



**FLORIDA WEST COAST
CHAPTER
AIR & SPACE FORCES
ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S POSTS



The summer season is here and things have slowed down for our Chapter. We had an amazing spring and plan to ramp things up again when our crowds return in October. The State AFA organization had their summer convention in Tallahassee and we will report on that after the minutes are released.

I want to discuss a National problem we are facing that directly impacts our Air and Space Forces: Recruiting. According to an article in the Wall Street Journal, June 30, 2023, the military expects to miss its recruiting goal of 65,000 recruits by 15,000. The Air Force expects to miss its' goal by 3,000. These numbers only reflect the active-duty forces. The Reserves and Guard are also failing to meet their goals.

With the instability in the world, the Russia invasion of Ukraine, Chinas growing military and economic influence, North Koreas actions and Iran's nuclear ambitions, this is not the time for or military to face a recruiting crisis.

Also disturbing is the fact that prior military members are not encouraging their sons and daughters, nieces and nephews and neighbors' kids to serve. Numerous factors play into this, some political, some the burnout members received from constant and numerous deployments, and the dwindling pay and benefits to military members.

Added to this, the DoD says only 23% of American youth are qualified for military service due to a lack of physical fitness, low test scores and criminal records including drug use. Furthermore, only 9% of todays youth are interested in serving.

AFA National is working to help with this recruiting shortfall. AFA numbers show the potential for a 4,000 shortfall of recruits for 2023 which is worse than the WSJ reported. In an effort to help address the problem, AFA leadership has chartered a task force to develop a program to help our chapters assist at the community level.

The task force will be working with Chapter Presidents to try and help our local recruiters in any way possible. In an effort to jump start this effort, I would like to encourage each and every one of you to contact your local recruiter and see how you can help. Reach out

to high school guidance counselors and see if you might help them also. Offer to talk with potential recruits about your life experiences and how the Air Force shaped you and the benefit you received from serving your country in the Air Force!

I have asked the task force to provide us with a current list of pay and benefits as most have changed since we served. I will pass these on when I receive them.

I appreciate your being a member of the West Coast Chapter and urge you to reach out in any way possible to help our Air and Space Forces to maintain the capabilities they have today and to continue to provide for our Nation's defense.

AIR FORCE NEWS



Gen. CQ Brown, Jr. Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force
(U.S. Air Force photo by Eric Dietrich)

Edited from a Military.com article by [Thomas Novelly](#) and published in the Air and Space Forces Daily Report dated 25 May 2023.

AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF NOMINATED TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

[Air Force](#) Chief of Staff Gen. Charles "C.Q." Brown was nominated by President Joe Biden...to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the country's top uniformed officer.

If Brown is confirmed by the Senate, the post will be handed over from an [Army](#) general to an Air Force general with experience in the Pacific region, where the U.S. is hoping to counter China. Brown, who has been the Air Force's top officer since 2020, will also be the first Black service member to helm the Joint Chiefs in 30 years.

"For the future in the Indo-Pacific, Gen. Brown has built a reputation across the force as an unflappable and highly effective leader, and someone who creates an environment of teamwork, trust, and executes with excellence," Biden said.

Brown was seen as an ideal candidate, namely because of his experience in previous roles as commander of Pacific Air Forces and as air component commander for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. He is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours -- including 130 combat hours.

Brown joined the Air Force in 1984 and was a distinguished graduate of [ROTC](#) program at Texas Tech University. In his nearly 40-year career, he held numerous leadership positions, ranging from commanding a fighter squadron, the U.S. Air Force Weapons School, two fighter wings and U.S. Air Forces Central Command.



Credit: Lockheed Martin Concept

U.S. AIR FORCE SENDS OUT SOLICITATION FOR F-22 SUCCESSOR

May 24, 2023

The Air Force has solicited proposals from industry for its sixth-generation fighter aircraft — the Next-Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) program — and plans to award a contract in 2024, the service announced Thursday. A competition more than a decade in the making has now entered a bidding process expected to culminate next year when the U.S. Air Force selects the first new air superiority aircraft in over 30 years with a mandate to reshape fighter technology to confront a dangerous new era for airpower.

The Department of the Air Force sent a classified solicitation to industry for “an engineering and manufacturing development contract” for the sixth-generation platform, which is intended to replace

the F-22 Raptor fighter aircraft. No public information regarding the requirements, when industry received the solicitation and response due dates were given.

Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall said in the release that the NGAD platform will be “a generational leap in technology” over its predecessors. NGAD will include attributes such as enhanced lethality and the ability to survive, persist, interoperate, and adapt in the air domain, all within highly contested operational environments,” Kendall said. “No one does this better than the U.S. Air Force, but we will lose that edge if we don’t move forward now.”

U.S. Air Force T-7A Flies For First Time

Taken from a June 28, 2023 Aviation Week And Space Technology article by Brian Everstine



The U.S. Air Force on June 28 flew its next-generation trainer for the first time, marking the start of the engineering and manufacturing development (EMD) phase of the T-7A Red Hawk.

The first EMD aircraft for the service took off from Boeing’s St. Louis facility. It was piloted by a uniformed **Air Force pilot, Maj. Bryce Turner** from the 416th Test Squadron, in the front seat and **Boeing test pilot Steve Schmidt** in the back. The jet flew for about a half hour south of St. Louis before returning to Lambert International Airport.

It was a long-awaited milestone for a program that has been beset by delays. Getting to the first military flight of the EMD aircraft required a waiver from the Air Force because of problems with the T-7A’s egress system. The system’s blast cords, which open a hole in the cockpit’s canopy during ejection, had too high of a risk of pilot injury during testing and requires redesign. A fix is expected in a matter of months.

The Air Force plans to buy 351 Red Hawks starting in December 2025 under a \$9.2 billion contract awarded in 2018.

AIR FORCE TRIVIA

Your challenge is to associate these Air Force Ranges with the state in which they are located.
Data source: Air and Space Forces Magazine, July 2023
Answers on page ?.



Avon Park Air Force Range

Barry M, Goldwater Range

Claiborne Range (AFRC)

Dare County Bombing Range

Grand Bay Bombing and Gunnery Range

Melrose Air Force Range

Mountain Home Range Complex

Poinsett Electronic Combat Range

Smoky Hill ANG Range

Warren Grove Range (ANG)

Arizona

Florida

Georgia

Idaho

Kansas

Louisiana

New Jersey

New Mexico

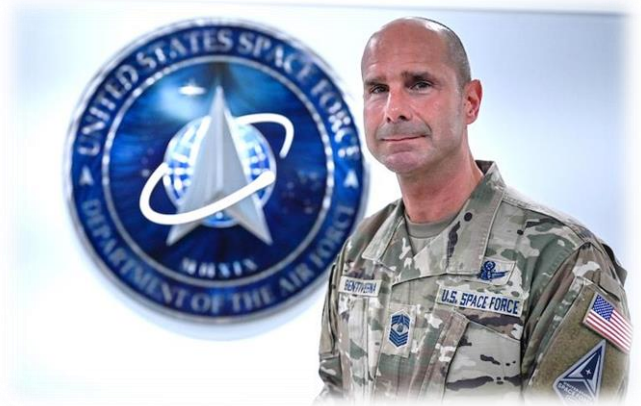
North Carolina

South Carolina

SPACE FORCE NEWS

New Chief Master Sergeant Of The Space Force Selected

Chief Master Sgt. John F. Bentivegna was selected May 5 to become the next Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force. Bentivegna is currently serving as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief Operations Officer and the Enlisted Space Systems Operations Career Field Manager at Headquarters Space Force, Washington D.C.



U.S. Space Force photo by Senior Master Sgt. Sara Keller

In making his selection, Chief of Space Operations Gen. Chance Saltzman said, "I needed someone that would bring a perspective on our future that was articulated differently from mine."

Saltzman selected Bentivegna from a group of five candidates who underwent a four-day evaluation process that vetted their skills and leadership capabilities. The process, along with personal interviews with each candidate, helped Saltzman make his final decision by giving him data on how the chiefs performed in various exercises and assessments.

Thule Air Base Gets New Name

Taken from an article written by Connie Dillon and Steve Brady published April 6, 2023

Thule Air Base, the Department of Defense's northernmost installation, has been renamed to recognize Greenlandic cultural heritage and better reflect its role in the U.S. Space Force.

Following a ceremony held April 6, the installation is now known as Pituffik Space Base. Pituffik (pronounced bee-doo-FEEK) is the traditional Greenlandic name of the region where the base is located. The renaming better reflects its role in the U.S. Space Force, while paying homage to its ties to the Greenlandic people and culture. The base is located approximately 750 miles north of the Arctic Circle on the northwestern coast of Greenland.



"Today is a day of great significance as we commemorate the renaming of Thule Air Base to Pituffik Space Base," said **Chief of Space Operations U.S. Space Force Gen. Chance Saltzman** in his opening remarks as the presiding official. "This renaming represents our wish to celebrate and acknowledge the rich cultural

heritage of Greenland and its people and how important they are to the sustainment of this installation against the harsh environment north of the Arctic Circle.”

Saltzman was joined by **Greenlandic Minister for Foreign Affairs, Business, and Trade Vivian Motzfeldt** and **U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark Alan Leventhal**; their presence was a testament to the collective commitment the countries have made to a shared defense and emphasized the importance of the installation. Members of the Greenlandic Parliament, Commander of the **Joint Arctic Command Rear Admiral Martin la Cour-Andersen**, and other Greenlandic dignitaries also attended the ceremony.



Benefield Anechoic Facility tests first space satellite in decades

Published June 5, 2023 by Adam Bowles 412th Test Wing Public Affairs

Although regularly used to test aircraft, the Benefield Anechoic Facility (BAF) at Edwards AFB hadn't tested an orbital satellite in decades. That changed in June 2023 when the Navigation Technology Satellite-3 (NTS-3) was moved to Edwards for testing. The was the Department of Defense's first experimental, integrated navigation satellite system in nearly 50 years. It is anticipated to launch in late 2023,

In 2019, the Department of the Air Force designed NTS-3 as one of the three programs with the goal of delivering remarkable new capabilities that provide warfighters superior advantages in the battlefield. NTS-3, developed by L3Harris Technologies, builds on the legacy of NTS-1 and NTS-2, which were launched in the 1970s. The satellite is poised to push the boundary of today's space-based position, navigation and timing technology, paving the way for a more robust, resilient and responsive architecture for satellite technology. The rapidly increasing pace of threats to GPS such as jamming and spoofing, however, indicate that agile and resilient approaches to augment the GPS system are needed to maintain users' access to its critical service. This is especially true for the warfighter.

Truly a team effort, the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Space Force, Air Force Research Laboratory and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory all had critical roles in this historic testing of the NTS-3 satellite

CHAPTER NEWS

Buchanan names Air Force Academy appointments

Submitted by Savannah Glasgow Plafker

Congressman Vern Buchanan recently announced his 2023 appointments to the US Service Academies. Of the 13, three are to the Air Force Academy. Although none were from Sarasota, Manatee County graduates were Phillip Dell from Saint Stephens Episcopal School and Aidan Grubbs from Parish Community High School. The third AF appointment went to Luke Plesko from Newsome High School in the Tampa area.



Students accepted to the academies receive a free four-year education in return for a commitment to serve five years in the active-duty military after graduation.

"I congratulate these outstanding young men and women," Buchanan said. "They should take pride in having successfully competed with so many students from across the country. It is an honor not only for them, but for all who have supported them along the way. I wish them the best of luck and have every confidence that they will serve our nation with distinction."

Charly Shugg – our chapter Secretary — serves on Rep. Buchanan's panel that reviews the applications and recommends selections to the Congressman.

AEROSPACE EDUCATION



The Air & Space Forces Association (AFA) believes in the power that students hold in securing our nation's future; however, only 1 in 5 high school seniors are interested in careers in science, technology, engineering, or math. To equip our students with the knowledge and skills required for future innovation, we must increase the number of students and teachers in STEM fields.

That's why AFA is part of the nationwide initiative to improve STEM learning—including aerospace education—to better prepare students for the competitive global economy and increase their chances of becoming future leaders who solve our nation's toughest challenge. One of the programs AFA has developed to further that goal is StellarXplorers.

In September 2014, the Air & Space Forces Association received a request from the Secretary of the US Air Force to develop a national space design competition, (something similar to CyberPatriot - AFA's National Youth Cyber Defense Competition and flagship STEM program). Working in partnership with leaders in the



2022 Champions: Team Panther #3 from Palos Verdes Peninsula High School in Rolling Hills Estates, Calif.

U.S. space industry, space-focused academia, and government entities, the Air Force Association (AFA) developed the StellarXplorers Program

The StellarXplorers National Space Design Competition provides specific training in the use of system simulation software, Systems Tool Kit (STK), as well as an online textbook as a curriculum supplement and study resource for online “team” quizzes given during the competition. The actual competition is accomplished from the team’s home location. Teams are given a scenario describing the system’s mission and constraints and they provide a solution to a typical space design problem, such as orbit determination, satellite

component selection, and launch vehicle planning while dealing with weight and cost constraints.

Practice Rounds begin in October, and Qualification Rounds begin in November. Performances of teams during the Qualifying Rounds determine which teams advance to the Semi-Finals in February. The top 10 teams from the Semi-Finals receive an all-expense-paid trip to the National Finals.

Teams from 11 organizations in Florida competed in last year’s competition – including four teams from Lakewood Ranch High School.

3rd QUARTER FACTOID

FIRST USAF CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS

On August 15, 1957, Gen. Nathan F. Twining became the third Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was the first USAF officer to serve in that position. He served as Chief until 30 September 1960.

In the interim 66 years only three other Air Force officers have served as Chairman -- Gen. George Brown (1 July 1974 - 20 June 1978) Gen. David Jones (21 June 1978 - 18 June 1982) and Gen. Richard Meyers (1 October 2001 - 30 September 2005).

With the appointment of Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. as Chairman on date? (see page ?) the Air Force now has its fifth officer to hold that position.



AIR FORCE TRIVIA ANSWERS

Avon Park Air Force Range -- Florida; Barry M. Goldwater Range -- Arizona; Claiborne Range (AFRC) -- Louisiana;

Dare County Bombing Range -- North Carolina; Grand Bay Bombing and Gunnery Range - Georgia;

Melrose Air Force Range -- New Mexico; Mountain Home Range Complex -- Idaho

Poinsett Electronic Combat Range -- South Carolina; Smoky Hill ANG Range -- Kansas; Warren Grove Range (ANG) -- New Jersey



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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