



# Mile High Flyer

Air Force Association

Denver, Colorado

An independent air and space organization



Mile High Chapter # 127

Volume 61, Issue 1

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## \*\*\*\*\*UPCOMING EVENTS\*\*\*\*\*

02 Feb 07	AF Ball at the Broadmoor Hotel
13 Feb 07	Mile High Regular monthly meeting *
23 Feb 07	Buckley Annual awards
13 Mar 07	Mile High Regular monthly meeting *
22 Mar 07	AFA co-sponsored Aurora Defense Council
22 Apr 07	UVC Banquet
9-12 Apr	National Space Symposium at Colo. Springs
05 May 07	Duck Race Fundraiser at Estes Park
05 May 07	State AFA Business meeting, Estes Park
18 May 07	Armed Forces Day Luncheon
Xx May 07	Pitsenbarger Award Presentations
18 Jun 07	NDIA/AFA Golf Tournament Fundraiser
27 Jul 07	State AFA Awards Banquet & Convention

You are invited! You're invited to all the above activities and our meetings. Chapter meetings are every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 1500hrs, Buckley AFB, Bldg 1030 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room. For more information, call Ronald Geurts at (303) 470-7333.

### President's Corner By Capt Ronald Geurts

Happy New Year, and welcome to the latest issue of the Mile High Flyer, the quarterly newsletter for AFA Mile High Chapter #127. Once a year, I try to get at least one copy of this newsletter mailed to all of our members. Throughout the rest of the year, I will send out newsletters quarterly via e-mail. Please send me your e-mail address at [rgeurts@qwest.net](mailto:rgeurts@qwest.net) if you would like to receive them.

2006 was a good year for our chapter.

- We more than doubled our supporting community partner memberships
- Several of our members received state and national awards
- Our attendance of active volunteers is slowly increasing, making it more rewarding for all of us

- We sponsored several events with the ROTC cadets at CU-Boulder and CSU-Fort Collins, including:
  - Presenting flags to the newly commissioned Lieutenants, that were flown over the capital
  - \$500 Outstanding Cadet scholarships
  - Briefing from a Jimmy Doolittle Raider veteran
- In July, we celebrated 60 years of AFA history with a WWII veteran. We also presented 11 grants and scholarships to deserving ROTC, JROTC, and CAP cadets.

A report card of our activities since the last newsletter is as follows:

- AFA 127 presented 2 Pitsenbarger awards to graduates of Community College of the AF
- AFA 127 sponsored a membership briefing and pig roast for 240th Civil Engineer Flight, Colorado Air National Guard (Sept)
- AFA 127 attended the UVC and Colo Air National Guard Picnic for Vets at BAFB (Aug)
- AFA 127 attended the Veterans Day Salute at Wings over the Rockies (Lowery AFB; Nov)
- AFA 127 attended the State of the Base briefing presented by Col. Dave Ziegler, 460 Wing/CC
- AFA 127 attended the State AFA Quarterly Meeting in Grand Junction (Jun)
- AFA 127 attended the State AFA Convention, Pueblo, Colo. (Aug)
- AFA 127 presented three briefings to the Professional Enhancement Courses at Buckley AFB for ALS and NCO airmen.
- AFA 127 attended several of the most recent Aurora Defense Council meetings with local area businesses and military units from Buckley. AFA 127 will do a membership "what's in it for me" drive on 22 MAR 07 in order expand the

community's understanding of what AFA is doing for the community.

- AFA 127 continues to meet weekly with our local and national senate and congressional staff members to inform them on the issues important to our members.

### **Educator Grant Winners**

The Air Force Association is pleased to announce the recipients of its **2007 Educator Grants**. Jill Parker of the Elizabeth Middle school, Parker Colorado was our local winner. Congratulations Jill. The Educator Grant is designed to promote aerospace education activities in classrooms kindergarten through twelfth grades. The program encourages development of innovative aerospace activities within the prescribed curriculum. The Educator Grant program also strives to help establish active relationships between the local AFA chapters and their local school systems.

### **Chapter to host State AFA Awards Banquet**

On July 27, 2007, the Mile High Chapter will host the annual Colorado State AFA Convention. Project chairperson, Isidro De La Rosa, is currently working with other chapter members to plan and orchestrate the event. The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites on Hampden Blvd. in Denver (an AFA Community Partner). This will be a great opportunity for AFA members in the Denver area to attend a state-level event without having to travel. Information regarding the schedule of events and attendee registration will be available in the near future.

### **Doolittle Tokyo Raider Briefs ROTC**

At the request of the Mile High Chapter, Col Bill Bower (ret.) briefed the ROTC cadets at Detachment 90, Colorado State University on Nov 30, 2006. What an amazing presentation it was! As a member of the Doolittle's Tokyo Raiders, he brought a piece of first hand WWII history to tomorrow's AF leaders. Below is an excerpt previously written on his story.

*It was an hour before midnight. They had been in the air for 14 hours. Their fuel was nearly exhausted.*

*"I told them we had no chance of landing," 1st Lt. William Bower noted in his diary, "so [we] would fly until she quit." The land-based radio beacon had failed, and navigator Bill Pound had to use dead reckoning. They knew they were over a mountain range that marked the creeping battle line that separated Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalist forces from those of the invading Japanese. In the darkness, a rainstorm raged against the still comforting roar of the B-25's two Wright R-2600 engines.*

*As Bill Bower prepared to give the order to bail out, Tech. Sgt. Waldo J. Bither clambered up from the confines of his bombardier's position in the nose. Something caught the ring of his parachute. It opened. There were no spares. "For a time," wrote Bower, "it seemed I would ride her down."*

*As aircraft commander, of course, Bower would forfeit his parachute to Bither and take his chances at guiding the plane to a soft landing. Clearly, his chances were not good. For the 25-year-old Ohioan, it could be a tragic end to an already desperate gamble.*

*Major General David M. Jones, USAF (Ret), and Colonel William M. Bower, USAF (Ret), two pilots who took part in the April 1942 raid on Tokyo, took us back to that exciting mission whose impact was a spark to the morale of the American people.*

*Immediately following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt issued an order to his Chiefs of Staff - take the war to Tokyo at the earliest possible moment. Successful completion of this directive would boost the morale of the American people and strengthen the will of the Allied powers around the world. Four months later, using 16 specially modified North American B-25B Mitchell bombers, Lt. Col. James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle, along with 79 other brave young U.S. Army Air Force (USAAF) fliers, carried out a plan to bomb Japan. This plan was conceived by a US Navy submariner working on the staff of Admiral Ernest J. King, Chief of Naval Operations. The daring daylight raid on important military targets in Japan would begin with the launch of sixteen USAAF light bombers from the 500-foot-long deck of the USS Hornet (CV-8). The pilots were to land in China after completing their mission. Bower, pilot of crew N° 5 and Jones, pilot of crew N° 12, both volunteered for a mission they knew little about until they were underway aboard the Hornet for Japan. They completed their missions, bailed out over China, escaped enemy capture with the help of the Chinese people, and returned to the United States to become the first American heroes of World War II. This raid proved the great resolve of the Allied powers and showed for the first time the cooperative effort of two US armed services - the Navy and the Army Air Force.*

### **We Want You!**

If you are reading this newsletter you are most likely a member of the Air Force Association and are affiliated with the Mile High Chapter. For whatever reason you may have joined the AFA (maybe it was the monthly AFA magazine or you saw it as a way for you to support the USAF) your membership helps our local chapter. Your dues allow us to provide scholarships and to support local Airmen in a myriad of ways. Thank you.

However, your participation in AFA activities would be beneficial as well. Even though we have thousands of AFA members on our chapter rolls, sometimes less than a dozen attend our meetings or activities. If membership participation

were greater, we could do more for our Air Force people!

We have many exciting activities planned for the upcoming year, so there is definitely something for everyone. Some of the activities projected for this year include a golf tournament, duck race, ROTC activities/mentorship, scholarship awards, veteran support, and fellowship with others who wish to support the USAF.

Chapter meetings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 3:00 on Buckley AFB (Bldg 1030 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room). If you don't have a valid Department of Defense ID card you will need to be escorted on the base, but we can assist. For more information, call Ronald Geurts at (303) 470-7333.

### **AFA Golf Tourney**

Like to golf? Here's your chance to have some fun AND support the AFA. The Mile High Chapter is pairing up with the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) to host a golf tournament on Monday, June 18 at **The Inverness Golf Club and Hotel** in the Denver Tech Center. Invite a friend as all are welcomed, but space will be limited. Details and registration information are being developed and will be released in the near future.

Proceeds from the tournament are used to fund our grants, National Guard Foundation (family support), scholarships, and general activities that support the local community.

If you don't golf, please remember our volunteers have as much fun as the golfers (and sometimes even more!).

### **19th Annual Estes Park Duck Race**

Sponsor a duck and you could win big! On May 5, 2007 the rubber duckies will get competitive at the annual Duck Race in downtown Estes Park. Thousands of the brave little guys will be released down the treacherous, spring-thaw swollen river, racing to the finish line. At the end of the course, they are caught to determine who wins the prizes. Cost to sponsor a duck is \$20. This has been a great fundraiser for our AFA chapter, and a great opportunity for our supporters to win some spectacular prizes. Contact Ronald Geurts at (303) 470-7333 to learn more.

### **E-Mail Addresses... Do We Have Yours?**

The chapter leadership strives to provide the most accurate and current information to all members via a few different mediums. However, email has proved one of the most effective and least expensive ways to communicate with our local AFA members. Currently the chapter has less than 30 percent of the total membership on our e-mail register. Increasing the documentation of e-mail addresses reduces the postal costs and labor associated with mailing a hard copy

newsletter. Please send yours to [rgeurts@qwest.net](mailto:rgeurts@qwest.net).

### **Chapter Officers**

**Want to help the AFA?** Call your Mile High Chapter leadership and let them know you are interested in participating. The AFA can help support your programs as well! The purpose of our organization's existence is to support the Air Force, its members and their family, and veterans.

The Mile High Chapter officers are:

- President ..... Ronald Geurts (303) 470-7333
- Executive VP..... Rex Lucas (303) 663-1710
- Treasurer.....Kenn Bowens (303) 766-1188
- Secretary .....Jade Norstrom (720) 252-7526
- VP (Buckley AFB) .....Fred Evans (720) 847-6506
- VP (Boulder) ..... Mike Ruotsala (303) 465-2109
- VP (Longs Peak) ..... Stephanie Borecky (303) 651-2448

### **Chapter Acknowledges**

#### **Community Partners**

Community Partners are civic organizations and businesses that support the USAF through their membership in the Air Force Association. They provide support to the overall national defense while ensuring local chapters have the foundational support of the business community.

AFA Mile High Chapter member Ellen Dupont is currently leading the effort to increase the number of Community Partners through networking efforts, involvement in the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, and direct inquiries. It costs as little as \$75 per year to become an AFA Community Partner.

Mile High Chapter officers and members wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to the current Community Partners:

Chapter leaders ask all members to show appreciation of this support through their patronage.

#### **North Aurora Business Association**

- Mass Mutual Financial Group**      **2G Associates**
- Aurora Chamber of Commerce**    **eBlueprint**
- Wells Fargo Bank**                      **Holiday Inn DIA**
- Embassy Suites Hotel DTC**            **Mesa Systems**
- Four Points Sheraton Hotel**
- Ball Aerospace**                            **MAIL INK**
- Your Bindery Finishing Services**

# Air Force Association

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Aurora, CO

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North Aurora Business Association  
Mass Mutual Financial Group  
Aurora Chamber of Commerce  
Embassy Suites Hotel DTC  
Your Bindery Finishing Services

Ball Aerospace  
2G Associates  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Four Points Sheraton Hotel

eBlueprint  
MAIL INK  
Holiday Inn DIA  
Mesa Systems

