



# Air Force Association **National**



# Convention 2010

By Aaron Church, Associate Editor



**A** crowd of nearly 6,000 attendees packed September's Air Force Association Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition, which featured a wide range of speakers, presentations, and exhibits from industry and USAF leadership.

The conference took place Sept. 13-15, again at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, located just outside Washington, D.C., at National Harbor, Md. The roomy venue offered space for an expanded array of presentations—nearly 22 percent more than last year. The accompanying technology exposition also covered more floor space than the previous year.

Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz opened the conference Monday morning, Sept. 13, and was joined by Air Force Secretary Michael B. Donley to present some of AFA's Citations of Honor, Individual, Crew, Team, Air National Guard, Reserve, and other awards.

For the sixth year, 350 students from the Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., attended the conference and technology exposition, thanks again to the generous support of Boeing. Students and visitors alike enjoyed the conference's 45 briefings, presentations, and professional development seminars, as well as the exhibition hall's 124 corporate and military technology displays. The Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition attracted some 80 reporters. More than 60 Air Force public affairs staff attended the event as well.

Early Sunday morning, Sept. 12, association members joined family and friends for a memorial service honoring fallen AFA members. Usually held at the Air Force Memorial, this year's service took place at the Gaylord, due to inclement weather. AFA National Chaplain Donald J. Harlin delivered the homily, with Donley, CMSAF James A. Roy, and AFA Chairman of the Board Joseph E. Sutter laying the memorial wreath. The Memorial Tribute listing the names of the departed was read by Sutter; James R. Lauducci, Vice Chair-

***Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz delivers an Air Force update to the delegates and guests at AFA's Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition.***

Photo by Chris Cross



in Congress, and toured the Pentagon and other national sites throughout the week.

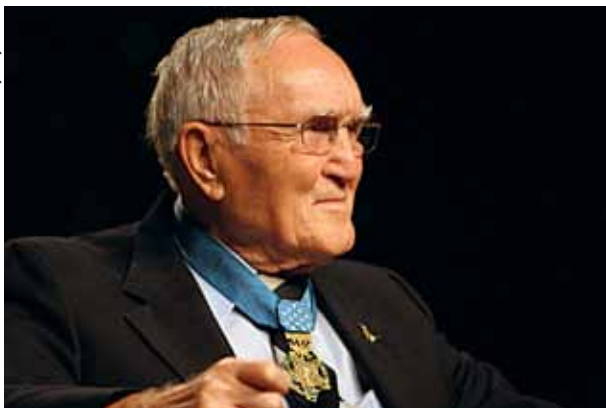
The Air Force Anniversary Dinner, sponsored by Lockheed Martin, was held Sept. 15, saluting the contributions of AFA members and of leaders in the aerospace community. Dinner guests were treated to entertainment by Frank Busso Music, and Patrick Coulter was master of ceremonies for the evening's awards and events. Honorees at the dinner included:

- Lt. Gen. David A. Deptula, deputy chief of staff, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, who received the H. H. Arnold Award, recognizing the year's most significant contribution to national

man of the Board for Field Operations; and S. Sanford Schlitt, Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education.

AFA celebrated the Air Force's "Golden Dozen"—the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year—with an evening soiree Sept. 13. One of the 12, SSgt. Kenneth I. Walker III, received the Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device during the conference. The reception was sponsored by Northrop Grumman.

Gen. Carrol H. Chandler, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, addressed the airmen and guests. Roy served as master of ceremonies, and the United States Air Force band provided musical entertainment. Supported by ATK Corp., the Outstanding Airmen of the Year visited the White House, met their Representatives



**Top:** Air Force Secretary Michael Donley meets SSgt. Robert Gutierrez Jr. and his wife, Julie, during a reception for the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year. **Center:** Incoming Chairman of the Board S. Sanford Schlitt addresses conferees. **Clockwise from top left** are the three USAF Medal of Honor recipients who participated in a panel discussion: retired Col. George Day, retired Col. Leo Thorsness, and retired Col. Joe Jackson.



*Left: Mitchell Institute Director Rebecca Grant (l), retired Lt. Gen. Robert Elder Jr. (c), and Mark Gunzinger of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, formed a panel on long-range strike. Center: Christina Olds, daughter of legendary USAF ace Robin Olds, speaks with an Embry-Riddle University cadet at her book display. Bottom: Brig. Gen. Everett Thomas, commander of the USAF Nuclear Weapons Center, joined a panel on the nuclear enterprise.*

former commander of Air Force Systems Command, all receiving AFA Lifetime Achievement Awards.

#### **AFA Education Award**

Allen Robnett, a teacher at Gallatin High School, Gallatin, Tenn., was presented AFA's National Aerospace Teacher of the Year award. The prize is given annually to an elementary-through-

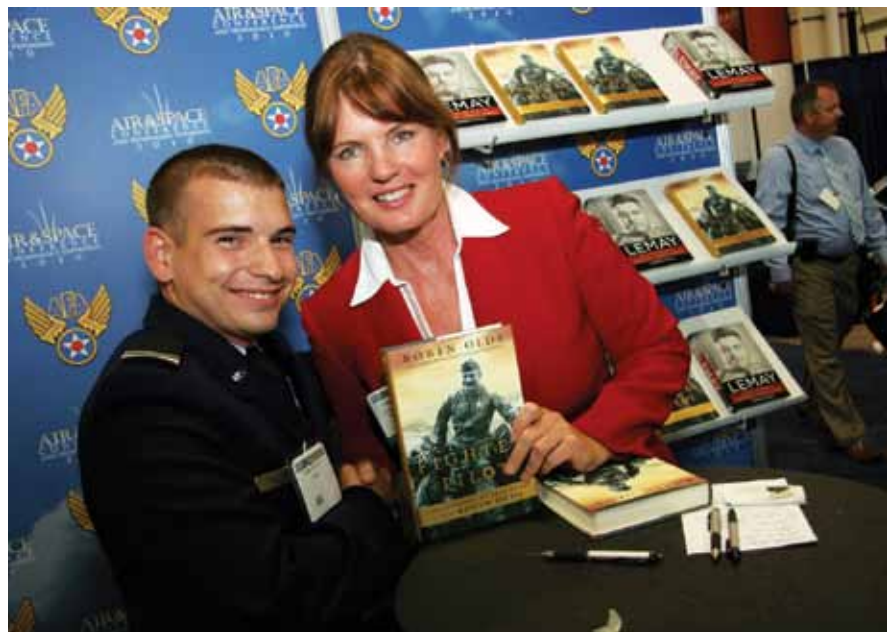
security by a member of the military.

- John J. Hamre, president and chief executive officer, Center for Strategic & International Studies, who received the W. Stuart Symington Award, recognizing the year's top contribution by a civilian in the field of national defense.

- Raytheon, receiving the John R. Alison Award for the top industrial contribution to national defense.

- *USA TODAY*, presented with the AFA Chairman's Aerospace Education Award, for its long-term commitment to aerospace education.

- The Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs); retired Col. Walter J. Boyne, author and former director of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum; Andrew W. Marshall, director of the DOD Office of Net Assessment; and retired Gen. Lawrence A. Skantze,



high school teacher for excellence in encouraging students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

#### **Air Force Leaders Attending**

The conference was well-attended by top Air Force leaders and decision-makers. Among those making speeches or presentations were Donley, Schwartz, Deptula, Roy, and Gen. Roger A. Brady, commander, US Air Forces in Europe; Gen. Kevin P. Chilton, commander, US Strategic Command; Gen. William M. Fraser III, commander, Air Combat Command; Gen. Donald J. Hoffman, commander, Air Force Materiel Command; Gen. Raymond E. Johns Jr., commander, Air Mobility Command; Gen. C. Robert Kehler, commander, Air Force Space Command; Gen. Stephen



**A USAF color guard stands at attention during the memorial wreath-laying ceremony, which honors those who have died during the year.**

R. Lorenz, commander, Air Education and Training Command; Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief, National Guard Bureau; Gen. Duncan J. McNabb, commander, US Transportation Command; Gen. Gary L. North, commander, Pacific Air Forces; Lt. Gen. Donald C. Wurster, commander, Air Force Special Operations Command; Lt. Gen. Frank G. Klotz, commander, Air Force Global Strike Command; Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., commander, Air Force Reserve Command; Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director, Air National Guard; Maj. Gen. C. Donald Alston, commander, 20th Air Force; Maj. Gen. Floyd L. Carpenter, commander, 8th Air Force; Maj. Gen. William A. Chambers, assistant chief of staff, strategic deterrence and nuclear integration; and Brig. Gen. Everett H. Thomas, commander, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center.

**Election of AFA Officers**

S. Sanford Schlitt, Sarasota, Fla., was elected for a first term as Chairman of the Board. Justin M. Faiferlick, Fort Dodge, Iowa, was elected for a first term as Vice Chairman of the Board, Field Operations. George K. Muellner, Huntington Beach, Calif., was elected for a first term as Vice Chairman of the Board, Aerospace Education. Joan Sell, Colorado Springs, Colo., was re-elected AFA National Secretary for a second term. Leonard R. Vernamonti, Clinton,

Miss., was elected AFA National Treasurer for a first term.

**Other AFA Elections**

John Timothy Brock, Oviedo, Fla., and Angela Dupont, Haverhill, Mass., were elected Directors at Large, and Marvin L. Tooman, West Des Moines, Iowa, was elected National Director, Central Region. William R. Grider was elected Great Lakes Region President. Mike Cook was elected Midwest Region President. Eric P. Taylor was elected Northeast Region President. Rick Sine was elected Northwest Region President. Thomas Gwaltney was elected South Central Region President. David A.

Klinkicht was elected Southeast Region President.

**AFA Business**

Registered delegates numbered 237, representing 42 states and the District of Columbia, at this year's AFA National Convention, Sept. 11-12.

Briefings were given on the topics of the AFA *CyberPatriot* program, the Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Orientation Program, and the 2011-15 AFA Strategic Plan. Delegates heard a recorded message by the co-chairman of the House Air Force Caucus, Rep. Clifford Stearns (R-Fla.).



**Vice Adm. William Gortney, director of the Joint Staff, gave the keynote address. "In joint doctrine, balance permeates everything," said Gortney.**



**Left: Justin Faiferlick was elected for a first term as Vice President, Field Operations. Below: George Muellner, who was elected for a first term as Vice Chairman of the Board, Aerospace Education, speaks with Gen. Donald Hoffman, head of Air Force Materiel Command. Bottom: Schlitt congratulates Angela Dupont on being elected as an AFA Director at Large. Three new National Directors and six new Region Presidents were elected.**

Martin, Northrop Grumman, Alenia North America, ATK, BAE Systems, EADS North America, Elbit Systems of America, L-3 Communications, In-Space 21, SES World Skies, Bombardier, Dell, and IBM for making this year's conference possible.

AFA National Convention parliamentarian was Joan L. Blankenship. Inspectors of elections were James

AFA status report briefs were delivered by Sutter, Lauducci, and Treasurer Steven R. Lundgren.

Delegates approved a field resolution, submitted by the Midwest Region, which launched an ad hoc study by the Chairman of the Board into decoupling AFA's National Convention from the Air & Space Conference. The study will investigate the potential to move the convention to a venue more centrally located, better facilitating broad attendance by delegates in the future.

AFA's 2011 Statement of Policy and Top Issues was reviewed and unanimously approved, as modified.

The Air Force's Air National Guard Council, Company Grade Officers Council, Enlisted Council, and Reserve Advisory Council held meetings.

**Acknowledgments**

The Air Force Association thanks supporting partners Boeing, Lockheed



F. Diehl, Chairman; Kent D. Owsley; and Ronald L. Garcia. Mary J. Mayer chaired the Credentials Committee, serving with Dee Cox and Joyce W. Feuerstein.

The Air Force Association is indebted to the work of its volunteers assisting the staff throughout the convention and conference: Lt. Col. Dan Twomey, Capt. Bob Wray, MSgt. Jessica Slaughter, TSgt. Stephen Preisch, SSgt. Corenthia Fennell, SSgt. Victoria Herron, SSgt. John Kowalczyk, Sgt. Jonathon Hays, SrA. Shanara Greiner, SrA. Giovannachastine Mendoza, SrA. Lakearea L. Toney, Patrick Coulter, Loren Farnam, Paul Griffith, Debbie Snyder, Charlie Tippett, and Leola Wall. ■