

# FLORIDA WEST COAST CHAPTER AIR AND SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION



Vol. 11, Issue 3

NEWSLETTER

Jul - Sep 2022

## CHAPTER NEWS

*This section begins with summaries of the three final programs in our five part series “Ukraine – What’s Next?”. These reports reflect the situation at the time of the program – some may have been overcome by events.*

*You can view any of the five programs in their entirety and see more detailed background on the speakers by going to:*

<https://www.sarasotamanatee.usf.edu/events/ukraine/>

*Once there, simply click on the program’s title to see the You Tube recording of that program.*



### **UKRAINE – WHAT NEXT? -- PART 3 CYBER SECURITY ANALYSIS**

The third session of our “Ukraine – What Next?” program was held virtually on May 10 – originating from the University of South Florida’s Sarasota – Manatee campus. **Chapter President Scott Gray** served as moderator for the program that featured two eminent retired General Officers and a panel discussion involving four Cyber Security experts from both private businesses and government agencies.



**Keith Alexander, General USA (Ret.)** and publisher of the Iron Net Cyber Security newsletter began the morning’s presentations.

He posited that Russia’s failures in the Ukraine will mark a “critical turn in world events”. Putin’s severe under estimate of Ukrainian will to defend their country and their freedoms paired with poor invasion planning and execution has eroded Russia’s position as a major player in world affairs. He estimates Russia has lost 30,000 troops to the Ukraine invasion. Alexander believes China has retreated from its initial of support of the invasion while the Russian military hierarchy and the economic oligarchs are showing dissent with Putin’s policies.

Alexander sees Putin in a battle to save face and to avoid a coup which could see him assassinated or extradited to a War Crimes Commission.

Alexander indicated that Cyber Security threats are still very active – and China is the major threat -- responsible for most of the \$700 Trillion of stolen intellectual property rights. *(That’s why China’s Shenyang FC-31 Gyrfalcon fighter looks so much like the F-35 – they allegedly stole the plans.)* ➡

While Alexander indicated that U.S. businesses and government agencies have made much progress in improving their cyber security programs, he feels they have been operating in isolation. His primary point – repeated several times – is that we – as a nation – need a comprehensive, integrated plan that integrates both public and private initiatives.

The second portion of the program featured a panel discussion moderated by President Gray. The panel consisted of **Dr. Ron Sanders**, staff director for the Florida Center for Cyber Security; **Chuck Brooks**, a Cybersecurity Evangelist; **Serge Jorgensen**, founding partner and CTO of Sylint, a Sarasota based cyber security firm; and **Elzar Camper**, Solutions and Practices Director at Pivot Point Security.



## Florida West Coast Chapter

[www.floridawestcoast.afaflorida.org](http://www.floridawestcoast.afaflorida.org)

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In general, the panel endorsed Alexander's perspectives of the need to fortify our cyber defenses. Jorgensen suggested we also need to focus on disinformation campaigns and they all agreed with Camper's proposal that we need to create proactive programs for use by citizens and small businesses.

Additional topics discussed included cyber agreements within NATO, a potential Cyber Treaty that defines the rules of cyber combat, dealing with non-state actors, cyber insurance, and a system to validate cyber software (i.e. like a UL Lab indorsement or a Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval).

The final portion of the program featured **Kevin Mc Laughlin (Lt. Gen., USAF (Ret.)** - the former Deputy Commander of U.S. Cyber Command.



Mc Laughlin began by citing recent Russian destructive cyber-attacks – notably in Estonia, Chechnya and Ukraine.

He then discussed “corrosive cyber-attacks” – a concept postulated by **General Paul M. Nakasone**, the Commander of U.S. Cyber Command and Director of the National Security Agency (NSA). It envisions a series of invasive cyber events – none large enough to be considered an “Attack” -- being below what is thought of as the conflict level. Extended over a long term, these small bits accumulate into significant deterioration of the host systems. He sees it as particularly applicable to invasion of our political processes, theft of intellectual property rights and hobbling critical infrastructure systems. Like a death from a thousand cuts, it can erode US power over time.

When discussing “What’s Next”, he dealt with several issues:

- Anticipate escalation of Russian cyber-attacks against countries outside of Ukraine.
- Would cyber-attacks against NATO countries trigger the NATO Article 5 provisions that call for common response against aggression?
- Expansion of Cyber forces within the military departments.
- The need for greater interaction between Cyber Command and the Department of Homeland Defense.
- The need to increase our cyber preparedness in advance of the 2024 elections. ➡

As he was closing, he noted the US Cyber forces – both military and civilian – are relatively young. Most in the military have only 5-6 years of experience. He expects our capabilities to grow significantly as those personnel mature in their jobs. ★

## **UKRAINE – WHAT NEXT? -- PART 4 DIPLOMATIC AND HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS**

The fourth three hour session of our series about Ukraine kicked off on the morning of May 24th. Again it was a virtual meeting hosted by the University of South Florida (USF) Sarasota-Manatee Campus and moderated by chapter president **Scott Gray**. The session topic was to focus on Diplomatic and Humanitarian issues – however the Diplomatic focus slipped to the background as the presenters focused more on more general and humanitarian issues.



The first presentation was made by **Dr. Jody Mc Brien** from her office in Paris. Dr. McBrien is a fellow in the Council of Foreign Relations and a Professor in USF's School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies. She started her presentation by looking at sheer numbers of the displaced Ukrainian citizens – estimated at 6 million outside of Ukraine (about ½ women and children) and an additional 7 million displaced within the country. She stated it is the largest since WW II – surpassing the Syrian crisis.

She noted that the response from European countries has been very positive, given that the EU countries have provided a 3 year window for the refugees to stay and work in their host country. However, she expressed her concerns about the impact on children – not just the trauma of the displacement, but also prolonged periods away from their fathers, loss of schooling and extra curriculum activities that can limit childhood growth.

Ukraine is providing on-line education options – originally designed because of the COVID Pandemic – but it is only available from grade 5 and above and requires students to register 3 months in advance.

**Tom Callahan**, Vice President, 'Strategy Innovation and Evaluation for CRDF Global served as the sessions Keynote Speaker. "CRDF Global is an independent nonprofit organization that promotes safety, security, and sustainability through science and innovation. CRDF Global was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1992 under the FREEDOM Support Act and established in 1995 by the National Science Foundation." *Wikipedia*



Callahan advanced the theory that the war will mark a major turning point in international geopolitical relations. Russia will be shunned by most of the world's nations; it will be poorer and less secure because of the large losses of personnel and material.

Despite Russia's much larger army, Ukraine has neutralized the Russians on almost every front. While both sides are now digging in, and neither appears capable of delivering a decisive blow. And, while both sides can point to successes and setbacks, there are growing signs the war could become a protracted stalemate.

The next presentation was made by **Dr. Sylvian Charlebois** – "The Food Professor". Charlebois is a Canadian researcher and professor in food distribution and food policy at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. He is Dalhousie's past Dean of the Faculty of Management and holds a cross-appointment as professor in the Faculty of Agriculture.



Charlebois indicated the war in the Ukraine is just one more issue – like climate change and the pandemic – that is having a major impact on the world food economy. The war impact is two sided – closing of Ukrainian ports and the ➡

sanctions on Russian operations – both influencing the amount of food stocks available for export as well as limiting fertilizer shipments from the area.

The end result being “...less food getting to the end users” and shortages are driving prices higher. He noted some countries are restricting exports of some food products – he mentioned wheat and palm oil — to insure adequate stocks for their populations.

He asserts that failure to open Ukrainian ports for wheat exports will result in a worldwide famine. On June 15 he posted on his Twitter site that “Putin is reminding the world how food can be weaponized. Manufacturing a famine is just sickening.” (*Reminiscent of the artificial famine created in the 1930s by Stalin that killed millions in Ukraine. One source said “The Russians don’t remember it, the Ukrainians can never forget it.”*)

In closing he discussed the status of other global agricultural countries and the need for them to increase their output to make up the shortages generated by the war.

Next up was a panel discussion featuring **Dr. Nicholas Krohley, Dr. Neysa Holmes and Dustin Ostberg.**



**Dr. Nicholas Krohley** is a consultant and researcher. He is the Founder of FrontLine Advisory, and the author of *The Death of the Mehdi Army: The Rise, Fall, and Revival of Iraq’s Most Powerful Militia*. He specializes in the first-hand examination of localized dynamics of conflict, development, and urbanization in the developing world. His work aligns strategic plans with local realities, and equips front line operational personnel with the skill sets and local insights necessary for success.

**Dr. Neysa Holmes, PhD** is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), President, and Co-Founder of Delegated Claims Management (DCM). She has the overall responsibility for the management and marketing of DCM and oversight of litigated matters.



Prior to embarking on her role at DCM, Dr. Holmes -- a USF graduate -- spent almost 20 years working as an international project manager and consultant for both private companies and government agencies. Her work took her to 31 countries across North and South America, United Kingdom, Europe, Russia, and Asia.

Over the period of her career, Dr. Holmes has contributed to educational research and technical platform learning in the insurance industry, presenting at numerous international conferences. Dr. Holmes continues to focus on global cultures, international business consulting, and systematic changes across the globe.



**Dustin Ostberg** bills himself as a graduate of The Marine University. According to his biography he is a results driven leader with 20+ years of proven results in multiple Special Operations and National Security billets, specializing in training risk mitigation, vulnerability assessments, clandestine insertion/extraction techniques, surveillance and full spectrum explosive breaching techniques. He is a skilled team builder and developer with a combat proven reputation of leading others towards exceptional results, regardless of task.

Ostberg noted that this is not a new war – the fighting in Crimea has been going on since 2014. He observes that the Russians had no strategic plan and perceives they are underachieving, still tied to USSR war fighting doctrine. Conversely, he perceives the Ukrainian response as “brilliant”. He views the Ukrainians as overachieving -- with the talent and will to defend their country. He compares their fight to the American Revolution. When teaching in Ukraine, he found the troops confident, eager and open minded. They welcomed input from the free world. He also noted the free world will be able to learn much from their experiences. ⇒

The panel expressed their concern about the Ukrainians – soldiers, farmers and workers -- that have been moved to Russia. They indicated it was a State Department issue, but speculated that most likely those people won't be seen again. They noted the safety of refugees remains an issue. Transportation and safe housing stand out, while women and children are a major concern. Efforts to help orphans are a particular issue as there are no structures or procedures to “adopt” refugee children.

Holmes noted that Human Trafficking remains a large and serious problem across the entire region. It is an evil but profitable enterprise. She said we need to educate people about the issue and establish the means to protect the vulnerable. They estimated that the human crisis will last as much as 10 years as it will take massive rebuilding before people can return.

The panel was in agreement that Ukraine will not accept a loss in this war. They are looking to reestablish their previous borders and are focused on winning the war. Neutrality is not an option.

The final presentation of this session was made by **USAF Brigadier General (Ret.) John R. "Bob" Jr. Ranck**. He has more than 30 years of experience as a strategist, leader and manager in a career that spans across military, manufacturing and small business sectors.



As a military chief executive in the United States Air Force, he led military units in domestic and international flying operations, spearheaded emergency relief in the third world and the U.S., engaged in public relations/advocacy efforts and championed change management activities.

Drawing on his Air Force experiences, Ranck outlined the requirements to establish Contingency Airfield Operations for either military or humanitarian purposes. His examples ranged from uncontested – New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina – to unstable ops like the Kabul evacuation.

He indicated the initial need is to establish the strategic and political goals of such an operation – and to determine if it will be a contested or uncontested operation. Then he indicated the specific mission and goals of the operation need to be determined. Next he outlined the need for air traffic control, force protection; aerial port and aircraft maintenance assets must be factored in. ✨

## **UKRAINE – WHAT NEXT? -- PART 5 HEARTS AND MINDS**



The fifth and final session of the “Ukraine – What’s Next?” series was held on June 8<sup>th</sup>, again from the USF – Sarasota-Manatee campus. The topic was the Hearts and Minds – basically a focus on Dis-Information campaigns – whether they fly under the banner of Mis-Information, Fake News or Propaganda. As **President Gray** was traveling, **Dr. Ron Sanders**, staff director for the Florida Center for Cyber Security and a panelist in session three, served as the moderator.

**Sue Gordon** was the Keynote Speaker for this session. She served as the 5th Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence until August 15, 2019. Prior to assuming that role, she was the



Deputy Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, taking the position on January 1, 2015. She is currently serving as the Director at CACI International, a firm which provides the unique expertise and distinctive technology that address customers’ greatest enterprise and mission challenges. Gordon started by indicating that Russian has a long history – dating to well before pre-revolution times – of conducting integrated mis-information programs. She stated the Ukraine ➡

is just the latest iteration and one which was begun years ago. Gordon postulated that this campaign has been less effective than the Russians anticipated due to preemptive help to the Ukrainians from other nations and an unprecedented release of classified intelligence by the United States and others that undermined the believability Russian dis-information attempts.

She discussed how the internet has expanded the available channels to distribute false information and the ability to direct it to specific target audiences. But she noted the public is becoming more skeptical about online sources. She asserted the United States, NATO and the European Union need modernized systems and a capability for integrated responses from multiple sources.

Gordon's presentation was followed by a panel discussion featuring **J.D. Maddox**, Adjunct Professor, George Mason University and Founder & CEO Inventive Insights LLC. (at right) and **Dr. Golfo Alexopoulos** (at left) the founding director of the USF Institute on Russia and Professor of Global Studies at the University of South Florida in Tampa Bay. Her teaching and research focus on Russian politics and authoritarianism. Dr. Alexopoulos received her PhD in Russian and Soviet history from the University of Chicago and her master's in Russian and East European Studies at Yale University.



The panel indicated the Russian propaganda effort has been extensive; but while it has been effective within Russia, it has largely failed in Ukraine, Europe and the United States.

They asserted Ukraine has been very successful in countering the Russian message, primarily through open reporting on the ground with active support for independent journalists using factual information to undermine the Russian propaganda.

They repeated a theme heard throughout the five programs – actions to counter the Russians – militarily or otherwise -- need to be coordinated throughout the western world.

The day's next presentation was a detailed power point presentation made by **Dr. Piotr Lubinski** -- a Senior Lecturer at the Pedagogical University of Kraków, Institute of Security Science. His areas of interest focus on humanitarian law, human rights, and international public law. He has Phds in Law from Krakow and Aberystwyth (Wales).



Lubinski's presentation looked at Poland as an extensive case study of a Russian disinformation campaign. In closing he echoed themes put forth by other sessions – (1) the European Union and NATO must develop a set of Best Cyber Practices and (2) develop a collective, integrated approach to efforts to counter misinformation campaigns.



The final portion of the day dealt with the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot program with a presentation from Stuart Pettis. Pettis is the Director, STEM Education Programs for the Air & Space Forces Association. He was assisted by Rachel Zimmerman, Director of Business Operations and Deputy Commissioner, CyberPatriot.

Pettis presented a video that outlined the CyberPatriot program and how it has grown since first introduced nearly 11 years ago. CyberPatriot is the Air & Space Forces Association's National Youth Cyber Education Program, created to inspire K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future. The CyberPatriot Programs are: ➡

- The National Youth Cyber Defense Competition
- AFA Cyber Camps
- Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative
- Cyber Education Literature Series
- CyberGenerations

Pettis noted that 95% of the CyberPatriot graduates stay in the civilian world – it is not an Air Force recruiting tool. A recent poll of graduates indicated that 144,000 are still involved in a STEM related activity and that 83,000 alumni are engaged in a Cyber Security position. ★

### 3rd QUARTER FACTOID

## US ARMY AIR FORCES DROP FIRST ATOMIC BOMB



On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima, Japan was struck with the uranium bomb named Little Boy. The atom bomb killed an estimated 140,000 people in the first use of a nuclear weapon in warfare.

It was dropped from the B-29 airplane, Enola Gay, piloted by **Col. Paul Tibbets** of the US Army Air Forces along with a crew of 11 other men. **Capt. Robert A. Lewis** served as co-pilot, **Capt. Theodore Van Kirk** served as the Navigator, **Major Thomas Wilson Ferebee** was the bombardier. **Richard Nelson** was the radio operator. Navy weaponeer, **Captain W.S. Parsons**, armed the bomb.

The bomb was a uranium fission weapon and the yield was in the region of 20,000 tons (20 KT) of TNT. Sixty percent of the city was destroyed in the blast and the firestorm that follows. About 80,000 Japanese are killed. Many more are severely burned and others become ill later, from exposure to radiation. While it is not the most devastating bombing attack of the war, the economy of the effort involved in sending only one plane on a mission to destroy a city shows only too well the complete change in military and political thinking which had begun. ★

## CHAPTER NEWS

### RICHARDSON NAMED CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Former Chapter President **Mike Richardson** was recently recognized as the Florida West Coast Chapter's 2021 Chapter Member of the Year. The award was presented at AFA Florida's annual convention held in Tallahassee on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Selected by President Scott Gray, the award recognized Richardson ongoing efforts to maintain the continuity of the chapter as well to ease Gray's transition to his new position.

Richardson is a graduate of the University of Omaha and received his commission through the Air Force ROTC program. He trained as a Navigator-Bombardier/Weapon Systems Operator and spent approximately 15 years in flying related positions – crewing in the T-29C/D, the F-111A, the B-57G, the OV-10A and the C-130 A/B/E.



He is a Distinguished Graduate of both the Air Force's Squadron Officers School and the Navy's Command and Staff College, and received a Master's Degree in Logistics Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology. He rounded out his career in staff and command positions – principally as "Base Commander" at Taegu, Korea; Misawa, Japan and Shaw AFB, SC. Richardson retired at Homestead AFB, FL in the rank of Colonel in 1992. Subsequently, he was President of the John W. DeMilly, Jr. Chapter of the AFA in Homestead – re-constituting it after Hurricane Andrew -- and then as AFA Florida's first Southeast Area Vice President. He served briefly as Vice President of North Carolina's Blue Ridge Chapter prior to moving to Sarasota.

## AIR FORCE NEWS

### AIR FORCE CELEBRATES ITS 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



As we approach the Air Force's 75th Anniversary we need to reflect on the greatness of our Service. Quoting from the National Museum of the United States Air Force...

*"On July 26, 1947, President Harry S. Truman used this pen to sign the National Security Act of 1947 while aboard the Douglas VC-54C Sacred Cow, the first dedicated presidential aircraft. This act officially established the United States Air Force as a separate and co-equal branch of the United States Armed Forces.*

*The U.S. Air Force's quest for independence was a long and often contentious struggle between air-minded officers and the entrenched Army and Navy bureaucracy. The creation of an independent air arm, crucial to national defense, had been championed for decades by a succession of Army Air Corps and Army Air Forces senior leaders. American air dominance in World War II and careful post-war organizational planning by Gen. Henry "Hap"*

*Arnold demonstrated to America's political leaders the effectiveness of air power in the atomic age and the need for an independent Air Force.*

*President Truman, by signing this act into law, validated the hard work and sacrifice of thousands of dedicated Airmen who worked to create the most powerful air force in the world.*

*With the implementation of the National Security Act Of 1947, the United States Air Force was officially established on September 18, 1947."* ⇒



Since that historic moment the Air Force has been ever present in preserving the peace, supplying humanitarian aid, conquering space, working cyber, developing new technologies and leading the world in all aspects of aviation. This has been accomplished by the generations of men and women who have served in the USAF. It is our technology that has given us the edge but it is our Airmen that have taken us top the pinnacle of greatness.

To those of you that have served in our Air Force, I offer my thanks. We need to celebrate our 75th and reflect on the greatness we helped our Service achieve.

Scott Gray, President  
Florida West Coast Chapter

**The Newsletter** is a quarterly publication of the Florida West Coast Chapter of the Air & Space Forces Association, a non-profit civilian organization. It is normally published in February, May, August and November. Special editions or supplemental issues may be published as required. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Air Force, the Air & Space Forces Association or their officers. 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](mailto: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.



# THE 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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