NOVEMBER 11TH
VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
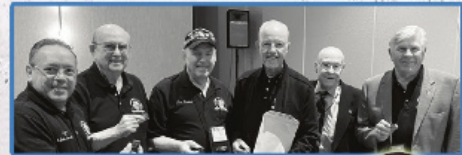
*Thank you
to all of our veterans!*

DID YOU KNOW?

Order of the Sword is an ancient ceremony rich in tradition. The ceremony is conducted by NCOs to honor leaders who have made significant contributions to the enlisted corps.

The sword--a symbol of truth, justice, and power rightfully used--served as a token for all to see and know that here was a leader among leaders. That ceremony was revived among the enlisted corps of the Air Force as the Order of the Sword.

The enlisted corps of Air Force Communications Service/Air Force Communications Command inducted seven commanders into the Order. Their names and the date of induction follow.

Inductees	Date of Induction
Maj Gen Rupert H. Burris	19 Jul 1978
Maj Gen Robert E. Sadler	12 Apr 1980
Maj Gen (later Gen) Robert T. Herres	27 Aug 1983
Maj Gen Gerald L. Prather	17 Oct 1986
Maj Gen Paul R. Stoney	25 Sept 1990
Lt Gen Robert H. Ludwig	28 Sept 1991
Maj Gen (later Lt Gen) John S. Fairfield	11 May 1993

Maj Gen Paul Stoney, above left, with CMSgt Walt McLain. General Stoney had just been presented the Order of the Sword. Chief McLain was AFCC Senior Enlisted Advisor from June 1987 to Nov 1990. The sword (on left) is encased and located in the command section of the Cyberspace Capabilities Center. (Photos courtesy of Daniel Williams, CCC historian)

1977 – 2008
AACS Alumni Association
2009 - 2020
AF Communicators & Air Traffic Controllers Association
2020 -
AF Cyberspace & Air Traffic Control Association

Our Facebook site is at
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1949469148519504/
View and sign up!
Air Force Cyberspace & Air Traffic Control Association (AFCATCA)

First Master ATC Badge

On Oct 2,1975, at Richards-Gebaur AFB, MO, Maj Gen Richard Burris, left, pins the first Master ATC Badge on Roland "Rocky" Gannon. Gannon received the first badge because, at that point he had the most time served as an active duty Air Force Air Traffic Controller. He had in 1975 6 1/2 years as an enlisted Air Traffic Controller and 23 years as an Air Traffic Control officer. General Burris became Air Force Communications Service vice commander on July 1, 1975, and commander on Aug 25, 1975.

AF Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control Association

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

Our Board of Directors

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Rafael Quezada

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Tom Blackburn, Committee Chair
Bobby Garcia, Member
Jon Goodman, Member
Jereme Melton, Member

Recruit! Our future depends on you!

Contents

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https://www.facebook.com/groups/1949469148519504

'Professionalism and grace'

Lori, I just finished reading the article in the latest *Communicator* by Lt Gen John Fairfield and wanted to ask you to pass on my thanks to him for publishing this and how I look forward to the rest of the story. This history really helps clarify things in my mind about how and why AFCC went away. Being given a set of marching orders like that and carrying them out with such professionalism and grace was a real achievement for General Fairfield and his team at AFCC. I know this "grace" because I owe my promotion to Brigadier General to General Fairfield and will always remember that because he understood and forgave some of my behavior as the Airlift Communications Division Commander while this necessary and painful wind-down of AFCC was going on. John Fairfield is a good man and a great General Officer leader. **– Stephen E. Kelley, Brig Gen USAF**

Appreciation for articles

Ken , Many thanks for mailing a copy of the June issue of the *Communicator* to me. I greatly appreciate it and have enjoyed reading it. The article you wrote about 2nd Air Force was particularly interesting to me, as my first assignment as a 2d Lt in July 1963 was to 2nd AF HQ at Barksdale. I was assigned as the OIC of a brand new computer center, an NCR 315 system that was part of Project Four-Ply.

The project consisted of identical systems being installed at 2nd, 8th and 15th AF HQs in SAC and one at SAC HQ at Offutt. The purpose was to convert the combat support systems running on punched card accounting machines (PCAM) to digital computers. These included Aircrew Management, Base Supply, Munitions Management, Personnel, Transportation, Military Pay, Base Security, and several others. A programming staff was created at each of the installations, each one having responsibility to convert a specific set of applications which were then shared with the other NAF HQs.

The next phase was installation of Burroughs computers at all SAC bases running the software applications developed at the NAF HQs and SAC HQ.

Lt Gen Fairfield's article was of significant interest too, as I also got caught up in the AFCC turmoil of the Gen McPeak era. Lt Gen Cassity had selected me in 1989 to be commander of AFCC's new Computer Systems Division at Gunter with four subordinate centers and ~3,500 personnel. I'd been there for two years when Gen Butler, CINCSAC, asked Lt Gen Fairfield to nominate a BG to be the DCS/SC at SAC HQ. So we moved to Offutt in 1991, only to learn that Gen McPeak had decreed that the number of communications/computer generals in the USAF must be reduced by at least 5 before he would allow any further promotions. About the same time, Gens McPeak and Butler announced their plan to reorganize the USAF, including the inactivation of SAC and establishment of USSTRATCOM.

I was informed I would be the J6 of the new command, but Gen Butler did some billet swapping, and my slot turned Navy. Several of us solved the "problem" of there being too many of us by retiring on 1 August 1992.

With most sincere appreciation and very best regards,
– L. John Weber

Looking for info...1961st CG/3d Mob

I am trying to get in touch with individuals that can talk to what the 1961st Comm Gp and 3rd Comm Gp were doing during late 1960s and early 1970s related to TDYs to Vietnam etc. I am trying to assist a widow of an airman (Phil McCready, who worked TACAN and beacons) that was with 1961st Comm Gp at Clark in 1968/69 and 3rd Comm at Tinker AFB 1969/71. While personally knowing Phil would be great, it is NOT REQUIRED.The need is to establish unit activity and find related records. He has no medical record (noted at discharge), and his official record has no TDY information other than a one-line entry of TDY to SEA for 21 days. However, his performance reports show what I assume are "missing days" with no mention of what was being accomplished. (204 days at Clark and 185 days at Tinker) i.e., Block 7 shows period of report for one year, yet supervised NR days is 161.

PLEASE! contact me via phone/text at 228.875.2295 (please leave voicemail if I do not answer) or send email to wgoodloe@mindspring.com and use 1961 Comm or 3rd Comm in subject line. My email service will show it not delivered but I should see it in the suspect email, and will move it to my inbox. Thanks in advance. **– Wallace Goodloe**

The first radiogram...

This was the first radiogram sent from Japan. My father had it all his life. My father, Ralph, carried the radiogram in his pocket until he came home and then hung it on his office wall.
Thank you. **– John Loewenstein**
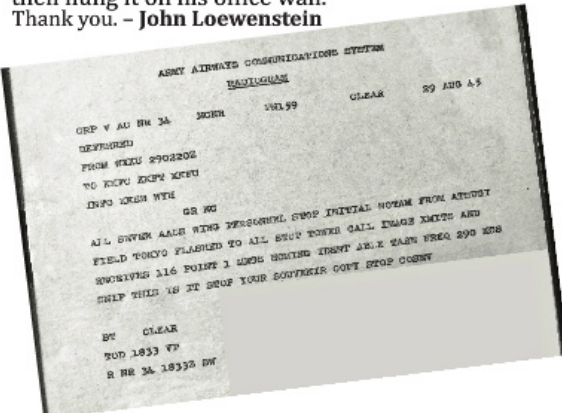
Report from the Chairman and CEO

Gulfport, Biloxi, and Keesler AFB really came through for us for our remarkably successful 45th Air Force Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control Association (AFCATCA) Convention. Once again, Ken Reiff and Jim and Fran Weber performed "host" responsibilities, even though neither of them lives on the Golden Gulf Coast.

With a careful eye on Hurricane Ian as it grew to Category 4 intensity in the Gulf, we finally made the call to continue with our convention. Although Florida and other states suffered, we were treated to sunny skies and temperatures between 70 and 80 degrees during the day.

On opening day, we held our Board of Directors meeting, Prayer Brunch led by Ed Broestl, and enjoyed incredible tours and briefings within numerous organizations, facilities, and aircraft stationed at Keesler AFB. We received mission briefings, updates on Air Traffic Control and Cyberspace training, an Engineering and Installation tower rescue demonstration, and tours of the C-130 aircraft.

On Friday, our golfers enjoyed a chilly tee–off but then temperatures rose to the mid-70s and there were lots of smiles when the participants returned from a magnificent day on the links. In the afternoon, we experienced a superb Maritime & Seafood Museum Tour which involved an amazing group of artifacts and information about the "golden age" of seafood production and life throughout this area – a must-see museum, if you haven't had a chance to see it yet.

On Saturday morning, we had our membership breakfast and business meeting which concluded with our reflective "Missed Roll Call" recognition video which was beautifully assembled by Lori Manske and "Q" Quezada. It was followed by a poignant presentation of photos and memories of our beloved Maj Gen Gerald Prather, who we lost in June. We followed our business meeting with three superb presentations: Jim Lauducci provided an AFC4A Keesler Memorial update, Dan Williams gave a Cyberspace Capabilities Center (CCC) presentation, and CMSgts Davis and Vogel provided a rousing ATC presentation which left many of our members ready to sign up for active duty, including my wife!

Our Saturday banquet was another 5-Star event! Brig Gen (Ret) Brian Bruckbauer, President and CEO of the Air Traffic Control Association, gave us an outstanding keynote address of what he has witnessed thus far and what he expects to come in air traffic control and airfield operations.

Harry Raduege

The Keesler AFB Honor Guard posted and retired our Nation's Colors and assisted during our POW/MIA Ceremony.

Thanks to Chief Bill Bethea for another meaningful reading of the elements of the powerful POW/MIA ceremony.

Our Thomas F. Buckley Service Award was presented to Rafael "Q" Quezada and Tom Blackburn.

We were honored to have three of our four annual award winners present to be recognized: MSgt Brandi Baumgartner (Cyberspace Operations Senior NCO of the Year), TSgt William Wells (Cyberspace Operations NCO of the Year), MSgt Zachary Miller (ATC Enlisted Manager of the Year), and SrA Andrew Kimrey (ATC Controller of the Year). We also inducted three individuals into our AFCATCA Hall of Honor: Col Vincent Valdespino (Class of 2020), Col Hubert Walker (Class of 2022), and Col Richard Lipsey (Class of 2022).
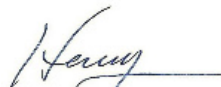
Our convention summary and photos begin on page 17.

Finally, our next convention will be held at Scott AFB, IL, during the week of 24 April 2023 in recognizing the 80th anniversary of the Army Airways Communications System Wing and in conjunction with the Air Force C4 Association "Spring Update" and Hall of Fame induction.

Don't miss this 80th anniversary celebration and return to our roots at the CCC and the Air Force Cyberspace and Communications Heritage Center, which was established in 2021.

Our 2023 AFCATCA Convention promises to be another incredible event!

Take care and God bless,

Harry

Harry

Leslie McCormick

MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITING

Lori Manske

EDITOR

Total membership as of Sept 1, 2022: 1,011 (down from 1,016 on April 15, 2022). Total Life Members as of Sept 1, 2022: 948 (down from 958 on April 15, 2022).

MAILING ADDRESS: PLEASE SEND ME AN UPDATE IF YOU HAVE RECENTLY MOVED!

E-MAIL ADDRESSES: I recently sent out a message by e-mail to everyone for whom we have addresses. If you have an e-mail address and did NOT receive this message, please send me your current e-mail address. We would like to send out communications between issues of the *Communicator* and want to reach as many members as possible!

COMMUNICATOR: If you have access to the internet, please consider opting out from receiving the *Communicator* by mail. The savings on printing and postage helps our Association and are very much appreciated! To opt out of receiving the *Communicator* by mail, please notify me.

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

SPREAD THE WORD!

It's likely that each member knows other people who are eligible to be members of AFCATCA. Please encourage them to join and participate in our yearly conventions. Getting together with old friends and co-workers – and meeting new friends – is a wonderful experience. If you don't have an application available, please call or email me and I will be happy to send one to you, or directly to a prospective member. Just think how many members we would have if each person brought in ONE new member this year! (See list of new members and renewals on page 9.)

LIFE MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DONATE TO THE ASSOCIATION IF YOU ARE ABLE!
Donations are very much appreciated.

Mailing address: Leslie McCormick
4606 W Portland St
Springfield MO 65802-4885
Phone: (417) 365-1837
Email: Leslie.McCormick@ranchmail.net

Please contact me with any questions or suggestions relating to membership!

Cost of the June 2022 *Communicator*

36 Pages – 1,040 Quantity

$ 2,671.00	**Printing & Binding**
$ 98.99	**Mail Preparation (952)**
$ 778.60	**Postage**
$ 3,548.59	**Total Due**

The USPS increased postage rates over the past year. The cost of paper has also increased.

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

You can email high resolution photos, or if you mail photos, rest assured that I will scan and return them promptly.

Send your ideas for things you would like to see in future editions. And thank you to those who have sent stories. We need you!

The web site is one of our biggest recruiters of new members. Word of mouth and active recruiting efforts of current members often result in new members too.

Please visit the web site guestbook and send a reply to people who sign, thanking them for taking the time to visit.

Send me an email if you want to talk about a potential article. **(manske5@charter.net)**

Jim Weber

TREASURER

Treasurers Report

As of Sept 30, 2022

Cash in ENT Credit Union:
AFCATCA Checking Acct	$3,585.25
Host Checking Acct	$1,795.10
Cash Totals:	$5,380.35

Certificates of Deposit:
50-12 $5,396.44...........Maturity Date 07/02/23 (Roll Over)
50-24 $10,999.28.........Maturity Date 07/02/23 (Roll Over)
50-36 $22,264.64.........Maturity Date 07/02/23 (Roll Over)
53-12 $5,364.56.......... Maturity Date 03/31/23 (Roll Over)
54-12 $5,287.72.......... Maturity Date 3/15/23 (Roll Over)
55-12 $5,142.30.......... Maturity Date 11/04/22 (Roll Over)

CD Totals (6): **$54,454.94**
($50,000.00 is held in reserve for costs that maybe incurred due to the cancellation of a convention)
Grand Totals: **$59,835.29**

My goals are always: (1) Stable growth and (2) Security of Funds.

Higher costs are a way of life now. It is reflected in everything from the hotel rooms to the cost of food and transportation. I urge all of you to continue to support our Association through donations that have always been a key source of income.

Remember, donations to our Association are tax deductible. Donation letters are sent upon request. Donations should be made to AFCATCA and sent to Jim Weber at 4018 Slice Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80922.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at Scott AFB area in April.

Bill Cassatt

PX/BX SALES

PX/BX Sales Report

May 2022 - Sept 2022

Items Sold

AFCATCA Golf Shirts	1
Hats	1
Challenge Coins	5
Total Sales:	**$127**

Expenses

Postage	$ 20.15
Supplies (Mailers)	$ 3.46
Total Expenses:	**$ 23.61**

Donations

Walter Wasielewski	**$ 50.00**
Total donations	**$ 50.00**

Gulfport Convention Sales Report

Hats	2
Challenge Coins	1
Golf Shirts	9

Sales: $425.00

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A Grateful Pause

The adventures of the past 30 months have many take-aways, some difficult to encapsulate, often with little desire to reflect on what might be learned.

From the Virginia Tech College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences website:

Variations on the repeating-history theme appear alongside debates about attribution. Irish statesman Edmund Burke is often misquoted as having said, "Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it." Spanish philosopher George Santayana is credited with the aphorism, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it," while British statesman Winston Churchill wrote, "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." https://liberalarts.vt.edu/magazine/2017/history-repeating.html

Take a couple of minutes to find a piece of paper, a pen or pencil, and put this edition of the *Communicator* down and reflect. I know, that's pretty directive – but – humor me, please, and consider: What three things did you experience and learn since the ides of March 2020?

Assuming you decided to continue reading this piece and didn't just turn the page, my trio is: take time to reflect to learn; discover what brings joy and make it happen; and find something spectacular every time you believe you've failed.

It seems to me the average western human is a "do-er" not a "be-er". [When I first wrote that it was "doer" and "beer" – not exactly what I wanted to communicate!] What would it cost you to spend 15 minutes at the end of a day reflecting and maybe noting the highs and lows of the day. Upon reflection, maybe a low from a yesterday might become a highlight of your week, month or maybe even year! Perspective is incredible.

Another: What brings joy? Joy that begins inside and radiates out…not what occurs outside causing joy. Maybe it's a memory? Maybe it's an experience? Maybe it's being grateful for a memory, an experience, a relationship with a mentor, relative, companion, etc.? Maybe it's the assurance of something you know can never be taken from you?

By Ed Broestl
Chaplain

The last may be difficult: "What spectacular 'happening' occurred from a supposed failure?" A new direction in life? A new perspective on something you thought you "completely" understood? For all the communicators reading this, Thomas Edison facilitated the invention of vinyl records while attempting to automate teletype transmissions.

Diane and I traveled to New Orleans to tour the WWII Museum after our recent convention. Sobering, enlightening, humbling, and being filled with gratitude were our takeaways. Two days were spent doing, pausing, learning, reflecting on the spectacular things done by those on whose shoulders we stand. We were reminded and gained a deeper understanding of how extremely blessed we are, even on those days that don't necessarily appear to be just average.

All thanks be to God! – Ed
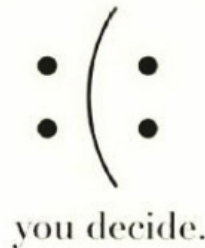
you decide.

Missed Roll Call

Michael P. Higgins, Waldorf MD, Aug 1936-Dec 2021

Jimmy Coleman, Griffin GA, Oct 1934-March 2022

Thomas Van Kolterman, San Antonio TX, Oct 1935-Feb 2022

Gil Kania, Madison WI, May 1930-Jan 2022

Lester D. Hamm, Nashville TN, March 1933-Feb 2022

John R. Holmquist, Portland OR, July 1924-Oct 2021

Gerald L. Prather, Del Rio, TX, April 1935-June 2022

Gerald F. Johnston, Kirkland WA, Dec 1928 - June 2022

Clarance E. Shillings, Goldthwaite, TX, Dec 1925 - Aug 2022

Robert L. Snyder, Sheridan, AR, Sept 1929-Sept 2022

John J. Christensen, Hagerstown MD, Apr 1939 - July 2022

Welcome to our new members and thank you to our renewing members for continuing to support our Association!! (April 16, 2022, to October 1, 2022):

New Members
Baumgartner, Brandi
Davis, Billy – Life
Flint, Foster
Goodman, Jon – Life
Jones, Walter - Life
Kimrey, Andrew
Miller, Zachary
Ricks, James
Rush, Bradley – Life
Slivka, Martin
Vogel, Jeffery
Wells, William
Williams, Paul – Life
Renewals
Lawrence, William
Sherlock, Don

SPREAD THE WORD!
If you know other people who are eligible to be members of AFCATCA, please encourage them to consider joining AND participating in our yearly conventions. Getting together with old friends and co-workers – and meeting new friends – is a wonderful experience! If you don't have an application available, please call or email me and I will be happy to send one out to you, or directly to a prospective member. Just think how many members we would have if each person brought in ONE new member this year!

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEN REIFF!
Ken received the *CMSgt Ronald D. Allison Recruiting Award* at the Convention for recruiting five new members!

LIFE MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DONATE TO THE ASSOCIATION IF YOU ARE ABLE!
Your donations are very much appreciated!!

(Leslie McCormick, Membership)

Part II – The beginning of the end for AFCC
Personal recollections of the last intended AFCC commander – Lt Gen John Fairfield

Undocumented Achievements
The Planning and Execution of
Desert Shield Aug 7, 1990 - Jan 15, 1991
Desert Storm Jan 16, 1991 - Feb 27, 1991

**By Lt Gen John Fairfield
AFCC commander from
Nov 1990 - May 1993**

I left you in the June Communicator with the words "kill the command." I will get back to what actions I took with regards to those words in a future article. But for now, I'll remind you that there was a war to fight that was unlike anything that we had ever faced or even planned to face. There had been some attempts in the mid 1980s to think about joint operations. But that, along with other documents I'll reference in this article, are not widely known nor are the lessons learned that are contained in these documents, hence the title of my article "Undocumented Achievements."

I would call your attention to an Office of Air Force History publication (1987) entitled "The 31 Initiatives: A Study in Air Force-Army Cooperation." Two Chiefs of their respective services, Gen Charles Gabriel (AF) and Gen John Wickham (Army), who were close friends, put together a study that resulted in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) around 31 initiatives that would lead to planning, resourcing, acquisition, fielding, and training designed to increase battlefield cooperation between their respective services.

The Chiefs selected six officers from each service in the ranks of Major and Lt Colonel to think creatively, without historical constraints, to produce implementable initiatives to improve warfighting outcomes. NO ONE other than these two Chiefs knew the names of these action officers until the MOA was signed and implementation was well underway. I was fortunate to have been assigned to the AF Program Objective Memorandum (POM) shop, so it was my job to take these initiatives through the OSD/ Congressional justification process.

What continues to astound me to this day is that while agreements were made in munitions, airborne platforms, and base defense, the only mention of communications was an afterthought that read "Ensure C3 will be available to meet the needs of both services, especially for comm or joint interest systems." The end result of these 31 initiatives led to improved service cooperation but failed to address the communication

As AFCC commander General Fairfield handled the many tasks associated with the divestiture of missions and manpower as AFCC became a field operating agency in 1991. His achievements endeared him to the troops under his command as the enlisted corps chose General Fairfield as the final recipient of AFCC's Order of the Sword in 1993. He led the comm community in the mid 1990s as Air Force deputy chief of staff, Command, Control, Communications and Computers, as well as deputy chief of staff, Communications and Information.

systems needed to ensure joint mission success.

A noted historian once said that when large bodies of armed men are assembled and expected to act in concert, the part played by communications cannot be overestimated. Yet it was – not maliciously – but with a historic ignorance of limiting factors in dynamic scenarios. Desert Shield/Desert Storm (DS2) was conducted during a time like no other. There were five major factors that created a perfect storm which would affect wartime operations: 1) changing command relationship brought on by the Congressional Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986 which required Unified Commanders to be solely responsible for battlefield outcomes – not the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff nor the service Chiefs. This meant that for the first time in any war, the chain of command went from the President (George H.W. Bush) to the Secretary of Defense (Richard Cheney) to the Unified Command Commander-in-Chief (Gen Norman Schwarzkopf); 2) the largest coalition and international force ever assembled to fight with political and religious imperatives never before encountered; 3) with outdated, incompatible and untested equipment; 4) with untried space and airborne assets and; 5) in one of the most barren and hottest locations in the world.

Consider the scope of the challenge. The host nation essentially had no national communications infrastructure nor aerial or seaports. There was no prepositioning of logistical supplies and essentially no road or rail networks to support transportation requirements. Multiple nations were heavily involved, including Great Britain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Over 750,000 personnel would eventually arrive in theater. There were 320,000 square miles of airspace to be managed. Over 2,800 sorties would be flown in a single day. There would be 122 air refueling tracks and 660 restricted areas created. There were 312 missile

engagements zones, 28 strikes corridors, 92 combat air patrol orbits, along with the civil air traffic of six sovereign nations, all to be controlled by 350 deployed Air Traffic Control personnel. There would be 4,500 commercial and 842 military Global Positioning System receivers that had never before been used in a military exercise. There were 36 airfields established with a total of 100 approaches that had to be created, flight checked and documented, controlled from 70 facilities that had to be built. The runway that was to house our B-52s in Diego Garcia was 2,800 miles from the engagement arena. The Secure Telephone Unit, which was to be key to ensuring both secure voice and data transmissions, was only beginning to be introduced to the services and our allies.

How did we cope with this perfect storm of the most incredible challenges? You won't easily find the answers. I've read thousands of pages of the "Gulf War Air Power Survey" and Rand's "US Airpower in the Gulf War" report. While these contain laborious documentation of air operations, you will hardly find one word about effective communications. Oh, you'll read criticism that the Computer-Assisted Force Management System (CAFMS) wasn't effective; that the Joint Operation, Planning and Execution System (JOPES) was outdated and didn't support the Time Phased Force Deployment Data (TPFDD); that the Air Tasking Order (ATO) was labor intensive, often bypassed, and had to be hand delivered to Naval forces (true). But what is critically missing from all these documents is the role communicators played in achieving the spectacular outcome of DS2 which was correctly known as the **First Information War**. After the war's conclusion, Gen Colin Powell said, "The ultimate goal is simple: give the battlefield commander access to all the information needed to win the war. And give it to him when he wants it and how he wants it." So what was the secret sauce that negated the perfect storm? In my opinion and after reading all the documents and speaking to many participants it comes down to this. We had trusted communication warriors at all ranks who would rather beg forgiveness than wait to ask for permission and who took incredible initiatives to overcome operational impediments to achieve desired outcomes.

At the top, we had General Schwarzkopf and General Powell who were nontraditional thinkers and Vietnam veterans who vowed not to repeat the legacy of Vietnam. Both listened to their trusted communicators, Brig Gen Dan Cougill and Lt Gen Jim Cassity. These four individuals knew the key to leadership which is to empower your competent subordinates who in turn will pass this trust down to those actually doing the work. Trust builds on interactive relationships and the communicators of this era knew and trusted each other.

Cougill had a fabulous relationship with Lt Gen Bob Ludwig at the Air Staff and Col Randy Witt at 9th Air Force. They trusted one another. Cassity trusted his counterparts, Lt Gen Jerome Hilmes in the Army, Vice Admiral Jerry Tuttle in the Navy, Lt Gen Thurman Rogers at DCA, and Lt Gen Ed Soyster at DIA. Bob Ludwig had brilliant officers and senior civilians who had

worked for him over the years—Al Edmonds, Dennis Beasley, Ken Heitkamp, Steve Kelley, George Lampe, Bruce Bohn, Phil Bracher, John Gilligan, Bill Donahue, Bill James and Carl O'Berry. These men in turn trusted those who worked for them.

Gen Colin Powell

The interrelationships have been documented in an oral history collection of interviews compiled by Larry Morrison of the Air Force Communications Agency history office and published in 1993 entitled Joint Communications for the Desert. Future planners would be well advised to read this publication along with Air Force Tactical

Lt Gen Bob Ludwig

Communications in War, compiled by Col Randy Witt while serving as the J-6 for Central Command in 1991. This massive volume captures the stories of those who made the impossible possible: Capt Dave McKenzie writing about satellite networks and the Defense Switch Network; Capt Bob Peacock documenting Combat Airspace management and air traffic services; SSgt Rich Gould who worked terrestrial information systems and developed a multiplexing technique that allowed numerous communication channels to operate simultaneously while prioritizing and conserving limited bandwidth. Lt Dave Babyak instinctively knew that the massive amounts of data needed by operators simply could not be supported by the Transportable Shelter Systems. Under his direction, comm personnel at Gunter AFB, AL, designed a Base Assistance Team-Mobile (BAT Mobile) to supply rapid computer support to deployed units. Among other important lessons learned, the BAT Mobile was the only way to share critical **real-time** weather data between Air Traffic Control personnel.

What concerns me is that most of these senior leaders retired shortly after the war and the bond between them was not to be replicated among those who followed them. The civilians, junior officers and noncommissioned officers who would stay in service did not have the promotion opportunities that had been provided in a major command environment. Additionally, AFCC had been told to cease their train, equip, organize activities, which for the past 30 years had built the enterprise that had been proven to be capable of engineering, employing and achieving the outcomes that were later acknowledged as critically instrumental to the success of the Gulf War.

But what of the future of our military without AFCC and its mission focus? What would be attempted to avoid an implosion in this critical mission area and what were the results? You'll find out more in the next edition of the *Communicator*.

BAT-mobile

LEGENDS AND LORE

MAJOR GENERAL GERALD L. PRATHER

Rest in peace

By Ken Reiff

Maj Gen Gerald L. Prather passed away in June. He was a distinguished member of the Air Force Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control Association. He is a member of our Hall of Honor and the Air Force Cyberspace and Support Hall of Fame.

He grew up a proud son of the State of Georgia, Eagle Scout, high school, and then bachelor's and master's degrees from Auburn University. His early Air Force career was as an enlisted member, selected to Aviation Cadet

Laughlin AFB pays tribute to a former member by renaming a street in his honor during a retreat ceremony at Laughlin's Heritage Park in 2012. The street, known as Freedom Way, was changed to Prather Street in reference to retired Maj Gen Gerald Prather for his dedication to Laughlin and the Del Rio community.

Program ultimately earning his wings as a pilot and commissioned a Second Lieutenant.

He flew many different aircraft including the F-84F, F-100, B-52 and C-140 AFCC Flight Inspection. His combat flying included C-130's in Vietnam where he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medals and Bronze Star with Valor. Following his Southeast Asia tour he served at numerous key positions at Squadron, Group, major command, Air Staff and Joint service at US Central Command. Most notable where his three tours in Strategic Air Command, and AFCS/AFCC units as Squadron Commander at Chanute AFB and Commander, European Communications Division and Commander, AFCC. He served two tours at the Pentagon which included Assistant Air Force Chief of Staff for Communications and Computer Systems.

When he retired, Aug 31, 1986, he had more than 4,500 flying hours and had earned the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Air Force Commendation Medal and Air Force and Marine Presidential Unit Citations. After his retirement he moved to Del Rio, Texas, and became "Citizen Gerry Prather".

Retirement did not mean fishing. He was a leader in Del Rio and Val Verde government affairs and Justice of the Peace for 10 years. General Prather served as Port Director of the Del Rio International Airport, President of the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce, President of the United Way Del Rio/Val Verde County

and Military Affairs Committee, Vice President and Board of Directors Del Rio Lions Club, appointed by State of Texas to lead recovery efforts from Tropical Storm Charlie for four years, and Val Verde Regional Medical Hospital Board.

He loved Blue Grass music and was a member of a band playing the standup washtub bass. He served his church and, among many other contributions to Christian life, was a licensed Pastoral Care Specialist. General Prather served two times as interim pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. His support of the Boy Scouts of America and to Laughlin AFB has left an enduring legacy.

While in pilot training at Laughlin he met and married Carolyn Pearson and they reared four children. Carolyn served our Air Force throughout their many assignments. She dedicated her time to military families and hosted many events. After her passing General Prather met and married Helen Madla who became one of our AFCATCA strongest supporters.

So, we bid a fond goodbye to our Air Force legend.

Author's note: *General Prather picked me to command the 1964th Comm Group, Ramstein AB, Germany, in 1980. That Group is the most decorated fixed communications Group in AFCC. In addition, General Prather was the Commander, AFCC, when I commanded the Air Training Communications Division, Randolph AFB, TX. During that tour he helped immensely in solving several difficult communications and air traffic control problems confronting Air Training Command.*
Thanks to the Prather family for their assistance in preparing this article. – Ken Reiff

AFCATCA-sponsored annual awards

Lt Gen Harry Raduege Cyberspace Operations NCO of the Year

TSgt William Wells

TSgt Wells had a major impact on mission success throughout the Air Force during 2021. Serving as the US Forces, Japan Help Desk Section Chief, Sergeant Wells led a team of nine joint service members through 558 trouble tickets, ensuring network access for 3.000 users and connectivity for the $55 million network enterprise. Sergeant Wells guided Communications Focal Point personnel at four US Air Force bases to identify and remedy a multi-base Defense Switched Network outage in the Pacific Area of Responsibility restoring global dialing between 17 locations. While attending the NCO Academy he earned the John L. Levitow award for overall outstanding performance. This award is granted to the person with the highest instructor ratings, peer ratings, and academic scores. Sergeant Wells dedicates his off-duty time to the Yokota Air Base community by serving as a Violence Prevention and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response instructor. Finally, upon acing the remaining 2 college courses, he completed his Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity.
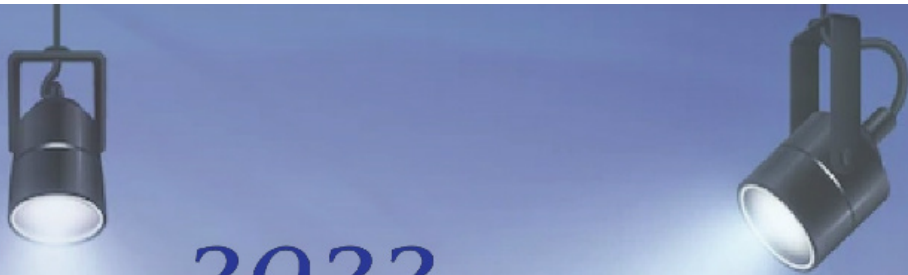
Maj Gen Gerald L. Prather Cyberspace Sr NCO of the Year

MSgt Brandi Baumgartner

MSgt Baumgartner is from the US European Command's Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Cyberspace Operations Directorate (EUCOM/J6), where she is a Communications/Cyberspace IT Project Manager, and Executive Assistant to the Commander, 16th AF Information Warfare Operations Center. She led a team of 7 personnel in coordinating critical leader engagements and briefings vital to delivering strategic options and intent for US Cyber Command. She synchronized efforts across 90 offices and authored seven policies that shaped 16th AF standards across nine Wings, two Centers, and 26 Directorates. As a Project Manager, she oversaw a $125 million theater-wide IT portfolio that is critical to the technological advancement and extension of the theater's communications and cyber posture. During the buildup of the Ukrainian crisis, she was selected to activate the EUCOM/J6 24x7 watch function in support of the EUCOM Joint Operations Center. She's an active member of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, serving as a Chapter Secretary. She was a panel member at the Ramstein AB's Tech Expo, representing "Women in Cyber" and the enlisted cyber-Airman perspective.

2022

CMSgt Walter D. McLain Air Traffic Controller of the Year

SrA Andrew Kimrey

Senior Airman Kimrey is a Radar Approach Controller with the 4th Operations Support Squadron at Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC. Airman Kimrey deployed in support of Operation ALLIES REFUGE where he orchestrated 3,700 Unmanned Aircraft System combat missions, ensuring the collection of valuable Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance data. More incredibly, Airman Kimrey forward deployed to Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, where he was instrumental in the highly publicized withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan. Without RADAR capabilities, Airman Kimrey preserved arrival and departure corridors for 252,000 cubic miles and 3,500 flights. While chaos ensued, Airman Kimrey assisted the US Marine Corps to eliminate the breach of an airfield gate, ensuring the field remained in US control. These actions led to the safe evacuation of 122,000 personnel. Additionally, the Civilian Air Traffic Control Association bestowed their ATCA Military Air Traffic Controller of the Year Award on Airman Kimrey.

Maj Gen Van C. Doubleday Air Traffic Control Enlisted Manager of the Year

MSgt Zachary Miller

MSgt Miller excelled as a Radar Approach Control Air Traffic Control Manager while assigned to the 48th Operations Support Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom. Sergeant Miller led 27 airmen and oversaw $17M in equipment across 13 airfields and 3 Wings as he filled an E-9 position. While in this position, he oversaw support for 40 higher headquarters missions where he sterilized a flight corridor with a 300% increase in operations, propelling the evacuation of 2,200 Afghan refugees. In addition to filling the E-9 position, MSgt Miller filled an O-5 Liaison Officer position for coordination between the US Air Forces in Europe and the United Kingdom. His expertise in this position allowed him to negotiate airspace changes, reduced host nation civilian encroachments in 15K square miles of airspace, and protected the nation's F-35 aircraft missions. These accomplishments garnered MSgt Miller the 48th Fighter Wing's Senior NCO of the Quarter Award. An additional honor bestowed on MSgt Miller is the Civilian Air Traffic Control Association's Outstanding Military ATC Manager of the Year Award.

Air Force Cyberspace Operations and Support

Hall of Fame

In 1999 the Air Force established the Communications and Information Hall of Fame to honor those individuals who made significant contributions, both to the Air Force and our career field, while serving in the public and private sectors. Our 20th century Foundation Setters are Air Force leaders who 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 2021

LT GEN (RET) MIKE BASLA

COL (RET) THOMAS HICKERSON

MS. LORA "LORI" MANSKE

Class of 2022

ROB C. THOMAS II

Convention 2022, Keesler AFB/Biloxi/ Gulfport, MS

Sept 28 - Oct 2

Hosts: Jim & Fran Weber
Ken & Linda Reiff

Photos by the Phillips family and other contributors.

Board of Director Meeting Minutes
Sept 29, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Harry Raduege, Association CEO, with the following Directors present: Ken Reiff, President/COO; Ed Broestl, Secretary; Jim Weber, Treasurer; Leslie McCormick, Membership: Lori Manske, Editor, Marc Packer, Information; Tom Blackwell, Awards; Rafael Quezada, Protocol; Bill Cassett, BX/PX, and Jay Adsit, as an invited guest,

Various directors provided verbal reports of their activities in the past year.

- Treasurer: This year's convention should break even.

- Membership: Total number of members has decreased due to the number of deaths exceeding the number of new members.

- Awards: The timeline of award recommendations, submission requests, evaluations, and notifications was smooth for this year's awards.

- Information: Board members should consider how their various processes could be automated to streamline their function and reduce workloads.

Elections / Selections:

- A motion for Ed Broestl to transition duties of Association Secretary to Dale Drake within the current Fiscal Year was made and approved.

- A motion for Ken Reiff to remain the Association's President and COO for a two-year term and Marc Packler to continue for another two-year term as the Association's

Director of Information was made and approved.

- A motion for Jon Goodman to replace Bill Bethea and Jereme Melton to replace Bill Hammett on the Committee was made and approved.

- Jay Adsit and Ken Heitkamp will perform a required audit and report findings to the Board.

Ken Reiff informed the board that we will not know the result of our request to transition from a 501c (19) to a 501c (3)organization until May/June 2023. The Secretary was tasked to review current documents, propose necessary changes when the transition is approved, and make plans for record copies to be available on the web site for BoD and Association members.

A motion was made and approved to move the 2023 Convention/Annual Meeting from September to April (24–27) at Scott AFB and appropriately reschedule "Communicator" publication dates.

A motion to make Dayton, OH, the location for our 2024 Convention, 25-29 Sept, was made by Ken Reiff and approved.

The BoD reviewed the updated website design (Marc Packler) with a motion to accept the changes and effect implementation as quickly as possible made by Ken Reiff and unanimously approved.

Lori Manske will coordinate inputs for the next revision to include membership changes, donations, registrations, BX/PX ordering , documents and electronic votes.

The meeting concluded with a conversation regarding revising the Convention Guide. Proposed changes are due in February for an approval at the April 2023 BoD meeting. Also discussed methods to streamline and automate convention site selection and associated activities.

Prayer brunch led by Ed Broestl

On opening day, we enjoyed incredible tours and briefings within numerous organizations, facilities, and aircraft at **Keesler AFB**. We received mission briefings, updates on Air Traffic Control and Cyberspace training, an Engineering and Installation tower rescue demonstration, and tours of the C-130 aircraft.

On Friday, our **golfers** enjoyed a chilly tee-off but temperatures rose to the mid-70s. Winners were Ed Broestl, Ken Heitkamp, Joe Davenport, and Jess Bartlebaugh, with 4 under par 68. Closest to the pin: Jess Bartlebaugh, Ken Heitkamp, Bill Bethea, and Jim Weber.

In the afternoon, we experienced a **Maritime & Seafood Museum Tour** which involved an amazing group of artifacts and information about the "golden age" of seafood production and life throughout this area – a must-see museum, if you haven't had a chance to see it yet.

Trips and Tours

Keesler AFB
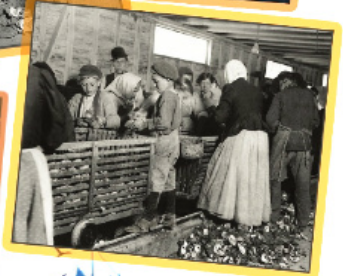
19

Our members had incredible tours and briefings within numerous organizations, facilities, and aircraft at Keesler AFB. We received mission briefings, updates on Air Traffic Control and Cyberspace training, an Engineering and Installation tower rescue demonstration, tours of the C-130 aircraft, and a Frequency Management briefing.

Keesler AFB (Contd)

Maritime & Seafood Museum Tour

Saturday morning breakfast and business meeting

## General Membership Meeting Minutes

Harry Raduege called the 2022 AF Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control Association Annual Membership meeting to order. He led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed the various guests.

Ed Broestl, Secretary, noted that the details of the Board's activities throughout the past year and minutes of their recent meeting will be highlighted through this meeting and provided in this *Communicator*.

Leslie McCormick, Membership Director, presented a report on decreasing membership.

Membership Trends

Membership 2006 - 2022
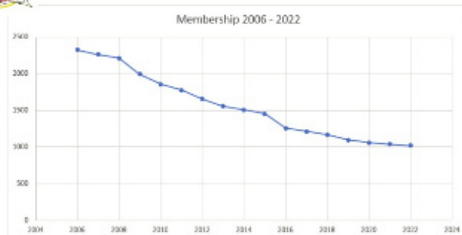
Jim Weber, Treasurer, presented the annual report, noting the Certificates of Deposit are to assure funds are available if for some reason an annual conference must be canceled for any reason after a contractual "penalty" deadline had passed.

General Raduege requested the membership affirm the recent selections to the Board of Directors: Dale Drake will transition to Association Secretary in the coming fiscal year; Ken Reiff as the Association President and Chief Operating Officer for the next two fiscal years; and Marc Packler as the Association Information Officer for the next two fiscal years. Jay Adsit moved that the membership affirm these

individuals; Jim Weber seconded the motion that passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ken Reiff, the Association President/Chief Operating Officer, began new business by summarizing the efforts of the Association to become a 501C (3) corporation. Notification of a decision by the Internal Revenue Service is expected in the late spring, early summer of 2023. From the Association's position, there are significant benefits to this change.

General Raduege announced that the 2024 Annual Convention would be held at Dayton, OH, where there will be tours of the Air Force Museum and Aviation Heritage sites.

General announcements:
Golf outing results from the previous day by Steve Manske: Joe Davenport, Jess Bartlebaugh, Ken Heitkamp, and Ed Broestl won the outing with a 4-under-par 68.

General Raduege announced the location, date, and rationale of the next convention (Scott AFB, 24-26 April 2023, in celebration of the 80th anniversary of AACS).

This year's banquet was held later in the day with Brig Gen Brian Bruckbauer, retired, as the guest speaker.

The "Missed Roll Call" and "Special Tribute" were presented.

Presentations were made by:
- Jim Lauducci: AFC4A Keesler Memorial Update
- Dan Williams: CCC (Cyberspace Capabilities Center) Heritage Center Presentation
- CMSgt Billy Davis, AF ATC Career Field Manager and CMSgt Jeffrey Vogel, Chief, AF ATC Ops, Procedures and Training at Keesler AFB: Air Traffic Control Update

Banquet and Awards

Our Saturday banquet was another 5-Star event! Brig Gen (ret) Brian Bruckbauer, President and CEO of the Air Traffic Control Association, gave us a keynote address of what he has witnessed thus far and what he expects to come in air traffic control and airfield operations.

The Keesler AFB Honor Guard posted and retired our Nation's Colors and assisted during our POW/MIA Ceremony.

Thanks to Chief Bill Bethea for another meaningful reading of the elements of the powerful POW/MIA ceremony.

Our Thomas F. Buckley Service Award was presented to Rafael "Q" Quezada and Tom Blackburn.

We were honored to have three of our four annual award winners present to be recognized: MSgt Brandi Baumgartner (Cyberspace Operations Senior NCO of the Year), TSgt William Wells (Cyberspace Operations NCO of the Year), MSgt Zachary Miller (ATC Enlisted Manager of the Year), and SrA Andrew Kimrey (ATC Controller of the Year). Kimrey was unable to attend.

We also inducted three individuals into our AFCATCA Hall of Honor: Col Vincent Valdespino (Class of 2020), Col Hubert Walker (Class of 2022), and Col Richard Lipsey (Class of 2022).

Our annual award winners are also featured on pages 14-15.

Lt Gen (ret) Bill Bender accepted the Hall of Honor award for Col Hubert Walker.

Hall of Honor induction

Col Hubert Walker was unable to join us for the banquet to receive his Honor of Honor award. The ceremony was taped and a copy was sent to him. Ken Reiff featured him in our June 2022 *Communicator* **Legends and Lore**. Following is his note of appreciation.

"Thank you all for the privilege of being chosen for this honor. I wish I had been able to be there with you. I think the POW/MIA ceremony was the best I have ever seen and was surprised how emotional I got, 49 years later. I got my son, John, to photograph me and the awards." (Hanoi 68-73)

Cruisin' the Coast

As an added bonus, classic cars were all around us for "Cruisin' the Coast 2022".

Save the Date!

Plan now!
AFCATCA convention
in conjunction with 80th anniversary celebration at Scott AFB

April 2023

Your Board of Directors respectfully requests that you save April 24-27, 2023, for our next Convention/Reunion. Travel days for our convention will be April 23 and 28. We plan to join the AACS Wing's successor organization–AF Cyberspace Capabilities Center at Scott AFB–to celebrate the anniversary of AACS, AFCS and AFCC. The BOD has canceled our regular convention in September 2023.

Planning includes the annual Spring Update, Hall of Fame inductions, golf tournament and the 80th Anniversary banquet. Hall of Fame Classes 2021 and 2022 include two of our members: Col (ret) Thomas Hickerson and Lori Manske.

As hosts of our 2023 event near Scott AFB, we will plan accommodations for our members who wish to attend and work toward processing single point of contact registrations and payment for our attendees (HOF banquet, no host social, 80th anniversary dinner, golf, etc.)

More info to come on signing up for events. Tune in to our Facebook site, web site, and special *Communicator* in March for more information. Direct questions to our President/COO, Ken Reiff, at afcommatcdir@gmail.com

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You are invited!

The Commander, Headquarters Cyberspace Capabilities Center asks you to save the date for events celebrating the organization's 80th Birthday during the week of 24-28 April 2023.

24 April
Social: A gathering of attendees in town, with light refreshments and casual conversation.

25 April
Golf Tournament: Hosted by HQ CCC at Cardinal Creek golf course to celebrate the Center's 80th Birthday.
Hall of Fame Induction: Hosted by AFC4A honoring those who made significant contributions to both the Air Force and our career field.

26 April
Spring Update: Hosted by SAF/CN and intended to provide government and industry members an update on the C5ISR and CyberSpace communities.
80th Birthday Gala: A dinner celebrating the CCC and its members, who have for 80 years accelerated change in communications and cyberspace.

Lineage. Established as Army Airways Communications System Wing on 13 Apr 1943. Activated on 26 Apr 1943.

Redesignated as: Army Airways Communications System on 26 Apr 1944; Air Communications Service on 13 Mar 1946; Airways and Air Communications Service on 11 Sep 1946.

Inactivated on 1 June 1948. Activated on 1 June 1948.

Organized on 16 Aug 1948. Redesignated as Air Force Communications Service on 1 July 1961 and designated as a major command.

Redesignated as Air Force Communications Command on 15 Nov 1979.

Status of unit changed from major command to a field operating agency of USAF on 1 July 1991.

Redesignated as Air Force Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Agency on 28 May 1993; Air Force Communications Agency on 13 Jun 1996.

Status of unit changed from a field operating agency of USAF to a subordinate unit of the Air Force Communications and Information Center on 1 Apr 1997.

Status of unit changed from a subordinate unit of the Air Force Communications and Information Center to a field operating agency of the USAF on 1 Oct 2000.

Status of unit changed from field operating agency of USAF to a subordinate unit of the Air Force Space Command on 4 May 2009.

Redesignated as Air Force Network Integration Center on 15 Jul 2009.

Redesignated as Cyberspace Capabilities Center on 5 Nov 2019.

Momentous beginnings
CCC celebrates its proud past – 80 years

The Cyberspace Capabilities Center has a long history starting with the Army Airways Communications System and leading up to today.

The AACS began as just 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 AACS a wartime mission of using radio to watch aircraft in flight, signaling the beginning of global communications.

Before this, communication was happening on a 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 its 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.

The missions have changed over the years and the members are fewer now. The CCC team brings the future faster through mobile applications, enterprise collaboration and voice services, and first-class field support empowering Airmen to meet trans-regional objectives. The center provides services across the Air Force Network.

Col Gordon Blake stops in front of base operations at Atsugi Airport, Japan, in the Army Airways Communications Squadron jeep, August 1945. In April 2023 the Cyberspace Capabilities Center will celebrate 80 years of our communications history.

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.

Maj Robert Gleason (left) and Maj Mandle work at the Army Airways Communications System headquarters in Kunming, China, in the mid 1940s.

Members of the Army Airways Communications System Detachment 60 gather in Manila, Philippines, April 1954.

GCA in Vietnam

Tracking targets and blips

by Robert Petersen

In the 1960s, one of the modules in the air traffic control operator course at Keesler AFB, MS, was GCA. This one-week module was intended to familiarize the student with the AN/MPN-11, portable radar system for ground-controlled approach of aircraft to an airport.

It consisted of an S-Band terminal area radar (ASR) and an X-Band precision approach radar (PAR). The course information consisted of the functions of the unit, where the many components were located, how to generally identify radar targets, and how to perform a basic alignment of the PAR.

The controls for this alignment exercise were located below the actual radar indicator, or scope, at a level with the operator's knees. To add to the challenge, there was a small shelf just below the scope blocking view of the controls so that finding and adjusting these controls was by feel.

The actual instruction here was simply getting a "feel" for where the knobs were placed and how they reacted to a slight twist. This was done while the instructor coached the student. During one of these sessions, our instructor, a staff sergeant with many years of service by the look of him, mentioned that when he was in Korea, the search or ASR radar was used to help locate the launch sites of enemy mortars. This was just one of those trivial things that someone mentions to another in conversation, and it is either forgotten or put in the back of one's mind.

All I remember from the module is that BAY 13 is where the fire extinguisher is located and as part of the PAR alignment "With the Azimuth Angle Bias place the GPA reflector on the zero degree line". Prior to this module we were instructed to purchase a small screwdriver needed for part of the 'scope' alignment procedure. It was called a "Diddler". I still have mine somewhere.

Fast forward three years and a few months to Pleiku AB, Republic of Vietnam, I was assigned to duty as an Air Traffic Controller with the 1878th Communications Squadron at the Mobile Radar Approach Control (MRAPCON); an AN/MPN-14, the expanded version of the AN/MPN-11. The radar indicators were relocated into a larger trailer to allow for a greater number of controllers to be on duty at any given time.

At Pleiku, I was lucky in that one of my team members was someone who had been a roommate at my previous assignment, the 3rd Mobile Communications Group, Tinker AFB, OK. This helped to ease me into the team. Several of my team members had

been in country during the Tet Offensive of 1968 and had become very close, as those who are placed together in any stressful environment will. It was a very short time before I was qualified in both PAR and Arrivals (A-PCH) and contributing to the effort of the MRAPCON.

It was May 5, 1968, that I experienced my first attack from hostile forces. I do not remember what woke me that early morning, probably many of the others in the barracks sounding the alarm. My first real recollection is being in the bunker downstairs and after a few moments, when several others were asking, "Where's so and so?" and that from the sound we could tell the incoming was falling somewhere else and that it was time for a look-see.

During our 'rubber necking,' looking south from the cantonment area, we saw an aircraft on the other side of the runway on the ground, on fire, with a UH-1 (Huey) helicopter hovering, trying to blow the flames away so that rescue could be performed.

I can recall this date because it is the only time that two AC-47 gunships were counted as air losses in Vietnam on the same date, and there was some talk the morning after the attack that they were involved in a midair collision. Official reports state both aircraft "were shot down by automatic weapons fire within minutes of each other."

My next experience of a rocket attack occurred a few nights later, while I was on duty in the MRAPCON. Our function during these times was to plot the location of the launch site or sites. Several of the search radar indicators (or scopes) were adjusted so that only a five-mile radius from the antenna was displayed.

Observing the radar 'sweep' we were looking for what was later explained to me as a heat 'bloom.' This was the radar signal reflecting on the difference in temperatures from the rocket leaving its launch tube and the air around the launch site.

This displayed target resembled a very small fuzzy circle. While the rocket was in flight it would appear as any other target on the display, skipping fast across the display. (The rotation sweep of the antenna was 10 rpm, so we would typically see a target for four

Adacel commemorates 20 years of collaboration with Air Force

Orlando, FL – In August, Adacel Technologies Limited (Adacel), an industry leader in advanced air traffic management solutions and simulation and training systems and Air Force representatives commemorated 20 years of collaboration with a ceremony during the Joint Service ATC Symposium in Myrtle Beach, SC.

In 2002, the Air Force awarded its first major ATC Training Simulation System contract to Adacel. More than 1.5 million lines of unique software code later, Adacel delivered its MaxSim TSS to more than 2,000 users per year at 91 AF locations worldwide. These modern systems showcase military ATC functionality, complex tactical flight patterns tailored to the USAF, hundreds of scenarios with high-accuracy visuals, and broad functionality. The first system was installed in October 2002 at Eglin AFB. Additional contracts followed in 2014 and 2018.

"The contracts are the largest known ATC Training Simulation Systems award by an organization to a single company. The company built, deployed, and maintained the MaxSim training systems with a focus to provide customized, world-class ATC training solutions for air traffic controllers.

"The US Air Force is pleased to celebrate 20 years of partnership with Adacel. The MAXSIM tower simulator has been a highly capable and reliable product that has trained more than 8,000 US Air Force military controllers during the past two decades. We congratulate them on a job well done!"

Col Timothy L. Hyer, Deputy Commander, AF Flight Standards Agency, left, accepts a plaque from Michael Saunders, Adacel Vice President, Business Development and Strategy.

said Edgar Wright, Executive Director, Air Force Flight Standards Agency. (Submitted by Rafael Quezada)

About Adacel:
Established in 1987, Adacel's customers include international air navigation service providers, military, defense and security organizations, universities, and airport authorities. More than 21 percent of the world's airspace is managed with Adacel's Aurora ATM software. MaxSim Tower Simulator and Training systems lead the industry with the highest number of installations worldwide. Adacel's latest flagship system, REVAL, a digital Air Traffic Control tower system, delivers a wide spectrum of digital tower operational solutions, from consulting services to system design, development, deployment, and support.

PAR (from previous page)

or five sweeps and then observe the impact as another heat bloom.)

This observed launch site was plotted as so many degrees and so many miles from the radar antenna, or center of the scope. This plot was then transferred to a map of the area and the geographic coordinates determined and phoned to II Corps headquarters who controlled friendly return fire.

Many times we would shortly see a response of artillery fire to the location we had reported. Usually late the next morning or early afternoon the MRAPCON would learn the results of our reporting.

Several nights late into the 1700 to midnight shift I was contacted by an Army OV-1 Mohawk aircraft. (Don't remember the call sign.) I identified him. He was within five miles of the search antenna. He asked me if I was painting a target at his 12 o'clock position at about a mile? (that is, was I seeing a radar target in that position ahead of him.) We spent about an hour following what were obviously ground targets in the local area.

I recall doing this exercise several nights in the fall of 1968. When asked, several of my colleagues who worked evenings other than mine had the same experience. I also asked our chief controller, Mr. Herbert, a WO4, who had very good connections. Seems that there were unconfirmed reports of NVA tanks in the area and that the OV-1s were searching. To this day, I do not know what he and I were tracking: trucks? Jeeps? other vehicles? There was something there and I was very impressed that the GCA search radar was showing it.

Another time a C-130 aircraft departed Pleiku northbound for Khe Sanh. I followed them for some time, as it was a slow traffic period. The aircraft was traveling away from the radar antenna. At about 30 miles distant, three separate radar targets appeared next to each other -- rather than the one. I decided that these were reflections from the C-130's props with the aircraft body in between.

Interesting stuff, this radar.

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Computer-based radar simulator
Air Force turned officer's 1988 suggestion into reality

Col (Ret) Doug Strand served 34 years (9 enlisted and 25 as an air traffic control operations officer). While enlisted, he was an aircraft mechanic and medic. He was commissioned through the Air Force Officer Training School in 1986 and completed training as an honor graduate at Keesler AFB as an air traffic control officer and graduated from the Officer Training Program at Seymour Johnson AFB in 1987.

Col Douglas Strand

In 1988, as a newly assigned 1st Lt at Eglin AFB, FL, the radar facility had a non-functional T-4 radar simulator due to a shortage of replacement parts. The parts needed to repair the system were not in stock and not being created. Thus, there w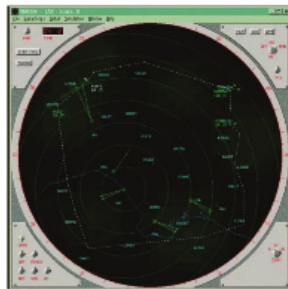as no way to train controllers except via live traffic and limited work space. It turned out this problem was not unique to Eglin, but the entire Air Force.

Later that year, a computer game came out named "Tracon" made by Wesson International which was based on the FAA's Terminal Radar Approach Control. Colonel Strand purchased it and after being impressed with the realism of it, he opened the files that came with the software and discovered the radar maps within the game were based on ASCII x,y coordinates. After taking a photo of the radar screen, he inputted the x,y coordinates of Eglin's airspace and within one day had a fully working radar simulator.

There were several improvements that needed to be made for realism so he contacted Dr. Wesson. After telling him what he'd done, he asked if those improvements, including voice recognition, were possible. He said yes. Later, the Chief, Standardization and Evaluation, said he should submit an official Air Force Suggestion form 1000 to which Colonel Strand did. He also had Wesson send copies of the program to HQ AFCC and Keesler AFB for evaluation. His idea was met with limited enthusiasm and initially AFCC disapproved the suggestion saying the "game" would not be approved to replace the T-4. He responded the suggestion was not to use the game, but to use one similar and modify it to include voice recognition software.

He was then sent to Shemya AB in Alaska in 1989 where he found out the game was approved for use by AFCC for all bases for training. In the meantime, the Air Force requested bids for a computer-based radar simulator. He was asked to list all his recommendations for improvement to the game to make it a more viable program.

In 1991, he was notified his suggestion was approved and he would be receiving the maximum suggestion award for an estimated savings of $6.1M in the first year.

He also received an AF Commendation Medal from AFCC for the effort.

The simulator would be installed at all Air Force bases that required radar training, including Keesler AFB. The previous T-4 simulator required 2-3 people to operate. With voice recognition, the computer-based radar simulator only required the trainee.

In 1992 Col Strand left active duty and joined the Reserves, so he never got to see full implementation and roll-out of the simulator. It has since been replaced by a more integrated solution to include control tower simulators.

The Computer Based Radar Simulator is still in place at Air Force locations worldwide including Keesler AFB, MS.

Col Strand has served in numerous leadership and staff positions. As an Individual Mobilization Augmentee he served on active duty in five joint assignments beginning in 1999 totaling over 2,000 days in support of Operation Southern Watch, Operation Joint Forge, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism.

While performing his Reserve duties, he was also an airport planner for Delta Airport Consultants and later became airport manager for Hanover County, VA, then Winchester VA, before deploying to Operation Southern Watch in 1999 and subsequently to Operation Joint Forge in 2000. Since 2004, he was on continuous active duty until a line of duty injury forced a medical retirement, negating his promotion to Brig Gen.

TRACON game

TRACON screen
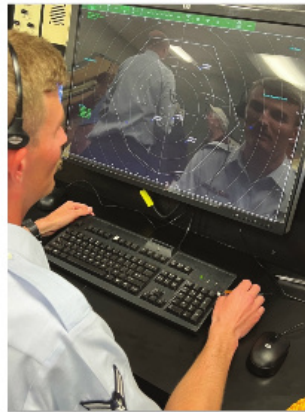
Trainee at Keesler AFB, 2022

Daughter treasures values learned as military 'brat'

By Patricia Gannon-Balazs

I am a brat! More specifically an Air Force Brat. I was born on James Connally AFB in Waco, TX. I carried a military dependent's I.D. until I was 23 years old. I still have a set of my own government issued dog tags. I am the middle child of three. I have an older brother and a younger sister. Our parents are retired Air Force Lt Col Rocky Gannon and Bert Gannon. So, what was it like growing up as the daughter of a career Air Force pilot / air traffic controller?

We moved A LOT! Have I mentioned how much I hate the process of moving? I was 10 days old and my brother had just turned 1 when Dad was sent to Korea. Our amazing Mom flew with us to visit Dad's family in Baltimore, MD. Imagine that trip! After the visit, she loaded us into the car and drove us to Sumter, SC, to be closer to her family. Sumter is where she and Dad met and married while he was stationed at Shaw AFB.

Fifteen months later Dad returned from Korea. He said I reached my arms out to him and called him "Daddy." My brother, by then 2 ½ years old, walked up to Dad with a glass of milk in his hands, poured the glass on Dad's shiny military shoes, turned and walked away. For the next few weeks my brother called him "that man." These 15 months were my first Permanent Change of Station. Between then and my graduation from high school, there were eight more PCSs. Have I mentioned I hate moving? After my brother and I were in college in California, Dad, Mom and our baby sister made four more PCSs before Dad retired.

Despite hating to move there was an upside. We lived in a lot of historically fascinating and beautiful places. After Sumter, we moved back and forth between California and Europe until I graduated from high school. Dad was away from the family most of the time. When he was home, it was "family time." He didn't spend weekends playing golf, hunting or fishing with his buddies. Wherever we lived he'd find someplace historical for us to go, because he is such a history buff. This entailed a lot of camping.

Every time we lived in California, we loved to camp in Yosemite National Park. I remember visiting Sutter's Fort and Jack London's home. During the summer, if Dad had an assignment in a western state, the whole family went. We visited both rims of the Grand Canyon, Donner's Pass, the Petrified Forest and Buffalo Bill's Museum.

Our first PCS overseas was the Normandy region of France (1959-1962). Dad was stationed at two different bases, and you know how I hate moving! Both bases were close to Paris. I remember camping at Normandy Beach, closest to Omaha Beach. We were young and got to climb around in the German pillboxes. Some still had the artillery guns in them.

I remember the beach was littered with tank traps and parts of military vehicles half buried in the sand. We visited all the American Military Cemeteries around Europe. We also visited castles and beautiful churches.

Our second PCS overseas was to Wiesbaden, Germany (1965-1968). As a family we revisited all our favorite places from our previous tour. We revisited all the sights in Paris, adding the Louvre. Dad also took us to Verdun, Bastogne, Waterloo, Anne Frank's home in Amsterdam, Brussels, Hitler's Eagle's Nest, East and West Berlin, and cities in Spain and Italy. Dad taught us to ski in Garmisch, Germany. After that we had a ski trip somewhere every Christmas. I was lucky that Dad and Mom had another PCS in Germany after I finished college. I was able to visit them, tour around with Mom, and take some ski trips with Dad.

In 1968, I was in the 9th grade. We left Wiesbaden, Germany, and returned to California while Dad went to Vietnam. We wrote letters and sent cassette tapes back and forth, because there was no Internet, social media or FaceTime then.

Dad had been gone nine months when we went to meet him for his Rest and Recuperation break, R&R, in Hawaii. The military gathered all the families where we awaited the bus carrying the military personnel. I watched for my Dad. When I saw him step off the bus it hit me! I realized that this week together might be the last time I ever see my Dad. Over the years I'd had friends who had lost their Dads in plane crashes. My Dad had flown every week of my life and had always returned home. The reality of war became real to me.

As an adult I can look back at the values Dad instilled in us. We say "Yes Sir/Ma'am" or "No Sir/Ma'am" to everyone. We were taught to show respect to everyone, no matter what gender, race, religion or rank. He shared his love of history, our country and its flag with us. Growing up on military bases the National Anthem was, and still is, played before every movie in the theater; everyone stands and puts their hand over their heart.

Everyday at 5 p.m. Retreat is played. Every man, woman, and child stops what they are doing, faces the nearest flag and salutes or puts their hand over their heart. I feel at home in the company of anyone in a military uniform. I feel at home when jets or helicopters are flying overhead. My heart swells with pride when I see our flag or hear our National Anthem.

Patti and her dad camping in Yosemite in 1957, and at the dedication of the Darlington Veterans Memorial in 2013.

Just like dandelions, military children blossom wherever they land. The Air Force celebrates the month of the military child during April.

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- On July 1, the "Communications and Information" career field changed its name to "Cyberspace and Information Technology."

"The name is in sync with the on-going shift in mission and overall focus of the cyberspace career field including military (officer and enlisted) and civilians," said Lauren Knausenberger, Air Force chief information officer. "The career field is transforming to a cyberspace mission that's enabled by information technology and all of its digital components."

'Comm and Info' name changes

At this time, no occupational series will be added to or eliminated from the career field's current exclusive or shared series and there is no occupational series impact to other career fields.

Additionally, the Cyberspace and Information Technology career field is working to implement and code cyber positions as defined by the DOD Cyber Workforce Framework.

Some Air Force cyber positions also transitioned to the new Cyber Excepted Service structure to assist in tracking and retaining cyber talent in DOD.

"It is an exciting time for the Cyberspace and Information Technology career field as we continue down the path of digital transformation where the cyberspace domain enables all we deliver for the warfighter," Knausenberger said.

"This new name encompasses all we do and aids in the recruitment and retention of the cyber and IT talent we need to meet today's missions.

New office to drive digital transformation across Air, Space enterprise

By Marisa Alia-Novobilski
Air Force Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH (AFNS)

The Air Force Materiel Command has established a new office to manage digital transformation activities across the Air and Space Force enterprise.

The 12-member Digital Transformation Office, or DTO, will fall under the AFMC Engineering and Technical Management Directorate. It will focus on creating a digital governance structure and facilitate ongoing and new digital acquisition transformation activities across the enterprise.

"This office is the first organization that will stand up from an enterprise-wide perspective to address digital needs with a long-term perspective in mind," said James Kyle Hurst, director of the Digital Engineering Enterprise Office, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science, Technology, and Engineering, who will be the new DTO branch chief. "Though the office sits at AFMC, it will have a perspective for the entire Air Force acquisition community and encompass activities from research and development to fielding, sustainment and beyond...the entire cradle-to-grave of life cycle management."

According to Hurst, while a number of organizations are establishing digital-focused offices internally, these are specific to particular mission sets, such as information technology infrastructure, sustainment activity, munitions, etc. The DTO will look at all digital activities from a broader, enabling perspective.

"This office will look across all of those teams and activities to facilitate sharing of best practices and lessons learned across the entire department. We will focus on the enablers that will help the program...the 'this is what you want to do, and here's how you can do it' aspect," Hurst said.

AFMC officially launched its Digital Campaign in 2020 with the goal to create an integrated digital ecosystem that provides enterprise access to the data individuals need to develop, test, field and maintain complex weapon systems. By leveraging modern digital capabilities, the service can decrease the time it takes to move a weapon system from a concept into the hands of a warfighter, while providing the ability to adapt capabilities at speed to meet the requirements of today's dynamic warfighting domain.

"We need to make sure we're not delivering yesterday's technology to tomorrow's fight.

This office along with the entire Department of the Air Force is still trying to figure out how to leverage digital and the best way to do it. We will continually be looking for inputs from programs, industry and academia who are currently doing this and doing it well, so we can learn from them and share," Hurst said.

Don't be a target:

Phishing and smishing are on the rise

By Sharon Singleton
16th Air Force (Air Forces Cyber)

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, TX -- You did it, you almost clicked a text, a link, or responded to an email that looked legitimate and potentially gave away personal information to scammers. You are not alone. The criminal acts of phishing and smishing are on the rise and people across the Nation are falling for scams daily. Scammers are out to get your personal information and subsequently, access to your money, accounts or credit line.

Phishing occurs when scammers use mostly email in an attempt to extract personal information. Smishing occurs when scammers send text messages to gain access to personal information or passwords. Regardless of the medium, scammers may pose as a bank, creditor, warranty business or even a former or current military unit looking to connect with military members.

The Office of Special Investigations understands general phishing attempts, but is concerned about attempts to specifically target military members.

"Military members are just as vulnerable to falling victim to phishing attacks as the general population. Scammers exploit Airmen's military affiliation by appearing to represent military agencies like the Defense Finance Accounting Service or appearing as the member's squadron or wing," said Jeffrey Sroka, Office of Special Investigations liaison officer, 16th Air Force (Air Forces Cyber).

Scammers attempt to lure service members into clicking emails or responding to texts.

"These phishing campaigns can be accompanied by identifying information from military units," said Sroka. "This military connection makes the phishing attempt appear more legitimate."

Phishing and smishing affect Airmen and their families Air Force wide.

Recently, a Total Force Airman answered a phone call from what he thought was his bank. The callers spoke professionally and seemed to know his banking information, so he felt comfortable in giving them his account information. The scammers were able to access his account and take $500. The Airman said the phone call sounded authentic and reasonable.

The breech of account caused the Airman to scramble and cancel all of his credit cards and change all of his account passwords.

Once scammers have account numbers or information from items like credit cards, they continue to commit additional crimes. They may immediately attempt to make purchases, steal your identity or open credit cards in your name.

"It can be very hard to identify the people behind it. They often use burner phones and accounts to hide their true identity, and they're often located outside the United States," Sroka said.

As scammers become more advanced in their tactics, discerning legitimate communication from phishing and smishing can be difficult.

Sroka provides several tips to prevent Total Force Airmen from becoming victims of phishing, smishing and other cyber crimes:

Be mindful of the information you are putting on social media; the platforms are public.

Lock down your accounts, don't make them public for everyone to see.

Use two-factor identification; if your username and password are compromised, you have a second means of securing your data.

Report account violations as soon as possible, cancel or freeze affected credit cards and change passwords of violated accounts.

If you are using the same username and password for the account that was compromised anywhere else, you have to assume that all accounts with the same username and passwords could potentially be compromised as well.

CYBERCRIMES ON THE RISE

Phishing
A scammer uses your contact information to craft a message that has the highest possibility of garnering a response via email message.

From: mail@randolph-brokscu.com
Subject: Account Verification

Your account has been frozen due to unusual activity. Click here to talk to customer service.

Smishing
A scammer uses a Short Message Service (SMS) message via a cellphone.

UNKNOWN
Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS): Your deposit of $3,200 is pending on your account. Click on https://scam link.com/dfas.mil to accept.

Sources: cid.army.mil & fbi.gov (Spoofing and Phishing.)

Do not click on information you are not aware of even if it comes from someone you know.

If information does come from someone you know, contact them first before clicking or taking any action. Hit delete; don't click or respond at all. You can also block numbers placed to your phone.

"The best thing to do is to avoid compromise happening in the first place," said Sroka. "If it does happen, immediately report that you believe your account or identity has been compromised to the proper authority or financial institution."

Violations can be reported to the Federal Trade Commission or the Anti-Phishing Working Group. You can report phishing to APWG by sending email to phishing-report@us-cert.gov.

Air Force Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control Association

Membership Application

MAIL TO: Leslie McCormick, 1029 W Battlefield St, Apt B102, Springfield MO 65807-4267

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 $42.00 due every two years.

Life Memberships are $150.00

Renewal _____ New Membership_____ Life Membership _____ Associate _____

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

PRINT CLEARLY – PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION

Date: ___/___/___

First Name _____ MI ___ Last Name_____

Street Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip code_____- _____

Phone Number (_____)_____-_____

e-Mail Address: _____

Year of Birth _____ Spouse's Name _____

Service Status:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AF CYBERSPACE AND AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL ASSOC

AFCATCA hat $15

AFCATCA jacket $59

AFCATCA blue golf shirts $42

AFCATCA challenge coin $14

Special order wood-carved plaque

See next page

Name: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

_____

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	SIZE	TOTAL
____	**AFCATCA baseball cap (adjustable)** @ $15 each	_____	$_____
____	**AFCATCA Jacket with logo (zipper)** (Note: Jackets will be special order only with possible delay of several weeks.)		
	S M L XL @ $59 each	_____	$_____
____	**AFCATCA Blue Golf Shirts (unisex)**	_____	$_____
	S M L XL @ $42 each		
____	**AFCATCA Challenge Coin** @ $14 each	_____	$_____

(Note: Price increases are due to postage increase and increase in cost to the association.)

TOTAL OF ABOVE ITEMS: $_____

TOTAL WOOD PLAQUE ORDER: $_____

Donation (Tax deductible within limits of law) Receipt: Yes___ No ___ $_____

GRAND TOTAL $_____

POSTAGE AND HANDLING ARE INCLUDED IN ALL PRICES.
MAKE CHECKS OUT TO 'AF CYBERSPACE & ATC ASSOC'
MAIL TO: Bill Cassatt, 1200 Homelife Plaza Apt D-3, Rolla, MO 65401
Phone 573-263-3334   clarkwcassatt@gmail.com

AACS, AFCS & AFCC Wood-Carved Wall Plaques

Cost (including shipping) is $35 each

Make checks out to AF Cyberspace & ATC Assoc and mail to Bill Cassatt, 1200 Homelife Plaza, Apt D-3, Rolla MO 65401

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

Size 10 1/2 inches

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

Total cost: $ _____   (check attached)

Mail to: _____

_____

_____

HOW IT BEGAN

Many in this association saw air traffic control take a technological leap forward with the introduction of radar in the 1950s. Some saw air and ground radio stations transform from continuous wave Morse Code to radio telephone. Many witnessed the advent of the computer. They all helped the military increase the quantity and quality of communications, data automation, and air traffic control 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, Cyberspace Capabilities Center, AF Flight Standards Agency, and other major commands up to and including today's organizational structure.

On Sept 27, 2008, the AACS Alumni Association became AF Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association to reflect its membership.

On July 1, 2020, our association became the AF Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control Association, because communicators are now referred to as cyberspace operators.

TAX STATUS

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

OUR 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 would become known as the AACS Alumni Association. The title at that time was 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 major command 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.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

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 was renamed the Air Force Communications Service (AFCS). This designation remained until 1979 when it was renamed Air Force Communications Command (AFCC).

Status of the unit changed from major command to a field operating agency on July 1, 1991, and redesignated as: Air Force Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Agency on May 28, 1993; Air Force Communications Agency on June 13, 1996. Status of the unit changed from a field operating agency of USAF to a subordinate unit of the Air Force Communications and Information Center on April 1, 1997. Status of unit changed from a subordinate unit of the Air Force Communications and Information Center to a field operating agency of the USAF on Oct 1, 2000. Status of unit changed from field operating agency of USAF to a subordinate unit of the Air Force Space Command on May 4, 2009. Redesignated as Air Force Network Integration Center on July 15, 2009. AFNIC was re-designated as the Headquarters Cyberspace Capabilities Center (CCC) on Nov 7, 2019, reporting to Air Combat Command.

The old blue original AACS logo was previously the official Association logo. In 2020, our Association introduced its new name, Air Force Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control Association, and its new logo.

Members: Check address label for date and/or year dues expire (number before your first name). If it's '22' dues expire Dec 2022. Next edition will not be mailed if dues have expired.

WHO WE ARE

Our association is comprised of about 1,000 members (Communicators, Data Automation, Cyber, Space Operations, Air Traffic Controllers, Air Field Managers, Maintenance, Engineering and Installation, combat communications, and related support personnel) who have served or are serving in any communications or air traffic control unit. This includes those who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps or hold or held a communications, data automation, information/cyber, air traffic control, maintenance, engineering and installation or related support skill set.

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) 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 to AF Communicators and Air Traffic Controllers Association because the Airways and Air Communications Service (AACS) was elevated to Major Air Command status and redesignated Air Force Communications Service in 1961.

We changed again July 1, 2020, to AF Cyberspace and Air Traffic Control Association. Throughout the Air Force, Cyber Warfare Operations has become the new career field title for what we have known as the communications career field. All Air Force members who traditionally were identified as communicators are now referred to as Cyberspace Operators.

MISSION

> To foster continued awareness of the Air Force communications, data automation, air traffic control and cyberspace missions previously accomplished by AACS, AFCS, AFCC, AFC4A, AFCA, AFNIC, CCC, AFFSA, other past and current commands (AFSPC, ACC, AMC, AFMC, etc.).

> To provide a forum for educational and humanitarian services, to renew and make new friendships, and to exchange ideas of common interest concerning people and activities associated with communications, cyber, and air traffic control.

> To fully support the goals and missions of the U.S. Air Force and to honor each year the ATC Enlisted Manager, Air Traffic Controller, Cyber Systems Senior NCO, and Cyber Systems NCO of the Year.

> To make charitable contributions to worthy veteran organizations or related causes.

> To manage our Association to be viable for those airmen/officers/civilians serving today.