



The Sijan Sentinel

Volume 2 – 2024

February 2024

WELCOME TO AFA
SIJAN CHAPTER #125



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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Connection. As I work my way through the city, connection is the common response to my question, “what can AFA do for YOU?” Our young Airmen and Guardians want to connect with those who have served before them. Families, single parents, spouses struggling to belong... they want to know they’re not alone. Those who have left active duty don’t want to lose their ties to the Air and Space Force they know and love.

Connection. Your Sijan Chapter leadership is dedicated to connecting you with our members up and down the Front Range. We want you to know and feel that you belong.

Whether you crave a social get together with other uniformed folks, a lengthier engagement with the larger DOD community, or are looking for a deep sense of community, we’re here.

Please let us know how we can connect you!

In service,

Caty

**JOIN US IN MARCH FOR
\$1 ICE CREAM SUNDAES!**
You bring your sweet tooth; we’ll bring the supplies.

We’ll be serving up \$1 ice cream sundaes with as many toppings as you can handle.

Only \$5 for families of five or more!

WATCH YOUR INBOX FOR DETAILS!



Lance P Sijan Chapter Monthly Meetings

Every 2nd 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.

DID YOU KNOW???

Funding Scholarships and STEM Activities is a Joint Effort

Every year the Lance P. Sijan Chapter sponsors AFA scholarships awarded to outstanding high school seniors who have been accepted for enrollment at a college or university and to current outstanding college freshman, sophomore and junior students. All scholarships are open to immediate family members (son, daughter, spouse) of active duty and retired Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard members attending high school (not applicable to spouses) in the greater Colorado Springs area; AFJROTC cadets attending high school in the greater Colorado Springs area; college freshmen, sophomores, and juniors from the greater Colorado Springs area attending any college or university; Silver Wings members; and Arnold Air Society members. The scholarships are awarded based on the overall character and leadership potential of the student, which includes academic achievement, demonstrated leadership, community service, and writing composition.

Each year, the Sijan Chapter of the AFA joins forces with the Rocky Mountain Chapters of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) and Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association (AFCEA) working together to raise over \$150K annually for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) scholarships and related activities! Our keystone fundraiser, providing a significant portion of the amount raised, is the Industry Military Annual Golf Event (IMAGE). Started in 2000, IMAGE provides the opportunity for military and industry to have some fun and play a round of golf for a great cause. In 2023, IMAGE netted \$40K for STEM which was shared among the AFA, NDIA and AFCEA local Chapters.

More about IMAGE

IMAGE is a premier networking event within the defense marketplace in Colorado Springs. Sponsorships and donations underpin the support for IMAGE and we are grateful to those who choose to donate to this worthwhile event. Sponsorships range from Longest Drive (\$750), Closest to the Pin (\$750), and Mulligans (\$1000) all the way up to the Title Sponsorship registration for four golfers and 1 hole sponsorship (\$6000). In addition, our community supporters donated everything from restaurant gift cards to a golf foursome and a weekend in Breckenridge for raffle and door prizes in 2023 and we're looking forward to lots more fun and exciting prizes in 2024!

If you would like to be a part of this amazing event as a participant, sponsor, or have a great raffle prize to donate, the next round will be August 14, 2024 at the Eisenhower Golf Course, USAF Academy. For more information, please contact Joe Kahoe IMAGE Chairman (NDIA) and AFA (Sijan Chapter) member, 719-210-5568, joseph.kahoe@bowheadsupport.com

ON THE HORIZON

Teacher of the Year Nominations Open

Do you know a great STEM teacher? Please submit them for the Sijan Chapter Teacher of the Year. This is a tremendous honor. Chapter Teachers of the Year receive \$250, a certificate, padfolio, window decal, pin, and complimentary Civil Air Patrol membership. Contact CO125.Sijan.President@afa.org for more information and application form.

2024 AFA Scholarships Available

Many of our nation's Airmen, Guardians, and their families are on missions to complete higher education degrees. For years, the Air & Space Forces Association has funded those efforts as part of its own mission to support and encourage the prosperity of our nation's Air & Space Force community. In 2022, AFA national contributed more than \$230,000 to Airmen, Guardians, their spouses, and their children through 12 unique scholarships. The scholarships help fund college tuition, flight school, dental school, Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings, and even full rides to certain universities. Applications are accepted December 1 to April 30 each year. Selections will be announced in July.

Click the link for more on information on national scholarships: [AFA Scholarships - Air & Space Forces Association](#). Applications for Sijan Chapter Scholarship will be open soon. Watch your email and our website for links!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND YOUR SIJAN COMMUNITY



The AFA Sijan Chapter sponsored this year's Colorado Springs City JROTC Drill Meet at Mitchell High School on 27 Jan 2024.

Above: Sijan Chapter President, Caty Rozema, and Secretary, Gayle Divine, pose with the winning JROTC team, JFK High School from Denver, CO. Congratulations, JFK HS!

Below/Right: JROTC teams demonstrate their skills.



Sijan President, Caty Rozema, and Executive Vice President, Aaron Prupas, attended the NORAD/NORTHCOM change of Command 5 Feb 2024 at Peterson Space Force Base.

Gen. Gregory Guillot accepted command from U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks.

After leading NORAD/ NORTHCOM for 3 ½ years, Gen. Glen VanHerck relinquished command during the ceremony.



COMMUNITY PARTNER PAGE

Introducing Infinity Systems Engineering

Infinity Systems Engineering is a small business with extensive experience supporting aerospace and defense systems. Founded in 1996, with corporate headquarters in Colorado Springs, CO, our 300 employees across 11 states and seven OCONUS locations provide full lifecycle engineering and operations support to include Space Operations, Systems Engineering, Software Development, Integration & Test, Information Technology (IT)/Cybersecurity, Operations & Maintenance (O&M), and Training services for the Government sector. In 2023, we launched our Digital Engineering Solutions product line focused on Mod and Sim, MBSE, Digital Thread Orchestration, and AI/ML.



Please reach out to Patrick Barrett, Vice President of Partnerships and Innovation at patrick.barrett@infinity.aero to learn more!

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>

CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- *To contact us or to be added to the Lance P Sijan chapter distribution list, please email us at: lancepsijanafa@gmail.org*
- *To update your contact information, email National AFA at 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*
- *For details on your AFA member benefits, visit <http://www.afa.org/afa/memberbenefits>*

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

- Pikes Peak National Cemetery Support Committee (PPNCSC) is *in near-desperate need to obtain a person with a lawyer/legal background to sit on our board as our PPNCSC "Legal Counselor."* To be clear, we simply need someone to review our paperwork and actions from a legal sufficiency perspective. This is a volunteer, non-paying board "voting" position. Contact Willie Kalaskie at wk56wvu@gmail.com if you're interested.
- **Entrepreneurship Opportunity for Veterans or Retired Service Members.** FedTech is a venture-building firm that has helped the US Army, Department of Energy, NASA, the National Security Innovation Network, and others develop and commercialize technologies relevant to national security, energy / climate, biotechnology and life science issues. Through our studio programs, we've helped entrepreneurs create over **100+** companies and have facilitated over **55+** licenses for breakthrough technologies. We recently launched applications for NASA's Colorado Startup Studio. We are seeking individuals or teams interested in launching a new venture with cutting-edge technology from a NASA lab. We will form them into teams of 3 (or they can apply as a team) and run them through a 16-week cohort spring/summer 2024. All programming is virtual, free to participate, and no equity taken. The program will conclude with a pitch

CONTACT US!

Sijan Chapter

Website:

www.lancepsijanafa.org

event in Denver. Contact: ellen.erickson@fedtech.io
Website: www.fedtech.io

Email

lancepsijanafa@gmail.com

Mailing Address

Air & Space Forces Association
Lance P Sijan Chapter #125
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**AFA National
Website:
www.afa.org**

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 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!