



**Civil Air Patrol**  
With an ever-present mission, the CAP must always be ready, day or night, to meet mission needs. Night flying presents some awesome sights for flyers!  
*Photos: TX-645*

### Northeast Texas AFA416

**Changes:** Some have asked what we have changed? Well, we are updating our web page more frequently and are not mailing newsletters any longer. You can find the newsletters and NEWS online at our chapter website at [www.netxafa.org/news](http://www.netxafa.org/news) and, *if you have an email address, your inbox!*

**A&SFA Magazine:** We also have had some confusion on how often A&SFA national magazine is now published. Beginning in 2023 it changed to only six (6) issues published in dated Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June, Jul/Aug, Sep/Oct, and Nov/Dec. Online at: <https://www.airandspaceforces.com/magazine/>

**Financial Upgrade:** We have been blessed to receive donated access to **QuickBooks** from **Wildcatter**.



**WILDCATTER**

**Thank you to Wildcatter Co** ([www.wildcatterco.com](http://www.wildcatterco.com)) for their generous donation and for providing over twenty hours of assistance to help get it stood up and operational. AFA416 will be better because of your generosity of software, time, and talent. **Special thanks to Denise Griffin for her efforts! Thank you All!**

*Our Treasurer is doing great with it so far but would welcome additional help if you have experience.*

**“Inspire Military Service”:** Northeast Texas is directly supporting efforts to inspire military service for our Air & Space Forces. This national need is a major initiative for AFA and this chapter. Only 23% of youth 17-24 are eligible for military service and less than 10% feel compelled to join. We need your help to inspire military service, to tell your story, and to help our recruiters.

You can learn more at: <https://www.netxafa.org/inspire-military-service/> and [www.afa.org/aims](http://www.afa.org/aims)

**We Need help!** We are in need of help to get information out to our members and partners. **A lot can be done virtually! Please, help us make a difference! [903-274-9981, V. Clarke]**

Chapter Officers		In This Issue	Page
President	Zach Hill, MSgt USAF	Calendar & Help Request	2
Vice President	Ted Oats	New Chapter President	3
Treasurer	Vance Clarke	CHS Tigers, CAP, Boles HS	4-6
Secretary	Chad Chaffee	Thanks Community Partners	7



Calendar	
2025	
March	12: Chapter Meeting 29: Spring Thing Rec & Inspire
April	4-6: State Mtg Wichita Falls 10: Chapter Meeting
May	14: Chapter Meeting 30: AFA Support & Inspire Golf
June	12: Chapter Meeting
July	10: Chapter Meeting
August	7: Chapter Meeting
September	18: Chapter Meeting 20-21: AFA Natl Convention 27: Golf Thing Fundraiser
October	9: Chapter Meeting
November	8: TAMU-C Veterans Vigil 9: (T) TX State (Virtual) 11: Greenville HS Vets Day 14: Chapter Meeting
December	12: Chapter Meeting
2026	
January	15: Chapter Meeting
February	13: Chapter Meeting

\* Meeting schedule is subject to change to best meet needs of day/night meetings. Please look for e-mails or call 903-274-9981.

**AFA416 is always Seeking Volunteers**

What do we need? We need people who can give a few hours a month or quarter to help produce certain products. We do not need you to attend a lot of meetings – we are doing more on the phone, online, and in other ways. *See if you can find a bit of time and effort to give us to help keep us strong. (Call 903-274-9981 for info!)*

**Program Help:** We need help making our efforts run smoothly. Please, if you or someone you know is interested, contact us. We need you!  
**We are looking for people to come alongside and equally yoke us in our work.**

**STEM Support:** We provide numerous donations each year to support school Science Technology Engineering and Math efforts. We need men/women interested in visiting some of these activities to take pictures, show interest, and to show we care about the efforts we support. Your time can be given once or many times as you desire to make ‘your’ difference.

**Executive Committee Advisors/Members:** We need someone to *manage our Essay Contest*. To help with oversight on our **membership database**. To give assistance to our **Awards program**. To give aid to **Community Partner seeking and management**. We need people in **new communities** to help us expand our programs, our support, and our impact.



If you have not given lately, or not sure if you are eligible, recommend you check. Requirements have changed; maybe you can!

1-800-366-2834  
www.carterbloodcare.org

Please, let us know! We are sure there is something you can do if you are willing.

**Give it a try!**

We know we need you, and you will find joy!

We need *many hands to make the workload lighter* for each of us. **If you desire to help, let us know!**  
[TX416.Northeast.Treasurer@afa.org](mailto:TX416.Northeast.Treasurer@afa.org)  
or call us at **903-274-9981**.



**President's  
Ponderings**  
**MSgt Zach Hill**  
AFA Chapter 416  
members and those  
reading these  
"ponderings" –  
**Greetings!**



As I take on the position of President for this amazing organization, I am humbled by the efforts of our Chapter to continue to support our communities! As we continue to do so we continue to need more hands to make "light work" of the events and organizations we continue to support. Thank you to all who make this AFA Chapter 416 engine run!

If you are interested in helping, please refer to the schedule on the newsletter which shows when the Chapter's monthly meetings are (usually the second week of the month's Wednesday @ The Oaks Country Club). Also, feel free to reach out to me at the email address below, we can really use your help and involvement. I am always an advocate that fresh ideas can help an organization so we're always searching for new members to share their perspectives. I hope to meet or hear from you soon!

As I begin work in this new role, following my previous role as VP of Membership, I am glad to have our previous President (Vance Clarke) around to assist me in carrying out the Chapter's goals. We are preparing for our "Spring Thing" event in March to award our annual scholarships and interact with some of our community partners. It is always rewarding to experience this event and see what your yearly efforts mean to the folks who attend! I will work hard to successfully fill the role of President as we progress through many more yearly events and support efforts.

We need people to come join us and help us continue to inspire and make an impact. Can you help? Come see where you can help. Please consider taking action to join us!

*Zach Hill*

[TX416.Northeast.President@afa.org](mailto:TX416.Northeast.President@afa.org)



**'Inspire Military Service'**

Northeast Texas is working to inspire military service in many ways. One key way is by providing support to our active duty military.

The 645th Aeronautical Engineering Systems Squadron (AESS) in Greenville, TX, took some time out to celebrate families, restore their members, and rejoice in the holiday season and had a Christmas holiday function (2024). The Northeast Texas Chapter 416 provided funding for the party and \$500 from a grant from the AFA United Forces & Families (F2) to add family babysitting support.

New chapter President, MSgt Zach Hill, said the AFA416 monetary support raised in a September 2024 golf fundraiser – another event held for the squadron and its supporters – and the grant provided by AFA F2 of \$500, aided in ensuring a relaxing evening for the squadron members and their families. A special thanks goes out to AFA416 Community Partners (CPs), **UHU Technologies, Charlie Baucom, and World Wide Lan Tex, Inc., Art Petty**, for their generous support to "Inspire Military Service" and direct support for military units. These two CPs stepped up for this first ever 'inspire-fundraiser' event geared to draw attention to the AFA416 Advocate to Inspire Military Service (AIMS) efforts and the chapters specific support of military members as per their AFA 'support' charge.

"Seeing the family members be able to relax and enjoy the time together was a great site, and is greatly appreciated," said 645th AESS, Commander, Lt Col Isaac E. Adcock. "We cannot thank our local and national AFA organizations for their help and support!" said SMSgt Ashley Whitmore, 645th AESS, Senior Enlisted Leader.

Feel like you might want to help or learn how to inspire military service? QR and links

<https://www.netxafa.org/inspire-military-service/>  
[Inspire Military Service - North East Texas AFA](#)





## Commerce Tigers in Motion

### Robotics – Mr. Earvin Larry

Our Commerce Tigers in Motion Robotics Team wrapped up an amazing regular season on Saturday, February 1 in Houston, Texas. Returning to Houston as the defending 1A- 3A State Champions. Our team fought their way through the qualification rounds and the elimination rounds to return to the State Finals to square off against teams from Huntington, Texas, and Redwater, Texas.



#### **Robotics Team 70291-A**

Luis Hernandez: Driver, Engineer, Programmer  
Austin Cook: Engineer; Spotter  
Jenna Merritt: Engineer; Timer  
Adreana Harkey: Engineer, Timer  
Keaton Burden: Timer / Spotter  
Hanna Pemberton: Spotter



#### **Robotics Team 70291-B**

Edmund Baker: Driver, Engineer, Programmer  
Brandon Nelle: Spotter; Timer

The Commerce Team consisted of alliance partnerships between Edmund Baker (70292-B) and Luis Hernandez (70391-A). Edmond had a magnificent performance in the qualification rounds and was undefeated (8-0) in all of his matches which made him the number one seed. Luis had a very strong performance as well, taking the 3rd seed with a record of 6-2. As alliance partners, both teams fought through the quarterfinals and the semifinals to get back to the Finals / Championship match.

In the State Robotic Competition the winner must win the best 2 out of 3 matches to capture the championship. Both teams had strong driving skills, strong autonomous programming skills, and worked very well together. Each robot had unique

scoring systems that allowed them to take the lead early on and maintain it until the end of the match. Commerce pulled away in the final match with the winning score of 34 to 13. This win is the third consecutive state championship for our program and our 4th State Championship overall.



**Tigers in Motion with Teacher Earvin Larry at left; Champs yet again!**

During the 2024/2025 season Commerce had 1 semifinals appearance, 1 finals appearance and 2 Tournament Championships. Going forward, we have qualified for the Regionals / World Qualifier Championship on March 7th in Farmersville, Texas.

Our next goal is The World Robotics Championship Tournament on May 6-8 in Dallas at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Center. There are 28,000 Robotic teams in the world. The top 800 qualify for the Worlds Competition.

#### **What Impact on Students and Nation?**

In 2016 teacher Earvin Larry requested AFA416 provide funding to support inaugural *Tigers in Motion* efforts. Our donors, sponsors, and Community Partners had us in position to honor this request for \$5,000, the most we had ever provided to a single program.

The Commerce High School program has won a lot of “prizes” in tournaments. However, the real goals were to improve our country through STEM activities and to build better citizens through engagement.

In the past 9-years students have flourished. We have seen college Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Physics, AG Science, and even Business & Engineering degrees being pursued by students.

*Teachers are able to do more, and students achieve more because of our efforts!*

**Thank you to all who support our programs!**



## Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

### Lakeshore Composite Squadron (TX-354)

On Feb 8, 2025, TX-354 celebrated the squadron’s achievements for Fiscal Year 2024 with a formal dining out. In FY 2024, cadets achieved 84 promotions, and 15 cadets attended encampments. Fiscal Year 2024 proved to be a very productive year!

TX-354 recognized all their promotions and special awards to both cadets and adult leaders. AFA Treasurer, Vance Clarke, was on hand to help recognize the squadron cadet.



*AFA Outstanding CAP Sq. Cadet Award – Cadet Carson Romine and AFA leader Vance Clarke*



*Commander Starnes and Adult of the Year – CAP Leader and AFA416 Member, John McDermott*

Over the past year, TX-354 completed 29 Cadet Orientation Flights as part of CAP’s Cadet Program and Aerospace Education Missions. Each flight follows a set syllabus with an experienced pilot. During the flight, cadets can experience the thrill of controlling the aircraft. It is very common to have both cadets and pilots return from these flights with a new sense of exuberance and purpose.

**Great 2024 TX-354 – 2025 should be exciting!**

### Sulphur Spring Squadron, TX-450

In 2024, TX-450 helped a nearby Trail Life USA troop with their Rocketry Day, opened the Hopkins County Dairy Festival Parade, assisted with The Golf Thing sponsored by Greenville AFA 416, served at Community Seeds Fundraiser and provided color guards at Wreaths Across America Day.



### Majors Composite Sq, Greenville, TX-645

Thanks Mr. Chuck Weiss for donating hangar space for our airplane! Mayor Ransom, Mayor Pro-Tem Thomas, and others provided help to make this happen. **Thanks Mr. Weiss!**





**Crumpton TV (Greenville, TX)**  
*Awarded AFA Texas Medal of Freedom*



*Terry Thomas (left) presents the Gold AFA Texas Medal of Freedom to Dale Crumpton (right)*

Northeast Texas Chapter 416 presented to Dale & Kay Crumpton the award of the ‘AFA Texas Medal of Freedom.’ Dale and Kay have been very active Community Partners since March 2010. They proudly display two Community Partner Plaques in their Crumpton TV & Stereo business in Greenville, TX.

They are also involved with our Chapter’s support of two Civil Air Patrol Squadrons (CAP). The Squadrons were in desperate need of hangar space for their aircraft and were without the necessary funding to pay for rental space. Dale & Kay stood up and offered them the hangar space at no cost until the necessary funding is raised for CAP.

Dale is also working behind the scenes with City officials to help CAP as they seek permanent space for their aircraft. Dale and Kay also attend and support our annual banquet, stating last year it was a ‘tremendous honor’ to participate in it.

The Crumpton’s are highly deserving of the ‘AFA Texas Medal of Freedom’!

*We are so pleased to see their continued support and contributions which give opportunities for our youth to excel and improve our communities and nation!*

**Boles ISD – Innovative Teaming!**  
**Cheer and Robotics Combine for Results**



**Boles High School Cheer Team**

AFA416 was pleasantly surprised when the Boles High School Cheerleaders showed up at our 2024 Golf Thing event to work the Gunnery Hole at Wright Park Golf Course. They were there to aid in raising funds to support their Robotics programs and Cheer.

Boles ISD Superintendent, Mikayle Goss, came up with the idea as both of their teams (robotics and cheer) give students a chance to excel and to better themselves. We applaud innovative thinking in Chapter 416 and are excited to see how the cheer team was able to attend State Championships with this assistance.



We are pleased to see educators taking steps to help programs that make a difference for their students. This is our hope – to help students excel!

**Look at these incredible, joy filled faces!**





## AFA 416 Community Partners

Alliance Bank, Greenville  
Alltam's Building Plus LLC  
American National Bank, Greenville  
Animal Medical Center, Greenville  
Atmos Energy Corporation, Greenville  
Bakers Ribs, Greenville  
Best Western Plus – Greenville  
Blackjack Disposal, Greenville  
Boles Independent School District  
Brass Rail  
Britain Chevrolet  
Carroll Square Properties  
Cass County Judge's Office – Travis Ransom  
Checkmate Embroidery, Rockwall  
Coker-Mathews Funeral Home  
Colonial Lodge & Asst'd Care Living Center  
Commerce Funeral Home  
Commerce Independent School District  
Crew Cut Lawns  
Crumpton TV Video  
Cumby Independent School District  
Cunningham & Associates  
Curis Functional Health (TJ Goss)  
D. Earls Tax Service  
Danny Keene Enterprises, LP  
Edward Jones – Bill Miller  
Enterprise Plumbing  
Eyecare of Rockwall  
Family First Home Health  
Farmers Electric Cooperative (FEC)  
Flight of the Phoenix Aviation Museum  
Freddy's Steakburgers Greenville  
Gentle Dental  
Gibson Automotive  
Greenville Daybreak Rotary  
Greenville Electric Utility Systems (GEUS)  
Greenville Floral & Gifts  
Greenville Independent School District  
Greenville Municipal Airport  
Greenville Trophies & Awards  
HIC Hospitality Inc.  
Holiday Inn Express, Greenville  
Hunt Regional Medical Center  
Innovation First International  
Insurance Group of North Texas  
J. Russell Armstrong (AIS Financial)  
Jerry J Ransom Properties  
Key Elements Media (Rockwall)  
Kincy Abstract Sabine Title  
L.D. Enterprises  
L3Harris Technologies, Greenville  
Law Office of Morgan & Gotcher  
Leinart Construction  
Lime Printing and Digital LLC  
Lone Oak Independent School District  
Luanne's Mary of Puddin Hill, Greenville  
Mendenhall Partners  
Mercer Advisors – A. Apodoca, J. Mazzei  
Morgan & Gotcher Law Office  
Murray – Feuille Trust  
Oaks Country Club, Greenville  
Office Solutions  
Raiders Design Inc.  
Sander's Barber Shop  
SERVPRO / NECC  
Shane Stovall Roofing  
Shenaniganz – Greenville & Rockwall  
Sickle's Roofing and Construction  
Southern Eyecare  
Splash Kingdom Water Parks  
Stone Street Dental  
Sulphur Springs Independent School District  
Texas A&M Commerce  
The Tarpley Agencies  
Tim Drake Jewelers  
Turf Solutions – Brad Cardwell  
Turtle Creek Financial Group  
UHU Technologies  
Wildcatter Companies  
World Wide Lan Tec, Inc.  
Wright Park Municipal Golf Course

Want to help? Call us at 903-274-9981 Or email [TX416.Northeast.Treasurer@afa.org](mailto:TX416.Northeast.Treasurer@afa.org)

Thank You Community Partners!



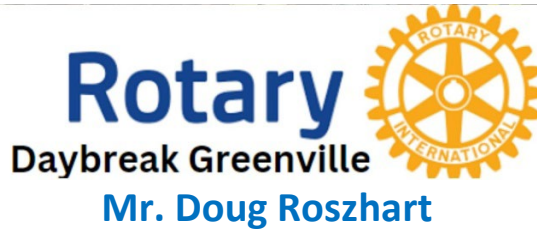
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## Thank You Featured 'NEW' Community Partners!



### Commerce Funeral Home

Mr. Jim & Mrs. Tina Ayres



### Mercer Advisors

Mrs. Anna Apodaca and Mr. John Mazzei

Want to be an AFA Chapter 416 Community Partner?  
Contact us at [TX416.Northeast.President@afa.org](mailto:TX416.Northeast.President@afa.org)  
You will be making a difference!



**NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416**  
**Air & Space Force Association**  
**PO Box 8633**  
**Greenville, TX 75404-8633**

**LEGAL STUFF:** The NORTHEAST FLYER is published by: Northeast Texas Chapter 416 of the Air & Space Forces Association, P. O. Box 8633, Greenville, TX 75404-8633. Chapter hotline 903-274-9981 or [TX416.Northeast.President@afa.org](mailto:TX416.Northeast.President@afa.org). AFA is a nonprofit organization. **Chapter President: Zach Hill.** Please address correspondence to the Northeast Texas Chapter, including comments on the NORTHEAST FLYER to the address above.