

Sep 2013

Air Force Association



# Gerrity Chapter 215

The force behind the force ...

Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

Quarterly Newsletter

## *AFA Gerrity Chapter 215*

### *Quarterly Newsletter*

A monthly summary of things, big and small, accomplished by AFA Chapter 215



#### **Sep 2013**

**Monthly Meeting:** Our guest speaker was Colonel Humphrey, Vice Wing Commander from the AWACs wing. Colonel Humphrey spoke to us about some of the airpower challenges the wing is facing. Most of you know that AWACS is one of the very first military resources deployed to the world's hotspots. Seeing Airpower from an AWACS perspective was a real treat.

**Leadership Change:** Dr. Jerry McMahan stepped down as Chapter President at the end of the month. He finishes up a 5-year tenure leading our chapter. His leadership encompassed some great, as well as tragic events. Our support of the Cyber Patriot Program, our leadership in the STEM program and our support of the Tinker community after the Tornado all came together under his watch. He's not walking off into the sunset though; he's taking the reins as State President. Our new chapter president is Mark Tarpley. He's been Dr. McMahan's Vice President for the last few years and one of the most active members of the chapter. He is a great fit for the job.

#### **Aug 2013**

**Monthly Meeting:** This month we focused on Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) education—the basic educational elements of airpower. H.L. Baird, the head of the AEIP day, shared information about that program and STEM education in Oklahoma. Stan Griel updated us on the Cyber Patriot Program. Rose State has really leaned into helping develop one of the top Cyber Patriot Programs we have in AFA. Our own Col Jim Putnam (USAF Retired) spoke to us about the Experimental Aircraft Association's annual fly-in at Oshkosh.

**AFA Regional Convention:** This year Donnelly Chapter, Sheppard AFB, TX hosted our annual convention. This served as both the states (OK & TX) as well as our bi-annual regional get together. The agenda was full and Mike Winslow (Texoma Chapter President) did a great



job putting it together. Our own Lt General Litchfield was the keynote speaker at the banquet where we recognized state AFA award winners from both Oklahoma and Texas.

**Senator Inhofe:** Oklahoma's Senator Jim Inhofe spoke to us about some of the current issues we are facing that impact airpower. 280 people attended including our AFA Regional President, Bob Slaughter and State President, Riq Baldwin. Boeing graciously helped sponsor the event and used one of their conference rooms to hold the meeting with local constituents. Senator Inhofe discussed his perspective on airpower, the national budget and some key areas of concern he has for the direction of the nation. He is concerned with three things affecting the defense of the nation: (1) Arduous cuts in the actual budget—50% of sequester marks on top of already deep cuts. As Defense only makes up 18% of the national budget those cuts are especially deep. (2) The increased regulations and add-on of non-defense related work. And (3) The slowdown of replacement weapon systems—that in and of itself is a cut. He briefly mentioned the pilot rights act which he authored and some environmental concerns as well.

**Tinker and the Primes:** Defense Industry Alliance is a AFA Community Partner and we work with them each year on Tinker and the Primes. We set up AFA booth on the first floor. It was a great opportunity to emphasize our Force Support and STEM initiatives, and we even picked up a couple of chapter members as a bonus.



**Military Legislative Assistants:** AFA Gerrity Chapter Community Partners hosted our annual luncheon for the Oklahoma MLAs at the Tinker Club. 17 of our chapter members and partners attended. This was a great opportunity to learn firsthand about the most current movements on the national scene affecting each of us that work to defend the nation and to get your input into the people who work directly for our Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

## July 2013

**Monthly Meeting:** General Kirkland was our guest speaker at the July monthly meeting. He took us through some of the challenges and successes of the new Sustainment Center. It is hard to believe that this is the one-year anniversary of the Center reorganization. He spoke about the success of the KC-135 PDM line and the progress they've made bringing B-1 and B-52 up to the same level of efficiency. He spoke to the funding challenges, including a reduction of PDM lines in 2013. Finally he ended on a high note discussing the future of the center, including the F35 engine, the 10 Meter engine test cell and the KC-46.

**Awards Breakfast:** Our AFA awards breakfast took place on 31 July at the Tinker Club. Lt. General Litchfield was our guest speaker. This was one of our best events of the year. 88 people attended. Lt. Gen Litchfield did not disappoint. He noted that the attendees ranged from Junior ROTC cadets—thank you CMSGT Kula for bringing Choctaw cadets to the event—to



airmen, mid-level, enlisted and officer leaders, to senior military and civilian leaders and our community partners. In his words a true image of what the AFA Chapter should look like. He used the leadership of the Oklahoma City Thunder and the process used by Alabama's Coach Saban to illustrate how leadership should work within the AF Sustainment Center.

We presented awards to the following:

Sam	Anderson	Pratt & Whitney Community Partner of the Year
Deborah	Bates	Chapter Officer of the Year
Charles	Darnell	Civilian Supervisor of the Year
Audrey	Dodds	Civilian Technician of the Year
Christopher	Erickson	Contractor Hourly Employee
Freddy	Jones	Contractor Salaried Employee
TSgt Jessica	Martin	Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year
MSgt Thomas	Miller	Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year
Jim	Putnam	AFA Person of the Year
Charles	Schultz	Company Grade Officer of the Year
A1C Taylor	Spurling	Airman of the Year
John	Thurmon	Unit of the Year - 72nd Force Support Squadron 72 FSS/CL

**Twitter:** Follow us on our Chapter Twitter Account. If you don't Tweet, you can read up on it at <http://tweeternet.com/>. If you already have a Twitter account, please log on and follow us by clicking here: <http://twitter.com/#!/AFAGerrity> and then clicking on "Send Follow Request" If you do not have a Twitter account, please create one by going here: <https://twitter.com/signup>, then follow the instructions above to follow us.