

SUMMER ISSUE · JULY 2021

MILE HIGH FLYER



President's Corner

CLIFF KLEIN

We're finally coming out of the COVID fog and ready to jump in to some of the programs that we were forced to set aside. With that said, we've been fairly busy. We've attended the last three Wings Over the Rockies – Exploration of Flight monthly fly-ins. If you're not aware, Exploration of Flight hosts a breakfast fly-in at the Centennial Airport the first Saturday of each month. If this sort of thing interests you please check out their website for more information (<https://explorationofflight.org/>). Recently we met with the Buckley Diversity & Inclusion Council to discuss Aerospace Education opportunities with their STEM Team. I see this blooming into a great partnership. Another milestone for The Mile High Chapter...our Teacher of the Year (ToY) was selected the Colorado AFA ToY. We will be recognizing Robert Ferguson from Westminster HS at the Colorado AFA Annual Awards Banquet in Pueblo on August 14th...congratulation to Robbie! On a sad note, we are losing one of our key members and editor of the Mile High Flyer, Chip Deyerle. Chip is making the move to South Dakota. The team bids farewell and sends Chip our good wishes and many thanks for his countless contributions to the Mile High Chapter. Lastly, I'd like to invite all to visit our website (<https://milehigh.afa.org>) and join us at our monthly meetings held each 3rd Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.



This issue:

Golf Tournament
PAGE 02

StellarXoloers and
CyberPatriot
PAGE 03

Chapter News
PAGE 04

National News
PAGE 05

Our Sponsors
PAGE 06

New Quarterly Newsletter
Editor
PAGE 07

16th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

The AFA – Mile High Chapter’s 16th Annual Charity Golf Tournament was a huge success! We had a sold-out tournament (116 golfers), a very large contingent of Sponsors, eager volunteers from Buckley SFB and a perfect day of weather. All of these factors contributed to the tournament’s success and our ability to raise funds for our charities. We will be sending a check for \$1,000 to the AFA Wounded Airman Program, \$1,500 to Buckley Airman & Family programs as well as supporting various Active Duty and veteran programs throughout the year. All the teams appeared to have a great time with Team Boeing taking 1st place honors! We thank MSgt Estrada for representing the Wounded Airman Program and sharing his story. Thanks to our tournament sponsors for their generosity, Spring Valley Golf Club for doing what they do, Barb Cline for MC'ing the event, and to the golf committee for all their hard work putting this amazing event together.



Our Beautiful Tournament Location



Excited Attendees Eager to Start the Tournament



Putting Contest



President Cliff Klein on the Tee



Ecstasc Tournament Winner

**SPECIAL THANKS TO
OUR TOURNAMENT
PHOTOGRAPHER!**

Leonard Anderson
PHOTOGRAPHY

StellarXplorers and CyberPatriot

STEPHEN GOURLEY

StellarXplorers is the National High School Space Challenge, created by the Air Force Association to inspire K-12 students toward careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines, using space systems engineering as the means. Teams from any high school-aged organization compete through five rounds of competition to vie for an invitation to the National Finals in April every academic year. Registration is open now through early October for StellarXplorers VIII; 115 teams currently registered for next season.

To encourage registration, the program is introducing StellarCamps in five locations this summer as pilot camps. The first camp was held in the last week of June in Florida with the second camp in Virginia in early July. The Civil Air Patrol, Virginia Wing, is conducting this second camp. Overall, the camps are moving along and will see more in the coming weeks. Full deployment of camp materials is expected to be in Summer, 2022.

CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program created by the Air Force Association to inspire K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines critical to our nation's future. The competition divisions constitute the nation's largest cyber defense competition, putting high school and middle school students in charge of securing virtual networks. During the six-hour per round competition window, team members must secure:

- Windows and Linux operating systems
- Find and eradicate malware
- Close suspicious ports on the firewall
- Trace packets using CISCO Packet Tracer to answer forensic questions

Registration is open through early October for CyberPatriot XIV; to date, 2075 teams have registered. Practice rounds, called exhibition rounds, will conclude with the second in August 2021. To encourage registration, the program supports CyberCamps throughout the United States. 325 camp locations registered this year.



GET TO KNOW KENN BOWENS MILE HIGH TREASURER

Q: Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

A: Born in Chickasha Oklahoma. I spent 37 years working within the DoD Financial Management Career field. I'm currently working on the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness program for US Space Force. I enjoy golfing.

Q: How long have you been with the Mile High AFA?

A: 24 years active member of AFA.

Q: What advice would you give to someone thinking about a career with the Air/Space Force?

A: My advice to young and future warriors is to get qualified to do as many things as you can, as early as you can. Also LISTEN TO YOUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP. We've been exactly where you are. From a mile away we can see you walking into mistakes we ourselves have made or have seen others make. When you screw up (and trust me, you will), it's either because you didn't ask us or you didn't listen to us.

Q: If you could have any superpower, which one would you choose and why?

A: Superpower would be able to fly to visit family more. PS I'm afraid of heights.

Farewell to Chip Deyerle



We bid farewell to Chip Deyerle, a core member of the Mile High Family, as he moves on to greener pastures. In doing so, we not only say farewell to our Colorado State Vice President but we also say farewell to our dedicated quarterly newsletter voice, event photographer, mentor, and most importantly our friend. We thank Chip for his years of selfless service and dedication to the Mile High Air Force Association; he will be sorely missed and hard to replace. We wish him the best as he goes forward!

Exploration of Flight

We continue to participate in the Wings Over the Rockies Exploration of Flight. This is a monthly event at Centennial Airport on the first Saturday between 8AM and 11AM. Various aircraft fly in for the public to see close up. Food is available and the pilots will answer questions and show you their planes. We will be there to answer any questions you may have about the Air Force Association and the Air Force and Space Force in general.

Volunteer with Veterans

The Colorado Veteran's Home at Colfax Avenue and Peoria Street has reopened for volunteer visits. Volunteers are essential to the morale and welfare of community residents. Your generosity and kindness make a lasting impression. You must be fully vaccinated to volunteer at the Veteran's home at this time. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Neil Burroughs at burneil@aol.com for further information.

Airmen, Guardian, & Family Programs

In line with our foundational values, Mile High has continued to focus on providing Airmen, Guardians, and their families with support and opportunities. To meet this goal, Master Sergeant Rashelle Dunn was recently elected as the Vice-President of Airmen & Family Programs. Rashelle also serves on the Base Top III Council; in this capacity she is able to foster greater connections between key partners on base. Recently, Stephen Gourley and Rashelle presented Buckley Space Force Base Airmen & Guardian Family Readiness Center and the Top III with \$2,500 raised from our Chapter's Annual Golf Tournament proceeds.



Check Presentation, from left, Buckley SFB Commander Col Marcus Jackson, Stephen Gourley, MSgt Rashelle Dunn, Buckley SFB Command Chief CMSgt Robert DeVall

CQ Brown Says Air Force Must Match Changing Character of War

ABRAHAM MAHSHIE

The Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. is fashioning a fighting force to match what he describes as the “changing character of war,” one where all domains are contested and capabilities matter more than numbers. As the United States moves away from the Middle East theater and focuses on meeting the challenges of great power competition with China and Russia, Brown questions the mainstream thinking that America needs to win with quantity of fighter aircraft. Rather, he focused on the mix of capabilities required to overcome a technologically advanced adversary. He also called for a willingness to experiment in the digital realm while staying vigilant to counter rising cyber threats.

AFA Board to Delegates: Give Every Member a Vote

TOBIAS NAEGELE

AFA’s Board of Directors voted to approve new bylaws in a bid to strengthen organizational leadership and open voting to every member. The vote must be ratified by delegates to AFA’s convention in September for the changes to take effect. “We voted to replace our complex and outdated Constitution with simplified Bylaws that will enable AFA to be more agile and responsive to opportunities and risks; more accountable to our members and stakeholders; and more effective in our mission to educate and advocate for American air power and space power and to support Airmen and Guardians and their families,” wrote AFA Chairman Gerald R. Murray, the 14th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, in a letter to members.

Space Force Adds University of Colorado to Upcoming Partnership Program

AMANDA MILLER

The Space Force’s No. 2 officer inspected the aerospace research facilities of its newest university partner June 24 under a program designed to help it recruit personnel with more technical expertise. Vice Chief of Space Operations Gen. David D. Thompson and Mark Kennedy, president of the University of Colorado system, agreed in principle that the university system will become part of the Space Force’s University Partnership Program. The system includes, in part, its flagship campus in the aerospace research and industry hub of Boulder plus a campus in the national security space hub of Colorado Springs. Each of the program’s cadre of aerospace research institutions will also be noteworthy in terms of already having “an incredibly strong officer development platform” in its Reserve Officer Training Corps detachment, Thompson said.

Governor Polis Signs Bill Benefiting Veterans

CHARLES ASHBY

The Daily Sentinel reports, veterans can get some help from four bills that Gov. Jared Polis signed June 23rd. The measures provide assistance to deal with any mental health issues as a result of their military duty, and offer homeless veterans food, clothing or other aid when they need it. Senate Bill 32, creates a pilot grant program — the Mobile Veterans Support Unit Grant Program — that is specifically aimed at helping veterans who live in rural areas of the state. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs would create a limited program, for now, to provide two-year grants to veteran-owned organizations that work to distribute supplies to homeless veterans, or help provide transportation for whatever they need, from getting to medical care to homeless shelters.

To our wonderful tournament sponsors,



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Chapter Officers

- President: Cliff Klein
- Executive VP, Community Partners: Neil Burroughs
- Secretary, VP Communications: TSgt Damita Stevens
- Treasurer: Kenn Bowens
- VP Aerospace Education and Veteran Affairs:
Stephen Gourley
- VP Airmen & Family Programs: MSgt Rashelle Dunn

AFA Mission

Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; to honor and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their Families; and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.

To accomplish this, we:

- EDUCATE the public on the critical need for unrivaled aerospace power and promote aerospace and STEM education for a technically superior and professional workforce to ensure national security;
 - ADVOCATE and promote aerospace power to favorably shape policy and resourcing decisions to guarantee the strongest aerospace forces in the world;
- SUPPORT Airmen, Guardians, and the families of the Total Air Force and Space Force, including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilians, families, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

Contact Us

- Email Us: CO127.MileHigh.President@afa.org
- Check out our website: <https://milehigh.afa.org/>
- Find us on Facebook: AFA Mile High Chapter 127 or <https://www.facebook.com/afamilehighchapter/>

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

Held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 4pm at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. All members are welcome

- August 17, 2021
- September 21, 2021
- October 19, 2021
- November 16, 2021



Newsletter Editor: TSgt Damita Stevens is an Active Duty Guardian serving on Buckley Space Force Base. She has been with the Mile High AFA for three years and was elected as Secretary in 2019 and VP of Communications in 2021, she also serves as the Colorado State AFA Secretary. Recently, she was one of seven members accepted to the National-Level AFA Emerging Leader Program. Damita uses her intimate knowledge of information systems to build the Mile High Website and create the Quarterly Newsletters. Damita is happily married, has one rambunctious Akita named Kana, and loves to cook.