

# Viper Vigilant

**Frank Luke Chapter 151**  
**Air Force Association**  
c/o 500 N. Estrella Pkwy, Ste B2, #613  
Goodyear, AZ 85338



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Supporting Air Force needs and Air Force people

October-December 2009

Viper Vigilant is published quarterly for the 2,200 members of the Frank Luke Chapter AFA. Copies are mailed to members without online access. Others may view the newsletter on the Chapter Website, [www.afaluke.com](http://www.afaluke.com). To submit items for publication, contact the VP/Communications.

## Chapter Council

President	Joseph Marvin	602-677-9761
Vice Pres	Ramon Barajas	623-856-6920
Treasurer	Sharon Marvin	623-853-0495
Secretary	Sarah Hood	256-453-3804
VP Aero Ed	Jerry Ashley	602-300-5666
VP Ldr Dev	Hank Reed	623-236-3527
VP Comm	Jodi Jordan	850-685-3169
VP ComPart	Luisa Bailey	623-846-7483
VP/Mbrship	Mads Brandt	480-473-9676
VP/Vets Aff	Ray Rodes	623-214-4873

## New Members

Welcome to the following new chapter members, and thanks to members renewing during the past quarter.

**Alpine** - Thomas Krach

**Anthem** - George Buchner

**Apache** - W. Yarbrough

**Avondale** - Miranda Rubio

**Chandler** - Jon King

**Fountain Hills** - Dennis Thompson

**Goodyear** - Elizabeth Burton

**Glendale** - Kristine Gamilla,

Verner Tye, Luke Wallerstedt

**Luke AFB** - David Trott,

Alan Voisine, Cory West

**Mesa** - Chester Sutherland

**Peoria** - Alan McClellan

**Phoenix** - Rodney Jones

**Salome** - Robert Heath

**Scottsdale** - John Eggen,

John Gross, Richard Reinhardt

**Sun City** - Gary Cox,

Paul Fisher, David Goff, W. Kuhn

**Surprise** - Joseph Bocanegra,

Jodi Jordan, Richard Smith

**Wellton** - Robert Whittington

## Chapter elects 2009-2010 officers

At the monthly meeting of the chapter executive council on Oct. 6, elections were held for president, vice president, treasurer and secretary.

All four incumbents were reelected for the year beginning Oct. 1, 2009, and took the oath of office from State President Harry Bailey.

National awards presented included the AFA Exceptional Service Award to Jerry Ashley, VP/Aerospace Education, and AFA Medals of Merit to Sharon Marvin, Treasurer, and Luisa Bailey, VP/Communications.

President Marvin recapped recent activity, including attendance by eight chapter delegates at the National Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition; sponsorship of and attendance at Luke AFB's Air Force Ball; support of the Visions of Exploration program at four local schools; and support of Luke Forward (see p. 3)

At the meeting held Nov. 12, President Marvin discussed the chapter's 2010 activity plan and presented a State Exceptional Service Award to Vice President Ramon Barajas.

All chapter members and guests are invited to attend council meetings held at 4 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. For exact location, go to [www.afaluke.com](http://www.afaluke.com) or call 623-853-0495.

## IRS expands AFA 501c(3) status to field

On Sept. 24, 2009, the IRS approved Hq AFA's Group Exemption Request to transfer its field organizations from IRS 501(c)(19) to IRS 501c(3) status.

This means that any donations or contributions made to AFA chapters may now be tax deductible.

Leaders in the field are asked to be cautious in making the transition to this new tax status.

They should make sure they understand, and comply with, all appropriate regulations and requirements concerning the new tax status.

Information will be distributed to the field in the coming weeks.

AFA first began the approval process in February 2005, when it restructured itself to include all members of the Air Force family, military and civilian.



Chapter officers pose with the chapter charter, presented by State president Harry Bailey (right). From left are Vice President Ramon Barajas, Treasurer Sharon Marvin, Secretary Sarah Hood, and President Joe Marvin

From the president

# What would you like to do?

This has been another great quarter for your Air Force Association Frank Luke Chapter.

AFA programs provide opportunities to advocate, educate and support our Air Force.

Briefings at the Airman Leadership School provided insight on the goals and mission of AFA to young airmen at Luke.

The chapter enrolled four AFJROTC units in the Visions of Exploration program, AFA's award-winning STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) effort in middle and high schools.

The chapter also checked in on support for the F-35 mission at Luke.

Our quarterly activity report resulted in the highest score granted by Headquarters.

We can do more for our Air Force and Luke AFB. Our 2010 Activity Plan has new stretch

goals, with opportunities to support our Air Force.

My question to you is, "What interests you, and what would you like to do?"

Attend an upcoming meeting.

Come help us take the Frank Luke Chapter to the next level in professional organizational excellence.

All we need is you!

Wishing you and yours the best of the holiday season!



**Joseph W. Marvin**  
Chapter President

Respectfully,

## ***In other news...***

### **Chapter Teacher of Year flies with Civil Air Patrol**

Luke Chapter's 2009 Teacher of the Year, Joanne Henning, on Nov. 23 received the Arizona Civil Air Patrol Wing's first introductory flight under the CAP's "Fly A Teacher" program.

CAP offers flights to teachers to help promote aviation and space, and to create an awareness of the importance of aerospace education for future citizens.

Henning, a 4th-grade teacher at Glendale Elementary School, won the chapter honor with her project teaching robotics, including the mechanics of flight.



Joanne Henning listens as pilot Rick Amundsen, 313th Civil Air Patrol Squadron, describes their flight plan in a Cessna 182T at Goodyear Airport.



Cynthia D'Amour, left, gets attendees involved in a training exercise demonstrating leadership strategies. From center are Harry Bailey, Birte Brandt, Sarah Hood and Joe Marvin.

### **Chapter group attends 'Lazy Leader' seminar**

Eight Frank Luke Chapter members were among some 40 attendees at a workshop led by Cynthia D'Amour, nationally known leadership coach, held Nov. 7 at Davis-Monthan AFB.

The former teacher and leadership expert travels around the country helping non-profit groups learn about growing their volunteer pools.

Luke Chapter attendees were Joe & Sharon Marvin, Sarah Hood, Rik & Birte Brandt, Jerry Ashley, and Harry & Luisa Bailey.

## F-35 update

### Luke makes cut for possible basing of Joint Strike Fighter

by Jodi Jordan

A new aircraft could soon call Luke AFB home, with an announcement last month that Luke is on the short list of candidates to base the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF).

The list of training base candidates, announced Oct. 29, includes Luke, along with Holloman AFB, N.M.; Boise Air Terminal Air Guard Station, Idaho; Eglin AFB, Fla.; and Tucson International Airport Air Guard Station, Ariz.

Five operations base candidates are Burlington International Airport Guard Station, Vt.; Hill AFB, Utah; Jacksonville International Airport Air Guard Station, Fla.; Mountain Home AFB, Idaho; and Shaw AFB/McEntire Air Guard Base, S.C.

The recent review of possible locations determined these 11 areas have the greatest potential to accommodate the training or operational mission for the F-35 Lightning II, according to Air Force officials.

With these factors in mind, Luke is looking like a real contender for the mission, said Steve Yamamori, executive director of Fighter Country Partnership, a community organization supporting the men, women, families and mission of Luke AFB.

"Things look great, in my opinion," Yamamori said during a recent Frank Luke Chapter meeting.

"We're on the short list, and we just need to make sure we're going out and educating our community on what receiving the F-35 would mean for Luke. It would be a huge economic impact for our area, and it would help secure Luke's mission of training the world's greatest fighter pilots and maintainers well into the future."

Fighter Country Partnership, a Chapter Community Partner, has pledged its support for the F-35. The organization, along with an association of local city governments, has developed a way for members of the community to make their voices heard in the selection process — a Website called "Luke Forward."

At [www.lukeforward.com](http://www.lukeforward.com), any citizen can register support for the F-35 at Luke.

Bullet points on the Website clarify the importance of this aircraft to the local community. Among these are:

- The presence of Luke and other military bases in Arizona significantly contributes to the state and local economies. In fact, the military industry is one of Arizona's largest employers. Luke AFB alone contributes more than 8,000 jobs and \$2 billion annually to our state's economy.

If selected as an F-35 training base, Luke will likely receive up to \$150 million in construction-related projects to support the new mission.

- Over the last decade, Arizona's federal, state and local representatives have laid the groundwork to protect Arizona's military installations. Through these efforts, West Valley communities have strategically positioned Luke to be selected for the F-35 training mission, thus retaining one of the state's employer for years to come.

- Historically, West Valley cities and the state of Arizona have been strong supporters of Luke. As a result, many West Valley cities have revised their development plans

and/or set aside property in the area in order to protect Luke's training mission. Recently, the City of El Mirage has raised concerns regarding the potential noise and development impacts the F-35 may have on their community. In reality, this is old news. El Mirage has been complaining about these same issues for decades. (According to the West Valley View newspaper, the city threatened to sue the base for \$1 billion in 1988.) Other than requesting \$500 million from the federal government this time

around, El Mirage has yet to identify potential solutions to this local issue.

With the selection of the candidate bases now released, the next step is a formal environmental impact analysis process and site assessments. These assessments will allow communities around each candidate base to participate and provide input into the environmental impact analysis.

Chapter members will be kept informed of opportunities to participate in the formal assessments as they are announced. Based on the results of these efforts, officials expect to announce the JSF preferred locations in late spring 2010.

Once the formal environmental impact statements are complete, Air Force officials will issue the Records of Decision and announce the final basing decisions. This is expected in early 2011.

Selection criteria includes airspace, flight training ranges, weather, support facilities, runways, taxi ramps, environmental concerns, and military judgment factors such as combatant commander requirements, aircraft retirements and delivery schedules, aircraft maintenance and logistics support, and integration with Air National Guard and Reserve.



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### Quarterly Awards

Brig. Gen. Kurt Neubauer, left, 56th Fighter Wing commander, poses with award winners at the wing's quarterly awards luncheon at the Thunderbolt Club, Luke AFB, on Nov. 5. The chapter supports the quarterly and annual events. Chapter Community Partner John Nix, GEICO Insurance, donates gift cards to the top enlisted winners.

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## Chapter welcomes new Community Partner

Sonoran Technology and Professional Services in Goodyear is the Frank Luke Chapter's newest Community Partner.

The firm was founded in 2007 by Air Force retirees Paul A. Smiley, president/CEO, and Peter D. Ehrenfield, regional director, in response to the federal government's growing demand for service-disabled/veteran-owned small businesses capable of providing a variety of professional services.

The company has grown from four to more than 30 employees in five states, with offices in Chicago and Newport News, Va., besides Goodyear.

As a prime contractor, Sonoran Technology has established a reputation as one of the premier small businesses in the southwestern United States.

Recently it was awarded the Small Business



Administration's 2009 Veteran Small Business Champion Award for Region 9, which includes Hawaii, California, Nevada and Arizona.

Smiley says, "The award highlights not only our success, but our commitment to mentoring and helping other service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses."

Sonoran Technology is located at 15655 W. Roosevelt St., Ste. 201, Goodyear, AZ 85338

For information, visit the organization's Website, [www.sonorantechology.com](http://www.sonorantechology.com).

Smiley can be reached by phone at 623-932-7926, or email at [psmiley@sonorantechology.com](mailto:psmiley@sonorantechology.com).

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## Council members recognized for chapter volunteer efforts



Jerry Ashley, left, receives his AFA Exceptional Service Award plaque from Chapter President Joe Marvin



Joe Marvin, left, presents Ramon Barajas the Arizona State Exceptional Service Award plaque



Sharon Marvin, center, receives the AFA Medal of Merit from Harry Bailey, left, Arizona State president, and Chapter president Joe Marvin

Annual Hq Air Force Association awards earned for service during the 2008-09 operating year, announced during AFA's national convention in September, were presented to three chapter members in October.

Gerald T. "Jerry" Ashley, VP/Aerospace Education, received AFA's Exceptional Service Award.

The AFA Medal of Merit went to Sharon Marvin, chapter treasurer, and Luisa Bailey, VP/Communications. The awards were presented during the chapter's Oct. 6 meeting.

At the Arizona State quarterly meeting, held in Tucson on Nov. 7, state awards were announced for nine members of Arizona's four chapters.

State Exceptional Service Awards went to Frank Luke chapter's vice president Ramon Barajas and Ray Rodes, VP/Veterans Affairs.

Barajas' plaque was presented during the chapter's Nov. 12 meeting.

Rodes, absent because of his wife's illness, will receive his plaque at the next chapter meeting .

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## Chapter Community Partners

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\*Newentry



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**Clayton Tew, Program Mgr**

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**Yucca Dist, 5850 W. Glendale Ave., Gld 85301, 623-930-2260**

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#### **CITY OF LITCHFIELD PARK - Mayor Thomas L. Schoaf**

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### CONVENIENCE ITEMS

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**Joanne Longie, VP/Operations**

9240 E. Raintree Dr, Scottsdale AZ 85260 - 480-477-1000

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#### **U.S. REP. JOHN SHADEGG - Joan Hosey, 602-263-5300**

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Air Force Association FRANK LUKE CHAPTER

## AFA urges contacting Senators on VA, TRICARE health care

Recently, the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed a wide-ranging health care reform package that is likely to affect most Americans.

The Senate is already bracing for the debate that is sure to come, and the Air Force Association is doing its part to advocate on behalf of military retirees and veterans, who also stand to be affected by this legislation. AFA will continue to remind Congress that VA health care and TRICARE are earned benefits as a result of the adverse conditions of military service. Though the reform legislation does contain provisions that are designed to ensure the impact upon veterans and military retirees is minimal, there are ways this legislation could better serve those who have served our nation.

AFA would like you to write your Senators and make these points:

- The House bill labels VA healthcare and TRICARE as “qualified” coverage. If you have it, you will not have to pay a tax — and any Senate action needs this same provision.
- The House bill should explicitly have language which makes it the responsibility of the VA and the DOD to provide health-care for members of the military and veterans and their families. (It presently does not, and our fear is that these programs could be shifted to the Department of Health and Human Services in the future.)
- The House bill provides tax credits to low income persons to purchase insurance. We believe these credits should be available to veterans who need to buy additional insurance.

**Bottom line:** TRICARE works; keep it separate from any so-called public option. Don’t tax it; it is a benefit earned from years of service and sacrifice.

As a reminder, all letters should be mailed to the Senators’ local offices and faxed to their Washington offices. Local Senate office addresses are on p. 7; fax Senator McCain at 202-228-2862; Kyl, 202-224-2207.