



4TH QUARTER 2010

# Tennessee Valley Flyer

## “TOP OF ALABAMA”

### Celebrating the Air Force’s 63rd Birthday

On September 16, over 75 AFA members and guests came together to celebrate the Air Force’s 63rd Birthday.

As part of its celebration, the Chapter took an opportunity to recognize several individuals across the Tennessee Valley. First, was the Chapter’s Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Sonya Hester, a kindergarten teacher from Boaz Elementary School.

For the first time ever, the Chapter awarded the Outstanding Airmen of North Alabama. This year’s top NCO was SSgt Bruce M. Evans of the 280<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron—an Infrastructure Technician, Sgt Evans was instrumental in the success of the Navy’s inaugural MQ-9, Reaper operations. His

wife, Mrs. Amanda Evans, and his son Caleb, accepted the award package on his behalf, as he was temporarily deployed in support of AFRICOM. The

SNCO Outstanding Airman Award went to SMSgt(S) Matthew D. Strube, Flight Chief in the Sensor Analysis Division at the Missile and Space Intelligence Center. Over the past year, Sgt Strube was awarded a Bronze Star for his actions in Operations Iraqi Freedom, as well as, leading a team of analysts during an International Intelligence Exchange.

Brig Gen (Ret) Gary Connor, recognized and presented Community



TSgt Cash Bond, Harold “Chris” Christiansen, Cadet Kevin Matis, Maj Gen (Ret) Robert “ChedBob” Chedister, and Col Al Kemmet prepares for the traditional cake cutting ceremony

Partner plaques to a number of our newest Community Partners (see Spotlight on Community Partners on pages 3, 4, and 5).

Major General (Ret) Robert “ChedBob” Chedister was the guest speaker for the evening. A former test pilot and commander for several research and development Centers, Gen Chedister highlighted the history of the Air Force and aviation in Alabama.

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Culminating the event was the traditional cake cutting ceremony. Joining Gen Chedister for the event was the oldest airman, an Army Air Corps veteran and B-17 Bombarrier, Howard “Chris” Christiansen, youngest active duty airmen, TSgt Cash Bond, and the youngest AFJROTC cadet, Huntsville AFJROTC Cadet Kevin Matis. A rousing chorus of the Air Force Song closed an exciting and memorable evening.

### AFA Tennessee Valley Chapter Conducts Annual Election and Recognizes Two of its Finest

This October, the Chapter conducted its annual election (for results see page 4). Chapter President, Rick Driesbach, wishes to recognize two of the Chapter’s leaders who have served this

Chapter well and are stepping down from their positions. First, is John Phillip who for the last 5 years has served as the VP for Aerospace Education. In that role, John initiated and managed

the Chapter’s Scholarship Program. Since 2008, Greg Smith has served as the Chapter’s Vice President. In addition to serving in this capacity, Greg personally designed, developed,

and maintains the Chapter’s Web Site. The entire Chapter extends their thanks and appreciation to these two true leaders.



Rick Driesbach presents Joe Sutter a certificate acknowledging a donation made on his behalf to the Air Force Memorial Fund.

“Well Done!” “The State convention and dinner were an outstanding success!” “A Class Event!” The above were comments of the Alabama AFA State President, Tom Gwaltney, following the AFA Tennessee Valley Chapter’s hosting of this year AFA Alabama State Convention. This year’s State Convention was held at the Downtown Huntsville Holiday Inn on 24 July and consisted of a formal busi-

## Tennessee Valley Chapter—Exemplifies “Top of Alabama” at State Convention

ness meeting, a social, and dinner.

The Convention was fortunate to host the AFA Chairman of the Board, Joe Sutter, who provided insight into the activities being pursued by AFA Headquarters. Also attending was Louisiana State AFA President, Paul LaFlame, who provided an outsider’s view of issues and programs they were pursuing in “Cajun Country.”

During the Business Meeting, we learned that two of the Tennessee Valley Chapter’s members were being recognized by AFA Headquarters. Rick Driesbach, Chapter President and Russ Lewey, Secretary and VP for Public Relations were both being awarded the AFA Medal of Merit.

Elections were held for the upcoming year’s AFA State Officers. This year’s (2010—2011) officers are:

President:

\*Tom Gwaltney

Vice President;

Skip Dotherow

Secretary:

Russ Lewey

Treasurer:

Bill Voigt

\*Note: Though elected State President at the Convention, Tom Gwaltney is now the Southeast Region President. As VP, Skip Dotherow assumed the role of President with the VP to be determined.

Following the business meeting, spouses were invited to join in a social hour and dinner. The Chapter was fortunate to have the Redstone Civil Air Patrol Squadron open the dinner with the presentation of colors. Joe Sutter was the keynote speaker. To echo Tom Gwaltney’s comments, it was a “Class Event!”

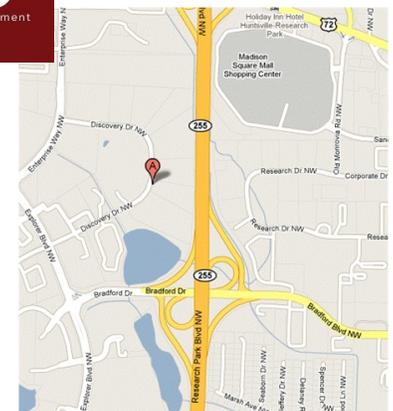
## “Today and Future of ISR Operations” - Highlights at the 4 November Meeting

This Quarter’s General Meeting will be held 6 pm on Thursday, 4 November at the L3Comm Conference Room at 654 Discovery Dr. in Cummings Research Park.

In addition to a brief business meeting, representatives from AeroVironment will highlight how their Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) are enhancing combat effectiveness with intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and target acquisition capabilities. AeroVironment produces the RQ-11B Raven (a hand-launched unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV))

being utilized by both Security and Special Forces. They will also provide insight into their newest research and development efforts: Global Observer - the world’s first hybrid-electric UAS, in flight test at Edwards AFB, and designed to stay aloft for 5-7 days at 60,000 feet to provide affordable and persistent ISR and communications relay services.

This event is opened to the public. For questions, contact Russ Lewey, (256-425-8791 or email: [PublicRelVP@hsv-afa.org](mailto:PublicRelVP@hsv-afa.org)).



L3 Comm Huntsville in Research Park at 654 Discovery Drive

# Spotlight on Community Partners

## DMD, LLC

DMD is a premier provider of services and technologies in the Federal marketplace. They have been supporting the Missile Defense Agency and the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command with distinction since 2002. DMD is an employee-owned small business that began as an unpopulated joint venture and now, a few short years later, boasts over 70 employees, \$70M in revenue, and task orders totaling over \$540M. DMD attributes their success to their customer focus and results-oriented approach. DMD was founded on the concept of building an adaptive, innovative company which rewards entrepreneurial accomplishment and everyday excellence. Their commitment to the defense of America is venerable, continuous, and unflinching.

You can visit DMD at 360B Quality Circle or their web: [www.dmdgroupinc.com](http://www.dmdgroupinc.com)

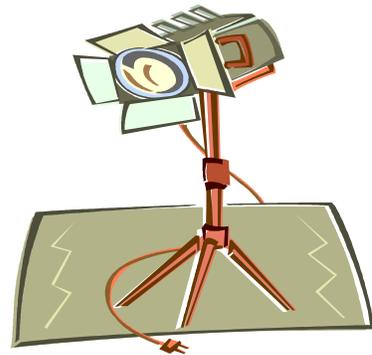


## Qualis Corporation

Qualis Corporation, a woman-owned small business, specializes in systems engineering, test and evaluation, specialized logistics, and acquisition and program management services.

Headquartered in Huntsville with offices in Niceville, Florida and Warren, Michigan, Qualis has employees in 16 states, Afghanistan, and Iraq supporting the US Air Force, US Army, NASA, US Navy, and Joint DoD organizations.

Qualis is the recipient of many local



and national awards, including the Inc. Magazine's 5000 ranking of number

1280 of the fastest growing privately held companies in the US.

Qualis Huntsville offices are located at 5000 Bradford Dr NW, Suite B or for more information visit their web: [www.qualis-corp.com](http://www.qualis-corp.com)

## Mercedes-Benz of Huntsville

Mercedes Benz of Huntsville serving North Alabama is proud to be an automotive leader in the community. Since opening its doors, Mercedes Benz of Huntsville has maintained a solid commitment to their customers, offering the widest selection of Mercedes-Benz vehicles and ease of purchase.

Whether you are in the market to purchase a new Mercedes-Benz, a used/pre-owned vehicle, or if you need financing options, they'll help you find a car loan that works for you! Even if you have poor credit or are a first time car buyer, you can trust that Mercedes Benz of Huntsville will get you into the automobile of your choice.

Mercedes Benz of Huntsville's professionally managed Parts and Ser-

vice Departments are open extended hours to accommodate customers' busy schedules; and they offer competitive pricing for your automotive maintenance needs.

You can visit them at 6520 on University Dr; reach them by phone at 866-286-6240 or 866-286-6240; or visit their web page: [www.mercedesbenzofhuntsville.com](http://www.mercedesbenzofhuntsville.com)

**Go Air Force,  
Beat Army!**

It is time for the Commander-In-Chief's Trophy to return to Colorado and the Air Force Academy. With the convincing win over Navy, the Air Force Academy is primed to take back the trophy. Be sure to cheer on our Falcons on Nov 6.



Mercedes-Benz

# Spotlight on Community Partners

## Lockheed Martin

Lockheed Martin Corporation was formed in March 1995 with the merger of two of the world's premier technology companies, Lockheed Corporation and Martin Marietta Corporation. In 1996, Lockheed Martin completed its strategic combination with the defense electronics and systems integration businesses of Loral.



Lockheed Martin traces its roots back to the early days of flight. In 1909 aviation pioneer Glenn L. Martin organized a company around a modest airplane construction business and built it into a major airframe supplier to U.S. military and commercial customers.

## Cobham, plc

Cobham is an international company engaged in the development, delivery and support of leading edge aerospace and defense systems in the air, on land and at sea. Its heritage dates back to 1934, when Sir Alan Cobham, an innovative aviation pioneer, worked tirelessly to make flying popular with his own personal dream that "one day there would be a landing ground in every major town". More than 75 years later, with airports commonplace, the pioneering spirit continues with Cobham producing world leading products and solutions for the aerospace and defense industry.



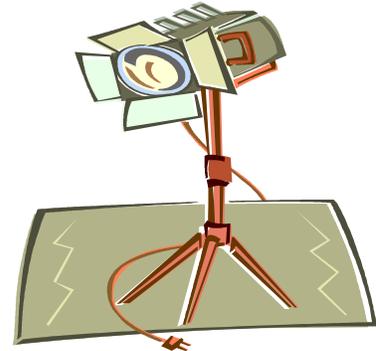
Locally, Cobham Analytic Solutions, formerly known as **SPARTA, Inc.**,

Martin Marietta was established in 1961 when the Glenn L. Martin Company merged with American-Marietta Corp., a leading supplier of building and road construction materials. In 1913, Allan and Malcolm Loughhead (name later changed to Lockheed) flew the first Lockheed plane over San Francisco Bay. The modern Lockheed Corporation was formed in 1932 after the fledgling airplane company was reorganized.

Today Lockheed Martin specializes in providing solutions to the most complex and challenging technological issues. With a team of over 136,000 professional

products and services to the defense, intelligence and homeland security sectors of the US federal government. Their vision has been consistent since 1979—apply the best intellectual talent to help solve major national challenges. With over 1200 employees, Cobham Analytic Solutions prizes their reputation for integrity, technical excellence, and customer satisfaction.

Here in Huntsville, Cobham Analytic Solutions (aka SPARTA) is located at 401 Diamond Dr. For more information you can visit Cobham's web site at: [www.cobham.com](http://www.cobham.com).



als, they possess the tools and technologies to solve virtually any problem; and provide the systems and services to their customers' needs in order to carry out their vital missions.

Lockheed Martin Space Systems Campus in Huntsville is located at 4800 Bradford Dr. You can visit their web site at:

[www.lockheedmartin.com](http://www.lockheedmartin.com)

### *Chapter Elects New Slate of Officers*

This year's (2010—2011) slate of officers for the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter 335 are:

President: Rick Driesbach

Vice President: Guy Broadhurst

Treasurer: Jack Royster

Secretary: Russ Lewey

In addition to the above officers, the Chapter has several appointed "VPs" who have special focus areas:

VP for Aerospace Ed: Open, pending volunteer

VP for Public Relations: Open pending volunteer

VP for Membership: Jack Royster

VP for Veteran's Affairs: Sam Liburdi

# Spotlight on Community Partners

## U.S. Space & Rocket Center

Home to Space Camp and Aviation Challenge; The U.S. Space & Rocket Center (USSRC) is recognized as one of the most comprehensive U.S. manned space flight hardware museums in the world. Their facilities include Spacedome Theater, Rocket Park, the Davidson Center for Space Exploration, and the Education Training Center.

The Davidson Center for Space Exploration is like no other in the country. In its 476 foot long, 90 foot wide and 63 foot high structure, suspended 10 feet above the floor, is a national historic treasure, the mighty Saturn V, restored to its Apollo era readiness.

Visitors to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center experience Huntsville's role in the making of the moon rocket, the space race, the Apollo missions, and learn about the Space Shuttle program and the International Space Station. Visitors may trace the evolution of humankind's ventures into space and watch as tomorrow's potential engineers, scientists and astronauts train in one of the Space Camp or Aviation Challenge Programs.

The USSRC, NASA's first visitor center,

opened in 1970 and has served over 14.5 million visitors to date. As the Official Visitor Information Center for the Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), the USSRC is committed to educating the public and students

who attend SPACE CAMP about the work being done at MSFC, particularly in the area of propulsion where MSFC has made significant contributions in the

Apollo and shuttle programs and is again on the forefront with the Ares rockets.

For more information visit their web site at:

[www.spacecamp.com/museum/](http://www.spacecamp.com/museum/)



### DID YOU KNOW?

Your AFA Tennessee Valley Chapter is a non-profit and recognized as a 501(c)3 organization. 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/ae/cntrbtns/>) or contact your own Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter.



## AFA Tennessee Valley's Community Partners

*Please support:*

**Cobham, LLC**

[www.cobham.com](http://www.cobham.com)

**Decisive Analytics Corp.**

[www.dac.us](http://www.dac.us)

**DMD, LLC**

[www.dmdgroupinc.com](http://www.dmdgroupinc.com)

**DRS Technologies**

[www.drs.com](http://www.drs.com)

**GATR Technologies**

[www.gatr.com](http://www.gatr.com)

**Lockheed Martin**

[www.lockheedmartin.com](http://www.lockheedmartin.com)

**Mercedes-Benz of  
Huntsville**

[www.mercedesbenzofhuntsville.com](http://www.mercedesbenzofhuntsville.com)

**Qualis**

[www.qualis-corp.com](http://www.qualis-corp.com)

**Redstone Federal Credit  
Union**

[www.redfcu.org](http://www.redfcu.org)

**Serco, Inc,**

[www.serco-na.com](http://www.serco-na.com)

**U.S. Space & Rocket  
Center**

[www.spacecamp.com/museum](http://www.spacecamp.com/museum)

## Future Activities of the AFA Tennessee Valley Chapter

2 Nov—Get out and Vote!

4 Nov @ 6:00 pm—7:30 pm

Quarterly Meeting  
“Today and Future of ISR  
Operations”

Location: L3Comm  
654 Discovery Dr

11 Nov @ 11:11 am

Huntsville / Madison County  
Veteran's Day Parade  
Location: Downtown Huntsville

18 Nov @ 5:30 pm—7:00 pm

Executive Council Meeting  
Location: NeXolve Corp.  
655 Discovery Dr