



1ST QUARTER 2010

# Tennessee Valley Flyer

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

## Russian Nuclear Arms Control: Past, Present, and (Is There a) Future— Chapter's 3 December Guest Speaker



Lt Col (Ret) Wilt Burrell provides insight into Nuclear Arms Control with Russia

The guest speaker for the Chapter's December Quarterly Meeting, Lt Col (Ret) Wilt Burrell enlightened the Chapter to the challenges and opportunities posed by Arms Control with Russia. Drawing upon his experiences, with over 30 nuclear treaty inspections and 20 Cooperative Threat Reduction Audits and Examinations into Russia and the Former-Soviet Union,

Col Burrell set the stage by providing a historical perspective of arms control with the now Russian Federation and then, with the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) scheduled to expire in December 2009, opined a future path that US/Russia must follow

for nuclear arms reductions actions to continue.

In the early 1980s, with the U.S. and (then) Soviet's recognizing that mutually assured destruction was no longer feasible as a deterrent or National Security Strategy, both parties expressed an interest in pursuing nuclear talks. For most of the decade the talks languished. How-

ever, the signing of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty (in Dec 1987), opened the

door for START I which was signed in July 1991. The INF Treaty was truly the first nuclear arms control agreement that eliminated an entire class of weapons. It also rang in the era of an intrusive inspection regime.

Today, once again the U.S. and Russian Federation are actively engaged in a follow-on nuclear arms control discussions. This past summer, both sides agreed to follow-on talks. As being discussed, START II will dramatically reduce (two-thirds of pre-START I stockpiles) both parties' nuclear weapons. Today, the U.S. holds a distinct advantage in its precision guided munitions (PGMs); whereas, the U.S. needs Russian support in dealing with new nuclear

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states (e.g. North Korea and Iran). The Russians desire the U.S. to curtail PGM deployment in exchange for their diplomatic support in bringing new nuclear weapon states to the negotiating table and not to deploy their follow-on ICBMs.

Col Burwell closed expressing his opinion that additional nuclear arms reductions are likely in the future, given the desire by both presidents to reach such an agreement.

## Col (Ret) John Phillip Receives National Award

At our 3 December Quarterly meeting, Alabama AFA State President, Tom Gwaltney, traveled up from Montgomery to formally present to the Tennessee Valley's own, Col (Ret) John Phillip, the AFA National Award of Merit.

Awarded during the September AFA National Convention the

award is based upon John's tireless support to the Chapter's aerospace education program across the Tennessee Valley.

VP for Aerospace Education for the past three years, he organized and executed the Chapter's Junior ROTC scholarship program. Furthermore, John routinely interfaces with the three



Alabama AFA State President, Tom Gwaltney (on right), presents John Phillip the AFA National Award of Merit

high schools in the Huntsville area that offer Air Force Jr.

ROTC programs, and has attended the award ceremonies at each school each year, presenting AFA awards and scholarship certificates to cadets. In addition, he works with Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Squadrons across the Tennessee Valley (see article on page 2), supporting their efforts to promote leadership, while furthering the knowledge and skills required for future airmen.

# Aerospace Education

## *Boaz Cadet is awarded AFA's Outstanding CAP Cadet Medal*

Cadet 1Lt Ryan Erskine, a member of the Alabama 801st Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Squadron, was awarded the Air Force Association's Outstanding CAP Cadet Medal on December 10, 2009. Cadet Erskine was recognized for his leadership skills in motivating fellow cadets, assistance in organizing squadron activities, and learning achievement in aerospace studies.

John Phillip, our Director of Aerospace Education, traveled to Boaz to formally present the AFA award to Cadet Erskine. John also observed the unit's planned educational event of the eve-

ning, which centered on the theory and operation of a computer-driven robotic arm. After some instruction on the theory, all cadets were given an opportunity to operate four different robotic arm models in the Boaz Intermediate School's Computer Lab.

Civil Air Patrol Captain Lynn Toney was in charge of the evening's lesson. She was our chapter's 2009 winner of the AFA Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, having also won the state award. John was very impressed at the dedication of the instructors and cadets in



CAP Cadet 1st Lt Ryan Erskine receives the AFA Outstanding CAP Cadet Medal from Col (Ret) John Phillip.

this squadron. He was amazed at what five adult leaders are accomplishing under the banner of aerospace education in a well-organized and effective Civil Air Patrol squadron.

## *CyberPatriot II Final 8 Heads to Orlando Huntsville High Makes it to the Medalist Round*

The Air Force Association conducted their Medalist Round in the cyber defense competition on November 21st. This was quite a race against the clock, as the 36 competing teams had no more than six hours to find and correct vulnerabilities in a complex three-operating-system virtual network. The cadet teams were tied into the Internet and a SAIC scoring device that tracked the success and speed of each team. Our local AFJROTC team from Huntsville High School was one of the 36 Medalist Round competitors, but did not make the final eight.

Cyber Patriot II was likely the largest simultaneous high school cyber defense competition ever staged. Nearly 200 teams from 41 states and Japan competed over the Internet. Eight finalist teams emerged; four were CAP teams and four were AFJROTC teams.

The eight teams are:

- CAP Beach Cities Cadet Squadron 107, Torrance, CA (Top Scorer)
- AFJROTC FL-952 F.W. Springstead HS, Spring Hill, FL
- CAP Rochester Oakland Comp Squadron, Rochester Hills, MI
- CAP Burlington Comp Squadron, Burlington, NC
- CAP Seacoast Composite Squadron, Portsmouth, NH
- AFJROTC NY-095 Newburgh Free Academy, Newburgh, NY
- AFJROTC NY-20031 Rome Free Academy, Rome, NY
- AFJROTC UT-081 Clearfield HS, Clearfield, UT

These eight will now receive an all-expense-paid trip to the Championship Round, February 19, 2010, which will be part of AFA's Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Florida.



### **IRS DESIGNATES AFA AS TAX EXEMPT**

In a letter dated 24 September 2009, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) designated the Air Force Association (AFA) and its subordinate chapters as tax exempt.

Specifically the tax exempt status allows, "Donors may deduct contributions to your subordinates" (Chapters and State organizations). Individuals may wish to consider a gift or trust to the Tennessee Valley Chapter and/or the Air Force Association to support the aerospace education program.

For more information go to the AFA web site (<http://www.afa.org/af/cntrbts/>) or contact your own Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter.

## Air Power Advocates

A little over a year ago, Lt Gen (Ret) Mike Dunn, AFA President, initiated a program to develop a group of airpower advocates -- those who could talk with civic groups (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.), the local press, and be a source for



Follow-on for KC-135 is critical to sustain force projection capabilities in the 21st Century

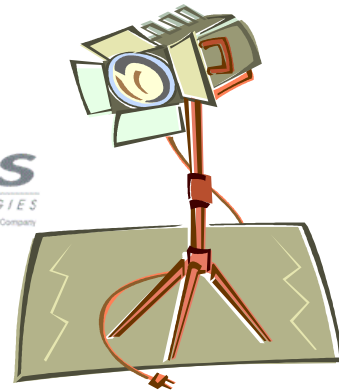
linking into the Congressional staffs. The purpose is to both educate the public while serving as grassroots advocates for airpower.

From a small core group of 11, today there are more than 100 Air Power Advocates (APAs); seven of which are from Alabama, with three of those associated with the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter.

In addition to having access to a number of briefings and papers on issues impacting the air and space community, advocates are routinely (usually bi-weekly) in teleconference where current issues are discussed with recommended courses of action to pursue getting the

word out at the local level.

Our voices are being heard! Last month, concerns regarding the impact to veteran health care benefits of the proposed Health Care Bill were conveyed to Senators across the nation. In response, a letter dated 3 Dec 09, Senator Richard Shelby expressed his "immense appreciation to our nation's service members and veterans." He vowed to "fight against any measure that would detrimentally affect the service provided to our nation's Active Duty personnel, veterans, and their families."



## Community Partner Spotlight DRS Test & Energy Management, LLC

**DRS Test & Energy Management, LLC (DRS TEM)** in Huntsville, AL, has over 55 years of experience in the military and aerospace industries.

DRS Technologies, headquartered in Parsippany, NJ, is a leading supplier of integrated products, services and support to military forces, intelligence agencies and prime contractors worldwide. The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Finmeccanica S.p.A. which employs more than 73,000 people worldwide, bringing a wealth of resources to bear in DRS TEM's ability to serve customers.

**DRS TEM Product Lines** include Power & Energy Management, Advanced Vehicle Health Management, Automated Test Systems, Common Electronic Systems (Vetronics/Mission Critical Software). **Our Customers:** DRS TEM responds to the needs of U.S. and allied military forces, as they engage in day-to-day expeditionary activities, by providing a range of military support systems and services to

the military, defense prime contractors, government intelligence agencies, international military forces, and industrial and homeland defense markets.

### Major Capabilities

**Sustainment Solutions** include Electronic Diagnostics, Vehicle Health Management, Condition Based Maintenance, and System Integration Labs.

DRS TEM's **Electronic Solutions** provide Cross-Platform Electronics/LRU commonality, Video & Data Distribution/Situational Awareness, and Systems Integration solutions and services.

**Power Solutions** include Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Power Trains; Renewable Remote Power Supplies; On Board Vehicle Power; Electric Motor Controllers; Weapons-Grade, High Energy Directed Power; and Advanced Power Management Systems. This expertise has allowed DRS to develop one of the world's first On Board Vehicle Power (OBVP) system for military

ground vehicles, increasing on- and off-board power capabilities and eliminating the need for towed generators.

**Test Equipment Solutions** include Automatic Test Equipment; DSESTS Sustainment; Off-Vehicle LRU Fault Isolation, and unique, customizable test systems.

Along with extensive **Engineering** capabilities (Military/Rugged Environment, CMMI Level III, Agile/Scrum environments), DRS TEM **Manufactures** its products in Huntsville in a High Mix, Low Volume, NPI, ISO, Lean Six Sigma qualified environment.

DRS TEM also provides Field Support, Training and Tech Pubs, Depot/RESET and Field Installation/Retrofit.

## Air Force Association Tennessee Valley Chapter Upcoming Events

**4 Feb @ 7:00 pm— 8:30 pm**

**AFA Chapter 335 Meeting—  
Guest Speaker: Doug Garner,  
former WW II, B-24 Gunner.  
Huntsville Veterans Museum  
(2060 Airport Rd SW)**

**18 Feb @ 5:30 pm—7:00 pm**  
Executive Council Meeting

**18 Mar @ 5:30 pm—7:00 pm**  
Executive Council Meeting

**8 Apr @ Time & location TBD**  
**AFA Chapter 335 Meeting—  
Guest Speaker: Bob Jaques  
and the Doolittle Raid.**

**July: Chapter to host AFA State  
Convention with Guest  
Speaker/Date TBD**

**Aug: Chapter to support Medal of  
Honor Gala**

**Sep: Air Force Birthday Celebration  
with Guest Speaker**

**Nov: Huntsville Veteran's Day Parade**



### Consolidated B-24 Liberator

Max Speed—290 mph

Range—2,200 miles

Service Ceiling—28,000 ft

- First prototype flew Dec 1939 with over 18,000 eventually produced
- Gained a distinguished war record with its operations in the European, Pacific, African and Middle Eastern theaters
- In addition to the U.S. Army Air Force the B-24 was also flown by the U.S. Navy, the Royal Canadian Air Force, and the British Royal Air Force and

## Rick Driesbach, AFA Tennessee Valley Chapter President, Projects Exciting 2010

First, I would like to thank all of you who helped make 2009 an excellent year for our Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter. As a testament to our success, our activities were highlighted by National AFA in three separate issues of the Air Force Magazine. At the National AFA Conference in September, our own John Phillip was recognized with an AFA National Medal of Merit for his work supporting aerospace education. Clearly, the highlight of 2009 was our inaugural celebration of the Air Force Birthday! Hopefully you were as proud as I was when you saw the electronic billboards around Huntsville promoting the U.S. Air Force as "The World's Premier Air Power."

We are well on our way to make 2010 even more successful. I am sure as you look over the schedule of planned events (see side bar) you will see we have forecast a busy year. Our goal is to ensure that we not only provide a forum for us to share Air Force experiences, but also to educate both young and old on the role and importance the U.S. Air Force serves to ensure the security of our nation.

This year we plan several new initiatives to promote the Air Force and aerospace defense. First, the AFA has designated this year as the

"Year of the AF Family" and as such, we are looking to reach out to support families of AF and AFR airmen who are deployed abroad. Along those same lines, working with Air Force leadership here in the area, this year our Chapter hopes to recognize the Valley's "Outstanding Active Duty Airman" and "Outstanding AF Reserve Airman."

In closing, the key to our Chapter's success is an active membership, so we hope to see you at all of our events. Additionally, the recruitment of new members interested in supporting the Air Force mission is a worthy goal of our chapter. If we increase our role by a few new members each Quarter, our Chapter gains about \$800 in rebates from National AFA Headquarters. Similarly, we gain about \$40 for each new company we sign up as an AFA Community Partner. These funds allow us to execute our Jr AFROTC scholarship program and present awards to deserving CAP cadets and airmen. Thus, in the coming year, I am calling on you to support the activities of your chapter and to look for opportunities to encourage others who wish to promote and support the dedicated men and women of the U.S. Air Force who secure our nation's air and space domains.

## B-24 Gunner to be Guest Speaker at 4 Feb General Meeting— Huntsville Veterans Museum to Host

On Tuesday, 4 Feb, the Huntsville Veterans Museum will host the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter's Quarterly Meeting. AFA members, their guests and the general public are cordially invited to this meeting. In keeping with the theme of the evening, our Guest Speaker is an Army Air Force Veteran — Douglas C. Garner. His presentation will focus upon his insight obtained having flown over 30 missions over Germany and other occupied territories as a B-24 gunner in the 93rd Bomb Group and 8AF. In addition to the Distinguished Flying Cross

and five Air Medals, other awards Douglas Garner has received include the Meritorious Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon with one Bronze Star and one Silver Star, and the Jubilee of Liberty Medal from France.



Douglas C. Garner in 1944



The Huntsville Veterans Museum is located at 2060A Airport Rd SE, Huntsville. Doors will open at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7:00 pm ending by 8:30 pm.