

Tennessee Valley Flyer

“TOP OF ALABAMA”



3RD QUARTER 2010

Chapter Honors Doolittle’s Achievements

On 8 April, members and guests of the Tennessee Valley Chapter were taken back in time to 1942 when, a then-Colonel Jimmy Doolittle, was tasked to plan a strike on Japan. Bob Jacques, a noted aviation and space historian, was the Chapter’s guest speaker and provided unique perspective and insight on this amazing aviation feat.

In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt felt it was essential to do something to uplift America’s morale while demonstrating to Japan its own vulnerability. Thus, in March 1942, an all-volunteer group headed to Eglin AFB to begin their training. There, they met Navy Lt. Henry Miller who instructed them in the con-

cept of taking off from an aircraft carrier.

On 18 April 1942, a Japanese picket ship sighted the USS Hornet. Still, almost 300 miles from the planned launch point, the decision was made to launch the force. In 40 mph gale winds and 30 foot swells, 16 B-25s took off for Japan. Only 15 were originally planned for the attack, but Col Doolittle elected to go ahead and launch the spare aircraft.

Only one of the 16 aircraft was unable to deliver its bomb load onto Japanese soil. All but one aircraft crashed/ditched in (or off the coast of) China. The one aircraft ended up landing near Vladostok, where the crew was interned for over a year (until escap-



Bob Jacques shows model of B-25 utilized in Doolittle Raid

ing). Interestingly, Russia charged the U.S. \$30,000 a month in storage fees for the detained aircraft.

Of the 16 crews, surprisingly most survived. Two crews were captured (10 airmen): two of the airmen died as a result of the crash landing, with three being tried and executed, while one airman died during confinement.

In 2006 Bob Jacques spoke at the Raiders Reunion. At that event, 16 (of the original 80) were

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still living, with eight able to attend. Bob spoke of the goblets that were made for each of the Raiders. The plan is that the last two survivors will break open an 1896 (year of Doolittle’s birth) bottle of Cognac to toast their fallen comrades.

Editor’s Note—The 68th Raiders’ Reunion was held at Wright Patterson AFB on 16 April. Four of the eight surviving airmen attended. Next year’s reunion is scheduled for Omaha, NE.

Chapter Hosting Alabama’s AFA State Convention

The AFA Tennessee Valley Chapter is hosting this year’s Alabama AFA State Convention. Scheduled to take place on Saturday, 24 July, all of the activities will be at the Downtown Holiday Inn (401 Williams SW). Tom Gwaltney, Alabama State AFA President, indicated he was

extremely pleased to be returning to the Rocket City for this year’s Convention.

In addition to the business meeting, there will be a social hour and a dinner. All AFA (Ala) members are invited to attend the business meeting at no charge. Guests are encourage to

attend the dinner; the 3-course meal costs \$25/ person.

To sign-up, or for more information, see the Chapter web site (www.hsv-afa.org) or contact Russ Lewey at (256-425-8791).



AFA Chairman of the Board, Joe Sutter to speak at the Convention (meeting and dinner). For more on Joe Sutter, see bio on page 4.

Aerospace Education

Boaz Teacher Recognized as Chapter's Teacher of the Year

For the second year in a row, the Chapter's Teacher of the Year is from Boaz, Alabama. On 26 May, Col John Phillip, the Chapter's VP for Aerospace Education had the privilege of presenting this year's Teacher of the Year Award to Ms Sonya Hester, a kindergarten teacher at Boaz Elementary. The presentation took place in concert with the graduation ceremony of the Kindergarten class—a chance for the Principal, the faculty, and the parents to recognize Ms Hester's achievements.

Through the "theme" of aerospace, Ms Hester is able to promote all areas of the academic program-

with a special emphasis on reading and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) curriculum; ensuring students are learning good character traits in order to become better future citizens; and to assist the students in learning to live a healthy and drug-free lifestyle. She is "an ace" in the profession of education and her students are becoming "little aces" in a program that is preparing the young people for the workforce of tomorrow.

During the recent NASA Week in the school system, she worked with another teacher to create a class-sized "space bubble" in which her students did various classroom activities to



Ms. Sonya Hester receives Chapter's Teacher of the Year from Col (Ret) John Phillip

include learning the "I'm a Little Rocket" song while making and eating space pudding. This past February, she attended the Space Exploration Educator's Conference (SEEC) in Houston, Texas, where she had the opportunity to share and learn more exciting ways to stimulate future space travelers.

The AFA Tennessee Valley Chapter salutes Ms Sonya Hester.

CyberPatriot III is Launched

On May 12, the AFA announced a significant step in furthering our goal in helping to educate the public on the importance of Air, Space, and Cyber-space power.

Of these, Cyber security is one the most critical national security imperatives for the U.S. today. The key to our protection lies in people. We need more Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)-educated U.S. citizens of all disciplines, but arguably require talent in cyber security most of all.

This need was the reason the AFA decided to create The National High School Cyber Defense Competition. This, the third year of CyberPatriot, the AFA is moving to Full National De-

ployment, with up to 500 slots reserved in the "All-Service" Division for JROTC units of all the services and the Civil Air Patrol. In a separate, parallel competition we will have an "Open" Division available to up to 500 non-JROTC high schools nationwide. Both competitions will culminate at an in-person Championship at the Gaylord National Resort to be held on 1-2 April 2011 in conjunction with the new CyberFutures Symposium and Technology Exposition.

A generous grant from the Presenting Sponsor, Northrop Grumman Corporation, made this Full National Deployment possible. Founding Partners in-



clude: the Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) of the University of Texas San Antonio (creator of the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition), and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) (supplying their patent-pending Cyber NEXS Cyber Defense Trainer as the platform for the competition). Strategic Partners General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems (GD AIS), Raytheon Company and Microsoft Corporation also provide significant essential resources and multiyear commitments to the project. For more information on CyberPatriot go to:

<http://www.afa.org/CyberPatriot/>

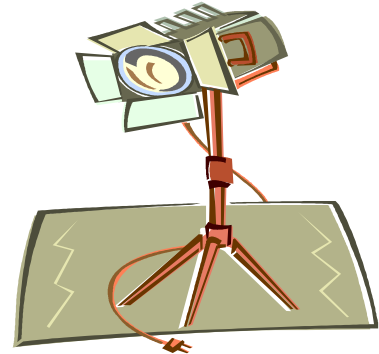
Spotlight on Community Partners

Decisive Analytics Corporation

DECISIVE ANALYTICS Corporation is a System Engineering Company specializing in providing analytical solutions to complex problems. They provide high level expertise aligned to functional areas which involves delivering cutting edge analytical services and products. Their complimentary functional areas include: Intelligent Decision Support Systems, Video Asset Management, Systems Analysis, Acquisition Support, Strategic and Operational User Support, International Support and System Security Engineering. Customers include various DoD activities, other Government

agencies and commercial businesses with requirements for affordable, effective systems solutions.

Founded in 1996, DECISIVE ANALYTICS Corporation's core ideology is to bring together individuals to form an organization that provides superior, innovative technical contributions to all endeavors in which they participate. Over their existence, they have firmly established DECISIVE ANALYTICS as an entity, while developing a reputation for unsurpassed technical excellence with all of their current customers. Their hard work has provided a foundation of significant financial assets



and contractual base.

An employee-owned company, they employ approximately 145 employees. With headquarters in Crystal City, VA they have offices in Colorado Springs, CO, Jeffersonville, IN, and just recently opened a new office in Huntsville.

For more information you can visit them at their new offices at 4950 Corporate Dr, Suite 120, Huntsville or at their web site: <http://www.dac.us/>.

SERCO, Inc



Serco Inc. is the North American business unit of Serco Group, plc, one of the world's leading and most admired service companies. Established in 1988, Serco's roots trace back to 1929. Today, they employ more than 11,500 people in over 100 locations across North America. They improve services by managing people, processes, technology and assets more effectively. Their broad array of real-time cost-effective service solutions ensures confidence and protection for the military, Government, and commercial customers. Whether the assignment is helping secure the borders, enhancing intelligence capabilities, helping federal agencies share critical data, or supporting personnel functions. Serco is there.

They deliver innovative service solutions to all branches of the U.S. military, federal civilian agencies and the intelligence community. Serco offers clients a trusted provider to deliver solutions that achieve meaningful outcomes. Furthermore, they have the industry know-how to understand the demanding challenges their customers face and the domain expertise to solve them—with a passion for excellence.

Serco's Huntsville Office is newly established and located at 7027 Old Madison Pike, Suite 108 in Huntsville or you can visit their web site at www.serco-na.com.

They advise, design, integrate and de-

“Are you ready for some football”

...Arena Football that is. On Saturday, 31 July at 8:30 pm Chapter



members and guests are encouraged to take in the Huntsville Vipers Arena Football game at the Von Braun Center. It is the last game of the Vipers regular season, where they will take on the Utah Blaze. This game could very well impact their playoff contentions.

The Chapter has four free tickets, so we will combine them to reduce the price. For more information contact Russ Lewey at 256-425-8791.

AFA Tenn Valley Chapter Upcoming Events

- 15 Jul @ 5:30 pm—7:00 pm
Executive Council Meeting
Location: NeXolve Corp.
655 Discovery Dr
- 24 Jul @ 1:00—4:00 pm
Ala AFA State Convention
Downtown Huntsville Holiday
Inn (401 Williams Ave SW)
4:00—7:00 pm
Ala AFA State Social & Dinner
Guest Speaker: Joe Sutter,
AFA Chairman of the Board
- 31 Jul @ 8:00 pm
(Informal) Huntsville Vipers
Contact Russ Lewey for details
(256-425-8791)
- 19 Aug @ 5:30 pm—7:00 pm
Executive Council Meeting
Location: NeXolve HQ
655 Discovery Dr
- 28 Aug: Chapter to support Medal of
Honor Gala
- 16 Sep @ 6:30 pm—8:00 pm
Air Force Birthday
Location: Redstone Federal
Credit Union (220 Wynn)
- 11 Nov: Huntsville Veteran's Day
Parade

AFA Tennessee Valley's Community Partners

Please support:

**Redstone Federal Credit
Union**

www.redfcu.org

DRS Technologies

www.drs.com

GATR Technologies

www.gatr.com

Decisive Analytics Corp.

www.dac.us

Serco, Inc,

www.serco-na.com



Distinguished Career of Joe Sutter, Chairman of the AFA Board

Joseph E. Sutter of Knoxville, Tenn., is the AFA Chairman of the Board.

An AFA Life Member

(active since 1987), he has served as a member of the Aerospace Education Foundation Board of Trustees and in AFA at the chapter, state, and national levels.

Active in the civilian community, Mr. Sutter is a past President of the Rotary Club of Knoxville and the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council, past Chairman of his parish council, and served on the Board of Directors of the United Way of Knoxville. While maintaining active involvement in those organizations, he currently serves as member of the Board of Directors of a large health care organization in East Tennessee.

Mr. Sutter served on active duty for 28 years at various USAF locations: Minot AFB, ND; Vandenberg AFB, CA; the Pentagon; Offutt AFB, NE; Whiteman AFB, MO; and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. His primary military duties were in ICBM operations; he commanded an ICBM Squadron, Operations Group, and Missile Wing. Other military duties included Staff Officer assignments at the Pentagon, including two years

in Air Force Legislative Liaison; HQ, Strategic Air Command, Chief of the Advanced ICBM Requirements Division; and Senior Controller, SAC Command Center. He graduated from the Naval War College, College of Command and Staff, with Highest Distinction, and from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces as a Distinguished Graduate.

His military decorations include the Legion of Merit with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters; Meritorious Service Medal with 4 OLCs; Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 OLC; and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Mr. Sutter graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and from the University of Southern California with a Master of Science degree in Systems Management. He works as a consultant on national security matters, serving USAF and other clients in the Washington, D.C., area.

Joe and his wife Geri have three grown children and three grandchildren.

September Celebration of 100 Years of Aviation in Alabama and the Air Force 63rd Birthday

Once again, the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter will be celebrating the Air Force's Birthday. In addition to the Air Force's 63rd Birthday, this year marks 100 years of aviation in Alabama.

Our celebration will be held on Thursday, 16 September, from 6:30—8:00 pm. Redstone Federal Credit Union, an AFA Community Partner, has agreed to host this year's event in the Atrium at the

South Building of their Main Branch Office (220 Wynn Drive, Huntsville).

Maj Gen (Ret) Robert "ChedBob" Chedister has tentatively agreed to be the guest speaker. Gen Chedister is presently Director, MDAP Engagement at the Defense Acquisition University and while on active duty served as the Commander, Air Armament Center, Eglin AFB, FL, and

Commander, Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold AFB, TN.

This year the Chapter will initiate and honor its Outstanding Airmen of Northern Alabama; as well as, recognize its Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

Look for more information on the web page (<http://www.hsv-afa.org>) or contact Russ Lewey at 256-425-8791.