



Flight Line

Air Force Association Chapter 105



2021-1

Tucson, Arizona

January 2021

Chapter Officers

President

Wally Saeger
wsaeger06@gmail.com

Vice President

Mark Koechle
Mark.koechle@gmail.com

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 Develop.

VP Membership

Vickie Jo Ryder
ryderf16@yahoo.com

VP Veterans Affairs

Bill Goodall
bgoodall@mac.com

VP Military Liaison

Kevin Long
kevin.long41@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

VP AFA Golf Fundraiser

VP Public Affairs / Newsletter

Dick Roberts
rrrgv@aol.com

From the Prez -

Although we continue to live in “interesting times” and have seen the release of several vaccines that will hopefully help stem the tide of COVID-19 infections and speed the continued reopening of activities for the citizens of our great country, we are faced with the continued need for “social distancing” and self-protection until we gain widespread immunity.

Our October 23rd chapter meeting took place at the DMAFB Community Center where our guest speaker was Colonel Tommy Sanford, USAF (Ret). Colonel Sanford was the HQ TAC Project Officer for the A-X that became the A-10. He focused on the early development and testing of the A-10, including his very brief introduction to an A-10 at DMAFB before his first flight.

While we didn't have a chapter meeting in November, we did support the Annual Thanksgiving Dorm Feed for the airmen. This year's event fed over 250 airmen and then provided over 100 “meals-to-go” for airmen unable to leave their duty stations. Your chapter donated \$300 to help cover the cost of the event. See a more detailed article elsewhere in this newsletter.

On December 4th, we were part of the Christmas Dinner and Annual Awards co-hosted by the Order of Daedalians Old Pueblo Flight, Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association, and Chapter 105. Unfortunately, attendance was extremely limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. And the restrictions got even tighter only 2 days before the event which caused a last-minute panic and restructuring. For more details, see the related article in this newsletter.

As of now, we are planning for our January 2021 chapter meeting to include a briefing on the mission of the 309th Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Group (commonly known as the “Boneyard”) and a bus tour of some of the facilities and nearly 4,000 aircraft located on its 2,600 acres. This was planned originally for April 2020 but had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

We are also looking forward to the Heritage Flight Training & Certification Course currently planned for March 5-7 at DMAFB. Hopefully, we will get access to the flightline Friday March 5th like we have had in the past to get “up close and personal” with participating aircraft and then remain in the area to

watch the aerial training that takes place afterwards. Obviously, more to follow as the date gets closer.

One of “our” main events will be the 2021 Airshow, April 24-25. The 2021 airshow, “Thunder and Lightning Over Arizona” will feature The Thunderbirds, the USAF's aerial demonstration team, along with many other aerial demonstrations and ground displays. While there are no other details available yet, I am hoping we will again have the chance to have a chapter booth to tell the AFA story and encourage people to become members of AFA on the spot.

Initial planning is underway for the 2021 Annual Arizona AFA Gathering (the 2020 event was cancelled due to COVID-19), planned for May 14-15, and hosted by the Luke Chapter 151. The event will be held at “The Wigwam” Resort in Litchfield, AZ. The Wigwam, which opened in 1929, will be the site of a dinner Friday night and State and Southwest Region meetings on Saturday. The featured speaker will be the Dean of the Michell Institute, Lt Gen David Deptula, USAF (Ret). This should be a great event so please consider putting it on your calendar.

One aspect of COVID-19 has been the use of distance learning for many courses and AFA has adapted to that for the CyberGenerations course. The CyberGenerations course is aimed at seniors and is intended to emphasize the need for cyber security both online and on your phone. I would suggest that everyone take a look at the course at: <https://www.uscyberpatriot.org/Pages/Special%20Initiatives/Virtual-Workshop.aspx>.

While your chapter continues to be in good financial health, we are not sure when we can get back to larger fund-raising events like a golf tournament. We plan to use Arizona Gives again this spring to raise 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 Prime, considering making YOUR chapter the recipient of a donation every time you purchase something using Amazon Smile.

We are always looking for members who want to be involved and everyone is invited to our Executive Committee meetings, which have resumed as in-person meetings in the 355th Fighter Group Conference Room. The meetings are usually on the first Monday of the month unless it falls on a federal holiday. (See calendar elsewhere for specific dates).

And remember, we are all: *Airmen for Life*

Wally Saeger, President



Tucson Chapter's October Meeting Col. Tommy Sanford (Ret.)

Col. Tommy Sanford was born in the cotton mill town of Laurinburg, N.C. He went to college at N.C. State and obtained a degree in Geological Engineering. After graduation, he was off to Big Spring, TX and Webb AFB for pilot training in 1962-63. From there on to Luke AFB for F-100 training.



In 1967, Col. Sanford volunteered for Vietnam and flew 297 missions with the 3rd TFW at Bien Hoa AFB.

In 1968-73, he reported to Nellis AFB as an operational test pilot in the new F-111 followed by a staff tour at HQ TAC, Langley AFB, in Fighter Requirements and was Project Officer on the new A-X (soon to be the A-10). Col. Sanford then went to Davis-Monthan AFB as part of the A-10 operational test team.

When the A-10 testing was completed, he was off to Osan AFB, Korea for a staff tour with the 314th Air Division. Then back to D-M flying the A-10 as the 333rd TFS Operations Officer.

After promotion to Colonel, he was off to Europe to RAF Bentwaters, UK as DO of the 81st TFW flying the A-10 and then to Torrejon AFB, Spain as Vice Commander of the 401st TFW flying the F-16. Prior to leaving Europe, he went to Mildenhall AFB, UK as Vice Commander of the 3rd Air Force again flying the A-10.

Col. Sanford returned to the states in 1987 to HQ TAC at Langley AFB as head of Armament and Avionics Requirements and ended his career in 1989 after 27 years.

He amassed nearly 5,000 hours in 9 aircraft, including the T-37, T-38, F-100, F-4, F-111, F-80, A-10, F-16, and T-39.

After retirement from the Air Force, he worked at Hughes Aircraft Company in Tucson as the Manager of several defense programs for 8 years, then finally hung it up!

Tommy married his high school sweetheart, Shelia in 1960 while at N.C. State and they have 2 children, both graduates of the University of Arizona. His son flew the F-16 in the first Persian Gulf War and is now a Captain with American Airlines.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Dec. 16, 2020

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today, the formal launch of 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411), a single access point to all VA contact centers.

The number is available 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year to serve Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

Responding to Veteran feedback on the challenges of knowing the right number for VA assistance, 1-800-MyVA411, serves all members of the Veteran community seeking information or help. Veterans and their families can still reach the Veterans Crisis Line directly at 1-800-273-8255 and pressing 1, by Chat or by texting 838255. The White House VA Hotline is also still available at 1-855-948-2311 for Veterans and their families to share compliments and concerns.

"1-800-MyVA411 is always the right number to reach VA and is a great example of the department's customer service strategy in action," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "1-800-MyVA411 provides easy access to specialized contact centers as well as an option to immediately talk to a live agent."

When dialing 1-800-MyVA411, callers have the option of pressing 0 to be immediately connected with a customer service agent to answer questions or provide a warm-handoff to the appropriate VA expert.

During the pilot phase from Oct. 1, 2019–Sep. 30, 2020, 1-800-MyVA411 connected more than 1.3 million callers with VA contact centers and experts.

1-800-MyVA411 provides information on:

COVID-19 updates.

Health care eligibility and enrollment.

VA benefits, such as disability, compensation and pension, education programs, caregiver support, insurance, home loans, and burial headstones and markers among others.

The nearest VA medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries to Veterans, VA Medical Center operational updates and connection to VA Medical Center operators.

Directory assistance and technical support for www.VA.gov.

Debt and payment options.

For more information contact the [Veterans Experience Office](https://www.veteransexperience.com) at Vets-Experience@VA.gov





The **Bell YFM-1 Airacuda** was an American heavy fighter aircraft, developed by the Bell Aircraft Corporation during the mid-1930s. It was the first military aircraft produced by Bell. Originally designated the Bell Model 1, the Airacuda first flew on 1 September 1937. The Airacuda was marked by bold design advances and considerable flaws that eventually grounded the aircraft.

The Airacuda was Bell Aircraft's answer for a "bomber destroyer" aircraft. Although it did see limited production, and one fully operational squadron was eventually formed, only one prototype and 12 production models were ultimately built, in three slightly different versions.

In an effort to break into the aviation business, Bell Aircraft created a unique fighter concept touted to be "a mobile anti-aircraft platform" as well as a "convoy fighter." Created to intercept enemy bombers at distances beyond the range of single-seat fighter interceptors, the YFM-1 (Y, service test; F, fighter; M, multiplace) was an innovative design incorporating many features never before seen in a military aircraft, as well as several never seen again. Using a streamlined, "futuristic" design, the Bell Airacuda appeared to be "unlike any other fighters up to that time."



According to Major Alexander De Seversky's 1942 book, *Victory Through Air Power*, the Bell Airacuda "represents a great engineering achievement. But its designation as 'convoy fighter' is erroneous, since that requires different disposition of armament. With its maximum firepower directed forward, it really offers a preview of an effective long-range interceptor fighter."

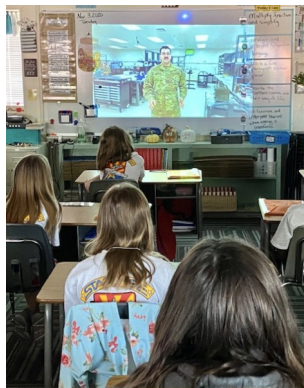
A forward-firing 37 mm (1.46 in) M4 cannon with an accompanying gunner was mounted in a forward compartment of each of the two engine nacelles. Although capable of aiming the cannons, the gunners' primary purpose was simply to load them with the 110 rounds of ammunition stored in each nacelle.

The crew of five included the pilot and gunners; a copilot/navigator who doubled as a fire-control officer, using a Sperry Instruments "Thermionic" fire control system (originally developed for anti-aircraft cannon) combined with a gyro-stabilised and an optical sight to aim the weapons; and a radio operator/gunner armed with a pair of machine guns stationed at mid-fuselage waist blisters for defense against attack from the rear.

An unusual feature of the Airacuda was the main door for entry. The door was opened and pulled down and hinges folded in on three steps for the crew to climb into the aircraft.

2020 has definitely been a memorable year for STARBASE Arizona! We have continued to provide STEM instruction to 5th graders despite the challenges of the current climate. Our partner districts we serve were fully remote this past fall. However, we were given the green light to open our classroom doors to a small group of military dependent students. Extensive planning went into ensuring the program complied with all COVID-19 restrictions. The team unanimously agreed that it was truly exciting to have the classroom humming with creative and inquisitive chatter from students again. Additional safety measures were implemented so students were able to explore and engage in key concepts using their own supplies. Student friendly safety expectations posters, which outlined how to be a STAR at STARBASE Arizona, were displayed in the classroom, hallways, and bathrooms. Even the hand sanitizer station was outfitted with STARBASE insignia thanks to our 3D printer.

We also partnered with the Youth Center and School-Age Program on Davis Monthan AFB and provided three 2-hour sessions to students. Group size did not exceed more than 10 to adhere to the current guidelines.



Instruction focused on chemistry and robotics. STARBASE on Wheels was activated for the first time which meant our instructors brought STARBASE to these locations.

In the last few months several of our partner school districts transitioned to a Hybrid Model where part of the class comes for in-person learning and part are learning remotely from home. Students are unable to be transported to the base. However, we were granted permission to bring STARBASE to the school. We have seen 10 classes so far using this model. Class size has ranged from 13 students to 20.

Our military community has been phenomenal! They continue to reach out or respond to our requests regarding volunteer opportunities. We value introducing students to the positive role models in the Air Force and want them to see the use of the fields we study in action. Under normal operations military personnel have come to the classroom and talked to the students about what they do here on base and how they use S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering and math) on a daily basis. Currently, we are unable to host in-person interactions, but we have been able to use pre-recorded videos to showcase several squadrons. We are grateful to still be able to share our DM community with the students.



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

2020 Thanksgiving Dorm Feed

The Tucson Military Affairs Committee, led by its new chairman, Colonel David Ifflander, US Army (Ret), again led the effort of organizing the 2020 Thanksgiving Dorm Feed which was held in the dorms common area on Monday, November 21st. This year, all hot food was supplied by BrushFire BBQ; the menu was delicious and there was plenty of it. There was turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing, gravy, green beans, rolls and butter. BrushFire also brought apple pies and pumpkin pies which were supplemented by donations of pecan and pumpkin pies, and water and soft drinks from other generous contributors. Your chapter donated \$300 towards the cost of the food from BrushFire BBQ which gave the event a great price according to David Ifflander.

While the preparation and cooking had been done by BrushFire BBQ, most of the servers came from local community volunteers including Dave Carrell and his wife Lola, Bill Goodall,

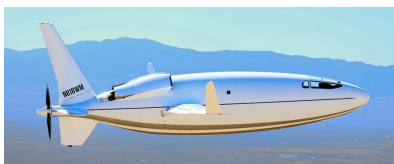


The banner displayed at the 2020 Dorm Feed highlighting the major sponsors for the event

and Wally Saeger from your chapter. Dave & Lola were also representing their Chick-fil-A restaurant on Grant and Tanque Verde.

This year due to COVID-19, each of the 258 individuals getting served had to sign in so we knew who ate. But there was an added benefit that dorm residents could also note any problems with their dorm rooms for resolution by dorm managers. But that wasn't the total numbers of meals served. There were at least 100+ to-go boxes prepared for the Security Forces, the fire department, air traffic controllers, and for first sergeants to feed those not able to come in person.

Despite the wind and someone cooler temperatures, the event went off well and there didn't appear to be anyone going away hungry.



Celer 500L-Is this the shape of our next aircraft?
It is already flying.

Chapter Sponsors Two AFA Pitsenbarger Awards

Air Force Association Pitsenbarger Awards provide a one-time grant of \$500 and a 1-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.

Due to COVID-19 and financial constraints within AFA National, no Pitsenbarger Awards were presented to Spring CCAF graduates and chapters were asked to sponsor the award for Fall graduates. The chapter normally budgets to present an additional Pitsenbarger award for a Spring and Fall graduate in addition the Award from AFA National so we were able to step up to the plate and



SSgt Daniel Gonzalez is pictured receiving his Pitsenbarger Scholarship Award check from Chapter President Wally Saeger

award two Pitsenbarger Awards although ours were only for our budgeted amount of \$400.

We were able to present one of the awards at our December 4th Executive Committee meeting to SSgt Daniel Gonzalez, since he was unable to attend the CCAF Graduation held in November. The other recipient, SSgt Reyn Goya, has PCS'd but we are trying to track them down so we can send their check.

Recipients must submit a package for consideration that includes the following:

- Proof of current enrollment or intent to enroll in an accredited program leading to a baccalaureate degree.
- Citations and awards representing distinguished activity.
- A narrative statement describing their 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.

AFA – Daedalians – Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association Joint Christmas Dinner and Awards Program

We again had the opportunity to hold our annual 2020 Christmas Dinner and Awards Program with Daedalians Old Pueblo Flight 12 and the Red River Valley Pilots Association on December 4, 2020 at the DMAFB Community Center. With COVID-19 on everyone's minds, we limited invitations which turned out to be GOOD thing. While the "final" count was 53, when the OPF 12 Fight Captain, Jerry Bryant, went to the Community Center on Wednesday to make final table placement arrangements, he was told that due to new COVID-19 restrictions, we were now limited to 50 total people attending and the tables were reconfigured from six people to three. Needless to say, this caused a major panic and rework.

Due to some great negotiation and compromise between the Mission Support Group Commander, Colonel Mike Borders, and Jerry Bryant, the total limit was set at 51 (Jerry's wife and my wife agreed not to attend to bring the total to 51) and we were allowed a limited number of tables of four to reduce the number of couples that would be split between two tables.

Jerry Bryant reworked the seating plan for the umpteenth plan and reached a suitable compromise. Thanks Jerry.

Although the 355th Wing Commander, Colonel Joseph Turnham, was scheduled to stay for dinner, he made a brief appearance to say hello to some of the attendees, including the Pilot of the Year nominees. He then left to ensure that we did not exceed the limit of attendees and could focus on those in attendance.

While the main focus of the evening was on the Daedalians' Pilot of the Year Nominees, Daedalians and AFA did award scholarships to cadets from all three ROTC programs at the University of Arizona. Since the Daedalians' scholarships are awarded to flying candidates, your chapter has chosen to award our annual scholarship to a candidate from any non-flying career field.

This year's scholarship winner is Cadet Alexis Parra. Cadet Parra is a Junior who is majoring in Information Systems Management. His current GPA is 3.765 and he is an outstanding cadet from Maricopa, AZ. He does not have a current AFSC

assigned since he is only a Junior. This semester, he is the Cadet Wing Public Affairs Officer. Cadet Parra was accompanied by his date, Michelle Villalpando.



Colonel Carlos Messer, AFROTC Det 20 Professor of Aerospace Studies, Cadet Alexis Parra, Colonel (Retired), Wally Saeger, President, AFA Chapter 105

Unfortunately, I was unable to sit with Cadet Parra and his date but, Lt Col (Ret) Stu Carter, our AZ AFA State President, was seated with the couple and did a fantastic job of hosting them (probably better than I would have).

In the end, the event was a great success and everyone that attended seemed to enjoy themselves. Unfortunately, some were not able to attend but the Community Center excelled at boxing up take-home boxes so those who couldn't attend were at least able to enjoy the meal at home.

Wreathes Across America

On Saturday, December 19, 2020, hundreds of people gathered at East Lawn Cemetery in Tucson, AZ at 10:00 am to lay memorial wreathes on the graves of deceased veterans to remember and honor their service. The participants came from all walks of life and from the very young to those in the twilight of their lives.

While participants wore masks, social distancing was not a problem as the wreathes had been pre-placed at the end of each row of gravesites so that the volunteers could easily retrieve them and then move away to find the gravesite of a veteran to place a wreath. Although there was no Service of Remembrance this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, a bugler would periodically play "Taps" in a different section of the cemetery to remind participants of the solemn nature of what was taking place.

Chapter members Marie Lankford, Vickie Jo Ryder and Wally Saeger participated in the event.



Chapter Receives 2020 Aerospace Education Award

Chapter 105 was selected to receive an Aerospace Achievement Award for 2020 for outstanding achievement in aerospace education programming. There were 23 chapters, out of over 200 AFA chapters, recognized with this award.



To qualify for the award, a chapter had to accomplish the following three Aerospace Education goals:

1. Implement the AFA Chapter Teacher of the Year Recognition program.
2. Participate in at least one STEM education program
3. Interact with at least one AFJROTC or one CAP unit within the Chapter area.

You chapter fulfilled these requirements as follows:

1. We recognized two Teachers of the Year, one for grades K-8 (Mrs. Mandi Cordell, Innovation Academy) and one for high school (Mrs. Amy Kueck, Walden Grove HS).
2. We support STARBASE Arizona which is a DoD community outreach program for fifth graders across the city of Tucson (See separate article in this newsletter) through a quarterly donation.
3. We were scheduled to present to the Annual Awards Ceremonies for the AFJROTC unit in Nogales, AZ and the Neotoma CAP Sqn in North Tucson to present the AFA Cadet of the Year Award and talk about the importance of STEM education until everything came to a halt with COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued support of the chapter's fund-raising efforts that makes this possible.

Thank You Calvin Payne

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Calvin Payne for his service as part of the chapter's Executive Committee for as long as I can remember. While he is stepping down from serving on the EXCOM, he looks forward to continuing as an active member of the chapter. We look forward to seeing you often in the future and thank you again for your service to the chapter, to AFA and to America.

Your Chapter Needs Your Support

It seems like almost daily I get an email or snail mail requesting that I donate to some organization that I belong to or have given a donation to in the past. I am sure most of you are in the same situation. Much as we may want to, we can't respond to all of them so we prioritize who we will support. I'm asking that you consider including your AFA Chapter 105 in that list and provide what you can, when you can.

In the past, we've held a golf tournament to raise funds and while it has been successful, it was a labor of love by just a few chapter members working tirelessly to make it happen. Dick Roberts has been the chair for the last 2 years and Scott VanValkenburg did it for the previous 6 years. If we are going to do a tournament in the future, I need another golf chair. If you're interested, please let me know.

This year, to help raise funds, we became part of Arizona Gives and successfully raised almost \$2,400. While this amount helps, it doesn't match what we need to continue supporting our local airmen and their families. We also use chapter funds to provide a \$750 scholarship to a U of A ROTC cadet; \$250 stipends to our chapter teachers of the year; provide financial support for the Desert Lightning Team Annual Awards Ceremony and offer 1-year eMemberships to the annual award winners. We also offer a 1-year AFA eMembership to the award winners of each class graduating from the Carl E. Beck Airmen Leadership School. We would like to do more but that takes more funding and this is where you can help.

If you use Amazon, please use Amazon Smile to make your purchases. Go to smile.amazon.com and designate Air Force Association Tucson Chapter (EIN: 86-6052998) to be the recipient of Amazon's donation. The great thing is that it doesn't cost you anything and we receive a quarterly deposit from Amazon for every purchase done that way.

Like mentioned earlier, the chapter is registered under Arizona Gives: <https://www.azgives.org/AIRFORCEASSOCIATION/CHAPTER105>. You can use this link if you want to donate using a credit card although I do ask that to make your donation help the chapter more, that you elect to cover the administrative cost.

If you have a Facebook page, you can open a fundraiser for YOUR chapter. To do so, be on your FB home page and click on MENU in the lower right-hand corner. Go down that menu until you find "See More". Click on that and you will find "Fundraisers". Click on that. In the upper left corner you will see "Create Fundraiser"; click on that. When you click on Fundraiser, you will then need to click on "Select Fundraiser". Type in Air Force Association Tucson Chapter which will establish a fundraiser to benefit YOUR chapter.

To avoid using Arizona Gives or Amazon Smile or Facebook, you can send a check payable to AFA Tucson 105 and mail it to AFA Tucson 105, PO Box 15057, Tucson AZ 85708.

And remember, since your chapter is a 501(c)(3), your donation is fully tax deductible in accordance with the tax code. If you mail a check, we will send you a letter acknowledging your deduction for tax purposes. Arizona Gives provides an email to the same effect.

Thank you for being a member of AFA Chapter 105 and your continued support.

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)
emklahr@aespecialtymkt.com

Chick-fil-A

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

Chick-fil-A

Jim Paine
4885 N. Oracle Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85705
520-408-2456

Chick-fil-A

Brian White
3943 W. Ina Road
Tucson, AZ 85741
(520) 744-6269

Chick-fil-A

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

Ciruli Brothers

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

Vantage West Credit Union

Cindy Brainer
P.O. Box 15115
Tucson, AZ 85708
520-298-7882
800-888-7882
Vantagewest.org

Sonesta ES Suites

Ellen Jimenez, Director of Sales
6477 East Speedway Boulevard
Tucson, AZ 85710
520-721-0991
SonestaESSuites.com

La Posada Lodge & Casitas

Juan Loo, Sales & Catering Mgr
5900 N. Oracle Rd
Tucson, AZ 85704
520-887-4800 (P)
520-293-7543 (F)
ascendcollection.com

Jackson Oil Company

Robert Ferretti
623-217-8005

Radisson Suites Tucson

Valerie Friend, General Manager
6555 E. Speedway Blvd
Tucson, AZ 85710
520-721-7100 Ext.7600 (P)
520-722-6146 (F)
Valerie.friend@prismhotels.com

Tucson Appliance Company

Chris Edwards
4229 E. Speedway Blvd
Tucson, AZ 85712-4523

Upcoming Events

As we continue to adjust to the “New Norm”, we look 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 listed below and more to come! As a Chapter, we try to attend all that we can. If you are interested in representing our 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 2021

- 4th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, 355th Fighter Group Conference Room (all welcome!)
- 22nd: Chapter Meeting, Time and Location TBD but planning on trip to 309th Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Group

February 2021

- 1st: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, 355th Fighter Group Conference Room (all welcome!)
- 28th: No Chapter Meeting

March 2021

- 2nd: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, 355th Fighter Group Conference Room (all welcome!)
- 6th: Heritage Flight Training & Certification Course
- 26th: Chapter Meeting TBD

SAVE THESE DATES:

- April 5th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, 355th Fighter Group Conference Room (all welcome!)
- April 24-25: DMAFB Air Show w/USAF Thunderbirds, “Thunder and Lightning Over Arizona”
- May 3rd: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, 355th Fighter Group Conference Room (all welcome!)
- May 14-15: AFA AZ Annual Gathering, Phoenix AZ Hosted by Luke Chapter 151
- May 28th: No Chapter Meeting
- June 7th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, 355th Fighter Group Conference Room (all welcome!)
- June 25th: Chapter Meeting TBD

**Air Force Association
Tucson Chapter 105
P. O. Box 15057
Tucson, AZ 85708**

Air Force Association Means Americans for Air Power

JOIN AFA

AFA's Mission

Our Mission is to promote a dominant USAF and a strong national defense and to honor airmen and our AF heritage. To accomplish this we:

Educate the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure US national security,

Advocate for aerospace power and STEM education, and

Support the total Air Force Family and promote aerospace education.