



June 2016

Chapter 101 Newsletter

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(Vice) President's Corner

On Memorial Day I visited the 'celebration' of our heroes who have gone on to their reward at the new Spanish Fort National Cemetery which was spearheaded by Navy Dentist who served with the Marines in Vietnam...Dr. Barry Booth. Congressman Bradley Byrne, whose brother Dale is buried there, gave a short but meaningful talk on what the veterans in that cemetery and

similar ones all over the country and world meant to our county and its existence. Several Air Force veterans were in attendance judging by the medals and various recognizable Air Force memorabilia they were wearing. As the youngest branch of the military it's heartwarming to see Air Force vets in attendance at Memorial Day events. Encourage our members to show their 'Air Force'

pride at all events that salute the military and veterans.



Membership Corner

Membership Facts:

- We have a base of over 200 active AFA members in South Alabama
- Our community is a great place to share your aerospace and cyberspace experience and skills

In 2011, AFA brought in 2,665 new members. In 2012, the number was 3,857. Fast forward to 2015 and 9,317 new members joined AFA. That's the best we've done in a decade! However, we can and need to do more. Here's something that really bothers me. Only 15% of our members are active duty! Guard and Reserve membership combined is less than 5%! Air Force civilian membership is less than 1%! That means we are not reaching the primary audience that we are here to support! So, while the 2015

stats are encouraging, it is only the tip of the iceberg. Said another way, we have taxied onto the runway, but it's time to push the throttles forward to take-off speed so we can rotate this effort and begin to soar!

CyberPatriot and StellarXplorer

AFA'S NEWEST STEM CHAMPIONS: CYBERPATRIOT AND STELLARXPLORERS

For hundreds of high school and middle school students, the month of April was life changing. AFA's premier STEM initiative, CyberPatriot, crowned the National Cyber Defense Competition National Champions in Baltimore, MD April 13th after a very intense battle among the nation's best cyber defenders. Additionally, StellarXplorers, AFA's newest STEM initiative created to

inspire high school students to explore space hosted their National Finals for StellarXplorers II in Colorado during the Space Foundation Conference. [Click here](#) for the full list of champions.

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 at www.afa.org. Do it now.

Education

MCPSS JROTC cadets and Teachers of the Year honored at Military Appreciation Luncheon

Mobile County teachers of the year Stacey Davis of St. Elmo Elementary and Bonnie Howard of Hankins Middle were also honored by the Air Force Association during the luncheon, held Wednesday at the USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park aircraft pavilion.

The keynote speaker at the event was Vice Admiral William "Dean" Lee of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Chapter 101 also honored Spanish Fort Teacher of the Year Megan O'Neill. In a ceremony attended by students, Chapter President Steve Carey presented Megan with a check for \$250 and a certificate recognizing her work (see photo). Also recognized was Cindy Robles from Bayside Academy. She is Baldwin County's Air Force Association Teacher of the Year for STEM.

There were two TOY nominees from Mobile County. Stacey Davis of St. Elmo Elementary is the Winner of the South Alabama - Air Force Association's Teacher of the Year award for Mobile county's elementary school teachers of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Stacey Davis, who teaches fourth-grade and is

National Board Certified, has embraced technology and innovation in her classroom and is a leader at her school. Davis has been teaching at St. Elmo for seven years. She leads the Cougar Cub Newscast team, is on the school's Digital Transformation Project through Discovery Education, and her students have won the Mobile County Film Festival.

Bonnie Howard of Hankins Middle School is the Winner of the South Alabama - Air Force Association's Teacher of the Year award for Mobile county's high school and middle school teachers of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Bonnie Howard started Hankins' robotics program and now has 100 students participating on the award-winning team. Howard has been teaching in Mobile County Public Schools for 18 years. She is a trainer that has been trained in a variety of science programs ranging from Project Sea Oats to Adventures in Aerospace, and from Weather Education to Electric Circuits.

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Vet/Retiree Affairs

From the Director of the Defense Accounting and Finance Center

We know you're retired, but there's work you still have to do to maintain your account. You have to make sure it is accurate in terms of allotments, beneficiaries, and deductions.

In this edition of the newsletter, we are stressing the importance of getting into the routine of auditing your account, educating yourself, educating your beneficiaries, and updating your myPay account.

We are including a series of articles to give you some guidelines on what to look for and what sorts of life changing events you need to notify us of.

Please read the "Audit Your Account" article and take this opportunity to review your account and make sure things are set up the way you want them to be.

Another key article you really should read is "Warning! What Could Happen If You Don't Update Your Pay Records." It gives you a sense of what could happen if you do not audit and update your account, or educate your beneficiaries so they understand their role in claiming and managing their benefits.

Lastly, although tax season is over, we want you to make sure your information and address are current in myPay. This will ensure you have access to your 1099 as soon as it becomes available next tax season.

Remember, don't just read these articles. Share them with your beneficiaries and print them to store with other important documents.

I hope you find the information in this issue useful, and stay tuned for our next edition. (June 2016 Edition of the DFAS Retiree Newsletter)

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