



Flight Line

Air & Space Forces Association



Chapter 105

2023-1

Tucson, Arizona

January 2023

Chapter Officers

President

Wally Saeger
wsaeger06@gmail.com

Vice President

Bryan Foulk
bfoulk@comcast.net

Secretary

Vickie Jo Ryder
ryderf16@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Marie A. Lankford
marihan53@cox.net

VP Aerospace Education

VP CyberPatriot

Wally Saeger
wsaeger06@gmail.com

VP Leadership Development

VP Government Relations

Bryan Foulk
bfoulk@comcast.net

VP Membership

Ed Ryder
ryderf16@msn.com

VP Veterans Affairs

Bill Goodall
bgoodall@mac.com

VP Military Liaison

Tyler Solomon
tyrsolo@gmail.com

VP Programs / Communication

Marie A. Lankford
marihan53@cox.net

VP Community Partners

Dave Carrell
dave.carrell@cfafranchisee.com

VP Community Outreach

Heidi Goldman
heidigoldman1@gmail.com

VP Awards

Brett Rountree

VP Airmen & Family Programs

Lynne Severe
lynnesevere1@gmail.com

VP AFA Golf Fundraiser

VP Public Affairs / Newsletter

Dick Roberts
rrrgv@aol.com

From the Prez -

Welcome to 2023 and the start of a new year. It will be interesting to see what 2023 brings us in comparison to 2022.

I hope that you continue to enjoy your daily activities and count the blessings you have as an American. I also encourage you to become as involved as you can with your local AFA Chapter 105.

Although your chapter was represented at the October Community College of the Air Force graduation ceremony, neither of the Pitsenbarger Award winners were present. The chapter recognized one winner at our October meeting. See separate article.

For our meeting in October, we had Vince Howard speak to us about resiliency. See separate article for more information.

Although we didn't have a chapter meeting November due to Thanksgiving, three chapter members helped with the Dorm Bash November 21st. The Dorm Bash is an annual event to serve airmen living in the dorms with a meal in the dorm area before the Thanksgiving weekend. Heidi Goldman, Bill Goodall, and Vickie Jo Ryder were involved with set-up, serving or cleanup for the event which served over 250 hungry airmen. Brushfire Barbeque, a Chapter 105 Community Partner, supplied the food again this year and your chapter made a \$300 donation to help buy other items needed like soda and ice.

Our December event was a joint lunch at the American Legion Post 36 with the Daedalians Old Pueblo Flight 12 to present scholarships to University of Arizona ROTC cadets. See separate article.

Your chapter will be busy starting in January. Here is a snapshot of upcoming events so standby for more details.

Our January meeting will take us to visit the 612th Air Operations Center on January 20th to receive a tour and briefings. All are welcome but there will be a limitation on the number of individuals that can attend.

We won't have a chapter meeting in February since the annual Heritage Flight Training and Certification Course will take place March 3-5 on the DMAFB flightline. This annual event is held so that aircraft from

WWII and Korean War era can formation fly with modern USAF aircraft to be certified to perform at air shows across the US. Hopefully we will be able to view the aircraft Friday morning before flying starts.

Speaking of air shows, DMAFB will host its biennial air show March 25-26. As in the past, your chapter hopes to have an information booth where we can explain the mission of AFA to air show visitors. We will be looking for volunteers to spend a couple of hours in the booth to talk with folks and share war stories with the other volunteers in the booth.

While your chapter continues to be in good financial health, we need to continue raising funds to support chapter activities and fund the support we provide to our local airmen and their families; so please consider donating. If you are on Facebook, you can set up a fundraising event that directly supports YOUR chapter. If you use Amazon, consider making YOUR chapter the recipient of a donation every time you make a purchase by using Amazon Smile. You can get started at: <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F>

You'll need to designate Air Force Association Tucson Chapter as the recipient of your donation. It doesn't affect the price you pay and we receive 0.05% of all eligible purchases. Thank you for your help.

Chapter 105 is part of the Fry's Community Rewards Program. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. See separate article in April 2022 newsletter to see how to join the program.

We are always looking for members who want to be involved and everyone is invited to our Executive Committee meetings which are usually on the first Monday of the month unless it falls on a federal holiday. (See calendar elsewhere for specific dates).

Since we use email to stay in touch, please remember to let us know if you change your email address. AFA National also is dependent upon having your current email so you should let them know of any changes.

AFA Mission

Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; to honor and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their Families; and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.

Wally Saeger, President



Chapter's October Program Vince Howard, Chief, 355th Wing Integrated Prevention & Resilience

For our October chapter meeting, which was held at American Legion Post 36, we had Vincent Howard as our guest speaker. A 30-year veteran of the Air Force, Vince is currently serving as a civilian employee as the 355th Wing Community Support Coordinator.



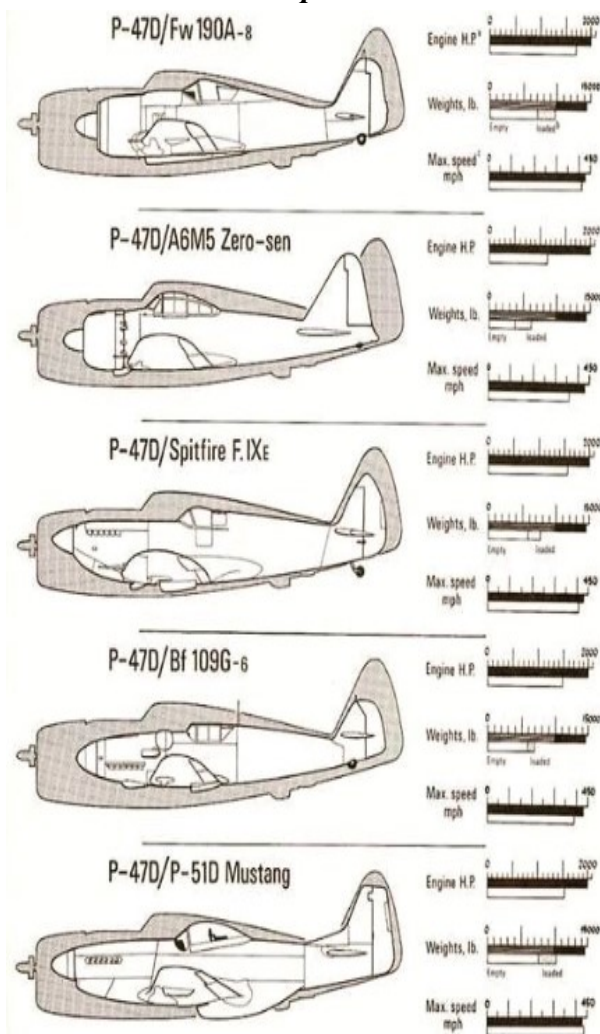
Chapter President Saeger presenting Gary Sinise's book to Vince Howard

While on active duty, he served as the 355th Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant, 2010 – 2012.

He is a Master Resilience Trainer which is one of his key roles in the wing. Vince opened his presentation on the need for resiliency and how that helps individuals cope with stress. Through anecdotes and sharing personal experience, he posed different scenarios to the audience to encourage people to think how they might react and how to better cope.

Vince is also an accomplished author and highlighted his recent book "Why Didn't Somebody Tell Me I was Fat??" during the presentation. He earned recognition as one of the 25 Most Influential African-Americans in Arizona (2011). In his spare time, he enjoys singing, playing the piano and learning Swahili.

Size Comparisons



Chapter AFROTC Scholarship Winner

Every year, your chapter awards a \$750 scholarship to a non-aviation AFROTC cadet from the University of Arizona Detachment. We designate that the cadet be destined



Cadet/Lt Col Nina Weinberger receives a citation recognizing her accomplishments from AFA Tucson Chapter 105 president, Colonel Wally Saeger, USAF (Ret).

for a non-aviation career field in the Air Force or Space Force since the Daedalians Old Pueblo Fight 12 awards a scholarship to cadets selected to enter an aviation career field. We leave selection of the scholarship recipient to the Detachment 020's Professor of Aerospace Studies based upon the cadet's academic performance, demonstrated leadership in Det 020 activities, and potential to excel as an officer in the United States Air Force.

Colonel Carey "Mamba" Jones, selected Cadet Nina Weinberger to be this year's recipient. Cadet/Lt Col Weinberger will graduate in May 2023 and commission as a second lieutenant in the Information Operations Officer career field; only one of two in this region. She will likely be selected for duty in the Office of Special Investigations. Cadet Weinberger received her scholarship check at the joint Daedalians/AFA Scholarship luncheon held Decem-

Wreaths Across America, December 17, 2022

Vickie Jo and Ed Ryder, and Wally Saeger were among the hundreds of volunteers that gathered at the East Lawn



Palms Cemetery in Tucson at 10:00 am on Saturday, December 17, 2022, to participate in Wreaths Across America.

The event is held to honor deceased veterans by laying over 2,000 wreaths on their graves in remembrance of their service and sacrifice.

Colonel Scott Mills, 355th Wing Commander, provides remarks during the 2022 Wreaths Across America, held December 17th at the East Lawn Palms Cemetery, Tucson, AZ

Many local organizations were involved in conducting the event including the Honor Guard from the Junior Air Force ROTC unit at De-

sert View High School.

The guest speaker was Colonel Scott Mills, the 355th Wing Commander. The narrator for the event was Marsha Moon, Gold Star mother, who lost her son, U.S. Army Spec Christopher Moon, during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in 2010. Since Moon's death, his mother has worked tirelessly to honor his and other veterans' service.

To learn more about Wreaths Across America, use this link: <https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/our-story>

Fall Pitsenbarger Awards

Air & Space Forces Association Pitsenbarger Awards provide a one-time grant of \$750 and a one year complimentary AFA eMembership to selected top USAF enlisted personnel graduating from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) who plan to pursue a baccalaureate degree (only). The grants coincide with the CCAF graduation ceremonies held each Spring and Fall.



Airman First Class Coralee Olson is presented her check for the Pitsenbarger Award she received from AFA Chapter 105 by chapter president Wally Saeger at the October chapter meeting.

Recipients must apply for consideration for a Pitsenbarger Award based upon the following Requirements/Evaluation Criteria:

- Proof of current enrollment or intent to enroll in an accredited program leading to a baccalaureate degree must be submitted with the application.
- Citations and awards representing distinguished activity should be submitted with the application.
- A narrative statement describing your extracurricular activities and explaining their significance must be submitted with the application. Emphasize those activities that indicate leadership, citizenship, teamwork, community service, personal development, and dedication. Also, discuss other distinguishing activities and academic accomplishments. The narrative should also include undergraduate plans (e.g., school, the field of study, future goals).

Commander's endorsement must also be submitted with the application.

Your Chapter provides a second Pitsenbarger Award and a complimentary eMembership if there is more than one eligible recipient.

For the Fall CCAF graduation, there were two eligible recipients: Technical Sergeant Kirk Dixon, 355th Civil Engineering Squadron, and Airman First Class Coralee Olson, 25th Operational Weather Squadron.



An F-15C Eagle with the California Air National Guard's 144th Fighter Wing takes flight after receiving a patriotic paint job in celebration of the jet hitting 10,000 hours of flight time, Oct. 22, 2022. (Master Sgt. Charles Vaughn & Staff Sgt. Mercedes Taylor/U.S. Air National Guard).

"A Little Bit of History"

Northrop YB-49



With the XB-35 program seriously behind schedule by 1944, and the end of piston-engined combat aircraft in sight, the production contract for this propeller-driven type was cancelled in May of that year. Nevertheless, the Flying Wing design was still sufficiently interesting to the Air Force that work was continued on testing a single YB-35A production aircraft.

Among the aircraft later completed were two airframes that the Air Force ordered be fitted with jet propulsion and designated as YB-49s. The first of these new YB-49 jet-powered aircraft flew on 22 October 1947 (from Northrop airfield in Hawthorne, CA) and immediately proved more promising than its piston engined counterpart. The YB-49 set an unofficial endurance record of staying continually above 40,000 ft (12,200 m) for 6.5 hours.

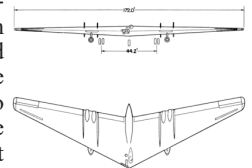
The second YB-49 was lost on 5 June 1948, killing its pilot, Major Daniel Forbes (for whom Forbes Air Force Base was named), co-pilot Captain Glen Edwards (for whom Edwards Air Force Base is named), and three other crew members, one of whom, 1st Lieutenant Edward Lee Swindell, was a crew member on the Boeing B-29 that assisted Chuck Yeager in breaking the sound barrier in the Bell X-1 aircraft. Their aircraft suffered structural failure, with both outer wing sections becoming detached from the center section. Speculation at the time was that the YB-49 was lost due to excessive pullout loads imposed on the heavy airframe when a scheduled flight test of the large bomber's stall recovery resulted in a sudden and dramatic high-speed, nose-over dive. The post-stall high-speed dive resulted from the clean, low-drag, all-wing design, which gave the YB-49 a rapid speed increase in any type of dive. Fellow YB-49 test pilot Robert Cardenas later claimed that the YB-49 rotated backwards in stall, and that he warned Edwards about it. Jack Northrop later countered that such a behavior was impossible for the all-wing design.

During flight tests in the 1940s, it was noticed that the aircraft had a small radar cross-section, due to its flying wing design. Decades later, this stealthy detail would prove crucial to the design of Northrop Grumman's advanced, all-wing B-2 bomber.

The last operational YB-49 prototype was destroyed on 15 March 1950, during high-speed taxi trials at Muroc Field. The nose wheel began to encounter severe vibration problems and finally collapsed; the aircraft was completely destroyed in the ensuing fire.

General characteristics

- Crew: 6
- Powerplant: 8 × Allison J35-A-15 turbojet engines
- Maximum speed: 493 mph
- Combat range: 1,615 mi with 10,000 lb bombload
- Guns: 4 × .50 in (12.7 mm) machine guns
- Bombs: 16,000 lb of ordnance



First Flights



Spruce Goose
First & Only 11-2-1947



YB-49 First Flight
10-21-1947



B-52 First Flight
4-15-1952
Last Built 6-22-1962
Last delivered to AF
10-26-1962



B-58 First Flight
11-11-1956



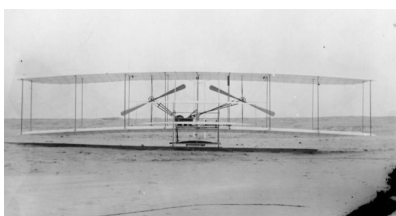
B-47 First Flight
12-17-1947



F-16 First Flight (accidental)
1-20-1974



F-15 First Flight
7-27-1972



Wright Flyer First Flight
12-17-1903



F-22 First Flight
9-7-1997



A-10 First Flight
10-21-1975



XB-70 First Flight
9-21-1964



F-35 First Flight
12-15-2006



F-105 First Flight
10-22-1955

PACT Act

You've likely already heard about how the PACT Act could impact your care and benefits, but did you know it also expands health care eligibility for many Veterans?

When President Biden signed the PACT Act Aug. 10, 2022, it initiated one of the largest expansions of VA benefits in history. This includes extended VA health care enrollment eligibility to Vietnam-era, Gulf War-era and Post-9/11 Veterans.

You can help spread the word about expanded eligibility to enroll in VA health care for your Veteran friends who have not previously enrolled. Here are all the details you need to know to help them get the care they earned and deserve.

For Vietnam-era Veterans

Vietnam-era Veterans who served in the following locations and time periods are eligible to apply for enrollment beginning now:

- Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975
- Thailand at any U.S. or Royal Thai base between Jan. 9, 1962, and June 30, 1976
- Laos between Dec. 1, 1965, and Sept. 30, 1969
- Certain provinces in Cambodia between April 16, 1969, and April 30, 1969
- Guam or American Samoa (or their territorial waters) between Jan. 9, 1962, and July 31, 1980
- Johnston Atoll (or a ship that called there) between Jan. 1, 1972, and Sept. 30, 1977

For Gulf War-era Veterans

Beginning Oct. 1, 2022, Gulf War-era Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after the Persian Gulf War may be eligible to enroll in VA health care.

This also includes Veterans who, in connection with service during such period, received the following awards or recognitions:

- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Service Specific Expeditionary Medal
- Combat Era Specific Expeditionary Medal
- Campaign Specific Expeditionary Medal

Any other combat theater award established by Federal statute or Executive Order

For Post-9/11 Veterans

Post-9/11 Veterans discharged before Oct. 1, 2013, can enroll in VA health care during a special 1-year enrollment period between Oct. 1, 2022, and Oct. 1, 2023. To be eligible, one of the following must be true:

- They served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, or
- They served in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after Nov. 11, 1998.

How to talk to your friends about VA health care

If you have eligible Veteran friends who aren't currently enrolled, they may be hesitant to apply for any number of reasons. Consider sharing your own experience to help demystify the process. Remind them that they earned the right to this care through their service and point them in the direction of resources to help – like visiting their nearest VA medical center or clinic.

Plus, it's free and easy to apply. Read on for more details about VA health care and the four simple options for applying.

Fast facts about VA health care

- Enrollment is free, and health care may be free as well.

VA health care for any illness or injury determined to be related to your military service (called "service connected") is free. The PACT Act added more than 20 presumptive conditions, expanding benefits to Vietnam-era, Gulf War-era, and Post-9/11 Veterans.

Check out the complete list of new presumptive conditions at www.va.gov/PACT.

Tell your friends to apply for VA health care in one of four ways:

Online: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction>.

By calling the toll-free hotline: 877-222-8387.

By mailing [VA Form 10-10EZ](#) to:

Health Eligibility Center
2957 Clairmont Rd., Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30329

In person at their nearest VA medical center or clinic

Community Partner Program

For more than 40 years, businesses have been joining the Air Force Association to support both AFA National and local AFA chapters. Becoming a Community Partner is a great way to get your business involved with your local Air Force Community. Community Partners are partnership businesses that want to assist both AFA National and the local AFA chapters by becoming involved in Community efforts to support the United States Air Force.

By forming a partnership with your local AFA chapter, your business will help AFA fulfill their mission to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense. Any business or organization can become a CP and have two options for membership:

Category One (CP I) \$90.00 annually- Business can designate one person to receive AFA Membership and enjoy all benefits thereof.

Category Two (CP II) \$180.00 annually- Business can designate two people to receive AFA Membership and enjoy all benefits thereof.

Not only does a Community Partner receive all the benefits of an AFA membership, such as a variety of product and service discounts, insurance programs, and much more, but the partner will also receive the following upon joining AFA:

— Date Medallion

Wooden Plaque

8"x5" "Our Business Supports Our Troops" Window Decal

If your business is interested in becoming a Community Partner, you should first contact your local chapter.

For questions or for more information on the program, please contact: **Dave Carrell, carrelldav@aol.com, (520) 305-4407**

Have your business become a part of a great cause and show your patrons that you support our Air Force!

Tucson Chapter's Community Partners

A & E Specialty Marketing
Elliott M. Klahr
P. O. Box 4423
Rio Rico, AZ 85648
520-281-1369 (P)
520-980-0515 ©

Chick-fil-A
Dave Carrell
6675 E. Grant Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85715
520-305-4407

Chick-fil-A
4885 N. Oracle Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85705
520-408-2456

Chick-fil-A
Brian White
3943 W. Ina Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85741
520-744-6269

Chick-fil-A
Matt Hountz
3605 E. Broadway Blvd
Tucson, AZ 85716
520-321-4232

Chick-fil-A
Andres Romo
1188 W. Irvington Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85714
530-741-2280

Ciruli Brothers
5 Calle Cristina
Rio Rico, AZ 85648
520-281-1456

Vantage West Credit Union
P. O. Box 15115
Tucson, AZ 85708
800-888-7882
Vantagewest.org

Tucson Appliance Company
Chris Edwards
4229 E. Speedway Blvd
Tucson, AZ 85712
520-881-1207
tacappliance.com

Brushfire BBQ
Peter Wagle
7080 E. 22nd St.
Tucson, AZ 85710
520-867-6050

Aero Club of Arizona
P. O. Box 856
Green Valley, AZ 85622
520-648-5749

Upcoming Events

We continue to schedule future “field trips” to different organization on base. If you have something specific you want to see please let us know! There are MANY events supporting our local Airmen and changes of command! As a Chapter, we try to attend all that we can. If you are interested in representing your AFA Chapter at any of these, please inform Wally Saeger (wsaeger@afatucson105.org) and he will coordinate it. You just have to show up and enjoy these traditional military ceremonies and gatherings. First come, first served!!

January 2023

- 9th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, 355th Operations Group Conference Room (all welcome!)
- 20th: Chapter Meeting, 1130, 612th Air Operations Center

February 2023

- 6th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, Location TBD (all welcome!)
- 24th: No Chapter Meeting, Heritage Flight is March 3rd

March 2023

- 3rd: Heritage Flight, DMAFB Flightline
- 6th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, Location TBD
- 25-26: DMAFB Air Show

SAVE THESE DATES:

- Apr 3rd: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, Location TBD (all welcome!)
- Apr 28th: Chapter Meeting, Subject and Location TBD
- May 1st: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, Location TBD (all welcome!)
- May 26th: No Chapter Meeting, Enjoy Memorial Weekend
- Jun 5th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, Location TBD (all welcome!)
- Jun 23rd: Chapter Meeting, Subject and Location TBD

**Air & Space Forces Association
Tucson Chapter 105
P. O. Box 15057
Tucson, AZ 85708**

Air & Space Forces Association Means Americans for Air Power

JOIN AFA

AFA's Mission

Our Mission is to promote dominant U. S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; to honor and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their Families; and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.

To accomplish this, we:

- **EDUCATE** the public on the critical need for unrivaled aerospace power and promote aerospace and STEM education for a technically superior and professional workforce to ensure national security;
- **ADVOCATE** and promote aerospace power to favorably shape policy and resourcing decisions to guarantee the strongest aerospace forces in the world;
- **SUPPORT** Airmen, Guardians, and the families of the Total Air Force and Space Force, including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilians, families, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.