



AFSA – TEAM TINKER NEWSLETTER Thunderbird Chapter 985, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma



Chapter President MSgt (Ret) Terry Turner, and his Executive Council, presents the following summary of accomplishments/activities during the month of April 2012

Date/Activity

1. President Terry Turner planned another popular Membership Appreciation event focused on rewarding members for all their volunteer efforts. 36 Members and guests enjoyed a night out to watch the OKC Thunder NBA team play.
3. Trustee/First Sergeant Michael Bartels briefed local AFSA activities to the Tinker First Sergeants Council and emphasized the importance of supporting this great organization; international and local.
5. Conducted Executive Council Meeting.
5. Chapter Airman of the Year A1C Andrew Lowe and member Shannon Holland attended and presented an AFSA certificate, bar ribbon and medal to a deserving cadet at the Midwest City High School's annual AFJROTC Awards Banquet on behalf of Chapter 985.
7. Airman Activities Program supported the local Will Rogers Airport Military Welcome Center by providing 2 helpers to keep operations open. The Center provides drinks, snacks, and a place to rest for thousands of Active Duty, Reserve, and Guard personnel.
9. Chapter 988 Senior Advisor Steve Francis picked up visitor CMSgt (Ret) James Lokovic, Vice Chair of AFSA International Legislative Committee, at the OKC Airport. Enroute to Altus AFB for 2-days of legislative briefings, he brought him by Tinker AFB for a quick visit and was met by President Terry Turner, Trustees Doug Bynum and Jennifer Ponder and Chaplain Don Sullivan.
10. Trustee/First Sergeant Michael Bartels briefed local AFSA activities to the Tinker First Sergeants Council and emphasized the importance of supporting this great organization; international and local.
10. President Terry Turner briefed the importance of AFSA's role in promoting and protecting earned benefits of the Air Force total enlisted force and their families, the resulting legislative process, and local chapter activities at base FTAC: 26 attendees, resulted in 12 new members and 3 changes of address.
11. Webmaster Lisa Muth received response from AFSA CAPWIZ generated letter to US Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (TN) on opposing TRICARE fee hikes.
11. Airman Activities Program provided 10 volunteers to the Special Olympics Softball Tournament, filling in as Umpires and Scorekeepers for 36 teams and approximately 410 participants.
12. Conducted Chapter 985 General Membership (GM) Meeting. The April Chapter Legislative Report and prior minutes had been emailed to members and were available to attendees as handouts. Attending members personally donated \$92.00 to help a Past International Auxiliary President from Kansas City afford attending the AFSA International Professional Airmen's Conference in Jacksonville,

Florida in August 2012. Trustee Doug Bynum also held drawings and presented \$5.00 door prizes for attendance – winners were: Dave Lowe, Terry Turner, Denita Sampsell, Bruce Reno, Derrick Bennett (attending from McConnell AFB chapter), and Jose Magana.

13. Chapter donated \$150.00 donated to support Team Tinker Annual Enlisted Awards. A \$28.00 ticket was purchased for a chapter representative to attend the April 21, 2012 Awards Banquet.
13. Donated \$215.30 to purchase a memorial wreath for the Tinker AFB, OKC Bombing Memorial site; purchased 1 of 2 wreaths with stands in partnership with the Tinker Top 3.
13. President Terry Turner completed Crowne Plaza Hotel Survey for our recently hosted Division 89 Conference (March 29-31, 2012).
13. Trustee Doug Bynum performed initial clean-up, dead tree removal and planting of a replacement tree at our Tinker OKC Bombing Memorial Site. The chapter will combine maintenance of this site to coincide with the Monthly Tinker Air Park clean-up.
14. Airman Activities Program supported the local Will Rogers Airport Military Welcome Center by providing 2 helpers to keep operations open. The Center provides drinks, snacks, and a place to rest for thousands of Active Duty, Reserve, and Guard personnel.
16. Chaplain Don Sullivan and President Terry Turner presented Kelli Abernathy, Crown Plaza Hotel Meeting Director a AFSA certificate of commendation and gold coin for outstanding support during 2012 Division 89 Professional Airmen's Conference.
17. Trustee/First Sergeant Michael Bartels briefed local AFSA activities to the Tinker First Sergeants Council and emphasized the importance of supporting this great organization; international and local.
17. The chapter funded and 9 First Sergeants served pizza, chips and soda/water for a light lunch “meet and greet” to afford ALS students an opportunity to meet and interact with the First Sergeants. President Terry Turner, Trustee Doug Bynum and Webmaster Lisa Muth attended and briefed about the importance of belonging to AFSA, the legislative process, and role that AFSA plays in promoting and protecting our benefits; 36 students in class, 11 new members and 2 renewal recruited, 6 already members. Event cost \$128.47.



ALS Light Lunch & Briefing 17Apr12



19. President Terry Turner and Amn. Activities Coordinator Cody Fondahn briefed the importance of AFSA’s role in promoting and protecting earned benefits, the legislative process and current quality-of-life issues in jeopardy to 11 attendees at SNCOPES; recruited 2 new members and 2 were already members.
19. President Terry Turner attends luncheon with Ashley Young and Ginger Thompson, Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau; debriefs them on a most successful 2012 Division 89 Annual Conference hosted by Chapter 985 and their outstanding support.



20. Treasurer Mary Rokitka attended and presented an AFSA certificate, bar ribbon and medal to a deserving cadet at the Crooked Oak High School's annual AFJROTC Awards Banquet on behalf of Chapter 985.
21. Chapter Airman of the Year A1C Andrew Lowe and member Shannon Holland attended and presented an AFSA certificate, bar ribbon and medal to a deserving cadet at the Edmond North High School's annual AFJROTC Awards Banquet on behalf of Chapter 985.
21. Airman Activities Program supported the local Will Rogers Airport Military Welcome Center by providing 2 helpers to keep operations open. The Center provides drinks, snacks, and a place to rest for thousands of Active Duty, Reserve, and Guard personnel.
21. Airman Activities Program recruited 14 volunteers for Rebuilding Together, leading an effort to restore a local home with minor repairs and exterior painting.
23. President Terry Turner emailed the new combined quarterly AFSA Activities, Americanism/Financial (AAF) Report to Division President Dale Lutzen to forward to AFSA and to Debra Kirby, 72FSS/FSRO for our PO folder.
24. Trustee/First Sergeant Michael Bartels briefed local AFSA activities to the Tinker First Sergeants Council and emphasized the importance of supporting this great organization; international and local.
24. President Terry Turner, VP Michael Mooney & AAC Cody Fondahn briefed the importance of AFSA's role in promoting and protecting earned benefits of the Air Force total enlisted force and their families, the resulting legislative process, and local chapter activities at base FTAC: 16 attendees, resulted in 9 new members and 4 changes of address.

FTAC – April 24, 2012
(President Terry Turner, Trustee Michael Mooney and AAC Cody Fondahn Briefing)



27. 72 ABW Command CMSgt Kevin Vegas, President Terry Turner, Trustee Doug Bynum, Tinker Top 3 President (S)MSgt Victor Cordero presented three trace employees with letters of appreciation and excellence coins for the respective organizations for beautifying the Tinker AFB, Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial with minimum notice for base event. Event attended by 100 people.

Tinker AFB's Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial Beautification Project
April 27, 2012



(72ABW Command CMSgt Kevin Vegas, President Terry Turner, Trustee Doug Bynum, Tinker Top3 President Victor Cordero and 3 Trace Employees)

- 27. Tinker Top 3 recruited President retired MSgt Terry Turner and retired Trustee SMSgt Lowell "Doug" Bynum as Top 3 members, by laws changed to include retirees.
- 27. Tinker Top 3 President Cordero coined President Terry Turner for excellence and support of base wide event.
- 27. 7 Volunteers cleaned/picked weeds for 45 minutes for Tinker Charles B. Hall Air Park Beautification Project.
Tinker Airpark Clean-Up, April 27, 2012

Kevin Terrell, Curtis Bonham, Rick Porter, Stefany Gamboa-Guinea, Doug Bynum, Terry Turner and Shirley Jones



- 27. President Terry Turner emailed US Rep. James Lankford (OK-5) via AFSA's new CAPWIZ feature; www.capwiz.com/hqafsa/home/ to tell Congress to oppose TRICARE fee hikes.
- 27. Trustee Bruce Reno attended and presented an AFSA certificate, bar ribbon and medal to a deserving cadet at the Choctaw High School's annual AFJROTC Awards Banquet on behalf of Chapter 985.
- 27. Chapter Airman of the Year A1C Andrew Lowe and member Shannon Holland attended and presented an AFSA certificate, bar ribbon and medal to a deserving cadet at the Carl Albert High School's annual AFJROTC Awards Banquet on behalf of Chapter 985.
- 28. Airman Activities Program supported the local Will Rogers Airport Military Welcome Center by providing 2 helpers to keep operations open. The Center provides drinks, snacks, and a place to rest for thousands of Active Duty, Reserve, and Guard personnel.
- 28. Airman Activities Program recruited 14 volunteers for Rebuilding Together, leading an effort to restore a local home with minor repairs and exterior painting.
- 28. Airman Activities Program provided 1 volunteer for the annual Susan B. Komen Lawton/Ft. Sill Race for the Cure, serving as a course marshal for a race to raise breast cancer awareness.
- 30. President Terry Turner emailed a full page advertisement to HQ AFSA for the International Professional Airmen's Conference program booklet, the cost of \$225.00 sent separately.
- 30. President Terry Turner distributed 4 AFSA On-Call Notices, 1 Chapter General Membership Meeting Minutes and Reminder, 1 Executive Council Minutes, 1 AFSA Team Tinker Monthly Newsletter, 1 Chapter Monthly Legislative Report via our web site list server to over 3,744 subscribers. He additionally disseminates volumes of information to the chapter executive council.
- 30. Airman Activities Program distributed 5 notices via our list server to over 3,744 subscribers offering volunteer opportunities for the Special Olympics (14), Tinker Air Park/Memorial Cleanup (7), Rebuilding Together (14), and Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure (1).
 - ◆ 44 Volunteers for April, 221.25 Total Hours of Community Service
 - 14 Volunteers for the Special Olympics Softball Tournament
 - 8 Volunteers for the Will Rogers Intl. Airport Military Welcome Center
 - 7 Volunteers for the Tinker Air Park/Memorial Clean-up
 - 14 Volunteers for Rebuilding Together
 - 1 Volunteer for Race for the Cure
 - ◆ New events for May
 - Pink Sunday Preparation Project – May 5-11
 - Special Olympics Summer Games – May 9-11
 - Will Rogers Gardens – TBD

Airpark/Memorial Cleanup – May 25
Military Welcome Center – Every Saturday

30. VP Michael Mooney reported a membership summary for April 2012 as follow: 39 new members recruited resulting in a total of 98 new members recruited year-to-date from 4 different recruiters; and a total strength of 1,824 total members (1703 active and 121 lapsed).
- ◆ 9 members retained by chapter retainers, 22 YTD from 1 retainer.
 - ◆ 112 of 121 members contacted on the lapsed roster via email for a 93% contact rate.
 - ◆ Trustee Doug Bynum contacted 13 on the Bad Address List.
 - ◆ Year-to-date: No SKYhighers and no HIGHflier.
30. Webmaster Lisa Muth reports we had 200 unique visitors and a total of 3,744 subscribers to our web site in March. Total unique visitors for 2012 YTD are 918.

Comments from the Thunderbird President

Fellow Members: Chapter 985 & AFSA Team Tinker volunteers continue to make a difference in the communities where we live, on-base and off. You can see by the Airman Activity Program summary (entry above for 30 April), that 44 of these dedicated and unselfish benefactors logged over 200 hours for April alone. These special people are AWESOME in giving up their leisure time helping others.

Speaking of awesome, I'd like to showcase an Air Force retiree couple who are "a portrait of the AFSA member." For some time now, Dave & Geri Lowe have manned the Military Welcome Center at Will Rogers Intl. Airport every Saturday from 5:00-10:00PM. This weekend shift is not the ideal timeframe for a lot of excitement or activity. But Dave & Geri are there to greet and aid any armed forces brothers and sisters that may be returning from deployment, leave, TDY or just transiting to OKC area. Every Saturday folks – what a commitment and desire to serve; "now that's taking care of our own!" We have formally recognized their efforts, but even then most don't realize the extent of their contribution.

The sad part; Dave & Geri can no longer perform this function. They are concerned about who will take their place. If any reader is interested in filling this endeavor, please contact me at 405 420-5286. It is a perfect fit for a retired couple and a grand opportunity to become involved.

Don't forget, We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month at the Tinker Club at 11:30AM for about an hour. I personally invite all to please come join us. Thank you kindly for all you do and may you enjoy the benefits promoted or protected by our great organization

**–
"The Voice of the Enlisted!" AFSAlutely**

Check out our activities and issues that affect enlisted members and their families on:

<http://www.facebook.com/afsa985> - AFSA 985 Facebook

<http://www.themilitarycoalition.org/> - The Military Coalition website

