



Mile High Flyer

Air Force Association

Denver, Colorado

An independent air and space organization



Mile High Chapter # 127

Volume 58, Issue 2

Summer 2004 edition

*****UPCOMING EVENTS*****

- August 20 – 21 – State AFA convention, Denver Radisson SE
- September 6 – Labor Day
- September 11 – Patriot Day
- September 22 – First day of autumn
- October 11 – Columbus Day
- October 24 – United Nations Day
- October 31 – Daylight Savings Time ends
- November 2 – Election Day
- November 11 – Veterans’ Day
- November 25 -- Thanksgiving

From the chapter president

By Barbara Baldivia Flores

Your chapter has been busy in several areas to encourage participation and to provide support for activities within the community.

We are hosting the AFA State Convention **Friday and Saturday, Aug. 20 - 21**. The golf tournament is one of our major fundraisers so I encourage you to get a foursome together now and join us. The banquet is at the Radisson SE and with a great program scheduled, I’m confident you’ll enjoy an evening when AFA recognizes the best of the best in the Air Force community. More information is on page 3.

Also, plan to attend the business meeting scheduled the next day. At that meeting you get the rare opportunity of finding out what AFA plans to accomplish within the State of Colorado in the coming year. Please fill out the enclosed registration form today since reservations must be received by **Friday, Aug. 13**.

The next general membership meeting is **Tuesday, Sept. 14, 11 a.m.** First, we’ll enjoy lunch at Mr. Panda restaurant, 2852 S. Havana (just south of Parker Rd.) in Aurora. As part of the meeting we will hold elections for new officers for the coming year.

Remember, your vote counts and I ask you to show your support by attending. Please call Jack Powell at (303)755-2484 or Tom Deall at (303) 676-6515 for reservations.

An organization is only as strong as its members’ participation. So, I implore you to keep us strong by volunteering your time and attending our scheduled functions.

Mile High chapter announces officer nominees

Along with gathering for friendship and a sense of unity, this year’s general membership meeting is also time to elect chapter officers for 2005. The meeting and luncheon is **Tuesday, Sept. 14, 11 a.m.**, at Mr. Panda’s restaurant in Aurora.

Electing chapter officers is critical not only to ensuring the chapter moves in the direction consistent with National AFA goals and objectives, but also to promote the Air Force and Air and Space education in the Denver-metro area.

Officer nominees for 2005 are:

- President Tom Deall
- Vice president
- Treasurer Ken Bowens
- Secretary Tiffany Turcotte

Like any organization, the Mile High Chapter is only as good as its members and leaders. Therefore, all members are strongly encouraged to attend the general membership meeting, cast their vote, support the candidates and help strengthen our chapter, association and nation.

Project Vote Smart provides voting tools

Each year immigrants to the United States swear an allegiance to their new country. Along with gaining their new citizen in their country of choice, they also get to practice what all too many Americans take for granted – the privilege to vote. One program to help is Project Vote Smart.

Project Vote Smart, a citizen’s organization, provides information on candidates and elected officials in the following categories: biographical; political positions; voting records; campaign finances; and interest group ratings.

For more information, call the voter’s research hotline at 1-800-VOTE-SMART.

NDAAs differences sent to special committee

Differences in the National Defense Authorization Act are being sent to a special conference committee which is selected from the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

Among issues to resolve are the following:

Military Widows Tax. Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants, most of whom are widows, currently face a 36 percent slash in their annuities at age 62. The House would phase this out over three and a half years, while the Senate would stretch it out over 10.

CRDP (Concurrent Receipt). The Senate would authorize some 30,000 disabled military retirees who are rated 100 percent totally and permanently disabled to begin collecting full Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments on Jan. 1, 2005. The House version has no provision.

Guard/Reserve Health Coverage. The Senate would authorize permanent health care coverage for members of the Selected Reserve and their families. The House would conduct a three-year test for members who either are unemployed or do not have employer-provided coverage.

Community partners strengthen chapter

There is a small segment of our society that has chosen to strengthen their state and nation by joining the Air Force Association as community partners.

Mile High Chapter 127 officers and members are proud to announce the current community partners:

- Automotive Avenues
- Omni Interlocken Resort and Hotel
- North Aurora Business Association
- Plains Hotel

If you know of a business that deserves chapter and organization recognition as an AFA community partner or for more information, please call Jack Powell at (303) 755-2484.

Defense resources top National AFA issues list

According to National Air Force Association officials, the proposed Fiscal 2004 defense budget of \$379.9 billion represents a real increase over the Fiscal 2003 plan.

Association officials list this issue as their top concern because the mismatch between strategy and forces is growing because while there is little likelihood of a reduction in commitments, more resources and forces are needed.

For example, during the Cold War the nation annually devoted as much as 14.1 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, to defense. Today, while fighting a global war on terrorism, the nation is committing only 3.4 percent of GDP.

To ensure adequate national defense, Congress and the Defense Department must work together to raise readiness, improve quality of life programs, recapitalize and modernize equipment while transforming all of the armed forces.

Ultimately, National AFA leaders believe that to adequately support national security requirements the United States must commit a minimum of four percent of GDP to defense.

State AFA convention

This year's Colorado AFA State Convention is **Friday and Saturday, Aug. 20 - 21** in Aurora.

The golf tournament kicks off this year's convention at the Mira Vista golf course followed by the banquet at the Radisson SE located at I-225 and Iliff in Aurora, **Friday, Aug. 20**. The banquet registration desk will be set up by 5:30 p.m. and the dinner starts at 7 p.m.

After reveling in friendship and camaraderie during the golf tournament and banquet, the association is hosting the annual business meeting **Saturday, Aug. 21**, also at the Radisson SE. A registration form all activities is on page 3.

Air and Space conference, expo scheduled

The 2004 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition is scheduled in Washington, DC, **Sept. 13 - 15**, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

Some of the speakers include: Dr. James Roche, Secretary of the Air Force; Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff; Dr. Howard Hensel of Air University; and Lt. Gen. Paul Hester, commander, Air Force Special Operations Command.

To register and secure a seat at this one-of-a-kind event, visit the National Air Force Association Web site at www.afa.org.

Another BRAC scheduled in 2005

Recognizing the military contributes both to the economy and infrastructure, Aurora Chamber of Commerce and Greater Denver-metro leaders have been gathering information about the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, process.

Chamber leaders said, "We believe our position going into this BRAC is stronger, we're not going to just sit back, we might not be able to provide community inputs, but we are continuing to work on community involvement.

For more information on community involvement, call George Peck, Aurora Chamber of Commerce vice president, at (303) 344-1500.

AUSA golf tournament set for Aug. 2

Association of the United States Army officials announced they are hosting a golf tournament at the Omni Interlocken Golf Club, Broomfield, Colo., **Monday, Aug. 2**.

Registration begins at 7 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Cost to enter is \$115 per person which includes pre-tee off snacks, lunch, prizes and cart with a global positioning system.

To register or for more information call Rich Little at (303) 932-0893 or Paul Baldwin at (303) 972-3546.

**2004 State of Colorado AFA Convention
HOSTED BY MILE HIGH CHAPTER 127
August 20 – 21, 2004
Registration Form**

Full name: _____

Meal choice (circle one): (1) Roulade of beef and salmon, or (2) Vegetarian plate

Salutation/Military: _____ Status (circle one): Active duty Guard/Reserve Retired

Spouse/Guest's full name: _____

Meal choice (circle one): (1) Roulade of beef and salmon, or (2) Vegetarian plate

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail address: _____

***GOLF TOURNAMENT AT MIRA VISTA COURSE (formerly Lowry AFB), AURORA, CO
Registration begins at 7 a.m., Shotgun start is 8 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 20***

	<u>COST</u>		<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Golf tournament (Active duty/Retired/Civilian)	\$68	x	_____	_____
Golf tournament (Military E-6 and below)	\$55	x	_____	_____
Guest tickets for golf luncheon only	\$12	x	_____	_____

Golf includes: Green fees, cart, bucket of balls, luncheon, and prizes.

Not included but available at the golf registration desk are Mulligans and raffle tickets.

An awards luncheon is held at the clubhouse immediately following the tournament.

Golf index/handicap _____ Course where index/handicap kept: _____

Please complete individual registration form for each golfer	Other members of your foursome:	Handicap
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

***STATE AWARDS BANQUET AND ANNUAL MEETING AT RADISSON SE HOTEL (I-225 and Parker Rd)
6 p.m. social followed by dinner and awards at 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 20
CAEF silent auction (details available at banquet)***

Annual state awards banquet	\$35	x	_____	_____
Annual state awards banquet (Military E-6 and below)	\$25	x	_____	_____
Saturday business meeting/state and CAEF.....	\$25	x	_____	_____

(8:30 a.m. continental breakfast, 9 a.m. business meeting, 11a.m. lunch/CAEF meeting Sat., Aug. 21)

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Registration forms and payment must be received by **August 13**. Make payable to the AFA Mile High and mail to:

2004 Colorado AFA Convention
Mile High Chapter #127
P. O. Box 200693
Denver CO 80220

NOTE: Guestrooms are available at the Radisson SE for only \$75 dbl. Call the hotel directly at 1-800-962-7672 for your reservations. Mention that you are with the AFA State Convention to get the special rate.

Attire: Service dress for military. Business dress (coat and tie) for civilians

For more information call Jack Powell 303-755-2484 or Tom Deall 303-676-6515.

Air Force Association

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 Denver, CO 80220-0693
 Email: AFA127@bigfoot.com

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Air Force demographics (Source: Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Public Affairs)

Totals:

- Civilian: 141,226
- Officers: 73,121
- Enlisted: 302,432
- ANG: 106,715
- AFRC: 75,800

Average Total Service:

- Officers: 11 yrs
- Enlisted: 8 yrs

Active Force (%):

- Men: 80
- Women: 20

AF Race/Ethnic Grp%

- Caucasian: 75.2
- Black: 15.5
- Hispanic/Latino: 7.0
- Asian: 1.7
- Am Indian/Alskn: 0.4
- Hawaiian/Pacific Is: 0.4

Commissioning Sources (%):

- AFROTC: 42
- OTS: 22
- Academy: 19
- Other: 17

Average Age:

- Officers: 35
- Enlisted: 29
- Below age 26: 41.7%

AF Civilian Workforce

- % White Collar: 75.9
- % Blue Collar: 24.1
- % Male: 65
- % Female: 35
- Average Age: 46
- Avg. Service: 16 yrs
- % Serving overseas: 11.4
- % w/BA/BS degree: 45
- % w/Masters degree: 15
- % w/PHD: 2

Budget

Total FY04 Budget: \$124.8 Billion

- Ops and Maintenance: 31.3%
- Military Personnel: 23.9%
- Procurement: 25.9%
- Research, Development, Test & Eval: 16.3%
- Mil Family Housing: 1.1%
- Construction: 1.3%
- BRAC: .2%

Total Force mission breakout by aircraft

- Rescue: Active: 65% Guard: 20% Reserve: 15%
- Tanker: Active: 49% Guard: 39% Reserve: 12%
- Theater Airlift: Active: 36% Guard: 45% Reserve: 19%
- Strategic Airlift: Active: 71% Guard: 8% Reserve: 21%
- Bomber: Active: 95% Guard: 0% Reserve: 5%
- Fighter: Active: 65% Guard: 30% Reserve: 5%
- ISR: Active: 79% Guard: 0% Reserve: 21%
- SOF: Active: 80% Guard: 9% Reserve: 11%
- C2: Active: 68% Guard: 32% Reserve: 0%