quoting from Bob, "A myth is a statement of ostensible historical events concerning a practice, a belief, or a natural phenomenon. The United States Government's position regarding the possibility that significant numbers of American servicemen were ever held as prisoners of war or missing in action (POW/MIA), in the twentieth century, is that it is a myth." With this mindset and a totally ignorant understanding of the Soviet and the Nazi minds, we as a country are morally deficient in not at least making this all well-known. Become informed. Challenge your minds to look at this travesty. These were real people. They deserve more than the oblivion that surrounds them. Think how many families never got "closure."

Both of these books stemmed out of WWII. That's a long time ago. BUT! Think what is happening in China and Russia and Syria and Afghanistan, to name just a few. I witnessed Hong Kong just before the handover and just after. Before was total freedom. Immediately after takeover, personal freedom was gone. I saw it happen within feet of me on a main Hong Kong street. Don't be uninformed about the direction the world is going.

Therefore, I further recommend a book titled "The Naked Communist" by W. Cleon Skousen.



With the dangerous direction that some in this country are saying that we must move, we must understand the consequences if that happens. If you read this book, you will find out about agreements made in and reinforced at the end of WWII. Yes, that is 74 years ago, but our enemies are patient. Do we want to be in a situation like the POW/MIA's found themselves? Do we want books like these written about us? Be informed about our adversaries. Don't look to the TV for reality. Trust but verify. Verify by becoming informed.

## About 14,525 nuclear weapons exist today in the arsenals of these 9 nations

*Skye Gould and Dave Mosher-Business Insider*  
 Aug 6, 2018, 6:24 AM

### Map: Where and how many nuclear weapons exist around the world



Country	Russia	US	France	China	UK	Pakistan	India	Israel	N. Korea
Deployed	1,600	1,750	290	0	120	0	0	0	?
Stockpiled/non-deployed/other	2,750	2,050	10	280	95	150 <sup>A</sup>	140 <sup>B</sup>	80	60
Retired/waiting to be dismantled	2,500	2,650	?	0	?	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,850</b>	<b>6,450</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>60<sup>C</sup></b>

A. Some data suggest Pakistan has 140–150 nuclear weapons, which are left unassembled in storage until launch. (FAS)

B. Similarly, some data suggest India has 130–140 unassembled nuclear weapons in storage. (FAS)

C. According to a WaPo story that cites a confidential US report, N. Korea has miniaturized a nuclear warhead and controls 30–60 weapons. However, some independent estimates suggest N. Korea has only 10–20 assembled.

Source: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists; Federation of American Scientists; SIPRI; The Washington Post

### It's a totally different nuclear world out there!

*By Don King, Depot Fallout Editor*

As you can see, the world is a whole lot different than when most of us were on active duty! There was even an unsubstantiated rumor that the DOD was considering eliminating AFTAC. It's nice to know that our guys are still out there keeping tabs on this many nations, any one of which could cause a result that we don't even want to think about. AFTAC is the bastion! Let your congressmen and senators know how critical our mission is to the USA and the entire world.

## 2019 WCC ELECTION NOMINATION/VOLUNTEER FORM

*(Please add your name for an office, and/or one additional nomination for each of the other offices)*

WCC OFFICE TITLE	2017-2019 INCUMBENTS Willing To Stay In Office Position	PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME and/or <b>1</b> NOMINATION FOR EACH OFFICE FOR THE 2019-2021 TERM	ELECTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY
<b>Board of Directors</b>	Chairman of the Board of Directors	Ken Denbleyker	
	Asst Chmn of the Board of Directors		
	Director At Large		
	President		
	Vice President		
	Treasurer	"Butch" Kemna	
	Assistant Treasurer	<i>(Vacant)</i>	
	Secretary	Bob Baker	
	Assistant Secretary	Ken Breitwieser	
	Membership Chairman	Dave Price	
	Assistant Membership Chairman		
	"Depot Fallout" Newsletter Editor	Don King	
	Assistant Newsletter Editor		
	Webmaster / Administrator	Bob Fitzgerald	
	Assistant Webmaster	<i>(Vacant)</i>	
Publications & Distribution Chmn	Allan Pentecost		
Assistant Pubs & Distribution Chmn			

**SUBMITTED BY (Sign):** \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /2019

Print all entries and either scan the form or email it to: [ElectionCommittee@AFTACWCC.org](mailto:ElectionCommittee@AFTACWCC.org)

Or send a printed copy of it to: AFTAC-WCC

ATTN: Election Committee

P.O. Box 3974

Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974

### Eulogy for a Veteran

*Public Domain*

Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there. I do not sleep.  
 I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow.  
 I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the Gentle autumn rain.  
 When you awaken in the mornings hush, I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight,  
 I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
 Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
 I am not there, I did not die.

Memories never die as long as there are opportunities to capture them and repeat them among those of us still this side of the veil. This is why we take up the reins and become the next rider to keep AFTAC WCC alive and thriving.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Our General Business Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of March, June, September & December at 7:00 PM at the Lionsgate Hotel restaurant in McClellan Park. The meetings usually last less than an hour. All AFTAC alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend. The date of our next meeting is **12/9/19**. Always check [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) website “Events” page to confirm the date, time & place.

### NOTICE: NOMINATIONS FOR WCC OFFICE ARE DUE SOON

Elsewhere in this issue and on our website “Forms” page you will find the form for submission of your nomination, or volunteer, for WCC Office for the term Dec 2019-Dec 2021. Please consider stepping up to help keep the West Coast Chapter (WCC) of the AFTAC Alumni Association open & viable. **Think about how else you’d get to see and socialize with old alumni friends if the WCC is no more because no one is there to help keep it going!** The duties of the Officers are simple and easy to perform and mostly only involve a few minutes of your time once a quarter.

### UPCOMING 2019 SOCIAL EVENTS:

**Saturday, 09 Nov 2019, 11:30am-2:00pm** will be our “**FALL SOCIAL**” event and an **Election of Officers** to be held at the Olive Garden Restaurant, 5445 Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. Details on this special event are published elsewhere in this issue of the Depot Fallout newsletter and on our website “Events” page.

(Note: Updated schedules of all WCC meetings & social activities are always available on our [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) website “Events” page.)

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*By Dave Price, Membership Chairman*

As of SEP 7, 2019

**Total Active Members = 142 Life Members = 138.**

**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.

## “[www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org)”

Website Quarterly Activity Report for the period 1 July 2019 – 30 Sep 2019  
Submitted 2-Oct-2019 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

<u>Visitors</u> <u>This Quarter</u>	<u>Highest</u> <u>Visitors Week</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Sessions</u>	<u>Most Popular*</u> <u>Page (#Sessions)</u>	<u>Next Most Popular*</u> <u>Page (#Sessions)</u>
7,725	08/12-08/18 (1,300)	12,492	Departed (1,436)	Links (257)

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

**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.**

## Another AFTAC Author

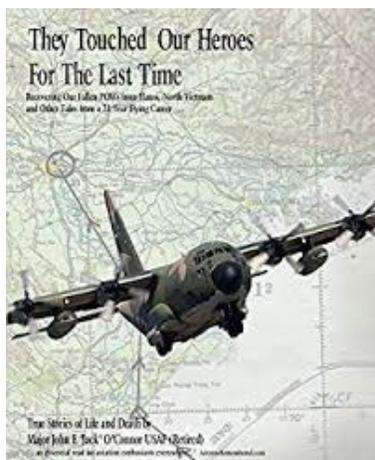
By Don King , Depot Fallout Editor

### Major Jack O'Connor



Photo taken at the time of the mission described in his book.

It never ceases to amaze me to discover the incredible range of talents that the personnel of AFTAC possess! Military leaders, scientists, authors, entrepreneurs, athletes, public servants, university professors, charity leaders and many more! This article is about Jack O'Connor, author and humanitarian. Jack went through Lowry AFB in 1955, which put him just steps, literally, ahead of me as I spent a couple of months on hold starting the end of September '55 awaiting class assignment. Jack could never have foreseen the series of events that took him to this particular mission.



### **"They Touched Our Heroes For The Last Time".**

Jack says, "That title is about a mission I led into Hanoi to bring out the first twelve of those POWs who died in captivity in North Vietnam. Of course, in 414 pages it has several other previously untold stories including five chapters on the old 1009th SWS (Now AFTAC) in the mid-50's. They are some pretty interesting stories in WB 29's & WB-50's as well as RB-36 in our efforts to collect Russian debris. It also has stories on how there was no way I should have lived through about nine experiences, one in the 1009th. You can get a sample of it if you google the title and click on the tab near the tail of the C-130. Also, go to <http://aircrewremembered.com/oconnor-jack.html>..

Thanks & regards,  
Jack O'Connor  
1009th SWS  
Now in Broken Arrow, OK

## WCC 2019 FALL SOCIAL & ELECTION EVENT

Saturday, 09 Nov 2019 – 11:30am-2:30pm  
at the Olive Garden Italian Restaurant  
5445 Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610



The Olive Garden has assured us that we can each order off of their regular menu and pay separately for our meals. Therefore, no money will be required with your reservation form, which is required. Please inform us no less than 48 hours in advance if you must cancel your reservation.

### SAVE THIS PART FOR YOUR REFERENCE

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guests Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_

**The deadline for receipt of your reservation is Monday, 4 Nov 2019**

I/We sent in our signup for the above names on \_\_/\_\_/2019  
via USPS to: **AFTAC-WCC, P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974**

or

I/We sent in our signup for the above names on \_\_/\_\_/2019  
via Email to: [FallSocial@AFTACWCC.org](mailto:FallSocial@AFTACWCC.org)

*cut here*

## WCC 2019 FALL SOCIAL & ELECTION EVENT

Saturday, 09 Nov 2019 – 11:30am-2:30pm  
at the Olive Garden Italian Restaurant  
5445 Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

*RESERVATION FORM – Please Print*

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guests Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_



# AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974  
Email: [TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org](mailto:TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org)



## 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 ==



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