



Flight Line

Air & Space Forces Association

Chapter 105



2024-1

Tucson, Arizona

January 2024

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From the Prez -

Happy New Year. Welcome to 2024 and what should be another great year for you and everyone that you know.

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.

Our October chapter meeting our guest speaker was Dr. Josh Appel who is currently, the Director of Emergency Medicine at the Tucson VA Center. His presentation centered around his experience as an Air Force PJ and his involvement in the rescue of the Seal Team member Marcus Luttrell who was badly injured during Operation RED WINGS and the bodies of his three teammates. See separate article.

Also in October, chapter members helped support "Spooktacular" at the Military & Family Readiness Center on Wednesday October 25th where children from DMAFB could go through haunted "halls" and receive candy treats before munching on snacks and drinks.

While we didn't have a chapter meeting in November, your chapter leadership was still busy. Several chapter officers participated in the Veterans' Day recognition program at Broadway Proper on Friday, November 10th which recognized approximately 30 veterans of the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

Then on Monday, November 20th, we again participated in the Annual Dorm Bash on DMAFB on Monday, November 20th to feed dorm residents before they headed home on leave or celebrated Thanksgiving in the local area. The food was supplied by Brushfire BBQ which is one of our Community Partners and your chapter donated funds to help defray the costs of the event.

November saw the Chief Master Sergeant Carl E. Beck Airmen Leadership School hold its first formal graduation dinner & ceremony since COVID on Thursday, November 21st at The Hilton Garden East. It was a chance to see if my mess dress still fit and participate in this event marking the completion of the first PME for our enlisted airmen and guardians.

Our December meeting was a joint meeting with the Daedalians Old Pueblo Flight12 on Thursday December 7th. The event was a chance to present scholarships to ROTC cadets from the University of Arizona. The Daedalians presented scholarships to flying candidate cadets while your chapter awarded a scholarship to a non-flying cadet. See separate article.

The remainder of December was filled with several activities that saw participation by chapter members. First was the Wreathes Across America Which took place on Saturday, December 16th at East Lawn Palms Cemetery. The event honors deceased veterans by laying a wreath on their grave and had several hundred participants laying over 2,000 wreathes.

And what would be December without "Cookies & Cocoa with Santa"? This year's event took place at the Military & Family Readiness Center on Tuesday, December 19th. Volunteers from the chapter which stationed in the "gift room" where kids, with the help of their parents could select up to three gifts from several thousand on display. No child left empty handed and yet there were still gifts left due to the generous support of numerous organizations and Tucson businesses.

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. See separate article on the program.

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.

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 **Dr. Josh Appel** **Chief of Emergency Medicine** **Southern Arizona VA Health System**

Our October chapter meeting guest speaker was Major (Ret) Josh Appel, M.D. Dr. Josh Appel is currently serving as Chief of Emergency Medicine at the Southern Arizona VA in Tucson AZ. He is also an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at The University of Arizona College of Medicine, where he was the Medical Director for Adult and Trauma Services for 6 years.



Maj. Appel was commissioned in 2007 after serving 12 years as an Air Force Pararescue Specialist in both active duty and Air Force Reserves. He attended the Aerospace Medicine course in San Antonio Texas in 2008, and became the Flight Surgeon for the 306th Rescue Squadron, the same Squadron where he served as a Pararescue Specialist.

In May of 2005, then Master Sargent Appel, volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan in support of OPERATION Enduring Freedom. Just days after graduating from The University of Arizona's College of Medicine, he boarded a plane to the war zone to provide Combat Search and Rescue coverage for US and allied forces. When not on alert for Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) duties, he volunteered at the Kandahar base hospital. It was during this deployment that Maj. Appel was involved with the rescue and recovery of the men of **Operation Red Wings**.

Operation Red Wings, informally referred to as the **Battle of Abbas Ghar**, was a joint military operation conducted by the United States in the Pech District of Kunar Province, Afghanistan. It was carried out from late-June to mid-July 2005 on the slopes of a mountain named *Sawtalo Sar*, situated approximately 20 miles (32 km) west of the provincial capital of Asadabad. The operation was intended to disrupt the activities of local Taliban-aligned anti-coalition militias (ACM), thus contributing to regional stability and thereby facilitating the September 2005 parliamentary election for the National Assembly of Afghanistan. At the time, Taliban ACM activity in the region was carried out predominantly by a small group led by a local man from Nangarhar Province known as Ahmad Shah, who had aspirations of achieving regional prominence among Muslim fundamentalists. Consequently, Shah and his group were one of the primary targets of the American military operation.

A team of four Navy SEALs, tasked with surveillance and reconnaissance of a group of structures known to be used by Shah and his men, were ambushed by Shah and his group just hours after inserting into the area by fast-roping from an MH-47 Chinook helicopter. Three of the four SEALs were killed during the ensuing battle, and one of the two quick reaction force (QRF) helicopters sent in for their aid was shot down by an RPG-7 fired by Shah's insurgents, killing all eight U.S. Navy SEALs and all eight U.S. Army Special Operations aviators on board.

The operation then became known as **Red Wings II** and lasted approximately three more weeks, during which time the bodies of the killed SEALs and Army Special Operations aviators were recovered and the only surviving member of the initial SEAL team, Marcus Luttrell, was rescued.

Josh detailed his participation in those rescue and recovery operations, including his identification of Marcus Luttrell,

before Luttrell was loaded into the helicopter for extraction. This action resulted in the book *"Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10"* and the subsequent movie *"Lone Survivor"*.

Josh completed a residency program in Emergency Medicine at Albany Medical College and returned to The University of Arizona as faculty in 2009. During this time, Dr. Appel began a national fundraiser called Memorial Day Murph that was based on a workout done by Michael Murphy he called 'Body Armor'. This started as a CrossFit-based fundraiser but has blossomed into a global event done by thousands of people every year and is now called The Murph Challenge. Lt. Michael Murphy was the leader of the four man surveillance SEAL team during Operation Red Wings and was one of the three killed in action.

After returning to Tucson and working at The University of Arizona for 9 years, Dr. Appel transitioned to the VA and became Chief of Emergency Medicine at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System. This move gives Josh the opportunity to help improve the care provided to our Veterans and continue his commitment to serve, by caring for those who served.

Josh lives in Tucson with his wife Angela, three daughters and two dogs.

Chapter's December Program **Cadet Abigail Swalander** **AFROTC Scholarship Award**

December's chapter meeting was a joint meeting with The Daedalians Old Pueblo Flight 12 at the American Legion Post 42 on December 7th. The meeting was an opportunity to recognize ROTC cadets from the University of Arizona with scholarships. The Daedalians scholarships were presented to ROTC cadets from the Army, Navy and Air Force who are looking to pursue careers as military aviators. Your AFA chapter's scholarship is presented to a cadet pursuing a non-aviation career.



This year's recipient of the \$750 scholarship is Cadet Abigail Swalander, who was selected to be a human factors/systems engineer but is applying to be a Physician's Assistant for the Air Force. Her degree is in Biomedical Engineering and she was the Cadet Wing Vice Commander last semester.

Chapter president Wally Saeger along with Cadet Abigail Swalander who displayed her citation as the recipient of the Tucson Chapter 105's AFROTC Scholarship for 2023.



First Flight 12-17-35...88 years ago



Since the start of the 2023-2024 academic year, STARBASE Arizona has engaged 408 students from the Vail, Amphi, Sunnyside and Tucson Unified School Districts in “hands-on minds-on” Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics instruction. Students attend the program for 25 hours spread over 5 days. The team is getting ready to welcome 105 additional students starting in January. It has been absolutely rewarding to have students



engaged in challenging tasks that promote team discussions, critical thinking and innovative ideas.

STARBASE Arizona has had so many highlights occur thus far.

The program welcomed three new staff members. Each bring in their passion for STEM and have been instrumental in motivating our youth to take risks and challenge themselves.

Our 500th class entered our classroom on September 08th, 2023. This was a huge accomplishment for STARBASE Arizona and one that was celebrated with our Davis Monthan community, principals, teachers, and the amazing 5th graders who attended the program that day.



This past December STARBASE Arizona attended Vail School District’s Computer Science Night. Over 200 families attended the event. It was an outstanding opportunity to expose students of all ages to Onshape, our Computer Aided Design software. STARBASE has a partnership with PTC who is a leading software corporation. Their education team provides amazing tasks for our STARBASE students to accomplish. It is the same platform engineering design teams are using from companies around the globe, such as Volvo, Caterpillar and Faurecia.

STARBASE Arizona appreciates our Davis-Monthan Community. The time and expertise each member invests in our students is profound and leaves a positive footprint for these future STEM leaders. Military personnel show students how their careers connect to each of the STEM fields. They also assist students with launching bottled rockets which is definitely a favorite. Since we launched in August, 167 military personnel have logged in nearly 148 volunteer hours.

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

“A Little Bit of History”

Convair YB-60



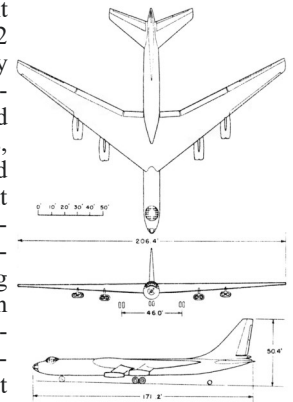
The Convair YB-60 was a prototype heavy bomber built by Convair for the United States Air Force in the early 1950s. It was a purely jet-powered development of Convair's earlier mixed-power B-36 Peacemaker.

On 25 August 1950, Convair issued a formal proposal for a swept-winged version of the B-36 with all-jet propulsion. The Air Force was sufficiently interested that on 15 March 1951, it authorized Convair to convert two B-36Fs as the B-36G. Since the aircraft was so radically different from the existing B-36, the designation was soon changed to YB-60.

The YB-60's unofficial competitor for an Air Force contract was Boeing's B-52 Stratofortress. Convair's proposal was substantially cheaper than Boeing's, since it involved modifying an existing design rather than starting from scratch. Like the B-52, it was powered by eight Pratt & Whitney J57-P-3 turbojets mounted in pairs in four pods suspended below the wing. Prior to this engine configuration Convair had evaluated a six-turboprop design and one with 12 J47 engines.

Convair YB-60 made its maiden flight on 18 April 1952. The Boeing YB-52 beat the Convair aircraft into the air by three days. The YB-60 was approximately 100 mph slower than the YB-52 and also had significant handling problems, due to its controls having been designed for slower operating speeds. The flight test programs were canceled on 20 January 1953, with 66 flying hours accumulated. The second prototype was nearing completion but its engines had not been installed and other equipment installations had not been completed. Since Convair completed their prototype contract satisfactorily, both YB-60s were formally accepted by the Air Force in 1954. The operational aircraft never flew again, and both airframes were scrapped by July.

An airliner adaptation of the YB-60 was proposed by Convair, but its wingspan and weight would have required unacceptable airport infrastructure changes beyond those required for the upcoming Boeing 707. The company decided to pursue the Convair 880 series airliner instead.



General characteristics

Crew: 5 (two pilots, navigator, bombardier/radio operator, radio operator/tail gunner, all in fwd compartment)

Powerplant: 8 × Pratt & Whitney J57-P-3 turbojet engines,

Performance

- **Maximum speed:** 508 mph
- **Combat range:** 2,920 mi

Armament

- **Guns:** 2 × 20 mm cannon in tail
- **Bombs:** 72,000 lb

Wreaths Across America

On December 16th, members Wally Saeger, Marie Lankford and Vickie Jo Ryder of the chapter and family members participated in the wreath laying ceremony at East Lawn Palms Cemetery as part of the nationwide Wreaths Across America event. After remarks from Marsha Moon (Gold Star Mother), MSgt Walter Ram (WWII Vet and POW) and others, we placed wreaths on veterans' graves throughout East Lawn Palms. Thank you to all who participated and to all who donated money for the wreaths this year. Due to everyone's generosity, over 3600 wreaths were placed, covering 100 percent of the veterans' gravesites at East Lawn Palms. For more information about Wreaths across America go to www.wreathsassamerica.org.



Chapter Member Involvement

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 is a federal holiday. (See calendar elsewhere for specific dates).

Also, if you know someone who might be interested in AFA, they are always welcome to become a member. The easiest way is to join online at the AFA web site, www.afa.org. They will find "JOIN" in the upper righthand corner of the home page. Or they can contact me: wsaegero6@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP

At the close out of 2023 the Tucson Chapter has 1066 members. Our membership numbers have remained stable throughout the year, with new members and members transferring their affiliation to Tucson offsetting any attrition we have had. The largest number of our membership, about 550 of us, are retired or veterans. Additionally, approximately 325 are active duty at Davis Monthan, 50 are Air National Guard or AF Reserve, 20 Spouse or family members and 10 DOD civilians. We also have several from the local community along with our seven community partner members. Most of our members are active duty or former Air force, however, there are also representatives in our chapter from USSF, USMC, USA and USN. All in all, we have a diverse and healthy membership as we enter 2024. Thank you everyone for your continued support to our Airmen and Guardians!

Happy New Year to all and welcome to our newest Tucson Chapter members!

Alan Engel
David Beck
CWO4 (ret) Roy Queipo
TSgt August R O'Niell
MSgt Braulia Rocha Price
MSgt Bryce Lehman
Capt Chad Sufficool
Maj Gen (ret) David Frostman
Maj Elizabeth Gallagher
Lt Col (ret) James T. Faull
A1C Jazmine Z McBride
Maj (ret) Julius C. Gutierrez
Capt Justin Waligora
Lt Col (ret) David M. Bowman
Lt Gen (ret) Glenn W. Moorhead
Lt Col Kyle Kloeckner

Wounded Airmen & Guardians Program

AFA created the Wounded Airmen & Guardians Program in 2011 with a focus on taking care of our DAF service members. The program is made up of supporters beyond just those who have had the privilege of wearing the uniform: We are family members, community supporters, spouses, and friends who make up our Air & Space Forces family. We will always take care of our own.

Who We Help

The Wounded Airmen & Guardians Program supports the [Air Force Wounded Warrior \(AFW2\)](https://www.afawap.org) program in its mission to provide personalized support and advocacy to wounded Airmen and Guardians, plus their caregivers and their families.

Wounded Airmen & Guardians

AFA's Wounded Airmen & Guardians Program supports the 14,000 servicemembers enrolled in the Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2) program and their families.

Caregivers

AFA provides travel funding, resiliency support, and more for 1,200+ caregivers and spouses enrolled in the Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2) Caregiver and Family Support Program.

How YOU Can Help

Thanks to donors, national sponsors, volunteers, and local communities, AFA has provided **more than \$1,000,000** to wounded Airmen, Guardians, and their Families during all stages of service—and we're just getting started! Learn how you can help <https://www.afa.org/wounded-airmen-guardians-program/> or contact us at afawap@afa.org to explore more opportunities to support our wounded heroes.

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

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!!

Jan 2024

- 8th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, OG Conf Rm, DMAFB (all welcome!)
- 19th: Chapter Meeting, 1130, Walter Ram, WWII Vet & POW, American Legion Post 36

Feb 2024

- 5th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, OG Conf Rm, DMAFB (all welcome!)
- 23rd: No Chapter Meeting, Heritage Flight, March 1st

Mar 2024

- 1st: Heritage Flight, DMAFB, Details to follow
- Mar 2 – 3: Chapter 105 Sponsoring a STEM Camp for Teachers, DMAFB
- 4th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, OG Conf Rm, DMAFB (all welcome!)
- 22nd: Chapter Meeting, Subject & Location TBD

SAVE THESE DATES:

- Apr 1st: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, Location TBD (all welcome!)
- Apr 26th: Chapter Meeting, Subject & Location TBD
- May 6th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, Location TBD (all welcome!)
- May 24th: No Chapter Meeting, Enjoy your Memorial Weekend
- Jun 3rd: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, Location TBD (all welcome!)
- Jun 28th: Chapter Meeting, Subject and Location TBD

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.