



# Air Force Sergeants Association Division 89

Volume 4, Edition 1  
Jan 2012—April 2012

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## Division 89 President's Forum

Our division is now three years old and I don't even have the words to tell everyone how proud I am of the efforts put forth by every single chapter and our division officers. Because of our hard work, we are well ahead of other divisions with the upcoming mergers. In January 2013, as the other divisions are reorganizing, our division will simply go through a name change to Division 3. Thank you for making our merger happen almost flawlessly. The simple fact that everyone worked together to create Division 89 without bringing old division politics along speaks volumes about the quality of people in our division.

For those that could not attend our Division 89 Professional Airman's Conference in Oklahoma City, you missed a world class event that was put together by MSgt(r) Terry Turner and his Chapter 985 team. The food, facilities, and the itinerary were outstanding.

In addition to a great event, we were able to recognize the best within our division. These individuals and teams will go on to represent Division 89 at the Air Force Sergeants Association Professional Airman's Conference in Jacksonville, Florida later this year.

I would personally like to congratulate our individual award winners.

THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CHOICE FOR AIR FORCE ENLISTED



Our division Member of the Year was MSgt Michael Mooney from Chapter 985, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. On the Auxiliary side, our final Division 89 Auxiliary Member of the year was Helen Hatz from Chapter A804, Kansas City, Missouri.

In addition, we also recognized our best Airman and NCO in the Division. Chapter 964, Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota swept both categories with SSgt Eric Hurtado and TSgt Jeffery Reuben taking top honors.



NCO OF THE YEAR, TSgt JEFFERY REUBEN WITH FORMER CMSAF RODNEY MCKINLEY AND AFSA DIVISION 89 PRESIDENT DALE LUTZEN



MEMBER OF THE YEAR MSGT MICHAEL MOONEY WITH AFSA PRESIDENT JEFF LEDOUX AND DIVISION 89 PRESIDENT DALE LUTZEN. PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA MUTH PHOTOGRAPHY.

We were also fortunate to have AFSA International President Jeff Ledoux in attendance. President Ledoux discussed many important issues to our association,

including the new CAPWIZ tool to contact Congress. If our organization is going to make an impact on Capitol Hill, we must be actively engaged and work with our elected officials to make sure our voice is heard, CAPWIZ is the tool to make that happen.

President Ledoux also discussed the hot button topic of TRICARE for our retirees. He stressed that AFSA is actively engaged with members of Congress so they know the importance of keeping promises to individuals who have answered the call for our national defense.

To round out our professional development portion of the conference, MSgt (ret) Don Roden, CTA-Certified Coach provided training on finding and expressing your voice in leadership, what is at the core of successful leadership, and how to combine passion with vision to improve your leadership qualities. This was the second year that Division 89 has included professional development as part of the conference.

The 2012 Division 89 Professional Airman's Conference ended on Saturday night with the honors banquet. CMSAF #15, Rodney McKinley entertained the attendees as the evening's guest speaker. The Chief also presented awards to our Airman and NCO of the Year winners. The final group recognized was the Division 89 Auxiliary, the entire group was recognized with DP Lutzen's President's Award. In

Continued on Page 8



## Division 89 PAC Pictures



**DIVISION TRUSTEE TERRY TURNER WELCOMES AFSA INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT JEFF LEDOUX TO THE PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION DINNER. PHOTO COURTESY OF MUTH PHOTOGRAPHY**



**AIRMAN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES: .SRA THANA CHANONTREE, A1C ANDREW LOWE, SRA KRYSTAL BRITAIN, SRA SHAUN LEWIS**



**TSGT CALLAHAN AND SSGT LINK ACCEPT CHAPTER OF THE YEAR HONORS ON BEHALF OF CHAPTER 872, SCOTT AFB. PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA MUTH PHOTOGRAPHY.**



**NCO OF THE YEAR NOMINEES: TSGT AMBER CALLAHAN, SSGT FAWN LAWRENCE, SSGT LARRY DOUGHTY, TSGT JEFFERY RUEBEN, TSGT MARY ROKITKA, SSGT KURT ENNIS .**



**HELEN HATZ, JEAN KOLWITZ, AND WILLA HYDE, THE LADIES MEET FOR ONE LAST TIME.**



**AUXILIARY COORDINATOR JEAN KOLWITZ GIVES HER LAST COORDINATOR'S AWARD TO ONE OF THE AUXILIARY'S MOST DEDICATED MEMBERS, KATHY ODEN**



**PATTI DALZELL CHECKS OUT HER NEW QUILT AS SENIOR ADVISOR DALZELL LOOKS ON. PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA MUTH PHOTOGRAPHY.**



**THE NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IS SWORN IN BY CMSGT (RET) STEVE FRANCIS**



## 2011 AFSA Division 89 Annual Awards

### Individual Awards

- Member of the Year: MSgt Michael Mooney, Chapter 985/Oklahoma City, OK
- Auxiliary Member of the Year: Helen Hatz, Chapter A804/Kansas City, MO
- Auxiliary Veterans Administration Volunteer Services Award: Ms. Barbara Veach, Chapter A804/ Kansas City, MO
- Volunteer Service Person of the Year (VSP): MSgt Shanon Midgette, Chapter 872/Scott AFB, IL
- Individual Legislative Award: MSgt (Ret) Terry Turner, Chapter 985/Tinker AFB, OK

### Team Awards

- Chapter of the Year (Over 500 Members): Chapter 872, Scott AFB, IL
- Chapter of the Year (Under 500 Members): Chapter 988/Altus AFB, OK
- Auxiliary Chapter of the Year Chapter A851/Milwaukee, WI
- Newsletter of the Year: Chapter 985/Tinker AFB, OK
- Auxiliary Newsletter of the Year: Chapter A804/Kansas City, MO
- Community Service Award: Chapter 872/Scott AFB, IL
- Chapter Website of the Year: Chapter 872/Scott AFB, IL
- Chapter Legislative Award: Chapter 985/Tinker AFB, OK
- Auxiliary Community Service Award: A851/Milwaukee, WI

### Individual Awards (Runner-up)

- Member of the Year Runner-Up: MSgt Rebecca McNelly, Chapter 972/ McConnell AFB, KS
- Auxiliary Member of the Year Runner Up: Ms. Sue Metzger, Chapter A851, Milwaukee, WI
- Volunteer Service Person of the Year (VSP) Runner-Up: MSgt Kent Kundert, Chapter 959/ Minot, AFB, ND
- Individual Legislative Award Runner-Up: MSgt (Ret) David Bamburg/Chapter 951, Ellsworth AFB

### Team Awards (Runner-up)

- Chapter of the Year Runner Up (Over 500 Members) Chapter 985/Tinker AFB, OK
- Chapter of the Year Runner-Up (Under 500 Members) None
- Auxiliary Chapter of the Year Runner Up: Chapter A804, Kansas City, MO
- Chapter Website of the Year Runner-Up: Chapter 985/Tinker AFB, OK
- Community Service Award Runner-Up: Chapter 985/Tinker AFB, OK
- Auxiliary Community Service Award Runner-Up: Chapter A804, Kansas City, MO
- Newsletter of the Year Award (Over 500) Runner-Up: Chapter 872/Scott AFB, IL
- Auxiliary Newsletter of the Year Award Runner-Up: Chapter A851/Milwaukee, WI



## 2011 AFSA Division 89 SkyHighers and HighFliers

<b>AFSA SKYHIGH CLUB</b>			
Recruiter	Chapter	Number of Recruits in 2011	Lifetime Total
Rebecca McNelley	972	168	171
Ronal Reed	881	168	174
Michael Parente	984	115	1,852
Terry Turner	985	108	594
Stephan Francis	988	107	1,710
Steve Zalesky	872	107	546
Larry Doughty	959	104	104
Shaun Lewis	959	104	104
Kent Kundert	959	102	366
Jennifer Shelley	959	102	106
Christopher Coffey	985	102	202
Lisa Muth	985	101	128
Michael Shelley	959	101	137
Michael Mooney	985	100	106
Jennifer Ponder	985	100	205

<b>AFSA HIGHFLIER CLUB</b>			
Recruiter	Chapter	Number of Retentions in 2011	Lifetime Total
Roland Kolwitz*	851	214	2,457
Willa Hyde**	804	130	1,601
Terry Turner	985	103	117
Steve Zalesky	872	101	544

\*HIGHEST RETAINER IN AFSA  
 \*\*HIGHEST RETAINER IN AUX

**21% of All AFSA  
SkyHighers!**

**67% of All AFSA  
HighFliers!**





**President**

SMSgt (ret) Dale Lutzen, Chapter 984, Offutt AFB NE



**Vice-President**

SMSgt (ret) Steve Zalesky, Chapter 872, Scott AFB IL



**Trustee 1**

MSgt Michael Shelley, Chapter 959 Minot AFB, North Dakota



**Trustee 2**

MSgt (ret) Terry Turner, Chapter 985, Tinker AFB OK



**Trustee 3**

MSgt (ret) Bud Kolwitz, Chapter 851, Milwaukee WI



**Trustee 4**

SMSgt (ret) Gary Swanson, Chapter 872, Scott AFB, IL



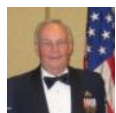
**Treasurer**

MSgt Paul Wagner, Chapter 984, Offutt AFB NE



**Secretary**

SSgt Fawn Lawrence, Chapter 951, Ellsworth AFB, SD



**Senior Advisor**

SMSgt (ret) Charlie Dalzell, Chapter 804, Kansas City MO

Division 89 Recognizes New Lifetime Trustee



MSGT (R) DAVE BAMBURG, CHAPTER 951, ELLSWORTH AFB BECOMES DIVISION 89'S NEWEST LIFETIME TRUSTEE



## What is CAPWIZ?

AFSA recently added the CAPWIZ application to its website. CAPWIZ is designed as an easy to use tool for contacting your elected officials but it is more than just that. CAPWIZ is also an excellent research tool so you can find out what is happening on Capitol Hill and most importantly, find out if your elected officials are looking out for your best interests.

How to access CAPWIZ.

CAPWIZ can be accessed through this link:

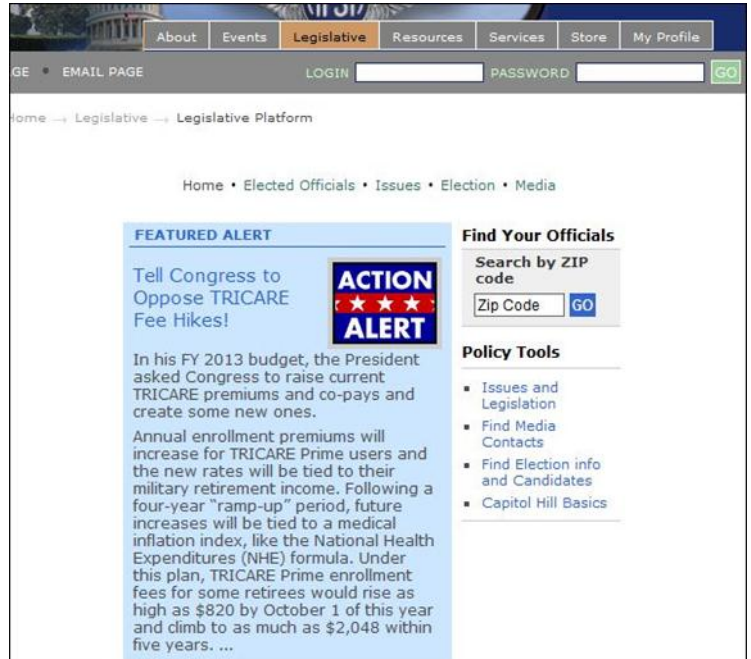
<http://www.capwiz.com/hqafsa/home/>

## What can I do on CAPWIZ?

- Send an email to your elected officials about an issue that is important to you
- Research candidates for public office at the state and federal level
- Research federal government agencies
- Research all legislation currently before congress
- Sign up to receive voting records for your elected officials
- Learn basic etiquette for contacting Congress
- Follow political races for each state and the federal government
- Register to Vote
- Contact local media outlets to let inform the public on matters concerning the enlisted Airman

## Why is all this important?

If our organization is going to be successful in our lobbying efforts, our membership must be proactive and contact their elected officials. If we do not actively engage our politicians, we run the risk of losing key benefits won during the last 40 years.



## How to contact your elected official using CAPWIZ

- Go to the main CAPWIZ Page at: <http://www.capwiz.com/hqafsa/home/>
- Click on the "Issues" link in the main menu
- Click on "Current Legislation"
- Click on one of the bills that you want to contact your elected officials about
- Enter your ZIP Code and press GO, CAPWIZ will load your elected officials
- Edit the letter as you desire or send the preformatted text
- Enter your personal information
- Click on Send Message

In just a few minutes, you have helped AFSA to protect your earned benefits.



recognition of their hard work, Division 89 purchased a brick for the Division 89 Auxiliary at the Air Force Enlisted Village.

### CAPWIZ

AFSA HQ recently added an outstanding online tool for contacting your elected officials. With just a few mouse clicks you can now send an editable preformatted letter to any of your Congressmen. For more information, please see page XX for a full page flyer on this exciting new way to contact Congress.

### Sergeant's Magazine Opt-Out

You now have the ability to opt-out of receiving a hard copy of Sergeant's magazine. This is especially useful if you have multiple memberships in one household and only want to receive one copy of the magazine or you simply want to read Sergeant's online. Complete instructions to opt-out can be found on the [Division 89 website](#). You will have to log in for each membership you wish to stop receiving the magazine.

### Member Privacy

AFSA HQ and Division 89 leadership would like to remind all individuals at the division and chapter levels to destroy membership rosters once they are no longer needed. As you receive new rosters, take a few minutes to ensure previous editions are properly disposed of so we can protect our member's privacy.

### Auto Deduct Membership

AFSA HQ now makes it even easier to keep your membership current with auto-deduct. Each year when your membership is due, AFSA will automatically renew for another year if you have selected this option. You can find more information on the [Division 89 website](#).

### Pictures of AFSA in Action

AFSA HQ is always looking for pictures to include on the HQ website or in Sergeant's Magazine. Chapter Presidents should forward pictures and a short narrative through the Division 89 President. Pictures of any people under the age of 18 must include a release by the child's legal guardian. Please contact Division 89 President Dale Lutzen if you have any questions.

### End of Year Membership Processing

End of year online memberships must be processed by 27 December and mail-in memberships must be processed by 15 December for them to count towards the current year. Memberships processed after those dates will be credited in the next membership year. These dates allow AFSA to properly process all forms prior to the new year holiday.

### New Forms

All chapters must now use the fillable .pdf Americanism and Financial reports. The new form is available for download from





the AFSA HQ website. If you have any questions, please contact DP Lutzen for clarification. This is the only form HQ AFSA will accept.

### AFSA PAC

The 2012 AFSA Professional Airman's Conference will be held August 11-15 in Jacksonville, Florida. You can find all the information for this great event on the [HQ AFSA website](#).

### Airman Activities Coordinator

The Airman Activities Coordinator position will be removed from the AFSA International Committee. To ensure that junior enlisted are still recognized at the international level, an E1-E4 will become an appointed position on the legislation committee.

### Vice-President's Report

As an association we all understand the importance of recruiting new members is a high priority, and obviously we know how to get it done. In spite of all our recruiting efforts, our membership continues to decrease every month. This is important when AFSA is representing issues before Congress and is ask, "How many members does your association represent?.. A decreasing membership population certainly sends the wrong message. So, if ever a priority was needed, it's in the retention of all members. I hope every Division 89 chapter will make retention their number #1 priority.

RETENTION starts when the individual signs-up as a new membership. From that day onward they retain everything that happens to them good or bad. As soon as a new member appears on a membership roster it is imperative that someone from the chapter contact the member and welcome him/her. Make sure the member is added to a chapter distribution list to receive chapter updates and important legislative issues. Odds are the member will continue their membership if they are kept informed and are treated as valued member of a chapter. If all you do is recruit and forget you are only chase numbers and I highly doubt the member will ever consider renewing their membership. Let the member know that they are the "Association" and without them everyone's benefits and entitlements could quickly regress. Membership strength plays an important role in the AFSA's lobbying on the Hill. The larger an association is, the more access and possible influence it will have. NUMBERS COUNT!

The next time someone briefs at your next monthly chapter meeting about how many new members the chapter has recruited consider asking them how many retentions the chapter has. As a division we must continue to re-examine our efforts both through recruitment and retention to insure that we are getting the word about our association out to the majority of those eligible to join.

Till next time, Steve Zalesky, Vice President, Division 89



## Membership Trustee Report

Membership in the organization is open to: Air Force Active Duty (AFAD), Air National Guard (ANG), Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) active, retired, and veteran enlisted members of all grades. In addition, membership is open to family members (spouses, children, parents, and siblings). Other persons are eligible for associate membership if they were former enlisted or Wing Commanders worldwide.

Each member represents one voice. When was the last time you were in Washington, D. C. and stopped by your representatives' office to express your support or concern about a particular bill that affects your life? Many of you or most will say never. How about writing a letter to your representative? Some of you may say yes. How many voices are heard with your letter? ONE!!!

Membership is the key to getting things accomplished. The Air Force Sergeants Association lets you become one of the 110,000 voices that our membership represents. As a member, you will receive several benefits to include discounts, increased knowledge of happenings in Congress and local information. Why is this important? One way DOD saves money is through elimination and reduction of benefits.

AFSA, along with its 110,000 voices, works day-to-day to ensure our benefits are not eliminated or reduced. Let's face it, if ONE person tells you they don't like the fact you are only going to get a 0% pay raise versus an AFSA Legislative Educator representing 110,000 members states his constituents deserve a 1.7% raise, who are you most likely to listen to? The AFSA legislative Educator representing his 110,000 membership.

AFSA Membership has been on the decline for several years. What does this show our representatives? Either we do not care or we are satisfied with losing our benefits. Please join me in the challenge to help our organization have growth. If each member recruits one person, we can double our membership in less than 30 days.

### **What are the benefits of recruiting?**

Primarily, our organization becomes larger, more powerful. Increase leadership roles for our future leaders through opportunities at local volunteer events and chapter activities.

### **What Has AFSA Done for Me Lately?**

Won approval for 1.4 percent military pay raise effective January 1, 2010 and 1.6 percent pay raise effective January 1, 2011. Federal employees received 0%. Prevented DoD from increasing TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Standard, TRICARE Reserve Select premiums, or pharmacy co-payments, during FY 2011. Championed overhaul of education benefits securing landmark passage of the Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008. Won upgrades to laws protecting troops' and families' financial, legal rights. Won up to 15 days non-chargeable rest and recuperation for servicemembers serving over 270 days in a combat zone

### **Finally, What Else Do You Get As an AFSA Member?**

A Professional Organization Fighting to:

Gain Full concurrent retirement and disability pay regardless of VA service-connected disability level

Repeal Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act

**Terry Turner, Division 89 Membership Trustee**



### Chapter 872

Caring Hearts is a local food drive charity which AFSA Chapter 872 supports. It is under the direction of the First United Methodist Church in O'Fallon. Our chapter assists in assembling and filling the food boxes which many churches in the surrounding community utilize in order to purchase essential sustenance for their underprivileged members and elderly homebound. Additionally, the First Sergeants Group purchases a number of boxes to provide assistance to Airmen and their families in need.



CHAPTER 872 MEMBERS HELP UNLOAD A TRUCK DURING A CARING HEARTS EVENT.

In addition to assisting those in need, local citizens can order boxes if they wish to purchase food in bulk. The meat and produce in a typical box is worth about \$50-\$60. However, the food boxes assembled by the program are available for only \$20.

The Caring Hearts food drive runs year-round. Volunteers meet every fourth Saturday at the church to put together the food boxes for distribution. On a monthly average, the chapter assembles 160-180

boxes with about 20 of those going back to the Scott AFB community. During the Holidays, in November and December, it is not uncommon for volunteers to put together up to 300 boxes per month. In 2011, Chapter 872 helped to assemble over 2,200 boxes.



CHAPTER 872 MEMBERS HELP PACK FOOD BOXES FOR CARING HEARTS. IN ALL, THE CHAPTER HELPED PACK 2,200 BOXES IN 2011.

### Chapter 985

Chapter 985 rewarded their members with another popular Membership Appreciation event focused on rewarding members for all their volunteer efforts. 50 Members and guests enjoyed a night out to watch the Oklahoma City Thunder NBA team play. The chapter sponsored three total membership nights for over 150 members plus families.



CHAPTER 985 PRESIDENT TERRY TURNER AND CREW ENJOYED ANOTHER MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION NIGHT WATCHING THE OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER IN ACTION.



Chapter 985

Chapter 985 Trustee Latonya Reno represented the chapter at ALS Graduation. Chapter 985 is the sole sponsor of the Tinker AFB Airman Leadership School John Levitow Award.



FROM L-R: COMMANDANT MSGT STUART SAUNDERS, 72 AIR BASE WING VICE COMMANDER COLONEL STEPHEN WOOD. LEVITOW WINNER SSGT JEREMY D. BRENNAN AND AFSA CHAPTER 985 TRUSTEE LATONYA RENO

President Terry Turner, Vice President Michael Mooney and Airman Activities Coordinator Cody Fondahn briefed FTAC class on AFSA roles and responsibilities. Resulted in 95% of the FTAC attendees joining AFSA!



CHAPTER 985 SIGNED UP 95% OF FTAC ATTENDEES DURING THEIR APRIL 24TH BRIEFING. THESE AIRMEN ARE KEY TO THE FUTURE OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

President Terry Turner and members James Mogren, Stephanie Branscomb, Rachel Long, Cody Fondahn and Doug

Bynum met with 72ABW/CC Colonel Steven Bleymaier. Colonel Bleymaier joined AFSA and was presented with an AFSA desk flag set and chapter coin.



CHAPTER PRESIDENT TERRY TURNER SIGNS UP COL BLEYMAIER, 72ABW COMMANDER.

Airman Activities Program coordinated 7 volunteers donating an hour each for Operation Tinker air park cleanup. Cleaning up the air park improved the Quality of Life for over 20K military and civilian employees who live/work at Tinker Air Force Base. Chapter 985 performs this clean up the last Friday of every month.



VOLUNTEERS WITH THE AIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES PROGRAM FOR CHAPTER 985 CLEAN UP THE TINKER AFB AIR PARK. THE CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS THEIR TIME EACH MONTH TO KEEP THE PARK IN PRISTINE CONDITION.

AFSA 985 and Tinker Top 3 sponsored the 2012 Tinker AFB, Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial Event. This event honored the memory of two active duty members who



Chapter 985

were victims of the April 19, 1995 bombing in Oklahoma City. Two wreaths were placed at the memorial site to honor both Airman.



CHAPTER 985 TEAMED UP WITH THE BASE TOP 3 TO SPONSOR THIS YEAR'S MEMORIAL FOR THE PEOPLE KILLED IN THE 1995 OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBINGS.

AFSA 985 President Terry Turner met with Ginger Thompson and Ashley Young from the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau for a post 2012 Division 89 convention survey. Their organization sponsored the Division 89 President's Reception during the conference by donating \$1,000 dollars. Donation resulted in affordable conference fees for all attendees.



AFSA 985 PRESIDENT TERRY TURNER MEETING WITH GINGER THOMPSON AND ASHLEY YOUNG FROM THE OKLAHOMA CITY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

Chapter 984

It was Friday the 13 April 2012, the morning before our Spring Adopt-A-Highway event. All the coordinations had been accomplished; we had 60 volunteers ready to go along with the garbage bags and re-



CHAPTER 984 WORKING THEIR ADOPT A ROAD IN SARPY COUNTY

flective vests. Our little hearts pitter pattered as we anticipated the next day's activities. Unbeknownst to us, one coordination had been forgotten, that all important phone call to Mother Nature to request a sunny day. Soon on this overcast Friday afternoon, the storm warnings began to fill our e-mail boxes. Much to our dismay, they were predicting hurricane force winds with thunderstorms. Offutt AFB scrambled the jets and relocated them down south until the weather passed. All activities were to be cancelled immediately. With much hesitation, I sent the e-mail for all to stand-down. Mother nature had bested Chapter 984. The score...Mother Nature - 1, Chapter 984 - 0.



Chapter 984

Eventually, the storm clouds lifted and everyone emerged from their hiding places. It was time once again to re-look our commitment to Bellevue and to get our section of Fort Crook Road beautified. The new date of 28 April was selected and we pressed forward. Once again all the coordinations were made, but this time we added our own little silent prayers for better weather. The day prior we receive news of 40% rain showers. I sent out another e-mail, but this time it was, "Rain or shine we go!" When we arose from our beds on that Saturday morning, we heard the birds singing and saw little rays of sunshine peaking through the clouds. We had a tiny window of opportunity before it started to get wet! Our 21 person AFSA Army proceeded down the 1-mile stretch of asphalt obliterating litter as we came upon it. In the end, all that remained were filled garbage bags. We walked back to our starting point with our heads held high as we reflected on a job well done! Now the score was tied and we had bested Mother Nature. We'll hold these bragging



CHAPTER 984 WORKING THEIR ADOPT A ROAD IN SARPY COUNTY

rights until we meet again, in the Fall for Round 3!

Chapter 851

Chapter 851 in Milwaukee has been quite busy these last few months.

Starting in January, the Auxiliary merged with the chapter and now we are ONE. The chapter has created a trustee position named Family/Community Affairs Trustee. Sue Metzger our past Auxiliary President now fills that role. Their team continues to amaze me on how active and rewarding their projects are. The donations of goods



CHAPTER A851 ACCEPTS THE AUXILIARY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FOR 2012

to military members and family members overseas continues. They also continue to run their coupon program with great success. That being said, no wonder they won numerous awards at the Division PAC. I look forward working with these fine individuals and look forward to this upcoming year. I also want to thank all the AFSA Auxiliary members for all their hard work and long term dedication to the AFSA Organization.



## My Educational Journey: Your Influences

Commentary by Technical Sergeant James Shepherd,  
Aerospace Ground Equipment Instructor, 372d Training Squadron,  
Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota

I entered the Air Force in September 2000 and had no ambitions to get an education; I felt the Air Force would give me all the education and training I needed to accomplish my job. During my first assignment, I focused on CDC's and learning my career field. Four years passed by and my second assignment was upon me, Republic of South Korea. At this time I was married with two children. After my brief tour in Korea, my third assignment was approaching; Edwards AFB California was where my family and I would settle in for a journey that would change our lives. At this assignment I learned the importance that Professional Organizations have on a base and the Air Force as a whole. One organization in particular, AFSA, lobbies on our behalf to ensure we have benefits like 100-percent tuition assistance among many other benefits. In addition, I learned the important role a supervisor plays in each Airman's Air Force journey.

At my new duty station, assigned to the Airborne Laser program, I was a young staff sergeant and sat in a cubicle shared by multiple other NCOs but one in particular set me on a life path that I never imagined possible, Technical Sergeant Thornton. We were having a brief conversation while both of us checked our email after morning roll call. He was telling me about how he is working on his electrical engineering degree and applying for an officer training program. I told TSgt Thornton that I wish I was going to school. He asked me "why are you not in school now", I responded with my first of many prepared excuses. After the first two excuses TSgt Thornton said "Shep, let's go", I asked where and he said, "To the college center to sign you up for a class." On our way to the college center TSgt Thornton informed me he applied and was awarded a scholarship from AFSA. After speaking about AFSA for a few minutes I was intrigued; I had to attend a meeting at our local chapter to find out what it was all about.

Almost six years after that life-changing day, I realize that as a supervisor and an AFSA member I can fight for my continued education. Air Force Sergeants Association fights to ensure our tuition is paid for to eliminate student loans and out-of-pocket expenses by providing scholarships to Airman and their dependents. As a supervisor I need to advise my Airman of the many benefits available to them.

It is because supervisors like TSgt Thornton and organizations like AFSA that I am prepared to influence those around me to see and experience the joy I have gained from continuing my educational journey. I set out to obtain my CCAF degree in Aerospace Ground Equipment and call it good. However, once I started, I was addicted; I realized that an education does more than prepare me for a specific career path. It prepared me to be a leader, manager, but more important it provided me an open mind to see things I missed before. For me it was like wearing the wrong prescription eyeglasses for years, and when I finally got



the right prescription, I saw clearer than ever before. August 2011 I graduated with my Master's degree in Project Management and I begin my Ph.D. in Organization and Management with a focus on Leadership April 2012.

Although it has been so many years since I began my educational journey I remember how it began like it was yesterday. Moments like that tend to stick with me, more so in the military. I see other Airman struggling with the choice to begin or continue their educational journey and the importance of joining Professional Organizations like AFSA. I think back to that moment and realize that I must carry on what TSgt Thornton and AFSA did for me. I need to lead the way for others struggling with their decision to continue or begin their educational journey. I must encourage my Airman to join Professional Organizations like AFSA and guide them in their own pursuit of a college education. It can be as simple as going with my Airmen to sign up for their first class, taking them to their first AFSA meeting, attending a book reading at the local school, or even giving a briefing or speech at a base event. The influences are ever reaching, choose your path of influence and persevere.

## A Look Back at Our Air Force 30 Years Ago

A Chief's Perspective by CMSgt Kevin Ott, 28CS, Ellsworth AFB, SD

"Rainbow rainbow don't be blue, we once rainbows too"; are the words I remember hearing as my basic training flight stumbled (can't say marched) to receive a "shorter than average" haircut and our initial uniform issue.

This was one of my first memories when I entered the Air Force. Now as I'm wrapping up my thirtieth and final year on active duty it's only natural to reflect back.

Initial uniform issue included two complete "Combination-1" (service dress) uniforms. Each was a different shade, one with a slight silver hue that was only discernable by the shade number printed on the tag or by the highly tuned eye of the TI. The green fatigues came in both permanent press and 100 percent cotton and I received mix-matched shirts and pants (guess I was a couple decades ahead of today's ABUs with miss-matching shirts and pants).

Immunizations were delivered all at once, via an air gun that shot the serum under high pressure. We were warned not to flinch; otherwise the gun would "rip the skin off your arm". I remember a few of my flight mates walking away with a bloody upper arm.

The tradition of "hurry up and wait" was well established. If we arrived at a training location with more than fifteen minutes to wait, it was "smoke break" time. You could either stand at ease and read the basic training manual or relax and have a smoke. We went from twenty non-smokers to only five by week two.

Weapons' training was a couple of hours of classroom instruction followed by a half day on the range, firing the M-16 with a 22 caliber adapter. We were lucky to shoot five rounds without a jam.





## A Look Back at Our Air Force 30 Years Ago

Travelling to tech school and to your first duty station meant wearing Combination-1. There is nothing quite like wearing a coat and tie for an 18-hour bus ride or a 15-hour international flight.

Your first assignment could be a challenge; there was no FTAC or Right Start. Your roommate guided you to the dining hall, Airman's Club, BX, and gym (usually in that order). Yes, I said roommate not suitemate! In fact, fast forward to 1987 and I had a roommate as a SSgt at Robins AFB, Georgia.

My first assignment was a small radar site with 24 personnel to include two admin troops and two supply troops along with six senior NCOs and a Lt Col commander. Talk about top heavy!

Thanks to prior college credits and promotion to SrA Below-The-Zone I became an E-4 with a whopping seventeen months time in service. Add the near 100 percent appointment rate to Sergeant; I became an NCO at 29 months.

So with less than two and a half years experience I became a supervisor. I hand wrote my first Airman Performance Report (predecessor of today's EPR) on a yellow legal pad. Double spacing the lines provided space for chain of command edits. Once the report passed the chain, one of the admin troops would select the proper sized font ball for the IBM Selectric typewriter and typed the report.

Mentorship meant listening to the SNCOs tell "war stories" at work and at the club on Friday after work. There were no professional enhancement seminars or Top-III, 5/6 or Airman's councils. The only Chief I saw during my first assignment was the president of my BTZ board (yes, we had to meet boards for BTZ and quarterly awards).

There was no Airman's Creed in 1982. There was no NCO Creed, SNCO Creed, Chiefs Creed or Core Values either. When the Air Force Song was played we stood at attention; we didn't sing along and for sure never clapped in rhythm! Ceremonies were simple yet dignified and professional without noise makers or squadron cheers. Promotion meant a trip to clothing sales to purchase your next set of stripes. No one "tacked" on your new stripes, a simple handshake was sufficient.

Everyone wore blues everyday unless in a "getting dirty" job; aircrews wore blues unless on alert or flying. Elite gate guards, with starched blues, spit-shined boots and chrome helmets waved traffic through the main gates with choreographed moves worthy of YouTube.

Yes, we've changed since 1982 (sometimes for the better). But one thing that hasn't changed, and never will, is the quality, spirit, and dedication of our Airmen. While my career comes to a close next year, I'll look forward to see what changes they bring to the Air Force.



## Leader Board

<u>2011 Recruits</u>	
T. Turner (985)	104
S. Lewis (959)	88
S. Francis (988)	87
M. Parente (984)	62
K. Kundert (959)	59
L. Zrucky (872)	43
R. Reed (881)	35
R. Gabel (872)	28
S. Ekker (959)	27
S. Zalesky (872)	26
F. Lawrence (951)	23
M. Shelley (959)	15
E. Soluri (951)	15
T. Lake (984)	13
E. Zimmerman (881)	12
<u>2011 Retentions</u>	
S. Zalesky (872)	90
B. Kolwitz (851)	83
W. Hyde (A804)	27
T. Turner (985)	24
T. Sidel (988)	20
J. Kolwitz (851)	11
D. Lutzen (984)	7
L. Zrucky (872)	5

## Division Leadership Directory

<b>President</b>	SMSgt (ret) Dale Lutzen	<a href="mailto:president@afsadiv89.org">president@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	SMSgt (ret) Steve Zalesky	<a href="mailto:vice@afsadiv89.org">vice@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Trustee</b>	MSgt Michael Shelley	<a href="mailto:trustee1@afsadiv89.org">trustee1@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Trustee</b>	MSgt (ret) Terry Turner	<a href="mailto:trustee2@afsadiv89.org">trustee2@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Trustee</b>	MSgt (ret) Roland Kolwitz	<a href="mailto:trustee3@afsadiv89.org">trustee3@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Trustee</b>	SMSgt (ret) Gary Swanson	<a href="mailto:trustee4@afsadiv89.org">trustee4@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	SSgt Fawn Lawrence	<a href="mailto:secretary@afsadiv89.org">secretary@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	MSgt Paul Wagner	<a href="mailto:treasurer@afsadiv89.org">treasurer@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Senior Advisor</b>	SMSgt (ret) Charlie Dalzell	<a href="mailto:senior@afsadiv89.org">senior@afsadiv89.org</a>

## Internet Directory

### Legislative Websites

- Legislative Information from the Library of Congress: <http://www.thomas.gov>
- Legislative Information from MOAA.org: <http://www.moaa.org>
- U.S. House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov>
- U.S. Senate: <http://www.senate.gov>

### AFSA Websites

AFSA Homepage	<a href="http://www.hqafsa.org">http://www.hqafsa.org</a>
Division 89, Heartland of America	<a href="http://www.afsadiv89.org">http://www.afsadiv89.org</a>
Chapter 858, Minneapolis, MN	<a href="http://www.afsa858.org">http://www.afsa858.org</a>
Chapter 872, Scott AFB	<a href="http://www.afsa872.org">http://www.afsa872.org</a>
Chapter 881, Whiteman AFB	<a href="http://www.afsa881.org">http://www.afsa881.org</a>
Chapter 951, Ellsworth AFB	<a href="http://www.afsa951.org">http://www.afsa951.org</a>
Chapter 985, Tinker AFB	<a href="http://afsa985.org/">http://afsa985.org/</a>

## Division 89 Merchandise

Division 89 Polo Shirt	Division 89 Koozie	Division 89 Coin	2010 POW/MIA Coin
			
\$25.00	\$2.50	\$12.00	\$12.00

The next shirt order will be done approx Jun 2012, all other items are available now, please contact Dale Lutzen, [president@afsadiv89.org](mailto:president@afsadiv89.org) to purchase these items. All prices include shipping.

THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CHOICE FOR AIR FORCE ENLISTED

