



# The Sijan Sentinel

1ST QUARTER, ISSUE I

MARCH 2015

## WELCOME TO SIJAN CHAPTER 125!

**President: Don Kidd**  
**Vice President: Linda Aldrich**  
**Treasurer: Barbara Binn**  
**Secretary: Tom Ocvirk**



## HEADS UP ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Upcoming Competitions sponsored by the Lance P. Sijan Chapter

#### 2015 General Bernard A. Schriever Memorial Essay Contest

The Sijan Chapter sponsors an annual essay contest for Headquarters Air Force Space Command in the name and memory of a great Air Force pioneer, General Bernard A. Schriever. The 2014 contest was a resounding success with 20 outstanding essays submitted.

The 2015 Schriever Memorial Essay Contest is open all current Air Force military and civilian personnel, including Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members. The purpose of the contest is to stimulate thought, discussion, and debate on matters relating to how the Air Force and Air Force Space Command provide space and cyberspace capabilities for the Joint Force and the Nation. The contest is a great opportunity to share ideas among space and cyber professionals. The *Air and Space Power Journal* will publish the top three essays with honorable mentions given to other noteworthy entries. In addition to presenting trophies to the winners, the Sijan Chapter will present monetary awards for first, second and third place winners. The theme and guidelines will be published March 31st and papers will be due on or about July 31<sup>st</sup>. For more information about the contest, check the chapter website after March 31<sup>st</sup> or contact the project manager, Roy Griggs, at [afaschriever@gmail.com](mailto:afaschriever@gmail.com).

#### 2015 High School and College Scholarship Opportunity

Each year the Chapter awards scholarships to outstanding high school seniors who have been accepted for enrollment at a college or university, and to current outstanding freshman, sophomore and junior students at a college or university. Scholarships are open to family members of active duty and retired Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members. The Chapter scholarships are awarded based on the overall character and leadership potential of the student, which includes the academic achievement, demonstrated leadership, community service and writing composition. There is no specified restriction on the use of the scholarship monies, however, it is the intent of the Sijan Chapter that they be utilized in the direct support of academic pursuits. All applications must be postmarked no later than 17 April 2015 and winners will be notified no later than May 1, 2015. Complete application information is currently posted on the Chapter website at <http://www.lancepsijanafa.com> or contact the project manager at [Dave.Geuting@exelisinc.com](mailto:Dave.Geuting@exelisinc.com) or 719-445-0607 (H) or 719-367-7485 (C).

#### 2015 Teacher of the Year Program

Don't forget to nominate a teacher (or two!) from your local area to be the Lance P. Sijan Teacher of the Year. This is a fantastic way to honor and reward exemplary educators in the community. The due date for Chapter and State Teacher of the Year nominations is April 1. National Teacher of the Year nominations must be submitted by May 31. Please submit all Teacher of the Year materials to AFA Lance P. Sijan Chapter 125, PO Box 15007, Colorado Springs, CO 80935 or [dave.geuting@exelisinc.com](mailto:dave.geuting@exelisinc.com). You can find out more about this program, including links to nomination forms as well as the State and National Teacher of the Year program, [here](#).

This year we are excited to announce that the AFA's Aerospace Education Council has chosen to update the award materials received in this program. The Chapter, State, and National Teachers of the Year will each receive a pin to commemorate their achievement. Chapter Teachers of the Year will now be awarded with an AFA Chapter Teacher of the Year padfolio, which will be useful in the classroom! State Teachers of the Year will continue to receive the popular embroidered windbreakers.

# DARE MIGHTY THINGS

**AN AFA EMERGING LEADER ALUMNUS JOINS FORCES WITH AFA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR TO INSPIRE STUDENTS.** By TSgt. Timothy J. Tichawa

On the wall in my office at Peterson AFB, Colo., is a poster with the words, "Dare Mighty Things." President Theodore Roosevelt uttered these now-famous words. To me, they capture the essence of what it means to be bold, an attitude that's crucial to have—especially in the engineering world.

"Dare Mighty Things" is also a phrase that Kaci A. Heins, the Air Force Association's 2014 National Aerospace Teacher of the Year, uses with students in her sixth-grade science class at Northland Preparatory Academy in Flagstaff, Ariz.

In October, I visited these students, 101 in all, while moving to Colorado from California. I talked to them about what the Air Force does in space. I also did my part to inspire them to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. It was a rewarding experience for me, and based on the feedback I received, it was worthwhile for the students, too.

The inspiration for my visit came after I heard Heins speak at the AFA's Air & Space Conference at National Harbor, Md., in September 2014. Both she and I are members of AFA's Aerospace Education Council.

At the conference, Heins discussed the emphasis she places on STEM projects in her classroom. For example, each year she has her students build a payload for a high-altitude balloon that's launched into the

stratosphere. One year, her class designed a payload featuring a camera pointed at a Lego toy astronaut; the students successfully snapped a photo of the astronaut against the cold background of space.

Heins also uses field trips, live Web chats, and guest speakers to expose students to STEM-related careers. That's where I came in.

**"IT WAS GREAT FOR THE STUDENTS TO BE EXPOSED NOT ONLY TO POSSIBLE STEM CAREERS, BUT ALSO HOW THEY COULD DO THESE JOBS WHILE SERVING OUR COUNTRY."** — Kaci A. Heins, AFA's 2014 National Aerospace Teacher of the Year, on Tichawa's visit.

TSgt. Timothy Tichawa stands with AFA's 2014 Teacher of the Year Kaci Heins during his visit to her sixth-grade classroom in Flagstaff, Ariz., Oct. 1, 2014.



Photo courtesy of Kaci Heins

The students eagerly interacted with me and seemed to love the presentation. They even asked for my autograph afterward!

I expect to reconnect with them early this year for an update on the launch plans for their high-altitude-balloon payload. The class is designing sensors to measure radiation through the atmosphere. They hope to send them aloft in late March from Flagstaff. ☼

*TSgt. Timothy J. Tichawa is a member of AFA's Aerospace Education Council and a member of the Lance P. Sijan Chapter in Colorado Springs, Colo. In 2013, AFA chose him to be among the inaugural members of its Emerging Leaders Program. See Air Force Magazine, April 2014, p. 76.*





## Wounded Warrior Charity Event

The Sijan Chapter has an outstanding record of supporting our veterans and Air Force Wounded Warriors. On February 3rd, a charity event at the Broadmoor was held in conjunction with the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) Cyberspace Conference and provided a wonderful opportunity for our members to turn out in force and contribute. The proceeds of the event were shared by the Mount Carmel Center of Excellence and the AFA Wounded Airman Program (WAP). Mount Carmel is a local charity establishing a veteran rehabilitation center in Colorado Springs. The AFA Wounded Airman Program is dedicated to providing aid to Air Force warriors, both directly and through the Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2) office. Of special note, 100% of the Program's funding goes to the Airmen – the Program is administered by the AFA, a volunteer organization.

The primary sponsor was CA Technologies with support also coming from Phil Long Ford, represented by retired Denver Bronco Randy Gradishar, and US Olympic athletes. The festivities included a cocktail party with hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and donation opportunities. Background music was provided by Gentle Rain, a local group consisting of retired members of the Air Force Band.



*AFA State President, Steve Gourley and Kari Lynn Hahn, National AFA VP for Member and Field Relations, enjoying the event*



*Manning the AFA table for the event were SMSgt Paul Horton, one of our Wounded Warrior Heroes; Denise O'Connor, USAFA lead for WAP in Colorado; and Kathy Cooper, Sijan Chapter Volunteer*



## 2015 Wing Open Boxing

The U.S. Air Force Academy's cadet wing selects a local veteran charity each year to sponsor as part of its annual Wing Open Boxing tournament. For the second year in a row the cadets selected the veteran support group called The Home Front Cares (THFC). This non-profit organization is led by local retired military members and has the sole purpose of helping needy veterans and military families with rent/mortgage payments, utilities, car and home repairs, childcare and groceries, as well as other essential life needs.

(See more info at their website - <http://thehomefrontcares.org/>)



The Air Force Association's Lance P. Sijan Chapter partnered with the cadets and the Rampart Alumni Chapter of the Academy's Association of Graduates to host a pizza party for augmenting funds to help the cause. The pizza party was held two hours prior to the tournament on February 19th in the Cadet Field House and nearly

80 attendees enjoyed as much pizza and soft drinks as they could consume. Additionally, several attendees admitted the sole reason they participate each year is to enjoy Cathy Cooper's famous chocolate truffles, an annual tradition for the party. Sijan Chapter Community Partners not only donated the food and drink, but also provided a dozen door prizes that help to draw attendees year after year.



Sijan Chapter hosts were Bob and Cathy Cooper who have led the event for ten of the past twelve years. A lifetime member since 1992, Bob stated, "Faithful volunteers from both the Sijan AFA Chapter and the Rampart Chapter of the Academy's AOG make this event a lot of fun; the result is a remarkable



involvement from the local community." The pizza party netted \$950 and the Sijan Chapter added \$1,000 to help THFC impact the lives of local veterans. Audience donations collected during the boxing tournament added an additional \$2,000 to the cause for a total \$4,300 impact to the local veterans of Colorado Springs.

Sijan's Chapter president, Don Kidd (l), joined the Academy's AOG president, Dan Beatty (r) in presenting their joint donation of \$2300 to the Home Front Cares' Board Member, Brian Binn (c).





## Supporting “Keep Fort Carson Strong”

A host of Air Force Association members joined Sijan Chapter president, Don Kidd, in the overflow crowd at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> Fort Carson Listening Session. The session was organized by the Army to gauge the level of support within a community as the Army considers force reductions, with teams sent to each location under consideration. The local Defense Missions Task Force of Colorado Springs, of which had been planning for the The Task Force rallied value of the Army being for not only Colorado whole. Andy Napoli, the (Army), attended, one of on his agenda this year. A importance of a strong for Fort Carson was based viewpoint of Colorado, been based on a negative from the Pinon Canyon



Don Kidd is a member, session for several weeks. support to demonstrate the located here, with benefits Springs, but the state as a assistant for BRAC only two to three locations key factor in the show of positive support on reshaping Mr. Napoli's which might well have experience previously expansion fights.

A strong slate of Colorado leaders, including Governor John Hickenlooper, members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation, state legislators, mayors from Colorado Springs, Monument, Fountain, Woodland Park, Trinidad, and representatives from higher education and local school districts demonstrated to the Army the broad base of support in this united effort to support Fort Carson. Attendance at the event also supported a primary focus of the Sijan Chapter president to raise AFA's visibility and presence in the community, leveraging our membership on behalf of the Air Force, the Armed Forces and the Colorado Springs community. AFA and the Sijan Chapter will continue to collaborate and communicate across the many defense and military-oriented associations and councils in the community for the betterment of all. The Chapter membership support at “Keep Fort Carson Strong” is evidence of the dedication to this focus for the long term.



This year's highly praised SnoFest was held at the Keystone Resort in the heart of the Colorado Rockies from January 23 to 25, 2015. The event is a thank you to the military community, providing discounted prices for a multitude of activities, and hosted by the Force Support Squadrons from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Peterson, FE Warren, Buckley, and Schriever Air Force Bases. Barbara and Brian Binn and Chapter president Don Kidd represented the Air Force Association Sijan Chapter at the event with a table of information about the Chapter. They were proud to announce that this is the ninth year for the Sijan Chapter to be a sponsor for SnoFest. Barbara reported that activities included a hospitality tent with snacks and hot chocolate for the skiers and boarders, ski and snowboard races, ice skating, night skiing, tubing, a cardboard derby, sleigh rides, wine tasting, beer tasting, kids' crafts, snowball launching, a buffet dinner with DJ entertainment and dancing, kids games, and door prizes. There is no doubt this was an event where “a good time was enjoyed by all!” If you haven't ever been to SnoFest, be sure to put it on your calendar for next year!



## 2015 JROTC Drill Competition

On Saturday, January 31, 2015, the Lance P. Sijan Chapter 125 sponsored the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Colorado JROTC Drill Meet at William Mitchell High School. The competition included nine JROTC units from schools in the surrounding area. Sijan Chapter President Don Kidd presented the winning trophies to the competitors. In addition to trophies for each team that placed in competition, the top 10 cadets that placed during the drill down also received a ribbon to wear on their uniforms. All teams participating in the drill meet received commemorative AFA coins. In addition to furnishing awards for the teams, the Chapter hosted a hospitality room for judges and VIPS and provided the programs for this great event. Lt Col (Ret) Keith Woodfork from the William Mitchell High School JROTC program commented that the event would not be possible without the support of the Air Force Association and asked to share his sincere appreciation to all the Chapter members for their outstanding support of JROTC cadets. Well done Sijan Chapter!



### Competition Results

#### Inspection

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place—Sand Creek High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place—Falcon High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place—Mitchell High School
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place—Skyview High School

#### Unarmed Regulation

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place—Mitchell High School Silver Team
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place—Mitchell High School Orange Team
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place—Widefield High School
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place—John F Kennedy High School

#### Armed Exhibition

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place—Mitchell High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place—Cheyenne East High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place—Fountain Fort Carson High School

#### Unarmed Exhibition

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place—John F Kennedy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place—Mitchell High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place—Skyview High School

#### Color Guard

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place—Mitchell High School Team B
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place—Mitchell High School Team A
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place—Fountain Fort Carson High School
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place—Sand Creek Team A
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place—John F Kennedy High School

Commander's Trophy (Overall Championship)—  
William Mitchell High School



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## How To Contact AFA

AIR FORCE  
ASSOCIATION  
LANCE P. SIJAN  
CHAPTER 125

- To be added to the AFA Update distribution list, please e-mail us at: [service@afa.org](mailto:service@afa.org)
- To change the e-mail address to which you receive the AFA Update [service@afa.org](mailto:service@afa.org) Please provide the old and new e-mail addresses.
- For questions or comments about the AFA Update, e-mail ([srubel@afa.org](mailto:srubel@afa.org)).
- To change the mailing address or other information for your AFA membership record, and to join AFA or renew your membership, visit: <https://www.hqafsa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Renew&Template=/MembersOnly.cfm&NavMenuID=780&ContentID=12875&DirectListComboInd=D>
- For details on your AFA member benefits, go to: <http://www.afavba.org/AboutUs/member/>



MilitaryHOMEFRONT is the Department of Defense website for official Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP) program information, policy and guidance designed to help **troops and their families, leaders, and service providers**. Whether you live the military lifestyle or support those who do, you'll find what you need. Visit: <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>



AFA LANCE P. SIJAN CHAPTER

## Points of Interest & Up Coming Events

### LANCE P. SIJAN CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETINGS

PLACE: EXELIS OFFICE, 4450 E. FOUNTAIN BLVD. CLSP, CO. 80916  
DATE: EVERY 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH / TIME: 07:30AM

### AFSPC ANNUAL AWARDS

PLACE: PETERSON AFB  
DATE: MARCH 6, 2015

### TEAM PETERSON ANNUAL AWARDS

PLACE: PETETRSON AFB  
DATE: MAR 10, 2015

### AIR FORCE BALL (HOST)

PLACE: BROADMOOR HALL  
DATE: MARCH 20, 2015

### 2015 SCHRIEVER MEMORIAL ESSAY CONTEST KICKOFF

DATE: MARCH 31, 2015

### TEACHER OF THE YEAR APPLICATION DEADLINE

DATE: APRIL 1, 2015

### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

DATE: APRIL 17, 2015

### STATE AFA MEETING

PLACE: ESTES PARK  
DATE: MAY 2, 2015

### NORAD/NORTHCOM ANNUAL AWARDS

PLACE: TBD  
DATE: APRIL 22, 2015

### HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL AFJROTC AWARDS CEREMONY

PLACE: HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL  
DATE: MAY 7, 2015

### SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

PLACE: TBD  
DATE: TBD

### USAFA PARADE

PLACE: AIR FORCE ACADEMY  
DATE: MAY 27, 2015

### USAFA GRADUATION

PLACE: AIR FORCE ACADEMY  
DATE: MAY 27, 2015

For up-to-date chapter happenings follow us on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/browse/adminded\\_pages/?id=100004188004907#!/pages/Lance-P-Sijan-AFA-Chapter-125/378580798874849](https://www.facebook.com/browse/adminded_pages/?id=100004188004907#!/pages/Lance-P-Sijan-AFA-Chapter-125/378580798874849)

Email: [don.kidd@comcast.net](mailto:don.kidd@comcast.net)

For more information contact:

[lancepsijanafa@gmail.com](mailto:lancepsijanafa@gmail.com) or  
[lsaletters@comcast.net](mailto:lsaletters@comcast.net)







Primary Business Address  
Air Force Association  
Lance P. Sijan Chapter #125  
P.O. Box 15007  
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-5007

## Chapter Officers:

President:

DON KIDD

[DON.KIDD@COMCAST.NET](mailto:DON.KIDD@COMCAST.NET)

Secretary:

TOM OCVRK

[TOMJANOCVRK@COMCAST.NET](mailto:TOMJANOCVRK@COMCAST.NET)

Executive VP:

LINDA ALDRICH—694-8719

[LSALETTERS@COMCAST.NET](mailto:LSALETTERS@COMCAST.NET)

Treasurer:

BARBARA BINN—487-0153

[BARBBINN14@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BARBBINN14@GMAIL.COM)

The AFA is an independent, nonprofit, civilian education organization promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation. AFA publishes Air Force Magazine, conducts national symposia and disseminates information through outreach programs. It sponsors professional development seminars and recognizes excellence in the education and aerospace fields through national awards programs. AFA presents scholarships and grants to Air Force active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members and their dependents, and AFA awards educator grants to promote science and math education at the elementary, secondary, and high school level. Nationally, AFA has more than 100,000 active members. The AFA National Website is [WWW.AFA.ORG](http://WWW.AFA.ORG)

## Membership Changes

**Any changes to members' home / work addresses and email addresses must be sent to AFA National not the Sijan Chapter because we cannot add, delete or change a members mailing address due to privacy laws.**

[Click here](#) to update your address and email, or mail changes to AFA National address at:

Air Force Association  
Member Services  
1501 Lee Highway  
Arlington, VA 22209

**We're on the Web!**

[www.lancepsijanafa.org](http://www.lancepsijanafa.org)

[www.lancepsijanafa.com](http://www.lancepsijanafa.com)

The Lance P. Sijan Chapter is one of the largest, most active chapters in AFA, with more than 2100 members. The Sijan Chapter, one of four AFA Chapters in Colorado, primarily focuses on support to the Colorado Springs area, including Peterson AFB, Schriever AFB, Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, and the USAFA. The AFA Sijan Chapter is proud of our rich heritage and strong support for the Colorado Springs Air Force community. We pride ourselves on active support to the local Colorado Springs "Air Force Family," providing approximately \$40,000 and thousands of volunteer hours in support annually!

## NEW AND RENEWED COMMUNITY PARTNERS

