

AFSA

MAGAZINE

FALL 2019

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AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND



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EDITORIAL STATEMENT

AFSA Magazine is the only magazine dedicated solely to serving our members and their families. We are obliged to serve the interests and concerns of our members by striving to report timely and accurate information. The editors reserve the right to edit all submissions but will never materially alter the author's viewpoint. The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Air Force Sergeants Association or its editors.

AFSA does not necessarily endorse products or services advertised in the AFSA Magazine. Produced in the United States of America.

AFSA

-- AFSA IS QUALITY OF LIFE --
WE LEGISLATE, EDUCATE, ADVOCATE DECISION MAKERS FOR THE IMPROVED QUALITY-OF-LIFE AND ECONOMIC FAIRNESS TO SUPPORT THE WELL-BEING OF MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

ONE POWERFUL FORCE UNITED TOGETHER
Through its many programs and worldwide chapters, AFSA also reaches out to bases and communities to help those in need and to raise awareness of the sacrifices, concerns and contributions of the men and women and their families who serve.

AMF

An AFSA affiliate, the Airmen Memorial Foundation (AMF), provides educational assistance to dependent children of the Total Air Force enlisted force. It is also an annual participant in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #10517). Donate to the AMF here.
https://members.hqafsa.org/Members_AFSADonate/Members_AFSAFundraising/AFSA_Ways_to_Give.aspx

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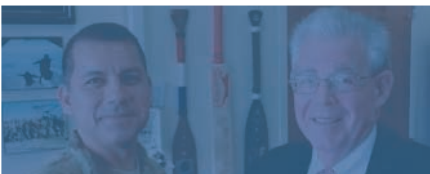
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COVER

The U.S. Air Force's 45th Space Wing supported United Launch Alliance's successful launch of the third Space Based Infrared Systems Geosynchronous Earth Orbit spacecraft aboard an Atlas V rocket from Launch Complex 41 here Jan. 20 at 7:42 p.m. ET. The launch is the first major launch operation of 2017 on the Eastern Range and kicks off what is predicted to be a busy year on the Eastern Range. (Courtesy photo by United Launch Alliance)



Michael R. Carton
Air Force Sergeants Association
27th International President



ON 1 NOVEMBER,
AFSA OFFERED, WHAT IS
ARGUABLY THE
SINGLE GREATEST



MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE,
A ONE COURSE COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIP,
FOR THE LOW COST
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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

VETERAN'S DAY

Veteran's Day is the day we honor all the men and women who have served our great nation. I was astounded to learn that from 1775 to 2019, over 49M men and women have answered their nations call and served in defense of the nation. I visited Arlington National Cemetery and was honored and humbled to participate in the National Veteran's Day celebration. In addition to hearing remarks by Vice President Pence and VA Secretary Wilke, I had the privilege of laying the AFSA wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. This is such a high honor to partake in this ceremony, to recognize and honor the sacrifice of the 49M men and women who have served our country. I want to personally thank each of you for your service and sacrifice for our great nation.

SEAC TROXELL

Welcome AFSA's newest Member for Life, Command Sgt. Maj. John Wayne Troxell. AFSA says thank you for your service to our nation and your support to our great association. AFSA has enjoyed a wonderful relationship with this great enlisted leader. The SEAC talked about his strategic vision on the educating and developing future senior enlisted leaders. Today, the SEAC is a Member for Life in our great association. Congratulations Command Sergeant Major on an outstanding career and being a true friend of AFSA.

HOLIDAY

The temperatures are changing and the Christmas decorations, Hallmark Movies, holiday music, and football games are filling the airwaves. In about 6 weeks, we will usher in a new year; a year full of opportunity and challenge. As we prepare for holidays, Rosemary and I wish each of you and your families a most wonderful Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

SCHOLARSHIP

On 1 November, AFSA offered, what is arguably the single greatest membership incentive, a one course scholarship, for the low cost of an AFSA membership. This opportunity reaches out to crucial segments of our membership demographics, retirees, veterans, and family members. The success of this membership campaign is dependent upon chapters and members having a full understanding of the campaign. How many of your friends have recently retired or separated from the Air Force that may be interested in this opportunity? If you have any questions, no matter how small, please call the staff in Member and Field Relations and get the answers you need to ensure success.

AUTO PAY: SET-IT-FOREVER

The monthly Auto Pay option is closer to becoming a reality. The product demo, as promised by Executive Director Reed, is posted on the AFSA web site. Please take time to go through the demo so you will fully understand how this system will work when it is implemented. If you have any questions about the monthly auto pay, please contact the Headquarters to get answers. It is critical that every chapter and the membership knows and understands how the system is going to work. You can expect more information in the very near future.

ROUNDTABLE

I attended a roundtable discussion hosted by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The House Veteran's Affairs Committee Chairman, Representative (CA) Mark Takano also participated in the discussion with over 30 Veteran's Service Organizations. It was a very informative and educational discussion. We expressed our deep concern with the proposed "Skinny NDAA" currently under discussion. This particular version of the NDAA impacts the overall Quality of Life of our members and their families. A "Skinny NDAA" will have a direct impact on Readiness; which directly impacts National Security; which in turn impacts the Quality of Life. I urge each of you to contact your elected leaders and let them know how devastating a "Skinny NDAA" will be for our nation, you, and your family.

RESILIENCY

I met with CMSgt Paul Barbee of the Air Force Office of Integrated Resilience, earlier this week. One focus of our discussion was to examine how our association can help our Air Force and our members with this debilitating issue affecting our service, and our nation. The second focus centered on building relationships. AFSA is about establishing and cultivating relationships and we pride ourselves on our ability to offer leadership opportunities to our younger members. We have, at our disposal, a vast network of colleagues, friends, and families, all of which can be a supportive element with resiliency.

There are four things that each of you can do to help with this crisis. *The first is connect.* Connecting is a combination of observation and a conversation based on what you have seen. It may be a coworker, a friend, or a family member. Regardless, we must be observant and ask questions. The second is detection and that involves intervention for the member. *The next focus is Protect.* Protecting the member is crucial and takes the form of insulation and not isolation. Insulation provides a sense of safety and security while isolation gives the member a sense of being alone and without help or support. *Finally, there is Equipping.* I spoke earlier of AFSA's ability to provide Airmen with leadership opportunities. Equipping is providing every leader and rising leader with the tools necessary to be effective. I encourage each of you to visit the website, <https://www.resilience.af.mil> and review the information to add to your leadership toolkit.

My goal is for every member of our Armed Forces family, Active Duty, Reserves, Guard, Veterans and Retirees and Family Members is to be cognizant of life's stressors and have the tools available to recognize a family member in need of assistance and make that connection. AFSA members have a multitude of personal contacts and we can use that network to increase awareness and take care of one another. We must do whatever we can to protect our most important assets, the member and their family.

Michael R. Carton
AFSA International President



We are the flag wavers and caretakers of Veterans' final resting places

We are the protectors of those who protect us

We are brothers and sisters joined in the profession of arms

We are families, linking arms and standing strong through deployments and separations

We are Veterans... of wars abroad and battles we've fought when we return

We are the scholarship providers and we help families pay for college

We are the leaders, the teachers, the mentors eager to share our knowledge

We invite you to join, re-new or give the gift of membership

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EYE ON WASHINGTON

THE FY2020 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (NDAA)

There has only been one time in the past 20 years when we were not able to provide a final overview of the annual defense policy bill in this issue of the magazine; now there are two. House and Senate lawmakers officially began the process of reconciling the two chamber's bills in early September, but congressional staff were working on the final measure well before that. From the start, conferees had many hurdles to overcome including divergent views on border wall funding, employment of low-yield nuclear weapons and prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, etc. but border wall funding has been, and continues to be the main sticky point. It's unclear how close lawmakers were on resolving their differences since all their deliberations are conducted in private and compromises are not normally made public. The NDAA's 58-year streak of successful passage into law serves as a powerful motivator to reconcile any differences and we believe lawmakers will eventually cut some deals and make compromises to finish their work. Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) Chairman, Jim Inhofe (R-OK) filed a "skinny" version of FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in the event they do not. S. 2731, the "Essential National Security Authorities Act for Fiscal Year 2020" (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2731?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22S.+2731%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1>) contains "must-pass" provisions only and could be used as a backup if negotiations on the larger measure remained stalled. Passage of the skinny NDAA would keep the congressional streak alive and ensure service members will get their 3.1 percent pay raise. Unfortunately, it does not address military construction, nor does it contain key provisions we were seeking like repealing the "widows' tax".

ANNUAL FUNDING STRUGGLE

The task of funding the government continues to be a challenge for Congress. As of press time, House lawmakers passed ten of twelve annual funding bills and the Senate, four. None of them have been reconciled between the two chambers and much of the government continued to operate under temporary funding legislation while they tried to sort things out. We can ascertain how well things are going this year simply by looking at the Military Construction/VA (MILCON/VA) bill. Traditionally it's one of the first bills passed by Congress since it is usually a noncontroversial piece of legislation. But the infusion of border wall funding in this year's measure tainted the process so it has been unable to clear the Senate. We are confident that Congress will be able to sort things out, but it will likely take multiple Continuing Resolutions (CR) for them to do that. Already lawmakers are teeing up a second CR that will take them well into December. We doubt that will be enough time to resolve everything and anticipate at least one, and maybe even two more CRs beyond that, meaning it will be next year before the FY2020 funding solution is fully materialized.



SVAC CHAIRMAN TO RETIRE

The Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee will be retiring from Congress at the end of the year. Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) announced his decision in late August, citing health problems as the principal reason why he's stepping aside halfway through his current term. The Chairman has Parkinson's Disease and for the past few months has been working to recover from a fall he sustained during the summer. *"With the mounting health challenges I am facing, I have concluded that I will not be able to do the job over the long term in the manner the citizens of Georgia deserve"* said Isakson. *"It goes against every fiber of my being to leave in the middle of my Senate term, but I know it's the right thing to do on behalf of my state."* Senator Isakson's congressional career has spanned more than two decades beginning with his election to the House in 1999 and to the Upper Chamber in 2004. He has been a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs for his entire time in the Senate and is one of a handful of Air Force veterans in Congress (Georgia Air National Guard, 1966-1972). Since becoming chairman of the committee in 2015, Isakson has played a key role in reforming veterans' health care and benefits and making the VA more responsive to the veterans it serves through oversight and accountability. In a recent interview with the Military Times, Isakson cited his strong belief that *"VA is always going to be a work in progress."* He spoke of the importance of learning from past mistakes to avoid messes like those that the committee has been forced to address in recent years. Under Isakson's leadership, the Committee passed 57 pieces of legislation that were eventually signed into law. These include significant reforms to improve accountability at the VA, the VA MISSION Act of 2018 and the Forever GI Bill. The military and veterans community has benefited greatly from his efforts and we enjoyed working with him on numerous efforts over the years. His presence will be deeply missed.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM, OPEN LETTER AND RESOLUTION RATIFIED

AFSA members attending the 2019 AFSA International Convention and Professional Airmen's Conference in San Antonio, Texas, ratified the 2019-2020 Legislative Platform (<https://www.hqafsa.org/legislativeplatform.html>), a basic list of legislative targets AFSA lobbyists will pursue in testimony and face-to-face visits with congressional representatives during the coming year. These targets will be available on the AFSA Home Page soon and detailed in

future AFSA publications. The delegates also unanimously passed an "Open Letter to Congress and the President" urging them to repeal the SBP/DIC offset which is less formally known as the "widows' tax." The letter notes that legislation to eliminate the unfair reduction has been proposed several times in multiple Congresses, but it has never made it to a vote in either the House or Senate. This year however, it has overwhelming support in the House (372 members) and the Senate (75 members). Additionally, the House version of the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 2500) contains language repealing the offset as well. The letter concludes by urging leaders of the Executive and Legislative branches to end the injustice for these surviving spouses by passing this legislation now. Delegates also unanimously passed a resolution charging Congress to protect military exchanges and commissaries. The 2019 Resolution begins by observing that military medicine is a national treasure and that its importance to our country cannot be overstated. It then reflects the Associations concern with proposed reductions to military medical billets and calls on Congress to embrace its oversight role to evaluate DoD's proposal and its impact on the nation, the department and most importantly, beneficiaries.

VA CAREGIVER PROGRAM EXPANSION DELAYED

October 1 came and went so the projected delay in the expansion of VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) is a reality now. The department has made progress on the expansion effort though, so we are able to report some of that here. VA recently launched a new IT system to manage a much larger program and soon will transfer information on Veterans currently in the PCAFC to the new program. Sometime after the first of the year they will begin to automate payments through the new system and test additional features as they come online. If all goes well, VA should be able to certify the new program to Congress (as required by the MISSION Act) and solicit applications from new veterans by summer 2020 so stay tuned here for updates.

2020 COLA

Next year's COLA for military and federal retirees as well as Social Security Recipients will be 1.6 percent. The new rates are effective December 1st but not payable until January 1, 2020. The rate of the COLA also applies to military Survivor Benefit Plan and VA's disability compensation, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and clothing allowance payments. Servicemembers who retired during calendar year 2019 and those who retired under the REDUX retirement system receive a slightly different COLA. Visit <https://www.ssa.gov/cola/> to learn more.



25TH SECAF CONFIRMED

Last month the Senate confirmed (<https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1990512/senate-confirms-barrett-to-be-air-force-secretary/>) Barbara Barrett who is an American businesswoman, attorney, and former ambassador to Finland as the next secretary of the Air Force. Barrett is the fourth woman to hold this role and she replaces Heather Wilson who resigned the position in May to become president of the University of Texas at El Paso.

TAKE NOTE! OPEN SEASON IS COMING

It is time to start thinking about whether you or your family members want (or need) to make changes to your current health, dental, and vision plan coverage. TRICARE and the Federal Benefits Open Seasons will begin November 11 and end on December 9. Enrollment choices made during this period will take effect on January 1, 2020. Click here (<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter/TRICARE-and-Federal-Benefits-Open-Seasons>) to learn more.

RISING AIR FORCE LODGING RATES

About a year ago DoD directed the individual services to convert their military lodging facilities to nonappropriated fund (NAF) activities by the end of FY2019. The immediate impact of this decision was higher out-of-pocket expenses for users because base lodging programs were forced to raise nightly room rates in order to fully cover their operating expenses. Rates at Air Force lodging facilities increased on November 1 and were doubled at some sites in Europe. Stars and Stripes has the story here (https://www.stripes.com/news/hikes-are-coming-to-air-force-lodging-rates-worldwide-some-in-europe-will-be-doubling-1.604009?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2010.22.19&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief).

KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE ON MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIR'S LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

With thousands of legislative initiatives introduced each Congressional session, it can be difficult to keep up to date with what's happening on Capitol Hill. Through our headline roundups, Washington Report, and Legislative Action Center, AFSA's Military & Government Affairs' legislative team seeks to interact with members to disseminate information vital to the security of benefits and protection of the overall quality of

life for past and present enlisted members and their families. In light of many revolutionary changes occurring within our political, legal, and mass-media arena's at-large, AFSA is proud to take this opportunity to highlight the newly restructured Legislative area of the HQAFSA website.

As we continually update and improve our website, members are now able to get to know our headquarters legislative team, formulate chapter-sponsored advocacy agendas utilizing our brand-new Congressional Legislative Lists, easily understand the real-time impacts of dense pieces of legislation by sifting through our brand-new Legislative Library, and effectively participate in the democratic process with our newly updated Legislative Action Center.



"At the heart of this mission was to create a forum where members can have exclusive access to information on all things legislation at their fingertips," said AFSA's Policy Advisor, Legislative Affairs Matthew Schwartzman. *"Unfortunately, the vast majority of those who represent us in Washington don't have any military background, experience, and/or exposure,"* Matthew continued. *"However, this provides us with a unique opportunity to not only serve as a stalwart advocacy arm, but an educational one as well."*

Support rendered to the legislative program by members of AFSA is essential to the success in reaching our goals. On the national level, well-timed letters, emails, and phone calls in response to solicited requests and calls for action can make the difference between legislative failure and success. On the local and state level, such communication is no less important.

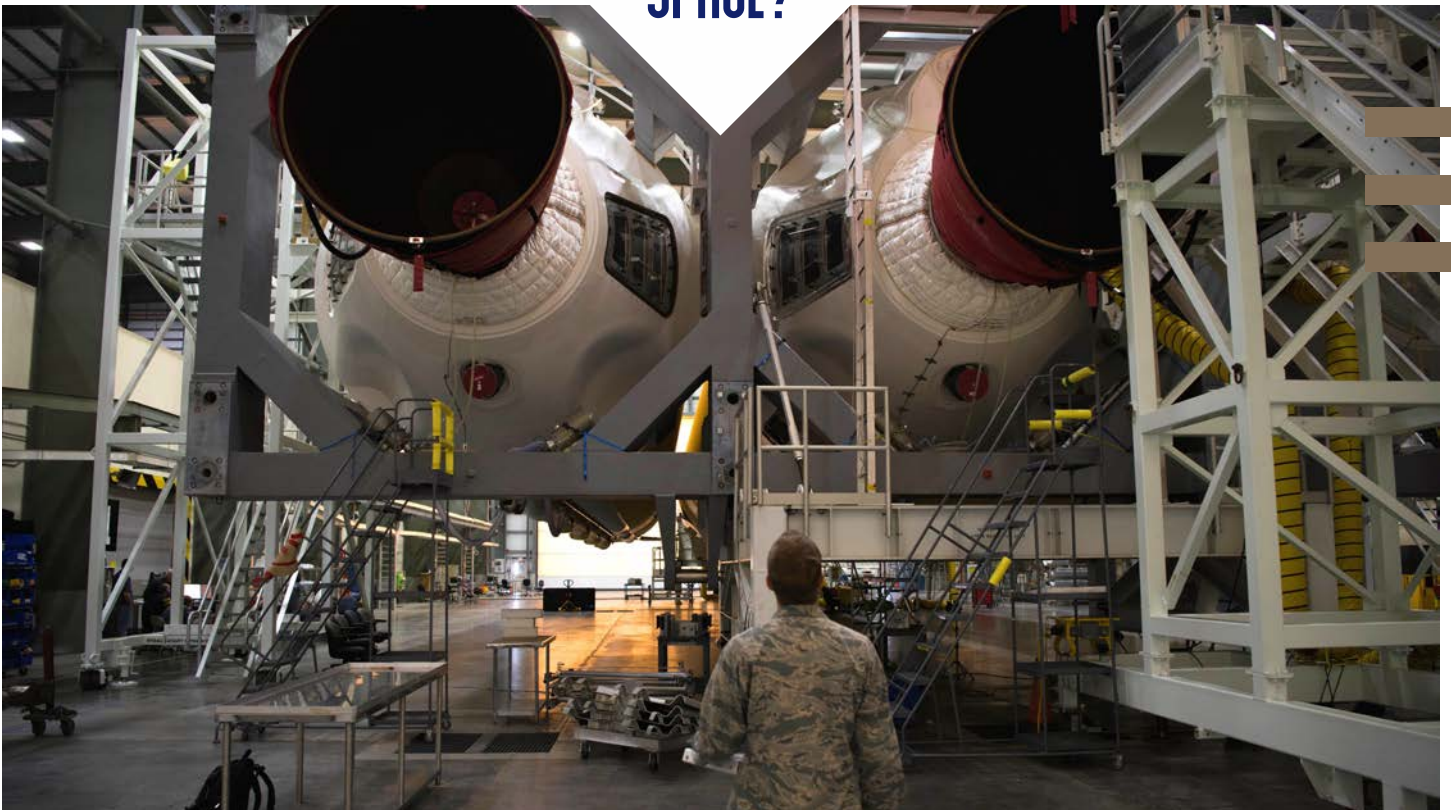
As always, we encourage membership outreach. In pursuing through our website, if you have any comments, concerns, suggestions, or questions, please feel free to reach out to the M&G team directly. 301-899-3500x291 or, via email: milgovteam@hqafsa.org



(Top) E-SCAPE-ing the average workday. Staff Sgt. Shane Stilson, 4th Space Launch Squadron mission assurance technician, stands in a Self-Contained Atmospheric Protective Ensemble suit at Space Launch Complex 6 Aug. 3, 2019, at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. Airmen of the 4th SLS enable assured access to space year-round, and in doing so, don SCAPE suits to perform duties near rocket fuel. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Clayton Wear.)

"HOW'D YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME IN SPACE?"

(Bottom) 1st. Lieutenant Drew Carrigan, 5th Space Launch Squadron Air Force Responsible Engineer, inspects a set Delta IV heavy boosters during a routine inspection, March 14, at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Dalton Williams)





MY JOURNEY INTO SPACE

By Chief Master Sgt. Roger Towberman, Command Chief Air Force Space Command and U.S. Space Command

When my phone rang, I recognized the phone number immediately and knew this was the call I'd been waiting for. Was it time to start packing for a new job or was it time to grab some flies and the rest of my kit and head to the Shenandoah to fish away my sorrows and reflect on what could have been?

When General Jay Raymond, the commander of Air Force Space Command, began with, "This was a really tough decision and I've given it a lot of thought," I was sure I was about to go fishing.

It's amazing how fast your mind moves at times like this. How many thoughts, how many excuses, how many sour grapes you can sell yourself over the span of a handful of spoken words. Whatever was coming next, I had already dealt with it.

Next came the words, "How'd you like to join me in space?"

If my mind was racing over my anticipated rejection, the unexpected good news put it into warp speed. I was over the moon. Yes, pun intended. I had just been told I would be the next Command Chief for Air Force Space Command! What an incredible opportunity. Then it hit me: I don't know the first thing about space. The good news... I had nowhere to go but up. The not-so-secret method to leading a team who have way more technical knowledge and experience than you is to get to know them. When you listen to them, you learn the mission. AFSPC has roughly 26,000 space professionals; that's plenty of experts to help catch me up! I was excited to begin my journey into space.

Now, before I met any of them, I did my homework of course. I learned that the space capabilities these professionals provide must be resilient (to survive and operate in space!); defensible (against potential adversaries); and affordable (responsibility to our taxpayers). These capabilities – and we'll go into more specifics – not only support the U.S. Air Force, but also our joint forces and, even if they don't realize it, our nation (GPS anyone?). Quite literally, space-age technology abounds, but our current missions, like all Air Force missions, are best represented by the Airmen who execute them every day.

The very first thing I noticed about AFSPC were these stellar Airmen. I learned more about the missions: acquisition, global communication, missile warning, launch, weather, space domain awareness, navigation and intelligence through them, and I'm going to share the story of space through their stories.

What you will learn about these Airmen is that their story is more than just passion for the mission, it's also resilience and excellence. None of the amazing technology would matter if not for them. It's our human capital who guarantee our assured access and freedom to maneuver in space. Welcome to a journey through space.

ACQUISITIONS AND LAUNCH

First, we're going to talk acquisitions and launch with Tech. Sgts. Brian Tafoya and Travis Ferguson – if you want something in space, you have to design it correctly, and you have to get it there. Our acquisition process is so critical that AFSPC is the only Air Force major command to have its acquisition arm within the command. Our tailored space

acquisition teams use a cradle-to-grave process to meet warfighting needs and our launch teams deliver those payloads into space. As our adversaries further develop their own space programs, we face challenges to our unrestricted access to space. Airmen like Brian meet those challenges head on every day. He works for the Space and Missile Systems Center as an operations manager and is stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. A missile maintainer by trade, Brian has contributed to the success of various, strategic space launch programs including multiple pacesetting, or what we call operationally responsive systems. He now represents end-to-end integration of our small space lift mission worth \$3 billion. After 15 years of building his technical excellence as a missile maintainer, quality inspector and launch expert, he said he feels he belongs to something more, "I have a fight in the space domain and every launch I was (am) a part of is my unique story." Without Airmen like Brian, we'd never get a rocket off the ground.

On the other side of the country, we find Tech. Sgt. Travis Ferguson, a flight chief at the 5th Space Launch Squadron, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. He is the enlisted leader for 35 Airmen who support the \$65 billion National Security Space Launch program and work specifically with SpaceX's Falcon rocket program. His team oversees all rocket processing operations, and delivers mission assurance and technical risk recommendations for critical launch milestones. As a team lead, Travis ensures his team understands the impact of their day-to-day mission. "My Airmen have a unique opportunity to bridge a gap by working with both space operators and space lift. It's not difficult to tie what we do every day to supporting boots on the ground." Travis was recently selected for promotion to master sergeant based on his ability to lead others and we couldn't be more proud of him.

Kobayashi Maru program & Section 31: U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Brock, U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Anamelie Salvador and U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Brian Day review sensor data from the Theater Watch Chief console within the Combined Space Operations Center at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. With the assistance of the Space and Missile



Systems Center's Kobayashi Maru program and Section 31 team from Los Angeles AFB in El Segundo, Calif., CSpOC personnel operating under the Combined Force Space Component Command are supporting U.S. Space Command, providing the United States and its allies with space-related services like GPS tracking and missile warnings to help with ground-based missions. (U.S. AF photo by Maj. Cody Chiles)



Chief Master Sgt. Roger Towberman assumed the position of Command Chief, Air Force Space Command, in November 2018, and Command Senior Enlisted Leader, U.S. Space Command, in August 2019. Towberman was previously Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

WEATHER

Like all military operations, space operations need to be planned, and a major planning factor is weather. Our weather experts, like Master Sgt. William Price, non-commissioned officer in charge of the Military Strategic and Tactical Relay Helpdesk, 30th Operations Support Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, California, provides volumes of critical cloud, upper air and space environmental data to directly support our space missions – the most important single source of global weather data used for combat support. Will's team is trained to look for warning signs of incoming storms and inclement weather that could impact not only the Western Range's launch mission, but also the local community. With some launches generating 5 million pounds of thrust – the huge ball of flames that accompany launch, also presents a huge potential risk to ignite wildfires. Prior to each launch, Will's team creates an hour-by-hour forecast of winds to avoid contributing to the particularly high wildfire threat in California. That's just a fraction of the great work our weather Airmen are doing; the information they provide is critical to every mission we conduct every day.

GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

This mission is inextricably linked to warfighting success. Satellite communication systems connect national and strategic-level leaders to operational commanders. These space-based capabilities also provide critical connectivity to tactical forces without direct access to terrestrial communications; in addition to presidential support, nuclear command and control, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

These communications are enabled by great Airmen like Staff Sgt. Steve Evans of the 4th Space Operations Squadron at Schriever AFB, Colorado. A radio frequency transmission craftsman by trade, Steve supports the squadron's



command and control of military satellite communications systems. A unique capability of his unit is to be able to deploy a ground mobile unit anywhere around the world, as they did recently aboard a C-17 as part of major exercise. Once there, he and his counterparts are able to command and control the communications satellites that enable warfighting discussions at the highest level, even in a post nuclear environment. Steve's technical excellence is the benchmark for others to aspire.

NAVIGATION

Sure we all know our favorite map applications rely on Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites, but as we'll explain with Tech. Sgt. Sarah Chapman, precise navigation guides all military operations – from humanitarian to warfighting. GPS satellites enhance C2, support fast-paced operations and permit efficient maneuvers. In short, they're mission critical. Which missions? All of them. Sarah serves as the GPS Warfighting Collaboration Cell flight chief at the 2nd Space Operations Squadron at Schriever AFB. Smack in the middle of transforming our warfighting culture, Sarah leads a team of 30 GPS experts as they support all combatant commands with more than 300 (!!) daily constellation reports and planning products to directly support warfighting operations. No matter what, she ensures precise navigation signals are available to our deployed warfighters. As we look to a future with emerging warfighting functions, Sarah will continue to lead the way.

AWARENESS

Then there's the mission of Awareness. This is a fundamental aspect of space operations – think of it as a neighborhood watch program of potentially nefarious actors. Whether it be space situational awareness, space domain awareness, or missile warning and battlefield awareness, defeating an enemy relies on having better and faster information than they do. Awareness spans multiple mission areas and many Airmen help us use the ultimate high ground to exploit our utmost military advantage.

One of those Airmen is Senior Airman Alexander Digon, a satellite system operator with the 460th Operations Support Squadron at Buckley AFB, Colorado. Last year, Alexander instructed more than 50 active duty and reserve Air Force members and Allied partners, while supporting 2,000 classroom and simulation hours, and 70 certification tasks. His technical expertise enables critical missile warning capabilities for six combatant commands in support of 172,000 deployed joint personnel.

"I teach Airmen how to operate three different satellite systems that make up the SBIRS [Space-Based Infrared

System] architecture," Alexander said. "The most rewarding part of my job is being in a position to help my fellow Airmen become the best space operators they can be. In doing this I am ensuring that the next line of operators can handle anything they might see in this increasingly contested space environment."

INTELLIGENCE

As the saying goes, "Intelligence drives operations." No one represents this tenant more than Tech. Sgt. Travis Demarest of the 21st Operations Support Squadron at Peterson AFB, Colorado.

"When Intel drives ops, it allows our military to be proactive, and one step ahead of our adversaries," Travis said.

"Embedding intel professionals with our space operators allows intel to play a critical role when it comes to planning and executing space warfighting operations."



Chief Master Sgt. Roger Towberman, Air Force Space Command Command Chief, answers questions and engages an audience of AFSPC personnel during a Chief Chat in the AFSPC headquarters building, June 10, 2019. Towberman holds his Chief Chats once a month to open himself and the command up to any questions his Airmen have. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dennis Hoffman)

A joint warfighter and graduate of the Navy Signals Intelligence School and Army Morse Code School, Travis brings keen analytical insight and passion for the mission to his current duties as a section chief. He directs the 21st Operations Group Weapons and Tactics program for 17 geographically separated units and supports more than 2,400 personnel and 14 diverse space weapon systems.

"The 21st OG Weapons and Tactics program is constantly creating and developing new tactics, techniques, and procedures to deter or defeat our enemies," Travis said. "Actively collecting tactical knowledge and lessons learned from deployments, exercises and advanced training helps protect our warfighters and our country."

We are so lucky to have Travis as part of our team.



SPACE WARFIGHTING OF THE FUTURE

So what's next for these great Airmen and their mission? As we continue our journey from caretakers in a benign space environment to warfighters in a contested domain, it's hard to know for sure. U.S. Space Command stood up this year and excitement continues to grow around the proposed U.S. Space Force.



Kobayashi Maru program and Section 31: U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Brock, U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Anamelie Salvador and U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Brian Day review sensor data from the Theater Watch Chief console within the Combined Space Operations Center at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. With the assistance of the Space and Missile Systems Center's Kobayashi Maru program and Section 31 team from Los Angeles Air Force Base in El Segundo, Calif., CSpOC personnel operating under the Combined Force Space Component Command are supporting U.S. Space Command, providing the United States and its allies with space-related services like GPS tracking and missile warnings to help with ground-based missions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Cody Chiles)

It's clearly an incredible time to take part in this space journey. What's even more exciting is having our great nation on this journey with us. We have developed several new initiatives to help you join along with us. Check out our new "Generation Space" podcast on YouTube, Apple iTunes, Google Play, Spotify or SoundCloud. We've also taken to social media to engage you wherever you are; just search for Air Force Space Command, or you can follow my Facebook page at @AFSPCCommandChief. If you're on Twitter, the main AF Space Command handle is @AFSpace or follow General Raymond at @AFSpaceCC. Together we'll continue this journey and if our Airmen are any indication... it's going to be an amazing ride.

In short, I'm excited for what the future holds. I'll never forget the day my phone rang and I braced for a day drowning my sorrows on a mountain stream. I've never been so happy *not* to go fishing! ◆



Buckley conducts Panther View Exercise 19-04: U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Jonah Pierce, a 460th Security Forces Squadron response member, stands by for further instruction during the Panther View Exercise 19-04, Nov. 19, 2019, at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo. Both active shooter and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) simulations were conducted to mimic real-world problems and test the readiness of first responders on a military installation. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Joshua T. Crossman)



Chief Master Sgt. Roger Towberman, Air Force Space Command Command Chief, selfies with a group of 21st Space Wing security forces Airmen during a visit Dec. 7, 2018. Towberman regularly visits Airmen around the command to offer insight and advice to Airmen of all ranks. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dennis Hoffman)



From left, Staff Sgt. Tyler Frats and Staff Sgt. Brian Walker, both from the 821st Security Forces Squadron, demonstrate an active shooter drill at Thule Air Base, Greenland Dec. 11, 2017 using their simulator. With the base being so remote, the simulator allows for the Airmen to train regardless of the weather. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dennis Hoffman)



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Cartridge actuated propellants/propellant actuated devices (CAD/PADs), like those used in the ejection seat testing in this photo, are designed, tested and produced by a cadre of personnel at the NSWC Indian Head EOD Technology Division

NO RUNWAY? NO PROBLEM.

NAVAL FACILITY SUPPORTS AIR FORCE WEAPON AND EJECTION SYSTEMS

By Josh Phillips, NSWC Indian Head EOD Technology Division Public Affairs

If you were to walk up to a fellow Airman and ask about the integral support the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Indian Head Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division (IHEODTD) provides the U.S. Air Force, you'll probably be met with quizzical looks or have them looking around to see if they are secretly being recorded for a Pranked episode.

Nestled at the end of Indian Head, Maryland, the command has no runways and sees no aircraft, save for the commercial jetliners from Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., or from low-flying V-22 Ospreys from nearby Quantico, Virginia. Sitting along a stretch of the Potomac River where the waters lazily flow past farmlands on their way to the yawning mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, this is produce and bass fishing country, where folks know each other's last names and sit on front porches in the humid summer months drinking iced tea and talking about the day's activities.

At first glance, there isn't a valid reason or explanation for the Air Force to have any business there, but dig deeper into the history of the command and the answers become apparent.

Founded in 1890 as the Naval Proving Ground Indian Head, the peninsula of Indian Head thundered with cannon fire during weapons proofing, while scientists and chemists focused on developing reliable propellants for the nation's emerging naval forces. While initially constructed to test the Navy's shipboard armaments because of its proximity to the lower Potomac, that mission would shift and give way to the command becoming the Navy's leader in energetics research and development.

Black powder was on the way out as a propellant for the Navy in the mid-1800s, as dense smoke created after firing left the guns inoperable for several minutes afterwards. To shorten the firing delay, navies and industry began experimenting with cordite to develop a smokeless powder with the same firing properties as black powder. Smokeless powder also allowed for quicker reloading and re-firing, an immediate clear shot at the target, and did not require a sponge out of residue as needed with black powder.

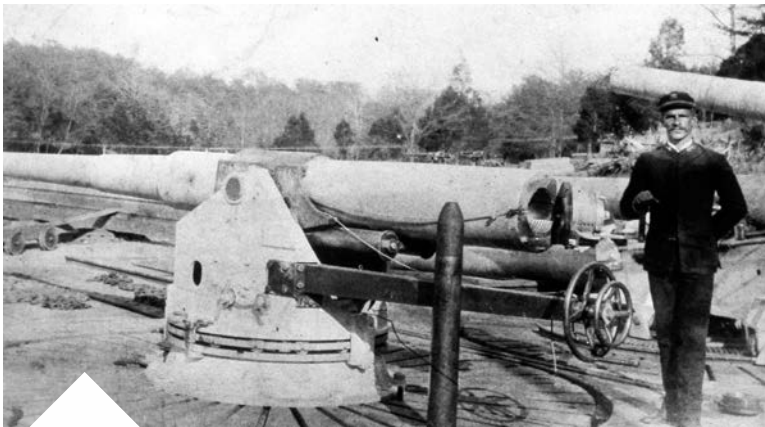
Shortly after the Spanish-American War, Congress authorized the Navy to construct a smokeless powder factory at Indian Head to meet the needs of the fleet and to remain level with other global navies who were producing smokeless powders of their own. With a newfound mission to develop and



deliver smokeless powder to meet the Navy's requirements, Indian Head produced more than 250,000 pounds in its first year of operation. As energetics technology matured, smokeless powder gave way to other forms of energetics and the command found itself with the industrial complexes, knowledge and capability to push the envelope forward.

Indian Head would also undergo a dramatic pivot shortly before World War II, as the command established a facility to produce rocket propellant grains for experimental air-to-air rocket systems to better engage jet-powered aircraft. By 1944, the command began production of extruded grains for rockets, bazookas and air-to-ground anti-tank weapons. Among other upgrades to its energetics facilities, Indian Head was selected to produce propellant for the Polaris missile – the nation's first surface-to-surface, intermediate-range ballistic missile designed to be launched from submarines. The production of the Polaris facility in 1954 showed that Indian Head could be looked on to lead the way in propellant manufacturing for their new ordnance technologies.

Following two cases of rocket cook-offs aboard USS Forrestal (CVA 59) and USS Enterprise (CVN 65) resulting in the deaths of 161 Sailors, the destruction of 36 aircrafts and millions of dollars' worth of damage to the two ships, the Navy began working to improve insensitive munitions characteristics for their shipboard ordnance.



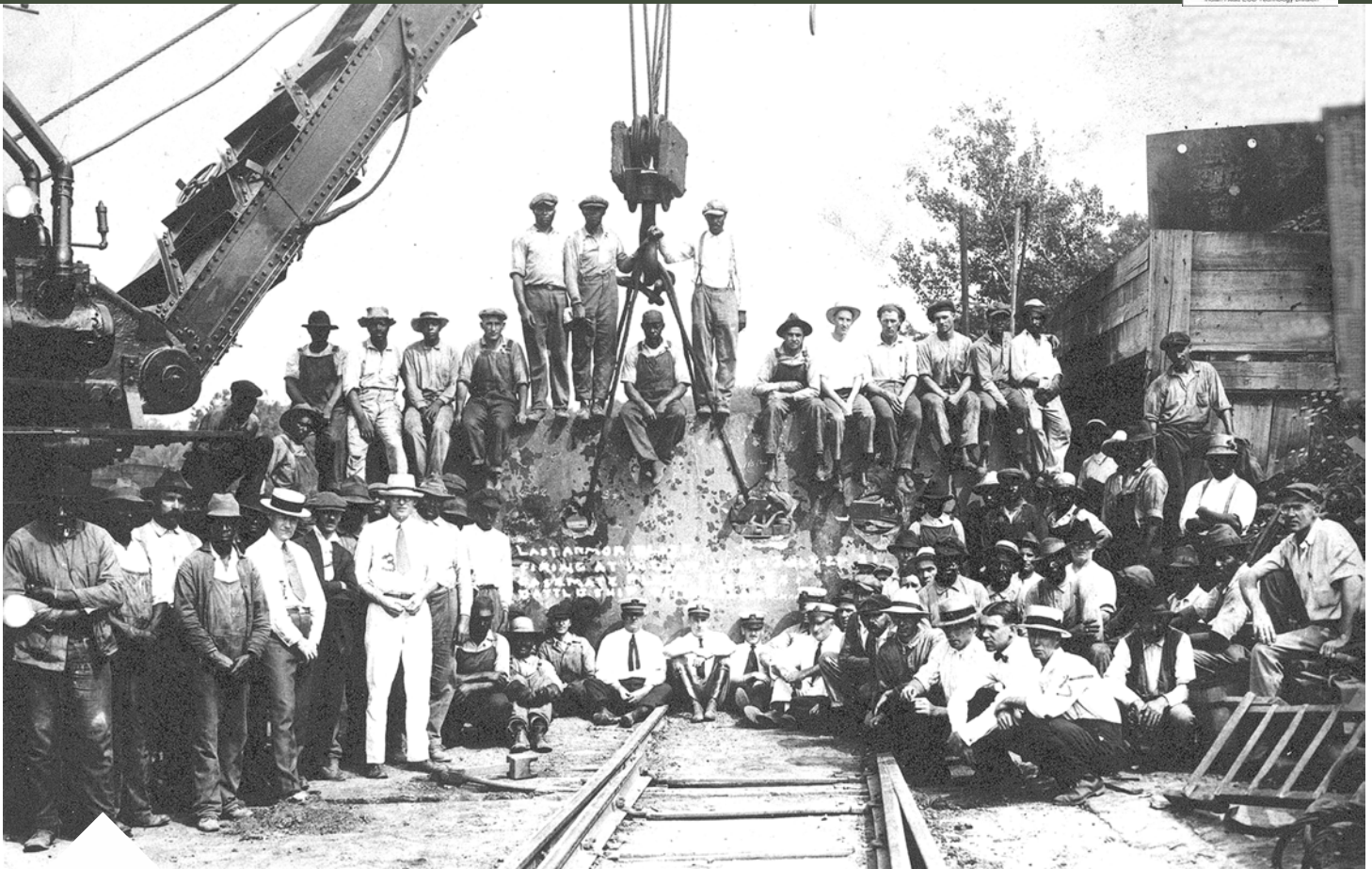
Ensign Robert Dashiell stands next to a gun equipped with his "Dashiell Breech" at the Naval Proving Grounds in 1892. The Dashiell Breech becomes one of the Navy's standard mechanisms for large rapid fire guns and the first innovation to come from Indian Head. (Coster/Parran Collection)

Scientists and chemists from naval installations at Indian Head, Dahlgren, Virginia; and China Lake, California, cooperated under the Navy's Inexpensive Munitions Advanced Development-High Explosives program in 1999 to find applications for plastic bonded explosives (PBX) – an explosive substance with a high mechanical strength, excellent chemical stability and impervious to shock. Multiple PBX formulations were developed and tested, including PBXN-109, which eventually replaced older warhead payloads on Mk-84 2,000 pound bombs. These new capabilities brought with them new customers and Indian Head became a force in supplying energetics to the joint services – not just the Navy.

In 2018, the command's Explosives and Energetics Division became a qualified supplier of CXM explosive products for the U.S. Air Force: a critical component used by the service to load 2,000-pound bombs. Five months later, the command delivered the first 30,600 pounds of a one million-pound order.

According to Andrea Bloomer, a project manager in the command's Energetics Manufacturing Department, the Air Force was in a bind due to a critical shortage of bombs when their industry partner was unable to produce the coated explosive material output demand they required. The Air Force approached Indian Head with a request for the command to produce one million pounds of CXM per year for up to five years.

"The Air Force needs CXM to produce insensitive munition compliant bomb fills. This particular formulation is less sensitive and less prone to accidental detonation, but still provides the required energy," said Bloomer. "Our command was chosen because of its history with grinding Nitramine explosives, the key ingredient in the CXM. The Air Force performed a global search and we were the only place with the facilities and know-how to grind the Nitramine explosive, so our command's expertise is critical." CXM-AF-5 is used in the BLU-109 "bunker buster:" a 2,000-pound hard-target penetrator bomb that can smash through concrete structures prior to detonation. The explosive is also used



Naval Proving Ground employees pose in front of the last armor plate used for ordnance test firing at Indian Head on 21 July 1921. The plate came from the famed German battleship SMS Ostfriesland, which was surrendered to Allied forces after the end of World War I. The ship was transferred to the U.S. Navy, which used the battleship as a target for U.S. Army and U.S. Navy bombers led by Gen. Billy Mitchell, the father of the modern air force. The ship was sunk off the coast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 21 July 1921: the same day as the final ordnance test occurred at Indian Head.

in general-purpose bombs for the Air Force. Bloomer said the CXM production program funds more than 35 people full-time and brings in approximately \$24 million annually for the command.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, the Air Force also relies on NSWC IHEODTD's energetics in a completely different way: to save the lives of pilots during ejections.

In 1973, cartridge actuated device/propellant actuated device (CAD/PAD) work was consolidated for three armed service branches and assigned to Indian Head. By the time a working agreement was finalized with the Naval Air Systems Command, the Army and the Air Force in 1977, the CAD/PAD market consisted of more than 800 different cartridge actuated units.

Ensuring the quality of the CAD/PADs are up to snuff for the Air Force and delivered on time falls to the responsibility of the CAD/PAD Joint Program Office.

Indian Head manufacturers particular CAD/PADS used by

the Air Force," said Jurgen Smith, Deputy Director for the CAD/PAD Joint Program Office. "We manufacture approximately 10% of all CAD/PADs for Air Force assets. We also have a customer advocate officer here whose responsibility is to oversee the interest of the Air Force to make sure the items are made and delivered on time." The program also has an officer in Capt. Jamel Chaney, the JPO military Deputy Director, Air who works internally with Indian Head in providing oversight on behalf of the Air Force, while ensuring the products are delivered in a timely matter.

"[NSWC IHEODTD] provides the engineering and test capability for Air Force CAD/PADs. If you look at the structure here, the Air Force trusts the command to provide the engineering discipline, the test aspect, and the ability it provides for testing units here," said Chaney. "A lot of the command's capabilities support our fighters and our bomber aircraft so it is critical that you have an Air Force presence with insight into Air Force capabilities."

Chaney explained the command also provides organic capability as a government facility to perform CAD/PAD rework or match the speed of industry, in case the Air Force needs to surge or industry can't produce items on a quick turn basis.

"I can come to Indian Head knowing of their technical rigor and get these items relatively fast. If I need these items yesterday, I don't have the time to go through lengthy contract negotiations with industry," he said. "Indian Head has the ability to turn on when asked, rapidly if necessary."

This capability – including the manufacturing and quick shipping of low-volume items such as the CAD/PAD M-series initiators, as well as the ability to perform reworks on CKU-5 rocket motors used in ACES II ejection seats – are one of the many reasons the relationship between the Air Force and NSWC IHEODTD is so integral.

Indian Head is also leading the transition of the F-35 CAD/PAD from government logistic support to contract logistic support. According to Smith, the Air Force and CAD/PAD JPO team would jointly award contracts using both the Navy and the Air Forces' contracting offices to support the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

In the end however, Chaney said it all comes back to having the right capabilities and relationships to save a pilot's life.

"We are instrumental in saving pilots lives because we produce CAD/PADs that need to be reliable and work as designed," he said. "Many of those CAD/PADs on the aircraft are manufactured by Indian Head."



A completed BLU-118B thermobaric bomb is ready for shipping at Indian Head. Thermobaric explosives were first used against Al Qaida and Taliban forces in 2002 during combat missions in eastern Afghanistan.

The relationship between CAD/PAD personnel and the pilots they strive to keep safe becomes apparent when an ejectee visits the command to talk to the employees who ensured their ejection equipment functioned as designed.



Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division Energetics Manufacturing Department's Explosives and Energetics Division operators screen energetic material at the command's 420 gallon mixer. (U.S. Navy photo by Matthew Poynor/RELEASED)

On March 29, 2015, Capt. Austin Buller, a U.S. Air Force Fighting Falcon-16 pilot, deployed from Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan on a short notice alert launch to assist in the destruction of an anti-aircraft gun near Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Not long after takeoff; however, disaster struck.

"I had a catastrophic engine failure on takeoff. I was about 20 feet off the ground when I retracted the gear and essentially, the engine just fell apart," Buller said. "There's not a whole lot you can do with a single engine airplane, so the decision [to eject] was pretty easy for me."

Understanding the dire situation he was in, Buller made the decision to eject, leaving his fate into the hands of personnel like those at NSWC IHEODTD who ensure CAD/PADs perform as expected when ejections are imminent.

Buller landed some distance away from the base but was able to return to base on foot. What could have been a fatal accident instead left him with only some bruises and a crushed fingernail.

Buller visited the command this past May to thank those dedicated to ensuring he returned home to his family after such a harrowing ordeal.

"Your hard work and dedication has let me have that confidence in that ejection seat, which is awesome," Buller said. "So, thanks again." ◆

NSWC IHEODTD public affairs specialist Luke Wathen contributed to this article.



Participants always look forward to the lively and informative Former CMSAF's panel discussions

CMSAF #5
ROBERT GAYLOR

PROFESSIONAL AIRMEN'S CONFERENCE

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POSSIBILITIES²

The 2019 AFSA Professional Airmen's Conference was held August 24th through the 29th, at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio, Texas.

With over 1,800 active-duty, retired, veterans and spouses in attendance, this was the largest AFSA Professional Airmen's Conference of record.

Along with the International Convention leadership and guests, AFSA was extremely honored to host the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force and his leadership team, several MAJCOM/CoCOM Command Chiefs, the First Sergeants Worldwide Conference, and the Career Assistance Advisors, Military Training Leadership, Enlisted Professional Military Education and Air Force Recruiters Military Conferences.

The annual AFSA Professional Airmen's Conference is an amazing opportunity to learn, become an active participant to share your ideas, make your voice heard, and continue to develop your professional network.



Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, SGM John Wayne Troxell spoke to a full house regarding resiliency, fitness, and the challenges that lay ahead for military members

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Working together with Mission Partners and the Military Conferences, participants enjoyed a wide-range of professional development forum and leadership development speakers, including:

- Keynote Speaker: CMSAF #5 Robert Gaylor
- AF JROTC Instruction Specialist: Mr. David Richerson
- SGM John Wayne Troxell, Senior Enlisted Adviser to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
- SMSgt Misty Moreno, Shaw AFB - Guest of the Military Training Leader Workshop
- K9s For Warriors – Staff Sergeant Shilo Schluterman (USAF, Ret) and her Service Dog Javelin
- Andy Hyatt, K9s For Warriors Texas State Director
- Dr. Patricia Maggard
- Mark Tilsher - Guest of the 2019 EPME Conference
- CMSgt (Ret) Anthony Brinkley, On the Brink Consulting - Resiliency - Guest of the First Sergeants Worldwide Conference
- Leadership Perspective with the 12 Outstanding Airman of the Year Panel
- Capt Anthony Richardson: Leadership Communication, AU Maxwell AFB/Gunter Annex - Guest of the Military Training Workshop



CMSAF Wright assembled an amazing Resiliency Panel, members discussed their struggles, strength and triumphs. Attendees had an opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions and share their stories.



General Charles Q. Brown, Commander Pacific Air Forces briefed attendees on current PACAF operations, leadership, and resiliency efforts

Conference attendees had several Meet & Greet and Q&A opportunities to ask questions, voice concerns, and share their personal stories



- CMSAF Kaleth O. Wright (AF/CCC) and his Resiliency Panel: Senior Leadership Perspective
- CMSgt (Ret) John A. Farrell, Air Force Aid Society
- Financial Readiness for the Military: Both Individuals & Leaders
- AFRS Chief Panel - Guest of Recruiter Leadership Development Conference
- Former Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force Panel - Senior Leadership Perspective and Meet & Greet
- AFSA M.A.S.S.C (Marines, Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Coasties) Hiring Event with American Freedom Foundation
- The Honorable James Byrne, General Counsel, Performing the Duties of the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- General Charles Q. Brown, Commander Pacific Air Forces
- Lt. John S. (Jack) McCain IV (US Navy), accepting the L. Mendal Rivers Award on behalf of his father, the late U.S. Senator John S. McCain III
- General Tod D. Waters, AFSA Excellence in Military Leadership award recipient

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INFO/EXPO

Thank you to the following Info/Expo Mission Partners and their support of the #AFSAPAC19. Please continue to reach out and support them and their services.

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- Air Force Personnel Operations (AFPOA)
- Air University
- Airmen Heritage Foundation
- American Military University
- Army & Air Force Exchange
- Barnes Center for Educations



Visit www.hqafsa.org/afsapac19 for a complete photo slideshow!



The Annual Convention is the perfect place to catch up with friends



Executive Director Keith Reed presents SMSgt Jaime E. Freeman with an AFSA Super Coin



Leadership Perspective with the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year



Attendees had an opportunity to meet with a wide range of Mission Partners at the annual Info/Expo



- Bellevue University
- Bryan College
- Columbia Southern University
- DANTES - Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support
- GIANT Worldwide
- Honor Flight - San Antonio
- K9s for Warriors
- Military Spouse Advocacy Network
- National Cemetery Administration
- Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU)
- SUNY Empire State College
- Trident University International
- USAA
- Vanguard Promotions
- PEARL Insurance
- Air Force Wounded Warrior

AFSA AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the following AFSAPAC19 Award Recipients. We are proud of your efforts and success!

- **L. Mendel Rivers Award**
The Late U.S. Senator John Sidney McCain III
- **Excellence in Military Leadership**
General Tod D. Wolters
- **Americanism Award**
The Air Force Enlisted Village
- **William H. Pitsenbarger Award**
SSgt John P. Virgin
- **NCO of the Year**
TSgt Joseph A. Leitch, Division 5, Chapter 1553
Kadena AB, Japan
- **AFSA Airman of the Year**
SrA Gary G. Jeffrey III, Division 4, Chapter 652
Keesler AFB, MS
- **AFSA Member of the Year**
SMSgt (Ret) Daniel Kazumura, Division 4,
Chapter 652, Keesler AFB, MS
- **AFSA Family Member of the Year**
Ms. Susan Reedy, Division 6, Chapter 1201,
Kirtland AFB, NM
- **AFSA Legislative Award (Individual)**
SSgt Andrew Harrison, Division 2, Chapter 358,
Langley, AFB, VA

Professional Airmen's Conference



Above: Opening Night Ice Breaker event
Below: Professional development opportunities during the many Military Conferences and breakouts.



Professional Airmen Conference attendees, AFSA Board members and staff attend the San Antonio Missions baseball game in honor of all military personnel.



AFSA President, Michael A. Carton, presenting the International Legislative Award Division 3, Chapter 985, Tinker AFB, OK



AFSA President, Michael A. Carton, presenting the Excellence in Military Leadership award to General Tod D. Wolters, with Mrs. Wolters, MSgt Phillip Easton and CMSAF Wright



#AFSAPAC19 provided a unique opportunity for guests to meet and greet with the former and current CMSAF's. Don't miss out - join us next year in Reno, Nevada



- **AFSA International Legislative Award (Chapter)**
Division 3, Chapter 985, Tinker AFB, OK
 - **AFSA VA Volunteer Service (VAVS) Award**
CMSgt (Ret) Hershell Spurlock, Division 3, Ch 804, Kansas City, MO
 - **AFSA Volunteer Service Award (VSA) (Individual)**
Ms. Nicole Bouts, Division 6, Chapter 1201, Kirtland, AFB, NM
 - **AFSA Volunteer Service Award (VSA) (Chapter)**
Division 4, Chapter 652, Keesler AFB, MS
 - **AFSA International Membership Achievement Award**
A1C Matthew Ketterling, Division 4, Chapter 652, Keelser AFB, MS
 - **AFSA CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger Division Communication Award**
Division 3, Mascoutah, IL
 - **AFSA CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger Chapter Communication Award**
Division 3, Chapter 951, Ellsworth AFB, SD
 - **AFSA Humanitarian Service Award**
Division 4, Chapter 652, Keesler AFB, MS
 - **AFSA Chapter of the Year Under 500**
Division 1: Ch 161, Hanscom AFB, MA
 - **AFSA Chapter of the Year Over 500**
Division 2: Ch 358, Langley AFB, VA
 - **AFSA Family Focus Scholarship Winner**
Candace Kazmir
- PRESIDENT'S AWARDS:**
- **TSgt Lee R. Thompson Award of Excellence**
Chapter 951, Ellsworth AFB, SD
 - **MSgt Bennie McGehee President's Award**
SrA Alvina Gorash, Ch 1201, Kirtland AFB, NM
 - **Exemplary Achievement Award**
Chapter 554, Elgin AFB, FL and Chapter 567, Hulburt Field, FL



Awarding Excellence

*Congratulations to the following
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AFSAUP²

L. MENDEL RIVERS

The Air Force Sergeants Association
Names The Late

U.S. Senator John Sidney McCain III

as the 2018

L. Mendel Rivers Award Recipient*

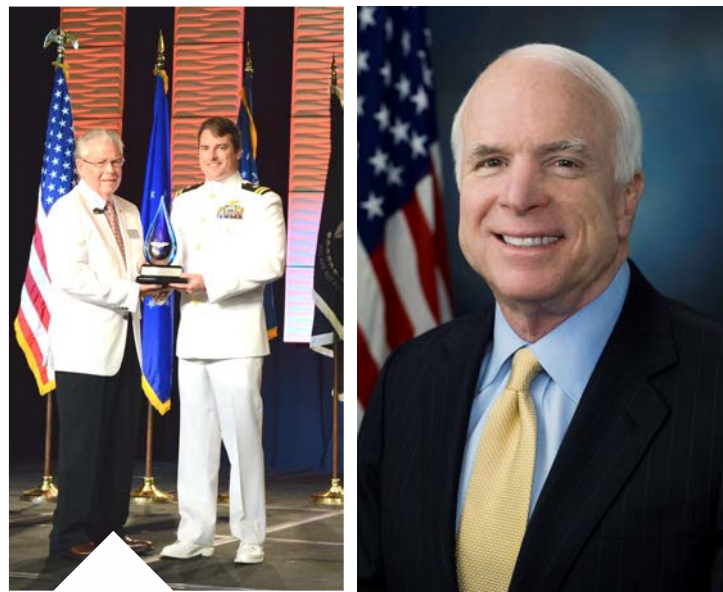
The L. Mendel Rivers Award is named after the Late Congressman L. Mendel Rivers (D-SC) who served as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. Throughout his career in Congress he championed the cause of enlisted members from all armed services.

U.S. Senator John Sidney McCain III distinguished himself as an American politician and military officer who served as a United States senator for Arizona and served two terms in the United States House of Representatives and was the Republican nominee for President of the United States in the 2008 election.

Over the course of his career, Senator McCain served as Chairman of the Senate Committees on Indian Affairs, Commerce, Science and Transportation, and Armed Services. McCain was also very influential in the Air Force Sergeants Association's quest to becoming a federally chartered association.

On July 7th, 1997, Senator McCain wrote a statement in the Congressional Records on behalf of AFSA. Stating: "This Federal Charter is a symbolic gesture that shows Congress' appreciation to the Air Force Sergeants Association for the outstanding service they provide and to the dedicated men and women whom the association represents."

In 1961, the AFSA became the first military-oriented association to represent the Air Force enlisted corps. The mission of the AFSA remains clear and solid—to fight for those who shall have borne the battle. This foundation remains constant to date. "The character of a great nation," someone once said, "is defined by those who are willing to defend it." As we celebrate the Life, Legacy and Distinguished career of the late Senator



Presented by International President Michael Carton, the L. Mendel Rivers Award in honor of the late U.S. Senator John Sidney McCain III, was graciously accepted by his son, John Sidney (Jack) McCain IV

John McCain, the AFSA continues to stand heel-to-toe with the Uniformed Services, Veterans and their families, fighting to protect the quality of life concerns for those, past and present, who volunteer or volunteered to defend our great nation and its Constitution.

Senator McCain appreciated the many sacrifices of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Coastguard; active, retired and veteran and tirelessly devoted his energy to legislation directly impacting their quality of life.

For his unwavering support and dedication to Airmen and their families, the Air Force Sergeants Association proudly presents the 2018 L. Mendel Rivers Award of Excellence to the late Senator John Sidney McCain III. **posthumously*

US Navy Lt. John S. (Jack) McCain IV spoke to attendees and honored his fathers legacy while accepting the L. Mendel Rivers Award on his behalf



EXCELLENCE IN MILITARY LEADERSHIP

The Air Force Sergeants Association
names

General Tod D. Wolters

as the 2018
Excellence in Military Leadership
Award Recipient

The Air Force Sergeants Association's Excellence in Military Leadership Award is presented annually for superior military leadership and for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the United States Air Force.



From August 2016 to May 2019, General Tod D. Wolters was the Commander of United States Air Forces in Europe – Air Forces Africa (USAFE-AFAFRICA) and the Commander of North Atlantic Treaty Organization Allied Air Command (NATO AIRCOM) and the Director of the Joint Air Power Competence Centre (JAPCC).

As the Commander of USAFE-AFAFRICA, he was responsible for organizing, training and equipping 32,000 active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian forces serving in Europe and Africa. As the Commander of NATO AIRCOM and the Director of JAPCC, he was responsible for the air and missile defense of 29 NATO Alliance member nations while commanding U.S. airpower across more than 19 million square miles.

Air Force Chief of Staff General David L. Goldfein described General Wolters as “the perfect blend of operational expertise and proven combat leadership.” As the USAFE-AFAFRICA Commander, General Wolters made strategic decisions that have proven to improve the responsiveness, resiliency, and lethality of

USAFE-AFAFRICA as a warfighting command. These improvements and initiatives have had a tremendous impact on the lives of the Total Force Airmen and families assigned to USAFE-AFAFRICA, and it was done through a focus on trust, training, and teamwork.

When it comes to resiliency, USAFE-AFAFRICA understands that the human capital is the most important resource they have. As a result of General Wolters' focus on taking care of our Airmen, Operation GRIT was developed. Operation GRIT is the Component-MAJCOM's initiative to connect our Airmen to each other, to the USAFE-AFAFRICA heritage, and to the broader Air Force mission. They are investing in their collective success by providing the time, tools, and resources to enhance personal and professional performance and promote a shared responsibility of Airmen taking care of Airmen.

General Tod D. “Magoo” Wolters' consistent record of support for enlisted members has been and remains an integral part of his leadership style and merits the presentation of the Air Force Sergeants Association's Excellence in Military Leadership Award for 2018.





AMERICANISM



The Air Force Sergeants Association
names
Air Force Enlisted Village
as the 2018
Americanism Award Recipient

The Air Force Sergeants Association's Americanism Award is presented annually to deserving individuals or organizations for the development of programs, ceremonies or other initiatives that further patriotism in America.



AFAS International President Michael Carton presents the Americanism Award to AFEV President and CEO, Brooke McLean

In the late 1960s, a survey conducted by the Air Force Sergeant's Association determined that more than 50,000 widows of enlisted airmen were living in poverty. To address this issue, a group of active-duty and retired Air Force noncommissioned officers, with the assistance of former Air Force Chief of Staff General John D. Ryan and his wife, created the Air Force Enlisted Widows Home Foundation, which would later become AFEV. The foundation was officially incorporated on January 17, 1968. It's primary goal and focus was to provide a home for and financial assistance to widows of retired enlisted Air Force members.

In October of 2018, the Air Force Enlisted Village set up as a Hurricane Michael Emergency Relief Center extending their mission of giving back to the veteran and military community. The Air Force Enlisted Village partnered with local community and local military installations to collect and deliver over 16 pallets of critical supplies to Tyndall AFB and the surrounding areas devastated by Hurricane Michael. The Air Force Enlisted Village collected over \$64K in monetary donations, \$56K in Amazon/Target registries, \$31.5K in commissary vendors' donations, and \$147K in essential goods in support of efforts to aid the local community. If working with a local key spouse to supply supplies to Tyndall AFB was not enough, the Air Force Enlisted Village simultaneously opened their doors as a polling place for early voting, ensuring those devastated by the storm had an opportunity to perform their civic duty of voting.

At a time of prolonged and persistent conflict where our troops are sacrificing their well-being to preserve our freedom and liberty, it is comforting to know that the Air Force Enlisted Village exists to meet their needs and those of their families. Clearly, the Air Force Enlisted Village has established itself as an organization focused on improving the quality of the lives of thousands of widows and veterans and rightfully deserves the presentation of the 2018 AFSA Americanism Award.

WILLIAM H. PITSENBARGER

The Air Force Sergeants Association
names

SSgt John P. Virgin

as the 2018

William H. Pitsenbarger Award Recipient

The Air Force Sergeants Association's William H. Pitsenbarger Award recognizes an Air Force enlisted member who has performed a heroic act, on or off duty, which resulted in the saving of life or the prevention of serious injury.

*Congratulations to
SSgt John P. Virgin
4-Year Scholarship
Recipient from our
Mission Partner
American Military
University*



SSgt John P. Virgin has been selected to receive the AFSA William H. Pitsenbarger Award for 2018 in recognition of his heroic actions while assigned to 43rd Air Mobility Squadron, 43rd Air Mobility Operations Group, Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina. In April 2018, Sergeant Virgin, while traveling with family, came across a vehicle that ran off the road and caught fire. Without hesitation, he rushed to aid those trapped inside. Remaining poised, Sergeant Virgin obtained a fire extinguisher allowing him to access the injured civilians. After extracting the personnel, he rendered first aid until emergency services arrived. Sergeant Virgin's actions proved vital in saving the lives of the two victims. The outstanding contributions of SSgt John Virgin reflect credit upon himself, Air Mobility Command, and the United States Air Force.

NCO OF THE YEAR



*Congratulations to
NCO of the Year
TSgt Joseph A. Leith
2-Year Scholarship
Recipient from
our Mission Partner
Columbia Southern
University*

DIVISION 5
TSgt Joseph A. Leitch
Chapter 1553, Kadena AB, Japan

AIRMAN OF THE YEAR



*Congratulations to
Airman of the Year
SrA Gary G. Jeffrey III
2-Year Scholarship
Recipient from
our Mission Partner
Waldorf University*

DIVISION 4
SrA Gary G. Jeffrey III
Chapter 652, Keesler AFB, MS

AFSA INTERNATIONAL MEMBER OF THE YEAR



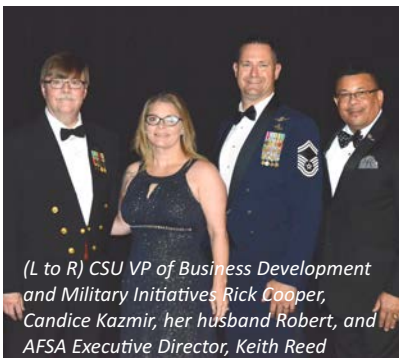
DIVISION 4
SMSgt (Ret)
Daniel Kazumura
*Chapter 652
Keesler AFB, MS*

AFSA INTERNATIONAL FAMILY MEMBER OF THE YEAR



DIVISION 6
Ms. Susan A. Reedy
*Chapter 1201
Kirtland AFB, NM*

AFSA/CSEG FAMILY FOCUS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



DIVISION 3, Chapter 972, McConnell AFB, KS
Candice Kazmir

The Family Focus scholarship covers up to \$23,400 in one online degree program (associate, bachelor or master) at either Columbia Southern University or Waldorf University. The scholarship is directly applied to the recipient's tuition for up to 60 semester hours or 36 consecutive months in the selected online degree program, whichever comes first. This scholarship covers tuition only. Textbooks and fees are the responsibility of the scholarship recipient. The goal of the Family Focused Scholarship is to provide AFSA family members an affordable method to achieve their academic goals and aspirations. Congratulations Candice!

(L to R) CSU VP of Business Development and Military Initiatives Rick Cooper, Candice Kazmir, her husband Robert, and AFSA Executive Director, Keith Reed

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Sponsor a Personalized
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The Airmen Memorial Building (AMB), located near our Nation's Capital is home to the Air Force Sergeants Association. AFSA represents all active-duty, veteran and retired military members and their families in Congress, the DoD, the Veterans Administration and through local communities across the globe. AFSA is a non-profit, politically non-partisan United States Armed Forces Veterans Service Organization.

Built in 1980, the Airmen Memorial Building is a fitting tribute to all past, present, and future Airmen.

In honor of our building's 40th Anniversary, AFSA invites you to help protect, maintain and enhance AFSA headquarters by sponsoring a leaf on our **AMB Benefactor Tree**. Your tax-deductible donation (Tax ID#520743333) is a permanent symbol, and unwavering reminder of how you helped support and continue our success. Each leaf recognizing you, your family, loved ones, your group or business will be permanently and prominently displayed on our beautiful **AMB Benefactor Tree** at the entrance of the Airmen Memorial Building at 5211 Auth Road in Suitland, Maryland.

Each Leaf is a minimum donation of \$1,200 (\$100 per month/12 months) and may be personalized with a name, dates of service or special date, memorial tribute, the name of your company, or a special message of your choosing.

The engraving of each leaf can be 1, 2 or 3 lines. The maximum number of letters or numbers per line (including spaces) depends on whether you choose a larger or smaller font size.



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Mary H Jones
Oroville, CA



Willa D. Hyde, 88: September 29, 1930 — September 26, 2019:

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of Willa Hyde, Past Auxiliary President's (1981-1984) passing. Please join us in sharing our gratitude for her service and devotion to AFSA, and our condolences to her friends and family.

Willa Deane Stott married Jay Hyde on April 21, 1956. They lived a military life on bases in France, Ohio and Richards-Gebaur AFB near Belton, MO. Willa enjoyed an active life working for the Internal Revenue Service. She enjoyed bowling, playing cards, the Kansas City Chiefs, and membership in Chapter 804 of the Air Force Sergeants Association. Willa served as International President of the AFSA Auxiliary and several offices of AFSA 804.

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A ONE-OF-A-KIND COMMUNITY, A KIND AND CARING MISSION

The Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV) is a nonprofit organization whose core mission is to provide a safe, secure home for surviving spouses of retired enlisted U.S. Airmen. Located along the beautiful Emerald Coast of northwest Florida in Shalimar near Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field, apartments are available at Bob Hope Village, our independent living community, and at Hawthorn House, our assisted living and memory care residence located on the Bob Hope Village campus.

**Widows and Couples-Retired Enlisted
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Air Force Enlisted Village | 92 Sunset Ln., Shalimar, FL 32579 | WWW.AFEV.US

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