

# COMMUNICATOR



November 2017



## Flashback—1987

*A silhouetted view of antenna maintenance members of the 1961st Comm Group, August 1987. The 1961st at Clark AB, Philippines, had just won the Maj Gen Harold M. McClelland Award for communications excellence for the third time in five years.*

*See the most recent McClelland Award winner, as well as other award winners on page 24.*

**Back in time**  
Check out AACS photos from the 1940s-50s, donated to our Association by the son of a former member.



Since 1938

**16-17**

**2017 Convention**  
Our members met in Oklahoma City this year for camaraderie, fellowship, and fun.

**22-29**



# IMPORTANT!



## Please update your membership information

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. [aacsmbrship@comcast.net](mailto:aacsmbrship@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.

Don't forget to visit our web site regularly



[www.afcommatc.org](http://www.afcommatc.org)

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Membership



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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.



## Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association

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

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## Board of Directors

Executive Director, Harry Raduege  
Vice Director, Ken Reiff  
Executive Secretary, Ed Broestl  
Treasurer, Jim Weber  
Membership Director, Walt McLain  
Editor, Print/Online Media, Lori Manske  
Director of Recruiting, Rich Griffis

### Executive Director Appointments

Protocol, Rafael Quezada  
Sgt-at-Arms, Ray French  
Board Advisory Officer, Hank Sauer  
Information Officer, Tom Blackburn  
PX/BX Manager, Bill Cassatt

Historian, Ken Reiff  
Chaplain, Ed Broestl  
Judge Advocate, John Milano

### Committees

*Fiscal Management Policy Committee*  
Ray French (chair)  
Jim Weber

*Convention Committee*  
Jim Weber (chair)  
Rafael Quezada

*Honors and Awards Committee*  
Walt McLain (chair), Hank Sauer,  
Chuck Teston



## 22-29 Scenes from Oklahoma City Convention



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## I Am a Veteran Poem 12

**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 11<sup>th</sup> St, Breese IL 62230, manske5@charter.net.

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# Report

## From the new Executive Director



### Harry D. Raduege

**F**irst and foremost, we thank Jim and Becky Roberts, our hosts, who volunteered, planned, and executed our magnificent 41st annual convention and reunion in Oklahoma City. We also thank our many Association members and volunteers for their help in making our gathering such a resounding success.

Our hosts and event planners did an outstanding job in providing optional local events. The Tinker AFB tour—including AWACS, AF Flight Standards Agency, and the 38th CEIG Mission Brief; the 41st annual General Farman Golf Tournament; and an evening and private tour of the Oklahoma History Center Museum were magnificent. With plenty of free time, others also enjoyed the Outlet Shoppes, Bricktown, the Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, the Stockyard's Cattleman's Steakhouse, and the OKC National Memorial and Museum. We held our annual prayer breakfast with an inspiring program led by Ken Reiff.

During our annual General Business Meeting on Saturday, we enjoyed updates from our staff and fascinating presentations about the White House Communications Agency by its Commander, Col Chad Raduege, and the State of AF Airfield Operations by Ed Wright, Executive Director of Flight Standards Agency and 2152 Career Field Advisor. We also remembered members who missed roll-call with a touching video tribute assembled by Lori Manske and Walt McLain.

After a canceled flight prevented our scheduled guest speaker last year, Lt Gen (now retired) William "Bill" Bender followed through this year and was our Saturday evening banquet speaker. From his last post as the USAF CIO A6, General Bender did an outstanding job reflecting on his experience and challenges on active duty, his transition into industry, and the value he finds in our Association. He backed up his testimony by delivering a check for life membership to our treasurer.

At our Saturday evening banquet, we recognized our annual professionalism award winners and Hall of Honor inductees (see page 27).

We were fortunate to have the Flying Castle Composite Squadron Honor Guard post the colors and we recognized

many first-time attendees. As always, our POW/MIA Recognition by Maj Gen (ret) Gerry Prather and CMSgt (ret) Bill Bethea caused great reflection.

During our Board of Directors meeting, we had an inspiring – including aerial drone video – presentation by Ken Heitkamp, who, along with his wife, Marilyn, will host our 2018 Convention in Montgomery, AL, Sept 26-30. For those who haven't been to Montgomery in a number of years, you're going to be amazed at how the city has changed and all that there is to do. I hope we will be able to encourage many fellow communicators, air traffic controllers, and cyber professionals (and supporters) who live in that area to attend, along with others throughout the country.

During our Board meeting, CMSgt (ret) Rich Griffis provided an enlightening recruiting presentation. As a reminder, our Association is based on a chartered membership consisting of no fewer than 75% enlisted members. I'm proud to say that our Air Force depends on our enlisted force to get the job done and the AFCOMMATC Association exists to recognize exceptional performance and to celebrate both professional and personal relationships that are everlasting. As always, we are searching for new ways to encourage membership, with special emphasis on the 30-55 age group.

I want to thank outgoing staff members Ken Reiff (Executive Director), Ray French (Vice Director), and Gerry Prather (Information Officer), along with all members who are remaining in their current positions. I also thank the following individuals for accepting new appointments: Ken Reiff (Vice Director), Ray French (Sergeant-at-Arms), Rich Griffis (Recruiting Chairman), and CMSgt (ret) Tom Blackburn (Information Officer). I thank our full membership for the confidence you have placed in me to serve as your Executive Director.

Finally, as with previous executive directors, I always am open to your thoughts and ideas. Please email me at [hraduege@gmail.com](mailto:hraduege@gmail.com) or to send a note, contact Lori Manske for my mailing address.

Take care & God bless.

### About our new Executive Director...

The retired Air Force Lieutenant General served in various key assignments during his Air Force career in the areas of C4, space operations, and information operations, from 1970-2005. Highlights include: Director, Defense Information Systems Agency (2000-2005); Commander, Joint Task Force-Global Network Operations (2004-2005); Manager,

National Communications System (2000-2003); J6 & CIO, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) (1998-2000); J6 & CIO, US Space Command (1998-2000); Director, Communications/Information Systems & CIO, AF Space Command (1998-2000); J6 & CIO, US Central Command (1995-1998); Commander, Air Force C4 Agency (1993-1995).

Senior Counselor with the Cohen Group from 2005 – Present  
Partner & Managing Director of RIDGE-LANE Limited Partners from June 2017 – Present

He has been a member and strong supporter of Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association since 1993.

# Board of Directors

## Meeting Minutes

Executive Director, Ken Reiff, called the meeting to order on Oct 5, 2017, in Oklahoma City, OK.

### Attendees:

Ken Reiff, Executive Director  
Ray French, Vice Director  
Jim Weber, Treasurer  
Ed Broestl, Executive Secretary  
Hank Sauer, Board Advisory Officer  
Gerald Prather, Information Officer  
Bill Cassatt, PX/BX Manager

The following were unable to attend:

Lori Manske, Editor, Print/Online Media, and Rafael Quezada, Protocol

The following guests also attended: Harry Raduege, Rich Griffis, Jim Roberts, and Ken Heitkamp.

- One item previously brought before the Board during the past year was approving a \$200 gift card for recipients of awards. After discussing the benefits recipients and their commanders receive (room and registration, including meals), Hank Sauer moved and Jim Weber seconded a motion to provide each recipient with a tangible gift (ceramic eagle) and an association coin. The motion passed.
- BoD position changes and recommended positions for the coming year:

**Executive Director.** Ken Reiff is stepping down to allow the election of Harry Raduege as the new Executive Director.

**Vice Director.** Ray French is stepping down due to personal commitments; Ken Reiff will fill this position.

**Secretary.** Ed Broestl will continue as Executive Secretary.

**Sergeant-at-Arms.** Due to Bob Read's death, Ray French will assume duties.

**Rich Griffis** was appointed as Recruiting Committee chairman.

**Action:** Due to these changes, position descriptions will be reviewed and revised. Estimated completion: Dec 31, 2017

- **Treasurer's Report (Jim Weber):** There is a need to perform a Financial Statement Review whenever new people assume the role of either the Executive Director or Treasurer. Financial Committee will assure this is done within next six months.
- Many items on the Association's equipment inventory list are completely amortized. The

Treasurer will review inventory and revise as needed.

- The Montgomery Chamber of Commerce paid Jim Weber's expenses as he worked with Ken Heitkamp regarding the 2018 Convention.
- The FY 2018 budget was previously sent to BoD and approved by email. There is a slight increase in Web Hosting costs.
- **Membership Report (Walt McLain):** Income from membership dues is very low. To bolster income, we need to emphasize donations.

There was considerable discussion regarding increasing membership. The lowest membership group is people between ages 30 and 55. This continues to be an area targeted by the Executive Director. We need to advertise our association emphasizing the benefits of membership.

### • Executive Director comments:

Adjustments to the BoD structure are helping us work more efficiently and effectively.

We've tightened our budget and financial management in many areas. Our budget process is working well and we are managing our expenses.

Our use of technology has appropriately increased: use of Dropbox to make documents available; responding to requests via our web site Guestbook; and our methodology for electronic voting on matters between conventions are all working well.

- **Presentation by 2018 Convention Host (Ken Heitkamp):** Slides were presented regarding our 2018 Convention in Montgomery, AL Sept 26–30. After the presentation, Hank Sauer moved to accept the proposal and empower Ken Heitkamp to sign the contract with the Embassy Suites in downtown Montgomery. The motion was seconded by Jim Weber. The motion was approved.

- **Rich Griffis presented a Recruiting briefing:** There was significant discussion regarding how we make our association relevant to people between 30 and 55. There will be continued conversation via email on this subject.

- **Gerald Prather requested we look for a new Information Officer.** While he intends to do whatever is needed to make our association successful, he is not able to give the position the time and energy it deserves. The board thanked him for his contributions to the Air Force and our association.

- **Editor, Print/Online Media (Lori Manske):** There is a need for more articles and stories for upcoming *Communicators*.

- The meeting adjourned
- **Ed Broestl,**  
*Executive Secretary*





**Membership director**

**Walt McLain**

We have gained 9 new members since 1 Apr 2017. Our current active membership stands at 1,216. We have 1,012 life members. Since 1 April 2017 16 members have renewed. To see when your dues expire check the address label on your latest *Communicator* or the expiration date on your membership card. **Currently, 84 members' dues expire 31 Dec 2017 if not renewed.**

Please refer all membership questions to Walt McLain, 865-690-0479 or email [aacsmbrship@comcast.net](mailto: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* (page 32), 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.



**Editor, Print/Online Media**

**Lori Manske**

Cost of the November 2016 *Communicator* (52 pages):  
Printing: \$ 2,663.00  
Mail Prep: \$ 105.20 (1,208)  
Postage: \$ 531.55 (1,208)  
\$ 35.85 Flat Rate  
**Total \$ 3,335.60**

Cost of the June 2017 *Communicator* (20 pages):  
Printing: \$ 1,560.00  
Mail Prep: \$ 105.60 (1,224)  
Postage: \$ 470.69 (1,224)  
\$ 37.20 Flat Rate  
**Total \$ 2,173.49**

The *web site* averages **30 visits** per day. It is our biggest recruiter of new members, along with efforts of current members and board of directors.

Please visit the web site guest book and send a reply to people who sign, thanking them for taking the time to visit. It might encourage people to join.

Monthly reports for the Editor's Bank Account are submitted to the Treasurer and audited by the chair of the Fiscal Management and Budget Committee.

Send stories/photos to Lori Manske, 665 N 11<sup>th</sup> St, Breese IL 62230, or [manske5@charter.net](mailto:manske5@charter.net).

## At a glance...

**Donate!** *There is still time to make a tax-deductible donation to our Association before tax season.*

*To 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. Thank you for your support.*



**PX/BX Manager**

**Bill Cassatt**

**PX/BX Sales Report  
May 2017 - Sept 2017**

**Items Sold**

Hats	2
AACS Lapel Pins	7
Original Patches	5
Plaques	8
Challenge Coins	2
Golf Shirts	4
AACS Logo Patches	2
E9 pins	1
Jackets	4

**Total Sales: \$715**

**Expenses**

Replenish stock	
Plaque	\$237.00
Postage	\$118.51
Supplies (mailers)	\$ 14.11
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$369.62</b>

**Convention Sales Report**

Hats	4
White Shirts	2
Ladies Blue Shirts	1
Challenge Coins	16
Blue Shirts	7
Jackets	6
Ladies White Shirts	2
Command Patch	1

**Total convention sales: \$608**

**Note: Included are the challenge coins gifted to first timers and honorees.**

**Convention donations: \$50**



**Treasurer**

**Jim Weber**

**Cash in Banks:**

AFCOMMATC	
Checking Acct	\$ 14,851.02
Publisher's Account	\$ 105.93
<b>Cash Totals:</b>	<b>\$ 14,956.95</b>

<b>Equipment Book Value:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Equipment Total:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

**Certificates of Deposit:**

50-12	\$5,090.91 (Maturity: 07/02/18)
50-24	\$10,232.92 (Maturity: 07/02/19)
50-36	\$20,589.77 (Maturity: 07/02/18)
53-12	\$5,064.37 (Maturity: 03/31/18)

<b>CD Totals (4):</b>	<b>\$40,977.97</b>
<b>Grand Totals:</b>	<b>\$55,934.92</b>

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, being used by the current host in Oklahoma City, and will be used for future conventions, eliminating the need for host accounts. So far, this separate sub-account has proven to work well.

As your Treasurer, my standing goals are: (1) Stable growth and (2) Security of Funds.

Thank you to those who donate. Included in the checking account is \$840 in donations received this year.

*Let us know if you want to opt out of receiving the Communicator by mail. All issues since June 2006 are available on the web site: [www.afcommatc.org](http://www.afcommatc.org)*

*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 By-laws (on our web site) for more info.*

# From the Chaplain

Ed Broestl



## *Shared stories reveal faith-inspired leadership*

**Editor's note:** In the June 2017 edition of the *Communicator*, Ed Broestl introduced the topic of Faith and Leadership. In the article below he reflects on moments during the convention where faith and leadership converged.



Ken Reiff began the “formal” Annual Convention / Reunion activities at a Prayer Breakfast sharing some of his experiences at the intersection of Faith and Leadership using Luke 7:8 & 9 (For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me...I tell you the truth, I have not found such

great faith...) . Intriguing, encouraging and heartfelt capture the essence of his remarks.

Yes, 42 years ago Ken Reiff was my commander. Yes, he shared some stories that I remembered. However, he shared some things that I never knew! After breakfast, I shook his hand thanking him and saying: “I had no idea.” Others informally shared their experiences at the aforementioned intersection. It set the tone for our experience (my wife Diane and I) in Oklahoma City with comrades-in-arms with military experiences spanning the past eight decades.

As unlikely as I thought, the Tinker AFB tour provided a view from our intersection. The tour of AWACS aircraft was especially encouraging. Our guide, an AF TSgt, with AWACS experience and looking forward to being an instructor: his passion and dedication. The on-board communications maintenance people: their passion for excellence. The weapons controllers: their knowledge, passion and dedication to keeping our pilots safe. The computer maintenance people: their caring not just for the equipment but the people too. The words of St

Paul in Philippians 4:6 (Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.) came to mind.

The evening at the Oklahoma History Museum – a stately place where faith and leadership were ever present. The courage and faith of our fathers and mothers--the shoulders upon which we stand. Hopefully learning and growing from their accomplishments and missteps from Romans 8:28 (We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.)

Visits with people sharing stories in the Hospitality Room of things done in careers in and outside the Air Force. Some I'd never heard - some ready for publication. I was especially moved by Bill Cassatt's sharing of his dad's legacy which brought to mind Exodus 20:12 (Honor your father and mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.)

During the General Business meeting where we honor and remember those who passed away in the last year: Missed Roll Call, I recalled 1 Corinthians 10:31 (So...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.)

Hearing the achievements of our honorees during the Banquet, wondering what the future at the intersection has for all those attending. We never know when we will “round” a corner and find ourselves at that intersection. We can rest assured that all our previous travels prepared us for what will occur from Deuteronomy 31:8 (The LORD himself goes before you and will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged.)

Thank you for your service to our nation and your contributions in preserving the freedoms we enjoy. I look forward to meeting and hearing your stories at the intersection of Faith and Leadership either by email (e\_broestl@comcast.net) or at our Convention / Reunion next year in Montgomery, September 26-30. God's blessings and peace.



## Maj Gen Anthony Shtogren

From 1965 to 1968 the largest buildup of communications, air traffic control and Aircraft Control and Warning sites during the Vietnam War occurred. Much of the credit for this effort is due to the determination of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications-Electronics, Pacific Air Forces and Commander, Pacific Communications Area (AFCS), Brig Gen Anthony (Tony) Shtogren.

During this assignment, General Shtogren's primary focus was toward the prosecution of the war in Southeast Asia covering Vietnam, Thailand and classified locations.

Under his leadership, tactical assets were replaced with fixed base equipment, unique capability was established such as Link 14 border warning and airspace deconfliction between the Navy and Air Force pilots, Sky Spot radar targeting, long range altitude reservation throughout the Pacific, and Igloo White electronic sensors for targeting.



**Maj Gen Anthony Shtogren**

From a cyber perspective, he strongly pursued link encryption for both fixed and tactical wide-band systems to deny the enemy information on air tasking orders.

In other areas of the Pacific he was responsible for the Japan Kanto Plains Microwave upgrade as well as upgrade of the Korean Blue Fortune microwave system to Peace Fortune. Each of these efforts vastly improved communications in those countries.

He began systematic upgrade of communications and air traffic control equipment on Okinawa and worked closely with Strategic Air Command to do the same at Guam.

General Shtogren was the first weather officer to command an AFCS communications/air traffic control unit.

His last assignment was in 1968 as the Deputy Director, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, J6, where he received his promotion to Major General.



## Missed Roll Call

*Since June 2017 Communicator:*

**Leroy E Anderson, MSgt ret (Jan 14, 2017)**

**James M Blass (Feb 15, 2017)**

**Walter Chapman, CMSgt ret (Jan 1, 2017)**

**William F. "Bill" Clinton, MSgt ret (Sept 6, 2016)**

**Charles A. Doering (March 14, 2017)**

**Donald Dean Johnston, Colonel ret (Oct 3, 2016)**

**Patrick E. Manion, CMSgt ret (Aug 20, 2016)**

**Marcella "Marcie" Miller (wife of life member Chris Miller)**

**Joseph M. Niezgoda, Jr., MSgt ret (Dec 1, 2016)**

**Robert A. Read, CMSgt ret (May 3, 2017)**

**Robert K. Roche, Sr (Aug 19, 2017)**

**Matthew Joseph "Jim" Wray (Feb 21, 2017)**

Reference June 2017  
front page: Subject:  
AN/MRN-12A

I need to challenge the 12A as being the first.

When the 4th Fighter Wing moved into Kimpo (Korea), my "control tower" was a jeep with a salvaged SCR522 from a P51.

Shortly, they sent us a 6x6 with a box bed with a nose piece from a B-17 and a trailer with a PE95 diesel generator.

This felt like a factory-made job at the time except it didn't have a clock. My wrist watch, received as a graduation present, was the official time keeper for the Air Base for several months.

As things warmed up the locals built us a unit on top of the old administration building.

Finally, they got around to building us a real tower closer to the runway which was in use when I rotated stateside.

There were some interesting times as we moved out and back to Kimpo after the Chinese push.

AACS was a fine group of people and I have fond memories of our efforts. I was actually in the tower at Itazuki the day the war started. We scrambled four F-80s and two F-82s. One of the 82 pilots took a round in the rear going up against the Yak 15s over Seoul. (The Yakovlev Yak-15—NATO code name: 'Feather' aka "Type II"—was, alongside with the MiG-9, the first operational Soviet jet fighter.)

From Japan, I did about 40% of my time TDY to the peninsula before I moved to Kimpo for the remainder of my tour.

I was one of many that were extended on our enlistments by the President.

S5 P1

LM-Ed Gnifkowski



## USAFE bombing story touches reader on personal level

Ken Reiff's article (Bombing of USAFE HQ, November 2016) brought back memories of a time when terrorist attacks like the one at Ramstein AB, Germany were less prevalent. However I took this particular one a little more personally than others.

Brig Gen Joe Moore, assistant deputy chief of staff for operations for USAFE, survived the bombing and went on to a long and full career of over 30 years. After his recovery at Ramstein he became the USAFE deputy chief of staff for operations.

In July 1982 he returned to the U.S. as commander of the Chanute Technical Training Center, Chanute AFB, IL. In August 1985 he transferred to Lowry AFB, CO, where he became the technical training center commander there.

In October 1986 I arrived at Lowry as a captain and air traffic control officer assigned to the 1978th Comm Squadron. By coincidence, it was the same month that General Moore, whom I never got to meet, retired.

It turned out that I got a second chance. Months later the comm squadron hosted an orientation for a new civilian communications-electronics officer hire from the AF Accounting and Finance Center which was also on Lowry.

As chief of air traffic control operations at nearby Buckley Air National Guard Base I was tasked to host a visit to the control tower there.

I was pleasantly surprised when that C-E officer turned out to be a Miss rather than a Mister. By all accounts the tower visit was a resounding success. I've

been married to that C-E officer, Elizabeth, for over 26 years. It was a regular storybook communicator's romance.

As a bonus she turned out to be General Moore's only daughter. I subsequently got to meet and know General Moore and his wife, Beverly, up close and personal over the years.

The Ramstein bombing wasn't his first brush with death. As an F-4 fighter pilot he flew with Robin Olds' 8th Tactical Fighter Wing "Wolf Pack." One of his 135 combat missions ended prematurely when he was shot down over North Vietnam. Luckily he was snatched out of the jungle by a Jolly Green helicopter crew shortly after he bailed out.

He was also the Air Force Thunderbirds aerial demonstration squadron's commander-leader, deftly flying Thunderbird #1 at air shows at various locations. He led their conversion from F-100s to F-4s, the most extensive in the team's history.

His full and active life ended too early when he was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease and subsequently passed away at his home in Niceville, FL, in 2001. It was a tough way for a fighter pilot to punch out but he was a real trooper right up to the end. He fought the good fight!

Bill Malec, Colonel, USAF (Ret.)



# Our Air Force turned 70 in September



American Airmen have been breaking barriers for 70 years in air, space and cyberspace, resulting in global vigilance, reach and power. They've shown tenacity in Korea's MiG Alley, endurance in Vietnam's Rolling Thunder campaign, decisiveness over the skies of Baghdad during Desert Storm and resilience in Iraq and Afghanistan. Airmen are now fully engaged as part of America's Joint Force in every region of the world and every mission area across the full spectrum of military operations.



*How old was the Air Force when you joined?*

## AACS in 1947

The year 1947 was a momentous one for AACS and the entire Air Force. The passage of the National Security Act on 18 Sept 1947 made a reality the long-sought goal of a separate Air Force equal with the Army and Navy. AACS remained an essential service of the newly formed Air Force, but a number of administrative changes followed. AACS moved its headquarters a few miles from Gravelly Point, VA, to Washington National Airport, to Andrews MD, where its parent headquarters, the Military Air Transport Service, was located. At the same time all the AACS wings, groups, squadrons, and detachments were changed from one- and three digit designations to the 1800 and 1900 series. For example, the 7th AACS Wing and 68th AACS Group, both in Tokyo, became the 1808th AACS Wing and the 1809th AACS Group, respectively.

The Army Airways Communications System was first organized on Nov. 15 1938, in the Directorate of Communications of the U.S. Army Air Corps. On April 13, 1943, the official lineage of the Army Airways Communications System as a separate organization began with the constitution of the Army Airways Communications System Wing. The Wing was activated as part of the Flight Control Command on April 26, 1943.

On July 14, 1943, the Wing was reassigned directly to the Army Air Forces. It was redesignated the Army Airways Communications Service, the Wing designator was dropped, on April 26, 1944. On March 13, 1946, the Army Airways Communications Service was redesignated the Air Communications Service and reassigned to Air Transport Command. Air Communications Service was redesignated Airways and Air Communications Service Sept. 11, 1946. Airways and Air Communications Service was reassigned to the Military Air Transport Service June 1, 1948.

- 15 Nov 1938** -- Army Airways Communications System
- 13 April 1943** -- Army Airways Communications System Wing
- 26 April 1944** -- Army Airways Communications System
- 13 March 1946** -- Air Communications Service
- 11 Sept 1946** -- Airways and Air Communications Service
- 1 July 1961** -- Air Force Communications Service
- 15 Nov 1979** -- Air Force Communications Command
- 28 May 1993** -- Air Force Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Agency
- 13 June 1996** -- Air Force Communications Agency
- 15 July 2009** -- Air Force Network Integration Center

# I AM A VETERAN

by Andrea Christensen Brett

I work in the local factory all day  
I own the restaurant just down the way  
I sell you insurance, I start your IV  
I've got the best-looking grandkids  
you'll ever see

I'm your grocer, your banker  
Your child's schoolteacher  
I'm your plumber, your barber  
Your family's preacher  
But there's part of me  
you don't know very well  
Just listen a moment, I've a story to tell

I joined the service while still in my teens  
I traded my prom dress  
for camouflage greens  
I'm the first in my family  
to do something like this  
I followed my father, like he followed his

Defying my fears and hiding my doubt  
I married my sweetheart before I shipped  
out  
I missed Christmas, then Easter  
The birth of my son  
But I knew I was doing what had to be  
done

I served on the battlefield,  
I served on the base  
I bound up the wounded  
And begged for God's grace  
I gave orders to fire, I followed commands  
I marched into conflict in far distant lands

In the jungle, the desert,  
on mountains and shores

In bunkers, in tents, on dank earthen floors  
While I fought on the ground,  
in the air, on the sea  
My family and friends were home  
praying for me  
For the land of the free  
and the home of the brave  
I faced my demons in foxholes and caves  
Then one dreaded day,  
without drummer or fife  
I lost an arm, my buddy lost his life

I came home and moved on  
But forever was changed  
The perils of war in my memory remained  
I don't really say much, I don't feel like I  
can  
But I left home a child,  
and came home a man

There are thousands like me  
Thousands more who are gone  
But their legacy lives  
as time marches on  
White crosses in rows  
And names carved in queue  
Remind us of what  
these brave souls had to do

I'm part of a fellowship, a strong mighty  
band  
Of each man and each woman  
Who has served this great land  
And when Old Glory waves  
I stand proud, I stand tall  
I helped keep her flying over you, over all

Reprinted with permission

## **Veteran ID Card coming soon**

The Veterans Identification Card Act 2015 (Public Law 114-31) was enacted on July 20, 2015. The card serves as proof of service in the Armed Forces, which can be used to obtain discounts on goods and services offered to Veterans. The VIC does not qualify Veterans for additional benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and does not serve as proof for any benefits to which you may be entitled. Also, the VIC will not grant access to military posts or installations.

VA began accepting applications for the VIC Nov 1, 2017. For those who wish to obtain a VIC, Veterans should log into Vets.gov to apply. If eligible, you will receive your ID card (at no cost to you) in the mail within 3 weeks. For more information please go to:

<https://www.vets.gov/#>. This is the only way to apply for the VIC, your medical center or regional office will not be able to assist you. Questions regarding the new VIC can be directed to the Vets.gov Help Desk 1-855-574-7286 TTY: 1-800-877-8339 Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (ET)

Meanwhile, the Department of Veterans Affairs continues to provide a Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC) for veterans to use at VA medical facilities. The VHIC will be issued only to veterans who are eligible for VA medical benefits and only for the purpose of identification and check-in for VA medical appointments.

For more information on VHIC, go to [www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic/index.asp)

## **50 years of CMSAF**

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD (AFNS)--The 50th anniversary of the chief master sergeant of the Air Force was celebrated during the Air Force Association Air, Space and Cyber Conference Sept. 20, 2017.

Four former CMSAFs: Eric Benken, Frederick “Jim” Finch, Gerald Murray and James Roy, discussed topics about history, mentorship and balancing healthy work and life.

There was a 20-year span between establishment of the Air Force in 1947 and the CMSAF position in 1967. The position was created to allow enlisted personnel to freely express opinions and share recommendations on matters ranging from mission effectiveness to personnel concerns.

The former Chiefs paid homage to the first CMSAF Paul Airey, a World War II airborne radio operator who was shot down in Germany, and served as a prisoner of war. He dedicated his 27-year career to taking care of Airmen. In 1967, he was named the first CMSAF. “He absolutely set the example for all of us,” said Murray. “We all had the opportunity to live under his tutelage as he continued to serve...until the day he died. We could not have [had] anyone set a better example for us.”

## **ATC Facility of Year**

CHARLOTTE, NC – The 235th Air Traffic Control Squadron of the North Carolina Air National Guard was announced as the 2016 D. Ray Hardin Air Traffic Control Facility of the Year. The award is given for professionalism and exceeding superior standards and expectations; for the Airmen of the unit it is the culmination of years of hard work.

The 235th Air Traffic Control Squadron is one of three radar units in the ANG whose mission is supporting C-130 Hercules operations while training air traffic controllers to deploy around the globe.

In past years, Airmen of the 235th Air Traffic Control Squadron didn’t have a radar and needed to rely on other airports to know when aircraft were inbound—a handicap that made them ineligible for award nomination.

With the activation of the radar in 2016, the 235th Air Traffic Control Squadron acquired 800 square miles of airspace from three Federal Aviation approach controls, constructed five airspace maps, provided air traffic control services to four county airports, directed movement of aircraft along seven civil airways and five tactical military routes, and even won the Earl F. Ward award, an international accolade for enhancing quality, safety, and efficiency of air traffic control.

## **Commissaries Accept MILITARY STAR Card**

FORT LEE, Va. – To offer greater convenience to service members and families and strengthen funding of military quality-of-life programs, the military exchanges’ Exchange Credit Program is expanding acceptance of the MILITARY STAR card to Commissaries around the world. The Fort Lee Commissary was the first location to accept the card.

The card’s acceptance is being expanded throughout DeCA for all branches of service. Benefits of the MILITARY STAR card include:

- Two points per dollar on purchases and a \$20 gift card after 2,000 points earned.
- One of the lowest APRs (11.24 percent) among retail-issued cards no matter the cardholder’s credit score.
- No annual, late or over-limit fees.
- 10 percent discount on first day of use, including at the commissary.
- Reduced interest deployment plan with no payments required for eligible customers.

A significant portion of MILITARY STAR earnings support programs to make life better for service members and families.

For more information, visit [MyECP.com](http://MyECP.com).

# Disability claims

## VA unveils claims initiative that promises faster decisions

WASHINGTON — As part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to improve timeliness of services for Veterans and their families, VA unveiled the Decision Ready Claims (DRC) initiative, a disability claims submission option with accredited Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) that promises faster claims decisions.

Veterans who choose to submit their claim under DRC can expect to receive a decision within 30 days

from the time VA receives the claim. VSOs will ensure all supporting evidence—medical exams, military service records, etc.—is included with the claim submission. This preparation by the VSOs allows claims to be assigned immediately to claims processors for a quick decision.

DRC was first implemented May 1, 2017, at the St. Paul (Minn.) Regional Office, and is now available at all VA regional offices. While DRC is currently limited to claims for in-

creased compensation (commonly known as claims for increase), and requires Veterans to work with VSOs, VA's goal is to expand the types of claims accepted under the initiative and allow Veterans other ways to submit their claim under DRC.

DRC is another step in modernizing VA's benefits delivery to Veterans in a fully digital operating environment.

### Milestone changes coming to TRICARE

FALLS CHURCH, VA (AFNS) -- TRICARE beneficiaries will soon have increased access to health care through key changes set to take place in January 2018. Beneficiaries will be able to take command of their health care through expanded choices. Improvements include wider access to network providers, updated enrollment to reduce disruptions in care and simplified co-payments.

Beneficiaries can visit the TRICARE Changes page, where they can sign up for email alerts, complete a beneficiary checklist, and see available plans and 2018 costs.

<https://tricare.mil/changes>

#### Plans Affected:

TRICARE PRIME, Prime Remote, Prime Overseas, and TRICARE Prime Overseas Remote

TRICARE Standard and Extra, and TRICARE Standard Overseas (now called Select and Select Overseas)

TRICARE Reserve Select

TRICARE Retired Reserve

TRICARE Young Adult

#### Plans NOT Affected:

TRICARE For Life

US Family Health Plan

Continued Health Care Benefit Program

### 20th OSS Airmen prepare for merger



A1C Darricka Sides, 20th OSS airfield systems technician, sets up a signal generator for radio receiver tuning at Shaw AFB, S.C. (Air Force photo by A1C Kathryn R.C. Reaves)

SHAW AFB, S.C. -- Airmen assigned to the 20th Operations Support Squadron are preparing for an Air Force Specialty Code merger scheduled for March 2018.

Currently separated into two shops, ground radar systems and airfield systems Airmen have begun working together to meet training milestones and increase their understanding of the work their co-workers do.

The Airmen will also be aligned with their industry counterparts who perform all ground radar and airfield systems tasks under one career field.

Once the merger is complete, all technicians will be expected to have a working knowledge of how to maintain the equipment each section was previously responsible for. This includes all ground-to-air communications, navigation and weather systems, as well as the radars air traffic controllers use to guide aircraft.

The Airmen developed a training strategy by learning from past experiences such as the merge of the ground radio and meteorological navigation career fields, said SSgt Rajiv Shetty, 20th OSS ground radar systems NCOIC. The plan outlined milestones and deadlines each team member should reach as well as solutions for potential issues.

If a technician from either shop is called out to perform a task, their counterpart will accompany for on-the-job training, said A1C Darricka Sides, 20th OSS airfield systems technician. This process of teaching others also helps Sides learn more and become more proficient in her job.

Formal training is available at Keesler AFB, MS.

# Base Information Transport Infrastructure

## Wired infrastructure for 104 installations complete

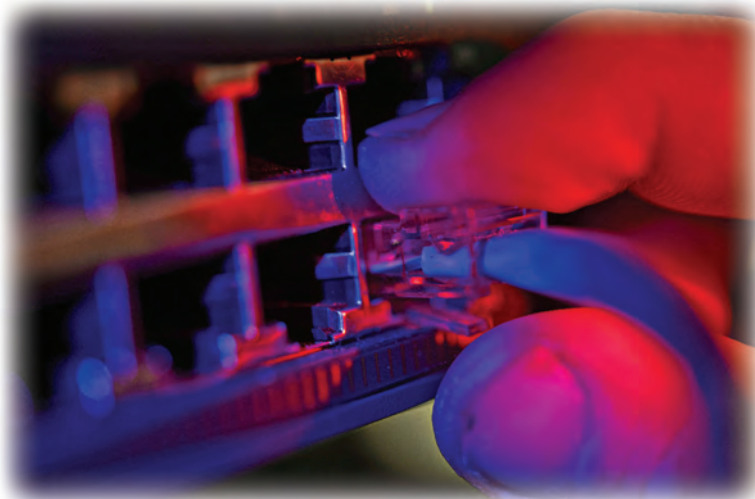
By Benjamin Newell  
HANSCOM AFB, MA

The Base Information Transport Infrastructure program, which provides wired and wireless network capabilities to active-duty, Reserve and Air National Guard bases worldwide, achieved full deployment status for 104 wired networks Sept. 29.

Full deployment is the last milestone, declaring the product is completed. Full deployment for this program is similar to weapons systems reaching full operational capability.

According to program officials, the milestone marks the completion of wired network infrastructure installations for 77 stand-alone ANG locations and 27 active duty, Air Force Reserve, and co-located units. The total procurement value of this effort was approximately \$1.4 billion.

The upgrade includes a distribution system element, such as fiber optics, a manhole and duct system; an inside plant element consisting of



power, ground, cooling and physical security; and a network element, which includes switches for distribution and user access.

"The BITI team takes pride in achieving full deployment," said Andy Manvell, BITI program manager. "As the program transitions to sustainment, we have many challenges ahead. We will perform our ongoing recapitalization mission to ensure our network's reliability and availability."

Recapitalization will replace hardware, such as core and critical distri-

bution nodes, every five years. The five-year update is in alignment with industry standards for commercial-off-the-shelf refresh cycles on BITI-related network components.

According to Lt. Col. Bradley Panton, the BITI materiel leader, the refresh cycle will drive out obsolete equipment, which could otherwise introduce vulnerabilities to the network. Panton also noted that the BITI Program's network management system effort will standardize network

operations across the Air Force, saving the Air Force millions in the future and enabling seamless mobilization of network operators.

BITI began in the 1990s under the name of Combat Information Transport System program. Initially established for connectivity of all core facilities deemed mission essential, it expanded to provide base-wide, wired and wireless connectivity to base network users as well as a GuestNet capability and a standardized network management system.

---

### New members since 1 Nov 2016

Mark DePlasco  
Cecil Hopkins  
James Plummer  
Phyllis Billy  
John Lee  
Brian Magers  
Roger Sloan  
Lyle Voyles  
Elbert Cook  
Marjorie Stevens

Richard Baker  
Bill Bender  
Robert Bolden  
Charles Christian  
Jimmy Coleman  
Philip Corbett  
Gregory Dhaene  
James Domina  
Dave Felber  
Ed Fendell  
Thomas Fletcher  
Paul Gackenbach  
Chris Grimmer  
David Gunn  
Larry Hammer  
Kenneth Hodges  
Walter (Jode) Hughes  
Gerald Johnston

Dennis E.A. Keesee  
Glenn Kurzenknabe  
William LaMonte  
Jerome Landry  
Sterling Leathery  
Robert Lilly  
Wilbur Long  
Charles Lukowski  
Daniel Mansberger  
Lisa Martinez  
Albert Mastello Jr  
Robert McCarthy  
Michael Menschel  
Andrew Milligan Jr  
Roy Nall  
Dorsey Rogers  
Harry Sandifer  
John Schaab

### New & Returning Members



Conrad Schmidt  
George Simenson  
James Spears  
Neal Vanvalkenberg  
Louis Vescovi  
John Watson  
George White  
Robert Wilkie  
Gerald Wilkison  
Glenn Wittge  
Gary Woolf

### Renewals since 1 Nov 2016

Roger Bacchieri

# Thanks for the memories

Special thanks to Mr Alex Green, who donated a treasure trove of photos to our Association. The photos belonged to his father, Charles Green (pictured below), who was assigned to AACS in Alaska. He was a member of our Association until he passed away in 1999.



An AACS aircraft, 1946



Elmendorf open house, about 1946-47

**Charles A. Green** enlisted in the Army in February 1942, assigned to the US Army Chemical Warfare Service. He transferred to the Air Corps as an aviation cadet (Communications), commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in October 1942, and assigned to the Army Airways Communications Service. He was assigned to Alaska where he served as AACS detachment commander at Naknek, Elmendorf, and Attu, as AACS Aleutian Squadron commander, and then as 59<sup>th</sup> AACS Group Operations and executive officer, and then commander of the 1804<sup>th</sup> AACS Independent Group, responsible for airways operations from Edmonton, Alberta to Attu at the end of the Aleutian chain.

After the war, he also had operational responsibility for the air bases

at Kiska, Port Heiden, Barter Island, Atka, and St Paul Island in the Pribilofs.

In October 1948, after nearly six years in Alaska, he was transferred to AACS Headquarters at Andrews AFB, where he was deputy director of operations until late 1951. He was selected for an assignment with USAFIT, where he entered an 18 month program with companies that constituted the National Communications Resource. This program was aimed at providing depth of knowledge to avoid mistakes made during WWII.

In the spring of 1953 he went to SAC headquarters as deputy chief of the C&E division under Maj Gen John Bestic. Much time was spent organizing a "future systems" shop to chart the course of SAC communications.

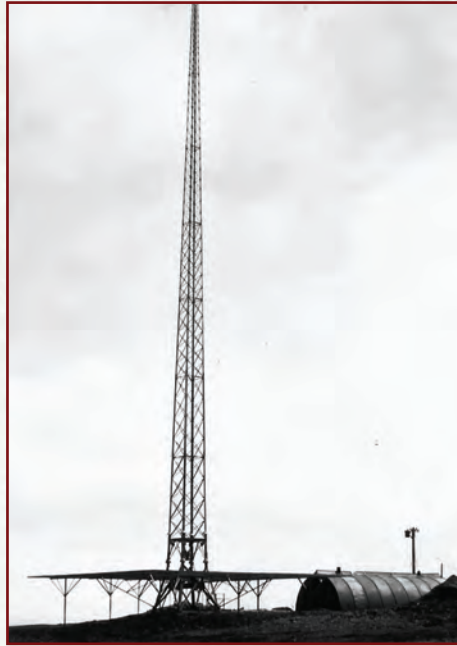
In April 1956, he was transferred to the SAC 5<sup>th</sup> Air Division at Sidi Slimane as chief of the C&E division. During 1958 he returned stateside to the newly formed SAC Systems Office and reported to Lt Gen Gordon Gould at SAC headquarters and was responsible for the integration of SAC C&E requirements into the development of Ballistic Missile and Space Systems.

He retired September 1962 and joined Collins Radio where he was involved in VLF programs, both ground and airborne, NASA VLA and space tracking/communication systems. He retired again in late 1970 and he and his wife spent years aboard their sailboat. They moved ashore in late 1980 and in 1990 moved to Air Force Village. He died in 1999 and is interred in Fort Sam Houston Cemetery, San Antonio.

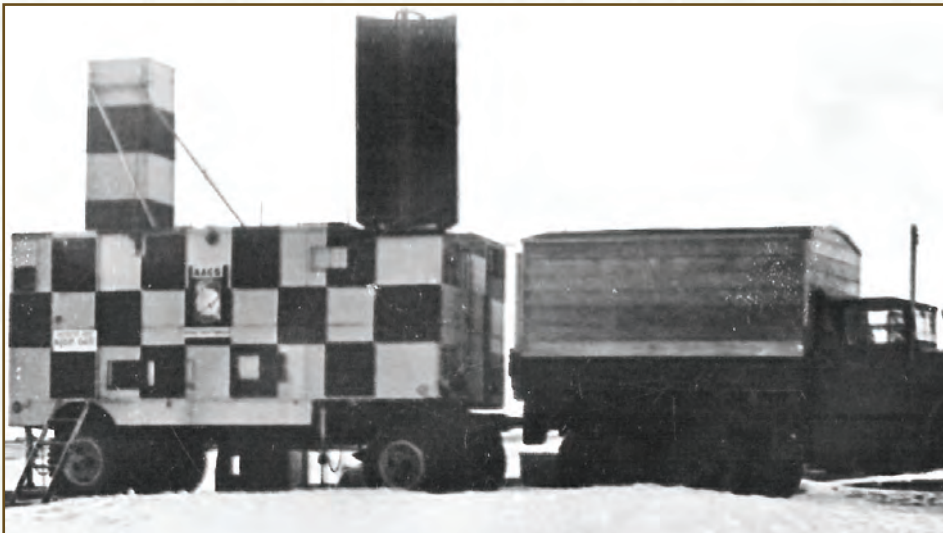




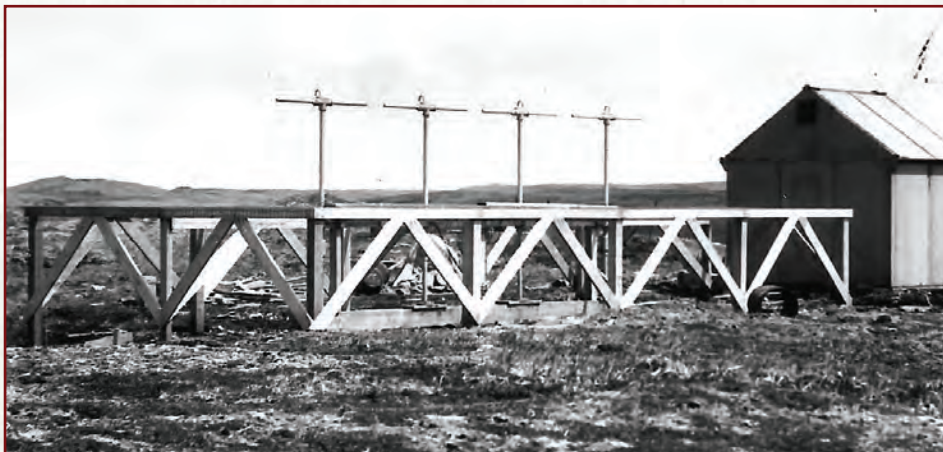
< Probably Station WZX Elmendorf, 1944 or 1946



Homing beacon, Aleutians, approximately 1944



Early GCA, probably Shemya or Adak 1945



SCS-51 (early ILS), 1944 Aleutians



1200 W LF PanAm transmitter used as homer

# AFCOMMATC - sponsored Annual Awards



**Maj Gen Van C. Doubleday**  
**ATC Enlisted**  
**Manager of the Year, 2017**

**MSgt Jennifer T. Michels**



**MSgt Jennifer Michels** is the Radar Approach Control (RAPCON), Assistant Chief Controller for the 60th Operations Support Squadron, Travis AFB, CA.

She was selected to receive the Maj Gen Van Doubleday Award.

Sergeant Michels leads 70 AF military and DoD civilian controllers. Her leadership is key to the safe and expeditious flow of 137,000 annual air traffic operations in support of US Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command objectives.

She was the Wing air traffic control lead for two presidential missions. She created Temporary Flight Restrictions with 3 FAA facilities, safeguarding a 2,000-square-mile airspace for the president.

Her identification of threats to the Airfield Automation System reduced vulnerability and was key to an excellent inspection rating. Her procedures were shared command-wide.

Her leadership of AMC's largest controller force produced two Officer Training School selectees, one Airman Leadership School Commandant, three Distinguished Graduates, three below-the-zone promotions, and seven Group awards.

*(General Doubleday was the deputy director for Strategic Command, Control and Communications Systems, Command, Control and Communications Systems Directorate, Joint Staff, Washington, D.C., until he retired in 1980. He was a master navigator with more than 5,000 flying hours.)*

## Maj Gen Gerald L. Prather Communications/ Information Professional of the Year, 2017

### SrA Devin P. Schmitz



SrA (now SSgt) **Devin Schmitz** was a Cyber Systems Operations Journeyman with the 51st Combat Comm Squadron, Robins AFB, GA, at the time of the award. He was selected to receive the Maj Gen Gerald L. Prather Award.

Airman Schmitz deployed 191 days in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, where he managed a \$25 million network. He led a network operations team that handled 385 trouble tickets and 27 installations, enabling around the clock flying operations over the area of responsibility.

He was the power behind a 6,000-member coalition exercise, configuring a \$36,000 command and control package with 30 assets, helping to connect 19 nations with the Central Command partner network. His efforts earned the Airman of the Month award.

He led an Aircraft Maintenance Unit relocation team, installing 35 systems worth \$70,000. The team ensured seamless operations for 18 aircraft and more than 1,000 operational taskings.

Airman Schmitz led a base information technology refresh, replacing 270 items and \$300,000 in assets, helping to ensure C4ISR support to Operation Inherent Resolve combat mission.

*(General Prather was assistant chief of staff, information systems, Air Force Headquarters, in June 1983 and became commander of AFCC in June 1984 until his retirement in 1986.)*

New award

## Lt Gen Harry Raduege Cyber Systems NCO of the Year, 2017

### MSgt Jeffrey Selonke



MSgt **Jeffrey Selonke**, section chief of network integration, 6th Communications Squadron, at the time of the award, was selected to receive the first Lt. Gen. Harry Raduege Award from the AF Comm and ATC Association.

Sergeant Selonke was also recognized as the 2016 Air Force Information Dominance Outstanding Cyber Systems NCO of the Year.

Over the past year, Selonke led 37 Airmen and managed \$67 million in radio frequency assets that supported three combatant commands and 19,000 personnel.

Sergeant Selonke and his team completed an overhaul of the Tanker Strategic Air Regeneration Team's communications unit type code for 25 units across Air Force Global Strike Command. The overhaul updated the deployable equipment.

Air Mobility Command recognized the work of Selonke and his team and identified them as the lead trainers for 25 units assigned to Tanker Strategic Air Regeneration Team operations.

Efforts made by Selonke and his team also helped with the validation of three next-generation satellite communication systems across the Department of Defense worth \$4.6 billion.

Global Strike Command also selected his team for a second year to travel to 27 units across the country to train and enhance nuclear-hardened communications.

*(Lt Gen Harry Raduege retired from the Air Force as director of the Defense Information Systems Agency and has been a cyber leader since his retirement and a strong supporter of our Association. He is also the Association's new Executive Director.)*

# 2016 Information Dominance Awards

By *SMSGt Jason Bowe*  
*Washington DC*

The Air Force chief of Information Dominance and Chief Information Officer announced the winners of the 2016 Gen John P. Jumper Awards for Excellence in Warfighting Integration and the AF Information Dominance annual awards.

The Air Force-level awards recognize Air Force officers, enlisted, federal civilian employees, teams and units for superior performance while providing information dominance and cyberspace support to Air Force or Defense Department missions and operations.

The **General Jumper Award for Excellence in Warfighting Integration** recognizes individuals for outstanding contributions to the integration of Air Force warfighting or operations support capabilities that shorten the kill chain and enhance the decision cycle.

Officer of the Year: Capt. Brandon J. Spader, Headquarters, Joint Special Operations Command Intelligence Brigade, Fort Bragg, NC

Enlisted of the Year: TSgt. Angela M. Neville, Joint Communications Support Element, MacDill AFB, FL

Civilian of the Year: Joshua A. Knezic, Headquarters Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, Joint Base San Antonio

The **Air Force Information Dominance Annual Award** recognizes Airmen for excellence in their respective Air Force specialties.

Outstanding Cyberspace Field Grade Officer of the Year: Lt. Col. Chance W. Geray, 435th Air and Space Communications Group, Ramstein AB, Germany

Outstanding Cyberspace Company Grade Officer of the Year: Capt. Larry D. Stevens Jr., Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii

Outstanding Civilian Category III of the Year: Blaine Bish, 673rd Comm Squadron, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

Outstanding Civilian Category II of the Year: Andrew M. Fletcher, 18th CS, Kadena AB, Japan

Outstanding Civilian Category I of the Year: Clayton P. Schoepflin, 90th CS, F.E. Warren AFB, WY

Outstanding Cyber Warfare Operations NCO of the Year: TSgt Christopher R. Perkins, 603rd Air Comm Squadron, Ramstein AB, Germany

Outstanding Cyber Warfare Operations Senior NCO of the Year: MSgt Alex M. Kuh, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Outstanding Administration Airman of the Year: SrA Anthony A. Carter, 470th Air Base Squadron, Geilenkirchen AB, Germany

Outstanding Administration NCO of the Year: TSgt Tameshia C. Prentice, Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, FL

Outstanding Administration Senior NCO of the Year: SMSGt Jeffery S. Williamson, 48th CS, RAF Lakenheath, England

Outstanding Cyber Operations Airman of the Year: SrA Devin P. Schmitz, 51st Combat Comm Sq, Robins AFB, GA

Outstanding Cyber Operations NCO of the Year: SSgt Jeremy S. Evans, 18th CS, Kadena AB, Japan

Outstanding Cyber Systems Airman of the Year: SrA Luke D. Phillips, 2nd CS, Barksdale AFB, LA

Outstanding Cyber Systems NCO of the Year: TSgt Jeffrey M. Selonke, 6th CS, MacDill AFB, FL

Outstanding Cyberspace Support Senior NCO of the Year: SMSGt Sherlock E. Walker Jr., 374th CS, Yokota AB, Japan

One team and two units were recognized for outstanding achievement in their respective functional areas:

**Maj Gen Harold M. McClelland Large Unit of the Year Award:** 435th Air and Space Comm Group, Ramstein AB, Germany

– 1st Air and Space Communications Operations Squadron, 1st Combat Comm Squadron; and 1st Communications Maintenance Squadron

**Lt Gen Harold W. Grant Small Unit of the Year Award:** 354th CS, Eielson AFB, Alaska



Airmen and civilians assigned to the 354th CS pose for a photo at Eielson AFB. The 354th CS won the Lt Gen Harold W. Grant Award. (Photo by A1C Cassandra Whitman)

**Gen Edwin W. Rawlings Team of the Year Award:** Operational Support Framework Tiger Team, US Cyber Command, Fort Meade, MD  
Team Members: Air Force Lt. Col. Steven A. Lindquist, Army Lt. Col. Joseph Walchko, Maj. Lim Vu, Capt. Peter Christ, Capt. Jeremy L. Sparks, MSgt Donald A. Kuge, Brian Morrison

# Mini crypto chip ready for production



**By Benjamin Newell  
66th Air Base Group  
HANSKOM AFB, MA**

-- The Air Force's new Mini Crypto chip will secure communications and data between systems like unmanned aerial vehicles and explosive ordnance disposal robots, while being "losable."

Airmen in the field rely on secured communications to accomplish their missions without enemy knowledge of their plans. Historically, the means by which the military encrypts its communications has been cumbersome and subject to interception, like when Allies successfully stole a Nazi encryption device, called an Enigma machine, during World War II.

"We think (Mini Crypto chip) will really help forward-deployed war-fighters secure sensors, or communications devices, in areas where risk of interception is high, and still protect sensitive data, without burdening folks on the front lines with extra equipment or steps to safeguard the encryption device," said Heidi Beason, the Mini Crypto program manager at the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Cryptologic and Cyber System Division, Joint Base-San Antonio, TX.

Mini Crypto is a self-contained encryption engine that generates its own session-based "key." Designed

to be small and lightweight, it is about the size of a cracker. Its power requirement is roughly the same as a hearing aid, at 400 milliwatts, meaning it can be installed on equipment carried by one-person parties operating as scouts and forward air controllers.

"Mini Crypto is the result of two years of program development for us," she said. "We took a requirement for a very small, low-power encryption device and in less than 20 months successfully designed and tested this unique component. Now we're ready for production."

...the means by which the military encrypts its communications has been cumbersome and subject to interception, like when Allies successfully stole a Nazi encryption device, called an Enigma machine, during World War II.

Beason leads a team of nine at JB San Antonio, who fall under AFLCMC's Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence and Networks Directorate, Hanscom AFB.

"Communications devices all have a processor, where a message is formatted for transmission," said Christopher Edsall, the Mini Crypto deputy program manager. "In the case of a computer, it's the (central processing unit). Mini Crypto is located after the processing center, but before the transmission center, which is usually a radio. Another

Mini Crypto chip is installed at the receiver end, after the receiving antenna, but before the CPU. The second Mini Crypto chip decrypts the received message as it comes through the radio where the unencrypted message is processed, and then it is displayed or heard."

Mini Crypto works by establishing a key between sender and receiver. The exact key is required to read a message after encryption. Mini Crypto's unique key management system protects up to secret data and meets the National Security Agency standards, the highest standards for encryption. According to Edsall, Mini Crypto's encryption makes the effort of decrypting a message by an adversary difficult and resource-intensive.

By the time a message is readable by an adversary after it is encrypted, it is no longer useful information.

It can be used in joint and coalition environments, providing tailored access to data.

"Mini Crypto's portability and losability make it ideal for things like precision air drops of supplies," said Beason. "We think this will allow commanders to send combat material to austere locations for pickup, and protect their exact location, without putting the troops who need the material at risk."



# SCENES FROM OKLAHOMA



## Air Force Communicators & ATC Convention

Oct 4-8, 2017

Sheraton/Reed Conference Center, Midwest City, OK



*Hosts  
Jim and Becky Roberts*



*Lasting friendships*



*The hospitality room...where great conversations take place and stories abound*



## 2017 tours/events:

- Tinker AFB Tour: *AWACS, AF Flight Standards Agency, 38th CEIG Mission Brief and AWACS*
- 41<sup>th</sup> Annual General Farman Golf Tournament
  - A Night at the Museum!  
Oklahoma History Center
    - Annual Banquet







*Saturday Business Meeting*



**Col Chad Raduege, commander of the White House Communications Agency, gives a presentation.**



**Ed Wright, Executive Director of Air Force Flight Standards Agency, gives a presentation.**

**1st Place Team:**  
 Butch Jones  
 Jim Weber  
 Tom Gagen  
 Bill Bethea

**Gen Farman  
 Golf Tourney**

**Men longest drive:**  
 Mike Shults  
**Women's longest drive:**  
 Nikki Blackburn

**Oct 7, 2017, Sheraton Reed Conference Center,  
 Oklahoma City, OK  
 Called to order by Executive Director, Ken Reiff**

Board of Director reports were presented after welcoming members and guests, recognition of first time attendees, the Pledge of Allegiance, and an invocation.

The membership chairman reported that since April 1 the Association gained 9 life members for a total of 1,012 life members of the 1,216 active members. Since 1 April, 16 non-life members renewed their memberships with 84 memberships expiring on Dec 31.

The Treasurer reported that for fiscal year 2017, income exceeded expenses by \$4,720.21; current liabilities are \$3,220, with assets of \$56,246.64; the Association advanced \$3,000 to defray initial expenses for the 2018 Annual Convention

The Treasurer presented the 2018 Budget, unanimously approved. No additional BoD reports.

The Executive Director thanked Gerald Prather for his service as Information Officer and Ray French for his service as Vice Director and outlined proposed BoD changes for 2018:

- Harry Raduege as Executive Director
- Ken Reiff as Vice Director
- Ed Broestl as Executive Secretary
- Tom Blackburn as Information Officer
- Ray French as Sergeant-at-Arms
- Rich Griffis as Recruiting Chairman

Members voted unanimously to accept the recommendations.

The Executive Director thanked Jim and Becky Roberts for their efforts hosting the 2017 Convention and announced that next year's convention will be in Montgomery, AL from Sept 26-30, with Kenneth and Marilyn Heitkamp as hosts.

The formal Business Meeting adjourned

It was followed by the Missed Roll Call ceremony honoring members who passed away in the past year.

A White House Communications Agency presentation was then given by its commander, Col Chad Raduege, and an Air Force Flight Standards Agency presentation was given by its Executive Director, Ed Wright.

**Ed Broestl, Executive Secretary**





# Annual Banquet



**Master of Ceremonies: Retired CMSgt Walt McLain**  
**Posting of the Colors by Flying Castle Composite Squadron**  
**Pledge of Allegiance**  
**Invocation by Chaplain Ed Broestl**  
**Executive Director Ken Reiff introduced special guests, Hall of Fame members, and first-time attendees**  
**POW/MIA ceremony by retired Maj Gen Gerald Prather and retired CMSgt Bill Bethea**  
**Guest speaker: retired Lt Gen William "Bill" Bender**



## Awards presentations

### *AFCOMMATC Hall of Honor, class of 2017*

#### **Bill Hammett, CMSgt, retired**

Retired CMSgt Bill Hammett was selected for the 2017 Hall of Honor for his contributions to air traffic control during his Air Force career. His many assignments include Columbus AFB, Pease AFB, and many more, including a tour in Vietnam where he was assigned to the RAPCON at Tan Son Nhut. His accomplishments that warrant selection for the Association's Hall of Honor are: development of terminal instrument procedures at Webb AFB where he documented more than 70



**Walt McLain, left, and Bill Hammett**

instrument flight procedures from scratch to support Air Training Command requirements. He was also selected to establish the TERPS branch when Headquarters Strategic Communications Area was formed in 1976. Key accomplishments included instrument flight procedures for all 29 continental SAC bases as well as Fort Campbell, KY and Fort Hood, TX. In 1976 the US standard for terps was revised to include addition of a visual descent point on non-vertically guided procedures. Chief Hammett devised a computation form for use by all SACCA units and eventually worldwide by AF. He was an outstanding

mentor and supporter of his people. In 1983 his airmen won all four NCO of the quarter competitions.

#### **Linda McMahon, Colonel, retired**

When one of our members is selected to the AF Cyberspace and Support Hall of Fame, our Association also inducts them into our own Hall of Honor. Colonel McMahon was selected as a 2017 inductee into the hall of fame. She commanded twice and held critical leadership positions of increasing responsibility. She served as executive officer to four general officers and co-chaired the force renewal panel in the office of the Secretary of the Air Force. She excelled as a software systems developer, satellite engineer, program manager and leader. At AF Space Command she created software models and products for the MILSTAR satellite communications system—contributions recognized by AF senior leadership. Her successes as commander of Air Combat Command Communications Group increased Central Command's unmanned aerial vehicle coverage 200 percent, and decreased mission downtime from 18 percent to below 1 percent. After her retirement from the Air Force she continued to serve: charter member of women in military and life member of AFCEA where she served in a number of roles to include chapter president, and life member of the Air Force Association. **(Contd on next page)**



**Linda McMahon**

# In the spotlight



**MAJ GEN VAN DOUBLEDAY**  
ATC ENLISTED MANAGER  
OF THE YEAR, 2017

**MSgt Jennifer T. Michels**



**MAJ GEN GERALD PRATHER**  
COMMUNICATIONS/  
INFORMATION PROFESSIONAL  
OF THE YEAR, 2017

**SSgt Devin P. Schmitz**



**LT GEN HARRY RADUEGE JR.**  
CYBER SYSTEMS NCO  
OF THE YEAR, 2017

**MSgt Jeffrey M. Selonke**

(From previous page)

## **Anthony Shtogren, Maj Gen, retired**

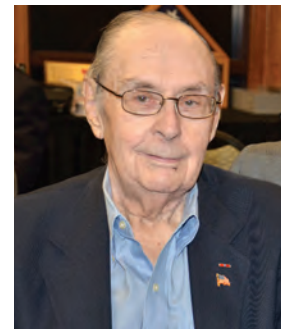
Unfortunately, General Shtogren is deceased. He was represented by his daughters, Maureen McGrath and Nicky Dozier. From 1965 to 1968 General Shtogren was dual-hatted as commander, Pacific Communications Area and deputy chief of staff, Pacific Air Forces. His primary focus was directed toward the prosecution of the war in Southeast Asia covering Vietnam, Thailand and classified locations. As a result of his leadership, mobile units were replaced with fixed base assets such as TACANs, RAPCONs, telephone systems, communications centers and wideband systems. Other accomplishments include: Work with SAC on its radar bomb scoring radar for targeting in bad weather, extension of AUTODIN to Thailand, installation of MARS equipment for morale of troops, establishment of the sea altitude reservation facility from 13<sup>th</sup> AF to PACAF. After his assignment in the Pacific he was named deputy director, JCS J6, where he received his second star and retired from that position. Three members of his team in the Pacific went on to command AFCS/AFCC—Maj Gen Rupert Burris, Maj Gen Robert Sadler, and Maj Gen Robert McCarthy.



**Ken Reiff, left, and Maj Gen Shtogren's daughter**

## **Hank Sauer Life Achievement Award**

During this past year, we looked at ways to recognize retired CMSgt Hank Sauer for his 25 years of outstanding service to our Association. The board of directors voted to name the Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in Hank's name. This award is not an award that is given annually, but one that recognizes distinctive accomplishments well above the norm in support of our Association as well as active duty airmen. The first selectees for this honor are **John Flaherty** and **Julie Braun**, who for many years have staffed our registration table, welcoming attendees and guests, answering questions, and handing out registration packets



**Hank Sauer**



**Julie Braun and John Flaherty**

## Farewell letter from Hank (a man with many hats):

To all members of the Air Force Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Association,

gave me over the years helped me do as good a job as I could.

As I sit here at my computer and think about the past 25 consecutive Conventions/Reunions I have had the privilege to attend, including the last one in Oklahoma City, I wonder what I will do next year as I sit here in Oak Ridge, TN. It has been great seeing members I served with in Tempelhof during the Berlin Airlift in 1948/1949, to my retirement at the Pentagon in 1975. They include the large number of members who worked for me and those I worked with over the years, plus all the friends I have made during this time period.

As my health is going South, I don't want Em Spivey, Bill Cassett, Walt McLain, Bob Akard, and many other members to have to spend time playing nursemaid to me and miss out on "war stories" when doing chores for me, so it is time to say so long. I am still a BOD member and will be happy to give advice (not sure all would agree to that word) as long as I am able.

While I have been the Sgt-at-Arms, Web Site Manager, Editor and Publisher, Executive Director (twice) and the BOD Advisory Officer, I was far from the only member who has served in multiple positions. I am sure that the support you

I will be looking for the web site reunion pictures and the November Communicator each year to see what I have missed. I will miss all of you and will never forget any of you. In spite of my shortcomings you have always supported me and I will always love you and pray for you all.

Hank Sauer  
CMSgt, USAF retired  
AF Comm & ATC Assoc



**Editor's Note: I think I speak for most members, Hank, when I say thank you for all you do and all you've done for the Association. I, along with many others, will always value your friendship. Thank you! 'Til we meet again.**



**Hats off for a job well done!**



*Plan to attend next year!*

**Join us for the 2018 convention in Montgomery, Alabama, Sept 26-30.**

# HALL OF FAME

## AF Cyberspace Operations and Support

In 1999 the Air Force established the Communications and Information Hall of Fame to honor individuals who made significant contributions, both to the Air Force and our career field, while serving in the public and private sectors. These leaders began the tradition of excellence which led to critical communications and information capabilities for today's and

tomorrow's Air Force. Each year new members are inducted into the Hall of Fame--visionaries who guided the Air Force toward a technological and information-enabled future. Their dedication, vision, patriotism, and honor established a proud legacy on which we continue to build today's information superiority.

### Class of 1999

\*Lt Gen Lee M. Paschall

### Class of 2000

Lt Gen Winston D. Powers  
Maj Gen Robert Edge  
\*Brig Gen Ivan L. Farman  
\*Col Glenn Giddings

### Class of 2001

\*Lt Gen James S. Cassity  
\*Lt Gen Robert H. Ludwig  
\*CMSgt Richard P. "Hank" Sauer

### Class of 2002

\*Lt Gen Richard Klocko  
Lt Gen Gordon Gould  
Maj Gen Paul Stoney

### Class of 2003

Gen Robert T. Herres  
Lt Gen Gordon A. Blake  
Maj Gen Daniel C. Doubleday  
\*Maj Gen Jack B. Robbins  
Brig Gen Haskell E. "Hack" Neal

### Class of 2004

\*Lt Gen John S. Fairfield  
Maj Gen John Paul Hyde

### Class of 2005

\*Lt Gen Albert Edmonds  
\*Lt Gen Carl O'Berry  
\*Mr. Tom Yium

### Class of 2006

Maj Gen Francis L. Ankenbrandt  
Maj Gen John Bestic  
\*Maj Gen Rupert H. Burris  
\*Col Derrel L. Dempsey  
\*CMSgt William Bethea

### Class of 2007

Maj Gen John T. Randerson  
\*Col James R. Lauducci  
\*CMSgt Charles E. Teston

### Class of 2008

\*Maj Gen Van C. Doubleday  
Maj Gen Alvin L. Pachynski  
\*CMSgt Walter D. McLain

### Class of 2009

\*Lt Gen William J. Donahue  
\*Maj Gen George P. Lampe  
\*Maj Gen John T. Stihl  
Brig Gen Charles B. Jiggetts  
\*Lt Gen John L. Woodward  
\*Maj Gen Gerald L. Prather  
\*Brig Gen Duncan W. Campbell  
\*Col Gilbert L. Sentimore

### Class of 2010

Col Jess Guthrie  
\*Col Paul Patton  
Lt Col Michael Anderson  
\*Mr. Lloyd Mosemann II  
\*MSgt Joseph Duffy

### Class of 2011

\*Lt Gen Harry D. Raduege  
Col Lloyd Watnee  
\*CMSgt William M. Mosley  
CMSgt Richard Etchberger  
Mr. Cecil Harvell

### Class of 2012

\*Maj Gen Dale Meyerrose  
\*Brig Gen Bruce Bohn  
Brig Gen Avon James  
Lt Col Grace Barth  
CMSAF Eric Benken  
Mr. Timothy Long

### Class of 2013

\*Gen William "Tom" Hobbins  
\*Brig Gen Buford "Randy" Witt  
\*Col Jack Stratford  
\*CMSgt Laurence M. Patrick  
\*Robert L. Feik

### Class of 2014

\*Lt Gen Charles E. Croom  
Brig Gen Wallace Smith  
\*Col David J. Kovach  
CMSgt Larry Holifield

### Class of 2015

Maj Gen John Maluda  
\*Col Ken Reiff  
\*Col Gerard Gleckel

### Class of 2016

\*Mr. John Gilligan  
\*Col David Martinson  
\*Col Gary McAlum  
\*CMSgt Robert "Duke" Snyder

### Class of 2017

\*Col Raymond French  
Col John Garing  
\*Kenneth Heitkamp  
\*Col Linda McMahon

*\*Was or is a member of our Association.*

*Foundation Setters: Brig Gen Billy Mitchell, Gen Edwin W. Rawlings, Lt Gen Harold W. Grant, Lt Gen Lee Paschall, Maj Gen Harold M. McClelland, Maj Gen Robert Sadler*

## Hall of Honor

### Class of 2001

CMSgt Richard P. "Hank" Sauer

### Class of 2002

Col Robert M. Brewer

MSgt. Joseph J. Duffy

Mr. Thomas S. Snyder

### Class of 2003

Mr. Larry Camp

Maj Gen Gerald L. Prather

### Class of 2004

Mr. Garland B. Hilton

### Class of 2005

Lt Gen Harry Raduege

Lt Gen Carl O'Berry

Col David Kovach

Col P.C. Brown (Past Chaplain)

CMSgt Bill Bethea

Mr. Rocco Sansone

### Class of 2006

Col Derrel Dempsey

CMSgt Walt McLain

### Class of 2007

Col James R. Lauducci

CMSgt Charles E. Teston

### Class of 2008

Maj Gen Van C. Doubleday

CMSgt William Mosley

### Class of 2009

Lt Gen William J. Donahue

Lt Gen John L. Woodward

Maj Gen George P. Lampe

Maj Gen John T. Stihl

Brig Gen Duncan W. Campbell

Col William Malec

Col Gilbert L. Sentimore

CMSgt James Sutton

### Class of 2010

Col Paul Patton

CMSgt Robert "Duke" Snyder

Mr. Lloyd Mosemann

### Class of 2011

Gen William "Tom" Hobbins

Col David J. Martinson

### Class of 2012

Maj Gen Dale Meyerrose

Brig Gen Bruce Bohn

Brig Gen Stancil Dilda

### Class of 2013

Brig Gen Randy Witt

Col Jack Stratford

CMSgt Laurence Patrick

### Class of 2014

Lt Gen Charles E. Croom

Col Kenneth Reiff

### Class of 2015

Maj Gen Robert McCarthy

Maj Gen John Maluda

Col Gerard Gleckel

### Class of 2016

Mr. Ken Heitkamp

Col Gary McAlum

Mr. John Gilligan

Col Raymond French

### Class of 2017

Maj Gen Anthony Shtogren

CMSgt Bill Hammett

Col Linda McMahan

## Life Achievement Award

### Class of 2001

Col Ted V. Carlson

### Class of 2002

Col Bernard U. Glettler

CMSgt Richard P. "Hank" Sauer

### Class of 2003

Claire Lofchie

Mr. John A. Milano

Lt Gen Lee Paschall

Maj Gen Gerald L. Prather

CMSgt Jim Van Dyne

### Class of 2004

Major C.B. Maginnis

Mrs. Nancy Donnell

### Class of 2005

Lt. Col. Richard W. "Dick" Frye

Mr. George Villa

### Class of 2006

Mr. "Smitty" McClellan

Ms. Shirley Beachum

Ms. Mary Lou Brewer

### Class of 2007

CMSgt Robert "Duke" Snyder

### Class of 2008

Dr. Larry Morrison

### Class of 2009

Maj David Moore

### Class of 2011

Stanley J. Phillips

### Class of 2013

Bob Akard

Bill Bethea

Lori Manske

### Class of 2014

CMSgt Robert Read

## Thomas F. Buckley Service Award

### Class of 2003

Monika Buckley

### Class of 2004

James J. Duffy

### Class of 2005

CMSgt Richard Gillis

### Class of 2006

Robert Akard

### Class of 2007

Maj Gen Gerald L. Prather

### Class of 2008

MSgt Joseph J. Duffy

### 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

Michael Hunter

### Class of 2015

Bill Cassatt

## Hank Sauer Life Achievement Award

### Class of 2017

John Flaherty

Julie Braun



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

## 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 @ \$5 .....	_____
_____	Old blue original AACS patch @ \$7 .....	_____
_____	Deluxe Embroidered AFCOMMATC Logo Hat (blue) @ \$14 .....	_____
_____	AFCOMMATC Challenge Coin @ \$8 .....	_____
_____	Old E9 Pin @ \$5 .....	_____
_____	Original AACS Lapel Pin @ \$6 .....	_____
_____	AFCOMMATC Embroidered Ladies Golf Shirt (white)	
	S___ M___ L___ @ \$30 .....	_____
_____	AFCOMMATC Embroidered Ladies Golf Shirt (blue)	
	S___ M___ L___ @ \$30 .....	_____
_____	AFCOMMATC Embroidered Logo Golf Shirt BLUE.....	_____
_____	AFCOMMATC Embroidered Logo Golf Shirt WHITE.....	_____
	S___ M___ L___ XL___ \$36 2XL___ \$38	
_____	AFCOMMATC Jacket (zipper) S___ M___ L___ XL___ \$42 .....	_____
_____	Jacket 2XL \$50 .....	_____

*AACS items are gone except for the patches and pins.*

**DONATIONS:** (Tax deductible within limits of the law): Receipt: Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAGE AND HANDLING ARE INCLUDED IN ALL PRICES.

SOME PRICES HAVE INCREASED DUE TO VENDOR AND 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, [clarkwcassatt@gmail.com](mailto:clarkwcassatt@gmail.com)

## AACS, AFCS & AFCC Wood-Carved Wall Plaques



Cost (including shipping) is \$35 each

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

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

Size 10 1/2 inches



Command: AACCS \_\_\_\_\_ AFCS \_\_\_\_\_ AFCC \_\_\_\_\_ (Number of plaques)

Total cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (check attached)

Mail to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**M**any 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.



**AF COMM & ATC ASSOCIATION INC**  
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## **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 air traffic control.**

**\*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 those airmen/officers/civilians serving today.**