



Air Force Association

Emerald Coast Guardian

Eglin Chapter, Florida

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Inside this Issue

- 1 President's Notes
- 2 Education Recognition
- 4 NW FL Region Meeting
- 5 Community Partners
- 6 National/State AFA Awards
- 7 Member-Get-A-Member
- 8 Coming Events Calendar

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Education Recognition was center stage for your Eglin Chapter this quarter as we awarded local high school students with over \$20,000 in college scholarships. The Annual Education Recognition Event was held on May 21, where we also recognized our Teacher of the Year. In addition the chapter also initiated two new awards for service and leadership, namely the Chapter Distinguished Service Award and the Chapter Leadership Award. Much more can be found on page 2 of this newsletter on our May 21 event, in which we also welcomed Sandy Schlitt, Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education and his wife Patricia to the Emerald Coast.

The Air Force Association is a membership organization, with much of the work of educating the public on the about the critical role of aerospace powering the defense of our nation, advocating aerospace power and a strong national defense, plus supporting the United States Air Force, the Air Force family, and aerospace education being left to local chapters to do. Both the National AFA organization and your Eglin Chapter have seen membership roles decline (this is not just limited to AFA). Without a membership base ready to work to achieve the AFA mission, many areas and programs will decline. To help in this area, your Eglin

Chapter will hold its own "Member Get A Member" campaign from July 15 to September 15. Prizes will be awarded to the top three recruiters who will also be recognized in next quarter's *Emerald Coast Guardian*. More on the membership drive can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

Your Eglin Chapter-sponsored Scholarship Foundation is busy planning their next golf tournament, as the only fund raising activity that supports the scholarship awards program. The next Doolittle Scholarship Open will tee off on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at the Eglin Golf Course.

Lastly, your Eglin Chapter is continually looking for new avenues to accomplish the AFA mission, to include some preliminary discussions with the Okaloosa Schools CHOICE Institutes, as an example. In talking with the CHOICE leadership one constant emerges, the need for talented people to get involved. With over 1,340 members on our rolls, I am confident we have the intellectual capital to invest in our schools as mentors. The Aviation Institute, for one, benefits greatly from the experiences brought to the classroom by those currently involved in aviation, to bring class lessons to life. I'm not asking for your money, only something much more precious...your time.

Jeff Fanto
President

EDUCATIONAL RECOGNITION EVENT HONORS GRADS

AFA Aerospace Education Vice Chairman keynotes annual recognition

Local students and teachers were featured at the Chapter's annual Educational Recognition Event at the Air Force Armament Museum on May 21. After the posting of the colors by the Niceville High School JROTC Color Guard and Saber Team, plus the National Anthem performed by Miss Callie Stewart, Niceville High School student, Chapter President Jeff Fanto kicked off the evening by welcoming those in attendance. Honored guests included Dr. Bruce Simpson, Deputy Air Force Program Executive Officer for Weapons and Executive Director, Air Armament Center; keynote speaker, Brig. Gen. (ret) Sandy Schlitt, Air Force Association Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education; Cindy Frakes, Okaloosa School Board; Helen Hunt Rigdon representing Congressman Jeff Miller; as well as many other local dignitaries. Gen. Schlitt also presented Eglin AFA Scholarship Foundation Chairman Gen (Ret) Bill Kirk with the 2008 AFA National Education Excellence Award.

This year's scholarship winners represented several area high schools; one teacher was also recognized as teacher of the year. Winners, and the schools they represent, are:

Maggie Hsu \$5,000 Scholarship—Cadet Lt. Col. William W. Morgan, Niceville High School.

Jimmie Doolittle \$3,000 Scholarship—Cadet Col. Ricky D. Jones, Fort Walton Beach High School

Senior Leadership \$2,000 Scholarship—Cadet Maj. Christopher M. Klatt, Fort Walton Beach High School

Senior Leadership \$2,000 Scholarship—Cadet Lt. Col. Shane Monje, Choctawhatchee High School

Senior Leadership \$2,000 Scholarship—Cadet Col. Matthew Thorne, Walton High School.

Senior Leadership \$2,000 Scholarship—Cadet Col. Sean Payne, Niceville High School

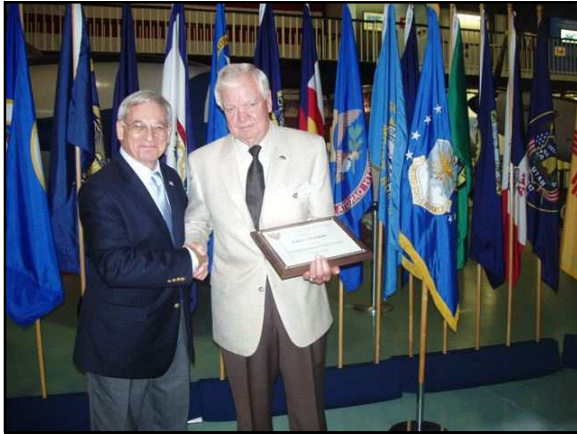
Outstanding Leader \$2,000 Scholarship—Kristi Klabuhn, Choctawhatchee Aviation Institute

Outstanding Leader \$2,000 Scholarship—Tyree Alston, Crestview Aviation Institute

Teacher of the Year—Tom Godbold, Choctawhatchee Aviation Institute

In addition to the scholarships and Teacher of the Year listed above, the Chapter this year decided it was highly fitting to recognize the tireless service of Chief Master Sgt. Les Chambers, JROTC instructor at Fort Walton Beach High School, as he retires this year after a combined 48 years of service, 33 on Active Duty. In recognition of his efforts, the Chapter instituted the Distinguished Service Award this year and bestowed the honor on Chief Chambers. Plus, the Chapter also instituted the Leadership Award this year, and bestowed that on Cindy Gates, Principal at Choctawhatchee High School, for her tireless support of the Aviation Institute program at her school.

Sights from the 2009 Education Recognition Event



Brig Gen (ret) Sandy Schlitt, AFA Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education, presents Gen (ret) Bill Kirk, Eglin Scholarship Foundation Chairman with the 2008 AFA National Education Excellence Award.



(L to R) Brig. Gen (ret) Schlitt, Maggie Hsu, Hsu Scholarship winner Cadet Lt. Col. William W. Morgan, Niceville High School, and Gen (ret) Bill Kirk, Eglin Scholarship Foundation Chairman.



Chapter President Jeff Fanto (left) with the scholarship recipients; Gen (ret) Bill Kirk, Scholarship Foundation Chairman is shown center rear; with Brig. Gen (ret) Sandy Schlitt, AFA Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education, on the right.



(L to R) Brig. Gen (ret) Sandy Schlitt, AFA Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education, Teacher of the Year Tom Godbold, Choctawhatchee Aviation Institute, and Gen (ret) Bill Kirk, Scholarship Foundation Chairman.



(L to R) Retiring Chief Master Sgt. Les Chambers, Fort Walton Beach JROTC, with Chapter President Jeff Fanto. Chambers was awarded the first-ever Eglin Chapter Distinguished Service Award for his combined 48 years of service. He retired at the end of the school year.

Eglin Chapter Hosts AFA NW FL Area Meeting

Thirteen AFA members representing all four NW FL Area chapters attended this quarter's Area meeting, hosted by the Eglin Chapter and held at the Lockheed Martin facility in Shalimar on Saturday, June 13. AFA Florida Region President Tim Brock participated via conference call. Other officials of note attending were AFA National Director Max Friedauer, AFA State Vice President Jim Connors and Past National Director Ray Turczynski.

The meeting agenda included chapter updates, chapter challenges and a state/national update. Each chapter representative provided an update on chapter activities and overview of upcoming events. Themes prevalent during the updates included the AFA brand, education, membership, funding and our 501(c)3 status.

Chapter challenge agenda topics included (1) membership, (2) support, (3) leadership and (4) our economic environment. The group discussed chapter "best practices" and how they might be leveraged throughout the state, especially in support of new chapter presidents and vice presidents. This was envisioned to be more of a "how to" document verses a "what's required" document. The AFA 101 briefing, posted on the state website, currently provides "what's required".

President Brock provided us with several read-ahead documents which we discussed with him via a conference call during our meeting. Key discussion topics included:

- 2009 AFA State Award winners (National award winners will be announced soon)
- 2009 Candidates for National Offices
- 2009 Convention Registration form (the preferred hotel is full) and draft agenda
- Quarterly Chapter Report status
- Information on the Cyber Patriot II Event

The Evenson Chapter (Panama City) volunteered to host our next quarterly area meeting with an eye on October. More details to follow in September.

The meeting adjourned at 1310 following a luncheon and roundtable discussion.

Grady Jordan
AFA NW FL Area VP

We appreciate our Community Partners and their support of Air Force personnel and the mission of the Air Force Association.

Raytheon Systems Company

Dave Andrews
60 Second St., Ste 601
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850-651-1314

Bay Area Awards

Dennis Dwyer
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Two Trees Restaurant

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Fort Walton Beach FL 32547
850-833-9665

BTAS, Inc

Howard Oakes
6 Eleventh Ave, Suite F-1
Shalimar FL 32579
850-651-1700

Eglin Chapter participates in annual Memorial Day observance



Eglin Chapter President Jeff Fanto and Chapter Secretary Shirley Pigott are shown presenting a wreath in remembrance of Chapter members who passed away over the past year. The annual observance was held on May 25, 2009 at Beal Cemetery in Fort Walton Beach.

AFA Announces National and State Award Winners

Both the National and State Air Force Association organizations recently announced their award winners for 2009. The Eglin Chapter won both individual and chapter recognition at both levels. National-level winners will receive their awards at the 2009 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition in September in Washington DC. State-level winners will receive their awards at the State AFA Convention to be held July 10-11 in Jacksonville. Congratulations to the following for their respective awards:

National:

Exceptional Service Award: Grady Jordan

Medal of Merit: Shirley Pigott, Jeff Fanto

Exceptional Service Award—Community Relations: Eglin Chapter

2009 Aerospace Education Achievement Award—1 of only 26 chapters nationwide (288 total)

State:

Jerry Waterman Award: Maj. Gen. David W. Eidsaune, former Air Armament Center Commander

Exceptional Service Award—Overall Programming: Eglin Chapter

Chapter Member of the Year: Jeff Fanto

Presidential Citation: Grady Jordan

Exceptional Service Citation: Candace E. Lovell, William L. Kirk

Special Citation: Terry A. Atkinson, Dennis Dwyer (Bay Area Awards—Community Partner), Dennis Ritter (Classic Catering—Community Partner), Richard D. Smith (Military Media Inc.—Community Partner)

Help Wanted: [Newsletter Editor](#)

The Chapter is in need of a volunteer to take over production of *The Emerald Coast Guardian*, plus assist in getting stories in local newspapers based on the activities of the Chapter. If anyone has a penchant for writing and wants to get involved, contact Jeff Fanto, chapter president, at jeff.fanto@cox.net, or by calling 850-678-4864.

Chapter holds its own "Member Get A Member" Campaign

Your Eglin Chapter is sponsoring our own "Member Get A Member" campaign from July 15 to September 15, 2009, as part of our annual membership drive. By becoming a member, you will help the Air Force by supporting adequate air power for national defense, as well as becoming more knowledgeable on the issues affecting the Air Force and our nation's security. Members also have opportunities to develop leadership skills and confidence by serving in key positions and on committees within the Eglin chapter. Please support your local chapter mission by encouraging a friend, family member, or coworker to join. Other membership benefits include group insurance programs, dental and other medical discount programs, banking center, platinum credit card, online brokerage, travel services, car rental discounts, employment assistance, education assistance, identity protection, electronics products discounts, access to members only online community, and more. Additionally, members receive the award winning *Air Force Magazine*, the monthly journal unmatched in total force coverage with up to date editorial comments on issues of the day to include Congressional issues as well as issues concerning space, technology, and military preparedness for our nation.

Prizes:

- 1st—Scale replica of the new F-35 Joint Strike Fighter
- 2nd—\$50 Gift Certificate to Giuseppe's Wharf in Niceville
- 3rd—1 dozen top quality golf balls

Rules:

1. Winners based on the number of new members recruited.
2. In the event of a tie, the winner will be selected from a random draw.
3. Credit is obtained by sending new member information to eglin_chapter_AFA@cox.net or call-Terry Atkinson at 850-803-5329.
4. New member must select Chapter 365 on membership application. Online applications are available at <http://www.afa.org> or one can be provided by calling Terry Atkinson at 850-803-5329.

Online Application:

Career:
(1) USAF (including civilian) ▾
(1) Management ▾

How did you find out about us? Please select one.*
(5) AFA Chapter ▾

Chapter:
365

Printed Application:

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____
AFA Chapter Choice 365

Air Force Association
The Force Behind the Force



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Editor -
 Jeff Fanto

2009 EGLIN CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Your participation in Eglin AFA Chapter activities is always highly encouraged. Your attendance at the chapter activities only increases your ability to educate, advocate and support the Air Force mission. Listed below is the tentative schedule of activities for the 2009 calendar year. This list will be continuously updated throughout the year via the *Guardian* newsletter as more accurate information is developed.

Jul—Sep

10-11 Jul	State AFA Convention	Jacksonville
21 Jul	Chapter Executive Board	Bob Hope Village
18 Aug	Chapter Executive Board	Bob Hope Village
14-16 Sep	Air & Space Conference	Washington DC
15 Sep	Chapter Executive Board	Bob Hope Village

Oct—Dec

13-14 Oct	Air Armament Symposium	TBD
15 Oct	Doolittle Open Golf Tourney	Eglin Golf Course
20 Oct	Chapter Executive Board	Bob Hope Village
17 Nov	Chapter Executive Board	Bob Hope Village
19-20 Nov	Global Warfare Symposium	Beverly Hills CA
15 Dec	Chapter Executive Board	Bob Hope Village

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