

The Sijan Sentinel

2ND QUARTER, ISSUE 2

June 2022



WELCOME TO
SIJAN CHAPTER #125!

President: SMSgt Angelo Bryant
Vice President: Paul Bailey
Secretary: Doug Kendall
Treasurer: Bill Mills



MESSAGE FROM THE SIJAN CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Sijan Chapter Members, Friends, and Family~

Now that we have found ourselves enjoying summer, there are a lot of sun filled days ahead. Our chapter is determined to execute AFA's three strategic mission pillars to educate, advocate, and support.

We are forging new relationships that will allow us to take our support of AFA's many local STEM programs to the next level. We are thrilled to see where we're headed! To that end, we are always looking for those who are interested to mentor and lead the next generation of warfighter, as well as help the chapter increase our support for our Aerospace Education efforts through the Cyber Patriot and StellarXplorers programs.

Your Sijan chapter leadership is working closely with the Space Force Association (SFA) to support local Airmen and Guardians. We would love your input into how to we can best serve those in our community. Please contact me directly with your great ideas! lancepsijanafa@gmail.com

Before we know it, it will be time for the Air and Space Force Ball. Mark your calendars for 24 February 2023. If you are interested to give a leading this event, please reach out to me at lancepsijanafa@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to recognizing our military members and AFA volunteers during our upcoming AFA State Convention. Please join us for this outstanding event, held at Weidner Field (aka: Switchbacks stadium) on 13 August 2022.

Please join me in congratulating our former Community Partner Vice President, Technical Sergeant Djandra Marquez, who was recently selected into the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer ranks. She is now part of the top 8.28% of enlisted members of the Air Force. Well deserved, DJ and best to you and your family. Cheers to this step in your career!

Thank you once again for your support of the Sijan chapter. We are proud to serve with you to educate, advocate, and support our Airmen, Guardians, veterans, and their families. We can't wait to see you at our next event.

Stay healthy and safe.

Very respectfully,

Angelo Bryant
President, Lance P. Sijan Chapter #125



AROUND YOUR SIJAN COMMUNITY

AFA Board Members Represent at Wounded Warrior Event

Doug Kendall, Secretary



Caty Rozema enjoys meeting one of the service dogs that were at the



Part of AFA's mission has always been to support our warriors and their families. On Wednesday, May 18th, the Sijan Chapter of AFA demonstrated that support at the Wounded Warrior event at the DoubleTree hotel in Colorado Springs. Caty Rozema, Paul Bailey, Doug Kendall, and Bruce Gall, board members of the Sijan Chapter, set up a table at this well attended event to meet with wounded warriors, family members, and supporters.

They handed out Wounded Airmen Program shirts that said on the back, "Airmen Taking Care of Airmen" because that's what we do. The Wounded Airmen Program is just one of the many programs that AFA supports and sponsors. The Sijan team also handed out pens, seat cushions, key chains, and small support packages.

Moreover, the team members talked with many folks who stopped at the table and asked about the AFA program. This gave the team an opportunity to explain the many activities that Sijan and AFA support, such as STEM programs like Cyber Patriot and StellarXplorers camps & competitions, Teacher of the Year, our many Scholarships, the Air & Space Force Ball, the Community Partner program, and so much more!

It was a great event and such a blessing to meet wounded warriors from all the services. Caty, Paul, Doug, and Bruce enjoyed the event and were humbled to meet such great people. They probably got more out of it than the attendees!



Paul Bailey, Doug Kendall, and Caty Rozema man the AFA booth. Photo by Bruce Hall.

AROUND YOUR SIJAN COMMUNITY

Memorial Day Events

Bruce Hall, Vice President of Government Relations

Lance P. Sijan AFA Chapter Vice President and AFA Colorado State Vice President for Government Relations Paul Bailey (USAF retired) laid a wreath at the Air Force Memorial in Memorial Park during ceremonies on Memorial Day, May 30th, 2022.

Five local elected officials joined us for the ceremonies, including Colorado Springs City Council members Tom Strand, President; Randy Helms, President Pro Tempore representing District 2; El Paso County Board of Commissioners Stan VanderWerf, District 3; and Longinos Gonzalez Jr., District 4. All four are U.S. Air Force veterans. City Council Member Dave Donelson (USA retired), representing District 1, joined the ceremonies as well, standing with his fellow former soldiers at the Special Forces memorial.

Commissioner Gonzalez commented that our ceremony was the third he had attended that morning, and that he had been the guest speaker at an event immediately preceding ours.

Former members of every U.S. Military branch attended, as well as active-duty members and those who came to pay their respects. Deborah Bailey took photos at the ceremonies for the Sijan Chapter.



Paul Bailey (third from right) and Bruce Hall (second from right) at the wreath laying.

 THE BASEMENT:

Kickback

FRIDAY

Inspire • Motivate

15 JULY 2022 | 3PM

DEUCES WILD BREWERY
660 PETERSON RD. COLORADO
SPRINGS, CO 80915

Join AFA in the Basement!

Phillip Tayler, Vice President of Community Relations

Now is the time to gather with your Air and Space Force family! “The Basement” is a new Sijan forum that allows everyone – whether you’re military or civilian – to meet with a mentor and connect with those who you might not otherwise meet. The first event in the Basement will be held on July 15, 2022 at Deuces Wild Brewery starting at 3pm. Come on out and enjoy time spent with your fellow service members in a friendly environment while forging long lasting connections. We hope to see you there.

Have an idea for the next Basement event? Where should it be? What should we talk about? The floor is yours, Let us know!

AROUND YOUR SIJAN COMMUNITY

Sijan Coffee Breaks Spread Cheer and Caffeine

Caty Rozema, Colorado State VP for Aerospace Education

On April 22, Brandi Mills, Gayle Divine, and Caty Rozema headed to Banning Lewis Academy to share some laughs and some coffee with folks as they dropped off their kiddos. We partnered up with Campfire Coffee, a veteran-owned coffee truck that serves up some of the tastiest drinks you can find this side of Pikes Peak.

We made a slight logistical error when we planned the event on a day when school was not in session...

We did have a teacher pop by the truck (maybe our 2023 Teacher of the Year?). We put her drink on our tab and told her about AFA's STEM programs. We never miss a chance to talk STEM!

We learned our lesson and on June 2, Caty Rozema headed over to Peterson Space Force Base where Campfire Coffee was parked outside Buildings 1 and 2.

This time, we had plenty of traffic and we surprised active duty folks by letting them know after they ordered that their drink was on AFA. We hope they felt the warmth of the drink and the sentiment: AFA and coffee are the force behind the force!



Gayle, Caty, and Brandi (left to right) enjoying a drink and a chat.



Coffee does a body good! Caty at the second AFA coffee break.

Where should we go next?

Want to have an AFA coffee break in your area? Let us know where we should go!

Reach out to Caty Rozema with a suggested date and location and we'll see what we can do. catyrozema@hotmail.com

Have a better idea for how we can reach out to YOU and the rest of our AFA members? Please tell us! We want to be where you are.

May your coffee be strong and your days be short.

Cheers!

AROUND YOUR SIJAN COMMUNITY

Sijan Member Spotlight

Linda Aldrich, Colorado State President

Felipe (Ditto) Rodriguez – the Man Behind the Scenes

Felipe Rodriguez, also known as “Ditto” has been a long time member of the Lance P. Sijan Chapter and has been recognized on multiple occasions for his service with Chapter and State AFA awards.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Felipe, alias “Ditto” because he handles the taxes for the Chapter and the State faithfully every year, donating his time and the fee to keep us in compliance and in good standing as a non-profit organization. Those many hours working on our finances would be enough to owe him a thank you, but that isn’t actually why he has been so involved for so many years.

Ditto is married to Linda Aldrich, our AFA State President and Rocky Mountain Region President, meaning that everything Linda is involved in, Ditto becomes a volunteer at the same event. While he’s never had an official title in the Lance P. Sijan Chapter, he is definitely a top of the list volunteer and worker bee with years of experience in State Conventions, National Conventions, and outreach to the other Chapters in the state of Colorado.

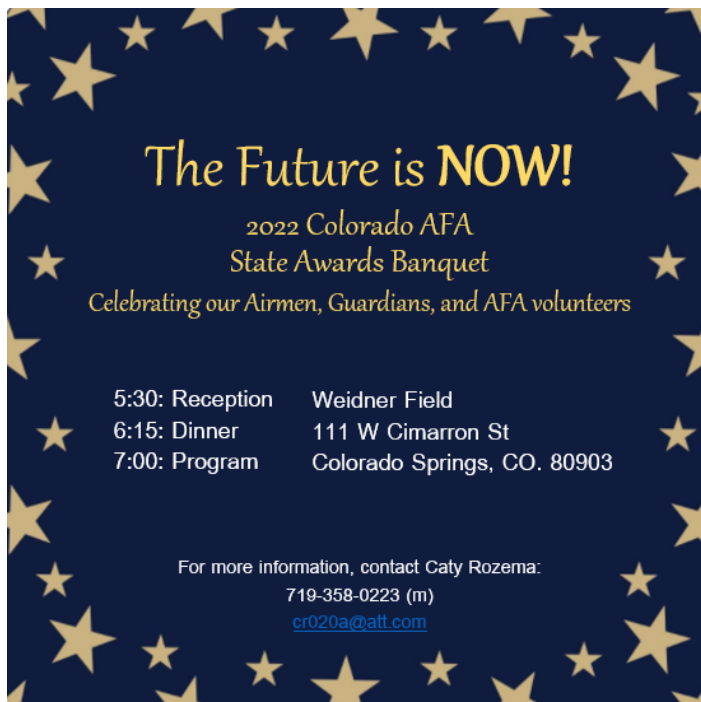
When he’s not working for H&R Block as a senior tax professional, he’s also Dad to daughter Lt Col Ashley Shull and Papa Ditto to three grandchildren, Kaylee, Hunter, and Megan.

Thank you, Ditto, for all your contributions to Sijan Chapter and AFA...and for being a good sport about being “voluntold” for so many events!

If you want to become an AFA volunteer, give us a shout. We’d love to put you to work... we mean put you to fun!



COLORADO AFA HAPPENINGS



AFA COLORADO STATE AWARDS BANQUET—Celebrating Air and Space Force and AFA Volunteers

Register here:

[AFA COLORADO STATE AWARDS BANQUET](#)

We're back in business post-COVID!!! We have not been able to have a traditional Colorado AFA State Awards Banquet since 2019. It's time to get back to recognizing our outstanding military members and AFA volunteers. We are making a few adjustments from previous events, but please put the event on your calendar now!

Saturday, August 13

Weidner Field
111 West Cimarron Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

AFA members from all of our Colorado Chapters: Colorado Springs, Aurora, Pueblo, and Grand Junction will be there. All AFA members are welcome, as well as our cadets, Arnold Air Society (Arnies), Silver Wings and any unit members who want to cheer on their military award winners! Let's turn out big time and make this a huge comeback event!

We will be asking Peterson, Schriever, Buckley, Air Guard, and Reserve units to nominate their outstanding personnel in the categories of Airman and Guardian of the Year, Company Grade office of the Year, Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, and First Sergeant of the Year. We've added a new category for Outstanding Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings members. Those will be in addition to our amazing and ever-faithful AFA volunteers.

Not only will we have an amazing view of the Front Range from the Weidner facility, but we have a special treat! Entertainment will be provided by Aulternate Reality Jazz combo! Our "Aulternate Reality Trio" with Zach Bergen on guitar, Steve Johnson on bass, and Dan Ault on mandolin/ fiddle/vocals

Our focus will be on the future of the military and AFA—we'll have Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings members as guest speakers. Add a scrumptious meal and lots of cheering for our award recipients to make this a fun and very special evening.



Aulternate Reality

AFA Changes Name to the Air & Space Forces Association

Amy Hudson

After 76 years, the Air Force Association is changing its name to the Air & Space Forces Association to better match its mission supporting and advocating for both Airmen and Guardians.

AFA was incorporated on Feb. 4, 1946—more than a year before the Air Force broke away from the Army and became an independent service under the National Security Act of 1947. The Space Force was established on Dec. 20, 2019, creating a new military service for the first time in more than seven decades, and marking one of the most significant changes in the history of the Air Force.

“Today, both military services are represented by the Department of the Air Force, and thus, both are fully represented by our Association,” said AFA Chairman Gerald Murray, former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. “This change makes clear to everyone that space is integral to our mission.”

Although the association will retain the AFA acronym, which it has used since its inception, it also unveiled a new Star-Delta logo intended to “redefine what those letters stand for,” according to an AFA release. The logo merges a modernized blue star on the left, derived from the original “Hap Arnold” Army Air Corps Star, with the Space Force’s black Delta and Polaris.

“These elements have been combined to present a unique visual identity that reflects the dynamism and permanent bonds between these two services and their respective warfighting domains,” said Murray. “The Polaris in particular is of note, as it represents the Space Force’s unique role as a guiding light and enabler for the whole of the joint force.”

The rebranding is intended to capture the association’s full mission:

- To educate the public about air and space power
- To advocate for the most capable, lethal, and effective Air and Space Forces
- To support Airmen, Guardians, and their families.

“AFA has always been fully committed to supporting both the Air Force and Space Force as the most indispensable elements of our joint force,” said AFA President Lt. Gen. Bruce Wright, USAF (Ret.). “Even now, as the Space Force grows, expands, and builds its own, unique warfighting culture, air and space remain inextricably linked. The Airmen and Guardians who are the masters of those domains nevertheless remain tightly integrated within a single Department of the Air Force. So it is with our Association.”



AFA AEROSPACE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Pueblo County High School Team Among Ten Finalists in National Space Design Competition

James Bartolo

The Pueblo Chieftain

Students from Pueblo County High School are headed to the final round of a prestigious space design competition at Space Center Houston, the Air Force Association, which organizes the event, said on its website.

Three County seniors — Shawn Cunningham, Clayton McPherson, and Li Hong Sweet-Seip — junior Aidan Hayes, and sophomores Katelynn Neal and Araceli Otero will design a virtual space satellite and work through a space scenario in the eighth Air Force Association StellarXplorers National Space Design competition, which runs from April 21-23.



The students are enrolled at County's School of Engineering and Biomedical Sciences.

They'll conduct simulations using a software program utilized by aerospace industry giants like NASA, SpaceX and the United Launch Alliance.

"StellarXplorers really takes what you learn in a physics classroom and bumps it up to a level of real-world application while also introducing economics, the business side of things, trying to make a budget and in some cases turn a profit," Cunningham said.

The Air Force Association created the StellarXplorers program to encourage the study of aerospace engineering and aviation among kindergarten through 12th-grade students.

Pueblo County High School has been taking part in the StellarXplorers National Space Design Competition since it started eight years ago.

In early 2020, County's StellarXplorers team was ranked 3rd in the nation, but the pandemic prevented it from competing in the final round of the national competition.

"Last year, we had a little hiccup and didn't qualify for nationals, which was virtual," County's StellarXplorers coach Vicki Bowker said. "This year, they qualified again for nationals. I have two returning members from that 2020 team, which is really cool that they get to actually go and compete this time."

Cunningham and Sweet-Seip are the two returning members from the 2020 team that will attend the in-person final. All six students on the sole team from Colorado to make the final are looking forward to competing against students from six teams from California high schools, and one each from Arizona, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania, Sweet-Seip said.

"We feel like this has probably been the strongest team ever in our history of competing," he said. "We feel confident that, if anything, we will be able to go in, understand what we're doing and compete."



AFA AEROSPACE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Another Great Round of Pitsenbarger Scholarship Winners

Angelo Bryant, Sijan Chapter President



SrA Ryan Cook

On May 11th, 2022, Peterson and Schriever Garrison held a Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) Ceremony. During the event, SSgt Alina Thomas and SrA Ryan Cook received the Air and Space Force Association Pitsenbarger Scholarship. Angelo Bryant, the Air and Space Force Association's Lance P. Sijan Chapter #125 President, presented the awards.

SSgt Alina Thomas is the Non-commissioned officer in Charge (NCOIC) for the Maternal Child Flight on Peterson Space Force Base at the Medical Clinic.



SSgt Alina Thomas

SrA Ryan Cook is an Air Force Reservist who is attached to the 2nd/19th Space Operations Squadron. They both have aspiration of continuing their education to earn their Bachelor's degrees.

Congratulations, SSgt Thomas and SrA Cook! We're sure you will continue to inspire and motivate others to achieve their higher education goals.



Gabriel with his award, as presented by
Caty Rozema

USAFA Outstanding Cadet in Systems Engineering

Caty Rozema, Colorado State VP for Aerospace Education

Each year, the Sijan chapter is honored to present the Air Force Academy Outstanding Cadet in Systems Engineering award. This year's winner was Gabriel Salinger. I was thrilled to meet Gabriel and present him with the coveted eagle. I should note that he took home several other awards as well.

It was clear by the applause each time he accepted an award that Gabriel is not only smart, but also a well-respected member of his class. Congratulations, Gabriel. In the words of Dr. Seuee, "Oh! The Places You'll Go!"

Gabriel is headed to graduate school in the fall.

AFA AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Sijan Chapter Has Not One, but TWO Teachers of the Year

Bill Mills, Treasurer and Caty Rozema, Colorado State VP for Aerospace Education

Bryce McLean

I (Bill) had the pleasure of presenting Bryce McLean with the Teacher of the Year award. It was truly an honor to have the opportunity to meet and celebrate an educator who is making such an impact on the future of STEM in our community.

Bryce has been teaching in the math and engineering fields for nearly 25 years, all in District 11 here in Colorado Springs. His passion for teaching and engineering were apparent just stepping into his classroom. The way he described the project the students were working on made me excited to stay and learn more!

On the day I presented the award, the students were working to navigate a rover across the surface of a planet. The rover was a machine they had designed and built previously to the specifications required for the specific mission. The budget didn't allow for them to send their rover to another planet, but they were able to set up a separate "control room" on the other side of the classroom that required them to remotely operate the rover through the onboard and overhead "satellite" cameras. Bryce enthusiastically explained the project, how it worked, and what the students were learning. It was truly infectious!

What really made an impression on me was how that enthusiasm has been imparted to the students. They were proud of the work they had done, excited to be a part of such a project, and were collaborating to make the mission a success. Those students had a passion for the work they were doing, and I am confident many of them will make contributions to STEM fields in the future.

It was great to see such a bright vision of the future and to meet so many passionate young students. All while having the opportunity to honor the educator inspiring them to think bigger and pursue their passions!

Valerie DeLello

What a treat it was for me (Caty) to present Valerie DeLello with the Sijan Chapter ToY award to Valerie DeLello. Ms. DeLello is a 6th grade teacher at Bear Creek Elementary school. Her love for science began in the orchards of her youth. Now, she watches her students experiment with pumpkins and dry ice.

Ms. DeLello's love for science is out of this world. She frequently uses NASA resources to help her students explore. They even designed their own rovers!

Over the past three years, she's sent more than 20 students to the Pikes Peak Regional Science Fair. Two of those students went to the Colorado Science Engineering Fair. Wow!

In her nomination write-up, the Bear Creek Dean of Students noted that Ms. DeLello's "ability to reach and touch kids' lives in a meaningful way extends well beyond the classroom." Congratulations, Ms. DeLello!



Caty Rozema presents Ms. DeLello with the Sijan Chapter ToY award.

A LOOK BACK

The Freeman Field Mutiny

Joe Baldwin, Col, USAF (ret)

The Tuskegee Airmen are popular symbols of increased diversity in the U.S. military based on the success of their warfighting efforts in the 322d Fighter Group in Europe during World War II. Less well known are the efforts of members of the 477th Bombardment Group who fought back against segregation and intolerance at Freeman Army Air Field, Indiana in 1945 through collective civil disobedience tactics that would become a key component of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s in the U.S.

The 477th was slated to become the first black bomber unit with four squadrons of B-25 medium bombers and 1,300 all black officers and enlisted men. Pilots largely came to the unit through the Tuskegee program although several had flown in the 322d Fighter Group. Bombardiers, navigators, and gunners were to be trained at other bases then join the pilots in establishing the bomber squadrons.

The 477th was activated on January 15, 1944 at Selfridge Army Air Field near Detroit, Michigan. Unfortunately, the white 477th Bombardment Group commander Colonel Robert Selway and his immediate superior 1st Air Force commander Maj Gen Frank Hunter undermined efforts to enable the group to achieve combat ready status based on their racial animus toward this initiative and prejudice toward black members of the unit. They saw their role not as one of preparing a unit for combat, but instead one of hampering the unit's development and precluding its employment in World War II. Selway reserved command of all four squadrons in the 477th for whites, despite the fact that many of the black veterans of combat in Europe had more flying time and combat experience than some of the white commanders. He approved no promotions for black officers while expediting those for white officers. He would not associate socially with blacks in his group and discouraged other white officers from doing so. Ultimately, his bigotry so undermined race relations that it devastated unit cohesion and esprit.

In early May, 1944, Selway moved the unit to Godman Army Air Field near Fort Knox, Kentucky, due to concerns that racial tensions in Detroit might spillover onto Selfridge. Godman Field was completely inadequate for the mission of creating a combat effective 477th. Selfridge had four times more hanger space than Godman, five times the aviation gasoline capacity, more runways, and better flying weather. Moreover, Godman could not house the entire group at one time due to inadequate apron and hanger space. It was a bad move and it was done for racial reasons. It seriously delayed the 477th training program and damaged morale. Additionally, the unit was slow to receive the required number of trained navigators, bombardiers and gunners to establish effective combat crews.

Because Godman Field was so inadequate and the flying weather so poor, the 477th fell far behind its training schedule and the Army Air Force (AAF) ordered the unit's move to Freeman Army Air Field near Seymour, Indiana in March, 1945. Soon after the move to Freeman Field, Col Selway, with the support of Maj Gen Hunter ordered the creation of two separate officers clubs in an attempt to keep black and white officers from using the same facilities. Establishing the clubs based on race would have been a direct violation of Army Regulation 210-10, which prohibited segregation of public buildings on military bases, including officers' clubs. So, Selway decreed that one of the clubs be designated for "trainees," and the other for "instructors."

In practice, African American officers were treated as "trainees" while white officers were treated as "instructors" despite the fact that many of the African American "trainees" already had logged significant combat hours and outranked some of the white officers. This was a thinly veiled disguise for implementing a policy of segregation. Furthermore, transcripts of telephone calls between Selway and Hunter revealed that the trainee/instructor scheme was merely a cover for racial segregation and Hunter hoped it would engender actions by black officers so he could court martial them. The two clubs were anything but equal. The white officers' club had a large fireplace and game room with pool tables, table tennis and card tables, while its black counterpart was heated by coal stoves

A LOOK BACK

and contained none of the other club's amenities. The black officers nicknamed their club "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and refused to patronize it.

In early April 1945, the black officers of the 477th planned an orchestrated attempt to integrate the white officers' club led by Lt. Coleman A. Young, a bombardier/navigator (and future mayor of Detroit) who had helped integrate the officers' club at the Midland Army Air Field in Texas in 1943. Their efforts began on the night of April 5, 1945 when small groups of a few African American officers peacefully began entering the white "instructor" club despite being ordered not to enter. Thirty-six officers were arrested by the assistant provost marshal in the process. The next night the same tactic was employed with another 25 officers being placed under arrest at their quarters. The club was then closed and 110 black officers wrote to the Army Inspector General to request an investigation into the arrests.

First Air Force judge advocate officers found that Selway's original order regarding the clubs was "inexact and ambiguous as to its meaning or purpose," and pursuant to their advice, all but three of the black officers were released from house arrest on April 7. Lieutenants Shirley Clinton, Roger Terry, and Marsden Thompson remained under arrest for allegedly using physical force to push past the provost marshal to enter the club.

Selway then drafted a new Base Regulation (BR) 85-2 establishing the policy of assigning trainees and instructors to different facilities and assigning those designations by race -- against the objection of the 1st Air Force Inspector General, who noted that approximately 20 of the African American officers were not trainees in any sense. Selway, working with Hunter, then ordered all officers in the Group (black and white) to read the new regulation, appear individually before a board and sign a statement certifying that they understood BR 85-2, under the 64th Article of War, which indicated that refusal to obey a direct order would result in punishment up to death. All white officers signed the regulation, while 101 of the black officers refused.

A day later, these 101 officers were read the 64th Article of War and were given another opportunity to sign. The 101 still refused, were arrested, and on April 13 sent to Godman Field where they were put on temporary duty for 90 days awaiting trial. The remainder of the 477th returned to Godman shortly thereafter.

Undeterred, many of the officers wrote formal complaints through official command channels, communicated their plight to the NAACP and National Urban League, and tipped off black newspapers so that the incidents were documented in the public press. These organizations swung into action on the officers' behalf and approached Congress and the Administration with

their concerns. The War Department subsequently received several letters of concern from lawmakers, including Michigan Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg and New York Congressman Adam Clayton Powell.

President Harry Truman was informed of the occurrences at Freeman and Godman fields and soon thereafter, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall ordered that the 101 arrested officers be released at once. Maj Gen Hunter had planned to court martial all the officers but relented and instead settled for inserting a letter of reprimand into the permanent records of the 101 officers and court martialing solely the three officers accused of a physical altercation with the white officer blocking the door when they had entered the club.

Lieutenants Thompson and Clinton were tried together while Lt Terry was tried separately. The NAACP sent a legal team to defend the officers. The court martial board consisted of six African American officers. The testimonies revealed that skin color was the determining factor for establishing the two clubs and thus Selway's orders had violated Army Regulation 210-10. In the end, Thompson and Clinton were both acquitted. In a separate trial, Lt Terry was represented by future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and found not guilty of disobeying an order, but guilty of "offering violence against a superior officer" by jostling the provost marshal. Terry was fined \$150, which was paid via a collection from his fellow officers.

A LOOK BACK

Meanwhile, under pressure from the War Department, AAF Commander General “Hap” Arnold had replaced all white officers in the 477th with black officers and selected Col Benjamin O. Davis to take over as the 447th Group Commander. Davis and a cadre of 40 officers and airmen from the 332d Fighter Group returned from Italy to the U.S. in early June 1945 to rebuild the 477th. The change-of-command took place June 24th and for the first time, the group had black officers in all unit leadership positions. Given the lagging numbers of pilots, bombardiers and navigators, two of the 477th bomb squadrons were inactivated and the 99th fighter squadron was added to constitute the 477th Composite Group. Plans were written to send the 447th to the Pacific to fight in the war against Japan. Davis quickly improved the morale and fighting fitness of the Group. A 1st Air Force inspection cited improvement in the Group's combat effectiveness and the vast increase in the unit's morale. The Japanese surrendered, however, before the 477th could deploy to the Pacific and enter the conflict.

The Freeman Field Mutiny, as it became known, led to drastic changes for the time. Col Davis was able to remove the promotional log jams in the 477th, allowing African Americans into the positions they had earned. The War Department passed a new regulation prohibiting racial segregation in base facilities and conducted a thorough review of discriminatory policies throughout the military. The AAF gradually became more racially inclusive and after its establishment in 1947, the US Air Force ordered an end to all segregation policies before President Truman issued Executive Order No. 9981 in 1948 directing equal treatment and opportunity in all of the U.S. armed forces.

The successful tactics used by the 477th officers involving peaceful civil disobedience combined with forging connections to activist organizations and press outlets to put political pressure on national leaders served as a model for the non-violent protests and sit-ins of the

civil rights movement that would help bring an end to segregation in the U.S. and promote equality for all African Americans.

In 1995, fifty years after the Freeman Field mutiny, the US Air Force exonerated those who had been arrested, authorizing the removal of Hunter's reprimand letters from the officers' official records and expunging Lt Terry's record of the court martial conviction. The service also restored all the rights, privileges and property Terry had lost because of the conviction.

Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower Rodney A. Coleman announced the Air Force decision during the Tuskegee Airmen annual banquet in Atlanta. Coleman called the Freeman Field incident a "bellwether for change with respect to integrating the U.S. military" and paved the way for changes "in the soon to be brand new service -- the U.S. Air Force.

COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Our Community Partners make the Air and Space Force Association and Sijan Chapter projects possible.



Welcome our newest Community Partner: NovaSpace!

NovaSpace is “Setting the standard for space professional development and training. Fully equip your team with the knowledge needed to become industry leaders as the space technology future becomes reality. Professional development takes on a new dynamic with self-paced, virtual solutions to team learning that allow your

employees to independently further their careers while empowering your team as a whole.”

NovaSpace offers a Space Professional Course that is designed for everyone – from novices to space experts. They also provide solutions for professional teams, individuals, government, and academia.

NovaSpace boasts more than 50 years of combined experience.

Check them out at [Nova Space Inc](http://NovaSpaceInc.com)

Welcome to the Sijan family, NovaSpace! We’re glad you’re here.

How Can Your Company Become a Community Partner?

Want to know more about how to become a Community Partner? Check out <https://www.afa.org/membership/community-partners> From the website:

“Becoming a Community Partner is a great way to get your business involved with your local Air Force and Space Force community! For more than 40 years, businesses have been joining the Air & Space Forces Association to support both AFA National and local AFA chapters.

By forming a partnership with your local AFA chapter, your business will help AFA fulfill its mission to promote dominant United States Air and Space Forces and a strong national defense. There are two options for membership:

Category One (CP I) \$90.00 annually - Business can designate one person to receive AFA Membership and enjoy all benefits thereof.

Category Two (CP II) \$180.00 annually - Business can designate two people to receive AFA Membership and enjoy all benefits thereof.

Not only does a Community Partner receive all the benefits of an AFA membership, such as a variety of product and service discounts, insurance programs, and much more, but the partner will also receive a wooden plaque with a date medallion and a window decal. These will show customers and clients that your business supports our troops!”

KIDS' CORNER

A Little Local Trivia for Our Young and Young at Heart AFAers!

Jennifer Miller

Did you know the Air Force Academy baseball team won 32 games this season? That's the second-most wins in a season for our Falcons – only one less win than the 1979 record of 33 wins!

Put your skills to work and color our batter's uniform bright Falcon blue! The catcher and umpire's colors are up to you!



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteers Make a Difference!

Your Lance P. Sijan Chapter relies on dedicated volunteers for our projects and contributions to the Air and Space Force Family. We urge you to consider volunteering with your AFA.

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 and Space Force family. Don't worry about whether or not there will be anything for you to do...there's plenty of work to go around! 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 Angelo Bryant at LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com to learn more. These are great networking opportunities!

As Jimmy Doolittle said, "There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer"

3rd Quarter Volunteer activities:

- 22 Apr– (Brandi Mills, Gayle Divine, Caty Rozema) Held first Sijan Coffee Break event at Banning Lewis Academy
- 11 May – (Angelo Bryant) attended CCAF graduation
- 2 Jun – (Caty Rozema) Held second Sijan Coffee Break event at Peterson SFB
- 19 Jun – (Angelo Bryant, Linda Aldrich, Caty Rozema) Colorado State AFA Quarterly Meeting

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/>



LANCE P. SIJAN CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETINGS

Place: Announced each month

Date: Every 2nd Tuesday of each month

Time: 4:00pm

FIRST MEETING OF THE BASEMENT

Place: Deuces Wild Brewery

Date: July 15, 2022

Time: 3:00pm

3RD QUARTER STATE AFA MEETING

Place: Colorado Springs, CO

Date: August 13, 2022

Time: 9:30am

IMAGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Place: Colorado Springs, CO (USAFA)

Date: August 2022

Time: 6:00 am

HOW TO CONTACT AFA

please email us at: lancepsijanafa@gmail.com

- To update your physical and email address with National AFA, please email: membership@afa.org
- To join AFA or renew your membership, visit: www.afa.org
- For details on your AFA member benefits, go to: <https://www.afa.org/afa/memberbenefits>

CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



Primary Business Address

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Lance P. Sijan Chapter #125
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80935-5007

We're on the Web!

www.lancepsijanafa.org

AFA National

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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

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 member's mailing address due to privacy laws.

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

Air Force Association
Member Services
1501 Langston Blvd
Arlington, VA 22209

NEW AND RENEWED COMMUNITY PARTNERS

