



The Red Tail

News about the Air and Space Forces Association



Report

Volume 16 Number 2

Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136

April thru June 2026

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



We join the Commander-in-Chief in looking forward to celebrating the semi-quincentennial anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, or more simply, the 250th anniversary of the greatest nation the world has ever known.

Later of course, we celebrate on Sept. 18 the 79th anniversary of the Air Force. We have come a long way and have much to celebrate. Before the September meeting, we will likely celebrate by dining together in Elevation 89, the restaurant adjacent to the conference room in the Ocala Airport terminal where we meet. All members, of course, are welcome to join us.

Space Force members, of course, can join us and we'll join them in celebrating their seventh anniversary on Dec. 20.

That said, I wish to tell you that our chapter is gaining energy. Monthly chapter meetings, although poorly attended given that we now technically have more than 800 members, have become a dynamic exchange of ideas. Suggestions to improve attendance and participation in chapter activities include moving monthly meetings to other venues and sponsoring a major monthly activity. We are considering moving our monthly meetings on a regular basis from Ocala Airport to somewhere in The Villages and the ROTC building at the University of Florida in Gainesville. We are reaching out to members at both locations to access interest. If you have a suggestion, please contact a chapter officer. Our contact information is listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

The second suggestion concerns an annual activity to prompt our esprit de corps and serve as a fundraiser. The chapter has sponsored three golf tournaments, all in Citrus County, thanks to exceptionally hard work by Steve Hughes of Inverness. His health is slowing him down so the question is: can we continue this project with him as an advisor? Will members step up to run a golf tournament or another successful venture. Revenue from past golf tournaments went 100 percent to the Wounded Airmen and Guardians Program. We would expect at least some revenue from future activities to remain with the chapter. Again, your suggestions (and participation) will be greatly appreciated.

Each month at our meetings we welcome members who are new to our chapter within the last 30 days. Most recently, we welcomed and warmly welcome again Dennis Prewett of Branford; Larry R. Bird, The Villages; Louis Medeiros, Ocala; Sonia Negron, Ocala; and Stanley Kjekstad, Crystal River. We hope each will join us at the next meeting.

July in Florida is the occasion for the annual State AFA Convention. This year it is in Jacksonville July 17-19. Vice President Bruce Gillett, Chaplain/Secretary Chappie Kitchens and yours truly plan to attend. We are particularly proud of Bruce and Chappie. Bruce because he has taken a leading role in advocacy, one of the primary missions of the Air & Space Forces Association, and Chappie because he also is the State and National AFA Chaplain. The convention is open to all members, so we've included a registration form later in this newsletter.

Aim High!

Ben Langer

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The Air Force & Space Forces Association Mission

1. Educate the public about the critical role of AeroSpace power in the defense of our nation.
2. Advocate AeroSpace power and a strong national defense.
3. Support the United States Air Force, United States Space Force, their families, and AeroSpace education.

AFA FLORIDA STATE OFFICERS

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It's a Fact: Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 draws members from eight counties: Citrus, Alachua, Marion, Sumter, Dixie, Levy and parts of Lake and Putnam. It is not necessary to be an Air Force veteran.

The Red Tail Report is a quarterly newsletter Published by the Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 of the Air & Space Forces Association, 4005 N Hatchet Cir, Lecanto, FL 34465, Ben Langer, President, Rob Price, Editor. The Red Tail Report is distributed Quarterly electronically and upon request on paper via USPS.

VETERAN BOOT CAMP

Veteran Boot Camp – An unclassified intelligence briefing revealing all of the great veteran and civilian benefits available to veterans and their families in Ocala and Marion County.

A Veteran Boot Camp is held every 4th Saturday from 9 – 11 AM at the Elliott Center, 3231 SW 34th Avenue, Ocala, FL.

Lots of important information for whether you are new to Florida or have been living here a long time. This is your chance to learn the ins and outs of Ocala and Marion County and the great benefits of living here – both as a veteran and a resident.

All of your **What When Where and How** questions will be answered and the many free veteran benefits explained. Spouses should attend – the available family benefits are part of the information. Many are hard to find, and most are free!

Veteran Boot Camp is presented by the Vet Resource Center, Inc., a 501(c)(3) charity working for our vets.

☎ 352-433-7290

👤 VeteranBootCamp.org

✉ info@VeteranBootCamp.org

Veteran Boot Camp Meeting Dates

**Elliott Center
3231 SW 34th Avenue
Ocala, FL.**

July 25, 2026

August 22, 2026

September 26, 2026



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 salutes its Community Partners. The Air & Space Forces Association enjoys a warm relationship with the following businesses through its Community Partners Program. Please support these local businesses.





☐ **YES!**

We wish to support AFA and our local chapter by becoming an AFA Community Partner!

NAME OF COMPANY

TELEPHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

SPONSORING CHAPTER #

Payment Method

- ☐ Check (Made Payable to Your Local Chapter)
☐ Charge My ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex

Note: Please contact your local chapter to determine if credit card payments are accepted.

NAME ON CARD

EXP DATE

CVV#

CARD NUMBER

SIGNATURE

CREDIT CARD BILLING ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

☐ **Category One
Community Partner**
\$90 Annual Fee
(one member)

☐ **Category Two
Community Partner**
\$180 Annual Fee
(two members)

The following person(s) are designated as members of the Air & Space Forces Association. The monthly copy of *The Air & Space Forces Magazine* will be sent to the address(es) listed below.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

COMMUNITY PARTNER APPLICATION

FOR COMPLETION BY ALL APPLICANTS

(Please remit to your local chapter)

If applying for a **Category One** affiliation, complete this section only.

Please select which option best describes you:

Current Military Status

- ☐ Active Duty ☐ Veteran
☐ Reserve ☐ Other
☐ Guard
☐ DoD Civilian
☐ Military Spouse/Partner

BRANCH OF SERVICE (IF APPLICABLE)

If applying for a **Category Two** affiliation, complete this section for the second person.

Please select which option best describes you:

Current Military Status

- ☐ Active Duty ☐ Veteran
☐ Reserve ☐ Other
☐ Guard
☐ DoD Civilian
☐ Military Spouse/Partner

BRANCH OF SERVICE (IF APPLICABLE)

THE U.S. AIRFORCE HAS A NAVY ??

Yes, the Air force has a navy. It's called the Tyndall Navy. It started in 1957. The U.S. Air Force began operating a small fleet of Missile Range Instrumentation Ships at the missile test ranges.

The first twelve Atlantic Missile Range ships were modified WWII cargo vessels. Six ships were retired in 1964 when the USAF transferred these six ships to the USNS,

The US Air Force still operates a small fleet of drone recovery vessels nicknamed the "Tyndall Navy". These six ships recover pieces of wreckage from drones and aerial targets from the waters of the Gulf of America. The largest of these vessels are three 120-foot ships operated by the 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron, which is based at Tyndall AFB, Florida.

Over the years the USAF has operated 24 other ships, some larger than the current fleet. All since retired.

The following ships are still operated by the USAF.

At Pituffice Base in Greenland (Formally Thule AB); "The Rising Star"; a special designed ice breaking tug boat

At Tyndall AFB: 3 120ft recovery vessels, 2 smaller boats. See below"



Aerospace Education

Presentations for the AFJROTC CADETS OF THE YEAR were presented in April. The chapter was at Forest High School, North Marion High School, Belleview High School, Bucholz High School and Citrus High School to make the presentations. In addition the Teacher of the Year award was presented to Judith Rickett; a math and physics teacher (grades 9-12) at North Marion High School on May 11, 2026. *Right: Terry Dickensheet presented Cadet Savanna Ramsdell the outstanding cadet award.*



VISIT OUR WEBPAGE: REDTAIL.AFA.ORG



REGISTRATION FORM

FL AF&SFA CONFERENCE 17/19 JULY 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Jacksonville Riverfront
1201 Riverplace Boulevard Jacksonville, Florida 32207

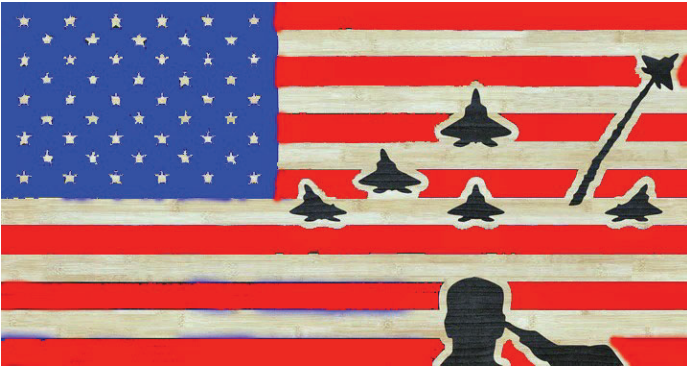
NAME	CHAPTER	POSITION
E-MAIL		CELL NUMBER
FRIDAY NIGHT HOSPITALITY SUITE: NUMBER ATTENDING _____		
SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST INC W/REGISTRATION (NON-ROOM GUESTS OR GUESTS BEYOND TWO): _____ X \$15.00 = \$_____.		
BUSINESS MEETING REGISTRATION: # ATTENDING _____ X \$25.00 = \$_____.		
LUNCH REGISTRATION: DELI BUFFET _____ X \$50.00 = \$_____.		
SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET (CHOOSE ONE)		
CHICKEN MARSELA _____		
BEEF/SHRIMP: _____		
HERB ROASTED NEW POTATOES/CARMALIZED GREEN BEANS WITH SHALLOTS SALAD AND DESSERT _____ X \$80.00= \$_____.		
SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST INC/REGISTRATION (NON-ROOM GUESTS OR GUESTS BEYOND TWO): _____ X \$15.00 = \$_____.		
PACKAGE (INCLUDES ALL ITEMS EXCEPT EXTRA BREAKFAST GUESTS (DISCOUNT \$10.00 PER PERSON): _____ X \$145.00 = \$_____.		
HOTEL REGISTRATION:		
TOWN VIEW STANDARD ROOM NUMBER OF NIGHTS: _____ X \$110.00 = \$_____.		
RIVER VIEW QUEEN ROOM NUMBER OF NIGHTS: _____ X \$120.00 = \$_____.		
JR SUITE RIVER VIEW KING NUMBER OF NIGHTS: _____ X \$140.00 = \$_____.		
TOTAL PAID:		\$_____.
ALL MEAL PRICES INCLUDE 24% GRATUITY NO TAXES ON ROOMS		

PLEASE RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO FALCON CHAPTER 399 TO:

Ernest Webster C 904 445-8278 ernestwebster2@aol.com

Treasurer

1822 Brush Hill Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32211-4924



LAST FLIGHT

No Deaths to Report

NEW MEMBERS

Alexander R. Clawson

Anthony Dahm

Arthur Oxner

Becky Hunt

Dennis Prewett

Edward J. Smith

Eric A Beshore

John E. Clark

John H. Barr

Joseph E Stewart

Kathleen Benton

Marcus L. Sherill

Michael Hutto

Renny Edelson

Robert Shaw

Russell Burkett

Stanley A Kiekstad

Ted Stanley

Terryl Parry

Dennis Prewett

Larry R Bird

Louis Mederios

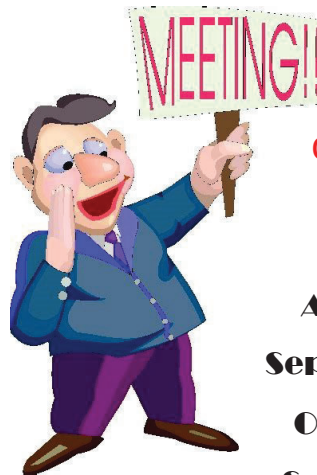
Sonia Negron

Stanley A.Kjekstad



1. What is the smallest US Air Force Base by size?
2. Who was the 1st Female Thunderbird Pilot?

*1. Los Angeles AFB in Sgundo, CA; 113 Acres
2. Nicole Malachowski, 2005 (#3 right win; Flew 2005 & 2006 Seasons)*



1900 HOURS

**Ocala Airport Terminal
Conference Room**

July 16, 2026

August 20, 2026

September 17, 2026

October 15, 2026

Subject to Change

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026 AFA Florida Convention July 17-18, 2026

In-Person Event

2026 National Convention September 12 to 13, 2026

Virtual and In-Person Event

2026 Air, Space & Cyber Conference September 14 to 16, 2026 **Virtual and In-Person Event**

HOW TO DOWNLOAD SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT IN MARION COUNTY

www.votemarion.gov/326/View-My-Sample-Ballot



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