



AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter

2026 1ST QUARTER EDITION

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AsstFalloutEditor@AFTACWCC.org

Distribution Chair - Allan Pentecost

PubsAndDistribution@AFTACWCC.org

Webmaster - Bob Fitzgerald

Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org

A WORD FROM THE PREZ AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR

John Culbert



So Much to Cover, so little space ...

Yes, it's a new header for a new year. When I found the old Depot picture, I knew it had to be used in the newsletter. For most of us, this image will bring back many memories, both good ... and bad.

New Officers. We recently had officer elections. See the left side of this page for a roster. Thank you for your added service.



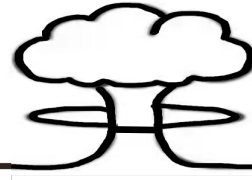
AFTAC-WCC dissolution is progressing. Bob Fitzgerald is working with the current president of the Florida Alumni Association to make the transfer of resources and members. More to come.

I was attending an evening event at the McClellan Aerospace Museum of California and was able to spend some time with an old Tech Ops friend. I am putting an article in this issue in his memory.



My Time With An Old Friend

John Culbert



When I came from HQ to McClellan to retrain into Airborne Operations, one of the first SEOs I met was a person who would be one of our instructors. As time passed in class, I found **Gary Fritts** to have a good understanding of the job and a great sense of humor. This I could appreciate.

Steve and I became friends and flew several missions together. He even took me on my first B-52 flight; but that is another story for another newsletter. I was introduced to his lovely wife, Donna, with whom I still cherish our friendship.

In 1968 he enlisted in the Air Force where he was trained in electronics and his first assignment was in the organization that was responsible for detecting and collecting nuclear detonations worldwide. His initial duties were to fly as an aircrew member collecting debris from these nuclear events. Stephen continued these airborne duties for 15 years until health issues grounded him. Steve transferred within AFTAC to become a laboratory analyst and retired after 24 years of active service.



Steve earned his Chief Enlisted Aircrew Wings with over 3,000 flight hours and the recipient of numerous personal awards for outstanding performances, achievements, and commendations to include three Meritorious Service Medals and two Air Medals for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.

Steve's appetite for aviation and he devoted much of his retirement to research and became deeply involved in the Aerospace Museum of California. He worked voluntarily at the museum as crew chief for their F-104 Starfighter. He loaned many of his personal aviation memorabilia to enhance the static display of the F-104. Steve also served as Secretary of the Museum's Board of Directors.

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[AFTAC-WCC CONTACT INFORMATION](#)

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter

Mail AFTACAA-WCC, c/o 7595 Watson Wy, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Email TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org

Web www.AFTACWCC.org



EVENTS CALENDAR

(by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster)



QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETINGS

Our WCC General Business Meetings are held quarterly at 7pm (Pacific) on the 2nd Monday of March, June, September & December.

DINNER and a MEETING

Our next meeting will be held **IN PERSON: Monday, June 8th** at The Officer's Club (Lions Gate), 3410 Westover St., McClellan Park, CA 95652.

You are invited to have dinner before the meeting beginning at 6pm. All AFTAC Alumni are welcome, so it would help if you RSVP Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org to help us reserve enough room for everyone. Check our www.AFTACWCC.org website "Events" page before the meetings to confirm the details in case of last-minute changes.

Saturday, 16 May - ANNUAL BBQ PICNIC EVENT

See the flyer on page 5

"www.AFTACWCC.org"

Website Semi-annual Activity Report for the period 1 Oct 2025 – 31 Mar 2026

Submitted 1 April 2026 by Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster

	<u>Highest</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Most Popular</u>	<u>Next Most Popular</u>
	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Visitors Week</u>	<u>Page (#Sessions)</u>	<u>Page (#Sessions)</u>
4Q25:	18,167	2,216 (11/16)	Departed (454)	Contacts (337)
1Q26:	25,827	2,936 (02/02)	Departed (760)	Links (367)

**** These numbers have set new records for those categories of access to our website during any quarter.**

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.**

Gummy Bear Power: A single uranium fuel pellet (the size of a gummy bear) contains as much energy as 149 gallons of oil, 2,000 pounds of coal, or 17,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE CLOSE UP OUR WEST COAST CHAPTER?

by **Bob Fitzgerald**, Chairman Of The Board of Directors & Webmaster

Notice to all AFTAC Alumni Association – West Coast Chapter members:

The title of this article is a real question for each of you to think about. **What do you think we should do if and when, due to lack of resources, we decide to “Close Up” shop?** Just send me your thoughts.

I've been posing that question to the AFTACAA - Florida Chapter for a little while now, and although their Webmaster has been working on items to preserve some of our **AFTACWCC.org** website* items, everything is open for discussion at this time. We are thinking about possibly closing our official “West Coast Chapter” by the end of this year or early next year sometime.

As of March 1, 2026 our Chapter has:

Members:

About 118 Members, of which 117 are “LIFE” members:

Of the 118, we have about **100 Primary Members**. *Spouses of deceased members add up to ~17.*

Financials:

About **\$1,400** in our treasury as of now:

As a LIFE Member, what do you want to happen if & when the West Coast Chapter closes?

1. Do you want to be a member of the Florida Chapter? If so:
 - a. Are you willing to pay AFTACAA-FL for membership and in getting their “Post Monitor” newsletter?
2. Would you still want us to plan our **May BBQ & Potluck Picnic**, and our **November** gatherings?
 - a. And would you plan to join us at either or both of these events?
3. What should we do with the Financials we have left when we close?
4. ??? (*Any other question you can think of?*)

Please give some thought to all of the above and send those to me for answering and/or consideration:
Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org. Thank you very much, Bob

- My Old Friend -

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After retiring from the Air Force, Steve received a Master's Degree in Computer Science from National University - Cum Laude. He was employed by the County of Sacramento for 10 years as an IT Manager with Health and Human Services. While Steve was working, I was also working for the County as an IT Tech in a different department. We were able to run across each other now and then, giving us time to dig up old airborne and family stories.

I find the time I spent with Steve, on his bench, very precious and plan to spend more time there, just visiting and chatting.

Steve's wife, Donna Fritts, remains an active member of AFTAC-WCC Alumni Association.

Steve is laid at rest at Sacramento Valley National Cemetary in Dixon.



Steve Fritts Memorial bench in front of the

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - WEST COAST CHAPTER

BBQ PICNIC & POTLUCK

SATURDAY, 16 MAY 2026 – 11AM-2PM

Tempo Park, 13201 Fair Oaks Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

ATTENTION TO ORDERS

We are very happy to invite all AFTAC'ers, their families and friends to join us as we have our outstanding BBQ Picnic & Potluck social event for this year. *(RSVP Required.)* Our picnic area has good restroom facilities, ample parking, and a covered pavilion reserved for our use. We will be lighting the BBQs before 1100 hours and wrap things up by 1400 hours. Once again, the West Coast Chapter (WCC) of our AFTAC Alumni Association will supply all the basics: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Condiments, Soft Drinks/water, Utensils & Paper products. We just ask that you bring a Salad, Side Dish, Dessert, or ???. **Please remember that due to current county regulations there is no alcohol consumption allowed at this facility.** All AFTAC Alumni & their guests *(including non-AFTAC friends)* are cordially invited, but please submit your RSVP sign up(s) early so the logistics can be tweaked and enough of the basics obtained. Fill out the sign-up form below & send it to us now!



VITAL DETAILS:
When: Saturday, 16 May 2026
ARMED FORCES DAY!
Where: TEMPO Park
ours: 1100 Hrs -1400 Hrs
Cost: ZIPPO! Just a little of your time!



DIRECTIONS

From I-80: Go East on Greenback, turn left (North) on Fair Oaks Blvd. **The park will be on the left side <1 mile up.**
 From Hwy 50: Go North on Sunrise Blvd, turn right (East) on Greenback and left (North) on Fair Oaks Blvd. ^.

If you have questions, call WCC Treasurer Butch Kemna, (916) 722-8509 or Email: "PicnicGurus@AFTACWCC.org"

PLEASE FILL IN & MAIL, or EMAIL, THE COMPLETED SIGN-UP FORM BY 10May2026 to:
Mail to: AFTACAA-WCC, c/o 6605 Sweet Gum Ct, Citrus Heights, CA 95610
or Email to: PicnicGurus@AFTACWCC.org

I mailed / Emailed my form on __/__/26. There will be __ of us coming & we'll bring _____ for potluck.

(Note: This upper part is for your records, so keep it as a reminder)

--- *(Copy & Email to PICNICGURUS@AFTACWCC.ORG this info in the body of your message or cut here & mail the form to Butch's address above.)* ---

AFTACAA-WCC BBQ PICNIC & POTLUCK – SATURDAY 16 MAY 2026

(Please print)
 NAMES (First & Lasts): _____ SPOUSE/GUEST: _____
 Add'l Name(s): _____ **Total Number Attending []**

I / We will bring for the potluck:

Salad [] Side Dish [] Dessert [] Other? _____
 Your Ph#: (____) ____-____ Email Addr: _____



Depot Fallout

AFTAC Alumni Association - West Coast Chapter
AFTACAA-WCC, c/o 7595 Watson Wy, Citrus Heights, CA 95610
Email: TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org



PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____
Last First MI Last Rank Held Nickname Name of Spouse

Addr: _____
Street, Apt #, etc. City State Zip Code

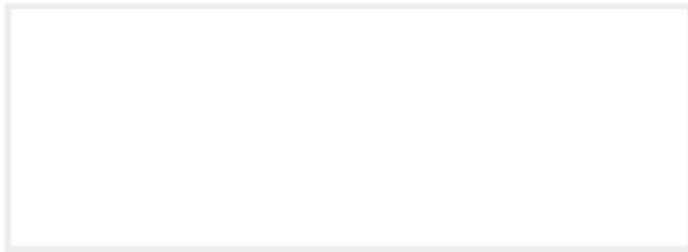
() _____ - _____ () _____ - _____
Home Phone Work Phone E-mail Address

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

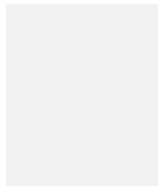
Support your West Coast Chapter: Please pass a copy of this form to your AFTAC Alumni friends. *[From the Depot Fallout]*

CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT www.AFTACWCC.org FOR THE LATEST WCC NEWS & PHOTOS



To:

== FIRST CLASS MAIL ==



RETURN ADDRESS
AFTACAA-WCC
c/o 7595 Watson Wy, Citrus
Heights, CA 95610