



# Mile High Flyer

Air Force Association

Denver, Colorado

An independent air and space organization



Mile High Chapter # 127

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\*\*\*\*\* **UPCOMING EVENTS** \*\*\*\*\*

- Oct. 31 – Clock falls back to daylight savings time
- Nov. 2 – Election Day
- Nov. 4 – Veterans Salute, Buckley AFB fitness center
- Nov. 10 – Joint luncheon w/NDIA, Franciscan Event Center
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day
- Nov. 25 – Thanksgiving
- Dec. 7 – Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec. 21 – First day of winter

**President's corner**

by Lt. Col. Tom Deall

This is my first article as president of the Mile High Chapter. To say I'm thrilled to serve in this position is a severe understatement. I have had the honor of serving with this chapter since 1999.

I first joined with the hope of promoting the Air Force from a grass roots level. Since then I've grown in my own understanding of how the Air Force Association helps promote the Air Force and the entire nation.

As a chapter member and recent Air War College graduate, I've had the honor of hearing senior officers and political leaders speak about topics from proposed weapons systems to their personal visits to Iraq. And though the subject changed from speaker to speaker, the one thing that remained consistent was their impression of our Air Force.

They all agree that through air and space power we now stand as the world leader militarily, economically and politically – all of which encompass U.S. instruments of power.

But as a member of a small chapter you may find yourself questioning whether you can make a difference at the state and national levels. The answer is emphatically "yes" because you are part of a vibrant chapter made up of some very extraordinary people. First among them is Barbara Flores.

Barbara served as our chapter president for the past two years. A lady of courage and strength, she endured both personal and

professional hardships while continuing a stellar performance. Though she leaves her position as our chapter president we are fortunate to have her continue as the state AFA treasurer.

Another example is Jack Powell. A retired AF Accounting Service director, he is our legislative vice president. As such he represents our chapter at all levels. He also wears the legislative hat while serving on the United Veterans Council and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Defense Council.

BGen. Mark Worrick, USAF (retired), is a stalwart member of our chapter and strength figure at all levels of the association. It is not unusual for state and national leaders to seek him out for his guidance, advice and wealth of information.

We also have Ron Geurts who is our newly elected chapter vice president and a civil engineer who serves with distinction in the Colorado Air National Guard. Atop all he contributes to his state and nation, he is also a successful business owner who generously gives of his time, talent and treasures to benefit our organization and associated programs.

I could go on about our individual members and the chapter, but there are simply too many to mention. Nonetheless, they represent the strength of our chapter and the long reach of its influence and I'm extremely proud to serve as your president.

Please e-mail me at [thomas.deall@arpc.denver.af.mil](mailto:thomas.deall@arpc.denver.af.mil) for further information or if you have questions or comments.

**Chapter elects new officers**

At the September general membership meeting held Tuesday, Sep. 14, members of the Mile High Chapter elected officers for the fiscal year which runs from October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005.

The people who were elected to lead the chapter into the future are:

- President .....Tom Deall (303) 676-6515
- Vice president .....Ron Geurts (303) 470-7333
- Treasurer..... Ken Bowens (303) 766-1188
- Secretary ..... Tiffany Turcotte (303) 676-5908

### **Record destruction, just a rumor**

National Archives and Records Administration officials said they are not destroying any military records.

NARA officials said they are trying to counter an Internet rumor advising veterans to apply for their official military personnel files to save them from destruction.

Though it's troubling a great many people, there is no truth to this "urban legend" being perpetuated on the Web.

"We heard it about a month ago," said Susan Cooper, the archive's public affairs officer.

The records are stored at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis where officials said there has been a rise in the number of veterans requesting their records. This takes time away from other legitimate requests, such as veterans requesting separation documents or medical records.

"We have a limited number of people to do the work and anything that ramps the requests up this quickly is a big production issue with us," said John Constance, NARA's director of congressional and public affairs.

Archivists are digitizing some records, Ms. Cooper said.

"We are going to digitize some of them for reference and preservation," she said. "When records are handled frequently, it causes some wear and tear. The idea is to preserve (the records) not destroy them."

Officials said the paper records remain intact. NARA preserves and protects the files because they are permanently valuable records that document the essential evidence of military service for veterans.

The bottom line is if people receive this sort of e-mail, they should ignore it, officials said.

### **AFA leaders identify top issues**

Every AFA chapter has many functions. One of the most important is to know, understand and act upon National AFA's top issues. A few of these issues as of Oct. 4 are as follows:

**Resources for Defense** -- President Bush proposed a Fiscal 2005 defense budget of roughly \$400 billion, not counting some \$25 billion in emergency funds appropriated to cover the estimated cost of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan during the first six months of the new fiscal year.

New requirements brought on by the ongoing war on terrorism are clashing with requirements from previous years—most notably, modernization, recapitalization, and transformation. Those needs are being squeezed by spending for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, projected to reach \$50 billion in FY05.

As a point of reference, in 1968, during the Vietnam War, our nation devoted 9.4 percent of the Gross Domestic Product

(GDP) to defense. In 1986, during the Cold War, our nation devoted 6.2 percent of GDP to defense. Today, our nation is fighting terrorism committing only 3.4 percent of GDP.

**Terrorism and Homeland Defense** -- The survival of the United States and the civilized world hinges on our winning the war on terrorism.

The year 2003 was the worst for global terrorism in two decades, according to the most recent Patterns of Global Terrorism report, issued annually by the State Department. The report emphasized that terrorists will resort to any conceivable act of horror, as has been seen in the executions of hostages in Iraq.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has made significant progress in coordinating government efforts to prevent more attacks.

AFA believes that homeland defense must remain a priority. Congress and the Administration should work together to provide funding for aircraft flying hours, maintenance, communication systems, and upgrades, as well as the personnel required to support Operation Noble Eagle.

**Concern for People** -- A substantial portion of the Air Force budget--34 percent--is devoted to people. Investing in people is as important as the modernization and recapitalization of air and space systems. AFA applauds service initiatives concerning force development which helps attract quality people and develop their skills and experience to successfully create and exploit new aerospace capabilities.

The Air Force must continue to take the lead in educating, training, and providing for professional development of enlisted members, officers, and civilians across the Total Force. AFA advocates equal opportunity calling for continued vigilance and fair treatment regardless of age, ethnicity, race, gender, or creed. Harassment must not be tolerated.

### **Chapter acknowledges community partners**

Community partners are civic organizations that extend their support to the Air Force and nation by accepting membership as an Air Force Association community partner.

They add great value and strength to the overall national defense while ensuring local chapters have the foundational support of the business community.

Mile High Chapter officers and members wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to the following community partners:

*eBlueprint*

*Omni Interlocken*

*North Aurora Business Association*

*Automotive Avenues*

Chapter leaders ask all members to show support and appreciation by an expression of thanks and, more importantly, through their patronage.

## **Air Force pairs with NDIA for November meeting**

In conjunction with the National Defense Industrial Association Mile High Chapter, the November AFA Mile High Chapter luncheon/meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 10, 11:30 a.m., at the Franciscan Event Center in Centennial. General Lance Lord is the scheduled guest speaker.

Since AFA members get NDIA member rates, cost for the luncheon is \$25 per person.

The NDIA provides opportunities for members to grow professionally and personally within the national defense and security industry.



NDIA shares AFA's interest in strengthening our nation through the defense industry. As we focus on the growth and strength of the Air Force, we're confident our partnership will serve as mutually beneficial.

To register or for more information go to <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=fgvgd> or Call Cindy Adams at 303-919-4014.

## **AFA promotes minimum GDP percentage for defense**

According to AFA officials, House Continuing Resolution 92 expresses the need to increase defense spending to at least 4 percent of our national Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"According to the Department of Defense, in 1944 America dedicated 38% of the GDP to conquer global threats in World War II. In 1953, Korean War era spending peaked at 14%. The Vietnam Conflict saw a high of 9.4% of the GDP spent on defense, and the Reagan Administration increased spending to a high of 6.2% after a post-Vietnam decline," said Rep. Sam Johnson (R-3rd TX), a member of the Air Force Caucus continued Johnson. "Today we barely devote 3% of the GDP to national defense. That's not enough."

The 2003 defense budget allocation, representing 3.4 percent of GDP, is not adequate to support national security requirements.

## **Correct e-mail addresses a must**

The chapter leadership continues to provide the most accurate and current information to all members via a few different mediums.

In order to ensure the use of e-mail is productive, members must ensure the chapter has correct addresses.

In an effort to keep members up to date and ensure information is current and accurate, chapter leaders use a quarterly newsletter, a Web site at [hqaiforce.com/AFA127/](http://hqaiforce.com/AFA127/), and e-mail to members who provide valid email addresses.

The e-mail database is only as good as the accuracy of the information. Today, the chapter has less than 20 percent of the total membership in our e-mail registry. By increasing the number of e-mail addresses reduces postal costs.

Please send correct e-mail addresses to Ron Geurts at [rgeurts@qwest.net](mailto:rgeurts@qwest.net).

## **Chapter recognizes aerospace excellence**

AFA Chapter 127 continued a strong outreach program as they recognized two people who promoted aerospace education.

A private pilot and staunch advocate for students to learn aerospace skills, Mr. R. Alan Godman of Legacy High School, Broomfield, Colo., received a check for \$250 for his selection as the Mile High Chapter Teacher of the Year.

Godman wrote, "The money is being put to use to improve the program. Part is going to purchase supplies needed to build the various types of aircraft we use throughout the course."

The chapter also selected Matthew Alan Smith to receive the Francisco Garcia Good Citizenship Scholarship award, a 2004 Thomas Jefferson High School graduate.

Smith is enrolled at Metropolitan State College of Denver for the 2004-05 academic year. He is pursuing his Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Technology.

He graduated from Denver Public School's Computer Magnet Program at TJHS, a nationally ranked program. He also played for the TJHS Spartans Basketball Team in 2004.

At age 11, he and a friend started a community lawn service called M & M Lawn Services. He is a credit to his family who instilled a strong work ethic in him with the understanding that success is contingent upon higher education. Smith is the first AFA Mile High recipient of this award.

## **Resolution seeks end strength increase**

If passed, House Resolution 3696 provides a temporary increase in the minimum end strength level for active duty Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force troops.

As the number of uniformed men and women deploy in support of national defense increases so does the burden on the workforce. AFA national leaders support this resolution because lengthy deployments around the globe are threatening to bring the U.S. military to the breaking point.

The logo for eBlueprint features the word "eBlueprint" in a stylized, blue, sans-serif font. The "e" is lowercase and smaller than the other letters, which are all lowercase. The logo is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

ABADAN

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## Almanac Facts

from Air Force Magazine

