



3RD QUARTER 2009

SEPTEMBER 2009

Tennessee Valley Flyer

**"ACROSS THE TENNESSEE VALLEY FROM
CHEROKEE TO FORT PAYNE"**

Quarterly Chapter Meeting - Feature Presentation "Air Support on the Road to Baghdad"

On May 11, 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. A brief synopsis of the Community Partnership Program was provided along with brochures and applications. Members were encouraged to look for opportunities to recruit Partners for the Chapter.

The highlight of the evening was a presentation by U.S. Army MAJ Jason Conroy, a former Armor Company Commander with the 3rd Infantry Division. Not a stranger in the AF Community, MAJ Conroy is a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB. At the time of the briefing, he was assigned to the US Army Space and Missile Defense Command where he worked on Operationally Responsive Space issues.

some of the challenges as his armor company moved rapidly north to Baghdad. Intelligence, communication, and mapping were key areas that the then-Captain Conroy had to address. From his perspective, there was a shortage of real-time overhead imagery. Most enemy contacts were associated with small arms and shoulder-fired weapons which were relatively ineffective. However, much to their surprise, there was one major encounter with Iraqi (former-Soviet) armor with tanks facing off on a city street. Fortunately, his Company was successful in that encounter and all the way into Baghdad.

MAJ Jason Conroy has since been reassigned and is now the G-3 Space Support Element for the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea.



An Iraqi tank taken out of the fight

MAJ Jason Conroy provided his first-hand perspective of his combat experiences in Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

Through a series of pictures and videos, the audience was able to envision



Chapter Hosting Air Force Birthday Inaugural Celebration

On 18 September the Air Force is celebrating its 62nd birthday. The Chapter will commemorate this occasion with a reception in conjunction with our quarterly general meeting on Tuesday, 15 September from 6:00—7:30 pm; at the American

Legion Post 237 Hall (2900 Drake Ave, Huntsville). In addition, to our AFA members, we are inviting active duty airmen, Reservists, Guardsmen, AFJROTC/CAP cadets, and members of defense industry and the community. Guests are

encouraged and welcomed.

Brig Gen Gary Connor (Retired), former Deputy Program Manager for the Ballistic Missile Defense System, will be the guest speaker. Capping the evening will be a ceremonial cutting of the birthday cake.

Military and cadets are encouraged to come in uniform (short sleeve open collar or BDU/DCU/flight suit); business casual (open collar) for all others.

We look forward to you helping us celebrate 62 years of excellence service by the United States Air Force.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Aerospace Education AFA Scholarship Awardees	2
Local AFA Chapter Mail-out Campaign	2
Chapter and State Outstanding Teacher	3
Cyber Patriot II	3
Alabama AFA State Convention	4
Community Partner Spotlight—GRA	4

SPECIAL INTEREST ITEMS

- *The AF Magazine issues June and August (pages 72 and 77 respectively) highlighted Chapter events.*
- *Interested in serving as an officer on the Chapter's Executive Committee. Contact Chapter President Rick Driesbach. Elections are tentatively planned for 22 October.*

Aerospace Education

For the third year in a row, your Tennessee Valley Chapter awarded three scholarships to deserving senior AFJROTC cadets in the Greater-Huntsville area. Each scholarship is worth \$500. (See accompanying bio on each of the recipients).

This year we also awarded an Outstanding Aerospace Educator, who went on to be the state winner as well.



Cadet Col Anya Mullins receives her AFA Scholarship certificate from Col (Ret) John Phillip

S. R. Butler High School Cadet Colonel Anya Mullins

Cadet Colonel Marcell Battle led Butler High School's AFJROTC unit as Group Commander. Col (Ret) Mike Parsons, SASI, indicated that Marcell was one of the strongest cadets he has had to pleasure to teach. Col Parsons went on to say, that he excelled as a dynamic and creative leader, giving strong and positive support to the underclass cadets. He won recognition for his support to the school's Honor Guard, capturing nine trophies in one competition.

Marcell Battle is attending the University of Alabama and has a firm goal of becoming a medical doctor. He has not ruled out the Department of Defense

Bob Jones High: Cadet Capt Matthew Jones

Cadet Captain Matt Jones is already on his way to pursuing a military career in the US Army (albeit not our first choice). He will be attending intelligence training this summer.

Matt plans to attend Jacksonville State University where he plans to pursue a major in History.

Lt Col Randy Herd, the AFJROTC Senior Aerospace Science Instructor (SASI) at Bob Jones High, praised Matt's dedication and professionalism. He went on to state how Matt had dis-



From left to right: Lt Col (Ret) Skeet Vaughn, Col (Ret) Russ Lewey, Cadet Captain Matt Jones, and Col (Ret) John Phillip.

tinguished himself as the unit's Flight Operation Officer. He managed to accelerate his studies, actually completing all required courses earlier in the school year which enabled him to get an early start on his Army career.

Huntsville High School Cadet Colonel Anya Mullins

Cadet Colonel Anya Mullins was Huntsville High School AFJROTC Group Commander. In addition to Group Commander, Anya also served tours as Vice Commander, Public Affairs Officer, Squadron Commander, Flight Commander, Color Guard Commander, and Kitty Hawk Honor Society Commander.

A Ukrainian native, she came to the United States four years ago speaking very little English and has worked hard to earn top academic honors, including

membership in National Honor Society.

Lt Col (Ret) Hollis Bagley, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor indicated that Cadet Col Mullins was instrumental in setting and accomplishing unit goals, leading to the HHS AFJROTC unit being selected for receipt of the "Distinguished Unit with Merit", the highest award given to AFJROTC units. Fluent in four languages, Anya is considering a career with the military or State Department upon finalization of citizenship.

Ms Mullins is attending the University of Alabama at Huntsville.

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and a career as a military doctor.



Col (Ret) John Phillip awards scholarship certificate to Cadet Colonel Marcel Battle

MAILOUT CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS

This summer the Executive Committee agreed to conduct a mailout to all members for whom the Chapter did not have an email address. Over 140 postcards were sent out to Chapter members who we had no active email addresses for. As a result we now are able to reach a number of these members by email—our normal means of communication.

Members are encouraged to keep their email, address, and phone numbers current through contact with National AFA and/or our local Chapter leadership.

Chapter and State's Outstanding Aerospace Teacher of the Year

This past May, Ms Lynn Toney, a teacher at Boaz Intermediate School and the System Coordinator for the Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Connections in Education Program (ACE) was selected as the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter "Outstanding



Lynn Toney working with two future shuttle system operators in the STAR Lab

Aerospace Teacher of the Year." Ms Toney went on to compete and to be recognized as the AFA Alabama Aerospace Teacher of the Year.

Ms Toney was instrumental in developing a Science Technology Aligned with Robotics (STAR) Lab at her school. In the STAR Lab, students and cadets have experienced robotics, hydraulics, and engineering, which enhances critical and analytical thinking for young people."

As the Chapter awardee she received a \$250 check along with an



Looking on (left to right) is John Philip – Aerospace Education Coordinator, Ms Lynn Toney, Ms Susan Mallett – Alabama State VP/Aerospace Education, and Rick Driesbach – Tennessee Valley Chapter President.

AFA Tote Bag. Ms Susan Mallett – Alabama AFA State VP/Aerospace Education presented Ms Toney with a \$500 check and an AFA jacket.

Protecting Against Cyber Attack — AFA Launches "Cyber Patriot II"

Local Redstone CAP one of 300 participating

AFA

is sponsoring an innovative national competition among AFJROTC and CAP cadets, where the primary task will be to defend a computer network. The basic elements of such a network security competition were validated last year in an initial, small-scale Cyber Patriot I competition. This year, under the title of Cyber Patriot II, nearly 300 teams, from all over the United States, have registered to train and compete in this area of cyber security. This is a fantastic fit for young cadets who are motivated to learn more about software, hardware, viruses, firewalls, networks and the World-Wide-Web.

For Cyber Patriot II, each team of five cadets is led by a Cyber Patriot coach. The coach is provided training resources in network security principles and techniques. Through a simple Internet connection with their own personal com-



Cadets face cyber threat challenges during Cyber Patriot I

puter, teams are presented with network problems via a virtual network developed by SAIC, a vital partner in the competition. The SAIC hardware and software tracks and scores each team's responses in a series of competitive rounds that begins in October 2009. The top 25 teams will compete in a medalist round in December. Next February, the

winning team travels to San Antonio, Texas in April 2010, to observe the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition and serve as members of the national competition's control team.

A primary goal of Cyber Patriot is to grow cyber professionals from high school, through university, and on to government, industry and academia. Overall, the Air Force Association has found a "Gold Mine" for engaging highly motivated high school students in a very meaningful and productive competition.

Locally, John Hall of the Civil Air Patrol's Redstone Composite Squadron will lead a team of CAP cadets in the Cyber Patriot II competition. We wish John and his cadets success in their cyber adventure.



Air Force Association Tennessee Valley Chapter Upcoming Events

15 Sep @ 6:00 pm— 7:30 pm AF Birthday Celebration American Legion Hall Post 237 (2900 Drake Ave, Huntsville)

12 Oct — Columbus Day (Federal Holiday)

22 Oct @ 6:00 pm — AFA Chapter 335 General Membership Meeting and Elections

30 Oct @ 7:30 pm (Tentative) AFA Chapter Night at VBC supporting Huntsville Havoc

11 Nov — Veterans Day (Federal Holiday)

26 Nov—Thanksgiving (Federal Holiday)

AFA National Chairman of the Board, Joe Sutter, Speaks at Alabama AFA State Convention

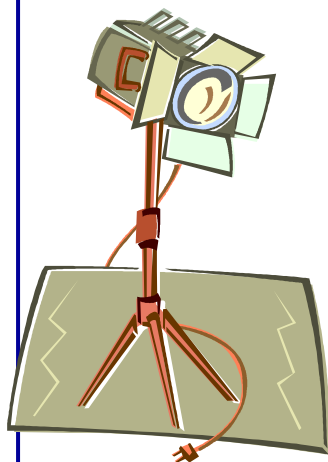
In mid-August, several members from your local AFA Chapter traveled to Maxwell AFB in Montgomery to participate in the Alabama AFA State Convention, hosted by the Montgomery AFA Chapter.

State President, Tom Gwaltney, presided over the event which featured Joe Sutter, AFA National Chairman of the Board as the guest speaker. Joe gave an insightful view of the challenges facing the Air Force today and how/what the Air Force Association is doing to preserve and protect our Nation's aerospace defensive capabilities. Not surprisingly, stopping procurement of the F-22 was, and continues to be, a major issue being discussed in Washington and elsewhere. Joe described how the AFA was virtually the sole advocate for increasing the number of F-22

purchases. Regarding the dual-tanker buy, a subject of intense interests to our members in the Mobile area, he indicated that National had not taken a formal position (pro or against the dual buy), but went on to stress the critical need for a new tanker. On that note, he pointed out that the AF's fleet of aircraft is the fewest in number and the oldest that it has ever been.

Our own John Phillip provided the group with an update on Cyber Patriot (see article on page 3). While Susan Mallett discussed a number of other programs being worked in support of Aerospace Education.

Community Partner Spotlight *Gleason Research Associates (GRA)*



Gleason Research Associates (GRA) became a Community Partner in April of this year – the first partner of the Chapter's reinvigorated Community Partner Program. Founded in 1982 by Dr Thomas Gleason in Columbia, Maryland, GRA

is a veteran-owned small business specializing in products and services to support the war fighter. They opened their Huntsville office in 1998 and are presently located Cummings Research Park. In addition to Huntsville they have offices in Orlando, Florida; Columbia, Maryland; San Diego, California; and Washington, DC. They employ over 140 individuals.

For more on their products and services visit their web site:

<http://www.grainc.net/>



Chapter's Web Site

Take a look at the Tennessee Valley Chapter's own web page. The web site is:

<http://www.hsv-afa.org/>

It is a great source for information regarding chapter activities or as a link to AFA National's site.

