



# THE NORTHEAST FLYER

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416 AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR EARLE NORTH PARKER ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS FOR CHAPTER 416. ESPECIALLY TO LEIGH MCBRIDE WHO WAS OUR 1ST PLACE, \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT. LEIGH IS PICTURED IN CENTER ALONG WITH, LEFT TO RIGHT, DAN JONES - TEXAS A&M COMMERCE PRESIDENT, TREY JOHNSON - AFA CHAPTER 416 PRESIDENT, LEIGH MCBRIDE, JASON ROSS - DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR CONGRESSMAN JOHN RATCLIFFE, AND DAVE DEITSCH - AFA NATIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, FIELD OPERATIONS.

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## CHAPTER 416 OFFICERS

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

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# CALENDAR

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

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**Sept. 2016**

**AFA License Plates**

**National Conference  
Washington, D.C.**



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.

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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



They say it's not what you know, but who you know. This bromide was never proven more truthful than what occurred prior to the Chapter Annual Spring Event on 14 March. For almost six months, I had Dr. Dan Jones, President and CEO of TAMU-Commerce University secured as our keynote speaker.

So, as far as I was concerned, the chapter team could work the other preparation tasks that are required for this ceremony and not worry. Wednesday evening, the 11th of March, 3 days before the banquet, I received a phone call from Dr. Jones' administrator, Linda King. This call was initially disturbing for me, as I feared she was going to tell me that Dr. Jones would be unable to attend, thus leaving me without the advertised speaker.

However, a different challenge was about to confront me. Linda stated that TAMU-Commerce had just won the Lone Star Conference basketball championship, and the team would be playing the first regional playoff game against Angelo State on the Tarleton State University campus in Stephenville. She then said, "Dr. Jones wants very much to attend the game".

"OK", I said. "So, what time is the game?" "The game starts at noon on this Saturday, the 14th." "But", I said, "Dr. Jones won't be able to attend the game and drive back to Commerce in time to"..... and then I realized what was about to be requested. "Can you help us?", pleaded Mrs. King. "I'll do my best and get back to you as quickly as possible". So, I started making phone call after phone call to the local pilots I knew.

It was Wednesday night and everyone who could still fly had plans for Saturday. I called Jim Henderson, Dennis Mathis (our local flight instructor) and even Harry Andonian, the 91 year old World War II pilot who still flies his Beechcraft Debonair all over the country visiting his family. No one could make it.

Who could blame them under the circumstances? After hours of trying and, in some cases, talking to a pilot that had already been called twice, I had all but given up hope.

I was driving home just at dark when I received a call on my cell phone.

"Hello. My name is Jon Bottorff. My wife and I have been called several times, tonight, and we said we had plans. Now our plans have changed". I didn't know Jon. I was also taken a little aback as I had actually written off the project.

I responded, "Jon, I wish I could let you know how much I appreciate what you're doing. How can I repay such kindness?". Jon said, "Well, if you can make a donation to the Hunt County FISH Ministries in the name of myself and my wife, Laura, that will be sufficient". "FISH Ministries?", I said. "My church and the AFA both give to FISH."

Jon asked what church I attended.

"Wesley United Methodist Church.....I go to the early service."

Jon said he and his wife had just joined Wesley, and they were also attending the early service. How can that be.....and I don't know them?

All of the sudden I realized what had just happened, and I once again thanked Jon and gave him the contact information for Linda King so they could begin arranging the logistics.

Yes, Jon picked up Dr. Jones after the game in Stephenville and they landed in Commerce (through the soupy drizzle) in plenty of time to make the banquet.

They say it's not what you know, but who you know. It's just a good thing that I happen to know members of the Northeast Texas Air Force Association Chapter 416.

Real people that you can count on..... and perhaps a bit of good luck to go with it.....



You can contact me at:  
**903-413-1453**  
President@netxafa.org

**Trey Johnson**  
President, AFA Chapter 416



# CHAPTER 416 ANNUAL SPRING EVENT

The Chapter 416 Annual Spring Event was held on the evening of 14 March at the Sam Rayburn Memorial Student Center on the TAMU-Commerce University campus.

This event celebrates the AFA Northeast Texas Chapter Earle North Parker Scholarship, Teachers of the Year, and the Texas Chapter 450 Civil Air Patrol Cadet of the Year recipients for 2015. The theme for this year's ENP scholarship essay was, "Cyber Warfare – Preparation/Action: What Should We Do?".

The ceremonies began with emcee Matt Murdick introducing Dr. Dan Jones, President and CEO of Texas A&M-Commerce, the keynote speaker, Jason Ross, District Director of the 4th Texas Congressional District representing the Honorable John Ratcliffe from Rockwall, Dave Dietsch, Vice Chairman of the Board, Field Operations for AFA National, Sharon and Charles Helm, owners of The Helm Hotel Groups and longtime Chapter 416 supporters, and Major Choya Shanahan, the Commander of the Civil Air Patrol Texas Chapter 450.

Approximately 60 persons were in attendance, which included award recipients, their families, Civil Air Patrol, and uniformed enlisted Air Force participants from the 645th AESS Squadron in Greenville. The CAP Chapter 450 cadets presented the colors and former Texas Aggie Singing Cadet soloist Art Hamner sang the National Anthem.

After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the gathering, three students from Celeste Junior High School, Chance Brown, Wesley Daugherty, and Caden Lewis read their essays on patriotism. These essays had been written in response to United States flags and flag stands that had been donated to the school from Chapter 416. The Civil Air Patrol Chapter 450 Cadet of the Year Award was presented to Andrew Babb.

Director Ross and Chairman Dietsch were asked to approach the podium by President Trey Johnson and were both presented with the very finely designed Chapter 416 metal coins. Ross thanked the Chapter for the opportunity

presented a beautiful crystal award recognizing his contributions and outstanding coaching for the Rockwall Cyber Patriot competitions.

After the Teacher of the Year Awards, the attendees were invited to dine at a very fine buffet dinner catered by Sodexo Catering. Following the dinner, President Johnson gave a brief biography and introduced Dr. Jones as the keynote speaker.

Dr. Jones spoke on the proud history and the very bright future of Texas A&M-Commerce University and its partnership with the AFA. After the keynote address, President Johnson and the presented the Earle North Parker Scholarship winners.

The third place winner of the \$500 scholarship was Logan Fox, a senior at Paris High School in Paris, Texas.

The second place winner, Valery White, received a \$750 scholarship and is also a senior at Paris High School.

The first place recipient was Leigh McBride from Wichita Falls Rider High School in Wichita Falls, Texas. She received a \$1000 scholarship and was asked to read her excellent essay.

All scholarship winners also received American flags that had been flown over the White House by military aircraft. These flags were folded into beautiful flag cases and were provided by the office of Congressman Ratcliffe.

In his closing remarks, President Johnson thanked the attendees and participants and, in particular, Msgr. Ryan Wiebecke, who did yeoman's work in organizing the event.



Dan Jones, Trey Johnson, Leigh McBride, Valery White, Logan Fox, Andrew Babb, Dave Dietsch, MSgt Wiebecke

to attend the event and present awards to recipients in the name of Congressman Ratcliffe. Chairman Dietsch, who had just returned to his home in Ft. Worth, Texas from a national AFA meeting in Washington, D.C., gave a short but informative speech on national defense, cyber warfare and the contributions of the AFA Cyber Patriot Program and its phenomenal growth.

President Johnson, along with Director Ross and Chairman Dietsch, presented the Chapter 416 Teachers of the Year Awards. The Grades K-8 Teacher of the Year recipient was Mr. Markus Edwards. He is a teacher at Herman Utley Middle School in Rockwall. The Grades 9-12 Teacher of the Year recipient was Mrs. Lisa Reese. She teaches at the Rockwall-Heath High School in Rockwall. Both teachers have been instrumental in the robotics programs at their schools and both received beautiful awards and will receive a \$250 check from AFA. In addition, although unable to attend, teacher Bruce Charbonneau from Rockwall-Heath High School will be



Teacher of the Year - Lisa Reese



Teacher of the Year - Markus Edwards (Far Right)

# ENP ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

## **Cyber Warfare-Preparation/ Action: What Should We Do?**

*By: Leigh McBride*

In March of the current year, the United States discovered that Russian forces used web hacking to intercept a surveillance drone over the region of Ukraine. This recent report of warfare via internet creates an entirely new global battlefield. Today's security defenses in regard to Cyber Warfare do not seem to be able to compete with the sophisticated attacks from other nations; the United States military must take action towards this realm because of its lasting impact to the country.

Cyber Warfare involves actions be any nation-state to damage another, and this act is becoming abundantly popular and convenient for the enemy. World-wide conflict within the wireless spectrum creates tragedy in many country's revenues because of the major dependency citizens have on computers. Local residents of the United States are simply not pre-

pared for cyber-attacks, so outdated technology must be dealt with immediately. Private computers as well as large information networks can be affected by these dynamic internet backings, so military intervention is crucial.

A potential method to stop this web activity comes directly from the amount of education within the United States. This country is fortunate enough to provide thousands of computer science majors at the university level, thus many career paths are becoming distinctly technology-based. Because so many students study the art of computers, the U.S. military can use this for the protection of the country's cyberspace.

Modem technology has created a new battlefield, so a new branch of defense must be created as well. Recently, the United States Army established a ranking of cyberspace operators to span electronic warfare, but a few officers cannot protect the

entire global web. A new branch of corps will provide temporary defense for America, but the oncoming technology competitions with other nations need a greater source of security.

In the realm of Cyber Warfare, this country has recognized the need for a new approach, but I believe that the United States has the means to create an entirely new military force for technology alone. Resources in regard to computer sciences and engineering are growing on an exponential level, so the potential for a new force is very possible.

The establishment of a "Cyber Army" can secure America's corporations as well as individual citizens. The need for this new government security area can be achieved efficiently because of the education provided domestically, so all areas of the federal government must act upon their resources to defend this nation entirely from all forms of Cyber Warfare.



Essay Contest Winner - Leigh McBride



# SSEP LAUNCH

## Try, Try Again:

### A Science Project Launches into Space

By: Frances McKinney AFA National

When the SpaceX company's rocket launched on Jan. 10, the Northeast Texas Chapter was pleased-and-relieved-as the International Space Station astronauts and the rocket company's founder, Elon Musk.

Along with supplies for the astronauts, the capsule contained a science experiment created by students from Rockwall, Texas. The Northeast Texas Chapter had arranged for a \$5,000 donation toward the goal of more than \$20,000 needed to send the project into space. The successful launch came a little over two months after the first one ended with the rocket exploding just after liftoff from NASA's Wallops Island facility in Virginia.

That Oct. 28 mishap destroyed not only the Orbital Sciences Corp. launcher and its cargo of supplies for the ISS but also 18 science

projects by student groups, including one from Rockwall.

Three days afterwards, however, the Rockwall team members learned that they could reassemble their experiment and get onto Musk's SpaceX-5, scheduled for a mid-December launch from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla. The students met the new deadline and, as they had for the first launch attempt, faced a round after round of rescheduled dates that pushed the liftoff into mid-January.

Several Rockwall schools actually

started a year ago to send a science project into space through the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program. Now freshmen at Rockwall High School, Will Brown, Ryan Figert, Brooks Helmer, Chase Howerton, James Matthews, and Harrison Smith were eighth-graders when they earned a spot for their experiment.

It is called "How Microgravity Affects Yeast Cell Division and How it Relates to Human Cancer Cells." The team then had to raise the funds to secure their space launch.



The AFA chapter donation honored Chapter Community Partner Nancy Murray's father, retired Lt. Col. John J. Murray, a strong supporter of the chapter before his passing in 2012. According to Chapter Communications VP Vance M. Clarke, the donation had put the students fund-raising effort "over the top."

## CHAPTER 416 DONATION TO CARVER ELEMENTARY

AFA Chapter 416 donated \$100 to Carver Elementary school to encourage attendance and academic achievement. The school is purchasing bikes and giving them to select students who maintain 100 percent attendance for the school year.

Principal, Donna Rother, displays the bikes as a daily visual reminder to students. Chapter President, Trey Johnson said, "If the students get to school, and these bikes help accomplish that, then they have a tremendous possibility of learning something that will make a difference whether it be a STEM subject or anything else. We applaud this effort!"



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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***Thank you to all of our community partners***

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Northeast Texas Chapter 416  
P.O. Box 8633  
Greenville, TX 75404-8633

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**AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION**

