



FLORIDA WEST COAST  
CHAPTER  
AIR & SPACE FORCES  
ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S POSTS



Happy Holidays! I hope all had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and look forward to the December Holiday Season.

Veterans Day was an opportunity to reflect on your time in the Air Force and the places you were stationed, traveled to or were deployed too. More importantly it

was a time to remember those you served with and the lifelong friends you made! I personally made numerous calls to many I served with and emailed or texted many others. I personally need to do a better job of staying in touch with these important influences on my life!

December 8, 2023, we are cosponsoring an exciting event. Gen Phil Breedlove, former Third AF/CC who had responsibility for the Israel AOR and a former SACEUR in charge of NATO military forces will be the Keynote Speaker for a 3 hour session on the Potential Global Impacts of the Wars in the Ukraine and Israel. Here is the agenda:

- :
- 9:00 Welcome: David Kotok
  - 9:05: Introduction of General Breedlove: Major General Scott Gray
  - 9:10 – 10:00: Keynote: General Phil Breedlove
  - 10:00 – 10:15: Q&A moderated by Scott Gray
  - 10:15 – 10:30: Break
  - 10:30 – 11:00: Lyric Hughes - How and if the Regional Wars Morph into WWII. (20 minutes + Q&A)
  - 11:00 – 12:00: Economic/Financial Markets Outlook: Bill Kennedy and Peter Tchir. Moderated by David Kotok
  - 12:00: Conclusion: David Kotok

Over the last two years Gen Breedlove has been the Keynote speaker for our Ukraine series. We are fortunate to have him back again to talk on the Ukraine and Israeli wars.

Here is the ZOOM link for the event. **YOU MUST PREREGISTER!**

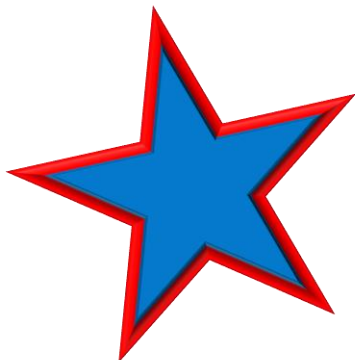
<https://www.interdependence.org/events/browse/potential-global-impacts-of-the-wars-in-ukraine-and-israel/>

All the best, Fly Safe and have a great Holiday season!

*Scott*

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Next Chapter Program!



As President Gray noted, the chapter will present the third program in our Current Events Series. The event will be a ZOOM video presentation on December 8, 2023 starting at 9:00 am. It will deal with the potential impacts of the ongoing Israeli – Hamas conflict in the Middle East as well as a revisit to the Ukrainian war.

As done previously, we are co-sponsoring this event with The Global Interdependence Council (GIC). Gen Phil Breedlove, former Third Air Force/CC who had responsibility for the Israel AOR and a former SACEUR in charge of NATO military forces will be the Keynote Speaker. He will kick off a 3 hour session on the potential global impacts of the wars in the Ukraine and Israel.

Here is the ZOOM link for the event.

### YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE!

<https://www.interdependence.org/events/browse/potential-global-impacts-of-the-wars-in-ukraine-and-israel/>

### Chapter wins AFA Field Awards

AFA'S Florida Region President Todd Freece traveled to Sarasota to present the chapter with three national level AFA awards. The awards had previously been announced at the 2023 AFA National Convention held in National Harbor, MD on September 9-10, 2023. The presentations were made at a chapter leadership luncheon held at Libby's Restaurant on Sunday, September 24.



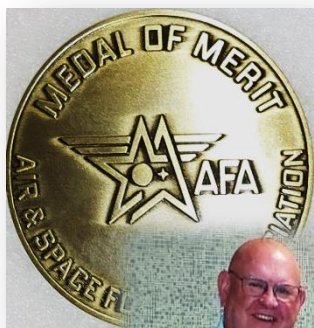
Florida Region President Todd Freece poses with chapter leaders after presenting the AFA'S Exceptional Service Award for the Best Single Program and AFA's award for the Outstanding Medium Sized Chapter  
Left to Right: Secretary Charlie Shugg, Treasurer Chet Harriman, President Scott Gray, Florida Region President Todd Freeze and President Emeritus Mike Richardson.

The chapter won an **Exceptional Service Award (ESA)** for the best Single Chapter Program within AFA. The award was in recognition of the 2022 “Ukraine – What Next?” series of four ZOOM broadcasts presented in concert with the University of South Florida, Sarasota – Manatee Campus. Conceived by **President Scott Gray** as single, one-time event of a 1½ hour discussion with **Gen Phil Breedlove** -- USAF (Ret) and a former SACEUR – it was rapidly endorsed by the University and morphed into a series of 4 sessions each 3 hours long. The expanded format included – in addition to military issues -- a historical perspective of Russia and Ukrainian issues and a broad range of economic and diplomatic topics.



AFA Exceptional Service Awards are awarded for outstanding accomplishment in each of the following fields: Community Relations, Overall Programming, Best Single Program, Veterans Affairs, Airmen and Family Programs, Unit/Arnold Air/Silver Wings Integration, Communications and Community Partners.

Additionally, the chapter was recognized as AFA's **Outstanding Medium Sized Chapter**. The recognition is awarded to the most outstanding chapter in each size category. Medium sized chapters have a membership between 201 and 359 members. (With the chapter expansion this year, we will compete as a large chapter (351-650) in the next competition. Chapters are judged on their accomplishments in the following areas: new member procurement, community relations, aerospace education, overall programming, best single program, and communications. Outstanding Chapters are selected from the top chapters in each size category.



**President Scott Gray** (at left) was awarded an AFA **Medal of Merit** in recognition of his efforts to conceive and present the “Ukraine – What Next” video series. The Medal of Merit is awarded for exceptional services in local, regional or national fields and shall denote great initiative on the part of the recipient for specific achievements.

In addition to its educational value, the series also greatly





expanded awareness of AFA – not only in the local and state community — but also nationwide through the broad scope of the participants contributing to the presentations and discussions.

*When not dealing with the chapter's issues, President Scott Gray keeps busy with several other military and veterans organizations. One of the most rewarding is in his position as the Chairman of the Board, President, CEO & Executive Committee member of the Combat Wounded Veteran Challenge Inc.*

## Combat Wounded Veteran Challenge

Combat Wounded Veteran Challenge (CWVC) is a Florida based, national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for our returning American combat wounded and injured military service veterans. The basis for their mission centers upon 3 core principles – **Challenge, Research** and most importantly **Inspire**



Their mission is to partner with various universities, medical professionals and institutions to help gather research on PTSD, TBI, and Orthotics & Prosthetics so they can better understand the difficulties faced by wounded or injured veterans daily.

CWVC is led by other combat wounded veterans that are committed to the reintegration of their compatriots as they transition back into civilian life through rehabilitative high-adventure and therapeutic outdoor challenges. While on these grueling challenges, these warriors continue to give of themselves by furthering medical physiological, biomedical and pathological sciences associated with their injuries.

The data collected and case studies conducted with their medical partners while on these expeditions lead to breakthrough gains in the fields of traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress, orthotics and prosthetics. Rehab and reintegration are handled in traditional as well as non-traditional settings. In healing themselves, it's members help others.

On Thursday, July 13, 2023 members of the Combat Wounded Veteran Challenge (CWVC) again joined forces with Mote Marine Laboratory to plant corals and restore the Higgs Head coral reef in Key West. This event marks the eleventh year of a unique coral restoration partnership that enables combat wounded veterans the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge, science-based marine habitat restoration.

Combat wounded and injured veterans with various types of injuries including traumatic brain injury, transtibial (below the knee), transfemoral (above the knee) amputees, as well as many other less noticeable combat related injuries participated in this summer's planting. Many of the CWVC participants who had lost limbs were able to dive utilizing specialized waterproof prosthetics, some of which have been developed from research conducted during prior year's Mote-CWVC missions.



## Did You Know?

The chapter has some distinguished individuals among its membership. Three come to mind immediately.



**Sandy Schlitt: Brigadier General, USAFR (Ret.)**

Chairman of the AFA Board of Directors 2010 – 2012. Served two terms as Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education prior to becoming the Chairman. Credited as the founder of CyberPatriot. Served as the mobilization assistant to the Principal Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Washington, D.C

### Dr. Michael Yarymovych:

Chief Scientist of the Air Force 1973 – 1975; followed by a Presidential appointment to be the Assistant Administrator of the US Energy Research and Development Administration responsible for field operations of the national and government owned energy (former AEC) laboratories. Check him out on Wikipedia.



**George Hardy: Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (Ret.)**

Served in the Air Force from 1943 to 1971. Was the youngest pilot in the Tuskegee Airmen and is now one of only two remaining Tuskegee combat pilots. In World War II Hardy completed 21 combat missions with the Tuskegee Airmen. In the Korean War he flew 45 combat missions as the pilot of a B-29 bomber. In the Vietnam War he flew 70 combat missions piloting an AC-119K gunship.

If you know of other chapter members with similar unique and distinguished histories in support of the Air Force and AFA let us know so we can add them to our list of notable members. You can e-mail your thoughts to [michaeler@mindspring.com](mailto:michaeler@mindspring.com)

## AIR FORCE NEWS

### AIR FORCE LEADERSHIP CHANGES

#### General Charles Q. Brown Jr. becomes Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

General Charles Q. Brown (at right with President Biden) assumed office as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 October 2023, having been ceremonially sworn in on 29 September. He is the fifth Air Force officer to hold the position.

Brown is the second Black Joint Chiefs chairman after Army General Colin Powell, who served in the role from 1989 to 1993. It also marks the first time in history that the Pentagon's top two leaders, Brown along with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, are Black men.



Before becoming the 21st chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force Gen. CQ Brown, Jr. served as chief of staff of the Air Force. He was commander of Pacific Air Forces before that, and has served in a variety of positions at the squadron and wing levels, including an assignment to the U.S. Air Force Weapons School as an F-16 Fighting Falcon instructor. Commissioned in 1984 as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Texas Tech University, Brown is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours, including 130 combat hours.

### **Allvin confirmed as Air Force's 23rd Chief of Staff**



By Greg Hadley and Chris Gordon

Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David W. Allvin is sworn in as the Air Force's 23rd Chief of Staff at Falcon Stadium, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., Nov. 2, 2023. The brief ceremony took place soon after Senate confirmation while Allvin was attending the Corona fall executive conference at the academy. The location was particularly relevant to Allvin since he swore his commissioning oath at the Academy 37 years ago as a graduate. U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt. Stuart Bright

The Senate confirmed Gen. David W. Allvin as the 23rd Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force on Nov. 2, elevating him from the acting role he has held since Oct. 1. Allvin has extensive operational and staff background and commanded at the squadron, wing, and operations center levels. "In today's dynamic environment, our service faces both significant challenges and tremendous opportunities—the world's greatest Air Force will meet them head-on just as innovative Airmen have done for generations," Allvin said in a statement.

A career mobility and test pilot, Allvin became Vice Chief of Staff in November 2020, just months after Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. became the service's 22nd Chief. When Brown moved up to become Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Oct. 1, Allvin became acting chief while waiting for his nomination to be confirmed by the Senate.

Allvin is only the second Chief to have been neither a fighter nor bomber pilot; the only other was Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, CSAF No. 19, who spent much of his career in the Special Operations world. Allvin has extensive operational and staff background and commanded at the squadron, wing, and operations center levels. He spent much of the past decade in the Pentagon either on the Air Staff or Joint Staff.

Gen. Allvin graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1986. He has commanded at the squadron and wing levels, including the 97th Air Mobility Wing, Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma. He has held major command staff assignments and served on the Joint Staff. He is a Command Pilot who has logged more than 4,600 flight hours. Aircraft he has flown include the C-12F, C-141A/B, KC-135R/T, C-17, C-130, C-130J, C-23, F-15, F-16 and T-38.



## Slife Nominated for USAF's No. 2 Job

By John A. Tirpak

**President Joe Biden** has nominated **Lt. Gen. James C. Slife**, now deputy chief of staff for operations, to be promoted to general and appointed the vice chief of staff, of the Air Force succeeding **Gen. David Allvin**, who has been nominated to be Chief of Staff. Slife has had a long career in special operations, both with the Air Force and in a joint capacity.



Slife's three previous assignments before his current job were all in special operations:

Commander of Air Force Special Operations Command  
Vice commander of U.S. Special Operations Command  
Chief of Staff at Headquarters, U.S. Special Operations Command

He has had 14 other assignments in special operations, having been a UH-1 and MH-53J Pave Low helicopter pilot, and he has commanded special ops units at the squadron, group and wing levels.

If confirmed, Slife will be the first AFSOC commander to become Vice Chief or Chief of Staff since the major command was founded in 1990. Between him and Allvin, the Air Force would have no fighter or bomber pilot in either of its top two jobs, an exceedingly rare occurrence.

## Ukrainian Pilots Start Training on the F-16 in Arizona

By Chris Gordon

The U.S. has begun training Ukrainian pilots to fly F-16s, the U.S. Air Force announced Oct. 25. A small number of Ukrainian pilots began training with the 162nd Wing of the Arizona Air National Guard earlier this week in "F-16 fundamentals," according to a service spokesperson. "The training curriculum will align with the foundational knowledge and skills of each pilot and is expected to last several months," a U.S. Air Force spokesperson said in a statement provided to Air & Space Forces Magazine.

## USAF & DOD Working on New Stealth Target Drones

By Greg Hadley

The Department of Defense and the Army have revived a dormant effort to build a new fighter-sized stealthy target drone that can serve as a stand-in for advanced adversary combat jets like the Chinese J-20 and the Russian Su-57, and their electronic warfare capabilities in particular.

There is a growing demand to replicate these types of high-end aerial threats in training exercises and test and evaluation events, and, in some cases, doing so cheaply enough that the mock opponents can be destroyed if desired.

The U.S. military uses aerial target drones to test and evaluate weapons and other systems, including air-to-air and surface-to-air missiles, as well as countermeasures, radars, and other



A rendering of a 5GAT drone dueling with an F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. The drone appears to have released countermeasure flares to help evade an AIM-9X Sidewinder missile fired by the F-35.

Graphic by Sierra Technical Services

sensors. They can simulate different kinds of threats for training purposes, too.

“There’s [sic] a couple of programs we are looking at right now,” explains **Col. DeWitt**. “The (Air Force’s) Next-Generation Aerial Target, known as NGAT, and the Fifth-Generation Aerial Target, known as 5GAT. Requirements call for a completely unmanned drone program that will fulfill the full-scale requirement but allow us to do more electronic attack and also offer some different options.”

## AIR FORCE TRIVIA



Your challenge is to identify the 11 aircraft the **Smithsonian Channel** identified as the “Top Air Warriors of the Cold War”.

*One is the aircraft I crewed in 1972-73 during the Vietnam War.*

Be forewarned, this is not a USAF exclusive list.

Answers on page 11.

B-52	EA-6B	F-15	F-105	KC-	Mig-15	Mig-25	P-80	Tu-95	UH-60
CH-47	F-4	F-86	F-117	135	Mig-21	OV-10	SR-71	U-2	Y-20A



## SPACE FORCE NEWS

### Space Force Has New Mission Statement

By Unshin Lee Harpley



The Space Force revealed its new mission statement—“**Secure our nation's interests in, from, and to space,**” highlighting the branch's unique mission and identity. The new mission statement is a quarter of the length of the previous one, with which Chief of Space Operations Gen. Saltzman expressed dissatisfaction.

**Chief of Space Operations Gen. Chance Saltzman** (shown at left) said the previous mission statement was “long and cumbersome” and asked the service's Guardians to offer ideas. Within two weeks, 135 responses had been sent in, according to the release. Now, the service has a new one.



In a press release released on September 7<sup>th</sup>, the Space Force said its new mission statement is: "secure our nation's interests in, from, and to space."

"We did not hire a corporate marketing team to develop a catchphrase. Nor did generals sit around a table in the Pentagon debating what the statement should be," Saltzman said in the press release. "Our mission statement was sourced from a Guardian-driven process."

In July, Guardians from four field commands and major commands participated in eight focus groups to discuss the phrase and provide feedback, according to the release.

In announcing the new mission statement, the Space Force said the phrase "In, from, and to space" is a reference to the three main functions of the service, which were described as:

- "In space, through space superiority activities that protect the joint force and nation from space and counterspace threats.
- From space, by delivering global mission operations like satellite communications, positioning, navigation and timing, and missile warning activities.
- To space, by assured space access through the service's launch, range and control network infrastructure."

### Space Force's New Targeting Squadron

Exerts from DEFENSESCOOP article, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 by Mikayla Easley

The Space Force in August stood up its first squadron assigned to target adversaries' space assets and their supporting ground systems and communication links. While the unit won't directly deploy capabilities that could jam, hack, or physically damage those systems, it will play a critical role in giving combatant commanders information on possible ways to do so.

In the photo below, U.S. Space Force **Col. Brett Swigert**, Space Delta 7 - Intelligence, Surveillance and Recon-naissance (ISR) commander, hands the ceremonial guidon to **Lt. Col. Travis Anderson**, 75th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Squadron commander, during the 75th ISRS activation ceremony held Aug. 11, 2023, at Peterson Space Force Base Colorado.



U.S. Space Force photo by  
Airman 1st Class Cody Friend

that system does."

Although all squadrons in Delta 7 conduct ISR, the 75th is unique in that it's entirely focused on scoping out the weaknesses of adversaries' space assets, Lt. Col. Travis Anderson, commander of the 75th ISR squadron, told DefenseScoop in an interview. "Many intel analytical reports focus on the threat and their capabilities, however we take it one step farther and look at the threat and we identify its vulnerabilities," Anderson said. "So we do look at it through kind of a different lens of, how can we affect that system versus just knowing what



The 75th ISR Squadron patch  
(Space Force graphic)

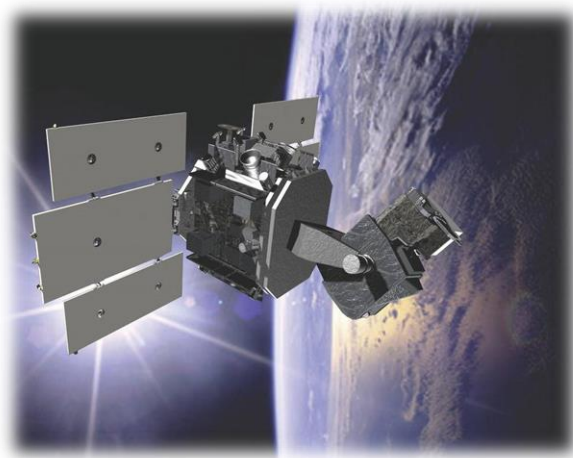
Broadly speaking, U.S. Space Command (SPACECOM) is responsible for conducting military operations like targeting in the space domain — which could include assets in orbit, on the ground and the links connecting them. Targeting is

a process conducted by the U.S. combatant commands (COCOM). It involves “selecting and prioritizing targets and matching the appropriate response while taking account of command objectives, operational requirements, and capabilities,” according to the Air Force’s joint doctrine on targeting published in 2021.

Separately, the Space Force is tasked with organizing, training and equipping guardians to operate space systems for SPACECOM and other combatant commands. But Anderson noted that sometimes COCOMs need additional capacity or expertise from the services to effectively characterize adversary targets, and the Space Force is tasked to stand up squadrons like the 75th to help shoulder some of the workload.

## Space Force, NRO Launch ‘Silent Barker’ Space Observation Satellites

By Courtney Albon C4ISR Sep 10, 08:55 AM



WASHINGTON — The U.S. Space Force and the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) launched their newest space observation satellites in a largely classified mission called “Silent Barker.”

The joint mission flew Sept. 10 on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Base in Florida. Once operational, the satellites will track objects — and potentially nefarious activities — within geosynchronous orbit, about 22,000 miles above Earth.

The satellites are an upgrade from the Space Force's Space-Based Space Surveillance satellites, which will reach the end

of their service life in 2028. (Boeing)

The agencies announced in December of 2017 they would partner to develop Silent Barker as a replacement for the older Space-Based Space Surveillance System satellites. The team put an acquisition plan in place in 2020 and took about three years to build the satellites and prepare for launch.

Most of the Space Force’s space observation capabilities come from ground-based sensors, which can view larger, basketball-sized objects, but can’t provide the level of visibility and detail the agencies hope to get through Silent Barker. Having intelligence sensors closer to the area they want to watch will allow operators to better follow an object’s movement.



## 4th QUARTER FACTOID

### The Fastest Man Alive



**Colonel John Paul Stapp** was an American career U.S. Air Force officer, flight surgeon, physician, biophysicist, and pioneer in studying the effects of acceleration forces on humans. He was a colleague and contemporary of Chuck Yeager, and became known as "the fastest man on earth". He earned the title "The Fastest Man Alive" when he rode the Sonic Wind I rocket-propelled sled on **December 10, 1954**.

On his  
29th and

last ride on the deceleration sled at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, Stapp demonstrated that a human can withstand at least 46.2 g (in the forward facing position, with adequate harnessing). This is the highest known acceleration voluntarily encountered by a human. Stapp reached a speed of 632 mph (1,017 km/h), which broke the land speed record and made him the fastest man on Earth.

Stapp is credited with being the popularizer, as well as the author of the final form of the principle known as Murphy's Law, "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong."



## AIR FORCE TRIVIA ANSWERS

**B-52 CH-47 EA-6B F-4 F-15 F-86 Mig 15 Mig 21 OV-10A U-2 UH-60**



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Articles and graphics are acquired from a variety of news and internet sources. They are typically edited for length and/or clarity.

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.





# 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.

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