



# The Sijan Sentinel

3RD QUARTER, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2020

## WELCOME TO SIJAN CHAPTER 125!



**President: MSgt Angelo Bryant**  
**Vice President: SMSgt Gerald Morey**  
**Secretary: Doug Kendall**  
**Treasurer: MSgt Justin Althoff**

## MESSAGE FROM THE SIJAN CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

### Lance P. Sijan Membership,

As my first quarter as Chapter President comes to an end, I hope each of you are in good health while we continue to start getting back to a "New Normal." COVID has affected the Lance P. Sijan Chapter in many ways, and I hope when you receive this newsletter that each of you is in good health. We are still dedicated, diverse, entertaining and determined to remind the community of the proud heritage we have as a service.

Our community involvement has been affected by this virus, but the virus has not affected our sense of duty, service and purpose to our members. Although we had to postpone our Air Force Ball from the original September date, please know that we are on track to celebrate in the February timeframe. As we mentioned last quarter the plan will still be to celebrate the "Total Force" to recognize all services, including the newest branch of service, the United States Space Force.

Another challenge we are facing is keeping scholarships alive and flourishing in light of the cancellation of the IMAGE Golf Tournament, which is normally our annual source of funding. As an alternative we are hosting a Lance P. Sijan Pampered Chef Scholarship Fundraiser. Our very own SMSgt Gearld Morey (VP) will be running the fundraiser from 1-14 October and donating 100% of the commission proceeds to the scholarship fund. He has an exciting event planned and we hope you will get involved.

Please visit the Facebook site, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/370068457720321/?ref=share> where the shopping link will be live starting 1 October. It's never too early to start Christmas shopping. I am truly excited on what this next quarter will bring, and we will continue to seek new options for serving our membership. We are experiencing things this generation nor the last have experienced before and the plan is to keep the communications open for Space Force and continue embracing the change that is coming with it. Thank you for allowing me to serve and promote the mission of AFA: **"Our mission is to education the public about the dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense, to honor and support our Airmen and families, and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage."**

### 2020 Air Force Ball New Date Announcement!

As promised, the Sijan AF Ball Committee and Executive Board have determined that our biggest event of the year is back on schedule. The Air Force Ball is now scheduled for 27 February 2021. We look forward to celebrating with you with the theme: *Celebrating the TOTAL Force*. Whether you currently serve, have served, are in a military family, are part of a DoD support organization, or volunteer, YOU are part of the total force. Be watching for future announcements with specifics!





### Congratulation to our National Officers



This year brought about several changes and a highly spirited election process. Multiple candidates reached out to the Colorado Chapters to explain they would be the best candidates to serve in a National office. At the Colorado 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting, candidates were available to the attendees, in-person and virtually, to talk about their ideas and answer questions. Jim Simmons was elected for the Vice Chairman, Field Operations, stating that he believed in Servant Leadership. He promised to represent the grassroots members in the field by listening and hearing what they have to say. As Jimmy Doolittle said, “The field is the heart and soul of AFA.” Instead of the field working to serve the leader, the leader exists to serve the field. He vowed to remind our governing body of the reason we are here today – because of our field. He advocated for the following needs for AFA: (1) Substantial improvement in Communications – a better exchange of information between our National staff and you, and a closer staff – volunteer working relationship at all levels. (2) To repair and improve our IT systems and programs to make them state of the art, easy to use and “helpful”, with easier navigation of our Website to find information easily and quickly. (3) Continued improvement to reporting procedures and providing updates, to make it all less burdensome. (4) Improvement to the field recognition programs allowing all chapters to be recognized for accomplishing goals from our strategic plan. (5) Improved outreach to our Guard and Reserve at all levels of AFA. (6) Increased diversity in leadership positions throughout our Association.



Director At Large Len Vernamonti also referenced Jimmy Doolittle’s about “the field being the heart and soul of AFA,” vowing to remain faithful to Doolittle’s philosophy in planning for the future. Len is an Emeritus member of AFA with years of experience working within the organization. Additionally he has over 15 years’ experience, each, in the mission areas of air, space and cyber, plus R&D, acquisition and operations. For the past 20 years, he’s been recognized by the defense, civilian and governmental sectors as a Subject Matter Expert in the areas of finance and accounting, grants and contracts, strategic planning, and corporate governance for the aerospace, cyber, communications, construction, economic development and non-profit sectors—all of which he has and will continue to put to good use in serving AFA.

Colorado’s own Steve Gourley is also now Director At Large and we know how many years Steve has devoted to the Mile High Chapter, State AFA and to all our Colorado Chapters, currently serving as the VP for Veterans Affairs at the State level. He is a leader in the development and implementation of Stellar Xplorers the National High School Space Challenge. As well as co-Vice Chairman of the AFA Aerospace Education Council (AEC) and AEC representative to the AFA Strategic Planning Council. Steve is currently the Chair of the Aurora (Colorado) Defense Council, promoting and supporting the people and missions of the U.S. military by working with the local military installations, the aerospace and defense industries, and other business representatives. He has served on the Council for several years on its Executive Committee including as Vice Chairman. He represents AFA Colorado State to the United Veterans Coalition of Colorado as Vice President for Veterans Affairs. Although it seems there might not be enough hours in the day for all that Steve does, he’s excited about being a Director At Large and being able to mentor and guide on a National level. Steve, we are so proud of you!!

Mac MacAloon has been the Vice Chairman of the Board, Field Ops for the last four years so really didn’t need an introduction to any of us. We are so glad that Mac has decided to stay engaged and now will be continuing on in his new capacity as Director East Area. We know Mac will be able to mentor and advise all the board members with all his lessons learned over so many years of already having served.

### Newly Elected Officers:

Vice Chairman of the Board, Field Operations – Jim Simmons  
 Treasurer – Chuck Martin  
 Director East Area – Mac MacAloon  
 Directors At Large – Steve Gourley and Len Vernamonti



### Incumbents who have been reelected to serve and additional term:

Chairman – Gerald Murray  
 Vice Chairman for Aerospace Education – Jim Hannam  
 National Secretary – Rick Hartle

# Congratulations to our National AFA Award Unit Winners

Exceptional Service Award/Airman & Family Programs—Mile High  
 Exceptional Service Award/Communications—Mile High  
 DQ Steele Unit of the Year—Mile High  
 Aerospace Education Achievement—Mel Harmon  
 Aerospace Education Achievement—Lance P. Sijan  
 Aerospace Education Achievement—Mile High  
 Aerospace Education Excellence/Small Chapter—Mel Harmon  
 Aerospace Education Excellence/Extra Large Chapter—Lance P. Sijan



Steve Gourley, Kenn Bowens, and Chip Deyerle showing the DW Steel Award designating Mile High Chapter as the “Best in AFA”

## AND CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NATIONAL AFA AWARD INDIVIDUAL WINNERS



Medal of Merit  
 Mary Ann Blair,  
 Mel Harmon Chapter



Medal of Merit  
 Ray Brown,  
 Mel Harmon Chapter



Medal of Merit  
 Katy Rozema  
 Lance P. Sijan Chapter



Exceptional Service Award  
 Margaret Eichman,  
 Mel Harmon Chapter



## New Bosses at SPACECOM, NORTHCOM

By Amy McCullough

Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper oversaw leadership changes for two combatant commands—U.S. Space Command and U.S. Northern Command—during back-to-back ceremonies at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., on Aug. 20. Army Gen. James H. Dickinson assumed command of SPACECOM from USAF Gen. John W. “Jay” Raymond, who will remain the head of the U.S. Space Force, the Defense Department’s newest military service. USAF Gen. Glen D. VanHerck succeeded Gen. Terrence J. O’Shaughnessy as commander of NORTHCOM and the North American Aerospace Defense Command. O’Shaughnessy, who has led the combatant command since May 2018, retired after 34 years in uniform.

### **SPACENEWS**

U.S. Army general to be sworn in as space commander  
by Sandra Erwin

Gen. James Dickinson will be the first Army officer to lead U.S. Space Command  
WASHINGTON — U.S. Army Gen. James Dickinson this week will take the helm as commander of U.S. Space Command. He will be the first Army officer to lead the military’s unified combatant command for space operations.

President Trump nominated Dickinson for Space Command’s top post in June. The Senate Armed Services Committee approved his nomination and he was confirmed by the full Senate on Aug. 6 by a voice vote. Dickinson will be sworn in at a change-of-command ceremony scheduled for Aug. 20 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. On the same day, Air Force Gen. Glen VanHerck will take the oath as commander of U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command. VanHerck succeeds Air Force Gen. Terrence O’Shaughnessy who is retiring from active duty

Dickinson takes over for Gen. John “Jay” Raymond, who since December has served in dual roles as head of Space Command and as chief of space operations of the U.S. Space Force. Raymond will continue to serve as head of the Space Force. In December 2019 Dickinson became deputy commander of Space Command. Previously he was the commander of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command.

U.S. Space Command was first stood up in 1985. It was disestablished in 2002 and its functions were absorbed by U.S. Strategic Command in order to free up resources to create Northern Command to oversee homeland defense. Trump in December 2018 signed a memorandum re-establishing Space Command as the military’s 11th unified combatant command. The command was officially reactivated Aug. 29, 2019, in a White House ceremony. Space Command is currently headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base. The Air Force in May launched an open bidding process to select a permanent location for the headquarters. Communities from 26 states have submitted bids and the Air Force said it will announce a decision in January 2021.

Only U.S. Air Force officers up until now have led Space Command, a reflection of the Air Force being in charge of the military’s space capabilities. That changed in December 2019 when Congress created the Space Force as a separate military service.

Like the other unified commands, Space Command uses capabilities and personnel provided by all branches of the military. Although the Space Force will be the primary service supporting Space Command, the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and Navy also assign units to the command. Dickinson and other senior leaders have pointed out that ground forces are the military’s largest consumers of space-based technologies. A typical Army combat brigade of 4,000 soldiers deploys with more than 2,500 pieces of space enabled equipment used for communications, navigation, early warning and other functions.



## **Healthcare Transition for Military Retirees and Dependents Turning 65**

**By Joe Baldwin, Sijan Chapter Member**

When I took my wife to get a new dependent ID last year, we received a huge dose of reality when the Pass & ID staffer informed us that we both would need to get new IDs in 2020 before the first day of our birthday month. Also, that in order to secure those IDs, we would need to sign up for Medicare parts A and B beforehand. Then, show up at Pass & ID during the month before the first day of our birthday month to show our Medicare card in order to secure our new retiree IDs. My first thought was crap, I'm really getting old! My second thought was to be thankful the staffer flagged this for us, since it was nowhere on our radar screen, having enjoyed the healthcare benefits provided by military medical treatment facilities (MTFs) and downtown providers through Tricare Prime over several years for minimal costs.

What follows is by no means exhaustive or authoritative, but reflects what we learned over the past several months as we tried to navigate the transition to Medicare and Tricare for Life. Hopefully, military retirees and spouses who are preparing for a similar life event will find the below useful.

Fortunately, there is a wealth of information on-line to support this transition, although we found no convenient checklist or one-pager with internet links to guide one's efforts to prepare for and implement this transition. On the other hand, the great thing is that once you sign up for Medicare parts A and B and DEERS is updated to reflect that fact, you are enrolled automatically in Tricare for Life's Medicare wrap around coverage—if you are a Tricare eligible beneficiary. This secondary insurance coverage is effective the first day of your birth month when you also go on Medicare.

Some of the literature indicates you may be able to continue to receive routine and other healthcare at MTFs. When we pursued this, however, we were informed that due to funding cuts, no local MTFs in the Colorado Springs area are accepting as "new patients" retirees and dependents going on Medicare. While some specialty clinics may continue to see you on a space A basis, perhaps best not to count on it. Bottom line: once you turn 65 and go on Medicare, you're likely to have to use downtown providers for most healthcare requirements.

### **Medicare**

A good place to start for Medicare is <https://www.medicare.gov/> where you can set up an individual account and find information on Medicare parts A and B, associated costs, what parts A and B cover, authorized providers, drug coverage, insurance supplements, etc. You also can call 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227) with any questions or concerns.

For most of us, part A covers inpatient hospital care and nursing home/home health care while Part B covers out-patient care, services, preventive care, and durable medical equipment (such as CPAPs). Each individual will have their own unique situation, but we found that all we needed (we think...) is Medicare Parts A and B and Tricare for Life since the latter picks up most of the remaining costs for Medicare-approved services not covered by Medicare (such as deductibles and co-pays) and even helps pay for some healthcare services not covered by Medicare. Also, retirees and spouses can continue to secure most prescriptions written by local providers through an MTF pharmacy at no cost or the Tricare Pharmacy for limited cost. So, we saw no need for Medicare part D, supplemental plans, or the like – despite all the mailers we continue to receive from AARP, UnitedHealthcare, and others promoting their products.

### **Applying for Medicare**

You can apply for Medicare on-line through the account you set up on the Medicare website three months before the first day of your birthday month. Highly recommend doing so, as soon as you can, to ensure your application is processed before the first day of your birth month and to provide time to resolve any issues that arise. Since my wife and I both have birthdays in July, we applied on 1 April 2020. We both received email notifications that our applications had been received and could track progress on the processing of our applications through the accounts we had set up on medicare.gov. It's not clear that this is typical for applicants, but I was required to submit an official copy of my birth certificate to substantiate my application and my wife had to submit an official copy of our marriage certificate. Once our applications were processed and approved, we received via snail mail the individual Medicare cards and a **Medicare & You** handbook for future reference.



## Healthcare Transition for Military Retirees and Dependents Turning 65 cont.

### Medicare Costs

For individuals who have paid Medicare taxes (such as military retirees and typically their spouses), there are no premiums for part A coverage. On the other hand, there is a monthly premium (made in quarterly payments) for part B coverage and it's likely to be quite a bit higher than what you paid for Tricare premiums. For 2020, the basic premium per individual is \$144.60 a month (\$1,735.20 per year), but could cost more depending on your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) and filing status for recent tax years reported by IRS to the Social Security Administration (SSA). We learned about this the hard way upon receiving an SSA letter indicating that my wife and I would have to pay an Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) based on our filing status and MAGI for 2018. Fortunately, you can appeal an IRMAA if you have a life changing event (such as work stoppage) that impacts your anticipated MAGI for the enrollment year, but must do so within 60 days of receiving notification of the IRMAA. SSA makes it somewhat easy by providing an on-line form (SSA-561-U2) that you can submit electronically. But, if you find yourself in this situation, recommend you follow up aggressively to ensure your appeal gets processed, then re-engage SSA if you feel the appeal was disapproved without proper cause. We went through this drill and were able to eliminate the IRMAA, finding the local SSA office in Colorado Springs to be the best source of help (phone: 888-880-0688).

### Tricare for Life (TFL)

As with Medicare, there are some good on-line references that help explain TFL. At <https://tricare.mil/tfl> you'll find a brief explanation of the basics plus links to PDFs for a useful brochure, handbook, and cost matrix. Also, the TFL website <https://www.tricare4u.com/> has links to a number of good resources. As with the Medicare website, you can set up an individual account, which is helpful to do so, since it provides a useful vehicle to view benefits info, claims activity, payment details, and submit authorization requests. The website is maintained by the TFL program administrator, Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance. You also can call 1-866-773-0404 for assistance.

The great thing is that for most, this Medicare wrap-around coverage comes at no cost. That's right – zero, zilch, nada. You can't beat that. Additionally, TFL pays for the annual Medicare Part B deductible (currently \$189) as well as most co-pays and costs not covered by Medicare for approved healthcare services.

One thing that was unclear to us is what happens to any pending referrals under Tricare (Prime for us) when you go under Medicare. Some references seem to indicate those referrals could be acted upon for a few months after that transition to Medicare. However, a telecon with a staffer at AFA Hospital Medical Management office (719-333-5640) confirmed that's not the case; that in essence those referrals are null and void the day you go on Medicare. Similarly, a call to Tricare West confirmed that once we went on Medicare, we could ignore any notifications we received (i.e., voice mail, text, email) alerting us that we needed to follow up on pending Tricare referrals.

### Securing Healthcare

Many but not all healthcare services are covered by Medicare. In general, it covers: 1) services or supplies that are needed to diagnose or treat a medical condition and 2) preventive services. You can check the Medicare website to try to determine if a desired service is covered (<https://www.medicare.gov/coverage>), but if still unsure don't hesitate to pick up the phone and give 'em a call.

Unlike Tricare Prime/Select/Other, you no longer need to secure an authorization to go to a downtown provider for Medicare-approved health care. However, you will need to secure that care from a provider that is enrolled in Medicare and accepting Medicare patients. While we didn't find it all that user friendly, you can find local authorized providers at the following link on the Medicare website: <https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/>.



## Healthcare Transition for Military Retirees and Dependents Turning 65 cont.

It appears there are cases where TFL may pay for some of the costs for a healthcare service that Medicare doesn't cover. You are likely to have to secure advance TFL authorization to secure that service, but best to consult the TFL website and call Wisconsin Physicians Service to clarify/verify.

Also, Medicare authorizes a no-cost "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit at an authorized provider that includes a review of your medical history; counseling about preventive services; possible screenings, labs or vaccines; referrals for other care; and renewal of prescriptions provided by previous MTF physicians/nurse practitioners. This visit also provides a good opportunity to establish a relationship with a new primary care provider in the local area.

You also are likely to be able to continue to receive healthcare from local providers whom Tricare authorized you to see before turning 65 (e.g. gastroenterologists, pulmonologists, cardiologists, oncologists) when that care was unavailable at a nearby MTF. If in doubt, contact Medicare and TFL. Then, inform your provider of the change in insurance providers with Medicare as the primary and TFL as the secondary. Best to emphasize that it's TFL and not Tricare Prime, Select, or other.

### Prescriptions

As mentioned above, you can continue to get most prescriptions processed through an MTF pharmacy at no cost, including unique medications that must be special ordered. You'll just need your provider to submit the prescription electronically to the desired MTF pharmacy. For us, that's the Air Force Academy Community Center Pharmacy (phone: 719-333-9801). For some specialized medications, you may need to have the physician's office request that the Tricare Pharmacy authorize its provision before the MTF facility can fill the prescription. We went through this drill for a medication for my wife, and fortunately the physician's office knew it needed to request Tricare Pharmacy authorization. In the end, we received a written authorization letter from Tricare/Express Scripts that we submitted to the Academy Community Pharmacy to marry up with the electronic prescription submitted by her physician. Since it was a "special order" medication, it took a couple of weeks for the Academy Pharmacy to receive and dispense it.

If not convenient for you to secure your medications at an MTF pharmacy, you can go through the Tricare Pharmacy (<https://militaryrx.express-scripts.com/>) to order your medications for home delivery or to have the prescription filled by a retail pharmacy you prefer to use. In either case, you will have to pay a fee that tracks with the type of medication (i.e., generic, brand, formulary, non-formulary). The Tricare Pharmacy website includes extensive info on prescription benefits and provides the opportunity to create an account through which you can order medications, check order status, pay bills, etc. You also can call 877-363-1303 with any questions or concerns. We found doing so a helpful avenue in clarifying the options for securing my wife's specialized medication.

### Wrap Up

I hope those reading this article find it useful. My wife and I are still figuring out the ins and outs of this transition through practical experience. But it has definitely turned out not/not to be as bad as we feared. Best of luck as you prepare to initiate your transition in the months before you turn 65.





**2021 Air Force Ball**  
 Presented by the Air Force Association  
**Saturday, 27 February 2021**  
 THE BROADMOOR  
**DONOR LEVELS**

**\$12,000 – Platinum Level (Three Available)**

- 2 seats at head table
- 4 seats at a VIP Table (2 corporate members and their guests)
- 2 corporate tables (12 corporate seats and 8 seats for 4 military and their guests)
- Recognition as supporter of Youngest Airman and Guest
- Recognition as Platinum corporate donor during the Ball
- Corporate name/logo displayed throughout the event
- Full-page color ad in the event program in prominent position
- Written and logo acknowledgement of support in Chapter quarterly newsletter
- Community partner one-year membership or renewal



**\$10,000 – Diamond Level (Four Available)**

- 4 seats at a VIP table (2 corporate members and their guests)
- 1 corporate table (6 corporate seats and 4 seats for 2 military and their guests)
- Recognition as Diamond corporate donor during the Ball
- Corporate name/logo displayed throughout the event
- Full-page color ad in the event program
- Written and logo acknowledgement of support in Chapter quarterly newsletter
- Community partner one-year membership or renewal

**\$8,000 – Gold Level (Four Available)**

- 4 seats at a VIP table (2 corporate members and their guests)
- Recognition as Gold corporate donor during the Ball
- Half-page color ad in the event program
- Written and logo acknowledgement of support in Chapter quarterly newsletter
- Community partner one-year membership or renewal

**\$5,000 – Outstanding Airmen Table (One Available)**

- 2 seats at the Outstanding Airmen table
- Champions five Outstanding Airmen and their guests (10 Total)
- Recognition as Outstanding Airmen corporate donor during the Ball
- Half-page color ad in the event program
- Written and logo acknowledgement of support in Chapter quarterly newsletter
- Community partner one-year membership or renewal



**\$5,000 – Wounded Airmen Table (Two Available)**

- 2 seats at the Wounded Airmen table
- Champions five Wounded Airmen and their guests (10 Total)
- Recognition as Wounded Airmen corporate donor during the Ball
- Half-page color ad in the event program
- Written and logo acknowledgement of support in Chapter quarterly newsletter
- Community partner one-year membership or renewal

**Deloitte.**





**\$5,000 – Arnold Air Society & Silver Wings Table (One Available)**

- 2 seats at the Arnold Air Society & Silver Wings table
- Champions five Arnold Air Society & Silver Wings members and their guests (10 Total)
- Recognition as Arnold Air Society & Silver Wings corporate donor during the Ball
- Half-page color ad in the event program
- Written and logo acknowledgement of support in Chapter quarterly newsletter
- Community partner one-year membership or renewal

**\$4,000 – Parking Donor (One Available)**

- 4 tickets to the Ball
- Recognition as parking donor during the Ball
- Signage in the parking garage and the Know Before You Go email sent to attendees
- Half-page color ad in the event program
- Written and logo acknowledgement of support in Chapter quarterly newsletter
- Community partner one-year membership or renewal

**\$2,500 – Silver Level (Six Available)**

- 2 tickets to the Ball
- Recognition as Silver donor during the Ball
- Quarter-page color ad in the event program
- Written and logo acknowledgement of support in Chapter quarterly newsletter
- Community partner one-year membership or renewal

**\$1,000 – AF Champion (Small Business - 100 Employees or fewer)**

- 2 tickets to the Ball
- Recognition as AF Champion corporate donor during the Ball
- Quarter-page color ad in the event program
- Written and logo acknowledgement of support in Chapter quarterly newsletter
- Community partner one-year membership or renewal



For more information, contact  
[AFBall.LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com](mailto:AFBall.LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com)

OR

Phone: 719-799-2761 (Caty Rozema)



## Third Quarter State Business Meeting Summary

The third quarter state meeting of the Colorado AFA opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a reminder that our AFA mission statement has recently been modified as a statement of our support and inclusion of the new Space Force. With the establishment of the Space Force, the Space Force Association has also been established and AFA is striving to maintain close ties and a productive relationship. Demonstrations of such ties can be witnessed at the upcoming AF/SF “Total Force” Ball, delayed until February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The current AFA mission statement is:

**Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense, to honor and support our Airmen and families, and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.”** To accomplish this, we: **EDUCATE** the public on the critical need for unrivaled aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure national security; **ADVOCATE** for aerospace power, and promote aerospace and STEM education and professional development; and **SUPPORT** Airmen and readiness of the Total Air and Space Forces including regular forces, National Guard, Reserve, civilian personnel and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

The meeting was hosted by the Mel Harmon Chapter at the Weisbrod Aircraft Museum in Pueblo and the agenda covered a host of topics, beginning with encouragement of all members to register for the virtual National Convention: *AFA 2020: A Celebration of Where We’ve Been, Where We Are, and Where We’re Going*. State President Linda Aldrich congratulated our Nat’l Individual Winners – (Medal of Merit) Mary Ann Blair, Caty Rozema, Ray Brown; (Exceptional Service) Margaret Eichman; and congratulated our Nat’l Unit Winners, highlighting Mile High Chapter as the DW Steele/Best Chapter in the Nation! National-level awards were presented virtually at AFA 2020 with top award winner presenting pre-recorded videos, “Learning from the Best,” detailing secrets to success and other noteworthy achievements.

With great regret, the Executive Board acknowledged that having the annual State Awards Banquet was not feasible during the COVID-19 restrictions. In follow-up to the State meeting, it was decided that the State President and any available state officers will visit chapters individually to present awards. Normally the Awards Banquet generates enough funds to cover the cost of awards, so in lieu of the banquet the chapters will be asked to donate to cover the award cost. Other key items for discussion were cost reduction measures taken by National AFA, to include the suspension of support payments; amendment to the State Constitution for the establishment of State Emeritus members; a reminder to continue to work on closer relations with CU-B and CSU Arnold Air Society Squadrons and Silver Wings Chapters; and the tasking from National for all Chapter officers to take the training modules available at <https://www.afa.org/membership/trainingmodules>. The 4th quarter meeting will be hosted by the Mile High Chapter in Aurora at a date TBD.

State Elections: Steve Gourley presented the proposed slate of officers and took nominations from the floor. The following State of Officers was voted as approved for the next year of service as State Officers:

### **Congratulations to our 2020-2021 Colorado AFA State Officers!**



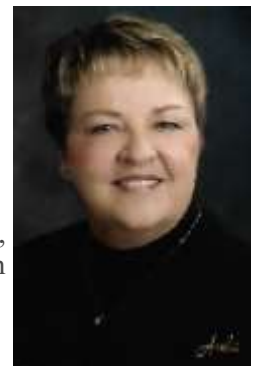
President,  
Linda Aldrich



Vice-President,  
Burnett “Chip”  
Deyerle



Secretary,  
Damita Stevens



Treasurer,  
Margaret Eichman



## Sijan in Action

### Colorado AFA State Teacher of the Year

It is a distinct honor to announce this year's Colorado state Teacher of the Year. And the winner is...Ms. Elizabeth Henrikson of Fruita Middle School! From attending National Geographic Summits and hosting solar eclipse parties to doing Virtual Reality Mars walks and hosting lunch launches, Ms. Henrikson's STEM support is out of this world!

Robert E. Huyser Chapter President Rick Peterson recognized Ms. Henrikson at the Delta Kappa Gamma State Convention in Montrose in August and State President Linda Aldrich sent a virtual congratulations. We wish we could have honored Ms. Henrikson at a State Awards Banquet, but due to COVID, that event did not occur this year. By presenting at the Delta Kappa Gamma event, she was able to be surrounded by her friends who were unaware that she was going to be receiving this prestigious award. Congratulations, and good luck Ms. Henrikson!



Ms. Elizabeth Henrikson  
of Fruita Middle School

The competition was challenging this year and we certainly want to congratulate our Mile High Chapter Teacher of the Year, Michael Smith, and our Sijan Chapter Teacher of the Year, Mary Gregory. All of these educators challenge their students in the STEM fields and open doors of opportunity so they will understand all the career choices available in the STEM arena.

Want to know more about the Teacher of the Year program? Contact Sijan Chapter VP for Aerospace Education Dave Geuting at [david.geuting@yahoo.com](mailto:david.geuting@yahoo.com). Also, a huge thanks to the tireless efforts of our Chapter VPs for Aerospace Education and the awards committee. We could not reward great teachers like Ms. Henrikson without YOU.

### AFA Supporting Wreaths Across America

By Paul Bailey

REMEMBER the Fallen. . . HONOR those who Serve. . .

On **Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 10:00 AM**, Wreaths Across America will be at Pikes Peak National Cemetery to Remember and Honor our Veterans. Through the laying of Remembrance Wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes, the individual who lay's a wreath will say the name of each and every Veteran aloud. Please help lay wreaths at as many graves as possible by going to the website listed below or sponsor a wreath to honor our fallen. <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/153621/Overview/?relatedId=0>

Also on **Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 10:00 AM**, Wreaths Across America will be at Evergreen Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud. Please help lay wreaths at as many graves as possible by going to the website listed below or sponsor a wreath to honor our fallen. <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/42571/overview/>



## Sijan in Action cont.

### Retiree Assistance and Information

One of the goals of the Retiree Assistance Office is to help keep military retirees, their spouses and surviving spouses informed about things that could impact you. During normal times, most military retirees and spouses get their information from the base newspaper or from discussions with others while on base. The Corona Virus has changed what we define as normal. For the near future, the Retiree Assistance Office will be forwarding updates to Sijan Chapter received from the 21st Space Wing, and those updates will be provided to Sijan membership through Constant Contact. Those updates will in most instances be provided to the Retiree Assistance Office by either the Wing Public Affairs Office or by the Force Support Squadron.

If you have any suggestions as to how we can better serve your information needs during the Corona Virus shutdown, please reply to this email [scouter62@gmail.com](mailto:scouter62@gmail.com). Since we do not have access to the Retiree Assistance Office, we are using the personal email of one of our volunteers--Randy Barrett--USAF (Retired). During normal times, Randy staffs the Peterson AFB Retiree Assistance Office every Thursday and Friday. If you would like to talk with someone, please call Bob Koenig --USAF (Retired), another one of our other volunteers on his cell phone (719)321-5100. If he doesn't pick up, leave him a voice mail and he will return your call. We are here to help keep you informed. **Sincerely, Southern Colorado Retiree Assistance Office Volunteers**

Thanks, Randy Barrett

On Behalf of TED GEMBCZYNSKI, SGTMAJ, USMC (Ret), Retiree Activities Office  
21 Space Wing/CVR 135 Dover St, Peterson AFB CO 80914-7153

### DoD COVID-19 Information Resources

Please continue to visit <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/> for the latest updates on DoD's response to COVID-19. This site will post all transcripts of senior leader press briefings in addition to many news stories about DoD COVID-19 response activities and DoD policy and guidance for the force. Military OneSource continues to host daily Facebook Live events at noon Mondays through Fridays at: <https://www.facebook.com/military.1source/>.

Updates on Military Family support programs during the COVID-19 response information is regularly posted to: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus>

Information for TRICARE beneficiaries is found at: <https://www.tricare.mil/coronavirus>  
Commissary resources and information is found at: <https://commissaries.com/coronavirus>  
Financial Readiness information and resources are found here:  
<https://finred.usalearning.gov/COVID19-Resources>



Information on CAC and USID card issuance and renewal changes related to the COVID-19 outbreak is available at [www.CAC.mil/coronavirus](http://www.CAC.mil/coronavirus)

## Lance P. Sijan Is Looking for Volunteers

### Lance P. Sijan is Looking For Volunteers



Your Lance P. Sijan Chapter relies on dedicated volunteers for our projects and contributions to the Air Force Family. We urge you all to consider volunteering with your Air Force Association. The AFA, like every other like-minded organization here in town, needs help. We need people dedicated to our mission, anxious to ensure we are visible and committed to our community and our Air Force family. Don't worry about whether or not there will be anything for you to do...there's plenty to go around. So please join us. Come to our monthly Board meetings, or just call one of us to let us know you're available. We'd love to see you! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Doc Apodaca at

[LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com](mailto:LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com) to learn more. These are great networking and volunteer opportunities!

### Volunteer Spotlight

#### Long Overdue Award presented to SMSgt Morey!

In the Fall of 2017 and through the conclusion of the Air Force Ball in February 2018, then MSgt Gerald Morey was a very busy member of the AF Ball Committee. He ensured that Sijan Chapter received the names of Outstanding Airmen to be guests at the Ball from Headquarters AF Space Command, NORAD/NORTHCOM, 50th Space Wing, USAF Academy, and the 10 Air Base Wing in addition to helping sort out who was the most junior ranking airmen from all those organization. The night of the Ball, he was front and center welcoming the guests, helping them locate their seats, and letting them know when and how they would be introduced. MSgt Morey should have been properly recognized and thanked at the State AFA Awards Banquet in August 2018, but that was not to be. The Air Force seemed to think that a deployment took a high priority and away he went to serve.



Now he's back with the Chapter and wears the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. Not only that, but he's been elected to serve as the Chapter Vice President for the Lance P. Sijan Chapter. Unbeknownst to SMSgt Morey, the State AFA Executive Board had carefully guarded SMSgt Morey's Chapter Certificate of Appreciation until the right time. At the third quarter State AFA meeting in August 2020, the event kicked off with a "SMSgt Morey, please come forward," resulting in a very puzzled look on the recipient's face. Finally, congratulations were administered and certificate presented along with a thank you for jumping right back in to support the Chapter upon return from deployment. Well done, SMSgt Morey!!

### Volunteer activities for the last quarter:

#### Our Volunteers in Action

Thank you to these representatives who stepped up for this quarter to show Sijan and AFA in action:

Jul 7—(Angelo Bryant) Civil Air Patrol Character Development Session

Jul 22 – (Doc Apodaca) AFA Advocacy in meeting with junior officers from Peterson, Schriever and Cheyenne Mountain

Jul 27 – (Dave Geuting) Presented Pitsenbarger Award and Chapter \$100 at first-ever CCAF Graduation organized by newly-established Schriever Education Office

Aug 4—(Angelo Bryant) Civil Air Patrol Character Development Session

Aug 6 – (Linda Aldrich) Beneath the Plains: The Minuteman Missile On Alert—Live Q&A and 30-min YouTube Video; Meet the Missileers [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPCko\\_YwrxA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPCko_YwrxA)

Aug 11 – (Doc Apodaca) AFA and collaboration advocacy in Zoom event with the Air Force Sergeant's Association

Aug 15 – (Joan Sell, Doug Kendall, Angelo Bryant, Gerald Morey, Caty Rozema, Jerry White, Justin Althoff, Linda Aldrich) Third quarter CO AFA Meeting

Aug 19 – (Doc Apodaca) Team Peterson brief; advocacy for membership in professional organizations, even during the COVID

Aug 26 – (Paul Bailey) Pikes Peak Veterans Council

Sept 3 – (Doc Apodaca) Pikes Peak Top III council; discussed bringing base promotions back and AFA support

Sept 12 – (Caty Rozema) Moderated StellarXplorers and CyberPatriot live panel at the AFA National Convention

Sept 17 – (Doc Apodaca) Junior Enlisted Association at Peterson; conversation on uncomfortable conversations.

Sept 18 – (Doc Apodaca) Colorado Springs Area Chief's Group; advocacy for Airmen professional development in the Peterson-Schriever Garrison; discussed standing up a professional org for women in service

Sept 20 – (Gerald Morey) Pike's Peak Race Against Suicide Event



## Community Partner Change of Guard

### Community Partner Highlight

**Thank you Jeri Andrews for so many years as our Vice President for Community Partners!** Jeri Andrews has been faithfully serving as our liaison for Community Partners for so many years that we've lost track of when she began. It's time to give Jeri a helping hand and a rest, but she will continue to provide guidance and wisdom to the new Chapter Vice President for CPs. Because of COVID, Jeri wasn't able to host the annual Community Partner reception that so many of our supporters have been able to enjoy each year, but we hope to bring back this annual tradition in 2021. Thank you Jeri for all you have done to establish such great relationships within our Colorado Springs Community!



### **Meet the new Chapter Vice President for Community Partners!**

The Chapter is so pleased that Master Sergeant Shierae E. Bryan has agreed to take on the position of VP for Community Partners. MSgt Bryan jumped right in as a super volunteer for the Sijan Chapter and was featured as the Volunteer of the Quarter in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2019 newsletter. She has continued to take on new responsibilities and will be organizing a General Membership meeting as soon as COVID restrictions are lifted. Community Partners, please be watching for notices from Shierae and help her with updates regarding plaques and coins for your CP sign-ups and renewals. Thanks for stepping up Shierae!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

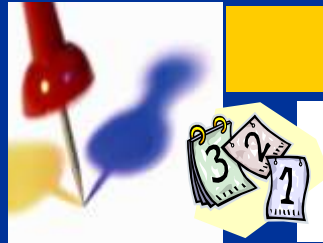
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## How To Contact AFA

AIR FORCE  
ASSOCIATION  
LANCE P. SIJAN  
CHAPTER 125

AFA LANCE P. SIJAN CHAPTER



## Points of Interest & Upcoming Events

- To be added to the Lance P. Sijan chapter distribution list, please email us at: [lancepsijanafa@gmail.com](mailto:lancepsijanafa@gmail.com)
- To update your physical and email address with National AFA, please email: [membership@afa.org](mailto:membership@afa.org)
- To join AFA or renew your membership, visit: [www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org)
- For details on your AFA member benefits, go to: <https://www.afa.org/afa/memberbenefits>

### LANCE P. SIJAN CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETINGS

Place: Community Partner Location: TBD  
Date: Every 2nd Tuesday of each month / Time: 4:30pm

### AAS/SW WESTERN REGIONAL CONCLAVE/COMBINED AREAS VIII,X,XI:

Place: Virtual.  
Date: November 14, 2020  
Time: TBD  
More information to follow on Constant Contact

### AIR FORCE /SPACE FORCE BALL

Place: Broadmoor  
Date: February 27, 2021  
Time: TBD

### RESCHEDULED IMAGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Place: USAFA  
Date: August 18, 2021  
Time: TBD

### COVID-19 NOTICE

Schriever Essay Contest deferred until March 2021  
POC: Gregory W. Ball, PhD.,  
Director of History and Heritage  
Space Force History Office (HQ USSF/HO),  
719-554-3709/3081

### COMMUNITY PARTNER RECEPTION

TBD when restrictions are lifted



Military One Source 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/>

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

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

**Email:**  
[michael.bryant.10@us.af.mil](mailto:michael.bryant.10@us.af.mil)

For more information contact:  
[lancepsijanafa@gmail.com](mailto:lancepsijanafa@gmail.com) Or  
[whouth@msn.com](mailto:whouth@msn.com)





## Chapter Officers:

President:

MSGT ANGELO BRYANT:  
(719)636-2605

[MICHAEL.BRYANT.10@US.AF.MIL](mailto:MICHAEL.BRYANT.10@US.AF.MIL)

Secretary:

DOUG KENDALL:  
(310)982-0042

[KENDALL.DOUGLAS@ENSCO.COM](mailto:KENDALL.DOUGLAS@ENSCO.COM)

Executive VP:

MSGT SMSGT GERALD MOREY:  
(719)551-2184

[GERALD.MOREY@US.AF.MIL](mailto:GERALD.MOREY@US.AF.MIL)

Treasurer:

MSGT JUSTIN ALTHOUSE:  
(719)556-5972

[JUSTIN.ALTHOFF@US.AF.MIL](mailto:JUSTIN.ALTHOFF@US.AF.MIL)

### Primary Business Address

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

**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)**

**We're on the Web!**

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

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!

## 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.**

To update send message to: [membership@afa.org](mailto:membership@afa.org) your updated information, or mail changes to AFA National address at:

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





# NEW AND RENEWED COMMUNITY PARTNERS

