

AFA National Report

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By Frances McKenney, Assistant Managing Editor

AFA ACEs It

When New Hampshire's **Brig. Gen. Harrison R. Thyng Chapter** helped introduce students to aviation careers, the Air Force Association's fingerprints were all over the project.

The chapter rounded up an AFA Chapter Matching Grant—\$400 from the chapter and \$400 from AFA—and used the funds for orientation flights for the 51 students who attended this summer's fifth annual Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academies at the Laconia Arpt., N.H.

The chapter also funded tuition for a student participating in the week of activities that included model building, trips to aviation industry sites, and flight simulator time.

Daniel Caron, AFA's National Aerospace Teacher of the Year in 2004—and an active chapter member ever since—directs ACE, co-sponsored by the FAA and a local aviation and aerospace education center. Two other former AFA Teachers of the Year for the state instructed at this year's academy: Robert Rotier (2012) and Paul Gelinias (2014).

Among guest speakers, chapter members William J. Moran Jr. and Kevin M. Grady presented briefings on the Civil Air Patrol and on flight planning. The academy tapped state Air National Guard and National Guard units to provide hands-on experiences, guiding the students through their aircraft, facilities, and simulators.

"Dozens of students have experienced aviation careers up close, thanks to the efforts of the chapter," Caron commented.

Up Front

It's not often AFA gets front-page newspaper publicity—right down to details on the cost of membership—but South Carolina's **Swamp Fox Chapter** earned it with its 15th annual dinner co-sponsored with the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce.

The Sumter Item sent a reporter to cover the event, where the brand-new 9th Air Force commander at Shaw Air Force Base, Maj. Gen. Mark D. Kelly, made his first local speech. He described USAF's flexibility and quick reaction capability. ✪



Photo by Julie Sicks-Panus

Eighth-grader Christopher Crosbie-Villaseca from Oyster River Middle School in Durham, N.H., prepares a model rocket for launching. The Thyng Chapter helped sponsor this weeklong introduction to aviation careers. Students in grades three through high school used these model rockets to learn about flight theory.

From Desert Shield to Inherent Resolve: Did You Serve?

Air Force Magazine needs AFA chapter members' photos for a feature called "25 Years of USAF at War."

We're seeking personal (not Public Affairs) snapshots of you, on Active Duty, in the Guard, or Reserve, in named Operations or Exercises, from Desert Shield (August 1990) to today.

We want **UNPOSED, CANDID** photos showing you **IN ACTION**.

Email images to: fmckenney@afa.org, subject line: 25 Years at War.

Mail images to: *Air Force Magazine*, 25 Years at War, 1501 Lee Hwy., Arlington, VA 22209.

Please include a paragraph describing the action in the photo, where it was taken, when, and the name of the Operation.

Deadline is Nov. 25, 2015.



This is the kind of unposed, candid, action photo we're looking for: Air National Guardsman A1C Arie Church, in civilian life an Air Force Magazine associate editor, conducts a walkaround of a D.C. ANG F-16 in March on deployment to RAAF Base Tindal, Australia.

How to Attract Media Attention

CyberPatriot, AFA's national youth cyber defense competition, offers everything positive for local media to spotlight: a hot topic, smart young students, education, and patriotism.

Tennessee's **Gen. Bruce K. Holloway Chapter** recognized this and leveraged the accomplishments of a local CyberPatriot team into a four-minute TV segment aired by the local NBC station, WBIR. This didn't happen by chance.

- The chapter had a news angle. The CyberPatriot team from Knoxville's Farragut High School first entered the CyberPatriot competition in the 2011-12 season, and the "Cyber Admirals" have been state champions ever since, most recently beating more than 50 other Tennessee teams.

- The chapter chose the right target. According to Rafael Pubillones, aerospace education VP, the chapter pitched their story idea to a "veteran-friendly anchor" who did a regular "Service & Sacrifice" feature every Thursday on the evening news.

- They made it easy. The chapter sent newsman John Becker a "read-



Screen grab courtesy of WBIR

Farragut High School's CyberPatriot team demonstrates for a Knoxville TV station how they trained for CyberPatriot. L-r: Team mentor Greg Hinkel and students Sam MacLean, Bailey Holland, and Matt Fisher.

ahead": quick facts about CyberPatriot and the Farragut team.

- They handled some logistics. They stayed in touch with Becker to see the project through. VP John H. Grueser served as a point of contact with the high school. They lined up Chapter President Stephen J. Dillenburg and Grueser, an Air Force retired brigadier general, as interview subjects.

- The two chapter "talking heads" had sound bites ready. "The TV medium is focused on time," Pubillones reminds us, so Dillenburg and Grueser prepped with the same read-ahead that the anchor used.

The chapter's advice on how to grab TV time holds for other media outlets, too.

Here is the result of the Holloway Chapter's efforts:
<http://on.wbir.com/1WEPplf>.

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