

WMC Crossfeed

Air Force Association – Wright Memorial Chapter 212

Box 33604 • Dayton, Ohio 45433-0604

An information bulletin from the Wright Memorial Chapter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



JEFF LIFFICK

Greetings Wright Memorial Chapter 212 members! As I look back over the last quarter once again the Chapter has been active in the community supporting numerous activities. Many of which will be highlighted in this issue of the Crossfeed. We said farewell to AFRL/CC Maj Gen Bedke and

welcomed his replacement Maj Gen Pawlikowski. The Chapter supported ROTC and JRROTC activities. Provided support to Heroes Welcoming Heroes. Supported the needs of the VA. Sponsored the Doolittle Raiders Reunion. Participated and ran educational workshops. Provided support to the Fisher House and many other activities all since the beginning of the year, It is truly amazing how much this support this Chapter is able to provide to the Dayton Community. Thank You to all of the people that make this possible. And a Special thanks to our STAR Sponsors whose generous donations make it possible.

And while all of these activities were taking place the Chapter was busy planning just as many upcoming events. Once again the Chapter will sponsor Air Force Materiel Command's Tattoo which will take place June 25th. This event, free to the public, recognizes the contributions of military veterans, their families and all Americans who support them with a spectacular presentation of flyovers, music, narration and fireworks. The show will feature fly-overs by a number of aircraft, musical entertainment with .38 Special, and Fire Works to end the evening. The Chapter will also be hosting 5 Chalets at the Vectren Dayton Air Show 17 and 18 July 2010. If you have not had the opportunity to enjoy the AFA sponsored Chalets I encourage you to take advantage of this. Air Show Tickets are available to all AFA members.

The Chapter is also working on this year's Air Force Anniversary Ball and AFA Technology Symposium which will be held August 25th and 26th. A Party Deck and 5 adjacent suites have been reserved for a Dayton Dragons game on August 24th. Look for more information regarding these events on the Chapter website as they draw near. The Chapter will also be sponsoring a Hydration Station at the Air Force Marathon on September 18th.

Thanks to all of you for continuing to support the Air Force Association through you membership and support. Because of the significant impact made by our Chapter, AFA National continues to recognize the Wright Memorial Chapter as one of, if not the preeminent, chapter in the nation. In closing I look forward to seeing you at a Chapter event and I invite you to get involved in supporting your Association. I look forward to hearing from you.

I can be contacted by email jliffick@afadayton-wright.com or via **phone (937) 427-2226**.

THE AFA MISSION:

- Educates the public about the critical role of aerospace power in the defense of our nation
- Advocates aerospace power and a strong national defense
- Supports the United States Air Force, the Air Force Family and aerospace education.

AFA VISION:

The premier professional military association in the United States – dedicated to aerospace pre-eminence and a strong national defense.

JEFF LIFFICK

President

Air Force Association

Wright Memorial Chapter 212

178FW Deploys to Hungary in Support of LD2010

By Staff Sgt. Tina Maddock



A 178th Fighter Wing F-16 Fighting Falcon and a Hungarian Air Force JAS-39 Gripen during the Load Diffuser Exercise 2010 in Kecskemet, Hungary April 29. The exercise aims to sharpen the combat capabilities of the participating forces by conducting a 10 to 15 day flying program.

KECSKEMET, Hungary— Approximately 100 members of the 178th Fighter Wing from Springfield, Ohio, deployed in support of the Load Diffuser Exercise 2010, April 22 to May 7 to Kecskemet, Hungary.

The LD2010 is a joint exercise with the Hungarian Joint Force Command. The exercise aims to sharpen the combat capabilities of the participating forces.

U.S. Air Force pilots and Hungarian air force pilots will have the opportunity to engage in different air-to-air combat scenarios. The aircraft involved are the USAF F-16 Fighting Falcon, Hungarian air force JAS-39 Gripen, MiG-29 Fulcrum and the Mi-24 Hind.

“It is one of the few training opportunities they (the Hungarian air force) have to fly against a larger formation,” said Lt. Col. Nathan Thomas, the LD2010 project officer. “It is to help improve their skills and a way to improve ours,” said Colonel Thomas.

The U.S. Air Force and Hungarian air force pilots will be working with the Hungarian joint terminal air controllers to direct aircraft against simulated ground targets, said Colonel Thomas. The Hungarian JTACs were trained in the U.S.

Colonel Thomas said that the Hungarian Mi-24 helicopters will be working with the U.S. Air Force and Hungarian air force to conduct ground base air defense exercises.

In addition to practicing air combat maneuvers against the F-16, Hungarian air force service members will be trained to work with the F-16. Airmen from the 178 FW will educate aircraft maintainers and fire fighters from the Hungarian air force on operating an F-16.

The Hungarian air force welcomed the 178 FW with an opening ceremony April 26. The ceremony was attended by both U.S. Air Force and Hungarian air force service members which kicked off the Load Diffuser Exercise 2010.

OBJECTIVE OF THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

. . . we, as free people, may unite: to advocate for and support the men and women of the United States Air Force; to address the defense responsibilities of our nation imposed by the many advances in aerospace technology that have been and will continue to be made; to educate the members and the public at large as to what those men and women and technology contribute to the security of free people and the betterment of mankind; and to advocate and support military preparedness of the United States and its allies in order to adequately maintain the security of the United States and the free world.

— Article II, AFA Constitution

Farewell Reception for Maj. Gen. Curtis and Ina Bedke

It seems as though they just arrived and now it's time to say goodbye to the General and his wife Ina. Major General Curtis Bedke came to WPAFB from Edwards AFB in October of 2007 to become the Commander of Air Force Research Laboratory. A Farewell Reception hosted by Air Force Association and the Miami Valley Military Affairs Association was held for him and his wife, Ina, at the Tower Club on Monday, 8 February 2010. General Bedke spoke about his time as the Commander of AFRL as one that he thoroughly enjoyed. General Bedke will be retiring effect 1 April 2010. There were about 80 attendees to



say goodbye to the Bedkes and wish them well in their new home of Washington, DC. Kohler Catering provided a wonderful selection of Hors D'oeuvres and a cash bar was available.

AFA Supports Psychosocial Rehabilitation Veterans' Summer Picnic

On June 17th the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program (PSR) will hold its summer picnic for veterans. This upbeat annual event allows veterans, who might otherwise be isolated, an opportunity to enjoy a traditional summer picnic, a day of fun, good food, entertainment and socializing. PSR programs include Mental Health Intensive Care Management, Community Residential Care or Group Homes, Residential PSR, Family Services, and Psychosocial Rehabilitation and recovery Center. Vita Eonta and Joann Powell of our VA committee present Mark Frazee, Director of Volunteer Services, with a \$100 to help support this event. Contact Gloria Koch, MSW at 268-6511 x1595 to volunteer.



New Dayton Veterans Resource Center

Members of the VA committee of the Wright Memorial Chapter attended the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Dayton Veterans Resource Center on Wednesday April 7 at the Dayton Veterans Medical Center. Formally housing for women, the newly renovated Miller Cottage, will provide transitional housing for homeless veterans. The AMVETS Dept of OH, State Color Guard, posted the colors and the Air Force Band Of flight played the U.S. National Anthem as well other musical selections. Welcome remarks and comments were made by Guy Richardson the Director, Dayton VA Medical Center, Dennis J. Kresak, President & CEO of Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio, Congressman Michael Turner, and the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary. The Volunteers of America Transitional Housing program provides a safe and secure environment for homeless veterans including case management, three meals a day, nutrition education and health assessment, referrals to mental health and substance abuse treatment, and transportation assistance. The Dayton

Veterans Resource Center will provide services including a customized, individual employment plan, resume development and application assistance, job interview training and clothing assistance, life skills classes, and usage of a computer lab, free internet, phone and fax. The ceremony was followed by a tour of the 50 bed facility and a catered reception.



Teacher Workshops: A Huge Success!

On 17 April 2010, the Wright Memorial Chapter held their Teacher Workshops at the Doubletree Hotel, in downtown Dayton, Ohio. The Doubletree Hotel is a community partner for our chapter.



*Back L to R: Ev Odgers, Mike Mushala, Kent Owsley, Ron Goerges, Shiela Wallace, Mike Dunn
Front Row: Vita Eonta, Jan Bernard, Gen Elen Pawlikowski*

We had over 110 teachers that pre-registered, with teachers on our waiting list. We were fortunate to be able to get all our teachers off the waiting list and into classes of their choosing. The day began with on-site check in. During breakfast, Kathy Schweinfurth, Chief of the Education Outreach office for Wright Patterson Air Force Base explained to the teachers some new information concerning the Dayton Region Aviation Educators Council, what it had to offer teachers, and its new connection with the National Aviation Heritage Alliance. Two-hour classes were held both in the morning and the afternoon and the teachers could choose the classes that best fit their needs. Wright State University provided Continuing Education Units for all teachers that attended. The first luncheon speakers were Judith Wehn, Chief, Education Division, at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. She encouraged teachers to participate in the Doolittle Raiders Reunion being held on this same weekend. Our featured luncheon speaker was Major General Ellen Pawlikowski, Commander, Air Force Research Labs. She shared her



views on the importance of STEM education with our teachers. We were also honored to have Lieutenant General (Retired) Mike Dunn, the AFA president with us during the luncheon. Our teachers came from numerous counties surrounding the Dayton area. Some teachers drove over 2 hours in order to attend. Our teachers represented grades Pre K-12 from public, private, parochial and charter schools.

The presentation of the Teacher of the Year for the Wright Memorial Chapter and the State of Ohio were presented to Janet Barnard, Tippecanoe High School, Tipp City Schools in Miami County at the luncheon. The results were very positive in describing the speakers and over 98% stated they would like to attend next year and would share the information with their fellow teachers.

A wonderful day was had by all, and preparations are underway for next year's event to be held on 16 April 2011.



Celebrating our WW II Veterans

By Vita Eonta



Doolittle Raiders from left, Lt. Col. Richard E. Cole, Lt. Col. Robert L. Hite, Maj. Thomas C. Griffin and MSgt. David L. Thatcher answer media questions Friday April 16 at the Air Force Museum. The Raiders were in town for the 68th reunion. The brave Doolittle Tokyo Raiders bombed Japan at the beginning of WWII. Staff photo by Jim Noelker

The Wright Memorial Chapter was proud co-sponsor the final reunion of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders at the Air Force Museum, April 16-18th. Four of the eight remaining raiders were able to attend the reunion and were honored with a reception and a banquet. The reunion included a free public autograph session, educational event, and a memorial service at the museum with a flyover of 17 B-25s. In addition, a free public concert honoring the Raiders took place at Wright State University's Nutter Center.

This was a special reunion of some very special WW II heroes. The Wright Memorial Chapter also supports the Honor Flight Network who continues to honor many WW II vets by flying them to Washington DC to see the WW II memorial. The Honor Flight Network is separate from the AFA but our members actively assist vets in applying for flights and assisting with their travel. I want to



John and Vita Eonta Lt Col (ret.), Salvatore Perrone, WW II Veteran and Mike Eonta SSgt OANG

share a personal experience with the Honor Flight Network.

My dad was a member of the Navy during WW II. He was stationed off the coast of California patrolling the Pacific. I found out that the Honor Flight Network has hubs in many states and there was a hub on Long Island in New York, the Honor Flight Long Island. I got him an application and was thrilled when he was called for a flight 10-12 March. What normally would have been a one day trip to the memorial and back turned out to be a one day two-night tribute to WW II vets stationed in the Pacific. HBO was just releasing their new miniseries



Honor Flight Long Island team 4 waiting to see the memorial

The Pacific and they wanted to pay homage to WW II veterans stationed in the Pacific. I drove down to Washington DC with my husband and son to meet my dad there to share the experience with him. 250 veterans were flown to Washington DC from seven different hubs, one a survivor of Pear Harbor. They had a royal send off at their respective airports and were saluted as they departed from the bus when they arrived at the hotel which was draped in a huge American Flag. The following day they were honored at the WW II Memorial. The veterans processed in to "God Bless America" and then Richard Plepler, co-president of HBO, welcomed the vets. Remarks were made by Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg, and former Sen. Dole. W. Scott Gould, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, ended the remarks part of the ceremony, saying that those in attendance were "truly standing in the presence of heroes." After remarks were given, there was a wreath laying ceremony with SSG Nathaniel Johnson, 4th Bn., 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, The Old Guard, Hanks and Spielberg. MSgt Susan Rider played "Taps." The vets had time to walk around the memorial . . .

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CELEBRATING OUR WWII VETERANS ...

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and to take pictures; they were given a box lunch and then taken to the Iwo Jima Memorial. They returned to the hotel for a banquet dinner and then were given the opportunity to view the opening of the miniseries *The Pacific*. The movie *Casablanca* was also offered as an alternative to anyone who thought reliving



The procession into the memorial lined with Marines

their experiences was too painful. Well not for these WW II veterans! Everyone stayed to watch *The Pacific* and had plenty of stories to tell afterwards about their own personal experiences. My dad is 91 years old and it was amazing to see how he came alive when talking with the other vets about that war. They all left the next morning, heading back to their own home towns and to a huge welcome home, all walking a little straighter and still very proud. My dad did not see any action during the war. He was like so many others who were in support roles, not on the front lines, but every one of them did what they had to do, putting their lives on hold to go and fight for our country. This truly was "The Greatest Generation."



Reminiscing are Larry Pinto, Marine, and Sal Perrone, Navy

Maj. Gen. Pawlikowski Visits TechFest 2010

On 13 February 2010, within 24 hours of assuming her new post as Commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Major General Ellen M. Pawlikowski participated in the TechFest 2010 opening ceremony. Gen. Pawlikowski provided words of encouragement and shared her enthusiasm for STEM with the audience and assisted in the ribbon cutting.

TechFest 2010, is presented by the Affiliate Societies Council of Dayton and is held annually on the Saturday and Sunday of President's Day Weekend at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio. More than 70 exhibitors and 16 speakers were on hand to educate, as well as entertain, with hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities for children of all ages. More than 2, 500 children participated over the two days.

The Air Force Association Wright Memorial Chapter #212's Educators' Action Team presented STEM focused workshops for 135 teachers from the Miami Valley area. Workshop presenters showed educators how to incorporate Biology in Art, Math in Physical Education, and Aviation in Children's Literature as well as new challenges that are currently presented while navigating the internet.

Submitted by: Educators' Action Team



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at www.AFA.org**

AFA SPONSORS VETERANS VALENTINE PARTY

The Wright Memorial Chapter 212 of the Air Force Association (AFA) sponsored a valentine party for the veterans at the Dayton VA Medical Center. This was part of the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. The purpose of the National salute is to pay tribute and express appreciation to hospitalized veterans, increase community awareness of the role of the VA Medical Center, and encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and to become involved as volunteers. The annual national salute program began in 1978 when the VA took over sponsorship of the program started in 1974 by a humanitarian organization.



George Simons is checking the bingo card of one of the vets.

On 10 February 2010, two AFA volunteers joined Dayton VA Medical Center staff in providing a bingo event for the veterans. The AFA provided cake for the veterans and provided canteen books as prizes for the bingo games. These canteen books allow the veterans to get necessities at the canteen in the VA Center.

The AFA sponsored bingo events at three different locations at the VA Center (Multipurpose Room, Tower Hospital, Lakeside Manor formerly called the nursing home). The AFA Volunteers assisted the staff in serving cake to the veterans and handing out canteen books as prizes for the bingo at the multipurpose Room event and the Tower event. The veterans expressed their appreciation for the AFA sponsorship.



Vita Eonta is serving cake to the vets.

If you wish to show your appreciation to veterans, you may volunteer at the Dayton VA Medical Center. To volunteer, contact Kay Crawford at Volunteer Service (937) 262-2162

Air Force Junior ROTC Military Ball

The annual Air Force Junior ROTC Military Ball was held at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base Club and Banquet Center on 12 March 2010. Almost 600 Air Force Junior ROTC cadets, their dates, and instructors assembled at the club for this annual evening of fun, food, and lots of dancing. In attendance from local high schools were Bellbrook, Stebbins, Springboro, Tecumseh, Fairborn, Lebanon, Wayne (all local to the Dayton area), Green (located north of Canton), and Paint Valley (located near Chillicothe.) Male cadets attend in their military service dress and female cadets wear formal dresses; all other attendees wear formal attire or suits. The food is plentiful and the dance floor crowded. The Military Ball rivals any other high school social event for the year and is something the cadets will remember for a lifetime.



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Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act

The *Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act* was signed into law and allows Chairman Akaka to establish an unprecedented permanent program to support the caregivers of wounded warriors, improve health care for veterans in rural areas, help VA adapt to the needs of women veterans, and expand supportive services for homeless veterans.

The bill's caregiver support provisions will:

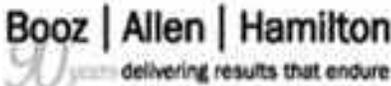
- Fulfill VA's obligation to care for the nation's wounded veterans by providing their caregivers with training, counseling, supportive services, and a living stipend
- Provide health care to the family caregivers of injured veterans under CHAMPVA
- Require independent oversight of the caregiver program

The bill will also provide numerous other improvements for veterans, by:

- Expanding health care services for women veterans
- Reaching out to veterans living in rural areas
- Improving VA's mental health care programs
- Removing barriers to care for catastrophically disabled veterans
- Enhancing a variety of VA medical services
- Strengthening VA's ability to recruit and retain a first-class health-care workforce
- Improving and increasing services to homeless veterans

For an in-depth summary of the bill as passed by Congress, go to our website and click on [Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act](#).

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- Retired US Armed Forces

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