



The Sijan Sentinel

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September 2024

WELCOME TO AFA
SIJAN CHAPTER #125



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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Last month we held our annual Colorado AFA state awards banquet, dubbed “celebrating the summit.” At the event, we recognized the best of the best active duty, civilian, volunteer, and educators from across the state. The theme was a nod to the incredible journeys they took to “reach the peak” by way of their nominations and awards.

It got me thinking about another saying, perhaps more suited for our Navy brethren, but which stuck with me... “the tip of the iceberg.” The awards packages we reviewed were impressive to say the least. They detailed how nominees go above and beyond in a myriad ways. I’m sure that’s just *the tip of the iceberg*; a full account of everything they do would take pages upon pages. Thanks to each of them for ALL they do... and again, congratulations!

For every nomination packet we received, I’m willing to bet there are dozens of other accomplished Airmen, Guardians, civilians, and teachers out there crushing it. We’re only seeing *the tip of the iceberg*. Thank you to everyone who serves in whatever capacity you serve. We know much of what you do may be below the surface, and we recognize your work!

The hours we spend volunteering at the Lance P. Sijan chapter are just *the tip of the iceberg*. There are hundreds of other AFA volunteers giving thousands of hours of their time around the world. It’s good to be part of such a dedicated team!

All this is to say there is an absolutely massive amount of goodness going on across our active duty, civilian, volunteer, and educator communities. We’re here for it! Thank you to each and every person who goes above and beyond, whether it’s “on the clock” or on your own time.



Do you want to join us? We would love to have you! Opportunities to serve include chapter treasurer, VP of membership, VP of programs, and VP of fundraising to name a few. They’re just *the tip of the iceberg*. Reach out to me with questions!

In service, Caty

OUT AND ABOUT WITH CATY

Right: Congratulations to Jeth Fogg our 2024 Lance P. Sijan scholarship winner! Jeth is currently attending Yale University, with a 4.0 grade point average. To give him his award, I met him at the Monument ice rink where he coaches hockey when he's home. Jeth hopes to pursue a career in law, and it sure seems like he is well on his way. Jeth-again, congratulations, and best of luck!

Want to know more about AFA's scholarships and other education opportunities? Check out [Educate - Air & Space Forces Association \(afa.org\)](#) or reach out to me at CO125.Sijan.President@afa.org.



Left: Congratulations to new Staff Sergeant Sharla Click, Lance P. Sijan Chapter member. Her promotion ceremony took place at Peterson Space Force Base on August 3, 2024.

We're so proud of you Sharla!!

COMING UP

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!

- 9/15 – 10/15: 5th grade Rocket Project, interested volunteers contact thomas.c.walker@lmco.com
- 10/4: Resilience and Wellness Summit
- 10/17: Birthday party at The Club on PSFB
- 10/18: USAFA Tour led by cadets
- 11/11: Screening of Sijan movie

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.

SIJAN SPECIAL FEATURE**Colorado AFA State Awards Banquet a “Summit” Success! – *By Linda Aldrich***

When you live in the mountains and you’re celebrating all the outstanding military folks who are the best of the best, it only makes sense to have “Celebrating the Summit” as the theme for the Annual Awards Banquet. On August 24th, the top three nominees in multiple Air Force (AF) and Space Force (SF) military and civilian categories from all over the state of Colorado came to the Doolittle Hall at the US Air Force Academy to be recognized by all the Colorado AFA chapters. Those nominees were chosen from a huge stack of recommendations narrowed down by a multi-chapter awards committee who were challenged to select only three nominees in each category because we all know how outstanding our personnel who serve the nation are. The final selections were in the categories of Cadet of the Year, Airman and Guardian of the Year, AF and SF Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year, AF and SF Senior NCO of the Year, First Sergeant of the Year, Company Grade Officer of the Year, Civilian Category I of the Year and Civilian Category II of the Year. As a side note, the SF Senior Enlisted Council offered our valet parking service and one of their eager volunteers was one of AFA National’s 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, Senior Airman Mariah Hayden!

Our emcee, Katy Rozema, National Aerospace Education Committee member, gave very specific directions to the commanders, first sergeants and co-workers who attended the banquet to support their nominee, that this wasn’t a time to be quiet. When their nominee was called up, they were to cheer loudly and let everyone know they supported their candidate—and that certainly proved to be true! All nominees received a certificate of congratulations and the winner in each category received a wooden handmade coin tray engraved with their name and the award. We recognized our Chapter and State Teachers of the Year (ToY) as well, with each receiving a Medal of Honor quotes book, personally autographed by Drew Dix, Medal of Honor Recipient. The books were presented by Mellissa Pfaff, our 2023 State ToY who placed third nationally and Robbie Ferguson, our 2022 State ToY, who placed second nationally. These two amazing educators then presented the jacket, certificate and check to our 2024 ToY, Daniel Langevin, from Aurora Central High School, Aurora, Colorado.

We didn’t forget about all of our amazing Colorado AFA volunteers! We announced all the National Chapter Awards in addition to recognizing our four National Medal of Merit recipients, Kenneth Bowens, Mark “Yak” Maryak, Katy Rozema and Patricia Swan. Colorado has several levels of chapter and state awards, and we made sure all the hours of devotion to the AFA mission were recognized with Chapter Citations, State Medals of Merit, State Exceptional Service Awards, State President’s Citations, and State Superior Excellence Awards. Our State Member of the Year, Linda Aldrich, was caught off guard by the announcement as she was busy at the awards table organizing all the awards for all the other presentations—which is a good example of why she was selected as member of the year!

In addition to the music and great food, another highlight for the evening was our guest speaker, Jamie Teachnor. Jamie has a lengthy and incredibly impressive resume as an AF Veteran and award-winning multi-platinum singer/songwriter with 23 years of success in the Nashville music industry. Jamie found his place in American Military history as the composer of Semper Supra, the official anthem for the sixth and newest branch of the US Armed Forces, the USSF. And we took full advantage of Jamie’s talents as he was not only our guest speaker, but he sang the National Anthem and led the singing of the AF and SF anthems.

An after-action report that says, “A good time was had by all,” would be an absolute understatement. The 2024 Colorado AFA State Awards Banquet was a fantastic event that definitely “Celebrated the Summit” of achievement for our military, government civilians, and AFA volunteers. What a great way to make sure our Colorado military units know what the AFA mission is and all that we do to educate, advocate and support them!

2024 COLORADO AFA STATE AWARDS BANQUET



Mitchell High School JROTC



Guest Speaker, Jamie Teachenor, and Mile High President honor Airmen and Guardian winners and nominees



Gayle Divine and Rick Peterson receive Presidential Citations



National Aerospace Education VP, Stephen Gourley, congratulates State and Chapter Teachers of the Year



Allie Darling presents the AFA Community Partner plaque to Douglas Kendall and Nashonna Windsor.

The Nothing Bundt Cakes (NbC) bakeries are a new Community Partner member with the Air & Space Forces Association Sijan Chapter. Its owners are the Father-Daughter team of Douglas Kendall and Nashonna Windsor. Their two bakeries provide a variety of delicious cakes, from small “Bundtinis” cupcake sizes, individual “Bundtlets”, and larger 8” and 10” cakes. And, they make everything from scratch, including the signature cream cheese and butter frosting—once you try them, you will be hooked! They also offer decorations on the cakes that are perfect for gifts, celebrations, holidays, and any occasion. Moreover, the bakeries are a one-stop boutique style store that offer unique gifts, cards, candles, and more.

This Father-Daughter team purchased the two NbC stores in October 2022 and have been involved in many Colorado Springs community activities and events and are strong supporters of the military community. Douglas is an Air Force veteran who retired in the Springs in 2008 with his wife after serving 30+ years in the Air Force in Engineering and Space Operations. Nashonna is “almost” a Colorado Springs native, having graduated from Liberty High School, earned two degrees from UCCS, and worked in the Colorado Springs public school system prior to working in the bakeries. She and her husband have two children—a daughter who enlisted in the Air Force in 2023 and a son who attends Doherty High School.

Douglas and Nashonna look forward to many years partnering with the Sijan Chapter of the Air & Space Forces Association. They love being part of the community and especially want to bring joy and delicious cakes to your celebrations!

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>

Please join the Lance P. Sijan AFA chapter for a

Date: Thursday, 17 October
Time: 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Location: The Club
at Peterson SFB
Questions? Caty Rozema
719-358-0223



Swing by, say hi, and grab a slice of cake on us!
The bar will be open for drinks and dinner.
We can't wait to see YOU!

Brought to you by:



Everyone is welcome!

Those with birthdays in Oct, Nov, or Dec can enter a raffle for Josh and John's ice cream!

CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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? Ball games? 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

Website:

www.lancepsijanafa.org



AFA National

Website:

www.afa.org

Email

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Mailing Address

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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!