



Air Force Association **National**



Convention 2009

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates delivered the keynote address at AFA's 2009 Air & Space Conference Sept. 16, 2009 in National Harbor, Md. For a summary of his remarks, see "The 'Balanced' Air Force," p. 28.

Some 5,400 attendees listened to Pentagon chief Robert M. Gates and USAF leaders, viewed scores of exhibits, and honored heroic World War II Doolittle Raiders and Tuskegee Airmen at the Air Force Association's Sept. 14-16 Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition just outside Washington, D.C.

AFA's premier national event was held, for the first time, in the spacious setting of the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center, located on the banks of the Potomac River in National Harbor, Md.

The conference was preceded by AFA's National Convention, which spanned Sept. 11-13. AFA delegates throughout the next week mingled with conference attendees.

Joining the crowd, for the fifth consecutive year, were students from USAF's Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala. AFA hosted the nearly 350 students from the Class of 2010 who attended the conference's presentations, speeches, and briefings and viewed 137 exhibits at the exposition. Their participation was made possible in part by a grant from Boeing.

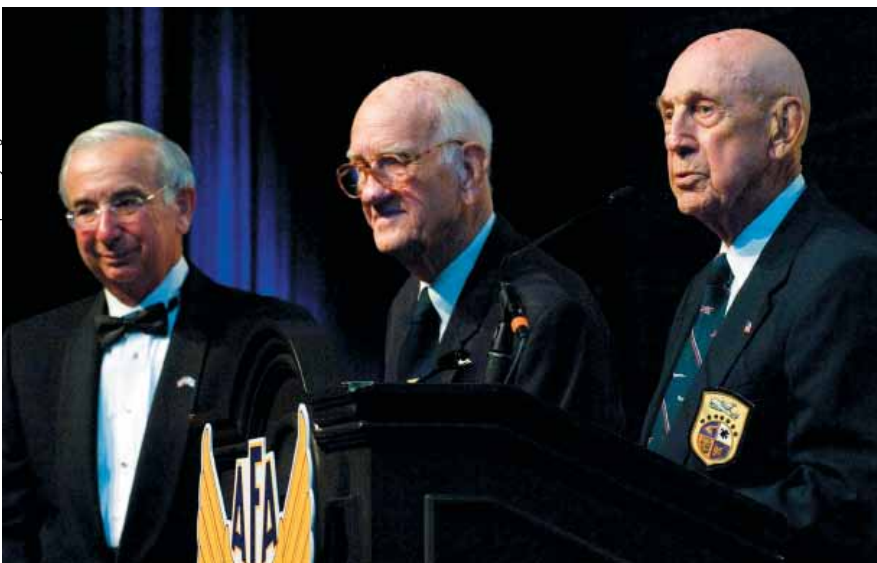
The event drew 105 news media representatives.

On Sunday morning, Sept. 13, AFA delegates and members and airmen gathered at the Air Force Memorial to honor the memory of fallen compatriots. Donald J. Harlin, AFA National Chaplain, officiated. Brig. Gen. David H. Cyr, USAF deputy chief of chaplains, delivered the benediction. The official party—Michael B. Donley, Secretary of the Air Force, Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, CMSAF James A. Roy, and Joseph E. Sutter, AFA Chairman of the Board, laid a memorial wreath. The 2009 Memorial Tribute List was read by Sutter, James R. Lauducci, Vice Chairman of the Board for Field Operations, and S. Sanford Schlitt, Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education.

Schwartz delivered the conference welcome on Monday, Sept. 14. In the evening, AFA feted the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year at a reception underwritten by Northrop Grumman.



DOD photo by Cherie Cullen



- Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah), with the W. Stuart Symington Award, recognizing the year's top contribution by a civilian in the field of national security.

- General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc., provider of the MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft, with the John R. Alison Award for top industrial leadership in national security.

- ExxonMobil Foundation, with the AFA Chairman's Aerospace Education Award, for its long-term commitment to aerospace education.

- The Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, the Tuskegee Airmen, and James R. Schlesinger, former Secretary of Defense and former Secretary of Energy, with AFA Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Gen. Carrol H. Chandler, Vice Chief of Staff, delivered the address, and Roy served as master of ceremonies.

On Tuesday, Sept. 15, the Outstanding Airmen, along with AFA and USAF leaders, met with their Congressional representatives on Capitol Hill. The weeklong activities of the Outstanding Airmen were underwritten by ATK.

On Sept. 16, a reception sponsored by Lockheed Martin led off an evening capped by AFA's Air Force Anniversary Dinner. Pat Coulter served as master of ceremonies. Singer Juanita Williams provided musical entertainment. At this dinner, AFA honored:

- Gen. John D. W. Corley, former commander of Air Combat Command, with the H. H. Arnold Award, recognizing the year's most significant contribution by a military member to national security.



AFA Education Award

William L. Austin, a teacher at Pocalla Springs Elementary School, Sumter, S.C., won the AFA National Aerospace Teacher of the Year Award, as the year's outstanding science, technology, engineering, or mathematics teacher.

Top: Joseph Sutter (l), AFA Chairman of the Board, presents a Lifetime Achievement Award to Doolittle Raiders retired Maj. Thomas Griffin (center) and retired Lt. Col. Richard Cole.

Above: SrA. Danny Williams receives a standing ovation from conference attendees as Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz praises him for heroism in Afghanistan. **Left:** Schwartz congratulates former 1st Lt. Dolphin Overton III after presenting him with a long-delayed Distinguished Service Cross received for his actions while serving in Korea in 1952.





Left: The USAF Honor Guard renders honors during AFA's wreath laying ceremony at the Air Force Memorial. **Below:** Three Tuskegee Airmen, representing the group that received a Lifetime Achievement Award, share a laugh with Sen. Orrin Hatch (second from left). They are, l-r, retired Lt. Col. Walter McCreary, retired Col. Charles McGee, and retired Col. Elmer Jones. **Bottom:** John Alison (l), World War II ace, huddles with Robert Largent, former Air Force Association Chairman of the Board.

Other Senators attending the reception included: Hatch, Sen. Michael B. Enzi (R-Wyo.), and Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.).

Air Force leaders at the event were: Donley, Schwartz, Gen. Roger A. Brady, commander, US Air Forces in Europe, Gen. C. Robert Kehler, com-

Congressional Activity

AFA delegates from 22 states gathered at the Capitol Visitors Center for a reception Tuesday morning with members of Congress, senior professional staff members, and USAF leadership. Attendees included Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Sen. James Webb (D-Va.), members of the Armed Services Committee; and Sen. Robert F. Bennett (R-Utah) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), members of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Also present at the AFA reception were Reps. Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Jim Marshall (D-Ga.), and Robert J. Wittman (R-Va.), members of the House Armed Services Committee; and Rep. John R. Carter (R-Tex.), member of the House Appropriations Committee.



USAF photo by SSgt. Desiree N. Palacios



mander, Air Force Space Command, Gen. Arthur J. Lichte, commander, Air Mobility Command, Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz, commander, Air Education and Training Command, Gen. Gary L. North, commander, Pacific Air Forces, Lt. Gen. David A. Deptula, deputy chief of staff for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, Lt. Gen. Raymond E. Johns Jr., deputy chief of staff for strategic plans and programs, Lt. Gen. Jack L. Rives, judge advocate general, Lt. Gen. Marc E. Rogers, inspector general, Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., chief of Air Force Reserve, Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director, Air National Guard, Maj. Gen. C. Donald Alston, assistant chief of staff for strategic deterrence and nuclear integration, Maj. Gen. Roger W. Burg, commander,



Left: A glass-walled atrium at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center offered dramatic views of the Potomac River. Bottom: A sea of airmen, members of the press, and conference attendees flood into the Air & Space Technology Exposition.

20th Air Force, Maj. Gen. Garry C. Dean, deputy inspector general, and Maj. Gen. Larry O. Spencer, deputy assistant secretary for budget.

Election of Officers

Joseph E. Sutter, of Knoxville, Tenn., was re-elected Chairman of the Board for a second term. James R. Lauducci, of Alexandria, Va., was re-elected Vice Chairman of the Board, Field Operations, for a second term. S. Sanford Schlitt, Sarasota, Fla., was re-elected Vice Chairman of the Board, Aerospace Education, for a third term. Joan Sell, Colorado Springs, Colo., was elected AFA National Secretary for a first term, and Steven R. Lundgren, Fairbanks, Alaska, was re-elected AFA National Treasurer for a fifth term.

Other Elections

Elected to the Board of Directors for three-year terms were Larry Lawson, Atlanta, Ga.; William R. Looney III, Garden Ridge, Tex.; and Wayne R. Kauffmann, Agoura, Calif.

Nine new Region Presidents were elected. Newly elected are Jeffrey Platte (Central East Region), Richard Taubinger (Far West Region), James Connors (Florida Region), John McCance (Great Lakes Region), John Hasson (New England Region), James Simons (North Central Region), Grant Hicinbothem (Rocky Mountain Region), John Toohey (Southwest Region), and David Dietsch (Texoma Region).

Other AFA Business

Holding meetings were the Air Force's Air National Guard Council,

Company Grade Officers Council, Enlisted Council, and Reserve Advisory Council. The Civilian Advisory Council was also represented. At the National Convention, there were 207 registered delegates, representing 39 states and the District of Columbia.

The convention delegates reviewed the 2010 Statement of Policy and Top Issues and were also briefed on the AFA Strategic Plan for 2010-11, all of which were approved by the Board of Directors on Sept. 12.

The delegates also considered and acted on one Field Resolution. They supported the recommendation to nonconcur by both the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. They also approved a number of changes to the AFA Constitution that enhanced governance and removed provisions

included to govern the afa21 transition process that are no longer necessary.

Finally, the delegates ratified an action by the Board of Directors to raise the association's dues, not to exceed 25 percent (specifically, one year, \$36 to \$45; three years, \$90 to \$110; life, \$500 to \$600). Exact implementation dates and phasing of categories are to be determined by the staff, but in no case earlier than June 2010. Additionally, the Field Council was directed to study appropriate adjustment in rates of payments to field organizations, and the association was further directed to form a Dues Committee every three years, beginning in 2012, to review the dues structure and report their findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Acknowledgments

Parliamentarian for the AFA National Convention was Joan Blankenship. Inspectors of Elections were Ron Mielke (Chairman), John McCance, and Ron Adams. Bonnie Callahan chaired the Credentials Committee, serving with Mary Mayer and Fran Shaw.

The association is particularly grateful to a corps of volunteers who assisted the staff in convention support: Michael Arth, Dan Hixon, Justin Mastrangelo, Debbie Snyder, and Leola Wall. ■

