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The Official Newsletter of Chapter 398 of the Air Force Association

AFA Mission

To promote a dominant USAF and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage.

To accomplish this we:

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

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Chapter Officers

- President – Jim Connors
- Vice President - Fred Gross
- Secretary – Susan Ault-Davis
- Treasurer – Danny Webb

AFA Chapter 398

P.O. Box 9814

Hurlburt Field, FL 32544-9814

www.Hurlburt.AFAFlorida.org

Blue Flag Exercise Marks 40th Anniversary

By Senior Airman Andrea Posey and Staff Sgt. Katherine Holt, 1st Special operation Wing Public Affairs / Published July 25, 2016

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AFNS) -- Airmen from 505th Combat Training Squadron are the creators and controllers of a live, virtual and constructive world that takes air operation centers (AOC) and Air Force forces (AFFOR) staff through a quest to sharpen their skills at planning, executing and controlling war and relief operation scenarios. The exercise, Blue Flag, takes place here July 21-28 and is currently in its 40th iteration.



Blue Flag provides doctrinally correct air, space, and cyberspace crisis action planning. It also provides command and control training for joint and coalition air components and operational-level headquarters in a constructive environment.

Throughout history, Blue Flag exercises have played a major role in preparing commands for various wars including the Gulf War, Operation Desert Shield and various humanitarian operations.

These exercises attempt to duplicate real-world theater conditions and procedures as closely as possible. The goal is to train commanders and staff officers so that, in a war emergency, they can immediately participate in directing an air war and make smart decisions during the critical first days of an engagement.

The construction of a virtual world such as Blue Flag is an extensive affair, said Lt. Col. Merrick Green, the 505th CTS commander. There are five divisions in an AOC that collaborate to produce this event: combat plans, combat operations, strategy, air mobility, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

“I like to equate it to ‘Voltron,’” Green said. “‘Voltron: Defender of the Universe,’ an American animated television character, is a giant robot formed by five pilots fusing their smaller separate robots together.”

Combat plans develop the operation, and combat operations execute the plan. Meanwhile, intelligence supports these divisions during the exercise. Strategy ensures the plan of the joint force air component commander, the leader of the AOC and AFFOR staff, is executed. The final component is the air mobility division which determines how supplies and manpower are utilized and delivered.

“This is why it is so complex when you talk about having a Blue Flag,” Green said. “It takes up to a year to plan and executes in seven to 10 days.”

Once the exercise launches, the 505th CTS operates a 24-hour battle rhythm to ensure the scenario is meeting the training audience requirements. Green describes

this time as the calm before the storm.

“Everyone is calm and focused when the exercise first kicks off, but chaos soon ensues after the first day or two as the training audience goes through the scenario,” Green said. “There will always be road blocks and hiccups, but after a couple of days the training audience gets their battle rhythm.”

While a scenario is playing out, anything the 505th CTS or the joint force air component commander wants to change to challenge the audience is possible at the click of a button.

“A lot of the times we operate in an environment where we’re the Air Force, so everything is going to go our way – no planes are going to get shot down, nothing’s going to break,” Green said, “but in a constructive scenario (we) can stress a training audience with some of those artificial realities.”

At the end of an exercise the 505th CTS and the participating AOC debrief so organizations can take the lessons learned and apply them to internal training.

“Completion of one of these events, knowing we did all we could to prepare the warfighter for the mission at hand, is one of the highest feelings of job satisfaction we achieve throughout the year,” said Todd Nusbaum, the senior modeling and simulations analyst of the 505th CTS. “Distributing the information to the training audience at their actual location is an added bonus (because) they are able to work on the actual systems that they would be using if they were called upon during a crisis.”

Chapter 398 Honors 1st SOW Units Unsung Heroes

By Max Friedauer, VP for Unsung Hero programs



The Hurlburt Chapter 398 of the AFA has been honoring the "Unsung Heroes" for the past 19 years, and in the fall of every year we honor the Unsung Heroes of the 1st Special Operations Wing and its Units with a luncheon. This year the chapter recognized 18 "Unsung Heroes" (Airmen who contribute to the mission by always going above and beyond what is expected of them) and honored them at the Hurlburt Soundside Club for lunch on the 15th of November 2016.

A1C Ashley Reaves from the 1st Special Operations Logistics Readiness Squadron sang the National Anthem, and Chaplain David Suh gave the invocation. The Master of Ceremonies for the Luncheon was SSgt Michael F Rolon, 720 STG.

The guest speaker for the lunch was the 1st Special Operations Wing Vice Commander, Col Steven Breeze, and he spoke about Hurlburt field’s amazing Airmen and had nothing but accolades for our Airmen and was so proud and impressed with this group of young Airmen. He emphasized that “...we don’t pursue recognition; our recognition is the satisfaction of being part of something bigger than we are...” “...the impact these folks have is varied and far-reaching. I’m quite sure these Airmen will inspire other young Americans to follow the path of service.” “... they do have one thing in common, these Airmen, they all joined the Air Force after 911.” “Air Commandos are personally committed to their craft. They are disciplined professionals, dedicated to continuous improvement. Our Airmen train smarter and harder than other AF Airmen. These Unsung Heroes remain culturally bound to get their mission done, or find a way where none exists. That’s what it means to be an Air Commando.” “While our job may be to kill and capture terrorists on a daily basis, we are also charged to make the world a better place and we need to positively impact people within the local community.” He also thanked AFA and it’s Community Partners for the great support to Hurlburt Field.



Col Breeze, assisted by Max Friedauer, presented each "Unsung Hero" with a Framed Certificate and a book (donated by MSgt Alex Eudy, 720 STG) by Admiral (Ret) William McRaven “Spec Ops: Case Studies in Special Operations Warfare.” SSgt Rolon read a few of each Airman’s accomplishments as they came forward. The luncheon was sponsored with a grant from the Boeing Corporation represented by Col (Ret) Mark Transue, Col (Ret) Hank Sanders, and Col (Ret) Ted

Corallo. The Boeing Company is one of 38 Community Partners in the chapter that support the many programs the chapter is involved in. Other AFA Community Partners present were J.D. Rudman, MacAulay Brown; Dave Schantz & Bud Sauvageau, Lockheed Martin RMS; Kent & Denise Smith, It's All About You Massage & Day Spa; and Pam Ridlehoover, ERAU. This event continues to be very popular and everyone is looking forward to the Hurlburt Tenant Units Unsung Hero event in the Spring of 2017. Also present were our AFA Chapter President, Jim Connors; Executive VP Fred Gross; VP for Community Relations, Thom Guthrie, Secretary Susan Ault-Davis and her husband Mo, and members Asst. VP for Aerospace Education Eddie Arroyo, and member Mike Scott.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, Chapter President Jim Connors presented Col Breeze of the Adm McRaven's book and with a "brick" that was purchased in his name and will be placed at the Air Force Enlisted Widows Village. He also thanked the team from the 1 SOW, MSgt Alex Eudy, SSgt Mark A Seay Jr; SSgt Bryan J Sibley; and the Master of Ceremonies SSgt Michael F Rolon. They worked behind the scenes to put this all together, taking reservations; creating the e-Invitations; organizing and printing the program brochures; preparing award certificates; and coordinating the event with the Soundside Club. Each was presented with an AFA 398 RMO.



Our honorees and Unsung Hero Award Recipients were: SrA Tyler Baber, 901 SOAMXS; SrA Austin Chiesa, 1 SOAMXS; SrA Brandon Culpan, 1 SOAMDS; SrA Norman Haggard, 1 SOW HQ; SrA Arthur Halmon, 1 SOCS; SrA Kayla Holmes, 1 SOAOS; SrA Nathan Hoskins, 1 SOCES; SrA Michael Linfoot, 801 SOAMXS; SrA Christopher Mauldin; SrA Blake Metscher, 8 SOS; SrA Terrence Scott, 1 SOSS; A1C Janely Corona-Montero, 1 SODS; A1C Justin Davis, 1 SOFSS; A1C Brendan Delane, 1 SOCONS; A1C Citlali Hernandez, 1 SOMDOS; A1C Joshua Smith, 1 SOMXS; A1C Mathew Swift, 1 SOCPTS; and Amn Joshua White, 1 SOLRS.

Chapter VP Presents Pitsenbarger Scholarships

Chapter Vice President Fred Gross attended the Fall Community College of the Air Force Graduation on 2 November at the Soundside Club. Seventy graduates received their diplomas at the ceremony. The guest speaker was CMSgt Robert West, AFSOAWC Command Chief.

The chapter presented two Pitsenbarger \$400 Scholarships at the ceremony.

Pictured is Fred Gross and scholarship winner SrA Arturo Corral.



AFA
AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
AIR WARFARE SYMPOSIUM
A Professional Development Event
C2 and Fusion Warfare
March 1-3, 2017 | Orlando, FL

SOF CLSS Sponsors Air Force Association Teachers of the Year Awards

Reprinted from Lockheed Martin SOF CLSS

On October 20th, Lockheed Martin SOF CLSS sponsored the Air Force Association Chapter 398, Hurlburt Field, Florida, annual recognition dinner. This is the fourth year in a row that SOF CLSS has sponsored the event that recognizes outstanding teachers from Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties in Northwest Florida. As a Platinum Community Partner since 2013, Lockheed Martin SOF CLSS has been a dedicated and consistent supporter of the Hurlburt Chapter of the Air Force Association. SOF CLSS support consists of the recognition dinner, a check for cash awards to each of the three teachers, plus an additional cash award to the school of the overall winner.

The 2016 teachers of the year are: Ms. Beverly (Joy) Bunning, Holley Navarre Primary School, Chapter 398 elementary school and overall Teacher of the Year; Mr. Chris Johnson, Thomas L. Sims Middle School, Chapter 398 middle school Teacher of the Year; and Ms. Erin Cosky, Gulf Breeze High School, Chapter 398 high school Teacher of the Year.

The Hurlburt Chapter of the AFA supports educators in the Florida Panhandle by promoting aviation-related Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). It conducts numerous teacher workshops and recognizes outstanding teachers at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

This year's overall teacher of the year received a week at the Space Academy for Educators, or Space Camp, in Huntsville, AL. The weeklong program included authentic astronaut training simulators, activities developed to promote learning in a classroom setting and according to overall teacher of the year Joy Bunning, "an exceptional team-building experience."



Left to right, Tom Waylett, Monty Watson, Joy Bunning, Elementary School and Overall Chapter Teacher of the Year, Erin Cosky, High School Teacher of the Year, Chris Johnson, Middle School Teacher of the Year, Bob Black, Senior Military Advisor to Congressman Jeff Miller (R-FL-1), Barbara Scott, Principal at Holley Navarre Primary School, and Ryan Stokes, Assistant Principal at T.L. Sims Middle School.

Chapter Hosts Teachers Workshop

By Ricardo Soria, VP for Aerospace Education

The Hurlburt Chapter recently partnered with the NWF Chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and the Engineers for America (EFA) STEM Initiative Team to host a Teacher STEM Workshop on Saturday October 22, 2016. The workshop invites engineers to work with classroom educators to leverage their respective skills in an effort to enhance the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in our schools. Local military and civilian engineers and educators were invited to join the teachers at the Okaloosa STEMM Center (Valparaiso, FL) to explore the methods and techniques to conduct several STEM experiments that can be done in a school setting.

Teachers from three panhandle school districts as well as local military and civilian engineers and AFRL were treated to a breakfast provided by the NWF Chapter of the AIAA then got to work on the experiments.

The workshop experiments are described below:

Balloon / Chemical Rocket Cars is a project that requires teacher / engineer teams to use the engineering design method to design a vehicle powered by balloons. After balloon performance data is collected, the Rocket cars will be propelled by a water and seltzer solution. The scientific method will be used to collect data and make measurements and determine performance and performance improvements to the vehicles.

Water Rockets are rockets made from Polyethylene Terephthalate or PET bottles. Or even more colloquially, soft drink bottles. Teams will use water and air pressure to test variety of air pressure and water volume combinations to launch rockets to a projected altitude. On-board measurement equipment will be used to confirm the flight performance of each launch.

Hot Air Balloons is project that requires teams to launch a hot air balloon made of dry cleaners garment bags and propelled by hair dryers. This simple sounding proposition becomes more complicated when teams must stabilize the balloon so it can lift vertically from a table. The scientific method will be used to collect data and make measurements and determine performance and performance improvements to the balloons.

The photos show the teachers and engineers working together to solve the various challenges presented by each experiment. The AFA is a strong advocate of STEM education and offers a variety of training and workshop experiences for local and regional teachers.



Teachers and engineers working on making their hot air balloons fly by using a dry cleaning garment bag and a hairdryer



Dr. Angela Diggs (extreme left) photo documenting the teachers and engineer teams while they convert the balloon powered vehicles to chemical power.



Teachers and engineers building a balloon powered racing car that will also be converted to chemical propulsion. Both fuel versions will be performance tested.

Coming Events

- 16 Jan – Chapter AFA Executive Board Meeting
- 1 Feb –East Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair, Okaloosa County Fairgrounds
- 21 Feb - Chapter AFA Executive Board Meeting
- 25 Feb – Teacher’s Workshop
- 1-3 Mar – Air Warfare Symposium, Orlando FL
- 21 Mar - Chapter AFA Executive Board Meeting
- 18 Apr - Chapter AFA Executive Board Meeting
- 23-29 Apr – Southeast Regional Wounded CARE Event, Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field

Chapter Community Partner of the Quarter (Jul-Sep)

Mama Nu’s Kitchen (Formerly Gus’ Corona Cafe)

The best and authentic Thai cuisine, barbecue, and sandwiches in Fort Walton Beach!

The Hurlburt Chapter 398 is proud to announce Mama Nu’s Kitchen (previously known as Gus’s Corona Cafe) as our Community Partner of the Quarter for Jul-Sep

Ma Ma Nu's Kitchen

2016. Mama Nu’s has been a faithful AFA Community Partner since 2011. Owner and chefs Bill and Nu Carl have been serving our Air Force and local community for many years with great food, atmosphere, and service! You can always depend on Bill & Nu to serve a great dish. They also will provide you with special seating for your business or organization meeting. The restaurant was featured in the Daily News in August 2016 for their super cuisine and service. Whether it’s Sunday Family Day, a Birthday Party, or a business meeting, you’ll be well taken care of at Mama Nu’s Kitchen. Some of the comments from customers are “...best place to have it for the first time. Ordered the Thai iced coffee and the drunken noodle (medium heat). The portions were huge (had enough leftovers for my son to have dinner) and the food was amazing. The owners are lovely people who love their customers. We will definitely be customers for life now.” Some of the top items on the menu are: Ribs; Pepper Steak; Cuban Sandwich; Combination Seafood Beef/Chicken Fried Rice; Thai Salad; Pad Thai; Soup fixed to your liking; Sticky Rice+ Coconut Milk+ Vanilla Bean Ice Cream.

Stop by next time you’re hungry or are planning a luncheon for your group. You will love it! They are located right across from “The Olive Garden” and next to the “Acura” car dealership on HWY 98. Bill and Nu have been strong and consistent supporters of the AFA Hurlburt Chapter. Please help us congratulate them on their selection as the AFA Community Partner of the Quarter for Jul-Sep 2016.

Note: The announcement of the CP of the Quarter for Jul-Sep was inadvertently omitted in the previous newsletter. The Featured CP of the Quarter for Oct through Dec (Nathan Hall DMD) was printed instead.

2016 Community Partner of the Year

Clemenza's at Uptown Station

Dominic “Dom” Damiano of Clemenza’s at Uptown Station is presented the Community Partner of the Year Award for 2016 by Max Friedauer at the 2016 Teachers Recognition Dinner held at The Club at Hidden Creek in November.



Chapter 398 Community Partners

The Hurlburt Chapter of the Air Force Association is proud to introduce our Community Partners. This program links our local businesses who share the same aims with the Air Force Association. Our Community Partners are special members. Their membership provides scholarship funds, grants, AFJROTC support, teacher awards, Space Camp for kids, and AFSOC/Hurlburt quarterly and annual recognition. They support Freedom's Team and support Airpower and a strong national defense.



Community Sponsorship levels are: Commando - \$5000, Diamond - \$2500, Platinum - \$1000, Gold - \$500, Silver - \$300, Bronze - \$150, and Basic - \$100. If you know of any business interested in becoming a Community Partner please contact and of our chapter officers.

Diamond

The Boeing Company – Ft Walton Beach

FLIR Systems Incorporated

Platinum

Lockheed Martin Mission Systems & Training (MST)
The Raytheon Company

Lockheed Martin SOS CLSS

Gold

Air Commando Association
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU)
Lt Col Gerry & Kay Chapman Memorial

Eglin Federal Credit Union
Lockheed Martin Corporation
MacAulay Brown Inc.

Silver

Beach Community Bank
Clemenza's at Uptown Station ([CP of the Year](#))
Emerald Coast Endodontics
Nathan Hall DMD, "Family & Cosmetic Dentistry"
Preston Hood Chevrolet
WinTec Aeromaker Inc

Cherry Wealth Advisors
Elbit Systems America
LC Industries
On-Point Defense Technologies, LLC
Rheumatology Associates

Bronze

Audio Visual Integrity
Aqua Pool and Patio Company
Dennis and Company
SA Technical Services Inc
Serigraphia Inc.

Awards Plus Frames by Sharon
Booz | Allen | Hamilton
FAST Signs
Ramada Plaza Beach Resort

Basic

Bella Donna Catering & Café
Freedom Self Storage
Jimmy's Men's Store and Pawn
Mary Esther Cut-Off Barbershop

Emerald Coast Funeral Home
It's All about You Massage & Day Spa (MM15298)
Mama Nu's Kitchen (Formerly Gus' Corona Café)
ZT Motors of FWB