



# THE NORTHEAST FLYER

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416 AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

## VEX IQ VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR (VOY) AWARD



Pictured: front left Tammy Bryant-chapter member, Orion Casper-Greenville Robotics, and Trey Johnson-chapter treasurer, Second row: Sabrina Hall, Nate Smith, Evan Shomette. Third row: Austin Jackson, Jackson Talmage, Nathan Smith, Zach Cook. Fourth row: Angel Ugalde, Jovani Reyes, Enrique Oropesa, Dalton Murray

THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (AFA), NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER #416, RECEIVED THE VEX IQ VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR (VOY) AWARD FOR 2016!

THEY WERE NOMINATED FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO STEM EDUCATION IN NORTH TEXAS, BUT MORE SPECIFICALLY TO THE VARIOUS GREENVILLE ROBOTICS PROGRAMS. CHAPTER 416 HAS GIVEN GENEROUSLY TO SUPPORT THIS WORTHY STEM PROGRAM. THE NORTH TEXAS VEX AND VEX IQ REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS, HOSTED BY GREENVILLE ROBOTICS, COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PRODUCED WITHOUT SUPPORT FROM THE AFA THIS YEAR. BETWEEN THESE TWO TOURNAMENTS THE AFA IMPACTED AND BENEFITED MORE THAN 100 ROBOTICS TEAMS FROM AROUND NORTH TEXAS. "WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS THE VEX IQ VOY BUT ARE MOST PLEASED WITH THE IMPACT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE TO STUDENT FUTURE LEADERS IN OUR AREA," VANCE CLARKE, CHAPTER PRESIDENT.

### CHAPTER 416 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	VANCE CLARKE
VICE PRESIDENT	MSGT CHEYENNE BODE
TREASURER	TREY JOHNSON
SECRETARY	TSGT ROBERT MORROW

[WWW.NETXAFA.ORG](http://WWW.NETXAFA.ORG)

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2016 Q1

# CALENDAR

<b>APR. 2016</b>	<b>13</b>	Chapter Meeting			
<b>MAY. 2016</b>	<b>7</b>	Bonham Vet's Visit			
<b>JUN. 2016</b>	<b>8</b>	Chapter Meeting			
<b>JUL. 2016</b>					
<b>AUG. 2016</b>	<b>6</b>	AFATX State Mtg-OK	<b>10</b>	Chapter Meeting	
<b>SEP. 2016</b>	<b>16-19</b>	AFA Nat'l Convention	<b>TBD</b>	Golf Thing	
<b>OCT. 2016</b>	<b>12</b>	Chapter Meeting			
<b>NOV. 2016</b>	<b>5</b>	Bonham Vet's Visit	<b>7-11</b>	TAMU Vets Vigil	<b>10</b> TAMU Vets Ball
<b>DEC. 2016</b>	<b>14</b>	Chapter Meeting			
<b>JAN. 2017</b>	<b>11</b>	Chapter Meeting	<b>27</b>	Teacher of Year AFATX Suspense	
<b>FEB. 2017</b>	<b>9</b>	Chapter Meeting	<b>TBD</b>	Spring Thing Banquet	
<b>MAR. 2017</b>					

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## PRESIDENT'S



## PONDERINGS

What a great team we have in Chapter 416!

We have accomplished so much this past quarter and the team has made it look easy. I could not be more pleased with how we have come together and made things happen!

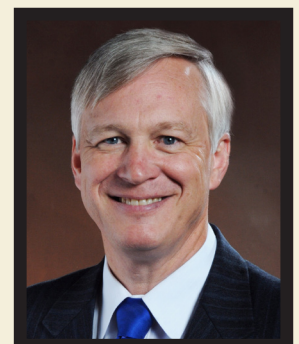
First, thanks to SMSgt Ryan Wiebbecke and MSgt Cheyenne Bode (Chapter Vice President) for ramrodding our "Spring Thing" banquet (see story this newsletter). They coordinated and pulled off a great event along with the help of Trey Johnson (Chapter Treasurer) and Matt Murdick, who emceed the event. The recognition provided to our award recipients was outstanding! Great job!

While they ensured the event ran smoothly,

Vance Clarke, Chapter President, attended the AFA Texas State meeting held in San Angelo. We have such confidence in our team we were able to divide and conquer multiple events.

As you will see in this newsletter we have accomplished a lot and been engaged in our local area and in supporting numerous STEM activities and students.

Please let us know what opportunities you are aware of that we can attempt to support. You can contact us at [President@netxafa.org](mailto:President@netxafa.org) or by calling 903-274-9981.





# 2016 SPRING THING BANQUET

*Story by Tom Bailey, Col (Ret)*

The annual Chapter 416 awards banquet was celebrated on 27 February 2016 in the TAMU-Commerce Student Center, with more than 50 in attendance. The chapter awarded \$5,750 to worthy students and teachers for their outstanding contributions to STEM education through instruction and essay writing skills.

The chapter also recognized the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam war by recognizing veterans at the start of their program.

The first award, the AFA Exceptional Service Award, went to chapter member Terry Thomas. Terry is almost singlehandedly responsible for the chapter's success at attracting and retaining Community Partners and financial support for its annual "Golf Thing" fundraiser. A more appropriate award and recipient is hard to imagine.

Next the CAP Squadron TX45 Cadet of the Year award went to Cadet Sgt. Gabriel Gentry. Since joining the squadron in 2013, he has completed all required training opportunities, attended two encampments, and finished CAP leadership school. While doing all this,



2016 Award Winners  
pictured, left to right, TSgt Antonio Contreras, Shikha Prakas, MSgt Cheyenne Bode, Trevor O'Connor, LtCol Mizzell, Cheyenne Plummer, SMSgt Ryan Wiebbecke, Anquetette Whiteman, TSgt. Robert Morrow, Trey Johnson, Bart Walters

he maintained a near perfect attendance at squadron activities. An awesome achievement!

The chapter then recognized its' two Teachers of the Year. The winner for grades K-8 was Anquetette Whiteman, from the A.C. Williams elementary School in Commerce.

Among her achievements was nearly doubling the

percentage of students that passed the state assessment for science and mathematics in her 5th grade classes. The percentage of students passing rose from 42 to 74 percent in her first year at A.C. Williams.

Taking honors for the grades 9-12, high school teachers was Bruce Charbonneau from Rockwall High School. Over the past three years as a science

teacher he has developed eight successful CyberPatriot teams. He has also been heavily involved in robotics and led numerous teams with records of success in regional and world championship competitions. Bruce was on a robotics competition trip and unable to attend and his award was accepted by Bart

Walters, Vice-Principal of Rockwall High School.



Keynote Speaker LtCol Mizzell and Trey Johnson

Continued on page 4.

# 2016 SPRING THING BANQUET CONTINUED

Continued from page 3.

Both teachers received cash prizes totaling \$500 from AFA Headquarters and Chapter 416, plus a \$250 contribution that will be donated to their schools to support a STEM activity of their choosing!

The subject of this year's Earle North Parker essay competition was a challenging one: "Cyber warfare: How to Deal with It?"

Our winners met the challenge head on! The second and third place winners, Cheyenne Plummer and Shihka Prakash, respectively, represented Paris, TX schools. This continued a strong 10-plus year pattern of support from Paris. The first place winner, Trevor O'Connor, hailed from Longview High School. Trevor, who read his winning essay, was also the AFA Texas State winner and received an additional \$2000. (Read his essay in this newsletter.)

As is chapter tradition, each winner received a national flag flown over Washington D.C., with congratulations from congressional representative John Ratcliffe. The chapter awards scholarship funding of \$1000 for first place; \$750 for second, and \$500 for third.

The keynote speaker was Lt. Col Grant Mizell, Commander of the 645 Aeronautical Engineering Systems Squadron located at Majors Field in Greenville. His remarks aimed at the ENP winners focused on the need to develop the widest possible world view thereby enhancing success. Mizell's presentation was very powerful, and hit both humorous and serious notes for all to absorb.

The awards banquet was emceed by retired Air Force MSgt Matt Murdick. Special music was performed by former Texas Aggie Singing Cadet member Art Hamner. Cadets from the Sulphur Springs CAP Squadron TX450 Honor Guard posted the colors.

This was yet another outstanding event hosted by Chapter 416 to recognize superior performance. If you missed it, plan now to attend next year – look for a date on the chapter web page at [www.netxafa.org](http://www.netxafa.org). Plan to attend, you will be glad you did.



Hamner Singing



Teacher of the Year, Anquenet Whiteman and Trey Johnson



Trey Johnson presents Terry Thomas  
Exceptional Service Award



# CONTEST WINNER READS ESSAY

## Cyber Warfare – How to deal with it?

by: Trevor O'Connor

Malala Yousafzai, youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize and a survivor of terrorism, boldly stated before the United Nations that, "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen, can change the world."

Her uncompromising ardor for education has helped transform attitudes of world leaders about the importance of combating extremism. In our modern world of cyber-attacks and cyberterrorism, promoting science, technology, engineering, and math skills to our children becomes critical to training the next generation of technology innovators. Education in the matters of coding and other computer science skills is essential to ensuring that the United States has the most formidable future task force of software specialists, hackers, and technology experts. By increasing curriculum focused around STEM fields and promoting activities such as robotics and coding to our youth, we can equip for the next cyber-attack in our future before it even happens. Furthermore, curriculum in military training should emphasize awareness of the reality of a cyber threat and increase protocols about how to respond and mitigate such threats. A collective shift towards more emphasis on the field of cyber-security would increase awareness, resources, and people willing to help defend our great nation.

In addition, the Department of Defense and the private sector should increase cooperation and information sharing to solidify the commitment of the United States government to protecting its citizens and private companies to ensure that they are not the next victim of malware and cyberterrorism. Working with agencies in the private sectors, the Department of Defense should help educate, train, and reinforce the security of our nation's critical infrastructure. This could include



Essay Contest Winner, Trevor O'Connor

defense specialists working with IT consultants in the private sector on how to strengthen the security of our private sector businesses and prevent the spread of cyber viruses.

Education in the workplace about preventing malware would help increase vigilance to suspicious emails and other vulnerable pathways into our cyber network. As CNN reports that over a million new malware threats are released each day, it becomes critical

that our nation is equipped and solidified in how to deal with such aggressions against the United States.

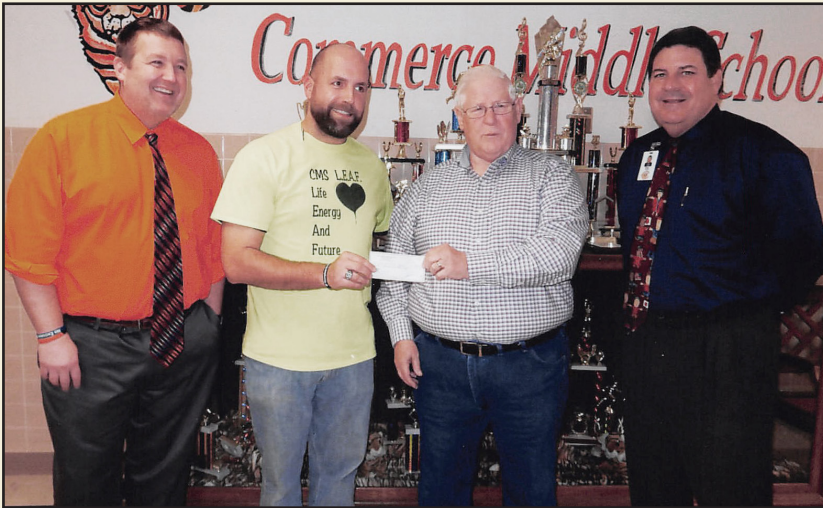
Within the Department of Defense, the budget should be allocated towards more funding of cyber defense research and an overall shift to cyber defense in this new age of warfare. This means increased investment in satellite technology and other infrastructure that is critical to maintaining the cutting edge in cyber warfare. Increased funding should also go into research and development in the private sector as we need the latest technology and technological advancement to combat the growing risk of a hack against our nation.

The threat of cyberterrorism and cyber warfare is real, but so is the determination of the United States government and United States military. As Malala Yousafzai said, one child and one pen can change the world. Equipping the next generation with the tools and education necessary to combat cyber threats, coordinating with our private sector, and advancing the emphasis of cyber warfare in the Department of Defense is critical to ensuring the United States of America remains the leader in the digital age – for the cost of not doing so is far too great.



# CHAPTER 416 ENGAGEMENT

Chapter 416 has had another busy “engaging” quarter and is pleased to let all its members and especially donors, Community Partners, and friends know that we have generated a lot of learning and tremendous Educate, Advocate, and Support efforts this past quarter.



Chapter 416 donated \$1,405 to the Commerce Middle School Robotics program. These funds will aid in purchasing equipment to enable leaders to teach and train key STEM items to students. Pictured in photo are *Left-right; Patrick Just, Commerce Middle School principal, Kirby Gilbert, Social Studies Teacher and Robotics Coach, Larry Ratliff, AFA Chapter 416 check presenter, Blake Cooper, CISD Superintendent.*



Chapter 416, along with Community Partner Checkmate Embroidery, provided competition shirts to the competing CyberPatriot teams for this years competition. The students did really well and competed all the way to regional's where they were knocked out of the final round of competition. We are proud of our teams and know that what they have learned will carry with them for years to come!



Chapter 416 donated \$1,000 to help the Rockwall Elementary/Middle school VEX team to attend the VEX World Championship in April 2016 in Kentucky. We are pleased to support these efforts and to see the successes that come from challenging today's youth in areas of STEM activities! Pictured in photo are *Left-right; Front Row: Marqelle Fisher, Averleigh Fisher, Chloe Charbonneau. 2nd Row: Courtney Byington, (mentor), Josh Sadler, Randi Kerby (mentor), Julie Byrnes (mentor), Aubren Montgomery 3rd Row: Ryan Montgomery (mentor), Austin Taylor, Kevin Fisher (mentor) Back Row: Becca Byington, Reese Ewert. Not pictured; Mackenzie Ash*



Adrienne Emmerson, teacher and robotics coach at Greenville High School shows the new items that AFA 416 purchased to support classroom activities. The chapter purchased 12 boxes of equipment to aid the STEM efforts at the school.

The chapter donated to numerous other STEM activities this quarter. They were able to provide \$150 to support Civil Air Patrol activities for the Italy, Texas CAP unit. The chapter is also aiding in sponsoring a Cumby Elementary School student trip to the Johnson Space Center in Houston. The trip will be a part of their “Space After Dark” program. Students will discover what reduced gravity and the vacuum of space do to the human body, and will learn first-hand how to solve complex problems when faced with engineering and situational challenges. We are so pleased to be a small part of this program again!



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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AERWAY	GREENVILLE ISD
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AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK, GREENVILLE	HARDMETAL SOLUTIONS INC
APEX SUPPLY COMPANY	HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, GREENVILLE
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GENTLE DENTAL	TUSCAN SLICE
GOLDEN EAGLE FLIGHT TRAINING	TWO SENORITAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT
GREENVILLE FLORAL AND GIFT	WEBB HILL COUNTRY CLUB



## IN MEMORIAM

LONG-TIME AFA CHAPTER 416 MEMBER, BILLY JOHNSON  
SLIPS SURLY BONDS OF EARTH

On March 2, Billy Johnson died peacefully at his home in Farmersville. Johnson was a long-time AFA Chapter 416 member and supporter. Johnson worked as the Chief of Logistics at the L-3 Mission Integration facility for 28 years.

A USAF Chief Master Sergeant and long time supporter of the Air Force, his 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week attitude toward getting the mission done was reflective of his career. He retired from the Air Force in 1989 and again from civil service in 2007.

In April 2012, a warehouse at L-3 MI was dedicated in his name because he developed numerous logistics

processes still in use today. Johnson's drive and determination to get things done and get them done right led credence to the logistics motto, "The Difficult We Do Daily, The Impossible Just Takes Us A Little Longer."

Chapter 416 has received donations in his name to its "education fund". Billy would be proud. Chapter 416 also made a donation in the name of Billy Johnson and you can too.

The family of Billy Johnson asks that friends honor him and make donations to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, which is online at <http://www.themmrf.org/>

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[www.netxafa.org](http://www.netxafa.org)

LEGAL STUFF: The NORTHEAST FLYER is published more or less quarterly by the Northeast Texas Chapter 416 of the Air Force Association, P. O. Box 8633, Greenville, TX 75404-8633. Chapter hotline 903-457-6605. The AFA is a non profit organization. Chapter President: Trey Johnson Please address correspondence to the Northeast Texas Chapter, including comments on the NORTHEAST FLYER to the address above.

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AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION