



The Quarterly Newsletter of Chapter 398 of the AFA

Jul-Sep 2025

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 – Michael Liquori
Secretary – Sharon Branch
Treasurer – Tom Carney

AFA Chapter 398

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Mary Esther, FL 32569

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ACA/AFA Joint Professional Luncheon

The Air Commando Association and the Air and Space Forces Association, Hurlburt Chapter 398, held their annual Joint Professional Luncheon on Tuesday, September 9th, at the Knife's Edge Café in the Air Force Enlisted Village Commons Building. Over 200 ACA and AFA members along with a multitude of Community Partners and Corporate Sponsors were in attendance.



Lt Gen Mike Conley, Commander, Air Force Special Operations Command, addressed the distinguished group, providing a candid in depth presentation on current events and relevant AFSOC updates, followed by an open question and answer session.

Lt Gen Brad Heithold, Lt Gen, USAF (Ret), former AFSOC Commander, also provided an update on ongoing efforts to build an AFSOC Heritage Museum.

The supportive crowd thoroughly enjoyed both presentations, a delicious lunch and time in the company of Air Commandos past and present.

National Officers Elected at the AFA National Convention

Congratulations to the newest members of the Air & Space Forces Association Board. Kathleen Ferguson was elected AFA Chair of the Board. Our newest National directors at large are Immediate past AFA Florida State/Region President Dwyer Dennis and Wesley Hallman and Janelle Stafford was elected and the National Director for the Central Area. All assumed their duties on 1 October.

AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION
HURLBURT CHAPTER - 398
FT WALTON BEACH, FL - HURLBURT FIELD

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Chapter Member Col Joe Kinego to be Inducted Into the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame

Colonel Joe Kinego, USAF (Ret), Hurlbert AFA Chapter 398 VP for the Pensacola Area, traveled to Newark, NJ, 5-7 September to meet the staff of the New Jersey Aviation Museum and Hall of Fame which is located by Teterboro Airport, NJ. Col Kinego, an SR-71 Blackbird pilot and squadron commander, is a native of New Jersey and will be inducted into the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame in October, 2025. He flew over 100 Cold War reconnaissance missions in the Blackbird against the Soviet Union, China, North Korea, North Vietnam, and Cuba. He also flew 148 combat missions in the RF-4C in Vietnam and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions. Col Kinego toured the museum and the Hall of Fame and talked to the docents about his experiences being a docent at the National Air & Space Museum and the National Naval Aviation Museum. It was an overall very successful visit and museum personnel were very appreciative that he took the time to come to New Jersey to meet with them.



TSgt Gregory Johnson – Pitsenbarger Award Winner

Hurlbert Field NCO and CCAF graduate received the Pitsenbarger Scholarship at Hurlbert Field's recent CCAF graduation ceremony.

The Air & Space Forces Association salutes the continued education and personal development of our Airmen and Guardians. As they improve themselves, they improve our Air Force and Space Force. AFA is proud to offer \$750 cash awards to deserving Airmen and Guardians to pursue a bachelor's degree.

AFA Pitsenbarger Awards provide a one-time grant of \$750 and a one-year complimentary AFA eMembership to selected top USAF and USSF enlisted personnel graduating from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) who plan to pursue a baccalaureate degree (only). The grants coincide with the CCAF graduation ceremonies held each Spring and Fall.



Chapter Member briefs High School JROTC

Colonel Joe Kinego, USAF (Ret), Hurlbert AFA Chapter 398 VP for the Pensacola Area, presented a talk to the Gulf Breeze High School AF JROTC FL-932 cadets on Friday, 3 October. The subject of his talk was his Air Force career and how he got into the SR-71 Blackbird program as a pilot. He stressed the importance of focusing on doing a good job in your current position as well as the importance of being recognized as a team player rather than always looking towards your next desired job or assignment. He stressed that good things happen if you work hard and do a great job. Col Kinego also talked about the SR-71 aircraft that he flew. He brought a full pressure suit with him to show the cadets and explain to them exactly how it worked and what it was like to fly an airplane while wearing the suit. Joe spoke to three class periods and had lunch with several cadets. It was an overall very successful visit and the cadets and the unit senior staff were very appreciative that he took the time to come and interact with them.



Chapter Members Receive State Awards

Member of the Year/ Chapter and Region – Mark Chapman

Presidential Citation -- Joe Kinego

Exceptional Service Citation – Bud Sauvageau

Exceptional Service Citation – Meredith Coleman

Exceptional Service Award -- Aerospace Education

Exceptional Service Award – Community Relations

Exceptional Service Award – Communications

Best Single Program – Unsung Heroes

National Awards

The National Medal of Merit was awarded to chapter member to Susan Ault-Davis'

Chapter 398 was also recognized with the Aerospace Education Achievement Award, the Unit Exceptional Service Award for Community Relations, and a Special Recognition Membership Award

Note: Florida Member and Past Vice Chairman of the Board for Filed Operations, Gavin "Mac" MacAloon was recognized as the Nation; Member of the Year at this year's national convention.

2025 COMING EVENTS

October

13 – Chapter Executive Board, Clubhouse Grill, Fort Walton Beach

15 – Chapter Annual Awards Dinner, Clubhouse Grill, Ft Walton Beach

November

11 – Veteran’s Day

11 – Mary Esther Veterans Day Parade

12- Chapter Executive Board, Clubhouse Grill, Fort Walton Beach

20-21 - AFA National Convention, National Harbor, MD

22-24 – Air, Space, & Cyber Conference, National Harbor, MD

December

10 - Chapter Executive Board, Clubhouse Grill, Fort Walton Beach

13 – Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying, Beal Memorial Cemetery

20 – 6th Birthday of the United States Space Force



NWFMOA Retiree Appreciation Day

Fellow NWFMOA Members,

Please Join US!

The activities include the following:

- Flu shots, 16-17 October 2025, 0900-1500 at the Hurlburt BX Mall.
- Shingles shots, 16-17 October 2025, at the Hurlburt Field Medical Clinic.
- Hurlburt Lanes bowling special Free bowling 16-17 Oct 0900-1600. Free bowling (3 games per ID card Hurlburt holder) Lanes and \$1.00 bowling shoe special, rental.
- Golf Course special, 16-17 October 2025. \$25.00 for one round of golf.
- Blood Mobile, 17 October 2025, 1000-1500 at the Hurlburt BX Mall.
- Library book sale 16-17 October 2025 at the Hurlburt Library.

Representatives will be available from Humana, BX/Star Card, Bob Hope Village, BX Mall Veterans Affairs, and Veterans Health Care.





Community Partner of the Quarter

3rd Quarter 2025



Congratulations to Eglin Federal Credit Union for being selected as our Community Partner of the third Quarter 2025. Eglin Federal Credit Union is a long-standing AFA Chapter 398, Hurlburt Field Community Partner and active supporter of AFA programs since 1999.

Eglin Federal Credit Union provides a full range of financial services to our Air Force family while improving the quality of life in our community.

Thank you!

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 – Ft Walton Beach
Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems (RMS)	Lockheed Martin SOF Global Logistics Support (GLSS)
<u>Gold</u>	
Eglin Federal Credit Union	Lt Col Gerry & Kay Chapman Memorial
The Kinego Family Trust	Reisburg Institute
SA Technical Services Inc	
<u>Silver</u>	
Emerald Coast Endodontics	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates
<u>Bronze</u>	
Awards Plus Frames by Sharon	Aqua Pool and Patio Company
Emerald Coast Funeral Home	First National Bank and Trust (FNBT)
Preston Hood Chevrolet	
<u>Basic</u>	
Clubhouse Grill	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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Call 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or visit WWW.FLORIDACONSUMERHELP.COM, Chapter 398 registration number is CH32205