



The Sijan Sentinel

Volume III – 2026

September 2026

WELCOME TO AFA SIJAN CHAPTER #125



President: Dave Geuting
Vice President: Ed Duffett
Secretary: Gayle Divine
Treasurer: Bruce Hall

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



Dear Fellow AFA Members and Friends!

I'm the new guy and am thrilled to already be working hard for our awesome AFA chapter! I come from the Navy League of the United States where I serve in a national leadership position, visiting Capitol Hill to advocate for Congressional appropriate funding for the sea services. After an AFA position paper came across my desk asking for our support, I realized that as an Air Force retiree, I was missing the boat (pun intended) by not bringing that enthusiasm for advocacy and desire to help to my home service. Since joining AFA and our local Lance P. Sijan chapter just over a month ago, I've had the privilege to attend multiple events and speak at the recent Industry Military Annual Golf Event (IMAGE) where AFA is an annual sponsor. The golfers are always very generous, helping raise more than \$10,000 annually for local youth science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) scholarships and programs. I also attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the brand new AFROTC Detachment at UCCS where the flags displayed were purchased using funds donated by your Lance P. Sijan chapter! (see article on the next page) **Your chapter is strong and is doing a lot for our local community of service members, but we need your help. Let me explain.**

This past week I received an email from AFA National asking one simple question: Why did you join? After looking through the suggested responses, I chose 'Supporting our Air Force and Space Force Family.' Upon sending that response, I received information regarding several programs such as the AFA's Forces and Families (F2) initiative that supports families through events and publications. I also learned that AFA offers F2 grants to help chapters support our servicemembers' quality of life programs in our local area. Let's face it, at one time or another we all leaned on others in our military community for support. **And bringing that full circle is exactly why I joined!** I'm sure you have the same desire to help our community. How do we do it? Well, in the coming months, I'll be asking you to join me in AFA's advocacy of legislative initiatives designed to help our folks. Activities such as urging Congress to correct deficiencies in military housing and to ensure access to quality childcare. We will also be laying out the case for acquiring enough of the right assets for the Air and the Space Forces. But beyond that, we need people that can help us reach out to the community by joining us at events or participating as a member of our executive council. Your contributions will be invaluable to your fellow Airman and Guardians here in Colorado Springs. If you want to get more involved, meet our community partners and those young families we are desperately trying to support, please send an email to me or any of our council members letting us know that you want to help better our community of service members and their families. **I urge you to send that email today! Thank you and it's great to be aboard!**

Ed Duffett, CAGS, MBA
Executive Vice President, Lance P Sijan Chapter 125
National Advocacy Committee Member
Air & Space Forces Association (AFA)
Co125.Sijan.ExecVP@afa.org



AFROTC Establishes a New Operating Location in Colorado Springs!

-- By Dave Geuting

The Lance P. Sijan Chapter #125 recently supported the establishment of AFROTC Detachment 105A at the University of Colorado—Colorado Springs (UCCS) with a \$3,500 donation. The donation covered the cost of the flags shown for the detachment, to be used for display and ceremonies.

Detachment 105A is a new operating location of Detachment 105 at the University of Colorado—Boulder. Its standup eliminates the requirement for a three-hour drive weekly from Colorado Springs to Boulder for the UCCS cadets. With three weeks to go before classes were to begin, Det 105A already had 95-100 students registered for the ROTC program! Visit the [UCCS AFROTC website](#) to learn more about the Thunderchiefs.



AFROTC Det 105A
Ribbon Cutting
Ceremony
August 27, 2026



Chapter Executive Vice President, Ed Duffet and Colorado Springs City Councilman, Dave Donelson at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Celebrating 80 Years of Air & Space Impact with the Best of the Best

-- By Linda Aldrich



The hosting Lance P. Sijan Chapter in Colorado gave very specific directions for how the annual Air & Space Forces Association (AFA) Colorado State Awards Banquet on August 15, 2026, was to be conducted. "This is not intended to be a quiet event! Please cheer loudly for your nominees!" And that's exactly what happened.

Following a lively cocktail hour with light jazz music provided by The Todd Williams Trio, the awards event was opened by Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Dave Geuting. He introduced the top three nominees in each military and civilian category as they entered the banquet hall to the sound of 150 attendees cheering and pounding on the tables. The widely attended event brought together corporate sponsors with senior military leadership, all for the purpose of recognizing the Active Duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen, Jr. Guardians, Cadets and Civilians in Colorado units that continue to make our Air & Space Forces the greatest in the world!

Senior military and Community leaders were first able to meet the future of the Air and Space Forces as AFROTC cadets from University of Colorado-Boulder greeted them at the check-in table, performed the National Anthem and honored the POW/MIA table. Those same cadets were able to meet and inspire the AF JROTC cadets from Mitchell High School who participated as the Honor Guard for the event. The Colorado Springs Mayor's Office offered welcoming remarks and the Doubletree Hotel in Colorado Springs provided a scrumptious Italian buffet leading up to the sage advice and lessons learned shared by 30-year soon-to-be retired Chief Master Sergeant Gerald Morey, Senior Enlisted Airmen for Space Base Delta 41.

For weeks prior to the event, an awards committee comprised of members from all Colorado AFA Chapters spent hours pondering large stacks of nominations from Peterson, Schriever and Buckley Space Force Bases, AFROTC Detachment and the Air Force Academy. They painstakingly narrowed the list down to the top three Best of the Best nominees in 12 categories ranging from Airman and Guardians to Cadets and Civilians Categories I and II. *(Continued on p4).*



Celebrating Continued...

Their decisions led to the highlight of the evening – recognition of the top nominees and announcement of the winners in each category. All military and government civilians were presented with certificates and state coins for their top nomination, and the winner in each category received a beautifully carved wooden coin tray inscribed with their name and the title of the award.



In addition, all four Colorado AFA Chapter Teachers of the Year were recognized at the event. They each received a Medal of Honor quotes book personally autographed by Medal of Honor recipient, Drew Dix. Colorado AFA also has a legacy scholarship which was presented to Miss Emilee Hund, an exceptional student nominated by the Mel Harmon Chapter of Pueblo, CO. And we didn't forget to honor our many AFA volunteers for their hours of service and dedication to advocating, educating and supporting our Air & Space Forces personnel and their families.



The evening culminated with the announcement of the Colorado AFA Member of the Year, Mr. Dave Geuting from the Lance P. Sijan Chapter. Dave has been an extraordinary influence in re-establishing connections with leadership of the nearby Space Force Bases, USAFA and with current and potential Community Partners. He has sparked a revitalized interest in AFA from local civic leaders and has been key to re-energizing the Lance P. Sijan Chapter.

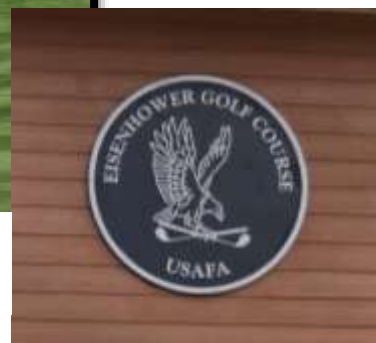
Colorado AFA most definitely succeeded in Celebrating the AFA 80 Years of Air & Space Impact as well as continuing the tradition of honoring the Best of the Best of our Air & Space Forces!

September 2026

OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE SIJAN CHAPTER – Fundraising Fun!



The Annual IMAGE Tournament August 25, 2026



A great day on the links for turkeys and golfers alike.



OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE SIJAN CHAPTER – We Appreciate You!



COMING UP!

Air & Space Forces Appreciation

(formerly our quarterly birthday parties)

NEW DAY! The 3rd Wednesday in Nov, Feb, May, and Aug.

Every quarter we visit The Hub on Peterson SFB to show our appreciation for our airmen and guardians and the community that supports them. We'll have free cake for all and a gift card drawing for everyone with a birthday during the quarter.

Join us as we say “thank you for your service”, and to find out more about what we do.

COMING UP!



2026 Military Retiree
Appreciation Day
HONORING YOUR SERVICE!
COME CELEBRATE & CONNECT!

OCTOBER 17TH, 2026

08:00 AM - 1:00 PM

THE ELKHORN CONFERENCE CENTER
1725 WOODFILL ROAD, BUILDING 7300
FORT CARSON, CO 80913

- COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST
- HEALTH & WELLNESS EDUCATION
- INFORMATION & SUPPORT



Veteran's Day Parade – Nov 7, 11:00 am

Come and watch or better yet, be part of the parade! Your AFA Sijan chapter is looking for AFA members and friends to walk in the parade. For more info or to sign up, contact Ed at CO125.Sijan.ExecVP@afa.org

Veteran's Day Wreath Laying

Nov 11, 11:00 am

Colorado Springs Memorial Park

Be a part of this annual ceremony honoring veterans and their service to the nation as we place a wreath at the Air Force Memorial.

Honoring the BraveSM Breakfast

WHEN: October 26, 2026

WHERE: The Broadmoor International Center

Honoring the BraveSM Breakfast is a fundraiser to help facilitate Home Front Military Network's ability to provide emergency financial bridge support and connect military service members, veterans and their families to the many resources available to them in Colorado. Your support will provide vital resources to expand HFMN's capacity to meet the needs of our military and veteran community.

[Click to register](#)



HOME FRONT
MILITARY NETWORK

Assisting Service Members, Veterans & FamiliesSM

10th ANNUAL HONORING THE BRAVESM BREAKFAST

HOMEFRONT HELP – FREE CHILDCARE TRAINING

HomeFront Help aims to address the lack of childcare available to families by training individuals who are already providing care in their communities, giving them CPR training, fingerprinting and background checks, and coursework in early childhood care and education. The HomeFront Help training is free and provides up to \$335 in training incentives for individuals who complete the online training portion and one in-person cohort day.

NOW ENROLLING

Train to Care. Serve Your Community.

Become a trusted, vetted caregiver for military families – or build confidence caring for your own little ones. Free.

FREE
Training

THIS IS FOR YOU IF... You care for kids in your community Babysitters, nannies, family helpers, neighbors You're a parent or guardian at home Caring for your own children under 5 You want to support military families Military spouse, veteran, or community member You want flexible, on-your-terms work Connect with military families needing support on a schedule that works for you	WHAT YOU GET – COMPLETELY FREE <table> <tr> <td> CPR & FIRST AID Adult & pediatric certification </td> <td> CHILD SAFETY Safe sleep, emergency prep, abuse prevention </td> </tr> <tr> <td> DEVELOPMENT Ages 0–5 milestones & play-based learning </td> <td> BACKGROUND CHECK FBI, state & national – on us </td> </tr> <tr> <td> COMMUNITY Monthly meetups & local resources </td> <td> EXPERT SUPPORT 1-on-1 guidance from care professionals </td> </tr> </table>	CPR & FIRST AID Adult & pediatric certification	CHILD SAFETY Safe sleep, emergency prep, abuse prevention	DEVELOPMENT Ages 0–5 milestones & play-based learning	BACKGROUND CHECK FBI, state & national – on us	COMMUNITY Monthly meetups & local resources	EXPERT SUPPORT 1-on-1 guidance from care professionals
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ECE-ALIGNED FOCUS Caring for other families' children For community caregivers who also want to explore early childhood education foundations.	COMMUNITY CAREGIVER FOCUS Parents & guardians at home For those caring for their own children under 5. Build confidence and connect with local resources.						

Ready to make a difference?

- Must be 16+
- Cohorts fill quickly – apply today

SCAN TO SUBMIT INTEREST

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
Colorado Springs, CO 80970

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 chapters in AFA, with nearly 3000 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!