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"PETE" KNIGHT CHAPTER SAYS "THANKS" TO IT'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS

BAE SYSTEMS



# PETE KNIGHT'S AIRPLANE WASH



26 March 2010

## Words From the President

Dear Advocates and Friends of Edwards Air Force Base, Plant 42 and the US Air Force:

**CALIFORNIA STATE CONVENTION (CAFA):** We have a great opportunity to show Edwards and the Air Force how much we support them by attending the 2010 California Air Force Association (CAFA) Annual State Convention. The convention takes place June 10-12 at Beale Air Force Base. Participating in this event is a great way to demonstrate our support of our Air Force and allows us to get up close and personal to some of the outstanding men and women of our Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. We encourage you to attend and tell all of your friends. See our website for reservation info.

### AFFTC COMMANDER'S RE-

**CEPTION:** MG David Eichhorn, Commander of the Flight Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base has invited all of the members of the Pete Knight Chapter to attend a reception at the Commander's Home the end of June. Please keep an eye out for the invitation as soon as all of the details have been worked out.

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS:** I want to express my deep appreciation to our 35 Community Partners and the great support they give our Pete Knight Chapter and Edwards Air Force Base. You are indeed the foundation for what makes our Chapter one of the best in the Air Force Association. Your membership demonstrates to both the Leaders at Edwards and the entire United States Air Force a very high level of community support for

the base and the Air Force. **MEMBERS:** We appreciate all of you and encourage you to not only to continue your membership, but also to recruit all of your friends and associates to become a member. The Air Force Association is THE leading advocate for our United States Air Force in the Nation's Capitol. (On The Hill). The Air Force Magazine provides the best and most timely information to all Active, Reserve, Guard, Civilian, Contractor, and supporters of the Air Force.

**YOUR BOARD:** You and I are truly blessed with a hard working and dedicated Board of Directors. THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE BOARD.

Rex Moen

## 2010 Edwards AFB Awards Banquet

The William J. Pete Knight chapter teamed up with Crazy Otto's Restaurant to help subsidize the 2010 Air Force Flight Test Center's Awards Banquet, where AFFTC recognizes and honors their 2009 military and civilian award winners. Crazy Otto's offered to do-

nate the profits from breakfast and lunch from their operations at Edwards AFB on 16 Feb and Rosamond on 19 Feb. Several Pete Knight members showed up at both events, and at least two members showed up who learned about the event from our emailing to all the members. Anyway, the Pete Knight Chapter promised to help advertise the operation and donate funds to the Awards banquet committee.



Leigh refreshes memories with one of the nominees, Maj DeeAnn Slover from the AFFTC Protocol Office.



Rex talking politics (I guess) with Pete Amaya, BGen Hogue and an unidentified attendee.

Crazy Otto raised and donated over \$300 and Chapter 294 contributed the remainder of the pledge for a total amount of \$1000. The actual banquet occurred Friday 12 March and was well attended by members of the Pete Knight board as well as a number of other standing members. The Chap-



LA County Board  
Of Supervisors

The Charles  
Wallasch Family



Devonshire  
Inn and Motel.  
Rosamond CA.



## PETE KNIGHT'S AIRPLANE WASH

The Antelope Valley weathermen served lots of cold windy weather the first quarter of 2010, much to the chagrin of the organizations who had sponsored airplanes at the Joe Davies Airpark in Palmdale. Somehow Paul Vitale and Randy Kelly ("the force of 2") were listening to the wrong radio program and expecting a beautiful "globally warm Saturday" showed for the 9 Jan 2010 plane wash. Since the local conditions were conducive to the solid form of dihydroben monoxide, Paul and Randy chose not to wash the plane, but to weed instead. They tackled a particularly prolific "desert plant" that was not supposed to be part of the landscaping, but (until that day) asserted it's primacy under the Pete Knight F-100 right wing. What started out as a "trim the dead stemectomy" rapidly decayed into a complete transplant (into the trash). Although it can't be confirmed, there was a rumor that somebody impersonated a late Hollywood celebrity.

The February plane wash was cancelled by city of Palmdale because of cold, rainy, windy weather. (Fortunately,



Paul "standing by" to provide scale for the "before" and "after" photos of the Jan "bush removal" party.

Randy was on an extended business trip back East and couldn't be accused of acting silly in public again ;-)

Fortunately, warm weather returned and rumor has it "the usual suspects" turned out again for the March plane wash. (Except for Randy—who was still back on the East coast. Unfortunately, nobody remembered to take any pictures.

Anybody interested in helping clean up around Pete's F-100 (or any of the other aircraft) can check the washing schedule either on the chapter website at [antelopevalleyafa.org](http://antelopevalleyafa.org) or the Joe Davies Heritage airpark site at [cityofpalmdale.org/airpark/](http://cityofpalmdale.org/airpark/). Normally

washdays are the 1st Saturday of the month.



Paul "the Don" Vitale told me to put this photo in, but I have no clue why?



--Free Admission--

EAFB Museum Open  
Tuesday – Saturday 9 am.  
to 5 pm  
Please contact EAFB Public Affairs prior to your visit, to arrange base access.  
Phone: (661) 277-3510

Blackbird Airpark Open  
Friday – Sunday 10 a.m. to  
5 p.m.  
2503 E. Ave P. Palmdale

### AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

The Air Force Association is an independent, non-profit, 501(c)3 civilian organization promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the role it plays in USA National Security.



NASA DRYDEN  
FLIGHTLINE  
TOURS

Most Weekdays -- 10:15  
By Reservation

Contact NASA Public Affairs to make  
arrangements: (661) 276-3449

### SPIDERMAN WANTED ALIVE by WJPK Chapter

Got talent taking pictures, writing story lines and spinning webs? Great!! We really really need a volunteer to feed us pictures and stories for our newsletter and website. Call or Email Randy Kelly if you're interested.

### TIDBITS RETIREE INFORMATION?

[www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afretire](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afretire)

### VOLUNTEERS DO MAKE ORGANIZATIONS GROW - BE ONE

If you're not a Pete Knight AFA Member, call Randy Kelly (hm: 661-256-1616) email: [electricrow@pobox.com](mailto:electricrow@pobox.com)

**2010 AFFTC Awards Banquet (continued)**

ter 294 contingent was led by President Rex Moen and close behind were Randy and Leigh Kelly, Cindy Phillips, LtC David Smith, Conrad and Ginny Hernandez, Linda and Brad Mitchell, and Paul Vitale. Other AFA members spotted at the event included Maj Gen Dave Eichhorn, Brig Gen Jim Hogue, Mr. Dave Bond, Col Jerry Gandy, LtC Rod Todaro, and community partner members Danny Bazzell (Civ Mil) and Pete Amaya (Wells Fargo).

Maj Gen Dave Eichhorn gave the centerpoint address for the nominees (excellent as usual). Ms Cindy Phillips, our CH 294 secretary was one of the award nominees in one of the



*Miss Cindy with two of AFFTC's outstanding USAF Reservists.*

categories. Although "Miss Cindy" is always a winner in our hearts and minds, she was not one of the final award winners. We were there to cheer her on regardless though. As usual, when normal "cast of characters" get together, we all had a wonder-



*"Komrade" Conrad, Miss Cindy, and Paul "the Don" Vitale — A.K.A. "The Three Amigos"*

ful time. "Komrade Conrad" and Paul "the Don" Vitale were their in their usual "rare form". (I'm not going into details, but if you've ever been around Conrad and Paul (and sometimes Randy) when they get tuned up, it can be quite entertaining.

**CAFA Area 2 Meeting**

OK you're thinking—the editor must really be desperate for space filler this month. Well, on one hand your right. Getting folks to submit stories and pictures is kinda like pulling teeth, but the business of keeping the Chapter running must go on. One of those things we have to do to keep the Chapter "official" (and to get our share of AFA funds) is to send representatives to the California AFA state and area (Area 2 in our case) meetings. This is how the CAFA spreads the work down through the field.

This last quarters Area 2 meeting was on the 6th of March. The Area 2 meetings seem to get held either in Bakersfield or at Vandenberg AFB which seem to be somewhat central to the area. (We keep volunteering to hold one here in the Antelope Valley, but never seem to win that bid.) This last meeting was held at the "Rocket Café" at the Bakersfield municipal airport, and Pete Knight members President Rex Moen, VP Randy Kelly, and Director Paul Vitale made the voyage over the hill. No need to bore you with the details of what actually was discussed this time, but



*Meeting of the minds. Clockwise from upper left, Ken Nishiyama (Bakersfield Pres), an unknown Bakersfield member, Paul Vitale (checking his address book), Donald "Duck" Vanhook (High Desert Pres), and Rex (WJPK Pres).*

some of these issues such as required reports, , tax forms, and membership end up affecting us down at the Chapter level. Membership always seems to be one of our biggest concerns because AFA like many volunteer run organizations is experiencing an aging core group and is having problems attracting a younger volunteer membership. There is lots of discussion as to why our volunteer basis is declining and how to attract new members. The "change" in the climate in Air

Force life, the ops tempo, and the competition on everybody's time seems to be the main theories as to why we our ranks have diminished. Finding something to interest the next generation of AFA members is a big challenge—and (as usual), Rex has big ideas. We're talking about a "Super Bowl" level membership drive, with teams, "field goals", "touchdowns", and "extra points". (I don't understand it either—we'll get Rex to write an article before the actual membership drive.) More later.

## "PETE" KNIGHT CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

25 May 2010 -- Chapter Board meeting @ Club Muroc, EAFB, 6:00 PM

5 June -- Airplane Wash Day @ Joe Davies Airpark, Palmdale, 7:30 AM

10 –12 June 2010 — CAFA Convention, Beale AFB. Download application from [www.antelopevalleyafa.org](http://www.antelopevalleyafa.org)

26 (or 27th TBD) June 2010 -- AFA Reception at AFFTC, Edwards AFB. Details forthcoming

22 June 2010 -- Chapter Board meeting @ Club Muroc, EAFB, 6:00 PM

3 July 2010 -- Airplane

## OTHER ROUTINE STUFF

### Do you know about the AFA Veteran Benefits Association?

AFA Veteran Benefits Association (AFAVBA) was created as a result of the consolidation of the Air Force Association and the Aerospace Education Foundation to provide benefits to military Veterans and to AFA Members. AFA's programs will continue unchanged, but under the AFA Veteran Benefits Association name. All AFA members are eligible to participate in these AFAVBA Programs. The Life and Accident Insurance Programs, however, require that you meet one of the following requirements:

1. Served or serving in the U.S Military
2. Spouse or Widow(er) of someone who served or is serving in the U.S. Military

Ancestor or Lineal Descendent of someone who served or is serving in the U.S. Military. (This means you're the child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc., or the father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, etc. of someone who served or is serving in the U.S. Military. Aunts and

uncles do not qualify.

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Other things you can get from AFA:

- Military member and spouse scholarships
- Vacation and rental car discounts
- Discounts on Dell and Apple computers
- Reduced rates on insurance
- Reduced rates on dental, pharmacy, vision and chiropractic services
- No origination fee mortgages and lower closing costs

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#### Member Benefit Magazine Highlights

#### \$50 Cash Back AFA Member Reward on Sprint/Nextel

Whether you are an existing Sprint/Nextel customer or looking to switch to Sprint/Nextel, AFA members get a \$50 Cash Back Reward when you order or renew Sprint/Nextel through the AFA Wireless Center. Visit [www.afawireless.com](http://www.afawireless.com) or call a wireless solutions expert at 866-281-0004.

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#### H1N1 Vaccine Available at EAFB

The EAFB Immunization Clinic is now offering the H1N1 vaccine to the Edwards community to include retirees. The Immunization clinic is a walk-in clinic with hours on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, from noon to 4:30 p.m., and on Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Individuals should bring a DOD identification card and any immunization records.



Who does this guy remind you of and where did he get that hat???

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#### Many Vets May be Missing Out on Special Compensation

Just because an Air Force veteran was not injured storming the beaches at Normandy does not mean he or she may not be entitled to receive combat-related special compensation, or CRSC. Many Air Force veterans may be missing out on hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars every month because they have not applied for the compensation. Go to <http://www.tricare.mil/> for more information.

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#### No 2010 EAFB Airshow

Although the 2009 Edwards Airshow, "Flight Test Nation 2009" was a big success, it is a significant drain on base personnel and resources. EAFB currently is not planning another airshow until Fall 2011. For more information, go to the base website: <http://www.edwards.af.mil/>

### AFA Mission

- To **advocate** aerospace power and a strong national defense.
- To **support** the United States Air Force and the Air Force family.
- To **promote** aerospace education to the American People.



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[www.antelopevalleyafa.org/](http://www.antelopevalleyafa.org/)