



Flight Line

Air & Space Forces Association

Chapter 105



2024-4

Tucson, Arizona

October 2024

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VP Communications

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From the Prez -

Happy Fall. I hope that cooler temps are finally coming and 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 we didn't hold a chapter meeting in July, several of your chapter officers fed about 40 hungry airmen with some home-cooked food at "The Loft" Sunday evening, July 28th. "The Loft" is sponsored by the DMAFB Chapel and is in one of DMAFB dorms. It serves as a casual meeting place and is equipped with a large screen TV, online gaming equipment and some musical instruments for when the airmen need a break from their normal living environment. It is also a place to socialize with like-minded airmen.

Our August chapter meeting on August 23rd was a presentation by Jeannie Tucker, daughter of Warrant Officer James W. Tucker of the 299th Combat Engineer Battalion. The 299th Combat Engineer Battalion was the only combat engineer unit to land on both Omaha and Utah beaches during the 1944 D-Day invasion. Chief Warrant Officer Tucker commanded a group of eight armored tractors whose mission was to clear obstacles and open paths off the beaches. Jean was so inspired by her father's stories she has become a passionate advocate for their history. She single-handedly manages their website and is continuously tracking down photos and stories from the families of members of the 299th Combat Engineers. Jean has many intriguing stories of the 299th and of her efforts to document and memorialize their exploits.

AFA held its National Convention, September 14-15, at the Gaylord Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, MD followed by the Air, Space & Cyber Conference, September 16-18 at the same location. While only about 200 registered delegates attended the National Convention, over 21,000 individuals were registered to attend the ASC Conference. See separate article for more information.

At our September 27th Chapter Meeting, election of chapter officers was held and the following were unanimously elected for another term: Wally Saeger, President;

Bryan Foulk, Executive VP; Vicki Jo Ryder, Secretary; and Marie Lankford, Treasurer. After a great buffet, Wally gave a presentation that included an overview of both the convention and the conference followed by an overview of how AFA is organized from National down to the local chapter level. This overview also included the many activities of AFA, again from the national to the local chapter level.

Our October 25th chapter meeting will be held at our normal location, American Legion Post 36 on 22nd Street. Ed Ryder will do a presentation: 50 years of the F-16 Fighting Falcon; a brief look at the history and evolution of the Viper.

We're currently not planning on a chapter meeting in November but there are several events listed in "Upcoming Events" elsewhere in this newsletter that you might be interested in.

Our December chapter meeting will be a joint meeting with the Daedalians Old Pueblo Flight 12 on Thursday, December 5th at the American Legion Post 36. At this meeting, we will award our chapter's AFA scholarship to a non-flying candidate cadet from the University of Arizona AFROTC Det 020 while the Daedalians will award their flying candidate scholarships to a cadet from Air Force, Army and Navy ROTC programs.

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 fund-raising event that directly supports YOUR chapter.

Chapter 105 is part of the Fry's Community Rewards Program. This program makes fund-raising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day.

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



Chapter's August Meeting 299th Combat Engineer Battalion Jeannie Tucker

The 299th Combat Engineer Battalion was the only combat engineer unit to land on both Omaha and Utah beaches during the D-Day invasion. Some of the engineers landed before any other allied soldiers set foot on the beaches earning them the nickname "First on Omaha". Chief Warrant Officer James W. Tucker was among them. His daughter Jean joined us to share more about the "Famous 299th".



President Saeger's presentation to Jean-Tucker

James commanded a group of eight armored tractors whose mission was to clear obstacles and open paths off the Normandy beaches. One third of the Combat Engineer Battalion that landed on Omaha beach was killed missing or wounded. For their heroic efforts that day, they would be awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.



CWO James W. Tucker

Tucker was also assigned the somber job of creating the first American cemetery in Normandy. There were so many bodies on the beaches that the equipment could not land without driving over the bodies of their fellow soldiers. Tucker used a bulldozer to dig a mass grave while still under fire and he and his comrades "stacked the bodies like cordwood." These remains were eventually relocated.

Members of the 299th would fight and build their way across Europe to the heart of Germany.

Jean was so inspired by her father's stories she has become a passionate advocate for their history. She single handedly manages their website and is continuously tracking down photos and stories from the families of members of the 299th Combat Engineers. Family or living members of the Battalion are encouraged to contact Jean through their website .



Two historic U.S. nuclear bombers, their first flights separated by almost half a century, took to the skies together over Missouri at the weekend. The formation flights by the U.S. Air Force [B-2 Spirit stealth bomber](#) and the [B-29 Doc](#) — one of only two examples of the World War II-era bomber that are flying — were the first time that these two legendary aircraft had flown together in this manner, the service states.

The formation flights recognized a key link in the heritage of the types, namely the 509th Bomb Wing that today operates the B-2, but which was originally established in World War II to fly nuclear missions with the B-29.

Chapter's September Meeting

Our September chapter meeting was held on Friday, September 27th at the American Legion Post 36. Election of officers was held (see separate article).

In lieu of a guest speaker, Wally Saeger gave a summary of the National Convention held September 14 -15 at the Gaylord Resort and Convention Center on National Harbor, MD and the Air, Space & Cyber Conference that took place September 16 – 18 at the same location. See separate article.

In addition, a rundown on the various activities supported by AFA National and Tucson Chapter 105 was presented. Besides our normal group of chapter members, we had two AFROTC cadets from the University of Arizona's Det 020 and the new detachment commander, Colonel Cory "Ogre" Christoffer attended the meeting.

Election of Chapter Officers

During the September 27th members chapter meeting, those present voted unanimously to reelect the following chapter officers to serve another 1-year term starting October 1, 2024:

President: Wally Saeger
Vice-President: Bryan Foulk
Secretary: Vickie Jo Ryder
Treasurer: Marie Lankford

AFA Advocates to Inspire Military Service

AFA Advocates to Inspire Military Service (AIMS) is a partnership between the Air & Space Forces Association and the U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service. AIMS connects AFA's nationwide network of 200+ Chapters with AFRS' 1,100 professional recruiters. Together, we will inspire the next generation of Airmen and Guardians.

Today, only 23 percent of American youth today are eligible for military service. Less than 10 percent of today's youth are even interested. In fiscal 2023, Active-duty recruiting fell short of the goal by about 11 percent, while Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard recruiting were even further behind—30 percent under goal. **We must reinspire our nation.**

We are not asking our members to be recruiters, but "influencers" who work to reach that 91 percent of our young men and women who have no knowledge of the Air & Space Forces, what we do, or why it's important.





There has been much excitement at STARBASE Arizona. Not only did the team welcome a new instructor, but we continue making additional technological advancements to our robotics and science curriculum. The program has provided STEAM instruction to 186 5th grade students since the 2024-2025 academic year began in July. Students attend from the Vail, Amphi, Sunnyside and Tucson Unified School Districts and participate in 25 hours of challenging “hands-on, minds-on” activities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The goal is to inspire and engage students in unforgettable educational experiences within a discovery/inquiry based environment. Davis-Monthan has hosted the program for nearly 19 years.

This past August, the STARBASE Arizona Advanced program launched a Forensics unit for 7th graders at Corona Foothills Middle School. Students are learning how to collect evidence, identify markers in fingerprints, discover how chromatography is helpful to an investigation and so much more. They will work in teams to solve a campus crime in December. It has been truly phenomenal to watch these students in action.



Recently, the team launched our latest robot, the Dobot. The Dobot is a robotic arm where students can code in the 3D world. They identify coordinate points, not only the x and y-axis but also the z-axis. Amazon utilizes Sparrow, which is their robotic arm. This provides real world connections for STARBASE Arizona students. It is such a rewarding experience for students, one that brings much excitement when they understand how specific their coding needs to be in order to yield the outcome they were striving for.



STARBASE Arizona is grateful to be supporting students this year and equally grateful for the support of our partner districts and military community. The military personnel at Davis Monthan have already been volunteering their time by assisting students with launching bottled rockets and sharing how their careers connect to each of the STEM fields. Since we launched in July, 77 military personnel have logged in nearly 61 volunteer hours.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact STARBASE Arizona director Kristine Impellizzeri at (520) 228-0912 or via email at impellizzeri@vailschooldistrict.org

“A Little Bit of History” *McDonnell Douglas C-9A Nightingale*



The McDonnell Douglas C-9 is a retired military version of the McDonnell Douglas DC-9 airliner. It was produced as the C-9A Nightingale for the United States Air Force. The final flight of the C-9A Nightingale was in September 2005.

In 1966, the U.S. Air Force identified a need for an aeromedical transport aircraft and ordered C-9A Nightingale aircraft the following year. Deliveries began in 1968. The U.S. Air Force received 21 C-9A aircraft from 1968 to 1969. The C-9As were used for medical evacuation, passenger transportation, and special missions from 1968 to 2005. The C-9A were named for English social reformer Florence Nightingale (1820–1910), the founder of modern nursing.

One C-9A was converted for executive transport and stationed at Chievres, Belgium; a second aircraft was converted for VIP transport by the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein Air Base.

C-9A (AF serial number 67-22584) is the first C-9A accepted for the Military Airlift Command, and was additionally the first American jet aircraft specifically designed for medical evacuation. It is on display at the Air Mobility Command Museum at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware

General characteristics

- **Crew:** 5 to 8
- **Capacity:** up to 76 pax
- **Length:** 119 ft 3 in
- **Wingspan:** 93 ft 5 in
- **Height:** 27 ft 6 in
- **Empty weight:** 59,700 lb
- **Max takeoff weight:** 110,000 lb

Powerplant:

- 2 × Pratt & Whitney JT8D-9 turbofan engines, 14,500 lb thrust each

Performance

- **Maximum speed:** 580 mph
- **Maximum speed:** Mach 0.84
- **Cruise speed:** 558 mph
- **Range:** 2,520 nmi
- **Service ceiling:** 37,000 ft
- **Rate of climb:** 3,000 ft/min

Avionics

- Weather radar

Chapter 105 Hosts Southwest Region Conference

Your Tucson Chapter 105 again hosted the Southwest Region Conference, July 12 – 13, 2024 at the Ramada by Wyndham Viscount Suites Tucson East. The conference was attended by representatives from Nevada and New Mexico as well as from Tucson Chapter 105 and Sierra Vista Chapter 107.

The conference started unofficially Thursday evening with a Welcome Social for those that wanted to attend.

The official portion of the conference began Friday morning with a tour of the 55th Rescue Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB where we received a capability briefing and hands-on-tour of the HH-60W rescue helicopter; the latest & greatest to help accomplish the important mission of rescue. This was followed by a tour of DMAFB's STARBASE education facility conducted by the Program Director, Kristine Impellizzeri. The tour was both informative and entertaining as Kristine explained the mission of STARBASE and demonstrated the capabilities of the classrooms utilized by STARBASE.

Friday afternoon started with Opening Remarks by AFA's new President & CEO, Burt Field, by VTC from DC discussing his background and leadership philosophy, his initial take on the state of AFA, and his view of the future for AFA.



Pres. & CEO Burt Field

Southwest Region President Alan Berg welcomed all attending, especially those traveling from Nevada and New Mexico.

Vance Clark gave a VTC overview presentation on a new initiative, AFA AIMS (Advocates to Inspire Military Service). This initiative, based on a Memorandum of Agreement with the Air Force Recruiting Service, would pair AFA chapters with the closest recruiting squadron to help them meet their recruiting goals. We are not being asked to be recruiters, but “influencers” who work to reach that 91 percent of our young men and women who have no knowledge of the Air & Space Forces, what we do, or why it's important.

After a short break, the afternoon continued with a briefing by Captain Foster Pace and SSgt Colin Hoang on the new EA-37B “Compass Call” which is the replacement for the aging EC- 130H. 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, electronic attack (EA), and suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD) support. The aircraft is based on the ultra-long-range Gulfstream G550 business aircraft and adapted from the Navy's special mission configuration. The first Air Force designated aircraft arrived at DMAFB in August for aircrew training.



Capt. Pace, President Saeger, SSgt. Hoang

For the dinner Friday night, we were able to host the 355th Wing Commander, Col Scott Mills and his wife Michelle, and the 355th Wing Command Chief Micheal Becker and his wife Carey. Col Mills and Chief Becker tag teamed about the coming changes to DMAFB with divestiture of the A-10, the arrival of the 492nd Special Operations Wing (designated as a force projection wing), and the increasing role of DMAFB as a “center of excellence” for Rescue. The end result will be a base population roughly the same size while the addition of the SOF mission will provide a continuing future for DMAFB as a premier flying location and mission for the Air Force.

Saturday morning saw several speakers starting with Alan Berg. SW Region President. Alan reiterated his approach to his job as a region president and his desire to be a filter and be a value-added asset to the field leaders in his region.

Chapter 105 Executive VP & VP for Government Relations, as well as AZ VP for Government Relations, Bryan Foulk, provided some insight into Advocacy within AFA based upon his experience as a member of AFA's subcommittee on advocacy.

State presidents, or their representatives, were then given a chance to showcase what was going on within their respective state.

To finish the morning and the conference, Wally Saeger, gave an overview of the Southwest Arizona AFA STEM Camp that was conducted March 2 – 3, 2024 on DMAFB. The camp was attended by 35 AZ STEM teachers. The STEM activities that the teachers participated in were highlighted and the video produced by ASU was shown. The camp was conducted in partnership with ASU's Arizona STEM Acceleration Project.

After a buffet lunch, conference participants headed home.



Chief Becker, President Saeger, Col. Mills

PHOTO ALBUM



Members of the 355th wing pose after enjoying pizza and beer the first evening of the 2024 AFA Air, Space & Cyber Conference, courtesy of Bryan Foulk and Wally Saeger



L-R: 2024 AFA National TOY Ty White, Bryan Foulk, George Castle and Wally Saeger pose in the entrance hall of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division, West Bethesda, MD during the 2024 AFA Air, Space & Cyber Conference



L-R: Wally Saeger, Bryan Foulk, Congressman Juan Ciscomani, 2024 AFA National TOY Ty White, and George Castle at the conclusion of an office visit with Congressman Ciscomani during the 2024 AFA Air, Space & Cyber Conference



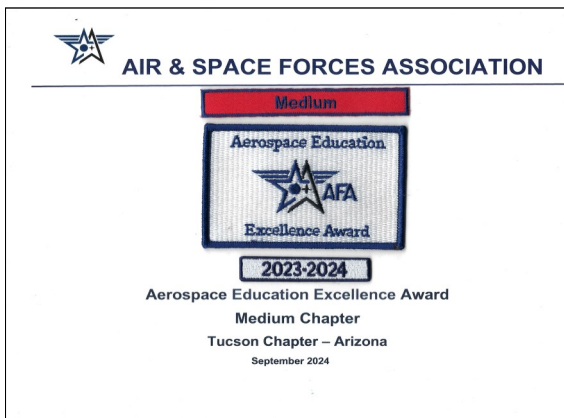
L-R: Bryan Foulk, Senator Mark Kelly, and 2024 AFA National TOY Ty White pose at the end of the office visit with Senator Kelly during the 2024 AFA Air, Space & Cyber Conference



L-R: Wally Saeger, Bryan Foulk, Senator Kyrsten Sinema, 2024 AFA National TOY Ty White, and George Castle pose on the steps of Congress during the 2024 AFA Air, Space & Cyber Conference



Chapter 105 President Wally Saeger poses with Marilyn Zabowski during the April chapter meeting to acknowledge the Outstanding Volunteer Award that she received from the Veterans Affairs—VA Southern Arizona



KC-10: End of a career.....heading to the "Boneyard"



EA-37B "Compass Call": Heading to Davis-Monthan AFB

AFA 2024 National Convention and Air, Space & Cyber Conference

The 2024 AFA National Convention was held 14 – 15 September at the Gaylord Resort and Convention Center on National Harbor MD. The convention is the annual meeting attended by delegates from states and chapters from across the US and overseas. In the past, election of national officers was held during the convention but this year it was done differently. Each state was given a quota to fill with designated voters, the quota for Arizona was 11, and the voters had to be identified by a specific date. Only active members of AFA were allowed to vote. The voting was done electronically with each voter receiving an email with a link to cast their votes. The voting period started at 12:01 AM (EDT), Sunday, 1 September and ended 11:59 PM (EDT), Saturday, 14 September. While there were a few hiccups, all 11 voters from Arizona cast their ballots before the end of the voting period. The following were elected to fill the designated offices effective 1 October 2024:

Vice Chair of the Board, Education – Gary Copsey
National Secretary -Paul Hedricks
Treasurer - Chuck Martin
National Director, West - Bobi Oates
National Director, at Large (Two open positions) - Wesley Hallman and Doug Slocum

Other business was conducted during the two days including numerous reports on the past year's activities by AFA.

The highlight of the convention was the Awards Dinner held Saturday evening where numerous awards for individual, chapter and state achievements.

Chapter 105 was recognized with the following awards:
Aerospace Education Excellence Award – Medium Chapter Aerospace Education Achievement Award (see award certificates on page 5)
Special Recognition Membership Award – Chapter Growth In addition, the following chapter members were recognized:

Ed Ryder – Medal of Merit
Bryan Foulk – Exceptional Service Award

During the dinner, the 2024 National AFA Thompson/Mallet Teacher of the Year, David Tyrel “Ty” White, was recognized. Although not from our chapter, Ty is from Sierra-Vista Chapter 107, and he continues a recent history of Arizona TOYs winning this prestigious award. Ty was the runner-up last year.

The Convention Guide which has the agenda and a list of all of the awards is available at: https://www.afa.org/app/uploads/2024/08/NC24_Guide_web.pdf

The 2024 Air, Space & Cyber Conference was held 16 – 18 September, also at the Gaylord.

With over 21,000 registered to attend, it was the largest conference to date. The 3-day event was packed with 46 sessions featuring 160-plus senior leaders from across the Department of the Air Force, aerospace industry and more.

Monday morning started with the Secretary of the Air Force, the Honorable Frank Kendall, followed by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General David W. Alvin.

The exhibit hall was packed with nearly 300 booths.

The guide for the Conference as well as videos and/or transcripts for the sessions can be found at the AFA website: <https://www.afa.org/air-space-cyber-conference/>

As part of the conference, the Twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year were recognized Monday afternoon while the Air Force's 77th Birthday was celebrated at the conference's closing event Wednesday night.

As usual, members of the 355th Wing were in attendance and treated to pizza and beer Monday night by Bryan Foulk and Wally Saeger at a local Washington DC brewery.

On Tuesday, Bryan Foulk, George Castle (Chapter 107 President) and Wally Saeger had the privilege of escorting Ty White on a visit to the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, West Bethesda MD, where we observed the unique capabilities to enhance fleet readiness and help design the Navy's fleet of the future.

Following that visit, Tuesday was rounded out by a photo op on the steps of Congress with Senator Krysten Sinema and an office visit with Representative Juan Ciscomani.

Wednesday morning involved an office visit with Senator Mark Kelly by Ty White, Bryan Foulk and Wally Saeger before Ty and Wally headed to Reagan National airport to begin their trips back to Arizona.

AFA Chapter 105 Supports AMC Loft Meal in July

For Airmen living in the dorms, life outside of work can be isolating. Most are away from their friends and family, and many may not know a lot of people living around them. The Airmen's Ministry Center (AMC) runs an area in the dormitory called the Loft, which provides Airmen a place to go to meet others and enjoy a number of amenities. The Loft offers video game systems, big screen televisions, a full kitchen and more. The Loft provides an alcohol-free social gathering area for Airmen with the rank of senior airman or below. It's a place where they can come together, meet new people and just have fun.

Not only does the Loft provide Airmen with entertainment and a place to hang out, the Loft feeds them as well. Every Sunday, outside organizations provide a free, home-cooked meal for all the Airmen in the dorms. On Sunday, 28 July Air & Space Forces Association, Tucson Chapter 105 provided the meal, serving dorm residents homemade pulled pork, BBQ chicken, mac & cheese, pineapple upside down cake and more. We served almost 40 airmen. Not only did they get a fantastic home-cooked meal, but our participating members had the opportunity to meet and interact with them to get to know what's on the minds of some of our youngest and sharpest airmen. Overall, the evening was a big success supported by AFA Tucson Chapter 105. Stay tuned for future opportunities to help out at the Loft!



Chapter President Wally Saeger provides table service for some of the Airmen



Community Partner Dave Carrell (Chick-fil-A) and Wally help out at the serving line



President Saeger trying to figure out the next move



Enjoying fellowship

HAWGSMOKE 2024



Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
11-15 September



Hawgsmoke is a biannual A-10 aerial gunnery competition bringing together the best Attack Pilots in the USAF. This year, the event was hosted by Davis Monthan's 47th Fighter Squadron "Termites" and brought together 13 teams from A-10 squadrons across the US for 5 days of intense flying, heritage, and camaraderie. The event kicked -off on Wednesday, September 11th with a ceremony at Heritage Park paying tribute to the 9/11 victims and a roll call of all fallen A-10 "Hawg" drivers followed by a flyover and missing man formation of a 4-ship of 47th FS A-10s.



Hawgsmoke 2024 Weapons Load Competition

On Thursday, the 47th hosted several of our AFA members and other supporters in the A-10 simulator. Feedback from those who participated was "incredible". Later that day our members were invited to observe the Load Competition along with being able to get up close and personal with an A-10 on static display. It was exciting watching weapons load crews from the two finalist squadrons compete head-to-head for the championship.

Friday was the flying competition, and some of our Chapter members were invited to the Goldwater Range Complex near Gila Bend to observe several of the aerial bombing and gunnery events.



Brrrrrrttt

The overall winner of this year's competition was the host unit, the 47th Fighter Squadron. They not only won Top Overall



Spectators at Gila Bend Range

Team, but also Top Conventional Bombing Team, Top Conventional Strafe Team and Top Tactical Team. Congratulations to the "Termites" and thank you for including our AFA chapter members in the activities and events.



MEMBERSHIP

We have quite a few new members and transferees into Chapter 105 this 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. Watch your email for announcements regarding the monthly meetings and other AFA opportunities. Welcome!

A note to all members: We are looking for help with our social media management, primarily Facebook and the Webpage. If you have the skills and a couple hours a month to assist, we would love to have you join our Executive Committee. Please contact Wally Saeger wsaegero6@gmail.com or Ed Ryder ryder-f16@msn.com if you are interested in helping out Chapter 105.

New Members

SSgt David A Soto
2LT Grace Brandt
MSgt Jeremy Stegehuis
SMSgt Steven A.D. Brooks
SrA Wendy Ann Wille
Mr. Bobby Ryan Stapleton
MSgt Christopher M. McLellan
Capt Hunter Besancon
2LT Jared A Lizano
SSgt Jeffrey T Prasad
CMSgt Jerome Clark
MSgt Joseph E Palma
Mr. Joshua C Starkey
Maj Kyle Dowd
Mr. Bob Sanchez
SSgt Cameron P Uehling
Mr. Carlos O Peña
TSgt Christopher A Hernandez

Mr. Curtis Cool
SSgt Dakota Operle
1LT Elijah Perleberg
Maj Eric Jones
Lt Col Geoffrey Border
2LT Grace Kimzey
Col (ret) Jeffery Thompson
SSgt Jordan Chiang
SMSgt Joseph Trudel
Mr. Kevin Borgatti
Maj Kyle A Trafton
1LT Lauren Hazlett
1LT Mallory Ambrose
MSgt Marcos L Nunez
SSgt Mark A Mayfield
1LT Michael Bishop
1LT Robert J Albertini
SSgt Ryan Carlson
Mr. Ryan P Heaton

Mr. Samuel Romo
A1C Savanna Chambers
MSgt Shakius L Hawkins
Mr. Steven Swauger
SrA Tanner Princell
Brig Gen Tara Nolan
MSgt Travis J. McLeod

Transfers

MSgt Jeremy Stegehuis
Col Daniel J. Wittmer
Lt Col (ret) Benjamin F. Saenz
Lt Col (ret) Charles D. Ogren
Charles E. Schmeling
MSgt Gary E. Reinhardt
Maj (ret) John F. Reid
Lt Col (ret) Tim B. Reed
Col Cory Christoffer

AFA's K-12 Educator Grant Program



The Air & Space Forces Association believes that one of the most significant means to affect student learning is to fund grants to meet the unmet and unfunded educational needs of students.

Air & Space Forces Association Educator Grant Program promotes aerospace education activities in classrooms from kindergarten through twelfth grades. The program encourages development of innovative aerospace activities within the prescribed curriculum.

Each school year, the Association awards grants of up to \$500 to worthy projects that significantly influence student learning. **AFA is accepting grant applications from Sep 1 – Dec 15, 2024.**

For more information, and application instructions go to: [Education Grants - Air & Space Forces Association \(afa.org\)](http://afa.org)

July 19, 2024

Air Force Association
Tucson Chapter 105
PO Box 15057
Tucson, Az 85708

Dear AFA (and Wally),

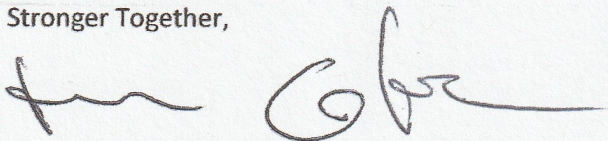
You are amazing!

We received your generous gift of \$500 for our Heroes and Horses Program. This donation means a lot to us and will be put to good use for our veterans and active-duty military personnel. We pride ourselves on providing our services 100% free to all veterans, first responders, their dependents and spouses. I distinctly remember a moment last year when an active-duty Air Force member was on TROT property with his wife and child for their orientation. When he was told that our services were free to him - he cried. These moments are only possible because of organizations such as the AFA, Tucson Chapter.

Your incredibly generous and unexpected gift was inspiring and really gave me a moment of pause. It is easy to become discouraged in a world where every day seems to bring new national and international crises. However, it is amazing organizations like you, who through their selfless deeds, help us keep our faith in humanity! We remain strong because of you!

On behalf of everyone at TROT, our staff, board of directors, participants, and equine friends, I cannot express how much your gift means to us!

Stronger Together,



Jeffrey H. Copfer
Executive Director

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
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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 as the opportunity presents itself. 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!!

Oct 2024

- No Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, it was held September 30th
- 25th: Chapter Meeting, 1130, Briefing by Ed Ryder on 50 years of F-16: its history & development, American Legion Post 36

Nov 2024

- 4th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, OG Conf Rm, DMAFB (all welcome!)
- 11th: Assist with Veterans Day Program at Broadway Proper, more details to follow
- 22nd: Chapter Meeting, TBD
- 25th: Dorm Feed, DMAFB, 1500-1800, more details to follow, MUST HAVE BASE ACCESS to participate

Dec 2024

- 2nd: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, OG Conf Rm, DMAFB (all welcome!)
- 5th: Joint Chapter Meeting with Daedalians, 1130, American Legion Post 36

SAVE THESE DATES:

- Jan 6th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, OG Conf Rm, DMAFB (all welcome!)
- Jan 24th: Chapter Meeting, Subject and Location TBD
- Feb 3rd: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, TBD)
- Feb 28th: No Chapter Meeting, **Tentatively Heritage Flight Weekend**
- Feb 28 – Mar 2: **Tentatively Heritage Flight Weekend**
- Mar 3rd: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, OG Conf Rm, DMAFB (all welcome!)
- Mar 22 – 23: **Thunder & Lightning Over Arizona Air Show**, DMAFB
- Mar 28th: No Chapter Meeting due to Air Show

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.