AIRFIELD OPS FLIGHT OF THE YEAR ... 14TH OSS

Award winner

Staff Sgt. Glen Simmons, 14th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, keeps track of aircraft in and out of the airspace on Columbus AFB, MS. Tower personnel are responsible for ensuring the safe and orderly control of aircraft on the airfield and in the surrounding airspace. The 14th OSS is the Air Force's Airfield Operations Flight of the Year for 2019. See page 23 for more airfield operations award winners. *(Air Force photo by A1C Jake Jacobsen)*

Comm & Info Heritage Hall becomes first Cyberspace and Communications Heritage Center

The Grant Building's Ludwig Hall at Scott AFB, IL – home to the largest collection of cyberspace and communications artifacts in the Air Force – became the first Cyber/IT/Comm Heritage Center in our Air Force Feb 10. (See page 11) The former Ludwig Heritage Hall represented the pioneers of the past and the Center will continue to tell their stories to be a source of inspiration for future cyber and communications Airmen.

This switchboard (photo) is displayed in the Heritage Center. It dates back to the 1920s. This one was first installed in the Hawaiian Islands before civilian telephone service. It was also the first to relay the news of the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec 7, 1941. It was operational until the late 1980s.

Annual convention postponed

COLORADO SPRINGS

The world is facing an unprecedented challenge due to coronavirus (COVID-19). To minimize the impact on our membership and maximize the amount of time for notification and planning, our Board of Directors postponed the scheduled annual convention in Colorado Springs this coming September to an appropriate weekend in September 2021.

Whether you are traveling now or in the future, your safety and well-being are our top priority.

IMPORTANT!

Please update your membership info

Is your address up to date? Have you sent us your email address? Have you paid your dues? Let us know so we can keep in touch. Pay attention to membership expiration dates and renew on time.

Recruit! Our future depends on you!

Declining membership continues to be a concern. If every member recruited one new person we would have close to 3,000 members. It's up to us to recruit new members or be the last person standing.

Tell us your story!

Your stories are the heart of this magazine, so dust off your photo album, think about your time in service and places/events that stand out. Put pen to paper and write or email the editor. We'd love to hear from you.

Editor
Lori Manske
665 N 11th St
Breese IL 62230
manske5@charter.net

Membership director
Leslie McCormick
4606 W Portland St
Springfield MO 65802-4885
afcommatcmembership@gmail.com

The AF Comm & ATC Association is a 501 (c) (19) tax-exempt organization. There are no paid employees. All work is done by volunteers.

DID YOU KNOW?

THRU THESE GATES PASS THE BEST DAMNED RADIO OPERATORS IN THE WORLD!

On July 1, 1939, the Basic School of the Air Corps Technical School transferred to Scott Field from Chanute Field, IL, with the first students arriving in September 1939. Even as it was just beginning, the communications training mission continued to grow. By 1941 Scott Field received an additional $300,000 for construction to handle 5,800 students. By the onset of World War II, Scott Field was well on its way to earning the title of Communications University of the Army Air Forces and adopted the slogan, "The best damn radio operators in the world." By 1942, Scott Field hosted students from China, France and other Allied nations and, in 1943, became the home of the 58th Woman's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACS).

During the war, Scott's Radio School produced graduates who were known for being the "eyes and ears of the Army." In total, the Radio Comm School at Scott graduated 150,000 students.

After the Air Force became a separate service on Sept. 18, 1947, the mission began shifting from technical training to air transport and aeromedical evacuation. By 1959, the last remaining classes at Scott signaled the end of the Communications School, but not the end of the communications and cyberspace mission sets, as those missions continue today.

Visit our web site and guestbook!

www.afcommatc.org

Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association

AF Communicators, Data Automation, Information/Cyber, Space Operations, Air Traffic Controllers, Air Field Managers, Maintenance, Engineering and Installation, and related support personnel, veteran, active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilian, and retired.

Board of Directors

Executive Director, Harry Raduege
Vice Director, Ken Reiff
Executive Secretary, Ed Broestl
Treasurer, Jim Weber
Membership Director, Leslie McCormick
Editor, Print/Online Media, Lori Manske
Protocol, Rafael Quezada
Information Officer, Robert McCoy
PX/BX Manager, Bill Cassatt

Executive Director Appointments

Historian, Ken Reiff
Chaplain, Ed Broestl

Convention Committee

Jim Weber (chair)
Rafael Quezada

Honors and Awards Committee

Tom Blackburn (chair)
Robert Garcia
Bill Bethea
Bill Hammett

Members wishing to nominate individuals or volunteer for Board of Director positions must submit their names to the Executive Director with justification based on experience no later than June 30 of each year. See Bylaws (on our web site) for more info.

Content
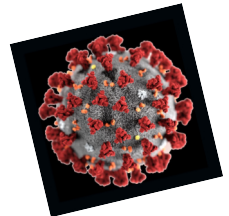
Find us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association

Report from the Executive Director

Name change keeps us viable; in step with today's Air Force

Over the years, our Association -- like our Air Force -- has had to adjust to changing times. I salute our Association's leadership who have made needed changes in keeping us a viable organization for more than 43 years – that's a significant achievement. The time has come for another Association change to keep pace with our Air Force and to recruit new members. As you may know, throughout the Air Force, Cyber Warfare Operations has become the new career field title for what we have known as the communications career field. All of the Air Force members who traditionally were identified as "communicators" are now referred to as Cyberspace Operators – they are a proud force who have gained new elevated status and respect throughout the Air Force and the Department of Defense. The bottom line is that the current Air Force cyberspace operator workforce no longer considers themselves as "communicators".

On the home front, we have watched our Association's average age of membership steadily grow and the numbers in our ranks steadily decline. Chief Walt McLain was a champion in gathering the figures and in presenting the facts at our annual Board of Directors' meetings. We worked earnestly for years on various means of recruiting new members and, although we had some success, the number of members who "miss roll call" each year continues to exceed the number of new members who are joining. All of us can recall Chief Walt saying, "If our numbers keep declining, the last member standing will just turn out the lights!" Frankly, that's a chilling thought for our Board and for me as we recognize our duty to grow our membership and keep our Association viable for another 43 years.

Air Force Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control Association

With that background and in light of the fact that our annual Association convention has been delayed a year – until September 2021 – we are faced with a decision. With the above considerations and unanimous support of our Board of Directors, we are changing the name of our Association to the Air Force Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control Association, as of 1 July 2020. With this needed change, I continue to believe that our future will be bright.

It was a day of great pride when on Feb 10, 2020, the Air Combat Command dedicated its first heritage center in Ludwig Hall at Scott AFB as the Air Force Cyberspace and Communications Heritage Center. It was a day of great satisfaction for those of us attending this magnificent dedication to witness the birth of a nationally-recognized center that ensures that our Air Force's long, storied heritage of air traffic control, communications, data automation, engineering and installation, combat comm, information management, postal, and other related areas will be forever enshrined for all to witness. As I sat in the audience during the dedication, I was proud that the ACC Commander, Gen Mike Holmes, believed in and supported this effort all the way to the top of our Air Force and beyond, in establishing ACC's first heritage center. I also thought how fitting it is that the heritage center's name shows the bridge between Cyberspace and Communications – the torch has been passed.

Your Board of Directors and I welcome all our members to our newly designated Air Force Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control Association and we look forward to our continuing camaraderie and hope in seeing you at our September 2021 Convention in Colorado.

Take care & God bless.

Harry Raduege

AACS 1938

AFCS 1961

AFCC 1979

AFC4A 1993

AFCA 1996

AFNIC 2009

Cyberspace Capabilities Center 2019

From flares to satellites to cyber networks

Victory in combat will depend less on individual capabilities, and more on the integrated strengths of a connected network of weapons, sensors, and analytic tools. Today's Air Force must transform to employ the data, technology, and infrastructure we need to prevail. We have no choice—we must change to dominate this future.

Today, every airman is a cyber airman

To prevail over our competitors, we must confidently embrace the revolutionary power of the Information Age. This will require a fundamental change in how we manage and share information, and we will drive this change throughout the force. Ultimately, we must move beyond antiquated processes, systems, and mindsets. We will pursue new ways to leverage technology and institute a culture of innovation and informed risk-taking. We will become a Digital Air Force. – USAF White Paper, The Digital Air Force, July 2019

REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

Leslie McCormick
Membership

Jim Weber
Treasurer

Now that I've been in this position for 6+ months, I feel like all the processes are falling into place. Sadly, our membership numbers continue to drop, despite gaining 24 new members in the past 6 months.

As of March 31, 2020:

Current membership – 1,078 (down from 1,117 on Sept 30, 2019)

Life Members – 999 (down from 1,017 on Sept 30, 2019)

Thanks to everyone who is putting out the word about our organization and recruiting new members. Anyone who is current or former USAF who has served or is serving as Communicators, Data Automation/Information/Cyber Specialists, Air Traffic Controllers, C&E Maintenance/ Installation Specialists, Space Operations or related support skills is eligible to join. If we all bring in just ONE new member, our organization numbers will DOUBLE.

Applications are available in each Communicator, on our web site, and from me by calling (417) 365-1837 or emailing me at afcommatcmembership@gmail.com

Make checks payable to AF Comm and ATC Assn and mail applications and checks to me at the address above.

 Since we no longer track membership expirations by month, but only by year, I will be sending out ALL renewal reminders on/about Oct 1 to people whose membership expires in 2020. Look at the address label on your *Communicator*, or on the roster to see when your membership expires. If it shows as "LM", you are a Life Member and no longer need to pay for renewal. Please pay promptly – and feel free to renew early.

We received a lot of UNDELIVERABLE Communicators in November. Please update your address if you have moved recently. This can be done on the web page (www.afcommatc.org) or by contacting me directly. We would also appreciate updated e-mail addresses. If in doubt, send me an e-mail to afcommatcmembership@gmail.com with your current information and I will update the roster.

Speaking of people moving, please note that I have moved. My new address is Leslie McCormick, 4606 W Portland St, Springfield MO 65802-4885

If you would like to opt out of receiving the Communicator by mail, please notify me. This savings on printing and postage helps our organization and is appreciated.

All *Communicators* since June 2006 are available on the web site: www.afcommatc.org

1 April 2020

Cash in ENT Federal Credit Union:

AFCOMMATC Checking Acct	$12,751.53
Host Checking Acct	$ 2,570.66
Cash Totals:	$15,322.19

Certificates of Deposit:
50-12 $5,305.98   Maturity Date 07/02/20 (Roll Over)
50-24 $10,640.75 Maturity Date 07/02/21 (Roll Over)
50-36 $21,554.49 Maturity Date 07/02/21 (Roll Over)
53-12 $5,286.65 Maturity Date 03/31/21 (Roll Over)
54-12 $5,195.16 Maturity Date 3/15/21 (Roll Over)
55-12 $5,040.53 Maturity Date 11/04/20

CD Totals (3):	**$53,023.56**
Grand totals:	**$68,345.75**

The ENT Federal Credit Union continues to be an excellent choice for this organization; there are no account maintenance fees and transactions are unlimited. We established a sub-account, separate from our main account, that has been used by past convention hosts, eliminating the need for local fee charging accounts. As your Treasurer, my goals are: (1) Stable growth and (2) Security of Funds.

The Coronavirus has taken a toll on our country in lives, lost jobs, and income. Everybody and everything have been affected, including our association. Donations have always been a key source of income for the association and reunion support. Since the 2020 convention has been delayed for one year, **I encourage each of you, if able, to consider donating a part of what you would have spent, had we had a convention this year, to support our association during this crisis.**

Costs associated with the name change from Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association to AF Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control Association includes legal costs to our IRS reporting, name change of our 501 (C) account, vendor re-designing, insurance, letterheads, etc.

Donations should still be made to AFCOMMATC and sent to me at 4018 Slice Drive, Colorado Springs CO 80922. Donations to our Association are tax deductible. Donation letters are sent upon request.

Lori Manske
Editor

Bill Cassatt
PX/BX Sales

Cost of the November 2019 *Communicator*

36 pages – 1,185 copies

$ 2,163.47	Printing & Binding
$ 103.36	Mail Preparation
$ 479.87	Postage (1,127 copies)
$ 38.40	USPS Flat Rate
$ 2,785.10	Total

Send your stories! Please dust off your scrapbooks, refresh your memory, and send stories/photos about interesting events, people and assignments during your time in service to Lori Manske, 665 N 11th St, Breese IL 62230, or manske5@charter.net.

If you mail photos, rest assured that I will scan and return them promptly.

The web site is one of our biggest recruiters of new members, along with recruiting efforts of current members. Please visit the web site guest book and send a reply to people who sign, thanking them for taking the time to visit.

PX / BX Sales Report (May 2019 – Oct 2019)

Items Sold

Original AACS Patch	3
AACS Logo Patch	4
Hat	1
Lapel Pins	1
Jackets	1
Challenge Coins	4
AACS Plaque	1

Total Sales: $179
Expenses

Postage	$38.61
Supplies (Mailers)	$ 6.26
AACS Plaque	$30.00

Total Expenses: $74.87
Donations

Walter Wasielewski

J. D. Miller

Alan Brenner

Total Donations: $64.00

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Oct 1, 2019 – Apr 13, 2020

Renewals
Auvil, Robert E.
Bacchieri, Roger
Baker, Richard W.
Barnhart, James
Burk, George
Chaplin, Robert M.
Chiarotti, Lawrence
Dunn, Kenneth
Dhaene, Gregory
Divittore, Ercoli
Fletcher, Thomas
Gackenbach, Paul
Grimmer, Chris

Hughes, Walter (Jode)
Keesee, Dennis
Keller, James
Kellner, Martin J.
Kurzenknabe, Glenn
Kirkpatrick, Craig Jr
Landry, Jerome A.
Lauducci, James R.
Lawrence, William
Leathery, Sterling
Lukowski, Charles J.
Magers, Brian
Mansberger, Daniel
Mastello, Albert Jr
McCoy, Robert
Nolan, Francis E.
Ranke, Charles
Reese, Donald L.

Speegle, David A.
Stamatellos, John
Stevens, Marjory
Stiles, Ralph
Strobel, Ronald B.
Wilkie, Robert
Wilkison, Gerald
Wylie, Lanty H. Jr

New Members
Berner, Brent (Life)
Comeaux, Joseph J. (Life)
Cowan, James W. (Life)
Cumbee, Archie D. (Life)
Davis, Joe (Life)
Davis, Paul
Donahue, John F.
Franz, Charles

Goodwin, William S. (Life)
Hamm, Lester D.
Hammer, Larry W. (Life)
Hyde, Elizabeth (Associate)
Johnson, Linda
Judah, John
Knapp, Dave (Life)
Lucke, Edward W. (Life)
Lyman, Robert K. (Life)
McLain, Carolyn (Life)
Moses, Harold
Packler, Marc (Life)
Staples, Robert (Life)
Sullivan, Edwin N. (Life)
Witt, Christopher (Life)
Van Leeuwen, Harold M. (Life)

Board of Directors meeting notes

Since the Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association Annual Membership meeting on Sept 28, 2019, the Board of Directors considered the following three motions:

General Raduege presented the following motion during a teleconference on Oct 26, 2019: "I move to change the current name of the association from Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association to the Air Force Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control Association." Rafael Quezada seconded the motion and after discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Ken Reiff presented the following motion in a March 12, 2020 email: "In light of recent events, to minimize the impact on our membership and maximize the amount of time for notification and planning, I move that we, the Board of Directors of the Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association, postpone the scheduled annual convention in Colorado Springs this coming September to an appropriate weekend in September 2021." General Raduege seconded the motion and it passed unanimously on March 13, 2020.

Rafael Quezada presented the following motion in a March 27, 2020 email: "I propose that starting in 2020 at our Annual Reunion we begin recognizing the USAF ATC Controller of the Year. I further propose that the award be named in honor of our recently deceased distinguished member, CMSgt Walt McLain. This award will be in addition to the two Cyber Awardees and the current ATC Enlisted Manager of the Year." Ken Reiff seconded the motion and it passed unanimously on March 30, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Broestl
Secretary

Missed Roll Call

Kenneth L. Nicoles, Sept 11, 2019
SMSgt Rich "Shakey" Shook, Sept 30, 2019
John Philippe Watson Jean, Nov 3, 2019
Nicholas T. Jimes, Nov 6, 2019
CMSgt Thomas W. Gwaltney, March 15, 2020
Richard G. Griffis, March 28, 2020
Alan L. W. Gunsul, March 28, 2020

Letter to the editor:

Dwight Harley, a Georgia resident, sent this photo of himself in Norway in 1953. He was selected to be assigned with 16 others to Gardemoen AB, Norway. Their mission was never revealed. "Too secret," he said. Dwight served from 1951-1971 and specialized in teletype data/computer programming.

Perspective: There are many facets

By Ed Broestl

.

What is your perspective on what is swirling about in the world that has turned it upside down?

Confusion? Concern? Apprehension?

Based on your age there might not be many reference points. To others, there are quite a few: the Great Depression; Pearl Harbor; D-Day; VE and VJ Day; Korea: the Cuban Missile Crisis; Vietnam; Desert Storm; the bombing of the Murrah Building; the attack on the USS Cole; 9/11; the Great Recession; Covid-19.

The first thing that pops into my head when someone mentions perspective is something I learned in Art class way back in the Jurassic Age. Perspective is an artistic concept with a "vanishing point" on the horizon where everything points. It made sense because I'm a linear thinker…straight lines make sense – and I really don't thrive in chaos.

Speaking of chaos, take a minute to compare today to the world you knew on Jan 1, 2020...only a few months ago.

There was a time when we thought the personal computer turned our lives upside down. Way back at the turn of the current decade we could shake the hand of someone we just met or someone we hadn't seen in a while. Personal distance was measured in inches (usually if you didn't stand within 18 to 24 inches of someone, they didn't feel too uncomfortable). Greeting people while on a walk was usually accompanied by a "Hi, how are you?" followed by a short conversation to just catch up. Now, it's very different. Our perspective has changed dramatically.

I thought it might be interesting to discover what life looked like during the Spanish Flu epidemic and discovered an article. "In September 1918, a group of soldiers came from Montana to the University of Colorado in Boulder. Within a week nearly 100 soldiers fell ill with the Spanish Flu and were quarantined. And what did that look like? Boulder had 10,000 residents;

health resources were limited. Boulder was quarantined with schools, churches and the university shut down. The governor ordered a state-wide quarantine. The local paper urged people to "…keep your hands out of your mouth. Don't go to crowded places… Avoid persons who sneeze or cough. Smother your coughs and sneeze into a handkerchief. Don't visit the sick. Keep out of houses where there are patients. Don't neglect early symptoms. Don't worry." Does any of that sound familiar? The complete article is at: https://www.lhvc.com/story/2020/04/08/news/this-isnt-boulders-first-or-last-pandemic/5386.html

Perspective is vital. We came through those incidents mentioned earlier, and many others, more aware and stronger. We sought the Lord for help and came to better understand our own frailties, including that we have to trust. The former is really difficult in these United States where we pride ourselves in being strong. The latter, trust, is oh so difficult because we are absolutely certain that we've worked for everything we have rather than all we have are gifts from God.

Please pray with me for wisdom for our leaders (local, county/parish, state, national and international); our comrades in arms; first responders, doctors, nurses; and those keeping groceries available; and our families, loved ones and neighbors. It is my heartfelt hope that when we exit this situation, we will be able to say "We made it together, as Americans, with God's help." Blessings and peace. Stay healthy and safe.

Ed

Ed Broestl
Chaplain

It's not how you look at things; it's what you see

AFNIC now 'Cyberspace Capabilities Center,' to streamline communications enterprise

SCOTT AFB, IL – The Air Force Network Integration Center at Scott AFB is redesignated as the Headquarters Cyberspace Capabilities Center (CCC).

Air Combat Command leadership decided to consolidate functions from multiple organizations in the Air Force that plan, execute, design, acquire, modernize, mitigate and operate within the cyber domain.

"Air Force cyber capabilities are intertwined with the intelligence, command and control, air superiority, personnel recovery, and precision attack missions that we are responsible for," said Gen. Mike Holmes, the commander of ACC. "This move streamlines how the Air Force presents forces to joint commanders, and it improves our ability to integrate cyber and air operations to improve our effectiveness in multiple domains."

The redesignation will streamline the operations of AFNIC, the ACC Cyberspace Support Squadron and the 38th Cyberspace Readiness Squadron. The new CCC will attain a unity of effort that will address inconsistent functions and task alignments across cyber organizations; scalability of resources to meet operational needs; prioritization of demand via multiple requirements processes; and clear delineation of enterprise IT roles from cyber operation missions and non-IT services.

"Simply put, the CCC will provide future opportunities to enhance how the Air Force provides Enterprise Information Technology

Brig Gen Chad Raduege passes the newly redesignated Cyberspace Capabilities Center flag to its commander, Col. Marc Packler, during a ceremony Nov 7, 2019, at Scott AFB. (AF photo by A1C Miranda Simpson)

capabilities and will better support and develop Airmen working in this mission set," said Brig Gen Chad Raduege, director of Cyberspace and Information Dominance.

ACC accepted cyber responsibilities in the summer of 2018 and had been making strides to foster innovation and integrate cyber functions to better support combatant commander requests for forces. The Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force directed the realignment to ACC to help the service support the National Defense Strategy's goal of preparing for a future high-end fight.

As the CCC moves toward full operational capability, its priorities will be to eliminate redundant processes and synchronize enterprise requirements across the service.

Several former commanders and senior leaders who attended the redesignation pose for a photo in the Heritage Center.
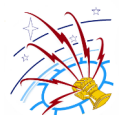
Heritage center preserves a proud past

SCOTT AFB, IL – The Air Force has designated its first Cyberspace and Communications Heritage Center, dedicated to preserving and telling the story of cyber, communications and information systems personnel and missions at the atrium of the Cyberspace Capabilities Center building.

The heritage center houses over 800 artifacts and has been 30 years in the making. It will now serve as the future home to cyber-related historical artifacts from throughout the Air Force.

There is also an archive containing 2,000 square feet of documents, 1,500 rolls of microfilm, oral histories, photographs and other mixed media.

"Why here and why now? This center serves as a bridge from our history to where we are today," said Brig Gen Chad Raduege, Director of Cyberspace and Information Dominance, and Chief Information Officer, Air Combat Command. "Although cyber forces now fall under ACC (in Virginia), our cyber home has always been at Scott Air Force Base. This dates back to the early 1900s when Scott Field was hailed as the 'eyes and ears of the Army Air Forces … when we graduated over 150,000 Airmen to be radio operators."

Creating the actual heritage center began in 1989 under the direction of the AF Communications Command when the newly named Lt Gen Harold Grant building opened, and artifacts started being gathered and located in the atrium.

In 2003, under Air Force Communications Agency leadership, the atrium was officially dedicated and named for Lt Gen Robert Ludwig, the last commander of a major command for communications and information.

In 2012, under the Air Force Network Integration Center, there were significant additions to the displays as it focused more on the entire contributions of the Air Force in these career fields.

In 2017, from a combination of AFNIC and CCC efforts a major renovation and upgrade to the heritage area were completed, setting the tone for the current heritage center.

"The change to a Cyberspace and Communications Heritage Center does several things," Gen Raduege added. "A heritage center allows us to appropriate funds, hire a professional staff, organize a volunteer team and keep it open for visitors. It also formally designates this as the permanent location for future artifacts … and as a 501c, allows for tax-deductible contributions to help maintain this facility."

He said the Air Force is answering the "why now" question because of the merging of the cyberspace and ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) communities to help start thinking about efficiencies and what the battle landscapes will be in the future.

Representing the ISR community was Lt Gen Mary O'Brien, deputy chief of staff for ISR and Cyber Effects Operations at AF Headquarters.

As she presided over the unveiling of the nameplate, she said that the heritage center represented the pioneers of the past and the center will continue to tell their stories to be a source of inspiration for future cyber and communications Airmen.

Daniel Williams, CCC historian, said making the heritage center come alive involved commanders, historians, curators, civilians who provided donations, and other members across the Department of Defense.
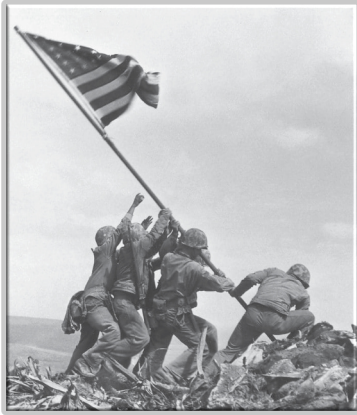
"Cyber Airmen should know that they will now have a place to preserve their heritage and tell their story," Williams said. "As the center's collection grows, so will their stories."

The heritage center is at 203 W. Losey St., Scott AFB, and is normally open Monday - Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM; closed on weekends and holidays.

75 YEARS AGO

This past February marked the 75th anniversary of the battle for Iwo Jima, a fight whose brutality not only established it as a marker for the extraordinary courage and sacrifice of the US Marine Corps, but in 1945 also signified the staggering violence which American forces faced as they closed in on mainland Japan.

The spirit of the Marines was immortalized four days after the initial landings. On Feb 23, 1945, atop Mount Suribachi on the southern end of the island, photographer Joe Rosenthal captured the image of six Marines raising an unfurling American flag. The ultimate triumph implied in the image would take a full month of brutal combat. The Americans secured victory on Iwo Jima on March 26, 1945, after both sides had paid a devastating toll in lives. Out of an estimated 20,000 Japanese troops on the island, only slightly over 200 survived the battle. American forces suffered over 26,000 casualties, including 6,821 dead. Three of the flag raisers in Rosenthal's photograph—Sgt Michael Strank, Corporal Harlon Block, and Private First Class Franklin Sousley—were killed in action. (https://www.nationalww2museum.org)

On 28 February 1945, the first AACS echelon crossed the Iwo Jima beachhead and on 7 March they had a radio station on the air.

Thanks for the memories...

By George Hoyt

The news about the 75-year WWII anniversary of the placing of the American flag at the top of Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima triggered an Iwo Jima memory.

It was 1959 or 1960 and I was one of about 30 teletype/crypto maintenance technicians in the 1956th Comm Group at Fuchu AS, Japan. There were hundreds of teletype/crypto machines that we maintained at various locations in the 5th AF Headquarters building, and at other locations around the Air Station. Fuchu at that time was the 5th AF Hqs for all of the Air Force units around the Western Pacific. The 5th AF commander was a three-star.

A problem occurred with the teletype/crypto equipment on the island of Iwo Jima that the Iwo Jima Comm guys were unable to resolve. It was an urgent situation--Iwo Jima was without secure teletype comm capability.

I was advised to get ready for a trip to Iwo Jima to provide a technical assist. I was taken in a staff car from Fuchu AS to Tachikawa AB and out onto the Tachi flightline to the 5th AF general's C-54 aircraft.

George Hoyt

Three or four hours later we were on the ground at Iwo Jima. I was met by comm people and taken to the Comm Center. After an hour or two, I had found the problem. It was complicated, but I had so much detailed experience at Fuchu during the prior year, that I was able to quickly understand and resolve the problem. I wanted to be sure it was working OK, so I watched the equipment operate/run for several more hours. I remember the aircrew standing at the comm center door and asking "how much longer," because they were anxious to get back to Japan.

We left late, probably before midnight. One of the crew members said that since it was so late, I could lay down and sleep on top of the General's bed--but not in it. That was fine with me. A few hours later, I was awakened by the aircrew member as we were approaching Tachi, and I knew that I had been given very special treatment for this situation. I wonder how many young SSgts in the Air Force had ever received such a VIP treatment.

It was dark when I arrived and dark when I left Iwo Jima. I may be one of the few guys in the Air Force who has been to Iwo Jima who never saw Mount Suribachi.

'Tribute to my father'
Son seeks info about AACS operations in the CBI

By Chris Blaase

Author's note: My father, Robert W. Blaase, served as a radio mechanic in the 126th Army Airways Communications Service detachment in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations during WWII. He was a member of the AFCOMMATC Association for many years. He turned 97 in May and still loves to tell his war stories to anyone who will listen.

In 2005, I began conducting research for a book about the AACS in the CBI theater. There have been other histories written about the AACS in general, however, I wanted to write a book about AACS operations in the CBI as a tribute to my father and his contributions during the war. The (then) editor of the Association magazine allowed me to place an ad requesting to hear from AACS CBI veterans.

I received correspondence from about a dozen veterans, whose reminiscences and leads provided a wealth of information. Life intervened and I was forced to stop working on my project. Now, 15 years later, I have resumed work. I am collaborating with a full-time USAF historian/author.

Sgt Blaase was inducted into the US Army Air Corps on Dec 2, 1942, and was sent to Truex Army Airfield, Madison, WI, for Basic Training. Because of his small stature (5'6", 135 pounds), he initially enlisted to be a tail gunner in the consolidated B-24 Liberator heavy bomber. A knee injury and bout of measles, all within his first 6 weeks in the Air Corps, kept him out of Gunnery School. Sgt Blaase was assigned to the Radio Technician School at Truex Field, and became a member of the Army Airways Communications System (AACS).

Sergeant Blaase graduated from Radio Technician School on Sept 6, 1943, and was sent to Boca Raton Army Air Field, FL, for RADAR School. He did not particularly care for RADAR and asked to be voluntarily 'washed out.' The request was granted, and he was transferred to Chanute Army Airfield, IL, for 30 days of Army Indoctrination Training; and from there to Godwin Field, Fort Knox, KY, for 30 days of Advanced Military Training.

After completion, he was transferred back to Chanute, where he completed 10 weeks of Advanced Radio Technician School. From there, he went to Jefferson Barracks, MO, for overseas training. In November 1943, Sergeant Blaase was sent to Camp Anza, CA, to await his overseas orders.

He reported to the US Navy Base San Diego, CA, on Feb 20, 1944, and boarded the troop transport ship USS Mount Vernon, a

converted ocean liner formerly named the SS Washington.

The Mount Vernon set sail the next day. She was at sea for three days before the men on board were told of their destination: Bombay, India. US Naval History Center records indicate that the Mount Vernon arrived in Melbourne, Australia on March 15, 1944, and took on fuel and provisions for two days. They set sail again on March 17 and arrived in Bombay Harbor six days later.

Upon arrival in India, Sergeant Blaase was assigned to the 126th AACS Detachment. He was stationed at Jiwani and Karachi, Baluchistan (now Pakistan), as well as Agra, India, the home of the Taj Mahal. He worked as a radio mechanic on high power radio homing transmitters, which were used by aircraft flying from Abadan, Arabia, to Agra. From Agra, those aircraft proceeded across the Himalayan Mountains "Hump" into China. According to Sergeant Blaase, the RF energy from the transmitters was so strong that he "… could stand anywhere in the transmitter shack and hold a light bulb in my bare hand and it would key C J in Morse Code" (the homing signal sent from the transmitter at Jiwani).

Sergeant Blaase was discharged from the Air Corps at Camp Atterbury, IN, in 1946. Later that year, he married the love of his life, Donna Lou (Clark). They had one son, Christopher (me). Sergeant Blaase always loved electronics, and built his own stereo "hi-fi" system in the 1950s. He also used his AACS training to obtain Amateur Radio call sign N9LQO. He loved building and experimenting with VHF antennas. In November 2014, Sergeant Blaase traveled to Washington, DC, on Indy Honor Flight #8, to visit the World War II Memorial.

Any information I can obtain from any CBI/AACS veteran will be of great value. I am particularly interested in learning the following:
- Where in CBI did the veteran serve and when?
- What was the veteran's job or duty? (Radio mechanic, radio operator, telegrapher, cryptographer, etc.)
- What was the unit's mission? (ATC, message relay, direction finding/homing, etc.)
- How did the veteran get to CBI? (land, air or sea transport). When I first started working on this project, I got a letter from a gentleman who was on the same troop ship as my father, although they never met).
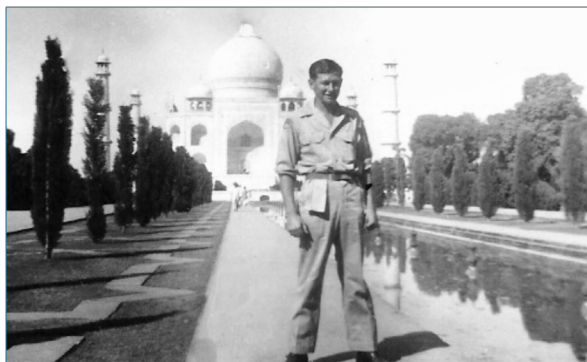*- Any special recollections they have about their time overseas.*

I am a full-time police officer, however, I consider myself to be an amateur WWII historian.
Thank you again for all of your help. I am truly grateful!

CHRIS W. BLAASE
PO BOX 41
HAGERSTOWN IN 47346-0041
chrisblaase@gmail.com

Sgt Robert Blaase stands in front of the Taj Mahal (late 1944-early 1945).

Join the Nation … thank a Vietnam veteran!

Across the Nation, Americans unite to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. This is the main focus of the **US Vietnam War Commemoration**—a national 50th anniversary commemoration, authorized by Congress, established under the secretary of defense, and launched by President Barack Obama in 2012. On March 28, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed into law The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, designating every March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Thousands of organizations—Commemorative Partners—have joined in the mission of honoring our 6.2 million Vietnam veterans, living at home and abroad, and the 9 million families of all who served. This year's activities were suspended because of COVID-19, but will be held later.

By Presidential Proclamation, the Vietnam War Commemoration continues through Veterans Day, Nov 11, 2025. **Our Nation will commemorate this 50th anniversary over a 13-year period.**

Nov 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 is the period being used to recognize the service and sacrifice of those who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. Nov 1, 1955 was selected to coincide with the official designation of Military Assistance Advisory Group-Vietnam; May 15, 1975 marks the end of the battle precipitated by the seizure of the SS Mayaguez.

U.S. involvement in Vietnam started slowly with an initial deployment of advisors in the early 1950s, grew incrementally through the early 1960s and expanded with the deployment of full combat units in July 1965. The last U.S. personnel were evacuated from Vietnam in April 1975. See more at **www.vietnamwar50th.com**

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

National Vietnam War Veterans Day joins six other military-centric national observances codified in Title 4 of the US Code §6 (Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, Navy Day, Veterans Day).

March 29 was chosen to be observed in perpetuity as March 29, 1973 was the day US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, was disestablished and also the day the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam. That same day Hanoi released the last of its acknowledged prisoners of war.

The committee will provide Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins, upon request, to veterans living in America and abroad who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from Nov 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. Instructions for ordering are on the commemoration web site.

www.vietnamwar50th.com

"A Lasting Memento of the Nation's Thanks!"
Front   Back

Communications and the War in Southeast Asia

At the end of December 1961, because of rising tensions in the area, the Pacific Air Forces directed that a tactical air control system be installed and operational in South Vietnam within two weeks. At this time, mainland Southeast Asia was virtually devoid of modern communications systems. The available airfields and communications facilities were outdated, largely of French design, and difficult to maintain. In response to the request of the Pacific Air Forces, the 1st Mobile Communications Group was tasked to provide voice and teletype service at Tan Son Nhut, Pleiku, Da Nang, and Nha Trang, South Vietnam. This represented the beginning of a lengthy and heavy involvement for AFCS in Vietnam.

AFCS communicators' and air traffic controllers' responsiveness to the massive operations in Southeast Asia brought together a legion of specialists performing every known communications-electronics function, and devising new ones as the combat situation dictated.

The war in Vietnam dramatically tested the responsiveness of communication operations to the varied demands of tactical combat operations and counterinsurgency.

The mid-60s was a period of dynamic growth for United States participation in the Vietnam War. The most dramatic increase in military personnel strength occurred in the last half of 1965, as troop levels rose from about 60,000 in July to nearly 250,000 by the end of the year.

Late in the year, new troops arrived at the rate of over 300 per day. The requirements for initial and follow-on communications-electronics support proved monumental.

See a timeline of communications activities/events in Southeast Asia on our web site: http://www.afcommatc.org/comm-role-in-southeast-asia.html

Thank you all for your service!
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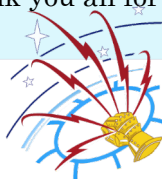
At right are just a few people from our Association who served in Vietnam.

Lt Col Rocky Gannon was in Vietnam from Oct 1968-Oct 1969. He was stationed at Bien Hoa. His first assignment in Vietnam was as Chief of Special Activities, 19th Tactical Air Support Sq. He flew the C-47. His second assignment was as a Forward Air Controller with the 504th Tactical Air Support Group. Here he is in front of the O-2 he flew.
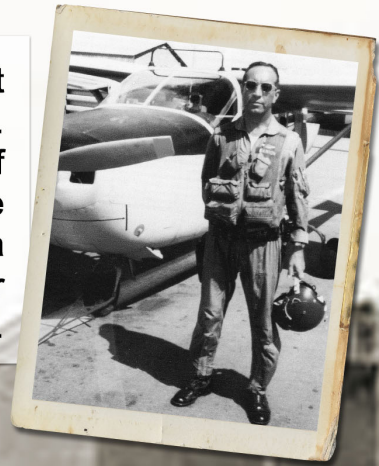
Bill Hammett-- RAPCON (Gin Andy). Roland McNulty (deceased, former life member) was his first watch supervisor there. Here's a shot from February 1967 right after he made SSgt.

Larry Miller--Bien Hoa '70, during a self help project on their hootch. He PCSed from the 1956th CG in Japan to the 1877th CS in Vietnam in July 1969. After a month at Bien Hoa, he went to a transistor school at Clark AB, Philippines for 30 days. When he returned, he was on a 2 month TDY to Tan Son Nhut (Saigon) for manning assist. His AFSC was 30650, Crypto Maintenance.


Bill La Monte in the control tower at Cam Ranh Bay sometime in 1970. He was there Jan-Dec 1970. He was also at Phu Cat Tower Jan-Dec 1968.

Vietnam vets: Please send me a photo of yourself representing your time in service, with a brief description of where, what and when and your specialty. I will try to use it in future editions of *Communicator*.

Modernization:
Analog to digital in the late '70s and '80s

By Gregg E. Noud, CCC
Scott AFB IL
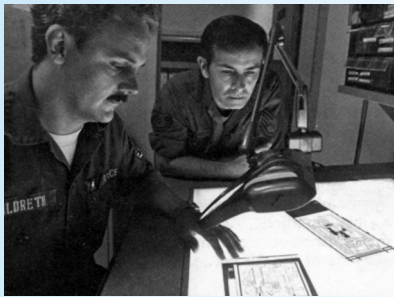
Members of the 1842nd Electronics Engineering Group review circuit board negatives at Scott AFB, IL.

An AFSATCOM programmer, TSgt Otis Smith, operates the AFSATCOM simulator while 2nd Lt Rick Mahoney, test analyst, watches. The simulator can reproduce the inputs and outputs that show real-world choices that can be handled by radio receiver, transmitter, and satellite equipment. Tinker AFB, OK, 1983.

(Photos courtesy of the CCC History Office)

During the late 1970s and throughout most of the 1980s the Air Force Communications Command (AFCC) was an Air Force Major Command and the predecessor to what is now Cyberspace Capabilities Center. Three initiatives during this era illustrate Air Force success in leading a change in culture regarding communications infrastructure thereby using industry to advance technology, reduce cost, and increase speed and quality of implementation.

The three initiatives are the transition from analog to digital technologies, use of equipment based on commercial standards vice military standards and the application of industry-provided engineering and installation capabilities allowing AF to increase focus on warfighting capabilities. These opportunities presented themselves due to the emergence of commercially available hardware and software marketed as commodities.

Analog signals are continuous in both time and value. Digital signals are discrete in time and value. Digital signals can be represented by binary numbers, "1" or "0". In the late 1970s and the 1980s, the Air Force communications focus was on the advantages of digital communications. The Air Force embarked on the journey to convert its telephone systems from analog to digital technology with the goals of improving quality of service, enabling better security and increasing physical media capacity.

During this period, the Defense Communications Agency (DCA), today known as the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), implemented a series of efforts to upgrade theater communications for the Department of Defense. DCA chartered the Air Force to take the lead for three programs that illustrate this progression of technology: Digital European Backbone (DEB), Japan Reconfiguration and Digitization (JRD) and the Philippine Digitization Upgrade (PDU).

In the late 1970s, the 1842nd Electronics Engineering Group (EEG), a subordinate unit to AFCC, provided the lead engineering services for the DEB to convert signals from analog to digital. Lessons learned from the DEB led to more advancements in the Pacific Theater including Army initiatives in Korea and the U.S. Navy in Guam synchronizing with the JRD and PDU. The 1842nd EEG partnered with other AFCC units to implement microwave and tropospheric scatter digital radio links, digital telephone switches, as well as underground copper and undersea fiber. These successes provided connectivity to all U.S. military installations in and around the European Command and Pacific Command regions.

The 1980s also saw Satellite Communications (SATCOM) become increasingly important. AFCC, working with Air Force Space Command and the Space Missile Center, provided the engineering and implementation groups responsible for the ground segments of the communication system. They ensured the ground terminals and the rest of the segment design met the jam-resistant and High Altitude Electromagnetic Pulse MILSATCOM link requirements around the world. These projects
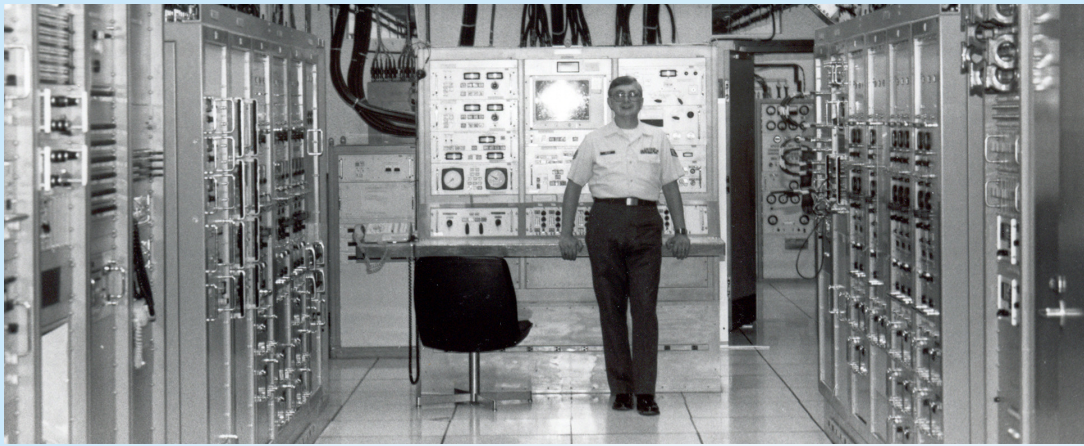
A member of the 1st Aerospace Comm Group stands among equipment racks of the Defense Satellite Communications System terminal collocated with the AFSATCOM consolidated ground terminal at Offutt AFB, NE, 1981.

replaced analog radio, multiplexors and voice switches, giving the AF a distinctive advantage in long distance digital communications.

Digital systems proved to be much more reliant and not as sensitive to interference in the radio frequency spectrum. With error correction, bits lost in transmission could be calculated and corrected increasing survivability of the data through adverse radio reception periods caused by anomalies such as electrical interference or changes in the weather. Digital systems also made communications easier to protect in enemy jamming scenarios using capabilities like spread spectrum, frequency hopping and interleaving technologies.

The newly implemented digital environment offered key advantages for information protection. Encryption was much easier using simple binary math as compared to the complex phase shifting algorithms required for encryption of analog signals. The same binary math could be used to decrypt the data.

Implementation of the PDU project marked the beginning of a new acquisition and implementation procedure. The AF opted to not only use the equipment supplied by commercial companies, but also contracted for installation and implementation. This was known as a "turnkey" solution, and in terms of AF evolution, marked the beginning of employing industry to provide the cyberspace domain.

The evolution from DEB, provisioned with Military Standards (Mil-Std) based equipment, to JRD and PDU provisioned with commercial equipment reflected a first step in conforming to industry standards to meet AF communications requirements. The DEB's Mil-Std equipment required development of special interfaces with the commercial capabilities. With the widespread use of commercially supplied equipment, the AF eliminated the need for special interfaces between the civilian sector and the AF environments.

As we continue to evolve, the AF is changing its cyberspace strategy to becoming a service consumer instead of a service supplier. Analogous to the operational domains of land, sea, air and space, the AF's goal is to leverage a cyberspace domain provided by industry. The AF has set a long-term goal in its strategy to operate in cyberspace in a similar way.

An integral aspect of this culture change is the adoption of "cloud computing" and enterprise information technology as a service. This evolution will enable a new approach to delivering IT services that promises to be highly agile and operate at potentially lower costs for consumers. We want to continue to leverage industry to develop, deploy and operate the cyberspace domain, allowing the AF to concentrate on building weapon system capabilities that operate in, on and through the domain in support of Air Force core missions.

2nd Lt Norman Howard, 1842nd Electronics Engineering Group, verifies automated procedures on the prototype digital microwave radio system supporting the Japan Reconfiguration and Digitization program, Japan.

A1C Mark Williams checks the status of Digital European Backbone remote unmanned sites using transmission monitoring and control equipment, Europe.

Communications history

Basic training blues

By Bill Malec

I arrived for basic military training at Lackland AFB, TX, in early December 1968.

I graduated from high school earlier that year, where I was a 4-year varsity letterman in both cross country and track, so I fancied myself a "running machine" and looked forward to showing my stuff.

Basic training was not "athlete friendly" like it is now. We did our running in combat boots, blue shorts, and a yellow cotton t-shirt with AIR FORCE emblazoned across the chest.

We endured a series of group runs, along with our sister flight, around the large asphalt training pad working to gain speed and endurance. Running in combat boots took some getting used to but I was confident that I'd do well on my timed mile run.

The day of the final run was Texas hot and humid, just like nearly every other day at basic. We were fortunate to have a bit of a breeze when the military training instructor, affectionately known as simply T-I, yelled, "Go!"

In my element, I was off and running like a young gazelle. I moved steadily through the large gaggle and was soon leading the pack. After a few agonizing minutes the finish line came into sight. I shifted into high gear for my final sprint to glory. I crossed the line, channeling Olympian Eric Liddell from the movie "Chariots of Fire". With my final lunge I inadvertently bumped the sister flight TI who served as the official timer.

I was brought back to reality when another TI quickly got up in my sweaty face, yelling at me, accusing me of disrespecting the TI. He loudly ordered me to run way down to the other end of the training area and tell my TI what an insubordinate thing I'd done.

I was off and running and was pretty spent by the time I reached my TI. With the usual basic training formality of "Sir this!" and "Sir that!" I breathlessly told him what I had done. True to form, my TI got up in my face too, directing me to run back down to the other end of the field and apologize for my transgression.

Off I went again, running literally on fumes upon my arrival. I could barely get the first "Sir!" out as I attempted a breathless apology. Thankfully the TI sternly accepted and I was left bent over in a pool of sweat.

By then I had all but forgotten that I had won the race since in doing so I had lost sight of the goal. I was supposed to be learning respect for authority and running was actually just a training exercise toward that end. I had won the battle but lost the war. Fortunately, I survived to fight again.

Bill Malec is a retired Air Force colonel and an AFCOMMATC life member who resides in O'Fallon, IL.

'SAVER' GETS SAVED

AFCOMMATC Historian: Lt Col (Ret) Rocky Gannon, who was featured in our November 2019 Communicator magazine, continues to provide stories that capture all of us. This one is unique because a Ground Approach Controller received an aircraft save for saving Rocky who, in his own right has 5 aircraft "Saves" as a Master Air Traffic Controller.

The setting was Castle AFB, CA, in 1957. Camera crews from a major Hollywood movie studio were shooting scenes for the movie "Bombers B-52". The stars were Karl Malden and Natalie Wood. At the morning briefing Rocky does admit he was distracted a bit by Ms. Wood.

Then, make-believe became a reality and a young radar approach controller found himself director, producer and star of a life-or-death drama.

A stricken T-33 Shooting Star jet trainer, piloted by Lt Rocky Gannon, was coming in with a seriously ill cameraman on-board and a pilot who could not see because his aircraft's canopy was completely iced over. The young controller, TSgt Jessee Chavez, responded to the challenge and guided the pilot, who never once saw the ground, to a safe "zero-zero" landing, a feat that gained national attention for both the controller and pilot.

Sergeant Chavez recalls the day very well. "I was in contact with Lieutenant Gannon and he said he couldn't see anything outside due to ice on the canopy and that he had a passenger suffering from hypoxia (lack of oxygen at high altitude) who looked in pretty bad shape and should get treatment right away. We had no choice but to try a blind landing. The approach controller set him up on final approach and then I took over on the precision scope and talked him down. It was a sure relief when he made it."

Colonel Gannon remembers it from his end. "My passenger, a movie cameraman had accidentally disconnected his oxygen and passed out. I noticed it a few minutes later and started down to an altitude where he could get some oxygen. When the nose went down, he dropped his camera and slumped forward, jamming the stick forward. The result was an uncontrolled power dive, much steeper than I had intended, and the tremendous outside air temperature made ice form on all the windows. I couldn't pull out, but just under 10,000 feet my passenger recovered enough to realize what was wrong and when he removed his weight from the stick, I was able to pull out. I'm sure glad it was Sergeant Chavez on the scope that day. He did a perfect job."

Historian source: A SAC Press Service Feature by Sgt. Lee G. Eckels, Castle AFB, CA; Wurtsmith News, Friday, Nov 20, 1970.

Historian note (Ken Reiff): During a conversation with Lt Col Gannon, he clarified that he pulled out of the dive at 5,000 feet and had to decide whether to eject or try to land.

LEGENDS AND LORE

Roland (Rocky) Gannon in the cockpit of a T-33. Gannon served in the Air Force for 37 years. He flew 6,000 hours in 34 different aircraft, from bombers to transports, from gliders to fighters. He flew as a combat pilot in World War II, Korea, the Belgian Congo and 387 combat missions in Vietnam. As a result of the post-World War II pilot drawdown, he became an Air Traffic Controller.

Lieutenant graduates in room dedicated to his grandfather –

Col Derrel Dempsey

By Amn Seth Haddix

Keesler AFB, MS

In 2015, the 334th Training Squadron dedicated a conference room inside Cody Hall to retired Col. Derrel Dempsey who served in the Air Force from 1954–1984.

The grandson of Colonel Dempsey, 2nd Lt Kiefer Luth, 57th Operations Support Squadron airfield operations officer, had the honor of graduating inside the same room dedicated to his grandfather inside of Cody Hall in November.

"It is surreal to graduate in a room dedicated to my grandfather and his achievements," said Lieutenant Kiefer. "My grandfather was a reason I joined and is a role model for me as a person and an airman."

Attending the graduation, Tamera Luth, daughter of Colonel Dempsey and mother of Kiefer, entered the room for the first time at her son's graduation. "He felt the day this room was named after him was the greatest day in his life. This room was such an honor for my dad and my family. I am still learning about how incredible of a person and airman he was.

"My son looked up to his grandfather, and he continues to inspire him. I can't put into words what seeing him follow in his footsteps means to me."

Col Dempsey supervised the largest military air traffic control organization in the free world. During his final assignment he acted as the crisis manager during the 1981 Federal Aviation Administration air traffic controller strike, deploying more than 642 AF air traffic controllers to 75 FAA facilities across the country. Colonel Dempsey earned many prestigious awards. Among them are the Joseph P. Duckworth, Jr. Award for contributions to the art of instrument flying; the Traffic Control Association President's Citation of Merit for driving expansion of air traffic control wartime readiness; induction into the AF Cyberspace Operations and Support Hall of Fame; and the Air Traffic Control Association George W. Kriske Memorial Award. The Air Force Flight Standards Agency declared Colonel Dempsey a "living legend in the air traffic control realm" and renamed the Air Force's annual Air Traffic Control Manager (Officer) of the Year award in his honor in 1995.

2nd Lt. Kiefer Luth shakes hands with his mother, Tamera Luth, during an Airfield Operations Officer Course graduation inside the Dempsey Conference Room.

Tamera Luth, daughter of retired Col Derrel Dempsey and mother of 2nd Lt Kiefer Luth, tours the Dempsey Conference Room inside Cody Hall at Keesler AFB. Luth completed the course and graduated in the room dedicated to his grandfather. (*Air Force photos by Airman Seth Haddix*)

GPS marks 25 years in operation

By 1st Lt Tyler Whiting
Peterson AFB, CO

The Global Positioning System, better known as GPS, marked its 25th year of operation April 27, 2020. On this date in 1995, the system reached full operational capability, meaning the system met all performance requirements. Air Force Space Command formally announced the milestone three months later.

"This is a major milestone," Gen. Thomas S. Moorman Jr., former Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, said in 1995. "GPS has become integral to our warfighters and is rapidly becoming a true utility in the civilian community."

Initially developed for the military to meet a critical need for determining precise location on the battlefield, GPS has also become an integral part of technology affecting the lives of billions of people worldwide.

"The United States Space Force's continuing objective for the constellation is to ensure GPS remains the gold standard for global space-based positioning, navigation and timing," said Gen. Jay Raymond, USSF Chief of Space Operations, and U.S. Space Command Commander.

Today, the U.S. Space Force operates the GPS satellite constellation as a global utility – always available to everyone, everywhere on Earth.

Its military capabilities first enhanced combat operations in 1990 and 1991 during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Allied troops relied heavily on the new GPS signal to navigate the featureless deserts in Kuwait and Iraq.

In the early 2000s, during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, GPS contribution to warfighting increased significantly. The GPS constellation enabled accurate munitions, allowing the delivery of GPS-aided Joint Direct Attack Munitions with pinpoint precision and minimal collateral damage.

Today, in addition to these and other GPS-enabled warfighting capabilities, airmen conduct resupply missions with battlefield precision airdrops to combat forces with GPS-guided, parachute-delivered equipment pallets known as "Smart Pallets."

The GPS operational constellation currently has 31 satellites, and the system is continually updated and modernized, making it a resilient system to maintain the signals required for accurate positioning, navigation and timing around the world.

The first satellite of the new GPS III version, called Vespucci, was launched into space Dec. 23, 2018.

The 2nd Space Operations Squadron at Schriever AFB, CO, operates GPS. The squadron recently accepted control of the second GPS III satellite, called Magellan, on March 27.

GPS III is meeting users' emerging needs and responding to tomorrow's threats with improved safety, signal integrity and accuracy.

Flashback to the '70s and AFCC

Besides providing the common-user, long-haul communications service for the Air Force, AFCC worked with a number of specialized communications systems which were dedicated to a particular Air Force user for singular purposes. The systems which received particular emphasis in the '70s included (1) air-to-ground and point-to-point, high-frequency systems which gave commanders the ability to communicate with their aircraft throughout the world and also provided constant contact with aircraft carrying the President, cabinet members, and other senior government officials; (2) a Strategic Air Command message communications system which connected the National Command Authorities, SAC commanders, and individual executing commanders; (3) a series of satellite communications programs that would give increased communications capability for strategic and tactical commanders, provide a global positioning system, and increase redundancy for other central communications systems; (4) the Military Affiliate Radio System; and (5) the Air Weather automated switched network.

In another satellite program, NAVSTAR Global Positioning System, AFCC worked to develop a vastly superior navigational system, envisioned to be precise enough to act as a landing system. The system would be used by all military forces to accurately determine positions of friendly and enemy forces and the relationship of their positions to each other.

In the mid-70s, AFCS served in an unofficial operations and maintenance role. In 1978, the Air Staff appointed the Strategic Air Command as operational manager, with AFCS directed to assist in development of a management plan for the program. (AFCC--An Illustrated History, 1991)

Team completes production order of deployable ILS

HANSCOM AFB, MA – A team in the Digital Directorate here completed production orders of a system that improves warfighters' abilities to land in austere environments and low-visibility conditions.

Personnel from the Deployable Instrument Landing Systems program office procured the final six D-ILS in September. The landing systems provide three major capabilities: the ability for precision approach and landing for aircraft at a deployed location; augmentation of an existing airfield; temporary restoration of ILS at damaged airfields.

"We can provide these capabilities anywhere in the world," said Capt. Joe Inkrott, the D-ILS program manager. "We can use it to support Air Force contingency operations overseas, at a state-side base going through repairs like we are at Shaw Air Force Base, or to assist those impacted by natural disasters."

The 53rd Air Traffic Control Squadron from Robins AFB, GA, deployed a D-ILS to Shaw AFB, SC, in September to support runway repair operations. Shaw is the first base to use the D-ILS operationally, and the 53rd ATCS experienced major success during system setup and checkout.

"The D-ILS was field-tested to be installed with three Radar, Airfield Systems and Weather Systems, or RAWS, technicians and one Power Production Civil Engineer in 168 man-hours, roughly five days," said TSgt Lucas King, 53rd ATCS D-ILS team chief. "Shaw AFB's request offered an opportunity to train additional members so installation was completed two days earlier than anticipated."

The plan is to leave the system at Shaw for 10 to 12 months. Afterward, it will be returned to Robins for storage and training until it is needed again.
To award the final production buy, the D-ILS team had to overcome significant budget challenges. "Our program was originally funded using Overseas

Members of the 53rd and 270th Air Traffic Control Squadrons participate in hands-on Deployable Instrument Landing Systems training at Rosecrans ANGB in Missouri. (Courtesy photo)

Contingency Operation, or OCO, funding. However, we are no longer eligible for OCO funding and have a very constrained budget," said Captain Inkrott. "Through the Below Threshold Reprogramming process, we received more than $10 million from outside sources, which allowed us to realize a quantity-buy discount and award a contract to purchase six systems, completing production orders. This saved us nearly $4 million and cut two years from the production schedule."

From here the team will work to ensure the systems arrive at their Air Combat Command, US Air Forces in Europe and Air National Guard bases. They will also work with the Air Force Flight Standards Agency to develop training plans, implement system enhancements and solidify sustainment processes.

"We're providing a much-needed capability that will allow us to project airpower worldwide," Captain Inkrott said. "Going forward, we're eager to see all the ways this system will benefit Air Force operations."

Integrated program office links requirements with acquisition services

By Maj. Dennis Adezas
ACC Cyberspace and Information Dominance

HANSCOM AFB, MA. -- The Air Combat Command Directorate of Cyberspace and Information Dominance activated the Functional Management Office supporting the Enterprise Information Technology as a Service, or EITaaS, last July at Hanscom. It has since been renamed Integrated Program Office (IPO).

Having an integrated program office co-located in the same building where procurement of information technology services will occur will bring the right capabilities to the warfighter at a much faster pace. The activation of the IPO will synchronize strategic, operational and day-to-day acquisition processes to deliver cyber capabilities to the cyber workforce.

"Air Combat Command, as lead major command for cyber, is excited to work even closer with the

acquisition professionals at Hanscom," said Col (now Brig Gen) Chad Raduege, ACC's Cyberspace and Information Dominance director, who hosted the event. "This is the realization of industry best practices -- coupled with senior leader support -- to bring together those who define the requirements, in this case, ACC on behalf of all Air Force members, with those who acquire the capability. The goal is a healthy tension between the two, for the benefit of all. This is a brave new world and a clear indicator of ACC's commitment to bring the future faster."

EITaaS is commercializing common Air Force network services and has been ongoing for the last two-and-a-half years. The integrated team's work will improve services for all Air Force personnel and reduce the overall risk to the Air Force network.

"The activation serves as another fundamental milestone on our journey to a fully digital Air Force," said Bill Marion, AF Deputy Chief Information Officer. "In this case, the office will strengthen the critical linkage between the Airmen, IT requirements and the acquisition professionals who are delivering our next-generation user experience. This activation will shape the future of our IT transformation, but most importantly, empower our Airmen with the right mission tools."

SMSgt Mark Buchanan, right, cyber systems superintendent and cable systems integrator base level with the 202d EIS, reviews the communications infrastructure with SSgt Charles Chalk, center, a cable and antenna technician, and SSgt Wilson Gardner, an airfield systems technician at Muñiz ANG Base in Puerto Rico in 2018. The 202d EIS deployed to Puerto Rico as part of the Hurricane Irma and Maria recovery efforts. *(ANG photo by SMSgt Roger Parsons).*

Guardsmen earn top honors for EI awards

ROBINS AFB, Ga.—Three Guardsmen from the Georgia Air National Guard's 202d Engineering Installation Squadron were selected as the best of the best out of all 16 Air Force engineering installation squadrons.

SMSgt Mark Buchanan was chosen as the Base Level Cyberspace Systems Integrator of the Year, SMSgt Andrew Jones was selected as the Senior Support Member of the Year, and TSgt Antonio Qualls was chosen as the Installer of the Year.

Jones, a two-time winner of the senior support member of the year award, is humbled to have won again. "I'm flattered someone would think enough of me to put me in for it twice and take the time to write it," he said.

Buchanan has served about 35 years, with 32 in the 202d. He claimed his increased workload due to attrition had a big part in his winning the award.

The 202d EIS installs, repairs and services sophisticated command, control, communications, computers and information technology infrastructure for DOD installations worldwide.

AF announces 2019 Airfield Operations award winners

Airfield Operations Flight of the Year: 14 OSS/OSA, Columbus AFB, MS

D. Ray Hardin Air Traffic Control Facility of the Year: 258 ATCS/MCIG, Johnstown ANG Station, PA

Ronald B. McCarthy Airfield Management Facility of the Year: 7 OSS/OSAA, Dyess AFB, TX

Lima Site 85 Team of the Year: 48 OSS/OSAM, RAF Lakenheath, England

Col Derrel L. Dempsey Airfield Operations Officer of the Year: Capt Robert J. Norris, 354 OSS/OSA, Eielson AFB, AK

Airfield Management SNCO of the Year: MSgt Lisa L. Toro, 821 CRSS/DOT, Travis AFB, CA

Air Traffic Control Enlisted Manager of the Year: MSgt Joseph D. Crutcher, 325 OSS/OSAR, Tyndall AFB, FL

Radar, Airfield, and Weather Systems SNCO of the Year: MSgt Kyle J. Ziehn, HQ AFFSA/XMRE, Ramstein AB, Germany

Airfield Management (Civilian) Manager of the Year: Anthony W. Bunch, 97 OSS/OSA, Altus AFB, OK

Air Traffic Control (Civilian) In Charge of the Year: Milton E. Hyman, 27 SOSS/OSA, Cannon AFB, NM

Radar, Airfield, and Weather Systems Manager of the Year: James R. Snell, 85 EIS/SCXP, Keesler AFB, MS

Airfield Management (Civilian) Technician of the Year: Bradley W. Buckner, 97 OSS/OSA, Altus AFB, OK

Air Traffic Controller (Civilian) of the Year: Steven R. Reinhardt, 325 OSS/OSAR, Tyndall AFB, FL

Radar, Airfield, and Weather Systems Technician of the Year: Gregory L. Hilty, 325 OSS/OSM, Tyndall AFB, FL

Airfield Management NCO of the Year: TSgt Andrew M. McConkay, 23 OSS/OSAA, Moody AFB, GA

Air Traffic Control Watch Supervisor of the Year: SSgt Zakari S. Branden, 325 OSS/OSAR, Tyndall AFB, FL

Radar, Airfield, and Weather Systems NCO of the Year: TSgt Domditer Chan, 374 OSS/OSAM, Yokota AB, Japan

Airfield Management Airman of the Year: SrA Carlos A. Belalcazar-Barcenas, 60 OSS/OSAA, Travis AFB, CA

Air Traffic Controller of the Year : SrA Brad E. Borowy, 23 OSS/OSAT, Moody AFB, GA

Radar, Airfield, and Weather Systems Airman of the Year: SrA Matthew Kaser, 1 CCS/CYF, Ramstein AB, Germany

Airfield Management Training Achievement of the Year: TSgt Marcus I. Jackson, 334 TRS/ULBE, Keesler AFB, MS

Air Traffic Control Training Achievement: SSgt Daniel A. Reid, 27 SOSS/OSAR, Cannon AFB, NM
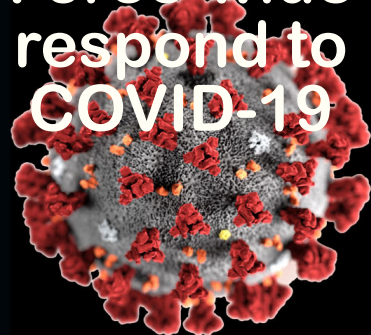
Air Forces cyber keeps the telework force in the fight

By George Serna
Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, TX

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 16th Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) has worked to ensure teleworkers across the Air Force keep government and personal computers and networks connected and protected.

"Some of the efforts to expand telework capacity have been months in the making, while others were accomplished by incredible Airmen who re-engineered systems overnight," said Lt Gen Timothy Haugh, commander of 16th AF.

"We are working in close partnership with our Air Force CIO, Air Combat Command, the Cyberspace Capabilities Center (AFCC successor organization), and Life Cycle Management Center to expand telework options and network capacity," Gen Haugh said.

Virtual private network capacity has been upgraded to 70,000 concurrent users enterprise wide – a 600 percent increase. More upgrades will take that number to 200,000 concurrent users.

"As we continue to improve network user experience," the general said, "we also want to ensure we're being cognizant of cyber and information security during a time of increased telework." Protecting the DoD Information Network is an important part of every Airman's job.

"We know our adversaries will attempt to spread disinformation about COVID-19," Gen Haugh said. "Each of us can serve on the front lines in the fight against disinformation, if we recognize the threat and maintain a healthy skepticism about the information we view online."

When reading posts, tweets, articles, etc., consider the following: Is this an original account, article, or piece of content? Who shared or created it? Simply ask yourself: "Is this real?" Then take a couple minutes to investigate and be especially mindful about what we re-post or share with friends, co-workers, and family.

SrA Pedro Asebedo, a 509th Communications Squadron client systems technician, calls a customer at Whiteman AFB in Missouri, in April. The 509th CS, like others across the installation, started working in shifts to limit the number of personnel in work centers. (Air Force photo by SSgt Dylan Nuckolls)

509th CS enables work-from-home

WHITEMAN AFB, Mo. – The mission of the 509th CS is to provide superior communication services with first-class partner support, enabling the 509th Bomb Wing to generate and project deterrence through combat power.

Due to the COVID-19 response and the installation commander's teleworking directive, a spotlight was put on the 509th CS to ensure members can safely practice social distancing by working from home and still have the computer access they need to accomplish the mission.

"In the first weeks, we had about 1,000 customers roll through for touch maintenance, and that is just for the virtual private network," said Lt Col Rachel Freestrom, 509th CS commander. The virtual network is what Team Whiteman needs to telework and the touch maintenance included installing software patches and enabling Wi-Fi abilities on computers for VPN access, according to Freestrom. All of these tasks quickly became a priority for the unit.

Barksdale stays connected

By TSgt Daniel Martinez
Barksdale AFB, LA

For many members of Team Barksdale, working from home is business as usual and it's all thanks to the 2nd Communications Squadron enabling Airmen to stay connected.

To meet the surge of teleworking personnel, the 2nd CS ramped up operations at "The Hub," a walk-in computer clinic where they troubleshoot various software issues, set up smart phones for government use and image computers with the network compatible operating system software.

"The hub imaged 100 laptops in three days, which is double our normal rate," said SSgt Jonathan Witzel, 2nd CS client systems supervisor. "Walk-ins have been around 70 customers daily for VPN (virtual private network) issues and WiFi enabling compared to normal days averaging 15 total."

Comm helps calm the storm

By A1C Zachary Chapman
Goodfellow AFB, TX

Working from home to keep the mission going wouldn't be possible without the hard work and hours by the 17th CS. In preparation for essential personnel to work from home, more than 200 mobile devices were prepared.

"I'm extremely proud of my team," said SSgt Antonio Vasquez, 17th CS client systems technician noncommissioned officer in charge. "The CST shop reimaged laptops and tablets and added them to the domain so team Goodfellow could telework. They were able to accomplish this in under 5 days by working days, mids and swings.

Teleworking at Incirlik

Senior Airman Kaitlyn Schramek, 39th CS voice systems technician, troubleshoots a voice communicator app at Incirlik AB, Turkey. Voice systems technicians ensure voice comms are accessible at work and from home. When teleworking was enabled due to COVID-19, the squadron determined the wing's communications requirements and distributed over 200 laptops to mission-critical users. Soon after, the squadron created and released a teleworking guide to inform users on teleworking capabilities and processes. (Air Force photo by TSgt. Jim Araos)

Airman 1st Class Wesley Carrow, 52nd CS client systems technician, works on a computer in a shop at Spangdahlem AB, Germany. (Air Force photo by A1C Alison Stewart)

52d CS meets demand

SPANGDAHLEM AB, Germany – Crises seldom allow for preparation and often disrupt the natural flow when it comes to work, school, and routines. This was the case for Airmen from the 52nd Comm Squadron, who have been tasked with providing virtual private network capabilities to the entire 52nd Fighter Wing, started by COVID-19.

"There are multiple branches within the CS," said SSgt. Joshua Butora, 52nd CS client systems infrastructure shop supervisor. "The cyber systems technicians deal with computer and application issues. The infrastructure shop in the background works on servers and routers and a lot of the core hardware devices that make the base's network work. The head admin shop does a lot of server management." To meet the demand for teleworking capabilities to be added to computers across base, the CS set up a walk-in computer diagnostics clinic. "We worked on roughly 170 machines over two days," said Butora.

Connecting global comm

By SSgt. Devin Nothstine
Ramstein RP, Germany

The 691st Cyberspace Operations Squadron provides the capability to practice physical distancing while maintaining mission success in response to the spread of coronavirus disease 2019.

Airmen assigned to the 691st COS lead the way not only for U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa but also numerous bases globally. "We don't just support USAFE, we can support anybody worldwide," said Lt. Col. Rebecca Russo, 691st COS commander.

The equipment and system in use affords select command and control positions access to the network, shared drives and communication connectivity while working at an alternate duty location. However, 691st COS Airmen found an alternative, increasing the availability through virtual, private networks for thousands of members to telework. These capabilities allow bases, such as the 86th Airlift Wing, to continue their mission and generate airlift while keeping the health of the force a top priority.

A1C Javier Rojas, 50th SCS Operations Flight network operations technician, handles wires on the comvault backup solution at Schriever AFB, CO. The comvault can back up nonclassified internet protocol router network information for Schriever. (Air Force photo by Airman Amanda Lovelace)

50th SCS provides vital support to Schriever missions

By Airman Amanda Lovelace
50th Space Wing/PA
Schriever AFB, CO

The 50th Space Communications Squadron provides cyber capabilities and support to the warfighter, a role vital to the missions at Schriever AFB.

Airman 1st Class Javier Rojas, 50th SCS Operations Flight network operations technician, said the squadron maintains communications systems that are important in supporting Schriever's space operations. "We operate, maintain and defend the cyber space domain," he said. "By doing so, we provide support for all the different assets that Schriever has."

Staff Sgt. Joshua Phillips, 50th SCS Operations Flight noncommissioned officer in charge of vulnerability management, listed numerous tasks his squadron accomplishes, including providing internet access to remote sites, supporting GPS, managing cyber capabilities, preventive cyber interdiction and mission defense, among others.

The different shops within the squadron all have a unique role in supporting the squadron's mission.

"Each shop in our squadron has its own individual way of supporting all of our mission satellites," A1C Javier Rojas said. "[Together we] provide support to important systems like missile detection, intel and GPS." According to Phillips, intel, operations, space operations, multiple joint forces, missile defense, base defense and security all depend on the 50th SCS to deliver cyber security capabilities.

"What we do impacts the base directly," Phillips said. "We maintain file services, print services, internet protocol TV and dynamic host configuration protocol (enterprise level services) for the entire base. We secure servers and remediate vulnerabilities on [unclassified and classified networks]."

"What we do is crucial in providing support to the bigger picture space mission," said Airman Rojas.

ATC mission carries on

SrA Hector Machado, left, and SrA Albert Corona, air traffic controllers with the 75th Operations Support Squadron, man the tower at Hill AFB, Utah, in April. While the "new normal" for some of the base's workforce includes social distancing and teleworking due to COVID-19, the 75th Operations Support Squadron is making it all happen while keeping Hill AFB flying. "While we've implemented some rather unique and stringent procedures to safely do that in lieu of COVID-19, our mission hasn't changed and neither have our Airmen," said Lt Col Christine Littlejohn, 75th OSS commander. "Any time, any place, any challenge – this team will get it done."

Airman 1st Class Robert Zander, student, uses radar simulators to control air traffic during the ATC apprentice course inside Cody Hall. This course graduated 536 students this past year.

Airman Seth Frambach, 334th Training Squadron student, uses radar simulators to control air traffic during the air traffic control apprentice course. This course takes 70 academic days to complete.

2nd Lt Christopher Jakacki, student, tracks the local control position using the ATC tower operations simulator during the airfield operations officer course. This course graduated 54 students this past year, and takes 79 academic days to complete.

Airman 1st Class Antwanette Eichelberger, student, troubleshoots a capacitor during the radar, airfield and weather systems apprentice course inside Cody Hall. This course graduated 270 students this past year, and takes 137 academic days to complete.

Inside Cody Hall

Air Force photos by Kemberly Groue

Students learn cutting-edge technologies that support warfighters

The training mission at Keesler AFB, MS, is the responsibility of the 81st Training Group -- the largest electronics training group in the world. On any given day, more than 3,000 students attend classes in one of over 160 courses.

The 81st Training Group annually provides training to more than 30,000 officers, airmen and civilian employees of the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, other DOD agencies and DOD contractors, as well as allied nations.

Since 1942, Keesler has graduated more than 2 million students. Many come into the Air Force straight from high school.

These young students learn cutting-edge technologies that support America's warfighting capabilities. Training includes weather, basic electronics, communications electronic systems, communications computer systems, air traffic control, airfield management, command post, air weapons control, precision measurement, education and training, financial management and comptroller, information management, manpower and personnel, radar, ground radio, and cyber training. Seven other locations provide additional training, including tactical air control, postal operations, satellite-wideband equipment maintenance, and visual/broadcast information.

Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association

Membership Application

MAIL TO: Ms. Leslie McCormick, 4606 W. Portland St, Springfield MO 65802-4885

Types of Membership

Life & Regular Memberships are based on service as a commissioned officer, warrant officer, non-commissioned officer, enlisted or civilian, who served or is serving in any communications/information/cyber or air traffic control unit in any Air Force Major Air Command or Joint Command. Spouses of a living member are also eligible for Regular membership. The Life Membership of a deceased Life Member may be transferred to the spouse if requested by the spouse. Associate Membership is subject to the approval of the Board of Directors for individuals who actively supported any communications/information/cyber or air traffic control activity, but otherwise do not meet the criteria for Life or Regular Membership. Associate Members are not eligible to vote or to hold office in the Association.

Regular and Associate Membership dues are $15.00 per year, *payable in two-year increments*.

Life Memberships are based on age: Up to 50 years = $165; 51–60 years = $145; 61–70 years = $115; 71 years and over = $75

Renewal _____ New Membership_____ Life Membership _____ Regular _____ Associate _____

Amount enclosed: $_____ (Make check payable to "AF Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association")

PRINT CLEARLY – PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION

Date: ___/___/___

First Name _____ MI ___ Last Name_____

Street Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip code_____- _____

Phone Number (_____)_____-_____

e-Mail Address: _____

Year of Birth _____ Spouse's Name _____

Service Status:

Are you a present or former member of the United States Air Force?   Yes   No

If not, are you a spouse, widow, widower, ancestor, or lineal descendant of an individual who meets the requirement above? Yes   No

Dates Served _____ (e.g. 1950-54) Career Field _____

War Time ERA: ☐ WWII (Dec 7, 1941-Dec 31, 1946)   ☐ Korea (Jun 27, 1950-Jan 31, 1955)

☐ Vietnam (Feb 28, 1961-May 7, 1975)   ☐ Gulf (Aug 2, 1990-present)

Highest Rank: _____ Did you retire from the USAF? Yes   No

Do you wish to have a copy of the Communicator mailed to you (it is available on the web): Yes   No

How were you recruited: _____ (Members name, magazine, website, etc)

If you have any questions, contact Leslie McCormick at (417) 365-1837

Spring clearance. All items are 50% off. Just divide
your total cost in half when making out your check.

Command patch

Original patch

Challenge coin

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AF Comm & ATC
embroidered logo golf shirts

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hat

Order form
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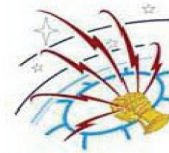
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Address: _____

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Quantity	Description	Cost

_____   AACS Logo Patch with AFCS & AFCC embroidered @ $5 ....   _____

_____   Old blue original AACS patch @ $7 ....   _____

_____   Deluxe Embroidered AFCOMMATC Logo Hat (blue) @ $14 ....   _____

_____   AFCOMMATC Challenge Coin @ $8 ....   _____

_____   Original AACS Lapel Pin @ $6 ....   _____

_____   AFCOMMATC Embroidered Ladies Golf Shirt (white)

    S___   M___   L___   @ $30 ....   _____

    AFCOMMATC Embroidered Ladies Golf Shirt (blue)
    S____ M____ L____ @ $30 ....   _____

_____   AFCOMMATC Embroidered Logo Golf Shirt BLUE.............................   _____

_____   AFCOMMATC Embroidered Logo Golf Shirt WHITE...........................   _____

    S___   M___   L___   XL___ $36   2XL___ $38

_____   AFCOMMATC Jacket (zipper) S___   M___   L___   XL___ $42 ....   _____

_____   Jacket 2XL $50 ....   _____

AACS items are gone except for the patches and pins.

DONATIONS: (Tax deductible within limits of the law): Receipt: Yes___ No___   _____

TOTAL _____ $_____   Divided by 2.

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MAKE CHECKS OUT TO 'AF COMM & ATC ASSOC' and MAIL TO:

Bill Cassatt, 612 W Hardy St, St James MO 65559, 573-263-333

clarkwcassatt@gmail.com

AACS, AFCS & AFCC Wood-Carved Wall Plaques

Cost (including shipping) is $35 each

Make checks out to "AF Comm & ATC Assoc" and mail to Bill Cassatt, 612 W Hardy St., St James MO 65559.

These wood-carved plaques are special order and will take approximately 2-3 weeks for delivery.

Size 10 1/2 inches

Command: AACS_____ AFCS _____ AFCC _____ (Number of plaques)

Total cost: $ _____   (check attached)

Mail to: _____

_____

_____

Many in this association saw air traffic control take a technological leap forward with the introduction of radar in the 1950s. Some saw air and ground radio stations transform from continuous wave Morse Code to radio telephone. Many witnessed the advent of the computer. They all helped the military increase the quantity and quality of communications, data automation, and air traffic controls systems to meet changing needs.

Formerly called AACS Alumni Association (1977 to 2008), AACS stood for both the Army Airways Communications System and the Airways and Air Communications Service. Because missions were basically the same, the AACS Alumni Association expanded membership to include AFCS, AF Communications Command, AF Command, Control, Communications & Computer Agency, AF Communications Agency, AF Flight Standards Agency, and other major commands up to and including today's organizational structure.

TAX STATUS

The AF Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association is an **IRS Code 501(c)(19)** organization. Donations to the Association are tax deductible when filing IRS Form 1040.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HISTORY

The AACS Alumni Association was formed on Sept. 30, 1977. Larry and Doris Camp were visiting Dux and Pearl LeDoux in Eunice, LA in 1976 when the subject of old military friends came up. Larry and Dux were assigned to the 5th AACS Wing in Europe. What began as an invite to a poker weekend in Columbus, OH (Larry and Dux were part of a London, England, poker group for AACS detachment commanders) to be hosted by the Camps, turned out to be the first annual reunion.

The couples contacted old friends, who in turn contacted others, and so on. A large number of former AACS troops and spouses made their way to Columbus and the result was what is now one of the strongest AF Alumni Associations. AACS Alumni Association was adopted as the official title, derived from Army Airways Communications System and Airways and Air Communications Service.

Individuals who were part of the first reunion had been assigned to AACS units before, during and after World War II, the Korean Conflict, and up to 1961 when AACS became a MAJCOM and was renamed the AF Communications Service (AFCS).

An annual convention is held in different cities each year. They usually begin on the last Thursday of September and end the following Sunday. The Association operates on membership dues and donations. Association dues are minimal, $15 per year, payable in two-year increments of $30.

ABOUT AACS

In 1938 the Army Airways Communications System (AACS) was formed. During World War II, for a short time it was renamed the Army Airways Communications Wing and then the Air Communications Service, but that only lasted 9 months. When the clamor reached the halls of the Pentagon to retain the AACS designation, it was renamed the Airways and Air Communications Service (AACS) in 1946. This new designation was also a better fit due to the high volume of airplanes flying through U.S. and U.S.-controlled airspace and the need to control airways.

In 1961 AACS was elevated to Major Air Command status and it was renamed the Air Force Communications Service (AFCS).

This designation remained until 1979 when it was renamed the Air Force Communications Command (AFCC). The old blue original AACS logo is our official Association logo.

Check address label for date and/or year dues expire (number before your first name). If it's "20", dues expire Dec 2020. Next edition will not be mailed if dues have expired.

Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association

Who we are

Our association is comprised of about 1,200 members (Communicators, Data Automation, Information/Cyber, Space Operations, Air Traffic Controllers, Air Field Managers, Maintenance, Engineering and Installation and related support personnel) who have served or are serving in any communications or air traffic control unit.

The term Communicators includes ALL operational, maintenance, administrative skills and other skills in the U.S. Army Air Corps and the U.S. Air Force (including Reserve and Air National Guard) communications, data automation, or air traffic control units.

We were formerly called the "AACS Alumni Association" from 1977 until Sept 27, 2008.

We changed our name because the Airways and Air Communications Service (AACS) was elevated to Major Air Command status and redesignated the Air Force Communications Service in 1961.

Mission

* Foster continued awareness of the Air Force communications, data automation, and air traffic control missions previously accomplished by AACS, AFCS, AFCC, AFC4A, AFCA, AFFSA, other past and current major air commands.

* Provide a forum for educational and humanitarian services, renew and make new friendships, and exchange ideas of common interest concerning communications and ATC.

* Fully support goals and missions of the Air Force and honor the ATC Enlisted Manager, Cyber Systems Senior NCO, and Cyber Systems NCO of the Year.

*Make charitable contributions to worthy veteran organizations or related causes.

*Manage our Association to be viable for airmen/officers/civilians serving today.