



THE NORTHEAST FLYER

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416 AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



ANTICIPATION

THE ROCKWALL ISD SSEP TEAM AWAITS THE NEXT LAUNCH
OF THE SPACE X FALCON 9 ROCKET, FOLLOWING THE
THE PREVIOUSLY FAILED LAUNCH ON 28 OCT 2014
AND MULTIPLE LAUNCH DELAYS IN DECEMBER
NEXT EXPECTED LAUNCH DATE, 6 JAN 2015

STORY - PAGE 4

CHAPTER 416 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	TREY JOHNSON
VICE PRESIDENT	MSGT RYAN WIEBBECKE
TREASURER	TSGT TYLER REED
SECRETARY	TSGT CHEYENNE BODE

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IN THIS ISSUE

2014 VOL. 2 - 416 Q4-14

CALENDAR	2
PRESIDENT'S LETTER	3
SPACE STATION/CYBER PATRIOT	4
STATE	5
BONHAM VETERAN'S CENTER	6
COMMUNITY PARTNERS	7

CALENDAR

JAN. 2015	14	Chapter Meeting	30	ENP Suspense to State	
FEB. 2015	11	Chapter Meeting			
MAR. 2015	11	Chapter Meeting	14	Spring Thing Banquet-TAMU	27 War & Memory 28-29 State Meeting
APR. 2015	8	Chapter Meeting	1	Teacher of the Year Suspense to State	
MAY 2015	11	Chapter Meeting			
JUN 2015	10	Chapter Meeting			
JUL. 2015	8	Chapter Meeting			
AUG. 2015	12	Chapter Meeting			
SEPT. 2015	9	Chapter Meeting	11-13	AFA National Conference	26 Golf Thing
OCT. 2015	7	Chapter Meeting	TBD	Chapter Officer / CAP	TBD State Meeting
NOV. 2015	7	Bonham Vet's Visit	TBD	Cyber Patriot	11 Chapter Meeting
DEC. 2015	TBD	Cyber Patriot	9	Chapter Meeting	

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14

Mar. 2015

AFA License Plates

SpringThing



These special plates cost \$30 over the cost of the regular plates; \$8 of this goes to the State of Texas and the remaining \$22 goes into escrow for AFA to draw on. You do not need to wait for your plates to expire, you can order these anytime. Supporting this program will benefit AFA Scholarships in Texas.

How do you get yours?

1. Go to <http://www.txdmv.gov/index.htm>
2. Click on Order Specialty Plates under [Motorists] column
3. Click on Specialty License Plates
4. Click on Organizations
5. Click on Air Force Association and follow the prompts
6. TxDMV will send the plates to your County Tax Office for pickup

AFA License Plates
Support Scholarships and Show Your Support!



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS



As we enter a new year and the military faces continued downsizing of its forces, I think about the challenge of our veterans transitioning to civilian employment.

My place of employment, L-3 Communications in Greenville, Texas, has shown great leadership for many years in the hiring of veterans. However, the major customer for L-3 Greenville is the Air Force, and this is not the case with most employers now hiring in Texas and across the country.

Since the percentage of veterans as a portion of the overall population of the country is now so small, it is very likely that employers now hiring have had very little interface with military personnel.

In my experiences, I have come to appreciate the special skills that veterans bring to the table when it comes to any job.

Let's take a look at some of these skills.

Leadership – In the military, you are required to attend leadership schools. Everyone is trained for leadership and expected to become a leader at an early age. Leadership is not optional.

Understanding Rules – Military personnel are held to a much higher standard than civilians, and are governed by a more strict set of rules – the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

Diversity – In the United States Armed Forces, color, gender, or religion of the individual doesn't matter. What matters is job proficiency and any violation of this standard is dealt with through the UCMJ.

Team Players – Military personnel are trained to travel and work in teams to achieve goals.

Education and Technical Savvy – When not deployed, military personnel have a tremendous opportunity to further their education. In addition, since the military invests in and utilizes state-of-the-art

technology. The Air Force and the Navy are extremely technical and are well trained.

Performance Under Pressure – The pressure of performing in what could quickly develop into a grave situation is merely a part of everyday military life.

Drug Free and Healthy – Military personnel are accustomed to urinalysis once a quarter, daily fitness training, and physical fitness testing which includes upper body, core, and endurance events. Imagine what our health insurance rates would be if every employer implemented such programs!

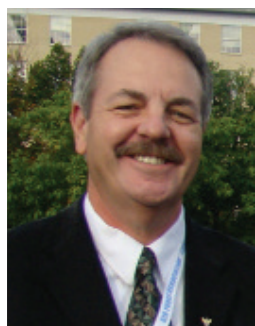
Security Clearances – The military conducts in-depth background checks and provides security clearances to personnel who come in contact with certain levels of information, so many of them are well vetted before hitting the civilian market.

Quick Learners – Military personnel are now trained to be adaptable and think on their feet. This new kind of military training blends well into the civilian market.

Willing To Relocate – Those in the military are accustomed to moving every three years or so, but this does not mean they are job jumpers. The military religiously rotates troops to give them the ability to adapt and overcome in any situation or environment.

The majority of our Chapter 416 members in the Greenville area are associated with L-3 Communications which, as we have stated, has a good record on hiring from the military. However, AFA members can still advocate for our airmen and other military brothers and sisters by also encouraging our sponsors, community partners and business contacts to hire veterans.

In closing, I want to wish all of you a very Happy and Prosperous 2015 from Chapter 416!



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Trey Johnson
President, AFA Chapter 416

SPACE STATION SUPPORT

Rockwall ISD Students

Space Station Experiment Saga

Many of you will remember last quarter where we shared about our endeavor with the Rockwall ISD Students and their work putting an experiment onto the Space Station.

Well, that work continues, and has turned into quite the roller-coaster ride for the chapter and the students.

Chapter 416 teamed up with the students through a very generous donation from the Lt Col John Murray Family. The chapter's \$5,000 donation completed the necessary \$21,000 fundraising effort required to secure a spot for their experiment. Thanks to the Murray's and all who support Chapter 416 in our Educate, Advocate, and Support efforts!

Rockwall is one of 18 communities across the US and Canada that is sending an experiment to the International Space Station as part of the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program Mission 6. As part of the SSEP

competition, Rockwall ISD middle school students to design a microgravity experiment proposal. The winning team members include Will Brown, Ryan Figert, Brooks Helmer, Chase Howerton, Harrison Smith, and James Matthews.

On 27 Oct 2014, the team gathered to see if the SSEP experiment would be "GO" for launch. All was set, the team was in high spirits, and many parents, friends, and faculty gathered to enjoy the success. But, of all things, due to a boat in the potential booster landing zone, the launch was scrubbed. Disappointed, but hoping for another opportunity quickly, we all went home and waited.

On 28 Oct 2014, another attempt was made! Again, snacks, food, and high hopes abounded. The countdown began ... 10, 9, 8 ... 3, 2, 1 ... and liftoff! But the joy was short lived.

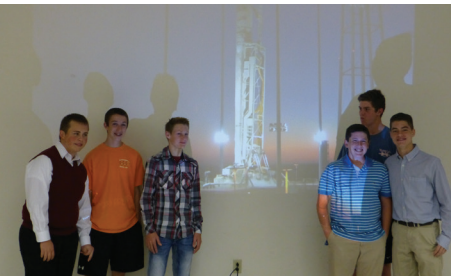
As many will remember, and associate, there was a launch explosion and the rocket and

all associated hopes and experiments were destroyed. What an unexpected disaster. Such disappointment. The only joy? This was an unmanned launch and no one was hurt in the destruction.

Well, the saga continues.

Not to be dismayed, the team was notified 3 days later that if they could rebuild their experiment it could be put on another launch! The team rallied and readied another set of experiments and met all hurdles to get it into another launch.

But, delay has yet again set in. They have been rescheduled for 6 Jan 2015. This after hopes of 16, 19, and 20 Dec 2014 opportunities. Only the heavens know, but the team will not be put off. We await the next opportunity on 6 Jan 2015! Good luck and God Speed!



<http://www.rockwallisd.com/blog/2014/05/31/rockwall-isd-students-submit-space-flight-experiments-to-national-panel/>
<http://ssep.ncesse.org/>

Stay tuned as Rockwall ISD student take learning out of this world!

CYBER PATRIOT

Chapter 416 has been sponsoring two CyberPatriot teams in competitions for the past two years. Our teams and coaches have done well and grown a lot.

Coach Bruce Charbonneau, an Advance Placement Computer Science teacher at Rockwall High School has been an integral part of the team, coaching both years. He is very involved in guiding young men and women to opportunities and in making them better than they thought they could be. He coaches Robotics and Automation FIRST Robotics Team 1296 Sponsor, as well as our two Cyber Patriot Teams

(07-1077 and 07-1191).

We were very pleased this year ... both teams did well enough they qualified for the State Competition Rounds in the Platinum Division.

This division is reserved for teams scoring in the top 30% of the 1200 plus teams from around the country who participated in Rounds 1 and 2. And this is the only division path that could potentially lead to a spot in the national finals in Washington D.C.

Both teams did compete at state on 5 Dec 2014. The four hour competition went well and they fought hard to overcome the scenarios and challenges put forth. The teams finished 11th (Team 1077) and 23rd (Team 1191) in the entire state of Texas. That was great news for our teams and their hard work. The bad news was that neither team qualified for regionals. They were only allowing the top 6 teams to go on. Thus ending this year's competitive events for our two teams.

Charbonneau said, "We have made great progress in one year and hope to be a little more successful next year.

Our kids worked hard and it showed! Thanks for letting us be a part of this competition. We all really enjoyed it."

All of you in Chapter 416 should be proud. You made a difference through your contributions and efforts. Sponsoring these two teams could make a difference in someone's life we didn't plan on. Thank you and kudos to Bruce for staying the course.

We look forward to sponsoring at least two teams again next year according to President Trey Johnson. Our budget is set up for it.



CyberPatriot Team 1



CyberPatriot Team 2

FALL AFA STATE MEETING

San Antonio State Meeting

The 4th Quarter Executive Committee Meeting for the State of Texas was hosted by the Alamo Chapter and was held on October 24th - 26th at the Omni Colonnade Hotel in San Antonio.

Former President (now Vice President of Community Partners) and current President Trey Johnson represented Chapter 416 at the conference.

State President Gary Copey called the meeting to order and Alamo Chapter president Paul Wesoloh welcomed all and recognized attendees.

During the president's report, Copey stated that budget-wise the state was in good shape, but the constant specter of declining membership continues to challenge leadership of the organization.

Larry Martwig, Texas Aerospace Education board member, stated that the organization will be focusing on state-wide Civil Air Patrol functions for the 36 squadrons in Texas. The squadrons should be supported in their pursuit of attending 15 to 25 glider encampments and the same number of powered flight events per year.

Mike Winslow, State Treasurer, briefed the assembly on the Treasurer's Report that was handed out and important issues facing the organization, financially.

Winslow pointed out that AFA Texas holds a strong financial position and presented the 2015 Budget Proposal for approval. The attendees, after some brief discussions, did approve the budget.

It was also pointed out during Winslow's presentation that there was a surplus of funding in the state ENP account that needed to be applied to worthy causes. \$4000 was approved by the gathering for Civil Air Patrol support. Another \$1000 was sanctioned for the newly resurrected Concho Chapter to assist in re-building costs.

VP of Field Operations Dave Dietsch gave the AFA National report. He emphasized the need to do a better job of recruiting DOD civilians and individuals from corporate members. Dietsch is also seeking a recruit for the Government Relations position. He has been in the process of reducing the administrative weight of this job in order to make it easier to perform duties.

Riq Baldwin, Texoma Region President, presented his report, stating that Russia is now spending a higher percentage of GDP for defense than the U.S. Baldwin also said that Cyber Patriot funding at the state level for Texas needs to happen; Oklahoma is already doing this. In addition, the state needs to consider creating and funding a state historian office, quite possibly populated by a member from the War and Memory Project.

Copey centered his portion of the Unfinished business discussion on state VP vacancies. Lopez reminded all that templates for newsletters are in Chapter 10 of the Field Operations Guide and that newsletters need to be submitted early enough to be published in the applicable quarter.

Under New Business, National Director and CMSgt. Katie McCool gave an inspired talk as to how she believes membership can be increased among the younger generation and the enlisted ranks. She stated that AFA magazines, such as the Wingman, should focus more on subject matter closer to the actual lives of the enlisted. McCool emphasized the need for using social media applications for communication, organizing social mixers geared to younger participants with families, and partnering with other organizations such as the Air Force Sergeants Association.

As a result of McCool's presentation, the assembly agreed to allow younger enlisted members and potential members to recommend the agenda for the next state meeting.

Paul Hendricks, sponsored by the Seidel Chapter, gave an excellent presentation on the progress of the Veterans Center of North Texas.

Bob Gehbauer gave a talk on the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW) and their 5 day conference on patriotism, civic education and free enterprise training. This conference costs \$250 per student and Gehbauer felt that it is imperative that AFA should sponsor as many students as possible to attend these events.

Lopez closed out the morning session by reviewing the latest Region/State President's Meeting Synopsis.

The luncheon, which was held in the Bolo Room of the Omni Hotel, was a very special event, indeed. Cyber Patriot Commissioner Bernie Skoch gave an outstanding video and a slide presentation on the latest news and statistics from this great AFA sponsored program. Cyber Patriot is experiencing exponential growth and is now expanding into the elementary school levels. In the afternoon meeting, Debbie Landry from the Alamo Chapter gave an interactive training presentation on preparing chapter quarterly reports. Lopez also highlighted 2015 changes for the Annual Activity Plan training.

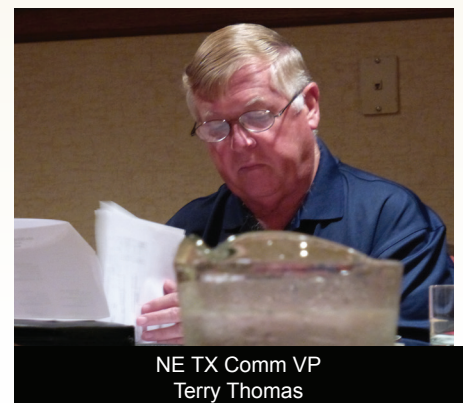
Winslow, who also serves as the State VP of Awards, pointed out that annual state award submittals are due by 30 March of 2015. The AFA chapters will soon be able to nominate award candidates electronically.

Eldon Turner, State VP of Programs, received commitments from the Del Rio Chapter to host the 2015 Fall State Meeting and Chapter 416 for the 2016 summer event. The newly resurrected Concho Chapter is working on being the location for the 2016 spring meeting.

After the Vice President and Chapter President reports, the meeting was adjourned.

During the awards presentation, Texas State President Gary Copey awarded the Medal of Merit to Terry Thomas and Trey Johnson.

The next State Executive Committee Meeting will be hosted by the San Jacinto Chapter on 26-29 March 2015 at the Sugarland Marriot Town Square Hotel in Sugarland.



NE TX Comm VP
Terry Thomas

AFA BONHAM VISIT

AFA Bonham Visit – 1 Nov 2014

A small group of AFA Chapter 416 members, joined by some Lakepointe Church folks visited the Bonham Veterans Community Center on 1 November 2014.

Larry Ratliff, VP Veterans Affairs, led the group with Chapter President Trey Johnson. Other chapter members include Mike Callahan, MSgt (ret), Ed Taylor CMSgt (ret) and ex-Navy veteran Allen McGuire. Also attending were Vance Clarke, VP Comms for chapter and Lakepointe class member, along with Randy Wolff of the church as well.

Tyra Johnson of the center, guided the team to meet with various veterans experiencing differing levels of care. We met Jeremy Sanunders who wrote a piece he shared with us. He also said

he met with Johnny Cash in the day and enjoyed his time with people like that. He previously served his nation and was proud of his service.



AFA Chapter 416 Members Visit Bonham Veterans Community Center

Callahan and Johnson had an entertaining conversation with Frank Woerner from Paris, Texas, a 91 year old World War II veteran.

He served as a mess Sgt in Hollywood during the time of the Hollywood Cantina, and had some great stories to

We talked with all service branch veteran's. We handed out Big Safari patches from the 645 AESS, coins and newsletters from the chapter. In only an hour and half we were able to garner a lot of history, see some smiles, share about what our veteran's homes are like with others, and just garner from "feel good" for doing something. As Randy Wolff said, "An action, doing something, is better than 100 sermons!"

As Trey Johnson always says, "We owe a lot to our veterans and what they did. No matter how long they served, they are the ones who risk it all for our freedom. America would not be what it is without them."

FLAGS EARNED BY CELESTE JR HIGH SCHOOL

Flags Earned by Celeste Jr High School

Early in 2014 it was brought to AFA Chapter 416's attention that Celeste Jr High was in need of some indoor ceremonial flags.

The students and teachers had worked to raise funds, find ways to work it, to but no avail. The chapter, partnering with the Joe Foss Institute (JFI) came up with an idea of how the students could earn a set of flags (U.S. and Texas) that the AFA chapter could donate via service and donated the flags to the school on 19 Dec 2014 as part of a short ceremony.

What service was provided? The effort required 50 cards to be sent to the Bonham Veteran's Community

Center for the Christmas Holidays and another 50 cards in the spring of 2015. It also required 50 essays on Patriotism in December 2014 and another in February of 2015.

All were delivered with vigor from the students with pride and joy. The cards were delivered to the veterans for the 2014 Holiday and the essays are being shared with the JFI and others for inclusion in future efforts.

Thank you to the students for caring about veterans and being willing to "write" their way to a couple of flags. Special thanks to Stacy Bowe, teacher, and Staci Beadles, principal, at Celeste Jr High for helping highlight this need, encouraging the students for cards and essays, and just for making things possible.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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BRITAIN CHEVROLET/CADILLAC
CALICO CAT
CELESTE JR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
CHECKMATE EMBROIDERY (ROCKWALL)
CITY OF GREENVILLE AIRPORT
COKER-MATHEWS FUNERAL HOME
COLLIN STREET BAKERY
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TEXAS A&M COMMERCE
THE TARPLEY AGENCIES
TIM DRAKE JEWELERS
TWO SENORITAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT
WEBB HILL COUNTRY CLUB



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AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

