



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION COWBOY CHAPTER 357

....the force behind the force

Spring / Summer, 2016

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Scholarships

The unbelievable challenges and accomplishments of your local chapter of the Air Force Association are so noteworthy that they deserve all of our attention. This past quarter found us pursuing our goals and accomplishing them in an extremely successful manner. We are proud of our scholarship programs and were honored to present six **Pitsenbarger Scholarships** to the following individuals: **MSgt Victoria Lopez**, 153rd Airlift Wing, Wyoming National Guard; **SrA Alexander Gunter**, 90th MW; **SSgt Ronald Harrell**, 90th Civil Engineer Squadron; **SrA Gloria Moctezuma**, 90th Security Support Squadron; **SSgt Kenny Santiago**; and **SrA Alexis Visser**, 90th Munitions Squadron. We presented our local \$1,200 scholarship to **Cadet Guil Factor**, University of Wyoming AFROTC and our \$100 savings bond and certificate for the National Award to **Cadet Marissa Trujillo**, University of Wyoming. We were pleased to present each of them with \$500 checks from National and a supplemental check from our chapter. Additionally, **Cadet Willow Hennelly** received an AFA Award at the 2016 JROTC 61st Group Dining Out. We are very, very proud of all scholarship programs and are very fortunate to have **Colonel (Ret) Carol Holland** who spearheads this program with coordination from the National Guard, 90th Missile Wing and the Base Education Office.



SSgt Ronald Harrell and Cowboy Chapter President Irene Johnigan



SrA Alex Gunter receives his certificate from Cowboy Chapter President Johnigan

Quarterly Awards

We continue to be very strong supporters and participants of the Wing Quarterly Awards programs. This is a very rewarding event that allows us to interface with our young professionals and the "best of the best" in their chosen career fields. We thank the 90th Missile Wing for allowing us to be a part of this event.



MSgt Victoria Lopez and Colonel (Ret) Scott Fox (photo courtesy Scott Fox)

Armed Forces Day Banquet

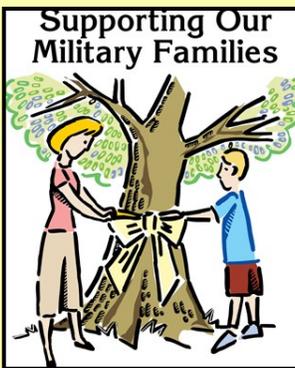
Our Armed Forces Day Banquet was an absolutely fabulous event. Our dynamic and charismatic speaker, **Major General Tony Cotton Commander, 20th Air Force**, was absolutely phenomenal as he shared his vision and thoughts for the future with an absolutely packed house that was attended by our top military and civilian leadership of every service. Our extremely generous **Community Partners** stepped up to the plate and purchased tables so that we were afforded the opportunity to host airmen to attend the event. He was so very well received and certainly insured an overwhelmingly successful event. We thank **General Cotton** for making our event super-special!



Major General Tony Cotton
(photo courtesy USAF)

Deployed Families

We continually strive to find ways to support the families of deployed personnel. We have supported several outings, most recently a jumping jacks event. We will continue our holiday sponsorship in the coming months as well. We so admire these families who have stepped up to the challenge and make things function while their loved ones are absent and in harm's way. Our thoughts and prayers are with them continually. We challenge anyone who can help us support them in any way to please notify any board member.



SrA Gloria Moctezuma,
Security Forces Group
Instructor, with Colonel (Ret)
Carol Holland (photo courtesy
Scott Fox)



Graduations

Colonel (Ret) Holland and Colonel (Ret) Scott Fox attended the ROTC graduation ceremonies and the CCAF graduation and made these meaningful presentations. We have an outstanding scholarship program that boasts members that are dedicated and committed to furthering the education of our airmen. We thank them for taking the time out of their busy schedules to insure a great program!



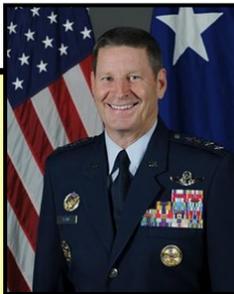
JROTC Cadet Willow Hennelly, 61st Group, receives the Outstanding Cadet award with Colonel (Ret) Carol Holland and Colonel (Ret) Scott Fox (photo courtesy Scott Fox)



Cheyenne Frontier Days Events

Governor's Receptions

We felt so much pride and honor to welcome **General Robin Rand, Commander, Global Strike Command**. As our Grand Marshal for Cheyenne Frontier Days, we enjoyed the opportunity to host him while he and his wife visited our fair city. We co-hosted the reception in his honor at the Governor's residence that was attended by a fair number of Cheyennites and a great time was had by all. General Rand's visit was greatly anticipated and we were so proud to be in his midst. Our deep appreciation and gratitude goes out to **Governor Matt Mead and First Lady Carol** for opening their home for this prestigious event. Our sincere thanks to our own **Lorrell Walter** and her crew from **High West Energy** for spearheading this event. They did an absolutely phenomenal job. The following weekend, we were also privileged to host a like reception for **General Carlton Everhart, Commander, Air Mobility Command**. We sincerely hope he enjoyed being with us as much as we enjoyed his presence at this highly visible time of the year.



General Robin Rand (left) and **General Carlton Everhart** (right)



Thunderbirds Barbecue

Once again, we hosted the **Thunderbird BBQ**. It is the only event of its kind for our enlisted corps. Once again, we thank **Lorrell Walter and the High West Energy crew** for this tasty and dynamic event. We thank our **Governor Matt Mead, Mayor Rick Kaysen, and CFD Military Chairman Col. Hans Ritschard** for taking time out of their busy, busy schedules to meet these young airmen and present them with mementoes of their visit. The turnout from the base and Guard was absolutely great and demonstrated our gratitude for their service and sacrifices.



President Irene Johnigan and local dignitaries welcome Thunderbird enlisted members to the annual BBQ in their honor.



Thunderbirds Visit to the VA Center

Our hats off and a great big thank you to **Dusty Thein**, who orchestrated a **Thunderbirds** visit to the Veteran's Administration Hospital. This great event honors our veterans with a most prestigious visit from our most professional ambassadors. We were privileged once again to witness how appreciative our veterans are for that recognition. I think there cannot be a more emotional event than witnessing the interaction within that room and to see the admiration on their eyes.

Photos courtesy Cheyenne VA Medical Center



90 MW Reception

We were also privileged to attend a reception hosted by **Colonel Steve Kravitsky, 90th Missile Wing Commander**, on the first Saturday of Cheyenne Frontier Days. We cannot say enough about the capability and versatility of the project officers who pulled off one of the finest events of the week. We express our gratitude and appreciation to Colonel Kravitsky for including us at this fantastic event.

To Honor the Fallen...

Below is a beautiful poem submitted by member **Deb McCann** in honor of those who have not made it home:

Can't Take My Memories

I wander from room to room in our small townhome
The rooms they seem much bigger now since I live alone
You and I together here came to a tragic end
When you lost your life in a country called...
Afghanistan

I am so proud of you
You loved the red, white and blue
Your motto was to defend and fight
For God and Country and all that's right
Can't take my memories...
Afghanistan

You said you were a Soldier the day we met
Said to remember, never forget
A Soldier's got to do what he's got to do
And he may not come back home to you

I am so proud of you
You loved the red, white and blue
Your motto was to defend and fight
For God and Family and all that's right
Can't take my memories...
Afghanistan

I miss your laugh and I miss your smile
I sit around and dram about you quite awhile
You were a good man, strong and true
I'll always remember, I'll always love you
Can't take my memories...
Afghanistan



Multicultural Event



A dancer from the Little Sun Drum and Dance Group performed at the Multicultural Event June 22, 2016. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Ruano)

For the first time, we attended a multicultural event on the base. The **90th Missile Wing and the 153rd Airlift Wing** partnered to celebrate this meaningful event. They offered a venue that was state of the art with food, drink and desserts to die for. The also scheduled entertainment for us all. We congratulate the leadership for an absolutely wonderful event that honored all cultures of our society.

Greek Dinner

Once again we offered a Greek Dinner at the **Warren Spouses' Club** Scholarship Auction. We were able to schedule it in June and the attendees had a spectacular time. Our sincere thanks to **Senator Pappas and his wife, Kay**, for opening their beautiful home for the event and preparing the bulk of the meal. It was so well received, and we were honored to showcase our heritage.

Upcoming Events

- Cookie Drive
- Poinsettias for Deployed Families
- Treats for Troops
- Base and Guard Christmas Parties
- Deployed Spouses Event and Dinners
- Toys for children of deployed personnel

AFA Cowboy Chapter 357

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... COWBOY CHAPTER PRIDE - 301 MEMBERS AND COUNTING!

From President Irene's Desk.....

I can honestly say that I could not be prouder of our local Air Force Association and how they meet their many challenges. More importantly, how they continually achieve exceptional results in all that they undertake. This is a great tribute to our uniformed personnel who are at the forefront of all our endeavors. Please bear in mind that these young professionals are away from home and deserve all the support we can give. They give their all on a daily basis and ask for nothing

in return. Their sacrifices are huge, and it is important that we recognize our responsibility in that area. Reach out to them when the challenge or opportunity arises and do not shy away from helping them. They will be so grateful and proud. Cheyenne can be justifiably proud of our support for our troops, regardless of the occasion. Their comfort zone is totally our responsibility and we must make every effort to be there for them.

- 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.

