

Law Gets AFPAAA Grant To Defer PRSA Costs

Association Continues DINFOS Grad Badges

Captain James Law, Chief of Public Affairs for the 366th Wing at Mountain Home AFB, has received a \$100 scholarship from AFPAAA for achieving Public Relations Society of America accreditation.

Captain Law sought accreditation "to do something to improve myself professionally . . . And maintaining my accreditation will force me to continue pursuing learning opportunities in the future."

A second generation Blue Suiter, he was born at George AFB, graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1990, and, except for school breaks, has been in Public Affairs ever since. He completed DINFOS with honors and in 1998 earned an MA in mass communications with distinction from the University of Florida. Assignments have included Edwards AFB; Iraklion Air Station, Crete; and Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

In a letter to AFPAAA, Captain Law said, "Thank you so much for the \$100 scholarship . . . The AFPAAA is a great organization, and I look forward to continued membership in the future."

He is the fourth recipient of a scholarship award, joining previous recipients Captains Nicole Greenwood, Ann Knabe, and Naomi Russi.

The scholarships, part of an effort by AFPAAA and SAF/PA to improve the professional skills of the Air Force Public Affairs career field, are available to members of the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association who are accredited by PRSA or by the International Association of Business Communicators.

The scholarships do two things: they help improve the Air Force's future Public Affairs leaders; and they are a tangible benefit of membership in the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association. The Association provides the funds and SAF/PA administers the program and selects the recipients.

AFPAAA has set aside \$1,000 in its current budget for scholarships that are available to four juniorenlisted – up to E-6; three civilians – up to GS-9; and three officers – up to O-4.

AF — Public Affairs —
— Alumni Association™ —
News & Notes — Spring 2001

Be Careful With New Senior Military Retiree Health Benefits!

Whether you are 65 or a young'un, the 2001 Defense Authorization Act will have a profound effect on your medical care either now or in the future. For those of us still serving or who have retired, but have not reached 65 and Medicare eligibility, there is time before we have to do anything.

But for those at or near 65 there are some things to do, and, just as importantly, some things not to do.

First, don't cancel any Medicare supplemental insurance you are carrying now. Second, if you are 65, or will be before April 1, and not

enrolled in and paying for Medicare Part B do so before the open enrollment period closes on March 31. Third, make sure your Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) data is correct.

The legislation provides long-sought pharmacy and health care coverage for Medicare-eligible military retirees. The pharmacy program starts April 1 and medical coverage begins October 1. Pharmacy benefits include choosing from the military's National Mail
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"What's In A Name?" Your Vote Will Decide To AFPAAA Or Not

Proponents of changing the name of the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association prevailed by an 8-1 margin at the last board of directors meeting. But board action alone can't change the name. In accordance with AFPAAA by-laws, only a vote of approval by the membership can change the name.

That means that the election ballot for the open slots on the

board of directors, which you will receive later this year, will also include the opportunity to vote for or against an Association name change.

An information sheet discussing the pros and cons of a name change, including financial ramifications, will be provided with the ballot to assist members in deciding how they choose to vote.

Terino Resigns From Board Of Directors, Communications Chair

John Terino, one of the original organizers and founders of AFPAAA, who has been a member of the board of directors and communications chairman since those posts were established, has resigned from both positions. Eighteen months remained on his term on the board. He had also served as the Association's secretary for its first five years and is a major contributor to the endowment fund.

In a December 12th letter to Board of Directors Chairman Jim Hart, Terino

said "It has been wonderful helping build AFPAAA with a lot of good people since 1993."

In accepting the resignation, Hart said, "On behalf of the board and the membership, please know how valuable your contributions have been in starting and helping develop AFPAAA. Much of the Association's success is a direct result of your efforts . . . I regret that we will no longer have your leadership, stewardship and presence at future board meetings."

By a unanimous vote, AFPAAA's Board of Directors agreed to spend \$500 to fund the purchase of badges for Air Force graduates of the Defense Information School this year.

The approval continues a program that was initiated by a donation to AFPAAA of \$600 in 1998. The money came from a member who wished to remain anonymous. The donor's desire was for the badges to be presented by and in the name of the Association.

He was spurred to make the donation by a suggestion from SAF/PA Director Brigadier General Ron Rand that was made at the Annual Membership Meeting in Dayton.

The first AFPAAA badges were presented in December 1999 by then Chairman of the Board Mike McRaney. Since then, AFPAAA has tried to have a member at DINFOS for each presentation.

By sponsoring the badges, AFPAAA is helping SAF/PA make entering the Public Affairs career field a significant moment for each individual. At the same time badge sponsorship and participation in the event leaves a positive impression of the Association with the newcomers to the field that it is hoped will lead to membership throughout their career and into their post Air Force life.

Members who would like to represent AFPAAA by participating in the ceremony should contact the Association through our web site at: www.afpaaa.org or by dropping a note to: AFPAAA

Badge Presentations
P.O. Box 540
Fairfax, VA 22030-0540

**Get The Latest Info
On Our
Annual Meeting
Who is coming,
events, schedule;
all available at:
www.afpaaa.org**

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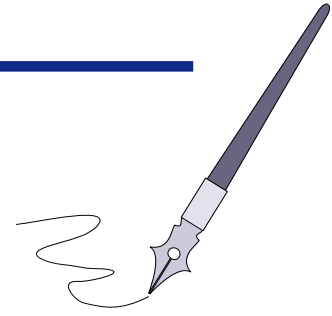
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From The President's Pen



The New Year brings with it a number of new “participation” opportunities . . .

Name Change: You’ll recall that last time I set out the pros and cons of changing our name to the Air Force Public Affairs Association and asked for comments. To those members who took the time to write or email their thoughts and ideas, thank you. Judging from the postal and e-mail I received, most of you think it’s an idea whose time has come.

So, I’m pleased to report that at the December meeting, your Board of Directors voted in favor of the name change. But, the process isn’t over yet. Since our Articles of Incorporation should reflect our new name, that change must be approved by a two thirds vote of the membership. The bottom line is, when you receive the ballot for the next board election, you’ll also be asked to vote on changing the Articles of Incorporation to reflect the new name.

The moral of this effort is: Nothing is as easy as it seems.

Board Elections: There will be five (5) openings in the upcoming board election. If you are interested in serving as a board member, please contact Jim Hart (Nominating Committee Chair) immediately.

Treasurer: After 8 years of superior service and fastidious attention to myriad financial details, Pete Alexandrakos has asked to not be re-appointed when his term ends. We owe Pete our sincere appreciation for his superior stewardship of our financial well-being. We are truly better off because of his service.

Of course, that means we need a new Treasurer. This is an appointed position. The duties are outlined in our By-Laws (see the inside back section of the Directory) To make it easier to oversee our existing accounts, the Treasurer should probably live in the greater Washington D.C. area. If you are interested in serving the Association as Treasurer, please contact V.P. Joe Purka or me immediately. There is no more important position within our Association.

Communications Chairman: Another tireless worker who has seen the Association grow from nothing to something, John Terino, has resigned as Newsletter Editor - this issue is his last - and as Chairman of our Communications Committee. John’s writing, photography and desktop publishing expertise will be hard to improve upon. We owe him our thanks for the job he has done so long, so well.

The job includes writing and editing the quarterly “News and Notes” newsletter as well as sending news releases about Association activities to appropriate trade and veterans publications. Knowledge of desk top publishing and layout would help, but is not a requirement. This position can be held by any full or associate member. If you are interested in serving as the Communication Chairman, please contact V.P. Joe Purka or me at your earliest convenience.

Annual Meeting: And, the final “participation” opportunity is our upcoming Membership Meeting. There are more details elsewhere in this newsletter, but I’d like to highlight some important elements of the program assembled by Jim McGuire and his local committee.

This is our first visit - for an annual meeting - to Washington, and the plans take advantage of that. We expect to have a lot of active duty PA’s attending. We’ll be getting first-hand reports on the expanding role of today’s PA’s in today’s USAF. And, we’ll have a chance to get up-close-and-personal with new PA’s - officer and enlisted students at DINFOS - to learn their perspective and, perhaps, to share our own.

*One last thing. Please help me make it clear to everyone who may be interested, we welcome all members of the PA triad. You need not be an Association member to attend our Annual Meeting. Again, **YOU NEED NOT BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND!***

Thanks! See you in Old Town Alexandria!

– John Gura

The headquarters for AFPAAA's Eighth Annual Membership Meeting is the new Hilton Hotel in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. A group rate of \$117 plus tax is available. For reservations, call 703 837-0440 (please don't use the Hilton central reservations 800 number) and be sure to say you are with the Air Force Public Affairs meeting. Lodging reservations and expenses are the responsibility of attendees. Appropriate casual attire – no shorts, t-shirts or tank tops, please – is the dress for all daytime activities; coat and tie for the Saturday reception and dinner.

Plan on flying to Washington's Reagan National Airport. The hotel is conveniently located across the street from the King Street Metro (and Amtrak) Station in Alexandria, just two Metro stops from the airport, so unless you're planning other activities, a rental car is not necessary (parking is challenging and expensive!). Other travel options would be Dulles International or Baltimore-Washington airports, both approximately the same distance from the meeting site. The schedule for the meeting is:

Thursday, April 19

Noon Registration opens at Hilton Old Town
 3:00-5:00 Tour of the Newseum, Rosslyn
 5:30 Icebreaker at Boeing, Rosslyn

Friday, April 20

8:00 Depart via Metro for the Pentagon
 9:00-10:00 SAF/PA and Air Staff briefings and tour at the Pentagon
 11:00-12:15 Lunch Executive Dining Room
 12:45 Bus from Pentagon to Ft Meade
 1:45-4:15 Tour Defense Information School, briefings, and meet with students



Eighth Annual Membership Meeting

Old Town Alexandria, Virginia
April 19-21, 2001

4:30 Depart DINFOS for Alexandria
 Evening Open

Saturday, April 21

9:00 Air Force Memorial Presentation
 10:00-11:00 Evolution of AF Public Affairs
 11:00-12:00 Military-Media Panel Discussion
 12:00-1:15 SAF/PA Director's Lunch - Hotel
 1:30-2:30 Annual Membership Meeting
 6:30 Reception and Dinner – Hotel

Sunday, April 22

Depart Alexandria

There will also be optional tours available on Friday and Saturday for a limited number of members and spouses including the Capitol, Arlington Cemetery, Mount Vernon, and (if any cherry blossoms are left) the Tidal Basin.

Advance registration fee for members is \$140 (includes two lunches, reception and dinner, memento, and registration package); advance registration for nonmembers is \$165 (includes a one-year full membership or three-year associate membership, as appropriate). On-site registration is \$165 for members and \$190 for nonmembers. Spouse/guest registration either in advance or on-site is \$110. Advance registration for the meeting must be received NLT April 1.

Note: Please call the Hilton Old Town Alexandria directly for room reservations: 703 837-0440.

Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association Eight Annual Membership Meeting Registration

Name: _____ Phone - Home: _____ Office: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Spouse's Name: _____ Fax: _____

Please make your check payable to:

I am retired: _____ I am on active duty: _____
 Please make ___ member reservation(s) @ \$ 140 _____
 Please make ___ spouse/guest reservation @ \$ 110 _____
 Please make ___ nonmember reservation(s) @ \$ 165 _____
 Total number of reservations _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

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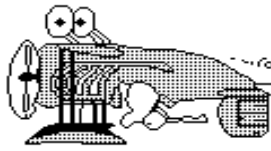
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Welcome Aboard To . . .

C. Gordon Furbish "Mac" McLaurin
David Jenkins Douglas "Dusty" Rhodes
Vicki Stein

Goin' The Course . . .

Add Jon Allen, Don Gilleland, Jeanette Minnich, and Virginia Sullivan to those who have upgraded to Lifetime Member status.

Congratulations To . . .

Lifetime Member Lt. Colonel Alvina Mitchell who has been selected to attend Air War College . . . and to Majors Bill Barksdale (Primary), Claudia Foss (Alternate), Vic Hines (Primary), and Sandy Troeber (Alternate) who have been tapped for Air Command and Staff College.

No More Smith-Carona . . .

Would you believe Barney Oldfield has entered the electronic age – big time! Not only has he traded in his Smith-Carona for a red desktop computer, he has his own Barney and Vada Oldfield web site. Check it out at www.oldfields.org – and if you want to drop him an e-mail the address is: barney@oldfields.org

Movin' Up . . .

Gary Turner named by Weber Shandwick Worldwide as senior vice president and general manager of Weber Shandwick Seattle . . . Lucky Cuoco elected president of the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville Alumni Association Charter Chapter, Springfield Illinois.

Author, Author . . .

John Terino with a series of articles in Aerospace Daily based on presentations at NDIA's Air Targets, UAVs, and Ranges Symposium in Biloxi.

Bal'mor May Be Better . . .

It may well be worth the time and cost of a shuttle bus to National Airport to fly into Baltimore -Washington International (BWI) if you are coming to the Annual Membership Meeting in April. Why? Because Southwest flies there and its low fares drive down the fares of other airlines - we've saved as much as \$200 using BWI. Also, check out America West and Continental going into both BWI and DCA, especially from the West and West Coast.

Tax Tip . . .

Don't forget to consider if your dues and annual membership meeting expenses can be a deduction.

Lord Guard and Guide . . .

David L. Stiles, Sr.

David L. Stiles Sr., 76, a retired Lt. Colonel, died of lung cancer at his home in Springfield, Virginia, November 18.

A native of Thorndale, Texas, and a graduate of Texas A&M University, his military career began in the Army in World War II with service that included New Guinea and the Philippines.

David was an information officer in the Pentagon during the early days of the Vietnam War. He served in Saudi Arabia and Japan and was Director of Information for 3rd Air Force in England from 1969 until 1973, the year he retired.

He is survived by his wife, Rita; son, David Jr., two brother; two sisters; and two grandchildren.

Francis P. Tunstall Jr.

Fran Tunstall, 53, was stricken with cardiac arrest December 11, while working on his pride and joy, the restoration of a WWI Nieuport 17 fighter at the National Air and Space Museum's Silver Hill Restoration Facility.

Fran's military career was varied. He began as an Army enlisted man, was commissioned in the Air Force through OCS, flew helicopters and C-141s, graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College, served several tours as a Public Affairs

officer, and retired as a Lt. Colonel. His last assignment was in SAF/PA.

After his Air Force career, he wrote and produced episodes for PBS' "Legends of Air Power" series.

Fran was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by his wife Ellen; a son, Shawn; daughters Kristi and Katherine; his father, two brothers, three sisters; half brother and half sister; and three grandchildren. Donations can be made to the Francis P. Tunstall Memorial Fund, National Air and Space Museum.

Be Careful With New Senior Military Retiree Health Benefits!

(from page 1)

Order Pharmacy Program, where there is an \$8 copayment for up to a 90-day supply; DoD retail outlets, where there is a 20 percent copayment; or non-network outlets, where there is a 25 percent copay and a \$150 deductible. Military pharmacies will still fill prescriptions at no charge.

If you are 65, or will be before April 1, you can use the pharmacy benefit without enrollment in Medicare Part B. Those who will be 65 after April 1 will need to have Medicare Part B to use the benefit.

Retirees and dependents who use Medicare will have Tricare as their second payer for medical treatment. It will pay out-of-pocket expense for Medicare covered services, as well as providing access to Tricare benefits which may not be covered under Medicare. Long-term care and some other services are not covered. Retirees 65 and over must be eligible for Medicare Part A and be enrolled in Part B to get these benefits.

Part B enrollment is vital. The \$50 monthly fee is usually deducted from Social Security payments. The annual enrollment period is from January 1-March 31, with coverage effective July 1. Those who decline coverage

at age 65, and then seek reinstatement, will be assessed a 10 percent penalty on monthly premiums for every year beyond age 65.

Details on enrollment in Part B can be obtained by calling Social Security at 1 800 772 1213 or from any Social Security office.

When the program is fully implemented and your Tricare enrollment is confirmed you may elect to discontinue your supplemental insurance. Until then you should not cancel your supplemental policies.

It is also important to ensure your medical records are current by going to the nearest military personnel office or by calling DEERS at 1 800 538 9552. Your address in DEERS will be used for mailing information to you about the new law, which you will receive from Tricare shortly. You are asked to be patient if you contact a Tricare office about the new law; it will take some time to get the staffs familiar with its provisions.

For additional information and updates on the implementation of the new law go to The Retired Officer Association web site at: www.troa.org and click on "TRICARE For Life" under the Information You Can Use heading.