

# The Alamo AFA DEFENDER

Vol. 2, No. 4

The Official Newsletter of the Alamo AFA • Celebrating 54 Years

Dec. 15, 2000

## Newsletter, Web site merit award

Communications through news letters and its Web site earned the Alamo Chapter national-level recognition recently.

The chapter is the recipient of the Exceptional Service Award for Communications, awarded at the National Air Force Association Convention in Washington D.C. recently. The award is in recognition of the Alamo AFA Defender and the chapter's Web site.

The Web site was redesigned almost two years ago to contain up to date news and information regarding the chapter's business. The newsletter, published quarterly, contains four pages of chapter news and information.

"This is a tremendous honor for the chapter, and a tribute to our forward-thinking communications strategy," said chapter president retired Brig. Gen. Karen Rankin. She also thanked everyone involved in the process of creating these products.

## AIA leader speaks Jan. 9

The commander of the Air Intelligence Agency is the guest speaker at an Alamo Chapter luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Jan. 9, at the Air Force Village II

Maj. Gen. Bruce Wright will speak about the upcoming realignment of AIA under Air Combat Command and 8th Air Force.

An entrée, beverages and dessert will be served for \$7. Reservations should be made with Charlotte Loos by calling (210) 222-1153. Money is due by Jan. 1, 2001.

For AF village I and II residents should check their newsletters and in-house televisions for more details.

AfVillage II is located on John D. Ryan Blvd., off US Highway 90 West, outside of Loop 1604.

Wright is commander, Air Intelligence Agency and Joint Information Operations Center, at Kelly Air Force Base. An Air Force field operating agency,

AIA's mission is to gain, exploit, defend and attack information to ensure superiority in the air, space and information domains.

The agency's 16,000 people worldwide deliver flexible collection, tailored air and space intelligence, weapons monitoring and information warfare products and services to operational commanders, the Joint Staff and other Department of Defense agencies.

Subordinate to the U.S. Space Command, the Joint Information Operations Center's mission is to assist joint commanders in planning, coordinating and executing information operations. The center's 159 people deploy worldwide at a moment's notice, delivering tailored, highly skilled staff support and sophisticated models and simulations to unified commanders, joint task forces and the Joint Staff.

The general was commissioned in 1973 upon graduation



General Wright

from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has previously served as a fighter squadron commander, composite operations group commander, director of operations for U.S. Forces Japan, and 35th Fighter Wing commander. A command pilot, he has more than 3,000 flying hours in the F-4, F-16, C-21 and T-43, including 47 combat missions flown during operations Desert Storm and Provide Comfort.

## Scholarship awards await students

The Alamo Chapter is making in number of scholarships available through its community outreach program.

Those scholarships include the Alamo Chapter Member/Immediate family member scholarships, three awards worth \$500 each. An application for the Alamo Chapter Member/Immediate Family Member scholarships is available on our Web site, and on Page 3.

Other awards include:

**UTSA ROTC Deachment:** Gen. William V. McBride Scholarship: \$1,000; Col. George W. Weinbrenner Scholarship: \$1,000.

**Military Excellence Scholarships:** Awards of

\$500 each to winners of the AS 100, 200 and 300 Awards.

**Air Force Junior ROTC Detachments:** Bronze Medal Scholarships. \$250 each to recipients of the AFA Bronze Medal (if they enroll in College) Schools include: Clark, Clemens, Holmes, John Jay, Judson, Southwest, and Taft High Schools.

**High School Essay Contest Scholarship:** An award of \$250 to the winner of the Alamo Chapter Earle North Parker Essay Contest (if they attend College)

**USA Today/Aerospace Education Foundation Visions of Exploration Program:** An award of \$4,000 spanning 45 area elementary schools (more than 1,500 students).

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

## Chapter soars into 2001

By Retired Brig. Gen. Karen Rankin  
Alamo Chapter president

Like every other military association, the Air Force Association and the Alamo Chapter are losing members. This is as a result of the declining numbers of WWII and Korean War veterans and the overall downsizing of the military.

Our chapter has to do a better job of providing programs which appeal to the membership. This is a significant challenge here in San Antonio because of the diversity of our membership. We must offer events and information which appeal to the membership. Our Strategic Plan addresses these issues. We believe we are on the road to improvement.

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The Chapter is off to a great start. On Nov. 7, the 433rd Airlift Wing hosted our community partners at a breakfast served aboard a C-5. Gen. Bernard Pieczynski provided the attendees with great information about the 433rd and spoke eloquently to the many community outreach programs sponsored by the wing. This was the third community partners breakfast. The 59th Medical Wing, Wilford Hall Medical Center, will host the next

gathering March 13, 2001.

The Chapter's Executive Committee decided to take action to become more involved with other quasi-military groups in San Antonio. We are reaching out to military associations scheduled to host reunions or conferences in San Antonio to offer our assistance. If you know of a forthcoming event, please let me know. One such event, occurred on Nov. 11 when Chapter Executive Vice President Dan O'Neal presented a wreath at the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in honor of Veteran's Day. Also, on Nov. 18, several Alamo Chapter members rode in a humvee combat vehicle from Lackland AFB in the San Antonio Veterans Day parade. We also plan to have a float in Fiesta Flambeau parade in April 2001 in conjunction with the Civil Air Patrol.

For our younger Chapter members, we have instituted an exciting new scholarship program. The Chapter will offer three \$500 scholarships solely for AFA Alamo Chapter members and/or their immediate family members, i.e. spouses or children. The application form and directions are on our Web page and in this newsletter. Deadline for submission of the first round of scholarships is June 30, 2001 with scholarships to be awarded in September 2001.

Plans are already underway for our annual awards banquets for 2001. On March 29th, 2001, the Lackland Gateway Club will host our annual Blue Suit Awards Banquet. In addition to the current 50-plus awards, we are begin to honor the outstanding area recruiter and first sergeants from local units. On November 1, 2001, the annual civilian awards banquet will take place at the Gateway Club.

The Third Annual San Antonio Air Force Birthday Ball, our major scholarship fund raising event, will take place on September 15th. This year's theme celebrates the Air Force in the Korean War. We will have a distinguished Korean War Veteran as guest speaker and are looking for Korean war memorabilia to display that evening. Hopefully, some of the Air Force Art Collection featuring significant events in that conflict will also be available for view. The Commander, Air Education and Training Command, and the Alamo Chapter cohost the ball. This year's organizational sponsor is the Air Force News Agency.

We want to provide events that appeal to a broad cross section of our membership. If there are other things we can or should be doing, please let me know. Send me an email at [bgenrankin@dellnet.com](mailto:bgenrankin@dellnet.com) or call (210) 734-5635 and give me your ideas.

### Holiday cheer

This is a joyous time of year for all of us as we celebrate the most meaningful holidays on our calendar. This is a time for family and memories and enjoying good friends. This is also a time that we can and should take time to be mindful of the many blessings we have. This is a time for us to give back a little of the bounty we have.

There are many ways we can share ourselves with others in our Air Force family. Here in San Antonio, we have many opportunities to help make things better for others in our Air Force family. Take for example, the families who will be staying in the Fisher Houses at Lackland. These folks are here because one of their family is confined to Wilford Hall, often for serious illnesses that take them away from their homes for weeks and many times months. The folks who serve these Air Force family members can use our help. Donations of food stuffs, time, and, yes, money can do so much to make these Holiday stays at the Fisher Houses more pleasant. Call Mike Bidus at 673-7500 or [mikeb@connecti.com](mailto:mikeb@connecti.com) to find out what you can do.

Can't afford the money? Many of us have demands on our incomes that preclude cash or in-kind donations. What about time? The USO on Commerce Street in Downtown San Antonio can always use donated time. The Holidays are especially demanding times for the USO. The staff and volunteers serve a full Thanksgiving Dinner and can use help the to prepare, serve, and clean up. Just before Christmas, Ft. Sam Houston and

# AFA ALAMO MEMBER/IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

*Three \$500.00 Scholarships to be awarded in early September 2001*

**Application Postmark Deadline: 30 June 30, 2001**

*Please type or print neatly the following information. This application and supporting documents must be postmarked to the Alamo Chapter AFA, 118 Broadway Suite 234, San Antonio, TX 78205 by June 30, 2001. Please read through this entire package before you begin.*

## **Name**

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

## **Mailing Address:**

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I or my sponsor is an Air Force active duty, full-time AF Guard or Reserve, and an Air Force Association member and if awarded this scholarship, I or my sponsor will continue to be on active duty and continue membership in AFA for at least the duration of the scholarship.

AFA Membership/Sponsor Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*When submitting this application, please attach the following documents in the order listed:*

- Completed Application
- Proof of acceptance into an accredited program
- Two letters of recommendation, 1 from AF supervisor and 1 from an AFA official
- Proof of a minimum 3.0 overall GPA
- A two-page, double spaced personal statement indicating your academic goals, your community or AFA involvement, your past academic accomplishments and other information to warrant your selection.

**APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Partners assist the Alamo Chapter in a number of valuable areas. They include:

- Apollo Gate Operators, Inc.
- ARINC
- Autometric, Inc.
- Bank of America - Fort Sam Houston Branch
- Beldon Roofing Company
- The Biggar Advantage
- Bill Miller Barbecue
- The Boeing Company
- Booz, Allen, Hamilton
- Brite Blinds of Texas
- City Public Service
- Clear Channel Communications, Inc.
- Desktop Consulting
- EG&G Management Services of San Antonio
- Eisenhower National Bank
- Fisher House, Inc.
- Frost Bank
- Goodyear Auto Service Center
- Goodyear # 4762
- Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce

- H.B. Zachry Company
- Institute for Job and Occupational Analysis
- The Holt Companies
- Jack Winkler Motors
- Karta Technologies, Inc.
- Kaufman and Broad
- KPMG
- Lackland Federal Credit Union
- Lear Siegler Services, Inc.
- Main Street Garage
- Onboard Software, Inc.
- Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union
- Red McCombs Enterprises
- The Republic of Texas Restaurant
- Robinson Financial Concepts
- San Antonio Lighthouse
- SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation)
- Security Service Federal Credit Union
- Southwest Business Corporation
- Straus-Frank Company
- Texace Corporation
- Texcorp Mortgage Bankers
- USAA

## President's Page, from Page 2

Lackland AFB send their young enlisted students home for the holidays.

The USO will set up two satellite functions in the terminals at San Antonio International Airport to provide refreshments for these young people. Give the USO a call at 227-9373 or [alamouso@alamouso.org](mailto:alamouso@alamouso.org) to let them know when you will be able to give some time.

What do we in the Air Force Association Alamo Chapter have to do with all this? Well, we have written about our Strategic Plan before. One of our goals is to provide our membership with "Diverse People Programs."

Presenting you the membership with ways you can continue to give to Air Force people is one of those programs.

Have a great, giving Holiday!

## The Alamo Chapter

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