



Chapter 101 Newsletter

Quarterly Report



It's been a long while since we got together as a group (too long) so let's make our August meeting a good one. Back to school or back to work or just back to a couple of hours to tune into what's happening locally and nationally with your USAF and AFA, August 14th will be a relaxed way to get back up to speed before the fall hits. There are a

number of important events that have occurred since we last met. Nationally, the US Defense budgets for 2015 and beyond are coming into focus. The impact of cuts on programs and people is significant – if you haven't kept up on how our USAF force structure is contracting, you be shocked and awed. It's not the USAF you knew even ten years ago. Our Congress and DoD have been working ways to avoid reductions in many veteran and

retiree benefits – some changes have very long term impacts.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Membership	1
Education	2
President's Corner	2
Upcoming Activities	2
State News	3
Veterans and Retirees	4
MOAA Attachment	5

Next Chapter Meeting

- **Dinner Meeting at John Word's Captain's Table**
- **Thursday, August 14th, 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 – Geographic Realignment Affects Chapter 101 Membership Rolls

This quarter we have experienced significant interest by prospective members, much of which was spurred on by our TOY presentation at the Military Appreciation Day Luncheon at USS Battleship Pavilion. There were a handful of veterans who are

currently members of other organizations that were not aware of our chapter. We have also experienced a re-alignment of membership to better affiliate those who would more likely be active in our local chapter. As a result, our total membership has decreased from 268 to

179 however; this should equate to a more vital, interactive core that become be involved in local activities.

Education – 2014 Teacher of the Year Program a Success

Your AFA Chapter recognized four local teachers as our Teachers of the Year. At the 2014 Military Appreciation Day Luncheon, sponsored by the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee, chapter president Steve Carey presented these outstanding educators with a certificate. They will also receive a certificate and \$250 check from the AFA. In the photo, left to right:

Scott Hunter, Chapter VP; Susan Pierce K-8 Mobile Winner - Phillips Preparatory Magnet School; Robert Watson 9-12 Mobile Winner - Bryant Career Technical Center; Vivain Tarwater K-8 Baldwin Winner - Bayside Academy; Julia Thomas 9-12 Baldwin Winner - Spanish Fort High School; Don Fry, Chapter VP Education; and Mark Colicchio, Chapter VP Membership



President's Corner



Next South Alabama Chapter Meeting is Thursday, 14 August, 1800 hours, at John Word's Captain's Table on the Causeway. See you there.

We had our AFA State Meeting up in Birmingham and I wanted to summarize what we learned. Overall in our state, membership is down 11% from 2013. This trend exists across the nation with total AFA membership dropping below 100,000. That is a critical number as it represents the minimum size of an organization that has influence to lobby Congress and get sponsors. So, AFA National has started some new programs to revitalize membership

such as E-Membership to draw in younger members. National has also realigned many of the zip codes for our Chapters to give our members a more realistic chance of supporting Chapters that are close geographically. I would ask each of you to do your part in helping our chapter grow our membership. Remember, you do not have to be an AF veteran. We want citizens and local businesses that have an interest in education and the Air Force to

help us build awareness in our community! Overall the financial health of AF A is very strong but as we all know, it the hard work of our members that ensures our Chapter that can have an impact. Please help – get out and tell people about our Chapter! It's our AFA! Thanks

August Meeting Features Joe Hamfist As Our Guest Speaker

Please make plans to join us at the August Chapter Meeting – Aug 14th, 1800 hours at John Word's Restaurant on the Causeway. Joe Hamfist will regale us with stories

both humorous and serious. Joe is a "legacy" pilot who not only taught Orville and Wilbur the magic of aeronautics, but was called on to show Neil Armstrong the path to

landing on the Moon. This promises to be an interesting and thought provoking evening. See you there!

The Alabama Air Force Association consists of four chapters:

- 100 - Birmingham
- 101 - South Alabama
- 102 - Montgomery
- 335 - Tennessee Valley

Alabama Statewide News

The Wounded Airmen program processes and guidance are still being worked by National and AF: what can chapters do, privacy issues, how wounded airman can be informed, and how they can contact AFA chapter for what kind of help. The AF clearing house at Randolph is tasked to make it work. Individuals cannot yet designate CFC contribution to Wounded Airmen program, but it is recognized that this would be desirable. In his AFA State of the State assessment he noted that membership is down 11% from 2013. This trend is also being experienced at the national level, with the total number of AFA members dropping below 100,000. The (100,000)

number is said to be critical when lobbying Congress, getting sponsors, or recognition for important AFA programs. National has instituted an eMembership with the expectation of appealing to more would-be members, particularly younger active duty personnel. All the rights and benefits of an eMembership are the same as a traditional member, with the exception that they receive all their publications electronically and the cost is only \$30 per year instead of the \$45 per year cost of a traditional membership.

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 | scarey@certapro.com |
| Scott Hunter – Vice President | 251-709-2262 | Scott.Hunter@RaymondJames.com |
| Mark Colicchio – VP Membership | 251-652-2222 | dawgedr@att.net |
| Don Fry – VP Education | 251-422-8466 | don.fry@comcast.net |
| Leif Dunn – Secretary/Treasurer | 251-233-6336 | lrdudd@earthlink.net |

Veterans and Retirees

Where does AFA stand?



**AFA
SOUTH ALABAMA
CHAPTER 101**

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

- First, AFA strongly urges an end to sequestration!! Sequestration (or more accurately the budget caps established by the Budget Control Act of 2011) has normalized a dangerously low level of spending on defense. This new normal has created an unhealthy competition for resources within DOD's base budget. If sequestration is the law of the land, and on the current course it will be again in FY16, then critical parts of our national security needs will be unfunded and unmet. In short, our means will not support our stated ends. That is why the single most important issue to AFA is to end sequestration-level defense base budgets. We therefore urge lawmakers to end the political stalemate over taxes and entitlement spending and come to a compromise agreement that will replace sequestration.

The ceiling of \$496 billion this year means very difficult choices have been made by the Pentagon and will have to be made by Congress, but they pale in comparison to the cascading effects sequestration would have in years beyond FY15, which would likely include: further end strength cuts; aircraft reductions including KC-10 divestiture, Global Hawk Block 40 divestiture, and RPA reductions; fewer numbers of new aircraft to replace the aging fleet; and a diminished ability to recover from dangerously low readiness levels.

- AFA recognizes that the compensation and retirement system could benefit from reform, but we are against cuts to basic housing allowance and TRICARE fee increases, as we should keep faith with our service members. AFA supports the idea that before making major changes to the commissary or the retirement structure, Congress should wait for the commission on retirement and compensation (MCRMC) to make its recommendations.

Photo Album



Air Force Association,
On behalf of the South Alabama Silver Wings chapter, we're sending our sincerest gratitude for your chapter's donation for our annual national conclave. We cannot express enough thanks for the generous donation and with your help, five of our members were able to attend NATCON in Washington D.C. this year. We're attached a picture of us at the banquet, where we were able to hear Gen. Welsh III speak about our organization and the world's greatest AirForce.

Please Keep in touch, and we are more than willing to give y'all a presentation of everything we learned
Thank you again, -USA Silver Wings

Chapter President presents a check to Captain John Brewer of the USA AFROTC Detachment for support of the Det's January semester kickoff cookout

University of South Alabama Silver Wings members attended the Silver Wings National Conclave – with support from Chapter 101. University of West Florida Silver Wings members also attended with our support.



Burgers and brats at the USA AFROTC Det's January semester