



# The Sijan Sentinel

Volume I – 2024

January 2024

WELCOME TO AFA  
SIJAN CHAPTER #125

President: Caty Rozema  
Vice President: Aaron Prupas  
Secretary: Gayle Divine  
Treasurer: Coen Williams



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



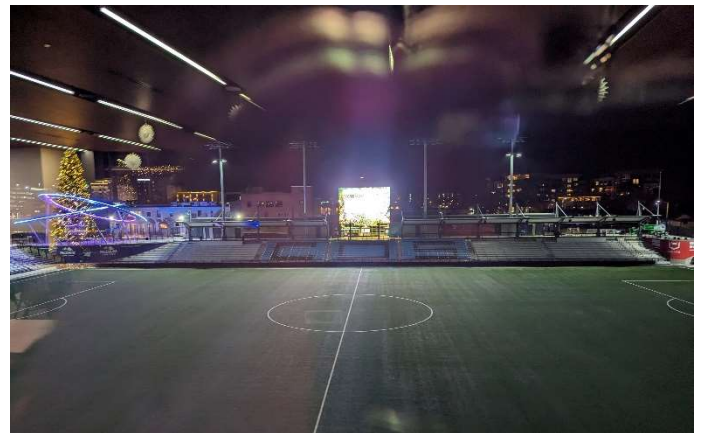
### HAPPY NEW YEAR LANCE P SIJAN AFA MEMBERS!!!

What's the best way to kick off the holiday season on the Front Range? Join 120+ members of Colorado Springs' military organizations at Weidner Field (home of the Switchbacks) to celebrate! Each year, this event is a great opportunity to gather, eat, connect, and learn about what's happening in our backyard. The joint holiday party is jointly sponsored by AFA, AFCEA, NDIA, SFA, and AIAA including government and industry leaders. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come dressed in their most festive get-up.

This year, I had the chance to speak about what the Sijan chapter is up to, and our goal for 2024. What is our 2024 goal, you ask? To serve YOU, our members! We want to bring the best AFA has to offer to your doorstep- from STEM and scholarships to advocacy and support.

Please do us the honor of sending us your Christmas list early- what do YOU want from AFA this year? We're certain you're on the nice list.

On your wing,  
Caty



## A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY



Taking on the secretarial position of the AFA's Lance Sijan Chapter has been a huge honor! It has provided me with the important mission to support the U.S. Air & Space Forces Airmen and their families. I'm excited to contribute to this outstanding organization; to advocate, educate, support, and serve as a connection between military and civilians.

Gayle Divine

## A SIJAN SPECIAL FEATURE

### **We're In Good Hands In The Missile Field**

*Contributed by Linda Aldrich*

After briefly meeting the 2022 Nuclear and Missile Operations General Thomas S. Power ICBM Crew of the Year during the Air & Space Forces National Conference, it was time to make a run up to FE Warren AFB to talk with Captain Jessica Fileas and First Lieutenant Jacqueline Woods for more information. Each year the Air & Space Forces Association honors the outstanding achievements of men and women throughout the United States Air Force, government, academia and the aerospace industry. The AFA presents the awards during the Air, Space & Cyber Conference and Technology Exposition or at the recipient's organization. Nominations for these awards and selection of the recipients are managed by the AFA Awards committee or the USAF leadership. Not only was I privileged to spend time getting acquainted with the "best of the best" crew, but also received a tour of the 319th Missile Squadron (my old stomping grounds) in the building that houses the 90th Ops Group along with the 320th and 321st Missile Squadrons. The citation certainly speaks for itself, but that was only the beginning of what I found out from these well accomplished and dedicated crew members.

"First Lieutenant Jessica A. Fileas and First Lieutenant Jacqueline M. Woods distinguished themselves as Assistant Flight Commander and Crew Commander, 319<sup>th</sup> Missile Squadron, 90<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 90<sup>th</sup> Missile Wing, Francis E. Warren Air Force base, Wyoming, from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. During this period Lieutenant Fileas and Lieutenant Woods planned Operation OLYMPIC STEP 2022 as the Project Officer, then directed the five-day mission from the Squadron Post, recoding fifty nuclear missile sites. Additionally, they seized a Qualification Level 1 rating in a Nuclear Surety Inspection no-notice evaluation, earning a Superior performer award and a coin from the Air Force Global Strike Command's Inspector General. Finally in 2022, their accomplishments garnered the Squadron Crew of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, Squadron Crew Commander and Missileer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, and the Squadron Crew Commander of the Year! The distinctive accomplishments of Lieutenant Fileas and Lieutenant Woods reflect great credit upon themselves and the United States Air Force."

When I asked Capt Fileas and Lt Woods why they thought they were chosen as crew of the year over other crews, they both very modestly said they were just doing their job, but their dedication to going above and beyond was so well evident. Both officers commissioned through the Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Capt Fileas enlisted in the AF in 2011, serving in the Public Health area and earning a Bachelor of Science Degree before going to OTS in 2019. Currently she is a Minuteman III Instructor conducting Missile Procedures Trainer (MPT) and classroom training for 71 crew members. Lt Woods is an Assistant Flight Commander assisting the flight commander in leading 21 missile crews and enlisted NCOICs, and she commands a mission ready missile crew. Neither one knew much about the career field when selected to serve in missiles, which is a reminder to the AAFM membership that we are often silent warriors about our jobs and the enormous responsibility that comes with being in the missile field. As such, when given the chance to talk about the opportunity to not only serve the country, but acquire incredible discipline and skills, we should share that information with possible recruits.

*(continued on Page 2)*



## A SIJAN SPECIAL FEATURE (continued)

When asked about the current alert schedules, I found they were far different than many of us in AAFM remember. The alerts are in waves with an A1 and A2 crew responsible for alert from Thursday to Thursday. Generally, the A1 crew will pull 4 alerts during that time and the A2 crew will pull 3. The two-person crew may return to base during their off time between shifts. I asked about the impact on family life and received a very positive response that the FEW leadership was very family oriented, including great support through the base childcare facilities. I also queried as to how information was relayed to them about their importance in providing deterrence and security for the United States. Both crew members gave particular credit to their Squadron Commander, Lt Col Jared Bishop, and to the Group Commander, Colonel Jared C. Nelson, in addition to the intelligence briefings that reinforced the criticality of the nuclear mission.

Finally, when asked what they would say to individuals who have just been selected to serve in the missile field, Capt Fileas responded that being in missiles is a humbling profession because of what the nuclear force does for the security of the country, in addition to the importance and the privilege of being able to command an operational crew. She felt positive about being a part of the nuclear force and the skill set she is acquiring to help her move up in rank and responsibility in her future assignments, possibly to Hill AFB or Vandenberg SFB. Lt Wood declared it is a great honor to serve in the missile field and she feels that she is also learning about making the military service environment one where individuals take care of each other. She values her contributions and is looking forward to continuing advancement within the missile community. What a privilege it was to spend so much time with these talented and committed crew members. Not only is their service praiseworthy, but they are a reminder that our nuclear missile force is in good hands. Thank you, Capt Fileas, Lt Wood, Lt Col Bishop, Col Nelson and all the welcoming individuals with whom I spent time at FE Warren AFB.





## AROUND YOUR SIJAN COMMUNITY

### VETERAN'S DAY PARADE and WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Sijan member, Bruce Hall attended the Colorado Springs Veteran's Day parade on Saturday, November 4, 2024, and participated in the annual Veteran's Day wreath laying at Memorial Park on November 11, 2024.





## CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### Meet our most recent Community Partner!



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- ❖ Hosted Military and Government at the highest levels, SECDEF, CJC, POTUS, and VPOTUS
- ❖ Working closely with NORAD/NORTHCOM hosting our international Military partners
- ❖ Holding countless Military events with all branches and ranks

❖ Members of:

- The Air & Space Forces Association (AFA), Sijan Chapter
- The Military Affairs Council (MAC)
- The Association of the United States Army, Pikes Peak Chapter
- The Sergeants Major Association, Pikes Peak Chapter National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)
- Society of Government Meeting Professionals



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### Become a Community Partner!

“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.

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!”

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.

Want to know more? Check out <https://www.afa.org/membership/community-partners>

## **Lance P Sijan Chapter Monthly Meetings**

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month, 5:00PM, Visit our [website](#) for in-person location and online link

**Please be sure to visit our website for updated details on upcoming events.**

- *To contact us or to be added to the Lance P Sijan chapter distribution list, please email us at: [lancepsijanafa@gmail.org](mailto:lancepsijanafa@gmail.org)*
- *To update your contact information, email National AFA at [membership@afa.org](mailto:membership@afa.org). Note that the chapter cannot change your email, mailing address, or other contact information. It must be done on your National membership profile.*
- *To join or renew your AFA membership, visit [www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org)*
- *For details on your AFA member benefits, visit <http://www.afa.org/afa/memberbenefits>*

## **CONTACT US!**

**Sijan Chapter**

**Website:**

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



**AFA National**

**Website:**

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### **Mailing Address**

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Lance P Sijan Chapter #125  
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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](http://WWW.AFA.ORG)

The Lance P. Sijan Chapter is one of the largest, most active chapters in AFA, with more than 1600 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!