

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



SHIELA WALLACE

The Wright Memorial Chapter is off to a great start in 2013!!

We are actively planning/implementing our programs for 2013. AFA and the Association of Old Crows held a joint lunch meeting in January and were honored to have Lieutenant General Andrew Bush as our featured speaker. Then in February, we had the pleasure of

hosting a reception for new CMSgts from AFMC on February 4th. Only 1% of the enlisted force reaches the rank of CMSgt, so it was an honor to meet the best and brightest.

I hope all members will mark your calendar for April 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. That will be our Annual All-Member Meeting. General Janet Wolfenbarger, AFMC/CC will be with us and sharing her views on the current changes underway in the Air Force. Members from around the state and the Great Lakes Region will be in attendance.

Plans are already well underway for the Air Force Ball on September 11th. More information will follow on as the event gets closer. Long range planning is also underway for the Vectren Dayton Air Show. WMC 212 will again this year have five chalets on both Saturday and Sunday, June 22nd and 23rd. Our chapter has already made plans to support the Marathon with our funds and volunteers.

I am very proud of how much this organization contributes to the Miami Valley and the surrounding communities. Thank you to all of the volunteers and contributors that help so much. And a special thanks to our STAR Sponsors whose generous donations help make this happen. Without the continued support of all of you to the Air Force Association through your membership and sponsorship none of this would be possible.

Please watch our website regularly to see new ideas/programs that we will be implementing. If you have other ideas or events that you would like to consider, we would be delighted to hear from you. I would also request that when you see an email coming from AFA that you take a moment to read it. Invitations for upcoming events will be sent to you via email. I hope to have as many of you as possible get involved with the chapter and attend our events.

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. THANK YOU for supporting the AFA Wright Memorial Chapter.

I can be contacted by email: swal3754@ameritech.net.

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.

**COME JOIN US
AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**APRIL 12 ~ 6PM
Annual All-Member Meeting
Crowne Plaza Hotel**

**JUNE 22 & 23
Vectren Dayton Air Show**

SEPTEMBER 11 ~ Air Force Ball

First Annual Reel Stuff Film Festival of Aviation

The Air Force Museum Theatre announced its inaugural Reel Stuff Film Festival of Aviation will take place in Dayton on April 11-14, 2013. The cinematic celebration of flight also serves as the public grand re-opening of the Museum's 400-seat giant-screen theatre, currently undergoing an \$800,000 renovation.

The First Annual Reel Stuff of Aviation offers a diverse lineup of flight-related feature films, documentaries, and broadcast programming, each presented by a filmmaker or historian closely associated with its production.

Among the ten screenings confirmed thus far will be the Midwest premier of *First in Flight*, a Wright Brothers dramatization; the 1927 silent classic, *Wings*, a digitally re-mastered version, the 1990 Warner Brothers film, *The Memphis Belle*, and Paramount Pictures' *Top Gun 3D*, the 1986 blockbuster film recently converted into spectacular high-definition, giant-screen 3D format.

Patrons of Reel Stuff Film Festival will be among the very first to enjoy a new state-of-the-art theatre experience featuring a digital image projection system, an amped up 7.1 surround sound system with 20 speakers, and a towering new six-story screen. "We've put together an unforgettable weekend, not only for aviation buffs and students of history, but also anyone who loves the art of the cinema or is fascinated by learning the technical, 'behind-the-scenes' aspect of filmmaking," said Mary Bruggeman, Chief of Theatre Operations for the AFMF.

Tickets and passes will go on sale February 15, available by contacting theatre@afmuseum.com or by calling (937) 253-4629. General admission tickets for individual daytime screenings are \$8 per person, and \$15 per person for evening shows. Other ticket package prices are also available. For more Reel Stuff information and festival updates visit www.airforce-museum.com/reelstuff or www.reelstuffilmfest.com.

**Update your AFA Records
at www.AFA.org**

AFA Director News

A*FA members*, I wanted to take the time to tell you about two new directors we brought on board this year to help move this Association forward: Paula Roy and Barbara Taylor.

Paula Roy, spouse of retired Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James Roy, has joined the staff of the AFA as the Director of Airmen and Family Programs, a newly established initiative. This program will help AFA expand the support provided to Airmen and families.

This will include exploring new opportunities, coalition building and launching new programs. These varied programs are vital but core to AFA's long-term health and significance because they tangibly demonstrate the Association's commitment to Airmen, spouses, and the greater Air Force family.

Paula has been a chief supporter for spouses for years, giving many a voice to address their concerns. During her husband's time on active duty, Paula took a strong interest in airmen and their families. Over the past 3.5 years, she has visited U.S. bases around the world where spouses have been able to discuss with her the issues they face.

The new Managing Director of the Air Force Memorial Foundation is Barbara S. Taylor, a retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant and former superintendent and recording producer at The United States Air Force Band. She replaces Pete Lindquist, who officially retired December 31.

As Managing Director, Barbara will provide daily management, oversight, event planning and support to ensure that the Memorial preserves the heritage of America's Airmen and remains a national place of reverence, remembrance, celebration, and pride. She will also act as a liaison with the Air Force, facilitating their presence and support at various events.

We, at AFA, are so fortunate to bring onboard both individuals, who have such great experience in the Air Force community and exceptional ties to Air Force heritage. They have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities throughout their time with the military, and we know their insights will be instrumental in the development and implementation of new initiatives.

CHET CURTIS
Director, Education and Communication
Air Force Association

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Blogger

AFA/AOC Luncheon

On January 9th, the Wright Memorial Chapter of AFA held a joint luncheon with the Kittyhawk Chapter of the AOC. The guest speaker was Gen Andy Busch, the AFMC Vice Commander. He shared with us his views on a number of AFMC topics including looming budget cuts and the new acquisition and sustainment centers. AFA Chapter president Sheila Wallace took advantage of the festive audience to present Jessica Derr the AFA Medal of Merit for Jessica's outstanding service to the Wright Memorial Chapter.



AFANextGEN



ERIC R. JAREN

You may be surprised to learn AFA Wright-Memorial Chapter 212 formed a social media committee. We are looking to keep up with the cutting edge of social media technology and build an effective strategy. The social media committee for AFA Wright Memorial Chapter 212 is off to a great start. We have a solid team, a variety of

ideas and enough energy to see them through. Leading the committee this year will be exciting as we learn to harness the viral potential of social media. Jump onboard and fasten your seat belt!

Built it and they will come

The committee is comprised of AFA Chapter 212 Executive Councilmembers: President Sheila Wallace and Vice President Tom Koogler, and students from Wright State University, Cadet Olivia Rutherford, Cadet Paul Conrady and Cadet Ryan Heil, Chapter 212 faithful Bill Richard, and myself. To ensure a broad perspective we plan to expand the committee to include representatives from active duty, reserves, and guardsmen, as well as civilian, enlisted, officers and retirees.

It takes time

Our goal is to build an effective strategy that enhances collaboration, communication, and new prospective members. In the coming weeks we will transform ideas into a strategic roadmap with goals and milestones to keep us on track. Here are a few of the ideas:

- 1) **AFANextGEN:** Publish *AFANextGEN* to provide a collaborative environment.
- 2) **Event photos:** Upload AFA event photos on AFANextGEN allowing people greater access.
- 3) **Spotlight articles:** Spotlight articles to recognize star performers and leverage social media.
- 4) **Membership process:** "Click and in" will allow prospective members to register using PayPal.
- 5) **Marketing videos:** Interesting 30 second videos to communicate across social media.
- 6) **ROTC and JROTC:** Invite Silver Wings and Arnold Air Society to join AFANextGEN.
- 7) **Cool Links:** Cyber Patriot, F-35 simulations, KC-46 simulations, Wargames, Micro Air Robots, and a variety of other interesting sites.

No looking back...we need YOU!

In just the past month active communication on our chapter Facebook page has nearly tripled the number of people in our network. But social media is not just one person uploading photos on Facebook. To leverage

the internet viral potential requires multiple people contributing across multiple platforms through a variety of technologies all weaved into one environment. We need your help to be successful.

To make this successful we need **YOU** to join Facebook. You don't have to be a Facebook expert, but joining allows you to stay connected and receive materials that are otherwise unavailable. It also allows us to fully implement the viral capability of social media. Take a moment to sign up today!

If you don't know how, just ask one of your kids or grand kids to set it up. Trust me, they can get you up and running in five minutes. Our committee stands by, ready to assist, whether it's with Facebook, or just to answer any questions or concerns.

Going Viral With Facebook!

We want to enhance collaboration, communication and increase the number of people visiting our Facebook page. But you can't help if you're not on Facebook!

Whether you are "friending" or "liking" on Facebook, or "tweeting" on Twitter, we need our AFA members posting information on our Facebook page. You see every social media "share" has the potential to reach a second and third layer in the network. And did I mention this will be fun?

We need to leverage the power of social media. If one person with 200 Facebook "friends" posts on a page then the reach is potentially 200 people. However, if 50 people with 200 Facebook "friends" posts on a page then the reach is potentially 10,000 people. And if some of the 10,000 friends repost, that is going "viral" which means the potential reach is multiplied exponentially by the popularity of the post.

If you are not on Facebook you can get familiar with it by asking a friend to show you the AFANextGEN page in Facebook. You will see the stories, articles, videos and photos available. Soon we will post photos from local AFA events, spotlight articles and links to interesting videos.

Take a moment to sign up on Facebook today! If you are not a member of AFA, please find "AFANextGEN" on Facebook and "Like" our page to support our initiative. Do not wait for tomorrow, next month, or next year - Sign Up Today!

Time to join the 21st Century – we're going viral!

ERIC R. JAREN
Vice President of Social Media
Air Force Association Chapter 212

AIR FORCE JROTC UPDATES

Bellbrook High School established an Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Program in August 2006. Below are some of the highlights of our program since the Fall-Winter 2012 edition of the WMC Crossfeed.

Christmas Caroling at the Veterans Affairs Hospital, Dayton, Ohio:



Just prior to Christmas 2012, over 50 of our cadets along with members from the Kettering Veterans of Foreign War Post 9927 visited the patients at the Veterans Affairs Hospital. The cadets sang Christmas carols and passed out comfort items to the veterans.

South and North Carolina Field Trip (14-17 February 2013):

In the last newsletter we were scheduled to go to West Point, New York to visit West Point Military Academy. However Hurricane Sandy shut down some of the tours we scheduled; i.e., Statue of Liberty, that forced us elsewhere. With flexibility being the key to Airpower we set up a trip to spend a day with the Marines at Parris Island, South Carolina and a day with the Air Force at Joint Base Charleston. Our cadets got to experience being a marine recruit for a day. At the Air Force base we saw demonstrations by the Ravens and working dogs of the Security Forces Squadron. Afterward, we toured multiple tourist attractions in South and North Carolina to include Fort Sumpter, the USS North Carolina, and a walking historical tour of Charleston. Just like every year, many great memories were made on this trip.



JROTC 5K:

On 27 April 2013, our program is hosting the First Annual Bellbrook Junior ROTC 5K Run. Our goal is to raise enough money so that we can cover the costs associated with our after school programs and community service activities. We are asking for families and businesses to sponsor our program with a \$100 donation that will be used to purchase tee-shirts for all runners who take part in the 5K. We will have the business and/or family names printed on the tee-shirts. Checks can be made out and returned to Bellbrook High School JROTC.

Awards Ceremony:

Our annual Awards Ceremony is scheduled for 15 May 2013, at the Kohler Catering, Kettering, Ohio.



Walter E. Stebbins High School Annual Drill Competition

The annual Walter E. Stebbins AFJROTC Drill Competition is scheduled to be held 30 March 2013 at the Stebbins High School complex. Up to 15 teams from all over the state of Ohio and surrounding states have opted to compete in this annual event. The "Red Berets" from Stebbins High School are the defending champs from last year and look to repeat this year in what may prove to be a daunting challenge. All are invited to attend to view this spectacular display of precision and exhibition military drill by some of the finest high school drill teams in the nation. The event is free. First competitive event starts at 0800 hours and the last event, trophy presentation, ends at approximately 1500 hours. Hope to see you there.

Walter E. Stebbins High School AFJROTC Annual Awards Banquet

The annual Walter E. Stebbins High School AFJROTC Awards Ceremony Banquet is scheduled to be held 16 May 2013/1800 hours in the Walter E. Stebbins High School cafeteria. This annual event hosts many veterans' organizations to include the Air Force Association to recognize the many accomplishments of the Walter E. Stebbins cadet corps. This year's cast of cadets have excelled in many ways to include advancement in the annual Academic Challenge Bowl, a top 4 contender in the state drill competition, several team wins in the Miami Valley orienteering competitions, color guard representation at the Cincinnati Reds, Dayton Dragons, Dayton Gems, Riverside Community Council, and High School athletic events, and STEM competitions to include model rocketry and flight simulations. The evening's affair includes a free meal to our guest presenters and an opportunity to meet with the future of our military candidates.

New AFMC Chiefs Attend Orientation

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio -- The 33 newest chief master sergeants within Air Force Materiel Command gathered for a week-long orientation here earlier this month. The AFMC Chiefs' Orientation is held every year after the promotion selectee list is published.

"Chiefs' Orientation is essential to get these new chiefs the tools and information they need to lead at the top of the enlisted ranks," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Warner, AFMC command chief. "Even amid the necessary budget scrutiny, we decided to hold this orientation as planned precisely because of how critical it is that, as our senior enlisted leaders, these folks are fully ingrained in and prepared for their new role."

To start their week off, AFA Wright Memorial Chapter 212 hosted a reception in their honor at the Wright-Patterson Club. One of the first sessions the new chiefs attended was a Leadership Perspective with Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger, AFMC commander. "I rely on the advice and counsel that I get each and every day from Chief Warner," she said. "That is the role that you all will play in your organizations -- you are an integral member of the leadership team. Your relationship with the commander is instrumental to mission success, because you bring a perspective to the table that is invaluable."

Wolfenbarger emphasized that, now more than ever, the chiefs are representatives of their service. "As a chief master sergeant in the United States Air Force, you can be certain that people are watching you -- both on and off the job -- so you have a responsibility to behave in a manner that sets the standard," she said. "Be an example of what you want to see in others."

This year's orientation included three special guest mentors -- retired Chief Master Sgt. Alan Usry, retired Chief Master Sgt. John "Doc" McCauslin and retired Chief Master Sgt. Rodney McKinley, the fifteenth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

During his Perspective session, McKinley congratulated the group on reaching the top 1 percent of the enlisted ranks -- then advised them that the real work is yet to come. "I can't think of a more important time in our Air Force, when we expect more out of our senior leaders like you, than right now," he said. "We need you to perform. We need you to lead. "We expect great things from you," he continued. "We did not promote you to chief master sergeant so you can coast. We promoted you to chief master sergeant because of the extraordinary work and leadership that we expect from you in the future."

To ensure these newest chiefs are ready to meet those expectations, the rest of the orientation included sessions covering different functional areas -- everything from a Wing Commanders panel, a Legal Perspective, a session on Customs and Courtesies, and more. "Some sessions are standard and included every year," Warner said. "For example, some of the chiefs are new to the command, so we always include a mission brief to familiarize the group with what AFMC does for the Air Force. We also try to get the chief of the Chiefs' Group here every year, because assignments and personnel issues are handled differently for chiefs."

Other sessions at the orientation target current trends or issues within AFMC or the Air Force. This year, for example, included sessions . . . *CONTINUED ON PAGE 8*



A Message from the Mighty 88th

Happy 2013 Air Force Association! It is my honor and privilege to introduce myself to those of you whom I haven't yet met as my family and I continue to settle into the Wright-Patt community. As you know, we were stationed at WP back in the late 90s at the Air Force Research Lab, and my daughter, Emma, was born right here at the WPMC. So many great things have happened since then and it is truly a pleasure to be back in the Miami Valley.



I believe in being transparent so I'll say what everyone knows--the next few years will be challenging for our Armed Forces across the spectrum. However, my leadership team and I have developed four command priorities for the 88th ABW that will be our guiding principles in supporting our people and our mission. Our first priority is to **Develop and Care for Our People**. We take this priority very seriously and we know that every employee on base (over 27K) is relying on our services and support. Through our awards programs and family-oriented events like Heroes Welcoming Heroes, both of which AFA supports, we recognize the service and sacrifice of our Airman, military and civilian. Our Hearts Apart, Heartlink, and the countless other programs hosted by our Force Support Squadron provide morale activities, support, and quality-of-life services to our workforce and their families. Focus Week and our attention to continuing education stress the importance of learning and enable our Airmen to remain prepared and adaptable to any situation.

Our second priority is to **Foster a Safe, Secure and Operational Environment**. Our SR444 project is definitely in this priority area. The primary driver for this project was force protection requirements post-Sept 2001. Working with local community members, the transition to the new traffic pattern was smooth and we have a more secure base for the effort. While working to maintain our physical security, we also have people that ensure we have a safe work environment for all of our employees. We are now up to 10 organizations on WPAFB recognized by OSHA for excellence in safety through the Voluntary Protection Program or VPP. We take all of our safety programs (ground, flight and weapons) very seriously and because of this attitude, we have reduced the number of safety mishaps here at WPAFB.

Our third priority is to **Deploy and Reintegrate Capable, Fit and Trained Warfighters**. Through our focus on maintaining accurate records and staying up-to-date with training at our Warfighter Training

Center, we have become experts over the last ten years of ensuring our members are fully prepared to engage when they arrive downrange. We also continue to focus on re-integration, both for the member and their family. Several years ago, we had the opinion in the Air Force...."it isn't that hard to come home and reintegrate." We now know that we need to spend time ensuring all Airmen are prepared to step back into their busy households or office spaces and make it seem like they never left. As much attention as we put into preparing our Airmen to deploy, we spend an

equal amount on preparing for and celebrating their return. For many, the deployment cycle is on-going---you're either preparing to leave, gone, or getting back. We make sure we provide support during every step!

Our fourth priority is to **Optimize Community Partnerships**. All of our community partnerships are important to the installation because we can't be fully successful at our mission without the community standing by our side. Wright-Patt stands out in this respect. Organizations like AFA provide a level of support second-to-none in Air Force Communities and our installation—from our newest Airman to our most senior civilian-- thank you. Our thanks is not only for the support you give our installation, but for the opportunities for our Airmen to become a part of your communities. I consider every Airmen and Civilian on our installation an ambassador of Wright-Patt in our community. Whether our personnel are volunteering in their church, in their chamber of commerce or at a local hospital, they are indirectly representing Wright-Patt and I couldn't be prouder of what they've accomplished. Last year, our Wright-Patt members volunteered over 400K hours in the local community and we are looking to continue these efforts this year.

Bottom line, we want to ensure our Airmen have the tools they need to remain prepared, resilient, and engaged. While the future may hold challenges that have not yet been defined, through our focused efforts listed above and the support of phenomenal community organizations like AFA, we will continue to provide the highest level of support. Our Airmen deserve nothing less.

The course of my career has taken me to many wonderful places, and I have never experienced a community quite like this one. Thank you again for all you do. The Mighty 88th is excited about the opportunities to come throughout 2013 and we are looking forward to continuing and building on our wonderful relationships with the AFA!

EDUCATORS' ACTION TEAM UPDATE

The Wright Memorial Chapter's Educators' Action Team is pleased to announce that they have chosen Dwight Bartlett from Fairborn-Baker Middle School to be the chapter's Teacher of the Year candidate. As a Project Lead the Way educator, he recently received an award for National Certification. We are proud to have him as our candidate.

The TechFest Teacher Workshops were held at Sinclair Community College, in Dayton on Saturday, 16 February 2013. More than 100 Miami Valley



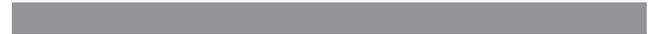
Educators attended 4 of 16 sessions concerning STEM related activities, including Math and Magic presented by Bill West, Fairborn School District; Fun with Fossils, presented by Dr. Michael Sandy, University of Dayton; and Get Energized, presented by Heidi Steinbrink, Oakwood City Schools and last year's chapter Teacher of the year. Heidi was runner-up in the AFA National competition.



The teachers may earn free Continuing Education Units that are sponsored by Wright State University. They are granted 1.5 Professional Hours for each 1-1/2 hours upon completion of each session attended.

The Team is now working on finalizing the STEM presentations for the AFA Teacher Workshops to be held on 13 April 2013 at the Crowne Plaza in Dayton.

Many thanks to our AFA chapter Educators' Action Team members: Sharon Murner, Julie Livingston and Shiela Wallace.



NEW AFMC CHIEFS . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

on the current budget climate, diversity and cyber operations. The last orientation session was a Chief's Perspective led by Warner himself, who encouraged the group to keep up the stellar work that led to their promotion to chief master sergeant. "Continue to do the things that made you successful," he said. "Continue to be involved. And remember that attitude is everything. You are the attitude-setters in your units. When you put on your uniform, you've got to put on your attitude with it -- and it has to be positive."

After spending the week with the command's newest chiefs, McKinley said he was impressed. "Being around all these chiefs and chief-selects this week, I think [the Air Force] did a fantastic job," he said. "This group reinstates my faith in the enlisted promotion system, that we select the right people for these high enlisted grades. The quality of our enlisted force, the quality of our promotion system and the quality of chiefs in this room is very impressive."

CIVIL AIR PATROL Report

The Youngstown Composite Squadron located at the Youngstown Air Reserve Squadron has once again scored a place in the All Service Division of the CyberPatriot finals. This is not the first finals appearance for this unit as they once again are the only Ohio-based finalist in the competition. They have a strong team, are one of three remaining CAP units in the finals from the original 261 units that started the competition and have a fighting shot at taking it all.

Within Group VII (the AOR in the southwest portion of the State) we changed commanders in early February. Incoming Commander, Lt Col Dave Jennison, accepted the flag from outgoing Commander, Lt Col Ken Curell, during a formal ceremony on 12 February. Lt Col Jennison is an experienced Commander, having led the WPAFB CAP unit for 3 years and taking them from a unit having some 30 members to a unit with the rolls now pushing 60 members. He has a very strong Emergency Services background, is a former active-duty AF officer and an experienced CAP Commander. Dave also enjoyed an added bonus as he changed the color of his oak leaves from gold to silver, donning his new Lt Col rank at the beginning of February.

Group VII sent six of its members off to a rigorous search and rescue (SAR) school taught in the rugged Pennsylvania hills and forests at what is called Hawk Mountain. Located in Kempton, Pennsylvania, Hawk Mountain Ranger School is the longest running Search & Rescue School in the nation. For over 50 years, it has provided some of the best wilderness SAR training to cadets and adult members throughout the country. The Civil Air Patrol helped aide in the simulated exercise search for the missing Somerset

snowmobiler alongside state police and fire officials. Our six cadets were part of almost 100 cadets who trained among civil air patrol specialists and other EMS and Paramedic professionals. They were taught skills in ground search and rescue, learned new techniques, and other real-life staged scenarios. They conducted a mock search of a lost individual and endured Mother Nature's bitterly cold visit. They were challenged to push past their discomfort and take away a sense of leadership and responsibility to find those who were counting on their skills to save them.

Group VII recently recognized four cadets for their attaining their Mitchell Award, a significant milestone in their CAP journey transitioning them from the enlisted ranks of the CAP program to the officer ranks. Correspondingly, expectations rise with this newfound responsibility as these cadets move into the Command phase of the four-phase cadet program. Duties such as Flight Commander and Cadet Squadron Commander are typically assigned to Mitchell awardees. The awardees were: C/2d Lt Steve Jennison; C/2d Lt Jeremiah Schoettelkotte; C/2d Lt Nathaniel Turner and C/2d Lt Anthony Zinkhorn, all members of the CAP unit located on WPAFB.

Group VII is hosting a Canadian CAP-equivalent unit to WPAFB in March and we're working the details of that visit with the WPAFB CAP Cadet Squadron and the members of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, the 44 Sarnai Imperial Squadron from Sarnia, Ontario, Canada. Captain Michelle Vail is bringing her group of almost 50 cadets to WPAFB and visiting with the WPAFB CAP Cadet Squadron. Group VII is working to secure them base access as well as attempting to arrange a base tour and a visit to the NMUSAF.



Tom Virgalli received the AFA Medal of Merit from AFA Chapter president Sheila Wallace during the February AFA Chapter meeting.

Military Benefits Face the Chopping Block

by **ERIC JAREN, VP for Social Media**

Someone recently recommended reading the book “Start With Why” by Simon Sinek. It’s a terrific book that does a great job of explaining the importance of starting with why, versus starting with what or how. So let me tell you why.

Your Military Benefits are on the chopping block. You need to take steps to protect them, and you need to take them now. You see the budget; you see the threat of sequestration and the steps being taken to reduce or eliminate them. This is a call to action!

Every man and woman who has worn America’s uniform is part of a long, unbroken line of achievement and honor, whose devotion, commitment and sacrifice have forged a pathway of hope for millions. I believe that while hope may never have won a war, or resolved a crisis, it surely has inspired a thousand ideas! One thing is clear, and as Veterans would already know, I wouldn’t trade the hardship, difficulties, or sacrifice, for anything.

My sentiments, however, extend beyond military confines. Through three decades of service I have discovered that regardless of the patch on your uniform, or whether or not you wore one at all, you need only look left or right to find people making a difference.

The number of studies, articles, commissions and other reports designed to reduce or diminish military benefits is alarming. Pensions, health care and other miscellaneous benefits are in jeopardy. Without strong advocates they are easily the proverbial low hanging fruit.

The Defense Business Board (DBB) recommended changes to the military pension system. It determined the current retirement plan as unfair because people serving 5, 10, even 15 years receive no retirement pay. My view; if you understand the terms and sign a contract then it’s fair. Conversely, I consider DBB’s plan to change the contract midcourse unfair.

DBB also compares enlisted salaries to the top percentile of high school graduates. Wrong again - all Airmen have college credit and 99 percent of the top two grades have an Associate’s degree, or higher, far surpassing a high school graduate. And working 40 hours a week; when was that part of the equation.

Folks, committees like DBB, and others, are actively seeking ways to cut your benefits. Before you know it,

a Bill will go to the floor. What are you doing to stop it?

The New York Times really got my blood boiling when it called military benefits “Another Big Social Welfare System.” Really!?!?

We military men and women have shed blood, sweat, and tears and we swore to defend our country, with our lives. We sacrificed during dangerous assignments, lived in tents, or stayed home in undermanned units during 20 years of high operations tempo. We served knowing the country would have our backs when it ended. Retired military dedicated the better part of their lives and EARNED their health and pension benefits. That was part of a contract.

Thirty years of service has brought to my attention that Airmen are at a disadvantage when it comes to speaking out for their rights. It is bred into us to not complain. We serve, endure and sacrifice, all in the name of our country. We do it for America, for freedom and for our families. If you are in uniform, you see the threats, but you don’t have a voice in the matter. Speaking out is just not what you do when you bleed blue.

Fortunately there are two organizations that will help protect you. For decades the Air Force Association (AFA) and the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) have maintained a day-to-day relationship with the United States Congress, the Administration, the Department of Defense, and numerous other government agencies. Disturbingly, many Airmen are unaware these organizations even exist.

Sheila Wallace, President of AFA Wright Memorial Chapter 212, realizes there is a separation between these two organizations. There has been a misconception for too long that AFA was for officers, and that AFSA was for enlisted. We need to debunk that myth. If you look into the mission and objectives of these organizations you will learn both strive to protect your benefits, both seek to promote a dominant United States Air Force and both speak on your behalf.

Wallace believes one of the concepts that we need to share in AFA is that the organization is for everyone - officers, enlisted, civilians, active duty, reserve, guard and retired. AFA is an organization that educates, advocates and supports all. AFA members need to encourage membership and we need to show the importance of that membership . . . *CONTINUED ON PAGE 14*

VA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2012

On Saturday, 1 Dec. 2012, The Wright Memorial Chapter 212 of the Air Force Association (AFA) and the Kittyhawk Chapter 751 of the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) jointly sponsored the 18th Annual Christmas party for the residents and patients at the Veterans Administration (VA) Lakeside Manor at the Dayton VA Medical Center. Members of the AFA, AFSA, 445th Airlift Wing, 88 ABW, and ITT Excelis Served food and good cheer to the veterans.

During the party, The Gem City Band played Christmas and patriotic music for the veterans. As the veterans arrived, volunteers from the various organizations handed out sandwiches, fruit, cookies, chips, punch and coffee to the veterans. At the same time, other volunteers prepared lunch boxes and delivered them to nursing home and hospital wards for veterans who could not come to the party.

The veterans received a ticket as they entered for door prizes. The veterans received many door prizes and had a visit from Santa. During the party, a barber from the 445th Airlift Wing provided free haircuts for any veterans that wanted a haircut. The six members of ITT Excelis and two members of the AFA provided assistance in supporting the veterans. Over 100 veterans and staff enjoyed the party, and many veterans expressed their thanks for the party.



Santa handing gifts to veterans.



ITT / Excelis Members



Vita Eonta, Chuck Worm, and Party Organizer, George Simons (far right)

AFA Great Lakes Regional News

Greetings, members of the Wright Memorial Chapter 212, Do you know about your Air Force Associations (AFA), Great Lake Region (GLR)? If you answered “no”, or if you even answered “maybe” this article is for you. The AFA mission is to 1) Support, 2) Educate, and 3) Advocate for the USAF. To facilitate our mission the AFA is structured with local chapters (WMC-212), State Organizations, and finally Region organizations. In our case the Wright Memorial Chapter 212, has a State Organization and then the Great lakes Region (GLR). The GLR is comprised of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio and represents over 7300 members of the entire AFA population or 7%.

In my role as a GLR President, I am responsible to help both the State and Chapter President’s as they, and all of us, perform the AFA mission. My support takes many forms from attending chapter/state meetings, acting as a liaison between the field and the HQ AFA, providing information to and from the field, and hopefully helping the chapter and state organizations recruit and retain members, the single most important job for all of us.

I am very pleased and excited in my role. The 18 chapters that comprise the GLR are very diverse, and exciting to work with. While all the chapters are very different the one thing they have in common is our passion for our USAF. I encourage you to attend both your State and Region meetings and find out what is going on with your fellow AFA members.

I also encourage you to attend the joint State of Ohio and Great Lakes Region meeting on 12-13 April in Dayton. You should be seeing information on this event fairly soon but please save these dates as an exciting program is being put in place.

I look forward to meeting with as many as I can as I attend different events within the region, and as always thank you for your support to the AFA!

Regards,
KENT D. OWSLEY
President, Great Lakes Region (GLR)
3195 Dayton-Xenia Road, Ste. 900, PMB 176
Beavercreek, Ohio 45434-6390
Mobile: (937) 671-8932
Email: kentowsley@member.afa.org

*The Great Lakes Region includes:
Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Michigan*

SQUADRON PARTICIPATES IN TECHFEST 2013



The Wilbur and Orville Wright Squadron of Wright State University participated in this year’s TechFest at Sinclair Community College on February 18 and 19. 3,309 youth were registered at the event to focus on STEM: science, technology, engineering and math at all levels.

With 157 positions to fill, our Squadron sent 8 volunteers from Arnold Air Society members, and another 4 from our Detachment—643. The active members alone earned WOW Squadron 21 Joint National Project hours over a course of 2 days!

The children that took part in the 74 hands-on exhibits greatly enjoyed themselves. More than one person publically commented on how enthusiastic the volunteers were and how well-organized TechFest was run. They can’t wait to bring their kids back for this great opportunity, and our Squadron can’t wait for more opportunities to serve!



WE WEAR CAMOUFLAGE FOR A REASON

By Lieutenant Colonel Richard Hughes, *Commander, AFROTC Detachment 643 Wright State University*

Military members around the world wear camouflage as part of their battle dress, whether training in the field, deployed to a combat zone, or at home station attending to garrison duties. The designs vary widely, from digitized patterns designed to blend in from far away, to garish tiger stripes and “urban” camouflage that looks like second-hand surplus from either a former Warsaw Pact country, or the cast-offs from an unsuccessful “B” movie. Nonetheless, the purpose of the pattern is to provide concealment from an adversary in order to simultaneously protect friendly forces from detection while facilitating direct action against the enemy.

However, in general society, it’s become “vogue” for civilians to wear camouflage—that is, aside from hunters during hunting season. One needs only to look to movies, television, or even in your hometown to find somebody wearing camouflage-like clothing. The reasons vary; some to express support for the military, some just trying to look chic, some even in a craven attempt to portray themselves as veterans.

Indeed, on that first point, visible support for the military is indeed appreciated. While visiting with my sister and her family she inquired “Why do the Toronto Raptors wear those strange uniform colors?” I pointed out to my learned older sibling the professional basketball players were wearing the camouflage of the Canadian Armed Forces—moreover, instead of having their names on the back of their uniforms, it merely says “FORCES” with a Canadian flag—a tribute to those who serve.

Thus, a few weeks ago while observing an Air Force ROTC physical training session at one of our cross-town universities, I was interested to see the baseball team from the small private university wearing a form of yellow camouflage on their uniforms. When I inquired, I was told “Our coach got a great deal on the t-shirts.” Furthermore, the “coach” indicated he’d need the track so his “pitchers could practice sprints.” After a heated exchange, he agreed to “use the inside lanes.” Needless to say, I was taken aback by the demeanor of the coach, and his reason for having his players wear camouflage.

We wear camouflage *for a reason*—to hide from our enemies and then strike them at a time and place of our own choosing—whether that is from out of the sun

at six o’ clock in the skies or in an L-shaped ambush on the ground. Furthermore, our AFROTC faculty and staff are charged with preparing intelligent, committed, patriotic young men and women to be leaders in what is sure to be a chaotic 21st Century environment, where the air, space, and cyberspace superiority our nation has enjoyed for so long is not assured. Our “team” of Airmen, civilians and supporting contractors will have to fight for it, and indeed are already doing so in the cyber domain. There is a great deal at stake—the future of our Nation and our way of life.

We wear camouflage to remind our citizens that we are prepared to do what is necessary, where it is necessary, whenever it is necessary—where the consequences of failure are not points on a scoreboard in a small ball field in southwest Ohio, but life and death. Moreover, the young AFROTC cadets we’re educating will not be doing it for merely a season; there is no “off-season” in the defense of this Nation. No, we’re preparing our young leaders to take charge in physically and intellectually demanding environments around the globe (including in-orbit). Our members do not wear camouflage to look “cool”—they wear it to stay alive, and to keep their Airmen alive. Perhaps Canadian singer Terry Kelly says it the best, in his song *A Pittance of Time*: “In peacetime our best, still don battle dress.”

We wear camouflage for a reason.

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

Star Visitors at STARBASE

The STARS have come out at DoD STARBASE Wright-Patt. The first week of 2013 brought Major General McCasland, AFRL/CC, to DoD STARBASE Wright-Patt. Gen McCasland was able to observe students working in nanotechnology as well as CREO 3D Design. Mr. Blackhurst, AFRL/CA, accompanied the General on the tour. They were very excited to see the various concepts covered in 25 hours.



Gen Wolfenbarger and Gen Busch visit with Starbase students.

On January 16, 2013, General Wolfenbarger, the Commander of Air Force Materiel Command received a tour of our facility. Gen Wolfenbarger was accompa-



General McCasland and Mr. Blackhurst discuss nanotechnology with student.

nied by Lieutenant General Busch, the AFMC Vice Commander. Gen Wolfenbarger enjoyed watching the engineers from AFMC attempt to save their Eggbert pilots. She had no doubt that if they had been able to complete the task a second time, their pilots would have survived. Students from Westwood Elementary and Spinning Hills Middle School were 'star struck' to see Gen Wolfenbarger and Gen Busch greet them as they entered DoD STARBASE Wright-Patt on their first day. General and Mr. Wolfenbarger were able to observe a portion of a Metric Mission lesson. The General took time before leaving, to have her picture taken with STARBASE staff members. As veterans, Emerald Sky and SkySailor were overjoyed to meet the first female four star general of the United States Air Force!

MILITARY BENEFITS . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

to the younger demographics and help them understand the importance of supporting organizations while in uniform and beyond.

If you consider the fiscal challenges confronting the United States, military end-strength reductions and the looming threat of sequestration, membership is more critical now than ever before. It doesn't matter if you are an officer, enlisted or civilian. If you can't afford for both, sign up for one to give yourself a voice. Yes, I am saying that you should sign up for both organizations.

You should ask family members; moms, dads, aunts, uncles and friends, to take action and support their military. They watched you pour your hearts and souls into carrying out important programs and making the

mission work. They stood with you and shed tears in remembering brethren who fell in peace and war, all Great Americans committed to protecting this Nation. We need to be heard on Capitol Hill.

Take a moment to sign up today! To make this successful we need our AFA members participating and contributing to social media. Do not wait for tomorrow, next month, or next year - Sign Up Today. If you don't know how, just ask one of your kids or grand kids to set it up. Trust me, they can get you up and running in five minutes. And if you are not a member of AFA, please "Like" our page anyway to support our initiative. Please forward to your friends and family and ask them to sign up:

Facebook: AFANextGEN

Website: Air Force Association:

<http://www.afadaytonwright.com>

AFA COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AFA Community Partners
Alion Science & Technology
Applied Information Sciences
ARINC Inc
Ater International
BAE Systems
Battelle
Bill Richard, Realtor,
Coldwell Banker
Boeing
Booz Allen Hamilton
CACI
CDO Technologies
City Of Riverside
Crowne Plaza
CSC
Dayton Development Coalition
Dayton/Montgomery
County Convention &
Visitors Bureau
Dynamics Research Corp
Evanhoe & Associates Inc
EWA Government Systems, Inc.
Expressions Coffee House
First Command
GE Aviation
General Dynamics-
Information Technology
Goodrich
Harrison College
Hilton Garden Inn
Holiday Inn Fairborn/Dayton I-675
Hope Hotel and Conference Center
Intergraph Corp

ITT Exelis Electronic Systems
Jamie's Tire & Service
Kettering Health Network
Lockheed-Martin
MacAulay-Brown Inc.
Marriott
Mayer & Cusack, Attorneys at Law
Merrill Lynch
Miller Valentine Group
National Aviation Hall of Fame
Northrop Grumman
PE Systems, Inc.
Pratt & Whitney
Quantech Services
Raytheon Company
RE/MAX Home Base, Fairborn
Reichard Buick
Residence Inn North by Marriott
SAIC
Sawdey Solution Services
Serco
Sumaria Systems Inc
Teradata
The Boeing Company
The Greentree Group
The Wood Works Inc
USA Today
Wyle
Wyndom Garden Dayton South

AFA Star Sponsors

Five Star

LOCKHEED-MARTIN
RAYTHEON COMPANY
INTERGRAPH
PRATT & WHITNEY
THE BOEING COMPANY
THE GREENTREE GROUP
GE AVIATION

Four Star

NORTHROP GRUMMAN
CORPORATION
BATTELLE

Three Star

CACI
SERCO
DAYTON DEVELOPMENT
COALITION
DYNAMICS RESEARCH
CORPORATION (DRC)
KETTERING HEALTH NETWORK
THE TERADATA CORPORATION
WYLE
CDO TECHNOLOGIES

Two Star

MILLER VALENTINE
CROWNE PLAZA
BAE SYSTEMS
CSC
SAIC
PE SYSTEMS, INC.

One Star

SUMARIA
BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON
GOODRICH
DAYTON MARRIOTT

Community Partner Spotlight



CROWNE PLAZA

DAYTON

The AFA Wright Memorial Chapter is pleased to welcome the Crowne Plaza as a new Star Sponsor. Mike Larson, General Manager of the Crowne Plaza is a solid supporter of the Air Force and the AFA. "We are happy to be a Two Star Sponsor. We appreciate the military insight and networking opportunities with community leaders. We value our relationships with the Air Force and all the Government Contractors who visit us on a daily basis."

VERBATIM

By Robert S. Dudley

Sleight of Mouth

"We're not winding down the damn war. We're winding down our participation in the war. That's extraordinarily different" – *Former US ambassador Ronald E. Neumann, commenting on US plans to leave Afghanistan in 2014, Los Angeles Times, Feb. 3.*

New Generation

"We're already looking at what defines the sixth generation [fighter]. It'll be some kind of game-changing ability. Don't yet know what it is, but we're out there looking at it carefully. ... We're trying to decide what [a sixth generation technology] is. We're looking at technologies that hold promise to potentially define sixth gen, but we haven't said, "That's it, we're going down that path." – *Gen. G. Michael Hostage III, head of Air Combat Command, remarks at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, as reported in Air Force Times, Nov. 30.*

The Dumbo View ...

"We've crossed a line ... from using drones against known terrorists to using them more broadly against whole groups of militants. "It plays into the narrative that portrays the United States as an enemy of Islam. ... We're in danger of creating more enemies than we are removing." – *Robert L. Grenier, a former CIA station chief in Pakistan, questioning use of remotely piloted aircraft to kill terrorists, Los Angeles Times, Dec. 2.*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Freedom's Call Tattoo Cancelled; Fireworks Slated for June 28

by 88th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio - Freedom's Call Tattoo, scheduled for June 28, has been cancelled due to funding limitations associated with the federal budget sequestration, base officials announced March 14, 2013.

"The Tattoo was always envisioned as a way to say 'thank you' to the great people of the Miami Valley who are so supportive of our Air Force," said Col. Cassie Barlow, 88th Air Base Wing commander. "We staged some great programs, but could not have done it without the many community and business sponsors who made monetary and in-kind donations. We say 'thank you' to them for all their support over the years."

Colonel Barlow said the cancellation was driven by recent Air Force sequestration rules that restrict the use of appropriated tax dollars for such things as military air shows, open houses and other similar community outreach events. While sponsors' donations covered much of the Tattoo costs, tax dollars were still required to complete the event.

"We simply cannot spend tax dollars on such events when sequestration cuts threaten to ground aircraft and furlough our civilian employees," Colonel Barlow said.

Base officials will determine at a later date whether a Tattoo will be held in 2014.

In the meantime, base officials plan to stage a Fourth of July celebration with a fireworks display on the evening of June 28 of this year. The fireworks will be paid for with monies generated from the Base Exchange, on-base restaurants, recreation activities, etc., not tax dollars.

The fireworks show will be held on the grounds of the National Museum of the United States Air Force and will feature food and beverage booths. More details will be announced later.

With the exception of 2012, when a sudden storm cancelled Tattoo, the event was held annually since 2005. It featured military and civilian aircraft flyovers, medal presentations to active-duty and veteran service members, patriotic shows by Wright-Patterson's Air Force Band of Flight and performances by such musical attractions as the Charlie Daniels Band, .38 Special and Lone Star. Annual attendance grew to an estimated 75,000 in recent years.

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS NAMED FOR AFMC COMMANDER

by Kim Dawley
*Air Force Materiel Command
Public Affairs*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio - Beaver Creek City Schools dedicated its high school campus to Air Force Materiel Command Commander Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger, a 1976 Beaver Creek graduate, in a ceremony held March 15.

The campus was renamed the "General Janet C. (Libby) Wolfenbarger Campus at Beaver Creek High School." The school is located just a few miles from Wright-Patterson.

"It is our sincere hope that by naming this campus in your honor, our youth will be inspired by your example," Peg Arnold, member of the Beaver Creek Board of Education, told Wolfenbarger during the ceremony. "We hope they will learn about your legacy, and see that hard work, responsibility, determination and love of country are ideals worth pursuing in their own lives."

The ceremony included the unveiling of plaques with a quote from Wolfenbarger that will be erected at the campus entrances, as well as presentations by several public officials.

Wolfenbarger has long-credited her education at Beaver Creek High School for providing her the foundation for her success, at the U.S. Air Force Academy, from which she graduated in 1980 in the first class with women cadets, and throughout her career.

"The impact that this institution had on me is invaluable," she said. "Beaver Creek really did arm me with the tools to succeed. Although I don't believe that anyone can arrive at the Academy really ready for the incredible stress and pressure of that experience, thanks to the solid educational grounding that I received in these very halls, I truly had one less thing to be anxious about."

After reflecting on her own time as a Beaver Creek student nearly 40 years prior, the general shared with the current students a lesson she has carried with her since her time at the Academy.

"I never dreamed, as I left Beaver Creek High School and began my Air Force . . .

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

AFOSR Shares Results from Annual Spring Review

by AFOSR Staff Writers

Air Force Office of Scientific Research

ARLINGTON, Va. -- The Program Officers of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) completed their 56th annual Spring Review, which ran from 4 March through 8 March in Arlington, Virginia. This annual assessment of AFOSR's research portfolio highlighted not only the overall research portfolio, but emphasized the numerous basic research transitions of benefit to the United States Air Force.

In attendance were senior members of the organization as well as an online audience of over 1,200 attendees from other Air Force laboratories, universities and industry, many of whom would have been unable to travel to the event person. Interested participants were also able to download copies of the presentations and did so nearly 5,000 times during the week.

This is the third year that AFOSR has opened this annual event to the broad public by opting to stream it online, a decision that has helped improve the communication flow and transparency of a small organization with a big mission for the United States Air Force.

Since its establishment in 1951, AFOSR has been responsible for investing in extramural basic research programs at leading universities and in-house (intramural) Air Force laboratories. During the first five years of AFOSR's existence, the annual budget was relatively lean (as was the staff--between 20 to 27 personnel).

It was then that history intervened when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first earth satellite, in October 1957. Almost overnight, AFOSR's budget almost doubled, and with it, a gradual boost in personnel. Sputnik was a major wake-up call regarding the overwhelming importance of science and technology to the future security, as well as economic vitality, of the United States.

For several decades thereafter, AFOSR held not only a Spring Review, but a Fall Review as well. By 1975, AFOSR was responsible for all Air Force basic research funding, and the bi-annual reviews continued to provide a formal review of the status and areas of emphasis in the overall basic research portfolio.

Although AFOSR reverted to an annual review in the 1990's, this management tool continues to provide an excellent opportunity for both an introspective self-examination of a wide-ranging research portfolio as well as welcoming the views of customers and stakeholders in the continuous pursuit of cutting edge research that forges the foundation of our future Air Force.

For those who missed the 2013 Spring Review, presentations and video recordings for each Program Officer are still available for download at <http://bit.ly/XHABL1>.

VERBATIM . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

... and the Smart View

"The drones are not machines that make decisions on their own. They are not robots. They are piloted; the pilots are simply thousands of miles away. The fact that those pilots are safe and they are not engaged in a 'fair fight,' which troubles some critics, has always struck me as positive. As an American, I do not like putting our military personnel at unnecessary risk." – *Former White House counterterrorism advisor Richard A. Clarke, op-ed New York Daily News, Dec. 2.*

Al Qaeda for Optimists ...

"I do believe that, on the present course, there will come a tipping point—a tipping point at which so many of the leaders and operatives of al Qaeda and its affiliates have been killed or captured and the group is no longer able to attempt or launch a strategic attack against the United States, such that al Qaeda as we know it, the organization that our Congress authorized the military to pursue in 2001, has been effectively destroyed. At that point we must be able to say to ourselves that our efforts should no longer be considered an 'armed conflict' against al Qaeda and its associated forces, rather a counterterrorism effort against individuals who are the scattered remains of al Qaeda ... for which the law enforcement and intelligence resources of our government are principally responsible." – *Jeh C. Johnson, then DOD general counsel, speech in Oxford, UK, Nov. 30.*

... and for Pessimists

"You have a well developed infrastructure [of al Qaeda in Iraq] that is only getting stronger. It's not like the 'underwear bomber,' where al Qaeda enlists amateurs in sophisticated terrorist operations. You're talking about people with experience. Perhaps not the 'A Team,' but close to it." – *Bruce Hoffman, former CIA counterterrorism expert and now Georgetown University professor, Washington Post, Dec. 3.*

Read more Verbatim in the Air Force Magazine

The Vets Courts

By Anna Mulrine

A new breed of veterans courts meets the distinct needs of former troops in trouble with the law.

Across America, one in 10 criminals is a US military veteran, according to 2004 US Department of Justice statistics—the most recent year for which statistics are available. Because so many combat-experienced vets have a difficult re-entry into civilian society and get into trouble with the law in predictable ways, dozens of special courts are popping up around the country to deal with their unique problems. These courts help steer them back toward productive lives.

Between 2008 and 2012, in the wake of the decade-long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, some 100 of these special courts were established, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. A number of VA officials say they expect the number to double in the next year alone.

The goal is to "really project the VA's treatment capacity into the criminal justice system" said Sean Clark, the VA's national coordinator for the Veterans Justice Outreach Program. That means "trying to catch veterans as early as possible in their 'justice careers,' if you will."

Retired TSgt. Ronal R. Bassham volunteers with the Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court in New York, the first of its kind in the nation, serving as a model for the others. A Vietnam vet, Bassham got into trouble in 1971, when he returned from near-constant combat.

"When you come back out of combat you have three things you get to deal with," Bassham said. "One is anger, one is anxiety, and the worst one is guilt." The guilt, he explained, is "about what you couldn't do, what you wanted to do, what you did do—the people you left, or something that happened to them. It's something that rides on your shoulders."

Typical crimes committed by combat vets include drunk driving, drug abuse, and even domestic violence—many the result of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from their wartime service. The court aims at providing treatment and discipline for those who have broken the law. Another goal is to prevent homelessness. Among male veterans, incarceration is the biggest predictor of homelessness, Clark said.

In the heart of downtown Buffalo, former US troops charged with misdeeds stream one after another to the front of Judge Robert T. Russell Jr.'s courtroom.

While their crimes vary, they have two things in common: They have served in the US military, and they have run afoul of the law.

Russell and others believe the rates of incarceration among veterans tie closely to their experiences in war. A 2008 Rand Corp. study found that 11.2 percent of all US military service members who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan report grappling with post-traumatic stress or major depression. Slightly less than half of these former troops said they have never sought treatment, either for fear it would harm their careers or because they have trouble navigating the military medical bureaucracy.

The Line to the Left

For this reason, when they walk into the courtroom today, veterans have immediate access to local VA officials—right at the front of the courtroom, on secure computers—who can refer them on the spot to services such as counseling, benefits, or job training.

Read the entire article in the March 2013 issue of Air Force Magazine

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

career, that one day I would come back to Dayton, Ohio, with four stars on my shoulder," Wolfenbarger said. "But I came out on the other side of my Academy experiences realizing I am far more capable than I ever thought I could be. So here's my message to you all: You are young. Your entire lives are ahead of you and you, too, can accomplish things that have you never dreamed of. I encourage you all to make life goals, to follow your dreams and to stretch yourself along the way. And if you truly dedicate yourself, you, too, will realize that you are far more capable than you ever thought you could be."

Wolfenbarger concluded her remarks at the ceremony by thanking the faculty, staff and friends of the school.

"I am truly proud to have my name added to the walls of this wonderful school and campus," she said. "This is a tremendous honor, and I mean that from my heart."



WRIGHT MEMORIAL CHAPTER
Air Force Association
Box 33604 • Dayton, Ohio 45433-0604

An Independent Nonprofit Aerospace Organization

www.afadaytonwright.com

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #294
DAYTON, OHIO

Share the AFA Application With a Friend!

PLEASE CUT OUT THIS APPLICATION AND RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER FOR THE CHAPTER. HELP THEM DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF AFA MEMBERSHIP.

AFA APPLICATION

NAME _____ GRADE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 AFA CHAPTER CHOICE **WMC 212** DATE OF BIRTH _____

ELIGIBILITY

I am eligible as a member or patron as shown and understand the annual \$36 fee includes a subscription (\$21) to AIR FORCE Magazine. The fee is not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes.

- DAF Civilian (Non-Veteran) Previous Service US Armed Forces
- Current Active Duty US Armed Forces Spouse/Widow(er) of any of the above
- Current Service US National Guard Patron (no service with armed forces)
- Current Service USAF Reserves
- Retired US Armed Forces

AFA MEMBER NUMBER FOR RENEWAL _____

PROFESSIONAL

- USAF (including civilian) NASA
- Other US Government Aerospace Industry
- Other Civil Air Patrol

JOB FUNCTION

- Management
- Engineering
- Operations
- Procurement
- R&D
- Professional
- Other
- GS 15 and above

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

- \$36 for 1 year
- \$90 for 3 years

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

- \$500 single payment
- \$525 extended payments

- Initial payment of \$85 with 4 payments of \$110 each
- Initial payment of \$85 with 8 payments of \$55 each

METHOD OF PAYMENT

- Check enclosed (not cash) American Express MasterCard VISA

Account Number _____ Exp. Date _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

AFA WRIGHT MEMORIAL CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 33604

WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB, OH 45433-0604