



# Air Force Association **National**



# Convention 2011

By Aaron Church, Associate Editor

**M**ore than 5,600 attendees filled the halls and corridors of the Air Force Association's 2011 Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition. It featured speeches by top USAF leaders and a record number of professional development sessions and briefings, in addition to a full array of aerospace and defense technology exhibits.

This year's conference took place Sept. 19-21 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center overlooking the Potomac River, in National Harbor, Md., just outside Washington, D.C.

On Monday, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz launched the conference with opening remarks, presenting several of AFA's National Aerospace Awards alongside Air Force Secretary Michael B. Donley. Laurels included AFA's Citations of Honor, top crew and team awards, and Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command honors.

Fifty students from the USAir Force's Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., visited the conference and technology exposition and were joined for the first time by 130 airmen from Air Force Materiel Command, all thanks to financial support from Boeing and the KC-46 Tanker Team.

Visitors were hard-pressed to choose among a record 68 presentations, briefings, and panel discussions over the three-day conference. Topics ranged from strategy to terrorism to personal development, and featured newsmaker speeches and appearances by prominent figures from the Air Force past and present.

The technology expo grew as well, boasting displays from across industry and the Department of Defense. It featured 126 exhibitors, including a Boeing KC-46A cockpit and boom-operator station mock-up, an AgustaWestland AW139 helicopter, BAE's Hawkjet aircraft training system trailer, and cockpit training simulators of Hawker Beechcraft's AT-6 and Rockwell Collins' KC-135 Block 45 cockpit upgrade.

The combined Air & Space Conference and Technology Expo drew some 73 members of the media, in addition to members of Air Force Public Affairs covering the event for internal communications.



*An Air Force color guard prepares to present the colors at the Air Force Memorial during a ceremony honoring those who died in the past year.*





The AFA National Convention was held Sept. 17-18. On Sunday morning, Sept. 18, AFA members and their guests assembled at the Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Va., for a solemn salute to those who died in the past year.

During the early morning service, AFA National Chaplain retired Maj. Gen. William J. Dendinger delivered a homily and Donley, CMSAF James A. Roy, and AFA Chairman of the Board S. Sanford Schlitt laid a wreath in memory of the dead. The Memorial Tribute, listing the names of 27 departed AFA members, was read by Schlitt, Justin M. Faiferlick, Vice Chairman of the Board for Field Operations, and George K. Muellner, Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education.

AFA lauded the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year at a formal



awards dinner Sept. 19, preceded by an evening reception sponsored by Northrop Grumman.

At the dinner, Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, Air Force vice chief of staff, addressed the OAY "Golden Dozen" and their guests. Roy acted as master of ceremonies, and Maj. Gen. Cecil R. Richardson, Air Force chief of chaplains, offered an opening prayer. The United States Air Force Band entertained guests throughout the evening.

With generous support from ATK, the 12 Outstanding Airmen met with congressional leaders on Capitol Hill, visited the White House and Pentagon, and toured the monuments and memorials in and around Washington, D.C., throughout the week.

AFA's Air Force Anniversary Dinner was held Sept. 21, toasting the monu-

mental achievements of leaders in the Air Force and the broader aerospace community. Honored guests were again treated to entertainment by the US Air Force Band with Patrick Coulter acting as master of ceremonies. AFA honored:

- Gen. Duncan J. McNabb, commander of US Transportation Command, with the H. H. Arnold Award, recognizing the year's most significant

**Top: Heavy bomber crews of World War II received a Lifetime Achievement Award. They were represented by l-r: Charles Chauncey, Leonard Merz, George Kuchenbecker, and Richard Dinning. Above: Julie Curlin, AFA National Director Emeritus, in discussion during the convention. Left: SMSgt. Desriann Stevens, superintendent, policy integration at USAF headquarters, talks with other attendees in the hallway outside the meeting rooms.**

contribution to national security by a member of the military.

- Rep. C. W. Young (R-Fla.), with the W. Stuart Symington Award, recognizing the year's top contribution by a civilian in the field of national defense.

- United Launch Alliance, supplier of national security space program launch vehicles, with the John R. Alison Award for the top industrial contribution to national defense.

- National Science Foundation, with the AFA Chairman's Aerospace Education Award, for long-term commitment to aerospace education.

- Heavy bombardment crews of World War II; Commando Sabre Operation fast forward air controllers—call sign Misty; retired Gen. Larry D. Welch, former Chief of Staff and head of Strategic Air



### AFA Education Award

Nancy Hoover, a teacher at the L. C. Bird High School in Midlothian, Va., was presented AFA's National Aerospace Teacher of the Year award. Every year, AFA presents the honor to an elementary-through-high school teacher for exemplary efforts at nurturing and developing students in STEM: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

### Air Force Leaders Attending

Air Force leaders mingled with attendees throughout, and a good number spoke during the seminars and took questions from airmen during Wednesday's Four-Star Forum.

Among the leaders speaking at the conference were Donley, Erin C. Conaton, undersecretary of the Air Force, Schwartz, Breedlove, McNabb, and Roy.



Command; retired Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Stafford, defense consultant, former astronaut, and test pilot; and Natalie W. Crawford, senior fellow and Project Air Force director at the RAND Corp., with AFA Lifetime Achievement Awards.

*Top (l-r): Gen. Gilmary Hostage, commander, ACC; Lt. Gen. Burton Field, commander, US Forces Japan; Maj. Gen. Margaret Woodward, commander, US Air Forces Africa; and Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, commander, Air National Guard's 171st Air Refueling Wing, answer questions during a contingency operations panel at the conference. Above: World War II heavy bomber crew member George Kuchenbecker and TSgt. Amy Winn take a break from the events. Right: George Muellner, AFA Vice Chairman, Aerospace Education (l), and Gen. Edward Rice, AETC commander (r), present the AFROTC Cadet of the Year award to Matthew Stazenski.*







E. Stenner Jr., commander, Air Force Reserve Command; Lt. Gen. James M. Kowalski, commander, Air Force Global Strike Command; Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director, Air National Guard; Maj. Gen. William A. Chambers, assistant chief of staff, strategic deterrence and nuclear integration; Maj. Gen. Margaret H. Woodward, commander, 17th Air Force, Air Forces Africa; and Maj. Gen. James O. Poss, assistant deputy chief of staff for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance.

### Election of AFA Officers

Schlitt, of Sarasota, Fla., was elected for a second term as Chairman of the Board. Faiferlick, of Fort Dodge, Iowa,

Also participating were Gen. Douglas M. Fraser, commander, US Southern Command; Gen. William M. Fraser III, outgoing commander, Air Combat Command; Gen. Donald J. Hoffman, commander, Air Force Materiel Command; Gen. Gilmery Michael Hostage III, commander, Air Combat Command; Gen. Raymond E. Johns Jr., commander, Air Mobility Command; Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief, National Guard Bureau; Gen. Gary L. North, commander, Pacific Air Forces; Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr., commander, Air Education and Training Command; Gen. William L. Shelton, commander, Air Force Space Command; and Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, commander, US Air Forces in Europe.

A number of other senior officers also took part. They included Lt. Gen. Michael J. Basla, vice commander, Air Force Space Command; Lt. Gen. Eric E. Fiel, commander, Air Force Special Operations Command; Lt. Gen. Charles



was elected for a second term as Vice Chairman of the Board, Field Operations. Muellner, of Huntington Beach, Calif., was elected for a second term as Vice Chairman of the Board, Aerospace Education. Edward W. Garland, of San



**Top: Justin Faiferlick (l), AFA Vice Chairman, Field Operations, and his wife, Deann (r), talk with National Director Emeritus Bonnie Callahan at a convention function. Above: Col. Michel Dupont (l), air attache France, converses with members of the RAF and other foreign air force representatives. Left: Eleven of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year visit the White House. They are (l-r): SMSgt. David Newman, SMSgt. Patrick Jones, SrA. Raven Taylor, TSgt. Ricardo Chavez, SMSgt. Kathleen McCool, TSgt. Dustin Goodwin, SrA. Ulla Stromberg, SSgt. Jordan Bishopp, SSgt. John Norris, TSgt. Bradley Williams, and SrA. Daniel Skidmore. Not pictured is SrA. Nora Limjoco.**



of the House Air Force Caucus. Those in attendance received status updates from Chairman Schlitt, Vice Chairman Faiferlick, and Treasurer Vernamonti.

The delegates approved AFA's 2012-14 Strategic Plan as submitted by the Board of Directors, but rejected a recommendation that would separate AFA's National Convention from AFA's annual Air & Space Conference after hearing the ad hoc committee's report on the issue, as well as a board-

**Above: Gen. Edward Rice (l) and Lt. Gen. Eric Fiel speak during the Four-Star Forum. Right: An airman stands next to the wreath laid at the Air Force Memorial in honor of those who died in the past year. Below: Gen. William Shelton (l), commander of Air Force Space Command, and Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, take a moment to speak at the conference.**

Antonio, was elected for a first term as AFA National Secretary. Leonard R. Vernamonti, Clinton, Miss., was elected AFA National Treasurer for a second term.

#### Other AFA Elections

Rick Hartle, Layton, Utah, and Donald Taylor, San Antonio, were elected National Directors at Large, and Donald



approved change to the constitution on the search and nominating process. Delegates reviewed and unanimously approved AFA's annual Statement of Policy and Top Issues, as presented. The delegates also approved a Board recommendation to reject proposed changes to convention representation and voting procedures.

#### Acknowledgments

The Air Force Association thanks supporting partners Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, the KC-46 Tanker Team, AgustaWestland, Alenia North America, ATK, Aurora Flight Sciences, BAE Systems, EADS North America, L-3 Communications, Pratt & Whitney, SES World Skies, Alaska Structures, Dell, and IBM for making this year's conference possible.

AFA National Convention parliamentarian was Joan Blankenship. Inspectors of elections were Ross B. Lampert, chairman; Arthur J. Rooney; and Ronald Powell. Fran C. Shaw chaired the Credentials Committee, serving with Geri Sutter and Helen F. McGregor.

The Air Force Association is indebted to these and other volunteers assisting AFA staff members during the convention. ■



R. Michels, Lawrenceville, Ga., was elected from the East area.

Newly elected Region Presidents are: Scott P. Van Cleef, Virginia, Central East Region President; Michael Emig, Florida Region President; Robert J. Wilkinson, Massachusetts, New England Region President; Ronald L. Garcia, North Dakota, North Central Region President, Gayle White, Colorado, Rocky Mountain Region President; Robert Hale, Nevada, Southwest Region President; and Robert L. Slaughter, Texas, Texoma Region President.

#### AFA Business

There were 209 registered delegates representing 35 states, the District of Columbia, Europe, and the Pacific region at the National Convention.

Delegates received a briefing on AFA's CyberPatriot program and listened to presentations by Kevin Estrem, President of the Lance P. Sijan Chapter, AFA's Chapter of the Year, and from retired Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley on his charity work in Afghanistan. Delegates also heard a recorded message from Rep. Clifford Stearns (R-Fla.), co-chair