

By Frances McKenney, Assistant Managing Editor



Emerging Leaders

The Air Force Association's Emerging Leaders Program began in 2013 as a way to prepare volunteers for future AFA leadership roles. Emerging Leaders serve for a year. They participate on a national-level council, attend national

leader orientations, and serve as National Convention delegates.

Emerging Leaders for 2015 are: Emilie S. Boschert, Shannon M. Farrell, Deborah A. Landry, Mike Liquori, Emily C. Shay, Christopher M. Talbot, James A. Thurber, Jeremy Trotter, Eric J. Van Der Heide, and Daniel Whalen.

Here's the second profile in AFA's second group of Emerging Leaders.

Maj. Shannon M. Farrell

Home State: Missouri.

Chapter: Donald W. Steele Sr. Memorial.

Joined AFA: 1998.

AFA Offices: Central East Region Secretary and Executive Committee member. Former Chapter President and Awards VP, Eglin Chapter; Awards VP, Carl Vinson Memorial Chapter; and Membership Committee director, Montgomery Chapter.

Military Service: 12 years Active Duty.

Occupation: Engineer and program manager in weapons acquisition.

Education: B.S., University of Minnesota; M.S., AFIT; Master of Military Operational Art & Science, ACSC; M.A., American Military University.

Q&A:

How did you first learn of AFA? Arnold Air Society.

How can AFA attract new members? We've made changes to the way we've been trying to communicate—making strides in digital media. ... What we've always offered will continue to attract the same kind of people. Unfortunately, that's not the kind of people we need to attract anymore. ... We have to figure out better ways of telling young airmen about our benefits, about building a strong network. ... We have to enhance our informal mentoring.



Farrell runs in his first marathon, this past January, at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins, Ga.



Staff photo by Lynsey Akers

At the CyberPatriot Program Office in Arlington, Va., Diane Miller gives an enthusiastic two thumbs up after turning on the scoring server to kick off season seven. Miller is CyberPatriot program director for Presenting Sponsor Northrop Grumman. Spring Grove High School in Pennsylvania was the first to connect to the server for CP-VII.

And They're Off: CyberPatriot Begins Season Seven

CyberPatriot, the Air Force Association's national youth cyber education program, began its seventh competition season on Oct. 24.

The CP-VII cyber defense competition involves a record 2,175 teams of high school and middle school students from 50 states, Canada, and DOD dependent schools in Europe and the Pacific. The first United Kingdom edition of the competition, called CyberCenturion, also got underway this fall.

During certain weekends in this school year, the teams will work online to find and fix cybersecurity vulnerabilities, in simulated environments, and complete other challenges. The top teams earn a trip to Washington, D.C., for the National Finals Competition.

The October kickoff began the first qualification round for high schoolers in both the All Service Division—teams affiliated with military branches—and the Open Division, encompassing all other, including home-schooled, students. (Middle school competition began in November.)

The Opening Bell in Los Angeles

In the Los Angeles area, more than 400 students from 146 teams swarmed onto the campus of California Polytechnic State University Pomona for LA's CyberPatriot weekend kickoff Oct. 25-26.

Harry A. Talbot, president of the **General Doolittle Los Angeles Area Chapter**, said, "It was an incredible opportunity to see kids together, focused on cybersecurity."

University officials from Cal Poly and Cal State Northridge thought so, too. During breaks in the competition, university representatives zeroed in on certain students. "They were out, actively recruiting our seniors," speaking to them one on one, encouraging them to apply to their universities, Talbot

“They’re Always Bugging Me: ‘What Can We Do, Mr. Emig?’”

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Red Tail Memorial Chapter President Michael Emig says the cadets from AFOTC Det. 150 at the University of Florida at Gainesville have turned to his chapter, looking for ideas on community service projects.

“We have a pretty close relationship,” commented Emig. “They’re always bugging me, ‘What can we do, Mr. Emig?’” This, despite the nearly 40 miles the cadets must travel to get from Gainesville to Red Tail’s center of activity in Ocala.

The chapter recently put the young volunteers to work on a fund-raising golf tournament in September hosted by the chapter and the local Civil Air Patrol squadron.

Thirty-one golfers hit the links. A chapter Community Partner, Chiropractic USA of Jasmine Square, entered three foursomes in the tournament, where they proved that good posture apparently makes good golfers: Chiropractic USA



Photo by Ben Langer

University of Florida cadets Audrey Fletcher, Lauren Hinrichs, and Christa Dizon (l-r) listen to Red Tail Memorial Chapter President Michael Emig give instructions on their tasks for the chapter’s golf tournament.

won the overall tournament. But there were no sore losers. The business donated sessions to members of the team with the lowest score.

The AFA chapter split the fund-raising proceeds with the CAP unit. Most of the Red Tail Chapter’s portion

went to the Wounded Airman Program.

This AFA program complements the Air Force Wounded Warrior office and other DOD support systems, endeavoring to fill in any gaps by providing financial aid, lifestyle and accessibility equipment, or caregiver support.

pointed out. CyberPatriot experience makes the students “highly recruitable assets,” he said.

The CyberPatriot crowd—not even counting some 70 other students who competed from their own high school campuses—has nearly outgrown Cal Poly’s facilities. On this Saturday and Sunday, they filled auditoriums, conference rooms, and classrooms. With so many laptops, they “almost exceeded the bandwidth” available to them on the campus, Talbot said.

Among the students were the previous CyberPatriot season’s champions: Team Azure, from North Hollywood High. They won the Open Division first place award at the National Finals last March. (At the same venue, a Civil Air Patrol team from San Pedro, Calif., won first place in the Middle School Division. Last season was the first time CyberPatriot opened the competition to middle schoolers.)

The Doolittle Chapter supports local CyberPatriot teams financially and helped the Los Angeles Unified School District incorporate the competition into its before- and after-school program called Beyond the Bell. Talbot is administrative coordinator for Beyond the Bell.

In the spring, CyberPatriot will introduce its elementary school initiative, designed to teach youngsters the basics of cybersecurity and encourage them to study science, technology, engineering, and math.

Chuck Yeager: In the Presence of a Legend

In World War II, he was a double ace. In 1947, he broke the sound barrier. But for all his world renown, Air Force legend Chuck Yeager still calls West Virginia his home state. So when he came to Charleston, W.Va., in October, officers from the **Chuck Yeager Chapter** had a chance to meet him.

President Herman Nicely, VP Sam Haddad, and Secretary Sandy Latimer spent nearly two hours with the retired brigadier general, along with 13 students from nearby Marshall

University. The eight freshmen and five sophomores are Yeager Scholars, selected to receive full tuition and room and board at the university, as well as two opportunities to study abroad.

Yeager periodically travels from his home in California—he’s a member of the **David J. Price/Beale Chapter**—to meet recipients of the scholarship funded by private donors and named for him. This time, AFA chapter representatives joined the group, gathered at the office of US Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), an old friend of Yeager.

The scholars introduced themselves and, during a Q&A, asked Yeager questions ranging back to his World War II



Photo by Mara Boggs

Chuck Yeager (second from left) met officers of the West Virginia chapter named in his honor. At the October event are left to right: VP Sam Haddad, Chapter President Herk Nicely, and Secretary Sandy Latimer.

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years, when he earned 11.5 aerial victory credits in Europe. One student asked about Yeager's escape from German-occupied France after being shot down. (See "Escaping the Continent," October, p. 70.) Yeager replied that he'd grown up eating squirrel, rabbits, and berries in West Virginia, so survival in austere conditions was not something new.

Nicely said he was impressed that Yeager is 91 years old, yet two years ago, broke the sound barrier—again—in an F-15. The Oct. 14, 2012, flight took place over the Mojave Desert, at the same day and location where he first flew beyond Mach 1 in 1947.

How did the chapter officers gain entrée to the Yeager Scholars event? Turns out Mara Boggs, who is Machin's state director and an Army vet, attended a Yeager Chapter meeting in September and extended the invitation.

South Florida's Airmen of the Year

The **Miami-Homestead Chapter's** combined Outstanding Airman of the Year awards ceremony and Air Force anniversary celebration brought out several VIP guests.

Held Sept. 16 at the Conference Center of the Americas in US Southern Command's headquarters in Miami, the event featured remarks from Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Geary. He is the SOUTHCOM

Brig. Gen. Thomas Geary, USSOUTHCOM intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance director, addresses an audience at command headquarters in Miami. The gathering celebrated the Air Force's anniversary and SOUTHCOM Outstanding Airmen, selected with help from the Miami-Homestead Chapter.



US Army Garrison-Miami photo by Arthur McQueen

ISR director and the Air Force element commander. Geary spoke to an audience that included USMC Gen. John F. Kelly, the SOUTHCOM commander; Army Lt. Gen. Kenneth E. Tovo, the deputy commander; and USAF Maj. Gen. Mark C. Nowland, the chief of staff.

Miami-Homestead Chapter President Rodrigo J. Huete followed Geary at the podium. The chapter established the Outstanding Airman Award in 2012, Huete told the audience. Airmen at SOUTHCOM headquarters, at Special Operations Command South, at Joint Interagency Task Force-South, and from Homestead ARB, Fla., compete for this award.

Two senior master sergeants and a master sergeant, all from SOUTHCOM, and three chapter Executive Council members vetted the candidates.

"I will tell you that it was extremely difficult to select a winner from the candidates in each category," Huete said, before naming the awardees. They were: SrA. Dustin N. Besch, from Joint Interagency Task Force South in Key West; TSgt. Bryan S. Peterson from Homestead; and MSgt. Ashlie D. Bartholomew and Capt. Katelyn M. Dorey, both from SOUTHCOM.

Following tradition, the oldest airman—Mario Garza—and the young-



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Photo by Virginia S. Montalvo



In Florida, Gold Coast Chapter's Ran Meriam (center) received an AFA Exceptional Service Award. He's flanked by Rod Edmond (left) and Chapter VP Leo Gray. Meriam is best known for ensuring restoration—twice—of an F-86 Sabre displayed at Fort Lauderdale's Holiday Park. See "To Its Former Glory," May 2005, p. 172, and "To Its Former Glory—Again," January 2010, p. 71.

USAF photo by Lt. Cory Concha



Golden Triangle President Sonic Johnson congratulates Gabriella Belardo, the Mike and Gail Donley Spouse Scholarship winner from Columbus AFB, Miss. The chapter and local Chamber of Commerce hosted a reception for her. At right is her spouse, SrA. Arne Belardo, an air traffic controller with the 14th Operations Support Squadron. Arne's sister, Stephanie Belardo is second from left. Gabriella Belardo is studying nursing at the Mississippi University for Women.

est—SrA. Brendan Allison—cut the large sheet cake decorated to highlight the 67th anniversary of the Air Force's founding on Sept. 18, 1947.

The Birthday in Sarasota

On Florida's Gulf Coast side, meanwhile, a former Air Staff official helped the **Sarasota-Manatee Chapter** observe the Air Force's birthday.

Michael I. Yarymovych, who served as the Air Force chief scientist from 1973 to 1975, was guest speaker for the chapter's September meeting. He spoke about how technology paced the development of the Air Force and described several examples, among them, the Manned Orbiting Laboratory of the early 1960s, communication satel-

lites, stealth technology, and remotely piloted vehicles.

Chapter President Michael Richardson then announced that funds raised that evening would be given in the scientist's name to AFA's Wounded Airman Program. Donations came to \$755, more than double the chapter's previous high-water mark, Richardson later wrote.

Two 91-year-old World War II veterans Richard Kanner and Louis S. Baron cut the birthday cake for this anniversary, along with 11-year-old Civil Air Patrol cadet Quinn DuBre.

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Reunions

Checkertail Assn, including 325th FG and units, all eras, 317th, 318th, 319th FS. Fall 2015 at Tyndall AFB, FL. **Contact:** John Mier (firemier4@sbcglobal.net).

3544th USAF Recruiting Sq. March 20-21, 2015, in Shreveport, LA. **Contact:** Dave Bary (972-641-6036) (dabary@tx.rr.com).

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