

SUMMER 2018

# AFFSA

**MAGAZINE**

DEFENDING THE ENLISTED CORPS AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1961 | [www.hqafsa.org](http://www.hqafsa.org)

## ENLISTED AIRMEN

PRESERVING THE LEGACY:  
AIRMAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION



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Making a  
connection for  
proper care

# RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF ENLISTED AIRMEN

THE PROUD WORK OF THE AIRMAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

by John Worthington  
Marketing Chair, Airman Heritage Foundation



Basic military training trainees Richard Dibble, left, and Dominic Gurule, right, clean the exhibits at the USAF Airman Heritage Museum at Joint Base San Antonio Lackland (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Bennie J. Davis III)





Current USAF Airman Heritage Museum

Architectural rendering of future USAF Airman Heritage Museum facility



The mission of the Airman Heritage Foundation (AHF) is to support the USAF Airman Heritage Museum and its mission to preserve and honor the history of enlisted airmen. The Foundation seeks to increase awareness of the USAF and the Museum in preserving and honoring the many significant accomplishments, culture, traditions and legacy of enlisted airmen. It works to educate current and future airmen and the general public on the role enlisted airmen have played in the success of the USAF mission, while creating a program to enhance the education and professional development for future airmen. And, the AHF raises funds and provides resources and financial support for museum and heritage-related activities not fully funded by the Air Force. The Foundation's Board of Directors is led by President Timothy Dickens, Chief Master Sgt., USAF (Ret.), and is composed of other retired military and civilian volunteers who manage the various AHF programs, finances, marketing and fundraising.

Strategic partnerships are critical to the success of the Foundation. It has continued to enjoy and mature its relationships with the Air Force Federal Credit Union and the Air Force Sergeants Association. President

Dickens notes that, "they both share the passion of our purpose and are key advocates towards our efforts to 'Build the Dream.'"

Additional relationships with local community leaders and representatives from local, state and national offices have helped them appreciate the value in supporting the AHF and long-term partnerships. And, partnerships with HQ AETC, the Command History

Office, 502<sup>nd</sup> ABW and the 37<sup>th</sup> TRW remain essential to providing guidance and support.

**OUTREACH**

The Foundation is constantly looking for education and outreach opportunities. The AHF's USAF Heritage Collection, a display of authentic USAF uniforms and accouterments from throughout the years, has grown in variety and popularity as it helps recognize the proud USAF history and those who have served. The collection, in collaboration with the museum staff, has been a hit with exhibitions at several Air Force base events such as open houses, air shows, and retiree activities, as well as civic events and even fashion shows. Foundation Education/Outreach Program Director retired USAF Lt. Col. Dave Schultz found and contributed many of those items



AHF President  
Timothy Dickens,  
CMSgt, USAF (Ret.)



AHF Education/Outreach  
Director Dave Schultz, Lt  
Col, USAF (Ret.)



AHF Hosted WAF 70th Anniversary Luncheon and Fashion Show

to the collection so that, coupled with a large quantity of items inherited from AFSA, the AHF USAF Heritage Collection has become a “mobile museum” to support the AHF mission throughout the Air Force. Schultz says, “The collection provides the Foundation a capability to further increase awareness and educate the active duty force, veterans and the general public in our ongoing efforts to preserve and honor the history, heritage, traditions, culture and legacy of USAF enlisted men and women.”

Along with static displays, AHF has engaged active duty personnel at locations where the collection has been displayed to help showcase the uniforms by acting as living history re-enactors, describing the uniform, the period and, in some instances, the veteran they represent.

In addition to outreach activities, the AHF worked closely with the museum staff to provide promotional and financial support for their series of educational presentations for enlisted personnel, “Profiles in Leadership,” which featured

distinguished speakers such as retired Admiral William McRaven.

#### GATEWAY LOCATION

It is fitting that the museum is located at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, the Gateway to the Air Force, where all enlisted airmen, Active, Guard and Reserve, come to be part of the greatest Air and Space Force in the world. The current USAF Airman Heritage Museum was built in 1956. It, along with the Security Forces Museum, air park and parade field, comprise the USAF Airman Heritage Training Complex at Lackland.

As part of the JBSA-Lackland General Plan “Corridors of Excellence” program, engraved bricks are being installed in prominent areas along the parade field and adjacent areas on the base. The Airman Heritage Foundation Legacy Paver Program seeks to honor military service members—past, present and future—particularly our enlisted Airmen.

The program also offers an ideal way to recognize specific individuals and groups who support our efforts. Details on how to obtain a Legacy Paver are found on the AHF website, [myairmanmuseum.org](http://myairmanmuseum.org).

## BY THE NUMBERS

What do 83%, 30,000, and 0 represent? “83%” is the percentage of Enlisted Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve Airmen serving in our Total Force; more than 30,000 Enlisted Airmen go through Basic Military Training each year and learn the culture of commitment and life of service needed for our national defense; while 0 is the number of state-of-the-art museums in the world that focus on the history, heritage and legacy of Air Force Enlisted Airmen. The Airman Heritage Foundation (AHF) wants to change that 0 figure.



The Airman Heritage Museum does a great job of collecting, researching, preserving, interpreting and presenting the enlisted corps' history, heritage and traditions. And, it instills an understanding and appreciation of the distinctive Airman culture through engaging exhibits, educational and outreach programs, and the ongoing stewardship of its historic national collection. However, its footprint of 7,000 square feet, with only 5,000 square feet of exhibit space, accommodates just 35 exhibits and is woefully inadequate to exhibit the large number of artifacts currently stored offsite in remote locations.

#### BUILD THE DREAM

The AHF Vision is to build a new USAF Airman Heritage Museum, a state-of-the-art facility that will preserve and display the proud heritage, countless sacrifices, and significant achievements of enlisted airmen, and be an educational resource for their rich history and character development. It will be a museum learning center that will be the "go-to" destination for those seeking to learn, understand, admire and respect the full spectrum of our Air Force's enlisted heritage.

Museum exhibits and programs would be integrated into basic military training curriculum and would provide educational programs for colleges, schools, civic groups and the business community. It would provide a research center for historians and scholars. And

it would be a must-see tourist attraction of national caliber.

As envisioned, the new facility would have an 85,000-square-foot footprint with 50,000 square feet of exhibit space and a 7,500-square-foot auditorium. The total budget for construction and exhibits is \$50,000,000. Local fundraising campaigns and national funding efforts are underway.

The Foundation welcomes all donations, large and small, and has several options through which individuals can participate:

- Become an AHF member
- Purchase a Legacy Paver
- Contribute to the Foundation
- Mark CFC Charity Code #68584 on pledge forms to support the AHF
- Encourage friends and acquaintances to participate

Building the Dream is a major undertaking that requires the support and cooperation of people and organizations at many levels to succeed.

The AHF is dedicated to making the new, USAF Airman Heritage Museum a reality. Visit [myairmanmuseum.org](http://myairmanmuseum.org), and follow us on Facebook. Help us spread the word as we continue to ramp up our ops tempo for success.



Airmen living history reenactors at Barksdale AFB Global Strike Command 2017 Air Force Ball



Installed Legacy Paver

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