



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) • JULY-SEP 2006 • Vol. 4, No. 5

## BIRTHDAY BALL SLATED FOR FRIDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER, 2006 AT THE HYATT REGENCY HILL COUNTRY RESORT

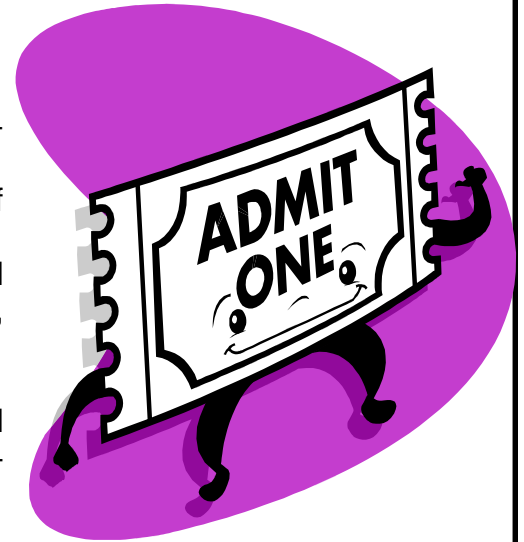
This year the San Antonio Air Force Birthday Ball is being co-sponsored by the Alamo Chapter and Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, under the leadership of General Bill Looney.

The Ball will be a World Class Event, with 800-1000 projected to attend, at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort on Friday, September 8, 2006. Reception at 6:30 p.m. Dinner at 7:30

The guest speaker will be Air Force Chief of Staff, General "Buzz" Moseley, and other Air Force leaders have also committed to attend.

The Ball will culminate a full day's schedule of activities to kickoff of a year long celebration of the United States Air Force's 60th Anniversary. The day will begin with the Retired AF General Officers Summit at the Basic Military Training Graduation Parade at Lackland Air Force Base. The summit will then move to the Hyatt Hill Country Resort and continue the remainder of the day with briefings by Air Staff and Industry Leaders. A Student Convention will incorporate displays by many defense contractors and local businesses..

Alamo AFA members may make reservations by calling AETC Protocol 210-652-2205/9769.. The price is \$50.00 per person and can be paid by check or credit card. Do NOT send checks to Alamo AFA



### Calendar of Events



§  
Please note that the Loos Civilian Awards Banquet will not be held this year. Civilian Awards will be presented at a Combined Awards Banquet.  
(See below)

§  
Celebrate America's Military Week Events  
November 2nd-11th 2006.

&  
Combined Military and Civilian  
AWARDS BANQUET  
29 March 2007

### "Daily Report" New feature on National website

The Daily Report is a new Air Force Magazine *ONLINE* feature found on the main page at  
**[www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org)**

Here in one place, you can find Air Force headlines and feature articles to start off your day.  
**CHECK IT OUT!**



## PRESIDENTS PAGE

I'm sure you have heard it said that nothing is as constant as change. The past few months have led the Chapter's leadership to make sweeping changes to our Chapter's operation. The majority of these changes have been driven by increasing demands on our members' time and decreases in our monetary income. The Alamo Chapter is not alone in feeling these pressures; AFA is also feeling them at the National level, and other organizations at the local level as well. Thus rather than try to preserve the past, we are attempting to adjust our operation to these new realities.

Here is a brief summary of some of the changes in our chapter's operation:

First, research over the past year indicated that the poor turnout at our monthly 30-35 member Executive Council meetings was due largely to military commitments and a perception of little "value added" by the members. Accordingly, we have eliminated these meetings from our calendar and implemented the streamlined EXCOM structure for the conduct of the Chapter's administrative business.

Second, based on the significant success of our Chapter sponsored senior leader briefings on major topics of current interest, including the Force Shaping briefing in February and the Military Medical briefing in May, we have adopted this model as a new way to bring together the Chapter at large, including our Community partners. We are currently beginning planning for our next event, and will announce the details shortly.

But as we make such changes, we must bear in mind that this is the Executive Council, and especially 13 Organizational Vice Presidents, who are the Chapter's nerve and muscle. To preserve this vital network, we are maintaining contact with these key personnel through email and the Chapter website, which is fast becoming a key communications tool for our almost 3700 members; it saw 1700 "hits" in conjunction with the Blue Suit Awards Banquet and over 1200 "hits" reflecting access to the force shaping, Military Medicine and other briefings.

Along these lines, I would like to announce that this will be the last paper edition of the DEFENDER. Effective with the next issue we will post the DEFENDER on the Chapter website, and via email, send a link to that location to all of you who has given us email addresses. **So if you haven't given us your email address, please see page 3 to learn how to do so.**

Change is always difficult, but this period of flux also presents an opportunity. This is a deal time to consider new ideas and approaches to providing the support that members of the Air Force Family need so critically in today's stressful environment of limited resources and repeated lengthy deployments. So I leave you with this question:

Is there more we can do to EDUCATE about aerospace power, ADVOCATE a strong national defense and, most importantly SUPPORT the Air Force and Air Force Family.

*Hope to see you at the Birthday Ball on September 8th.*

— Andy Nodine

**THIS IS THE LAST PAPER ISSUE OF THE DEFENDER YOU WILL RECEIVE BY  
REGULAR (BULK) MAIL**

Because of the increased costs of printing, addressing and mailing, we are going to an electronic format with the major source of the Defender being our "award winning" website at [www.alamoafa.org](http://www.alamoafa.org).

We will also email the Defender to those people who have registered their email on the AFA national system. Currently, over half of our 3600 members are registered. For those of you who aren't, we suggest you do so. There are 3 ways to do this. You can: (1) Call 1-800-727 3337, press 3 for Member Services and speak to an operator or (2) email [service@afa.org](mailto:service@afa.org) or (3) Go online to the AFA National Website Members Only area and change/update your individual record..

**AFA MISSION**  
**EDUCATE**  
**the public on the importance of aerospace power**  
**ADVOCATE**  
**a strong national defense**  
**SUPPORT**  
**The Air Force Family**  
**ALAMO AFA SERVES YOU RIGHT**

**AFA TOP ISSUES**

**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 forces.

**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*.

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

See full text at [www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org)

## ALAMO CHAPTER COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Alamo Chapter wishes to thank all of those businesses and others 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 Co—V.P's. Dave Pope, [dpopekc135@yahoo.com](mailto:dpopekc135@yahoo.com) (210)288-6287

And John DiPiero, [jdipiero@satx.rr.com](mailto:jdipiero@satx.rr.com) or (210)945-7874

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### EVERY MEMBER GET A MEMBER

As of 30 June 2006 Alamo AFA has 3668 members. We have seen several new members join recently, but with deaths, transfers and non-renewals etc., we had a net loss of 44 members for the year..

We need your help to reverse this trend.. 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,**

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

**(The committee has recommended the following slate. Voting will take place in Feb/Mar and will be open to all members)**

**PRESIDENT**

**Carlos Massiatte**

**EXECUTIVE VP**

**Gary Copsey**

**SECRETARY**

**Kaye Biggar**

**TREASURER**

**Dave Stoltz**

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