



## Alamo AFA continues emphasis on youth oriented programs

**SAN ANTONIO** — Alamo AFA President Dan O'Neal recently convened an ad hoc committee with the overarching question, "What is our relevancy to the current force?"

We found some answers that we think are meaningful and solicit more from you, especially our younger members.

Programs that we validated are 20 Scholarships for AFROTC and AFJr-ROTC Cadets, the Visions of Exploration Program in Elementary Schools, the Essay Contest in area High Schools and others in the amount of \$5000.00, or a quarter of our annual budget. We also provide reduced price admission to Alamo events for junior enlisted and civilian personnel.

Two new youth oriented programs we have developed include(1) the

establishment of the Charlotte Loos Minority Scholarship at UTSA, which is funded by her son, Richard Loos, and (2) Sponsorship of a contestant in the Miss San Antonio Teen Contest. Miss Maggie Robinson (see photo) appeared at our Booth at the Randolph Air Show and attracted a lot of young people curious about exploring Air Force opportunities. She also rode in our lead Humvee in the Veterans Day parade and will help in making AFA Bronze Medal presentations at AFJr-ROTC detachments this spring.

Other programs being considered include visitation with Basic Trainee Graduates and their Parents at the USO, exploring a Deployed Personnel Spousal Support Group, development of participation in Base level Quarterly Awards functions, exploring how we can make Alamo AFA more mean-

ingful to our Unit VPs and increase their participation as representatives of their Commanders and spokespersons for Air Force members, particularly "the Now Generation".

At the same time, we must not neglect our long time members, we publish this quarterly DEFENDER, to keep in touch at an annual cost of \$5000.00, as well as the Blue Suit and Loos banquets, the Annual Birthday Ball, the Combat Breakfast and other Veterans Day activities and support of numerous organizational events, etc.

We would like to hear if you think these programs are worthwhile.

Please share comments on the above and other subjects with us and attend a monthly Executive Council meeting on the second Tuesday of every month at 1600 hours at the USO.

## Civilian venue chosen for Blue Suit Awards Banquet

**SAN ANTONIO** — A more competitive pricing, an attractive menu in a different quality environment with ambience, as well as a closer proximity to where many people live versus Lackland Air Force Base, are among the factors we considered and are proud to announce that the 2004 Blue Suit Awards Banquet is Thursday, March 25 at the Hilton Airport Hotel on the north access road of Loop 410 N.E. between Blanco and San Pedro.

Reception (no host cock-

tails) is at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:15 p.m. Featured menu is Seared Chicken Breast with Sauce, tossed salad with choice of dressing, rice pilaf, vegetable medley, iced tea, coffee and the chef's choice dessert. \$22.50 per person (\$ 15 per person for E-5/GS 9 and below).

Get your tickets from your unit ticket monitors or through the Alamo AFA at 210-928-1153 or [afatexas@member.afa.org](mailto:afatexas@member.afa.org).

**Maggie Robinson** Contestant  
2004 Miss Teen San Antonio

Sponsored by the:  
Alamo Chapter 234

210-928-1153  
[afatexas@member.afa.org](mailto:afatexas@member.afa.org)  
[www.alamoafa.org](http://www.alamoafa.org)

**Air Force Association**

## President's Page

# Important message from the chapter president to Alamo chapter members

### Dan O'Neal

Alamo AFA President

First of all, I want you to know that we are not able to support our numerous support programs because of our current economical situation. In fact, we have already chosen to reduce the number of Visions of Exploration classrooms we are supporting from 80 to 8, in an attempt to keep the balance of our education programs, especially our complement of scholarships, intact.

Why this financial crisis? The simple answer is, the activities we have depended upon for years to generate income for the chapter have not been as profitable this year as in years past. Indeed, the amount of money added to our treasury by such activities has been steadily declining for several years. However, this is the year that some of them actually stopped being money producers and started being money consumers. Examples of the kinds of activities I am referring to are the Blue Suit military awards banquet and the Charlotte and Carleton Loos memorial civilian awards banquet.

And why have these activities become less profitable? Two reasons prevail: First, the cost of such events is steadily



O'Neal

escalating, and second, the attendance at them has been just as steadily declining.

Exacerbating this situation is the fact that we have been encountering increasing difficulty in acquiring the volunteer labor that makes this chapter and its activities tick. It seems like, for both military and civilians, both retired and not, the amount of time they are willing to make available to AFA is dwindling. Quite frankly, we have not been able to muster the manpower that is needed to make our activities successful. A true paradox given that Alamo is, far and away, the largest AFA chapter in the world.

You can help!

What can you do to help? Here are a few suggestions:

**Volunteer** — Our biggest need right now is

for people to do the work of the chapter, and to help us formulate and develop new concepts and approaches to making the chapter more effective. Our meetings are at 4 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the downtown USO. Come to a meeting and find out how you can help.

**Renew your membership in AFA** — And when you do, make sure you note that your chapter affiliation is Alamo #234.

**Recruit new members** — Let your friends, both former Air Force and otherwise, know of the benefits of AFA membership, and get them to join. Have them go to [www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org) to join and tell them to remember to affiliate with the Alamo Chapter #234.

**Donate** — Prior to each major event and at other key junctures, we send out a call for "Angel Sponsors", people who are willing to make a donation to the activity to perhaps enable an airman who might otherwise not be able to attend to do so. Your support in this way is appreciated beyond measure.

**If you need something or something done in San Antonio, go to our community partners** — They are listed on our Web page and also

appear in the various programs we produce. There should even be a list in this defender. These community partners are our life blood and allow us to do all that we can do. Supporting them, supports us.

But details aside, the bottom line here is simple: Your chapter needs you, now.

If you would like to make your willingness to support your chapter known, or if you want more information about what the Alamo Chapter is all about and how you can get involved, please feel free to call us - preferably in the evening: Dan O'Neal, President, daytime phone: 210-977-2686, evening phone: 210-316-2328; Andy Nodine, Executive Vice President, daytime phone: 210-573-4242, evening phone: 210-492-2846.

Become a member of the Air Force Association:

<http://www.afa.org/joinapp.asp>

# Important notes about Alamo AFA

**The Alamo Chapter of the Air Force Association is the largest, most diverse chapter in the world.** Our young people are very important, but we must not lose sight of our active-duty members and our veterans, retirees, patrons and community partners.

**Active-duty unit vice presidents are among our most important resources.** Though many do not realize that their only duty is to sell tickets to events, such as, the awards banquets, birthday balls and combat breakfasts, etc., their job is the most important in Alamo AFA.

They are not only the personal representatives of their unit commanders, but also the direct link between you, the AFA member, and the Alamo Chapter and AFA.

They must be on the job 24/7 to serve you and the Alamo Chapter. They must

not only represent you and your views, opinions and needs at every executive council monthly meeting, but also be in constant touch with you to let you know what your commander's interests in the AFA are and what is happening on a daily basis.

One of their most important tasks beginning the new year is to conduct a "Volunteer On Base Membership Drive" during January and February 2004. Please volunteer to help them!

They are:  
Air Education and Training Command — Lt. Col. John Blumentritt, 652-5844; Air Guard — Master Sgt. Roland Pena, 925-7963; Air Intelligence Agency — Capt. Wade Dillard, 977-2227; Air Force Personnel Center — Ralph Chalfant, 565-3044 x 4810; Air Force Recruiting Service — Master Sgt. Weldon

Selders, 652-3511; 433rd Airlift Wing — Command Chief Master Sgt. — Carlos Massiatte, 977-2732; Air Force Services — Chuck Ervin, 652-7049; Brooks City Base — Staff Sgt. Kathryn King; Cryptologic Systems Group — Master Sgt. Shelia Davis, 925-5246; Lackland Air Force Base — Master Sgt. Steve Smith, 671-5053; Randolph AFB — Master Sgt. Michael Russey 652-4872; Wilford Hall — Lt. Don Kotulan, 292-6888.

**Retirees and veterans are well served by our AFA National Veterans/Retiree Council and Legislative Liaison Team at our national Web site - [www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org).**

Our Alamo AFA Veterans Affairs VP, BJ Bjorge, sends out periodical e-mails on subjects of interest to retirees and veterans, as well as active-duty members. If you want to get this

information, e-mail him at [bjbjorge@satx.rr.com](mailto:bjbjorge@satx.rr.com) and he will put you on his list.

Your attendance at monthly executive council meetings could also serve as a forum for discussion of topics of interest to you. Please come join us.

**Community Partners are a valued resource for outreach to the Civilian Community.** In addition to their support of our many social activities, periodic breakfasts, facilitated by the Alamo AFA, with major unit commanders, help tell the story of the military in the San Antonio community and around the world, and more importantly, what the business community can do to help our courageous servicemembers in their fight against international terrorism.

See a list of these dedicated Community Partners on Page 4 and give them your support.

## Reserve, retiree tax statements now online

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFPN) — Tax statements are now posted on myPay for Army, Navy and Air Force Reserve, Department of Defense and Department of Energy civilian employees, military annuitants and military retirees.

The W-2 and 1099 statements are available for these groups to view and print, allowing them to submit their tax returns. Air Force active-duty members will have their statements posted no earlier than Jan. 16, but no later than Jan. 26.

Employees can view their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. For assistance call myPay customer support toll-free at (800) 390-2348.

<http://www.afa.org/magazine/aboutmag.asp>

AIR FORCE Magazine Online is a digital version of the Air Force Magazine, the monthly journal of the Air Force Association and one of the world's foremost publications in the fields of defense and aerospace. From Air Force operations, programs, and people to the exploits of Air Force heroes, AIR FORCE Magazine reports on important aerospace news and developments, and provides authoritative background material. AIR FORCE Magazine is the reference for the Air Force and aerospace. Its special issues and features include the Air Force Almanac and Space Almanac, special aircraft, and informative charts.



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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

- Air Force Credit Union
- Air Force Village
- Airport Hilton
- Anteon Corp.
- Apollo Gate Operators, Inc.
- ARINC
- Army-Air Force Exchange Service
- AT&T Government Solutions
- Bank of America - Fort Sam Houston Branch
- Bearing Point
- Beldon Roofing Company
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- Bill Miller Barbecue
- Boeing Autometric
- The Boeing Company
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- City Public Service
- Clear Channel Communications, Inc.
- Desktop Consultants
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- Eisenhower National Bank
- Fisher House, Inc.
- Frost Bank
- GCR Truck Tire Center
- Goodyear # 4762

- Goodyear Auto Service Center
- GPM Life
- Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
- GSA/Federal Technology Service
- Guardsmark, Inc.
- H.B. Zachry Company
- The Holt Companies
- Institute for Job and Occupational Analysis
- Jack Winkler Motors
- Karta Technologies, Inc.
- KB Homes
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- Kel-Lac Uniforms, Inc.
- Lear Siegler Services, Inc.
- Main Street Garage
- Medallion Homes
- Military Medals & Displays
- Onboard Software, Inc.
- Orbis Online, Inc
- Pentagon Federal Credit Union
- Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union
- Red McCombs Enterprises
- The Republic of Texas Restaurant
- Robinson Financial Concepts
- San Antonio Credit Union
- San Antonio Lighthouse
- SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation)
- SATYA Tech

## 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.

For more information, contact Tom Peterson at 379-3711, or Jim Garrett at 349-9494.

- Security Service Federal Credit Union
- Sell Your Home in 9 Days.com
- Southwest Business Corporation
- Straus-Frank Company
- Texace Corporation
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