

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, Mike Liquori, Emily C. Shay, Christopher M. Talbot, James A. Thurber, Jeremy Trotter, Eric J. Van Der Heide, and Daniel Whalen.

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

Col. Deborah A. Landry

Home State: Louisiana.

Chapter: Alamo.

Joined AFA: Life Member since 2005.

AFA Offices: Executive VP, Alamo Chapter. Formerly Membership VP, Alamo Chapter.

Military Service: 23 years Active Duty.

Occupation: Chief, Personnel Division, AETC, JBSA-Randolph, Texas.

Education: B.S., University of Louisiana-Lafayette; MBA, Georgia College and State University; Master of Military Operational Art & Science, Air University.

Q&A:

How did you first learn of AFA? Arnold Air Society. I was a squadron commander.

What are your ideas for AFA's future? We need to focus on membership and how to encourage young airmen, young company grade officers, to become members, [to know] what the benefits are. ... It's hard to encourage currently serving members to join AFA because they're pulled every which way.

Do you talk up AFA? I can't talk about it at work because I'm the boss, but outside of work? Absolutely. I join other organizations, such as the Wounded Warriors, and then I talk AFA. That's the organization that I represent

[at these other events]. ... I go to the Newcomers Orientation, and I talk to everybody who walks to my station.



Despite the pouring rain, Landry finished the 2009 Marine Corps Historic Half Marathon in Fredericksburg, Va., in 1:49. Here she is at Mile 10.



George Douglas (far right) holds his prestigious AFA Gold Life Member Card award, as his wife, Ruby Lee Douglas, receives a bouquet from Lance P. Sijan Chapter President Dave Shiller.

George Douglas: Pure Gold

You could call him the dean of the Air Force Association's leaders.

He's George M. Douglas of Colorado's **Lance P. Sijan Chapter**. He served as AFA Chairman of the Board and National President from 1975 to 1979 and is AFA's only top national official from that decade or earlier.

In Colorado Springs, the chapter honored Douglas with a reception where he received AFA's national-level award, the Gold Life Member Card.

Douglas is only the 21st recipient of the award, granted to AFA members whose record, production, and accomplishments on a national level have been outstanding over the years. The first award went to AFA Board Chairman and National President Gill Robb Wilson in 1957. Jimmy Doolittle received the second one in 1959.



Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James visited Eielson AFB, Alaska, on returning from Japan to Washington, D.C. She met with (l-r) 11th Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Russell Handy, Fairbanks Mayor Luke Hopkins, AFA Alaska Treasurer Steve Lundgren, and Fairbanks Midnight Sun Chapter members.

Photo by Linda Aldrich

Photo by Marathofoto

How to Find Mentors for CyberPatriot

"I'm an engineer by trade," said Shawn Gordon of the **Charleston Chapter** in South Carolina. He also volunteered two years ago to become the chapter coordinator for CyberPatriot, AFA's youth cyber education program.

Through these roles, Gordon has boosted the Charleston area's participation in CyberPatriot. The numbers have increased from three schools in 2012 to 13 for this season, CP-VII. Put another way, the number of Charleston area teams has leaped from four to 26.

How did Gordon do it? By rounding up volunteer mentors to provide technical support and tutoring for local CP teams. Here's his advice on how to find mentors:

- **"Reach out to professional societies within your community,"** he said. A retired Air Force major who spent 24 years in the satellite and electronic warfare arena, Gordon belongs to an alphabet-soup list of associations: AFCEA, AIAA, IEEE, Old Crows, and National Society of Black Engineers, to name a few. He tapped those organizations, along with a consortium of 15 engineering entities and local IT businesses, to find cyber professionals.
- **"In turn, get those folks to draw other people in,"** Gordon suggested. His mentors have pulled in as many as three others each. Having backup is important because a mentor could go TDY or drop out for other reasons, Gordon pointed out.
- **"Get out there early"** and line up your mentors the previous spring, he advised.

An AFA member since 1991, Gordon first approached the Charleston Chapter a couple of years ago for help on an unrelated project. While she had him on the hook, Chapter President Linda Sturgeon gave him "a tale of

woe" about low membership numbers, Gordon said. He recalled thinking, "I guess that means I should step up and do something."

The something Gordon proved particularly good at is networking with industry contacts. Through them, for example, the CyberPatriot students gained a chance to compete from an unusual site: the historic, decommissioned USS *Yorktown* carrier-museum, anchored across the river from Charleston.

Just as impressively, Gordon's networking, Sturgeon said, led to Boeing sending him 10 volunteer mentors.

Photo by Charlie Watson



Stall High School AFJROTC cadets Amanda Prevatt, Chris Reyes, and Alex Denmark (l-r, seated) tackle CP-VII aboard USS Yorktown in November. Standing behind them: mentor Lakeithrick Harris, Shawn Gordon, cadet Delmar Deas-Drayton, and Charleston Chapter President Linda Sturgeon.

The Colorado Springs *Gazette* newspaper's website featured Douglas and this award in a video clip for its "Friday Military Salute" series. See it at: <http://bit.ly/1t5HKBI>.

In the interview, Douglas commented on receiving the Gold Life Member Card. "I'm very honored and flattered," he told the reporter. Then chuckling, he said, "I still wonder why."

The chapter's press release about this award highlighted Douglas' support for the military community in Colorado Springs and his focus on leadership development.

Douglas began his military career with the Army during the World War II and Korean War years. He later earned a commission through Officer Candidate School and served in the Air Force Reserve from the late 1950s to 1982, retiring as a major general.

Can You Hear Me Now?

As president of the **Gen. Carl A. "Tooey" Spaatz Chapter** in New York, David Ribbe was distributing free copies of *Air*

Ron Chromulak, a Joe Walker-Mon Valley Chapter member, waves during the Veterans Day parade in Monessen, Pa. His chapter is part of the parade host organization, the Monessen Veterans Council.



Photo by Jim Ference

Before the Huntsville/Madison parade in Alabama, former pilot Jim Porter and MacKay Trophy recipient Maj. Brad Powell (center) hold an AFA Medal of Merit and chapter coin, respectively, presented by Tennessee Valley Chapter President Rick Driesbach (right).



Photo by John Phillip

On Veterans Day

At right: Sarasota-Manatee Chapter member US Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-Fla.) speaks at the Manatee County Veterans Day Parade in Florida. The chapter participated in two parades.



Force Magazine at Rockland County's Veterans Service Agency.

When he got to the office of Deputy Director Susan Branam, she began chatting with him. She learned of Ribbe's Air Force background, refueling F-100s and F-102s—four years on flight lines on Active Duty and another two as a Reservist in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

As Ribbe put it, Branam considered the jet noise he'd been subjected to and told him, "You oughta have your ears checked."

She pointed him to an audiologist that the county agency works with and helped him navigate the Department of Veterans Affairs system. Ribbe, who doesn't remember having a VA disability evaluation on separation from the Air



At New York's Gen. Carl A. "Tooney" Spaatz Chapter meeting in November are Chapter President David Ribbe and guest speaker Susan Branam, from a county veterans service agency.

Force as a staff sergeant, now receives some compensation for service-related hearing loss. Until this point, he had assumed his hearing problems stemmed from getting older.

Branam's know-how impressed Ribbe, who quickly invited her to address his chapter members.

The County of Rockland Veterans Service Agency describes itself as "veterans helping veterans," and Branam is a former Army captain and helicopter pilot. She spoke at the November AFA meeting, held at the US Military Academy at West Point, updating chapter members on VA benefits. According to Ribbe, she conducted "a lively question and answer period."

I Flew an Airpower Classic

AFA New Jersey's executive committee quarterly meeting spotlighted an airpower-classic bomber and two local pilots who flew it: guest speaker Thomas R. Vaucher and Shooting Star Chapter member Arthur L. Snyder.

Both B-29 pilots, Vaucher had enlisted in the Air Corps in 1940 and served in World War II, while Snyder's experiences with the Superfortress date to the Korean War era.

Vaucher had been part of the B-29's test team, charged with preparing it for combat use.

The bombers saw primary use in the Pacific Theater, most famously

firebombing Tokyo and then bringing the war to an end with the atom bombing of Hiroshima—by the B-29 *Enola Gay* on Aug. 6, 1945—and the follow-on bombing of Nagasaki by *Bockscar* three days later.

When the Japanese surrendered on the American battleship USS *Missouri*,

Guest speaker Thomas Vaucher addresses a New Jersey AFA executive committee meeting. He's holding a copy of This Flying Game, a book written in 1936 by Hap Arnold and Ira Eaker. Arnold championed development of the B-29, an aircraft that Vaucher flew in World War II.

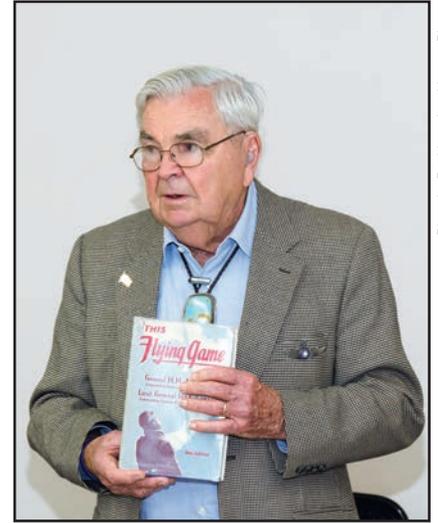


Photo by Pat Venturino, Venture Photos

 MyBrainSolutions.com



Exclusive offer for AFA Members!



Assess and strengthen your cognitive and emotional abilities

Did you know a resilient brain can help you manage stress better, stay positive and think clearly?

AFA has partnered with MyBrainSolutions to offer discounted rates on a Brain Health Program. With just 10 minutes of training a day, 3 days a week, you can begin to see results in just a month.

Begin by taking a brain assessment and then train using over 25 brain health games.

Benefits of brain training include:

- ✓ Thinking clearly
- ✓ Interacting with others better
- ✓ Increased stress management
- ✓ Positive thinking

and more...

Login to www.mybrainsolutions.com/AFA to try a free game!

anchored in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945, Vaucher was overhead, leading a B-29 show of force just after the ceremony. This show of force consisted of hundreds of B-29s and also aircraft from the US Third Fleet.

Chapter member Snyder received a direct commission into the Air Force after graduating from college in 1950 and flew the B-26 in Korea. He flew B-29s on covert CIA missions in Indochina, reported New Jersey State President Howard Leach Jr.

This AFA meeting took place at the Army's former Camp Evans, N.J., once a trans-Atlantic wireless station, involved in World War II radar development and, later, in space communications and satellite-based hurricane tracking. 🔄

Photo by Bill Ewing



At left: In Virginia, Leigh Wade Chapter volunteers helped install a wheelchair ramp for Jimmy O'Neal, husband of Teresa O'Neal (l). Lloyd Guerin, Ron Dietz, Chapter President Gary Metzinger, John Pecore, Hank Duarte (l-r), and chapter Community Partners put the project together.

At right: In Arkansas, Larry Loudon (l), president of the Lewis Lyle Chapter, presents a state Teacher of the Year Award to Mike Vincent at Hot Springs High School.



Reunions

Update Your Info

This is a good time to remind our readers to make sure their member profiles are current and accurate. You may do so by contacting the Membership Department at 1-800-727-3337, by email at membership@afa.org, or by writing to 1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22209-1198. You may also update this information at any time under the Members Only area of our website, www.afa.org.

601st-615th AC&WS. April 27-May 1 at the Comfort Suites in Charleston, SC. **Contact:** Francis Gosselin (352-588-9295) (fgosselin@tampabay.rr.com).

USAF Flight Check Assn. Sept. 24 to 28 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL. **Contact:** James Smith, 1 Deer Run, O'Fallon, IL 62269 (618-581-6249) (jamsmi177@aol.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.

#ASKAFA

GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR AIR FORCE? CURIOUS ABOUT AFA'S IMPACT?

ASK US! Just use #AskAFA on any of our social media channels.



Facebook.com/AirForceAssociation



Twitter: @AirForceAssoc

Don't use social media? You can always email us your question at AskAFA@afa.org | Visit www.afa.org/AskAFA for more details.