



# Centerline

*Quarterly Newsletter*

January - February - March

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 1, 2025

## AFA Websites

*National*

[www.AFA.org](http://www.AFA.org)



**Thunderbird Chapter**

*~in work~*

**AIR & SPACE FORCES** MAGAZINE  
[www.AirandSpaceForces.com](http://www.AirandSpaceForces.com)

## Upcoming Events

Apr 5-6, 2025 - Nellis Aviation Nation

Apr 14, 2025 - Annual AFA Golf Tournament

11 Sep, 2025 - Silver State Warfighter Symposium (Secret)

13 Sep, 2025 - Air Force Ball

*Note: All events Nellis AFB unless otherwise noted.*

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Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/AirAndSpaceForcesThunderbirdChapter>

LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/air-space-forces-association/posts/?feedView=all>

## **AFA Thunderbird Chapter Officers**

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Newsletter  
Mike Morgan

## **President's Remarks**

### **Dear Members and Friends,**

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Last October I was elected to be President of the AFA Thunderbird Chapter. It is an honor for me to be serving this great AFA community in Nevada. For four years I was Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee for the Las Vegas Chamber, I was co-founder of the Southern Nevada Veteran Chamber of Commerce, and I am currently the Honorary Commander for the Advanced Maintenance & Munitions Operation ("AMMO") at Nellis AFB.



On January 30th & 31st I had the opportunity to attend AFA's President Conference in Washington DC. The general theme of the event was about modernizing our mission of Advocating, Educating and Supporting our Active-Duty Airmen as well as our Air Force Veterans and local communities. More details to come on future newsletters.

Last year was a testament to our resilience and dedication. We successfully hosted several key events which brought together leaders from military, industry, and academia. The discussions held there were not only enlightening but also critical in shaping the future of our air and space capabilities.

As an organization we accomplished a lot in 2024. Here are some highlights:

1. **Expanded Educational Programs:** Our commitment to our local STEM education has led to our local students getting more exposure to STEM related courses. These initiatives aim to enhance the skills of our local student so they are well-prepared to meet the demands of an evolving landscape.

2. **Strengthened Community Engagement:** Through various outreach programs, we have connected with the airmen and their families on Nellis & Creech AFB's, veteran organizations, local communities, and all levels of our local schools. These efforts have not only raised awareness about the vital roles of air and space forces but also inspired the next generation of leaders.

3. **Advocated for our Airmen** – Our AFA Chapter is actively engaging in activities that promote the well-being, professional development, and operational readiness of our forces. We ensure that the voices and needs of Airmen are heard and addressed at all levels.

Going forward I want to invite our Thunderbird Chapter Members to lean in and help contribute to our 2025 goals. Your participation will be instrumental in AFA accomplishing these efforts. I want to thank you in advance for your unwavering support and participation.

### **Looking Ahead: Our Strategic Goals**

As we begin 2025 I want to ask that we all come together to help elevate our commitment to AFA's mission. As we move forward, our focus will remain on three strategic goals:

1. **Advocacy and Awareness:** The global landscape is full of uncertainty. In order to be prepared we must continue to advocate for the needs of our Air and Space Forces, ensuring that they have the resources and support required to meet the challenges of modern warfare. This includes promoting policies that enhance our national security and technological advancement.

(continued)

*(President's Remarks - continued)*

2. Innovation and Collaboration: In an era where technology evolves at breakneck speed, collaboration among military, industry, and academia is paramount. We will be launching new partnerships aimed at fostering innovation, particularly in areas like artificial intelligence, cyber defense, and space operations.

3. Community Engagement: Our association thrives on the strength of our community. We will enhance our efforts to engage with our members through in-person and virtual platforms, ensuring that everyone has a voice. We will also expand our volunteer programs, encouraging members to get involved in local outreach efforts.

### **Call to Action**

I encourage each of you to get engaged and proactive. Attend our events, participate in our discussions, and share your insights. Your voice matters and can help shape the future of our association and the forces we support. Together, we can ensure that our air and space capabilities remain a cornerstone of our national defense.

### **Gratitude and Recognition**

As I conclude, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our board members, volunteers, and staff for their hard work and dedication. Your commitment to our mission is what drives our success. Let us continue to support one another as we strive for excellence in all that we do.

Thank you for being a vital part of the Air & Space Force Association's Thunderbird Chapter. I look forward to what we can achieve together in the coming year.

Warm regards,  
Christopher Crooks



*Thunderbird Chapter*

*Wright Flyer Replica*



***APRIL 4-6 @ Nellis AFB***

**4th: Family Day/ID card holders only**

**5-6: Public Airshow**

**Gates open 10am & close at 6pm**

**Stay up to date here for complete info:**

**<https://www.nellis.af.mil/Aviation-Nation/>**





**AFA** AIR & SPACE  
FORCES  
ASSOCIATION  
THUNDERBIRD CHAPTER

# 2025 Golf Tournament



**Let's Drive  
for a Cause!**

**Las Vegas  
National Golf Club  
Monday 14 April ♦ 07:30 AM  
Shotgun Start**

## **Our Mission**

### **Advocate, Educate, Support**

To promote dominant U.S. Air & 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.

We utilize the proceeds from our golf tournaments to support the Airmen, Guardians and their families stationed at Creech and Nellis Air Force Bases, and across the State of Nevada

### **Some of AFA Thunderbird Chapter's Annual Support Initiatives:**

- AF Wounded Warrior Program
- ROTC Scholarships
- Honor the Honor Guard Luncheon
- Pitsenbarger Scholarships
- Cyber Patriot National Youth Cyber Education Program
- Wright Flyer Aircraft Displays
- Teacher of the Year
- Base Awards programs for Airmen & Guardians
- "Adopt a Family" Holiday Support

## **Get ready to swing into action with the AFA Thunderbird Chapter at our exciting Annual Golf Fundraiser!**

**Experience a unique "Shamble" format where teamwork shines! Everyone tees off, selects the best drive, and then plays their own ball from there.**

**Register for \$160 to enjoy a full package: greens, cart, range balls, on-course events, tee gifts, and a delightful lunch post-game.**

**Compete for fabulous team and individual prizes, including long drive and closest to pin. Don't miss our thrilling raffle and silent auction! Join solo or assemble your dream team.**

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Breakfast will be available for purchase at the Club.

## **Sponsorship Opportunities**

### **Platinum - \$3000**

Includes up to 8 player spots, hole sponsorship with logo, lunch sponsorship, 2025 AFA Community Partner dues, website recognition and opportunity to place a table at the event.

### **Gold - \$1500**

Includes 4 player spots, hole sponsorship with logo, advertising recognition, and 2024 AFA Community Partner dues.

## **AFA Thunderbird Chapter**

PO Box 9749, Nellis AFB, NV 89191

[www.AFALasVegas.org](http://www.AFALasVegas.org) | [secretary@afalasvegas.org](mailto:secretary@afalasvegas.org) | Tax ID #88-6006890

# Our Community Partners

**Hello Community Partners, Honorary Commanders, and Business Leaders:**

Your Air & Space Forces Association Thunderbird Chapter is hard at work preparing for Aviation Nation 2025. We need your help!!

The Thunderbird Chapter is rebuilding our membership following COVID. The chapter supports our Airmen for Nellis AFB and Creech AFB. To continue our programs and support to our Air Force, we need your membership and contributions. If you have paid your membership dues, we thank you for your on going support and if you have time to volunteer, please let us know. If you are a Honorary Commander, your membership dues should be in. If you have questions, please reach out to us. Business Leaders, we need you. The community collaboration is so important with Creech and Nellis. For any questions, please reach out to myself or to Bobi Oates.

We appreciate you all!!

Sincerely,

Lisa DuPere

Honorary Commander for the 422 TES

Air & Space Forces Association Thunderbird Chapter – Community Partners

## AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION



P. O. Box 9749  
Las Vegas, NV 89191

An Independent Nonprofit Aerospace  
Organization

## COMMUNITY PARTNER APPLICATION

Company Name

Street Address

City/State/ZIP

Phone Number

Email Address

Sponsoring Chapter

☐ Category I - \$90 (one member) ☐ Category II - \$180 (two members)

### Please Remit

\$90.00 (or \$180.00) by Check to P. O. Box 9749, Nellis AFB, NV 89191  
Or  
\$93.00 (or \$186.00) by Credit Card via PayPal App to [Treasurer@afalasvegas.org](mailto:Treasurer@afalasvegas.org)

The following person(s) are designated as members of the Air & Space Forces Association. The monthly copy of *Air & Space Forces Magazine* will be sent to the address(es) listed below.

If applying for a Category I affiliation, complete this section only.

If applying for a Category II affiliation, complete this section for the second person.

I	Name <input type="text"/>	II	Name <input type="text"/>
	Address <input type="text"/>		Address <input type="text"/>
	City/State/ZIP <input type="text"/>		City/State/ZIP <input type="text"/>
	Email Address <input type="text"/>		Email Address <input type="text"/>





# ***Your AFA In Action***

## ***Las Vegas Raiders Holiday Tree Giveaway***

This holiday season, the Air Force Association (AFA) proudly contributed to spreading joy and building community at the Holiday Salute event hosted by the Las Vegas Raiders at Nellis Air Force Base. Families gathered in the festive spirit to celebrate and make memories. The event featured opportunities to pick out beautiful Christmas trees, craft unique holiday ornaments, and share in the warmth of the season. Adding a touch of sweetness and coziness, attendees enjoyed complimentary hot cocoa and doughnuts, funded by the AFA's generous support. This partnership is a testament to the power of collaboration and community. By stepping in to provide these comforting treats, the AFA helped create a welcoming environment for military families to relax, connect, and celebrate the holidays together. As we continue our mission to support those who serve, the AFA is honored to play a small role in brightening the lives of families stationed at Nellis Air Force Base.



*What's better than hot cocoa and trees?*

## ***UNLV Dinning Out***

AFA was proud to support and attend the Fall Dining Out dinner hosted by UNLV AFROTC Detachment 004 last month. This special event celebrated the cadets' accomplishments over the semester, marked the transition of new cadet wing leadership, and fostered camaraderie among attendees. AFA's involvement underscored our commitment to honoring the dedication and hard work of future Air and Space Force leaders, and we were grateful to celebrate this significant occasion alongside the cadets.



*UNLV Det 004 Dining Out*

## ***Congratulations to SNVCC on his new position***

AFA proudly congratulates Lester Lumbad on his appointment as the new Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army! We were honored to join the celebration hosted by our sister service, AUSA Las Vegas - MG John C. Fremont Chapter. The event was a fantastic gathering, highlighting Lester's remarkable achievements and dedication to service.



*Jaime, Bobi, and Lester smile for the camera*



## ***Your AFA In Action***



**Hallocreech '24 - Creech Airmen and their families enjoyed Halloween activities in a hangar.**

**A Veteran's Day rejoin with Gen Fogleman (RET) and Bobi Oates at AFA HQ**



**Adopt-a-Family gift donations being organized before Christmas. 381 families benefited from this - 1300+ children supported.**

**Celebrating the Space Force's 5th Birthday at the 328 Weapons Squadron with an AFA cake!**



## *Meet a Unit! Unit Spotlight:* *414 CTS - "RED FLAG"*



*Red Flag celebrates its 50th year in 2025!*

### *Red Flag: Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence in Combat Training*

In 2025, the United States Air Force marks a monumental milestone—50 years of Red Flag exercises. Established in 1975, Red Flag has evolved into one of the most prestigious and effective combat training programs in the world, offering aircrews from the U.S. and allied nations a unique opportunity to hone their skills in realistic, high-pressure combat scenarios.

The inception of Red Flag can be traced back to the Vietnam War, where it became clear that airmen and aircrews needed more than just theoretical knowledge to survive in real combat. While air-to-air combat tactics were taught, they lacked the immersive, high-stakes environment necessary for effective skill-building. To fill this gap, Col Moody Suter and the Air Force created Red Flag at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, a place where airmen could face simulated threats from a variety of opponents, engage in complex missions, and learn from experienced instructors. Red Flag's design is centered on realism and teamwork. The training takes place over several weeks and involves a mixture of air-to-air and air-to-ground operations. The program includes large-scale exercises, where participants face off against adversary forces in a simulated combat environment, including threat aircraft, surface-to-air missiles, and electronic warfare systems. The emphasis is on survival, mission accomplishment, and improving the coordination between various elements of air, ground, and space forces.

Red Flag's impact on the U.S. Air Force and its allies cannot be overstated. It has saved countless lives by preparing aircrews for the reality of modern warfare, teaching them to think quickly, make decisions under pressure, and adapt to a constantly evolving battlefield. Today, the exercise is seen as an invaluable tool in maintaining the readiness and proficiency of the U.S. Air Force, and its influence extends far beyond the training grounds of Nevada.

As the Air Force celebrates the 50th anniversary of Red Flag, it stands as a testament to the program's enduring legacy of excellence, innovation, and collaboration. Red Flag has not only shaped the tactics and techniques of air combat but has also ensured that the next generation of airmen is ready for whatever challenges the future holds.

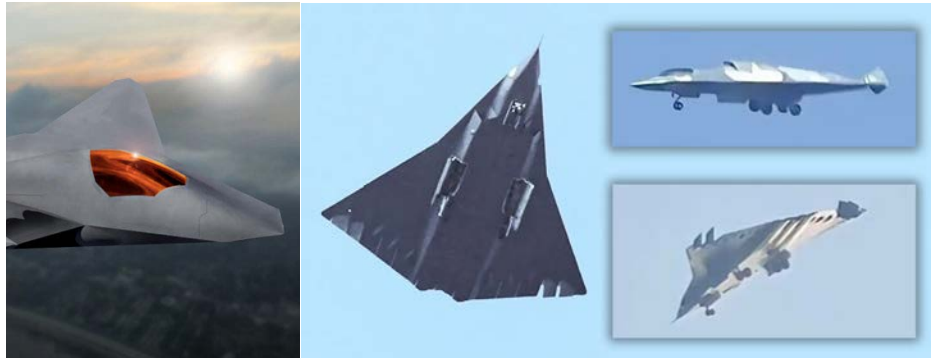
Nellis Air Force Base will host a 50th Anniversary celebration on April 4th, 2025. For additional information, please contact 57th Wing Public Affairs at (702) 652-2750.





# AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION'S MITCHELL INSTITUTE

## AFA's Mitchell Institute releases "A Call for a New NSC-68 and Goldwater Nichols Reform"



Arlington, VA | January 21, 2025 — The Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies is pleased to announce a new entry in its Policy Paper series, *A Call for a New NSC-68 and Goldwater Nichols Reform* by Richard B. Andres, Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Mitchell Institute, with Gen T. Michael Moseley, USAF (Ret.) and former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, and Maj Gen Larry Stutzriem, USAF (Ret.) and Director of Research at the Mitchell Institute.

Deficiencies of the 1986 Goldwater-Nichols Reform Act (GNA) are a root cause of under-resourcing our critical warfighting forces. This legislation restructured the DOD, resulting in a bureaucratic structure that severely restricts the ability of the services to prioritize long-term strategic threats in favor of the immediate, non-combat demands of the combatant commands and civilian defense bureaucracy. Consequently, there is a pervasive pattern within the military of neglect of long-term defense procurement strategies and requirements.

The resulting failure of U.S. forces to modernize and recapitalize has emboldened America's adversaries to use violence to pursue their expansionist goals, setting the United States on a path toward a great power war. To prevent this and retain the current rules-based world order, the U.S. government and defense establishment must immediately take four actions:

1. Initiate a comprehensive reassessment of national security, objectively evaluating the prevailing threat landscape and acknowledging the shortcomings of existing strategies.
2. Take immediate action to restructure the DOD and correct the organizational deficiencies that hindered past reform efforts aimed at countering the threats posed by China and Russia.
3. Increase the defense budget to bring it in line with the evolving security landscape.
4. Evaluate defense capabilities and shift investment among the services based on a cost-per-effect assessment. This requires a holistic review of the roles and missions of service contributions to the National Defense Strategy.

*The full paper (many pages of great info) can be found here:*

<https://mitchellaerospacepower.org/a-call-for-a-new-nsc-68-and-goldwater-nichols-reform/>

## ***AFA's Fiscal 2025 Legislative Priorities***

### **1. Increasing the Personnel Strength of the Space Force**

The U.S. Space Force was established in 2019 in response to growing threats that challenged our current capabilities, and to which U.S. countermeasures had not yet been developed. Therefore, the Space Force was established using initial manning levels that did not reflect these growing threats or future requirements. However, since its inception, the Space Force has been developing countermeasures to these threats with new architectures. The Air & Space Forces Association strongly believes that these solutions require significant additional manpower to implement them.

### **2. Aircraft Recapitalization of the Air Force, Reserve and National Guard**

Under current Air Force plans, the service intends to retire over 600 tactical aircraft over the next five years, while only acquiring 246. That's a reduction in the size of the force by almost 350 aircraft. Simultaneously, it has been reported that President Xi of China has directed his military to be able to conduct a successful invasion of Taiwan by 2027—a threat CIA Director William Burns has publicly warned should not be underestimated. Accordingly, though development delays continue, it is in the United States best interest to acquire as many aircraft as possible to deter this strategic threat. That includes the only stealth fighter in production: the F-35.

Therefore, the Air & Space Forces Association respectfully requests that the defense committees maximize the number of F-35As and increase the number of F-15EXs to be procured in the FY'25 NDAA.

### **3. Flexible Software Funding on JADC2**

The distinctions between software development and sustainment continue to fade. Specifically, software development and sustainment has become a holistic endeavor in which the software of weapons systems is continually developed and improved to upgrade system performance. Despite this, funds continue to be allocated for software under two different funding mechanisms: the Program Management Office, for development; and Weapon System Sustainment, for sustainment. What is required is a new mechanism which combines these two elements into a single, flexible funding structure, commonly referred to as “colorless” funding.

Congress has seen the potential benefits of adopting such an approach by authorizing three separate programs as a trial for this proposal: the Strategic Mission Planning and Execution System; the Defense Enterprise Accounting and Management System; and the Space Force's Kobayashi Maru project. Based upon this progress, the Air & Space Forces Association respectfully requests the Congress further grant the military services the ability to utilize colorless software funding structures and authorize its use on the Joint All Domain Command and Control (JADC2) program.

### **4. Funding the Childcare Strategic Plan**

The demand for on-installation center-based childcare and Family Childcare homes exceeds current capacity. For example, in 2022 the Air Force reported over 4,800 children, who were under the age of five and dependents of Air Force personnel, were unable to enroll in on-base child development programs. That is over 10 percent of the total number of dependents enrolled. The average wait time for enrollment was 130 days.

Accordingly, the Air & Space Forces Association respectfully requests that the Secretary of Air Force publishes a follow-on report which articulates the costs required to implement the CSP's proposed solutions and identifies the most effective funding mechanisms to achieve those objectives. This follow-on report should also contain timelines for achieving the CSP's objectives based upon the proposed funding levels.

### **5. Exploiting Commercial Space**

To remain a lean service and garner the capabilities needed to maintain our nation's advantage in space, the U.S. Space Force needs to buy available commercial space services, integrate those capabilities into organic Space Force capabilities, and deliver those forces to Combatant Commands. Buying services, where available, is a responsible way to garner capability rapidly and free limited resources to develop capabilities only for missions where no commercial services exist.

Therefore, the Air & Space Forces Association respectfully requests that Congress further increase funding for the purchase of Space Domain Awareness (SDA), Space Mobility & Logistics (SML), and for Tactical Surveillance, Reconnaissance & Tracking (TSRT) products and services to encourage private investment in these areas of the space warfighting domain.

### **6. Mitigate Pass-Through**

Currently, 20 percent of the Department of the Air Force's budget “passes through” to other governmental programs. In 2020, this totaled \$39.2 billion and increased to \$44 billion last year. With the Air Force's responsibilities growing exponentially in the Pacific and Europe, the Air & Space Force Association believes Congress and the public must be able to make an apples-to-apples comparison of the investment they are making in the Air Force and Space Force's capabilities.

Therefore, AFA respectfully requests the congressional defense committees direct the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence to commission an independent research organization to perform an analysis of the positive and negative effects that “Pass-Through” has on the Department of the Air Force's budget.