



# Chapter 101 Newsletter

## Quarterly Report



Let's hope this cold spell is the last gasp of winter. With February, and our next Chapter Meeting (see below) in front of us, the polar vortex still has a chance to spoil a few tee times.

We have new members, stories to share, a South Alabama AFROTC barbeque to talk about and a little

planning for the spring and summer. We're deep into planning for our Teacher of the Year, our support for Armed Forces Day activities, USA's AFROTC Dining Out and much more.

One of our members, Art Oken has been named to the Board of Directors of the Veterans' Cemetery Endowment. This is a great honor (and a lot of work) for Art and for us to have him as a member. Art was an F-100 and F-105 Wild Weasel in the Vietnam War.

Our president, Steve Carey, has also taken up new responsibilities. He is the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee Chairman. Big title and big job. He's now positioned to look out for USAF and AFA interests in the area and point us in directions that will best help our communities.

Please plan to attend our February meeting and spend some time with your AFA colleagues.

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### Next Chapter Meeting

- **Dinner Meeting at John Word's Captain's Table**
- **Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1800 hours**

### Membership Facts:

- We have a base of over 250 active AFA members in South Alabama
- Our community is a great place to share your aerospace and cyberspace experience and skills

## Membership

Growth is the word this quarter, as our chapter has expanded from 219 to 271 members. We are currently working on confirming the information provided by our national roster. If your information has changed recently, you can update your profile on [www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org) under the update profile tab.

It is extremely important to keep this information up to date to get information to our members. We have new members who didn't know our chapter existed, and were looking for an affiliation in the area. This is a good example of why keeping your eyes out for "Retired Air Force" car tags is important. Don't be afraid

to strike up a conversation with them, to find out if they know of our chapter. Let's keep our growth soaring!

## Education

Bayside Academy's 2013 Teacher of the Year, Sam Small, received a check for \$250 from the AFA. He was very appreciative and plans to buy supplies for the chemistry lab. This program highlights the efforts of this great educator and also gives our AFA some visibility among our younger generation. Science,

technology, engineering and math (STEM) are the foundation of our future research and development for businesses as well as our military. We need smart young men and women as the backbone to R&D.



## President's Corner



*Next South Alabama Chapter Meeting is Thursday, 20 February, 1830 hours, at John Word's Captain's Table on the Causeway. See you there.*

I expect 2014 to be an exciting year for our Chapter. Your officers met in December and built a detailed activity plan that helps us "Educate-- Advocate--Support our nation's air forces from the young active duty Airman to the retired WW2 veteran to our local businesses. On a national level, your AFA has undertaken some new exciting programs.

**Family and Support Program** – Under the leadership of Mrs. Paula Roy, AFA has implemented a plan to further its "Support" mission, filling gaps that the Air Force can't in supporting our Airmen and their families.

### Wounded Airmen Program

– At the request of Headquarters USAF, AFA has established the Wounded Airmen Program, "Airmen helping Airmen". Earlier this quarter, the Air Force and AFA signed a memorandum formalizing this effort. This program is providing personalized support to wounded, ill, and injured total force service members and their families. The goal of this program is to anticipate the needs of our wounded Airmen (and their families) and to assist with a large range of benefits. AFA has agreed to provide all the administration and management of the Wounded Airmen Program at no charge – thus every dollar donated to the Wounded

Airmen Program will go to helping wounded airmen.

**Transition Program** – Another example of Airmen helping Airmen is AFA's Transition Program. This program was developed to assist airmen and their families when they make their transition from the Air Force to a second career and help spouses of airmen with job assistance when their sponsor relocates to a new assignment. It is meant to complement and grow upon the DoD Transition Assistance Program. The National Capital Region, nine other areas have established pilot programs, which in addition to a "mentoring effort", AFA is looking to create a resume database and a job-posting site.

## AFA Sponsors University of South Alabama ROTC Burger Burn



It was cold but the bonfire was blazing! On Friday January 24, your AFA Chapter sponsored the spring semester kickoff BBQ for South Alabama ROTC Detachment. Col Steve Carey, President AFA Chapter, and his son joined about 40 cadets and friends on a very cold night. The BBQ was held on campus at a student housing complex

called the Grove. The cadets enjoyed some great burgers and bratwurst. It was a chance to meet a variety of students from all over the country who have come to USA. Their degrees ranged from mechanical engineering to physical education conditioning. Despite the cold, the Air Force cadets proved their skills at building a roaring fire. They had a

stack of wood pallets that kept the fire going late into the night. Capt. Brewer, Assistant Professor of Air Force Studies, was very pleased with the turnout and grateful for our support! There will be many more opportunities this semester for our Chapter to get involved in USA's Air Force ROTC program.

## Alabama Statewide News

Coming off of Thanksgiving and heading into the holidays, I feel it important to give you my thanks. First of all, as your new State President, I want to thank the outgoing State Officers:

Skip Dotherow – President  
 Andy Potter – Vice President  
 Bill Voigt – Treasurer

As evident in the bevy of ribbons and awards that Alabama and our chapters received, Skip and the entire team did a great job and set the bar pretty high for my tenure. On that note, let me give thanks to those who stepped up to help us grow upon our strong history of success. Those rounding out your State Officer roster include:

Leif Dunn – Vice President  
 Skip Dotherow – Treasurer  
 Larry Carter – Secretary  
 Susan Mallett – Vice President for Aerospace Education

I would be remiss not to also thank our outgoing South-Central Regional President, Tom Gwaltney, and the new President, Jim Mungenast. Since 2010, Tom served as Regional President, and State President prior to that – we all

owe Tom a big thanks for his continued service to the Air Force and Air Force Association. Earlier this quarter I attended a Regional and State Presidents Conference in Arlington, Virginia. It was very enlightening to see, in person all of those at National who work so hard to make our Association – *the premier professional military and aerospace education association in the nation – dedicated to dominant air, space and cyberspace power, a strong national defense, supporting the men and women of the United States Air Force, and world-class aerospace education.* I would encourage you if you or ever in the National Capital Region that you stop by and see your building and staff at 1501 Lee Highway, Arlington. I guarantee you will be welcomed and impressed. This year AFA has undertaken some new exciting programs. **Family and Support Program** – Under the leadership of Mrs. Paula Roy, AFA has implemented a plan to further its “Support” mission, filling gaps that the Air Force can’t in supporting our Airmen and their families.

**Wounded Airmen Program** – At the request of Headquarters USAF, AFA has established the Wounded Airmen Program, “Airmen helping Airmen”. Earlier this quarter, the Air Force and AFA signed a memorandum formalizing this effort. This program is providing personalized support to wounded, ill, and injured total force service members and their families. The goal of this program is to anticipate the needs of our wounded Airmen (and their families) and to assist with a large range of benefits. AFA has agreed to provide all the administration and management of the Wounded Airmen Program at no charge – thus every dollar donated to the Wounded Airmen Program will go to helping wounded airmen. **Transition Program** – Another example of Airmen helping Airmen is AFA’s Transition Program. This program was developed to assist airmen and their families when they make their transition from the Air Force to a second career and help spouses of airmen with job assistance when their sponsor relocates to a new assignment. It is meant to complement and

grow upon the DoD Transition Assistance Program. The National Capital Region, nine other areas have established pilot programs, which in addition to a “mentoring effort”, AFA is looking to create a resume database and a job-posting site. With the expansion of these new initiatives, isn’t to say that tried and true programs such as Aerospace Education, CyberPatriot, and the Air Force Memorial aren’t still going strong. In fact, this year CyberPatriot saw more than 1500 teams around the world, to include 23 teams from Alabama. A pilot program, expanding the competition to include Middle Schools promises to offer even more excitement in the coming years. I look forward to an exciting year. Bottom-line – AFA is truly working to meet its mantra to “**Educate – Advocate – Support**”. I guarantee that there is something that interests you – consider contacting your Chapter, State, or National representatives to see what you can do to help further these and other efforts.

Russ Lewey  
 AFA President - Alabama

## Our Community Partners



*AF101, your South Alabama Chapter, is new and growing. You can affiliate on-line easily. Do it now.*

You can contact chapter officers at:

- |                                 |              |  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Steve Carey – President         | 251-406-9799 | <a href="mailto:scarey@certapro.com">scarey@certapro.com</a>                     |
| Scott Hunter – Vice President   | 251-709-2262 | <a href="mailto:Scott.Hunter@RaymondJames.com">Scott.Hunter@RaymondJames.com</a> |
| Mark Colicchio – VP Membership  | 251-652-2222 | <a href="mailto:dawgedr@att.net">dawgedr@att.net</a>                             |
| Don Fry – VP Education          | 251-422-8466 | <a href="mailto:don.fry@comcast.net">don.fry@comcast.net</a>                     |
| Leif Dunn – Secretary/Treasurer | 251-233-6336 | <a href="mailto:lrduinn@earthlink.net">lrduinn@earthlink.net</a>                 |

## Veterans and Retirees



**AFA  
SOUTH ALABAMA  
CHAPTER 101**

Phone: (251) 406-9799  
scarey@certapro.com

January 23, 2014

### FY14 Consolidated Appropriations (Omnibus)

The recently passed, and now signed by the President, \$1.1 trillion omnibus spending bill leaves most of the pension cuts in place for our working-age military retirees. However, it does restore full retirement benefits to those combat veterans who are disabled as a result of their service, and to the spouses of deceased veterans. The bill keeps the 1% decrease in CoLA for all other working-age military retirees. So, 82.5% still face the reduction.

Apart from this partial fix, the bill gives the services a much needed measure of predictability:

- It clears the way and provides the necessary detail for the Fiscal 2015 President's Budget (PB) submission.
- It provides a \$1.1 trillion overall spending package, including \$487 billion for defense (but not including military construction and Department of Energy nuclear programs).
- It allocates \$85.2 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO), almost \$6 billion higher than requested. The OCO funds are not subject to sequestration. The additional funding will help mitigate readiness shortfalls.
- It requires modernization and RDT&E accounts to be cut just below 10%, which:
  - Reduces the advanced procurement of two Air Force F-35s.
  - Fully funds the KC-46 request; funds the Long Range Strike Bomber at 95% of the PB request; and nearly fully funds the Combat Rescue Helicopter program.
  - Increases the number of MQ-9 aircraft by eight over the PB, totaling 20 aircraft.
- The bill also stops the Air Force from retiring Global Hawk Block 30 aircraft.

AFA is supporting a full fix for the CoLA cut and is working with Congressional offices and The Military Coalition to repeal the provision as soon as possible.

## LEGISLATIVE & PERSONAL AFFAIRS

from the MOAA Mailbag\*

### Defense Bill Reaches Finish Line

December 20, 2013

While the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 attracted the most attention in Washington this week, the FY 2014 defense authorization bill (H.R. 3304) cleared on Thursday night keeping intact the 52nd consecutive year of a defense bill passage. The Senate cleared a final procedural hurdle on Wednesday to limit debate and ensure no amendments were brought forward for consideration so the Senate could make it home for the holidays. The bill authorizes nearly \$527 billion in defense base budget spending with over \$80 billion for overseas contingency operations. The final bill includes: Military Pay Raise: The bill omits a critical provision that would have guaranteed service members a 1.8 percent pay raise in accordance with private sector wage growth. Without that protection, the President's executive authority, transmitted to Congress in September, will set the 2014 military pay raise at 1 percent. End Strength: The bill authorizes just over 1.36 million active duty personnel, a reduction of over 40,000 from FY 2013 levels. Executive Compensation Reform: Caps private sector compensation on DoD contracts at \$625,000 and allows for the cap to be adjusted based on the Employment Cost Index (why would congress allow defense contractors to see an increase of 1.8 percent, but cap military pay at 1.0 percent? It's baffling).

TRICARE: The bill flatly rejected all administration proposals to establish or increase TRICARE fees. It also included a grandfather clause for TRICARE beneficiaries affected by the reduction in Prime Service Areas. Those who were removed from of TRICARE Prime coverage will now have a one-time option to remain in the program. Finally, it requires a study of TRICARE compound pharmacy policy. Military Sexual Assault: The bill includes over 30 provisions that strengthen measures to combat military sexual assault within the chain of command. Special and Incentive Pays: Provides one year extensions to several special and incentive pays. BRAC: Prohibits the Pentagon from initiating another round of BRAC. Disability Evaluations: Requires the Secretary of Defense to review the backlog of pending Integrated Disability Evaluation System cases and outline steps to eliminate the backlog.

The defense bill fell short on many MOAA-supported issues. The bill did not include provisions to:

- End the SBP-DIC offset
- Expand concurrent receipt
- Expand Applied Behavioral Analysis TRICARE benefit
- Establish that career reservists with no active duty service are deemed veterans of the armed forces
- Allow a special needs trust for survivor benefit annuities

These provisions, along with restoring full COLAs for military retirees under 62 will be among MOAA's legislative priorities in 2014.

### TRICARE/Medicare Cuts Avoided

The Bipartisan Budget Act included a three month delay in scheduled cuts to the Medicare and TRICARE physician reimbursement rate.

This patch will prevent a 24 percent cut scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2014.

Such a drastic cut would lead to massive health care access problems for TRICARE and Medicare beneficiaries. The three month extension will give Congress until April 1 of next year to work out a permanent solution.

For years Congress has kicked the can on this critical issue, postponing the cuts in a piecemeal fashion. But a permanent solution may finally be on the horizon, with legislators on both sides of the aisle nearing a deal this fall to pay for the \$130 billion permanent fix.

The three month reprieve only postpones the need to secure a long-term solution to provide beneficiaries and physicians with health care access stability.

### TFL Mandatory Mail-Order Rx Coming

Beginning February 14, 2014, TRICARE For Life (TFL) beneficiaries will be required to fill maintenance medication prescription refills through the TRICARE Home Delivery (mail-order) pharmacy system. Beneficiaries may opt out after using the mail-order refill system for a one year trial period.

The change stems from the FY 2013 defense authorization bill. In a bipartisan compromise to avoid large, across-the-board