



TENN VALLEY FLYER

# Tennessee Valley Flyer 1st Qtr 2014 (Jan-Mar)

## Vietnam Veterans of America to Host “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day”

On March 29, starting at 1 p.m. at the Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial, the Huntsville Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America will host its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.” Retired Marine and Alabama State Senator Bill Holtzclaw will be the guest speaker. The date – March 29th – was chosen by the local Vietnam veterans group three years ago because that is the date when the last major combat brigade came out of Vietnam in 1973, and when the Military Advisory Command-Vietnam closed its doors. It is also recognized as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day across Alabama.

This moving ceremony will see a number of Air

Force veterans recognized and remembered. The family of TSgt E. A. Phillips, an Air Force medic whose aircraft crashed in Laos in August 1968 (and his body was never recovered) will be presented a plaque. The TSgt E. A. Phillips Humanitarian Award will be established and awarded during the ceremony. Medal of Honor recipient, Col (Ret) Leo Thorsness, will have the “Guardian of Freedom Award” named in his honor. Airman First Class (A1C) Richard Gonzalez, a former, B-52 gunner was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**CyberPatriot: Pg 2**

**Aerospace Education:  
Pg 3-4**

**(Butler HS JROTC: Pg 3)**

**A Look Back: Pg 5**

**Spotlight Community  
Partner: Pg 6**

**F4 “Adoption”: Pg 6**

**On the Radar: Pg 7**

**Community Partners:  
Pg 7**

## Entourage Meets Al Kemmet Jr. on His Return from Afghanistan Guest Speaker at 20 Mar Membership Meeting!



Mr. Al Kemmet Jr., retired Air Force and Tennessee Valley AFA Board Member (center with family to include wife, April) recently returned from a 6-month deployment to Kabul, Afghanistan, where he provided direct support as the J3 Operations office for DIA Forces Forward—Afghanistan. He will share some of his experiences at the 20 March 1st Qtr Membership Meeting. See last page for more details.

(DFC) for his heroic actions during a bombing mission over North Vietnam in April 1972. Blame it on the “fog of war” but A1C Gonzalez was never presented his DFC. Lt Col (USAF Retired) Steve Hansen will formally present the DFC to A1C Gonzalez. The Butler AFJROTC will provide the Honor Guard and assist throughout the ceremony.

The public, young and old, are encouraged to come out and honor our Vietnam Veterans. In addition to the formal ceremony there will be food, music, and a car show. As there will be limited seating visitors are encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

## Have you Gone Lost-Wingman?

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Air Force Association (AFA) had 463 members as of 31 January 2014. We would like to update our membership data to ensure we can continue to spread the word to all of you about upcoming events and opportunities to participate in the AFA mission. If you receive this newsletter via email, please confirm your mailing address and phone contact information to John Pennell at:

[Johnpennelljr@aol.com](mailto:Johnpennelljr@aol.com)

or at 256-426-6515. This will only take a few minutes and will help us focus our efforts to regain contact with all 463 members of our AFA family.

Thank you in advance,  
**John Pennell**  
VP for Membership

## CyberPatriot VI Update

- Grissom High School is in the Finals!
    - Only Alabama team to qualify for Finals
    - Only team in Open Division in Southeast US to go to Finals (in Top 26 teams out of ~ 1,500 teams)!
    - Coached by Christine Sutton. Congratulations!
    - National Finals Competition is 26-30 March in National Harbor, Maryland. Best of luck to the Grissom Team!
    - Teams not qualifying for Semi-Finals are competing in separate State and Regional Competitions
    - Regional Recognition Round Qualifiers
      - All Service Division: New Century Technology—Lee, Army JROTC, coached by James Morse, 1 of 8 in the Southeast Region
      - Open Division: New Century Technology High School, coached by Cecil Huggins, 1 of 7 in the Southeast Region
- Congratulations to both New Century teams!



## About AFA ...

The Air Force Association is a non-profit, independent, professional military and aerospace education association. Our mission is to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage. To accomplish this, we:

- EDUCATE the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure U.S. national security.
- ADVOCATE for aerospace power and STEM education.
- SUPPORT the Total Air Force family and promote aerospace education.

AFA has 200 chapters nationally and internationally representing more than 100,000 members. Visit AFA at [www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org).

**Renew your membership today!**



## Grissom HS Going to Finals

Grissom High School's CyberPatriot VI team from Huntsville, AL, is headed to the Washington, D.C. area March 26 – March 30, 2014, to compete in the national championship round of CyberPatriot VI—The National Youth Cyber Defense Competition.

CyberPatriot is a unique educational competition that challenges students to resolve real-life cyber security situations faced by industry professionals. Created in 2009 by the Air Force Association, CyberPatriot provides students hands-on learning about securing computer networks while exciting, educating, and motivating them toward careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Led by Christine Sutton, the Grissom team is one of 12 finalists for the competition's Open Division. The CyberPatriot competition has historically consisted of two high school divisions, with public, private, and home schools competing in the Open Division and Junior ROTC units, Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and Civil Air Patrol squadrons competing in the All Service Division. This season, however, CyberPatriot invited middle school students to participate in a third division: the first ever Middle School Division. In all, more than 1,500 teams registered to participate in CyberPatriot VI, representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Canada, and U.S. Department of Defense Dependent Schools in both Europe and the Pacific.

This season, the Open Division began with 621 registered teams. After two rigorous online qualification rounds, Grissom was one of only 50 teams to advance to the semi-finals in January. After an exceptional performance in the semifinals, Grissom was recently named one of 12 Open Division national finalists and will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the CyberPatriot VI National Finals Competition at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. During the competition's only in-person round, teams will compete to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The National Finalists will also face-off in three additional competition components: the Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge and the Cisco Networking Challenge, both of which return from previous seasons, and the Digital Forensics Challenge. These extra challenges broaden the cyber security experience for students and expose teams to new elements of the many career opportunities available to them.

CyberPatriot greatly benefits from the support and technical expertise of its presenting sponsor, the Northrop Grumman Foundation as well as other sponsors.

For more information about CyberPatriot, go to [www.uscyberpatriot.org](http://www.uscyberpatriot.org).

# Butler High School AFJROTC News

## A Cut Above...

For those who do not know, Butler High AFJROTC Detachment has new leadership; Maj Melissa Lacey and MSgt Bradley Gudgel, both took over this school year with a desire to inspire the over 100 cadets in their Detachment. Any good leader knows bringing a unit together requires discipline and pride. As such, one of their first focuses was the tried and true weekly inspection. Noting a number of cadets were receiving “gigs” for haircut violations, Maj Lacey uncovered an underlying issue – many of the cadets couldn’t get to the barber or afford the \$10+ for a haircut.

Michael Nelson, an AF veteran, originally from Georgia was more than willing to help the cadets look sharp. Michael entered the AF in 2001 and served as an engineer in the Acquisition and Engineering career field. He had tours in San Antonio, TX, and Wright Patterson AFB, OH, and in 2007 left the service, whereupon he and his wife relocated to the Huntsville area. Fortunately for the cadets, he has always loved to cut hair and had his barber license. Following some cutbacks in contracts, he found himself available to help Maj Lacey’s dilemma of getting her cadets inspection ready. And she even found a used barber chair in the District’s surplus furniture!

Now every Monday at 0700, Michael sets up his operation, literally in Maj Lacey’s office, and until after 0900 he is busy cutting cadets’ hair. Yes, she restricts the haircuts to just



**Ready for this week’s inspection, Michael Nelson finishes a trim for a young Butler AFJROTC cadet.**

cadets. And, she even confessed that she has caught a few students trying to slip under the radar. Maybe that is why almost 20% of the students at Butler are in AFJROTC.

The Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter salutes Michael Nelson for what he is doing to help prepare our future leaders. Maj Lacey and MSgt Gudgel are doing great things with their detachment and we wish them the best!

## AE VP Jay Carlson’s Recent Presentations at Butler HS

1. The Chapter recently purchased and presented the detachment with an Air Force flag that allows them to perform color guard duties.
2. The Chapter also donated signed Air Force prints, “Final Exams” and “Once a Tiger, Always a Tiger,” as well as other posters and copies of Air Force magazines to inspire the cadets in the classroom. Many thanks to Brig Gen (Ret) Gary Connor, Col (Ret) Gary Baker, AFA National, and others who donated items.



# The Valley's Teachers of the Year

Once again, the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter is seeking nominations for the top Elementary and Secondary Teacher of the Year.

## Guidelines for Applying:

- Open to all K—12th Grade teachers across the Tennessee Valley who promote STEM and aerospace skills and are preparing students for tomorrow's technologies.
- Program Year runs from 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014
- Submit an application NLT 24 March 2014 (available by contacting Jay Carlson, VP for Aerospace Ed, ([jay.carlson81@gmail.com](mailto:jay.carlson81@gmail.com)))
- One-page narrative of the teacher's accomplishments and achievements, above and beyond the standard curriculum, which promote aerospace education and/or STEM, along with the impact of the program/activities on the students.
- Letter of recommendation from a school official (Principal or higher)
- (Optional) Up to 3 pages of articles, other documents, and/or photos that include the teacher with students completing STEM activities (ensure students in photos have media release permission for use).
- AFA elected chapter officers and their immediate family members (spouse/children) are not eligible. AFA Chapter Teachers of the Year recipients who have won within the last 3 years are not eligible to apply.

## Winners Receive:

- Check for \$250
- Certificate of Excellence
- AFA Tote Bag and Teacher of the Year Lapel Pin
- Complementary Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Membership

## **Alabama Council for Technology in Education (ACTE) NW Regional Technology Fair Needs Judges!**

- 11 Apr 14 from 0745-1145 hours at Calhoun Community College, Decatur
- No experience necessary
- Register at:

<http://actefair.com/register/>

***Come out and join the fun!***

## **AFA'S Wounded Airman Program (WAP) Alive & Well**

The AFA WAP started in 2011 after the Vice Chief visited wounded airmen in Walter Reed Hospital and learned that they were not getting the same level of support as wounded warriors from the other Services. USAF created the Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2) office, and AFA was asked to take the lead in raising awareness and support within the USAF community.

Today AFA is supporting the work of the AFW2 office, as well as directly helping Airmen financially, with adapted equipment, lifestyle items, and at adaptive sports camps. With over 3,000 Airmen on record as wounded, the AFA WAP program needs our support. 100% of donations made by individuals to the WAP goes directly to supporting wounded Airmen, with overhead and staff time covered by AFA's general fund.

To donate: Go to [AFA.org](http://AFA.org) and click on orange Donate button at the very top of home page, then click on Blue Donate button in the middle of the Support the AFA page, and then in the Donation For pull-down window, select Wounded Airmen.

## *Let us Never Forget*

- Welcome Home ceremony at Huntsville Madison County Veterans' Memorial
- Saturday, 29 March, 1 PM
  - Meet and Greet 10 AM-12:30 PM
- Honoring Veterans who served during Vietnam War
  - More than 300,000 wounded
  - More than 58,000 paid the ultimate sacrifice



**Don't forget the St. Patrick's Day Parade 15 March / 11:30 a.m. in Downtown Huntsville!**



*Are you a Vietnam Veteran and interested in the Vietnam Veterans of America Association? More information can be found at <http://www.vietvethsv.org>*

## **A Bit of History: The WASPs**

In observance of Women's History month (March), let's remember the role of 1,100 women who flew military aircraft so that male pilots could fight overseas during WW II. Women Air Force Service Pilots (or WASPs) ferried new planes (including B-26 and B-29 bombers) long distances from factories to military bases, as well as to departure points across the country. They also tested newly overhauled planes, and towed targets to give ground and air gunners shooting training.

Thirty-eight female pilots lost their lives serving as WASPs.

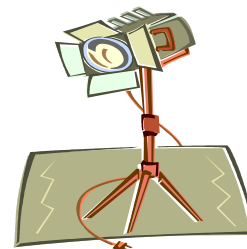
The program was disbanded in Dec 1944 after



the war. After not being recognized for many years, the WASPs stood up in 1976 when the Air Force announced it would allow women to fly for the first time. The WASPs were granted military status in 1977.



## Spotlight — Community Partners



[Aleta Technologies, Inc.](#), is a Cyber Security firm with Enterprise and Federal class subject matter expertise readily applicable to large and small environments in a range of advanced IT segments including: Identity & Access Management, Vulnerability Assessment and Mitigation, Malicious Code / Software Assurance / Application Security, Digital Forensics, Cyber Attack and Defense R&D, Enterprise Resource Planning System Development, Software Engineering and Agile Development, and Systems Engineering.

With more than technical level or vendor product level knowledge, Aleta Cyber Security experts know what “bad guys” are looking for, including foreign groups looking to fund their activities and state-sponsored groups looking to steal trade secrets. Aleta mitigates such threats reducing vulnerability, refines IT architectures, and improves the performance and security of IT infrastructure. Aleta has Information Security experience dating back to 1996, has supported over 1,000 systems of all types, and thoroughly understands customer needs and how to satisfy them.



## Chapter Considers “Adopting” F4 at Aviation Challenge

Recently, Chapter President Rick Driesbach was contacted by the Vice Chairman of the Alabama Science Commission, Mr. Joe Fitzgerald asking for support in restoring historic Air Force aircraft located at the US Space and Rocket Center Aviation Challenge Facility. Chapter member Lt Colonel Burke Hare volunteered to investigate candidate aircraft and the level of effort required to assist the US Space and Rocket Center in its efforts. Chapter member Mr. Zig Jastrebski also volunteered to assist this initial effort.

US Air Force aircraft at Aviation Challenge include an F-16B, an F-111 (Preproduction model #9), a USAF T-38 repainted in NASA livery, and an F-4 Phantom. All of these aircraft are in desperate need of restoration. Restoration efforts began with the F-16 being

restored by the Alabama Air National Guard. Lt Colonel Hare recommended the chapter consider the F-4 Phantom as a candidate for “adoption.” This F-4 is a Vietnam Veteran and has a MIG Kill from its participation in “Operation Bolo” during the war. It is a proud representative of the US Air Force to those who participate in the Aviation Challenge Camp programs from around the world, but it needs our help.

At the January Executive Council Meeting, Mr. Ed Stewart, Curator at the US Space and Rocket Center provided a detailed update on the history of the F-4 Phantom and affirmed desire from US Space and Rocket Center for assistance from our chapter to help preserve this wonderful aircraft.



Open source photo of an AF F-4 Phantom II.

While in fairly good physical shape overall, proper care and feeding of this historic aircraft requires a great deal of commitment from the Chapter to ensure it is returned to proper condition. A range of options are being investigated and discussed from providing Chapter membership expertise/manpower to fundraising to support the restoration.

### CHAPTER 335 OFFICERS

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**Vice President**

Guy Broadhurst  
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**Treasurer**

Jack Royster  
jroyster@knology

**Secretary**

Ken Philippart  
kdp520@hotmail.com

**If you want to help, contact an officer via email provided in box at left.**

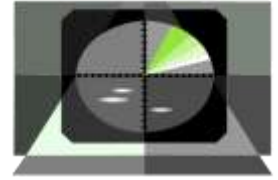
### Chapter 335 Special Vice Presidents

**Aerospace Education:** Jay Carlson  
**Community Partners:** George Krym  
**CyberPatriot:** Bob Hovde  
**Membership:** John Pennell  
**Programs:** Brenda Armstrong  
**Public Relations/Newsletter:** Cathy Scott  
**Veterans Affairs:** Daryl Carpenter



## “ON THE RADAR”

### Future Events



- 15 Mar: Huntsville St. Patrick's Day Parade, 11:30 AM
- 20 Mar: Executive Council and 1st Quarter Membership Meeting; 5:30 PM; at the Educator Training Facility (ETF), U.S. Space and Rocket Center (see map at right)

**Guest speaker Col (Ret) Al Kemmet will present, “Afghanistan Deployed: A J3’s Perspective”**

- 24 Mar: Deadline to submit packages for the Tennessee Valley AFA Teacher of the Year Nominations
- 29 Mar: Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony at the Huntsville-Madison County Veterans’ Memorial downtown, 1 PM; Meet and Greet 10 AM to 12:30 PM
- 11 Apr: ACTE Science Fair; Volunteer today!
- Apr / May: AF JROTC Scholarship Selections
- 29 May: Second Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Speaker Event
- 30 May: Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at Maple Hill Cemetery



### Having Fun at ACTE Science Fair



**George Krym: VP for Community Partners ([George.Krym@yahoo.com](mailto:George.Krym@yahoo.com))**

## Support Our Community Partners!

Aero Thermo Technology  
[www.aerothermo.com](http://www.aerothermo.com)

Aerotek  
[www.aerotek.com](http://www.aerotek.com)

Aleta Technologies  
[www.aletatechnologies.com](http://www.aletatechnologies.com)

Bevilacqua Research Corp  
[www.brc2.com](http://www.brc2.com)

Bill Penney Toyota  
[www.billpenneytoyota.com](http://www.billpenneytoyota.com)

Dr. Rebecca Howell (Dentist)  
[www.rebeccaahowelldmd.com](http://www.rebeccaahowelldmd.com)

Davis Strategic  
Innovations, Inc.  
[www.davisdsi.com](http://www.davisdsi.com)

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

Irrigation Maintenance  
Services, Inc.; 256-755-1524

Lamar Advertising  
[www.lamar.com](http://www.lamar.com)

Landers McLarty Automotive  
[www.rljmclartylanders.com/](http://www.rljmclartylanders.com/)

L-SINC  
[www.l-sinc.com](http://www.l-sinc.com)

ManTech International  
[www.mantech.com](http://www.mantech.com)

Miltec Ducommun  
[www.ducommun.com/miltec/](http://www.ducommun.com/miltec/)

Northington Consulting  
[www.northconllc.com](http://www.northconllc.com)

Parsons—SPARTA  
[www.parsons.com/markets/pages/sparta.aspx](http://www.parsons.com/markets/pages/sparta.aspx)

PeopleTec  
[www.people-tec.com](http://www.people-tec.com)

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

Quantech Services  
[www.quantechserv.com](http://www.quantechserv.com)

Redstone Federal Credit  
Union

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

U.S. Space & Rocket Center  
[www.spacecamp.com/museum](http://www.spacecamp.com/museum)

Woody Anderson Ford  
[www.woodyanderson.com](http://www.woodyanderson.com)