



Jan-Mar 2024

The official newsletter of Chapter 398 of the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA).

AFA Mission

Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air & Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; honor and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their families; and to honor and respect our enduring Heritage

To accomplish this, we:

Educate the public on the critical need for unrivaled aerospace power and promote aerospace and STEM education for a technically superior and professional workforce to ensure national security.

Advocate and promote aerospace power to favorably shape policy and resourcing decisions to guarantee the strongest aerospace forces in the world.

Support Airmen, Guardians, and the families of the Total Air Force and Space Force, including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilians, families, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

Chapter Officers

President – Dann Mattiza
Vice President – Nelson Arroyo
Secretary – Susan Ault-Davis
Treasurer – Dann Mattiza

State Officers

President – Dwyer Dennis
Vice President – Edward Hood
Secretary – Sharon Branch
Treasurer – Tom Carney

AFA Chapter 398

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Hurlburt Chapter 398 and 1 SOW Unsung Heroes Awards Presentation for 2023

The Hurlburt Chapter 398 of the AFA has been honoring the "Unsung Heroes" for the past 26 years, and will continue to honor the Unsung Heroes of the 1st Special Operations Wing and its Units every year. We had approximately 88 people attending the awards luncheon at the Hurlburt Soundside Club on Friday, 15 March 2024. We recognized and honored 19 of Hurlburt's finest Airmen, six were unable to attend because they were deployed or otherwise committed. With the continued support of our co-sponsor, the Boeing Company, we recognized these "Unsung Heroes" (E1-E4) who contribute to the mission by always going above and beyond what is expected of them and we were honored to have them as our guests for lunch.



The emcee for the Luncheon was SSgt Darren Surin from the 11 SOIS. A1C Shaundra Smith sang a beautiful rendition of our National Anthem and Chaplain Candidate Lt Emily Simerson provided the invocation.



The guest speaker for the lunch was the 11th Special Operations Intelligence Squadron Operations Superintendent SMSgt Ricky A. Ceballos, and he spoke about Hurlburt Field's amazing young Airmen and how special and important they are to the SOF mission. He also reminded them to continue with their education, to never stop learning, and excel in everything they do. He emphasized the importance of Integrity and honor.

Mr Dann Mattiza, assisted by CMSgt Bruschi and the 1 SOW Commander Col Dierig, presented each "Unsung Hero" with a Certificate and Mr Mattiza presented each with a treasured RMO (round metal object). SSgt Surin read a few of each Airman's accomplishments as they came forward. The luncheon was sponsored by a generous grant from the Boeing Corporation represented by Mr John Hillsman. The Boeing Company is one of 26 Community Partners that support the many programs the chapter is involved in. The 1st Special Operations Wing Commander, Col Patrick Dierig, then addressed the group and thanked the AFA and all the AFA community partners and especially the Boeing Corporation for their sponsorship. He also thanked the 1 SOW team that put this all together and then presented MSgt Thomas with the Commander's coin for leading the team and making this a successful event.



AFA Chapter 398 President, Mr Mattiza thanked everyone and presented SMSgt Ceballos with a Chapter Coin and thanked him again for being our guest speaker.



AFA also gives a special thanks to MSgt Latonya Thomas and SSgt Jessika Irwin and their entire team who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to put this all together, sending out e-mail requests for nominations, organizing and printing the award certificates, and coordinating the event with the 1 SOW Command Section, Wing Protocol, and the Hurlburt Soundside Club for the meals and room setup. Mr Mattiza presented each with an AFA coin.

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Our 19 honorees and Unsung Hero Award Recipients were: SrA Elaine Arceneaux, 1 SOLRS; A1C Aaliyah Rawlings, 1 SOFSS; A1C Ivan Palacios, 1 SOCONS; SrA Anthony Mott, 1 SOCPTS; SrA Tamia Vassar, 1 SOSFS; SrA Austin Chastine, 1 SOCS; SrA Joseph Powell, 1 SOMXG; SrA Jack Turner, 1 SOMXS; A1C Jovante McQueen, 1 SOAMXS; SrA Joshua Kleiderlein, 8 SOAMXS; SrA Marshal Krajieski, 8 SOAMXS; SrA Matthew Cannon, 1 SOAMXS; SrA Zachary Fulton, 901 SOAMXS; A1C Alexis Tirado, 8 SOS; SrA Alexander Bramson, 11 SOIS; A1C Joe Turo, 1 SOSS; A1 Chandler Amon, 15 SOS; SrA Diamond Kirk, 1 SOW WSA; and A1C Molly Southern, 1 SOHCOS.

SR-17 Presentation at the University of South Alabama

Col Joe Kinego, USAF (Ret), Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 officer, spoke to an aircraft design class at the University of South Alabama on March 13, 2024, during their annual aerospace week. His one-hour presentation focused on the design and the development of the SR-71 Blackbird and outlined some of the unique challenges Kelly Johnson and the Lockheed Skunk Works faced developing the high-speed, high-altitude aircraft. The discussion focused particularly on the heat challenges and the engine-inlet design that allowed the Blackbird to fly continuously above 80,000 feet and over Mach 3. Student feedback indicated they really enjoyed the presentation and that they got some good ideas about aircraft design for specific mission aircraft.



Col Joe Kinego (right)



"Rides of March" Fundraiser

Your AFA Chapter 398 supported the "Rides of March" car and motorcycle fundraiser for AFA and Special Olympics. It was held behind the Santa Rosa Mall on 16 March. Dann and Jean Mattiza, Max Friedauer, Eddie Arroyo, and Bud Sauvageau volunteered to sell drinks from the Coca Cola Van provided. All proceeds from selling the drinks went to our chapter and we get a 50% take from the entire venue as well.



East Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair

The Awards Ceremony for the 47th Annual East Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair was held at Beachside Community Church on Feb 20, 2024 at 6 PM.

Students, parents and guests were greeted by Ms. Jennifer Cook, RSEF Director. Mr. Marcus Chambers, Okaloosa County Superintendent of Schools provided the Official Welcome to the event designed to honor students from both Okaloosa and Walton Counties who participated in the regional competition.

There were 17 Community Partner and Award Sponsors represented and Special Awards were also presented by 13 National Sponsors, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Ricoh, USA; US Agency for International Development; USAF, NASA, and the Office of Naval Research. There were 73 students in the Junior Division competing in 13 different Categories and 31 Senior Division students competing in 13 categories. The Hurlburt Chapter selected two winners in each Division whose projects best matched our STEM criteria. These individuals were:



- Caden Crawley, 1st Place Junior Division for his project entitled, “The Perfect Propeller: The Effect of Drone Propeller Shapes on Weight the Drone can Carry”.
- Desmond Schmid, 2nd Place Junior Division for his project entitled, “Bottle Rockets”.
- Owen Parry, 1st Place Senior Division for his project named “Proximal Performance PES”. And
- Cameron Estrada for his project, “How do Different Aspects of Drone Propeller Affect their Efficiency.”

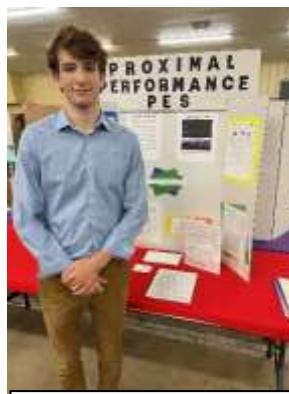
I am happy to say that our selectees were multiple winners through the evening and three of our winners were judged as First Place in their individual categories, thereby earning a slot in the State Science Fair and multiple monetary awards from the various sponsors and Community Partners.



Caden Crawley



Desmond Schmid



Owen Parry



Cameron Estrada

Lt. Gen. Burt Field, USAF (Ret) Appointed next AFA President and CEO

Retired Lt. Gen. Burt Field has been appointed President & Chief Executive Officer of the Air & Space Forces Association, the nation’s foremost advocate for air and space power as the foundation of U.S. national defense.

“General Field is an outstanding and proven leader, whose extensive military, business, and non-profit volunteer experience make him the right leader to take AFA into its next chapter,” said AFA Chairman of the Board Bernie Skoch. “Throughout our extensive interviewing and vetting process, he earned praise for his ability to see the big picture, to care about people, to build teams, and to achieve great things.”



2024 AFA Florida JR. ROTC Drill Meet

Chapter President Dann Mattiza attended the AFA Florida State Drill Meet on Saturday, 2 March, at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) in Daytona Beach, FL. AFROTC Detachment 157 from ERAU hosted the event and provided escorts, judges, and support staff to make sure the event went well. Ms. Sharon Branch of the Martin Harris Chapter was the Master of Ceremonies for the event and FL AFA's POC for Drill Meets for many years. She was assisted by SMSgt Jeff Lewis and CMSgt Larry Schneck who provided the technical expertise for inviting and organizing the teams. Det 157 from ERAU hosted and Cadet Marsicano headed up that effort. They did a fantastic job and were able to adapt quickly to changing weather conditions and requirements as the rain began to fall in the early afternoon. The group responded quickly and the final two events, Armed Drill Exhibition and Individual Drill Routine (IDR), were moved inside.

There were eight schools and nine teams in attendance. They were DeLand, Bartam Trail, Kathleen Senior, Mainland, Lake Worth, Celebration, Osceola, and Gulf Breeze High Schools. Gulf Breeze entered two teams for the meet. These schools competed in several events, including Inspection, Regulation Drill, Exhibition Drill, Color Guard, Armed Exhibition and Individual Regulation Drill.

Hurlburt Chapter 398 sponsored five of the trophies presented to the winners. Other FL AFA members present and presenting awards included Mr. Larry Belge from Falcon Chapter, Ms. Sharon Branch from Martin Harris Chapter, Mr. Dwyer Dennis, FL AFA State President and member of the Space Coast Chapter, and Mr. Joe Muhlberger representing the Waterman-Twining Chapter. Thirty-one trophies were awarded including the Best of Meet and Overall Excellence Trophy. This trophy was presented to Celebration High School and included the FL AFA Overall Excellence Traveling Trophy which is returned and re-awarded each year. Congratulations to all the participating cadets, and instructors. A special thanks to Ms. Branch and her assistants and to ERAU and AFROTC Det 157 for their work coordinating, sponsoring, judging, and hosting the event. (By the way, the cadets from Det 157 also served as judges for our event last year when it was held at Osceola HS.) WELL DONE, "Soaring Eagles".



COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE QUARTER 1st Quarter 2024

The BOEING Company



Boeing is a dedicated AFA Chapter 398 Community Partner since 2006. Boeing is the world's largest aerospace company and leading manufacturer of commercial jetliners, defense, space and security systems, and service provider of aftermarket support. As America's biggest manufacturing exporter, the company supports airlines and U.S. and allied government customers in more than 150 countries. Boeing products and tailored services include commercial and military aircraft, satellites, weapons, electronic and defense systems, launch systems, advanced information and communication systems, and performance-based logistics and training. Boeing provides continued support to our Airmen and Guardians, veterans, cadets, students, teachers and our Air & Space Forces family.

2024 COMING EVENTS

April

- 1 – State Award packages due to chapter president
- 10 – Chapter Executive Board Meeting
- 15 – State Award packages due to state president
- 24 – Baldwin County High School AF Jr ROTC Awards Ceremony, Bay Minette, AL

May

- 1 – Navarre High School Navy Jr ROTC Awards Ceremony
- 3 – Gulf Breeze High School AF Jr ROTC Awards Ceremony
- 8 – Pensacola High School AF JROTC Awards Ceremony
- 8 – Chapter Executive Board Meeting

June

- 12 – Chapter Executive Board Meeting
- 14 – US Army Birthday (1775)

July

- (TBD) – State Convention, Space Coast Hosting

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 Heroes 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 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.

<u>Diamond</u>	
Emerald Coast Connected	OMNI Broadcasting
<u>Platinum</u>	
The Boeing Company – Ft Walton Beach Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems	Lockheed Martin – Ft Walton Beach Lockheed Martin SOF Global Logistics Support (GLSS)
<u>Gold</u>	
Eglin Federal Credit Union SA Technical Services Inc Reisburg Institute	Lt Col Gerry & Kay Chapman Memorial The Kinego Family Trust
<u>Silver</u>	
Cherry Wealth Advisors Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates	Emerald Coast Endodontics Sacred Heart Medical Group – Rheumatology
<u>Bronze</u>	
Awards Plus Frames by Sharon CP of the Quarter Clemenza's at Uptown Station Emerald Coast Funeral Home First National Bank and Trust (FNBT)	Aqua Pool and Patio Company Edward Jones Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (Worldwide) Preston Hood Chevrolet
<u>Basic</u>	
Dr. Lynn W. Reynolds	Jimmy's Men's Store and Pawn

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 one of our chapter officers.

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