



FLIGHT LINE

Air Force Association Chapter 105

2018-3

Tucson, Arizona

July 2018

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From the Prez -

As we head into the summer months, we can reflect on an active past 3 months (April-June). April found us conducting a successful Golf Tournament April 13 at the Haven Golf Course, Green Valley, due to the hard work of Dick Roberts chairing a small but busy committee. For more information on the results be sure to read his article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our May meeting was held May 18th and included a great mission brief by Major Paul Brighton of the 305th Rescue Squadron (AFRC) at Club Ironwood. Those that were able to spare the time, boarded a bus to view one of the squadron's HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters in a maintenance hangar.

Also in May, I was able to present our chapter teachers of the year with their awards during ceremonies at their respective schools. See the article in this newsletter to find out who they were and see pictures of the presentations.

Although we didn't hold a meeting in June, the chapter leadership was heavily involved in planning and hosting the AFA Southwest Region Conference at the Radisson Suites Tucson June 23rd on behalf of the Southwest Region President, John Toohey. The conference was attended by state and chapter officers and members from Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico. See more about the conference in this newsletter.

While we won't be holding a meeting in July, chapter members with base access have been invited to join the Daedalians at their Summer Social, July 10th at Club Ironwood.

Our guest speakers for our August and September meetings will be the following chapter members:

August: Ken Schanke, Flying the B-57 "Canberra".

September: Dr. Joseph Cuffari, AZ Governor's Advisor for Military and Veterans Affairs.

For October, we've requested that someone from the 162d Wing at Tucson International Airport provide their current mission brief. Their Director of Staff gave an enlightening presentation at the recent Southwest Region Conference, so we're hoping he will be available again.

As always, if you have a suggestion for a guest speaker or some tour you would like to have us arrange, let us know.

We will be holding our chapter officer elections during the September meeting. If you are interested in one of these positions (president, vice president, secretary or treasurer) please let me know. And we are always looking for volunteers to fill other positions on the executive committee or to help organize and conduct chapter activities. Everything we do as a chapter is intended to help support our airmen and their families.

Speaking of changes, there is a new 355th Operations Group Commander, Colonel Jeffrey "Growler" Hogan, 355th Mission Support Group Commander, Colonel Julie S. Newlin, and 355th Fighter Wing Commander, Colonel Michael R. "Johnny Bravo" Drowley. I had the privilege of representing the chapter at all three changes of command and all three outgoing commanders recognized the support given by the chapter to the Airmen of DM.

Remember EDUCATE, ADVOCATE and SUPPORT.

Wally Saeger, President

AFA Tucson 105 2018 Golf Tournament

On Friday, April 13th, sixty-nine golfers met at the Haven Golf Course in Green Valley for the Tucson Chapter's Annual Golf Tournament.

It was a very windy day and a little cool! But all players seemed to have a good time, even though scores were a little on the high side.

Prizes for hole-in-ones were available, but no one collected these. Jim Click Automotive had a new Ford Escape for a hole-in-one on hole 11 and Haven Golf Course along with the Chapter had golf prizes for the other 3 par-3 holes.

The first place team, with golfers Pam Heydel, Tim Heydel, Mike Hopp, and Mike Yunger came in with the low score



L-R: Tim Heydel, Pam Heydel, Mike Hopp, Mike Yunger

and took the prize of a gift certificate for \$50 for each player. The second and third place teams collected prizes of \$35 and \$25 respectively per player.

Haven Golf Course provided a lunch of hamburgers, salads, and drinks at the conclusion of the event.

All 18 holes had a tee sponsor and they were: Friends of Anita Barnett, Friends of Mike Harris, Friends of Dorothy Finley, Friends of Glen Kerslake, Jesse Lapham (Executive Realty), Tom Swanton, Bryan Foulk, Bill's Home Service, Chick-fil-A, First Command, Jim Click, Ciruli Brothers, Farmers Investment Company, 19th Hole/Twist & Shout Restaurant, Radisson Suites, Green Valley Pecan Factory, BGI, LLC, and Vantage West Credit Union. The Chapter wants to thank all the sponsors. We couldn't have a successful event without you!

Of course, you can't have a tournament without volunteers and Len Summers, Francis Kearney, Tom Johnson, Carol Koechle, Wendy Van Valkenburg, Vicki Jo Ryder, Jack Carter, Dick Roberts, and Stephanie Stewart & Dustin Greenfield from UA ROTC all pitched in to help. Chapter President Wally Saeger and Heidi Goldman rounded-up the Tucson teams and sponsors and Dick Roberts handled the Green Valley participants.

Along with the golf tournament, a silent auction and raffle was held and of course, mulligans were sold. All bringing in additional funds for the Chapter.

It was a very successful tournament and the Chapter Executive Committee has decided to hold the 2019 event again at the Haven Golf Course in Green Valley....so

SAVE THE DATE

The 2019 Tucson Chapter 105's Golf Tournament will be held at the Haven Golf Course in Green Valley on Saturday, April 13, 2019

Tucson Chapter's May Meeting Major Paul Brighton 305th Rescue Squadron

For our May meeting, we were privileged to get a presentation by Major Paul Brighton, a rescue pilot and flight commander with the 305th Rescue Squadron, 943rd Rescue Group, Davis-Monthan AFB. The 305th is an Air Force Reserve Command unit stationed at DMAFB although their parent wing is the 920th Rescue Wing headquartered at Patrick AFB, FL. Major Brighton started his career in the Air Force as a munitions officer in 2003 and held several positions in munitions and aircraft maintenance before transferring to the AFRC in 2014 to pursue his dream of flying helicopters. He graduated from helicopter training at Ft Rucker AL as a distinguished graduate in 2015 and was assigned to DMAFB.



Major Brighton's presentation provided a glimpse into the diverse mission set of the 305 RSQ, from extracting downed aircrew in a hostile environment to inserting pararescue personnel to treat badly injured personnel to providing humanitarian relief following hurricanes or vast flooding.

The 305 RSQ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/305th_Rescue_Squadron is equipped with the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter <http://www.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/104508/hh-60g-pave-hawk/> which is a highly modified version of the Army Black Hawk helicopter. Besides upgraded radios and avionics, the helicopters are equipped with an in-flight refueling probe and auxiliary fuel tanks can be installed in the cargo bay to extend the helicopter's range. The airframe can be outfitted with crew-served 7.62mm or .50 caliber mini guns.

The commitment of the aircrew and PJs is embodied by their motto "That Others May Live"



After the presentation, chapter members were provided the opportunity to journey by bus to a static display of the HH-60G helicopter in the 943rd Maintenance Squadron hangar.

RSVPs for Chapter Events

Recently, we experienced a problem with a few of our individuals trying to RSVP for an event.

While we haven't been able to determine what caused the problem, I want to apologize to those who experienced them and remind EVERYONE of the following.

When you send your response to RSVP@afatucson105.org, you should receive an almost immediate response acknowledging receipt of your email. If you do not receive this automatic response within 24 hours, something is wrong and either resend your RSVP or contact Marie Lankford directly at the phone number in the original event invitation email. Another indicator that your RSVP wasn't received by either Marie or me is that you don't receive an email response from one of us acknowledging your RSVP has been received and that we look forward to seeing you at the particular event. If you do not receive, **both** of these responses (the automatic one and the personal one), **please** assume your RSVP wasn't received and resend it. We would rather receive several RSVPs than miss one due to a system problem and have someone not able to attend because they couldn't get on base.

We want all of our members to attend every event they are interested in and will do everything we can to make this happen, especially those who need our help to get access to the base. You are ALL valued members of our chapter.

Wally Saeger, President, AFA Chapter 105



STARBASE Arizona is on its summer break here at at Davis -Monthan Air Force Base. Since the beginning of the year in August 2017, we will have seen more than 30 classes from eight schools and three different school districts from across the city of Tucson. That works out to be over 900 students!!

By providing these students with hands-on activities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math we are equipping them with the tools to not only be critical thinkers in their current educational environment, but training them to be heavy hitters in the ever-changing world of STEM. STARBASE is able to cover a variety of concepts in the 25 hours that students are here on the base, and pique their interest in the hopes that they will further pursue a career in a STEM field.

We are ever grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the DM community, and words cannot express how much we appreciate the support from the base and our active duty volunteers. Our program would not be possible without them and our students love and cherish the time spent with the Airmen.

We're always on the look-out for new volunteers. If you are ever interested in volunteering with STARBASE, we have several areas where you can help us. Please contact Mikelle Cronk at cronkm@vailschooldistrict.org for more information.

Know Our New AFA Southwest Regional President Bobi Oates

Roberta (Bobi) Pike Oates is a USAF retired aircraft maintenance Senior Master Sergeant with 23 years of service (1976-99). She was handpicked as one of four individuals to stand up the Air Force Remote Piloted Aircraft Predator Squadron at Creech AFB. As Production Superintendent for the 11th Reconnaissance Squadron, she led the initial Air Force Cadre of Maintenance personnel for training at the UAV training center at Fort Huachuca, AZ then on to Taszer, Hungary for the first Air Force Deployment in support of Operation Joint Endeavor. During her Air Force career she served at several overseas and stateside bases in various Aircraft Maintenance positions. She also deployed to Incirlik AB, Tukey in support of Operation Provide Comfort. After retiring from the Air Force she was a Branch Manager for Armed Forces Bank at Nellis AFB for 9 years. Bobi has lived in Nevada for 24 years.



Bobi was awarded the Department of Nevada's Women Veteran of the Year 2016-17 and awarded the AFA Medal of Merit for 2017.

At the AFA Conference in Tucson in June 2018, Bobi was elected the Southwest Regional President for AFA chapters in Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico. The Tucson Chapter looks forward to working with Bobi during her term in office.

Changes in TRICARE Retiree Dental Program

The following article is reprinted from the Federal Times (see link below)

Will the TRICARE Dental replacement be full-filling for military retirees?

By: Jessie Bur

Military retirees and their families will have to change their dental plans for 2019 by switching over from the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program to the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Program.

According to the Office of Personnel Management, the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program will end on December 31, 2018, requiring those enrolled in the program to switch their coverage over to one of 10 dental plans under the FEDVIP program. Automatic enrollment will not occur when the TRICARE dental plan ends, meaning that recipients will have to actively chose plans during the FEDVIP open enrollment season, which takes place November 12 through December 10.

“The FEDVIP system is different from the Beneficiary Web Enrollment portal currently used to enroll with TRICARE. BENEFEDS is the government-authorized and OPM-contracted enrollment portal through which eligible participants enroll, and manage their family members’ coverage in a FEDVIP plan. There is a microsite dedicated just for TRICARE beneficiaries where they will be able to get enrollment and other information,” an OPM spokesperson told Federal Times.

The change is prompted by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017, which granted eligibility for certain TRICARE members to transition over to benefits offered under FEDVIP. This dental transition, however, does not have an impact on recipients’ standard TRICARE health plans.

In addition to retirees and their families, members of the Retired Reserve, non-active and active duty Medal of Honor recipients, survivors and family members of active-duty service members also have the option to enroll in dental and one of four vision plans under FEDVIPs.

This is the first time that most military families will have the option to sign up for vision benefits, though they must be signed up for a TRICARE Health Plan to be eligible.

According to OPM, this change could impact approximately 5.4 million individuals, and those eligible for the new plans will receive notification by mail.

https://www.federaltimes.com/management/pay-benefits/2018/06/22/will-the-tricare-dental-replacement-be-full-filling-for-veterans/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ebb%206/26/18&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



Chapter 105 Teachers of the Year for 2018

Your chapter selected two Chapter Teachers of the Year (TOY) for 2018; one for grades K-8 and one for high school. The selection committee consisted of Heidi Goldman, Marie Lankford and Vicki Jo Ryder.

Kelly Strayer of Copper View Elementary School in Sahaurita, AZ was chosen as our K-8 TOY. She teaches 2nd grade and actively promotes STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) education for all of her students. She was described as dedicated and dynamic by her principal and loved by her students. She has been in her current position for 6 years and has been a teacher for 11 years. She felt honored to be our AFA Chapter TOY since she once held aspirations of being in the Air Force.



Kelly Strayer and her Chapter 105 Teacher of the Year Certificate Dan Schneider of Amphitheater High School in Tucson, AZ was selected as our high school TOY and the unanimous selection to be considered for the Arizona AFA TOY (we can only submit one candidate). Dan has taught Computer Science for the last 2 years and has been a teacher for 7 years.

He was encouraged to pursue consideration as a TOY by last year's Chapter TOY and was heartily endorsed by his principal because of his rapid expansion of the, and interest in, computer science at Amphitheater HS. Dan intends to form a team to compete in CyberPatriot XI.

Dan was subsequently selected as the Arizona TOY and will therefore be competing for the AFA National Teacher of the Year.



President Saeger presenting TOY award to Dan Schneider

Chapter Officer Elections

It's time for chapter officer elections at our September meeting so the newly elected officers can take their positions effective October 1, 2018. Every year we must elect the following officers to comply with AFA operating procedures: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. An email will be sent out in late July asking for interested parties to nominate themselves or forward the names of those who should be considered. Any member of the chapter is eligible to hold one of these elected positions but there are many other non-elected positions available for people to serve in.

To learn more about the duties of the elected and non-elected officers, contact Wally Seager at wsae-gero6@gmail.com.

"A Little Bit of History"

Lockheed P-38 Lightning



The **Lockheed P-38 Lightning** is a World War II-era American piston-engined fighter aircraft. Developed for the United States Army Air Corps, the P-38 had distinctive twin booms and a central nacelle containing the cockpit and armament. Allied propaganda claimed it had been nicknamed the fork-tailed devil by the Luftwaffe and "two planes, one pilot" by the Japanese. The P-38 was used for interception, dive bombing, level bombing, ground attack, night fighting, photo reconnaissance, radar and visual pathfinding for bombers and evacuation missions, and extensively as a long-range escort fighter when equipped with drop tanks under its wings.

The P-38 was used most successfully in the Pacific Theater of Operations and the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations as the aircraft of America's top aces, Richard Bong (40 victories), Thomas McGuire (38 victories) and Charles H. MacDonal (27 victories). In the South West Pacific theater, the P-38 was the primary long-range fighter of United States Army Air Forces until the appearance of large numbers of P-51D Mustangs toward the end of the war.

The P-38 was unusually quiet for a fighter, since the exhaust was muffled by the turbo-superchargers. It was extremely forgiving and could be mishandled in many ways but the rate of roll in the early versions was too low for it to excel as a dogfighter. The P-38 was the only American fighter aircraft in large-scale production throughout American involvement in the war, from Pearl Harbor to Victory over Japan Day. At the end of the war, orders for 1,887 more were cancelled.

General characteristics

- Crew: One
- Length: 37 ft 10 in
- Wingspan: 52 ft 0 in (15.85 m) (15.85 m)
- Height: 12 ft 10 in (3.91 m) (3.91 m)
- Empty weight: 12,800 lb (5,800 kg)
- Max. takeoff weight: 21,600 lb (9,798 kg)
- Powerplant: 2 × Allison V-1710-111/113 V-12 piston engine, 1,600 hp

Performance

- Maximum Speed: 414 mph
- Cruise speed: 275 mph
- Range: 1,300 mi (2,100 km) combat
- Service ceiling: 44,000 ft (13,000 m) (13,400 m)

Armament

- 1 × Hispano M2(C) 20 mm cannon with 150 rounds
- 4 × M2 Browning machine gun
- 4 × M10 three-tube 4.5 in (112 mm) rocket launchers
- 2 × 2,000 lb (907 kg) bombs or drop tanks

Community Partner Program

For more than 40 years, businesses have been joining the Air Force Association to support both AFA National and local AFA chapters. Becoming a Community Partner is a great way to get your business involved with your local Air Force Community. Community Partners are partnership businesses that want to assist both AFA National and the local AFA chapters by becoming involved in Community efforts to support the United States Air Force.

By forming a partnership with your local AFA chapter, your business will help AFA fulfill their mission to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense. Any business or organization can become a CP and have two options for membership:

Category One (CP I) \$90.00 annually- Business can designate one person to receive AFA Membership and enjoy all benefits thereof.

Category Two (CP II) \$180.00 annually- Business can designate two people to receive AFA Membership and enjoy all benefits thereof.

Not only does a Community Partner receive all the benefits of an AFA membership, such as a variety of product and service discounts, insurance programs, and much more, but the partner will also receive the following upon joining AFA:

Date Medallion

Wooden Plaque

8"x5" "Our Business Supports Our Troops" Window Decal

If your business is interested in becoming a Community Partner, you should first contact your local chapter.

For questions or for more information on the program, please contact: **Dave Carrell, carrelldav@aol.com, (520) 305-4407**

Have your business become a part of a great cause and show your patrons that you support our Air Force!

Tucson Chapter's Community Partners

A & E Specialty Marketing

Elliott M. Klahr
P. O. Box 4423
Rio Rico, AZ 85648
520-281-1369 (P)
520-980-0515 (C)
emklahr@aespecialtymkt.com

Chick-fil-A

Dave Carrell
6675 E. Grant Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85715
520-305-4407

Chick-fil-A

Jim Paine
4885 N. Oracle Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85705
520-408-2456

Chick-fil-A

Matt Hountz
3605 E. Broadway Blvd
Tucson, AZ 85716
520-321-4232

Ciruli Brothers

5 Calle Cristina
Rio Rico, AZ 85648
520-281-1456

Vantage West Credit Union

Cindy Brainer
P.O. Box 15115
Tucson, AZ 85708
520-298-7882
800-888-7882
Vantagewest.org

Tucson Appliance Company

4229 E. Speedway Blvd
Tucson, AZ 85712-4523
520-881-1207

La Posada Lodge & Casitas

Juan Loo, Sales & Catering Mgr
5900 N. Oracle Rd
Tucson, AZ 85704
520-887-4800 (P)
520-293-7543 (F)
ascendcollection.com

Jackson Oil Company

Robert Ferretti
623-217-8005

Radisson Suites Tucson

Valerie Friend, General Manager
6555 E. Speedway Blvd
Tucson, AZ 85710
520-721-7100 Ext.7600 (P)
520-722-6146 (F)
Valerie.friend@prismhotels.com

Southwest Region President's Conference a Success

Your chapter had the privilege of hosting the Southwest Region President's Conference June 22-23, at the Radisson Tucson Suites. The conference was held so the region president, John Toohey, could address issues facing his region of Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada. The conference was attended by each of the two state presidents and chapter presidents (or their representatives) from the respective states. The conference is rotated between the states on an annual basis.

The conference started with a tour of several units on Davis-Monthan AFB Friday afternoon. The first unit visited was the 355th Maintenance Group's Weapons Standardization Flight where the group heard a briefing from the flight superintendent, SMSgt Kim Wiessner, about what WSS does in terms of standardizing load procedures for the A-10 within the 355th Fighter Wing and ensuring load crews are trained to perform their jobs safely and professionally.



Group picture by the WSS' trainer aircraft including members from the WSS and pilots from the 355th Ops Group.

The group then travelled to the 943d Rescue Group where they were briefed on the Group's diverse mission to include rescue of downed pilots in enemy territory, evacuation of combat casualties, civilian search and rescue, and support during natural disasters by 1st Lt Stephen Rayleigh, an HH-60G pilot with the 305th Rescue Squadron. Following the briefing, our group had the chance to get up close with an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter and talk with two pararescue men.



The HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter is derived from the Army's HH-60 Black Hawk.

The day's events culminated with a Welcome Social at Club Ironwood.

The actual conference kicked off early on Saturday morning at the Radisson.



Chapter 105 treasurer Marie Lankford and secretary Vicki Jo Ryder, arrange name signs for the conference attendees.



Southwest Region President, John Toohey, provides opening remarks for those attending the conference.



MSgt Jason Mead discusses life as a PJ with Nevada Thunderbird Chapter 189 President Bobi Oates and her husband Scott.



VP for Field Operations, "Mac" MacAloon, traveled from Tyn-dall AFB FL to address the conference.

After introductory remarks by the Southwest Region President, John Toohey, AFA's Vice Chairman for Field Operations, F. Gavin "Mac" MacAloon, gave a lengthy presentation on his perspective of AFA's field operations; the main topics were as follows:

- Field Health
- Support Payments (how state and chapter payments will be determined)
- Membership
- Reporting (the change from quarterly to semi-annual financial and activity reports)
- 2018 National Convention
- Aerospace Education Programs, Arnold Air Society/Silver Wing cooperation, CyberPatriot, and Stellar Explorer

- Field Council Programs, Emerging Leaders Program, and Wounded Airmen Program Support
- My thoughts, Your thoughts, anything you want to talk to me about

With this much to cover, you can understand why his presentation was 39 slides and took over 2 hours; but was well worth it.



2Lt Adam Becker explains the various pieces of equipment on display to (from left to right) Arizona State President Joe Marvin, Tucson Chapter 105 President Wally Saeger, and Luke Chapter 151 President Ed Logan

After a short break, Falar Fatmi, AFA's Chief Information Officer, provided an overview of the new Field Leaders' Portal and the changes and improvements that are coming with its implementation. AFA is updating its IT system to take advantage of technology improvements and improve security for the information it stores about our members. The changes will allow real time access to more information and allow field leaders to make changes to select information on members such as email and mailing address and phone number; actions that only National could do previously. Part of the implementation process will include data cleansing to ensure the most accurate information possible is retained. The implementation will also provide new capabilities for states and chapters such web site hosting and document management system using Microsoft 365 at no cost to the field. Falar spent the rest of conference tutoring chapter leaders, one-on-one, on how to access the field leaders' portal and demonstrating some of its initial capabilities.



Falar Fatmi, AFA's CIO, addresses the conference on AFA's on-going IT update.

(SW Conference continued)

Ross Lampert, past National Secretary and a member of Sierra Vista Chapter 107, gave a presentation describing the proposal to limit terms for National Officers and how these terms will be staggered so there will no longer be a scenario where all five officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman for Aerospace Education, Vice Chairman for Field Operations, Secretary and Treasurer) could change out at the same time resulting in a completely new leadership team.

After folks had a chance to take a short break and get their lunches, Lt Col Matthew “Weez” Wiesner, Director of Staff, 162d Wing, Tucson International Airport, gave the wing mission brief. The 162d Wing is the ANG’s training source for F-16 pilots and provides training for 21 foreign countries. They also provide four F-16s and aircrew that sit alert at Davis-Monthan AFB as part of the homeland security mission for the Air Force. Additionally, the wing recently took on MQ-9 operations to go with their RC-26 operations under the 214th Attack Group.



Lt Col Weisner answers questions following his presentation on the 162d Wing

The final formal presentation of the day was by National Director At-Large and AFA Chapter 105 member, Eugene Santarelli. Gene gave his perspective of AFA as a National Director today and looking towards the future. He was especially optimistic that the future is brighter than it was several years ago and that the field, which Jimmy Doolittle declared is the heart & soul of AFA, is again being given its prominence by National and the rift that had taken place between National and the field has been healed.



AFA National Director At-Large Gene Santarelli at the conclusion of his remarks.

After presentations by Arizona State President Joe Marvin, New Mexico State President Fred Harsany, and Nevada Thunderbird Chapter 189 President Bobi Oates on the health of their state and local chapters and what they’ve accomplished since the last region conference, each state caucused regarding the election of a new region president. When it came time to vote, Bobi Oates who had volunteered for the position, was unanimously elected to be the Southwest Region president. Stu Carter of the Cochise Chapter was elected Arizona State President.



Bobi Oates (left) is congratulated on her election as the new Southwest Region president, by the outgoing president John Toohey.

The conference culminated with a dinner at the Radisson hosted by Wally Saeger on behalf of John Toohey. The guest speaker for the evening was the 355th Maintenance Group Commander, Colonel Barton “Bart” Kenerson, an avid supporter of AFA. His talk centered on the diverse missions of the units hosted by the 355th Fighter Wing at



Colonel Bart Kenerson, 355th Maintenance Group Commander, gave a lively talk at the Saturday dinner to conclude the conference.

D-M and the ever changing landscape of the Air Force and its mission to Fight and Win our Nation’s wars.



Stu Carter elected AZ State President

Maj. James B. White, USAF
Welcome Home

On July 14, 2017, the Defense POW/MIA Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Major James Blair White, missing from the Vietnam War.

Major White, who joined the U.S. Air Force from Ohio, served with the 357th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 355th Tactical Fighter Wing. On November 24, 1969, he was the pilot of an F-105 Thunderchief (tail number 61-0060, call sign "Shark 02") in a flight of two aircraft on a strike mission over the Plain of Jars in Xiangkhoang Province, Laos. As he attacked the target, weather conditions deteriorated, and Maj White's aircraft crashed for unknown reasons after pulling off the target into heavy cloud cover. He did not survive the incident, and searchers located a crash site four days later but could not locate his remains. Between 2010 and 2016, excavations were conducted at the crash site and human remains were recovered. Modern forensic techniques were eventually able to identify the remains as those of Major White.



Modern forensic techniques were eventually able to identify the remains as those of Major White.

Major White is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

Davis-Monthan AFB Gets New Commander



As outgoing wing commander Col. Scott Campbell looks on, Col. Michael Drowley, center, salutes Lt. Gen. Mark Kelly while being installed as new commander of the 355th Fighter Wing during a change of command ceremony at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

photo by Mike Christy / Arizona Daily Star

Col. Michael R. Drowley is the Commander of the 355th Fighter Wing, D-M AFB. He is responsible for one of the largest installations and flying operations in the USAF, with 34 mission partners, more than 11,000 Airmen, 150 aircraft and \$50B dollars in assets. He is responsible for organizing training and equipping a wing composed of 20 squadrons, two of which are fighter squadrons. The wing provides A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft for close air support and forward air control, combat support, and medical forces for combatant commander requirements worldwide. The 355th Fighter Wing is also responsible for training A-10C pilots for the entire Total Force and is the Air Combat Command executive agent for Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces and Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty compliance.

Colonel Drowley earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and his commission for the USAF Academy in 1996. He is a command pilot with more than 2,200 fighter hours in the A-10, including more than 200 combat hours. Colonel Drowley has commanded at the flight, squadron, and group levels. Additionally he has served on the staffs of the Superintendent, USAF Academy and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Prior to his current assignment, Colonel Drowley served as Chief of Staff, Headquarters United States Air Forces Central Command, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

After the attacks of 9/11 and the execution of Operation EDURING FREEDOM (OEF), eight A-10s from the 355 Wing were deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan to fly close air support missions reinforcing multinational ground forces. Other six month deployments to Bagram Airfield followed in 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2013. In 2009, the 355 FW made Air Force history becoming the first A-10C unit to deploy to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, and the first A-10C unit to utilize the Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod in combat. In 2011, the wing deployed for six months to Osan AB, Republic of South Korea in support of Pacific Command's Theater Security Package (TSP). This was the wing's first deployment to the ROK in support of a TSP. In 2015, the unit completed a six month TSP deployment to the European Continent in support of Operation ATLANTIC RESOLVE. This was the first TSP deployment to the European Theater for the 355 FW. In 2017, the 355 FW deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey in support of Operation INHERINT RESOLVE. During the six month campaign new records were set for sorties flown and combat hours logged.

Losses: World War II, POW-58; KIA-80; MIA-14
Vietnam: POW-40; KIA-54

Brief History of the
355th Fighter Wing



The legacy and heritage of the 355th Fighter Wing (FW) began on 12 November 1942 when it was activated as the 355th Fighter Group (FG) at Orlando Army Air Base, Florida. The 355 FG became fully operational on 9 September 1943 at Steeple Morden, England. By war's end the 355 FG logged more than 17,000 sorties in P-47s and P-51s while destroying 862.5 enemy aircraft. The 355 FG was inactivated on 20 November 1946.

Nearly nine years later, on 18 August 1955, the 355 FG reactivated at McGhee-Tyson Airport, Tennessee operating the F-86D *Sabre Jet* under the Air Defense Command. For two years, the 355 FG provided fighter defense for the Atomic Energy Plant Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the Alcoa Aluminum Plant, the Tennessee Valley Authority dams, and the eastern region of the United States, participating in numerous readiness exercises. The unit inactivated on 8 January 1958.

On 1 April 1962, the 355 FG activated at George AFB, California as the 355th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW), flying the Republic F-105 *Thunderchief*. By November 1965 the unit had transferred to Takhli Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand. Before inactivating on 10 December 1970, the 355 TFW amassed more than 101,300 sorties over North Vietnam, delivered 202,596 tons of bombs, and destroyed 12,675 targets. Assigned pilots were also credited with 22 MiG aerial victories, eight MiGs destroyed on the ground, and another nine damaged.

The 355 TFW reactivated 1 July 1971 at Davis-Monthan AFB, flying the A-7D *Corsair II* aircraft. In early 1975, the 355 TFW prepared for conversion to the A-10A *Thunderbolt II* receiving the first four A-10As in March 1976. In the 1990s, the 355th (now a Tactical Training Wing) continued to train A-10 crews for assignments to units in the United States, England and Korea. During this period, the wing deployed Airborne Forward Air Controllers (FAC) in OA-10 aircraft to Operation DESERT STORM, providing nearly 100 percent of FAC capability to the war. In 1995, the 355th Wing began supporting Operation SOUTHERN WATCH with deployments to Al Jaber AB, Kuwait to ensure compliance of the 32d parallel southern no-fly zone. The initial deployment in 1995 required 12 A-10s. That number however doubled for the 1997 deployment. In 1998 the wing deployed 16 A-10s while the final deployment in 1999 required 14 A-10s to sustain operations.

Upcoming Events

Look for future “field trips” to different squadrons on base; if you have something specific you want to see please let us know! There are MANY events supporting our local Airmen listed below and more to come! As a Chapter, we try to attend all that we can. If you are interested in representing our AFA Chapter at any of these, please inform Wally Saeger (wsaeger@afatucson105.org) and he will coordinate it. You just have to show up and enjoy these traditional military ceremonies and gatherings. First come, first served!!

July 2018

- 2nd: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, 355th Ops Group Conference Room (all welcome!)
- 27th: No Chapter Meeting

August 2018

- 6th: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, 355th Ops Group Conference Room (all welcome!)
- 24th: Chapter Monthly Luncheon, Ken Schanke, Flying the B-57 “Canberra”

September 2018

- 10th:Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, 355th Ops Group Conference Room (all welcome!)
- 15-16th: Annual National Convention, Gaylord National Hotel, National Harbor (Washington DC)
- 17-19th: 2018 Air, Space & Cyber Conference, Gaylord National Hotel, National Harbor (Washington DC)
- 28th: Chapter Monthly Luncheon, Chapter Officer Elections, Dr. Joseph Cuffari, AZ Governor’s Advisor for Military & Veterans Affairs

October 2018

- 1st: Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 1200, 355th Ops Group Conference Room (all welcome!)
- 26th: Chapter Monthly Luncheon, Speaker TBD

SAVE THESE DATES:

November: No Chapter Meeting due to Thanksgiving
December: Annual Daedalians/AFA Awards Banquet
April 13, 2019: Annual Golf Tournament, Haven Golf Course, Green Valley

March 2-3, 2019: Heritage Flight at D-M
March 23-24, 2019: Airshow at D-M

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Educate the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure US national security,
Advocate for aerospace power and STEM education, and
Support the total Air Force Family and promote aerospace education.