

AFA 335

TENNESSEE VALLEY FLYER

**A Unnerving
Speech During the
Cold War!**

Page 2

**High School
Competitions and
Awards!**

Page 4-6

**Teachers of
the Year!**

Page 7-8

Armed Forces Lunch!

Page 9

Memorial Day

Chapter Vice President for Aerospace Education Bob Hovde (left) and Chapter Vice President Guy Broadhurst (right) presented the Chapter's new memorial wreath at the Huntsville Madison County 2023 Memorial Day celebration at the Veterans Park Memorial in downtown Huntsville. The chapter's wreath had recently been updated by Guy's son Matt and wife Diane to reflect the association's new name - Air and Space Forces Association. Thank you to the Broadhurst family for taking the time to update the wreath, and thank you to those who served and made the ultimate sacrifice for this great country.



Cold War Speeches

A Heritage Article by Rick Driesbach, Col USAF (Ret)

From 1981 to 1985, I was a Major and assigned as the only engineer on the J-2 staff at HQ US European Command (USEUCOM) on Patch Barracks in Stuttgart-Vaihingen. My portfolio included intelligence reporting on all Soviet ballistic missile and space activities. During that time frame, my particular focus was on the large force of SS-20 Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBMs) the Soviets were deploying opposite NATO.

NATO, led by the US and President Reagan, had made the decision to deploy 72 US Army Pershing II (PII) ballistic missiles and 464 USAF Ground-Launched Cruise Missiles (GLCMs) to locations in allied NATO countries in response to this large Soviet deployment of SS-20 road-mobile IRBM missiles each armed with 3 independently targetable nuclear warheads (MIRVs), (aimed at NATO Europe).

“Peace organizations” across Western Europe, and within West Germany in particular, went crazy and were protesting everywhere about the US PII and GLCM deployments.



USAF Ground Launched Cruise Missile Launcher



Soviet SS-20 IRBM

The Deputy Commander in Chief of the US European Command (DCINCEUR) at the time, USAF General Richard L. Lawson, decided that the German population needed to hear the US side of the story in reference to the deployment of US Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) throughout NATO countries. With that as background, General Lawson directed his staff to develop two unclassified briefings in the German language that could be presented to various German civilian organizations.

One briefing would describe the Soviet nuclear missile threat against NATO (i.e., focusing on the modern, solid-propellant, road-mobile, MIRV'd SS-20s) and the other would be on the US/NATO response (i.e., the deployment of US Pershing IIs and GLCMs). Being the J-2 threat analyst responsible for Soviet nuclear missile forces, it fell upon me to develop the unclassified Soviet threat briefing, and then get it translated into German using the EUCOM Public Affairs officers who were fluent in German.

For my presentation's first airing, General Lawson invited Mayor Manfred Rommel of Stuttgart (yes, the son of the famous WW II Desert Fox) and 40 other German mayors from across the German State of Baden Württemberg (each from a city that had an American Garrison). In preparation for the briefing, I took the script home and practiced it with my wife Charlotte, who is a native-born German, but by this time a naturalized US citizen. She tried her best to correct my pronunciations of long missile and military-related terms, but I still struggled as, although my last name - Driesbach - is German, none of my natural family members had ever spoken German, nor had I taken any German in high school or college.



US Army Pershing II Ballistic Missile

AFA 335

The day finally came, and I was very, very nervous. The conference room was packed with chairs arranged in rows like a theater. US General Officers (J2, J3, J4, J5, Chief of Staff) sat in the front row with notebooks having the English version of our briefings. Mayor Rommel also sat in the front row with the DCINCEUR, General Lawson.

A US Public Affairs officer spoke first. He was completely fluent in German and welcomed the German guests and explained what we were going to do. He then stated that to start things off would be “Herr Major Driesbach” to brief the Soviet missile threat. My knees were knocking as I walked up to the podium with my notebook containing my script in German. Before starting to brief, I stepped away from the podium and said the following to the audience in my best “Nachtchule German”: “Although my last name is Driesbach, my parents did not speak any German and I did not study any German in US schools.” I continued by telling them I had learned all of my German in night school while stationed in Germany. I concluded that I would probably make some errors and I asked them to please bear with me. As I stepped back behind the podium to begin my formal briefing, the German mayors gave me an uproarious round of applause. I could see the US General officers in the front row, looking with puzzlement at their notebooks and glancing at my boss, USAF Brig Gen Ed Heinz, the EUCOM/J2. They were obviously wondering why the J2 briefer was going off script and what I could have said to elicit such applause. However, the briefing continued without a hitch and I actually received a handwritten note later from General Lawson saying how well I had done.

When the briefings were concluded, we adjourned to the Officer’s Club for lunch. At each table there were four or five German mayors and one German-speaking US officer. General Lawson, of course, sat at the head table with Mayor Rommel and other senior US and German officials.

After lunch, General Lawson proceeded to give the following speech. He would speak a few lines and a US interpreter would interpret those lines into German, although it is my opinion that most mayors understood fluent English. Here is my recollection of that moving speech....



(Above) Stuttgart Mayor Manfred Rommel



(Left) USAF Brig Gen Ed Heinz

(Right) US DCINCEUR General Richard Lawson



“Thank you for joining us today. I would like to explain further why we invited you here today by recalling an incident in my military career. Several years ago, I accompanied the President of the United States to Moscow on a State Visit. The first night there, we attended a large function in the Kremlin. There were less than 10 Americans, and I was the only American in uniform as I was the President’s military assistant. General Secretary Brezhnev proceeded to introduce us to almost 100 Soviet admirals and generals, and he knew each by name, position, and some personnel information about each of them. At the end of the receiving line, the President remarked to General Secretary Brezhnev that he was truly amazed at what he had just seen, and noted that he probably could not name but 7 or 8 US admirals and generals. Secretary Brezhnev responded to the affect; I don’t know why you find it so amazing? I visited you last year at your home in San Clemente and in the receiving line that evening, you introduced me to almost 100 members of your congress and senate, and you knew where they were from, their political party, and personal items about each of them. Secretary Brezhnev then motioned with his outstretched arm to the line of Soviet admirals and generals and exclaimed, “these men are my congress”.”

General Lawson then concluded by saying, “the reason we invited you here today is so that your children, and your grand-children, and their children, NEVER have to grow up UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THAT OTHER CONGRESS.” The General then sat down.

Most of the German mayors spoke English and didn’t need to wait for the interpreter to finish before they all stood up and gave him a lengthy standing ovation. It was a day I’ll long remember as an American and I’m sure most of the German mayors remember it as well.



Bob Jones High School Scholarship

Lt Col John Pennell, Chapter President, presents Cadet Elian Castenada the Howard Christiansen Scholarship at Bob Jones High School's AFJROTC Award Ceremony on 2 May 2023. Cadet Castenada was selected as the Tennessee Valley Chapter's Top Cadet and received a \$2500 scholarship from the Chapter. He will attend Mississippi State University in the Fall. Congratulations!



Bob Jones High School Leadership Award

Lt Col John Pennell, Chapter President, presents the AFA Leadership Award to Cadet Marjorie Baumbach at Bob Jones High School's AFJROTC Award Ceremony. Cadet Baumbach is the BJHS AFJROTC Wing Commander and will attend Auburn University in the Fall. Congratulations!



Huntsville High School StellarXplorers Excel in National AFA Competition



The Huntsville High School Space Force JROTC team advanced to the National Finals in the StellarXplorers National High School Space Challenge with the highest qualifying score in the country during the National Semifinals. This Space Panthers team qualified for the National Finals along with 10 other teams from across the nation. Over 300 teams nationwide competed in three challenging rounds solving real world problems involving satellite mission orbit planning, satellite design and satellite launch scenarios. The finals were in Houston, Texas, from 20-22 April. (An Air Force JROTC team from Edmond, OK, won the competition.)

(Above) The Huntsville High School Space Force Junior ROTC StellarXplorers Team is from left to right: Cadet SMSgt Dominic Fisher; Cadet 2nd Lt Ayden Taylor; Cadet MSgt Shephard Howley; Ms. Sonia Phares, Vice President of Ignite for Lockheed Martin Space; Joseph McCallion; and Cadet 2nd Lt Wesley Headrick.

(Below) The cadets also got to tour the Johnson Space Flight Center and meet with retired USAF General John E. Hyten (far right), a Huntsville native and previous Commander of Air Force Space Command.



Elementary School Teacher of the Year Award!

Ms. Allison Schwartz proudly displays her certificate recognizing her as the Tennessee Valley Chapter's 2023 Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Presenting her certificate is Bob Hovde, the Chapter's Vice President for Aerospace Education. Ms. Schwartz is the librarian at Riverton Elementary School and has gone above and beyond the normal duties of a librarian to introduce science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects to her young students.

For the past academic year, Ms. Schwartz worked with local news channel WAAY-31 to bring a meteorologist to the school to introduce the students to the WAAY-TV StormTracker Safety Program. This program enriched students' understanding of weather events and safety. Students were able to learn about being a meteorologist or atmospheric physicist and weather phenomena, characteristics and occurrences.

Further, Ms. Schwartz worked with other faculty members to expand the use of the state Digital Learning and Computer Science standards within the classroom. She also advocated for STEM initiatives for students through leadership roles within the school community. As the school Librarian, she continually worked to understand the role of various STEM initiatives available to the school and to teach educators how to use the information within their classrooms.



High School Teacher of the Year Award!

Ms. Teresa Hodge with her certificate recognizing her as the Tennessee Valley Chapter and Alabama State AFA 2023 High School Teacher of the Year. Her certificates were presented by Bob Hovde at the Madison County School Board's May meeting.

Ms. Hodge endeavored to introduce students to many STEM activities and competitions. They competed in Science Olympiad, Lockheed Martin Code Quest, UAH InSpiress program, VEX robotics competition, CyberPatriot and several other programs. One of her VEX robotics teams qualified for the State competition and has almost doubled the number of teams for next year. In the CyberPatriot program, the school increased from two teams to six. Two teams advanced to the Platinum Level (eligible for the National Competition), while the other four made it to the Gold Level, where they placed 1st, 2nd, and 4th in the nation for the ROTC Navy division.



AFA 335

2023 Armed Forces Celebration Luncheon

by Ken Philippart; Images by CoC and Lisa Philippart



The Tennessee Valley Chapter participated in the 2023 Armed Forces Celebration Luncheon at the Von Braun Center on June 30. The luncheon was part of the Huntsville community's week-long commemoration of Armed Forces Week in June. Nearly 700 people attended the luncheon, hosted annually by the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce (CoC). Mr. Greg Brown, CoC Immediate Past Chair, emceed the event. Dignitaries included Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and Madison Mayor Paul Findlay, Alabama congressional representatives, Marshall Space Flight Director Jodie Singer and General Charles R. Hamilton, Commanding General of US Army Materiel Command (AMC) and keynote speaker.

The chapter was represented by Bob Hovde, Alabama State President Ken Philippart, Mrs. Lisa Philippart and Chapter 335 Vice President Guy Broadhurst. Active and reserve military members and veterans were asked to stand and be recognized. They received an ovation for their service.



(Left): Chapter 335 Member Guy Broadhurst, Lisa Philippart, Ken Philippart, and Bob Hovde gather for an AFA group picture.

(Below): Chapter Members Guy Broadhurst and Lisa Philippart enjoy the program.



General Hamilton gave the keynote address. Gen Hamilton emphasized the need for the defense industry to continue to rapidly innovate to support the soldiers, sailors, Marine, Airmen and Guardians who deploy in harm's way. He told personal stories of the courage and sacrifice displayed by troops he led in combat and how everyone in defense contributes to the success of the warfighter.

The luncheon concluded with the playing of the traditional medley of service songs, including the Space Force's new song, Semper Supra. Members and veterans stood and sang along when their service's song was played. The Tennessee Valley Chapter salutes our active, reserve and retired military members and their families!



Community Partners - ACE

Marys Wine & Spirits



Steve Golpaye proudly displays his Community Partner Plaque showing 10 years of support by Mary's Wine & Spirits to the Tennessee Valley Chapter. Presenting the 2023/2024 ACE medallion were chapter members Rick Driesbach (left) and Tim Davis (right). Cheers to Mary's for being a steadfast partner supporting aerospace education at the highest level in the Tennessee Valley!

HWY 431 South, Brownsboro, Alabama

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ACE LEVEL

CUBIC-GATR Technologies
www.cubic.com

Marys Wine & Spirits
Hwy 431 South,
Brownsboro, AL

Straight to Ale Brewing
www.straighttoale.com

**General Atomics
Electromagnetic Systems**
www.ga.com/ems

**Modern Technology
Solutions, Inc.**
www.mtsi-va.com

Whitespace Innovations, Inc.
www.whitespaceinnovations.com

Lamar Advertising
www.lamar.com/NorthAlabama

PeopleTec, Inc.
www.peopletec.com

Willbrook Solutions, Inc.
www.willbrook.net

Radiance Technologies
www.radiancetech.com

Wingman Level

Aero Thermo Technology
www.aerothermo.com

CrossTek Construction
www.facebook.com/crosstekconstruction

**Integrated Solutions for Systems,
Inc.**
www.is4s.com

Aleta Technologies
www.aletatechnologies.com

Davis Strategic Innovations, Inc.
www.davisdsi.com

Intuitive Research and Technology
www.irtc-hq.com

Conditioned Air Solutions
www.conditionedairsolutions.com

Edward Jones
<https://www.edwardjones.com/us-en/financial-advisor/brenda-armstrong>

Linc Research Inc.
www.lincresearchinc.com

Basic Level

Bevilacqua Research Corp
www.brc2.com

Lisa Philippart, LPC
<https://urlifematters.net>

Shear Faith
www.vagaro.com/shearfaith1

Delta Research, Inc.
<https://www.dr-inc.com>

NeXolve
www.nexolvematerials.com

**Southeastern Skin Cancer &
Dermatology**
<https://southeasternskin.com/>

Legend Realty - Linda Morgan
<http://www.legend-realty.com/linda-morgan>

Qualis Corporation
www.qualis-corp.com

Redstone Federal Credit Union
www.redfcu.org

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.*

AFA 335

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 20 July: Executive Council Meeting
- 17 Aug: Executive Council Meeting
- 16 September: Chapter Air Force Birthday Celebration
- 19 October: Executive Council Meeting

Chapter 335 Officers

- **President**
John Pennell
johnpennelljr@aol.com
- **Treasurer**
Jack Royster
jroyster@knology.net
- **Vice President**
Guy Broadhurst
Broadhurst.guy@gmail.com
- **Secretary**
Eric Jackson
eric.jackson1969@gmail.com

Chapter 335 Special VPs

- **Aerospace Education:** Bob Hovde
- **Community Partners:** George Krym
- **CyberPatriot:** Bob Hovde
- **Webmaster:** Eric Silkowski
- **Newsletter:** Kathleen Mason
- **Veteran's Affairs:** Zig Jastrebski
- **Communications:** Rick Driesbach



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.