



The Alamo AFA

DEFENDER

The Newsletter
of the Alamo AFA
Chapter 234

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JOE KELLOGG BLUE SUIT AWARDS BANQUET SLATED FOR MARCH 30, 2006 AT THE AIRPORT HILTON...

By popular demand, we will be returning to the rich amenity and superb cuisine of the Airport Hilton Hotel on Thursday, March 30th for the 21st Annual Joe Kellogg Blue Suit Awards Banquet.

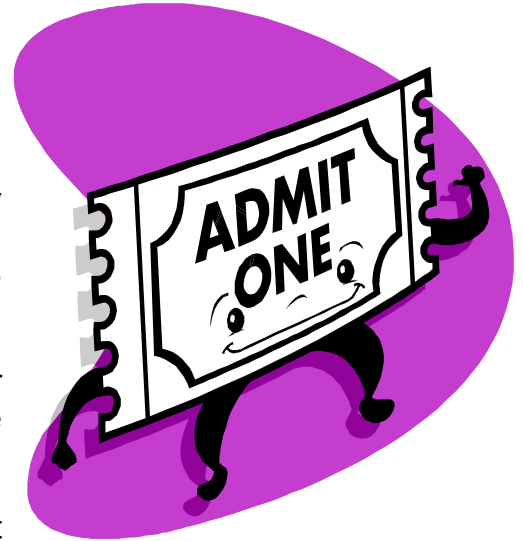
This years event will honor more than 60 outstanding Air Force uniformed personnel from 14 major organizations in the San Antonio Area.

The evening will begin with a pay-as-you-go social hour at 6:30 p.m. and continue with opening ceremonies at 7:15 p.m. Dinner begins at 7:30.

Also to be recognized at this event will be the Alamo Chapters selected civilian organizations of the year, military organization of the year, community partner of the year as well as our designated officer, civilian and airman of the year.

Presentation of the Earle North Parker essay Contest Award to the winning high school senior will also be made as well as the Christa McAuliffe Memorial award and the AFA Teacher of the year award.

Tickets will be available from your unit ticket monitor in late February or contact Blue Suit Program Manager, Lt. Tyler Johnson at 210-565-4610.



Calendar of Events



AFA Texas Spring Meeting Aggie Land Chapter
March 24-26, 2006

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Blue Suit Awards Banquet
March 30, 2006

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Alamo AFA Birthday Ball
September 16, 2006

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Loos Civilian Awards Banquet
October 26, 2006

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AFA Texas Convention to be announced.

NATIONAL WEBSITE HAS NEW DAILY FEATURE

Daily Report is a new Air Force Magazine
ONLINE feature found on the main page
at www.afa.org

Here in one place, you can find Air Force
headlines and feature articles to start off
your day with the latest news in just min-
utes.

CHECK IT OUT!

PRESIDENTS PAGE

As I sit down to write this, it is Tuesday, December 20th, and, of course, preparations for Christmas are foremost in my mind. By the time you read this, Christmas will be past, but the message I want to convey will remain valid. Please bear with me.

Yesterday evening, I had the privilege of hosting part of my extended family for a pre-Christmas dinner, and as we were sitting in the comfort of our living room listening to Christmas music, the old favorite "I'll Be Home for Christmas" came on. For some reason, this melody captured my attention, and as I listened to the last phrase, "I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams." I realized that this song is not about being home for Christmas; rather, it's about not being home for Christmas.

This realization led me to remember the thousands of Americans who, because their military duties take them to the far reaches of the world, will not be home for Christmas this year.

At this point, my mind went back to a Christmas early in my own Air Force career. It was the Christmas of 1971, to be exact, and this particular Christmas found me deployed to U Tapao, Thailand. It was the first Christmas in my life that I had been anywhere other than at home, with my family, around our very own Christmas tree.

I remember well the feelings that marked that day for me. I knew I was where I was supposed to be, doing what I was supposed to do, and thus I had a sense of purpose and fulfillment. But I also experienced a sense of distance and isolation. I was not sad, but I was acutely aware of how far I was from my loved ones. However, I was also aware that, if I had not been totally and unquestioningly convinced that my family loved me and were missing me as much as I was missing them, I would have been in the depths of despair.

Those of you who have experienced deployment, and many have, will surely remember that there is nothing that will bring on the despair of separation faster than the slightest suspicion that those whom you love back home have forgotten you.

Coming back to the realities of the present day, I find this line of thinking convinces with new fervor of the value and importance of Theme 3 of the AFA mission, "Support the United States Air Force and the Air Force Family".

As you may know, we are now finalizing our Chapter's strategic plan for the coming year. With this new realization of its critical importance of this aspect of our Association's mission, I find myself wanting to challenge all of us to find new ways of fulfilling it. We need new ideas and approaches to providing the support that the members of the Air Force family need so critically in today's stressful environment of limited resources and repeated lengthy deployments.

Of course, the next major event on our Chapter's calendar is the annual Joe Kellogg Blue Suit Awards Banquet, where we will recognize upwards of 60 of the Air Force's best performers from all of the bases across San Antonio. This event is a fine example of our Chapter's commitment to the active duty force, and we solicit your support of and participation in this event. You will see more about this elsewhere in this issue of The Defender.

But is there more that we can do?

I will leave you with that question, and with my personal best wishes for a joyful and peaceful holiday season and an exciting new year of opportunity and fulfillment.

Hope to see you at a meeting real soon!

Andy Nodine

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO
AND
ALAMO AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
COLLABORATE ON CYBER EVENT**

The Alamo AFA, UTSA's Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security and Alamo AFA Aerospace Education Foundation are proud to sponsor the first High School Cyber Defense Competition to raise the level of awareness in computer and network security.

Over 25 applications have been accepted, including four AFJrROTC Teams, for competition on February 11, 2006 at the UTSA Downtown Campus.

Students have written an 8 page essay to be judged by civilian Cyber professionals and will undergo both a security and practical examination during the competition.

First Place Winners of the Team Competition will each receive a \$500.00 Scholarship from the Alamo AFA Aerospace Education Foundation. Other winners will also be rewarded.

The program is funded in part by the Alamo AFA and with a grant from the National Aerospace Education Foundation, local businesses and the UTSA Institute for Protection of American Cities.

AFA TOP ISSUES

There are 11 Top issues which were briefed by President Andy Nodine at our November Executive Council Meeting (8 will be discussed, in part here, in no particular order. The full briefing can be found at alamoafa.org on the Chapter Facts page and the complete text can be found at afa.org)

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM: AFA believes we must continue to *SUPPORT OUR TROOPS* who are fighting the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world. It is in the best interest of the world's democratic nations for both Iraq and Afghanistan to become fully functioning sovereign lands.

HOMELAND DEFENSE MISSION: AFA believes that homeland defense must remain a national priority and that congress and the administration *PROVIDE FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE ACROSS THE BOARD*. More specifically they must *FULLY FUND AIR FORCE REQUIREMENTS* for aircraft flying hours, maintenance, communications systems and upgrades, etc.

CONCERN FOR AIRMEN: AFA believes that Congress and DOD must work together to *SET REASONABLE END-STRENGTH LEVELS* that match resources to tasking so that the services have sufficient manpower to carry out the mission. DOD should also *STRENGTHEN QUALITY OF LIFE PROGRAMS* to support the all volunteer force.

TOTAL FORCE CONCERNS: AFA believes that *CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN ACTIVE DUTY, GUARD AND RESERVE FORCES IS THE HALLMARK OF AIR FORCE HISTORY* in providing for national defense. Congress must get on with appointing the remaining members of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserve that will *STUDY ROLES AND MISSIONS OF THE GUARD AND OTHER RESERVE COMPONENTS AS WELL THEIR COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS*.

CIVILIAN WORK FORCE CONCERNS: AFA believes that DOD must *PROVIDE FAIR AND APPROPRIATE BENEFITS FOR CIVILIANS* serving in combat zones.

COMMITMENT TO VETERANS AND RETIREES: AFA remains committed to the principle that our nation must keep faith with the promises made to veterans, retirees and their survivors. We urge congress to *ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE ONGOING AND PRESSING NEEDS OF GROUP REGARDING HEALTH CARE AND CONCURRENT RECEIPT*.

OTHER ISSUES THAT SPACE WILL NOT ALLOW ADDRESSING HERE BUT ARE INCLUDED AS INDICATED ABOVE ARE:

- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONCERNS
- FORCE MODERNIZATION
- INDUSTRIAL BASE SUPPORT
- C4ISR SPECTRUM (E-10A AND SPACE RADAR)

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 or (210)945-7874

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

EVERY MEMBER GET A MEMBER

As of 30 November Alamo AFA has recruited 132 new members, but with deaths, transfers and non-renewals etc., we had a net loss of 20 for a total of 3692 members and the Largest Chapter in the World.

But we need your help. Please go to <http://www.afa.org/forms/joinapp.asp> and download an application form, write Alamo Chapter #234 on it and give to a friend, co-worker, neighbor, relative or whoever and have them fill it out and give you a check and you mail it for them.

PLEASE DO THIS TODAY,
TOMORROW YOU WILL FORGET !

*Editor—Dr. Kaye Biggar
Publisher—Linda Bjorge*

? 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

Alamo AFA is also investigating
starting/coordinating
A Local Job Fair Opportunity