

# AFA National Report

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By Frances McKenney, Assistant Managing Editor

## Driving to Ellensburg

Heading out from his home, east of Spokane, Wash., **Inland Empire Chapter** President William P. Moore thought about putting his 1998 Bonneville sedan in cruise control.

He had a long drive ahead on Interstate 90.

Moore and Chapter Membership Director Ray Ortega set off on a three-hour road trip in May to present an Air Force Association AFROTC Medal to cadet Vyacheslav O. Ulanovskiy at Central Washington University in Ellensburg.

To get there, Moore would put some 180 miles, one way, on the odometer—basically three-quarters of the way across Washington state. He's been making this drive annually for the past six or seven years. "I know every rest stop," he joked.

The scenery "all looks the same," he said, especially because this year, a dry spring had begun to turn the roadside fields of wheat, potatoes, alfalfa, corn, and onions a uniform brown early in the season.

Moore explained that he makes this trip because the school's officials offer tremendous support. University President James L. Gaudino is an Air Force Academy graduate and served with USAF in California, Turkey, and Germany. The AFROTC Det. 895 staff always express their appreciation for the AFA award, even though it's just one of about two dozen presented in a ceremony that Moore said lasts an hour-and-a-half, including a pass in review.

The school's support for AFA, in fact, prompted him to bring Ortega along this time. Moore wanted to introduce him to university representatives, to ensure that the AFA-Central Washington relationship remains strong after he hands over to the younger Ortega the honor of presenting the award.

But for now, Moore drives more than 360 miles to Ellensburg and back. "We just cinch it up and get it done," he said.



*Inland Empire Chapter President Bill Moore congratulates cadet Vyacheslav Ulanovskiy on earning an AFA ROTC Medal. Moore presented it at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Wash. Ulanovskiy is majoring in Russia and will be commissioned next year.*



Photo by Linda S. Aldrich

*Former astronaut B. Alvin Drew (center) signs autographs at the Colorado State Awards Banquet, where he was guest speaker. Drew spent more than 612 hours in space in 2007 and 2010.*

## Rocky Mountain High: An Astronaut in Colorado

The Colorado State Awards Banquet took place in July at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, home of the **Lance P. Sijan Chapter** and alma mater of the featured speaker, retired USAF Col. B. Alvin Drew Jr.

A former astronaut, Drew graduated from the academy in 1984 and flew into space in August 2007 on *Endeavour*. It was the 119th space shuttle flight and the 22nd to the International Space Station. The mission involved four space walks. Drew went into space again in March 2010 on the last mission of the shuttle *Discovery*. It too went to the ISS and included two space walks.

Linda S. Aldrich, the Sijan Chapter's VP, reported that Drew "amazed" the AFA banquet audience with video footage showing docking with the ISS and space walks.

Drew retired from the Air Force in September 2010 and is now the NASA liaison to Air Force Space Command.

Aldrich said Colorado's four chapters—**Mile High, Mel Harmon, Gen. Robert E. Huyser, and Sijan**—honored the top airmen and civilians at this dinner, as well as "exceptional contributors" to AFA in the state.

National award winners recognized that evening were: from the Sijan Chapter, President David K. Shiller, Jeri Andrews, and Sharon White and from the Harmon Chapter, President Richard A. Follmar and Howard Hayden.

Science instructor Katie Hobbs of Talbott Elementary in Colorado Springs was introduced to the audience as the State Teacher of the Year winner. She had earlier been selected as the Sijan Chapter's Teacher of the Year in the kindergarten through 5th grade category.

The Space Foundation, based in Colorado Springs, hosted the next day's AFA state meeting, where Star Wars

storm trooper re-enactors added excitement by “invading” the AFA business session, wrote Aldrich. She said chapter presidents’ reports on activities led to an exchange of ideas and suggestions for fund-raisers.

After what she called “a productive meeting” led by State President Stephen K. Gourley, AFA National Director Emeritus Charles P. Zimkas Jr., took guests on a tour of the Space Foundation, highlighting its educational and space awareness activities. Zimkas had been the organization’s president until retiring in 2013.

**Thank You, Buddy!**

Keynote speaker Lt. Gen. David L. Goldfein gave his perspective on national security, in addressing the July gathering of the **Donald W. Steele Sr. Memorial Chapter** in Arlington, Va. The director of the Joint Staff also shared thoughts on leadership, teamwork, perseverance, and other qualities Air Force service has imparted to him.

Along with speaking to the luncheon audience of 70, he helped present a Teacher of the Year award, the Moorman Scholarship, and Open Scholarships earned by 10 applicants. That’s a lot of handshaking.

As a result, reported Chapter VP Col. Michelle R. Ryan, one scholarship recipient stood out when he broke the routine.

West Springfield High School graduate Michael Steiner expressed his thanks for a \$500 Open Scholarship by putting his arm around Goldfein, all but hugging him as if they were long-lost buddies. The three-star general was caught “totally by surprise,” Ryan wrote, “and the entire audience burst out laughing.”

Open Scholarships go to 10 recipients from the National Capital Region, with airmen, spouses, and dependent children all eligible. Recipient Steiner begins school at the Colorado School of Mines this fall, majoring in mechanical engineering.



Photo by Lang Anderson

**“American Idol” contestant SrA. Paula Hunt sings with USAF’s Heartland of America Raptor Band at a concert arranged by Nebraska’s Lincoln Chapter to commemorate D-Day. The chapter invited the band and rented the Antelope Park venue. VP Lang Anderson was master of ceremonies. Earlier this year, Hunt had gotten as far as the final round in the TV singing contest’s “Hollywood Week,” aired in February.**

The \$2,000 Moorman Scholarship—named after former USAF Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Thomas S. Moorman Jr. and awarded to an enlisted airman—went to MSgt. Jason Logan. He is a senior at Post University of Waterbury, Conn., studying for a business administration-management degree.

Steele Chapter President Kevin R. Lewis introduced Chapter Teacher of the Year Caitlin Fine to the audience,

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gathered at a Sheraton, overlooking the Air Force Memorial. Fine is a science teacher at Francis Scott Key Elementary School, a dual English-Spanish immersion school in Arlington. She is the chapter's kindergarten through eighth grade-level Teacher of the Year.

Marguerite Wiseman from H-B Woodlawn, a secondary school in Arlington, is the chapter's grade nine-through-12 Teacher of the Year. Wiseman teaches physics and chemistry.

**POW: 2,068 Days**

Retired Lt. Col. Melvin Pollack spoke at a recent **Miami-Homestead Chapter** meeting about his experience as a POW in the Vietnam War.

In 1967 he was a first lieutenant with the 480th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Da Nang AB, Vietnam. He had already survived a June 21 nighttime mission to destroy a target in North Vietnam—action that would earn him a Distinguished Flying Cross—when two weeks later, flak downed his F-4C north of Hanoi. He spent more than 2,000 days in captivity, until repatriation through Operation Homecoming on March 4, 1973.

Chapter President Rodrigo J. Huete said that Pollack's speech about his POW years was "motivational." At the same time, "most impressive was his ability to incorporate humor into his presentation," Huete commented.

**US Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.) and AFA Board Chairman George Mueller (right) exchange a collegial hand clasp at the congressman's office during AFA's "Fly-In" in July. AFA field leaders flew in from across the country to meet with nearly 40 congressional members. They discussed readiness, modernization, sequestration's impact, problems at the VA, and the effect of Washington's decisions on their states.**

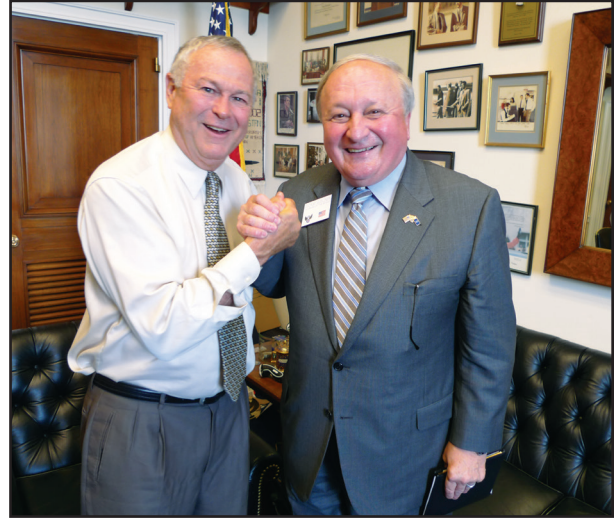


Photo by Ken Goss



**San Diego Chapter VP Gene Alfaro leads the applause for San Diego State University cadets at an awards program. Left to right: Andrew Cha, Andrew Novak, Athiel Ann Coloma, Anna-Christina Fernandez, and Bri-Jae Scarbrough. Novak and Coloma received \$2,500 Northrop Grumman chapter scholarships. The others received \$1,000 scholarships. Det. 075's commander, Col. Darryle Grimes, and education flight commander, Capt. Kristin Russell, both belong to the chapter.**

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Pollack is a member of Florida's **Gold Coast Chapter** and came to the Miami chapter's attention through its past chapter president Stanley J. Bodner, a friend of the former POW.

### Team Olympics at Fort Lee

In Petersburg, Va., a brand-new **Leigh Wade Chapter** member came up with an idea to raise funds for the Air Force's Wounded Warrior program and AFA's Wounded Airman Program.

TSgt. Matthew D. Loy, who joined AFA in March, proposed that the chapter host a team-based sporting event: the 345th Training Squadron Student Olympics. The competitors would come from the ranks of blue-suiter students assigned to the Army's nearby Fort Lee for services and transportation schooling.

So on a hot Saturday in July, five teams made up of 40 students gathered to compete in five events: push-ups, sit-ups, broad jump, vertical jump, and 40-yard dash. The athletes—no exaggeration since students in the services schoolhouse in particular include Air Force fitness specialists—raised \$754 for the wounded airmen. ■

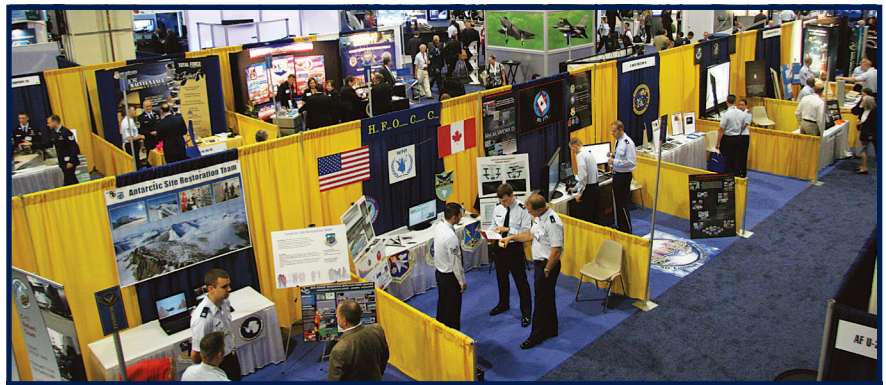
*It wasn't all running, jumping, and push-ups. TSgt. Juan Rijos, A1C James Glenn, and Viviana Rijos (left to right) grilled hamburgers and hotdogs for competitors and more than two dozen guests at the Leigh Wade Chapter and the 345th Training Squadron's Student Olympics at Fort Lee, Va. New chapter member TSgt. Matt Loy came up with the idea for this sports event.*



Photo by Gary Metzinger

### Have AFA Chapter News?

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Photo by Becky Brown



*In Florida, Aerospace Education VP John Jogerst presents Susan Cundiff with the Hurlburt Chapter's Teacher of the Year award. Cundiff's students at Gulf Breeze High School gained hands-on experience with wireless communications, robotics, and electronics because of her ability to find resources for equipment purchases. As a chapter member, Cundiff has also helped the chapter conduct teachers' workshops.*



*Joe Capriglione (third from left), president of New Jersey's Sal Capriglione Chapter, presented cadet Sebastian Kaiser (fourth from left) with an AFA AFROTC Medal at Rutgers University, N.J. With them (l-r) are: Pam Kaiser, AFROTC Northeast Regional Commander Col. Kent Dalton, Jerry Kaiser, and Lt. Col. Matthew McAndrew, commander of the Rutgers AFROTC Det. 485.*

*At right: For his stint as Miami Homestead Chapter guest speaker, Melvin Pollack received this crystal block depicting a B-17. The chapter has chosen the warbird as its icon to highlight how the bomber helped set the stage for the World War II Normandy Invasion.*



*At right: Bob Schure and Col. Brian Kamp, of the 157th Air Operations Group, show their AFA Certificates of Appreciation at the Spirit of St. Louis Chapter's 39th annual Airman of the Year Awards Banquet in Missouri. NCOs honored at the event were: A1C LaDarryn Brown and TSgt. Thomas Demont, both from Jefferson Barracks, Mo.; MSgt. Michael Cline from Scott AFB, Ill.; and MSgt. Karen Faris from Jefferson City, Mo.*



*In Hot Springs, Ark., Lewis E. Lyle Chapter officials presented a state-level award to the CyberPatriot VI team of the Arkansas School for Math, Science, and the Arts in May. With the team are: Arkansas State AFA VP and Chapter Secretary Morris Cash (far left), State and Chapter President Larry Loudon (center), and Chapter Aerospace Education VP Ted Carithers (far right).*



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**Reunions**

**86th Fighter-Bomber Gp Assn (WWII).** Oct. 1-5 at Fort Walton Beach, FL. **Contact:** Dallas Lowe (850-319-3047) (fighterbomberpilot@yahoo.com).

**91st Strategic Recon Wg,** McGuire (1948-49), Yokota (1950-54), Barksdale (1950-51), Lockbourne (1951-57), including 91PRS, 91SRS, 322SRS, 323SRS, 324SRS, 91ARS, FMS, AEMS, RTS, PMS, Sup Sq, Med Gp, AP Sq, Com Sq, HQ, 16PRS, 31SRS, 6091SRS, 91st Bomb Wg (1963-68), 91st Space/Missile Wg (1968-Active), 91IS (Fort Meade 1993-2005), 91NWS (Lackland 2007-Active), et al. Also invited are members of the 91st BG (WWII) and Lockbourne AFB Reunion Group. May 17-22, 2015, at the Best Western Plus Savannah, GA. **Contact:** Jim Bard, 3424 Nottingham Rd., Westminster, MD 21157 (410-549-1094) (jimbardjr@comcast.net).

**522nd Tactical Fighter Sq.** Oct. 17-19 in Texas Hill Country. **Contact:** Mike Hall (210-695-8335) (jetsnboats@gmail.com).

**548th Recon Assn/67th Recon Tech Sq.** Oct. 2-4, Holiday Inn Rosslyn Key Bridge, Arlington, VA. **Contact:** Bill Forsyth (webmaster@548rtg.org).

**2014 Gathering of Loadmasters.** Sept. 10-14 at the Crowne Plaza St. Louis-Downtown, MO. **Contact:** Kevin Butler (618-229-0581) (kevinbutler.2@us.af.mil).

Email reunion notices four months ahead of time to reunions@afa.org, or mail notices to "Reunions," *Air Force Magazine*, 1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22209-1198. We reserve the right to condense notices.