



The Sijan Sentinel

Volume 3 – 2025

July 2025

WELCOME TO AFA SIJAN CHAPTER #125



President: Caty Rozema
Vice President: Aaron Prupas
Secretary: Gayle Divine
Treasurer: Bruce Hall

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



We Are Patriotism in Action!

“My fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.” In his inauguration address, John F. Kennedy called the nation to service. It was a nation in the grips of the cold war, not yet a generation away from WWII. It was a nation grappling with civil rights, and the ideal that *“all men are created equal.”*

It was a nation undergoing great change, not unlike our nation today. In that tenuous environment, President Kennedy called those in his charge to roll up their sleeves, look left and right, and find ways to serve. I believe that is patriotism in action; it brings a diverse, growing, changing nation together.

AFA is the connective tissue that helps us act out our patriotism through service. AFA volunteers put our love for country into supporting those in uniform, those who have hung up their uniform, and their families.

And so, my fellow AFAers, what can we do for our country right here in the shadow of America’s mountain?

The Lance P. Sijan chapter has myriad opportunities to serve:

- There are dozens of CyberPatriot and StellarXplorers camps and competitions that need mentors.
- JROTC and ROTC cadets would love to learn from you.
- Support our teacher of the year by filling her classroom.
- Sign up to send a care package to deployed active-duty members.
- Join us as we honor veterans this November.
- And so on and so forth. There are many more ways to show your patriotism through service.

Want to know more? Have a thought about other opportunities? Swing by our quarterly birthday party (if you have a birthday this year, you’re welcome) on Thursday, August 14 at the Peterson Hub (formerly The Club). Grab a slice of cake and let’s chat or reach out to any [Sijan Chapter leader](#).

It is an honor to serve our military community, veterans, and their families with you.

In service,

Caty

President, Sijan Chapter

Co125.Sijan.President@afa.org

OUT AND ABOUT WITH SIJAN

Sijan had an incredibly busy spring serving our AFA community. We presented awards at 5 separate JROTC ceremonies, awarded 3 scholarships and selected our Teacher of the Year, celebrated our members at the quarterly birthday party and new member mixer, toured the US Air Force Academy, and attended the Colorado State AFA meeting in Grand Junction.

JROTC AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Clockwise from top left: Caty Rozema (Sijan President) and Cadet Sr Master Sergeant Callin Dawson (Mitchell HS); Dave Geuting (Sijan VP of Aerospace Education) and Cadet Lt Col Aylin Aldhaferi (Sand Creek HS); Dave Geuting and Mya Warner (Vista Ridge HS); Gayle Divine (Sijan Secretary) and Cadet Master Sergeant Ella Kirk (Falcon HS). Not pictured: Bruce Hall (Sijan VP of Finance) and Cadet 2nd Lt Axel Pinto Cano (Harrison HS).



SIJAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Sijan chapter awarded \$1000 scholarships to two deserving students this year. Our VP of Aerospace Education, Dave Geuting, presented a check to each winner: Our college recipient, Bowen Hartman

(left), is majoring in Civil Engineering at the University of California-Berkley. Our high school recipient, Dominic Bellerdine (right), graduated from Ellicott High School in May and will study Computer Science with an emphasis on networks and security at Colorado State University. Dominic was also chosen as the winner of the AFA's 2025 Colorado Garcia \$1000 scholarship. Congratulations and best wishes for the future to both exceptional young men!



Left: Dave also had the pleasure of presenting the **SIJAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR** award to Mrs. Amy Robinson from Lewis-Palmer Middle School. Mrs. Robinson teaches 7th and 8th grade science. She received a \$250 check and will attend the Colorado AFA Awards Banquet in August. She is also a contender for the Colorado State TOY.

Right: Caty chats with a new member during the **NEW MEMBER MIXER** at the Peterson Hub.



On May 18th, Sijan members and friends were privileged to receive a “behind the scenes” **VIP TOUR OF THE USAFA**, led by Arnold Air Society cadets. They made sure to share the good stories and show us all the memorabilia of our namesake, Lance P Sijan, that is housed at the Visitor Center and in the Cadet Wing.

A PATRIOTIC TRIBUTE

Contributed by Bruce Hall

On June 6th a Colorado Springs television station posted notice of a funeral service for two “Unclaimed” U.S. military veterans, Donald Ray Johnson and Carmel “Leroy” Rivale, to be held at the Pikes Peak National Cemetery.

In my AFA shirt and Air Force cap I drove to the cemetery on the morning of June 23rd. I expected few would be there but was pleasantly surprised to find volunteers directing traffic from the entrance gate to the memorial site at Shelter 2. It appeared that about fifty people attended. Most were affiliated with groups including the Marine Corps League and the American Legion Riders, as well as others wearing vests or insignia of their group.

Lance Corporal Carmel Rivale’s last known address was Little Rock, Arkansas. He also lived in La Junta, where he attended high school, and Pueblo, Colorado. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1973 to 1978. Members of the Marine Corps League received the U.S. flag folded in his honor by two active-duty members of the Corps. He died 12 April 2025 at 73 years.

U.S. Army Private Second-Class Donald Johnson’s history is less readily separated, due to the commonality of his name. I even had a relative with the same name. Private Johnson served in Korea and what was then Camp Carson, Colorado Springs. He died 5 January 2025 at 91 years. The American Legion Riders received his folded flag from active-duty U.S. Army soldiers.

A chaplain from the Marine Corps League delivered a thoughtful committal for both veterans. Full military honors were rendered. All-in-all, it was a respectful, honoring and touching ceremony. I encourage any of our Sijan members to answer the next such notice.



PATRIOTISM IN ACTION – Be A Part of It!

Sijan Quarterly Birthday Party and New Member Mixer

You're Invited



All are welcome!
Join us for cake and camaraderie!
Q3 birthdays enter a raffle for prizes!

Questions: Email LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com

Date: Thursday, Aug 14
Time: 4:30 - 6:00 pm
Place: The Hub at Peterson SFB
260 Glasgow Ave

Please join us in
Celebrating the Warriors of Air & Space
at the



Annual Awards Banquet

Honoring the State of Colorado's finest Military and Civilian representatives of the United States Air & Space Forces

WHEN

Saturday, Aug 23

WHERE

Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Club

23155 E Heritage Parkway
Aurora, CO 80016

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SPONSORS!

Choose to sponsor an award nominee, sponsor a table, or make a donation!

[CLICK HERE!](#)

PATRIOTISM IN ACTION – Be A Part of It!

It's not too late! Please join us for the IMAGE 2025 to benefit STEM scholarship activities of our Colorado Springs local chapter of AFA, NDIA, & AFCEA on **26 August 2025 at Eisenhower Golf Course, USAF Academy, CO. Sign-in and Breakfast starts at 0630; Shotgun start 0800.**

[Register now](#) and remember to invite your friends to play.

[Sponsorships Available](#)

Industry Military Annual Golf Event (IMAGE) 2025

Eisenhower Golf Course
USAF Academy, CO
Tuesday, 26 August 2025

Benefits STEM scholarship activities of
our Colorado Springs local chapters of
NDIA, AFA, & AFCEA



Join our friends at INSA in Colorado Springs on Wednesday, August 6, from 5:00-7:30 pm for a Securing Space: Threats, Strategic Roles, and Building Resilience unclassified program. The FREE program will start with a networking reception followed by a panel discussion. Please note: this program is closed to the press and will be held under the Chatham House Rule. [CLICK FOR MORE OR TO REGISTER!](#)



Securing Space:

Threats, Strategic Roles, and Building Resilience

August 6 | 5:00-7:30 pm | Colorado Springs, CO

**Top Space Leaders to Discuss Space Threats
And Operational Readiness**

[Register Now!](#)

PATRIOTISM IN ACTION – Be A Part of It!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – CHAPTER OFFICER POSITIONS

Are you ready to shape the future of your local Air & Space Forces Chapter? Whether you're skilled in member recruitment, finance, or crafting crisp communications, we need enthusiastic leaders like you! Make a difference and submit your nomination for an open Officer position!

Serving as an Officer on the Sijan board is an excellent way to network, bring trending ideas to the forefront of the Chapter, and is an incredible way to give back and grow the Chapter in dynamic ways. **Serving your local AFA chapter is truly PATRIOTISM IN ACTION!**

The AFA Lance P Sijan Chapter leadership encourages all members to participate in the 2025 elections to fill the open 2025-2027 Officer positions.

Nominations open soon and will be followed by voting later in August. Watch your inbox for open position descriptions, nomination forms, voting materials, and links.

If you have questions or are interested in the Officer or other Board member openings, please reach out to Caty (CO125.Sijan.President@AFA.org) or any Sijan chapter leaders.



30 Jul – Nominations open

8 Aug – Nominations close

22 Aug – Voting begins

5 Sep – Voting concludes

1 Oct – New officer 2-year term begins

COMING UP

Be sure to visit our [website](#) for details on upcoming events or email us at LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com if you have questions. Your participation in these activities and events is a fantastic way to support our future leaders and connect with the local Air & Space Forces community!

6 Aug, 5:00-8:00 pm: INSA Panel (Pre-event Career Fair is 3:00- 5:00 pm)

14 Aug, 4:30-6:00 pm: Q3 Birthday Party/New Member Mixer

23 Aug, 5:00-8:30 pm: AFA Colorado Annual Awards Banquet

26 Aug, 6:30 am (registration), 8:00 am (shotgun start): IMAGE Golf Tournament

Lance P Sijan Chapter Monthly Leadership Meetings

Every 2nd Tuesday of Month, 5:00PM, Visit our [website](#) to confirm date/time and for in-person location and online link. These are our regular business meetings, but all are welcome to listen in. It's a great way to learn more about what's happening inside Sijan and find out about volunteer opportunities.

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>

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Do you like golf? Birthday parties? Races? Ball games? Corn hole? *Send us a note, stop by an event, or join us for our monthly leadership meeting.*



VOLUNTEER! Whether one hour one time or one hour a week, your AFA Sijan Chapter has opportunities for involvement in multiple areas. Areas of most need are in support of veterans and government outreach, community partnerships, and programming/events.

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 AFA member benefits, visit <http://www.afa.org/afa/memberbenefits>

Make sure you continue to receive our communications. You don't want to miss out on \$1 ice cream sundaes, free birthday cake, or any of the other exciting events we have in the works. Update your contact information today. Email National at Membership@afa.org.

While we can update our mailing list, Sijan representatives cannot update your official AFA contact information. You must contact National.

Do you know someone who would like to know about our events but isn't a member yet? We're happy to add them to our mailing list. Have them send a request to us at LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com.

CONTACT US!

Sijan Chapter

Website:

www.lancepsijanafa.org



AFA National Website:

www.afa.org

Email

lancepsijanafa@gmail.com

Mailing Address

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Lance P Sijan Chapter #125
PO Box 77322
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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 1600 members. The Sijan Chapter, one of four AFA Chapters in Colorado, primarily focuses on support to the Colorado Springs area, including Peterson SFB, Schriever SFB, 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 & Space Forces community. We pride ourselves on active support to the local Colorado Springs "Air & Space Forces Family," providing approximately \$40,000 and thousands of volunteer hours in support annually!