



**Air & Space Forces Association  
Wright Memorial Chapter (212)  
March 2024 Newsletter**



**Hello, AFA Wright Memorial Chapter (AFA WMC) Members!**

**March 2024** continued to be a busy month in our Air Force, AFA, our AFA Wright Memorial Chapter, and in our community. Here are just some of the highlights:

**AFA WMC Networking March 2024 Luncheon** - We were honored to host Major General Scott Cain, Commander, Air Force Research Laboratories (AFRL) as our guest speaker. General Cain shared his thoughts and insights regarding AFRL's S&T mission, the importance of history, how AFRL is evolving, and the three foundational pillars guiding your leadership. More information can be viewed on our [AFA WMC website](#).

**Upcoming AFA WMC Events**

25 Apr – Join us for a Networking Happy Hour at the Dayton Beer Company (41 Madison St., Dayton, OH, 45402) beginning at 4:30PM. It's a great time and place to learn more about the Air & Space Forces Association, to include our programs and impact, network with like-minded professionals, as well as enjoy a free drink and appetizers. For more information, click [here](#)...

15 May - AFA's Wright Memorial Chapter is proud to host General Duke Richardson, Commander, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command (HQ AFMC) as our guest speaker. General Richardson will discuss the challenges of AFMC and how AFA and its supports can help address these challenges. For more information, click [here](#)...

19 Jun - AFA's Wright Memorial Chapter is proud to host Alexis Bonnell, the Chief Information Officer and Director of the Digital Capabilities Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). Ms. Bonnell will discuss the how digital transformation and artificial intelligence are dramatically changing the Air Force research and development community - and the positive impact this is having on the Air Force operations. For more information, click [here](#)...

22-23 Jun – Dayton Air Show at the AFA WMC Chalets. *Save the date*, and more information coming soon on our website's '[Events](#)' page!

**Your AFA WMC-in-Action**

*AFA WMC Participated in a Workforce Forum Addressing Challenges in Upskilling and Retraining Employees* - In our advocacy, education and support roll, AFA WMC participated in a Workplace Forum sponsored by the Dayton Business Journal - in partnership with JobsOhio and Aileron – to address workforce issues. In this forum (more specifically), we participated in a team focused on 'upskilling and retraining employees and military members' – thus tackling this complex issue amid with several and WPAFB Dayton decision makers who helped create solutions to multiple issues. Our 'Upskilling & Retraining' Team addressed four key areas:

- Identifying the issue and driving circumstances
- Documenting the current state and envisioning the future state
- The current and future emotions related to this
- Current and future ways thoughts on how to improve

In the coming weeks, we'll share these with the Wright-Patt A1 (Manpower, Personnel and Services) community, as well as other base and AFA leaders!



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*AFA's Teacher of the Year (ToY) Program (Suspense: 15 Apr)* - We believe recognizing those who educate America's youth is an important aspect of what AFA is all about. Our ToY program pays tribute to the commitment and achievements of these extraordinary teachers. Our program recognizes K-12 teachers who spark excitement in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields, celebrating teachers who not only deliver excellent instruction but also inspire students and contribute to their communities. Awards are given at our local level, as well as State and National levels as well. For more great information, contact Carl "Shof" Shofner by email ([carltheshof@gmail.com](mailto:carltheshof@gmail.com)) or phone (334.354.8418). Info is also available on our [AFA WMC Programs \(ToY\) website](#).

*Three Other Events AFA WMC is supporting Include:*

- 10 April - [EEMG luncheon](#) featuring Ms. Lorna B. Estep, the Executive Director for AFMC
- 10 May - [MVMAA Bob Chiles Golf Classic](#) (Supporting the WPAFB Military Workforce and associated organizations)
- 31 May - 7th Annual [Rafi's Amigos Golf Outing](#) (Supporting STEM, Aeronautics, and JROTC Programs)

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*AFA WMC Contributes to Improving Digital Management (DM) / Digital Transformation (DT) in the Air & Space Forces* - Gen. James Slife, the Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, is making it his priority to improve how the Air Force collects and utilizes its data. In support of Gen Slife's DM priority, AFA WMC supported a recent Digital Roundtable event, providing input and answering pre-set questions on how to advance an integrated development environment (IDE) across Program Managers, Engineers, and Cost Analysts. These inputs and recommendations will be use by the Department of the Air Force's Digital Transformation Office to assist in implementing DM and DT more quickly and efficiently.

*AFA WMC Sponsors the JROTC Drill Meet and Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Event* – We sponsored and presented awards at the Tecumseh Drill Meet, which included JROTC Teams from 6 schools across 4 states. Cadets participated in Unarmed IDR, Armed IDR, Unarmed Exhibition, Armed Exhibition, Inspection, Color Guards, knockouts and individual/duet rifle competitions. We also presented the AFA award to the winning cadet for the Troy CAP unit!

*Veterans Support* – We actively participated in the Dayton VA Medical Center 'Development and Community Enrichment' meeting, as well as contributed 18 hours of voluntary service assisting veteran patients.

## **Air & Space Force News**

*Understanding the Air Force and Space Force Budget: Leadership Perspective* - Like it or not, a lot of things revolve around money! In a Mitchell Institute chat with Lt Gen Rick Moore, DCS for Plans and Programs (HQ USAF) and Lt Gen Shawn Bratton, DCS of Space Operations for Strategy, Plans, Programs, and Requirements (HQ USSF) talk about what the Forces really need to meet the demands of the country! It's a [51-minute podcast](#), but well worth your time hearing their perspectives then help advocate and educate other stakeholders on this critical need.

*More on the Great Power Competition* - Alex Wagner, the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, joined AFA's Executive Vice President Maj. Gen. Doug Raaberg, USAF (Ret.) for a fireside chat on March 12, 2024. Wagner discussed how reoptimizing the Department of the Air Force for great power competition will impact recruiting, training, family support, and retention — from Airman Development Command to housing and childcare. To view the entire chat, please click [here](#)...

*CJCS Brown Endorses Air Force Re-Optimization* - Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. may have moved on from Air Force Chief of Staff to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, but he is keeping an eye on the Air Force's effort to "re-optimize for great power competition"—and is pleased by what he sees. ([Article Link](#))

*CCAs - Autonomous, Armed and Dangerous* - The USAF launches its most ambitious new aircraft program in a generation. Can Collaborative Combat Aircraft tilt the numbers game in America's favor? (Click [here](#) to read the entire article)

*Saltzman Pushes Need for 'Actionable' Space Domain Awareness* - The Space Force is ramping up its investment in domain awareness to stay ahead in the increasingly contested space environment, and Chief of Space Operations Gen. B. Chance Saltzman described the effort as essential to his "Competitive Endurance" theory meant to guide the entire service. ([Find out more here...](#))

**AFA WMC 's LinkedIn and Web Page** - As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, *please* take the conscious step of following us on our [AFA WMC LinkedIn page](#) and receive the updates we post along the way regarding the Air Force, our Chapter, and other issues related to our advocacy, education, and/or support role and mission! Also, please check our [AFA WMC website](#) for more about events, news, and your AFA Chapter In Action!

**AFA WMC Sponsors and Partners** - Sponsors and Community Partners are the lifeblood of AFA WMC, playing a critical role in our ability to fulfill their missions and make a positive impact on the world. If you know of a company or organization whose business is defense related, and/or wants to apply their Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives to support STEM schools, scholarships, veterans, the local community – as well as maintain a dominant Air & Space Force, then please have them check out our [AFA Sponsor-focused web page](#) or contact the Chapter at [president@afadaytonwright.org](mailto:president@afadaytonwright.org) or 937.478.6138.

**Open AFA WMC Positions** - Do you have a passion for making a difference in the Air Force community? Are you a leader with the skills and dedication to drive positive change? If so, we urge you to consider volunteering for one of the exciting leadership positions on the AFA WMC Governing Board! We're seeking talented individuals to fill four key roles:

VP - Communications & Social Media: Lead our communications strategy, crafting compelling messages that resonate with our members and amplify AFA's impact.



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VP - CyberPatriot & StellarExplorer: Champion STEM education and inspire the next generation of Air Force cyber warriors through these vital programs.

VP - Government Relations & Advocacy: Be the voice of our community, advocating for policies that support our airmen and families on Capitol Hill.

VP - Sponsorships & AFA Community Partners: Forge strategic partnerships that fuel our mission and connect us with vital resources.

**In Closing** - We trust this information has been of value, offering '*news you can use*' and insights that empower you to advocate, educate, and support our Air Force. Remember, your engagement is *crucial* – as we need 'Every Member To Participate and Every Member To Advocate'. So, please share this information, spark conversations, and become a champion for the men and women who keep our skies and space safe and our nation strong. Together, let's ensure our Air & Space Forces continues to soar ever higher.

v/r,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Babcock'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

David Babcock  
President  
Wright Memorial Chapter  
Air & Space Forces Association  
Phone (C): 937.478.6138