



Photo by Vance Clarke – Last year the Sulphur Springs Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Squadron aided in spearheading a “Fly In” at the Greenville, TX, airfield. The event featured numerous aircraft on display, this photo being one of them.

UPDATE: Cadet Emma Herrington, whom we wrote about in our 3rd Quarter, 2018 newsletter, was working on her pilot’s license. We are so pleased to announce she has completed all requirements and is the first cadet to take advantage of the new training efforts the Air Force has put in place. Look to see more in the Air Force association magazine either on-line or in print. Congratulations Emma, we are so glad to see you stick with it and be so successful. We pray for a positive outcome as you compete for a slot at the United States Air Force Academy!

Air Force Association Chapter 416 supports our Air Force by contributing to the development of potential pilots by directly supporting the Civil Air Patrol. We do this through funding over \$5000 annually for projects, training, and required supplies. We also do this by supporting efforts geared at pilot training. We gave \$1500 toward completing trainer certification to a pilot working with CAP cadets and expect he will work with numerous cadets over the coming years.

If you are interested in helping CAP, let us know! TX416.Northeast@afa.org

Spring Thing Banquet – 20 April 2019 – Get info at www.netxafa.org

Chapter Officers		In This Issue	Page
President	Vance Clarke	<i>AFA 416 Needs Help!</i>	3
Vice President	TSgt Susan Toy	<i>CAP Winter Encampment</i>	4
Treasurer	Terry Thomas	<i>Photos and Events</i>	5
Secretary	TSgt Sandra Gold	<i>SBP and myPay Info</i>	7




Calendar	
2019	
MARCH	14: Chapter Meeting
April	17: Chapter Meeting 20: Spring Thing Banquet
May	8: Chapter Meeting
June	No Meetings or Activities
JULY	No meetings or activities
AUGUST	15: Chapter Meeting
SEPTEMBER	11: Chapter Meeting 14-15: AFA Nat'l Convention TBD: Golf Thing Fundraiser
OCTOBER	10: Chapter Meeting
NOVEMBER	No Meetings or Activities
DECEMBER	12: Chapter Meeting
2020	
January	15: Chapter Meeting
February	12: Chapter Meeting
	* Meeting schedule is subject to change to best meet needs of day/night meetings. Please see e-mails that will come out referencing day/time of future meetings.

AFA News and Information

- AFA Announces Next President** - The Air Force Association Board of Directors is pleased to announce that **Lt Gen Bruce Wright, USAF (Ret.)**, will serve as AFA's president beginning March 1, 2019. We welcome General Wright to follow the tenure of Gen Larry Spencer, USAF (Ret.), who has served as AFA's president since August 2015. A fighter pilot with more than 3,200 flying hours, including multiple combat tours, General Wright served for 34 years in the Air Force, finishing as Commander of 5th Air Force and U.S. Forces Japan. After retiring, he served nine years in industry, most recently as Vice President, Cyber and S&T for Lockheed Martin Government Affairs.
- Doolittle Brick Campaign** - Over 70 years ago, Jimmy Doolittle built the foundation for AFA brick by brick. You can continue his legacy and honor your service or a loved one's service to AFA or to our country by making a tax-free donation to receive a personalized brick tile at AFA's headquarters in Arlington, VA. You can choose from two brick options: \$200 option which includes the AFA logo or a \$125 option without the logo. Learn more and purchase yours at www.afa.org/bricks

- Community Partners:** Be sure to visit our Community Partners and thank them for their support. View them at www.netxafa.org
- We are looking for Chapter help!** We need some help with our web page, Facebook, and other membership items that don't take a lot of time. Please contact us if you are interested in sharing your talent in some small way. TX416.Northeast@afa.org or call 903-274-9981.

You Shop Amazon gives to AFA416



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President's Ponderings

Vance Clarke

AF Chapter 416 members and those reading these "ponderings" – Greetings!

Greetings all community partners, donors, supporters, members, and friends of the Air Force Association and Air Force.

I hope this finds you doing well and that 2019 is bringing things you desire. *Chapter 416 is doing well, but is in dire need of additional help and support to enable us to be a strong supporter of our Air Force and local community.*

What do we need? We need some people who can give a few hours a month or quarter to help produce certain products. We do not need you to attend a lot of meetings – we are starting to do more on the phone and in other ways. Just see if you can find a bit of time and effort to give us to help keep us strong.

Officer and/or Treasurer: We are in desperate need of someone to step up into one of our leadership roles so that one of us can devote full time effort to our treasurer work.

Newsletter Help: We are looking for someone to assist with putting information together into our quarterly newsletter. We can provide the info, can you help us get it organized and into our 8-page format?

Web Page Help: We are in need of someone who has Word Press experience or is willing to learn to help with keeping our page updated.

Member Mailings: We desire to help send notifications to our members both monthly and quarterly as reminders.

Community Partner (CP) Updates: We need someone to help us get our quarterly info out to our CPs. We have the info, but need some help getting it printed and mailed.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP): We have a strong relationship with the local CAP in Sulphur Springs. We are in need of occasional speakers and people to help out with numerous one-time events.

Event Planners: We run two major events each year; our Golf Thing in Sep/Oct and our Spring Thing in Mar/Apr. We could use some behind the scene help with planning and set up for these. This requires very little time and is can easily be a one time or annual help as you are able.

Veteran's Visitors: We work to make two trips per year to the Bonham Veteran's Community Center. We are in need of Sunday School Classes, School classes, teachers' groups, veterans, or any other groups of 4-10 interested in visiting along with us. This is an easy 4-hour event (drive up/back/1 hour there) you can participate in.

STEM Support: We provide numerous donations each year to support school Science Technology Engineering and Math efforts. We are in need of men/women interested in visiting some of these activities to take pictures, show interest, and to show we care about the efforts we support. This can be a one time or repeat effort as you desire.

We support CyberPatriot Teams in Rockwall, Robotics in Cumby, Commerce, Greenville, Farmersville, and Rockwall. *We give to school programs in all these areas and could in yours if we knew about them.*

We need many hands to make the work load lighter for each of us. **If you desire to help, let us know!** We have something you can help with, I am sure! TX416.Northeast@afa.org or call me at 903-274-9981.



2018 Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Encampment

While most teenagers are playing with their gifts from Christmas, over 215 Civil Air Patrol Cadets and 40 Adult members converged on Lackland AFB for a five-day Winter Encampment. This activity is the equivalent of Basic Military Training and designed to introduce CAP Cadets to military life and culture. During 42 hours of classroom instruction, they receive information about aerospace, aviation careers, military opportunities, leadership, and physical fitness.

Chapter 416 leadership was responsible for providing the keynote speakers in most of these areas. By linking these young men and women with some of the most notable former military members in Texas, they were able to learn from the "best of the best".



CMSAF Bob Gaylor speaking to CAP Cadets

CAP has not had an Encampment at an active duty military base in over twenty years! It was an awesome privilege to have CMSAF Robert Gaylor at Lackland AFB, the home of Gaylor NCO Academy, and meeting him personally! Through a discussion of his career he made important points about stepping up to be a leader in whatever you choose to do in life. For him, it was taking care of the people you are responsible for and putting others ahead of yourself. Cadets learned that as 5th CMSAF he instituted leadership training beginning day one of an Airman's career. For him, this emphasis on development was the key to his success.

By CAP Lt Col Choya Shanahan

Also there to speak, CMSgt Timm Dickens, USAF Ret., who is the author of all the military Color Guard regulations and judge of the annual CAP Cadet Competition. CMSgt Dickens is a motivational speaker who made the link between Core Values in military life with personal and professional success. "Practice not only until you get it right but until you cannot get it wrong" was part of his recipe for achieving individual goals. This emphasis on Excellence as a personal Core Value made an impression on the cadets, but also the senior members present.

CAP Regional Director of Operations, Lt Col Rick Woolfolk, gave cadets a glimpse of the operations currently underway with Homeland Security, FEMA, DEA, and INS. Few people realize that CAP is now part of f 1AF North and makes significant contributions to all these agencies. His briefing was exciting and an inducement to each cadet to work where they can contribute and make a difference.

Lt Col Kenny Gaylor, USAF Ret., (yes, he is the son of CMSF Gaylor) rounded out the speaker forum from AFA with a talk about aerospace careers. For most cadets when you mention aviation they think only of pilots but Gaylor opened their eyes to the hundreds of aviation careers available right here in Texas. With his ties to military, commercial, and industrial employers, he had an audience of future aviation employees hanging on every word.

The relationship between AFA and CAP once again has had far-reaching benefits. The talent and experience of AFA members made the CAP 2018 Winter Encampment at Lackland AFB historic in many ways. They sponsored cadets who could not afford to attend and also provided speakers to awaken a new generation of potential Airmen through these motivating speakers. Thank you AFA Chapter 416, you made a difference!



Rockwall Robotics Donation

Chapter President Vance Clarke (red shirt) presented a check for \$1000 to the team. They worked our Golf Thing and we doubled the money they raised!



2018 Rockwall Coding Contest Support

The chapter provided \$500 to support this event with over 500 student participants.



President, Vance Clarke and Secretary, TSgt Sandra Gold



Coding participants making it happen!



A participant winner with Trevor Pope, organizer.

2018 CAP Christmas Luncheon



Civil Air Patrol 2018 Winter Encampment





Remember the rules for SBP coverage

By Susie Hughes Survivor Benefit Plan PM (USAF)

Do you remember your retirement party many years ago? Remember out-processing? Remember your Survivor Benefit Plan briefing?

If you can answer “yes” to at least one of the questions, it is most likely the question about the retirement party. Many retirees do not remember specifics about SBP coverage. Unfortunately, the Air Force Retiree Services office receives calls almost daily from retired Airmen whose spouse has just passed away, and the SBP coverage needs to be suspended. Air Force SBP counselors advise retirees to send a certified copy of their spouse’s death certificate, along with a brief letter or a completed DD Form 2656-6 (SBP Election Change Certificate), to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Cleveland. The mailing address is: DFAS, U.S. Military Retirement Pay, 8899 E 56th Street, Indianapolis IN, 46249-1200; or via fax to 1-800-469-6559. Premiums are suspended effective the first day of the month following the month the spouse dies. SBP spouse coverage is not terminated when a spouse dies but is placed in a suspended status pending a possible future marriage.

For retirees who have suspended spouse coverage and later remarry, there are several options available.

For more information, visit the SBP portion of the retiree website at www.retirees.af.mil or call **877-353-6807** and enter a ZIP code. You will be connected to the nearest SBP counselor. The counselor can answer your questions about coverage and SBP options.

myPay: DFAS Info for Your Pay

(Courtesy of DFAS)

There are several self-serve options for retirees and annuitants who use the Defense Finance and Accounting Service’s online myPay service. **Currently, only 54 percent of retirees have an active myPay account.**

MyPay allows members to view and download current and historical documents such as Retiree Account Statements, 1099Rs and 1095s. It also allows members to make changes online to their allotments, direct deposit information, mailing address and arrears-of-pay beneficiary. Having an active myPay account will also ensure that members receive emails about changes in policy that may affect their accounts. When retirees log on to myPay, they should use the opportunity to ensure their retired pay account information is correct. After members verify their payment and correspondence information, they should verify that their Survivor Benefit Plan information is current by checking their Retiree Account Statement. If they are paying for SBP, but do not have an eligible beneficiary, they need to let DFAS know by sending the appropriate documentation (available on the Forms page of the website). Notifying DEERS about a change in beneficiary will not change their account with DFAS. They need to notify DFAS, as well. Timely notification will ensure that members don’t miss out on money that may be owed to them or end up with a debt.

To establish a myPay account, visit <https://mypay.dfas.mil/> and look for the “New User” tab on the left-hand side.



Community Partners

Aerway

Alliance Bank, Greenville

American National Bank, Greenville

Apex Supply Company

Bakers Ribs, Greenville

Best Western Plus, Greenville

Brass Rail

Breeze IT Services

Britain Chevrolet/Cadillac

Carroll Square Properties

Checkmate Embroidery (Rockwall)

Coker-Mathews Funeral Home

Collin Street Bakery

Commerce Independent School District

Crompton TV Video

Cumby Independent School District

Cup And Saucer

Dairy Manor Bed & Breakfast

Danny Keene Enterprises

Debbie Sickels - "Insurance Group
of North Texas"

Discount Wheel & Tire

Duncan Dental

Employee Solutions

Eyecare & Laser Mgmt (Rockwall)

Family First Home Health

Farmers Electric Co-Op

Fritz Industries

Gentle Dental

Gibson Automotive

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Shenaniganz

Sierra Nevada Corporation

Smith Family Dentistry

Splash Kingdom Water Parks

Texas A&M Commerce

The Tarpley Agencies

Tim Drake Jewelers

Tobacco Patch

Total Turf Management – Matt Neyra

Want to help? Call us at 903-274-9981

Or email TX416.Northeast@afa.org

Thank You Community Partners (CP)!



Thank you to all our Community Partners!

RH Wensel & Associates

Breeze IT Services

Dairy Manor Bed & Breakfast

**Want to be an AFA Chapter 416 Community Partner?
Contact us at TX416.Northeast@afa.org
You will be making a difference!**



Welcome T.J. Goss to the 416 Community Partner family! TJ is on left with Terry Thomas our VP for Community Partners.



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