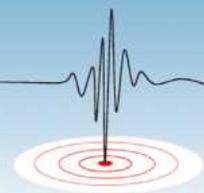


ECHOES

Past — Present — Future



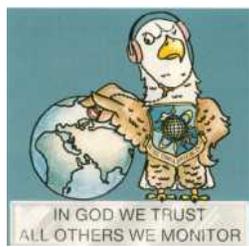
May 2022

Volume 2022, Issue 2

Newsletter of the Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Events.....	1
Web Addresses.....	1
19 Feb Breakfast.....	2
Mark Your Calendars.....	2
Breakfast Photos.....	3
From the Group Leader.....	5
Experts Witness Launch.....	6
Taps.....	8
Editor's Corner.....	8
AFTAC Memorial.....	9



Colorado Chapter Staff

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

Darrel Kline
Vice President
vicepres@aftacco.org

Maureen Hampson
Treasurer
treasurer@aftacco.org

Ken Behrens
Echoes Editor
echoeseditor@aftacco.org

MicroBlue Software, LLC
Echoes Publisher
echoespublisher@aftacco.org

Bill Harris
Webmaster
webmaster@aftacco.org

© 2021 AFTAC Alumni Association - Colorado
All Rights Reserved

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

COLORADO CHAPTER

Upcoming Events

SUMMER PICNIC 11 JUNE 2022 1000-1500 HRS, AT MATNEY PARK, 5790 LANTERN CIRCLE, CASTLE ROCK. THE PARK IS ADA ACCESSIBLE WITH A LARGE COVERED PAVILION. EVERYONE IS WELCOME, INCLUDING YOUR PETS.

THE CHAPTER WILL FURNISH BURGERS, BRATS, HOT DOGS, CONDIMENTS, LEMONADE, POTATO SALAD, CHIPS AND WATERMELON. FEEL FREE TO BRING A DISH TO SHARE. ADULT BEVERAGES ARE OK - WE HAVE A PERMIT.

NO RSVPs REQUIRED, BUT PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL DARREL KLINE (DKCOLORADO@LIVE.COM / 720-439-9939) OR BRYCE DUNN (WBDUNN@COMCAST.NET / 303-693-4150) SO WE CAN GET A COUNT FOR THE FOOD PURCHASE.

DIRECTIONS

FROM CASTLE ROCK TAKE 86 (FOUNDERS PARKWAY) EAST TOWARDS FRANKTOWN, GO STRAIGHT ON TO RIDGE RD AT THE SHOPPING CENTER, TAKE A LEFT ON MIKELSON BLVD THEN A RIGHT ON LANTERN CIRCLE.

FROM FRANKTOWN, TAKE 86 WEST, TAKE A LEFT ON ENDERUD BLVD, LEFT ON MIKELSON BLVD, THEN A LEFT ON LANTERN CIRCLE.

We're ALL on the Web!

AFTAC Alumni Association-Colorado: www.aftacco.org

Florida AFTAC Alumni Association: www.aftacaa.us

West Coast AFTACAA-WCC: www.aftacwcc.org

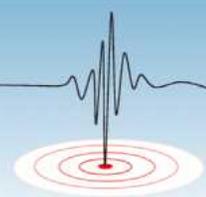
Official USAF AFTAC Web Site: www.16af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC





ECHOES

Past — Present — Future



Page 2

May 2022

19 February Breakfast Recap

By Maureen Hampson, Treasurer

Thirty-seven adults and three children gathered at the Aurora Hills Golf Course, Tin Cup Banquet Room, Saturday, February 19th, on a beautiful, crisp and clear Colorado morning for our General Membership Meeting and to enjoy friendship along with a delicious breakfast buffet.

Following the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, President Bryce Dunn welcomed Major Adam Ross, Commander, Detachment 46, Colorado Springs and his family.

Following breakfast, President Bryce Dunn provided a recap of the Florida Chapter's meeting where this year's Alumni of the Year, Lou Seiler, was announced. Congratulations Lou.

President, Bryce Dunn then asked Bill Schmeid to join him, at the podium, where Bryce presented Bill with a "Certificate of Accomplishment" in recognition of Bill's faithful years serving the chapter, in variety of positions, since 1987. In addition, Bill received Master 9S100 badge. Your contributions are certainly appreciated, Bill.

Alumni Bill Kimbrough and his wife, Wanda, were recognized for driving the farthest (they drove from Pueblo which is 114 miles south of Aurora). Chuck Toner announced the publication of his newest book.

Our annual picnic is scheduled for Saturday, June 11th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Matney Park, 5790 Lantern Circle, Castle Rock 80014. The chapter will furnish burgers, brats, hot dogs, lemonade, potato salad, chips and watermelon. Feel free to bring a dish to share and bring your pets. Adult beverages are OK – we have a permit. The park is ADA accessible with a large pavilion, an 18-hole disc golf course, playground with swings, in-line rink, horseshoe courts, a synthetic turf field, and dogs are allowed on a leash. We will have horseshoes and a bean bag toss available. Although no reservations are required, we would appreciate getting an idea of how many people to expect. Please e-mail Darrel Kline (vicepres@aftacco.org) or Bryce Dunn (president@aftacco.org) to let us know if you plan to attend.

Maureen (Darrah) Hampson was introduced as our chapter's new treasurer. Maureen had been assigned, as a personal technician, to HQ AFTAC from 79-82, 1157 TCHOS/HQ ETOA from 82-87, and finally, Det 057 from 87 until her retirement in 92.

Nominations for the offices of president and vice-president were opened from the floor. Bryce Dunn will continue as president and Darrel Kline will continue as vice-president.

V/R,
Maureen Hampson Treasurer



Mark Your Calendars

2022 WORLDWIDE REUNION 18 to 22 May
Hosted by the Florida AFTAC Alumni Association
Reunion Headquarters: Radisson Resort at the Port
8701 Astronaut Boulevard, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Colorado Chapter Summer Picnic 11 June 1000-1500 hrs
Matney Park, 5790 Lantern Circle, Castle Rock



ECHOES

Past — Present — Future



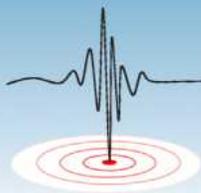
May 2022

Page 3

19 February Breakfast Pictures

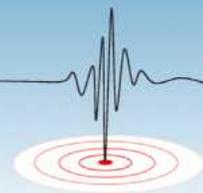
Photos by Sue Dunn





ECHOES

Past — Present — Future



19 February Breakfast Pictures

Photos by Sue Dunn





From the Group Leader

By Bryce Dunn, President



After thirteen consecutive weeks of snow Jan – Apr here in Denver, it is good to feel the warmth outside, look at the hummingbirds and the flowers coming out. There is still a good bit of snow visible in the Rockies and on the 14ers: Pikes Peak, Mount Evans and Long’s Peak. Our last freeze was only a couple of weeks ago. Yesterday I played golf with my Senior League partners for the first time this year, it was in the 50’s.

Since our last Newsletter in January 2022 (thanks Ken!) the only official activity we’ve had was our February Breakfast. We had 34 adults and 3 children to register – as usual the Tin Cup team put on a great breakfast buffet. We were fortunate to have Major Adam Ross, Det 46 Commander, address us about the two space detachments and how they are doing.

Also, Sage Chuck Toner talked about his new book that he just published and signed a few copies for the alumni. His book is available on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/You-Dont-Know-Where-Youre/dp/B09RG64D8D> . This is Chuck’s third book - not bad for a nonagenarian. Sue & I read the book, it is very enjoyable, has a good mix of humor, history and wisdom from a lifetime of experiences from a very interesting alumni.

Our next scheduled activity for the Colorado Chapter is the 11 June 2022 Picnic at Matney Park in Castle Rock. We are looking forward to seeing you there if you can make it. No RSVPs required, just show up and bring a dish if you want. Last year the big event was the bean bag toss tournament of champions. They have a playground there and pets are OK. Also, two horseshoe pits are available and an adjacent field if you want to set up badminton or volleyball. Come on out and enjoy some good food and camaraderie.

One reminder – to get on the list to receive the most current newsletter the Chapter charges \$5 a year for membership. The Florida and West Coast chapters also only send their latest newsletters to members only. The \$5 membership is our only source of income other than individual donations to sponsor events, our webpage and newsletters. Because we are a unregistered non-profit association - not a Colorado registered nonprofit organization we must use an individual’s bank account. Maureen Hampson is our new treasurer (Thank you Maureen!). That is the reason checks must be made out to Maureen and not the Association. The past newsletters (except the most current) are available on our website: www.AFTACCO.org (Thanks Bill!).

Lastly, kudos to the Florida Chapter for putting on the World-Wide Reunion 18 – 22 May 2022. Sue & I have our flights, rental car and hotel room reserved and are ready to see our good alumni friends and look forward to making new acquaintances. Also catch up on some good fresh seafood.

Wishing you all a safe and fun summer!
Bryce Dunn,
President



Retiree personnel services available 24/7

The Total Force Service Center can deliver personnel services to the retiree family via telephone any time and from any location. To



reach a Total Force Service Center agent, call 800.525.0102 and select the menu option for retired military with personnel inquiries.

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



Florida Nuke Experts Witness Payload Launch into Orbit

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs

Published in the 2021 December *Post Monitor* (used by permission)

CAPE CANAVERAL SPACE FORCE STATION, Fla. -- Scientists and engineers from the Air Force Technical Applications Center had the rare opportunity to see the realization of their work aboard the Department of Defense's Space Test Program Satellite 6, or STPSat-6, and witness the fruits of their labor hurtle into the atmosphere from Space Launch Complex-41 at 5:19 a.m., Dec. 7 aboard an Atlas V rocket.

The spacecraft will deploy two U.S. Space Force technology demonstration satellites into a geosynchronous orbit more than 22,000 miles above the earth that will be used to advance warfighting capabilities in the areas of nuclear detonation detection, space domain awareness, and communication.

Several weeks before the rocket blasted off from Cape Canaveral on a foggy Florida morning, select members of the nuclear treaty monitoring center were invited to tour Astrotech's Titusville, Fla., facilities as the final tests and evaluations were performed on the \$1 billion multi-use satellite. The lead contractor, Northrup Grumman, has been working on this project for the past six years in partnership with Astrotech and the U.S. Space Force's Space Systems Command.

As this multi-organizational team worked toward mission accomplishment, each had a specific role to play. Astrotech provided launch preparations facilities and related services for the spacecraft prior to launch. Northrup Grumman's space systems and strategic deterrence expertise enabled the development and acquisition of the satellite. SSC was responsible for on-orbit check out and testing, as well as early sustainment and maintenance of STPSat-6.

The satellite first arrived at Astrotech's Central Florida facility May 6 after being safely transported by Northrup Grumman from their space headquarters in Dulles, Va., where the vehicle was built and tested prior to the final steps in spacecraft processing: functional testing, fueling and integration with the launch vehicle.

Once the functional testing was completed, the payload slowly lumbered its way via flatbed from Astrotech's facility to the vehicle inspection facility at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. This stage of the process marked the start of final spacecraft processing, which included launch site functional testing, fueling, and integrating the Long Duration Propulsive ESPA-1 (Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle Secondary Payload Adapter) rideshare spacecraft with the powerful Atlas V launch vehicle.

AFTAC is the premier customer for STPSat-6. The primary operational payload is the Space and Atmospheric Burst



Continued on page 7

Florida Nuke Experts Witness Payload Launch into Orbit

Continued from page 6

Reporting System, better known as SABRS, which is designed to complement nuclear detonation detectors aboard GPS spacecraft.

In support of the U.S. Nuclear Detection System, the space-based payload will help AFTAC and its mission partners monitor global nuclear detonations from more than 20,000 miles above the earth. AFTAC, in partnership with Los Alamos National Laboratory, uses data from the on-board technology to detect nuclear explosions in the atmosphere and in space.

“Essentially, STPSat-6 will advance our warfighting capabilities by delivering operational nuclear detonation detection capabilities in the space domain,” said Dave Merker, director of AFTAC’s Systems Development Directorate. “This launch is significant for AFTAC as we continually look for ways to expand our space access to deliver critical ‘nudet’ data to our national decision makers.”

During AFTAC’s visit to the Titusville facility, Brian Gore, senior program manager for Northrup Grumman and systems lead on STPSat-6, explained why this satellite is so important.

“This is historic – not just for one reason, but for nine reasons,” he said. “There are nine different payloads with nine unique missions on the satellite from a cross-section of U.S. government stakeholders: the Air Force, the Navy, NASA, LANL, National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Energy, just to name a few. It’s also historic because this is the largest spacecraft we can fit into our chamber here, which gives everyone involved a sense of pride knowing they’re part of something so monumental.”

The satellite and its host technologies weigh in at about 6,000 pounds – relatively light for having several payloads aboard – but much of the technology being deployed is compact and lightweight, which makes it even more advantageous to house multiple missions on a single satellite.

Parveen Kapoor, flight chief of Atmosphere and Space Operations at AFTAC’s 23rd Analysis Squadron, has been heavily involved with STPSat-6 since as early as 2016.

“For the past five years, I’ve worked to secure advocacy and funding from senior policy makers and took every opportunity to stress the importance of the program,” she said. “Whenever key leaders visited AFTAC, I would seize every opportunity to explain how vital this program is to national security. It’s been a long road, and I wasn’t sure I’d ever get to witness it being deployed into orbit, but what a sigh of relief it was to see it launch!”

She added, “It’s almost like watching your child grow from infancy to adulthood, and seeing them finally graduate! I wasn’t the only ‘parent’ of this child, however; there was an entire team who made it possible, and I know each of them had a lot of emotions going on as the rocket lifted off – lots of joy, immense pride, and a huge sense of satisfaction knowing we were part of something so important to the defense of our nation. I’m so grateful to have played a role in it.”

For full article and additional pictures, see:

<https://www.16af.af.mil/News/Article/2865437/florida-nuke-experts-witness-payload-launch-into-orbit/>





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
Ciambrone, Theresa "Terry"	26 Oct 1930	11 May 2022	FL
Cosner, Dale Edward	13 Sep 1942	17 Mar 2022	WA
Cwikla, James Steven "Jim"	23 Jun 1943	21 Apr 2022	NV
Marcus, Donald R.	04 Mar 1935	04 May 2022	LA
Meisenheimer, Robert "Bob"	13 Nov 1933	10 Jan 2022	FL
Redlin, Geraldine Linda "Gerry"	12 Feb 1936	10 Feb 2022	CO
Stefoneck, Jeffrey Anthony "Jeff"	25 Nov 1951	25 Feb 2022	FL
Summers, Richard "Alky"	08 Apr 1935	09 Mar 2022	LA
Ware, James "Jim"	26 Oct 1962	16 Feb 2022	PA



Editor's Corner

By Ken Behrens, Editor & Publisher



It is really great that we will have a summer picnic! Not having the event for two years was a real bummer. Cyndie and I always look forward to attending. Thanks go out to our President Bryce for securing the location and doing the chef duties, along with Sue's supervision to make sure everything goes as planned. I hope that we have a good turnout of active duty people so we can get acquainted with the men and women who are carrying on our mission. It is gratifying that AFTAC has such a talented pool of troops to continue this important work to keep our country safe.

I have been checking the Grand Encampment website for information about the July Living History celebration, but it has not been updated as of this writing. I will pass on any information as soon as I get the details. I would assume that all the events will be a go now that the COVID stuff is in our rear-view mirror.

As was reported elsewhere in the newsletter, our February breakfast was a big success. The staff at the Tin Cup restaurant prepared a very good selection of food. We had a wonderful time visiting with everyone after our hiatus.

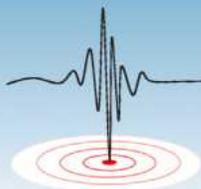
As I write this article, I heard a weather forecast for the end of week that includes a potential for snow. Don't you just love how we have to cope with winter in the middle of May? I could see it if we lived in Fairbanks, but down here is rather hard to take.

I want to add my thanks to Bill Schmied for his many years of dedication and service serving the Colorado Chapter. He has volunteered untold hours as Treasurer for as long as I can remember. He was instrumental in helping me create the membership database and mail list. It has been a pleasure working with him to maintain and improve the software.

Thanks are also in order to Bryce and Darrel for graciously staying on as President and Vice President. They have served us well and will continue to do so for another year. Maureen has stepped into the Treasurer's job so that Bill could retire. Thanks go out to her as well.

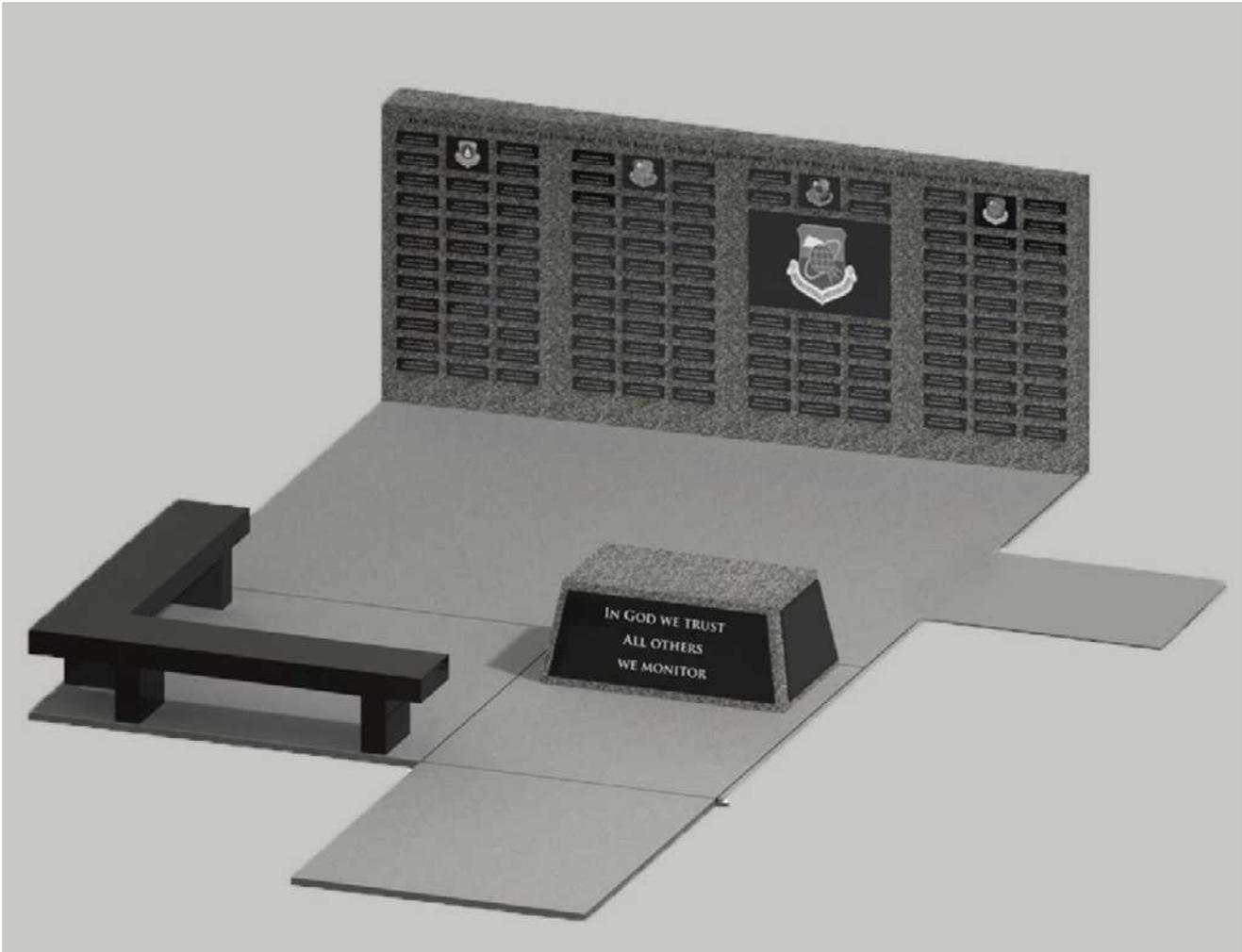
As always, please send me any information you would like to have included in the newsletter. I appreciate any and all suggestions to improve the content and layout of the publication.





AFTAC Memorial

“This memorial is dedicated to all those who have given their lives in support of the Long Range Detection mission, and the Air Force Technical Applications Center. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten.”



With all cost estimates in for the construction and installation of the memorial, we are currently more than half way there with \$53,000 in the building fund, but we need a final \$40,000 more to be able to sign contracts for completion of the project. Once the contracts are signed, the memorial is scheduled to be completed within 6 months of contract sign.

For all of those who have contributed to date, a hearty thank you! For those yet to contribute, please consider how you can help to honor your comrades who have passed while serving the AFTAC mission.

You can make a straight donation of cash or purchase a brick for the walkway. Every donation helps, no matter the size. A little amount by a large number can get us there. Thanks for your consideration.

A direct donation by check made out to “AFTAC Memorial Corporation,” and mailed to:

AFTAC Memorial Corporation
P.O. Box 372012
Satellite Beach, FL 32937

A brick may be ordered through the web site: <https://brickmarkersusa.com/donors/aftacmc.html>



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 "Maureen Hampson".
MAIL TO: Maureen Hampson, 1371 S Victor St., Aurora, CO 80012-4341.
Membership & dues questions may be directed to Maureen Hampson at Email Address: treasurer@aftacco.org