



Waterman-Twining Chapter EXCOM Meeting Summary March 6, 2026

On March 6, 2026, the Chapter cohosted a Heritage event at the Hillsborough County Veterans Memorial Park to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of Operations Desert Shield. Volunteering at the event were the following Chapter members.

Bill Yucuis: President

Joe Muhlberger: Vice President

Emily Farkas: Treasurer

Mike Lezaun: Secretary

USF Arnold Air Society (AAS) Cadets: C/Vito Demalteris, C/ Rachel Kimball,
C/ Gage Spencer, and Liam Doyle

USF AFROTC Cadets (not yet AAS): C/Riley Schlosser, C/Emmanuel Nyeh,
C/Garrett McGowan, and C/Wesley Blosfield

I decided to hold a short, impromptu Chapter meeting to talk about a few items.

1. I mentioned that to my knowledge, the Waterman-Twining Chapter has not submitted for any **AFA State or National Awards** for over 20 years. My goal is to change that. My first award will be to submit the Desert Shield/Desert Storm program for Best Single Program. When I was in Orlando (2002-2014), I was Chapter and State VP when those positions were responsible for awards. I have also done AFA National Awards when I was on the AFA Education Council for 20 years. That means I know the process, but I will be asking many of you to help do the writing, including writing your own award description. More to follow soon. They are due to AFA Florida in mid-April.
2. AFA has an **Emerging Leader Program**. You can find out all the details at <https://www.afa.org/field/emerging-leaders/>. Emily Farkas completed that last year so you can also ask her about it. It's too late to apply this year so this won't happen until 2027, but for "newer" Chapter members, if you are interested in finding out how AFA, especially at the National level, operates, it is a great program... and AFA pays for it. The time commitment is not overwhelming, either.
3. I want to increase the Chapter interaction with the **Arnold Air Society (AAS)** unit at USF. In the past couple of years, we have made much progress, but I think we can do more. I know both AFA Field and AAS HQ continually says this should happen.

Bill Yucuis

Waterman-Twining Chapter President