

AF COMMUNICATORS & AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION

(Formerly the AACS Alumni Association)

Comprised of Members who have served or are serving in any US Air Corps or
Air Force Communications/Information, Cyber, E&I or Air Traffic Control Unit
(Since 1938)



THE COMMUNICATOR

"FELLOWSHIP IN THE COMPANY OF EQUALS"

The Official Publication of the AF Comm & ATC Association, Inc.

NOVEMBER 2014

IMPORTANT NOTICES

This November 2014 issue of the Communicator, will be the last November issue to be printed and mailed. We will put all Nov issues on the Web Site. (see story on page 19). + We are seeking Donations to help the Association, see page 19.

If you want to help save money & "opt-out" of receiving the June Communicators in the mail, see page 10.



**Lt Gen Bender
SAF/CIO A6**

September 2015

**Plan now on coming
to the 39th
Convention/Reunion in**

**Myrtle Beach, SC
"The Hilton Hotel"**

**Sept 30 – Oct 4
(Wed) - (Sun)
(Early Ck-in) - (Get-away Bkft)**

2015 Hosts

**Bill & Pauline Bethea &
"Susie" Twedt**



**See what you missed at our 38th Convention
in Colorado Springs on Page 24.**

Visit our Web Site: www.afcommatc.org

Call 865-740-4127 or 865-690-0479 for information about the Association.

"CHECK YOUR ADDRESS FOR THE MONTH and/or YEAR YOUR DUES EXPIRE"

Make DUES RENEWAL checks out to "AFCommATC Assoc" & mail to Walt McLain (Address on pg.2)



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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE - CYBERSPACE HALL OF FAME
(formerly called the **COMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION HALL OF FAME**)

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Robert "Bob" Akard

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*James J. Duffy

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Class of 2006

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Class of 2007

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Class of 2009

*TSgt Gene Sheridan

Class of 2010

*SMSgt Ray Sharpless

Class of 2011

*Erika VanDyne

Class of 2012

*John Flaherty & Julie Braun

Class of 2013

Mike Hunter

Class of 2014

Air Force Senior Staff Changes

**The Air Force announced the following
General Officer Assignments and Retirements:**

Retirements: Lt General Michael Basla & Maj General Earl Matthews. We wish them both the best of everything on their future endeavors.



Assignments: Lt General William J. Bender and Brig General Sarah Zabel to replace Generals Basla and Matthews on the Air Staff.



Brig General Michael Butikofer from the Pentagon to Director, Command, Control, Communications & Cyber (C4) Systems, U.S. Transportation Command, Scott AFB, IL, replacing General Zabel.



**We wish Generals Bender, Zabel and Butikofer
much success in their new assignments.**

The Major General Van C. Doubleday ATC Enlisted Manager of the Year (2014)



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT CARL J. SPATZ III

Senior Master Sergeant Spatz is presently assigned as the Tower Chief Controller at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. Sergeant Spatz provides leadership and guidance to a 49-person team providing air traffic control service in direct support of the C-17s assigned to McChord Field.

Sergeant Spatz is originally from Geraldine, Alabama and enlisted in the Air Force in September of 1990. His assignments include Holloman AFB, NM, Moody AFB, GA., OSAN AB, Korea, Whiteman AFB, MO., Anderson AFB, Guam. Senior Master Sergeant Spatz has held a variety of challenging positions including Tower and RADAR Chief Controller, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, NCOIC, Air Traffic Control Automation and unit First sergeant. He has also deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Joint Forge and Operation Joint Endeavor. Senior Master Sergeant Spatz holds an Associate's degree from the Community College of the Air Force and is working towards his Bachelors in Airway Science at Thomas Edison State College. He is married to Angela Spatz and has two children, Kennedy and Hunter.

EDUCATION

- 1996 Airman Leadership School, Holloman AFB, New Mexico
- 2005 Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Tyndall AFB, Florida
- 2006 Air Traffic Control System Specialist Course, Keesler AFB, Mississippi
- 2008 Associate degree in Applied Airway Science, Community College of the Air Force
- 2008 Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Non-residence
- 2011 Airspace Management School, Keesler AFB, Mississippi
- 2012 Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Maxwell-Gunter Annex, Alabama

ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 1990 – Nov 1990, student, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, Texas
2. November 1990 – March 1991, student, Air Traffic Control Technical Training, Keesler AFB, Mississippi.
3. April 1991 – November 1997, Radar Air Traffic Controller, 49th Operations Support Squadron, Holloman AFB, NM
4. December 1997 – April 2001, Radar Watch Supervisor, 347th Operations Squadron, Moody AFB, GA
5. May 2001 – May 2002, Asst. Chief of Standardization & Evaluation, 51st Operations Support Squadron, Osan AB, Korea
5. June 2002 – Sept 2006, Chief of Standardization & Evaluation, 347th Operations Support Squadron, Moody AFB, GA.
7. October 2006 – January 2010, Asst. Chief Controller RAPCON, 509th Operations Squadron, Whiteman AB, MO.
3. February 2010 – February 2012, Chief Controller Tower, 36th Operations Support Squadron, Anderson AB, Guam
3. March 2010 – Present, Chief Controller Tower, 62nd Operations Support Squadron, McChord AFB, WA

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

- Meritorious Service Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Commendation Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one silver and one bronze oak leaf cluster
- Air Force Recognition Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster

The Major General Gerald L. Prather Communications/Information Professional of the Year (2014)



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

STAFF SERGEANT ANTWANE D. MCDOWELL

Staff Sergeant Antwane D. McDowell is an Information Assurance Supervisor, 694th Intelligence Support Squadron (ISS), Osan Air base, South Korea. The 694th Intelligence Support Squadron provides a combat unit responsible for operating, maintaining, and sustaining the AN/GSQ-272 Sentinel weapon system for DCGS. The 694th ISS conducts cyber and logistics activities to enable the collection, processing, exploitation and dissemination of tactical, theater, and national intelligence from ground-based and airborne platforms, enabling coalition ISR operations in direct support of the Commander, 7th Air Force. He is currently responsible for performing network security audits, virus scans, and SAVs to ensure security of unit NIPRNET, SIPRNET and Distributed Ground Station-3 (DCGS) weapons systems. His responsibilities include enforcing Information Assurance policies to ensure compliance and authorized network usage, as well as providing user guidance, training, and inspections to 694 ISRG personnel for Information Assurance related matters. He also ensures that protective measures are implemented to safeguard classified information, IT systems, and network users.

Staff Sergeant Antwane McDowell grew up in Manning, South Carolina. He entered the Air Force in April 2004 and immediately joined the Computer Systems Operations career field. His various assignments consist of bases in Georgia, South Korea, Japan, and Hawaii. Sergeant McDowell also deployed in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM, as well as assisting with humanitarian relief efforts following the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina. His background includes cyber and network security administration.

EDUCATION:

- 2009 Airman Leadership School, Yokota AB, Japan
- 2009 Associates Degree Community College of the Air Force Degree in Information Technology
- 2012 Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Course, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii

ASSIGNMENTS:

- April 2004 – June 2004, Student, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB,
- June 2004 – August 2004, Communications-Computer Systems Operations Apprentice, Keesler AFB, Louisiana
- August 2004 – September 2006, Network Administrator, 51st CBCS, Robins AFB, Georgia
- September 2006 – September 2007, AOC Command & Control System Administrator, 607th ACOMS, Osan AB, Korea
- September 2006 – September 2007, AOC Command & Control System Administrator, 607th ACOMS, Osan AB, Korea
- September 2007 – October 2010, Non-Commissioned Officer In-charge Information Protection Operation, 374th Communications Squadron, Yokota AB, Japan
- October 2010 – December 2013, Non-Commissioned Officer In-charge Information Assurance Office, 747th Communications Squadron, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii
- December 2013 – Present, Information Assurance Supervisor, Osan AB, Korea

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

- Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
- Air Force Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Recognition Ribbon
- Air Force Humanitarian Ribbon

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 2006 SrA Below-the-Zone
- 2009 374th Wing C&I 3C0 NCO of the Year
- 2011 647th Wing 3D0X3 Information Dominance NCO of the Year
- 2011 13th Air Force Outstanding IA Element of the Year
- 2012 Air Force Outstanding IA Element of the Year
- 2013 Air Force 3D0X3 Information Dominance NCO of the Year

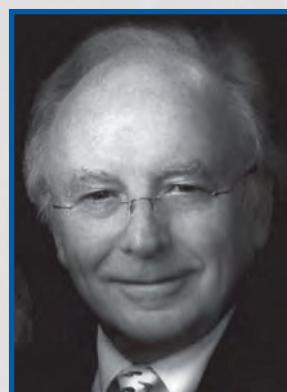
EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTIONS:

Airman First Class 6 June 2004
Senior Airman 6 Feb 2006
Staff Sergeant 1 Jan 2009

MN Aviation Hall of Fame Nomination of Captain Marty Coddington

8-13-09

- * Marty grew up in an "airline family". He had his first "Jump Seat" ride in 1940 observing a check-ride in a Lockheed Lodestar. Marty is #2 in a 4 generation aviation family. His father was with Western Air Lines and his youngest son was a 15 year pilot at the former Northwest Airlines, now called Delta. One of Marty's grandsons is also an airline Captain with Great Lakes Airlines.
- * Although Marty got a little "stick time" in his dad's Taylorcraft, he did not start flying until 1956. He went at it with much procrastination, starting and stopping several times before getting his private license in Honolulu 15 years later. But things accelerated and he then earned 7 ratings in 5 years with another 4 in the 5 years that followed that. By the end of the 70s Marty held Commercial Pilot ratings in all Classes of airplanes plus hot air balloons, and Certified Flight Instructor in all classes of airplanes.
- * Marty was an Air Traffic Controller for 26 years, first in the U.S.A.F. and then over 20 years in the FAA where he served two tours as a controller @ O'Hare Tower & Chicago Approach Control, as a controller in Honolulu Tower & Approach Control, and finally as a Supervisor and controller @ MSP.
- * During those years Marty was an Instructor for Operation Raincheck at all of his duty stations, a Director and Flight Instructor in the FAA Flying Club in MSP, and President, Instructor and Check Airman in a seaplane flying club in the Twin Cities. Marty voluntarily took many of his fellow FAA employees through their training for primary and advanced pilot certificates. He was taught to fly by his colleagues for no cost and was determined to return that investment.
- * Marty held leadership roles in ATC Procedures working groups at all of his duty stations and at the national level where he was Chairman of the ATC Committee of the Air Traffic Control Association (ATCA) of Arlington VA for 10 years. In that latter position he formulated the Associations positions on all proposed ATC procedures or changes to existing ones. He also represented the ATCA on the Air Traffic Control Procedures Advisory Committee (ATPAC), a national group of stakeholders chartered by the Secretary of Transportation. Marty was in ATPAC for three and a half years for ATCA but years later came back as a representative for the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) in three different years.
- * Marty was selected as a "Gypsy Controller", Team Leader, and Assistant Chief of the FAA's temporary work force at the Experimental Aviation Association in Oshkosh. He held those positions several times over a period of 10 years. During his Controller years Marty received every kind of performance award or recognition available and some repeatedly. In 1976 he was the key speaker for the Air Traffic Service at the FAA's 10 year planning conference in Washington, an event attended by nearly all aviation stakeholders.
- * Leaving the FAA in the 1981 strike, Marty nevertheless earned his pension and migrated to full time flying. During the interval between his FAA career and his airline career Marty flew for a scheduled cargo operator out of MSP, a VIP charter company out of STP, owned and operated a hot air balloon ride operation and performed pilot service for three other balloon operators in the Twin Cities.
- * Marty's next career landed him at an ALPA scheduled air carrier in 1988. His background and passionate interest in air safety caused a quick migration into ALPA's Air Safety structure. His association with this activity now exceeds two decades, both as a line pilot for 10+ years and then a consultant for another 11+ years. While he has had encounters with many aspects of Air Safety, much of his focus has been on Air Traffic Procedures and capacity enhancements.
- * In 1989 Captain Coddington joined the Air Traffic Control Committee, later to become the Air Traffic Services Group of the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA). One of his first assignments was to visit the prototype PRM installation in Memphis TN and to join the PRM Working Group developing PRM procedures and Closely Spaced Parallel Approaches (CSPA) for Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Captain Coddington continued with that group beyond the commissioning of the equipment and procedures.
- * In the fall of 1991 the Administrator of the FAA Great Lakes Region presented Captain Coddington with Special Commendation "in recognition of his aviation skills, commitment to others, and performance under pressure while assisting a student pilot safely make an emergency landing" southwest of Duluth. Captain Coddington was in command of a Northwest Airlink Flight from Duluth to MSP when this event occurred on October 12th.
- * In November of 1994 Captain Coddington was selected by the Air Line Pilot's Association to be it's Representative on the Operations and Human Factors Groups of the NTSB investigation of a Northwest Airlink Prop-jet crash near Hibbing MN.
- * On March 13, 1995 FAA Administrator David R. Hinson presented Captain Coddington with a Certificate of Record for Speed Over a Recognized Course at a ceremony in Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C.
- Later in 1995 and again in 1998 Captain Coddington was awarded two additional Certificates and Diplome de Records for World Records set while flying for Northwest Airlink.
- * Captain Coddington retired in November of 1998 and was immediately put on contract as an Air Safety Consultant to the Air Line Pilots Association where he has continued to serve for over 13 years.
- * In August of 2000 Captain Coddington was selected by the Air Line Pilot's Association to be one of it representatives on the Joint Safety Intervention Team for Runway Incursion, a working group element of the Civil Aviation Safety Team (CAST), a product of the Safer Skies Initiative and the Gore Commission. Captain Coddington served in that position for two and a half years. On May 28, 2009 the CAST was awarded the 2008 Collier Trophy for its efforts to reduce aircraft accidents by 80% over a period of ten years, actually exceeding the reduction by 3%.
- * Captain Coddington's experience with the Minneapolis PRM made him ALPA's choice to represent them on additional CSPA working groups, now called Site Implementation Teams (SITs) in St. Louis MO, San Francisco CA, Cleveland OH, Atlanta GA, and Detroit MI which he did beginning in 2002 and continuing to the present.
- * In the fall of 2005 the San Francisco SIT was nominated for the Earl F. Ward Award presented by the Air Traffic Control Association of Arlington VA. The SIT was awarded the Chairman's Citation of Merit for the work done to commission the San Francisco CSPA Simultaneous Offset Instrument Approaches in 2004. Captain Coddington worked on that team for it's entire duration.
- * In addition to the customary functions of the SITs, Captain Coddington joined FAA personnel from Oklahoma City and the ATC facilities in San Francisco and Cleveland to develop the Wake Protection Zone Concept, not yet commissioned but still in development.



AirLand Reversal

Airpower has eclipsed land power as the primary means of destroying enemy forces.



USMC photo by Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge

Here: A dust storm bears down on a military compound in Iraq in 2005. Right: Lt. Gen. Charles Horner (c), then CENTCOM's air component commander, takes notes during Operation Desert Storm.



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Col Randy Witt (later Brig Gen) at the planning table with then Lt General Horner (later General) and his staff planning the Air War against Iraq

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Our Colorado Springs reunion is now history, and what a great reunion it was. Tremendous thanks are in order for Jim and Fran Weber for being such wonderful hosts. As you'll see from the pictures in this edition of *The Communicator*, those that were able to join us this year were treated to activities that had something for everyone. For the Air Force in us all, we were treated to tours of Cheyenne Mountain, the Air Force Academy, and got a behind the scenes look at ongoing restorations of WWII aircraft. The trip to the Edelweiss German Restaurant brought back memories for those of us who had spent time in Germany, and the trip to the top of Pikes Peak was a unique experience whether it was the first trip or one of many taken over the years. Of course, nothing beats renewing old friendships and making new ones in the hospitality room. Over twenty participants this year were attending their first reunion. Thanks to each for coming, and we hope that Colorado Springs will be the first of many that you'll attend.

Major General David Buck, Vice Commander of Air Force Space Command delivered the keynote address at Saturday's banquet and gave encouraging comments about the professionalism of

today's airmen and commented on the challenges the Air Force faces in today's budget environment.

Our Association is honored each year to present awards to two airmen who have been selected by the Air Force as top in their fields. Joining us at the reunion was SMSgt Carl J. Spatz, from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA who was presented the Major General Van C. Doubleday ATC Enlisted Manager of the Year award by Gen Doubleday himself. The General Gerald L Prather AF Communications/Information Professional of the Year award was given to SSgt Antwane McDowell, who came all the way from Osan AB, Korea to join us and receive his award from General Prather. While our Association may represent the legacy of today's Air Force, these outstanding airmen represent its future, and their professionalism clearly shows that to be a bright future. Before closing, I would like to shift gears and write a few important notes about our organization and its way ahead. While our Association remains active and financially sound, our overall membership numbers continue to slowly decline and, as you can see from our treasurer's report in this issue of the *Communicator*, we are spending more than we're taking in. At our annual meeting, the Board of Directors had a long discussion on ways to address these trends. Several themes emerged which I'd like to share. First, we remain committed to providing the same services for our membership that we have provided in the past – a quality publication, an excellent website, and annual reunions. We will continue to support the Air Force, its awards program and make selected donations to further the goals of our Association. We are also committed to holding the line on dues, honoring our commitment in keeping annual dues low for those who haven't yet made the life membership plunge. To keep this commitment, the Board asked for member donations to help defray our Association costs. If each member that was financially able to do so, would donate \$100 or more to replenish the organization's coffers, we would be able to boost our reserves to be on a better footing. We are required to hold the total cost of putting on a reunion (approximately \$30,000) in reserve at all times, and we would like to, at a minimum, ensure that our reserves cover the anticipated cost of two reunions. The Board looked at, and approved, a few internal cost saving initiatives, such as greater use of online publishing for the *Communicator* to save mailing costs, but ultimately, we decided to reach out to our members and ask for your help in better positioning us for the future. You may donate by sending your contribution (tax deductible) to Cindy Hintz, our treasurer (see page 19 of this issue), or through an online donation at our website.

Finally, in looking at ways to increase our membership, we're again looking to you, our members, to spread the word about our Association among your friends, acquaintances, and present or former coworkers. There's no requirement for members to have spent a certain number of years in Comm or Air Traffic Control to join or attend reunions. As Walt McLain, our Membership Chairman often says, "If you had a phone on your desk, you're a communicator, and if you could identify a control tower from the outside, you're an ATC associate" (or something like that – I'll never be able to put it the same way Walt does!). Bottom line – we're looking for anyone that wants to join us for "Fellowship in the Company of Equals". There are lots of small reunion groups that meet from time to time. If you're in touch with some of them, please suggest that they join us and enjoy our reunions each year – they get to meet their friends and have the added bonus of a top notch reunion with great planned activities each September.

In closing, let me thank each of you for your membership and continued support to the Association. Any organization is only as good as its membership and ours is topnotch! Please let me know if you have any ideas to make the Association work better for you. My contact information, along with those of other Board members, is on the inside cover of this magazine.

Doug Donnell
Executive Director

"The Chaplain's Corner"



It was wonderful to serve all of you as host at this year's reunion in Colorado Springs, CO. Now God has opened another door for me (as He does so often) to serve the Association as your Chaplain. I look forward to this challenge.

Every so often, we need to be reminded that God is still in charge. World events and personal crisis sometimes takes our focus away from knowing that no matter what happens, God is still and always will be in control. As His children His love continues to flow to us and His indwelling Spirit is always at work seeking to guide, comfort and give us good counsel. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV) 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

On the other side of the coin, the devil is always seeking ways to tempt us into his doing. 1 Peter 5:8-9 (NIV) 8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

So when that little red devil appears on your shoulder, just remember that God is on the other shoulder to comfort and be with you in difficult and tempting times.

I am always available to serve you. Please call at (719)-332-1402 or email me at JWeber8217@Comcast.net.

**Jim Weber
Chaplain**

"Opt-out of receiving the June Communicators"

To help the association save money, you can EMAIL Walt McLain at aacsmbrship@comcast.net. All you have to tell him, is "YOU CAN STOP MAILING THE JUNE ISSUES OF THE COMMUNICATORS" and will read the June Communicators on the web site (www.afcommatc.org). Please include your full name and mailing address.

Or CUT out the form below and mail it to him.

**To: Walt McLain
4514 Haverty Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37931-3657**

I do not want to receive the June Communicators in the mail. Please remove my name from the mailing list:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

EDITOR-PUBLISHER REPORT

THE COST OF THE JUNE 2014 AF COMM & ATC ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATOR

Printing, labeling, shipping (1,930 copies).....	\$2,901.96
Layout/Draft/Conversion.....	700.00
P.O. Bulk Mail charges (approx 1,849 mailed).....	815.88
Overseas Mail & New or Renewals	??

TOTAL: \$4,417.84



It cost the Association approximately \$2.29 per-copy to publish and mail the NOV 2013 Communicator.

Remaining balance in PO Account: \$ 9.45

Remaining balance in Editors Bank Account: \$ 8.65

NOTE: Monthly reports for the Editors Bank Account are submitted to the Treasurer & audited by the Chair of the Fiscal Management & Budget Committee,

The Web Site averages approximately 125 - 150 hits per-day. The web Site is our biggest recruiter of new members. Since we created our new Database and started keeping more accurate records, the web site has been responsible for recruiting 900+ new members.

Visit the web site guest book and send an email to people who sign, thank them for taking the time to visit. Try to recruit them using a SOFT SELL approach. It has worked for the editor since the web site has been posted. YOU CAN HELP ALSO

REMEMBER YOU CAN NOW READ THE CURRENT "COMMUNICATORS" ON OUR WEB SITE (WWW.AFCOMMATC.ORG) AND SOME PAST ISSUES. YOU MUST USE THE PASSWORD TO ACCESS THE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER AND THE COMMUNICATORS. THE PASSWORD IS "mpn1aacs"

PLEASE KEEP YOUR STORIES AND PHOTOS COMING. THEY ARE WHAT MAKE THE COMMUNICATOR A "MEMBERS" PUBLICATION. SEND YOUR STORIES AND PICTURES EARLY. If we can't get your stories/pictures in one issue, we will keep them for the next issue. In fairness to all members, we use a "first in-first published" policy. After scanning (into a hard drive) any pictures you send, we will return them if requested. You do not have to have copies made. I will forward to Lori Manske all articles and pictures sent to me that may have WEB SITE potential.

Send stories and pictures to me Not Later Than: 1 April and 15 October of each year. But the earlier, the better, as the page limit is reached early.

Hank Sauer

Editor/Publisher

Email: DirAACS@comcast.net Cell: 865-705-0829

Snail Mail: 111 Carson Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

KEEP YOUR MAILING/EMAIL ADDRESS CURRENT - CONTACT WALT McLAIN AT 865-740-4127 or 865-690-0479, or EMAIL: aacsmbrship@comcast.net or Change it ONLINE ON OUR WEB SITE (www.afcommatc.org)




Missed Roll Call

(Since the June 2014 Communicator)



Aagesen, Mary
Bayless, Harvey
Al Dumont
Fuerst, Robert J.
Fuller, Homer Don
Gilpin, William O.
Kroepsch, K. W.
Lawrence, Calvin C.
Ritchey, Kenneth M.
Rooney, Ralph J.
Turner, Noel E.



	Years of Election For Board of Directors					
<u>Position</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR		X*		X		X*
VICE DIRECTOR	X		X		X	
EXECUTIVE SEC		X		X		X
DIRECTOR FOR INFO	X		X		X	
SERGEANT AT ARMS		X		X		X
PROTOCOL OFFICER		X		X		X
WEB MASTER	X		X		X	
TREASURER	INDEFINITE TERM OF OFFICE					
DIRECTOR FOR MEMBERSHIP	“					
EDITOR/PUBLISHER	“					
Note: The Executive Director can only serve for four consecutive years. He/she can run again after a break of service. The indefinite terms for the Treasurer, Dir For Membership and the Editor/Publisher are indefinite once formally elected. The other directors must be reelected on a two year basis.						
Members wishing to serve on the board or members wishing to nominate another member for a board position must view the Policy of the Board of Directors Nominating Committee (Copy is posted on the www.afcommatc.org web site) or obtain a copy from the Executive Secretary. Also on the web site are the Position Descriptions for each position and the qualifications required. All nominations must go through the Chair of the Nominating committee and be submitted Not Later Than June 30th of each year. There are no nominations allowed from the floor at the Annual General Meeting in order to ensure that all nominees are aware of the commitment and the requirements of the position.						
Members must be present at the Annual General Meeting to vote. Proxy votes are not authorized by the Constitution and By Laws.						

Treasurers Report (Jun 30, 2014)



Cash in Banks:

AFCOMMATIC Checking Acct	\$8,297.70
Publisher's Account (TN Bank)	\$ 8.65
Cash Totals:	\$8,306.35

Equipment Book Value:

(All Equipment Depreciated as required- No current Book Value, although still working and maintained as required)

Equipment Totals:	\$ 00.00
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Certificates of Deposit:

4 total CDs held at total Value of	\$31,578.40 Next CD Maturity Date 12/05/2014
CD Totals (4):	\$31,578.40
BX Inventory Value (As of April 30, 2014)	\$5651.05.00

Grand Totals:	\$45,535.80
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This organization is still banking with the Bank of Georgia and they provide great support. There are no maintenance fees and transactions are unlimited. Since the last Convention/Reunion, \$20,000 was moved from the checking account and invested into CDs. Thank you to all that continue to donate through the mail as well as our online PayPal account. During the Reunion, a total of \$760 was donated to me to deposit into our checking account and increase our assets and other Board Members are reporting they too are receiving donations. Again, thank you so much!

Cindy Hintz, Treasurer

NOTICE – NOTICE – NOTICE –NOTICE - NOTICE

YOU NEED THE PASSWORD TO ACCESS THE WEB SITE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER & COMMUNICATORS

The AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Association posts the "Communicators" and the Membership Roster on our WEB SITE. The Communicators & Roster formats are in a PDF format only. To READ OR DOWNLOAD the roster you need to know the following:

WWW.AFCOMMATIC.ORG (go to the Members section)

Password: **mpn1aacs** (all lower case, with the number ONE after the "n")

REMEMBER TO **PROTECT** THE PASSWORD AND DENY ACCESS TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL
You need Adobe Reader to read or download to your computer. If you do not have Adobe Reader, there is a link to **Adobe.com** so you can download a free copy. We can allow more members to read or download the Membership Roster using the PDF format as it is the "de-facto" internet standard and that the Adobe Reader program can be downloaded free. We have Communicators archived on the web site since June 2006.

READ AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOWNLOADING.
(Remember to RIGHT Click to get the "SAVE TO Menu")

We have removed email, mailing addresses and phone numbers from the Roster posted on the Web Site. This was done to protect privacy and deny attempts to steal members personal information.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAIL JUNE COMMUNICATORS TO ALL MEMBERS, UNLESS YOU NOTIFY WALT MCLAIN (aacsmbrship@comcast.net) to remove your name from the mailing list (see page 10)

If you have any problems getting to these files, contact LORI MANSKE manske5@charter.net

Membership Director Report for November 2014 Communicator



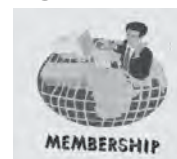
We have gained 15 new members since 1 April 2014. Our current active membership stands at 1506. 27 members have renewed since 1 April 2014. As of 1 October 2014 we have 116 members with dues expiring in 2014. To see when your dues expire check the address label on your latest Communicator or the expiration date on your membership card. Please refer all membership questions to Walt McLain 865-690-0479 or email aacsmbrship@comcast.net

**New Members and Renewals: Make checks payable to AF Comm ATC Assn
Mail to: AF Comm ATC Assn 4514 Haverty Drive Knoxville, TN 37931-3657**

Applications are available in each Communicator, on our web site and from Walt McLain by calling 865-690-0479 or emailing requests to aacsmbrship@comcast.net .

For those who make periodic or regular donations we appreciate your continued support. You can be assured that your donations are critical to the continued operation of this great organization.

**Walt McLain
Director for Membership**



The Life Blood of the Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Control Association

Maintaining Membership Numbers: New Members Important Renewals are Critical

If we are to maintain this association members must pay attention to membership expiration dates and renew their memberships in a timely manner

Our only sources of income are membership dues and **donations by members**. The web site and the Communicator are solely supported by this income.

Please pay close attention to your membership expiration dates and renew in a timely manner. Your expiration date is indicated on your membership card and on the address label of your Communicator.

If you are due to renew please do so by 1 April 2015 to insure that you receive your June 2015 Communicator which will contain the 2015 Convention Information.

For those who make a **\$100 or more donations this year, we appreciate your continued support. You can be assured that your donations are critical to the continued operation of this great organization.**



"THE ACTIVE DUTY AIR FORCE PAGE" "Background"

In 2004, the AACS Alumni Association voted to change our Constitution to authorize Air Force Communications, Information, Cyber, Air Traffic Controllers, Maintenance and Support personnel (Officers, Airman and Civilians) who *have served or are now serving* in any Air Force Major Command (including Joint/Specified Commands, to become members of the AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Association (Formerly the AACS Alumni Association).

The changes in eligibility were predicated on ensuring the perpetuity of the Association as the growing age of the current 2,000 plus members average age is now over 74, with a significant number of them being WWII veterans. The age factor was a major concern in maintaining a viable Association for the long-term and to provide an Association such as ours, to those individuals now serving in the Air Force. The AACS Alumni Association was formed in 1977 to provide a forum for those who served, to meet on an annual basis to renew friendships and make new ones and to stay abreast of the changes in the Air Force. That goal continues with the AF Comm & ATC Association.

We have coordinated with the senior Air Force leadership and have added local base Comm and ATC units to "The Communicator" distribution list for the June and November issues we publish. We are going to devote up to four (4) pages of each issue to stories and photos of active duty activities (based on input) and we solicit your stories and photos of interest.

In simple terms we "is" communicators (in the broadest terms) & air traffic controllers. The term "Communications" or "Communicators" includes all operational, maintenance and administrative skills. **Each year at our annual convention, we present the Maj. General Doubleday Enlisted ATC Manager of the year and the Maj. General Prather Communications/Information Professional of the Year awards. Active duty Communications and Air Traffic Control functions select the Airman to be honored each year.**
SEE BOTTOM OF PAGE FOR PAST AWARDEES

The AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Association (formerly the "AACS Alumni Association") WELCOMES all our new Air Force active duty "readers" and hopes that you will enjoy our official publication and take part in this great Association, who continues to maintain a close relationship with our active duty brethren. It has been our custom for many years that if our annual convention/reunion is being held in a city close to an Air Force Base, we invite as our guests for the Banquet, members of the local communications and air traffic control units. It is our custom to have an Active Duty Air Traffic Controller provide a "State of Air Force Air Traffic Control" presentation and the Senior Air Staff Communications/Information Leadership to provide a "State of Air Force Communications/Information" presentation. Stories and photos for "The Communicator" should be forwarded to: Hank Sauer, 111 Carson Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 or email DirAACS@Comcast.net (phone: 865-705-0829), NOT LATER THAN APRIL 1st AND OCTOBER 15th of each year.
Visit the AACS Web Site: www.afcommatc.org

*******WE WANT COMM & ATC PHOTOS FROM THOSE SERVING TODAY*******
Email Photos and captions to Hank Sauer DirAACS@comcast.net today

"Fellowship in the Company of Equals"

AF ACTIVE DUTY COMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION PRO & AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Class of 2006	Class of 2007	Class of 2008	Class of 2009	Class of 2010	Class of 2011
*SSgt Jacob Flores	*SSgt Jaclyn Ruffan	*SrA James Pettet	*SrA Stephen T. Janson	SSgt J. Tacto	SSgt Ira J. Begley III
*SrA Joshua Matias	*SrA Sarah O'Brien	*SSgt Kevin Killoren	*MSgt John Kirby	SMSgt James L. Mull	MSgt Janice E. Planten
	Class of 2012	Class of 2013	Class of 2014		
	SrA Johnny B. Laster, Jr.	SSgt Brandon York	SSgt Antwane McDowell		
	MSgt Tracy Martinez	SMSgt Andrew Peters	SMSgt Carl Spatz III		

Minutes of Board of Director's Meeting

Held in Colorado Springs, CO on Sept 24, 2014



Old business was limited to adoption of the minutes of the 2013 board Meeting as reported in the Nov 2013 Communicator.

New business began with the individual members report on their responsibilities the past year. The most significant being Membership losses, further reduction of our cash assets. The publisher offered ideas to reduce the cost and distribution of our outstanding Communicator, which has now exceeded our total annual revenue. The most significant cost reduction was the decision not to mail copies of the November Communicator but to only post to our web site. Both the June and November Communicators have been posted to our web site since 2006. This issue of the Communicator will have a form where members can "Opt-Out" of receiving the June Communicators in the mail and save additional funds. The Board agreed that F/Y 2015 will be our last deficit budget. Due to contractual obligations, corrective measures become effective 7-1-2015.

The Board approved the addition of two new Board positions to be formally installed in Sept. 2015 in Myrtle Beach, SC. Those are Protocol Officer, Rafael Quezada and Web Master, Lori Manske. The Executive Director has named Bob Read as the acting Sgt-at-Arms, until he can be elected at the 2015 Convention/Reunion. This action was required due to the death of our long standing Sgt-at-Arms, Al Dumont, who passed away in September 2014.

Traditional nominations for awards were confirmed for this convention. Our beloved Chaplain, Father Seeks, requested relief from his position due to progressing health problem. We all wish him God Speed and a return to conventions. The Executive Director named Jim Weber as our Chaplain to replace Fr. Seeks.

No decision was made on the site for 2016 convention. There are developing interests in Biloxi, MS if the hosts come forward. If not, a possible return to St. Louis or another site.

Until next convention,

Bob Akard, Executive Secretary

Donations to the Association - Since the June 2014 Communicator

Bruce Albertson, Richard Brace, Ed & Diane Broestl, Doug Donnell, Chester Groce, John Flaherty, Cindy Hintz, Walt McLain, Charles Maginnis, Steve Manske, BT Parcenu, John Pristash, Jr., Rafael Quezada, Robert Read, Ken Reiff, Hank Sauer, James Shaw, John Shryock, Bob Snyder, Bobbie Stewart.

**Many thanks to those who have donated.
(This list includes some who have also donated to our "Donation Appeal")**

General Business Meeting Colorado Springs, CO. Sept. 27, 2014

The 2014 Business Meeting of the AF Comm/ATC Assoc was called to order by Executive Director (ED) Donnell. The Invocation was given by Gen. Prather and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Each individual Board member gave a brief report for the activities pertaining to his/her responsibilities. Details of Web-site management, PX/BX sales, and committee reports followed. Our ED acquainted those present of the decisions made at the Board meeting. In particular was Board decision to ask all members for a donation of \$100 or more to cover the loss of \$9,586 in cash assets this past year and to build our treasury to a maintainable level. The expenses of publishing and mailing two communicators per year cannot be covered by regular membership dues and the Board of Directors voted to not mail the November issues of the Communicator, but to post it on the web site only.

All first timers to a convention were recognized. The following awards were presented:

AACS Hall of Honor, Lt. Gen. Charles. Croom, Col. David Kovach, Col. Kenneth Reiff.

Life Achievement, CMSgt. Robert Read

CMSgt. Ronald Allison Recruitment Award, Col. Ken Reiff.

Maj. Gen. Van Doubleday ATC Manager of the Year, SMSgt. Carl Spatz III.

Maj. Gen. Gerald Prather Comm/Info Professional of the Year, SSgt. Antwane McDowell.

2014 Convention Hosts Jim and Fran Weber.

ED Donnell appointed Col. Reiff as our Historian. Host Jim Weber was asked and accepted the responsibility as Chaplain. Bob Read was appointed as the acting Sgt-at-Arms due to the death of our long standing Sgt-at-Arms, Al Dumont. Election of Officers was conducted by Committee Member, E M Spivey. Approved were Vice Director Ray French, Protocol Officer Rafael Quezada, and Web Master Lori Manske. The membership passed the changes to the Constitution and By-Laws as published in the June 2014 Communicator.

Annual Memorial Service recognized those passed in the past year followed by TAPS.

The State of Air Force Air Traffic Control speaker was our Board Member, Rafael Quezada, who addressed the state of air traffic control in today's USAF and provided information on the changing of licenses and certifications by the FAA.

Membership Meeting was adjourned until Sept. 2015 in Myrtle Beach, S C.

Prepared by Bob Akard, Executive Secretary

A TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN COMRADE CMSgt TOM SILK

Thomas Francis Silk was born in 1929, in St. Alban's, Long Island, New York. He was the youngest of the five children. Tom met his wife Rene when he was her instructor in air traffic control school. They married three weeks later, and recently celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary. Tom and Rene had three children: Jennifer, Tom Jr. (Carolyn), and John (Cathy). They also had five grandchildren (Jason, Justin, Kristin Eason (Kyle), Zachary, and Bridget), and three great grandchildren (Jada Silk, Jackson and Harvey Eason).

Tom joined the US Air Force in 1948, after serving in the New York National Guard. His illustrious career spanned 32 years, and several continents. He was trained as an air traffic controller—a job he was well-suited for with his cool, calm, and collected personality. Tom's career alternated between field operation assignments in every type of air traffic control facility operated by the Air Force, and instruction assignments at the school for air traffic controllers at the Keesler Technical Training Center. He was a pioneer in the use of radar in air traffic control. During the war in Vietnam, he was part of the group who established the air traffic control system in Vietnam and Thailand. He continued his assignments in Southeast Asia when stationed in Hawaii, returning there often for temporary duty.



In 1970, Tom was named the Course Supervisor for the air traffic control school where he began his air traffic control career in 1949. In 1971, he was presented with an opportunity to take on an assignment that had never been done in the Air Force before. He became the first full-time Senior Enlisted Advisor for Keesler Technical Training Center. In this position, he was responsible for many changes initiated to improve mission accomplishment and enlisted personnel morale. These included deep involvement in improvements to dormitories, as well as to working environments for enlisted airmen. He was also the chair of the committee that instituted and wrote the curriculum and guiding principles of the USAF First Sergeant Academy.

Tom subsequently served as Senior Enlisted Advisor for Air Training Command, and became the first enlisted director of training in the 15th Air Force. Tom became a Chief Master Sergeant in 1965. His commendations include a Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, Commendation Medal, and the Outstanding Airman of the Year Ribbon.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1979, Tom and Rene moved to San Antonio, where he began a second career in the Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA), working on marketing and financial issues. Subsequently, he became the President of an insurance company that provided group coverage to organizations. Eventually he returned to NCOA, and was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer until his second retirement. To those who knew or worked with Tom, he was known to be a man of integrity, principle, honor, and strength. He could always be counted on to know and do the right thing, no matter how hard it might be to do. Tom had high standards for everything in his life, and held similar standards for others in his life. But he also had the charm of an Irishman, a sharp wit, keen intellect, and a wicked sense of humor. You did not spend much time with Tom that did not involve laughing.

Tom and Rene have long been active members of St. Monica's Parish. They both volunteered for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Tom was a key training resource for the Society, worked with clients, counted money, and performed a myriad of other tasks. He also served on the Liturgy Committee for St. Monica's and the Parish Council, trained Eucharistic Ministers, and was an Extraordinary Minister of the Host. He was also active in other community activities, including serving as leader of his American Legion Post, President of the homeowners' association, and organizer of a neighborhood watch.

Tom's was a life well-lived, and he will be missed by his family, friends, and associates. He considered himself the quintessential Irishmen—this Irish blessing is for those he leaves behind:

Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there... I do not sleep... I am the thousand winds that blow... I am the diamond glints on snow... I am the sunlight on ripened grain... I am the gentle autumn rain... When you waken in the morning's hush, I am the swift uplifting rush of gentle birds in circling flight... I am the soft star that shines at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry—I am not there... I did not die...

IMPORTANT NOTICE

At the 2014 Board of Directors annual meeting in Colorado Springs, CO on September 27, it was decided NOT TO PRINT AND MAIL the November issues of the Communicator after this issue. This action is required due to the major decline in membership and renewals and the annual cost to print and mail the November Communicators.

It was decided to create a similar version of the Nov Communicator and continue to use photos of the annual Convention/Reunion, members' stories, and other important Association news. The Nov Communicator will continue to be placed on the Web Site, www.afcommatc.org under the Members Only link and protected with the password mpn1aacs. The cost to publish and mail one issue of the Communicator has been approximately \$4,500. We expect to save \$4,000 annually with this decision.

This action has been discussed at our annual board meetings for the past 3 or 4 years and due to our projected income, it was time to take this action. SEE PAGE 10 OF THIS ISSUE

DONATION APPEAL

Due to our current and future state of membership and the continuing reduction in annual income, as well as the state of our treasury this is a one time appeal. The number of life memberships has greatly reduced our annual income stream and it is now necessary to solicit a one time appeal for donations. We cannot continue to do the things we do now, unless we increase funds.

In order for us to negotiate good Hotel contracts for our reunions, we need to negotiate as far in advance as possible, but we do not have sufficient funds in our treasury to meet our liability commitment if we default.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Amount of Donation: \$ _____ (Hopefully at least \$100 from all our members)

All donations are Tax Deductible under our current IRS 501 (c) (19) Tax Exempt status.

Do you want a Tax Donation Certificate: Yes _____ No _____

Thanks in advance (every donation will help!)

MAIL TO: Cindy Hintz, 691 Lawshe Rd, Senoia, GA 30276

IF YOU WANT TO HELP US SAVE MONEY...YOU CAN OPT OUT OF RECEIVING THE JUNE ISSUES OF THE COMMUNICATOR AND READ IT ON THE WEB SITE.

EMAIL WALT AT aacsmbrship@comcast.net OR WRITE. SEE PAGE 2 FOR ADDRESS.

FORTUITOUS ENCOUNTER

Any of we AACS comrades will recall that "by name" we were virtually unknown. Even in Army Air Force circles our AACS designation was not recognizable. BUT every flight crew knew us by our much valued aid and support. Especially for GCA, Tower or other Navigational Guidance assists. Possibly even unknown to some Air Transport Command personnel though we functioned under the ATC umbrella. Historically we were "attached" but never "assigned" to a numbered-air force. I myself was "attached" to the 6th Air Force, being a point-to-point radio telegraph operator with the 153rd AACS Squadron. Even an occasional challenge from an over-zealous MP as to, "Where's your 6th AF patch?". Didn't notice my AACS affiliation. No harm intended, just unaware!

I say all this as lead-in to emphasize the significance of my introduction to Reverend Paul Kampa. He and his father being the subject of this story. As I visited my sister in a local nursing home, Rev. Paul was making his customary visitation rounds and noticed my WWII AAF baseball cap. He kindly thanked me for my service and said that his father was also in the AAF with a unit known as the "Army Airways Communications System". YES, using that exact word nomenclature! Need I tell you of my "astonishment" BUT "pleasant surprise"! And curiously, this meeting occurred in Belleville, PA and my AACS radio schooling was in Belleville, IL (Scott Field).

Rev. Paul himself is no stranger to aviation. He was a student Navy Aviator and also Aerospace Education Officer in the Civil Air Patrol. He has regularly reenacted as an AAF WWII Chaplain at air shows, notably the renowned "Reading Pennsylvania Show". Home turf of Hap Arnold and Carl Spaatz.

Paul was gracious enough to share his father's AACS history which I now submit in "His Memory". Please welcome our deceased comrade... Staff Sergeant John W. (Bill) Kampa. Perhaps one of we older guys may have even soldiered with him??? Thanking him for being a Blessing to our Country and to his Family, I am Thomas Fletcher (brown shoe air force).



Page 1 of 2

Army Airways Communications System Story
told by Paul Kampa

My father was John W. "Bill" Kampa, born in Yonkers, NY in March of 1916. Although he did not speak at length of his military experience during World War II, I do recall some of the stories that he chose to share.

With the War on for several months, and knowing that eventually he would be drafted, Dad married my mother in June of 1942. He was called up in early 1943 and found himself in the Army Air Force. After his basic training, Dad was assigned to the Army Airways Communication System training school where he learned about radar and other ground radio equipment. He and Mom lived off base somewhere in Florida. Sometime afterward, he and about a dozen of his fellow classmates were told that they would be shipping out to North Africa where they would be assigned to various bases as communication equipment inspectors.

The plane went to South America first before it was to cross the Atlantic Ocean. While stopped over in Brazil, a lieutenant boarded the aircraft and asked(begged) for two volunteers to remain in the country, as they were in need of AACS personnel. My father and a buddy agreed, and were assigned to a unit. The other 10 soldiers went on to Africa.

Dad worked with a Captain "Eddie" who sometimes sent him on independent inspections of the airbases within driving distance. He always had a jeep at his disposal to achieve the missions. Although he was only a staff sergeant, he was always treated with respect by the base commanders who knew that he had authority to certify all communications equipment as passing or failing.

One story Dad shared remains with me to this day. He sometimes drove along jungle roads to get to remote airfields and would be wary of wild life. As he progressed through one wooded area he saw a black undulating figure slithering across the road ahead. Thinking it was a snake, he slowly approached and came to a stop. Up close he realized that the "snake" was actually a long column of large "army ants" so he quickly backed the jeep away hoping that the procession would soon be over. Seeing no end to the massive group of ants, Dad revved up the motor and sped over the insects, which sent a shiver up his spine. Relieved that none of the ants ended up on the jeep he got to the airbase and back with no further interruptions.

On one occasion a wealthy Brazilian man invited Dad and Captain Eddie to a party on his yacht. While enjoying the festivities, Dad asked what kind of meat was in the delicious appetizers. The waiter said it was snake meat. Since it tasted like chicken Dad was not totally turned off. My father, who could speak some Portuguese, admired the host's tie. To Dad's shock, the man took off the tie and gave it to him. It turned out that in the Brazilian culture, it is common for someone to give an object to a person who greatly compliments it. From then on Dad kept his admiration of people's possessions to himself.

The men who shared Dad's tent had acquired a small monkey which became a mascot for the AACS team. The soldiers enjoyed the antics of their furry friend. One night the monkey had been dangling from the inside top of the tent and fell on one of the sleeping soldiers. Startled, the soldier grabbed his Colt 45(which they all kept by their pillows) and shot the "intruder" thinking he was under attack. It was a sad moment for everyone.

Except for a bout with malaria, Dad's experience in Brazil did not present any other dangers. He served there until the war was over. When he arrived at the Yonkers, NY railroad station in December, 1945 my mother walked right past him because his suntan was so deep she did not recognize him! Dad passed away in 1997, but I still have some of his AACS insignia.

Page 2 of 2

Looking for Info on Herbert A. Michel

My father, Herbert Michel served in AACS from 1942 through 1945. During WW II, my father served in the 11th AACS in Alaska and Canada (1942-March 1944). He was then in AACS in Hollandia and South Pacific from May 1944 through late 1945. I am looking for any information about AACS activities in those areas. I've got orders showing him at Ladd Field/Fairbanks, as Officer in Charge (OIC) in Galena, and Nome. For Canada, he was at Grand Prairie. Thus, I am assuming that most of his activities were in support of the lend lease ferrying operation that sent planes from Great Falls, Montana, to Nome and then to the Soviet Union. Would like to hear from anyone with more information about AACS in these theaters.

You can reach his son at michel@darkreport.com or Mail to: Robert Michel, 21806 Briarcliff Drive, Spicewood, Texas 78669, Phone 512-264-1789.

Looking for Info on Gerald Dick

My Father, Gerald Dick, born on May 22, 1922, enlisted in the Army Air Corps on July 22, 1942 and was discharged on November 25, 1945. I know that he was stationed at Amarillo AFB, Texas and was also stationed at Pisa , Italy. While my Dad did not talk much about his days in WWII, I do recall him telling me that he was operating "morse code" and help bringing 21 airplanes to safety in a bad storm. I have been told that he may have been operating a Direction Finder (DF) that was located in tower in those days. I know that this is not much information after all these years, but anything will help a I would like to tell my Grandsons about him. Any information would be helpful.

You can reach his daughter, Audrey Turner at Audrey@newlifehealthyliving.net or mail to her at 820 Joshua Tree Court, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

AACS

Past Conventions/Reunions

1977 – 2008 (AACS Alumni Association)

2009 - (AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Assoc.)

1977 - Ramada Inn	Columbus, Ohio
1978 - Holiday Inn	Orlando, Florida
1979 - Antlers	Colorado Springs, Colorado
1980 - Hilton	Ashville, North Carolina
1981 - Double Tree	Tucson, Arizona
1982 - Broadway Plaza	San Antonio, Texas
1983 - Holiday Inn	San Rafael, California
1984 - Camelot Inn	Tulsa, Oklahoma
1985 - Marriott	Washington, DC
1986 - Breckenridge	St. Louis, Missouri
1987 - Stouffer	Austin, Texas
1988 - Hilton	Santa Maria, California
1989 - Governors Inn	Montgomery, Alabama
1990 - Peppermill Casino	Reno, Nevada
1991 - Dayton Marriott	Dayton, Ohio
1992 - Sheraton	Corpus Christi, Texas
1993 - Calloway Inn	Calloway Garden, Georgia
1994 - Marriott W. Shore	Tampa, Florida
1995 - Hanalei	San Diego, California
1996 - Omni	Richardson, Texas
1997 - Radisson Plaza	Lexington, Kentucky
1998 - Novi Hilton	Novi, Michigan
1999 - Omni Marina	Corpus Christi, Texas
2000 - Double Tree Inn	Colorado Springs, Colorado
2001 - Hilton	Knoxville, Tennessee
2002 - Dayton Marriott	Dayton, Ohio
2003 - Marriott	Falls Church, Virginia
2004 - Marriott Camelback	Scottsdale, Arizona
2005 - Marriott	Kansas City, Kansas
2006 - Radisson	Covington, Kentucky
2007 - Circus Circus	Las Vegas, Nevada
2008 - Settle Inn	Branson, Missouri
2009 – Holiday Inn	Grand Island, New York
2010 – Hilton	Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
2011 – Hilton (the Frontenac)	St. Louis, Missouri
2012 – St. Anthony's Riverwalk	San Antonio, Texas
2013 - Holiday Inn	Knoxville, Tennessee
2014 - Marriott	Colorado Springs, Colorado
2015 - The Hilton	Myrtle Beach, SC (Contract in place)
2016 - Looking for a Host.	Contact Hank at diraacs@comcast.net or call 865-705-0829

**WHAT YOU MISSED AT COLORADO SPRINGS.
38TH ANNUAL CONVENTION/REUNION**

"Marriott Hotel"

2014 Inductees to the "Hall of Honor"

Lt General Charles E. Croom (ret)
Colonel David J. Kovach (ret) Colonel
Ken Reiff (ret)

2014 Inductee for "Life Achievement Award"

CMSgt Robert Read (ret)

Special "Achievement Award"

Charles Doering

General Farman Golf Low Net – Steve Manske

General Farman Golf Low Gross – Dale Meyerrose

"50-50 Drawing Winners"

Cindy Hintz, Steve Manske & Helen Jean

The "Ronald Allison 2014 Recruiting Award"

Ken Reiff (with 1 OLC)

"3rd Annual Pinochle Match"

Controllers 0 - Maintenance 2

See what you missed in the photos to follow...

Plan on coming to the 2015 Annual Convention/Reunion

"The Hilton"

Myrtle Beach, SC (Sept 30 – Oct 4, 2015)

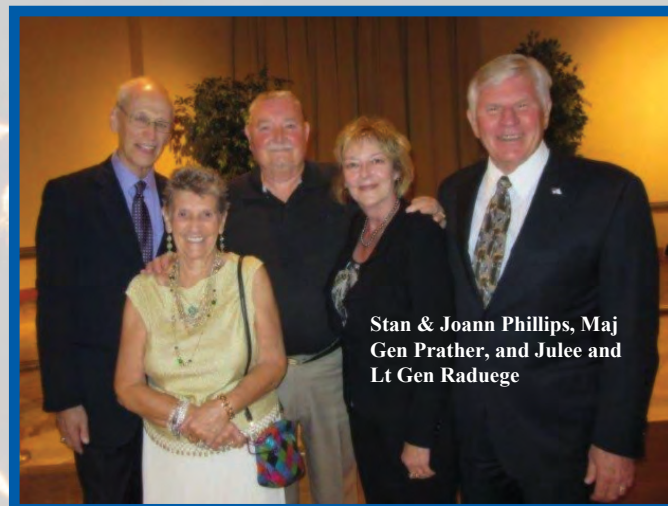
Hosts: Bill & Pauline Bethea & Susie Twedt

Come & meet old friends and make new ones...

**See the Web Site WWW.AFCOMMATC.ORG for a preview of
Myrtle Beach attractions and for REGISTRATION FORMS, in April 2015
and full details in the June 2015 Communicator.**

"Fellowship in the Company of Equals"









Bill Bethea and Dale Meyerrose



Bill Bethea and Steve Manske



Doug Donnell and Bob Read



SSgt McDowell, Gens Doubleday and Prather, and SMSgt Spatz



Gen Doubleday, SMSgt Spatz and his wife.



Doug Donnell, Charles Doering, and Cindy Hintz.



Doug Donnell, and Fran and Jim Weber



Doug Donnell, Ken Reiff, and Cindy Hintz.



Four "old" Chief's

Bill Hammett, Hank Sauer, Andy Anderson & Walt McLain













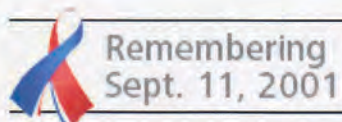


Perspectives on Sept. 11, 2001: Lt. Gen. Harry Raduege (USAF, Ret.)

Published: 10-Sep-14

After finishing a speech in Columbus, OH, I was tapped on the shoulder by a colonel: "Something is happening in DC." I went to his office and looked at the TV just as the second plane crashed into the World Trade Center.

At the time, I was the director of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) and manager of the National Communications System, responsible for military and national-level emergency communications.



- Deloitte sponsors memorial
- David Suarez tribute
- Perspectives
- Washington remembers

9/11 home page

I couldn't reach the White House, Pentagon, or my office because the phone lines were saturated with calls, so I turned to my backup plan – the Government Emergency Telecommunication Service card. The card's phone number gave essential government leaders priority in cases of emergency. I reached the White House Situation Room, where then-National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice confirmed that we were under attack.

I had to get to my office, but flying was no longer an option. A field officer drove me 450 miles to Washington, DC, and I used pay phones to stay in contact with the White House and Pentagon.

I arrived in Washington at 6 p.m. and it was a ghost town – very surreal for a Tuesday rush hour. When I got to my office, I had three critical jobs to deliver. I had to establish the communications restoration priorities for New York City. Getting 5.5 million voice and data circuits working was essential for President Bush's priorities – ensuring safety, aiding search and rescue, and opening the stock and bond markets. Opening the markets demonstrated to the world that while the terrorists could attack us, they could not defeat our resolve!

Corporate involvement was essential to restoring communications. I had relationships with top executives at many leading technology and telecommunications companies who all contacted me to say they would ship anything, anywhere without regard to the expense, due to the importance of national security.

In addition, I had to ensure that the military could communicate domestically and abroad. Despite the attack, the Pentagon was functioning and vital to U.S. security. However, its communications equipment was located in the basement, which was close to flooding. To prevent this, our team bailed water for several days.

Finally, we needed to build our communications capabilities rapidly, including satellite coverage, in Afghanistan where the terrorists were hiding. I worked with commercial satellite companies and we moved these to that part of the world, improving our intelligence, special forces, and military capabilities.

I didn't have a day off for five months. At the request of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, I extended my stay at DISA from three to five years. We don't know what the future holds, but through extensive post 9/11 investment, our national and military communications systems are now better prepared.

9/11 Perspectives

[Previous](#) | [Next](#)



Lt. Gen. Harry Raduege (USAF, Ret.)
Director, Deloitte Services LP, and chairman, Deloitte Center for Cyber Innovation



AF Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association
(Formerly the AACS Alumni Association)



Membership Application

MAIL TO: Mr. Walt McLain, 4514 Haverty Dr, Knoxville, TN 37931-3657

Types of Membership

Life & Regular Membership is based on service (men and women) as a commissioned officer, warrant officer, non-commissioned officer, enlisted or civilian, who served or is serving in any communications/information, data automation, I&E/IM, cyber or air traffic control unit or holds or held a MOS, AFSC or other skill identifier as a communicator/information, air traffic controller or support skill in any Air Force Major Air Command (AACS, ACS, AFCS, AFCC, AFC4A, AFCA, AFNIC, AFFSA, SAC, TAC, ADC, USAFSS MAC, etc., or the Air Force current commands). Spouses of a surviving member are also eligible for Regular membership. The Life Membership of a deceased member will transfer to the surviving spouse unless he/she requests otherwise. Associate Membership is subject to the approval of the Alumni Associations Executive Board for individuals who actively supported any communications/information or air traffic control activity, but otherwise does not meet the criteria for Life or Regular Membership. Associate Members are not eligible to vote or to hold office in the Association, but are treated like all other members.

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

Life Memberships are based on age: To - 50 years = \$165; 51 - 60 years = \$145; 61 - 70 years = \$115; 71 - ? Years = \$75

Life Membership _____ Regular _____ Associate _____ Profile update _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ (make check out to AF Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association)
PRINT CLEARLY

Date: ____/____/____ First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Street Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____ - _____

Country _____ E-Mail Address _____

Units and Commands _____

Dates Served _____ (eg.44-46,99- .) Eras' Served _____ (WWII, Korea, RVN, Gulf, etc.)

Phone Number _____ Year of Birth _____ Service Status: Officer _____ Warrant _____

Enlisted _____ Civilian _____ Tech Rep _____ Other _____ Combat Area or Base _____

_____ Additional Comm/ATC/Data/Cyber units _____

What did you do in the AF: _____ (Career field, MOS, Specialty, etc.)

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

If you have any questions contact Walt McLain at 865-690-0479 or Cell 865-740-4127
PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION

PLAN NOW ON JOINING US IN 2015 FOR OUR 39TH
ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER

**At the Hilton Hotel, Myrtle Beach S.C.
September 30 - October 4, 2015**

HOSTS: Bill & Pauline Bethea & "Susie" Twedt



**Come to Myrtle Beach and enjoy
"Fellowship in the Company of Equals"**

AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Executive Director
Doug Donnell



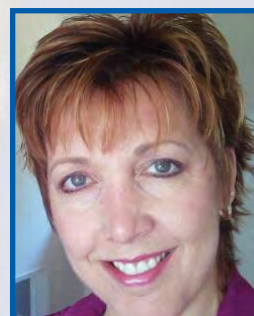
Vice Director
Ray French



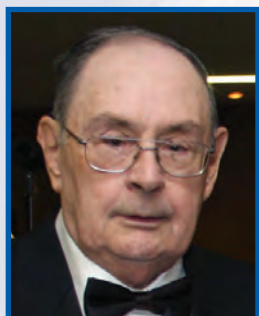
Director for Information
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Editor/Publisher
Hank Sauer



Director for Membership
Walt McLain



Sgt-at-Arms
Vacant



Protocol Officer
Rafael Quezada



Web Master
Lori Manske

2014 Convention/Reunion Attendees

Akard, Bob
Aldridge, Joyce Lee
Anderson, Richard
Aronson, Peter
Barnhart, James
Bernier, Shelia
Bethea, Bill
Bethea, Pauline
Billy, Phyllis
Bivens, Joe
Bivens, Rosie
Blackburn, Tom
Bogovich, Charles
Brace, Richard
Brace, Jeanette
Broestl, Ed
Broestl, Diane
Brown, Bill
Braun, Julie
Buck, David
Buck, Stella
Buckley, Monika
Burns, Ron
Burns, Michiko
Canady, Gene
Canady, Mo
Cassatt, Bill
Chandler, Gary
Chandler, Debra
Chaplin, Robert
Chaplin, Martha
Claypool, Roswell
Claypool, Janie
DeBell, Joe
DeBell, Joan
Dennehy, Timothy
Dillon, Jesse
Doering, Charles
Donnell, Douglass
Donnell, Francie
Doubleday, Van
Doubleday, Elizabeth
Duffy, Joe
Duffy, Isabel
Eledge, Arlene
Elwell, Rex
Elwell, Margaret

Farrell, Flay
Finley, Mary
Flaherty, John
Forrestor, Richard
Freeman, John
Freeman, Betty
French, Raymond
French, Barbara
Gamble, Robert
Garcia, Robert
Garcia, Barbara
Griffis, Richard
Griffis, Carolyn
Groce, Chester
Groce, Rhoda
Guignard, Lester
Guignard, Barbara
Gunn, David
Gunn, Elizabeth
Hammett, Bill
Heacock, Phil
Henrion, Frank
Henrion, Therese
Hintz, Cindy
Hintz, Michael
Hoyt, George
Jackson, Suzanne
Jean, John
Jean, Helen
Jodice, Laurel
Johnston, Gerald
Joshua, Jonathan
Korynta, James
Korynta, Mai-Lin
Kricho, Joe
Lauducci, Jim
Manske, Steve
Manske, Lori
Markin, Ricardo
Markin, Ursula
McDowell, Antwane
McIntyre, Douglas
McLain, Walt
Meyerrose, Dale
Meyerrose, Linda
Morrison, Richard
Morrison, Helga

Munoz, Monte
Niezgoda, Joe
Niezgoda, Barbara
Parrish, Bob
Parrish, Anne
Patrick, Laurence
Patrick, Christina
Petty, Larry
Petty, Jan
Phillips, Stan
Phillips, Jo Ann
Prather, Gerry
Prideaux, Hank
Pristash, John
Quezada, Rafael
Raduege, Harry
Raduege, Julee
Read, Robert
Reid, Rick
Reid, Maggie
Reiff, Ken
Reiff, Linda
Reynierse, Robert
Reynierse, Chi
Ryan, Bobbi
Sauer, Hank
Sheridan, Gene
Sheridan, Irene
Sheridan, Glen
Sheridan, Lori
Smicklas, Gail
Snyder, Robert

Snyder, P.A.
Sonnenberg, Gerald
Sonnenberg, Denise
Spatz, Angela
Spatz, Carl
Spivey, Em
Spivey, Olive
Stewart, Bobbie
Strand, Douglas
Strand, Vivian
Strong, Jim
Sundholm, Robert
Sundholm, Stephanie
Sutton, James
Sutton, Yoko
Swartz, Harold
Tanton, Ryan
Tanton, Samatha
Taylor, Adah
Taylor, Roger
Travis, Richard
Twedt, Susan
Wallace, Bill
Wallace, Julie
Weber, James
Weber, Fran
Whited, Jennie
Wilson, Charlie
Wilson, Dave
Wilson, Petra
Wilson, Nancy



AF Comm ATC Assn - Renewals Since 1 April 2014

10/14/2014

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	CITY	STATE
0616-ROBERT	BOLDEN	WESTERVILLE	OH
1016-ERCOLI	DIVITTORE	HERSHEY	PA
0416-CLYDE	DODD	FAIRMONT	WV
0716-CLAUDE	DOYLE JR	HOT SPRINGS	AR
0616-RAYMOND	EHRLE	ANNAPOLIS	MD
0716-RICHARD	FISHER	O'FALLON	IL
0615-DONAL	FISHER	FT. COLLINS	CO
0616-GERALD	FLOOD	ROYAL OAK	MI
LM-ALLAN	HAMAMEY	WARREN	OH
0916-ROBERT	HARPER	BURGETTSTOWN	PA
0616-KENNETH	HODGES	FAIRFIELD	IL
0716-RONALD	HOWARD	CHANDLER	AZ
LM-WILLIAM	LAMONT	GENESEO	IL
0617-BGEN JEROME	LANDRY	DUNCANSVILLE	PA
0616-STERLING	LEATHERY	HARRISBURG	PA
0916-JOVIAN (BART)	MC KINLEY	JUPITER	FL
0816-ROY	NALL	FOLSOM	CA
0616-CHARLES	RANKE	HICKORY	NC
0616-DON	SHERLOCK	MISSOULA	MT
0416-JAMES	SPEARS	KANSAS CITY	MO
1217-AUSTIN	STEPHANOFF	PARMA	OH
0617-JOHN	TOMKO	SHARON	PA
0616-BILL	VALENTINE	CARSON CITY	NV
0716-NEAL	VANVALKENBURG	COLUMBUS	MS
0616-ANDREW	VIRGILIO	PUNTA GORDA	FL
0616-JAMES	WARE	KNOXVILLE	TN
0616-JOHN	WATSON	RAYMORE	MO
LM-CHARLES	WASHINGTON	CROWLEY	TX

AF Comm ATC Assn - New Members Since 1 April 2014

DATE JOINED	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CITY
08/04/2014	ARONSON	0816-PETER	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
06/09/2014	BRACE	LM-JEANETTE	CANYON LAKE, TX
10/15/2014	BROESTL	DIANE	BERTHOUD, CO
04/16/2014	BROWN	0416-BILL	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
06/13/2014	CALDWELL JR	LM-CHARLES	HECKER, IL
06/30/2014	CHURCHILL	NORM	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
06/06/2014	COLBERT	0616-TIMOTHY	ALLISON PARK, TX
06/06/2014	GRIFFIS	LM-RICHARD	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
06/23/2014	LENZI	LM-RICHARD	WICHITA, KS
06/10/2014	LONG	0616-WILBUR (BUD)	GREENVILLE, IL
04/02/2014	McCARTHY	0416-MG ROBERT	MASHPEE, MA
09/09/2014	MEIGHEN	LM-CLAYTON	ST CLAIRSVILLE, OH
06/30/2014	MORRISON	RICHARD	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
04/02/2014	RICKS	0416-JAMES	KLAMATH FALLS, OR
10/08/2014	TAYLOR	LM-WILLIAM	PEYTON, CO
07/03/2016	TRYSNICKY	0716-MICHAEL	BIXBY, OK
07/28/2014 LM	WEBBER WEST	LM-RHETT DAVID	FPO, AP RIVIERA BEACH, MD

AACS

James H. Thomas, Jr. (life member)

Memories of Dhahran

I spent a year at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, from May, 1956 to May, 1957. As you know, one year tours are not the best assignments. I was young, 20 years old, and single, so it was tolerable. I was a crypto operator in 1949th AACs Squadron.

One night a plane full of military and dependants crashed in the desert coming in for a landing. The planes altimeter was not working. We were sending out the names of the dead for several days. It appeared some were whole families, husband, wife and children. Quite a sad event.

I recall it only rained once and the rain set off the base alarm (short in wiring). All personnel were running to their duty stations, quite a scene. After a little while in the crypto center we found out it was a false alarm.

I made A/lc at Dhahran. The promotion board was two men, the squadron commander, a major, and the NCOIC of the crypto center.

When I left Dhahran, I got my first choice assignment, Andrews AFB, Maryland, 2045th AACs Group. While at Andrews I went TDY for six months to Kwajalein NAS, in the Pacific. It was for Operation Hardtack I, a series of atomic bomb tests.

I made S/Sgt. at Andrews and took an early out in February, 1959. I should have stayed in to complete four years in June, as I discovered I could have gotten a longevity ribbon for completing four years.

James H. Thomas, Jr.
LM No. 463





Major "Froggie" LeSuer

It is doubtful that any communications or radar maintenance officers in the late 1950s or early 1960s do not remember Keesler AFB, MS, Annex 3 and the commander Major LeSuer. After considerable research in the Air Training Command histories and Air Force Historical Research Center, I could not find a reference to him to add a complete name for him. He received the nickname for two reasons. First was his physical features and voice. He was very, very short, with a thick protruding paunch for a stomach; his face most noticeable by the many layers of skin surrounding his mouth and his eyes covered in tinted, thick glasses. That he was French Cajun left no doubt when he spoke. Simply, he had many "frog" characteristics. Rumor had it that he was many years beyond retirement age and that he was kept on active duty by a rider from his local congressman in a defense appropriation. Second, there was no auditorium at Annex 3 that I can recall. Major LeSuer conducted his commander's calls under a very large tree which had a large rock at the base. After we were called to attention he "hopped" up on the rock so he could overlook all of us. Further, to set the stage for the name, 90% of the students at that time were washouts from pilot or navigator training and our attitudes left a lot to be desired. We were sent to Keesler mostly against our wishes because the Air Force needed communications/radar officers. So we were somewhat irreverent. As Major LeSuer started his commander's call one of the students called out "ribbet" imitating the sound a frog makes. Soon, across the formation, many sounds of "ribbet" permeated the air. After that occurrence the name "Froggie" stuck.

If I related the many interactions of my fellow officers and "Froggie" then this article would become a book. So, I will confine it to two of the several that I was directly involved in. Major LeSuer notified each officer that he wanted to personally see by placing a pink note in the student's mail box. We were required to check our boxes at the morning classroom break. I got my first one less than three weeks after school started. I had always been told that when an appointment was scheduled to be there early. I was.

As I came through the door of the orderly room, the First Sergeant, MSGT Coates, announced: "Major that Lieutenant is here"! I entered the office and stood at attention while Froggie gazed at the Manual for Court Martial book on his desk. He proceeded to curse me vigorously; somewhere I'm sure he covered my ancestry and finally asked "Lt Johnson, why have you dishonored the Air Force by cashing a bad check?" I stammered "Sir, I am not Lt Johnson!" He looked up at me and said "Dismissed!" I passed Lt Johnson on my way out and thought, good luck fellow. Several minutes later, along with my teammates, we were given a letter of appreciation from Froggie for winning the base softball championship.

About a month passed and, due to a medical emergency in my family, I overslept and was late to school. Sure enough, at break there was the pink slip in my mailbox. I opened it and read "We are even", signed, Major LeSuer.

Sure enough, a few weeks later, another pink slip appeared. I reported into Froggie to find out that someone had informed him that I was seen pumping gas at a service station. He advised me that it was not appropriate for me to do that and told me that I would have to quit. I told him that would result in him getting a letter of indebtedness as we were short of funds to pay all of our bills on time and that I felt I needed to work to prevent that.

Again, "Dismissed". When I went to work that afternoon my boss informed me that Froggie had been in to see him. I was now to work out of sight in his office keeping his books.

Several years later I was at Keesler AFB, MS to speak to a class at the Advanced Communications Course and while at lunch in the club I noticed Froggie coming through the buffet line pushing a walker with Mrs. LeSuer behind him. When he was seated I stopped at his table and introduced myself as one of his students at Annex 3. He looked up, noticed the rank, and said in his Cajun drawl, "Looks like I did a good job"

Ken Reiff



"Another Major Froggie LeSuer Story"

I knew him very well because I had one & only one pink slip: 5 /10 minutes late for class the day after son # 2, Mike was born about 2 months, before graduation. We lived about 3 blocks from Annex 3 back gate; on street 1 house North of the railroad track..

I remember hearing & respecting "Froggie" because he got a direct battlefield commission in Korea. And, the only "Froggie" attribute I recall was his thick, thick, thick glasses. I believe the tall grey rock he stood on was actually a 8"X36" tombstone.

I had been promoted to 1st Lt. 8 or 9 months. prior to receiving my pink slip. I had heard that "Froggie" would sometimes "chew" a new 2nd Lt for an hour if the Lt tried to reinvent some excuse(s) for being late. When called into the frog pond, I walked to the front of his desk. I saluted & held it because the chewing normally started because the Lt would salute & drop it so quickly that "Froggie" had not rendered his intentionally delayed salute. I stood at attention for seemingly minutes before he told me to be seated. He then asked me if I recognized the worn, red book on his desk in front of me: Yes Sir, the UCMJ. He then asked for my late excuse. I simply responded: No excuse Sir. He seemed a little flustered but asked if I knew the penalty for failure to repair: No sir, he then told me to turn to Article ?? The UCMJ had been opened to that Article so many times that it automatically opened to the correct page. He asked me to read max penalty--I think it was forfeiture of all pay/rights & confinement for two years. He then asked if I had any reason he shouldn't enforce the max: I simply said, No Sir. He seemed almost at a loss for words/perhaps even a little angry. Then he told me he gave everyone 3 chances to correct a mistake but, this first for me he would count this one as 2. Then he said: get out. I backed up one step & held my salute. After seemingly minutes he finally returned my salute. I dropped mine, did an about face & departed quickly.

The First "Shirt" rushed over to me & wanted to know how I got out so fast. I said the Major asked me 4 questions; I responded: Yes Sir, No Sir, Yes Sir & Yes Sir. The Maj then told me to get out & never come back. I believe it took me longer to explain details to the "Shirt" than "Froggie" took to chew my ass.

Larry Dilda (Brig Gen, Ret)

"B1 For Sale"

(provided by Don Cobb)

About the year 2000, a B-1 bomber was doing practice approaches and touch and goes at the civilian airport at Billings, Montana. On one of his landing, the pilot set the brakes on fire and the tower had him park on a slightly used taxiway until the Ellsworth AFB maintenance team responded the following day.

A tower operator got a "for Sale" sign and affixed to the B-1 and took a picture. When the AF maintenance team arrived they could not help but laugh. A number of calls were made making offers for the plane, but the AF did not consider it funny. An article and picture was printed in the local paper and the Wing Commander who did not think it was funny, asked the Airport Director what kind of "dog and pony" show he was running.



"The War That Never Ended"

For most people July 27th passed like any other day. Yet, there are those of us who remember the significance of that date. On July 27th 1953 a cease fire was agreed upon by North and South Korea and the Korean War came to a halt, and the two countries signed an armistice agreement.

Although pretty much forgotten, The Korean War was one of the most bloodiest conflicts in which America has ever been involved. In just three years (June 1950-July 1953) almost 40,000 Americans were killed, a 100,000 were wounded, thousands were prisoners of war- many of which were killed and tortured while in captivity. The war took the lives of several millions of civilians on both sides. After all the death and destruction the Korean War came to a stop just about where it began at the 38th parallel.

Although more than sixty years have passed there has not been a treaty of truce signed and technically North and South Korea are still at war. Tension between the two countries still remains strong. Along the border between these countries lies a several mile wide strip of land, called the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), across which each country eyes the other with suspicion. There are now 28,000 American troops still stationed in South Korea. Along with the ROK Army (Republic of Korea), they practice war games in case of an attack by North Korea. The North Korean military does the same. While South Korea has prospered and become an industrial and financial center among the world's powers, North Korea remains under the control of a family dictatorship.

For those of us who served in Korea during that conflict the passage of sixty plus years has not diminished the memory of our experience there. We were young men who had never been far from home. Some of us came from small towns, some from big cities. and suddenly we found ourselves in a land we knew little about. Some of us enlisted for military service, and some of us were drafted. Whether we were in combat or in a support group behind the lines we all gave our very best effort.

Many of us that returned home had such dreadful experiences during their time in Korea that it took years of psychological help to return to a semblance of normality. For others their wounds, would heal over time, but, the memories remained. Many families would have an empty place at the dinner table, and an empty space in their hearts. All of us who served there came home a little bit changed from the person who left home. Oddly enough, there are memories of some lighter moments, when the USO shows came to our camp to entertain the troops bringing the very top talents in Hollywood, such as Marilyn Monroe, Penny Singleton (she played Blondie in the movie series), and others. A brief interlude in a war weary country.

For most people July 27th passed like any other day. For some of us the memories of July 27th, 1953 and the days and weeks and months before will never leave us. Many young Americans probably don't realize there was a Korean War, and some of the older generation may have forgotten. But, 'we few, we band of brothers (and sisters)' who served there will never forget- the war that never ended.

Carl Asszony, NJVETERAN30@gmail.com



What Are You Doing to Keep Our Association Going?

If every member recruited one (1) new member, we would have close to 3,000 members or more. There are many ex-communicators, air traffic controllers, data automation, and other skills that were in communications and/or air traffic control units from the 1930's right up to today. It's up to us to work hard at recruiting new members or one day, one of us will be the last man standing.

Our 2013 and 2014 CMSgt Ronald Allison Recruiter of the Year award winner recruited 26 new members, 10 in 2013 and 16 in 2014.

The Board of Directors offers this challenge to all members: Recruit at least one new member each year and encourage lapsed members to return.

If anyone needs to send a Communicator or a membership application to a potential new member, contact Walt McLain or Hank Sauer (mailing addressees, phone numbers and email addressees are on page 2 of this issue.)

Also, potential members can register through our website at <http://www.afcommatc.org>

Recruit and encourage renewals.

Don't forget the active duty folks – they are the future

WE WANT YOU!



Peterson Opens Renovated Network Operations Center

The 561st Network Operations Squadron at Peterson AFB, Colo., officially opened the doors to its new operations center this week after a \$4.5 million renovation. The new operations center, dubbed the "bullpen," is designed like a Wall Street trading floor, complete with a 70-foot data wall that "enables the squadron to have direct visual contact to other squadrons with similar missions," according to an April 30 release. Lt. Col. Roy Rockwell, 561st NOS commander, said the new design streamlines communication and simplifies the decision-making process. "A professional organization needs a professional environment to work in," said Rockwell. "This ceremony is a small example of how far cyberspace operations have come. We have made large steps in a short amount of time." When the squadron first began operations in 2007, there were just 10 military members conducting cyberspace operations. Today, there are more than 560 Active Duty, Reserve, civilian, and contractors working 24 hours a day, states the release. The center is expected to advance overall command and control of USAF network communications by "providing enhanced situational awareness and command and control capabilities" and increasing "cyber crew commander and cyber operations controller influence of situations," states the release.

Knoxville Convention Sales Report

Hats	22	AACS Logo Patches	1
Lapel Pins	4	Challenge Coins	60
Blue Shirts, M	1	Blue Shirts, L	2
Blue Shirts, XL	2	Blue Shirts, 2XL	2
White Shirts, L	6	Ladies White Shirts, S	1
Ladies White Shirts, M	4	Ladies White Shirts, L	1
Wind Shirts, M	1	Wind Shirts, XL	2
Wind Shirts, 2XL	1	Jackets, S	2
Jackets, L	3	Jackets, XL	1
Jackets, 2XL	5		

Sales: Approximately \$1,200.00

B-17 Memorial Park

American Legion Post (Sheridan, AR), has been working on this B-17 Memorial Park for several years to memorialize the crew that died in the 1943 crash. Duke Snyder, an Association Life Member, is the Historian for the Post.

Construction begins on park's B-17 replica, entrance columns

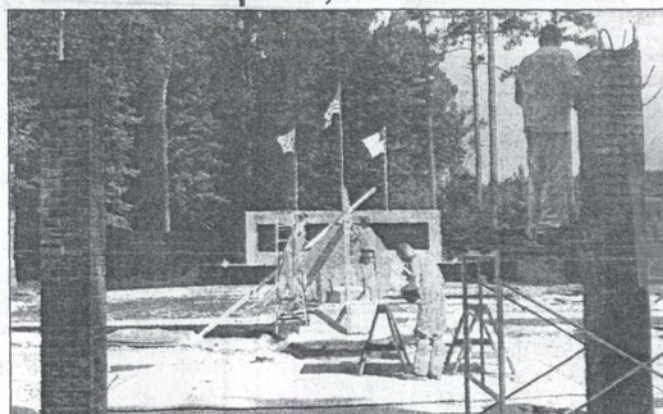
Grant County trustees and local veterans continue to contribute over 200 man hours of construction each week to the county's American Legion Veterans Memorial Park project, according to Nelson Mears, the Grant County Veterans Service Officer. The park is located at the site of the B-17 Flying Fortress crash that occurred north of Sheridan on March 12, 1943.

A master bricklayer is currently at work on the two entrance columns, when completed this entrance will be 12 feet tall, 16 feet wide and have an arch connecting the two columns. The remainder of the front wall will have columns every 8 feet with a 2-foot brick knee wall base and 4-foot tall wrought iron fencing connecting the columns, Mears noted.

In the center, Mears said three trustees are constructing a life-sized replica of the B-17 Flying Fortress bomber. The replica will be 105 feet from wing tip to wingtip and 75 feet from nose to tail. The vertical stabilizer (tail) will be 17-feet off the ground at the back of the plane. The framework of the aircraft will be constructed of wood and the exterior will be constructed using metal panels and metal coil stock that are being donated by Centria Corp.

In addition to the work on the brick wall and bomber replica, the 130-foot by 27-foot slab for the parking lot has been completed.

"All Grant County residents are encouraged to come by and watch the progress on Grant County's newest landmark," See Park, page 4



A MASTER BRICKLAYER works on two entrance columns at the American Legion Veterans Memorial Park. In the center, three trustees can be seen working on a life-sized replica of the B-17 Flying Fortress bomber.

Continued from page 1
Mears said. "The Grant County American Legion and Disabled American Veteran members are proud to be able to honor all of Grant County's fallen heroes at this park as well as honoring the nine young airmen that died at the memorial park site on March 12, 1943."

A special ceremony marking the opening of the park will be announced at a later date.

The park is located at 1836 Grant 51 (Corinth Road). Drive 2.3 miles north of the bypass on Highway 35 toward Benton. Turn on County Road 51 and drive 1.83 miles north. The Grant County Veterans Memorial Park is on the east side of County Road 51.

"Adequate paved parking is now available, so come by and watch the park as it is being completed," Mears added.

GLOBAL STRIKE COMMAND

A6 Conference Room Dedication at Barksdale AFB LA (Major General John T. Randerson)

On August 25th 2014, the A6 Conference Room at GSC Hqs, Barksdale AFB LA was dedicated in honor of the late Maj Gen. John T. Randerson. The event was highlighted when Maj Gen Gerry Prather presented the famous SAC "Red Phone" to Mr. Hatcher, the current Director of Communications in the Global Strike Command.

Individuals in the picture are: Col Jim Cowan (ret.), CMS George Hoyt (ret.), Col Jim Lauducci (ret.), Brig Gen Randy Witt (ret.), Maj Gen Gerry Prather (ret.), A6/SES Mr. A.G. Hatcher, Kristin (Randerson) Macey and Lauren Young, (daughter. and grand daughter of the late General Randerson), Maj Gen John Maluda (ret.), and Col Vern Hammers (ret.).



You can help RECRUIT new members ! ! !

You can help recruit new members by visiting our web site www.afcommatc.org and clicking on the guest book and when you see visitors who have signed the guest book and are not members, you can email them and thank them for visiting and signing our Guest Book. You do not have to do a "hard sell" recruiting email, if you have the same AFSC or was in the same unit(s) you can tell them that, if not, thanking them for signing is more than enough.

VISIT THE WEB SITE TODAY ! !

AF COMMUNICATORS & AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

October 4, 2015

TAX EXEMPT STATEMENT

This is to certify that _____ of the AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Association, Inc., is a member in good standing and was an official delegate to a series of business meetings and communications and/or air traffic control seminars at the 2014 Annual Convention, from September 24th through September 28th, 2014 at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The meetings and seminars were conducted by and for the AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Association members for educational, social and humanitarian purposes and included the review and approval of charitable donations as authorized for charitable organizations under Section 501 (c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1994. In addition, the delegates voted for individual members to fill Board of Director positions that were scheduled for mandatory elections and the Delegates also voted on Associations Constitution and By Law changes, and other administrative changes as required by the Constitution and By Laws. No goods or services were provided to the delegates.

S/T

Cindy Hintz, Treasurer

AF COMM & ATC Association, Inc.

ID 501 (C) (19), Employee Nbr: 38-3053651

State of Michigan, ID 814649

Certified by: Executive Director

IF REQUIRED, SIGNED COPIES OF THIS FORM SHOULD BE REQUESTED FROM
Cindy Hintz, 691 Lawshe Rd, Senoia, GA 30276, afcommatctreasurer@gmail.com

NOTE: CORE DATES FOR THE CONVENTION WERE THURSDAY (9/19)-SUNDAY (9/22)

NOTE: Widows or Widowers of Life Members are Official Association Members.

Spouses of deceased members, who continue to pay annual dues are Official Association Members. All Members are responsible for complying with all IRS rules when submitting US TAX FORM 1040.

For use with itemized U.S Tax Form 1040 submissions IAW Current IRS PUBLICATIONS. **Use the most current IRS rules for authorized deductions for:**

Automobile Mileage plus road and bridge tolls, Meals, Motel/Hotel costs, Airfare, Rental car, parking, Convention registration and hotel gratuities. **YOU MUST KEEP RECEIPTS FOR ALL EXPENTURES CLAIMED. You must be a member in good standing to claim any expenses.**

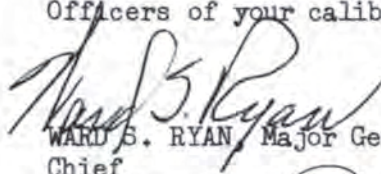
HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY TRAINING MISSION
TO SAUDI ARABIA
APO NEW YORK 09616

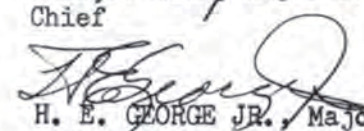
REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Chief, USMTM

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

TO: TSg Joseph M. Niezgoda Jr., AF13497546
Det 30, 1141 USAF Special Activities Sq
(HqComd, USAF), APO New York 09616

1. You are hereby commended for your meritorious service to the assigned personnel of the United States Military Training Mission to Saudi Arabia during the period 7 June 1967 to 20 June 1967.
2. On the morning of 7 June 1967, while the United States Military Training Mission to Saudi Arabia was under attack by a civilian mob estimated at 500, you rallied your maintenance personnel to the radio building, and directed the barricading of doors and windows while it was being stoned and demolished. By hiding several transceivers in the latrine under boxes, and placing the remainder under desks for continued operation you most successfully sustained operation to the outside world, and lost intra-country communications for only two hours due to antenna destruction. Further, while the rioting and destruction was still in progress, but diminished in this area, you and your crew erected temporary antennas to re-establish vital command and control communications between Headquarters USMTM, its' desert sites, and its' aircraft in flight. Your calm, mature, and decisive actions instilled confidence instead of fear, thus maintaining the vital communications link to our headquarters in the United States and support activities in Europe. Intra-country communications were lost only for a short duration even though extreme rioting ensued all day. For the following five days, you and your crew worked almost without rest to rehabilitate the equipment and building antennas to insure sustained reliable communications. Your personal conduct and leadership, by example, united your work force into a team that functioned with only one objective; "sustain the Mission's communications capability". The leadership you displayed during this crisis in the face of adversity reveals your true fibre. Your professional knowledge, ability to think and make quick decisions reflects greatly upon your character, your ability to withstand tensions pressures and to effectively lead others to outstanding performance. It is with great pride and pleasure that we have Non-Commissioned Officers of your caliber on our team.


WARD S. RYAN, Major General, USA
Chief


H. E. GEORGE JR., Major, USAF, Deputy Commander
1141 USAF Sp Acty Sq., APO New York 09131

CATEGORY "A", AFM 900-3, APPROVED FOR FILE
IN THE (UNIT) (COMMAND) (MASTER) PERSONNEL
RECORDS GROUP OF TSgt Joseph M. Niezgoda Jr.,
AF13497546

"Early in my Air Force Career"

On the national scale May 1970 featured the horrific shooting of students by National Guardsmen at Kent State. For me personally, as a young Air Force two striper, it marked my arrival at my assignment to Clark Air Base in the Philippines. The war in Vietnam was going hot and heavy and the Philippines, most notably Clark Air Base, was critical hub in the air bridge for U.S. air operations into and out of the theater. I arrived at Clark from the Wright-Patterson AFB, where my first assignment out of ground radio operator school, I had worked at the MARS station there. At Clark I was assigned to the aeronautical station, known by the radio callsign "Clark Airways. USAF airways stations provided vital radio communications support for aircraft operations across the globe. To use a sports analogy it was like moving from the minor league to the "big show" AKA: the major league. George Jefferson would have said that I was moving on up to the big time!

The MARS station I left was a small brick building surrounded by a handful of antennas. Inside were a couple of glassed in cubicles with tunable radios and linear inside. The facility operated during the day, Monday thru Friday, with a pretty low key operations tempo featuring morale phone patches and MARSgram copy and relay.

Conversely Clark Airways was a 24-7 facility with a large cipher-locked radio room where radio operations were conducted at a handful of multi-purpose QUICK FIX consoles. The pushbutton consoles were used to access a variety of remotely located radio transmitters and receivers and landlines. Radio ops were collocated in the building along with the front office staff as well as radio maintenance, which were just a shout away at any given time.

After in-processing into my unit I was thrust right into the swing of things. I was assigned to an all-male crew, all of which worked a rotating schedule to cover swing, mid, and day shifts. There was intense on-the-job training involved, including much memorization of terms, designators, frequencies, procedures and the like required to reach a level of proficiency. All this job specific information was hammered in to the point I can still rattle off most of the frequencies, air base designators in the Pacific, or route designators that aircraft routinely used as highways in the sky.

As it so happened my first "day" on the job was actually a midshift (2400 – 0700). I rode out on the big Blue Goose crew bus like a country bumpkin headed for the big city.

Aircraft movement on midshifts was relatively light so I was told to don headsets at one of the available consoles and just listen in as one of the seasoned radio operators worked air-to-ground radio traffic on our published frequencies next to me. His task was to maintain a continuous listening watch on some of our assigned frequencies and assist any and all aircraft who called with position reports or other requests.

The oh-dark-thirty shift was not the ideal time for high frequency radio propagation and I could barely make out voices on the frequencies through all the noise. It was extremely tough for my yet untuned ears to understand what the voice on the aircraft end was saying.

I was immensely impressed that the old salt operator that I was monitoring seemed to be hearing clear as a bell, quickly copying down what the aircraft said and then reading it back for confirmation. It wasn't until later that I discovered that the operator already knew where the aircraft was and what to expect him to say when he called up with his position report. It was just a matter of catching a couple of key details and then filling in the blanks.

One particular operating console seemed to be especially powerful and important. It was called the "broadcast position" and seemingly warning that operator would spring into action. He'd loudly declare "call off!" for all to hear. All the operators at other consoles would immediately drop-off the radio frequencies they were using to allow the broadcast operator to pick them all up on console.

That accomplished, he'd quickly start transmitting a message on all our frequencies always prefaced with, "Skyking, skyking this is Clark Clark, do not answer, do not answer, break, break..." I learned later that these high priority broadcasts were intended for specific aircraft that may be monitoring our frequencies. Other airways stations like Kadena or Anderson would copy our broadcasts and then echo on their frequencies as well.

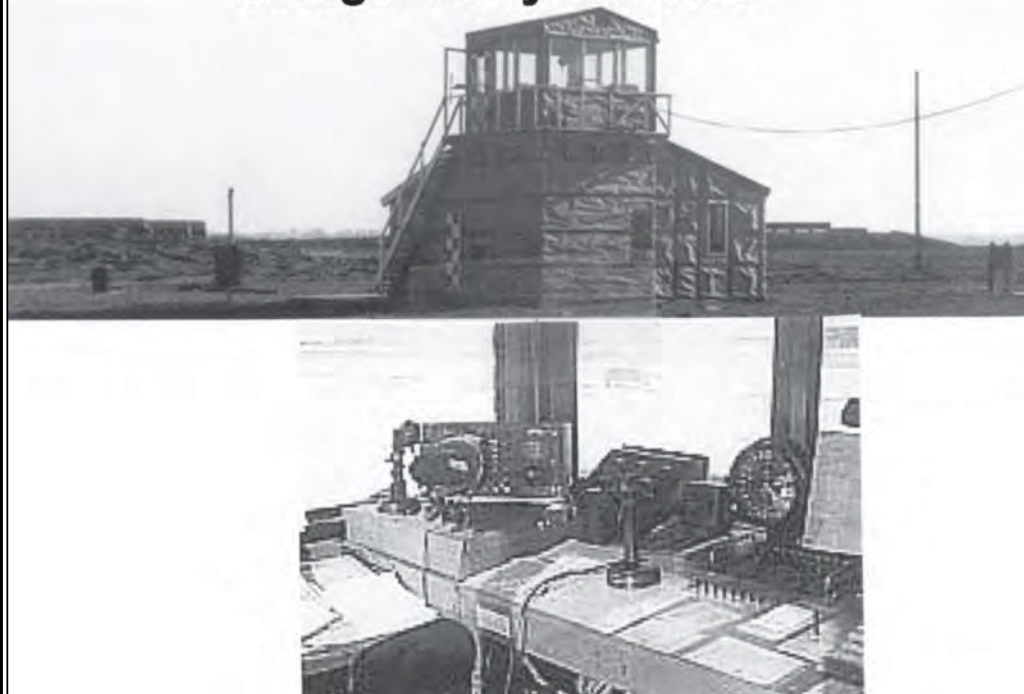
Initially it appeared to me that the broadcaster had to know a whole lot of words and phrases in order to work his position. Later the light came on and I became aware that the broadcast operator had all the verbiage on a pre-formatted form and just filled in a couple of blanks before reading it on the frequencies. Though the broadcast position was critically important it was also boring since the operator never talked to any aircraft and only actually transmitted messages 3-4 times an hour.

Over my first few weeks I was target of a veritable fire hose of knowledge and experience. I absorbed a whole lot. It's amazing how going in it looked like there was a large elephant blocking the road to my success. In the end it was like the old joke about how you go about eating one. One bite at a time! During my 15-month tour I became proficient at working all the various positions, whether copying down aircraft position information, running phone patches with ground subscribers, or coordinating aircraft movement via telephone lines, or periodically changing tapes on the recorders that captured every utterance. After a few months I was selected to work strictly DV/VIP operations support.

As with any busy work environment, time passed extremely quickly. It wasn't until I had transitioned back to the States that I had time to reflect on what I'd actually done. It was pretty cool to realize that, in my own small way, I'd contributed to accomplishment the mission as part of the Air Force team.

Col. Bill Malec, USAF (ret), O'Fallon, IL

**WWII Tower at Molesworth AB, England
This tower was used in 1954 to support
the 582nd Air Recovery Gp. Submitted by
CMSgt Bobby Steward**



Air Force History

CWO Charles "Stoney" Stone, USAF-Ret, submitted a copy of the AF GHQ (Air Force General Headquarters) patch that was worn from 20 July 1937 until 19 March 1942, when what we now know as the "traditional" Army Air Corps Patch. This patch was worn by the actors who were in the recent movie "Pearl Harbor".



AF GHQ

Worn from: 20 July 1937 - 19 March 1942.

Three impeller blades represent the three wings of the original Air Corps. The blades in motion symbolize speed, mobility, and flight. The headquarters was established on 1 March 1935 at Langley Field, Virginia.



SOME LITTLE KNOWN HISTORY

For a period of approximately 6 months, March 13, 1946 until September 11, 1946, AACS was renamed "The Air Communications Service".



Chandra Egan with a Thompson Sub-machine gun. Alachua Island - 1947



Dear Hank:

The photo of the old DF shack on page 55 of the June 2006 AACS Communicator, brought back lots of memories of my duties in Burma during WWII.

This was one of the loneliness jobs in the World.

Chuck Finch



AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Association members who have been inducted into the Air Force Hall of Fame

(Those Highlighted in **YELLOW** are deceased)



LTG PASCHALL



COL GIDDINGS



BGEN FARMAN



CMSGT SAUER



LTG LUDWIG



LTG CASSITY



LTG KLOCKO



MGEN ROBBINS



BGEN NEAL



LTG FAIRFIELD



MR. YIUM



LTG O'BERRY



LTG EDMONDS



CMSGT BETHEA



COL DEMPSEY



MGEN BURRIS

"FELLOWSHIP IN THE COMPANY OF EQUALS"



CMSGT TESTON



COL LAUDUCCI



CMSGT MCLAIN



MGEN DOUBLEDAY



COL SENTIMORE



BGEN CAMPBELL



MGEN STIHL



MGEN PRATHER



MGEN LAMPE



LTG WOODWARD



LTG DONAHUE



MR. MOSEMAN



MSGT DUFFY



COL PATTON



LTG RADUEGE



CMSGT MOSELEY

"FELLOWSHIP IN THE COMPANY OF EQUALS"



MGEN MEYERROSE
Class of 2012



BGEN BOHN
Class of 2012



GENERAL HOBBS
Class of 2013



BGEN WITT
Class of 2013



CMSGT PATRICK
Class of 2013



LTG CROOM
Class of 2014



COL KOVACH
Class of 2014

"FELLOWSHIP IN THE COMPANY OF EQUALS"

Have a Happy & Safe Turkey Day!

Happy Thanksgiving 2014



AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Association PX/BX Order & Contribution Form

Name _____ Phone Nbr: () _____

Address _____

Email: _____

Quantity	Description	Total Cost
_____	AACS Logo Patch @ \$4.00	\$ _____
	(note: this patch has AACS, AFCS & AFCC EMBROIDED)	
_____	Original AACS Pin @ \$5.00	_____
_____	New: Old Blue Original AACS Patch @ \$6.00	_____
_____	NEW AFCOMMATC CHALLENGE COIN @ \$7.00 each	_____
_____	Deluxe AFCOMMATC Embroidered Logo Hat @ \$12.00 (Blue Only)	_____
_____	White "T" Shirts with AACS Original Logo @ \$9.00	_____
	Lady sizes only: L _____ 4 left. (Will not be restocked)	
New _____	AFCOMMATC Embroidered LADIES GOLF SHIRT (white) S _____ M _____ L _____ @ \$26.00	_____
_____	AFCOMMATC Embroidered Logo Golf Shirt BLUE	# _____
_____	AFCOMMATC Embroidered Logo Golf Shirt WHITE	# _____
_____	AFCOMMATC Shirt Sizes: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ @ \$30.00 2XL _____ @ \$32.00	\$ _____
_____	AFCOMMATC Embroidered Wind Shirt (blue with gold trim) S _____ XXL _____ @ \$20.00 ea (will not be restocked)	_____
_____	AFCOMMATC Jacket (zipper) Sizes S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ @ \$42.00 2XL _____ @ \$45.00	\$ _____

**AACS ITEMS ARE GONE EXCEPT FOR THE PIN & PATCH
CLOTHING ITEMS WILL NOT BE RESTOCKED**

DONATIONS (Tax deductible within the limits of the law): Receipt Yes _____ No _____ \$ _____

DO YOU WANT A RECEIPT YES _____ NO _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

"POSTAGE AND HANDLING ARE INCLUDED IN ALL PRICES"
SOME PRICES HAVE INCREASED DUE TO POSTAL RATE INCREASES

MAKE CHECKS OUT TO **"AF COMM & ATC ASSOC."** AND MAIL TO:
Bill Cassatt, 612 W. Hardy St, St. James, MO 65559, 573-265-5788,
wcassatt@centurylink.net

PX/BX ITEMS

See PX/BX ORDER form on page 60 for prices, sizes and colors.

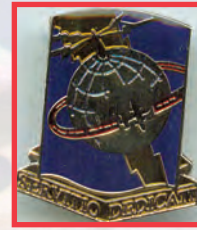
The AF Comm & ATC Wind Shirt is not shown, but it's the same as the AACS WS with a new patch.

New AF COMM & ATC COINS ARE IN STOCK -- Deluxe Patch NO longer in stock.

New Challenge Coin



AACS PIN



AFComm/ATC HAT



AFCommATC SHIRT



AF CommATC SHIRT



Original Patch



Command Patch



T-SHIRT

AF COMM & ATC ITEMS

Blue Shirt



White Shirt



Wind Shirt



JACKET (W/ZIPPER)



AACS – AFCS – AFCC Wood Carved Wall Plaques



COST (Including Shipping) = \$35.00

Select Command: AACS___AFCS___AFCC___(Number of Plaques)

Total Cost: \$_____(Check attached)

Ship To: NAME_____

ADDRESS:_____

EMAIL:_____

PHONE NBR:_____

**Make Check out to: "AF Comm & ATC Assoc" and mail to: Bill Cassett,
612 W. Hardy St, St. James, MO 65559**

**These Wood Carved Plaques are special order and take approx 2-3 weeks
for delivery.**

**Questions can be directed to Bill at 573-265-5788 or
wcassatt@centurytel.net**

AF COMMUNICATORS & AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION

(Formerly the AACS Alumni Association)

Mission Statement

To foster continued awareness of the Air Force Communications and Air Traffic Control missions previously accomplished by AACS, AFCS, AFCC, AFC4A, AFCA, AFNIC, AFFSA, other past & current Major Air Commands.

To provide a forum for educational and humanitarian services, to renew & make new friendships and to exchange ideas of common interest concerning people and activities associated with Communications, Cyberspace & Air Traffic Control. To fully support the goals and missions of the U.S. Air Force and to honor each year the ATC Enlisted Manager and Communications/Information Professionals of the year as selected by the Air Force. Make charitable contributions to worthy veteran organizations or related causes.

Of significant importance is to manage our Association to be a viable Association for those Officers/Airman/Civilians serving today.

The Beginning

The initial meeting of what turned out to be the first AACS Association meeting was held in Columbus, Ohio in 1977. The meeting was hosted by "Emeritus" Larry Camp and his wife Doris. This meeting came about as a result of a conversation with "Dux" and Pearl LeDoux and was planned as a poker weekend in Columbus. Some of the notables who were in attendance, and to whom we owe so much were; Hack Neal, Ken Klise, Flash Gordon, Paul Haas, Glen Turner, Bob Dickerson, Max Mankofsky, Dux LeDoux, John Hoff, Ted Carlson, Don Donnell & George Yunker, just to name a few.

This initial group established the high standards that continues to drive the AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Association and we owe them and all the individuals who attended that first meeting/reunion, a great big "Thank You".

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

**AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Association
(Formerly the AACS Alumni Association - 1977 - 2008)**

1977 - 1978	Hack Neal (BGen)
1979 - 1980	Bob Dickerson (Col)
1981 - 1982	Joe Beler (Col)
1983 - 1984	Don Donnell (Col)
1985 - 1986	Wally Bailey (Col)
1987 - 1991	Bob Brewer (Col)
1992 - 1993	Cal Venable (Col)
1994 - 1997	Jasper Vaughn (Col)
1998 - 2001	Hank Sauer (CMSgt)
2002 - 2005	Dick Frye (Lt Col)
2006 - 2007	Hank Sauer (CMSgt)
2008 - 2011	Stan Phillips (SSgt)
2012 -	Doug Donnell (Col)



"FELLOWSHIP IN THE COMPANY OF EQUALS"

AF COMM & ATC ASSOCIATION, INC.

R.P. Sauer - Editor/Publisher

111 Carson Lane

Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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Oak Ridge, TN 37830



QUESTION: Who or what are we? The AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Association.

ANSWER: An Association that is comprised of approximately 2,000 members who began their service in the Army Air Corps and/or the Signal Corps before WWII and who served in the first dedicated communications element to provide communications and air traffic control as its primary mission and members who have served since then in any communications or air traffic control unit, including those serving today. This new Army Air Corps organization was formed in 1938 and was named the "Army Airways Communications System" (AACS). During WWII, it was renamed the "Air Communications Service" (ACS) and placed under the then "Air Transport Command" and within months was renamed once again as the "Airways and Air Communications Service" (AACS). In 1961, AACS was elevated to a Major Air Command and renamed "Air Force Communications Service" (AFCS). In 1979, the name was changed to Air Force Communications Command" (AFCC). In the early 1990's the Air Force was undergoing major reorganizations and realignment of functions and AFCC was downsized and renamed the "Air Force Command, Control, Communications & Computers Agency" (AFC4A) and shortly thereafter, was renamed the "Air Force Communications Agency" (AFCA). Also in the early 1990's, the Air Force created the "Air Force Flight Standards Agency" (AFFSA), and reassigned air traffic control responsibilities to this new Agency and to the Major Air Commands. In 2009, AFCA was renamed the "Air Force Network Integration Center" (AFNIC) and placed under the AF Space Command along with the newly created 24th Air Force (for Cyber functions). Over the years since the AACS Alumni Association was formed (1977) the membership criteria changed from individuals who only served in AACS units, to include all communicators/information/cyber/air traffic control, maintenance and support skills regardless of what Major or Joint Command an individual served in, including today's active duty personnel. All Honors & awards still reside with AFNIC.



The motto of "Fellowship in the Company of Equals" is more than just words, but the glue that holds us all together through the different decades. The Association is comprised of about 85% enlisted personnel and 15% officers, which includes many General Officers, both active and retired.

The Communicator
November 2014

**"CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE
THE DATE and/or YEAR YOUR DUES EXPIRE"**

It's the number before your first name. The Year "14" depicts an expiration date of December 31, 2014. You must renew by 1 April 2015 to receive the June 2015 Communicator. Send dues to Walt McLain 4514 Haverty Drive, Knoxville, TN 37931 • Make check to AF Comm ATC Assn

