



Air & Space Forces Association Leadership Meeting
Tuesday, 13 May 2025, 5:00 – 6:00pm (Mountain)
Location: Panara Bread, 7344 N. Academy Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO
Second Location: Zoom

Attendees: Caty Rozema, Aaron Prupas (Zoom), Dave Geuting (Zoom), Bruce Hall, Jennifer Miller and Gayle Divine

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Caty reviewed our mission statement:

Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air & Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; to honor and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their Families; and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.

Meeting Overview

These meeting minutes consolidate notes focusing on AFA Warfare Symposium and outcomes, event highlights, community engagement and support, cadet engagement, ROTC programs, future event planning, and strategic partnerships. **Key action items are outlined at the end for follow-up.**

OFFICER UPDATES/ACTIVITY RECAP

- **President – Caty Rozema and Vice President – Aaron Prupas**
 - **The AFA Warfare Symposium event overview**
 - **Low Attendance:** The event experienced lower attendance than usual. For instance, the CIO panel, typically seating a thousand, only had a couple dozen attendees. This was attributed to travel restrictions affecting senior leaders and panelists.
 - **Impact on AFA:** Concerns were raised about how this low turnout might affect the numbers and impact of the event. A meeting with General Burt Field is scheduled to discuss these issues further
 - **Key Highlights**
 - **Stem Lunch:** General Gagnon was the guest speaker, highlighting the success of his son, a Cyber Patriot graduate. Notably, a Colorado Springs team reached the national Cyber Patriot finals.
 - **Senior Leaders' Pitches:**
 - General Alvin: Emphasized a conservative approach, aligning closely with the administration's priorities. He introduced the strategy of "One



Air Force, More Air Force,” focusing on eliminating unnecessary infrastructure, known as BRAC.

- General Saltzman: Focused on the need for space superiority to enable the Space Force, though no major takeaways were noted.

Discussions and Observations

- **Content and Context:** The symposium content was well-received, with all materials available online for members. The uncertain environment is impacting airmen, guardians, and their families, prompting discussions on how AFA can support them.
 - **Industry Concerns:** Lower attendance raises concerns about justifying marketing dollars and fundraising efforts for AFA. Upcoming events like the Space Foundation Space Symposium and GEOINT will be indicators of industry trends.
- **Cadet Engagement and Tribal Relations**
 - **Cadet Turnout:** Despite last-minute cancellations due to weather, there was a good turnout from cadets, including those from South Dakota. Chief Master Sergeant Bentivegna from the Space Force provided a leadership talk.
 - **Tribal Relations:** Attended a meeting on the Sentinel Programmatic Agreement, highlighting the complexities of working with Indigenous tribes on land use for missile systems. Discussions revealed deep-seated resentments and the need for careful negotiation and respect for tribal customs.
 - **Personal Notes and Observations**
 - **Venue Experience:** The Gaylord resort was appreciated for its accommodation, though some attendees faced challenges with per-diem rates.
 - **Vendor Feedback:** Vendors expressed disappointment over sparse attendance but understood the cancellations due to credit card issues.

Event Planning

- Holiday Party Planning is AFA’s responsibility this year. Polaris Hotel was considered but is outside the budget at \$10K. Doubletree is a more feasible option, offering



flexibility within budget constraints. Emphasis is on making the event accessible for Airmen and Guardians.

- **Quarterly Meeting and Other Events:** State Quarterly Meeting scheduled for this Saturday. Notes and a link will be shared for those who wish to attend remotely.
- **Academy Tours:** We've had two successful academy tours led by cadets. More tours are planned for spring, with invitations to veterans and members to participate.

Community Engagement and Support

- BRAC and F2 Grant:
 - Follow-up with Chief Simmons is needed to address issues and explore an F2 grant, inspired by the Mile High chapter's success.
- **Deployment Support:** Reach out to Mariah Hayden, who is deploying in April, to offer support from the chapter.
- **Honor Flights:** We have an opportunity to participate in Honor Flights send-offs from Colorado Springs. We need to encourage Airmen, Guardians, cadets, and veterans to join in supporting this event.

Chapter Responsibilities and Collaboration

- **Dividing Responsibilities:** Responsibilities for events need to be divided among chapters to avoid overburdening any single chapter. Suggestions include securing venues, catering, and community partner sponsorships. Encourage community partners to sponsor nominees and guests. Explore options for entertainment and speakers for events.
- **Additional Community Support:** Support is needed for Airmen and Guardians. Acknowledgment of the challenging times for Airmen, Guardians, retirees, and veterans.
 - Emphasis on providing additional community support during uncertain times.

Dave Geuting - Aerospace Education Initiatives

- New Sources for Nominees including Pikes Peak Regional Science and Engineering.
- Deadlines for scholarships and Teacher of the Year: April 1st and April 11th, respectively.



Networking and Introductions

- New Members and Connections: Introduction of new members and connections within the group. Mention of past collaborations and ongoing relationships.

Veterans and Government Affairs

- Definition of a Veteran: Clarification on the definition of a veteran and the importance of multi-generational appeal. Discussion on the stereotype of veterans and the need to reach out to diverse groups. Emphasis on supporting veterans during uncertain times.

Networking and Collaboration – Aaron Prupas

- James Chappelier (Chappy), a retired Colonel working for Omni Federal, expressed interest in getting involved with the chapter. Plans to engage him further as he is a valuable contact.
- Membership Committee and Benefits: Discussion on underutilized membership benefits such as car booking and pet insurance. Emphasis on including these benefits in sales pitches to attract new members. Aaron highlighted the importance of showcasing tangible benefits alongside altruistic reasons for membership.
- SFA Collaboration: Keith Watts, local SFA president and senior partner at Deloitte, is interested in partnering with the chapter. Discussion on potential collaboration with SFA, especially if they face challenges.
- Noted the active chapters like Huntsville and Space Coast and the potential for joint efforts.
- Potential New Contacts: Mention of Jean Eisenhut from PAS as a potential contact for collaboration. Plans to reach out and explore partnership opportunities.

Upcoming Events and Participation

- Two JROTC events scheduled on the same day: Mitchell at 0945 and Sand Creek at 1800. Sand Creek event noted for its predominantly female leadership group.
- Volunteers needed to cover events, with a plan to divide responsibilities.

Event Protocol

- Discussion on protocol during events, especially regarding saluting.
 - Emphasis on maintaining decorum and following appropriate gestures such as Saluting Protocol and Etiquette and saluting Civilians:



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- It's not required for cadets to salute civilians, but it's a gesture of respect. There is no law against saluting back, and it is often appreciated if done correctly. When presenting awards, follow the sequence: handshake, take, salute, and smile. Observing others can clarify the correct protocol.

Support for Airmen and Civilians

- Career Support Initiative:
 - Proposal to organize a resume review and career support event, potentially in partnership with organizations like Mount Carmel.
 - Aim to support airmen, guardians, and civilians affected by layoffs or budget cuts.
- Social Media Management:
 - Challenges in managing social media due to password issues.
 - Efforts to resolve these issues are ongoing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- TBD: Multiple JROTC awards ceremonies
- 30 April: Mitchell HS JROTC Awards Ceremony
Mitchell HS Auditorium 0945-1100
Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Callin Dawson
Top Junior Cadet in 130-Cadet Unit
Commander of our Top Color Guard Detail
Committed to a military career (Father is an Active Duty CMSgt in Space Force)
- 30 April: Sand Creek JROTC Awards Ceremony
- 26 May: Memorial Day event support (Cemeteries)
- 26 Aug: IMAGE – Golf Tournament

ACTION ITEMS

- ☐ Caty & Aaron: Invite General Burt Field to the state awards banquet and state meeting.
- ☐ Linda: Gather information on timing and volunteer opportunities for Stellar Explorer and Cyber Patriot camps.
- ☐ Caty: Reach out to JROTC for ceremony schedules and distribute details to volunteers.
- ☐ Caty: Follow up with Tom Walker regarding Doubletree venue for holiday party.



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- ☐ Linda: Send notes and links for the state quarterly meeting.
 - ☐ Caty: Schedule additional academy tours and send invitations.
 - ☐ Caty: Follow up with Chief Simmons on BRAC and F2 grant.
 - ☐ Caty: Contact Mariah Hayden regarding her deployment.
 - ☐ Caty: Coordinate participation in Honor Flights.
 - ☐ Allie: Confirm responsibilities and sponsorships with community partners.
 - ☐ All: Propose speakers and entertainment for upcoming events.
 - ☐ Dave: Monitor scholarship and Teacher of the Year applications.
 - ☐ All: Ensure participation in Memorial Day events.
 - ☐ Aaron: Reach out to Bob McLaughlin at Mt. Carmel for veteran engagement.
 - ☐ Aaron: Engage James Chappelier for further involvement.
 - ☐ Caty: Explore collaboration opportunities with Keith Watts and SFA.
 - ☐ Caty: Reach out to Jean Eisenhut for potential partnership.
 - ☐ Allie: Organize a resume' review event in collaboration with potential partners.
 - ☐ Jennifer & Sharla: Resolve social media password issues.
 - ☐ Allie, Caty & Gayle: Register for the Image event and consider team formation or sponsorship.