

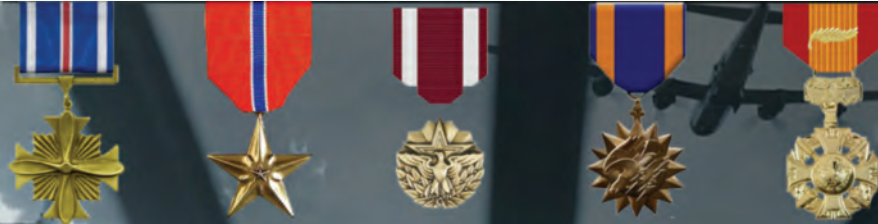


# COMMUNICATOR



Since 1938

November 2019



#1

*Lt Col (retired) Roland "Rocky" Gannon*



He flew as a combat pilot in World War II, Korea, the Belgian Congo and 387 combat missions in Vietnam. After World War II, he served 3 years in the occupation of Iwo Jima and Japan. As a result of the post-World War II pilot drawdown, he became an Air Traffic Controller. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, 10 Air Medals, 4 Meritorious Service Medals and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

## 2019 Convention – Heroes among us

Our members met in Omaha, NE, in September for fellowship and fun. We were honored to have retired Lt Col Rocky Gannon (left) join us. His life story is nothing less than remarkable. He is one of this year's AF Cyberspace Operations and Support Hall of Fame inductees, and was also inducted into our Association Hall of Honor. Also joining in the fun were members of the Flight Checkers Association. Photos of more award winners and activities on pages 18-31.

Association says goodbye to 2 Super Chiefs...Pages 12-13



Thank you for your service!

# IMPORTANT!

## Please update your membership info

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

## Recruit! Our future depends on you!

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

## Tell us your story!

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

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Membership

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

## Did you know?



### Talking Bird, 1962

From the earliest days of World War II, there had been combat or mobile comm units in the Army Air Corps to support locations that lacked established communications facilities, or to ensure continued operations in the event of a disaster or combat situation. By 1960, this capability was best manifested in the AF Communications Service's "Talking Bird" quick reaction communications system. Talking Bird was the result of an AF headquarters directive to develop a prototype flyable comm facility to conduct operational tests and evaluations as a model command and control aircraft to serve as an initial, on-site comm facility for contingencies. It was an air transportable comm package designed to be loaded in a C-130 and operated from within that aircraft after landing in a contingency area. It included 18,000 pounds of comm equipment and a 21-person team. It was capable of long range communications with any fixed station in the USAF AIRCOM system, the worldwide comm complex of air/ground, point-to-point, weather, logistics, and radio teletype relay networks. Deployed, it provided both long-haul and short-range communications. Talking Bird was first used in a real contingency in September 1962 to support airlift disaster relief in Iran after a major earthquake devastated parts of that country.

### Visit our web site and guestbook!





# Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association

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



## Board of Directors

Executive Director, Harry Raduege  
Vice Director, Ken Reiff

Executive Secretary, Ed Broestl  
Treasurer, Jim Weber

Membership Director, Leslie McCormick  
Editor, Print/Online Media, Lori Manske  
Protocol, Rafael Quezada  
Information Officer, Robert McCoy  
PX/BX Manager, Bill Cassatt

### Executive Director Appointments

Historian, Ken Reiff  
Chaplain, Ed Broestl

### Convention Committee

Jim Weber (chair)  
Rafael Quezada

### Honors and Awards Committee

Tom Blackburn (chair)  
Robert Garcia  
Bill Bethea  
Bill Hammett

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

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### Momentous Beginnings:

Communications Encircle the Globe



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Scenes from Omaha..... **18-31**



Find us on Facebook

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



*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.

*Communicator* is published twice a year, June and November. It is also available online at [www.afcommatc.org](http://www.afcommatc.org).

# Report ... From the Executive Director Harry D. Raduege

I'd like to bring to your attention an important piece of Association business. Our Air Force is undergoing huge internal restructuring related to Cyberspace. To remain "current" and in an attempt to relate to and attract new members to our Association, our Board of Directors has unanimously recommended that we change the name of our Association from "Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers (AFCOMMATC) Association" to "Air Force Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control (AFCATC) Association".

Our rationale is that terms related to "communicator" are no longer used officially within the Air Force, due to bold new moves where organizational structure and terminology related to "cyberspace" is now used. The Air Traffic Control community is still aligned within Air Force Operations, thus the need to keep their additional designation. I want to bring this up to our Association's membership now to give you time to think about this and to cast your vote officially — as an Association member — at our next Convention in Colorado Springs in September 2020.

We had a fabulous 43<sup>rd</sup> annual convention in Omaha. Special thanks to Ken Reiff and Jim Weber for performing host responsibilities, even though neither of them live in the Omaha area, which added to their challenges. CMSgt (Ret) George Hoyt stepped up in so many ways, providing support throughout the Omaha and Offutt AFB arenas.

For the first time in our history, we conducted a joint convention with the Air Force Flight Checkers Association with tremendous support from their past and present directors, retired Col Mike Ball and Lt Col "Rock" Verrochi, respectively.

On Thursday, we held our Board of Directors meeting, our Prayer Breakfast led by Ed Broestl, a SAC Museum tour, and then enjoyed a special evening at the Flight Checkers Dinner. Entertainment was provided by Darrel Draper who performs a magnificent historical perspective of the life and times of President Teddy "Rough Rider" Roosevelt — the youngest president in U.S. history. A real BULLY of a show! In fact, Mr. Draper is the #1 requested historical speaker in Nebraska and we were lucky to have this special treat.

On Friday, many of us were given mission briefings within U.S. Strategic Command headquarters and then were bussed to an RC-135 "Rivet Joint" aircraft tour. Our golfers enjoyed the challenges of a tough course, some adverse weather, and most of all, the joys of being outside with life-long friends.

On Friday evening we had a magnificent "All-Hands Social" with great food and drink, camaraderie and enjoying the sounds of Greg Spevak's 11-piece orchestra and the beautiful harmonies of the "Fremont Tri-Tones". Many of



our members enjoyed dancing to some great oldies-but-goodies and several of our members amazed us with their fleet-footedness. You had to see it to believe it!

On Saturday morning, we held our members' business meeting which concluded with our reflective "Missed Roll Call" recognition video, which was beautifully assembled by Lori Manske, once again, and Rafael Quezada. We followed our business meetings with two superb presentations: Mike Ball provided a "Flight Checkers Update," while Brig

Gen Chad Raduege and CMSgt Jereme Melton provided an update on recent reorganizations and movements throughout the Air Force. (See briefing summary on page 31.)

On Saturday evening, we had our annual banquet with Maj Gen (Ret) John Maluda as guest speaker. In true General Maluda fashion and during his "stage time", he called on many others in the audience to offer comments about subjects he posed to them. Everyone stepped up in fine response to the spontaneous opportunities to take the mic.

We were fortunate to have one of our Association-sponsored award winners join us—MSgt Timothy J. Carlsness, Jr. and his wife. He is our ATC Enlisted Manager of the Year. We also recognized our Association members who were selected to the Air Force Cyberspace Operations and Support Hall of Fame and our Association Hall of Honor (pages 28-29). Jim Weber received the CMSgt Richard "Hank" Sauer Lifetime Achievement Award.

Our banquet allowed us to recognize our nation's POWs and MIAs and this year we had a special table set for two for our beloved mainstay members who passed away recently and within 4 days of each other: CMSgt (Ret) Hank Sauer and CMSgt (Ret) Walt McLain. Their hard work and presence will forever be felt by the members of this great Association.

I'm also pleased to announce that our Board of Directors approved Colorado Springs as our annual convention location for 2020. Many fantastic tours and events are being planned, including the newly designated National World War II Aircraft Museum, the new U.S. Air Force Academy Center for Character and Leadership Development, and the newly opened Pikes Peak National Cemetery.

Let's also not forget that we need to recruit new members into our Association. New members are important for numerous reasons but certainly in supporting continuing education about the importance (and enjoyment) of knowing Air Force history and for gaining insights into changes on the horizon. If we all concentrate on recruiting one new member, just think of the impact that effort will have on the health and enjoyment of our Association.

Finally, I am always open to your thoughts and ideas. Please email me at [hraduege@gmail.com](mailto:hraduege@gmail.com) or send a letter to Lori Manske, our Editor.

Take care and God bless.

# Annual Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

## AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Association

**Sept 26, 2019  
Omaha, NE**

The meeting was called to order by Executive Director, Harry Raduege, at 0759 with the following present: Ken Reiff (Vice Director); Lori Manske (Editor, Print & On-Line Media); Bill Casatt (BX/PX Manager); Rafael Quezada (Protocol Officer); Leslie McCormick (Membership Director); Ed Broestl (Secretary) and Jim Weber (Treasurer). Bill Bethea attended as an invited guest.

The following motions were made, seconded and unanimously accepted:

- Accept the Membership, Treasurer, PX/BX reports as written in the June 2019 Communicator. Motion made by Ken Reiff, seconded by Rafael Quezada.

- Confirm Leslie McCormick as Membership Chair. Made by Ken Reiff, seconded by Harry Raduege.

- Accept Rich Griffiss' resignation as Director of Recruiting. Made by Ken Reiff, seconded by Jim Weber.

- Confirm Bob McCoy as Information Officer. Made by Ken Reiff, seconded by General Raduege.

- Tom Blackburn will head Awards Committee, consisting of Bill Bethea, Bill Hammett and Bobby Garcia. Made by Ken Reiff, seconded by Jim Weber.

Ken Reiff moved that the General Farman Golf Tournament be deleted as an Association-sponsored event with a second from Ed Broestl. After discussion the motion was not approved; however, each Convention Host (Golf Chairman) will be responsible for setting up the outing, identifying the course, setting tee times, paying fees and arranging prizes.

Flash drives with Association files maintained by Walt McLain were obtained by Ken Reiff when attending Chief McLain's Memorial Service. These files along with those maintained in the DropBox will be reviewed and made available to BoD members. Actions: Ken Reiff. Leslie McCormick, Rafael Quezada, Ed Broestl and Jim Weber.

- Ken Reiff, assisted by Ed Broestl, will update directives and policy letters with drafts to the BoD for their approval. Included in this update will

be the removal of the Executive Committee, Financial Management Committee and Nominating Committee.

- Leslie McCormick will review files for membership information.

- Rafael Quezada will assist Leslie and Ed with parsing of information contained on flash drives and in DropBox.

- Jim Weber will review information for applicable Treasurer information.

- Ken, Leslie and Ed will meet during the convention to determine processes to retain necessary information and make it available to both the BoD and general membership.

With the passing of our Membership Chair, Chief McLain, Ken Reiff reminded the Board members to prepare a succession plan for their positions. Ken will provide a draft format for Board approval.

General Raduege moved to authorize Lori Manske to negotiate a contract for website maintenance and operations with a second from Rafael Quezada. During the discussion, it was decided to table this motion and develop a Media Plan that describes the various aspects of our Association and information available through our website, e.g., how to nominate individuals for awards and BoD positions. Ken Reiff, Lori and Bob McCoy will develop a course of action for the Board's consideration.

Harry Raduege agreed to host the 2020 Convention in Colorado Springs, 24 – 27 Sept if it does not conflict with the USAF Academy football schedule.

- There was discussion regarding the database that supports the convention hosts. Ken Reiff and Jim Weber will work to find more efficient methods.

- Ed Broestl will update the BoD contact information.

- There was considerable conversation regarding the future of our Association. Due to time constraints the conversation was tabled to become a topic in an upcoming conference call (below). Items of interest during our conversation were: is a name change appropriate, what is our IRS classification, e.g., 501c(19) or 501c(3) and are there any membership criteria, e.g. 25/75 officers to be enlisted.

Ken Reiff and Jim Weber will research and inform the Board of their discoveries regarding the latter two.

The meeting adjourned at 0925.

**Oct 26, 2019  
via teleconference**

Meeting was called to order by Executive Director, General Raduege, at 1337 with all board members present.

Discussion continued regarding an Association name change. General Raduege made the following motion: "I move to change the current name of our association from Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association to the 'Air Force Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control Association (AFCATCA)." Rafael Quezada seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Ken Reiff reminded those present that the name change will require approval during a Membership Meeting and not be effective until that occurs.

In an email before the meeting, it was noted that the Association is a 501(c)19, Veterans Organization where 75 percent of members must be past or present members of the Armed Forces with at least 97.5 percent being a) present or former members of the U. S. Armed Forces; b) cadets, (including only students in college or university ROTC programs or at Armed Services academies); or c) spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors or lineal descendants of individuals referred to in a) or b). In light of these requirements the Association application will be appropriately modified. The meeting adjourned at 1505.

- **Ed Broestl, Secretary**



# Reports from the board



**Membership director**

**Leslie McCormick**

I am pleased to be your new Membership Director. I have big shoes to fill with the loss of Chief Walt McLain and I'm working hard to get up to speed. Thank you for your patience and assistance.

I encourage each member to reach out to family and friends who are current or former USAF who have served or are serving as Communicators, Data Automation /Information/Cyber Specialists, Air Traffic Controllers, C&E Maintenance/Installation Specialists, Space Operations, and related support skills. Take a few minutes to tell them about our Association and invite them to join! Applications are available in each *Communicator*, on our web site, and from me by calling **417-365-1837** or emailing **afcommatcmembership@gmail.com**

Membership numbers as of 30 Sept 2019 are: Current active membership – **1,117**; Life Members - **1,017**.

I sent 53 renewal reminders by email or postal mail on 1 Oct to the people whose membership expires this year. Renewal is due by 15 Jan 2020.

New Members and Renewals: **Make checks payable to AF Comm & ATC Assn**

Mail applications and checks to Leslie McCormick, 1560 Lake Ranch Rd, Kisse Mills MO 65680-8476  
Dues are \$15 per year, payable in 2-year increments (\$30)

Life Membership varies by age: up to 50 is \$165; 51-60 is \$145; 61-70 is \$115; and 70+ is \$75

Please refer all membership questions to me using above contact info.



**Editor, Print/Online Media**

**Lori Manske**

Cost of the November 2018 *Communicator* (36 pages):  
Printing: \$ 2,157.00  
Mail Prep: \$ 103.44 (1,138)  
Postage: \$ 458.88  
Flat rate: \$ 38.55

**Total \$ 2,757.87**

Cost of the June 2019 *Communicator* (32 pages):  
Printing: \$ 1,668.00  
Mail Prep: \$ 102.49 (1,100)  
Postage: \$ 469.15  
Freight: \$ 38.40

**Total \$ 2,278.04**

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



The *web site* is one of our biggest recruiters of new members, along with efforts of current members.

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

## At a glance...

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

*We appreciate your continued support.*

*Donations are critical to the continued operation of this great organization.*

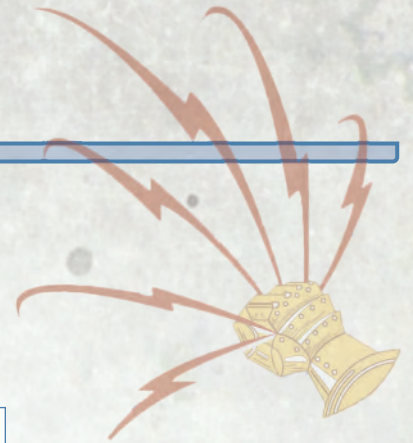
*Thank you for your support.*



**PX/BX Manager**



**Treasurer**



**Bill Cassatt**

**PX/BX Sales Report  
May 2019 - Oct 2019**

**Items Sold**

Hats	4
AACS Lapel Pins	5
Original Patches	3
Challenge Coins	14
Jackets	2
Anniversary coins	5

**Total Sales: \$389**

**Expenses**

Postage	\$64.63
Supplies (mailers)	\$ 4.38
Inventory	
Replenishment (shirts, jackets)	\$418.28

**Total expenses: \$487.29**

**Convention Sales Report**

Hats	3
Original AACS Patch	4
Golf Shirts	12
Challenge Coins	14
AACS lapel pins	7
Jackets	2
AFNIC 75 <sup>th</sup> coins	5

**Total sales: \$794**

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

**Donations: \$145**

**Jim Weber**

**Cash in Banks:**

AFCOMMATC  
**Checking Acct \$16,345.64**

**Certificates of Deposit:**

50-12 \$5,250.98 (matures 7/2/20)  
 50-24 \$10,519.92 (matures 7/2/21)  
 50-36 \$21,341.74 (matures 7/2/21)  
 53-12 \$5,226.81 (matures 8/31/20)  
 54-12 \$5,138.76 (matures 3/15/20)

**CD Totals (5): \$47,478.21**  
**Grand Totals: \$63,823.85**

ENT Federal Credit Union continues to be an excellent choice for this organization. There are no account maintenance fees and transactions are unlimited.

We established a sub-account, separate from our main account, used by convention hosts. It eliminates the need for fee-charging accounts in their local bank.

Donations are a key source of income for the association and reunion support.

I want to thank those who have continued to donate during the 2019 reunion in Omaha, NE. Included in the checking account is the donations of \$1,488.13 I have received this year, not counting the 2019 Convention donations of \$2,606.

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

*Let our membership director or editor 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 Bylaws (on our web site) for more info.*

# From the Chaplain

Ed Broestl



## Into the future!

I trust this title doesn't cause anyone to "flash back" to the mid-80s, "Back to the Future" with Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd. Or, possibly the mid-90s, "Toy Story" with Tim Allen and Tom Hanks: "To infinity and beyond!"

The words of Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary-General of the United Nations, rang out during our recent annual convention, reunion, general membership meeting: **"For all that has happened...Thanks! For all that will occur...Yes!"**

The presentations during the General Membership meeting gave us a glimpse of both current challenges and what's ahead for those who are performing missions we could only have dreamt about. What lies ahead is simultaneously exciting and daunting. Exciting for the challenges. Daunting for the challenges.

However, who among the readers of this article weren't excited about opportunities that each new assignment brought? Then, once we arrived and surveyed the landscape, mission-wise and family-wise, didn't

find it daunting, confusing, or occasionally confounding?

During many a conversation in Omaha there were remembrances of times past with joy and sorrow. The tour of the SAC museum and the Offutt AFB tour had many of each. The absence of Hank Sauer and Walt McLain also brought many of both emotions.

I'm now reminded of the conversation Joshua had with God just prior to Joshua leading the Israelites into the promised land. He was anxious, underestimating his abilities as a leader. In Joshua 1:5b and 6a, we read "...I [God] will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous..." What comforting words for us who were in the shoes of those that now go before us – and – for us in our current roles in the lives we lead no matter our position or age.

May God give each of us the wisdom and abilities needed for the days, weeks, months and years ahead.

Blessings – Ed



## On the cover...



More about Rocky Gannon on page 28.

Lt Col Roland "Rocky" Gannon was born in Palermo NJ, and moved to Ocean City when he was 7 years old. Shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and while he was a junior at Ocean City High School, Rocky enlisted in the Air Force at 17. He immediately entered pilot training. Shortly after his high school class graduated, Rocky became a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot. At age 20 he was flying the B-29 Super Fortress.

Rocky Gannon served in the Air Force for 37 years. He flew 6,000 hours in 34 different aircraft, from bombers to transports, from gliders to fighters. He has 50 military awards and decorations including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, 10 Air Medals, four Meritorious Service Medals and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm. He flew as a combat pilot in World War II, Korea, the Belgian Congo and 387 combat missions in Vietnam. After World War II, he served three years in the occupation of Iwo

Jima and Japan. Fifteen of his 37 years of active duty were served overseas.

As a result of the post-World War II pilot draw down, he became an Air Traffic Controller. Throughout his career, he continued to mature into an Air Traffic Control and Air Space Management expert.

He was presented the Air Force's first (Engraved #1) Master Air Traffic Controller Badge by Maj Gen Rupert Burris, AFCC/CC from 1975 to 1977. He commanded 3 squadrons: 2035th Comm Squadron, Castle AFB, CA, the 1868th Flight Check Squadron, Wiesbaden, Germany, and the 1815th TESPO, Kirtland AFB, NM.

He commanded 6 different Comm Detachments to include two in France and one in Korea.

While in the service he earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree. On Nov 11, 2003, Rocky received his Ocean City High School diploma 59 years after he left OCHS. (See page 28 for Hall of Honor photo of Lt Col Gannon.)



## Colonel's leadership and examples instilled pride, culture and values in airman

The report in the June 2019 issue of the *Communicator* of Colonel Herrelko's passing at age 105 reminded me of my association with this great man. Between 1961 and 1964, fresh out of Tech School, I was assigned as an Air Traffic Controller to the 1955th Communications Squadron at Itazuke AB, Japan. During that time I rode and raced motorcycles and was active in the Kyushu Timing Association (KTA), the base motorcycle club.

In May 1964, just as I was preparing to depart Japan for an assignment in the States, I was informed that, due primarily to my involvement with the KTA and motorcycle safety, I had been selected as the Safest Airman of the Year for the Far East Communications Region, commanded by Colonel Herrelko.

I left Itazuke a few days early for my departure to the States so I could meet with Col Herrelko at his office and be presented with the Safest Airman of the Year award, a new set of Blues. During my meeting with him, Colonel Herrelko related some of his experiences in the 1930s as an enlisted member of the U.S. Army. I was particularly impressed by his stories of what he went through when preparing for inspections when he was at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii.

I had met Colonel Herrelko a few times during his inspection visits to the 1955th Comm Squadron at Itazuke AB. It was Colonel Herrelko's leadership and examples, along with those of my immediate supervisors who had served in World War II and the Korean War, that instilled in me a sense of pride, military culture and values that served me well during my 21-year Air Force career.

- Terry S. Bowman, SMSgt, USAF retired



**Col Frank E. Herrelko, May 1964, at his office at Fuchu AB, Japan, presenting the 1st Place Safest Airman of the Year Award to A1C Terry S. Bowman.**

## A note from Gil



**Gil Kania**

Hi Lori, First of all, I must say you did a good job at editing the *Communicator*. The front cover of the new check plane, C-140A Jet Star, wasn't around in our day. We had the orange and white C-47 AACCS check plane. They'd check our DF (direction finder) site, the tower operators, GCA (ground control approach) personnel, then they'd come out to these places and check the sites and quiz the operators.

I also read about the Autodin on page 24. We radio operators were replaced by that system. That's progress.

I wonder if they still teach Morse Code in those schools. So much for that. All's well with us old folks. Our daughter and son-in-law moved from New Jersey and now live a few blocks from our apartment.

I also see a lot of new faces at the reunions (from the magazine). That's good. I do miss the reunions. I attended about 17 or so reunions. I'll sign off for now and we'll keep in touch. - *Gil & Eileen Kania*

*Gil and Eileen, thank you! We sure do miss you at the reunions. There are so many wonderful people there. Great and lasting friendships are made. And happy 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! Take care! - Lori Manske*

# Building rededicated to Hyde family

## 'We honor the past ... to move forward into the future'

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. – Members of the Air Combat Command Directorate of Cyberspace and Information Dominance, rededicated the Maj Gen John P. Hyde building with his widow, Elizabeth Hyde, during a ceremony May 23, 2019 at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA.

Although Mrs. Hyde was present during the building dedication to her husband in 2003, General Hyde's name was not yet affixed, therefore this was the first time she saw his name on the building.

In 1957, General Hyde was commissioned into the Air Force and held many positions throughout the next 31 years of service, including Tactical Communications Area commander at Langley AFB. He was known as a communications pioneer, leading Airmen and establishing policies that helped create the foundation for today's ACC command and control systems.

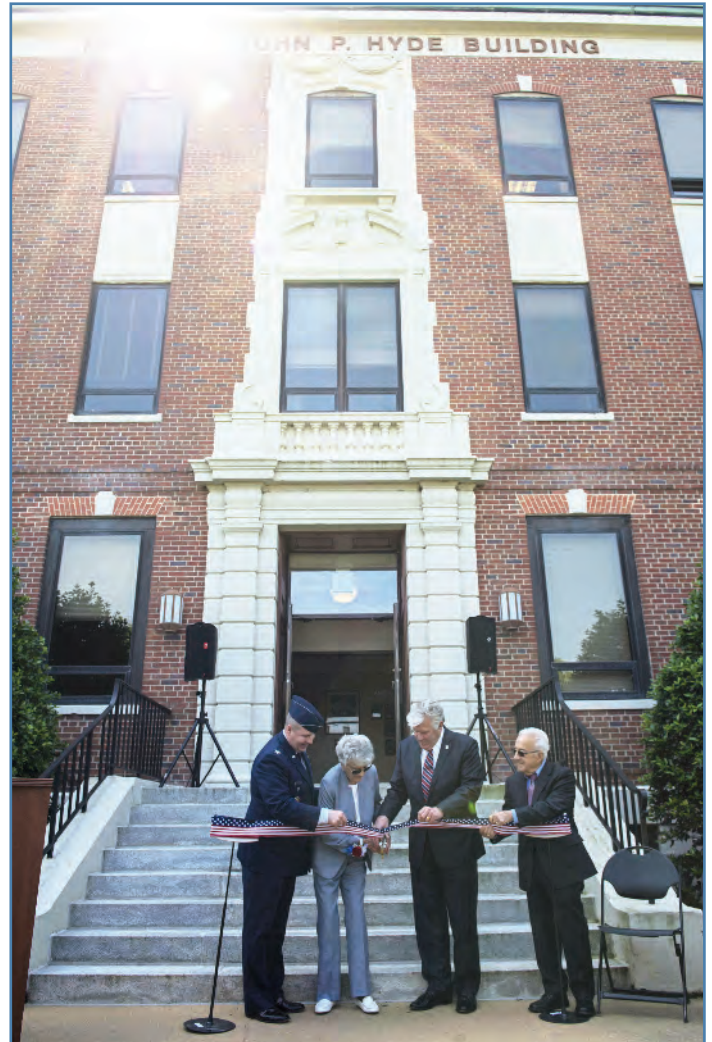
Now 16 years later, Col (now Brig Gen) Chad Raduege, ACC A6 director, decided to rededicate the building back to the Hyde family. "We honor the past in order to move forward into the future," said Raduege. "The foundation that we build upon today is comprised of legendary leaders that have gone before us." Seven former ACC Directors of Communication attended to celebrate Gen Hyde's legacy.

With close family ties to the Hyde family, Raduege recalled several memories of playing in the A6 office he now holds. Raduege's father, retired Lt. Gen. Harry Raduege, was General Hyde's executive officer. The senior enlisted advisor to General Hyde, retired CMSgt Anthony Coppa, also shared memories about his time serving alongside the major general.

The Maj Gen John P. Hyde building rededication came just before Memorial Day, in time for service members and their families to remember all those who served before them and the sacrifices made.

**Col Chad Raduege talks about Elizabeth Hyde, General Hyde's widow (left), at the rededication ceremony. This was the first time Mrs Hyde saw her husband's name on the building.**

*(U.S. Air Force photos by SSgt. Kaylee Dubois)*



**Col (now Brig Gen) Chad Raduege, ACC Director of Cyberspace and Information Dominance, helps Mrs Elizabeth Hyde, retired Lt Gen Harry Raduege, and retired CMSgt Anthony Coppa, cut the ribbon at the Hyde building rededication ceremony. The building was dedicated to Maj Gen Hyde in 2003 for his service to the nation.**



**Col Chad Raduege, retired Lt Gen Harry Raduege (General Hyde's executive officer), and retired CMSgt Anthony Coppa (General Hyde's senior enlisted advisor) attend the rededication ceremony.**

# Command of AFNIC changes hands at Scott AFB

SCOTT AFB, IL – Col Marc L. Packler assumed command of the Air Force Network Integration Center (AFNIC) from Col Douglas S. Dudley, June 13, in a ceremony officiated by Col (now Brig Gen) Chad D. Raduege, Director of Cyberspace and Information Dominance, Headquarters Air Combat Command.

Colonel Packler joins AFNIC from Scott AF, where he served as the 375th Communications Group Commander. During his 23 years of service, he has been a career cyber officer who has served in a variety of operational and staff assignments, including command of the 2nd Communications Squadron at Barksdale AFB, LA.

During the ceremony, Colonel Raduege highlighted the long and distinguished history of AFNIC, recounting the 75-year history since its inception as the Army Airways Communications Service.

After the symbolic passing of the guidon, Colonel Packler addressed the men and women of AFNIC, assuring them of his commitment to its people and the continued success of the organization.

AFNIC serves as the Air Force cyberspace technical center of excellence for enterprise engineering and integration. In collaboration with Headquarters ACC, 24th Air Force and the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, AFNIC supports the nation's warfighters by providing data-driven, decision-quality information and technical expertise required to design, develop and deploy air, space and cyberspace systems and capabilities into/onto the Air Force network and shape the AF provisioned portion of the Joint Information Environment.



**Col (now Brig Gen) Chad Raduege, ACC Director of Cyberspace and Information Dominance, presents the AFNIC guidon to Col Marc L. Packler.**

*(Editor's note: Stay tuned. As you know, AFNIC's lineage dates back to 1938 when the Army Airways Communications System was organized. Transformation is upon us again. On Nov 7, 2019, at a redesignation ceremony at Scott AFB, AFNIC becomes the Air Force's Cyberspace Capabilities Center (CCC). Changes to AFNIC's name and mission will be highlighted in the June 2020 edition of the Communicator.)*

## Missed Roll Call

**Roland McNulty, MSgt retired  
(Sept 30, 2018)**  
**Robert L. Overstreet (Oct 11, 2018)**  
**Joseph L. Diaz Jr., CMSgt retired  
(Jan 25, 2019)**  
**Richard P. "Hank" Sauer, CMSgt retired  
(Aug 12, 2019)**  
**Terry Wayne Townsend (Aug 15, 2019)**  
**Walter D. McLain, CMSgt retired  
(Aug 16, 2019)**  
**Michael Anthony Winney (Aug 17, 2019)**  
**Rupert D. Gamble, CWO-4 (July 30, 2019)**



# Association says goodbye to 2 legends... retired Chiefs Hank Sauer & Walt McLain



**CMSgt (retired) Richard P. "Hank" Sauer**      **CMSgt (retired) Walt D. McLain**

**CMSgt Richard P. "Hank" Sauer** passed away on August 12, 2019.

He entered the Air Force in 1948, after serving 13 months in the Navy Reserve. He completed the Air Force Administrative Course and a crash course for cryptographic operators, before being assigned to Germany in support of the Berlin Airlift. He was assigned to the 1946th AACS Squadron, Tempelhof Airport, Germany; 1812th AACS Group, Munich Reims Airport, Germany; and the 1807th AACS Wing, Wiesbaden, Germany. In 1952, he was assigned to the Air Force Cryptographic School at Scott AFB, IL, as the technical advisor, and in 1954, Chief Sauer went to the 1809th AACS Group, Nagoya, Japan, where he performed duties as the NCO for Cryptographic Operations, Weather Systems, Plans and Programs and War Plans.

In 1957 he was transferred to AACS headquarters at Andrews AFB, MD, as NCOIC of the War Plans Division and was in the advance party setting up the Headquarters functions for the move to Scott AFB in 1958. He served in a variety of communications positions and commands during his career.

He was assigned to the Air Attaché Office in the American Embassy, London, England; HQ European Communications Area, Wiesbaden, Germany; and AFCS headquarters at Richards-Gebaur AFB, MO.

He also served with the HQ Aviation Engineer Force, Wolters AFB, TX; 414th Fighter Group, Oxnard AFB, CA; 2163rd Comm Squadron, RAF Station Wethers-

field, England; 18th Comm Squadron, Westover AFB, MA; the 1876th Comm Sq, Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam; and the 2147th Comm Sq, RAF Mildenhall, England.

Before his retirement in 1975, Chief Sauer was assigned to the Command, Control and Communications Directorate, Air Force headquarters. After retiring from the Air Force, he joined the U.S. Energy Research & Development Agency, which later became the U.S. Department of Energy, in the Oak Ridge Operations Office, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. There, he rose to be the chief of computing and telecommunications. He left DOE in 1987 and was the European Manager for the contractor that developed and implemented the automated Wing Command & Control System for the Tactical Fighter Wings in USAFE. He also served as vice president for a small Systems/Information Company dedicated to the DOE national weapons complex.

He was the first enlisted executive director of the AACS Alumni Association, and he served as the editor/publisher of the Communicator, as well as manager of the Web Site for many years.

Chief Sauer was the first enlisted inductee into the Air Force Comm and Info Hall of Fame, Class of 2001.

Our executive director summed up many of the heartfelt comments about Hank. "Although Hank achieved the rank of Chief Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force, he earned the recognition of legend and exalted friend in our hearts and minds. A magnificent Airman and leader who was a blessing to everyone who met him."



**"IT IS FOOLISH AND WRONG TO MOURN THE MEN WHO DIED. RATHER WE SHOULD THANK GOD THAT SUCH MEN LIVED."**

**— GEORGE S. PATTON, JR.**

**CMSgt Walt McLain** passed from this world on August 16, 2019, due to complications after surgery.

Walt served his country in the Air Force with great pride and honor from 1962 to 1991. He was a trail blazer, leader and educator. He was known for his no-nonsense approach and his quick wit.

This one-of-a-kind air traffic controller is credited with six certified aircraft saves -- two in combat situations. During Chief McLain's 21 years as a controller, senior controller, watch supervisor, trainer and chief controller, he earned master certifications in his field, upgraded training programs for the Air Force, received outstanding ratings from inspectors, resolved critical airspace issues and earned numerous awards for his leadership skills. He was the first air traffic controller to serve as an AFCC Division and Command Senior Enlisted Advisor.

He was also the first Air Traffic Controller to serve as Commandant of the AFCC NCO Professional Military Education Center. While there he directed the development of the first suicide prevention program to be used in NCO PME. His program was credited with saving five lives in the first year and it became the initial prototype for all Air Force NCO PME schools.

He became a special assistant to then Military Airlift Command's air traffic services director and played a key role in acquiring GPS for air traffic control support. He also played a key role in the site selection for the joint-use air traffic control facilities at Scott AFB.

The chief was inducted into the Air Force Communications and Information Hall of Fame, Class of 2008, for his many achievements and contributions.

He received the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, and the Airman of the Year ribbon, just to name a few.

During his retirement years he enjoyed time with his family and sitting on his back porch listening to a ball game, race, or to old-time radio. He enjoyed nature and taking pictures of the seasonal changes.

Walt was a friend and mentor to many through the years. While at King Salmon, Alaska, troops referred to him as "No Slack MAC".

In the words of our executive director, Harry Raduege, "Chief Walt was a Chief's Chief. His positive, can-do attitude always produced top results on-time. We will miss hearing 'Rocky Top' being played at the beginning of each of his presentations during our annual conventions." Rest in peace, Walt!



**Hank**



**Walt**



Perforated tapes for transmission hang on the left side of the teletype room as members of the 19th Army Airways Communications System Squadron use model 30 and 36 teletypes to send communications.



## *Momentous Beginnings:* Communications Encircle the Globe

**By Capt JD Helm**  
**Air Force Network Integration Center**  
**Scott AFB, IL**

The Air Force Network Integration Center celebrated 75 years being the leader in military communications. During 2018. It has a long history starting with the Army Airways Communications System and leading up to today.

The AACS began as a system of Airmen and technology performing a combination of communications and air traffic control functions. In January 1943, the War Department established a special communications board headed by Col Ivan L. Farman.

Farman's team moved AACS from a peacetime system into large world war operations and gave the AACS a wartime mission of using radio to watch aircraft in flight, signaling the beginning of global communications.

Before this, communication was happening on the regional scale. Communications would leap frog from relay point to relay point.

For example, a radio operator in Miami would send a message to Puerto Rico, relayed to British Guiana, relayed again to Brazil, and once more transmitted through Ascension Island to end up in the Gold Coast. A plane would have to navigate across these routes using each relay point to travel across the ocean. There was no internet, no World Wide Web and no global communications.

World War II, however, was being fought on a global scale.

Feb 28, 1943, only two months before the AACS Wing activated, the AACS station in Kunming,

China, contacted their sister station in Brisbane, Australia. This seemingly small act completed a communication chain that encircled the globe. The United States and its Allies now had the ability to relay messages to ground stations and aircraft around the globe, marking the beginning of a connected global communications network, the foundation of today's Air Force capability of global reach.

October 1943, the North Atlantic region of the AACS network began upgrading to radio-teletype systems. At the time, Morse code was the standard for long distance communications, where a trained operator could tap out five words per minute. The operator would have to master the code, and translate the verbal, written or perhaps typed message into Morse code to be sent out manually via the iconic dots and dashes.

The advancement of the radio-teletype made things easier and faster. The operator simply typed the message into a teletype, similar to a typewriter, which would print out the message on paper tape. The tape was then fed into an automatic head that encoded and transmitted via radio out to the recipient radio-teletype which decodes and delivers a clear text message, not unlike today's e-mail and fax machines.

In the years following, AACS continued to spread across the globe, putting up stations throughout Europe, Africa and the Pacific Islands. Aircraft would be safely guided through poor weather, or even enemy fire. AACS Airmen fought, and some died defending these stations as World War II continued. Where the soldiers went, so followed AACS. Only 19 days after the 10th US

Army stormed the Okinawa beaches, AACS had a radio installation operational there.

Gen Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Southwest Pacific Area, was authorized to arrange the end of the war, Aug 15, 1945, and used the AACS Manila station to transmit the first direct communication between the Allies and the Japanese government.

Nine days later, AACS members led by Col Gordon Blake, Army Airways Communications System commander, were among the first Americans to reach the main islands of Japan. Colonel Blake brought with him another first: the first airborne radio station in Air Force history. These Airmen safely guided Allied occupation troops to the island.

With the war over, the military began to draw down its massive wartime numbers. This communications beginning almost came to an early end. In 1946, AACS was renamed the Airways Communication Service. The restructure also meant losing over 40,000 military personnel to only having 8,635 members to operate 249 stations around the globe.

Sept 11, 1946, it was renamed to the Airways and Air Communications Service, going back to the original AACS acronym. Shortly following this, many calls were made to abolish the AACS, but the creation of the US Air Force gave the AACS a new home.

During this tumultuous time, the AACS continued to shine. AACS Airmen guided 276,926 airlift flights carrying over 2.3 million tons of relief supplies as part of the Berlin Airlift. They expanded the radio-teletype network worldwide, providing point-to-point weather data. Soon, AACS would be instrumental during the Korean War.

Seventy-five years later, in the current incarnation of AACS, parts of the mission have changed and the members are fewer. Even with less manpower, they still provide essential communication capabilities to the warfighter. AFNIC continues where AACS started: bringing global communication to U.S. and allied military members in need anywhere, anytime across the globe.



Col Gordon Blake (above) stops in front of base operations at Atsugi Airport, Japan, in the Army Airways Communications Squadron jeep, August 1945.



Members of the Army Airways Communication System Detachment 60 gather in Manila, Philippines, April 1954 (above right).



At right, Maj Robert Gleason (left) and Maj Mandle work at the Army Airways Communication System headquarters in Kunming, China, in the mid 1940s. (Courtesy photos)



2019  
AFCOMMATC -  
Sponsored  
Annual Awards



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

**MSgt Timothy J. Carlsness Jr.**  
**Tower Chief Controller, 319th**  
**Operations Support Sq**  
**Grand Forks AFB, ND**



MSgt Timothy J. Carlsness, Jr. is the Tower Chief Controller with the 319th Operations Support Squadron at Grand Forks AFB, ND. Among his many accomplishments, Sergeant Carlsness facilitated terminal information service upgrades and procured vital equipment. He also established a training program and trained 25

personnel on weather display capabilities saving the wing \$60K.

While deployed he managed a 6-member air traffic control (ATC) liaison team who provided 24/7 combat flight-safety service enabling 901 coalition aircraft movements and on-time target missions. Noticing a \$25M airfield project would develop into limiting factors for the RQ-4, Global Hawk, unmanned aircraft he developed and coordinated unique towing operations with 4 agencies, eliminating delays and impacts leading to 242 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance sorties. His experience led to him recognizing deficiencies in the Balad AB Airfield Operations Flight and the support strategy for Iraqi controllers, he designed and developed an 18-month host-nation transition plan which prepared the Iraqi Air Force for Balad AB control.

He orchestrated 26 key-leader meetings and 23 Central Command building evaluations to ensure a smooth transition. His actions resulted in the award of Senior NCO and Team of the Month. He personally coordinated a short-notice airfield opening in the Caribbean which facilitated two C-17s and their 76,000 pounds of goods to assist in the relief effort for 1.6M victims of Hurricane Maria. These actions and many more make us proud to recognize this NCO.

*(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.*



**Maj Gen Gerald L. Prather  
Cyber Systems Senior NCO  
of the Year**

**SMSgt Edward Daly  
Superintendent, Comm Division  
AF Installation and Support  
Center Support Center Det 4  
Ramstein AB, Germany**



SMSgt Edward S. Daly is the Superintendent of the Communications Division at Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Detachment 4, supporting United States Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa, at Ramstein AB, Germany.

He was also selected as the 2018 Information Dominance Outstanding Cyberspace Support Senior NCO of the Year.

Sergeant Daly's team facilitated moving rescue squadrons from the United Kingdom to Italy, ensuring strategic combat search and rescue capabilities for the North Africa area of responsibility. Additionally, while deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, his team expedited the repair of a critical Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar system, hours before six enemy mortars were fired upon the base and blasted out of the sky to protect 10,000 of the base's inhabitants.

Furthermore, he forward deployed four teams to Kandahar Air Base to establish short-notice command, control, and communications capabilities to support a new mission of KC-135 refueling aircraft. His team ultimately identified and secured \$5 million worth of communications equipment needed to realign United States Central Command's refueling operations, which reduced jet fuel costs by \$4.2 million dollars per month.

Sergeant Daly's distinguished performance and dedication warrants his selection as this year's AFCOMMATC General Prather Award Winner.

*(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.)*

**Lt Gen Harry Raduege  
Cyber Systems NCO of the Year**

**TSgt Maurice M. Bracey  
Mission Defense Team, NCOIC,  
27<sup>th</sup> Special Operations  
Communications Squadron  
Cannon AFB, NM**



TSgt Maurice M. Bracey is a Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Mission Defense Team with the 27th Special Operations Communication Squadron at Cannon AFB, NM.

TSgt Bracey led the Mission Defense and Vulnerability Management Teams for the Air Force Special Operations Command at Cannon AFB.

He was selected as the 2018 Information Dominance Outstanding Cyber Systems Operations NCO of the Year. Sergeant Bracey and his team conducted cyber defense operations upon the 32.1M installation network to ensure its integrity and stability. Their actions earned them an Air Force best rating out of 118 bases. Sergeant Bracey also orchestrated the application of the Defense Information Systems Agency, security technical implementation guides against 109 base networked servers. The successful execution of the task helped his squadron earn the USAF AFCEA IT award. Finally, Sergeant Bracey contributed to one of the Air Force's most lethal wings by leading the base's first ever Mission Defense Team to perform a security evaluation upon its RPA operations center. His support contributed to their weapons systems eliminating 1,300 high value targets. His team also successfully identified and remediated 30 unknown network devices, posing possible security risk against base networks. Their proactive actions helped ensure network system stability, which allowed the delivery of 336 precision strikes.

*(General 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 Executive Director.)*



# SCENES FROM OMAHA



## *2019 AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Convention*





# *Making forever friends*

*Hospitality Room...this is where great conversations take place, stories abound, and lasting friendships are made.*



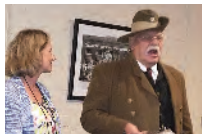
*Photos by Janet Moreiko-Gagen, Stan Phillips, and Lori Manske*

# Hospitality Room (contd)



# Tours and events

- Prayer Brunch
- SAC Museum Tour
- Flight Checkers Dinner
- Gen Farman Golf Tournament
- Offutt AFB Tour
- All Hands Social (music/dancing)
- Breakfast/Annual Business Meeting
- Joint AFCOMMATC/ Flight Checkers Annual Banquet



## Prayer Brunch



**Topic:**  
“...I’ll never leave or forsake you. Be strong and courageous.”

*Led by Ed and Diane Broestl*



# SAC Museum Tour



# Flight checkers' dinner features special guests plus history lesson



**President Theodore (NOT Teddy) Roosevelt**

**By Roger Bacchieri**

Following a recommendation from our 2017 reunion in Biloxi, Flight Checkers joined with the Comm and ATC Association for the joint reunion gathering this year in Omaha.

While enjoying the regular scheduled tours and activities of the Comm/ATC convention, Flight Checkers also held their own membership business meeting and dinner on Thursday.

Outgoing president, Mike Ball, opened the morning meeting with routine old business. Then we acknowledged an honor roll of crew members who had completed their last flight since 2017.

New business included election of the new president, Lawrence "Rock" Verrochi, who served as the last squadron commander of the 1467th

FCS (MAC) [old 1866th FCS (AFCC)] at Scott, and added three new directors.

Rock led discussion of plans including to survey the members for a location for our 2021 gathering.

There was general agreement that annual reunions might be too frequent, but many of those present anticipated joining Comm/ATC again in alternate years when the location is of common interest.

Our Thursday dinner was held at the Upstream Brewing Company in Omaha's Old Market area as arranged by Steve and Susie Gaertner.

We were especially honored to have newly inducted into the AF Cyberspace Operations and Support Hall of Fame Lt Col "Rocky" Gannon and family join us for dinner. A video of his 37-year AF career played prior to our buffet.

Rocky was a 17-year-old aviation cadet and B-17 pilot before becoming a Flight Checker and an air traffic controller, and was presented the very first (and engraved #1) Master ATC badge by the AFCC/CC.

(Video available on AFC4A web site: <https://www.afc4a.org/default.html>)

Dinner also included a somewhat unusual guest speaker. President Theodore (NOT Teddy) Roosevelt, aka Nebraska historian Darrel Draper, provided a dramatic enactment of his life from childhood, through college, ranching in the Dakotas, his Rough Riders' charge, his political career from Governor of New York to the vice presidency and two terms as president, and finally his run for a third presidential term. Everyone

agreed that his presentation was just "BULLY"!

Several references were made to his presentation by speakers both at the Saturday morning business meeting and the evening banquet. An interesting history lesson, indeed!

The Saturday morning breakfast and annual business meeting included a review of Flight Inspection history and current status presented by Mike Ball, who flew the mission in Southeast Asia from Clark AB, Philippines, at AFCS Headquarters at Richards-Gebaur AFB in the '70s and also served as 1866th Facility Checking Squadron commander when the mission was transferred to MAC in the late '80s.

Most former AFCC folks recall the C-140 and T-39 flight check camouflaged aircraft, but may not have realized that AACs/AFCS/AFCC was involved with flight check for 50 years and flew a variety of aircraft types. Currently, flight check aircraft belong to the FAA. The aircraft routinely are flown by a mixture of FAA, active duty AF crews assigned to Det 1 of the 375th Airlift Wing Operations Group, and also an AFRES detachment, all assigned to the FAA in Oklahoma City.

When required for combat or contingency operations, such as current locations in Iraq or Afghanistan, the Air Force crews fly the missions.

The Flight Checkers enjoyed sharing activities with Comm/ATC in Omaha and look forward to similar opportunities in the future.



# *Golf Tournament*

Bob Frye – Low gross  
Steve Manske – Low net



# *Offutt AFB tour*



# *All Hands Social, music by Greg Spevak Orchestra and The Tri-Tones*







# All Hands Social

# Saturday Business Meeting

## Minutes of the General Membership Meeting Sept 28, 2019, at Ramada Plaza, Omaha, NE

The meeting was called to order by Executive Director, **Harry Raduege**, at 0830. He welcomed members of both our association and those of the Air Force Flight Check Association, along with recognizing first-time attendees. His opening remarks noted, with sadness, the passing of Chiefs Hank Sauer and Walt McLain, along with the vitality of our two organizations meeting together for camaraderie and sharing the joy of mutual times past.

He also introduced the cyber and flight checking presentations at the end of the formal meeting. Closing the Seams for Multi-Domain Operations, a cyber presentation by **Brig Gen Chad Raduege** and **CMSgt Jereme Melton (see page 31)**; and USAF Flight Inspection history and status presentation by **Michael Ball**.

The membership was informed that reports from the Secretary, Membership Director, BX/PX Manager, and Treasurer were published in the previous editions of the *Communicator*.

The election of Executive Director, Harry Raduege, and Secretary, Ed Broestl, was accomplished by acclamation.

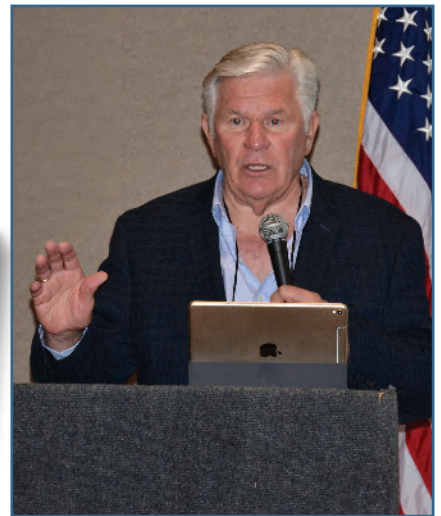
The results of the General Farman Golf Tournament were announced by Bill Bethea: Low gross by Bob Frye and Low net by Steve Manske.

Colorado Springs, CO, will be the location of the 2020 Convention. There will be a variety of activities associated with the convention to include the National Museum of World War II Aviation and the Leadership Development facilities at the Air Force Academy.

The meeting adjourned at 0915 followed by Missed Roll Call honoring members who passed since our last meeting;

Respectfully submitted,

**Ed Broestl, Secretary**



**Harry Raduege**



**Brig Gen Chad Raduege**



**Brig Gen Chad Raduege and CMSgt Jereme Melton, ACC headquarters A6.**



**The Missed Roll Call presentation honored members who passed in the last year.**



**Mike Ball briefs members on USAF Flight Inspection history and status.**



# Annual Banquet

Master of Ceremonies: Rafael Quezada

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation by Chaplain Ed Broestl

Director Harry Raduege introduced special guests, Hall of Fame members, and first-time attendees

POW/MIA ceremony by Ray French and Bill Bethea and Ed Broestl

Guest speaker: Maj Gen John Maluda, USAF Retired



Rafael Quezada



Honor Guard from Offutt AFB



Ed Broestl



Harry Raduege



John Maluda

Guest speaker retired Maj Gen John Maluda

At the time of his retirement from the Air Force in 2009, General Maluda was Director of Cyberspace Transformation and Strategy, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, and Chief Information Officer. He is on the Board of Directors of Telos Corporation.



Ray French & Bill Bethea



Ed Broestl



POW/MIA table

Table set for Hank Sauer and Walt McLain



# HONOREES

## Maj Gen Van Doubleday ATC Enlisted Manager of the Year, 2019



Retired Lt Col Roland “Rocky” Gannon, right, presents award to SMSgt Timothy J. Carlsness Jr., on behalf of Gen Doubleday.

**Association-sponsored awards are on pages 16-17. Two of the honorees could not attend the banquet.**

## CMSgt Hank Sauer Lifetime Achievement Award



**Jim Weber, center, accepts the Life Achievement Award for his continued dedication and support to the Association. In addition to his lengthy military/civilian service to the Air Force, Jim has carefully managed the funds of our organization for an extended period. Another of his duties is to monitor our annual budget which includes both revenue and expenditures. Jim and Fran have taken on the responsibility of hosting annual conventions—the first in Colorado Springs and in Omaha.**

**28 November 2019**

## Hall of Honor Class of 2019



**Lt Col Roland “Rocky” Gannon** served in the Air Force for 37 years beginning at age 17 as an Aviation Cadet, earned his wings as a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot, and as a result of the post-World War II pilot draw-down, he became an air traffic controller. He excelled in ATC and airspace management serving in a variety of assignments. His ATC expertise garnered him the honor of having Maj Gen Rupert Burris, the AFCC/CC, present him the very first AF Master ATC Badge. His badge is actually engraved #1.

He commanded 3 squadrons and 6 Communications Detachments, including one in France and another in Korea. Since his retirement he has remained active as an ATC airspace management consultant and also served as the Executive Director of the Florence, SC Regional Airport. He was awarded the Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Eagle award, recognized as South Carolina Aviator of the Year, and inducted into the South Carolina Aviation Hall of Fame. At the ripe age of 94 he was the senior ATC controller present at the convention.



**Col Phillip K. Heacock** was commissioned a second lieutenant through the ROTC Program at the University of Illinois in February 1961. His first duty assignment was as a comm operations officer in command and control systems in the Strategic Air Command. Almost upon his arrival, his SAC Wing became involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis and he began flying Nuclear Airborne Alert in their B-52s. Through a series of circumstances Lt Heacock was left with complete responsibility for the Division and a short window to make critical decisions about the success of the Wing.

Follow-on assignments included SAC, TAC, the Alaskan Command and the AF Space Command. His ability to handle a variety of missions was recognized by senior staff in these commands as part of an elite group of communicators. He commanded a Squadron, a Group, and a Division, each earning the AF Outstanding Unit Award during his tenure.

Colonel Heacock has been active at the National Museum of World War II Aviation in Colorado Springs, CO. His work led to the museum obtaining 24 flying WWII airplanes and garnered an official “National” designation from the U.S. Congress in December 2017.

# Annual Banquet



**CMSgt George W. Hoyt** had a pre-eminent role in ensuring critical support to combat operations and mission success from his early days as a "2-striper" in Korea (1954-55) to his final tour as a Chief at HQ Strategic Air Command (1973-79).

Within 3 months of his second duty assignment, A2C Hoyt was named NCOIC, Teletype Maintenance at the 1973rd CS, Taegu, Korea, filling a MSgt position. He was cited for outstanding accomplishments even though he was "too green" to oversee a major work center.

Later in his career, after cross training into computer maintenance, Hoyt found himself as Wing Retention NCO for 17th Bomb Wing (Wright-Patterson AFB, OH). Due to his efforts, within a year, 17th BW went from dead last (40th place) to first place in first term airman retention. After his AF career, as Proposal Manager, then Director International Marketing, Interstate Electronics Corp, Hoyt led the way in introducing militarized plasma and liquid crystal display terminals into military equipment. He oversaw the installation of this technology onto the SAC Airborne Command Post and the National Emergency Airborne Command Post.

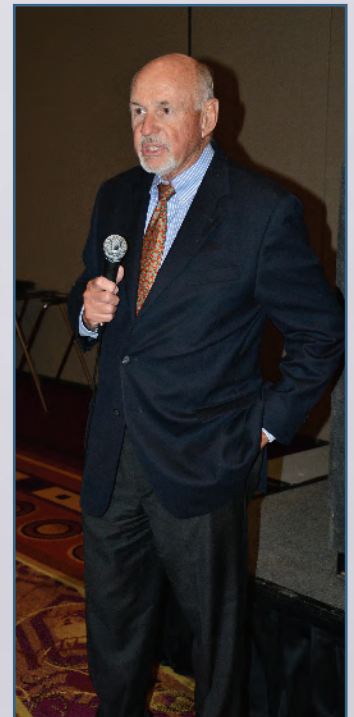
**Lori Manske** started her federal career as a clerk-typist at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in 1970. Later she served with the 1918th Comm Squadron at Scott AFB, IL, and Military Airlift Command Public Affairs.

In 1981 she became a staff writer for the *intercom* newspaper at AFCC and eventually editor. As editor, the *intercom* placed first in the Air Force Media Contest Newspaper Awards in 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1990, and 1991. In 1986, Lori also received the Public Affairs Officer Award from the Aviation and Space Writers Association. She retired in 2006 as AFCA chief of public affairs.

Her other awards include Meritorious Civilian Service; AFCC Excellence Award for Outstanding Civilian Achievement; Air Force Association Citation of Honor and Special Act or Service Award. Her contributions to the Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association are immeasurable. She manages our first-class web site and is the editor of our magazine, *Communicator*.



# Annual Banquet



***Plan to attend  
next year!***

**Join us for the 2020  
convention in  
Colorado Springs.  
Dates to be  
announced.**



# Closing the Seams for Multi-Domain Operations – a cyber presentation by Brig Gen Chad Raduege and CMSgt Jereme Melton

Brig Gen Chad Raduege, headquarters Air Combat Command, Director of Cyberspace and Information Dominance (A6), and CMSgt Jereme Melton, Chief Enlisted Manager for ACC/A6 and Command 3D1XX Functional Manager, briefed our convention audience about a culture shift and change in mindset regarding Air Force cybersecurity.

General Raduege and Chief Melton utilized a tag team approach when addressing our audience, resulting in a lot of questions and an interactive discussion. Our audience shared valuable insight, history, and their collective wisdom.

As ACC is now the lead command for the Air Force's cyber mission, they are deploying specialized Mission Defense Teams (MDTs) to the tactical edge of critical Air Force weapon system platforms such as F-22s, F-35s, air operation centers (AOC), and even some intelligence gathering capabilities, just to name a few.

MDTs will provide inherent cyber risk assessment to each weapon system or mission operation, providing mitigation capabilities and/or coordination efforts to obtain the commander's required level of mission assurance for their assigned weapon system. Gen Raduege said, "The idea with the mission defense teams is to apply a persistent cybersecurity presence with the weapon systems, and get ahead of cyber threats before they can seriously impact our mission. These teams will work closely with weapon system operators and intelligence leaders to form an inherent and specialized cybersecurity posture." Mission success has proven highly dependent on the innovation, out-of-the-box thinking and determination of the airmen dedicated to it.

ACC is now formalizing the MDT program and its role across the force. This means determining priorities and the actual need for MDTs across the service and developing a concept of operations, as well as defining how the training pipeline looks, how the teams will be employed, and scoping appropriate crew sizes. To form the MDTs, ACC will take airmen familiar with the specific missions, train them with the proper skills, and then provide them the autonomy to solve their own unique problems and take action to mitigate the vulnerabilities. The MDTs will begin by conducting functional mission analysis and then interact with weapon system operators to figure out the most beneficial application of cyber protection actions. They've also begun building



rapport with those same operators to figure out how to take intelligence derived threats and vulnerabilities and use them to drive appropriate cyber protection actions for their missions. The final piece is codifying how to bring all these components together into some sort of central hub, where we understand all cyber threats against our weapons systems, the general said.

MDTs are just one example of some big strategic alignments and initiatives across our Air Force. There is a key enabling concept – known as the Cyber Squadron Initiative – to move communications squadrons away from information technology services toward a more focused mission set geared toward addressing the cyberspace vulnerability aspects of their wing's operational mission.

The designation of ACC as the cyber functional lead (CFL) for the Air Force was a mere stepping stone to ultimately integrate the 24th Air Force, which specializes in cyber operations, with the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities of the 25th Air Force. These two numbered air forces recently combined to become 16th Air Force, headquartered in San Antonio, designed to focus on Information Warfare.

16th AF will remain aligned to ACC. "These moves signify the Air Force's emphasis on putting cybersecurity into everyday operations and foot stomps the importance of effective command and control to derive synergy across both communities," said General Raduege.

General Raduege and Chief Melton closed by emphasizing that the AF has moved away from an approach where we say we're going to try to protect the entire Air Force Network, all the different points and places where we have entry points, and all the people who are interacting with the network. "Our Air Force is moving away from that model because it's just too big and too daunting. Instead, we're going to focus on our most important warfighting components, our weapon systems," they said.

"We have pockets of excellence driving change across our Air Force," the general said. "But most importantly, we have unbelievably smart airmen who have adjusted easily and really dove at this new mission set. They are rapidly integrating with and becoming part of our operational community." Exciting times ahead.

## Hall of Honor

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CMSgt Walt McLain

### Class of 2019

James Weber



**Air Force Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association**

**Membership Application**

MAIL TO: Ms. Leslie McCormick, 1560 Lake Ranch Rd, Kisse Mills MO 65680-8476

**Types of Membership**

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

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

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

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Life Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Regular \_\_\_\_\_  
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Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make check payable to "AF Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association")

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Year of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Dates Served \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. 1950-54, etc.) Career Field \_\_\_\_\_

Wartime Era:  WWII (Dec 7, 1941-Dec 31, 1946)  Korea (Jun 27, 1950-Jan 31, 1955)

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

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

Do you wish to have a copy of the Communicator mailed to you (it is available on the web):  
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*If you have any questions, contact Leslie McCormick at (417) 365-1837*



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



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Quantity	Description	Cost
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	S__ M__ L__ XL__ \$36 2XL__ \$38	
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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 Air National Guard and Reserve, veterans, active duty, civilian and retired) in communications, data automation, cyber, engineering and installation, air traffic control and related support units.

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

We changed our name because the Airways and Air Communications Service (AACCS) 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 AACCS, 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, Cyber Systems Senior NCO and Cyber Systems NCO of the Year.**

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

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