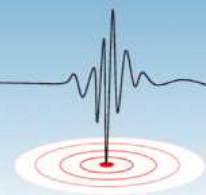




# ECHOES

Past — Present — Future



January 2021

Volume 2021, Issue 1

Newsletter of the Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association

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## AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COLORADO CHAPTER

### 2021 FLORIDA REUNION POSPONED UNTIL 2022

*AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WEIGHING THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO COVID-19, THE COLORADO CHAPTER STAFF WILL MAKE PLANS FOR ALL 2021 EVENTS CONTINGENT ON THE GUIDELINES ISSUED BY STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.*

**FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST WILL BE REPLACED BY A ZOOM MEETING ON 20 FEBRUARY AT 09:00**  
**DETAILS WILL BE PUBLISHED THE 1ST WEEK OF FEBRUARY**

*WE WILL EVALUATE SCHEDULING A JUNE PICNIC IN MAY.*

### Colorado Chapter Staff

**W. Bryce Dunn, Jr.**  
*President*  
president@aftacco.org

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### New Officers Needed!

President Bryce Dunn and Vice President Darrel Kline have served the Colorado Chapter for many years. They are ready to pass the torch to new leaders. Please consider volunteering to take these offices. You may contact any of the Staff listed to the left of this request to accept the challenge.



To those in uniform serving today and to those who have served in the past, we honor you today and every day.

### We're ALL on the Web!

Colorado Chapter: [www.aftacco.org](http://www.aftacco.org)

Florida Chapter: [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us)

West Coast Chapter: [www.aftacwcc.org](http://www.aftacwcc.org)

Official AFTAC Web Site: [www.16af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC](http://www.16af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC)

### Retiree personnel services available 24/7

The Total Force Service Center can deliver any time and from any location. To reach a select the menu option for retired military with



personnel services to the retiree family via telephone Total Force Service Center agent, call 800.525.0102 and personnel inquiries.

**Note: Expect a long menu of options to select, but you will find some useful information.**



## 9S100 Badge - Occupational Badge

From the *Post Monitor* (used by permission)

Three of our most dedicated alumni — George Cronin, Tony DeMarco, and Rick Manley — stumbled across an AF document that discusses the current 9S100 Badge. Did you know retired 99's are authorized to wear it? Here is the link to the AF Doc that has the 9S100 Badge info in Chapter 5

[https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af\\_a2/publication/cfetpri9s100/cfetpri9s100.pdf](https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_a2/publication/cfetpri9s100/cfetpri9s100.pdf)

According to Susan Romano, Chief, Public Affairs, AFTAC, Patrick AFB, FL:

“Since the dawn of the nuclear age the atomic symbol has represented the application of science and technology to both the military and the public. To Scientific Applications Specialists the atomic symbol portrays the fundamental interest in basic elemental science and nuclear/electronic technology that has formed the foundation of the RI since its inception. The gear wheel is an historic symbol of the engineering profession. Engineering is a primary element of the Scientific Applications Specialist RI as it unites interest in science with the development and sustainment of unique Air Force scientific mission equipment. Finally, the lightning flashes symbolize the power obtained when science, technology, and engineering principles are brought together and applied by Scientific Applications Specialists through operations and analysis that serve to execute the Air Force mission.”

Basic Scientific Applications  
Badge

“All Airmen, to include retired and separated members, awarded RI 9S100 (or associated identifiers 99125, 99104, 99105, 99106, 9S000, and 9S200) are eligible to wear the Scientific Applications occupational badge.”

Senior Scientific Applications  
Badge

“Wear the basic badge after completing technical school and being awarded the 9S100 RI. Wear the senior badge after having met all of the basic badge requirements, served in the 9S100 RI for a minimum of 12 months (9 months if a retrainee), and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant or above. Wear the master badge after attaining the rank of Master Sergeant and having served five years in the 9S100 RI from award of the senior badge. For retrainees, credit towards the new badge starts on entry into the 9S100 RI.”

Master Scientific Applications  
Badge

**Ed Note:** Badges can be purchased on the Vanguard website

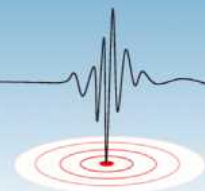
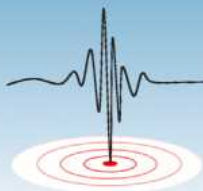
Full Sized Badges:

<https://www.vanguardmil.com/collections/air-force-breast-badges?page=27>

Embroidered & Midsized Badges:

<https://www.vanguardmil.com/collections/air-force-breast-badges?page=28>





## From the Group Leader

By Bryce Dunn, President



We have been in a “COVID” mode for 9 months now since the Friday, March 13th declaration of a National Emergency due to the Pandemic. Our oldest son, an Army veteran, received his stage one Pfizer vaccine on 12/21/20 (A light at the end of the tunnel?). Hopefully things will be better by the Pandemic anniversary.

Sincerest congratulations to Colonel Katharine Barber as the new 16th Air Force Commander and to Colonel Hartman on his award of the Legion of Merit. We also thank Colonel Hartman and his family for their outstanding support to our Alumni organization – best of luck in your new endeavor.

For those of you that haven’t heard, with heavy heart, the Florida Chapter postponed their 2021 world-wide reunion to 2022.

The Colorado Chapter staff and some members of our “core group” met via Zoom on 12/9/20. We discussed upcoming events and decided to hold a “Zoom” meeting on 2/20/2021 at 09:00 for our traditional breakfast in lieu of physical attendance. A Zoom link will be sent out the first week in February. There is also an option to simply dial in to the meeting and talk. Please let us know if you need any help with the Zoom application. We also decided to pre-plan for a picnic this summer, possibly in June and will evaluate the feasibility in May.

Your Colorado Alumni Staff is still active: Bill Schmied, Treasurer and Membership; Maureen Hampson, Assistant Treasurer & Membership; Darrel Kline, Vice President; Ken Behrens, Editor/Publisher; and Bill Harris, Webmaster, are all still doing a great job. Hopefully we can put together some activities this year to share our 2020 experiences and truthful AFTAC/LRD tales. Darrel and I are still looking for replacements, so please let us know if you are interested in leading a distinguished group of veterans, civilians and their families for camaraderie and fun. The original charter of the organization formed by Ben Vlassic was to organize an alumni organization, disseminate communications from HQs pertinent to the alumni including a newsletter and facilitate at least one annual get-together. I think Ben would be proud that the organization still continues its mission.



SMSgt Benjamin Paul Vlassick (Retired) Receiving the AFTAC Alumni of Year Award from AFTAC Commander, Colonel Roy F. Horton III at the June 2001 World-Wide Reunion hosted by the Colorado Chapter (see Colorado August 2001 Newsletter at: <http://www.aftacco.org/newsletters/index.htm> ).

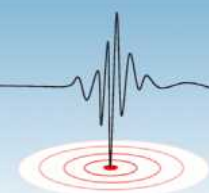
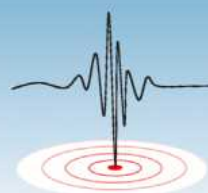
Lastly, I ran across an inspirational article about a Christmas custom in Iceland. It is known as Jolabokaflokkur or Christmas Book Flood. It started during World War II, when paper was one of the few things not rationed and imports were restricted. New books were written and given as presents. After receiving a book on Christmas, customarily they get some chocolate, settle in with a blanket and read the book into the night.

Please send any stories, experiences, philosophies, etc. that you would like to share to our publisher, Ken Behrens at: [EchoesPublisher@aftacco.org](mailto:EchoesPublisher@aftacco.org) . We would love to hear from you as well as all of our readers.

Best wishes to you all and stay safe.  
Bryce Dunn  
President







## Taps

The following deceased alumni and family members have not been reported in previous *Echoes*. Additional information can be found at the Florida website ( <http://aftacaa.us/> ) or at the West Coast Chapter ( <http://www.aftacwcc.org/index.htm> ).



Name	Birth	Death	State
Castillo Jr, Bernardo "Bernie"	1939	30 Sep 2020	CA
Copeland, Ray Friebman	09 Dec 1934	27 Oct 2020	GA
Harris, Eunice P.	29 Aug 1933	02 Oct 2020	FL
Humphrey Thomas J. "Tom"	11 Mar 1943	02 Jul 2020	CA
Humphries, Donovan L.	1931	22 Mar 2017	VA
James, Waymond Randolph	08 Mar 1931	24 Nov 2020	TX
Kretzschmar, Leroy Francis	09 Dec 1935	08 Aug 2020	CO
Kubiak, John M.	1935	22 Jun 2020	NV
Lanigan, John	1929	17 Dec 2020	CA
Long, Robert "Bob"	07 Aug 1937	11 Oct 2020	MO
Lovan, Charles Robert "Bob"	04 May 1949	27 Sep 2020	FL
Madigan, James Joseph "Jim"	31 Dec 1936	19 Aug 2020	FL
Marshall, Marjorie Phyllis Gough	01 May 1938	06 Jan 2021	VA
Nederhoed, John	No Information Available		
Paisley, Donald "Don"	08 May 1935	13 Nov 2020	CA
Reynolds, Phillip "Phil"	01 Aug 1939	15 Dec 2020	MO
Reynolds, Ruth Ann "Ruthie"	08 Feb 1939	28 Jan 2020	MO
Serdynski, Donald Bryan "Don"	30 Jan 1936	15 Aug 2020	FL
Smith, Dave "Smitty"		29 Aug 2020	
Stephan, William "Bill"	29 Dec 1942	02 Sep 2020	CA
Villareal, Al		01 Aug 2020	
Vos, Robert "Bob"	16 Dec 1940	10 Jan 2021	CO
Woodard, Cheryl		07 Nov 2020	FL

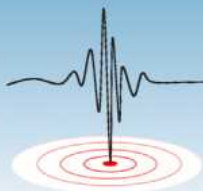


## Mark Your Calendars

**2021 WORLDWIDE REUNION POSTPONED**

Hosted by the Florida AFTAC Alumni Association

New Date Targeted for the Spring of 2022



## Mail Call

### Covid-19 Vaccinations By The Veterans Administrations

The Veterans Administration has issued some information on Covid-19 vaccinations for veterans. This information can also be found on our website: [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us)

VA Vaccination website:

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/82728/va-begin-covid-19-vaccinations-128-additional-sites/>



Here's an additional note from our Website Chairman, Ed Lindsay.

“Per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, VA will continue to vaccinate health care personnel, as well as community living center and spinal cord unit residents. As vaccine supplies increase, VA's ultimate goal is to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to all Veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated.

As vaccines become available, VA care teams will reach out to eligible Veterans to schedule vaccinations. There is no need to preregister or come to a facility to sign up.

Veterans can get up-to-date information and sign up to receive regular updates on VA's COVID-19 vaccine webpage.”

Have a wonderful New Year all.  
Your AFTAC Alumni Association



## Editor's Corner

By Ken Behrens, Editor & Publisher

Boy, what a year 2020 has been! I must say that I am NOT sorry to see it go and I was thrilled to put up the 2021 calendars. I even threatened to stay up past midnight on 31 Dec just to make sure that the new year had really arrived and that 2020 had ended, but decided to just get a good night's rest instead.



We had a great time at Christmas celebrating with the grandkids after they returned from vacationing in Florida. They complained that the weather was really damp and cold. I showed absolutely no sympathy that it was soooo miserable for them.

Please keep a sharp eye out for the Zoom meeting the staff is putting together in lieu of the February breakfast. It is important that we stay in contact and look out for each other while we are unable to meet face-to-face. I really miss being able to see all of you and engage in the fellowship afforded by our gatherings. We are going to evaluate the feasibility of having a picnic this year which would mark our first real event since this pandemic started a year ago.

I checked with our physician and he said that both of us are on his list to receive the COVID vaccine as soon as it is available in his office. Be sure to contact your medical team to verify that they have plans in place to send notifications to their eligible patients. Most of us are in the state's 1B category for getting the shots. Ain't our ages a plus in this case?

This newsletter is a little thin on content because nothing much has been allowed to happen by the powers that be while we deal with COVID. I hope our next issue will have a lot of material to work with and you have a ton of items you would like to share with the group.

Stay safe and healthy until we can meet in person again.



Ken Behrens, Editor  
2153 S. Scranton Way  
Aurora, CO 80014-5307



**MAIL FLORIDA DUES (\$10 PER YEAR or \$75 Lifetime) TO:**  
AFTAC Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 254892 Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892

**MAIL WEST COAST DUES (\$10 PER YEAR or \$75 Lifetime) TO:**  
AFTACAA-WCC  
c/o 6605 Sweet Gum Ct.  
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

**For Colorado Membership Application, Change of Address, or Dues Payment**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Unless advised to the contrary, personal information listed above is releasable to other AFTAC/LRD members.**  
DUES ARE \$5.00 PER 12 MONTH PERIOD PAYABLE DURING THE EXPIRATION MONTH. (PLEASE check your dues expiration date on the label above or in the email if you receive the electronic newsletter.)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "Bill Schmied".

MAIL TO: Bill Schmied, 2078 Kenton St, Aurora, CO 80010-1310.

Membership & dues questions may be directed to Bill Schmied at Email Address: [treasurer@aftacco.org](mailto:treasurer@aftacco.org)