

# AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION

Montgomery Chapter 102 [www.afa102.net](http://www.afa102.net) Apr - Jun 2022



April 7, 2022 | By [Amy Hudson](#)

After 76 years, the Air Force Association is changing its name to the Air & Space Forces Association to better match its mission supporting and advocating for both Airmen and Guardians.

AFA was incorporated on Feb. 4, 1946—more than a year before the Air Force broke away from the Army and became an independent service under the National Security Act of 1947. The [Space Force was established](#) on Dec. 20, 2019, creating a new military service for the first time in more than seven decades, and marking one of the most significant changes in the history of the Air Force.

The Air Force Association changed its name to the Air & Space Forces Association, revealing a new logo on April 7 that better reflects its advocacy and support for both the Space Force and the Air Force.

"Today, both military services are represented by the Department of the Air Force, and thus, both are fully represented by our Association," said AFA Chairman Gerald Murray, former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. "This change makes clear to everyone that space is integral to our mission."

Although the association will retain the AFA acronym, which it has used since its inception, it also unveiled a new Star-Delta logo intended to "redefine what those letters stand for," according to an AFA release. The logo merges a modernized blue star on the left, derived from the original "Hap Arnold" Army Air Corps Star, with the Space Force's black Delta and Polaris.

"These elements have been combined to present a unique visual identity that reflects the dynamism and permanent bonds between these two services and their respective warfighting domains," said Murray. "The Polaris in particular is of note, as it represents the Space Force's unique role as a guiding light and enabler for the whole of the joint force."

The rebranding is intended to capture the association's full mission:

- To educate the public about air and space power
- To advocate for the most capable, lethal, and effective Air and Space Forces
- To support Airmen, Guardians, and their families.

"AFA has always been fully committed to supporting both the Air Force and Space Force as the most indispensable elements of our joint force," said AFA President Lt. Gen. Bruce Wright, USAF (Ret.). "Even now, as the Space Force grows, expands, and builds its own, unique warfighting culture, air and space remain inextricably linked. The Airmen and Guardians who are the masters of those domains nevertheless remain tightly integrated within a single Department of the Air Force. So it is with our Association."

## 2021 Chapter 102 Officers

President: Jim Harris — Vice President: Bruce Barton

Secretary: Pat "Irish" McCoy — Treasurer: Troy Eastman

To contact any of the Chapter officers e-mail [afa.chapter.102@afa102.net](mailto:afa.chapter.102@afa102.net)



# FINI FLIGHTS

## General Chuck Boyd — former Air University Commander — fini-flight on March 23, 2022

During his 36 year career from the time he earned his pilot wings at James Conally Air Force Base in Waco, Texas, until his retirement in 1995, he served in many operational and high level command and staff positions. Upon retirement Gen Boyd was Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command.



As an F-105 fighter pilot in Viet-nam Gen Boyd was shot down in February of 1966 over Laos and was rescued by a Jolly Green rescue helicopter. Being the consummate warrior, he told his squadron commander to put him on the schedule the next day! His luck held until his 88th mission on April 22, 1966, over North Vietnam, when he was again hit by anti-aircraft fire. He was forced to bail out at high speed over a ridge of mountains North of Hanoi that was referred to by the pilots as Thud Ridge. He was quickly surrounded by many North Vietnamese soldiers with AK-47 and taken prisoner. The air war was over for Gen Boyd; he spent the next seven years as a guest of "Uncle Ho" at the Hôa Lò Prison which was referred to by American pilots as the Hanoi Hilton. During his stay in the "Hilton," he suffered interrogation and torture. He was released and returned with honor in 1973 during "OPERATION HOMECOMING."

GOD Speed Sir - GBU.

## Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen — Age 101 — fini-flight on February 16, 2022

Colonel Halvorsen is known worldwide as the Berlin Candy Bomber or Uncle Wiggly Wings due to his humanitarian service during the airlift that broke the Soviet blockade of Berlin, Germany in 1948 – 1949. He brought hope to a former enemy by dropping candy to the hungry children of Berlin using tiny parachutes fashioned from handkerchiefs. Ultimately, over 23 tons of candy were dropped to waiting children over the course of Operation "Little Vittles" as part of the US/British/French relief operation that kept over 2 million people in Berlin fed and warm by humanitarian airlift. He returned to Berlin to serve as Commander of Templehof Air Base from 1970 – 1974. Following his Air Force career, Colonel Halvorsen served as the Assistant Dean of Student Life at Brigham Young University for 10 years. He remained involved in humanitarian service and educational activities until his passing.



## CMSGT AFA ORIENTATION

On 17 Feb 2022, AFA Chapter 102 set up an information/recruiting table at the USAF CMSgt Orientation seminar hosted by the CMSAF Joanne Bass.



Betty McCoy along with Maura and Bruce Barton, manned the booth to hand out AFA literature and membership applications to several newly promoted chiefs. This was great opportunity to explain the mission of AFA and how membership in the organization helps to strengthen our position when seeking for support of key initiatives in Washington.



## KHOBAR TOWERS ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY



Preparations are underway for the Khobar Towers Survivor Monument Dedication which will occur at Gunter Annex on Friday, 24 June 2022 at 0900.

The ceremony will occur on the 26th anniversary of the Khobar Towers Bombing in Saudi Arabia, which was the first time the Air Force was directly targeted by terrorists. If you would like to attend please RSVP to the following:

<https://einventions.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=645347&k=0465470A7F50>

# EHH 5K - AFA STEM PROGRAMS



The 23rd Annual Enlisted Heritage 5K in partnership with the Montgomery Half-Marathon was held on Saturday 12 March 2022. Due to COVID-19 precautions, the 5K was capped at 600 runners. All 600 runners registered for the race, which made this year's 5K one of the most successful races that the Heritage Hall has had. In addition to the 600 5K participants, the heritage hall provided volunteers to help with the Montgomery Half-Marathon which had 650 registrants. Both races completely sold out. Over 1200 participants ran on the chilly, and windy morning braving temperatures in the 30s. Over 50 volunteers stepped up to make this year's 5K a huge success. Special credit



should go to the Air Force Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy which provided a majority of the volunteers, and over 100 race participants. Thanks to our many volunteers the Enlisted Heritage Hall raised \$8,000 from this event, making it the most profitable 5K since pairing with the City of Montgomery.



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## AFA's STEM Programs- Ready for Summer Camps and Next Year Competitions

The AFA has two signature science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs for youth in middle and high school. Both programs offer summer camps and registrations for the upcoming school year's competitions open 1 April!

\* If interested in creating a summer camp, registering a team, or signing on to coach or mentor a team, contact [afa@capnhq.gov](mailto:afa@capnhq.gov).

1. CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program created by the AFA to inspire K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other STEM disciplines critical to our nation's future. At the core of the program is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, the nation's largest cyber defense competition that puts high school and middle school students in charge of securing virtual networks. With three divisions, there is a spot for ANY interested young person!
  - a. The Middle School division includes youth from any school or youth organization.
  - b. The Open division includes youth in high schools from across the nation.
  - c. The All Service division includes any high school cadet team from any service JROTC, Sea Cadets, or Civil Air Patrol.



The competition runs from mid October until February with team mentors and coaches assisting the youth through the increasingly challenging levels resulting in an all expense paid trip to the national finals, complete with scholarships for the winning teams.

Other components of the CyberPatriot program are summer AFA CyberCamps, an elementary school cyber education initiative, a children's literature series, CyberGenerations –a senior citizen cyber safety initiative, and a Tech Caregivers program designed to encourage cyber-savvy volunteers to give back to their communities. [USCyberPatriot.org](http://USCyberPatriot.org)

2. StellarXplorers, the AFA's space STEM program, involves high school students from any school, youth organization, or All Service organization, competing in specific training in the use of system simulation software, Systems Took Kit (STK), to provide a solution to a typical space design problem, such as orbit determination, satellite component selection, and launch vehicle planning. This competition begins in October, as well, and results in an all-

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 30 - Community Partner Appreciation Luncheon - Arrowhead Country Club - 11:30 - 1:00

Oct 5 - Golf Tournament - 5 October

See [www.AFA102.net](http://www.AFA102.net) for specific event information and registration



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Another quarter is behind us and we are well into 2022. Covid seems to be abating a bit so we have been relieved to go back to some semblance on normality.

As noted on page 2, we have lost two aviation icons, General Chuck Boyd, former Commander of Air University, and Colonel Gail Halvorsen, the legendary "Candy Bomber" of Berlin Airlift fame. Gen Boyd was a staunch supporter of Chapter 102 while serving as AU Commander. He was a POW hosted by "Uncle Ho" at the notorious Hanoi Hilton for over six and one half years, returning with honor in 1973. Gail Halvorsen was a frequent visitor to Maxwell Gunter. Both were legendary and will be missed greatly.

We were honored at our January luncheon to have as our guest speaker, the Commandant of Squadron Officers School, Colonel Lance Rosa-Miranda. "Rosy," gave the chapter a great update reflecting some of the many projects that SOS accomplishes during their five week course. Many thanks sir, we appreciate your support.

Regretfully, circumstance dictated that we cancel our annual Gathering of Eagles luncheon. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause to our sponsors and others who may have planned to attend.

We are looking forward to our Community Partners luncheon, I hope to see all of you at the Arrowhead Country Club on April 30th! You can sign up now on [AFA102.net](http://AFA102.net)

All the best.

JIM HARRIS

*Support Our Community Partners*

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