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AFSOA Reinvented

We are sending this abbreviated newsletter to all current and former AFSOA members. This is a critical period for the fragile and easily-lost history of the Air Force's operations in space. Very soon, on 7 March 2007, the Air Force Operating Division 4 (OD-4) of the "Office of The Secretary of the Air Force will be inactivated at Onizuka Air Station, and its personnel dispersed. Their countless stories and memories that should be shared and remembered as part of our nation's efforts to conquer space and adopt operations in that hostile environment.

Please stay in contact with us, share memories and the friendships that can only be established by ordinary people united by a common mission to achieve a vital goal.

On Tuesday evening, 27 February, a farewell reception for OD-4 will be held at Michael's in the Mountain View Shoreline park. Tickets and reservations for this event are available through OD-4. Contact SSgt Joyce Young at 408744-2017,

There are two "by invitation only" events Wednesday 7 March: the OD-4 Inactivation Ceremony in the morning and an Open House of the OD-4 facilities at Onizuka Air Force Station for current and past OD-4 briefed personnel after lunch.

But all AFSOA friends are invited to join us for lunch in the Aribo Cafeteria (the new office complex where Lockheed's Building 104 used to dominate the skyline) starting at 1130. Learn what your old coworkers are doing now and see how retirement is treating many of us.

And all space operators can convene at the Foz Restaurant (in the adjacent Sheraton Hotel) 1108 N Mathilda Avenue, for a Happy Hour between 4 and 7 pm. Jan Molvar has arranged a cash bar with free hors d'oeuvres, RSVP with him at 408 745-8345 or send him an e-mail at jmolvar@juno.com. (We're sure Jan wouldn't mind a little contribution to help with the munchies, either)

Hopefully, enough memories will be revived that people will want to stay through for dinner. While many of the usual gathering places near the Cube have closed, Ed McMahon is making a group reservation for dinner at the Foz, as well. There are other dinner spots nearby if you meet other friends at the reception.

President's Message

Friends,

This is probably the last Presidents message you will see in the DOWNLINK. Over the past two years I've asked for replacement people for Membership, Treasurer & Editor. The response has been zero! Since no one wants to do any work to keep our association moving, the only sensible thing to do is close up shop.

We have an opportunity to have one more lost hurrah during the close out of Onizuka Air Station, (AKA STC), Francis Wong volunteered to help publish this last DOWNLINKS it will be mailed to all of the AFSSOA membership, active or not. The active list is down to about 100+ paid up members. The total listing is around 450 people, minus those warriors who passed on to better rewards.

did not think that in 1999 when John Turco asked me to become President that I would be the fast one in a long line of very good people. I have sent out numerous emails to the Directors asking for guidance on many items, the only responders have been Bud Gurney, Bill Hubbard and Bill Clark with Keith Smith occasionally giving me his advice, for which I am extremely grateful. I really do want to thank Koiie Lou Webb for hanging in there as treasurer for many years, Bill Clark at membership Chairman, John Turco for his words of encouragement, Keith Smith for his guidance and all the rest of the Directors and "POC's a four" Satellite groups,

We will be organizing a dinner affair at the FAZ restaurant after the Happy Hour on the 7111 of March. PLEASE let me know if you wish to be included so can tell the restaurant how many to expect. We will use their standard menu so it should be easy for all to pick their favorite food.

I remain, your President and hopefully your friend,

ED

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