

By Frances McKenney, Assistant Managing Editor



Emerging Leaders

The Air Force Association's Emerging Leaders Program began in 2013 as a way to prepare volunteers for future AFA leadership roles. Emerging Leaders serve for a year. They participate on a national-level council, attend national leader orientations, and serve as National Convention delegates.

Emerging Leaders for 2015 are: Emilie S. Boschert, Shannon M. Farrell, Deborah A. Landry, Michael J. Liquori, Emily C. Shay, Christopher M. Talbot, James A. Thurber, Jeremy Trotter, and Daniel Whalen.

Here's the sixth profile in AFA's second group of Emerging Leaders.

1st Lt. Christopher M. Talbot

Home State: Texas.

Chapter: William J. "Pete" Knight (Calif.).

AFA Offices: Chapter president; former chapter secretary.

Occupation: Executive Officer, 412th Electronic Warfare Group, Edwards AFB, Calif.

Education: B.S., University of Maryland, College Park.



Photo by Paul Vitale

Q&A

How did you first learn about AFA? Buck Buckwalter [AFA's former executive VP]. He needed some help with CyberPatriot at the September [2009] convention and asked for help from my cadet detachment.

What new ideas would you like AFA to try? Working with Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings, if they want younger members. Something I've been doing as chapter president is trying to get them to my events. ... I've gone to a few of their events, and they love having Active Duty there. ... I've had them come out to Edwards, and they've really loved it.

How do you build interest in your chapter? One thought that we had is that if we do a fund-raiser, we contribute all the funds to the Air Force Assistance Fund. [Another is] Teach the Teacher. ... We're going to bring [teachers] on base. ... We're working with the on-base STEM education office.



Photo by Elliot Spink

Talbot lists music as a hobby. Turns out, he plays the trombone. Here, he rehearses with the band Bah Ram You, playing "Out of Luck," Ska style.

From 10 to 130: Boosting the Numbers

Sometimes only a dozen people showed up for meetings of Tennessee's **Everett R. Cook Chapter**, says its new president, B. Randolph Witt. But in January, more than 130 guests filled the room.

This revival in attendance began last September. That's when Witt showed up for what he thought was a regular AFA meeting in his new hometown of Memphis. Instead, he stumbled into a Cook Chapter reorganization session. By the time he left it, he had been made chapter president.

He immediately invited other military-related organizations to AFA events. One of the groups he contacted was the local Air Force Academy Association of Graduates, headed by retired Lt. Col. Jack R. Trimble, a Vietnam War POW. Trimble was a first lieutenant weapon systems officer on an F-4 when it was downed over North Vietnam on Dec. 27, 1972. He was repatriated in March 1973 and went on to earn pilot wings, retiring from Active Duty in 1990.

In Trimble, the chapter found a compelling guest speaker for its January meeting. Trimble illustrated his Cook Chapter presentation with photos from his time at Udorn RTAB, Thailand; of the Hanoi Hilton where he was prisoner; from the

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ANG photo by Ron Brotherton

Jack Trimble delivers a presentation to the Everett R. Cook Chapter meeting about his experiences as a Vietnam War POW. He also talked about his return visit to Hanoi, 40 years to the day of his shutdown.



Photo by Joe Bryant

The 164th Airlift Wing opened a Globemaster III to those attending the Cook Chapter meeting. Here, loadmaster TSgt. Eric Yost leans against a fold-up seat on the C-17 as he listens to a question from chapter member Vernon Tabor.

Gala in Orlando

The 31st annual Air Force Gala, organized by the Central Florida Chapter in Orlando, Fla., recognized people, units, and industry partners in the command and control field. Together they give USAF the ability to perform any mission, said Chapter President Bill Palmbly.

At right: Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James poses with award recipients representing various C2 roles: Maj. Kendrick Carroll, Lt. Col. Ronnie Hawkins, and Maj. Brad Dvorak (l-r).

Below: Lt. Col. Gary Barker (l), from an Air Combat Command electronic-attack-pod team, and Gala Chairman Mike Liquori meet USAF Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh (r). Many Air Force senior leaders attended the gala, held in conjunction with AFA's Air Warfare Symposium.

Below right: Welsh and James congratulate industry representative George Sewell and Lt. Col. Richard Martino after presenting them with Doolittle Fellow plaques. All C2 award-ees were honored as Jimmy Doolittle Educational Fellows.



Photos by Dan Higgins



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Operation Homecoming repatriation; and even a picture of the Vietnamese MiG-21 pilot, Tran Viet, who claims to have shot him down. (Trimble met Viet during a trip to Hanoi in 2012.)

To pull in a crowd for this occasion, Witt used what he calls “overlapping communications”—the ability to spread the word about chapter activities through other organizations’ members, newsletters, and channels of communication. Indeed, word of Trimble’s appearance brought two other Vietnam War POWs to the chapter meeting: Kenneth R. Wells and Cecil H. Brunson. They both live near Memphis.

As new chapter head, Witt had also paid an office call on the local senior Air Force leader, last fall. Col. Mark J. Devine, commander of the 164th Airlift Wing, Memphis Arpt., Tenn., responded by volunteering to periodically host chapter meetings.

So the chapter’s January meeting took place at the ANG facility—and with an added draw: The wing opened a C-17 Globemaster III for the chapter guests to tour.

Chapter President Witt doesn’t promise big numbers for every meeting, but in January he showed it can be done.

25 New Members: One by One

“We went from 190 members last quarter to over 215 members,” claimed Richard F. Lorenz, membership VP, in Vermont’s **Green Mountain Chapter** newsletter.

Elaborating on how the chapter reeled in 25 newcomers, Lorenz said in a phone interview that the local Guard facilities give the chapter “continuous face time with people.”

During a December drill weekend, the chapter set up a membership kiosk outside the dining hall for the 158th Fighter Wing at Burlington Airport. Air Guardsmen poured through there, Lorenz said.

Eight new members joined because of “direct solicitation.” Asked what that meant, he answered, “I cajole them.”

For example, he is a docent at the museum for Camp Johnson, the state’s National Guard facility in Colchester. The work has given him “proximity to the National Guard,” he said.

Then a year ago, the chapter changed its meeting venue, and Lorenz feels that made a difference. For a decade, the group met at an Elks Club “in the far north corner of Burlington,” he said. Air Guardsmen had to drive 45 minutes to reach the meeting location. They couldn’t “slip away” to a chapter luncheon.

Now, the chapter holds meetings at the ANG site.

For all the support the chapter enjoys from the wing—vice commander Col. Michael R. Morgan serves as its VP—it still boils down to asking people to join AFA. As Lorenz put it, “We pick ‘em off one by one.”

He’s the Boss—and a New Member

As a veteran of deployments to Southwest Asia, Lt. Col. E. G. Shuler III could tell a few war stories himself, but as South Carolina’s **Columbia Palmetto Chapter** president, he left that to the guest speaker, his boss.

Col. David J. Meyer, who became commander of the 169th Fighter Wing at McEntire JNGB, S.C., last May, addressed the chapter in October. He

spoke about the wing’s deployment to Southwest Asia, completed last year. The 169th is the largest operational F-16 wing in the Air National Guard and specializes in the suppression and destruction of enemy air defenses. It had been the unit’s third foray to SWA in four years, according to a unit press release.

Shuler is the plans and programs officer for the 169th, but he is also a C-130 pilot with the 145th Airlift Wing, located at Charlotte/Douglas Arpt., N.C. He’s been deployed twice, to Afghanistan and Qatar, during his six years as chapter president, most recently last summer.

When he returned last fall, he invited Meyer to be a chapter speaker. Shuler

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had already checked the chapter roster and knew Meyer wasn't an AFA member. So when the chapter invitation prompted Meyer to ruminate, "I need to join," Shuler had a quick reply: "Yes, you do."

Singing for the Veteran

You might know her as the first female Air Force pilot to fly a fighter airplane into enemy territory. Or as the first woman to command an Air Force combat squadron.

But did you know that now-retired Col. Martha McSally can sing? Members of the **Cochise Chapter** in Arizona learned this at a January luncheon where she delivered not just any ditty but the "Star-Spangled Banner."

Chapter President George Castle gave this review of her performance: "She is possibly as good a singer as a fighter pilot."

McSally, newly elected to the US House of Representatives as a Republican, performed at a luncheon honoring retired Army Lt. Col. Earl Devine. The Greater Sierra Vista United Veterans Council chose Devine as Veteran of the Year. The Cochise Chapter, as a member of the council, took its turn this year in organizing the luncheon.

Chapter President George Castle explained that the chapter did "all the legwork," including inviting McSally—known to him because he'd worked on her election campaigns—and another VIP guest, Maj. Gen. Robert P. Ashley Jr. He is commanding general and commandant, Army Intelligence Center of Excellence at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Nearly 100 guests attended the luncheon. "There were so many people, when they found out [Devine] was going to be honored," said Castle. "Some of his friends came from Texas." Devine, a former artillery officer who served in Vietnam, is no stranger to the chapter, because he led a fund-raising effort last year for an indoor chapel for the city's veterans cemetery. The chapter donated \$4,000, said Castle.

Chapter VP Stu Carter served as master of ceremonies for the luncheon. Castle presented Devine with a ball cap, personalized on the front with his name and on the back with his newest title, "Veteran of the Year." 🔄

Update Your Info

This is a good time to remind our readers to update their addresses and phone numbers. Contact the Membership Department at 1-800-727-3337, by email at membership@afa.org, or by writing to 1501 Lee Hwy., Arlington, VA 22209-1198. You may also update this information under the Members Only area of our website, www.afa.org.

Reunions

reunions@afa.org

6th Bomb Gp, Tinian (1944-45). Sept. 9-13 in Portland, OR. **Contact:** Glenda Richards (951-233-4516) (grr41797@msn.com).

98th BG/Wg Veterans Assn. Aug. 24-28 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dayton, OH. **Contacts:** Dennis Posey, (770-509-7734) (dennis_posey@att.net) and Bill Seals (281-395-3005) (colbillyseals@hotmail.com).

504th BG, Tinian (1945). Sept. 23-27 at Homewood Suites in New Orleans. **Contact:** Frank Cacich (612-396-7949) (frank.cacich@frontiernet.net).

601st Tactical Control Assn. Oct. 7-10 in Dayton, OH. **Contact:** Jim Ernst (jimernst@q.com) (575-430-3904).

AF Officer Candidate School, all classes (1943-63). Oct. 8-12 in Montgomery, AL. **Contact:** Dave Mason (757-820-3740) (blokemason@verizon.net).

C-141A/B crew members and squadron, Travis AFB. June 20 at Pippo Ranch, Vacaville, CA. **Contacts:** Jack Pledger

(520-705-0658) or Vic Perry (707-321-3016).

Pilot Tng Class 55-P. June 14-16 at Courtyard Dayton North, OH. **Contact:** Norman Fogg (865-984-8401) (norm-fogg@bellsouth.net).

Three War Veterans, all services. May 18-20 in Las Vegas. **Contact:** Lee Yagle (888-452-3434) (all3wars@aol.com).

Udorn RTAB, Thailand, veterans. July 9-13 at the Best Western Plus Cutting Horse Inn and Suites, in Weatherford, TX. **Contacts:** Jerry and Thim Long, 118 Mariah Dr., Weatherford, TX 76087 (817-594-4623) (jclhydsr71bafb@gmail.com).

Having a Reunion?

Email reunion notices four months ahead of time to reunions@afa.org, or mail notices to "Reunions," *Air Force Magazine*, 1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22209-1198. We reserve the right to condense notices.



The Cochise Chapter in Arizona organized a Veteran of the Year luncheon. Back row, third from left is the honoree, retired Army Lt. Col. Earl Devine. Back row, second from right, is Chapter President George Castle. Army Maj. Gen. Robert Ashley stands at left. Front row, fourth from left, is US Rep. Martha McSally (R-Ariz.).

In New York, the Gen. Carl A. "Tooey" Spaatz Chapter secretary, Joe Traina (second from left), presented an AFA Civil Air Patrol Outstanding Squadron Cadet of the Year award to CAP Cadet 2nd Lt. Joseph Zaino. At far left is CAP Col. Johnnie Pantanelli, for whom Zaino's CAP 238 Squadron is named. At far right is CAP Maj. Edward Miraglia, squadron commander.



Photo by CAP Cadet 2nd Lt. Kyra M. Carlson