



APA BULLSEYE

Official Newsletter of the Florida Highlands Chapter of the Air Force Association

VOL XVI No. 4

August 2008

Roy P. Whitton, Editor

LET US WELCOME BACK OUR JR ROTC INSTRUCTORS

On Saturday, August 23rd, the Air Force Association and the Military Officers Association will be welcoming back our Junior ROTC instructors who are providing the students of Desoto, Highlands, Okeechobee and Hardee Counties schools an outstanding curriculum and activities for their students.

The "Welcome Back" event is being sponsored jointly with the Air Force Association and the Military Officers Association and will take place in the Dining Facility at the Avon Park Air Force Range and will start at 1130 and everyone is invited.

The Guest of Honor will be the new Avon Park AFRange commander Lt Col Charles "Buck" MacLaughlin, USAF and our guest speaker will be John Mewborn, Training and Educational Specialist with the 6th Brigade Army Junior ROTC Headquarters based at Hunter Army Air Field, Georgia.

For about the first time, this year will see a full complement of instructors at all of the six Junior ROTC units that are in our immediate catchments area: Desoto County High School Army Junior ROTC, Hardee County Senior High School Air Force Junior ROTC, Okeechobee County High School Army Junior ROTC. In Highlands County, there is an Army Junior ROTC at Lake Placid and Air Force Junior ROTC units at Avon Park and Sebring.

It is hoped that those of you who live in these communities will take time out to offer your help and services to the Junior ROTC instructors. This would include introducing them into the communities; providing an opportunity to meet and greet local community leaders as well as having your local service clubs inviting them to speak about the Junior ROTC program in your schools.

The buffet luncheon dinner will be \$15.00 per person and reservations are a must. Reservations may be made by calling one of our reservations chairpersons. In Desoto County Roger Bum garner 863-991-1225; Okeechobee County 863-467-9461; Polk County June Felt 863-638-1225; Highlands and Hardee County Jim Christmas at 863-382-3679 or Lou Brough at 863-655-2344. All reservations need to be made no later than Wednesday, August 20th.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF OUR AFA CHAPTER?

The Florida Highlands Chapter of the Air Force Association was organized in this area in 1984 to support the Air Force particularly the Avon Park Air Force Range, to obtain AF Junior ROTC units for our area and support the local Civil Air Patrol

Today we have three Air Force Junior ROTC units in our area (Avon Park, Wauchula and Sebring), an active Air Force Range training men and women in the War against Terrorism as well as the local CAP Squadron.

The Chapter has two main projects each year:

1. Sponsorship of a Science and Math Honors Luncheon honoring students who excel in the fields of Science and Mathematics from all Highlands County Public School;
2. Presentation of Awards to those persons and/or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to our Community, State and Nation.

In order to accomplish these projects, we have one fundraiser each year. This is where you can help us accomplish our mission. This year we are offering you a chance to receive a NIKON Digital Camera with Bag & Accessories

If you still have tickets and haven't sent the stubs with the money, then please do so now as the drawing will be on September 20th. This is one way you can help accomplish our goals of fulfilling our chapter's mission.

Note that the Chapter now is supporting three Air Force Junior ROTC units as well as the Army Junior ROTC that are in our catchments area.

Make your checks out to Florida Highlands AFA and return with your completed stubs to AFA P. O. Box 2071, Lake Placid, FL 33862-2071 to arrive no later than Sept 20, 2008. Drawing will be held at 12 noon at the Kenilworth Lodge in Sebring. All profits go for our youth orientated programs.

Florida Highlands AFA Chapter Officers for 2007-2008

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AVON PARK AIR FORCE RANGE



Our Mission:

“Support America’s Expeditionary Combat Forces with a World Class Training Environment.”

Our Motto:

“Preparing a new generation of warriors to be lighter, leaner, and more lethal.”

Our Vision:

“Build on existing capabilities to become the premier deployment and employment training facility on the East Coast.”

Size: 106,075 acres

Ranges: Conventional, Charlie, Bravo, & Oscar, Tactical, Echo, Delta, & Foxtrot, 19,121 acres.

Types of aircraft utilizing the ranges: F-16, F-15, A-10, F-117, B-52, B-1, F-14, F/A-18, P-3, S-3, C-5, C-17, C-141, C-130, HH-60, UH-1, AH-1, AH-64

Ground Activities: Army Special Forces, Navy Seals, Air Force Special Tactics, Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve Forces

Runway: 8000' X 150' with 2 ea. BAK 12 aircraft arresting systems

Munitions: 25 lb. Practice bomb, 500 lb., & 2000 lb. Inert bombs, laser guided bombs, 2.75 rockets, 20mm, 30mm, 40mm, & 105mm cannon projectiles

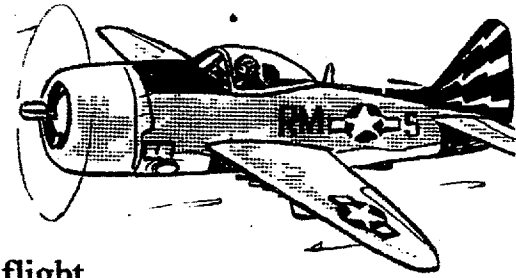
Timber Management: 35,000 acres of forested pine; 5,000 acres of cypress and hardwood; annual income \$350,000.

Cattle Grazing: 9 leases of 97,000 acres with an annual income of \$143,000.

Outdoor Recreation: 86,000 acres available; 2000 hunt permits sold each year; annual income \$250,000

Endangered Species: 10 listed species in 20,000 acres

The P-47



Many pilots who flew the pursuits,
Have winged their way to heaven;
But I know that the boy who was leading the flight,
Was a kid in a P-47!

We point to Mustangs and Lightnings with pride,
And the Hellcat may claim her vote;
But I'll take the ship that I know turned the tide,
That dreaded and feared Thunderbolt!

As the missions grew longer through death laden skies;
Our bombers had little to fear;
We had the best escort acclaimed by us all,
'Twas a squadron of Thunderbolts near!

Many a bomber knocked out of the flight,
Forever their praises will sing;
For while limping home through treacherous skies,
They had a "White-nose" under each wing!

How well we remember that beautiful sight,
Wispy contrails high in the heavens;
And how we welcomed the tail gunner's words:
"Here come the P-47's!"

Many a bandit that dived through our flight,
We know his doom he has sealed;
For a "White-nose" came through with guns blazing too,
Close on the enemy's heels!

It soon will be over but we'll never forget,
The wonderful job you've done;
And how you fought against terrible odds,
And all the battles you've won!

Long after the din of the battle has ceased,
The world over your deeds shall gloss;
So, onward, you heroes, there's more glory ahead,
For you lads in your great Thunderbolts!

