



Flight Line

Air & Space Forces Association

Chapter 105



2024-3

Tucson, Arizona

July 2024

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From the Prez -

Welcome to Summer. 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.

In the past, April was a relatively “quiet” month but not this year. Starting with our EXCOM on April 1st, followed by the Davis-Monthan Tucson Valley Council meeting on April 12th, things accelerated. April 23rd, saw Congressional staffers visit DMAFB and receive a briefing from Col Scott Mills and then have dinner later with other civic leaders hosted by the Southern Arizona Defense Alliance; I attended both. On April 24th, I attended a tour of the Western ANG Aviation Training Site near Red Rock. The tour was sponsored by the Tucson Military Affairs Committee. That evening, I presented the AFA JROTC Cadet of the Year Award at Desert Vista HS. The month finally closed out with our chapter meeting on the 26th, with a presentation by MSgt Lucas McFann of the 43 ECS on the EA-37B aircraft which will replace the venerable EC-130H Compass Call aircraft.

With only the EXCOM May 6th and no chapter meeting May should’ve been relatively quiet; NOT. It started with the 355th Wing Quarterly Awards on the 1st followed by ALS Graduation on the 3rd and the 162nd Wing’s Annual Awards Ceremony on the 5th. EXCOM members provided support for the Military Spouses Appreciation Picnic on the 12th. On the 15th, I travelled to Innovation Academy in Oro Valley to present our Chapter Teacher of the Year and State TOY awards to Ms. Holly Tallbert. On May 30th, several chapter members attended the presentation at the Tucson Convention Center on 492nd Special Operations Wing Environmental Impact Study process that will be taking place over the next several years. May finally ended on the 31st with me attending the Changes of Command for the 42nd Electronic Combat Squadron and the 68th Rescue Squadron.

June proved almost as busy with EXCOM members attending nine different changes of command. The month ended with our June chapter meeting taking place at STAR-BASE Arizona where we had a great presentation by the director, Kristine Impelizzeri, on the mission and impact of STAR-BASE. See separate article for more details.

As we look forward to the next 3 months, we take July off so you can enjoy the “dry” heat and the start of Monsoon season. On July 28th, we will serve a meal at the DMAFB dorm at a room known as the “Loft”; the room is sponsored by the base chapel. If you’ve never participated, this might be your chance. We cook the food and serve it to AD members that participate in chapel activities. It’s a great chance to interact with our junior members serving at DMAFB.

We will have a chapter meeting in August although the subject and location are still being worked. The tentative date is the 23rd.

September will see me, Bryan Foulk, and Alan Berg journey to Gaylord Harbor, MD to attend the National Convention (September 14-15) and the Air & Space Forces Conference (September 16-18). If you’d like more information on either event send me an email or you can find links for both on the afa.org web site.

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.

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. We received \$36.49 in March and remember, every little bit helps.

If you have any suggestions on other sources of funds please let us know. The more we can raise the more we can support our Airmen, Guardians, and their Families.

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

Wally Saeger, President

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



Chapter's April Meeting MSgt Lucas McFann EA-37B Compass Call

Chapter's June Meeting A visit to STARBASE Arizona

For our April 26th chapter meeting held at the American Legion Post 36, we had a great buffet lunch of salad, mixed vegetables, pesto mashed potatoes, chicken with lemon and capers sauce, roasted strips of loin with merlot brown sauce and dessert. See what you're missing by not attending? But the highlight of the meeting was the presentation on the new EA-37B, Compass Call aircraft by MSgt Lucas McFann of the 43rd Electronic Combat Squadron which is gearing up to accept the new aircraft when they become available. The EA-37B will be replacing the venerable EC-130H Compass Call aircraft in the near future; the aircraft is undergoing contractor testing and should enter Initial Operational Testing soon although the program has experienced delays since the original aircraft was purchased in FY17 followed by a second in FY18. The EA-37B is a next-generation, tactical jamming platform tasked with disruption of enemy C3, radar, and navigation. It will also offer offensive counterinformation, EA, and SEAD support. The aircraft is based on the ultra-long-range Gulfstream G550 business aircraft and adapted from the Navy's special mission configuration. USAF awarded L3 Technologies a contract on Sept. 7, 2017, to replace the EC-130H in the tactical EA role and transplant its "Compass Call" systems to a more modern aircraft. The program, originally dubbed "EC-X" will "re-host" upgraded EC-130H mission equipment directly to the EA-37 with nearly 70 percent remaining unchanged. EA-37B is faster, more economical, capable of higher altitude operations, and more survivable than the



EC130H. Upgrades will allow it to conduct standoff jamming/EA from greater distance for attacks against A2/AD targets.

The Gulfstream G550 business jets that form the basis for the EA-37B are manufactured in Savannah, Ga., and the aircraft are being modified with antennas and conformal arrays at L3Harris' facilities in Waco, Texas. The EA-37B aircraft has a length of 95' 9" (29.4m), a height of 25' 10" (7.9m) and a wingspan of 93' 6" (28.5m). The aircraft's weight and operating costs are reduced by 50% each, compared to the EC-130H Compass Call. The aircraft's weight is 48,300lb and maximum take-off weight is 91,000lb. It can achieve a speed of 767 mph (Mach 0.82), has a range of 4,410nm and a service ceiling of 45,000ft. EA-37B can accommodate two pilots along with a crew of up to seven. It is integrated with the modern Compass Call airborne tactical weapon system, which delivers high mission effectiveness while ensuring the survivability of the pilots and operators.

Avionics aboard the new platform include an advanced flight deck, modern electronics and communications suite, jamming equipment, data link, tactical radios, as well as transmitting and receiving antennas. The aircraft is powered by two Rolls-Royce BR710 C4-11 engines, which can generate a thrust of 15,385lb each. ACC has divested nine of its 14 EC-130H Compass Call aircraft, and when the last leaves the active inventory in 2026, the EA-37B will be the sole aircraft to use that name. The older aircraft are going into flyable storage at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group at Davis-Monthan, also known as the "Boneyard."

Additional information can be found at: https://www.acc.af.mil/Portals/92/Docs/Fact%20Sheets%20-%202020Update/Facts%20Sheets%20-%202023%20Update/EA37B20COPASS20Call_NOV2023.pdfver=4tdcNFx2xoqeNkUoGfG-qQ%3D%3D

Chapter members had a unique opportunity to visit a "secret" gem on Davis-Monthan AFB, STARBASE Arizona; one of 86 STARBASEs worldwide and the only one in Arizona. The director, Kristine Impellizzeri, took time to host us in the STARBASE classroom located in the Kennedy Professional Development Center. While there are only 86 active STARBASE locations, 4 more are in the initial stages to become active in the near future.

Kristine explained how DoD STARBASE is a premier educational program, sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. At DoD STARBASE students participate in challenging "hands-on, minds-on" activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). They interact with military personnel to explore careers and observe STEM applications in the "real world." The program provides students with 25 hours



Kristine Impellizzeri, STARBASE Arizona Director, has everyone's attention as she explains the mission of STARBASE and the impact on the students that attend

of stimulating experiences at National Guard, Marine, Air Force Reserve, Army, and Air Force bases across the nation.

DoD STARBASE's primary focus is the program for fifth graders. The goal is to motivate them to explore STEM opportunities as they continue their education. The academies serve students that are historically underrepresented in STEM. Students who live in inner cities or rural locations, those who are socio-economically disadvantaged, low in academic performance, or have a disability are in the target group. The program encourages students to set goals and achieve them.

In the greater Tucson area, STARBASE Arizona serves students from the Tucson Unified School District, Amphitheater School District, Sunnyside School District, and Vail School District which provides administrative oversight/support.

Students are bused to STARBASE by their respective school districts for an immersive learning experience one-day a week during their 5-week course period. On each of these days, the students get hands on experience in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and STEM Careers. At the completion of each "Mission", the students get a Mission Tag to attach to their name tag lanyard to help them remember what they learned and accomplished. At the end of their 5 days, Kristine or another instructor from STARBASE, goes to the pupils' school to present each student with their certificate of completion. Since parents can't come to STARBASE to watch, they are encouraged to attend this "ceremony to share in their child's accomplishments."

STARBASE is dependent upon volunteers from DMAFB to enhance the students learning experience. Volunteers help with in-class exercises or during the bottle rocket launching that takes place outdoors. They also talk about their careers and what they do in the Air Force. Students sometimes visit various work centers such as the fire department or the military working dog training facility to see what happens there and learn more about what takes place on DMAFB.

Due to classroom constraints and instructor availability, STARBASE Arizona can only conduct 31 5-day sessions a year. Kristine and her staff are looking for ways to overcome this and serve more of our local youth and expand their STEM horizons.

Thank you for the great visit and what you & your staff do for our Tucson youth.

2024 Tucson Chapter 105 Teacher of the Year

Wednesday, May 15th, I had the honor of presenting our Chapter Teacher of the Year to Ms. Holly Talbert, a 1st grade teacher at Innovation Academy in Oro Valley. Since



Holly Talbert and her family accepting the check for \$1,000 as both the AFA Chapter 105 and AFA Arizona State Teacher of the Year

Holly was also selected as the Arizona State TOY, and I'm also the state president, I got to present both awards.

Holly has been a teacher for 12 years and has been in her current position for 2 years. Holly teaches reading, writing, math science and social studies. She

loves to be teaching at STEM focused school where her three children also attend. Since her husband is an Air Force pilot, who was recently hired by the ANG 162nd Wing at Tucson International Airport, she brings a unique perspective of having lived in multiple locations and a multitude of experiences.

The presentation was made at the final school assembly of the year which her three children were at. When I announced her name and asked Holly to come to the stage, her children rushed the stage to participate too. What Holly didn't know is that the principal, Mike McConnel, had invited Holly's husband to attend and watched the presentation from the back of the room.

Holly received a certificate, padfolio, Chapter TOY pin, and two checks (\$250 from National and \$250 from your chapter) for being our Chapter TOY. In addition, she received a certificate, State TOY jacket and pin, and a check for \$500 from National. The smile on her face when I presented her with the "check" for \$1,000 was glowing and worth the effort to nominate Holly for both awards.

MEMBERSHIP

We have twenty-six new Chapter 105 members this quarter. Thank you all for helping support our Air & Space Forces Association mission, and we look forward to meeting you at a chapter event in the near future. Welcome!

Alex Evertsen
Amaria Fountain
Brett Smith
Carley Palmer
Danielle Griffith
Dorothy Stocks
Elizabeth Lewis
Hayden Schmitt
Joseph Whitman
KyAnna Petz
Matthew Fellows
Megan Gregory
Raymond Ramirez

Richard Jones
Taran Harris-Barnes
Holly Talbert
SSgt Kimberly Rascon Ochoa
SMSgt Jimmy Turner
Maj John Runge
MSgt Lisa Oniell
Mark Davies
TSgt Nathania Sabino
Lt Col (ret) Joseph Masone
Lt Col (ret) Michelle Cates
MSgt (ret) Arthur E. Seigny
Col (ret) Jeffrey D Kindley

"A Little Bit of History"

Air Tractor AT-802U Sky Warden



The Air Tractor L3Harris OA-1K Sky Warden (company designation **AT-802U**) is an American fixed-wing, single-engine light attack/armed reconnaissance aircraft built by Air Tractor and L3Harris for the Armed Overwatch program of the United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM). It was developed from the Air Tractor AT-802, an American aircraft often used for agricultural purposes.

The AT-802U Sky Warden won the Armed Overwatch trial, and on 1 August 2022, SOCOM announced a US\$3 billion contract to purchase 75 aircraft by 2029.

A version of the AT-802 has been used for years eradicating coca leaf crops (used in the production of illicit drugs) and as a result was already outfitted with lightweight composite ballistic armored engine compartment and cockpit, called a "bathtub." The windshield features flat ballistic glass panels. The cockpit is built of a steel tube frame design to act as a roll cage, and can support the entire weight of the aircraft.

The aircraft is not designed to fit ejection seats. The fuel lines and fuel tank are self-sealing and features emergency fuel jettison. Restraints include a 5-point harness equipped with airbags. Essential flight controls are present in both the front and rear seats. The landing gear configuration differs from most modern aircraft in that it is a tail-wheel configuration, which is optimal for take-off and landing on austere and unimproved airstrips.

The AT-802U is designed for expedient deployment and can be disassembled within a day to fit inside a single C-17 cargo aircraft. It can then be reassembled to mission-ready status within a single day.

General characteristics

- **Length:** 37.5 ft (11.4 m)
 - **Wingspan:** 59.25 ft (18.06 m)
 - **Height:** 13 ft (4.0 m)
 - **Gross weight:** 16,000 lb (7,257 kg)
- Powerplant:** 1 × [Pratt & Whitney PT6A-67F turboprop](#), 1,600 hp (1,200 kW)
- Propellers:** 5-bladed [Hartzell Propeller](#) Titanium Dome
- Performance**
- **Maximum speed:** 213 kn (245 mph, 394 km/h) at 10,000 feet (3,000 m) with no weapons
 - **Cruise speed:** 180 kn (210 mph, 330 km/h) patrolling speed at 10,000 feet (3,000 m)
 - **Range:** 1,303 nmi (1,499 mi, 2,413 km) full fuel at 8,000 feet (2,400 m)
- Armament**
- Hardpoints:** 10, 2 centerline and 8 wing

Military Spouse Appreciation Picnic

Your AFA Tucson Chapter 105 was asked to provide some volunteers to help with the setup and activities during the Military Spouse Appreciation Picnic held May 10th, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, at Soaring Heights Community Park, DMAFB. Bill Goodall and Wally Saeger arrived to help setup while MSgt Brett Rountree, recently returned from a 6-month deployment, found several AD volunteers from Vehicle Maintenance to assist. With plenty of volunteers, tables and chairs were soon setup, "jumping castles" inflated, and booths for different organizations



dotting the area.

With a live DJ, Prize Drawings, Games and Free Food, the event was focused on thanking the Military Spouses and their families for what they do to support their Active-Duty spouses so they can perform their vital jobs to support and defend our national security 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Those who serve know they can't do it without this support.

The games kept the attending children busy and the lines at the food trucks were kept moving. In the end, it looked like everyone enjoyed themselves, although a few of the younger attendees had to be carried or wheeled home.



MH-139A Grey Wolf Air Forces newest helicopter



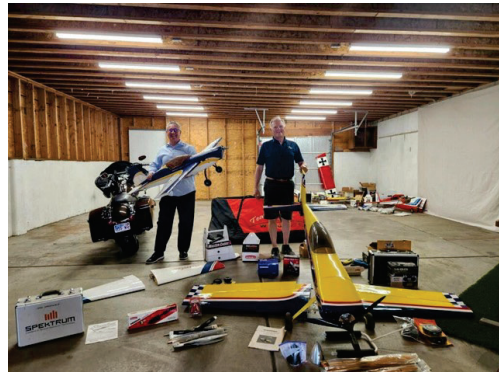
The Grey Wolf will be used to patrol the intercontinental ballistic missile fields at Malmstrom, F.E. Warren AFB, and Minot AFB, replacing the aging UH-1N Huey helicopters that have been in service since 1970. The Grey Wolf offers improved speed, range, and cargo capacity needed for modernization efforts taking place near America's nuclear arsenal and assets.



Texaco

Radio Controlled Airplane Donation

Chapter 105 Executive VP Bryan Foulk, received a donation of several Radio-Controlled Airplanes from a neighbor family, John and Judy Geenwald, that they wanted to be



donated to an organization on DMAFB that would benefit military children. Bryan's neighbor, Ben Fernandez, volunteered space in one of his garages until a home could be found for the RC aircraft and spare parts like controllers, engines, propellers, and miscellaneous parts.

The local Civil Air Patrol squadron on DMAFB was contacted but didn't have room to store the RC aircraft and they didn't fit in well with the squadron's mission. In addition, the RC aircraft couldn't be flown on base. Turning to STARBASE Arizona, the director Kristine Impellizzeri, gladly accepted two aircraft for display in their classroom with the hope that a location to fly them could be found in the future.



Chapter president Wally Saeger discovered that Mica Mountain HS in the Vail School District had an RC Aircraft club that utilizes an airfield across the street from the school to fly their RC airplanes. After contacting the club's sponsor, Derek Langley, a date was set to deliver the remaining aircraft, propellers, engines, controllers, and miscellaneous parts.



As a result, Kristine and Derek were put in contact and are planning to establish a partnership so that STARBASE Arizona can participate in the flying activities of the Mica Mountain HS RC Airplane Club; a definite win win for both.

Thanks Bryan for your efforts in making this happen and thanks Ben for your assistance in transporting and the loan of your garage space.

Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month



Sexual Assault Awareness
Prevention Month

SAPR Office Open House

Thurs 11 April 2024
1030-1330

Win one of
50 FREE
meal vouchers!

- ★ Food Truck Rally
- ★ FREE Gaming Truck
- ★ Corn Hole
- ★ DJ
- ★ Therapy Dogs

FOOD TRUCKS

SAPR Office
Bldg 2300
Wing Building
DSN: 228-7272

USO AFA Chapter 105

Sexual Assault Prevention & Response
Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona
520-228-7272 520-940-8058
SAPR

AFA Chapter 105 co-sponsored the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month kick-off event on 11 April.



Airmen who toured the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPR) were able to compete for food vouchers for lunches from several food trucks



Volunteer Victim Advocates explaining SAPR programs and services to attendees



Attendees enjoying the amenities offered at the SAAPM kick-off

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 (C)

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

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

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

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

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!!

July 2024

- Jul 1st: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, OG Conf Rm, DMAFB (all welcome!)
- Jul 26th: No Chapter meeting due to summer break
- Jul 28th: Loft Meal, 1630, Bldg 3610, DMAFB, (All welcome) Contact me for more details

August 2024

- Aug 5th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, OG Conf Rm, DMAFB (all welcome!)
- Aug 23rd: Chapter Meeting, 1130, Subject TBD, American Legion Post 36

September 2024

- Sep 9th Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, OG Conf Rm, DMAFB (all welcome!)
- Sep 14th-15th: AFA National Convention, Gaylord Center, National Harbor MD
- Sep 16th-18th: AFA National Conference, Gaylord Center, National Harbor MD
- Sep 27th: Chapter Meeting, Subject & Location TBD

SAVE THESE DATES:

- Oct 7th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, OG Conf Rm, DMAFB (all welcome!)
- Oct 25th: Chapter Meeting, Subject & Location TBD
- Nov 4th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, OG Conf Rm, DMAFB (all welcome!)
- Nov 22nd: Chapter Meeting, Subject and Location TBD
- Dec 2nd: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, OG Conf Rm, DMAFB (all welcome!)
- Dec 19th: Chapter Meeting, Jt Awards Lunch W/Daedalians, 1130, American Legion Post 36

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.