
AFA TEXAS

NEWSLETTER

VOL.1 QUARTER 3 2024

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20 October 1952: At Edwards Air Force Base, California, Douglas Aircraft Company test pilot William Barton ("Bill") Bridgeman made the first test flight of the X-3 twin-engine supersonic research airplane.



TOP NEWS

- Addresses from Janelle Stafford, Gary Copsey and Paul Hendricks.
- Fort Worth Chapter - Membership Meeting
- Northeast Chapter - The Power of Teachers -Simms,TX
- Alamo Chapter - CAM Breakfast
- A Word from Our President
- Upcoming Events and Exec Board

WELCOME TO AFA TEXAS

The state organization acts as the focal point and unifying element for all of the AFA chapters located throughout the great state of Texas. AFA-TX presently has 12 chapters and over 10,000 members and extends from Abilene on the North to McAllen on the South and Houston on the East to San Angelo on the West. We are also on FaceBook! Look for "Air Force Association - Texas."



A Word from National Director

Janelle Stafford Central Region



To kick off the 2024-25 Program Year, several AFA Field Leaders from Texas recently participated in an online meeting for Region, State and Chapter Presidents located in the AFA Central Area. The Texoma Region (Oklahoma and Texas) is one of five regions in the Central Area, which stretches from Michigan to Texas.

During the session, AFA Central Area National Director Janelle Stafford briefly discussed use of the AFA portal for obtaining important membership data, and shared information on current membership numbers by region. Other topics covered included an AFA National update, and information Chapters can use for planning meetings and activities for the coming year, as well as new AFA programs Chapters can participate in and use to help build local interest and involvement.

Chapters who were unable to attend the meeting can obtain access to the meeting video and/or a copy of the presentation by contacting Region President Norm King at: Texoma.President@afa.org or Janelle Stafford at: JStafford.BOD@afa.org.

A Word from our New Vice Chairman of the Board for Education

Gary Copsey



A retired Air Force colonel, Gary Copsey commanded a flying squadron and served as acting operations group commander. He received the 1994 MacKay Trophy for Most Meritorious Flight of the Year and 8th Air Force Historical Society Ira C. Eaker Outstanding Airmanship Award. At HQ MAC, he managed more than \$1 billion in programs for Special Operations Forces and Rescue, and managed a multi-million dollar budget as squadron commander. As an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment Commander, Copsey selected the brightest candidates to lead the future force. Several of those cadets are now colonels leading our Air Force today. He served as the Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings Squadron Advisor for Marquette University, and was selected as North Central Region Squadron Advisor of the Year in 2003. Copsey's AAS squadron was selected as the 2004 "Student Organization of the Year" at Marquette.

As AFA's Alamo Chapter President, Copsey established solid relationships with Air Education and Training Command commanders. As AFA Texas State President he worked to recruit and retain new chapter members/leaders. Copsey also served as the Texoma Region President, Chairman of the AFA Texas Aerospace Education Foundation, and on numerous committees. He's been awarded the AFA Texas Medal of Freedom, AFA Texas Member of the Year, AFA Medal of Merit, AFA Exceptional Service Award, and the AFA Chairman's Citation.

A Word from the AFA National Secretary
Paul Hendricks



Paul Hendricks is a retired Air Force officer. His military career included assignments flying B-52Ds in Vietnam (Linebacker II) as well as assignments as an Acquisition and Program Manager, and as a member of the Development and Operational Test Teams for the B-1B aircraft. His career concluded as the Deputy Test Director for the B-1B aircraft. Hendricks retired from the Air Force in 1990 after 20 years of service.

Following retirement from the Air Force, Hendricks joined the Rockwell International and Boeing companies. He served as a Program Manager for major programs supporting the modernization of the B-1B Bomber and proprietary programs. He retired from the industry in 2011.

Hendricks has a passion for community and local government service and outreach. Previously, he served on the Fairview, Texas Town Council as Mayor Pro Tem. He founded and led a Veterans Outreach Center in North Texas serving over 10,000 Veterans. He was active as an officer in his church, serving as the Board Secretary for ten consecutive years.

Hendricks is a Life Member of the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA). He has held AFA Chapter, State and National Leadership positions. He is currently serving as the AFA National Secretary. Previously he served as the Chair for the Advocacy Field Subcommittee, and was a member of the Board Development Committee, the Heritage and the AIMS Committees while maintaining leadership roles in the AFA Texas State structure.

Fort Worth Chapter

Membership Meeting

The Fort Worth Chapter of the Air & Space Forces Association will host a dinner and General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, September 26th At the Lake Worth City Multiuse facility located at 7005 Charbonneau Road, Lake Worth, TX 76135. The event will begin at 1800 Hours (6 PM) and will include a dinner hosted by the Chapter.

The purpose of this event is to begin to re-energize the Chapter around activities which the Chapter can conduct to support the goals and objectives of the Air & Space Forces Association. The program will include a review of current AFA programs involving local Chapters and how some of these might be targets of opportunity for involvement by the Fort Worth Chapter. *Dave Deitsch - Contributor*



Northeast Chapter



The Power of Teachers, Resources, and the Air & Space Forces Association

We reported in May 2024 that teacher Dana O'Neal at Jim Bowie High School, in Simms, TX, applied for and received a grant to support the school first time 'rocket launch and drone' work. The students used Civil Air Patrol (CAP) provided drones and materials, as well as supplies purchased using the grant. AFA Grant, CAP Contributions Send Students Skyward - Air & Space Forces Association The Northeast Texas AFA Chapter found out, coordinated the local CAP TX-450 and they provided observation and input for the event held April 30, 2024. President, Vance Clarke, also provide email and documentation highlighting how the chapter could help in the 2024-25 schoolyear and informed O'Neal about other AFA programs and resources like CyberPatriot and StellarXplorers, the chapters essay contest and funding the chapter could possibly provide.

Dana O'Neal is a teacher who cares about her students and can make things happen when she knows where the resources are to apply. When Northeast Texas AFA416 sent a letter and check for \$750 (October 2024) to augment support for the rocket launch/drone work and other STEM activities, we were excited to hear the reply from O'Neal!

"Thank you so much! said O'Neal. The year is off to a great start! I thought that you would like to know that we have a StellarXplorer team competing this year and are looking forward to a great time working with this competition. It is an incredible program! We also have students working on their essays to enter the Essay competition as well! We are so grateful to AFA for presenting these opportunities to our students." O'Neal continued, "We will definitely be working with a rocket launch later this month or early November. The students will be focused on the designs of the rockets this year. They will be looking specifically at the nose cone and fin designs and will work to determine the best shape and center of weight of the vehicle." She also said, "We are also looking at coding drones, but I haven't yet made a decision about how to best use them yet." President Vance Clarke says this is a great problem to have, known resources that and teachers developing integration of them into the teaching activities for their students! WOW! - *Vance Clarke - Contributor*

Alamo Chapter

6 NOV 2024 | 0730 KENDRICK ENLISTED CLUB | JBSA RANDOLPH

AFA CAM PRESENTS

WOUNDED WARRIOR BREAKFAST

HONORING THE SERVICE & SACRIFICE OF OUR AIR FORCE
WOUNDED WARRIORS

ACTIVE-DUTY EATS FREE! | BREAKFAST: \$15.00



Ticket Payment



DUSTIN CREECH, CAPT, USAF (RET.)
AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR AMBASSADOR



In collaboration with Lockheed- Martin and the San Antonio Area Chamber of Commerce, the Alamo Air and Space Forces Chapter is preparing for our annual Celebrate America's Military (CAM) Breakfast. We are returning to the Kendrick Club on Randolph AFB!

-Holly Olson, Contributor

A Word from Our New State President...



"Thank you for the opportunity and trust to lead our Texas Air and Space Forces Association, with 12 Chapters and 10,831 members. Our first virtual meeting is on November 8. During this meeting I'm looking forward to an open dialog with all of you who are in attendance. I will be laying out our Goals for the next 12-months. Goals relating to strengthening our chapters, increasing our membership and community partners, communication with all our members and most importantly recognizing our chapters and members throughout our state. One of the most vital roles of our state organizing is supporting all the chapters and to assist you in achieving your chapter goals. As we continue to support our mission to Advocate, Educate, and Support our Total Air and Space Forces."

Thanks,

Frank

Upcoming Important Dates

Event	Date
Fall Meeting (online)	November 9
2025 AFA Warfare Symposium - Online and in person Aurora, CO	March 3-5 2025
State Spring Conference - Donnelly - Wichita Falls, TX	TBA
Summer Conference	TBA
2025 National Convention Washington, D.C.	September 20-21 2025

Texas AFA Executive Board

Frank Eldridge	President
Mitzi Morrison	Vice President
Mike Bofferding	Treasurer
Joan Lopez	Secretary