AFA MISSION - TENET 1

EDUCATE - By preserving our heritage, we teach future generations.

We need your help and action now!

Details on pages 3-5.

The AFA Mission: Educate, Advocate, Support
About Us

Your AFA Chapter is a 501(c)(3) 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.
Restoration of USAF Aircraft at Aviation Challenge  
“If Not US, Who?”

A dedicated team of chapter volunteers have been developing a program for restoring the USAF F-4 and F-111 aircraft on display at the Aviation Challenge campus, which is part of the US Space and Rocket Center (USSRC). The aircraft are deteriorating, and neither the Air Force Museum (who actually owns the aircraft) nor the USSRC have the funding to restore them. Our chapter has been talking about restoring them for the last 5 years or so but could seem to get no traction. About 1 year ago, we decided to go full-bore to get those aircraft restored, using the mantra, “if not us helping to restore them, then who would do it?”

Initially, we photographed the aircraft as a visual way of characterizing all of the many deficiencies in their condition. These photographs would serve as the basis of the required restoration work. We noted many deterioration issues with each aircraft since they have been exposed to the climate challenges here in Northern Alabama for many years. Subsequently, we invited several restoration vendors to evaluate the aircraft. With vendor assistance, we prepared a draft Statement of Work (SOW) to address all of the restoration issues needed to restore these vintage USAF aircraft. Throughout this period, we coordinated extensively with the curator and other USSRC officials to ensure all of our work complemented their planning.

Several weeks ago, our chapter’s team met with key leaders of the USSRC to finalize a partnership to share the cost of the restoration project, to offer our technical assistance during contract execution, and to cement a commitment by both parties to move forward with the restoration as soon as possible. We both agreed to push hard for this restoration work to occur in early 2019. At this meeting, we agreed that our existing Memorandum of Agreement with the USSRC is (continued on page 4)
sufficient to support our restoration partnership. We also agreed that our recommended SOW is technically sound and can serve as the basis for developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) by the USSRC.

One important aspect of this project remains to be accomplished. Our Chapter has agreed to financially support part of the cost of this restoration, and we are hoping to do that with contributions from our membership.

Our chapter took on a similar financial responsibility over six years ago when we agreed to sponsor the United States Air Force flag at the Huntsville -- Madison County Veterans Memorial. We all are very proud to see the USAF flag flying at that beautiful memorial, and even more proud knowing that chapter member donations alone funded it.

With this Newsletter, I am making a request to our chapter membership for financial support to this project to restore two USAF legacy aircraft. As was true in the 2011 to 2013 timeframe when our chapter stepped up and funded the Air Force flag at the Veterans Memorial... ‘If not us, who?’

As you look at your end of year charitable donations, please consider this worthy cause, knowing that our chapter is registered as a qualified 501-c3 organization with the IRS. The contributor of each donation made to support this project will receive an acknowledgment from the chapter treasurer for tax purposes. Please refer to the companion article on page 5 in this newsletter for more specific instructions on how to make a contribution to this restoration project.

Rick Driesbach
President, Tennessee Valley Chapter
How can you provide Financial Support for our Aircraft Restoration project?

During the past year you may have heard about our AFA chapter leading the effort to restore the historic F-4 and F-111 currently located at the Aviation Challenge portion of the US Space and Rocket Center.

In mid-November, our President, Rick Driesbach, led an AFA team that successfully negotiated a 50 - 50 split on the cost to execute a near term refurbishment of these two aircraft. The project includes not just repainting the aircraft, but also preparing the landscape around the aircraft to include concrete pads and wheel supports.

The good news is that there are multiple ways for you to financially support this effort. You can simply write a check made out to AFA Chapter 335, notate that it is for Aircraft Restoration, and mail it to our treasurer (Jack Royster, 1880 Shellbrook Drive, Huntsville AL 35806). Jack will acknowledge your generous gift with a receipt for tax purposes.

If you are over 70 ½, I'm sure you know that you have to take an annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA. A win-win way for you to give up to $100,000 from your IRA to include your RMD is a feature called Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Since our AFA chapter is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization, any IRA funds you contribute directly to AFA (or any 501(c)(3) for that matter) are not considered taxable income according to the IRS. Your broker or tax advisor understands the beauty of a QCD so please talk to him/her if you have questions.

Your late 2018 QCD or early 2019 QCD to our chapter will go a long way to supporting our aircraft restoration project.

But what if you are a youngster and haven't reached 70 ½? There are still tax efficient ways for you to support our chapter’s restoration project. As with any charitable contribution, any gifts you make to a 501(c)(3) are tax deductible if your total itemized deductions exceed your (new) standard deduction.

Even if your itemized deductions do not exceed your standard deduction, anyone can receive a tax benefit by directly giving shares of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds to our 501(c)(3). If these equities have grown since you purchased them, you receive a tax deduction for the full value of the gift while owing no taxes for any of the accrued capital gains. Another win-win!

Bottom line: Our chapter is registered with the IRS as a qualified 501(c)(3) organization. For any contribution that is made to our chapter for any project, the contributor will receive an acknowledgment from our treasurer. We humbly ask that you seriously consider making a contribution to this USAF aircraft restoration project, as a way for our generation to affect the future of the hundreds of youth from around the nation that view those USAF aircraft as they attend Aviation Challenge youth events here in Huntsville.
The Chapter was honored to have Joe Galloway speak at our Quarterly Luncheon on 31 October 2018. Joe is a retired war correspondent who had 55 years of experience in US military operations conducted in Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The luncheon was held at Redstone Federal Credit Union, and some 53 people showed up to hear Joe talk about his experiences in the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley in South Vietnam. With LTG (ret) Hal Moore, Joe co-authored a book entitled, *We Were Soldiers Once and Young* which was also made into a movie. There were many non-AFA members at the luncheon, including many US Army and US Marine Corps Vietnam veterans.

Joe started by saying he always volunteered to be with the infantry because that was where the action was. During his 30-minute talk, he related many anecdotes about his experiences in Vietnam, and in regards to the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley in particular. Of note, local Medal of Honor recipient, Mike Rose, was in attendance. The Chapter presented Joe with a certificate noting that we were donating $100 to AFA’s Wounded Airmen Program in his honor. We also presented him with a Chapter Challenge Coin. He was very pleased with both gifts as it was clear he no longer desires wall plaques or other large mementos. Joe later spoke on Saturday, 3 November, as one of three guest speakers at the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War event, held in conjunction with the visit to Huntsville of *The Wall That Heals.*
The North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition (NAVFOC) selected one of our own as 2018 Veteran of the Year in northern Alabama. At the 9 November 2018 Huntsville – Madison County Hall of Heroes banquet, USAF Major (ret) Zygmund (Zyg) Jastrebski was presented with the Veteran of the Year award in front of about 650 attendees. Ms. Beverly Lowe, President of NAVFOC, made the presentation after summarizing all of the many activities Zyg had led, or participated in, during 2018.

Zyg had recently organized the Vietnam war history presentation banners and war artifacts displays in the JayCee Building in conjunction with the visit to Huntsville of The Wall That Heals. He had also organized the presentations of 3 noted speakers as part of the local Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Of note, Zyg flew over 200 combat missions in the F-4 Phantom over North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and Laos. He is an original member of the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association (River Rats), a group initially consisting of USAF and USN aircrew members who had flown combat missions north of the Red River in North Vietnam. Zyg is often called upon to lead the White Table Ceremony in honor of US MIA and KIA who are no longer with us. In fact, he performed this ceremony before 650 guests at the banquet where he was later recognized as Veteran of the Year. Needless to say, the Chapter is very proud of Zyg and believes he was very deserving of this distinguished award.
AFA National Convention

Some compare going to a National Convention as watching sausage being made. I don’t go to see how the sausage is made but, more importantly, to see who’s making it. The convention is an excellent place to network and learn new ideas, some that have worked and others that, quite frankly, haven’t.

“It’s more than just watching sausage being made.”

This year’s Convention was no exception, some of the excitement began even before the opening gavel was struck at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center. Hurricane Florence was threatening the East Coast; at one point, it looked as if we would be forced to cancel. As it was, Florence decided to make landfall in the area of Wilmington, NC and then turn to South Carolina. Though this move enabled the Convention to take place as scheduled, it did lead to major devastation throughout the Carolinas. In addition, the cancelled airline flights did impact the ability for some delegates to participate. In the end, a little over 150 delegates made it, and the Convention commenced on time.

All in all, the news at the Convention was very good. After a number of years of austere financial reports, the President and Chairman of the Board both talked about how both the Air, Space, and Cyber Conference and the Air Warfare Symposium were sold out, forcing AFA to move all nonpaying clients outside of the actual convention hall. This is great news, as these two events are major fundraisers for AFA. Furthermore, for the first time in quite a while, AFA hadn’t seen a decline in membership.

One area addressed centered on the top three positions on the AFA Board: Chairman of the Board and the Vice Chairmen of Field Operations and Aerospace Education. As it was, these

(continued on page 9)
positions had different terms of office and periodically (as the case was this year) results in all three officeholders changing out at the same time. The delegates agreed that this would not be an ideal situation and agreed to stagger/modify the term limits to eliminate this situation.

Following a presentation by the Mitchell Institute and a discussion, both on and off the Convention floor, AFA took a position on the proposed establishment of a Space Force. AFA’s position recommends taking a conditions-based approach to determine the optimum timing would provides a higher likelihood of success. Establishing a US Space Force requires a mature space power theory and space strategy—neither is developed. Creating a US Space Force in an attempt to later develop the strategy risks national security and could result in a bureaucratic load on the Department of Defense (DoD).

I realize that not everyone in AFA agrees with this premise. Personally, I was impressed that AFA elected to take a stand. A position that those in DoD, to include the Air Force, can’t publicly take as it was established by the Commander in Chief. The willingness for AFA to take this position shows it is truly committed to its vision: “dedicated to dominant air, space, and cyberspace power, a strong national defense.”

The Vice Chairman for Field Operations, Mac MacAloon, has directed the Field Council and AFA Staff to examine ways that we can work to get more members to attend and participate in our National Convention. We have looked at decoupling the Convention from the Air, Space, and Cyber Conference, which would allow us to move the Convention around the Nation. Recognizing that the cost to attend the Convention is a deterrent for some, he has directed that we look at ways to lower costs.

In summary, the Convention is an excellent way to meet old and make new friends. It is a way to impact how your AFA operates today and well into the future. As an example, see the side insert from one of our members, stationed at Keesler AFB, who was attended her first Convention.

**Insight From a First Timer at AFA National Convention**

This year, in September 2018, I had the pleasure of attending the AFA National Convention. I was able to attend as a Chapter delegate from Mississippi. While in attendance at the convention I was afforded the opportunity to meet other delegates such as state presidents, chapter presidents as well as former active duty members. This allowed me to gain more knowledge of various positions at the local chapter level, state level and National level.

I was able to witness the synergy and coordination between all these levels and what each brings to bear.

The highlight of the trip was going to the Air Force Memorial. While there I got to meet and take a picture with the Secretary of the Air Force, Heather Wilson. In addition to meeting Secretary Wilson, I was able to meet both current and former leaders of the Air Force. It also happened to be the 70th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. I learned so much about that operation which could not have been gained from a textbook.

I left the convention feeling inspired and motivated to become even more involved in the AFA and become an advocate for it and promote it within the active duty force. As an active duty NCO I feel the AFA is a tremendous advocacy group for concerns of the active duty, guard and reserve members and in promoting aerospace education and maintaining the Air Force’s air supremacy and edge in a rapidly changing world. I would recommend this opportunity to everyone. Thank you for letting me take part in it.

Heather Holley, SSgt, USAF
Keesler AFB, MS
For those of us who served in Europe, we remember a “Volksmarch” as being a fun time outdoors with friends and family and a time to learn all about a town on foot instead of whizzing by in a car. The Rotary of Madison decided to bring that European experience to downtown Madison for the first time on Oct 27, 2018. There seemed to be no better way to showcase Madison’s business and historical districts, so they jumped in feet first and made it happen!

After registering at the City Stadium on Celtic Drive, participants set off on foot with their families, dogs, friends, and co-workers to explore all there was to see. Each wore a “start card” which had to be marked at five watering stations along the 5 km route. We spotted several AFA members along the way!

First stop was on Main Street, and then it was off to the old Cemetery on Mill Road. Enactors, dressed in period costume in the cemetery, told stories of families buried there who built Madison. There was so much information that we had never known before!

Next, we walked up Church Street and noticed that home after home was of historical significance. So far, we’d learned about James Clemens who built Madison and other families such as the Gillespies, Balchs, Hughes, Sullivans, Palmers, and the Martins.

Our next stop was at the Madison Elementary School where two “school teachers” told us what it was like for them to be teachers in 1915. They could not marry or loiter at the ice cream store and had to be home by 8pm each night.

As we entered Buttermilk Alley, we met with two women and a hobo. We were told Buttermilk Alley received its name after Ms. Humphrey at 23 Front Street would routinely give cornbread and buttermilk to the hobos who jumped off of the train in Madison.

After leaving Buttermilk Alley, we ran into some Confederate Soldiers and their families. They told us about two Civil War battles fought in Madison, one right near the Roundhouse.

The last part of the Volksmarch took us past many quaint shops located on Main Street along with the Main Street Café which used to be Madison’s jail! Who knew there was so much to see and buy in downtown Madison!

The Volksmarch ended in front of Old Black Bear Brewery which was an appropriate place to receive our “prize” which was a commemorative mug, complete with the 1st Annual Volksmarch emblem.

It was so much fun, and it brought back fond memories of living in Europe! Vielen dank Rotary of Madison! We cannot wait until next year!!!
A Sweet Opportunity

By Russ Lewey

Sunday at the National Convention, time is set aside to honor those AFA members who have passed away since the previous convention. This year was no exception, and we were pleased to see the ceremony take place at the Air Force Memorial once again. As an added treat, the service was followed by an observance of the 70th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. Jointly hosted by the German Embassy, the Air Force Association (AFA), and the Airlifters Association. Because my father was assigned to Templehof Air Base in Berlin in the 60s, this event was especially memorable.

One of the highlights was an opportunity to speak with the “Candy Bomber”, Col Hal Halverson. For those not familiar, then-Lt Halverson became famous during the Berlin Airlift for dropping candy (via small parachutes) to the children of Berlin. Though 96 years old, Col Halverson walked up to the Memorial and spoke of his exploits. Just prior to the start of the ceremony, I was able to speak with Col Halverson. I mentioned that it was an honor to see him in person, again, as he was the Commander of Templehof during my father’s tour. He quickly responded, “that was a while ago!” I spoke how the Tennessee Valley Chapter had conducted a summer-long program on the “Candy Bomber” for the children of Madison County in 2015.
Chapter 335 Celebrates USAF 71st Birthday

By Rick Driesbach

The chapter once again celebrated the USAF birthday. This year, 63 chapter members and guests gathered at Straight to Ale on Saturday, the 22nd of September. Straight to Ale, our chapter’s newest Community Partner, offered to host the event at considerable savings to the chapter. Of note, both the AFA South Central Region President Russ Lewey with wife Diane, and Alabama State President Ken Philippart and wife Lisa attended. Zyg Jastrebski provided his usual outstanding History of the Air Force collage of images and music via CD played on the wall during the entire event. Of significance, chapter member USAF Brig Gen Michael Guetlein and his wife Rachel attended, along with our chapter’s 2 retired F-22 test pilots – Ray Toth and Daron Drown. Other Community Partner representatives also attended including Paul and Rhonda Gierow of GATR Technologies, Andy and Jo Bevilaqua of Bevilaqua Research Corporation, and Lee and Lane Pugh of Irrigation Maintenance. Chapter members led toasts to the Colors, the President, The Chief of Staff, American military serving overseas, POW/MIA/KIAs, men and women serving in the USAF, our Community Partners, and finally to our very fine Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Air Force Association. Chapter member Melissa Lacey organized and led the “cutting of the cake” ceremony involving the youngest member, oldest member, and Senior Ranking Officer (SRO) present. Melissa also led all in singing a rousing version of the Air Force song! In sum, the food was great, the beer was cold (all locally brewed at Straight to Ale), and USAF camaraderie was tremendous!! To set the birthday mood across Huntsville, one Community Partner, LAMAR Advertising Company, ran a repeating USAF birthday notice pro bono for 5 days on several of their electronic bulletin boards. The graphic design was developed by Ms. Lisa Watkins, spouse of a chapter member...many thanks to Lisa!
Chance to Greet, Meet, and Eat

Drawing upon the success and recommendations of everyone who attended the Spouse and Friends of AFA Luncheon in January of this year, Lisa Philippart and Diane Lewey arranged another Spouse and Friends Luncheon on October 11, once again at the Redstone Federal Credit Union. Attendees had the opportunity to greet old and meet new friends; plus, they were treated to a buffet of salad, soup, and dessert. The ladies were offered an opportunity to tell the group, in a “two-minute teaser talk,” about a passion, hobby, or job that they enjoy. In addition to learning more about each other, this also was a chance to learn something new about the opportunities available in our area. Look for another event in the New Year.

Julie Barnett spoke on “Extravagant Grace Wellness” and her work as a fitness instructor and licensed wellness facilitator.

Biddy Royster volunteers with a group providing "Happy Pillowcases" for children at the Huntsville Hospital.

Rachel Guetlein works as a 211 Resource Coordinator and volunteer for Crisis Services of North Alabama.

Melissa Lacey, is the proud new business owner of “Property Management”, providing rental management in the Greater Huntsville area.

Lisa Philippart is a private practice mental health counselor for the Healing Arts Center and a children’s book author.
About PeopleTec
PeopleTec is a growth-oriented, employee-owned small business founded in April 2005. They are dedicated to cultivating a people-centric workplace while providing technical excellence to the defense community in support of the warfighter. Their commitment to customer and employee satisfaction is evidenced by the company’s tagline, People First. Technology Always. PeopleTec has been named one of the Best Places to Work® in Huntsville and Madison County, Alabama, for the last eight years. With over 350 employees, PeopleTec provides innovative engineering, modeling and simulation, cybersecurity, and program support services to the Department of Defense and Civilian Federal sectors. Government customers include the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), US Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC), US Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM), US Navy, US Air Force, and the National Guard Bureau (NGB).

What’s New at PeopleTec
In November 2018, PeopleTec unveiled the CyberTec Solutions Center at their headquarters in Huntsville, AL. PeopleTec's CyberTec Solutions Center facilitates research and intellectual support to our cyber team, employee-owners, and teammates for the design, development, and integration of innovative cyber solutions for our customers. The Center provides a practical environment for working with current and future real-world cyber threats, cultivates an atmosphere for advanced cyber research, and enriches PeopleTec's innovative, growth-oriented culture through continuous learning and improvement. The CyberTec Solutions Center provides a hands-on, innovative environment designed for mastering the cyber domain to advance warfighter superiority.

PeopleTec’s Commitment to Veterans
In addition to their employee and customer loyalty, PeopleTec actively supports America's veterans each day. They received the 2018 HIRE Vets Medallion Program Demonstration Award from the US Department of Labor, joining only 239 recipients nationwide. This award recognizes leadership in recruiting, employing, and retaining our nation’s veterans. Recipients of the 2018 HIRE Vets Medallion Program Demonstration Award have not only established a commitment to hiring and retaining veterans but also provided them with veteran-specific resources, leadership engagement, dedicated human resources, and compensation and tuition assistance programs.

To learn more about PeopleTec, visit [www.PeopleTec.com](http://www.PeopleTec.com).
PMI North Alabama is a full service real estate asset management company that provides professional property management and real estate brokerage services. Both residential and commercial property owners are provided with the highest quality property management services using state-of-the-art technology to keep them informed of how their investments are doing in real time, while providing tenants of these properties real time access to maintenance requests and billing. PMI North Alabama is part of a larger franchise that has been perfecting and changing the property management industry for over 20 years. The experience PMI has gained worldwide, truly reflects within service offerings on a local level. PMI North Alabama is dedicated to providing clients with excellent customer service by maximizing owner profitability while preserving their investment in real estate.

The core values of PMI North Alabama closely resemble the U.S. Air Force core values in keeping integrity at the forefront of service and providing excellent customer service. This is not by accident, considering PMI North Alabama is owned by 20-yr Air Force veteran, Major (retired) Melissa Lacey. Melissa made the change from teaching AFJROTC after retirement to managing real estate properties based on her previous experiences with homes she and her husband, Mark, left behind after each PCS move. Melissa stated that the "key to our success is not only providing prompt, friendly and professional services to our property owners and their tenants, but also understanding that your property is an important investment in the owners' future as well as ours. We not only strive to increase the value of your asset over time, but we also help you set the maximum rent possible so each month, the investment recognizes growth." She is a member of the National Association of Real Estate Property Managers, the Huntsville Area Association of Realtors, Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, and the Business Networking International local chapter, Referrals in Motion.

At PMI North Alabama, we make property management, manageable!

www.pminorthalabama.com

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At Jackson Center, details are our business. We know that a well-organized event is a successful event. We routinely host groups of all sizes and deliver a full range of services, with attention to detail and years of experience that allow us to consistently exceed expectations.

From business meetings and corporate events to fundraisers and celebrations, we offer flexible, business-friendly space and can handle the details of planning your event. That’s our business!

Call us today to organize your event.
Community Partner Renewals

Mr. Doug Scalf (l), PeopleTec Co-Founder and President, and Ms. Terry Jennings Co-Founder, Chairman of the Board, CEO receiving their 2018 Wingman medallion for their Community Partner plaque from Chapter VP for Community Partners, George Krym (r).

Mr. Tom Newberry (l), IRTC Executive VP, accepts the Wingman renewal certificate from Chapter VP for Aerospace Education, Mr. Jay Carlson (r).
Community Partner Renewals

Lee Smith (c), chapter member and senior USAF military docent at the USSRC, and Chapter President, Rick Driesbach (l), presented the 2018-19 Community Partner Plaque Medallion to Ms. Celia Lee, Senior Director of Donor Relations and Protocol at the US Space and Rocket Center.

Jay Carlson (l) presents the community partner renewal certificate to Dr. Bo Rivera (r) of Southeastern Skin Cancer and Dermatology.
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**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](mailto:george.krym@yahoo.com).
Upcoming Events

4th Quarter 2018

19 Dec: Support to Botanical Garden “Galaxy of Lights”
25 Dec: Merry Christmas from the Tennessee Valley Chapter

1st Quarter 2019

17 Jan: Executive Council Meeting
21 Feb: Executive Council Meeting
16 Mar: St Patrick’s Day Parade
21 Mar: Executive Council Meeting

Do you have something newsworthy to share with our membership? Send your articles and photos to afa335.news@gmail.com for inclusion in the next edition of the Tennessee Valley Flyer.

Conditioned Air Solutions has a special offer for AFA Chapter members. Just mention that you’re a member when calling and receive a $39 diagnostic service.

Conditioned Air Solutions is looking for experienced HVAC service technicians and installers. Military HVAC training is a real plus. For more information, see the job listings on our website (https://www.conditionedairsolutions.com), or send your resume to careers@conditionedairsolutions.com.