

MEET — THE — STAFF

By June L. Kim, Associate Editor

Some of Ed Cook's fondest recollections are from when he was in the Air Force and seeing the world. He had grown up traveling around, so it only made sense to embrace it.

Ronald Edward "Ed" Cook Jr. was born on June 5, 1956, in a naval hospital in Charleston, S.C., to Ronald Edward Cook and Alma Sue Cook (née Byrd). His father was an airman who worked on ground vehicles on the flight line at Charleston Air Force Base. His mother was a stay-at-home mom who later became a manager for a financial company.

His father's job moved the family from South Carolina to Alaska and Florida. After his father separated from the Air Force, the Cooks moved to the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. There, Cook grew into an avid and loyal fan of local sports teams, enthusiastically rooting for the NFL's Washington Redskins and MLB's Washington Senators (now Nationals).

The eldest of five children, Cook enjoyed school and aspired to be a weather-

RONALD EDWARD "ED" COOK JR., SENIOR MANAGER, MULTIMEDIA SERVICES



man. "I watched the news and I was so fascinated by the weather forecast," he said. As he got older, however, his interest turned to computers and technology. He attended Temple College (now Tennessee Temple University) in Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1974, but before graduating decided to join the Air Force. He enlisted in 1978 and became a weapons loader on FB-111 Aardvarks at Pease AFB, N.H. He was later a weapons loader for F-4 Phantom IIs at Spangdahlem Air Base, in what was then West Germany.

Cook recalled the time he and airmen friends from Spangdahlem took a train to Munich for Oktoberfest. "It was just absolutely fantastic," he said. He still remembers how to order a beer in German: "Ein Bier, bitte!"

Cook medically retired as a staff sergeant in 1993 due to complications from a serious

head injury he suffered 12 years earlier. While on temporary duty at Zaragoza AB, Spain, Cook fell roughly 30 feet from a set of mobile stairs headfirst onto the flight line.

Despite his injury and long road to recovery, "I've always loved the Air Force because of my dad and because of my experience in it," said Cook. "And that was one of my attractions to AFA." Cook began working in the Air Force Association's insurance department in 1997. He transferred to the information technology department after receiving his degree in computer science from Strayer University in 1999.

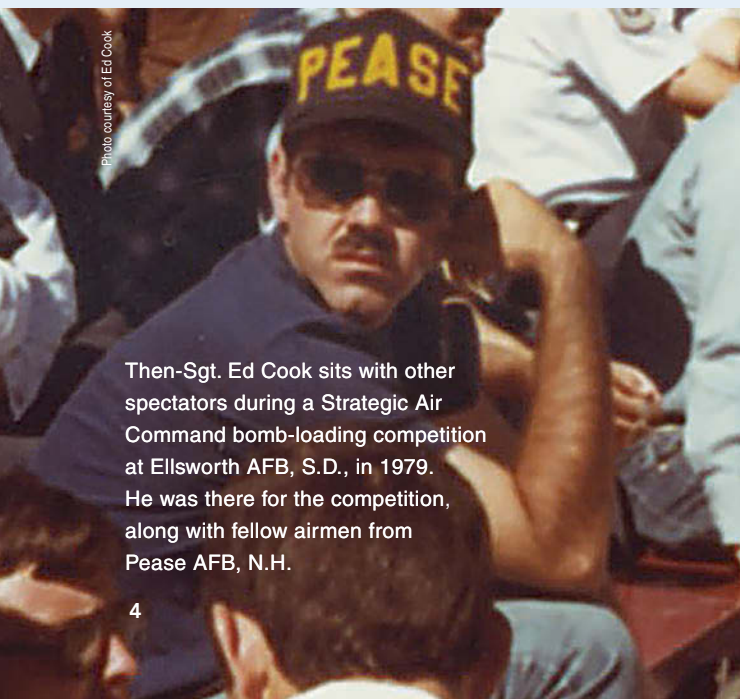
As senior manager of multimedia services, Cook manages AFA's website and helps troubleshoot issues that pop up with the Air Force Memorial and *Air Force Magazine* websites. He also helps design and build AFA Web pages. "I've written the code that'll bring this [information] up and display it," he said.

Official emails from AFA also pass through Cook's virtual hands. He oversees the email distribution lists and ensures emails go out in a timely fashion to the many thousands of recipients.

Cook has two children: Ronnie and Brittany. Ronnie was tragically killed in a car accident in 2009 at age 25. Brittany, 28, is a nurse at Inova Hospital in Alexandria, Va.

Cook resides in Alexandria with his spouse, Robert Farr, whom he met in 2004. Farr, also in IT, works for the State Department.

In his free time, Cook enjoys spending time on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. He is hopeful the Nationals will one day win the World Series. ★



Then-Sgt. Ed Cook sits with other spectators during a Strategic Air Command bomb-loading competition at Ellsworth AFB, S.D., in 1979. He was there for the competition, along with fellow airmen from Pease AFB, N.H.

JANCY A. BELL,

DIRECTOR OF BOARD & COMMITTEE SUPPORT

If you ever need to delve into the annals of the Air Force Association, look no further than Jancy Bell. She is the director of board and committee support, but has another important role: As the longest-standing employee on AFA National's staff, she is the organization's unofficial records keeper.

Jancy Ann Bell was born on Loring AFB, Maine, on Feb. 22, 1957, to William and Lorie Roberts. Her father was a B-52 pilot and later retired as a colonel after 35 years in uniform. Her mother stayed home to raise Jancy and her two younger siblings, but later worked for a federal judge in Virginia when the family moved to Bolling AFB, D.C.

As a child, Bell's family lived all across the United States, Spain, and Turkey. She still remembers family vacations along the Mediterranean Sea and a month-long road trip from Turkey to Spain. One of her lifelong passions is reading. When moving from place to place, her first activity was to visit the base library and join its reading club.

Bell graduated in 1976 from the Northern Virginia Business School in Falls Church. She learned of AFA through an acquaintance and was hired in summer 1977 as a secretary. "Like many people, my dad was my personal hero," said Bell. "Working here made me feel closer to my dad."

In her current capacity, Bell directly supports AFA's five national officers, especially Chairman of the Board Scott P. Van Cleef. "I try to keep in sync with him on his calendar" when scheduling meetings, as most chairmen have other activities outside of AFA, she said. She provides materials and helps the officers prepare



for meetings. She supports various committees, especially the Executive Committee, Audit Committee, and Finance Committee. She also maintains official records, transcripts, rosters, committee minutes, and documents. "I actually maintain the records going back to like 1957," she said.

Bell has also supported AFA scholarships and the Aerospace Education Foundation. In her early years, she was heavily involved with the creation of the present-day AFA headquarters building in Arlington, Va. At the time, the organization was based in leased facilities in Washington, D.C.

In 1997, Bell helped plan AFA's 50th anniversary in Las Vegas. She guided distinguished visitors at the event, including Doolittle Raiders, Medal of Honor recipients, and former Air Force Secretaries and Chiefs of Staff. That was "my favorite thing I did out there," she recalled. For her involvement, she received—

and proudly displays in her office—a framed piece of art titled "0820 18 April 1942," depicting the Doolittle Raid over Tokyo, signed by all the surviving Doolittle Raiders.

On another wall, Bell has a plaque she received as a Charles H. Church Jr. Memorial Fellowship recipient. Judy K. Church, then AFA national secretary, named Bell a Church fellow in 2009 as a thank you for all of Bell's assistance. The fellowship carries the name of Church's deceased husband, a former AFA national treasurer.

Similarly, then-AFA Executive Director John A. Shaud, now senior advisor to AFA, named Bell a Jimmy Doolittle Fellow in 2001 in recognition of her support of AFA.

Bell has two daughters, Lindsey, 30, and Laura, 26, and lives in Springfield, Va. In her free time, Bell enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her grandsons, Logan and Aiden. ★

AFA used to have a softball team that played at various locations in Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia. Bell was on a team called the B-52s, for which she usually played catcher or right fielder. Here, Bell stands at bat, poised to unleash her home-run swing during a game in Arlington sometime in the early 1990s.



Photo courtesy of Jancy Bell