



# Air Force Association

## *Emerald Coast Guardian*

Eglin Chapter, Florida

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## President's Notes

As 2014 winds down, you may notice that this is the first newsletter you've seen from Eglin AFA in quite a while. With apologies to Mark Twain, the news of the Eglin Chapter's demise has been greatly exaggerated. I'll take this short space to provide a summary of significant chapter activities this past year, welcome some new folks to the board, and solicit your participation and support in the upcoming year.

First let me introduce and welcome some new officers and changes to the Executive Council. Candace Lovell, long time VP of Programs, agreed to serve as Chapter Vice President. She has retained her duties as VP Programs, but would gladly relinquish those if someone is interested in stepping into that role. Many of you will recognize our new VP for Scholarships and Aerospace Education Foundation (AEF) Chair, Maj Gen (ret) Mike Kostelnik. Gen Kostelnik is a former Commander of the Air Armament Center here at Eglin AFB, and we are excited he has chosen to lead our Scholarship efforts. He has big shoes to fill, as we say a reluctant goodbye to Gen (ret) Bill Kirk, our VP for Scholarships and AEF Chair for the past 22 years. See more on this subject on page 4 of this newsletter. Lastly, I am excited to introduce Amy Gold as the new VP for Communications for the Eglin Chapter. Her first focus item will be on getting a newsletter out before the end of the year. She will eventually be responsible for submitting news releases and articles for national AFA and local media publications and is interested in managing our Chapter Website and Chapter Facebook page as well.

Besides Gen Kirk, we were sad to say goodbye to some chapter workhorses. Nancy Kirk (no relation, we called her "the other Nancy Kirk") stepped down as Chapter Vice President due to personal reasons. I really appreciate her service to the chapter and wish her well. Former VP of Cyber Patriot, Christopher Echols, accepted an assignment to the Pentagon, leaving a big vacancy, not only in the Cyber Patriot realm, but for all the things he took on for the Chapter. Our VP for Community Partners, Bob Mackey, has sadly notified us that he will step down in January. Bob did a yeoman's job recognizing the Community Partners and updating the roster, so we thank him and wish him well in his retirement. We are also in need of a VP for Membership, and there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer your services as a volunteer for one of our two annual fundraisers, the Fisher House 5K and the Doolittle Scholarship Open Golf Tournament.

I'd like to mention just some of the things the Eglin Chapter was involved with in 2014. Last March, we co-hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fisher House 5K with the Eglin Top 3 Association. We recently presented a \$9,000 check to the Fisher House of the Emerald Coast and the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual

Fisher House 5K is scheduled for March 7, 2015. We are always looking for participants, sponsors, volunteers and donors, so see pages 2-3 for more details on the Fisher House 5K.

In April we presented over \$20,000 in annual scholarships to deserving local students. A summary of the scholarships we awarded is on page 4. November saw another successful Doolittle Scholarship Open Golf Tournament. While we remain concerned about the trend towards declining participation, we are pleased to report raising \$18,000 for our annual scholarship fund. See page 2 for more info on our Golf Tournament and Scholarship Program. In June, we were fortunate to hear former Air Force Historian, Dr. Dick Hallion, speak about China's Rise as An Aerospace Power, a very timely and informative presentation.

Last October, we lost a stalwart member of our Chapter and Executive Council, Ron Byrd. He was a friend and mentor to many of us, and his loss was felt by many. In November, AFA Florida lost Mike Emig, a long-time member of the Red Tail Chapter and most recently, past President of AFA Florida. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

As the new year approaches, I would like to solicit your support and participation. Eglin Chapter 365 has over 1,000 members. Many of you are content to receive the magazine from national organization and the occasional (hopefully quarterly) newsletters from the Eglin Chapter. If you are interested in becoming a chapter officer, or just want to donate some time to help make one of our many events a success, please email me at [eglinafa@gmail.com](mailto:eglinafa@gmail.com).

Happy New Year!

*Eddie McAllister*  
*President*

# Doolittle Scholarship Open Golf Tournament

## Supporting Education

The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Doolittle Scholarship Open golf tournament was held on Thursday, November 6, 2014, at the Eglin Golf Course in Niceville. This year, the tournament also hosted 1976 US Open Champion Jerry Pate. This was Pate's third visit to the Doolittle Scholarship Open. He spent the day greeting the players, sharing some of his experiences and playing a hole with many of the foursomes.

Proceeds from the tournament will help provide college scholarships for deserving Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) cadets at area high schools, top graduates at the Okaloosa County Schools Community High Okaloosa Institutes for Career Education (CHOICE) Aviation Institutes, as well as the Air Force ROTC program at the University of West Florida.

This year's tournament netted approximately \$18,000 for the scholarship fund. We greatly appreciate the generosity of our sponsors and all those who participated in this year's tournament. Please plan on joining us for next year's tournament, scheduled for Nov xx 2015.

Pictured below are General Kirk and Bob Patterson presenting the military team trophy to the 53rd Wing Commander, Colonel Alex Grynkewich and his wife, Shannon.



## Fisher House 5K

### A Giant Success

On March 1st, 2014, the Eglin AFA co-hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fisher House 5K with the Eglin Top 3 Association. A record 365 participants registered and we presented a \$9,000 check to the Fisher House of the Emerald Coast.



The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fisher House 5K is scheduled for March 7, 2015 at The Landing on Brooks Street in Fort Walton Beach. The event includes a 5K run, 5K walk and a 1-mile fun run for the kids. The post-race awards ceremony and after-party will once again be hosted at the historic Magnolia Grill, also on Brooks Street.

We are always looking for participants, sponsors, volunteers and donors, so please contact our race director, Eddie McAllister, at [mcallister.eddie@gmail.com](mailto:mcallister.eddie@gmail.com) for more details on the Fisher House 5K. Very soon after the new year, you will be able to register online, become a fundraiser, or make a donation at [www.imathlete.com/events/FisherHouse5K](http://www.imathlete.com/events/FisherHouse5K).

## Cyber Patriot

### Two Solid Teams

The Eglin Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) began competing in Cyber Patriot during the 2013-2014 school year. This year, the cadets who participated in the competition were: C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt Stirling Naber, C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Luke Taylor, C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Brittany Fager, C/CMSgt Ryan Pope, C/MSgt Connor Davis, C/Amn Sam Riccio, and C/Amn Grady Wright. The first five cadets created one team of returning participants while the last two cadets make up the other team and are competing for the first time. Congratulations to our first team who achieved very high scores in the Gold category and to our younger cadets who did



well in the Silver category.

Our sincere appreciation goes out to our mentors, CAP 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt



Nick Gray, USAF Lt Matthew Hodde, and Mr Kevin Dennis and to our Coach for the team, CAP SM Julie Fager.

Practicing for a competition, pictured left and going clockwise are: C/MSgt Connor Davis, C/CMSgt Ryan Pope, and C/Amn Sam Riccio. To the right are C/MSgt Connor Davis, C/CMSgt Ryan Pope, and C/Amn Sam Riccio along with C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt Stirling Naber.



# Aerospace Education Foundation

## Kostelnik, Incoming Chair

Our 2014 Scholarship program awarded the following scholarships last May.

Teacher of the Year, Blake Donald, Crestview HS / Choctawhatchee HS

Maggie Shu Winner (\$5K), Dustin Pennington, Ft Walton Beach

Jimmy Doolittle Winner (\$3K), Rachel Gold, Niceville HS

Jerry Nabors Winner (\$2K), Monica Mammah, Choctawhatchee HS

Ft Walton Beach HS Senior Leader (\$2K), Hayley Woods, Ft Walton Beach HS

Choctaw Senior Leader (\$2K), Drew Perry, Choctaw HS

Niceville HS Senior Leader (\$2K), Andrea Serpa, Niceville HS

Walton HS Senior Leader (\$2K), Kaitlyn Green, Walton HS

Crestview HS Choice Aviation Institute Winner (\$2K), Heather Young, Crestview HS

Choctaw HS Choice Aviation Institute Winner (\$2K), Jesse Falls, Choctaw HS

Due to the generous sponsorship of Bert Daiberl and the St Joe Company, we will add additional scholarships targeted at Walton HS and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) pursuits for 2015.



Pictured above is Maj Gen (ret) Mike Kostelnik the new Aerospace Education Foundation (AEF) Chair presenting a certificate of appreciate and donation to the scholarship fund in his name, to Gen (ret) Bill Kirk, outgoing AEF Chair. To the far right, are Nancy Kirk (front), Bob Patterson (past president, Eglin AFA), Gen Kirk (outgoing AEF Chair) and Cliff Long, Chairman of the Emerald Coast Military Affairs Council at the Doolittle Scholarship Open Golf Tournament Hotwash.

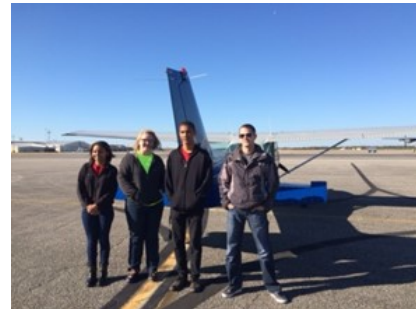
# First Flight

## Up in the Air!

We had an outstanding First Flight event in early December, flying 27 AF Junior ROTC cadets from Choctaw, Niceville, Ft Walton Beach, and Walton High Schools at the Eglin Aero Club. We were fortunate to have beautiful weather and three "Code 1" planes. The cadets had a great time -- many of them had never been in a light plane and a number had never been in any kind of plane. There were lots of exclamations of "amazing," "awesome," and "thank you" from the kids. They were a great bunch of kids who have hopefully gotten the flying bug and will be future leaders in our US Air Force. Perhaps there's a future Chief of Staff of the Air Force in the bunch!

Many thanks to our three great volunteer pilots: Austin Selzer, John Kingsley, and Enrique Gwin as well as Tom Randall who ran the Operations desk. Enormous kudos to our First Flight coordinator and Executive Board member, Gary Plumb!

Pictured below are three Fort Walton Beach cadets in red, second picture is three Fort Walton Beach cadets with their instructor pilot, Austin Selzer. The last picture is three Walton High School cadets with their pilot, Enrique Gwin.



We appreciate our Community Partners and their support of Air Force personnel and the mission of the Air Force Association.

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