



Air Force Association **National**

Dignitaries including AFA Chairman of the Board George Muellner (front left), Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh (right), CMSAF James Cody (far left), and industry executives formally open the Air Force Association's Technology Exposition at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor, Md.



Convention 2014



USAF photo by Michael J. Pausic

More than 6,500 attendees gathered for the 2014 Air Force Association National Convention and the Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition, dedicating time to better understand Air Force issues.

Top USAF leaders, such as Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, and CMSAF James A. Cody, took the stage at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Md., just outside Washington, D.C. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh C. Johnson, who was DOD general counsel from 2009 to 2012, and Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology, and logistics both gave A&SC keynote addresses. All speakers shared with audiences their present challenges as well as their visions for the Air Force's future.

The 66th annual AFA National Convention began Saturday, Sept. 13, with two days of AFA business, followed by three days of conference activity, filled with 50 speaker sessions.

The conference commenced with welcoming remarks by Welsh and an awards ceremony highlighting more than 40 individuals and groups for their contributions to the aerospace community. James, Welsh, and major command leaders presented citations of honor and Air Force crew and team awards, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve awards, and professional, civilian, education, management, and environmental awards. Additionally, James and Welsh presented AFA's outgoing Chairman of the Board, George K. Muellner, with the Distinguished Public Service Award.

AFA formally honored the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year with a ceremonial dinner following a reception sponsored by Northrop Grumman on Sept. 15. Cody congratulated the 12 airmen during his keynote address at the dinner ceremony. MSgt. Tessa M. Fontaine, one of the 2013 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, acted as master of ceremonies, and Chaplain William Evans led the gathering in prayer. The US Air Force Honor Guard presented the colors and the US

Air Force Band provided entertainment during the evening's festivities.

Thanks to financial support from Lockheed Martin, the 12 Outstanding Airmen attended events in and around Washington, D.C., throughout the conference. The "golden dozen" toured Capitol Hill and Arlington National Cemetery and visited the Pentagon.

The conference acknowledged the profound challenges facing today's US defense complex and celebrated the achievements of the airmen operating within it. The event concentrated its focus via military leaders and national defense and policy experts on subjects ranging from cyber, space, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to nuclear and energy issues. The first day of the conference, Monday, saw much focus on European affairs as they affect USAF. Tuesday was heavy on the force's modern obstacles and challenges.

Twelve senior leaders discussed everything from training to innovation during the Four-Star Forum. At the Command Chief Master Sergeants Forum, leaders addressed areas such as professional development, readiness, resiliency, and force management, offering insight into what affects airmen.

James, joined on the main stage by Welsh, Cody, AFA leaders, and AFA industry supporters, snipped the ceremonial red ribbon with oversized scissors—a sign of the official opening of the technology exposition—on Sept. 15. More than 100 exhibitors showcased their products. Highlights included dogs with the Warrior Canine Connection, a program that provides therapy dogs to help vets with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The event also celebrated Air Force heritage. On Friday evening in Arlington, Va., convention guests held a ceremony naming AFA headquarters as the James H. Doolittle Building. Medal of Honor recipient Jimmy Doolittle was AFA's first president. His granddaughter, Jonna Doolittle Hoppes, helped unveil the building's name plaque at the Sept. 12 commemoration.

A wreath-laying ceremony took place Sunday morning, Sept. 14, at the Air



Photos by Dan Higgins



USAF Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh (l) and Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James (r) were key speakers at AFA's Air & Space Conference.

Force Memorial. Muellner paid tribute to the lives and contributions of AFA members and friends who have died in the last year, and he encouraged the audience to honor them by carrying on their work. Retired Maj. Gen. William J. Dendinger, AFA's national chaplain, conducted the invocation, homily, and benediction for the event. Muellner read a memorial tribute list of the deceased, along with Scott P. Van Cleef, Vice Chairman of the Board for Field Operations, and Jerry E. White, Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education. Assistant Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Stephen L. Hoog, Cody, and Muellner closed the ceremony, laying a ceremonial wreath in memory of and in honor of all Air Force Association members and supporters who have passed away in the last year.

AFA's Air Force Anniversary Gala toasted the service's 67th anniversary on Sept. 17. Kenneth Goss served as master of ceremonies. During the event, the following were saluted with national aerospace awards:

- Retired Gen. C. Robert "Bob" Kehler, former commander, US Strategic Command, with the H. H. Arnold Award, recognizing the most significant contribution to national security by a member of the military;
- Ashton B. Carter, former Deputy Secretary of Defense, with the W. Stuart Symington Award, recognizing the top contribution by a civilian in the field of national defense;
- Boeing's C-17 Globemaster III, with the John R. Alison Award, for the

CMSAF James Cody entitled his conference presentation "The Enlisted Perspective." He also delivered the keynote address at the Outstanding Airmen of the Year banquet.

most outstanding contribution by industrial leadership to national defense;

- The DOD STARBASE program, recognized with the AFA Chairman's Aerospace Education Award, for long-term commitment to aerospace education with a significant nationwide impact.

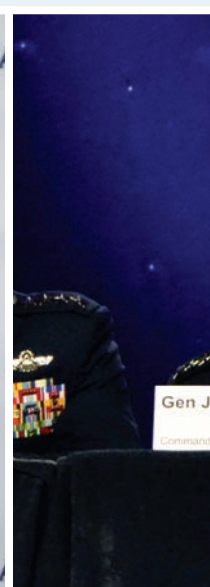
AFA Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to: retired Brig. Gen. James A. McDivitt; the Civil Air Patrol for its contributions during World War II; and American Fighter Aces.

This year's annual Spouse and Family Forum focused on the resiliency of our Air Force families. After hearing from James, Welsh, and Cody, attendees participated in interactive resiliency training with Ottis West and learned about suicide prevention, intervention, and postintervention with Mary Bartlett. Frank Beatty, Betty Welsh, and Athena Cody—spouses

of Deborah Lee James, Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, and CMSAF James A. Cody, respectively—shared personal stories of resiliency and the issues they focus on in meetings with Air Force families around the world. A working lunch followed, with a closing by speaker Dan Clark, after which attendees toured the new Airmen & Family Programs Pavilion, now part of the Technology Exposition. The program exhibited tools and resources families can use in recovering from deployments, injuries, or day-to-day realities.

AWARDING EDUCATION

Kaci Heins, a teacher at Northland Preparatory Academy in Flagstaff, Ariz., was honored as the 29th recipient of AFA's National Aerospace Teacher of the Year Award. Heins distinguished herself by integrating aerospace into her classroom,





Staff photo by Kristina Parrill



Photo by Dan Higgins

school, and community. Her entire science curriculum has NASA and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics challenges integrated to provide hands-on and real-world experiences for her sixth-grade students. The award recognizes educators for their accomplishments and achievements in promoting and engaging today's youth in STEM. As AFA's top teacher, Heins received a \$3,000 cash award and plaque.

In addition, AFA honored Ken Steffey from Winter Park, Fla., as the CyberPatriot VI Coach of the Year. Ron Woerner, of Bellevue, Neb., was named CyberPatriot VI's Mentor of the Year. CyberPatriot, AFA's flagship STEM program, is the nation's largest youth cyber education program.

AFA BUSINESS

Forty-five state delegations with 203 authorized delegates attended the National Convention where they conducted AFA business, including elections and program

Above left: Barbara Taylor, managing director of the Air Force Memorial, speaks with airmen at the technology exposition. Above right: Nora Ruebrook (l), who was elected AFA National Treasurer during the convention, catches up with retired Gen. John Shaud, former AFA executive director and now senior advisor.

management. In concert with AFA's mission to educate, advocate, and support, the delegates approved a Statement of Policy and Top Issues for 2015, a document that represents AFA's position on topics of importance to the Total Force, veterans and retirees, and Air Force civilians, as well as key modernization and national security issues.

AFA ELECTIONS

In national officer elections, Scott P. Van Cleef, of Fincastle, Va., was elected for a first term as Chairman of the Board. David A. Dietsch, of Arlington, Texas, was elected for a first term as Vice Chairman of the Board for Field Operations. Jerry E. White, of Colorado Springs, Colo., was re-elected for a third term as Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education.

Marvin L. Tooman, of West Des Moines, Iowa, was elected for a second term as National Secretary. Nora Ruebrook, of Honolulu, was elected for a first term as National Treasurer.

In other elections, national directors elected for a three-year term were: Kevin L. Jackson, of Washington, D.C., East Area Director; Gary L. North, of Fort Worth, Texas, Director at Large; and Kent D. Owlesley, of Dayton, Ohio, Director at Large.

Newly elected Region Presidents are: Lee Barnby, Far West; Paul Lyons, Great Lakes; Russell Klatt, Midwest; Ron Adams, New England; and Bob George, Rocky Mountain.

DOD AND USAF LEADERS

Many Air Force leaders participated in the conference as presenters and session



The Four-Star Forum included (l-r) Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger, Gen. Hawk Carlisle, Gen. Robin Rand, and Gen. Darren McDew, among other senior leaders. The panel took questions from attendees, with Welsh as moderator.



AFA National Director Gil Petrina and his sister Lt. Col. Julie Petrina Curlin, a national director emerita, attended many events.

Photos by Dan Higgins



Betty Welsh, spouse of USAF Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh, spoke at the Spouse and Family Forum.

attendees. Many senior Air Force leaders also took part in media-only sessions.

Senior Air Force, DOD, and government leadership speaking at the conference included Johnson, Kendall, James, Welsh, and Cody. Other high-level leaders included Undersecretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning; Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition William A. LaPlante; Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe; Gen. Herbert J. “Hawk” Carlisle, commander, Pacific Air Forces; Gen. Gilmary Michael Hostage III, commander, Air Combat Command; Gen. Robin Rand, commander, Air Education and Training Command; Gen. Darren W. McDew, commander, Air Mobility Command; Gen. John E. Hyten, commander, Air Force Space Command; and Gen. Frank Gorenc, commander, US Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa.

AFA hosted NATO Air Chiefs from various countries, who offered their insight during sessions and panels: Brig. Gen. Dražen Scuri, Commander, Croatian Air Force and Air Defense; Brig. Gen. Libor Stefanik, Commander, Czech Air Force; Maj. Gen. Max A. L. T. Nielsen, Commander, Tactical Air Command Denmark; Col. Jaak Tarien, Commander, Estonian Air Force; Lt. Gen. Evangelos Tournas, Hellenic Air Force General Chief of Staff; Brig. Gen. Albert Sáfár, Hungarian Air Force Chief; Col. Aivars Mezors, Commander, Latvian Air Force; Col. Audronis Navickas, Commander, Lithuanian Air Force; Lt. Gen. Alexander Schnitger, Commander, Royal Netherlands Air Force; Maj. Gen. Per Egil Rygg, Inspector General, Royal Norwegian Air Force; Maj. Gen. Jan Sliwka, Inspector, Polish Air Force; Maj. Gen. Laurian Anastasof, Romanian Air Force Chief of Staff; Brig. Gen. Dobran Božic, Slovenian Armed Forces Chief



State flags, in a presentation of the colors, were part of the Air and Space Conference's opening ceremonies.

of General Staff; Gen. del Aire F. Javier García Arnaiz, Spanish Air Force Chief of Staff; Gen. Akin Öztürk, Commander, Turkish Air Force.

A number of other senior officers took part in the conference: Lt. Gen. Christopher C. Bogdan, F-35 program executive officer; Vice Adm. Mark D. Harnitchek, commander, Defense Logistics Agency; Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, director, Air National Guard; Lt. Gen. James “JJ” Jackson, commander, Air Force Reserve Command; Lt. Gen. Stephen W. “Seve” Wilson, commander, Air Force Global Strike Command; Lt. Gen. Bruce A. Litchfield, commander, Air Force Sustainment Center; Lt. Gen. Russell J. Handy, commander, 11th Air Force; Maj. Gen. Sandra E. Finan, commander, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center; Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, assistant chief of staff, strategic deterrence and nuclear integration; Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Masiello, commander, Air Force Research Laboratory; Maj. Gen. John F. Thompson, program executive officer for tankers, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center; Maj. Gen.

Michael S. Stough, director, strategic plans, requirements, and programs, Air Mobility Command; and Maj. Gen. Linda R. Urrutia-Varhall, assistant deputy chief of staff, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance.

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AFA National Convention Parliamentarian was David T. Buckwalter, AFA’s former executive vice president. Inspectors of Elections were George L. Castle (chairman), F. Gavin MacAloon, James W. Simons, and Wayne R. Kauffman. Mark L. Tarpley chaired the Credentials Committee, serving with Michael Cooper, Karel J. Toohey, and Sharon White. ✪