



# "Kittyhawk Flyer"



*Air Force Sergeants Association Kittyhawk Chapter 751*

**AFSA Chapter Newsletter of the Year**  
**Issue No. 56** **February 2008**

## ***DTS Sweeps Their Categories at Annual Awards Banquet***

*by CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President*

The 88th Diagnostic and Therapeutic Squadron (DTS) had quite a night at Kittyhawk Chapter 751's annual awards banquet on January 26. Four independent review boards, made up of Senior NCOs from across Wright Patterson, chose DTS nominees to receive awards despite the stiff competition.

The evening began with a social that welcomed some distinguished guests back to the Chapter. Former Chapter President CMSgt (Ret) Brad Denham and his wife Karen reunited with old friends as did former AFMC Command Chief CMSgt (Ret) Kathy Ballard, and her husband Bob.

Over 200 people then enjoyed an entertaining and inspirational speech from the guest speaker, retired Maj. Gen. Edward Mechenbier, the Air Force's last Vietnam-era former prisoner of war to serve in uniform. The banquet was also attended by International President, CMSgt (Ret) "Doc" McCauslin, International Auxiliary President, Mrs. Carol Ruholl, and International Chief Executive Officer CMSgt (Ret) Richard Dean.



Chapter President CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Division 7 President SMSgt (Ret) Fred Dembinski and International President CMSgt (Ret) "Doc" McCauslin present the Chapter Member of the Year award to SrA Jacquelyn Gannon.

**See Banquet, page 5**



CMSgt (Ret) Brad Denham returns to Chapter 751.



Maj Gen Ed Mechenbier addresses the audience.



## *A word from the President...*

*By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President*



It's difficult to squeeze everything that needs to be said into this newsletter. So let me jump right into it.

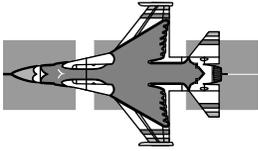
Thanks to those who helped make the awards banquet a great event. Thank you for sharing your precious time to celebrate the accomplishments of the Chapter's finest. That goes to the planning committee, volunteers and the people that came out to support their nominees and the Chapter.

I also need to announce changes to the executive council. Chapter members elected TSgt Stacie Parsons as Vice President. MSgt Brian Tobin, MSgt James Fuenfgeld, and SMSgt George Broome were elected as Trustees. Julie Durkee has stepped into the Secretary position. A1C Crystal Dean and A1C Angela Garcia were appointed as Airman Activities Coordinators and TSgt George Balderrama was appointed Chaplain. CMSgt (Ret) Andy Anderson is now the Membership Committee Chairman and TSgt Angela Gibson is the Fisher House Capital Fund Committee Chairperson.

Speaking of the Fisher House, page 3 has an article about our effort to raise money for the construction of a second Fisher House. Wherever you live, there's opportunity around you to make a contribution to this great cause. Reach out to other veteran groups and businesses in your area for donations. We in turn will be doing our part to publicize our campaign around Dayton and across AFSA. If you want to help, please contact us. I know we can do something great here. Doing great things just comes natural to Kittyhawk Chapter 751...thanks to you.



The 2008 Kittyhawk Chapter 751 Executive Council (from left to right): TSgt (Ret) Jeff Stepanek, MSgt Rolando Pabon, MSgt Brian Tobin, Ms. Julie Durkee, MSgt James Fuenfgeld, A1C Crystal Dean, MSgt (Ret) Geoff Oliver, A1C Angela Garcia, SrA Jacquelyn Gannon, SMSgt (Ret) George Broome, TSgt Stacie Parsons, CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia. Not pictured: SrA Rebecca Amusa, TSgt George Balderrama and CMSgt (Ret) Chuck Worm.



## ***A word from the Auxiliary President...***

*By Mrs. Julie Durkee, Chapter Auxiliary President*



Are you a family member of an enlisted Air Force service member, whether they are active duty, Guard, Reserve or retired? Do you have the occasional extra hour or two on your hands? Would you like to meet others working towards a common cause? Do you need, or want, to give some community service? Would you like to assist with some local events that the proceeds are used for the benefit of enlisted service members and their families at Wright-Patterson AFB?

Joining the Air Force Sergeant's Association is the answer. We assist with a wide variety of events throughout the year. To list a few: All American Evening for the Fisher/Nightingale Houses, hosting a Fairborn Chamber Chat, Commissary concessions during case lot sales, picnic for the Dayton VA Medical Center, Dayton Air Show, Freedom's Call Tattoo, and many more.

The auxiliary meets the 3rd Tuesday of every other month at 7 p.m., with the next meeting on April 15, in the Courtyard Room at the Wright Patt Club.

For more information, contact Julie Durkee at (937) 360-5178 or [julesafsa@gmail.com](mailto:julesafsa@gmail.com).

## ***Chapter Embarks on Year-Long Campaign for Fisher House***

*By TSgt Angela Gibson, Chapter Fisher House Capital Fund Committee Chairperson*

This is a project for you! Whether you drive by the Fisher House everyday or live thousands of miles away from Wright Patt, this is a project you can get involved in.

For those unfamiliar with the Wright Patt Fisher House, it is a compassionate care house, adjacent to the Medical Center. Often compared to a Ronald McDonald House, the Fisher House mission is to provide on-base refuge close to the Medical Center for patients and their families. The Medical Center draws patients from around the world; it is the second largest medical center in the Air Force. The House serves as a safe haven after those long days at the hospital, a place where they can rest and regain strength for the next day's challenges.

Another House will be constructed on base in 2008 to better meet the demand of America's heroes and their families. The Fisher House Foundation challenged the Wright Patt community to raise one million dollars towards this effort, most of which will come from corporate sponsors.

Chapter 751 will do its part by donating 10% of this year's usual fundraising to the Fisher House. Other events will raise money solely for the cause. You can make a donation or set up a fundraiser in your area. We can introduce you to other Chapter members in your area to help you out. You can do this, we can help; together we can do great things! Contact me at [AFSA751@yahoo.com](mailto:AFSA751@yahoo.com).

### ***Upcoming Events***

#### **General Membership Meetings**

1st Tue of every month, 11:30 am, Wright Patt Club

#### **Executive Council Meetings**

3rd Tue of every month, 5:30 pm, Wright Patt Club

#### **Auxiliary General Membership Meeting**

April 15 - Wright Patt Club, 7:00 pm

#### **Upcoming Chapter Events**

Mar 5 - Heroes Welcoming Heroes

Mar 22 - Highway Clean-Up

Apr 26 - Fisher House All American Evening

May 2-3 - Division 7 Convention

May 9-10 - Relay for Life

May 14 - Fairborn Chamber Chat

May 16-18 - Commissary Case Lot Sale

Jun 7 - VA Picnic

*If you would like more information or would like to donate time or money, please email us at [AFSA751@yahoo.com](mailto:AFSA751@yahoo.com).*



## ***You Have a Voice on the HCAC***

*By SMSgt (Ret) George Broome, Chapter Trustee*

I've been appointed to represent our 3000+ members and families, who are TRICARE beneficiaries, at the Healthcare Consumers Advisory Council (HCAC). The HCAC is a forum established by the 88th Medical Group to help them improve community health. The meeting is chaired by the Group Commander, Colonel Andrew Monteiro, Jr and is comprised of community-wide representation. Meetings are held quarterly and are open to the public. The first meeting I attended was held on January 24. The following were items discussed:

1. Primary Care: The Med Group is currently short providers due to deployments and PCSs but three providers are due to arrive around March or April. Other new initiatives to help access to care are underway. They are in the process of reorganizing the four primary care manager pods into two (Red/White now will be Red and Blue/Silver will now be Blue.) Additionally, a "Gold Track Clinic" was established in the emergency department for acute patients. These changes will provide you more availability for appointments with another provider if yours is not available. The changes should be seamless to patients; the

only difference might be where they check in for their primary care appointments. Col Monteiro adamantly expressed that you should never, never, never hear from an appointment clerk, "we don't have anything for you, can you call back tomorrow and check again". If you get this kind of response, he would like to know about it. Please contact me and I will forward your concerns.

2. Direct referrals are now possible for Dermatology and Physical Therapy clinics. This means you do not need a primary care referral for an appointment in these departments. This is based on current staffing in these areas and is subject to change if deployments or personnel assignments cause a drop in manning levels.

The next meeting is April 24 at 3:00 pm in the Medical Center Auditorium. Please feel free to send your comments, concerns or accolades to me and I'll pass them on to the council. You can reach me at [AFSA751@yahoo.com](mailto:AFSA751@yahoo.com)

We're your Air Force Sergeants Association, working for you; ensuring your voice is heard!

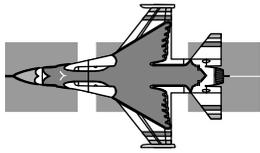
## ***Chapter Goes Outside Base Fence to Feed the "Fish"***

*By CMSgt (Ret) Chuck Worm, Chapter Senior Advisor*

In support of the Chapter's Thanksgiving Basket Program, the Wright-Patt Commissary prepared bags of non-perishable food items for patrons to purchase and place in a donation bin at the Commissary exit. After Thanksgiving, we discovered there were approximately 38 bags and some other food donations that had not been used. The Chapter decided to donate the items to a food pantry. However, the Fisher/Nightingale Houses food pantry on base was full from several other generous donations and the Airman's pantry no longer provides food items.

We then discovered the local Fairborn food pantry at the First Baptist Church Annex (called "Fish") had a real need for food items to cover their holiday requirements. The pantry is open twice a week and serves about 60 families per opening. They served over 280 families for Thanksgiving and they estimated serving another 200 families for Christmas.

On December 14, the food (valued at over \$400) was delivered to the pantry. Our donation helped meet their Christmas-time need and enhanced our relationship with the community.



## Banquet

Continued from page 1

Col Colleen Ryan, 88th Air Base Wing commander (and honorary Chapter President) and Chapter President CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia presented the following awards for outstanding contributions both on- and off-duty during 2007: **A1C Angela Garcia**, 88 DTS - CMSgt Kathy Ballard First Term Airman of the Year Award; **TSgt Tammy Shaw**, 88 DTS - CMSgt Claude Klobus NCO of the Year Award; **MSgt Rolando Pabon**, 88 DTS - CMSgt Ralph Schell Senior NCO of the Year Award; **SrA Wendy Abshire**, 88 DTS - Honor Guard Member of the Year Award; **TSgt Kristen TenWolde**, Air Force Band of Flight - Band Member of the Year Award; **TSgt Christopher Lykins**, 338th Recruiting Squadron - Recruiter of the Year Award; **MSgt Joseph Tharp**, 445th Maintenance Operations Flight - Reserve Member of the Year Award; **Mrs. Debra Beaumont**, wife of SMSgt Michael Beaumont, Air Combat Command Systems Office - Enlisted Spouse of the Year Award.

The Chapter also recognized members who made significant contributions to the chapter directly: **SrA Jacquelyn Gannon**, 88th Comptroller Squadron - Chapter Member of the Year; **SMSgt (Ret) Frederick Dembinski** - Chapter President's Award; **Mrs. Antonella Moore**, wife of SSgt Robert Moore, National Air and Space Intelligence Center - Auxiliary Member of the Year; **CMSgt (Ret) Bill and Lyndia Richard** - Exemplary Service Award for sustained photographic support; **CMSgt Jonathon Hake**, Command Chief, Air Force Materiel Command - Exemplary Service Award for leadership by example through personal support of the chapter.

Airmen Garcia and Gannon, sergeants Shaw and Pabon, and Mrs. Moore will represent Chapter 751 at the division level competition in May.



Chapter President Garcia, left, and International President McCauslin, right, present an Exemplary Service Award to CMSgt (Ret) Bill & Lyndia Richard



International Auxiliary President Carol Ruholl, left, and Chapter A751 President Julie Durkee, right, present Antonella Moore with the Auxiliary Member of the Year award.



AFSA International CEO CMSgt (Ret) Rick Dean unwinds after the banquet with CMSgt (Ret) Andy Anderson and CMSgt (Ret) Ralph Schell.



## ***Teamwork is Key at Annual VA Holiday Party***

*By CMSgt (Ret) Chuck Worm, Chapter Senior Advisor*



CMSgt (Ret) Chuck Worm, left, takes a break to visit with a Marine veteran during the VA Holiday Party.

Chapter 751 hosted their annual Veteran’s Administration Holiday Party on December 8 at the Dayton VA Community Living Center to show appreciation for what our veterans have done for our country. It was a great event thanks in large part to the contributions of the AF Association’s Wright Memorial Chapter, the Wright Patt Credit Union, Bellbrook High School AFJROTC cadets and the 445th Airlift Wing. Base commissary employees also donated lots of baked goods for the event and young musicians from the Greenon High School Band provided musical entertainment

throughout the party. Approximately 130 volunteers, representing 18 base and community organizations, joined in to help with the party.

The volunteers arrived early and were organized into teams to make sandwiches, slice baked goods, decorate, serve food, handout door prizes, visit and serve patients in nursing units. The 445<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing also brought a barber who gave free haircuts to the veterans. Colonel Colleen Ryan, 88th Air Base Wing Commander, was also there to take a turn in the serving line and visit with the veterans.

Over 150 patients and VA staff attended the festivities in the center’s cafeteria. Teams of volunteers also took food to many more patients in the six nursing home units who could not attend. The 445 AW, along with other organizations and chapter members, also brought loads of clothing, toiletries, books, coffee, and other items totaling over \$7,000 for the veterans.

Special thanks to all who donated time, baked goods and other items to our veterans to make this one of the best VA Holiday Parties ever.

## ***Tax is History for Retirees***

*By SMSgt (Ret) Fred Dembinski,  
Chapter Legislative Committee Chairman*

We did it! Pat yourself on the back if you answered our “call to action” to contact your Ohio legislator for support of House Bill 372. The bill was passed and signed into law by Governor Ted Strickland on December 20.

As a result, Ohio will exempt military retirement pay from income tax. The law took effect January 1, 2008. See the November 2007 edition of the *Kittyhawk Flyer* for other elements of the law that benefit AFSA members.

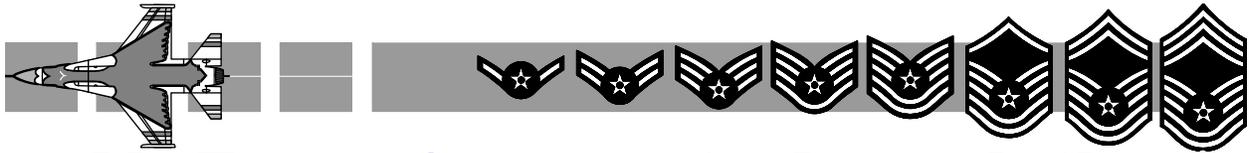
Just another way AFSA serves you!

## ***Division 7 Convention***

*By SMSgt (Ret) Fred Dembinski,  
Division 7 President*

This year’s Division 7 Convention will held May 2-3 at Wright Patterson AFB. This convention will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Division 7. Please plan on coming to the convention. Your first step is to fill out the registration form on page 7 or visit our website, [www.hcst.net/afsa751](http://www.hcst.net/afsa751), for the registration form and more information about the convention.

You can also contact me, Fred Dembinski, by email at [afsa751@yahoo.com](mailto:afsa751@yahoo.com) or by phone at (937) 255-6331.



# Air Force Sergeants Association

## 30th Annual Division Seven Convention

Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

May 2 - May 3 2008

Registration Package – Billeting required:

**Early registration by 21 April 08 - \$197.50**

(Includes 3 nights lodging (one room), 4 meals, refreshments, hospitality room, and registration)

Additional person registration with package = \$85

(Total registration package for two people = \$282.50)

**Registration after 21 April 08 - \$207.50**

Additional person registration with package = \$85

(Total registration package for two people = \$292.50)

Registration Package – No Billeting required:

**Early registration by 21 April 08 - \$85 per person**

(Includes 4 meals, refreshments, hospitality room, and registration)

**Registration after 21 April 08 - \$95 per person**

Name and address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Amount included: Package \$ \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional Person: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Included = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are a local attendee you have the option of attending individual events as listed below:**

Breakfast Only (Friday): \$ 12.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lunch Only (Friday): \$ 11.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Breakfast Only (Saturday): \$ 11.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Banquet Only (Saturday): \$ 26.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registration Fee: \$ 25.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Late Registration Fee: \$ 10.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (after 21 April 2008)

Individual events Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send payment and registrations to Frederick Dembinski, 712 Blazing Trail, Oregonia Ohio 45054  
 Make checks payable to: AFSA Division 7



## ***AFSA Membership: Serves You, Needs You***

*By CMSgt (Ret) Andy Anderson, Chapter Membership Chairman*

I need you to be a recruiter. AFSA should be the professional association of choice for all Air Force enlisted. I know I'm preaching to the choir but I would like to remind you of a few pluses in joining AFSA so that you can recruit a friend..

First of all, this is the only association whose entire mission is centered on your well being. Whether you are active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, retired, veteran, former enlisted, associate member or whatever; we represent your interests and defend your benefits and quality of life on Capitol Hill with our registered lobbyists. It doesn't matter if you have no stripes, 8 stripes or previously wore stripes...we represent you. We have been doing this for 47 years.

In today's world, with politics and the state of the world being the way it is, you need to have a strong representation on the Hill. If you don't, many currently holding office or hoping to hold office would erode your benefits. Your membership indicates you care about what happens to those benefits and gives us those all powerful numbers when we go door-to-door on the Hill to work a benefit or quality of life issue.

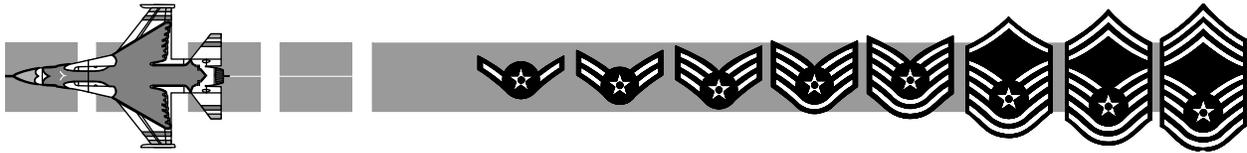


Hydra, the AFSA in Andy's dreams

AFSA is a two-headed Hydra, with one head being membership and the other being legislation; both are powerful and both require care and feeding. One cannot exist without the other in this association. We must be able to have both coexist with equal attention. With your membership and your help in recruiting, that can happen.

If you happen to not be a member, please find your unit AFSA representative or a Chapter officer and join with us in the fight. If you can't find a representative go to the AFSA website, [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org) and join that way.





## *Recipe for Resolution*

*By TSgt George Balderrama, Chapter Chaplain*

*Psalms 37:4 - "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart"*

As we begin a new year, there is a desire in our hearts to make some self-improvements: maybe lose a little weight, save a little money, give to charity, or attend church more often. Whatever we desire to change, each of us recognizes that change is necessary.

It's amazing, though, how quickly a "falling apple" and a "bottle of champagne" lose their power after December 31st. Where does that desire for change go on January 31st? How quickly we lose heart! Year after year, our list of "self-improvements" slowly finds their way under a pile of paperwork, a box in the garage or the trash can.

Who is to blame? It has to be someone's fault (but not ours). Let me make a suggestion...let's blame the MICROWAVE OVEN. Thanks to modern technology, my meal no longer requires "flavor"...just that my meal be "hot." Within seconds I can enjoy the best flavorless meal in the world. Thank God for Tabasco!

We have come to believe in "quick fixes", like the "7-minute ab" (it takes 8 minutes to get more than one "ab"). Unfortunately, to establish a "self-improvement" as a daily habit, it takes more than adjusting a power level or hitting the defrost button.

The next time you sit down for a real "home cooked" meal, take a moment to consider the extra time it took to prepare that meal to taste soooo good. Self-improvement will be equally satisfying if we admit that we'll need extra time to do it right.

Where do you think the desire to "improve" comes from? Your desires are God's desires. Let the "self-improvements" commence...and take your time to savor it!



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Visit the AFSA Kittyhawk Chapter 751 web page, [www.hcst.net/afsa751](http://www.hcst.net/afsa751), to learn more about Chapter activities.

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