

May 2014



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# WINGMAN

MAGAZINE

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**ON THE COVER:** (left to right) Daniel Crane, Christopher Aguilera, and Gideon Connelly in the men's 100-meter dash during the inaugural Wounded Warrior Pacific Invitational in Honolulu, Jan. 8, 2014. See "Wounded Airman Program," p. 6.  
 Air Force photo by TSgt. Terri Paden.



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# WINGMAN

## MAGAZINE

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## Chairman's Welcome

By George K. Muellner



**W**elcome to the inaugural issue of *Wingman Magazine*! Our new publication is a window to the men and women of the Air Force Association and the broader Air Force community we serve. *Wingman* is the companion to *Air Force Magazine*, the standard of excellence for reporting on our Air Force.

Historically, a wingman has provided mutual support to the leader against an adversary. More recently, the term wingman has epitomized an airman who looks out for the emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual well-being of his or her fellow airmen. Carrying forth these metaphors, we want *Wingman* to provide mutual support, so to speak, to AFA and the Air Force. We want it to chronicle our efforts in advocating for aerospace power and aerospace education, educating the public about national security, and supporting the welfare of our Air Force family.

*Wingman* will inform and engage through interesting stories on the work of our members, volunteers, and chapters, and the activities managed by our national office in Arlington, Va. The magazine will entertain with compelling stories on notable airmen, spouses and families, veterans, retirees, high school and college cadets, and others.

You all are the driving force behind *Wingman* and your contributions will be the reason that *Wingman* succeeds.

We don't have a staff of professional writers for this magazine. Instead, you are its voice. Your articles and stories will fill the magazine's pages.

This issue features Caitie Craumer's heartfelt article on the heroic efforts of wounded airmen to heal physically and emotionally from their injuries.

Craumer, AFA's senior manager for Airmen and Family Programs, attended an adaptive sports camp for our wounded warriors in February in Las Vegas. She saw firsthand these airmen's daily struggles, witnessed their courage and resiliency, and saw how such athletic events help these airmen to bond with their fellow wounded warriors and re-integrate in society. Craumer shows why the Air Force Wounded Warrior program and AFA's own Wounded Airman Program are so vital to supporting these individuals and why our support must never waver.

Engaging and diverse content fills the rest of the magazine. This includes an interview with AFA President Craig R. McKinley, an update on our Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, and a story on our Central Florida Chapter's special role supporting an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps detachment. For our junior wingmen, we've even included a match-the-aircraft challenge at the back of the magazine!

Starting out, we plan to publish *Wingman* three times a year, with each issue

arriving in your mailbox bundled with *Air Force Magazine*. The May issue accompanies *Air Force Magazine*'s annual almanac. Our next issue in September will be available for display with *Air Force Magazine* at our annual Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition in Washington, D.C. After that, *Wingman* will appear again in early 2015, at which point the three-times-per-year cycle will commence.

Whether you are new to AFA or a longtime friend, our hope is that you'll take away something worthwhile from each issue. We want the magazine to inspire readers to join AFA and re-energize those who are already members. We want to recognize all of the great work done by AFA members to support the Air Force and Air Force people.

Like any endeavor, *Wingman* will continue to grow and get better over time. It took a tremendous effort to take this idea from concept to the glossy magazine now before you. We thank all of you for your support in making this happen.

We're proud to present our inaugural issue and we are excited as we begin work on the next one. Feel free to drop us a line at [wingman@afa.org](mailto:wingman@afa.org). We are always open to new ideas and suggestions.

See you again in September! ■

*George K. Muellner is AFA's Chairman of the Board.*





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By Michael C. Sirak

# Craig R. McKinley, AFA President

**A**s a boy, Craig R. McKinley knew he wanted to fly Air Force fighter jets. By the time he retired from the Air Force as a four-star general in late 2012, he had accomplished that and much more. As his Air Force career blossomed, so did his work with the Air Force Association.

"I always wanted to be an Air Force pilot," said McKinley. "I was exposed to aviation early in my career and loved every minute." In fact, at age 15, McKinley earned a private pilot's license—before he even had a driver's license.

During his 38 years in uniform, McKinley rose to become the first-ever four-star National Guard Bureau chief and the first NGB leader to sit in the permanent seat Congress created for the Guard on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He seamlessly moved back and forth between the Active Duty component and the Air National Guard over the years. This career progression, he said, reflects a "continuum of service" that represents a strength of the Air Force.

"What an amazing Air Force and an amazing compency we have that gives people the chance to go beyond what they initially think they can do," said McKinley.

McKinley was born in Jacksonville, Fla. His dad was a mining engineer, his mom a homemaker. He attended high school in Faribault, Minn., south of Minneapolis. As a senior in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program, McKinley received an Air Force ROTC scholarship. That allowed him to earn a degree in business administration from Southern Methodist University in Dallas in 1974.

He met Cheryl, his wife of 40 years, in college. They have two children: Patrick, 33, and Christina, 30, and are expecting their first grandchild in July. "That will change my life dramatically," said McKinley.



After flight school at Moody AFB, Ga., in 1975, McKinley became a T-38 Talon instructor pilot. During an assignment some four years later at Laughlin AFB, Texas, he formed a friendship with another T-38 backseater: Dick Newton, today AFA's executive vice president. McKinley counts Newton as one of his many mentors and friends. "We are each other's best wingmen," he said of Newton.

After five-and-a-half years on Active Duty, McKinley made "one of the toughest decisions" in his life: leaving Active Duty by taking advantage of the Palace Chase program to transfer to the Air National Guard in 1980. He got his shot flying the F-106 with Jacksonville's 125th Fighter-Interceptor Group. The unit became a fighter wing in 1995. It transitioned to the F-16 and then the F-15 during his time there. After commanding the wing, McKinley's subsequent senior assignments included Air Force deputy inspector general, 1st Air Force commander, and ANG director.

McKinley became AFA's president in October 2012, but his work with the association spans nearly four decades. An AFA Life Member since

1976, he said he "learned the ropes" working his way up from a chapter president, state president, region president, Under-40 national director, an elected board member, and then an Executive Committee member.

McKinley said he took the president's job because he wanted to continue to support airmen and their families. "I could think of no better place to complete a life serving the Air Force than to come here," he said. "When you look back, I have been blessed with a wonderful military career, a great family, and now, the opportunity to serve here."

In his current role, McKinley said he realizes the strength of the association lies in "a combination of strong chapters, strong members, and a very qualified, highly competent professional staff." By bringing the association's governance, leadership, and field activities closer to the national office, "we will become the strongest and most effective organization" to "support those who serve and ... to fight for a strong national defense and the world's greatest Air Force," he said.

Along those lines, McKinley sees *Wingman Magazine* as an important new means of outreach. "I think *Wingman Magazine* will be the venue by which all of our voices can be heard in a really constructive way," he said. ■

Michael C. Sirak is editor of *Wingman Magazine*.



Photo courtesy of Craig R. McKinley

**AFA President Craig McKinley, as a young pilot, stands next to a T-38 trainer.**





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# Wounded Airmen Recover ON AND OFF THE FIELD



**I**t's incredibly humbling, inspiring, and moving to stand in the presence of wounded airmen and witness the passion and resilience they display while courageously dealing with their realities.

The people I've met through my work with the Air Force Association's Wounded Airman Program do not lead easy lives, but they live with honor, respect their colleagues, and value teamwork. They always end up teaching me something along the way.

Over the course of the year, wounded airmen around the country are encouraged to take the first step—sometimes a leap, a roll, or a hobble—to help heal themselves. After they've been through the medical system, and sometimes the Department of Veterans Affairs, they are left to navigate the next steps of their careers and lives.

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*Here, everyone is—and  
had—a wingman.*

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Enter the Air Force Wounded Warrior, or AFW2, program. Its mission is to “Care Beyond Duty” by delivering a network of regionally focused non-medical recovery care coordinators to help wounded airmen fight for benefits, entitlements, back pay, and promotion, when possible. Airmen under its care come from all walks of life. They're enlisted personnel and officers; they have parents, spouses, and friends who are their caregivers.

AFW2's team of trained, empathetic professionals, most with military backgrounds, works tirelessly to raise public awareness of the challenges in being classified as “wounded.” Caring for airmen is its top priority. Nonprofit partners, like AFA through the Wounded Airman Program, step in where Defense Department budgets cannot, ensuring as many wounded airmen, whether on Active Duty or veterans, have every opportunity to thrive.





*An airman tries out an adaptive cycle during an adaptive sports camp at Nellis AFB, Nev., in summer 2013.*

For example, two AFA chapters in the Washington, D.C., area, the Nation's Capital Chapter and the Donald W. Steele Sr. Memorial Chapter, teamed up to purchase a sports wheelchair for Christopher Aguilera to use in the 2012 Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colo., and for his training at home. One of the first airmen WAP reached, Aguilera has since become one of program's mentors, giving back to others in the same way he received help.

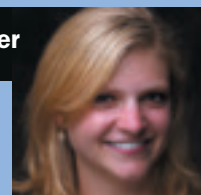
So, what does thriving look like for wounded airmen? They are brutally honest with each other. Some days success means just getting out of bed. Other days, it's getting in a pool for the first time since an injury or opening up and sharing a personal story with someone.

Over three short but powerful days in late February, I witnessed much success.

Recently injured or diagnosed airmen, and those who had never interacted with a large group since their injury, came to Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas to participate in an Introductory Adaptive Sports Camp. Adaptive sporting events, like the Warrior Games and this camp, feature athletic activities modified in some way, such as with the use of specialized equipment, to allow for airmen with all types of injuries to participate.

These camps are held all over the country throughout the year, reaching as many wounded airmen as are willing to take part. At each camp, there are airmen missing limbs, in wheelchairs, some traveling with family, and many with no visible wounds. Some injuries are combat-related; others are unfortunate accidents.

## By Caitie Craumer



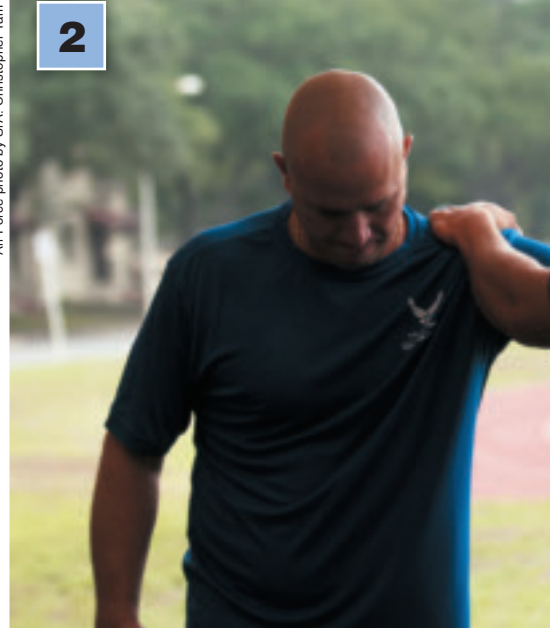
"The nature of my injury ... is not combat-related," Mark Johnson told me in February at Nellis. He lost his right leg in an accident. "We've had people tell me and tell [my wife Kayla] that I don't deserve all these benefits that other wounded warriors are getting because of the way I got hurt," he said.

Privacy requests and legal issues prevent me from going into detail on the injuries of many airmen with whom I spoke.

"All the other amputees or wounded warriors, they don't judge me," contin-



Air Force photo by SrA. Christopher Tam



ued Johnson. “I’m the same as someone who got hurt downrange. ... There’s quite a few [airmen] here [whose injuries] aren’t combat related. They’re just one thing or another, whether it’s cancer, or some kind of motor accident. ... It’s nice not to be the only one.”

### Welcome to Camp

Having attended a few of these camps in the past, including the 2013 Warrior Games, I was familiar with the structure. I saw it with fresh eyes when 40 wounded airmen arrived at the opening event, many openly admitting to me that they were nervous to be there.

Camp opened with testimonials of airmen who have been down this road

and are living with their injuries or illnesses and are returning to give back and help mentor others. Air Force leadership from the local base welcomed everyone to participate, volunteer, and watch the events of the week. AFA members lent their support by volunteering and through monetary donations, and AFW2 officials shared their program’s tenet: empowering individual airmen to take responsibility for their own recovery.

It was on this first day I witnessed hesitation, skepticism, and a bit of mistrust. Some veterans had been away from their service for an extended amount of time, while other airmen had been focused on getting from one day to the next.

The adaptive sports each airman rotated through over the next few days were tailored to each individual’s need. For Jabrier Lee, an airman gradually losing his eyesight, I helped a camp coach fashion vision-impairing goggles to teach him to run with and trust a partner in preparation for the day when his sight is gone. Mentor and 2013 Warrior Games Ultimate Champion Mitch Kieffer stepped in to lead Lee on the track through verbal cues and physical connection. Mentors are a crucial part of AFW2.

For Tatiana Perkins, having only one fully functioning arm didn’t stop her from trying out archery. In fact, she learned how to hold the bow with one hand and pull the string and arrow with her teeth. It turned out she had great aim!

For others, adaptations were beyond equipment. Many tossed a discus for the first time since their injuries; others with use of both legs strapped into wheelchairs to try out wheelchair basketball.

The week of camp was often painful, but also joyous, with the airmen confronting new scars and old scars, those seen and unseen. Their participation was an admittance that activities like walking, running—even speaking—are a daily struggle.

At home, wherever that is, these airmen’s lives aren’t “normal,” but here, no one questioned the scars, or the limbs, or the wheelchair, or the service dogs. Airmen were in this space to herald in healing and to build teams, units, and squadrons of brotherhood and sisterhood that may have been lost through their injury or illness. Here, everyone was—and had—a wingman.

## WOUNDED AIRMAN PROGRAM

AFA operates and administers the Wounded Airman Program. We’re proud to say 100 percent of the donations made by individuals specifically for WAP goes directly to supporting wounded airmen. AFA’s general fund covers WAP overhead and staff time. We need support for both, and you can rest assured that we’re serving our wounded airmen with integrity. Using our network of chapters and members and our resources through the restricted fund-raising, we are able to fulfill needs for equipment, care, and quality-of-life items for wounded airmen. For more information on the Wounded Airman Program, or to donate, visit [www.afa.org/WAP](http://www.afa.org/WAP).

## WHO IS A WOUNDED WARRIOR?

An Air Force wounded warrior is any seriously or very seriously wounded, ill, or injured airman identified on a casualty report or recommended by the medical community as having highly complex medical conditions. Also included are airmen with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and/or other mental health conditions, or those retained for more than six months on medical Title 10 orders, or returned to Title 10 orders for medical conditions related to deployment. To learn more about the Air Force Wounded Warrior program, visit [www.woundedwarrior.af.mil](http://www.woundedwarrior.af.mil).





Air Force photo by TSgt. Sarayuth Pinthong

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Staff photo by Caitie Craumer

### Particularly Striking Observation

By the last day of each camp, all airmen, caretakers, and coaches had forged lasting bonds to carry them home and through their next steps. The airmen were exhausted, exhilarated, and encouraged to keep moving forward. The motivation was contagious.

I return from each of these camps with a renewed faith in the Air Force and the work it's doing to care for its own. If I can see an attitude shift in just days, imagine the possibilities that lie ahead for those who take charge of their circumstances and continue to embody the Air Force mantra of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do.

At the camp, I was able to talk with many of the wounded airmen, while continuing to look at ways that AFA could further serve them. One particularly striking observation was the effect of the activities on the caregivers. While Johnson got to experience and try out different sports, wife Kayla cheered

4



Air Force photo by SrA. Christopher Tam

*111 Vincent Pacely prepares to throw a discus during the Air Force Wounded Warrior Adaptive Sports Camp at Nellis AFB, Nev., Feb. 26, 2014. 121 Airmen stretch before running during an adaptive sports camp at JBSA-Randolph, Texas, Sept. 17, 2013. 131 Tatiana Perkins learns how to use archery equipment with one arm during the Air Force Wounded Warrior Adaptive Sports Camp at Nellis, Feb. 27, 2014. 141 Jabrier Lee (left), who is losing his eyesight, and Mitch Kieffer jog around the track at Nellis during camp.*

1



Photo by Roger L. Wollenberg

*111 AFA's Caitie Craumer photographs Ken Gestring, an adaptive sports camp participant, in the Thunderbird Hangar at Nellis in summer 2013. 121 Wounded airman Mark Johnson and his wife, Kayla, photographed during the Air Force Wounded Warrior Adaptive Sports Camp at Nellis in February 2014.*

2



Photo by Robert Davis

him on from the sidelines teary-eyed, sharing that in some ways his injury has been harder on her. But here, she said, "I can't describe how exciting it is to see him coming back out of his shell a little bit. ... If we could get involved in something, you know, fun and different from what he's used to, that would make the difference."

One of those fun and different experiences was on the track. Mark first tried running on his prosthetic leg, but when that wasn't comfortable, the coach encouraged him to try the racing wheelchair. Kayla was surprised by Mark's willingness to participate and compete in this way. "The wheelchair made such a difference, especially in his attitude," she observed. "Those guys can really move in those chairs."

The caregivers were such a huge part of the support system, and it was rewarding for them to see their husbands, wives, and children thriving. They celebrate the success of their loved ones and carry

the burden when things aren't as cheery. It's our responsibility—AFA's and the overall Air Force family's—to make sure the caregivers are cared for, too, and that they are part of the healing process.

It also makes a difference to have others who have worn the Air Force uniform working together to learn, adapt, and recover. While he was under the care of AFW2, Mark Johnson found his community. "Being with his own brothers and sisters in the same branch, that's been a huge mental boost that [Mark] hasn't had before," said Kayla. However, he is one of many who will continue to need support.

The theme of connection, teamwork, and banding together despite differences, physical or otherwise, is the core of recovery and resiliency during adaptive sports. Whatever the end goal may be, whether it's being active again at home, representing the Air Force at the annual Warrior Games, or even the Paralympics, the real value is in the journey that brings each individual airman there.

The Air Force is taking care of its own, no matter the injury or situation. AFA's Wounded Airman Program will continue to support AFW2 and individual airmen as they work through recovery, transition, and whatever else lies ahead.

It's an honor to serve them. But the job's not finished. It's a long road for wounded airmen, and more are returning home and trying to cope every day. It is our turn to take care of them. ■

*Caitie Craumer is AFA's senior manager for Airmen and Family Programs.*

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

June 7-8, 2014

***Air Force Association Cycling Classic, Arlington, Va.***

Sept. 10-14, 2014

***Invictus Games, London***

Sept. 27-Oct. 5, 2014

***Warrior Games, Colorado Springs, Colo.***



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- Noise-induced hearing loss is among the top disabilities associated with current conflicts (OEF/OIF veterans).
- 50-60 percent of one's situational awareness comes from hearing. With bad hearing, it takes approximately 90 seconds to identify a target. With good hearing, it takes approximately 40 seconds.
- Seven out of ten injuries in Theater are due to blasts; an estimated 50 percent of these blast wounded warriors experience permanent hearing loss.
- The quietest DOD weapon is the M-16, which measures in at about 156 dB. One shot without hearing protection can damage one's hearing.
- Noise induced hearing loss can be caused by one-time exposure to an intense "impulse" sound, such as noise from a blast or explosion, or by continuous exposure to loud sounds over an extended period of time.

• Source: DOD Hearing Center of Excellence



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# Chapter News

By Michael C. Sirak

*When it comes to supporting the Air Force family, advocating for and supporting aerospace education, and carrying out the Air Force Association mission in our communities, the action takes place with our field organizations: chapters, states, and regions. They form the foundation of our association. AFA has more than 200 chapters across the nation and overseas. They range in size from 29 members to more than 2,900. In this section of Wingman Magazine, you'll see examples of our chapters and members in action, doing what they love and making a difference. Jimmy Doolittle once said, "The field is the heart, soul, and conscience of this association." That was true in 1946 and it is true now. Take a look at the range of activities and the impact they make. You'll be impressed.*

Scott Van Cleef is AFA's Vice Chairman of the Board, Field Operations.



## Rawlings Chapter Holds Annual Awards Dinner

The Gen. E. W. Rawlings Chapter of Minneapolis-St. Paul held its 2014 awards dinner on March 15, 2014, at the Town and Country Club in St. Paul. The chapter recognized the Outstanding Airmen of the

Year from the Minnesota Air National Guard's 133rd Airlift Wing and Air Force Reserve Command's 934th Airlift Wing. Both units operate out of Minneapolis-St. Paul Arpt./Air Reserve Station.

AFA President Craig R. McKinley was the headline speaker. In addition to

recognizing the awardees, he expressed his concern about budget sequestration and reductions in military funding. "The leaders in the Pentagon have warned that without a full repeal [of sequestration], military planners will have to brace for fewer personnel, reduced training funds,



**AFA has 198 chapters in the 50 states and eight overseas.**

**Left: Air Force Reservists honored at the Gen. E. W. Rawlings Chapter's 2014 awards dinner included: TSgt. Kristofer Gelger, MSgt. Kristen Maloney, MSgt. Nathan Dillner, and SrA. Brian Hansen. Below: AFA President Craig McKinley speaks at the awards dinner.**



Air Force photo by Shannon McKey



Photo courtesy of Lawrence Sagstetter



1st SOW photos



1st SOW photos

*Above: Teachers explore the outside of an AC-130 gunship on the flight line at Hurlburt Field, Fla., during the Hurlburt Chapter's teacher workshop, March 8, 2014. Left: A member of the 1st Special Operations Wing (standing) briefs the teachers inside the gunship.*

and possible equipment shortages," said McKinley.

The outstanding Air Guardsmen honored were: MSgt. Robert Renning, first sergeant; MSgt. Crystal Galloway, senior noncommissioned officer; TSgt. David Hubert, NCO; SrA. Hunter Heggerston, airman; and SSgt. Dirk Krog, honor guardsmen. The Reservists recognized were: Capt. Ethan Bryant, company grade officer; MSgt. Nathan Dillner, first ser-

geant; MSgt. Kristen Maloney, SNCO; TSgt. Kristofer Geiger, NCO; and SrA. Brian Hansen, airman.

The chapter also honored members of Minnesota's Civil Air Patrol, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Det.



**Lawrence D. Bell (1894-1956) has the singular distinction of having two AFA chapters with his name: the Lawrence D. Bell Museum Chapter (Ind.) and the L. D. Bell-Niagara Frontier Chapter (N.Y.)**



Photo courtesy of Sijan Chapter

*Brig. Gen. David Buck (center), Air Force Space Command's director of air, space, and cyberspace operations, receives the Gen. Jerome F. O'Malley Distinguished Space Leadership Award during the Lance P. Sijan Chapter's annual Air Force Ball on Valentine's Day 2014 in Colorado Springs, Colo. Rocky Mountain Region President Gayle White stands to Buck's right, while Sharon O'Malley-Burg, daughter of the late General O'Malley, is on Buck's left.*





Photo courtesy of Vance Clarke

**Retired CMSAF Bob Gaylor (third from left) poses with (from left) Trey Johnson, Northeast Texas Chapter president; his wife Susan; intern Hayley Hasik; and Jalinna Jones, wife of Dan Jones (far right), Texas A&M-Commerce president, on Jan. 23, 2014. Right: Gaylor converses during his sit-down interview with members of the East Texas War and Memory Program the next day. During his career, he had assignments at air force bases in Texas, including James Connally, Lackland, and Laredo.**

410 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, and Air Force ROTC Det. 415 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Also recognized were cadets of the Johnson Senior High School Junior ROTC program in St. Paul; North High

School JROTC in North St. Paul; Park High School JROTC in Cottage Grove; and Woodbury High School JROTC in Woodbury.

The chapter also honored Teacher of the Year Jamie Alsleben, a sixth-grade



Photo courtesy of Vance Clarke

teacher from Cedar Ridge Elementary School in Eden Prairie.

### Teachers Visit Hurlburt

Florida's Hurlburt Chapter sponsored a teachers' workshop on March 8 for 33 local teachers at Choctawhatchee High School/Embry-Riddle Aeronauti-



Photo by Shelli Brunswick

**MSgt. Glen Weaver (left) and MSgt. Alex Del Valle chat at the Donald W. Steele Sr. Memorial Chapter's annual Salute to the Air National Guard in March 2014 in Arlington, Va. Weaver is protocol noncommissioned officer from the Air National Guard Training and Education Center at McGhee Tyson Arpt., Tenn. Del Valle is his counterpart at the Air National Guard Readiness Center at JB Andrews, Md.**





Photo courtesy of Sherrie Weinhold

**Cadet 2nd Lt. Aaron Huie (left) of the Mount Airy Composite Squadron in Mount Airy, Md., receives an Air Force Association Civil Air Patrol Outstanding Squadron Cadet of the Year Award from Central Maryland Chapter President MSgt. Neil Stege during a CAP awards banquet in Damascus, Md., on Feb. 22, 2014.**

cal University Aviation Institute in Fort Walton Beach.

Following a breakfast and orientation, the teachers boarded two buses provided by Hurlburt Field's 1st Special Operations Wing for a trip to the base and tour of an AC-130U gunship static display on the flight line. They then visited the 19th Special Operations Squadron's flight simulator.

Four of the teachers also got the chance to tour base operations and the air traffic control tower before taking a Civil Air Patrol flight of the local area.

After returning to the high school for lunch, the group took part in a video teleconference with Pamela Gray, program director for CosmoQuest, a virtual research facility for space science.

The teachers then broke up into primary and secondary school levels for afternoon presentations on gravity stations, practical magnetism, robotics, rockets in class,

roller coasters, and spatial disorientation. As the workshop concluded, the teachers received certificates and door prizes.

Grants of \$1,000 and \$500 from Boeing and ERAU, respectively, helped make the workshop possible.

### **Sijan Chapter Hosts Ball**

The Lance P. Sijan Chapter in Colorado Springs, Colo., hosted its annual Air Force Ball on Valentine's Day at the Broadmoor Hotel. More than 900 guests attended.

The Mitchell High School Junior ROTC Cadet Honor Guard presented the colors.

Matt Cook sang the national anthem. He's the son of Col. Kathleen A. Cook, former public affairs director for Air Force Space Command, who now leads the Air Force Public Affairs Office in the Pentagon.

The Air Force Academy Band's Blue Steel ensemble provided live music. Following a cocktail reception, dinner, and dancing, the chapter honored outstanding airmen from the local area.

New this year was the presentation of the Gen. Jerome F. O'Malley Distinguished Space Leadership Award, which the chapter established to recognize the contributions of space leaders.

This year's recipient was Brig. Gen. David J. Buck, Air Force Space Command's director of air, space, and cyberspace operations. The Senate in February approved

Buck's nomination for promotion to the rank of major general to be AFSPC's vice commander.

Sharon O'Malley-Burg presented Buck with the award, which is named after her late father, a former commander of Tactical Air Command, who died in 1985.

Generous corporate sponsorships subsidized the ticket prices to make the event affordable for the guests.

### **Gaylor Visits Texas Chapter, Shares His Story**

Retired CMSAF Robert D. Gaylor, fifth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, spoke in Wolfe City, Texas, in late January at a dinner sponsored by the Northeast Texas Chapter. Addressing 45 guests, he shared his thoughts on conflicts since World War II and their impact on his life.

On the following day, Gaylor met with students from Texas A&M-Com-

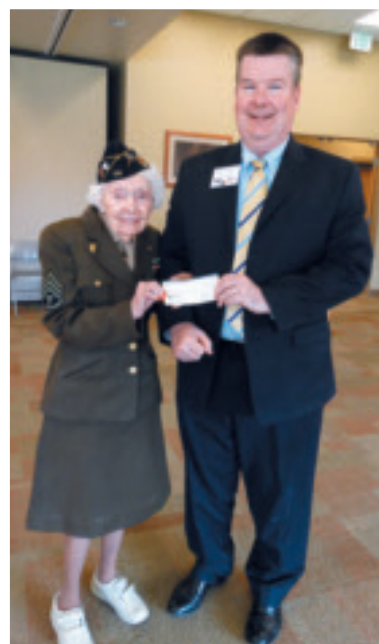


Photo courtesy of James W. Simons

**Jim Simons, the Air Force Association's North Central Region president, presents a check for \$400 for the North Dakota Veterans Home to former Army Tech. 4 Norma Jameson at the home in late 2013.**



**California has the highest number of AFA chapters named for people: 13 out of 18 chapters.**



**Right:** The Tennessee Valley Chapter raised \$15,000 over three years to sponsor an Air Force flag, shown here in the center, at the Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial in Huntsville, Ala. **Above:** Seventy chapter members donated in support of the Air Force flag, which honors all veterans, as the engraving at the memorial indicates.



Photos courtesy of Russell V. Lewey

merce to give the oral history of his life and military service as part of the East Texas War and Memory Project. This initiative collects and preserves oral histories of war veterans and their families to enable the study of war and its effects on humanity.

Vance Clarke, the chapter's vice president for communications, helped set up the meeting.

"To me, it was a natural fit to introduce Bob to the students," Clarke said. "I've listened to his stories for so long and know their value. I think it is important that they be recorded so future generations can learn from them."

The Northeast Texas Chapter has donated more than \$2,200 to assist the project, according to Clarke. Gaylor, 84, retired from the Air Force in August 1979 after 31 years in uniform.



**Four chapters are named for Medal of Honor recipients from World War II: Brig. Gen. Frederick W. Castle Chapter (N.J.), Thomas B. McGuire Jr. Chapter (N.J.), General Doolittle/Los Angeles Area Chapter (Calif.), and Richard I. Bong Chapter (Minn.).**



### If Not Us, Who?

An Air Force flag now waves over the Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial in Huntsville, Ala., thanks to the financial support of the Tennessee Valley Chapter.

"I truly smile each time I see it flying in the wind, representing all airmen who have been the heart and soul of the Air Force over the last 50-plus years," said Russell Lewey, AFA's Alabama state president.

The chapter raised \$15,000 over three years to sponsor the flag, which is viewable at the memorial alongside the US flag and the other services' flags.

The chapter made a final payment, of \$5,000 to the Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial Foundation

in December 2013. Quantech Services, a community partner, donated \$1,000 as part of the final payment.

In 2011, the foundation approached the chapter about sponsoring the Air Force flag.

"All of the other service flags had corporate sponsors," said Tennessee Valley Chapter President Rick Driesbach. "We considered approaching some of the larger businesses in Huntsville, but knew they were already supporting other components of the memorial. If not us, who?" he said.

Seventy chapter members donated in support of the flag. ■

*Michael C. Sirak is editor of Wingman Magazine.*

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# THE AIRMAN I NEVER KNEW

By Michael C. Sirak

***My quest to find out what my dad did as an airman in World War II.***



*My late father, Michael J. Sirak, shown here, served in the Army Air Forces during the final year of World War II.*

**M**y dad was an airman in World War II. He didn't bomb Schweinfurt or the Ploesti oil fields, nor did he fly the Hump or battle Japanese Zeros with the Flying Tigers in the skies over China. As far as I know, he wasn't a part of any mission that became the stuff of Hollywood blockbusters.

However, he didn't need to accomplish those feats to earn my respect. Like millions of America's sons and daughters, he served his country when called upon. Fresh out of high school, his time in uniform helped shape the man he became. The GI Bill allowed him to escape humble beginnings and attend college—the first in his family to do so—and then settle into a career and start his own family.

As a boy, I vaguely remember dad telling me about his wartime service. For years, I thought he flew Curtiss-Wright C-46 Commandos in a unit that towed assault gliders. As a young adult, a friend's comment brought me to realize this assumption was probably wrong. My dad was a staff sergeant and—with some exceptions, I later learned—staff sergeants were not pilots in the war. I was shocked, since I'd seen a picture of dad in the cockpit of a C-46.

I didn't get a chance to ask again about his wartime role before he died in 1994. Since then, though, my exposure to all things Air Force as an editor of *Air Force Magazine* made me wonder if I could find out more about what he did.

Through my own research, the help of others, and some luck, I've been able to compile a more complete, albeit still-unfinished, picture. Perhaps my experience will help others wanting to know more about a deceased loved one's service in World War II or any other conflict, for that matter, even if they have little to go on initially.

Among his papers, I found my dad's enlistment record, report of separation, some newspaper clippings and photos—memorabilia typical to any veteran of the era. From these, I had a start. Born in June 1926 in Dunlo, Pa., Michael Joseph Sirak enlisted in the Army on Jan. 28, 1944. He was on "enlisted reserve" status through July 6,



*Dad entered the AAF in July 1944 after graduating from high school.*

1944—one month after D-Day—until after his 18th birthday and graduation from high school.

He then entered active service on July 7, 1944, and spent one year, 11 months, and 25 days in uniform before the Army released him on July 1, 1946, with an honorable discharge. His record shows that the Army discharged him “at the convenience of the government,” as part of the service’s demobilization. This simple summation was all I had to start with.

Like most people do today, I turned first to the Internet, which has surely made research easier. Online searches yielded valuable information, but in some ways, I had hoped for more. Don’t expect to find the answers to all your questions online.

For example, I didn’t find much about my father’s military service at Ancestry.com, other than the enlistment record I already had. My experience was the same with fold3.com, marketing itself as having “the Web’s premier collection of original military records.” I found only my dad’s death notice there.

This is not an indictment of those websites. I know others who have benefitted much from using them, and these sites are continually adding more records to their archives. Both websites offer free trials so it’s possible to explore them before committing to a membership.

A single photo can be a treasure trove of information. I found one picture of my dad in uniform standing in front of a sign with the 434th TCG written out in large letters. That chance find was huge in refining my search. I also scrutinized photos for items like unit markings, insignia, and aircraft types to discover new details or corroborate others.

Based on these, and my initial searches online, I determined that he served with the 434th Troop Carrier Group, an Army Air Forces unit that flew C-46 and Douglas C-47 Skytrain transport airplanes as well as Horsa gliders and Waco CG-4 gliders during his time with the unit. Wartime photos of dad show C-46s, but I didn’t find any photos with C-47s from his unit.

The 434th TCG was the predecessor of today’s 434th Operations Group, a component of Air Force Reserve Command’s 434th Air Refueling Wing, operating KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling aircraft at Grissom ARB, Ind.

When dad was with the 434th, the unit’s Stateside operations shifted from



***One of the C-46 Commando transports that dad's unit operated.***

Baer Field in Fort Wayne, Ind., to Alliance Army Airfield in western Nebraska, to George Field in south-eastern Illinois, to Greenville Army Air Base in the northwestern part of South Carolina, according to the Air Force's fact sheet on the unit.

Searching online for associations and reunion organizations affiliated with the 434th yielded fruit. I came across the Air Force's "brief history" of the group through a fan website for the 71st Special Operations Squadron, which traces its lineage to the 71st Troop Carrier Squadron.

It pays to connect the dots of a unit's heritage.

My dad worked in the group's headquarters squadron as an administrative noncommissioned officer, according to his separation qualification record. He "supervised and directed the administrative work" of the group's operations section "in the preparation of correspondence, records, forms,

reports, and orders," according to this document. He oversaw the work of three other clerks.

He was a private for a month, a corporal for 19 months, and a staff sergeant for the final four months of his service. He spent no time overseas during the war, according to the record. This meshes with my memory of what he told me. He received the Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

The Army established the 434th TCG in January 1943, originally as part of the 53rd Troop Carrier Wing. Among the group's components were the 71st TCS, 72nd TCS, 73rd TCS, and 74th TCS.

From my research into dad's unit, I learned a good deal of World War II history. Airmen of the 434th participated in the war's three major Allied airborne operations in the European Theater's western front: Overlord, the

D-Day assault on Normandy, France, in June 1944; Market Garden, the airborne drop in Holland in September 1944; and Varsity, the airborne assault on the east bank of the Rhine River in Germany in March 1945.

"These airborne operations figured prominently in the ultimate Allied victory," states the group's brief history, covering the years 1943 to 1956. "Participation in them marked the highlights of the 434th Group's World War II combat record," states this document.

Staging from England during Overlord, the group's transports towed gliders carrying troops to Normandy on the first day of the invasion. They flew follow-on missions the next day, bringing more gliders with reinforcements for the Army's 101st Airborne Division, according to the history. The group received a Distinguished Unit Citation for action during the invasion.





Flying from France, the group's troop carriers dropped paratroops in the assault area during Market Garden. This took place some two months after my dad began his service back in the United States. They also towed gliders with reinforcements. For Varsity, the 434th TCG dropped paratroops, states the history.

During the war, the group hauled mail, food, clothing, and other supplies from England to bases in France and Germany and evacuated wounded personnel. After the war ended in Europe, the group's transports evacuated former Allied prisoners of war to relocation centers in France and Holland.

The group's overseas assets returned to the United States in August 1945. At first, the group resided at Baer Field, then relocated in September to Alliance and then to George in October. It was in November 1945 that the group transitioned from the C-47 to the C-46, according to the unit history. Around this time, the group's aircraft carried wounded veterans from ports of debarkation to general hospitals throughout the United States.

In February 1946, the group moved to Greenville. Then its airmen began training with airborne troops from Fort Benning, Ga. During 1946, the group also took part in Operation Casey Jones (not to be confused with the Army project of the same name at around the same time for the aerial photographic mapping of Europe and North Africa), delivering mail, food, other high-priority freight, and military personnel to alleviate the

standstill brought on by a nationwide railroad strike.

Casey Jones supported 21 cities in 10 states stretching from New York to Miami and along the Gulf of Mexico to El Paso, Texas, according to a local Greenville newspaper article I discovered. Greenville was a hub for this airlift operation, along with Bergstrom Field in Austin, Texas.

The Army inactivated the 434th TCG on July 31, 1946, several weeks after my father's separation. The group came back as a Reserve unit in March 1947.

My research showed that even official, seemingly authoritative information sources may have discrepancies. For example, an online database had dad's enlistment date as July 7, 1944. That was the date he actually began his service, after having enlisted in January of that same year.

I also came across unexpected documents that helped me along the way. One of them was dad's application to have his time in the Army count toward his years of service for his teacher's retirement plan in the state of Ohio.

Searching library databases for small-town local newspapers—either the hometown of your loved one during his/her time in uniform or the local paper in the city where he/she was assigned—can result in nuggets of useful information.

***Michael J. Sirak dines with his sister Marge. Now nearly 90 years old, she helped me with my research.***



Had it not been for the local Greenville paper, I would not have known about the details of Operation Casey Jones.

My March request for dad's official military personnel file from the National Archives and Records Administration remained pending at the time of this article's publication. I look forward to receiving the file and learning more. These requests can take months to fulfill due to the sheer volume that NARA handles.

There's a chance that the July 12, 1973, fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, destroyed my dad's file. That blaze burned up roughly 80 percent of Army records for personnel discharged between Nov. 1, 1912, and Jan. 1, 1960. The fire also destroyed 75 percent of all Air Force records for personnel discharged between Sept. 25, 1947, and Jan. 1, 1964. (For more, see [www.airforcemag.com](http://www.airforcemag.com). Search for "The Records Fire.")

It's still worth trying, however, since NARA's website states that "although the information in many of these primary source records was either badly damaged or completely destroyed, often alternate record sources can be used to reconstruct the service of the veterans impacted by the fire." At times, NARA officials "request information from other external agencies for use in records reconstruction."

My dad's scrapbook contained an undated newspaper clipping, apparently from the Greenville base newspaper sometime in 1946 shortly after his separation from the Army. It states:

***A C-47 Skytrain transport like the ones dad's troop carrier group flew during the war.***



"Good luck and best wishes to: S/Sgt. (now Mr.) Mike Sirak, former member of this group now struggling along in civilian life. One will get you 10 that it don't last long!"

***An airman for two years, dad's time in uniform allowed him to become the first in his family to earn a college degree.***

It didn't, as my dad soon went on to earn a degree in elementary education from a Pennsylvania state teacher's college and relocated to northeast Ohio, where he spent his career as a teacher and later as an elementary school principal. There he raised his family.

The story of my dad's military service still has holes that I hope to fill with more research. Perhaps someone reading this article served with him or knows someone who did. I'd welcome any input.

It's been an interesting search so far to fill in the blanks of my dad's life during wartime. He was part of America's Greatest Generation, and for that, I am proud and grateful. ■

*Michael C. Sirak is editor of Wingman Magazine.*

[The author wishes to thank Laine Martens for her research tips.]

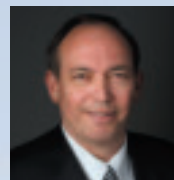






## A Reinvigorated Beacon of Aerospace Advocacy

By David A. Deptula



**I**t is my distinct pleasure to introduce myself to you as the dean of the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, the Air Force Association's reinvigorated aerospace power think tank. Our goal is to serve as a beacon for individuals committed to maintaining a strong national defense.

Our team is striving to educate the public about the advantages aerospace power affords in achieving America's global interests. We also aim to inform key decision-makers and cultivate the next generation of policy leaders who understand the advantages of operating in the air, space, and cyberspace domains.

The requirement for a robust Mitchell Institute is especially pertinent as the nation faces an inflection point amidst a financial crisis and shift in the strategic environment. After a decade in which combat operations on the ground dominated the headlines, new realities around the globe demand a reassessment of what it means to project power in an effective, efficient fashion. It is critical to actively engage leaders and the public about aerospace power's attributes.

In many ways, this situation mirrors the strategic environment that confronted the nation's original founding airmen who bore witness to the carnage of trench warfare in World War I. Despite tremendous political, institutional, and budgetary challenges, they remained committed in their quest to advocate for air-minded strategies that projected far less vulnerability and liability than traditional approaches to conflict. My team and I are determined to follow their proud example.

In that vein, we began hosting a series of public forums after my arrival in summer 2013 featuring individuals like retired Gen. T. Michael Moseley, 18th Air Force Chief of Staff, and Maj. Gen. Steven L. Kwast, who directed the Air Force's 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review.

As we entered 2014, the Mitchell Institute extended its focus to include the space domain with the inauguration of a monthly forum series on Capitol Hill with top leaders from the space community. Additionally, we recently sponsored a cyberspace dialogue and have hosted forums featuring senior officials from allied air forces.



**Lt. Gen. Hyungchul Kim, ROKAF vice chief of staff, at a Mitchell Institute event in Arlington, Va., March 21, 2014.**

We are also expanding our public outreach efforts beyond the nation's capital with a set of educational events in Boston, Colorado Springs, Los Angeles, and New York. We will hold each of these events in coordination with a local host organization, including AFA chapters, and academic partners, such as the Air Force Academy, Council on Foreign Relations, and RAND Corp.

The Mitchell Institute is also launching formal studies to encourage fresh thinking on how new technologies, organizational constructs, and methods of force integration can enhance the range of options airpower presents to the nation. We are sponsoring three research projects in 2014:

- *Creating a Combat Cloud for the 21st Century:* Aircraft presently engage in a semi-integrated format as both sensors and shooters. Future developments in data sharing promise to dramatically enhance the way in which combat effects are attained, as individual airborne assets are fully integrated with cyber, land, sea, and space systems.

- *Command and Control for the Information Age:* Recognizing that large, centralized, static command and control enterprises impede decision-cycle advantages and project undue vulnerability, this study will explore opportunities presented by a mobile, distributed command and control system.

- *A Consortium Approach to Security Strategy:* The pairing of an increasingly

complex global security environment with sequestration-driven fiscal constraints demands that the United States fully leverage international coalition-based security solutions. This will require a paradigm shift in how we conduct acquisition, training, engagement, policy, and treaty design and execution.

These research projects will culminate with the release of white papers we hope will serve as innovative catalysts for Air Force planning, policy leaders, and industry teams.

Our team is also hosting regular roundtable gatherings for defense officials to meet with leaders from Capitol Hill, academia, think tanks, and industry. We are looking forward to hosting events this year with Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James, Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, Air Combat Command Commander Gen. Gilmory Michael Hostage III, and others.

Looking to cultivate future aerospace power leaders, we are particularly proud to highlight that we are hosting Maj. Scott Gunn as an Air Force Fellow. An F-15C pilot by trade, the current operational perspective Gunn brings to our team is invaluable. In return, we provide him with unique opportunities to engage throughout the strategic policy community. This is a very productive partnership that we aim to sustain with future fellows.

The Mitchell Institute is also helping to honor aerospace power's tremendous legacy. Of particular note, we are actively engaged with retired Gen. Merrill A. McPeak, 14th Chief of Staff, and retired General Moseley to launch the restoration of the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial in Paris. This site serves as the final resting place for many of America's first combat airmen. Time has taken its toll on the memorial and comprehensive restoration is required.

Working collaboratively, it is my firm belief that the Mitchell Institute can have a positive effect in contributing to our nation's security. We invite you to join us on this journey and become part of our effort to reinvigorate a renewed understanding of the value of aerospace power in securing our nation's objectives. ■

*David A. Deptula is the dean of AFA's Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies.*

# Another Year of Great Success

By Rebecca Dalton

**L**ESS than five years ago, the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Program was merely a brainstorm, a concept to help AFA make its mark on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education in America. Today, owing to the visionary leadership of AFA's Board of Directors, generous sponsors including the Northrop Grumman Foundation, and the hard work of AFA staff and volunteers, the program is a multicomponent education tool that has reached more than 200,000 students nationwide.

CyberPatriot is now the premier initiative of its type in inspiring students toward careers in cybersecurity or other STEM-related professions critical to our nation's future. Since its inception in 2009, the program has seen significant growth year after year; 2014 is no exception.



## CyberPatriot expands into middle schools and launches AFA CyberCamps.

**The winners of CyberPatriot VI were announced on March 29, 2014.**

*Above left: The Open Division champion is North Hollywood High School's Team Azure from North Hollywood, Calif., coached by Jay Gehringer. Above center: The All Service Division champion is Team Fearsome Falcons, the cadets of Clearfield High School's Air Force Junior ROTC program in Clearfield, Utah, coached by Kit Workman. Above right: The Middle School Division winner is the Beach Cities Cadet Squadron of San Pedro, Calif., Team Cyber Knights, coached by Mark Williams.*

### The National Youth Cyber Defense Competition

The national youth cyber defense competition is a tournament-structured event in which teams of two to five students are scored on how well they identify and secure known vulnerabilities on a virtual network image. After a series of online qualification rounds, the top teams advance to the National Finals Competition, an in-person event held each spring in National Harbor, Md. There, students compete for top honors in addition to the

chance for scholarship money and internship opportunities.

Within four years, participation in the competition has grown from eight teams in Florida to more than 1,500 teams from across all 50 states, Canada, and Defense Department-dependent schools overseas. The 2013-14 season marked record growth, in large part due to the addition of middle schools to the competition.

"As middle school educators witnessed the growth of the high school program, they began asking that the competition



be expanded to include middle school students," explained CyberPatriot National Commissioner Bernie Skoch. "I was hesitant at first, but after some persuasion from the CyberPatriot staff, we decided to move forward with a middle school pilot program. The pilot was a huge success and looking back, I don't know what I was worried about. These middle school students are extremely bright and performed very well in the competition."

Starting in the 2014-15 season, CyberPatriot VII, registration for the competition will be open to all middle schools. Registration for CP-VII opened on April 1 and will close on Oct. 10. The first round of competition will be in mid-November.

### AFA CyberCamps

With five pilot programs lined up for summer 2014, AFA CyberCamps will



bring the cybersecurity curriculum to a new population of students outside of the competition setting.

"Schools were coming to us in November and December asking to take part in the cyber defense competition. Unfortunately, given the cyclical timeline of the competition, the only answer we could give them was, 'Come back next fall for the new season,'" said Skoch. "With the introduction of CyberCamps to the program, schools can now teach the same cyber principles from the competition year-round."

The goal of CyberCamps is to allow more students the opportunity to learn the same curriculum as the CyberPatriot competitors. Not all students are interested in competing, but through a one-day or one-week CyberCamp, a school will be able to teach the same important cyber skills that all students should have.

schools will be given access to a computer training program for elementary school students that will serve as an introduction to cybersecurity, cyber ethics, online safety, and basic system hardening. The CyberPatriot Program Office will provide instructor manuals and student activity booklets.

"There is no doubt in my mind that this initiative will be a success," said Skoch. "With support from AFA chapters to distribute and promote the program with local school districts and school administrators, I'm hopeful this program will grow quite rapidly."

### How AFA Chapters Can Help

As CyberPatriot moves into its seventh season of competition, there are many ways local AFA chapters can play a role. There are also specific actions chapters can take to make their efforts most likely to succeed.

schools and middle schools, it is also important to build and sustain relationships with local print and broadcast media outlets to publicize the program. School fairs, school board meetings, and even local community cable television programs are great ways to spread the word on AFA's leading STEM effort.

### The CyberPatriot Program Office Is Here for You!

AFA's CyberPatriot Program Office is available to AFA chapters by email at [info@uscyberpatriot.org](mailto:info@uscyberpatriot.org), or by phone at (877) 885-5716 to help with outreach efforts. Printed brochure giveaways are available at no cost to AFA chapters, and ideas on how to reach schools and prospective teams are always just an email or a phone call away. ■

*Rebecca Dalton is CyberPatriot's sponsorship and outreach coordinator.*



### Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative

Equally important as the addition of middle schools to the cyber defense competition is the introduction of the Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative.

"Students today are far more active online at increasingly early ages," said Skoch. "Yet, they aren't equipped with the tools and knowledge they need to be safe on the Internet and on mobile devices."

Through a software-based activity and in a fun and engaging way, students will learn the importance of cyber ethics and appropriate online behavior.

Much like CyberCamps, the elementary initiative will be open to a limited number of schools in Los Angeles and San Antonio during its pilot phase this summer. Participating elementary



First, the most successful chapters are those that appoint someone as lead for CyberPatriot. Often, that is someone who has participated in AFA Aerospace Education Council programs. What really matters is having someone who is engaging, organized, and accountable.

Second, successful CyberPatriot chapters are those that stay connected to the program. It is best if a chapter's lead person for CyberPatriot visits the program's website, [www.uscyberpatriot.org](http://www.uscyberpatriot.org), at least once a week and reports on what is new during chapter meetings. "CyberSentinel," the program's monthly publication, is a great source of information and is available on the website.

Third, a successful CyberPatriot community involves reaching out. Not only is it important to engage local high

AFA's CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Program saw remarkable growth and expansion during the latest competition season, thanks to support from AFA chapters and program sponsors.

#### Help Support CyberPatriot

- Establish a CyberPatriot coordinator within your AFA chapter.
- Stay connected with CyberPatriot news.
- Reach out to local schools and community organizations.

[www.uscyberpatriot.org](http://www.uscyberpatriot.org)  
[info@uscyberpatriot.org](mailto:info@uscyberpatriot.org)  
 (877) 885-5716



# AFA's Airmen and Family Programs

## HIGHLIGHTS

**G**rateful. That's a word I would use to describe myself. Hello, my name is Paula Roy, and I am the spouse of recently retired CMSAF James A. Roy, 16th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

I've had the honor and privilege of serving alongside my husband for many years, caring and advocating for our airmen and their families. In January 2013, AFA presented me an opportunity to join its team and continue to do my heart's desire supporting those who are fighting for the freedoms we enjoy every day.

The AFA team, which includes all of our members around the world, has accomplished much. Here are some highlights:

Signing of the Wounded Airman Program's memorandum of understanding with the Air Force took place in October 2013. Since then, we've been spreading the word about the program, diligently reporting our efforts to the Air Force, fund-raising, and supporting airmen where there's a need.

Our partnership with the Air Force Wounded Warrior program continues to strengthen. For those unfamiliar with AFW2, the program works hand-in-hand with the Air Force Survivor Assistance program and Airman and Family Readiness Centers to ensure airmen receive professional support and care from point of injury, through separation or retirement, for life.

AFA chapters have taken it upon themselves to fund-raise and plan for the year ahead based on events, needs, and airmen in their local areas. They have also responded financially and with time, manpower, and other resources, when called on, to reach out in their local communities. The following AFA organizations and chapters should be recognized for their efforts over the past year: Rocky Mountain Region, Colorado State, Gen. David C. Jones Chapter (Minot, N.D.), Highpoint Chapter (Andover, N.J.), McChord Field Chapter (JB Lewis-McChord, Wash.), Paul Revere Chapter (Bedford, Mass.), Pope Chapter (Fayetteville, N.C.),



**Paula Roy (standing), AFA's director of Airmen and Family Programs, speaks with airmen participating in wheelchair basketball drills in Colorado Springs, Colo., in October 2013.**

Sarasota-Manatee Chapter (Sarasota, Fla.), Thomas W. Anthony Chapter (JB Andrews, Md.), and Thunderbird Chapter (Las Vegas).

We will continue to support AFW2's work, especially the adaptive sports camps, and have offered an opt-in, one-year complimentary AFA membership to all of the approximately 3,000 wounded airmen on record.

We also look forward to a competitive year in adaptive sports. For the first time, the Air Force Warrior Games team held trials in April at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas where 100 wounded airmen competed for 40 spots. We'll be in Colorado Springs, Colo., in the fall to cheer them on!

In June 2013, the Air Force Cycling Classic became the AFA Cycling Classic, benefiting our Wounded Airman Program. On June 7 and 8, we'll again have our name on the annual cycling event. We're building our involvement, looking for more sponsorship opportunities, and increasing AFA engagement with the help of Arlington Sports of Arlington, Va. We continue to have Air Force and corporate support and will work to expand opportunities for wounded airmen to participate, while honoring them at a concert at the Air Force Memorial in Arlington.

Our 2013 Spouse and Family Forum was a success. This year's forum on Sept. 15 will focus on resiliency. I hope you'll be able to join us. Betty Welsh, wife of Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, and Athena Cody, spouse of CMSAF James A. Cody, intend to participate.

In 2013, AFA funded 12 scholarships to airmen's spouses. We are also working on a new Major Command Spouse Scholarship Program in the name of former Air Force Secretary Michael B. Donley and his wife, Gail, in recognition of their many years of dedicated service to our nation.

Our Transition Program is still in the pilot phase with 12 chapters participating. Our TP Subcommittee meets via teleconferences and has been focused on collecting data and looking at existing transition-assistance initiatives with which we can partner. We know that the transition from time in uniform to civilian life will continue to be an important issue for new veterans, and we will advocate on their behalf.

Our Family Programs Subcommittee, chaired by Terry Cox and reporting to AFA's Field Council, has set 2014 goals to develop a process to determine family support needs within communities or co-located Air Force bases and provide tools to each AFA chapter to be successful in these endeavors. We are also looking to develop a chapter cross-feed program to share best practices. We know our chapters are doing great work at the local level, and we will rely on this for the success of our Family Programs.

I'm excited about *Wingman Magazine* as it will highlight our airmen and their families and all of the great work going on in the field. Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to continue to serve those who are serving and sacrificing for us. Blessings. ■

*Paula Roy is AFA's director of Airmen and Family Programs.*





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Donor Spotlight recognizes the extraordinary commitment of our donors. They illustrate the varied backgrounds and motivations leading to significant financial, professional, and volunteer investment in the continuing success of AFA and the Air Force Memorial. We are humbled by their many contributions and share our sincerest thanks for their leadership.

## ANGELA DUPONT

### The Road to an AFA Bequest

Angela Dupont has come a long way from her roots in a mill town in Massachusetts to serving as vice president for corporate development at Alion Science and Technology of McLean, Va., one of the nation's leaders in providing engineering solutions to strengthen national security.

It was her experience as president of the Air Force Association's Paul Revere Chapter at Hanscom AFB, Mass., that exerted the greatest influence on her life. To acknowledge this impact and to give back to AFA, Dupont joined the Thunderbird Society in 2010 and made a generous provision in her estate plans for AFA.

Dupont's path to AFA was a winding one. She began her career in herbal wellness products sales, first in the Boston area and then on the West Coast. After moving back to Massachusetts, then-Congressman Marty Meehan hired her to lead fund-raising efforts as his finance director, recognizing her sales experience and political interest.

Since Meehan didn't accept political action committee funds, Dupont had to concentrate on the grass roots. "I learned early on to focus on the little guy and what's in it for him in building long-term support," she said.

After a stint directing international marketing for the Massachusetts Port Authority, Dupont took yet another turn in her career when she joined Titan Corp., an engineering and acquisition services company with a significant presence supporting the Air Force at Hanscom.

She was excited to have the opportunity to work with the Air Force. "I had an uncle who served in the Air



Photo courtesy of Angela Dupont

Force, a stepdad who always wanted to fly but couldn't because of eye problems, and a grandfather who had served in the Navy. Not only was I excited about my new job, but my family was very excited," said Dupont.

One of her coworkers at Titan, aware of her fund-raising background, asked if she had any interest in volunteering to help the local AFA chapter. Before long, Dupont was working with generals, officers, and the enlisted leadership in planning air shows, conferences, and trade shows. She used her fund-raising skills to generate revenue from the events to support scholarships for military families and other charitable activities benefiting service members and veterans.

"What I learned most," she said, "was service before self." Dupont had an opportunity to give back to something she had great affinity and respect for. To this day, "I'm always focusing on how what I do helps the

mission. The focus is off me and on the mission," she said.

Dupont also learned that AFA chapter success depended on a strong partnership with the Air Force. She was fortunate in having the leadership support of Electronic Systems Center commanders and their staffs. "They could clearly see the benefit of AFA's work to their airmen and their families," she said.

One of Dupont's greatest memories is attending the annual Outstanding Airmen of the Year Dinner, which honors a select group of 12 airmen from across the Air Force for their exceptional service. "I was just in awe to see what they do and how they put their lives on the line so we can all enjoy our freedom. I felt privileged knowing that AFA helps support their work," she said.

Inspired by wounded airmen she met at the dinner, Dupont soon increased her annual giving and eventually made a bequest by which 100 percent of her gift would go to wounded airmen and their families.

A former AFA national director and former chairwoman of the Development Committee, Dupont continues her service to the association today as a member of the national-level Field Council.

Whenever Dupont asks her fellow AFA members to make a donation, she asks what inspires their membership. "Find out what attracts them most to AFA and ask, 'Why not support that?'" she said. "I've been privileged to serve with AFA. Some of the best people I know I met through AFA."

For her generous support and leadership, we thank Angela Dupont.



By Larry Dilworth



# KI HO KANG

## Giving Back to Thank the Air Force

Ki Ho Kang is the first to tell you that he owes his career success to the Air Force.

Born in South Korea, Kang came to the United States at the age of 12. His family had limited financial resources. He pursued a bachelor's degree in engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., thanks to an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship. He earned a master's degree in electrical engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

During his 11 years on Active Duty and 10 years as a Reservist, Kang learned how to keep airplanes operating, fix problems, and integrate new technology.

He left Active Duty in 2000 and retired from the Air Force Reserve in 2010 as a lieutenant colonel. He is a Life Member of the Air Force Association.

Serving in the Air Force was a dream opportunity for Kang. Ever since he was a child, he was fascinated by airplanes and enjoyed building plastic models of fighters. "I always wanted to be around airplanes," he recalled. "For a guy who liked airplanes, it has been nice."

Since 2003, Kang has been the founder, president, and chief executive officer of KIHOMAC in Springfield, Va. The company has more than 235 employees and provides engineering services and solutions for military aircraft and missiles. "If not for the Air Force, I wouldn't even know this type of work existed," said Kang.

He considers himself fortunate to have had great mentors in the Air



Photo courtesy of Ki Ho Kang

Force. "At every step in my Air Force career, I learned something different and was exposed to great leaders who made me who I am today," he said. Looking back, Kang said he is "humbled and honored" by the dozens of people who "were concerned about my well-being and took the time to mentor me."

Kang's first job in the Air Force was at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento, Calif., working as an engineer on A-10 ground-attack aircraft. This experience helped provide him with the technical skills that he uses to this day in his work.

Under the supervision of Maj. Bob Strasser, Kang learned about life and leadership and about the importance of savings. Through those lessons, he was able to start his own business. Capt. Francis McRory taught Kang the ropes of being an officer and an Air Force engineer, and the two became lifelong friends.

The financial rewards of his hard work and success put Kang in a position to make a \$10,000 gift to AFA.

"The Air Force gave me a bachelor's and master's degree and mentoring that helped me for all my career," said Kang. He has tried to give back the lessons he learned in the Air Force by mentoring others and through his financial support. Not only is Kang personally invested, KIHOMAC is a new member of AFA's Corporate Membership program.

In looking to the future, Kang said he would like to see support from him and others help to tell the story of the sacrifice of airmen and the courage it takes to fly. As an example, Kang cited the bravery of those involved in helicopter search and rescue missions who put their lives on the line in every mission. "Sometimes we focus too much on the hardware and not enough on the airmen. The planes are just tools," he said.

Kang's life has come full circle through the Air Force. When he was a high school student in Baltimore, Martin State Airport was nearby, the home of the Maryland Air National Guard's 104th Fighter Squadron. Kang would enjoy watching A-10s flying overhead. "Little did I know that I would be working on this aircraft and 20 years later, my life would be devoted to this," he said.

Throughout Kang's career, he has appreciated what the Air Force has meant for him. For Ki Ho Kang's generous support to AFA, we are deeply grateful. ■

*Larry Dilworth is AFA's vice president for development and marketing.*



Courtesy photo

## A Defense Department initiative exposes at-risk youth to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

**Gregory Stritch (kneeling), director of STARBASE Florida, instructs students during a STARBASE class in Jacksonville, Fla., as 1st Lt. Jake Hess observes.**

design, search and rescue, model rocketry, and other student-led problem-solving activities and experiments.”

Primarily aimed at fifth-graders, STARBASE Florida exposes students to professionals who work in the aeronautical field. Volunteer military personnel give lectures in the use of STEM and teach difficult topics like Newton’s Laws of Motion and Bernoulli’s Principle on aerodynamic flow.

Math is embedded in every aspect of the instruction. Students learn how to operate computers, apply metric measurement, estimation, and geometry, and analyze data to solve problems. They also learn teamwork as they explore science and discover new career paths.

Scarce federal dollars threatened to close STARBASE in 2013, but concerned parents, educators, and Air Force Association members helped convince Congress to restore funding for it in the DOD budget.

“We had a rocky year of legislatively putting STARBASE back in the DOD, restoring funding, and rewriting legislative permission to spend DOD funds on the program,” said Stritch. “It came down to working with the local AFA chapter in acquainting our representatives with the academic and workforce aspects of the program.”

STARBASE Florida is “extremely cost effective,” said Bruce Fouraker, president of AFA’s Falcon Chapter in Jacksonville. “At a taxpayer cost of about \$275 per student, [the program] improves the math scores on the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test by 40 percent. This is the kind of return the federal government should be obtaining on all of its programs.”

STARBASE has come a long way since 1991, thanks to volunteers who see a worthwhile program for our youth and for our nation. It is good to see that the program is now back on track. ■

*Chet Curtis is AFA’s senior director of education and communications.*

# STARBASE

By Chet Curtis

**T**he Department of Defense STARBASE initiative has been successful in addressing the growing concern that the United States has not prepared a sufficient number of students in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM.

STARBASE brings together military units across the nation with local communities and school districts to expose at-risk youth to hands-on, minds-on STEM activities. These students receive 20 to 25 hours of instruction over the course of five days at a military installation, interacting with service member volunteers and observing real-world STEM applications. The hope is that many of these students will decide to pursue a career in STEM-related fields based on the experience and time spent with positive role models.

The military volunteers work with the school districts to support their standards-of-learning objectives. The students’ experiences may vary, depending on the branch of the armed forces sponsoring STARBASE in an area. For example, some students may fly in an aircraft simulator and build model rockets, while others explore an airplane cockpit or the interior of a submarine.

STARBASE began as the idea of Barbara Koscak, an elementary school-teacher in Detroit, who thought the resources onsite at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, northeast of the city, might be brought to bear to add value to the

schools in the local district. Selfridge is home to the Michigan ANG’s 127th Wing. STARBASE was originally called Project STARS.

Launched in 1991 via a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich., STARBASE began at Selfridge with the blessing of the base and National Guard Bureau leadership. After two years, Guard officials were pleased with what they had witnessed and decided to provide funding to add more STARBASE sites.

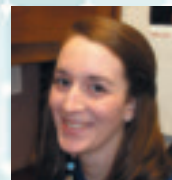
In 1993, Congress provided funding for STARBASE and piloted the initiative in seven states. Today, 76 STARBASE programs operate in 39 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. They serve more than 70,000 students each year during the five-day STARBASE course.

STARBASE has wide support among volunteers and school districts, such as in Jacksonville, Fla., where the state Air National Guard’s 125th Fighter Wing hosts the program at Jacksonville Airport, the unit’s operating location.

“STARBASE Florida targets the most challenging schools in one of the largest school districts in the country,” said Gregory S. Stritch, director of STARBASE Florida. “Serving two classes each week with a wide array of hands-on, minds-on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics activities, we meet national education benchmarks and also serve as a robust review of math and science for the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test. We disguise the math as 3-D computer



By Rachel Cosmé



# The eMembership

*A new membership initiative for the digital age*

In early February, the Air Force Association introduced a new membership option, the eMember. An eMembership is identical to the traditional membership in every way except one: eMembers do not receive the print copy of *Air Force Magazine* but only the online version. eMembers have access to all other member benefits, including eligibility to hold office and vote. For now, eMemberships cost \$30 a year.

This new member initiative coincides with the upcoming launch of a new *Air Force Magazine* website that reflects today's digital age and includes a members-only area. Beginning in June, the majority of online content will be accessible to members only. In addition, the magazine's online version

now features a new digital interactive format identical to the layout of the print magazine.

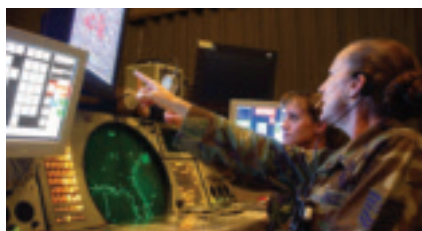
Existing members must opt in and create a login to view the online version of *Air Force Magazine* on any Web browser, Apple iPad, Android tablet, or Kindle Fire using apps they can download from the appropriate app store.

To better serve all AFA members regardless of membership type, all electronic materials are available to all members. Existing members will find that nothing will change with the current benefits, content, and support. If you are already a Life Member and would like to receive your magazine only electronically, please email us at [membership@afa.org](mailto:membership@afa.org).

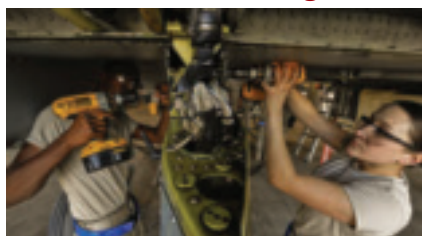
We believe the eMember option will provide a valuable addition to membership recruitment efforts. Within the first month of launching the new membership option, more than 100 individuals became eMembers. To become an eMember, visit [www.afa.org/join](http://www.afa.org/join), or call our Member Relations department at 1-800-727-3337.

We are entering a new and exciting time at AFA. We aspire to expand our outreach to influence the public through digital content. Encourage those interested to join today! Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our great association. ■

*Rachel Cosmé is AFA's member relations manager.*



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Air Force Association

By Susan M. Rubel



# LIFE LINE SCREENING

## How a near-death scare created a new member benefit.



**A Life Line Screening ultrasound technician performs a carotid artery disease screening to look for fatty plaque buildup.**

Photo courtesy of Life Line Screening

years ago. Employers are not allowed to ask age, but I'm certain she was in her 70s. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and had received an insert in her membership-dues statement for a Life Line Screening. She asked for the morning off and laughingly told me about this "silly" thing she was going to do. She was seemingly healthy, had no symptoms, but did the screening on a whim after seeing the insert.

Later that day, I received a call from her daughter telling me that her mom was rushed

to the hospital for emergency surgery. The screening had identified an abdominal aortic aneurysm, a potentially fatal swelling or bulging of the aorta, the body's largest artery that carries blood from the heart.

Informed that her condition was critical, my employee contacted her doctor immediately. The doctor reported that the aneurysm was about to burst; had it gone undiscovered, she probably would have died within a few days. That was a dramatic situation that resulted in me calling Life Line Screening to see how we could provide notifications and discounts to our members. Other military associations followed suit.

We are not encouraging you to substitute your judgment with ours. However, we do see value in offering products like these to members. Most screenings are going to be normal, but for those that are not, this knowledge could be lifesaving. We do not receive any information that tells us which members had screenings. However, we do receive aggregate results (see box).

This is not an advertisement for Life Line Screening. It's an example of how we came to endorse a product. We have good partnerships with USAA, Avis and Budget Car Rental Agencies, eKnowledge, The Hartford, Hyatt Legal, LifeLock, Medical Air Services Association, MetLife,

As an Air Force Association member, you are probably receiving mailings from me making you aware of a variety of products and services that are benefits of your membership. Many of you contact me after receiving these letters or emails and question why we endorse a product. More often, you pass on your compliments and positive experiences. With some of the health products we sponsor, there can truly be lifesaving results.

Before AFA endorses a service or product, we do our due diligence. Sometimes, we want to offer a product or service, so we develop a request for proposal to review the options that come in. At times, a provider comes to us. On one occasion, we stumbled across a product that made me want to react quickly to make our members aware.

That now-endorsed product, Life Line Screening, generates regular inquiries. It's important that you know that AFA does not spend any money mailing Life Line Screening information to members. Sometimes, I'm contacted by a member telling me we shouldn't be "encouraging" people to get a screening if a doctor didn't order it.

Let me tell you how this particular relationship with Life Line Screening started. I hired an older woman as a member services representative many

### Here are some selected results from the last three years:

**Members Screened: 1,333**

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm  
Aneurysms found: 14

Arterial Fibrillation  
Cases detected: 13

Blood Pressure  
Pre-hypertension (120-139 systolic, millimeters of mercury): 100  
Stage 1 Hypertension (140-159 systolic, mm Hg): 52  
Stage 2 Hypertension (>160 systolic, mm Hg): 17

Body Mass Index:  
High and moderate risk: 889

C-Reactive Protein  
(Indicates high risk for cardiovascular disease)  
High risk: 4

Carotid Artery Disease Screening  
Critical: 4  
Possible significance: 20

Cholesterol  
High and borderline high: 74

Glucose-Diabetes Screening  
High (greater than 300 milligrams per deciliter): 1  
Diabetes (greater than 125mg/dL): 9  
Pre-Diabetes (100-125mg/dL): 37

Liver Screening  
Elevated: 3

Osteoporosis  
High risk: 15

Peripheral Arterial Disease  
Abnormal Ankle Brachial Index: 24  
Critical arm pressure: 8

Source: Life Line Screening

Mutual of Omaha, TransAmerica, and many other providers seeking to connect to those who serve their country.

We appreciate, and thank you for, your service to our country and for your AFA membership. Feel free to contact me anytime at [srubel@afa.org](mailto:srubel@afa.org). ■

*Susan Rubel is AFA's senior director of insurance and member benefits.*



# AFA's Airpower Advocates

## Supporting the Force

By Chet Curtis

**F**ounded in 2008, the Airpower Advocates, or APA, are a group of Air Force Association members with a strong interest in the future of airpower and our Air Force. They serve a vital role in supporting the Air Force by telling the story of airmen to the American public.

The group is a grassroots effort that reaches out to the public and key stakeholders in communities across the country in order to communicate the important role airmen play in supporting the nation's global defense strategies.

APA members receive daily emails from AFA's national office that highlight airpower-related news articles. They also periodically write opinion pieces for local media outlets, speak with media, and advocate for airpower to local, state, and national political leaders.

About twice a month, APA members gather on a conference call to

discuss current issues and hear from senior-ranking Air Force officials with updates on service programs. These calls provide a forum for APA members to engage with senior Air Force leaders on the topics important to them and to AFA.

Impact: APA members have written more than 90 op-ed pieces since 2010,

and have had more than 40 published in national outlets, reaching several million readers.

We are looking for AFA members eager to be a part of this grassroots movement. You would be actively engaged in the mission of the association and help to carry forth the legacy left to us by Jimmy Doolittle and Hap Arnold.

If you think you or someone else in your chapter would make a great Airpower Advocate, please send your contact information (i.e., name, rank/title, and email) to Merri Shaffer at [mshaffer@afa.org](mailto:mshaffer@afa.org).

*Chet Curtis is AFA's senior director of education and communications.*

Leading Edge Images photo by Glenn Bloore



An F-22 takes off from Nellis AFB, Nev., during a Red Flag training exercise.

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"Your product is undeniably one of the finest on the market. I thank you for taking so much material, condensing it and returning it to me so quickly. And your price is low! I will not hesitate to recommend your services to my friends. I am a very satisfied customer." Major, USAF

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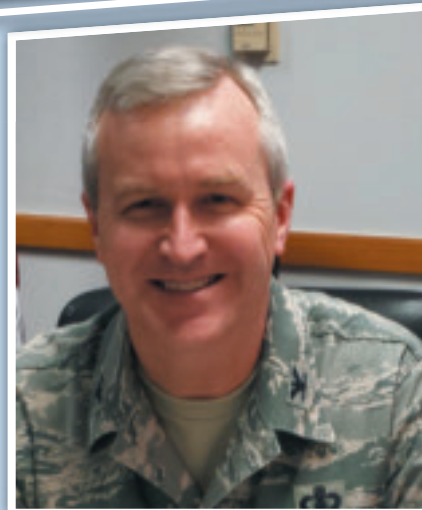
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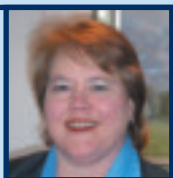
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or call 1-800-727-3337 for more information.

# Air Force Memorial SPOTLIGHT ON: COL. LARRY H. LANG



Staff photo by Barbara S. Taylor

By Barbara S. Taylor



**C**ol. Larry H. Lang is the commander and conductor of The United States Air Force Band, located in historic Hangar II at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C. Recently, I sat down with Lang to discuss the band's 2014 Summer Concert Series performances at the Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Va., and to learn a little about his music and Air Force background.

**When did the band begin its Summer Series at the Air Force Memorial?**

The band played for the opening dedication ceremony on Oct. 14, 2006, with President George W. Bush, and a few weeks later, the Airmen of Note did a "Pinks and Greens" concert to celebrate the heritage of the Air Force. The following summer we started the series.

**What might fans of the band expect to hear in the 2014 series at the memorial?**

It happens to be the 70th anniversary of D-Day in June. We will commemorate that in several performances early in the summer and will continue to honor all of our veterans in programs throughout the

*Col. Larry Lang is the commander and conductor of The US Air Force Band, located in historic Hangar II at JB Anacostia-Bolling, D.C.*

summer. We'll also have a spectacular Fourth of July celebration here at the Air Force Memorial. Then, it's the 200th anniversary of "The Star-Spangled Banner" in September. We will be hinting at that throughout the summer, and then we will have a big celebration toward the end of the summer as part of that series. We will also be performing at the [Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.] where the flag exhibit is actually located. We will be doing concerts there on Sept. 13 and 14, I believe. There are also foreign dignitaries coming to see the Chief of Staff of the Air Force over the summer from different countries. We will try to tie some country themes into the concerts as we go through the summer and hope to have some of the dignitaries join us at our Air Force Memorial concerts.

**What do you hope that audiences will get out of the Summer Series?**

For me, it's always about representing our airmen and demonstrating Air Force excellence ... and we take that very seriously. As our audience members leave our concerts, we want them to feel proud to be an American and proud of their Air Force.

**What does the Air Force Memorial mean to you personally?**

It's a number of things, I think. I've heard the spires referred to as the Missing Man formation and I can see that. I think about the very reason that it is there: to honor fallen Air Force heroes. I also see the strength of the structure. The



Photo by SMSgt. Kevin Burns

*Col. Larry Lang conducting The US Air Force Band at the Air Force Memorial on Aug. 24, 2012.*



steel, for me, represents the strength of our airmen and the great work that they are doing all over the globe. Then, I see the beauty of it ... sitting up there on the hill by Arlington National Cemetery and above all the Washington monuments. And our concert series recognizes all of those aspects.

**Does the band have any future plans that you'd like to share with our readers?**

We are very excited about our broadcasting and recording mission. As budgets shrink, we are now traveling a little bit less, so we are trying to be very conscientious about using the money we have wisely. Recording gives us the ability to reach people around the world very cost-effectively. We are fortunate to have a very good recording studio here in Hangar II. ... We've been doing a lot of recording, along with streaming rehearsals and concerts live on the Internet. We also host Honor Flights just as you do at the memorial. We love having those heroes here for a concert, which we stream to their loved ones at home.

**Besides the Air Force Memorial, where can people catch an Air Force Band concert during the summer.**

We will be performing at the [Smithsonian National] Air and Space Museum, on the steps of the US Capitol, and other D.C.-area locations. We are also looking at developing a schedule with the American History Museum in its Warner Brothers Theater.

**Tell me a little bit about your educational background and what instruments you play.**

I am from El Paso, Texas. I went to New Mexico State University [in Las Cruces] for two bachelor's degrees: one in performance on trombone and one in music education. Then I went to graduate school at the University of New Hampshire [in Durham], clear across the country!

**What made you decide to go so far away?**

A couple reasons: I was excited about adventuring away from home and doing something new, and I wanted to go to an outstanding graduate school with a superb band program and one small enough where I wasn't just another grad student at a big school. At the University of New Hampshire, I was in charge of the marching band, symphonic band, and the second jazz band. I also taught courses on music

theory, all as a graduate student. When I finished my master's, I was fortunate that they liked my work enough to hire me on to the faculty. I was there for another year beyond my master's and then I went to McNeese State University in [Lake Charles, La.], to become its assistant director of bands. I was there seven years. It was a great experience and a very good band program.

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***"As our audience members leave our concerts, we want them to feel proud to be an American and proud of their Air Force."***

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**You and I met at a conducting clinic at the University of Colorado in Boulder back in 1987. I want to take full credit for you coming into the Air Force, but I won't. What, other than my pestering you, appealed to you about joining the Air Force?**

To be honest, it was you, because you kept sending me Air Force Band recordings and calling me and exposing me to the quality of the program. I was very attracted to the high caliber of the players, the quality of the Air Force Band program, and the opportunity to work with outstanding professionals. I was at a place in my teaching career where I just had to get a doctorate if I was going to progress or do something else. And so, I got a doctoral fellowship at Florida State [University in Tallahassee] and was ready to do that, but then the opportunity to audition for the Air Force Band program came up right at the same time. I was in a pool of 64 applicants that year. Of the 64, eight were invited to D.C. for the audition, and I was the only one accepted that year. It was a really blessed year for me.

**What music is on your iPod?**

Everything! That's what's neat, I think, about this job. I like and get to conduct and perform every kind of music, and I've always been like that. In high school, I had my own rock band and we played music from Chicago and Blood, Sweat & Tears. I played the bass guitar and trombone and

sang. I had long hair and played in clubs every weekend. At the same time, I played often in the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, and for touring shows that came through town. I just love every kind of music if it's quality music. And our audiences get to hear and experience a great depth of music and excellence through various selections. We play something that pleases everybody on the program. I love that about the job!

**What is the greatest part of having your job?**

Several things: one, bringing joy and making a difference in people's lives through music. Two, honoring our veterans and seeing and hearing their stories of service. Veterans always stand proudly at our concerts when their service song or their favorite patriotic selections are played, sometimes with tears streaming down their faces. I remember after 9/11 or after any national tragedy when we were on the road, people bringing pictures of their loved ones to the concert and holding them up during patriotic selections; and veterans coming up after the concert to tell me about their service or their loved one's service. That's just very touching. It gives us a lot of pride and honor to know that we are able to do that for somebody and share that special moment with them through music. And finally, I'm honored to tell the Air Force story in a very powerful way that only music and words together can do.

**Last thoughts?**

I love the relationship we have with the memorial and appreciate what you are doing, and how you are opening up our Air Force stories to the public. I think that is very important. We are glad to be part of the series and your mission here. ■

*Barbara S. Taylor is the director of the Air Force Memorial.*

*The Air Force Band will perform every Friday evening at 8 p.m. during the 2014 Summer Concert Series, from May 30 to Aug. 29. The band will celebrate our Air Force birthday with a concert on Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. For more details, visit the Air Force Memorial website at [www.airforcememorial.org](http://www.airforcememorial.org).*

# CIVIL AIR PATROL

## Force Multiplier for the Air Force and Nation

By Susan Mallett

The Air Force Association, Air Force, and Civil Air Patrol bring synergy to bear for America's national security.

CAP traces its founding to December 1941, just days prior to Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. Established for civilian aviation defense purposes, the Civil Air Patrol added a cadet program in 1942.

AFA had its genesis in August 1945 when Gen. Henry H. "Hap" Arnold, Army Air Forces commanding general, asked an Eastman Kodak executive, Edward Curtis, to create an organization among veterans returning from World War II that would promote airpower and the cause of a separate Air Force.

In January 1946, then-retired Lt. Gen. James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle announced AFA's establishment. Doolittle became AFA's first national president. Later that same year, Congress incorporated CAP for a nonprofit, humanitarian mission.

In September 1947, the Air Force came into being as an independent branch of the US military. CAP became the Air Force auxiliary in 1948.

By 1953, CAP was conducting aviation training in American schools. In 1966, the first 20 Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps units, led solely by Air Force retirees, joined in to help educate proud and patriotic cadets.

Fast forward to 2014, and the Civil Air Patrol still works closely with AFA and maintains its status as the Air Force auxiliary. It continues to supplement Air Force missions to preserve air, space, and cyber power.

The Civil Air Patrol is aligned alongside Officer Training School and AF-ROTC/JROTC under the Jeanne M. Holm Center for Officer Accessions and Citizen Development at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Comprising about 61,000 unpaid professional volunteers, CAP augments the Air Force's efforts to support emergency services, disaster relief, homeland security, youth development, and public awareness initiatives.

Long viewed as a treasure trove—with its evolving aviation technology, education, and training programs—CAP is recognized as a resource of choice in a time of dire budget constraints throughout the Defense Department.

To help the Air Force family become more knowledgeable about its "CAPabilities," the Civil Air Patrol introduced an online familiarization course in late 2013 at [www.capmembers.com/cap\\_university/cap-familiarization-course](http://www.capmembers.com/cap_university/cap-familiarization-course).

"During my 23-year Air Force career, I had no knowledge of the Civil Air Patrol," said CAP's National Commander Maj. Gen. Charles L. Carr Jr. in the course introduction. "I wish I had been more aware so I could have taken advantage of all they have to offer in support of the Air Force mission and Air Force families."

The course covers CAP's role in national defense, its efforts to teach today's youth science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM, skills, as well as ways the organization can assist the overall Air Force in various missions, including disaster relief.

"CAP's missions and capabilities are not as widely known within the Air Force as they need to be and this course should help change that," said Carr. "I encourage everyone to take this course so more Air Force units, members, and families can take advantage of CAP's missions for America."

The Civil Air Patrol's accomplishments in 2013 are awe-inspiring. For example, CAP members flew 95,139 hours last year, 75 percent of which involved Air Force-assigned missions, and they saved 44 lives in search and rescue operations,

according to the organization's year-in-review report. CAP's cell phone and radar forensics expertise either assisted or directly resulted in 35 of those saves.

CAP members supported 58 disaster-relief operations across the nation in 2013, providing real-time aerial photography for emergency-relief organizations. CAP personnel also responded in their communities to disasters of all types, including earthquakes, fires, floods, hurricanes, ice storms, and tornados.

In addition, CAP personnel flew 1,258 hours of air defense-intercept operations, with their aircraft serving as low- and slow-flying air threats in exercises to train and evaluate air-intercept and ground-based radar units.

The Civil Air Patrol is much more than a force multiplier for the Air Force's air missions. CAP is also an award-winning teacher-support and youth-development organization, guiding more than 25,000 youth in its cadet programs and impacting more than 300,000 students in schools and youth organizations through its leadership and aerospace/STEM education programs.

For the entire Air Force family, the Air Force Association, and aspiring AFROTC/JROTC cadets, finding and connecting with the closest CAP squadron should bring great benefits to home, school, community, and nation. For more information, go to [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com) or contact [afa@capnhq.gov](mailto:afa@capnhq.gov). ■

*Susan Mallett is the Youth Development program coordinator and AFA partnership liaison for the Civil Air Patrol's national headquarters, and a member of the AFA's Aerospace Education Council.*

**Members of the Indiana Air National Guard's 181st Intelligence Wing help prepare a Civil Air Patrol aircraft for a mission to assess flooding in central Indiana, Feb. 21, 2014.**



Air National Guard photo by SMSgt. John S. Chapman





Photo by Todd Freece

**Cadets of AFROTC Det. 159 at the University of Central Florida prepare to raise the US and POW/MIA flag following morning reveille.**

## CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER HELPS CADETS MAKE THE GRADE

By Todd M. Freece

**E**ach year, the Air Force Association's Central Florida Chapter contributes approximately \$40,000 in scholarships and operating funds to the cadets of Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 159 at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

The chapter awards two main scholarships each semester: The Gen. Bruce K. Holloway Memorial Scholarship and the 1st Lt. Carlos A. Arriaga Memorial Scholarship.

The Holloway scholarship honors the late general's leadership. He was a fighter ace with 13 aerial victories in World War II, who later rose to command US Air Forces in Europe and then Strategic Air Command.

The Arriaga scholarship pays tribute to the deceased airman, a Detachment 159 graduate killed at age 25 while serving as an Active Duty air weapons director in 1995.

In addition, the chapter gives out several smaller awards to cadets who

### Funding from AFA's Central Florida Chapter helps keep highly qualified AFROTC officer candidates on the road to an Air Force commission.

demonstrate outstanding academic and professional performance. In a period of tight budgets, these scholarships help keep highly qualified students on the road to an Air Force commission.

In 2013, AFROTC was unable to fund the In-College Scholarship Program due to budget cuts. The loss of this important program forced many highly qualified officer candidates to seek part-time employment or student loans to continue their undergraduate education. The outlook for 2014 is only slightly better. AFROTC will be able to fund only an extremely limited number of In-College Scholarships.

Fortunately, funds from the Central Florida Chapter help reduce the impact of the budget cuts on aspiring Air Force officers at the university. These funds allow recipients to focus more time on academic and professional development by reducing the demands of financing a college degree.

In addition to directly offsetting the huge cost of college education, chapter-donated funds enable the cadets to maintain color guard and drill team equipment, support recruiting and education events, and improve cadet-sponsored professional development activities.

Chapter donations also made possible upgrades to the cadet lounge and computer support equipment, enhancing performance and relationships. Det. 159 cadets now enjoy a relaxing common area where they can prepare for their academic and professional duties or simply share a meal, movie, or game night with other cadets. The first foundations of the Air Force family begin in these social settings.

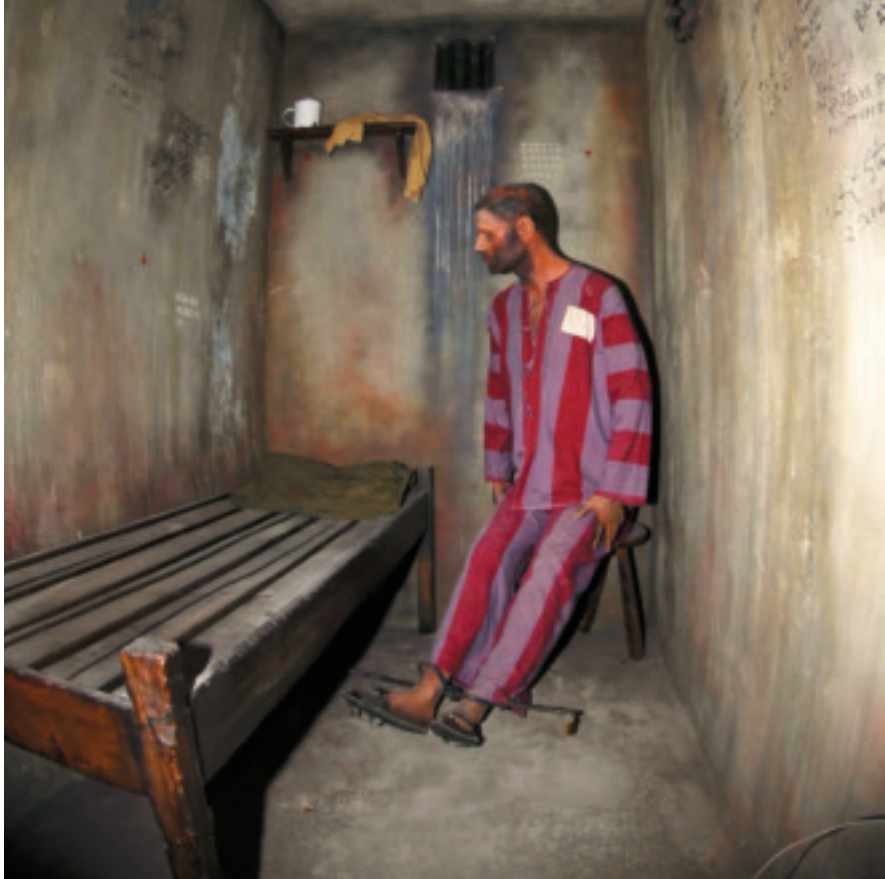
Through its donations to AFROTC, the Central Florida Chapter executes the AFA mission by supporting the aerospace education of future Air Force officers and enabling cadets to be visible at public engagements and to participate in activities that highlight the Air Force family. ■

*Todd M. Freece is an Air Force colonel and is commander of, and professor of aerospace studies for, AFROTC Det. 159 at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.*

**M**any have undoubtedly heard of the National Museum of the US Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, near Dayton. Comparatively few people probably know about another world-class Air Force facility: the Enlisted Heritage Research Institute on the grounds of the Gunter Annex of Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala.

More commonly referred to as the Enlisted Heritage Hall, the institute houses an incredible collection of exhibits and artifacts honoring the contributions of enlisted airmen throughout aviation history. Located adjacent to the Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy on base, the hall serves as a repository for a significant collection of historical memorabilia and source documents.

*The Enlisted Heritage Hall's mockup of a cell in the infamous Hanoi Hilton prisoner of war camp.*



Photos by Joe Panza

# HONORING ENLISTED CONTRIBUTIONS TO AIRPOWER

By Joe Panza



The institute has evolved from humble beginnings in 1984 when CMSgt. Bobby Renfroe, the first enlisted commandant of the SNCO Academy, established a collection of historical artifacts in the

## The Enlisted Heritage Research Institute

academy's lobby. Renfroe appointed SMSgt. Bill Allen as the first director of what they dubbed the Enlisted Heritage Hall. As the collection burgeoned, the need for a standalone facility became apparent to properly store and display the valuable artifacts.

In 1986, a newly renovated facility on base, a mess hall built in 1942, officially

became the home of the institute with CMSgt. Wayne Fisk as its first director.

Before entering the Enlisted Heritage Hall today, one sees an impressive display of monuments honoring those who have served during various campaigns, operations, and significant events. Monuments are prominently displayed and pay tribute to those who have defended America from the early days of the Minutemen to the enlisted pilots of World War II, enlisted airmen during the Korean War, and those who died in the terrorist attack on Khobar Towers in 1996 in Saudi Arabia. There is even a monument that recognizes the sacrifice and duty of military working dogs in Southeast Asia.

Entering the facility, one experiences a feeling of reverence seeing the



*The Enlisted Heritage Memorial Park features on static display an AC-47 like the one Medal of Honor recipient A1C John L. Levitow saved from an igniting fire.*



illuminated Medal of Honor display embraced by a large American flag and surrounded by images of the Air Force's seven enlisted Medal of Honor recipients. This moving tribute to Air Force heroes is the focal point of the hall's impressive array of memorabilia.

One then begins a walking tour through aviation history. Bill Chivalette, Enlisted Heritage Hall curator since 1998, oversees the development of displays that chronicle the exploits of enlisted warriors throughout the history of aviation.

Among the exhibits is a recreation of the scene during a Vietnam War battle, where Medal of Honor recipient A1C William H. Pitsenbarger tended to wounded soldiers and fought off the enemy. There's an exhibit for CMSgt. Richard L. Etchberger, who was killed in action at Lima Site 85 in Laos, and

Cash, Charlton Heston, Alan Ladd, Chuck Norris, Jimmy Stewart, Flip Wilson, and many others.

While these magnificent exhibits are the outward signs of the institute's work, its primary mission is to provide archival information and teaching displays to support study, research, and curriculum support to the base's Thomas N. Barnes Center for Enlisted Education, which is responsible for enlisted education worldwide.

Since the early 1990s, Enlisted Heritage Hall personnel have accumulated an impressive library of historical reports and documents. The hall has seen its role significantly expand, as the enlisted professional military education community has come to depend on it as a valuable source of historical information.

Air Education and Training Command's Heritage Project Award for 15 consecutive years and the Air Force Heritage Project Award nine times, according to Chivalette and Graves.

"In the spring of 2004, we dedicated a park on our grounds to honor [the] former director, CMSgt. Wayne Fisk," said Graves. "Not only do we owe a great debt to Chief Fisk for his vision in creating the Heritage Hall, we pay tribute to him as a true American hero. Chief Fisk earned two Silver Stars while serving four tours in Southeast Asia. He participated in many combat rescues and was a member of the Son Tay task force sent deep into North Vietnam to rescue our POWs. Chief Fisk was also the last man off of Koh Tang during the rescue of the crew of the *SS Mayaguez*," said Graves. "He is truly a warrior's warrior."

The Enlisted Heritage Hall expanded by 3,000 square feet in 2007 to make room for additional displays and artifacts. Finding funds for the development of new exhibits remains an ongoing challenge, said Graves.

"Our exhibits and monuments are made possible through the generous contributions of active and retired military personnel, the general public, and organizations that realize the importance of preserving the legacy and heritage of the enlisted force," said Graves.



**CMSgt. Fred Graves (l), Enlisted Heritage Hall director, speaks with Bill Chivalette, the hall's curator, in front of the exhibit honoring Air Force Cross recipient TSgt. John A. Chapman.**

like Pitsenbarger, received the Medal of Honor posthumously. Another exhibit honors Sgt. John L. Levitow, who earned his Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War when, despite multiple wounds, he threw an ignited flare from an AC-47 gunship, saving the aircraft and crew. There's also a display with a mannequin of a prisoner of war sitting in an exact mockup of a cell in the "Hanoi Hilton," North Vietnam's infamous POW camp.

"We do not put an exhibit on the floor without extensive research to make sure each detail is historically accurate" said Chivalette. "Years of research and study have gone into some of our displays and many have won the Air Force Heritage award, the highest honor that is given to facilities like ours."

A Wall of Achievers contains photographs of enlisted airmen who went on to higher offices or became celebrities. There you will find photos of Johnny

The hall "recently added touchscreen computers and the inclusion of thousands of pages of accessible historical data on our website have added a new dimension to our research capability," said Chivalette. The institute's Facebook page is meant to help continually promote the history and legacy of the Air Force's enlisted force.

CMSgt. Fred W. Graves II, Enlisted Heritage Hall director, praised his staff.

"Technical Sergeants Rachel Rapp and Roy Parrish and A1C Stephanie Russell, with the help of volunteers like Mr. 'Hoot' Gibson and retired [CMSgt.] Earl Cordell, have put the Heritage Hall on the map," said Graves. "What they have created rivals the finest museum-quality exhibits you will find anywhere. I consider Mr. Bill Chivalette to be one of the finest curators in the country," said Graves.

Among its honors, the institute has won

The institute's newest building expansion, the Berlin to Baghdad Wing, houses a wide range of unique displays, including the Berlin Airlift exhibit that incorporates modern technology, such as an avatar capable of speaking to visitors in a number of languages.

"This impressive exhibit is one of the favorites of our visitors," said Graves.

The Enlisted Heritage Hall is a place of honor everyone can be proud of. It's open to the public year-round, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. For more information, visit <http://afehri.maxwell.af.mil> or call (334) 953-3174.

Tax-deductible contributions to help support the institute may be sent to the Air University Foundation, 55 LeMay Plaza South, Room 251, Maxwell AFB, AL 36112. ■

*Joe Panza is the Air University Foundation's executive director.*





*A volunteer with Doc's Friends prepares one of the B-29's four custom-built hybrid engines for mounting on the airframe. Doc originally belonged to a squadron nicknamed "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," all sporting nose art from the Disney story.*

# What's Up, Doc?

**By Aaron M. U. Church, Associate Editor**

**W**ith any luck, a restored World War II-era B-29 Superfortress—one of only two airworthy examples in the world—will take to the skies over its Wichita, Kan., birthplace this summer. The Boeing-built bomber, nicknamed *Doc*, survived more than 40 years on a target range in California's Mojave Desert before its rescue and eventual transport to Wichita in 2000.

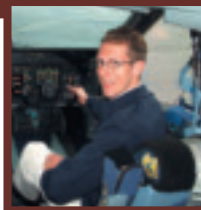
"It was on a bombing range and it just happened to not get hit," said Tom Bertels, project spokesman, in an interview.

The aircraft's former owner, Tony Mazzolini, and a group of volunteers completed much of the restoration before funds got tight and local supporters formed the nonprofit group Doc's Friends to resuscitate the project in spring 2013.

"They really made significant progress, but it takes a lot of resources," explained

Bertels, who is also a member of the group's board. "There were some community leaders here in Wichita, ... and they decided that they really wanted to get this thing done."

Major components, including refurbished engines, propellers, fuel cells, and the undercarriage, have been purchased and paid for, and the team has "hung







### Warbird Waypoints

📍 **Dayton, Ohio**—The Air Force's first Bell Boeing CV-22 Osprey joined the National Museum of the US Air Force in Dayton in December. Visitors need to call ahead for a peek at the test Osprey, serial number 99-0021, on the museum's "Behind the Scenes Tour." Eventually, it will join the museum's Cold War Gallery in the museum's planned fourth building, slated to open to the public in 2016. [www.nationalmuseum.af.mil](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil)

📍 **Dover, Del.**—If you want to explore a Lockheed-built C-5 Galaxy, the Air Mobility Command Museum adjacent to Dover Air Force Base boasts the only one on display. The Tennessee Air National Guard retired this C-5A, serial number 69-0014, in August 2013. The museum's Galaxy made history drop-launching a Minuteman I intercontinental ballistic missile from its cargo bay in 1974. [www.amcmuseum.org](http://www.amcmuseum.org)

📍 **Hagerstown, Md.**—Volunteers were working to ferry one of the few airworthy C-123 Providers from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to Hagerstown this spring. Fairchild Aircraft built the Vietnam War-veteran airframe, serial number 54-0681, in Hagerstown in 1956. The airplane spent many years flying civilian cargo before the Hagerstown Aviation Museum acquired it last year. Museum officials are raising funds to finish restoring it to its former Air Force glory. [www.hagerstownaviationmuseum.org](http://www.hagerstownaviationmuseum.org)

📍 **Honolulu**—The Royal Australian Air Force last September gave one of its retired General Dynamics F-111C Aardvarks to the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor as a salute to the US-Australian alliance and a common experience flying the strike aircraft. Australia retired its F-111s in 2010. Pearl Harbor's Aardvark, serial number 67-0130, is the sole former RAAF F-111C on display outside of Australia. [www.pacificaviationmuseum.org](http://www.pacificaviationmuseum.org)

📍 **Seattle**—The Seattle Museum of Flight last October unveiled a historic remotely piloted aircraft: one of the Boeing-Insitu Group ScanEagles that the US Navy used to help rescue the captain of the merchant ship *Maersk Alabama* from Somali pirates in 2009. The harrowing incident inspired last year's film "Captain Phillips." It depicted the RPA, now hanging in the museum's main gallery, in action. [www.museumofflight.org](http://www.museumofflight.org)

*We want to hear from you. If you visit one of these airplanes, snap a picture, and drop us a line at [wingman@afa.org](mailto:wingman@afa.org) to let us know about the experience.*

engines and started putting flight controls back on the airplane," said Bertels.

*Doc's* team consulted closely with the Commemorative Air Force, maintainers of *Fifi*, currently the lone flying Superfort.

"One of the high maintenance things on *Fifi* was the exhaust system," said Bertels. As a result, *Doc's* Friends contracted Experimental Aircraft Exhaust in Fargo, N.D., to design a new one for retrofit on both *Doc* and *Fifi*.

The engines themselves are actually a hybrid of engines used on the Vietnam War-era AC-119K Stinger gunship and the B-29's original Wright R-3350s, due

to the scarcity of the Wrights, as well as overheating problems with the early versions of the engine.

"The original aircraft was supercharged, but since we're going to be flying [*Doc*] down low, we're not doing that," said Bertels.

Unlike *Fifi*, *Doc* will fly in all-natural aluminum. "From the start, [those involved with the project] really wanted this to be finished like in the old days, but it's a heck of a process. ... It just blows you away. It's like a mirror," said Bertels.

*Doc's* Friends is working to involve the Wichita community in "adopting" the B-29, he said. Boeing leased the team's temporary hangar at McConnell AFB, Kan., and everyone, from retired veter-

ans to KC-135 maintainers on base, has volunteered. "One of the volunteers is a lady who was one of the original 'Rosie the Riveters'" at Boeing's Wichita plant, said Bertels.

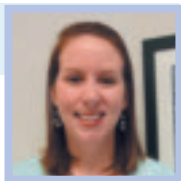
The last major hurdle is fitting *Doc's* avionics.

"We'll be looking for a major sponsor for avionics next," said Bertels. The team aims to fly *Doc* to this year's Experimental Aircraft Association's fly-in at Oshkosh, Wis., that kicks off in late July, but Bertels admits this may be a stretch. He reckons *Doc* will take to the skies "late this summer."

Visit the *Doc's* Friends website for more information at [www.b-29doc.com](http://www.b-29doc.com). ■

## The Eternity Plague: Only One Person Can Stop It, If She Survives

By Bridget Dongu



**I**t's 2035, and Dr. Janet Hogan just made a shocking discovery: Each of the Earth's nine billion inhabitants seems to have become immortal after becoming infected with naturally mutating viruses. Or have they?

By the time Hogan realizes this immortality is an illusion, it's too late to change people's beliefs. For some, the thought of immortality is a welcomed miracle; others fear what will happen to Earth. Hogan realizes that no matter what, billions will actually die and she'll be blamed, unless she can figure out a way to stop this plague. Meanwhile, the viruses keep mutating.

Hogan is the main character in *The Eternity Plague*, a science-fiction novel by Ross B. Lampert, the Air Force Association's Southwest Region president and a member of the association's Field Council. This is his first book.

Lampert has always loved science fiction and fantasy. In the third grade, he wrote a one-act

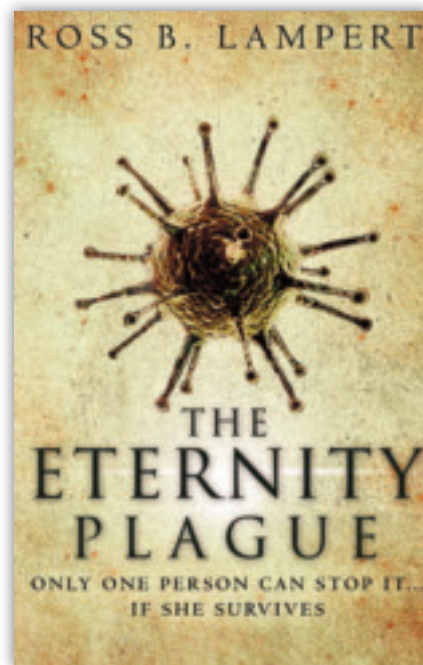
play on spaceflight that his class performed. In junior high school, teachers reignited his interest in science and writing. While Lampert wrote fiction sporadically during his 22-plus years in uniform, he didn't start writing full-time until after he retired from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel.

Lampert attended the University of Colorado at Boulder and received a bachelor's degree in physics. He's also earned a master's degree in English from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

Lampert's AFA career has included stints as president of the Central Oklahoma (Gerrity) Chapter and the Cochise Chapter in Arizona. He also served as the AFA Arizona State president.

*Chrysalis*, the sequel to 2013's *The Eternity Plague*, is in its second draft, and Lampert expects its release by year's end. ■

*Bridget Dongu is AFA's manager of Outreach Programs.*



To purchase an electronic version of *The Eternity Plague*, visit <https://www.smashwords.com>. Use discount code UP79R by May 31 to receive 50 percent off the normal price. Hard copies are available at <http://www.amazon.com>. For more on Lampert, visit <http://www.rossblampert.com>.

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# Preparing for Moving Day

*Ease stress, protect possessions, and make relocating an adventure rather than an ordeal.*

*Let's face it. Moving can be tough physically, emotionally, and financially on military families. Thankfully, there are ways you can better prepare. Here are some tips to help you experience a smooth move the next time you get your permanent-change-of-station orders or relocate for that new job.*



## GATHER YOUR FACTS AND YOUR FRIENDS

First and foremost, get your affairs in order and know how you're going to accomplish your move, said Sandee Payne, spokeswoman for USAA Home Circle™, which offers online advice and information on various locales ([www.homecircle.com](http://www.homecircle.com)).

"It's important to make sure your paperwork is up to date and located together," she said. "You'll need to know where things are and be able to get them in a timely manner. I tell people to have all personal documents, account numbers, contact info, and family records with them."

Avoid potential fraud and scams by hiring a reputable moving company, said Payne. Ask how long the company has been in business, check references, and find out the company's standing with the Better Business Bureau.

If you're going to move yourself, don't overdo it. Get plenty of strong, reliable help, and make sure you have the tools to make the job easier, such as furniture dollies, hand trucks, sliders for moving items across carpet, and carpet pieces for moving furniture across flooring.

## DO YOUR HOMEWORK ON YOUR NEW HOMETOWN

Reduce stress by educating yourself about your new town or city, said Payne.

"Military families tend to get to know other people and establish a sense of belonging pretty quickly," she said. "Sometimes that means feeling anxiety about moving again. You can deal with that better by learning what you can about where you're going."

There are resources and individuals who can help you make the transition.

"Having the right attitude is important," said Payne. "Others have been where you are now, and you can tap into that experience and expertise."

## LIGHTEN YOUR FINANCIAL LOAD

Start estimating your moving expenses as soon as you know you're going to relocate, said Payne. Here are some common costs to keep in mind: house-hunting; packing and crating; shipping, including vehicles; temporary storage; travel; utilities (disconnecting and connecting); and pet boarding and travel. Although these costs can add up quickly, you can save money by:

**Taking stock:** Hold a yard sale to get rid of items you don't need.

**Shopping around:** Get estimates from at least three moving companies. Try to stay flexible on the move date in case the company offers deals on certain days.

**Finding cheap/free packing materials:** Gather moving boxes from grocery stores or do-it-yourself moving companies.

**Doing it yourself:** The more you pack, the less you'll pay the movers.

**Protecting your assets:** Renters or homeowners insurance policies don't typically cover common damage to goods in transit. If your moving company contract doesn't cover damage from careless handling, breakage, or mold, consider purchasing moving insurance.

**Keeping records:** Some moving costs are tax-deductible. Keep all your receipts and track your expenses.

Remember, moving doesn't have to be a negative experience. By managing tasks and keeping your stress level down, your relocation can be enjoyable and adventurous. ■

*Content provided by USAA, a member benefit partner of the Air Force Association.*

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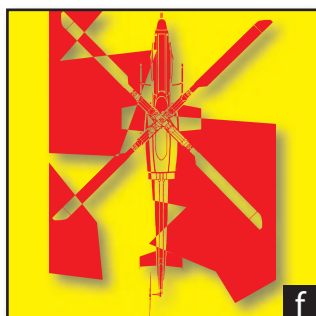
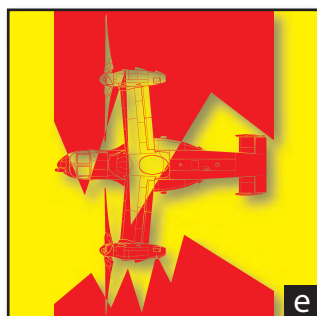
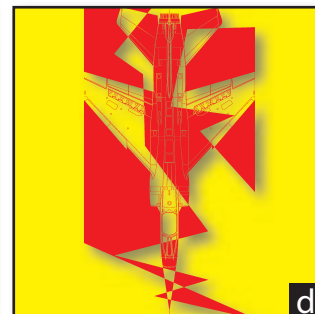
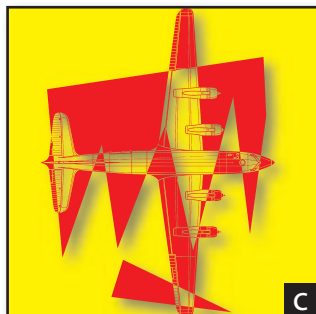
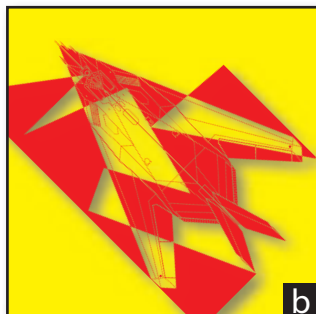
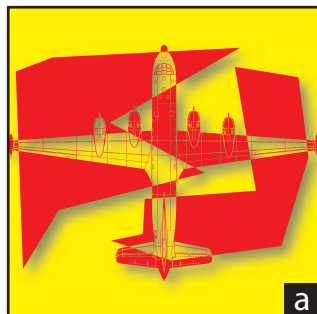
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For more information: Larry Dilworth at 703-247-5812 or  
[ldilworth@afa.org](mailto:ldilworth@afa.org)

By Zaur Eylanbekov, Photo Editor

*Aspiring wingmen, we've got a challenge for you!*

## Identify and Match the Aircraft

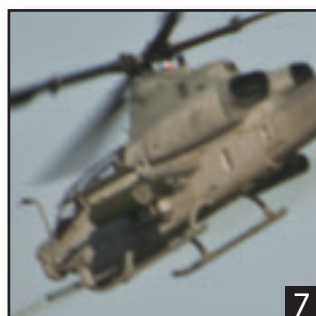
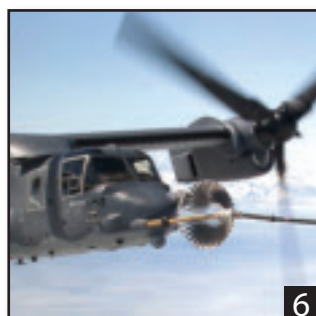
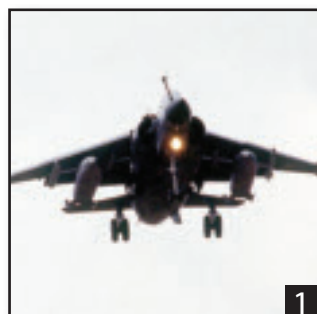


**M**atch each of the lettered images above with the numbered photo below that you think shows the same aircraft type. For each pair, write down the letter-number combination. For example, if you think image “a” goes with photo “3,” jot down “a-3.”

For each pair, now identify the aircraft type from these possibilities: A-4 Skyhawk, A-6 Intruder, AH-1Z Viper, C-54 Skymaster, C-124 Globemaster II, CV-22 Osprey, F-117 Nighthawk, Mirage F1. Here's an example of a potential combination: **a-3, F-117 Nighthawk.**

Next, ask your mom or dad to send an email with your answers to us at [wingman@afa.org](mailto:wingman@afa.org). Title your message “Attention Area 52 Fun Hangar editor.” The first 10 aspiring wingmen with the correct answers whose emails we receive by June 15, 2014, will get a neat prize. Boys and girls 10 years old and younger are eligible to participate. We'll contact you if you're a winner. We'll post the correct answers on June 16 at [www.airforcemag.com](http://www.airforcemag.com).

*Good luck!*





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