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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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President – Jim Connors
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Florida cadet wins Air Force Junior ROTC, AFA Cadet Leadership Award

By Lt. Col. Vanessa Saks, Headquarters Air Force Junior ROTC / Published May 15, 19

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, AL: An Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet from Pensacola High School, Pensacola, Fla., has been awarded the Air Force Junior ROTC and Air Force Association Cadet Leadership Award for the 2018-2019 academic year.



Cadet Maj. Sydney Cloutier was selected from a pool of top high school juniors enrolled in Air Force Junior ROTC from almost 900 units around the world.

“I was extremely surprised after discovering that I would represent both Florida and Region 1 and knew that each finalist was deserving of the national award,” Cloutier said.

“I am absolutely grateful for my amazing family, school, teachers, instructors and community who presented me with all the opportunities needed to even be nominated,” she added. “I know that I am so lucky to attend a school with an Air Force Junior ROTC, let alone one with a SASI (senior aerospace science instructor) and ASI (aerospace science instructor) who have supported me and recognized my hard work throughout my three years in the program.”

Cloutier attributed the diversity of her extracurricular activities and overall academic achievement to her selection. While maintaining a 4.77 grade point average and being a member of the National Honor Society, she was also captain of the varsity volleyball team, participated in six different Leadership Development Requirements and volunteered 28 hours of community service with Escambia County’s Backpack Project, providing meals for 537 Title I students weekly.

“While I do dedicate a significant portion of my time to Junior ROTC, I also value the importance of variety,” she said.

Cloutier plans to join an Air Force ROTC program upon graduation where she would like to pursue a dual major in computer science and planetary geology in hopes to achieve her goal of being an astronaut.

“I believe that it is incredibly important for women and minorities to pioneer in new STEM fields by serving as role models for young women and contributing to the advancement of exploration,” she said. “I want to push the boundaries of both cyber and outer space with the Air Force, or Space Force and NASA.”

Cloutier’s instructors, retired Col. Aaron Lehman, SASI, and retired Chief Master Sgt. Charles Clark, ASI, were not surprised by her selection.

“From day one as a freshman, Sydney has stood out amongst her peers, not only in

Air Force Junior ROTC but in Pensacola High School as a whole, in academics, sports but more importantly, in character,” Clark said.

“Sydney is finishing up her junior year and has been selected as our corps commander for the 2019-2020 academic year and truly sets the standard not only for Air Force Junior ROTC but for the entire student body to emulate. Colonel Lehman and I could not be more proud of Sydney and all she has achieved.”

The Air Force Junior ROTC and Air Force Association Cadet Leadership Award recognizes the cadet who exemplifies the ideals of what a cadet should be. Air Force Junior ROTC instructors submitted nominations of third-year cadets who were juniors during the academic year. Nominations were then evaluated to award state winners, who then competed within their regions. Regional winners then were evaluated in order to produce an overall winner and runner-up.

Cloutier, who was the Region 1 winner, will receive the award at the 2019 Air Force Association National Convention, National Harbor, Md., in September.

2019 Wounded Warrior CARE

By Nelson (Eddie) Arroyo

AFA Chapter 398 was proud to support the 2019 Air Force Wounded Warrior CARE ((C)aregiver(A)Adaptive Sports & Ambassador(R)Recovering Airman Mentorship & Resiliency Program(E)mpowerment in Transition Program) event at Hurlburt Field, 15- 19 Apr 19.



This South East Region CARE event at Hurlburt Field consisted of a multitude of activities including Introductory Adaptive Sports, Caregiver Symposium, RAMP Training, CARE Fair, Outreach Events, Resiliency Workshops -Music, Comedy, Art, Writing, Restorative Care, Ambassador and Empowerment in Transition Workshops and 2019 Warrior Games Training Camp.



A group of 150 attendees, with support staff and volunteers participated in events across Hurlburt Field. AFA Chapter 398 volunteers, Jim Connors, Mark Chapman, Thom Guthrie, Dan Matizza and Eddie Arroyo were on hand each day to support our athletes and ensured healthy drinks, snacks and lunches were available throughout.

This was a tremendous team effort between Community Partners, AFA and the Air Force Wounded Airmen program. Special thanks must go out to our AFA Chapter 398 Community Partners for their generous support. Lockheed Martin, Rotary and Mission Systems stepped up to provide monetary support. Mama Nu's Kitchen, prepared the delicious lunches. The Hurlburt Field Commissary provided great support through vendor gift cards, coupons, donations and all around help in the store. Walmart Super Center, Navarre, and Publix, Navarre, both donated drinks. The Aderholt Fitness Center Staff provided daily support to our Warriors and worked closely with AFA members in all daily activities.

We wish all of our Wounded Warriors great success in the upcoming Warrior Games and in future CARE events. We look forward to supporting them again next year.



Chapter Selects Marsha Harp as STEM Teacher of the Year

By: Ricardo Soria, Executive VP, Aerospace Education

The Air Force Association (AFA) Chapter 398 Hurlburt Field is proud to announce our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Teacher of the Year. Ms. Marsha Harp is a first grade teacher at West Navarre Primary School.

She has been teaching for six year. At a faculty meeting on June 3rd at West Navarre Primary School, Chapter 398 VP for Aerospace education Rick Soria presented Ms. Harp a check for \$250. "The AFA is proud to recognize Ms. Harp as our STEM Teacher of the Year. The mission of the AFA is to educate, advocate, and support. Her daily classroom efforts epitomize the STEM education goals of our Advocate mission."

The salient points of Ms. Harp's nomination included:

- Selected as Science, Techology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Innovate member for our county. Responsible for implementing STEAM in the classroom as well as being a mentor for our teaching staff throughout our district.
- Director of "CAMP INNOVATE", a summer program I started for my students, focusing on STEAM and STEM principles.
- Selected Leader Attendee for the past three years for Discovery Education's week long "STEMersion" event which collaborates with teachers nationwide.
- Winner of over \$10,000 in classroom grant funds including two time recipient of the ACCEL Air Force Grant for STEM education.
- Google Certified Educator who uses technology in the classroom to enhance learning.



The purpose of the chapter annual program is to recognize classroom teachers at the chapter, state, and national level for their accomplishments and achievements in exciting K-12 students about science and math (STEM) and preparing them to use and contribute to tomorrow's technologies. This is a unique opportunity for us to reward special teachers who are furthering excellence and making coming to class an adventure.

Ms. Harp is also our chapter nominee for State Teacher of the year. She and her principal will be our guests at our annual chapter awards banquet to be conducted in the fall of 2019.

The Hurlburt Field chapter also offers our annual winner a scholarship to send to the Space Camp Educator course, in Huntsville, AL later in summer 2019. Ms. Harp was unable to attend the camp on the dates that were available. In her stead, the chapter has selected Mr. Curt Palermo, Technology teacher at Pryor Middle school, as our Space Camp scholarship winner.

Joint Professional Luncheon (AFA and ACA)

Dann Mattiza, Executive VP for Membership



The Hurlburt Chapter of the Air Force Association and the Air Commando Association joined forces to host their first Joint Professional Luncheon of the year on May 8 at the Hurlburt Soundside Club. Over 100 persons were in attendance to renew old friendships, enjoy lunch, and hear a presentation by Lt Gen Brad Webb, AFSOC

Commander which centered on USAF Chief of Staff Gen David Goldfein's priorities for the Air Force. This was Lt Gen Webb's last luncheon presentation to our group as the AFSOC Commander as his nomination to become the new Commander of Air Education and Training Command was announced the same day. ACA President Wayne Norrad and former Hurlburt Chapter President Dann Mattiza served as hosts for the two organizations.



Thanks to all the AFA and ACA members for coming out to support this event.

Mama Nu's – Featured CP for Apr - Jun

Congratulations to Mama Nu's for being selected our Community Partner of the Quarter. As an AFA Chapter 398 member since 2015, Mama Nu's has supported a multitude of chapter activities, our Air Force family, teachers, students, cadets and Wounded Warriors. Thanks Bill!! The best Thai cuisine, BBQ & sandwiches in Fort Walton Beach!



217 A Miracle Strip Parkway SW
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
(850) 362-7577
<https://mamanuskitchen.weebly.com/>

Chapter Presents AFA Scholarship to Navarre HS Navy Junior ROTC Cadet

Chapter Executive VP for Community Partners, Mr. Nelson (Eddie) Arroyo presented Cadet Dreher G. Weathers with a \$500 scholarship on behalf of the chapter. Cadet Weathers is one of the best Cadets in the program and has served as Battalion Safety Officer. He consistently gives both instructors timely and sound advice on all matters concerning his fellow Cadet's safety and well being. When on campus or on the road on he has constantly made the well-being of his Cadets his highest priority. Mr. Weathers is always a positive and caring individual and was also heavy involved in all other aspects of our program to include Navarre High School's Navy JROTC nationally recognized drill team. He also sacrificed countless hours to assist in community service and school support events throughout his entire time with Navarre's JROTC Program. His GPA is 3.3 and he is planning on pursuing college upon graduation. Congratulations on a job very well done.



Coming Events

June

- 12 – Executive Board Meeting. 1130, Mama Nu's, Ft Walton Beach
- 28 – JrROTC summer camp graduation, 1400, King Auditorium, Hurlburt Field

July

- 4 – Independence Day (America's Birthday)
- 10 - Executive Board Meeting. 1130, Mama Nu's, Ft Walton Beach
- 13 – State Convention, Ocala, FL
- 29- Cyber Patriot Camp, Pensacola

August

- 14– Executive Board Meeting. 1130, Mama Nu's, Ft Walton Beach

September

- 14-15 – AFA National Convention, National Harbor, MD
- 16-18 - AFA's Air, Space & Cyber Conference, National Harbor, MD

Chapter 398 Community Partners

AFA Chapter 398 is very fortunate to have very supportive Community Partners. Through their generous funding and involvement, we were able to support our Wounded Warrior training camp, Teacher Workshops, Teacher of the Year recognition, Space Camp, student scholarships, Unsung Hero Airmen recognition, Cyber Patriot competitions, regional Science Fair and much more.



Thank you to all current partners who renewed their commitment this year and went above and beyond with grants and other financial support.

Again, thank you to all of our Community Partners who supported us throughout the year. We are looking forward to a very busy and successful new year and with your support we will make it better than ever.

Diamond

FLIR Systems Incorporated

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Emerald Coast Funeral Home
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Little Caesars Pizza (Racetrack Road)
McNeil Hotel Company

Freedom Self Storage
Jimmy's Men's Store and Pawn
Mama Nu's Kitchen (***CP of the Quarter***)

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.

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