



FLORIDA WEST COAST
CHAPTER
AIR & SPACE FORCES
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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President Scott Gray

Once again we are partnering with the **University of South Florida, Sarasota Manatee Campus** and the **Global Interdependence Council (GCI)** to present another educational series titled: **Ukraine-One Year a Later: a Four Part Series.**

Our first session is **Thursday, February 16** and will kick off with **Loretta Mester**, President and CEO

of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. She will be followed by a panel discussion on "*Investment Implications*". Our final panel discussion that day is the "*Composition of the Defense budget and its Implications*".

Friday 17 February, Our Keynote Speaker is once again **Gen Phil Breedlove**, the former Supreme Allied Command - Europe (SACEUR)". We will then have two follow on sessions. The first is "*The Role of the Financial System in War*" and our final session is the "*Central Banks during the Wartime Setting*". These two day of presentations will set the stage for 3 other presentations. They will run from 0830-1200 each day and are free if you sign up virtually. You can signup at this site:

https://usfsm.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nQnEJ2s8SbKGLgX84dydQg

Thursday, 9 March we will have **LTG Dave Deptula**, Dean of the AFA, Mitchel Institute as the Keynote Speaker discussing "*Drones and Emerging Technologies*" followed by a panel discussion on "*Artificial Intelligence in Warfare*".

Thursday, 23 March we focus on "*Reaction in World Bond and Stock Markets*" featuring numerous high profile investment experts.

Friday, March 24 we follow up on last year's discussion about the impact the war is having on "*Food and Famine*" and a second panel on "*Oil and Gas Implications*."

Thursday, April 20 **Dr. Christopher Waller**, Federal Reserve Governor starts the day discussing "*Cryptocurrency and Central Banks*". We then have panels on "*Cryptocurrency in Investments, Financial Markets and Regulations*" and a concluding panel on "*Cryptocurrency outside the US*".

Friday, April 21 is our last presentation and **Gen “Hawk” Carlisle** is our Keynote Speaker and will talk about Military national security, the Ukraine and the PACAF region in relation to China. This will set the stage for our Panel on “China Economics” and concluding with “Diplomatic issues in the South China Seas.”

We have worked hard in pulling these presentations together and have opened them up to all of you, to all State AFA Chapters and to all the members of AFA. I truly hope you find the time to join us and learn more about the huge implications this war is having on the US, the World, Financial Institutions, Food Supplies and the Energy Market. Again, all of these presentations are free by simply going to: https://usfsm.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nQnEJ2s8SbKGLgX84dydQg

I also want to congratulate our own **Mike Richardson** for receiving the AFA Exceptional Service Award. This award recognizes Mike’s tireless efforts in supporting our Chapter’s Stem education efforts and his amazing job publishing this newsletter. Mike, on behalf of our entire organization: Thanks, and WELL DONE! 🌟

CHAPTER NEWS

VETERANS DAY PARADE

Once again Dave Downer represented the chapter in Sarasota’s Veterans Day Parade. Accompanied by Mike Richardson, Dave “piloted” his family van down Main Street saying “hello” and “good morning” to the crowds gathered along the curbside.

Next up will be the Memorial Day Parade in May 2023. We would like to have more of you join with Dave to show the chapter’s colors to the Sarasota community. 🌟



AMAZON SMILE CALLS IT QUITS



In 2013, Amazon launched “AmazonSmile” to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities – like our chapter of the Air and Space Forces Association. However, after almost a decade, the program has not grown to create the impact they had originally hoped. With so many eligible organizations — more than 1 million globally — their ability to have an impact was often spread too thin. Consequently, they plan to wind down

AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023.

To help the charities that have been a part of the AmazonSmile program with this transition, Amazon will be providing them with a one-time donation equivalent to three months of what they earned in 2022. Organizations will be able to accrue donations until the program officially closes in February. 🌟

The chapter never received any significant funds from Amazon Smile – just not enough members participating. However, the last time I looked, I was surprised to find I had made over 170 purchases that brought in an Amazon contribution

Mike

AIR FORCE LICENSE PLATES



Dave Downer

Just wanted to remind you again that Florida offers an Air Force license plate option. It is an opportunity for you to increase the visibility of the Air Force in our local Sarasota - Manatee area. And, it reaffirms your commitment to the concept that we are all "Airmen for Life". Additionally, the funds generated by the sale of those plates go to the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs "... to support program operations that benefit veterans or the operation, maintenance, or construction of domiciliary and nursing homes for veterans..."

In October of 2022, there were 28,530 Air Force plates issued across the state – third amongst all eight military service plates. As you might expect, the Marine had the largest number (50,254) and the Army placed second (39,717). The Navy placed fourth with 28,044.



Naples Chapter Member Steve Padron

You can order an Air Force license plate at any authorized motor vehicle office (e.g., state motor vehicle office, local tax collector office or license plate tag agency. You can even personalize the plates with your own message – up to five characters. Memorialize your favorite aircraft (e.g. RF-4C or VIPER); or an organization (e.g. 320BW); your final rank (e.g. CMSGT); your crew position (e.g. PILOT or NAV or EWO); or the years you served (e.g. 82-06) -- or any other thought you can encapsulate in a five character format – and that hasn't previously been snatched up by someone else.



Treasurer
Chet Harriman



Personalized license plates may be ordered in person at motor vehicle service centers throughout Florida. The cost is an additional \$15 annually. License Plate (HSMV form 83043) will need to be completed and brought to a local office for processing.

Once you get your AF plate, send me a picture of you and it mounted on your car and I'll use it in an upcoming newsletter.

Mike



AIR FORCE NEWS



B-21 ROLLOUT

AIR FORCE PROPOSES NEW BOMBER FORCE STRUCTURE

The Air Force rolled out its latest bomber the - B-21 Raider – on Dec 2. The B-21 is designed to be capable of holding at risk any target on the face of the Earth with its advanced stealth and electronic warfare systems. In a ceremony at Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, California, the B-21 made its public debut after seven years of secretive development during which only a few artists' renderings were ever released.

The rollout of the Northrop Grumman-made aircraft marked the first time the Air Force unveiled a new bomber in more than three decades. The bomber is named in honor of WW II's Doolittle's Raiders.

In years to come, the Air Force's bomber fleet — now made up of B-1B Lancers, B-2 Spirits and B-52 Stratofortresses — will look very different. The service wants to have a two-bomber fleet consisting of at least 100 B-21s plus a [revamped fleet of B-52s](#) with new F130 engines by Rolls-Royce. The Air Force currently has 76 B-52s.

The Air Force is also proposing to cut its B-1 and B-2 fleets. The service's plan is to retire those around 2031, but some factors might require the Air Force to hold onto some of its legacy bomber capabilities. That could include a conflict breaking out with China or unforeseen delays in the B-21 acquisition. The B-1's retirement has already started, with 17 of the fleet's oldest and most ailing airframes retired last year to free up the labor force and resources, leaving 45 remaining.

The next step for the B-21 is its first flight, expected in early 2023, based on results from the bomber's ground tests. The initial Raider will fly from Palmdale to Edwards Air Force Base in California, where it will undergo formal flight tests. ✨

SPACE FORCE NEWS

FIRST EVER COMPONENT-LEVEL COMMAND FOR SPACE

The **Space Force** and **U.S. Indo-Pacific Command** formalized a new chain of command for Guardians in the Pacific, a shift that elevates the Space Force as an equal among the services presenting forces to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. The component-level command was formally established Nov. 22 by order of the Secretary of Defense, giving the service a “seat at the table” to help plan activities and operations in the INDOPACOM area of responsibility.

Service Component Commands consist of organizations, individuals, units, detachments, and/or support forces that belong to a particular military service but are assigned to a Combatant Commander. As an example, U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) and U.S. Naval Forces, Europe (USNAVEUR) are both service component commands to U.S. European Command (USEUCOM). These components are subordinate to the Combatant Commander of the geographic theater in which they operate.




INDOPACOM boss **Adm. John Aquilino** credited the Space Force for enabling the “complete synchronization” of American military forces across the vast Pacific Ocean in the face of those challenges. With this step, Space Force opened a regional command center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, to manage military space operations across the Indo-Pacific. U.S. Space Forces Indo-Pacific is the first in a string of new component commands that will become the service’s main touchpoints around the world.



It’s the first time that the U.S. military will have a staff solely focused on incorporating satellite- and radar-based surveillance, target tracking, communications and more in the Indo-Pacific.

Brig. Gen. Anthony Mastalir (left), the former commander of Space Launch Delta 30 (previously the 30th Space Wing) at Vandenberg Space Force Base,

California, and head of space forces in Air Forces Central Command, will serve as the organization’s first commander.

Space-focused component commands have been in the works for two years as the Space Force builds out its own warfighting enterprise. The Indo-Pacific region took precedence because it is home to the most pressing national security threats facing the United States: the Chinese, Russian and North Korean militaries as well as a network of terror groups. Space Force leaders are hashing out a plan to create a new component command and group under U.S. Central Command to coordinate what military space assets to use in the region. 

US MILITARY CREATES SPACE UNIT IN S. KOREA TO WATCH NORTH

Original Associated Press article by Hyung-Jin Kim

The U.S. military formally launched a space force unit in South Korea on December 14. It is the first such facility on foreign territory that will likely enable Washington to better monitor its rivals North Korea, China and Russia. The unit belongs to [the U.S. Space Force](#), which was launched in December 2019 under [then-President Donald Trump](#) as the first new U.S. military service in more than 70 years. The Space Force was seen soberly as an affirmation of the need to more effectively organize for the defense of U.S. interests in space — especially satellites used for civilian and military navigation, intelligence and communication.

The U.S. Space Forces Korea is a subordinate of a bigger U.S. Space Force unit established within the Indo-Pacific command in Hawaii in November. (See previous article.) The activation of the U.S. Space Forces Korea at Osan Air Base came after North Korea test-fired a barrage of nuclear-capable ballistic missiles designed to strike the U.S. mainland and its allies South Korea and Japan in recent months.

The U.S. military in South Korea said that one of the main mission areas that the space unit in South Korea will focus on is “missile warning operations, which provides in-theater near-real-time detection and warning of ballistic missile launches.” It said the new unit’s tasks also includes coordinating space operations and services such as position navigation and timing, and satellite communications within the region. ★



North Korean Missile Test
Source: USA Today

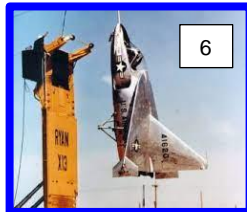


AIR FORCE TRIVIA

X PLANES

X-planes are a series of experimental United States airplanes and helicopters (and some rockets) used to test and evaluate new technologies and aerodynamic concepts.

Your challenge is to match these pictures of X-Planes with their official nomenclature in the list below.
Answers are on page 8.



Bell X-1 Bell X-5 Boeing X-37 Grumman X-29 Hiller X-18 Lockheed Martin X-59 North American X-15 Ryan X-13

1ST QUARTER FACTOID

THE "BIG WEEK"

Taken from "THIS DAY IN MILITARY HISTORY"

In February 1944, the USAAF and RAF conducted an all-out campaign against Germany's aviation industry and the *Luftwaffe*. Heavy bombers from the Eighth and Fifteenth Air Forces hammered aircraft, engine, and ball-bearing plants by day, and RAF bombers attacked by night. Code named Operation Argument, it became known as "Big Week."

By this time, USAAF fighters had the range to escort the bombers all the way to their targets, causing havoc with the *Luftwaffe* defenders. The USAAF flew nearly 4,000 heavy bomber sorties and dropped more ➡



than 20 million pounds of bombs on industrial and military targets. The USAAF lost more than 200 heavy bombers, with about 2,600 casualties.



On February 25 – in the climax of the “Big Week” bombing campaign -- aircraft of the US 8th Air Force (830 bombers) and the US 15th Air Force (150 bombers), with fighter escorts, conducted a daylight raid against the Messerschmitt works at Regensburg and Augsburg. Losses were reported at 30 and 35 bombers, of the 8th and 15th Air Forces respectively, as well as 8 escort fighters.



The Americans claim to have shot down 142 German fighters costing the *Luftwaffe* a third of its available fighter aircraft and a fifth of the *Luftwaffe*'s irreplaceable veteran fighter pilots. Additionally, the raid destroyed 1,000 German fighters on the assembly lines and 1,000 more lost to the disruption of production. ✨



AIR FORCE TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Lockheed Martin X-59
2. Bell X-1
3. Boeing X-37
4. Grumman X-29
5. North American X-15
6. Ryan X-13
7. Hiller X-18
8. Bell X-5

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We welcome articles, editorials or comments of interest to the membership. Please include your name, mailing address, e-mail address and phone number with submittals. We reserve the right to edit any submissions for length and/or clarity. Submissions can be sent via e-mail to michaeler@mindspring.com or mail to: Air Force & Space Forces Association, Florida West Coast Chapter #429, Attn: The Newsletter, 1580 Shadow Ridge Circle, Sarasota, Florida 34240.



AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION



AFA Mission

Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air & Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; to honor and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their Families; and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.

To accomplish this, we:

- **EDUCATE** the public on the critical need for unrivaled aerospace power and promote aerospace and STEM education for a technically superior and professional workforce to ensure national security;
- **ADVOCATE** and promote aerospace power to favorably shape policy and resourcing decisions to guarantee the strongest aerospace forces in the world;
- **SUPPORT** Airmen, Guardians, and the families of the Total Air Force and Space Force, including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilians, families, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

THE FLORIDA WEST COAST CHAPTER OF THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION IS INCORPORATED IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA AS A QUALIFIED 501(C) (3) CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION. OUR REGISTRATION NUMBER IS CH48270.

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