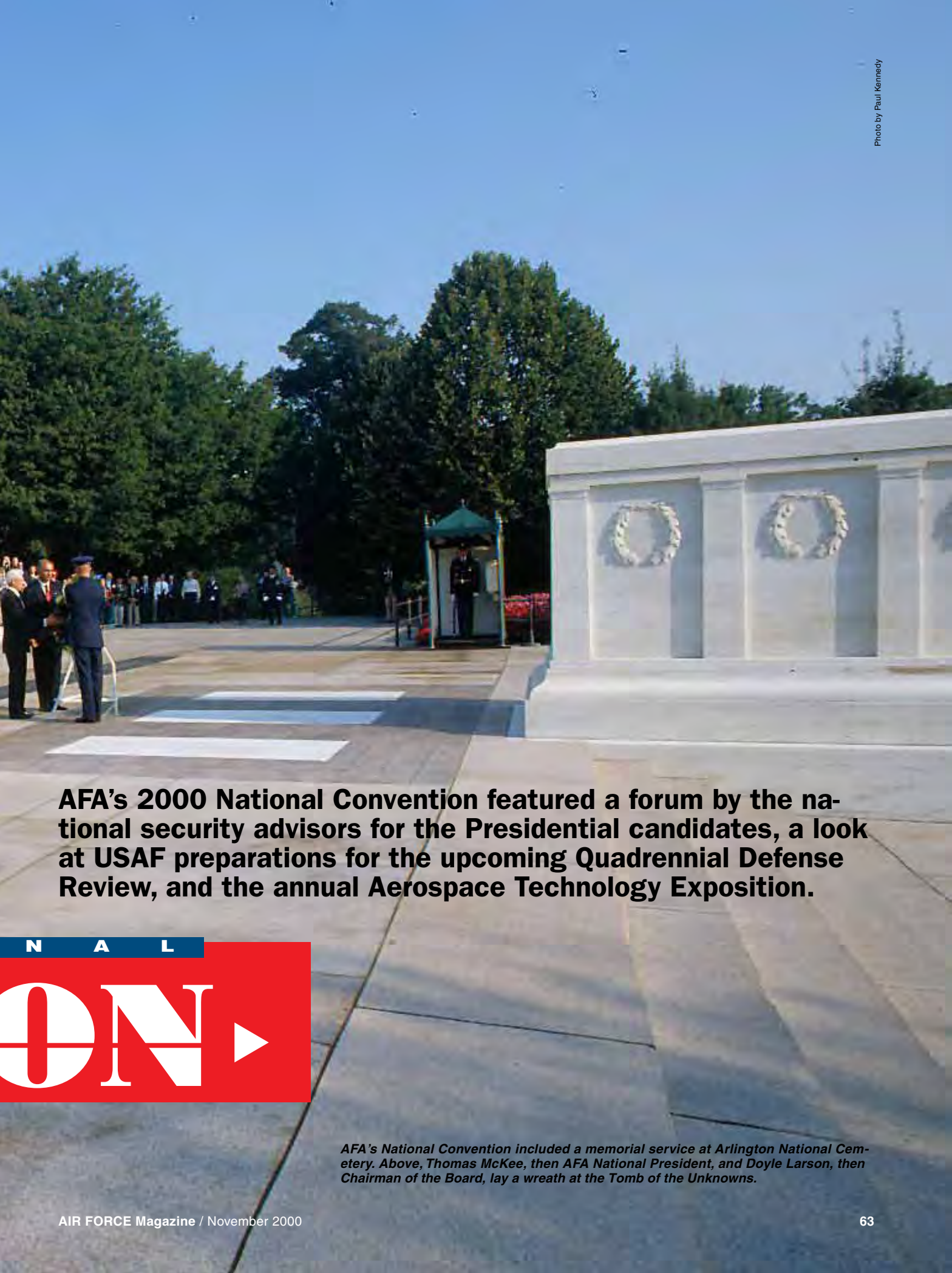




A F A 2 0 0 0 N A T I O

CONVENTION

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor



AFA's 2000 National Convention featured a forum by the national security advisors for the Presidential candidates, a look at USAF preparations for the upcoming Quadrennial Defense Review, and the annual Aerospace Technology Exposition.



AFA's National Convention included a memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery. Above, Thomas McKee, then AFA National President, and Doyle Larson, then Chairman of the Board, lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Photo by Paul Kennedy



Thomas McKee, then AFA National President, addresses delegates during a business session at the convention. The 307 registered delegates came from 44 states, the District of Columbia, and Pacific and European chapters.

ON the 10th anniversary of Desert Shield (and, subsequently, Desert Storm), the Air Force Association's National Convention, held Sept. 10–13 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C., honored Air Force, Congressional, and aerospace industry leaders.

Many AFA delegates traveled by bus to Arlington National Cemetery for a memorial service on Sunday. Donald J. Harlin, AFA National Chaplain, gave the invocation and closing prayer, and the Memorial Tribute List was read by Air Force representatives. Then–National President Thomas J. McKee and then–Chairman of the Board Doyle E. Larson laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, assisted by the Air Force Honor Guard.

At the Air Force Anniversary Dinner, Sept. 12, Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff, received the H.H. Arnold Award, AFA's highest honor recognizing a military contribution to national security in a given year.

In that same evening, AFA awarded Rep. Floyd D. Spence (R–S.C.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, the W. Stuart Symington Award for his outstanding civilian contributions to national security.

Simon Ramo and Dean E. Wooldridge, the co-founders of Ramo–Wooldridge, which later merged with Thompson Products to form TRW,

were honored with the John R. Alison Award for industrial contributions to the nation's security. Donald C. Winter, executive vice president and general manager of TRW Systems and Information Technology, accepted the award on their behalf. Gen. Bernard A. Schriever, USAF (Ret.), father of the USAF ICBM and military space programs, sent a congratulatory letter to his longtime professional colleagues.

The USAF Band Brass Quintet opened the evening festivities with a musical presentation. A special

program by singer Gloria Loring and the USAF Band's Airmen of Note, under the direction of Col. Lowell E. Graham, highlighted the evening.

On Monday morning, Gen. Richard B. Myers, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presented the convention keynote address. As part of the day's activities, AFA honored the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year at that evening's dinner. Gen. John W. Handy, USAF vice chief of staff, was the dinner speaker. CMSAF Jim Finch was toastmaster.



Ivan McKinney (center), AFA national director, William Cocke (right), Louisiana state president, and Ark–La–Tex (La.) Chapter member Thomas Keal consider various convention activities.

Staff photo by Guy Aceto



AFA's newly elected National President John Politi speaks to Undersecretary of the Air Force Carole DiBattiste (left), who was among USAF's top leadership attending the convention.

AFA convention delegates and military attendees and other guests heard major addresses by F. Whitten Peters, Secretary of the Air Force, and Chief of Staff Ryan. Ryan gave AFA's McKee the USAF Exceptional Service Award, the highest honor bestowed on a civilian for contributions to the Air Force. Peters presented to AFA's Larson a painting, by renowned aviation artist Keith Ferris, in recognition of his work on behalf of the Air Force.

Convention week featured a policy forum on Sept. 11, focusing on the Presidential candidates and their views on national defense. Convention attendees heard remarks by Leon S. Fuerth and Stephen J. Hadley, national security advisors, respectively, to Presidential candidates Vice President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

AFA delegates also attended a briefing Monday on "Working With Congress" by Maj. Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force director of legislative liaison.

On Sept. 12, Brig. Gen. David A. Deptula, director of Air Force preparations for the upcoming Quadrennial Defense Review 2001, gave a presentation on the Air Force's basic position. Sept. 13 featured a presentation by Lt. Gen. Robert H. Foglesong, deputy chief of staff for air and space operations, on "The Air Force in the Next Conflict—the Expeditionary Aerospace Force."

About 8,500 people participated in one or more convention-related ac-

tivities. The 307 registered delegates representing 44 states, the District of Columbia, and AFA's Pacific and European chapters were joined by senior military and government officials for the Aerospace Technology Exposition, speeches, and social events. The three-day exposition featured 129 exhibitors. On hand to cover convention activities were 103 reporters and other members of the media.

Holding meetings concurrently were AEF trustees, Air Force Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees,

and Air Force Command Chief Master Sergeants. Also meeting were AFA's Air National Guard Council, Civilian Advisory Council, Enlisted Council, Junior Officer Advisory Council, and Reserve Council.

Election of officers. Thomas J. McKee, Fairfax Station, Va., was elected AFA's National Chairman of the Board. John J. Politi, Sedalia, Mo., was elected National President. Daniel C. Hendrickson, Layton, Utah, was elected National Secretary, and Charles A. Nelson, Sioux Falls, S.D., was elected National Treasurer. All were elected for first terms.

By decision of the National Convention delegates, the National Chairman of the Board henceforth will be considered AFA's highest elected official. Previously, the National President had been so designated. By tradition, AFA leaders serve for two years as National President and then for two years as Chairman of the Board.

The convention delegates concluded that both AFA and its elected officials would benefit by its top leader having first been President, thus gaining two years' seasoning. The delegates also decided that this step would put AFA leadership in line with the practices of other professional and business organizations.

Other elections. Four new Region Presidents were elected, and 10 Region Presidents were re-elected. Newly elected are Thomas G. Shepherd



Stephen Hadley (center), national security advisor to Presidential candidate George W. Bush, joins McKee in listening to William Spruance (right), an AFA national director emeritus, make a point.



AFA's new National Treasurer, Charles Nelson (right), poses with AFA stalwarts from the Montgomery (Ala.) Chapter, Mark Dierlam (left) and Roy Boudreaux, a national director.

(Central East Region), W. Graham Burnley (Midwest Region), Gary H. Olson (North Central Region), and M.N. "Dan" Heth (Texoma Region).

Elected to the Board of Directors for three-year terms were John E. Craig II, Arlington, Va., Thomas J. Kemp, Fort Worth, Tex., Robert E. Patterson, Shalimar, Fla., Coleman Rader Jr., Maple Grove, Minn., Arthur F. Trost, Walnut Creek, Calif., Howard R. Vasina, Colorado Springs, Colo. Elected for a one-year term was Robert M. Williams of Omaha, Neb., who fills the position vacated by Politi.

Three new Leadership Development Directors (formerly known as Under-Forty Directors) joining the AFA Board are Stephen P. Condon, Ogden, Utah, Theron G. Davis, Alexandria, Va., and Thomas J. Stark, Bonaire, Ga.

For a complete list of AFA Region Presidents and Directors, including those re-elected, see "This Is AFA" on p. 94.

AFA's Aerospace Education Foundation elected the following officers: Jack C. Price, Pleasant View, Utah, as Chairman of the Board; Richard B. Goetze Jr., Arlington, Va., as President; Charles P. Zimkas Jr., Colorado Springs, Colo., as Vice President; Victoria W. Hunnicutt, Gray, Ga., as Secretary; and Mark J. Worrick, Denver, Colo., as Treasurer.

The newly elected AEF trustees are L. Boyd Anderson of Ogden, Utah, Samuel M. Gardner of Garden City,

Kan., Ivan L. McKinney of Bossier City, La., and Ronald M. Segal of Colorado Springs.

Congressional activity. AFA state delegations sponsored 15 Congressional breakfasts on Tuesday and Wednesday with 29 members of Congress participating. Among them were Sens. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) on the Senate Armed Services Committee and Sens. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), who are on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Other senators who attended the meetings were Republicans Charles

Grassley of Iowa, Orin Hatch of Utah, Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, and Craig Thomas of Wyoming. Democratic senators attending the breakfasts included Kent Conrad of North Dakota.

Also participating in the AFA breakfast meetings were several members of the House Armed Services Committee, including ranking minority member Ike Skelton (D-Mo.), Jim Hansen (R-Utah), and J.C. Watts Jr. (R-Okla.). Congressmen Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-Calif.), Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.), Tom Latham (R-Iowa), and John Sununu (R-N.H.), members of the House Appropriations Committee, also participated. Co-chairman of the Air Force Caucus Rep. Sam Johnson (R-Tex.) also attended a breakfast.

Other congressmen attending the breakfasts were J.D. Hayworth (R-Ariz.), Lois Capps (D-Calif.), John Mica (R-Fla.), and Karen Thurman (D-Fla.), Bob Barr (R-Ga.), Mac Collins (R-Ga.), Gil Gutknecht (R-Minn.), Frank Lucus (R-Okla.), and Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), Charles Stenholm (R-Tex.), Norman Sisisky (D-Va.), and James Moran (D-Va.).

State delegations meeting separately with their representatives included the Arkansas delegation, which met with Reps. Asa Hutchinson (R) and Marion Berry (D); the Mississippi delegation, which met with Rep. Gene Taylor (D); the Ohio delegation with Sen. Mike DeWine (R); the Massachusetts delegation which met



A new AEF fellow program honors retired Gen. Bernard Schriever (center), who attended AEF's "State Fair" with wife, Joni James-Schriever. AEF Board Chairman Jack Price (right) sports a bandana in keeping with the fair's western theme.

with Sen. Edward Kennedy (D); and the Nebraska delegation with Rep. Lee Terry (R).

Representatives Mica and Thurman received AFA awards for service to USAF.

Air Force Secretary Peters visited breakfasts hosted by Ohio, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. Chief of Staff Ryan visited the breakfasts hosted by Arizona, California, and Texas. Vice Chief Handy attended the North Carolina and the North Central Region breakfasts.

Aerospace Education Foundation. A video on the theme of why young people should join the Air Force JROTC program won AEF's annual Jimmy Stewart Aerospace Education Award. The winning entry



Photos by Paul Kennedy



A new event at convention was the AEF State Fair, which drew a large crowd (top photo) with its casual atmosphere, barbecue buffet, silent auction, and varied entertainment. Part of the entertainment included an opportunity to put "desperadoes," like Tofie Owen (far left) of the Nation's Capital Chapter, Politi, director emeritus Martin Harris, and McKee in "jail" by making donations to AEF. It took another donation to get them released.

was from Unit UT-081 at Clearfield High School in Clearfield, Utah. In a fast-paced video with sharp graphics, the cadets noted that AFJROTC presents the chance to demonstrate leadership, service, and patriotism. It concluded with the words "AFJROTC: More than a class, it's an experience!"

Melinda D. Kelley, from Chester, Va., won the Christa McAuliffe Memorial Award as the year's outstanding aerospace science, mathematics, and computer science teacher. The Gen. Bernard A. Schriever Los Angeles Chapter received the Sam E.

Keith Jr. Aerospace Education Award of Excellence. The award is named in honor of the late AFA leader and former National President and Board Chairman from Fort Worth, Tex. Patricia Fleener-Ryan, Brig. Gen. James R. McCarthy Chapter, Fla., won the George D. Hardy Memorial Award. The winner is nominated by an AFA chapter for outstanding contributions toward furthering the scientific, technical, and aerospace education of the nation.

On Tuesday afternoon Ryan presented the Chief of Staff Team Ex-

cellence Awards to the 109th Airlift Wing Team Antarctica, Schenectady County Airport, N.Y.; the Lakenheath Propulsion Power Team, 48th Component Repair Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, UK; the Smart Pay Tracking System, 917th Maintenance Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La.; the 12 O'Clock High Aircraft Debrief Action Workout Team, 437th Logistics Group, Charleston AFB, S.C.; and the Environmental Safety and Occupational Health Cost Reduction and Productivity Improvement Team, AETC Directorate of Logistics, Randolph AFB, Tex.

Acknowledgments. Parliamentarian for the AFA National Convention was Joan Blankenship. Inspectors of Elections were Charles G. Durazo (Chairman), Ted O. Eaton, and Mark J. Worrick. Robert J. Cantu chaired the Credentials Committee, serving with Craig E. Allen and Robert E. Largent.

The association is particularly grateful to a corps of volunteers who assisted the staff in convention support: Cecil Brendle, Jimmy Canlas, Marietta Church, Jason Evans, Francisco Flores, Noel Garcia, Amy Hunter, Max Keeney, Brandon Leifer, Chris Petek, Tom Plunkett, Glenda R. Shepela, Debbie and Gregg Snyder, Dana Steinhauser, Charlie Tippet, and Leola Wall.

The 2001 convention will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C., Sept. 16-19, 2001. ■