

Tennessee Valley Flyer



3rd Quarter 2017

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U.S. AIR FORCE 70TH BIRTHDAY BALL

Friday, September 22, 2017

The Jackson Center

6001 Moquin Drive NW, Huntsville AL 35806

6:00 Social Hour ~7:00 Dinner ~ 8:00 Music & Dancing

Black Tie, Military Uniform, or Suit and Tie

<https://afa-huntsville.regfox.com/70th-anniversary-air-force-ball>

Individual Tickets - \$60

Reserved Tables, Non-Corporate - \$480 per Table

Corporate Sponsorship - \$600 per table

Seating for 8 per Table

MENU: Grilled Steak or Chicken Breast
Salad, Potatoes, Asparagus, Dessert
(Vegetarian/Gluten-Free Meal Upon Request)

**Open to
Everyone!!
(Age 21 and
over)**

**Reservation Deadline
Extended to:
*** Sep 15 *****

**Click on the Above Link to
Make Your Reservation!**

Reservation POC: Jack Royster jroyster@knology.net, 256-721-9898
Information: George Krym, George.krym@yahoo.com, 256-783-2760



Like us on Facebook at: AFA TVC 335

**Air Force Association
Tennessee Valley Chapter**

Celebrating the Birth of the United States Air Force and Recognizing its Tradition of Innovation

By John Phillip

This year, the United States Air Force will celebrate its 70th anniversary. Even though this is a relatively short period compared to our sister services, it is very important to reflect on the impressive tradition that the Air Force has quickly and solidly established. Throughout history, militaries have made it a priority to make their weaponry better than what was used in the previous war. That has not been the primary focus of the United States Air Force.

I submit that the tradition of our Air Force has been to make game-changing innovations – not just improvements. By analogy, our tradition has been to totally replace the horse-drawn carriage with a gasoline-powered automobile. I wish to provide three examples.

USAF Innovation #1 - The SAGE System

Within just a few years of its birth, the Air Force capitalized on the rudiments of radar technology from WWII and created a unified continental air defense system for the United States and Canada. The Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) System funneled radar information from US and Canadian sites to a number of control centers throughout the US and Canada. Each control center was able to receive and integrate the radar information into a coordinated, defensive battle picture within and beyond the confines of the two nations. Also, the control centers were supported by the largest and most capable computers of their age. Most important, the SAGE System was more than a vital depiction of an enemy airborne attack. Heading and location information of attacking aircraft could be sent to the avionics systems in interceptor aircraft or missiles. The SAGE System was a very effective tool of battle management for engaging and halting an enemy airborne attack. No enemy dared to mount an attack during the more than 20 plus years that the system defended the air space of the United States and Canada.



A 4-story SAGE blockhouse

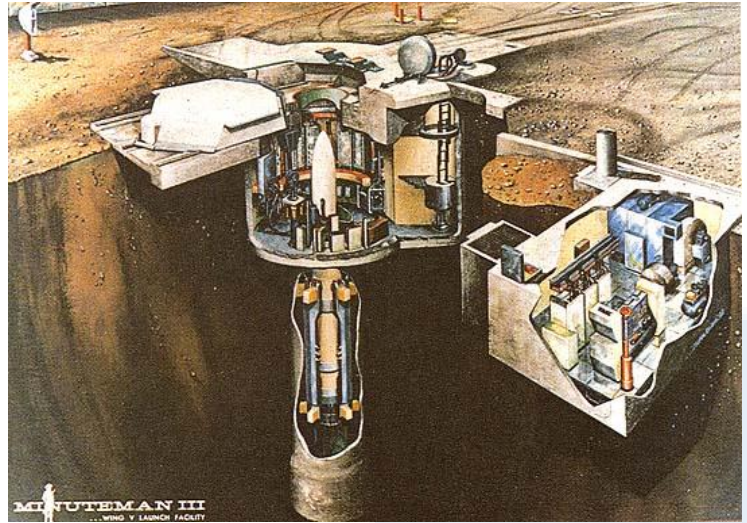
USAF Innovation #2 - The Minuteman ICBM System

Capitalizing on the ballistic missile technology developed by Wernher von Braun and his German team, the Air Force quickly responded with the Atlas and Titan I ICBMs. Unfortunately, each system had its shortcomings in reliability, cost and effectiveness. Still, ICBMs were a giant transformation in the arms race with the Soviet Union. The Air Force took a chance with a new solid fuel missile and also chose a basing plan with many unique adaptations. The Minuteman weapon system was deployed with five manned launch control centers that were innovatively networked with fifty unmanned missile launch facilities in each squadron. This network not only provided a very effective and redundant command and control capability,

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("Celebrating the Birth of the United States Air Force..." Continued from page 3)

but also ensured many critical aspects of nuclear surety. Also, all facilities were hardened and dispersed for survivability. Additionally, because of improvements in survivability, electronics, guidance, and warhead design, Minuteman has continued to be a very cost-effective offensive strategic weapon for more than 50 years. Most significant, the Minuteman alert rate has been near 99% and, within minutes, a warhead can be sent, with proper national command authorization, over 7,000 miles with great accuracy.



Minuteman missile, silo, and related launch facilities

USAF Innovation #3 - The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)

The Air Force can't take credit for inventing UAVs; however, it has a very clear history in creating innovative applications with their use. Airborne target drones were very common in the 50s and later, especially with the "Firebee" series of drones. During the Viet Nam Conflict, Firebees were weaponized and sent to attack



MQ-9 Reaper

high risk targets. By the early part of this century, substantial improvements had been made in satellite communications, avionics, and electro-optical capabilities. Today, armed UAVs, with long loiter times and great reliability, can be locally-launched but effectively controlled from a different part of the globe to perform reconnaissance, to attack planned or improvised targets, or to quickly support ground forces in a difficult tactical situation. The new Air Force UAVs have certainly been a tactical game-changer that will totally drive modern warfare in the near and distant future.

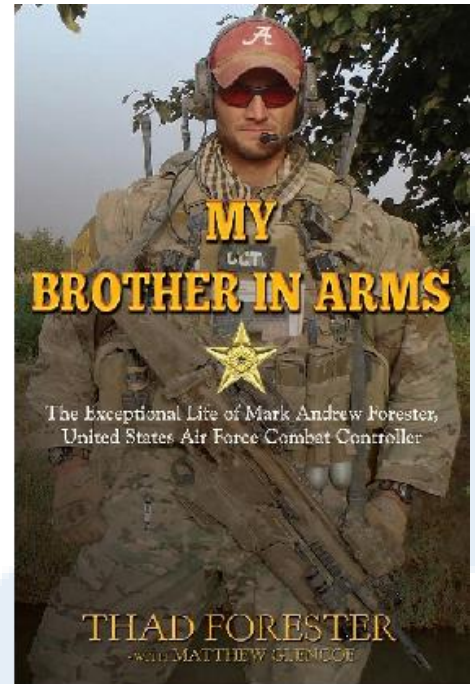
It would be foolish to say that without the United States Air Force, our national military would only be focused on making incremental improvements to weapon systems. However, I submit that our military has acquired many weapon system capabilities that would not have been produced without the creative and bold leadership of our branch of service. I further submit that profound technical innovation has been and will continue to be the crowning tradition of the United States Air Force. We look forward to celebrating that inspiring tradition this September.

Aim High, Air Force!

AFA Chapter 335 3rd Quarter Luncheon *Mark Forester – Son, Brother, Hero*

By Russ Lewey

The Air Force states that a Combat Controller (CCT) carries out “some of the AF’s most difficult missions.” I describe a CCT as “the ultimate warrior – whose training includes: scuba, parachuting, snowmobiling, and certification as an FAA air traffic controller.” You don’t get through years of schooling and training without being great at your job; but, there are some whose skill and dedication takes “greatness” to a new level. SrA Mark Forester was one of the best. Though, don’t take my word; read the testimonies of the many who knew Mark, also known by his call sign, “JAG 28.” These first-hand accounts are captured in a book, “My Brother in Arms”, authored by Mark’s brother, Thad Forester. During Mark’s first combat tour to Afghanistan, on 29 September 2010, he was killed in action while attempting to save a colleague. The book opens with the next of kin notification of Mark’s death and gives the reader the chance to see the family who must learn the news that their son and brother has died fighting for his country. It also provides the reader an understanding of what drove Mark to be the best as well as a glimpse into the CCT mission.



On Tuesday, 31 October, you can hear Thad Forester talk about a hero and what it is like to be a Gold Star Family. The Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter is hosting a luncheon in the Atrium at Redstone Federal Credit Union at 220 Wynn Dr. The doors open at 11:00 am with lunch being served at 11:15. Thad’s presentation will begin at noon and is projected to wrap up around 12:30. After the event, books will be available for purchase, and Thad will be happy to autograph your copy. Tickets for the luncheon are just \$17, and the Chapter will make a donation to the Wounded Airman Program. You must RSVP no later than 16 October, and you can register/pay on-line at <https://afa-huntsville.regfox.com/afa-oct-17-luncheon>. Questions? Contact Russ Lewey at 256-425-8791 or by email: LeweyRV@Yahoo.com.

F-35 Classified Symposium

By Gary Connor (Brig Gen, Ret)



The F-35 Interoperability Symposium is now scheduled for 21 Sep. This event will provide an opportunity to learn about F-35 capabilities and potential implications for future joint/coalition operations. Topics to be discussed include design & performance, offensive/defensive sub-systems, and future integration opportunities. Due to the nature of discussion, the event is limited to US citizens holding an active, secret-level clearance (minimum). The event will be held at Aegis Technologies, 410 Jan Davis Dr., Huntsville, AL 35806. Deadline for registration is **14 Sep**. For questions, please email: gary.steven.connor@gmail.com. Registration site: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/f-35-classified-interoperability-symposium-tickets-36812625554>

Ghost Riders in the Sky

By Russ Lewey, South Central Region AFA President and former B-52 Pilot

It was late July, a hot Tuesday afternoon, where the “feel like” temperature was approaching 106°. Hundreds gathered just past where the Blytheville AFB Main Gate stood some 25 years ago, to pay tribute to 9 Airmen who lost their lives during Linebacker II and 3 Airmen from the B-52 crew, Hulk 46, during Desert Storm, all from the 97th Bomb Wing.



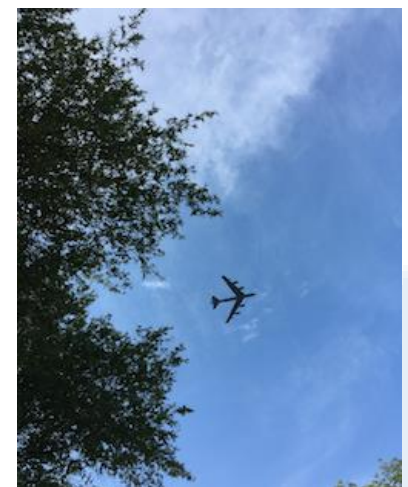
Linebacker II Memorial for the Airmen of the 97th BMW who lost their lives

Driving on to the base was somewhat eerie, in that most of the facilities were still standing and you could almost sense the smell and sounds of SAC in the air. Former Buff guys, each in some way who had an attachment, came from far and near to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. A number of locals, many who had not served in the Air Force, were there remembering the days when Blytheville AFB (later known as Eaker AFB) was the heart and soul of the town.

During the memorial tribute, we relived the flights of B-52s during Linebacker II and later Desert Storm. For this occasion, the Linebacker II Memorial had been completely refinished, interestingly enough, by the son, Dale Hinson of Hinson Sign Company, whose father, Charles Hinson, originally hand-painted the Memorial in 1973. Some of the crew and family members of Hulk 46 crew, the only B-52 lost during Desert Storm, participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for a memorial which the community is raising funds to build. Meanwhile, all around the base you could hear stories from old crew dogs about the Buff and the good old days at Blytheville.

That evening after the ceremony, we enjoyed a BBQ down by the flight line. After watching a B-52 from Barksdale overfly and land on Runway 18, like so many had done before, a tune by Johnny Cash, “Ghost Riders in the Sky,” kept playing in my head. I guess it was to be expected with so many memories; I once flew a B-52 by that name, and we were just 30 miles from Johnny Cash’s boyhood home.

*Their brands were still on fire and their hooves were made of steel
Their horns were black and shiny and their hot breath he could feel
A bolt of fear went through him as they thundered through the sky
For he saw the riders coming hard and he heard their mournful cry*



B-52 over-flight during Blytheville ceremony

(Continued on page 7)

(“Ghost Riders in the Sky” Continued from page 6)

It was an honor and a privilege to share in the experience that hot summer day. I salute the community for continuing to honor its heritage and provide a place for us to remember. They are collecting funds needed to complete the Hulk 46 Memorial; there is work underway to have the Alert Facility and adjacent areas listed on the National Register of Historic Places (Capehart base housing is already on the list). There are even plans to some day turn the Alert Facility into a Cold War Museum. In the meantime, if you are driving up I-55 from Memphis to St. Louis, take a detour off the interstate, and relive some our Air Force and SAC history. Drive down by base ops, look up at the tower, and see if you too, don’t hear “their mournful cry.”

If interested in making a donation for the Hulk 46 Memorial you can send your donations in care of the:

Blytheville/Gosnell Regional Airport Authority
4701 Memorial Drive
Blytheville, AR 72315
Attn: Barry Harrison



AFA National Awards—2017



Congratulations to the Tennessee Valley Chapter and the following individuals on being recognized at the AFA National level for their work:

Individual Awards

Medal of Merit

Scott Patton
Lee Alford

Exceptional Service Award

George Krym
Jack Royster

Unit Awards

Chapter Overall Retention Award - Large Chapter
First Year Retention Award - Large Chapter
Community Partner Awards - Gold
Sustained New Member Recruitment

Two Birds = One Herkybird

By Carl Penaranda

The title refers to a damaged C-130B, Hercules, tactical airlifter, serial number 58-0734 that was assigned to, and when reconstructed returned to the 463rd Troop Carrier Wing's, 774th Troop Carrier Squadron (TCS), in the 60s. "Herkybird" was the nickname given to the C-130 by its personnel. Its reconstruction highlighted the ingenuity of Troop Carrier personnel to salvage one of their own aircraft and extend its service life. "Troop Carrier" identified tactical (a.k.a., combat airlift) units in WW II and continued until 1967, when they were given the descriptive title, "Tactical Airlift". In 1991, they were again retitled, this time with a non-descriptive title, "Airlift" which now includes tactical and strategic airlift units.



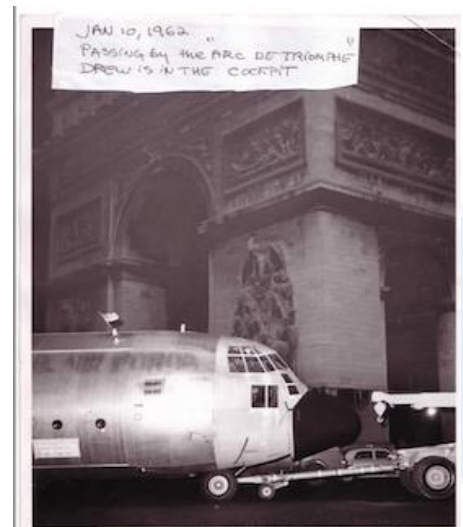
EVREUX-FAUVILLE AB, France, 10 Jan 1962—"Alley-Oop," watch that turn, Monsieur! The giant C-130B made quite a few narrow corners such as this during the 600-mile journey to Spangdahlem, Germany.

As a Troop Carrier unit, the 463rd belonged to the USAF's Tactical Air Command --- both organizations since inactivated. In addition to supporting contingency, joint field exercises, humanitarian, and training commitments, a responsibility of TAC was providing USAF Forces in Europe, Pacific Air Forces, and Southern Command with airlift support, a responsibility shared by all CONUS based C-130 units.

58-0734 was assigned (1959) to the 774th TCS and damaged (1961) at Spangdahlem AB, Germany. Historically, only two C-130Bs (itself, and 58-0745, assigned to the 772nd TCS) are mentioned in its reconstruction, but there was a third C-130B, 59-1534 (damaged at Ramstein AB, Germany) assigned to the 773rd TCS. 59-1534 was supporting President Kennedy's first overseas trip to Europe and elsewhere as President.

Airmen at Evreux-Fauville AB, France, came up with the idea of using the 463rd's three damaged C-130Bs to make one good Herkybird. Evreux was where C-130s were stationed when supporting USAFE. 58-0745 was damaged at Evreux when undergoing refueling. A major obstacle was to get it to Spangdahlem, to be mated with 58-0734. It was towed (Jan 1962) by Evreux's 317th TCW C-130A aircraft maintenance personnel a distance of 600 miles, taking four days, through French and German towns, to include passing the Arc de Triomphe and down the Champs Elysee in Paris.

Belgium-based Sabena Airline's aircraft maintenance personnel began 58-0734's reconstruction in Feb 1962. Components used came from



10 Jan 1962—Passing by the Arc de Triomphe. Drew is in the cockpit. *(Continued on page 9)*

("Two Birds = One Herkybird" Continued from page 8)

these sources: nose from 772nd's 58-0745; fuselage and wings from 773rd's 59-1534; and tail structure from 774th's 58-0734. Aircraft 58-0745 and 59-1534 were previously written-off by the Air Force; serial number 58-0734 was retained for aircraft identification.

58-0734 was returned to the 774th TCS in Apr 1963. During 1970-72, it was one of 12 C-130Bs transferred to the Air Weather Service (AWS) for aerial weather reconnaissance and converted to a WC-130. After AWS, it was reconverted to its C-130B configuration. As a C-130B it was transferred to Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard airlift units until 1991, when it was sent to the Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Center (a.k.a., Boneyard), Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. In 1997 it was retrieved from storage, restored, and sold (1998) to the South African Air Force through the Foreign Military Sales program.

As of July 2016, it was still flying with the South African Air Force. In Jul 2017, the 317th TCW was reactivated as the 317th Airlift Wing at Little Rock AFB, AR.



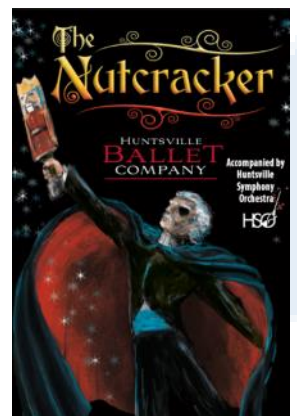
South African Air Force C-130BZ #409 Formerly USAF 58-0734 Delivering Body of President Mandela to His Hometown for Burial

On Dec 14, 2013, C-130 58-0734 transported the body of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first black President, to his hometown for burial.

Military Night at the Nutcracker

By JP Pennell

For more than a decade, the Huntsville Ballet Company has put on a complimentary performance of the Nutcracker as a kickoff for the holidays. This year, the classic ballet, with music by Tchaikovsky, will be held on December 7, 2017 at the Von Braun Center's Mark C. Smith Concert Hall. The Military Night Performance is the only night with a special appearance by the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band just prior to the ballet. Doors will open at 5:30 and the performance begins at 6:30. This special Thursday night presentation is free for active duty, retired, reserve, National Guard, and their families, as a way to thank the military family for all they do. While the performance is complimentary, you will need a ticket to attend. Tickets are first come, first served, and will be available in October, so save the date and watch your AFA e-mail for how to get your tickets to this very special event.



Space and Missile Defense Symposium—2017

By JP Pennell

August 8-10, 2017 saw the 20th Annual Space and Missile Defense Symposium at the Von Braun Center in downtown Huntsville, AL. The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Air Force Association once again had a booth to educate the attendees of the mission of the AFA to Educate, Advocate, and Support and to spread the word about all the Chapter does to maintain an “Air Force Blue” presence here in the Tennessee Valley. This year’s Symposium was very well attended, and initial reports detailed that the crowd was the largest ever recorded. Many noteworthy speakers including Gen John Hyten, Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, and a graduate of Grissom High School in Huntsville, presented briefings to the attendees. Lieutenant General Samuel Greaves, Director of Missile Defense Agency, also briefed the Symposium attendees on the current state of MDA and took the time during the event to stop by the Chapter’s booth.



Lt Gen Samuel Greaves (l), Director of the Missile Defense Agency speaks with Tennessee Valley Chapter members (l to r) Mr. Jack Royster, Mr. Eric Silkowski, and Ms. Bailey Erickson.



Have you registered for the 2017 AF Ball, yet?
All of the details are on page 2 [\(link\)](#).



Community Partner Spotlight

“Ace” Community Partner

Willbrook Solutions, Inc.



Willbrook Solutions, Inc., a Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB), was founded in 2006 with a mission to provide innovative analytical solutions to Department of Defense, Army, NASA, and Commercial Customers in design, development, testing, and sustainment of aerospace and defense systems.

Willbrook, led by Mrs. Bonita Phillips as CEO, is a fast-growing small business guided by a vision that caring and maintaining excellence in **PEOPLE**, **PASSION** and **PRODUCTS** are crucial for sustained growth and success. Willbrook Solutions is grounded by four business area leads for NASA, Missile Defense Agency (MDA) functional, MDA execution, and Army programs. Willbrook is an employee centered and owned corporation, designed to provide the highest quality and experienced talent while maintaining competitive rates. Over the years, Willbrook has been recognized by our customers, industry partners, and community with several awards of excellence. Willbrook is also an active member of the Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal communities and participates in several charitable causes, such as National Kidney Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Lupus Foundation of America, National Cancer Society and the local Juvenile Diabetes Walk. Willbrook is an active supporter of the Air Force Association’s Tennessee Valley Chapter as an “Ace” Community Partner!

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

“Wingman” Community Partner



Conditioned Air Solutions has a special offer for AFA Chapter members. Just mention that you’re a member when calling and receive a \$49 diagnostic service (normally \$79).

Community Partner Spotlight

Southeastern Skin Cancer Center

Did you know that between 40 – 50% of Americans who live to the age of 65 will have either basal cell or squamous cell carcinoma at least once? With that in mind, you need a team of professionals on your side, providing preventative and, when necessary, corrective action. The Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter is pleased to announce that we now have such a team in our pool of Community Partners. Dr. Albert E. “Bo” Rivera, a North Alabama native and Auburn grad, leads a team that is unsurpassed in patient customer service. They truly treat their patients as family, and they aren’t happy unless you are happy. From treatments for acne, to surgical excisions of skin cancer, they have state-of-the-art treatments and procedures.



You know you are among friends of the military, and the Air Force, when upon walking into the reception area, you are met with a large portrait of USAF Combat Controller, SrA Mark Forester who, on 10 September 2010, was killed in Afghanistan while attempting to save a fallen comrade. Dr. Rivera grew up with Mark and the Forester family, and is a strong supporter of the Mark Forester Foundation.

Located at 8331 Madison Blvd (just east of Furniture Row), they have plenty of parking, while offering a comfortable and relaxing setting. Give them a call. They proudly accept Tricare and most insurance companies. This is one visit that will be good for your health and a pleasant experience. They can be reached by phone: 256 -705- 3000 or visit their web site at:

<https://www.southeasterskin.com>

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Thank You!

The Tennessee Valley AFA chapter would like to thank all of its Community Partners for their generous contributions and support. Through their commitments, Chapter 335 is able to carry out its key mission of promoting youth-focused, aerospace education. Our aerospace education outreach effort includes scholarship programs, school-based cyber security & space system design competitions, and teacher workshops. Our Community Partners are prime enablers in developing and challenging young minds to meet our Country’s defense needs for the future. We thank you!

Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter 335 is proud of its Community Partners:



ACE Level



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www.gatr.com

General Atomics

www.ga.com/ems

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www.radiancetechnology.com/

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www.rsquaredconsulting.com

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www.willbrook.net



Wingman Level



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www.aerothermo.com

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www.conditionedairsolutions.com

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Basic Level

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www.brc2.com

Delta Research, Inc.

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Dentistry Downtown with

Dr. Rebecca Howell

www.rebeccahowelldmd.com

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www.FlyQuest.net

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www.lincresearchinc.com

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<http://>

lindamorgan3.homesandland.com/

Nexolve-ManTech

www.nexolvematerials.com

Northington Consulting

www.northconllc.com

Parsons

www.parsons.com

Qualis Corporation

www.qualis-corp.com

**Redstone Federal Credit
Union**

www.redfcu.org

**Southeastern Skin Cancer and
Dermatology**

<https://>

www.southeasternskin.com

Sigmattech

www.sigmatech.com

The Lodge at Johns Road

www.thelodgeatjohnsroad.com

U.S. Space & Rocket Center

www.rocketcenter.com

Annual Giving Levels: Ace: \$500, Wingman: \$250, Basic: \$90

Want to become a Community Partner at the Ace, Wingman, or Basic level?

Contact George Krym at george.krym@yahoo.com.



Upcoming Events

21 Sep—F-35 Classified Symposium (see page 5)

22 Sep— USAF 70th Birthday Ball (see page 2)

<https://afa-huntsville.regfox.com/70th-anniversary-air-force-ball>

19 Oct —Executive Council Meeting

31 Oct—Chapter 3rd Quarter Luncheon (see page 5)

11 Nov—Veterans Day Parade

16 Nov —Executive Council Meeting

20 Dec— Support to Botanical Garden’s Galaxy of Lights

Chapter 335 Officers

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Vice President

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johnpennelljr@aol.com

Treasurer

Jack Royster
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Secretary

Ken Philippart
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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: Lee Alford

Veteran’s Affairs: Zig Jastrebski

Your AFA chapter is a 501-3C organization, and is always receptive of donations to further chapter Aerospace Education objectives. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please mail a check (made out to AFA Chapter 335) to Jack Royster, 1880 Shellbrook Drive, Huntsville AL 35806.