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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
Box 1220

Mary Esther, FL 32569

www.Hurlburt.AFAFlorida.org

Ready to Fly

It should be no surprise the next innovation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education innovations will involve bringing unmanned aerial systems (UAS) into the school curriculum. The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) at Eglin AFB, lab has engineers working on UAS to assist warfighters on the battlefield. Meanwhile, regional utilities and companies are looking to use UAS to assist in routine checking the integrity or condition of power lines, gas lines, and information cable routes.



Chapter 398 has received many accolades over the years for our STEM teacher workshops. The blossoming UAS technology is where AFA Chapter 398 will take our next series of annual science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, (STEM) teacher workshops. The chapter has always been active in promoting and advocating STEM and STEM activities. Our teacher workshops have typically had a strong aviation, aeronautical, and robotics flavor. With this in mind, we can see the combination of our robotics efforts and UAS as airborne robotics systems or ARS. This is a marriage made for STEM advocates. It doesn't get much better than this.

We have started our pilot program rather modestly. The chapter allocated about \$1.2K to develop our plan. The plan is to purchase of UAS/ARS to allow us to develop and deliver a series of STEM teacher workshops over the next few years to not only add to the robust STEM workshops we already deliver, but to help educators prepare for the students who will be interested in learning about UAS/ARS. With an eye to the future, we plan to help teachers learn about UAS/ARS at our workshops, teach them to fly the systems. With additional funding, we could move to the next level. The next level is to maintain a small fleet of UAS/ARS systems to loan to teachers who have completed our workshop training sessions.

We won't be going into this effort alone. Collaboration is at the very core of this plan. Locally, the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL) at Eglin AFB, DEFENSEWERX, Inc. (formerly the Doolittle Institute), and the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU- Worldwide) have partnered together with us to convert our plan to reality. Additionally, several teachers across the NWF panhandle have expressed an interest in becoming a "pilot" classroom to verify our curriculum and to assist us in developing some best practices for classrooms and students. The benefit for the teachers (and not coincidentally their students) is that **Snap!** programming language is necessary to program the UAS/ARS for autonomous flight /missions. **Snap!** is a free, blocks-and-browser-based educational graphical programming language that allows students to create interactive animations, games, stories, and more, while learning about mathematical and computational ideas. So not only are we doing STEM, (aerial)



DEFENSEWERX
SPEED-INNOVATION-SOLUTIONS



EMBRY-RIDDLE
AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

robotics, and aviation, we are also including coding in the classroom for teachers and students.

Our plan is to purchase several mid to low cost UAS/ARS. These initial systems would allow us to develop the workshops and courseware for the workshops. The workshops would be designed to teach educators the history of UAS, current uses of the UAS systems in military and corporate applications, and then a hands-on flying training portion. The UAS/ARS would be programmed by educators to engage the obstacles / missions through a designed course. Course activities would be searching for locations, damaged models of vehicles, personnel, or utility damage. Then teachers will be challenged to develop new applications for the UAS / ARS. This will include taking their skills to their classrooms and students. Student input will be encouraged in the after-workshop follow-on activities required for the teacher to complete.

After our initial workshop testbed and workshop, we plan to look into additional purchases of UAS/ARS and parts to keep our UAS/ARS flight ready.

To date, our systems are being used to form a test bed to develop the curriculum for our teacher workshop. More systems will be required prior to hosting our workshop in the Spring of 2018. We have partnered with former world champion remote control (RC) flyer Steve Rojecki, and aeronautical engineer Ken Blackburn, to assist us in the flight training portions of our effort.

We will also seek additional funding from community partners and local corporate sponsors to refine the project, acquire the systems, and prepare the teachers that will, at least in our region, cultivate the next generation of scientists, engineers, and technically trained workforce for America.

Future articles will detail our efforts at our workshop and in teacher's classrooms. Contact our UAS/ARS POC, Rick Soria, at soriarv@yahoo.com if you are interested in partnering with us. Almost ready for take-off...let the fun begin.

New Chapter Officers for 2017-2018

Hurlburt Chapter 398 of the Air Force Association (AFA) is proud to announce their officers for 2017-2018

President: Jim Connors

Executive Vice-President: Fred Gross

Treasurer: Danny Webb

Secretary: Susan Ault-Davis

Vice-President for Aerospace Education: Rick Soria

Vice-President for Community Partners: Thom Guthrie

Vice-President for Wounded Airman Program: Eddie Arroyo

Vice President for Airman Luncheons: Max Friedauer

Vice President for Special and Extraordinary events: Dann Mattiza

Civil Air patrol Liaison: Gary Cornell

Vice President for Communications (and newly elected Vice President for the Florida State AFA): Mark Chapman

Congratulations to all next year's officers. The Hurlburt chapter is planning a busy year next year, come out and join us. Our Executive council meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 1130 and the locations are listed on our website. The most up-to-date contact info for our officers is listed on the website also.

We are your AFA! <http://hurlburt.afaflorida.org/>

Chapter and Individual Awards

Hurlburt Chapter 398 members were selected to receive numerous prestigious national awards for their accomplishments in 2017.

Eddie Arroyo was awarded the AFA Medal of Merit for his outstanding work on the Wounded Airman Program. The service he provided to the members at their sports camp at Hurlburt and downtown at the Caregivers Fair helped make their events go smoothly. Additionally, he helped present our chapter awards at the State Drill meet in Gainesville, FL. Finally he helped secure financing for our aerospace education efforts to enrich our STEM programs.

Thom Guthrie was also awarded the AFA Medal of Merit for his continuous dedication to maintaining and improving our outstanding Community Partner (CP) program. The financial support we get from the CP program enables us to accomplish everything we set out to do as a chapter. As a few examples we send a teacher to Space Camp in Huntsville, AL. We present cash awards to three teachers every year (elementary, middle and high school) and we host teacher workshops and participate as partners in others. Our outstanding CP program enables us to do all this and Thom makes sure it is running smoothly. He stays in contact with our 40 CPs, keeping them up-to-date on what the chapter is doing and how they can participate.

There were only five Medals of Merit awarded to the 10 chapters in Florida and Hurlburt members received two of them.

Susan Ault-Davis was awarded the prestigious National Exceptional Service Award (ESA) for her continuous service to the AFA. She served as Florida State secretary for two years, insuring all correspondence was correct and the minutes of the state conventions and Winter meetings were accurately published. At the same time, she served as the Hurlburt Chapter secretary, volunteered at the Wounded Airman sports camp and Caregiver Fair and provided timely and pertinent advice to the Hurlburt chapter president. There were only three ESAs awarded to the 10 Chapters in Florida and Hurlburt received one of them.

Additionally **Mark Chapman** received the AFA National Chairman's award. His work in communications served the Hurlburt chapter, the Florida AFA and National AFA programs. He continues to maintain the Hurlburt chapter website. He offers hosting (at no charge to other chapters in the state) and insures the state maintains a web-capability that can handle its 9000 members. Finally, when AFA headquarters decided to begin the Stellar Explorer program, they went to Mark and even with everything else he was doing, he built them a website and handled all their requirements. Mark received the only Presidential citation awarded in Florida.

Finally the Hurlburt Chapter received the only National Award earned by any chapter in the state of Florida, the Exceptional Service Award for Community Relations.

Coming Events

28 Sep - Annual Teacher Community Partner and Chapter Award Winners Recognition Dinner Ft Walton Beach Yacht Club 6-10 pm

24 Oct – Hurlburt Executive Council Meeting, 1130, Bella Donna's

11 Nov – Veterans Day

24 Nov – Thanksgiving Day

28 Nov - Executive Council Meeting, 1130, Bella Donna's

25 Dec – Christmas

31 Dec - Happy New Years Eve

Lockheed Martin Rotary and Missions Systems Community Partner of the Year (2017)

Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems (LM RMS) provides systems engineering, software development, training solutions and complex program management for global security, civil and commercial markets. Simply stated, the mission is to be the world's leading global security and aerospace company. To achieve this mission, RMS draws on its core capabilities in advanced platforms and weapons, C4ISR, global sustainment, training and sensors. RMS has over 34,000 employees in 16 different countries. Key customers include all branches of DoD and numerous civil and international partners. RMS is comprised of five primary Business Areas, they are:



C4ISR and Undersea Systems

Develops next-generation undersea warfare systems, unmanned underwater vehicles, acoustic sensors, ruggedized computing, and command, control, communication and network systems.



Cyber, Ships & Advanced Technologies

Manages a diverse portfolio, including the Littoral Combat Ship and Future Frigate; Coast Guard systems; unmanned aerial vehicles; aerostat capabilities; laser weapon systems; vertical launch systems; and full spectrum cyber solutions.



Integrated Warfare Systems & Sensors

Provides sea-based missile defense, radar, and electronic warfare systems for the U.S. Military and maintains active contracts with than 40 countries.



Sikorsky

Pioneers flight solutions that bring people home everywhere... every time. Sikorsky helicopters are used by all five branches of the United States Armed Forces, along with military services and commercial operations in 40 nations.



Training and Logistics Solutions

Provides innovative mission readiness and sustainment technologies for militaries and civil airlines in more than 50 countries.

Ramada Plaza Beach Resort - Featured CP of the Quarter (Jul – Sep 17)

The Ramada Plaza Beach Resort is pleased and honored to have been selected as the Hurlburt AFA Chapter #398 Community Partner of the Quarter (3rd 2017). They strongly support the chapter's goals and objective – serving our Airmen.



The family friendly Ramada Plaza Beach Resort is located on the sugar white sand beaches and emerald waters of the Gulf of Mexico. This award winning resort features 335 guest rooms and suites. The resort also offers 15,000 square feet of meeting and banquet space to accommodate up to 300 people. More than a dozen Air Force organizations have chosen the Ramada for their holiday get-togethers. (There is still room if you are looking for this December!)

The Ramada's Grotto Pool with swim up bar is the largest in Northwest Florida and features cascading waterfalls. You will also find a Kiddy Pool, a Splash Garden playground, an outdoor heated pool, whirlpool, sun decks and an extensive exercise room.

Many of the Ramada's staff members either are veterans themselves or have family connections to active duty Airmen. They support and have hosted events with the Wounded Warrior Foundation, the Strong Bonds program and proudly served as host hotel for the SE Region Air Force Adaptive Sports Camp. The Ramada team wishes to sincerely thank all of our past and present military veterans for your service and sacrifice to our country.

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 Rotary and Mission Systems
Lockheed Martin – Ft Walton Beach

Lockheed Martin MFC SOS CLSS
MacAulay-Brown

Gold

Eglin Federal Credit Union
Helen Back Cafe

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

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
WinTec Aeromaker Inc

Bronze

Awards Plus Frames by Sharon
Booz | Allen | Hamilton
Ramada Plaza Beach Resort
Serigraphia Inc.

Aqua Pool and Patio Company
Dennis and Company
SA Technical Services Inc

Basic

Bella Donna's Catering & Café
Freedom Self Storage
Jimmy's Men's Store and Pawn
McNeil Hotel Company

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