



Chapter 101 Newsletter

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Quarterly Report

Our June quarterly meeting had to be postponed at the last minute due to a fire at John Word's restaurant. According to reports from the Press-Register, "investigators said a fire that damaged the dining room of the Captain's Table Restaurant early Tuesday was intentionally set.

top of the restaurant located at 27101 Battleship Parkway.

Once on scene, firefighters found heavy fire inside the dining area. According to Huffman, the business suffered fire damage in the dining area with smoke damage throughout.

hung on the walls of the restaurant. Let's all hope that the damage is repairable and this historical venue can be restored.

Our next meeting will be at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce facility on 16 July. The Eastern Shore Chamber "Lookout" Rest Area across from Bass Pro on the Bluff looks out over the Bay. We'll have the conference room or we sit outside on the porch.

According to spokesman Steve Huffman, Mobile Fire Rescue received a call around 3:31 a.m. of smoke coming from the

This is a huge loss for the owners and the community. We are all familiar with the extensive collection of aviation art and photography that

Next Chapter Meeting

- 16 July Meeting at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce Lookout Conference room – 1700 hours
- Look for a flyer in your e-mai

Community Partners

Let's welcome our newest community partner. VP Scott Hunter was recently contacted by Ashley Mullins General Manager Team Adaptive, Inc. of Mobile for information on how to become an AFA Community

Partner. The process is quick and easy and brings many benefits to both the Partner and to the Air Force Association. As a Community Partner, Team Adaptive will be involved in our local chapter as a full member and be able to contribute to the South Alabama region's Air Force units.

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



South Alabama Action

In early May our Chapter VP, Scott Hunter, attended the Air War College National Security Forum as an invited alumnus. The AWC began for the first time to invite alumni to join newly invited guests to the National Security Forum. It was three days of lectures and discussions concerning all areas of national security and a speech by the very sharp

Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space affairs. Scott was able to get in a question to her on why we are forced to use Russian rocket engines to get sensitive satellites into orbit. That has now been rectified by efforts such as those by Senator Jeff Sessions. The Air Force announced in early June that Russian engines will no longer

be used and will be replaced by new engines from American manufacturers. The young Lt. Col's and Col's in the AWC, including the foreign officers, were all sharp and impressive. A great week.

President's Corner



I wanted to take some time as we hit the summer months and remind each of you what your Air Force Association is doing behind the scenes for all of us -- Active, Guard, Reserve, Civilian, Retirees, and Veterans and our families. Here are the AFA's top goals and specific areas that they are shaping to impact our lives:

1) **PREPARE AND SUPPORT AIRMEN; CARE FOR VETERANS & RETIREES**

Recognize military and veteran benefits are earned through years of service, sacrifice, and in many cases, personal injury and disability.

TRICARE for Life is a national obligation to retirees, long ago earned.

Support timely access to healthcare and no erosion of pharmacy benefits

Support our veterans by providing

expedient and accurate disability compensation processing, community-based education, employment assistance, and greater assistance to combat homelessness during and after their transition to civilian life.

Support Air Force leadership for taking the sexual assault issue head on and support its constant vigilance.

2) **REBUILD FULL COMBAT READINESS**

Encourage Congress to end Budget Control Act limits, strengthen USAF air, space, and cyber forces to support the national military strategy.

Provide the Air Force the ability to make and implement strategic choices in force structure and installations to consolidate resources and protect a quality force. (continued on page 4)

Next South Alabama Chapter Meeting is in June at John Word's Captain's Table on the Causeway.

See you there.

The Alabama Air Force Association consists of four chapters:

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

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

**AFA
SOUTH ALABAMA
CHAPTER 101**

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National News

The fiscal year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is making its way through Congress.

The House version passed and the Senate version has been approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee, and is on the Senate floor for debate this week.

The \$612 billion bill includes Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding (\$89.2 billion) to work around budget caps imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011. Included in both bills:

- Full authorization for the USAF's top three acquisition priorities--the F-35 Fighter, the Long Range Strike Bomber, and the KC-46 tanker
- A prohibition on A-10 retirement
- Acquisition reform measures for weapons

programs

- Department of Defense (DOD) reorganization requirements and budget restrictions
- Improvements in mental health care
- Provisions regarding sexual assault
- Provisions to ease Veteran employment transition
- Changes to military retirement recommended by the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) Report

As the authorization process continues, a similar process for appropriations will determine funding for DOD. AFA will keep an eye on the House and Senate versions of the NDAA and Appropriations bills as they go to conference later this summer.

Other NDAA highlights:

- The House version of the NDAA supports a 2.3% military pay raise while the Senate version matches DOD's proposal for a 1.3% pay raise.
- The Senate bill proposes reducing the housing allowance up to five percent, and giving dual military spouses only one housing allowance, at the rate of the spouse with senior rank.
- The House bill prohibits DOD from replacing or consolidating the commissary and exchange systems until Congress receives a report on commissary management and pricing options, due later this year. The SASC mark proposes immediate changes to include a \$322 million cut to the commissary subsidy, and a pilot program to privatize at least five commissaries from large US markets. While AFA supports a better business model for the commissary, any changes to the current system requires thoughtful assessment to ensure savings for customers are preserved or improved.
- The Senate bill proposes small increases to Tricare pharmacy fees, and allows beneficiaries four urgent care visits per year without preauthorization.

Our Community Partners

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	lrdunn@earthlink.net



President's Corner (cont)

To return to full-spectrum readiness, we must fund necessary readiness components, such as flying hours, weapons system sustainment, infrastructure, ranges and training like Red Flag.

3) INVEST IN AIRPOWER FOUNDATIONS: INNOVATION, EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Promote early and continued education in science, technology, engineering and math to stimulate the development of the next generation of aerospace engineers, scientists, and technicians conducting future research and development

Continue to emphasize the strong, foundational relationship towards our partner nations to enable successful, sustainable security within their borders and contribute to regional stability.

Support science and technology funding necessary to support a robust industrial base. Continue efforts to maintain a robust defense industrial base necessary for meeting national defense objectives.

4) REBUILD THE AGING FORCE-BUILD THE FORCE OF THE FUTURE

Acquire the KC-46, F-35, and long range strike bomber in sufficient quantities and on track to maintain capability and capacity.

Urge the Administration and Congress to fund the Fighter Trainer replacement and the next Combat Search and Rescue helicopter.

Urge the Administration and Congress fund advancements in Information, Surveillance and Reconnaissance assets for the future contested environment.

5) SECURE SPACE AND CYBERSPACE

Secure the Air Force ability to defend and maintain cyber superiority by ensuring mission access and freedom of maneuver.

Invest steadily and strategically on space capabilities and recognize the U.S. must retain clear superiority in this critical mission area.

6) REVITALIZE AND SUSTAIN THE NUCLEAR DETERRENT

Support programs and policies for modernization of our nuclear deterrent.

Ensure readiness of delivery systems and warheads and the nuclear support equipment and infrastructure.

Continue to focus on the nuclear force with accountability.

THANKS AFA FOR HELPING ALL OF US!!

Veteran/Retiree Affairs

THE ALABAMA STATE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY AT SPANISH FORT FOUNDATION, INC.

Article for inclusion in the AFA Chapter 101 Quarterly Newsletter _____

ORGANIZATION: THE ALABAMA STATE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY AT SPANISH FORT FOUNDATION, INC. is an Alabama nonprofit corporation incorporated on October 25, 2013. An application for federal income tax exemption under IRC Section 501(c)(3), filed on June 11, 2014, is now pending. The Board of Directors is comprised of thirteen unpaid volunteers, all veterans, most of whom have been appointed as representatives of other veterans service organizations (i.e., the Navy League, the Marine Corps League, the Air Force Association, The American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Military Officers Association of America, and the South Alabama Veterans Council). Directors are elected to four-year terms. There are no term limits. Art Oken, who represents AFA Chapter 101 on the Board of Directors, is both an officer (Vice-President) and director of the Foundation.

PURPOSE: The Foundation is an independent, non-government entity, formed exclusively for charitable, literary and educational purposes - in support of the **ALABAMA STATE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY AT SPANISH FORT**. The Foundation serves to support all veterans and veterans' organizations, activities and programs which promote the welfare of the community of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, with special emphasis on commemorating the honorable service to our country of our veterans. The Veterans Cemetery supported by the Foundation is located along Alabama Highway 225 in Baldwin County and is owned and operated by the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTIVITY: Examples of activities undertaken by the Foundation include: need-based (limited) financial assistance to defray costs to the veteran (not fully covered by the Veterans Administration) associated with interment at the cemetery; purchase of a uniquely designed bronze and marble table used to provide a dignified platform upon which the vessel in which the cremated remains of a veteran (or eligible deceased family member) repose during a cremation interment ceremony at the cemetery; purchase of a portable battlefield monument for display during interment ceremonies; purchase (and replenishment) of the American flags which, on commemorative occasions, line the boulevard which serves as the cemetery entrance; purchase of seasonal decorations (e.g., small wreaths and flags) for placement at all of the grave markers during the winter holidays; and (limited) financial assistance to defray expenses incurred by the unpaid volunteer color guards who travel in uniform to the cemetery to perform military honors.

THE CEMETERY: The **ALABAMA STATE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY AT SPANISH FORT**, formally dedicated on 7 December 2012, is located near the city of Spanish Fort, at 34904 Alabama Highway 225 in Baldwin County, Alabama (approximately 4.5 miles north of the intersection of AL Hwy 225 and US Hwy 31). It is open for public visitation 8:00 a.m. to sunset, 7 days a week. Information on interment and related matters may be obtained from the cemetery office by telephone at (251) 625-1338 or by e-mail at cemetery@va.alabama.gov. A unique feature of this cemetery is the opportunity for eligible veterans (and the eligible veteran's spouse) to pre-register (without obligation) for interment.

FUNDING: THE ALABAMA STATE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY AT SPANISH FORT FOUNDATION, INC. is funded by voluntary private donations. Anyone who wishes to contribute, or to inquire further about the charitable work of the Foundation, may contact the Foundation by mail at P.O. Box 8086, Spanish Fort, Alabama 36577.

Photo Gallery



2015 Teachers of the Year

Megan O'Neill – Spanish Fort High School
Kim Riley – Spanish Fort Rockwell Elementary School
Col. Steve Carey – AFA Chapter 101 President
Don Jones - B.C. Rain High School
Laniese Howard – Shepherd Elementary School
Mark Colicchio – AFA Chapter 101 VP Education