



The Sijan Sentinel

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July 2024

WELCOME TO AFA
SIJAN CHAPTER #125



President: Caty Rozema
Vice President: Aaron Prupas
Secretary: Gayle Divine
Treasurer: Coen Williams

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Showing up is important!

If you've ever summited a 14er (or other tall mountain), you know the rush, pride, and joy it brings. The feeling is great because you know what it took to get there. You know how hard you worked for that summit. You celebrate how far you've come. And if you're lucky, you summit with someone to whom you can turn and relish your accomplishment. There may be strangers on that summit. You exchange knowing smiles, high fives, and perhaps even a photo. It feels good to celebrate with others.

On August 24, in Doolittle Hall on the Air Force Academy, we will celebrate the "summits" of outstanding Airmen, Guardians, civilians, teachers, and volunteers. They've worked hard to win these awards. They've pushed themselves to the top of their respective fields. Often, they experienced many peaks and valleys along the way.

Will you show up to help them celebrate? Will you be one of the people on that mountain top? Many of you are previous award winners in your respective fields. No one knows better the dedication and perseverance it takes to summit. Our winners would love to share a knowing smile with you, exchange a high five, and perhaps snap a photo.

To make the evening even more special, our guest speaker is multi-platinum award winning singer/songwriter, Air Force veteran, and author of the Space Force song, Jamie Teachenor. He knows a thing or two about what it takes to summit, and we can't wait to hear from him!

To show up, use this link to register: [2024 AFA Colorado State Banquet Registration](#)

If you can't be there in person, we would love to have your support through a donation so our winners can enjoy the evening free of charge. We will gladly recognize you or your company for "celebrating the summit" with them. Questions? Email or call me any time!

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Caty

Lance P Sijan Chapter Monthly Leadership Meetings

Every 2nd Tuesday of Month, 5:00PM, Visit our [website](#) for in-person location and online link
These are our regular business meetings, but all are welcome to listen in. It's a great way to learn more about what's happening inside Sijan and find out about volunteer opportunities.

OUT AND ABOUT WITH CATY



2024 Sijan Teacher of the Year

On July 11, I had the pleasure of presenting the Sijan Chapter Teacher of the Year award to Stacey Mishler of Mesa Ridge High School. Chosen by a committee of educators, Ms. Mishler was recognized for her outstanding dedication to STEM education, specifically focused on Aerospace. She's previously received the CU Boulder Outstanding High School Educator Award, the Grizzly Way Award (recognizing a staff member who embodies the traditions of respect, integrity, and excellence), and given Mesa Ridge's AVID Most Influential Teacher Award. Most recently, she recruited Mesa Ridge students to enroll in AeroLab Ground School Training, effectively launching the program. Some people are born to be educators. It's clear Ms. Mishler is one of them!

Her principal said it best: "Stacey Mishler embodies all that [the TOY award] hopes to foster in education, service, and STEM. Her legacy will extend beyond the students that she inspires, and generations of students and their children will attain their dreams due to her influence." Congratulations, Stacey! We look forward to celebrating YOUR summit in August!

USAFA Arnold Air Society Meeting

There are meetings, and then there are MEETINGS! On July 12, I had a MEETING! After a long week, I headed up to the Air Force Academy to meet with the USAFA Arnold Air Society detachment leaders. After a slight mishap, in which I went to the north gate, down to the south gate, then back up to Arnold Hall, I arrived, exhausted. Cadets Connor Song and Seth Allen were patiently waiting for me. For the next hour we introduced ourselves, talked about our goals, and exchanged ideas about partnership and mutual support. These young men are excited. They're passionate. They can't wait to dig in to do good things for the Academy and their community. Their area of focus: service!



Cadet Song was headed out to field training, so, "will be hungry for the next week." Cadet Allen was leaving for his summer break and said he'll miss the new cadets. I walked away already anxious for them to be back so we can roll up our sleeves together and get to work!

Before we left, we took a selfie with the painting of Lance P. Sijan that hangs in Arnold Hall. I sent it to Lance's wonderful sister, Janine, as a reminder that her brother's legacy is strong.

Keep your eyes peeled for information about the goodness we've got planned. We can't wait to serve YOU!

COMING UP

Summer isn't over yet and we've started planning for fall! **Be sure to visit our [website](#) for details on upcoming events or email us at LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com.** Your participation in these activities and events is a fantastic way to support our future leaders and connect with the local Air & Space Forces community!

- **8/14: IMAGE Golf Tournament**
- **8/24: Colorado State AFA Business Meeting**
- **8/24: Colorado State AFA Awards Banquet**
- **11/9: Screening of Sijan movie**

COMMUNITY PARTNER PAGE

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*As of 7/19/24

Become a Community Partner!

“Becoming a Community Partner is a great way to get your business involved with your local Air Force and Space Force community! For more than 40 years, businesses have been joining the Air & Space Forces Association to support both AFA National and local AFA chapters.

Not only does a Community Partner receive all the benefits of an AFA membership, such as a variety of product and service discounts, insurance programs, and much more, but the partner will also receive a wooden plaque with a date medallion and a window decal. These will show customers and clients that your business supports our troops!”

Category One (CP I) \$90.00 annually - Business can designate one person to receive AFA Membership and enjoy all benefits thereof.

Category Two (CP II) \$180.00 annually - Business can designate two people to receive AFA Membership and enjoy all benefits thereof.

Want to know more? Check out <https://www.afa.org/membership/community-partners>

CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- *To contact us or to be added to the Lance P Sijan chapter distribution list, please email us at: lancepsijanafa@gmail.org*
- *To update your contact information, email National AFA at membership@afa.org. Note that the chapter cannot change your email, mailing address, or other contact information. It must be done on your National membership profile.*
- *To join or renew your AFA membership, visit www.afa.org*
- *For details on AFA member benefits, visit <http://www.afa.org/afa/memberbenefits>*

Make sure you continue to receive our communications. You don't want to miss out on \$1 ice cream sundaes or any of the other exciting events we have in the works. Update your contact information today. Email National at Membership@afa.org.

While we can update our mailing list, Sijan representatives cannot update your official AFA contact information. You must contact National.

Do you know someone who would like to know about our events but isn't a member yet? We're happy to add them to our mailing list. Have them send a request to us at LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com.

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Do you like golf? Birthday parties? Races? Corn hole? We want to hear from you! *Send us a note, stop by an event, or join us for our monthly leadership meeting.*

Your AFA Sijan Chapter has opportunities for involvement in multiple areas, as little or as much as you would like. Areas of most need are in support of education and programming.

VOLUNTEER
you can make a difference!



CONTACT US!

Sijan Chapter

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AFA National

Website:

www.afa.org

The AFA is an independent, nonprofit, civilian education organization promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation. AFA publishes Air Force Magazine, conducts national symposia and disseminates information through outreach programs. It sponsors professional development seminars and recognizes excellence in the education and aerospace fields through national awards programs. AFA presents scholarships and grants to Air Force active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members and their dependents, and AFA awards educator grants to promote science and math education at the elementary, secondary, and high school level. Nationally, AFA has more than 100,000 active members. The AFA National Website is WWW.AFA.ORG

The Lance P. Sijan Chapter is one of the largest, most active chapters in AFA, with more than 1600 members. The Sijan Chapter, one of four AFA Chapters in Colorado, primarily focuses on support to the Colorado Springs area, including Peterson AFB, Schriever AFB, Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, and the USAFA. The AFA Sijan Chapter is proud of our rich heritage and strong support for the Colorado Springs Air Force community. We pride ourselves on active support to the local Colorado Springs "Air Force Family," providing approximately \$40,000 and thousands of volunteer hours in support annually!