

FLORIDA WEST COAST CHAPTER of the AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



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NEWSLETTER

Jan - Mar 2022

CHAPTER NEWS



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Welcome to 2022 and the 75th Birthday of the USAF! It is now time to lay out plans for the year. I'm planning on quarterly meetings as a minimum.

Last September we met in person at The OAKS Country Club to celebrate the Air Force's 74th and AFA's 75th birthdays. A good time was had by all in a magnificent setting. I hope to repeat that experience in September and will work with BGen Scott Wuesthoff to try and make that happen.

I am planning a **ZOOM meeting for 5 March 2022 at 10:00 AM**. I have been teaching a class, "America in the World, 2022", at the Education Center at Temple Beth Israel. One of my presentations was on China. In it I show the amazing growth and progress they are making with their infrastructure. I also compare the economies of the US vs China and the military strengths. It dawned on me that this would be a good update for our members. We will send out more details as we get closer.

Also, **mark your calendars for 16 April!** Tom Casey, a chapter member and the President of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Association, will speak to our Chapter. This will be a true highlight as 18 April is the 80th Anniversary of that historic raid and helped turn the tide in WWII. Time and location will be sent out later.

I am also looking towards having events in May, September and November 2022.

An Air Force hero recently passed away, BGen Charles McGee, one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen. He was a veteran of 409 combat missions in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam and died Jan. 16th. He was 102. (See an expanded story on page 5)

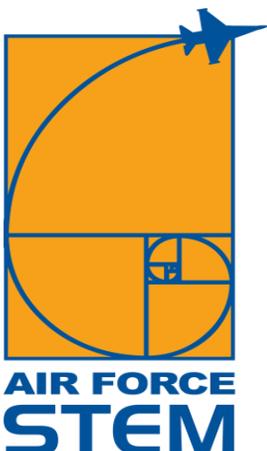
I look forward to 2022 and hope we can make this 75th year of an Independent Air Force a special one for our Chapter.

Scott

CHAPTER HONORS MANATEE STEM STUDENTS

After a year's interruption due to the COVID pandemic, the chapter has reinitiated its Aerospace Education program that honors students participating in STEM/Science Fairs. Our goal is to recognize two students – one Middle School and one High School -- from each of the Sarasota and Manatee School Districts. Our awards center on student projects that focus on aviation and/or space related themes.

Two students in the Manatee School District were recently singled out for recognition by the Florida West Coast Chapter of the Air Force Association. The awards were presented at the February 24 awards ceremony of the Manatee Regional Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Competition. ⇨





www.floridawestcoast.afaflorida.org

CHAPTER CONTACTS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Scott Gray, 205-821-6931
dscottgray@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Fetterman, 941-377-9595
jfetterman@compuserve.com

SECRETARY

Charly Shugg, 941-955-5713
shuggc@aol.com

TREASURER

Chet Harriman, 941-924-2315
cwharriman@verizon.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Open

AIR FORCE ADVOCACY

Open

AIR FORCE SUPPORT

Open

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter Editor/Media

Michael (Mike) Richardson, 941-371-0375
michaeler@mindspring.com

Webmaster

Open

FINANCIAL

Chet Harriman, 941-924-2315
cwharriman@verizon.net

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Scott Gray, 205-821-6931
dscottgray@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Open

PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

Open

Kipras Vitas, a sophomore at Manatee High School, was recognized for his project "Solar Cell Output vs Temperature". He postulated that solar cell output would be affected by the ambient temperature and that a cooler cell would produce a greater output. His experiment measured the output of a solar cell at numerous temperatures. His results supported his thesis, i.e. cells have greater output at lower temperatures.

The chapter's second awardee was Victoria Sinard, also a sophomore at Manatee High School. Her project investigated a method of determining "The Diameter of the Moon from Earth". Using very rudimentary tools – a index card and a ruler -- and multiple ob



servations, she was able to compute the diameter of the moon to within a 0.76% variation from the moon's actual diameter -- which is 2,159.1 miles. Sinard also received the MU xxx xxx Award from Mike Richardson -- the chapter's Aerospace Education Chairman -- presented Vitas and Sinard with the chapter's "Dr. Y" STEM Achievement Award and a \$50.00 cash award. Vitas also received a copy of the book "The Air Force" -- an illustrated history of the United States Air Force. Sinard received a copy of "Solar System, A Visual Exploration of the Planets, Moons and Other Heavenly Bodies that Orbit Our Sun".

"Dr. Y" is Doctor Michael Yarymovych, a world renowned astronautics engineer who is a member of the Florida West Coast Chapter and who served as Chief Scientist of the Air Force from 1973 to 1975.



MACDILL PICKED AS THE NEXT KC-46 BASE

Dec. 22, 2021 | By Greg Hadley

The Air Force selected MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., as its next preferred location for the KC-46 on Dec. 21, setting up the Florida installation to receive 24 of the new aerial tankers in the coming years. The KC-46 will replace Active-duty KC-135s currently at MacDill with the 6th Air Refueling Wing, the Air Force said in a statement.



MacDill’s selection comes over Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., the other candidate location announced by the Air Force in May. A final basing decision is still forthcoming, dependent on the results of an environmental impact analysis, which is expected to be completed in the fall of 2023. Fairchild, tabbed as a “reasonable alternative” to MacDill, will also undergo an environmental impact analysis.

“The KC-46 mission factors that [the Pentagon] considered are central to what our partners do every day,” Rep. Kathy Castor (D-Fla.), whose congressional district includes MacDill, said at the announcement event, adding that she was “thrilled.” “They were looking at the capacity of MacDill. They were looking at environmental issues, and they were looking at support from the community—how do we support our military families,” Castor said.

Pending the final basing decision, MacDill will be the sixth main operating base for the KC-46. The Air Force currently fields Active-duty KC-46s at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.; Reserve KC-46s at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.; and Air National Guard KC-46s at Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H.. Travis Air Force Base, Calif., has also been selected to receive the tanker in the coming years. 🇺🇸

AIR FORCE IS 120 AIRPLANES SMALLER SINCE 2020

The Air Force trimmed 120 airplanes from its fleet in fiscal 2021, gaining the most aircraft among its F-35 fighter squadrons and giving up the most from its B-1 bomber units, according to data provided by the Air Force. With puts and takes, the Air Force's kinetic shooter fleet, not including special operations, stayed about the same, at 2,301 aircraft.

Notably, a Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies team has explored the Air Force fighter force and concluded it is in crisis and the Air Force must look to future solutions. After three decades of canceled, curtailed, and delayed investment in modernization, the nation now finds itself in major need of these capabilities with far too few advanced fighter aircraft to meet demand. 🇺🇸

AIR FORCE TO LAUNCH MUNITIONS FROM C-17S AND C-130S.

The Air Force is conducting a live-fire demonstration that could transform C-17 and C-130 airlifters into strike aircraft. During the experiment, called the Rapid Dragon campaign, the rear cargo door of a C-17 opens for a high-altitude air drop of a large roll-on/roll-off pallet loaded with munitions. The box can be enlarged or diminished in size, "like stacking Lego blocks," depending on how many weapons are desired and what type of airlift aircraft will drop it.



Dean Evans, Rapid Dragon program director, described the platform as a standalone palletized weapons system and a smart, reconfigurable modular box able to launch varying numbers and types of munitions. The program went from a conceptual design to test in just 10 months, he said. The testing is part of a fast-paced, 24-month experimentation budgeted at \$23.7 million.

Munitions could include the extended range version of Lockheed Martin's 2,000-pound Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile Extended Range (JASSM-ER), which would receive targeting data from a beyond-line-of-sight command-and-control node via an aircraft-agnostic battle management system incorporated into the pallet. The data is uploaded to the missiles, then they are cleared for release. The pallet rolls out the back, dropping by parachute at a safe distance from the C-17, stabilizes and then automatically fires up to 32 JASSM-ERs or other munitions at a target hundreds of miles away. ➡

In July 2021, the Air Force successfully simulated the scenario during test flights at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, with a Special Operations Command EC-130SJ and a C-17A from the 418th Flight Test Squadron. Later in the year, they did a live-fire test using JASSM-ERs from an EC-130SJ.

The weapons will be fired in a nose-down direction from the box, Evans noted. Getting the missiles to “pull up,” or correct their trajectory once fired, is the most daunting technical challenge, he said. The campaign is “right on track to demonstrate unconventional release” in a flight test preceding the live-fire test, he added.

Testing with other munitions will be carried out in the next phase of Rapid Dragon in 2022 and 2023 with similar simulations leading to live-fire testing, demonstrating that the box is weapons agnostic and capable of firing kinetic and non-kinetic weapons, he said. 🇺🇸

CELEBRATED TUSKEGEE AIRMAN DIES



Charles McGee, a highly decorated American pilot who battled racism and segregation in the military, has died aged 102. He passed away in his sleep on Sunday morning, his family said. "He had his right hand over his heart and was smiling serenely," a statement read.

McGee, a retired brigadier general, was called to service in 1942 at the age of 23. He became one of the first black military aviators, and his unit was known as the Tuskegee Airmen. A member of America's first all-black aviation unit, McGee flew more than 400 missions during a two-decade career – a record that stands today. He served in World War Two, as well as the Vietnam and Korean conflicts.

"Today, we lost an America hero," US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said on Sunday. "While I am saddened by his loss, I'm also incredibly grateful for his sacrifice, his legacy and his character."

During World War Two the US army became the country's largest minority employer. However, units, training and facilities were all segregated. But in 1941, Congress forced the Army Air Corps to create an all-black combat unit. It reluctantly agreed and sent the unit to a remote air field in Tuskegee, Alabama, keeping them separate from the rest of the army. This became the training ground for some pilots, navigators, mechanics, and ground crew. ➡

"We proved something different, not only in aviation history but also in American social history," McGee told BBC in 2007, after the surviving members of the group were presented with the Congressional Gold Medal. He said the airmen were aware that they were breaking new ground in the struggle for equal rights, although they did not set out to spark a social revolution. "Individuals all across the country were really just interested in being accepted for who you were, being given an opportunity before being told you couldn't do something just because of your birth," he said.

The success of the Tuskegee Airmen is believed to have influenced the then-president's decision to desegregate the armed forces in 1948. "[Our success] made it possible for President Truman to issue orders mandating all of the services to integrate," McGee said.

After retiring from the armed services, McGee dedicated his life to sharing the lessons of the Tuskegee Airmen and encouraging young people to pursue careers in aviation. And he even celebrated his 100th birthday by doing what he loved most - piloting a jet.

President Trump promoted him to BGen on Feb 4, 2020 and honored him at the State of the Union address that evening. As a civilian, he was a recipient of the Air Force Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, was inducted as a National Aeronautics Association Elder Statesman of Aviation and received a Congressional Gold Medal. In 2011, he was enshrined into the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

AFA President Bruce "Orville" Wright said "We lost a great man this week. But we are all better for having had his inspiring example to live by. [He] "... epitomized what it means to be an Airman for Life."

Charles McGee's remarkable progression through three wars, 409 combat missions, 6,300 flight hours, and 102 birthdays was marked by his steadfast dedication to duty and to the service of his country in the Air Force he loved," said Wright, a retired Air Force lieutenant general. 🇺🇸

AIR FORCE GREEN



On January 1, 1970, President Richard M. Nixon signed the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the world's first national declaration of environmental policy. Since the passage of that Act the Department of Defense and the Air Force have been tasked to play a significant role in the protection of our planet.

From developing more efficient aircraft and engines to reducing fossil fuel requirements -- to protecting endangered species, from planning for the impact of climate change -- to searching for carbon free sources of energy to operate bases; the Air Force is playing an active role in the efforts to create a more environmentally sensitive nation. This article marks the beginning of a series that will touch on Air Force's efforts to protect our environment.

For example, the 10th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) at the Air Force Academy has proposed to reduce energy use by installing energy-saving technology in Academy buildings.

The Academy's largest energy expenditure is for electricity "by a factor of two over the next closest energy source, natural gas," an Academy spokesman said. "Our smallest energy source is fuel oil." The Academy generates renewable energy with its 6-megawatt solar array which annually produces 12% of the school's energy.

"Renewable energy performance from the existing array has been excellent," said Kirk Weiss, the base energy manager at the 10th CES. "It has reliably produced more than 11,000 megawatt hours of electrical energy annually since it was commissioned 10 years ago." 🇺🇸

AIR FORCE TRIVIA

MATCH THESE NUMBERED AIR FORCES WITH THE LOCATION OF THEIR HEADQUARTERS.

Answers on page 9



- ✚ Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana
- ✚ Keesler AFB, Mississippi
- ✚ March Air Reserve Base, California
- ✚ Osan Air Base, South Korea

- ✚ Ramstein Air Base, Germany
- ✚ Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina
- ✚ Tyndall AFB, Florida
- ✚ Yokota Air Base, Japan

SPACE FORCE NEWS

US NEEDS 'RESILIENT, ROBUST SPACE HIGHWAY'

Dec. 8, 2021 | By Greg Hadley



Within the next five to 10 years, Space Force Brig. Gen. John M. Olson envisions far more than just one mission from NASA to return humanity to the moon—he anticipates a “vibrant commercial focus” led by rapidly expanding space companies.

A key component of that will be a “resilient, robust hybrid space architecture, one which has a vision that is well off to the moon and perhaps beyond,” Olson, the mobilization assistant to the Chief of Space Operations, said at Defense One’s virtual Outlook 2022 forum Dec. 8.

According to Olson, that architecture -- sometimes referred to as a space “highway” -- will have to be a collective effort between private industry, civil agencies, and the military.

But given that the Space Force is responsible for space domain awareness, it will have to play a particularly crucial role -- specifically to ensure space domain awareness and to “set the standard for interoperability and set the guidelines and the rules of the road,” Olson said.

John Plumb – nominated to be the first Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy -- called space traffic management “absolutely essential” but said he supported having a civil agency take over the mission from the Space Force. “The ... federal highway systems, the electrical grid, the transcontinental railroad and the internet—all these great examples of infrastructure underlie this huge opportunity that we have now as we look at space,” Olson said.

Just how this architecture will be structured and built out is “the grand strategy question, or opportunity, I would rather say, for our time,” Olson said. But there was one point on which he insisted—China cannot be allowed to reach the Moon and build up its own architecture before the U.S.. ➡

“As we look at this global competition for resources, for opportunities, for exploration, and for the benefits that can leverage so much goodness here on the face of the Earth, I think the United States must be first,” Olson said, pointing to aggressive actions taken by the Chinese on Earth as evidence that they will look to impose their will wherever possible. 🇺🇸

As an update, the Space National Guard did NOT get funded in this year's Defense budget. For the time being, organizations with space related missions will be a part of a renamed "Air and Space National Guard."

1st QUARTER FACTOID

OPERATION BOLO

Operation Bolo was a [United States Air Force](#) mission during the [Vietnam War](#) which was considered to be a successful combat ruse. Lead by Col. Robin Olds, Commander of the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, OPERATION BOLO used a brilliant deception tactic that destroyed half of the North Vietnamese MiG-21 fighter force, with no USAF losses.

The mission was a response to the heavy losses sustained during the [Operation Rolling Thunder](#) aerial-bombardment campaign of 1966, during which [Vietnam People's Air Force](#) fighter jets evaded U.S. [escort fighters](#) and attacked U.S. bombers flying predictable routes.



Col. Robin Olds, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) commander, and the wing's tactics officer, Capt. John "J.B." Stone

In late 1966, the Rules of Engagement (ROE) did not allow the USAF to bomb North Vietnamese airfields – they could only destroy enemy fighters in the air. Complicating the problem, enemy MiGs focused on bomb-laden F-105s and only initiated combat when they had a clear advantage. Col. Robin Olds, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) commander, and the wing's tactics officer, Capt. John "J.B." Stone devised a masterful plan to lure and trap North Vietnamese MiG-21s by mimicking an F-105 bombing formation.

On January 2, 1967, U.S. Air Force [F-4 Phantom II](#) fighters flew a mission along flight paths typically used by the F-105 bombers during Rolling Thunder. The ruse drew an attack by Vietnamese [Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-](#)

[21 interceptors](#), whose pilots expected to find heavily loaded [fighter-bombers](#). Instead, they were met by the far more agile F-4s, which shot down seven of the MiGs.

Old's 8th TFW F-4s entered North Vietnam from the west using the same route, altitude, and formation as an F-105 bomb strike. They also carried and operated electronic jamming pods used by F-105s. The North Vietnamese took the bait, and the MiGs came up to intercept what they thought was an F-105 strike. At the same time, 366th TFW F-4s came into North Vietnam from the east to block the MiGs' escape to China and to orbit their bases, preventing the MiGs from landing.

Despite some problems caused by the overcast weather, OPERATION BOLO was triumphantly successful. During the 12-minute engagement, seven North Vietnamese MiG-21s -- about half of their operational force -- were shot down with no USAF losses. Four days later, another ruse, this time mimicking an F-4 reconnaissance flight, shot down two more MiG-21s. These crippling losses greatly reduced MiG activity for several months. 🇺🇸

AFA TOPS 100,000 MEMBERS

ARLINGTON, Va. -- The Air Force Association exceeded 100,000 members in September 2021, finishing the month with 100,175. The growth was led by a surge of Airmen and Guardians joining while registering to attend AFA's Air, Space & Cyber Conference. Over the course of the past year, membership grew by more than 10,000.

"We are thrilled to see so many currently serving Airmen and Guardians and Department of the Air Force civilians joining our Association," said AFA Chairman Gerald Murray. "Their joining shows the value today's Airmen and Guardians see in having a professional association to advocate for powerful Air and Space Forces as foundational to a strong national defense."

"Getting to 100,000 members was an important milestone for us, but our work is only just begun," said AFA President Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Bruce "Orville" Wright. "We're 75 years old this year, and we're on a mission to grow and expand. We have to – the Department of the Air Force now has two services that need our support, and we are committed to be the independent voice for both – now and into the future."

Murray said AFA must now set its sights on an ambitious new goal – 125,000 members – as it works to be a unifying voice for everyone in the Department of the Air Force, including Air Force Airmen, Space Force Guardians, and Department of the Air Force civilians. "We are unique in our advocacy for Air Power and Space Power and in focusing as much on people as on technology," said Murray, who was the 14th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.



AFA Chairman of the Board
Gerald Murray.

AFA membership peaked at 237,279 in 1987. It then began a 30 year decline driven by the downsizing of the Air Force and Judge Advocate General opinions that severely restricted the capability to recruit on bases. The decline continued until 2017 when membership bottomed out at 90,970. At that point the association recognized its need to actively recruit new members and began the turn around that resulted in reaching the 100,000 milestone. 🇺🇸



Don't forget to mark your calendars to reserve the time to join in the chapter's ZOOM meeting on Saturday, March 5 at 10:00 AM. Anticipate about a 1½ hour meeting featuring Chapter President Scott Gray discussing China with a focus on both their economic and military progress.

Be on watch for an e-mail with sign up details.

TRIVA ANSWERS

- ✚ 1st Air Force -- Tyndall AFB, Florida
- ✚ 2nd Air Force – Keesler AFB, Mississippi
- ✚ 3rd Air Force – Ramstein Air Base, Germany.
- ✚ 4th Air Force – March Air Reserve Base, California.
- ✚ 5th Air Force – Yokota Air Base, Japan
- ✚ 7th Air Force – Osan Air Force Base, Republic of Korea
- ✚ 8th Air Force – Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana
- ✚ 9th Air Force – Shaw Air Force Base, SC



Air Force Association
Florida West Coast Chapter
1580 Shadow Ridge Circle
Sarasota, FL 34240



THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; to honor and support our Airmen, Space Force Professionals, and their Families; and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.

To accomplish this, we:

- **EDUCATE** the public on the critical need for unrivaled aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure national security
 - **ADVOCATE** for aerospace power, and promote aerospace and STEM education and professional development
- **SUPPORT** readiness for the Total Air and Space Forces, including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilians, families and members of the Civil Air Patrol

Florida West Coast Chapter of the Air Force Association is incorporated in the State of Florida as a qualified 501(C)(3) charitable organization. Our Registration Number is CH48270.

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