



Newsbriefs

Partners breakfast

The fourth quarterly Community Partners Breakfast is slated for 7 a.m., March 27, at Wilford Hall Medical Center. The Wilford Hall Medical Center commander, Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Lee P. Rodgers, will speak. Invitations have been mailed and community partners are encouraged to make an early response confirming their attendance.

Previous breakfasts at the Air Intelligence Agency, Brooks Air Force Base, and the 433rd Airlift Wing at Kelly AFB have been highly informative and well received. These events are part of our way to show community partners our appreciation for their support.

2001 Air Force Ball

The Air Force News Agency will assist the Alamo Chapter setting up this year's Air Force Ball, scheduled Sept. 15.

The theme is the Korean War.

Committee meeting

The Alamo AFA executive committee meets March 13, at 4 p.m., in the downtown San Antonio USO.

All AFA members are welcome to attend.

The USO is located on 420 East Commerce Street in downtown San Antonio, near the Riverwalk.

Chapter awards contributors

The Alamo Chapter handed out six awards recently as part of its annual recognition program to organizations and people across San Antonio.

The awards include:

Organization of the Year: Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union.

Military Organization of the Year: Air Intelligence Agency

Community Partner of the Year: Fisher House, Inc.

Officer of the Year: Capt Seth J Mc Kee III

Civilian of the Year: B.J. Bjorge.

Airman of the Year: Command Chief Master Sgt. Carlos Massiatte.

Earl North Parker Scholarship

Winner: Emily Chastain.

Awards are earned based on contributions to the Alamo Chapter throughout the year. They will be formally recognized at the Joe Kellogg Blue Suit Awards Banquet March 29.

Retired Brig. Gen. Karen Rankin, Alamo Chapter president, said it is always an exciting time when the Alamo AFA is able to recognize great work.

"These are people who go above and beyond for this chapter, and this is a most appropriate way to let people know about their contributions," she said. "I can't say enough about these folks and the organizations who have given us so much over the past year."

Blue Suit awards recognize outstanding AF members in Alamo Chapter area

Recognizing excellence of those airmen and civilians in the San Antonio area, the Alamo Chapter Air Force Association is launching the 2001 Joe Kellogg Blue Suit Awards Banquet at 6:30 p.m., March 29, at the Lackland Gateway Club.

The evening will include a pay-as-you-go bar, and dinner at 7:15 p.m. Dress for the occasion is Service Dress/Class "A" and business suit or "after 5" attire for civilians. Cost is \$20 per person.

Chapter president retired Brig. Gen. Karen Rankin said the Blue Suit awards always bring out "the very best" of the military community each year.

"San Antonio has such a robust military presence, it gives us an opportunity to recognize the best of the best of those folks," she said. "It's really a fun time, and a time for people to receive some well-earned recognition."

The Alamo Chapter Blue Suit Awards Programs recognizes outstanding contributions by active duty Air Force members in

In Summary

- The Blue Suit awards banquet is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., March 29, at the Lackland Air Force Base Gateway Club.
- Tickets are \$20.
- Dress is: for military, the class A or service dress uniform, and appropriate attire for civilian guests.
- Alamo chapter award recipients will also receive their honors during this banquet.
- Tickets still on sale!

the San Antonio area. Each local commander may select one designee from each category.

For tickets or more information, call Charlotte Loos at 210-222-1153.



President's Page

by Retired Brig. Gen. Karen Rankin
Alamo Chapter President

Our challenge is to represent you!

Greetings! I am so pleased to serve you as the President of the Alamo chapter. Our challenge is to represent you, the members, to provide you with information and relevant events, and ensure the greater San Antonio community is made aware on a continuing basis of the contribution of Air Force people and aerospace power. This column is my "state of the Chapter" report to you the membership.

In the June and September 2000 issues of the *Defender*, we introduced to you the **Alamo Chapter Strategic Plan**. The plan reiterates our essential mission to **support the effective use of aerospace power**. We do this through four focus areas: Positive Professional Advocacy; Focused Awareness Programs; Comprehensive Education Programs, and Diverse People Programs.

Positive Professional Advocacy demands that we are informed and prepared to verbally speak Air Force issues to the general populace. Chapter representatives must be ready to stand up in whatever forum and present an accurate statement of aerospace issues. We must provide the membership with

the information to do this.

Focused Awareness Programs requires us to develop and execute a public affairs plan that will speak the message of Air Force requirements. The key here is to make our efforts visible to our membership and to the community.

Comprehensive Education Programs function along the continuum of advocacy and awareness. Spread the Word! This objective is the focal point for our scholarship and classroom programs and those programs in turn foster increased knowledge of the Air Force and AFA.

Finally, **Diverse People Programs** challenges the chapter leadership to provide activities that respond to member's desires.

Throughout the year, the Chapter sponsors events that respond to the imperatives in the above objectives. Two big events are forthcoming. March 27, the **Blue Suit Awards Banquet** takes place at Lackland's Gateway Club. In April, Blue Suit Award winners will participate in concert with the Alamo chapter, the Civil Air Patrol and ROTC units from UTSA and area high schools in the **Fiesta Flambeau parade**. Further in the year, on

In Summary

Following is a summary of the Chapter's operating budget:

INCOME

Member Support Payments (from National).....	\$8,000
Profit from events (i.e. Blue Suit, etc)	2,400
Air Force Birthday Ball	17,500
TOTAL	\$27,900

EXPENSES

Chapter/State Office(State Levies)	\$2,400
Newsletters (Printing and Mailing)	5,000
Chamber Dues	400
Organizational Event Support	1,450
Scholarship Programs	7,000
Visions of Excellence Classrooms	3,825
Program Expenses	7,825
TOTAL	\$27,900

Source: Alamo AFA

Sept. 15 the **Air Force Birthday Ball** serves as the major fund raising event of our year. Finally, in November, the Alamo Chapter will host the kick off breakfast for the first San Antonio Celebration of America's Military featuring a prominent speaker.

How do we do these things? What does it take to make the Alamo Chapter go? Resources! Certainly, an active, supportive membership is key to a great Chapter. Equally important though is money (take a look at our operating plan

in the box on this page).

Clearly, to increase our awareness and community contact, we will need to generate more income. We need to be more visible in the community to generate those increased donations. This is the proverbial "dog-chasing-tail" story. I am always on the lookout for new ideas for raising funds and awareness. Please let me know if you have comments on this article or ideas we can use. Contact me at kgenrankin@msn.com or call me at 210-734-5635.

Vets summit yields bounty of info

Jim Youngson, Alamo AFA vice president for Veterans Affairs and Ed Hicks, Alamo AFA VP for Governmental Affairs, recently attended the third annual **Veterans Summit Meeting** sponsored by the Texas Veterans Commission in Austin.

The Texas Land Commissioner, David Dewhurst, told how his office is working to increase awareness of how his office provides home loans to Veterans.

In 1999 the office loaned out \$67 million each year. Now it is loaning out \$665 million annually at the lowest rates available anywhere.

His office is also responsible for managing the new Veterans Homes in Texas. Two are now open (Floresville and Temple) and two more will open soon (Bonham and Big Spring). Each home will have 160 beds: 32 for an Alzheimers unit, and 20 for Medicare patients.

"They are not taking Medicaid patients for at least the first two years, but may do so later," said Youngson. "Because they don't take Medicaid, patients don't have to give up their assets to live there."

The cost is \$103 per day for a semi-private room and \$140 per day for a private room. These are nursing homes not assisted living. To be eligible a veteran must have been born in Texas or have lived here for at least a year prior to entering.

"All of us were encouraged to go visit one of the homes to see how nice they are. The Deputy Land Commissioner later told us that they want to identify every Vet in Texas (There are between 1.5 and 1.6 million veterans in Texas)," said Hicks. For more information, call 1-800-252-VETS, or visit the Web site at www.glo.state.tx.us.

"The five VA representatives shared the theme of the Land Office -- they need to get the word out to Vets about benefits," Hicks said. "Their number one goal this year is to get more Vets to apply to the VA for medical care."

(Editor's Note: Alamo AFA Secretary, Kaye Biggar, said he has recently enrolled in the VA System and that he is getting ex-

In summary

- Land commissioner increasing awareness of home loan program to vets.
- Land commissioner's office now responsible for managing new Veterans Homes in Texas.
- Each vets home will have 160 beds available.
- Number One goal: get more vets to apply for Veterans Administration medical care. VA must help vets with claims per the November 2000 Veterans Claims Act.
- VA now accepting claims from vets who served in Vietnam who may have developed diabetes as a result of exposure to Agent Orange.
- For more information, call 1-800-252-VETS or visit the Web site at:

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us>

cellent attention and evaluation. He has received referrals for radiology, blood testing, EKG, podiatry, free eye glasses and a host of other services. He reports all appointments are on time and that the staff is highly professional. The Frank M. Tejada Outpatient Clinic is located on Eckhert Rd, between Babcock and Huebner and the phone number is 699-2100. Kaye reports the location is great, the parking is good and even with all the testing he has received, no problems have been found. He suggests you check it out to see if you are eligible.)

Goal No. 2

"Their number two goal is to increase the pride and motivation of the VA staff," Hicks said.

A Vet needs to get a physical from the

VA every 3 years in order to be registered with them. One of the benefits of doing this (besides the physical) is if a Vet has an emergency and needs to be transported and treated, the VA will become the last payer for the Vet (i.e., if he or she has no other coverage).

The Veterans Claim Assistance Act, passed in November 2000, now requires the VA to help Vets with their claims (something they have not done before). The VA will now also start accepting claims from Vets who served in Vietnam who may have developed diabetes as a result of exposure to Agent Orange. They will use both "traveling boards" and video conferencing to work on claims.

Jose Coronado (who runs the Audie Murphy VA Hospital here and is filling in as the interim VA District Chief) said with the movement of much of our population to warmer climates, four of the 22 VA Districts are now "bankrupt," with empty, unneeded VA medical facilities.

New chairman

State Representative Bob Hunter spoke briefly to announce that he has just been re-appointed Chair of the State Federal and International Committee that handles vet matters.

Also he said that State Senator Truan has also been re-appointed as chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

The veterans program manager for the Texas Workforce Commission said that 123,000 Vets registered with them last year, and 46 percent of them got jobs.

The state director of the U.S. Labor Department's Veterans Employment and Training Service noted that Texas House Bill 349 proposes to help give vets preference in jobs.

A representative from the American Red Cross said that they need help to pass Texas Senate Bill 667. It will grant them access to medical information needed to assist military personnel in obtaining Emergency Leave.

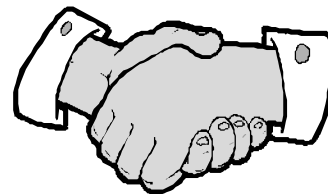
AFA Texas will also become a member of the Texas Veteran Summit.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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

- 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
- Brite Blinds of Texas
- City Public Service
- Clear Channel Communications, Inc.
- 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



Care to Join Us?

Would you like to join the list of outstanding businesses listed here? As a community partner you will receive a copy of the *Air Force Magazine* each month, have your company name included here and on programs at our events throughout the year and on our web page. You will be invited to quarterly breakfasts conducted by Air Force organizations and to all of our events. All for just \$75.00 per year or \$150.00 for two memberships. Call our Community Partner VP, Tom Peterson at 379-3711, for more information.

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