

Summer/Fall
2020 Edition



AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION

Division 6 “Golden West”



AFSA MISSION STATEMENT

To advocate improved quality of life and economic fairness that will support the well being of Air Force enlisted personnel and their families.

Words From The President

Our chapters have faced unique challenges this year with COVID-19 sweeping the globe. My thoughts and prayers go out to all that have been personally affected by this virus. The business of advocating for quality of life issues on Capitol Hill has not stopped though. Some chapters can do more than others, but do not let that discourage you. For some chapters facing extreme limiting conditions, I ask that you continue to lead with boldness, and meet the minimum requirements for a chapter. Others are able to still plan and conduct in person events; please continue to excel by continuing to move the ball forward with your chapter on base.

Many chapters have led very successful POW/MIA events on their bases this year. If your chapter struggles with these events this year, please reach out to the chapters that ran great events to see how they faced similar challenges. One way to see these chapters, is by following all 21 chapters in our Division on Facebook; this is especially important if you are a chapter executive council member.

Coming in October is AFSA's annual Legislative Awareness week. This is another opportunity to showcase what AFSA does on Capitol Hill and why their membership is so critical to having our voices heard. Please follow HQ AFSA on Facebook and you can see Matt Schwartzman explaining the planned week of events that you can follow. Things you can do on your base during the week are table setups at the BX and DFAC during lunch to explain the importance of voting, the NDAA, communicating with our representatives, and the legislative accomplishments of AFSA over the last 20 years. Be creative with ways to engage your community with this information outside of what I mentioned above. I need your leadership during these trying times as we move into chapter elections and the turnover that will set your chapter up for success.

I missed seeing you all at the AFSA Professional Airmen's Conference this year, but hope to see you in March for the Division PAC. If you ever need to talk through an issue or need encouragement, please give me a call.

~AFSA Division 6 President MSgt Blake Manuel



Division 6 Roll Call

Chapter 1163, Hill AFB, UT
Chapter 1179, Buckley AFB, CO
Chapter 1180, USAF Academy, CO
Chapter 1181, Peterson AFB, CO
Chapter 1182, Shriever AFB, CO
Chapter 1201, Kirtland AFB, NM
Chapter 1252, Nellis AFB, NV
Chapter 1253, Creech AFB, NV
Chapter 1255, Cannon AFB, NM
Chapter 1257, Holloman AFB, NM
Chapter 1260, Luke AFB, AZ
Chapter 1261, Davis Monthan AFB, AZ
Chapter 1311, Oxnard AFB, CA
Chapter 1320, Travis AFB, CA
Chapter 1322, Sacramento, CA
Chapter 1328, Edwards AFB, CA
Chapter 1330, Los Angeles AFB, CA
Chapter 1356, Vandenberg AFB, CA
Chapter 1365, San Diego, CA
Chapter 1372, Beale AFB, CA

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Messages From Your AFSA Division 6 Council

CMSgt (Ret) Kerry Wright

Senior Advisor



Resilient! That is the best way I can sum up Our Air Force Sergeants Association and Division 6 teams.

Our Headquarters stayed open for business and started reengaging the Congressional Staff with our Legislative Platform and other quality of life issues. Thanks to Director Reed and the staff for all you do, especially over the challenges you have incurred these last months.

Your Division 6 Executive Council is also to be lauded. President Manual ensured the Council remained on task and stressed that communication to and from the Chapters was critical now, more than ever. We continue to prepare for the Division 6 Professional Airman's Conference at the Orleans Hotel and Casino scheduled for March 2021 and will be sending out the details in the next month or so. I am looking forward to seeing you all face-to-face again!

A huge shout out to the Chapters and your resilience! Many of you were able to find ways to stay engaged on your bases and local communities. I follow most of you on Facebook and see you placing flags at cemeteries, holding 5k runs, hosting golf tournaments...your volunteerism was non-stop.

As we continue to work together we must ensure our decisions are always founded on the great of the Division and Our Air Force Sergeants Association.

**AFSAvPAC2020
MEMBERSHIP
SPECIAL**

2 YEARS FOR **\$50** OR **3** YEARS FOR **\$75**

-- AFSA IS QUALITY OF LIFE --

THROUGH ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION FOR THE IMPROVED QUALITY-OF-LIFE AND ECONOMIC FAIRNESS TO SUPPORT THE WELL-BEING OF MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES | ONE POWERFUL FORCE UNITED TOGETHER



**WE ARE ONE POWERFUL FORCE UNITED
TOGETHER**



WE PROTECT THOSE WHO SERVE



**WE ARE A GLOBAL ASSOCIATION WITH
A LOCAL IMPACT**

Messages From Your AFSA Division 6 Council

MSgt Stephen Baskiewicz

Vice President / Membership Trustee



Team,

I would like to begin with how thankful I am to be apart of this organization with you. During the month of September, we have seen the end and the beginning of two AFSA membership campaigns ran by both HQ and our division. Though we are faced with unique times, we are doing the best we can to come up on top! We were able to recruit 41 new members and retain 5 current members during the division's membership campaign and have currently recruited 33 new members and retained 4 current members utilizing HQ's campaign that is running though 15 November.

This past month I have also initiated the "Membership Ideas" development in which each chapter president/vice president was asked to provide good ideas of things their chapter has done or is thinking about doing that they feel can benefit the division as a whole. So far, I have received one submission from Chapter 1311 and am anxious to see what else the rest you all are doing. Please reply to my email so I can ensure the rest of the chapters can benefit!

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional info.

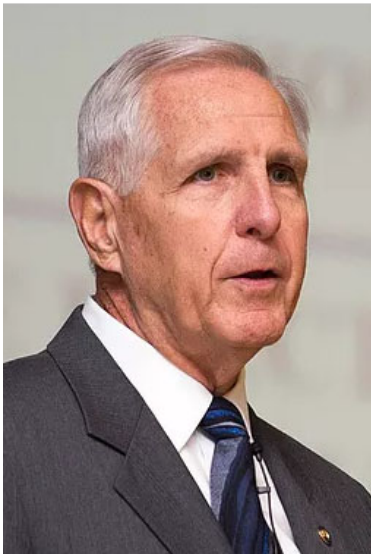
Email: steve3_85@yahoo.com

Current Member Counts

Note: These numbers are as of the report run date

CHAPTER	FAM	LIFE	UNF	Totals
F1163	3	272	274	549
F1179	16	408	148	572
F1180	1	106	106	213
F1181	15	338	223	576
F1182	0	66	64	130
F1201	7	322	145	474
F1252	30	625	450	1,105
F1253	4	96	125	225
F1255	0	78	99	177
F1257	4	151	206	361
F1260	20	771	358	1,149
F1261	12	460	389	861
F1311	5	88	63	156
F1320	9	425	407	841
F1322	13	518	113	644
F1328	15	345	241	601
F1330	11	545	171	727
F1356	0	80	92	172
F1365	6	133	79	218
F1372	6	168	175	349
F1379	5	345	106	456
Totals	182	6,340	4,034	10,556

Messages From Your AFSA Division 6 Council



CMSgt (Ret) Jim Lokovic

Trustee #2, Legislation

Congress has been moving toward the end of summer with both the House and the Senate having produced their unique versions of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Since the House and the Senate hold independent hearings, and produce their own unique versions of the legislation, as of this writing, there are two notions of what the NDAA should look like. The House version is H.R. 6395; the Senate version, S. 4049. Accordingly, later this year the House and Senate will meet in a conference to iron out the differences between the two bills and come up with a single FY 2021 NDAA to send up to the President for signature.

As you would imagine, since differing political parties control each chamber of Congress, the priorities reflected in the two pieces of Defense authorization legislation also differ. On top of that, this is a major election year, and the two versions of the NDAA reflect the desire of those running for office to appeal to voters. It is important to note that another historical aspect of General Election-year dynamics is that the NDAA will be delayed until after the November elections—even though Fiscal Year 2021 begins on 1 October 2020. The delay often sets the stage for when it is politically safe for legislators to abandon politically driven, controversial items that were included in the two versions of the NDAA.

However, this much is known about the FY 2021 NDAA: The military pay raise starting in January 2021 will be 3.0 percent. The final legislation will include further actions against sexual harassment and assault. We expect further support toward mitigating the cost of dependent spousal recertifications and relicensing incident to the military member's PCS moves. We also expect several entries to help deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also, we urge our members to continue to monitor the Military & Government Briefs published on Tuesdays and Thursdays by our Headquarters lobbying team. If there is a call to action, and a call to participate in a legislative campaign via Voter Voice on the AFSA Website, please be a part of the effort. Please participate by communicating with your elected officials when our Headquarters team asks you to do so and/or when you have something important to express to your elected officials. Don't hesitate to let me know when I can assist you.

Remember, the Air Force Sergeants Association will only stay effective and able to strongly represent you on the Hill if we are a strong association, with a formidable membership base. In that regard, recruiting and retention of our members is vital to our legislative success. Please do your part to welcome new military and family members into our AFSA family.

Contact information: Cell Phone/Text Number: (435) 590-6101, Email: jlokovic@gmail.com

Messages From Your AFSA Division 6 Council

CMSgt (Ret) Andrew Duenas,

Trustee #4, Retiree and Veteran Affairs



My fellow Retiree's and Veterans,

I'm sure these past few months have been challenging to say the least. The VA as well as many other military organizations standby to assist you in any way. IF you have signed up on the VA website and have accepted their notifications, you know they are working hard for you, the Veteran, to receive any care that you might need. Trust me "The System" is getting better and our current President has vowed to make it the best for us, that have served.

The VA has put out a few great documents highlighting the benefits of being recognized as a veteran.

Most Popular Benefits by State

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/76439/veterans-benefits-2020-popular-state-benefit/>

Most Underused Benefits by State

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/76440/veterans-benefits-2020-underused-state-benefit/>

Most Unique or Newest State Benefits

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/76441/veterans-benefits-2020-unique-newest-state-benefit/>

Honestly, just putting this information out, has not only let me know there is a change in the VA but also that our States recognize our service to our country on many levels!

My last newsletter talked about signing up for the VA and getting your disability rating in, so what are you waiting for? The many money saving benefits as well as a possible extra pay check and medical benefits each month should be something we can all use now.

Our AFSA HQ Retiree and Veterans Trustee has also put out a newsletter as well, that I encourage you to read:

https://www.hqafsa.org/uploads/3/8/9/1/38911523/newsletter_volume_11.pdf

Also they have a Veterans Affairs Newsletter section as well:

<https://www.hqafsa.org/veteransaffairsnews.html>

Just as a reminder, our Division webpage is a list of Veteran resources, by state, that are in our division. I urge you here as well to educate yourself on what benefits are out there for us and sign up on their sites to stay current. Also I urge you again to sign up on the VA website as well.

Please let me know how I can help. Email: aduenas50@gmail.com

Messages From Your AFSA Division 6 Council

MSgt Christopher Dodd

Trustee #3, Awards / Regional Director Ch. 1260 & 1261



We must admit 2020 has been a very “different” year! That is an understatement considering early spring the world was hit with a pandemic named COVID-19. This ugly monster has certainly changed daily operations. Division 6 is no different and its twenty-one chapters have made serious considerations and changes to ensure the message of AFSA is still communicated loud and clear.

As the Regional Director of Chapter 1260 and 1261, it is part of my charge to oversee the performance of both chapters and ensure they are meeting the expectations of AFSA Headquarter and Division 6. The guidance we received from both entities were to be creative and conduct AFSA business within the guidelines of your installation Commanders and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to help slow the spread of this menacing monster. Our AFSA Manual 100-2 and 100-4, dictates the guidance for all chapters to operate efficiently. AFSA Manual 100-2 states, one general membership meeting must be held at least quarterly. There are other aspects that must also be followed to be admitted as an official meeting; Official Financial documents must be presented to the caucus, voted upon and maintained to include documents such as Quarterly Reports and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Forms which must be filed with HQ AFSA and the chapter’s possibility of being audited by the IRS.

Chapter 1260 led by President, MSgt Noel Paiz accepted the charge and with the help of his Executive Council devised a game plan to ensure productivity. A review was made of how monthly meetings should look with COVID-19 and a decision was made to incorporate multiple forums at future meetings. The modality that was chosen were Zoom, Free Conference Call and In-person all while observing social distancing guidelines for those members who attended the in-person option. Chapter 1260’s Executive Council all have shouldered the load by gathering the reportable materials assigned to their AOR and dispersing the information on our digital platforms (SharePoint, Instagram, Facebook and Website). Chapter 1260 also have designated members who have also been involved in our community outreach programs. During COVID-19 our valley veteran’s homes have stopped visitations from all outsiders in fear of the visitors tracking COVID-19 to our precious veterans. Chapter 1260 understood that these residents are lonely and thrive off that human interaction and their mental well-being are just as important. As a chapter, it offered to become pen-pals with Phoenix AZ Veteran’s Home.

Currently, Chapter 1260 has returned to its Professional Development involvement. As a professional Military Organization, Chapter 1260 felt it was necessary to enrich our Airmen with professional military knowledge. Our AFSA Leadership Growth Progression Seminar (GPS) is backed by our Command Chief and Career Assistant Advisor as an exceptional opportunity for deliberate mentorship across the enlisted tier. As a chapter, it envisioned this program would be sustainable for years to come. Chapter 1260 is proud to announce AFSA Leadership GPS is still going strong and has picked up interest across the installation.

As your Awards Trustee, Chapter presidents please review AFSA Manual 100-5. Some of the known discrepancies were many packages did not follow the format of AFSA Manual 100-5. Some of the submissions did not meet the criteria for the award or bullets on Chapter of the Year included bullets that were not in Quarterly AAFs Report. Now is the time to review you chapter’s accomplishments and get your game plan together to write outstanding award packages.

If you have questions or would like to discuss more on an individual bases what areas your chapter could improve, please let me know. I can be reached at 623-229-2464 or email me directly at chrisdodd31@yahoo.com.

Happenings at Chapters Around the Division During COVID

AFSA Chapter 1260

The “Geno Piccoli” Chapter

Continuing the AFSA Mission Virtually During COVID-19



Here at AFSA chapter 1260 we've been leveraging technology to make our meetings more accessible to our members during these challenging times. By hosting our General Membership meetings on the Zoom platform, as well as in person, we provide our membership body another way to be a part of the meeting. Zoom allows our members the ability to video and or audio call in to our meeting using the Zoom application on their phone or computer, or from any device that has internet access and a web browser. Zoom also allows you to record and save your conferences calls for future viewing and sharing on social media. This process has been relatively simple. We build the schedule for the Zoom call weeks in advance, and then advertise it when we send the email out to the membership body with the agenda the date and the location for the physical meeting that we're holding. We also post the Zoom information on our Facebook page. Zoom offers our members the opportunity to be a part of the general membership meeting without physically attending. It has also allowed us the ability to invite guest speakers from other locations in the country, without them having to travel to Luke. Last meeting, we had the division 6 Trustee #2, Chief Master Sergeant (Ret.) Jim Lokovic on as a guest speaker, and he brought some great insight into the NDAA process, and how the percentage of base pay increases are computed each year. He also answered a few questions that the membership body had regarding things at the AFSA International level regarding the annual Professional Airman's Conference, the set it and forget it membership progress, and other priorities at the International level.

There are a few different options when it comes to signing up for Zoom. There is a free option that allows for a meeting up to 100 people, but the meeting time is limited to 40 minutes. The second option is for \$14.99 a month, and it allows for the same amount of people, but the meeting time limit is extended to 24 hours. This is the option that our chapter is using, because our meetings regularly exceed 40 minutes. There are also some other options that are available, but their options exceed most chapter's needs.



We also started a video series called Getting to Know Your Council. During these short video segments, we interview members of the Executive Council and key appointed positions. We want our members and future members, to get to know us as people and understand our personal why when it comes to AFSA. Our hope is to build better connections with our members and provide a why that they can connect to. You can view any of our first three installments on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AFSAGenoPiccoliChapter1260>. Be on the lookout for more of our Getting to Know Your Council videos.

Happenings at Chapters Around the Division During COVID



AFSA Chapter 1163

COVID-19 certainly disrupted our way of life and it created a whirlwind of uncertainty, speculation and fear. The executive council quickly realized that this was the time to show our community that we give back and we embodied the AFSA pillars. As a Chapter, we faced many challenges with communication, participation, retentions and recruitment. Chapter 1163 is very fortunate to have a group of Airmen that are brilliant, resilient and motivated to break through all barriers. We are dedicated to our community and our Airmen, we will continue to be creative and reach as many people as we can through social media, telephone, email or in person (maintaining 6 feet distance) and raise awareness about all the great things AFSA is doing for all the service members and their families. Below are some of the wonderful things Chapter 1163 has done for the Hill Air Force Base community and our Airmen.

Commissary Assistance:

As communities all over the country began to quarantine and isolate to prevent the spread of the virus, grocery stores were overwhelmed and left with empty shelves. Chapter 1163 started noticing this trend at our very own Commissary, one day we decided to speak to the manager and simply asked if they needed help re-stocking the shelves. The manager quickly responded with "oh my God, YES!", after that we got the word out to the base and rallied roughly 140 volunteers from fifteen different Squadrons on base. During the span of two months, Group Commanders to brand new Airman first class aided the commissary move and re-stock their shelves with over eighteen thousand pounds of grocery goods. Chapter 1163 and the many supporters from the base ensured uninterrupted food supplies for seventy-four thousand active duty members, reservist, retirees and their families.

AFSA's Chapter 1163 Covid-19 Outstanding Airman recognition:

The pandemic outbreak has been an unusual and challenging time for all of us. Nevertheless, the Air Force's war fighting capabilities and readiness do not stop because of a pandemic. As Airmen, we are trained to be adaptable and ready to operate under challenging circumstances. We knew that there are a lot of Airmen at Hill Air Force Base doing great things, day in and day out. As a result, we (Chapter 1163) wanted to recognize those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. We received four submissions and the executive council elected one winner, TSgt Steven Wright from the 75 Logistics Readiness Squadron as the AFSA's Chapter 1163 Covid-19 Outstanding Airman.

General Membership meeting:

On May 27, we held our very first virtual general membership meeting. We had a special guest speaker from the 75 ABW Community Support Coordinator. Our meeting provided a gateway for our members to learn about more about Resiliency, mindfulness, balance, and mental health awareness. In a time where separation, loneliness and anxiety was at the forefront of people's minds. It was important for our community to know that Chapter 1163 was there for them, ready to provide them with the tools needed to overcome this adversity together.

Happenings at Chapters Around the Division During COVID



AFSA Chapter 1163 cont.

Community involvement:

Chapter 1163, responded to a local veteran damaged flag pole request. Our team sprang into action and visited the elderly couple's house and repaired the flag pole and hung their new American flag in less than 3 hours.

The executive council conducted multiple visits to the house of a faithful AFSA member, spouse of a deceased Air force veteran as well as the daughter of a World War II vet. We have delivered goodies to her and her dad as well as enjoyed many conversations.

Social Media:

As a means to maintain communication with our members. We are very active on our Facebook page and email distros, sharing and communicating to our members, AFSA legislative updates, Chapter involvement (base and local community) as well as providing relevant AF guidance updates and CDC guidelines.

AFSA Chapter 1311

Overall, Ch. 1311 has continued to grow and prosper despite the limitations of the pandemic. To this point, we only lost one of the 5-for-5 member, which is a victory in itself. In addition to that, we have gained around 20-25 members this year in the way of students and faculty at our technical school. We have also conducted 5 airman recognition boards for the Detachment, identifying those that excelled academically and in the local community. The council has also briefed student INDOC on 8 occasions/55 students on the AFSA organization, student mentorship opportunities, and promoting the local leadership-based book club.

The chapter President, Secretary, and one general member became elementary school STEM careers/ Robotics lead mentors, which culminated in their receiving DoD grants to the sum of \$5,500. Lastly, our chapter developed and began dispersing new coins as an additional recruiting/retention tool. This pandemic, although tragic and providing unique hindrances, has allowed for our council to focus intently on the betterment of our chapter, community, and ultimately the AFSA organization in its entirety.

#WeAreAFSA #AFSA1311



2019 - AFSA International Award Winners

AIRMAN OF THE YEAR : Division 4, SrA Matthew Ketterling, Div 4, Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS

NCO OF THE YEAR : Division 2, MSgt Oliver S. Freche, Div 2, Ch 553, Tyndall AFB, FL

AFSA MEMBER OF THE YEAR : Division 2, MSgt Jennifer Hall, Div 2, Ch 358, Langley AFB, VA

AFSA FAMILY MEMBER OF THE YEAR : Division 3, Ms. Wanda G. Kiefer, Div 3, Ch 804, Kansas City, MO

WILLIAM H. PITSENBARGER HEROISM AWARD : SSgt Eric Z. Dahl - 4-yr scholarship from American Military Univ.

2019 AFSA INTERNATIONAL L. MENDEL RIVERS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE : Representative Julia Brownley (D-CA)

2019 AFSA INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN MILITARY LEADERSHIP AWARD : CMSAF Kaleth O. Wright

2019 AFSA INTERNATIONAL AMERICANISM AWARD : Airman Heritage Foundation

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS AWARDS

TSgt Lee R. Thompson Award of Excellence Winner: Chapter 1056, Dyess AFB, TX

MSgt Bennie McGehee President's Award - MSgt DeShon Hall, Chapter 1261 Davis Monthan AFB, AZ

Exemplary Achievement Award

Individual: CMSgt Lisa Arnold, Chapter 1330 Los Angeles AFB, CA

Chapter: Chapter 1320, Travis AFB, CA & Chapter 1201, Kirtland AFB, NM

2019 Top Retainer : Roland Kolwitz, Chapter 851

2019 Top Recruiting Chapter : Chapter 652, Division 4

AFSA Legislative Award (Individual) Winner : Division 3, MSgt (ret) Terry L. Turner, Ch 985, Tinker AFB, OK

AFSA VAVS Award Winner : Division 3, Ms. Helen Hatz, Ch 804, Kansas City, MO

AFSA Volunteer Service Award (VSA) (Individual) Winner : Division 2, TSgt Erin Story, Ch 554, Eglin AFB, FL

AFSA International Membership Achievement Award Winner : Div 4, SMSgt (ret) Daniel Kazumura, Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS

AFSA CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger Chapter Communication Award Winner : Division 3, Ch 951, Ellsworth AFB, SD

AFSA CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger Division Communication Award Winner : Division 3, Mascoutah, IL

AFSA International Legislative Award (Chapter) Winner : Division 3, Ch 804, Kansas City, MO

AFSA Volunteer Service Award (VSA) Chapter Winner : Division 4, Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS

AFSA Humanitarian Service Award Winner : Division 4, Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS

AFSA Chapter of the Year Under 500 Winner : Division 3, Ch 964, Grand Forks, ND

AFSA Chapter of the Year Over 500 Winner : Division 4, Ch 652, Keesler AFB, MS

2019 Family Focused Scholarship : Alyssa Martin





**We are families, linking arms
and standing strong together through
deployments and separations**

**We are Veterans... of wars abroad
and battles we've fought when we return**

**We are an international association with
7 Divisions and 129 Chapters across the world**

**We are 100,000+ strong: one powerful voice
sharing the Enlisted story and concerns
with our Nation's congressional and military
leaders to continually advocate for
promised military benefits and services**

**We take care of Enlisted personnel
and their families... past, present and future.**

We are here for you — Join AFSA now



**JOIN AFSA NOW
#AFSAGIVESBACK
WWW.HQAFSA.ORG**

WE ARE AFSA

DEFENDING THE ENLISTED CORPS AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1961

**Are you new to AFSA? Are you a new leader within AFSA?
Please reference these tools:**

DIV 6 FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/afsdiv6

DIV 6 WEBSITE:

www.afsdiv6.org

HQs WEBSITE:

www.hqafsa.org

We welcome any feedback, suggestions, or questions you may have.

Please contact the AFSA Division 6 Communications Trustee at michelle.barto.chabot@gmail.com