



Air Force Sergeants Association

Division 89

Newsletter

Volume 1, Edition 2

Inside this issue:

Council Updates	1-6
Legislative Information	6-9
AFSA Awards	9
Membership Incentive	10
Around the Division	11-13
Enlisted Heritage	14-15
Internet Directory	16

Council Update

President Dale Lutzen:



Dear Friends/Division 89 Members!! We had a great Professional Airmen's Conference (PAC) and International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia August 15-19, 2009!! This year's elections bring us some new names and faces in our AFSA leadership. Division 89 congratulates them and looks forward to working with them this year to continue moving this great organization forward.



ANDY ANDERSON, RETIREE TRUSTEE; GLORIA BENNETT, RESERVE TRUSTEE; KENT KUNDERT, ACTIVE DUTY TRUSTEE; TIM LITHERLAND, VICE PRESIDENT; JEFF LEDOUX, PRESIDENT; AND MARIE MCDOWELL, AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

I was always proud to be a part of Division 9, and now 89, at these events. We see recognition ceremonies culminating a year past by rewarding individuals, and collectively as organizations, for their dedication and hard work. It's so satisfying because we know what they unselfishly give up in TIME for themselves and families to help us excel in bringing the best possible representation by being that voice to help all. I thank and congratulate these most deserving international award winners, but also thank all of you for your hard work and devoted service that made a difference in our associa-

Council Update

tion's success as "The Voice of the Enlisted." Division 89 Auxiliary Coordinator Kolwitz listed the auxiliary winners in her newsletter. Although this was the last year for Division 8 and 9 to compete separately; we still felt that camaraderie as ONE division.

It's an honor for me to recap the following AFSA Division 89 winners for you:

- AFSA Chapter of the Year (more than 500 members) – Chapter 985, Tinker AFB, OK
- AFSA Individual Legislative Award – SMSgt Bryan Thompson, Chapter 985, Tinker AFB, OK
- AFSA Legislative Field Organization Award – Chapter 985, Tinker AFB, OK
- AFSA Top Retainer – Roland Kolwitz, Chapter 851, Milwaukee, WI
- AFSA Top Retaining Chapter – Chapter 851, Milwaukee, WI



Please join me in congratulating these fine individuals and chapters. I look forward to Division 89 setting the bar for the entire organization during the upcoming year.

Dale Lutzen

President, Division 89

SKYHIGH CLUB 2008

- Terry Turner* - 985
- Michael Parente* - 984
- Nathan Barnhart – 959
- Jonathan Bennett** - 985
- Bryan Thompson* 985
- Johnny Hamm* - 988
- Stephan Francis* - 988
- Bob Young – 872
- Bethann Fleming – 985

* Denotes Repeat SKYHIGH/HighFLIER

** Denotes SKYHIGH&HighFLIER

HIGHFLIER Club 2008

- Roland Kolwitz* - 851
- Jonathan Bennett** - 985
- Gregory Gallup* - 959
- Willa Hyde* - A804

* Denotes Repeat SKYHIGH/HighFLIER

** Denotes SKYHIGH&HighFLIER

Membership, Terry Turner

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. Family members (spouses, children, parents, and siblings) are eligible for membership in the AFSA Auxiliary. Other persons are eligible for associate membership if they were former enlisted or Wing Command-

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Council Update

ers 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 120,000 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 120,000 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 2.5% pay raise verses an AFSA Legislative Educator representing 120,000 members states his constituents deserve a 3.9% raise, who are you most likely to listen to? The AFSA legislative Educator representing his 120,000 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 3.9 percent military pay raise effective January 1, 2009; 0.5% above what the administration requested and required by law.

Prevented DoD from increasing TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Standard, TRICARE Reserve Select premiums, or pharmacy co-payments, during FY 2009

Championed overhaul of education benefits securing landmark passage of the Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008

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

An organization that will always have the back of the Air Force Enlisted Airman, Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, Retired and Veteran.

Communications, Gary Swanson

I'm happy to let you all know that the division website is up and running at <http://www.afsadv89.org>. We are still adding content and new features to the site, but there are already some great features for you to utilize. The following information

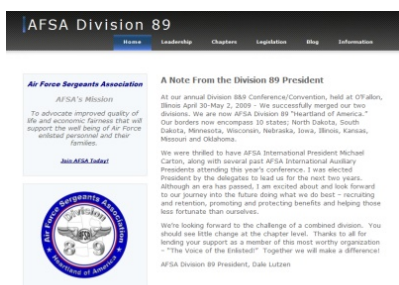
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Council Update

is provided to help you navigate the new site.

Home Page: As with every site, the front page is where it all starts. The key areas of the front page are the Main Menu located across the top of the page, AFSA's Mission Statement and link to join the or-



AFSA DIVISION 89 HOMEPAGE
[HTTP://WWW.AFSADIV89.ORG](http://www.afsativ89.org)

ganization, and a message from our Division President.

Leadership: This page contains a handy list of all elected officials for Division 89 and email addresses if you need to contact them. These email addresses are tied to their home address via a forwarder so all division officers can keep their personal email private.

Chapters: This area is still under construction, but when it is complete will contain information for all the chapters in Division 89 and links to chapter websites if they exist. Look for this section to fill out over the next month.

Legislation: This link will take you to our legislation page. On the left hand side of the page, you will see all the different sections available to you dealing with legislation. The first, and most im-

portant is the AFSA HQ Legislative. This page contains links to all the areas of the AFSA home page dealing with legislative issues. The second legislative link provides links to the House of Representatives and the Senate, this provides easy access for you to write your congressman via email. The third link provides quick links into <http://www.thomas.gov>, the website that provides full text of all current and past legislation that has been brought before congress. This site is key to provide a good foundation of understanding legislation before congress and how it effects Air Force enlisted. The fourth link, AFSA Grassroots Efforts contains information sent out by AFSA when maximum effort must be given by the membership on key issues before congress such as TRICARE, and Guard/ Reserve retirement. The last link on the page provides access to documents that you can download dealing with legislative issues.



DIVISION 89 BLOG

Blog: The Division 89 "Blogger", MSgt Matt Becker and guest bloggers will use the blog area to post articles about issues facing the enlisted community. These articles will have a wide range of topics, from leadership, accountability, AFSA membership, and maybe even some hu-

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Council Update

mor to lighten the mood. This will be one of the most active sections of the site, so check back often and see what our bloggers have to say.

Information: This section of the site is the "Information Library" for the division. It has quite a few sections for you to utilize and will be expanding over time. All documents stored in the Information Library will be in Adobe Reader or .pdf format. You can download the Adobe Reader at this link: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Here are the key features of the Information Library:

- **Newsletters** – All division newsletters will be stored on this page. Newsletters from old Division 8 and 9 are also available at this link.

- **Mailing List** – The mailing list allows you to sign up to receive email on different subjects. Simply enter your email address twice in the text boxes, select the type of mailings you would like to receive, and click the Subscribe to the Selected Newsletters button on the page. You will then receive an email asking you to confirm you want to receive email from Division 89. Follow the instructions in the email and that will complete the registration process. You will then receive mail when it is sent out by division leadership.

- **Links** – The links page contains links to websites that may be of interest to members of the Division.

- **Events** – The events page will contain information about upcoming events such as the Division 89 PAC and the International PAC.

- **Standing Rules** – The Standing Rules page provides all Division 89 Standing Rules for download

- **Recruiting Documents** – This page contains links to easily download CURRENT recruiting documents from the AFSA home page.

Our website is still new but our information base continues to grow. I hope you find the site easy to navigate and full of useful information. If you ever have any suggestions for improvement, do not hesitate to let me know.

Auxiliary Coordinator, Jean Kolwitz:

By now you should start receiving your Administrative Support checks. All reports have been sent in. If you do not receive them within the next 2 weeks, let me know. Also, let me know if you have received your checks. That way I can stay on top of things. PAC could be responsible for the checks not coming right away. International Auxiliary President McDowell told me she was checking into this for us.

AFSA Auxiliary Officers

- President—Marie McDowell
- Vice President—Helen Free
- 1st Trustee—Patti Parrish (A804)
- 2nd Trustee—Ruth Larr
- 3rd Trustee—Cari Mansfield
- Senior Advisor—Carolyn Piccoli



Council Update

Division 89 Award Winners

- Chapter of the year < 125 Runner-Up, Chapter A851 Milwaukee, WI
- VAVS Award, 1st Runner-Up, Adeline Davidson, Chapter A 804, Kansas City
- International Auxiliary President's Award, Jean Kolwitz, Division 89 Coordinator
- Newsletter of the year > 125, Chapter A804, Kansas City
- Coordinators Newsletter, Jean Kolwitz, Chapter 8
- Yearbook >125, Chapter A804,

the funding to pay for the programs specified in the authorization bill. Congressional rules normally bar putting authorizing provisions in an appropriations bill, to make sure the legislators with the purse strings don't usurp the Armed Services committees' authority. Ideally, the authorization bill should pass before the appropriations bill. That way all of the provisions authorized by Congress can have the funds appropriated. But it doesn't always happen that way.

At present, both the House and Senate have passed their versions of the Authorization Bill and leaders of both chambers have begun negotiations to resolve the thousands of differences between them. They hope to get that finished by the end of September. But in past years it's usually taken until October, November, or even later to resolve various contentious political issues that cause negotiation gridlock.

The looming end of the fiscal year puts more pressure on the appropriators, so they often act on a more accelerated schedule, even though they start later. The House already passed its version of the Appropriations Bill, and the full Senate likely will shortly. Given that it includes much-needed war funding, it's a better bet that House/Senate negotiations on the Appropriations Bill may get finished before FY2010 starts.

Legislative Update

Defense Bill Confusion

Many members have asked what the difference is between the defense authorization bill and the defense appropriations bill. It can be confusing because both bills are currently under consideration.

The defense authorization bill (which is the responsibility of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees) includes the law changes needed to authorize troop levels, weapons procurement, new programs, and changes in pay and benefits (including pay raises, health care, concurrent receipt and survivor benefits).

The defense appropriations bill provides

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Legislative Update

Part B Premium Relief Coming

As the potential implications sink in concerning the absence of any 2010 Social Security COLA, House leaders have rushed to pass legislation to prevent some unintended consequences for certain groups of Medicare enrollees.

A special law protects most Medicare enrollees from seeing any Part B premium increase in the event that there's no COLA for Social Security. Without that protection, a Part B hike would result in a net reduction of the person's Social Security check as of January 2010. But the premium increase exemption doesn't apply to about 25% of Medicare recipients, including those who will newly qualify for Medicare, low-income seniors who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid, and those with incomes above \$85,000 (\$170,000 for a married couple) who already are subject to "means-tested" (higher) Part B premiums.

An additional wrinkle in the law requires disproportional Part B premium increases for that 25% to help make up for the loss of revenue from the 75% who are protected from the premium hike. In this particular case, the Congressional Budget Office says those who aren't exempt would experience about four times the normal increase – a serious political hot potato.

So House leaders rushed to pass legislation on Thursday (by a vote of 406 to 18) to bar any 2010 Part B premium increase for any Medicare beneficiaries. The Senate is expected to follow suit quickly -- and likely will have done so by the time you read this update.

Veterans Update: Burr Oak Cemetery, Chicago Illinois

Military veterans who were laid to rest at Burr Oak Cemetery near Chicago can be reburied at the Abraham Lincoln VA National Cemetery at no cost to their families. Normally, burial benefits are extended to veterans only once. However, because of the Burr Oak grave-reselling scheme, off-



THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CHOICE FOR AIR FORCE ENLISTED



Legislative Update

cials will allow their families to rebury them at no additional cost. Headstones and markers for the gravesites will be included. For more information, call the Abraham Lincoln Cemetery at 815-423-9958 or the office of U.S. Representative Debbie Halvorson, congresswomen for the 11th District of Illinois, at (815) 726-4998.

FY 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill Update

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved the FY 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill on 10 SEP. The measure provides \$636.3 billion in defense funding for the coming year with \$128 billion of that designated to sustain contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Interestingly enough, the committee also seeks increased healthcare funding for TRICARE to cover a \$307 million shortfall due to a DoD underestimate of the Tricare population by nearly 300,000 and to a DoD forecast of rebates, yet un-received, from the newly approved federal retail pricing guidelines. The difference between the defense authorization bill (NDAA) and the defense appropriations bill can be confusing because both bills are currently under consideration. The authorization bill is in conference committee while the appropriations bill passed through the full Appropriations Committee as noted above. Basically their functions are:

The defense authorization bill (which is the responsibility of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees) includes the law changes needed to authorize troop levels, weapons procurement, new programs, and changes in pay and benefits (including pay raises, health care, concurrent receipt and survivor benefits).

The defense appropriations bill (under the purview of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees) provides the funding to pay for the programs specified in the authorization bill. Congressional rules normally bar putting authorizing provisions in an appropriations bill, to make sure the legislators with the purse strings don't usurp the Armed Services committees' authority.

Defense Funding Bill Moving Along

The Senate is preparing to begin action on the FY2010 Defense Appropriations Bill (H.R. 3326), which the House already has passed. This is one of 12 departmental appropriations bills Congress is supposed to finish before the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1. The House has passed all of them already. Senate leaders acknowledge there's little chance of finishing all of them before the end of the month, but the Defense bill should be one of the ones that do pass before that deadline. For the other departments, Congress will have to pass a short-term "continuing resolution" to fund those executive branch operations into the month of October until Congress finishes the rest of the appropriations bills.

The Defense Appropriations Bill is not to be confused with the FY2010 Defense Authorization Bill, which is still pending negotiations between House and Senate leaders. It's the latter bill that addresses the personnel and compensation issues that interest most MOAA members.

Will Congress finish action on the Authorization Bill before the new fiscal year? It's always possible, but don't hold your breath. In the last 10 years, Congress finished the Defense Authorization Bill before mid-October only once. In four of those years, it didn't get done until December or later.



Legislative Update

Ideally, the authorization bill should pass before the appropriations bill. That way all of the provisions authorized by Congress can have the funds appropriated. But it doesn't always happen that way. At present, both the House and Senate have passed their versions of the Authorization Bill and leaders of both chambers have begun negotiations to resolve the thousands of differences between them. They hope to get that finished by the end of September. But in past years it's usually taken until October, November, or even later to resolve various contentious political issues that cause negotiation gridlock. The looming end of the fiscal year puts more pressure on the appropriators, so they often act on a more accelerated schedule, even though they start later. The House already passed its version of the Appropriations Bill, and the full Senate likely will shortly. Given that it includes much-needed war funding, it's a better bet that House/Senate negotiations on the Appropriations Bill may get finished before 1 OCT.

AFSA Awards Program

This was the first year for the new awards package format requirements. We've heard pros and cons about it and can expect some tweaking from the international awards committee accordingly. But, the fact is that it was so simplified that we should have had many more submission than we did.

We do a good job recognizing and rewarding excellence in the enlisted force through base programs. What about our own chapter members who give so much of themselves to realize the goals and objectives of this great association? They are great assets to the communities; military and civilian, and should be recognized for their achievements/contributions accordingly. Are we applying the same quality attention to recognize their unselfish, devoted time to enhance the quality of life issues, humanitarian/outreach objectives, etc. **Remember** these dedicated people could be doing something else with their spare time.

Chapter size should have nothing do to with this. The very deed of being nominated by one's peers sends a tremendous message of appreciation to the honoree, where they win or not. This act and message is a great influence among co-workers and on-lookers restating what we do in our neighborhoods and who does it.

We understand only one package per chapter can be submitted for Member of the Year, but there are other ways to recognize excellence. For example, are you using the AFSA Certificate of Commendation to reward other worthy individuals? This is an excellent tool to present to an individual in some public forum for Achievement and Dedicated Service. It is certainly a demanding task to gather and structure information to help you prepare a package, but a most satisfying feeling of accomplishment in itself. ***Tip: Experience has taught us you can't win if you don't submit a package.***

Awards packages are mostly in bullet format except for opening and closing statements. You can find this format and even samples in the New AFSA Awards Guide. This Guide also list the many categories you can submit for. The Guide can be downloaded if you don't have it. If you have a worthy submission, but just don't have a clue how to proceed, call the Division President or Division Awards Chair (normally the Vice President).

Do something! **Tip 1: The big boys and girls (largest chapters) don't always win. Tip 2: If you are not going to write a package for higher competition, please present the award locally to a deserving individual.** (Every chapter has one member that stands above the others; thus, a Member of the Year).

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Division 89 Membership Incentive Program

**AFSA Division 89
Membership Campaign**

During The 2010 Division 89 Convention

*Chapters Reflecting A Positive Membership Growth
Each Month Receive An Opportunity for \$500*

*Members Who Recruit and/or Retain 10 Members Per
Month Receive an Opportunity for \$250*

**Membership Campaign Starts
October 1 – March 30**

6 Opportunities For Chapters & Members To Qualify

**\$500 Drawing
Opportunity
Chapter Award**

**\$250 Drawing
Opportunity
Member Award**



Monthly Chapter Membership Growth

During the 2010 Division 89 Convention each chapter that reflects a positive membership growth from the beginning of one month to the end of the month would receive one ticket to be placed into a drawing for \$500.

This incentive would focus on chapter membership growth on a monthly occurrence in the following areas; Recruiting New Members, Membership Renewals, and Cleaning-Up Bad Address Rosters, etc.

The idea behind this is to encourage chapters to get more actively involved with their membership recruiting and retention programs. Additionally, this incentive will entice each chapter to start personally contacting their members to renew their membership through the chapter and work on correcting their Bad Address Rosters.

Many of us have heard from numerous AFSA members that are not actively involved or live close to my chapter who state it is nice to know that they are not forgotten about when someone calls them from the chapter. This incentive will start 1 October and last until 30 March 2010, the month prior to the convention. At the beginning of each month this process will start over using 1st day of the month's chapter membership strength.

Individual Recruiting and Retention

Individuals who recruit and/or retain 10 members per month would receive one ticket to be placed into a drawing for \$250 during the division convention. This incentive is similar to the Chapter incentive, but would focus on individual members in getting more actively involved in the recruiting and retention of members. The International Membership Committee has a program in-place to recognize AFSA members who either recruit or retain 5 members a year. The Division 89 Executive Council believes our division can do better and challenges all our members to recruit and/or retain 10!

At the beginning of each month the Division 89 Membership Trustee, Terry Turner, will determine those chapters and members who qualify for this recruiting incentive. Additionally, he will send out monthly status reports to show those chapters and members who are achieving the goals for these two incentives.

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Around The Division

Chapter 804

Chapter 804 has been busy over the last year with many events and would like to share these photos with our friends from across the division.



Chapter Bingo



COUPON CLIPPING

Chapter 851

Chapter 851 has been very busy these days and growing in membership. Since July, our chapter membership has grown from 723 to approx. 1142 members. We have added 400+ members from the disbanded Chicago Chapter. The chapter continues to support the Overseas Coupon Program. These coupons are sent to the overseas bases and utilized by military families. We continue to get "thank you" letters from family members. Our "new" chapter coin continues to sell very well. We should be placing another order for more coins shortly. Anyone interested in these coins, please contact Bill Rheingans (Chapter President). During the month of September, (POW/MIA Month) chapter members participated and created pamphlets which were displayed at the 128th ANG Dining Facility. Our chapter is very proud of the awards received at the PAC AFSA Int Conference. Bud Kolwitz was Retainer of the Year, Jean Kolwitz received the Auxiliary Presidents Award and our Chapter was Retainer Chapter of the Year.



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S APPRECIATION LUNCH



CASINOS (social)

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Around The Division

Chapter 872

Chapter 872 will host the 21st Scott AFB Inter-Service Dining Out on Friday October 16th. Command Chief Master Sergeant James Suttles will act as President of the Mess and the guest speaker will be CSM Tomas Hawkins, Command Sergeant Major of the United States Army Surface Deployment and Distribution Command. Attendance is expected to be over 200 enlisted members representing all 5 branches of the Department of Defense. One of the highlights of the evening will be six former POW that will participate in



the POW-MIA ceremony. A unique coin was created for the event that signifies the joint the joint nature of our service that includes all five branches and the three components, Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve. If you are interested in obtaining one of these coins, they can be purchased from Chapter 872 for \$10.00.

Chapter 985

August 25, 2009. AFSA Chapter 985 Vice President (VP) Terry Turner & Historian Don Sullivan visited 72ABW Commander, Colonel Allen Jamerson and presented him with an AFSA flag set and chapter coin. The colonel extended his congratulations to the chapter for the recent international awards recognition; and his appreciation for all we do. Colonel Jamerson completed a membership application and VP Turner presented an Associate Membership Certificate on behalf of AFSA Chief Executive Officer John R. "Doc" McCauslin. Chapter 985 earned the honor as Chapter of the Year, Legislative Chapter of the Year and Legislative Individual Winner SMSgt Bryan Thompson for 2008.



MSgt Terry Turner presents a certificate on behalf of Doc McCauslin to 72 ABW Commander Col Allen Jamerson

August 26, 2009. AFSA Chapter 985 VP Terry Turner & Historian Don Sullivan visited 552 Air Control Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant, CMSgt Scott Magoon to congratulate and welcome him to his new position. We presented him with an AFSA flag set. Chief Magoon expressed his support in our common cause in taking care of the Air Force enlisted. VP Turner

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Around The Division

also scheduled a base-wide welcome reception in September for Chief Magoon to be hosted by Chapter 985.



MSGT TERRY TURNER MEETS WITH NEWLY ASSIGNED COMMAND CHIEF, SCOTT MAGOON

Chapter 951



MEMBERS OF CHAPTER 951 PRESENT A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO THE 28TH BW CC, COL JEFFREY TALIAFERRO UPON BECOMING AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF AFSA

Chapter members present the 28th Bomb Wing Commander, Colonel Jeffrey Taliaferro a certificate of appreciation for becoming an honorary associate member of AFSA. Pictured from left to right Membership Trustee SMSgt Larry Dorsey, Chapter Vice President SMSgt Ken Wolff, 28th Bomb Wing Commander Col Jeffrey Taliaferro, Chapter President MSgt Yvonne Lopez, 28th Bomb Wing Command Chief CMSgt Clifton Cole.

Chapter 964

Chapter 964 recently presented awards to their local Civil Air Patrol chapter. Pictured is TSgt Kelly Rodriguez from Chapter 964 along with members of the local CAP chapter.



TSGT KELLY RODRIGUEZ ALONG WITH MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL CIVIL AIR PATROL CHAPTER AT THEIR RECENT AWARDS DINNER

Division 89

Chapter 951, Ellsworth AFB, SD, will host the 2010 Division 89 convention in Rapid City, SD on 29 April through 1 May 2010.

The event will be held at the Rapid City Holiday Inn at Rushmore Plaza. Please visit the Chapter 951 Website for more information.

<http://www.afsa951.org/2010Con.html>



THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CHOICE FOR AIR FORCE ENLISTED



Air Force Enlisted Heritage

Basic Military Training

at

Sampson AFB, NY

Through the passing of time, many of the historical side notes of Air Force enlisted heritage have slowly faded from memory. Today, most Airmen think that Air Force Basic Military Training has always been accomplished at Lackland AFB, Texas. Although the majority of Airmen that have served in the Air Force walked through the gates at Lackland, it is not the only base that was used to transition civilians to blue suiters. In all the Air Force has utilized five large scale BMT bases over the years, Lackland AFB, TX; Parks AFB, CA; Sheppard AFB, TX; Amarillo AFB, TX; and Sampson AFB, NY.



SAMPSON AFB FLIGHT 3274, 3691 BMTS, JUNE 1954

Sampson AFB was the longest running BMT program outside of the one at Lackland AFB. On Armistice Day, 1950, Sampson Naval Training Center transferred to the US Air Force and became Sampson AFB. Almost immediately, the

base went under a multi-million dollar overhaul to bring it online as the newest Air Force training center. Shortly after Sampson became an Air Force Base, the 3650th Military Training Wing went into operation and the first recruits arrived at the base in February 1951. At the time, Air Force BMT was 8 weeks long, very similar to the 8.5 week program that Airmen currently receive at Lackland AFB.

Today's BMT has recently been restructured to include training for the Expeditionary Airman, this includes a week of field training at the "BEAST" that zeros in on combat field skills required by all Airmen. Although some may think this is a new concept, it is hardly a new idea in the annals of Air Force BMT. During the height of training at Sampson AFB, the United States was fully engaged in the Korean War. During this time period, as many as 25,000 Airman were receiving training at the base to prepare them for "expeditionary" service in Korea.



AIRMAN ON FIELD EXERCISES DURING BASIC MILITARY TRAINING AT SAMPSON AFB, NY IN THE 1950S

While at Sampson, Airmen received three days of training on the M1, 30 caliber car-

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Air Force Enlisted Heritage

bine. The first day consisted of classroom training on all nomenclature items of the weapon and the qualities of the ammunition used with the M1 Carbine. Airmen also learned how to site and aim the M1, as well as breathing techniques, trigger squeeze and firing positions. On day two Airmen received training in range procedures, dry firing and familiarization firing. Finally on day three, Airmen fired the M1 in live fire on the shooting range and became fully qualified on the weapon.



AIRMEN RECEIVE GAS MASK TRAINING WHILE AT BASIC MILITARY TRAINING AT SAMPSON AFB, NY IN THE 1950S

In addition to learning M1 firing techniques, Airmen also participated in a 5-day field exercise designed to familiarize trainees with field operations including airdrome (base) defense and airdrome evacuation. While in the field, Airmen learned how to pitch tents, use camouflage tactics, field sanitation, scouting/patrolling tactics, extended order drill, and eat at the field kitchen. Also included in the field exercise was a trip through the gas chamber and a shot at the chemical obstacle course.

Also included in the instruction at

Sampson was what the wing yearbook describes as "a vital contribution to the development of the Airman", Physical Training. During their time in BMT, the Airman was exposed to a variety of PT workouts including calisthenics, swimming, and team sports such as baseball and basketball.

In all, Sampson AFB processed more than 4,600 flights consisting of over 311,000 Airmen during operation from 1951 through 1956. Today a small number of those Airmen have organized an association called the Sampson AFB Veterans Association that keeps the memory of this base alive. The group operates a museum on what remains of Sampson AFB and they have also constructed a database of flights/personnel that is available for anyone to search. The database contains information for over 100,000 Airmen that attended their Air Force BMT at Sampson and includes over 800 flight pictures. The organization is always looking for additional information to try and provide a 100 percent accounting of all Airmen that attended BMT at Sampson AFB. If you would like to learn more about Sampson AFB and the Sampson AFB Veterans Association, please visit their website at <http://www.sampsonvets.com>.



THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CHOICE FOR AIR FORCE ENLISTED



Division Leadership Directory

President	SMSgt (ret) Dale Lutzen	president@afsadiv89.org
Vice President	SMSgt (ret) Steve Zalesky	vice@afsadiv89.org
Trustee	SMSgt Thomas Pavlick, Jr	trustee1@afsadiv89.org
Trustee	MSgt Terry L. Turner	trustee2@afsadiv89.org
Trustee	MSgt (ret) Roland Kolwitz	trustee3@afsadiv89.org
Trustee	SMSgt Gary Swanson	trustee4@afsadiv89.org
Trustee	SMSgt (ret) Jon Bennett	trustee5@afsadiv89.org
Secretary	SMSgt (ret) Denise Roberts	secretary@afsadiv89.org
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Internet Directory

AFSA Websites

AFSA Homepage	http://www.hqafsa.org
Division 89, Heartland of America	http://www.afsadiv89.org
Chapter 858, Minneapolis, MN	http://afsa858.home.att.net
Chapter 872, Scott AFB	http://www.afsa872.org
Chapter 951, Ellsworth AFB	http://www.afsa951.org
Chapter 984, Offutt AFB	http://www.afsa984.org/
Chapter 985, Tinker AFB	http://afsa985.org/

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>

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