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Thanks and Encouragement from Vice Chairman Sandy Schlitt

I want to thank all who sent in education items of interest to AENewsletter@Afa.Org. Our Editor-in-Chief Buster Horlen (TX), and team members Jeri Martin (FL), and Bob Stein (CO) included several in this, our first edition. I must also mention the excellent support of the Headquarters staff. I encourage each of you to use this monthly Education Newsletter to share the great work being done across AFA, as well your comments and ideas. Please send in your articles! In addition, we will add the latest Education news from Headquarters, new opportunities, and upcoming datelines.

AEC Elementary Working Group Report

Earlier this year, Vice Chairman of the Board – Aerospace Education Sandy Schlitt chartered a special group to study the suitability of several existing STEM elementary programs for AFA support. Group Chairman Bill Croom (TX), members Chuck Zimkas (CO), Rich Taubinger (CA), Mary Anne Thompson (VA), advisors Ed Swallow (NDIA), Tony Fowler (D. of Ed.), and staff member Buck Buckwalter studied ten programs and recommended three to the AEC. The AEC accepted their report and made it available to Chapters at <http://www.afa.org/members/AENews/Aug08/EdWrkgGrp.pdf>. The attachments detail how to get involved in the two “NEW” programs for AFA.

Utah Aerospace Education Foundation

The Utah Aerospace Education Foundation is a Utah Incorporated 501(c)(3) Organization that began in 2002. The State President, three Chapter AEVPs, and five to eight volunteers comprise the board of directors. This organization supports education state wide and is not limited by chapter boundaries. The Foundation offers teacher grants, scholarships, support funding for college and high school AFROTC, and financial support for chapter and state Teacher of the Year awards.

The Utah AEF has several unique programs. We offer an in-service training program to 30-40 teachers per year; we are a major contributor to the Hill AFB Museum learning center that is used by many teachers throughout the state, we offer fellowships for outstanding supporters to the Utah AFA, and we support education with \$70K of donations in a state of 1,500 AFA members.

We feel that all states should strive to form a strong AEF. Many businesses may not envision supporting the Air Force as a high priority, but almost all will donate to

education, which in turn increases your donations. Educators may not get involved in the Air Force, but will join an educational organization. Your AEF will help you recruit new members

New opportunities will arise for you to partner with education such as museums, planetariums, Parent Teacher Associations, and other educational organizations. It also affords an opportunity for both membership and fund raising. If all 50 states had a state AEF donating just \$50K each to education, the AFA would be donating \$2.5M to aerospace education every year.

AFJROTC Cadets Learn Skills Essential to Succeed in the Aerospace Education Age

During the last academic quarter, Richard Ortega, Florida AFA Vice President for Aerospace Education, visited Lake Brantley High School and spoke to four classes. After explaining the AFA mission, he described the recognition, educational opportunities, grants, scholarships and financial support consistently donated by the Central Florida Chapter (CFC) and AFA. In each instance, Ortega motivated the cadets to fully embrace and support AFJROTC goals to develop the educational skills necessary to become productive members in the Aerospace Age.

He explained that there are hundreds of scholarships reserved for interested AFJROTC cadets. AFROTC scholarships pay most tuition costs for up to four years, plus books and fees at more than 140 universities and colleges nationwide. For detailed information concerning AFROTC scholarships, Ortega encouraged students and cadets to visit www.afoats.af.mil or call 1-800-522-0033, extension 5116. He explained the type and nature of Scholarships donated by the CFC to AFROTC cadets assigned to Detachment 159 at the University of Central Florida. Cadets were encouraged to fully embrace the values of citizenship, personal responsibility, a sense of accomplishment, and honorable service to the United States of America – the Junior ROTC Goals. The AFJROTC program prepares them to become productive citizens for honorable and competent service in their community, regardless of career path. At the conclusion of his four classes, forty-one cadets accepted Ortega's invitation to join AFA as "Cadets."

North Carolina Blue Ridge Chapter #424 Supports the Visions of Exploration Program

The Blue Ridge Chapter has found that by sponsoring the Visions of Exploration for several teachers, this program has benefited teachers and the Chapter in many ways.

First, the teachers really like having *USA Today* in their classroom as many students do not have access to a newspaper in their homes. Last year William Duncan, Chapter Secretary, volunteered in several of the sponsored classrooms. He taught the students to use *USA Today* to read, discuss current events, and analyze articles on science, social studies, and other subjects. Since teachers get 30 copies of the paper, they often share papers with another teacher, so the Chapter is really helping two classrooms. Second, several of our teachers have applied for and been granted an Educator Grant from AFA to

help aid in a special field trip or study that otherwise would not be available to the teacher and students. Third, by sponsoring a Visions program, the Chapter always has several candidates that can be considered for Chapter Teacher of the Year. Fourth, one of our Visions teachers was not only our Chapter Teacher of the Year but also selected for North Carolina State Teacher of the Year two years ago. Finally, Visions and Teacher of the Year make great content for articles about Chapter community outreach. Blue Ridge Chapter #424 has been successful in getting smaller townships to publish articles about the Chapter its outreach programs.

Hurlburt Chapter #398 Facilitates Teacher Tour



On Saturday, January 26, 2008, thirty-two Northwest Florida and Alabama teachers endured bone-chilling weather to experience a tour reserved for heads of state and the political elite. As it has done five times previously, the home of Air Force Special Operations, Hurlburt Field FL, opened its arms to America's teachers in an awe-inspiring display of airpower and hospitality. Teachers and volunteers rallied at the Air Force Special Operations School, where they divided into two groups to alternately tour the flight line and the 19th

Special Operations Squadron (SOS). On the flight line, teachers toured the WC-130J Hurricane Hunter flown by the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Wing, Keesler Air Force Base MS, the MH-53M Pave Low IV helicopter flown by the 20th SOS, the AC-130U Spooky II gunship flown by the 4th SOS, and the CV-22 Osprey flown by the 8th SOS. At the 19th SOS, teachers flew the MC-130 Combat Talon I and II simulators and operated many sophisticated training devices.

Even more awe inspiring than the aircraft and simulators were the war stories told by the all-too young yet combat hardened warriors and professionals that gave up their Saturday to graciously display their cherished aircraft and trainers. Then teachers and volunteers rallied at Hurlburt's Soundside Club where they enjoyed a buffet lunch prior to workshops prepared and supervised by AFA Hurlburt Chapter members and nationally-recognized aerospace educators Jeri Martin, Glenn Rutland, Casey Oliver, and Rick Soria.

Ann Sagle from AFA Headquarters briefed on AFA's generous support for America's classrooms, Dr. John Fay spoke on the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) programs, and Maj Gen Clay McCutchan discussed the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

Testimony to the high priority of America's educators was the all-day participation of Maj Gen Clay McCutchan, Senior Mobility Advisor to the Air Force Special Operations Command. Dann Mattiza, Tommy Hull, Danny Webb, Matt Marier, Max Friedauer, Yogi Jogerst, Gary Cornell, Mike Grimm, and Dave Loar were the AFA Hurlburt Chapter #398 volunteers that planned and facilitated the event.

These volunteers understand that the future of airpower depends upon rallying the American people by making them aware of airpower's significance to national security and freedom. For elected officials, industrialists, educators, uniformed military and private citizens alike, that airpower awareness begins in America's classrooms. America's classrooms are the cradle of airpower.

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