



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION COWBOY CHAPTER 357

....the force behind the force

Spring / Summer, 2014

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Happy Birthday National Guard!

We were proud to support and participate in the celebration of the National Guard's birthday celebration. It was a spectacular evening that was truly a tribute to our National Guard and their service to our country. We extend our gratitude and appreciation to **Major General Luke Reiner** for including us in this meaningful event.



AFA Completes Another Busy Season!

What a phenomenally busy and productive spring and summer we have experienced! More and more challenges, and more and more projects equate to many successes that are the cornerstone of our chapter. It seems one project is never completed before another surfaces. Our visibility in the public arena has re-invigorated our chapter to insure that our populace is aware of our continued need to support the efforts toward a strong national defense. Our membership, our military contingents and our phenomenal community partners have been the facilitators for an overwhelmingly successful year.

Deployed Spouses

Our deployed spouses support program continues to flourish. We support and participate in any and all programs for these brave spouses and children who manage like true professionals while their spouses are in harm's way. We are so very proud of our efforts in support of these programs and will continue to explore ways to enhance our programs with more support. Of all the programs we support, this is one that is extremely near and dear to our hearts and worthy of our best efforts.

Farewell and Congratulations to General Taheri

Congratulations to **Brigadier General Mike Taheri** on his recent promotion and his appointment to a higher calling in Washington, D.C. We will certainly miss him and wish him well. His stay was far too short in our arena and perhaps he will return in the not too distant future.

Photo Courtesy nationalguard.mil

General Weinstein on 60 Minutes



We all watched our own **Major General Jack Weinstein** on National Television. His appearance on 60 Minutes underscored the pride and professionalism of our missile force and we were elated at the manner in which he presented his views and guidance. We are so very fortunate to have a professional of his caliber at the helm of our force.

Retirement Congratulations to General Reed

We were pleased to attend the retirement ceremonies for **Brigadier General Harold "Cec" Reed**. He has been a superb supporter of our chapter and has been in the guard arena for many many years. Our congratulations go out to him and his family. We wish them every success in their future endeavors.



Photo Courtesy Staff Sgt John Galvin, DVIDS.net

Armed Forces Day Banquet

Our Armed Forces Day Banquet was another fabulous event by the chapter. Our dynamic and charismatic speaker, **Major General Jack Weinstein**, was absolutely phenomenal and shared thoughts and guidance that was meaningful to us all. He is truly one of our finest, and we appreciate his willingness to take time from his very busy schedule to be with us. He gave a superb presentation to a packed house at the Holiday Inn, which was attended by our top-level civilian and military leadership of every service, not to mention many of our community partners who purchased tables to host airmen to attend the function. We thank **General Weinstein and his wife Patricia** for making our evening a super successful one.

We express our sincere appreciation to **Gayle White, our Rocky Mountain Region president**, for his assistance in honoring our Wyoming State Air Force Association Teacher of the Year, **Mrs. Laura Drake**. Mrs. Drake is a teacher at Goins Elementary School, and epitomizes those professionals who dedicate their time and talent to insure a quality education for our children.

We were proud and privileged to recognize our Air Force Association Pitsenbarger Awardee, **SrA Joseph Brindiger**, 90th Security Forces Group. We also recognized the Cheyenne Cowboy Chapter Scholarship winner, **Cadet Jacob Franke**, Det 40, University of Wyoming. Many of you will remember his father, who was a Chaplain on FE Warren AFB. We can only imagine the pride they both feel. Additionally, we were privileged to recognize our Air Force National Scholarship winner, **Cadet Benjamin Wesley**, and also our National award winner **Cadet Joseph Meier**, Det 40, University of Wyoming. Congratulations! Your Air Force Association is proud to honor you and your accomplishments.



AFA Rocky Mountain Region President Gayle White and Cowboy Chapter President Irene Johnigan present the Wyoming State Teacher of the Year award to **Mrs. Laura Drake** of Goins Elementary School. (photo courtesy USAF)



Terry Cook performs the National Anthem at the Armed Forces Day banquet. (photo courtesy USAF)



Tucker Fagen, Chief of Staff for Representative Cynthia Lummis, introduces special guests. (photo courtesy USAF)

Community Partners' Luncheon

We had an incredible turnout and response from nearly all of our Community Partners, military leadership, and government officials at the **Plains Hotel** for the Community Partners' Luncheon. The chapter hosted this "thank you" lunch for all the local businesses and organizations who make possible the essential work of your Cowboy Chapter.

We were so honored to have **Lieutenant General Stephen Wilson, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command**, as our guest speaker. It was no wonder that we saw such an amazing turnout of leaders to hear the General speak on the future of the nuclear enterprise.

It was also a special treat to join leadership from the Wyoming Military Department, including **Wyoming Adjutant General, Major General Luke Reiner**, in presenting an award to the very deserving **Civil Air Patrol Cadet Lieutenant Cory Garvin**, who attended the luncheon with his parents.



Lieutenant General, Stephen Wilson, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, addresses the large crowd at the Historic Plains Hotel. (photo courtesy USAF)



The Plains Hotel was bursting at its seams, with leaders from the community and the various military branches in attendance. (photos courtesy USAF)



AFA Chapter 357 President Irene Johnigan is joined by **Wyoming Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Luke Reiner** and leadership from the **Wyoming Civil Air Patrol**, to present an award to **Cadet Cory Garvin**, of Casper, Wyoming. (photo courtesy USAF)

Cheyenne Frontier Days Events

We were so proud and humbled to show off the hospitality and welcoming spirit of the great State of Wyoming to our visiting **Grand Marshall, Lieutenant General Stephen Wilson, and his wife, Nancy**. We co-hosted a reception at the Governor's Residence for the Wilsons. This extravaganza, second to none, was attended by an estimated 500 community and military members. Our sincerest gratitude goes out to our dynamic and phenomenal first family, **Governor Matt and Carol Mead**, for offering their quarters for this annual wildly-anticipated event. Once again, these events don't just happen - and we thank our sponsors for their support in assuring a first-class recognition function.

We sincerely thank **Colonel Tracey Hayes, 90th Missile Wing Commander**, for including us in the reception the wing hosted for **Lieutenant General Stephen Wilson**. It was a great event, with social hour at Prado Park and dinner at Fall Hall. The entire event was superbly orchestrated and a real pleasure to attend. We feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to interface with our military at any event.

Thunderbirds Barbecue

Once again, we hosted the Thunderbird Enlisted BBQ. We thank our own **Bob Farr, Agneta Breslin**, and **Lorrell Walter** and her team from **High West Energy** for their tireless efforts in making this a great event for these young professionals. We thank our **Governor** and **Mayor** for taking time out of their busy schedules to meet these young airmen and present them with mementos from our great state. **Chipotle's** is our premiere sponsor of this event, along with **Budweiser** and **Pepsi-Cola**. Thanks to you all. This is a one-of-a-kind event that happens only in Cheyenne. We are so proud of our young Airmen!

Thunderbirds Visit to the VA Center

Our hats off to **Dusty Thein** who orchestrated a Thunderbirds visit to the **Veteran's Administration Hospital**. This premiere event honors our veterans with a visit from our most professional ambassadors, and we know how very appreciative the veterans are. There is not a more emotional event than witnessing our veterans interacting with the Thunderbird professionals and to see the admiration and emotion in their eyes.



Photos
courtesy
Dusty Thein



Out and About....

Your Air Force Association has taken great pride in supporting the **Quarterly Awards Program**, which honors the best of the best on F E Warren Air Force Base. We, in conjunction with our dedicated community partners, are proud to support their endeavors and their dedication and commitment to the uniform they wear. We congratulate all of the award winners and wish them well in their future pursuits.

The **Wing Dining Out** was another great event hosted by the 90th Operations Group. We were privileged to attend this event and we express our gratitude and appreciation for the invitation. We are proud to support our troops, regardless of the occasion.



Awards such as this 90th Missile Wing Spirit Award (won on this occasion by Col. Trevor Flint and the 90th Maintenance Group this past July) are presented during the quarterly awards breakfast.. (USAF Photo courtesy Airman 1st Class Jason Wiese)

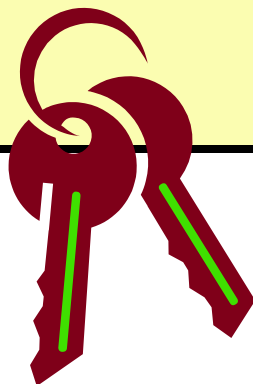


Guests at the Wing Dining Out raise their glasses in a toast during the POW/MIA ceremony. (USAF Photo courtesy Airman 1st Class Jason Wiese)

Your Air Force Association, Cowboy Chapter 357, is proud to be a key supporter of the "Arrive Alive" program on the base. This effort is gauged to give our airmen a safe alternative to a ride home, when designated driver arrangements fall through.

Upcoming Events

- **AFA National Convention / Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition** - September 13-17, 2014, National Harbor, Maryland
- **Wyoming Congressional Breakfast** - September 16, 2014, Washington, DC
- **Air Force Birthday Ball** - co-hosted with the 90th Missile Wing - September 18, 2014, Holiday Inn Cheyenne



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... COWBOY CHAPTER PRIDE - 332 MEMBERS AND COUNTING!

From President Irene's Desk.....

In closing, I can honestly say that I could not be more proud of our Air Force Association and how we meet our many challenges. As you peruse this newsletter, it is our hope that you will be as proud and impressed as those who administer our many programs. It is abundantly obvious that we put our heart and soul into our efforts to insure we are doing the very best we can for our uniformed

personnel. Please remember the many challenges and sacrifices our service members face every day to assure our freedoms. Reach out to these young professionals and their families and let them know how very much we appreciate what they do on a daily basis for us.

- Irene

REMEMBER...**EVERY MEMBER COUNTS!!**

Please consider transferring your existing AFA membership to the Cowboy Chapter when you transfer to our State. Part of the funding that supports the programs which benefit you and your family is based on the numbers on our membership rosters.



Air Force Association— "promoting public understanding of aerospace power and national defense."