

Spring 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

Division 6 Membership,

Communication is the key to your chapter’s success. As new chapter leaders, I know that you all want to move your chapters forward with more participation in all areas of chapter life. This can be through general membership meeting attendance, community involvement events, fundraising events, and recruiting events. The one thing that can both hinder or multiply your efforts will be communication.

I challenge each of you to think about how you want to improve communication among your chapter leadership, general membership, and key wing leadership. This is vital to the success and execution of all of the aspirations you have as new chapter leaders. Please sit down with your executive council and discuss communication and ways to improve it as well as what may be impeding it. As Division VP, I am hard at work with AFSA HQ and the Division to provide a new solution for you to be able to reach all of the members you have on your chapter roster. If you think you have a good solution, please share it with me. I be glad to share best practices with the rest of the division.



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



We are still AFSA Strong! Through all that has happened, Our Air Force Sergeants Association continues to do great things. Look at what is happening across our Chapters among these unprecedented times. They persevered the difficulties and realities of COVID 19 but still strongly support their units, their communities and most important... each other.

It was unfortunate we were unable to gather for our 2020 Division 6 Professional Airman's Conference in Las Vegas. We had a great agenda planned with 10 Command Chiefs supporting two Chief's Panels and an awesome training plan. I missed seeing and congregating with everyone.

On a good note, we successfully conducted our Division 6 business virtually. We recognized our annual award winners who I know will be very competitive at the International level this August. We also had the privilege of electing our new Division 6 President, Blake Manuel; Vice President, Steve Baskiewicz; and Trustee Jim Lokovic. Congratulations to the new Division 6 Executive Council!

As we look forward to the future, we will face new challenges. I am confident that as we continue to work together we must ensure our decisions and always founded on the great of the Division and Our Air Force Sergeants Association.

-- 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

Communication is the key to moving forward. Not just communication between the division leadership but with our chapters as well. I also feel our quarterly awards program should be advertised as much as possible. I will continue to post the monthly winners on Facebook but the division quarterly awards are critical to getting the message across that we must retain and recruit. Furthermore, your Division President, Blake and I are working with International to see if we can get another campaign going sometime soon!

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional info. Email: [steve3\\_85@yahoo.com](mailto:steve3_85@yahoo.com)>



## Michelle Chabot

### Trustee #1, Communications and Family Matters



Hello members of Division 6!

DP Blake Manuel has assigned me additional duties to include Family Matters. As a veteran as well as a current family member, I'm excited to make the DP's vision for this program a reality. As you have read so far, we are making communication a priority within our Division. We want to ensure lines of communication are open and we are supporting each other, always.

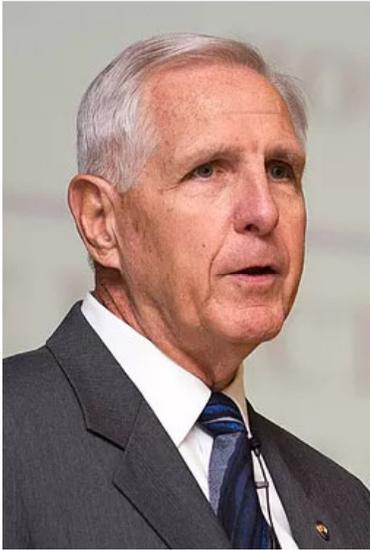
Take a look at the below picture from the Division 11/12 PAC in 2000. Looks like about half of attendees were family members. Family Matters goes hand in hand with other communication and is the backbone of our organization because they are the ones that support us when we were/are doing our mission. AFSA Family Matters is ensuring that our military families are taken care of and know about and participate in the happenings on base and how changes affect them as well. If something is happening on base or in your community, make sure your chapter knows about it and also pass it on to me and I'll do what I can to get the word out as well.

Please let me know if I can assist your chapter in any way going forward.

Contact information: [michelle.barto.chabot@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.barto.chabot@gmail.com) or call/text me at 509-720-1492.



# Messages From Your AFSA Division 6 Council



## CMSgt (Ret) Jim Lokovic

### Trustee #2, Legislation

As expected, in February the President submitted his FY 2021 Budget Plan. While there were no surprises in the Defense portion of the plan, President Trump has followed the title 37 formula for a 3.0 percent military pay raise starting in January 2021. Our association provided you with details in the Tuesday and Thursday, Military & Government Briefs, and our Division complemented this information through our AFSA Division 6 Legislative Updates.

AFSA Military & Government Relations Policy Advisor on Legislative Affairs Mr. Matt Schwartzman and his team have continued to communicate with members of Congress and their staffs, and with the staffs of the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committees. In doing so, our legislative team has worked toward incorporation of AFSA's Legislative Platform items in the FY 2021 legislation produced by Congress. I strongly urge you to take a look at the legislative targets in our Platform. You can do so by going to <https://www.hqafsa.org/legislativeplatform.html>. Remember, these items are provided each year by our members through direct contact with our Division leaders, our AFSA HQ legislative team, and by participation in the annual AFSA Legislative Survey.

Of course, complicating the work of our lobbying team has been the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting in late February-early March, Congress essentially returned to their home districts and left much of their work to their staffs, or communicated remotely with other congressional members. The use of social media and programs such as ZOOM and freeconferencecall.com have become both a part of our lobbying team's operating techniques and tools for legislators. As we post this, Congress has returned to Washington, D.C., and is operating by incorporating social distancing and other required actions.

Finally, if you haven't already done so, please take time to go to the AFSA International Website ([hqafsa.org](http://hqafsa.org)) and look at the great legislative tools that AFSA Executive Director Keith Reed, Mr. Schwartzman, and our HQ Staff have provided for our members. In particular, go to <https://www.votervoices.net/AFSA/home>

On that page you will find prepared letters and surveys where you and your chapter members can participate and communicate with your elected officials and with our lobbying team. While the subject matters is updated from time to time, this page currently has information such as:

- Tell us your COVID-19 Story
- Help our Legislative Team Resist DoD MTF Downsizing
- Support H.R. 303, the "Retired Pay Restoration Act" !
- Support S. 514, the "Deborah Sampson Act" !
- Help our Legislative Team Secure a Sufficient Pay Raise
- Tell us your Veteran story.
- Tell us your Active-Duty story.
- Tell us your Guard or Reserve Story.
- Tell us your Military Family Member Story.
- Tell us your Survivor Story.
- AFSA's legislative team needs your help in supporting the Air Force.

Some of these headings lead you to pre-written letters for you to send to Congress as written, or with your own personalization. Other headings ask for your stories; these are used by our lobbying team to help Congress understand you, the quality-of-life benefit challenges you and your families face, and the actions they need to take as your elected representatives.

Please tell your members to not hesitate to contact their Chapter's Legislative Trustees with their concerns. Your Chapter Trustees will be maintaining contact with me so that I can clarify and elevate your concerns to our lobbying team at AFSA Headquarters. However, I am always ready to speak with individual AFSA members, and prospective members, to give updates, clarify the actions of Congress, relate the status of quality-of-life legislation, or the help you communicate with your elected officials.

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

# Messages From Your AFSA Division 6 Council

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## MSgt Christopher Dodd

### Trustee #3, Awards



Division 6 Awards were presented to our committee members who were from different bases across our division. Each award package were boarded in accordance with AFSA Manual 100-5 and each board member scrutinized each package using unbiased selection. There were a total of 63 award nomination packages submitted, 41 Individual nominations and 22 Team nominations. Respectfully, there were 10 chapters who submitted Individual Awards nominations and 12 chapters submitted Team Awards nominations. The two areas that we would like to highlight for future award package preparation are Best Practices and Lessons Learned.

#### Best Practices

- Start early gathering your chapter bullets/Do not wait until packages are due to start writing
- Develop Awards Committee at chapter level streamline process/review AFSA Manual 100-5
- Utilize Social Media Platforms to assist chapter w/ keeping track of events/accomplishments
- Involve the leaving Chapter President/All chapter actions occurred during their tenure
- Encourage active participation by all members and capture performance on Qtrly Reports
- Use standard AF bullet writing structure (Action; Result--Impact) and leave out bullet "fluff"
- Seek Senior Leadership during the internal boarding process/conduct quality review board
- Recognize all nominees/recipients--Makes for great Qtrly newsletter stories//historical event
- Observe all due dates--Set reminders/event invites on Social Media pages/Chapter email
- As an Executive Council/Committee; review final packages and requirements before submit

#### Lessons Learned

- Missing deadlines--Ensure all packages and its appropriate items are submitted on-time
- Review AFSA Manual 100-5 for requirements of each package (Headings/Bullet Numbers)
- Ensure bullets align w/ award package (Saw Team package w/ Individual accomplishment)
- Observe total number of bullets for award package in accordance w/ AFSA Manual 100-5
- Minimize number of acronyms; use common AF acronym/less job specific for understanding
- Grab reader's attention; use strong action verbs to start the bullet and quantify the results
- Validate bullet were accomplished/captured on qtrly report before using content for awards
- Avoid hook statements; Steer clear of phrases that don't really say anything & just fill space
- Thoroughly check packages before submission/Run spell check and use a fresh set of eyes
- Ensure Award Matrix is filled completely & Solicit PA Photo Shop early to get official photos

Two great resource that can be readily found on the Internet are listed below:

[https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/AUPress/Books/B\\_0150\\_JAREN\\_BROWN\\_BAG\\_LESSONS.PDF](https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/AUPress/Books/B_0150_JAREN_BROWN_BAG_LESSONS.PDF)

<https://www.themuse.com/advice/185-powerful-verbs-that-will-make-your-resume-awesome>

Chapter Presidents, 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 [chris-dodd31@yahoo.com](mailto:chris-dodd31@yahoo.com).

# Messages From Your AFSA Division 6 Council

## CMSgt (Ret) Andrew Duenas, Trustee #4, Retiree and Veteran Affairs



How the world has changed in a matter of months. But one thing that has not changed is your benefits! As a Retiree, your retired pay, access to healthcare, commissary and exchange privileges etc did not skip a beat. As a Veteran, your disability pay, access to healthcare, commissary and exchange privileges etc. did not skip a beat. Why am I reiterating what you already experienced? Because the pandemic proved everything can change but not our benefits.

### Legislative

We are fortunate for our past leadership, in fighting congress to approve what we have today and what we enjoyed through these past months of trying times. These benefits were earned not given. Over the next few months and years, each congress will have to contend with balancing the budget. Every policy that is in place will be suspect and any new budget increase scrutinized. It is imperative that we continue to support our organization and lobby for what is right for the quality of life that we deserve. Please read our legislative leaders', CMSgt (Ret) Jim Lokovic, section as well. He is our guide to what is being put forth before congress and how we can support it. He has been and continues to be our champion for AFSA and the quality of life for all our enlisted.

### Veterans

Are you a rated Veteran? Did you know that a 0% disability rating from the Veterans Affairs (VA) is still a rating? Did you know that a 0% rating still gives you benefits from the VA? So why not get rated? Our Air Force took us whole. They said we were fit for duty. During our time, our duty created hardships on our physical and mental being though no fault but our own dedication to that duty and the mission. However you left the service, you may not be as whole as you believe. I urge you to go get what you deserve and get rated through the VA. Seek out a Veterans Service Officer from one of our sister military organizations in your area to get started.

On 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 to sign up on the VA website as well.

Please let me know how I can help.

Email: [aduenas50@gmail.com](mailto:aduenas50@gmail.com)



## EXCLUSIVE MEMBER BENEFITS

<h3>Membership</h3> <p>Networking, Friendship and Community Support</p> <p>100,000 MEMBERS</p> 		<h3>Legislation</h3> <p>We Defend and Protect Your Earned Benefits and Advocate for Your Future</p> 	
	<h3>Education</h3> <p>Professional Development Opportunities</p> <p>36 Scholarships Awarded Annually</p> 		<h3>Discounts</h3> <p>Save money through members-only discounts, services and perks</p> 

# Chapter Treasurer Duties

CMSgt (Ret) Bob Tomlinson

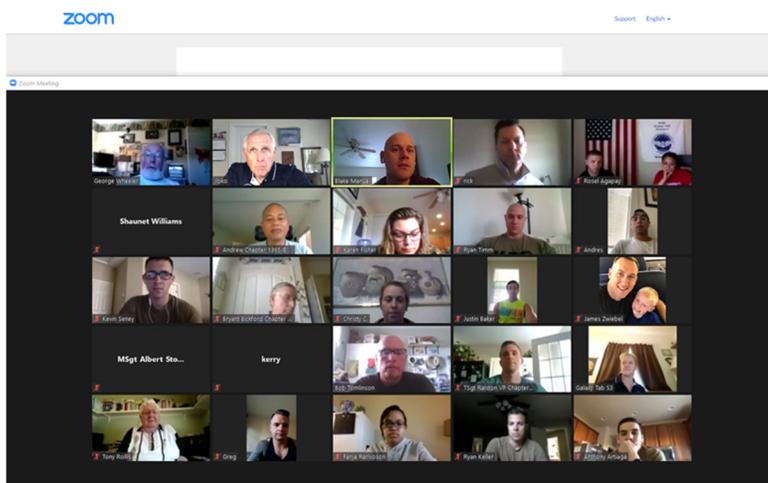
The Chapter Treasurer position is not an elected position; rather, and appointed position by the Chapter President. While the Chapter President has the overall responsibility for all assets and reporting for the Chapter, the Chapter Treasurer will assist the President to complete and retain and manage financial matters.

AFSA Manual 100-4, Principles 5 thru 12 gives direction for the duties of the Chapter Treasurer. This Chapter Executive Council position is vital to the solvency of the chapter and should be performed by someone that has the time and fortitude for the many responsibilities. The Treasurer is under the direct supervision of the President and is the officer responsible for the stewardship of the organization's funds. Some of the major duties are preparing the budget, keeping financial records and the Federal Tax Identification Number, preparing accurate financial statements, monitor the expenditures, comply with AFSA reporting requirements to satisfy federal statues and comply with USAF requirements when the Chapter operates on a military installation.

The Treasurer should meet with the President on a quarterly basis to reconcile the balance and expenditures; monthly would be optimal. The cash accounting method is used meaning that only transactions involving the receipt and disbursement of expenses. All expenses MUST be approved by the President and documented using the AFSA Form 200-28, Claim for Expenses. While multiple expenses can be listed on this form, it is recommended that this form be used for each expense separately. If the Chapter has a debit card for use by the President and other (limited) officers, a claim for expenses must still be documented for deductions. Keeping accurate records is important to meet IRS requirements to keep our non-profit status and not jeopardize those making obligations.

The Treasurer should prepare a current financial report and present it to the membership at all general membership meetings. The Treasurer should also prepare the input for the quarterly Activity, Americanism and Financial Report (AAF) by completing sections 7 thru 10 of the AAF. For detail duties and other important information, please refer to AFSA Manual 100-4, Principles 5 thru 12.

If Chapter Treasurers have any questions, they can reach out to our Division 6 Treasurer, Bob Tomlinson at any time for assistance, either by email at [robert.tomlinson@comcast.net](mailto:robert.tomlinson@comcast.net) or by phone at (720) 231-3382.



**In May, Division 6 Treasurer, Bob Tomlinson provided training on AAF reports.**

**To view this valuable training, access it at <https://youtu.be/qOLGZA-EWtk>**

# AFSA Division 6 PAC Cancelled—What Happened Financially?

As most of you know, when things started to change in early March 2020 with travel restrictions and the COVID-19 situation was exploding across the US, your Division Executive Council made the tough but spot on decision to cancel in-person Division 6 Professional Airmen’s Conference in Las Vegas. It was obviously the right thing to do for safety and health reasons but a lot of planning was already done, expenses were obligated and over 110 attendees had registered for the conference. It was set to be the largest attendance ever for our division conference.

So what actually did happen to all the expenses? Were refunds possible and if so how did it all happen? Well first off, the Orleans Hotel and Casino were very accommodating. We have held our conference at the Orleans the past 5 years and sometimes the feedback is “why can’t we find another location?” I can honestly say, because our strong relationship with the Orleans catering and convention staff is so solid that this late cancellation was so streamlined and hospitable. The hotel fully refunded the Division’s deposit and let us out of our contract with NO other financial obligation. While that probably would have happened with other hotels or conference centers, I am confident that our teamwork with the hotel catering staff and conference center it really made it seamless. I want to give a special thank you to the Director of Sales, Ms Dani Burris for her quick assistance. Also, we worked with the hotel reservation area and made sure all reservations and any deposit were cleared for all the attendees.

As far as conference registrations, more than 98% of the attendees registered either on line or with a credit card (personal or Government travel/purchase cards). All refunds were processed back to the original credit card using the Square system and any fees that were charged to the Division were forgiven costing us nothing for the charges. Those that paid via cash or check, were refunded with the check—all attendees were fully refunded their registration fee.

We did have a few things that were paid for that could not be returned or refunded such as the office supplies (paper, cardstock, place cards, etc), programs for the breakfast and banquet and the momento coins that we paid for to give to each banquet attendee. We have saved as many of these items to use for next year as possible to keep the cost minimal.

## So what is next?

We have the next AFSA Division 6 PAC planned for **March 21-23, 2021** again at the Orleans Hotel and Casino. We are sure hoping this time we can all be together for business and fraternalism as the best Division in AFSA! Let’s make it a real big conference as we get together to celebrate!



# Division 6 Annual Awards Report

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Congratulations to all Annual Awards nominees and recipients! A warm "Thank You" is extended to all Chapter Presidents who submitted annual awards to recognize your team and individual accomplishments. Each award nominee and recipient are truly what defines AFSA and are the epitome of all AFSA professionals. Best of luck to the winning recipients as they compete at the next level!

This year's award committee streamlined the award boarding process to ensure all biases were removed when each package was boarded. In accordance with AFSA Manual 100-5 there are 9 Individual and 7 Team award categories available for nominations. Division 6 received 63 award packages, 41 Individual nominations and 22 Team nominations. There were 10 chapters who submitted nominations for Individual Awards and 12 chapters for Team Awards. We wish each winning recipient the best of luck as we prepare for International AFSA Annual Awards!

## **DIVISION 6 TEAM AWARD WINNERS**

### ***Chapter of the Year <500***

1253 Creech AFB, NV

### ***Legislative Award***

1201 Kirtland AB, NM

### ***Chapter of the Year >500***

1320 Travis AFB, CA

### ***Etchberger Communication Award***

1260 Luke AFB, AZ

### ***Humanitarian Service Award***

1328 Edwards AFB, CA

### ***Volunteer Service Award (VSA)***

1260 Luke AFB, AZ

## **DIVISION 6 INDIVIDUAL AWARD NOMINEES**

### ***Airman of the Year Nominees***

SrA Dayna Weaver Chapter 1181

### ***Member of the Year Nominees***

MSgt Toto Jenkins Chapter 1320

### ***Legislative Award***

MSgt Michael Burd Chapter 1201

### ***Exemplary Achievement Award***

TSgt Matthew Greenman Chapter 1163

### ***NCO of the Year Nominees***

TSgt Karen Fisher Chapter 1163

### ***Family Member of the Yr Nominees***

Mrs. Jacquelyn Lopez Chapter 1328

### ***Veteran Administration Vol Service***

MSgt (ret) Roland Cooper Chapter 1257

### ***Volunteer Service Award***

SMSgt (ret) Sandy Valdezate Chapter 1252

# Colorado Regional Update

CMSgt (Ret) Bob Tomlinson, Regional Director

The weather here in Colorado has finally delivered some warm days and a hopeful opportunity to get outside after a couple of months of stay-at-home or safer-at-home guidance. The four Colorado Chapters (1179, 1180, 1181 and 1182) started the New Year out with new Chapter Presidents in three of the four chapters. Welcome to new Chapter Presidents, MSgt Mary-Jo Deval, Chapter 1179, TSgt Vanessa Miracle, Chapter 1180 and MSgt Albert Stoner, Chapter 1182. Our seasoned Chapter President for Chapter 1181, MSgt Anthony Artiaga is still on board. While we all are getting used to a new normal and most people are working from home, our Chapters are doing what they can in the base and local community as allowed.



Chapter 1179, Buckley AFB, held membership meetings for the first three months as well as two executive council meetings in person and then one executive council meeting via ZOOM. Their elections were held in December 2019 and the officers were installed by Colorado Regional Director, Bob Tomlinson in January. They have a full new council for 2020.

As the smallest chapter in the front range base area, Chapter 1180, USAFA, has been involved across the base and community. Their new chapter executive council held three general membership meetings and three executive council meetings before the COVID-19 restrictions were implemented. The Chapter supported the 10 ABW Annual awards in January with a \$200 donation and SMSgt promotion release in March with donation of \$100. They also had a fundraising activity in February at the NHL Truly Beverage Volunteer Event where they raised \$300 for the Chapter.

Chapter 1181, Peterson AFB, is the largest chapter in Colorado and their presence throughout the Peterson Complex and community is never ending. The chapter held membership meetings each month over the past 3 months. The chapter continued their support for the Marian House Soup Kitchen with 30 volunteers and served over 1,000 individuals in need. Unfortunately, their presence at the soup kitchen has dwindled with the COVID-19 situation but I am sure they will be back at it when it is possible. The Chapter Executive council stepped up and volunteered to be the host chapter for the Division 6 PAC that was scheduled in March of this year, which of course, was cancelled. The Chapter again has volunteered to be the host for the 2021 AFSA Division 6 PAC in Las Vegas next year. Thank you Chapter 1181! One final note, SrA

Dayna Weaver from Chapter 1181 was selected as the 2019 Division 6 Airman of the Year and will compete for AFSA Airman of the Year against the other six Division nominees. Congratulations SrA Weaver!



Finally, Chapter 1182, Schriever AFB, continues to revitalize their Chapter after a tumultuous changeover of executive council and getting their feet back on the ground. MSgt Albert Stoner is the new Chapter President and he is working hard to solidify the Chapter's presence in the Schriever community.

# Nevada Regional Update

SMSGt (Ret) Sandy Valdezate, Regional Director

## Happenings from Nevada Chapters



Chapters continue to have their monthly executive council meetings virtually and have had to put plans on hold for many of their monthly happenings. In the first quarter, 1252 chapter members did go out to Three square food bank to pack/repack and distribute food. Teamed with County Commissioner to distribute care package items to 27 units on Nellis AFB. Donated items to Sailey's Closet on base for military families in need and AFSA members volunteered 180 hours at the Satellite Pharmacy in the first quarter. Over at 1253 Creech the chapter was also busy the first quarter, they co-chaired the annual award ceremony, reviewed award records, taught 2 NCO Profes-

sional Enhancement Seminars and authored "Decorations 101" seminar. Hosted a Hail and Farewell potluck, E-8 release event, and Command Chief Perspective on why AFSA is important to 47 members. Led a food drive collecting 5K lbs of donations-provided essential rations for 200 Creech families and volunteered at Three square food bank packed \$15K worth of after school meals for less fortunate children in local area.

AFSA Chapter 1252, Nellis AFB, NV held a Virtual 5K run/walk 26-30 April 2020 to raise money for the Nevada Homeless Alliance. Registration was handled through Eventbrite, registration fee covered donation and finisher t-shirt. All those who participated were encouraged to share there run on the Chapter facebook page. Tentative figures as of now after mailing costs will be a donation of around \$500 to \$600 going to the Nevada Homeless Alliance.



AFSA Chapter 1253, Creech AFB, NV partnered with other Creech AFB professional organizations and the 432 WG Human Performance Team by distributing pre-packaged meals donated by Cafe Rio to Creech families. Check out the next page for more info!

### Buddy Check:

May's project we are contacting all our military retirees/veteran chapter members to check on them and let them know we are here for them. We are also going to highlight our legislative outreach by letting them know that they have the right to contact their elected officials with what is currently happening and the injustice being served to them by being cut off from Nellis and the pharmacy (retirees must now pay co-pays for all medications off base, for some couples this is up to \$2,000 a month).

That's all for now, if you have any questions you can contact me at [svaldezate1@gmail.com](mailto:svaldezate1@gmail.com) or phone/text - 702-340-5677.

# Chapter 1253, Creech AFB Info

SMSGt (Ret) Sandy Valdezate, Regional Director

21 May, AFSA Chapter 1253 teamed up with the Creech First Sergeants and AFSA Chapter 1252 to give away 400 free meals from Café Rio! We contacted our base's Chaplain Corps to get funds to purchase the meals. Café Rio has a great military discount and they only had us pay for 300 meals out of the 400 meals. They also volunteered to delivered the food to us. We created an RSVP link for the food, which allowed members to choose if they wanted a pork or chicken burrito plate, as well as what time they wanted to pick up their food. (we had time slots for 1600, 1630, 1700, and 1730 with 100 meals available for each time.)

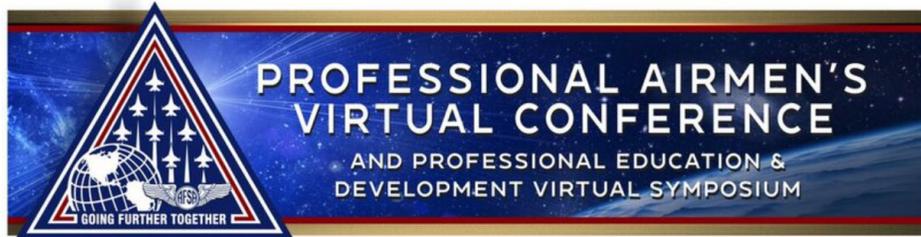


The link to RSVP for food was disseminated through the First Sergeants. To limit exposure and ensure safety, we set up a “drive through” at the local YMCA Parking lot. Café Rio delivered food every 30 minutes to ensure it was hot when we handed out the meals. By having people sign up ahead of time for the food during a specific time slot, we were able to create a smooth hand off without a bunch of cars backed up. All of our volunteers had on gloves and masks. We also asked Public Affairs to come out and take pictures during the event, which they posted on the Wing Facebook page. Overall, the event was a huge success!

Future Project: Our Chapter will be doing a community service project at the Nellis ALS Building. Since the course is being held virtual, the schoolhouse will be doing some remodeling projects. There is only one instructor who is not teaching and they reached out to our Chapter to ask for assistance. We will be repainting the entire interior of the ALS building. We will ensure to take pictures to post on our Facebook page.

Unfortunately, our Chapter does not have a lot of funds and fundraising during this time is difficult, so our plan moving forward to focus on community service and teaming up with other base private orgs to provide manpower and planning for outreach projects. The First Sergeants and Chaplain Corps have funds, but struggle when it comes to planning and executing events and have said they are happy to work with us to make the most out of events.





**AFSA PROFESSIONAL AIRMEN'S VIRTUAL CONFERENCE *and* PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26 - AND THURSDAY, AUGUST 27**

AFSA is proud to host the FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL AIRMEN'S CONFERENCE to support and educate participants on the issues affecting the active duty, veteran and retired military members and their families.



~ TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2020 ~

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Virtual Theme Party with DJ/Entertainer/MC- TDub "Thee" [Entertainer](#)

~ WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020 ~

10:00 am to 12 noon: AFSA International and CMSAF Awards Ceremony with Special Guest Speaker CMSAF#5 Robert Gaylor

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm: Professional Development Forum: Senior Leadership Perspective with CMSgt Roman "CZ" Colon-Lopez (SEAC)

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Professional Development Forum: Senior Leadership Perspective with CMSAF Kaleth O. Wright (AF/CCC)

3:15 to 4:00 pm: Professional Development Forum: TBD

~ THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020 ~

10:00 am to 11:00 am: Professional Development Forum: Leading with Purpose with Dr. Kevin Basik ([Basik Insight, LLC](#))

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm: Professional Development Forum: Resiliency with Dr. Russell Ledet

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm: Professional Development Forum: Senior Leadership Perspective with CMSgt Roger Towberman (USSF/CCC)

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Professional Development Forum: Former CMSAF Panel (Part 1)

4:30 to 5:30 pm: Professional Development Forum: Former CMSAF Panel (Part 2)