



Air Force Association

General Charles A. Gabriel Chapter

Quarterly Newsletter

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<http://www.afa-gabriel.org/>

Volume 2015, Issue 1

Message from the Chapter President

Dear Gabriel Chapter and AFA Members and Friends,

You are about to hear a lot more about pay and benefits for our Airmen – active duty and retired. The Commission on Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization submitted their report to the White House in January. Just this week, President Obama announced his support for the effort, but refrained from endorsing the 15 specific recommendations of the report. According to the *Air Force Times*, the President told the Commission, "I believe the recommendations are an important step forward in protecting the long-term viability of the all-volunteer force, improving quality-of-life for service members and their families, and ensuring the fiscal sustainability of the military compensation and retirement systems."


Your Air Force Association recognizes that the reform questions are complicated, emotional, and tied to national security. Adam Herbert opined for the Association in a recent editorial (March 2015) that the Air Force Association will have to take time to study the details and ramifications of the commission's numerous specific recommendations. Herbert concluded that the commission's final report is a thoughtful search for ways to offer improved compensation more efficiently. "The specifics will certainly be debated throughout the year."

The *Air Force Times* reports that the recommendations would shrink the size of military pensions by 20 percent and create new investment accounts for all troops. They also call for ending Tricare in its current form and instead offering military families insurance policies similar to those available to civilians.

As described in the Association's editorial, the Air Force Association believes that through their service, service men and women willingly choose hardship for the good of the nation. The nation must in turn honor its commitments to the troops. For that reason, any changes to military compensation—notably to retirement programs—must be made in such a way that they do not break promises made to the troops. Few things would damage morale, recruiting, and retention more than breaking faith with the men and women in uniform. Future changes must ensure existing troops are "grandfathered in" to the old systems, or be made optional for today's troops. This will slow the rate of change, but keeping promises is a moral imperative.

AFA believes today's compensation system can be improved, so that it is generous, fiscally sustainable, and appropriate for today's and the future's needs. The specifics can and should be debated, but the commission's report is an important step toward a sustainable future force.

As I have noted on these pages before, failure to invest in our nation's air superiority will ultimately cost the lives of some future airmen, soldiers, sailors, and Marines, not to mention the consequences of failing to maintain American preeminence. To me that means recruiting, training, and retaining



through adequate and effective package of compensation and benefits the finest Airmen in the world.

We owe it to ourselves to be educated about these various ideas to improve compensation and retirement benefits. Personally, I'd like to know more about a retirement plan for Airmen that gives them portability, like a civilian 401K. The idea that Airman are not locked into a 20-year retirement after 10 or 12 years of service might bring some interesting dynamism to retaining tech sergeants and majors. What kind of leadership challenges would commanders face if they could no longer depend on a "captive audience" of mid-career 7-levels and field graders? What would such mobility mean for enlisted and officer promotions if Airmen are not bound by that elusive 20-year retirement? Would such mobility require recruiting more people to retain enough experience to populate the senior enlisted and field grade requirements? And if the Air Force, and other Services, need to recruit more Americans to military service, is it a bad thing to make such service more common and broadly experienced?

All of these considerations of compensation and benefit reform need to be widely discussed and well understood. I urge each of you to pay attention to this debate, consider the benefits and risks, and make your views known to your elected representatives. Our Association will provide advice and advocacy to further the goals of the organization. It's up to each of us to embrace those goals and support them with action.

Speaking of action, we've begun the year with an exciting series of activities for Chapter members and our community. Read more about them in the following pages, including our support to our active duty unit, the Air Force Element of the National Reconnaissance Office at their annual award presentation. You'll also see how the Chapter supports Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education, especially through the Cyber Patriot competition.

I hope to see you at the next Chapter Membership meeting and that you will volunteer to join the Chapter Council.

John "Dallas" Kennedy

President
General Charles A. Gabriel Chapter
Air Force Association

Chapter Activities

AF Element of National Reconnaissance Office Recognizes Best of The Best

Brigadier General Anthony J. Cotton, Deputy Director, National Reconnaissance Office and Commander Air Force Element presided over the 2014 Air Force Element Annual Awards Ceremony held at the National Reconnaissance Office on 29 January 2015.



The ceremony recognizes Air Element personnel in the Airman, Enlisted, Senior Enlisted, Company Grade Officer, and Field Grade Officer ranks, as well as Air Force civilians, assigned by the Air Force to the National Reconnaissance Office. Award winners in each grade go on to compete at the Air Force Space Command level. Given the selective manning for all National Reconnaissance Office assignments, these Airmen are truly the best-of-the-best!

CYBERPATRIOT VII NATIONAL CHAMPIONS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to all of the CyberPatriot VII National Finalists on their incredible performance at the CyberPatriot VII National Finals Competition in March.

The twelve Open Division and thirteen All Service Division National Finalist teams competed within in their divisions in the Network Security Master Challenge, the Cisco Networking Challenge, the Leidos Digital

Forensics Challenge, and the Digital Forensics Consortium's U.S. Digital Crime Scene Challenge. The three Middle School Division teams, meanwhile, went head-to-head in the Network Security Master Challenge and the Digital Forensics Consortium's U.S. Digital Crime Scene Challenge.

It is our great pleasure to announce the winners of this year's CyberPatriot national honors.

- **OPEN DIVISION National Champions:** Team CyberSloths of Grissom High School, Huntsville, Ala.
- **ALL SERVICE DIVISION National Champions:** Team Marine Raiders of Montachusett Regional Technical School, Fitchburg, Mass. (Marine Corps JROTC)
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION National Champions:** Team 1 of Nysmith School for the Gifted, Herndon, Va.



Middle School Students from the Nysmith School for the Gifted were the National Champions in Cyber Patriot VII

Gabriel Chapter supported several teams from Chantilly Academy in Fairfax, Virginia. The staff, AFA, and Northrop Grumman ran two practice sessions and provided study aids and mentors for the teams. Parents, community partners, and volunteers, including four members of the AFA Gabriel Chapter, supported the first round of competitions and provided mentoring throughout the competition. Subway has supported the competition since 2010 by offering AFA special rates for the

lunches AFA provides to the students. The school honored Subway for their continued support.



Gabriel Chapter members Brad Wilkins and Terry LaVoy at the kickoff of Cyber Patriot 2015

To learn more about Cyber Patriot, visit <http://www.uscyberpatriot.org>.

Colonel Scott Goldstein Addresses Chapter Members on Air Force Research Lab Priorities

At our January 8th Chapter Meeting, Brigadier General (sel) Scott Goldstein, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, Air Force Research Laboratories kicked off the new year with a presentation to 20 Chapter Members at Happy Hour Event. Colonel Goldstein spoke about emerging aerospace technologies and AFRL investment priorities for 2016-2021.



Community Support for Guard and Reserves

At our January meeting, Chapter members and industry partners on hand to hear the presentation from AFRL Mobilization Assistant, Col Goldstein, received a presentation on the f Community Support for Guard and Reserve organization. The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a DoD agency that promotes promote public and private understanding of the National Guard and Reserve in order to gain employer and community support. ESGR maintains a web page of information concerning all of its programs and activities at <http://www.esgr.mil>. The national website contains information of interest to employers, Reservists, and committee members about ESGR programs and activities and USERRA.

Colonel Robert Cole Addresses Chapter Members on Air Force Cyber

At our February Chapter Meeting, Colonel Robert "Chipper" Cole, Director, AFCYBER-Forward at USCYBERCOM joined 24 members at Happy Hour event at Clyde's Restaurant in Tyson's Corner. Colonel Cole spoke about the Air Force contributions to United State Cyber Command, describing the efforts of Air Force teams to defend military computer networks.

Brigadier General Robert Skinner Addresses Chapter Members on the Air Force Role in Cyber Operations

At the Chapter's March Meeting, Brigadier General Robert Skinner, USAF, Deputy Commander, Joint Force Headquarters – Department of Defense Information Network (JFHQ-DODIN) spoke to 50 chapter members and invited guests on the AF role in Cyber Operations. General Skinner has three core missions: The Cyber National Mission Force, when directed, is responsible for defending the nation's critical infrastructure and key resources. The Cyber Combat Mission Force provides cyber support to combatant commanders across the globe; and the Cyber Protection Force operates and defends the DoDIN.

Chapter and State Leaders Visit New Congressional Representative

Chapter President Dallas Kennedy, Secretary Joe Burke, and VA-West Regional VP Tom Shepherd visited the office of Rep Barbara Comstock and met with Ms. Lucy Norment, District Director, and Ms. Mary Ann Cannon, Staff Director, at Rep Barbara Comstock's office in Sterling. Shenandoah Chapter President Norm Brander, was to participate, but had to cancel at the last minute. We introduced people, described chapter activities and related AFA priorities. We were able to discuss AFA mission and the roles of the Shenadoah and Gabriel Chapters. The staff we spoke to were particularly intrigued by our Cyber Patriot work and we invited the Congresswoman to participate in our CyberPatriot Camp at Chantilly Academy this summer. We also pitched the AFA Cycling Classic and Warrior Games in April and Ms. Norment expressed an interest in having Rep Comstock attend.

Changes To Chapter Council

Since election results were announced in October, several members have been unable to continue their service to the Chapter. The Chapter is in desperate need to fill the CP for Chapter Events. We are looking for volunteers to fill other vacancies on the Chapter Council, as well. Interested members should contact Chapter President Dallas Kennedy at john.kennedy@afa-gabriel.org or any member of the Chapter Council.

- VP Chapter Events – Vacant
- VP Awards and Recognition – Vacant
- VP Veterans Affairs -- Vacant

Save the Dates

Here are events to look forward to in 2015

April

- Thursday, 9 Apr – Chapter Meeting, 3:30-6:00 PM at Clyde's of Tysons Corner, 8332 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22182 – Our guest speaker will be Mr Joseph Rouge, a Defense Intelligence Senior Leader and the Technical Advisor for Space and Cyber

Space Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance

May

- No Chapter Meeting this month
- 2 May- VA AFA State Quarterly Meeting and Annual Awards Dinner, Roanoke, VA
- 14 May -- Salute to Space NRO Annual Awards
- 15 May – AFC4A Golf Tournament at The Courses at Andrews, Joint Base Andrews, MD. Spouses and other guests are welcome to golf in the tournament.

June

- Thursday, 11 June – Annual Chapter Awards and Teacher of the Year Luncheon
- Saturday, 13 June – Sunday, 14 June, AFA Cycling Classic, Crystal City, VA

July

- Thursday, 9 July – Chapter Meeting and Social, Time, Location and Speaker TBD
- TBD – Cyber Patriot Camp and Awards Banquet

August

- Thursday, 13 August – Chapter Meeting and Social, Time, Location and Speaker TBD
- TBD - VA AFA State Quarterly Meeting
- Saturday or Sunday TBD, Summer Social before Air Force Band Concert

September

- No Chapter Meeting so Chapter Members can provide support to the AFA National Convention and Conference
- Saturday, 12 September – Sunday, 13 September – AFA National Convention, Gaylord National, National Harbor, MD
- Monday, 14 September – Wednesday, 16 September - Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition, Gaylord National, National Harbor, MD

Other Items in the News

Representative Barbara Comstock Hosts Military Academy Day

This year's Military Academy Day will be held Saturday, April 11th from 10:00AM to 1:00PM at the Loudoun County Public School Administration building located at 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA 20148. The event is free and open to all students, parents and guidance staff who are interested in learning more about the nation's military service academies.

Representatives from all of the service academies – Army, Navy, Air Force, Merchant Marine and Coast Guard – will be in attendance. Also, representatives from the Marine Corps ROTC program, the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Military Institute, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and the Citadel have also been invited. Additionally, the American Legion and Randolph-Macon Academy will be represented. Each of the academies will make a presentation from 10:30AM to 12:00PM with student networking lasting until 1:00PM.

Details of the event are in the press release linked below

<https://comstock.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/comstock-announces-10th-congressional-district-military-academy-day>

Gabriel Chapter Welcome Community Partner *Ciao Osteria*

The Gabriel Chapter is proud to acknowledge *Ciao Osteria* restaurant in Centerville Virginia (www.ciao-osteria.com) as a Community Partner. The owner, Sal Speziale, USAFA Alum ('78) is former USAF fighter and test pilot.



The food is excellent and they have a wonderful wine list. But make sure you reserve a table on the weekends because it is the most popular new restaurant in our AOR.

AFA and Virginia Veterans

Your AFA is represented by Governor's appointment to the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Services Organizations. This Council combines the interest of the over 840,000 veterans in Virginia to one voice. In support of the Department of Veteran Affairs, the JLC provides direct input to the Governor and General Assembly for annual budget items and legislation to further the interests of veterans and their families in Virginia. The stated goal is to make Virginia the most "veteran friendly state in the union." Major programs of interest are the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (not to be confused with the national Wounded Warrior Project), the construction of two new Veteran Care Centers (one in Hampton Roads), the maintenance of three Veteran Cemeteries (one in Suffolk), support for the Virginia War Memorial, and specific programs like the Veterans, Education, Training and Employment. For questions about

the JLC or to make input, contact Bart Barton, hbartonjr@verizon.net.

Air Force Association e-Membership

AFA is announcing a new membership option, the eMember. This is an exciting new initiative brought forth by our national Membership Committee. eMembers will be identical to a traditional member in every way except they will not receive the print copy of Air Force Magazine. Instead, they will receive an online version of the magazine only. They will receive all other current member benefits. eMembers are eligible to hold office, vote, and in every way enjoy the benefits of an AFA membership. For now, eMemberships will be available as one-year memberships only and will cost \$30. Traditional members will continue to receive a hard copy of Air Force Magazine and will have full access to all online content.

Additionally, over the next several months, the Magazine will be moving toward implementing a members-only area; a system that will prevent internet users from accessing certain online content without a paid membership. The electronic version of the Magazine will also be migrating from its current PDF format to a new format which will present the entire magazine in digital format identical to the print magazine. This new format will also give us the ability to present this digital version within the members-only area.

We are entering a new and exciting period in AFA in which we aim to turn around membership decline, attract younger members who prefer the digital format, and expand AFA's outreach to influence the public through digital content. We believe the eMember option will provide a valuable addition to your membership recruitment efforts in the Field. Spread the word among your friends and neighbors who want to support America's air arm – at a discounted price. For more information go to www.afa.org.

Wounded Airmen

The Wounded Airman Program's MOU was signed in October, 2013, and since then we've been spreading the word about the program, diligently reporting our efforts to the Air Force, fundraising, and supporting Airmen where

there's need. Our partnership with the Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2) Program continues to strengthen. For those unfamiliar with the AFW2 Program, the program works hand-in-hand with the Air Force Survivor Assistance Program and Airman and Family Readiness Centers to ensure Airmen receive professional support and care from point of injury, through separation or retirement, for life. Chapters have taken it upon themselves to fundraise and plan for the year ahead based on events, need, and Airmen in their local areas. They have also responded financially, and with time, manpower, and other resources when called upon, to reach out in their local communities. We continue to build guidelines to best work together. The Gabriel Chapter is looking for volunteers to help build our own program to support the work of AFW2. If you are interested in helping develop this program for the Chapter, contact afa_gabriel_chapter@afa-gabriel.org

Coffee For You; Donations to Airmen and Family Programs

AFA has entered into a partnership with "Olde Glory Coffee Company" of Manalapan, NJ. For every pound of coffee sold through their website, Olde Glory will donate fifty cents to AFA's Airmen and Family Programs. Programs impacted by this donation include scholarships and professional development for families as well as the Wounded Airman Program.

The owner of Olde Glory Coffee is Abe Dortheimer. As a service-disabled veteran, Abe has offered to link sales on his website to AFA's Airmen and Family Programs. AFA believes that this is a great program which gives a great product to our members, and also which provides real benefits for our airmen and their families. You can read more about the background and history of Olde Glory Coffee at <http://www.oldeglorycoffee.com>.

Please make sure that when you order the coffee, the drop-down on the website order form says "Air Force Association Airmen and Family Programs." This way our Airmen will get the benefit of the donation.

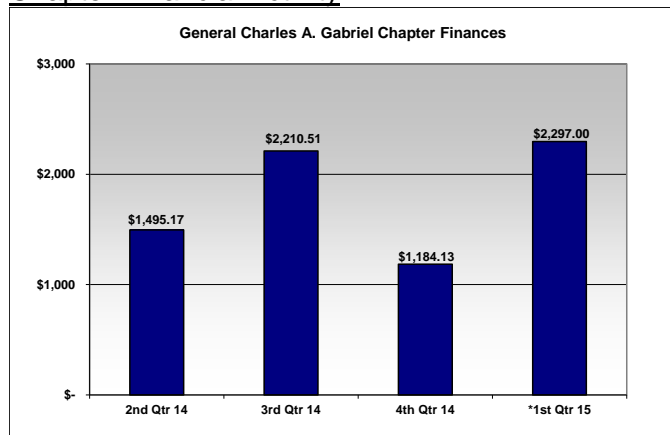
Finally, please note that the shipping for coffee is a flat \$7.50 no matter how much you buy. It becomes much more economical to buy several bags of coffee at once. You can mix-and-match the coffee in your order for the same \$7.50 shipping cost.

Thanks for considering this, and for your support of AFA Airmen and Family Programs!

Chapter Finances

Gabriel Chapter Treasurer, Nancy Cribb, reports on the Chapter's Finances:

Chapter Financial Activity



Current values are as of date of newsletter publication

Inflow:

- AFA Quarterly Rebate
- Chapter Membership Meetings

Outflow:

- NRO Senior Enlisted Council Sponsorship
- Chapter Membership Meetings
- Administrative Expenses

Update Your Information

Please visit the Chapter web site at <http://www.afa-gabriel.org/> to update your contact information and gain access to additional information on the Gabriel Chapter's history, meetings, and events.

Suggestions?

Do you have a suggestion for the newsletter or a Chapter initiative? Please feel free to contact us at afa_gabriel_chapter@afa-gabriel.org.

Executive Committee		
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VP Awards and Recognition	VACANT	
VP Veterans Affairs	VACANT	