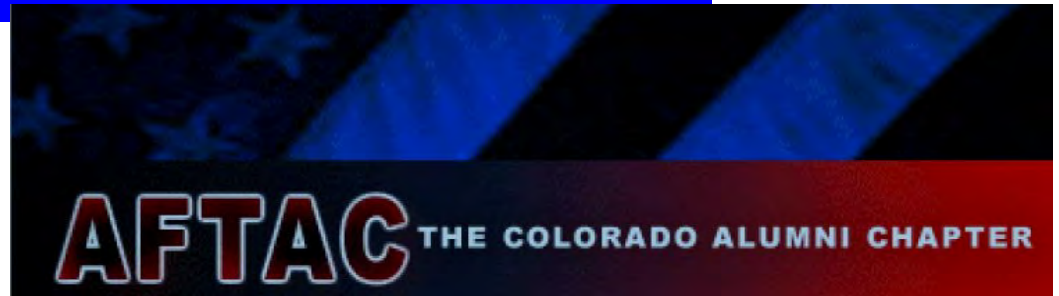


# ECHOES

Past — Present —  
and Future

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Taps</i>	2
<i>February Breakfast</i>	3
<i>Upcoming events and news</i>	4&5
<i>Det 421 Fire and Flood</i>	6
<i>Membership Info</i>	7



**UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**ALL CURRENT AND FORMER AFTAC PERSONNEL, SPOUSES AND GUESTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. MEMBERSHIP IN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND THESE EVENTS.**



**Delbë D. Solari**



Alice Springs RSL Club 1977

**The Colorado Chapter Summer Picnic is on July 7<sup>th</sup>.** This year's picnic will be at Matney Park on **7 July** from 11am to 3pm. Matney Park is located at 5790 Lantern Cr., Castle Rock, CO 80104. The amenities are listed on the Castle Rock website: <http://co-castlerock2.civicplus.com/Facilities/Facility/Details/27>

### Special points of interest:

**Check** the last page for dues expiration date

**Update**, as necessary, your address & email

### Retiree personnel service 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 get some useful information.**

Editor: B. Dunn (pro-temp)  
 Published by: **MicroBlue Software, LLC**  
 © 2015 AFTAC Alumni Association-Colorado - All Rights Reserved.

# TAPS



**Delbë D. Solari** passed away peacefully at home on March 9, 2018, surrounded by his loving family. Delbë was born March 30, 1933 in Santa Barbara, CA to Lucille and Emmanuel Solari. He was raised in Carpinteria, CA alongside three siblings, brother Joe and sisters Irene and Marianne. Delbë attended Carpinteria Union High School where he graduated in 1951 and after a short stint at Cal Berkeley he enlisted in the US Air Force and served in Korea. In 1955, while stationed in Wyoming, Delbë met the love of his life Mildred (Mickie) Bartos. They were married the following year and this past September they celebrated their 61st anniversary. Mickie and Delbë lovingly raised their four children Susanne, Shelbë, Stephanie, and Joe while being stationed in Wyoming, Alaska, Virginia, and Florida.

Delbë retired from active duty in 1974 as a SMSgt but continued his career as a civil servant physical science technician for AFTAC (Air Force Technical Applications Center). He transferred to Patrick AFB in 1976, where he worked until his full retirement in 2014 after 62 years of service and was described by his AFTAC Commander as "...the hidden backbone of the seismic mission."

Delbë loved family time and having PBRs or "Tanqs" (Tanqueray Gin, olive juice, and two olives) with friends and was sometimes allowed to bring limburger cheese into the house. He enjoyed being outside doing yardwork or feeding the local squirrels and blue jays of which he acquired a large following. Delbë was a humble, selfless man of few words but a man full of love and support putting friends and family before himself.

**Ginger Jordan**, originally from Morgantown, WV, wife of Terry Jordan, passed away on 30 January 2017. They were married for 54 years. They were stationed together at HQ Alexandria and HQ Patrick AFB among other Air Force assignments with both AFTAC and J5. Terry retired from the Air Force after 23 years of service. They lived in Potomac Falls, Virginia and collected Butterfly Art and supported a Barber shop Chorus.

### **Arthur K. "Art" Hall 1936 - 2018**

Arthur K. Hall, "Art", age 81 of Akron, Ohio, died on Saturday, May 26, 2018 at Akron General Hospital. He was born on September 26, 1936 in Akron, the son of the late Lee H. and Oleta M. (nee Richards) Hall. Art was a graduate of South High School in 1954.

He was honorably discharged and a 20 year retiree of the US Air Force (AFTAC). Following his years of service in the Air Force, he then went on and retired as a supervisor from the US Postal Service in Akron.

Art enjoyed reading, traveling with his loving wife and family-especially camping, and fishing, but his greatest joy was spending time with his family especially his grandson.

Survivors include his loving wife of 56 years, the former Donna M. Prentiss, whom he married on May 5, 1962; his only daughter, Tracy L. Keefer and her companion, Jeffrey Lytle; his one grandson, Dyllan L. Keefer; and one sister, Leola Bauch.

I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.

Jimmy Dean



## February Alumni Breakfast



From left: Bryce Dunn, SrA James Daniels, Major Ernesto Curiel

From left: Bryce Dunn, SSgt John Strickland, Major Ernesto Curiel

**AAACO February 2018 Breakfast - Colorado Detachment Stars.** Our 24 February Breakfast was held at the Aurora Hills Golf Course Tin Cup. In attendance were 25 Alumni members, family and guests and six active duty members from Detachments 45 and 46. President Bryce Dunn and Commanders Major Marcus Sitterly (Det 45/CC) and Major Ernesto Curiel (Det 46/CC) presented a gift card to the following:

SSgt Justin Sneed, Det 45 NCO of the year 2017

SrA James Daniels, Det 46 Airman of the year 2017

SSgt John Strickland, Det 46 Senior Technician of the year 2017

Congratulations to the 2017 Detachment stars!

Also present were: MSgt Colin Campbell, Det 46 Superintendent, Bill Schmied, Alumni of the year 2007 and Lonnie Gibbons, Alumni of the year 2013

## Upcoming Events

**The Colorado Chapter Summer Picnic is on July 7<sup>th</sup>.** This year's picnic will be at Matney Park on **7 July** from 11am to 3pm. All are welcome. We will furnish burgers, brats, hot dogs, condiments, lemonade, potato salad, chips and watermelon at no charge. Donations are welcome. Feel free to bring a dish to share. Adult beverages are OK - we have a permit – please be responsible. RSVPs are appreciated but not required.

Matney Park is located at 5790 Lantern Cr., Castle Rock, CO 80104. The amenities are listed on the Castle Rock website: <http://co-castlerock2.civicplus.com/Facilities/Facility/Details/27>

Come on out and enjoy the view of Pikes Peak and some camaraderie. We hope to see you there!

## Upcoming Events (continued)

**The Grand Encampment Museum, 807 Barnett Ave, Encampment WY 82325, will have their Living History Day and Mountain Man Rendezvous on 21 July.** You can visit their website at <http://gemuseum.com> or call them at 307-327-5308. Their hours are Tuesday – Saturday: 9am – 5pm and Sundays: Noon – 4pm. Go spend a day with them and be sure to check out their Armed Forces/Det 142 exhibit. They are looking for someone to interpret the B system display for museum visitors on Living History Day. For those Alumni, family or friends that would like a copy of the Detachment 142 Scrapbook, you can call Bryce Dunn at 303-358-2976.

### 2018 Annual Veteran's Day Dinner

November 10<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Veteran's Day dinner at the Meadow Hills golf course Tin Cup, 3609 S Dawson St, Aurora, CO 80014. Stay tuned for more information.

### 2019 AFTAC Alumni World-Wide Reunion

Fellow Alumni and friends, we have started the preliminary work on hosting another alumni world-wide reunion next year, 13 - 16 June 2019, with the informal social icebreaker on Friday evening, 14 June, and the formal dinner on Saturday, 15 June. We have signed a contract with the Hilton DoubleTree at 13696 E Iliff Pl, Aurora, CO 80014, and they will give us a special room rate of \$119.00 per night (plus tax) which includes a full breakfast buffet each morning. This is the same hotel where we hosted our 2013 reunion – it is significantly remodeled. We are planning additional events such as a golf tournament Friday morning and a possible group trip Saturday morning. Stay tuned for additional information and registration forms. Kudos to Bill Schmied, Lonnie Gibbons and Chuck Toner for their negotiations with the Double Tree.

### 2018 September Breakfast

Our next semi-annual breakfast will be at the Aurora Hills Golf Course Tin Cup at 0900, 50 South Peoria St.

## Buy a Brick

### Buy a brick for someone at the Wings over the Rockies Museum.

This memorial day I had the honor of having a brick placed in the Runway of honor in Veterans Plaza (under the B52) at the Wings over the Rockies Museum. The museum is located in old Hanger #2 on former Lowry AFB. My son, MSgt David Dunn and his family surprised me on Christmas with the purchase of brick in my name. The museum has ceremonies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day for brick dedications. If you are interested, you can call the museum at 303-360-5360 or visit their website at: <http://wingsmuseum.org/bricks/>

## Echos Electronic Copies

### Electronic Newsletter

If you would like to receive the *Echos* in electronic format only via email, please let our publisher know at [EchoesPublisher@aftacco.org](mailto:EchoesPublisher@aftacco.org). New editions of the *Echos* will be sent to current members only. Previous editions of the *Echos* are available to everyone on our web page at: <http://www.aftacco.org/>

## About our *Echos* Editor

For those of you who don't know him, J. Moxley, A.K.A. "Mox" has been the editor of the AFTAC Alumni Association of Colorado *Echos* since September of 2008. Mox and our publisher, Ken Behrens, took over the *Echos* from Bruce Deffler who was the editor from September 2004 to March 2008. Since then the Mox/Ken team has put out ten years of interesting articles, taps, alumni information, reunion registration and humor to our fellow Alumni (including active duty), their families and friends. Military Brief Biography J. Moxley:

August 1955 – Entered the United States Air Force Bused to Sampson AFB upstate New York for basic training.

November 1955 – Assigned to Scott AFB Illinois for airborne radio repairman. Worked on C-47's, B-25's, and B-47's. Graduated top of class and selected for AFOAT-1 (AFTAC) stationed in Moses Lake, state of Washington (Det 355) "Q" school. One of three stateside dets for "Q" training for upcoming expansion of the network.

August 1956 – Assigned to Det 422, Japan to open the facility as a "Q" Maintenance Technician. "O" and "H" operator as well

August 1958 – Assigned to Bremerhafen Germany (Det 329) as a "Q" Maintenance Technician. "O" and "H" operator as well

May 1963 – Assigned to Lowry AFB AFTAC school as Instructor and technical writer. Attended technical schools both on and off base and out of state.

1963 to 1969 – TDYs to multiple areas of the world including the Arctic circle, two months sea duty in the south Pacific, Easter Island, etc.

October 1969 – Assigned to Punta Arenas Chile (Det 519) as senior technician "Q" and "O".

February 1970 – Assigned to Lowry AFB once again.

September 1975 – Retired from the U.S.A.F.....

Mox recently informed us that he has decided to retire the pen (or keyboard) and turn the editor responsibilities over to someone new. A sincere THANKS Mox for a job well done! Be sure to thank Mox next time you see him.

Please let the Alumni staff know if you are interested in carrying the torch from Mox as our new *Echos* Editor.

Meanwhile, please send your *Echos* inputs to [president@aftacco.org](mailto:president@aftacco.org)



B25



B47

## Det 421 Fire and Flood

By Bryce Dunn—edited by Michael Clark

After my 1 year tour at Det 423, I was assigned to Det 421 in Alice Springs. It was a dream come true, since 1968, I wanted to visit the Australia Continent and I was finally there. My tour was from Jan 1976 to April 77 as a 99 ops and a brief stint as part of the maintenance team. Our commander, Captain Ronald Couch and his wife Marlene typically invited the single troops over for special dinners, like Thanksgiving. On one occasion, Captain Couch showed off his new TV in the living room that he put together himself with a Heathkit. We only received one channel in the outback, but it came in clear.

A bush fire came up suddenly threatening our instruments and data lines on the telegraph station. All hands pitched in, SSgt Bill Mega worked with a road grader operator, cutting fire breaks around the array. I drove an International Loadstar (4X4 dump truck) with about a 500 gallon water tank, gasoline pump motor with hose and nozzle. Det members would stand in the back as we drove around on the fire breaks putting out the flames to keep the fire from crossing. Superintendent Jack Smith did a great job coordinating everything. The Returned Servicemen's League Club (RSL) members of Alice Springs showed up with a pickup truck with 5-gallon water backpacks to help. They were a great bunch of veterans. The Detachment received a letter of thanks from the Mayor of Alice Springs and we all got formal recognition for our efforts to help save the telegraph station national park and keeping the mission operations going in the face of natural disaster.

One night I was on midshift alone (we had a 20-minute timer that rang a dead man alarm in the barracks if not reset), when the LP data suddenly spiked then died. Like a good 99, I did my station checks to attempt to isolate the problem, which appeared to be outside the central recording building. I went outside to look at the lines and as soon as I opened the door I heard a continuous loud roar. It sounded like a 747 was coming down. It was still dark and I walked down toward the MB-16 Generator shed and saw water from the Todd river almost to the shed. The Todd river, which was dry when I started my shift had filled over its banks in a short amount of time. The wall of water had taken out the LP lines. Later, we found that when the center pole in the riverbed was washed out, the cable bundle dropped into the raging torrent, the stress on the cables twisting the heavy steel I-beams on each side of the river flat to the ground before the cables snapped.

A few of us had Yamaha Enduros (DT 360 and DT400s) and would go riding in the outback: MacDonnel Range, Wiggly Waterhole, River beds and outback trails. On New Year's Eve, another operator and I rode west about 133 km of dirt road to Glen Helen Station, a small tourist station in the outback (there wasn't much there in 1977). When we got to the station and filled up with petrol (they had one of the old gas pumps with the clear bubble up on a column), we went into the station and the innkeeper offered us a free room for the night.

Another memorable trip was with Jack Smith and Michael Clark. We drove a station wagon to Ayers Rock. Mike had just got off of midshift and was trying to sleep in the back of the station wagon. He was doing pretty good until we turned West off of the Stuart Highway and hit some washouts. When we got to the Rock, we set up our tents from the MWR supplies. The next morning, we built a fire and made some camp coffee then watched the sunrise and the famous red glow from Ayers Rock. The next day we climbed the Rock.

Mike and I became good friends and later on when we were both stationed in Colorado, Mike as a B instructor at the school house and myself as a Satellite tech at OL AO. My first orders leaving Det 421 were to Det 084, Sunnyside, California, then they were changed to OL AO. When I asked around at the Det what was at the OL (I had requested to transfer to T Technique), one of the guys said that it was just a computer babysitting job and not very interesting. Boy was he wrong, but that is another story. Mike and I shared an apartment for a while near Stapleton until we married our respective wives in 1979. We were best men at each other's wedding.

Mike was the best seismic analyst I ever worked with and he went on to become the lead analyst and analysis unit head for the CTBTO in Vienna, Austria. Sue & I visited him in Vienna in March 2016 while we were touring Europe with our son and his family (My son is stationed at Ramstein AFB).

Of course Jack Smith went on to become the second president of our Colorado Alumni Association. Like I have said before, AFTAC was more like a family to my family than a mere occupation. God bless AFTAC.

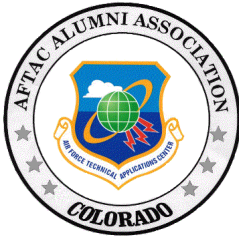


**Colorado AFTAC Alumni Association**

**COLORADO AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
 c/o Bryce Dunn  
 3562 S. Jasper Way  
 Aurora, CO 80013

We're **ALL** on the Web!

Colorado Chapter: <http://www.aftacco.org/>  
 Florida Chapter Location: [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us)  
 West Coast Chapter: <http://www.aftacwcc.org>  
 Official AFTAC Web Site: [www.afisr.af.mil/units/aftac.asp](http://www.afisr.af.mil/units/aftac.asp)



**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: AFTAC Alumni Association**  
 West Coast Chapter  
 P.O. Box 3974  
 Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974

**For Colorado Dues Submission Or Address Change**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone 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 below.)**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "Bill Schmied". MAIL TO: Bill SCHMIED, 2078 Kenton St., Aurora, CO 80010.**

Membership questions may be directed to Bill Schmied at

Email Address: [treasurer@aftacco.org](mailto:treasurer@aftacco.org)