

Minnesota Flight Log

E.W. Rawlings Chapter 213
Air Force Association
Twin Cities, Minnesota

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Educate ■ Advocate ■ Support ■ U.S. Air Force

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Minnesota Flight Log is published quarterly for the members of the Rawlings chapter of AFA. Members may view the newsletter on the Chapter website: www.rawlings-afa.org. To report problems or to submit items, call Bob McGonigal at 952.884.1625 or email him at mcgonigal67@earthlink.net.

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VP Govt Rel	Julie Eszlinger-Jensen	651.297.8818
VP Mbrshp	Bob McGonigal	952.884.1625
VP Vets Aff	Julie Eszlinger-Jensen	651.207.8818

Community Partners

- Railside Tap and Grill – 37th and Minnehaha, Minneapolis www.railsidebarandgrill.com
- Aeventium Labs
- USA Today Newspaper
- D.E. Larson Family
- James Industries
- Kargeo Research

Calendar of Events

- Apr. 8 Chapter Meeting
- Apr. 26 **Annual Awards Night**
- May 13 Chapter Meeting
- May 17 largest flyover St Paul - noon
- June 10 Chapter Meeting
- July 8 Chapter Meeting
- July 11-14 Anoka Blaine Aviation Days
- Aug 16-17 Wings of the North Air Expo/Lakeville

Web site of interest:

www.elgin.af.mil/units/rao/index.asp

Visions of Exploration Teacher of the Year

The 2007-2008 Rawlings Teacher of the Year is Patricia Georg. Mrs. Georg is a teacher at Franklin Elementary in Anoka, MN, and has been actively involved with the Visions of Exploration Program for over five years.

This school year, the Chapter is sponsoring 145 classrooms in the Visions of Exploration Program. Throughout 16 years of participation, the Rawlings Chapter, along with the Air Force Association and USA TODAY, has teamed up to encourage the nation's elementary, middle, and high school students learn skills necessary for success in Math, Science, Technology, Language, Geography, and History.

This is an easy opportunity for you to get involved with your chapter. Sponsor a classroom in your area, get credit as an AFA member, and get the word spread about the Air Force Association and its objectives within the community. Sponsorship cost to you is \$94 per classroom and it is tax deductible. Each sponsored classroom receives 30 copies of USA TODAY one day a week for 18 weeks. You can choose the school and teacher, or give us an area and we will place it for you.

If you are interested, contact Kimberly Orth at 651.636.4100, ext. 621, or korth@usatoday.com. Kimberly will answer any questions and get you started!



AFA MISSION

The Air Force Association **educates** the public about the critical role of aerospace power in defense of our nation, **advocates** aerospace power and a strong national defense, and **supports** the U.S. Air Force and the Air Force family.

2nd Qtr Newcomers

Welcome to the following new chapter members, and thanks to those who renewed their membership during the past quarter. End of March membership was 951.

Angel Adams	Minneapolis
Doug Ballinger	Woodbury
Cody Benoy	Marine St Croix
Jonas Bergen	Spring Valley
Roger Brogren	Mahtomedi
Brad Byington	St Paul
Jerry Cagle, II	Cottage Grove
Richard Crippen	Lakeville
Theodore Dinkolman	St Paul
Vinson Doble	Arden Hills
Deanna Foty	Minneapolis
Ron Freiheit	Owatonna
Brenton Glaus	St Paul
Rober Grommesch	Burnsville
Thomas Iannelli	Coon Rapids
Craig Ingralson	St Paul
Isaac Kuecker	Rochester
Richard Mansfield	Faribault
Robert McCollister	Edina
Tyler Metz	Minneapolis
Mark Philbrook	Monticello
Ryan Pittman	Maple Grove
Kelly Polsgrove	St Paul
Heidi Priestley	Woodbury
Robert Rindal	Hugo
Patrick Ryan	St Paul
Chandra Sanders	Cottage Grove
Nathan Schultz	Morgan
Timothy Seelhoff	Bloomington
Doug Stropes	Little Canada
Mike Thibodo	Shoreview
Nicholas Westing	Pine City
Tom Yurcins (now deceased)	Lakeville

Combat Related Special Compensation

Some Veterans may find this website page of interest: www.ask.afpc.Randolph.af.mil/crsc/default.asp?prods=2039&prods2=39&prods1=144&p_cats=144

It deals with the restoration of pay reduced by VA compensation.

Junior ROTC

After a very cold, teeth-chattering week, Mother Nature saw fit to warm up the Twin Cities to 20 degrees on a Friday and the AFJROTC Wolfpack departed to Cretin-Durham Hall Upper Midwest competition with nine other high schools from the Twin Cities area, plus Fargo, North Dakota.

The girls on the drill team endured a tough Marine Drill Sergeant's close and long inspection of uniforms, causing several to lock their knees and pass out. Then it was time to perform – and perform they did – well enough to earn a 3rd place finish in Drill, under the command of Mary Dinneen. This is a first for the Park AFJROTC Wolfpack drill team. Congratulations team.

The Color Guard, under the command of Tyler Laplante, gave a flawless performance that earned them first place. Another first for the Park AFJROTC Wolfpack Color Guard at this drill meet! *(by MSgt Jerry Ellis)*

Wings of the North

Air Expo 2008 will be held August 16 and 17 at the Airlake Airport in Lakeville. The venue is different from last year. As always, you can expect the WOTN Board of Directors to do an outstanding job. They are very committed to providing all the aircraft, special VIPs, An Evening with Eagles Dinner, vendors, displays, kids activities; rides in a B17, antique aircraft, helicopter family airplanes; and meeting aviation heroes, just as they have in the past.

They need volunteers to run the event. Volunteering puts you inside the event, and you get special activities like the Friday night BBQ with the VIPs and other visiting pilots, the volunteer picnic in the fall.

For more information, go to their website: www.wotn.org, and click on the links to find the Volunteers page for their current schedule of meetings. Spread the word. For more information, email info@wotn.org, or phone 952.746.6100.

Air Warrior Foundation



The Air Warrior Courage Foundation is one of the organizations that the General EW Rawlings Chapter of the Air Force Association contributed money, in FY 08. To see the full scope of their activities, go to <http://ecom.cos.net/rrva/awcf> and follow the links to their programs: Medical, Disabled Kids, Troop Support, or General Information.

The Medical aspect of the Foundation supports fellow aviators suffering from Lou Gerhig's disease (ALS). It has expanded to include assistance to military families who have been faced with extraordinary medical expenses to take care of a particular illness, injury, or disability.

Two recent examples of medical support are: 1) funding of experimental cancer treatments of a retired military spouse, and 2) funding a health insurance policy and certain living expenses for a military family while the mother of several children was too ill to work and the father was in training for a new job that would support the family following her untimely death.

The Disabled Kids facet of the Foundation assists the children of our Nation's military that were not covered by the CHAMPUS medical program. Two programs that are funded are Therapeutic Riding, and Vision-Enhancing Technology.

The Troop Support component of the Foundation, in part, includes supplying food, clothing, kitchen equipment, and other needed items to orphanages, schools, and hospitals. The Foundation also supplies pillows and the like for use in military hospitals, playing cards, and other items for use in the troops' spare time.

**SALUTE TO MILITARY WOMEN OF WWII
MAY 8 – 934th AW Officers' Club Lunch
Contact Julie Eszlinger-Jensen (pg 1)**

AFA's North Central Region Workshop

Our 2008 North Central Region (NCR) AFA Workshop will be held in Sioux Falls, SD, on Friday, May 9, and Saturday, May 10. We are looking forward to having at least a couple of representatives from each of our state and chapter organizations.

Arrangements for lodging have been made with the Sheraton Hotel. It is a first-class hotel located near the airport and our SDANG base; those of you who came to SF 3-4 years ago remember staying at this hotel. They are giving us their military rate: \$76.24 (includes all taxes). Normal room rate runs from \$92 to \$140 dollars per night.

Ronald W. Mielke is your point of contact for making lodging reservations. Please e-mail him the dates that you want to reserve a room for you and/or your spouse or significant other. He will give the hotel the rooming list and share the lodging information back with each individual who requests a room.

There will be some type of event on Friday evening that will probably start about 6:30 p.m. We are still exploring options. Our meeting on Saturday will probably run from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and we will have a dinner/event on Saturday evening.

Judy Church, our National Treasurer, will be our representative from the National AFA organization. Judy and her husband will be joining us Friday evening and all day Saturday.

Questions? Email Glenshull@yahoo.com

Workshop cancelled

Chapter Giving

Approved giving through end of quarter 2:

• U of M ROTC Scholarship Program	\$10,000
• U St T ROTC grants & programs	5,000
• CAP cadet programs	5,000
• ACE Academy	5,000
• Tolzmann's Boxing	500
• MN AC for Veterans	500
• Air Warrior Courage Foundation	500
• St. Alberts Church	500
• Visions of Exploration	up to 12,000
• Twin Cities Science Fair	500



Above – Vic Seavers (R) presents \$500 check to Juan (boxer) (L) and Mrs. Tolzmann (C)

Their thank-you note:

“Hello Mr. Vic Seavers & Mr. Glen Shull (AFA),
I just want to thank you and your organization for your extremely kind supportive donation of \$500.00 to our program. All the support you have shown us (previous donation of \$1000.00) has made a tremendous difference in our program. Though your monetary support is greatly appreciated, your individual personal support of our program is more important – it means a lot that you believe in what we are doing.

I also want to thank you for making both my wife and student-member (Juan) so very welcome at AFA's monthly meeting. Juan is one of several wonderful young men in our program with so much potential. I am very proud of Juan's progression and life's decisions since he has been a part of our family. With the correct support and structure, I believe Juan and others in our program will reach whatever goals they set forth. I look forward to the day when I can observe Juan and others as admirable productive citizens doing the same type of mentoring work that was given to them. That will be the true success of our program! Your kind and supportive words to Juan mean more than you will ever know; experiences like this help young people make positive life decisions. Thanks again!”

Scott Tolzmann - Executive Director
Tolzmann's Twin Cities Boxing
(Corner of 37th Ave. & North Penn)
2211 37th Ave. N.
Minneapolis, MN 55412
Ph# 651-442-0173

Armed Forces (Service) Center

The AFSC published the following websites regarding inquiries about airfare assistance for siblings of servicemen that have died overseas. In the event family members need flight support to get to the funeral, these organizations will be able to provide the assistance needed. They can also help with flights needed for R&R personnel or families trying to visit combat wounded:

- www.Heromiles.org
- www.SoldiersAngles.org
- www.veteransairlift.org

In addition, the Veterans Airlift Command 952.582.2911 may also be able to provide air support to soldiers and their families. The VAC is a MN not-for-profit organization that connects pilots, plane owners and others who work together to provide air transport and related ground transportation to and from medical centers. As of 22 Jan 08, the priority is for OIF/OEF military personnel and their families. *by Debra Cain, Executive Director, 612.726.9156 website: mnafsc.org*

Military Action Group

The MAG meeting on Jan. 14 was a short one due to the fact that there was a Joint House and Senate committee meeting dealing with Veteran and Military Affairs also scheduled that day. At the meeting, Chip Laingen was introduced as the facilitator of the MAG group. He will pilot our efforts. The rest of the meeting was spent working with the MAG 2008 Organizational Summary handout that was distributed at the meeting. The handout addressed items such as the MAG Mission Statement, membership details, schedule details, communication channels, legislative leads, information on the legislative schedule, a link to 2008 proposed legislation, and a list of MAG initiatives.

Interested in knowing what the proposed legislation is?

Contact Julie Eszlinger-Jensen at the number on page 1.



Vic Seavers, President of the Gen. EW Rawlings Chapter of the AFA (right) presenting a check for \$5,000 to Col Stephen G. Miller, Commander of the MN Wing of the CAP (center) as LTC Doug Kilian, MN Wing Director of Cadet Programs (left) looks on. The donation is to support the 2008 MN Cadet Encampment and the 2008 MN Flight Academy.

Presentation was at the MN Wing CAP Mission Aircraft Maintenance Facility. Col Seavers had a tour of the Gippsland GA8 aircraft, the ARCHER (Airborne Real-time Cueing Hyperspectral Enhanced Reconnaissance) System, a Garmin G-1000 Flight Instrument (glass cockpit) equipped Cessna 182 aircraft and a standard Cessna 182 T.

The Cadet Encampment is a one week training program concentrating on leadership, aerospace indoctrination, drill, and moral leadership training held at a US military facility.

The Flight Academy is a one week concentrated flight training program held at Mankato Airport. CAP Cadets receive training toward their solo in a sailplane or powered aircraft. Many cadets solo during the week.

The MN Wing of the CAP appreciates the long time support of cadet activities provided by the Rawlings Chapter.

By Kevin Sliwinski

Retiree Appreciation Day

The Joint Retiree Appreciation Day (JRAD) is planned for Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008, at Mystic Lake Casino. It runs from 0730-1600 and will include a continental breakfast and lunch. Keynote speaker is Chaplain LTC Col John Morris of the Minnesota National Guard.

Col. Morris served in Iraq and is an advocate of the MN Guard *Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program*. This program is designed to ease the transition from warrior back to citizen. Other speakers at the JRAD will be Tricare, Tricare for Life, DFAS, MOA, TREA, Social Security, Long Term Care, Legislative Issues, Casualty Assistance, Identity Theft, VA, Delta Dental, Space A Travel and Lodging, and other organizations of interest.

2009 AFA's Top Issues

Prosecuting the Global War on Terror – Importance of the Air Force Role

- Support our troops who are fighting the Global War on Terrorism.
- Fully fund the needs of the Air Force to enable it to fulfill its vital role.

Invest in Air Force Capabilities

- Allocate an extra \$20 billion a year over the next 20 years.
- Apply additional resources to increase the procurement rate of all types of aircraft.
- Allow the Air Force to manage its fleet and rid itself of many low-value, high-cost aircraft to modernize the Force.
- Clear the red tape and get the CSAR-X on the ramp without delay.
- Fund ISR systems in greater numbers and provide capability upgrades.

- Designate the Air Force as the executive agent for UAV systems above 3,500 feet.

Support Air Force People

- End the practice of having airmen serving in place of ground forces and permit their return to their specialties.
- Raise the manning authorizations cap to ensure a balanced force.
- Establish the Common Battlefield Airman Training Program.

Strengthen the Foundation through Education, the Industrial Base & Technology

- Invest in technical education to build the support foundation the nation needs.
- Continue and expand national programs encouraging the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- Increase funding to permit a 3 percent investment in Science and Technology.

Preserve the Total Force

- Compensate, equip and man the Guard and Reserve in consonance with their increased contribution to the Total Force.

Retiree Appreciation Day (cont)

There will also be a variety of display tables for various military related groups. For additional information and a registration form go to:

www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil/library/retireactivitiesoffice.asp or call the AF ROA at

612.713.1516 or toll free 1.800.231.3517, or the Navy RAO at 612.726.9391.

Legislative Initiatives for 2008

GOVERNOR PAWLENTY ANNOUNCES 35 INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT VETERANS AND THE MILITARY – November 12, 2007

~ \$51 million package includes military income and pension tax exemption ~

Saint Paul – Building on his foundation of support for military families and veterans, Governor Pawlenty today announced 35 initiatives to provide additional services and assistance for those who have courageously served in the nation's armed forces and for Minnesotans now on active duty. The \$51 million package will be presented to the legislature when it convenes in February, 2008.

“We need to say ‘thank you’ to our veterans not just with our words, but by our actions,” Governor Pawlenty said. “We must continue to show our gratitude for the more than 400,000 veterans who make Minnesota their home. I again look forward to bipartisan legislative support for these initiatives.”

The Governor's package includes 15 new initiatives and 20 proposals to continue or expand existing programs and services for veterans and military personnel. Combinations of on-going and one-time funds are proposed to finance the initiatives.

The Governor's 2008 Military and Veterans Support Package includes proposals to expand and enhance veterans services, address tax issues, provide additional educational benefits, and advance initiatives focused on businesses that employ veterans.

100% Exemption from State Income Tax for Military Pay and Pensions

To reward their service, help recruit future soldiers, and to encourage veterans to make Minnesota their home, Governor Pawlenty proposes to fully exempt military income and pensions from state income tax.

Minnesota soldiers and veterans would be allowed to subtract 100 percent of their pay for military service, military pensions and retirement payments when computing state income tax. These payments are currently considered taxable income. Current members of the military, military retirees and survivors of military retirees will be allowed to claim the exemption. It also covers the pay of all active duty service members who claim Minnesota as their state of residence.

Minnesota's tax law previously provided for military pension exclusion for veterans of up to \$11,000. This exclusion was repealed in 1987. Forty-two other states currently have some degree of tax exemption for military pensions. The exemption will be phased-in over a four year period and is expected to save veterans and military members \$6.3 million in taxes in the first year (FY 2009) and approximately \$25 million annually (FY 2012) when fully phased-in.

Military and Veteran Services

For the entire listing, call or send me an e-mail, and I will forward a copy of these 35 items. Bob McGonigal



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