

By Frances McKenney, Assistant Managing Editor



Emerging Leaders

The Air Force Association's Emerging Leaders Program began in 2013 as a way to prepare volunteers for future AFA leadership roles. Emerging Leaders serve for a year. They participate on a national-level council, attend national leader orientations, and serve as National Convention delegates.

Emerging Leaders for 2015 are: Emilie S. Boschert, Shannon M. Farrell, Deborah A. Landry, Michael J. Liquori, Emily C. Shay, Christopher M. Talbot, James A. Thurber, Jeremy Trotter, and Daniel Whalen.

Here's the last profile in AFA's second group of Emerging Leaders.

Capt. Daniel P. Whalen

Home State: West Virginia.

Chapter: Delaware Galaxy (Del.).

AFA Offices: Member of two national-level committees—Finance and Strategic Planning—and Galaxy Chapter VP. Former ex-officio member of the AFA Board of Directors; former member of two national-level committees, Membership and Aerospace Education Council; and former Albuquerque Chapter (N.M.) communications VP.



Occupation: Maintenance operations officer, 736th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Dover AFB, Del.

Education: B.S., West Virginia University; M.S., American Military University.

Q&A

How do you recruit members? I mostly talk about, with younger folks, the professional development aspect of the organization. There's no other place where you get to work with senior officers in an environment where you're their equal.

How should AFA change? It's a strategic problem that we have: How to get younger folks [to join], and so one of the ways we have done that is ... what we think is the easiest way to reach out to younger people, through Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings, to make sure [they continue] their memberships [when they go on] Active Duty.

What's AFA future? I don't see us ... changing in our mission, but I see our population changing—in our membership.

Whalen speaks at an Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings gathering. He's been a member and consultant for the two organizations for a decade.



Photo by Isaac McDermott

Photo by Amy Gold



An Eglin Chapter scholarship winner, Dalton Jens from Northwest Florida College, takes a selfie with chapter Aerospace Education Foundation Chairman Mike Kostelnik (l) and Roy Taylor (r), guest speaker. The chapter awarded more than \$20,000 in scholarships in May at the Air Force Armament Museum.

Taking Care of the Warriors

When Eglin AFB, Fla., hosted the 2015 Air Force Wounded Warrior Introductory Sports Camp & the Air Force Warrior Games Training Camp in April, the **Eglin Chapter** pitched in by rounding up food to keep the athletes fueled.

The sports camps take place all over the county and allow wounded military members to try new social settings, be part of a team, act as mentors, and learn skills they can adapt to their needs, said Amanda Gold, chapter communications VP. She wrote that while training in Florida, the airmen used weights and straps for balance in discus and shot put, and some played—or learned, if they were new to this—seated volleyball and wheelchair basketball. “Along with swimming, track, and yoga, there was something for everyone of every level of ability,” she said.

The chapter worked with the base's 96th Support Squadron to provide water, snacks, lunches, and support donated by the surrounding communities of Niceville and Fort Walton Beach. In particular, chapter members coordinated contributions from community sponsors, while the 96th organized runners who picked up items and delivered them to the Wounded Warrior camps.

Gold listed some of the contributions: cases of water, mini-burgers, quarter-pounder sandwiches, ham sandwiches,

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In Iowa, Lt. Col. Justin Faiferlick presents an AFA Civil Air Patrol Outstanding Cadet of the Year Award to Austin Hermanson. A member of CAP's Northwest Iowa Composite Squadron, Hermanson has been a cadet for more than two years. Faiferlick was AFA's national treasurer and is now an AFA national director emeritus and treasurer for Iowa's Fort Dodge Chapter.

How to Enhance a Theme

The **Keystone Chapter** at Kadena AB, Japan, knows how to take a theme and build on it.

In March, the chapter organized 5K and 10K runs, featuring a baby jogger division, to help the base on Okinawa observe Women’s History Month.

Next, the chapter highlighted the Month of the Military Child.

Chapter President SSgt. Abraham N. Almonte said the members created and hosted Airpower Week, April 27 to May 1, to promote the DOD’s theme.

Almonte explained that the chapter took the emphasis on children and combined it with a focus on science, technology, education, and math. “Throughout the week, we mentored 400 school-age children on aviation-related STEM topics,” he said. Thirty volunteers from the chapter and other airmen visited two care centers for American military school-age children. The visitors brought equipment like a pilot’s helmet for show and tell and conducted short lessons.

Airpower Week culminated with children touring aircraft on static display at the flight line.

The chapter zeroed in on care center children “because we feel that they are the ones that are impacted the most by their parents working those long hours,” Almonte said.

- How does piggybacking on a theme pay off?
- Chapter members demonstrate community service.
 - It catches the attention of the media, which always needs new approaches to highlighting annual events.
 - It gains publicity for the AFA chapter.



Photo by Nicole Comas

L-r: Kadena airmen, including AFA Life Member Col. Paul Johnson (in flight suit), speak to some of the 120 children who toured the aircraft put on static display. The Keystone Chapter organized this event for Month of the Military Child.



Photo by SSgt. Abraham Almonte

At a children’s center, Keystone volunteers taught the youngsters the basics of airplane propulsion. Above: A student gives his all during the hands-on part of the lesson.



Photos by Nicole Comas

SSgt. Jeremy Pekins explains some aspects of a KC-135 engine. Below: SrA. Blaise Ruff guides students through the tanker’s cockpit. Below right: Kadena’s public affairs office staff covered these events and, here, photographed MC-130 pilot Capt. John Bowman handling Q&A from the youngsters.



USAF photo via AIC Zaida Vadnais

Sal Capriglione Chapter (N.J.) President Joseph Capriglione (l) and Loretta Thornton (r) of the Skyway Foundation awarded their organizations' scholarship to New Jersey Institute of Technology AFROTC cadet David Kantrowitz (c). The presentation took place at NJIT's scholarship brunch.



Photo via TSgt. William Fitzpatrick



In Albuquerque, N.M., Ryan Fitzgerald receives an AFA Civil Air Patrol Outstanding Cadet of the Year Award, pinned on by his father, Col. Michael Fitzgerald. The senior Fitzgerald is with the Air Force Inspection Agency, Kirtland AFB, N.M. His son is cadet leader, CAP 811th Cadet Squadron.

boxed lunches, cookies, turkey wraps, fruit, sandwich trays, pizza, hot wings, and salads. One donor even provided massages for the athletes and for Caregivers' Appreciation Day.

"It was flawless teamwork on so many levels," commented Candace Lovell, chapter VP.

Some 80 wounded airmen and assistants benefitted from the goods and services. This was the wounded warriors' first visit to the Eglin area, said Gold.

Missileer Award in New York City

Maj. Gen. Jack Weinstein, 20th Air Force commander, presented the **Iron Gate Chapter's** first awards to missileers at a luncheon in New York City in April.

First Lt. Victoria Fort, of the 91st Missile Wing at Minot AFB, N.D., and Capt. Chris Conant of the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman AFB, Mo., each received a Gen. Curtis E. LeMay Award from the chapter, recognition for the officers' distinguished service with integrity.

Among the special guests at this luncheon were Fort's and Conant's colleagues and family and Jeanine Pirro, a Fox News legal analyst and host of "Justice with Judge Jeanine" TV program. AFA officials on hand included National Director Kevin L. Jackson. ★

Photo by Owen Costello



20th Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Jack Weinstein describes the Force Improvement Program underway at Air Force Global Strike Command. He spoke in April to an Iron Gate Chapter luncheon at New York City's 21 Club.

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