

Chapter Officers

President: Bill Yucuis

VP: Joe Muhlberger

Treasurer: Emily Farkas

Secretary: Mike Lezaun

VP for Education:
Teri Weide

AFA Mission

"promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; to honor and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their Families; and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage."

I want to start by recognizing and thanking our Chapter officers who have contributed this past year.

Gary Gilchrist had been the Chapter Treasurer since 1999, dating back to before the Waterman and Twining Chapters merged. Unfortunately, he had a stroke last year and is no longer able to fill that role. Emily Farkas volunteered to take over as Chapter Treasurer. She also was accepted into the AFA Emerging Leader Program and is working with the AFA National Advocacy group.

Joe Muhlberger volunteered to become Chapter Vice President when Gary Gilchrist had his stroke and Emily Farkas moved from Chapter VP to Treasurer

Mike Lezaun has been Chapter Secretary for the past four years and has supported many Chapter activities

Teri Weide, as Chapter VP for Education this year, continues to coordinate our AFJROTC Awards ceremonies.

In this Newsletter, I want to show how the many ways the Waterman-Twining Chapter supports the AFA Mission.

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NEW Chapter Website

[https://waterman-
twining.afa.org//](https://waterman-twining.afa.org//)

**NEW Chapter Facebook Page
is titled**

[**Waterman-Twining AFA Chapter**](#)

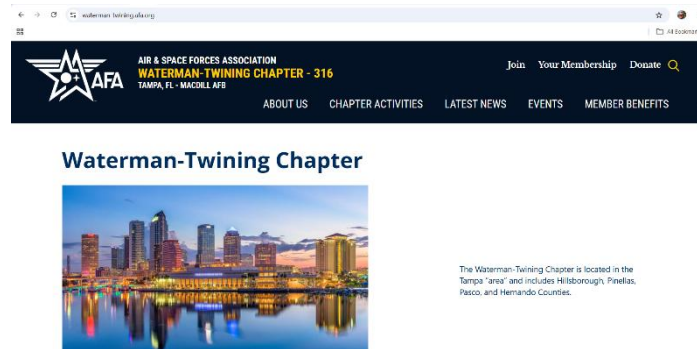
Bill Yucuis
Waterman-Twining Chapter
President
FL316.Waterman.President@afa.org



The three strategic AFA mission pillars are “**Advocate** for Aerospace power, **Educate** the public on the critical need for **STEM** education, and **Support** Airmen, Guardians, and their Families”.

In this Newsletter, I will showcase the efforts of the Waterman-Twining Chapter to support these pillars. You can **go to our Chapter Website and click on Chapter Activities to find out more details about how we support these pillars.**

I also would like to ask if you would help us by volunteering to support one Chapter activity this coming year. Our Chapter includes Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, and Sumter counties so I am sure there is at least one activity near you.

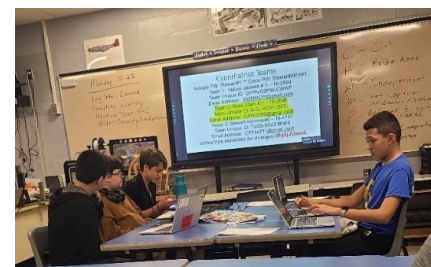


ADVOCATE

The Chapter is a member of the **Tampa Chamber of Commerce**. Emily Farkas is a member of their Military Affairs Committee (MAC) and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). As a member of the PAC, Emily has advocated this past year for "increase pay for lower tier enlisted grades", which is one of AFA's national goals, as a top item for the Tampa Chamber of Commerce for 2025. The Chapter has also recently joined the **Tampa Bay Defense Alliance (TBDA)**. We attend their monthly meetings to provide insight into the AFA goals in the Tampa area.

EDUCATE

The Waterman-Twining Chapter supports the USF AFROTC detachment, and especially the **Arnold Air Society** unit. Within our Chapter area, there are **11 AFJROTC units** and each year, AFA provides a Cadet of the Year Award, and Chapter members attend to present the Award. We have also reached out to local **Civil Air Patrol (CAP)** units. The Chapter promotes and supports the AFA National STEM Programs of **StellarXplorers** and **CyberPatriot**. In addition, **Stewart Middle School** is a NASA Explorer STEM Magnet School, and the Chapter has directly supported them for many years. This year, we will be directly supporting STEM initiatives at **Tinker K8 School, located on MacDill AFB**. Finally, each year we select an outstanding teacher for an **AFA Chapter Teacher of the Year (TOY) Award**. Finally, we present the **Pitsenbarger Award** to the Outstanding CCAF graduate each semester.



SUPPORT

The Waterman-Twining Chapter works to support the airmen, guardians, and their families assigned to MacDill AFB. One way to do this is by supporting the **AFA's United Forces and Families (F2) Program**. The Chapter has partnered with **MacDill's Family Readiness Center** to support their spouse events. In addition, we attend the monthly MacDill Newcomers Briefing and showcase how our Chapter supports MacDill AFB members and their families. The Waterman-Twining Chapter is also proud to partner with the **Blue Star Families organization**, which



sponsors several events throughout the year to support military families and Chapter members volunteer to assist them. The Chapter has also partnered with the **Family in Flight nonprofit**, which provides travel grants to unite separated families, plus a place for connection and support, including monthly virtual support groups to helpful tools and shared stories, to remind military families that they are not alone.



AFA Professional Development

AFA prides itself on being the premier Professional Development organization for the Air Force. Under the Events Tab on the AFA Website (afa.org) are a series of recorded talks. One series includes current **Air and Space Warfighters** talking about relevant and current issues within the Air and Space Forces. Another series, **Legends of Air and Space**, connects today's Airmen and Guardians with the wisdom of great leaders of the recent past.

The **Air & Space Forces Magazine** is the monthly journal of the Air & Space Forces Association and among the world's foremost publications on defense, aerospace, and airpower. Individuals can sign up for the **Daily Report**, which provides a daily synopsis of Air and Space Force Activities. You can subscribe at <https://www.airandspaceforces.com/subscribe-to-daily-report/>.





The **Mitchell Institute** is the only focused aerospace think tank in the nation's capital. The Institute informs the national security debate, educates about the essential role of aerospace power, and cultivates aerospace-minded talent.

The Mitchell Institute researches current Air and Space Force topics with many virtual presentations provided by Air Force experts. The example on the left is from February 16, 2023. Go to Website at <https://www.afa.org/air-space-power/mitchell-institute> to find many more resources.

AFA Florida State Convention

The Chapter hosts the State Convention at MacDill AFB in July.



Waterman-Twining Chapter AFA Florida State Convention



- Convention Date: July 19, 2025
- Location: MacDill AFB
- Lodging: MacDill Inn for July 18 and 19
 - Current Rate is \$124
 - Will need to make reservations NLT July 11
- Friday, July 18
 - 1:00 PM: Check In at MacDill Inn
 - 6:00 PM: No Host Dinner at Seascapes. Located at the beach
 - MacDill Inn has Rickenbackers Bar in Lobby, which will be used as Hospitality Area
- Saturday, July 19 (MacDill Golf Course)
 - 7:30 AM: Continental Breakfast, Coffee, Water (you can purchase sodas at Golf Course Grill)
 - 8:00 – 3:00: Convention
 - 11:30: Lunch



If you plan to attend, you can download the Registration Form from the Website at <https://waterman-twining.afa.org/2025-afa-florida-state-convention/>