



Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398



Jan – Mar 19

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.

Chapter Officers

President – Jim Connors
Vice President - Fred Gross
Secretary – Susan Ault-Davis
Treasurer – Thom Guthrie

AFA Chapter 398
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Mary Esther, FL 32569

www.Hurlburt.AFAFlorida.org

AFA Emerging Leaders Program

The AFA Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) was founded in 2013 to secure AFA’s future by purposely selecting individuals to gain hand-on-experience and understanding of AFA inner workings. Major Gilberto Perez, Commander of the 505th Communications Squadron and member of the AFA Hurlburt Chapter Executive Committee, was selected in the 2018-2019 AFA ELP Class. During this time period, he attended the AFA National Convention and was able to view the governance process of an over 100,000 member and 200 chapter organization that spreads across the country. Additionally, Maj Perez was given an opportunity to join the AFA Aerospace Education Council (AEC), where he was able to observe and contribute to the AFA Aerospace Education Flagship Programs: CyberPatriot, StellarXplorers, Mitchell Institute, Pitsenbarger Awards, AFA Outstanding Cadet of the Year, and various fellowships, grants, and scholarship. Throughout the course of the ELP program, Maj Perez is assigned a mentor to support the development as an AFA leader for years to come.

**THE
FORCE
BEHIND
THE
FORCE**



Maj Perez described the AFA Emerging Leadership Program as a “Phenomenal opportunity! It provides a forum to learn more about the ‘Air Force family business’ and grow professionally. This in turn has allowed me to be a better leader for my Airmen and organizations because of the invaluable insights into the Air Force history, issues, and current events. More importantly, the relationships built with the AFA national, regional, and local levels leaders has helped shape my perspective and given me an exceptional amount of resources to better support the Air Force mission.

Preston Hood Chevrolet – Featured CP for Jan - Mar

Preston Hood Chevrolet is our Community Partner of the Quarter; a loyal AFA Chapter member and supporter since 2012. Great customers have allowed Preston Hood to give back to our community and support many area organizations. AFA Chapter 398 with Preston Hood behind them has supported our Air Force family, teachers, students, cadets, Wounded Warriors and more. Thank you Preston Hood!!



Spotlight on Chapter 398's Emerging Leader

Rachel Cox

Maj. Gilberto S. Perez

Home State: Florida

Chapter: Hurlburt Chapter (Fla.)

Joined AFA: 2013

AFA Offices: Steele Chapter EXCOM; AFA National Membership Committee; Hurlburt Chapter EXCOM; Aerospace Education Council

AFA Award: AFA Leadership Recognition Award (AFA Virginia)

Military Service: 11 years, Active Duty

Occupation: Commander, 505th Communications Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Education: B.S., Management, United States Air Force Academy; M.B.A., Management, University of Tampa; M.S., Military

Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College

How did you first hear of AFA?

Lt. Gen. Michael Basla, previous Air Force chief information dominance and chief information officer, visited my local base. His official military biography was disseminated prior to his arrival, and I noticed he was a lifetime member of the Air Force Association. This was my first exposure to AFA, which led to further research about what AFA was all about.

What prompted you to join?

I was captivated by AFA's proud heritage of supporting the Air Force, from playing an integral role in standing-up an independent Air Force in 1947, founding the Community College of the Air Force, sponsoring the Outstanding Airmen of the Year, and creating the Air Force Memorial, to name a few. AFA truly stands behind us its mantra of being "The Force Behind the Force," in both words and actions.

What do you enjoy most about your AFA membership?

Joining AFA takes you beyond the Profession of Arms into an Air Force family, where airmen across the Total Force and generational lines come together for a common purpose— to educate,

advocate, and support one another. The relationships developed through the years are what I truly cherish the most out of my membership.

What is your favorite AFA program, event, or project?

This is a difficult question. My AFA Top 3 would be the Wounded Airman Program, youth aerospace/STEM education programs (CyberPatriot and StellarXplorers), and professional development events (Air Warfare Symposium and Air, Space & Cyber Conference). These activities take care of airmen and prepare leaders in the defense of our nation.

How has AFA helped you?

AFA provided me an opportunity to learn more about the "Air Force family business" and grow professionally. This has allowed me to be a better leader for my airmen and organizations I am a part of because of the greater understanding of Air Force history, issues, and current events. More importantly, the relationships garnered throughout the years have helped shape my perspective and given me strength on and off-duty. **How do we build awareness about AFA?**

Awareness starts locally from the field, where relations are fostered and AFA support is tailored to the needs of the community.

Social media is a great conduit to share information, but placing an emphasis on personal interactions enables people to share an experience and see AFA benefits first hand.



505 CCW 2018 Awards Ceremony

Maj Gilberto Perez

The Air Force Association Hurlburt Chapter sponsored the 505th Command and Control Wing's 2018 Annual Awards Ceremony on 20 February 2019, with over 120 personnel in attendance. The theme of the event was honoring the past, present, and future by recognizing the Air Force's heritage of Excellence. CMSgt Gregory Smith, Command Chief, Air Force Special Operations Command, was the distinguished guest speaker, who inspired the crowd by elaborating on how the Airman Creed transcends within the Air Force C2 Center of Excellence and is critical to the United States national defense.



The 2018 Award Winners by category are:

Airman: A1C Bryce Larken, 705th Training Squadron

NCO: SSgt Paul Parra, 605th Test and Evaluation Squadron

SNCO: MSgt Arthur Wright III, 84th Radar Evaluation Squadron

CGO: Capt Jeffrey Schmidt, 505th Command and Control Wing, Detachment 1

FGO: Maj Jay Hart, 505th Command and Control Wing, Detachment 1

Civilian Cat I: Ms. Jasmine Lawson, 705th Training Squadron

Civilian Cat II: Mr. Michael Scarcelli, 505th Test Squadron

Civilian Cat III: Mr. Steve Walsh, 505th Combat Training Squadron

Team: The Common Mission Control Center Initial Cadre, 605th Test and Evaluation Squadron, Detachment 3

First Sergeant: MSgt Nicholas Voaklander, 505th Training Group

Key Spouse: Ms. Michelle Hartley, 505th Combat Training Squadron

General (Retired) Chuck Horner, the Air Force's first Combined Forces Air Component Commander (CFACC) and leader of the successful air campaign during Operation Desert Storm, presented the **General Chuck Horner C2 Warrior of the Year** to Capt Jeffrey Schmidt, 505th Command and Control Wing, Detachment 1, for demonstrating significant mission accomplishments, dedication, and innovation in the field of command and Control.

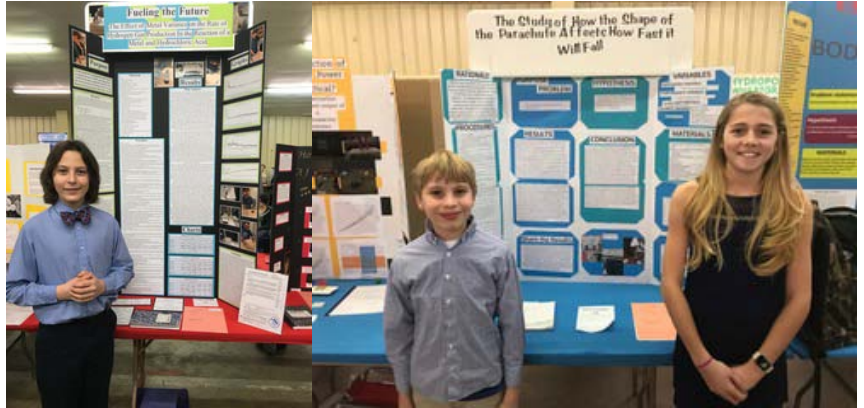
East Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair

Ricardo Soria

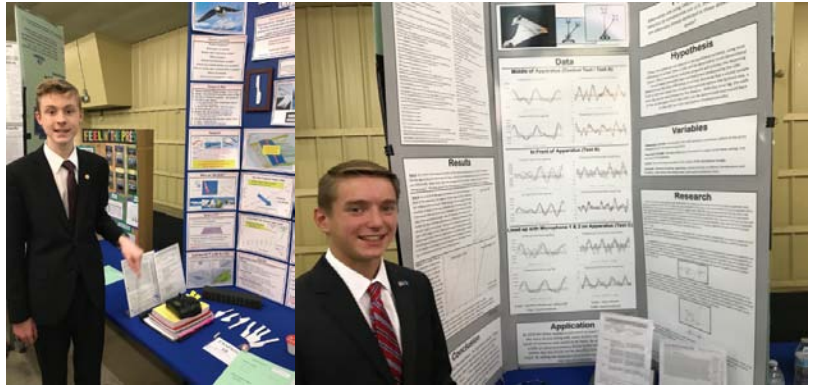
The East Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair was held at Northwest Florida Fairgrounds in Fort Walton Beach. AFA Chapter #398 sponsors the Aeronautical / Aviation Specialty Awards annually for the Fair. This year, chapter members Max Friedauer, Susan Ault-Davis, Eddie Arroyo, and Fred Gross served as special category judges in the high school and middle school categories.

The Awards Ceremony for the fair was on Tuesday, February 5th at the Saint Mary's Catholic School Gymnasium. Chapter #398 President Jim Connors presented the four winners a check to recognize their projects and their selection as the top two high school and middle school grade aerospace / aviation category winners.

The Winners of the Middle School Division for AFA Specialty Aerospace Category Awards were (left to right): 1st Place CHEM 009 "Fueling the Future: The effect of Oxidation Prone Metal Variance on the Rate of Hydrogen Gas Production" Mr. Gabe Lerner-Sperow. 2nd Place PHYS 005 "The Study of How the Shape of a Parachute Affects How Fast it will Fall to the Ground", Mr Andrew Kostur and Ms Sophie Broutin.



The Winners of the High School Division for AFA Specialty Aerospace Category Awards were (from left to right): First place senior division- Michael Panarisi-"Cut the Drag", Second Place Senior Division-Charles Sherwin-"Do You Hear That?"



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.

We are very happy to welcome three new Community Partners; Edward Jones, (Matt Ritter), 124 Miracle Strip Parkway, Suite 301, Mary Esther, FL 32569, First National Bank and Trust (FNBT) Bank, (Jimmy Tucker, Hurlburt Branch) 29 Eglin Pkwy NE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates (Dr. Charles W. Elwell, Jr.), 7 Clifford Drive, Shalimar, FL 32579. Welcome to the team!!

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

Platinum

The Boeing Company – Ft Walton Beach
Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems
MacAulay-Brown

Lockheed Martin – Ft Walton Beach
Lockheed Martin MFC SOS CLSS

Gold

Eglin Federal Credit Union
Lt Col Gerry & Kay Chapman Memorial

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU)

Silver

Beach Community Bank
Clemenza's at Uptown Station
Emerald Coast Endodontics
On-Point Defense Technologies, LLC
Sacred Heart Medical Group - Rheumatology

Cherry Wealth Advisors
Elbit Systems America
Nathan Hall DMD, "Family & Cosmetic Dentistry"
Preston Hood Chevrolet (**CP of the Quarter**)

Bronze

Aqua Pool and Patio Company
Booz | Allen | Hamilton
Edward Jones
SA Technical Services Inc (**CP of the Year 2018**)
The Island Hotel by Ramada

Awards Plus Frames by Sharon
Dennis and Company
FNBT Bank
Serigraphia Inc.

Basic

Emerald Coast Funeral Home
It's All About You Massage & Day Spa
Little Caesars Pizza (Racetrack Road)
McNeil Hotel Company

Freedom Self Storage
Jimmy's Men's Store and Pawn
Mama Nu's Kitchen

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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Call 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or visit WWW.FLORIDAConsumerHELP.COM, Chapter 398 registration number is CH32205

Coming Events

April

- 10 - Executive Board Meeting. 1130, Mama Nu's, Ft Walton Beach
- 15 – State and National Award packages due to AFA Florida Awards Committee
- 15-19- Air Force Warrior games training camp support, Hurlburt Field

May

- 8 – ACA-AFA Joint luncheon, 1100, Soundside Club, Hurlburt Field, Guest Speaker Lt Gen Brad Webb (AFSOC/CC)
- 15 – Executive Board Meeting. 1130, Mama Nu's, Ft Walton Beach
- 27 – Memorial Day

June

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