



The Alamo AFA

# DEFENDER

The Newsletter  
of the Alamo AFA  
Chapter 234

San Antonio, Texas—The Largest Chapter in the World [www.alamoafa.org](http://www.alamoafa.org) • April-June • Vol. 6 , No. 2

## EVENTS

Fiesta Flambeau Parade  
23 April 2005

Texas AFA Convention  
22-24 July 2005  
Abilene Tx

AF Birthday Ball  
22 Sept 2005

Loos Civilian  
Awards Banquet  
20 Oct 2005

Celebrate America's  
Military Week  
3-11 Nov 2005



## FIESTA FLAMBEAU PARADE

Pictured above is one of our Alamo AFA Humvees that appeared in last years parade. We will participate again this year for the fourth time in the World's Largest Night Time Illuminated Parade, viewed by over a quarter of a Million Spectators. Our entry is truly unique in that it is a multi service event consisting of Air Force, Coast Guard, Civil Air Patrol, Reserve Officer Training Corps Units and Veterans Groups and others. And our entry sits "in the catbird seat", in the prestigious Vanguard of the Parade.

If you are interested in participating in the Parade contact our Parade Coordinator, Eric Renth at [renth@gvtc.com](mailto:renth@gvtc.com)

## AFA Fills 3 Critical Positions



Bill Chandler, a Community Partner with Walker Advertising, has volunteered to serve as Vice President for Governmental Affairs.

He has already visited the offices of our National Congressional Representatives, offering them Complimentary memberships in AFA.

He is also establishing an email network to share important legislative issues with you and show you how you can maintain contact with your Congressperson through the AFA capwiz system. Just send him an email at [promoman@satx.rr.com](mailto:promoman@satx.rr.com) to be added to the list.

Also contact him if you need any specialty marketing products.



The DEFENDER has a new publisher.

Linda Bjorge has volunteered to be the publisher of this most important communications tool. She will provide a "turnkey" operation wherein we will not have to have a separate formatter, printer and mailer. She will coordinate all three functions saving us much time, travel and potential confusion in this most important process of keeping in touch with the diverse 3900 members of the World's Largest Chapter. She is also making the Alamo AFA Aerospace Education Foundation an office presence.

If you are in need of business services or an office contact her at One Castle Hills Executive Suites—366-0366 [lbjorge@ochsuites.com](mailto:lbjorge@ochsuites.com).



Mike Nishimuta, a Community Partner with Texas Computer Help has volunteered to take the Defenders' sister correspondence tool, the Alamo AFA Website, [alamoafa.org](http://alamoafa.org) He was immediately able to take control of the site, a task we had been pursuing

with other commercial vendors to no avail for months. He has introduced substantial additional features over night and he considers it a work-in-progress, so stay tuned and if you ever need any computer help, Mike can solve any problem, so contact him at [mike@alamoafa.org](mailto:mike@alamoafa.org).

## ***President's Page, Spring 2005***



Those of you who have been following this column since I stepped into this position last fall will recall that, from time to time, I have made mention of how important I believe our Organizational Vice Presidents are to the current operations and future viability of the Alamo Chapter. I thought I would take a few moments in this month's Defender to explore the many roles we call upon these folks to fulfill, and to clarify why I think these folks are so important to our Chapter.

In a nutshell, if the Executive Committee is the brain of this body we call the Alamo Chapter, then our Organizational VPs are the nervous system. They are the channel through which information flows from the Chapter to the many members of our active duty constituency and back.

First and foremost, they are our line of communication with the major organizational Commanders across our area of responsibility. Without this line of communication, the support we so desperately need from these Commanders for our mission and for participation on the part of our active duty members in its accomplishment would simply not be there.

Along the same lines, they are the front line soldiers in our annual membership campaign. They are the people who take the message of the AFA to our active duty community, explaining the mission, value, and benefits of the AFA both at the national and Chapter levels. They are the ultimately the people whom we call upon to "sell" the AFA in such a way that their coworkers will make commitments of both their finances, to join the AFA, and of their time, to participate in our many diverse activities.

Perhaps their most visible role is as the instrument by which our vital military and civilian awards programs are implemented. Each year, as we prepare for the Joe Kellogg Blue Suit military awards banquet and the Carlton and Charlotte Loos civilian awards banquet, we go through an elaborate process to select the best of our military and civilian members from all of the organizations across the city for recognition at these events. Our organizational VPs are the key facilitators in this process, making sure that the call for nominations reaches all of the Commanders and that their nominations are conveyed back to the Chapter. Additionally, once the selections have been made, these are the folks who sell the tickets to the events, rallying support from each nominee's leadership chain and coworkers to come out and cheer their awardees on when they are recognized.

Closely related to their role in facilitating our awards programs is their role as the source of energy and information flow to muster broader support and participation in all of our major annual events, including the Blue Suit and Loos banquets, the Air Force Birthday Ball, and the Combat Breakfast, a major element in the City of San Antonio's Celebrate America's Military Week.

As you can see, these folks fill a multifaceted role in our Chapter's operations. A failure in any one of these several areas would weaken the Chapter as a whole. So I think it's fair to say that the accomplishment of our multifaceted mission rides largely on the shoulders of these folks.

So I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of these dedicated folks publicly, and to hold them up to you, our membership at large, as sterling examples of service to the AFA, and as deserving of your support and encouragement as they go about their duties.

Next time you see one of our Organizational VPs, especially if it's the one that serves your unit, take a moment to thank them and tell them what a great job they're doing.

Thanks for your support to these dedicated folks.

Andy Nodine  
President



# ANYTHING BUT AN OFFICERS CLUB

It's possible that many enlisted members believe the Air Force Association is an officers association.

In 1947, the AFA's first president, Jimmy Doolittle said, "Generals, colonels, second looies, top kicks, buck privates are all just plain Mister in AFA. While I have been elected to head up AFA, Merril Frost, ex Sgt is a vice president, and John Biehn, a former private is one of the directors".

**D**oolittle could say about the same today if he were to look at the world's largest chapter, the Alamo AFA.

**H**ere are some statistics to back that up:

**E**leven of the Executive Council members are enlisted and 17 are civilian some retired, some Air Force civilians. Only 8 are officers.

**A**FA's issue scope is from cadet all the way through veteran and retiree, including reserve, guard and civil service. AFA is involved in a number of personnel and benefits related issues including Survivor Benefit reform, increase in death gratuity for service members, VA funding, concurrent receipt and TRICARE refinements.

**O**ther organizations have a much narrower focus, i.e., officers,, reserve officers, non-commissioned officers, air force sergeants, retired enlisted and so forth. When you look back to 1946 when AFA founded and charted its course, a deliberate decision was made that AFA would speak for a strong national defense and that was to include people but force modernization issues as well. AFA takes very seriously their responsibility to represent the interest of **all** its members with the Congress.

The AFA works for you, is made up of people like you and needs you to keep it strong. Check us out at [www.alamoafa.org](http://www.alamoafa.org).

## Alamo AFA Member/Immediate Family Member Scholarship Application

The \$500 Scholarships to be awarded in 2005  
**Application postmark deadline: July 30, 2005**

Please type or print clearly the following information. This application and supporting documents must be postmarked to the Alamo Chapter AFA, 8406 Cadmus, San Antonio, TX 78214-3001 by July 30, 2005. Please read through the entire document before beginning.

**Name:**

Last: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

First \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:**

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

AFA Membership Sponsor Number: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

When submitting this application, please attach the following documents in the order listed:

- \_\_\_\_ Completed Application
- \_\_\_\_ Proof of acceptance into an accredited program.
- \_\_\_\_ A one-page, double spaced personal statement including your academic goals, your community or AFA involvement, your past academic accomplishments and other information to warrant your selection.

I certify that I or my sponsor is an Air Force active-duty, full-time Air Force Guard or Reserve member, and an Air Force Association member and if awarded this scholarship, I or my sponsor will continue to be on active duty and continue membership in the Air Force Association for at least the duration of the scholarship.

## ALAMO CHAPTER COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Alamo Chapter wishes to thank all of those businesses who continue to support the AFA and make our programs possible.

**We couldn't do it without you!**

If you would care to join this elite group, please contact

Alamo AFA Community Partner V.P. John DiPiero, [jdipiero@satx.rr.com](mailto:jdipiero@satx.rr.com) or (210)945-7874

Air Force FCU	dNovus RDI	One Castle Hills Exec. Suites
Air Force Village	Eisenhower National Bank	Randolph-Brooks FCU
Air Port Hilton	Fisher House, Inc.	San Antonio FCU
Ancira Enterprises	Frost Bank	Security Service FCU
Apollo Gate Operators, Inc.	Four L Ranch	Southwest Business Corp
Bank of America—Military Bank	Greater SA Chamber of Commerce	Texas Computer Help
Beldon Roofing Company	Karta Technologies, Inc.	Teksystems Government Services
Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.	Lockheed Martin	USAA
Brite Blinds of Texas	Main Street Garage	Walker Advertising, Inc
City Public Service	Military Medals & Display	

### AFA NATIONAL PRESIDENT VISITS AREA ORGANIZATIONS

President Bob Largent visited 12 San Antonio Air Force Unit Commanders as well as, Command Chiefs and Junior Officer and Enlisted Members during a recent 5 day visit to San Antonio. He met one-on-one to learn how AFA can be more responsive to the needs of members as the "Force Behind the Force".

He also assisted in making presentations at the Alamo Chapter Blue Suit Awards Banquet and was Guest Speaker at the Texas AFA Spring Quarterly Meeting.

### ? SHORT-TIMER ?

Considering a Career Transition  
Well AFA Can Help

AFA has two programs to help you find that  
Dream Job

For Resume Assistance

Go To

<http://afa.org/AboutUs/member/resume.asp>

Job Seeker Registration

Go To

[http://afa.destinygrp.com/destiny/registration\\_step1.jsp](http://afa.destinygrp.com/destiny/registration_step1.jsp)

Alamo AFA is also investigating  
starting/coordinating

A Local Job Fair Opportunity