

FLORIDA WEST COAST CHAPTER of the AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



Vol. 7, Issue 2

NEWSLETTER

JAN - MAR 2018

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

AIR FORCE RECRUITER FEATURED AT LAIDBACK LUNCHEON

The chapter kicked off 2018 with another of our casual luncheon meetings. Approximately fifteen chapter members, spouses and guests attended the January 16th event at First Watch Restaurant on South Tamiami Trail.



Our program for this luncheon featured SSgt David W. Howells, an Air Force recruiter who works in the Sarasota/Bradenton area. His office is part of the 333rd Recruiting Squadron which is located at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. The Squadron directs and operates the recruiting activities of eight enlisted accession flights with approximately 85 active-duty and eight civilian personnel. It covers a 36,000-square-mile area that includes central and southern Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Thanks to Vice President Ron Hertenstien for handling all of the details.

MEMBERSHIP

LARRY BUSTLE NAMED MANATEE COUNTY'S DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN

By Chris Anderson, Sarasota Herald Tribune
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The walls in the home of Larry Bustle Jr. are filled with plaques from a tremendous amount of accomplishments and photos from a life well-lived. He will have to make room for one more item: the framed certificate that comes with winning the Manatee County Distinguished Citizen award.

Bustle, a former Manatee County Commission chairman and mayor of Palmetto, as well as a retired colonel in the Air Force and a Vietnam War hero, was honored during Thursday's VIP luncheon that annually kicks off the Manatee County Fair.

The award has been given out every year since 1956, and the 82-year-old Bustle was quite surprised to receive it. Edie Bustle, his wife of 60 years, had known for weeks and was able to keep the secret.

"You got me," Bustle said as he accepted the award. "I have to tell you I didn't know."

Bustle, born in Manatee County in 1935, joins a long list of award winners, and his accomplishments stack up as well as those of any of his predecessors, not only in his service to his community, but to his country as well.



Manatee County native Larry Bustle, second from left, was named Manatee County's 2018 Distinguished Citizen during the annual Manatee County Fair VIP luncheon on January 12 in Palmetto, Florida. Bustle appears here with the Esposito Law Group President Janelle Esposito, far left, Manatee County Fair Association President Pat Kennedy, Manager of the Manatee County Fair Daniel West and Larry's wife, Edie Bustle.

Herald Tribune photo/ Thomas Bender

Serving as a fighter pilot in Vietnam, he received a Silver Star award, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart. He retired in 1984 as a colonel after 27 years.

During the fall of 1968 his plane was hit over North Vietnam by anti-aircraft fire, but he continued to fly to the Gulf of Tonkin, where he ejected. He was rescued by his roommate in a helicopter. After suffering two broken knees and a pair of dislocated shoulders, he was sent to a hospital in Japan before he eventually arrived at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa.

Edie Bustle remembers learning of her husband's incident. She used to work as a nurse at Manatee Memorial Hospital, and each night after her shift she would go home, write her husband a letter and drive it to the post office. One night after arriving home from the post office she learned what happened; she was shaken but relieved that he was OK.

After retiring from the Air Force, Bustle was elected mayor of Palmetto in 2001 and served for seven years before he was elected as a county commissioner. He twice was elected chairman of that board.

Among his many positions in local public service, Bustle was also the chair for the Manatee County Port Authority. He said winning the Distinguished Citizen Award ranks as high as any of his accomplishments.

"I would like to think there are many people in the audience who deserve it equally, if not more than me," Bustle said. "I appreciate it. I'm deeply honored."

TIME MAGAZINE RECOGNIZES GEORGE HARDY

Another chapter member, George Hardy, was featured in TIME Magazine's February 26, 2018 edition which focused on "How to live longer and better – and still have fun."



George Hardy at the Chapter's
2012 Air Force Anniversary
dinner meeting.

George was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in September 1944 and became the youngest Tuskegee Airman. He was shipped overseas to Italy in February 1945 and was assigned to the 99th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group and flew twenty-one combat missions over Germany in P-51 aircraft. Following his return from overseas he served at Tuskegee AAF and at Lockbourne AAF, Ohio. He was discharged in November 1946.

George was recalled to active duty in 1948 by the Air Force. In July 1949 the USAF instituted racial integration and in September 1949 he was transferred to the 28th Bomb Squadron, 19th Bomb Group and flew 45 combat missions over Korea in B-29 aircraft. During the Vietnam War he flew 70 combat missions as an AC-119K Gunship pilot. He retired in November 1971 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

His decorations include: the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor, the Air Medal with eleven Oak Leaf Clusters and the Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

FINANCIAL

As you may know, AFA National has reduced the amount of Support Payments to the chapters by 50%. We used those payments to fund our Science Fair Awards, provide a trophy for the state Air Force Junior ROTC Drill meet and to publish and distribute the newsletter among other items. So it was good news that when we recently found the AmazonSmile program.

It is a program operated by Amazon that allows you to make donations to your favorite charity – and our 501(3) c status qualifies us as a charity. It will automatically make a monetary contribution to the chapter each time you make purchase from Amazon. For those members who do not regularly participate in chapter activities, here is a perfect way for you to support the chapter with no additional effort on your part.

What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that provides a simple and automatic way to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop – and at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to your favorite charitable organization – and we hope for our chapter members that will be the Florida West Coast Chapter of the Air Force Association.



To find out more about AmazonSmile go to: [Learn more about AmazonSmile](#)

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LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

JOB OPENINGS

We are still looking for volunteers to take on a couple of potential chapter programs.

AF ACADEMY LIAISON: One of the areas we would like to incorporate is to assist high school students to understand the procedures for applying for a position at the Air Force Academy. We are thinking about an annual seminar to inform students about the Academy, review application procedures and to introduce interested students to AFA Cadets from the local area.



LEGISLATIVE LIAISON: AFA members are represented on Capitol Hill and at federal executive agencies by a dedicated AFA government relations staff.

We need a member to serve as the chapter's liaison with our two local Representatives – Vern Buchanan and Tom Rooney. This would effectively supplement the Washington crew and bring Air Force Advocacy down to our local level.

Contact President Mike Richardson (941-371-0375 or via e-mail at michaeler@mindspring.com) if you would like to know more about these jobs.

AIR FORCE ADVOCACY

Compiled from multiple sources by

Michael (Mike) E. Richardson,
President Florida West Coast Chapter

This article composed prior to passage of the recent budget legislation.

SOMETHING'S GOT TO GIVE ! That phrase stands out boldly on the cover of the February 2018 issue of Air Force Magazine.¹ It reinforces the message sent by Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson on June 6, 2107 when she stated, "The reality is that our Air Force is too small for the missions that our nation requires, and it is forced to operate with budgets that are too constrained for its force structure."



Secretary of the Air Force
Heather Wilson

That status results from the inner action of three measures that have formed a "...perfect storm..." for the Air Force – twenty-seven years of continual combat

AFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Exp. Date ____/____ CVC # _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please mail this application – with a check if applicable – to:

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call 1- (800) 727- 3337, option 3.
Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:00pm EST

operations; the Budget

Control Act of 2011 and the failure of Congress to pass timely budgets.

The Air Force has been continuously at war since Desert Storm in 1991. Twenty - seven years of combat operations has worn down the aircraft and the people. When coupled with budget instability, it results in an Air Force that is the smallest, the oldest, and the least ready since its founding 70 years ago in 1947. Our historical claim to air superiority is increasingly in jeopardy.

The combination of these factors has hurt not just readiness, but also decimated force structure. There are "...34 percent fewer people, 40 percent fewer aircraft, 60 percent fewer fighter squadrons (134 in 1991, 55 today), and 25 percent fewer aircraft per squadron."

At the same time, the Air Force is operating a geriatric force. The average age of its aircraft has increased from 12 to 27 years. It operates first line fighter aircraft over 30 years old. Some aircraft in the vital tanker and bomber fleets are over 60 years old and will continue in service for decades more.

While technology advances and modernization have helped the aging weapon systems keep pace, our adversaries are rapidly closing the gap, risking our current air and space superiority.

The US Constitution directs Congress to raise and support the military. Yet, for the ninth year in a row, they failed to pass a federal budget by the start of the fiscal year (October 1st) leaving the armed services without the flexibility needed during a time of war.

The upshot is a string of Continuing Resolutions (CRs) implemented to keep the government running. However, CRs stall the Air Force's ability to grow and equip the force necessary to meet today's dynamic and growing threats. General Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, "This

lack of predictability and that lack of stability in the budget has not allowed us to most efficiently plan and use the resources available to us."

The Budget Control Act of 2011, and its resulting sequestrations, also impacts Air Force. Sequestration refers to the federal budgeting practice, dating to the presidency of Barack Obama, requiring equal cuts in all government programs as long as Congress can't enact a compromise budget.

Sequestration this year would mean a \$15 billion cut in the Air Force funding that would have to be absorbed in nine months. Sec. Wilson said, "That would mean that a third of the fighters and bombers...would be sitting on the ramp for seven months, a third of the Air Force would be grounded. If we have to ground a third of the Air Force for seven months...it will take another 10 years to recover." According to Wilson, "No enemy in the field has done as much damage to American forces...in the last decade...as sequestration."

Here is the bottom line:

- The Air Force is too small for the missions demanded of it, and it is unlikely that the need for air and space power will diminish significantly in the coming decade.
- Adversaries are modernizing and innovating faster than we are, putting at risk America's technological advantage in air and space.
- Sustained predictable and flexible budgets are critical to: (1) our readiness recovery, (2) our ability to build a more capable and lethal force for the future and (3) our ability innovate to take advantage of or respond to disruptive technologies.
- Success today and into the future is about our Airmen and their readiness to do what the nation asks. Our greatest investment in readiness is also our most important - our people.

AIR FORCE TRIVIA

Match these overseas Air Force bases with the name of the nearest city.

Source: Air Force Magazine, 2017 USAF Almanac, June 2017

Anderson AFB	Adana
Incirlik AB	Bitburg
Kadena AB	Cambridge
Kunsan AB	Gunsan City
Lajes Field	Naha
Osan AB	Praia de Vitoria
RAF Mildenhall	Qaanaaq
Spangdahiem	Seoul
Thule AB	Tokyo
Yokota AB	Yogo



AIR FORCE SUPPORT

SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOGS AID AIR FORCE VETS

When Morton Watt worked detecting explosives as an Air Force K-9 handler and a security police first responder, instant reaction and hyper vigilance were normal. Searching an Okinawan jungle, working with the Secret Service on Presidential detail, or securing foreign dignitary events in New York all fell under his watchful eye.

Later as a civilian pilot, Morgan's hyper awareness served him well. But when debilitating migraines and balance issues ended his career, anxiety and depression triggered underlying PTSD from years of stress as a first responder. While finding his way again, Morgan volunteered at Southeastern Guide Dogs. "My anxiety dropped as soon as I got with the dogs," he related.

Today, Morgan feels a new sense of hope since meeting a calm yellow goldador name Foley, his new service dog. "Foley is mellow with a work ethic," he says. "When chronic pain and PTSD collide in an existential crisis, medication and talk therapy are simply not enough. Foley fills the gap in traditional treatment as his mindfulness leads the way to healing."

Chapter member Jim Ryan -- an Air Force veteran serving from 1968-1972 with service in Vietnam with a TACP in 69-70 -- currently volunteers with the Southeastern Guide Dogs to help them raise funds for their work with disabled, wounded, PTSD-afflicted veterans -- like Morton -- and for the visually impaired. He passes on that Southeastern Guide Dogs is staging a series of Walkathons this spring and thought our chapter members might like to participate -- either by walking or by donating financial support for the participating teams.

The next walk will be in Lakewood Ranch on March 24. There will also be a Walkathon in Sarasota on April 21. Jim says, "This is a great organization with a wonderful mission. The dogs they raise and train are life savers for the folks who need them. Please let me know if you would like to participate and/or donate to this cause."

You can sign up for his team at www.guidedogswalkathon.org/lakewoodranch. Click on Haddington Cruisers. You can also **donate** at that site. If you would like to participate in the Sarasota Walkathon, please contact Jim via e-mail at jimryan520@gmail.com or sign up at www.guidedogswalkathon.org.



Morgan Watt & Service Dog Foley

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY PARTNER

A Community Partner is a local business, professional office, or association that partners with the chapter to support the goals of the Air Force Association (AFA). Community Partners may designate one or two persons as members of our chapter.



AIR FORCE TRIVIA ANSWERS

Anderson AFB – Adana; Incirlik AB – Yogo; Kadena AB -- Naha; Kunsan AB -- Gunsan City; Lajes Field – Praia de Vitoria; Osan AB – Seoul; AF Mildenhall – Cambridge; Spangdahiem – Bitburg; Thule AB – Qaanaaq; Yokota AB -- Tokyo



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AFA 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."

