



Since 1938

COMMUNICATOR



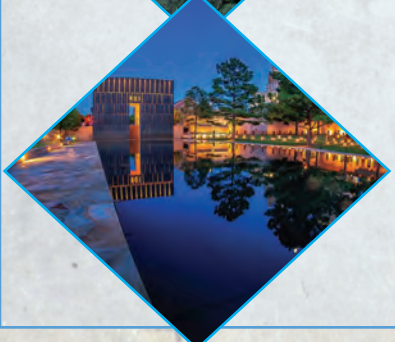
June 2017



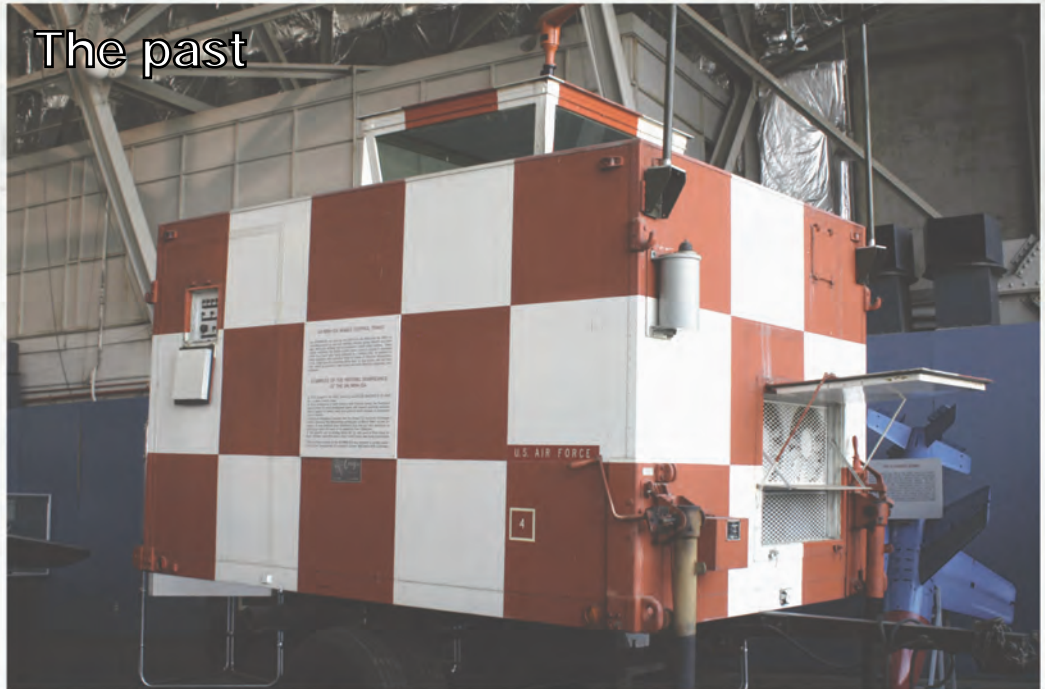
2017 annual convention, Oklahoma City!

Pages 8-14

Register now!



The past



ANMRN-12A Mobile Control Tower at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo) See page 2.

The future—Cyber Squadron Initiative

Arming Airmen for 21st century battle

By SSgt. Jannelle McRae, SAF/PA

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The Air Force cyber landscape of today is not the same as 10 or even five years ago; every Air Force core mission is impacted and connected by cyber. In response, the service has created the Cyber Squadron Initiative.

The initiative trains small teams from existing manpower that focus on defensive cyber operations of Air Force weapons systems.

To meet increasing cyberspace threats and demands, the Air Force is shifting its focus from operating and maintaining traditional information technology services to stronger offensive and defensive cyber capabilities that support core missions.

"Air Force core missions are cyber dependent, and the complexities and threats in this environment have grown exponentially," said Lt. Gen. William J. Bender, the Air Force chief information dominance officer and chief information officer. "We are

leaning forward to tailor the cyber force by leveraging industry partners and the joint information environment to perform basic IT services, thereby enabling Airmen to move away from a unitary focus on IT service delivery toward a holistic cyberspace approach that includes active mission defense and mission assurance."

The Cyber Squadron Initiative enhances the capabilities of cyber airmen to defend, assure and optimize unit missions in, through and from cyberspace. Currently, 16 initial cyber squadrons--called pathfinder units--have been organized, trained and equipped to deploy cutting-edge applications to provide mission assurance to their wing's critical missions. They are being joined by 30 new pathfinder units that were recently announced and have already begun training while identifying their key terrain in cyberspace.

(Contd on back page)

IMPORTANT!

Please update your membership info

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

Recruit! Our future depends on you!

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

Address Book

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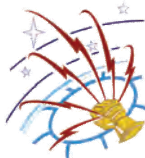
Exec Dir

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

On the cover

The AN/MRN-12A was used by the USAF from the 1950s into the 1970s for controlling aircraft on and near airfields, primarily during takeoffs and landings, when such airfields had no permanent control tower facilities. Under normal conditions, the mobile control tower could be placed in operation within four hours after being delivered to a landing field.



In addition to being equipped with numerous kinds of radios of different frequencies, it had a light gun (for signaling pilots who, for any reason, did not have their radios in operation), wind speed and wind direction equipment, and altimeters.

Examples of the historic significance of the AN/MRN-12A:

1. First system in the USAF inventory specifically designed to be used as a mobile control tower.
2. Used extensively in both Vietnam and Thailand during the Southeast Asian conflict at newly-established bases and forward operating locations, and in support of bases that had suffered battle damage to permanent control towers.
3. Used on emergency missions like the project for assisting Anchorage, Alaska, following the devastating earthquake of March 1964 -- in that instance, it was airlifted from Oklahoma City and put into operation at Anchorage within 24 hours of its departure from Oklahoma.
4. The specific unit pictured (Serial No. 13) was used at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, while that base's fixed control tower was being constructed.

This surviving example of the AN/MRN-12A was restored to exhibit condition by the Sacramento Air Logistics Center, McClellan Air Force Base, Calif., although it is currently in storage.



Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association

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

Content



Everything you need to know to register for the convention

8-14

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The Communicator is the official publication of the Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association.

Send photos and stories to Lori Manske, 665 N 11th St, Breese IL 62230, manske5@charter.net.

Communicator is published twice a year, June and November. They are also available online at www.afcommatc.org.



Find us on [Facebook](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/Air-Force-Communicators-and-Air-Traffic-Controllers-Association-AFCOMMATC-157860650935840/>

All Communicators since June 2006 are available on our web site:

www.afcommatc.org



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Convention Committee

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Hank Sauer

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Walt McLain (chair), Hank Sauer,

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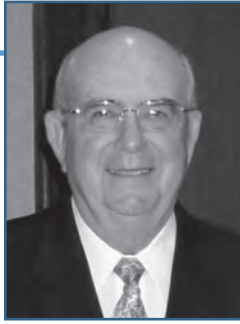
Recruiting Committee

Ken Reiff (chair)

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

Reports

From the Executive Director Ken Reiff



Planning is well underway for our annual convention to be held Oct 4-8, at the Sheraton/Reed Conference Center in Midwest City, OK (adjacent to Tinker AFB). Jim and Becky Roberts have done an outstanding job planning this event and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. A highlight of the planned events is the Friday evening dinner and tour of the Oklahoma State History Museum.

For those of you who plan to sign up for golf, please do it early. We have decided to open the tournament to Comm/Info, Cyber, and Air Traffic Control folks working at Tinker AFB and other facilities in the area. The reservations are “first come, first served” though we will do our best to accommodate our members first. The tournament will be a team scramble and is being managed by “Pit” Pitovich, former 3rd Herd member, who has extensive experience in running events like this one.

We are engaging many of our fellow Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers who live in the area as well as members of the GEEIA/EI/MDM Association, Air Force Flight Standards Agency, 3rd Herd, and active duty units at Tinker AFB, as well as the FAA. If all goes as planned this should be a real “AFCC/AFCS/AACS” bash.

As I reported in the November *Communicator*, your Board of Directors voted to publish the June edition of the

magazine in newsletter format. This accomplishes two things: it reduces the workload for our Editor, Print/Online Media, and it will save funds. The various reports required by our by-laws are included for your information.

Additionally, based on recommendations from our Awards Committee, we have added a third annual award: Lt Gen Harry D. Raduege Cyber NCO of the Year. The honoree is Technical Sergeant Jeffrey Selonke, 6th Communications Squadron, MacDill AFB, FL.

Good news: three of our members were selected for induction into the Cyberspace Operations and Support Hall of Fame. Our Association nominee, Mr. Kenneth Heitkamp and our Vice Director, Col (Ret) Raymond French, along with Col (Ret) Linda McMahon, were honored during the induction ceremony on May 4, 2017, at Bolling AFB, DC.

We have been fortunate with the donations from our membership to keep our organization financially solvent. On behalf of our Board, thank you for both your time and dollars you have contributed.

Recently, I have received several requests to have the convention rescheduled to mid to late September. As much as possible we will accommodate this request in the future. If you have other ideas or concerns, drop me an email at afcommatcdir@gmail.com or by letter at 1102 Lorien Court, O'Fallon, IL 62269-3131.

Chaplain Ed Broestl

Grace and peace from God!

When was the last time your faith, in whatever shape it may be, influenced your leadership? Maybe it was only for a moment but possibly for the rest of your life.



It may not be an easy question to answer. It may not be something you've given much thought. Maybe you never even considered it because faith and leadership are so intertwined, they are inseparable.

Some years ago, I was asked how I lived out 1 Thessalonians 5:17. It is one of those verses that is easy to memorize: “Pray continually.” Easy

to memorize but difficult to do. After thinking for a moment, I responded with: “Prayer is our OS.” He asked me to explain.

As with computers, our Operating System is always running. I believe it is referred to as our conscious and unconscious. Do you think about your heart beating? How about the digestion of the meal you had today? Our OS is always on, thankfully, even when we sleep. What is integral to our being? 1 Thessalonians 5:17 reminds us to pray.

All this is a preface to the theme for your reflection and our Prayer Breakfast during our Convention in October. To some, faith and leadership are inseparable. For others, it has changed over the years. In a book by Morris Massey, “You are what you were when,” Massey said unless you experience a “significant emotional event” a person doesn't

often change. There were times in each of our lives when we experienced “significant emotional events” and changed. Occasionally, it's in the way we lead. How did the events occurring at the intersection of Faith and Leadership impact us, then and now?

I trust your reflection will cause appreciation for where you are and how you got there. If you would like to share a story, **please send it to me at: e_broestl@comcast.net**. Our prayer breakfast will be a time to recall and appreciate the events that occurred at the intersection of Faith and Leadership.

Many thanks for your service to our country and one another.





**Membership Director
Walt McLain**



**Treasurer
Jim Weber**

We have gained two new members since Oct 1, 2016. Current active membership stands at 1,205. Since Oct 1, 33 members have renewed.

28 members' dues expired in 2016. To see when your dues expire check the address label on your latest *Communicator* or the expiration date on your membership card. Currently, 95 members' dues expire Dec 31, 2017, if not renewed. Please refer membership questions to Walt McLain, 865-690-0479 or email

aacsmbrship@comcast.net

New members/renewals: Make checks payable to AF Comm ATC Assn. Mail to AF Comm ATC Assn 4514 Haverty Dr Knoxville TN 37931-3657.

Applications are available in each *Communicator*, on our web site, and from Walt McLain.

Dues are \$15 per year, payable in 2-year increments or life membership varies by age: to 50 \$165; 51-60 \$145; 61-70 \$115; 70+ \$75.

Cash in ENT Federal Credit Union:

AFCOMMATC Checking Acct	\$16,161.79
Publisher's Account (IL Bank)	\$ 105.93
Cash Totals:	\$16,267.72

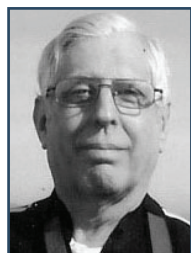
Equipment Book Value:	\$ 461.79
Equipment Totals:	\$ 461.79

Certificates of Deposit:

50-12	\$5,071.74.....Maturity Date 07/02/17
50-24	\$10,185.45.....Maturity Date 07/02/17
50-36	\$20,474.50.....Maturity Date 07/02/18
53-12	\$5,045.30..... Maturity Date 03/31/18
	CD Totals (4): \$40,776.99

Grand Totals:	\$57,506.50
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The ENT Federal Credit Union continues to be an excellent choice for this organization, because there are no account maintenance fees and transactions are unlimited. We established a sub-account, separate from our main account that is being used by the current host in Oklahoma City and will be used for future conventions eliminating the need for host accounts. My goal for the immediate future is to continue to grow membership funds. Donations are a much needed source of income. I encourage each of you to consider supporting our association. I thank those who have continued to donate. Included in the checking account is the \$675 in donations I have received this year. As your treasurer, my standing goals are 1) Stable growth and 2) Security of Funds.



**BX/PX Manager
Bill Cassatt**

Oct 2016 - April 2017

Items Sold

Hats	3
AACS Lapel Pins	10
AACS Logo Patches	1
Golf Shirts	2
Original Patches	7
Plaques	4
Challenge Coins	5
Jackets	2
Total Sales:	\$449

Expenses

Plaque	\$120.00
Postage	\$ 51.79
Supplies (Mailers)	\$ 4.70
Total Expenses:	\$176.49

Donations from BX/PX sales: \$420

Dennis Harris	John C. Shryock
Walter Wasielewski	Alan B. Brenner
Kenneth K. Kimseu	

To those who make periodic or regular donations, we appreciate your support. Your donations are critical to the continued operation of this great organization.

Letters

I enlisted in the USAF July 10, 1951 and graduated from basic training, flight 510, at Sampson AFB, NY. I was sent to radio operator school at Keesler AFB, MS. I was issued O.D.s and still have the complete uniform. Later I got blues issued.

In September 1952 I arrived at Thule AB, Greenland, via a MATS C-54. The base was still under construction, code name *Operation Blue Jay*. I was in the 1983rd AACS. We worked 6 hours on and 12 hours off seven days a week. Off time was at the base movie which was in the base chow hall or playing ping pong in the barracks. I thought I had signed up for Germany! I flew out in September 1953 on a MATS C-54. It was a slow, noisy flight both ways but safe.

I can't remember the address of the radio operator barracks. For every shift we rode up to South Mountain in a weapons carrier or six by six to our metal radio building which was guyed down because of the high winds. The antenna was frozen to the roof. I worked point to point CW, ground to air, HF Direction Finding and copied weather reports from civilian CW stations. They were very fast professional operators. Once I was stuck at the station due to a blizzard and was rescued by a tracked Weasel.

At that time the C-119s were busy flying material for the building of the



Dew Line. One day while walking along the runway a flight of three B-36s landed. They were huge and quite a sight.

I was discharged July 9, 1955, as an E4 A/1C.

I wish that I had stayed in touch with those that I worked with. If anyone remembers me, please email me at ctyrrell86325@yahoo.com.

Charles K. Tyrrell



Working the radio on CW (continuous wave) on South Mountain at Thule AB, Greenland, December 1952.

PFC Charles Tyrrell at Keesler AFB for radio school, 3387th Student Squadron, September 1951.

The U.S. government built weather and radio stations on Thule beginning in 1941 to help in the war effort against the Germans. But it was “communist aggression” in 1950 that heralded Operation Blue Jay, according to an Army documentary of the same name, when “a giant air base on top of the world” was constructed.

From our online Guestbook:

Thanks for your quick reply. I did post a message in the guestbook as you suggested. I would appreciate your placing the notice in the newsletter as well.

I am interested in contacting anyone who might have served in the 1935th AACS in Narsarsuaq, Greenland, in 1948 and 1949. My uncle, Staff Sergeant Richard Mrozinski, served there and was killed while working on a transmitter in June 1949. I never knew him personally but would be very grateful for any recollections others have of him.

If there is any way to post this for AACS alumni to see I would very much appreciate it. If you know of any other site for 1935th AACS vets I would also appreciate knowing of it.



Stan Mackowiak
Email: lmack@yahoo.com

Letter:

I enjoyed the letter by Stanley A. Schnell about Chitose AFB (Nov 2016, pg 12). There was a rest hotel about 2 hours north of Sapporo by train. Along the tracks at one point a couple hundred yards of mangled iron.

At Itazuke AB 1953 read in the library. The USS Missouri leveled probably the last Mitsubishi aircraft plant of World War II at Hokkaido.

At Chitose met Curt Calloway, Hank Gallager, AACS Mobile.

Miss the old logo “Missed Roll Call.”
New one for the 21st century.

Sincerely,
Bob Gila



Col John E. "Jack" Fitzgerald Jr. Vice Commander Pacific Communications Area, 1966-69

"On Feb 2, in a cold and foggy dawn, crewmen from the foc's'le to fantail watched in astonishment as 'Hornets' deck crane lifted two fat B-25s from the docks of Norfolk. At 0900 tugs pulled the 'Grey Ghost' away from her berth, freed her lines and watched as she headed down Hampton Roads."

"It was now time. Who aboard didn't hold his breath as Army Lieutenant John E. Fitzgerald revved the B-25's engines. Fitzgerald's "Billy" rumbled, shaking alive, wobbling down the deck on its tricycle struts. The Mitchell powered itself harder and faster. Fitzgerald barely missed the carrier's island with his right

wing and just before the end of the deck...he was airborne."

Col John E. "Jack" Fitzgerald Jr., the first pilot to launch a B-25 from an aircraft carrier and developer of the technique used by the Raiders from the Hornet which attacked Japan was eventually awarded three Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Legions of Merit, and eight Air Medals for his WWII war service as a bomber pilot. He would end his career as Vice Commander, Pacific Communications Area, Wheeler AFB, Oahu, Hawaii.

Source: "The FIRST HEROES," Craig Nelson, Penguin Books, Ltd., Middlesex, England, 2002.

VA cemeteries offering pre-need eligibility determinations

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs now provides eligibility determinations for interment in a VA national cemetery before the time of need through the Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program.

"MyVA is about looking at VA from the Veterans' perspective, and then doing everything we can to make the Veteran Experience effective and seamless," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. "This new program reaffirms our commitment to providing a lifetime of benefits and services for Veterans and their families."

Interested individuals may submit VA Form 40 10007, *Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery*, and supporting documentation, such as a DD Form 214, if available, to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office by: toll-free fax: 1-855-840-8299; email Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov; or mail to National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

VA will review applications and provide written notice of determination of eligibility. VA will save determinations and documentation in an electronic information system to expedite burial arrangements when needed. Because laws and personal circumstances change, upon receipt of a burial request, VA will validate all pre-need determinations according to laws in effect at that time.

VA operates 135 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers' lots in 40 states and Puerto Rico. More than 4 million Americans, including veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA's national cemeteries. For veterans buried in private or other cemeteries, VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service.

Eligible individuals are entitled to burial in any open VA national cemetery, opening/closing of the grave, a grave

liner, perpetual care of the gravesite, and a government-furnished headstone or marker or niche cover, all at no cost to the family. Veterans are also eligible for a burial flag and may be eligible for a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

Information on VA burial benefits is available from local VA national cemetery offices, from the Internet at www.cem.va.gov, or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000. To make burial arrangements at any open VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117.

Missed Roll Call



Since Nov 2016 Communicator:

Robert A. Read, CMSgt ret (May 3, 2017)
Charles A. Doering (March 14, 2017)
Matthew Joseph "Jim" Wray (Feb 21, 2017)
James M. Blass (Feb 15, 2017)
Leroy E. Anderson, MSgt ret (Jan 14, 2017)
Walter Chapman, CMSgt ret (Jan 1, 2017)
Joseph M. Niezgoda, Jr., MSgt ret (Dec 1, 2016)
Donald Dean Johnston, Colonel ret (Oct 3, 2016)
William F. "Bill" Clinton, MSgt ret (Sept 6, 2016)
Patrick E. Manion, CMSgt ret (Aug 20, 2016)



41st AF Comm & ATC Association Convention Oklahoma City, OK

Oct. 4-8, 2017

**Wednesday Early Check-in
Sunday Goodbye Breakfast**

Hosted by Jim and Becky Roberts

**AFCOMMATC Member Sponsors: Jesse Dillon and
Phyllis Billy of Oklahoma City**

WHO: Current and former Air Force Communicators, Data Automation, Cyber, Space Operations, Air Traffic Controllers, Air Field Managers, Maintenance, Engineering and Installation, and related support personnel

WHAT: Annual convention. Renew and make new friendships.

WHEN: Oct 4-8, 2017

WHERE: Sheraton Reed Conference Center
Midwest City, OK

RESERVATIONS: Book early!

Call-in: 1-800-325-3535 Group Reservation code: AJ03AB
Group room rate is \$89 per night, plus tax.

To get the special rate, reserve a hotel room by Sept 4.
Rate is available Oct 2-10.

Members are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. Cancellations must be made 72 hours before booked arrival time.

Check-in time: 3 PM. Check-out time: Noon.

All banquet seating will be assigned by table (max of 8). If you want to sit with someone, make sure they are coming. Complete the registration form.

**Sheraton Midwest City Hotel
at the Reed Conference Center**



This hotel is a haven for guests who desire both the comfort of a Sheraton and the vibrant nightlife of a big city. As a full service hotel, the Sheraton packs in a lot of great features so you can pack light. Enjoy live music, entertainment and dining in Bricktown just minutes from the hotel. Appreciate art in one of the many acclaimed museums in the area. See how the West was won at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum or stroll through many of the area's shopping districts. You'll feel right at home at this hotel.

**Hospitality Room is the
Sheraton Hospitality Room**





THURSDAY TOURS/EVENTS, Oct 5

***Prayer Breakfast
Intersection of Faith and Leadership***
 Chaplain: Ed Broestl
 (See his report on page 4)

Time: 8 AM – 10 AM
Cost: \$25
Location: Joyner Room
Reservations required via registration form

Menu: Chilled Orange and Cranberry Juices, Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, & Crispy Bacon; Cinnamon French Toast with Warm Maple Syrup--Strawberry and Blueberry Fruit Toppings; Breakfast Potatoes; Fresh Fruit Tray; Assorted Breads & Muffins; Creamery Butter & Fruit Preserves; Fresh Coffees & Gourmet Teas

Tinker AFB Tour
AWACS, AF Flight Standards Agency, 38th CEIG Mission Brief

Time: 12:30 PM – 4 PM
Cost: None, but sign up on registration form
Details: To be announced
Tours Tentatively Scheduled. More information at a later date.
Bus Transportation provided
Reservations required via registration form



FRIDAY TOURS/EVENTS, Oct 6

41st Annual Gen Farman Golf Tournament
John Conrad Regional Golf Course

Cost per player: \$55 (includes green fees and cart; light lunch included)
 Golf Club rental is limited. Car pools will leave the Hotel lobby about 7 AM. Driving time is about 15 minutes. Shotgun start at 8:30 AM. If you are willing to drive, indicate on Golf Registration form.
 Paul Pitcovich is Golf Director. The format will be a 4-person scramble (each golfer will hit and the team will select the best shot and play their next shot from there until the team finishes each hole). **Complete the Name Tag and Golf registration form** and include the \$55 golf fee on your reunion registration form.



Members need to sign up early since it is anticipated that the tournament may fill up quickly.

Friday afternoon

On your own

The Outlet Shoppes

7624 W Reno Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73127

Intersection of I 40W and Council Blvd

Free Shuttle Transportation from Sheraton Reed Center

Friday pick up 9:30 AM, returning 1:30 PM

Saturday pick up 12:30 PM, returning 3:30 PM

Home to the area's latest and greatest retail shopping experience.



Friday evening

A Night at the Museum

Oklahoma History Center

AFCOMMATC Dinner and Private Tour

Cost per person: \$65

No-host reception (cash bar) 5:45 PM - 6:30 PM

Oklahoma Barbeque Buffet 6:30 - 8 PM: Sliced Brisket, Smoked Chicken, Salad, Vegetables, Potatoes, BBQ Beans, Dessert, Rolls (tea / water / coffee)

Times: Bus will leave hotel by 5:30 PM and return to hotel by 9:30 PM

Private self-paced museum tour.

Registration required via registration form.



SATURDAY EVENTS, Oct 7

Breakfast Buffet and Annual General Business Meeting

7:30 AM - 11 AM

Breakfast 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM, Reed Room

Chilled Orange and Grape Juices; Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, & Crispy Bacon; Hand-Breaded Chicken Fried Steak; Homemade Biscuits & Country Gravy; Seasonal Fresh Fruit Tray; Assorted Breakfast Breads, Muffins and Pastries; Creamery Butter & Fruit Preserves. Coffees & Gourmet Teas



On-your-own

NO COST - ENJOY GREAT STORES & EATERIES

Enjoy OKC attractions such as:

Bricktown

Sheridan Ave. & Mickey Mantle Dr

Just a short walk from downtown hotels, event venues and attractions, this former warehouse district is filled with restaurants, nightlife and entertainment options. From taking a cruise along the Bricktown Canal to catching an Oklahoma City Dodgers game at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark, Bricktown is a favorite destination for visitors and locals alike.



Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum

1700 Northeast 63rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK, (405) 478-2250

Museum Hours: Monday - Saturday: 10 AM - 5 PM, Sunday: Noon - 5 PM

Admissions: Adults \$12.50, Seniors (62+) \$9.75 Military (active or retired): \$2.00 off with I.D.

We invite you to come and experience the West and explore it through its people, places, and history. The dramatic story of the West led to the establishment of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.



OKC National Memorial and Museum

620 North Harvey Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, 405-235-3313

Hours: Monday – Saturday 9 AM – 6 PM

Sunday 12 PM - 6 PM

Admission: Adults \$15, Seniors (62+) \$12

Through the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, the world will never forget the 168 victims who died in the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The Memorial is comprised of two separate components, each of which distinctively pays tribute to the victims of the tragedy. The 3.3-acre Outdoor Symbolic Memorial includes such features as the Gates of Time, which mark the time before and after the bombing took place, and the Field of Empty Chairs, which memorializes each of the victims. The Survivor Tree, a resilient symbol of the attack, is an American Elm that withstood the full force of the bomb's blast on that fateful day. Inside the 50,000-square-foot Memorial Museum, interactive exhibits offer a contrast between the brutality of the senseless act of violence and the tenderness of the city's response.



Saturday Night Banquet

5:30 - 6:30 Cash Bar

Event Plaza

Be seated 6:30 PM - Dinner 7 PM

Formal/semi-formal attire

Plated Meal with choice of:

Chablis Chicken

Grilled boneless chicken breast, topped with Chablis white wine cream sauce, served with pan-seared sliced shallots and mushrooms

Sliced tenderloin

with red onion brulee (very tender, fantastic!)

Stuffed Eggplant

Spinach, sun-dried tomatoes, gorgonzola cheese-stuffed eggplant, lightly toasted with Italian bread crumbs

Dinner comes with a salad, soft bistro rolls, vegetable, starch, a featured dessert, coffee tea and water.

Meal selection required via registration form.



Hospitality Room will be OPEN from noon – 4 PM and will reopen after the annual Association banquet until midnight

SUNDAY, Oct 8

Farewell continental buffet breakfast 8 AM - 10 AM

**See you
next year!**

Schedule of Events



**Air Force Communicators and
Air Traffic Controllers Association
2017 Convention Schedule
October 4-8, 2017**

**Sheraton Reed Conference Center
Midwest City, OK
405-455-1800**

Hosts

**Jim And Becky Roberts
405-464-0117**

**Member Sponsors Jesse Dillon and Phyllis Billy
of Oklahoma City**

Wednesday, Oct 4, 2017

Early Check In

Noon – 5 PM

Sheraton Hospitality Room

Hospitality Room

1 PM – 11 PM

Sheraton Hospitality Room

*Tickets for meals and selected activities are in your
name badge holder. Please wear your name tag at all
scheduled functions and in the hospitality suites.*

Thursday, Oct 5, 2017

Registration Check in

10 AM – 12 PM

1 PM – 5 PM

Sheraton Hospitality Room

Hospitality Room

1 PM – 11 PM

Sheraton Hospitality Room

Prayer Breakfast

8 AM – 10 AM

Joyner Room

Reservations required via registration form

Annual BOD Meeting

10 AM - 11:30 AM

Maynard Room

Tinker AFB Tour

12:30 PM – 4 PM

*AWACS, AF Flight Standards Agency, 38th CEIG
Mission Brief and AWACS Tours Tentatively Scheduled
Bus Transportation provided*

Reservations required via registration form

Friday, Oct 6, 2017

Registration Check in

1 PM – 4 PM

Sheraton Hospitality Room

Hospitality Room

Noon – Midnight

Sheraton Hospitality Room

General Farman Golf Tournament

John Conrad Regional Golf Course Midwest City

7 AM car pool from lobby

Reservations required via registration form

Shopping Spree

The Outlet Shoppes

On your own or ride the free shuttle

Shuttle leaves lobby 9:30 AM, returns 1:30 PM

A Night at the Museum

Oklahoma History Center

No-host reception (cash bar)

5:45 PM - 6:30 PM

Oklahoma Barbeque Buffet, 6:30 – 8 PM

Private self-paced museum tour

Coaches leave hotel 5:30 PM, return 9:30 PM

Reservations required via registration form

Saturday, Oct 7, 2017

Breakfast Buffet and Annual Business Meeting

7:30 AM – 11 AM

Breakfast 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

Reed Room (DEF)

Registration

Sheraton Hospitality Room

1 PM – 4 PM

Hospitality Room

Noon – 4 PM, reopens after banquet til 11:30 PM

On Your Own

Enjoy OKC attractions such as Bricktown, Cowboy &
Western Heritage Museum, OKC National Memorial

Annual Reception, Cash Bar

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Event Plaza

Annual Association Banquet

6:30 PM

Reed (DEF)

Meal selection required via registration form

Sunday Oct 8, 2017

Farewell Continental Buffet Breakfast

8 AM – 10 AM

Reed (DEF)

Have a safe journey home.

MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM - 2017

YOUR REGISTRATION SHOULD BE MAILED NO LATER THAN AUG 30, 2017.

(COMPLETE THIS FORM EVEN IF YOU ARE ONLY GOING TO THE BANQUET)

Make hotel reservations for the Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Convention Center: 1-800-325-3535

Say 'Air Force Comm & ATC Assoc Reunion' or Group Code AJ03AB

Member Last Name: _____ Member First Name: _____ Banquet Only _____
Spouse Last Name: _____ Spouse First Name: _____ Banquet Only _____
1st Guest Last Name: _____ 1st Guest First Name: _____ Banquet Only _____
2nd Guest Last Name: _____ 2nd Guest First Name: _____ Banquet Only _____

If additional space needed for guests, add separate page. Who would you like to sit with at banquet: _____
_____ (Make sure they are attending.) If you list names who don't attend you may lose preferred seating (8 chairs per table). Register early; seating can't be changed at last minute.

Member Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone Number: _____ - _____ - _____

First Convention? YES _____ Mode of Travel: Air _____ Auto _____ RV _____ Other _____

of hotel rooms booked (including guests) _____ Date of arrival: 10/04/17 _____ 10/05/17 _____ 10/06/17 _____ 10/07/17 _____ Other _____

Below find registration fee info and all dinner, golf and tour costs. Enter the number of people who will be participating in each event and total that amount. Enter the grand total due for all events, including donations and the registration fee.

Registration FeeNumber of people _____ @ \$95 per person \$ _____

Banquet Only Fee** Number of people _____ @ \$45 per person \$ _____

****For members or guests attending only the Banquet and who did not pay a registration fee.**

Your registration includes drinks and snacks in Hospitality Room, Saturday buffet breakfast, Annual Banquet, and Sunday morning farewell continental buffet.

Optional Events (must register for these):

Thursday, Oct 5, 2017

- ◆ Prayer Breakfast, including buffet. 8 AM – 10 AM Number _____ @ \$25 per person \$ _____
- ◆ Tinker AFB Tour 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM (bring military/govt ID) Number of people _____ (no charge)

Friday, Oct 6, 2017

- ◆ Gen Farman Golf Tournament John Conrad Golf Course (includes cart, green fees, and light lunch) 7 AM carpool departs from Hotel Number of people _____ @ \$55 per person \$ _____
- ◆ Night at the Museum! Oklahoma History Center (private function) 5:30 PM – 9:30 PM
Coaches leave Hotel Lobby at 5:30 PM, no host reception (cash bar) 5:45 PM
Oklahoma Barbeque Buffet: 6:30 PM – 8 PM (Special Meal Available)
Self-paced museum tour with docents in each gallery to answer questions, busses leave museum at 9 PM
Number of people _____ @ \$65 per person \$ _____

DONATIONS TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF THE CONVENTION: \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Saturday Oct 7, 2017 Seated by 6:30 PM sharp, Reed Ballroom (DEF)

- ◆ ANNUAL BANQUET MENU SELECTIONS (Indicate quantity for all attending banquet):
_____ Sliced Tenderloin of Beef _____ Chablis Chicken _____ Stuffed Eggplant _____ Special diet (explain below)

Make check payable to: AF Comm & ATC Assoc - 2017. Mail with registration form NLT Aug 30, 2017 to:
AFCOMMATC Convention 17, P.O. Box 950743, OKLAHOMA CITY OK 73195 Jim Roberts Cell: 405-464-0117,

E-mail: afcommatcconvention@hotmail.com

Name & phone number of emergency contact while you're at convention: _____

Name Tag Form

How do you want your name(s) to appear?

Member's name: _____

Spouse or Guest name(s): _____

State of residence: _____ Is this your first convention? Yes ___ No ___

Specialty: _____

(Commander, Tower, GCA, Crypto, Comm/Maint/Staff, Radar/Radio Maintenance, Personnel, etc. or OTHER)

Ham Call sign: _____ Comm unit: _____ Command: _____

Favorite Location _____

Sample



2017 GOLF REGISTRATION INFORMATION FORM

Your name: _____ Handicap: _____

Name of Player(s) you would like to play with:

Name of Player: _____ Handicap: _____

Name of Player: _____ Handicap: _____

Name of Player: _____ Handicap: _____

John Conrad Golf Course

Club rentals are very limited but club sharing is permitted.

Cost per player: \$55 (includes green fees, cart and lunch)

Total amount of golfing dollars included on your convention registration form \$ _____.

Car pools will leave the hotel lobby at 0700 AM. Shotgun start at 0830.

Will you be willing to drive a carpool vehicle? Yes ___ No ___.

Drive time is about 15 minutes from the hotel.

Golf Chairman is Paul Pitcovich (405-202-4366)

Cyberspace Operations and Support Hall of Fame Class of 2017

**Col Raymond
French**



A vital player in strengthening America's security. Assured connectivity of various DOD C3I resources that ensured America's crisis response mechanisms were fully functional at all times for the National Command Authorities and commanders-in-chief with nuclear Single Integrated Operational Plan taskings. His efforts were key to the timely dissemination of vital security information to military and civilian decision-makers and continuity of government operations.

**Col John
Garing**



Provided 24 years of service to the Air Force and our nation beginning with the 4th and 1st Mobile Communications Groups with duty in Vietnam, Squadron Commander twice, White House Communications Officer with support to Presidents Carter and Reagan; NATO International Military Staff; and HQ USAF Division Chief where he led the creation of the 700 series regulations and served on the Air Staff Board for Personnel and Joint Matters.

**Kenneth
Heitkamp**



During his 42-year AF career, he was recognized by colleagues and senior IT executives as an innovator. As Technical Director of the Standard Systems Center, he pioneered use of bulk purchase agreements for IT. He guided the Air Force series of desktop computer contracts, starting with Desktop 1 (90,000+ Zenith computers) in the 1980s. His acquisition model set the standard for DOD and government purchasing of IT commodities. He earned the AFCEA International Award for Excellence in Information Technology.

**Col Linda
McMahon**



Excelled as a software system developer, satellite engineer, program manager and leader. While on Air Staff her leadership of more than 20 AF information assurance programs erased years of readiness decline by modernizing \$1 billion of cryptographic equipment across the AF. At the AFC2ISR Center, she managed more than 30 programs worth \$1.2 billion and delivered the first bridge between Internet Protocol and non-Internet Protocol airborne networks, reducing battlefield decision-making time.

Established in 1999, the Air Force Communications and Information Hall of Fame honors individuals who made significant contributions, both to the Air Force and our

career field. Each year new members are inducted – visionaries who guided the Air Force toward a technological and information-enabled future.

Congratulations to these outstanding individuals and their families.

AF Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association
(Formerly the AACCS 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, noncommissioned officer, enlisted or civilian, who served or is serving in any communications/information 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 (AACCS, 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 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

Renewal _____ New Membership _____ Life Membership _____ Regular _____ Associate _____

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

Date: ___/___/___ First Name _____ MI ___ Last Name _____

Spouse Name _____ Year of Birth _____ Dates Served _____ (e.g. 50-54, etc.)

Street Address: _____ City _____ State _____

Zip code _____ - _____ e-Mail Address _____

Units and Commands _____

Eras Served _____ WWII, Korea, RVN, Gulf, etc.)

Phone Number (____) _____ - _____ Service Status: General Officer _____ Officer _____

Warrant _____ Enlisted _____ NCO _____ Civilian _____ Tech Rep _____ Other _____

Combat Area or Base: _____

Additional Comm/ATC units _____

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

How were you recruited: _____ (Member's 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



Command patch



Original patch



Challenge coin



AACS pin



Old E9 Pin
3/4" x 3/8"



Special order item
Wood carved
plaque



AF Comm/ATC
hat



AF Comm & ATC
embroidered logo golf shirts



Zippered
jacket

See next page

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



Name _____ Phone Nbr: () _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Quantity	Description	Cost
_____	AACS Logo Patch with AFCS & AFCC embroidered @ \$4	_____
_____	Old blue original AACS patch @ \$6	_____
_____	Deluxe Embroidered AFCOMMATC Logo Hat (blue) @ \$12	_____
_____	AFCOMMATC Challenge Coin @ \$7	_____
_____	Old E9 Pin @ \$5	_____
_____	Original AACS Lapel Pin @ \$5	_____
_____	AFCOMMATC Embroidered Ladies Golf Shirt (white)	
	S__ M__ L__ @ \$26	_____
_____	AFCOMMATC Embroidered Ladies Golf Shirt (blue)	
	S__ M__ L__ @ \$26	_____
_____	AFCOMMATC Embroidered Logo Golf Shirt BLUE.....	_____
_____	AFCOMMATC Embroidered Logo Golf Shirt WHITE.....	_____
	S__ M__ L__ XL__ \$30 2X__ \$32	
_____	AFCOMMATC Jacket (zipper) S__ M__ L__ XL__ \$42	_____
_____	Jacket 2XL \$45	_____

AACS items are gone except for the patches and pins.

DONATIONS: (Tax deductible within limits of the law): Receipt: Yes__ No__ _____

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, wcassatt71@gmail.com

AACS, AFCS & AFCC Wood-Carved Wall Plaques



Cost (including shipping) is \$35 each

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

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

Size 10 1/2 inches



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

Total cost: \$ _____ (check attached)

Mail to: _____



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

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

TAX STATUS

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

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HISTORY

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

The couples contacted old friends, who in turn contacted others, and so on. A large number of

former AACS troops and spouses made their way to Columbus and the result was what is now one of the strongest AF Alumni Associations. AACS Alumni Association was adopted as the official title, derived from Army Airways Communications System and Airways and Air Communications Service.

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

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

ABOUT AACS

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

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

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



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Check address label for date and/or year dues expire (number before your first name). If it's "17", dues expire Dec 2017. Next edition will not be mailed if dues have expired.

Cyber Squadron Initiative *(Contd from page 1)*

The 325th Communications Squadron at Tyndall AFB, FL, became the first Air Combat Command squadron to join the initiative.

"The big thing is understanding the mission, and we do that by a process called functional mission analysis," said 1st Lt. Terel Hayes, the 325th CS special missions flight commander. "We look at the 325th Fighter Wing as a whole, and see how it actually projects that airpower. We break that down into smaller mission threads, and then do analysis on those threads to see where cyber has an impact, positively or negatively."

The pathfinder program brings Airmen of different Air Force specialties together to build the future structure of communications squadrons.

Before establishing the program in February 2016, leaders within the 325th CS met to make sure they had the right personnel for the job by adding diverse Airmen to the program.

"Since February, we have provided our Airmen various types of training. This started with learning the basics of the network and building upon that," said SMSgt. Lisa Spicer, 325th CS plans flight chief. "The baseline training took three months, giving everyone the same understanding."

As the digital pathfinders continue to learn their new roles within the program, communications program managers continue to look forward. The role of these Airmen will become more unique depending on the mission as the initiative spreads to other bases.

"The main intent is to deliver mission assurance for those capabilities that are pertinent to the base," said TSgt. Antwane McDowell, the 325th CS cyber mission defensive team NCO in charge. "If you look at Tyndall (AFB), our primary objective is to provide air dominance and training with F-22 Raptors. We are giving mission assurance for those information systems that directly interact with the aircraft. We provide the internal defense of the systems."

Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association

Who we are

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

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

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

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

Mission

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

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

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

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

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