



The Quarterly Newsletter of Chapter 398 of the AFA

Apr-Jun 2025

The official newsletter of Chapter 398 of the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA).

AFA Mission

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

Chapter Officers

President – Dann Mattiza
Vice President – Nelson Arroyo
Secretary – Susan Ault-Davis
Treasurer – Dann Mattiza

State Officers

President – Dwyer Dennis
Vice President – Michael Liquori
Secretary – Sharon Branch
Treasurer – Tom Carney

AFA Chapter 398

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Mary Esther, FL 32569

www.Hurlburt.AFAFlorida.org

Chapter Recognizes Outstanding STEM Teachers of the Year

Hurlburt Chapter 398 presented \$500 checks along with the coveted Chapter RMO*s to our three Teachers of the Year (TOY). These teachers were Mr Rob Simon from Navarre High School, Mrs. Maria Erdberg from the Northwest Florida Ballet Académie, in Ft Walton Beach, and Mrs, Anna Prindle from the Holley-Navarre Intermediate School. Mrs Erdberg was also recognized as the overall Chapter TOY and her nomination package was forwarded to the Florida AFA state organization as the chapter nominee for state recognition. Chapter member Emil (Max) Friedauer made the presentation to Mrs Erdberg and chapter members Nelson (Eddie) Arroyo and Mark Chapman made presentations to Mr Simon and Mrs. Prindle. All three teachers will be given the opportunity to attend Space Camp in Huntsville AL this summer, and will be recognized at the chapter awards dinner this fall. Congratulations to these dedicated and talented educators.



Mrs Maria Erdberg,
Northwest Florida Ballet
Académie (Middle School
Category)



Mrs Anna Prindle, Holley-
Navarre Intermediate School
(Elementary School Category)



Mr Rob Simon, Navarre High
School (High School
Category)

AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION
HURLBURT CHAPTER - 398
FT WALTON BEACH, FL - HURLBURT FIELD

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Outstanding Local Junior ROTC Cadets Awarded Scholarships

As we do every year, the Hurlburt Chapter recognized outstanding Junior ROTC cadets with \$500 checks and the coveted Chapter Coin. Chapter Vice President Nelson (Eddie) Arroyo and Mark Chapman made the presentation to Navarre High School graduating senior Zachary Walker. Joe Kinego made two presentations, the first to Gulf Breeze High School graduating senior Cadet Jonah Stoddard and the second to Pensacola High School Junior Cadet Mieke Bendolph.



Joe Kinego presenting checks to Cadets Jonah Stoddard and Mieke Bendolph



Eddie Arroyo and Mark Chapman presenting scholarship to Cadet Zachary Walker

University of West Florida AF ROTC Cadet Receives AFA National Certificate

Colonel Joe Kinego, USAF (Ret), Hurlbert AFA Chapter 398 VP for the Pensacola Area, attended the University of West Florida (UWF) AF ROTC Awards Ceremony on 24 April, 2025 and presented the AFA National Certificate to Cadet John A. Rask. Cadet Rask is a third-year cadet and serves as the unit's Cadet Standardization and Evaluation Officer as well as a Flight Commander. According to the Lt Col Ross Clark, the detachment commander, Cadet Rask has an innate ability to inspire and motivate his peers, and he consistently scores at the top of his class in aerospace studies. In addition to the National Award, Col Kinego presented Cadet Rask a \$500 scholarship check from the Hurlburt Chapter #398. Our chapter has worked diligently to establish a strong relationship with the UWF AF ROTC program.

2025 COMING EVENTS

August

13 – Chapter Executive Board, Clubhouse Grill, Fort Walton Beach

September

9 – ACA/AFA Luncheon, Hurlburt Club

10 - Chapter Executive Board/Election of Officers, Clubhouse Grill, Fort Walton Beach

18 – Air Force's 78th Birthday

20-21 - AFA National Convention, National Harbor, MD

22-24 – Air, Space, & Cyber Conference, National Harbor, MD

October

15 – Chapter Annual Awards Dinner, Clubhouse Grill, Ft Walton Beach



Northwest Florida Junior ROTC
Summer Leadership School 2025
Jun 23-27, Hurlburt Field, Florida



Junior ROTC Summer Leadership School Graduation

Chapter member Mr. Fred Gross attended the Junior ROTC Summer Leadership School Graduation at Ft Walton Beach High School on 27 June. Sixty Local JROTC students attended the one-week course at Hurlburt Field. Mr Gross presented chapter coins to the fifteen members of Spooky Flight, which finished first in the weeklong competition. The Col Patrick Dierig, 1st Special Operations Wing Commander was the guest speaker and several parents and family attended supporting the cadets.

The Summer Leadership School (SLS) is a voluntary program for high school Junior ROTC cadets focused on leadership, teamwork, service and personal excellence. SLS helps to prepare cadets for leadership roles in their JROTC units, schools, and communities with activities focused on team building, leadership, citizenship, character development, academic achievement, health & fitness, and community service.

SLS cadets are exposed to hundreds of superb military role models in a structured and positive environment. They are inserted into a highly disciplined life style that includes daily pre-dawn PT, exacting uniform wear, military-style discipline, nutritional meals, no phone/ internet access and multiple team-before-self activities. Short-term we see improved grades, greater commitment in academic and extra-curricular activities and greater interest in our communities. Long-term, we believe SLS to be an investment in the leaders of our future regardless if they choose a military path or a civilian one.

SLS has been sponsored each year since 2011 by Escambia County School District, HQ Air Force JROTC, and the 1st Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, FL. Additionally, both the Hurlburt Chapter of the Air & Space Force Association (Chapter 398), and the Air Commando Association provide substantial financial support for the program.



1st SOW Commander Patrick Dierig



Presentation of Chapter Coins



Col Ken Rodriguez, USAF ret speaks to the graduates

And a special thanks to Col Rodriguez for all he has and continues to do for these young leaders of tomorrow



Community Partner of the Quarter

2nd Quarter 2025

Awards Plus Frames By Sharon

413 Green Acres Road

Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Congratulations to Awards Plus Frames By Sharon for being selected as our Community Partner of the Quarter, 2nd Quarter 2025. A long standing AFA Chapter 398 Hurlburt Field Community Partner since 2015 supporting our community, Air and Space Forces, families, cadets, teachers, and students.

Awards Plus Frames By Sharon is recognized as one of the best, building custom picture frames and military awards on site with customer satisfaction always in mind. Outstanding quality work and one day customer service offered.

Thank you!

CHAPTER 398 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AFA Chapter 398 is very fortunate to have very supportive Community Partners. Through their generous funding and involvement, we were able to support our Wounded Warrior training camp, Teacher Workshops, Teacher of the Year recognition, Space Camp, student scholarships, Unsung Heroes Airmen recognition, Cyber Patriot competitions, regional Science Fair and much more.



Thank you to all current partners who renewed their commitment this year and went above and beyond with grants and other financial support.

Again, "Thank you" to all our Community Partners who supported us throughout the year. We are looking forward to a very busy and successful new year and with your support we will make it better than ever.

<u>Diamond</u>	
Emerald Coast Connected	OMNI Broadcasting
<u>Platinum</u>	
The Boeing Company – Ft Walton Beach	Lockheed Martin – Ft Walton Beach
Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems (RMS)	Lockheed Martin SOF Global Logistics Support (GLSS)
<u>Gold</u>	
Eglin Federal Credit Union	Lt Col Gerry & Kay Chapman Memorial
The Kinego Family Trust	Reisburg Institute
SA Technical Services Inc	
<u>Silver</u>	
Emerald Coast Endodontics	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates
<u>Bronze</u>	
Awards Plus Frames by Sharon	Aqua Pool and Patio Company
Emerald Coast Funeral Home	First National Bank and Trust (FNBT)
Preston Hood Chevrolet	
<u>Basic</u>	
Clubhouse Grill	Jimmy's Men's Store and Pawn

Community Sponsorship levels are: Commando - \$5000, Diamond - \$2500, Platinum - \$1000, Gold - \$500, Silver - \$300, Bronze - \$150, and Basic - \$100. If you know of any business interested in becoming a Community Partner, please contact one of our chapter officers.

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