



# Tennessee Valley Flyer

"ACROSS THE TENNESSEE VALLEY FROM  
CHEROKEE TO FORT PAYNE"

## Quarterly Chapter Meeting - Feature Presentation "Counterterrorism Ops in the Philippines"

On March 10, at Mantech's auditorium, the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter hosted its General Membership meeting. Rick Driesbach, Chapter President, opened the meeting, providing an update on the Chapter's financial and membership status. He noted that the Chapter was moving in the right direction – attendance is up and the budget, though not robust, will allow for us not only to continue our scholarship program, but to expand (see article below).

Rick went on to stress the need to continue to expand membership ranks, seeking opportunities while, at the same time, looking for ways to increase existing membership participation.

Following the business portion, the evening's guest speaker, Colonel (Ret) Russell

Lewey, was introduced. New to Huntsville and Chapter 335, Col Lewey served 26 years in the Air Force. A former B-52 pilot, spending his last tours of

Operations in the Philippines" provided his insight as the Defense and Air Attaché to Manila, to include the role that air power played in Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines.

U.S./Philippine relations, described as a "100-year roller coaster ride" served as the backdrop in setting the stage for the problems that terrorism poses in the Philippines. Col Lewey went on to discuss five "terrorist" groups (three of which are recognized on the Foreign Terrorist Organization list), but the focus of the evening was the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the kidnapping of American and Filipino hostages which took place in May 2002. His presentation was followed by a brief question and answer period.



US Defense Attache Office (DAO) - Manila C-12

duty serving as an Attaché to Jordan and the Philippines. The evening presentation, "Counterterrorism

## Expanding Aerospace Education Support

In concert with its stated mission, "Support USAF associated organizations," the Chapter has a history of recognizing the senior cadet for each of the Tennessee Valley's (three) AF JROTC units. This year the Chapter has agreed to continue that

tradition, offering a \$500 scholarship to each of the three recipients.

This year in addition to rewarding 3 worthy cadets, we are going to recognize the heart and soul responsible for aerospace education — a

teacher. Our AFA Teacher of the Year will receive a \$250 check and go on to compete at the State and, hopefully, National level.

Look for an announcement of our AFA Teacher of the Year in the coming weeks.

2ND QUARTER

APRIL 2009

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Next month's Quarterly meeting features Major Jason Conroy, US Army, who will provide his perspective on air support to his experience commanding an Armor Company in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ID attack in 2003 into Iraq and on into Baghdad.*
- *Look for opportunities to recruit / support our Chapter's Community Partners*
- *We're looking for someone to serve as an Aerospace Advocate*
- *Members encouraged to support our AFJROTC units at their Spring Awards Ceremonies—AFA Scholarships among the awards.*



## Meet Our Members

We are introducing a new section in our newsletter titled "Meet Our Members." This can serve as a networking tool and will enable us to gain some insight into the vast experience this Chapter possesses. This issue, we are starting with three of our members on the Chapter's Executive Committee.

### Rick Driesbach—Chapter President (Acting Secretary)

Rick graduated from Penn State with a BS in Aerospace Engineering and an Air Force commission in 1971. He served as an Intelligence Officer with theater imagery exploitation squadrons at Tan Son Nhut AB, Republic of Vietnam, and Udorn RTAB, Thailand. He was subsequently assigned to Wiesbaden AB Germany as a squadron intelligence officer. After Germany he worked on cruise missile survivability at Kirtland AFB NM, and then back to HQ USEUCOM in Stuttgart for 4 years analyzing foreign ballistic missiles.

After AF schooling, Rick served at HQ Air Force Intelligence in the Pentagon working strategic missile threats. While there, he led an inspection team on 10 trips into the Soviet Union under the INF Treaty. He next went to the Defense Intelligence Agency to manage DoD production of technical intelligence on foreign weapon systems. He spent his final 5 years in the Air Force first as Deputy, and later as Director of the Missile & Space Intelligence Center on Redstone Arsenal.

### John Phillip—Aerospace Education

John graduated from Carroll College in Helena MT with a major in chemistry. Commissioned in the Air Force in 1968, he was assigned to Otis AFB as a maintenance officer in a BOMARC missile squadron. He received a Master's in Logistics Management at AFIT. In addition to an assignment as an ICBM maintenance officer, he served as a plans officer at HQ SAC. Another tour to Malmstrom AFB as a Minuteman missile operations officer, followed by

an Air Staff Tour in 1980 with the MX Program. In 1984, he returned to Malmstrom, serving as the Maintenance Control Chief and as the Field Missile Maintenance Squadron Commander. A tour with the HQ SAC IG Team, evaluating the maintenance control functions at all SAC ICBM wings. John's final assignment to Malmstrom AFB was as Deputy Operations Group Commander. In 1993 he was assigned to Redstone Arsenal as the Air Force Liaison to the Army Missile Command and Space and Strategic Defense Command, retiring in 1995.

### Greg Schumann—Former Chapter and State AFA President

Greg Schumann is a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel with over 2500 hours in F-111, B-52 and C-130 aircraft. He has also served as the Alabama State President of the Air Force Association. Greg received a Bachelor's Degree from Auburn University and a Master's Degree from the University of Arkansas. Currently, Greg is the Chief Marketing Officer at Gleason Research Associates, Inc (GRA).

## Reaching Out

Did you know that we have over 370 members on our roster? With today's cost of postage, we are pretty much limited to communicating via email. Unfortunately, we lack current email addresses for almost 150 members. This means that we're not reaching almost 40% of our chapter membership!

We're working to maximize the number of members we can

reach out and touch. This quarter we are conducting a mail campaign to all members on our roster with the most current address, we, or National has on file. We are sending post cards seeking email addresses, or to confirm

mailing addresses and phone numbers (for those without access to email).

*We lack email addresses  
for approximately 40% of  
our members!*

We promise to work with those members not having, or wishing not to communicate by, email. Hopefully, this will enable more of our members to stay informed of their Chapter's activities.

At the same time, we encourage our membership to reach out to others desiring affiliation with the Air Force Association—supporting our Nation's defense and its aerospace component.



## State AFA Organization Holds Quarterly Meeting

This past month the Alabama State Chapter of the AFA held its quarterly meeting. Chaired by State President, Tom Gwaltney, others participating included the State Secretary (and Montgomery Chapter President), Skip Dotherow; State Aerospace Education Officer, Susan Mallett; the South-Central Region President, Mark Dierlam, and our own Chapter President, Rick Driesbach.

In addition to the normal business items (reports and financials), there was a discussion on hosting a State AFA Convention late this summer. As proposed,

the convention would be held prior to the National September Air & Space Exposition and likely, either in Montgomery, or Huntsville. Susan Mallett mentioned the Aerospace Education Program and, specifically, the upcoming Teacher of the Year program. Look for more information later on our Chapter selection for teacher of the year for promoting aerospace education. The recipient will receive a Certificate and \$250 cash award. Finally, Tom Gwaltney encouraged others to consider volunteering for the Airpower Advocate (APA) Program. (See inset)

### Airpower Advocate Program (AAP)

Established by the AFA President / CEO Michael Dunn, AAP is a group of local and state volunteers who regularly discuss (via weekly teleconferences) ongoing national and local efforts to advocate for airpower. Although founded with two volunteers per state, the plan is to ultimately expand the program to one representative per Chapter.

Persons interested in becoming the Tennessee Valley rep should contact Rick Driesbach, Chapter President.

## Exciting Year at Huntsville High AFJROTC

### Drill Team

C/SMSGT Brandi Corzatt and C/MSgt Kaval Mann

*It was a chilly day on 18 Oct at the American Legion drill competition in Huntsville. We had practiced for weeks ahead of time in order to do our best at this competition. Once we got there we were in quick preparation getting everyone in ropes, ascots, and gloves. We then looked everyone over to make sure we looked our best. Once we were ready we headed off to the parking lot for*

*inspection. As we stood at parade rest we waited until the judge came our way. We must have impressed him because we got a perfect score.*

*Then, it was time to show the judges what we could do. After a long day of drilling and waiting it was time for the results. We got 1<sup>st</sup> place in exhibition platoon without weapons, 1<sup>st</sup> place in inspection without weapons, 1<sup>st</sup> place in the IDR platoon without weapons. We also obtained 2<sup>nd</sup> place in indi-*

*The AFJROTC cadets at Huntsville High have had a busy and productive year. From field trips to Tyndall AFB and Pensacola NAS, to Cadet Leadership programs, and helping their community. The following two articles written by the cadets capture a couple of their experiences.*

*vidual exhibition without weapons, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in exhibition squad without weapons, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in IDR platoon*

*without weapons, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for exhibition squad without weapons. Our own Kilian McGroary even stayed in knockout and won 3<sup>rd</sup> place. But our biggest and most prized award was 1<sup>st</sup> place overall and our own Ryne Watts winning best overall commander.*

### KC-135 Flight

C/MSgt Melody Brakefield

*It was a rather hot day when some Huntsville High School J.R.O.T.C. students went to Birmingham to fly in a KC-135 tanker. We went through a safety course briefing before we got in the tanker. After the briefing we went and got on a bus and rode out to the take off / landing area. We got in the tanker and after about 10 minutes of waiting, the plane was started. Anticipation filled the air. We took off and started climbing. Eventually, 22,000 feet in the air going about 400 mph we*

*reached the check point in Montgomery where we got to watch a refueling of F-16's. It was really cool to see. We went to the back of the tanker into this small pit and lay on our bellies, only 2*



Cadets Observe in-flight refueling

*people in the pit at a time. While you were laying there you got to see a fuel pipe come out of the tanker and pop right in the F-16. No mistakes. It was perfect. So, after seeing them get refueled you could go in the cockpit. The pilots told me to look out the windows. I saw an F-16 do a flip. It was the coolest thing I have ever seen. We then turned the KC-135 around and headed back to Birmingham with a safe landing. We got out and took some group pictures. We headed to the bus to go home. That was my first time flying and I would do it again. I'm sure everyone who went would agree.*



## Air Force Association Tennessee Valley Chapter Upcoming Events

- 27 Apr @ 5:30 pm —  
Bob Jones High AFJROTC  
Awards Night
- 30 Apr @ 7:30 pm—Huntsville  
High AFJROTC Awards  
Night
- 6 May @ 1:30 pm—S. R.  
Butler High AFJROTC Pass  
and Review
- 8 May—S.R. Butler High  
AFJROTC (and School)  
Awards Ceremony
- 11 May @ 6:00 pm—AFA  
Tennessee Valley Chapter  
Quarterly Meeting
- 16 Jun @ 4:45 pm—Executive  
Committee Meeting (all are  
welcome)



## Inside AFJROTC Unit AL-031 and the Cadets of S. R. Butler High School

The following commentary reflects the views of S.R Butler AFJROTC Group Commander, Cadet Colonel Marcel Battle, and his thoughts on his four years at Butler's AFJROTC.

*Freshman year of high school was quite confusing for me. It was a time of finding my place within S.R. Butler High School. There were many clubs and organizations that caught my eye such as; Band, American Red Cross, Student Government Association, and athletic sports. Although these organizations were alluring, one organization won my heart, AFJROTC, and for four years I have remained a dedicated and determined cadet. The ROTC program has taught me self-discipline, loyalty, respect, and integrity. I acquired these traits through the many activities I participated in. One trip that ROTC takes every year is to the Bear Creek educational camp. It was at this camp that I learned how to not only be on a*

*team, but also how to have pride and trust in my teammates. The ROTC Drill team is another activity that I participate in. A year ago we participated in a local drill meet at a competing high school and we triumphed, taking home nine trophies from the competition. We were happy because we not only won, but we did it as a team. My junior year I was given the honor of becoming the Group Commander of AFJROTC Unit AL-031. This was perhaps was the most joyous and dignified moment of my high school career. I was to lead about one-hundred cadets, but this did not scare me because I knew that my instructors, Col. Parsons and SMSgt. Porter, had prepared me for this moment and knew that I was completely capable of doing my job as group commander. All in all the ROTC program and my instructors have given me the tools and insight needed not only for the next step in education, but for the next step in life.*

## Launching a Community Partner Program

An extremely successful program sponsored at the National-level, executed by local chapters is the Community Partnership Program (CPP). Through this program, local businesses are given an opportunity to support our Nation's defense and the aerospace mission through their affiliation with the Air Force Association. The CPP is not new to the Tennessee Valley Chapter but in recent years our Partners have dropped off the radar screen. Last month the Executive Committee decided to once again actively pursue the Community Partnership Program.

### Potential Partners?

Companies and organizations across the Tennessee Valley that are directly related to National Defense or Aerospace mission; as well as, businesses and institutions that support Defense and Aerospace (banks, real-

tors, restaurants, etc.).

### What can you do?

In many cases you work for, or with, organizations that are perfect CPP candidates. You may contact the leadership directly on behalf of the Chapter, or relay the information to our Chapter leadership. On that note, we are looking for a Chapter member to head up our Community Partnership Program. Interested? Contact Rick Driesbach.

### What are the benefits?

For the Chapter, we receive revenue from the dues which we use for scholarships and other AFA activities. Further, CPP members count towards the Chapter's membership quotas by National. Community Partners get to support and, in some cases, advocate for a strong National Defense; along with receiving a plaque and a decal, further demonstrating

their support. Partners are recognized and promoted in our newsletter and on our web. Finally, each Partner is eligible to nominate an individual, representing their organization and, as such, is eligible for the same member benefits (magazine, access to AFA discounts and insurance programs). Mutually, we expand our network and ties to the community.

### How does it work?

Membership costs \$75 (for one rep, or \$150 for two). Prospective members complete the application (we can get one, or more, to you). The application and the dues (\$75 for one or \$150 for two) are turned in to Russ Lewey (256-489-6505 / leweyrv@yahoo.com). We'll process the membership and work to formally award our new Partner with their plaque and membership information.