

Tennessee Valley Flyer

"TOP OF ALABAMA"



1ST QUARTER 2011

Through the Lens of a UAV

On 2 November, the Tennessee Valley Chapter was fortunate to host AeroVironment's intriguing presentation on unmanned aerospace vehicles (UAVs) currently in operation and development around the world.

Those in attendance got to learn, not only about the newest small UAVs, but also of advanced research AeroVironment is conducting in the field of persistent, affordable, global vigilance — Global Observer. This vehicle, a proof of concept, is designed to provide a plat-

form for both intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and communication relay at a high altitude (65,000 ft), and up to seven days over a target area.

AeroVironment provides a full array of small UAVs; from the one-pound Wasp, to the most popular (4 lb) Raven, to their newest platform, the Puma, a 13 lb. UAV capable of 2 hour flight and 10 nm range.

Prior to AeroVironment's presentation, the Alabama AFA State President, Skip Dotherow, presented the AFA National Medal of



AeroVironment's, Geoff Hitch, discusses the operations of the most popular, small, UAV, the RQ-11B, the Raven.

Merit to two of our own members. Rick Driesbach was recognized for the work he did in "resurrecting" the Tennessee Valley Chapter. Russ Lewey, was recognized for his work with the Community Partner Program and with orchestrating the Air Force Birthday Celebration.

Skip also took the opportunity to enlighten the

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Chapter with insight from the National Convention and the most recent State President's Meeting.

One of the Chapter's newest Community Partners, DMD was welcomed. Brad Bohan accepted the plaque and Chapter coin on behalf of DMD.

Don't miss Joint Luncheon

Guest Speaker:

Lt Gen David Deptula, USAF (Ret)
former Deputy Chief for ISR



Current and Future Challenges in Joint ISR

Thursday, 10 March 2011
1130-1300 Luncheon

Hall opens at 1100

The Von Braun Center, North Hall

Tickets: \$30 Individual

\$300 Corporate Table for 8

Purchase: PayPal at: www.hsv-afa.org
or call 256-201-2214



Expanded Aerospace Education (AE) Program on the Horizon

Building upon the legacy that John Phillip left during his successful and extended tour as VP for Aerospace Education, Wilt Burwell (new VP for AE) has taken on the task of expanding the Chapter's AE efforts.

Late last year, the Executive Council agreed that the time was right to move our AE Program to a new level. Led by Wilt Burwell, a small committee met in January and further discussed how an expanded program might look.

All are in agreement that scholarships will continue to be a part of the Chapter's AE efforts.

One option under consideration would expand the numbers and/or amount to include individuals other than just AFJROTC cadets.

Recognizing that teachers are critical to inspiring students in the area of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), the Chapter is looking to get the word out on its Teacher of the Year Program. Other methods for promoting STEM activities, include sponsoring field trips and seminars.

To expand its program, the Chapter needs additional resources. Presently, all of the funds generated by the Community Partnership are automatically dedicated for this effort but these funds

barely cover one scholarship. Wilt has stressed the need for additional donations. Members are encouraged to consider and look for others to donate to this worthy cause. (See article below)

Look for more on the newly expanded AE Program on the web and in next quarter's newsletter. On that note—Teacher of the Year nomination packages are due to the Chapter NLT 4 April 2011. You can obtain an application at the AFA Web site:

(www.afa.org/aef/aid/cty.asp).

Chapter members are encouraged to inform teachers in the North Alabama region and across the nation of this program (AFA Chapters nation-wide participate in the Teacher of the Year program).



Col Al Kemmet Jr. Retiring After 29 years

Colonel Al Kemmet Jr., Deputy Director of the Space and Missile Intelligence Center, will retire on Friday, March 11, 2011, after 29+ years of service.

Col Kemmet has belonged to the Air Force Association for a number of

years and is an active member of the Tennessee Valley Chapter AFA Executive Council. He has also worked with the Chapter's Aerospace Education Program. The Chapter wishes him and his lovely wife, April, the best of luck.

Educate—Advocate—Support Your Donations Can Make a Difference

Educate, Advocate, and Support, these words are the foundation of the mission of your Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter. As a non-profit (IRS 501(c)), other than a minimal stipend from Headquarters AFA (averaging just over \$300/quarter), the Chapter

must rely on donations to carry out its mission. Almost all of the Chapter's budget is dedicated solely to supporting its Aerospace Education (AE) Program.

Over the past three years this has been limited to

three scholarships to AFJROTC cadets, along with awards to recognize outstanding teachers and Civil Air Patrol cadets in our area.

We want to do more to expand the AE Program. This takes resources.

We ask that you consider making a tax deductible donation to the Chapter or, even consider including the Chapter in your will or trust.

Send donations to Rick Driesbach, Chapter 335 President, 106 Moonglow Trail, Huntsville AL, 35806. Make checks out to AFA Chapter 335, a receipt will be returned.

AFA Welcomes Congressman Mo Brooks

On Friday, 21 January 2011, Rick Driesbach, Chapter President, Guy Broadhurst, Chapter Vice President, and Russ Lewey, Chapter VP for Public Relations, met with the representative of Alabama's 5th District, Congressman Mo Brooks. Accompanying the Congressman was Ms. Tiffany Noel, District Director. Congratulating Representative Brooks on his victory in the election, and the recent start of the 211th Congressional session, Rick took the opportunity to provide Rep. Brooks an understanding of the Chapter's vision, mission, and the size and scope of our Tennessee Valley Chapter. Congressman Brooks is a key

member on the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), Homeland Security, and the House's Science and Technology Committee. Congressman Brooks expressed understanding and support for a strong defense, but went on to acknowledge that there will be some tough decisions this year in addressing the deficit and budget cuts.

Rick Driesbach extended a complimentary AFA membership to the Congressman, and an open invitation to him, and Ms. Noel, to attend our Quarterly AFA meetings. In addition, we suggested that he consider joining the Air Force Caucus. Created in 1998, the Air Force Caucus bands together like-minded legislators in order to better understand, and support Air Force positions and



needs on Capitol Hill. Rick offered up access to the wide array of Defense and Air Force expertise that the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter possesses.

In conclusion, Congressman Brooks was presented a Chapter coin, and the latest copies of Air Force Magazine. He, in turn, thanked us for the meeting, the information, and encouraged the Chapter to keep in tune with his work on the Hill, and in support of the District and our Nation.

Community Partner's Spotlight Davis Strategic Innovations (DSI)

DSI is a performance-driven organization with the vision to become a leading systems, technology, and management solutions provider in Aerospace, Defense, and Homeland Security.

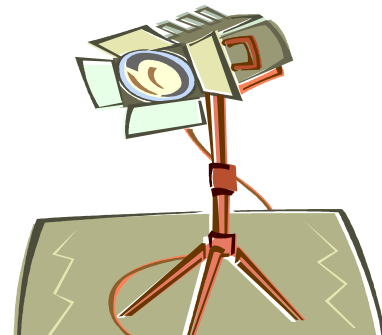
A Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned small business, DSI is dedicated to quality engineering, analysis, research, and education focused on technical, policy, and procedural issues to enhance national security.

DSI provides strategic-level technical and educational services for



various Departments within the U.S. government, providing solutions to ensure the United States maintains leadership in aerospace technologies, and to prepare our nation and allies to successfully defeat terrorism, conventional and strategic threats.

To combat the emergence of persistent threatening scenarios, DSI provides customers expertise in Engineering, Homeland Security, Weapons of Mass Destruction Issues, Combatant Command Support, Exercise / Wargame



Design and Execution, and Training and Education.

Located in Huntsville, Alabama, at 6767 Old Madison Pike, DSI is poised to service needs created by ever-increasing threats to our nation, and the increased focus on technology programs.

For more information go to their web site at: www.davisdsi.com.

Chapter Leadership Calls on Congressman Aderholt's Office

Braving the ice, snow, and freezing temperatures, representatives of the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter paid a courtesy call to Congressman Robert Aderholt's Decatur office on Friday, 4 February. Recently reelected to serve his 8th term, Congressman Aderholt serves the 4th Congressional District of North Alabama. Mr. Daniel Tidwell, 4th District (Decatur) Field Representative, hosted the meeting. Representing the AFA Chapter was Chapter President, Rick Driesbach, Secretary and VP for Public Relations, Russ Lewey, and Gary Baker (4th District Constituent).

Rick Driesbach took the opportunity to pass on the Chapter's congratulations and best wishes to Rep Aderholt. He went on to provide information on the AFA and, specifically, the Tennessee Valley Chapter. With Aerospace Education a primary focus for the Chapter and AFA-at large, Rick noted that the past two Chapter Teachers of the Year have come from the 4th District (Boaz).

In addition, to supporting aerospace education, the AFA and the Tennessee Valley Chapter advocate for a strong aero defense. On this note, Chapter representatives highlighted several key issues:



- The Air Force has basically been on a war-time footing for the last 30 years.
- Today's air fleet is older than it has ever been—averaging almost 23 years old, with several of our fleet almost 50 years old.
- Modernizing and preparing for the future requires the defense industrial base to be maintained.
- Encouraged Congress to pass a 2011 Defense Bill.
- Requested Rep. Aderholt join the Air Force Caucus

Mr. Tidwell promised to share our thoughts with the Congressman and his (military) Legislative Director Mark Dawson. On behalf of Rep. Aderholt, Mr. Tidwell accepted a complimentary membership to the Air Force Association and agreed to look for an opportunity for the Chapter to meet personally with the Congressman in the future.

AFA Tennessee Valley's Community Partners

Cobham, LLC

www.cobham.com

Davis Strategic Innovations, Inc.

www.davisdsi.com

Decisive Analytics Corp.

www.dac.us

DMD, LLC

www.dmdgroupinc.com

DRS Technologies

www.drs.com

GATR Technologies

www.gatr.com

Lockheed Martin

www.lockheedmartin.com

Mercedes-Benz of Huntsville

www.mercedesbenzofhuntsville.com

Qualis

www.qualis-corp.com

Redstone Federal Credit Union

www.redfcu.org

Serco, Inc,

www.serco-na.com

U.S. Space & Rocket Center

www.spacecamp.com/museum

Photos For Cold War Scrapbook

Perhaps you saw this in the February issue of Air Force Magazine (pg 7), the AFA is seeking photos from current AFA members who served during the Cold War (Sept 1945—Dec 1991). This is for a Cold War Scrapbook, in concert with the scrapbooks already published for WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War. The Cold War Scrapbook will be published in August. To see the other scrapbooks go to the Air Force Magazine website (e.g. click here to see the [Vietnam Scrapbook](#)). Deadline for the photos is 1 May and you are asked to include your name, a brief description and a phone number/email. Mail them to AF Magazine, 1501 Lee Hwy., Arlington, VA 22209-1198. All photos will be returned.